

Inside VIBeS



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A Publication of VIBeS –
Visually Impaired and Blind Skiers
of the Colorado Springs Community
<http://www.coloradovibes.org>

A Successful Ski Season! 2014-2015

We are celebrating the conclusion of a full and fun ski season, with trips to Monarch, Breckenridge, Keystone, Copper Mountain, Ski Cooper and Beaver Creek!!! We LOVE the variety of slopes and the mix of new and "old" VIP skiers and sighted guides.

Thanks to the Trip Captains who did the real work of organizing transportation, lodging, lift tickets, equipment, skier/guide pairings and fun!!! Thanks especially to Barry Wick for the unforgettable Griffith Lodge "Reunion Tour," Melissa Rose and Sharon Boyd for the annual Breck weekend, Pam Vandebos and Lorie Whitehead (among MANY others) for the fruitful Benefit Race Weekend, and Amy Gunning and others who put together a variety of day trips to round things out.

We are grateful for the ongoing generosity of Monarch, Vail Resorts, Ski Cooper and Copper Mountain for the donation of lift tickets. And, we love the Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center for taking such good care of our exceptional skiers, especially "Bubba" John Schwarz, as well.

VIBeS is a caring community. Keep it going by volunteering to help.

Summertime Means More Fun!!!

Once it stops raining, we look forward to hiking and biking on the trails. Please check your calendar and put a trip date out there! Use the email distribution list or call any of us to join you in the great outdoors.

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Spring Party is a BANG!

(Submitted by Dr. Don Allred)

What a party!.....complete with an explosion and ghosts from the past!

Muzi, aka "the Muze", graciously hosted the extravaganza.....or do guys not "graciously" host? "Graciously hosting" sounds appropriate for a cotillion tea party or something, whatever a cotillion is. John M. "generously" hosted the extravaganza, letting us take over his grill, kitchen, dining area, and that magnificent deck system.

First things first of course, meaning lighting said grill to begin burning the day's catch of wild boar and cape buffalo retrieved from the wilderness by the manly men of VIBES.....or in this case, wild burgers and cape brats retrieved by Karen from the wilds of Costco.

But the manly job of grilling the not-quite-so-wild catch still fell to the manly men, who gathered in their traditional tribal circle around the village fire-pit, that fortunately Muzi had upgraded with propane bottle, stainless steel shell, auto-spark ignition, and in a demonstration of brilliant prescience (now you knew you would need a dictionary at some point, didn't you?), a fire extinguisher (seriously).

Which brings us to the explosion. Enough manly hands simultaneously turning enough unlabeled knobs with enough high pressure propane (or butane or oxyacetalene, or something, we didn't really care as long as it "make fire") is not, in and of itself, inherently risky. But adding to that mix an extended length lighter that actually works just may push the limits of prudence. In this case it also pushed a concussion shock wave through the neighborhood.

But this was all according to plan, albeit a plan I just now thought of. The blast sufficiently jarred the grill to clean off several decades of carbonized material, a far more efficient, and more importantly, far manlier method of cleaning than old fashioned scraping and brushing.

Having done enough damage, certain parties made an excuse to desert the village fire pit, and Gary ably took over, or got stuck with, the task of rotating the sides of oxen, and/or brats.

Grill clean, brats burning, and fire extinguisher safety still on, the party got into high gear.when visitations by three ghosts of ski trips past made me think I should have paced that beverage with the demonic label on the bottle a little more slowly. But they were not ghosts after all! Lucy, the "Flee", and Terri G. were actually back! Whoo hoo!

Some serious catching up ensued, with happy tales of Nicole designing prosthetics, Traci travelling the world, and the real estate market up enough so Terri can at least buy a higher grade of beans. Not so happy tales of the Ferlins moving (not happy for us anyway), Gary's appendicitis, Muzi's neck surgery, and Fitzkee's house condemnation (a surprise because we had always expected any house hosting a VIBES party to be at higher risk of getting condemned) reminded us how good it is to have the VIBES family with whom to share the good and the bad, the ups and the downs.

To Muzi, Lorie, Karen, other Karen, and many more too numerous to mention, thanks for the place, for cleaning, for driving, for shopping, for cooking, and for being you. And for those close to the grill as it was lit....not to worry, that hair will grow back.

VIPs, be proactive and try to arrange transportation or ask friends and family to join us and help drive. We are equal partners with our sighted guides and volunteers, which is one of the many things that make VIBeS such a great organization!

GLOW GIRLS, GLOW!!!

(Submitted by Lorie Whitehead)

Once again, six amateur VIBeS "sisters" rallied together last November to become thriving, successful performers. Amy A., Marcia, Vicky, Diane, Pam and Lorie met on a weekly basis to drink wine – oops, I mean to select and polish our 2015 Benefit Race song. Beth Ingham was our manager and, this year, we needed an assistant manager, Judy Gibson. In between meals (and wine), the lovely ladies picked a song, re-wrote the words and then choreographed the performance. Of course, at our age(s), we required LOTS and LOTS of practice.

