



The Sitzmarke

SPACE CITY SKI CLUB

www.spacecityskiclub.org



March 2013

Member
Texas Ski Council

Vol. 48, No. 11

GENERAL MEETING: The HESS Club- 5430 Westheimer

Monday, March 11th @ 6:30—9:00 pm

OFFICER NOMINATIONS—VOTING

From Mission Control

by Sandra McCunis, President

The SCSC election of officers for the 2013/2014 season will be held at our Annual Meeting on Monday, March 11th at the HESS Club. Your attendance is important because our bylaws require us to have at least 10% of our membership at the meeting to vote for our officers. We need your support so please participate in this election. Written absentee votes shall be allowed for members unable to attend if received prior to the meeting date. Please see the attached form.

The Texas Ski Council Bid Fest will be held by popular demand once again in San Antonio on the weekend of April 5-7, 2013. We will be staying at the historic Drury Plaza on the beautiful San Antonio River Walk. All members are invited to attend and it will be an opportunity to you to participate in the decision of which TSC trips our club chooses to support for the upcoming season. The Drury



Plaza will offer discounted room rates for reservations made by March 15th. The link to the Delegate and Guests registration is: <http://www.texas-ski.org/insidetsc/Meetings.htm>. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend this fun filled event!

It was announced at the February General Meeting that the Executive Committee had voted to combine the V.P. of Publications and Director of Communications positions and change the title to V.P. of Marketing. We will hold a vote of the general membership at the April meeting to approve this revision in Article 3.2 of the SCSC Bylaws. There was also a request at the meeting that the ExCom and BOD minutes are made available to the general membership. We are working on implementing the procedures to post the minutes from the executive meetings on our website at www.spacecity.org.

We will hold a Ski Swap sale at our April General Meeting. Since we are approaching the end of our ski season, it will be a great time to clean out your closets to make room for new apparel and equipment. Please arrive early to label and price your items.

Countdown to Liftoff

By Ann Rogers, V.P. of Trips

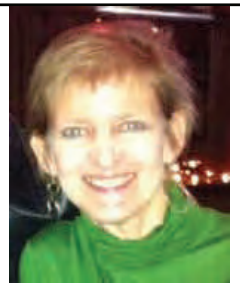
Wow, can you believe that ski season is almost over! I went to Beaver Creek with Helene Robinson as the TC, it was a great trip! Needed to get some ski days in on my new skis! The next trip to hit the slopes is Big Sky. That is a great resort and I know the participants will have a great time.

Have you thought about coming to Bid Fest in San Antonio in April? It is a perfect opportunity for you to voice your vote on where Space City Ski Club would like to ski with the TSC next season. We need your input on what TSC trips you would like to support. If you are not there to voice your opinion on a TSC destination, then you may not be happy with the final vote at the Bid Fest. The voting is by clubs but your input is important.

When you pack away your skis, pull out the beach wear.

In May, 2013, we have a wonderful trip to the islands in the Southern Caribbean planned. We are sailing on the Carnival Valor, a ship with all the amenities you expect. The cruise will stop at several islands with beautiful scenery and pristine beaches. There are opportunities for shopping, fun excursions and just having some pool time. You can choose from an interior, ocean view or balcony cabin. Please contact Craig Campbell for more information.

We are working on another summer club trip that I think you will find appealing. The details will be available soon. If there is a destination you would like to see the club travel to in the winter or the summer, please let me know. I need to hear from you on trips you would like to see the club do. This is your club and we want to make sure your ideas are heard and put into action.



Having A Blast!

By Cindy Moore, V.P. of Activities

Make sure you go on line to view all of the details about the activities below. Four new activities passed our last ex com meeting so check those out at the bottom of this article. It is also very important that you sign in as a member before registering/paying as most of these activities have steep member discounts and if you don't sign in you will be charged the non-member higher price. Also, you must be signed in as a member to register for the Fredericksburg trip! I am looking for activity coordinators for July and August now for a Dynamos game and some boating events at Lake Conroe. Let me know if you are interested in leading one of those activities.

Wanna go on a road trip to the San Antonio Riverwalk? You have a terrific opportunity to help pick our TSC destinations for the next ski season by joining us for TSC BidFest 2013. Go to <http://www.texas-ski.org/insidetsc/Meetings.htm#hotel> for all of the details. The registration price of only \$65.00 and the hotel room price of only \$130.00 a night at the beautiful Drury Plaza Hotel Riverwalk will go up on March 15th.

We had a whopping 75 enjoy the best Super Bowl Party in Houston on 2-3-13. I will report on all of the prize winners in the next Sitzmarke. A big thank you to Activity Coordinator Gayle Dale for all of the hard work she put into this event!

It is now time to register and PAY for SCSC crawfish boil and Cajun party hosted by Tor Lileng on March 30th. The venue is poolside at Ron and Dawn Rodriguez's house in Northwest Houston. There will be tons of crawfish for all you crawfish fans and chicken gumbo as well. We will have a DJ for your musical entertainment playing Cajun music and whatever other music you request. This event includes wine, beer, some snacks for before dinner and dessert. Skate or bike around their subdivision earlier if you'd like. The final refund date is 2/11/13. Contact AC Tor Lileng to sign up at TLileng@aol.com.

The *Jersey Boys* outing to the Hobby Center on March 24th is full. Contact Leslie Ward at shmrck1317@aol.com to get on the wait list.

It is also time to commit and pay for the SCSC dance class at The Dance Place with 3 weeks of beginning east coast swing, followed by a 5 week intermediate class, with Michael Stephens starting April 3rd. These will be Wednesday evenings from 8:00 to 9:30 p.m. This will start filling up fast, so don't miss your opportunity to



learn this fun dance with your SCSC buddies! Register on the web site now. Contact me at

TSCVPOFFS@GMAIL.COM for more information.

Is it exercise? Is it a pub crawl? Is it a party? You bet! It's all three! Jo Barry's April 20th SCSC Pedal Party already is half full. We can only take a total of 16 people, so pay now to secure your spot. You will get to visit several bars in the mid-town area and you will enjoy your choice of plastic bottled and canned beverages as you pedal away to the next destination. Afterwards you can meet for an optional dinner before heading home. Your AC is Jo Barry, jolb@sbcglobal.net.

