



The Sitzmarke

January 2004



Member
Texas Ski
Council

SPACE CITY SKI CLUB

www.spacecity.org

Vol. 37 No. 1

2004
Happy New Year!



Scenes from the Christmas Gala 2003
Benefitting the Sunshine Kids

General Meeting - Note...this is the third Monday

Everyone is Welcome! **January 19 @ 6:30 p.m.** *Bring a Friend!*

**Sock Hop Dance & Downhill Krewe Royal Cake Cutting Ceremony
Cadillac Bar**

Happy Hour - Thursday, January 22
Celebrate the Chinese New Year at Café Chino
6140 Village Parkway

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SITZMARKE

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****Coming Soon****

February 9 General Meeting Country Western Dance

**Wear C&W attire, learn some new dance steps, and
enjoy the tunes from your favorite C&W artists.**

To volunteer and share your ideas, contact Cindy Moore at (713)
984-1060 or lucinda_moore@ev1.net

On the Cover

*Some of the smiling faces and dancing feet at the
2003 Annual Holiday Gala.*

TEXAS SKI COUNCIL SPONSORS

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For the latest ski club info, membership inquiries, and
activities, visit the [SPACE CITY SKI CLUB WEB PAGE](http://www.spacecity.org)

<http://www.spacecity.org>



The Holiday season is drawing to an end. I would like to thank to **Randy Kratz** and the rest of his crew for the great Holiday Gala. Now it is time to focus on vacation, vacation, vacation. The slopes are drenched in snow so in 2004 we can put on a great show.

This month the trips are fabulous, ranging from Beaver Creek to Sun Peaks to Chamonix. Check out the

trip schedule on page 6 and who knows, if you are a late decision maker, you just might find an open spot. Go for it and join the hundreds of club members who have committed

to a trip and make 2004 your best year ever.

The Trip Coordinators and Assistant Trip Coordinators have done a phenomenal job this year ensuring each trips success. Thanks to all of their hard work. Keep posted to your monthly Sitzmarke so you can learn of the fun filled stories recapping each trip.

This month is also packed full of fun with the HP Marathon, the Happy Hour and Laser Tag. Check out the Activity List, call some friends and get your calendar booked.

Do not forget, we need your help to make this club the best. Be part of the fun and bring yourself and ask your friends to join and volunteer, volunteer, volunteer.

****Get your golf ball; ready**** **Golf Tournament** **April 25, 2004**

Come out and play golf. Time, location and price to be determined. Keep an eye on the Calendar of Events; for more information!

AC Jeff Sarff (713) 853-2327 jeffsarff@dhja.com

AAC Ted Bergeron (713) 880-3946 tedb@houston.rr.com

Thank you Fast Eddie's for hosting **SCSC's 1st Annual Pool Tournament** **Thursday, November 20**



6306 Richmond Ave

(between Fountain View and Hillcroft)

(713) 952-9628

Coming in February Sitzmarke...all the details, trophy winners, and photos of the Pool Tournament

Join your SCSC friends in the
BAD BLADES ROLLERBLADE GROUP

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Donna Kidwell, CRS, CRB
Broker Associate



Kayleen Kill and past President, John Rice, at the Holiday Gala



President, Dawn, and her husband, Ron, at the Holiday Gala

SUPERBOWL RENTAL

2/2.5 Townhome, walk to the game/Rice Village, garage, pool, 2 fireplaces, 3 night minimum, \$500/night. Call Carmen at (713) 664-7522

SCSC'S CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

JANUARY 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

8 YNM Mixer-Belvedere
 18..... Marathon Volunteering (pg 10)
 19..... SCSC General Meeting
 22..... Happy Hour-Café Chino
 25..... Laser Tag (pg 10)

FEBRUARY 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29						

5 Radio Music Theater (pg 10)
 9 SCSC General Meeting
 13-15 Mardi Gras Galveston (pg 10)
 19 Happy Hour-Drink Houston (pg 14)
 20 YNM Mixer-Wild West (pg 14)

MARCH 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

2..... Rodeo (pg 10)
 6..... Game Night (pg 12)
 8..... SCSC General Meeting
 11.... YNM Mixer-Jalapeno's (pg 14)
 25 Happy Hour-Cabo (pg 14)

GENERAL MEETING

Monday, January 19 @ 6:30 p.m.
 (NOTE - 3rd Monday)



Cadillac Bar
 1802 Shepherd (@ I-10)
 (713) 862-2020

Laredo Room - Doors open 6:30 p.m.
 Located behind restaurant
 (use separate entrance)

AGENDA:

SOCK HOP DANCE

**Featuring Rock n' Roll Music in honor of 2004
 Mardi Gras**

**Have fun and dress in 50s style clothing for the
 sock hop! Who is the "King" of Rock n' Roll?**

**Cake cutting ceremony to choose the Downhill
 Krewe Royal Court**

Wear your beads or catch new ones

TRIP AND ACTIVITY SIGN-UP

YNM MIXER

Thursday, January 8 @ 5:30 p.m.

