



# The Sitzmarke

SPACE CITY SKI CLUB

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## SNOWMASS 2005

By Gary Ladd and Dana Wardell

The day started out as a normal day to head out of town for skiing. Boy, were we wrong about that. We had 3 flights out of Houston to Denver to connect with 6 flights to Aspen. Only one lucky group made it to Aspen, which included Susan Blome, Tom Dwyer, Leyla Ozkardesh, and David Sechler. The infamous trip leader, Bill Bomberger, was told by United Airlines that a second flight had also landed with 9 others. We did not have enough people to charter a bus on our own, so we connected with the Austin Skiers to make it economical. Right after we chartered the bus, one of the 9 passengers that United said was in Aspen reappeared at the airport. Now was the time to be creative. We ended up renting 2 cars at the airport to move the 4 that we did not have room for. Gary Ladd volunteered for this opportunity. About this time we found 3 more Texas ski council skiers stranded at the airport with us! Charles Butler now volunteered to drive the second vehicle to Snowmass. After becoming expert jugglers, we finally made it on the road around 8 p.m. As the bus was going up the last hill into Snowmass, a car in front of the bus decided to slow down. We lost all of our momentum and were stuck on the ice. The nice Snowmass police department arrived and immediately (after rushing off to a bar fight) called for a front end loader to pull us up the last hill into Snowmass. We arrived at the hotel around 1 a.m.

Sunday morning. It was the best of times and the worst of times. The trip leader used up all of his bad snowday IOU's for this trip. We had 6-8" of powder each day for the first 5 days of the trip. The advanced skiers loved it, but the lower level skiers had their work cut out for them.

Tuesday, the participants on the short trip also experienced trying travel. They arrived at the Houston airport to learn that the flight from Denver to Aspen had been cancelled. Our wholesaler was wonderful and we had a bus 30 minutes after we landed in Denver. It had been snowing for days and the airport was closed repeatedly. But, our intrepid group caught the bus except for Kay McKeough, whose flight to Aspen had not been cancelled. By the time we had driven across Denver and stopped for another bus with a defroster, we learned that Kay's plane sat on the runway in Denver and returned to the airport without taking off. She hopped in a cab and met us at Applejacks. So began the long journey into the dark snowy night and we arrived in Snowmass only to learn that the bus could not make it up the final hill due to icy conditions - not again! Much

as the driver tried, it wasn't going to happen. By then, it was 3 a.m. and there was no way to get to our lodging. Except for the fine young man who worked at The Stonebridge who came down the hill in his own truck and ferried us up there 3 or 4 at a time. Bless his soul. The rest of the Stonebridge crew unloaded our bags from the bus and delivered them to our rooms later that morning. Of course, Kay's skis and luggage remained in Denver for the next couple of days. Luckily she had Nancy Neill for a roommate. Nancy, you've got some really cute clothes!

In spite of the lateness of our arrival, Barbara Ehrlich, C. J. Kao, Camille LaRoe, Ann Rogers, K. C. Wang, Bessy Wang, Dave Whitehead, Pat Piech, Robbin Anderson, June Cullum and several more skiers braved the slopes that first day. It continued to snow most of that day and evening. By Wednesday, heavy snow and wind caused periodic white-outs, giving Margaret Clingerman the opportunity to lead Ron and Roberta Rambin, Gary Hercules, Gary Ladd, and Philip Vice down the "invisible mountain". That day, Richard Payne had all of the excitement. Richard was skiing with Janet McKenzie and Bob Wray and was not paying attention (showing off) when he hit some soft snow and was taken off the trail, not to be seen for a while. After several minutes all Janet could say was, "a ski was seen flying out of the woods on to the trail, then another ski, a ski pole, and a second ski pole appeared. Richard finally climbed out of the tree well that he fell into. His skis were at the bottom of the trail with him still in them."

