

The Sitzmarke



Member Texas Ski Council

SPACE CITY SKI CLUB

www.spacecityskiclub.org

Vol. 39 No. 5

September 2005

FAQS FOR SCSC RACERS - PART I

Robert Wray, Race Director

I'm a first time racer. What will the course look like? Club races are usually held on a short GS-style (Giant Slalom) course on a green or easy blue slope. Two identical courses will actually be set up in dual (side by side) format, and each course will consist of about 12 - 16 gates (poles with colored banners). You must turn around each of the gates as you ski back and forth, across and down the slope. One course will have red or yellow gates and the other will have blue or green, but you'll only ski one or the other depending on whether your race number is odd or even.

I'm afraid that I'll go too fast, lose control and crash! Don't worry – these courses are set up so that it's actually hard to go fast. If you can get down a slope where there are people standing around, and you can avoid crashing into any of them, then you're ready to race. You can snowplow or sideslip the whole way if you want to. If you're still concerned, go with a friend and take a practice run or two if there is a race course open to the public. If you want more practice time, along with expert advice, you can take a race clinic that might be given prior to the club races.

What if the person on the other course is a lot faster than I am? That's not fair! You'll only be racing against the clock – not the other person. In fact, don't pay any attention to the other person. If they lose control and interfere with you in any way, you'll get to race again.

How will I know when it's my turn to go? Your club will race as a group and will be assigned a time slot or race "window". Your race director will let you know in advance of your start time. Ski down to the start house at the top of the course prior to the assigned time, and look for other members of your club. You'll be given a sticker with your race number on it called a "bib". Wrap the sticker around one of your poles, below the grip (look at what everyone else is doing). Don't trade bibs with anyone else, even if they have your favorite number.

(Your entire club will be disqualified if anyone races with a number other than the one assigned to them.) The next step is to form up in two lines, in bib number order, with odd numbers in one line and even numbers in the other. Race officials and club representatives will be directing all of this, so it won't be as chaotic as it sounds – in fact, there will usually be plenty of fun and lively conversation going on all around and you'll really feel like part of a team.

What happens at the start? While you're waiting in line, watch the racers ahead of you and observe how they line up in the starting area. When it's your turn, line up behind the timing wand (it starts the timing clock for your course when you push it open), and point your skis in the general direction of the first gate. (You'll know which way to turn by watching the other racers.) Plant your poles a short distance downhill on the other side of the wand. Get comfortable and wait for the starter to say "Racers ready...Go", then just push off downhill with your poles whenever you're ready. Don't ski directly at the first gate, but aim for a point several ski lengths higher up the hill before you start your turn. Repeat for the rest of the gates and before you know it you'll be crossing the finish line.

What am I supposed to do when I get to the bottom? At most races, your time and handicap (score) will be announced over a loudspeaker shortly after you finish. Your time and handicap will also be posted on a board at the bottom of the course later on. Try to remember your handicap, but don't worry too much about your time. As soon as possible, move away from the finish area and wait with other club members for the rest of our racers to finish. This is also where a group photo might be taken, so stick around for a while if this is the case.

Next Month: How do I find out if I earned a medal? What is this handicap stuff all about?

General Meeting - September 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Chateau Crystale - 2517 \$. Gessner (1/2 Block north of Westheimer)
Featuring 2005-06 \$ki Trip \$ign Up. Be sure not to miss it!

Houston, TX Permit #9036

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Join your SCSC friends in the BAD BLADES ROLLERBLADE GROUP

Every Sunday morning. For the weekly meeting place and time see www.badblades.org, or contact Susan Austin, swicker@houston.rr.com or Dale Albritton (713) 776-9080



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IN THIS ISSUE

FAQs for SCSC Racers - Part 1	I
Head of the Liftline	3
Programs and Activities	4
Calendar of Events	4
From the Ski Desk	5
2005-2006 Ski Trip Schedule	6
Volunteer Party Fun	7
Trip Registration Form	8

