

# LAKE LOUISE

by Mary Favre

As you read this article, and it's hot outside, try to imagine what Canadian Rocky Mountain air feels like rushing against your face as you ski down from "On Top of The World" Lake Louise ski run. The TSC Final Showdown at Lake Louise will definitely go down as the best the TSC has ever offered. A big part was due to the unsurpassed hospitality the Chateau Lake Louise personnel extended to the Texas skiers.

The original trip anticipated 40+ members going to Canada, but when the demand grew so strong, airfare and hotel accommodations were made to enable two groups to travel to Lake Louise from SCSC. TC **Ladye Freitag** led Group I from Saturday to Saturday, and ATC **Mary Favre** led Group II from Sunday to Sunday.

Upon arrival you began to sense that this was the trip where it would all happen, planned or unplanned...



It started at the check-in at the Chateau; virtually hassle free. A skier's Welcome Party in the Tom Wilson room early Sunday evening was where SCSC members began to experience the beginning of the ski week. Most members of Group I headed out to experience the much-talked about Train Station Restaurant: **Curt Marsolek & Barb Goist, Neal & Leona Pleasant, Ladye Freitag, Karl & Lotty Gautschi, Jan & Phil Dowlin, Alan Bitzer, Greg Roberts, Charles Butler, Ray Herndon...** to name a few. From all accounts they were not disappointed in the cuisine. Their advice was well taken and reservations for Group II were made for next Saturday evening. Fortunately, most everyone was very relaxed after dinner, for coming back from the Train Station, the bus ride back to the hotel was so good, they did it twice. They had to back all the way down the hill because of having no traction—no problem, just get us to the slopes on time! Luck was looking kindly on **Takemi Koike** as her roommate had to return home leaving **Takemi** with a room to herself for the rest of the week. But unfortunately, Lady Luck did not visit **Mike Ruck**, as he was injured skiing. Enough to hurt him, but not enough to keep him out of the good times

Monday morning breakfast on SCSC started the "get in gear we are here to ski attitude". *Friends of the Mountain* helped skiers get acquainted with various runs and experiences that normally one would not try without guidance. Race Clinics were open and practices started. Lake Louise was not the only mountain to ski. Several took advantage of the lift tickets and went to Sunshine Mountain. **Peggy Schillinger, Marsha Lutz, Susan Blome, Alan Bitzer and Neal & Leona Pleasant** were some of the members who gave others sage advice, that if the sun is not shining—don't ski Sunshine (i.e. the flat light makes Sunshine more difficult). Later that evening it was TSC Get Acquainted Party in the Tom Wilson Room with live entertainment. The food was a great Italian buffet, and as **Susan Blome, Marsha Lutz and Peggy Schillinger** in unison agreed "we're on vacation and calories don't count!" Even our members, **Kurt & Karin Schidlowski and Helmut & Martha Zenger** who are world travelers concurred that it was excellent food and drink!

Tuesday was, weather wise, the first really spectacular day of skiing. Now, we could see why it was voted number one for breathtaking alpine scenery in western North America. Everyone was going to ski all day and save some energy, because the Mini Olympics would be conducted that evening. As participants gathered, we wondered if we were too old. **Ladye Freitag, Russell Benham, Greg Roberts, Bill & Julie Raley, Lynne & Walter Hester, Gary Butler, Charles**



**Butler, Ray Herndon, Jerry Montgomery, Alan Bitzer, Marc & Mimi Markel, Byron Davis, and Carl and Mary Favre** pursued the Gold by running (more like puffing) in the snow in a variety of games. **Peggy Montgomery** acted as the unofficial referee for SCSC, especially when it came to the tug-of-war. We finished off the evening by getting acquainted over pizza in the Lakeview Lounge, and followed it up by more games (indoors of course). The most popular game of the evening was "Twister" which proved most challenging to the over 40 crowd. **Marc & Mimi Markel** were fit to be tied up in arm and leg moves, and **Byron Davis and Ladye Freitag** really made for good laughs. We even invited two of the Chateau staff who did not fare better!

