

## Sitzmarke Online May, 2008

## Space City Ski Club



### From Mission Control

*By Pat Piech, Space City Ski Club President*

Well, it is hard to believe, but the year as president of SCSC is coming to a close. I have truly enjoyed working with everyone on the executive committee and board of directors to make this a positive and fun year for all. I sincerely hope that we have achieved that goal and you have participated in many of the activities and trips over the last year and have made great new friends. I would like to thank the members of the excomm and board as well as the many volunteers who worked tirelessly to make this a successful year.

I encourage each of you to consider volunteering for either an activity or ski trip. Our club needs the experience, talents and ideas of its members. Find an activity or resort location that you love and volunteer to coordinate the activity or run a trip. I think you will have fun!! Just contact any officer to find out how.

May also marks the time for membership renewals. Early renewals ends May 31st, so be sure to act before the end of the month and save \$5.00. Membership forms are available on line. Simply download the form and send it in along with your check. You can also renew your membership via PayPal. Log into My SCSC for the link to renew your membership online. While there, be sure to update your membership profile which will help 'keep you connected' to what's going on at the club. Our website is [www.spacecityskiclub.org](http://www.spacecityskiclub.org).

May will also be our last general meeting until September so I hope to see you all there. During the summer months, we will continue to have monthly happy hours to reminisce over the fabulous snow in 2008. I hope next season will be so blessed.

A final thank you to all who supported me throughout the past year. Your friendship and kind words were, and are, greatly appreciated.



### SCSC Next General Meeting - May 12, 2008

#### Having A Blast!

*By Sandy Perry, Vice President of Programs*

Well, our term has now come to an end and our new officers will take over. Christina and I have enjoyed arranging activities and programs for you all. I wish to offer special thanks to Christina Anderson, Director of Programs, for all her hard work. She is a great assistant and a lot of fun!

I am pleased to announce Camille La Roe as our new Vice President of Activities for the year 2008-2009. Also coming on board to assist her will be Peggy Schillinger as our Happy Hour Coordinator. Please welcome them on board. I am sure they both will do a terrific job.

You do not want to miss our General Meeting finale on May 12th at Vargo's Restaurant. Our guest speaker is Jim Delane for Bay Area Divers (BAD). He will be presenting what it takes to get certified as a beginner diver, safety precautions, exciting dive locations and various marine life.

We have some fun activities coming up. The annual Sandcastle Competition is Saturday, May 31st led by John "Easy" Thayer. We will have a pool tournament in June with Chip Stokes as the Activity Coordinator. Our annual Volunteer Party is scheduled for June 21 at Marty Kaminsky's home. He has a beautiful home facing Galveston Bay in Bacliff. This is a great time to bring out your water toys!



Our happy hours are Arcodoro on May 22 and Fast Eddie's for the pool tournament on June 26th.

We hope to see you at all our fun and exciting activities!

The Space City Ski Club wishes to thank the following  
VOLUNTEERS for the 2007-2008 year whose generous  
participation keeps the club vibrant.

Debbie Abadie	Christina Anderson	Bruce Baird	Diane Baker
Ross Baker	James Barbee	Elizabeth Barker	Gary Barrett
Gail Blanton	Lynn Burch	Christie Burke	Laura Burton
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 Gage	Steve Giesler	Sarah Granbery	Jessica Halter
Janice Harris	Ron Hayes	Roger Holzman	Dennis Hughes
Melinda Hughes	Rick Jaeger	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	Cindy Moore	Jill Nanney
Dennis Newell	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 Rosetti	Sue Salvage
Kurt Schidlowski	Judy Schiro	Leona Schroeder	Sue Sedwick
Steve Slade	Brenda Soileau	Jimmy St. Clair	Louella Steller
Chip Stokes	Diane Stotz	John Thayer	Marti Turner
Chris Urbanczyk	Cindy Van Pelt	Bill Vassan	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](mailto:sandy.ski@gmail.com)

22nd Annual AIA Sandcastle Competition

## EAST BEACH, GALVESTON - May 31, 2008

VOLUNTEER to assist in set up, serving beer, assisting judges, and vote counting.

Complimentary t-shirts, food, drink, and MUCH FUN! (and there's no charge)

Sandcastle building competition begins at 10 a.m., awards at 4:30. Volunteer Shifts 6 a.m. - 11 a.m.; 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and 2 p.m. - 7 p.m.

If you have not seen the Sandcastle Competition, it is a must! 85 architectural firms teams competed in 2007!

