

Sexy Spring Soiree

Cherry Creek Valley Skiers Take A-Basin By Storm

by Laura Lieff

If you build it, they will party. Since 2000, a group called the *Thrift Store Ski Party* Committee has been responsible for throwing the party of the season at *Arapahoe Basin* Ski Area. The committee is made up of Keith Nicholson, John O'Dwyer, Kerry Shea (Master of Ceremonies), Chuck Olney, Mike Rafferty (Chief Sound and Pyrotechnics Manager) and Brian Kelley, and after throwing a highly successful *Thrift Store Formal* back in 1999, they decided to move their fiesta to the mountains. Word spread quickly and all of the sudden, the annual *Thrift Store Ski Party* became the place to be for young Cherry Creek Valley residents.

"I heard about the event last year through a friend living in Glendale and it was one of the best days of my life," said 2006 *Thrift Store* party attendee, Dave Mescon. "Everybody dresses in the finest fashions circa 1973 and it is literally the most unique party I've ever been to."

Rite Of Passage

Every year, Cherry Creek Valley residents hunt for the perfect '70s and '80s vintage gear as they head to the mountains for the end of the ski season party, which will be occurring on April 14, 2007. Young Valley residents view the event as a rite of



Hula-Hoop: Cherry Creek Valley resident shows off her hula-hoop skills with flying colors.

one participates and every year someone takes it to a new level," said Shea.

In addition to *Thrift Store Ski Party* founders, a few other party groups can be found at the A-Basin gathering. *Liquid Therapy* is



Liquid Therapy: A-Basin partiers take their old school ski gear for a drip in the *Liquid Therapy* hot tub.

passage/one day spring break that is a traditional yearly outing. The *Thrift Store Ski Party* is a two-part event that begins at 11 a.m. at A-Basin and continues until 4:30 p.m. The second event begins at 7:30 p.m. at the *Snake River Saloon* that can be found seven miles down the road in Keystone. The evening event is sponsored by *Flying Dog Brewery* and will rage until the bar closes at 2 a.m. The cover is \$3.

"The beauty of this event is that every-

a Colorado Theme Drinking group that was founded by Jim Carr seven years ago. Since then, Carr and his group have attended, organized and/or hosted close to 400 events including celebrations for Mardi Gras, Warren Miller movies, Oktoberfest, Kinetics, Halloween, Cruiser races, and many more. Carr says he is looking forward to the *Thrift Store* Party this year and was actually responsible for hauling a hot tub to A-Basin for the first time in event



Party Time: Thrift Store Ski Party ladies are ready to party as they show off their vintage gear.

history last year.

Tub Of Fun

"The daytime event is essentially one big tailgate," said Carr. "Bringing the hot tub just adds to the fun!"

At the day event, DJ Mike Rafferty sets up his equipment on a 1968 Kaiser Army Vehicle and prompts an all-day dance party by playing every genre of music imaginable. An 85 pound smoker will also be fired up for ribs and other meats, and drinks will flow until the mountain closes. The Thrift Store Committee rolls in 10 kegs and over 1,000 jell-o shots for everyone's enjoyment, along with a red carpet for the Red Carpet Fashion Show. Allowing party patrons to show off their retro gear, everyone's attire is judged and a lucky few are awarded by the committee with a chance to earn gold, silver or bronze medals/trophies. There is also a full-blown fireworks display and the coveted Chinese Downhill, which is a ski race that entails a mad dash

down the face of A-Basin to capture the big prize, *Bernice*.

"Standing 3'2" tall, *Bernice* is considered the Holy Grail of the event because she personifies the day itself- strength, beauty and enjoyment," said Nicholson.

Group Therapy

With the unique interpretations of vintage ski-wear and donations from friends and other party-goers, Nicholson explains that both hosts and guests are in for quite the event. He also mentions that although everyone at the event likes to share, bringing your own food, drinks and grills is a good idea and will only add to the fun.

"Anytime you can combine vintage ski wear, a three-foot tall *Barbie Doll* and a Chinese Downhill, you have a perfect recipe for a magical soiree," said Nicholson.

For any further event information or if you have questions, visit the event Web site at www.thriftstoreskiparty.com or www.liquid-therapy.com.

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