

Forty-one members of the Jacksonville Ski Club traveled to Beaver Creek for a week of unforgettable skiing, boarding, and socializing. Our week began by flying Southwest Airlines on a direct flight from Jacksonville to Denver, where we were transported to Beaver Creek on a privately-chartered luxury motorcoach.

Upon arrival to Beaver Creek Landing, we were met by the staff and management who took care of delivering our luggage and groceries to our condos. Meanwhile, those that rented equipment were able to pick up such at the Beaver Creek Sports location right inside of our condo building. Immediately following, a Welcome Reception hosted by Vail Resorts provided information about the property, resort, and activities available in Beaver Creek. JSC provided pizza and other refreshments that were enjoyed by all.

Beaver Creek Landing is a ski-in/ski-out property with ski storage lockers located just steps from the Lower Beaver Creek Express Lift. Our first day of skiing provided approx. 6" of fresh snow that fell all throughout the night. The powder-hounds on our trip loved the opportunity to float through the fresh snow, while the more conservative skiers headed to the easier terrain that was freshly groomed.

Our group met up for planned lunches on Sunday and Monday at two different mountain venues to warm ourselves and enjoy some excellent food. This also provided members the opportunity to find ski / boarding partners with whom they could enjoy some runs for the remainder of the day.

The rest of the week was filled with blue skies and corduroy runs for the most part, with light snowfall on two more occasions during the week. After skiing a beautiful day on Tuesday, the majority of the group met up at the base of the mountain for the infamous chocolate chip cookies that are provided daily at 3:00pm. We then took our group picture that included one of the cookie chefs and followed that with a little *Après Ski* at McCoy's.

Wednesday was another beautiful day to ski and some folks ventured over to Vail to get in some turns at the nearby resort, where our lift tickets were also valid. That afternoon several of our travelers met at The Dusty Boot for Happy Hour in the village.

On Thursday evening, the group met down in the town of Avon at Blue Plate Bistro, a contemporary restaurant offering a variety of dishes to please any pallet. A 3-course *prix fixe* menu with options of Mountain Trout, NY Strip, and Crispy Duck, along with choices of soup or salad, as well as dessert was provided. By all accounts this was a highlight of the week, as both the food and service were outstanding. Our hosts were extremely delightful people and very attentive as well.

Friday was another day with fresh snow, as 3-4" fell overnight and during the morning hours of the day. Many folks stayed out until the lifts stop running, as they simply could not get enough. That evening, approximately 15-20 people from our group convened in

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the lobby area and enjoyed some games of pool, foosball, and chess while finishing off leftover snacks and adult beverages.

On our departure day, the lodging property handled and loaded our luggage while our travelers boarded the motorcoach for our scenic ride back to Denver. A smooth, nonstop flight back to Jacksonville on Southwest completed our trip. Many travelers commented that it was one of their most memorable and enjoyable trips they have taken with JSC. This was not a surprise as Beaver Creek truly lived up to their tagline of.....*Not Exactly Roughing It!*

By: Steve Bratcher & Craig Smith, Trip Leaders