

Ski Apache / Ruidoso – March 13-19, 2004 – Logs

Status #1

Everyone reached Fort Stockton safely yesterday. They left about 6:45 this morning for Ruidoso, so I expect there were some sleepy boys in the cars. Weather is severe clear, but warmish. The low tonight is expected to be around 35 degrees. And on a lighter note, the Scoutmasters have determined that Galen does not like barbecue!

Barbara
Troop 957 Treasurer, Secretary and Advancements Chair

Status #2

Well everyone has had a fun-filled day (no injuries) in the snow with their ski/snowboarding lessons. Weather is 48 degrees, slightly breezy with a few clouds and a lot of snow. Yes some snow is melting, but the snow pack itself is still hard enough to ski on. According to Chris, the boys have discovered for themselves just how much extra effort is required to do something at 10,000 ft. compared to 10 ft. above sea level. Even so, they all decided to go swimming at the end of the day today. Merit badge work for most of the skiers will start tomorrow, with the snowboarders following on Wednesday. The boys also now have a good idea of what scout summer camp food tastes like. And Alex is serving as a model for a new hairstyle--ski cap hair--every time he takes off his cap in the dry air. For those of you who may have been trying the leader's cell phones, coverage on the mountain is spotty, and it is non-existent at Bonita Park.

Barbara
Troop 957 Treasurer, Secretary and Advancements Chair

Status #3

Everyone has successfully completed their second day of skiing. The skiers worked on their merit badge; some of them have actually been skiing blue and black slopes with the merit badge councillors. The snowboarders will start their badge work tomorrow. Only injuries so far have been related to missed sunscreen and wounded pride. The thin air is hard on everyone. All are exhausted, but happy. The boys again are going all out post-skiing. Tonight (this was written late March 16th, just before our DSL died) it was to the gym for rock-climbing, shooting pool and basketball. The adults have decided that, like it or not, bedtime tonight will be an hour early. Weather today was 60 degrees, 15 mph breeze and severe clear. Tonight will be the last night it gets below freezing. Tomorrow it is supposed to reach 65 degrees during the day and 40 degrees at night.

Barbara
Troop 957 Treasurer, Secretary and Advancements Chair

Status #4

Another successful day of fun in the sun (and snow). The weather did as promised, reaching the mid-60s. Tomorrow is expected to be even warmer. There is slush at the bottom of the slopes, but they are still skiable. Everyone is dog-tired, but they all have acclimated to the altitude. The boys chose to rest their weary bones, and soak their bruises, by swimming after the days runs were over. Merit badge work is proceeding apace. Chris reports that the other

Scoutmasters gave him a perfect 10 for his face plant maneuver, either a new Olympic event or maybe the cell phone static meant I didn't hear correctly... Due to the drive up taking less time than anticipated, the adults are considering doing the return trip in one day. If that will cause problems for anyone, please call me at home and I will relay to Chris during tomorrow's status report.

Barbara
Troop 957 Treasurer, Secretary and Advancements Chair

Status #5

The scouts left Bonita Park around 8:00 this morning (9:00 our time). All have completed the physical portion of their snow sports merit badges; however they still have the book work to complete by Tuesday's meeting. The universal comment was, "When can we come back?". Sun burn, wind burn, chapped lips and sore muscles was the extent of the injuries. Several boys were proficient enough by the end to ski on the blue and black slopes. In short, a successful trip was had by all.

The boys are exhausted, so the adults have agreed to play it by ear on whether or not to push it and get back by late tonight. It is a 10+ hour trip, so the earliest they could arrive would be 7:00 pm, and that doesn't include time for meals and breaks.

Barbara
Troop 957 Treasurer, Secretary and Advancements Chair