

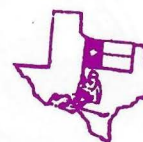


The
Sitzmarke

SPACE CITY SKI CLUB

Vol. 32 No.9

JANUARY, 2000



MEMBER
Texas Ski
Council



January Meeting Dates:

General Meeting January 17th

at *Holiday Inn Select* • 6:30 p.m. • 2712 Southwest Freeway at Kirby

(additional parking available at the Red Cross next door)

Happy Hour January 27th - Texas Longhorn Saloon

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SPACE CITY SKI CLUB

P. O. Box 22567
Houston, Texas 77227



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Editor:	Darlene Hirasaki
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SITZMARKE

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Volume 32, No. 9

January, 2000

Head of the Lifeline

by Richard Hall



Happy New Millennium! Are you ready for a second celebration next year? See my article in the December, 1999 Sitzmarke. The Holiday Gala at the Briar Club was fun. I danced with more beautiful women. The band was not too loud. The food was delicious. The dance cards and scavenger hunts were cute. Thanks to **Steven Teoh**, the AC, **Claire Finn**, **Susan Wicker**, and **Cindy Moore**, the AAC's, and **Joe Walker**, who helped. Thanks to **Sue Salvage** for an impressive demonstration of a talent practiced since at least 15 years old.

The Nominations Committee, **Harry Gaston**, **Bruce Kilgore**, **Nolan Badeaux**, **Craig Campbell**, **Marty Matras**, **Marsha Lutz** and **Pam Smith** should report its nominations for officers next year at the Executive Committee Meeting, the 1st week in January. Please consider serving next year. Contact any of them. Good Officers are the strength of our club. You can exercise your civic and people skills and have a fun time doing it. If you know someone who would make a good officer, please suggest it to the members. They will interview your prospect.

The **Sunshine Kids Auction** was a resounding success. I will announce the amount of the donation at the January General Meeting. Thanks to Sunshine Committee Members **Jeri Hartman**, **Chairmen**, **Nancy Sarff**, **Debbie Bergeron**, **Joe Walker**, **Leona Schroeder**, **Sharon Smith**, **Merrell Smith**, and **Barbara Weber**. Thanks to all who contributed auction items. We couldn't do it without you.

The Houston Chronicle Ski/Snowboard show at the George R. Brown Convention Center November 21st & 22nd produced new members. Please welcome the new members and visitors to our club. Take the time to say hello and ask them for what events they registered. Tell them for what events you registered. Make them feel at home. Invite visitors to join our club.

Thanks to all our advertisers. Please think of them when you want goods or services. If you are an advertiser not advertising with SCSC, think about it. Our rates are the best. You will reach people predisposed to buy from you.

I hope your holidays were great. See you the January 17th General Meeting or the January 27th HH at the Texas Longhorn Saloon! If not, then next year - no

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

Sad Note:

We were sorry to learn that **Jim Benefield** died on September 24, 1999. Jim was President of Space City Ski Club during 77/78 season.

Features

- 2 Head of the Liftline
- 4 Ski Desk
- 6 Programs
- 7 Trip Schedule
- 8-9 Laser Tag
- 13 Snowboard Tips
- 14 Fashion Show
- 15 Snowboard Tips

SCSC Activity

January Happy Hour

Texas Longhorn Saloon

800 Northwest Mall

(Take 610 North around pass the Galleria area
exit 18th Street, go left under 610 and
Texas Longhorn Saloon will be on your left)

Complimentary Buffet

C&W Dancing

\$2.25 Bar Drinks, Wine, Champagne,
and Bottled Beer till 8:00 pm

January 27th

5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

713-683-0386

Remember - for the latest ski club
information, membership inquiries,
and activities - call the

SPACE CITY SKI CLUB

HOT LINE

713-688-SCSC

or

Visit our Web Page

<http://www.spacecity.org>

CALENDAR

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

January

- 8-15 Snowmass I
- 9-16 Snowmass II
- 11-16 Snowmass III
- 13 Jubilee
- 16 Houston Marathon
- 17 General Meeting
- 22-29 Vail 1 and 2
- 27 Happy Hour - Texas Longhorn Saloon
- 29-2/6 Soll

