

The Liftline

Whitefish in the Clouds



IN THIS ISSUE...

They're out of the Gate! Racing & Trip Report by Scott Dahman 3

It DID amount to a hill of beans! by Judy Haydel 6

You say I've got baggage like it's a bad thing... A call to action by Judy Haydel 8

Spring Fling— Start planning your warm(er) weather activities now! 6

*Report by Judy Haydel—*This was an interesting trip! Our groups set off from two locations, one group from Indy with an overnight on Friday Feb. 1, and the second group from Bloomington, late morning on Saturday, Feb. 2. Thanks to Barb Pirie, the volunteer mother hen, everyone made it to Kalispell and hopped a shuttle to the Grouse Mountain Inn in Whitefish.

There were 75 people from central Illinois ready for a week of fun. Our fun began the next morning with three shuttles to the mountain, 8:30, 9:30 and 10:30 (for those late starters). Most of our group decided to take a mountain tour; suited to the type of terrain we were going to be skiing, with a mountain host. We were all optimistic about the beautiful sun shiny day and a chance to start out at the Summit. This would be the only day some of us made it to the top; the rest of the week would be cloudy and the top would be fogged in. This, of course, would not stop some of our better skiers. (cont. next page)

FIRST FRIDAY HAPPY HOUR

March 7th, 6PM

Jupiter 2 at The Crossings

Duncan Road & Windsor

Southwest Champaign

The snow was great!!!!!! We had 4-5 inches of snow each evening and it was the soft powdery kind that everyone loves. If you have never been to Whitefish, you probably don't know about the extent of the various terrains. There are a lot of black runs, unmarked tree runs as well as bowls. I found the intermediate runs quite challenging.

Each afternoon, after skiing, the S.K.I. group basically took over the Grouse Mountain Bar area to swap stories and tell lies. The hot tub was also very enjoyable, outside and big enough for 10, 11, 12, 13, etc. people. Monday evening (a little late due to the arrival times of all the clubs) we had our orientation meeting and learned of all the other adventures that were available for our enjoyment. The snow cat skiing attracted three Snowkat Codgers (Randy Haydel, Steve Elkins, and Mike Metz) and the Kid (Mike Wells), one horseback rider (Kate Ditewig), and one dogsledder, Barb Pirie. The wine, beer and nachos were compliments of our tour operator. Our group pretty much stayed together for eating out each night. We had some great dinners at some high class and some low class restaurants (Red Caboose Diner).

Tuesday the sun took a rest and it snowed on and off for the rest of the week, making the mountain fogged in on the top. Randy said it was hard to tell if you were moving or not. They even set up lighted guides to help people ski the fog. Barb, Judy and Cynthia stayed on the low road and had no trouble at all. We tried out every restaurant on the mountain for lunch and had a disagreement on whether Hellroaring Saloon or Aunt Bea's was the best. I know Gary Elvers and E.C. Cupton really enjoyed their ice cream at Aunt Bea's despite the fact there was no beer and no bathrooms.

Wednesday night was the big prize giveaway, but not with some challenges. Card game mixers and a game of quarter darts (don't ask) provided the entertainment along with a raffle. It was my birthday and it was the first time I ever had 75 people singing to me. It was nice and the cake was very, very good. (continued, page 7)



Several CSC skiers qualified for the NASTAR National Championships, to be held March 13-16 at Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Neill Wilkins and I attended last year's race, which was a lot of fun despite crazy snow conditions. If you wish register this year, visit www.nastar.com, find your race record with the search tool at the top, and click on the Congratulations! banner. Don't forget to give veteran CSC racers David "Red Rocket" Garner and Tanya "Viper" Mueller a call if you are headed that way. And certainly let me know if you need any advice about the event.

If you didn't race NASTAR this year, you should know that MOST of the people that raced qualified for the National Championships. Sure, it helps to be fast, but qualifying is mainly a function of where you raced and how many others in your age and ability division raced there. So the only thing between you and national ski racing stardom might just be the will to give it a try!

