

Clearwater / St. Petersburg Ski & Sports Club

SHARK BITES

A Newsletter of the Clearwater/St. Pete Ski & Sports Club

Non-Profit Volunteer Organization

www.snowshark.org & <http://groups.myspace.com/snowshark>

February 2008



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Presidents Message

By: President Pat Weathers

Have you had a chance to hit the slopes yet? I know the snow started a little weak this season but totals are gradually going up (by the foot!). I was fortunate enough to enjoy some early season snow at Snowmass & Aspen with 3 feet falling in one weekend. Talk about powder. Our first trip to Keystone was enjoyed by all & Heavenly had 22 lifts open including the new Olympic Express high-speed quad chairlift on the Nevada side of the mountain that replaces the original Olympic chair. The new lift provides high-speed access to Nevada Woods, home to some of the best tree skiing and three new ski trails.

With the season back in full swing, some of you may be anxious to head up to the slopes and charge downhill on your skis or snowboard. As tempting as that may sound, it's better to take a few precautions so your season will be a long and fun one this year.

Before you head up the hill, make sure your equipment is tuned up and ready to go. Bases should be free of gouges and edges sharp. Bindings should be checked for wear, damage, or loose parts (for skies, this should be professionally done to avoid injury due to improper release). Ski boots should also be checked for wear and damage, especially the release surfaces at the toe and heel.

If your schedule hasn't allowed you to get in skiing shape, then take it easy for the first few days on the slopes. Consider starting later, taking a few more rests, and ending earlier. Remember that it's a long season and you're out there to have fun, not out there to survive!

Common causes of injuries include intense activity without warming up, fatigue, and over-estimation of ability. Stretch before you start to ready your muscles and joints for movement and stability during full range of motion. A warm muscle is not only stronger but also its elastic properties are increased allowing for better shock absorption. Drink plenty of fluids to keep well hydrated. Dehydration is probably the leading cause of premature fatigue after a long day of skiing. It's possible for a skier to lose 2 to 4 pounds of water a day during high levels of exertion in the cold, dry air of a mountain climate.

We want everybody to have a chance to ski this year, check your schedule we only have a few trips left this year so don't miss out on the opportunity to hit the slope. We still have some spots left to Salt Lake City or Telluride.

We are always looking for new destinations, e-mail us your favorite.

I have a new e-mail address pweathers3@tampabay.rr.com

Credit Cards

The Clearwater/St.Pete Ski Club now accepts these credit cards.
Contact your trip leader for details.



Next Meeting
Feb. 12, 2008
1st and 10 Sports Bar
779 N. Missouri Av
7PM

Clearwater/St. Pete Ski & Sports Club

February 7 –12, 2008

SALT LAKE SKI SAFARI, UTAH



Jim Smithberger



Brighton
UTAH



Solitude
MOUNTAIN RESORT



ALTA



Mason Curran

SIX DAYS-FOUR RESORTS

Pricing Per Person Per Room INCLUDES THE SALT LAKE SUPER SKI PASS!!!

Number of Occupants	1	2
Hotel Room	\$1,200	\$995

Join the **Snow Sharks** as we take a "Ski Safari" touring the Ski Resorts around Salt Lake City and enjoying all the Salt Lake area has to offer. Our "Ski Safari" will take us to four of Utah's greatest... Brighton, Solitude, Snowbird and Alta (no snowboards at Alta. Boarders will be dropped off and picked up at Snowbird).

This is our only February trip– Prime Snow Season! We will be departing Tampa on Thursday, February 7th, and arriving in Salt Lake in plenty of time to check into our hotel, rent equipment and see some of the area before attending a Welcome Reception sponsored by the Greater Salt Lake Visitor's Bureau. We will then enjoy four days of skiing or boarding at four of the Salt Lake areas finest ski resorts before departing on Tuesday, February 12th. Contact Jim Smithberger if you are interested in extending your trip.

