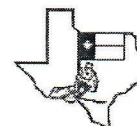




The Sitzmarke

June 2008



Member
Texas Ski
Council

SPACE CITY SKI CLUB

www.spacecityskiclub.org

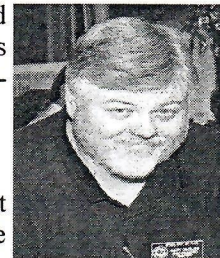
Vol. 43, No. 13

From Mission Control

by Gary Butler, Space City Ski Club President

- As we start the new year we are trying to put together our programs and activities. The biggest issue as usual is the lack of volunteers to run activities, trips, etc. We can only ask so many people to setup, usually members we know personally since asking random people for help is awkward. Please go to the www.spacecityskiclub.org website and contact any officer if you want to help. If you are not sure what you would like to do we can throw many ideas at you. If you want a more involved club with tons of trips and activities it's up to you to help make this happen.

Speaking of volunteers we are in need of a Space City representative to the Texas Ski Council for this year. If you are interested please contact me at gbutler@beckmasten.net.



And now for a completely different subject, the executive committee of Space City is proposing a large marketing campaign this year to try to bring new members to the club and we need your ideas. We have discussed billboard(s), radio ads, etc. If you have an idea and even better you are involved in corporate marketing drop me a line.

Having A Blast!

by Camille LaRoe, Vice President of Activities

We have just had our last general meeting for the 2007/2008 season and I know we all had some good times on and off the slopes. I hope to put together many more non ski related activities for the 2008/2009 season to keep the momentum up in spite of the lack of summer meetings, and even more exciting events throughout the coming Fall and Spring. Peggy Schillinger has volunteered to assist with our Happy Hours this season so please let Peggy know if you have any favorite haunts that she should add to our circuit.

Our club urgently needs volunteers to help with some of the already planned events and to help plan and organize more upcoming events. The more we volunteer the more exciting events we can organize and the more fun we can all have together skiing and not skiing, making new friends and enjoying old. So please - write me - phone me- volunteer for me and

let's make SCSC a happening place together.

Ann Dorn has volunteered to host our Fall Wine Tasting at her home in Sugar Land. We are working on dates and menus so stay posted! Sandy Perry has volunteered to AC Wurstfest again this year! Mardi Gras and Dickens on the Strand are also two traditional activities I would like to put together again this year - both of which will need ACs! Jerry Montgomery and John Rice are working on a golf event for us in the coming months. I have contemplated more activities such as Laser Tag, Casinos, Horse Racing, Biking/Blading, Tennis, Bowling, TUTS and Radio Music Theatre.

If you have more ideas or an event you would like to AC please contact me at claroe@abm.com. In the meantime, I am having a blast and I hope you are too!



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P. O. Box 22567
Houston, TX 77227-2567



Space City Ski Club 2008-2009 Executive Committee

President	Gary Butler	gbutler@beckmasten.net	281-897-6611
VP of Activities	Camille LaRoe	claroe@abm.com	281-686-2274
VP of Trips	Marsha Lutz	marsha.lutz@comcast.net	281-600-1035
VP of Membership	Nancy Schultz	ecdsnws@gmail.com	713-664-7434
VP of Publication	Sandy Perry	sandywp.ski@gmail.com	281-996-8653
Treasurer	David Cone	djcsesc@hal-pc.org	713-521-9741
Secretary	Penny Chancey	pchancey881@att.net	713-686-4863
Dir. of Comm.	Bruce Lowther	rblowt@hal-pc.org	713-785-5196
Dir. of Trips	Diane Stotz	dianestotz@comcast.net	713-862-9486
Dir. of Trips	Melinda Hughes	melinda@angeloproductions.com	281-859-8024
Auditor	Keith Kirkman	keithkirkman@comcast.net	281-894-4203
Race Director	Robert Wray	robertwray@att.net	713-410-3350

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Pat Piech, Chairman	Ted Widmer	Sarah Granbery
Ellen Eastham	Ross Baker	
Cindy Moore	Roger Holtzman	
Sue Salvage	Sean O'Brien	
Barbara Della Longa	John Thayer	

SITZMARKE STAFF:

EDITOR: Sandy Perry 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!

