

Purgatory

by Kathy Young

Winter Shootout 1997!! Time to go had finally arrived. On the morning of Feb 8th, thirty seven intrepid SCSCers gathered at Intercontinental Airport to embark on a week of fun and camaraderie. The check-in, boarding, and flights to Albuquerque and Durango went without a hitch, prompting TC, **Louella Steller** to remark to ATC, **Kathy Young**. "Isn't this great, everything is going so smoothly?" Having said this we were jinxed. The bus ride to Tamarron started off as anything but smooth. It seems that we were part of a local experiment to test the load capacity of a bus. Picture this: about sixty people, all their luggage, and ski equipment on a fifty-two passenger bus. We were about to become "up close and personal" with our friends from the Clear Lake Club! There were people standing in the aisles and baggage everywhere. Some of the luggage had to be left behind to be delivered later.. If this wasn't bad enough, a stop at the grocery and liquor stores was planned. Everyone's groceries were packed on the bus. All that was needed were a few live chickens flying around inside to give this the appearance of a gypsy caravan.

After check-in at the Tamarron Resort, bus problems continued. **Robert and Phyllis Reichel**, **James Barbee**, and **Louella Steller** were riding the resort shuttle when it broadsided a car. Fortunately, no one was hurt. Beware the bus!!

Despite the inauspicious start, the rest of the week was Chamber of Commerce stuff. We had perfect spring-like weather everyday and it snowed four inches during the night—Really! The sunscreen companies were very happy..

Activities started with a much needed (after the bus rides) wine and cheese party on Saturday night.

TSC Winter Shootout VP, **Karen Mann** and her sister **Cheryl** from Dallas honored us by attending. Who has the best parties anyway? We were also joined by fellow SCSCers **Charles Smith** and **Frances MacAllister** who drove up from Coleman TX to join us. Even **Ann Abernathy**, who says she does not do parties, was sighted. A good time was had by all.

The wine and cheese party must have been really good as few made it to the continental breakfast at Kathy's condo the next morning. However, the sky was bright blue and the weather perfect. Everyone was anxious to hit the slopes. **Kevin Bishop** was so anxious that he took a taxi before the busses were running to be the first in line to rent the new parabolic skis. Speaking of parabolic skis, after telling us that she wasn't a very strong skier the night before, **Debbie Bergeron** skied "out of sight" on her demos. Never-ever skiers, **Christine March** and **Harold**



Kaminski went directly to lessons. Any apprehension that they might have had about their first ski trip disappeared by week-end when they were both seen doing the "blue" slopes. **Kathy Young** and **Kevin King** took off for a day of skiing at neighboring Telluride. **Howard Schoenike** quickly claimed the high speed quad as his lift; it is the only one with foot rests. **Mark** "Let's do the Wall" **Vela** enjoyed taking novices down their first "black" run. **Bob Wray** is one of those who is no longer a "black" virgin after he skied "Pandemonium" under the Needles lift. Others took advantage of the race clinics and mountain tours.

Sunday night, Purgatory hosted a welcome party at the historic Strater Hotel. Since it was Mardi Gras time the party had a Mardi Gras theme. Party goers were asked to guess the number of Mardi Gras beads in a bowl by the entrance to win a prize. Lucky lady, **Margaret Johnson**, had the winning guess. **Howard Schoenike** was the winner of the coveted chapstick (doorprize).

Winter Shootout was also Valentine's Day week and love bloomed for many on the trip. **Heidi Heinrich** met the man of her dreams. On the ski lift, she was loudly describing her "BABE-O-LICIOUS" farm boy from Lubbock. As luck would have it, he was on the next chair and heard it all. Can you imagine Heidi as a farmer's wife? **Kevin King** who never falls while skiing, fell head over heels for a cutie from San Antonio. Remember the Alamo, Kevin? **Margaret Johnson** met someone interesting from Austin. **Dede Marks** has made **Ken Spalding** her official matchmaker after he introduced her to a millionaire from



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Durango who invited her back the following weekend. Honeymooner, **Steve Dollman** presented his bride, **Mary White** with a surprise birthday cake. **Chris Goll** (daddy) fell in love with every woman on the trip while every woman on the



hit a tree. Others, such as **Sherry Outlaw**, were happy to avail themselves of the Tremble Hot Springs for a luxurious soak. **Michael** and **Barbara Carr** spent one night gambling at the Ute Casino. **Debbie Bergeron** found a "Jimmy Smits" look-alike at Lady Falconburg's Barley Saloon and took late arriving "SCSCers" **Craig Liebergot**, **Nancy Sarff**, and **Peggy Montgomery** for a photo opportunity with Mr Smits.

At the final night banquet, our practicing for the NASTAR races all week paid off for SCSC. We won the club races by a mere 34 points over Los Amigos. Our thanks go out to **Kevin King**, our race director for doing such a splendid job. The races were very eventful. **Sandi Vela** fell and looked up to see **Barbara Carr** bearing down on her and barely missing her. Barbara's hubby, **Mike Carr**, was so unbelievably fast that he had to repeat his run ju for the clock to record it.. We found out that **Carolyn Burris** likes to use race photographers for target practice. Of course, **Louella Steller** and **Kathy Young** still swear that it was our magnificent joint effort that put us 34 points over the top. Young **Chris Goll** took third place in the men's individual races-his first SCSC trip—quite an accomplishment

for someone who hasn't skied in two years. Yes, those were tears that we saw in proud papa, **Chris Goll's** eyes. Actually, we were all a little bit tearful that this great trip had come to an end.

trip fell in love with **Chris Goll** (son) alias THE HUNK. Some of the couples on the trip such as : **Louella Steller** and **James Barbee**, **Harold Kaminski** and **Fran Spitzberg**, the Carrs, and the Velas opted for a romantic sleigh ride dinner. Poor **Larry Kevan** spent Valentines Day solo, his honey **Alice Gates**, had to cancel at the last moment Ask **Nancy Sarff** what her honey (not present on the trip) bought her for Valentine's Day. I bet next time Jeff will come along!

Speaking of romance, **Helen Schilling** fell and hurt her shoulder and husband **Gary Pfeiffer** helped ease her pain by supplying her with M&Ms. Is this not true love? Of course, Helen, being a doctor ordered the best medication she could find at the bottom of the slopes—two gold margaritas at the nearest bar! Good news for Helen is that **Peggy Boice**, who volunteered to nurse injured skiers even though her only expertise is a tracheotomy, was nowhere near. Don't make **Fran Spitzberg** laugh as she suffered a cracked rib in close encounter with a chair lift. A guy in a blue jacket who fit the description of **Joe Hale** was reported injured. After a day long search, he was found unscathed **David Street**, who seemed to hurt himself every day, kept on going like the Energizer Bunny.

Fortunately for those injured and for all of us, off slope activities were plentiful. Master organizer, **Ken Spalding** championed a mission to Mesa Verde National Park. Being a Durango home town boy, he served as tour guide to **Peggy Boice**, **Dennis Stockton**, **Frank Reisenberg**, **Margaret Johnson**, **Louella Steller**, **Fran Spitzberg** and **Dede Marks**. **Ann Abernathy**, **Kelley Morrisette**, **Margaret Johnson**, and **Chris Goll** took a ride on the Durango and Silverton narrow gauge railroad. **Kathy Young** and **Dennis Stockton** went snowmobiling and Dennis, our " knight in shining armor," came to the rescue of two snowmobile crash victims who had

