

NEWSLETTER sitzmarke

April 2015 Volume 50 Issue 12



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From Mission Control

Congratulations to our new slate of officers that was voted in during the March General Meeting:

- President – Cindy Moore
- VP of Trips – George Lopez
- VP of Activities – Jo Barrie
- VP of Marketing – Bobby Goel
- VP of Membership – Patty Finch
- Secretary – Ali Pethick
- Treasurer – Maria Koteras

It is difficult to believe that we have completed another ski season and the 50th one at that. I have enjoyed the privilege of serving as Space City Ski & Adventure Club's president for the last two years and I know that the Club will be in good hands once the new slate of officers takes over on May 1st.

Until then, we have a fun April meeting in store for you! We are starting our membership renewal drive so please attend the General Meeting on April 13th and renew your membership so you can take advantage of early trip sign-up in August. We will also announce the results of the TSC BidFest at the meeting. We are planning another raffle for fabulous donated door prizes, so if you would like to donate contact Ali Pethick at membership@spacecity.org. Please let her know what you would like to contribute. To help reminisce about the year, there will be a slide show of meeting and Happy Hour participants so join us for a good time!

Over the year, we lost three long standing members – Susan Blome, Leona Schroeder, and Christi Burke. These ladies donated a lot of time to help make our club what it is today. It was heart-warming for me to see all of the

Space City members honor them by attending their memorials. This underscored the significance of the friendships that I have made in this great club.

Thank you for allowing me to help continue the traditions this club has established. And, for the last time, remember to like us on Facebook, subscribe to our email blast, and join us on meetup.com.

Cheers to a great two years!



Melinda Hughes,
President

Countdown to Liftoff

Ski season may be over but Space City Ski & Adventure Club still has trips available to join! We are currently accepting registrations for both the May 9-16, 2015 trip to Mexico's Riviera Maya ([Riviera Maya Trip Article](#)) and the October 29 to November 7, 2015 Discover Tuscany, Italy ([Discover Tuscany Trip Article](#))

Even though this year's snowfall has not yet begun to melt, it is now time to start planning for the 2015-2016 ski trips. BidFest will be held in San Antonio April 10-12, 2015.

During that meeting, the member clubs of the Texas Ski Council will select three domestic trips and two international trips that will be the next year's TSC trips. Once those trips are on the calendar, our new VP Trips George Lopez will work with next year's TCs to add additional club trips to the calendar. If you are interested in volunteering to be a Trip Coordinator or Assistant Trip Coordinator please complete and return the TC ATC Application form. You can download the form from the SCSC website at [Forms&Applications](#). There is also a blank form included in this month's Sitzmarke.

I want to say THANK YOU to the TCs and ATCs that worked tirelessly to make this year's trips successful. The TCs and ATCs are club members that volunteered their time, energy and skills to make sure that our club could offer ski (and adventure!) trips to the members of our club. Here is a list of the TCs and ATCs that made this year's trips possible:

- South Africa – TC Melody Bohlmann
- Vail, Colorado – TC Bob Olsen
- Beaver Creek, Colorado – TCs Anne Thomas and Dennis Hughes
ATCs Patti Finch and Kate MacDougal
- Madesimo, Italy – TC Barbara Brescian
and ATC Sandy Schneider
- Mammoth, California – TC Dave Stotz
- Taos, New Mexico – TC Chris Bryan
- Whitefish, Montana – TC Derek Shoobridge
and ATC Andy Smith
- Breckenridge, Colorado – TC Steve Ying
and ATC Cindy Moore
- Winter Park, Colorado – TC Tony Curry
- Riviera Maya, Mexico (scheduled May 9-16) – TC Sandra McCunis
- Tuscany, Italy (scheduled Oct 29-Nov 7, 2015) – TC Maria Mendez
and ATC Leyla Ozkardesh

Again, thank you to the TCs and ATCs that managed this year's trip. None of this year's trips would have been possible without YOU!!

Our next General Meeting is Monday April 13, 2015. This is a good opportunity to visit with trip leaders about the two remaining trips. Visit our website at www.spacecity.org to see the details of scheduled trips and contact information for the Trip Coordinator.

It has been another great year of skiing and traveling with the Space City Ski & Adventure Club!



Jim Hodges
VP of Trips

Trips 2014-2015

Destination	Date	Prices* Full / Land Only	Final Payment Date	Trip Coordinator	Assistant Trip Coordinator
Mexico Riviera Maya Club Trip	May 9-16 2015	\$1,411/\$912	9-Mar	Sandra McCunis	
Discover Tuscany TSC Summer Expedition	Oct 29 – Nov 7 2015	\$3,799/\$2,469	1-July	Maria Koteras	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.

TEXAS SKI COUNCIL SKI BIDFEST

Texas Ski Council Delegates, Texas Ski Club members, Ski Resort Representatives, Vendors and Guests from around the world, come join us for 2015 Ski Bid Fest held by popular demand once again in historic and fun filled San Antonio, Texas!

The Bid Meeting will be April 10-12, 2015
at the Drury Plaza Hotel, 105 S. Saint Mary's,
San Antonio, TX 78205.

