



# *The Sitzmarke*

SPACE CITY SKI CLUB [www.spacecityskiclub.org](http://www.spacecityskiclub.org)



March 2012

Member  
Texas Ski Council

Vol. 47, No. 11

## Space City Ski Club March General Meeting

Monday, March 12th @ 6:30 pm to 9:00pm

@Dave & Busters SCSC Officer Election

### From Mission Control

by Sandra McCunis, President

The SCSC election of officers for the 2012/2013 season will be held at our Annual Meeting on Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at Dave & Buster's. 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 mark your calendars and plan to attend. 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 2012 Ski Bid Fest will be held on the weekend of March 30 thru April 1 in San Antonio. 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 2012-2013 season. The Drury Plaza will offer discounted room rates for reservations made by March 9<sup>th</sup>.

The link to the Delegate and Guests registration is: <http://www.texas-ski.org/insidetsc/Meetings.htm>. Our SCSC representative and TSC Ski Bid Fest Chair is Camille LaRoe and you can contact her at [camille.laroe@sylvania.com](mailto:camille.laroe@sylvania.com) if you have additional questions.

Our ski season is nearing the end and we will begin planning for the next season. In addition to our TSC trips, we will be organizing club trips. Please send us your suggestions of both ski and non-ski destinations that you would like to visit. Your input is important because it helps us to plan trips that appeal to our members.

We will look forward to seeing you at our March Annual Meeting. Please come and vote!



### Countdown to Liftoff

By Jim Hodges, V.P. of Trips

The end of another great ski season is coming to an end. We are closing out the 2011-2012 ski season with two March trips -

Breckenridge, Colorado short trip and the TSC Final Showdown at Sun Valley, Idaho. The final trip on our calendar for the current year will be the TSC summer Expedition to the Galapagos Islands in August.

I know that several of you purchased new skis and boots this year! How do you store your expensive snow skis and boots for the hot & humid Houston summer? Fortunately you will not need to



rent space at a local fur storage facility. First of all, everything must be dry! Some boots it is okay to remove the liners to let everything dry completely. If you do pull your liners, make sure to push them back into the shell completely. The best way to determine if you have the liner completely reinserted is to put your boots on. You could also leave your boots out in open air (not inside your boot bag) for several days to make sure everything is dry. To store your boots, make sure the various layers are folded over each other correctly and buckle your boots in a "loose" position. The best way to prepare your skis for summer storage is to take them to a ski shop and have them tuned and waxed. (Continued next page)

## Ski Trip Schedule 2011-2012

**\*\*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   |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------|---|--|---|
| Big Sky, MT                             | Feb 25 - Mar 3<br>(Sat-Sat)     | 14-Nov-11 | Full \$1,219<br>Land \$816<br>Beverly.borroughs.roberts@gmail.com | Beverly Roberts<br>281-496-4897<br>pj_nanney@hotmail.com     | Jill Nanney<br>832-251-7097                         |
| Breckenridge, CO<br>Short Trip          | Mar 3-7, 2012<br>(Sat-Weds)     | 14-Nov-11 | Full \$829<br>Land \$502  | Patty Finch<br>finchp@gtlaw.com<br>936-520-1486              | Louella Steller<br>ljdms@aol.com<br>832-723-9529    |
| Sun Valley, Idaho<br>TSC Final Showdown | Mar 10-17, 2012<br>(Sat-Sat)    | 1-Dec-11  | Full \$1,352<br>Land \$841  | Ann Rogers<br>rogersae@msn.com<br>281-703-0454               | Ray Villareal<br>rdforce1@yahoo.com<br>713-344-3625 |
| Galapagos<br>TSC Summer Expedition      | August 1-10, 2012<br>(Weds-Fri) | 19-Mar-12 | Land Only<br>\$3,563<br>Cash Disc \$100                           | Melinda Hughes<br>home@angeloproductions.com<br>936-825-7039 |   |

## Having A Blast!

By Leslie Ward, V.P. of Activities

See the Calendar of Events for the upcoming Happy Hour locations.



Thanks to Millie Jude who lead a small but very enthusiastic group to visit The Menil Collection Museum. Millie was quoted to say that the dinner at the Canopy was "yummy."

Our annual saunter to the Houston Live Stock and Rodeo will be on Friday March 9, go see Reba McEntire. Craig Campbell is the AC for this event. Tickets are \$25 for members and non-members.

We are advertising a special event being offered by the Houston Jewish Film Festival. It is a movie called "Beyond the Boundaries," which will be shown at the Kaplan Theater at the ERJCC on Sunday March 18 at 1:00 PM. The movie "follows several injured Israeli veterans - some of whom are amputees - who were invited by Golshim L'Chaim for rehabilitative skiing in Aspen. All ticket holders will have chance to

win a raffle for a gift card from Sun & Ski Sports. Tickets are available via [www.erjcchouston.org/filmfest](http://www.erjcchouston.org/filmfest).

