

# VAIL Trip Write up - Written by Neva Frank

## ***LPSC's 2<sup>nd</sup> Western ski trip in 2022*** ***February 23<sup>rd</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022***

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### **This is why we LOVE Vail!**

#### **The beginning**

With 46 people on trip, this was one of our biggest trips in years!

Leaving Chicago was easy to do on February 23<sup>rd</sup> since we would soon be arriving at the beautiful and grand, Grand Hyatt Vail, Colorado. But wait! We also had folks joining us from the east coast (NJ, FL, SC), the west coast (CA), the Midwest (KY, TN, IN, WI), the Mountains (CO, MT) and from just down the street (I-70).

This was such a luxurious stay – The Grand Hyatt even has its own lift right outside the door – Cascade Village Lift. During the trip, we had a day of sun, a day of snow, a day of sun and a day of snow! 12 to 18 inches of snow in 3 days leading up to the trip and additional 2 to 6 inches our first 2 days of skiing.

#### **The First night**

For the first night, most of the group gathered in the Grand Hyatt Fireside Room and adjacent library and bar for a complimentary welcome drink as part of our package. The only catch was: you had to talk to Assistant Trip Leader Neva Frank to get the free drink!

#### **The hotel**

Everyone loved the Grand Hyatt - after a few hiccups with rooms, we got everyone settled in to enjoy the 4-star hotel accommodations with spa, pool and hot tubs overlooking the Gore Creek. A beautiful property with a welcoming hotel bar, lounge and restaurant and Après Ski live music.

Concierge ski lockers were provided on the lower level. We had a large room with fireplace to change into ski boots and stash our shoes. Then it was a quick hop outside and into our skis before sliding onto the waiting lift just steps from the door!

## **The people**

This proved to be such a popular trip, we even had folks strapping on skis after a 30-year gap! That was Membership director Amy Hand's sister, Sheila Kenny joining us from Kentucky! Welcome to our club!

It was also great to see Kathy Zoeller, who now lives in South Carolina, come out after a few years' hiatus to ski with longtime club member Cindy Wilson.

We had many new Members joining us, making our group of 46, the largest club trip in 10 years!

A special shout-out to new members with Lincoln Park Ski Club on this trip: Jamie Coe; sister-brother act: Monique Landi and Jean-Paul Landi; Sheila Kenny; Yinghui Duan; Colleen Flanagan; Terri McGillis and Kathleen Livingston.

Plus! We had Trip Director Karen Allabastro join us at the Welcome Party, although family commitments prevented her from skiing with us - next time for sure, Karen!

This was also the reunion trip of the "Breck girl mafia": Amy Hand, Mitzi Schell, Maria Varga and Cat McClure. It was their first time together since originally meeting on LPSC's Breckenridge trip in 2020. (How do I get to join this Bad-A\*\* Grrl group!?!)

On the boys' side, we had "Fab 4": John Vargo, Brian Kochendorfer, Mike Chip and Mike McKee gathering to ski together for what has become their annual ski trip with LPSC.

We learned that Elizabeth Gray loves dogs. She discovered that Ski Patrol holds an event every Sunday that features their ski

patrol dogs. These dogs demonstrate their rescue skills. After the demonstration spectators can pet the dogs. (Look for a photo of Elizabeth and her new friend in this newsletter.)

## **The skiing**

Well, first of all – **it's VAIL!** The Legendary back bowls, Blue Sky Basin and the sometimes overlooked varied and fun terrain of the front side, all laid out over 5,289 skiable acres! YEAH!

To navigate all this, we had a couple of our most experienced members to guide us. First, our intrepid friend and benevolent drill sergeant, Gary Wanke, led groups to many of his favorite trails and hidden powder stashes. Then we had Vail ski instructor, Maureen McGinnis who led another group to many of her favorite trails including some of the most challenging runs in Vail.

## **The food and fun**

Assistant Trip leader Neva Frank arranged for a Sleigh ride dinner at 4 Eagle Ranch. In fact, it was so popular that we added a 2<sup>nd</sup> night. Each night 10-11 people traveled the 30 minutes to a quiet ranch, starting off with a boozy toast (complementary hot cocoa and coffee were on hand as well). Then, we enjoyed a truly delicious buffet dinner including the famous bison chili with a couple of scrumptious choices for dessert. The groups enjoyed a jaunty 15-minute horse drawn sleigh ride around the property – just enough to enjoy the stars and get chilly enough for another drink or to make some s'mores at the firepit. The ranch also showcased a live cowboy band playing favorites from Johnny Cash and Hank Williams.

