

# NEWSLETTER sitzmarke

April 2018 Volume 53 Issue 11



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## FROM MISSION CONTROL

BY BILL BOMBERGER, PRESIDENT

I would like to thank the membership for having me as your President for the last 22 months. The membership committee selected an outstanding slate of officers for the 2018/2019 year and you as members on March 12 voted them into their new positions.



The term of office is from May 1st, 2018 through April 30th, 2019. Please give them the support that you gave me during my term in office.

The club is already getting ready for the next ski season. Yes, we just finished the last ski trip of the year, but we have to already start planning for next year. A couple of our officers will be going to the Mountain Travel Symposium in early April to meet with travel representatives and other Ski Club officers from around the country to see what is happening and how other clubs operate. Right after they return from those meetings, we are off to the TSC Bid Meeting the 3rd week of April to select the TSC ski and adventure trips for next year. Everyone is welcome to attend the TSC Bid Meeting in San Antonio. If you are interested, you can get more information on the Texas Ski Council website. <http://texas-ski.org/>

On another very important note, with technology always moving forward, we have decided to move our website from our current provider, Wild Apricot, to ClubExpress due to serious financial limitations of payment options and our trip sale structure.

The new website will allow us to eliminate the two-step process of deposit registration and the remaining balance registration. It allows for partial payments as well as multiple types of payments. But the most important improvement is that it includes online and phone support for both members and administrators. It was built to look similar to our current website and therefore we feel the transition will be reasonably easy. Thanks to Chuck Pena's hard work over the last month, we will be ready for the transition in early April.

The switch to ClubExpress will begin the first week of April, which coincidentally, is the month when annual membership renewals are due. To encourage a prompt website switch and membership renewal, **we have lowered all dues (new and renewal) for applications made by May 31st.**

Thus, for example, new and renewal single memberships will be \$35 through May 31st. Beginning June 1st, a \$5.00 late fee will apply. For all prices and renewal details, check the membership article on page 5 below.

For all of you that have been past officers, we have several openings for Board Members to assist in advising and running the club. The Board meets approximately 6 times per year.

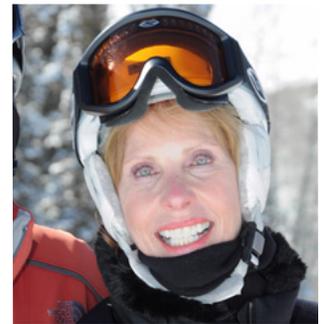
My final note: Volunteers run the club. We are in serious need of a Web Master to maintain Chuck's hard work. Please Volunteer!

Thanks.

## COUNTDOWN TO LIFTOFF

BY BEVERLY ROBERTS, VICE PRESIDENT OF TRIPS

Well, the bad news is – all of our 2017-2018 ski trips are over. But, there's lots of good news. All of the trips were INCREDIBLE, and everyone had a fantastic time. Many thanks to all of the TCs and ATCs that spent so much time planning, more planning, even more planning, and then following up on every detail to make sure all of their participants had a wonderful trip experience. Well done, high fives, kudos, etc!!



Now, let's look forward to next season. Yes, it's time to think about the ski trips for December 2018 and the ski and adventure trips for 2019. The ball is already rolling for the December club trip to Vail. More about that soon!! And TSC BidFest is coming up very soon. That's when representatives from all the Texas TSC membership meet in San Antonio April 20-22 to discuss options for the 2019 season. We will be evaluating trips for the Traditional, the Winter Shootout, the Final Showdown, the Winter Expedition, the Fall Expedition, and a new TSC offering, the Summer Adventure. You can join us and hear the presentations from the tour operators for their trips. This is your opportunity to see the TSC trip selection process in action. Then after the TSC trips are determined, we will round out our Space City trip slate with club trips. When all the trips are determined – guess what – We'll be looking for YOU to volunteer to help with a trip! ATCs – let's see you step up to the TC challenge! Those of you ready to help us have another fabulous year of trips – get ready to raise your hands!!

Don't forget the three outstanding non-ski trips – the first one begins right after BidFest! These three trips will take you to all points on the globe. Check with the TCs for the latest trip availabilities, and join the wait list so you can snag an opening or cancellation.

- See the wonders of the Far East with the Experience China trip. You will see the Great wall, the Terra Cotta Soldiers, and so much more. Contact Jill Nanney Jill@spacecity.org
- Explore the southern European coastline on the Croatia Bike and Barge trip. You will cycle through the beautiful landscapes of the Croatian coast, or, if you feel like a relaxing day, enjoy the changing scenery from the boat deck. Contact Rita Cardenas Rita@spacecity.org
- Join the TSC Summer Expedition to Patagonia in South America. There, you will marvel at dramatic landscapes, waterfalls and glaciers, as well as experience the cosmopolitan world of Buenos Aires. You may also choose optional pre and post trips to Easter Island and Mendoza. Contact Sarah Granbery Sarah@spacecity.org

Following is the trip schedule for the remainder of 2018 (Vail December will be announced later)

See you in San Antonio!!

Beverly Roberts – VP Trips

Trip	Schedule	TC	Full Pkg	Land
Snowmass	Mar 3-10, 2018	Ann Dorn	\$1,171	\$876
China	May 16-25, 2018	Jill Nanney	\$2,115	N/A
Croatia Bike	June 23-30, 2018	Rita Cardenas Leyla Ozkardesh	N/A	\$2,488
Patagonia	Oct. 17-26, 2018	Sarah Granbery	\$4,029	\$2,296

## HAVING A BLAST

BY LYNN BURCH, VICE PRESIDENT OF ACTIVITIES

Ten of us went to “Memphis” the musical at Hobby Center on February 25, which was great. I think we all enjoyed it. Joan Waddill, Debbie Moser, Debra Edwards and I met for dinner at Artista Café there in the Hobby Center to eat before going to the performance. Pictures on page 6.

Dance classes are now back on every Wednesday starting April 4 and are going to have different dances every couple of months. Michael is starting with the Cha Cha for April.



March 24 dinner at Baba Yega's in Montrose had a big turnout, we had 32 people attend. The food was good and the place had a beautiful garden. A lot of the people had never been there before. Pictures on page 5.

