

# The Sitzmarke

SPACE CITY SKI CLUB

www.spacecity.org



Texas Ski Council

October 2002 Vol. 35 No. 6





The Beautiful Ladies of New Zealand (Fiji/NZ Trip – July/Aug 2002)

**SCSC General Meeting** Monday, Oct 14, 2002 6:30 pm

Holiday Inn Select – 2712 Southwest Fwy @ Kirby Drive



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Ladye Frietag

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#### SITZMARKE

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May 2002

## Head of the Liftline

Sean O'Brien - President

WOW! What an awesome September meeting. It was great seeing many of you after our summer break. We had approximately 40 guests at the meeting. Hopefully, each of these guests is a now new member. It was great to see on display the results of hundreds of hours of work from dozens of volunteers over the summer, in the form of the trip and activity sign-up tables. I cannot remember the last time there were so many options to choose from at one of our meetings. There is literally an activity and/or ski trip occurring each and every week between now and the end of April 2003. So sign up now!

Signing up for ski trips, from this point forward, is pretty much on a first-come-first-served basis. If you have any interest in a trip, please be in contact with the trip coordinator to sign-up immediately. There is no need to wait for the next scheduled meeting. If the trip is full, get your name on the waitlist and be patient. It could bring rewards. Also, if you want to participate in an activity, contact the appropriate activity coordinator ASAP.

We had a great turnout for our September meeting. Lets see if we can keep the turnout up for all of our subsequent meetings. It is a great opportunity to catch up on the latest news from friends and it shows new and prospective members how great a club we are.

Remember my challenge from several months ago, for each of you to try to recruit at least one friend to join our club. So far, membership numbers are up slightly from last year, but not significantly. Lets see what we all can do to get more people interested in SCSC.

After all, we are a wild and crazy bunch. Who else would spend an arm and a leg only for the opportunity to break one of them!!

Ross, Banks, May, Cron & Cavin, P.C. Attorneys at Law

J. Richard Hall

Attorney - Mediator

2 Riverway, Suite 700 Houston Tx 77074 Telephone (713) 626-1200 Facsimile (713) 623-6014

For the latest ski club info, membership inquiries, and activities:

SPACE CITY SKI CLUB HOT LINE 713-688-SCSC

SPACE CITY SKI CLUB WEB PAGE
http://www.spacecity.org



"After all, we are a wild and crazy bunch."



## Happy Hour

## The Old Heidelberg



1810 Fountainview (713) 523-6404

Thursday, October 24 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

**Appetizers & Happy Hour Drink Prices** 

## **Notice: NO Parking Fee**

It was reported last month that Holiday Inn Select would be charging a parking fee this year. Although they agreed to waive this fee for members and guests attending our General Meetings, it was decided too late to correct the Sept. Sitz.

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# New (& Younger) Member Mixers!



Tuesday, Oct. 8 5:30p till ...



Beer & Well Drink Specials, Hors d'oeuvres, Live Band that evening. Limited free parking in front, \$3 parking in back.

Thursday, Nov. 14 5:30p - 9:30p

The Social 3730 Washington (713) 426-5565

Happy Hour prices til 9:30p: Frozen/Well-\$3, Premium/Import-\$4+up, Premium Calls-\$4.50, Chard/Zinf-\$5.50, Draft-\$0.50 off.

#### Mixer Guidelines:

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

AC: Cindy Moore (713) 984-1060

## **CALENDAR**

October									
S	M	T	W	T	F	S			
		1	2	3	4	5			
6 13	7	(8) 15	9 16	10 17	11 18				
20	21 28	22	23 30	24	23	23			

October	
TBA	SCSC Ex Comm Meeting
4	Haunted House Tour
8	N&Y Member Mixer
12	Bowling Tournament
14	SCSC General Meeting
19	Day Sail on Galveston Bay
24 Happ	by Hour - The Old Heidelberg
25	Radio Music Theatre
26	Halloween Party

November								
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
3 10 17 24	4 11 18 25	5 12 19 26	20	7 (14) 21) 228	1 8 15 22 29	29 16 23 30		

November	
TBA	SCSC Ex Comm Meeting
2	Renaissance Festival
11	SCSC General Meeting
14	N&Y Member Mixer
21 Happ	yHour-Red's/Ballroom Dance Lsn
23	Roller Blading@ Cullen Park

December									
S	M	T	W	T	F	S			
1 8 15 22 29	9 16 23 30	3 10 17 24	4 11 18 25	5 12 19 26	6 13 27 27	7 14 21 28			

December	=
	SCSC Ex Comm Meeting
	SCSC Board Meeting
	N&Y Member Mixer
6 A	Christmas Carol-Alley Theater
	TSC Delegates Meeting
9	SCSC General Meeting
	HappyHour-TBA
20	SCSC Holiday Gala-Briar Club



"... do not miss the Treat of a great ski trip ..." TRICK OR TREAT...Smell My Feet, Give Me Something *GREAT* to SKI!!!

OK, so it doesn't rhyme exactly – but we do have some exactly *EXCELLENT* destinations for reasonable prices. It's almost Halloween and time is flying; do not miss the "TREAT" of a great ski trip only because you missed the "TRICK" of signing up early enough -- before we have to drop the unsold air and lodging on our trips.