Don't Let Your Membership Lapse - Renew Today!

by Nancy Schultz, VP of Membership

On April 30th, all 2007 – 2008 memberships expired. We thank all of you who have already renewed your memberships and are glad to welcome you back for another great year with our club. If you have not yet renewed, please read this information carefully because we don't want you to inadvertently lose access to your membership privileges, such as reading the Sitzmarke and participating in early ski trip sign-ups.

Important dates: As of June 1st, the fee for membership renewals will be \$40.00 (\$60.00 for dual memberships) and **if you fail to renew by July 1, 2008, you may experience a lapse in your membership privileges.**

The quickest and easiest way to renew is online:

1. Go to www.spacecityskiclub.org and click on the "My SCSC" tab.
2. Log in with your username and password. The light blue print above "Here are your member-only features" verifies your membership expiration date.
3. Click on "Update My Membership Profile" and check all information for accuracy, including your e-mail address. Save any changes.
4. Click on the "Renew My Membership" button. Decide if you want a single year membership (through 4/09) or multi-year membership, so you don't have to do this every year!
5. Proceed through PayPal to complete your payment. It's secure, it's free and you don't have to have a PayPal account - just a major credit card or checking account.

Don't have a SCSC on-line account?

Click on the "My SCSC" tab and then click on the "SCSC members may request an account here" link. You will need your member number which can be found on a Sitzmarke label. Alternatively, you may e-mail the VP of membership at vpmembership@spacecityskiclub.org and request your member number.

Did you get the "Your session has timed out" message when trying to complete the PayPal process?

Don't worry - it's just a browser cookie setting. Go back to the payment page. Below the PayPal button there is a link to a help page to get that all straight.

If all else fails, you may download an application by going to www.spacecityskiclub.org and clicking the membership tab where you will find a link: "click here to download a membership application form". Just print it, fill it out and send it in with your payment. Or, contact Nancy Schultz at vpmembership@spacecityskiclub.org.



Calendar of Events

6/21/08	Annual 2007/2008 Volunteer Party, AC: Sandy Perry
6/26/08	Pool Tournament/Happy Hour at Fast Eddie's, AC: Chip Stokes
6/30/08	Last day to renew memberships
7/24/08	HH @ Chuy's, 2706 Westheimer, AC: Peggy Schlinger
8/02/08	Astros versus Mets game, AC: Camille LaRoe
9/25/08	Dart Tournament/HH @ BJ's Sports Bar - 9615 SW Freeway at Bissonnet, AC: Laura Carmin
9/26/08 - 9/28/08	The TSC Summer Meltdown at Port Aransas, TX, AC: Craig Campbell
11/15/08	2008 Annual Gala at Magic Island, AC: Janice Harris

Countdown to Liftoff

By Marsha Lutz, Vice President of Trips

Get ready, get set, go!!

Are you thinking about skiing yet? Well I have been, along with our two Director of Trips, Melinda Hughes and Diane Stotz, and about 15 Trip Coordinators and Assistant Trip Coordinators.

But wait! Before we ski this season we have a Summer Meltdown! The TSC party in Port Aransas is 9/26-28. It's been awhile since this fun event has been held. Don't wait too long to sign up. We need to know if we should release extra condos by mid July. Check the website and contact Craig Campbell at craigcam48@aol.com for information.

You know how it seems like almost everything in our lives these days is happening sooner and faster? Well so will be the 2008-2009 ski season. We are moving up our ski trip planning schedule and making some exciting changes— keep reading! The TSC trip locations and places were announced last month and I am sure you all know what they are. At the time of this writing, 5 club trips are being planned and some are almost under contract. The 10 proposed trips are:

TSC Trips:

Fall Roundup – Winter Park – 11/25 -30
 Traditional – Steamboat Springs – 1/10 -17
 Winter Expedition – Japan – 1/24 – 31
 Winter Shootout – Lake Louise – 2/14 – 2/21
 Final Showdown – Big Sky – 3/14-21

Club Trips:

Vail – Short – 12/6 – 10, - Long – 12/6 - 13
 Three Valleys (La Tania), France – 1/16 – 24
 Utah – Resort choice still under review -1/31 – 2/7
 Snowmass – 2/7 – 14
 Breckenridge – 2/28 – 3/4

We have already been negotiating for nice lodging, convenient travel times, etc. However, airline pricing (and oil prices) is not much within our control, so unfortunately, like so much, prices are going to be higher this year. But the trips will still be lots of fun to great places with great people. The trip articles will be published in August once the TCs and ATCs have planned lots of fun things to tell you about. But you can start finding out more information by the time you read this article.

