



The Sitzmarke

SPACE CITY SKI CLUB

www.spacecityskiclub.org

July 2005



Member
Texas Ski
Council

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SNOWMASS 2005

By Gary Ladd and Dana Wardell

The day started out as a normal day to head out of town for skiing. Boy, were we wrong about that. We had 3 flights out of Houston to Denver to connect with 6 flights to Aspen. Only one lucky group made it to Aspen, which included Susan Blome, Tom Dwyer, Leyla Ozkardesh, and David Sechler. The infamous trip leader, Bill Bomberger, was told by United Airlines that a second flight had also landed with 9 others. We did not have enough people to charter a bus on our own, so we connected with the Austin Skiers to make it economical. Right after we chartered the bus, one of the 9 passengers that United said was in Aspen reappeared at the airport. Now was the time to be creative. We ended up renting 2 cars at the airport to move the 4 that we did not have room for. Gary Ladd volunteered for this opportunity. About this time we found 3 more Texas ski council skiers stranded at the airport with us! Charles Butler now volunteered to drive the second vehicle to Snowmass. After becoming expert jugglers, we finally made it on the road around 8 p.m. As the bus was going up the last hill into Snowmass, a car in front of the bus decided to slow down. We lost all of our momentum and were stuck on the ice. The nice Snowmass police department arrived and immediately (after rushing off to a bar fight) called for a front end loader to pull us up the last hill into Snowmass. We arrived at the hotel around 1 a.m.

Sunday morning. It was the best of times and the worst of times. The trip leader used up all of his bad snowday IOU's for this trip. We had 6-8" of powder each day for the first 5 days of the trip. The advanced skiers loved it, but the lower level skiers had their work cut out for them.

Tuesday, the participants on the short trip also experienced trying travel. They arrived at the Houston airport to learn that the flight from Denver to Aspen had been cancelled. Our wholesaler was wonderful and we had a bus 30 minutes after we landed in Denver. It had been snowing for days and the airport was closed repeatedly. But, our intrepid group caught the bus except for Kay McKeough, whose flight to Aspen had not been cancelled. By the time we had driven across Denver and stopped for another bus with a defroster, we learned that Kay's plane sat on the runway in Denver and returned to the airport without taking off. She hopped in a cab and met us at Applejacks. So began the long journey into the dark snowy night and we arrived in Snowmass only to learn that the bus could not make it up the final hill due to icy conditions - not again! Much

as the driver tried, it wasn't going to happen. By then, it was 3 a.m. and there was no way to get to our lodging. Except for the fine young man who worked at The Stonebridge who came down the hill in his own truck and ferried us up there 3 or 4 at a time. Bless his soul. The rest of the Stonebridge crew unloaded our bags from the bus and delivered them to our rooms later that morning. Of course, Kay's skis and luggage remained in Denver for the next couple of days. Luckily she had Nancy Neill for a roommate. Nancy, you've got some really cute clothes!

In spite of the lateness of our arrival, Barbara Ehrlich, C. J. Kao, Camille LaRoe, Ann Rogers, K. C. Wang, Bessy Wang, Dave Whitehead, Pat Piech, Robbin Anderson, June Cullum and several more skiers braved the slopes that first day. It continued to snow most of that day and evening. By Wednesday, heavy snow and wind caused periodic white-outs, giving Margaret Clingerman the opportunity to lead Ron and Roberta Rambin, Gary Hercules, Gary Ladd, and Philip Vice down the "invisible mountain". That day, Richard Payne had all of the excitement. Richard was skiing with Janet McKenzie and Bob Wray and was not paying attention (showing off) when he hit some soft snow and was taken off the trail, not to be seen for a while. After several minutes all Janet could say was, "a ski was seen flying out of the woods on to the trail, then another ski, a ski pole, and a second ski pole appeared. Richard finally climbed out of the tree well that he fell into. His skis were at the bottom of the trail with him still in them."

Thursday dawned clear and bright with gorgeous snow everywhere and the skiing was terrific. Nancy DuFrane and Ashok Moza were seen all over the slopes as were Rob and Vickie Degeyter along with their old friends, Sharon and Gary Sequeira. This was the Degeyters' first trip with the club and, according to them, won't be their last. Bill Bomberger, Keith Kirkman, Bob Debell, and Frank Adams did not need anymore exercise after their exploits. They found the longest trail at Snowmass, which was a double black and made an attempt to get down the run. At the top of the trail there were only two tracks in the knee deep powder, unfortunately it was heavy powder. A stop every hundred yards was mandatory with the skiers in agony from the exercise. All made it to the bottom.

Sandy and Don Parker were on the trip with their son David and his wife, Valerie, and their baby son, David. Valerie took her first lessons

(Continued on page 3)

Next General Meeting - September 12

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Dana Wardell

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Summer is in full swing and Jose Araujo and our new Director of Programs, Jessica Halter, have a lot of fun summer activities in the works to keep our club vital while meetings cease for a few months. We also have an exciting, gorgeous new home for our 2005-2006 meetings called the Chateau Crystal at Gessner and Westheimer. It is a venue in which the meeting possibilities are also limitless! Jose is determined to pull off

interesting, fun and energizing programs for the upcoming meetings. Mark your calendar NOW for each meeting date so you don't miss out on the fun! See Jose's Vice President of Programs article for the scoop.

What about that terrific Volunteer party led by Janice Harris? If you volunteered for the 2004-2005 club year, you know it was spectacular! We can't thank Ron Hayes and Judy Schiro enough for opening their home, and fabulous back yard and pool, to us.

Simultaneously, Kayleen Kill, Hope Flynn and Patty Finch are in full gear planning an awesome 2005-2006 ski trip season, with short trips galore mixed in with the usual week long trips. They have worked hard to bring the very best in airfare and ski venues to you! See Kayleen's article for more on the upcoming trips. It's never too early to get excited about the TSC and Club ski trips!