TRIP UPDATES:

**Breckenridge:** Still interested in combining great skiing/snowboarding destination with your turkey? At this time we have had to release all of the unsold air spaces, but Beaver Run/Breckenridge has assured us that lodging space should be available. Do not miss out on this great destination—use only 1-1/2 vacation days for <u>4 days</u> of skiing.

Whistler, BC, Canada: Start off the New Year with a BANG – by skiing the destination often rated #1 by the readers of Ski magazine. We will be releasing any unsold space this month, so be sure to sign up now!!

<u>Vail:</u> So...You wanna Rock & Roll all night & ski/snowboard Vail every day? Daytime & nighttime adventures are everywhere. Vail is consistently ranked one of the finest resorts in North America.

<u>Lillehammer, Norway:</u> Challenge your "Olympic" spirit by skiing the same slopes as the 1994 Winter Olympians. (Remember that breakfast <u>and</u> dinner are included in the package).

<u>Crested Butte:</u> The "Butte" is big, open and uncrowded. The Last Great Colorado Ski Town and a true winter paradise is perfect for the adventurous. Excellent skiing and exceptional snowboarding destination—do not miss out!!

**Steamboat:** Arrive just a short distance from the resort and then stay right on the slopes so you will never get lost – day or night! Ski/snowboard hard on their famous "Champagne Powder" and then enjoy the night-life – PARTY...Yes PARTY!!

<u>Jackson Hole:</u> Visit the "Wild West" where the view is breathtaking, the slopes are uncrowded, and the powder is deep—skiers/snowboarders wanted for fun and adventure.

**Lake Tahoe:** How about a place where the night-life is as captivating as the skiing? The "Ides of March" begins with this breathtakingly beautiful destination.

**Quebec, QB, Canada:** Madames et Monsieurs, we welcome you to the last ski season destination ... one of the oldest French settlements in North America ... partake in this wonderful adventure.

(Some Travelling Humor: A man called and asked if he could rent a car in Dallas. The agent pulled up the reservation, and noticed the man had only a one-hour layover in Dallas. When asked why he wanted to rent a car, the man said, "I've heard Dallas is a big airport, and I need a car to drive between the gates and save time."...)















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## Space City Ski Club 2002-2003 Ski Trip Schedule

Dates	Nights/ Ski Days	Trip Destination	Cost	Final Payment	Lodging	No. Skiers	TC/ATC (BB, CM)	Home Phone	E-Mail Address
Nov 26-Dec 1, 2002 (Tue-Sun.)	5/4	BRECKENRIDGE Colorado (TSC Fall Roundup) Family Optional	\$743 L\$407	9/20/02	Condos	36 L-4	Julie Davis-Raley (BB)	281-873-8730	davisraley@pocketmail.com wjraley@mail.ev1.net for attachments
Jan 4-11, 2003 (Sat- Sat)	7/6	WHISTLER Canada (TSC Traditional)	\$883 L\$522	10/14/02	Condos	80 L-6	Trip Team Patty Finch (TC) Hope Flynn (ATC) Larry Christie (TC) Carmen Mikhail (ATC) (CM)	936-321-1529 713-621-5990 713-802-9801 713-664-7522	pfinch@lockeliddell.com hflynn@kathyandrews.com LarryChristie@excite.com mikhail@bcm.tmc.edu
Jan. 18-25, 2003 (Sat- Sat)	7/6	VAIL Colorado	\$989 L\$792	10/17/02	Condos	44 L-4	Lori Gilliland Bruce Lowther (CM)	281-493-3060 713-785-5196	lcgilliland@att.net rblowt@hal-pc.org
Jan 24-31, 2003 (Fri- Sat)	8/7	LILLEHAMMER Norway (TSC Expedition)	\$1380	10/14/02	Hotel	50	Harvey Hetzel Penny Chancey (BB)	713-937-1515 713-686-4863	harvey_hetzel@hcjpd.co.harris.tx.us pschancey@msn.com
Feb 1-8, 2003 (Sat-Sat)	7/6	CRESTED BUTTE Colorado	\$947	11/11/02	Condos	32	Jane Orr Karen Mozisek (BB)	281-835-4673 713-856-8015	orrji@earthlink.net Karen.Mozisek@Halliburton.com
Feb , 2003 (Sat-Sat)	7/6	STEAMBOAT Colorado	\$1085 L\$599	11/11/02	Condos	32 L-4	Dana Wardell Kim Page (CM)	281-497-8552 713-271-4912	danawardel@aol.com Kpage3@Houston.rr.com
Feb15-22, 2003 (Sat-Sat)	7/6	JACKSON HOLE Wyoming (TSC Winter Shootout)	\$1099 L\$617	11/11/02	Condos	50 L-4	Bill Brown Carol Cain (BB)	281-930-8472 713-665-8121	Wbrown@Shell.com cainsug@aol.com
Mar 1-8, 2003 (Sat-Sat)	7/6	LAKE TAHOE Nevada	\$839 L\$462	12/09/02	Condos	40 L-4	Leyla Ozkardesh Cindy Moore (CM)	281-584-9723 713-984-1060	leyla_ozkardesh@mckinsey.com lucinda_moore@ev1.net
Mar 15-22, 2003 (Sat-Sat)	7/6	QUEBEC Canada (TSC Final Showdown) Family Optional	\$1113 L\$694	12/09/02		50 L-4	Walter May Chip Stokes (BB)	281-493-0016 281-485-5778	WaltMaySCSC@aol.com cstokes@andersonsouth.com