How about a hike with your dog in the Houston Arboretum and an optional lunch at Barnaby's Café on Woodway? Louella Stellar will be the AC for this free event. Please sign up with her so we know who will be coming and we can let Barnaby's know as well. The hike will be Saturday April 14 at 11:00 AM.

We have finalized our plans to go see La Cage Aux Folles on Sunday April 29, 2012 at 7:30 PM at the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts. Peggy Schilling is the AC for this. Member price is \$72 and non-member price is \$75.

See the Calendar of Events for the upcoming Happy Hour locations.

SCSC is now on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/spacecityskiclub](http://www.facebook.com/spacecityskiclub)

SCSC is now on twitter @spacecityski (they would follow spacecityski)

Please contact me at 832-863-2018 or [shmrck1317@aol.com](mailto:shmrck1317@aol.com) to volunteer to lead an activity.

## Countdown to Liftoff (cont)

Not only is this the best way to prepare your skis for storage, you will not have to worry about preparing them before your first trip next winter. The ski shop will leave a heavy coat of wax on the skis if you tell them you are planning to store them for the summer. Next winter on your first trip, you can easily scrape the extra wax or just start skiing and it will come off on its own. Store your skis with your binding in the "closed" position (the position they would be with the boot in). You can store your skis lying on their side or standing up on their tails. Some people suggest if you lock your skis together, lash them at the shovels and tails and place a spacer (block of wood, pair of socks, etc) between the bindings. This is to protect the camber of the ski. Store your boots and skis in a somewhat climate controlled area of your house such as a closet or under a bed. Do not store your expensive boots and skis in your garage or your attic!

Attached is the application form you need to complete to apply to be a Trip Coordinator or Assistant Trip Coordinator for the 2012-2013 ski season. Please consider volunteering your time next year and help us run one of our trips. We need to identify who will be our trip coordinators as soon as possible. We will start our trip planning for next season beginning in April. Be a part of it! Send us your application to be a TC or ATC!

## NOMINATIONS FOR CLUB OFFICERS—2012/2011

### **Sandra McCunis—President**

I would like to thank the nominating committee for their confidence in my ability and I am honored to be nominated to serve as President for a second term. I have been a member of Space City Ski Club since 1980 and have participated in numerous domestic and international ski trips and activities. I have met many great people and formed lasting friendships since joining SCSC.

After enjoying many years of membership, I wanted to become involved in the organization of the club. I served as Vice President of Activities in the 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 season. I was the TC for Steamboat in 2009, the ATC for Bansko in 2008 and the ATC for Park City in 2007. I also served on the 2008/2009 nominating committee for officers.

I have found volunteering for Space City Ski Club very rewarding and I am looking forward to new challenges as President. My goals for the 2012/2013 year are to work with our executive committee to implement new and innovative ideas to increase membership, provide a great slate of trips and a variety of fun activities. I appreciate your support and look forward to serving as your President and to another great year with SCSC.



### **Cindy Moore—VP of Activities**

I would be honored to be your Vice President of Activities for 2012-13. I have the qualifications to organize a lot of fabulous activities in the next year. About 7 years ago I was Vice President of Programs for SCSC. My Director of Programs, Ellen Eastham, and I organized all of the SCSC general meetings and activities. Next I was the President and the following year I was Chairman of the Board and Director of Programs at the same time where I again organized activities. I lead the TSC trip to Big Sky in 2009, and then served as the Alternate TSC Rep. Then I was the TSC VP of Final Showdown and also lead the SCSC Snowbird trip at the same time. Currently I am the President of the TSC Youth Foundation and have another term on the TSCYF board this coming year. Since I have already been over activities twice, it is pretty easy for me to plan them, the Volunteer party and approve the transmittals. I know most of the active members of the club which helps with recruiting activity coordinators (ACs). My idea is to go back to the way we did activities in the past by planning out the whole year in advance and have one or two AC training meetings to train AC's on how to do a budget and the transmittals. This helps develop future trip leaders. I would advertise all activities 3 months in advance in the Sitzmarke. I would like to bring back some old favorites, such as the Road Rally, and bring in some new activities that would be family optional and/or geared towards active, younger adults to help grow our club with the younger members it so desperately needs to survive in the future.



### **Ann Rogers—VP of Trips**

Thank you for the nomination of VP of Trips. I have been in the club for over 10 years. I joined the club to take advantage of group ski trips and meet new people. The club has met both of my goals and I have had a blast. I have been an assistant trip coordinator and trip coordinator twice. I am running the trip to Sun Valley in March, the TSC Final Showdown.

