



The  
**Sitzmarke**  
SPACE CITY SKI CLUB Vol. 32 No. 11

March, 2000



MEMBER  
Texas Ski  
Council



March Meeting Dates:

**General Meeting March 13th**

at *Holiday Inn Select* • 6:30 p.m. • 2712 Southwest Freeway at Kirby  
(additional parking available at the Red Cross next door)

**Happy Hour March 23rd - Max's 2001**

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SPACE CITY SKI CLUB

P. O. Box 22567  
Houston, Texas 77227





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Arlen Isham .....	713-455-4858
Jane Orr .....	713-771-4104

### DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS

Kim Page .....	713-271-4912
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### AUDITOR

Keith Kirkman .....	281-894-4203
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### RACE DIRECTOR

K. J. Oldroyd .....	713-977-4027
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### TEXAS SKI COUNCIL

Susan Blome .....	713-680-1349
<i>Council Representative</i>	
Jeff Sarff .....	713-461-9665
<i>Council Representative-Alternate</i>	

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Editor:	Darlene Hirasaki
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### SITZMARKE

The Sitzmarke is published monthly by the  
**SPACE CITY SKI CLUB**  
Printed by  
**HOLLY PRO GRAPHICS**

Volume 32, No. 11

March, 2000

## Head of the Lifeline

by Richard Hall



Happy St. Patrick's Day! Is Mickey Carmichael playing his bagpipe somewhere this March?

Elections are at our March 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Come to the meeting and vote if nominations are made from the floor at our February Meeting. If no nominations are made from the floor, come to meet and welcome our new officers. Article 4 of the Bylaws provides in part for: Written ballot unless there is only one nominee for each office, and written absentee votes of trip participants on the date of the meeting if received the Saturday before..

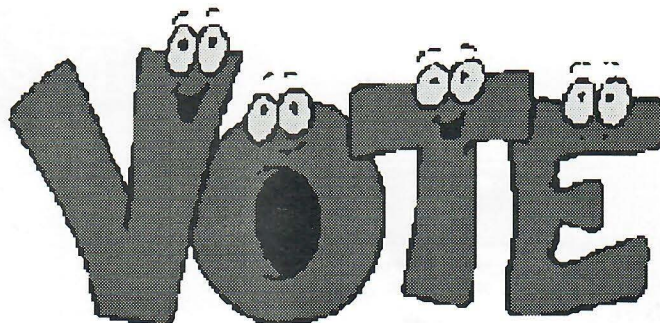
If you have email, you probably know that club notices are increasingly made by email? Gary Butler has the mass email system set up which gives rapid notice of important news and last minute changes. The most recent notice concerns future activities, last minute trip vacancies, trip openings and humor. Will the Sun Valley Ski Trip's written absentee votes be sent email? If you are new to email, send your address to our VP of Membership, John Rice, jrice@coair.com.

The Texas Ski Council's Ski Bid Fest Meeting in San Antonio will be April 15-17, 2000. There is a large Ski Show, a Silent Auction, a Raffle, and a Golf Tournament. This is where the Ski Council votes on next season's trips and your VP of Trips comes up with club trips. The Saturday night party is large and fun. If you want to attend, contact Susan Bloome, our TSC Rep., for information.

Isn't this a warm winter? This is the warmest rodeo in recent memory. Usually we are dressed for the cold and trying to avoid the wet. One benefit is our outdoor activities are more pleasant. Upcoming activities are Ballet, March 11<sup>th</sup>; Rockets, April 1<sup>st</sup>; & The Golf Tournament, May 13<sup>th</sup>. Look for the ads in this issue.

Is there some event you would like to see this year? Contact the VP of Programs and let her or him know. Do you feel strongly enough about your idea to help plan, organize and conduct it? Volunteers are appreciated, as you will see at the Volunteer Party.

See you at the March 13<sup>th</sup> General Meeting, the HH at Max's 2001 or on the slopes at The Canyons!





## Features

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- 8-10 ..... Nominations
- 11 ..... Jubilee
- 12-13 ..... Taos
- 14-15 ..... Vail 2

SCSC Activity

## Happy Hour Max's 2001

2630 Augusta  
(just off Westheimer)

First drink free  
\$1.00 off all drinks till 9:00 pm  
Buffet

March 23, 2000  
5:30 pm - 8:00 pm  
713-781-8898

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

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 ..... Cleopatra
- 11-18 ..... Sun Valley
- 13 ..... General Meeting
- 23 ..... Happy Hour - Max's 2001
- 24-28 ..... The Canyons

April

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						

April

- 1 ..... Houston Rockets
- 10 ..... General Meeting
- 20 ..... Happy Hour -  
Two Rows Restaurant & Brewery

May

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			

May

- 8 ..... General Meeting
- 13 ..... Golf Tournament
- 18 ..... Happy Hour





Hi Folks. By the time you read this, we'll be coming around the final bend in this year's ski season.

Three quarters of the trips are by now memories. It seems hard to believe how quickly time has flown.

