

# Winter Park, Colorado

by Angie Westergren

It was a wild and crazy week for the folks in Winter Park, thanks to 38 SCSCers. We hit the quaint little village of Winter Park with a good old-fashioned Texas force. Our first evening started with a wine and cheese party. Surprise celebrity guests, such as, Dr. Kevorkian (**Fred Straube**), Picabo Street (**Maryann McGinnis**), Queen Elizabeth (**Carol Battaglia**), Opie Taylor (**Bobby Viktorin**), Monica Lewinski (**Susan Danna**), Tanya Harding (**Janet McKenzie**), Bubba (**Richard Spinks**), Marv Albert (**Karl Bussey**) and Socrates (**Darrell Way**), just to name a few. Altitude hallucinations? No just a game.

The first day we awoke to a beautiful day for skiing and that's exactly what everyone did. (**Larry Christie**, **John Jacob** and **Byron Davis** managed to squeeze in a half day of skiing upon arrival.) With the first day of skiing under wraps the young and restless ran to the hot tub for a bit of refreshment, both hot and cold, served up by none other than Elmer Fudd (**Angie**). Sunday evening much of the group walked to Rome on the Range for dinner where **Richard Spinks** told a joke that lasted so long we almost spent the night in the restaurant. Afterwards, a few diehards went to Winter Park Pub for Disco Inferno Night. Although they weren't exactly dressed for disco, **Michael Baumgarth**, **Mark Chambers**, **Angie Westergren**, **Sarah Granbery**, **Laura Ciulla** and **Miranda Kelly** still boogied the night away. (Some of us still remember the "bump"! ) It started snowing Sunday night and continued on for most of the week, which made for some really good skiing conditions. The skiing was a BLAST, with powder everywhere!

Monday night was the ever-popular pub-crawl lead by our Winter Park guide, Nathan. He took us to Smokin' Moe's, The Shed, Slades Underground (where **Jennifer Ham**, **Linda Thompson**, **Stefanie Clark** and **Bill Dahl** entertained us with their wild foosball game), Deno's and The Divide Grille. The 6th stop was a newly found Winter Park Pub, the TC's Condo where the attire is very casual, just ask **Sarah** (who was in her PJs)! Other party poopers were roused (aroused?) from a nearby condo to join the gang.

Tuesday was another incredible (and tiring) day of skiing for most. However, **Gregg Lenart**, **Stephanie Clark**, **Bill Dahl**, **Marshall Bennett**, **Miranda Kelly**, **Mark Chambers** and **Gus** and **Jennifer Ham** ventured off on a spectacular snowmobile ride to the Continental Divide. They said it was great, and their pictures are very impressive. That evening was the Mardi Gras celebration Colorado style, ala snowfall. The group gathered outside a certain Snowblaze balcony where **Angie Westergren** (TC) and **Sarah Granbery** (ATC) tossed beads and doubloons to partygoers while purple punch awaited them in the condo. A Mardi Gras mask contest was won by **Linda Thompson** (Butterfly mask) and **Clay Vollmer** (Femme Fatale). Many Mardi Gras revelers bundled up their beads and went to The Slope to see Ron Fruge and the Boudin Kings. Who was that bodacious blonde dancing? Others joining her (him?) on the dance floor were **Ann Michaels**, **Ralph Lojo**, **Byron Davis** and **Kathy Dalton** with **John Ginter** supervising from a distance! While those who caught the last bus returned home the warm-dry way, some true Texans,

**Miranda Kelly**, **Kathy Dalton**, **Gregg Lenart**, **Stefanie Clark** and **Marshall Bennett** (aka Big Banana) hitched a ride from some locals in the wee Rocky Mountain hours. Evidently, **Miranda** and **Kathy** became quite intimate with a satellite dish while riding in the hatchback of an "itty bitty" VW Golf. **Laura Ciulla**, however, had the most fun getting back. Ask her about her 2 mile ride in the back of a pick-up truck during a blinding snowstorm! It was perfect training for the next days NASTAR races in the blowing snow where **Cliff Aymes** and **Lou Kleinman** ferociously competed for the gold. 30 out of 38 skiers participated in NASTAR, over half were "never-ever racers" and everyone survived! **Miranda Kelly** did have a close call, though. If only she had worn a helmet.....

Wednesday evening the group shared a lasagna dinner where NASTAR medals were awarded. GOLD medals went to **John Jacob**, **David Stotz**, **Darrell Way**, **Gregg Lenart**, **John Ginter**, **Bill Dahl**, **Lou Kleinman**, **Byron Davis**, **Larry Christie** and **Angie Westergren**. SILVER medals were awarded to **Bobby Viktorin**, **Cliff Aymes** and **Richard Spinks**. BRONZE medals went to **Gus Ham**, **Mark Chambers**, **Laura Ciulla**, **Jennifer Ham**, **Diane Stotz** and **Janet McKenzie**. **Mark Chambers'** acceptance speech brought tears to everyones' eyes when he attributed his skiing success to his roommates (**Bill**, **Larry** and **Bobby**) who all responded "Stop, Yer killin' me man!!" **Gregg Lenart** had the fastest overall time. Many thanks go to **Lou Kleinman** who succumbed to arm twisting to be our race director. After dinner, a surprise snowball

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attack was made on **Linda Thompson** as the group ventured over to the TC/ATC condo for game night. Thank goodness we had **Susan Danna** to referee the game of "42" and **Bob Knupp** to keep the Jenga players under control.

On Thursday, The Good, **Gary Werner**, The Bad, **Angie** and The Ugly, **Richard Spinks** (aka Bubba) tried their skill at snowboarding. **Bubba** swears he's suffering from a dislocated kidney as the result of a snowboarding entanglement. Thursday night the scientific tubing crew (**David & Diane Stotz, Gregg, Stefanie, Angie, Bill & Sarah**) took off for Fraser to try out some physics theories by putting an adult size body on top of an innertube and sliding down a mountain. The unanimous scientific result is FUN! A good time was had by all!

Our last day of skiing was a cold one!

Some were so desperate to warm up that they were in the "pits" just trying to keep warm, uh Valerie? While skiing on Friday, the three Musketeers (**Bill, Bobby & Mark**) lost their "Fearless Leader" (**Larry Christie**), so **Bill** volunteered to lead the band of renegades. Alas, **Bill** went to the left while **Bobby** and **Mark** went to the right and that was the end of the three musketeers for the remains of the ski day. Rumor has it **Bill** ran out of excuses to quit skiing so he just disappeared.

The final evening, we took a gondola ride up the mountain for a five-course gourmet dinner at The Lodge at Sunspot. **Ralph Lojo** (aka Ladies Man) entertained the table of teachers from St. Louis, while **Valerie Vaughn, Kathy Dalton** and **Linda Thompson** (aka The Sun Singers), with a guest appearance by **Stefanie Clark**, serenaded the other diners with songs they

composed on the slopes while dreaming for sunshine. If you have never heard the word "Sun" sung to the tune of Amazing Grace, you're in for some kind of treat! As always, the fun-filled week flew by and it was time to head back home. Our final escapade occurred on the plane where the SCSC group had the flight attendants laughing so hard they had to stop in the middle of their instructions to settle themselves down. With the help of **Glenn Jennings**, we had homemade oxygen masks to do our traditional SCSC spoof of the flight attendants. One flight attendant was such a good sport, she received her very own SCSC oxygen mask and brought us her camera to take her picture styling her mask. It was a memorable week with many new friends made along the way. Hey, where are we going next year? How about the last week in February?