The number of trips and destinations are one of the advantages of being a member of our club. We offer trips that give members an opportunity to ski new resorts along with some favorite destinations. Space City is a big supporter of the TSC trips and also running several club trips that are on a smaller scale. The annual Bid Fest is coming up at the end of March, this is when the TSC trips will be decided on. Please mark your calendars and have your voice heard on which destination you would like to see the TSC travel to for the ski season of 2012 - 2013.

Space City Ski Club could not function without help of so many dedicated volunteers. Please consider running a trip this next season. I will be looking for leaders on TSC and club trips! I look forward to another great slate of trips and of "Counting Down to Lift Off".



### **Leyla Ozkardesh—VP of Publications**

Thanks for the nomination of VP of Publications. My experience as Newsletter publisher for this past year and other organizations as well as my computer experience helps me believe I can do a terrific job with publishing the SCSC monthly newsletter. It's been an enjoyable couple of years creating the newsletter. I plan to smooth out the electronic process of sending out the newsletter and the archives.

It has been a great experience being part of this club since joining in 2001. I've made wonderful friends and have enjoyed serving as secretary for multiple terms and running several of our ski trips and activities over the years.



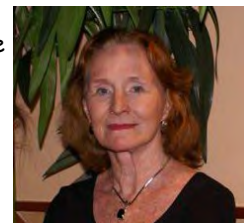


### Jan Ferrell—VP of Membership

Thank you for considering me as your V P Membership for another year. It has been a privilege this past year. As such, I've gotten to know many of you better. Belonging to club such as ours provides the members to enjoy a vast range of activities and bring able to facilitate membership is fun.

I am entering into a new phase of my life by retiring in March. That will free me up to be even more involved in the club and membership. It's all exciting and this next year will be double so.

Thank you again for considering me to continue as V P Membership.



### Chuck Pena - Treasurer

I want to thank the nominating committee for selecting me again for my third term as Treasurer. People ask me, "why would you want to do this 3 times?", well I enjoy it but I don't want to horde all the fun. If you think this is something you want to do, tell somebody next year, I won't mind handing over the check book.

For those that don't know me, I've been snowboarding for about 12 years now and skied as well for the last 5 years but back to snowboarding only this year. So if you want to get an opinion about boarding just ask. Despite what you might hear on the mountain, boarders are actually friendly. I work for a very large Australian company and write international economic models for a living, so I know my way around a spreadsheet and a little bit about finance. Education wise; I have an engineering degree from the University of Illinois and a MBA from Tulane.



### Sarah Granbery —Secretary

I've been a member in the club since 1994. I joined so I could go to a windsurfing activity at Mud Lake and then took my first ski trip to Banff/Lake Louise in the winter of 1996. I had a great time and met some fun people and made new friends. I volunteered in 1997 to be the ATC on the Winterpark trip and subsequently moved on to be the TC for Jackson Hole the next year. I have also volunteered as an ATC to Steamboat in 2009. I have previously served as Secretary in 2007-08 and it is a privilege to be nominated again. I want to do my part to keep this club active so we can continue to offer fun activities and trips for our community.



### Space City Ski Club 2011-2012 Executive Committee

|                  |                 |                             |              |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| President        | Sandra McCunis  | semccunis@aol.com           | 281-463-7717 |
| VP of Activities | Leslie Ward     | shmrck1317@aol.com          | 832-863-2018 |
| VP of Trips      | Jim Hodges      | jehodgesjr@sbcglobal.net    | 281-829-6155 |
| VP of Mbrship    | Jan Ferrell     | jferrell123@att.net         |              |
| VP of Pub        | Leyla Ozkardesh | leylajoz@sbcglobal.net      | 281-584-9723 |
| Treasurer        | Chuck Pena      | penaca23@gmail.com          |              |
| Secretary        | Sarah Granbery  | sarahgranbery@sbcglobal.net |              |
| Dir ofTrips      | Bill Bomberger  | bbomberger@hotmail.com      | 281-495-8668 |
| Dir. of Comm.    | Lynda Meyers    | lynda_meyer@yahoo.com.      |              |
| Auditor          | Keith Kirkman   | keithkirkman@comcast.net    | 281-894-4203 |

### Board of Directors

Sandy Wellhausen, Chairman  
Melinda Hughes  
Patti Finch  
Ann Rogers  
Camille LaRoe  
Cindy Moore