The March 29 Happy Hour will be at Punk's in Rice Village.

We are having an Art Adventure Tour on Saturday, April 14. Jovan Abernathy is taking the group on a 6 mile hike showing you all sorts of art projects around Houston and then spending some time watching the Art Car Parade downtown before returning to Sawyer Yards to meet several of the artists and see their work. Some refreshments and drinks will be served and you will get a gift bag. We will end up at Holler Brewery for drinks. Sawyer Yards is a six building Artist complex that is only open to the public the second Saturday of each month. Jovan knows a lot of the artists personally so we will get to talk with these artists. It should be a different fun event. We need a minimum of 10 people to sign up or the event will have to be cancelled.

The April Happy Hour will be April 26 at Sylvia's Enchilada Kitchen on Woodway near Voss. Hopefully the weather will be nice and we can be out on the patio.

The April Dinner is at Ouisie's Table on April 28. The dinner had to be moved a week because several of us are going to San Antonio for the Texas Ski Council Bid Fest on April 20-22 to help decide the trips for next year.

Please check the website often for new activities. This is where you learn about them and can sign up.

Thank you to all the members who participate in the events, as long as you keep coming and signing up for activities we will keep having them and adding new ones.

## EXTRAVEHICULAR ACTIVITIES APRIL EVENT CALENDAR

April 4-25	Dance Lessons Resume every Wednesday
April 9	Monthly General Meeting Live Oak Grill
April 7	BBQ on the Water
April 14	Art Lovers Adventure Tour
April 20-22	Texas Ski Council Bid Meeting San Antonio
April 26	Happy Hour at Sylvia's Enchilada Kitchen 6401 Woodway
April 28	Dinner at Ouisie's Table 3939 San Felipe

# MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

BY ANNE THOMAS, VICE PRESIDENT OF MEMBERSHIP

You asked for it - we responded.

"Our members asked for it, we listened and we are responding"...SCSC is changing its website to ClubExpress which truly **ALLOWS TRIPS TO BE PAID BY CREDIT CARD!** After glitches with our current web host, Wild Apricot, the new ClubExpress platform has proven capabilities as demonstrated with other Texas ski clubs. We are excited.



The switch to ClubExpress will begin the first week of April, which coincidentally is the month when annual memberships renewals are due. To encourage a prompt website switch and membership renewal, the SCSC Board of Directors voted to lower all dues (new and renewal) for applications made by May 31st.

Our new dues structure is:

## Effective April 2018 until May 31, 2018

- **Single 1 year** - \$35.00 for new or renewal applications made before May 31st. Your next membership renewal date will be: 05/01/2019.

- **Single 3 year** - \$94.00 for new or renewal applications made before May 31st. Your next membership renewal date will be: 05/01/2021.

- **Dual 1 year** - \$65.00 Bundle (up to 2 members) for new or renewal applications made before May 31st. Your next membership renewal date will be: 05/01/2019.

- **Dual 3 year** - \$184.00 Bundle (up to 2 members) for new or renewal applications made before May 31st. Your next membership renewal date will be: 05/01/2021.

## Effective June 1, 2018 all dues will be increased by a \$5.00 late fee:

- Single 1 year - \$40.00
- Single 3 year - \$99.00
- Dual 1 year - \$70.00
- Dual 3 year - \$189.00

Dues will be collected on our new website - <https://spacecity.clubexpress.com> via credit card. Preferred cards are VISA and Discover Card. MasterCard may also be used (but at a higher fee cost to the club.)

New website enrollment and renewal payment is easy - just follow the links and steps provided in forthcoming ClubExpress system generated emails.

A word of caution - if your membership is not current by May 31st you will be locked out of the system which means you risk missing timely information about members-only trips and events. We hope you take advantage of our lowered dues structure soon.

## Dinner at the Baba Yega Restaurant





## "Memphis" the Musical at the Hobby Center



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As soon as I saw that the ski list for this year included a Texas Ski Council trip to Cortina, Italy I knew I was going. When I read that it could also be extended for three nights in Venice, I got r-e-a-l-l-y excited. Not because these world famous locations were on my “bucket list,” but because I had been to both of them several times and already KNEW they were both wonderful places to visit....including some skiing on the side. Imagine that!

This trip was well designed: we flew into Venice’s Marco Polo airport, then only about a two-hour bus ride up into the Dolomite Mountains that



TC Ali Practicing for last head count at Guggenheim

surround Cortina. We got settled into the very comfortable, quaint and stylish Hotel Ancora, where the club has stayed on a previous trip or two to this town in the “Italian Alps,” and which also played host to the 1956 Winter Olympics plus numerous Hollywood productions, including the original “Pink Panther” and “The Spy Who Loved Me” (with Roger Moore as James Bond). Ask anybody who went on our trip to tell you the inside scoop about David Niven’s remedy for frostbite in where he described in his memoir as “the part of my body that should have been the warmest.” Helene Robinson started from her home in Whitefish and Ellen Matson journeyed from her home in New York City. They flew into Venice, rented a car and joined us at the Ancora Hotel.



SELLA RONDA--Helene Robinson, Ellen Matson, Ross Baker, Laura Nowicki & Annie Benzon

You will often hear Americans claim that skiing in Colorado is the best in the world, and I would have to agree with them. However, adding European ambience, beauty (read: castles, towns that have been accumulating character and historical charm for centuries), delicious inexpensive wines, and Italian food prepared by real Italian chefs, and I say that skiing is no longer the end-all and be-all of the trip. It is a fun addition to a Life Style Total Experience. The name of our club has been very appropriately expanded to the present Space City Ski & Adventure Club.



Annie Benzon, Jim and Laura Nowicki cross country skiing

The go-for-it skiers headed out to one of the half dozen ski slopes in the Dolomite Mountains surrounding Cortina d’Ampezzo, including Evan and Ginger Howell, Scott Pederson and Gail Kitowski, Nancy Sutton, Ross Baker, Ash Moza and Vic Graff. Helene Robinson and Ellen Matson declared the Cinque Torre (Five Towers) area to be their favorite.

