

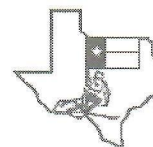


The Sitzmarke

SPACE CITY SKI CLUB

www.spacecityskiclub.org

March 2008



Member
Texas Ski
Council

Vol. 41, No. 11

From Mission Control

by Pat Piech, Space City Ski Club President.

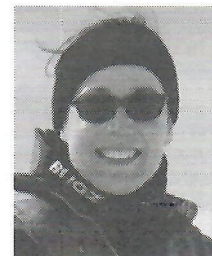
While I hope many of you have been busy swishing down various mountains, we at the ski club have been quite busy too. First, as I have mentioned before, a team has taken time to review the Standing Rules and By Laws to update them with our current policies. Many thanks to Chairman of the Board, Ellen Eastham for driving this initiative.

In addition, the Nominating Committee spent the last few months of 2007 reviewing candidates for next year's executive committee for the club. Please join me in thanking the following individuals who served on the nominating committee: Bruce Lowther, Chairperson, Leona Schroeder, Don Macken, Sandy McCunis, Trish Ramirez, Ron Hayes, and Judy Schiro.

Their work is now complete and we have a slate of candidate officers for your consideration. First, I must say that I sincerely appreciate all of those members who have agreed to volunteer for SCSC. Although very rewarding, it is an investment of personal time that cannot be discounted. On behalf of

the membership, I thank the following individuals who have agreed to serve in the 2008-09 year and the election will be at the March general meeting.

President – Gary Butler
VP Trips – Marsha Lutz
VP Activities – Camille La Roe
VP Membership – Nancy Schultz
VP Publications – Sandy Perry
Treasurer – David Cone
Secretary – Penny Chancey



Finally, as our ski season winds down, we have several of activities ramping up. This spring we will be enjoying a wine tasting event, trip to the rodeo and more. All of the details are posted on our website.

Stay safe and enjoy the spring skiing!!

Having A Blast!

by Sandy Perry, Vice President of Programs.

Hello Everyone. By now all of you have heard what a great time our ski club is having in both ski and non-ski activities. We just wrapped up two Mardi Gras activities – one group participated in the Z-Krewe parade and another group participated in the Bead Toss from the Zestival Balcony at Trumpets. Many thanks to Steve Giesler, Rick Jaeger and Don Macken for running these activities.

Our March activity is Rodeo tickets to see Pat Green, so be prepared to put your boots on and dance at the Dome later that evening. We will also be participating in the St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 15 as parade assistants to help line up parade groups. In April, we will have a Wine Tasting and we will again participate in the Grand Prix of Houston. Volunteers are needed to work for 2 of 3 days during race weekend, April 25 through April 27, 2008.

HAPPY HOURS

Our March 27th happy hour will be at the Corkscrew located at 1919 Washington Avenue from 5:30 - 8 pm. You will receive one free drink ticket and there will be meat and cheese appetizer trays. On April 24th, our happy hour will be at the Black Swan in the Omni Hotel located at Four Riverway, from 6 - 8 pm. There will be free appetizers and live entertainment.

If you have any questions about our happy hours, please contact our happy hour coordinator, Barbara Rossetti. We hope to see you all at both of these happy hours!

RODEO HOUSTON 2008

We were able to secure tickets for Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo to see Pat Green on Friday, March 21st at 6:45 pm. The ticket price of \$25.00

SCSC Next General Meeting March 10, 2008

per person includes the cost of admission to Reliant Stadium, Reliant Arena, Reliant Center, the carnival and the Hideout. (Jarrod Birmingham is performing in the Hideout starting at 10:15 pm.). The final payment date is March 10, 2008. Please contact AC: Craig Campbell for more details.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Volunteers are needed to assist in lining up parade groups and walking with them through the parade length on March 15. Contact Ellen Eastham for more details.

WINE TASTING

Dawn Rodriguez will host the April Wine Tasting on Saturday, April 26. The cost of \$15.00 person includes a pasta dinner and door prizes. Please bring your favorite bottle of wine. Please contact AC: Dawn Rodriguez or AAC: Gary Barrett for more details.

GRAND PRIX OF HOUSTON

Volunteers are needed to work 2 - 3 days during race weekend, April 25 - 27, 2008. Contact Ellen Eastham for more details.

If anyone would like to see Space City Ski Club participate in a particular activity, please let us know. We are always looking for new and exciting activities to participate in. If you are interested in being an activity coordinator please let us know. You may contact Christina Anderson at andersoncmt@hotmail.com or me at sandywp.ski@gmail.com with your details and interests.