The SCSC Spring Mai Tai Dinner and Dance will be on Friday, April 26, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. with an excellent DJ and the popular local band "The Grateful Geezers" at the Pavillion on Gessner. You will have a choice of two 4 ounce pork chops or a spinach stuffed chicken breast dinner. Your price will also include SCSC Mai Tai's to drink while supplies last! They sell ice, bottled water and set ups and it is BYOB! We will have a special game for singles called "My Tie" as an ice breaker for single ladies and gentlemen. Our room has its own private dance floor, or you can venture out to dance on the huge dance floor in front of the band shared by others. Contact AC Diane Stotz, dianestotz@comcast.net or AAC Maria Mendez for more information.

Fresh out of the "gate" the Kentucky Derby Day party on 05-04-13 from 2:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. at Sam Houston Race Park will be a blast! Enjoy live horse racing and also watch the Kentucky Derby from reserved counter seats while munching the included hamburger basket and sipping your favorite adult beverages! Don't forget to make a creative hat for both the SCSC and the Sam Houston Race Park hat contest! Contact AC Sue Salvage, SSalvage@sbcglobal.net, for all of the details!

The also newly approved Saturday evening 05-18-13 Company on Stage Theater Production of *Wildest Dreams*, a Comedy by Alan Ayckbourn, will also be a hoot! This theater is located close to Meyerland and will boast an optional dinner prior to the play. I know of no other theater in Houston with such quality productions at this low, low price. Contact AC Peggy Schillinger for the scoop on this and to sign up at psspring@earthlink.net.

We have to drop rooms in April, so it is time to register on line and secure your spot on our memorable Memorial Day weekend get-away to Fredericksburg, TX May 25th through 27th. This is a weekend full of fun! It includes a crawfish festival, a winery tour, tickets to the World War II Museum, Tickets to the World War II Reenactment, lodging at the beautiful Fredericksburg Inn and Suites for Saturday and Sunday nights, a hot tub

Having A Blast! (cont)

party, an excursion to Luckenbach, TX and their huge birthday/Memorial Day party with live entertainment and an optional World War II Hanger East Coast Swing (Jitterbug) Dance. There are many Monday options available to visit, some which are on the way back to Houston. Contact AC Deb Cini, dcini@victoria.com or AAC Patricia Finch for all of the details.

And here is a new activity for the young and the young at heart! Save 06-23-13 (back up date 06-21-13) for a unique, active experience as we play dodge ball on a trampoline court at Sky High Sports Trampoline Dodge ball! This Family Optional fun will last 2 hours and is close to Beltway 8 and Interstate 10. Contact AC Diane Baker at diane@rossbaker.com or AAC Ross Baker at Ross@rossbaker.com.

On 06-29-13 we head to Minute Maid Park for the Astro's vs. the Los Angeles Angels. This is the deal of the year as we have procured CLUB LEVEL seats and our tickets come loaded with \$15.00 in free spending money for food, drinks or even souvenirs! This will be a baseball experience unlike any other we have done. Contact AC Don Macken for more information at mackendonr@aol.com.

Get the most out of your SCSC membership by taking advantage of many of the fun excursions we offer. What other club gives you all of these local opportunities in Texas, along with all of the quality trips we line up in the US and abroad! SCSC members are never bored!

SCSC Ski Trip Schedule 2012—2013

****Trip Price Cash/Check Discounts (Domestic)**—Subtract \$50 on Full Trip Pkgs & \$35 on Land/Short Trip Pkgs

Destination	Trip Dates	FPD	Trip \$	TC	ATC
Mt. Bachelor, OR Long Trip	Feb 23-Mar2, 2013 (Sat-Sat)		Full \$1,297 Land \$726	Ellen Eastham eeastham@prodigy.net 281-989-9935	
Beaver Creek, CO	Mar 5-10, 2013 (Tues—Sun)	12-Jan-13	Full \$1,169	Helene Robinson helenerobinson@mac.com 954-253-1681	
Big Sky, Montana TSC Final Showdown	Mar 9-16,2013 (Sat-Sat)	9-Dec-12	Land \$963	Candance TenBrink Candance@ctenbrink.com 312-543-1151	Abhi Gami
Caribbean Cruise	May 5-12, 2013 (Sun-Sun)	1-Feb-13	Land (\$668—\$948)	Craig Campbell craigcam48@aol.com 713-882-6544	
Ireland	Sept 6 -14, 2013 (Thurs-Fri)	13-May-13	Full \$1,983 Land \$1,011	Sandy Wellhausen Sandywp.ski@gmail.com 281-996-8653	Sean O'Brien



7 Day Southern Caribbean Cruise from San Juan, Puerto Rico
on the Carnival Valor

4 Star Cruise ship — Exceptional ports of call
St. Thomas, USVI, Barbados, St. Lucia, WI, St Kitts, WI
and St. Maarten, NA.

Sunday May 5—Sunday May 12, 2012 (Final payment Feb 1, 2013)

Our cruise will depart from San Juan, Puerto Rico on Sunday evening, May 5, 2013. This is a Land Only package so you will have the flexibility to arrive a day or two early in San Juan or extend your stay after the cruise. Explore Old San Juan with its Spanish tradition, cobblestone streets and colonial architecture or visit New San Juan which is distinctly elegant with lavish resorts, great restaurants and grand casinos. Visitors can also take an excursion of El Yunque, the only tropical rainforest in the U.S. national forest system.

Calendar of Events

Register on line at www.spacecity.org. Make sure you sign in as a member first!

