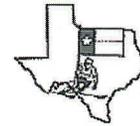




The Sitzmarke

October 2005



Member
Texas Ski
Council

SPACE CITY SKI CLUB

www.spacecityskiclub.org

Vol. 39 No. 6

A SPECTACULAR EVENT

By Barbara Della Longa

August 5 through 7 was a great time for an On the Water Spectacular Weekend. The third annual event was co-sponsored by SCSC and Texas Association of Single Sailors (TASS).

We could not have asked for a more pleasant evening Friday at Moon Water Grill. An afternoon rain shower in Clear Lake paved the way for a cool, clear evening on the patio by the pool. John "Easy" Thayer, Shirley Lang, Kim Olinger and Bonnie Lloyd arrived early in order to assist with decorations and check-in. As the guests signed in, they received individual puzzle pieces for Linda Licarione's "mingling" game with the object to get TASS and SCSC members acquainted with one another. The game was a hit as participants kept returning to the table for new pieces to match with others.

Jay Marks, the DJ, played a wide range of music as people ate, mingled and danced. Participants also competed for prizes by taking a short quiz on various SCSC and TASS trivia. Sean O'Brien had the honor of "grading" the papers and got a kick out of people's answers. After more prizes were awarded, winners of blow-up guitars participated in playing the air guitar to an Elvis favorite, *Hound Dog*.

Saturday's events commenced at the Seabrook Beach Club. While a group of people started playing water volleyball, some were enjoying the breakfast buffet and others started to take refreshing boat rides with powerboat owners Andy & Leslie Cashio, Bob Gottlieb and Bill Lodato. Don Macken was coordinating the power boaters while wearing his bikini inspector hat (very chic for SBC). In the meantime, Mark Monroe and Bob Arnette were taking others on a sailboat right out of Seabrook Beach Club.

Later in the afternoon, a group of people headed over to Waterford Harbor Marina where Hope Flynn organized the Snack and Sails on larger vessels. Numerous TASS members graciously skippered their own sailboats so that the participants could enjoy a wonderful afternoon on Galveston Bay. Linda Licarione, Bonnie Lloyd, Tor Lileng and John Bemis enjoyed a charter sail with TASS Skipper George Golden.

Meanwhile, another group including Kathy Luhrs (SBC liaison), Alan

Bitzer, Cheryl Esposito, Suzan & Van Miles, Maureen Irwin and friends stayed at Seabrook Beach Club while enjoying the swim-up bar, more water volleyball and the live reggae band. Later, many of the sailors, including Ellen Eastham and Chip Stokes returned to Seabrook Beach Club for dinner. Since Kim Olinger and Barbara Della Longa never left the Seabrook Beach Club vicinity during the festivities that day, they figured they broke the SCSC record (is there really a record?) for hanging out at a bar (just about 10 hours).

Sunday morning, SCSC and TASS headed for Sundance Grill in order to enjoy a delicious 3-course champagne brunch. Afterwards, some went outside to take a dip in the pool while others watched the Blessing of the Fleet procession down the channel. Many of the boats were decorated with bright colors and flags. As a bonus, Gary Pollock docked his sailboat *Ocean Spirits* right in front of Sundance Grill so that we could board and enjoy the boat parade.

The weekend could be summed up as a great opportunity for new friendships among members of both clubs, a chance to get of taste of sailing and power boating plus a lot of fun for member of SCSC and TASS.

In closing, I would like to thank the Water Spectacular Committee for 4 months of hard work, lots of laughs and new friendships: Linda Licarione (AAC), Kim Olinger, Kathy Luhrs, Bonnie Lloyd, Don Macken, Janice Harris, Ellen Eastham and Chip Stokes.



