



The Inside Edge

WINTER 2011

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Winter Sports

VAIL 2011

A successful BCSC Ski trip relies on (1) good planning, (2) a great destination, and the one thing that can't be controlled (3) weather and snow conditions. The first two are usually a given with BCSC. So we crossed our fingers on our trip to Vail hoping for the Trifecta. The snow on the drive from Denver delayed our arrival (along with a requisite stop for groceries and "beverages"). This was tempered by the fact that it's probably snowing even harder at Vail, and as Martha Stewart says, "it's a good thing". More about the snow later...

Having all arrived - with all of our luggage, no less - we found the Vail Spa condos in Lionshead, were roomy, comfortable and in a good location. Having stayed there previously, we knew it would be. Aside from a couple of room configuration issues, which we eventually worked out, everyone seemed to be pleased. When we got there, of course, what's a BCSC event without a Welcome Wine and Cheese party?



The Skiing

Sunday was the first day of skiing, and we were greeted with over a foot of fresh snow over most of the mountain. For those who have not ventured outside of CA ski areas, there is a distinct difference in the light, dry snow that tends to fall in the Rockies. It's definitely not "Sierra Cement". Speaking as one that prefers a softer ride under my feet (thanks to age and creaking joints), this is a welcome relief. For some, this required an adjustment. The piles of snow didn't push back, you just skied right through them and the snow just blew away. Nice! Oh, and about the weather? The temperatures for the week stayed consistently in the twenties with no wind. (Wow, what a concept?) This meant that the snow remained light, dry and able to be pushed around not having gone through a thaw-freeze cycle. It was only toward the end of the week that it warmed up to near Spring conditions.



Vail – continued

A signature aspect of the Vail experience are the Back Bowls, the vast expanses of open terrain on the back side. This is further complemented by another set of slopes beyond the bowls, Blue Sky Basin. You really get an appreciation for the size of this resort when you realize it may take you 3-4 chairs just to get to the back side. (Not everyone in the group preferred chairlift rides and gravity, but I'm not going there. Said one: "But I'm in good enough shape to do it"...O-kay) There is every possible type of run and terrain available - from long groomers, to steep cliffs, to open powder fields, to moguls of all sizes. In fact, Paula found the snow so soft and fluffy, she decided she would try to swim down one of the steep runs on Blue Sky Basin. (Wim, did you get that on the helmet cam?) Cham-



pagne Glade on Blue Sky Basin was one of the favorite runs. The soft powder and moderate bumps made for great tree skiing. Tracy, Bill and Terry even found their way over there (though they also may have just gotten lost). Chris and Don also enjoyed the trees on their way back to the front side. Rumor has it Chris loved it so much she was seen hugging some trees.



Food and Drink Other Things

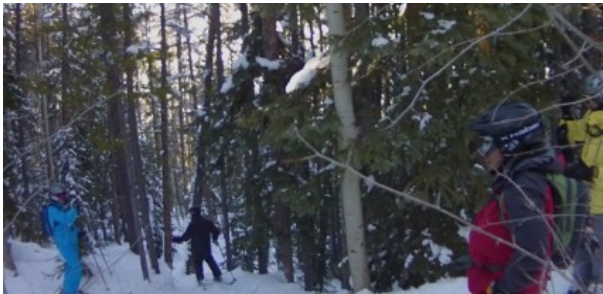
We scored a great deal at the base of the Gondola for overnight ski and boot storage at a discounted rate. They even took the boots and put them on a dryer. Freed of our skis, we easily made the 50 yard walk to Garfinkels where we became regulars. Others, led by Jim Ryan figured out if you ended your day at Golden Peak, you can take the bus to the doorsteps of the Vail Spa. The word spread quickly. Sweet!

On Monday, we sponsored lunch at the Tap Room in the Village which allowed folks that were not skiing that day to meet up with us. (Sorry, Ben. At least Gayle filled you in.) The menu included grilled chicken breast sandwiches or one of the best great half-pound burgers I have ever tasted. Of course, this place is also a bar. Duh! Since the restaurant is basically slopeside, the resumption of skiing was only a few short steps to the Vista Bahn lift...but not before the group photo was taken. Later, Scott and Angie took a group to "Sweet Basil", a highly rated restaurant in the village and they found the food "amazing".