Optional: Friday night BEACH BASH at the Galveston Hilton (~\$20) GREAT Party!! Probably a Saturday night after party for the hale and hearty!!! Check website for photos [www.aiasandcastle.com](http://www.aiasandcastle.com)

AC John Thayer, aka "Easy" [johncthayer@computron.net](mailto:johncthayer@computron.net)

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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](http://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](mailto:Craigcam48@aol.com). See you there!

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## It's Time to Plan the 2008-2009 Ski Season!

We are looking for TCs and ATCs. The slate of trips is still being formed but for starters we have the following:

- Fall Roundup - Winter Park, CO - Nov 25 - 30
- Traditional - Steamboat, CO - Jan 10 - 17
- Winter Shootout - Lake Louise, Canada - Feb 14 - 21
- Final Showdown - Big Sky, MT - March 14 - 21
- Winter Expedition - Japan - Jan. 24 - Feb 1
- Summer Expedition - Panama - June 2009

If you are interested in leading any of these trips or have another one you would like to suggest, please contact me. I look forward to working with all the trip leaders. We need fun, creative, dedicated leaders to make our ski season as successful as it looks to be shaping up to be. Please consider volunteering! We need to get started right away. Please contact the incoming VP of Trips Marsha Lutz at [marsha.lutz@comcast.net](mailto:marsha.lutz@comcast.net).

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## It's Membership Renewal Time!!!

The SCSC membership period goes from May 1 to April 30 of each year. Renew NOW and get the discounted rate of \$35! Limited Time Offer!!!

Do it online NOW. It is easy!

1. Go to [spacecityskiclub.org](http://spacecityskiclub.org).
2. Click on the "My SCSC" tab.
3. Log in with username and password.
4. The light blue print above "Here are your member features" verifies your membership expiration date.
5. Click on "Update My Membership Profile" and check all information for accuracy including e-mail address.
6. Click on the "Renew My Membership" button.
7. Decide if you want a single year membership (through 4/09 or multiple years – so you don't have to do all of this stuff every year)!
8. Proceed thru 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.

### TROUBLESHOOTING:

Don't have a SCSC on-line account?

1. Click on the "My SCSC" tab.
2. Click on the "SCSC members may request an account here" link.
3. You will need your member number from a Sitzmarke label, or e-mail the VP of membership @ [vpmembership@spacecityskiclub.org](mailto:vpmembership@spacecityskiclub.org).

Did you get "Your session has timed out" when trying to complete the PayPal process?  
It's just a browser cookie setting.

1. Go back to the payment page.
2. Below the PayPal button there is a link to a help page to get that all straight.

OR

See Barbara Della Longa at the Membership table to complete a new application at our next meeting or Happy Hour. You may also download an application on the Membership tab of the [www.spacecityskiclub.org](http://www.spacecityskiclub.org) website.

## MiBansko,

*By Sandra McCunis, ATC*



Bansko was a memorable experience for 44 adventurous SCSC participants that helped comprise the TSC Expedition trip with 150 plus skiers. TC, **Brenda Soileau** and four other participants went on the pre-trip to Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria. ATC, **Sandra McCunis** and the remaining participants left Houston for Bansko on January 26, 2008.

The TSC Welcome Ceremony began with us displaying our SCSC banner as we marched in a parade into the Main Square. We were greeted by the Mayor of Bansko and the Bulgarians entertained us with their local folk dances and music. Thousands of locals, perhaps one quarter of the town population came to the celebration.

We were treated to a feast of Bulgarian food and hot gluhwein. This event, which was announced in their local news, marked the first time in history that an organized group of American tourists traveled to Bansko and joined in a celebration with the Bulgarians.

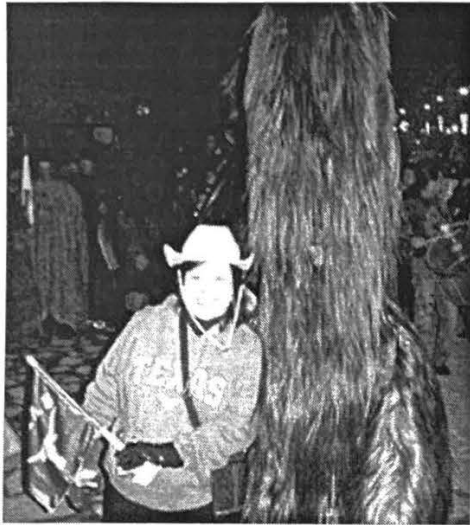


At the welcome ceremony, the locals invited us to join them in their folk dances. While **Vicki Faulkner** participated, **Allan Simpson** stood watching on the sidelines. Allan, swaying to the music, was approached



by not one, but two different Bulgarian fellows asking him to dance. It must be that you look like a player, Allan!