Belvedere



1331-01 Uptown Park Blvd
 (located in Uptown Park Center
 between Memorial and Post Oak)

(713) 552-9271

**Sheik, upscale, yet comfortable with 12
 screens. This is the "happening" place to be.
 No jeans after 8 p.m. Dress business casual.**

Mixer Guidelines:

1. All SCSC members 45 years of age or younger are encouraged to attend and bring at least one prospective new member age 45 or under.
2. SCSC members over 45 welcome, as long as you bring two prospective members age 45 or under.
3. No one will be carded. If your guest can pass for 45 or younger...bring them on!

HAPPY HOUR

**Join the celebration of the Chinese New Year!
 Thursday, January 22 @ 5:30 p.m.**

Café Chino

6140 Village Parkway
 (Rice Village, 1 block East of Kirby)
 (713) 524-4433



**Free appetizers from this award winning Chinese
 restaurant, beer and wine specials. Parking in
 the lot and also on the roof.**



The ski season is now in full swing. This is the time that we prepare for all year. We work out daily just to make sure that our ski legs are ready for those skilicious slopes on the crisp sunny days. We get our equipment in order, and now is the time to put it all together and pack up all our snow goodies for the slopes. The airlines have gotten strict in the number, size and weight of stuff they will allow you to take, so let's take a minute and let me share with you some packing suggestions.

First and foremost is your equipment. For skis and boards you can use a soft case or a hard case. I prefer the hard case for two reasons, you don't have to worry about your stuff getting banged and bent up, and there is lots of room to surround your equipment with socks, sweaters and stuff that will allow you to reduce the stuff that needs to go in a suitcase, so you can use a smaller suitcase. The hard cases are available to accommodate a single set of skis and poles, two sets of skis and poles, or a board case. The really cool thing about a board case is that it actually can accommodate both a board and skis in case you are like me and go both ways.

For carry-on luggage, I strongly suggest that you carry on your boots. If everything gets lost or delayed, you can still ski or board and won't have to endure the pain of rental boots. A boot bag that has wheels and converts to a backpack is the ultimate. In the boot bag, stuff in your ski socks, gloves, thermals goggles, hat, and if you carry or wear your ski jacket on the plane, you are assured of being able to hit the slopes whether the rest of your stuff does or not.

Oh yeah, don't pack your drivers license, passport or ticket, that needs to go in your carry-on or in your wallet or pocket. A neck wallet is really good for this.

Now, unless you are **Chip Stokes** and plan to wear your tuxedo on the ski trip, you should really consider leaving all dressy stuff and non-essentials behind. All of the TCs have packing lists that they can provide to you. I know that in the

past I have packed three or four sweaters on trips only to find that I only wore two. So I ended up schlupping more stuff than I needed to. I totally want to save my strength for the white stuff and not for being a pack mule in some airport, so really, really concentrate on only bringing what you can carry by yourself, easily. If you bring a ski case (a boot bag that converts to a backpack), you can usually manage one bag with wheels, so limit yourself to that. You don't need four pairs of sunglasses, you don't need four different outfits, you don't need fifteen socks, you don't need high heels, and, sorry, Chip, but you don't really need a tux. Your classy attitude will just have to say it all for you. What you do need is some really great goggles, one or two hot outfits, the right boots, a good hat or two, gloves (two pairs), thermals, and seriously consider a helmet.

So my final advice is pack light, pack right, forget the fluff, and save your strength for the slopes. By the way have you ever seen the size of **Roger Holzman's** suitcase?

We still have openings on Beaver Creek, Sun Peaks, and Chamonix, and we are expanding Kimberley-Fernie.

Packing check list

Only two checked and one carry-on bags are allowed. Everything must fit in three bags, including your skis and boots. You need to be able to carry your luggage yourself, if needed.