David Cone  
Roger Holzman

### Calendar of Events

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 03/09/12            | <b>HLSR Reba McEntire</b> - 7:00 PM   |
| 03/12/12            | <b>March General Meeting</b> - Dave & Buster's 6010 Richmond Ave. - 6:30 to 9:00 PM                       |
| 03/18/12            | <b>Movie "Beyond The Boundaries"</b> - JCC- 5601 S. Braeswood - 5:30 to 9:00 PM                           |
| 03/19/12            | <b>ExCom Meeting</b> at Hin's Restaurant - 6:30 PM  |
| 03/22/12            | <b>March Happy Hour</b> - Capone's - 4304 Westheimer @ Mid Lane - 5:30 to 9:00 PM                         |
| 03/30/12 - 04/01/12 | <b>TSC Ski BidFest</b> - San Antonio  |
| 04/02/12            | <b>ExCom Meeting</b> at Hin's Restaurant - 6:30 PM  |
| 04/09/12            | <b>April General Meeting</b> - Dave & Buster's 6010 Richmond Ave. - 6:30 to 9:00 PM                       |
| 04/14/12            | <b>Hiking</b> with our dogs @ Houston Arboretum w/ Optional lunch at Barnaby's Café on Woodway - 11:00 AM |
| 04/26/12            | <b>April Happy Hour</b> - Hughes' Hangar - 2811 Washington Ave. - 5:30 to 9:00 PM                         |
| 04/29/12            | <b>TUTS's La Cage Aux Folles</b> @ Hobby Center for the Performing Arts 800 Bagby -7:30 to 9:30 PM        |
| 05/07/12            | <b>ExCom Meeting</b> at Hin's Restaurant - 6:30 PM until  |
| 05/14/12            | <b>May General Meeting</b> - Dave & Buster's 6010 Richmond Ave. - 6:30 to 9:00 PM                         |
| 05/24/12            | <b>May Happy Hour</b> - Old Heidelberg- 1810 Fountainview - 5:30 to 9:00 PM                               |



*Happy Hour 2/23 at Sullivan's, February Gen Mtg Dance Lessons*





## Steamboat Springs Jan 21-28, 2012 by Derek Shoobridge—TC

Trip got off to a good start when 21 Ski Club members assembled at IAH starting at 9:00 on Saturday morning, an unusually relaxed starting time. Plane left and arrived in Hayden more or less on time, we all got on the bus and after the usual grocery store stop, we arrived at the Grand Hotel in Steamboat around 4:00 in the afternoon.

Wow! what a place, the accommodation was liked by all, nothing is ever perfect for everyone but the condos within the hotel were huge, some of them you could hold a dance in the living room, all were well appointed, my only comment is the bedrooms could have had more drawer space but there was PLENTY of room on the floor so who cares especially when all the amenities of a first class hotel were available to us. Andy, one of our Condo Mates had kindly offered to use a rollaway as the hotel said they had insufficient single beds, was pleasantly surprised when our Condo featured double beds.



We all assembled, now joined by Keith and Frank who had driven by car from Houston and Colorado respectively, for a welcome reception in "The Cabin" with refreshments put on by the Grand. Damien Medlin, Derek's main contact, gave us a little welcome speech and answered questions. A slight hiccup when the Hotel could not find our lift tickets but eventually they arrived, were distributed and we split up to explore, eat dinner and prepare for our first day of skiing.

Some tidbits, high lights and memories of our 6 days, in no particular order:

- Considering Steamboat only had 1" of snow on Jan 1, conditions were good, not perfect but good enough for us all to enjoy skiing at our own paces. The main runs had adequate coverage and were well groomed. The "Top Dogs" found plenty of snow and bumps at the top of the Mountain.
- Weather conditions were mixed throughout, some days we had sunshine, snow and whiteout all at the same on different levels of the mountain, kept us on our toes.
- Anonymous Personal opinions: Worst run on the mountain "Yoo Hoo" - hard to get to, then flat, flat, flat. Best run was "Tomahawk" - even in the fog, with high winds and powder, you have no fear.
- While sitting next to each other on the plane, Halcyon Learned and Robyn Morgan, both decided to take lessons at the very beginning. It was not until two days later at the Pizza Night, when they were recounting the various incidents that happened in their lessons that they realized that they were both in the same group. What a difference parkas, helmets and goggles make to our appearance.
- I am told that Anne Thomas lost her "Tree Virginity" when she successfully skied the trees.
- The Pizza and left over parties in Room 605 were enjoyed by all. Thank you Anne for your delicious cooked food as you cleared out your condo's fridge of homemade Pesto Pasta, Penne Pasta with meat sauce and deviled eggs. All yummy and much appreciated. Ann surprised Andy & Roger at the airport with a gift of pickle relish. You had to be there to appreciate this. We had failed to provide same for her preparation of her deviled eggs for our Group party.
- Our group were not just Powder Hounds, we had two PHDs in the ALL Ladies Condo- guess which two.
- After Carmen Mikhail's fall, Leslie Ward accompanied her to the Emergency room and we are told that they had some great laughs together. Unfortunately they will not tell us what they were laughing about, oh well if they were laughing about me they were not laughing at any one else and endorphins always help the healing process.
- Leslie's new favorite hot drinks - marshmallow flavored Vodka and Chocolate Butterscotch Schnapps (got to try those)
- A favorite "Charlieism" (Charlie Roberts) = "If you want to drink with the Big Dogs, you have to ski with them" (Derek got a bye on this due to his healing ankle injury). "Northern Colorado Big Dog Clubhouse" and Happy Hour favorite was Tugboat Bar and Grill, \$10 pitchers and \$3 wines, a group of us attended regularly including Beverley who made sure that Charlie was aware of February 14!