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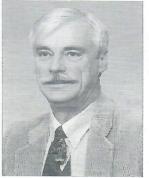
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Trip sign up is now in full swing. I trust you have renewed your membership and have sent in your registration form or signed up online for the ski trip of your dreams! The hard part is deciding where to go with all of the top-notch destinations and fun activities to choose from this year! In only a few months, we will be swishing down the slopes and socializing with our SCSC ski club buddies! And don't forget the

ever-growing list of non-skiing activities and happy hours that Jose, Jessica and Deb have been busy organizing with their terrific crew of activity coordinators. We can always use more volunteers, so get with Jose or Jessica if you want to lead an activity or just help out.

Be sure not to miss our first SCSC meeting of the year, September 12th, at the fabulous new meeting venue Chateau Crystal at Westheimer and Gessner. It is classy and functional and we will have food available as well as a cash bar. The meeting will feature our full line up of trips for the 2005-06 season. You will be able to get more information about the trips and activities planned. If you haven't decided where to ski this year, be sure to come, visit with the TC's and ATC's and sign up! Don't forget to bring your checkbook, because we can only take credit cards for ski trips online through PayPal, not at the meeting. Mark your calendars now for Friday, December 2, for a Holiday Gala to be remembered.

Sue Salvage is still looking for energetic SCSC members who would like to be ambassadors at our meetings and happy hours. Please contact her at 713-690-5551 or ssalvage@houson.rr.com to get involved with this important function. You will 'host' prospective club members, take them around to the trip and activity tables, explain the sign up process and introduce them to existing members. It's a great way to meet new people and volunteer for your club! I'll see you at the meeting on September 12th!



VAIL, COLORADO

December 3-10, 2005

Beautiful snow, long runs and not a grinch in sight! You can ski 3-1/2 days for \$623 or 6 days for \$771. Sign up early or you'll miss out...

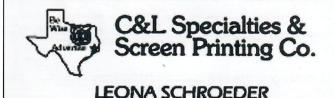
TC: Dana Wardell, 713-522-2733 or dwardell@stalkerenergy.com



SNOWBIRD/ALTA February 25-March 4, 2006

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TC: Bruce Baird, 281-436-4661, bruce2skis@aol.com



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PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES



LET'S GET STARTED! Our first General meeting for the 2005-06 season is here and it's all about the trips, baby! The trip coordinators will be ready and armed with tons of information for you about each funfilled trip. Trip sign up began August 13th and some trips may be full, but don't let that discourage you. Put your name on the wait lists! Every year dozens of people make it onto a full

trip from the waiting lists. For more details, read Kayleen's article in this edition of the Sitzmarke.

Remember, the new official SCSC meeting place is Chateau Crystale, located on the 2517 S. Gessner, just a half block north of Westheimer. You are going to be impressed with this place!

You don't want to miss this month's Happy Hour at the Six Degrees Lounge. We just hope the temperature will be more than 6 degrees below our regular summer heat...and soon!

Jessica has some more news to announce:

As mentioned in last month's article, we are planning to "give back" something each month to our community, both local and/or worldwide. Our September theme will be "Back to Skiing...Back to School!" benefiting First Book-Houston. While we are planning to get back to the slopes, most Houston area children will be hitting the books. The sad part is that some Houston children only have books at school. Reading is vital to the success of all students and our goal this month is to put NEW BOOKS into as many local underprivileged children's

hands as possible. Please bring a NEW CHILREN'S BOOK to the meeting and/or make a cash donation to the charity so that books may be purchased. I know the hearts of many of you and know that you will be willing to join us in this opportunity to help children read! (You will get extra door prize tickets, too!) There will be a table set up at our meeting to tell more about the charity.

As always, we are looking for volunteers. I have a tour operator

that wants to work with us on NON-skiing trips. Anyone want to take a fun group of SCSC people (and non-members too) to New Orleans? New York? On a dive adventure? Just let Jose or me know and we'll get to work on it with you! Local events too, need to be planned and led. Anyone interested in taking a group to the Renaissance Festival or a Hill Country



River Rafting Adventure is still possible in September or October. Oh, and let's go to Wurstfest...a big bus...full ice chests...GREAT food and POLKA dancing until you explode! Come on, you party animals, give us a call!