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

February

- 5-12 Mammoth
- 12-19 Winter Park
- 17 Happy Hour - Toc Bar
- 19-26 Telluride
- 21 General Meeting
- 26-3/4 Steamboat

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

March

- 3 Houston Aeros
- 4-11 Banff/Lake Louise
- 11-18 Sun Valley
- 13 General Meeting
- 23 Happy Hour - Max's 2001
- 24-28 The Canyons

FROM THE SKI DESK

by Kathy Young



Happy New Year! The holidays are now behind us and ski season should be switching into full gear. Unfortunately, we got off to "rocky" (no pun intended) start with the cancellation of the Snowbird trip and the switch to Red River and the man-made stuff last month. I think a word or two on cancellation policy is apropos at this time.

Please be advised that the TSC trips are the only trips that have a "no snow" clause in their contract. Club trips have no built-in outs for lack of snow. The TSC "no snow" clause must be invoked by the TSC and applies only to lodging and lift tickets. It goes without saying that the airlines do their own thing and could care less if you ski or not. All the Snowbird trip participants will get a refund when SCSC gets our refund from our vendors. I assure you that we are hard at work to get you as much of your money back as possible however there will be some cancellation penalties and non-refundable expense. Please be patient.

As far as SCSC cancellation policies go, there is **NO REFUND FOR CANCELLATION AFTER FINAL PAYMENT UNLESS WE CAN REPLACE YOU ON THE TRIP.** The same goes for transfers. The trip participant who wants to cancel must notify the trip leader in writing. If a replacement is found, the trip cost less a \$30.00 cancellation fee and any name change fee charged by the airline if the ticket has already been issued will be refunded.

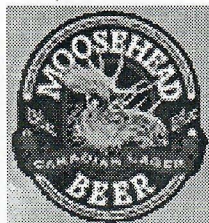
The trip leaders will do everything in their power to help find a replacement but members need to keep in mind that they are hard-working volunteers and not your personal travel agent. If you absolutely must cancel please try to be proactive in finding your own replacement. Here are a few helpful hints:

1. Pick up the phone and call other trip participants to see if they have a friend who might want to take your place on the trip
2. Contact John Rice for a list of new members who might have joined too late to get on the trip but who might still want to go.
3. Contact Gary Butler to get the news out on the club web/email that there is a trip opening for sale.
4. Remember that after final payment the trip is yours to sell at a discount if you wish to cut your losses

Believe me, nobody wants it to snow as badly as Kathy Young does. I truly wish I could fix it. Too bad, I am not Mother Nature and neither are the trip leaders. In fact, I assure you that my trip leaders and I are even more bummed out and disappointed at the lack of snow than you are. After all the months of hard work and planning we are not very happy at this point. On a positive note, the situation just has to get better. Those of you who missed out on the white stuff earlier in the season may want to take a look as some of the late season trips that still have openings. Just wait. Stay optimistic and just repeat over and over, LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW.



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Nominating Committee for 2000 - 2001

If you are interested in becoming an SCSC Officer or know someone whom you feel would make a good officer, please fill out the Nominating Committee insert form found in this Sitzmarke or contact one of the members

Nolan Badeaux
Craig Campbell
Harry Gaston
Bruce Kilgore
Marsha Lutz
Marty Matras
Pam Smith



SCSC ANNUAL DATES

Meetings:

January 17, 2000

February 21, 2000

March 13, 2000

April 10, 2000

May 8, 2000

No Summer Meetings

September 11, 2000

October 9, 2000

November 13, 2000

December 11, 2000

Happy Hours:

January 27, 2000

February 17, 2000

March 23, 2000

April 20, 2000

May 18, 2000

June 16, 2000

July 20, 2000

August 17, 2000

September 21, 2000

October 26, 2000

November 18, 2000

December 21, 2000

Subject to change, check your Sitzmarkes Monthly

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V. P. Programs

by Stacey Ronczy



Stacey Ronczy

Thanks to Steven Teoh for crafting memories of such a wonderful Holiday Gala. I know he did not do this on his own and I would like to thank everyone who helped Steven coordinate that special night. Everyone I talked to had such a good time — if you snoozed on this one, you lost big time! Take heed for next year!

