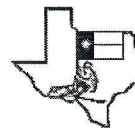




The Sitzmarke

January 2009



Member
Texas Ski
Council

SPACE CITY SKI CLUB

www.spacecityskiclub.org

Vol. 44, No. 8

From Mission Control

by Gary Butler, Space City Ski Club President

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a great New Years party. With 2008 coming to an end we need to start planning on the new year and what will be happening in Space City for the near future. Most of our ski trips will be run over the next 3 months and I am already studying bids for the Texas Ski Council for next year's trips. Let me know if you have a favorite destination that the TSC hasn't visited in a while that you would like to be considered if a bid is submitted. Do you have a summer trip that you want the club and the TSC to consider? Any input helps direct our decisions.

If schedules can fall right we hope the have a couple of

speakers talk about our upcoming summer trip to Panama at the January general meeting. If you have any interest in this trip we hope this will be your best opportunity to get answers. Remember that the Panama trip includes an all-inclusive resort so everything is covered including drinks.

We held the annual Sunshine Kids auctions at our December general meeting and I'm pleased to report that we rose over \$6000. I want to thank all the people and businesses that supplied the auctions items as well as everyone who bid on items. I need to thank those people who volunteered their time to put on this fantastic event, Cheryl May, Walter May, Peggy Montgomery, and Marti Turner.



Space City Ski Club 2008-2009 Executive Committee

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You want to find out what exciting trips and fun activities that your club has to offer by continuing to get your Sitzmarke by print and by email.

1. **Make sure your mailing and email addresses are current** by updating your online membership profile. **PLEASE CORRECT YOUR EMAIL ADDRESSES!!!**
2. Make sure that our email newsletters and email informational blasts are reliably received in your in-box without your filters mistakenly blocking them as "bulk" or "spam".

Please add these email addresses to your computer's email contact list:

vppublications@spacecityskiclub.org
webmaster@spacecityskiclub.org

You may also need to do this at your internet service provider's webmail.

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Having A Blast!

by Camille LaRoe, Vice President of Activities

Welcome to SCSC 2009! We have a couple of great activities planned for January so put these on your calendar between ski trips. A Sunday afternoon of bowling at the Palace Lanes in Bellaire is a great way to catch up with friends in the New Year so join us on January 11th for a fun afternoon. If you have not signed up for this activity and are interested please drop me a note to assure we can accommodate a change in numbers. No reservation necessary however to come and share your new ski tales with us at the January 29th Happy Hour at Champ's at Uptown Park.

February wouldn't be complete without Galveston Mardi Gras! Steve Giesler and Rick Jaeger are once again organizing this great event and as I have said before this is a great opportunity to give Galveston a shot in the arm! We are trying a place new to some of us for Happy Hour in February, Firkin & Phoenix on Westheimer. It is a great central location and, as I recall, a

great assortment of brews and elixirs.

Saturday, March 7th, Craig "Cowpoke" Campbell will be herding us to Rodeo Houston. My sources tell me that they think this first Saturday of Rodeo will have a much sought after entertainer, so best secure a ticket early. TSC Bid Fest will be held again in Dallas, April 17th to 19th.

Come and make your voice heard for the 2009/2010 ski season and enjoy a "mini vacation" just a short jog up the road. Sandy Wellhausen is hoping to put together a "Zipline" adventure in Wimberly in May pending EX-COMM approval. This will be after ski season so no worries of injuries affecting your next ski trip!

We still have many more happy hours to plan and the AIA Sandcastle Competition and Volunteer's Party in June to keep us in touch over the summer. Enjoy your ski trips, but don't forget you can have a blast with your bowling shoes or flip flops on too!



Calendar of Events

January 11, 2009 - Bowling at Palace Lanes, AC: Bill Bomberger/Camille LaRoe

January 19, 2009 - January General Meeting, Dave & Buster's

January 29, 2009 - January Happy Hour at Champ's Uptown Park, AC: Peggy Schillinger

February 9, 2009 - February General Meeting, Dave & Buster's

February 21, 2009 - Mardi Gras Galveston, AC: Steven Giesler

February 26, 2009 - February Happy Hour, Firkin & Phoenix, AC: Peggy Schillinger

March 7, 2009 - Rodeo Houston, AC: Craig Campbell

March 9, 2009 - March General Meeting, Dave & Buster's

March 26, 2009 - Happy Hour to be announced

April 17 - 19, 2009 - TSC Bid Fest - Dallas, TSC Representative: Chuck Pena

Countdown to Liftoff

By Marsha Lutz, Vice President of Trips

Happy New Year!

