

TEXAS BEATS FLORIDA! SKI COUNCILS WAGE HISTORIC BATTLE AT BEAVER CREEK

By Ross Baker

Skiers from Texas Ski Council have earned bragging rights for a year over their counterparts from the Sunshine State! This race was of "historic" proportions, as apparently it is the first time two ski councils from any states have ever competed against each other. Kayleen Kill helped organized the race as part of the Texas Ski Council's "traditional" January ski trip.

On Friday, January 16, the top racers representing the ski councils of Texas and Florida competed in the first inter-council race in the country. There were more than 1,100 combined members of the two councils staying at Vail and Beaver Creek.

The twelve fastest skiers, composed of six men and six women, were chosen from each council based upon their individual race time scores. This was strictly qualification by the clock; handicaps were not a factor. Each council ran two heats. The Texas women beat their Florida counterparts in every run down the awesome racecourse, while the men only lost one race. Even though the race scores were tight, this was clearly a blowout. Kayleen K. said that Florida gave it their best shot. "We know Texas is the greatest state with the greatest people and the greatest racers."

Diane Baker was the only SCSC member to qualify for this

prestigious race. She scored the fourth fastest women's time in the TSC races. "I was nervous entering this challenge since I had always raced for fun rather than competitively. I didn't want to let the club or TSC down."

James Mershon, former president of TSC, seemed quite touched in the end, spraying champagne all over the NASTAR deck upon receiving the trophy, which he'll guard with pride for the next year. (The trophy was named the Kim Miller Memorial Cup, named after the late Kim Miller, recent president of the Florida Ski Council, who passed away unexpectedly just weeks prior to the trip.) Mershon said, "It was fun, we really enjoyed it, and there weren't any losers in this deal."

Jim Nicolas, former president of the Florida Ski Council was a good sport and took the overwhelming loss as a challenge to a rematch. Nicolas said, "We salute and congratulate Texas on a fine race. We all ran a good race and finished strong."

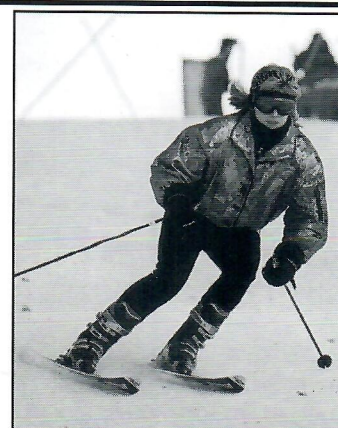
Daren Cole, director of national sales for Vail Resorts, says that he hopes to invite the best racers from ski councils throughout the country to Vail or Beaver Creek for a national championship, of sorts.



The Kim Miller Memorial Cup:
To Ski is to Embrace Life"



The Lone Star State Flag was everywhere at Beaver Creek, where racers with TSC soundly beat their counterparts from Florida on the NASTAR course



Diane Helps TSC Win

BEAVER CREEK I & II (JANUARY 10-17, 2004)

By Thuy Tran, Susan Blome & Jeri Wilson

How do you cure the post holiday blues and get away from all the political hoopla around the presidential primaries? Go to a world class ski resort and ski your heart out for a week with 500 other Texans...Yeehaa! This is exactly what 90 SCSC members did by going on the very first ski trip of 2004 to Beaver Creek, CO led by Susan Blome and Thuy Tran on the long trip and Jeri Wilson on the short trip.

The BC 'long-trippers' arrived in two groups to Denver on Saturday, January 10th to unseasonably warm January weather...in the mid-60s! It was so warm the Quizno's box lunch delivery guy wore shorts!

At The Pines, the 'bed-hopping' started right away at hotel check-in when George Jalufka and John Zavala were given one single king size bed in their room. After much groveling to Susan B. and Janet McKenzie, who had two doubles in their room, Susan B. and Janet M. agreed to switch rooms with George J. and John Z. But Janet M. said she still had the key and reserved the right to come back to her original bed...with or without George J. in it!