Jeannine Jiral has lots of new ideas for the upcoming year to promote our club as a whole and to stimulate growth. If you have an idea to grow our membership, or can help with meeting and happy hours, make sure you let her know. Bring friends, coworkers and family members to our happy hours, activities and meetings and pass on our web site link to them as well. It's full of great information and latest event updates. Remember that you can now renew your membership online via PayPal! Also, you can get new membership discounts by doing three year or five year memberships online and save the time and effort of annual renewals. I hope to see you at the summer activities and happy hours! Remember that the more club events you attend, the more value you are getting out of your dues! Stay cool!

(Snowmass 2005 - Continued from page 1)

and did great while Grandpa Don was wearing himself out pulling little David up the hill again and again and again and again...Bobbette and Bob Olsen were on the trip in search of the hot tub in Aspen where they met some 30 years ago. They found it and have the pictures to prove it. The snow was so wonderful that Bobbette HAD to ski for the first time in years and did great. Bob was heard to say, "I got my baby back!" Jim McLaughlin and Norm Rund skied and partied like old pros. Marda Waters and Bob Tripp were awfully good sports for rooming together due to a last minute cancellation. Thanks, guys!!

Dana Wardell and Johanna Kuang were seen in the hot tub working out some sore muscles. Johanna's husband, Jing Gwo, was taking this trip pretty easy after having knee surgery. Lady Freitag, who has moved to Dallas, joined us in Snowmass for some fantastic snow and lots of laughs.

Michael and Dianna Carter were known as 'party central', proving after the slopes were conquered, happy-hour was the next event! And Aleksander Bunsch and Lou Kleinman were spotted at the TSC buffet giving us the thumbs-up on the first party of the trip. Robert Clements and Bruce Lowther skied together when they weren't out on the slopes looking for 'the ladies'.

Frances Kaminsky and husband Harold worked very hard trying to coordinate travel arrangements together, but the airlines just wouldn't cooperate, while David Sechler and Tom Dwyer flew in from Indiana to join all the fun. Gail Blanton and Vicki Faulkner won the SCSC shoppers prize, helping some of us find those 'perfect gifts' for loved ones left at home. Even though Elba Broussard and Rose Cafferena left us early due to an illness, they made the best of their time with the group and proved that 'mink' was in itself a winter fashion statement.

George Jalufka, John Zavala, Margaret Woods, and Nives Stanfelj were often spotted together, challenging the slopes, night-clubs and fine restaurants and as expected, Howard Schoenike was a regular dancing machine at the Friday night TSC party. Lori Gilliland and Christine March were seen tearing up the blue slopes while Maureen Irwin, Nancy Schultz, and Laura Kinney proved that black slopes were just another color, swooping down with the greatest of ease. As the only SCSC

snowboarder John Hord showed his athletic ability and also his fashion sense by winning the 'tie-one-on' competition. Merlyn Harger met Mike with Lone Star Skiers for nightly reunions, while Gary Rollins waited until the post trip party to show his stuff, shining as the life of the party. Laurie Haischer and Margaret Walker showed that SCSC members can go anywhere and have a great time. As usual, Mike Murphy and Bob Rexford hit the slopes hard and fast every day, leaving all the best skiers in a cloud of white.

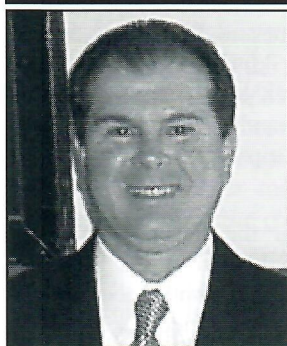
David Stotz was a great race director, and when his wife Diane fell during the Thursday races, David proved what a great husband he was - all'n'all a GREAT guy! I want to personally thank all of the participants on the short trip for being such good sports during our long trip from Denver to our lodging that Tuesday night. You were great to travel with and made my job so much easier.



Snowmass Snowfall

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Jose Arango, VP of Programs



I am very excited to announce that Jessica Halter is our new Director of Programs, approved during our last special Executive Committee meeting. Many of you know Jessica and I am sure that you are sharing in my excitement. We are anxious to fill your year with many activities that will keep you entertained!

Another big announcement is the selection of the new location for our General Meetings. Our new home is

Chateau Crystale which is located on the 2517 S. Gessner, just a half block north of Westheimer. The place is well equipped for our meetings and it will have available a cash bar as well as appetizers all at a reasonable price. Plus, you can find many good restaurants in the area.

I am very sure that you enjoyed the May general meeting Luau party. This kind of event is only possible because of the great volunteers who participate in the organization and work to provide fun entertainment.

We are still looking for volunteers to coordinate other activities, such as: General Meetings; Holiday Gala on 12/2/05; a Fashion

show; Mardi Gras event; Theatre night; Games night; Bowling Tournament; a Picnic; Wine Tasting; a Casino evening...and any other activity that you would like to be part of.

This month, we are having two very exciting activities, skydiving coordinated by Chip Stokes, and an Astros game outing coordinated by Penny Chancey. In one, you will see the ball flying through the air, and in the other, you will know how the ball feels as it flies through the air!

For upcoming activities, refer to the Calendar of Events published in this issue and at www.spacecityskiclub.org. Also, check your e-mails as there will be short notice activities and I don't want you to miss any of the fun.

Remember to send me any SCSC past files, memorabilia, documents or other items. Please contact me for collection of the items. We are centralizing the club storage so the club legacy can be handled in a more efficient way.

My evening phone is 713-541-6838 and my emails are vpprograms@spacecityskiclub.org or joseangel888@hotmail.com and Jessica's email is jessicahalter@yahoo.com. Feel free to contact us with your ideas, suggestions, and more importantly, to volunteer for any activity.

TANDEM SKYDIVING

Saturday, July 23, 8:30 a.m.

Cost: \$169 - Final Payment Date: July 15

Location: Skydive Spaceland * See www.skydivespaceland.com * 800-SKYDIVE or (281) 369-3337

Group will attend Tandem Skydiving class, followed by your JUMP with an experienced instructor. Hire a videographer to capture the exhilarating JUMP! The "Super Seventeen" did it July 17, 2004, and now it is your turn!