Many of our SCSCers opted for a tour of the impressive Castel Brando (Marlon would definitely acknowledge the lineage of the original occupants of this spectacular and still livable mountain top castle and hotel). The stairs were steep enough that we all got some good exercise without a day of skiing.

After an impressive lunch at the Castle, we viewed the Northern Italian scenery by a very comfortable bus, arriving at the Toffoli Winery, learning about the growing and bottling of the Veneto region’s most famous wine, Prosecco. As you probably know from personal experience, Prosecco is a pleasure you can enjoy before, during or even after a meal, and we certainly did. As a result of our trip, this “Italian Champagne” now has several more Texas converts. Tom and Magdalena Huzzey liked it so much that they not only joined the later Venice extension, but further went on to Florence and Rome to ensure Italian quality control.



Laura, Jim, Myra and Annie went to the ball

Cortina is just a few miles

south of the border with Austria. In fact it was an area of intense fighting in World War I. Ernest Hemingway notably received his wounds there (near the Piave River) and turned that experience into literary prominence in his "A Farewell to Arms." Bob and Melissa Frazier, Bob and Marilyn Davis took a tour of some of the WWI significant sites, although new snow fall impaired the full viewing of the battlefields. Both Bobs are military veterans and it was of particular significance to them.

The Fraziers and Davis's also took the opportunity to learn some new culinary skills at the artisan cheese making (and tasting) class and the our hotel's cooking demonstration.

John and Cheryl Woltemate, Vicki Faulkner and Allan Simpson travelled by local bus to another battlefield site and World War I museum on one of our "too-much-snow-to-ski" days. This became a quest through the accumulating snow to the unattended-but-doors-open museum. It was very peaceful and almost surreal to experience this location...with the explosions of war having been silenced there for a century now. I was reminded of the snowy isolation of the abandoned grand house in "Doctor Zhivago."

Austria was also the choice of many of our folks for a side trip to Innsbruck and the Swarovski Crystal Museum. Innsbruck is famous for its medieval town center and also for hosting a prior Winter Olympics. The ladies, and in fairness the men, were fascinated by the beauty and variety of artistic crystal on view, and for sale, at the Swarovski Museum. This excursion was a MUST for our esteemed TC, Ali Pethick, who made enough purchases at Swarovski to rival our Trip Shopping Queen, Leslie Taylor. Many finished off the night with a ride on the ferris wheel where we viewed the end of the night fireworks and the local scenery. We didn't want it to stop but it did and our bus was waiting.

If Cortina was the main course for our Italian adventure, Venice was certainly a very tasty dessert ("dolce" to you Italians). Most of the SCSC'ers on this Texas Ski Counsel trip ventured to the Venice extension...and to our delight it was



Who did Ginger find in Venice?  
OMG

during Carnevale (Marde Gras being our name for it at home). In Venice it is more a costume festival than an excuse to get drunk. Many of us bought some of the classic Venetian masks and just had fun walking the streets, especially Piazza San Marco, where there was live music and a big-time party atmosphere.



Donna Kidwell, Mike Gibson, Vick & Sharon Graff heading for Island of Murano

Some of our troops went in for one of the classic masquerade balls. Laura and Jim Nowicki went in country western garb (which they said is pretty normal for them). Annie Benzon and Myra Whitten wore elegant black dresses and ornate Venetian masks, while Evan and Ginger Howell dressed as Donald and Melania Trump (and got asked to pose for lots of photos at the ball).

Ali and Fred Pethick joined Sharon and Vic Graff and Donna Kidwell and Mike Gibson for a special boat ride which took them to the Murano Glass Works on Murano Island. Ali was a little concerned when two men in suits met the boat at the dock but they just wanted to show us the exquisite and opulent Murano Glass. Donna and Sharon are not revealing what they purchased but any of the chandeliers and pieces of art were clearly not for the faint of heart.

ATC Allan Simpson and Vicki Faulkner decided to pass on further wine drinking in favor of some true American cocktails at Harry's Bar (the favorite of Ernest Hemingway, Bogart and Bacall, and the A-List of 1940's and 50's celebrities. Joining them at Harry's were Louella Stellar, Marsha Lutz, Ann Rogers, the Fraziers and Davis's.

On the last evening several of us had cocktails again at the Gritti Palace Hotel bar. Scott Pederson, Gail Kitowski, John and Cheryl Woltemate, Donna Kidwell, Mike Gibson, Vic and Sharon Graff, Bob and Marilyn Davis, Melissa and Bob Frazier and a few others who could not resist the beauty of this location on Venice's Grand Canal.

Ali took the final head count at 4:00 am on the day of our departure from Venice. Survivor had nothing on this group. We hauled our luggage up a very large bridge with hundreds of steps to the train station and another hundred steps into the train station and from the train to the bus to the airport. There was not a minute of grumbling. The boxed breakfasts helped which we ate on the train. There were plenty of open seats on the plane--imagine that--and most of us were able to spread out a little and enjoy the trip home.

Arrivederci, Italia!

What a fabulous group we had on this trip. Our newest members who joined the ski club JUST TO GO ON THIS TRIP are Janie Krch, Rene and George Reed, Charlie Gallagher, Tom Grauer, Greg Mifsud, David Trevitz and Linda Starr. That is 8 NEW MEMBERS and #9, Scott Bradshaw rejoined from Huntington Beach also just to only go on this trip.

Teresa Toward came out from Boise to join Sarah in touring the town. However, we are so proud of Sarah for taking a lesson and trying skiing again. Seems as though, however, she and Teresa prefer to scout the bars and town more. That was great as we could rely on them for the latest and the best places to go.

Saturday night Betty cooked pulled pork sliders with all the Texas trimmings and Heather and James from CB Mountain Resort came to give us insight on the mountain and activities. Jamie came in to offer assistance as well and helped us set up our Pub Crawl for Thursday night.

