

# NEWSLETTER sitzmarke

December 2014 Volume 50 Issue 8



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## From Mission Control

Did you know that rocks can fold, that glaciers once covered the northeast United States, that there was a mountain range that equaled the height of the Himalayas in the United States, and more! Our earth is a living, evolving globe and Barry Casper eloquently explained this process in our November General Meeting. Thank you Barry!

We are fortunate to live in a country where we can freely learn about our surroundings, participate in activities, and go on ski trips! For this reason, please attend our December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting and hear a presentation by Operation Military Embrace. You are welcome to bring donations for our troops at this meeting if you wish. During the General Meeting, we will also have two smile booths, courtesy of members Morris Covin, Ron Hayes, and Judy Schiro. If you would like personal smile attire for your picture, please feel free to bring it. Otherwise, you will be a victim of funny glasses, wacky hats, and other fun props to capture your image.

Please mark January 19 on your calendar, as this is the date for the January General Meeting. We moved the date to the THIRD Monday this month only because the Beaver Creek trip will be in full swing, and approximately 70 of our members will be gliding down the slopes during our traditional meeting timeframe! Dr. Jeffery Ross will provide a very informative presentation on injury prevention in our January meeting so don't miss this important update.

At the time of this writing, your Executive Committee will have five months left to serve

the membership. If you would like to be involved and make a difference in the Club, please contact Jim Jeans at [jimjeans1@spacecity.org](mailto:jimjeans1@spacecity.org) to let him of your interest to serve on the Executive Committee. The formal slate will be presented to the membership in our February meeting so you don't have much time left to express your interest in serving. Contact him today if you're interested!



Remember you can easily keep abreast of our activities and trips by "Liking" our Facebook page, by joining Meetup.com so you will get meeting and activity reminders, by signing up for our email blast at [www.spacecity.org](http://www.spacecity.org), and by attending our General Meetings to meet new friends.

I sincerely wish you a wonderful, safe holiday season! Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa, and Happy Holidays to all of our great Space City members!

**Melinda Hughes,**  
*President*

## Countdown to Liftoff

...7...6...5...4...3...2...1...*Time to Ski!* In the next few days, Bob Olsen and 32 of your friends from our club will be traveling to [Vail](#) for the first of 8 ski trips planned over the next four months! The Vail trip in December will be followed in early January by the TSC Traditional trip to [Beaver Creek](#). Eighty members of Space City Ski & Adventure Club will be joining over 300 ski club members from other Texas Ski Council clubs for a week of skiing at one of the more luxurious ski areas in North America (did someone say *escalators?*) If you are not on that trip, *what were you thinking?*

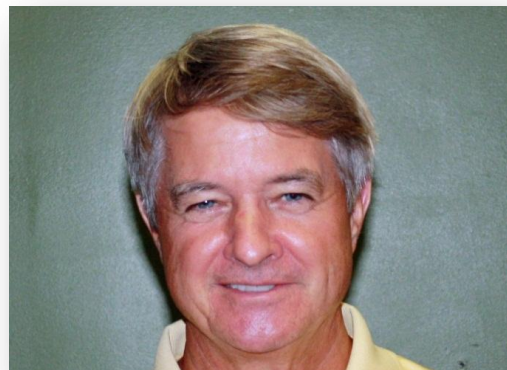
Winter got off to a very early start this year. Several areas in the Rocky Mountains were setting record all time low temperatures during mid-November as back-to-back arctic blasts swept across the country affecting areas as far south as Houston. The early winter weather dumped several feet of snow on the Rocky Mountain ski areas just in time for them to open for Thanksgiving. Early snow also gave the ski areas a head start on getting the slopes ready and was definitely good news for our December and January trips.

Most of our trips have sold out and are now accepting applications to be on a waitlist. Trips that still have space available are [Mammoth](#) and [Taos](#). [Madesimo, Italy](#) needs a single female to room with another single female. As always, contact the TC of those trips for the most up-to-date trip status. If you are interested in a ski trip during spring break, we have arranged for our members to join [Austin Skiers & Boarders](#) on their trip to [Winter Park, Colorado](#). Contact [Tony Curry](#) for more information and prices.

Anyone that has traveled on an airline in the past few years is all too aware of airline baggage fees. This has become an enormous source of revenue for the airlines so unfortunately those fees will not be going away anytime soon. The baggage fees charged by the airlines are not included in our club's full trip price. The airlines have also added restrictions on when your airline issued credit card will get one bag checked for free. You should check the fine print to avoid any surprises. We have two trips this year ([Beaver Creek](#) and [Breckenridge TSC](#)) where the full package airline travel will be on Southwest Airlines where "[Bags Fly Free](#)", including golf clubs and skis.