For a listing of upcoming activities, refer to the Calendar of Events in this issue or go to our website at www.spacecityskiclub.org. Please check your e-mails for any short notice activities.

Remember to send me any SCSC past files, memorabilia, documents or items. My evening phone is 713-541 6838 and my e-mails are vpprograms@spacecityskiclub.org or joseangel888@hotmail.com and Jessica's e-mail is jessicahalter@yahoo.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Event	Coordinator	Phone	E-mail/Address
SEPTEME	BER		, 1	
9/8	Happy Hour—Six Degrees Lounge	Deb Cini	(832) 528-6125	911 Franklin
9/10-17	Maui, Hawaii	Sean O'Brien	(713) 787-9762	seanobrien1981@sbcglobal.net
9/12	General Meeting—Chateau Crystale	Jessica Halter	(713) 545-9020	2517 S. Gessner
OCTOBER	3			
10/13	Happy Hour—Red Lion Pub	Deb Cini	(832) 528-6125	2316 S. Shepherd
10/17	General Meeting—Chateau Crystale	Jessica Halter	(713) 545-9020	2517 S. Gessner
10/28	Games Night and Halloween party	TBD		
NOVEMBI	ER			
11/05	Wine Tasting at Leslie Caldwell's home	Leslie Caldwell	(832) 251-1296	lescaldwell@sbcglobal.net
11/10	Happy Hour – TBD	Deb Cini	(832) 528-6125	dcini@victoria.com
11/14	General Meeting (Chateau Crystale)	Jessica Halter	(713) 545-9020	jessicahalter@yahoo.com
OTHER A	CTIVITIES			
12/2	Holiday Gala	TBD		

For the latest updates on events, check out <u>www.spacecityskiclub.org</u>

If you have an idea for an activity or would like to volunteer to be on AC or AAC, contact VP of Programs, Jose Araujo (713) 541-6838 joseangel888@hotmail.com or vpprograms@spacecityskiclub.org, or Director of Programs, Jessica Halter (713) 545-9020 jessicahalter@yahoo.com. For more information or to pass on ideas about Happy Hours, contact Deb Cini (832) 528-6125 dcini@victoria.com.

SCSC sends sincere condolences to the Friends and Family of Shirley Greenberg who passed away on May 3rd after a 2-year struggle against lung cancer. She will be missed by all who knew her.



Hopefully you have already signed up for one or more of the ski trips. If not, you still have several options. Online registration is available for members who have paid their dues:

- Go to www.spacecityskiclub.org
- Click on My SCSC
- If you have not already established an account, you will need your membership number (on the label of the Sitzmarke) and SCSC must have

your correct email

- Click on SCSC members may request an account here
- Complete the information
- Your password will be sent to the email on record
- If you have an account, login
- Click on Ski Trips
- Click on View for the trip you wish to signup for
- Click on Signup for this trip
- The next few screens should be self explanatory
- You have the option to pay just the deposit or the full

payment using PayPal

A second option is to use the registration form in this issue and mail or give this along with your deposit to the appropriate TC.

Third option is to contact the TC and have them give you a registration form or trip release form that you can mail or give them with the payment.

Last option is to come to the September 12 General Meeting and sign up in person. NOTE we will be meeting at a new location – Chateau Crystale at 2517 S. Gessner.

Whether you have already signed up for a trip(s) or looking to sign up on one or more, you want to come to the meeting and get up-close and personal with all the Trip Coordinators (TCs) and Assistant Trip Coordinators (ATCs). Get all the scoop on the trip and meet fellow trip participants. Maybe even scout out a roommate if you don't already have one.

REMEMBER, you must be a member to sign up for a trip. Memberships are approved at the Executive Committee meeting each month, so send in your membership early to make sure you can sign up for a trip.

