

Andorra - TSC 2002 Expedition

by Barbara Brescian and Harvey Hetzel

PILOTING THE PYRENEES ON THE TEXAS WINTER EXPEDITION



Andorra was awesome! Steve Giesler did his shopping BEFORE the trip started with numerous trips to Oshman's for bargains. He reports his new boots worked fine. Activities got off to a fast start with thirteen SCSCers heading to Nice on the 4-day pre trip to France. Not ones to let jet lag bother them, upon arrival, Dale and Alice Allbritton and Christie Burke immediately boarded a train and headed to Monaco. They got back exhausted but awestruck by the opulence and fantastic Cousteau Aquarium. In Andorra, all 69 trip participants for the Texas Ski Council Winter Expedition developed their own agendas for the week. There was the Caldea Spa group, headed by Jeanie Hoepfel, who made the best of it when she couldn't cross country ski. She followed Leona and Neal Pleasant's lead, who gave a full report on the relaxing spa pools at dinner the first night. Teresa Morris and Leigh Leathers did a combo—ski days and spa late afternoons. Even diehard skier Rick Jaeger ventured into the spa waters. Bret Henderson, Mike Murphy and Jason McCanna tried a different combination—ski days and pub-crawl nights.

At the Andorra Welcome Reception, Clay Moore got in the swing of things and joined the local dancers for a spin around the plaza, while roommate Brett Littell urged him on. We had our own SCSC reception later the same night, but Ken Zanewich and Joani Hopkins decided to have their own party and stole away with a bottle of champagne.

Back at the hotel, locks were a continuing challenge, with Kelly Murray and Lynne Adams being locked out of their luggage and Ann Odegard being locked out of her hotel room safe. Sylvia Hudspeth, much to roommates Millie Jude's amusement, found a new use for the bidet—a great wash basin!

No half empty wine bottles were left on the dinner tables, thanks to Ron and Dawn Rodriguez, Sean O'Brien, Tor Lileng, Jason McCanna and Tracie Armand. They were repositioned to the hotel lobby, in preparation for the group's departure for a night on the town.

First day out, David George, sporting a cowboy hat, promptly "lost" Donna Berglund. She joined the merry band of Gene Soo, the DelMastros, John and Barbara Brescian, who sported ski (crash?) helmets, Sean O'Brien, Margaret

Walker, Roger Holzman and Gloria Lopez. They "bumped" into Sue Bean, Brett Littell, Clay Moore and Bill Cox, for a sunny lunch on the deck. Expert skier Davis Tucker packed his own skis to assure a smooth ride. Gloria Lopez wins the most improved skier prize, or should that go to Carmen Mikhail who skied the black diamond slopes with Tracie Armand?

For the second straight year, Fred Zahnow was joined by daughter Angela Zumwalt, who both had a blast skiing to their heart's content. Bob Knupp's prized straight Volkls took on a beginner snowboarder boarding the chairlift, with Bob's skies ending up on the chair and Bob doing a handstand. Happy ending with Bob's hip being adjusted without the cost of a chiropractor. Speaking of mishaps, Roger Holzman wins the prize for best or "worst" fall of the trip. Snowboarder Mary Ann Harrell sported a banged up elbow and smiled through it all.

The two Dons—Don Lenert and Don Fredell had a great time on the runs. It was hard to spot Julia Ostistaya on the slopes in that figure-fitting white one piece. It's a good thing she never falls. Chris Urbanczyk and Gloria Hodge kept in close "touch" on the slopes with walkie talkies. It turns out computer guru Chris could have been a surgeon. Ann Odegard was stung by a bee that was enjoying her drink. The stinger ended up in Ann's tongue, but Chris performed surgery for a happy ending. Our New York contingent—Cynthia Chandler and Stinceon Dennen—were flashes on the slopes—they skied every day, enjoyed a gourmet dinner nightly and still got in shopping. Whew!

The must-do shopping, a key ingredient to every European trip, began on the pre-trip and continued nonstop through the post trip. The prize goes to none other than Gloria Lopez for her purchase of a gorgeous mink coat—perfect for Houston's climate. Or is that not what you had in mind, Gloria? Or maybe prizewinner is Shirley DeBell for her drop-dead gold and diamond necklace—a 25th anniversary gift from husband Bob DeBell. Meanwhile, Robyn and Randy Delmastro were madly shopping for luggage—to replace a bag squashed en route. Or was it to pack all of the goodies that friend Sam bought on the trip? Did Dawn Rodriguez repeat her shoe spree from the previous year? Check out her feet at the next SCSC meeting.

There was opportunity, too, to visit the quaint and picturesque towns nearby and Bruce and Marsha Kilgore, Gai-Lyn Marshall, Cathey Littell, Julie Butcher, with her ever present needlework, and Carolyn James took full advantage. Joan Adams talked husband Sam to miss a day of skiing and tour with her and Sherry Oliphant.



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The final TSC party found most of us boogying, drinking and visiting with the other 250 Texas Ski Council participants. Sean O'Brien cut a mean rug. Was that Neal and Leona Pleasant smooching on the dance floor?

The SCSC travelers, weary from skiing and shopping, boarded a bus for Barcelona on Friday for two more days of fun abroad. Kudos to Elizabeth Scarborough and Nelson Messinger, who figured out the tour bus system in Barcelona and headed out for a day in a "topless" bus.

Those going on the post trip to Zaragoza and Madrid enjoyed sleeping in the final day there as the rest of the group boarded a 5 a.m. bus for the airport and headed home. Maria Tramontin had lots of friends on the trip – she got four wake up calls.

Swordsman extraordinaire Harvey Hetzel bought out the Toledo shops – he had to have "just one more"! Fellow co-conspirator Carolyn McGinnis joined him with a few blades of her own.

Newsflash! Tor made all his connections!