This year the group evolved to become The Glow Girls, with a rendition of Van Morrison's "Brown-Eyed Girl," modified to "Bright-Eyed Guide." We performed at Race Weekend, the Ski Shop, the Colorado Springs Cycling Club, the Blazers Ski Club, the SnoJets Ski Club and Southside Johnny's. The performance at Southside Johnny's was open to the public, and many of our close friends and families came to cheer us on. At each venue, we passed the hat and we were very excited to raise

nearly \$1,000.00 for VIBeS! We also LOVED the applause, compliments, groupies and paparazzi...we just aren't sure how we will top it next year!

Enjoy the following words to the song. You may also enjoy our sensational first-time UTube video

"Hey, where do we go, days when the snow blows?
Up in the Rockies, skiing a new blue.
Now I'm in the sunlight laughing - no hiding, I'm standing tall!
Slippin' and a-slidin'. Hey, hey, I know that I won't fall with you,
My bright eyed guide – you, my bright eyed guide!

"Whatever happened to thinkin' I can't go?
Stuck at home on my old couch with a transistor radio.
Now I'm in the sunlight laughing - no hiding, I'm standing tall!
Slippin' and a-slidin'. Hey, hey, I know that I won't fall with you,
My bright eyed guide – you, my bright eyed guide!

"I can't remember when I couldn't ski.
Sha la la la la la la la la dee dah - Just like that
Sha la la la la la la la la la la dee dah - La dee dah.

"So hard to find my way, now that I cannot see.
I found you just the other day – WOW, you set me free!
Past the trees and moguls, Lord. Sometime I'm dreamin' about
Skiing fast on the blue runs, behind the orange vest with you,
My bright-eyed guide - you, my bright-eyed guide!

"I can't remember when I couldn't ski.
Sha la la la la la la la la la la dee dah
Sha la la la la la la la la la la dee dah
Sha la la.....blah blah dee dah!!

"So fun to race with you, now that you're on our team.
You help with all we do. WOW, you're uber keen!
Pass the hats and baskets – hey, hey. Sometime I'm dreamin' about
All the lives we have changed! You, you are the best!
Yeah, you, our VIBeS friends!!!"
You, our VIBeS friends!"

Have a Question About VIBeS?

Email the HOTLINE: amythegun@comcast.net

Cell phone: 719-337-0161

Catch the VIBE!

2015 Benefit Race Highlights

(Submitted by Lorie Whitehead)

Feb. 28 – March 1, 2015

Several of us spent the Friday night before race weekend at Pam and Paul's beautiful log home in Nathrop, CO and celebrated Amy A's 39th birthday (again!). It was a gorgeous Winter Wonderland weekend with a nice snowfall (lots of powder), and very little wind. Saturday was an excellent day for VIP skiers and guides on the slopes at Monarch. Also, five of us took advantage of the beautiful surrounding area to go snowshoeing at Monarch Park.

Following an excellent dinner at the Thai restaurant that night, Don Allred entertained us all as MC extraordinaire. Marcia and Barry performed a song to Viviane, "Guider Dog," which touched the hearts of everyone! Then, the Glow Girls showed off their glow stick jewelry and performed, "Bright Eyed Guide." Not to be intimidated by the star act, Gordon Smith's granddaughter showed off her talent, prompting us to quickly recruit her as a future Glow Girl! A special thanks to Pam and Nopie for planning such a wonderful meal.

Sunday, we woke (groggily) to another great day of skiing, with many participating in the Benefit Race. Going for the gold were our very own VIP team, the Walford team, 2 Blazer teams, a SnoJet team and more. Many, many prizes were given to the winners, volunteers, family and friends – thanks to the hard work of the prize solicitors and drivers, organized by Amy A. Thanks to ALL who made it happen! The 2015 Benefit Race Weekend was a huge success! All our hard work paid off - everyone had a great time, and we raised funds to continue sponsoring our events. In the words of the Glow Girls, "You, you are the BEST.....Yea you - our VIBeS friends!!!"

Happy 102 Birthdays, Elsa!

Two years ago, Elsa Bailey retired her skis at A-Basin on her 100th birthday. On May 9th this year, several VIBeSters gathered to celebrate Elsa's 102nd birthday at The Creamery in Old Colorado City. Yum!

Elsa, surrounded by her court (including Viviane), was a beautiful Queen for the Day! We all feel very lucky to have Elsa in our lives! Thanks, Beth, for helping to organize the party!

Jake Vendl – One of Our BEST!!!

VIBeS is very proud to count Jake Vendl as one of our BEST up and coming guides, but Jake's parents are truly crowing about his being selected as one of Colorado Springs' 20 Best and Brightest Teens. But that's not all...Jake also has been awarded the coveted Boetcher Scholarship upon his graduation this May from Pine Creek High School. You could say, "Jake Vendl's future is so bright, he has to wear ski goggles!"

Jake and mom, Karen, have been active with VIBeS for the past three years, volunteering and training as valued sighted guides. The Vendl's have also graciously hosted VIBeS gatherings at their home. We have enjoyed watching Jake "grow" to a height well above average, in all respects! It is wonderful to relate to a young person who is poised, intelligent, humorous, giving and so polite and respectful to us all!