What a great auction! The committee really outdid itself this time. It warms my heart to see such an outpouring of contributions for those who could use a little sunshine in their lives!



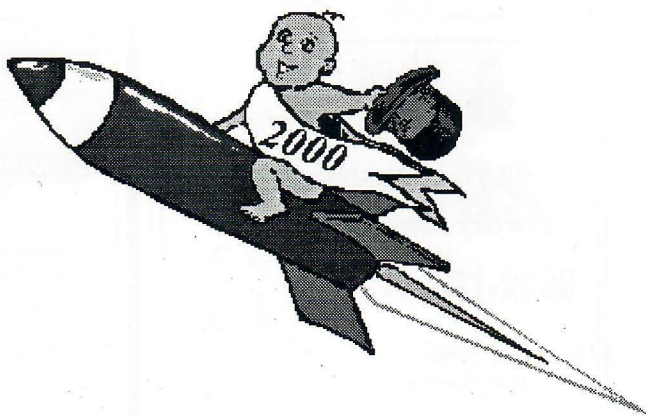
Kim Page

VOL _ N T E E _

Is something missing? UR! We have great plans with great activities, but we need you! The club exists solely because you get involved. It is great that you all support all our wonderful activities, however, someone had to put it together. I am sure that there are a number of talented people out there who have the ability to run an activity. Kim and I work directly with the activity leaders to make sure that they have the support they need to run a fun activity without too much effort. Please give back to the club by volunteering!

Upcoming activities:

Main Street Theatre "Jubilee" – January 13, 2000 with Phil Cezaux
Houston Marathon – January 16, 2000 Volunteer your time with Bob Horan
Houston Ballet's Premier of "Cleopatra" – March 11, 2000 with Kay McKeough
Houston Rockets Basketball – April 1, 2000 with Joanne Fore
Houston Aeros Hockey – March 3, 2000 with Anita Suson
Caribbean Cruise – June 25 – July 2, 2000 Leave Port of Houston with Garry Schoonover and Millie Cagle



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Space City Ski Club

1999 / 2000 Trip Schedule (as of 12/8/99)

