



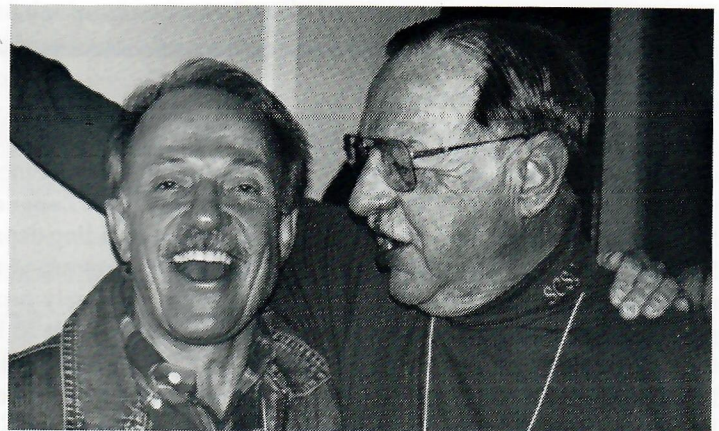
## ASPEN IN JANUARY

If one listened intently, the call of the Snow Gods could be heard in late January. Forty of us heard and could no longer resist. On January 18, **Alan Bitzer** and **Evangeline Ressler** gathered their flock at IAH, preparing for the migration to Aspen. First to arrive were **Bill Simmons** and **Mary Kay Kitchens**. Others arrived, earlier than expected. We were not ready. The trainers said they would be late. As **Angela** and **Brian Kraushaar**, **Ann McIntyre**, **Gloria Rooney**, and others formed an ever growing line to check baggage, the instinctive calling within them could be seen - shifting weight from foot to foot, flexing knees, unconscious pole

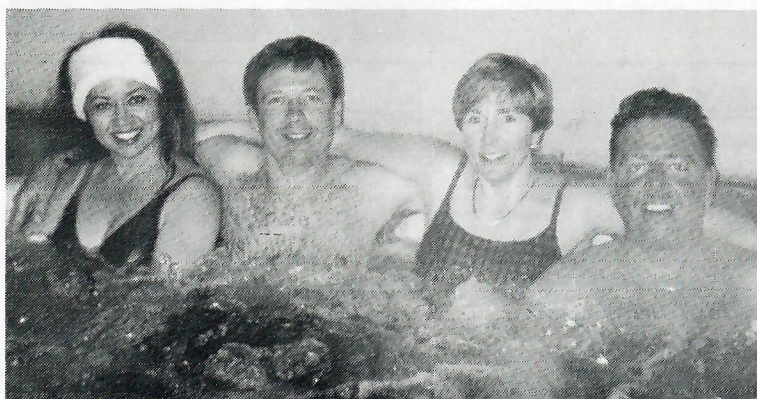
plants - all could hear the calling.

Flying into Aspen via Denver went very smoothly. **Don Eckhardt** and **Patti Mengden** dropped off for a brief stay in Denver and rode the train to Aspen (actually a town close by) on Monday. **Don** said it was a fantastic ride if you weren't in a hurry. Ask him for details. Better yet, ask **Patti**, it sounded very romantic to me. We arrived at our condos, Chateau DuMont and Chateau ChauMont, with out a hitch. After renting equipment and settling a few minor items, we all settled down for a good night's rest. The Snow Gods would be gracious tomorrow. We were sure.

The first day of skiing was at Snowmass. High winds and hard packed snow dimmed our enthusiasm. However, the Snow Gods were very generous that night. Powder 10+" awaited us the next morning. It was a glorious day for all. **Kathleen Fowler**, **Jean Franks**, and **Donna Naskrent** headed for Buttermilk to sharpen their skills. Time well spent. **Kathleen** was seen on Snowmass later in the week cruising down the Blues like a pro. At the end of the day, we all met for wine and snacks at the condo for an old fashioned social, courtesy of SCSC. New members **Carrie Burns**, **Donna Naskrent**, **Jean Franks**, and **Tom Sausley** had the opportunity to mix with the experienced members and hear their stories of trips past. **Tom Hogle**, **Patti Richards**, and **Dale Allbritton** were all seen smiling during that social. Happy to see a new audience, no doubt. Of course, the wine contributed somewhat. You know, that boxed wine isn't bad. Now if they could only put Shiner Bock in a box!! Many thanks go out to **Evangeline Ressler**, **Kathleen Fowler**, and **Kevin Foster** for preparation of the h'ordourves.



**Kevin Foster** didn't waste any time in discovering the nightlife of Aspen. It is rumored that he partied till 6 AM with Ben Vereen and who knows what other stars on Monday night. In fact, it wasn't until Thursday, at the group picture, that I even saw **Kevin** in his ski outfit - and I was his roommate. First time I ever saw someone sleep through a person putting on ski clothing in the morning. Speaking of fun, **Evangeline's** reputation as one who enjoys the nightlife remains in tact. She was seen exhausted and ready for a marathon sleep one night. However, as the clock struck 9:30 PM at the Sheraton and George was firing up his red saxophone, who should appear but **Evangeline**, ready to rock!! The Energizer bunny has nothing on her.



As the week progressed, we scattered over the four mountains. A good time was being had by all. Twenty of us had the all mountain, all week, unlimited use NASTAR pass, and we made good use of it. Lots of medal came to Houston at the end of the week. **Joe Selle** won the gold on the Aspen Mountain track, as did **Alan Bitzer**. **Cliff Aymes** and his bud, **Lou Kleinman** were seen on many a NASTAR track during the week.

Although they claimed their abilities limited them to skiing the "Green", **Jimmy** and **Jill St. Clair** were observed easily navigating a mogul field on Aspen mountain by **Mike Willis** and **Alan Bitzer**. From their perch in the chair lift, it

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did not look as if **Jimmy** was making much "face to mogul" contact as he claimed in our party conversations. **Mr. Willis**, christened the "shuss boomer" by members of the German racing team (**Erich, Helmut, and Martha Zenger; Kurt and Karin Schidlowski; Anna Litz**), was no slouch in the speed skiing department. Just ask him how much time it takes to get from the Sundeck Restaurant to the bottom of Aspen mountain. Speaking of racing and speed, we are extremely proud of our NASTAR participants. They pulled in twelve medals. One gold went to **Kurt Schidlowski**. I thought I heard him tell the starter that he was 80! Four silvers to **Helmet Zenger, Anna Litz, Dale Allbritton, and Alan Bitzer**. **Helmut** was only 0.16 seconds from the gold. If only he would have taken his hat off to lower wind resistance!! Seven bronze to **Erich Zenger, Tom Hogle, Lou Kleinman, Cliff Aymes, Mary Kay Kitchens, Ann McIntyre, and Mike Willis**. A great time was had by all. Warning: be sure to wear dark glasses when near **Tom Hogle's** race outfit. Someone needs to contact the highway department - there's a better color available for barricade tape.

Rumor has it that **Philip Cezeaux** treated his roommates (**Mike Willis, Tom Sausley**) to a great breakfast every morning - freshly baked popovers. Trick is to determine which trips **Phil** will be taking next year, what recipe he will attempt to perfect, and how to get him as a roommate. Last but not least, the Lasagna dinner party was a huge success. We had 99% attendance and almost everyone asked for thirds! Thanks to **Evangeline** for a great job.