More Spectacular Partiers

General Meeting - October 17 at 6:30 p.m.
Chateau Crystal - 2517 S. Gessner

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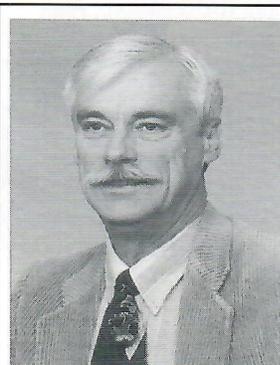
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Have you chosen your ski trips for this year yet? They are filling up quickly, so I wouldn't procrastinate if I were you! Why can't I have 8 weeks of vacation? I want to go on all of them this year! Kayleen, her DOT's and the trip leaders are doing a fabulous job!

I also hope you are enjoying all of the terrific activities that have been arranged for your social pleasure. Mark your calendars now for the fabulous Holiday

Gala on Friday, December 2, 2005. It will be an event you won't want to miss. Be sure to read Jose's article in this issue, as well as the Calendar of Events for all of the fun stuff going on this fall.

All SCSC members and guests are invited to an Olympic Bound Send Off Party for six-time National Champion Snowboarder Stacia Hookom on October 23, 2005 at The Howling Coyote at 6536 FM 1960 West. This should be a great fund raising event with fantastic music, dancing, food and fun. It will also be a great place to find future

members for SCSC and a great marketing event for our club as well. They are looking for at least a \$5 donation to her Olympic fund from each attendee. We will be emailing you with more information.

Keep checking our website, www.spacecityskiclub.org, for updates on both the ski trips and activities. Bruce Lowther, your Director of Communications, is working hard to make your website the best ski club website in the country! Improvements are constantly being made to make it user friendly for both officers and members.

Due to popular demand, you can now save money on your SCSC dues with 3-year and 5-year options and pay by CHECK, CASH or PayPal. For a single membership, it is only \$86 for three years or \$130 for five years. For a dual membership it is only \$140 for three years or \$215 for five years. You know you are going to renew every year anyway, so why not take advantage of this new program. Now, you won't have to worry about missing early sign up and get a discount to boot!! What a deal. Get with Jeannine Jiral to renew or to answer any questions about membership. Be careful and I'll see you soon!



(Left) The water was the place to be this weekend. (Right) Watching the Blessing of the Fleet



Rock 'n Roll Forever

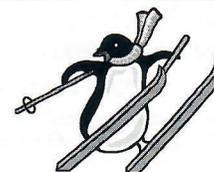


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PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Jose Araujo, VP of Programs
Jessica Halter, Director of Programs



Summer is gone and the countdown for the ski trips started! In preparation, we have planned a big month of fun in October. Join us for Happy Hour on October 13th at Red Lion Pub and a Halloween Party & Games Night is set for October 22. Both events will be a lot of fun.

By the time you receive this issue, you may have already heard tales of the great time the group had in Hawaii...and wondering why you did not go. We are working in

organizing other fun trips so you will have a second chance. And don't miss any of the fun this ski season either, so you skiers, sign up now!

Remember, the General Meeting is on Monday, October 17th at Chateau Crystale, located on the 2517 S. Gessner, just one half block north of Westheimer.

Here's Jessica with more news:

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our book drive in September that became a book drive/Katrina benefit. For our October meeting, we will turn to our furry friends with donations of pet food/cash for the Houston SPCA. Please see Diane Stoltz near the Ambassador's table to contribute.

The Wine-Tasting event has sold out, so it looks like we will need to plan another one soon. The Games Night at Jose's house should be a blast! Rumor has it that someone might be planning a dive adventure! Let us know what you want to do! We are here to help!

Don't forget to sign up now for the Holiday Gala. We have booked

Van Lang as our live entertainment. This duo has a long-standing reputation for providing crowd-pleasing music. They play a great variety of music to satisfy many different tastes and dancing styles. (Perhaps the Director of Programs will get to sing a song or two with this talented group.) Our venue, Chateau Crystale, provides a spacious dance floor, and Ann is working hard to plan an extraordinary evening for all. We are accepting donations of items and services for the Sunshine Kids silent auction that will be held during the gala. Please contact Jose or Jessica if you would like help in soliciting items and/or services. All proceeds go to our worthy annual charity, Sunshine Kids.



