

# Alaska - The Great Land

by Nicky Minear

On March 20<sup>th</sup>, 43 SCSC members boarded a plane bound for "The Last Frontier". We arrived at Anchorage International Airport greeted by Ted Widmer (who had left Houston on Wednesday), our San Francisco participants **Susan Black** and **David Cikvasvili**, and Tim with The Magic Bus Company. We all headed for Alyeska



Resort in Girdwood for a week filled with fun, partying, skiing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, flight seeing, and any other exciting activities. Before boarding the buses we bid **Lynda Henry** and **Jim McLaughlin** adios until the next day. They opted to spend the night in Anchorage and rent a van. Shortly after checking in **Sue Behnke** managed to lose the screen from the window in her room! Some of our trip members were recipients of door prizes sent by the Alyeska Resort for our pre-trip party. The lucky people were **Sandra McCunis**, **Donna Berglund**, **Eugene Walker**, **Barbie Miller**, **Frank Stanley**, **Susan Wilson**, **Sue Rund**, and **Judy Katany**.

Sunday morning we were greeted by Lynn Glatz and staff from the Alyeska Resort at a buffet breakfast with news of everything there was for us to do. Those taking advantages of

the Flightseeing were **Gary Haley**, **Elaine Sokoloff**, **Rex Henderson**, **Bud and Susan Wilson**, **Joe Walker**, **Ann McIntyre**, and **Marsha and Bruce Kilgore**. Marsha, Bruce, Ann and Joe flew over the avalanche sight right after it happened. Others of the group hit the slopes or ventured around Girdwood. **Ray Davis** tried snowboarding at the Alyeska Day Lodge with **Bobbie Sellers** watching.

Monday brought the adventure of para-sailing. **Carol Buck** and **Ann McIntyre** used their skis with the guide steering them to safety. **Marsh Kilgore** came down sans skis. Marsha had done this in New Zealand. The weather got too bad for anybody else to try this. **Elaine Sokoloff** and **Nicky Minear** hopped on the bus for an afternoon with **Todd and Brandy Haley** and baby **Nicholas** (Gary's son and daughter-in-law and grandson) in Anchorage. We managed to have some

wonderful halibut and salmon for lunch. Do ask Elaine about the Beanie Babies!

Tuesday morning we all boarded the buses for Seward and the Resurrection Bay excursion and toured the SeaLife Center with a stop at the Summit Lake Lodge for hot chocolate and pictures, then were stopped by the Alaskan

road crews while avalanche blasting was taking place. After the SeaLife Center some of the guys hit the bars while some of the gals went shopping. During our rough outing we were able to see Orca (killer) whales, sea lions, otters, and bald eagles. After the tour of the SeaLife Center some of the guys hit the bars and the gals went shopping. **Sue Behnke**, **Jay Rosel**, and **Lotty and Karl Gautschi** walked from the SeaLife Center to Ray's by the Water where the rest of us met them to enjoy dinner. Those not staying for dinner toured the Wildlife Center on their way back to Girdwood. We left **Bobbie Sellers**, **Terri Thomas**, and **Dan Conery** behind to hold up the fort for us.

Wednesday we were fortunate that **Norm and Sue Rund** allowed us to use their suite for our club party. Gary also rented the adjoining room so we could have enough room. Enjoying





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our imported (from Texas) goodies and partaking of fine beverages (including Tuaca compliments of **Carol Buck**) were **Tim Malone**, **Maria Tramontin**, **Susan** and **Frank Stnley**, **Roger Holzman**, **Sherry Outlaw**, **Carolyn Burris**, **David George**, **Donna Berglund**, **Eugene Walker**, **Nancy Staples**, **Nancy Meier**, **Barbie** and **Jack Miller**. Those of us who needed more



partying after the club party was over went downstairs to the hotel bar.

Thursday we finally got to go snowmobiling. **Gary**, **Elaine**, **Nancy Meier**, and **Joe Daleo** were the first group to go. Gary almost fell in the creek and Elaine ran into a rock instead of a tree. Nancy spent 15 minutes trying to learn how to ride a snowmobile before catching on. She has moved to Denver and will probably be able to use a snowmobile. **Marsha**, **Bruce** and **Nicky** went in the afternoon. Marsha and Nicky sank in the snow every time they had to get off their snow mobiles. Bruce managed to tip his over sideways. Nicky managed to run into the tree that Elaine missed! **Eugene Walker** decided to twist his knee so

was put on the injured list for the rest of the trip. He did join 23 of us at The Glacier Brewhouse for a tour and dinner but was in pain. Enjoying the Alaskan seafood were **Pat Pease**, **Nancy Staples**, **Janet McKenzie**, **Tim Malone**, **Maria Tramontin**, **Sandra McCunis**, **Ted Widmer**, **Leona Schroeder**, **David George**, **Marsha** and **Bruce Kilgore**, **Barbie** and **Jack Miller**. Some of the diehards (**Gary**, **Rex**, **Maria**, and **Sandra**) stayed in town and did a pub crawl to Humpy's and then dropped **Ted Widmer** at the airport for his long trek home.

Friday **Elaine Sokoloff** went dogmushing (racing), **Joe Daleo**, **Susan Stanley**, and **Carol Buck** went snow

shoeing, and **Nicky Minear** made the awesome ride up the tram and checked the happenings at the top of the mountain. Later in the evening **Susan** and **Bud Wilson**, **Nancy Meier**, **Elaine Sokoloff**, **Carolyn Burris**, **Sherry Outlaw** and **Nicky Minear** all had dinner at the Double Musky getting out last

taste of the wonderful Alaskan seafood. **Lotty** and **Karl Gautschi**, **Jim McLaughlin**, **Lynda Henry**, **David Cikvasvili** and **Susan Black** dined on the top of the mountain. **Eugene Walker** had a visit from some of the visiting nurses with our group - **Janet McKenzie**, **Leona Schroeder**, and **Sherry Outlaw**. Most of the group - **Roger Holzman**, **Joe Walker**, **Ann McIntyre**, **Carolyn Burris**, **Joe Daleo**, **Carol Buck**, **Nancy Meier**, **Gary Haley**, **Tim Malone**, **Maria Tramontin**, and **Sandra McCunis** spent the rest of the evening in the hotel bar dancing and partying until the wee hours. **Sue** and **Norm Rund**, and **Judy Katany** headed back to Houston so they could be fresh on Monday morning.

Saturday **Lynda Henry** and **Jim McLaughlin** headed to Denali and the rest of us headed for a day in Anchorage for shopping, sightseeing, and watching the basketball games on TV. We left behind **Tim Malone**, **Maria Tramontin**, **Sandra McCunis**, **Terri Thomas**, and **Dan Conery** at Alyeska to ski and relax. **Nancy Staples** and **Eugene Walker** stayed behind because they were sick. We bid our San Francisco participants **David Cikvasvili** and **Susan Black** good bye in Seattle and headed the rest of the way home tired with wonderful memories.