Now for the new part. We will accept trip deposits for the **TSC trips** beginning June 1st. This will help us in our planning. For example, if we see a larger than expected demand we can try to secure more spaces while they are available. The deposit is \$150 for all trips but Japan which is \$300. The **deposits for club trips** will be taken after August 15. The reason for the difference is that TSC trips are already approved because they are TSC trips, but the club trips are not officially approved until trip budgets are approved in July. So sign-up for club trips will be on a schedule similar to recent years. Next month we will publish contact information for all the club trips. One important note is that since the TSC trip prices have not yet been set, the deposit is refundable should you change your mind after prices are published on August 1, but before August 15. After August 15, trip cancellation fees will be applied as before.



Another new thing for this season – cash discounts will be available! However to qualify for the discount the trip deposit and final payment must both be made in cash. So if you are considering this option, please make sure you send in a check or cash for the deposit. If you would rather charge to your credit card, Pay Pal will still be available — without a discount.

So send deposits to:

Winter Park – Cheryl May- 6143 Sienna Arbor Lane, Houston, TX 77041

Steamboat – Sandra McCunis, 15638 Sunset Rock, Houston, TX 77084

Japan – Ross Baker – 4401 Tilson, Houston, TX 77041

Lake Louise – Jessica Halter – 68 West Timberspire Ct., The Woodlands, TX 77380

Big Sky – Cindy Moore – 2303 Peppermill Rd, Houston, TX 77080

If you have any questions about this, please feel free to email me at marsha.lutz@comcast.net. Or ask any officer the next time you see one of us. So as you can see – we are off to an early start! Get ready, get set, go!

The Space City Ski Club wishes to thank the following VOLUNTEERS for the year 2007-2008

Debbie Abadie	Christina Anderson	Bruce Baird	Diane Baker
Ross Baker	James Barbee	Elizabeth Barker	Gary Barrett
Gail Blanton	Lynn Burch	Christie Burke	Laura Carmin
Leslie Caldwell	Craig Campbell	Leslie Cashio	Penny Chancey
Deb Cini	Robert Clements	David Cone	Dan Conery
Tom Danowski	Barbara Della Longa	Kim Doan	Ann Dorn
Ellen Eastham	Barb Ehrlich	John Flatten	Jere Fuqua
Lora Gaige	Steve Giesler	Sarah Granbery	Jessica Halter
Janice Harris	Ron Hayes	Roger Holzman	Dennis Hughes
Melinda Hughes	Rick Jaeger	Kay McKeough	Keith Kirkman
Kayleen Kill	Laura Kinney	Camille LaRoe	Linda Licarione
George Lopez	Gloria Lopez	Bruce Lowther	Marsha Lutz
Don Macken	Anne Marchetti	Francoise Matz	Margaret McCord
Sandra McCunis	Janet McKenzie	Maria Mendez	Barbie Miller
Peggy Montgomery	Karen Moore	Cindy Moore	Jill Nanney
Dennis Newell	Sean O'Brien	Bob Olsen	Joanie Osbourn
Leyla Ozkardesh	Scott Patterson	Marianne Pearce	Sandy Perry
Pat Piech	Trish Ramirez	Monica Rey	Richard Rocque
Thuy Rocque	Dawn Rodriguez	Ann Rogers	Barbara Rossetti
Sue Salvage	Kurt Schidlowski	Judy Schiro	Leona Schroeder
Sue Sedwick	Allison Shapiro	Steve Slade	Brenda Soileau
Jimmy St. Clair	Louella Steller	Chip Stokes	Diane Stotz
John Thayer	Marti Turner	Chris Urbanczyk	Gerard Vacca
Cindy Van Pelt	Bill Vassan	Linda Walden	Camille Walker
Dana Wardell	Ted Widmer	Mary Wollmann	Bob Wray

Please contact AC Sandy Perry if you want to volunteer at the Volunteer Party. sandy.ski@gmail.com

The Texas Ski Council is reviving a past tradition-

The Summer Meltdown!

