

SUN VALLEY TRIP REPORT

March 7 – March 14, 2020

All I can say is this Final Showdown to Sun Valley, Idaho was everything it was meant to be plus some, that we are still dealing with. We had 27 hearty souls from Clear Lake, Space City and cities across the country ready for this new destination. Very few of us had been to Sun Valley and were very excited for a new destination with new slopes to conquer. The flight out of Houston IAH went off without much of a hitch with our flight arriving and leaving Los Angeles on time putting us in Sun Valley at our scheduled arrival. Our group had participants from all corners of the U.S. meeting in Sun Valley with the largest group coming from the Houston area. We were lucky to have no lost bags as is the norm with United. With our Sun Valley Resort busses waiting for us at the airport, we loaded up and headed to the Sun Valley Inn for check-in. With the resort having a designated conference room for check-in, this task was completed quickly with the handing out of credentials and lift tickets taking place at the same time as check-in. WOW, was that easy.



SUNDAY March 8, 2020

The first day was learning the shuttle routes and pick up times for the lodging, which was much easier and better than I expected. Once we arrived at the village it was off to the ski shop to pick up our equipment then head to the mountain for some much needed skiing. It was spring skiing at its finest and just what the doctor ordered. We were all out early trying to find the best sun covered snow of the mountain that was not so crusty. Ended up being left in the morning and right in the afternoon...just follow the sun. All rooms in condos and Inn were in close proximity to many eating and drinking venues in town and at the Sun Valley Village where we were staying. At 4:00 pm there was a Club Race meeting with the Race Directors from all

clubs to discuss the Tuesday races. The meeting was held in the Lift Bar that made this meeting more laid back and fun to attend. Changes are good with this meeting being Short and Sweet then off to the Welcome Party. The party was held at the Sun Valley Inn where all clubs met for light snacks, two free drinks then cash bar until event was over. The Sun Valley hosts were there to discuss the weeks events and present all that Sun Valley had to offer. After the Welcome Party We were off to eat and drink at some of the local haunts. Most of the group went to the Sun Valley Resort Bar and had just enough cocktails to make the pain go away from our first day skiing.



Monday March 9, 2020

Everyone seemed to get a good night's sleep and were ready to hit the slopes hard and enjoy the good skiing conditions. Weather was beautiful and temperatures were pleasant and there had been a little dusting the night before, which made for some nice runs. Ruth Bauman, Laura and I enjoyed exploring the entire mountain with a lunch break with the group to get more energy for the final three hours of skiing. The night was filled with wine and Italian food at the Il Naso Restaurant that Van Goodgame kindly made reservations for the group. We had numerous good bottles of vino and some outstanding food, which was enjoyed by all. Thank's Van for a great pick.



Tuesday March 10, 2020

Today brought the Club Races which were not without their own problems. The resort was having downhill college race competition that put us behind schedule causing some of our participants to ski versus waiting. I wish I had gone skiing with them, which would have saved me from eating a lot of snow. We did have a few brave skiers, Kent Yokley, Paul Stolnacke and James Robertson with the two good skiers finishing the course, and that was not me. Clear Lake/Space City Combo had a very good showing with Paul winning a Silver Metal and Clear Lake winning First Place in the Club Races. Well done Racers.



The night's event was the Clear Lake Mid-Week Dinner at the RAM Restaurant located in the Sun Valley Inn, which was a nice easy walk for everyone. We had all 27 participants attend the dinner with a selection of entrees, deserts and a few good bottles of wine that I know we all enjoyed. The dinner was hopefully enjoyed by all...I know I had a good time with all old and new friends





Wednesday March 11, 2020

Hump Day offered another spring like day with the early skiers getting the crusty white stuff, which improved as the sun moved across the mountains. You could find some Diamonds in the Rough if you skied the entire mountain and kept to the partially sun-drenched slopes. As lunch time arrived small groups of friends gathered at the upper mountain lodges for some much needed energy and Hot Totties. The prices were much better here with no \$20 soups as at Vail. The evening allowed all parties to go their own way with dinner for some in their condos, some exploring Ketchum and our small group doing a surprise Birthday gathering for Dennis Hughes at the RAM Restaurant. We had a great time with Dennis, wife Melinda and my Laura whom all enjoyed the second night of food and drink and Birthday Cake to celebrate another milestone.



Thursday March 12, 2020

Thursday brought another wonderful day of skiing but as is with spring skiing the conditions were becoming a little lean in spots. We worked the mountain looking for the best areas and we did find some higher and on the sunny slopes to the right. Areas which looked good had a layer of crust that hopefully you did not get caught on.

The TSC Final Party and Race Awards were held at the Deer Valley Inn where there was a cash bar, dinner and disk jockey. The dinner was very nice but the Disk Jockey is the guy that had the place rockin. I have never seen a dance floor so packed in all my years skiing with the club. I think everyone enjoyed dancing and burning off that last bit of energy before their last day on the slopes. A few of us left the party and continued the evening at the Sun Valley Lodge Bar.



Friday March 13, 2020

Our last day in Sun Valley was spent by many getting those last few runs in and by the rest of us doing some shopping, brew pub investigations and general site seeing. Ketchum is a nice little town where spending a leisurely day walking was a pure pleasure. Walking from the resort area to town was about 30 minutes and very enjoyable as you can see by my attire.



The afternoon was spent packing all our new found booty and getting ready for the final night dinner activity. A group of Clear Lake/Space City folks gathered for a five course dinner at the Roundhouse Restaurant on the mountain accessed by the gondola, just prior to sunset. We were on top of Sun Valley watching a beautiful sunset and toasting to a trip well done. If you travel to Sun Valley this is a dinner and a location not to be missed.



Saturday March 14, 2020

Being the last day and all of us wanting snow to fall all week...guess what...it was snowing, which of course made our departure a Royal Pain. Having a 12:30 departure and with Sun Valley snowed-in this meant we had to take a bus to southern Idaho and then go through Denver with a later arrival in Houston. At this point I don't think many of us minded the extra time sitting in a good airport. As far as the Corona Virus, I will leave that for the next Ski Trip Horror Story.