We will be spending 5 nights at the AAA Three Diamonds awarded Best Western Executive Inn. The rooms are a standard hotel room with one king or 2 double beds. A mini refrigerator has been requested for each room.

The Executive Inn is centrally located just minutes from downtown Salt Lake City, the airport and the ski resorts. The public ski bus and light rail station (TRAX) is located directly across the street from the hotel.

On site amenities include an indoor hot tub, complimentary continental breakfast, guest laundry, wireless internet and 24 hour fitness facility.



PRICE INCLUDES:

- ◆ Pre trip get acquainted party
- ◆ Round trip transportation between Tampa and Salt Lake City Airport
- ◆ 5 Nights lodging at the Best Western Executive Inn
- ◆ Ground transportation from Salt Lake City Airport to The Executive Inn
- ◆ A welcome reception sponsored by the Salt Lake City Visitors Bureau
- ◆ A Complimentary farewell dinner
- ◆ Private ground transportation to and from Brighton, Alta, Solitude and Snowbird Resorts
- ◆ Guided tours at each of the four resorts
- ◆ AND LIFT TICKETS TO ALL FOUR RESORTS INCLUDED!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Deposit: \$250 per person with trip application plus \$25 per adult club membership (\$35 for family)

Balance Due: November 20, 2007. Trip size is 30 so reserve early!

Please make checks payable to:

Clearwater/St. Pete Ski Club-Salt Lake 2008 and mail to:

Jim Smithberger
17001 Spring Valley Rd
Dade City, FL 33523

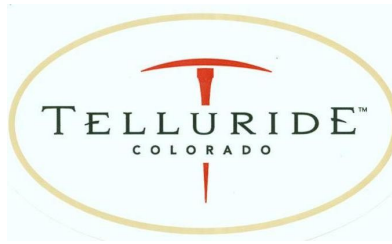
Jim Smithberger- Trip Leader at H(352) 567-6607 or C(352) 232-5981 or e-mail jsmithberger@yahoo.com

Mason Curran- Co-Trip Leader at (727) 323-0313 or e-mail ecurran1@tampabay.rr.com

Clearwater/St. Pete Ski & Sports Club
MARCH 15-22, 2008
TELLURIDE, COLORADO (Spring Ski!)



Pat Weathers



Nick Biba

Pricing Per Person Per Room

Number of Occupants	3	4	5	6	7	8
2 Bedroom Condo	\$1,530	\$1,325	\$1,205	\$1,125		
3 Bedroom Condo			\$1,375	\$1,265	\$1,190	\$1,130

Telluride is a paradise for winter adventurers, with more than 1,700 acres closely divided between beginner, intermediate and expert terrain, a 10-acre snowboard park, world-class Nordic trails and not a lift line in sight. One of the only true ski-in/ski-out destinations in the Rockies, Telluride provides guests with an array of amenities and luxuries as distinctive as the breathtaking 360-degree mountain views.

No lift lines The freedom derived from these wide open slopes and lack of lift lines leaves guests with a sense of awe and inspiration. Telluride, far removed from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. The remote location does not attract much day traffic, and destination guests have the mountain to themselves.

The **Surge Air Garden** is a boarding and free-riding mecca, with eight acres of berms, tabletops, pyramids, rails and natural pipes. Families with small children head to **Town Park**, where **FREE** ice skating, sledding and tubing hills keep them amused for hours. A variety of local wilderness outfitters in Telluride offer guided adventure tours, from snowmobiling and sled dog rides, to horseback riding and historic walking tours.

Telluride Lodge Condominiums offer tremendous value for their size, location and amenities. It is located only 200 feet from Lift #7 (Coonskin Lift) and only 2 blocks from the Gondola and 3 blocks from downtown Telluride. The town shuttle stops right at the Telluride Lodge. Amenities include a common outdoor hot tub and a gas fireplace and the Telluride airport is only 5 miles away.