Texas Ski Council Ski Bidfest



The Historic Drury Plaza has been restored from the previous Alamo Bank Building. It features stunning architecture, comfortable rooms and suites, a rooftop pool and Drury's famous free extras, there's little missing from this hotel equation. Best of all, their riverside doors offer direct access to the beautiful San Antonio River Walk.

Registration for the TSC Bid Meeting is now available online!! Go to www.texas-ski.org and click on 2015 Bid Meeting to get the links.

To make room reservations, please click on the link below

<http://www.druryhotels.com/Reservations.aspx?groupno=2213602>

Please make your reservations by **Wednesday, March 18, 2015** to receive your group rate. Reservations made after this date will be subject to prevailing rate and availability. Reservations can also be made by calling 1-800-325-0720 and refer to your group number. **"Texas Ski Council" (Group number 2213602)**

TEEing IT UP FOR CHARITY

Pre-Bid Meeting event on Friday, April 10 will be a charity event for the TSC Youth Foundation. So join TSC members in TEEing IT UP FOR CHARITY and join us at San Antonio's TOP GOLF location for a new and fun "golfing" experience! Anyone can play Top Golf, from aspiring pros to never-ever golfers. All you have to do is swing a club and try to hit your micro-chipped balls into a dartboard-like target. It's competitive! It's loads of fun no matter your golfing experience. Competitions (for those so inclined) will be played and the rest of us can try it out, take pictures, laugh, and relax! Price includes the game (Don't need to bring your own clubs) & membership. Line up six people per bay to maximize the fun! Alcohol and food available for purchase. All profits from this event will go to the TSC Youth Foundation. For questions contact Shannon Owen at shannonowen@hotmail.com. Not familiar with Top Golf – check it out by going to topgolf.com. Transportation will be available at 12 noon in hotel lobby.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP DON'T DELAY.

We will have a great list of trips for this 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 renew your membership online.

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



Photo by Fred Pethick

Barcelo Maya Colonial, Riviera Maya, Puerto Aventuras, Quintana Roo, Mexico

MAY 9th – 16th, 2015

Sandra McCunis
sandra@spacecity.org
 281-463-7717



Sandra McCunis

WHY CHOOSE THIS TRIP

- **All-Inclusive 4 star resort on a beautiful Caribbean beach**
- **Expansive swimming pools & acres of lush tropical gardens**
- **Snorkeling & diving along a spectacular protected coral reef**
- **Variety of sports, daily activities & nightly live entertainment**
- **International cuisine - Food & drinks available 24 hours a day**
- **Non-stop flight to Cancun, Mexico on United Airlines**

The Barcelo Maya Colonial hotel is situated on a stunning white sand beach with crystal clear turquoise blue waters surrounded by acres of lush tropical gardens. It forms part of the Barcelo Maya Beach Resort complex, a set of 5 luxurious hotels located in Riviera Maya just 15 miles south of Playa del Carmen.

The all-inclusive resort offers 4 restaurants including a buffet and the international a-la-carte restaurants featuring Seafood, Asian and Mediterranean cuisine. There are 4 bars including a Sports bar, 2 huge free-form pools with a Jacuzzi plus an Olympic-size pool, children's pool and water park. The hotel facilities also include a fitness center with a sauna and steam room. Relaxing treatments for your body are available in their U-Spa & Wellness center.

Also, with the Barcelo All-Inclusive program, you can access the restaurants, bars, pool facilities and beach of the Barcelo Maya Tropical, Barcelo Maya Beach and Barcelo Maya Caribe hotels.

During the day, you can enjoy a variety of activities including tennis, billiards, ping-pong, volleyball, basketball and miniature golf. Free non-motorized sports such as kayaking and windsurfing are available daily. Snorkel off the private beach along a coral reef with colorful tropical fish or swim with dolphins. At night, enjoy the vibrant nightlife that the hotel offers with live shows in the theatre and dancing in the nightclub.

Optional activities and excursions can be arranged at the hotel tour desk. Scuba divers can explore some of the best dive sites in the world. Plan a day trip to Xel-Ha, a natural aquarium park or

Xcaret, an eco-archaeological park. Tour the Mayan ruins of Tulum or Chichen Itza, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Enjoy a visit to Playa del Carmen for shopping and nightlife.

Join us for an unforgettable experience in the Mexican Caribbean!

PACKAGES OFFERED May 9th – 16th, 2015

PACKAGE	PRICE (Pay by PayPal/Check)	DISCOUNTED PRICE (Pay by Check)
FULL	\$1,411	\$1,361
LAND ONLY	\$912	\$877

DEPOSIT: \$150 by check or online via PayPal. FINAL PAYMENT: Due by 3/9/2015

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.





Discover Tuscany, Italy

TSC SUMMER EXPEDITION

OCTOBER 29th – NOVEMBER 7th, 2015

Maria (Mendez) Koteras
maria@spacecity.org
281-797-7084

TUSCANY



**Maria (Mendez)
Koteras**

Leyla Ozkardeh
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.
- 1st Class and Deluxe hotel accommodations. Door to Door pick up to/from your home to airport within a 50 mile radius.