There are plenty of places to eat on the mountain, but most of the group tended to meet at Two Elks Lodge for lunch. This was a great way for the "First Chair" skiers to re-connect with the "Crack of Noon" crowd for some afternoon turns. There was even a rumor of an occasional Rocky sighting.

One of the highlights was the Ski Biking adventure. Just imagine you took the wheels off a bike, replaced them with small skis - front and back - and you put another set of small skis on your boots (your "training wheels"), then you duct tape a flashlight to your helmet, and take off onto the slopes...at night, in the dark. Some like Nick and Bruce R. had experienced this on a previous trip. Most of the group - Heidi, Paula, Paul, Rachel, Wim, Roger and others were rookies to the exper



ience. We rode down some of the same slopes we had just come down hours before on skis. This included a run through the trees and some moguls. On the mogul run, Wendy decided to jump in ahead thinking that if a girl went down the bumps, the guys would have to go....yeah, she was right. Only the over-confident snowboard boys from Georgia - not in the BCSC group - who had difficulty going down a hill facing forward, skipped the bumps. They eventually opted out after a number of crashes and were constantly bringing up the rear. It was at times scary, but fun. Most of us had a tumble or two (or three). Paul swore that his "Two-Step" experience helped him with the bikes. At the end of each run - most squeezed in three - you got on the gondola and did it again. Chris and Valli decided that they had so much fun on their first run, going again would only ruin the memory...and "where is the bar?"

The Tuesday Wine and Cheese Party was basically a Pot Luck affair. Apparently, many heeded my concern about just showing up with a bag of chips and we ended up with the sufficient libations and snacks for a group three times our size. Needless to say, it didn't go to waste. At this gathering we officially announced that Wendy is our newest BCSC Lifetime Member. Joining her for the announcement were other "Lifers", Jim S., Stu, and myself. It is an honor well deserved and her efforts are much appreciated by BCSC members.



Later in the week, the BCSC "Newbies", Mark, Yvonne, Neva - and Craig - opened up their condo for a great pasta dinner on Thursday. That was a great gesture and a lot of fun. Others opted for a night at one of the many great dining spots in Vail.

A number of things changed since our last visit. The only grocery store in the village was replaced by a new, building of shops and boutiques. A few people, led by Jim S., attempted to spend a day at Beaver Creek. However, this group which I believe included Lynn, Pat, Stu, Karen, Steve and Pam found that it wasn't worth the effort due to the bus schedules and other logistics which had changed from previous years. However, having to spend the day at Vail instead of BC isn't so bad.

Skiing

Leaving after such a great week was difficult. The bus ride back to DEN was fun (and well lubricated at least in the back). Guess we have to do it again next year!



Other Trip Comments

- Welcome to trip participants new to BCSC - Mark, Yvonne, Neva and Doug. We hope you had a good time and we look forward to seeing more of you.
- Chocolate flavored Vodka!
- Art knows his way around a wine store, and knows the ins and outs of obtaining a wine "Sherpa"
- The week after our trip, Vail experienced frigid days (Daytime highs below zero) with little snow
- I did not hurt that squirrel!
- Despite a mishap with her wrist, Rachel L. soldiered on and skied much of the last couple of days with one pole. (There were reports of a skier doing 360 degree donuts at Mid-Vail...)
- Ski Tip: If you are going to do Highline, Rogers Run and Zot at the same time, do it earlier in the week, not on the last day, on your last run. But if you do, make sure you are accompanied by the BCSC "Mobile Cocktail Lounge".
- Resorts most mentioned for next year's destination: Snowmass, Whistler, Big Sky
- Nina didn't want to come off the mountain...did anyone remember if she was on the bus ride home?
- As usual, Russ, or "Gabby Gulick", as we now know him, was his usual rowdy self.
- Little Rachel Abbe is already skiing faster than many in the group...including Mom?.
- Lynn wins the fashion award with that great looking ski jacket she picked up on the way out of town.
- Yvonne wins the fitness award for keeping up with her workouts in addition to a hard day of skiing. (Me? I just wanted to sit down and have a beer.)
- There were three helmet cams and numerous video capable devices, should be a lot of footage available
- There will be a picture party in the next few months, stay tuned
Bruce



