

TSC EXPEDITION NEUSTIFT, AUSTRIA

by Brenda Soileau

TC Jan Ferrell described it best—**MAGICAL**. TSC stayed in three different family owned hotels and every club swore they were at the best hotel with the best staff. We, however, know Hotel Berghof was **THE** absolute best. Saturday was a travel day. At the meeting that night it was obvious Tom Huzzey was our most ardent skier as he had purchased a 5 day super pass, the only one that was sure he was skiing every day! After a long day, dinner and meeting where most people retired for the night. Some, however, decided to check out the local night scene **Steve Gallagher, David Eickhoff, Bret Henderson, Andy Brown and Robert Reidenbach** were the first to hit the bars and clubs. **Tor Lileng, Jose Araujo, Janice Harris** and **ATC Brenda Soileau** also sampled some local hangouts.

Sunday, **Deb Cini, Julian Langham, Tom, Tor, Rick Jaeger, Steve Giesler, Bret and David Eickhoff** went on a guided ski tour of the Stubai Glacier arranged by Patrick Roth of Adventures on Skis. **David George, Steve Gallagher, Andy and Robert** skied on their own. **Sandy Perry, Marianne Pearce, Jose, Angela Zumwalt, Fred Zahnow, Barbara Rosetti and Millie Jude** took the bus to Innsbruck. **Liz Scarborough, Nelson Messinger, Julie and Larry Pickard** tried their hands(or should that be feet?)at snow shoeing. Brenda and Janice went to Mass and were going to join the snow shoe group but alas there was not room. What to do??? They asked at the desk and were told they could take a nice hour hike at the top of the Elfer lift which was just 200 feet from the hotel's front door. Jan, California member **Russ Collison** and Adventures on Skis rep **Holly Gagnon** joined the group. At the top of the lift they noticed people parasailing off the mountain and before you know it Brenda had arranged, in German no less, for the group to go parasailing. Russ, Brenda and Janice got their sailing in that day. Jan had to wait until later that week but she too took to the airways and **loved it**.

Sunday night the local brass band "Blasmusikappelle Stubai led TSC revelers to the Village Center to be welcomed by the mayor and treated to hot gluhwein. **YUMMM!**

Monday there were two optional excursions for those not skiing? **Robbie Adams, Jose, Deb, Julian, Janice, Kathy Huebner, Millie, Marianne, Sandy, Julie and Larry, Gaynelle Turner, Brenda, Fred and Angela** toured Salzburg. Jan, **Joe Kulpinsky, Pat Mckechnie,** and Barbara went on the o Munich tour. **Harry Melnick** was supposed to be on the Munich tour but inadvertently boarded the Salzburg bus and when the bus arrived in Innsbruck to pick up more tourists, Harry was deboarded! What a start to his first European trip! Skiers spent the day up on the Stubai glacier. **Vic Milanovic and Paula Gilmore** checked out the trails marked by Mickey Mouse and company