PRICE INCLUDES:

- ◆ Pre trip get acquainted party
- ◆ Round trip airfare transportation between Tampa and Telluride Airport
- ◆ Ground transportation from Telluride Airport to Telluride Lodge
- ◆ 7 Nights lodging at Telluride Lodge
- ◆ Discounts on lift tickets and rentals

Deposit: \$250 per person with trip application plus \$25 per adult club membership (\$35 for family)

Balance Due: December 15, 2007. Trip size is 36 so reserve early!

Please make checks payable to:

Clearwater/St. Pete Ski Club-Telluride 2008 and mail to:

Pat Weathers
 27 Pine Wood Circle
 Safety Harbor, FL 34695

Nick Biba– Trip Leader at H(727) 458-8100 or e-mail nickscars100@yahoo.com

Pat Weathers– Co-Trip Leader at H(727) 726-7375 or C(727) 418-6041 or e-mail p.weathers4@verizon.net

KEYSTONE Trip Report

December 29 - January 5, 2008

By Lou Sclafani

As the days and weeks approached our departure date many of us anxiously watched the weather report for Keystone. As the days got closer the temperatures dropped and the heavens opened up with plenty of snow. We expected great conditions and that is exactly what we got.

After doing spring skiing the last couple years it was interesting to see snow all over the ground in the Denver area. And that wasn't the only thing we saw on the ground. The floor of the Denver airport was still full of people sitting around waiting for a flight. You see it snowed so hard the previous few days the airport was closed and hundreds of flights were cancelled. These travelers were just waiting for seats to open up so they could fly out. Thus began our week of good luck and great skiing in Colorado.

After our ritual stop at King Soopers and Applejacks we headed off to Keystone where our bus was met by the staff of the Evergreen condos and they collected our stuff and showed us to our rooms. We had a variety of condos all roomy and comfortable. Later that evening many of us had our rental equipment delivered by Black Tie Ski service. If the rental shop isn't on site, this is the way to go. Delivered right to you instead of you going to the shop and hauling them back.

Sunday was a little overcast but the mountain was calling and we headed out for a day of fun. It began to snow that day and it pretty much snowed through Monday. By the time we got off the mountain Monday so much snow had fallen that the State closed the interstate and traffic was backed up at least 7 miles from the interstate into the town of Keystone. Traffic was at a standstill and the shuttle buses weren't doing much shuttling, mostly they were just idling forcing some of us to walk that last little bit to our condo. By Tuesday morning we learned that Summit County was essentially isolated from the rest of Denver and that thousands of people were stranded overnight necessitating the County to open shelters. No one was allowed to spend the night in their cars. The regular shelter reports given over the radio and TV reminded some of the Hurricane shelter reports we have experienced here. What did this mean to us. More Powder on the mountain of course!

Tuesday and Wednesday were blue bird days and the Interstate was opened Wednesday morning. That was good for us and many of us made plans for a snowmobile trip but this was near Copper requiring a complimentary and supposedly short ride. The ride was very slow due to the restricted number of lanes open and the number of crashed cars or cars stuck in snow banks along the way (I counted six). After some great snowmobile trail rides it was time to head back to Keystone for our scheduled sleigh ride dinner. This event has become one of my favorite parts of a ski trip. Everyone loves the sleigh ride, the food is always great and there is always a cowboy or two to entertain us with song and talk. On the ride back we bundled up with blankets and star gazed up through the clear skies of Keystone.



Blue Bird Day at Keystone

Thursday morning we woke to an air temperature of -20.

One Can only imagine what the wind chill was! This temperature kept a number of skiers off the mountain but for those of us who ventured out we got a fairly empty (for a Holiday week) mountain, ice on our masks and frozen cell phones. That night we all headed out to Dos Locos Mexican restaurant for a really good group dinner.

By Friday it was our last day to take advantage of the mountain. The weather was a lot like it was on Saturday and Sunday so we all took advantage and skied most of the day. That night we had a pizza and pot luck dinner at the indoor pool. What a great way to get rid of your left overs and get ready for the trip home. Black Tie came by the pool and collected everyone's equipment and we tipped them with a little of our left over beer. (It was a family trip).