Our trip to [Tuscany, Italy](#) (October 2015) is now over 70% sold out! If you are considering signing up for this trip, you do not want to delay much longer. Signing up requires payment of a \$490 deposit for the full package. Deposits are fully refundable until April 15, 2015, except for a \$30 club cancellation fee. Trip insurance is available for an additional \$270. That will protect you from a financial loss should you need to cancel after April 15 and before the trip departure date.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!



**Jim Hodges**  
*VP of Trips*

## Trips 2014-2015

Destination		Date	Prices* Full / Land Only	Final Payment Date	Trip Coordinator	Assistant Trip Coordinator
Vail, CO Club Long	WAIT LIST ONLY	Dec 6 – 13 2014	\$1,203 (Land Only)	15-Oct	Bob Olsen	-
Vail, CO Club Short	WAIT LIST ONLY	Dec 6 – 10 2014	\$776 (Land Only)	15-Oct	Bob Olsen	-
Beaver Creek, CO TSC Winter Traditional	WAIT LIST ONLY	Jan 10 – 17 2015	\$1,130/\$858	19-Oct	Dennis Hughes	Kate MacDougal
Beaver Creek, CO Club Short	WAIT LIST ONLY	Jan 14 – 18 2015	\$610 (Land Only)	19-Oct	Dennis Hughes	Patti Finch
Madesimo, Italy TSC Winter Expedition		Jan 23 – 31 2015	\$2,313/\$1,282	13-Oct	Barbara Brescian	Sandy Schneider
Mammoth, CA TSC Winter Shootout		Jan 31 – Feb 7 2015	\$1,484/\$1,066	24-Oct	Dave Stotz	-
Taos, NM Club Long		Feb 14 – 21 2015	\$1,060 (Land Only)	10-Nov	Chris Bryan	-
Taos, NM Club Short		Feb 14 – 18 2015	\$693 (Land Only)	10-Nov	Chris Bryan	-
Whitefish, MT Club Trip	WAIT LIST ONLY	Feb 21 – 28 2015	\$1,258/\$665	21-Nov	Derek Shoobridge	Andy Smith
Breckenridge-Long TSC Final Showdown	WAIT LIST ONLY	Feb 28 – Mar 7 2015	\$1,248/\$902	17-Dec	Steve Ying	Cindy Moore
Breckenridge-Short TSC Final Showdown	WAIT LIST ONLY	Feb 28 – Mar 4 2015 (4 Day)	\$644 (Land Only)	17-Dec	Steve Ying	Cindy Moore
Breckenridge-Short TSC Final Showdown	WAIT LIST ONLY	Feb 28 – Mar 5 2015 (5 Day)	\$753 (Land Only)	17-Dec	Steve Ying	Cindy Moore
Winter Park, CO Spring Break trip		Mar 14 – 21 2015	TBD	7-Jan	Tony Curry	-
Discover Tuscany TSC Summer Expedition		Oct 29 – Nov 7 2015	\$3,799/\$2,469	1-July		Leyla Ozkardesh

\* **Published prices are before cash discount.**

Information shown on this Trip Schedule is subject to change. Contact the Trip Coordinator (TC) or Assistant Trip Coordinator (ATC) for the most up-to-date information.

PRICING: FULL packages include air, all transfers, and per person lodging based on double-occupancy. LAND ONLY packages do not include air. Published prices do not include baggage fees, equipment rentals or lift tickets, and are subject to change. All trip deposits can be made by check or by PayPal; however, final payment must be made by check to receive the 'Cash Price'. Trips frequently have optional activities, such as a group dinner, or offer pre- and post-trip segments that are not reflected in the price published above. The TC is your source of information as to what is included in the package price and the cost of available options. Each trip has a different 'final refund' date -- that is the last date you can withdraw from the trip without a penalty. Refer to the club's Standing Rules 5.1-5.4 for the governing policies on trips, cancellations, refunds, etc.

DEPOSITS: All trips require a per person deposit to make a reservation.

# December 8<sup>th</sup> General Meeting

Join Us for our December General Meeting on Monday December 8<sup>th</sup>. We will have a special presentation by our guest speaker **Dennis Bernhart** from **Operation Military Embrace**. "OME" is a Texas-based 501c3 military support charity that does its best to **H**elp, **U**nderstand, **G**ive and **S**erve those who have sacrificed so much for America.

1. They support our seriously wounded/ill military & their families by:
  - Personal "hands-on" support through regular visits to SAMMC (San Antonio Military Medical Center)
  - Sponsoring a December free P-X and drawing at SAMMC
  - Hosting motivational events (hunting & fishing trips and group dinners)
  - Providing financial assistance in their time of crisis
2. Send care packages to deployed troops.

