



The Sitzmarke

SPACE CITY SKI CLUB

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MEMBER



Texas Ski
Council

May 2002
Vol. 35 No. 1

Grin and Bear It – in Alyeska, Alaska



TSC Final Showdown

On Friday, March 1st, most of our 59 eager participants headed to beautiful Alyeska, Alaska for the Texas Ski Council Final Showdown trip. Security at the airport was tight; so tight that Ron Hayes had to drop his pants to get through! **Ron Flowers** arrived 45 minutes before our scheduled flight time, but the plane was over two hours later than he was, so it was not a problem!

We finally headed for Anchorage about 8:00 p.m. The 8-hour flight made it feel like an Expedition trip. **Richard Hall** playfully asked the bus driver, "Where do we exchange our money?" When we arrived at the Captain Cook Hotel at 2:00 a.m. Saturday, **Kayleen Kill**, TSC VP for the Alyeska Final Showdown, and Sportours representatives greeted us. **Sally Brown** and **Susan Blome** were there to help distribute our TSC badges and breakfast tickets. Thanks, ladies, for your dedication and assistance.

On Saturday morning many participants had the breakfast buffet, then set off to see the start of the Iditarod, an annual 1049-mile dog sled race from Anchorage to Nome. We saw over 60 teams with 12-16 dogs per team. Most of us "froze our buns" and **Barb**



Ehrlich is reported to have eaten a delicious Reindeer dog. Was that with frozen buns or thawed ones?

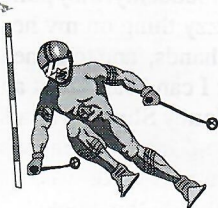
That sunny afternoon, brought shopping, sleeping (2 a.m. arrival, remember?), and sightseeing. **Anneliese Unterharnscheidt** attended the Alaska Native Heritage Tour, which she really enjoyed. **Jim** and **Sue Edwards** shopped for "bargains", and **Joe Walker** bought **Linda Beebe** a beautiful beaver hat to match her cowgirl jacket. For dinner, many found the Glacier Brewhouse, including **Marty** and **Pat Schulman**, **Sally** and **Morris Brown**, **Sharon** and **Merrill Smith**, **Vicki** and **Tommy McLaughlin**, **Diane** and **David Stotz**, **Nancy** and **Jeff Sarff**, **Linda Licarione**, **Leona Schroeder**, **Darlene Hirasaki**, **Jim** and **Sue**, **Barb**, **Kayleen**, and **Susan**.

Sunday, everyone travelled to Alyeska. Arriving at the Prince Alyeska Resort we found a huge hotel including ski-in/ski-out, ski rental shop, 3 restaurants, and a fitness center. The TSC Welcome Reception was held that evening, with over 320 Texans from 11 ski clubs. The hors d'oeuvres from local shops were so filling that many of us didn't need dinner afterward.

Our entire week in Alyeska brought beautiful ski weather! TSC clubs took advantage of this and participated in many optional activities: Flight seeing, wildlife boat cruise, dog sledding, snowmobiling, and of course, skiing. On Monday, **Jim** and **Sue Edwards**, **Sharon** and **Merrill Smith**, **Jeff** and **Nancy Sarff**, **Darlene Hirasaki**, **Bill Lodato**, and others embarked on the Resurrection Bay Cruise. According to their report, warm clothes were essential; it was windy and freezing cold when the occasionally rough ride brought water over the railing.

Others decided to ski. The ski lifts ran from 10:30 am till 5:30 pm, so we all had to readjust our "ski schedule" (it wasn't hard sleeping late!). **Maureen Irwin**, and **David** and **Diane Stotz** opted for the mountain tour, during which Diane often called to speed skier

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mink jacket from **Stan Broniak**! Stan was celebrating his own special day, too -- his "conception day". Don't ask any questions; just do the math.

Many thanks to **Kathy Young** and **Pam Smith** for their assistance, guidance and suggestions. And a very special thanks to **Janet McKenzie** for her help as well. She was great at getting groups of people together, introducing new members to the SCSC way of life on trips, and assisting the trip coordinator. What an incredible trip!



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David, "Honey, wait for me!" Maureen overheard and for the rest of the trip David heard "Honey" from both of them. After the tour, they lunched with skiers **Robbin Anderson, Laura Kinney, Bob Cadena, Leona Schroeder**, and other TSC participants.

Some of our high-flying explorers (**Jose Araujo, Kent North, Harry Melnick, Joe and Linda B., Susan, and Linda L.**) went flight-seeing. In small 6-passenger planes they flew over majestic glaciers, the Chugach Mountains and Mt. McKinley. Some flights landed on a glacier, whereupon Linda Beebe (*picture below*) reportedly stuck her tongue to the giant blue ice. Cool! (Sorry, bad pun!) Others dog sledged or relaxed around the resort that day.

