

SNOWMASS, CO

January 18th – 25th

Twenty members of the Jacksonville Ski Club traveled to beautiful Snowmass, Colorado for a week of fabulous skiing and camaraderie. This trip was a Florida Ski Council trip and there were 10 clubs participating and a total of 380 club members and FSC Officers in attendance.

JSC flew to Vail/Eagle airport with a connection in Dallas via American Airlines. Air travel was uneventful, and we arrived to Eagle on schedule. Once all of our travelers collected their luggage, we boarded a 56-passenger motor-coach that we shared with members of the Ft. Lauderdale club. There was plenty of room for everyone to enjoy the scenic 1 ½ hour ride to Snowmass. There was a grocery stop along the way, so that we could stock up on some necessities, snacks, beverages, etc...

Upon arrival to Top of the Village condos, the staff quickly got everyone checked in and porters delivered our bags to our condo units. We stayed in 2 & 3 bedroom condos, which were well-appointed. All units were ski-in / ski-out, had gas fireplaces, and washers & dryers. Top of the Village also has a common amenity area known as the Gate House that has a heated pool, 2 hottubs, a sauna, and a fitness room, as well as a comfy meeting area where clubs can gather.

After checking in and getting settled, travelers had time to secure their rental gear and then attend a Welcome Pizza Reception hosted by the Trip Leader. There was plenty of pizza, as well as salad for all to enjoy, along with a variety of wine and other beverages.

Sunday brought blue-bird skies and excellent skiing conditions, as the area had gotten about 10 inches of snow a couple days prior. The rest of the week was a mixture of clouds, snow, and sunny skies, with the last day to ski – Friday – once again being a perfect sunny day to finish out our week of skiing.

The Florida Cup race was held on Tuesday between the FSC member clubs, and all participants were able to sign up to participate in a NASTAR race. Two Jacksonville Ski Club racers won bronze medals for their times – Robert Dawkins and Alixe Stam. Immediately following the race, club members enjoyed a picnic lunch on the mountain.

On Wednesday, after a nice day of fresh powder being dumped on the mountain, JSC travelers all met at Base Camp Bar & Grill in the Snowmass Base Village for Après Ski / Happy Hour. We enjoyed a variety of appetizers and some adult beverages and shared stories of our mountain adventures thus far.

The Florida Ski Council had dinner parties Monday night and Thursday night. Monday's party was at the Viceroy, which is a very upscale property. Thursday night's party was at the Westin Conference Center and was themed – "Team Spirit" – and many of the club members dressed in their favorite team apparel and other creative costumes keeping with the theme. Awards were given out for most-creative outfits. Following the costume awards, the FSC announced the Race Awards, with prizes given to the fastest male and female in various age categories, the fastest man on the mountain, fastest woman on the

mountain, and the member club combined results. Taking 3rd place was Orlando, with Tampa coming in 2nd place, and the winner of the Florida Cup being Southwest Florida (Naples). Special recognition was also given out to the youngest and oldest racer participants. Tony Sever, a Daytona resident who traveled with JSC, was awarded the oldest male racer, still getting out there and racing at the very young age of 84.

Club members enjoyed their last night in Snowmass a variety of ways, with some going into Aspen, others going to the X Games at Buttermilk, others dining at the Base Village, and some just opting to stay-in and pack. On Saturday morning, the club departed Snowmass via shuttle vans back to Eagle to catch their flights back home. By all accounts and from feedback provided to the Trip Leader, this was a very successful trip that was enjoyed by all that participated.

Steve Bratcher
Trip Leader