



The **Sitzmarke**

SPACE CITY SKI CLUB

[www .spacecity.org](http://www.spacecity.org)

MEMBER



Texas Ski
Council

June 2003
Vol. 36 No. 2



First Place Group Photo: "Tahoe Queen Group" by Steve Barney

The Lake Tahoe trip from March 1 - 6 was perfected by the spring weather conditions. The departure from Houston went smoothly with our 36 full package participants except for poor **Lee Holsenbeck** who had to cancel at the last moment. Several of our land participants met the group at the Reno airport to hitch a ride on the bus while the rest of the 20 land package participants met us at the welcome party at the Forest Suites Resort. **Steve Barney** hitched a bus ride with the Wisconsin ski club to Lake Tahoe when his delayed flight kept him from joining our bus. Our wine & cheese party held a surprise for the trip leaders, **Leyla Ozkardesh** and **Cindy Moore**. Northstar had an unplanned presentation with a deal that couldn't be beat. Many thanks to **Mike Murphy** and **Sue Salvage** for organizing that side trip on Friday.



Sunday was a fabulous day at Kirkwood. The weather and snow couldn't have been better. Many of us had to miss the complimentary breakfast the resort provided each morning to catch that early morning bus to Kirkwood. The runs were nicely groomed. **Carol Conner** was thrilled that she skied down her first black run that day. Participants were invited to spend the evening at Game Night. There was an interesting card game happening, led by card shark, **James Wayne**. What new tricks did he teach **Cheryl Crockett** and **Sue Salvage**? There were several ping pong champions in the group, including **Harry Melnick** and **Bob Knupp**. And who actually won that game of Eight Ball at the pool table?

Monday was our first day at Heavenly with blue skies and great snow. The Heavenly Gondola was within walking distance from the Forest Suites Resort. The view from the Gondola was a wonderful way to start the morning. **Janet McKenzie (TB)** learned to assume the position when skiing with **Steve Barney** and **Bruce Lowther**. **Larry** and **Deborah Christie**, **Johanna Kuang**, **Carol Conner**, **Marda Waters**, **Steve Shaddox**, and **Willi Murski** hosted our club party that evening in their condos, located so conveniently, across from one another. It was a great time for everyone to meet one another. Many thanks to **Bruce Lowther** for his heavenly brucekit and secret BBQ sauces. **Larry Christie** kept an eye on those eaters who chose the Texas

Hot or the Wimpy version. Many thanks to **Bob and Mary Simpson** for sneaking the brisket on the plane under the guise of their luggage.

As for the rumors we heard, hey **Mike Murphy**, what's up with the missing shorts? There's a hot story that none of us heard but are dying to know. Just how hot was that sauna?

Tuesday started with a breakfast cruise aboard the Tahoe Queen heading towards Squaw Valley for the day. After breakfast, everyone enjoyed the sunshine on the upper deck with



a fabulous view of the mountains and lake. In their plea for attention, **Leyla Ozkardesh** and **Cindy Moore** wore their specially bought tiaras to wear as the Tahoe Queens on the Tahoe Queen but it was gay-pride week so they were definitely outranked. A shuttle transported the group from the marina to the resort for a great day of skiing. Squaw Valley definitely gets an award for most treacherous ski lift. **Janet McKenzie**, **Bruce Lowther**, **Leyla Ozkardesh**, **Steve Barney**, **Jancie Chunn**, and **Gary Ladd** felt their hearts stop when the lift stopped while they were suspended 500 feet or more above the valley.

What a wild time on the dinner cruise! Let's make some special mentions of our partiers. **Sue Wicker**, **Al Austin**, **Melanie Morin**, **Carol Conner**, (**Birthday Boy**) **Carl Nordstrand**, **Ky** and **Rhonda Griffen**, **Christie Burke**, and **Mimi Markel** had a conga line going all around led by head man, **Marc Markel**. **Ky** and **Rhonda** were the official Dance King and Queen. Interesting observation: **Ky** doesn't fit the image of a mortician? The group's high energy men, **Howard Schoenike** and **Fred Straube** had fun dancing with all the ladies. Howard must have had something special going, he was the one person with whom **Cheryl Crockett** agreed to dance. **Larry Christie**, **Marc Markel** and **Ky Griffen** ruled the floor when they did a fabulous ZZ Top air guitar rendition.