Next month the cycle will commence again with the **TSC Bid Meeting** in San Antonio. As most of you know, the bid meeting is where the TSC destinations for the upcoming ski season will be decided. This year the meeting will be held the weekend of April 14<sup>th</sup>. It is open to all so make plans to come to the River Walk, party with us, and give us your opinion on where we should ski in 2001. SCSC does caucus prior to casting

our club's vote so you do have a voice. Please contact our TSC representative, **Susan Blome**, now about attending.

If you do come to the bid meeting, you will have your first chance to see next year's VP of Trips nominee, **Jane Orr** in action. What a woman! In all modesty, I think that I have trained her well! When you see how superbly she handles the job you'll definitely want to volunteer to work with her. Seriously,

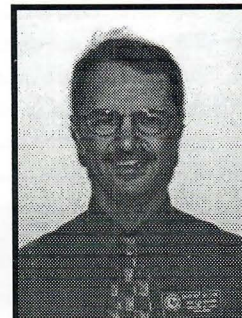
NOW is the time to volunteer to TC or ATC a trip. We start planning for next year's ski schedule in May. The only prerequisite for our trip leaders is that you must have been a club member in good standing during the previous year and previously been on a SCSC trip. It is helpful if you have run an activity for the club but not necessary; we will train you. We work with the trip leaders to choose where and when they want to go. Here is the opportunity to take your SCSC buddies along and assure that you go to that place that you have been longing to ski. It is really fascinating to see what goes on behind the scenes in trip planning and believe it or not, IT IS REWARDING. Look at me. I am here to tell you that I survived being VP of Trips even had fun and the Grey hair really and truly was prior to taking office.

Please contact me share your ideas, and I will fill you in on all the details. Discussion is free with no obligation. I hope to hear from lots of you and see you on the slopes. Until next month, happy skiing!

## Directors of Trips (DOTS)



Jane Orr



Arlen Isham

## Space City Ski Club 1999 / 2000 Trip Schedule (as of 2/11/2000)

Trip Dates	Nights/Ski Days	Trip Destination	Cost (See Notes)	Final Payment	Lodging	No. Skiers	Status/Wait List	TC/ATC (DOT)	Home Phone
Mar 4-11, 2000 (Sat.-Sat.)	7 / 6	<b>BANFF/LAKE LOUISE</b> Canada	\$937. L \$637.	1/04/00	Chateau Lake Louise & Banff Springs Hotels	32 (44) L - 8	62 WL 4 L - 8 WL 5	Dorann Valka Judy Katany Steven Teoh (ARI)	713-782-0871 713-864-7531
Mar 11-18, 2000 (Sat.-Sat.)	7 / 6	<b>SUN VALLEY</b> Idaho (TSC Final Showdown)	\$783. *L\$378	12/13/99	Elkhorn Resort (hotel)	32 L - 6	44 WL 5 L - 6 WL - 2	Jerry Montgomery Mary Simpson (ARI)	281-437-5467 713-436-0957
Mar 24-28, 2000 (Fri - Tues)	4 / 3	<b>THE CANYONS</b> 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	<b>BARILOCHE</b> 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

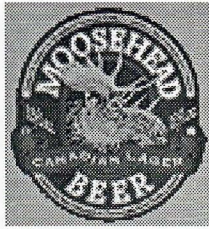
### Vice President of Trips

**Director of Trips**  
Jane Orr  
281-568-5073

Kathy Young  
281-497-5339

**Director of Trips**  
Arlen Isham  
713-455-4858





Texas Ski Council Sponsors 1998-1999

## Sun & Ski Sports

**SALOMON**

freedom action sports

?

**Texas Ski Council  
Ski Show & Bid Meeting  
San Antonio, TX  
April 14-16, 2000**

?

Interested in the process of deciding TSC destinations for the 2000/2001 ski season?

The TSC Ski Show and Bid Meeting is in San Antonio the weekend of April 14-16 and is open to all SCSC members. TSC registration is \$ 45 per person if paid by March 15. \$ 55 per person if paid after March 15.

For more information, please contact **Susan Blome** — your TSC Council Representative — (713) 680-1349.

### **La Bahia Antiques Show and Sale**

**April 6 - 9**

290 West to Burton, Texas  
1.5 hours from Houston

**Roy & Carol Schmidt  
(713) 937-1635**

### **Dana Unlimited Jewelry Especially for You**

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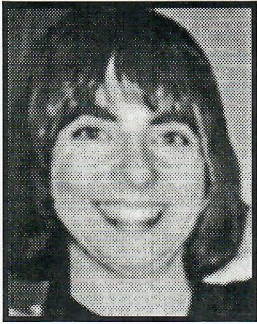
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## V. P. Programs

by Stacey Ronczy



Stacey Ronczy

Wow, my term as VP of Programs is almost over. It has gone by so fast and I have learned so many things. It will be with great reticence that I turn this position over as I have had so much fun trying to come up with new ideas and I think I know twice as many people in the ski club as I did when I started.