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| * Skis, poles & boots | * Snowboard |
| * Ski jacket or parka | * Ski pants or bibs |
| * Gloves | * Glove liners |
| * Ski socks | * Turtleneck |
| * Thermal first layer | * Hat |
| * Neck gator | * Ski sweater |
| * Fleece insulating layer | * Apres ski boots |
| * Goggles/sunglasses | * Lip balm |
| * Sunscreen (15-35 SPF) | * Apres ski wear |
| * Jeans | * Bathing suit for hot tub |
| * Medication & vitamins | * Shaving kit |
| * Toiletries | * Name tags |
| * Credit cards & money | * Neck wallet or fanny pack |



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Space City Ski Club

2003-2004 Ski Trip Schedule

Dates	Nights/ Ski Days	Trip Destination	Final Payment	Trip Price	TC ATC (DOT)	Home Phone	E-mail Address
Dec 30-Jan 4, 2003 (Tues—Sun) **CANCELLED**	5/4 Hotel	TAOS New Mexico Family Optional	10/23/03	\$699 L\$399	Rebecca Maitland (LG)	281-498-4457	ladymaitland@msn.com
Jan 10-17, 2004 (Sat—Sat)	7/6 Hotel	BEAVER CREEK I Colorado (TSC Traditional)	11/01/03	\$999 L\$737	Susan Blome Thuy Tran Jeri Wilson (RH)	713-680-1349 713-520-9088 713-869-0996	sgblome@shellopus.com tran@kmg.com jeri.wilson@shell.com
Jan 13-18, 2004 (Tues—Sun)	5/4 Condo	BEAVER CREEK II Colorado (TSC Traditional)	11/01/03	\$848 L\$619			
Jan 24-31, 2004 (Sat—Sat)	7/6 Hotel	SUN PEAKS Canada	11/10/03	\$877 L\$482	Ladye Freitag Leslie Caldwell (LG)	281-855-4110 832-251-1296	ladye.h.freitag@exxonmobil.com lescaldwell@peakpeak.com
Jan 30-Feb 7, 2004 (Fri—Sat)	7/6 Hotel	CHAMONIX France (TSC Expedition)	11/17/03	\$1,518	Penny Chancey Carmen Mikhail (RH)	713-686-4863 713-664-7522	pschancey@msn.com mikhail@bcm.tmc.edu
Feb 7-14, 2004 (Sat—Sat) **SOLD OUT**	7/6 Condo	TELLURIDE Colorado	12/08/03	\$963 L\$659	Carol Cain Jeannine Jiral (LG)	713-665-8121 281-930-8472	cainsug@aol.com jeannine@ev1.net
TBA **CANCELLED**	5/4	WOLF CREEK Colorado		TBA	John Cook (LG)	281-999-2262	j-e-c@att.net
Feb 21-28, 2004 (Sat—Sat)	7/6 Condo	KIMBERLEY-FERNIE Canada (TSC Winter Shootout)	12/08/03	\$843	Jerry Montgomery David Eickhoff (RH)	281-437-5467 832-593-7620	the.monts@worldnet.att.net eickhoff@hal-pc.org
Mar 13-20, 2004 (Sat--Sat) **SOLD OUT**	7/6 Hotel	BIG SKY* Montana (TSC Final Showdown)	11/24/03	\$1,086 L\$621	Hope Flynn Pat Piech (LG)	713-621-5990 832-513-7009	hflynn@kathyandrews.com ppiech@ikon.com
TBA (March 2004)	5/4	END OF SEASON Best Snow-Best Buy		TBA	TBA		Contact DOT - Lori Gilliland to Volunteer to lead this trip 281-493-3060 lcgilliland@att.net

* Family Optional

Vice President of Trips

Christine March (CM)
(281) 491-1129

christine.a.march@usdoj.gov

Director of Trips

Lori Gilliland (LG)
(281) 493-3060
lcgilliland@att.net

Trips identified as ****SOLD OUT**** have reached their maximum number of participants and have begun wait lists. If the trip you are interested in is sold out, check the other trips that still have openings or contact the TC of the sold out trip to get on their wait list.

Director of Trips

Roger Holzman (RH)
(713) 461-7604
RogHolzman@aol.com



It's nice and cold now and although skiing is on your mind, don't forget about our warm, indoor activities we have planned to entertain you! Plan to sign up for some of these at the next general meeting or happy hour.

The Live and Silent Auctions reaped almost \$8,000 for the Sunshine Kids. Thanks to **Melanie Morin, Judy Schiro** and **Randy Kratz** for all their hard work on the Gala/Silent Auction. Thanks to **Leona Schroeder, Ina Picarello** and **Ana Hnat** for organizing the Live Auction. Thanks to **Chip Stokes** for auctioneering and to all the donors and bidders.