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# LAKE LOUISE (continued)

Wednesday, a day off for touring Banff or whatever your heart desired. **Jan & Phil Dowlin** took to snowmobiling and experienced beautiful scenery, good food and a hike to spectacular waterfalls. **Bonnie Ernst, Ann Woods, Carmen Mikhail, Curt Marsolek, Barb Goist and Gloria Lopez** took to the dogs. Reportedly the dogs were eager, energetic and ready to ride! Though upon their return **Curt and Barb** had to sanitize their gloves due to the rank odor the dogs imparted. **Lila Davis and Irma Rosendahl** were the veteran cross-country skiers paving the way for newcomers like **Jane Jolly and Jan Dowlin**. They tried it first at Lake Louise, and both say they would do it again! **Chip & Llona Doubet** blazed the trail around the lake up to the glacier and came back by way of the Lake. Only to find that walking in thigh high snow takes quite an effort, which they rewarded themselves by indulging in an adult beverage upon their safe return. **Walter & Lynn Hester** took their snowshoes and ventured around the lake. Unfortunately, their shoes broke (not that they were a big help anyway) and upon their return were looking for that adult beverage the **Doubet's** were speaking about.

The rest of us were lucky enough to be entertained and educated on the way into Banff by a great humored bus driver. The weather was picture perfect, and just prior getting into Banff we observed a herd of Elk grazing on the

roadside. The shopkeepers in Banff were gracious and if you ever heard that men don't shop—say it isn't true! **Ray Herndon and Greg Roberts** are professional shoppers and were heard asking others if the golf shirt matched their eyes! **Gloria Lopez** was discovered to be the trip's expert on beanie babies and found two in all of Canada that she didn't have. Most everyone went to the famous Banff Springs Hotel. **Neal & Leona Pleasant and Marc & Mimi Markel** took the early bus into Banff so they could enjoy the spa facilities and discovered the mineral bath pool played music underwater. **Ann McIntyre and Gloria Rooney** were said to have enjoyed the fine dining at the Rob Roy Restaurant at the hotel. The Hotel has a million-dollar view, and Wednesday night proved no exception. **Joe & Paula Selle** also took time to enjoy the amenities of the hotel and beheld the infamous view from one of the hotel lounges.



Dinner in Banff was great as **Jane Jolly & Gary Quinn** enjoyed fish and chips with **Carl & Mary Favre** and enjoyed discovering Canadian brew. Banff shopping was good, but let's not overlook shopping at the Chateau Lake Louise as **Miriam Glover and Judy Vaughn** could testify. **Miriam** found a coat she had to have and **Judy** found herself in seventh heaven after she discovered a "Murtle". It's a piece of candy 4 inches in diameter made of pecans, chocolate and caramel, and the bonus is that it has no calories if it's eaten in Canada. Wednesday night was a celebration for **Cheryl DeWitt** as her fiancé, **Steve Kenny** helped her bring another candle to her cake at the Post Hotel



The TSC Challenge Races were held on Thursday. Silver medals were awarded to **Kurt Schidlowski and Helmut Zenger**. Guess you should have seen their faces—yes, they would have preferred gold medals, but come on guys you are doing great for your ages! Additionally, TSC awarded six bronze metals to SCSC members **Ted Bergeron, Curt Marsolek, Ann McIntyre, Jerry Montgomery Bob Porter and Fred Zahnow**. **Bill Raley** demonstrated great sportsmanship when racing downhill and crashing into the fence, only to get back up to finish—good show! **Julie Raley** finished her first NASTAR course in 84 seconds that made her eligible for a pin that she intends to wear to every meeting! Kudos to those participants for showing such SCSC spirit! Speaking of spirit, **Kevin Foster** was not thinking of racing when he filled out his NASTAR form. Instead of putting an M (male) or a F (female) in the box marked sex, **Kevin** put a Y for YES! Additionally, there was one other contest, not on the agenda. Who could drink more kinds different kinds!

