

Forty SCSC skiers prepared to depart Houston Intercontinental on Saturday February 15th, 1997. Upon arriving at the scheduled meeting time it was noticed that **Ivan Butterfield (TC)** was not there with the tickets. Never fear, **Ivan** appeared a few minutes later. Our scheduled flight change / customs did not go smoothly in Calgary. Once arriving in customs area we were greeted by long lines and a broken conveyer belt. We all had to lug all our gear up the only elevator in the airport. Once we got to the gate all went smoothly on our flight to Vancouver. After a lovely bus ride through the city of Vancouver we continued on the winding way to Whistler.

The first day on the mountain started with free guided mountain tours. **Ivan Butterfield, Keith Kirkman, Chris Sheehan** and **Matt Sheehan (ATC)** were seen headed back to the open bowls of Whistler Mountain with their guide to check out the "powder". Little to their guides knowledge, the so-called expert skiers were not ready for the heavy crust snow. That afternoon **Pamela Whitfield** and **Mary Linden** were seen with five Russian gentleman at the hot tub. So, is that where you got that Russian hat, **Pamela**? The evening festivities included a welcome reception held by Whistler Mountain. At the reception people were given the chance to sign up for a variety of mountain activities.

Monday was a day for everybody to ski Blackcomb Mountain as well as to shop in the village.

Tuesday morning was our scheduled Fresh Tracks breakfast. Fresh Tracks allows the early riser (7am) the opportunity to have a buffet breakfast (at the top of Whistler) as well as the trails to themselves for the first two hours. As it turned out some twenty-plus early birds were seen heading up the Whistler gondola. Included were **Jackie Reynard, Vickie Singley, Renee Nelson, Terri Ulrich, Gwen Bremer** and **Ron Koval**. As it turned out, the skiers had five new inches of snow to enjoy.

Wednesday, **Roz** and **David Clayton, Julie Butcher**, and



Karla Troutman decided to take the day off from skiing and travel to Vancouver for some sight seeing. Rumor had it, they chartered a sea-plane to check out the spectacular scenery from the air. **Margrit Cater** and **Paul Wottring** were seen enjoying themselves on the slopes.

Thursday was Nastar race day. Upon arriving at the race course on Blackcomb Mountain, **Chris Sheehan (Race Director)** was disappointed that only six of the 26 that signed up would accept the Nastar challenge. **Richard Nelson**, a first time racer, was seen racing like Alberto Tomba. **Richard** was fast enough to win a bronze medal. Other participants winning medals were **Chris Sheehan (silver), Matt Sheehan (gold),** and **Ivan Butterfield (bronze)**. Those who put a valiant effort but came up short were **Steven Rampton** and **David Clayton**.

Better luck next time. After racing the group forged its way through the ever present fog to enjoy the rustic setting of the Horstman Hut. That evening TC and Master Chef **Ivan Butterfield** prepared a gourmet Italian dinner with the assistance of **Billie Nowak**. After dinner **Charles Allen, Ivan Butterfield, Karla Troutman,** and **Chris Sheehan** were observed polishing of the bottle of tequila. Could this be the reason that **Karla** didn't make it out skiing until afternoon on Friday? After the party many of the group headed to Buffalo Bills for some dancing.

Friday, being the last day of skiing, turned out to be the most beautiful day of the trip. Finally we were able to break-out our sunscreen. I think **Charles Allen** and **Alan Bitzer** were finally able to see well enough their search for that elusive hot spring on the mountain. By the way which



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mountain was it on anyway? That evening a wine and cheese party was thrown by our gracious wholesaler, Skican. Those in attendance included **Steve and Judy Brown, Steve Meyer, Ed and Sandra Brockhousen, Charlene and Mike Fleming, Pam and Mark Taylor, Kathleen Hannaman, Robert Knupp, Liz Kinne, Patrice and Lee Mixon, and Jill and Jim Sinclair.** Thanks to all for the opportunity for a group picture. During the party, **Matt Sheehan** mentioned to everyone that the bus left the next morning a 5:15am sharp and if you were not present, the bus would leave without you.

Saturday, at 4am, wake up calls to every room was in order. In the lobby, coffee and donuts were available for all to enjoy. Only one problem, **Matt Sheehan**, planning to go to the lobby early to make sure everything was going smoothly, was stuck in the only elevator in the lodge. After riding the elevator up and down at least a half dozen times, he was finally able to stop it on the first floor. After screaming and ringing the emergency bell for thirty minutes, he was able to summon the manager for help. **Lou Kleinman** was heard saying, "I hope he misses the 5:15am bus deadline". As it turned out he was not the only person to experience mechanical problems that week. **Ivan Butterfield, Roz and David Clayton, and Steve Rampton** were stranded for some time on the Red chair lift early in the week. I wonder if their cold stay on the lift was as nerve racking as **Matt's** stay in the elevator. All ended well as each received a free lift ticket for their suffering. We boarded our bus and arrived in Vancouver with plenty of time to fill out the necessary customs reports.

A Big Thank You to all trip participants for putting up with the weather and small problems associated with the trip. A special thanks to **Kathleen Hannaman** for hosting the Post Trip party at her home.

In spite of poor weather conditions (fog and rain at the base) which put a damper on the trip, all in all a good time was had. Maybe the next trip leaders to Whistler should pray to the Sun Gods?