Director of Trips
Christine March (CM)
281-491-1129
christine.a.march@usdoj.gov

Vice President of Trips
Sue Bohnert
713-467-5027
sebohnert@ev1.net

Director of Trips
Barbara Brescian (BB)
281-242-7908
bbrescian@aol.com



"... check out the activities list and indulge yourself."

The energy is electrifying – and the pocket books are churning. Most of you obviously have taken the time to select the ski trips of your choice, as well as some activities for your social calendar. If you haven't, of course ... delay no longer, check out the activities list and indulge yourself.

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Don't forget that our General Meetings are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month, and present a great time to catch you up on all the "up to date" information on club goings-on, as well as to mingle with your fellow members.

Then, of course, Happy Hours coordinated by our lovely and faithful **Laura Carmen**, are on Thursday, the week after the General Meeting each month, and are an absolute blast. Since they start at 5:30 pm, you can come directly from work. Talk about convenience. Everyone Needs To Wind Down At Least Once A Month....so Come On Out. You can even bring a friend – no strings attached. *October 24<sup>th</sup>* is at The Old Heidelberg.

Another activity that is a "regular" is the New and Younger Member Mixer. This is a perfect opportunity to have a great time, with a focus on the club's expansion and growth. **Cindy Moore**, with the help of **Bruce Lowther**, works very hard at making this evening festive for everyone. *October* 8<sup>th</sup> is at Sam's Irish American Pub. Keep yourself prepared for these events in the future by checking out <a href="https://www.spacecity.org">www.spacecity.org</a> for updates.

Lat month's Beach Bash was exactly that ... Bashing all weekend. Thanks to **John Burk** and **Susan Wicker**. What a well-planned event, and a wonderful way to end the summer.

We are rockin'-n-rollin' into the fall, thanks to these wonderful volunteers, and are now looking for fun events to get a head start on the spring. If you are interested in volunteering, call me at 713-216-0692

ACTIVITY				FINAL PAYMENT		
	DATE	ACTIVITY	COORDINATOR	CONTACT #	DATE	Cost
2002	10/4	<b>Haunted House Tour</b>	Marianne Pearce	(713) 782-2240	9/9	\$35
	10/12	<b>Bowling Tournament</b>	Gerry Simpson	(713) 984-9641	10/10	\$20
	10/19	Day Sail on Galveston Bay	Concietta Ruggiero	(281) 293-7637	9/30	\$40
	10/24	Happy Hour - The Old Heidleberg	Laura Carmin		_	_
	10/25	Radio Music Theatre	Marsha Lutz	(281) 870-9724	9/25	\$17
	10/26	Halloween Party	Ron Hayes/Judy Schiro	(713) 939-8235	10/14	\$25
	11/2	<b>Renaissance Festival</b>	Jason McCanna	(832) 439-8823	10/24	\$19
	11/21	Happy Hour - Reds	Laura Carmin		- <u>-</u> 1 5	_
	11/21	Ballroom Dance Lesson @ HappyH	r Dawn Edwards	(713) 729-7639	10/22	\$4
	11/23	Roller Blading @ Cullen Park	Ron Rodriguez	(713) 728-1955	9/11	\$12
	12/6	A Christmas CarolAlley Theater	<b>Barbara Diane Taylor</b>	(713) 840-9280	10/14	\$51
	12/19	Happy Hour - TBA	Laura Carmin		_	_
	12/20	Holiday Gala	Rita Tucker Wright	(281) 531-1965	11/11	\$43
<u>2003</u>	1/11	Lazer Tag	Lee White	(281) 477-8803	12/9	\$18
	1/26	SuperBowl Party	Rebecca Maitland	(281) 498-4457	1/20	\$5

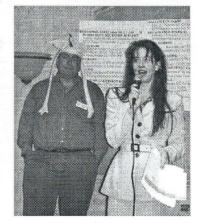
#### BE A STAR!!!

SCSC is always on the lookout for great volunteers to plan & help coordinate various activities for the upcoming year.

Please contact Dawn if you have ideas or are interested in running an activity!

Dawn Rodriguez, VP Programs (713) 728-1955 or dawn.c.rodriguez@chase.com





SCSC Activity

## RADIO MUSIC THEATRE



Friday, October 25, 2002 8:30pm

Come Laugh at the Fertle Family in "A Rough Night at the Remo Room" as they fight Big City Crime in Dumpster. TX! (Optional Dinner @ 6:30pm)

Price: \$17

Final Pmt Date: 9/25/2002

AC: Marsha Lutz

(281) 870-9724 marsha.lutz@erm.com

SCSC Activity

## A CHRISTMAS CAROL



ALLEY THEATER

Friday, December 6, 2002

What better way to get into the Christmas 'spirit'.

