

WHITEFISH 2019 TRIP REPORT by Ali Pethick, Trip Coordinator

After weather delays, we arrived in the early morning on Sunday. Some luggage was delayed, and a very patient customer service agent took our claims. Our hotel representative, Paul Kozuch, met us at the airport and he also patiently waited while we finished our claims. Then it was off to Whitefish. Even in the dark, it was evident that there was plenty of snow and more to come. Lift tickets were disbursed, and we settled in to get a night's sleep before conquering the mountain. Many slept in that first morning, myself included. I was awakened by gleeful good mornings from Mary Jo and Diane who had arrived earlier than the rest of the group and came to get their lift tickets. My condo mates, Brenda and Sid Lacombe convinced them that it was better not to wake me and to just take their lift tickets that were conspicuously left on the front table for them. Even at this early date in the trip people understood that I need my cup of java.

A race meeting was held that afternoon and I was joined by Beth Slaughter (Race Director) and Marsha Lutz (Assistant) at the Whitefish Lodge. Beth had previously read the rules. Oh, thank you!!!!!! Have you ever read the TSC Racing Rules? You definitely need your java or a drink in the Whitefish Lodge before tackling them.

Later that afternoon we went to the TSC welcome party. Free drinks and hors d'oeuvres were served at the Whitefish Lodge in town. Ali and Jo Barrie found some good company in the lobby. Ali is aggressively pursuing while Jo has someone creeping up behind her.

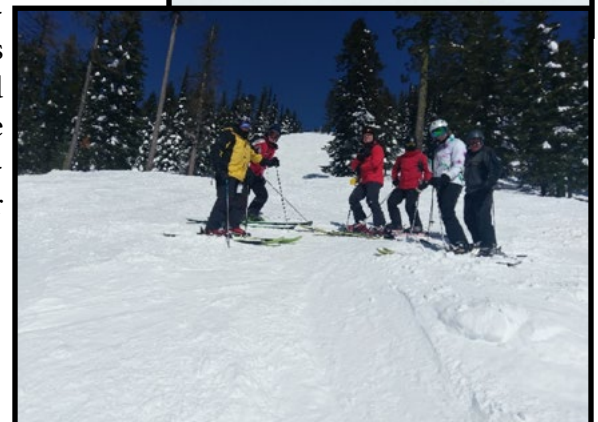
Diane Macksound, Mary Jo Loverdi and Jose Fernandez experience the view from the top of our condos. Some harder sports like Brenda and Sid Lacombe and Bill Reilly and Mike Willis actually immersed in the hot tub. Diane Macksound lives in Rhode Island and still goes on trips with SCSC. It was so fun to

meet her, and I hope to enjoy her company on another trip.

Jim Walker, Brian Lumpkin and Keith Kirkman enjoyed our fabulous dinner at Ciao Mambo. The dinner included bruschetta, garlic bread, margherita pizza and pizza guido with everything you could imagine on it as well as spaghetti and meatballs. The spaghetti and meatballs were served on the buffet and we had enough left over to bring to the SCSC end of the week party. Some said it was the best dinner ever on a trip. Helene Robinson, who coordinated the dinner, knows all the secrets of Whitefish and all the places to get the best huckleberry stuff. I still have a jar of huckleberry jam and you can actually see whole huckleberries.

Race day. Jim Slaughter, one of SCSC medalists just finishing his run.

Chuck Albright, Ross Baker, Ed Reilly, Diane Baker enjoying a powder day.



Powder Day. Ross and Diane, Chuck, Bill Reilly, Ed Frieter, Mike Willis and Joe Zurfle.



Yard Sale, which didn't deter Jim Slaughter (on left), who won in his age group. We were all a little thrown off because the location of the race was changed on the day of due to the very cold temperatures. Jim proved to be a winner despite it all.



Jim Slaughter and Stuart Traver getting ready to pray that the powder never ends.