Continued on page 8

Lake Tahoe: Continued from page 7

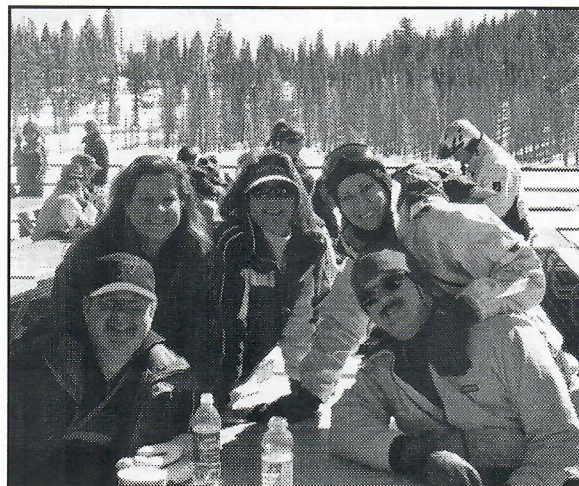


On Wednesday, most of the group skied at Heavenly. After skiing, most days, the hot tub usually had a big crowd so big sometimes it was hard to see the bubbles. Even though the hot tub temperature was lacking early in the week, **Larry and Deborah Christie** still made it steamy! Steamy Hot!! Speaking of hot tubs, there was a night that the late night hot tub crowd of **Jancie Chunn, Brook McClain** and **Leyla** was heard serenading the complex. Everyone must have enjoyed it because according to **Bruce Lowther** and **Steve Barney**, it was a topic of conversation at breakfast the next morning. Also noticed the evening before were shoppers **Joe Kulpinsky** and **Pat McKechnie**. Joe was seen pushing a grocery cart through the store with his ski boots on. They must have been some very comfy boots!

Thursday was another day great day at Heavenly. Unfortunately, the only accident on the whole trip occurred on Thursday when **Gary and Beneta Haley** got their skis tangled after getting off a lift. Gary's skis kept Beneta's ski in place while she did an acrobatic wedge. He didn't even know anything was wrong until she fell down. Beneta received injury to her knee.

Everyone gathered at Dory's Oar Restaurant for an evening of scrumptious dining and entertainment including **Rick and Jane Adams, Doug and Elba Broussard, Morris and Sally Brown, Philipp and Shirley Maersch, Tom and Vicky McLaughlin, Debbie Abadie, Joe Daleo, David Tucker, Gary Ladd, Theresa Tancek, Leslie Adams, and Steve Ellsberry**. After dinner, the singing duo providing our entertainment had several of us worked up and singing including **Marc and Mimi Markel, Ky and Rhonda Griffin, Brook McClain, Bruce Lowther, Carol Conner, Larry and Deborah Christie, Sue Salvage and Steve Amy**.

On our last day for skiing, our group divided among three resorts: Kirkwood, Northstar and Heavenly. **Janet McKenzie** skied her first run at Northstar with **Mike Murphy**, which



turned out to be her last run with him. What was she thinking? He passed her skiing backwards. **Bruce Lowther, Steve Barney, Cindy Moore, Carol Conner** and **Leyla** ended their day at Kirkwood at the Battered Beaver Saloon for a few brews

Continued on page 14

Lake Tahoe: Continued from page 8

and peanuts.

It was heard that **Steve Ellsberry** earned the nickname **Ski Caddy**. He was seen with up to four pairs of skis hoisted on his shoulders. What a guy! Constant ski companions, **Leslie Adams** and **Theresa Tancek** must have appreciated his strength. It is hoped that **Johanna Kuang** had luck with the realtors. Johanna loved Lake Tahoe so much that she and her husband are looking at property. As the trip drew to its close, **Phillip Maersch**, **Brook McClain**, and **Steve Barney** gave a helping hand to empty the beer coolers.

Saturday was our departure day from Lake Tahoe. Fifteen minutes before the bus departure, **Davis Tucker** was still packing like crazy. He had his stuff scattered all over the condo. He packed and stuffed and packed and stuffed, breaking a sweat because he was working so hard. His ski pack looked like a snake after a big meal, his bag looked like a pregnant hog. He made it to the bus at the very last minute. All that work only to be seen at the airport unpacking his bag to get his camera.

Overall, most of the participants agreed it was a great trip. Everyone met new people, had some laughs, had a few drinks, did a little dancing and spent a lot of time on the slopes.

