

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS I

by Kathy Young



Dateline Steamboat/ Texas Ski Week 1998...

Steamboat's champagne powder was very much evident. We got eleven inches of snow on Tuesday, sixteen inches on Saturday and two to four inches every other day of the week. Seventy-nine diehard SCSC skiers were on hand to experience the "fluff stuff." The official sixty-four trip participants were joined in Steamboat by **John Burk**, one of the few proud owners of snow chains in Houston, wife **Nancy** and son, and their friends, **Nancy Barnes** and **John Swiggert**. **Mike Birowski** from Dallas joined the group. Seven SCSCers, **Carolyn Rolsten**, **Kevin** and **LiChing Bishop**, **Gary Werner**, **Jon Moss**, **Art Kelly**, and **Lynda Snyder** came with the Clear Lake club and joined us at Timber Run. Turncoats **Jerry** and **Peggy**

Montgomery showed up in the company of **Los Amigos**.

How did our intrepid group fare? Well, everyone, warned pretrip, managed to avoid the rare "Grabben Aspen" conifer. We are happy to announce that there are no incidents with trees to report. However, rumor has it that **Marvin Volz's** coffee can be just as hazardous and those frozen power bars eaten on slope can be detrimental to good dental health. Seriously, the only injury to a member of the group was minor. **Maria Alvarado** injured her knee. When asked if her knee hurt, she admitted that the real pain was her disappointment at having to cancel a scheduled trip to soak in the hot springs. **Heidi Heinrich** displayed signs of suffering from altitude sickness. She blames this for the fact that she can not tell her left from her right. Repeatedly she put her left ski on her right foot. Just when she thought she had the knack of it she announced to those riding the lift chair with her that while pointing to the left, she was going to turn right when she got off the lift.

The deep powder provided many a comic moment. **Rita Blasier** stuck both skis in the powder and had to dig out, take off her skis and then walk down the mountain because she could not manage to put back on her skis. **Leona Pleasant** will soon be offered a position on the ski patrol after having to dig husband **Neil Pleasant** out of deep powder. **Phyllis Reichel** and **Kathy Young** practiced synchronized skiing by execution of perfect simultaneous falls. Poor **Mitch Gaspard** was left for dead when **Tim Malone** took him down a black diamond slope on the first run of the first day and left him. Any guilt **Tim** felt about **Mitch's** misfortune disappeared later when **Tim** hooked up with the ladies. What a way to take out a rival!

Speaking of the ladies, **Jeff Sarff** found himself the lone male skiing with six ladies: **Cindy Overton**, **Kay McKeough**, **Carol Hudson**, **Phyllis Reichel**, **Kathy Young**, and **Heidi Heinrich**. Funny, **Jeff** stayed but kept trying to convince the girls that he really really did need to go find his wife

Some of the group loved skiing in the crud. **Stacey** and **J R Ronczy** tried snow boarding and reported that it is really great in powder conditions. Macho men, **Philip Vice**, **Jason Swartz**, **Jon Welkey**, and **Joe Broccoliere** skied all day with only a twenty-minute break for lunch although rumor has it that **Joe** and **Jon** wimped out and did take an additional bathroom break.

Linda Guice, skiing fantastically on new skis that she got for Christmas accused **Robert Clements** of bumping her as she got off



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"Loft Ladies", **Cindy Overton**, **Kay McKeough**, and **Carol Hudson** did well in representing SCSC in closing the nightspots.

Barbara Geisecke was on the alert for fish and wild life slopeside so that she could write off her ski trip as a business expense. We think that she found the "wild life" part when left alone with condo-mate, **Mitch Gaspard** while their fellow condo-mates went on the sleigh ride dinner. What really happened, **Barbara**?

Enterprising ladies, **Brenda Soileau** and **Beverly Oberlin** have other ideas. They asked TC, **Kathy Young**, why she had an 800-phone number at work instead of a 900 number. Also unable to leave work at home, podiatrist, **Maynard Nussbaum**, performed surgery on condo-mate, **Chris Goll** the night before the NASTAR races. **Chris** may have a second career too. Their fellow condo-mates, **Judy Katany** and **Mike Ruck** like **Chris's** home made jerky so much that they want him to market it. The girl who really knows how to economize though is **Margaret Johnson**. She bought a new pair of ski boots from a local ski shop at the beginning of the trip, skied in them all week and then returned them on the last day with a sad story that they did not fit. Men of SCSC can truly appreciate a thrifty girl like her.

