

Cortina - Texas Expedition 2001

by Barbara Brescian

IF IT WAS POSSIBLE, SCSC DID IT! If it's possible for 62 people to have a fabulous time with 56 enjoying great snow – even powder skiing – and everyone have fabulous sightseeing, to die for food and awesome accommodations...well, we did it! Never mind that **Victor Yovanovic** left his leather jacket amid 500 travelers at the Houston Airport and halfway across the Atlantic we realized that **Tor Lileng** didn't make the flight – both found their way to Cortina. What's this about **Roger Holzman** and **Kayleen Kill** sleeping together on the plane? Oh. In separate rows.



Dale and Alice Allbritton arrived early with the Rome pre-trip group and filled us all in on how to get around – take the Faloria Gondola. First day out we enthusiastically hit the slopes. **Carolyn McGinnis** took that literally, let go of a poma tow too early and wiped out two skiers behind her. **Angela Zumwalt** and dad **Fred Zahnow** learned that following the locals can be challenging. They white knuckled down a narrow “path” through trees with Fred ending up in a drainage ditch and Angela in a mound of snow. Amid much laughter and 1-° hours later, the Romans drove them to Hotel Bellevue. They needed **Robert Knupp**, Mr. Compass, who led a merry band of **Barbara and John Brescian**, **Brent McGibbon**, **Mike Testa**, **Robyn Shaw** and **Randy Delmastro** down Cristallo-Faloria after it got snowy and windy late in the afternoon. A hardy group headed for the Sella Ronda – an all-day around the ski excursion, definitely not for the faint of heart. Congratulations to **Kayleen Kill**, **Carolyn McGinnis**, **Carmen Mikail**, **Gene Soo**, **Ken Zanewich**, **Tracie Armand**, **Roger Holzman**, **Mike Montgomery**, **Ron Rodriguez**, **Bob Samen**, **Luis Torres**, **Joe Evans**, **Bob Gottlieb** and **David Gottlieb**. Whew! Surely I forgot someone! **Paula Gilmore** and **Victor Yovanovic** returned from their first day of skiing exhausted but thrilled with the conditions. With perfect snow and no lift lines, no wonder **Ken Zanewich** and **Joani Hopkins** were on the hunt for a Jacuzzi later that day.

Between ski runs, many in the group boosted the Italian economy. “Ranger” **Tom Geierman** kept **Gloria Lopez**, **Tracie Armand** and **Camille Laroe** in line in Venice. **Cookie Nguyen** had good intentions when she entered the parfumeria to buy blush and came out with a mink hat; **Linda Patterson** caught the

same hat bug. And **Gai Lynn Marshall**, what are you going to do with the candy you bought in Cortina? **Christi Burke** took advantage of both snow and shopping. **Alex Zahnow**, **Randy Delmastro** and **Robyn Shaw** braved the taxi bob and came back bug-eyed (their souvenir photos proved it) after hitting more than 75 MPH in the track.

The ever-resourceful **Maria Tramontin** added to her guy collection – this one from Germany. All trips have their mishaps and thank heavens **Sandra McCunis**' broken arm on her first day skiing was a minor one. **Sean O'Brien** only hurt a little from his confrontation with a Cortina auto – who has the right of way, anyway? And those friendly Cortina garbage drivers were only too happy to give **Tor Lileng** a lift after he “slipped” on a sidewalk in the wee hours. Some began their party fun early, like **Mike Montgomery**, who enroute to a TSC party on the mountain leaned on a button and stopped the Faloria Mountain Gondola halfway up – he had 50 swaying witnesses, including a laughing **Nora Montgomery**.

What's this about **Joe Evans** saying that he never should drink wild turkey outside of the U.S.? Meanwhile, **Marsha and Bruce Kilgore** enjoyed the local cuisine. Gourmet aficionados **Tom and Marcia Fashingbauer** fresh from the pre-trip to Rome were set to try the culinary talents of Cortina restaurateurs. **Joe Kulpinsky** and **Don Fredell** also opted for the taste of Cortina. Many chose our own lodging, the Hotel Bellevue, for a four-course gourmet feast each night. The line for the antipasto table started early, but dining fashionably later were tablemates **John McMillon**, **Sue Bean**, **Cathey Littell** and **Brett Littell**.

As the week progressed, the group got a little out of hand. Mid-week **Valerie** and **Robert Schoenberg** showed up at dinner in tango attire, ready to whirl at the party on the mountain. **Valerie** caused a further tizzy when **Leona** and **Neal Pleasant** discovered **Leona**'s skis were missing on the mountain. They reported to the police and, go figure, it turned out that suitemate **Valerie** mistakenly had taken **Leona**'s skis down the gondola. Cortina IS a small town!

Who WAS that with the video camera? **Julia Ostistaya** was busy taping the late night bar revelers – was that **Gary Barrett** in the crowd?

Shopping was a popular pastime in Cortina and on the day tours. A prior injury kept **Nery Voss** from enjoying the slopes, but she and **Mark Voss** kept the Cortina shop owners busy. **Sylvia Hudspeth** and **Mildred Jude** did their fair share of surveying the wonderful local offerings. Guess who bought the most pair of shoes on the trip? **Brent McGibbon** won the prize with four pair. Italy may be known for leather, but no one topped the huge embossed leather album **Dawn Rodriguez** found in Florence on the post trip. It displayed her photos at the post trip party, clearly Best of Show, or is that Snow?

For more pictures, hit the Internet and **David Gottlieb**'s photos at: www.mymegaweb.com/cortina or **Joe Evan**'s site at <http://home.swbell.net/jwevans1/>.