PACKAGES OFFERED Oct 29th – Nov 7th, 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 Report – Mammoth

By Dave Stotz

It was early in the morning of January 31, 2015. Eleven brave souls had gathered at Bush Intercontinental Airport to embark on adventures on Mammoth Mountain.

Once we arrived, the staff at Juniper Springs Lodge was ready for us, handing out room keys and helping anyone with luggage who wanted help. Our TSC VP of Trips, **Sarah Granbery**, greeted us there. Swag bags were waiting for us in our rooms with cool stuff inside. Later that night we had a club welcome party with pizza and salad from Giovanni's, washed down with beer and wine. Mammoth had given us a giant map of the Mammoth ski area, and everyone talked about where they wanted to ski. Lift tickets were handed out, and we discussed the mountain tours, club races and the TSC tour to Bodie Ghost Town.

Sunday morning was our first ski day. At 10 a.m. the mountain provided guided mountain

Springs lodge. Those of us on the mountain tour had lunch at Eleven53 Café at the top of the mountain. The views were spectacular, and next to the café was a mini museum about Mammoth Mountain.

This was Super Bowl Sunday, and at the TSC Welcome Party at Mammoth Mountain Inn everyone was focused on the game. The mountain served pretty good food, and the beer was flowing. It was a pretty exciting game, except for the fact the wrong team won. Woolly Mammoth, the mascot of Mammoth Mountain made an appearance.



Woolly Mammoth
& Diane Stotz



Davis Tucker, Richard Arriaga, Lisa Wilson, Reneé Arriaga, Chef Freddie Pierrel, Marsha Lutz, Sarah Granbery, Marda Waters, Tracey Allely, Dave Stotz, Diane Stotz, & Stuart Traver.



Lisa Wilson, Stuart Traver, Dave Stotz, Marsha Lutz, & Marda Waters

Monday morning at 10 a.m. the mountain provided another mountain tour and two of our participants went on the tour. The group lunch was at Canyon Lodge, and **Marsha Lutz, Marda Waters, Lisa Wilson, Davis Tucker, Stuart Traver, Diane and Dave Stotz** all attended. Our après-ski was at the Talon Bar at Eagle Lodge. We had an optional group dinner at the Mammoth Rock Brasserie, which happens to be in the Mammoth Rock 'N' Bowl Bowling Alley. French chef **Freddie Pierrel** came out to our table to introduce himself. We ended up running into him at two more bars during the week. That was definitely the best food I've ever had at a bowling alley!

On Tuesday the group had a choice to either do a tour of June Lake Loop, Mono Lake and Bodie Ghost Town, or stay at Mammoth and ski. **Sarah Granbery, Marsh Lutz, Lisa Wilson, Marda Waters, Stuart Traver and Diane & David Stotz** all

went on the tour. Everyone else stayed in Mammoth and skied. If you stayed at Mammoth that day you had the opportunity to practice on the race course.

June Lake Loop was spectacular, and we even saw Silver Lake where a scene from the movie "Oblivion" with Tom Cruise was filmed.

Mono Lake was EERIE. It is an alkali, salty lake, with no outfall. It loses all of its water due to evaporation. The City of Los Angeles has been taking water from the streams that feed Mono Lake for years, so its volume has shrunk dramatically. In order to save the lake and the many bird species that live on an



From The Movie "Oblivion"



Photo by Diane Stotz



Tufa

island in the center of the lake, a court has ruled that Los Angeles must drastically cut down on the water that they take from the lake. The high level of alkalinity has caused limestone structures called "Tufa" to be formed under the water of the lake. As the lake has shrunk, the Tufa has become exposed.

Next was Bodie Ghost Town. We had a quick sandwich at the parking lot and then went on our guided tour of the town. Our tour guide was Terri Geissinger, who works for the Bodie Foundation. She actually lives in the ghost town, along with 4 park rangers. She gave us a fantastic tour of the old mining town, one of the only preserved mining



Sandy Morris (Flatlanders Ski Club), Sarah Granbery, Lisa Wilson, & Diane Stotz

towns in the world. Her whole life work is dedicated to researching all she can about the history of Bodie.

After returning from Bodie, several people chose to go to dinner at The Restaurant at Convict Lake. The lake was named after an incident on September 23, 1871, where a group of convicts escaped from prison in Carson City. They were recaptured at Convict Lake.

Wednesday was TSC Club Race Day. The race course was set up on the lower half of the Andy's Double Gold run. Seven Space City people signed up to race, and with a little cajoling all seven raced. We'll get to the

race results later. The group lunch was scheduled at Eleven53 Café, but it was closed so we had lunch at McCoy's instead.

The TSC Pub Crawl started at 6 pm, and all 13 of our group attended. We went to six different bars: Mammoth Brewing Company, Clocktower Cellar at the Alpenhof Lodge, Campo, Gomez Restaurant and Tequilera, Smokeyard BBQ, and Lakanuki. The club



At Mammoth Brewery Davis Tucker, Marco Coronado, Dave Stotz, Marsha Lutz, Sarah Granbery, Diane Stotz, Stuart Traver, & Marda Waters



Stuart Traver, Tracey Allely, Renée Arriaga, & Richard Arriaga.

consensus seemed to be that Lakanuki was the most fun, but that might have been the adult beverages talking!

