

NEWSLETTER

# sitzmarke

May 2020 Volume 55 Issue 12



From Mission Control	2
Countdown to Liftoff	2
Having a Blast	3
Upcoming Event Calendar	3
Our Story of the Coronavirus	3
Smiling Faces	5
Paris, Chamonix and Sicily Report	6
Beaver Creek Report	8
Crested Butte Report	11
Deer Valley Report	15
Telluride Report	17
Non-Ski Trip 2020	18
Leadership Team	20

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## FROM MISSION CONTROL

BY BEVERLY ROBERTS, PRESIDENT

Hi Ya'll!

You're used to seeing my picture in the Sitz, but now I'm in a different place. I have left the trip planning in the very experienced and capable hands of Marsha Lutz and am stepping in the very-hard-to-fill shoes of Jan Ferrell. I'll be looking to Jan for advice and guidance as I transition into the role of President, and Jan transitions into the role of Chairman of the Board. I'm sure I speak for all the officers, both returning and new, in thanking everyone for their support and confidence.



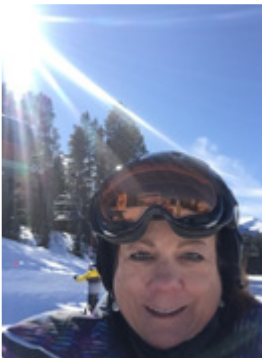
In our personal lives, and with the club, we are all trying to adjust to the new Covid-centric world we'll be living in for a while. No surprise to anyone – there have been big changes to the fall travel schedule. Marsha can fill you in on the changes, as well as the plans for a virtual Bidfest. And we are pushing our collective technology skills to the limits as we try new ways to stay connected. I joined our first club Zoom happy hour on April 9. We had a fair number of people join, and all of us on the first meeting were highly impressed with Joan Waddill's Zoom skills – our backgrounds showed our kitchens or offices, but Joan was in Steamboat! There were a few challenges, but even with issues, it sure was great to see some smiling SCSC faces!! I've missed our dinners and activities and happy hours. We are actively looking for on-line options to bring club members together. If you have been part of an on-line activity that you have enjoyed, we would love to hear from you and see if we can adapt it to club use. Until we can get together, we are going to have to look for innovative ways to stay connected.

Stay safe, stay healthy and stay optimistic. This too will pass. Looking forward to seeing everyone again.  
Beverly.

## COUNTDOWN TO LIFTOFF

BY MARSHA LUTZ, VICE PRESIDENT OF TRIPS

Hi all



This is my first article as your new VP of Trips – at least since the last time I had this role in 2008-2009. My how things have changed in trip planning since then! In most ways it is easier with all the technology improvements, but then some unknown virus comes along and throws a wrench in things. I hope everyone is safe and has gotten used to the new rhythm of our lives. This article is a lot longer than

most will be because there is news for 2020, 2021 and 2022 trips now that we are planning further out. As you probably expected, most of the trips scheduled for the rest of 2020 and the International 2021 Winter Expedition trip have been impacted – some more so than others.

Here are the updates we have:

- The Russia trip was cancelled. We had a choice to either reschedule or cancel. Under other circumstances we would have considered a reschedule, but we had made final payment to the tour operator. They would have kept all the money until the reschedule date. There was no guarantee of pricing. There was no guarantee that a reschedule date would be agreeable to all travelers. There were just too many unknowns, so even though the trip participants had a \$300 penalty, cancellation was the unanimous decision.
- The Greek Isles trip has officially been delayed to 2021. Information on potential reschedule dates will be distributed when received.
- For now, the Zion and Grand Canyon trip is still on. We will provide updates as they become available.
- The TSC Fall Expedition to New Zealand and 2021 Winter Expedition to Sellaronda Italy are cancelled – also victims of COVID-19. They could not just be postponed until the next season because bids have already been accepted for those future TSC expedition trips.

By the time you read this you will have seen the 2021 ski trip survey I sent out. Thank you for your responses. It is hard to know what the situation will be for domestic travel next winter, but other clubs and councils are making plans so we need to do so as well if we want ski opportunities. I am working with the vendors to include COVID-19 cancellation terms to better define the situations not covered in past years and to better protect our members' investments. Potential club trips include Vail, Breckenridge, Big Sky, Jackson Hole and Snowbird. At this time I am getting and reviewing bid proposals. The 2021 TSC trips have been set since April 2019 but as a reminder these TSC trips are Traditional- Snowmass, Winer Shootout – Purgatory and Final Showdown – Lake Louise. It is not necessarily nor likely the case that we will run all these TSC and club trips and that is why the survey was important so as to guide our decisions.

Speaking of bids, the TSC BidFest has been rescheduled as a video teleconference, taking place most likely in early to mid-September. It was felt that there would still be too much uncertainty if it was held earlier in the summer. Selections will be made for the 2021 Summer/Fall Expedition trip, and the 2022 TSC ski trips. The technology that will be used to conduct the meeting, presentation schedules and other details is to be determined. The trips and the locations to be voted on are listed below. Please note that none of the potential 2021 SCSC trips are on the preselect list for 2022 TSC trips. The idea is that with less overlap or back to back coverage between club and TSC trips there is likelihood for higher participation numbers for both club and TSC trips.

I hope everyone stays healthy and safe. I look forward to seeing you soon - whether via Zoom or in person.  
Marsha

Summer/Fall Expedition 2021	
Trip Description	Tour Operator
Black Sea - Eastern Europe River Cruise	Grand Circle
Greece, with an Optional cruise	Globus
Lyon + Provence, Viking River Cruise	Winter Ski & Sports
Poland	Mayflower
Russia	Collette

<u>Traditional 2022</u>	
Trip Description	Tour Operator
Lake Tahoe	Winter Ski & Sports
Park City	Winter Ski & Sports
Beaver Creek	Sports America
Park City	Sports America

<u>Winter Expedition 2022</u>	
Trip Description	Tour Operator
Antarctica	Globus
Solden, Austria	Holidaze
Solden, Austria	Winter Ski & Sports
Zell-am-See	Holidaze

<u>Winter Shootout 2022</u>	
Trip Description	Tour Operator
Telluride	Sports America
Beaver Creek	Sports America
Heavenly	Winter Ski & Sports

<u>Final Showdown 2022</u>	
Trip Description	Tour Operator
Tahoe	Ski Group
Mammoth	Sports America
Steamboat	Sports America
Taos	Resort Bid

will have to see if the Stay at Home order has been lifted by then and the restaurants are again open.

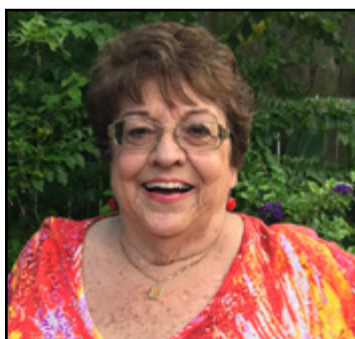
Bil Cusack set up a virtual Happy Hour for us thru Zoom on April 9th and there were about 20 members who joined us. It was fun and at least you got to see a few of your friends. Ali & Fred Pethick joined us from Vermont where they are still at Sugarbush Ski Area. Kate & Bernie Clinton joined us from their lake house up near San Marcos/Austin area. Otherwise, the rest of us were here in town glad to see some other friendly faces. We going to have another Virtual Happy Hour on April 16th and I will send out on the eblast the instructions and Zoom links. You must install Zoom on your phone or computer to participate, it is free. Depending on how many members link in, we will have the Happy Hour either once a week or every other week. Also it has been suggested for line dance lesson and Zumba lessons or sessions. I am going to send out a survey to see how many are interested.

Everyone please stay home and stay safe and we will get back to our fun activities once Houston opens back up.

