

The Benedict-100 January 29 – February 3, 2012

The Tenth Mountain Association along with Aspen Alpine Guides will be doing the Benedict-100 from January 29-February 3, 2012. This trip is an extraordinary opportunity to ski hut to hut from Aspen to downtown Vail through some of Colorado's most breathtaking backcountry.

This trip is not for the faint of heart though. We will be covering close to 100 miles over the course of the trip with long days and the potential for lots of trail breaking. We will maintain a slow steady pace, it is not a race. You will need to be physically prepared to cover anywhere from 10 to 20 miles a day on skis in midwinter conditions. It will be an adventure as rewarding as it is challenging.

The itinerary will be as follows:

January 28-We will all meet at the Riverside Grill in Basalt at 6 pm for dinner and socializing.

January 29- We will meet at the Upper Hunter Creek Trailhead at 6 am. We plan to ski to the McNamara Hut and then on to Margy's Hut. The day will entail about 13 miles and 3,600 feet of elevation gain.

January 30- We leave Margy's by 7:00 am to ski to the Betty Bear Hut. The day will have about 2,300 feet elevation gain and about 14 miles. This day will definitely be a trail breaking day. Part of the route is rarely used by anyone in the winter. The last 2 miles can be taxing as the trail travels uphill to the hut.

January 31- We will ski past the Skinner Hut to Uncle Bud's Hut. The challenge of this day could be crossing Hagerman Pass if we have poor visibility. We will travel about 10 miles with nearly 3,000 feet elevation gain.

February 1- This is the longest travel day of the Benedict-100. We will be skiing from Uncle Bud's Hut to Jackal Hut skipping the Tenth Mountain Hut. Depending on our route for this day it may be as long as 20 miles with 4,000 feet elevation gain.

On Thursday, February 2, we ski from the Jackal Hut to Chuck's Cabin above Vail Pass. If the weather cooperates this is visually stunning day with the majority of travel above tree line. Chuck's Cabin is the only hut where we will have no hut hosts but we will have supplies stored there for dinner and breakfast.

The concluding day Friday, February 3 will be the Commando Run and the slopes of Vail, Co., quite possibly the scariest day. We will have a final dinner, not included in the price, together somewhere in the Vail area.

The mileage and elevation numbers are estimates only.

We will be greeted at each hut by host's who will help prepare dinner and breakfast. All participants will need a pack large enough to carry a sleeping bag, lunch, trail food, thermos, avalanche gear, mittens are a must they are not optional, extra clothing, headlamps, etc. No camelbacks, they freeze. Please, keep your packs light. The guides will carry first aid kits and repair kits. Please, only carry the spare parts for your bindings that might break and the blister protection system that works for you. Think light and think slow steady pace. This is not a race.

We will carry radios for trail communication and a satellite phone for emergencies. If you have to leave the Benedict-100 for any reason you will be expected to have transportation or pay for that transportation. We can arrange transportation for emergencies; you will be responsible for the cost of that

The cost for the Benedict-100 will be the same as 2011, \$1,150.00 which includes all hut fees, dinners, and breakfasts. It does not include lunches. The Benedict-100 needs at least 6 participants to run.

Ron Rash will be the trip leader, a guide with Aspen Alpine Guides. There will be 2 Aspen Alpine Guides' guides along for the entire Benedict-100. To acquire more information about the Benedict-100 and the guides go to www.aspenalpine.com or call (970)925-6618 to reserve your spot.