Check out their [website](#) for more info, their mission & how you can help.

List of item our Troops love to get in their "care packages."

- Coffee (one pound bags, VIA from Starbucks too)
- Instant Hot Cocoa for the winter months
- Baby Wipes
- Beef Jerky and Slim Jims
- Gum
- Batteries (AA and AAA)
- Hand/foot warmers
- Instant drink mixes to add to water
- Pocket size snacks (nuts, trail mix, fruit strips)
- Instant Soups
- Toothpaste, toothbrushes, men's and women's shampoo and conditioner, nail polish and nail polish remover for the ladies, pony tail holders
- Canned items such as ravioli, soups, etc.
- Instant Potatoes
- Spices to help make the food taste better
- Pancake Mix and Syrup
- Meat Pouches (tuna, salmon, chicken, turkey)





# SIGN UP - DON'T DELAY.

We have a great list of trips for this coming ski season. Don't procrastinate and miss out on the trip of your dreams. Last season some trips filled up very fast and a few folks were disappointed. Don't let that happen to you. You can send a check or use PayPal.

**Last year this trip sold out in less than a week!!!**



Photo by Fred Pethick



**Vail, CO - CLUB TRIP**

LONG - DECEMBER 6 - 13, 2014

SHORT - DECEMBER 6 - 10, 2014

Bob Olsen

[bob@spacecity.org](mailto:bob@spacecity.org)

713-530-9068

**Bob Olsen****PACKAGES OFFERED (Land Only)**

<b>PACKAGE</b>	<b>PRICE (Pay by PayPal)</b>	<b>DISCOUNTED PRICE (Pay by Check)</b>
<b>LONG (Dec 6<sup>th</sup>-Dec13<sup>th</sup>)</b>	<b>\$1,203</b>	<b>\$1,153</b>
<b>SHORT (Dec 6<sup>th</sup>-Dec 10<sup>th</sup>)</b>	<b>\$776</b>	<b>\$741</b>

**DEPOSIT: \$150 by check or online via PayPal. FINAL PAYMENT: Due by 10/15/14**

Photo by Bob Olsen

## Beaver Creek, CO

### TSC WINTER TRADITIONAL

LONG - JANUARY 10 - 17, 2015

SHORT - JANUARY 14 - 18, 2015

Dennis Hughes - TC  
[dennis@spacecity.org](mailto:dennis@spacecity.org)  
 713-805-1757



*Beaver Creek*



Dennis Hughes

Kate MacDougal - ATC long Trip  
[kate@spacecity.org](mailto:kate@spacecity.org)  
 713-253-1853

Patti Finch - ATC Short Trip  
[patti@spacecity.org](mailto:patti@spacecity.org)  
 936-520-1486



Patti Finch



Kate MacDougal

#### WHY CHOOSE THIS TRIP

- Long trip option - 7 nights/up to 6 ski days.
- Short trip option - 4 nights/up to 4 ski days.
- Over 1800 skiable acres with 4,040' vertical drop.
- Terrain for all abilities.
- Upscale Beaver Creek lodging.
- TSC Traditional trip offers lots of extra activities; friends from other TSC ski clubs.

#### PACKAGES OFFERED Long Trip - Jan 10<sup>th</sup>- Jan 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015

PACKAGE	PRICE (Pay by PayPal)	DISCOUNTED PRICE (Pay by Check)
FULL	\$1,130	\$1,080
LAND ONLY	\$858	\$823

#### PACKAGES OFFERED Short Trip- Jan 14<sup>th</sup> - Jan 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015

PACKAGE	PRICE (Pay by PayPal)	DISCOUNTED PRICE (Pay by Check)
LAND ONLY	\$610	\$575

**DEPOSIT:** \$150 by check or online via PayPal. **FINAL PAYMENT:** Due by 10/19/14

Make the check payable to 'SCSC' & mail to 'P.O. Box 22567, Houston TX 77227' write *trip name on the check & on the outside of the envelope*. Online payments using PayPal are available.





Photo by Tom Thomas

## Madesimo, Italy – TSC WINTER EXPEDITION

JANUARY 23 - 31, 2015

Barbara Brescian

[barbara@spacecity.org](mailto:barbara@spacecity.org)

713-516-5322



Barbara Brescian

Sandy Schneider

[sandy@spacecity.org](mailto:sandy@spacecity.org)

281-870-1789



Sandy Schneider

### WHY CHOOSE THIS TRIP

- Savor the tastes, sounds and skiing of the Italian Alps.
- Terrain for all abilities with runs leading to the village.
- Daily breakfast/dinner included plus lift tickets ½ of US prices.
- 4-star hotel with heated indoor pool and wellness center.