## HAVING A BLAST

BY LYNN BURCH, VICE PRESIDENT OF ACTIVITIES

A very crazy month, who would have thought that the whole city and country would come to a standstill and everyone would have to stay home. I have been able to cancel or to later reschedule all the events I had planned for March, April and the first part of May. At this point, I have left open the dinner at George's Pasteria for May 23 and Happy Hour at Ouzo Bay for May 28 but we



## EXTRAVEHICULAR ACTIVITIES UPCOMING MAY EVENT CALENDAR

Since all events were cancelled or postponed in March & April there are no activities planned for the first part of May. I still have the 2 events below scheduled but they may or may not happen. Watch the website for updates.

May 23

Dinner at George's Pasteria

May 28

Happy Hour at Ouzo Bay

## Our Story of the Coronavirus Illness

Quick summary to begin and then if it is of interest you can read the whole write up. I will describe the hospital stay as well as doctor visits. 14 days of fever. 4 calls to the nurse triage line at our Primary Care Physicians office. 2 doctor visits and finally on day 15 a rushed trip to the ER plus 5 days in the hospital.

Timeline detail for my husband's illness.

March 7-14 on a TSC ski trip in Sun Valley. Flight home from Sun Valley, Idaho, March 14.

The Sun Valley Ski Resort shut down March 15 due to outbreak of the virus in town from skiers that were on site the previous week of March 1-7. Sun Valley Resort did not alert us about any skiers getting sick while we were in town, nor after we arrived home. (The resort might have known of their previous guests getting ill with the Covid 19 virus

upon arriving back to their home towns.) It would have been helpful to know of this outbreak before leaving the resort to allow us to protect others on our flight home and on the parking shuttle bus back here in Houston.

March 15, hubby started feeling bad that evening, very tired.

March 16, hubby and I both woke up with a fever Monday morning with a spike of 101.3.

March 17- 29, Hubby-Continued fever, up and down daily, spike of 101.6.

March 18- Initiated a call to the doctor's office about hubby's fever. Directed to the nurse triage line. We logged in our travel history,

symptoms, and fever chart with spikes. Per the current CDC guide lines we were asked if we could name a person that we had direct contact with who tested positive with the Covid 19 virus. We were unable to name a specific person so that was the end of the survey. No Covid 19.

March 19- Called the nurse triage line a 2<sup>nd</sup> time and logged in symptoms. Again, we could not name a specific person with Covid 19 that we had contact. End of survey, no Covid 19.

March 20- Called the nurse triage line a 3<sup>rd</sup> time. Same scenario, end of survey. Within 5 minutes the nurse called back and said it sounds like hubby has a secondary infection from the common flu and might need an antibiotic. Appointment scheduled in the doctor's office.

March 20- Doctor visit at this time was a bit strange, the waiting room was empty while the office was fully staffed with familiar personnel. Diagnosis was dehydration, cough, fever. Flu test was negative for flu A and B. Assuming a secondary infection such as bronchitis or some sort of respiratory infection. Took a chest X-Ray that showed clear. Prescribed Z Pak, cough medicine with codeine and prednisone. At this time the doctors seemed to be constrained by the CDC from saying yes, sounds like you have Corona Virus unless you can name a person you had contact. The doctor specifically stated, I don't think you have Covid 19. Of course we were relieved.

March 22- Got permission for a Covid 19 drive thru test at Butler Stadium. They were offering tests for those over 65 with symptoms. We ended up not going because hubby was too sick to get in the car and wait in a line for the test. On that day, we were told the staff would hand us a test and hubby would stick the cotton swab into his nasal passage all by himself. Let me tell you, that would be very hard.

March 23- 4<sup>th</sup> call to the nurse triage line with the same symptoms. They decided to schedule a telehealth doctor appointment for Thursday, March 26. On March 25 the doctor's office called to schedule hubby for the Covid 19 test. Scheduled in one hour. I drag hubby out of bed, we rush across town to the clinics private testing site. (I think this site was for their own employees and patients). It was a drive thru without a line. Test results will come back in 5-7 days. The drive out and back was almost too much for hubby. It really wiped him out. I can't imagine being this sick and needing to wait for an hour or two in a line at public testing site.

March 26- telehealth appointment. At this point the doctor (different than the first doctor) is convinced hubby has the corona virus, even without test results. She tells us to continue on as before and to make sure the patient eats 3-4 meals a day., food is his medicine. At this point he has lost at least 20 lbs. Further instructions: sit up as much as possible and if his oxygen level drops below 90% oxygen saturation, then I need to take him directly to ER. We happened to own a finger oxygen monitor, which is a great thing to have.

March 27- hubby feeling better, fever is down a bit and he was able to eat a couple meals. Sitting up for several hours.

March 28 – hubby is worse. Stays in bed all day.

ER VISIT. March 29- oxygen level drops to 88%. Alerted the nurse triage line that we were heading to the ER. That was relayed on to the hospital, and when we arrived at ER they already knew he was coming and his name. The hospital staff took a wheelchair out to the car for hubby because at this point he could not have walked in. I said goodbye from the ER door as visitors are not allowed in. (Let me tell you that is an odd feeling, to just drop off your husband and not know when you will see him again). He stayed in the ER for 5 hours and I was able to speak on the phone with him. In ER he received oxygen thru

nasal cannulas, IV fluids thru an IV in each arm, antibiotics and hydroxychloroquin. I believe that drug was approved for use just the day before. His chest X-ray showed something, but the nurse never could say what it was. We later learned that he did have a type of pneumonia that the virus causes. Not the same type of pneumonia that we are familiar.

That evening he was admitted to a private room in the COVID wing of the hospital. I was able to talk with him on the phone. He was left completely alone except for staff checking vitals and medicine delivery and a doctor visit. The door to the private room was kept locked at all times. He could not walk out to the hallway. It was hard for him to walk anywhere because of all the tubes and wires attached to his body. An IV in each arm, oxygen cannulas in his nose and an oxygen sensor on his finger.

The first day they delivered his food on a tray as normal. Next meal was delivered in a paper bag. Then a food tray was delivered into a wall cabinet that had access from the hallway. They would let him know his food was in the cabinet and he would get out of bed to retrieve it. Then return it to the cabinet. The hospital was were working thru procedures as hubby was one of the early patients to arrive.

An interesting side note - On the 4<sup>th</sup> day in his isolated room, hubby is well enough to hold a lengthy conversation on the phone. He tells me he is still wearing his personal pajamas that he wore upon arrival. Same socks, underwear, tea shirt and flannel PJ pants. I called the charge nurse to ask if I could bring him a change of clothes but she said he doesn't need those because we have all the patients in hospital gowns, and I could bring him a change of clothes when he is discharged. I told her he is still wearing the same pajamas that he arrived in. I also asked if he could get a shower or sponge bath or body wipes and she said, oh we give them a shower every day. I informed her he had not had a shower and there was not even a towel or wash cloth in the room. Shortly after they dropped off pack of body wipes and a hospital gown. Day 5: His oxygen level stayed above 90%. He showered, put his dirty personal clothes back on and they discharged him.

I met him outside the ER door with his discharge papers. I was not able to see what drugs he had been given or if he had any pneumonia or not.

Home on Thursday, April 2- changed his clothes and went to bed. Friday April 3, feeling much better and continuing to improve. Oxygen level is still rather low, he takes a nap and rests most of the day.

April 8, 2020 he went for a short walk outside. Probably a month of recovery needed to get his strength back from this virus.

Hubby and I both tested positive for the Corona Virus. We received results March 31 from the test we took March 25.

Here are two articles about the ski group that visited Sun Valley March 1-7, the week before we did. They had quite a bit of sickness upon arriving home and 2 deaths roommates.