Thursday dawned clear and bright with gorgeous snow everywhere and the skiing was terrific. Nancy DuFrane and Ashok Moza were seen all over the slopes as were Rob and Vickie Degeyter along with their old friends, Sharon and Gary Sequeira. This was the Degeyters' first trip with the club and, according to them, won't be their last. Bill Bomberger, Keith Kirkman, Bob Debell, and Frank Adams did not need anymore exercise after their exploits. They found the longest trail at Snowmass, which was a double black and made an attempt to get down the run. At the top of the trail there were only two tracks in the knee deep powder, unfortunately it was heavy powder. A stop every hundred yards was mandatory with the skiers in agony from the exercise. All made it to the bottom.

Sandy and Don Parker were on the trip with their son David and his wife, Valerie, and their baby son, David. Valerie took her first lessons

*(Continued on page 3)*



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*(Snowmass 2005 - Continued from page 1)*

and did great while **Grandpa Don** was wearing himself out pulling little **David** up the hill again and again and again and again...**Bobbette** and **Bob Olsen** were on the trip in search of the hot tub in Aspen where they met some 30 years ago. They found it and have the pictures to prove it. The snow was so wonderful that **Bobbette** HAD to ski for the first time in years and did great. **Bob** was heard to say, "I got my baby back!" **Jim McLaughlin** and **Norm Rund** skied and partied like old pros. **Marda Waters** and **Bob Tripp** were awfully good sports for rooming together due to a last minute cancellation. Thanks, guys!!

**Dana Wardell** and **Johanna Kuang** were seen in the hot tub working out some sore muscles. **Johanna's** husband, **Jing Gwo**, was taking this trip pretty easy after having knee surgery. **Lady Freitag**, who has moved to Dallas, joined us in Snowmass for some fantastic snow and lots of laughs.

**Michael** and **Dianna Carter** were known as 'party central', proving after the slopes were conquered, happy-hour was the next event! And **Aleksander Bunsch** and **Lou Kleinman** were spotted at the TSC buffet giving us the thumbs-up on the first party of the trip. **Robert Clements** and **Bruce Lowther** skied together when they weren't out on the slopes looking for 'the ladies'.

**Frances Kaminsky** and husband **Harold** worked very hard trying to coordinate travel arrangements together, but the airlines just wouldn't cooperate, while **David Sechler** and **Tom Dwyer** flew in from Indiana to join all the fun. **Gail Blanton** and **Vicki Faulkner** won the SCSC shoppers prize, helping some of us find those 'perfect gifts' for loved ones left at home. Even though **Elba Broussard** and **Rose Cafferena** left us early due to an illness, they made the best of their time with the group and proved that 'mink' was in itself a winter fashion statement.

**George Jalufka**, **John Zavala**, **Margaret Woods**, and **Nives Stanfelj** were often spotted together, challenging the slopes, night-clubs and fine restaurants and as expected, **Howard Schoenike** was a regular dancing machine at the Friday night TSC party. **Lori Gilliland** and **Christine March** were seen tearing up the blue slopes while **Maureen Irwin**, **Nancy Schultz**, and **Laura Kinney** proved that black slopes were just another color, swooping down with the greatest of ease. As the only SCSC

snowboarder **John Hord** showed his athletic ability and also his fashion sense by winning the 'tie-one-on' competition. **Merlyn Harger** met **Mike** with Lone Star Skiers for nightly reunions, while **Gary Rollins** waited until the post trip party to show his stuff, shining as the life of the party. **Laurie Haischer** and **Margaret Walker** showed that SCSC members can go anywhere and have a great time. As usual, **Mike Murphy** and **Bob Rexford** hit the slopes hard and fast every day, leaving all the best skiers in a cloud of white.

**David Stotz** was a great race director, and when his wife **Diane** fell during the Thursday races, **David** proved what a great husband he was - all'n'all a GREAT guy! I want to personally thank all of the participants on the short trip for being such good sports during our long trip from Denver to our lodging that Tuesday night. You were great to travel with and made my job so much easier.



Snowmass Snowfall