

newsletter

sitzmarke

SPACE CITY SKI & ADVENTURE CLUB

VOLUME 49 NO. 2

JUNE 2013

this issue

- ❑ OFFICERS REPORTS 4
- ❑ ACTIVITIES & FEATURES 14
- ❑ TRIP CALENDAR 12
- ❑ CLUB CALENDAR 24

summer

come watch the Astros take on the Angels
Saturday, June 29th **16**



Trampoline Adventure

Jump to your heart's content 14

Houston Dynamo Game

Cheer on the champions 18

game on

contents



feature articles

- 14** Jumping with Joy
- 15** Sitz in the Cloud
- 16** Take me out to the Ballgame
- 18** Don't Just Set Goals, Score Them
- 20** RECAP: Kentucky Derby

in every issue

- Launchpad **3**
- From Mission Control **4**
- Having a Blast **6**
- Countdown to Liftoff **9**
- Membership Capsule **11**
- Trip Calendar **12**
- Club Calendar **24**



launchpad

a new year,
a new look

Welcome to the new Sitzmarke newsletter!

Just as our website time-travelled to the 21st century last summer, it was time for our newsletter to hit warp speed and be redesigned.

I hope you find this new format will entice you to join more of our activities.

New with this issue is a digital publishing option.

What does that mean? It means that you can receive the publication any way you wish. Read it online in an interactive magazine format on your tablet, download a PDF to browse on your

laptop, or, using our new digital platform, magcloud from HP, you can order a color printed copy of any issue and have it mailed to you for just \$.20 per page (plus shipping).

Read the article "[Sitz in the CLOUD](#)" on [page 15](#)

to learn more about our newsletter 'in the cloud'.

Lynda Meyer

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newsletter **sitzmarke**

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SUBSCRIPTIONS
Members are emailed a link to the Sitzmarke each month. Non-members may download the newsletter from our website in the About Us/Club Documents section on www.spacecity.org, or search for Sitzmarke on magcloud.com. Free digital versions for tablets are also available on our digital platform, magcloud.com, where you may also order a printed copy of any issue and have it mailed to you for just \$.20 per page (plus shipping).

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Get ready for a busy 2013-2014 season of travel! Our last meeting was in May where Sandra McCunis was presented with an engraved picture frame thanking her for all the hard work she has done for the club as president from 2011 to 2013. Arlen Isham also provided a very informative presentation on hiking and rafting trips. If you would like the club to offer one of the trips he presented, please contact Susan Blome, our V.P. of Trips, at trips@spacecity.org. If you would like to run or help with a trip, please also let her know about your interest in volunteering.

Gayle Dale is our V.P. of Activities and she is filling the calendar with fun activities from now until

from MISSION CONTROL



next May. If you would like to run an activity, her e-mail is activities@spacecity.org. She is also in need of an Activity Director to help with the planned activities over the year. Please let her know your interest at the same e-mail address.

To conclude last year's activities, July 20th is our volunteer party to thank all of those who helped in the 2012-2013 season. Check our website spacecity.org for current information regarding the party.