Come "Bah! Humbug!" with your

SCSC Friends

Price: \$51 Final Pmt Date: 10/14/2002 AC: Barbara Diane Taylor (713) 840-9280

SCSC Activity

# DANCE LESSONS AT THE SCSC HAPPY HOUR

November 21, 2002 ...... Ballroom January 23, 2003 .......... C & W



Enjoy the Happy Hour. Learn a New Step or Two. Singles or Couples

Price: \$4 ea. lesson Final Pmt Date: Call for Details
AC: Dawn Edwards (713) 729-7639

SCSC Activity

## HAUNTED HOUSE TOUR

Friday, October 4, 2002 6:00pm

Price: \$35 Final Pmt Date: 9/9/2002 AC: Marianne Pearce (713) 782-2240 marianne@academicplanet.com SCSC Activity

## **Day Sail on Galveston Bay**

October 19 - Saturday

Time: TBA \$40 each

Final Payment: 9/30

Leave from & return to South Shore Marina

Tri-maran "Ultra"

Snacks & Drinks provided

AC: Concietta Ruggiero (281) 293-7637 ruggerio@hal-pc.org

AAC: Richard Hall (713) 339-3572

SCSC Activity

## **BOWLING TOURNAMENT**

Saturday, October 12, 2002



Price: \$20 Final Pmt Date: 10/10/2002 AC: Gerry Simpson (713) 984-9641 SCOTT O'CONNELL
PROPERTIES

Steven Teoh - ePro
Professional Real Estate Agent



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Cell: (713) 582-8060 Email: steoh@zerobyte.com

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Sharon Smith and I trekked out to Midland/ Odessa on August 17th for the quarterly Texas Ski Council (TSC) Delegates Meeting. Included on the agenda were Bylaw and Standing Rule proposals which were discussed and voted on. Proposed changes to race rules were presented by TSC Race Committee Chair Ted Bergeron (Space City). Two primary changes were approved that will take effect on this year's ski trips: (1) two runs must now be completed in order to qualify for individual races, and (2) the age bracket for women racing in the Senior Division will now be consistent with Men's Senior Division — 50-59, instead of 48-59. Providing trophies for this year's races will be a new TSC sponsor, long-time SCSC member Leona Schroeder and her company, C&L Specialties. Many, many thanks to Leona for her most appreciated support of both Space City and the Texas Ski Council!

Committee appointments were made at this Delegates Meeting, and two very familiar names within Space City were found volunteering yet again! As anyone who has ever served on a nominating committee knows, finding wellqualified candidates for office can be a monumental task. Charged with this responsibility next year on the TSC Nominating Committee will be a very dedicated, long-time SCSC member and a past TSC officer, Peggy Montgomery as Chair. Serving with her will be Anne Myers (Los Amigos) and Liz Earhart (Austin Ski Club). Playing another vital role in the Council is the TSC Pre-Select Committee, comprised of the TSC VP of Marketing and six TSC club delegates/officers from across the state. This committee conducts in-depth reviews of each and every bid received for the following ski season, then narrows the field significantly to the slate of bids presented at each year's TSC Bid Meeting. Assisting TSC VP Marketing Gary Butler will be SCSC's TSC Alternate Rep and past SCSC officer, Sharon Smith, whose analytical skills and attention to detail will make her a great asset as committee reviews get underway for the TSC Bid Meeting, scheduled for April 4-6, 2003 in San Antonio.

Next on the agenda were updates and reports presented by the 2002-03 TSC Trip VPs and Expedition Coordinators for their trips, all of which are on Space City's 2002-03 Trip Schedule – to Breckenridge, Whistler, Norway, Jackson Hole, and Quebec. For quite a change of pace, as a summer non-skiing activity, you may want to contact SCSC VP of Programs Dawn



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Rodriguez for info on the much anticipated TSC Summer Expedition Trip to Costa Rica in July 2003!

Another new adventure is being finalized on the TSC drawing board - the TSC Learn to Ski/ Snowboard Trip — designed to introduce nonskiers or beginners to the sport. The trip is scheduled for December 10-15, 2002 and is expected to cost prospective Space City members no more than \$531. Beginner lessons, lift tickets, rentals, parties, lodging, ground transfers, and club membership are included in this price. Spread the word to your friends and family about this trip; it will be one of the best and least expensive ways of trying our favorite sport. The trip will be run by Ed Cain, who is a past president of Space City.. More details will be available soon, but if you have any questions, email scsc@spacecity.org.



The next TSC Delegates Meeting is Saturday, December 7th and will be in Houston at Hobby Hilton Hotel. Open Forum will be at 9 am, and the Delegates Meeting from 10 to 4:30. On the following day, TSC Officers will present a halfday Leadership Training Program for Club Officers, Trip Leaders, or any Club Member interested in this opportunity. For questions or further information on these events, contact me at dbergeron@houston.rr.com or Sharon Smith at skimerrel@juno.com. For further info on the TSC Learn to Ski/Snowboard Trip, send inquiries to the email address noted above or phone Ed Cain at (936) 448-1978. And if you'd like to gain a better understanding of the TSC and the services they bring to SCSC and our fellow clubs across Texas, check out the TSC newsletter, Inside the Texas Ski Council, on the TSC website at www.texas-ski.org.