Speaking of happy hours, **Chip Stokes** did a fantastic job of working with our now favorite billiards party place, **Fast Eddie's World Class Billiards** at 6306 Richmond Ave. Together they organized a top notch free pool tournament with a total of 9 beautiful trophies. I would personally like to thank Fast Eddie's for their generosity in donating these trophies, the free pool, and the limitless free appetizers.

The **Gala** and the December meeting **Sunshine Kids Live Auction** were both successes. We thank all of those whose hard work paid off for this event. The January meeting will be an exciting blend of Mardi Gras King's cake cutting, Mardi Gras Royalty crowning, and a Rock n' Roll dance to kick off the Rock n' Roll theme of this year's Mardi Gras. Time is getting short to sign up for the February 13 through 15 Mardi Gras extravaganza, so



Judy Schiro, Randy Kratz & Melanie Morin

contact **Linda Licarione** to join the **Downhill Krewe**, participate in the parade, and other activities. Plan now to attend the February general meeting, which will feature free country western dance with lessons and live music sounds of Angela Peterson.

If you aren't going to Beaver Creek, sign up for Mile 23 volunteering for the **HP Houston Marathon** on January 18, 2004. At this event, we will have great music provided by a disk jockey, and the ski club will be providing "adult beverages" for those who volunteer. There will also be a **Wall Committee** meeting/social on January 15, 2004 at **The Outback Pub** and a post-Wall party following the marathon. Throw in the free T-shirt and ticket to the all-volunteer banquet that you will receive, and there is no excuse to miss this fun-packed event!

If you aren't going to Sun Peaks, you will be in town to attend the ever-popular **Laser Tag** activity, headed up by **Steve Amy**, on January 25. This laser adventure includes prizes, food, wine, and beer, and always fills up quickly.

If you aren't going to Chamonix, France don't miss the hilarious **Radio Music Theatre** production of "**The Birthday from Hell**." It is on Thursday, February 5, 2004 with **Peggy Schillinger** at the helm. Contact her for details and to sign up.

We have to modify plans for the **Beach Bash** due to a Galveston area conflict with our April date. **Ellen** has a grand idea about combining a Beach Bash weekend with the AIA Sand Castle Competition on June 5. She is currently working with the chairman of the event to come up with volunteer activities for SCSC. If you would like to assist in planning this weekend, contact Ellen. Happy New Year and a Great Ski Season to all of you!

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4040 Milam * (713) 524-9932

POST OAK YMCA

1331 Augusta Dr * (713) 781-1061

TRK FITNESS CENTER

4676 Beechnut * (713) 667-7072

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Event (Cost/Final Payment)	Coordinator	Phone	E-mail/Address
JANUARY 2004				
1/8	YNM Mixer-Belvedere		(713) 552-9271	1131-01 Uptown Park Blvd
1/18	HP Houston Marathon Volunteering	Bob Horan	(281) 222-8563	R_Horan_2@hotmail.com
1/19	SCSC Meeting-Cadillac Bar-Mardi Gras/Choosing Royal Court/Dance		(713) 862-2020	1802 Shepherd Dr
1/22	SCSC Happy Hour-Café Chino-Celebrate the Chinese New Year!		(713) 524-4433	6140 Village Parkway
1/25	Laser Tag (\$28/Jan. 19)	Steve Amy	(281) 870-0762	samy@oie.oceaneering.com
FEBRUARY 2004				
2/5	Radio Music Theatre (\$18/Jan. 19)	Peggy Schillinger	(281) 859-0232	
2/9	SCSC Meeting-Cadillac Bar-Country Western Dance and Lessons		(713) 862-2020	1802 Shepherd Dr
2/13-15	Mardi Gras Galveston (\$53/Jan. 22)	Linda Licarione	(713) 468-2816	LLicarione@aol.com
2/19	SCSC Happy Hour-Drink Houston		(713) 290-0041	7620 Katy Freeway
2/20	YNM Mixer-Wild West		(713) 266-3455	6101 Richmond Ave
MARCH 2004				
3/2	Rodeo (\$16/Feb. 9)	Mary Kay Kitchens	(281) 558-9736	mkitchens327@aol.com
3/6	Game Night (\$15/Feb. 9)	Jose Araujo	(713) 541-6838	joseangel888@hotmail.com
3/8	SCSC Meeting-Cadillac Bar		(713) 862-2020	1802 Shepherd Dr
3/11	YNM Mixer-Jalapeno's		(713) 524-1668	2702 Kirby
3/25	SCSC Happy Hour-Cabo Mix-Mex Grill		(713) 780-2744	6025 Richmond
APRIL 2004				
4/2-4	TSC Bid Meeting			
4/12	SCSC Meeting-Cadillac Bar		(713) 862-2020	1802 Shepherd Dr
4/15	SCSC Happy Hour-The Outback Pub		(713) 780-2392	3100 Fountainview
4/17	Tennis Tournament-TBA*	Steven Teoh	(713) 478-0345	steveteoh@remax.net
4/25	Golf Tournament-TBA*	Jeff Sarff	(713) 853-2327	jeffsarff@dhja.com