September 26 - 28, 2008 at Port Aransas, TX

It will be held at the **Port Royal** where we will have access to over 25 acres of meeting, recreation and relaxation options. An incredible ocean view from every angle with a private boardwalk to the beach. We will stay in luxury 2 bedroom/2 bath condominiums with fully- equipped kitchens, sundecks and balconies. A 500 ft, 4 tiered lagoon swimming pool with "Twisting Dunes" water slide, four hot tubs and two swim-up cabanas... the largest in Texas! Full Service restaurant including room service and weekend specials. Visit www.port-royal.com for a closer look! TSC will be planning special events and activities which we reveal soon! Things mentioned by the planning committee include scavenger hunt, tennis, water volleyball, tug of war on beach, cocktail contest (people make drinks; prizes for most unique, tastiest, most refreshing,) etc. **Cost is \$150 and will include 2 nights lodging, group dinner, and the fun listed above. Contact TC - Craig Campbell for more info. Craigcam48@aol.com. See you there!**

1.0 DUES.

- A. Dues shall be \$40 per single person and \$60 for a dual membership. Two individuals applying for a dual membership must use the same mailing address and will receive one (1) monthly copy of the Sitzmarke and one (1) club directory, when published.
- B. Members who renew their current membership within the first month of the membership year will receive a \$5 discount per membership.
- C. Dues are nonrefundable, may not be pro-rated, and may not be converted to dual membership status during the membership year.

5.0 TRIP PENALTIES.

5.1 FINAL PAYMENT DATE

- A. If a trip participant withdraws from a trip after the published final payment date, the trip participant will lose the entire payment upon withdrawal. If the participant can be replaced from the waiting list, the participant will be refunded the entire payment less any costs incurred by the Club in addition to cancellation fees as specified in 5.2. If the trip participant cannot be replaced from the waiting list, the participant will be refunded the amount which the Trip Coordinator is able to recover by cancellation of lodging, transportation, and/or other commitments less any costs incurred by the Club and cancellation fees as specified in 5.2.
- B. If a trip participant fails to make final payment by the published final payment date the Trip Coordinator may replace the participant after making a diligent effort to contact the participant, who will be subject to cancellation fees as specified in 5.2.

5.2 CANCELLATION FEES.

A participant may forfeit his full deposit if he fails to notify the Club in writing of his intent to withdraw on or before the published final payment dates. A minimum charge of \$30.00 or 20% of the published trip cost, whichever is less, said amount not to be less than \$10.00 will be assessed for each trip cancellation.

- 5.3 Deposit, and cancellation charges for non-domestic trips shall be determined by the Executive Committee and included in the trip release form as well as in all trip publicity; in no case shall these requirements be less than those provided in Sections 5.2 and 5.3 of these Standing Rules.

5.4 NO SNOW

If the Club encounters a cancellation situation prior to the departure of a trip, the trip participant is entitled to recover the entire cost of the trip less charges incurred by the Club as a penalty for cancellation of lodging, transportation, operating expenses and/or other commitments made on behalf of a trip participant. Refunds to any trip will be made upon receipt by the Club of the total refund due the Club by the resort, airline and/or other entity or as approved by the Executive Committee.

7.0 RESTRICTIONS.

- 7.1 Allowing non-trip participants to occupy any room as a non-registered guest is strictly prohibited, and in violation of Club policy.
- 7.2 The illegal use of controlled substances and/or alcohol during Club trips, or any other official Club function, is in violation of Club policy, and is strictly prohibited.
- 7.3 No substitutions of trip participants shall be allowed without the knowledge and approval of the Trip Coordinator, and new additions to the trip shall come from that trip's Waiting List. The Trip Coordinator shall make all substitutions.
- 7.4 It is the policy of the Club not to allow the active solicitation of the general membership at a Club function or in the Club publication for any other than Club sponsored trips or activities without the consent of the Executive Committee.
- 7.5 No person may participate in a Club sponsored trip, or participant paid activity, without first completing a written and signed Release of Liability for that trip or activity, on a form approved by the Board of Directors.
- 7.6 No person may sign up on a wait list for a Club sponsored ski trip without being a member in good standing. A trip must be full before a wait list can be started. A deposit is required in order to sign up on a trip wait list.
- 7.7 A Club Officer, Director, Director(s) of Trips, Director of Programs, Assistant Treasurer or Audit Committee Chair shall not accept a gratuity in excess of \$25.00 from a vendor without notice to the Executive Committee.