It is with great reluctance that the Caribbean Cruise slated to sail June 25 – July 2, 2000 leaving the Port of Houston was cancelled due to lack of interest. I can't thank Garry Schoonover and Millie Cagle enough for putting so much time and effort into making the trip the best that it could be.

This club is full of people who work behind the scenes (and in front of them) to bring you the most interesting activities, trips, happy hours and meetings. They are special people and deserve a lot of recognition.



Kim Page

I would like to put on a really great follies this year and am in search of an eager soul to run it as well as eager souls to participate. This is one of the most creative and freethinking things we do. If you would like to help with props, costumes or ideas, please call or email me. My number and email address appear in the front of the Sitzmark.

We are in the planning stages of our annual volunteer party so if you have volunteered this year running an event or trip or helped with the membership table, you are in! If you have not, get busy and you too can be treated to an afternoon of fun in the (hopefully) sun.

Thanks to Cheryl May who put a lot of blood and sweat into selling 100 tickets for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. I know everyone had a great time visiting and sharing in the admiration of these athletes.

### This is what we have to look forward to:

Houston Aeros Hockey — March 3, 2000 with Anita Suson

Houston Ballet's Premier of Cleopatra — March 11, 2000

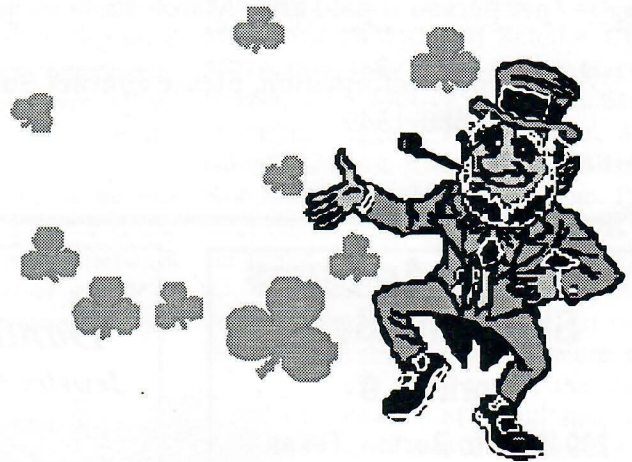
with Kay McKeough

Houston Rockets Basketball — April 1, 2000 with Joanne Fore

Golf Tournament — May 13, 2000 - Margaret Johnson

Follies in May ??????

Volunteer Party in May??????



## 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

## World Premier

**Spectacular Ballet of the Life and Loves  
of one of history's most legendary  
figures - CLEOPATRA**

**March 11, 2000  
7:30 pm  
\$47.00**

*Excellent Group Seating, Pre-Performance  
Get Together Included*

**AC: Kay McKeough  
4025 Essex Lane  
Houston, TX 77027  
(713) 622-2715  
Final Payment: 2/15/00**



SCSC Activity

## SCSC Spring Golf Tournament

**Evergreen Point Golf Course  
(25 min. from Downtown Houston)**

**May 13, 2000  
8:00 am (shotgun start)  
\$65.00**

*Four person scramble  
format, includes green fee,  
cart, range balls, sleeve of  
balls, box lunch w/drink,  
trophies & prizes*

**AC: Margaret Johnson  
P. O. Box 56652  
Houston, TX 77256  
(281) 293-9526**



Adults Only

## 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**

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



## Nomination for President



**Stacey Ronczy**

My name is Stacey Ronczy and I am an SCSCaholic. I have been in the ski club for almost a decade now and have served SCSC in many behind the scenes roles, as an ATC at Steamboat, a TC at Park City, and for the last year as your VP of Programs. Now, I would like to be your President and bring YOUR ski club into the new millennium.

I look back to the people I have met at activities, the camaraderie and fellowship of ski trips past, and the friends I have made. I have truly been blessed by my involvement with SCSC. I want to see this club develop. I want to see more people have the opportunity to make friends and share moments as I have. I want to see the club grow by leaps and bounds as more people step up to volunteer to make a difference. I want the club to grow as your officer's, TC's and ATC's, activity coordinators and assistants are recognized for the hard work that they put in to serve you, the membership. Finally I want to see the club grow and find new ways to make club operations simpler and more efficient. I appreciate your time and your vote.

Please do not hesitate to talk to me in person at the meetings/happy hours, call me or email me, and voice your opinions and concerns, regardless of whether I am elected President, as my goal is to stay active in this club for as long as you will let me!

## Nomination for VP Programs



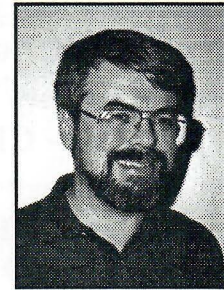
**Joe Walker**

Hi! I joined the ski club in '96 and went to Italy with the club a month later. Since then I have made a lot of friends and shared many memories. I have also been on ski trips to Spain, France, Tahoe, Snowmass, and New Zealand with the club. In addition, I have run the road rally and the laser tag costume party events. Usually on trips I participate in happy hours and help the trip leaders when I can. The old saying about getting out what you put in couldn't be truer.