## Steamboat Springs Pics





## Steamboat Springs (Continued)

- Best purchase of the trip - boot binder closing tool \$7.50 at Christy Sports (wish I had known about that)
- Roger ended up out of bounds while finishing the day with Paul Stolnacke and LaDaune Ashley. No one knows how but fortunately somebody saw him and helped him out. We all hope to be skiing as well as Roger when we reach his maturity.
- After much debate, Leslie, Louella, Carmen and Halcyon made a side trip to "Strawberry Park Hot Springs". They all had a great time and Louella was even brave enough to get in one of the ice cold streams.
- Leslie and Roger were stuck on the Gondola when it broke down. As the wind blew their cabin around, their "Gondola Mate", a Scottish woman sitting next to Roger, grabbed his leg in fright. Roger's response "I'll be your security blanket any day". Leslie professed to be a green run only skier. Soon she was doing well on the blue runs. But very explicit with her "Oh Shit" screams when she at times fell
- Halcyon, Anne and Louella all decided to take a break from skiing on the last day and tried snow shoes. They really enjoyed a nature guided trek to Fish Creek Falls.
- Frank Adams entertained members and strangers nightly in the Hot Tub - but how we don't know.
- Janet McKenzie went home with new skis. Several other members demoed but I do not know of any other major purchases
- Rodney Rocha and Robyn Morgan, our newest rejoining members, Rodney & Robyn were a delightful addition to SCSC. Robyn, we hope to see you at the top of the mountain on your next trip. They both showed Colorado and Florida Skiers how to really C&W dance at the Art Depot in downtown Steamboat. We hope they enjoyed themselves on this trip and will take more club trips in the future
- We had two birthdays on the trip, Susan Blome and Janet McKenzie. Susan was also celebrating her early retirement.
- Group dinner was at the "Ore House". Our private room was well attended in spite of a full restaurant. Though all the group was not overly impressed, most would go there again.
- And the rest of the group, Davis as usual did his own thing on the slopes and then usually joined us for Happy Hour and evening functions. Bob Rexford was also a loner on the slopes but enjoyed the "apres" ski company. We hope he will also join us for future trips. Keith, as one of the "Big Dogs", always seemed to find good snow. His philosophy was visibility did not matter as long as you were close to the trees you could see. His helpful comments at Happy Hour were always appreciated.

As the trip came to an end, Keith and Jim went on by car to ski in Utah and Frank drove back home to Loveland, unfortunately they left too early to be included in the group photo. The rest of us had an uneventful bus ride to the airport. We had the usual "zoo" checking in at Hayden and then an early departure and smooth flight into Houston. On a closing note, we all wish a speedy recovery to both Lynda Myer and Carmen Mikhail. Lynda was so active and helpful in the planning stages of our trip but had a major accident in Vail prior to our trip so was unable to join us. She was replaced by Carmen who had a bad fall on the slopes and had to be brought down by snowmobile.



It was a super group of people. I thank you all for making it a really fun trip and a special word to my unofficial ATC, LaDaune, who in addition to helping me, kept me sane when things were not going well. We all had a great time and I look forward to skiing with y'all in the future.

PS On a final note, a comment from Roger which I think is worth adding: to SCSC Members past - It was a joy seeing Lotty Gaurschi traveling & skiing with the Over The Hill Gang. And former SCSC President Stacey Ronszy driving from Denver to wish Susan Blome a happy birthday. It was sad seeing many of our former Members departing for Aspen with their former SCSC friends rather than skiing with us. All of you, please rejoin SCSC. That group also returned at the same time as we did."