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### PACKAGES OFFERED Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> – Jan 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015

PACKAGE	PRICE (Pay by PayPal)	DISCOUNTED PRICE (Pay by Check)
FULL	\$2,313	\$2,248
LAND ONLY	\$1,282	\$1,232

**DEPOSIT:** \$300 by check or online via PayPal. **FINAL PAYMENT:** Due by 10/13/14

Make the check payable to 'SCSC' & mail to 'P.O. Box 22567, Houston TX 77227' write *trip name on the check & on the outside of the envelope*. Online payments using PayPal are available.







## Mammoth, CA – TSC WINTER SHOOTOUT

JANUARY 31 – FEBRUARY 7, 2015

Dave Stotz

[dave@spacecity.org](mailto:dave@spacecity.org)

713-862-9486

**Mammoth**



Dave Stotz

### WHY CHOOSE THIS TRIP

- Ski-in, ski-out lodging at Juniper Springs Condos.
- TSC Winter Shootout includes multiple activities.
- Terrain for all abilities.

### PACKAGES OFFERED Jan 31<sup>st</sup> – Feb 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015

PACKAGE	PRICE (Pay by PayPal)	DISCOUNTED PRICE (Pay by Check)
FULL	\$1,484	\$1,434
LAND ONLY	\$1,066	\$1,031

DEPOSIT: \$150 by check or online via PayPal. FINAL PAYMENT: Due by 10/24/14





**Taos, NM – CLUB TRIP**

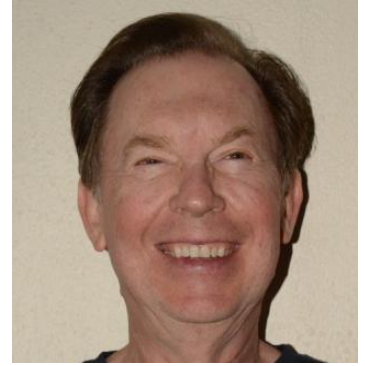
LONG – FEBRUARY 14 - 21, 2015

SHORT – FEBRUARY 14 – 18, 2015

Chris Bryan

[chris@spacecity.org](mailto:chris@spacecity.org)

281-827-6790

**TAOS****Chris Bryan****WHY CHOOSE THIS TRIP**

- Short & long options available.
- President's Day Week - take fewer vacation days to ski more.
- Taos offers 'Ski Week' - you'll ski better for the rest of your life.
- Terrain for all abilities & New Runs.
- Exciting new lift to the 12,450 ft. Kachina Peak – no more hiking to the backside!

**PACKAGES OFFERED Long Trip Feb 14<sup>th</sup> – Feb 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

<b>PACKAGE</b>	<b>PRICE (Pay by PayPal)</b>	<b>DISCOUNTED PRICE (Pay by Check)</b>
<b>LAND ONLY</b>	<b>\$1,060</b>	<b>\$1,025</b>

**PACKAGES OFFERED Short Trip Feb 14<sup>th</sup> – Feb 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

<b>PACKAGE</b>	<b>PRICE (Pay by PayPal)</b>	<b>DISCOUNTED PRICE (Pay by Check)</b>
<b>LAND ONLY</b>	<b>\$693</b>	<b>\$658</b>

**DEPOSIT: \$150 by check or online via PayPal. FINAL PAYMENT: Due by 10/24/14**

**Make the check payable to 'SCSC' & mail to 'P.O. Box 22567, Houston TX 77227' write *trip name on the check & on the outside of the envelope.* Online payments using PayPal are available.**







## Whitefish, MT – CLUB TRIP

FEBRUARY 21 – 28, 2015

Derek Shoobridge  
[derek@spacecity.org](mailto:derek@spacecity.org)  
 713-501-1032

Andy Smith  
[andy@spacecity.org](mailto:andy@spacecity.org)  
 361-463-8776



Derek Shoobridge



Andy Smith

### WHY CHOOSE THIS TRIP

- Great skiing with uncrowded slopes.
- Luxury ski-in/ski-out condominium accommodations.
- Northern Montana-- low elevation skiing – base is below 4500'.
- Terrain for all abilities, including many bowls and tree runs.
- Optional day trip to Fernie Alpine Resort in Canada

### PACKAGES OFFERED Feb 21<sup>st</sup> – Feb 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015

PACKAGE	PRICE (Pay by PayPal)	DISCOUNTED PRICE (Pay by Check)
FULL	\$1,258	\$1,208
LAND ONLY	\$665	\$630

**DEPOSIT:** \$150 by check or online via PayPal. **FINAL PAYMENT:** Due by 11/21/14

Make the check payable to 'SCSC' & mail to 'P.O. Box 22567, Houston TX 77227' write *trip name on the check & on the outside of the envelope*. Online payments using PayPal are available.