I know there are people in this club that are interested in fun activities. Come on...I've seen you ski...you are not afraid to take chances and love to have fun with other SCSC members. Take a chance, extend yourself, and let's team together to plan some great events. The quality of events

depends upon the volunteers. - Jess

For all upcoming activities, refer to the Calendar of Events published in this issue and at www.spacecityskiclub.org. Please check your e-mails as there will be short notice activities as well.

Keep in mind that if you have any SCSC past files, memorabilia, documents or other items for storage, please send them to me. My evening phone is (713) 541-6838 and my e-mails are vpprograms@spacecityskiclub.org or jarajoy@msn.com, and Jessica's e-mail is jessicahalter@yahoo.com.



Safari & Climb Kilimanjaro

Early February, 2006

Contact Arlen Isham (713) 455-4858

10/05

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Event/Address/Phone	Coordinator/Phone/E-mail
OCTOBER		
10/13	Happy Hour—Red Lion Pub, 2316 S. Shepherd (713) 782-3030	Deb Cini (832) 528-6125 dcini@victoria.com
10/17	General Meeting—Chateau Crystale, 2517 S. Gessner	Jessica Halter (713) 545-9020 jessicahalter@yahoo.com
10/22	Games Night and Halloween party	Mona Weck (832) 527-9472 romonaweck@yahoo.com
NOVEMBER		
11/05	Wine Tasting at Leslie Caldwell's home	Leslie Caldwell (832) 251-1296 lescaldwell@sbcglobal.net
11/10	Happy Hour—Amazon Grill, 9600 Westheimer (713) 933-0980	Deb Cini (832) 528-6125 dcini@victoria.com
11/14	General Meeting—Chateau Crystale, 2517 S. Gessner	Jessica Halter (713) 545-9020 jessicahalter@yahoo.com
DECEMBER		
12/02	Holiday Gala	Ann Dorn (281) 989-9594 specialdorn@yahoo.com
12/08	Happy Hour—Black Labrador, 4100 Montrose	Deb Cini (832) 528-6125 dcini@victoria.com
12/12	General Meeting—Chateau Crystale, 2517 S. Gessner	Jessica Halter (713) 545-9020 jessicahalter@yahoo.com

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 Araujo (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.



By this time, many of you have signed up for the ski trips you want, but I know there are plenty of you who have not yet signed up for one of our great trips.

The Aspen trip has filled and we can expand by 6, but no more. So if your heart is set on Aspen, get on the wait list. The trip doesn't leave until February and I'm sure that there will be openings right up to the last week or so. On the other hand, there are lots of other GREAT trips.

At the time I write this, all the other trips have openings. But as final payments for each trip comes due we will be incurring penalties for unsold air and lodging. The final payments are determined so that we can make decisions on releasing this unsold air and lodging before penalties are assessed. We may decide to keep a few extra spaces for those of you who still wish to get on these trips. The best way to insure you get on any specific trip is to sign up before the final payment date.

We've had some great news on Keystone. The trip price has been reduced by a total of \$36 for adult packages (\$32 for adult land packages) from its original price.

All our trip prices are subject to change at any time if taxes or surcharges increase. We try to avoid these changes, if possible, but we cannot always accomplish it.

I want to take the time to highlight two trips. I skied Mammoth about

10 years ago and it was an incredible trip. They call it Mammoth for a reason! There is something there for everyone. The town is a real town, so there is a lot to do there. And I know that Mammoth has done a lot of development since I was there. I also remember skiing for a day at June Mountain, which is a great place on its own.

Although I have not skied in Finland, I have been to Scandinavia twice. I have to say that Scandinavia is my favorite place to go to in Europe. I have been to Helsinki, Stockholm and Copenhagen. Stockholm, in particular, is such a wonderful place. You never want to leave.

