

## T-BIRDS ENJOY SUMMIT COUNTY

by Evelyn Fitzgerald

After a very rocky start to the trip, sixty-two T-Birds and eight future T-Birds had a fun week at Keystone in Summit County Colorado.

Imagine my dismay at 7:00 a.m. on February 13th when I received the call that 29 members of our party were left at Metro airport. Most of the group arrived at the Forest Condo area on Saturday afternoon, but "The Survivors" arrived at various times, with the last group of five reaching Keystone at 1:00 am on Monday. It took almost two days for everyone to arrive, but by Monday we were all on the slopes of Keystone Resort, our base for the week!

Luigi's Pasta House was the location of our group dinner on Monday and they did a very good job taking care of us. It was especially impressive because we were such a large group. The food was excellent and all agreed that the service was also excellent.

Tuesday was the highlight of the week for me. That morning a special "Thunderbird Shuttle" picked us up from the various Forest condos and took us to the River Run base at Keystone. From there we caught the Swann Mountain Flyer to Arapahoe. We were greeted by the A-Basin Mountain hosts and taken to a spot where we could leave our belongings. After a short introduction, most of us spent the morning skiing with our hosts. It was a glorious day and we were able to appreciate the beauty of Arapahoe as well as the great skiing. Lunch at the Black Mountain Lodge was also pretty good: much less expensive than other Colorado resorts and the water was free! There was also enough sun for Jim, Bryan, David, the Kelly boys, and few others to have lunch on the deck.

By 3:00 pm we were ready for the Après Ski Party that was hosted by Arapahoe. Deb Ware and her team at A-Basin arranged for two free beverage tickets for each person. Arapahoe also provided some excellent appetizers and sweets. We had a few laughs and took a great group picture on the deck. Thanks to all those who humored me and made their way to the deck for the picture. It was a pleasant end to a good day of skiing. By the time that we returned to our condos, we were tired, but smiling.

On Wednesday, many people travelled to Breckenridge, to ski or shop or just take in the sights. Marge, Jack, Phil, Dennis, Galena and Larry even made it as far as Vail for the day!

Thursday morning, we had some fresh snow but Thursday afternoon brought heavy winds that forced the closure of the Outback Gondola and a few lifts. As we arrived for dinner at the Snake River Saloon, it started to snow. Some T-Birds stayed to play pool and listen to the music. It was still snowing when we got back to the condos and we were very lucky to have some freshies on Friday!

Our last day on the hill was a treat. We had fresh snow and blue skies. Barb, Ilse, Jim, and a few others enjoyed a final Après Ski on the deck of the Last Lift Bar.

Our left over party was in Ed Bacon and Chuck Sullivan's condo. They were great hosts. Andrew Kwang, the Vail rep, provided some goodies for our draw. Gretchen Dawson, our Louisiana skier, was the winner of the Vail Resorts jacket. Daniel Robbins was glad that he convinced his dad to return to the party. Daniel won a Boyne Country Sport gift card.

It has been some time since the Thunderbird have planned a Western trip for families. We were very happy to have Verena, Julianne, and Amelia Wu; Ryan, Daniel and Stephen Robbins; and George and Jacqueline Brophy join us for this trip. Check out Yitah's video on our website. It won't be long before those girls are beating him down the hill!

Special thanks to Jill Lampinen who helped to make a very difficult situation less difficult. Jill definitely "stepped up". Our Arapaho Mountain Hosts commented on what a great group we were. I agree with them. The week was a challenging one in many ways, but everyone on the trip was cooperative and understanding. T-BIRDS ROCK!