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## LAKE LOUISE (continued)

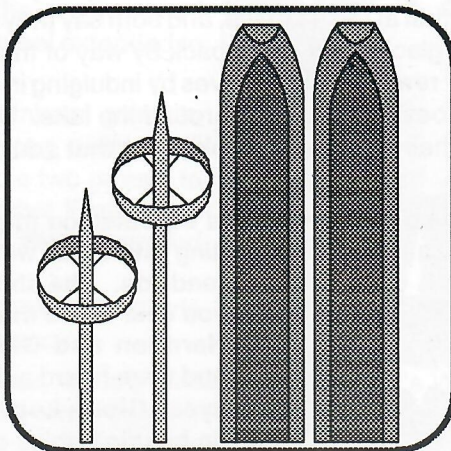
Most SCSC members had never experienced a Torchlight Dinner. Initially it sounded a little scary; skiing in the dark down the same mountain you might have trouble with in the daylight, but why not try something different. After arriving at Whitehorn Lodge, a live band was willing to entertain a 150+ Texans unwind from a day of racing and skiing. The staff, after cooking all afternoon, danced the dinner out to the buffet and an exceptional dinner was served as the band played on. It was a great place to get to know other **Woods** dancing with all night? Getting challenge for some, and a gold star goes in helping members trail through the night. fact, the highlight of the trip for many. A and if you didn't know it before, you do boots on!

On Friday the TSC Individual went to **Kurt Schidlowski** and **Helmut Bergeron** and **Lotty Gautschi**. **Judy** one hundredths of a second. Lady Luck **Markel** attempted snowboarding for the The Final Frontier Evening came all to full-blown event, not only with great food, shoot out! The dancing was also great, who showed that his true talent was on A big applause to **Lotty Gautschi** taking the senior women's gold in the ladies division! Of course, **Karl Gautschi** immediately began bragging that he got to sleep with SCSC's only gold medallist. Not to be overlooked, SCSC received the Gold Boot for first place in the Mini Olympics, beating out the "busty" Flatlanders by only seconds. A big thanks to all the participants and those who cheered the SCSC team. **Debbie Bergeron** celebrated her birthday Friday night with a cake and the SCSC's rendition of happy birthday!

As Group I members were boarding the bus on Saturday morning, Group II was hitting the slopes. Saturday proved to be a fine day for skiing and adventure. **Carl Favre** took the ladies skiing. He took **Bonnie Ernst** and **Ann Woods** down their first black run, as **Margaret Walker** and **Mary Favre** watched and took pictures. Group II finished their week eating at the Train Station restaurant in the Train Car with a first class dinner. The conversations were great and the atmosphere very intimate. We toured the other train cars and really got the feel for the historical significance. **John Gealy** and **Margaret Walker** engaged one group by entertaining us with tales of their recent trips. **Margaret** recently returned from trekking the Himalayas.

On the bus ride to Calgary airport, **Greg Conary** took to the microphone and surprised his wife **Theresa Tanchak** by leading the group in singing happy birthday to her. Once we got to the airport, we were all willing to be bumped if the call came and **Rose Cohen**, who was laid over in Calgary (returning to Ohio) was gracious enough to offer sharing her hotel room (to a lady), if someone was bumped. But, alas, it didn't happen and we all arrived back in Houston looking forward to the next TSC trip and developing our pictures to share at the post trip party.

Looking over the comments, it looks like the hospitality, food, shopping, parties and making new friends could not have been done in a better place than Lake Louise. The skiing wasn't bad either. See you on the slopes!



Texan skiers too. Just whom was **Ann** down the mountain was a serious to **Joe Kuplinsky** for his great assistance Was it a great party? Most definitely; in group of Texans acting middle-age crazy, now: Texans can do it all—all with their

Challenge Races were held. Silver medals **Zenger**, and bronzes went to **Ted Katany** barely missed the bronze by a few will get you next time, **Judy**. **Marc & Mimi** first time, and perhaps the last as well? quickly. Again the Chateau pulled off a but entertainment to boot. A real cowboy just ask **John Moss**, the trip's race director the dance floor! Awards were presented.

