

# WLB Ski Club

L E T T E R

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Established 1978

## Vail Trip Is One for the Record Books

by Karen DeMasters

Conditions at Vail in early January were good when 62 members of the West Long Branch Ski Club arrived on Jan. 6 and it only got better as the week progressed. The club could not have found a better way to celebrate the New Year with new snow measured in feet rather than inches.

There were a lot of highlights for the week, but the real star of the trip was the light, fluffy snow that is the epitome of western skiing. The cold temperatures kept the snow flakes light, so that it was perfect for those who love deep powder and those who want soft, groomed corduroy. Vail locals said it was the best conditions they had seen in decades.

The week started with blue skies and ended with three days of fresh powder. Although it was cold enough to make for great skiing, it was never too cold to enjoy the slopes. Vail's 5,200-plus acres of ski terrain could swallow most other areas but everyone did their best to experience the front runs, the limitless bowls, and Blue Sky Basin, which was new to many members.

A group dinner on Monday at the Evergreen Lodge, where everyone was staying, gave club members a chance to get to know one another or renew friendships and the Evergreen held a wine and cheese party for all hotel guests later in the week.

Club web site: [www.wlbskiclub.org](http://www.wlbskiclub.org)

### Next Meeting Tues. Jan 22

This will be the next to last meeting of the year. We will discuss future trip ideas. Since there won't be a February meeting, please check the payment deadlines for any trip you are taking & mail the payment directly to the club.

### NJSC Membership Direct

You will find a small gold sticker on the back of your membership card. This is the "Membership Direct Program" from the NJ Ski Council.

The cards were sent out with the October Newsletter. If you joined the club after that, you'll find your membership card enclosed. Please look for it!

For club benefits, please check on the Ski Council web site at: [www.newjerseyskicouncil.org](http://www.newjerseyskicouncil.org). Go to the "Discounts" column and click on "Membership Direct." It will direct you to the updated ski discounts available with your card.

If you go to any ski area in the East, check with them before you buy your lift ticket in case they offer a NJSC discount. New discounts may become available during the ski season, so check out the site.

### BALANCE SKI TRIP CALENDAR

Feb 2 to 10 - Club Med, Val d'Isere  
Feb 28 to Mar 6 - Park City, UT  
Apr 1 to 8 - Big Sky, Montana  
Club info: Call Harriet, 732-356-2887

### TRIP UPDATES:

Club Med, Val d'Isere - Feb 2 to 10.  
This trip is filled.

Park City, UT Feb 28 to Mar 6. The price of \$1,249 includes airfare, transfers, 7 nights at the Park City Peaks Hotel, *full breakfast daily*, taxes & portorage. We're not including lift tickets because each area has a different lift ticket price and policy for seniors. The multi-area lift is more expensive. Lift tickets can be ordered in advance for the group rates. A chart with the lift ticket prices for each age and ski area have been sent to participants.

Very limited space is available on request. Please call trip chairman, Renee Bonin at 732-531-9357 for info.  
**Balance was due Jan 2.**

Big Sky, MT - April 1 to 8. \$1,349 includes air, transfers, 7 nights at slope side Huntley Lodge, *full breakfast daily*, 5 lift tickets, taxes & portorage. Big Sky is noted for their late season snow. We've been there about 8 times in April and have always been awed by their snow conditions! **The balance is due by Feb 4.** Call Dottie Binder, trip chairman, at 732-291-3331 for info.

### BALANCE OF CLUB MEETINGS

Jan 22 - Discuss next year's trips  
Mar 25 - Evaluation of the club re-organization so far and further plans for the future. **Meetings are held at the WLB Community Center, Locust Ave at Parker Rd. at 8pm.**

PLEASE RETURN WITH PAYMENTS TO: WLB SKI CLUB, 535 Rosecliff Court, Somerset NJ 08873  
(Checks payable to WLB Ski Club)

NAME(s) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed please find trip payment for: \_\_\_\_\_