- 03-11-13 **SCSC General Meeting** - The HESS Club, 5430 Westheimer Rd, Houston, TX 77036, 6:30 to 8:30.
- 03-24-13 SCSC goes to the Hobby Center for **The Jersey Boys** the 2006 Tony® Award-winning Best Musical. FULL. AC Leslie Ward, shmrck1317@aol.com
- 03-28-13 **SCSC Happy Hour** at Capone's Bar and Oven, 4304 Westheimer At Mid Lane, Houston, TX 77027
- 03-30-13 **Cajun Party and Crawfish Boil** Poolside at Dawn Rodriguez's house in Northwest Houston, A Cajun party complete with Cajun music and dancing. AC .There will be tons of crawfish for all you crawfish fans, and chicken gumbo. We will have a DJ for your musical entertainment playing Cajun music and whatever other music you request. This event includes wine, beer, some snacks for before dinner and dessert. Skate or bike around their subdivision earlier if you'd like. The final refund date is 2/11/13. AC Tor Lileng, TLileng@aol.com
- 03-24-13 SCSC goes to the **Hobby Center** for The **Jersey Boys** the 2006 Tony® Award-winning Best Musical. This is the story of how four blue-collar kids became one of the greatest successes in pop music history. They wrote their own songs, invented their own sounds and sold 175 million records worldwide—all before they were 30! Jersey Boys was the winner of the 2006 Grammy® Award for Best Musical Show Album and most recently the 2009 Olivier Award for Best New Musical. AC Leslie Ward, shmrck1317@aol.com
- 04-03-13 **SCSC East Coast Swing** beginner lessons start at the Dance Place for 3 weeks again taught by Michael Stephens by popular demand!. Wednesdays 8:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. **AC Cindy Moore**, tscvpoffs@gmail.com
- 04-05-13 through 04-07-13- **TSC BidFest** in San Antonio on the River Walk. Help decide our TSC trips for next year and be the first to know the line up!
- 04-08-13 **SCSC General Meeting**, The HESS Club, 5430 Westheimer Rd, Houston, TX 77036, 6:30 to 8:30
- 04-24-13 **SCSC East Coast Swing intermediate lessons**, the Dance Place for 5 weeks, taught by Michael Stephens. Wednesdays 8:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Must have had a prior beginning east coast swing lesson to take intermediate. AC Cindy Moore, tscvpoffs@gmail.com
- 04-20-13 **SCSC experiences its first ever Pedal Party!** (pending ex com approval and date not confirmed.) Don't miss this incredible experience at SCSC's inaugural Pedal Party. Is it exercise? Is it a pub crawl? Is it a party? You bet! It's all three! We can only take a total of 16 people, so register now!. Your AC is Jo Barry, jolb@sbcglobal.net.
- 04-25-13 **SCSC Happy Hour** TBA
- 04-26-13 **SCSC Spring Mai Tai dinner/dance** at the Pavillion on Gessner, 7:00 p.m Dance to the popular local band "The Grateful Geezers" and a DJ! Choice of two 4 ounce pork chops or a spinach stuffed chicken breast dinner with salad,twice baked potato, green bean casserole, a roll, iced tea, desserts and appetizers Your price will also include an SCSC Mai Tai drink. They sell ice, bottled water and set ups and it is BYOB! Bring in your favorite wine, hard liquor or beer. We will have a special game for singles called "My Tie". Single men, please bring a tie and as you enter the party, drop it into the tie container by the entrance. After dinner each single gal will pick a tie, and drape it around her neck. The guy will find the gal with his tie and say "That's My Tie!" The pair is then encouraged to talk/dance for approximately 10 minutes. Our room has its own private dance floor, or you can venture out to dance on the huge dance floor in front of the band shared by others. No refunds after April 18, 2013. AC Diane Stotz, dianestotz@comcast.net AAC Maria Mendez mendez_me@yahoo.com.
- 05-04-13 **Kentucky Derby Party at Sam Houston Race Park**, 2:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.- Enjoy live horse racing and also watch the Kentucky Derby from reserved counter seats while munching the included hamburger basket and sipping your favorite adult beverages! Don't forget to make a creative hat for both the SCSC and the Sam Houston Race Park hat contest! AC Sue Salvage, ssalvage@sbcglobal.net.
- 05-18-13 **Company on Stage Theater Production** of Wildest Dreams – Comedy by Alan Ayckbourn, AC Peggy Schillinger psspring@earthlink.net
- 05-25 to 5-27-13 **Memorial Day Weekend get-away to Fredericksburg, TX!** This is a weekend full of fun! It includes a crawfish festival, a winery tour, tickets to the World War II Museum, Tickets to the World War II Reenactment, lodging at the beautiful Fredericksburg Inn and Suites for Saturday and Sunday nights, a hot tub party, an excursion to Luckenbach, TX and their huge birthday/Memorial Day party with live entertainment and an optional World War II Hanger East Coast Swing (Jitterbug) Dance AC Deb Cini, dcini@victoria.com , AAC Patricia Finch finchp@gtlaw.com
- 06-23-13 (back up date 06-21-13) **Sky High Sports Trampoline Dodgeball**- Family Optional- enjoy our private trampoline court for 2 hours. Contact AC Diane Baker at diane@rossbaker.com. AAC Ross Baker at Ross@rossbaker.com
- 06-29-13 **Astro's vs. the Los Angeles Angels**, We have CLUB LEVEL seats and our tickets come loaded with \$15.00 in spending money for food, any drinks or even souvenirs! AC Don Macken, mackendonr@aol.com.

NOMINATIONS FOR CLUB OFFICERS—2013—2014

Melinda Hughes—President

I have been a member of Space City Ski Club for about 9 years and joined because skiing is my passion. I wanted to ski as many days as possible so my first trip was Vail ump-teen years ago. I was on the waiting list and was notified a week before the trip left that a space opened up. I hopped on the trip and this was the first place that I met one of my now good friends; I noticed a picture of his German Shepard in his neck wallet so instantly we discussed the pros of owning a dog. We have skied together on many trips since that first meeting. My second trip was Big Mountain, now known as Whitefish, where I met the "Big Dogs". This trip was my introduction to bumps and trees as I escaped my comfort zone from cruisers. From this point, my friends in the club were snowballing! Every time I went on a trip, I met more people and made many more friends. My passion for skiing led to becoming involved in the club's leadership. I have been the TC on three trips and ATC on one. After gaining experience with the club, I became a Director of Trips and helped the VP select the next year's slate by participating in the Bidfest. This was a spring board for my work as VP of Trips two years in a row. My focus was on providing a slate that the club wanted; so, I listened to people and put together trips that tried to meet everyone's preferences. My participation in six Bidfests has helped the club with ideas on trip selection as well as destinations. The last trip that I TC'd was the TSC Galapagos in 2012 which has shaped my goal to help change the public's perception of the club from "ski" to "adventure and travel". As a Texas Ski Council delegate, I have represented the club's view on how RFP's should be written to help keep costs down as well as other issues. Needless to say, I believe in this club and am very honored to be nominated as the president for 2013-2014. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration!



Gayle Dale—VP of Activities

I am honored to be nominated for the position of Vice President of Activities for the year 2013/14. I have been a member of the Space City Ski and Adventure Club for about 6 years now and have made so many new friends and participated in so many fun ski trips. Membership is the key to the survival of our organization and I hope to contribute to that growth by attracting new people to a new season of many fun and diverse activities and look forward to working with everyone if elected.