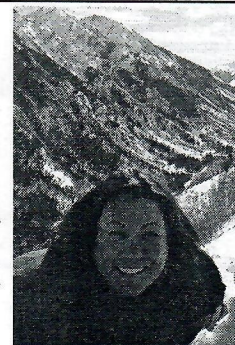
Two of our 10 trips have come and gone from the Colorado Rockies and a good time was had despite Mother Nature not providing as much snow as we would have liked in **Winter Park** and **Vail**. But as I write this I have received two personal reports on snowfalls of 12 - 24 inches over just a few days in Steamboat Springs and Summit County. In fact most of ski areas are reporting snow and more snow. And lucky you - we still have room on most of our remaining 8 trips for those of you that want to ski this season.

Steamboat will be departing just days from now so that one is probably out for this year if you aren't already one of the lucky 52. But **Lake Louise** and **Big Sky** have quite a few openings and as you may have seen in the email blast they both have had a price reduction! We now have 3 openings for **Powder Mountain**, Utah. For about another week, **Japan** could still

work for you late holdouts. **Breckenridge** is full but we might be able to get a foursome added.

As you may have seen in an email blast a few weeks ago, we are trying to fill a couple specific rooms. Well those emails work! We have filled the **Snowmass** spot. We still need a single male for **Three Valleys**. On December 8 they already had 4 feet of packed snow - the best early season conditions in 20 years or more. If you are a ready made foursome or a pair we can probably still add you on Snowmass and Three Valleys, respectively. But don't wait too much longer. The TCs can only handle so much last minute work. They have already been doing an excellent job of managing constantly fluctuating trip sizes!

So check your calendars and take your pick. We would love to add more to our fun-loving ski groups. And if you already have your ski trip plans in place, you might want to start planning a summer vacation. We have a great trip to **Panama** for your consideration. Read Vicki's article in this issue (page 4) or contact her at Vicki.Faulkner@shell.com.



And the Winners Are....

by Nancy Schultz, VP of Membership

Congratulations go out to the winners of this year's "Recruit a New Member and Win!" contest which were announced at the December general meeting. There was a tie for the most new members recruited (3) which was decided by a drawing. Chuck Pena was our top winner, receiving a \$200 credit towards an SCSC ski trip. In the spirit of the meeting's theme, Chuck donated his winnings to the Sunshine Kids Foundation, supporting children with cancer. The two second place winners, Anne Marchetti and Mary Jo Loverdi, were decided by lottery per the

contest rules. Each of these top recruiters won a \$100 credit towards a ski trip and we hope you both enjoy your travels.

Thanks to all the current members who made an effort to get the word out about our club and invited new members to join. Although not eligible for the contest, the TCs and ATCs, who are working so hard to organize all the ski trips, have also signed up many new members by promoting such enticing packages.

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to the more than 30 new members who joined Space City during the 3-month recruiting contest...we're glad to have you!