## Alaska Cruise – TSC Summer Expedition aboard the Carnival Spirit

Sept. 6-13, 2011 – PART II

By TC Ellen Eastham

A group of 29 from SCSC, Austin Skiers, and Beaumont Armadillo Ski Club comprised the SCSC Group, that first flew to Seattle, WA. Part I Article was included in the January Sitzmarke, which described sightseeing in Seattle on Sept. 5, then the group joined about 100 from TSC on the Carnival Spirit to depart from Seattle's dock on Sept. 6. Dorothea Rasser with SkiEurope organized the tour for TSC. One full day was at sea with numerous activities and shows on board, then the ship traveled through Tracy Arm Fjord, with small icebergs floating by throughout the day as it rained the entire day. Day 4 the ship visited our first port in Skagway and many rode the "White Pass & Yukon Route Railway" for a 3 hour journey crossing into British Columbia, Canada. As we arrived in Juneau, the capital of Alaska for the 5<sup>th</sup> day at sea, the article ended in introducing the Mendenhall Glacier, which is Alaska's most famous glacier.

As I look back on an adventurous journey prior and new friends I met on this trip, we all in SCSC are so very lucky to have the companionship of travel mates for our adventures! We have those "have-to see" destinations in our minds, and Alaska is one of these on all of our lists! I would like to describe the Carnival Cruise aboard the "Spirit" and the 4 ports we visited: Skagway, Juneau, Ketchikan, and Victoria. The trip can be summed up by descriptive words: a variety of mountainous and vast ocean scenery, elegant ship décor, wide-range of entertainment, diversity of landscapes, gourmet and abundance of food, uniqueness, majestic land, amazing glaciers, numerous and interesting excursions, remoteness of a huge State, friendly and helpful crew, and so many wondrous words that each trip participant could describe to you in their personal thoughts of the trip! Alaska is a place that everyone dreams to go see, to travel across the state, whether by cruise, by train, some drive in a RV or by car to vacation. Alaska, derived from the Aleut word *alaxsxaq*, meaning "the mainland", also known as Alyeska, the "great land", should be on your list to explore the adventure.

The group participants were amazed at what we saw and the choice of selections what to do each day. As **Christie Burke** said, "Our Alaska Cruise was a delight with everyday something new. There were so many things offered on the ship and each day we came into an exciting and different port. It was awesome!" **Roger Holzman** described, "Mostly rain and heavy fog during our 3 days of cruising north to Alaska. Then we were blessed with sunshine for our tours of Skagway, Juneau & Ketchikan." **Tom Danowski** said, "Best excursion by far was the Skagway mountain railway. Second best? The ladies of the Red Onion bordello! Experience I least want to repeat - "Fun Day at Sea," which seemed more like a Not-So-Fun week, of rockin', rollin', and nausea! Seattle was beautiful, too."

Alaska is the largest state in the United States by area, one-fifth the size of the Lower 48, and Texas is  $\frac{1}{2}$  the size of Alaska! It is the 4th least populous and the least densely populated of the 50 United States. Approximately half of Alaska's 722,000 residents live within the Anchorage area.

When we arrived in Juneau, the group spread out on a wide variety of excursions. Juneau is an interesting place, and unlike any other state capital because it is accessible only by sea or air. It has no flat land and it has a giant icefield blocking off any chance of land access. It has been said that there are no stolen cars in Juneau, just joy rides, as there is nowhere to go! **Roger Holzman** mentioned, "there were no **Sarah Palin** sightings in Juneau." However, everywhere in Alaska was proud of Sarah as the stores displayed her picture, book, and souvenirs.



## Alaska Cruise Part II—Continued

Historical Juneau has narrow, angled streets and interesting architecture, the Alaska State Museum, the State Office Building, and the octagonal St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church. A must see is a visit to the remarkable Mendenhall Glacier. It regularly calves small blue icebergs, the size of a truck and house, into Mendenhall Lake, creating a spectacular foreground. Popular excursions are: Whale watching, Rainforest Canopy & Zipline, kayaking, eagle-watching, helicopter tour, dog sledding, and many more! A visit to the Red Dog Saloon, with sawdust on the floor and banjo-playing music, is a local favorite.

On Day 6, the Spirit docked in Ketchikan, the salmon and totem pole capital of Alaska. There are three major native tribes of the region: the Tlingits, Haidas, and Tsimshians. **Ellen Eastham**, **Marsha Lutz**, and **Sarah Granbery** explored the Saxman's native village with an excellent collection of totem poles. Totem poles are carved to honor deceased ancestors, record history, social events, and oral tradition.

The 7<sup>th</sup> day evening we arrived in Victoria, the moon was rising in the sky as we docked. It was too late for many tours, such as the infamous Butchart Gardens, however, many set out for bus tours to see the Empress Hotel, a tour of the city, and the harbor lights at night. It was about midnight when the ship left port to set sail for the final destination, Seattle, to arrive early the final morning.