AC Chip Stokes (713) 857-2093 cstokesscsc@houston.rr.com

"Take Me Out to the Ball Game"

CHEER FOR THE ASTROS

Houston Astros vs. New York Mets

Sunday, July 31st at 1:05 p.m.

Field Box Seats - \$35 * Payment Deadline - July 21st

Join other SCSC members for a great Sunday afternoon

AC Penny Chancey

(713) 686-4863

pschancey@msn.com



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Event	Coordinator	Phone	E-mail/Address
JULY				
7/14	Happy Hour—Guadalajara's Mexican Grill & Bar	Jessica Halter	(713) 545-9020	2925 SW Freeway
7/23	Tandem Skydiving	Chip Stokes	(713) 857-2093	cstokesscsc@houston.rr.com
7/31	Astros vs. New York Mets	Penny Chancey	(713) 686-4863	pschancey@msn.com
AUGUST				
8/5-8/7	Water Spectacular Weekend	Barbara Della Longa	(281) 398-7107	bdellalonga@sbcglobal.net
8/11	Happy Hour—TBA	Jessica Halter	(713) 545-9020	jessicahalter@yahoo.com
SEPTEMBER				
9/8	Happy Hour—TBA	Jessica Halter	(713) 545-9020	jessicahalter@yahoo.com
9/10-17	Maui, Hawaii	Sean O'Brien	(713) 787-9762	seanobrien1981@sbcglobal.net
	<i>Space available for one single male and one single female to fill the trip</i>			
9/12	General Meeting (Chateau Crystale)	Jessica Halter	(713) 545-9020	jessicahalter@yahoo.com
OTHER ACTIVITIES				
12/2	Holiday Gala	TBD		

For the latest updates on events, check out www.spacecityskiclub.org

If you have an idea for an activity or would like to volunteer to be on AC or AAC, contact VP of Programs, Jose Arango (713) 541-6838 joseangel888@hotmail.com or vpprograms@spacecityskiclub.org, or Director of Programs, Jessica Halter (713) 545-9020 jessicahalter@yahoo.com. For more information or to pass on ideas about Happy Hours, contact Deb Cini (832) 528-6125 dcini@victoria.com.



If you attended the May meeting or recent Happy Hours, you've already seen flyers for some of next year's ski trips. At the time this article is being written, we are still firming up contracts and working on what the prices will be. In many cases, the lodging will be ski-in, ski-out. It will be a GREAT year.

In this issue, there are several articles you need to look at. The tentative Ski Trip Schedule is published. And the **REALLY BIG NEWS** – we will be allowing trip signup **ONLINE** by **CREDIT CARD**. Read the article "Pay for your ski trip by credit card" for more information.

Full trip details, prices and trip sign-up instructions will be published in the August Sitzmarke. **REMEMBER**, in order to sign up for a trip, you must be a member in good standing. Since memberships and renewals are processed **EARLY** in the month, make sure your membership application and dues are in by August 1. Don't forget -- renewals can be done online.

As promised in earlier Sitzmarkes, we are offering **FIVE** short trips: **Keystone, Vail Short, Steamboat Short, Kelowna**, and one **TBA**. **Keystone** and **Steamboat** will leave around 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday and return on Sunday. These two trips give you 4 ski days for 3

vacation days and 5 hotel nights. **Vail** will leave on Saturday and return late on Wednesday, allowing you to ski the day of departure and giving you 4 ski days for 3 vacation days and 4 hotel nights. The **TBA** trip will probably leave around 5:30 p.m. on Thursday and return late on Monday, giving you 4 ski days for 2 vacation days and 4 hotel nights.

Kelowna leaves on Wednesday and returns on Sunday. It could also be called **Big White Short**, but since we are not staying at **Big White** at all, I thought it more appropriate to call it **Kelowna**, the town we will be staying in. Note: the **Big White** trip will stay at **Big White** 4 nights and 3 nights in **Kelowna**. The short trip will stay in **Kelowna** 4 nights. For the **Kelowna** trip, skiing is available on Thursday and Friday and wine tasting is available every day. This trip is planned for the wine enthusiast or the wine enthusiast who would also like to ski some. Since **Kelowna** is a town of 100,000, there is also plenty of shopping and museums as well.

For those of you who wish to take a full week off – we have some great trips available. We are pleased to offer a combination of old favorites and some new and interesting locations as well: **Vail** in December; **Steamboat** and **Mammoth** in January; **Aspen** and **Big White/Kelowna**, **British Columbia** in February; **Snowbird**, **Utah** in February/March; and **Big Mountain** in March. And don't forget an incredible overseas trip in February/March to **Finland/Stockholm**.

TO BE CONTINUED ...

PAY FOR YOUR SKI TRIP BY CREDIT CARD

The SCSC Board of Directors (Board) is pleased to announce that for the 2005-2006 ski season you can sign up for trips online and pay for the trip with a credit card utilizing PayPal.

You may have seen the article in the May Sitzmarke that you can renew your membership online the same way. As that article stated, "By using PayPal, no one within SCSC will ever see or know a member's credit card information."

Note, the only way to pay by credit card is online. No TC, ATC or officer will be able to process a credit card directly.

To use this feature, you must have a Username and Password set up. If you do not have this set up yet, it is recommended you do so NOW to avoid delay:

1. Go to www.spacecityskiclub.org.
2. Click on "My SCSC."
3. Click on "SCSC members may request an account here."
4. Fill out the information as requested. NOTE you will need your member number. It is on the label of your Sitzmarke.
5. The username and password will be emailed to the email address the membership chairman has on file. If the email is incorrect, contact Jeannine Jiral: Jeannine@ev1.net.

A brief overview of how the process will work is as follows:

- Trip signup will begin August 13. This will NOT be limited to

mail-in signup but will also include online signup and even registration forms and checks given to the TC. (Must be given to the TC, not the ATC or anyone else. However, a member may sign up another member at the same time, as in the past.)