**Breckenridge, CO - TSC FINAL SHOWDOWN**

LONG - FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 7, 2015

SHORT - 4 DAY - FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 4, 2015

SHORT - 5 DAY - FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 5, 2015

Steve Ying - TC

[steve@spacecity.org](mailto:steve@spacecity.org)

281-433-4122

**Steve Ying**

Cindy Moore - ATC

[cindy@spacecity.org](mailto:cindy@spacecity.org)

713-628-7613

**Cindy Moore****WHY CHOOSE THIS TRIP**

- "Peak 6" is new for 2014.
- 543 additional acres of high alpine intermediate bowl skiing.
- Short lift lines! - Four six pack high speed lifts (the most in Colorado).
- Ski-in/Shuttle-out lodging one block from Main Street.
- Awesome terrain for every skill level.

**PACKAGES OFFERED Long Trip: Feb 28<sup>th</sup> - Mar 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

PACKAGE	PRICE (Pay by PayPal)	DISCOUNTED PRICE (Pay by Check)
FULL	\$1,248	\$1,198
LAND ONLY	\$902	\$867

**PACKAGES OFFERED Short Trip: Feb 28<sup>th</sup> - Mar 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015 (4 Day)**

PACKAGE	PRICE (Pay by PayPal)	DISCOUNTED PRICE (Pay by Check)
LAND ONLY	\$644	\$609

**PACKAGES OFFERED Short Trip: Feb 28<sup>th</sup> - Mar 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015 (5 Day)**

PACKAGE	PRICE (Pay by PayPal)	DISCOUNTED PRICE (Pay by Check)
LAND ONLY	\$753	\$718

**DEPOSIT: \$150 by check or online via PayPal. FINAL PAYMENT: Due by 12/17/14**

**Make the check payable to 'SCSC' & mail to 'P.O. Box 22567, Houston TX 77227' write trip name on the check & on the outside of the envelope. Online payments using PayPal are available.**





Photo by Jeff Andrew, Vail Resort



Photo by Liam Doran, Vail Resort

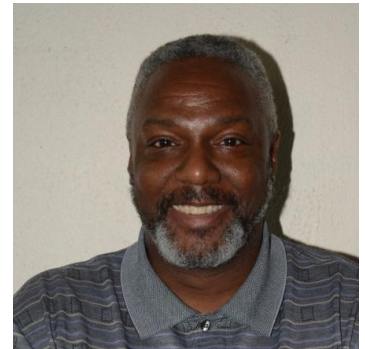


**Winter Park, CO - SPRING BREAK TRIP****MARCH 14 -21, 2015**

Tony Curry

[tony@spacecity.org](mailto:tony@spacecity.org)

281-773-9016

**Tony Curry****WHY CHOOSE THIS TRIP**

- Spring Break Week - With youngsters out of school for the week, take your children/grandkids, nieces/nephews on a memorable ski vacation to the Snow Country of the Rocky Mountains.
- Got Scouts? Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts can earn a Snow Sports Merit Badge.
- Winter Park Ski Resort offers terrain for all abilities.

**PACKAGES OFFERED Mar 14<sup>th</sup> - Mar 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

PACKAGE	PRICE
Full (Adult Price)	TBD
LAND ONLY (Adult Price)	TBD

**DEPOSIT: \$150 by check or online via PayPal. FINAL PAYMENT: Due by 1/7/2015**

Make the check payable to 'SCSC' & mail to 'P.O. Box 22567, Houston TX 77227' write *trip name on the check & on the outside of the envelope*. Online payments using PayPal are available.

If you are interested in a ski trip during spring break, we have arranged for our members to join [Austin Skiers & Boarders](#) on their trip to Winter Park, Colorado. **Please contact Tony Curry (281-773-9016 or [tony@spacecity.org](mailto:tony@spacecity.org)) for the current trip status and prices.**





## Discover Tuscany, Italy

### TSC SUMMER EXPEDITION

OCTOBER 29<sup>th</sup> – NOVEMBER 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Maria (Mendez) Koteras  
[maria@spacecity.org](mailto:maria@spacecity.org)  
 281-797-7084

*TUSCANY*



**Maria (Mendez)  
Koteras**

Leyla Ozkardeh  
[leyla@spacecity.org](mailto:leyla@spacecity.org)  
 281-785-2325

#### WHY CHOOSE THIS TRIP

- Trip of a Lifetime – check this one off your “Bucket List”.
- Gorgeous rolling landscapes and stunning architecture.
- Magnificent historic monuments, mouth-watering cuisine and wines.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Class and Deluxe hotel accommodations. Door to Door pick up to/from your home to airport within a 50 mile radius.