8.0 MISCELLANEOUS.

8.1 SKI TRIP SIGN UP.

- A. Members shall be allowed to sign up for club ski trips each year by 1) following the directions for Mail-In Sign Up, as published in the August issue of the Sitzmarke newsletter, or 2) beginning with the opening of the September General Meeting, by contacting the Trip Coordinator and paying the appropriate deposit or amount due for the trip. No other methods of sign up will be accepted, except as authorized by the Executive Committee and published in advance in the Sitzmarke.
- B. Each member may sign up for him/herself and one other member on any ski trip or ski trip waiting list.

- 8.2 **WEATHER.** If a trip should be "weathered-in," the additional lodging expense will be left up to the individual, although the Trip Coordinator will assist in making accommodation arrangements and collection for same shall be left up to the lodge.

- 8.3 **NON-SKI TRIPS/ACTIVITIES.** Reservations for participation in such activities may require full payment, instead of a deposit fee.

- 8.4 **DIRECTORY.** The directory will be delivered to the printer no later than January 31. A supplement will be mailed to the membership within 30 days of reaching the membership limit, but no later than the mailing of the April Sitzmarke. The cost will be offset by advertising and/or budgeted through the office of Secretary.

- 8.5 A member who does not follow/adhere to accepted business practices in financial dealings by, for, or with the Club is in violation of Club policy, is subject to disciplinary action, and may be held financially responsible for any resulting liability incurred by the Club.

- 8.6 A member who fails to abide by the laws of the state in which an activity or trip is being held and/or fails to meet policies and rules of our contractual vendors (airlines, bus lines, lodging and/or properties, etc.) while participating in a Club activity or trip, which results in placing himself, another member, or the Club into a position of liability, is in violation of Club policy and is subject to disciplinary action as stated in the SCSC By-Laws Article 2.4.

8.7 TRIP PACKAGES

- A. It is the policy of the Club to sell complete trip packages (air, lodging, and ground transportation) at the full budgeted price unless otherwise authorized by the Executive Committee.
- B. "Shadow participants" shall be defined as members making their own travel and lodging arrangements, but wishing to participate in club or Texas Ski Council activities on a trip. This type of participation will be allowed on each ski trip as authorized by the Executive Committee. Shadow participants shall pay the appropriate fee for the trip's activities plus a \$10.00 shadow participant fee, the sum of which shall be set forth on the approved trip budget.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY

I certify and recognize that SCSC is a non-profit organization, run entirely by volunteers who have no special training or experience at conducting trips or other activities and I do not rely on the expertise of any director or officer or their appointed representatives in conducting trips or activities. I am aware that SCSC carries no insurance nor maintains a reserve for liability.

I wish to participate on this trip or activity because SCSC provides me with the economics and discounts of group purchasing power, social interaction with compatible individuals, and does all the planning and reservation work for me.

In consideration of the above, I, for myself, my heirs, executors and assignees do hereby release and discharge SCSC, its directors, officers, members and any other person appointed by them, from all claims, damages, demands or actions whatsoever in any manner arising from my participation on this trip or activity. I agree that I am solely responsible for my personal safety and conduct. I also agree to indemnify and hold harmless SCSC, its directors, officers, members and agents, or contractors from any loss, cost, or expense, incurred by, or attributable in any way to me, in connection with this trip or activity.

I also certify that I have read, that I understand, and that I agree to abide by, all the Bylaws and Standing Rules of SCSC. I understand that payments made for trips or activities may not be refundable, in whole, or in part, and that all payments will be handled in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Bylaws and Standing Rules.

I hereby appoint SCSC, its directors, officers and agents, as my agent to perform all acts and to enter into, any and all contracts as may be deemed desirable in connection with this trip or activity. I understand SCSC acts only as coordinator and accepts no responsibility for the service of any person, ski area, resort, airline, motorcoach, hotel or any organization whatsoever rendering any of the services or accommodations being offered on this trip or activity. Trip and activity fees are based on current tariffs and are subject to change without notice. SCSC accepts no responsibility, in whole or part, for any delays, delayed departures or arrivals, missed plane or other carrier connections, loss, damage, or injury, to person or property, mechanical defect or failure of any nature, however caused, or for any substitution of hotels or common carriers, with or without notice, or for any additional expenses occasioned thereby.

2.0