

Keystone - TSC Fall Round-Up 1996

by *Debbi Chrissinger*

The cold front that hit Houston several days before our departure acclimatized all 32 anxious skiers leaving for Keystone, Tues., Nov. 26. Arriving into Colorado Springs Airport our bus driver tried to hurry us along as the "weather was getting bad". (He was trying to tell us it was Really Snowing and was piling up)

Our bus ride was a "moving deli" as we fed a variety of deli meats, breads, veggies, pasta salad and cookies. Our "in-transit" movies consisted of personal interviews at IAH filmed by Juanita Norris and "Independence Day" which finished up as we pulled into Keystone Resort.

The first day on the mountain started out in the TC's condo with a pancake, bagel, and fresh fruit breakfast. The last minute diners, Woody Shiftlett, Vicki Fields, Christie Burke and Juniel Worthington, finally left at 10:30 am. Bob Wilbanks and Alex Potter joined our group at breakfast and skied with us the rest of the week. Ivan Butterfield decided to take an "apple to go" and later landed on it after a fall on the mountain. We don't know what hurt worse, the bruised apple or his bruised ribs!

The snow was fresh and the ski was clear... a wonderful day of skiing was had by all. Matt Sheehan, (SCSC Keystone Race Director), when not hauling a— down the mountain, was seen encouraging SCSC skiers to participate in the Friday NASTAR races. After a hard day of skiing many of the SCSC skiers indulged in the hot tub. Denise Marks, Jodi Schmeiss, Ivan and Matt decided to venture out of the hot tub to become members of the snow angel club. At last report, Denise's snow angel was still intact. That evening we went to a TSC welcome party. We were to have hors d'ouvers but ended up with a full



Twelve of the "Seventeen" who skied together Saturday. Back row L to R: Bob Gottlieb, Karl Skaggs, Bob Debell, George Hirasaki. Center Row: Keith Kirkman, K.J. Oldroyd. Front row: Jodi Schmeiss, Liz Allen, Kayleen Kill, Denise Marks, Darlene Hirasaki., Ivan Butterfield.

BBQ, Pizza, Taco and Knockwurst dinner! Bob DeBell was found recruiting people to join SCSC. Way to Go!

Thursday, Thanksgiving, was a "text-book-day". Perfect weather, perfect trail conditions and a bluer than blue sky. TC Debbi Chrissinger took forever getting on the slopes as she left behind ski poles, then had the experience of "exploding ski boots". After getting to the top to meet the group for lunch, an hour late, James Wayne was the only one left eating. That day, Liz Allen opted to take race lessons as did Alex, while Juanita took her first ever ski lesson. A group led by Bob Gottlieb managed to find a great mogul run, which cost Bob two repair jobs done on his skis ... Contrary to Bob's opinion those rocks were not Karl Skaggs or Rita Demko's fault! Juniel Worthington, a.k.a. the "Energizer Bunny" was in shock when Kayleen Kill actually yelled out for her to stop so she could catch up! Apparently Dan Conery managed to find Karl's watch in the hot tub Wednesday evening and became "Father Time" as he was forever forgetting to bring the watch with him and Karl was always asking him the time!

The NASTAR self timer was free to TSC participants that day and was enjoyed by Kim Page, Elyse Turla, and George and Darlene Hirasaki, and many others. Unfortunately, Calvin Doody sat the day out due to a bout with the tooth fairy, while wife, Karen Geiger, was seen on the slopes skiing away!

Thanksgiving dinner was a winner and was enjoyed by all but six of our group. Bob Wilbanks informed us at dinner about his "little" injury he acquired on the slope, *you'll have to ask him!* Luckily he was OK for the Friday races. Several Space City Ski Clubbers were the last to leave as great conversation, great desserts, coffee and oh yes, great jokes were told around the table. Marda Waters, Susan Wingfield, and John Safos were among those left at the table late into the evening.



Christie Burke, Dan Conery, Rita Demko and Karl Skaggs.

Keystone continued

Friday was race day. Unfortunately it was overcast and windy. Matt gathered us up and enjoyed labeling us as we prepared for racing. Ron Honefenger, George and Matt shared top honors in the men's division, while Rita, Darlene, and of course, Kayleen shared to top women's spots. Peter MacDonald, new SCSC member who hasn't skied in several years, made a great run down the course and earned several points for the club! Christie Burke was cheering us on at the bottom of the course and kept a sharp eye on the race crew's chart for our times.

Following the races we all went to the Mountain House for an "on the mountain picnic" provided by TSC! After lunch a group of skiers followed K.J. Oldroyd who led them straight into a mogul field. Jodi Schmiess and Liz Allen decided quickly that K.J. would be relieved of his "leading" capabilities. The funny thing about it was that K.J. was the one who hated the moguls the most!

Friday evening was the "Great Blend-off" contest. Three frozen drinks were provided for all to enjoy. A Frozen Fudgesicle drink was provided by Karen Geiger's condo, Fresh Strawberry Daiquiri's provided by Juniel's condo and Becky Hauri's Hawaiian Concoction was the drink of her condo and chosen as the winner! That evening was our only free evening and several groups went to various local restaurants. One restaurant which



Matt, winning the Individual Silver medal.

hosted about 12 SCSC'ers also was serving the USA Women's Downhill Ski team at the same time. It was tempting to ask them to ski with us, but decided the challenge for them would be too tough!

Saturday was another primo day on the slopes. Individual racers George, Matt and Ron, Darlene, Rita and Kayleen all received medals for their efforts. Congratulations to all! Later in the day after lunch 17 SCSC members decided to play follow the leader, lead by Race Director, Matt. Those followers were: Keith Kirkman, Kayleen, George, Darlene, Jodi, Denise, K.J., Ivan, Karl, Bob G., Liz, Bob D., Elyse, Calvin, Karen and Kim. Is This a New SCSC Record?

The awards party Saturday had a wonderful Italian buffet and showed slides of the individual racers. Kayleen Kill's picture was up on the screen 90% of the time. Did Kayleen bribe the projectionist? Gee.. lets see that photo "one more time"!

Sunday we packed up and had a "good-bye" brunch at the TC's condo. We boarded our bus and arrived in Colorado Springs with plenty of time to tour the airport (bars, restaurants, gift shops etc.).

A big thank you to all trip participants for helping out when needed and for my purple fuzzy. You were all great! Also, I wish to thank George Faust, our ATC-for-a-month, for all his help during the initial trip set-up process, and Matt Sheehan, who filled in as Honorary ATC on the trip! And a special Big Thank you to George and Darlene Hirasaki for hosting our post trip party in their new home!



Kayleen Kill stands between twin towers George Hirasaki and Matt Sheehan.