

# Lake Louise, Canada - TSC Traditional

by Walter May, ATC

The Lake Louise trip had everything going for it, the Texas Ski Council Traditional Trip, a great price, the Fairmount Lake Louise Chateau, the best racers and, last but not least, wonderful participants. An amazing one hundred ten – yes, 110 – SCSCers signed up for the trip – full and land packages, shadows and Council officers.

Because of the size of the trip, the flights were divided. TC Mary Ann Soto pulled rank on her ATC Walter May who took the early trip. Following a 3:30 AM rising and 5:30 AM appointment at Air Canada's counter at Bush Intercontinental, thirty-one sleepy but good natured people boarded for Calgary. Our Prez John Rice was the last to show and had to sit in the back of the bus – I mean plane. The early group arrived at the Chateau around 2 PM local time, had a leisurely afternoon and relaxed dinner. They had a great opportunity to enjoy spectacular scenery and learn that Lake Louise was named for a daughter of Queen Victoria who never visited the site. The only known hitch was that Joe Meyer had some "dirty money" that attracted the attention of dogs at customs. He talked his way out of that.

Mary Ann's group left at a more civilized time. However, Dianne McKenzie and Janet McKenzie were issued duplicate boarding passes. The plane was overbooked and delayed. OK ladies, next time which of you will use a different surname? The second section also had the alcohol permit and made a liberal liquor stop before leaving Calgary. As a result, they dragged in at almost midnight. With this inauspicious beginning, one could only wonder what would happen next. It only got better.

After an easy day finding our ski legs on the slopes on Sunday, the Ski Council and our Canadian hosts arranged "light



hors d'oeuvres" on a buffet table about half a kilometer long – they measure in metric in Canada. After plowing through about 100 dishes, we puzzled over what the banquet would consist of on the following Friday evening.

Monday was another snowy day on the mountain. Some of us went to Sunshine Village for a good day of skiing although it was rather foggy. Mary Ann arranged another "light snack" buffet and drinks in the beautiful Lakeview Room off the lobby. Again, the Canadians

outdid themselves.

Tuesday the weather was better and we skied and snowboarded ourselves silly. This day ended with the Mountain Rocker party at the Lake Louise Ski Lodge. This was a slightly smaller snack – only 90 dishes.

Wednesday was an off day for some of us. A group took the bus to Banff Springs to enjoy the town and hotel. The Banff Springs Hotel is also owned by the Fairmont Group, subsidiary of the Canadian Pacific Railroad Co. It is obvious that both hotels were built for royalty in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Mary Ann Soto, Roger and Carol Sahni, Bob and Francine Sheffield, and Marc and Mimi Markel had dinner at a wonderful French restaurant, Le Beaujolais.

Thursday was race day. SCSC did very well. We relaxed afterward at the mountain picnic with more food and music. We had a photo session for the group after lunch. Following a fun day of sunshine on the mountain, many of us went to the Torchlight Dinner. Festivities started off at 4:30 PM with a very open bar. Presentation of the food – 110 dishes this evening – was outstanding with fireworks accompanying a haunch of meat from a sizeable Alberta steer on a trolley pulled by several handsome ski instructors. (This latter detail was pointed out to me by some of the ladies sitting around me.) Some of us viewed the trip down the mountain by torchlight with some degree of trepidation. It was achieved without a hitch, perhaps due to the fact that Janet McKenzie took the snowmobile down. She can do moguls in daylight but has been known to wipe out entire groups at night. Ann Nettles' light went out on the way down and was almost taken out by a skier going the opposite direction.

Friday was our last day of skiing. The Texas Ski Council Awards Party & Dinner capped the week's activities. And yes, the Canadians outdid themselves one more time. This was a more sumptuous feast than anything before. The highlight of the evening was announcement of the race results. The results were as follows:





**Club Races, Division I**  
Space City Ski Club - 1st Place

**Individual Races:**

Super Senior Women – Lotty Gautschi – 1st Place

Senior Women – Kayleen Kill – 1st Place

Open Women – Susan Wilson – 2nd Place

The following medals were awarded:

**Gold:** Gunnar Heyne, George Hirasaki, Kayleen Kill, and Susan Wilson.

**Silver:** Karl Gautschi, Darlene Hirasaki, Janet McKenzie, Robert Samen, Bob Sheffield, Phillip Vice and Helmut Zegner

**Bronze:** Stephen Barney, Michael Carter, Robert Cloutier, Lotty Gautschi, Bruce Lowther, Diane McKenzie, Linda Meyer, John Rice, Kenneth Smith, and Jeff Sarff.