Trip to Glacier National Park. We all met outside the Kanderah Lodge to start our journey to the park. We met the Ranger at the park entrance, and he gave us a short presentation on the park and all its history. Most people huddled in the cold to hear his very interesting message but some of us retreated back to the bus. We went out on Lake McDonald and then to Large Montana House shop which had an extraordinary supply of local arts and crafts. Most of the men got out of the way, as the women hurried out to get souvenirs of their memorable trip including those huckleberry products that we all came to crave.



Brian Lumpkin at the Glacier National Park gift store with Jim Walker. They are not going to pay park prices. The scenery is free.



McDonald Lake

Chuck and Elizabeth Albright, Ali Pethick, Gin Knebel, Sue Muenks and Brian Lumpkin keeping warm while enjoying the sights of Glacier National Park. After taking our picture, we thought it only fair to take Marsha Lutz's picture.

After our park tour, we had a fabulous Huckleberry Cobbler at the Isaak Walton Inn. The Izaak Walton Inn was built in 1939 by the Great Northern Railway to accommodate the railroad's crews. Today the Izaak Walton Inn welcomes tourists year round that come by car, train or plane and still embodies the rich railroad history that it was founded on! The Izaak Walton Inn is a beautiful historic chalet featuring historic lodge rooms, family cabins, and unique converted train car and caboose cabins.



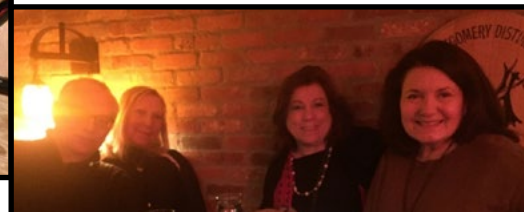
There were many unusual treasures in this gift shop including this lady. Remember, this was originally a stop and quarters for the railroad workers.



Stuart Traver.



Fred and Ali, Marsha and Helene out on the town. Marsha said she was glad to find this spot because she commented



that this was the coldest trip she had ever been on. That was saying a lot since Marsha has been in the club for many years. I, myself have never been at a ski resort where the top half of the mountain was closed due to the cold. One day the top was -30 degrees.

New members Richard Haines and Charlotte Daigle in town. This was Charlotte's first time skiing. Also new members on this trip were Joe Zurfley and Annie Truong. Annie said her martial arts background was certainly an asset to deal with those snow ghosts. I enjoyed meeting all of them and hope to see them on another Space City Ski Club trip. Jo Barrie was a beginner skier who conquered some blues with Stuart as her guide. She also skied with Marda. They took some lessons and raved about the ski instructors. To me that is the best part of being a TC. I have met so many awesome people and that is not a word I use often. I really enjoy learning about members and listening to them regarding what will make it a good trip for them—even if they change roommates, add roommates and I have to run to get them before the bus leaves. Many of them stepped up as well when others needed help. When luggage was delayed, many lent items to others and just plain listened to their pain. We all came together as a team. Marsha helped with the trip home as Fred and I drove on to Schweitzer, which was another unforgettable trip lead by Derek Shoebridge and Linda Erdman. Overall, Space City Ski and Adventure Club is the way to go to see the world that's for sure. You are always in good company.

Dog Sledding. Beth



Slaughter and Charlotte Daigle keep warm while the dogs work.

Brian Lumpkin goes to the dogs. Nancy DuFrane also went to the dogs but we didn't get her picture.



Space City Ski Club Racers at the TSC banquet.

Racers Fred and Ali Pethick, Brenda and Sid Lacombe, Stuart Traver, Jim Slaughter, Bill Reilly, Chuck Albright, Ed Freierter and Mike Willis. Ali would surely have medaled if she had only crossed the correct finish line. They always try to trick me. I guess I'm just too much competition.



Space City takes the TSC prize. Race Director, Beth Slaughter in the front of the pack with her winner, Jim Slaughter. Joe Barrie, Stuart Traver, Fred and Ali, Richard and Charlotte, and Marsha Lutz at the end of the night.

SCSC had 11 racers who all braved one of the coldest ski race days ever and because of their persistence and grit, we won 1st place in Division 1 with over 4 times the points as the second place club Lone Star. Way to go SCSC!