Back to skiing on Thursday, with a group lunch at the Yodler. This is a cool Swiss chalet that was purchased and dismantled in Switzerland and reassembled in Mammoth!



Marsha Lutz, Lisa Wilson, Stuart Traver, Diane Stotz, Dave Stotz, Marda Waters, Davis Tucker, & Shari Clark.



Sarah Granbery, Lisa Wilson Sandy Morris (Flatlanders Ski Club), Marsha Lutz, Marda Waters, Diane Stotz, Peggy and Jerry Montgomery (Capitol Ski)

Six people returned to Mammoth Brewing for dinner that night. Friday brought the last day of skiing for our group. A storm was moving in and the high winds shut down a lot of lifts during the day. Part of our group decided to take a snow cat tour. They did not have to pay extra for the beautiful scenery.

That night was the TSC Awards Dinner. The suspense mounted as the award categories began to be announced. Six of our seven skiers won medals! **Tracey Allely and Renée Arriaga** won silver and bronze, and **Marco Coronado** won gold, all in their respective age groups.



Renée Arriaga, Cinnamon Mitchell (Club St. Bernard), & Tracey Allely



Marco Coronado, & Marsha Lutz



Ronnie Slate (Lone Star), Fred LeVay (Lone Star), & Stuart Traver



David Hensley (Lone Star), Kevin Mazurkiewi (Austin), & Dave Stotz



Claire Coffey (Club St. Bernard), Shari Clark, Joanna Wolf (Club St.

Shari Clark not only won gold for her age group, but also won fastest woman overall! And to top it off, Space City won first place in Division One. Thanks to all of our Space City racers!

Richard Arriaga was heard saying he is waiting to get his medals at the 1st Annual SCSC Foosball and Ping Pong Tournament!

Now that the fun was over, it was time to go home. The overnight storm had left a couple of inches of snow (of course, the day we leave!) so we needed to get an early start back to Reno. By 6:38 a.m. the bus was loaded and we were on the road.

All-in-all, it was a fantastic trip. I want to thank **Diane Stotz**



Reneé Arriaga, Tracey Allely, Dave Stotz, Shari Clark, Stuart Traver, Marco Coronado, & Richard Arriaga

for being a fantastic unofficial ATC, and **Tracey Allely** for getting her friends to join SCSC and come on the trip, which allowed us to make our numbers. We hope that they stay with the club and continue to ski with us. And a huge thanks to **Sarah Granbery** for doing a great job as TSC VP for the Mammoth trip.



Rainbow on Route 395 heading to Reno

Trip Report – Madesimo

By Barbara Brescian

Buon Giorno, Madesimo Italy! Thirty-six Space City adventurers joined other Texas Ski Council clubs on the January TSC Winter Expedition for a snow-filled week in the Italian Alps. Nelson Messenger and Liz Scarborough started their trip early and met us at the Milan Airport after several busy days of sightseeing in Milan, including attending a performance at the La Scala Opera House. Bob and Melissa Frazier, Steve Nickels and Thuy Rocque (on a European business trip) also traveled early to Europe. Thuy texted her husband Richard that shopping, with the favorable exchange rate, was great.

In Milan, travelers boarded the motor coach for the 3-hour ride though quaint Italian



villages, vineyards and rolling hills before we arrived in Madesimo. Tradition calls for a welcome from the mayor, which was easy this year since he owns the Hotel Andossi, where we stayed and enjoyed a huge Italian buffet breakfast and a four-course dinner daily. Enthusiastic skiers hit the slopes early in the morning, while a loyal contingent enjoyed daily tours of northern Italy.

Joan Waddill got off to a great snow start literally, exiting a lift chair right into a snow bank. Richard and Thuy Rocque, Steve

Nickels, and Charles Albright got a real chuckle during a lunch break on the mid-mountain restaurant when Ross Baker bragged on the fast service only to realize he had picked up someone else's pizza! Tom Huzzey and Craig Campbell were regulars on the slopes every day. Hopping on snowmobiles one day were Bob and Marilyn Davis along with Melissa and Bob Frazier, Ingrid and



Bob and Marilyn Davis, Melissa and Bob Frazier & Ingrid and George Dawson

George Dawson and Nelson Messinger who all rode up Spluga Pass right into Switzerland.

Nelson Messinger then showed his athleticism and enjoyed a day of cross country skiing with Laura and Jim Nowicki. The hotel jacuzzi quickly became a gathering spot for skiers. It was soon one of Laura Nowicki's favorite apre-ski spots. A Space City tradition on any European ski trip is a "friendly" game of bridge after dinner. Bob and Myra Whitten and Jim and Laura Nowicki were quickly joined by others, including Ali and Fred Pethick, Ash Moza and Elizabeth and Charles Albright, who alternated playing. The final night pub crawl had Barbara Brescian leading the conga line, egged on by Olga Adair. Melanie Derden couldn't stay off the dance floor, while husband Marty Farrant cheered her on.