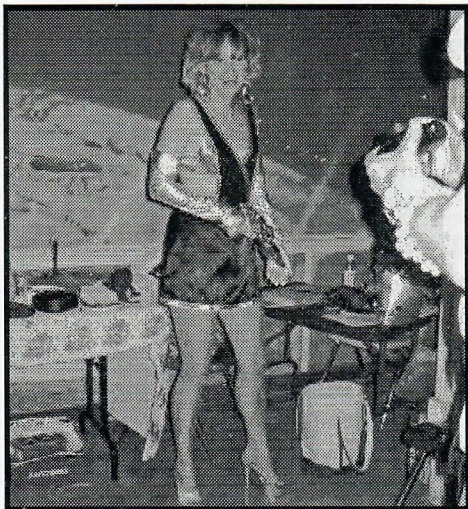
Trip Dates	Nights/ Ski Days	Trip Destination	Cost (See Notes)	Final Payment	Lodging	No. Skiers	Status/ Wait List	TC/ATC (DOT)	Home Phone
Jan 8-15, 2000 (Sat-Sat)	7 / 6	SNOWMASS I Colorado (TSC Traditional)	\$877.	11/01/99	Wildwood (hotel)	32 (42)	32 WL 0	Karen Mozisek Phillip Vice (JIO)	713-856-8015 281-568-5073
Jan. 9-16, 2000 (Sun-Sun.)	7 / 6	SNOWMASS II Colorado (TSC Traditional)	\$877.	11/01/99	Wildwood (hotel)	32 (42)	28 WL 0	Jeri Wilson Charles Allen (JIO)	281-497-2686 281-578-6804
Jan. 11-16, 1999 (Tues--Sat.)	5 / 4	SNOWMASS III Colorado (TSC Traditional)	\$741.	11/01/99	Wildwood (hotel)	32 (42)	34 WL 0	Cindy Overton Curt Frisby (JIO)	713-782-3530 713-807-0102
Jan 22-29, 2000 (Sat-Sat)	7 / 6	VAIL Colorado	\$787.	11/08/99	Vail International (condo)	44 (60)	62 WL 0	Tom Hogle Mary Kay Kitchens (ARI)	713-789-9194 281-558-9736
Jan 22-29, 2000 (Sat-Sat)	7 / 6	VAIL 2 Colorado	\$750.	11/08/99	Simba (condo)	44	44	Susan Wicker Dana Wardell (ARI)	713-465-0186 281-497-8552
Jan 29-Feb 6 (Sat-Sun)	7 / 6	SÖLL Austria (TSC Expedition)	\$1217.	10/11/99	Tyrol Hotel	32 (42)	45 WL 0	Barb Penkala Sean O' Brien (JIO)	713-432-0989 713-787-9762
Feb 5-12, 2000 (Sat-Sat)	7 / 6	MAMMOTH California	\$718.	11/20/99	Sierra Park Villas (condo)	32	25	Mike Dawson Karla Darden (ARI)	281-438-5428 409-851-2829
Feb 12-19, 2000 (Sat.—Sat.)	7 / 6	WINTER PARK Colorado (TSC Winter Shootout)	\$735.	11/08/99	Hi Country Haus (condo)	32 (44)	25	Patti Maudslay Geoffrey Eastham (ARI)	713-532-1610 281-499-2752
Feb. 19-26, 2000 (Sat.-Sat.)	7 / 6	TELLURIDE Colorado	\$857	11/08/99	Boomerang/ The Plunge (condo)	32 (44)	36 WL 2	Diane Stotz Jessica Halter (JIO)	713-862-9486 281-364-9972
Feb. 26-Mar 4, 2000 (Sat.-Sat.)	7 / 7	STEAMBOAT Colorado	\$807	12/11/99	Timber Run (condo)	32 (44)	44 WL 0	Angie Westergren Roger Sahni (JIO)	713-266-5523 281-493-4414
Mar 4-11, 2000 (Sat.-Sat.)	7 / 6	BANFF/LAKE LOUISE Canada	\$937. L \$637.	1/04/00	Chateau Lake Louise & Banff Springs Hotels	32 (44) L - 8	62 WL 11 L - 8 WL 5	Dorann Valka Judy Katany (ARI)	713-782-0871 713-864-7531
Mar 11-18, 2000 (Sat.-Sat.)	7 / 6	SUN VALLEY Idaho (TSC Final Showdown)	\$783. *LS378	12/13/99	Elkhorn Resort (hotel)	32 L - 6	44 WL 10 L - 6 WL - 2	Jerry Montgomery Mary Simpson (ARI)	281-437-5467 713-436-0957
Mar 24-28, 2000 (Fri - Tues)	4 / 3	THE CANYONS Utah	\$599.	1/19/00	Sundial (hotel/condo)	32	22	Gary Sequeira Christine Redfield (JIO)	281-955-2336 713-464-1898
Aug 19-29, 2000 (Sat-Tues)	7 / 6	BARILOCHE Argentina South America	\$1927.	4/1/00	Pan Americano Hotel	32 (42)	48 WL 10	Deborah Christie Lynda Henry (ARI)	713-802-9801 713-956-0853

** Notes: L=Land Package-excludes AIR ONLY and is available only on selected trips C=child Call TC about Child prices on Snowbird trip.
Only six land packages are available on Sun Valley trip. Number in () is possible trip participant expansion size

Director of Trips
Jane Orr
281-568-5073

Vice President of Trips
Kathy Young
281-497-5339

Director of Trips
Arlen Isham
713-455-4858



November 14 was a night to remember! It all started this summer when Stacey Ronczy approached me at a happy hour with a "Do you want to do an



activity?" I said, "OK, what did you have in mind?" "What about Paint Ball?" she responded. I promptly did a survey of the women at the happy hour (tough duty, but anything for the ski club) and heard the following: "No way, that hurts!" "I'm not doing anything that leaves bruises.", "You mean that thing where you run around outside and get shot by those things that



hurt? You got to be kidding!" Paint ball was out.

