

Telluride, CO

Jan 24 - 31

Forty members of the Jacksonville Ski Club traveled to Telluride, Colorado for the Florida Ski Council "Ski Week". Eleven other FSC clubs also were in attendance, with a total of 489 Florida skiers.

Twenty-six JSC Members traveled by air via Delta Airlines, connecting through Atlanta and arriving in Montrose, CO. Twelve members flew on United Airlines, connecting through Houston. Two other members accompanied FSC Officers and arrived a day earlier. Our travel day went well, with no interruptions and after a 1:20 shuttle to Telluride, we arrived at our lodging property – Telluride Mountain Lodge. Check-in was very smooth and our baggage was delivered to our condos by the bell staff.

After check-in, members picked up their rental equipment at the Christy Sports location inside Mountain Lodge, which was very convenient. Later that evening, the FSC held an Orientation/Registration at the conference center, where travelers picked up their lift tickets, signed up for mountain tours, and socialized with other club members. Immediately following the Registration, Jacksonville members enjoyed a Welcome Pizza Party at Crazy Elk Pizza where we had a private room reserved for our group.

Mountain Lodge is located mid-mountain just up from Mountain Village. The property is ski-in/ski-out via the Double Cabin run. Mountain Lodge has an on-site restaurant – The View – that several of our members visited and gave excellent reviews of the cuisine and costs. The condos are very nice, with granite countertops, stainless appliances, and fireplaces in each unit. They are somewhat small, but very comfortable. There is also a heated outdoor pool and hottub on site, which helped skiers soothe their aching muscles after a day on the hill.

The first half of the week was unseasonably warm with spring-like skiing conditions, however, the snow held up very nicely. The blue skies made for excellent scenery and picture-taking opportunities. Wednesday brought slightly cooler temps, while Thursday brought us our first dusting of fresh snow. On Friday, snow fell most of the day and into the evening, which made for excellent skiing conditions.

The Florida Ski Council held parties on both Monday and Thursday nights, with dinner included. The Thursday night theme was "Gold Rush" and many travelers took the opportunity to sport creative outfits for the evening. The Thursday night party also included the presentation of NASTAR ski race results from Tuesday's NASTAR race. There were awards for individual winners from various age/gender categories, as well as the Team Race results. Naples Ski Club took home the Florida Cup, as they were the overall fastest team in the competition. The Palm Beach Gators came in second, while Space Coast finished 3rd. Jacksonville finished 5th. Jacksonville members that participated in the event were: Bill Dopf, Ashley Rea, Steve Bratcher, David Cahill, Mike Wilson, Maryanne Austin, Robert Dawkins, Linda Walker, Steve Goldman, Sally Evans,

& Danielle Payne. Both David Cahill and Ashley Rea won bronze medals for their individual efforts.

One unique feature of Telluride Mountain Resort is that the Town of Telluride and Mountain Village are linked by a free gondola system that runs from early morning until midnight. Telluride is the only resort that has such a system. The town of Telluride is a historic mining town that still has much of the architecture from the late 1800's and early 1900's. There are ample restaurants, bars, shops, and historic sites in the town for travelers to enjoy.

On our departure day, we once again were shuttled by Telluride Express, to Montrose for our early afternoon flight departures.

By: Steve Bratcher – Trip Leader