Sunday we were off on our Mountain Tour and Heather took the EXPERTS with her. Great day skiing. One of our groups, led by Courageous George, threatened to mutiny if our guide didn't take us to see the entire mountain. The group won! Several decided to adjust to the altitude before tackling the mountain and watched the football playoffs at the Flat Iron Grill, downstairs in our condos. However, Bob Donellan led off the injury report group by having an oxygen reading of 86 which required him to be on oxygen all week. Then, Chris Bryan couldn't figure out why they put a pole in the middle of a slow chair and it knocked him over, causing a rotator cup injury. Not to be outdone the same day, Jimmy Walker slipped on an icy spot in the road outside the condos and bruised his body for the rest of the week, but luckily cleared by the doctors with nothing broken.

Monday most of us took advantage of the full day cheap lessons offered to us by the Mountain Resort, however, George spilled the wine and Rene found she was happy raising the opposite arm downhill in the drill. Of course, with ZERO

lift lines all week, it was easy to get tired early. Monday night was our fabulous home style chicken dinner at Slogars. No one left hungry for sure. CBMR hosted 29 from Atlanta Ski Club and 20 some including Greg's friends, from the DC Ski Club so it was fun seeing other groups identified with helmet ties, bandanas, etc. Greg was our super star skier and enjoyed his friends from DC too.

Wednesday was another cook in night as Betty prepared Chicken Fettucine with a garlic cream sauce with peas, salads, bread, and desert, and of course, plenty of wine. Then on to game night.

Rene won the first prize in the drawing for trip sign ups. Then Don, Charlie and Craig led the winners in trivia. And new members, Janie, Linda, and Charlie won LRC.

Thursday, some of us took the day off and Betty, Charlie and Tom had a great sunny day in town shopping and eating while others found the bars early. Thursday night was our Pub Crawl which found many of us at the Dogwood trying out their famous martinis. Bobby and Carol V., Teresa and Sarah arrived first to enjoy beet martinis and other exotic drinks. They were joined by Charlie, Gayle, Dana, Janie, Scott, David, Bob and Betty and Craig. Then we went to the Steep for a great dinner before having a nightcap at the Princess Wine Bar. Friday found fresh powder, but after lunch during her last lesson, Linda presumably still had snow under her ski and it came off as she got off the lift. She fractured her arm as she fell. Betty visited the Gunnison hospital thanks to Tom's insistence but ran out as soon as she could to join the group for dinner on our last night. So no one actually had an actual ski accident but we did have incidents and injuries. Goes to show you walking is just as dangerous as skiing. Thanks to Craig and Sarah who always are there to help out whenever asked. You are truly valued members. Thanks to all who made this trip so much fun because you all were the best. And Charlie and Dana, hope your snowboarding was great as well. Don, thank you for the Crested Butte Betty bear-I love him.






Plan to attend the  
Texas Ski Council  
Bidfest April 20 to  
April 23 in  
San Antonio, Texas.

**STEAMBOAT SPRINGS 2018** KATE MACDOUGALL TC & BERNIE CLINTON ATC

Forty Space City skiers joined over 150 from other Texas clubs for this year's TSC Traditional week in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Our group flew United nonstop into Hayden, just a short shuttle hop to our condos at The Wyndham Eagle Ridge Lodge. Even though Dec-Jan snowfall was well below average this year, Steamboat had the best conditions of all the Colorado resorts. It had snowed the week of our arrival, so the famous champagne powder could be found. We had above normal temperatures our whole week with sun, clear blue skies, and highs in the upper 30's. No new snow, in fact it snowed more in Houston this week than in the Rockies. Saturday night, our welcome pizza party was held in the TC's

New member, Mohammad Rafizadeh, skied the first day with Steamboat veterans Andy Smith and Morris Covin, then was led astray by condo mates Steve Ying and David Burrows. Kelly Coleman and John Eiswirth spent Day 1 on a snowmobile tour. Rachele Russek had two days of group lessons, day 2 ended up solo with the same instructor. She had a blast, and sported the black eye proudly to prove her initiation into the sport.

Mid week, a group of 12, including Paulette Bogert, Laurie Haischer, Irene Kenny and Linda Kuper went snow shoeing from the top of the Gondola, led by Steamboat ambassadors on National Forest trails, with lunch afterwards on the mountain.

Non-skiers also enjoyed horse riding and tubing, and Jeanne Marie Ying educated us in finding great shopping deals in the old town.



condo. A game to search out and interview all the new members was won by Stuart Traver. The gift card may have been enough to buy one drink on the mountain. We had eight new members on this trip: John Eiswirth, Kelly Coleman, Mohammad Rafizadeh, Betsy Peterson, Rachele Russek, Paulette Bogert, Karol Hutson, and Carol Oeller. The pizza was complimented by fresh baked cookies courtesy of Anne Thomas and Larry Robinson, a stellar kitchen team.



Wednesday evening, a group of 19 took a shuttle to the famous Strawberry Park Hot Springs. The rustic pools, beautiful National Forest backdrop, and sunset were all a hit. Several of the group braved the cold pool plunge including Stuart Traver, who followed Betsy Peterson's lead.



Strawberry Park Hot Springs. Soaking at sunset

Cowboy Downhill activities were a backdrop to our first two days. Live country music, an impressive Balloon Glow, and the fun spectacle of watching rodeo cowboys and cowgirls racing down the Stampede run, with a nasty jump in the middle of the course. Robert and Leasa Clements enjoyed the Cowboy Downhill parties, and with Cindy McGowen, John McGowan, and Laurie Haischer, they won a cooler for the most empty Bud Light cans on their table. Way to support the sponsor. Another trip tradition is Robert Clements bringing his famous BBQ brisket with him from Houston. It arrived with a TSA sticker on it, so it was USDA approved, TSA inspected. There was plenty left to enjoy at the potluck party on Thursday night.

The TSC Welcome Party on Sunday night was in the Base Area, overlooking the Balloon Glow festivities. Appetizers were brought to our tables. Beth Slaughter filled hub-by Jim's plate with his favorite beef wellingtons.

Friday was Race Day. Space City had 13 racers. Karol Hutson volunteered to be our race director, Marti Turner helped her out. Great job. Congratulations to our TSC medal winners, Kate MacDougall, Betsy Peterson, Marilyn Swanson, and John Eiswirth. Thanks also to Ross Baker, Steve Ying, Stuart Traver, Jim Slaughter, David Burrows, Marti and Nelson Turner, Anne Thomas, and Bernie Clinton, all contributing to our team results.