Hmmm, I thought. We need something that doesn't hurt, isn't boring, gets laughs, and doesn't cost much. I checked out laser tag. The Lazer Quest people run "get aways" for corporate retreats where everything is timed and structured. We had a party room and an 8,000 square foot laser tag maze all to ourselves and twenty-minute laser tag matches every hour.

We needed the basic elements of fun so I decided to make it a costume party too. It is the time of year for costumes anyway. **Jennifer Schreck** came as **Barbarella**. She was so hot the floor melted everywhere she walked. Jennifer was a great assistant and totaled up the game scores during much of the party. Thank you Jennifer. **Kevin Foster** brought Jennifer. Thank you Kevin.

Steven Teoh brought a beautiful turkey. No, it wasn't a date, but it was awfully tasty.

Ted and Debbie Bergeron had great fun, as always. It was kind of odd that the

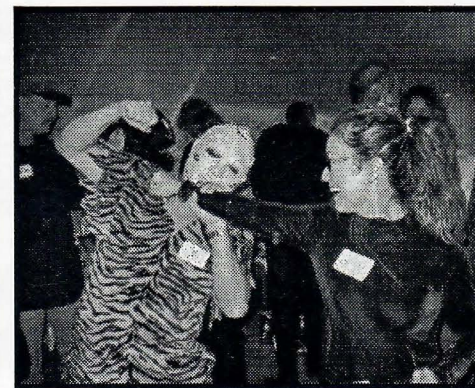


man who gave instruction on the use of the laser facilities made friends with Ted so quickly. Ted seemed to get very, very special treatment afterwards. I think it started when the man explained how the laser vest vibrated and Ted rushes to the front yelling "Can I wear it here?" Go figure.

Marsha Lutz is an animal. The thirst for blood came out in true form. Her



winning score was fueled by a keen killing instinct. Beware. **Jeff Warren** just calmly and coolly blasted away to win his title in the Men' competition. **Debbie Warren**, who really didn't want to be there at first had to admit. "This is really a lot of fun!"



Laser Tag

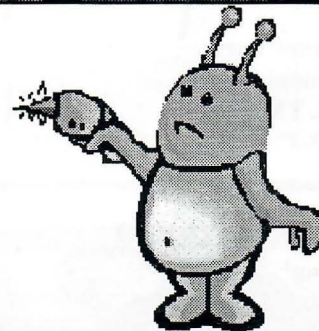
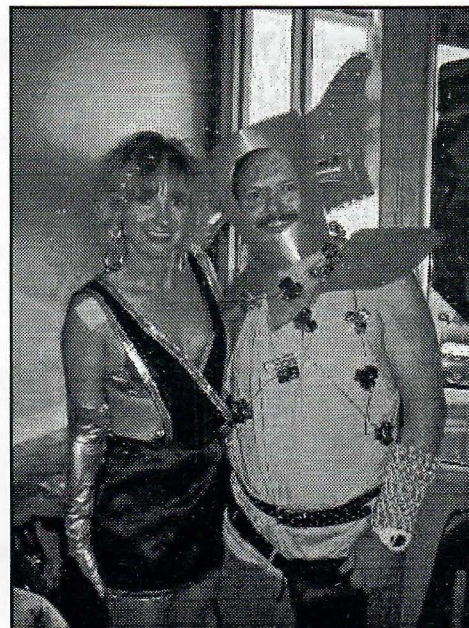
by Joe Walker



laugh till they cried, as did Diane and Dave Stotz. Arlen Isham, Bob Horan, Keith Kirkman, and Bill Bomberger appeared to really enjoy the costumes on the women. Perhaps they were eyeing Lisa Smith for some other reason. Talk to Ted guys. And of course, thanks to all the participants, it takes a special mix of people to have this much fun.

