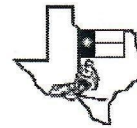




# The Sitzmarke

February, 2009



Member  
Texas Ski  
Council

SPACE CITY SKI CLUB

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

Vol. 44, No. 9

## From Mission Control

by Gary Butler, Space City Ski Club President

It's already getting to be the time of year when the TSC starts looking at next years trips so I thought it would be nice to let you know how the TSC decides which trips win. As part of the Pre-Select Committee we will be studying and rating the 30-40 proposals from various resorts and tour organizers. The 7 members of the committee are made up of representatives from 6 clubs throughout the state and the TSC V. P. or Marketing. We will meet March 7<sup>th</sup> to present our findings and as a group pare down the bids to the top 3-5 per TSC trip. Once this is completed the various parties involved will be notified of the results and the winners will send copies of their proposal to each of the clubs. The clubs will make a preliminary assessment of each proposal before the April 17-19<sup>th</sup> Bid Meeting. At the Bid Meeting we will watch presentations from the bidders Saturday and Sunday. After cussing and discussing as clubs the entire TSC meets Sunday around noon and discuss then vote on each trip until we have winners for each trip. This entire process starts in October and ends in April and includes a ton of work by many people.

All members of TSC clubs are invited to the Bid Meeting that is to be held this year at the Omni Park West Hotel in Dallas April 17-19<sup>th</sup>. I want to encourage our members to be proactive and come to Dallas and see what is going on. Your \$55 activity fee includes the Friday night dessert party, Saturday lunch & dinner/party/Silent Auction as well as the Saturday Ski Show and all the presentations, etc. All members get to participate in the clubs decision on what trips we want to support. There is also an inexpensive golf tournament Friday that matches club members with resort representatives. This is a fun weekend that I recommend to anyone who wants to get more involved. For more information go to <http://www.texas-ski.org/insidetsc/Meetings.htm>.



I want to thank the hard work by the Nominating Committee of **Barb Erlich, Larry Hord, Chuck Pena, Nolan Badeaux, Craig Campbell, and Ellen Eastham**. The February General Meeting will include officer nominations as well as a presentation by Sun & Ski Sports. See you at Dave & Busters.

## Countdown to Liftoff

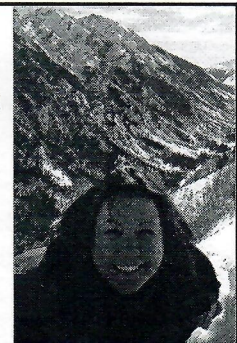
By Marsha Lutz, Vice President of Trips

**Bon Jour!**

Gone skiing at Les Trois Vallees, France.

Last chance for skiing in Lake Louise or Big Sky.

And don't forget about our TSC **Summer Expedition to Panama** from June 28 -July 5. See page 6 of this newsletter for dates, etc. For more details, you can also check out SCSCs website at <http://www.spacecityskiclub.org/>.



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# Having A Blast!

by Camille LaRoe, Vice President of Activities

February is going to be a big month for Galveston and **Mardi Gras**. Steve Geisler and Rick Jaeger are once again hosting the great Zestival Balcony at Trumpets on the Strand, February 21<sup>st</sup>. This venue is heralded as the best way to partake in all of the festivities while having the benefits of a great viewing location from which to toss beads (provided as part of the package), two meals, 4 drinks and best of all restrooms! SCSC has also been invited to join in the **Downhill Krewe Parade** which will be AC'd by Don Macken. Check for more details on the website and give Steve, Rick or Don a call. It is time we all got back to Galveston!

I don't need to tell you March is **Go Rodeo** in Houston. We have secured 20 seats for the Rodeo and entertainer **Trace Adkins** for the first Saturday of Rodeo, March 7<sup>th</sup>. Contact AC, Craig Campbell, to secure your seat and join us for a great afternoon of entertainment, cold beer and midway treats. Stay the evening and throw in some dancing at the Hideout.