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Suzan Miles thought her husband **Van Miles** looked very handsome in the black felt western hat he wore to the Welcome Ceremony. An older man approached him and asked if he could have the western hat in exchange for his old baseball cap with Bansko written on it. Van, without hesitation, gave the man his hat. The happiness on the man's face was priceless and Suzan was proud that her husband did something to help secure positive international relations between the Americans and the Bulgarians.

There was an excursion on Tuesday to the ruins of the ancient Macedonian city of Philippi. **Sarah Granbery, Stan Broniak, Pam Smith, Marsha Lutz, David Eichoff**, Tom Huzzey and **Luz Marquez** were among those that explored the remains of two early Christian basilicas, the grand Roman forum, the acropolis, and the theatre. The tour continued to Kavala, one of the most picturesque towns in Greece, rising from the beautiful harbor up to a huge Byzantine fortress. After a walking tour of the city, **Darrell Kohler, Opal Kohler, Jeff Hanrahan** and **Sandra McCunis** sat at a sidewalk cafe and ate traditional Greek salads and sipped on Ouzo.

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On Tuesday evening, **Brenda Soileau** invited the group to her suite for a Happy Hour so that we could drink the bottles of wine given to us by the Pirin Hotel. Among those at the party were **Ross Baker, Diane Baker, Tor Lileng, Gloria Lopez, Robert Reidenbach, Paula Gilmore** and

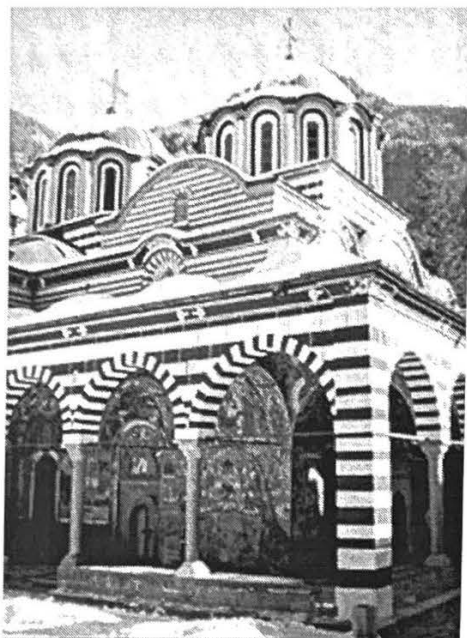
**miBansko, Ian Yovanovic**. As we drank the wine, the group shared jokes that are not suitable for publication in the Sitzmarke!

Everyone laughed and had a great time until the hotel management



complained that we were too noisy and were disturbing other guests. A few people continued the party at the hotel bar.

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Our excursion on Wednesday was to the Rila Monastery, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Founded in the 10th century, it is regarded as one of Bulgaria's most important cultural, historical and architectural monuments.

**Marsha Kilgore, Marianne Pearce, Millie Jude, Takemi Koike, Christie Burke and Margaret Walker** were among those that visited the monastery. After the tour, we enjoyed a Bulgarian lunch in their restaurant.

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The nightlife in Bansko is an interesting combination of traditional bars "mehanas" and modern nightclubs and disco's. On Wednesday evening, **Jose Araujo, Holly Luong, Caroline Vetterling, Sandy Perry, Ray Villarreal, Bernie Clinton and Christina Anderson** were among those who danced the night away at "Party Place". They played a great mix of American dance music including the "Macarena" and the "Cotton-Eyed Joe". Some of the Bulgarians joined our group and tried to dance like us.



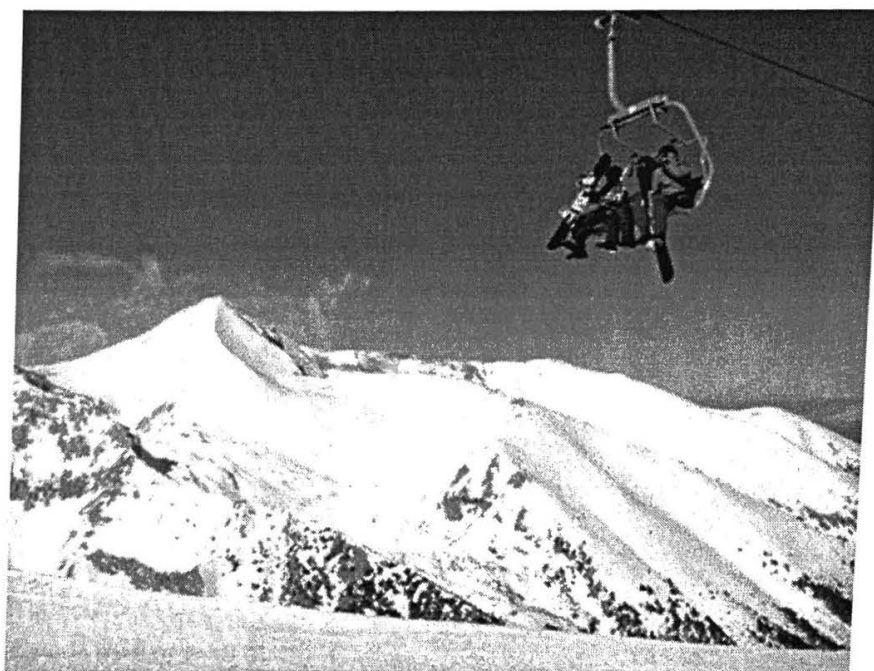
One of the highlights of our trip was our group party on Thursday evening at a restaurant in a three hundred year old building in the old section