SCSC Activity



## RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL

Saturday, November 2, 2002

Join Your Friends for Some Medieval Fun Jousting, Outdoor Theater, Royal Processions Music & Jugglers, Beggars & Wenches, Food & Frivolity Dress the Part or Come as You Are

> Final Pmt Date: 10/24/2002 AC: Jason McCanna (832) 439-8823 jason.mccanna@dril-quip.com

> > SCSC Activity



## ROLLER BLADING IN CULLEN PARK

Saturday, November 23, 2002

An Easy, Enjoyable Day of Blading

Price: \$12 Final Pmt Date: 9/11/2002 AC: Ron Rodriguez (713) 728-1955 ronrodriguez65@aol.com

#### **SCSC Activity**

## HALLOWEEN PARTY

Saturday, October 26, 2002 6:00pm

Food, Fun, Prizes Buy, Rent, or Create-a-Costume Be Scary or Be Glamorous or Be Silly Keep Everyone Guessing ("Who IS that???")



Price: \$25 Final Pmt Date: 10/14/2002 AC: Ron Hayes/Judy Shiro (713) 939-8235

ronhayes@airmail.net





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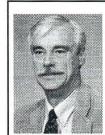
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(Article by Ellen Eastham, with David George, Gloria Lopez, Patti Maudslay, Carmen Mikhail, Steven Teoh, Eric Timmreck, and Thuy Tran)

Fuji/NZ participants, as noted in the article, include Alice and Dale Allbritton, Diane and Ross Baker, Sue Bohnert, Rita Bradley, Denise Butler, Penny Chancey, Karen Clapper, John Cornwell, Ellen Eastham, David George, Deborah Haynie, Suzanne Hegemier, Leigh Howlett, Ed Kanyuck, Tor Lileng, Gloria Lopez, Patti Maudslay, Carmen Mikhail, Nora and Mike Montgomery, Kelly and daughter Kelsey Murray, Ann Odegard, Concietta Ruggiero, Steven Teoh, Carol and Eric Timmreck, Thuy Tran, BobTripp, and Chuck Woolley.



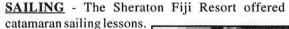
It was an amazing trip to Fiji, New Zealand and Australia, full of adventure, excitement, adrenaline, activities, and camaraderie. The writing committee compiled detailed and humorous stories, called the "Trip Memoirs". The stories and vivid memories demonstrate the wonderful and creative adventures shared by the group. This article is a brief recap, just 10% of our original document. Just ask the participants if you would like to hear more!

#### FIJI, TROPICAL PARADISE

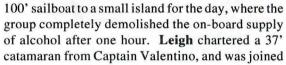
On Saturday, July 27, 2002, thirty-two SCSC members and those of four other Texas Ski Clubs, departed from many airports. **David George** was not on Continental's passenger list, but luckily was found before takeoff under George David! Travel

time, home to hotel, was about 24 hours, and included crossing the equator and International Date Line. Arrival in Nadi, Fiji was at the wicked hour of 3:15 a.m. Monday (17 hours ahead of Houston). Carol and Eric's luggage did not arrive. They had upgraded to First Class, but their luggage tags kept a final destination of LA, not Fiji. With a small compensation by Air New Zealand, they purchased "Island" style clothing, until their bags arrived.

SUNRISE AND SUNSET SAFARI - Shortly after arrival, a group went on the Sunrise Safari Tour, driving to a high point over Nadi to watch their first sunrise in Fiji. The group saw countryside, forest, and sugar cane fields. A later group went on the Sunset Safari Tour, and were treated to a beautiful sunset, the traditional kava ceremony and a lovo dinner. The southern sky filled with beautiful stars was a nice ending to the first day in Fiji.



Concietta and Ann became sailing fanatics, joined by Rob Smith (Austin ski club) for a sailing adventure. The adventure was short lived as their boat stuck rocks near the shoreline, only to be rescued by the sailing instructor. Others rode a



by Thuy, Suzanne, Carmen, Ellen, Tor and John for a day of sailing. Thirteen islands silhouetted against the sky and a beautiful sunset











ended the day.

SCUBA DIVING - Fiji is known for world-class diving. Two new divers, Mike and Patti, made their first ocean dives. They joined Dive Tropex, and experienced divers Chuck and Karen, to some popular dive sites. The many colors, sizes, and species of fish were amazing to see... especially brilliant were blue starfish.

Diane, Ross, Ellen, Bob, Kelly and Kelsey chose an unusual dive – the Aqua Trek 3-D Shark Encounter. Minutes from shore in Beqa Lagoon, divers took the plunge, descending to 100 feet. One dive master opened a trash can full of chum, and thousands of fish of all species swarmed for dinner. The divers appeared to be an audience in a movie, mesmerized by the abundant fish life. When sharks appeared, first in the distance, then up close and personal, they took no notice of the lined up divers. The group watched a fish-feeding frenzy at a shallower safety stop, finally entering the boat after an hour of being part of the fascinating underwater natural habitat.

