

## LILLEHAMMER, NORWAY – JAN 24-31, 2003

*Tor Lileng/Penny Chancey,, Trip Coordinators*

Before joining the SCSC group in Norway, an eager array of travelers began their Scandinavian adventure in Copenhagen, Denmark. ATC **Penny Chancey** led the expedition for a whirlwind of shopping and touring. **Julia Ostistaya**, **Lee White**, **Dawn** and **Ron Rodriguez** ventured by train to Kronberg castle in Helsinger while **Russ Collison** joined six females for a tour of Rosenborg Palace and treasury. The next day the two groups switched and enjoyed the activities that were experienced by the others. After dodging bicycles for three days, the group flew to Oslo to join the rest of the group.

The second wave of SCSCers (including **Anne Severtson**, who despite business complications....) arrived Saturday evening in Oslo. Unlike those who had a simple jaunt from Copenhagen, the remaining SCSCers had to endure multi-connecting, lengthy flights and, although exhausted, were treated (?)



*Welcome to Copenhagen, Denmark!*

*Bk: Millie Jude, Carolyn Burris, Conna Berglund, Joanne Fore, Ron Rodriguez, Lee White, Penny Chancey.*

*Fr: Christie Burke, Dawn Rodriguez, Russ Collison*

to a long tour of the city of Oslo. As was evidenced by the snoring, some of us may have missed the landmarks that were cloaked in the darkness and fog.

Sunday, we spread out over the city of Oslo. Native **Tor Lileng** led a large contingent on a tour of the city that included the Viking Ship and Kon-Tiki

Museums. A number of members joined a late night Super Bowl party held at an Irish Bar. The night started with **Ron**, **Dawn**, **Lee**, **Julia**, **Tor**, **Russ**, **Sean O'Brien**, **Brett Littell**, and **Harvey Hetzel**. Although some only lasted until halftime (around 2:00 am), die hard fans stayed until the end.

On Monday, we loaded our luggage and departed for Lillehammer. After checking in, the group began exploring the town by visiting the Olympic Park, the ski jump area and the grocery store. **Gai-Lynn Marshall** introduced us to Nugatti, a Norwegian chocolate spread that was enjoyed by all. Did **Tom**

**Geiermann** ever try Nugatti on his french fries? **Ron Garner**, the thoughtful husband, took **Diane** all the way to Norway for her birthday dinner. The welcome party was held that evening and **Ron** collected his winnings from the Super Bowl via drink tickets. The City of Lillehammer gave an Olympic pin from the 1994 games to each of us. The band from Germany had a repertoire of American music that kept everyone jumping, including **Tom Huzzey**, **Charlene** and **Mike Fleming**, and **Jack** and **Rena Sartin**. After returning to the hotel to reserve energy for the first day of skiing, those of us on the sixth floor had our night interrupted by a 12:52 am fire alarm. While some endured the fire alarm in their room, **Tina Williams** and **Penny** joined two other guests and ran down six flights of



*Dinner in Oslo*

*Carolyn McGinnis, Mark Kenney, Gai-Lynn Marshall, Everett Rego, Caroline Grunewald, Russ Collison*

stairs in their pajamas only to be met by the firemen in the lobby. We knew **Leslie** and **Donald Caldwell** liked the lobby area for the "Smokers Club", but rest assured it was a humidifier that set off the fire alarm. **Kurt** and **Karin Schidlowski** thought the fire alarm was their alarm clock, turned it off, and missed the bus the next morning.

On the first day of skiing, we departed for the Hafjell area and attacked the slopes. At the end of the day, there was one minor injury—a knee sprain suffered by **Christie Burke**. **Roger Holzman** also turned up lame, but it is unclear whether he suffered an injury while skiing or the result of the previous night's jitterbugging with **Carolyn Burris**. **Charlene** quickly organized the expeditious method of unloading skis, and never gave it up. Normal guide extraordinaire, **David George**, misled his contingent of **Brett**, **Roger**, **Sean**, **Maria Tramontin**, **Pilar Gonzales**, **Jose Araujo**, **Ann McIntyre**, **Margaret Walker**, and **Donna Berglund** on a tour of neighborhood housing. The trail bearing #13, normally associated with bad



## LILLEHAMMER, NORWAY – CONTINUED



luck, would have proven lucky, if chosen. **Sean** suggested taking #38, which emptied into a street, instead of skiing through the Mickey Mouse poles. It was a long trek to the next trail for this group. **Nery** and **Mark Voss** wouldn't get misplaced on the slopes, given the colorful outfits.

**Tina** should get the award for persistence. The poma lift at Gala ski area should be described as a "sling shot" and was too difficult for **Tina**. **Jack**,



*Tina – Leader of the Pack  
Harvey Hetzel, Bill (Austin SC), Tina Williams,  
Tom Huzzey, Sean O'Brien, Jack Sartin*

the southern gentlemen, insisted on staying behind with **Tina** until she gave up and went to another lift and conquered the poma. It seems when **Camille Laroe** and **Jill Nanney** were trying to get back to the Gala ski area, the directions given were a round about way back to Lillehammer instead.

