

Skiing at Aspen Snowmass, can it get any better? It was early Saturday evening, our bus of partiers, overachievers, beginners, and yes just plain ski vacationers were driving up the final 3 miles to Snowmass resort. A light rain had been falling for the past hour of driving, but as we continued up the mountain, the rain slowly turned to snow; this had to be a good omen. Eighteen inches of fresh new snow over the next four days, can it get any better than this. It was a great week of skiing for 41 skiers, and 2 newbie's in lessons. Snowmass Mountain truly is a destination for any type of skier, long beautifully groomed runs, paralleled by some great fresh powder in the trees. Do you like bumps; they were under every chair lift on the mountain. It all started with fantastic ski in / ski out lodging at the "Top of the Village" Condominiums. From granite counter tops in many of the rooms to great views of the slopes from our balconies or windows, to sitting in front of the gas fireplaces in our living rooms, it's great to walk out your condo down the walkway a short distance and stand on the edge of a magnificently groomed ski trail that leads down to the Village Express 6 pack lift at the base.

It was happy hours at Sneakys down at the base, après ski on the deck of "Venga Venga" lounge slope side at the village, and then snowball fights between the two spas at the Gate House as we willed our leg muscles back into shape so we could ski yet again tomorrow. These were just some of the relaxing and fun things we did each day. Some of our group hurried over for the conclusion of the X Games on Saturday and Sunday, as Shaun White once again thrilled us with his dominance in the half pipe. Food, did someone mention food, If it wasn't the tasteful chicken pot pie stew, buffalo chili, or pizza at the cafes on the mountain for lunch, it was spaghetti, or steaks on the bar b in our condos, and who can forget a night out on the town in Aspen as we all got to see how the 1% lives.

We had a full day of celebration on Thursday as 20 of us brave souls took a private First Tracks tour of the mountain with two of Snowmass finest. Then on to a fantastic lunch at the new Elk Camp Lodge at the top of Elk Camp Gondola where we met up with the rest of our group. This was all followed by our first annual Jacksonville Ski Club costume relay race down the Funnel Bypass run. With teams of 7 skiers each we proceeded down the mountain in relay form in our costumes of fairy wings, Christmas skirts, animal faces, Hawaiian lays, and clowns ties. Team Tiger was the big winner as they blew the competition away with their team spirit, speed of costume removal and re-dressing, as well as their unmatched speed on skis, we all had a great time laughing, cheering, and wondering how someone could ski so fast in a costume. We concluded the day with our group dinner of barbequed pulled pork, chicken, ribs and beef at the Gate House. A festive evening of laughs, awards, and stories concluded with the Jacksonville Ski Club "snow dancers" as they stood and showed us their dancing style in calling for fresh powder. Next year is the "Florida Ski Council" trip in late January back to Snowmass where over 400 us from Florida will meet to ski, party, race, and make new friends, we can't wait to go back, we're already making plans.