

Note: I was the group leader for this particular trip. I sent the following email to each member of the Lafayette Ski Club who went on this trip.

Saturday, January 13

On Saturday, January 13, 2007, 32 members of the Lafayette Ski and Snowboard Club awoke long before dawn with the excitement of knowing they were headed to one of the most beautiful places on Earth—Lake Tahoe. After an early morning flight, most of the group waited for 4 hours in Denver before catching the connecting flight to Reno. Upon arrival, we loaded the bus and headed for Lakeland Village Condominiums. The scenic bus ride with narration from the driver was interesting, and he was kind enough to stop at the grocery store for us along the way. Upon arriving at about 4:30 Pacific time, we checked into our 3-story condos. With the help of condo employees helping us move our bags, we had just enough time to settle into our homes-away-from-home before heading to our complimentary wine and cheese party. The quality of both the company and the food and drink made it well worth the trip. While many members hit the sack early due to the long travel day, others headed for area restaurants for an early evening dinner.

Sunday, January 14

Early to bed, early to rise: at 7:45 A.M., we took a charter bus to Kirkwood Ski Resort, a favorite among locals known for its ample snowfall. Unfortunately, both the snowfall and the temperatures were below average. The people who were stuck on the lifts for 10 minutes when the power went out may have set a profanity record while cursing the cold and wind. Nonetheless, we had a fun day of skiing at a setting where many tourists don't get the chance to go. Just as our bus was leaving, 3 young ladies asked us if they could hitch a ride on our bus to the casinos on the Nevada side. Since we had room and our group was willing, I allowed them to ride provided they rode in the luggage compartment below. (OK, I made the last part up, but the rest of the story is true.)

At 7:00, we had the group pizza party in our condo. (Thanks to Bartek, Dave, and Ed for helping set it up). Taking a tip from Saturday's bus driver, we ordered pizza from Goodfellas and were quite pleased. I'd certainly recommend it to others. After group introductions and the distribution of the lift tickets, we were set for group entertainment. At my request, the other 28 people at the party formed 7 groups of 4 to take a quiz that I had prepared about Lake Tahoe. (You can take the teacher out of the classroom ...). However, I forgot an important detail—PENS! After a 10-minute scavenger hunt to get pens, the groups took the quiz. While the set-up wasn't the best, in the end everybody learned more about both the area and other people on the trip. After the quiz, we showed "Blazing Saddles" for our post-dinner entertainment. The main highlight occurred when Dave hit the Spanish language feature while trying to adjust the volume. Several minutes later, he finally figured out how to return to English at the moment Bart hit Taggart on the head with the shovel and yelled "OW!" I think that was the one line that we could have understood in Spanish.

Monday—Wednesday January 15-17

*"At last the lake burst upon us--a noble sheet of blue water lifted six thousand three hundred feet above the level of the sea, and walled in by a rim of snow-clad mountain peaks that towered aloft three thousand feet higher still! As it lay there with the shadows of the mountains brilliantly photographed upon its still surface, I thought it must surely be the fairest picture the whole world affords."*

*Mark Twain, 1861*

Monday was our first day of skiing at Heavenly, which truly lives up to its name. The views of the lake from the slopes are stunning. Like Kirkwood, Heavenly could have used more snow, but it did not disappoint. Skies were clear throughout most of the week. The views of the Nevada side are good, and the California views of the lake are absolutely breathtaking. Although most of us had our falls and tumbles, nobody was seriously injured on the trip, which is always a plus.

During the evenings, many trip members met for dinner. An excellent Italian restaurant called Tep's Villa Roma was the place of choice on Monday. On Tuesday, John and Gail threw a condo party of their own in which Tom and Diane Schmenk, former Lafayette Ski Club members who now live near Lake Tahoe, were the guests of honor. The party continued on a Lakeland Shuttle Bus to La Cantina, a Mexican restaurant several miles from our condo. It was definitely worth the trip. Some people went gambling during the week, and while I didn't hear any reports of anybody making enough money to become a ski bum for life, everybody left fully clothed, which means that at least nobody lost their shirts.

#### Thursday/Friday

The last day of a ski trip is always the least fun, and this trip was no exception. Our bus left Lakeland Village at 6:00 A.M. Pacific Time after I gave everybody complimentary Lakeland Village pens (hey, better late than never). The return trip included a 90-minute bus trip from Tahoe to Reno's airport, a flight to San Francisco, a flight to Chicago, and finally a flight to Indianapolis. We returned to Indianapolis at approximately 1:30 A.M. Friday EST--we were actually "only" an hour late from our scheduled time of arrival. Under normal circumstances, this would have been a high-stress day. But with the help of our great group, we pulled through and made the best of our situation. In closing, I'd like to thank all those who attended the trip for making it a fun and memorable one.

Richard & Linda Block, Larry & Marsha Mohr  
Kurt & Julianna Deranick, Ruth Whitis, Lu Greig  
Ron & Jean McDaniel, Ken & Linda Yoder  
Michael & Katrina Masterson, Diane Velten, Jean Stiles  
Dan & Cindy Stowell, Kathleen Roemheld, Mark Foster  
John & Gail Copeland, John Underwood, Kate Nail  
Alice Abbott, Suzie Uhl, Bill Ruckman, John Mason  
Dave Dull, Ed Geswein, Bartek Rajwa, Tom & Diane Schmenk