and vegetables on large wooden platters was served by waiters dressed in traditional Bulgarian attire. We sipped on brandy, drank wine and danced to live Bulgarian music.

**Robert Viktorin, Carol Viktorin, Marilyn Swanson, Larry Robinson, Cindy Van Pelt, Brett Littell, Cathey Littell and Sue Bean Gillian** were among those that enjoyed this festive evening.

Friday's excursion was to Melnik, the smallest town in Bulgaria. It's history dates back to medieval times and it is known for its wines. A group of 24 participants enjoyed Bulgarian cuisine and sampling the typical Melnik wines. Wine tasting always seems to be a popular activity for the SCSC group!

The skiers enjoyed a great week in Bansko. The mountain featured a variety of interesting terrain with a 5200 vertical drop and a 10 mile run. Sarah and Luz were enjoying the scenery while riding up the gondola when Sarah was mooned by two young men in a car going down the gondola. It appears that Sarah saw a little more scenery than she expected!



The hotel staff at the Hotel Pirin were very nice and friendly, but verbal communication was somewhat difficult. Allan failed to use a language understood by the pretty front desk clerk in his request for more toilet paper. He relied on a somewhat graphic, yet universal gesture to successfully procure the items. Throughout the week they continued to exchange amusing smiles, even when they encountered each other away the hotel. It makes you wonder what she was thinking when she smiled at Allan!

On Saturday, our last night in



Bansko, some of the participants met in Brenda's suite to mingle and drink their remaining liquor. It would be a shame to waste good liquor! When the liquor was gone, a group moved to the bar in the hotel lobby. A tired group said goodnight around midnight after Gloria fell asleep in Bernie's lap and Tor fell asleep sitting on the couch.

After a great week in Bansko, the group prepared for their departure on Sunday. One group led by **Sandy Perry** boarded the first bus to the Sofia airport for their return to Houston with an overnight stay in Paris. The remaining 27 participants boarded a second bus to Sofia to catch a flight on Turkish Air for the post-trip to Istanbul.

Istanbul was a fascinating place to visit. Our first day included a guided tour of the city which began in the Sultanahmet district, the heart of old Istanbul. We visited the Blue Mosque, dating from the 17th century and the Basilica Cistern founded in the Byzantine Empire. The tour continued with a visit to the Topkapi Palace, the residence of the Ottoman Sultans from the 15th to the 19th century. Ross, Diane, Stan and Pam visited The Harem, the private quarters where the Sultans and their families lived.



The tour ended with a presentation on Persian rugs at the Grand Bazaar. When Sandra admired a rug, a salesman approached her wanting to know her budget for a rug. Although she told him she didn't have a budget for a rug, he

persisted and followed her down three flights of stairs trying to sell her a rug. However, Marsha Lutz, after looking at numerous rugs, did decide to purchase two fabulous rugs for her home.

On Monday night, some of the participants decided to experience having a Turkish Bath. Jose had secretly planned a trip to the bath with six women, until Bernie, David and Ray joined in to spoil his fun. Better luck next time, Jose!



Our day began on Tuesday with a tour of the Hagia Sophia Museum



strait that divides Europe from Asia. After the cruise, there was a visit to the legendary Spice Bazaar. In the evening, Brenda, Sandra, Marsha, Takemi, Millie, Marianne, Cindy, David, Caroline, Jose and Holly went to Sultana's, a Turkish restaurant

for a dinner show with belly dancers. Marianne, Cindy and Holly were invited on the stage for a lesson in belly dancing. It was a very enjoyable evening with good food and great entertainment.



Our visit to Istanbul ended too quickly.



visit,  
it would have been nice to have had a longer stay. On Wednesday morning, we checked out of the Hotel Antik and headed to the Istanbul airport for our return flight to Houston. It was a long day of traveling, but we returned home with great memories. Bansko, Sofia and Istanbul were exciting new destinations for SCSC and places that should be considered for future trips.

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