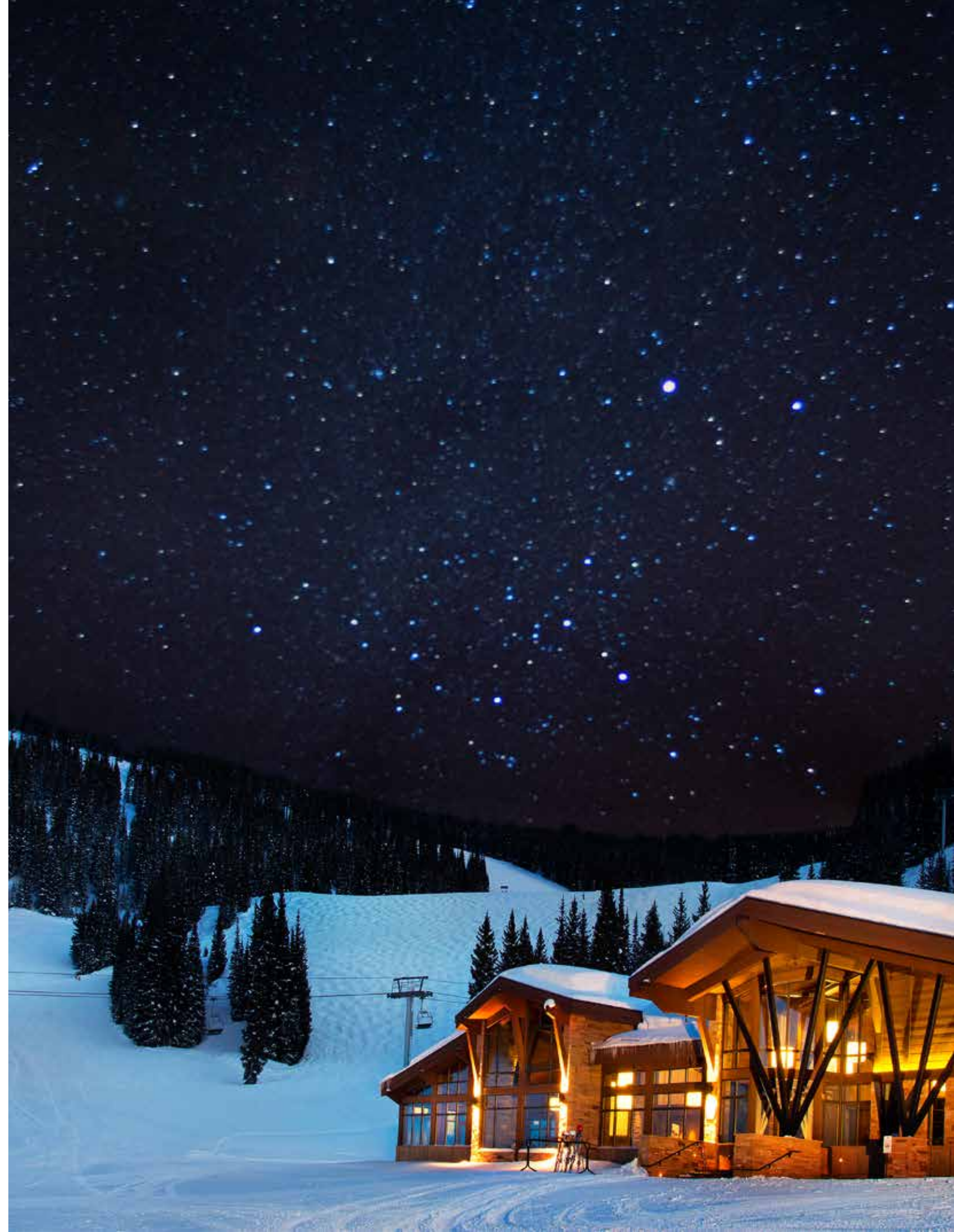
To start the New Year, August 12th will be our next general meeting so mark your calendar for the event. We will have

a presentation of each trip by the respective Trip Coordinator to help you make a decision regarding your travel. Also, stay in touch with your club friends on our **Facebook** page, [facebook.com/spacecityskiclub](https://www.facebook.com/spacecityskiclub). "Like" us and post your fun experiences and pictures with your club friends. Have a great summer and I look forward to seeing you at our August meeting and summer activities.

Melinda Hughes

President

president@spacecity.org



having a BLAST

Summer time is fast approaching so start marking your calendars and plan on attending some of the fun activities we have planned.

Keep busy with the **trampoline family adventure day on June 23rd. June 27th is the Happy Hour at the Capitol Bar**, one of Houston's newest patio bars in Midtown (free parking lot on the corner is a plus) and **June 29th is the Astros Game.**

July 20th we will be having the annual Volunteers' Party and we are still looking



for volunteers to check in the guests and help with the set up and tear down of the party. **July 25th is the Happy Hour at Goode Company Seafood**, located near Memorial City Mall and **July 27th is the date for the Houston Dynamos game.**

August will find us **cruising Lake Conroe with an afternoon party boat cruise on August 10th followed by an afternoon on a pontoon boat on August 11th.** Margaret McCord is also arranging some hotel options if people want to spend the night and make it a weekend, going on one or both of the boat rides. **The August Happy Hour will be on the 22nd at El Pueblito Patio Restaurant.** A beautiful patio with a waterfall and \$3.00 margaritas will help keep you cool. There's free parking across the street.

Our summer will culminate with a **fantastic luau complete with an imu (in the ground) pig roast and live Hawaiian entertainment planned for September 7th.** I'm looking for someone to be the activity coordinator and



Photo: Alpha du centaure

assistant for this event.

We still need a Director of Activities to conduct more activities and events for our members. The job of Vice President of Activities is too large for one person to handle -- so without a Director to assist me, our activities will be limited for the remainder of the year. Also, if you would like to volunteer and have an idea for an activity, please let me know.