Susan Blome—VP of Trips

Thank you for your nomination of VP of Trips. 2013/2014 is exciting year for me to return as an officer as I began my journey of running trips for SCSC 20 years ago in 93/94 as an ATC, followed by TC, DOT, VP of Trips in 97/98 and Secretary of the Texas Ski Council from 2001-2003. Although I took a break from running trips, I have been on at least one SCSC trip since I joined my first trip in 1992 to take advantage of group ski trips and meet new people. The friendships and memories I have made thru the years as a member of the club are priceless and I feel truly blessed. Work responsibilities prevented me from volunteering from 2003 until Dec 2011 when I retired from Shell Oil after almost 38 years and wondered what I would / could do with my time when I'm not working as a volunteer on two Rodeo committees or the Shell Houston Open. Someone suggested I become a DOT this year and this has been a great learning experience to discover the changes of the last ten years and prepare me for VP of Trips this year. The BIG question I have is: Where are we going in 2013/2014? I don't even have a clue at the moment and I need your help in making these decisions. Space City is a big supporter of the Texas Ski Council trips and our first trip decisions will be made at the annual TSC Bid Fest the first weekend in April in San Antonio. Although SCSC will have dedicated delegates at the meeting, all members are encouraged to come and voice their opinions when we caucus Saturday afternoon before the final TSC trip decisions are made on Sunday morning April 7th. Information on attending the TSC Bid Fest is included in this Sitzmarke. Once the TSC trips are decided, club trips will fill out our calendar of trips. Yet, once we have trip destinations, we cannot run them without the help of dedicated volunteers - Trip Coordinators. Please consider running a trip this next season. I am looking for leaders on TSC and club trips! The TC/ATC Application is included in this Sitzmarke. If you are interested in running a trip, please submit this application ASAP. I look forward to another great slate of trips in 2013/2014, working with great TCs & ATCs and "Counting Down to Lift Off".



NOMINATIONS FOR CLUB OFFICERS—2013—2014

Lynda Meyer—VP of Publications

I've been an enthusiastic club member and hard-working volunteer for the past 3 years...and have even improved my skiing somewhat as well! I've served as Director of Communications for the past year and part of the prior year. When I first got involved as Director of Communications, the club was experiencing several year-over-year declines in membership and had a very outdated website that was difficult to change. I was primarily concerned with the decline in membership and put in place/revamped many communication vehicles and strategies to help turn that around that trend -- including authoring all the email blasts, putting together a membership renewal campaign, and created a new website for the club. I'm pleased to report we've been successful on that front. For the 2013 calendar year, I have proposed a 12 month marketing plan which is in the process of being adopted by the Executive Committee.



My goals for the VP of Marketing office are to keep the membership informed on what's happening, continue to drive the increase in membership, and raise awareness of the club in the Houston metro area (and sometimes beyond!). Since this position is a member of the Board of Directors, I would also bring my experience on 5 other not-for-profit boards and 1 for-profit board to bear.

My professional background is in marketing and technology, and am employed by Hewlett-Packard as the Manager, Business Strategy & Operations, for the Hyperscale Business Unit. I am a native Houstonian and live with 2 dogs and 2 cats in NW Houston

Jan Ferrell—VP of Membership

Why is this the best job on the Executive Committee? Answer to follow after you read this article.

The VP Membership maintains the membership table at the general meetings. By checking in members, signing up new members and welcoming guests, the club has a record of attendance and interest. The VP processes membership applications on-line after retrieving them from our PO Box. These are relatively few due to the success of our new website which allows members to join on-line via PayPal. On-going membership database maintenance is part of the job. This includes re-setting passwords, correcting records as needed (rarely) and revising memberships such as adding/removing family members. Piece of cake.



The Executive Committee (called the ExComm) meets once a month and current membership numbers are provided. Attendance at Happy Hours and various club functions is expected. Promotion of growing our membership is very important. A monthly article in the Sitzmark should be submitted by the VP Publication's deadline. Additional activities can be assigned by the discretion of the President.

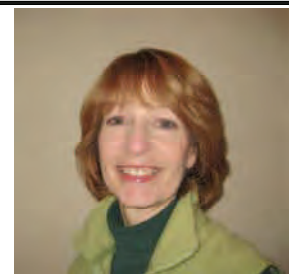
Why is this the best job on the Executive Committee?

Answer: Because you get to interact with nearly all our members at one time or another. You get to put faces to names and names to faces. You get to know members especially when they volunteer to help you at the membership table. And all of that feels really good, As your current VP Membership—I feel really good.

Marti Turner - Treasurer

I appreciate the nominating committee providing me with the opportunity to serve as Treasurer for 2013-14.

I joined the club back in 1986, and have held numerous positions (including activity coordinator, trip coordinator, Treasurer, President, and Board member). While I have not been active running the club in recent years, the trips, activities and fellowship with other club members have always been important to me and I look forward to serving the club again.



My qualifications for Treasurer include my professional background in accounting and finance for ExxonMobil, as well as, my experience in working on various committees for SCSC and other organizations. I plan to work with the other officers and volunteers to ensure SCSC continues to have effective financial processes that support our programs. SCSC has a tradition of outstanding volunteer leadership and I look forward to being part of Executive Committee. I have always believed that you get more out of volunteering than you give!

Steve Slade -- Secretary

I have been nominated for the position of Secretary for my skills with computers to keep records and help with the web site. I have been a member of the Space City for about 18 years and enjoyed meeting so many people on trips, activities and serving on the board for the last several years. I look forward to the continuing opportunity to serve our club and it's members.





2013
Texas Ski Council
Ski Bldfest



San Antonio, TX

Save the Date!

April 5-7, 2013

DRURY PLAZA
105 S. Saint Mary's
San Antonio, TX 78205
1-800-325-0720



NEW THIS YEAR! REGISTER W/CREDIT CARD!

Texas Ski Council Delegates, Texas Ski Club members, Ski Resort Representatives, Vendors and Guests from around the world, come join us for 2013 Ski Bid Fest held by popular demand once again in Historic and fun filled San Antonio, Texas! The Historic Drury Plaza has been restored from the previous Alamo Bank Building. It features stunning architecture, comfortable rooms and suites, a rooftop pool and Drury's famous free extras, there's little missing from this hotel equation. Best of all, their riverside doors offer direct access to the beautiful San Antonio River Walk.