Big Dog Amigos at Beaver Creek

The first catastrophe of the trip started on the first day of skiing to none other than our illustrious trip leader, Susan B. Her face had a close and intimate encounter of the worst kind with the escalator steps at the Beaver Creek lifts. It appears that long skis, poles, clunky boots just don't go well with a narrow escalator...go figure? Fortunately, SCSC members Stacey and J.R. Ronzcy from Denver heard Susan scream and stayed with her until she was released from the Emergency Room. Although Susan B. mostly had bumps and bruises, the doctor insisted that her roommate move out of her room for two nights, thus leading to Janet M.'s second bed-hopping escapade. Janet M. bunked on a cot for two nights with Thuy Tran and Pilar Gonzales and they had a bona fide girls' slumber party.

Several SCSC-ers who stayed at the Pines Hotel, including Bud Wilson, Beneta Haley, and Cheryl Crockett, accepted BMW North America's offer to test-drive a BMW. However, the top prize must go to David Edwards and Gary Freeman who test drove the ultimate driving machine every night to check out the manufacturer's claim of its being a "chick magnet". You'll have to ask David E. and Gary F. to validate if BMW's claims are valid.

Many people skied at Vail the next few days as the shuttle service

from the hotel was so convenient. Richard Rocque, a new member who joined SCSC and then immediately moved to Colorado Springs, quickly became a new member of the Thuy Amigos, and led Thuy T., Carmen Mikhail, Ronnie Slate (from Dallas), Janet M., and Roger Holzman in a delightful day in the back bowls of Blue Sky Basin. Suzanne Woods, George J., and John also joined in the fun. It was a full house at the après ski party at Vail's Lionshead. Tim Ford and Denise Butler, Keith Kirkman, Bill Bomberger, Sharon Simandl, Diane and David Stotz, Kayleen Kill and John Rice, and Bob Munn, were among the many seen enjoying the music and pitchers of beer.

Jeri W. and the short trippers arrived in Denver on Tuesday. They met Jean Franks, Kay McKeough, Leslie Adams, and Steve Ellsberry at the Denver Airport and arrived in snowy Beaver Creek where the trees were lit up against the snow and the village looked like something from Europe. The condos they stayed in were fabulous with a full bath in every bedroom and a full bath off of the living room. Kay had everyone guessing at the value of our condos (\$1MM+). Gary and Sharon Sequeira were always the first up and out the door to ski, but one morning they greeted everyone early with a full fire blazing and fresh coffee. It turns out that they had locked themselves out of their bedroom! Jill Nanney was the bravest skier, having Lasik eye surgery on the Thursday before the trip. She kept us all amazed at her assortment of eye drops. She said it was interesting skiing while not seeing signs clearly! Lou Kleinman showed us the way to ski in and ski out of our condo. Monica Choate had never skied, said the lessons were great at Beaver Creek, and spent evenings with Jill Franks enjoying the shops in Beaver Creek and Vail. The location of the hot tub was a mystery, but one night while waiting for a bus we spied Leslie A. and Steve E. getting out of the tub right beside the condo! Harry Gaston was seen at the Beaver Creek Tavern and the Dusty Boot enjoying dinner with friends from the long trip. Bob Cloutier and Jeri W. discovered the DJ at Beaver Creek Tavern and spent several evenings dancing into the late hours. Jeri W.'s brother from Denver, Lee Wilson, joined Jeri W. and Bob C. on Saturday and showed them the uncrowded places to ski at Vail. A great time was had by all enjoying the condos, the shopping and the great snow at Beaver Creek and Vail.

Thursday was TSC club race day and Space City was the first club to race. Unfortunately, our ranks were diminished by several "close encounters," even before the races began. Janet M. decided she needed to run the practice course the morning of the race, and not wanting to miss a turn (remember Keystone?), she ended up smacking right into the middle of a gate. Witnesses report that it was painful just to watch. Keith Kirkman and Frank Adams were free skiing (also on the morning of the race) when apparently Frank A. got a little too close for comfort. At least Keith A. was able to get his brand new Marker binding replaced under warranty later that day. In spite of all this, we still managed to get 40 racers to the course on time. Robert Samen was our fastest racer, earning a Nastar silver medal with a time of 37.92 (it was a long, tough course). Kayleen K. was our fastest woman with a time of 38.99, also good for a silver medal. Other silver medal winners were Diane Baker and Susan Wilson. Bronze medals were won by Jill Nanney, Sharon S., Linda McNeilly-Meyer, Dave S., Bill B., Bruce Lowther, Bob Wray, Ron

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BEAVER CREEK I & II (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 10)

Rambin, Robert Cloutier, and Merlyn Harger. Laurie Haischer deserves an honorable mention—even though she took a tumble, she got back on the course and still won points for the club. Speaking of points, we earned 920, which was more than any other club except Lone Star. After the club handicaps were applied however, we fell into third place behind Los Amigos. (They have a handicap of 1.75!)