I have practiced Engineering in Houston the past twenty-three years and had my own consulting firm for the past thirteen. I have decided to kick back for a while and enjoy travel and my friends. Those of you that know me know I take great enjoyment in many things. Perhaps this zest can be put to good use in the ski club.

I am a graduate of the University of Houston with some continued studies at Rice. I have been a resident of the Houston area since I was three. My hobbies include scuba, flying, cooking, and travel. I'm single. I am looking forward to helping new and old members enjoy themselves at ski club activities. I will need a lot of help also. If you are interested in helping or running an activity, give me a call. I can assure you it will be a rewarding experience. Thanks in advance.

## Nomination for VP Publications



**Charles Butler**

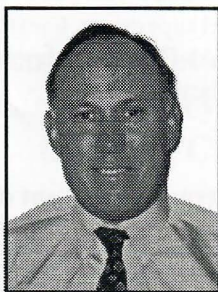
When I joined SCSC in 1990 I never thought that I would get involved in the club in anyway except to go on ski trips. Boy was I wrong. The people in the club were great, the activities were fun, and the ski trips were a blast. Under the circumstances I felt obligated to get involved, so I help where needed doing the little thing that need to be done. That lead to being the ATC on the TSC Traditional to Snowmass in 1997. I followed as the Trip Coordinator to Red River/Taos, a trip that included an excellent group of people. Then I held the office of Secretary in 1998. Now I've been honored with the nomination for Vice President of Publications of the Space City Ski Club.

I am a Contract computer programmer with my own business. I've work for or with many of Houston's largest businesses. I've also worked with some of Houston's smallest. I've spent a year in Saudi Arabia. I work with networks and the Internet.

With Publications, I expect to put in the same time and effort as I have on any other activity I have been involved in. I expect the 2000-2001 club year to be exciting as well as fun and expect great things for the next year. I hope to reduce our costs and yet, keep the high quality of our Sitzmarke.



## Nomination for VP Membership



**Mike Montgomery**

I joined the Space City Ski Club to meet people and ski. Both have been a wonderful success. I am fortunate to have made many friends and, of course, getting to know Nora on the Red River trip, which is still the best trip I have been on. I don't think it will be equaled even though I have been the ATC and TC on three trips. Sounds like I need more trip coaching from Ski Mom, Patti Maudsley, on having fun. I had the pleasure of running the Snowbird trip this year that was going to be great - except for one small necessity - SNOW. It was a major disappointment for the ATC, Heidi Hughes, the men, women and children scheduled to go when we canceled a week before we were to leave.

I am fortunate that the nominating committee has allowed me to become more involved and serve as the Membership Person. It will allow me to meet more people and introduce the new member skiers to our wonderful club. I hope we can continue to grow. I will do everything I can to increase the membership (mostly legal) to continue the fine work John Rice, Cheryl May and Debbie Warren have done before me.

I will work hard to continue the success of the Space City Ski Club and look upon this challenge with enthusiasm and excitement. Please support my nomination. Thanks.

## Nomination for VP Trips



**Jane Orr**

I have been a member of the Space City Ski Club for almost 10 years and have had a great time on numerous ski trips as well as many other Ski Club activities. The last three years have been the best because that is when I started volunteering. Being the ATC for a trip to Snowmass was so rewarding that I was motivated to volunteer as TC for a trip to Park City. This year I am one of your Director of Trips. Volunteering to be a DOT has been very rewarding. I have had the opportunity to meet and work with really great people. Volunteering has allowed me to give back to the club for all of the wonderful and fun time I've experienced. I am employed in the insurance industry with a regional insurance broker as an Account Executive. My responsibilities include marketing, service and sales. For fun, I like to ski, scuba dive, read, do anything outdoors and travel as much as I possibly can. Organization is one of my strong characteristics along with a high sense of urgency. When a goal is set, I work very hard to make sure that it is achieved.

My goal for the 2000/2001 ski season is to be the best Vice President of Trips that I can be and to provide you, the members of our club, a great ski season. The success of our club and any one volunteer is partly hinged on our willingness and enthusiasm. I am both willing and very excited about being your Vice President of Trips. It will be a challenge to live up to my predecessors' performance but it is a challenge that I am looking forward to. I appreciate everyone's support and confidence by nominating me as VP of Trips.