On two special nights many of our group dined at the Seven Glaciers Restaurant, located at the top of the tram. It is the only Four-Diamond restaurant in Alaska and allows diners breathtaking sunsets and views of the Chugach Mountains. We dined, joked, and enjoyed our delicious 4-course meal. Diners included **Alice and Dale Allbritton, Sandy Cox, Lee "I stink" Swords, Sarah Kos, Bill LoDato, Marsha Lutz, Kent North, Judy Schiro and Ron Hayes**. During after-dinner cocktails, we enjoyed stories from **Joe Walker, Linda Beebe, Davis Tucker, Harry Melnick**, and others. **Tor Lileng** was quoted as saying, "I took advantage of the Alaskan seafood and other local specialties...all with the proper wines. The food was excellent, pricey, and I'm worth it!"

Tuesday night was the SCSC Party in Linda and Joe's suite. A special thanks goes to helpers **Sandi Cox, Irma Rosendahl, and Leona Schroeder**. Almost 50 participants came to party, mingle, drink and eat including **Tor, Mary Pat and Keith Rapp, Lila Davis, Ann Severtson, Anneliese Unterharnscheidt, Vicky and Tommy McLaughlin, and Morris and Sally Brown**.

On Wednesday, a large group embarked on the Resurrection Bay Cruise. **Mary Pat and Keith Rapp, Leona Schroeder, Cheryl Esposito, Sally and Morris Brown** kept warm inside the boat's cabin, but our die-hards could brave the cold, windy weather and still take pictures: **Jose Araujo, Laura Naistadt, Linda Licarione, Barbara Erhlich, Marsha Lutz, newlyweds Diane and Ross Baker, and Joe Walker**.



The "Titanic" poses were a sight to see!!!

Thursday was TSC Race Day. We had 30 racers complete the race course, and no injuries. **David Stotz**, our great race director, was also the fastest male racer. **Diane McKenzie** was our fastest female racer. Due to a glitch (we think) in the race computer, **Merrill Smith** was put in the women's division. Merrill said, "I guess I'll need to get a sex-change operation". Sharon exclaimed, "I didn't know I've been married to a female all of these years!"

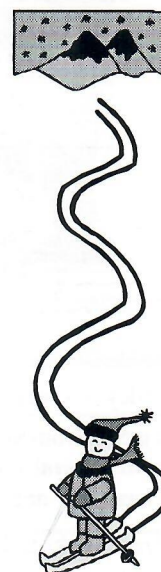
After skiing without falling for two days, **Richard Hall** fell over his ski pole at the end of the practice race course, then skied to the picnic, doing a double-release dismount and creating a "Yard Sale" before the entire assemblage. In another incident, **David Stotz** was skiing with **Kurt and Karin Schidlowski, Martha and Helmut Zenger**, (aka The Swiss Skiing Super Seniors), when he fell on a black bump run, losing skis and poles. Nobody saw his fall, but judging by his post-fall appearance, it might have registered as an "Estate Sale"!

A success story: With lots of help and encouragement from **Ron Hayes, Judy Schiro, Sandy Cox, and Lee Swords**, (and especially Ron) **Anne Severtsen** moved up from green runs and successfully completed her first blue run. Yea, Anne!

The joke of the week was seeing, or trying to see, the Northern Lights. Middle-of-the-night Northern Lights wake up calls from the hotel did not produce even one sighting. But another strange phenomenon was observed. Bleary eyed people were sighted wandering aimlessly around at very odd hours in three layers of clothing with cameras around their necks. Perhaps these strange disruptions are what caused **Laura Naistadt and Linda Beebe** to keep losing room keys! A related cosmic phenomenon, or mere coincidence??? Ooo-eee-oooo!

On Friday, **Dixie and Joe Meynier** went dog sledding. **Jose, Tor, Jim, Jeff, Marsha, Barb, Susan, Linda L., and others**, got in one more day of skiing. **Linda B. and Joe** went sightseeing (as Linda was "damaged goods" after Joe's handling of the snowmobile they rode). Many participants went shopping at the hotel and at the popular Jade Shop, including **Kent, Leona, Irma, Lila, Kayleen, Sue, and Darlene**.

Friday evening was the time for the TSC Awards



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Dinner and Dance. Just before it started, SCSC participants assembled on the hotel grand stairway for a group picture. **Ron** set up his camera on a tripod but it would only take one picture!!! **Jim** came to the rescue with his 35mm camera. When race awards were announced, SCSC took 2nd place in the Division I category. Individual Race Results included: **Karen Schidlowski** - 1st and **Martha Zenger** - 3rd in the Women's Super Senior category, **Helmet Zenger** - 2nd and **Kurt Schidlowski** - 3rd in the Mens's Super Senior category (Swiss couples and skiing go together nicely, obviously!). In the Women's Senior category, **Kayleen Kill** came in 1st (as usual!) . In the Women's Open category, **Diane McKenzie-Baker** won 1st . Congrats to all of our SCSC speed demons!

At 9:00 p.m. we left the party and headed to Anchorage Airport. **Lee Swords** was whisked away by security to box up three knives and a computer tool, while **Linda Beebe** attempted to go through with a corkscrew in her purse. Fortunately, all managed to get on board. It should be noted that **Ron Hayes** had to drop his pants again!!!

Alaska is truly a vacation paradise and proved to be an excellent fun-filled trip for SCSC.