1. Go to www.druryhotels.com
2. Select "San Antonio"
3. Click "If you have a group number, click here to enter it."
4. That will give you the option to enter our group number of 2123830.
5. It will select the correct hotel but will have the dates listed as April 3 thru April 8.
6. Be sure to change it to just the dates you want or you will be reserving a room for 5 nights!



Mark your calendars now and attend this fun filled event.

[Registration Links](#)

Zermatt or Bust Feb. 1 to Feb. 12, 2013

By Arlen Isham, TC

It is very early Friday morning, Feb. 1. Sleepy eyed skiers are arriving about 5:00 am at Bush Airport for the long journey to Zermatt, Switzerland. An estimated 27 hours will be used for the bus to the airport, Delta plane from Houston to Atlanta, pick up skiers, Delta plane to JFK in New York, pick up skiers, Delta plane to Milan, Italy, pick up skiers, 4 hour bus to Tasch, Switzerland, short 20 minutes train from Tasch to Zermatt, and then Taxi for luggage to our hotel.

Our group of 34 includes 13 new members from around the country including people from San Antonio, Austin, Atlanta, Philadelphia, and New Jersey. The internet is an amazing opportunity for skiers to search out ski trips and we picked up skiers, who make international trips each year with other ski clubs.

Carol & Pat Croom, and Arlen Isham (TC) have taken advantage of the stay overnight and park free for two weeks at the Quality Inn at the airport.

Tom Huzzey got caught up in lines at check-in and security and missed the plane to Atlanta even though the plane was still at the gate, when he arrived. Delta rerouted him through Detroit and he caught up at JFK. We receive the news that **Faye & Andy Rovegno** will not be joining us at JFK. Andy had a medical issue and they both had to cancel out. Bummer!

Several of the group have gone on ahead before Friday, **Stan Broniak, Pam Smith, Manny Gillio, Ana Martin, Sarah Granbery, Theresa Toward, & Robert & Carol Viktorin** meet us at the Milan Airport to catch the bus. **Chris Urbanczyk and Tracy Vu** are traveling to Zermatt via train from San Moritz after a couple days stay there. **Stan Broniak & Pam Smith** win the award for the last person to show up for the bus.

We arrive one hour early at 6:20 am.. Customs and luggage collection at the Milan Malpensa Airport was smooth. Our bus is rolling at 8:30 am. Saturday morning The drive is through a hilly and eventually mountainous area. We make a quick pit stop just across the border in Switzerland to enjoy some great coffee and mountain views.

Our bus to train transfer is seamless, and we did not loose any skiers as we arrive about 12:30 pm. at Zermatt **Marc**, owner of Astoria Hotel meets us with two taxis to load up the entire luggage for group of 27 and then leads us on a 10 minute walk to the hotel through the town.

Dominated by Switzerland's most famous landmark, the Matterhorn, Zermatt is considered Switzerland's best all-round resort. All the vehicles are electric and along with the lack of cars, gives Zermatt a great sense of tradition. There are 29 peaks over 13,100 ft. With a base elevation of about 5,500 feet and a top lift elevation of 12,500 feet and three mountain areas, Rothorn, Gornergat, and Klein Matterhorn, there is an amazing 7,000 feet of vertical and runs up to 8 miles for us..

We have all the rooms at the Astoria, with most of them having balconies with amazing views. As we check in, we receive a key attached to a small heavy statue about 3 inches tall. Your TC, **Arlen** promptly lost it for two days as it sat on the sink in the bathroom.

About 20 of the group rent skis with a 25 % discount at Azzura Sports, about 130 paces from the hotel. We can store our equipment in a locked room at our hotel.

Ehud Barak, Harvey Heller, Robert Gottlieb, Chris & Tracy arrive in the afternoon completing our group. **Bob Gottlieb** had been visiting family in Switzerland. **Ehud's** ski bag was lost by United and arrived 2 days later (on Monday morning). He had to rent ski, boots and ski clothes and buy some warmers for the first day.

The Hotel Astoria provided our welcome party and beverages on Saturday evening as many of the group met each other for the first time. **Antonio** was our bartender, Maitre de and server all week. Dinner was buffet salad, Pork steak on champignon sauce, served with fried croque6tes and carrots, and desert. Bedtime at 10:00 pm. was a welcome time.

Sunday, Ski Day one - **Marc**, owner and Boarder extraordinaire offers a mountain tour for our group. About 17 of us take him up on the offer; **Thomas Huzzey, Ash Moza, Sam Engelman, Barry Hardy, Al Dudash, James Espinoza, Ana Martin, Harvey Heller, Manny Gillio, Ehud Barak, Bob Viktorin, Chris Urbanczyk, Ed Gomez, Everett Gerrald, Scott Peterson, Gail Kitowski, & Arlen Isham.** We walk about 10 minutes to the Sunnegga funicular lift, which we later found out we could get to by bus only 40 yards from the hotel. **Marc** thought we would enjoy the walk in our ski boots. YAH, SURE!



This lift is cut through rock in a tunnel all the way to the top.

Even though I told **Marc** that this was a "warm-up" day, he was whipping down the mountain. Our group stays together exploring the Rothorn and Gornergrat mountains until we stop for lunch at Riffelberg. The temperature was about zero degrees F. and the wind was blowing pretty well at the top of Gornergrat, so we had snow blowing around even on a blue sky day. This allowed us to get a great group shot with the Matterhorn in the background.



Some of us had trouble with the electronic lift cards getting the gates to open. Finally the best solution was putting them in our left hand glove or in a pocket on your left hand jacket for those that had those pockets. If you had a phone in the same area, it would also screw things up. These cards also were connected to an internet system so you could access your skiing information for every day, lifts, miles, and vertical feet. Wind closed off the Cervino area today, which proved to be true all week long. No one ever got to go over to Cervino, Italy to ski, but with Zermatt being a huge mountain, it was not a loss.

Lots of socializing before dinner at the dining room bar. No injuries today, but several people did not ski. Dinner was Minestrone soup, chicken breast, served with butter noodles, and broccoli, with a creamy caramel flan.