Other dining options including dinner reservations made by Amory Cummings and Gary Cueno each night at some of Vail's best and most popular restaurants including LPSC favorite Pepi's in the famed Antler Room. Thank you so much to you two for this extra service (even putting up your personal credit cards to secure tables) since the winter season proved to be challenging in terms of staffing shortages and increased tourist demand!

## The conclusion

One longtime Member said this was best organized LPSC ski trip in her 20 years with Club - Appreciation was shown by giving Trip Leaders very generous gifts that they will treasure. (Neva is still shopping!)

Thank you to Trip Leader, Gary Cueno and Assistant Neva Frank for their detailed work, as well as to helpers, Amory Cummings, Gary Wanke and Pete Starshak. We couldn't do any of this without the enthusiasm and dedication of all our club members, sharing their love of skiing and contributing to the success of these trips!

This trip to Vail is an excellent example of why LPSC has the best ski trips in the Chicago metropolitan area and we will continue to offer a variety of resorts and price points to our members. See the website for next year's trips already posted with dates for 2023! Pricing to be completed this summer when trips will be opened for registration – watch for those email blasts!

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### Trip Participants:

•Allan Atkins	•Amy Hand	•Paul McHugh
•Woody Bailey	•Marianne Hensel	•Mike McKee
•Dan Brossard	•Joanie Keegan Kowalkowski	•Kelly Noonan
•Mike Chip	•Sheila Kenny	•Umang Patel
•Gary Cueno *	•Brian Kochendorfer	•Mitzi Schell
•Amory Cummings	•Theresa Kuhlemier	•Pete Starshak
•Delian Duan	•Vijay Kumar	•Sarah Jane Valter
•Dan Fieselmann	•Monique Landi	•Maria Varga
•Jeff Fisher	•Jean-Paul Landi	•John Vargo
•Colleen Flanagan	•Kathleen Livingston	•Gary Wanke
•Neva Frank **	•Beth Loeb	•Cindy Wilson
•Bob Gerber	•Chris Lorenc	•Renee Woods
•David Gordon	•Jim Lustman	•Kathy Zoeller
•Rich Gray	•Dave Mansfield	
•Judith Gray	•Ed Martin	* Trip Leader
•Elizabeth Gray	•Catherine McClure	** Assistant Trip Leader
	•Terri McGillis	



# ***Vail Groups***



## **The Group Departing from Eagle**

**1<sup>st</sup> row left to right – Paul, Amy, Vijay, Beth, Cindy, Umang, Renee, Jean-Paul, Ed, Mike M., Mike C., and Jeff.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> row – Mitzi, Sheila, Cat, Bob, Colleen, Gary W., Dave, Brian, Dan F., Pete, and John.**