Sandy Wellhausen is organizing an incredible day, April 25<sup>th</sup>, to Wimberly for a **Zipline Adventure**. They boast over 2,600 feet of thrilling zipline located a maximum of 100 feet over the hillsides below. Wimberly Zipline promises to be an exciting experience that will definitely give you a big adrenaline rush. Discount reservations are available before March 1<sup>st</sup> so see Sandy now!



Rounding out the year we still have the **AIA Sandcastle Competition** coming up June 6<sup>th</sup> in Galveston. Ellen Eastham has volunteered to start coordinating the activity for us but we really need a volunteer to help us with this always fun event. Please give me a call if you think you might be willing to get some sand between your toes.

Don't forget to make plans to join us at **Bid Fest** on April 17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> in Dallas. It is a great way to get a sneak peek at the 2009/2010 trips and is a fun weekend to boot. Check the website or see Chuck Pena for all the details. Hope to see you there.

## Calendar of Events

January 29	January Happy Hour at Champ's Uptown Park, AC: Peggy Schillinger
February 9	February General Meeting, Dave & Buster's
February 21	Mardi Gras Galveston Balcony Event, AC: Steven Giesler
February 21	Mardi Gras Galveston Parade, AC: Ellen Eastham
February 26	February Happy Hour, Firkin & Phoenix, AC: Peggy Schillinger
March 7	Rodeo Houston, AC: Craig Campbell
March 9	March General Meeting, Dave & Buster's
March 26	Happy Hour to be announced
April 13	April General Meeting, Dave & Buster's
April 17 - 19	TSC Bid Fest - Dallas, TSC Representative: Chuck Pena
April 23	April Happy Hour to be announced
April 25	Wimberley Zip Line Adventure, AC: Sandy Wellhausen
June 6	AIA Sandcastle Competition, AC: Ellen Eastham

### Space City Ski Club 2008-2009 Executive Committee

President	Gary Butler	gbutler@beckmasten.net	281-897-6611
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VP of Membership	Nancy Schultz	ecdnsnws@gmail.com	713-664-7434
VP of Publication	Sandy Wellhausen	sandywp.ski@gmail.com	281-996-8653
Treasurer	David Cone	djcsesc@hal-pc.org	713-521-9741
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Dir. of Trips	Diane Stotz	dianestotz@comcast.net	713-862-9486
Dir. of Trips	Melinda Hughes	melinda@angeloproductions.com	281-859-8024
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Race Director	Robert Wray	robertwray@att.net	713-410-3350
TSC Rep.	Chuck Pena	penaca23@gmail.com	

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Pat Piech, Chairman	Barbara Della Longa	Bill Bomberger
Ellen Eastham	Ross Baker	Leyla Ozarkadesh
Cindy Moore	Sarah Granbery	Ted Widmer

#### SITZMARKE STAFF:

EDITOR: Sandy Wellhausen

PHOTOGRAPHERS: Ron Hayes, Bruce Lowther

### WE WANT YOU

#### To Reliably Receive Your Sitzmarke!

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.

Thank you!



## Mark your Calendars The 2009 EXPO is Coming!



Monday, April 13th 2009  
Dave and Busters



Visit with many local organizations and their members, including sports clubs, civic organizations and social groups.

If you would like to volunteer for this event or know of an organization that might want to participate, please contact Nancy Schultz at [ecdsnws@gmail.com](mailto:ecdsnws@gmail.com)

### Fall Round-Up Winter Park Colorado By Cheryl May, TC

Thirty-Five of us - families, couples & singles - descended on Colorado by plane, bus and car with one big wish - please snow! And on Thanksgiving Day, our prayers were answered.

**Sean O'Brien**, our former President, started the trip off with style....he missed the flight. With a little luck, United was able to book him a few hours later and his rental car became an asset!

After unloading, we had a wine & cheeses party in the condo to pass out lift tickets, badges and ski lessons. All went well until we realized the adult lessons were missing, so Sean escorted me on Wednesday to secure our vouchers and everyone was set.