Hello Beach Cities members,

My name is Janet Watts, I am the new activities director. This job is right up my alley, when I was raising my kids I ran my own event planning business and now as a realtor in the South Bay I am always planning one thing or another. I am kind of the new kid in town. I have only lived here for 3 years and I absolutely love it. I love getting up and riding my bike on the strand or taking a run, joining in the many 5k's or concerts in the park. I am looking forward to being a part of this club for many years to come.

I would like to share some plans I have, and I am always open to ideas! The first event I planned is the 1st annual **BC Ski Club Carnival Cruise** for the weekend of Oct 21st out of Long Beach. This is such an easy, economical way to be together and enjoy the ocean, good food and invite new friends, I sent the flyer to many clients and friends and hope this is a year of growth for the club also. Register soon as they will only book rooms as long as they have availability, they are not blocking or saving rooms for us. It is only \$50 to book your room and you can get a FULL refund up until Aug, 22nd! They will even honor a cheaper price after it is booked if ANY cruise deals come up!! **Book now, many other clubs want to come with us!**

The other events I am working on are strand bike rides from S. Redondo to El Segundo on some weekend afternoons in the summer. I imagine we will stop for refreshment along the way, and end up at Naja's for their live music in the afternoon.

I am also planning a game night, with many games going on at the same time. It is a blast! I do need a good place to have it, so if you have a large room and open to company let me know. We may want to do this a couple times a year it is so much fun.

When the free summer concerts start, I will pick a couple dates and we can have a BBQ before and sit and hear the concert together at Polliwog in MB. They are every Sunday night and the music is good. You are allowed to bring BBQ's and wine.

That is just a few thoughts; I am excited about getting to know all of you and getting better at beach volleyball. I hope your 2011 is great and full of fun and friends!

Janet



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR 1ST ANNUAL
BEACH CITIES SKI CLUB**



**Carnival weekend
Cruise to Baja!**

OCT. 21ST-24TH 2011

SAT OUT TO SEA/SUN IN BAJA!!

LEAVES OUT OF LONG BEACH 5PM FRI-RETURNS MON. 8AM

\$322PP/DBL OCC , THEN \$132(TAX INCL) 3-4TH

PERSON RESIDING IN THE SAME CABIN

REGISTER NOW AND MAKE MONTHLY PAYMENTS!

ALL MONIES REFUNDABLE UP UNTIL AUG 22ND

FREE UPGRADES AND OPEN BAR NIGHT

WITH 8 CABINS BOOKED. WITH EVERY 8 ADDITIONAL CABINS

BOOKED WE ALL GET MORE PERKS!

ALL INCLUSIVE:FOOD, ENTERTAINMENT,

CABIN, CASINO, MUSIC

BRING YOUR DANCING SHOES!

RSVP: WE WILL BE DEALING DIRECTLY WITH HUGO ON

CARNIVAL CRUISES-EMAIL ME FOR HIS INFO AT

MYREALTORJAN@GMAIL.COM -JANET WATTS-

The Prez

Happy Winter,

"4th best snow conditions for this time of year ever." Vail was a blast. Great snow, great food and great company. Thanks Wendy and Bruce who organized and ran the trip. Thanks to those who participated because there would be no trip without you. Talking of ski trips, we still have one more bus trip to Mammoth at the beginning of March. The combination of a smaller bus and the Shilo Inn worked really well in January and we will be doing the same on this trip. The rooms in the Shilo are huge and also have a fridge and microwave. Those normally used to being crammed into a bunk room were struggling to figure out what to do with all the space. It will be a fun trip and judging by those already signed up there will be more than just skiing taking place.

We have a new event lined up this year. In October we will be joining a cruise from Long Beach to Baja and back. Details are elsewhere in the newsletter and on the website. This will be popular so don't wait too long to book it. You only need to put down a deposit for now. We don't have a fixed number of cabins so if the ship sell out you'll miss the boat!