<https://fasterskier.com/fsarticle/sun-valley-hot-spot/>

<https://www.newyorker.com/search/q/why-an-idaho-ski-destination-has-one-of-the-highest-covid-19-rates-in-the-nation>

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/a-festival-for-black-skiers-in-idaho-became-a-coronavirus-nightmare-11585992600>



## VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR APRIL 9, 2020



## VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR APRIL 16, 2020



# PARIS, CHAMONIX AND SICILY 2020 TRIP REPORT

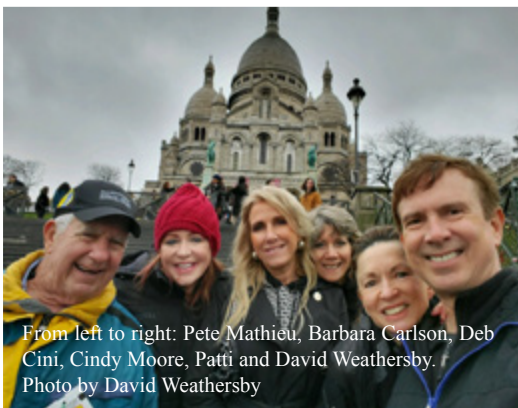
by Joan McAuliffe

## PARIS (by Cindy Moore)

Twenty Space City members opted for the 2-day pre-trip to Paris. Small groups went all over Paris drinking in the sites and hundreds of options for fun and touring. One couldn't miss the Eiffel Tower, since we were staying walking distance from it! After check in, Cindy Moore was in a group with Cecilia Newburn, David and Patti Weathersby, Barbara Carlson, Deb Cini trying to figure out the subway-type train system. The price was right, but we were totally confused as to how and where to transfer to the other train to get us to the Montmartre area. The locals were friendly, but many didn't understand English. Some tried to help us, but we felt like we were going around in circles. We finally arrived and toured the Sacre'-Cœur De Montmartre Cathedral and the area. The next "game" for some was to find a bank to exchange money. Pete had missed our group, so we were meeting him there, and he was getting there on his own. He beat us all there! Cindy vowed to return with him in the subway since he had lots of experience in traveling in Paris before. She was in the bowels of the subway for the return when Pete revealed that he beat us because he took a taxi, not because of extensive knowledge of the subway, and we got more lost trying to get back to the hotel then we did getting there!

The second day in Paris had many touring the famous museums. Barbara, Deb, Cecilia and Cindy had signed up for a tour of the famous Louvre Museum and were not disappointed.

In the world's largest art museum, who did they run into by David and Patti! They met up with Pete for lunch nearby.



From left to right: Pete Mathieu, Barbara Carlson, Deb Cini, Cindy Moore, Patti and David Weathersby.  
Photo by David Weathersby

The last night in Paris people broke up in very small groups doing various night adventures. All we heard from the moment of arrival was David Weathersby trying to get a group together to go to the famous Moulin Rouge for a show. When we all figured out we had to be up at the crack of dawn to catch the train to get to Chamonix, those who had been contemplating it backed out. The 11:00 p.m. show was much cheaper, so David and Patti persevered and went to the late show! David said he didn't regret it as it was the highlight of the entire trip for him!



David and Patti Weathersby at the Moulin Rouge.  
photo by David Weathersby

Cindy and Barbara did the night time Paris river tour which was exceptional! As we floated by the famous charred Notre-Dame Cathedral, you could not only see the charred areas which were in the process of restoration, but you could still smell the burnt odor. It started very close to the Eiffel Tower, which was its own light show on the hour.

After that Barbara helped Cindy shop for the groceries for the high speed train club lunch party for the next day. When they finally found a grocery store, they had to move with lightning speed as it was going to close soon. They searched for wine and fruit in the dark, but managed to get the job done!

## THE TRAIN RIDE ADVENTURE

So, catching a train in France is easy with a group of 20, right? Well, we learned you should get on the platform as soon as humanly possible as the loading process takes a bit of finesse. Our group had LOTS of luggage. Getting the luggage all on in the short time you have to board was a bit of a process. If it wasn't for Chuck Pena coming to the rescue (he had done this before with a group on a prior SCSC European trip) we would probably still be standing on that platform! He took charge from the inside and got some of the luggage all the way to the other end of our car, so that we could get it all on and barely got everyone on board before the train started rolling away! Whew! And now, time to relax, enjoy the scenery and for some, play Rummy Cub.

As lunchtime neared, the wine started flowing and the party was ON! Cindy bought all pre-trippers a commemorative Paris cup for their sipping vessel. We broke out the lunch and everyone made wonderful sandwiches from an assortment of meats and cheeses and got an apple and a cookie. We went through 17 bottles of fabulous French red wine on that trip, and we were in rare form, when we arrived in Geneva.

When we arrived Geneva station, we finally found our bus driver and headed to Chamonix!

## CHAMONIX

We arrived in Chamonix to find less than ideal conditions for skiing. It was raining! We hooked up with our main trip participants and Cindy thanks Evan Howell, for tipping the main trip bus driver for her! As host of the first Winter Olympics in 1924, Chamonix will always have a place in the history books. Situated north of Mont Blanc, Chamonix is one of the oldest ski resorts in France



Photo by Joan McAuliffe



and is located less than 10 miles from the Swiss and Italian borders. It will also have a place in the hearts of 30 Space City Ski Club adventurers who traveled to the 2020 TSC Winter Expedition.



Our home for the week, the La Folie Douce Hotel (The Sweet Madness), gave us our room keys on our wrist in a sort of bracelet, so you almost couldn't lose your key! What a novel idea! Why don't all hotels do this? This incredible hotel lived up to its reputation and was full of energy in the evenings with amazing entertainment including aerial shows. The downstairs bar had live bands nightly and the upstairs bar was hopping good fun with a great D.J. The breakfast buffet and coffee machines spoiled us rotten. The included dinners were filling and fabulous. The "brown gravy" that was characteristic of most of their dishes was the brunt of many jokes throughout the week.

Laura and new member Alison Miller skied on Sunday from the hotel in Chamonix. The slopes were slushy but still better than any possible ski conditions in Houston! They finally called it quits though when they were completely soaked through with rain and visibility...



Alison Miller & Laura Nowicki  
Photo by Alison Miller

The rain lasted through Monday, but some braved the slopes on Monday, as the rain wasn't as hard. Kevin Juhl and John Kimbrough joined us from Oregon and skied the French Alps everyday! Other avid skiers were Argentinian Daniel Cioffi, who met up with his friends Carlos Gonzalez and Christiane "Chili" Hile to ski on this trip, and Craig Campbell. Chuck Pena snowboarded with friends in the TSC most of the trip.

On Tuesday, with fresh snow, most were able to hit the slopes. Others took advantage of the spa, shopping, and sightseeing in Chamonix.



Pete Mathieu and Deb Cini  
Photo by Joan McAuliffe



Sandy Oballe and Judy Clifton Fox

## AOSTA

Aosta is the capital of Italian region of Valle d'Aosta. The

town is in a small valley with houses going up the slopes of the surrounding mountains. Several SCSC adventurers went on this excursion to discover and tour ancient ruins and shopping.

## WINE TASTING EXCURSION

A fun group of 30 TSC members went on a fabulous wine tasting tour in Switzerland mid-week. We went to 2 excellent wineries and were able to meet and bond with members from other TSC clubs. At the first one, we were honored to be taken down to the cellar and tasted wine straight from a barrel. They had yummy snacks to eat between tastings. At the 2<sup>nd</sup> winery we enjoyed a fantastic view of Lake Geneva and had the best weather of the week with sunshine all day! We also had a traditional cheese fondue lunch.



Group photo on Wine Tour  
Photo by Cindy Moore



Photo by Cindy Moore

## CHILLON CASTLE, GRUYERE AND MONTREUX

On Thursday, after a beautiful ride through the Swiss countryside, we arrived at Chillon Castle on the shores of Lake Geneva. The rocky island on which the castle is built, was both a natural protection and a strategic location to control the passage between northern and southern Europe.