Monday, Ski Day two - It snowed overnight adding about a foot of snow up on the mountain. We had an opportunity to make first tracks in several areas. It was reported that several people watched the Super bowl from Midnight to 3:00 am. on their computers. The Breakfast buffet was ready at 7:30 am. each day. Early in the week, the group was ready to ski at 8:30. Later, we all decided that 9:00 am. was a more reasonable time. The temperature was better today at about 25 degrees F. and no wind. Sun was out occasionally. We started with about 17 of us again this morning using the bus to the Sunnegga funicular and then up the mountain. Lunch was at Riffelberg for several people. Most of the skiing was on Rothorn and Gornergrat again today. Italy was still closed. Some of the group went over to the Klein Matterhorn area today including **Chris Urbanczyk** who was looking for fresh powder. **Sam Engleman** has a very distinctive ski outfit.

Pat Croom fell and hurt his knee late in the afternoon today. As it turned out, he was done skiing for the week. Ligament damage, but fortunately no ACL or MCL damage. My GPS showed about 34,000 feet of vertical today on 23 runs and a distance of about 50 miles including lift distance. My maximum speed was just over 50 miles per hour.

Some of the group enjoyed the afternoon social at the Sauna with wine and beer. The social at the sauna was a daily activity. Dinner was a salad buffet, lamb loin with gratin potatoes, beans, and mango ice cream desert. The bar was active with a round of drinks on Space City Ski Club.



Tuesday, Ski Day three - The group dispersed in all directions today. Several went to the Klein Matterhorn area hoping to get to the 12,500 foot top on the tram. Wind was blowing about 45 miles per hour at times. The wind finally died down enough to open the "T" bar up toward Cervino, but they were stopping people about half way up which is as close as we got today to Italy. It has been closed all week so far. We got some great close up pictures of the Matterhorn when it cleared. Lot's of flat light today in the afternoon made it difficult to see. High winds at Gornergrat, so we moved back to Rothorn to finish the day. The winds shut down a gondola we normally used, so had to find a different way to get back to Rothorn. It was reported that **Ana Martin** got hit by a skier sometime during the day, but was not injured. It was pretty cool to be able to ski down the mountain within 130 paces of our hotel from Rothorn.

Birthday dinner tonight for **Carol Viktorin**. Not sure if she was still 39! Dinner was vegetable cream soup, Braised beef with mashed potatoes, and vegetables, with chocolate mousse desert. More people showed up for the sauna adult beverages before dinner.

I think **Don Ledford** moved out of his ten foot x ten foot single room to an apartment provided by Marc, Astoria owner. It was a nice gesture. All 3 of the single rooms were small.

Rooms 101 & 102 were assigned to singles **Harvey Heller** and **Theresa Toward**. These wonderful double rooms happened to be located over the busiest and loudest bar of all Zermatt. **Harvey and Theresa** said they did not need any vibrating beds, because the music did it for them.

Wednesday, Ski Day Four - Carol Croom, Ash Moza, and Arlen Isham took an excursion by train to Sion. All of us were amazed by the miles of vineyards' along the train route. It is reported that the Swiss don't export their grapes or wine. They drink it all. **Ash** missed the return 3:20 return train. Something about his watch was wrong. Your TC was late providing beverages at the sauna, but the group dived in.

Ana Martin and **Harvey Heller** both were injured today. Skiing today included lots of flat light & some snow as reported to your TC. **Ana** suffered a broken fibula and **Harvey's** was a cracked fibula. Both of them hauled off the mountain, which turns out to be an expensive process. **Barry Hardy, Manny Gillio, Ana** and **Sammy Engleman** did ski in Cervino. In fact, it was in Cervino that **Ana** injured herself. She made it back to the Swiss side, but fell again and that is when they had to take her off the mountain.

Dinner was salad buffet, Valaisian raclette (a famous fired cheese with potatoes, meats, etc), and a fresh fruit salad. After dinner there was a group playing spades. **Tracy Vu** is apparently known as "Saigon Slick".

So what did the people do that did not ski. **Sarah Granbery** said "I did not ski, but I bought a 4 day peak pass and went up all three mountains to Rothorn, Gornergrat, and the Matterhorn glacier. At the Matterhorn glacier, we were able to enter the Glacier Palace and view the natural crevasses and see the different rooms and ice sculptures." One day **Theresa Toward** and I went and the next time, I went up with **Carol Viktorin, Norma Gerrald, Stan Broniak, and Pam Smith**. On the way down we stopped at Trockener Steg for lunch at the Ice Restaurant where **Pam** and **Stan** ordered a pizza of shrimp, pineapple and banana!

Lori Matthews said "I did not ski, I shopped. I toured the mountain with **Sarah Granbery** and her friend **Theresa Toward**, hit some bars on the mountain and in town with them. I also shopped with **Norma Gerrald**. My favorite thing was shopping but didn't get as much done as I wanted because I got sick. Yuk."

Tracy Vu said "I do not ski so I just tag along for sightseeing most of the time. Before we arrived at Zermatt, I went to Davos with **Chris Urbanczyk** one day and he skied there. We went one day on Bernina Express to Tirano (border of Switzerland & Italy). We missed the Glacier Express to Zermatt from St. Moritz, they canceled that route due to heavy snow the night before. In Zermatt, I went sledding a couple days, took train to Interlaken/Grinderwald (hope I spell that right) and went hiking another day. This is my first trip with ski club and you guys are a lot of fun."

Thursday, Ski Day Five - Several people did not ski today. It was a blue sky day with clouds and a temperature of about zero degrees F. again. The wind was low today. Our group skied all over the three mountains in small groups. **Ash Moza, Thomas Huzzey, Al Dudash, Ehud Barak, and Bob Gottlieb** skied together. **James Espinoza, Ed Gomez, Gail Kitowski, & Scott Petersen** were often together. The Atlanta group, **Ken Johns, Sam Engelman, and Barry Hardy** mixed in and out with **Charles Albright, Robert Viktorin, Chris Urbanczyk, & Everett Gerrald**. **Charles Albright** also skied with his newly wed wife of 6 months **Elizabeth**. I think **Elizabeth** also took a lesson one day. As we were skiing down from Rothorn to finish the day, **Ash Moza** fell and twisted his knee.

Dinner tonight was special with SCSC providing two drinks to help prepare the group for the "Awards Ceremony" Our menu was potato soup, St. Peter's fillet served with curry sauce rice, and spinach with Tiramisu desert. We did our group picture just before dinner and we missed **Al Dudash** (on the phone), **Gail Kitowski, & Scott Peterson**, late from perhaps a bar.