At Lake Corno



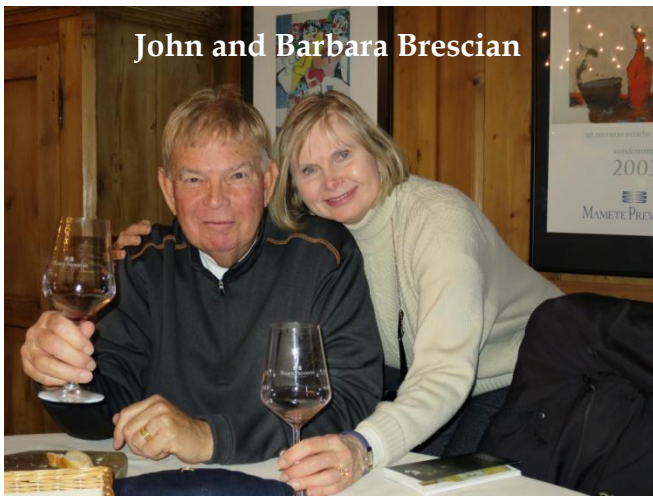
This Italian journey included day excursion adventures. At Lake Como, Sandra Schneider along with other TSC members, made the hike up to the village of Menaggio. Sadly there were no sightings of George Clooney and his new bride. One day in Milan, Shellie Liles, Olga Adair, Pat Musemeche, Myra Whitten and Sandra Schneider walked the roof of the famous Duomo and dined in the first Galleria where fashion is a way of life. Newlyweds Evan and Ginger Howell joined them. During a tour of the La Scala Opera



Thuy & Rick Rocque, Joan Waddill, Steve Nickels & Ross Baker



Nelson, Laura and Jim on cross country skis



John and Barbara Brescian

House, Olga especially enjoyed seeing a rehearsal in progress there. John and Barbara Brescian and Brent McGibbon took a city tour bus, which apparently shut down early mid afternoon, so they had to hike back to the bus to get back to Madesimo. A highlight for everyone was the St. Moritz, Switzerland

excursion, which included a scenic train ride on the Bernina Express, the highest railway in the Alps, and one with UNESCO World Heritage status. As we traveled through the Italian and then the Swiss Alps, we were mesmerized by the glacial views. Once we arrived in St Moritz, with urging from Evan and Ginger, most had tea at the famous Badrutt's Palace Hotel and then Pat, Olga, Shellie, Joan and Sandy went searching for authentic Swiss Fondue, and ran into most of the Space City group at the same restaurant. Whether skiing or not, we all ended up at the same tiny souvenir shop later that day.

Say "wine," and we're there! Perhaps our most lively excursion was to the wine tasting in Chiavenna at the Mamette Prevostini Winery. On the way back up the mountain to Madesimo, Sandy and Olga started counting



Florence Post Trip

Bob Davis and Bob Frazier



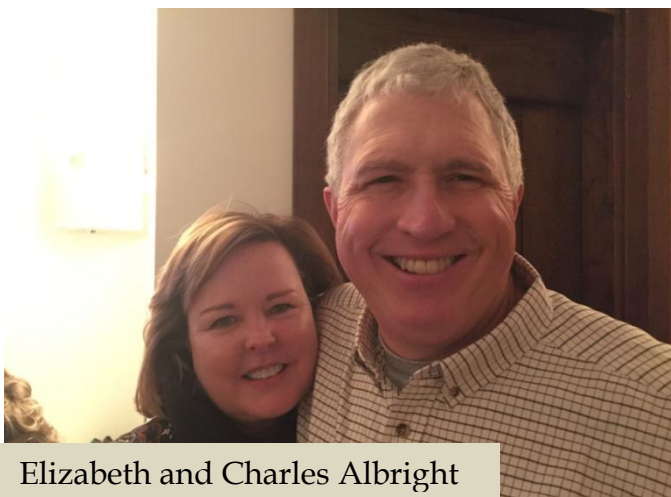
5 Ladies at a frozen fountain



the number of switchbacks in Italian – 27 in total. Many joined in, but there was disagreement as to what a switchback was. Mind you, the wine had nothing to do with this!

Fourteen Space City diehards traveled on to the post trip to Florence, arguably Florence's most beautiful city. Everyone stopped by to say "hi" to Michaelangelo's David, who towered majestically above us as we snapped photos of what we thought were clever art shots. The daily market offered irresistible bargains. And museum lovers got their fill of Galileo, DaVinci, Botticelli – the list goes on. No amount of walking could overcome the vast amount of "delizioso italiano" food the entire group consumed each day, beginning with a bountiful buffet breakfast. "Gelato, anyone?" quickly became the group mantra.

Melissa Frazier



Elizabeth and Charles Albright



Bob Whitten and Laura Nowicki

Trip Report – President's Week in Taos

By Chris Bryan

Be honest - who among us has not prayed for snow?