**Doris Escobar** was a first timer and a real trooper. Unfortunately, she twisted her ankle on day one, but that didn't slow her down too much. With **Jose Araujo's** expertise and encouragement, she will become a regular.

**JoAnne Dougherty** traveled with us for the first time. A retired RN, she was one of the first on the slopes every day. And when we were told the TSC could make "first tracks" on a section they opened during our visit....real early...I am proud to report that **Sharon Simandl**, **Bill Bomberger**, and **John and Laura Zavala** were there...while the majority was still hugging our pillows.

**Jeff Hanrahan** brought his Aggie family....**Victoria** and



**Patrick**. Patrick spent his time boarding while **Victoria** skied. Word has it that a certain fence and **Victoria** collided and the fence won?

**Kristina Ritter** was skiing happily down a slope until another skier pushed her over. Mom (**Laura Zavala**) just happened by and recognizing the cry for help...climbed back up the mountain to her rescue and then everyone thought she was the perpetrator!

Race day turned out to be eventful. **Steve Ying**, a new member who I can guarantee always has more than his share of fun, was due to race and to his dismay found his skis missing at the base right before the race. Now...this is true guts and glory.....**Mike Hotho** loaned Steve both his boots and skis and Steve medaled! (Mike offered to loan his European Speedo on the trip, but none of the guys took advantage of this generous offer.) Fortunately, someone only "borrowed" Steve's equipment for the day and the skis were turned into security. Then, there was a mix-up on names, and **Elyse Turla** did not have a racing bib. However, **Tor Lileng**, who had decided to try a different ski area that day, was issued a number...so Elyse came down the mountain as Tor...and life will never be the same for "Tor" Turla!

**Jason LaRosa** just thought he was going skiing for some peace and solitude. He forgot to check the rooster. He quickly joined the regulars for Après Ski. **Sarah Watson-Treadgold** and hubbie **Ben** were all over the mountain with Sarah boarding and Ben skiing. They made the best of the slopes that were open.



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**Lisa and Duncan MacDonald** kept busy making sure their three children had all their warm clothing, equipment and lesson instructions – a full time job! Tom MacDonald meant to do a 180 on a snowboard and made a really good friend from Dallas. Alice became buddies with another child from Los Amigos club and was sad to leave her at the end of the trip. Harriet won first place in the children's race!

**Keiran Brehany-Wellman** (age 5) was a first time skier and had a great time skiing and eating pizza. Older brother **Kaelan** (age 11) was on skis for the second time and breezed through ski school level 3 & 4 – yee haw! **Penny**, (AKA Mom) took lessons and enjoyed every minute and Dad (Paul) enjoyed skiing with local friends. The kids won hats for racing.

All of us shared a very nice

Thanksgiving meal together at The Vintage. During the meal, the hat was passed and trip members generously contributed \$200 for

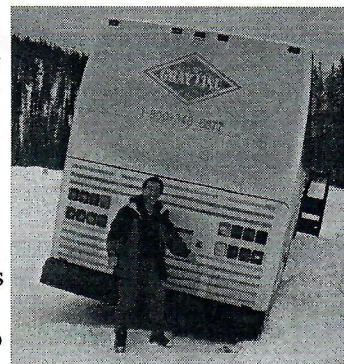
the Youth Camp promoted by the Texas Ski Council. When the children were reluctant to volunteer for Guitar Hero, **Elisa Meadow**, a kid at heart, said she would be more than willing to participate. Elisa's sister and son, **Melanie Knapke** and **Cannon Cruz** were "shadows" on the trip and we were delighted they joined us.

Former SCSC President **Marti Turner** and **Nelson** also shadowed and as usual were a big help with all. Their war stories evolved with driving blizzard conditions on the way home. Nelson states Marti is a "white knuckle" passenger.

I skied three days and boarded the final day when they snow improved. I got a brand new demo Burton for my riding pleasure. The young man filing out the forms just had to know my age and weight. Turned out, I was his "grandmas" age. Ok – so I was the oldest woman boarding that day. Just because I still think I am 18....