Photo by Joan McAuliffe



Photo by Cindy Moore

After a tour of the castle we moved on to the town of Gruyere to enjoy free samples while learning about its origin and production process *at the Gruyere Cheese Factory*.



Photo by Joan McAuliffe



Photo by Joan McAuliffe

Next stop, Montreux, Switzerland. It's no surprise that Charlie Chaplin chose to spend his last 25 years there, or that Igor Stravinski composed "The Rite of Spring" in Montreux. Set against the stunning backdrop of the shores of Lake Geneva, Montreux is a feast for the eyes. After finding a place for lunch, many members walked along the flowered lakeside promenade while Jim and Laura Nowicki hit the casino.



Photo by Joan McAuliffe



Photo by Joan McAuliffe

## ANNENCY

The last tour was to the beautiful medieval town of Annecy on Friday. The pure, clear water flows from the lake into the canals running through the old town. It is easy to see how it got the name "Venice of the Alps", The Palais de l'île, a tiny castle on an island, provided the most picturesque view in old town. A tour of the city took us to the Chateau d'Annecy, the Baroque Cathedral of Saint-Pierre and Lake Annecy. The cathedral had water running under it. Deb Cini spent the whole

time shopping in the quaint stores. Everyone broke up into smaller groups to have lunch, then smaller groups to sight see. Cindy and Cheryl and John Woltemate toured the The Palais



Photo by Deb Cini: Deb Cini, John Woltemate, Cecilia Newburn, Cheryl Woltemate and Cindy Moore

Saturday morning saw our group up very early to catch a bus to Geneva for flights home. Pete Mathieu, Sandy Oballe, Judy Clifton Fox, Chuck Pena, Tom and Mary Huzzey and Ana Alvarez, got to sleep in a little later to catch the bus to go to Geneva to fly to Palermo for the Sicily post-trip. Cindy Moore received rave reviews about the post trip, but we didn't get enough information to be able to expound on it in this article. Many said that it was the best part of the trip and we should have done it!

The best news is that all returned safe and sound in time to avoid the Corona-virus that was starting up in Europe, and we didn't have ANY injuries!!!!

From Joan: A big thank you to Cindy Moore for coordinating this wonderful trip.

From Cindy: A big thank you from Cindy to the following people who really helped her on this trip without an assistant TC: Barbara Carlson, Evan Howell, Chuck Pena, Karen Gertz, Dale and Alice Allbritton and last, but not least, new member Joan McAuliffe for gathering photos and writing most of this article! I couldn't have done this without all of you!

## BEAVER CREEK 2020 TRIP REPORT

by Ann Dorn, Trip Coordinator

Thirty-seven Space City Ski Club members, two Austin Skiers (Michelle and John Marshall - friends of Diane & Ross Baker) and one shadow (Pat Piech) signed up for our club trip of January, 2020 to Beaver Creek, Colorado.

By now everybody knows that Ann Dorn and Gin Knebel start their trip with **Let's Get to Know our Fellow Skiers Gathering**. We had our Warm Up Party (Pre Trip Party) at Gin Knebel's House in Quail Valley, Missouri City on December 1, 2019. About 25 of us got together and enjoyed homemade food, wine and camaraderie. It was nice to meet our new members, Joyce Ferguson, who lives in Clear Lake and is a good friend of Marilyn Swanson, and Larry and Kary Burnham. Larry and Kary were previously members of the Beaumont ski club and drove from Beaumont to join us. It was also very nice to have Ron Rambin, who came to mingle with us, even though had to cancel his trip because of Roberta's surgery in January.

Beverly and Charles Roberts, Melinda and Denis Hughes, Barry Casper, David Trevitz, Carlos Noriega, Larry Thomson, Diane & Ross Baker, Kasia Rezmer, Keith Kirkman, Sam & Sandra Cornelli, Janet McKenzie, Jose Fernandez and Marilyn Swanson also came for our Pre trip party. Unfortunately, Joe Zurfley & Annie Truong and Jim Hodges & Marina Wang had to miss our party at the last minute.

28 of us met at the Southwest Terminal on January 25<sup>th</sup> early in the morning. Group Check In was a lot easier than previous years and we only had to show our Drivers' License to check in and get boarding passes - just like individual check in.

The rest joined us at the Denver airport to ride the charter bus to our destination. Barry Casper, Beverly & Charles Roberts, Janet McKenzie, Kasia Rezmer and Susan Stanley



flew via United, John and Michelle Marshall flew from Austin, Dan Lemay flew from Tulsa Oklahoma and waited us almost 3 hours at the airport until we arrived in Denver. Bill Voltz flew the first flight from Charlotte, but arrived later than us and unfortunately, we had to leave him behind and he had to get his own transportation to Charter.

After stopping for grocery and beverage shopping at the famous King Sooper/Apple Jack Shopping Center, we arrived our condos at the Charter a little after 4 PM.

Even though we have stayed at the Charter several times, it is always confusing to figure out the building and condo numbers. A lot of us had a hard time finding our own condos, but it was a nice surprise that our condo mates had different room number and different entrance with plenty of privacy while we all shared same kitchen and living room.

There was a small club welcome Cheese & Wine/beer party downstairs at the Terrace room on the first night. When the contract says Cheese & Wine/beer reception, they literally meant that - Not even celery stalks with ranch dip or green & red grapes around cheese? Crackers and cheese disappeared before half of group showed up, but our amazing members enjoyed comradeship and looked forward to our skiing the next day.

While Gin was distributing lift tickets, Marilyn found that her name was not on the list and my heart almost stopped, since I thought I made a mistake. It appears she did not order the lift tickets and I thought she got her own Epic Pass after I didn't get any response from group emails. We tried to get discounted ticket prices, but no luck! FYI, a single day lift ticket at Beaver Creek is almost \$200 and not a lot cheaper for multiple days. No matter how much we thought we checked and prepared, there are always surprises!!! At the end, we solved the problem and I enjoyed skiing with Marilyn a couple days.

We started our first day skiing with a cloudy morning, but it changed to a beautiful sunny day and the rest of week was perfect for skiing except Wednesday.

Martin Baker, Jose Fernandez, Kurt Schidlowski and Gin Knebel went on a 4-hour mountain tour on Monday which they enjoyed a lot, and all were very impressed of Kurt's skiing. After all, he is only 80 plus years young with such a positive attitude and personality.

Sandra Cornelliuss was at Beaver Creek earlier and offered to find a good place for our group dinner, but she found out it was impossible to make reservation for a large group or it was too expensive. No success after many emails and

phone calls to several different restaurants, so we decided to have our club dinner at our own condo. Monday late afternoon, Gin and I took a bus to City Market Grocery store to prepare for the group dinner on Tuesday. I found the price was reasonable and had a great selection there. If I had known, I would not have rushed myself at King Sooper.

After dinner, Sandra Cornelliuss offered to give a tour of her 3 bedroom condo. Beverly and I were more than amazed and impressed with the Cornelliuss' penthouse. Sandra and Sam totally lucked out by asking me for 2 different condo mates. They got connected with Kary and Larry Burnham, and Sam and Carlos had a common military background and wanted be condo mates. If Sandra had shown us her presidential suit before our club dinner, we certainly would have had the party there instead of my small condo. During our dinner, we celebrated the birthdays of Janet McKenzie and Michelle Marshall who happened to share same birthday.

It was nice to have Pat Piech, even though she only stayed for 4 days and came as a shadow. Larry Thompson joined us 2 days after we arrived since he was recovering from his flu and he wanted to make sure he was ok to ski and be around people.

Wednesday was the most marginal ski day, and some of us who are not avid skiers decided to take a trip to Vail. Joyce, Marilyn and I took a bus to Vail and enjoyed lunch and walking around the village shopping center (Ice Sculptures were beautiful with great details). While we were at Vail, the mountain visibility looked really poor, and we were glad that we decided to take the day off for shopping and dining.

