

Canyons Resort Park City, UT.

March 3rd to 10th, 2012

Marty Snipes, trip leader

Thirty members of the Jacksonville Ski Club traveled to Park City UT. for a week of skiing at the Canyons resort. The Canyons is one of the largest mountain resorts in the country with over 4000 acres of skiing and that meant plenty of diverse terrain for all.

The Canyons is located just outside Salt Lake City and after a short forty minute shuttle ride from the airport we were at our resort. We stayed in the Silverado Lodge. The Silverado is only a couple of years old and is one of the newest properties at the Canyons. All of our rooms were spacious and well equipped with full kitchens, bar, large living areas and beautiful views from all the bedrooms. There was a nice spa area with heated pool and hot tub. The medicinal effects of the hot tub enabled several of our skiers to stay on the mountain from morning to night, or maybe it just felt good to them. Drew especially seemed to enjoy to hot tub. I'm thinking Barb and the other ladies who used the hot tub had something to do with that.

We were given a Welcome Reception provided by the resort on the evening that we arrived. They served us wine and beer and appetizers. We all enjoyed the reception and got to know our fellow skiers a little better as well as meeting the resort reps and concierge.

The first morning on the slopes The Canyons provided us with a mountain tour. They provided three leaders, one leading a beginner's tour, one for our intermediates and our resort rep, Mark Roia, lead an advanced group. Everyone enjoyed having the "locals" show us the mountain and concentrate on areas where each group would be most comfortable skiing.

We were all lucky enough to have several former ski patrol members and ex-ski instructors in our group. Barry and Phil were our most senior trainers and they tried everything they could to help improve the form of Ed, Steve, Greg and Chris. Their form didn't improve too much but all those guys wanted to do was to turn their skis straight down and see how fast they could go ... and they can really fly!

We had five of our skiers win "first tracks" tickets. John, Phil, Greg, Barb G. and Ed were taken out on the mountain at 7:30am one morning for some fresh powder and untouched corduroy. They said that was a great time.

There were some "only green" skiers in our group. Robin, Keith, Sharon and Terry were forced to leave the green slopes after it was rumored that they had burned up all the snow on the main run. It wasn't true though and they let them back!.

The club issued everyone lift tickets to the Canyons for five days and several people bought an extra ticket and skied Park City Mountain for a day trip. Melissa, Mary, Josh, Lina, Jeanette, Drew, David and several others added a sixth day skiing and all reported having a great time.

Mike and Maureen took a day trip to the Olympic Village where they toured the venues from the Winter Olympics that were held in Park City. Mike actually rode a bobsled on the same course used in the Olympics. The sled was driven by an Olympian and went over 85 mph and dropped 40 stories in 58 seconds! Mike was one of our youngest travelers and certainly one of the bravest. Elisa fulfilled one of her items on her bucket list by going up in a hot air balloon. We were up early in our condo drinking coffee and looked outside and saw three beautiful hot air balloons floating over the top of the mountains of Park City. She said that it was a wonderful experience and something she will never forget.

Barbara P. ran over a poor snowboarder and was a little shaken up but her friend Dot took good care of her and Sandra also tweaked her knee but she was able to hang out and enjoy the trip as well.

Tommy had a nasty spill out on the slopes and lost his skis, poles, goggles and maybe even his gloves. Later, when asked about his "garage sale", it took him a second to figure out that we were teasing with him about his fall.

We had several club activities throughout the week including the Welcome Reception, the Mountain Tour, lunch at the Red Pine Lodge, après ski at the Umbrella Bar on most afternoons and our trip dinner at The Spur Bar and Grill.

We had an amazing, family fun filled trip. David brought his niece Cameo and her friend Jackson. Dot brought her son Chris. We had five married couples, a brother in law, (Terry) and fifteen singles. We had friends that were so near and dear to us that some came from as far as New York (Tom), North Carolina (Keith and Sharon), Georgia (Tom and Phil), California (Mary) and Virginia (Josh and Lina, Chris). This was a great group of family and friends and we truly had a great trip.

We look forward to going back to Park City in the future.