

Mammoth Mountain

by Lisa Smith

OH, THE SNOW! THE BEAUTIFUL SNOW...

On Saturday, March 23rd, 42 SCSCers arrived at Intercontinental Airport with visions of California sunshine, blue skies and snow -- lots of snow -- MAMMOTH amounts of snow -- dancing in their heads. Ah, but first, check in. A certain piece of Vicky McLaughlin's clothing set off the alarms and she had to be carefully searched by a female security officer.

When we got on the plane, we found Darlene Love and Ray Renkosik in first class -- those upgrades are nice, huh? Then on the bus ride from Reno to Mammoth, Dan Conery got a case of the sweet-tooth -- but TC Sue Edwards came to the rescue with her delicious, MAMMOTH sized brownies she stayed up late the night before making.

We arrived in Mammoth with just barely enough time to check into the condos and head over to Canyon Lodge for the Information Carnival before it closed. While the rest of us waited at what we hoped was the right bus stop, ATC Lisa Smith hijacked a bus down the road and made the driver go back and get everybody else.

Sunday -- our first day to ski! The TSC usually has a "Summer Meltdown," but Mammoth was the "TSC Winter Meltdown!" During the day, temperatures hovered in the upper 50s! This was no problem, however -- there was an unbelievable 18 foot base when we got there. After sweating it out on Sunday in normal ski gear, almost everyone shed the parkas and long johns to enjoy Mammoth's spring skiing. Gwen Bremer, Glenna Moody and a lot of others quickly learned the joys of SPF 30!

Ron Flowers faithfully represented Texas by wearing his cowboy hat every day. Nolan Badeaux was wearing a brace on his leg to protect an old ski injury, but that didn't slow him down one bit -- he was seen tearing up slopes all over the mountain! Frank Riesenbergh bought brand new boots for the trip, but had to have a boot shop cut part of a liner out. And the high altitude impaired Vicky McLaughlin's reading abilities -- at least that must have been her excuse for using the men's bathroom!

At the TSC Welcome Party on the evening of St. Patrick's Day, Sharon Smith traded her shamrock boxers for a Los Amigos tiger-tail. She was later seen at Angel's Restaurant

launching Bud straws, one of which landed at a Los Amigos table.

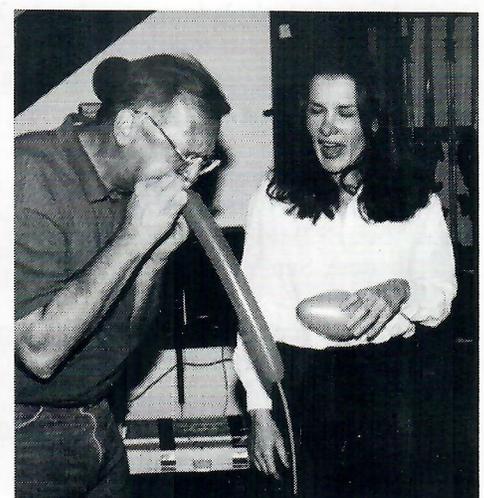
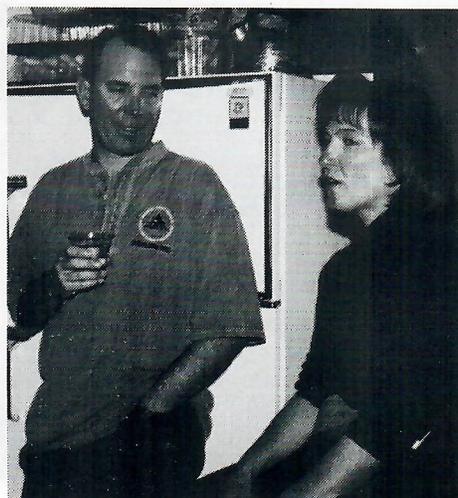
New skier Morris Brown was having problems mastering the lifts. Every time wife Sally tried to get on the lift, Morris would knock her off! She must have been OK though -- we hear she was up on a table showing what she learned in lessons!

Don't follow Charles Butler unless someone else is paying attention to the trail map!! He led a gagging of non-mogul skiers who had been looking for an easy way down, including Susan Blome and Gwen Bremer, right smack into a mogul run with no way out but the bumps! Kayleen Kill was nearby and offered a mini mogul-mashing lesson. Trying to reassure the girls, Ted Bergeron encouraged them with "See, you just do this...", then he took off, but crashed before getting to the second mogul. On his "final approach" at the bottom of that infamous run, SCSC President Gary Butler emphatically stated "...." -- on second thought, never mind -- it wouldn't be prudent to repeat here what he said at that particular point in time. Suffice it to say that everyone survived and lived to tell about it!

City blocks at Mammoth are mammoth! Ward Jones got instructions from a waitress at Whiskey Creek on how to get to the Alpenrose Restaurant, and she told him it was just a few blocks away. It turned out to be about a 3 mile walk for Ward, Leona Schroeder, Chris Goll, and Greg Roberts to get there.