Some memories by trip participants to describe the trip: **Sarah Granbery** "We had a fun time each night trying to guess what kind of animal towel sculpture had been left on our bed by our steward. It's kind of hard to guess when you're tired and full of good food and wine! I think we had a bulldog, a rabbit, a scorpion and different animals each night."

"The Broadway type shows in the theatre were great. But the best talent could be found in the small Clubs. Matthew & Tracy and their High Rise combo displayed awesome musical and vocal talent each night in Club Cool. Good dance music for **Melissa Ming**, **Don Macken**, and many of us. They were so willing to offer intimate conversations with us," As remembered by **Roger**. **Ellen Eastham** thought a trio to remember on this trip was **Vivian Ezenwa**, **Cecilia Newburn**, and **Christie Burke** as they were always together, and quite a variety of ages!

**Cecilia Newburn** concluded, "it was a good trip, due to the people and the fabulous weather we had!"

**Sandy Fowler's** best memory of the trip was "being told in Juneau by our whale excursion captain how fortunate we were to have been able to see both killer whales and humpback whales on an even more rare sunny day in Juneau. He went on to say that the odds of experiencing all of that simultaneously would be about like seeing a double rainbow. Well.....our group did indeed see a double rainbow on the train ride in Skagway!"

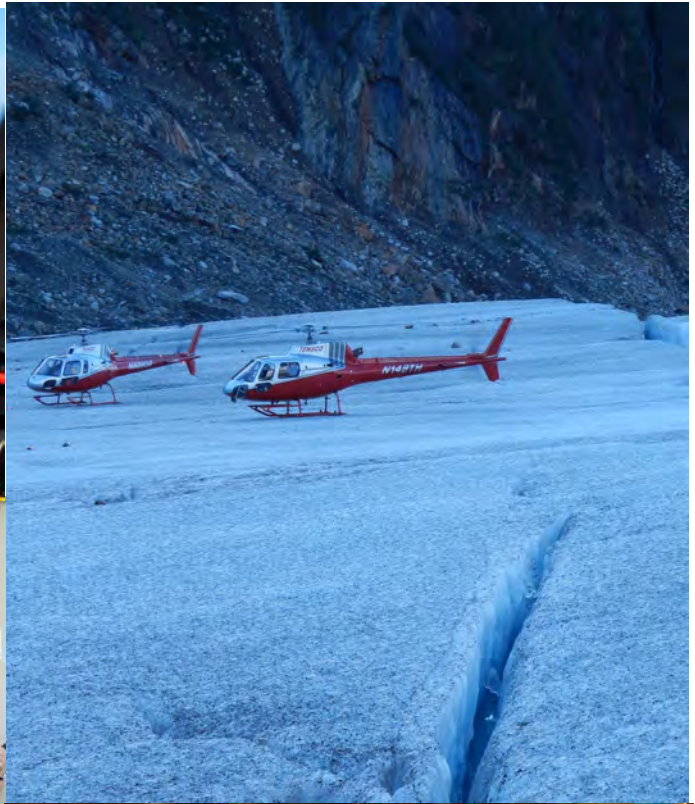
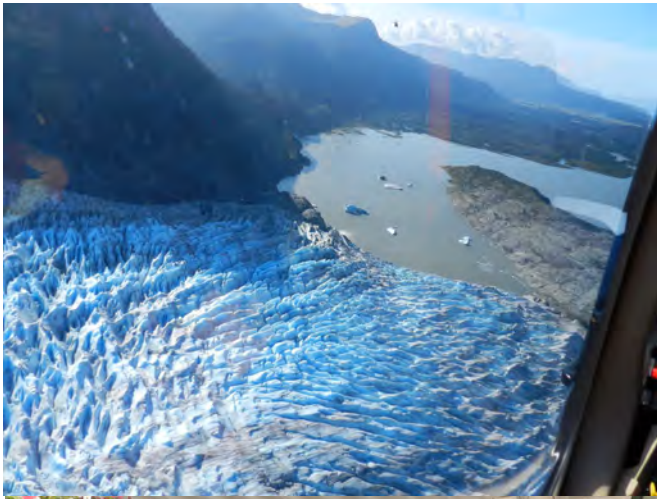
**Marilyn** and **Mark Anderson** had been on three cruises, out of Miami, and two from Galveston. They decided Alaska ought to be the next one. They heard about the TSC trip from a friend in CLASC, as it was meant to be! After busy weeks when they moved to a new city, and closed on a new home, when they checked in, they basically crashed for the week, and wanted downtime when not in port. They went into the Yukon Territory from Skagway, rode the dog "carts", and the train made for a fun day. They went whale watching and visited the Mendenhall Glacier excursion in Juneau, which were both everything they hoped it would be. Everyone had a great time at dinner, meeting new people, both with the SCSC group, in the TSC council, and others on the cruise.