Speaking of thrifty, **Gary Haley**, now is the proud owner of a "purse" that he won at the TSC welcome party. No longer can he use the ploy that he doesn't carry any money on him to get others to foot the bill.

Fashion statement of Texas Ski Week award goes to classy lady, **Marcie Spalding** who showed up sporting an array of "to die for" ski wear and furs. Now, if we could just do something fashion-wise about her husband, **Ken**, but how could anyone compete with **Mitch Gaspard** in the fashion department? **Mitch** kept the group amused with a variety of crazy hats including a dual purpose hat which reportedly blasts trees out of your path as you ski. No one will have any problem finding **Jon Welkey** on the slopes. Just follow the smell of moth balls. We all know where he stores his ski apparel off season.

While on the subject of smells, twenty-three of our group went on a sleigh ride powered by methane gas.

Rick Kivch and **Jim Rinke** in the front row got to experience the exhaust first hand. You can bet that these two sat in the back on the return trip!. The sleigh ride included dinner and entertainment although the entertainment part was hardly necessary. **E J Boudreaux** showed us how to play the guitar Cajun-style. The wine flowed freely. Birthday girl, **Jeri Wilson**, celebrated with a cake. The Hokey-Pokey kept us going while desert was served. On the way home, **Joe Daleo** picked up his date for the evening, a real dog of the canine variety, when **Smudge**, owned by the sleigh ride manager, jumped up in the seat next to him. Was **Dennis Stockton** jealous?



the lift so they each would have an even number of falls for the day. **Nancy Sarff** won her first NASTAR metal and then to prove that it was not a freak occurrence won another medal the next day in the individual races. Soon joining **Nancy** on the women's downhill team will be beginner, **Fran Spitzberg**, who mastered the art of skiing parallel. **Fran's** companion, **Harold Kaminski**, was like the "Ever Ready Bunny." He just kept going and going and going down everything.

Some had other ideas about how to pass the time in snowy Steamboat. While daddy, **Chris Goll** practiced for the NASTAR races, young **Chris Goll** hooked up with a lovely Australian woman. Smart kid, those NASTAR metals just will not keep you as warm on a cold winter night! The



On race day, our race director, **Bruce Lowther**, had a difficult time getting everyone out to race because of the inclement weather conditions. Those who did race did very well though none of the times were as fast as **Robert Reichel's** time back to the condo so as not to miss any of his condo-mates' juicy gossip. Those who did stay for the mountain picnic were treated to an extra thrill. Lunch served on frozen picnic tables "a la Marble Slab." When not chasing the plate as it slid around the icy surface of the table, one could eat potato salad that froze on contact with the plate. Fortunately, a nice warm party at the **Ore House** restaurant that evening more than compensated for the frozen lunch.

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Finally, on Friday the sun came out in the morning providing for the best day of skiing of the entire trip.

About fifteen of us including **Ken and Marcie Spalding**, **Frank Reisenberg**, **Howard Schoenike**, **Chris Goll**, **Margaret Johnson**, **Maynard Nussbaum**, and **Heidi Heinrich** celebrated the return of the sun with a gourmet lunch at *Ragnars* at the gondola

The next day the blizzard returned with a vengeance. Our departure for awhile looked doubtful. Finally, the bus company sent four smaller vehicles because the large motor coach could not negotiate the driveway at Timber Run. Who knows where they found these busses. One of the busses had a steady leak that dripped so much water on **Beverly Roberts** that she had to put her coat over her head. Maybe she just did not want to be seen with us. Speaking of leaks, **Howard "Tiny Tank" Schoenike** was evidently so excited to depart that he made an entire bus load of people wait while he stopped to relieve himself at a road side rest stop Pay back time for those of us who harassed **Howard** for having to stop came when our plane encountered turbulence on the return flight

Surely, everyone returned with some special memory of Ski Week 98. Only a small part of what happened is told here. It would probably take volumes of *Sitzmarkes* to relate everyone's experiences. My special thanks go to ATC's , **Marvin Volz**, and **Stacey Ronczy** and to Race Director, **Bruce Lowther** for all their efforts and to all the participants for making this trip a memorable one.