Thanks to my husband, **Walter**, who was Race Director and a major help to me on this trip. Between working on his laptop and playing with his early Christmas present, the Blackberry "Storm" he avoided a skiing injury, but almost cracked something on the bus as we were leaving. He hit the floor when our bus dropped into a snow-covered hole as we left the hotel. The back wheels fell into the hole and the bus was resting on the chassis. The hotel quickly dispatched a front-end loader to our rescue. Fortunately, we had given ourselves extra time so the delay didn't cause a 50-yard dash to Denver. I think everyone heard my sigh of relief as we boarded the plane to Houston.



Thanks to everyone who contributed to make this trip a great success – especially your VP Trips, Marsha Lutz and DOT, Diane Stotz. They spent hours helping me with all the details. And we all appreciate the numerous pics taken and shared by Sharon Simandl and Steve Ying!

### **Race Results:**

**Division 1 - Space City Ski Club. 2<sup>nd</sup> Place with 391 pts.**

**Gold Medals – 2.** Cheryl May, Nelson Turner

**Silver Medals – 1.** Sharon Simandl

**Bronze Medals – 5.** Lisa MacDonald, Marti Turner, Elyse Turla, Duncan MacDonald, Steve Ying

### **Individuals:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place – Super Senior Women. Cheryl May**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Senior Women. Marti Turner**

### **Children's:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place – Harriet MacDonald**

### **Honorable Mention:**

**4<sup>th</sup> Place - Super Sr. Men. Nelson Turner**

**4<sup>th</sup> Place - Sr. Men. Steve Ying**

## **Vail – December, 2008**

**by Judy Schiro, TC**

Vail is beautiful. I believe this to be the best trip of the season. For those of you who missed it – maybe next year! Twenty-four long trip participants and 16 short trip participants left Houston on December 6, 2008 to ski and party and enjoy each other's company, and we did just that. Upon arriving at Vail, we had a couple of room confusions but quickly figured that out. Ski renters went to take care of the ski rentals. Then all of us found different places for dinner. Effie Rubenstein from Sportours was able to join us for a few days of skiing. She is such a delight!

We had one injury – **Betty Storms** took a fall on Monday, but she was such a trooper that she continued skiing before finally going to the clinic on Tuesday, only to find out that she had a dislocated thumb. **Pete Mathieu** took a Level 7 ski lesson on Sunday, on Monday he had boot trouble, but after

that he was a skiing maniac! **Mary Jo** and **Tony Loverdi** also had boot problems and spent quite a bit of time having those boots



worked on – comfortable boots are a necessary factor, as we all know. **Ross Baker**, **Keith Kirkman**, **Bob DeBell** and **Bob Olsen** were all seen looking for the black and double black runs. **Chuck Ratliff** made a deal with American Ski Exchange in Vail Village to demo skis for \$20/day. **Bruce Fleming** took advantage of that as did several others. **Shirley DeBell** didn't ski, but she shopped and shopped and shopped! **Tom Huzzey**

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talked **Alice Snider** into joining SCSC and going on this trip. She is a great addition to the club. Thank you Tom!

On Tuesday evening we had our Club dinner at Blu's in Vail Village. **Dale and Alice Allbritton** asked **Craig Campbell** how to go about getting on Craigslist. After dinner, **Tony Loverdi** and **David Gunn** were good sports practicing East Coast Swing dance lessons in their condo with music provided by **Nancy DuFrane's** iPod speakers. **Janet McKenzie** was seen skiing with **Michael Testa, Roberta and Ron Rambin**. **Pat Piech** and **Melinda Hughes** seemed to get out on the slopes later and later each day. Said something to the extent that they were on vacation and didn't care if they were the first ones on the slope each day! **Jim Edwards** hid from everyone and was seen only at lunch. He said he was skiing easy and didn't want to get in anyone's way – not that he could do that anyway. **Dale and Alice Allbritton** skied with **Roger Holzman** and **Carmen Mikhail** until Alice left on Wednesday. Then he was seen with the big dogs. **Jim Walker** and **Chuck Ratliff** skied with both the puppies and the big dogs. We appreciated them skiing with the puppies and giving us pointers in the hopes that we would improve. A snowboarder saved **Ron Hayes'** life. It seems that after taking photos on the mountain of our group that he forgot to retrieve his ski poles, only to realize after a few turns down the mountain he had forgotten them. We flagged down a snowboarder and he return them to us, saving me the trouble of killing Ron! **Anne Marchetti** skied with the group. **Barry Caspar** and **Larry Edmondson** skied with the big dogs. **Marie Henry** joined Ron, Larry Edmondson, Barry Caspar, Effie Rubenstein and myself for drinks after dinner. **Mary Jo** and **Tony Loverdi** purchased new boots and had to have them worked on.