The Charter offered a reception at Black Diamond Bistro on Thursday, Jan. 30<sup>th</sup> after our skiing. We all enjoyed free happy hour drinks and appetizers.

One week passed before we knew it and time for us pack and return.

We all had a great fun and I'm very grateful that nobody got injured (although Annie Truong got really sick with flu at the end of trip)

We decided to have our post trip party sometime in the middle of March, because lots of trip members had planned more skiing or cruising trips. Stuart Traver and I decided to have a joint post party for Deer Valley and Beaver Creek since I was looking for venue to host the party and he didn't have that many people to attend. Our party date was set for March 20<sup>th</sup> and the Evite went out. Even though more than



20 people accepted, as time progressed, we were not sure whether it would be safe to have that many people together or if they would even come.

Who would have known the K Pop Concert that I went on Tuesday of March 10th at Rodeo was last day of Rodeo and that we would have to cancel our party 3 days before the scheduled date? I had already gone to Sam's club and purchased Wine, Beer, and pre-mixed Margaritas (Sam's sells pre-mixed margaritas with alcohol content and I thought it will be fun to serve), cheese, sausage, pasta and different pasta sauces thinking I will come back for meat, poultry and vegetables a day before our party. I admit that these groceries and beverages have saved me from grocery shopping while I am home and social distancing.

Things changed so dramatically right after our return from ski trip and I know we all are trying to adjust our new reality. So looking forward seeing all our ski club friends in person near future after this Coronavirus outbreak ends!





# CRESTED BUTTE 2020 TRIP REPORT

by Linda Erdman, Trip Coordinator

The fun started with a pre-trip party at Jax Grill on the same day as the Texans versus the Chiefs playoff game. Everyone was in high spirits as we watched the Texans score 3 touchdowns in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. Unfortunately for the Texans, there were 3 more quarters to play. Fortunately for us, the party was over well before the game ended.



A little over a month later, we were headed to Crested Butte for the TSC Winter Shootout. Kasia Rezmer was so excited that she got to the airport 4 hours before the flight and Dave Stotz and Janet McKenzie weren't far behind her.

Yours truly, TC Linda Erdman, along with ATC LaDaune Ashley and her other half, Derek Shoobridge, tried their best to keep the group informed of United's multiple terminal and gate changes. After sending everyone from C to B and finally A, they found out that bags couldn't be checked at A so some club members, including new member Lidia Mayforth, ending up rushing back to B to check their bags.

Also on the direct flight to Gunnison, Colorado were Rita Cardenas and Robert Rowley, Andy and Leslie Cashio, Nancy DuFrane, Kat and Ken Feaster, Ed Freiter, Jim Hodges and Marina Wang, Maria and Keith Koterak, Linda Kuper, Daniel Kuper, George Lopez and Camille LaRoe, Marsha Lutz, Sue Muenks, Bob Reidenbach, Paul and Sandra Stolnacke, Marda Waters, Mike and Stephanie Willis, and Laura Zavala.



Since this was a TSC trip, we weren't surprised to find some of our old friends from the Clear Lake Ski Club on the flight with

us. One of the great things about TSC trips is running into old friends and making new friends from other Texas clubs.

After a short shuttle ride from Gunnison, we made it to the Plaza condos at Mt. Crested Butte and caught up with Craig Campbell, Sam and Sandra Cornelius,



Keith Kirkman, and Laurent Muller, all of whom made the trip by car, and Dan LeMay and Susan Williams who flew in from Tulsa, Oklahoma. Bill Bomberger and Sharon Simandl, along with Renata Jurczak, arrived later that evening with Renata coming in from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. Ross and Diane Baker made it in on Sunday and Ann Rogers arrived on Monday to bring our final count to 45.

Joining us for the Winter Shootout were members of the Dallas Ski Club, Lone Star Skiers (also a Dallas club), Los Amigos (San Antonio) and Texas Twisters (Lubbock). Nothing like having 130+ Texans invade your community for a week.

Less than 2 weeks before the trip, Stan Kuper had to cancel and his son, Daniel Kuper, took his place, causing some quick condo reassignments. The switch worked out well for Daniel and Linda but not so well for Derek Shoobridge, LaDaune Ashley and I. We ended up with their condo which had furniture made for giants. LaDaune had to find a ladder to climb into bed which lead to a lot of laughing and some pretty funny sounds coming from their room.



There were a few issues with the condos involving leaky ceilings (just ask Marsha Lutz and Janet McKenzie) and bunk beds but kudos to the Plaza for handling things quickly and efficiently. Special thanks to Kat Loughan, the front office manager, for all her behind the scenes help while we were at the Plaza.

Cheryl Slaughter, the TSC trip coordinator, did a great job of organizing TSC events for the week. There was a TSC Welcome Party on Sunday evening with representatives from the tour operator and the resort available to answer questions and provide information about the resort and optional activities.





On Tuesday evening, Cheryl organized a scavenger hunt/pub crawl in town. Wednesday was TSC race day and there was also an après ski at the base and Thursday evening was the TSC Farewell Banquet and Awards Ceremony.

As a club, we had daily suggested lunch and après ski meeting places that were all well attended. Many in the group turned après ski into dinner instead of cooking or venturing into town. One of our favorite places ended up being the Iron Horse Tap on the lobby level of the Plaza because it was so convenient.



In between the organized activities, there were plenty of opportunities to try out the restaurants in town and do a little



shopping and/or sightseeing on Elk Avenue. The town of Crested Butte is just a 10-minute shuttle ride from the mountain and is extremely pedestrian friendly.

Because we were staying in condos and it was really cold outside, several in the group opted to stay in and cook for their condo-mates which was a good deal if you could get it. Kat Feaster, Stephanie Willis and Bob Reidenbach also spent 4 nights working on a 500-piece jigsaw puzzle with results to be revealed at a later date.

The lift lines were short to non-existent which was great news for us. Most of the runs were groomed daily and we only had a couple of days of really cold weather followed by almost perfect weather. The biggest problem many of us had was with the altitude. Coming from Houston to an altitude of over 9,000 feet at the base was rough to say the least. There was a lot of huffing and puffing going on, especially walking from the condos to the lifts.

Even with the cold weather and high altitude, yellow Space City flags were seen all over the mountain with almost everyone in the group skiing at least 4 days and many skiing 6 days. All agreed that Crested Butte is a great ski mountain.



The resort offered free daily mountain tours as well as discounted lessons which many in the group took advantage of. Because the resort wasn't crowded, many of the group lessons turned out to be private lessons, including Marina Wang's snowboard lesson.

Monday was one of the coldest days with snow and low visibility so many in the group waited until the sun made its appearance to hit the slopes. Others, like Daniel Kuper, decided it was a good day to sleep in. Still







others decided it was a good day to go into town, including Sue Muenks, Sharon Simandl and Marda Waters.

On “Fat Tuesday”, the town held a Mardi Gras parade and Marsha Lutz, Camille LaRoe and George Lopez were able to secure spots on a balcony and watch the parade for free which never happens in Galveston or New Orleans. The fact that it has been described as the world’s shortest parade at just about 5 minutes (don’t blink or you’ll miss it) may have been a factor. After the parade, they joined Craig Campbell, Dan LeMay and Susan Williams for the TSC scavenger hunt/pub crawl, managed to hit all 3 bars and find the ship, the Texas flag and the treasure chest to come home winners. Marsha was excited that she won a mini bottle of rum from the local distillery.



