

## Egypt! By ATC—Barb Tuley

We have all arrived safely to the comforts of our homes in America now. We endured a few bumps in the road on our trip and an 118 degree day in Aswan Egypt. We are reflecting on all the wonderful once in a lifetime opportunities and experiences we enjoyed.

Some of our travelers started out on a pretrip to Hurghada where they had the opportunity to go snorkeling and diving in the fantastic Red Sea. Others in our group went on a sailing vessel and some of us traveled to the desert to see a mirage, see the Bedouin life in the desert, ride a camel and see a dinner show.

We stayed at a great resort on the Red Sea, the Stella Makada with an after dinner show each evening.

We met up in Luxor with the main group on the River Boat. It was great to see SCSC members and start cruising down the Nile. I think each one of us at one point stood on the top deck and said to ourselves, "Wow, I'm on the Nile River".

We sailed at night and stopped to tour the great sights during the early morning to avoid the heat. We saw the Valley of the Kings, temple of Karnack Ramses VI, Aswan High Dam, Lake Nasser, Kom Ombo Temple. We rode on Felukka boats on the Nile and saw many more things. Some of us took an optional trip to Abu Simbel.

It was then on to a trip to Cairo to the Hilton in the heart of Cairo. This great city has 18 million inhabitants and I think they are all in their cars on the street at one time.

We visited the great pyramids and some of us even went inside one. WOW...that was great. We saw the Sphinx, went on to the Cairo city tour, saw the Egyptian Museum, the Khan el Kahlili Market. We all, for sure, bought our share of Egyptian goods and clothing. We took a bus trip to the Mediterranean coast to Alexandria to have a city tour one day.

Quite a few of us went on the post trip after saying goodbye to our friends at a farewell dinner put on by TSC at the Hilton on the last night. We enjoyed a great dinner show with a wonderful dance performance. The post trip started out with St. Catherine's Monastery and the burning bush, then on to a great experience of lunch and a swim in the Dead Sea. We went to Jerusalem, Mt. Olive, a view of the old city, Bethlehem, Church of the Nativity, the Wailing Wall, the Muslim Quarter, Church of the Holy Sepulcher and Mt. Zion.

Three of our group went on a post trip to Sharma El Sheik. Ask Gayle Lynn Marshall and Ross and Diane Baker how their trip turned out. And if you see Joann McClain and Sharon Thompson, ask them why they did not swim in the Stella Makada pool after dark.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the TSC and SCSC volunteers that gave their time to put together these trips so that we had the opportunity to go see the world in a safe and fun way. A very big thank you to Penny Chancey for all the work she did on this trip. I don't think anyone but her could have done such a great job and it was a HUGH job including those post and pre trips.