- Trip signup will begin on that date and will NOT end at a date and restart at the September meeting. Once trip signup begins, it will continue.
- When you signup for a trip online, you can elect to pay the deposit only (\$150 for domestic trips, \$300 for overseas trips) or you can elect to pay for the ENTIRE trip at that time.
- If you pay only the deposit when signing up for the trip, you can make the final payment online or by giving a check to the TC, regardless of whether you paid the deposit online or not. In other words it is your choice how you pay each part of the trip (deposit and final payment) – by credit card (online) or by check.
- At this time, we do not intend to accept credit card payments for optional items on the trip such as lift tickets and optional activities.

Many members have asked to use credit cards for payment of trips because of the 'perks' they receive for credit card usage. However, there is a cost to the club associated with PayPal and a nominal fee is added to the cost of the trip.

MEET YOUR DIRECTORS OF TRIPS

Hope Flynn



I had always wanted to learn to ski. It looked so glamorous and exciting. My time finally came in 1999 when I received a Christmas gift of lessons and a trip to Park City. Woo Hoo. Upon my arrival, I felt pretty confident and mastered the Bunny Slope by noon. Then I allowed myself to be coerced to ride on a "high-speed" quad. I successfully made it off the lift and thinking this "slope" was manageable and "green", I told my friend to go ahead, I could handle it. Then, around the corner

I came upon the steepest downhill I had ever seen. Alone! Well, I stood there for some time figuring how to get down with a bit of integrity intact, I did the horizontal slide thing a little bit to a "manageable" area, said a few things out loud to myself then skied whole way down! Upon my arrival to the base, I was happy, not only to arrive at the base, but to discover a ski "ritual" known as Après Ski. The Texas Ski Council was also in town and Joe Cannata, a long time member, happened to be there with SCSC. He invited us to join him and the SCSC Group. I thought I had ventured into Heaven. A place full of Texans, and one of the best beers I have ever had.

Since that first invigorating run and great beer, I have planned to ski with SCSC at least once a year. The following year, it was at Steamboat where I met my dear friend and fellow skier, Patty Finch (the other DOT). We ventured to Whistler the next year and then returned two years later (2003) with 100 of our fellow skiers as the TC and ATC. I had so much fun, I became trip leader for Big Sky in 2004. Heavenly, last year, was fantastic, really great fun with my ski buddies and it was the first time I really felt like I knew how to ski and wasn't going to break my neck!

I have met a lot of wonderful people in Space City, many of who are my friends in TASS too. How fortunate can one person be? I am looking forward to working with all of the wonderful trip leaders and helping them make sure the 2005-2006 ski season runs smoothly, just as trip goers would expect!

Patricia (Patty) Finch



I am honored to have been selected as a Director of Trip (DOT) for the 2005-2006 season.

I have been a member of the Space City Ski Club since 1988. Of course, I have been like the majority, not an active participant due to family commitments.

Hope Flynn approached me this year and said, "you will be a DOT if I am a DOT." Hope and I have always worked well together as a team. She and I met on a ski trip and have been friends since. I have always enjoyed being outdoors and decided in 2001 that I possibly wanted to be more active and maybe run a trip. So, I attended my first Texas Ski Council bid meeting. I did not realize the amount of decision making each trip entails.

I participated in the voting for the trips for the 2001-2002 year. I was an ATC on the Red River trip in December 2001 and learned a great deal from Roger Holzman. He gave me the confidence to be a TC for the 2002-2003 season and run the trip to Whistler. I encouraged my friend Hope to be my ATC and we truly enjoyed our trip, even though we had 101 participants. It seems like on every trip that I have taken, I have met and made new friends. We don't always keep in touch until ski season. But, we seem to find one another again.

I have skied Keystone, Vail, Copper, Breckenridge, Beaver Creek, Park City, Alta, Deer Valley, Red River, and Whistler. So, I have some knowledge of the ski areas. I seem to be always planning something, either for family, work or the ski club. I can say I am very well organized and like to get things done on time and efficiently. Thank you again for considering me, and I promise to do my best to assist Kayleen in order to have a very well run ski season.

MAY LUAU

Kamon Iwanna Leiya Luau was the theme for the May 16 General Meeting held at Vito's Deck House. It was a well-attended activity where everyone got lei'd at the door; some even more than once!

Gilligan's Run Survivors song and skit was especially written for SCSC Luau by Elyse Turla. The cast of characters were Gilligan-Bill Bomberger, Fearless Leader-Ed Cain, The Millionaire-Jimmy St. Clair, His Wife-Elyse Turla, Ski Bunny-Llona Doubet, Professor-Kelth Kirkman, and Mary Ann-Kim Page. Go to the SCSC website for the complete song and photos.

Decorations and Leis - It takes festive bright decorations and props to make the evening complete. Assistants with this task were Nicky Minear, Louella Stellar, Kathy Luhrs, Mona Weck, and Peggy Schillinger.

SCSC appreciates the flexibility that John Milam, General Manager of Vito's gave us for the Luau. He basically let us take over the spacious side deck at Vitos. The DJ, Jay Marks, was terrific playing all types of music including tropical songs to support our theme. Check out his website at www.jmnee.net for photos from the Luau.

The Luau was a big success, largely because of all the volunteers who went above and beyond to provide an evening of entertainment, put on

By Pam Smith & Ellen Eastham

a great show, and made it a memorable end-of-the-ski-season meeting.

It was a perfect ending to wind down the General Meetings for the summer months ahead, and allow for the planning of next year's ski trips. Remember, the next General Meeting will be in September.

Until then, ALOHA!