## SCSC ANNUAL DATES

Subject to change, check your  
Sitzmarke Monthly

### Meetings:

**March 13, 2000**

**April 10, 2000**

**May 8, 2000**

**No Summer Meetings**

**September 11, 2000**

**October 9, 2000**

**November 13, 2000**

**December 11, 2000**

**January 15, 2001**

**February 12, 2001**

### Happy Hours:

**March 23, 2000**

**April 20, 2000**

**May 18, 2000**

**June 15, 2000**

**July 20, 2000**

**August 17, 2000**

**September 21, 2000**

**October 19, 2000**

**November 16, 2000**

**December 21, 2000**

**January 18, 2001**

**February 15, 2001**



## Nomination for Secretary



### Nora Montgomery

I have been a member of the Space City Ski Club for about three years. During that time I have made a lot of good friends, participated in many fun activities, and was the coordinator for a few. I've gone to Red River, Purgatory, and Park City with the club; and to Kellogg, Idaho, Red River, Lake Tahoe, and to Italy/Switzerland skiing with my husband, Mike. I began my professional career years ago as a secretary and have also held that position in many organizations, such as the PTA, various Home Owners Associations, church groups, civic clubs, and professional organizations just to name a few. I presently work at NASA on the Space Station Freedom program where our current project is to build an "Iron Bird," which is a replica of the Station on the ground. This Station will be used by engineers, scientists, and astronauts for research, development, training, and to be able to address hands-on those anomalies that might occur while the Space Station is in Orbit.

Although I am no longer a secretary, part of my job entails taking notes at technical interchange meetings, so the position of Secretary will be a welcome relief. Three years ago, I was looking for an organization where I could meet people and have fun - and found the SCSC. Mike and I met each other the first meeting we both attended. Two years later we went to Heavenly in Lake Tahoe, skied - and got married. My first experience at skiing was on the Red River trip. I had a world of fun, as anyone on the trip can attest to. I took the "Never-Ever" ski lessons where the word "Clutz" took on a whole new meaning. Needless to say the lessons were

## Nomination for Treasurer



### Marvin Volz

First the important stuff: I know what's involved in being SCSC Treasurer, and I still want to do it. In fact, I think my 7 years being actively involved in the club, two as Asst. Treasurer, plus participating in 13 club ski trips, give me good knowledge of how the club works. And things get done only with the cooperation and hard work of all the Volunteers in this nonprofit volunteer organization. It's true that you get out of something what you put into it! And there's no better way to feel some rewards than working with the great officers and members of SCSC. Having been an ATC (Steamboat '98) and TC (Red River/Taos '98) I may even have some ideas on how to make our accounting chores a bit easier for everyone. No, receipts will still be required.

Now, background and qualifications? I grew up in the Midwest, BA in Business from Valparaiso U., Executive MBA from UH, 1991, started a career in public service in Wash, DC as an Intern. Worked my way up the management ranks in many positions, the most fun being in on the ground floor of the new U.S. Postal Service, starting from scratch with no policies and procedures but our good business sense. While in D.C. for about 17 years (and learning how to ski in the Alleghenies), I moved seven times for reorganizations and promotions, in both Finance and Operations, including Houston in 1986 as Controller of the SE Texas Division. I returned "on loan" to HQ in DC for a year to do major Economic & Cost Benefit Analyses, but rather than move again in 1992 in a downsizing I jumped at an "early out" package and returned to Houston as a young retiree, and new member of SCSC.

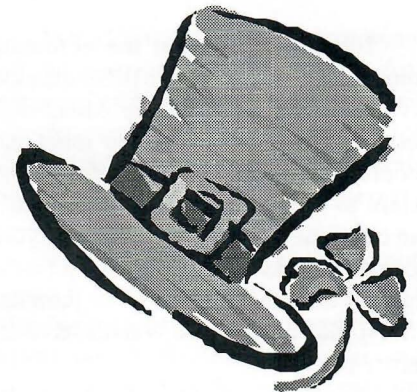
### Marvin Volz - Cont d

Other interests: Church groups and activities, camping with my "Honey," the Astros—worked 5 years as a 'Dome usher & field level supervisor, ham radio and the arts. Thanks for your support. If elected I'll do my best!

### Nora Montgomery - Cont d

not too successful - since the only thing I learned was to hit the rails around the "Double Black Bunny" if I wanted to stop - that was if I was fortunate enough to get that far. My instructor said I was the only person he knew who had six "yard sales" on one trip down the bunny slope. Needless to say, I did very little for the other students' confidence. For the next three or four trips Mike and I went on, he had no qualms still signing me up for "Never Ever" lessons. Park City changed that. Now he looks for "Expert Never-Ever" classes and is hopeful that I will not break something before I can finally ski. We are still working on that.

I have had a wonderful time since joining SCSC and I am happy to repay this club by serving in the position of Secretary. I thank all that supported my nomination and will not disappoint you.



# SAINT PATRICK'S DAY



# Jubilee

By Phil Cezeaux

Twenty-two members and guests spend the evening of Jan. 13 with the Moss Hart - Cole Porter musical, Jubilee!, at Main Street Theater, Chelsea location. It had a lot of New York City humor that we were all much too young to remember but it was a rousing performance, none the less.