As you may know, the Texas Ski Council trips are selected by clubs at the April BidFest where each of the resorts who are on the final list make presentations and then the trips are chosen. Before I read the bid on Finland, I thought, "No way. Finland is not famous for its downhill skiing. Italy will win." Then I read the bid. My husband can testify, as I read I got more and more excited about the trip. This trip offers options that you won't find anywhere else: snowmobile safaris to a country manor and a husky farm, reindeer feast, vodka tasting, and two days in one of my favorite cities, Stockholm. Plus the possible extensions are to some of the most beautiful areas I've seen.

But I still thought, "No way. We were in Norway just a few years ago. Italy will win." Well, much to my surprise, Finland won the bid! I guess others that read the bid got as excited as I did. If you love to travel, this is the trip for you. You won't find these kinds of unique experiences on another international trip for some time (unless we go to Japan). Don't miss out. Sign up now.



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Wine Tasting!

Saturday, November 5, 2005
6:30 p.m. to ????

Cost: members: \$10 ~ Non-members: \$15
FINAL PAYMENT DUE ON: October 28, 2005

Where: Briarpark and Westheimer

This will be an international tour, enjoy a selection of wines representing countries from around the world! Each person to bring a bottle of wine.

Contact: Leslie Caldwell (832) 251-1296 lescaldwell@sbcglobal.net



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Space City Ski Club 2005-2006 Ski Trip Schedule

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 PRICE REDUCED	9/12/05	\$630 L\$424 C\$344	Louella Steller Laurie Haischer	713-666-2347 281-920-9269	ljdms@aol.com lhaischer@yahoo.com
Dec 3-10, 2005 (Sat—Sat)	7/6 (PF)	VAIL	9/20/05	\$771 L\$550	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	9/20/05	\$623 L\$396	Dana Wardell Shirley Lang	281-497-8552 281-218-8515	dwardell@stalkerenergy.com shirley.lang@ey.com
Jan 7-14, 2006 (Sat—Sat)	7/6 (HF)	STEAMBOAT (TSC Traditional)	10/3/05	\$940 L\$609	Thuy Tran Richard Rocque	281-376-0343 281-376-0343	ttran@kmg.com rrocque@entouch.net
Jan 10-15, 2006 (Tues—Sun)	5/4 (HF)	STEAMBOAT – Short (TSC Traditional)	10/3/05	\$740 L\$522	Thuy Tran	281-376-0343	ttran@kmg.com
Jan 21-28, 2006 (Sat—Sat)	7/6 (HF)	MAMMOTH	11/1/05	\$1166 L\$763	Bill Bomberger Sharon Simandl	281-495-8668 713-862-4883	bbomberger@satake-usa.com ssimandl@hotmail.com
Jan 28-Feb 5, 2006 (Sat—Sun)	7/6 (HF)	FINLAND/ STOCKHOLM (TSC Expedition) Family Optional	11/15/05	\$1825 C\$684 or \$705	David Eickhoff Jan Ferrell	713-825-6021 281-799-0001	eickhoff@hal-pc.org ferrellj@sbcglobal.net
Feb 4 -11, 2006 (Sat—Sat)	7/6 (PF)	ASPEN	10/13/05	\$1084 L\$750	Jill St. Clair Tom Hogle	713-783-6945 713-256-7800	jstclair@hal-pc.org thogle@aurorafin.com
Feb 11-18, 2006 (Sat—Sat)	7/6 (KK)	BIG WHITE (TSC Winter Shootout) Family Optional	12/12/05	\$1139 C\$721	Jerry Montgomery Rita Cardenas	281-437-5467 281-353-2713	jerrymont@houston.rr.com rita.cardenas@bmo.com
Feb 25-Mar 4, 2006 (Sat—Sat)	7/6 (PF)	SNOWBIRD	12/12/05	\$1097 L\$699	Bruce Baird Leslie Allison	281-496-4661 281-395-6067	bruce2skis@aol.com leslieallison@msn.com
Feb 24-28, 2006 (Fri—Tues)	4/4 (PF)	BRECKENRIDGE	10/17/05	\$560 L\$329	Carol Cain	713-665-8121	cainsug@aol.com
Mar 11-18, 2006 (Sat—Sat)	7/6 (HF)	BIG MOUNTAIN (TSC Final Showdown)	12/7/05	\$1056 L\$630	Bill Brown Bob Gottlieb	281-930-8472 281-486-0254	bill.a.brown@shell.com rgottlieb@houston.rr.com

Children prices dependent on age and sharing room with two paying adults. Prices subject to change by changes in the fuel surcharge, taxes and/or currency conversion. Number of land packages may be limited. *All schedules are subject to change.*

Mark Your Calendars!