One week before our scheduled arrival Taos' much publicized major new attraction still had not yet opened due to lack of snow. True to form, Taos Ski Valley would not disappoint the SCSC loyalists. Two days before our arrival Kachina Peak received its final touches of powder and at long last the newest lift opened up access to the 12,450' peak previously accessible only via hiking. Everyone was anticipating enjoying the

spectacular view of northern New Mexico and southern Colorado from this iconic peak! During our Saturday night reception at the ski-in ski-out Snakedance Lodge we were given an orientation to the new lift along with an update of the various mountain conditions, as well as strategies for negotiating the intimidating descent from Kachina Peak. The Taos Ski Valley Sales Manager kindly but firmly informed us that the only way down was on skis - the new lift could not be used as a way down so if you were not comfortable with a double black diamond, you should not ride up! The next morning Charles Albright went three for three - he made it down Kachina three times on the third day of its operations. Congratulations "Big Dog!"

Sunday night's pizza party turned into an



Jim Walker; Linda Krupps; Bill Reilly; Meera Raghavendra; Craig Campbell; Brenda Lacombe; Sid Lacombe; Charles Albright; Steve Slade; David Klaus; Chris Bryan; Debbie Abadie; Joan Waddill; Marianne Pearce; Ehud Barak; Chris Urbanczyk

awards night after only one day of skiing. The slopes were very crowded on Sunday and Sid Lacombe was able to thin out the crowd by successfully taking out two boarders. For his service above and beyond the call of duty he was nominated and unanimously proclaimed the 2015 Slope Sniper. Congratulations to our former Bull Rider!

Monday night was our feast at the Snakedance GM's elaborate New Mexican style hacienda. Not only were there generous appetizers including smoked salmon, the BBQ brisket and the tilapia were delicious. The food was complimented by the predominately French wine from the GMs impressive wine cellar and a bottomless tower of margaritas which several people unsuccessfully tried to empty. We traveled to his home via the Rio Grande Gorge Bridge which had limited visibility due to the really cold wind blowing the snow that made skiing excellent for the next couple of days.

We were kept up to date regarding the concerts, bands, technical lectures, yoga classes and all other special President's Week events by Meera Raghavendra who somehow had the energy and stamina to be everywhere there was some action.

Most experienced skiers are aware of the occasional phantom member of a group. During the Taos trip, we all knew Ehud Barak was on the mountain but no one could actually remember where they had skied with him. Many saw him out of the corner of their eye or thought he had been just ahead or behind them on a run. However, he was rarely where he was supposed to be at any appointed time except for dinner!

Several people distinguished themselves by their ability to either prepare or consume both food and beverage. Brenda Lacombe not only prepared a delicious spaghetti dinner for

all but she also served a breakfast of champions for her condo mates. Most appreciated was the pancake syrup comprised of 3 parts Makers Mark and one part Log Cabin. Please feel free to contact Brenda directly for more of her mood altering recipes.

Half the group took three to six days of lessons and rated their instructors as excellent. Some will tell you that on the last day of the lessons they were escorted to a secluded area hidden by trees where a beverage tasting remarkably like a gin martini was available for sampling. This turned out to be a great way to end a memorable return to Taos.



**Trip Coordinator (TC)/
Assistant Trip Coordinator (ATC)
2015-2016 Application**

Do you love to ski or snowboard? Do you enjoy working with people and making new friends? Are you good at planning and organizing? If your answer is YES to these questions, SCSC needs YOU to join the great team of Trip Coordinators and Assistants running fun ski trips to exciting destinations.

Please complete this form and return to V.P. of Trips, PO Box 22567, Houston, TX 77227 or email to trips@spacecity.org

Name:	Telephone-Cell: (____) ____ - ____
Address:	Telephone-Work: (____) ____ - ____
	Telephone-Home: (____) ____ - ____
Preferred contact type: (circle all that apply) Telephone: Home Work Cell or e-mail	E-Mail Address:
Occupation:	Year you joined SCSC (Approx):

Position you are applying for: _____TC _____ATC _____Either

(Note: In order to serve as an ATC, you must have taken at least one ski trip with SCSC. In order to server as a TC, you must have served as an ATC on at least one SCSC ski trip or an AC for a large activity or experience running trips with other organizations.)

What type of SCSC ski trip do you prefer to run?
_____TSC (Texas Ski Council) ____Club (SCSC) _____Either

What length of SCSC ski trip do you prefer to run?
_____Long (week long) ____Short (4 or 5 day) _____Either

Where would you like to run a trip (Destination/s)? _____

Availability: Dates that you are *Unavailable* to run a trip (If any): _____
Preferred dates (If any): _____

Are you available for monthly meetings usually the 2nd Monday of the month (September-May)? Yes ____ No ____

Are you available for monthly happy hours usually the 4th Thursday of the month? Yes ____ No ____

Are you available to attend 2 to 3 training sessions? Yes ____ No ____

(Training sessions likely will be May, June or July 2015)

On what side of town do you live/work? _____

Prior SCSC Volunteer Experience: TC/ATC/AC-Activity Coordinator /AAC-Assist. Activity Coordinator/Officer (Start with most recent)

Year	Trip/Activity/Office	Year	Trip/Activity /Office

SCSC-Ski Trips Taken

Non-SCSC Ski Trips Taken

Year	Trip	Year	Trip	Year	Trip	Year	Trip

Other Volunteer Experience: (Start with most recent)

Year	Organization/Office	Year	Organization/Office

Computer experience:

_____Microsoft Word _____Microsoft Excel _____Other

Do you have access to a computer at home or work? _____Yes _____No

Do you have access to a fax machine at home or work? _____Yes _____No

Can you make & receive SCSC related phone calls at work? _____Yes _____No

Can you send & receive SCSC related e-mail at work? _____Yes _____No

What other experience/skills can you bring to the position of TC/ATC?