Our timing could not have been better. By Saturday night a major snowfall was again hitting Keystone and both car and air traffic was affected. As for us, by then we were back in Sunny Florida telling stories of the first great snow storm and ski trip of 2008.



Group Snowmobiling

HEAVENLY Trip Report

January 12-19, 2008

By Pat Weathers

Our January trip included 54 Snow Sharks in full force not only from Florida but other states as well. This trip was sponsored by The Florida Ski Council. The Get acquainted party was a great success where we were the Toast Of The Town in our *TahoeTinie* Shirts. *California Dreamin'* on Thursday took everybody back with memories of the 60's & all the great music. Pictures will show how we looked back then, boy was that fun! We all danced the night away to the golden oldies, a wonderful trip by all!

THE SKIING!

When you have Perfect Weather You Have A Perfect Trip!

We skied 5 mountains, the temperature was 40 during the day with Great Snow. You would have thought you were doing spring skiing without the combination of slush and ice. I think all would agree it was a fabulous trip.

San Francisco

A Smaller group continued on to Napa Valley, where we tasted a variety of different foods that complimented the wines. The bus carried us on to excellent lodging at the Wharf. The next morning we toured the great city of San Francisco, rode cable cars, looked at sea lions, learned the history of the area and ate dungeons crab!! Some tried abalone. Next year maybe bear?

Lake Tahoe Ski Trip: Recollections by Pat Sciarappa

January 12, the Snowsharks arrived,
From several directions, they did fly.
Buses from Reno to Tahoe, there were two,
By nightfall 54 people were at Mont Bleu.

Skiing at Heavenly was great the first day,
That weekend storm dropped snow that stayed.
No major injuries as we got started,
Ski groups by ability soon departed.

Wednesday's adventure began when we boarded the bus,
For skiing in Squaw bringing lots of wind gusts.
The slopes were groomed, over the mountain we roamed,
Plans had changed for the boat ride home.

Waves on the lake, the boat traveled around,
Our stop for loading was in a different town.
Buses waiting and waiting, it was no picnic,
We joked about being in the Donner Party or on the Titanic.

No ski trip is complete without the stories,
There are things to forget or badges of glory.
Bruises and scrapes - Becky, Pat, and Henry can compare color and hue,
And Donnie was hit by 4 boarders who didn't have a clue.

Bonnie, Helen, Francis, and Mindy, et. all,
Stayed quite warm and busy in the casino hall.
Minus the skiing, they enjoyed their time,
Hopefully, they ended ahead by at least a dime.

We celebrated the 60's on Thursday night,
Hippies, afros, and flower power - what a sight!
Good food, good music, awards were mixed,
I still think the costume contest was fixed!

Kirkwood was fun, new adventures abound,
Denny tried the board, new muscles he found.
Phil went off to snowshoe on a solo try,
Most followed Terry at a very speedy clip.

Our last night in Tahoe was spent in Holly's suite,
A feast was arranged for our final treat.
Denny's video showed skiing on the narrow and wide,
The good, the bad, and the ugly, we cannot hide.

Departure day for many began at AM three,
To Reno, Taos, or home, they did flee.
Some went off to Frisco for a few more days,
With Starbucks' pastries courtesy of Mark's payday.

Wine tasting in Sonoma was our next stop,
Mark was the first to pop the cork.
Tasting we did, and enjoyed each drop,
A case we bought to enjoy with crab on our Frisco hop.

Planes on the way home were a bit delayed,
But we all arrived safely ready for the next day.
It was a great trip we all did say,
Sot let's all thank our leaders Hip, Hip, Hooray!



TAOS Trip Report January 19-26, 2008

By Joanne Wood



Taos experienced some of the best snow conditions it had received in years. Eighteen of us arrived in Albuquerque for a van ride up to the ski valley. We were greeted by the delightful staff of the Snakedance condos. A wine reception followed our arrival where we were informed of the ski school and other events of the week.