After months of eager anticipation, 57 Space City Skiers headed to Heavenly Valley for the TSC Final Showdown Saturday morning, March 12. Following a smooth flight and a short bus ride, we were rewarded with our first spectacular views of Lake Tahoe. Heavenly received record snowfalls this season, so there was plenty of it for everyone to enjoy. Bright sunshine, gorgeous blue skies, and warm spring skiing temperatures greeted our skiers Sunday for the first full day of skiing. Pilar Gonzales had arrived two days ahead of the group and since she “knew” the mountain was appointed leader of the “Thuy Amigos”. She convinced Richard Rocque, Thuy Tran, Don Macken, and two Lone Star Skiers to go down a “fun” trail



Heavenly - Ross, Stan and Ellen enjoying cold brews

through the woods with “little bumps”. Once on the trail, it was apparent that Pilar failed to mention the little bumps were between “big trees”. The Space City skiers pulled through, but one of the Lone Star skiers went over a little bump into a very big tree. Pilar was shortly relieved of her leader status. Laurie Haischer and Judy Weison had a different sort of excitement Sunday when they found themselves next to Antonio Banderas at one of the ski lifts.

Monday would provide more adventures for our group. About half the group headed for a day at the Sierra-at-Tahoe ski area. The “Thuy Amigos” group grew to 12, including Roger Holzman, Janet McKenzie, Carmen Mikail, Pat Reinhardt, and “Bob-Cat” Wray. They tore up the mountain tackling several difficult black and blue runs on a challenging windy day with some icy conditions without getting a scratch. After a delicious Bar-B-Q lunch, they decided to do a little sightseeing down the easiest green run on the mountain. Midway down the mountain, the gang gathered to comment on the reckless skier who flew across several of them and smacked into the biggest tree on the trail. Suddenly, they realized Bob-Cat was missing-in-action. What seemed like an eternity later, a skier slowed down to tell the group that a man with a gray beard wearing a red ski jacket also hit a tree on the other side of the trail at the same time as the other reckless skier. Moments later, Bob-Cat slowly made his way to the group looking dazed and when the group asked, “what happened?” All Bob-Cat said was “this tree just jumped right in front of me!” While we will never know exactly what happened, the tree did leave a devastating blow to his left

wrist. Needless to say, Bob-Cat spent the rest of the trip learning how to brush his teeth, tie his shoes, put in his contacts, and write with his non-dominant hand - all with a great attitude and positive outlook on the rest of the trip. Although skiing was over, Bob was philosophical about it; this was his 6th and final trip scheduled for the season, he enjoyed 26 days of skiing, he can still use his right hand to shift his car transmission (as long as he's not on a curve), and he did not miss any of the remaining trip events.

Judi Ronkartz and Bruce Baird both found out how hard snow can be. On Sunday, Judi had been heading over to meet up for lunch with Suzy Gardner, Brad Williams, and Gardner Williams on a cat track when the next thing she remembered was Russ from the Ski Patrol asking her a bunch of questions, some of which caused hesitation on her part and concern on his. So, she ended up riding down to the Clinic strapped on “the board”. The Clinic checked her out, cleaned up the cut and abrasions on her cheek, nose and lip and then let her look at her new black eye, “WOW” she said, “that's some #**@! hard snow”! Tuesday found all our skiers back at Heavenly for another great sunny day. Bruce had been heading in to lunch, near the bottom of the run in the “slow” area, when he managed an acrobatic flip into a “perfect” face plant and he too found out how hard the snow can be. As in the case of Judi, the Ski Patrol assisted Bruce to the clinic where the Doctor put five stitches above his left eyelid and voila; Judi and Bruce had matching left black eyes. When debating who had it worse, Bruce conceded that title to Judi based on her getting to ride down on “the board”. One thing they both agreed on though is the need to wear a helmet! Judi bought a pretty blue one that “kinda” matched her eyes and Bruce rented one for the rest of the trip until he bought one back home. Craig Campbell also experienced a cut over, guess, his left eye, is this a pattern?

Nighttime found some in our group exploring the casinos. Rumor has it that Barb Erlich was able to gamble all night and ski all day, Donna Sears, Ed and Shann Shinn reportedly left the Horizon with more than they arrived with. But Janet McKenzie lost all of her “stake” the first night - 50 cents!

Wednesday found the short trippers joining us for their first day of skiing. Sixty-one of us headed up to the northwest side of Lake Tahoe to famous Squaw Valley, home of the 1960 Olympics, while brothers Gary and Charles Butler decided to try North Star. Diane Baker caught up to the group, so husband Ross Baker no longer had to worry about luggage problems on the way home. Joe Kulpinsky and Pat McKechnie did some sightseeing around the mountain. Other skiers included Dave Whitehead, Ken Oldroyd, Don and Ruth Ann McGee, Margie Cohen and Kathy Luhrs. Kathy was also enjoying her first SCSC trip. After a great day of skiing, we boarded the Tahoe Queen Paddle Wheeler for a fantastic evening cruise of dinner and dancing while cruising along Lake Tahoe's beautiful shore - as beautiful at night as in the daytime.

The ski club races were held on the morning of St. Patrick's Day at Heavenly's World Cup Run. The weather and ski conditions were great for racing. Space City was chosen to be the first of the 10 Texas Ski clubs to race. We had excellent participation with 26 racers competing. Retired racer, Janet McKenzie helped get us prepared at the starting gates and made sure we were in compliance with procedures. Many other non-racers cheered us from the stands

(Continued on page 8)

at the base of the run. We did well as we had many medal winners. Winners of silver medals included Diane Baker and Phillip Vice. Winners of bronze medals included Pilar Gonzalez, Sharon Simandl, Pam Smith, Ross Baker, Bill Bomberger, Barry Caspar, Robert Cloutier, Don Macken, Pat Reinhardt, Richard Rocque, and David Rodriguez. Our non-medalists also did well as we got excellent club point totals from them (we needed the points too). When all the club races were over, we were in first place for our division (the "large club division"). Our first place finish was a result of a total team effort spearheaded by the hard work of our Race Director, Don Macken. Several of our racers entered the afternoon individual races. Space City racers had much success with these races too. Silver medal winners included Ellen Eastham and Phillip Vice. Bronze medal winners included Pilar Gonzalez, Shannon Powers, Bill Bomberger, Barry Caspar, Don Macken and Richard Rocque. All involved with the races had a very good time and no one got hurt. The fact that Space City took first place in the Club Races was icing on the cake. Many of us will remember St. Patrick's Day, 2005 for quite some time.

