

Forty-four ski club members met at United's group check-in at 6:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 11. Joe Walker handed out the goodie bags that Jerry Montgomery, our TC, had prepared for all the participants. "Floria" Hodge (name on airline ticket) was going around the airport trying to convince everyone that her name really is Gloria. Phillip Vice wanted a full refund – he paid for "Pillup" Vice (nametag). Keith Kirkman was on the trip even though he had a very serious major injury on a previous ski trip. We had a layover in San Francisco, and we were not sure if Sharon Rance would be going on to Boise. Twenty minutes before boarding, she realized that the code for her locker where she had stored her carry on luggage was lost. She had to pull an OJ in the airport. Airport people sent her all over the place to fill out paperwork so the locker could be opened. She accomplished this with a few seconds to spare. We arrived in Boise, Idaho around 2:30 p.m. where we connected with eight more SCSCer's. We all managed to find a seat on the bus. The bus driver then hit us with the news that the door to the restroom was broken and could not be opened. He promised to make as many stops as necessary. Obviously, the bus driver doesn't know this group!! If we made as many stops as necessary, we would never get there. Boy did that put a damper on the beer drinking. Well, Bob Simpson (an Aggie) decided to put his engineering skills to work. Sue Howard offered Bob her Swiss army knife, and within a few minutes they had the restroom door working. Thanks Bob & Sue!!! It was amazing to see how fast that beer came out of the ice chest. Jerry Montgomery had sandwiches, chips and candy for us on the three-hour bus ride from Boise to Sun Valley. Bob helped keep the bus tidy by going down the aisle several times with a trash bag and was soon labeled "Trash Boy". To Bob's dismay, no one remembered the "Pepper Boy" skit from Saturday Night Live.

We finally arrived in Sun Valley around 5:30 p.m. It sure was nice to have the luggage delivered to our rooms. Gloria Hodge and Sharon Rance thought they had the room from hell. The doorknob was about to fall off, the sliding glass mirrors were falling out of the closet, the telephone was disconnected, a light was missing in the bathroom, and the TV had to be replaced. The man of the hour was Phillip Vice. He helped put the sliding closet doors back on the track. Eventually, the maintenance people fixed things. Both Gloria and Sharon had a great time in Sun Valley in spite of the initial shock when they saw their room. Jerry Montgomery, Mary Simpson, Bob Simpson, John Smith, Jaime Grana, Jim Edwards, Sue Edwards, Jeff Sarff, Nancy Sarff, Charles Butler and Gary Butler went to Joe's Southwestern Grill for dinner on Saturday.

Sunday morning we were up bright and early to pick up our lift tickets at the SCSC continental breakfast before heading to the slopes. The weather was wonderful – nice and sunny. We attended the TSC Welcome Party Sunday night. A large group went to The Ram for prime rib after the welcome party. After dinner, Concietta Ruggiero, Jay Perreault, Pamela Whitfield, Laura Kinney, Robbin Anderson, Jerry Atkins, June Cullum, John Moss, Carolyn McGinnis, Dianna Carter and Lane Carter headed for the bus stop to go back



to the Elkhorn Hotel. Robbin did not have his jacket and was complaining about the cold. Not wanting to miss an opportunity, the others circled around Robbin to keep him warm. They came close together to aid in the body heat transfer. The group started moving in a circle when Chris Urbanczyk said everyone looked like a "rotisserie". Needless to say, the group had lots of laughs from all the comments made. Ask Joe Walker or Lane Carter about snow bunny sandwiches. June Cullum, Gloria Hodge, Carolyn McGinnis and Ann Odegard experienced the gourmet event many times. The two "I'll follow you anywhere" awards went to Nancy Schultz and Laura Kinney.

During the week we skied, visited the hot tub, shopped, went sight seeing, rode the KART bus system, and dined to our hearts content. Robbin Anderson fell on Picabo Street and broke his binding which the ski patrol helped fix. He then went back up to do the same black slope again. Contrary to what others may say, Phil Maersch is not a jinx on the chair lift!!! He said it is very lonely riding all by oneself on a high-speed quad. Tell one joke to Phil on the lift and you'll get 20 in return. Karyl Lawson earned honors for surviving altitude sickness on her first ever ski trip and went on to catch "ski fever". Best female skier yard sale went to Bonnie Ambrose. Gary Butler had a fantastic yard sale. He used his ski boots to keep from running into trees on both sides of the run. Joe Walker is probably not the best coach in SCSC because after instructing Karyl Lawson for a half day, she won the Daily Double for mowing down both Joe and an unsuspecting novice skier. Julie Davis-Raley (who prefers to ski slowly) had to fly down the trail when she was the second adult to round the bend of a blue trail that a teenage boy had seriously wiped out on and was going into shock. Bill Raley says she can ski fast when she has to! Marty Schulman had a lot of courage to take a snowboard lesson on Baldy Mountain. He is either very brave or losing his marbles. On the last day of skiing, Tommy McLaughlin went about 10 feet above the ski trail when trying to stop. When asked by Jerry Montgomery "What are you doing up there?", Tommy replied "I'm looking for Merrel Smith." (Merrel wasn't on the trip.) When it comes to skiing or anything else, June Cullum will do anything for an Altoid even ski a black slope. Carolyn McGinnis's son, Devin, joined us while on spring break from UT Law School. He was seen skiing with the group when he wasn't watching basketball. Jay Perreault, what happened to your goggles?