(FO) =Family Optional * Subject to Approval, date tentative

If you have an idea for an activity or would like to volunteer to be an AC or AAC, contact VP-Programs, Cindy Moore (713) 984-1060 lucinda_moore@ev1.net or Director of Programs, Ellen Eastham (281) 989-9935 eeastham@panhandleenergy.com. For more information or to pass on ideas about the happy hours, contact Cindy Moore (713) 984-1060 lucinda_moore@ev1.net. For more information about Young & New Member Mixers (YNM Mixers), contact Bruce Lowther (713) 785-5196 rblowt@bal-pc.org.

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Houston, Texas 77055-4415

DAVID CONE - AUDITOR

Barbara Belzung and I joined the Space City Ski Club several years ago, as we had several friends that belonged who were always talking about how much of a good time they had at the variety of activities the club sponsored. Besides the ski trips that you would expect, there are plenty of other activities to keep us all busy throughout the whole year.

I was born in Winslow, Arizona (made famous not only for my birth, but also from the Eagles hit song "Take It Easy" – "Standing on the Corner in Winslow, Arizona"). I received a Degree in Petroleum Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines and later, an MBA from the California State University at Long Beach.

Being associated with the oil and gas industry, it was only a matter of time before I arrived in Houston, doing "energy lending" for United California Bank and later Barclays Bank International Limited. For the past 10+ years I have been consultant primarily to the oil and gas industry, and am now trying my hand at Mortgage Lending. I have one daughter and three grandchildren who all live in California, and I only wish that they all lived closer.

My skiing has been mainly in Colorado – Aspen, Vail, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge, Keystone, Loveland, and Copper Mountain. Although I was already 30 when I learned to ski, I was very fortunate to have been taught by a friend who was a former Norwegian Olympic skier.

My other main hobby is golf. I have been very privileged to have had the opportunities to play courses throughout Texas, California, Arizona, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Virginia, Colorado, Utah, Hawaii, Mexico, England, and Scotland. I have gone through several travel bags, but it is always worth it.

I also give my time to the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo. I have been a member for 15 years. I have also been involved in the Rodeo Express Committee (Park and Ride) and the Speakers Committee.

I meet such wonderful and fun people in SCSC during each activity, trip, and meeting that I attend.

I am looking forward to working with the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of the Space City Ski Club as its Auditor.



2003 Holiday Gala



DON'T MISS OUT ON THESE ACTIVITIES...

LASER QUEST

Sunday, January 25, 2004

Cost \$28

Final Payment Date: January 19

13711 Westheimer Rd

(between Dairy Ashford and Eldridge)

Includes 3 games of laser tag, food and beverages

AC Steve Amy (281) 870-0762 samy@oie.oceaneering.com

VOLUNTEER FOR THE 2004 HP HOUSTON MARATHON

Sunday, January 18, 2004

The event is free and includes: Two Parties/ Meetings, post race party on race day, a pass to the All-Volunteer BBQ banquet, and a free t-shirt.

Volunteers are out on the Marathon course on Marathon Day, January 18. They provide assistance and support to the runners. Additional benefits of volunteering: Free breakfast and parties, the smiles and thanks from the runners as they come by, and meeting new people and fellow volunteers



AC Bob Horan (281) 337-7424 ext 118 (wk), (281) 222-8563 (cell)
R_Horan_2@hotmail.com

Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo

Tuesday, March 2, 2004

Cost \$16

Final Payment Date: February 9, 2004

Join us on opening night for a special performance by musical performer, John Mayer. Reserve your tickets today!



AC Mary Kay Kitchens (281) 558-9736 mkitchens327@aol.com

2004 GALVESTON MARDI GRAS DOWNHILL KREWE

"LET'S ROCK N' ROLL"

February 13 - 15, 2004

Cost \$53

Final Payment Date: January 22

The Downhill Krewe is a registered Krewe for SCSC!

Join now to participate in the Galveston Mardi Gras 2004 Festivities!



Weekend includes: February 14 pre-parade tailgate party, 2 Krewe Procession parade package with a t-shirt and beads, and Saturday evening parade viewing party!

Various other weekend activities are optional, such as hotel accommodations, meals and other parties!