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#### PACKAGES OFFERED Oct 29<sup>th</sup> – Nov 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015

PACKAGE	PRICE
FULL	\$3,799
LAND ONLY	\$2,469

**DEPOSIT:** Full package \$490 / Land Package \$370 - paid by check or online via PayPal.

**FINAL PAYMENT:** Due by 07/01/2015. Last date for full refund less club cancellation fee: March 1, 2015.

Optional travel insurance protection is available for an additional \$270 and must be paid before Nov 15, 2014. Trip price is subject to change if there is an increase in fuel surcharges by the airline. **Final payments** will be made directly to the Travel Agency (Collette) by check or credit card.

**Make the check payable to 'SCSC' & mail to 'P.O. Box 22567, Houston TX 77227' write *trip name on the check & on the outside of the envelope*. Online payments using PayPal are available.**







# Trip Registration Form

FOR USE BY SCSC MEMBERS ONLY

(Complete ONE Registration Form and prepare ONE deposit check PER trip)

Deposit (per participant) is \$150 for domestic trips, \$300 for Madesimo, Italy, and for Tuscany, Italy: Full Package \$490/ Land Package \$370.

Make the check payable to 'SCSC' & mail to P.O. Box 22567, Houston TX 77227. Write trip name on the check & on the outside of the envelope. Each envelope must contain the registration form and deposit.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY - WE MUST BE ABLE TO READ THE DATA ON THIS FORM

Trip Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Trip Dates \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

## Participant #1

## Participant #2

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone(H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one:

Full package ☐ Land package ☐

Please check one:

Full package ☐ Land package ☐

**Note for Full Package participants:** Trip price includes all current air taxes & fuel surcharges subject to change until ticketed. Does NOT INCLUDE any additional fees imposed by the airline such as baggage fees.

**Note for Land Package participants:** Ground transportation will be included and available, on selected trips, to land package participants if they can meet the group at the destination airport on time. Ground transportation will not be delayed for land package participants arriving later than the group.

I understand the following (per standing rules 5.1 - 5.4): Cancellations after trip sign-up must be *in writing* to the Trip Coordinator and all cancellations are subject to a \$30 per person cancellation fee. If I cancel on or after the final payment date, I may forfeit the full amount paid if I cannot be replaced on the trip. For Tuscany, Italy the final *refund* date is March 1, 2015. After that date \$250 of the deposit plus club cancellation fee is non-refundable

Signature(s) (Required) \_\_\_\_\_

## Having a Blast

Hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving. There is much to be thankful for and I count my blessings every day. Looking over the past year, I reflect on all the new friends I have made and all the diversified activities our club has offered: Baseball game, Hawaiian luau with a pig roast and Tahitian dancers, Jimmy Buffet party with live music, wine and cheese tastings, sailing on Galveston Bay, polo match, dancing lessons, theatre, and our last activity at the Track 21 race car experience, followed by wine tasting at the Cellar Door. Thank you, Melinda Hughes for suggesting this activity and thanks to Cindy Foong for coordinating it. And a big thanks to all my activity coordinators throughout the year. They work really hard to come up with fun and interesting activities and I hope you enjoyed them this past year.

We had a really good turnout at our November Happy Hour at Fleming's Prime Steakhouse and Wine Bar. Our December Happy Hour will be at Caracol on Post Oak Boulevard on December 18, 2014. (Note the date change due to the Christmas holidays). Make sure you order their "special" chocolate dessert (it comes with a little hammer!) By the way, it gets really crowded there so come early!

December is a month filled with so many parties and activities so make sure you mark your calendar for our "Holiday Dance and Dazzle Gala" on December 20, 2014 from 7:00 p.m. until midnight. You won't be disappointed if you come but you will be if you miss this event. Ann Dorn and I have been working hard on this event and all the finishing touches are complete. All we need

now is your attendance. We are having a LAVISH buffet dinner complete with bacon wrapped Filet Mignon and Mahi Mahi in a basil cream sauce, garlic mashed potatoes, grilled asparagus and of course, salad, dessert, ice tea and coffee. (Vegetarian meals can be substituted on request). The Gala is being held at the Red Oak Ballroom in the Magnolia Room at City Centre located right off I-10 and the Beltway. There will be a cash bar and dancing for four hours to a really fun band called "Hattrick."