While the skiers were getting lost (?) and fighting with the poma,

some of the nonskiers were enjoying another activity. Our group went riding in bobsleds down the same track used during the 1994 Olympics. The track record was 51.33 seconds and several came very close to that time. **Chris Urbanczyk/Gai-Lynn Marshall** - 55.47, **Caroline Grunewald/Ann McIntyre** - 55.81, **Russ Collison/Carolyn Burris** - 58.40, **Bruce/ Marsha Kilgore** - 58.58, **Suzanne Woods/Brenda Soileau** - 55.47 and **Penny Chancey/Austin** - 57.31 **Russ** was a very "brave" person who went down the icy track face first on a skeleton sled, not just once but twice and lived to tell about it

While the skiers were trying the Kvitjell area on Thursday, others in our group were becoming dog sled drivers. Each sled had six dogs that were trained to follow a trail through the woods and across a frozen lake. Despite the warning by the owner of the dogs to never let go of the sled, **Joanne Fore** found out the hard way not to clap her hands and shout "let's go". The dogs went forward and she went flying backwards. When the owner saw the team had no driver, he ran back to **Joanne's** sled as it was racing across the lake. Even though **Joanne** broke her finger, she said this was definitely a wonderful experience. After the experience of driving a dog sled, **Diane Garner**, **Millie Jude**, **Cathy Littell**, **Sue Bean**, **Russ**, **Rena**, **Bruce**, **Marsha**, and **Penny** then gathered with the others

inside of a tent and learned how to make stick bread over the coals. This was a great treat after mushing through the snow.

Since many of us were leaving in the early morning hours, we convinced the hotel to keep the disco open until our departure. Although many of us couldn't stay up, a few actually made it for the 4:45 am departure. **Harvey** brought his cds to treat the locals to some Texas two-stepping.

For those going on to Russia, the excursion could be described as an adventure. Although one of the buses transporting us to the Oslo airport turned up lame, we were able to limp to the airport. We quickly developed the ability of packing people and luggage in the back seats and the aisles of the buses, an art necessary every time we moved to a different city. . The group spent their days touring the highlights of St. Petersburg including the Hermitage, Catherine's Palace, Peter and Paul Fortress, the circus, Resurrection Cathedral and St. Nicholas Cathedral. **Carolyn McGinnis** and **Dale Allbritton** helped the wedding couple at St. Nicholas Cathedral by picking up the coins that were thrown for good luck. At every stop the vendors were selling fur hats, hats with military pins, and caviar. The first fur hat adorned the head of **Everett Rego** and others followed quickly when the cold winds started to whip around their ears. **Mark Kenney** was able to find a submariner's pin for his collection. One of the highlights was the Russian Folk Show and dinner complete with red caviar and champagne. The St. Petersburg excursion ended after the circus the next night. **Brett**, **Cathy**, **Bruce**, **Marsha**, and **Tom "Speed Racer" Huzzey** departed earlier while the remaining 21 members continued on to Moscow via the overnight train. **Harvey** and **Maria** in car eight and **Alice** and **Dale Allbritton** in car fifteen got a good night's sleep, while car nine partied for several hours. Phrases such as, "Pass the nugatti.", "Any more food in the boxes?", "Open another bottle." and "When will the rest room



*In front of St. Basil's Cathedral – Moscow, Russia*



## LILLEHAMMER, NORWAY – CONTINUED

be unlocked?”, could be heard from the compartments of **Carolyn, Everett, Mark, Caroline, Ann, Roger, David** and **Gai-Lynn**. **Brenda** was busy making **Suzanne** comfortable after she sprained her ankle. The train porter went in one direction with the luggage and didn't notice **Suzanne** until it was too late. The next morning we met our guide Alla, who escorted us to our hotel for a quick breakfast and a tour of Moscow. After an exhausting first day, some turned in early or explored the hotel restaurants while others ventured downtown. The days were full and complete with trips to the Kremlin, Red Square, St. Basil Cathedral, Gum Store, Lenin's tomb, Metro (underground), and Mariinsky Theater where we watched the Bolshoi Ballet perform. Our two photographers, **Donna** and **Gai-Lynn** should have a world record for pictures taken during this trip.

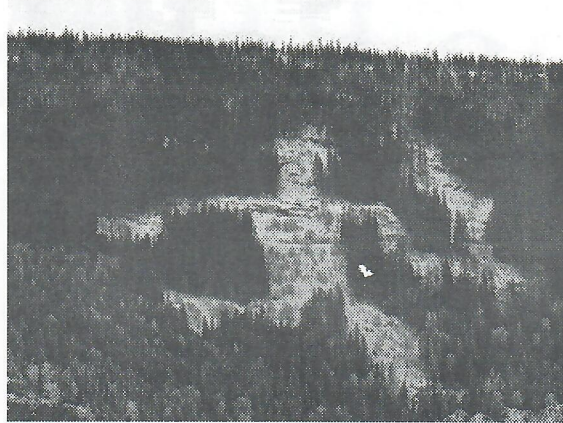
As we got ready to leave Russia for our trip home, a typo prevented **Margaret** from being allowed to leave the country. After negotiating a “fine” with the Russian consulate, we were able to get Margaret through immigration.

We enjoyed meeting our new out of town members, **Everett Rego, Mark Kenney** (Boston), **Russ Collison** (California), and **Pilar Gonzales** (Washington D.C.). We missed **Ann Odegard**, a fixture of international trips, who had to cancel at the last minute due to illness. You were in our thoughts, and we'll reserve a spot for next year.

Penny and I hope you enjoyed your trip. We had a wonderful group.



*Birthdays!*  
*Diane Garner & Christie Burke*



*Hafjell @ Lillehammer – The Olympic Runner*



*Dinner Gathering*  
*Bk: Mark Voss, Tor Lileng, Caroline Grunewald,*  
*Harvey Hetzel, David George, Joanne Fore*  
*Fr: Nery Voss*



*SCSC group at Vigeland Sculpture Park in Oslo,*  
*Norway*