Why are you interested in running a SCSC ski trip?

Having a Blast

I hope that all of you had a great St. Patrick's Day and are fully recovered from drinking all that green beer. We all know that skiers love to drink beer (and wine too) after a hard day on the slopes. Skiers also love fun activities, so a group got together for a day trip to L'Auberge du Lac Casino in Louisiana last month. Lori Aubrecht was the activity coordinator and reports that a few people actually still had the "luck o' the Irish" on their side!!

If you missed that trip you have another chance to experience Louisiana cuisine. We will be having a GIANT crawfish boil on April 25th in Kemah along with entertainment by Ben Reyna. Ben performed for our volunteer party last year. Jean-Marie Garcia, who hails from Louisiana, is the activity coordinator.

Our March Happy Hour was held at Carrabba's Italian Grill and we had around 40 people in attendance. Carrabba's provided our group with their own room and the food and service were excellent. Hats (or should I say helmets) off to Carrabba's!

If you missed the great Italian cuisine at Carrabba's you will have another opportunity to sample more delicious Italian food at Ciro's Cibi Italian on April 23rd. I met the new VP of Activities Jo Barrie there a few weeks ago to brief her on her responsibilities for the coming year. We were very impressed with Ciro's Happy Hour and the owner even graciously offered to extend the happy hour to our group until 7:00 p.m. Be sure to join us on their beautiful patio for bites and drinks.

In closing, this will be my last Sitzmarke article, as the new ExCom Officers will take

over in May. I am thankful for the many new friends I have made and I sincerely hope you enjoyed the Happy Hours and activities that were planned with your interests in mind. A BIG "thank you" to all my activity coordinators for the countless hours of time donated to help make Space City Ski and Adventure Club the best organization in Houston. Here's to many more years of "HAVING A BLAST" with my SCSC friends!

Aloha & Mahalo!!



Gayle Dale VP of Activities

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, under the Welcome block.

Membership

Member Profile – Steve Ying

I met Steve Ying on one of my first events with the Space City Ski Club, at a kayaking event. There was a large group of us and Steve spent the first hour organizing the group while running back and forth trying to round up more kayaks. He would speak to us and then hop on a truck, hang on the side of it, all the while yelling while it was trying to pull out to go somewhere. When he returned he had more kayaks. I later found out that he had expected 12 participants and 40 showed up! All I knew was that he was constantly moving, attending to each person's needs and ultimately everyone ended up with a kayak.

I couldn't wait to find out more about him. He said that for most of his childhood he lived across the street from a small ski slope called Boyce Park Ski Area in Monroeville, PA, a suburb of Pittsburgh. It's really

small: 160' vertical. In fact it's so small that even lift tickets today are only \$10. I wouldn't mind that right now! His parents thought the sport was too dangerous so they never allowed him to ski.

In the winter of 1976, his senior year in high school, he was hanging out in the area where kids smoked, talking to a classmate who was upset that his lame parents bought him ski equipment for Christmas. The kid was willing to trade all his new ski equipment for an ounce of smokeable material. Steve was



confident he had made a good deal since an ounce was only worth \$20 back in those days. The next day Steve received the equipment and headed straight for Boyce, and so.....a star is born! When he told his parents that night, surprisingly they weren't upset. They had to agree that skiing was a much better activity than smoking and also agreed that he made a good deal. It turned out that his dad could buy discounted lift tickets for \$4 at work at a slightly larger nearby ski area called Seven Springs. His father got everyone he knew to buy up their employee allotment for his son.

For the next four years at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Steve had unlimited lift tickets. He skied at Seven Springs 2-3 times a week at night after classes. It wasn't until four years later as a senior that he was able to ski during the day. That winter of his senior year he headed to Colorado so he could do more daylight skiing. He bought a 30-day Ameripass on Greyhound which

allowed him to travel anywhere in the country. It was a bad snow season that year, so after several days of skiing, he decided to put his bus pass to the test and travel around. Steve said that is when he learned that a bad season in the West is way better than a good season in the East. He has never taken a ski lesson. A true self-made man!

Steve eventually ended up in Texas. The thing he remembered most about that trip was that the most beautiful girls in the country lived in Texas. After graduation he moved to Houston and has been here ever since.

Like many of us transplants, he didn't give up skiing just because he was in Houston. I think it becomes just another challenge for us. During the 80's before the internet dominated the airline reservation business, Continental Airlines had a hub at the old Stapleton Airport in Denver. He had a travel agent friend who could often find cheap last minute

fares for about \$59. That kept him skiing for a long time, up to a half dozen trips each winter.