Statue of Billy Kidd with Balloon Glow



Space City Racers after medal winning runs

Friday night was a Hollywood themed dance party up the mountain at Thunderhead Lodge. Skiers coming down the slopes with torches were visible on our Gondola ride to the party. After the race awards, Steamboat ambassador and Olympian, Billy Kidd, gave the TSC group an entertaining and uplifting talk during dinner. Space City easily won the Group Costume Contest with Ron Rambin our very own "Harvey Weinstein" surrounded by Space City #MeToo girls and a few guys sporting their best little black skirts. Stan Kuper,



Space City wins the costume contest

Linda Kuper, Janet McKenzie, Susan Stanley, and Paul and Sandra Stoinacke all joined in the fun. Then the dancing began with Jim Hodges, Marina Wang, Chris Urbanczyk, Karol Hutson, and many more, tearing up the dance floor to a great live band. And nothing beats a night gondola ride down the mountain after a party.

The group's favorite runs to ski were off the Sunshine Express Lift: High Noon, Sundial, Tomahawk, and Quickdraw. The expert skiers enjoyed finding powder off Morningside Park. The view from Four Points Lodge made this the best lunch spot. Several of our group took advantage of skiing with Billy Kidd down Heavenly Daze.



Racing medal winner Betsy Peterson skis with Billy Kidd.

A great trip. All left with fun memories of our group, and Steamboat Springs.

## **CROATIA BOAT & BIKE TOUR NATIONAL PARKS OF DALMATIA**

JUNE 22 – JUNE 30 2018

TCs: Rita Cardenas [Rita@spacecity.org](mailto:Rita@spacecity.org)

Leyla Ozkardesh [Leyla@spacecity.org](mailto:Leyla@spacecity.org)

We are excited to offer this trip to the beautiful island of Croatia. Many of our club participants enjoyed the Boat & Bike trip to Danube last season and we hope to continue the momentum. We have chartered a yacht for this journey so only Space City participants will be aboard. There are 32 spots available and they are sure to go fast, so sign up quick! We are offering this trip as Land Only. The price for the flights for individuals was much more reasonable than trying to acquire air as a Group.

We ask you plan your travel to arrive in Split, Croatia airport (SPU) by 2:30pm Saturday June 23, 2018. The airport is 7 minutes from the boat dock. We will have a planned shuttle TBA or it is an quick taxi ride. The boat departs at 3:00pm Saturday June 23rd. Each traveler must make the effort to arrive on time as the boat cannot wait for delays. The trip disembarks Sat June 30th after breakfast around 9am; however we have flexibility for earlier departures.

Jennifer Cole, NonStop Travel Inc., will provide assistance with flight reservations if needed. Her contact information is [Jennifer@nonstoptravel.net](mailto:Jennifer@nonstoptravel.net) Tel #310-324-5500

There are 16 cabins on the yacht with various room configurations. We will work with each participant to assign cabins. We ask that single travelers help to find a roommate as they sign up. As the trip fills up, we may need to create wait list for single travelers until there is a qualified roommate. Land Only Package \$2488 per person (pending board approvals). The last day for refund less cancellation fee is 2/28/2018. The final payment is due 3/16/2018.

**SIGN UP QUICKLY!** Don't delay your decision to join us as we will be opening the trip to other clubs to ensure we meet our financial obligation.

**[Click here for  
Bike Tours Website of Space City Trip Details](#)**

### **ABOUT THIS TRIP**

Croatia is a country full of beautiful, well-kept coasts with thousands of islands, reefs, and bays. Numerous Roman ruins, charming hills, and breathtaking beauty awaits you here. Situated along the Adriatic Sea, Croatia stretches from the slopes of the alps to the banks of the Danube and Drava Rivers.



If you have always desired to cycle in Croatia but have worried about the mountainous terrain, you need worry no longer. You can bike Croatia using e-bikes and will conquer the hills almost effortlessly. You will not be denied the breathtaking views that these mountain climbs provide.

You will discover the charm of the Adriatic in a very unique way. After a hearty breakfast each morning, you cycle through history and culture and at midday meet the ship at a harbor for lunch. In the evening, the ship will be waiting in the next harbor for you to dine as the sun sets, followed by a stroll through the historic harbor towns.

Come bike in Croatia, land of a thousand islands!

### **WHAT'S INCLUDED?**

- 8-day- trip on a motor yacht (Princeza Diana) with a crew of four
- 7 nights on a motor yacht in a cabin with shower/toilet - DBL occupancy
- Meal Package - 7x breakfast, 7x dinner, 4x lunch including welcome and farewell dinners on board
- Electric bicycle with 8 gear hub shifting with pannier
- Unlimited bottled drinking water (other beverages/ alcohol served on board will be tallied and charged to passengers at the end of the cruise)
- Guides on board
- Guided cycling tours as described in itinerary
- Overview maps for the daily tours (on board)
- Bed linen and towels
- English-speaking tour guide
- Entrance fees for the National parks
- Harbor fees & Visitor fees

### **WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED?**

- Individual travel to Split Airport

- Beverages / Alcohol on board (tally sheet is utilized)
- Taxi transfer from airport to the ship (approx. €20)
- If do not make the scheduled shuttle
- Bicycle Protection (€10 for hybrid bike and €20 for electric bike)
- Tips for crew and guides
- Helmet - there are a limited number of helmets available for rental so bring your own.

### SKILL LEVEL

This cycle tour requires a basic level of fitness from all participants. Spend some time on your bike to prepare. The routes go to heights of 670- 1640 feet above sea-level. The mileage ranges from 9-34 miles and does go through hilly and mountainous terrain. The rides will be completed without any time-constraints, but you should be used to cycling distances up to 30 miles a day through hilly terrain. Participants will need to master long and steep climbs which will present no problem with the use of the electric bike. Streets are mostly asphalted with little traffic however during high season when we are going, there may be a few busy streets. Alternative daily activities such as swimming and walking are available for non-cyclists. All cultural and natural highlights of the tour will be available to everyone, without having to cycle.