Since Thursday was indeed March 17, our club dinner that night had a St. Patrick's Day theme. Thanks to a suggestion by Linda Licarione, we played a card matching game (find the person who has the card that matches yours) to help us get to know each other better. Successful pairs then participated in drawings for fabulous prizes. Winners included Phillip Vice, Joyce Margace, Shannon Powers, and Susan Blome.

On Friday, 34 of us headed to Kirkwood Ski Resort. It was fitting that our intrepid group conquered some of the most challenging ski runs in California on our last day of the trip. At the top of the "black" Sentinel Bowl, Leyla Ozkardesh was heard repeating her "mantra" in preparation for her epic decent. Those subduing the

famous "Wall" at the top of the mountain included Bill Bomberger, Ellen Eastham, Sharon Simandi, Barry Casper, Don Macken, Thuy Tran, Richard Rocque, Ross and Diane Baker. Sharon even videoed their second run! Kirkwood's gift shop did a brisk business, selling out of commemorative "Wall" sweatshirts to several of our conquering heroes. (Don, are you sure yours fits?). Michael Edwards, Jane Kidd, and Lea Ann Matura had skied Kirkwood earlier in the week.

Friday found Sherry Black and Pam Salvage going on a snowmobile adventure. Don and Pati Mengden-Eckhardt hosted a book signing for Don's newest Temper/Rowdy Mystery-Thriller books - The Hannibal e-Puzzle and The Atomic Hell Puzzle (the later fittingly set at Lake Tahoe). The signing was at the Neighbors Bookstore, South Lake Tahoe Village Center.

The Final Showdown Awards dinner was held Friday night with all 350 plus Texas skiers at the Horizon ballroom. The "theme" was "Saturday Night Fever/50's/Grease". Pam Smith should have won first place for her Poodle Skirt, Pat Reinhardt should have won for his shirt, hairstyle, and sunglasses and Stan Broniak, where did you get that wig? The highlight of the awards presentation was the announcement that Space City Ski Club won overall first place in the Large Club Division.

As we headed out to the Reno airport Saturday morning, Lake Tahoe was beginning to get another epic snowfall. Jim Parise, was gracious in letting a woman needing to get to her sick mother have his seat on our flight in exchange for some travel vouchers and a later flight. Houston was experiencing severe thunderstorms so the plane landed in San Antonio to wait it out. Several people got off the plane and the flight crew did a drawing that allowed Roberta Ramin, Bob Rexford, and Sue Salvage to move to seats vacated in first class to finish out the flight. Roberta didn't mind leaving husband Ron Ramin in coach apparently. Soon, we were safely home to good ol' warm Houston, no snowshoes needed here!

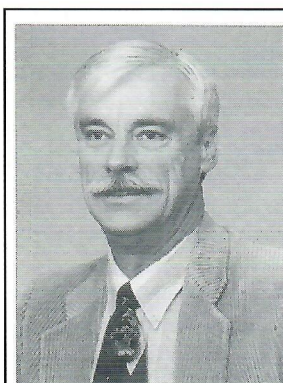


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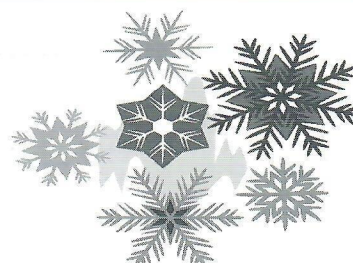


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HEAVENLY II (OR HEAVENLY-THE SEQUEL)

By Jan Ferrell

The Heavenly Day-Trippers, as we were affectionately called, left Houston last Tuesday and arrived at the hotel in the dead of night. Actually it was about 2 a.m. when we straggled in. Some hardy souls went immediately to the slots while their bags were being delivered to their rooms. What was left of the rest of us crashed and burned. On Wednesday, we were fortunate to get a 9 a.m. bus to Squaw in hopes of good skiing and a fun boat trip back. The skiing was marginal to say the least, the trails not marked well and the wind was clocked at nearly 100 mph at the gondola mid-way station. Caution prevailed and we were not allowed to take the boat back but found it waiting for us on the Heavenly side. We ate, drank, partied and repeated the process while riding around in the protected cove of the lake. All was not lost—

The club races were Thursday and we had a nice turnout. Space City won first place in Division One. Strange but true story about the win over Los Amigos but we won't go into that now. Ed and Shann Shinn hit the slopes for the first time in 7 years and found that it was just like riding a bike. When Ed wasn't skiing, he found the roulette tables to be very generous. Carol Conner wrote that her roommate, Nora Cortez, built up her forearm so much from poling across the flats that she decided to get a tattoo of a sailor's anchor on her forearm. One can only hope that it may wash off. Chris Loverich, one of our expert skiers, found himself on a double black with no options out. Walking, skiing—forget it. He rolled about ¾ of the way avoiding serious damage. Then he incurred bruises and scrapes on a green. Go figure.

Ask the intrepid TC of the long trip, Barb Ehrlich, her name for the Black-Jack Playoffs. This is a family newsletter. Pete Coneway

had his first gambling experience only to learn the hard way that you cash in when you are ahead of the game. A first time skier, he advanced from scared and nervous to skiing blue runs. Amazing is the word he used for the trip. We'll see him on the slopes again. Kelly Cosby joined us from Africa to ski with his good friend, Ruthie Newton.

Donna Kidwell roomed with the TC of the Short Trip, Jan Ferrell, and had to laugh when Jan was running around trying to get ready for the Awards banquet. She needed a hair-dryer and it wouldn't work. Calling the Front Desk for emergency assistance since time was of the essence, the man arrived and resolved the problem in no time. His words were, "Lady—you have to plug it in to work." More emergency assistance was provided when Yvonne McMahon and Donna saved the day as they made a fast run to the local supermarket for more muffins and rolls for breakfast in Donna and Jan's room.

