

Aspen Trip Report March 24 to 31, 2018

Aspen has always been on the short list for Sly Fox ski trips over the years. This year we were again reminded of why that is. Fantastic skiing on 4 different mountains, easy transportation to and from these mountains, and a lively town.

We stayed at The Gant condominiums in Aspen and were glad we did. It's a very service oriented place, with free shuttle service to the grocery store, Aspen Mountain, Ruby Park bus depot (for free rides to the other mountains), the town in the evening. The Gant has 2 outdoor pools and 3 hot tubs, as well as its own restaurant for breakfast and lunch by one of the pools. No need to schlep skis back to your room after skiing. They store them right by the lobby, ready for you in the morning by the shuttle pick up.

So we took 69 skiers this year. Some got there on their own, either by driving or flying out on their own, but we still had to move 60 people from Denver airport, and they don't all fit on a 54 passenger bus. Solution, we rented a 15 passenger van and fit 10 people in that and drove. It was a challenge to get all the luggage and skis in, but we made it. Once we got checked in at The Gant, we had a 1 hour welcome reception where we were all together and got the lift tickets handed out and we were ready to ski the next day.

The next 6 days we had good skiing with mostly sunny skies, but a few days of fresh snow. Snowmass Mountain stood out as particularly good. Tuesday we had an après ski party by the back pool. Deb Bramschreiber cooked up quesadillas on the grill while we all gathered to talk smart about our skiing.

A lot was going on in Aspen that week. It started the night we go there with a Saturday night Big Air completion of snowboard and ski jumping at the base of Ajax. Later that week, Buddy Guy, the Chicago blues guitarist was at the Belly Up downtown. His warm up was one of his protégés named Quinn Sullivan, who you will hear from. Clapton has nothing on this kid.

Friday night, The Gant cooked up our farewell dinner of prime rib and salmon. There were numerous Lunar nominations, but nothing stuck out as particularly Lunar. We must be getting wiser (and older).

Our travel home was very different from what we had planned. A few months earlier, United Airlines informed us that they had cancelled our return flight from Denver!! The solution they came up with was to fly us back to Milwaukee from Aspen, with a stop in Chicago. Because the airplanes out of Aspen were rather small, we had to come back on 3 separate flights. So Deb Bramschreiber led the first group home, the second group was all people who lived in the Milwaukee area, and I led the last group home. We did have to get two Lamers buses to pick us up at different times from Milwaukee airport, but it all worked out. A good time was had by all and now we start planning for next year.

Sam Fontaine, Aspen Trip Leader