### ITINERARY

- Day 1: Trogir – Rogoznica
- Day 2: Rogoznica – Vodice – Slanica – Nature Park Telašćica, 15 mi. (23 km)
- Day 3: Molat and Dugi Otok Islands, 23 mi. + 11 mi. (38 km + 18 km)
- Day 4: Islands of Ugljan and Pašman - Zadar, 12 - 25 mi. (20 - 40 km)
- Day 5: Biograd – Vodice – Skradin, 35 mi. (55 km)
- Day 6: Krka Waterfalls – Šibenik - Zlarin Island
- Day 7: Primosten – Trogir, 28 mi. (45 km)
- Day 8: Trogir, disembarkation.



**Day 1:** Arrival in Split, Croatia. Depart from Trogir harbor - Rogoznica. Dinner on the boat  
Individual arrival by car to Trogir harbor or by plane to Split airport which is about 3 mi. (5 km) away from the harbor of Trogir. Check in is between 2 and 2:30 pm. Be prompt as the boat will depart at about 3 pm. Later in the afternoon, there will be time to adjust the bicycles. There will be a special welcome dinner on board!

Covered with pineforests that reach the sea, the island of Rogoznica is a paradise. The village of Rogoznica, a small fishermen's village, is hidden in a deep bay well protected from the waves and open sea.

**Day 2:** Rogoznica – Vodice – Slanica – Nature Park Telašćica (15 miles/23 km)

In the morning, the ship sails to Vodice where your cycling tour for today will begin. You will then cross the bridge to the island of Murter. In Slanica, in the Northwest of the island, the boat awaits to cross over to the island of Dugi Otok. On the way, you pass by the National Park Kornati - an archipelago in crystal clear water which is known for its rich, underwater world. Today's destination is the Telašćica Bay. The Mir salt lake is situated in this nature park. At the end of the day, you can take a short hike to the impressive cliffs

**Day 3:** Islands of Dugi Otok and Molat (23 miles + 11 miles/38 km + 18 km)

From the park, we will cycle across the almost traffic-free island of Dugi Otok until we reach the pine forest, agave, and tamarisk bay of Božava. From there the boat takes us to the flower island of Molat where we are free to explore the island by bicycle. Tonight is spent in the quiet port of the island.

**Day 4:** The Islands of Ugljan and Pašman – Zadar (12-25 miles/20-40 km)

During breakfast, the boat cruises to Preko on the island of Ugljan. From here, our tour will take us to Tkon on the island of Pasman. There is plenty of time to explore the two islands of Pasman and Ugljan, recently connected by a bridge, on your bikes. The tour follows the eastern coastline of the islands giving you a great view across the channel to the mainland.

After a loop tour, we will meet the ship again in Preko. A short crossing takes us to Zadar, the centuries-old political, cultural and intellectual capital of Dalmatia. Our tour guide will take us for an informative walk through the lively streets of the old town center, characterized by 3,000 years of history.

**Day 5: Biograd – Vodice – Skradin (35 miles/55 km)**

The morning begins with a boat trip to the city of Biograd followed by a bike tour around the Vraner Lake. Our goal is the resort of Vodice. The Vraner Lake is the largest freshwater reservoir in Dalmatia and offers many migratory birds an opportunity to rest their wings. In Vodice, you can enjoy lunch on board the boat. An afternoon crossing by boat brings us closer to the Krka waterfalls which we will have time to explore on Day 6 with our tour guide.

**Day 6: Krka Waterfalls – Šibenik – Island Zlarin**

After breakfast, it is time to discover the unique naturally formed waterfalls of the national park of the Krka-Canyon. Afterwards, the boat will take us to Šibenik out of the Krka river mouth and into the Adriatic. Here the Cathedral of St. Jacob is under UNESCO-World-Heritage protection and is regarded as the most magnificent sacral buildings on the Adriatic coast. The old town of Šibenik is also worth a visit before we cross over to the coral island of Zlarin in the afternoon.

**Day 7: Primošten – Trogir (28 miles/45 km)**

In the morning, we cruise to Primošten. From here, we cycle through the hinterland passing small villages, all the way to Trogir. Many magical views of the town and the island of Čiovo are inviting for short breaks and taking pictures. The afternoon offers enough time for a stroll through the world cultural heritage old town of Trogir. After dinner, we end our eventful trip with a special farewell dinner and celebration with crew and tour guides

**Day 8: Departure - Disembarkation at Trogir**

After breakfast, we disembark and head home.

**Changes**

The captain reserves the right to make changes to the planned route due to changing wind and weather conditions, and where required by organizational necessities

**OUR YACHT - LODGING - Princeza Diana (Deluxe class)**

High-quality furnishings, generous and spacious design and excellent culinary experiences are just a few of the attributes on board of our deluxe category ships. This fleet is made up of newly built steel ships, whose construction and planning have been directly influenced by us and our fellow island-hoppers.

At 125 x 26 feet, the Princeza Diana is a 3-mast deluxe class motor yacht that was launched in 2011. This ship is the princess of our fleet, an epitome of pure elegance. Spacious guest cabins with air conditioning, shower cabins and WC. The spacious salon as well as the canopied quarterdeck, with upholstered seating, are situated on the top deck. You're invited to play music on the piano and to relax you will find sunning mats and deckchairs on the sun deck. The Jacuzzi on the top deck is a highlight with its 360° panoramic view. The exterior of the Princeza Diana can fulfill any wish of an islandhopper: It doesn't matter whether you're looking for a deck chair or a mat, whether you want to hang out in the sun or in the shade. Everyone will find his favorite spot in this rich place. The spacious area invites for both: socializing and sunbathing in a peaceful atmosphere. The bathing platform ensures an easy access into the Adriatic, which is perfect for water lovers. Of course, it's possible to shower off the salty water after your swim in the deep blue Adriatic.

**OUR BIKES**

We will use electrically assisted bicycles (e-bikes). They will be equipped with a waterproof, rear side saddlebag. Women's bikes are available in 46 or 52cm frame sizes and the men's bikes are available in 56 and 60cm frame sizes.