The week we were in Taos was during an event called *wine week* plus more importantly (to some of us) *ski week*. The Ernie Blake ski school offered special ski class prices all week long. Many of us in the group enjoyed lessons, from beginner's instruction to advanced moguls.

We had six great days of skiing, two of which we received fresh snow. Nothing better than powder skiing. The mountain has plenty of varied terrain to delight all levels of skiers.

Each morning our own Saray taught a free yoga class to loosen up the muscles for the day. Many of us attended daily! It was a great way to start the day. After this we enjoyed breakfast provided by Snakedance, then off to the slopes.

On Monday night Roger and Diane M....., had all 18 of us to their home for a wonderful dinner and great wines. They served us perfectly grilled beef tenderloin, sautéed prawns, pasta, and wonderful sautéed veggies. It was a fabulous dinner thoroughly enjoyed by all of us.

Some of the group participated in the Taos wine week. Special dinners were offered at several area restaurants, including the Snakedance. Wines with complementing foods are served in several courses. (I even heard a few say they got *over served!*)

We ended the week with a pizza party Friday night. Several of us lingered over wine, conversation, and the glow of the fireplace in the Snakedance lobby. It was the perfect end to a perfect week!

Always a popular destination for our club, we can't wait to go back to enjoy the spectacular skiing of Taos!



Record Snowfall Hits Utah– Don't Miss Our Trip Feb 7

Salt Lake City, UT - It's a storm cycle that won't seem to quit. With the current ski and snowboard season barely hitting its stride, some Utah ski resorts have already eclipsed the 400-inch mark in season snowfall to date. "Just halfway through the ski season Alta Ski Area has received 404 inches of snow, surpassing the total snowfall of the 06/07 season," Alta Ski Area's Tyler Jackson said on Feb 1. Since then, the ski area has picked up an additional eight inches of snowfall.

The January snowfall at Alta tied an all-time record of 179 inches originally set in 1996. Most of the snow has come in December and January. At this time Alta has 139% of average snowfall with the second half of the season still to come. Current mid-mountain settled snow depth at Alta is 140 inches. At neighboring Snowbird Ski & Summer Resort, two consecutive months of over 130 inches of snowfall have created an epic season and recent storms have pushed the season-to-date snowfall total at the Little Cottonwood Canyon resort to 340 inches. Snowbird is reporting a base of 125 inches at mid-mountain at the resort that averages 500 inches a year. Snowbird has received 151 inches of snow over the past 29 days, or an average of five inches a day for nearly the entire month of January.

Snowfall is ample along the Wasatch Back as well. Park City Mountain Resort reports a 105-inch base depth and 224 inches of snowfall to date. The latest storm left 21 inches of new snow on Park City's slopes. In town, city officials declared a snow emergency and closed district schools for the first time in nearly a decade after snow drifts were too deep to get buses out of their garages. Snow removal budgets are exhausted and the town has run out of places to pile excess snow. According to the National Weather Service, Park City snowfall stands at 130% of normal year-to-date. Multiple storms approaching Utah remain on the radar. Don't miss it.

As announced in our kickoff newsletter we are supporting our Bay Pines Disabled American Veterans as they attend the Winter Sports Clinic in Snowmass Colorado March 30– April 5, 2008. It takes approximately \$1,200 per person to attend this special rehabilitation program.

We will be hosting several fundraising events between now and April and will be collecting at each social meeting. We hope you see fit to give to this worthy cause. We have also invited these heroes to each of our monthly socials. Feel free to come out and not only sign up for one of our trips (if you haven't already), enjoy some food and drink but now you can meet these veterans in person and give them your support.

Additionally, we will be introducing these athletes to you in this newsletter. This month we are proud to introduce to you Wendell Smith, A Navy veteran from St. Petersburg, Fl. Smith said he enjoyed the challenge of skiing and the opportunity for self-development at the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic in Snowmass. Smith is an amputee (right leg below the knee) and receives care at the VA medical facility in Bay Pines. He is a beginner skier and will Alpine ski using a 4-track ski. "I've been to the Winter Sports Clinic in the past but I have been looking forward to some new activities like the gondola ride said Smith.