Jake will pursue his higher education at the University of Colorado, Boulder in the field of aerospace engineering. Hopefully, this means he will be close enough to continue joining us on the slopes (and off)!

Check out his profile in the Gazette and the Woodmen Edition:

<http://gazette.com/best-and-brightest-2015-teen-aims-for-aerospace-career-helping-others/article/1551055>

<http://waltpub.com/papers/we/wood%204-10-15.pdf>

Annual Breck Weekend Report

(Submitted by Sharon Boyd and Melissa Rose)

Once again, Roger Harvey and Sandi Bagley graciously donated their lovely mountain home at Peak 7, Breckenridge, for the February 6 weekend for snow fun. The weather was lovely and we enjoyed nice powder snow. The Jacuzzi was enjoyed by all.

The following VIBeS members participated in down-hill skiing, X-C skiing and snow shoeing;

Melissa Rose, Mike Rose, Sharon Boyd, Dale Campbell, John Schwarz, Marcia Wick (and Vivianne), Barry Wick, Rick Palmer, Becky Myers and Dean Myers.

On Sunday, Melissa and Sharon were skiing fast down the slopes to the BOEC and were surprised to see John Schwarz and his instructors ski even faster past them. John received a medal for his achievements that weekend. We are very proud of him!

Sharon and Dale did an excellent job purchasing all the food. Everyone helped prepare breakfasts and lunches, and also helped out in the kitchen. Cookies finished off the yummy meals. Dale, Sharon and John enjoyed a picnic at the top of Hoosier Pass on their way home Sunday.

Rick helped out with transportation but had to leave the group early when he received word that his son was in intensive care. Mike was able to log on and book Rick a last-minute flight, and we are relieved to hear Joe, Rick's son is healing

Many thanks to Melissa and Sharon, co-captains for the trip. We look forward to another ski weekend next season.

Griffith Lodge – The Reunion Tour

(Submitted by Barry Wick)

Q: What's the big deal about Griffith Lodge?

A: Griffith Lodge is the premier VIBeS event of the year. We have not had a trip there in a number of years. 2015 saw the renewal of this annual tradition.

Q: Where is Griffith Lodge?

A: Griffith Lodge is located near Peak 9 at the Breckenridge Ski Resort. It is operated by the Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center - <http://www.boec.org/programs/scott-griffith-lodge/> .

Q: When is the Griffith Lodge trip?

A: This year, it was the weekend of March 13 to 15 (Friday to Sunday). The dates will be the same for 2016.

Q: Who went to Griffith Lodge this year?

A: The trip was captained by Marcia and Barry Wick. This year we had blind skiers, guides, a deaf skier, a guide dog – a little of everything!

Q: What do you do at Griffith Lodge?

A: There is a range of winter activities – downhill skiing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, the BOEC. We had participation in all of these activities, plus the opportunity to just enjoy the Lodge or shop in Breckenridge.

Q: What is the Lodge like?

A: It is a spacious, beautiful facility with a large kitchen and dining area, bunk beds and private rooms, a large deck, sun room, TV room, and a loft area. The Lodge comfortably accommodates 22.

Q: What else?

A: Everyone participates on a meal team. We had some wonderful meals through the efforts of our meal captains, Melissa and Mike, Karen V. and Karen M. and Amy A., and Lorie and Don.

Q: Are there other activities?

A: Yes, there are plenty of games, singing, dancing, and laughing. It's a fun weekend.

Q: How do I sign up for next year's trip?

A: Just let us know that you're interested! This trip fills quickly – we also maintain a wait list.



2015-2016 CALENDAR - *Please join us!*

Some 2015-2016 dates are tentative, based on last season's calendar. Many dates for summer activities need to be added. Get involved!

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION	CONTACT
Elephant Rock Bike Event	Sunday June 7, 2015		Leo Bush 481-2304
SUMMER ACTIVITIES	June / July / August	Hiking / Biking / Camping	TBD
Ski Season Opener	Thursday Nov. 12, 2015	TBD	TBD
Skier Orientation	Saturday Dec. 5, 2015	TBD	Victoria Hulse
Guide Refresher Training	Saturday Dec. 5, 2015		
Holiday Party	Sunday Dec. 13, 2015	TBD	TBD
Shoe 'N Soak	TBD	TBD	Diane Fitzkee
Breckenridge Weekend	Feb. 5 – Feb. 7, 2016	Breckenridge	Melissa Rose rmmelissa@comcast.net
Benefit Race Weekend	Feb. 27-28, 2016 (tent.)	Monarch	TBD
Shoe 'N Chew	TBD	TBD	Diane Fitzkee
Griffith Lodge Weekend	March 11 – 13, 2016	Breckenridge	Barry and Marcia Wick

Check the website regularly for important dates and information!!!!
coloradovibes.org

VIBeS
A fun group with interesting people. Become an active member now.

VIBeS Supporters
Thank you to our community sponsors!

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Verizon Foundation

Blazers Ski Club

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Up Coming Events

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**FREE MATTER
FOR THE
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