



**Trip Report – Park City, Utah
March 5-11, 2012 (Sun-Sun)
Andrew Hesketh, Trip Captain**

OVERVIEW: Park City is located approximately 45 minutes from Salt Lake City, Utah. The trip included skiing at Park City Ski Resort, Canyons Ski Resort, and 1 Deer Valley Ski Resort. The tour operator was Winter Ski & Sports (Downers Grove, IL). There were 35 people on the trip. The trip price was inclusive of airfare, lodging, lift tickets, ground transportation, and trip activities.

AIR TRANSPORTATION: We flew on Frontier Airlines from St. Louis to Salt Lake City and return, with one stop in Denver, CO. Frontier Airlines Classic Airfare provides two free checked bags saving between \$50 and \$120 roundtrip for each traveler. Frontier did change their available flights in late November, impacting the travelers who arranged their own airfare. **Lesson learned for travelers obtaining their own airfare: There is the potential airline schedule changes and if possible delay purchasing airfare until 6-8 weeks prior to the trip.**

LODGING: We stayed at the Yarrow Hotel and Conference Center located in Park City, Utah. The hotel is located approximately 1 mile from the downtown historic area of Park City. The hotel is located on the free Park City Transit Bus Line. See Ground Transportation section for further discussion.

We had 18 double occupancy hotel rooms. The rooms were typical hotel room size with small refrigerator, LCD TV, and WiFi access. A heated pool and 20-person hot tub is located in one of two hotel courtyards, a short walk from the rooms. Separate towels are available for the hot tub use.

The Slope Side Bar and Grill at the hotel provided adult beverages in the bar area and breakfasts and dinners in the grill area. Our trip had complimentary breakfasts provided. Breakfast was buffet style or you could order a set breakfast meal. The food was good and service was good considering the number of people served at any given time. This breakfast arrangement allowed additional social time to meet with our travelers and make arrangements for the rest of the day.

A full service grocery store, drug store, full service wine and liquor state store, a Sports Authority store, and several restaurants were located within walking distance.

GROUND TRANSPORTATION: LeBus, arranged by Winter Ski & Sports, provided the transportation from and to Salt Lake City International Airport and the Yarrow Hotel. The full size 40-passenger buses were comfortable and we had plenty of room for all of the travelers. Our drivers were excellent and very helpful in loading and unloading the bus for both the inbound and outbound trip.

The hotel was located on the free Park City Transit Bus Line. This bus line provided transportation to all of the ski resort areas. They typically ran on 30 min schedule, each color line had different departure or arrival times. All of the "color" bus lines stopped outside of the hotel so it was a matter of choosing the correct bus for your destination. In downtown Park City there is a transit center allowing transfer to different "color line" routes or to the Park City Main Street Trolley, which ran every 15 min roundtrip along Main Street.

TRIP EVENTS: The major trip events were the pre-trip party, welcome Happy Hour party, on-mountain luncheon, the get-a-way dinner, and NASTAR race

We held the pre-trip party at Pueblo Nuevo Mexican Restaurant, located in Hazelwood, MO with a sit down dinner. We were able to reserve a set of tables in the new bar area for the group that allowed good social interaction of the attendees. Twenty-seven travelers were able to attend the party. The Trip Captain hosted the welcome Happy Hour party at the Yarrow Hotel Slope Side Bar and Grill. This social time allowed everyone to meet each other and the trip captain to get NASTAR forms completed and pass on trip information. Our on-mountain lunch was at the Sun Lodge at Canyons Ski Resort on Tuesday. We arranged for Canyons Ski Resort pre-paid cards that could be used for lunch or other stores at the Canyons. This selection did not allow our two non-skiing travelers to join us for lunch; however, they were able to use their pre-paid resort card at the base village for lunch.

The get-a-way dinner was held Friday night at Bandits BBQ Grill and Pub, located at 440 Main Street in downtown historic Park City. The room, located in the basement of the restaurant consisted of eight six-person tables plus a full service bar. The room, in a rustic decoration, provided a very comfortable dinner environment for our group. We had a sit down dinner with a special menu that



allowed people to select one to four kinds of BBQ (pulled pork, beef brisket, ribs, ½ chicken) and sides. The quantity of food provided was more than adequate. Having access to our own bar was a nice touch also. I received compliments from all on the trip for the group dinner and would recommend the use of this facility on another trip. We celebrated four birthdays at the dinner.

The NASTAR race was held at Park City Ski Resort on the Blanche run, Thursday 8 March. Even though we did not have a private course, the race operators made the time very enjoyable with a friendly atmosphere, including starting ring from a cowbell. We had 27 people participate in the race. We earned one gold, ten silver, and nine bronze NASTAR medals. Non-medaling participants did receive a NASTAR participation medal. The race results were announced and the medals handed out at the group dinner. David Allsop was crowned "King of the Mountain" with the fastest single run time. Club race results were determined later.

SKIING: The trip included skiing 2-days at Park City Ski Resort, 2-days at Canyons Ski Resort, and 1-day at Deer Valley Ski Resort. Snow coverage was adequate considering the overall poor snowfall this year in the USA. Stashes of powder could be found in the trees. This was definitely spring skiing, with sunny cloudless skies and day-time temperatures getting well into the 40's degree F. The exception was on Tuesday, which was overcast with temperatures in the low 30's and windy. We had one light <1 inch snowfall on Tuesday evening. All three resorts did a fine job of keeping their groomed runs in good shape. East or south facing runs got very soft in the afternoon and became icy in the morning. You quickly learned to ski the north or west facing runs first thing in the morning. Crowds and ski lift lines were non-existent on the weekdays; Saturday at Deer Valley was crowded with 5-7 minute lift lines. Deer Valley does not allow snowboarding. Paul Ohlman received the award for best crash for flipping over a bridge railing and nearly falling ~ 30 feet to the street below. Honorable mention goes to Kevin Kirk for his 100-yard slide down an icy mogul field. Paul nor Kevin were injured in these events.

DINING/ENTERTAINMENT: There are plenty of dining and entertainment experiences to be found in historic downtown Park City. Top marks go to Vinto's Pizza, Wasatch Brewery, Bandits BBQ, Flannagan's Irish Pub, and No-name Saloon. Locally to the hotel, Squatters, Flippin' Burger, and Nick's Greek Café get high marks. We found a Chinese restaurant located in Kimball Junction, a 45-minute bus ride from the hotel that had good food. Other attractions available were snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and at Park City Ski Resort, a Zip Line and Snow Coaster. The Snow Coaster was popular with many on the trip, providing a good roller coaster ride through the snow with many tight lateral turns. Located at Kimball Junction is the 2002 Olympic Nordic center, which offers the Olympic Museum and rides on the Bobsled and Luge track and a Zip Line. The Nordic ski jump is also located here.

EQUIPMENT RENTAL: Our tour operator, Winter Ski & Sports, provided access via the internet to pre-order and reserve boots and skis through the Ski 'N See shop. The web site is very friendly and walks you through to take personal information, ski package info, arrival and departure dates, where you want to pick up your equipment, and most importantly, credit card information. The website address is <http://www.skinsee.com/>. The web site provides the discounted prices for the different levels of ski packages – from beginner to demo. We used the ARC Ski shop, located next door to Ski 'N See shop at the Park City Ski Resort base to pick up the equipment.

CONCLUSION: This Park City area ski trip was a great way for the club to return to this ski area. The club should consider this area as a weekend destination also.

Andy Hesketh
Trip Captain