

COPPER MOUNTAIN

by Barbara Brescian and Patti Maudslay



A Great Start to the Ski Season

On Tuesday, November 24, 1998, 47 excited skiers bound for Copper Mountain, Colorado were whisked through check-in thanks to the excellent organization of United Airline's group travel desk. Even before the plane took off, the group was partying in the departure lounge, celebrating **Troy Broussard's** birthday—cake, candles, singing and all. Of course, the real partying started the Friday before the trip at Cabo's in downtown Houston. Enjoying a pre-trip Happy Hour were **Jose Araujo, Jessica Halter, Jill Kovar, Chris Sheehan, Cindy Moore, Paul Cain, Wanda Callahan, and Keith Kirkman**. After smooth flying on United, the Queen City Transportation Company afforded us the luxury of a superior coach with twin turbo. When the second turbo kicks in, that baby had 750 hp. We glided up to snow country in style and were greeted by the smiling faces of the Mountain Plaza staff who handed us room keys and had luggage and skis in our rooms in record time.

Trip leader **Patti Maudslay** stayed up all night getting Wednesday morning's breakfast ready for 47 hungry SCSCers. **Roger Holzman** served as head cook at breakfast. Several people said they wouldn't come to breakfast again unless Roger made the coffee, which he did every morning. **Peter MacDonald** set an oatmeal consumption record. Fellow condo-mate **Craig Campbell** took the open door policy in stride and pitched in to help.

Marginal snow conditions at Copper did not prevent these avid skiers from hitting the slopes. **Jose Araujo** described his Copper experience after a face plant: "I ate snow, and it is not good. It was man-made!" While skiing at the Excelsior lift trails at Copper, those around **Jessica Halter** were introduced to her ski chant: "Wow, nice slope...oh

ice...whoa..."(crash). **Peter MacDonald** wasn't watching the ski trail closely enough and went off into...not snow...but dirt...and crashed. Instead of brushing the white fluffy stuff from his jacket, he had to ski down and wash the mud off his jacket. **David and Jane Healey** enjoyed

Copper so much, they spent their four days skiing right outside their condo door.

Spotted at the liquor store later that afternoon were **Tom Mercer, Pam Holder, Debbie Starnes** and **David Lindsay** planning a party of their own.

After a hard first day's skiing, happy hour at Kokomo's, and a fun-filled Copper Mountain Welcome Party for the entire Texas Ski Council (TSC), all gathered at ATC **Barbara Brescian's** condo for more merriment and food. She and **John Brescian** slaved over a hot stove to cook up lasagna, garlic bread and mouth-watering **cheesecakes**, napoleons and cream puffs. In fact, wasn't that **Christine March** and **Bob Wray** sitting most of the night at the dessert table? For the diet conscious, there was a bowl of baby carrots. Funny,

the bowl looked pretty full at the end of the evening. The dinner was so hot that we even set off the smoke detectors. We all joined in a fun get-acquainted game and **Jessica Halter** won a prize, a beautiful shirt, graciously donated by **John Brescian**. Everyone learned new things about each other. Partygoers then moved across the hall to **Patti Maudslay's** condo, where **Jessica Halter** strummed her guitar. **Roger Holzman** and **Troy Broussard** took creative license with lyrics that won't be repeated here! Special thanks to **Kayleen Kill** and **Shirley Maersch** who volunteered for door duty at the TSC Welcome Party.

Thursday most of the group headed to Loveland, where **Nelson Turner** was heard

saying: "Can I please demo just one more pair?" **Kayleen Kill** was attacked by a slope side tree monster, but emerged unscathed from the forest five minutes later. In his haste to meet the bus heading back to Copper, **Walter May** picked up **Chris Sheehan's** brand new skis. **Chris** was mighty upset thinking they were gone forever. Last report is that the guys are friends again.

Dee Dee Marks and **Gail White** headed to Vail and thoroughly enjoyed the snow, shopping perhaps, too?

Before heading to Thanksgiving dinner, sore skiers soaked in the hot tub. There were rumors there was going to be a "best bruise" contest there between **Jill Kovar, Jessica Halter** and **Kayleen Kill**. **Chris Sheehan** quickly volunteered to be the judge. **David** and **Jane Healey** were also spotted relaxing at the hot tub.

At Thanksgiving dinner, **Darlene** and **George Hirasaki** explained that they may never have married if there had been wind on a Maui windsurf trip a few years back. Since they had nothing to do but talk, they eventually



got around to talking about getting married. **Marti Toomer** said that obviously she and **Nelson Turner** had never been that bored. After dinner **Jill Kovar** had fun celebrating her birthday at O'Sheas.

Friday, TSC Nastar race day, everyone revved up under the direction of trip race director **K.J. Oldroyd**. SCSC took second place in the large club category. Our silver medal winners were **George Hirasaki, Nelson Turner** and SCSC race director **Chris Sheehan**. Winning bronze medals were **Troy Broussard, David Healey, Darlene Hirasaki, Kayleen Kill**, and **Cheryl May**.

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K. J. Oldroyd has a special tip for future racers "make sure you are across the finish line before you stop racing." Thanks to **K. J.** for being our trip race director, you did a great job!

Most of the group took advantage of the TSC Mountain Lunch following the races for a SCSC photo op. **Shirley Maersch** strolled up too late for the picture. Rumor has it she set a record of her own shopping in Silverthorne. Speaking of Silverthorne and the retail outlet mall there, after the race and lunch some SCSCers took the afternoon off for a little browsing and buying—**Jose Araujo**, **Barbara Bowie**, **Julie Butcher**, **Barbara** and **John Brescian**, **Ralph Lojo**, and **Cindy Moore**.