TC **Tom Danowski** wrote the group before departing, "Don't forget to bring:

1 - Passport! 2 - Camera, camera battery, camera battery charger, extra camera memory card if you take as many pictures as **Ellen Eastham** does! 3 - Cell phone and charger; 4 - Binoculars; 5 - One bottle of wine or champagne; and 6 - Rain gear - I guarantee it will rain." Everyone definitely took a lot of pictures, drank wine and champagne, and it did rain!!! Tom summed up the trip, "I am ready to go again - as soon as that winning lottery ticket comes through!"











**March 30- April 1, 2012**

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

[www.druryhotels.com](http://www.druryhotels.com)



Texas Ski Council Delegates, Texas Ski Club members, Ski Resort Representatives, Vendors and Guests from around the world, come join us for 2012 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.

Room rates will be \$135.00 per standard room and \$145.00 per suite, plus applicable taxes per night with reservations made **by March 9, 2012**. On March 10, 2012 regular room rates will apply. Hotel guests receive complimentary hot breakfast and 5:30 Kickback with appetizers and beverages.

**\*\*Discounted Valet Parking \$12 per car per night. Self parking available at offsite garage across the street.**

**Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-325-0720 Refer to the TSC group number 2123813.**

**Click for hotel details.** <https://www.druryhotels.com/propertyoverview.aspx?property=0130&frombooking=true>



**As a Ski Bid Fest participant you are invited to attend:**

- Thursday Happy Hour – location on River Walk TBA hosted by Los Amigos.
- Friday, March 30th - TSC Golf Scramble Challenge or Historic Trolley Ride. See sign up forms for these event costs.
- Friday evening—Early registration and reception with cash bar and appetizers.
- Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup>—Bid presentations from ski areas from around the world. New destinations and some of your favorites. Saturday lunch included in registration.
- Saturday afternoon - The Ski Bid Fest Vendors Show, which attracts over 50 ski resorts and other travel and ski related vendors.
- Saturday night—Silent Auction with great items donated from participating vendors and ski clubs. Racing award presentations. Buffet dinner, cash bar and musical entertainment.
- Sunday, April 1st— Final Bid Presentations and Announcements of 2012–13 destinations!

**Access the link below to register:**

**Vendor:** <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=ruztm6bab&oeidk=a07e5i010lo13ee1ac8>

**Delegate:** <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=ruztm6bab&oeidk=a07e5i0z2c3d93e0a6f>

***Mark your calendars now and attend this fun filled event.***

**Contact: Camille LaRoe—Bid Committee Chair** [camille.laroe@sylvania.com](mailto:camille.laroe@sylvania.com) 281-686-2274



# Voting Ballot for Space City Ski Club Officers 2012-2013

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 – Sandra McCunis           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| VP of Activities – Cindy Moore       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| VP of Trips – Ann Rogers             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| VP of Publications – Leyla Ozkardesh | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| VP of Membership – Jan Ferrell       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Treasurer – Chuck Pena               | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Secretary – Sarah Granbery           | <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) 2012-2013 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 2012-2013 V.P. of Trips, Ann Rogers, P.O. Box 22567, Houston TX 77227 or email to [rogersae@msn.com](mailto:rogersae@msn.com)*

|          |                 |
|----------|-----------------|
|          |                 |
| Name:    | Telephone-Home: |
| Address: | Telephone-Work: |
|          | 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 (Sept-May) Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
Are you available for monthly SCSC happy hours? 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

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

Why are you interested in running a SCSC ski trip?



Friday,  
March 9th  
\$25  
7:00 pm  
AC: Craig  
Campbell  
713-882-6544



Friday is "Paint the Rodeo Pink" Day which is the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo's effort to raise breast cancer awareness.

#### IMPORTANT - DECEMBER SITZMARKE ISSUE STARTED ELECTRONIC DISTRIBUTION

Due to rising printing costs, SCSC started emailing the Sitzmarke to our member's email addresses instead of mailing a hard copy. As of December 2011, the club newsletter will go to your email address with a link to a .pdf file to view, print and save. Next Mailed copy to members is the April issue. For those who wish to still receive a hard copy, please send email to [vppublications@spacecityskiclub.org](mailto:vppublications@spacecityskiclub.org) and you will be added to the list to receive mailed copies.

PRST STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
HOUSTON, TX  
Permit No. 383

SCSC  
Space City Ski Club  
P. O. Box 22567  
Houston, TX 77227-2567