

SPAIN

by Gene Soo

The rain in Spain fell mainly on our heads. However, this did not dampen the enthusiasm of the participants for making this a great trip. The renegades got the trip off to a rousing start by leaving one full week early. **Gai-Lynn Marshall** came from Norway to meet the group in Barcelona and got into trouble right away by showing up at the wrong hotel. She called her favorite trip coordinator back in Houston at 4-a.m. Central Time to find out where the rest of the group was. **Charles Miller** and **Linda McCall Williams** went on their own renegade Pre-trip at the same time. **Linda** had difficulties when she accidentally brought the wrong passport to the airport. **Lee Swords**, **Sandy Cox**, **Steven Teoh**, **Diane Keane**, **Joe Walker**, and **Linda Beebe** ran into **Julio Iglesias** at dinner in Madrid. **Julio** thought **Steven** was **Jackie Chan**. Special thanks goes to **Lynda Henry** for the outstanding job she did organizing the renegade schedule.



The first day of skiing were canceled due to high winds. **Stan Broniak**, **Pam Smith**, **Steven**, **Diane**, **Gene Soo**, **Paul Ginzburg**, and **Olga Krivosheina** went in search of the gypsy section of Granada. **Susan** and **Frank Stanley** joined us when we stopped for Tapas. **Richard Hall** and **Jon Wick** stopped and had Tapas with us on their way back to the hotel. We made our way to the gypsy caves where **Diane** met her dream man (a.k.a. the Cave Man), a bongo player from Australia. **Stan** and **Gene** caught the bus back to the hotel while the rest of the group walked back led by **Steven** and **Pam**. **Steven** rescued **Claire Finn** and **Helen Jones** when they were found after getting separated from the Granada City tour. That evening, the Texas Ski Council in conjunction with the Granada Chamber of Commerce put on the best party ever! We were treated to Bull fights, Flamenco dancing, several live bands, appetizers, Cava (Spanish Champagne), and an open bar. The mayor of Granada and the president of the Chamber of Commerce were on hand to welcome us. **Suzanne Byrd**, **Susan Wicker**, **Linda Beebe**, **Dona Ayre**, **Cookie**, and **Gai-Lynn** traded dollar bills for kisses from a troop of college minstrels. **Cookie** was giving **Gene** dance lessons. **Ted Bergeron** was video taping the whole event from all angles.

The weather conditions were dicey on Tuesday but we were still able to ski. **Lee Swords** and **Kevin King** snowboarded. **Bob Gottlieb** stood in the cash lift ticket line (posted in Spanish) with his credit card for over an hour until he found out he was in the wrong line. We were able to Ski again on Thursday. **Maria Tramontin**, **Jon Wick**, and **Richard Hall** hired a guide for a Ski tour. At the end of the day the group strayed down a tough run where the Spanish military was training. The guys made it through leaving **Maria** stranded. The gallant soldiers were on the spot to help **Maria** make it through the rest of the run.



Tuesday evening we held a as SCSC happy hour in **Bruce** and **Marsha Kilgore's** room. Special thanks to **Joe Walker** and **Bruce Kilgore** for getting the party supplies. We had so much leftovers that we decided to hold another party on Thursday. This time we moved party to **Joe Walker's** and **Diane Keane's** adjoining rooms. After a second re-supply run at the store, **Steven Teoh** got a lot of funny looks when he pushed a shopping cart full food through the lobby of the

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hotel. **Diane, Bruce, and Joe** pretended not to know him. We had so many leftovers after the second party, that there was enough to feed everybody on the bus ride from Granada to Torremolinos. **Ted and Debbie Bergeron** were having a real good time during the bus ride.

Rosalina's friend **Remo** came from Italy and met us in Granada. **Louella Steller** and **James Barbee** had friends that joined them from Saudi Arabia. **Harry and Rubye Gaston, Jeane Neu, Janet Pickell, and I** teamed up to go shopping in Gibraltar. **Jeanne and Janet** made some good deals on Lladro.

The last big excursion was to Tangiers, Morocco. We had to switch to a ferry rather than the planned Hydrofoil due to the rough wave conditions. **Richard Hall** was detained shortly because the officials did not stamp his passport properly. We were graciously treated to a sit-down Moroccan lunch including live entertainment. A belly dancer lured our ATC **Lee Swords** to the stage and dressed him in one of her costumes. If **Lee** loses his day job, he could probably make a pretty good living as a belly dancer. After lunch, our hosts put on an Arabian Horse show and we were able to take camel rides. For the rest of the afternoon we embarked on a shopping spree through the Bazaar. **Manolo Valle, Anne Odegard, and her daughter Suzi Prince** got separated from the main group. **Suzi and Anne** were worried about being left in Morocco and being sold into white slavery but the three of them managed to find one of the tour guides and made back to the bus.



Steven, Diane, and Don Crabtree overslept and missed their bus back to the airport for the return flight home. They managed to cram four people and all of their luggage in a small Taxicab and made it to the airport in time for their flight.

Several of us went on to Seville to start the post trip. **Manolo Valle's** cousin **Jesus** led several of us on a private guided tour of Seville that was better than the professional tour. **Manolo's** second cousin **Manuel** entertained us at the 5-star restaurant that he is the accountant for. Many thanks for their gracious hospitality.

Patty Baker and Tommy Thompson did a wonderful job hosting the post trip party at her townhouse.

Additional thanks go to **Linda and Alan Simpson** for shepherding the Pre-trip.

New members:

Claire Finn, Helen Jones, Rosalina Birkinshaw, Cookie Nguyen, Paul Ginzburg, Olga Krivosheina, Suzi Prince, Susan Fairfield, Debbie Johnson, Michael Murphy, & Jon Wick.

Long distance participants:

Gai-Lynn Marshall — Norway.

Jon Wick — North Carolina.

Suzi Prince — New York.

Susan Fairfield — San Antonio.

Debbie Johnson and Michael Murphy — Dallas

Renegade Pre-trip:

Don Crabtree, Gai-Lynn Marshall, Cookie Nguyen, Lynda Henry, Jim McLaughlin, Linda Beebe, Joe Walker, Bruce Kilgore, Marsha Kilgore, Steven Teoh, Lee Swords, Sandy Cox, Rosalina Birkinshaw, Diane Keane, Tommy Thompson, Patty Baker.

Other Participants not mentioned in the article:

Eric Prentis, Mary Anne Harrell, Cheryl Harland, Lynn Burch, Robyn Shaw, Don Ballentine, John Brescian, Barbara Johnson Brescian, Janis Miller, David Barker.