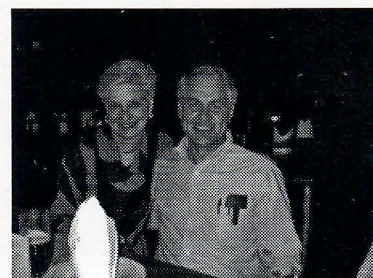
Carol Cain, J.D. Baron, Phillip Hanna and Elyse Turla waiting for the performance to begin.



Karen Vogelsang and Tom Sausley pose with a Thai dancer at supper. The dancer (plaster, we believe) was not amused.

Seen at table, Kathy Young and Dennis Stockton. You can see how much they "think snow," just by looking at the white, white napkin. The napkin was folded in a double black diamond shape for the occasion.

The pre-trip party (optional) was supper at the Thai Spice, in the University Village. Good Thai beer and wine from some unknown places. The Thai Spice specializes in finding fresh limes (eventually, sometimes.)



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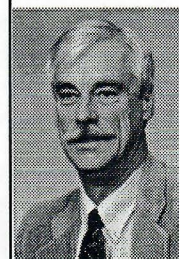
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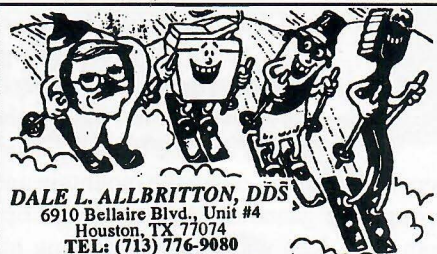


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On December 8<sup>th</sup>, 41 SCSCer's boarded Continental Airlines for a short 2-hour flight to sunny New Mexico, and then a 2-hour bus ride to Taos. We were greeted by the wonderful staff of the Sagebrush Inn and taken to our rooms, which had been upgraded to rooms with fireplaces and other luxuries. We were greeted by everything nice but snow. This was truly the beginning of the "Year of the Rock" ski season.



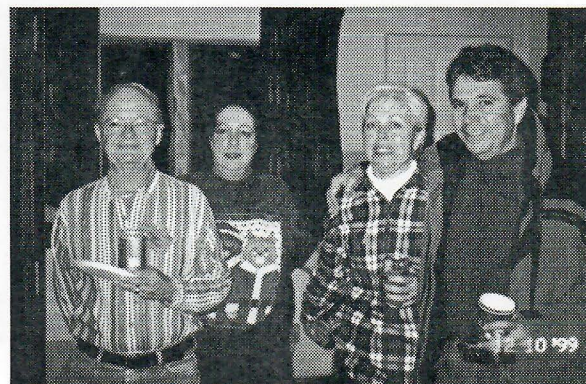
Wednesday evening we were entertained with a wine and cheese party given by the hotel. We visited with Toby from Native Sons who told us of snow mobiling and ski rental. Faust from the bus company came by and described short tours for the group. We then adjourned to the cantina for dancing and dinner. **Janelle Peyton, Pat Musemeche, Randa Robinson and Tom Buzzi** caught the town bus for a little gambling at the casino. Janelle came away \$150 richer. The rest managed to break even. **Tim Malone and Martha Gallia** entertained us with their wonderful dancing and **Patti Maudslay** was seen trying to teach **Don McGee** the Texas Two Step.

Thursday morning **John Allen, Don McGee, Sue Behnke, Harvey Hetzel** and I caught the town bus into Taos for some

shopping. The first shift of snow mobilers left the hotel about 10AM. The group included **Judy Schiro, Ron Hays, Marc and Mimi Markel, Carl and Mary Favre, Roger Holzman, Ann Odegard, Carolyn McGinnis, Kim Smith, and Carol Cain**. Roger somehow got the idea the he was chief navigator and pointed out a short cut for driving thru the mountains and led everybody to the river where Judy and Ron turned over and almost landed in the water. If Judy had been driving this would never have happened! Roger was relieved of his duties as navigator. The second group included **Sue Benhke, Patti Maudslay, Sue DeWitt, John Allen, Curt Frisby, Don McGee** and me. Both trips were a snow version of the Houston Grand Prix! Thursday evening everybody gathered in our room for a tremendous club party. Since Sue and I had been snow mobiling in the afternoon we were late getting back only to be greeted by frozen food for the party. Sue came to the rescue and used her hair dryer to thaw some of the food. We also used the microwave.

Friday 30 of us hopped on the bus bound for Red River and a day of skiing with a wine and cheese party afterward given by Wally of Red River and JP of Taos Ski Resorts. **Phil Nelson, Debbie**

**Judy Brown and Dorothy Valagura** and I spent the day shopping Red River and joined the group for the party. **Kathy Young and Dennis Stockton** joined us. It is a certain fact that Kathy and **John Allen** had the loudest ski outfits, and the wildest hats were worn by **Don McGee, John Allen, and Mitch Gaspard**. Those enjoying the wonderful steaks were **Glenn**



**Jennings, Pat McLaughlin, Judy and Steve Brown, Ray and Dorothy Valigura, Marc and Mimi, Carl and Mary, Sue DeWitt, Sue Behnke, Curt, Mitch, Ron, Judy Schiro, Roger, Harvey Hetzel, Don McGee, Carolyn, Steve Slade(our Aggie), Ken Dinger, Ann Odegard, John Allen, Frank Adams, Kim Smith, Morris Covin** and me. **Patti** stayed over in Red River so she could see her friend.