The races were held on Buckley trail on Wednesday morning. The day started out cold but was beautiful by race time. There were

a total of 51 racers from the 6 clubs. Space City started out with 12 racers but Ed Freiter injured his ribs on his first run of the week (discussed later) and Dave Stotz had an eye issue which he swears was caused by following Keith Kirkman. That left LaDaune Ashley, Craig Campbell, Andy Cashio, Leslie Cashio, Sandra Cornelius, Nancy DuFrane, George Lopez, Kasia Rezmer, Derek Shoobridge and Paul Stolnacke. All racers finished standing up which is a good thing in itself. Sue Muenks was in charge of filming Nancy as she raced (be sure to ask Nancy about her “up close and personal” encounter with the pole at the exit to the race course).



At the TSC Farewell Banquet on Thursday, Space City was awarded 2nd Place in Division I for the Winter Shootout. In the individual categories, Nancy DuFrane won a gold and Sandra Cornelius won a silver, both in the 45-59 female bracket, and Andy Cashio won a bronze in the 70-79 male category.



The winner of the “Show Me Your Texan” contest at the banquet was our friend Jeff Wright of Clear Lake. He came dressed as “ZZ Top” and really blew the competition out of the water.



After the awards and medals, it was time for some dancing.

Ed Freiter and Renata Jurczak tore up the dance floor, along with Derek Shoobridge and LaDaune Ashley, Dan LeMay and Susan



Williams, Jim Hodges and Marina Wang, and Keith Kirkman and Renata (yes, the same Renata...she likes to dance).

On Friday night, Space City held its own private “Taco Tuesday” and Awards Dinner in the Plaza conference room which was great because we didn’t have to dress for the cold... some even wore slippers to the party. After a week of bundling up, it was nice to stay inside. We had a really good crowd, with only Daniel Kuper and Mike and Stephanie Willis not being able to make it.

Everyone seemed to have a good time visiting and telling stories. We found out that Maria Koteras and Laura Zavala met the mayor of Mount Crested Butte who lived in Galveston until 2008 after Hurricane Ike.

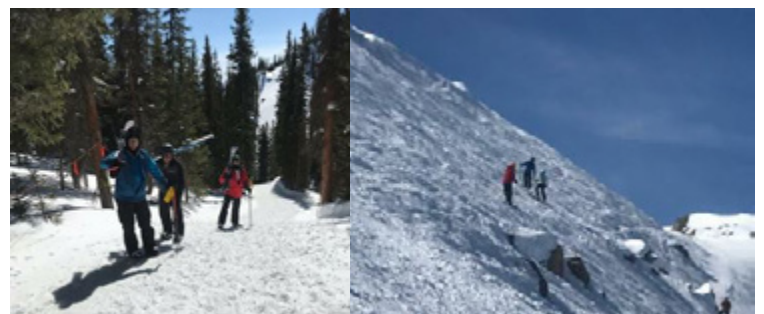


We also found out that George Lopez had a misadventure involving his street shoes. He skied demos and left his shoes at the shop. When he returned, he put on what he thought were his shoes until, two days later, he noticed that he had a mismatched pair. His missing shoe was never returned to the shop.

Space City’s club racing medals were handed out after dinner and, based on points, Sandra Cornelius and Nancy DuFrane won gold, Andy Cashio, Leslie Cashio, Kasia Rezmer and Paul Stolnacke won silver and Craig Campbell won bronze. Nancy couldn’t contain her excitement at winning both a TSC and a club medal and rushed back to her condo to get her TSC gold medal so she could have her photo taken with both medals. Andy wasn’t able to wear his 3<sup>rd</sup> Place TSC medal to the dinner because it was wet from the shower. It is rumored that he also slept in it.



Back to skiing...As usual, Trail Boss Keith Kirkman and the other “Big Dogs” on the trip (Ross Baker, Diane Baker, Bill Bomberger, Ed Freiter, Jim Hodges, Dan LeMay, Renata Jurczak, Kasia Rezmer and Susan Williams) skied the blacks and double blacks and were the only ones that ventured into the Extreme Terrain that Crested Butte is famous for.





Ed proceeded to fall on his first run on Sunday and bruise his ribs (nothing broken) which slowed him down for the week and kept him from racing. He did manage to make it through half of the day-long Extreme Mountain Tour on Monday with Keith, Bill, Jim and Renata. Apparently, there was a treacherous track to ski before they even got to the extreme ski runs which were, according to Bill, indeed extreme and steep. I'll have to take his word for it.

Keith was later assessed a beer fine by Bill, Jim, Renata and Ed for taking the group on a short 20-foot hike to get to Bakery Glades. Turns out that after 20 feet, they could ski 10 yards to climb another 20 feet, ski 10 yards to climb 10 more feet and finally reach the top only to find no defined ski trail.

On the final day of the trip, Keith, Bill, Ed and Renata got the courage to venture into unexplored Teocalli Bowl and beat the official walk-out time of 15 minutes by 3 minutes!!!

LaDaune Ashley and I caught up with Sandra Stalnacke on Monday and she led us onto an ungroomed run where I proceeded to lose a ski. A run that should have taken about 30 seconds ended being a comedy of errors and taking at least 30 minutes as LaDaune took off her skis and tried to help me get my ski back on. We finally decided to walk down at which time my ski clicked into the binding and I headed down, not

realizing that now LaDaune couldn't get her skis back on. Eventually some good Samaritans and a lift helped us and we were finally back on our way. No more following Sandra!!!

Tuesday morning, Nancy's new boyfriend "Joe", the Director of Activities (what activities you may ask), lead her and a few others, including Sue Muenks and Janet McKenzie, around the mountain.

Robert Rowley reported with great pride that Rita Cardenas had an incredible run down Mineral Point when everything came together for her as she made each turn perfectly and was totally lost in the moment.

Beginner skier Lidia Mayforth was nervous about some of the runs so Laurent Muller scouted them for her and let her know which ones he thought she could ski. What a nice thing to do!

All in all, everyone seemed to have a good time and made it home safe and sound, hopefully with a lot of good memories and maybe a new friend or two.

LaDaune and I would like to thank everyone that went on the trip with us as you are what made the trip fun and memorable. We were hoping to see those of you who live in Houston at the post-trip party but COVID-19 had other ideas so I guess we'll all just hit the pause button for a while.

## DEER VALLEY 2020 TRIP REPORT

by Stuart Traver, Trip Coordinator

What a great ski week! On the evening of our arrival, a welcome reception for all trip participants was held in a private room at our condo where we were served drinks, pizza, buffalo wings and salad from the Brass Tag, the restaurant in our condominium complex. A representative from Deer Valley joined us to acquaint us with the resort and the various activities available. On our first day of skiing, we received nine inches of snow. Then Deer Valley's famed groomers took over and the sun came out giving us mild temperatures and great skiing over Deer Valley's five peaks for the next few days. Later in the week, the temperatures warmed up, creating spring skiing conditions for our last skiing day.

**Leslie Hajdo**, the big ski dog on this trip, regaled us with tales of steep mogul runs, skiing through trees, and jumping off cliff edges following Deer Valley's mogul expert, Jill Johnson, on a mountain tour. As a certified ski instructor, Leslie passed on a few tips to **Susan Stanley**, **Craig Campbell**, and **Stuart Traver** so we could better tackle the advanced intermediate (double blue) terrain. **Susan** tried to apply this advice by following **Leslie** through a glade. Unfortunately, she forgot that successful glade skiing requires putting both skis by the same side of the tree! **Craig** gets the trip's Iron Man award for skiing each day from lift opening to

lift closing followed by a workout in the gym in our condo.

Speaking of Après Ski, **Jo Barrie** used her past VP Activity skills to ensure that the group was refreshed at a proper place each evening after skiing. **Debbie Hance** and **Lynn Greenberg** were among the skiers that enjoyed sunset cocktails at the St. Regis overlooking Deer Valley and live music at Snow Park Lodge.