I'd like to thank those who took the time to fill out our interest survey recently. It appears members interested in the Christmas Gala would prefer a Saturday in November rather than a Thursday in December.

Get ready for a sizzling summer!!!

Gayle Dayle

VP of Activities

activities@spacecity.org

JUNE HAPPY HOUR



Join us for the June Happy Hour at one of Houston's newest venues, the [Capitol Bar Midtown](#). They boast the largest patio bar and have

a gourmet food wagon serving food starting at 6:00 p.m.

They will be extending the happy hour prices to us until 10:00 p.m. and have live music starting at 8:00 p.m.

Happy hour prices are \$2.00 off their extensive beer menu. Wines are reasonably priced.

There is free parking located at a lot on the corner of McIlhenny and Main.

WHAT: HAPPY HOUR

WHERE: Capitol Bar Midtown
2415 Main Street

MAP: <http://goo.gl/maps/2lm41>

WHEN: Thursday, 6/27
5:30-9:00

countdown to LIFTOFF



It's hard for me to believe, but while the heat of Houston's summer is upon us, your SCSC team of Trip Leaders is hard at work determining the destinations for your winter ski and snowboarding playgrounds in 2013-2014.

The ever popular December trip to **Vail** is back! January's trips include two destinations with our TSC friends – **Park City** for Traditional and **Garmisch-Partenkirchen in Bavaria, Germany** for Winter Expedition.

An added piece of trivia: In addition to both of those trips being SCSC/TSC in January, both locations

share a part of Olympic history: Park City in 2002 and Garmisch-Partenkirchen in 1936. February and March will bring us back stateside with trips to **Jackson Hole** (TSC Winter Shootout), **Taos, Vail, Mammoth**, and **Breckenridge**.

For families, we will be

Houston area – **Keystone** / TSC Final Showdown (Mar 8-15) and **Winter Park** (Mar 15-22).

Of course, there is always the possibility that winter ski/snowboard trips are not on your vacation list for 2013-2014 or you want to add a summer trip to 2014...

"why not" join SCSC and the TSC next summer when we travel to South Africa? Dates for South Africa have not been finalized as I write this article; however, I used to work with an ex-pat who immigrated to the US from South Africa and when he returned to work from visits with his family there, he always told me how beautiful the country



Photo: Jack Affleck

offering not one, but two Spring Break trips to accommodate the different Spring Break weeks in the

is. Plus, when I asked him for his thoughts, he responded: "You guys have chosen absolutely the best areas! Not because I'm so familiar with them but because they are just great!"

Also in the works are other possible summer or fall trips. It's going to be an AWESOME year for trips!!! So many choices and decisions to make.... More details to come so please stay tuned, share and invite your friends to join us! Enjoy the summer!! Trip sign ups begin in August and we will have a BIG TRIP SHOW featuring all of the trips at the August General Meeting on Monday, August 12th. I look forward to a fun-filled and exciting ski and

adventure season and hope you do too! Take care & stay safe! Cheers!

Susan Blome

VP of Trips

trips@spacecity.org



"You guys have chosen absolutely the best areas!!" - comment on the South Africa itinerary from a native countryman



become a
member
TODAY

[Click here to
join NOW](#)

membership CAPSULE

What a terrific year of activities we have planned for all of you! As a member of Space

City Ski and Adventure Club, you will be in the know about all of them! Check out our website for frequent additions and updates.

Our next general meeting is in August but stay in touch this summer by coming to our happy hours. Your new VP of Activities, Gayle Dale, has quite a lineup. Bring your friends or family and they can meet your ski/travel buddies.

See you there!



Jan Ferrell

VP of Membership

membership@spacecity.org

PS: If you aren't a member, become one!

[Join now on our website.](#)

trip CALENDAR

DECEMBER

- 7-11 VAIL SHORT
 - 7-14 VAIL LONG
- ## JANUARY
- 4-11 PARK CITY*
 - 24-FEB 1 GARMISH-PARTENKIRCHEN*

FEBRUARY

- 8-15 JACKSON HOLE*
- 15-19 TAOS SHORT*
- 15-22 TAOS LONG*
- 22-MAR 1 VAIL*

MARCH

- 1-8 MAMMOTH*
- 8-15 KEYSTONE*⁽¹⁾
- 12-16 BRECKENRIDGE SHORT*
- 15-22 WINTER PARK*⁽²⁾

* Proposed trip pending approval
(1) Spring Break & Family Optional Trip # 1
(2) Spring Break & Family Optional Trip # 2