Even after marriage and children, he kept skiing. He was on a trip to Ski Apache in Ruidoso in 1992 with his oldest daughter Laura, who was 7 months



old at the time. After arriving he found out they didn't have day-care for infants, so he had to stuff her in his backpack to ski. Now that's what I call a real man! Laura is 23 now and despite growing up in Houston, she is a great snowboarder.

According to Steve "When it comes to that never-ending après-ski debate about the emergence of snowboards, unlike most old skiers, I am pro-snowboard. I feel it is saving our industry. That reminds me of a story about my younger daughter, Allie, who like most teenagers was a snowboarder. It was March 2008 and as usual, we were headed to Colorado for Spring Break when I heard the news that Hell was about to freeze over because Taos was going to start allowing snowboarding. So we abruptly changed plans and headed to Taos. The only hitch was that the kids had to rent skis for the first couple days of that week before the Epic Day. The night before they opened the slopes up for snowboarding, Allie told me she didn't want to board. I couldn't believe my ears after driving 18 hours to get there. But she quickly calmed my anger by telling me she didn't want to ride, she wanted to ski. She said that after skiing the bumps, the glades and the double blacks with her old Dad, she remembered how much fun it was. She said she never could have done that on a board. That was probably the greatest day of my adult-skiing life. Allie is 21 now and surpassed her old man on the slopes years ago."

Steve joined the Space City Ski Club in 2008 and has been taking 2 or 3 trips a year with the Club ever since. He says he can't believe that it took him so long to find this really great group of skier friends in Houston. Steve enjoys the camaraderie and was the ATC for Jackson Hole (his personal favorite ski resort) last year and most recently was the TC for

Breckenridge this year. Snow skiing is his favorite activity. "I still love pounding the bumps - the steeper the better. I find it totally exhilarating to fly down a mountain at 50 mph with no engine. I also like kayaking, in-line skating and backpacking, which I think is a great way to enjoy the mountains when there is no snow. There is something that I do love more than skiing - I love my daughters and my soon-to-be wife Jeanne-Marie. She's not a skier but she is very supportive. I just finished my 40th ski season and am looking forward to the next 40 years on the slopes."

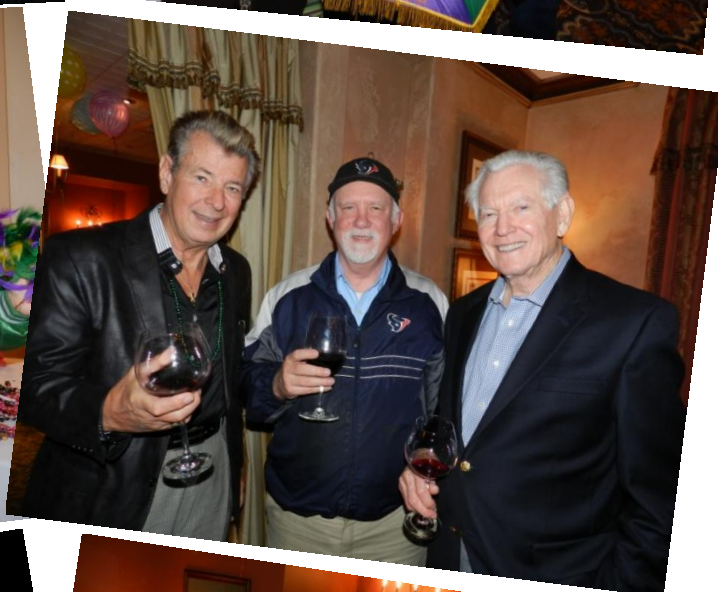
If you haven't met Steve, he and Jeanne-Marie will be cooking at the Crawfish Boil. He informed me that crawfish is an Asian-Cajun specialty so he and Jeanne-Marie will be in harmony with their heritage and I know we are in for a real treat.



Ali Pethick
VP of Membership

Member's Corner





Photos by Ron Hayes

Our Leadership Team 2014-2015

President	-	Melinda Hughes	president@spacecity.org
VP of Activities	-	Gayle Dale	activities@spacecity.org
VP of Trips	-	Jim Hodges	trips@spacecity.org
VP of Membership	-	Ali Pethick	membership@spacecity.org
VP of Marketing	-	Bobby Goel	marketing@spacecity.org
Treasurer	-	Marti Turner	treasurer@spacecity.org
Secretary	-	Sandy Fowler	secretary@spacecity.org
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Director of Trips	-	George Lopez	george@spacecity.org
Director of Trips	-	Bill Bomberger	bill@spacecity.org

Our Board of Directors 2014-2015

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Director	-	Ross Baker	ross@spacecity.org
Director	-	Bill Bomberger	bill@spacecity.org
Director	-	David Cone	david@spacecity.org
Director	-	Jan Ferrell	jan@spacecity.org
Director	-	Lynda Meyer	lynda@spacecity.org
Director	-	Ann Rogers	ann@spacecity.org

Space City Ski and Adventure Club is a proud member of **Texas Ski Council** and **National Ski Council Federation**.



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

April Happy Hour

Thursday, April 23th

5:30 – 8:30 pm

Ciro's Italian Grill

9755 Katy Freeway,
Houston, TX 77024
Ph: 713-467-9336



Sitzmarke

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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

GENERAL INQUIRIES

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