Monday night was Toboggan Night. Most of us had signed up thinking these were going to be like 4 man flat sleds going down a long run. **WRONG**. A European sled is called a toboggan. One person sits on it about 15 inches off the ground. There is no steering mechanism. Robbie, Jose, Russ, Jan, **Steven Giesler, Janice, Harry, Nelson, Liz, Brenda, Gaynelle, Margaret Walker, Fred and Angela** had all signed up for this fun. After some fine wine and wonderful food but mostly finding out the type of conveyance to be used and the fact that it was down a very long catwalk (the longest in Austria) with multiple hairpin turns on an icy surface not everyone participated. There were two guides for the 46 TSC people going down the run. Brenda rode up the lift with the guides and asked how often people were injured or went off the mountain and they looked quite surprised at the question and said, "Never." Well, let the games begin. After a very brief lesson it seemed they expected everyone to go down single file in a sedate and controlled manner. . Forty-six Texans are not easily controlled. Many took off like they were riding a bull at Gilley's, lots of hooping and hollering, A little over half way down they had a "watering hole" where we could buy something, to drink, i.e. wine, beer, etc. Many drank quickly and were antsy to get on with the show. As Brenda and Steve were turning in their toboggans, Jose and Angela arrived at base saying not to let anyone leave. Apparently guides were a little upset because there was a five sled pile up on the mountain (shades of Hwy 59), some people had gone off the mountain and they needed to get a "count." As Brenda was talking to the toboggan shopkeeper to figure out how many toboggans had been returned, Rick walks up and says we need to get a car as Jan had gone off the mountain and was injured so badly it hurt her when he tried to carry her. Brenda and Rick took off for the Hotel Berghof where they found Semy, one of the hotel's wait staff. Brenda struggled to explain, in German, the need for a car. He called Friedl, the hotel owner, who promptly arrived at the front door in a small van. They drove back to the lift and found Jan walking very stiffly with the aid of several people. Brenda, an advanced nurse practitioner examined Jan and thought she had severely bruised the insertion of her gluteus maximus. A doctor on the trip was consulted and he concurred. That translates to where the muscles of the backside connect to the bone. **Rick Jaeger** nicknamed Jan "**Broke Butt Mountain**." **Margaret Walker** sprained her left ankle that night, an avid skier grounded. The poor guides were sitting back at the Berghof looking shell-shocked! Besides Space City's injuries there were two broken bones on the ride that night. After all the mishaps everyone still said it was a blast and would do it again—good old Texas gumption! Unfortunately, Deb became ill and was laid up for the next several days. Don't feel too sorry for her though. She had Julian waiting on her hand and foot. He was even seen at 5AM one morning making her a hot cup of tea. Back off ladies, he's taken.



Tuesday, Robbie, Gaynelle, Steve Giesler, Rick, Kathy, Harry and Barbara went on the day trip to Venice, Italy. Andy, **David Eickhoff, Stephen Gallagher, Russ, Paula, Vic and Bret** skied in Kitzbuhel. Nelson and Liz tried cross country skiing. **David George, Jose, Sandy, Janice and Brenda** took off for Munich on their own, first taking the bus to Innsbruck and then the train to Munich. On the way their David explained the set up of the train and the train system in Europe. David and Jose are both experienced train travelers and were a wealth of information. Jose's brother-in-law had recently been granted back his family's German citizenship and he had asked Jose to get him the "D" that signified Germany on cars. At a Munich pharmacy Brenda asked where one could buy the "D" for a car (auto in German). She was told to go around the corner to the store with the K on it and go to the third floor. When Brenda and

(Continued on page 9)



(Continued from page 8)

Jose approached the building it really looked like a department store to them but they took the escalators up anyway. As they approached the third floor they both saw the sign for "Auto DVDs". Jose, who collects music from around the world, decided this was a good time to get some local German music. As they left the store David waves at them and says he has just strolling past a kiosk when he happened to notice they sold the German "D" Jose's mission was accomplished. On the return train ride Jose demonstrated how the seats in the car converted to a bed and David took pictures. We're not showing them to anyone without a lot of cash.



Wednesday, Robbie, Gaynelle, Sandy, Russ, Kathy, Millie, Liz, Nelson, Marianne, Julie, Larry, Barbara, Fred and Angela went to Vipiteno and the Bolzano Glacier Man. Barbara met a local woman who spoke several languages including English and enjoyed a nice talk with her. Fred had occasion to have a European facilities experience. First, remember that many public areas in Austria have self timers to power the light switch. While in the closet stall, the lights went out and he heard another gentleman enter and wait. The toilet paper was not only hard to find in the dark he used the last of the five squares available. Wanting to convey this to the man on the way out Fred realized there was probably going to be a language problem so he did the next best thing and handed the man the empty toilet roll and walked out. What a look the man gave him! Sandy bragged that she couldn't stand next to the Glacier man because he started to melt when she got too close! **Stephen Gallagher** and **Robert Reidenbach** skied in St. Anton and Harry hooked up with **David George** to ski there. Jan tried heroically to put on rental boots. It was impossible since she was **Broke Butt Mountain!** She and Margaret took a walking tour of St. Anton until "Harry and David" came off of the hill. Brenda and Jose skied Stubai Glacier and Janice, who had never skied, took her first ever ski lesson with an Australian in Austria.