Let's keep Golem and all the other Disabled Vets in our mind when the opportunity comes to help raise funds for them to travel to Snowmass next Spring. Just one small way of saying thanks for what these Vets have done for us and our Country!

What The?



It makes no difference if you are a Novice or an Expert. Have you ever read an article on Skiing or been part of a conversation about the sport and somebody uses a term and you think, what the? Well this column is intended to answer that question. Each

month we will define at least 5 ski related terms so the next time you hear it you won't have to ask, What the?

Double-poling A method of propulsion by planting both poles into the snow, with skis parallel, and using the upper body and arms to lever oneself forwards.

Down-unweighting Sinking down (by compressing the legs) to unweight the skis prior to turning. A more advanced technique than up-unweighting, and not always easily done on stiffer-cambered skis.

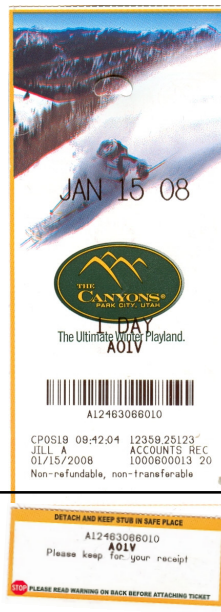
Downhill skiing Able to be performed by both Alpine and Nordic skiers, and therefore not to be confused with Alpine skiing, although often is - mostly by Alpine skiers.

Downhill traversing Descending a slope diagonally, at an angle to the fall-line, not to be confused with traversing or uphill traversing.

Downhill turning Making a downhill turn towards the fall-line, and thus increasing the angle of descent, and the speed.

Express chair High speed chair lift

Don't Lose That Ticket



Lift tickets. There not cheap anymore. Well, they haven't been cheap for a long time. The days of \$25 lift tickets are long gone.

Obviously, the best way to purchase a lift ticket is with group rates that a ski club can provide. The next best thing to do is to purchase multi day tickets. Typically the more days you buy, the cheaper the ticket per day.

The lift ticket is then attached by a wire tie to your jacket and is scanned over and over by the liftie until you have used all of the days you purchased.

Rip It and Keep It

But what would happen if your ticket was ripped off your jacket on the first day and you still had 5 unused days on your ticket? You could be out hundreds of dollars.

Most resorts now offer their lift tickets with tear away receipts at the bottom that serves as a proof of purchase.

When you receive your lift ticket you should immediately tear off the bottom and place in a safe place. If you should later lose your lift ticket the resort ticket window can input the identification number on the stub and see how many days your ticket has been used. They will then deactivate your old ticket and replace it with a valid one with the correct number of days remaining. My wife hates it but I never save receipts, but this is one receipt I do save and you should too.



Clearwater/St. Petersburg Ski & Sports Club
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www.snowshark.org
February 08

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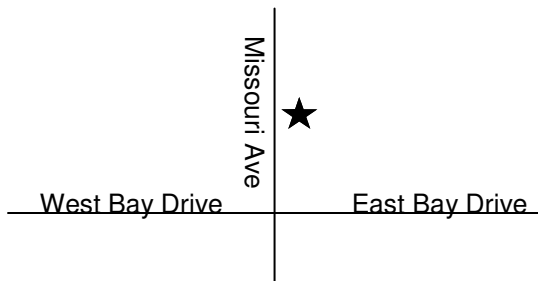
ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED

Be sure to check out www.snowshark.org for more details on all of our trips.

Next Club Social Meeting

**Tuesday Feb. 12 at 7PM
1st and 10 Sports Bar
776 N. Missouri Av
727-581-3111**

Just North of Largo High School



Calendar of Events

- February 12:** Monthly Social
- February 7-12:** Salt Lake Safari
- March 11:** Monthly Social
- March 15-22:** Telluride
- April 8:** Monthly Social
- April 25-27:** Ft. Desoto Camp Out
- May 13:** Last Social of the Year