Nancy DuFrane –Silver
Bill Reilly –Silver
Charles Albright -Silver
Stuart Traver - Bronze
Jim Slaughter- Bronze
Ed Freiter -Silver

Brenda Lacombe - Bronze
Charles Albright - Silver
Ed Freiter - Gold
Jim Slaughter - Bronze
What a great night it was.

Ed Frieter and another TSCer get down. He still has energy after winning his medal.



*Greetings from your Whitefish-based SCSC member.
First, I want to say that it was wonderful having you in
Whitefish last week. I was so impressed that you managed to*

Business

A Lone Star Business Boost

Texas Ski Council visits Whitefish Mountain Resort, bringing 130 skiers and putting emphasis on new direct flight to Dallas

BY MICHELE PIERSON OF THE BEACON

WHITEFISH—Gliding around Whitefish Mountain Resort last week, anyone on the slopes or ski lifts was likely to encounter a southern twang here and there, as a group of 130 Texans descended upon the ski hill to carve up fresh powder.

As members of the Texas Ski Council, a club dedicated to pursuing the sport across the country and the world, the skiers arrived with a mission: To encounter the ski hill, the people running it, and the town it's in, and have a good time.

Then, the happy skiers go back to Texas and their daily lives, where they have contact with hundreds, if not thousands, of licensed outdoor athletes seeking the cold comfort of a black diamond run.

The Texas Ski Council, bringing seven of its 14 member clubs, arrived in Whitefish on Feb. 23 and stayed until March 2.

"It is a pretty big deal. This is one of the bigger ski groups, and it's a segment of the industry that's important because they're doing a good job of keeping people involved in the sport," Riley Columbus, public relations manager at Whitefish Mountain Resort, said. "Mostly it's important because it's just keeping the sport alive and in this case thriving. Texas is kind of a big ski market, so it's important to have that."

This wasn't the first time the Texas Ski Council has made its way to Montana. Rachel Jackson, the trip coordinator for the Whitefish expedition, said. Previous years happened in the winters of 1988-1989 and 2006-2007, as the resort they returned to this year is quite different, given the amount of work the resort has put into infrastructure on the mountain. Later this year, the club plans to ski in Portugal.

Jackson, who found a few moments to chat between runs and making sure all the logistics were running smoothly, said the trip happened because of a solid pitch from the folks at Whitefish Mountain Resort and the Lodge at Whitefish Lake.

"I want to work with people you want to work with," Jackson said. "Coming to our meetings is worth



Rachel Jackson shows her job coordinating the trip at Whitefish Mountain Resort on Feb. 26. *ANTHONY CHAVEZ/BEACON*

made a huge difference."

The ski council takes the business of recreation very seriously. Each year, they send out a request for proposals and entertain bids from ski resorts across the country and the world. Every April, they have their trip selection meeting, called Bifrost, where they hear and discuss the proposals.

Organizations that send people to these meetings usually have a better shot at getting the contract, Jackson said, and the team from Whitefish Mountain Resort and the Lodge at Whitefish Lake made a great impression on the Texans.

It's good momentum for the ski hill, but it's also big news for the latest direct flight offered from Glades F International Airport, which will start flights to a from Dallas-Fort Worth in June. Members of the Texas Ski Council said the flight would be a boon to their ski Jackson said skiers from seven clubs in Texas—

The people of Whitefish were the best. The town itself is pretty cool with something for everyone—even casinos. One of the waitresses at the Ciao Mambo offered to take several of us back to the hotel after our welcome dinner because we were carrying this giant pan of the leftover spaghetti and fabulous (yes, the best I ever tasted) meatballs. We offered to pay her, but she wouldn't hear of it and we had to stuff the money in her jacket and run away. The back seats had been chewed up by her dog, but we said it was ok since the alternative was standing outside waiting for a cab or bus. The snow was bearing down on us the whole way back, but she just kept shifting the gears of her aged truck and we held onto the meatballs.