**Black:** Mimi Markel, Douglas Shows, and Luis Torres.

**Blue:** Charles Butler and Marc Markel.

**Green:** Hartley Chelin and Rick Jacobs.



Many thanks to our race director, Darlene Hirasaki. Mary Ann was last seen proudly carrying the race trophy home.

J. R. Ronczy has on film Phillip Vice's wipe-out on the mogul run – it's not often we get to see Philip go down. Stacey Ronczy did a very graceful "face plant" causing her knight in shining armor (J. R.) to hop his snowboard up the mountain to retrieve Stacey's newly purchased poles.

Joe Bruccoliere turned out to be an excellent ski instructor. He brought Karen Mozisek from a green to blue slope skier by Thursday afternoon. New members Tom and Lisa Gossett enjoyed themselves thoroughly. This was the first time Tom had skied since Army days and Lisa was a first-timer. Tom demonstrated an amazing ability to take a nap almost anywhere. As usual, we didn't see much of George Hirasaki and his skiing buddies. We hear that they were jumping off precipices,

taking the tree routes and avoiding avalanches. Cheryl May once again demonstrated that she can get down a mountain faster

on a snow-board than Walter can on skis. She took a tumble getting off a lift on her board and still has sore ribs to prove it.

There were plenty of funky hats on the mountain, but none com-



pared with Jane Orr's chapeaus. One day was a purple and black jester, the next day, Mickey Mouse, and the big finale was a hat sprouting red hair. You couldn't miss her on the mountain.

Nominated for the best party "couple" were mother and son team Dianne and Michael Carter. They were reported to have shut down the lounge every night.

The early group rolled out for a 3:30 AM luggage loading and 4:00 AM departure for Calgary Saturday morning. While in the park, the bus driver slammed on his brakes to avoid hitting a moose, the first he had seen in nine years driving. The plane was on time and we arrived in Houston about noon. The later group left again at a more civilized time and arrived in time for dinner. Rank does have its privileges.

Our thanks go out to the Texas Ski Council and especially Gary Butler who looked after the SCSC group, and to the Canadians and the Lake Louise Chateau who outdid themselves with food, drink, hospitality and friendliness. Thanks to Cheryl May who kept her wayward husband, Walter, on the right path for his ATC duties, and Sue Bohnert who assisted Mary Ann and Walter on the trip.

*Continued on page 18*





LAKE LOUISE- Continued from page 13

The trip included many wonderful people in addition to those mentioned above. They included former and current Space City officers and Texas Ski Council representatives: Sue Bohnert, Charles Butler, Gary Butler, Susan Blome, Darlene Hirasaki, Kayleen Kill, Cheryl May, Jane Orr, President John Rice, Stacey Ronczy, Roger Sahni, and Jeff and Nancy Sarff.

We had a lot of new and not-so-new people: Frank Adams, Charles Allen, Bruce Baird, Judy and Stephen Brown, Christie Burke, Todd Buxton, Carol Cain, Joseph Cannata, Robert Clements, Danielle DiLeo, Tom Fore, Tonya Gardenhi, Linda Guice, Gary and Beneta Haley, Christina Heyne, Terry Higgs, Lawrence Hord, Michael Hughes, Kimberley Jordon, Curt and Lauralyn Johnson, Albert and Stephanie Klimas, Joe Kulpinski, Bill Landfield, Chris Lewis, Deborah and James Marsh, Brook McClain, Diane McKenzie, Janet McKenzie, Doug and Vergie Meigs, Joe Meyer, Lucinda Moore, Karen Mozisek, Philip Nelson, Meynard Nussbaum, Leyla Ozkardesh, Don and Sandy Parker, Cathy Phillips, Eric Ploeger, David and Guri Pryce, David and Winnie Pullen, Roberta and Ron Rambin, Robert Rexford, Robert Samen, Carol Sahni, Joy Saphla, Howard Schoenike, Francine Sheffield, Andrew Sikes, Harvey and Nancy Steisslinger, Jim and Linda Walker, Ted Widmer, Tina Williams, Jeri and Bud Wilson, Steve Wolfe, Martha Zenger.

P.S. Thanks for the kind verbal and written notes of appreciation.