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

Destination	Dates	Prices	Final Pay- ment Date	Trip Coordinator	Assistant Trip Coordinator
2013					
Vail, CO - Short	Dec 7-11	TBD	TBD	Ann Rogers rogersae@msn.com	281-703-0454
Vail, CO - Long	Dec 7-14	TBD	TBD		
2014					
Park City, UT* <i>TSC Winter Traditional</i>	Jan 4-11	TBD	TBD	Betty Donellan bettyrelaw@gmail.com	310-775-9215
Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Bavaria, Germany* <i>TSC Winter Expedition</i>	Jan 24-Feb 1	TBD	TBD	Barbara Brescian bbrescian@comcast.net	713-516-5322
Jackson Hole, WY* <i>TSC Winter Showdown</i>	Feb 8-15	TBD	TBD	Anne Thomas annemthomas1@yahoo.com	placeholder placeholder placeholder
Taos, NM*-Short/Long (?)	Feb 15-22	TBD	TBD	Chris Bryan icbry67@aol.com	Joan Waddill placeholder placeholder
Vail, CO*	Feb 22-Mar 1	TBD	TBD	Jim Hodges jehodgesjr@gmail.com	281-829-6155
Mammoth, CA*	Mar 1-8	TBD	TBD	Sandra McCunis semccunis@aol.com	281-463-7717
Keystone, CO* ⁽¹⁾ <i>TSC Final Showdown</i>	Mar 8-15	TBD	TBD	John Burk jburk@tcwsoftware.com	281-468-1912
Breckenridge, CO* - Short	Mar 12-16	TBD	TBD	Patti Finch finchp@gtlaw.com	936-271-9715
Winter Park, CO* ⁽²⁾	Mar 15-22	TBD	TBD	Cindy Moore tscvpoffs@gmail.com	713-628-7613
South Africa* <i>TSC Summer Expedition</i>	TBD : 10 days bet. May-Sept	TBD	TBD	Christine Augustine placeholder placeholder	Melody Bohlmann placeholder placeholder
Summer Club Trip* - TBC	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	
Fall Club Trip* - TBC	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	

* Proposed trip pending approval
(1) Spring Break & Family Optional Trip # 1 (2) Spring Break & Family Optional Trip # 2

Information shown on this Trip Schedule is subject to change. Contact the Trip Coordinator (TC) or Assistant Trip Coordinator (ATC) for the most up-to-date information. PRICING: FULL packages include air, all transfers, and per person lodging based on double-occupancy. LAND packages do not include air. Ground transportation will be included and available on selected trips for land package participants if they can meet the group at the destination airport on time. Ground transportation will not be delayed for land package participants arriving later than the group. Check with your Trip Coordinator for ground transportation arrangements if you are choosing a land package. Published prices do not include baggage fees, equipment rentals or lift tickets, and are subject to change. The number in parentheses is the price for the trip if you pay by check. All trip deposits can be made with PayPal; however, final payment must be made by check to receive the discounted rate. Trips frequently have optional activities, such as a group dinner, or offer pre- and post-trip segments that are not reflected in the price published above. The TC is your source of information as to what is included in the package price and the cost of available options. Each trip has a different 'final refund' date -- that is the last date you can withdraw from the trip without a penalty. Refer to the club's Standing Rules 5.1-5.3 for the governing policies on trips, cancellations, refunds, etc. DEPOSITS: All trips require a per person deposit to make a reservation.

Sunday, June 23
4:00-6:00 PM
Sky High Sports
10510 Westview
\$15 - members,
guests & offspring
\$18 - non-members

ACTIVITY
COORDINATOR:
Diane Baker
ASST ACTIVITY
COORDINATOR:
Ross Baker



jumping for JOY

Sky High Sports is a unique trampoline fun center. This facility has been designed and created for one purpose: To have FUN! Come and improvise! Whether you flip forward or flip backward, you will definitely flip out for Sky High Sports! You can free-bounce and do tricks all day, or you can join us for some of our organized activities, like our trampoline dodge

ball. As long as you like to bounce, Sky High Sports is for you. SCSC has a private court for two hours!

Unlike home trampolines, with their specially designed, spring loaded frame, landing here has more give. All frames and springs are covered by 2-inch thick safety pads. With 360 degrees of trampoline walls and court supervisors, there's no falling off this trampoline.

