

SNOWMASS 2019 “SPRING BREAK” TRIP REPORT
DATE: 3/16-3/23/2019
Trip Leaders: Maryanne Austin and Cynthia Builteman

We took 33 people, plus 1 baby, to Snowmass, CO for an awesome week of Spring Skiing at its best!

We were not expecting the crowds at JAX airport, so had a 40 minute wait at Security, with the line extending to the elevators. Luckily, we had 2 dozen St. Patrick's Day Krispy Kreme doughnuts to help us with our traveling jitters! We had a few stragglers, but United was so nice to hold the plane for us, with a little coaxing from Cynthia! Other than that, the traveling was great! Flying into Vail-Eagle was nice.

The club stayed at the Top of the Village (TOV) condos. Every condo has a view of the mountain/slopes and each building has slope access. There are elevators in each building as well. The TOV shuttle was at most a 5-minute wait and took us all over Snowmass. Several people took the town bus to the other mountains, which was easy to do. TOV gave us a wine and cheese welcome party on Saturday night, and along with the Snowmass rep, presented a nice overview of the town, mountain and resort. The pizza was pretty good too!

Along with the baby, we had 5 other children, all skiers. A special promotion by numerous Colorado resorts allowed all 5th and 6th graders to ski free all week! Four of the kids (and their parents) participated in a treasure hunt on Sunday that spanned all 4 mountains (Snowmass, Aspen, Aspen Highlands and Buttermilk). Way to jump right in, Adams and Carney/Doolittle families!! On Sunday afternoon, we had a group happy hour at Venga Venga. The weather was beautiful.

Several of us took advantage of the free Mountain Tours; they were so informative and a great way to see the mountain. On the Monday tour, Victoria, Cynthia and Maryanne learned that the Zeigler Reservoir fossil site is from the Sangamon interglacial period and contains the complete skeletal remains of 13 mastodons, including the largest one ever found! The bones were discovered in 2010 while dredging the reservoir. On Monday night, we had a group dinner catered by Hickory House BBQ – it was delicious!

A group went snowshoeing Wednesday afternoon from the top of the Gondola, very enjoyable. It's not as easy as it looks! On Wednesday night, we did a pub crawl and dinner in Aspen, really fun. Per Mike Langton's advice, we sampled the “Aspen Crud” drink at Hotel Jerome's J-Bar – it was yummy!

We had a great week of spring temps and bluebird skies. The snow conditions were phenomenal. There were a few really bad sunburns, a pretty scary collision between Carl and Charlie, and 1 broken rib (Cynthia, but she skied anyways!) The last 2 days were colder, with 3-5 inches of snow on Friday. With the perfect powder, we didn't want to stop on Friday, but it was a great way to end the week.