If you enjoy to be active and outdoors but prefer leisure activity, the rental e-bikes insure comfortable cycling fun. All of the e-bikes are Pedelecs requiring the rider to continuously pedal but insuring an effortless climb up every hill.

# EXPERIENCE CHINA

**Time to knock another one off your bucket list!**

**Join us for an 8 night China “Sampler” Tour**

May 16-25, 2018

Full Package \$2,115; Land Only \$1,650 \* subject to final verification

TC Jill Nanney [pj\\_nanney@hotmail.com](mailto:pj_nanney@hotmail.com)

## Trip at a glance

- Round-trip direct air from Houston (IAH) with Air China; Intra-China transportation and transfers; taxes, fees, & fuel surcharges
- 3 nights in Beijing, 2 nights in Xian, 3 nights in Shanghai
- See the Great Wall of China, Tiananmen Square, the Terra Cotta Soldiers, Shanghai Acrobats and more!
- Accommodations at superior first-class hotels
- 16 meals: 8 buffet breakfasts (B), 4 lunches (L), 4 dinners (D)
- Comprehensive sightseeing, entrance fees, and activities as indicated in itinerary
- Experienced, English-speaking Tour Director and local guides
- Note: You will need a Chinese Visa – currently single entry is \$140 for U.S. Citizens  
[china-embassy.org/eng/visas/fees/](http://china-embassy.org/eng/visas/fees/)

## Day-By Day Itinerary

**Day 1:** Depart USA. This magical journey begins in the afternoon, departing Houston on a nonstop flight bound for Beijing.

**Day 2:** Arrive Beijing. We'll be greeted at the airport and transported to an upscale hotel centrally located in downtown Beijing, within easy access to Tiananmen Square. This evening, the Tour Director will host a welcome dinner and briefing. Penta Hotel (D)



**Day 3:** Full Day Forbidden City/Summer Palace with Lunch. Start the day with a visit to the famous Tiananmen Square, the largest public square in the world. Then enter the Forbidden City, an architectural masterpiece and home to the National Palace Museum. After an included lunch, we'll venture outside the city to see the Summer Palace, summer resort of the Empress Dowager. (B, L)

**Day 4:** Beijing & The Great Wall. On today's exhilarating excursion, we'll venture outside the city to the legendary Great Wall, which extends nearly 4,000 miles. There will be time to view and mount the well-preserved ramparts of this ancient wonder before proceeding to the Ming Tombs, burial site of 13 emperors of the Ming Dynasty. Tonight we will enjoy an elaborate Chinese Dinner Banquet featuring



the famous Peking Duck. Following dinner, we'll attend the "Legend of Kung Fu" show, a special stage performance that blends music, martial arts and a moving story. The show highlights the fascinating Chinese martial arts, known as Kung Fu. (B,L,D)

**Day 5:** Beijing. After breakfast we'll join an excursion to Beijing's ancient back alleys (Hutong) by rickshaw and witness the way the Chinese have lived for centuries. You'll interact with locals and visit a home of a local family and have lunch with them! This is an experience you will never forget.

Later today, fly to Xian, ancient capital of China for eleven dynasties and historic gateway to the old silk trading route. Then settle in at the hotel in Xian and enjoy dinner and a night at leisure. Golden Flower Hotel (B, L)

**Day 6:** Xian. On a guided morning excursion, you'll visit one of the world's most amazing archaeological discoveries: a life-size Terra Cotta Army of soldiers and horses guarding the tomb of Emperor Qin Shi. It was unearthed in 1974 after being buried with the first Qin emperor for 22 centuries!



Tonight, savor a delicious dumpling dinner, a local specialty and delight in a spectacular folklore show featuring music, dances and costumes from the Tang Dynasty. (B,D)

**Day 7:** Xian/Shanghai. Shanghai is often described as “Paris of the East,” an intriguing, dynamic city that weaves the seaport legacy of its past with impressive new 21st century architecture. Upon arrival in the afternoon, embark on a guided orientation drive and stroll down the Bund, the bustling and exciting waterfront along the Huangpu River. Enjoy a night at leisure. (B)

**Day 8:** Shanghai. Start your day with a guided walk amidst the scenic ponds, colorful pavilions and walkways of the

16th century Yu Yuan Garden, a delightful reminder of old Shanghai. The balance of the afternoon is at leisure to explore at your own pace. Rejoin the group tonight for a breathtaking performance of the renowned Shanghai Acrobats. A Chinese dinner will be included in tonight’s activities. (B,D)

**Day 9:** Suzhou Excursion. On this most memorable excursion, exit the city and journey to the charming, canal laced Suzhou often called “Paradise on Earth.” Embark on a short cruise on the ancient “Grand Canal” and enjoy a walk of the old town, followed by a visit to one of Suzhou most famous Chinese gardens. After an included lunch, visit a silk workshop to learn about silk production. Return to Shanghai late this afternoon and enjoy your final night at leisure. (B, L)

**Day 10:** Depart. After breakfast, depart late this morning on our flight back home. After a brief layover in Beijing, we will connect back to Houston and land today mid-afternoon. (B)

In the spirit of keeping things simple, this will be one trip (no pre-or post-trips) and there will be a limit of 24 people max. So don’t miss out and sign up today!

## TSC Patagonia

October 17-26, 2018

Pre-trip to Easter Island (Oct. 14-18)

Post trip to Mendoza, Argentina (Oct. 24-28).

TC: Sarah Granbery [sarah@spacecity.org](mailto:sarah@spacecity.org)

**PATAGONIA?** Uh sure, but where exactly is Patagonia? According to Wikipedia and a few of our well-traveled

members, it is a region shared by Argentina and Chile at the southern tip of South America.

TSC has chosen Patagonia as the destination for the 2018 Summer Expedition. This exotic adventure includes stops in Santiago, Punta Arenas, Torres del Paine, Perito Moreno Glacier, and El Calafate. The main trip is scheduled to leave Houston October 17th and return October 26, 2018.