All ages welcome. Everyone needs to have a signed waiver to participate, and those under 18 must have a parent-signed waiver. Available on their website: <http://hou.jumpskyhigh.com>

Sitz in the CLOUD

By now you have undoubtedly noticed that the Sitzmarke looks very different than previous editions. I've used the layout capabilities of Adobe InDesign to inject more photos and use a new layout, and have added articles highlighting future activities. We've also adopted a free digital publishing platform from HP, called magcloud. This platform can give you an immersive reading experience online, and is especially great for tablets. What's unique about this platform is that you can also choose to have a color, bound copy printed and mailed to you, for just \$.20 per page + postage. I think the new format is near coffee table

quality -- and when printed using magcloud, the Sitz will be something you can feel proud to share with family and friends. Of course, you can still choose to just download the PDF from our email blast or our website like you did before and read it using Adobe Reader, or print the PDF on your own printer. Lastly, going forward the Sitz will accept advertising. Let me know what you think of the new Sitz by dropping me an email at marketing@spacecity.org.

Lynda Meyer

VP of Marketing

1. Go to www.magcloud.com
2. In the search box, type "Sitzmarke"
3. Click on the issue you want to read. When the page loads with the cover, click on the red READ NOW banner for a free digital edition.
4. If you open an account on magcloud (it's free), you can save the issue to your digital library, or order a color printed copy to be mailed to you, or download a hi-res PDF version.

Take me out to the BALLGAME

We all know that this is 'rebuilding' year for the Astros, but there are lots of reasons to join us at a game this summer aside from great comederie.

Here are some facts about Minute Maid

Park you might not have known.

WHY IS THERE A TRAIN IN MINUTE MAID PARK?

The largest entrance to the park is inside what was once Houston's Union Station, and the left-field side of the stadium features a railway as

homage to the site's history. The train moves along a track on top of the length of the exterior wall beyond left field whenever an Astros player hits a home run, and/or when

"The largest entrance to the park is inside what was once Houston's Union Station, and the left-field side of the stadium features a railway as homage"

the Astros win a game. A replica of a 19th century locomotive (circa 1860) and its coal tender became a fast fan favorite in the inaugural season. It also proves a link to the past for Houston and the Union Station site. Weighing close to 50,000 pounds, the

train runs along the low roof track on the west side of the ballpark.

WHY DOES THE TRAIN NOW CARRY ORANGES RATHER THAN COAL?

The engine's tender is now filled with giant oranges in tribute to Coca Cola's most famous product,

Minute Maid Orange Juice.

I HAVE AN AUTOMATIC GARAGE DOOR OPENER. DOES IT HAVE ANYTHING IN COMMON WITH THE RETRACTING ROOF?

Sort of. The roof retracts completely off the ballpark to reveal the largest open area of any retractable



roofed baseball stadium and opens & closes in 12-20 min. The roof moves back and forth an estimated 160 times a year, ~ 14.6 miles. Steel panels roll in sequence along tracks on the east and west sides of the stadium. The roof's shape - lower side panels flanking the high center panel - is based on a batted baseball's hyperbolic flight path. **WHY DOES THE PLAYING FIELD SLOPE IN THE OUTFIELD?**

The 90-ft wide 30 degree center field incline known as Tal's Hill, named for

former team president Tal Smith, is an element taken from historic ballparks and the flagpole is an element taken from Yankee Stadium.

WHY IS THERE A GASOLINE PUMP ABOVE LEFT-CENTER FIELD?

A concourse above Tal's Hill features the "Conoco Home Run Porch" in left-center field that is actually over the field of play, and features a classic gasoline pump that displays the total number of Astros home runs hit since the park opened.

CREDITS: Information for this article gleaned from wikipedia and houston.astros.mlb.com

ASTROS' GAME

Join SCSC for an evening of Astros' baseball fun with Club Level tickets in Section 233, Rows 7 and 8, at Minute Maid Park. Tickets will come pre-loaded with a \$15 credit that can be used for food, drinks, or even your favorite Astros' gear. Club Level is the exclusive level that has excellent food, complete with a full bar. The first 10,000 fans to enter the ballpark will receive a home replica jersey, presented by Champion Energy Services.

After the game meet for more fun right across the street at the Home Plate Bar and Grill, located at 1800 Texas Avenue

Saturday, 6/29

Game time 3:05 p.m.