Come to the October General Meeting to check out the Ski Trip Tables

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kayleen-kill@houston.rr.com

Director of Trips

Hope Flynn (HF)
(713) 621-5990

dothope@spacecityskiclub.org

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Dana Wardell

FAQS FOR SCSC RACERS - PART II

How do I find out if I earned a medal? The resort will usually post the results by bib number on a board somewhere at the bottom of the course. Your race director or other club representative will also be given a complete list of results for all our racers shortly after you are finished. They will try to let you know ASAP if you've won a medal. If you haven't heard, don't be afraid to ask. Your handicap score, along with your age and gender will determine whether or not you've won a medal.

What is this handicap stuff all about? Someone said I might get a higher handicap than him, but he's older than I am—that doesn't make sense! The NASTAR handicap system gives recreational racers a way to gauge their progress throughout the season and can be used to compare their abilities with other skiers regardless of where and when they race.

Prior to the start of the season, a National Standard (time to which everyone is judged) is set by the fastest ski racer in the United States as determined by members of the U.S. Ski Team who participate each year in the National Pacesetter Trials. The fastest racer at this event will receive a "0" handicap—the handicap from which everyone is judged. Former U.S. Ski Team members, including AJ Kitt and Doug Lewis, also participate in the Trials allowing them to receive handicaps as well. As traveling pacesetters, they then compete against certified pacesetters from each resort at various Regional Pacesetter Trials across the country. Each pacesetter at the Trials receives a handicap so they can set the "0" handicap or "par" time for races at their resort.

Before the start of a race, a certified pacesetter from the resort will make a timed run down each of the yellow and green courses. The pacesetter's handicap and the times from these two runs will determine the par time for each course. (The two courses will usually have slightly different par times.) The par times are (theoretically) considered to be the times that would have been posted by the fastest ski racer in the United States.

Then each time you race you earn a handicap score. Your handicap represents the difference between your race time and the par time, and is expressed as a percentage. It's easier than it sounds -- if you receive a 15 handicap, you are (theoretically) 15% slower than the fastest ski racer in the United States.

So the handicap that you receive after a run is determined solely by your time and the pacesetter's time – the calculation has nothing to do with age, gender or phases of the moon!

Here's an example: Suppose the resort's pacesetter, Bradford "the Bomb" Bragberger, has a handicap of 5, and that Brad ran the green course today in 21.0 seconds. Then the par time for the green course will be Brad's time divided by his handicap or 20.0 seconds ($21.0 / 1.05 = 20.0$).

Now suppose that one of our racers, Marvin "the Mogul" Mahemski, roars down the green course in 28.0 seconds. Then Marvin's handicap for that run will be 40. Why? Well, because Marv's time divided by the par time for the green course ($28.0 / 20.0 = 1.40$) tells us that he was 40% slower than the par time.

Big deal -- how will that tell me if I'm getting a medal? And how do I find out if I scored any points for the club? Well, there's one more piece to the puzzle. The TSC uses a handicap table similar to the NASTAR handicap table that will answer both questions. (Check the TSC or SCSC web sites for a copy of the table.) Let's use the table to find out if Marvin "the Mogul" earned a medal and how many points he earned for the club with that great 28.0 run. As of 12/31/2005, Marv is 37 years old, so we find the row in the table for male, 35 to 39 (see below). Marv's handicap of 40 is less than 46, which is the maximum handicap that someone of his age group and gender can have and still earn a bronze medal, but it's greater than 30, the maximum for a silver. Therefore Marv "the Mogul" will get a bronze medal, and we also see at the top of the chart that he has earned 36 points for the club -- way to go, Marvin!