Due to a mix-up on my part, the best costume prize didn't get awarded. The only choice could be Patti Maudslay. Her Space Wookiee outfit was simply outrageous. Linda Beebe and Sholeh Safaeian made great Star Trek wannabes. Linda Henry and Jim McLaughlin were clowns from outer space ... well, clowns anyway! Good job guys.

The amount of fun was hard to describe. There was a ton of food, wine, beer, and laughs. You could see the grin from the back of Steve Amy's head. He and Sue Salvage looked like they might



Your help is needed!!

**We are looking for an
Activity Coordinator
for the SCSC Follies**

Here is your chance to get
involved with the club.
The Follies has always been
a fun activity and takes place
at the last meeting before
summer.

Contact Stacey Ronczy - 713-861-6470

We need volunteers to work on the Volunteer Party!

Yes, SCSC does reward you
for all your hard work
during the year. The party
(for anyone who volunteers
their time) is usually in May
or June. Here is your
opportunity to get involved
with the club.

Contact Stacey Ronczy - 713-861-6470

SCSC Activity

Houston Rockets Basketball Game

April 1, 2000
Saturday, 7:30 pm
\$26.00

*Optional Group dinner before
the game*



AC: Joanne Fore
6018 Hummingbird
Houston, TX 77096
(713) 723-4707

Adults Only

SCSC Activity

Western Caribbean Cruise

Ports of Call: Cancun, Cozumel, and Roatan

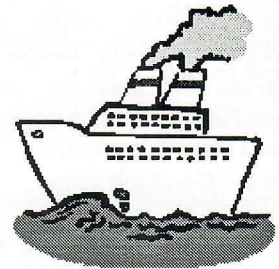
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SCSC Activity

Jubilee

A Musical by Cole Porter

Main Street Theater
4617 Montrose Blvd.

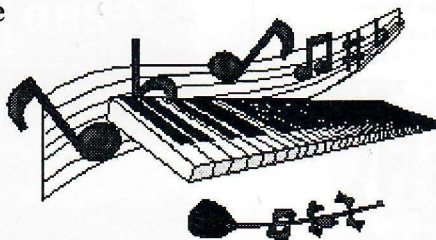
January 13, 2000

7:30 pm

\$13.00

*Songs include "Begin the Beguine" and
"Just one of those things"*

Optional Dinner
Thai Spice
5117 Kelvin
\$7.00



AC: Phil Cezeaux
(713) 662-3261

SCSC Activity

Houston Aeros

VS

Detroit Vipers

at the Compaq Center

March 3, 2000

7:00 pm

\$16.00

*Join the crowd to see the
Houston Aeros continue
their defense of the Turner
Cup Championship*



AC: Anita Suson
(713) 526-6314

SCSC Activity

Houston Marathon

January 16, 2000

Saturday, 7:30 am

Free

Volunteer to work on "Mile 26"

*Volunteer's help to secure the Safety of the
Runners*

*Pre-Marathon Parties, free t-shirts, and Post-
Marathon parties*



AC: Bob Horan
(713) 664-9264
ACC: Shirley Lang
(281) 218-8515

SCSC Activity

World Premier

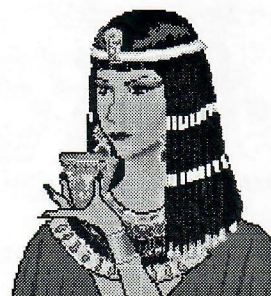
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March 11, 2000

7:30 pm

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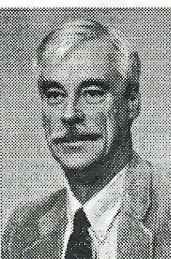
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It is no longer a novelty to find SCSC members riding their boards down the slopes of their favorite mountain. The popularity of the sport has extended beyond the teen years, and the average age of boarders has increased annually. Each year a new crop of SCSCers announce that "this is the year" they plan to give it a try. This article is for those individuals.