I want to say "See you at Chateau Crystale," but I will be on the club trip to Hawaii. So I will just say ALOHA for now and HOPE EVERYONE GETS ON THE TRIP(S) THEY WANT.



Volunteer Party - Good Friends, Good Fun



Volunteer Party - Water Sports



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January 21-28, 2006

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TC: Bill Bomberger, 281-495-8668 or wbomberger@houston.rr.com



Space City Ski Club 2005-2006 Ski Trip Schedule

Dates	Nights/ Ski Days (DOT)	Trip Destination	Final Payment	Trip Price	TC ATC	Home Phone	E-mail Address
Nov 22-27, 2005 (Tues—Sun)	5/4 (PF)	KEYSTONE (TSC Fall Roundup) Family Optional	9/12/05	\$664 L\$458 C\$344	Louella Steller Laurie Haischer	713-666-2347 281-920-9269	ljdms@aol.com lhaischer@yahoo.com
Dec 3-10, 2005 (Sat—Sat)	7/6 (PF)	VAIL	9/20/05	\$771 L\$550	Dana Wardell Judy Schiro	281-497-8552 713-939-8235	dwardell@stalkerenergy.com ronhayes@houston.rr.com
Dec 3-7, 2005 (Sat—Wed)	4/4 (PF)	VAIL – Short	9/20/05	\$623 L\$396	Dana Wardell	281-497-8552	dwardell@stalkerenergy.com
Jan 7-14, 2006 (Sat—Sat)	7/6 (HF)	STEAMBOAT (TSC Traditional)	10/3/05	\$940 L\$609	Thuy Tran Richard Rocque	281-376-0343 281-376-0343	ttran@kmg.com rrocque@entouch.net
Jan 10-15, 2006 (Tues—Sun)	5/4 (HF)	STEAMBOAT – Short (TSC Traditional)	10/3/05	\$740 L\$522	Thuy Tran	281-376-0343	ttran@kmg.com
Jan 21-28, 2006 (Sat—Sat)	7/6 (HF)	MAMMOTH	11/1/05	\$1166 L\$763	Bill Bomberger Sharon Simandl	281-495-8668 713-862-4883	bbomberger@satake-usa.com ssimandl@hotmail.com
Jan 28-Feb 5, 2006 (Sat—Sun)	7/6 (HF)	FINLAND/ STOCKHOLM (TSC Expedition) Family Optional	11/15/05	\$1825 C\$684 or \$705	David Eickhoff Jan Ferrell	713-825-6021 281-799-0001	eickhoff@hal-pc.org ferrellj@sbcglobal.net
Feb 4 -11, 2006 (Sat—Sat)	7/6 (PF)	ASPEN	10/13/05	\$1084 L\$750	Jill St. Clair Tom Hogle	713-783-6945 713-256-7800	jstclair@hal-pc.org thogle@aurorafin.com
Feb 11-18, 2006 (Sat—Sat)	7/6 (KK)	BIG WHITE (TSC Winter Shootout)	12/12/05	\$1139	Jerry Montgomery Rita Cardenas	281-437-5467 281-353-2713	jerrymont@houston.rr.com rita.cardenas@bmo.com
Feb 25-Mar 4, 2006 (Sat—Sat)	7/6 (PF)	SNOWBIRD	12/12/05	\$1097 L\$699	Bruce Baird Leslie Allison	281-496-4661 281-395-6067	bruce2skis@aol.com leslieallison@msn.com
Feb 24-28, 2006 (Fri—Tues)	4/4 (PF)	BRECKENRIDGE	10/17/05	\$560 L\$329	Carol Cain	713-665-8121	cainsug@aol.com
Mar 11-18, 2006 (Sat—Sat)	7/6 (HF)	BIG MOUNTAIN (TSC Final Showdown)	12/7/05	\$1056 L\$630	Bill Brown Bob Gottlieb	281-930-8472 281-486-0254	bill.a.brown@shell.com rgottlieb@houston.rr.com

Children prices dependent on age and sharing room with two paying adults. Prices subject to change by changes in the fuel surcharge, taxes and/or currency conversion.