The fireplaces were enjoyed by all of us as it was cold - no snow, just cold! **Debbie** liked the fireplace so much that she used up all the small bundle of wood that was provided so managed to retrieve extra bundles of wood, which were locked behind an iron gate. I am still wondering how she did this.

Saturday 26 hopped on the bus for a trip to Angel Fire for a day of skiing. **Frank Adams and Morris Covin** were the first on the slopes and the last off. They were a blur racing down the mountain and through the gates. After some good tips from Phil, Ken was expertly carving his turns and even doing jumps. Kim also received some excellent advice. We were entertained with a Margarita party given



**Abadie and Janet McKenzie** rented a car so they could make early runs and to return to Taos for dinner. JP brought **Sue Benhke** over in the morning and took **Keith Strandtman and Don Fredell** back. The rest of us stayed for dinner at Texas Reds.



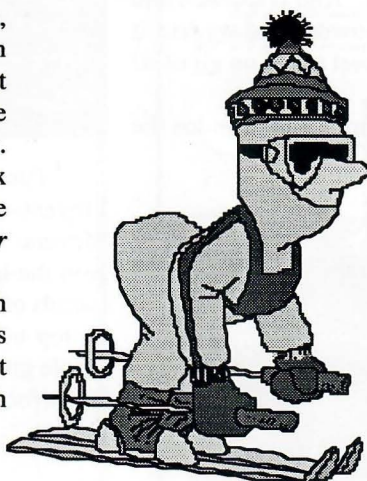
# Taos

by Nicky Minear

by the hotel and then 16 of us went to the dining room for dinner. Janelle told us of her excursion to town with **Pat McLaughlin** hitch hiking. It turns out they ran into a man that Janelle had danced with the night before and he gave them a ride back to the hotel. The others in the group went into town for dinner. Curt managed to have the desserts complimentary as he explained to the manager that not everyone was served together.

Sunday we all loaded up the bus, coolers and all, and headed to Santa Fe for shopping, sightseeing and lunch. Morris and Janet were enjoying the museums so much that they forgot to eat until they got to the airport in Albuquerque. Janet scarfed her food down so fast while poor Morris was just ordering. It seems the shops around the square negotiate prices - or so the signs in the windows indicated. Patti, Pat McLaughlin, John, Don, Sue Behnke, Pat Musemeche and her son Todd enjoyed lunch at a local restaurant. Pat Musemeche then joined her son for the ride Albuquerque where she joined us in time for the flight. Mitch got into a conversation with a Greek Orthodox priest. At one point we all thought he was selling the man on the ski club or trying to be saved. *I'll opt for the latter!*

We all returned to Houston tired and weary with some good memories. There were lots of laughs, lots of dancing, partying and disappointment over the fact there was not much snow - and there still isn't much snow in the Land of Enchantment!



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## Vail 2

January 22-29, 2000

by Dana Wardell

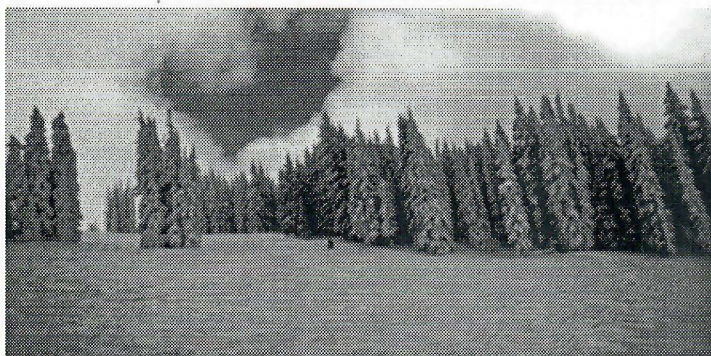


After months of wondering whether we would have any snow at all, we wound up circling Vail-Eagle Airport for an hour waiting for a break in the snow conditions. And it snowed and snowed all week. We had tons of fresh powder and we had it every single day. This group did its very best to ski on all of it!

We had a wine and cheese party at Simba Run Condos the



first night, then **Tina Williams, Jean Franks, Yvonne Guy, Ted Widmer, Rick Wasson, Jennifer Schreck, Kevin Foster** and several others went into Vail to check out the night life. Most of us skied Beaver Creek on Sunday and loved it. **Joe Cannata** fell off one of the escalators going up to the slope. He noted that it was a double black diamond escalator! A pizza party with the Vail 1 group ended a great day. Many thanks to those who helped set up and clean up! What would we ever have done without **Al Austin** who helped move coolers everywhere all week long with a smile on his face? Is there a Golden Ice Chest Award? We had



a game of finding three other people with matching pieces of a picture for a gold star. **Mike Carr** was a 3-star champion. Did you possibly have any help from **Barbara Carr**? **Rick Wasson** gave country & western dance lessons while **Joe Daleo, Carol Buck, May Ng** headed back for more nightlife in Vail. **Terry Chamness** had a run-in with his own ski (that was some steep slope!) but it didn't seem to slow him down much.