**Arlen Isham** organized a group to go drive snowmobiles over meadows and through trails around Deer Valley. Joining him were **Jim and Beth Slaughter**, **Gary Haley**, **Cecile (Gigi) Hodges** and **her daughters: Angela Boomer, Kris Rowell, and Lisa Seacrest**. **Jim** applied his Formula 1 training to reach speeds of 55 mph in the meadow while **Arlen** used his moto-cross skills to attain "big air" off the moguls. **Beth** used her bumper car training on a snowmobile driven by an unsuspecting **Kris**!

If that adrenalin rush wasn't enough, the next day, **Arlen** took the same group on a tour of Utah's Olympic Park and a bobsled ride on the Olympic course. The bobsleds reached a maximum speed of 65 mph with the riders experiencing forces 5

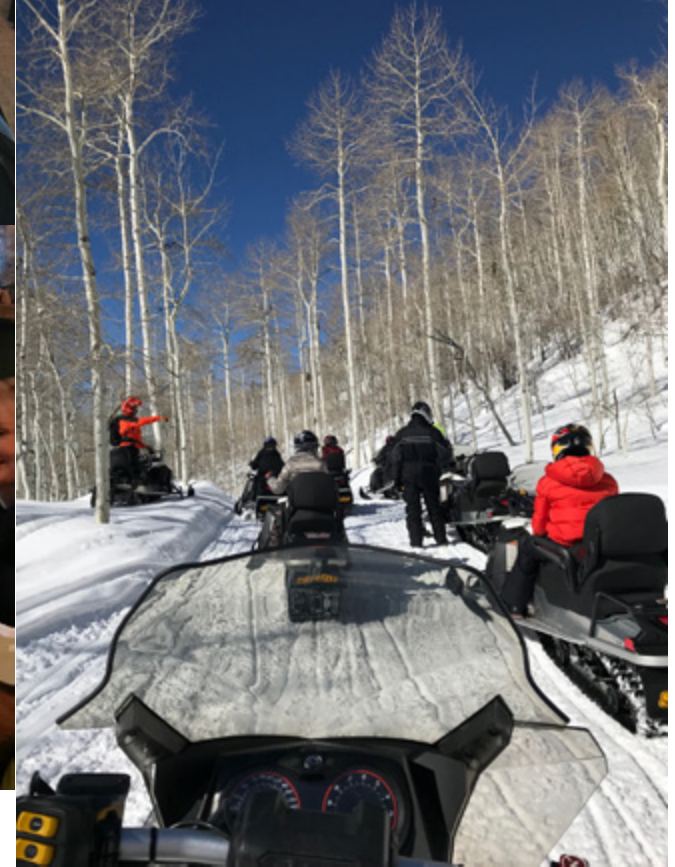
times that of gravity as they sped around the various turns. **Arlen** assured me that professional drivers were assigned to navigate each bobsled through the course.

During the week, **Stuart, Jo, Jim, Beth, Arlen, Craig, and Leslie** experienced a dinner at Utah's top-rated restaurant, the Mariposa. Exotic fare (think bison tartare) was exquisitely prepared and impeccably served. As a follow on, **Jim** organized a dinner for the same group of "epicureans" at the famed Stein Erickson Lodge. We ate in the lounge where we partook of somewhat lighter fare (alpine style) while listening to a trio play and sing songs from our more youthful days.

On our last evening, the whole group got together at the High West Distillery in Park City to partake of the locally prepared spirits and western fare and swap stories of the

week's adventures. Everyone expressed satisfaction in their accommodations, a full breakfast in the morning included with our lodging package, cookies and cocoa in the afternoon, bar/restaurant, hot tub/heated swimming pool, gym (for **Craig**) and the convenience of dedicated shuttles to take us to/from the mountain and SUVs to/from Park City. Thankfully, no one was injured, and everyone arrived home safely. Our best wishes go to **Debra Moser** who was unable to be with us.

**Stuart Traver**  
Trip Coordinator





# TELLURIDE 2020 TRIP REPORT

by Rene Reed, Trip Coordinator

The best part of the first day of our Telluride trip was the fact that we did not have to get up at the crack of dawn to catch a crack of dawn flight. Our flight left around noon, allowing most of our trip folks to get a leisurely start to the trip. We left on time and our flight was what you most want...uneventful!!

We disembarked in sunny, 50 degree weather in Montrose. Our awesome bus driver and guide, Lewis, was waiting just inside the door with a Space City sign and cookies. How often do you go to an airport with free cookies and a roaring fireplace. **Mary Beth Cihal** and **Dan LeMay** were inside the airport waiting for us.

A stop in Montrose to the City Market and Corks Liquor store was a comedy to behold. We were giving thirty minutes to do both stores. It was like watching a scavenger hunt as people looked for some easy and some hard to find items. We didn't quite make the 30 minute time period, but we weren't too far off!!

We were greeted at Bear Creek Lodge by several strong guys ready to whisk our luggage off to our rooms. They were able to get all the luggage out of the belly of the bus and into our condos within 30 minutes.

Everyone was in various states of starvation ...but we met up at 7pm for our welcome party. Telluride Resort provided wine, beer, cheese and information about the mountain. Lift tickets were handed out. Those who were able to grab a quick dinner prior stayed to enjoy wine and those starving quickly headed out to dinner before the restaurants closed. The Bear Creek Lodge was quick and efficient to zip everyone down to catch the Gondola or to walk around Mountain Village.

Sunday found some folks renting skis and some heading up to the slopes early to catch the good snow. Lunch at Gorrone Ranch had plenty of tempting offers for a wide variety of tastes.

A good group met up at Tomboy Tavern in Mountain Village for Happy Hour. **Mary Jones** and **Terry Barnes** were up at the bar and **Leasa** and **Robert Clements**, **Miranda Kelly** and **Mary Beth Cihal** scored a good table as everyone wandered in and wandered out.

We got some snow over night and everyone skiing seemed to be on the Mountain. Lunch at Big Billies was less crowded and easy in and easy out. Happy Hour was at The Cosmo and we found you must show up early to get a table. Everyone wants those \$5 Cosmos!! Seven of us were able to make the score.

Tuesday was spa day for a few guests and almost everyone turned up for Clean Comedy Central at the Bear Creek Lodge. Space City Ski Club provided wine, beer and lots of Pizza from Crazy Elk Pizza in Mountain Village. The shuttle driver was kind enough to wait while we paid and hauled out ten large pizzas. After everyone loosened up a little, **René Reed** kicked off the night with a very clean penguin joke...and suddenly (almost) no one was shy. We went around the room. **Sid Lacombe** opened for his wife **Brenda**. She entertained us with an almost standup routine!

Wednesday was another beautiful day with a temperatures in the

teens. We met up at Big Billies for lunch because it was large, uncrowded and easy to score a table. Our big Happy Hour turnout was at Allred's. And why not. The cocktails were awesome and the view even better. Pamplemousse and Spritz were the big hits of the night. **Gary Freeman** and **Lori Aubrecht** rounded out our large group. **Candis & Charles Putnik**, **Pat & Dianna Jernigan** stayed for dinner. The hostess took them to a table to seat them. The table had a gorgeous view and everyone was excited...until another lady approached and said, "That is my table." Sadly, it was true and the hostess, with a red face, took everyone to the correct table...without the same great view. Rumor has it they enjoyed their meal very much anyway!! Allreds is amazing place and was enjoyed by **Elizabeth** and **Chuck Albright**, **Frank & Terri Lubrano**, **Mike & Janet Sher** and **Sid & Brenda Lacombe**.

If you stopped by **Charles** and **Elizabeth Albright's** condo, you could enjoy the three 1,000 piece puzzles they put together or watch rodeo videos with **Sid** and **Brenda Lacombe**. Did you know Sid was a professional bull rider?? **Frank & Terri Lubrano** and **Michael** and **Janet Sher** stopped in to check it all out! Terri and Janet also enjoyed a day of snow shoeing. Easy to do....but quite a work out!!

