

Breckenridge town and ski resort

By Hans Kopp

The Breckenridge Ski Resort of Vail Resorts staged a familiarization trip for ski councils and ski club members at the resort "The Village at Breckenridge" to which 24 representatives of those organizations were invited.

During the tree day visit the group toured the following properties; The Village at Breckenridge and the Antlers banquet rooms A & B, the Beaver Run Resort and Conference Center suitable for large size conferences, the Great Divide Lodge and the Mountain Thunder Lodge. All of the properties shown are of high quality and suitable for any size of ski group from the smallest to the largest, such as the Wounded Warier Association staying at the Beaver Run Resort the same time we are here with more then 500 members among them some 300 hundred disabled athletes. All these properties are highly recommendable and within a short walking distance to the Quicksilver Super chair.

A Wichita lumber company opened the Breckenridge Ski Area in December of 1961 and a new boom era began after the Eisenhower Tunnel, on Interstate 70, was completed in 1973 and during the ski season 2006/2007, Breckenridge was the most visited ski area in the United States.

Breckenridge has a base elevation of 9,600 feet, two Super Chairs (6 person high speed lift), seven Quads, a triple, several doubles and a transfer tram the north end parking lots to the base of Peak 7 and Peak 8. The terrain accessible from Peak 8 and Peak 9 are primarily blue and green runs suitable for family skiing, Peak 7 is predominately marked blue while peak 10 is marked black where everybody can enjoy mogul runs. From the T-bar you have access to black runs and hike in areas to Peak 7 Summit at an elevation of 12,677 feet, certainly for those young at hart. From a double chair lift at the foot of Peak 8 Summit 12,998 feet you have access to hike in areas as well as to the Imperial Express Super Chair giving you access to the Imperial Bowl and the Lake Chutes, a terrain for an ultimate extreme skiing experience. With the opening of Imperial Express Super Chair, Breckenridge has become highest lift in the USA.

During our stay we also had the opportunity to observe and see the race competitions of the Wounded Warier Association. For those of you who had the opportunity to see this type of event staged for our disabled war veterans, do know and appreciate their extraordinary skills and efforts they bring forth. The ultimate experience; however us this time was to see a blind ski racer effortless whisk through the gates. To accomplish this difficult task a forerunner who synchronized his turns with the turns of the blind racer behind and shouting out the key word "Up" at which time the blind racer turned the very same time as the forerunner did effortless around the gates.

Although only Peak 8 and Peak 9 were open the skiing was suburb and the resort did not spare any expenses in hosting us and touring the mountain with us which was not only enjoyed bye everyone but very much appreciated thanks to everyone involved.

The familiarization trip was organized by Charles Townsend, Group Sales Coordinator of Vail Resort, Jill Canning, National Sales Manager North East Region of Vail Resorts and Lindsay Gillon, Sales Manager. The tours were conducted by Debra Goodman, National Sales Manager and her staff.

A new concept "The White Carpet Club" a method of saving for repeat customers of any of the associated areas of Vail Resorts was represented by Mike Agnew. Brigitte Bortolon, Marketing/Group Sales Manager of Breckenridge Sports presented an interesting ski/board rental concept. With this concept the company will open a website specifically for your group to be accessible for your members who would like to have rental equipment. By visiting this site they will get an automatic rental discount.

On a personal note I would like to say, of the many familiarization trips, I had the privilege to attend this was the most memorable. Charles Townsend, the organizer certainly did an outstanding job, arranging for guides Lindsay Gillon, Brian Davis, and Jessie Paige who skied with us every day. The Breckenridge Resort treated us generously to breakfast, lunch and dinner every day and at the end presented us with a special personalized gift to commemorate the

occasion. Finally how did every one of us rate this trip during which every function was worked out to the smallest detail? It certainly has to be on the top of everyone's list and we could not possibly give it a rating less than a "Five Star Plus". Thank you for a great experience.

The town of Breckenridge, a gold and silver mining town, was settled during the mid 19th Century in the Blue River Valley near Fort Mary by General George E. Spencer's prospecting company in November of 1859 and presumably, named it after President James Buchanan's Vice President, John Cabell Breckinridge (1857-1861).

During those days a blacksmith shop, a general store, a barbershop or salons which lined South Main Street are attracting minors from everywhere and the Tiger #1 Gold Dredge chewed its way from the northern town limits through to the south end of Main Street. As a result, few historic buildings survived on the west side of the Blue River bank and by World War II finally the dredge was silenced and left and the population in Breckenridge declined to approximately 254 individuals.

As we walk through the idyllic and romantic setting of South Main Street, where a saloon or a general store was replaced by a bar or a restaurant, a gift shop, a gallery or one of the many ski shop now lining the busy street and the Tiger #1 Gold Dredge which still sits in the Blue River serving as a restaurant today, we wonder about the life then. On the way we enjoy the Christmas carol singers, children making a snow men, while gentle snow flakes drift quietly from the sky above covering the mountain peaks, the pine trees in a white, thick coat while the houses are decorated with sparkling lights and holiday ornaments giving us the feeling of a white Christmas. A walk through South Main Street is the ultimate experience of the pre season Christmas Holiday in the town of Breckenridge.

The CMSC contact is: Brian Flickinger
bflickinger@vailresorts.com
(303) 404-1849

Corporate Group Sales Team

Mike Agnew- Sales Manager, 561-586-2316, magnew@vailresorts.com

Brian Flickinger- Sales Manager, 303-404-1849, bflickinger@vailresorts.com

Jill Canning- Sales Manager, 303-404-1851, jcanning@vailresorts.com

Jacque Rossi- Senior Sales Manager, 303-404-1848, jrossi@vailresorts.com

Charles Townsend- Sales Coordinator, 303-404-1850, ctownsend@vailresorts.com

Breckenridge Group Sales Team

Lindsay Gillon- Sales Manager, 970-453-3270, lgillon@vailresorts.com

Brian Davis- Sales Manager, 970-547-7532, bdavis@vailresorts.com

Jessie Paige- Sales Coordinator, 970-496-3256, jpaige@vailresorts.com

Breckenridge Lodging and Hospitality (Village at Breckenridge, Great Divide Lodge, Mountain Thunder Lodge)

Debra Goodman- Sales Manager, 970-453-5137, dgoodman@vailresorts.com

Beaver Run Resort

Lawson Pedder- 970-453-8714, lpedder@beaverrun.com

Your contact for Breckenridge Sports Rental Ski website is: Brigitte Bortolon, 970-453-2718, bbortolon@ssv.net please note; she will be able to help you with a rental ski website and discounts nation wide.