Also see www.mardigrasgalveston.com!

Contact Linda for more DETAILS! Join DK prior to the January 19 meeting to participate in the Royal Cake Cutting Ceremony!

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EVENT REPORT - KEYSTONE RACE REPORT

By Bob Wray



The day after Thanksgiving was TSC race day at Keystone, and the only Division I clubs attending Fall Roundup were Space City and Lone Star. As usual, our northern nemesis had assembled a large cadre of huge, hulking behemoths, but our race director, **Craig Campbell**, had also put together an awesome group of 22 committed SCSC racers, led by our very own TC, **Janet McKenzie**. During a solemn ceremony, with our right hands resting on 2½ inch thick copies of the TSC Race Rules and Regulations, we were sworn to uphold the honor of Space City. We ended with a rousing cheer of “Give us victory, or give us...turkey without gravy!”

Incredibly, records were broken before we even started racing, as 16 SCSC racers actually showed up at the right place and at the right time. Janet was apparently suffering from a bad case of “TC pressure” – “I don’t care if I win a medal or not...I have to make a bus reservation for tomorrow...just let me get down the course safely...did anyone tell Evan where the race is...I wonder if Christie brought the banner...” – so we all agreed to let her go first. Since she was racing out of sequence, there was no one on the blue course (thank goodness) as our intrepid racer blasted around the first two gates and flew down the rest of the red course, finishing with an “absolutely” fantastic time of 25.16 seconds. Someone thought they heard an “Oh, sh...” coming from the direction of the racecourse, but it was probably just the wind. A few people were wondering aloud why the course had been set up with such an unusual pattern for the first two gates, but we all agreed that none of us had the technical skills to duplicate Janet’s line. The rest of us were forced to settle for the traditional (but much slower) line that took us back and forth around each gate.

Dennis Newell was our (second) fastest racer, with a time of 26.58 – good for a Nastar silver medal. Other silver medal winners were **Marti Turner**, **Keith Kirkman**, **George Hirasaki**, **Nelson Turner**, **Bob Wray** and **Jeff Sarff**. Bronze metals were earned by **Nat Nouel**, **Darlene Hirasaki**, **Tim Malone**, **Evan Lowe**, **Jose Araujo**, **David Pryce** and **Roger Holzman**. Roger said that this was the first medal he had received in over ten years, so it was appropriate that he won a

new helmet as a door prize at the awards dinner the next night. We also had one person DQ, but we agreed to go easy on her, so her name won’t be revealed until the end of this article. (Let’s hope our Sitzmarke editor doesn’t think this article is too long.) The astute reader, however, may determine the identity of this individual by reading between the lines, or perhaps I should say by reading “between the gates.”

The individual races were held two hours later, to give the race crew time to reset the course by moving each gate about 4 inches closer to Denver. We all expected George to place first in the Super Senior Men’s category when he showed up wearing his oxygen machine strapped to his back. Unfortunately, the sight of this made a certain Lone Star Super Senior turn green around the gills, and he insisted that he be allowed to return to his hotel for an equipment change so that he could race with his oxygen machine too. Well, not wanting to hold everyone up, George agreed to run a naturally aspirated race – what a gentleman – and he received a Nastar gold for two great runs. Nelson also received gold for his performance, and guess what – one of our Senior Women (30-39??) also received a gold medal for two “absolutely” awesome runs. As a matter of fact, her combined run total was 3 seconds less than her closest competitor from ALL clubs, so at the awards dinner Saturday night she received another gold medal – the BIG one! Yes, it was our very own TC...oh wait, you’ll have to continue reading to the end of this article to find out who it was. The rest of our individual racers all received silver medals: Dennis (best time for our club once again, but he’s still a kid so he doesn’t get gold), Keith, Evan and Jose. Great job guys! The results of the club competition were also announced at the awards dinner. We finished a very strong second with 794 points. Lone Star just barely managed to eke out a victory with 1,092 points – we’ll catch them at Beaver Creek!

I know you’re anxious to get to the end of this article to find out the identities of our mysterious female racers who DQ’d and received the BIG medal (is it possible that it could even be the same person??), so we’ll wrap things up by explaining the Nastar handicapping system and presenting highlights of the Nastar national and regional pacesetting trials from 1968 through 2002. However, we first need to discuss the appropriate use of the term “parabolic” with respect to ski design. Now the general form of a parabolic surface in two-dimensional space can be given by any second-order polynomial equation of the form $y = ax^2 + bx + c$. As you remember from high school, this equation can always be solved for real and/or imaginary values of x by using the quadratic formula. The history of this formula is interesting in that its origin is often attributed to the Old-Babylonians (ca. 1700 BC), but in Vedic (ancient Hindu religion) manuscripts, there are procedures described for solving ... (to be continued?)