Space City Ski Club

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Space City Ski Club

2007-2008 Executive Committee

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VP of PROGRAMS	SANDY PERRY	sandywp.ski@gmail.com	
VP of TRIPS	TED WIDMER	tedwidmer1@aol.com	(713) 203-3145
VP of MEMBERSHIP	BARBARA DELLA LONGA	bdellalonga@sbcglobal.net	(281) 398-7107
VP of PUBLICATION	ROSS BAKER	ross@rossbaker.com	(713) 934-7368
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RACE DIRECTOR	ROBERT WRAY	robert.wray@att.net	(713) 410-3350

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

ELLEN EASTHAM, Chairman	DEB CINI	PENNY CHANCEY
JESSICA HALTER	ROGER HOLTZMAN	DON MACKEN
CINDY MOORE	SEAN O'BRIEN	DAWN RODRIGUEZ
SUE SALVAGE		

SITZMARKE STAFF:

EDITOR: ROSS BAKER 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". 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!

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE VOLUNTEER FOR PARADE ASSISTANTS

March 15, 2008, 9 am-2pm

WHAT: A Houston tradition, the 49th annual Houston St. Patrick's Day Parade will be presented by the Houston St. Patrick's Parade Commission.

WHEN: The St. Patrick's Parade is slated for Saturday, March 15th, 2008 at 12PM.

WHERE: The parade starts and ends at Minute Maid Park at the intersection of Texas and Hamilton in downtown Houston.

DUTIES: Assist lining up parade groups and walk beside parade groups. Volunteer position not approved by SCSC as an activity.

For more information, see: http://www.saintpatricksdaysparade.com/houston/2005_houston_st_patricks_day_parade.htm

For additional information, contact Ellen Eastham eeastham@prodigy.net

TEXAS SKI COUNCIL BID FEST DALLAS April 4-6

WHAT: The Texas Ski Council, Delegates, Texas Ski Club members, Guests, Ski Resort Representatives and Vendors from around the world are in for a different & fun-filled experience at the 2008 Ski Bid Fest. Join SCSC as we have a large delegation in attendance!

DETAILS: Fri. – Gold Scramble Challenge and evening reception.
Sat. – Bid presentations from ski areas, Vendors Show, Silent Auction and evening party until midnight with DJ. Sun. – announcements of 2008-09 destinations.

LOCATION: Omni Park West, 1590 LBJ Freeway, Dallas (972) 869-4300
Room rates are \$92 made before midnight Feb. 1. Rates are \$99 through March 20. Ask for the Texas Ski Council rate when making your reservation.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: <http://www.texas-ski.org>
Links at site to reserve your room, download a brochure, and print registration forms.

Countdown to Liftoff

by Ted Widmer, Vice President of Trips.

It's March and our ski trips are finishing up with the TSC Final Showdown to Quebec. Believe it or not, we are already working on next year's trips. The annual Texas Ski Council Bid Fest is coming April 4-6 to Dallas. At this meeting, all of the TSC ski clubs from around the state meet over a weekend to vote on which resorts the organization will visit in the 2008-09 season. Prior to the Bid Fest weekend, the representatives or delegates from each club review the various submissions from the ski resorts and tour operators. We typically have 4 finalists for each

trip: Fall Roundup, Traditional, Winter Expedition, Winter Shoot out and Final Showdown.

Each resort or tour operator makes a formal presentation to the groups on Saturday and voting is done on Sunday. Even if you are not a delegate, club members are encouraged to attend, hear the presentations and share comments to the delegates. We have a caucus to discuss the options and get your feedback. I encourage you to attend as it is a great experience and a chance to participate in the process.

More information is available at the Texas Ski Council website which you can link from the SCSC web page.

SCSC Calendar of Events

3/10/08	General Meeting at Vargo's
3/15/08	St. Patrick's Day Parade - Downtown, Contact: Ellen Eastham
3/21/08	Giddy up and go to Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo to see Pat Green in concert, 6:45 pm., AC: Craig Campbell
3/27/08	Happy Hour @ Corkscrew, 1919 Washington Avenue, 5:30 – 8:00 pm, 713.864.WINE, One free drink ticket and meat & cheese appetizer trays. AC: Barbara Rossetti
4/3 - 4/6	Texas Ski Council Bid Fest at the Omni Park West in Dallas, TX
4/14/08	General Meeting at Vargo's – SCSC's Sports and Social Clubs Expo
4/24/08	Happy Hour @ Black Swan in the Omni Hotel - Riverway, Four Riverway 6 – 8 pm, free food, & live entertainment. Valet and a self park garage.
4/25 – 4/27	Grand Prix Houston Weekend, Contact: Ellen Eastham
4/26/08	April Wine Tasting, AC: Dawn Rodriguez, AAC: Gary Barrett
5/12/08	General Meeting at Vargo's

PRESENTING THE NOMINEES FOR THE 2008-2009 OFFICERS OF SPACE CITY SKI CLUB

NOMINEE FOR PRESIDENT – Gary Butler

SCSC President 1996-1997. TSC Past President.