A few years back on the club's first trip to Mammoth, I decided that since I wasn't getting any younger, I would test my fortitude. My spirit was willing - I just didn't know if my body would be up to the challenge. Well, it was a close call, but now I have a great time on both my board and skis. My real challenge now is hauling all the stuff needed to do both on trips, but that is another story. Anyway, "listen-up" you first timers, because this advice will help you get the best start.

Tip #1. Packages Deals. Many areas have package deals for beginners which include free lift tickets and low rental prices if you take beginner lessons. So before you rent equipment and buy lift tickets, check out your options. This could save you some bucks.

Tip #2. Equipment & Clothing. Most of the rental shops do carry boards. However, you might want to look for specialty board shops. They usually have more equipment and know more specifics about boarding. Besides, it is an experience to hang out there and pretend you fit in with the crowd. Boards are like skis - different makes, shapes, bindings, etc. They will fit you mostly by experience and height. Step-in bindings are great - and I would recommend you get them if they are available. You will be asked if you are regular or "goofy." A regular boarder puts their left foot in front - goofy puts their right. If you slalom water ski - whichever foot you place in front - do the same on a board. If you don't know, try this simple test. Standing still - feet together - have someone push you (gently) from behind. Whichever foot you place in front to maintain your balance - put that foot in front on a board. Most snowboard clothing is reinforced around the knees and elbows. Don't wear your "pretty" stuff because you might tear it. Boarders have to rest sitting down, so be sure to have waterproof on your rear.

Tip #3. Body Protection. Knees, wrists and rears take a beating - especially at first. My instructor warned me to use kneepads - and actually lent me a pair. However, most areas do not have these readily available. You will be forever grateful to me (buy me a drink) if you take along your roller blading guards - knees, wrists, rear, etc. or buy some before you go and wear them! Wrist injuries are the most common occurrence - and I have actually snapped the plastic guard in one of my wristbands. I talked to a distraught mother whose daughter broke her wrist the first time out - after taking a lesson - and no one warned them to wear guards - so be smart and protect yourself. Knees have to take a lot of hits, and you will avoid bruising with your kneepads. Several brands of snowboard pants have built-in

kneepads. Also, I believe helmets will become standard equipment for both boarders and skiers, so I would think about using a helmet also.

Tip #4. Snow Conditions. If the snow isn't good enough to ski on - don't decide to try boarding instead. You want to learn on soft, fluffy snow for two reasons: you can control the board a lot better, and hard pack and ice do not feel good on the body.

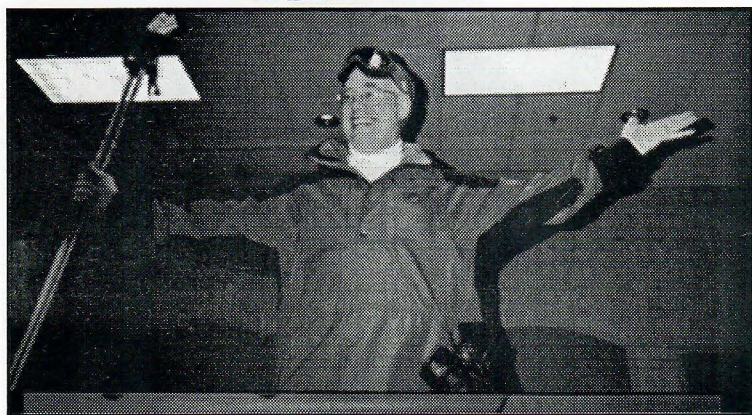
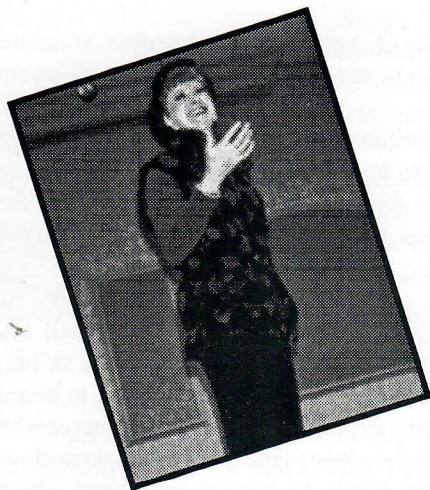
Tip #5. Lessons. Take a lesson. Instructors will tell you that youngsters learn boarding a whole lot faster than skiing; however, even the best athletics will tell you learning to board ain't a piece of cake. I had a great young woman instructor who patiently helped me down the slopes (she boarded backwards in front of me - holding my hands to control my speed which allowed me to practice weight shifts). I was glad to learn I was not the oldest person she had taught. Her Dad, who was in his sixties, had just taken lessons from her so she understood I did not grow up with the skateboard - and had to learn the movements from scratch. Anyway, you will save yourself and your body a lot of time and discomfort by taking a lesson or two. I knew I had arrived when a young kid asked me for pointers. Brave kid - intermediate slope - no clue. I watched him spend the day trying to figure it out the painful way.