EVENT REPORT - SOUTH SHORE DOCKSIDE FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL

By Leyla Ozkardesh

It was a weather perfect day for the upscale event, South Shore Dockside Food & Wine Festival held on October 11 in League City. A group followed our AC, **Dan Petersen**, around the festival grounds and throughout the day saw various people from SCSC exploring. As the group wandered, we visited the vendor booths, the yacht and classic car displays, the demonstrations, and, especially, the wine tents. The entry ticket provided us with free wine tasting tickets and a souvenir wine glass, which for some of us stayed full much of the day. It was quite fun to scout out the different tents to taste the wines of the designated regions. We began at the Kangaroo tent, which housed the Australian wines, and made our way to the other tents, which featured wines from Spain, Italy, Texas, and other areas of North America.

The festival featured distinctive cuisine, and there was a wide assortment of food available at all the tents. We were treated to a scrumptious gourmet meal while watching one of the culinary demonstrations of Chef Paul. The Grape Stomp contest caught our attention, as did the ice carving demonstration. Several musical acts from the Main stage kept

music in the air as our group meandered through the booths. A few ladies enjoyed shopping at the vendor booths, finding pretty, unique jewelry and accessories. The group leisurely strolled through the high performance boat and luxury yacht display, and we were tempted to buy one of the yachts we toured. However, money was an issue when the price of yacht sales was considered.

Those of us who stayed through the evening were treated to several events. The "Fleur De Lis Fashion Show" was quite enjoyable as we watched specially-chosen local residents to include League City officials, dress up in evening retro fashions from the 50s. Hairstyles and jewelry were created to match the era. Infinite Groove, an 11-piece band, provided several evening hours of fabulous music. The crowd danced to their tunes in the aisles.

For the evening grand finale, a spectacular laser-light show. The light rays floated in the air just above our heads, almost tangible, as they made contact with the buildings showing off their intricate designs. So cool. A nice day was had by all.



Group enjoys Australian wines with the Kangaroo



Vintage Car



Grape Stomp Competition

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4:30 p.m.

Cost \$15

Final Payment Date: February 9

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Infinite Groove playing tunes for the crowd



Vintage Fashion Show

ANNOUNCEMENTS - BE PART OF THE EXCITEMENT!

SCSC Follies at the May General Meeting May 17, 2004



Here is your chance to be a star! Neither Peggy Montgomery, nor Marsha Lutz can commit to being the director, but they are both on the steering committee for The Follies this year.

Contact **Peggy** at (281) 437-5467 the.monts@att.net or **Marsha** at (281) 870-9724 Marsha.lutz@erm.com to sign up to be a part of this fabulous SCSC theatrical production from the very beginning!

We need your commitment to act as the artists, musicians, singers, writers, creative geniuses, and, of course, actors of this fun and wild event.

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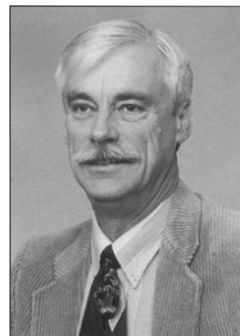
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EVENT REPORT - FUNWERKS

By Diane Baker

On Sunday, November 2 about twenty people arrived at FUNWERKS for an afternoon of sensational fun. This place, formerly known as the Malibu Grand Prix, is more than just a racetrack. It's a multi-attraction Entertainment Center!

Miniature golf proved to be very popular with the group. **David Eickhoff** and his daughter, **Emily**, were first on the course. They were soon followed by **Bill Bomberger** and **Cindy Moore**. Cindy beat Bill by one stroke in both rounds, while **Ross Baker** was taught alternative golf rules by sons, **Matthew** and **Andrew**. These rules were tough to follow and Ross lost both rounds of golf to the boys.

Thuy Tran and her daughters, **Rachel** and **Kendall**, enjoyed the bumper boats along with **Ellen Eastham** and her daughters, **Jessica**, **Jennifer**, and **Mackenzie Bush**. Jessica and Jennifer also loved speeding around the Grand Prix race track, while 8 year-old, Mackenzie, held on tightly to her mom Ellen as she drove around the circuit fast and crazy. While most everyone seemed challenged with the demanding half-

mile Malibu Race Circuit, speed demon, Bill, thought the race cars were slow compared to the formula race cars at Texas Motor Speedway, where he easily clocks speeds of 130 mph!