NOMINEE FOR VP OF ACTIVITIES – Camille LaRoe

I am sincerely flattered to have been nominated for the position of VP of Activities for Space City Ski Club. If you know me at all you know that I am not shy and I thrive on socializing with people and most of all Space City people! I think that surplus of energy and game for adventure would be well channeled into coordinating some great events to complement our 2008/2009 ski venues. I would like to see us enjoy many of our traditional activities, like Wine Tasting, but step out of the box with some totally new events. I have been a member of SCSC for ten years and have made many wonderful friends through trips and activities throughout the years. I have been fortunate enough to participate in at least one trip per year and a couple of extra trips in recent years. I served as your Director of PR this past year and feel like I can bring even more to Space City in this new role. I had the pleasure of being the AAC for the Pub Crawl last year and have volunteered as an Ambassador for General Meetings and Happy Hours, Sandcastle and registration at the Volunteer Party. I wish to express my thanks for your confidence in nominating me for this position and if elected I will do my best to develop some exciting and varied activities for 2008/2009.



NOMINEE FOR VP OF TRIPS – Marsha Lutz

I am excited to be the SCSC nominee for VP of Trips. During my 20+ years with SCSC, I have held numerous positions – Activity Coordinator, Race Director, Secretary, Trip Leader, etc. Well it must be the trips role I like best since I have been an ATC or TC on 5 SCSC trips (and for 3 trips that I ran for my office) and this year I served as Director of Trips for the second time in 3 years – providing oversight and consultation for the TCs and ATCs.



I enjoy the planning that goes into getting a good trip off the ground. And I am pretty good at balancing my time between the fun stuff and the nitty gritty details – i.e., interacting with the resorts and participants vs. keeping the contract/ budget details organized.

I really believe that a good ski trip is just as much the result of good participants and leaders as it is the venue, price or time of year. Over the years, SCSC has been to just about every ski resort in the Western U.S., a few on the East Coast and numerous countries in South America and Europe, as well as Australia/New Zealand. While we repeat visits to many locations, it is never the same trip – again, because of the different people on and leading the trip.

The travel industry has seen lots of changes with respect to group travel – i.e., add-ons like fuel surcharges were unheard of a few years ago. And it is a juggling act to keep the most seats we can while trying to fill a trip without risking financial loss to the club. But those details will be up to me and my TCs to work out so that several hundred of you SCSCers can sign up for the trip of your choice – you know that one to the perfect place during a favorable time and at a great price! Did I mention I like challenges too?!

Seriously, my goal will be to find and work closely with enthusiastic, thorough TCs/ATCs that will run smooth, fun trips to ski destinations desired by the majority – and at a good price. Not the lowest price (remember – you get what you pay for) but the best value. So if I am confirmed as your VP of Trips, you will hear/see me reaching out to you for ideas and participation. I want what you want!

NOMINEE FOR VP OF MEMBERSHIP – Nancy Schultz

I would like to thank the nominating committee for selecting me to serve as the Vice President of Membership of the Space City Ski Club.

Almost 10 years ago, I had the good fortune of the club finding me, when one of my tennis friends asked if I was interested in a great deal on a ski trip to Crested Butte. I jumped at the chance and have become an avid fan of the club ever since. I've been on dozens of ski trips and have met many great people who I now consider to

be good friends.

Having recently retired from a 25-year career in the energy industry, I am eager to use some of my newly acquired freedom to give back to this club which has given so much to me. In addition to the professional and interpersonal skills I bring to this position, I have experience as a membership executive for another volunteer organization. During my tenure there, we were able to increase our membership by almost 50%. While I can't promise the same results for SCSC I do promise that, if confirmed, I will commit the necessary time and energy to help keep this club vibrant.



While it may sound cliché, I firmly believe that the success of any organization is due to its people – those who choose to volunteer as well as those members who are at the core of every experience. SCSC already has a great foundation in its people, history and leadership and I look forward to the opportunity to help build on that tradition and enhance our membership base.