GOLF - David and Leigh were joined by a rookie golf player, Gloria, at the beautiful course at the Sheraton Fiji Resort. The two male players managed to lose almost all the golf balls they pilfered in the numerous water hazards, but Gloria held on to hers!

ISLAND TOURS – Exploring beyond Nadi took the group to: Garden of the Sleeping Giant, an orchid farm on beautifully landscaped acres; Kula Eco Park, a native wildlife park; Savu Na Mate Laya, a large waterfall where we posed for photos, after a hike deep into the jungle, across eight streams; Viseisei, an original Fijian village; and Kalevu South Pacific Cultural Centre, where one could learn the history and customs of Fiji.











Fijian for "Hello" is "Bula". Ross, driving a rental car with three passengers (on the left side of the road), became slightly distracted and the car's front tire went off the road into a muddy ditch. A man approached, offered to help, said "Bula Bula", and left. Ross went for help, returning with a group of men. Ten people could not lift the small car out of the ditch. The native wanders back, leading two huge bulls connected by yoke, who then easily pull the car from the ditch! It seems the Fijian was originally saying "Bullock Bullock" (Fijian for "Bull)"! The bulls were dubbed "The Fiji Tow Truck Co."

#### ADVENTURES IN NEW ZEALAND

Fiji to New Zealand entailed a major climate change and the donning of winter clothing. With numerous choices for activities around Queenstown, the group divided up daily and went many different directions as they chose to ski, experience "Adrenaline Sports", or take Group Tours. Ed rented a car and explored New Zealand's South Island. Sue explored Queenstown by city bus while shopping for souvenirs.

SKIING – "Kiwis" are New Zealanders; Kiwis that ski are "skiwis". This being a ski club trip, some felt compelled to ski here, including **Denise**, on her first SCSC ski trip. While many opted for other activities, **Carmen** and **Tor** skied 4 days. Twenty skied *Cardrona* the first day, the largest group all

Continued on page 13

Join your SCSC friends in the Bad Blades Rollerblade Group every Sunday morning

> 9:00AM - workout skate 10:00AM - social skate

For the weekly meeting place, check out http://unobyte.freeservers.com/roller/ or call 281-498-8185. Bikers welcome

## WE WANT YOU !!!!!!



SCSC is starting the search for leadership in 2003-2004. The job of the Nominating Committee is to find the best, the brightest, the dedicated, and the committed to serve Space City Ski Club as officers in 2002-2003. Could this be you or someone you know?

- You may have volunteered on a trip or activity ...
- You may be a past officer ...
- You may be a current officer ...

#### We need your enthusiasm and experience!

Stop by the Nominating Committee table at the monthly meeting, or call/e-mail one of us to discuss and learn more about the offices. Volunteer yourself, or let us know someone you think would make a great officer for SCSC. Better yet, fill out the Application Form in this issue of the Sitzmarke. Either way, let us hear from you!

Cheryl May, Chairperson	281-493-0016(h)/713-290-0400	camaysfa@aol.com
Stan Broniak	281-531-6147	sbroniak@flash.net
Ladye Freitag	281-855-4110	ladye.h.freitag@exxon.com
Jason McCanna	832-439-8823	jason.mccanna@dril-quip.com
Leyla Ozkardesh	281-584-9723	leyla_ozkardesh@mckinsey.com
Ron Rodriguez	713-728-1955	ronrodriguez65@aol.com
Sue Salvage		sue_salvage@mony.com

Please complete the Elective Officer Candidate Application Form and submit by December 15th to:

Cheryl May, 1214 N. Post Oak Suite 170, Houston, TX 77055

## September Meeting Moments (more on pg. 15)



week. Although close to Queenstown, the drive up the mountain required chains. Also in the area: *Treble Cone*, known as the "Jackson Hole" of the Pacific; *The Remarkables*; and *Coronet Peak*, which locals call "Concrete Peak" due to the hard packed snow. Overall, the snow and weather were ideal ski conditions.

<u>ADRENALINE SPORTS</u> – Some chose thrilling activities, such as the *Jet Shotover*, a high-speed jet boat ride through narrow canyons on the Shotover

River. Penny, Kelsey, and Kelly took the plunge, fearlessly *Bungy Jumping* head first, and down 129 feet, off of the Kawarau Bridge, while a large cheering squad watched. Eleven chose an incredible combination of a 12-minute *Helicopter Ride*, across barren land and vineyards, to snow-peaked mountains, where they outfitted in red coveralls for *Snowmobiles*, crossing pristine fields of snow under a blue sky.

In Queenstown, a *Gondola Ride* rose to a scenic overlook at the Skyline Restaurant, high above the city, where we hadour final night's group dinner. You could also take a chair lift above the Gondola to the *Luge Ride*, for a choice

of "scenic" or "fast-paced" tracks. Or, like **Bob** and **Ellen** you could hike from the restaruant to the **Tandem Paraglide**: a steep 20-minute hike, a quick explanation, and the guide and customer literally run and jump off a "perfectly good mountain". The paragliders float with the wind, spinning slowly downward to a gentle landing.