Zermatt Awards were various items such as water bottles, hand warmers, boot carriers, SCSC pins, & ski clips. The awards were designed so everyone on the trip received something even if they did nothing. Some people qualified and were nominated for more than one award, but the TC said no double dipping. After voting, the awards were as follows: Missed Plane (**Tom Huzzey**); Last to the bus (**Pam Smith**); Most frozen bras (**Tracy Vu**); Working on the Trip (**Carol Viktorin**); Best photographer (**Don Ledford**); Best Singer (**Antonio**); First Fall (**Al Dudash**); Yard Sale (**Bob Gottlieb**); First injury (**Pat Croom**); Worst injury (**Ana Martin**); No Falls (**Ken Johns**); Most fashionable (**Lori Matthews**); Most wine (**Sarah Granbery**); While skiing most ventilation (**Chris Urbanczyk**); Most beer stops (**Stan Broniak**); Most expensive purchase (**Elizabeth Albright**); Most polite hurler (**Carol Croom**); Most sleepless (**Theresa Toward**); Best card shark (**Tracy Vu**); Most falls (**James Espinoza**); Lost equipment (**Charles Albright**); Most falls in bathroom (**Ash Moza**); Best person on trip to care for injuries (**Manny Gillio**); Loudest snorer (**Bobby Viktorin**); Most wanted person (**Scott Peterson**); Simultaneous injury to both legs (**Harvey Heller**); Most vertical feet (**Everett Gerrald**); Least vertical feet (**Norma Gerrald**); Best happy hour attendee (**Gail Kitowski**); & most mojitos (**Ed Gomez**).

Theresa Toward says "Italian coffees were devine!"



Friday, ski day Six - I (Arlen) got out late and everyone was gone, so decided to go over to Klein Matterhorn. As a result on this beautiful blue ski day, low wind, but about minus 20 F. at the top of the Klein Matterhorn Tram, I got to ski to the top overlooking into Italy for the first time. I never saw anyone from our group all day, but enjoyed skiing right next to the Matterhorn on several runs. Finished the day by working my way back to Rothorn.

Elizabeth Albright and Don Ledford arranged for a helicopter ride today, which was supposed to give them a great view of the Matterhorn and surrounding mountains. As it turned out, the windows frosted up and the pilot was less O.than helpful to give them a view out of the one good clear window.

Stan Broniak & Pam Smith went paragliding off the top of Rothorn in -10 degrees F weather. It was exhilarating as we flew over the mountains, nearly dive bombing at the skiers below while enjoying the breathtaking views of the Matterhorn! It was a GREAT way to spend turning "50"! After landing over by the train station, we took the train to the Riffelalp stop and hiked the remaining way to "Ristorante al Bosco" at the Riffelalp Resort to order (and most importantly take a picture) of the Matterhorn-shaped pizzas that are made there

Tracy Vu and Chris Urbanczyk head back home on Friday through Switzerland. **Ash Moza** decides to go to Milan by train on Friday and meet the group for the Delta plane on Saturday morning. There was lots of discussion about plane cancelations, because there was an enormous snow blizzard in the northeast USA. United flights were canceled, but the Delta flights were still scheduled.

Our remaining adult beverages were set up on the second floor to be consumed. A nice group gathered to socialize. Our final dinner was a salad buffet, fondue chinoise with potato chips, and Cassata ice cream. In addition, we celebrated Pam Smith's 50th birthday. Signs were all over the hotel. We thanked our staff and prepared for our trip home. Wake up is 2:15 am.

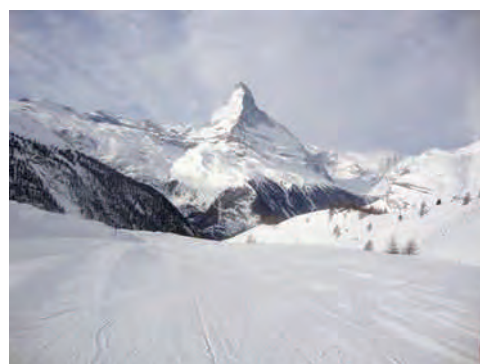
Saturday, travel day - twenty five of us catch the taxis from the hotel to the train at 3:00 am. **Al Dudash** is suddenly missed. We send back a taxi for him and find him walking to the train station. **Ken Johns, Ehud Barak, Harvey Heller, & Bob Gottlieb** are traveling back through Switzerland. **Ehud** is going to Israel to visit family. It was noted by our group that two young men (not our group) were completely stoned on the train and spent 15 minutes trying to roll a joint. All twenty five make the smooth transition to the bus for our 3-1/2 hour drive to Milan's Malpensa Airport. Note to travel planners. There is nothing open for a pit stop in Switzerland and Italy from 4:00 am. to 7:00 am. The bus front door also would not close, so it was freezing. The driver's attempt to use a small piece of twine left a 3 inch gap. I (Arlen) finally got the driver to stop and he used a 20 foot piece of rope from my back pack to close the door.

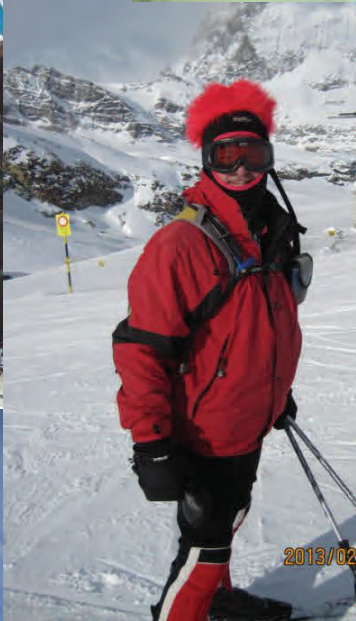
10 of us, **Carol & Pat Croom, James Espinoza, Ed Gomez, Sarah Granbery, Carol Viktorin, Al Dudash, Everett & Norma Gerrald, & Arlen Isham** transfer to a bus for our extension to Genoa, Italy. We later found out the Delta flight was not canceled, but even though the flight arrived at JFK on time, **Charles & Elizabeth Albright, Lori Matthews, & Tom Huzzey** were not allowed to get on the Delta flight from JFK to Atlanta. From **Tom Huzzey** "The problem in New York City was with Delta's luggage delivery. We arrived on schedule. Our luggage was the last to be delivered. My suitcase was literally the last one on the carousel. Even then, I could have made it because I made the luggage check in counter with a little over 60 minutes. The problem then was that the Delta luggage check in people were slow and by the time I got to the counter there was only 50 minutes left. The whole experience with Delta was pretty bad." From **Lori Matthews** "No, they said that there was 30 minutes before door close and they also said that they had a strict rule of having the luggage at baggage claim 60 minutes before boarding. Mine, **Tom's, Elizabeth and Charles**, our luggage was very late coming down the bin, and then we had to wait through the long lines to go through customs. I think that Charles said our flight arrived on time. We waited for over 30 minutes for our luggage and then another 30 minutes before we got through all the customs stuff. When they gave us the bus vouchers to go to LaGuardia, the bus left as we were coming out of the airport, so we had to scramble to try to find a cab and then he had to go pick someone else up, blah blah blah, so that put us at about 5 minutes to spare to get all checked in LaGuardia. Once we go on the plane in LaGuardia, we had a small window to make our connection in Atlanta. The jet way was frozen to the plane, which caused a 30 minute delay. They were able to make up some time, but landing in Terminal A and then having to leave from Terminal B, that make is a serious time crunch too.