NOMINEE FOR VP OF PUBLICATIONS – Sandy Perry

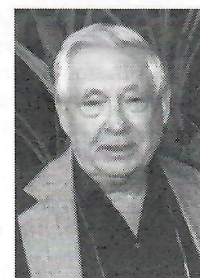
I am very excited to be your nominee for Vice President of Publications. I joined Space City Ski Club about 11 years ago and have enjoyed several trips, happy hours and many fun activities with the club. Through these activities, I have had the good fortune of meeting a great group of friends.

I have had the pleasure of serving as VP of Programs and Activities, TC and ATC for our club. I have served on the board for BAWDC (Bay Area Whip Dance Club) and a local investment club. I am also a committee volunteer for The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Currently, I tutor various computer courses at a local community college. I feel that my strong computer skills will benefit SCSC's publication position.

I have a wide range of hobbies and interests. A few of my interests includes snow skiing, scuba diving, water skiing (my favorite), boating, dancing (country and whip), music, travel, history, genealogy and photography.

NOMINEE FOR TREASURER – David J. Cone

I joined the SCSC about eight years ago and almost immediately began being sent out-of-town on consulting assignments which meant that I could not participate in many SCSC Trips and Activities. I had been fortunate to have been taught to ski by a former Norwegian Olympic skier and I guarantee that is the best way to learn the sport and have skied most all of the resorts in Colorado.



I have developed a respiratory condition that means my skiing days are over but I still enjoy being a member of SCSC and bringing whatever experience and expertise I can to the club and at the moment that expertise is in the financial area of treasury.

I received a Petroleum Engineering Degree from the Colorado School of Mines and later received a Masters Degree in Business from California State University at Long Beach.

I have spent most of my working life involved in the technical and financial side of the Petroleum Industry working with major oil companies, independent oil companies, commercial banks and investment banks.

I have lived in Houston since 1977 and have three grandchildren living in California and three here in Houston.

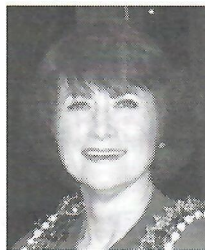
I still consult for several companies and continue to work as a Mortgage Loan Officer with involved in financing and refinancing both residential and commercial properties.

I am also a lifetime member of the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo and a member of the Speakers Committee.

NOMINEE FOR SECRETARY – Penny Chancey

For any ski club member who may not know who I am, I would like to introduce myself. I was born and raised in Houston. I am one of those rare "native Houstonians". I attended Wharton Junior College, graduated from Southwest Texas State University and received a Master's Degree from Prairie View A&M University. I was an elementary teacher for 31 years before retiring. I joined Space City Ski Club many, many, many years ago.

Since I became a member, I have traveled on ski trips in the winter and



to tropical islands in the summer. I have ridden the rapids in a raft and down a staircase in a sled. I have jumped out of an airplane and off of a bridge.

As the club secretary, I would like to collect and organize any official records or history that may still be out there in someone's garage or attic.

By-Law Amendments and Standing Rule Revisions

by Ellen Eastham, Chairman of the Board.

A Committee was appointed by the Board of Directors which extensively-revised Standing Rules and created amendments to the By-laws, as shown below. The Board approved the revisions and Bylaw amendments were proposed to the membership at the General Meeting February 11. The membership will vote at the March 10 meeting to accept the proposed Bylaw amendments.

As Chairman of the committee, I would like to thank committee members for all their efforts in creating and finalizing the revisions: President, Pat Piech, BOD members Roger Holzman, Sue Salvage, and TC's Leyla Ozkardesh and Brenda Soileau.

As I previously described in the January e-Sitzmarke, a summary of the Standing Rule revisions and proposed Bylaw amendments in duties include:

President – in charge of the program content and agenda of the membership meetings.

Vice President-Programs – name change to Vice President-Activities (Bylaws revision proposal, subject to membership approval). The position will be responsible for only activities and social events, and no longer the program for membership meetings.

Secretary – coordinate all arrangements for the monthly meetings, maintain the club volunteer list, and maintain the club's physical inventory and official records.

Auditor – name change from Audit Committee Chair (Bylaws revision proposal), and term effective October 1 through Sept. 30 to better help the transition between Treasurers.

Director of Public Relations – position was approved by membership May 2006. The BOD again approved this position reporting to Vice President-Membership is essential to planning promotional events, advertising to the Houston community, and for the growth of SCSC.