Congratulations to your Champaign Ski Club NASTAR National Championship qualifiers!



You're Never too Old (or Young) to Learn! Trip Report by Scott Dahman

The Shanty Creek Instructional Clinics trip was lightly attended this year, but the 20 Champaign Ski Club skiers that signed on were treated to a wonderful weekend and with excellent snow conditions and professional instruction for skiers and boarders, young and old, beginner and expert alike. CSC veterans were joined by first-time skier Rachel Sanders and also by Caroline Aiken and Chuck Schroeder, who each returned to skiing after a hiatus.

We were even treated to an (almost) brand new motor coach by operator-extraordinaire, Mark Bolden. The seats (for which each lucky attendee was afforded about 2 rows each) were clean and cushy and the PA system crackled to life without having to hold the talk button for several seconds prior to speaking.

Keeping the average age of trip-goers in check were Eric and Nate Roth (ages 5 and 2) and Faith Dahman (5). The grown-ups politely accommodated the movie selection, which while heavily biased toward juvenile interests, was a small price to pay for 14 hours of good behavior by the younger set (including Scooby Doo aficionados Gwen Broeren and Chuck Schroeder). Faith showed her appreciation by regularly attending to the snack and beverage needs of the adult guests, handling unopened containers in strict accordance with the statues of Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan, of course. (more pix on next page)

Right: Carl Roth kicks out of the start

Instructional Clinic Trip Report (cont. from previous page)

In addition to the top-notch instruction, Shanty Creek treated us to slope-side (or near slope-side) accommodations, fashionable and

comfy CSC/Instructional Clinics sweatshirts, and a Saturday evening banquet with awards, raffle prizes, and a slide show of the day's happenings. (Memo for next year: to appear in the slide show early and often, don obnoxious, multi-colored headwear.) Several skiers also took part in the complementary NASTAR races and most earned Silver or Bronze medals.

All in all the trip was a real gem for those fortunate enough to join. We hope club members new and old will give it serious consideration next year!

Clockwise, from top: Part of the CSC group recounts their adventures at the Saturday banquet.

Gwen Broeren rounds a gate in the NASTAR course

Jeff and Barb Unangst are set for a day of fun and instruction.

A father prepares to send his son out for the morning

(Photo #1 courtesy of Jennifer Dahman; all others by Instructional Clinics.)

Above: The Snowstars take a break

Right: This is too easy. Let's ride the chair!

Below: Scott Dahman rounds a gate on the training course.

(Photos 1 & 3 courtesy of Instructional Clinics, Photo 2 by Scott Dahman)



Chili by the Dozen (and then some!) - House Party report by Judy Haydel

On Feb. 16, the chili connoisseurs gathered in the Haydel's basement for the Iron Chef Chili Cookoff and Dessert Challenge of the Century (or the 'ICCCDCC' for short). After a small time snafu, most of the chilis (and accompanying chefs) started coming around 6 p.m. We were a bit overwhelmed by the 20 different chilis that ended up in the competition.

The chilis were divided into three areas of competition: Traditional, Non-Traditional and Chili Verde. Each were marked, named by the chef and given a special bean voting box. Tasting methods varied: Some arranged all 20 entries in small bowls and sampled each one; others favored the "scoop and savor" method; the heartiest of eaters used the "full bowl complete taste" method. Everyone was given 3 black beans to use for voting, making the judges real "bean counters".

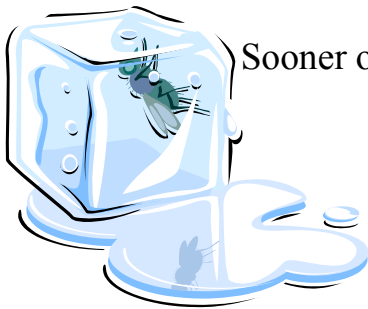
While the chili eating and voting was underway, the fabulous desserts were being marked and prepared for the sweet competition to follow dinner. This menu read like a gourmet bakery: Black Forest Cake, Chocolate Moussy Cakey, Better Than Skiing Cake, Banana Split treat, and numerous gourmet brownies and cookies—not to mention Todd's State Fair Award winning pineapple upside down cake. If that wasn't enough, Jennifer and Brandon brought along a sampling of the candies they will be making and selling in the near future. (Yum!)