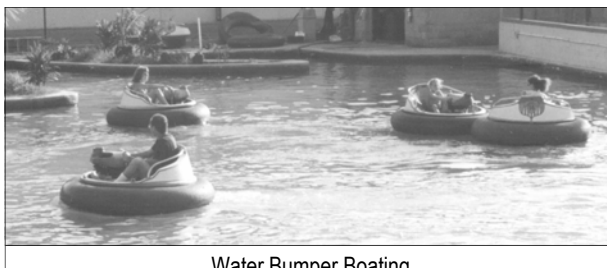
Everyone enjoyed the many **fun** things to do at Funwerks. The arcade/game room was another favorite amongst our group. It seemed all the participants, both young and old, liked winning tickets in the machines and then cashing them in for great prizes to take home.

November 2 was also a special day for Mackenzie Bush as she celebrated her 8th birthday at Funwerks. She shared a delicious cake with the group as we all sang Happy Birthday to her.

This proved to be an exciting venue for those who attended since there was a variety of fast-paced activities for adults and children, both on and off the race track. Funwerks was indeed a great destination for a SCSC family activity. Others who attended included **Sharon Simandl**, **MaryAnn Harrell**, and newlyweds, **Jerry** and **Lida Sadler**.



Cindy, Bill, Jennifer, Mackenzie, and Jessica playing golf



Water Bumper Boating



Bill ready to put the pedal to the medal



Jennifer ready for racing



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David, Emily join Thuy, Kendall, & Rachel golfing

Upcoming February & March Happy Hours (all 5:30 to 8 p.m.)

SCSC Happy Hour: Thursday, February 19, DRINK HOUSTON, 7620 Katy Freeway in the Marq*E Center (713) 290-0041, In the 80's room, Free dinner buffet, free drink ticket, free cover, and drink specials (\$3 u-call-its, subject to change).

YNM Mixer: Friday, February 20, WILD WEST, 6101 Richmond (713) 266-3455, Free appetizer buffet, \$1 u-call-its, No Cover until 8 p.m.

YNM Mixer: Thursday, March 11, JALAPENO'S, 2702 Kirby (713) 524-1668, Free buffet, happy hour prices.

SCSC Happy Hour: Thursday, March 25, CABO MIX-MEX GRILL, 6025 Richmond (near Fountain View) (713) 780-2744, Free appetizer buffet, most drinks \$3 until 7 p.m.

EVENT REPORT - COMEDYSPORTZ

By Patrick Reinhardt

Pat Reinhardt, Patti Maudslay, Cindy Moore, Roger Holzman, Dawn Rodriguez, Ron Rodriguez, Cheryl May, Walter May, Craig Campbell, Glenn Youngblood, Gonul Youngblood, Bill Bomberger, David Cone, Barbara Belzung, Richard Watson, David Eickhoff, Thuy Tran, Tor Lileng, Bruce Lowther, Cathy Emery and Mark Emery braved the whips and puns of the **ComedySportz** dueling teams. Seven rounds of fierce, verbal mime and slapstick left our ribs aching from laughter. When the referee asked for an audience member to volunteer to participate in Mr. Know-It-All, Cindy climbed over Christine, Richard, Patti, Cheryl, Walter, and chairs with reckless abandon to be the first volunteer. Cindy was laughing so hard on stage that tears were streaming down her face. Scores were kept of the two teams (Chuckle Heads versus Wise Guys) after each round. The ref chose Dawn to be the scorekeeper (our very own Vanna White!). After each Comedy face-off she would add or subtract the appropriate score on the stage scoreboard. It only took Dawn two or three attempts to register the correct score. She got better as the games proceeded and beers were downed. All SCSC participants

benefited from the bartending services of Pat and Bruce as they passed the beer and wine as requested to the bunch. David, Barbara, Glenn, and Gonul appreciated nice wine served in the finest plastic wine glasses available. When it was time for the audience to vote on the winner of the team challenge games, three participants were selected from the audience, one being Ron. He got plenty of suggestions on how to vote from some of our group poking him in the shoulders often. ComedySportz's puns, gags and slapstick entertained us royally as we had our fill of SCSC's seemingly never ending supply of beer and wine.

After the show, six hungry participants (including me) went to Collina's for dinner. We were thrilled we could legally bring our own bottles of wine in! Most of us feasted on pasta or pizza. By the time we left, all of the chairs had been placed (not so discreetly) on the tables. Okay, we can take a hint! We can definitely say we closed it down.

If you want a good, fun show where you can bring in your own drinks try ComedySportz in the Heights on Friday night. You won't be sorry!



Laura Rowley, VP of Publications

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