We'll be back with another newsletter soon. In the meantime watch out for emails letting you know about what we have planned.

Enjoy the snow!

Nick

Membership update

While everyone is enjoying all the snow, let's share the fun and promote the club. Please join our group on facebook. It is, not so oddly, Beach Cities Ski Club. Put that in your search bar, then put some of your skiing updates as posts there ! Invite your friends to join us too :) If you're not on facebook, but you are reading this electronic email, it is just the next step. So give it a try, it is a great way to keep up with all the fun and games.

Susan



Skiing

BCSC Mammoth Bus & Hotel Trips:

One trip remaining:

Thursday, March 3 – Sunday, March 6, 2011

Mardi Gras Theme!

We are happy to report that the January BCSC Mammoth Bus & Hotel trip was a resounding success! New this year – we are staying at The Shilo Inn. Only two people per room! Two singles will get two queen beds, and couples will get a king bed. The rooms are spacious and very nice! Best of all, no bunk beds and no lofts! The Shilo also has complimentary breakfast and coffee in the morning – complete with fresh Belgian Waffles. The Shilo Inn also has an indoor pool and Jacuzzi. The Mammoth free shuttle picks up across the street if you want to head to/from the mountain at a time different than our bus.

Also new, we are including a Pizza Dinner Party on the trip. We have the Conference Room at the Shilo Inn booked for a private pizza Friday night dinner party. Last trip we did a potluck dinner on Saturday night and everyone loved it. So we'll do it again!

Other than the lodging & food, the trip is very much the same as what we've been doing. We have a private bus pick us up in Redondo Beach. Going to Mammoth, we stop for 30 minutes in Lancaster at Burger King & Carls Jr. Our bus picks us up each morning and takes us to the Main Lodge. The bus remains in the parking lot all day and then at 4:30 PM takes us back to the Shilo. On Sunday, we leave the main lodge at 4:30 PM, and pick up dinner – everyone has their choice of individual pizzas or sandwiches.

3 day discounted lift tickets are available at Costco. Or they can be pre-purchased thru Mammoth Mountain with an MVP buddy pass (so you will need a friend who has an MVP Pass).

Cost: \$335 per person. This includes 3 nights lodging (2 per room), bus transportation, pizza dinner party, meal on bus ride home and snacks, beer & soda on the bus.

To Sign Up: It's easy - go to bcskiclub.org and print the Mammoth Trip Reservation Form & Waiver. Follow the instructions on it. Mail it in with check to hold your spot! All participants must be a member of Beach Cities or Slope Surfers. Email Nick if you have any questions at: president@bcskiclub.org

CA State Licensing: BCSC's Seller of Travel ID is: #2084767-40



Happy Birthday to January & February & March Birthdays

Christi L	1/1		
Fuzz N	1/3		
Renee S	1/6		
Kat P	1/12		
Lee G	1/12		
Lisa S	1/12	Frank S	2/6
Larry H	1/13	Mark M	2/7
Patrick K	1/13	Bruce B	2/8
Aaron G	1/13	Roxanne K	2/8
Debra T	1/15	Michael H	2/9
Karen D	1/16	Al W	2/10
James S	1/16	Kim S	2/17
Lynda N	1/17	Bill C	2/21
Rebecca T	1/19	Darrin L	2/23
Roger B	1/19	David L	2/25
Cheryl T	1/20	Terry E	2/29
Randy P	1/21	Sandra S	3/2
Lynette D	1/23	Anna C	3/2
Marlene M	1/24	Joe C	3/3
Nancy W	1/28	Sonya S	3/4
Art C	1/28	Danny S	3/7
Sharon C	1/29	Bruce R	3/9
Joe S	1/30	Donna B	3/10
Karely D	1/30	David B	3/10
		Mari P	3/14
		Robert R	3/16
		Jim L	3/17
		Trudi L	3/24
		Keith N	3/24
		Shannon K	3/25
		Theresa S	3/30
		Jim O	3/30
		Peter K	2/2
		Gary P	2/5
		Lynda J	2/1

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