Wednesday night was Tyrolean Party Night with Schuhplattler group; "Daundogler" performing a traditional Tyrolean folklore show. Jose was chosen to roll up his pants and dance on stage! The last act of the night started with men in trench coats and cowbells, that's all. You should have seen those cowbells dance! Back at the hotel, Julian asked Brenda if she thought the hotel would loan out wine glasses for the trip to Oberamagau the next day. Brenda asked Friedl and again received one of those "huh?" looks but he agreed and Julian graciously assured him we would pay for any broken glasses. This was after we had insisted the doors be unlocked into the lobby (they normally lock them at night), many of us getting our own keys from behind the desk, packing us breakfast for the road daily(not something they had to do and they gave us enough food for two meals) and picking up Jan. That poor hotel will never be the same.

Oberamagau and the fairy tale castle, Neuschwannstein, were the Thursday excursion. Robbie, Gaynelle, Deb, Julian, Janice, Steve Giesler, Russ, David Eickhoff, David George, Paula, Vic, Sandy, Joe, Pat, Angela, Fred and Brenda were on this tour. Jan and Margaret, our two wounded warriors, enjoyed themselves in Neustift. Nelson and Liz tried cross-country skiing.

Those who missed the club's trip to St. Moritz two years ago had a chance to enjoy this famed resort on the Friday excursion. Jose, Angela, Fred, Rick, Robert and Steve went to ski. Robbie, Gaynelle, Barbara, Millie, Janice, Marianne and Brenda went to sightsee. Kathy hadn't skied in a while so she took a private lesson. When asked how her lesson went, Kathy said there was way too much to look at to really pay attention to the lesson. She wasn't just talking about the scenery! On the bus ride back to the hotel, Janice produced a bottle of wine but alas we had no glasses this time. Never fear, everyone took out whatever empty container they had and Rick managed to get most of the wine into even the smallest opening. That was something on the very winding road from St. Moritz, but in true Western style Brenda "rode" lookout and would inform Rick whenever a slight straight stretch came along in the road. Millie and Gaynelle joined in with their "juice bottles" but Robbie decided to drink straight from the wine bottle!

Friday night was hectic with dinner, packing, checking out and the farewell party.

Saturday morning came early, 5am, to get to the airport for our various flights. Sandy, Deb, Julian, Tom, Fred, Angela, Barbara, Millie, Kathy, Joe, Pat and Margaret headed home.

Jan, Brenda, Janice, Jose, both Steves, both Davids, Bret, Russ, Robert, Robbie, Gaynelle, Rick, Harry, Marianne, Paula, Vic, Julie, Larry, Liz and Nelson took off for Prague in the Czech Republic. We were welcomed by the hotel manager with complementary glasses of champagne. Sunday there was a walking tour of the old city. After that, everyone went their own ways. Marianne enjoyed a night at the opera and several concerts. Julie and Larry also enjoyed the concerts available. **Steve Gallagher** entered a gambling contest. David George took a trip to a silver mining community. Janice, Russ, and Harry toured Terenzin concentration camp. Jan, Bret, **David Eickhoff** and Janice enjoyed a beautiful evening dinner cruise. Many climbed to the top of St. Vitus's Tower to get a bird's eye view of this beautiful city. Jan enjoyed shopping. Jose and Brenda shot crossbows. Jose, on his first attempt, got a bull's-eye! Our time in Prague was short and several have expressed an interest in returning because they found so much to do. Before we knew it, it was time to pack. We can't wait to see where TSC takes us next year!