It was a very nice crowd of people; some new faces as well as some old timers come back for a visit. By around 9 p.m., everyone was stuffed and the beans were counted. The best Traditional Chili award went to **Todd Mowry** for his Bacon Cheeseburger chili, Best Non Traditional award went to **Tony Curcio** for his Italian Calico Chile, and the Best Vegetarian Chili went to **Linda Johnson**. The "Overall Winner" was **Dave Morse** for his Elk Chili.

Now, everyone waited with anticipation for the winner of the dessert award. **Kimmmie Mowry** took the honor with her "Chocolate Moussy Cakey". The closest runner up was her sister Sam's "Better that Skiing Cake".

After the awards were presented, we had one more little celebration - Pat Elkins birthday. Steve had brought a really beautiful sheet cake for the event, but everyone was so full they had to take cake home with them. But it was the thought that counted. The party finally broke up around 1:30 a.m. and the damage report the next morning was minimal.

Thanks again to all the participants, we enjoyed your company and the great foods you brought with you. **Viva La Chili!!!!!!**



Sooner or Later It's Going to Melt: Accepting Reality by Mike Metz

Friends from the Mackinaw Canoe Club are going on a trip to Iowa, canoeing for two days on the Maquoketa River near Maquoketa Caves State Park. It's located about half way between The Quad Cities and Dubuque Ia.

They plan to canoe Saturday, April 26th and Sunday, April 27th. My plan is to canoe Saturday and check out the park on Sunday. There is camping at the state park or motels nearby.

Anyone interested should contact me at 417-9595

(continued from page 2) Thursday was the snowkatter's day. It was amazing! Mike Wells videoed our guys skiing and I know I'm glad it was them and not me. The guys were up to their shoulders in powder and those trees looked awfully close. One of the best comments was by Steve Elkins when he said, "I was sure I was going to miss that tree". All returned safely—the only problem with Mike Metz's Achilles' tendon.

Friday was the final day.....and wasn't Scott Morris and Kate Ditewig on this trip? Haven't seen much of them this week. This day the big boys were skiing near the closed areas and got quite a scare from the avalanche guns that were going off all around them.

Again, our group was leaving at different times on Saturday, 5 a.m. for the Bloomington group and 11:30 (we thought) for the Indy group. As fate would have it, the Indy group sat at the Kallispel airport for about two hours picking out the plants for Jerry Welch's vegetable garden. We were sure we'd be missing our connection in Minneapolis. After a great imitation of O. J. at the airport, we made the flight and so did our luggage.

I heard only good things about this trip from our group and the others from the SKI group. Dave Durdel from Peoria planned another great trip. Next year, it looks like we will be heading for Ogden, Utah and skiing Snowbasin and Powder Mountain. It will be the first week of February and I know you will have as good a time as we have had these past two years with S.K.I.

CALL TO ALL NEW YEARS EVE TRIP GO-ERS....

Have you seen Tumbling Todd's boots???? Who's Tumbling Todd? How on earth did he lose his boots? Was he barefoot when getting on the bus? Why is he just now realizing it??? These questions and many others will be answered in the following story!

Who's Tuuummmbling Todd? Why Todd Mowry of course. Why is he called Tumbling Todd? Because over the years -in addition to developing his triple black skills at yard sales - last year he raced on the Granite Peak **Bus** and earned his name when he fell repeatedly down on Bumbling Belle's Bunny Slopes. You had to be on that bus to really understand just how tumbling he was. So now just as 2008 starts, he's lost his boots. He swears they were on the bus in Michigan, only to not be found when the bus arrived at Wild Country. Did you happen to take home some black Salomon Evolutions? Do you remember seeing them come off the bus? They are 10 years old and slightly modified for Tumbling Todd's weird right ankle bone. Hmm...weird right ankle, who knew. Maybe that's why he tumbles? So if you've got any information, please let contact Tumbling Todd.