The Genoa, Italy extension went well. We arrived about 11:30 am. to our hotel Modern Verdi, which allowed time for a nice walking exploration of the old city in the afternoon. On Sunday, **Carol Croom, Al Dudash, James Espinoza, Ed Gomez, Everett & Norma Gerrald, & Arlen Isham** took the train east to explore a beautiful area called "Cinco Terra". We were doing great on the trains until our return. At one point, everyone was dozing and someone pounded on the train window. The train was not going further. We had to get off and get on a different train. **Pat Croom** took a taxi to the museums. A very rare snow blizzard on Monday plus everything being closed minimized activities. We enjoyed a final dinner together at a Pizza restaurant that we found on Saturday.

Our return on Tuesday to Milan and then back to Houston was uneventful compared to the Saturday group. Most of us managed to end the trip with just a few Swiss Francs and Euros.

This was a great group of people on the Zermatt trip. As Trip Coordinator, I appreciated how they interacted and made the trip enjoyable for everyone including helping with the injured as they traveled home.





SPECIAL NOTICE—MEMBER NEWS

It is with great sorrow that I advise you that Nicholas Irwin (16) son of our long-time member, Maureen Irwin, passed away due to a tragic accident on February 11, 2013. He is missed not only by his immediate family but his Mayde Creek ROTC school family as well. A military Honor Guard ceremony honoring him was performed at his funeral at St. Elizabeth Anne Seton Catholic Church. I knew Nick personally and he was funny, goofy as only a 16 yr. old can be and as many who knew him—a gentle giant. Please keep Maureen in your thoughts and prayers.
Jan Ferrell

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VP of Trips

VP of Mbrship

VP of Pub

Treasurer

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Dir of Trips

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P.O. Box 22567
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Voting Ballot for Space City Ski Club Officers 2013-2014

Send completed ballot to Space City Ski Club P. O. Box 22567 Houston, TX 77227-2567 or
Email scanned copy to Sandra McCunis - President semccunis@aol.com

Name of Member:	Check for Yes
All Nominated Slate of Officers	<input type="checkbox"/>
President – Melinda Hughes	<input type="checkbox"/>
VP of Activities – Gayle Dale	<input type="checkbox"/>
VP of Trips – Susan Blome	<input type="checkbox"/>
VP of Publications – Lynda Meyer	<input type="checkbox"/>
VP of Membership – Jan Ferrell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Treasurer – Marti Turner	<input type="checkbox"/>
Secretary – Steve Slade	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write In Candidate Name & Position	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write In Candidate Name & Position	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signature: _____



Trip Coordinator (TC)/Assistant Trip Coordinator (ATC) 2013-2014 Application

Do you love to ski or snowboard? Do you enjoy working with people and making new friends? Are you good at planning and organizing? If your answer is YES to these questions, SCSC needs YOU to join the great team of Trip Coordinators and Assistants running fun ski trips to exciting destinations.

Please complete this form and return to 2013-2014 V.P. of Trips, Susan Blome, 5814 Weeping Willow, Houston, TX 77092 or email to sdblome1@gmail.com

Name:	Telephone-Home:
Address:	Telephone-Work:
	Telephone-Cell:
Preferred contact type: (circle all that apply) Telephone: Home Work Cell e-mail	E-Mail Address:
Occupation:	Year you joined SCSC (Approx):

Position you are applying for: _____TC _____ATC _____Either

(Note: In order to serve as an ATC, you must have taken at least one ski trip with SCSC. In order to server as a TC, you must have served as an ATC on at least one SCSC ski trip or an AC for a large activity or experience running trips with other organizations.)

What type of SCSC ski trip do you prefer to run?

_____TSC (Texas Ski Council) _____Club (SCSC) _____Either

What length of SCSC ski trip do you prefer to run?

_____Long (week long) _____Short (4 or 5 day) _____Either

Where would you like to run a trip (Destination/s)?

Availability: Dates that you are *Unavailable* to run a trip (If any):

Preferred dates (If any):

Are you available for monthly SCSC meetings usually the 2nd Monday of the month? (August-May)

Yes ____ No ____

Are you available for monthly SCSC happy hours usually the 3rd Thursday of the month?

Yes ____ No ____

Are you available to attend 2 to 3 training sessions?

Yes ____ No ____

(Training sessions likely will be May, June or July 2011)

On what side of town do you live/work? _____

**Prior SCSC Volunteer Experience: TC/ATC/AC-Activity Coordinator /AAC-Assist. Activity Coordinator/Officer
(Start with most recent)**

Year	Trip/Activity/Office	Year	Trip/Activity /Office

SCSC-Ski Trips Taken

Non-SCSC Ski Trips Taken

Year	Trip	Year	Trip	Year	Trip	Year	Trip

Other Volunteer Experience: (Start with most recent)

Year	Organization/Office	Year	Organization/Office

Computer experience:

_____Microsoft Word _____Microsoft Excel _____Other

Do you have access to a computer at home or work? _____Yes _____No
 Do you have access to a fax machine at home or work? _____Yes _____No
 Can you make & receive SCSC related phone calls at work? _____Yes _____No
 Can you send & receive SCSC related e-mail at work? _____Yes _____No

What other experience/skills can you bring to the position of TC/ATC?

Why are you interested in running a SCSC ski trip?