Policies – a Standing Rule added to reference approved policies by the BOD. Two such policies are Club E-mail and On-Line Voting (in reference to ExCom and BOD). On-Line Voting is an addition to the Bylaws.

The changes above are a portion of the descriptions to reflect the revised officers' duties. Read the approved Standing Rules at www.spacecityskiclub.org – "My SCSC" tab.

BYLAWS PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

ARTICLE 3.0: MANAGEMENT

AMENDMENT 1 – replace "Audit Committee Chair/Audit Committee" with "Auditor"

3.1 BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

C. RESPONSIBILITIES. The Board of Directors shall have the following responsibilities:

- (6) Approve the appointment of an Auditor. (Amended 12-10-2007)
- (7) Receive and approve the report of the Auditor. (Amended 12-10-2007)

AMENDMENT 2 – replace "Programs" with "Activities" and delete "Audit Committee Chair"

3.2 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

C. APPOINTMENTS.

(1) The Executive Committee shall approve a Director of Communications, a Director of Activities, a Director of Public Relations, not more than two Directors of Trips and all Trip Coordinators, Assistant Trip Coordinators and Activity Coordinators. (Amended 12-10-2007)

AMENDMENT 3 – add "and shall have the responsibility for the content and agenda for the

monthly meeting of the general membership."

3.2 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

E. ORDER OF SUCCESSION.

(1) **PRESIDENT.** The President shall be the principal executive officer of the Club and shall have the responsibility for the content and agenda for the monthly meeting of the general membership. (Amended 12-10-2007)

AMENDMENT 4 – replace twice "PROGRAMS" with "ACTIVITIES" and delete "programs and" before non-ski trips

3.2 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

E. ORDER OF SUCCESSION.

(2) **VICE PRESIDENT - ACTIVITIES.** The Vice President - Activities shall have the responsibility for all Club non-ski trips and activities authorized by the Executive Committee. (Amended 12-10-2007)

AMENDMENT 5 – Replace "A complete activity" with "The Activity Final Financial", and twice replace "Programs" with "Activities".

3.3 REPORTS.

C. **NON-SKI TRIPS / ACTIVITIES.** The Activity Final Financial report must be submitted to the Vice President - Activities by the Activity Coordinator no later than four weeks after the activity/trip completion or be in violation of Club Bylaws. Extensions may be granted by the Vice President - Activities. (Amended 12-10-2007)

ARTICLE 4.0: NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

AMENDMENT 6 – Replace "Programs" with "Activities"

4.2 DEFINITION. The elective offices shall be those of President, Vice President - Activities, Vice President - Trips, Vice President - Membership, Vice President - Publications, Secretary, and Treasurer. (Amended 12-10-2007)

ARTICLE 5.0: DUES AND FUNDS

AMENDMENT 7 – Replace twice "Committee Chair" with "Auditor", replace "at its first quarterly meeting" with "by October 1", replace "of the following quarterly" with "Board"

5.5 AUDIT. The Board of Directors shall appoint an Auditor by October 1. The Auditor shall report to the Board at each Board meeting regarding the accuracy of the financial statements and the adequacy of the current financial systems. (Amended 12-10-2007)

ARTICLE 6.0: MEETINGS AND QUORUMS

AMENDMENT 8 – Add Section C.

6.5 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

C. Under special circumstances as determined by the President, on-line discussion and voting may take place per Standing Rules 13.3 Policies. (added 12-10-2007)

NOTE: Amendments date reflects approval by Board of Directors 12-10-2007. Revised date will be 03-10-2008 upon membership approval.

GRAND PRIX OF HOUSTON April 25-27 - Reliant Park

Volunteer to assist on a choice of 8 committees

Requirements of Volunteer: Commit to work a Minimum of two shifts over at least two days, or 15 hours before, during or after race weekend.

Perks for volunteering include:

Official Grand Prix of Houston Volunteer Credential, gate admission all weekend, Paddock Access, on-site parking, Uniform shirt, meal & beverages, collectible Grand Prix of Houston lapel pin and more.

In addition to car racing, weekend events include a festival of concerts, Family Fun Zone, Women's Beach Volleyball, Go-Karts, extreme sports exhibition, and the Miss Grand Prix contest.

See www.grandprixofhouston.com to sign up to volunteer.

Volunteer position not approved by SCSC as an activity.

For more information, contact Ellen Eastham eeastham@prodigy.net (281) 989-9935

Membership Renewal Time is just around the corner. In the meantime, please encourage your friends, family and co-workers to join SCSC now! NEW MEMBERS joining now will have their membership extended through April 30, 2009.