With no planned activities for Friday night everyone was on their own. **Jose Araujo**, **Roger Holzman**, **Ralph Lojo**, **Patti Maudslay**, and **Karl Skaggs** enjoyed dinner at the Blue Spruce in Frisco. Then they headed for the "Disco in Frisco", otherwise known as **Barkley's** and ran into **Robert Ellisor**, **K.J. Oldroyd**, **Troy Broussard**, **Jessica Halter**, and **Peter MacDonald**. They all partied and danced up a storm to music

all could enjoy the much better conditions at Keystone. Summit County's superb—and free—bus service afforded ski availability to all areas in the county.

Heading to Keystone on Saturday were **Patti Maudslay**, **Barbara** and **John Brescian**, **Darlene** and **George Hirasaki**, **Kayleen Kill**, **Marti Toomer**, **Chris Sheehan**, **Keith Kirkman**, **Jill Kovar**, **Frank** and **Susan Stanley**, **Roger Holzman**, **Craig Campbell**, **Christine March**, **Bob Wray**, **K. J. Oldroyd**, **Robert Ellisor**, **Peter MacDonald** and **Phil Maersch**. In fact, **Phil** became an instant celebrity at lunch at the Summit House—he didn't hear seven SCSCers yelling his name. Suddenly the entire cafeteria was chanting "Phil, Phil, Phil." **Nelson Turner**, not wanting to miss the fun, skied in the TSC individual races at Copper in the morning and "raced" over to Keystone's slopes in the afternoon. **Patti Maudslay** learned you have to be quick to catch the return bus from Keystone to Copper. Apparently she didn't load her skis fast enough on the outside of the bus. The driver took off

from the 70s, with the disco diva and guy in the purple Afro wig, and barely caught the last bus at 11:30 p.m.

Flexible as always, SCSC skiers could be found from Copper to Loveland, c y s t o n e , Breckenridge and Vail. Copper Mountain was good enough to refund some lift tickets so

and ran over one of her ski poles. He finally stopped and let her aboard. **Craig Campbell** had fun enjoying the night skiing at Keystone.

Houston with great memories of fun skiing, camaraderie and plans for more trips this ski season.

Opting for Breckenridge on Saturday were **Wanda Callahan**, **Randy Wingenroth**, **Cindy Moore**, and **Paul Cain**. **Wanda Callahan** was the only never-ever skier, she had a wonderful time and did fantastic. She can't wait to go on another trip and wants to try the Nastar races next time.

First time club racers **Jessica Halter**, **Troy Broussard**, and **Karl Skaggs** had superb times in the TSC individual races held at Copper Mountain on Saturday. On his first race, **Karl** even stopped in the middle of the course, executed a 360-degree wheelie on one ski and then finished the course, still beating several people's times. **Troy Broussard** came to close to one of the flags, got hit in the face and had his glasses smashed.



Thank goodness he didn't suffer any major damage, just enough to get lots of sympathy. **Cheryl May** again brought us honors with first place in the TSC "mature ladies" race. Tough guy **Karl Skaggs** took a nasty fall on his right shoulder when his skis stopped cold and he flew off like Superman, unfortunately he didn't land Superman style. He was a great sport, skied on down the mountain and was able to bravely maneuver his beer that evening with his left hand. After a sleepless night, he headed to the medical clinic Sunday morning and discovered he had broken his shoulder.

Saturday night was the TSC Final Awards dinner. After dinner and the awards presentation SCSC heated up the dance floor

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again. Seen on the crowded floor were **Patti Maudslay, Roger Holzman, Randy Wingenroth, Wanda Callahan, Chris Sheehan, Jill Kovar, Jessica Halter, Troy Broussard, Cheryl and Walter May, Cindy Moore and Paul Cain**, just to name a few. Must be some connection between skiing and dancing ... or was it the Budweiser sponsorship that caused the happy feet? We had a lucky club member, too. **Susan Stanley** won a pair of Kneissl skis.

Judy and Bob Dyar and their son, **Brad** went with the Clear Lake Club's family trip, but joined SCSC at all TSC functions and raced for SCSC. They joined **Lucile and Richard Hall** for the Saturday awards dinner – and the celebration of **Lucile's** birthday.

Sunday, most SCSCers took advantage of the time to snap a few photos and do last minute shopping in the Copper Village. Lucky **Richard Hall** got a massage at the Fitness Center.

Keith Kirkman was the only one happy that snow was falling as we departed from Copper. He had a Vail trip starting the following Saturday.

The bus drivers on each end of the trip were terrific. Greg served as quite a tour guide en route to Copper and Jeff took the scenic route back over Loveland Pass and through Clear Creek Canyon. It brought back memories for **Cheryl May** of earlier SCSC Arapahoe Basin capers and **Ralph Lojo** spotted the Loveland ski lift that had clobbered him in the back of the head.

Terril Thomas may not be eating carrots before future plane flights. It seems a small piece of carrot went into the top of her lung, she had breathing problems and had to deplane for immediate medical attention. Thanks to **Dan Conery** for helping her during the ordeal. They flew back to Houston the next day and **Terril** is fine now. They also wish to express thanks to United Airlines for the excellent care that **Terril** received so quickly.