Seven SCSC racers entered the individual races, which were run on Friday morning. Diane B. placed fourth in the women's open division (another silver medal) and also participated in the Texas/Florida Ski Council Cup Challenge. (TSC won—twelve heats to one!) Kayleen K. was the second fastest senior woman (silver again), and Robert S. was our club's fastest racer with a combined time of 77.20—good for another silver medal. Nives Stanfelj missed a gate near the end of the club race on Thursday, but came back the next day in the individuals to place sixth in women's open and received a bronze medal. Sharon S., Bill B. and Bruce L. also received bronze medals. Congratulations and many thanks to our Race Director, Bob W., and all of our great racers who participated at Beaver Creek!

The SCSC club party on Thursday night had a full house. So much so that we quickly ran out of food and our ATC Thuy T. was heard begging the Pines kitchen staff to whip up several last minute platters of food. Amongst those seen at the party were Karl and Lotty Gautschi, Johanna and Jing Kuang, Ron and Roberta Rambin, Joe Cannata, Philip Vice, Joe Brucoliere, Jim Hendrix, Sandy and Don Parker, Lynn and Walter Hester, Carol Conner, Nora Cortez, Gary and Beneta Haley, Jim Walker, Bob W. and Christine March, Charlie and Beverly Roberts, Diane and Ross Baker, Glenn and Gonul Youngblood, Joe Kulpinsky and Pat McKechnie, Ron Hayes and Judy Shiro, and Merlyn Harger. The highlight of the evening was everybody going around taking pictures of each other. Janet Schafer and Ron H. had a race for who could take the most pictures. The theme of the night seemed to be compromising poses of a single guy with a harem of women starting with Joe Daleo, and then quickly followed by George J., Lee Holsenbeck, and Richard R. Sharon S. demanded equality and had her picture taken posing with 'the boyz'.

Beaver Creek is a great place to stay with great restaurants, fabulous lodging, and shopping but the nightlife left something to be desired. When 500 Texans want music and dancing...by George J., they'll get it. The president of Beaver Creek Resort quickly hired and paid for a

DJ for the TSC skiers after hearing a complaint that there is no place to dance and hang out at night. Nives S. did SCSC proud by being the sometimes-lone SCSC representative at the Beaver Creek Tavern every night enjoying the DJ and dancing. Many SCSC members finally joined Nives S. Thursday night when many of us showed up in force. Bob Rexford was seen "getting down" along with Pilar G., Bob M., Lee H., Lori Gilliland, Nora C., Susan B., Bruce L., Robert Clements, Leyla Ozkardesh, and Ken Harger. Cathy Phillips and Harley Chelin were also seen enjoying the evening with Cathy P.'s daughters, Lori and Melissa, and Lori's boyfriend Brian Abramson.

Alas, all good things must come to an end. The final farewell and awards banquet was held at a dude ranch complete with wagon trains, bales of hay, and good old fashion bar-b-q. The band was great playing all favorites from C&W to rock and roll. Sharon S. was out "dirty dancing" with a skier from another ski club. Also seen at the party were fellow SCSC members Peggy Montgomery and Nancy Sarff. However, the mystery woman of the entire week was Crystal Fryer. She was definitely on the trip, but SCSC-ers rarely, if ever, saw her.

A great time was had by all enjoying the hotel or condos, the shopping and the great snow at Beaver Creek and Vail. Maybe it was the world class ski venue, maybe it was the good snow, maybe it was the five-star lodging, but one thing is for certain, it has to be the people and the camaraderie that made Beaver Creek 2004 a trip to remember!

A special thanks from Susan Blome to Stacey and J.R. Ronczy for staying with me when I had my accident with the escalator, to Ron Hayes, Judy Shiro and Beneta Hayes for taking me to the dentist on Monday morning, to Janet McKenzie, Thuy Tran and Pilar Gonzalez for having a slumber party so I could recuperate, to Thuy and Jeri for being fantastic ATCs, and to all participants on Beaver Creek for a fantastic trip and some wonderful memories! See you on the slopes next year!



Janet, Bob and Carmen at Beaver Creek