



And Snow it Goes...

By Diane Kae

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I'm going to start off the column this month by getting the bad news out of the way first. Bettie D'Ambrosia, a dear friend of the club and of mine personally, passed away on January 16, 2012. Bettie and I ran numerous western trips together, including the club's largest trip – 128 people to Sun Valley for Ski Club week. I don't remember exactly when Bettie joined the club, but when I arrived on the scene in 1980 – she had been there for a number of years. Aside from running trips, she managed the financials of the club for many years. Her sister has offered me her many photos albums of the club trips from those early years; I will bring them to future meetings to share with those who remember her. Please remember her family in your prayers.

The snow gods have finally smiled on us. Despite the crazy summer temperatures at home, the west is finally getting much deserved snow. On a personal trip to Telluride last week I was graced with 20 inches of new powder on arrival. The club's Mammoth trip had plenty to ski on as well. When I left Telluride, it was snowing again – another foot expected – Yahoooooooooooooo, my ski and boarding compadres we are off to the races! And speaking of races, don't forget to run a NASTAR race if there is one offered where you are skiing and rack up points for the club. See Jeff Hayfield for details.

As you get geared up to travel on some of the extended trips, make sure you check the latest updates regarding baggage for the airlines, both checked and carry-on. Flights have been full and restrictions enforced so don't be caught in an ugly situation with a cranky desk agent. Make sure your luggage size and weight meet limitations – some airlines weigh carry-on so be mindful.

We still have a lot of great trips and activities on the horizon. Happy hours, bowling, basketball game, volleyball and much more. This is more than a winter snow sport club, so spread the word and invite your friends to join. We love meeting new people and exceed expectations as the "friendly ski club".

Remember that club happy hours are open to non-members and a good way to introduce people to who we are and what we do. Couples and singles alike enjoy the opportunity to mingle with friends... and friends they haven't met yet.... And catch up on the latest trip and activity re-caps. Come out and join your friends and greet potential members.

In closing I will mention that we have registered for the Dragon Boat Races again this year. After taking a year hiatus we are back in the game. This event happens in early October, however sign-ups and training start soon - watch Jeff's weekly e-newsletter Avalanche for details. Not getting the newsletter??? You need to opt in via the website www.siskiclub.com.

Ciao,