

On December 8<sup>th</sup>, 41 SCSCer's boarded Continental Airlines for a short 2-hour flight to sunny New Mexico, and then a 2-hour bus ride to Taos. We were greeted by the wonderful staff of the Sagebrush Inn and taken to our rooms, which had been upgraded to rooms with fireplaces and other luxuries. We were greeted by everything nice but snow. This was truly the beginning of the "Year of the Rock" ski season.



Wednesday evening we were entertained with a wine and cheese party given by the hotel. We visited with Toby from Native Sons who told us of snow mobiling and ski rental. Faust from the bus company came by and described short tours for the group. We then adjourned to the cantina for dancing and dinner. **Janelle Peyton, Pat Musemeche, Randa Robinson and Tom Buzzi** caught the town bus for a little gambling at the casino. Janelle came away \$150 richer. The rest managed to break even. **Tim Malone and Martha Gallia** entertained us with their wonderful dancing and **Patti Maudslay** was seen trying to teach **Don McGee** the Texas Two Step.

Thursday morning **John Allen, Don McGee, Sue Behnke, Harvey Hetzel** and I caught the town bus into Taos for some

shopping. The first shift of snow mobilers left the hotel about 10AM. The group included **Judy Schiro, Ron Hays, Marc and Mimi Markel, Carl and Mary Favre, Roger Holzman, Ann Odegard, Carolyn McGinnis, Kim Smith, and Carol Cain**. Roger somehow got the idea the he was chief navigator and pointed out a short cut for driving thru the mountains and led everybody to the river where Judy and Ron turned over and almost landed in the water. If Judy had been driving this would never have happened! Roger was relieved of his duties as navigator. The second group included **Sue Benhke, Patti Maudslay, Sue DeWitt, John Allen, Curt Frisby, Don McGee** and me. Both trips were a snow version of the Houston Grand Prix! Thursday evening everybody gathered in our room for a tremendous club party. Since Sue and I had been snow mobiling in the afternoon we were late getting back only to be greeted by frozen food for the party. Sue came to the rescue and used her hair dryer to thaw some of the food. We also used the microwave.

Friday 30 of us hopped on the bus bound for Red River and a day of skiing with a wine and cheese party afterward given by Wally of Red River and JP of Taos Ski Resorts. **Phil Nelson, Debbie**



**Abadie and Janet McKenzie** rented a car so they could make early runs and to return to Taos for dinner. JP brought **Sue Benhke** over in the morning and took **Keith Strandtman** and **Don Fredell** back. The rest of us stayed for dinner at Texas Reds.

**Judy Brown and Dorothy Valagura** and I spent the day shopping Red River and joined the group for the party. **Kathy Young and Dennis Stockton** joined us. It is a certain fact that **Kathy and John Allen** had the loudest ski outfits, and the wildest hats were worn by **Don McGee, John Allen, and Mitch Gaspard**. Those enjoying the wonderful steaks were **Glenn**



**Jennings, Pat McLaughlin, Judy and Steve Brown, Ray and Dorothy Valigura, Marc and Mimi, Carl and Mary, Sue DeWitt, Sue Behnke, Curt, Mitch, Ron, Judy Schiro, Roger, Harvey Hetzel, Don McGee, Carolyn, Steve Slade(our Aggie), Ken Dinger, Ann Odegard, John Allen, Frank Adams, Kim Smith, Morris Covin** and me. **Patti** stayed over in Red River so she could see her friend.

The fireplaces were enjoyed by all of us as it was cold - no snow, just cold! **Debbie** liked the fireplace so much that she used up all the small bundle of wood that was provided so managed to retrieve extra bundles of wood, which were locked behind an iron gate. I am still wondering how she did this.

Saturday 26 hopped on the bus for a trip to Angel Fire for a day of skiing. **Frank Adams and Morris Covin** were the first on the slopes and the last off. They were a blur racing down the mountain and through the gates. After some good tips from Phil, Ken was expertly carving his turns and even doing jumps. Kim also received some excellent advice. We were entertained with a Margarita party given



# Taos

by Nicky Minear

by the hotel and then 16 of us went to the dining room for dinner. Janelle told us of her excursion to town with **Pat McLaughlin** hitch hiking. It turns out they ran into a man that Janelle had danced with the night before and he gave them a ride back to the hotel. The others in the group went into town for dinner. Curt managed to have the desserts complimentary as he explained to the manager that not everyone was served together.

Sunday we all loaded up the bus, coolers and all, and headed to Santa Fe for shopping, sightseeing and lunch. Morris and Janet were enjoying the museums so much that they forgot to eat until they got to the airport in Albuquerque. Janet scarfed her food down so fast while poor Morris was just ordering. It seems the shops around the square negotiate prices - or so the signs in the windows indicated. Patti, Pat McLaughlin, John, Don, Sue Behnke, Pat Musemeche and her son Todd enjoyed lunch at a local restaurant. Pat Musemeche then joined her son for the ride Albuquerque where she joined us in time for the flight. Mitch got into a conversation with a Greek Orthodox priest. At one point we all thought he was selling the man on the ski club or trying to be saved. *I'll opt for the latter!*

We all returned to Houston tired and weary with some good memories. There were lots of laughs, lots of dancing, partying and disappointment over the fact there was not much snow - and there still isn't much snow in the Land of Enchantment!