Minute Maid Park

501 Crawford St.

\$40 – members

\$45 – non-members

ACTIVITY COORDINATOR:

Don Macken

houston DYNAMOS

Saturday, July 27th
5:30pm - optional pre-
game drinks/dinner &
pick-up tickets
7:00pm - game time
9:00pm - game over

PRE-GAME DINNER:
801 Saint Emmanuel St.
(Lucky's Pub)

DYNAMO GAME:
2200 Texas Ave. (BBVA
Compass stadium)

\$37 - members
\$40 - non-members
Final payment refund
date is 6/27

ACTIVITY COORDINATOR:
[Evan Howell](#)

don't just set goals, SCORE THEM

Would you like to be so close to exciting
champion Houston Dynamo soccer action
that you can smell the grass on the
field? If so, join SCSC for an exhilarating event at the
beautiful new BBVA Compass Stadium cheering on
the Houston Dynamo as they douse the Chicago

Fire! Not only will you be
★ ★ seated in section 117 (7, 8
or 9 rows from the



grass) but included
in this deal is a
Dynamo orange
collector T-shirt!
Meet up at 5:30

p.m. for dinner and/or
drinks and to pick up tickets

at Lucky's Pub -- just west of the stadium. Lucky's
Pub boasts the largest beer selection in Houston
with over 280 beers! They also have an award
winning chef. See you there!

Brian Davis, Brad Ching, pictured at right

Photo: Houston Dynamos



kentucky DERBY at sam houston race park

May 4, 2013 was a glorious day for the Kentucky Derby, well at least it was in Houston, Texas and 25 of us fun loving people joined SCSC at the Sam Houston Race Park for an afternoon of fun, food, drinks, talking, laughing, making new friends, seeing old friends, betting on the horses, creative "hats" and more.

Yes, there were several heads adorned with hats within our group and there were two hat contests: One sponsored by Sam Houston Race Track and our own club contest. Janice Hayes-Cavada signed up for the Race Track's hat contest, which had approximately 88 contestants and her hat made the top 10! Congratulations, Janice!

Our SCSC best "original" hat contest had 9 contestants. Our official judges were Judy Schiro and Louella Steller. The winner was Elaine Bell and she received a \$20 gift card to Spec's. Congratulations Elaine! Our contestants, from left to right in the photos along with this article, are: Elaine Bell, Clair

Love, Lynda Meyer, Cindy Moore, Sandy Wellhausen, Janice Hayes-Cavada, Sue Salvage, Maryanne Pierce and Betty Gosse.

There was betting going on all around and some people actually knew what they were doing. Some folks just went by whatever caught their eye. As an example in the 4th race, here in Houston, there were bets on "String Bikini" because of the name of the horse. Then some of them realized that the odds were 3 to 1 and somehow that horse came in dead last! Carole Moffatt and Mary Quinn joined us. Mary was ecstatic that she could bet on the races all day and she had some pretty serious looks on her face as she was making her decisions. Then there were those who bet on the Kentucky Derby. We had some winners and some losers. We even had some who bet on a horse just because the horse carried a female jockey. That horse came in 4th which isn't bad, but it was not a win, place or show.

Louella Steller and James Barbee came a

little late but James was in high fashion as he was dressed to the "nines" in his white shirt, gold and white tie, seersucker gold and white pants with matching shoes. If we had a best dressed award, he would have gotten it.

Judy Schiro and Roy Hayes joined us. Ron was there as our official photographer and he took some great photos for us (see next page).

Our group was one of the last to break up. For my husband, Russel Turbeville, and me, this was our first trip to the race track for the Kentucky Derby and we had a great time. Thanks to all the participants for making this such a fun day for me and I hope you all had a wonderful time.

Sue Salvage

Activity Coordinator

Re-live the excitement of the Kentucky Derby....

[WATCH THE RACE REPLAY HERE](#)



Photo album next page....

derby PHOTO ALBUM

Space City Hat Contestants



our LEADERSHIP 2013-14

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club CALENDAR

JUNE

1 Volunteer -
AIA Sandcastle
Competition

[<< MORE INFO >>](#)

23 Trampoline
Adventure

[<< MORE INFO >>](#)

27 June Happy
Hour

[<< MORE INFO >>](#)

29 Astros Game

[<<MORE INFO >>](#)



AUGUST

11 Pete's Power
Pontoon Boat Day

[<< MORE INFO >>](#)

12 August General
Meeting & Annual
Ski KickOff

[<< MORE INFO >>](#)

22 August Happy
Hour

[<< MORE INFO >>](#)

JULY

20 Annual
Volunteer Party

[<<MORE INFO >>](#)

25 July Happy
Hour

[<< MORE INFO >>](#)

27 Dynamos
Game

[<< MORE INFO >>](#)

Visit our [website](#)
for the most up-to-
date information.