Asch Moza brought his beautiful daughter, Reena, skiing. Probably a break from the stress of making her upcoming wedding plans. Harry Zachau is very tall—we are talking VERY tall—and the airline was able to accommodate those long legs by stashing Shannon Powers and him in the last row. They made friends wherever they went. David DeVaney, Jamie Fitzgerald and Bill LoDato elected to stay in Reno since the flight was over-booked. They held out for quite a deal.

Long time members, Norm Rund and Tommy Thompson surfaced from time to time. Brenda Soileau hurt her knee skiing and we wish her a swift recovery. Sally and Morris Brown, Barry Caspar, Bob Cloutier, Cash Combest, Pat Finch, Hope Flynn, Nancy Gentzel, Gary Johnston, Joyce Margarce, Anne Nettles, Peggy Schillinger, Carol Snodgrass and Jerri Wilson rounded out our "Band of Angels" in Heavenly.

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Donna Kidwell, CRS, CRB
Broker Associate



Heavenly Photo Op

At the December 2004 Texas Ski Council (TSC) Quarterly delegates meeting, the TSC voted to create the TSC Youth Foundation. The purpose of this foundation is to help develop ways to involve kids in skiing without it costing their parents large sums of money. This effort entails working with resorts to obtain discounts on services for kids and initiating fund raising activities to try to subsidize some of the costs of taking kids on the trips. Kids are the future of our sport and the TSC wants to create interest in this wonderful sport for children as a service for its members. This year when requests for bids were sent out to resorts and tour operators for the Fall Round-up Trip, a significant addendum to the request for bid was added requesting that each resort propose a youth program.

The TSC is pleased to announce that Vail Resorts took the request seriously and offered an awesome youth program for this year's Fall

Round-up trip to Keystone. Any child under 18 years of age can stay free in lodging unit with one paid adult. A 4-day youth ski camp trip consisting of full day lessons, lift tickets, rental equipment and lunch will be offered for \$152 during the trip (normally priced greater than \$500). Keystone will host some evening activities for the kids, based on the number of kids and their ages and will be determined as the date of the trip gets closer.

In addition to the youth program, a 4-day "Learn to Ski Program" for adults will be available for \$169 per person.

SCSC would like to encourage all members of the club with kids (or know someone outside the club with kids) who are looking for a practical way to take your kids skiing to take a look at this year's Fall Round-up Trip to Keystone. Additional information will be available shortly from the TC for the trip.

ON The Water Spectacular

August 5-7, 2005

Final Payment: July 21, 2005

Friday - Dinner & Party with DJ - Moon Water Grill @
Waterford Harbor Marina * Saturday - Seabrook Beach Club
- Water Volleyball, Sailing with TASS, Power Boating *
Sunday - 3-Course Champagne Brunch & "Blessing of the
Fleet" viewing - Sundance Grill

*Co-Sponsored by Space City Ski Club & Texas
Association of Single Sailors*

Fees apply for each optional activity. Friday dinner/
party/DJ \$28 members/\$33 nonmembers; Saturday
Seabrook BC \$2 activity fee; Snack : Sail - large
vessels out of various marinas (approx. 2-hr. sail) \$25;
Snack : Sail - small boats out of Seabrook BC \$10; 4-
hr. charter sails (10 a.m. : 3 p.m.) depart from
Waterford Harbor Marina \$55; Power boating out of
Seabrook BC (no fee); Sunday brunch \$28 members/
\$33 non-members. Check www.spacecityskiclub.org
for more information and venue details or write the
AC for the most current information or to volunteer
sailboats/power boats.

AC Barbara Della Longa (281) 398-7107
bdellalonga@sbcglobal.net or AAC Linda Licarione (713) 468-
2816 llicarione@macroenterprises.com



A Toast to Forty Great Years!

Here's to forty years of serious fun,
Planned by those who loved the work to be done.

Here's to all meetings, pre-trips, and post-trips;
Opportunities to meet, greet, and take a few sips.

Here's to Tahoe and Aspen, Banff and Vail -
Destinations for trips that could not fail.

Here's to skiing and boarding, hiking and biking,
Activities planned to everyone's liking.

Here's to rafting, campouts, and summer bashes,
Where outdoor fun came in great flashes.

Here's to wine tastings, the monthly happy hour.
We go for shiraz or a good whiskey sour.

Here's to golf tourneys and diving from planes,
For friendly competitors and those who're insane.!

Here's to the Follies, where stars could be born
And ones too forlorn, full of god-awful corn.

Here's to those folks who gave of their time,
Whose payment for all would equal a dime.

Here's to our officers, board, the excom -
Positions to guide us along with aplomb.

Here's to TC's and AC's and eager assistants -
Organized wizards who've toiled with persistence.

Here's to all volunteers, that exclusive clique,
Whose unselfish efforts make the club tick.



*The Snowball - SCSC's 40th Anniversary Celebration -
November 19, 2004*

Here's to celebrations of many successes.
Here's to the ladies in glittery dresses.
Here's to handsome men in tuxedos.
Here's to dancing and healthy libidos!

Cheers! Space City Ski Club

by Vicki Faulkner

DOWNHILL KREWE AND A SALUTE TO THE RED, WHITE & BLUE

By Ellen Eastham

Space City Ski Club formed its own Krewe three years ago, called the Downhill Krewe (DK). Each year, the DK has new experiences associated with Mardi Gras-Galveston. On January 15th, DK ladies attended the "Benevolent Society of the Sisters of the Wretched Excess" luncheon where hats and gloves were part of the attire. DK decided to form their own chapter which they named, "High Altitude, High Maintenance Ladies League". That evening, DK members attended the Z Krewe's Coronation of Royalty and their Mardi Gras Ball. Glenda Willis was crowned Z Krewe's Queen. Glenda is the contact person that initiated the Mardi Gras at SCSC's January 2003 meeting. The weekend festivities were held at the beautiful Tremont Hotel in Galveston.