Space City Ski Club 2008-2009 Trip Schedule

Dates	Trip Destination	Trip Price Full - PP/Cash Land -PP/Cash	TC ATC	Home Phone	E-mail Address
1/10 - 17/09 (Sat - Sat)	STEAMBOAT, CO - I TSC Traditional (Long)	Full - \$1117/1087 Land - \$687/668	Sandra McCunis Edmond McGee	281-463-7717 713-907-2122	semccunis@aol.com edmond.mcgee@sbcglobal.net
1/13 - 18/09 (Tues - Sun)	STEAMBOAT, CO - II TSC Traditional (Short)	Full - \$915/890 Land - \$530/515	Sandra McCunis Sarah Granbery	281-463-7717 713-662-0493	semccunis@aol.com sarahgranbery@sbcglobal.net
1/16 - 25/09 (Fri - Sun)	THREE VALLEYS, FRANCE	Full - \$2081/2024 Land - \$1210/1176	Leslie Caldwell	832-251-1296	lescaldwell@gmail.com
1/24 - 31/09 (Sat - Sun)	JAPAN HAKUBA-NAGANO&TOKYO TSC Winter Expedition	Full - \$3325/3247 Land - \$1693/1651 PRICE INCREASE in 10/08	Ross Baker	713-690-1443	ross@rossbaker.com
1/31 - 2/7/09 (Sat - Sat)	UTAH - POWDER MOUNTAIN	Full - \$956/930 Land - \$540/525 PRICE REDUCTION in 11/08	George Lopez	856-296-9399	GJL_ASTI@yahoo.com
2/7 - 14/09 (Sat - Sat)	SNOWMASS, CO	Full - \$1434/1395 Land - \$1073/1042	Thuy Rocque	281-615-0405	trocque@comcast.net
2/15 - 22/09 (Sun - Sun) Date Change	LAKE LOUISE, CANADA TSC Winter Shootout	Full - \$1593/1549 Land - \$1011/983 PRICE REDUCTION in 12/08	Jessica Halter Dennis Hughes	281-793-1148 713-805-1757	jessicahalter@yahoo.com dwhughes@horizonsurvey.com
2/28 - 3/4/09 (Sat - Wed)	BRECKENRIDGE, CO	Full - \$637/619 Land - \$448/435 PRICE REDUCTION in 9/08	Patti Finch	713-374-3544	finchp@gtlaw.com
3/14 - 21/09 (Sat - Sat)	BIG SKY, MT TSC Final Showdown Family Optional	Full (BIL) - \$1480/1440 Land (BIL) - \$828/805 Land (BZN) - \$812/790 PRICE REDUCTION in 12/08	Cindy Moore Ann Rogers	713-984-1060 281-313-2234	dance_c_ski@yahoo.com rogersae@msn.com
6/28 - 7/5/09 (Sun-Sun)	PANAMA TSC Summer Expedition	Land - \$829/815 Full - waiting on air	Vicki Faulkner Shirley Lang	713- 863-0470 281-218-8515	Vicki.Faulkner@shell.com

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PANAMA

Ready for a summer excursion? We're ready for you to join us on a fun-in-the-sun adventure – the 2009 Summer Expedition to Panama from June 28 to July 5. We'll have the opportunity to celebrate the 4th of July on the Panama Canal!

Top ten reasons to go to Panama with SCSC:

10. Panama is the new yet-to-be-discovered exotic destination, meaning no crowds and reasonable prices.
9. Our lodging, Royal Decameron Beach Resort, overlooking the Pacific Ocean, is very inviting.
<http://www.decameron.com/eng/panama/royal/overview.html>
8. Resort activities include:
 - Tennis courts
 - Beach volleyball
 - Non-motorized watersports – windsurfing, kayaking, snorkeling, sailing
 - Nightly entertainment; shows for adults and children
7. Meals and beverages (including adult!) at the resort are covered in the trip price.
6. The resort also has golf, spa, and casino facilities.
5. Fun, optional excursions go to:
 - The Panama Canal – Pacific entrance to Miraflores Lock
<http://www.pancanal.com/eng/index.html>
 - Panama City – half-day tour of Panama's largest city
<http://www.moon.com/planner/panama/regions/panamacity.html>
 - An indigenous Indian village
 - A jungle boat tour in the rainforest
4. The temperature is the same as Houston at that time of year, which makes packing a snap.
3. The time zone will be the same as Houston, once DST goes into effect next spring, hence no jet lag issues.
2. Simple foreign currency exchange – One Balboa = One US Dollar. Actually, US money is accepted almost everywhere.
1. No foreign language barriers – most Panamanians are bilingual.

And for the 11th reason – Vicki and Shirley know how to have a good time and are fun traveling companions.

Adult Land Package \$839 PayPal / \$815 Cash

Family Optional

Child Land Package (in parent's room) \$116 PayPal / \$114 Cash

Air Cost TBD

\$150 Deposit Due Now

Final Payment March 25, 2009



Trip Coordinator

Vicki Faulkner

713-863-0470

Assistant Trip Coordinator

Shirley Lang

281-218-8515