On Wednesday morning before the short trip left **Mary Jo Loverdi, Nancy DuFrane, Ash Moza, Tom and Chaille Hutcheson** all tried to ski, but the mountain was all sleet/snow. When they came down their clothes, and goggles, were all covered in ice. – So, on Wednesday, both Houston and

Vail had something in common – sleet and snow. Who would have guessed that. Even though **Brenda Herman** lost everything due to Hurricane Ike, she managed to join our group and forget (momentarily) about starting over. **Frank and Ellen Donnelly** played it safe on Wednesday morning and shopped in Vail before leaving.

On Thursday we had an Englishman by way of Pennsylvania join our small ski group. He had a mix-up with his skis and had made plans to meet up with his 70+ group at lunch. But, he was having such a good time with us (actually Carmen – but what guy, no matter the age, doesn't want to be with Carmen?) that he stayed all day and through apres ski. He was such a wonderful treat. We looked for him the next day but I guess he decided to rejoin his own group.

Our long trip had our own problems with travel, too. It was snowing very hard when we left Vail (they were expecting snow for the next week of an average of 3-6 inches of snow a day). There were mechanical problems with the airplane leaving Houston coming to Denver so our flight was delayed a while. We suspect it was the lavatory as there was a very strong smell emanating from that area. But we all arrived home safely.

I hope all of the participants had a wonderful time. I know I did.



## Sunshine Kids Auction

Cheryl May, Chair

Committee: **Peggy Montgomery, Leona Schroeder, Marti Turner, Dana Wardell**

On December 8, 2008, SCSC held our traditional Sunshine Kids Auction to benefit children with cancer. David & Buster's graciously provided our meeting room with a holiday festive look. Yellow balloons and Christmas cards designed by children at M.D. Anderson completed the décor. As in the past, we had both a silent and live auction.

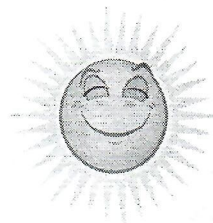
Celebrity and Executive Director of The Sunshine Kids Foundation, G.W. Bailey, in addition to Shannon Lewis, Director of Operations, were our special guests who joined us to acknowledge and thank us for our continued support for many years.

Our fundraiser enabled SCSC to present the Sunshine Kids Foundation with \$7,980.00 that will be used to bring joy to the lives of children who are stricken with all forms of this dreadful disease.

Our committee is very appreciative to everyone who

stepped forward to contribute their time, talent and auction items that allowed us to make this sizeable donation to The Sunshine Kids. We have members who have been steadfast in their support over many years. To those individuals, we give our special thanks as we know we can always count on your generosity. To all members, we thank you for purchasing the various gifts and offerings during the evening. And we are also very grateful to members who sent checks to add to our total contribution.

When my daughter, Kelly, was eight, her best friend was diagnosed with terminal cancer. Paula asked Kelly to join her in several Sunshine Kids activities. I will always remember the happiness The Sunshine Kids gave Paula.....and this was almost thirty years ago. This organization will always hold a special place in my family's heart.







## TSC Report

By Chuck Pena, TSC Rep.