Hmm -- okay, so how much faster did he need to go in order to get a silver? That's easy! He would need a handicap of 30 or less to get a silver, so if we multiply 1.30 times the par time for the green course we get 26.0 seconds ($1.30 \times 20.0 = 26.0$). This means that Marv was just two seconds away from the silver ($28.0 - 26.0 = 2.0$). Next time, Marv!

Club Points		64	49	36	25	16	9	4	1
Age	Sex	Gold	Silver	Bronze					
35 to 39	M	14	30	46	62	78	94	110	160
	F	29	45	61	77	93	109	125	175



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Games Night and Halloween Party!

Saturday, October 22nd, 2005

6:30 p.m. to ????

Cost: members: \$15 ~ Non-members: \$17

FINAL PAYMENT DUE ON: October 14, 2005

Where: Fondren and Bellaire

Exercise your mind and body with multiple games...

Enjoy a Halloween evening with your best costume...

Food and drinks included!!!

Games: Ping pong, Darts, Dominoes, Uno, board games, cards and more...

For information: Romona Weck (832) 527 9472 romonaweck@yahoo.com

Trip Registration Form

(Complete ONE Registration Form and prepare ONE deposit check PER trip)

Each envelope must contain the registration form and deposit. Deposit is **\$150** per participant (\$300 for Finland).

Make the check payable to "SCSC" and write trip name and membership number(s) (from Sitzmarke address label) on the check.

Also, write the trip name on the outside of the envelope.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY—WE MUST BE ABLE TO READ THE DATA ON THIS FORM

Trip Name: _____

Trip Name: _____

Trip Dates _____ to _____

Trip Dates _____ to _____

Participant #1

Participant #2

Name: _____

Name: _____

2005-06 Membership # _____

2005-06 Membership # _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

City _____ Zip _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone(H) _____ (W) _____

Phone(H) _____ (W) _____

Fax _____

Fax _____

E-Mail _____

E-Mail _____

Please check one:

Full package

Land package

Please check one:

Full package

Land package

I understand the following (per standing rules 5.1 - 5.4): Cancellations after trip sign-up must be *in writing* to the Trip Coordinator and all cancellations are subject to a \$30 per person (\$100 per person on Finland) cancellation fee. If I cancel on or after the final payment date, I may forfeit the full amount paid if I cannot be replaced on the trip. *Beginning with the 2004-05 season, Trip Transfers will no longer be permitted.*

Signature(s) (Required) _____

Please mail your deposit check(s) and Trip Registration Form(s) to the appropriate Trip Coordinator (TC) below:

(Remember: Include the trip name and your membership number(s) on your check and the trip name on the outside of the envelope)

TRIP NAME	TC	Street	City, State	Zip Code	Telephone #
Keystone	Louella Steller	4829 Jessamine	Bellaire, TX	77401	713-666-2347
Vail (both trips)	Dana Wardell	11842 Briar Forest	Houston, TX	77077	281-497-8552
Steamboat (both trips)	Thuy Tran	15 Dusk Valley Court	Spring, TX	77379	281-376-0343
Mammoth	Bill Bomberger	12119 Alston Drive	Stafford, TX	77477	281-495-8668
Finland/Stockholm	David Eickhoff	15650 Pebble Lake	Houston, TX	77095	713-825-6021
Aspen	Jill St. Clair	8010 Meadowvale	Houston, TX	77063	713-783-6945
Big White	Jerry	2830 Lakeview Dr.	Missouri City, TX	77459	281-437-5467
Kelowna	Jerry	2830 Lakeview Dr.	Missouri City, TX	77459	281-437-5467
Snowbird	Bruce Baird	11330 Inwood Dr.	Houston, TX	77077	281-496-4661
Breckenridge	Carol Cain	5827 Moonmist Dr.	Houston, TX	77081	713-665-8121
Big Mountain	Bill Brown	2522 Pasadena Blvd	Deer Park, TX	77536	281-930-8472