Also offered are a pre-trip to Easter Island (Oct. 14-18) and a post-trip in the wine region of Mendoza, Argentina (Oct. 24-28).

The main trip includes 7 nights lodging, 16 meals, airport transfers, and ground transportation.

- The land only package for the main trip is currently priced at \$2,300 plus \$450 for 2 internal flights.
- The full package is currently priced at \$4000. Airfare for the full package is estimated at \$1699, and includes roundtrip airfare to South America plus 2 in country flights.

The final cost of the trip is subject to change, pending published air fare rates and TSC participation levels.

The trip coordinator, Sarah Granbery, will have more details to share at the General Meetings.



## OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM 2017-2018

President	Bill Bomberger	<a href="mailto:president@spacecity.org">president@spacecity.org</a>
Vice President of Activities	Lynn Burch	<a href="mailto:activities@spacecity.org">activities@spacecity.org</a>
Vice President of Trips	Beverly Roberts	<a href="mailto:trips@spacecity.org">trips@spacecity.org</a>
Vice President of Marketing	Laura Carmin	<a href="mailto:marketing@spacecity.org">marketing@spacecity.org</a>
Vice President of Membership	Anne Thomas	<a href="mailto:membership@spacecity.org">membership@spacecity.org</a>
Treasurer	Dave Gresko	<a href="mailto:treasurer@spacecity.org">treasurer@spacecity.org</a>
Secretary	Leslie Cashio	<a href="mailto:secretary@spacecity.org">secretary@spacecity.org</a>
Auditor	Keith Kirkman	<a href="mailto:auditor@spacecity.org">auditor@spacecity.org</a>
Director of Public Relations	Ross Baker	<a href="mailto:ross@spacecity.org">ross@spacecity.org</a>

## OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairperson	George Lopez	<a href="mailto:george@spacecity.org">george@spacecity.org</a>
Director & TSC Representative	Chuck Pena	<a href="mailto:chuck@spacecity.org">chuck@spacecity.org</a>
Director	Ann Dorn	<a href="mailto:ann@spacecity.org">ann@spacecity.org</a>
Director	Cindy Moore	<a href="mailto:cindy@spacecity.org">cindy@spacecity.org</a>
Director	Jo Barrie	<a href="mailto:jo@spacecity.org">jo@spacecity.org</a>
Director	Ali Pethick	<a href="mailto:ali@spacecity.org">ali@spacecity.org</a>
Director	Maria Koterias	<a href="mailto:maria@spacecity.org">maria@spacecity.org</a>
Director	Jan Ferrell	<a href="mailto:jan@spacecity.org">jan@spacecity.org</a>

**Space City Ski and Adventure Club is a proud member of the Texas Ski Council and the National Ski Council Federation.**

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[www.texas-ski.org](http://www.texas-ski.org)

**TSC Newsletter**



# APRIL HAPPY HOUR



## Sylvia's Enchilada Kitchen

6401 WOODWAY (Just off Voss)

### APRIL HAPPY HOUR

APRIL 26 5 TO 8:30PM

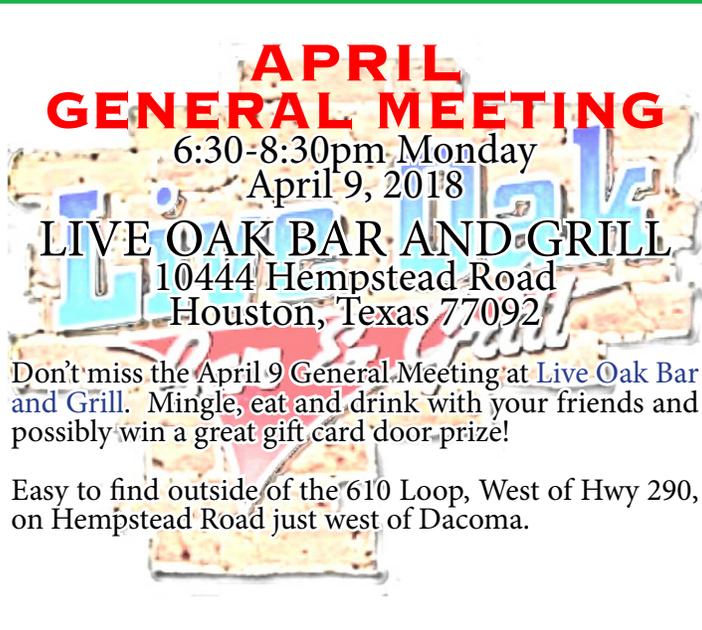
Happy Hour prices until 7

House Ritas \$4

Beer \$4.50 to \$5.00

Frozen drinks \$8

Appetizers from \$4 to \$8



## APRIL GENERAL MEETING

6:30-8:30pm Monday

April 9, 2018

### LIVE OAK BAR AND GRILL

10444 Hempstead Road  
Houston, Texas 77092

Don't miss the April 9 General Meeting at [Live Oak Bar and Grill](#). Mingle, eat and drink with your friends and possibly win a great gift card door-prize!

Easy to find outside of the 610 Loop, West of Hwy 290, on Hempstead Road just west of Dacoma.

## Sitzmarke

### PUBLISHER

SPACE CITY SKI & ADVENTURE CLUB

### EDITOR

Editor: Ross Baker

Email: [ross@spacecity.org](mailto:ross@spacecity.org)

### CONTRIBUTORS

Bill Bomberger, Beverly Roberts, Lynn Burch, Anne Thomas, SCSC Trip Coordinators and SCSC photographer/members.

### COVER PHOTO

*A Fine Snowmass Morning* by Ross Baker

### ADVERTISING & MEDIA INQUIRIES

Laura Carmin, [marketing@spacecity.org](mailto:marketing@spacecity.org)

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members are emailed a link to the Sitzmarke each month. Non-members may download the newsletter from our website in the *About Us/Club* Documents section on [www.spacecity.org](http://www.spacecity.org)

### GENERAL INQUIRIES

Space City Ski & Adventure Club  
PO Box 22567, Houston, TX 77227  
[www.spacecity.org](http://www.spacecity.org)

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## Sitzmarke