

Jackson Hole

by Jeff Warren

What do you get if you take thirty-eight eager SCSC skiers, two willing and fool hearty volunteers, a 737 jetliner, one short runway and boo coos of snow? Answer: **Barb & Jeff's Excellent Adventure**. (a.k.a. 5 States in 5 hours) That's right you take one closed airport, a couple of snow slides and what should have been a three hour trip, turns into a thirty-six hour adventure. We left Houston (state #1 TX) for Salt Lake City (state #2 UT) Saturday morning. From Salt Lake we headed for Jackson Hole (state #3 WY) and at about 500 hundred feet above the runway the pilot changes his mind. Of course if you ask **Debbie Warren** she didn't mind, she had a stash of beer and wine the flight attendant had given her. It seems Debbie helped collect the trash on board and this was her reward. (volunteering does pay) After traveling on to Billings, MT (state #4) for fuel we returned to Salt Lake City. When we arrive in SLC, Delta realizes landing on a snow covered runway

would have been a cake walk compared to dealing with **Barb "That's not good enough" Ehrlich**. I am sure Delta appreciates Barb for helping them find the hospitality suite they didn't know existed. While the TC was arranging our connections a

few of the group found the airport bar. While there they ran into **Dave Whitehead** and **Jim Emsley**, on their way to meet us from England and stuck in the same mess. Meanwhile, plans were being made to send us to Idaho Falls (state #5 ID) to spend the night and take a bus to Jackson the next morning. We arrive at the Jackson Airport the next afternoon, just in

time to meet another group from SCSC. **Ed Wolochin, Linda Licarione, Vicki Faulkner, Larry LaBorde, Danielle Mayes, Peter Schidlowski, Toni Edwards** and **Jon Rollo** had flown United and made one of only two landings at Jackson that day. It seems they had a pretty good adventure too. Well, we were

in Jackson Hole finally, but what about luggage? While Barb took the group to the condos, **George Flournoy** and Jeff waited for the luggage that arrived a couple of hours later. Thanks to George and our bus driver Gibby we didn't lose a single piece.

We settled in just in time. The occupants of condo #2 **Patti Richards, Tom Hogle, Mary Kay Kitchens, Bill Simmons, Sue Salvage, Milt Kramer, Harry Melnick** and **Dale Allbritton** invited everyone for a Super-Bowl party. It

was a great party with everyone putting together strategies for attacking the slopes on Monday.

On Monday everyone was eager to hit the lifts. While a few of us waited for the shuttle, we had visions of "Northern Exposure" as a moose meandered through the condo area. There were stories of other visions also. Apparently **John Allen, Tom Danowski** and **Derrick Schoobridge**, on their only tram ride, felt a heavenly presence at the summit with clear skies and zero wind. Several people enjoyed the mountain tour provided by the resort.

Supposedly **Kelly Gibbs** took a self guided tour through some previously unexplored terrain. She was heard telling tales of deep powder and new trails she had discovered. (the trails were marked with orange rope & a sign "ski area boundary")

Monday evening was group dinner night in the TC/ATC condo. We enjoyed lasagna, wine and garlic bread. Thanks to some help from **Vicki Faulkner, Larry LaBorde, Linda Licarione, Ed Wolochin** and **Elyse Turla, Linda Erdman, June Cullum, Carolyn McGinnis, John Allen, Tom Danowski, Ladaune Ashley** and **Derrick Schoobridge** for the use of their ovens. Also thanks to **Susan Wicker** and **Debbie**

Warren for their help in the kitchen. Almost everyone came over to share stories of the first day of skiing. **Ky Griffin** was overheard planning a funeral for the Parabolic skis he had rented.

Tuesday morning and it's snowing again. Today 35 of us



Jackson Hole (continued)

are off to Yellowstone Natl. Park to ride snowmobiles to Old Faithful. The day began at 6:00a.m., groan, moan, groan. After a hearty breakfast we start putting on our gear, snowsuits, boots, etc. Elyse made a comment to Dale standing between Patti and Mary Kay all dressed with his bright red balaclava on, "You look like a pimple." The trip took twice as long (something we're getting use to by now) as planned because of the weather. If you ask Danielle Mayes she might think it was worth the long ride. While we were at Old Faithful, Peter Schidlowski knelt down and proposed to her. The scenery was breath taking and the abundant wildlife was spectacular, well worth the trip.

By Wednesday we had settled into routines; a little skiing, a little shopping and a lot of drinking so well that we didn't even notice our trip to Grand Targhee had been canceled. (by you guessed it, "the weather") The Mangy Moose had become the official apres ski hangout. On any afternoon you might see **Joy Taylor, Rod Hope, Sharon Broughton** and Elyse Turla soaking up local ambiance. You might also spot **Mike Rothermund** and **Robert Todd** trying to catch a glimpse of Fancy Nancy, another local treasure. The after dinner crowd discovered The Million Dollar Cowboy Bar. It was a great place with live music and a huge dance floor. Some of the group seemed to be there every night. **Mike Gerstenberger** and **Kelly Gibbs** closed it down every night, but several people including **Karin** and **Kurt Schidlowski**, **Martha** and **Helmut Zenger**, **Toni Edwards** and **Jon Rollo** would stop by to kick up their heels.

Speaking of kicking heels, **Rick Kivich** made a couple of quick moves on the icy streets of Jackson and ended up at the clinic. He had a small concussion but is okay. On Thursday Tom Hogle and Patti Richards thought they might have a romantic dinner

at the Snake River Grill, only to have a large familiar group, John, Joy, Linda Erdman, Susan, June, Carolyn, Dale, Derrick, Sharon and Tom Danowski, seated next to them. The Thursday



night dance lessons found the likes of Joy, John and Derrick learning a local step, The Jackson Swing.

Friday was race day with the wind blowing 20 m.p.h. and the snow falling so hard you couldn't see the gates (this is getting redundant). The snow didn't bother Dale Allbritton as he cut through the gates like butter to win a gold medal. Jim Emsley skied the course on telemark skies and did a great job. Mary Kay Kitchens made her first NASTAR run and did very well. There were many silver and bronze

medals won along with a couple of Challenger medals. Thanks to Patti Richards our race director for a job well done. Congratulations everyone.

We had time Saturday for some last minute shopping and even some skiing for a few. **Dan Conery** and **Terri Thomas** rented a car and made the rounds in town. I believe we were all

ready to get home. I say this because everyone was loaded on the bus for the airport except for **Martha** and **Dennis Deavenport**, **Gene Davis**, **Kelly Gibbs** and **Mike Gerstenberger** who had been in town shopping that morning. Five more minutes and the group were voting to leave them. Funny you forget who your friends are. We made the flight and the trip back without incident. As ATC and speaking for the TC, this was a great group to travel with. They handled an uncomfortable situation very well. I believe a good time and fun was had by all in



standard Space City style. Thank You!!

PS: On a sad note, during our trip we received news of the loss of a dear friend and fellow Club member Reneta Heyne. We will think of her often and miss her deeply.