

Snowmass III

by Julia Long

With reports of great powder the Snowmass short trip left for Aspen on Jan. 7th led by TC **Julia Long** on the noon flight and ATC **Joan Henke** for the evening flight. We met **Larry Samuelson** from Gulfport, MS in the Denver airport, who was anxious to join us. But the great snow left 7 women (**Brenda Bennett, Petra Luchesa, Peggy Schillinger, Marsha Lutz, Becky Rushing** and **Debi Altenbern**) led by Joan, who didn't want to part with their luggage, unable to land in Aspen. Alas, the plane returned to Denver and they made it the next morning. There were also 7 others waiting for their luggage so they could ski - but **Glen Nordt** was the only smart one who carried all of his ski stuff in his carry on! **Greg Baxter** and **Barry Palmer** handled the wait better after the TC gave them a complimentary box of wine (courtesy of National Sports Rentals) for Greg's bota bag.

The group stayed at the Stonebridge Inn, which featured the "orange juice watering hole" where people gathered for breakfast including **Al & Stephanie Klimas**, who joined us for the parties. That morning **Rita Demko** enjoyed a complimentary tour of the Burnt Mountain area on fat sticks skis. **Susan Wilson** and **Pat Pease** found some time to enjoy local red trout at the hotel's new restaurant. **Bill** and **Scott Boyd** started their 5 night tradition of heading to Aspen and checking out the local watering holes.

Eager to practice the race course, **Larry Rapp** took a fall on his shoulder down the race course while competing against **Paul Guidry**, a.k.a. "No Ear". To conquer that powder more confidently **Becky Rushing** and **Kathy Matras** took lessons.

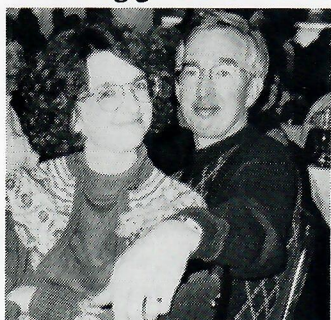
Wednesday night people dressed in their finest beach attire for the TSC Caribbean Party and **Stephan Mason** enjoyed the great dance music including the Macarena. Plenty of Budweiser logo freebies were handed out along with complimentary malt beverage refreshments.

Thursday morning **Susan Stanley** and **Carol Buck** discovered the TC's stash of chocolate... Susan must have been searching for something magical in that chocolate because she kept on asking for more... After dealing with 2 bad watch batteries **Clay Vollmer**, race director, finally made it to the hard-to-get-to race course. Winning racers included **Ron Honefenger** for a NASTAR Silver, and **Rita Demko, John Kelly, Marty Matras, Clay Vollmer, Bill Landfield** and **Gary Sequeira** won NASTAR Bronze medals. **Stephan Mason** missed a medal by a hair on his first trip down a race course ever; being the youngest SCSC male racer did not help... **Norm Rund** and his daughter **Natalie Rund**, among others, braved the cold weather for a great outdoor picnic lunch. At the biggest bar in Snowmass, The Timbermill, the 3 SCSC trips held a party and had a great turnout! **Marsha Lutz** and **Debi Altenbern** unknowingly dressed like twins in matching sweaters and black jeans. The night was still young so a number of people headed in to Aspen and checked out The Little Nell's bar. Talk about the classy place to be ... a number of Houston locals were there including **Eddie Bayersdorfer, Scott Boyd, and Norm Rund**. But the five youngest members of the trip (**Scott, Bill, Stephan, Julia** and **Natalie**) got restless and checked out Tippler's, McKenzie's, the Cigar Bar, and Eric's.

Snowmass III *(continued)*

On Friday, a number of people including Gary and Sharon Sequeira ventured over to Buttermilk to try the snow there; Joan Henke was bound and determined to find the crepes she had heard so much about and she did!

Eager SCSC'ers lined up early to get dinner at the TSC Italian Party. Unfortunately the chairs ran out for Jane Shoppell and her husband John Kelly, but they made the best of it. At the silent auction Jason Schwartz with the help of his Mom, Doran Valka was the high bidder for a neat ski jacket. Charles Luschen and Bill Landfield checked for TSC ID's at the door and also checked out the women at the same time. After the TSC Party a group headed over to "Cowboys" where Lewis Altenburg gave a few dance lessons.



Jane Shoppell and husband John Kelly enjoying a TSC Party.

Most groups left on Saturday while the short trip enjoyed a nice day of skiing; David Launarey was glad when the sun came out so he could see how steep those slopes were. But Diane McKenzie did leave on Saturday; she was anxious to see the Houston marathon on Sunday. Given all of the snow that fell we weren't sure about making our return trip in the weather... Once we all arrived at the airport we learned that our

flight was canceled an hour before departure. Everyone including

Jeri Hartman, David & Karen Richards, Tommy Thompson, and Mike Figaro made the best of it while the TC handed out chocolate, playing cards and crackers and cheese. We finally got loaded onto 3 or 4 planes from a wait list 4 miles long only to hear that the connecting Denver flights were very full. Julia started her second career behind the United desk in Denver and got 39 people on



Sharon and Gary Sequeira relax at The Timbermill.

the plane from the standby list. We were never so happy to see the icy ground in Houston! Thanks everybody for a great trip!



"3 Young Bucks" Scott Boyd, Stephan Mason, & Bill Boyd.



TSC Partyers Diane & Dave Stotz, Julia Long, Susan Blome, Gary Fritts, Joan Henke, & Debi Altenbern.



"Yes, I promise you will get back to Houston....." Julia at the Denver Airport.