I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday season and all the best in the coming New Year. And, of course, SNOW!!!



**Gayle Dale**  
*VP of Activities*

## Upcoming Activities

### December

December 18<sup>th</sup> - Happy Hour at Caracol Mexican Coastal Kitchen

December 20<sup>th</sup> - Holiday Gala





## *Holiday Dance & Dazzle Gala*

*Celebrate the holidays by joining your Space City friends for an elegant fun evening of dinner and dancing!*

*Dinner is in the Magnolia Room at the Red Oak Ballroom followed by dancing to rock and country from the 4-piece band, "Hattrick".*

**Where:** 816 Town & Country Blvd., Suite 210, Houston, Texas 77024 Ph: 713-590-0950

**Fee:** \$62-Member  
\$65-Non-member

**Coordinator:** Ann Dorn

## Membership

### Member Profile – Derek Shoobridge

I was wandering around last month's Happy Hour when I found myself involved in a conversation regarding places people had been to. Derek mentioned that he left his home in England to join the Merchant Marines when he was just 16 years old. I knew I wanted to hear more about his story, and I knew others would as well.

Derek told me he was never a good student and was more interested in practical things so he joined The Merchant Marine as an Apprentice Officer. He was paid \$25 a month, which included meals and laundry on the ship. For the first year he mopped, or some may say "swabbed" the deck. (Perhaps I've been watching too many TV shows!) The senior officers didn't think he would make it, and were happy to use his laundry privileges because they had to pay to do their laundry.

Because I have sons myself, my first question to Derek was, "What did your parents think about your decision?" He said with a grin that they felt it was appropriate. He sailed all over the world over the next 18 years as both Officer and Captain in The Merchant Marine. In 1978 he decided he did not want to spend the rest of his life sailing but still wanted to travel. He went to work for the Iranians supervising the loading of their ships in Europe and the Middle East and spent months in Dubai after the revolution, where he back-loaded Iranian ships with cargo that had been abandoned in the Emirates. By 1980 the Iranian's situation was deteriorating so he accepted a position in Houston –still loading

and discharging ships but now on a worldwide basis. He continued to travel, mostly in the Americas and Europe. He met LaDaune at this time, who Derek says has been his companion, partner, crutch, lover and wife for the past 34 years. In 1984 Derek accepted a job as manager of a West Coast stevedoring company in Vancouver, BC where he and LaDaune spent 7 years. They strapped on their first pair of skis on Whistler Mountain. (I kept wondering when this was coming!)



They came back to Houston in 1991 and Derek swore he would never work for anyone else again, so he formed a company as a Marine Consultant. It was then that the traveling really started. "I think if a country has a port, I have been there."

Derek and LaDaune joined SCSC in 1993 because they now had that addiction we all have come to know as skiing and were looking for ski companions as so many of us have done. They weren't able to be active in the club for 10 years due to work conflicts. After retiring in 2009 Derek has been ATC and TC on several trips, including the upcoming Whitefish trip.

Derek still does some consulting. He has been in Peru a couple of times this year and also Argentina. He said he is thankful the phone is ringing less and less. He now



wonders how he ever held a full time job because he is so busy enjoying leisure travel in the USA. Home is on Chocolate Bayou, which is a small community called "Amsterdam". Amsterdam does not have a post office, so his official mailing address is the adjacent City of Liverpool, TX, which he tells me was founded in 1837 about 50 years before Houston. Life now consists of fishing and water sports in the summer and a few weeks of skiing in the winter. What's not to like?



**Ali Pethick**  
*VP of Membership*

**NEW - Now you can purchase  
SCSC Logo Products!**

*We have our **e-store** at Land's End and you can select any product you like to purchase. Once you've selected a product, you may select our logo to apply to your item(s).*

*Shop & enjoy!*

*You can find the link to the e-store at [www.spacecity.org](http://www.spacecity.org), under the Welcome block.*