Tuesday night was our happy hour at The Club with **Steve Meyers**. You haven't been to Vail if you have heard **Steve Meyers**. **Helen Kinnamon, Linda Branum and Jean Franks** won the best singers and dancers award a couple of times with rounds of free shots for themselves and the group. Keeping right on top of the fierce competition with the Swedish virgins, the whole group lurched onwards with the **John Allen** dance. More shots for the victorious Texans!! **Eric and Carol Timmreck**



learned that Vendetta in Italian means don't try the veal. **Cliff Aymes** flew all the way down from New Jersey to ski with his childhood friend, **Lou Kleinman**. They barely took time out from skiing to catch some fuel breaks at McDonalds.

**Steve Jaeger** informed a bunch of Brits at the apres-ski at Trail's End that the Queen had entrusted us with one Brit and we broke him! Of course, referring to **John Allen's** broken shoulder that he skied with all week. Sure is hard to get up with no poles! By the way, Steve, we heard that none of your condomates would volunteer to help you put on your underwear to go to the emergency room after your shower and the broken glass incident. Maybe we shouldn't ask.



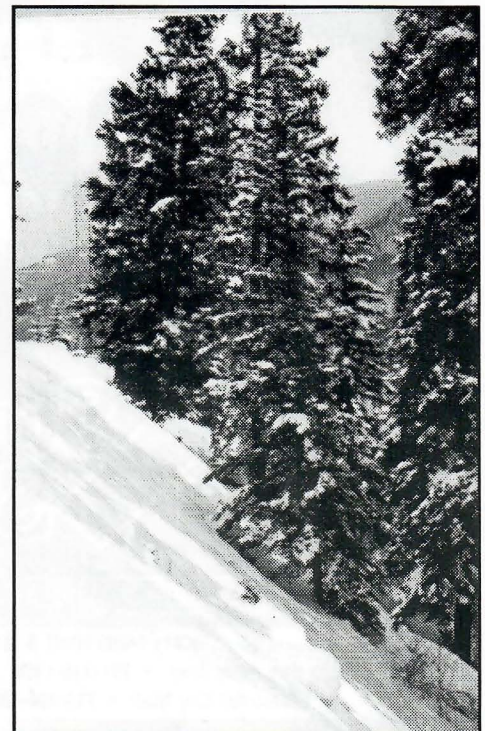


**Meghan Stevens** gave black diamond powder lessons and was figuring out how to get her skis sharpened for the Mammoth trip. We heard that **Warren Schroeder** and **Chris Larson** skied their legs off trying to keep up with her while **Jaime Grana** was having a glorious time boarding in all that powder (what was that story about you donating a bottle of wine to **Steve Slade** s mean pot of spaghetti dinner?). **May Ng**, **Tess Ong-Barr** and **John Barr**, among others, followed Kathleen Fowler back into China Bowl and waded through three feet of powder for over two hours just trying to get back out. May should be presented the Award of Valor for going straight from her GLM lesson to the China Bowl expedition. **Susan Wicker**, our intrepid trip leader, had to dig out of a hole of chest deep snow and then locate all her equipment buried there. They were all glad to live and tell about it! **Marvin Volz** was seen blasting down the mountain in a ponytail and **Dorothy Miller** executed a perfectly symmetrical yard sale complete with a somersault. Where s Warren Miller with his camera when you need it!! **Uncle Van Van Heldorf** got back on his skis after fourteen years — way to go, Van. **Lori Matthews**, who was recovering from recent back surgery decided to return to Houston mid week due to the heavy snow conditions.

**Jill and Jimmy St. Clair** were skiing with **Joe Hale** when Jill graciously offered to take a picture of a couple at the top. How she managed to get some guy s derriere in the photo is a mystery to me — unless that was where she was aiming!!!! **Lynne and Walter Hester** were also seen enjoying the powder — Walter was one of the first boarders in Space City and said it had greatly increased the duration of his skiing career.

**Carole Moffat** won the best shopper award with two fabulous leather coats and a fur hat. **Tina Williams** gave her a close run for this award with her new jewelry. **Pamela Whitfield** gets a standing award for best-dressed skier, right down to her matching animal print sunglasses. The Betty Crocker award goes to ATC **Dana Wardell** for getting two huge trays of fresh, hot cinnamon rolls for the group as we waited for our 5:45 a.m. bus.

All in all, this was a great ski trip. Our many thanks to all the wonderful people at Simba Run Condos and the people of Vail who made our trip so enjoyable and all the wonderful par-ticipants on this trip who made it special for the TC and ATC.





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