Tip #6. Safety on the Slopes. Give yourself and all new boarders plenty of room to traverse the mountain. I have been skiing since I was a kid, and for the first time in a lot of years, downloading was scary and beginner slopes looked steep. Stay in a green area and learn how to get off the lifts without knocking everybody down. Also know you have a blind area - that area to your back - so be extra careful not to turn directly into another boarder or skier.

Clip this article and put it with your snow gear. Snowboarding is a lot of fun - and once you get the basics, you will be glad you decided to take the plunge. The best part is the nine months out of the year you can tell the younger set that you snowboard. For some reason - that gets their attention and you get respect!

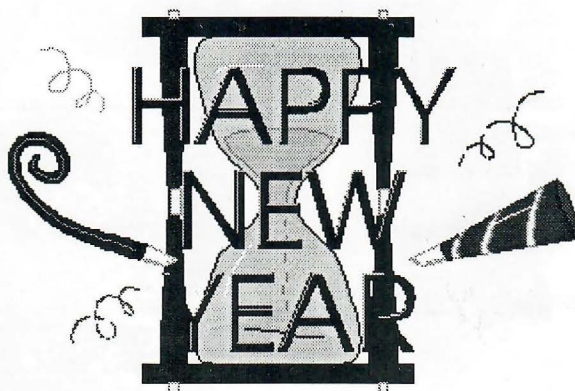


Winter Fashion Show -Clothes by Sun & Ski

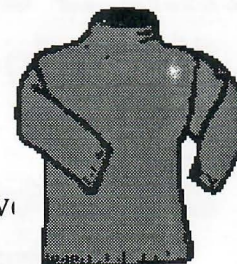


Ski & Snowboard Festival

Space City Ski Club shared a booth with Clear Lake Ski club at The Houston Chronicle Ski & Snowboard Festival held in November at the George R. Brown Convention Center. A Winter Wonderland was created complete with a mini mountain of snow for the kids to play in. Also shown was Warren Miller's latest feature film "Fifty". If you missed the show this year, make sure to look for it next year. They had more than 70 exhibitors and displays with the latest in equipment, apparel, resort information and entertainment. Thanks to all the members who helped out at the booth. It was a fun day.

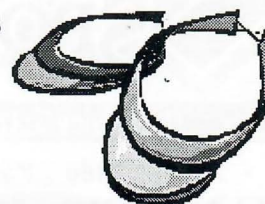


Support Your Club



With all the activity going on at the meeting, you may not have noticed that we have a wide selection of SCSC logo items to purchase. Make sure to stop by and see what Joyce and Ann have to sell. These are items that come in handy on your ski trip!!!

Name Badges	\$3.00	License Plate Holder	\$2.00
Luggage Tags	\$1.00	Lift Ticket Holder	\$4.50
SCSC Pins	\$6.00	Koosies	\$2.00
Gold patches	\$1.00	Denim Shirts	\$34.00
Bandanas	\$1.00	Turtle Necks	\$24.00
Ski Totes	\$6.50	Golf Shirts	\$20.00
Chili Peppers	\$4.25	Decals	\$2.00
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