Friday, January 28th, the Mardi Gras-Galveston activities began when DK members attended the FUN Krewe of Aquarius Barn Bash party. To begin Saturday's festivities, the group gathered at the Z Krewe Tailgate party. DK was dressed in their Red, White & Blue shirts, jester or Uncle Sam hats, each carrying 22 dozen beads. The DK Royalty wore special beads, hats, and the ladies wore boas. The Z Procession started at 1 p.m., where the parade route winds through The Strand. The beautiful weather was perfect for tossing hundreds of beads to the crowds. Who else should be the MC for a patriotic parade but an Astronaut followed by Space City Ski Club Downhill Krewe?

2005 DK Royalty are: King Slalom III-Chip Stokes, Queen Moguls III-


Brenda Soileau, and the Royal Court: Purple-Bill Simmons & Linda Licarione; Green-Don Macken & Janice Harris; Black-Gary Rollins & Mary Kay Kitchens; and White-Brook McClain & Diana Lovelace.

Following the Z Procession, some of the DK went high above The Strand to the Z Krewe's "Zestival" which is the location for an all day party and bead tossing from a balcony. What a view when you toss beads to the begging crowd below! DK watched the evening Krewe of Gambrinius parade held on the Seawall. Featured in the parade is the Mummies Dance group, which is a well-known group from Philadelphia. To end the evening, many returned to Zestival in The Strand, then closed down the Holiday Inn bar.

On Sunday, DK attended the "Special Peoples Ball" at the Moody Convention Center. It is a calm event where the Ball guests ask for beads, contrasting to the wild crowd of the day before. Many of the "special people" say they are excited to attend this event each year. Hats off to those that care for this special group of people.

Downhill Krewe will once again take part in the Z Krewe's Z Procession parade to be held in The Strand on February 18, 2006. Plan to join the group as they celebrate with the theme "Wild West." We Texans can easily find this attire in our closets! So put on your western shirts, hats & boots and join the Downhill Krewe for the 2006 Mardi Gras. "Yee Haw!"



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Space City Ski Club - 2005-2006 Ski Trip Schedule

****Tentative****

Dates	Nights/ Ski Days (DOT)	Trip Destination	Final Payment	Trip Price	TC ATC	Home Phone	E-mail Address
Nov 22-27, 2005 (Tues—Sun)	5/4 (PF)	KEYSTONE (TSC Fall Roundup) Family Optional	TBA	TBA	Louella Steller Laurie Haischer	713-666-2347 281-290-9269	ljdm@sai.com lhaischer@yahoo.com
Dec 3-10, 2005 (Sat—Sat)	7/6 (PF)	VAIL	TBA	TBA	Dana Wardell Judy Schiro	281-497-8552 713-939-8235	dwardell@stalkerenergy.com ronhayes@houston.rr.com
Dec 3-7, 2005 (Sat—Wed)	4/4 (PF)	VAIL – Short	TBA	TBA	Dana Wardell	281-497-8552	dwardell@stalkerenergy.com
Jan 7-14, 2006 (Sat—Sat)	7/6 (HF)	STEAMBOAT (TSC Traditional)	TBA	TBA	Thuy Tran Richard Rocque	281-376-0343 281-376-0343	ttran@kmg.com rrocque@sbcglobal.net
Jan 10-15, 2006 (Tues—Sun)	5/4 (HF)	STEAMBOAT – Short (TSC Traditional)	TBA	TBA	Thuy Tran	281-376-0343	ttran@kmg.com
Jan 21-28, 2006 (Sat—Sat)	7/6 (HF)	MAMMOTH	TBA	TBA	Bill Bomberger Sharon Simandl	281-495-8668 713-862-4883	bbomberger@satake-usa.com sharon.simandl@hp.com
Jan 28-Feb 5, 2006 (Sat—Sun)	7/6 (HF)	FINLAND/ STOCKHOLM (TSC Expedition) Family Optional	TBA	TBA	David Eickhoff Jan Ferrell	832-593-7620 713-266-8222	eickhoff@hal-pc.org ferrellj@sbcglobal.net
Feb 4 - 11, 2006 (Sat—Sat)	7/6 (PF)	ASPEN	TBA	TBA	Jill St. Clair Tom Hogle	713-783-6945 713-789-9194	jstclair@hal-pc.org rodeocentral@attglobal.net
Feb 11-18, 2006 (Sat—Sat)	7/6 (KK)	BIG WHITE (TSC Winter Shoot- out)	TBA	TBA	Jerry Montgomery Rita Cardenas	281-437-5467 281-353-2713	jerrymont@houston.rr.com rita.cardenas@bmo.com
Feb 15-19, 2006 (Wed—Sun)	4/2 (KK)	KELOWNA (TSC Winter Shoot- out)	TBA	TBA	Jerry Montgomery Mike Mason	281-437-5467	the.monts@worldnet.att.net danceallnight@bigfoot.com
Feb 25-Mar 4, 2006 (Sat—Sat)	7/6 (PF)	SNOWBIRD	TBA	TBA	Bruce Baird Leslie Allison	281-496-4661 1-979-263-4379	bruce2skis@aol.com leslieallison@msn.com
Late Feb or Early March? (Thurs—Mon)?	4/4	SUMMIT ??	TBA	TBA	Carol Cain	713-665-8121	cainsug@aol.com
Mar 11-18, 2006 (Sat—Sat)	7/6 (HF)	BIG MOUNTAIN (TSC Final Show- down)	TBA	TBA	Bill Brown Bob Gottlieb	281-930-8472	bill.a.brown@shell.com drbob23@houston.rr.com

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Director of Trips

Patty Finch (PF)
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Mark Your Calendars!

Trip Sign-up Starts
AUGUST 13
(Credit Cards accepted –
see www.spacecityskiclub.org)