## SCSC Photo Contest 2014-2015

1. BEST SELFIE
2. ORIGINAL LANDSCAPE
3. SKI ACTION
4. PEOPLE
5. LOCAL TOWN



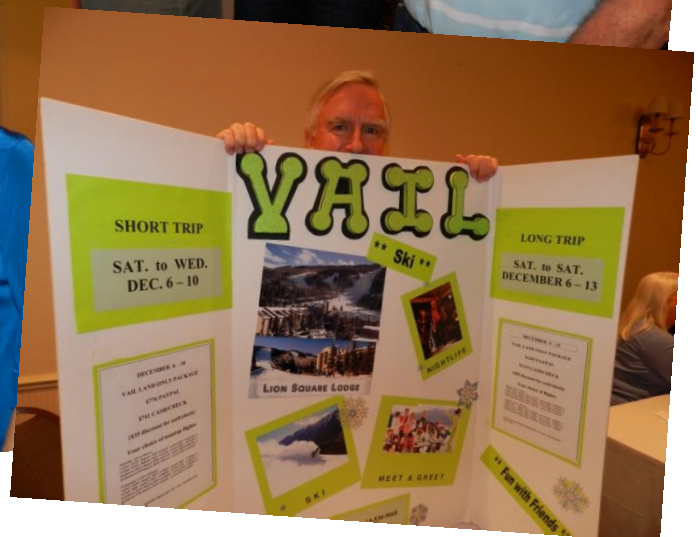
We will use the winning photo as the cover photo for our newsletter's Annual Issue in 2015-2016. We used last year's winning photo by Tom Thomas as the cover for our August Annual Issue 2014.

Send photos to  
[marketing@spacecity.org](mailto:marketing@spacecity.org)

## Member's Corner







Photos by Ron Hayes

## Our Leadership Team 2014-2015

President	-	Melinda Hughes	<a href="mailto:president@spacecity.org">president@spacecity.org</a>
VP of Activities	-	Gayle Dale	<a href="mailto:activities@spacecity.org">activities@spacecity.org</a>
VP of Trips	-	Jim Hodges	<a href="mailto:trips@spacecity.org">trips@spacecity.org</a>
VP of Membership	-	Ali Pethick	<a href="mailto:membership@spacecity.org">membership@spacecity.org</a>
VP of Marketing	-	Bobby Goel	<a href="mailto:marketing@spacecity.org">marketing@spacecity.org</a>
Treasurer	-	Marti Turner	<a href="mailto:treasurer@spacecity.org">treasurer@spacecity.org</a>
Secretary	-	Sandy Fowler	<a href="mailto:secretary@spacecity.org">secretary@spacecity.org</a>
Auditor	-	Keith Kirkman	<a href="mailto:auditor@spacecity.org">auditor@spacecity.org</a>
Director of Trips	-	George Lopez	<a href="mailto:george@spacecity.org">george@spacecity.org</a>
Director of Trips	-	Bill Bomberger	<a href="mailto:bill@spacecity.org">bill@spacecity.org</a>

## Our Board of Directors 2014-2015

Chairperson	-	Sandra McCunis	<a href="mailto:sandra@spacecity.org">sandra@spacecity.org</a>
Director	-	Ross Baker	<a href="mailto:ross@spacecity.org">ross@spacecity.org</a>
Director	-	Bill Bomberger	<a href="mailto:bill@spacecity.org">bill@spacecity.org</a>
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Director	-	Jan Ferrell	<a href="mailto:jan@spacecity.org">jan@spacecity.org</a>
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Director	-	Ann Rogers	<a href="mailto:ann@spacecity.org">ann@spacecity.org</a>
Director	-	Susan Blome	<a href="mailto:susan@spacecity.org">susan@spacecity.org</a>



## December Happy Hour

*Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>*  
*5:30 – 8:30 pm*

### **Caracol Restaurant** **Mexican Coastal Kitchen**

2200 Post Oak Blvd  
 Houston, TX 77056  
 Ph: 713-622-9996



Caracol is a Mexican Coastal Kitchen and the newest restaurant from Chef Hugo Ortega and Tracy Vaught. Its menu is a culinary tour along Mexico's 16 coastal states. One focal point of the main dining room is the oyster bar, where fresh Gulf and appellation oysters are shucked-to-order and served raw or cooked in Ortega's custom wood-burning, domed oven.

## Sitzmarke

### **PUBLISHER**

SPACE CITY SKI & ADVENTURE CLUB

### **EDITORIAL**

Editor: Bobby Goel

Email: [marketing@spacecity.org](mailto:marketing@spacecity.org)

Managing Editor: Sandy Fowler

Email: [secretary@spacecity.org](mailto:secretary@spacecity.org)

### **CONTRIBUTORS**

Melinda Hughes, Jim Hodges, Gayle Dale, & Ali Pethick .

### **COVER PHOTO**

Mammoth - Melinda Hughes

### **ADVERTISING & MEDIA INQUIRIES**

Bobby Goel, [marketing@spacecity.org](mailto:marketing@spacecity.org)

### **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Members are emailed a link to the Sitzmarke each month. Non-members may download the newsletter from our website in the About Us/Club Documents section on [www.spacecity.org](http://www.spacecity.org).

### **GENERAL INQUIRIES**

Space City Ski & Adventure Club

PO Box 22567

Houston, TX 77227

[www.spacecity.org](http://www.spacecity.org)

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