Hello fellow SCSC members, wanted to update you on the highlights of our December TSC quarterly meeting held here in Houston. All the planned ski trips are going forward despite the slow economy and hurricane disasters. Beside the official boring voting stuff, we discuss some items that I thought my interest most of you.

Reminders for racers, the club races are free as always but those wishing to race in the individual races will need to pay the \$5 fee on the day of the race. The TSC is still offering the AIG trip insurance and suggesting that skiers take advantage of it. It is a separate company called Travel Guard now and is reported to be properly funded.

The TSC is taking applications for officers for 2009-2010 season. So if you are an ex-SCSC officer and are interested in serving at the TSC level you need to get your applications in by the January 15th deadline. Talk to me or Gary Butler about applying. All applications need to be approved by the club

president before being submitted.

The hotel room discount deadline for the 2009 Bid fest is coming up soon, January 31st, and I'm hoping many of you will make the ride up to Dallas to participate and help us select the trips for next season. There is no penalty for canceling your hotel reservation, as long as you do so at least 24 hours in advance, so make your reservation now to lock-in the discount price. Besides the presentations by the ski resorts and operators, there will a silent auction for dirt cheap stuff and ski packages, a golf tournament, a wine tour & tasting, and vendor booths with giveaways. So, plan on joining me, many of the club officers and fellow members, this April 17th to 19th. Let's all make the road trip to Dallas and have an end of year blast.

For those of you who are, or considering checking out the Facebook craze, look for a ski group that I started to help all of us share our pictures, our stories and maybe recruit a few more members. You only have to join Facebook, which is free, and then join the group. All are welcome to join, even non-members. I'm just learning so it needs a lot of work but it is a start and I need you experts/novices to post stuff to get the group going.

### News Flash, January 11<sup>th</sup> 2009.

#### Palace Lanes in Houston Texas.

by Bill Bomberger



24 warriors appeared with round ball weapons to take on the attack of the bowling pins. The bowling pins were relentless and kept coming 10 at a time. I hate to admit it but I think the bowling pins won the battle. They were still standing after we were exhausted from throwing our balls a minimum of 60 times at the pins.

The warriors that Space City Ski club presented needed to

shake off the rust and cobwebs from being idled for such a long time. This was to be expected since our warriors were just mere reserve storm troopers. At the end of the battle, bets were being placed on the best place to hide from ourselves. The balls were going everywhere including sideways and backwards. After the long layoff from bowling most of the warriors hands were weak and had grip problems.

After the dust settled, Ross Baker and Arlen Isham were our best warriors knocking down the most pins. Men, women and children were competing in this contest of wills.

A future call will be going out for a rematch with the pins.

### 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
2/7 - 14/09 (Sat - Sat)	SNOWMASS, CO	Full - \$1434/1395 Land - \$1073/1042	Thuy Rocque	281-615-0405	<a href="mailto:trocque@comcast.net">trocque@comcast.net</a>
2/15 - 22/09 (Sun - Sun) <b>Date Change</b>	LAKE LOUISE, CANADA TSC Winter Shootout	Full - \$1593/1549 Land - \$1011/983 <b>PRICE REDUCTION in 12/08</b>	Dennis Hughes	713-805-1757	<a href="mailto:dwhughes@horizonsurvey.com">dwhughes@horizonsurvey.com</a>
2/28 -3/4/09 (Sat - Wed)	BRECKENRIDGE, CO	Full - \$637/619 Land - \$448/435 <b>PRICE REDUCTION in 9/08</b>	Patti Finch	713-374-3544	<a href="mailto:finchp@gtlaw.com">finchp@gtlaw.com</a>
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 <b>PRICE REDUCTION in 12/08</b>	Cindy Moore Ann Rogers	713-984-1060 281-313-2234	<a href="mailto:dance_c_ski@yahoo.com">dance_c_ski@yahoo.com</a> <a href="mailto:rogersae@msn.com">rogersae@msn.com</a>
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	<a href="mailto:Vicki.Faulkner@shell.com">Vicki.Faulkner@shell.com</a>