Thursday was a change of pace. Instead of lunch, blue skiers or better were to meet at Alpino Vino, the highest elevation fine dining restaurant in America. 11,996 feet. **Mary Jones**, **Terri Barnes**, **MaryBeth Cihal** held a table inside and were joined by **George & Rene Reed**. Outside, **Dianna Jernigan** and the **Putniks** enjoyed bluebird skies and good wine. Afterwards, MaryBeth took her first blue run of the trip all the way to the bottom, looking better and better with every turn!

Friday was a free day with no plans for lunch as everyone was scattered between town and the mountain. But **Gary Freeman**, **Charles Putnik**, **Charles Albright** and **Gordon Boulger**, **Keith Kirkman**, **Dan LeMay**, **Susan Stanley** were some that continued to leave their marks on the mountain. Gordon did some runs that many of us cringed at just looking at them, but his hard work was rewarded each night with a fabulous dinner out with his lovely wife, Lauri. **Cindy Reeves** finished up her first trip skiing in near twenty years by increasing her speed and challenging herself to complete more green runs everyday. She was so excited about her progress and it was contagious!! On Friday evening we met up for Leftover night. What a spread!!!! **Robert Clements** brought his world famous brisket (if its not, it should be), **Brenda Lacombe** brought a well presented and delicious salad. We had left over pizza, chili, macaroni and cheese, candy, washed down with beer and wine. It was a great night for laughter and camaraderie.

Saturday found us all meeting in the lobby for coffee while waiting on our bus. **Keith Kirkman** sipped with us before continuing on his winter odyssey to Purgatory for more skiing! Lucky man!

Everyone arrived safely home. A great part of the trip was that no one was injured. Close calls only. **Susan Stanley** narrowly missed being creamed by a speed demon. The demon kept on going with three Space City heroes chasing him down to tell him to get it under control! But seriously, no injuries or major illness is such a thankful thing! This was my first trip as a leader and I couldn't have asked for a nicer group of people!!



## Zion and Grand Canyon Tour Hiking & Sightseeing

Sept. 26 - 30, 2020

\$599, 5 days & 4 nights

**Final Payment – 6/26/2020**

Two nights at Springdale, Zion National Park,  
hiking and scenic views

Scenic drive - Zion National Canyon

One night at the Grand Canyon North Rim Lodge

Scenic drive to Point Imperial and Cape Royal on the  
North Rim

Scenic drive to the south rim Grand Canyon  
including many view stops.

One night at the Maswik, Grand Canyon South Rim

Rt. 66 & Hoover Dam on the return to Las Vegas

Optional extra time at Las Vegas



Zion National Park

### Why Choose This Trip?

My wife and I first went to the Grand Canyon in 1969. About 15 years later, we visited Zion and both the North and South rims with our children. That started a long association with the Grand Canyon, where I organized 14 adventure trips with almost 400 people over the next 30 years. Many SCSCA members have been on those Rim to Rim hiking adventures. You may have been to Zion and the Grand Canyon, but you missed what I will show you, including the amazing North Rim.

This is your chance to join me on a trip with SCSC next September, 2020. Travel with me as I show you the best

way to maximize your experience on this scenic trip with the chance to hike a little bit of two of the top ten adventure hikes of the world. If you are not a hiker, you will still be able to see and enjoy these two great National Parks. There will be lots of opportunities to stop and gawk at amazing sights.



Zion National Park

### What is the Plan?

We fly to Las Vegas on an early Saturday morning flight via Southwest Airlines flight; but you can choose your own airline with an early arrival to Las Vegas. We will pick up our three 15 passenger vans with 10 people in each van. The drive to Springdale is only about 170 miles, so we will arrive in time for an afternoon visit to Zion to hike or sight see. You can join me as I lead a hike up into the famous Zion Narrows for a short distance on the next afternoon as one of the several options.

After our two nights at Zion, we leave Zion on Monday through the east side with more view stops. A stop at Kanab will acquaint you with that area of lower Utah on our drive to the North Rim.

The North Rim has spectacular views and is surrounded with forest of Ponderosa Pines. It averages 1,000 to 1,500 feet higher than the South Rim! It is isolated from the crowds of the South Rim and provides for a great laid back and relaxing afternoon and evening. We will eat dinner at the famous North Rim Lodge and also enjoy what many people say is one of the best Bloody Mary's in the world.



Be in this picture, Monday, September 28, 2020  
on the back patio of the North Rim historic lodge.



An optional afternoon drive to Point Imperial is often considered the greatest viewpoint on the North Rim. We will continue to Cape Royal to see Angels Window and great views of the Canyon and the south rim.

On Tuesday, our 3<sup>rd</sup> day, we will drive around to the South Rim with several stops, including down at the Colorado River to dip your hands into the 55 degree water coming out of Glen Canyon Dam, and maybe see raft companies launching trips down the 270 mile trip through the Canyon. The stop at Marble Canyon over the Colorado River may include sights of Condors under the bridge. The drive along the south rim of the Grand Canyon will take in the incredible views with stops for pictures.



Grand Canyon South Rim

Our arrival to Grand Canyon Village on Tuesday will be early in the afternoon giving everyone a chance to wander the south rim area, including possibly walking down a little bit of one of the two rim to rim corridor trails, Bright Angel or South Kaibab. I will be leading a 1.8 mile round trip hike down the South Kaibab to **Ooh-Aah point!** Remember, down is optional, and up is mandatory. For those that want to see much of the south rim without walking much, take the Hermits Trail shuttle out and back. Most people never get the chance to do that.

On Wednesday morning, you may want to get up early and see the sunrise over the Canyon, then head back for breakfast at the Maswik or even Breakfast at the El Tovar. However, we will be leaving at 7:30 AM for one last great view of the Canyon at Yavapai point.

Our trip back to Vegas will include stops briefly in Williams, then a quirky stop at Grand Canyon Caverns. We probably won't have time to actually go in the Cavern, but you can find out about it.

Finally, we will do a drive though of Hoover Dam and brief stop to see the Dam and Lake Mead.

### Trip Lodging

Our lodging at Zion will be the La Quinta at Springdale, which is less than 1.5 miles from the Park front entrance.

From April through October, access into Zion Canyon is by shuttle bus only right outside the La Quinta. The shuttle will take you to 1 of 9 stops on the Zion Canyon Scenic Drive, depending on which hike you'll be conquering for the day or just to stop and stroll along the Virgin River. The La Quinta is in great walking distance to all of the eateries and shopping in Springdale.

Our lodging at the North Rim will be in the rustic Frontier Cabins. These are conveniently located close to the North Rim Grand Canyon lodge and the amazing views at the Lodge. Plan on relaxing on the back patio looking out to the south rim between Roaring Springs Canyon and Transept Canyon.

The Lodging at the South Rm will be at the Maswik Lodge, only about ¼ mile from the Bright Angel trail and close to the other major "On Rim" locations to sight see and have dinner. The south rim shuttle provides ease of exploration to the "over rim" sights near Grand Canyon Village. The guest rooms are accessed from outside walkways and stairwells (there are no elevators). Rooms feature in-room Keurig coffee maker, refrigerator, air conditioning, safe, satellite TV, telephone, hair dryer and two queen-sized beds or one king-sized bed.

We return to Las Vegas about 3:00 PM for our return home or perhaps some of the group will decide to do an extension in Las Vegas (Lost Wages).

This trip will fill quickly, possibly in a couple days. Don't miss out. It is very possible this trip will be full before the publication of the September Sitzmarke. If so, get on the wait list.

Look on the SCSC website for more pictures and detailed information.



Grand Canyon View from Cape Royal

TC- Arlen Isham  
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## OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM 2020-2021

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**Space City Ski and Adventure Club is a proud member of the Texas Ski Council and the National Ski Council Federation.**





# Sitzmarke

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## VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR APRIL 23, 2020