**Cindy, Beth, Marianne and Kathy**



**Mitzi, Maria, Amy and Sheila**

# ***Vail Groups***



## **The Group Departing from Denver**

**1<sup>st</sup> row left to right – Delian, Elizabeth, Maria, Theresa  
and Dan**

**2<sup>nd</sup> row – Allan, Judith, Rich, Joanie, Gary C. and Chris**

***We can't wait to come back!***



# ***Vail Skiing***



**Sarah Jane**



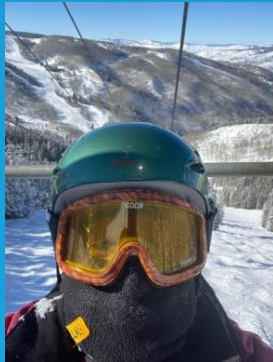
**Cindy, Theresa and Beth**



**Dave**



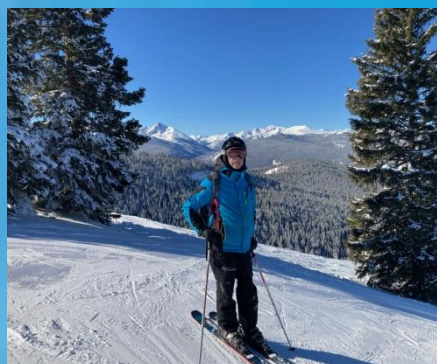
**Sarah Jane, Renee and Beth**



**Jean-Paul**



**Cindy, Theresa and Beth**



**Dan**



**Monique**



**Woody**



# ***Vail Sleigh ride***



**Renee, Cindy, Beth, Bob, Paul,  
Ed, Marianne and Monique**



**Renee, Monique and Ed**



**Marianne. Theresa and Beth**



**Sarah Jane and Cindy**



**Ed, Paul and Bob**



**The restaurant**



# ***Vail Skiing***



**Terri, Colleen and Maria**



**Terri and Colleen**



**Dan and Maureen**



**Elizabeth with ski patrol dog**



**David and Kathleen**



**Ed and Jeff**



# ***Vail LPSC members***



**David**



**Marianne**



**Paul**



**Amory**



**Mike, Jim and John**



**Mitzi**



**Cat**



**Dan**



**Allan**



# ***Vail LPSC members***



**Sarah Jane and Cindy**



**Maria**



**Theresa and Marianne**



**Gary C.**



**Neva**



**Vijay and Umang**



**Jeff**



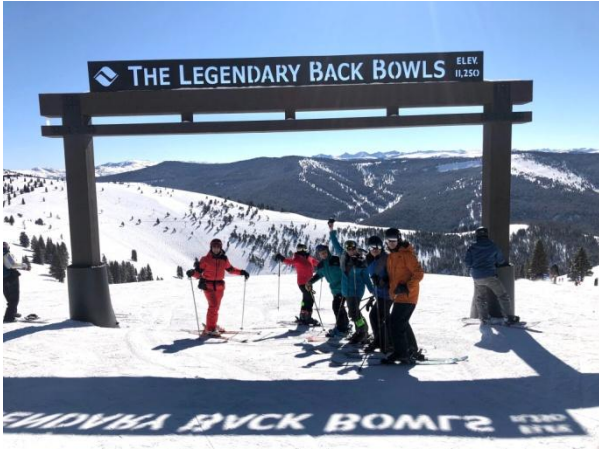
**Gary W.**



**Kathy and Renee**



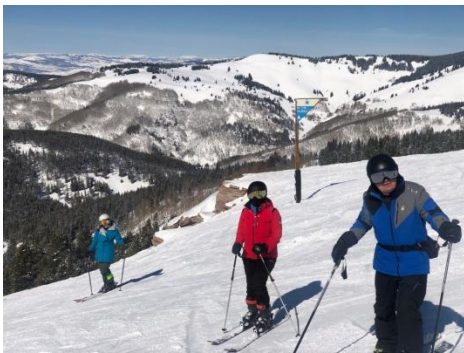
# ***Vail Groups having fun***



**Jeff, Kelly & Chris, Neva, Gary and Ed**



**Dave, Marianne, Beth and Theresa**



**Neva, Kelly and Gary W.**



**David, Kathleen, John, Brian, Mike C. & Mike M.**



**Kathy, Cindy, Theresa,  
Marianne, Sarah Jane and Beth**



**Ed, Gary W., Cindy and Paul**



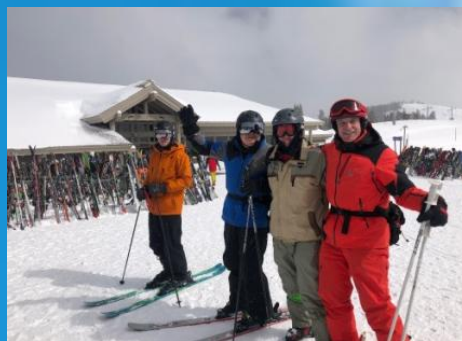
# ***Skiing is a blast!***



**Amy, Cat, Mitzi and Sheila**



**Jeff**



**Ed, Gary W., Paul and Jeff**



**Pete, Susan, Cat and Maria**



**Chris, Gary and Ed**



**Amy, Cat and Maria**



**Neva**



**Theresa**



**Maureen and Joanie**



**Cat and Maria**