At the Chili Party Tuesday night, one of the highlights was watching people try to inflate the 6 ft. long balloons Lisa brought along. Nobody could blow them up! Jim Edwards, Ted Bergeron and Charles Butler almost killed themselves trying. Then along came some Clear Laker's to crash our party, and Lee Bob Nash put all of us to shame as he dauntlessly blew up one balloon after another -- after another -- after another -- until the whole bag was gone and he busted a blood vessel in his eye! By the way, next time you see Merrel Smith (a/k/a "Mental Mebbel"), be sure to tell him "HEL-LO-OH!", with emphasis on that second syllable and in a really loud, obnoxious voice. Then you better run the other way--really quick!

The next day most of us took the 20 minute bus ride to beautiful June Mountain. At the Adventure Park, Ted Bergeron



Mammoth Mountain continued

failed in his first attempt to "get some air", so he trudged back up the hill, skis over his shoulder, for a second, successful try!

Ever gone bowling? Sure you have. But on the snow? On your skis? And you were one of the pins? Try it sometime. Resident "pros", Gary Butler and Merrel Smith, can give you styling and technique hints. After their close encounter of the tangled kind, Gary told Merrel that he wants to be on top next time! And the next day, Susan Blome picked up a spare when she bowled Tommy McLaughlin over at the bottom of a run.

By the way, did you know that Ted Bergeron can ski faster without poles, while videotaping, turning the camera around to film backwards over his shoulder, then do a 360 (unintentionally), manage to stay upright, and still beat everybody down the run? While wearing a lime green wig? It's a fact, Jack. (All except the wig part -- he only wore that on St. Patrick's Day.)

At June Mountain, Sue Edwards, Sharon Smith and Debbie Bergeron decided to bypass the black run Debbie had dubbed "Death Ridge", as Jim Edwards, Merrel Smith, Ted Bergeron and Gary and Charles Butler proceeded over the edge. As the girls rounded the corner, male voices could be heard yelling, "Look! Bergeron just double-released!!" Near the bottom of the run where it intersected with the adjacent "Non-Death Ridge" run the girls had opted for, all watched with curiosity as Gary Butler appeared to be transfixed on the snow, seemingly going uphill. (Must have been an optical altitude-illusion.)

ATC Lisa Smith's first-day foot injury didn't slow her down too much -- she limped her way around town and to the parties and even ski-pole-crutched her way to the bottom of the NASTAR race course with Lynn McPhee on Thursday. What a trooper!

Because of her own very serious injury as ATC the year before, "Mom" Sue Edwards, our fearless TC, kept a watchful eye on Lisa all week. Following in the steps of Sue's crash & burn the year before on the race course, Ward Jones decided that he had to outdo her. Sue bought him a great t-shirt for his efforts that read: "I CAME, I SKIED, I FELL. OH WELL!"

Space City blew everyone away in the individual races. Congratulations to Chris Goll and Kayleen Kill who won gold medals in the open division. Karin Schidlowski placed 1st in the senior women's division, Kurt Schidlowski placed 2nd in the senior men's. Rita Whale took 5th in the open women's division.

While we had absolutely incredible weather all week, the story changed on Friday -- it was cold and the wind was gusting to 60 mph! Ron and Roberta Rambin, Gary and Sharon Sequeira, Marti Toomer and Nelson Turner got caught on Chair 2 when the wind really picked up. It was pretty hairy with the chairs banging against the poles! Luckily, they made it off the lift before it was shut down. New SCSC member Rita Whale braved the upper reaches of the mountain and had to "feel" her way down in zero visibility. Speaking of Rita, Kayleen Kill has finally met her match in skiing stamina!

We missed Lynne and Walter Hester on the slopes -- did anybody see them at the snowboard park? Ray Davis and Harry Gaston were designated "Honorary Germans" by Kurt and Karin Schidlowski for snowboarding in the wind on ice Friday.

At the Final Awards Party Friday night, our own Keith Kirkman won the big door prize -- a pair of new skis!

"Mental Mebbel" Merrel Smith was a rock 'n roll maniac on the dance floor, and Gary Butler proved to Sharon Smith that his dance partners don't need to be talented -- he can carry them! We have the evidence on videotape. And while Kurt and Karin Schidlowski tore up the race course on Thursday, they tore up the dance floor on Friday! Karin proved she had legs of steel performing a Russian dance.

Well, Saturday came too soon -- it was time to leave! A little bit of bus loading confusion resulted in Jimmy and Jill St. Clair leaving their skis behind at the condos. Jill thought Jimmy got them. Jimmy thought he saw someone else put them on the bus. When we got to Reno -- NO SKIS! Fortunately, skis and owners have now been reunited, and everybody's happy!

MAMMOTH thanks to Debbie Bergeron, Jim Edwards, and ATC condo-mates Sharon and Merrel Smith and Kayleen Kill for helping with all the parties; to Ted Widmer for letting us borrow his car to pick up party supplies; and to everyone else who helped make Mammoth '96 a GREAT TRIP!!