**DART RIVER** - On a perfectly grand day with puffy clouds, bright sun, and moderate temperatures, fourteen took a scenic excursion by bus along Lake Wakatipu, and through the area where much of *the LORD OF THE RINGS* was filmed, arriving at Glenorchy. The Dart River Valley was especially

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7:00pm

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magical and majestic and included a hike through a wondrously primeval beech forest. The group then divided into two boats for a fast-paced ride down the Dart River. **David** kept his signature cowboy hat on even as he won "Wettest with Clothes On Award". The boat driver swamped him during the many "360" spins with the boats.

<u>HIKING</u> - Swinging bridges, deep in an enchanted forest, highlighted the **Routeburn Track**, one of the world's outstanding treks. Tiny dripping rivulets

squeezed through spongy stone, covered with all manner of moss, fungus, and lichens. Monstrous green rocks peopled the sun-rayed glades. In awe were the four small transient humans, Suzanne, John, Carol and Eric, who were privileged with brief membership in this land of wonder.

SAFARI OF THE RING - Gloria, Carol, and Eric took a tour to Middle Earth, enjoying high tea at Lothlorien, the Misty Mountains, Isengard, even braving the road to Mordor, but wisely turning back before approaching Mount Doom. Gloria became especially popular with super-guide Del when she characterized a kiwi as

'about the size of a turkey' and referred to kiwis as 'critters' ... seems these terms are considered less than complimentary in kiwi-ese! Gloria's enjoyment of this tour was all the more notable in that she was the only person ever to take this tour WHO HADN'T SEEN THE MOVIE!

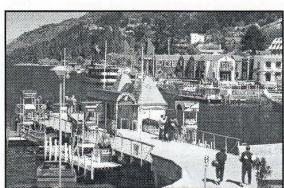
MILFORD SOUND – Twenty-two ventured on a day trip to Milford Sound. The tour crossed diverse landscapes from golden fields, tropical rain forest, towering granite peaks, beautiful waterfalls and incredible water. The day featured Mirror Lake, a hike through the woods, waterfall at the Chasm, driving through Homer Tunnel, and a spectacular cruise through Milford Sound, turning back at the Tasman Sea. The scenery of towering mountain peaks with beautiful waterfalls was magnificent. Playful dolphins accompanied the boat's return to port. During the cruise, Steven accepted an additional job as translator for a Chinese tourist group.

<u>WINE TASTING</u> - The conclusion of sixteen that enjoyed the wine-tasting tour of famous vineyards was, "The decibel level increases proportionally with the amount of wine intake, and inversely proportional to tour guide story telling." Early in the day, the group boarded a bus in orderly fashion, obediently listened

Continued on page 14

#### Fuji/New Zealand - Continued from page 13





to the tour guide, but after sampling eight wines at two vineyards, they became quite animated! After lunch and the third vineyard, the guides lost control of the group, many creating "mutiny" wanting to shop in Arrowtown, so the guides gave up and told the group to return to the bus in one hour. **Thuy** summarized, "A wonderful day was owed all to those "little grapes".

TSS EARNSLAW – Several groups boarded the TSS Earnslaw (named after the highest peak in the region), for a boat ride across Lake Wakatipu. At Walter Peak High Country Farm, a gourmet evening buffet was served prior to a sheep-shearing demonstration by a Kiwi local, and a sing-along session on the return boat ride.

<u>DUNEDIN</u> –Six stalwart adventurers followed <u>David</u> on a trek to the city of *Dunedin* on the East Coast, and to *Otago Peninsula*. Two carloads hired Arthur, a jolly Scottish tour guide, for a city tour, including the historical Railroad Station, Baldwin Street (the steepest street in the world), plus the spectacular harbor view from Tower Mountain. Otago Peninsula provided getting close to fur seals and the yellow-eyed penguin, an endangered species, as they popped out of the sea. On the drive back to Queenstown, the group searched for quaint New Zealand cuisine in Alexander at 9:00 pm. Unfortunately, the only restaruant open was a KFC!

BUDDY AWARDS – Each of us was assigned a person to whom we would present an award at the last evening's group dinner. One which brought laughter was **Thuy's** award to **Ross.** "Ross brought numerous "super-size" bags filled with audio/video equipment. He has state-of-the-art underwater photography equipment for diving, numerous digital cameras and tiny Sony camcorders for land purposes, which he downloads every night onto his laptop. He even brought his HAM radio

to communicate to home, like E.T. **Thuy** and others developed a condition, AVEE (Audio/Video Equipment Envy)." For his award, she bought him something he would never buy..... a disposable camera.

Nora received the "Hard Luck Award", as she was sick several days in Queenstown and missed activities. Patti gave her several souvenirs collected on tours she called, "A Trip in a Bag."

#### SIGHT-SEEING IN SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

On August 10, twenty boarded the plane to return to Houston, while twelve ventured to Sydney, Australia. The first night **David**, **Concietta**, **Penny**, **Alice**, and **Dale** traveled to at the top of the AMP Tower (1,000ft) to experience the *Skytour* journey through Australian landscapes. The attraction uses technology to showcase the different areas of Australia with the movement of a roller coaster ride.