Number of land packages may be limited.

Mark Your Calendars!

Come to the Sept. 12th General Meeting to check out the Ski Trip Tables







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"INTO THE WEST" to Breckenridge February 24-28, 2006

Get 4 days of skiing at one of Colorado's favorite small towns for only 2 vacation days!

TC: Carol Cain, 713-665-8121 or 832-824-5290, Cainsug@AOL.com or cjcain@texaschildrenshospital.org

VOLUNTEER PARTY FUN!!

Over 90 hardworking SCSC volunteers got a chance to relax and have fun poolside thanks to the generosity of Ron Hayes and Judy Schiro.

They enjoyed a super day of swimming, water volleyball, eating fajitas, and socializing at the annual party. Thanks again for your contributions in 2004/2005.



Wanted!! Race Directors and Assistant Race Directors for 2005-2006 Ski Trips

For more information and to volunteer, contact your TC/ATC or SCSC Race Director Bob Wray at (713) 229-1347, rwray@bakerbotts.com



Safari & Climb Kilimanjaro

Early February, 2006 Contact Arlen Isham (713) 455-4858

10/0

Trip Registration Form

(Complete ONE Registration Form and prepare ONE deposit check PER trip)

Each envelope must contain the registration form and deposit. Deposit is \$150 per participant (\$300 for Finland).

Make the check payable to "SCSC" and write trip name and membership number(s) (from Sitzmarke address label) on the check.

Also, write the trip name on the outside of the envelope.

Trip Name:	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Trip Name:	Í		
Trip Dates	_to		to		
Particip	oant #1	Par	ticipant #2		
Name:		Name:			
2005-06 Membership #		2005-06 Membership #			
Address:		Address:	, " Lak (co		
City	Zip		Zip		
Phone(H)		Phone(H)	(W)		
Fax	OF.	Fax			
E-Mail					
Please check one: Full package □	Land package	Please check one: Full package	□ Land package □		
and all cancellations are subject	t to a \$30 per person (\$100 per full amount paid if I cannot be	ellations after trip sign-up must be person on Finland) cancellation fe replaced on the trip. <u>Beginning wi</u>	in writing to the Trip Coordinator e. If I cancel on or after the final ith the 2004-05 season, Trip		

Please mail your deposit check(s) and Trip Registration Form(s) to the appropriate Trip Coordinator (TC) below:

(Remember: Include the trip name and your membership number(s) on your check and the trip name on the outside of the envelope)

TRIP NAME	TC	Street	City, State	Zip Code	Telephone #	
Keystone	Louella Steller	4829 Jessamine	Bellaire, TX	77401	713-666-2347	
Vail (both trips)	Dana Wardell	11842 Briar Forest	Houston, TX	77077	281-497-8552	
Steamboat (both trips)	Thuy Tran	15 Dusk Valley Court	Spring, TX	77379	281-376-0343	
Mammoth	Bill Bomberger	12119 Alston Drive	Stafford, TX	77477	281-495-8668	
Finland/Stockholm	David Eickhoff	15650 Pebble Lake	Houston, TX	77095	713-825-6021	
Aspen	Jill St. Clair	8010 Meadowvale	Houston, TX	77063	713-783-6945	
Big White Jerry 2		2830 Lakeview Dr.	Missouri City, TX	77459	281-437-5467	
Kelowna	Jerry	2830 Lakeview Dr.	Missouri City, TX	77459	281-437-5467	
Snowbird Bruce Baird		11330 Inwood Dr.	Houston, TX	77077	281-496-4661	
Breckenridge	Carol Cain	5827 Moonmist Dr.	Houston, TX	77081	713-665-8121	
Big Mountain	Bill Brown	2522 Pasadena Blvd	Deer Park, TX	77536	281-930-8472	