Judy Haydel, in an effort to keep more beer money in your pocket, has graciously provided the following suggested template for those who would like to make their opinion known regarding airline baggage allowances and its financial impact on skiers:

Dear Sir/Madam,

The purpose of this memo is to recommend INSERT AIRLINE maintain your existing baggage policy and not follow the lead of United Airlines in cutting back your existing baggage allowance policy of two per person (a boot bag and ski bag being considered a set of one).

I am a member of the Champaign Ski Club which is a member of the Chicago Metropolitan Ski Council. The Chicago Metropolitan Ski Council is a member of the National Ski Council Federation, an umbrella membership organization of 27 ski and snowboard councils across the United States representing 570 ski and snowboard clubs. These clubs in turn represent approximately 335,000 recreational winter sports enthusiasts. Ski clubs form principally because their members do not live near the destination resorts, and most utilize airline travel to get them to and from their choice of destination resort.

Due to the nature of our seasonal sport, we routinely check one suitcase, one ski or snowboard bag and one boot bag. To date, the major airlines have understood our needs and the baggage policies have allowed us to check our baggage at no extra charge.

In our collective opinion, United Airline's new policy sends an unsettling signal that the airline does not value the business of recreational skiers and snowboarders during a season that is traditionally not a peak vacation time for air travelers. More importantly, this outlook on baggage accompanying sports enthusiasts of all stripes who may find it necessary to travel with their equipment portends a marked erosion of respect for athletics and fitness in general. It is our intention to ensure we unite with other organized sporting groups in spreading the word to avoid United Airlines if at all possible.

The United Airlines press release identified only 25% of travelers check two bags, as though those travelers were insignificant. We feel quite the contrary. In the big scheme of things, with tens of millions of air travelers annually, that translates to quite a large number.

This spring, as our club and individual members start to make plans for the 2008-09 season, we will actively steer our air travel plans away from United Airlines and toward the other airlines that maintain the existing and traditional baggage policies regarding snowsports and sports in general.

In a day when airlines already suffer from traveler frustration for a number of maladies affecting the traveler's experience, further aggravating a quarter of the customer base seems ill advised, at best.

We appreciate your efforts at making the traveling experience a pleasant one and understand fully the pressures you must feel in continuing to provide a quality service at an economical price. If you have taken the time to read this memo we are even more appreciative. Please feel free to contact us should you wish to discuss this matter further or receive a more detailed input.

AIRLINE CONTACT INFO

Daniel E. Cravens, Director- Investor Relations, US Airways,
111 West Rio Salado Parkway, Tempe, AZ 85281

Customer Care, Continental Airlines, Inc., 900 Grand Plaza
Drive NHCCR, Houston, TX 77067-4323

Southwest Airlines, P.O. Box 36647 - 1CR, Dallas, Texas
75235-1647

Customer Service, Northwest Airlines/KLM, 7500 Airline Drive,
Minneapolis, MN 55450-1101

Delta Air Lines, Inc., P.O. Box 20706, Atlanta, Georgia 30320-
6001

Customer Care, Continental Airlines, Inc., 900 Grand Plaza
Drive NHCCR, Houston, TX 77067-4323

CHAMPAIGN SKI CLUB PO BOX 3724

Board

President: Gwen Broeren

Vice President: Jim Ayers

Past President: Greg Crawford

Secretary: Barb Pirie

General Treasurer: Linda Johnson

Trip Treasurer: Gayle Jannusch

Trip Coordinator: Dennis Coleman

Membership: Eileen Coleman

Newsletter: Margie Roberts

Social: Judy Haydel

Race Coordinator: Scott Dahman

Publicity: Paul Tenczar

Summer Trips: Mike Metz

Webmaster: Richard McClary