Sun Valley - cont'd

Ask Bonnie Ambrose how many speeds her Jacuzzi has. Jerry Atkins' answer is- "low, medium, and don't need a man". Brett Littell and Joe Walker conspired to put a brand new SCSC skier in the hospital for dehydration with an unusual combination of muscle relaxants and forty minutes in the hot tub.

Dianna Carter gave a new meaning to "Shop till you drop" in Sun Valley. We could all take lessons from her - a class act. Karyl Lawson did some last minute shopping Saturday morning in Ketchum. When she got on the KART bus back to Elkhorn, she said all she bought was a battery. Nancy Sarff responded "Well, after all, a girl needs her batteries."



Sue & Dick Howard saw a white fox right outside the Sun Valley Inn. Many people visited the Sun Valley Lodge - the original ski destination. We missed Michael Keaton by one week! Many SCSC'ers visited The Heritage and

Ski Museum in Ketchum.

Shirley & Phil Maersch witnessed the adventure highlight of the KART bus system. While returning from dinner at Warm Springs Ranch, an irate and probably drunk bus patron (must have been one of those Texans) tried to board the bus in the middle of an intersection in downtown Ketchum. He pounded on the bus door, but the driver refused to open the door. The drunk then stood in front of the bus, grabbed the windshield wipers and refused to move. The police were called, they pulled the drunk off the front of the bus and took him away. If you ever need to know anything about the KART bus system, just ask Pat Schulman. She spent most of her time on the buses. In the middle of the night in 20 degree weather at the bus stop in front of the Sun Valley Inn, Joe Walker, Karyl Lawson, Brett Littell, Sharon Rance, Chris Urbanczyk, and Gloria Hodge were shuffling around in a rotating "Snow Bunny Rotisserie" to keep warm.

Joe Kulpinsky, Bob Simpson, Mary Simpson, Cheryl Kenny and Steve Kenny did not dine together but agreed that The Wild Radish restaurant was excellent. Nancy Sarff and Sue Edwards ordered a glass of wine for lunch at a local restaurant and were told by the waitress that only breakfast was being served. Not to worry, they decided that Country French Fritatas would go well with wine. After breakfast they both agreed that wine with breakfast can be an adventure. It was noted that two soups and BLT sandwiches cost \$26 in Ketchum. Tommy & Vicky McLaughlin and Marty & Pat Schulman, who are neighbors, were seen together most of the time. They were spotted dining at the River Rock Steak House.

We had a night on the town in Ketchum Tuesday. Many of the art galleries stayed open late and provided drinks and snacks for the Texas skiers. Joe Walker easily won a gold medal in shopping. Ask

him about his new artwork. Pamela Whitfield also came back with an artistic acquisition. Mary Linden and Pamela Whitfield partied at Whiskey Jacques. SCSC had it's own party Wednesday night at Joe's Grill near our hotel. Joining us were Sandra McCunis, Gary McCunis, and Linda Cizek-Skinner. Sharon Inman, Bruce Lowther, and Marianne Pearce were seen enjoying the party. The TSC races were held Thursday at Dollar Mountain. Jeff Sarff is a real salesman. First, he sold the group on racing in the team competition. Second, he was seen on the streets of Ketchum selling horses and mining claims. Third, he was selling accident insurance on the bus back to Boise. We had barbecue (hamburgers) at the mountain for lunch while being entertained by a singer who knew songs the baby boomers liked. Chris Urbanczyk won the "sharpest turn on the mountain" award for vowing he wouldn't ski in the club races, but showed up anyway to race and win points for SCSC. Jeff Sarff, our Race Director, had told Chris to "Put up or shut up" - so Chris did. Jeff Sarff lost his left ski coming out of the start gate. After putting it back on, he finished the course in a scorching 58 seconds. Jaime Grana demonstrated his artistic talent by carving curves on his snowboard in the TSC club race. This was the only day that Sun Valley wasn't so sunny. It was cloudy most of the day and snowed in the afternoon. That did not stop the SCSC'ers. In case you are interested, SCSC came in second place!! Van & Suzan Miles each won a bronze medal in the individual races. Suzan placed second in the Sr. Women's Division. Phillip Vice and Van Miles won silver medals in the club races.

Friday was St. Patrick's Day, so green was the dominant color on the mountain. Jim & Sue Edwards were easy to spot with their green hair and hats. The TSC Final Awards Party was Friday night. Everyone wore their green. Bill & Julie Raley won the costume competition with their unusual leprechaun costumes. Jim Edwards looked dapper in his green bowler, green suspenders, and cac-tie. Nancy Sarff, sporting her green cap with a propeller, was alternately called "Turbo Nancy" or "The Weedeater." "Fast Lane" Carter enjoyed his table dance with a social lady from another ski club at the Awards Dinner. Chris was seen demonstrating, to Gloria on the dance floor, the secret of snowboarding. With arms stretched out shoulder height, hips swiveling and rotating, he said the secret is "making love to the mountain."

Saturday we headed back to Houston. Laura Kinney and John Moss had a hard time teaching Robbin Anderson the real game of Hearts. After about 10 hours of lessons, he was starting to learn the game. Karyl Lawson claimed Concietta Ruggiero's luggage at the baggage carousel twice - once in Boise and again in Houston. Everyone must have had a great week in Sun Valley - it was much quieter on the way home.

Sing along:
From the catwalks
To the artwalks
To the mountains
Fresh with snow
God bless America....

