



CLASC Trip to Snowmass, Colorado January 7-14, 2012 We're baaaaack.....

Perhaps we should have waited a few more hours to do our snow dance! Light snow showers were predicted in Aspen on our arrival, but those snow showers ended up dumping almost 7 inches of fresh powder on the Snowmass slopes.

(Not sure if these guys were showing how much snow we got or how much visibility there was! See photo to right.) Anyway, our pilot twice tried to land at the Aspen airport but decided the minimum viz just wasn't enough and diverted our non-stop plane to Grand Junction where a bus, a van, and a trailer for excess luggage (they KNEW we brought a lot of luggage!) were awaiting our arrival.



The bus ride was an adventure of its own when the bus experienced engine problems after we turned south at Glenwood Springs. This required us to pull over a few times, restart the engine, and then creep further along for a while. Snow and ice led to deteriorating road conditions, there were a few accidents along the way, and the slow-going was definitely prudent.

When we arrived at our condos we were able to check in immediately and many headed out to rustle up something to eat while we waited for our lift tickets and credentials to arrive. Once they did, we were all willing and able to hit the slopes on Sunday!



The sun rose on Sunday to a beautiful mountain area full of wonderful and challenging terrain with fresh powder!!! The locals were all glad to

see us because this was the first fresh powder they had seen in some time. After a day on the slopes, we gathered for the Texas Ski Council Welcome Party at the Viceroy Hotel to indulge in their famous sliders and a few beverages. Don't we all love those drink coupons!



Skiing on Monday was topped off with a wonderful club dinner at Brothers' Grille where many ducked back and forth between our dining area and the bar to keep abreast of the BCS National Championship game.

Throughout the week, CLASC



skiers were spotted all over the slopes which is kind of challenging in and of itself given the 3100 acres of terrain just at Snowmass alone. With their multi-mountain lift ticket, folks also headed to Aspen, Aspen Highlands, and even Buttermilk (where we had the extra bonus of observing crews setting up for the X-games).

Evidently some folks found time to shop while on our ski trip. Can you imagine? Not sure TSA would like this beer cap belt! Maybe we should add it to our line of CLASC attire to complement the windsocks???



Our gorgeous hot tub really should be called a spa. It truly was one of loveliest we've ever seen, and throughout the week many could be seen – and heard – easing out the muscular stress of each day's activities. When the plastic cup dispenser conveniently situated at the hot tub was empty one afternoon, Jim Robertson got resourceful and made a beer bowl out of handled metal bowl from his condo.

Thursday was NASTAR club races and individual races. What started out

as a very chilly day got warmer as our race time arrived. Due to icy conditions, some of our racers did not finish the club race, but our own Gayle Brown got third in her division and a bronze medal in the individual races. Congrats to her and to all our club racers who won second place in our division. Bronze medals were won by Joe Evans (who had not been on a CLASC trip or any other ski trip in years), Kent Yokley, and Bob Gottlieb.



New members on this trip were Sonia Sheely and her daughter Veronica as well as Tom Duehren and his daughter Alexandria. Alex decided after a lesson on skis the first day to switch to snowboarding and she advanced very quickly. The four new members

claimed that this bizarre guy (see photo at left) just showed up outside their condo.



We also welcomed our members from the Great White North – Len and Lorie Cribbs and Ruth Bauman. It was good to see them again!



Maybe it was because the Pope David skied with us, but as far as we know there were only minor scrapes and bruises for our group of intrepid skiers and boarders for which your trip leaders are extremely grateful!



We hope everyone had a great time playing in the snow!

Laura and Teresa