The entire group enjoyed a city sightseeing tour, a buffet luncheon while cruising Sydney Harbour on the *Captain Cook Tour Boat*. During the Sydney visit, some explored the restaurants in Chinatown and some toured the *Darling Harbour* area. Kelsey, Kelly, Deborah and Rita went to the *Tanonga Zoo*, saw kangaroos, an emu chased them, and enjoyed seeing native creatures. Diane, Ross, Alice and Penny made the 3-hour Bridge Climb to the top of *Sydney Harour Bridge*, for a breathtaking view.

The final day's highlight was the *Opera House*. Some took a day tour, while others attended the evening opera. In a city of 4 million there is so much to see and do – the group agreed they needed more time. However, after seeing three different countries in 3 weeks, on August 14, the last twelve people had to return to "normal lives."





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## SPACE CITY SKI CLUB

GENERAL MEETING – OCTOBER 14, 2002

FEATURED SPEAKER KEN GOODWIN





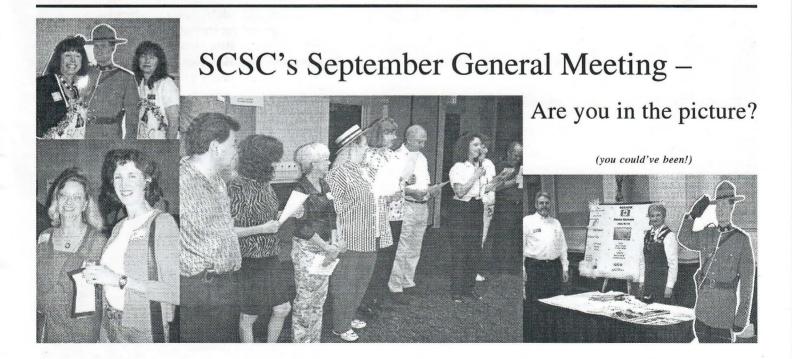
"An Urban Skier In Nepal"

From Houston (7') to Imja Tse (20,305')

Ken Goodwin will share his training and adventures in his goal to climb in the Himalayas. He first trained climbing Mt. Baker in Washington, then his adventures continued in the Khumbu region of Nepal and ended in climbing a trekking peak near Mt. Everest. Ken is a member of Clear Lake Area Ski Club, works at NASA as a computer consultant and is an adjunct professor at the University of Houston - Clear Lake.

## **Holiday Inn Select**

2712 Southwest Freeway at Kirby Dr. 6:30 Social and 7:00 Business Meeting



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## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

#### **ELECTIVE OFFICER CANDIDATE APPLICATION FORM**

#### SPACE CITY SKI CLUB NEEDS YOU AS AN OFFICER !!!!!!

The Nominating Committee is beginning its search for the brightest and best leaders among the SCSC Membership to guide SCSC through another ski year. As stated by the By-Laws (revised 2002):

"The only persons eligible to hold office shall be members in good standing as of the date of the Annual Meeting, and who were active members in the preceding membership year. The Nominee for President shall have been, or shall currently be, an elective officer of Space City Ski Club who has served a minimum six months term of office at time of nomination as President."

This includes YOU! If you have always wondered why SCSC does things the way it does or that maybe, just maybe, YOU could do it better, NOW is your chance to make a significant contribution to YOUR club. The following briefly describes the basic responsibilities of each office:

**PRESIDENT:** principle executive officer of the club

VP- PROGRAMS: coordinates all club programs and non-ski activities

**VP- TRIPS:** coordinate all ski trips

**VP- MEMBERSHIP:** performs all membership duties (computer skills

Recommended)

**VP- PUBLICATIONS:** publishes the Sitzmarke, solicits advertising (computer

skills)

**SECRETARY:** records official business of the club, publishes directory,

and solicits advertising

TREASURER: financial and accounting functions of the club (accounting

and computer skills recommended)

#### All officers are allowed volunteers for assistance!

If you are serious about becoming involved in club management and policymaking, ask yourself:

- \* Am I self motivated?
- \* Am I enthusiastic about the club and the office?
- \* Do I feel I have the ability to motivate and coordinate others toward a common goal?
- \* Do I have any experience I can offer the club?
- \* Am I willing (and able) for a two-year commitment (1) Officer, (2) Board of Directors?
- \* Am I willing (and able) to devote twenty plus hours a month to being an officer?

If you feel you can honestly answer yes to these questions, then you are officer material. Now is your opportunity to really make a difference for your club!

Nominating Committee
Cheryl May, Chairman Stan Broniak Ladye Freitag
Jason McCanna Leyla Ozkardesh Ron Rodriguez Sue Salvage

Please complete and submit the questionnaire by December 15th to:

Cheryl May, 1214 N. Post Oak Suite 170, Houston, TX 77055

HM: 281-493-0016, WK: 713-290-0400 Email: CAMaySFA@aol.com

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

## ELECTIVE OFFICER CANDIDATE APPLICATION FORM

Name of Candidate	e Normannin Committee is occurrence us search for the
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(Mobile)	Email Company Manager Company
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	Please complete and submit the questions

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