

NEWSLETTER sitzmarke

May 2015 Volume 51 Issue 1



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From Mission Control

I am excited to be your new President and would like to introduce you to my vision for the club for this year. SCSC will deliver three "E's": Excite, (to bring in new members) Engage, (to get new members involved) and Enthral, (to keep every member happy with activities, trips and fun general meetings).

Our May 2015 general meeting will be "The SCSC Gong Show." We need members with any kind of talent to sign up for the show by calling or emailing me at president@spacecity.org. Do you sing, tell great jokes, dance or play a musical instrument? I need you in the show! There will be a prize for the person gonged first and one for the person gonged last. As I write this I have 3 acts confirmed but need 5 more! Do not miss this special meeting and plan to eat a light supper or heavy snack before you come because you will want to stay later than usual.

All upcoming general meetings will be audience participation meetings and will be very social, interactive meetings. Some of you might remember the huge ski swap we used to have every year? One whole meeting (probably November) will be devoted to that. It is like a huge garage sale for SCSC members to sell and buy all ski/board items and clothes. I also plan to bring back the Big Silent Auction benefiting the Sunshine Kids for the December meeting. To do these types of meetings it takes a committee of volunteers. I would like both brand new members and seasoned members to be on the Presidential Meeting Committee which is forming now. These volunteers will each have one to two general meetings they will head up. They will also help some on other

general meetings, as needed. If you would like to help on this committee, please email me as soon as possible. We will have a fun meeting at my house in May to get started. I will also have a sign-up sheet at the May meeting. I would like to get at least one third to one half of our members to the H.E.S.S. Club regularly attending our general meetings.

My goal is to grow our club by 20% this year. We can do that by bringing back past members, bringing in brand new members, while retaining our current members. Now is the time to renew to save \$5.00 a year on your dues by paying prior to May 31st. Renew online at www.spacecity.org, in person at the May meeting or a happy hour, or snail mail it in to the SCSC P.O. Box.

We are reviving the old Ambassador Program, so sign up now to be an Ambassador who will be under the V.P. of Membership (see Patty's article on page 30 for more information).



It is going to be a fantastic year with all of the great adventure trips that we are planning right now. Contact George Lopez if you are interested in filling out an application to be a T.C or an A.T.C. Jo, our new V.P. of Activities, already has a plethora of exciting activities planned for May and this summer.

Contact Jo if you would like to lead an activity. Activity Coordinators do not need any prior experience and can be brand new members. All volunteers are invited to our annual volunteer party, which is always a blast!

Cindy Moore,
President

Countdown to Liftoff

Hello Space City! Wow! Let me start by saying thank you for your support. We've had a great run of trips in the past 12 months and this coming year will include a slate of trips that will have something for everyone.

As diehard skiers, we are determined to offer you the opportunity to experience the dream destinations that we all crave. To scream "YEE HAW" as we drop off a cliff and carve the shoots below (in our dreams, of course). Shred the bumps and live to slide down an endless ribbon of corduroy till the smiles freeze on our faces. End each day with après ski and satisfying meals with old and new friends, and dance with the stars into the night. Do I have your attention yet?

For the touring crowd, there will be luxurious hotels, cruising, unbelievable sites, festivals, wine, wine and more wine and then there is October Fest. For the adventurous, there will be hiking, biking, kayaking, zip lining, paragliding, horseback riding, pass me the Ben Gay please! Young, old, or in between; singles, couples, families; there will be something for everyone. Destinations like

Vail, Snowmass, Quebec, Steamboat, Lake Louise, the Danube, Sun Peaks, Snow Bird, Glacier National Park, New Zealand and more await.

We are still looking for volunteers to help make this all possible. If you would be willing to help bring on the fun, please follow this [LINK](#) and fill out and return the application form as soon as possible. Watch this space for details as they become available. Please remember to renew your membership now so you won't miss out on the fun.



George Lopez
VP of Trips

Advertise Here!

Get Your Business in front of our members

For more information email
marketing@spacecity.org

Trips 2015-2016

Destination	Date	Prices* Full / Land Only	Final Payment Date	Trip Coordinator	Assistant Trip Coordinator
Mexico Riviera Maya Club Trip	May 9-16 2015	\$1,411/\$912	9-Mar	Sandra McCunis	
Discover Tuscany TSC Summer Expedition	Oct 29 - Nov 7 2015	\$3,799/\$2,469	1-July	Maria Koteras	Leyla Ozkardesh

* **Published prices are before cash discount.**

Information shown on this Trip Schedule is subject to change. Contact the Trip Coordinator (TC) or Assistant Trip Coordinator (ATC) for the most up-to-date information.

PRICING: FULL packages include air, all transfers, and per person lodging based on double-occupancy. LAND ONLY packages do not include air. Published prices do not include baggage fees, equipment rentals or lift tickets, and are subject to change. All trip deposits can be made by check or by PayPal; however, final payment must be made by check to receive the 'Cash Price'. Trips frequently have optional activities, such as a group dinner, or offer pre- and post-trip segments that are not reflected in the price published above. The TC is your source of information as to what is included in the package price and the cost of available options. Each trip has a different 'final refund' date -- that is the last date you can withdraw from the trip without a penalty. Refer to the club's Standing Rules 5.1-5.4 for the governing policies on trips, cancellations, refunds, etc.

DEPOSITS: All trips require a per person deposit to make a reservation.

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



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP DON'T DELAY.

We will have a great list of trips for this ski season. Don't procrastinate and miss out on the trip of your dreams. Last season some trips filled up very fast and a few folks were disappointed. Don't let that happen to you. You can renew your membership online.

Last year this trip sold out in less than a week!!!



Photo by Fred Pethick

Barcelo Maya Colonial, Riviera Maya, Puerto Aventuras, Quintana Roo, Mexico

MAY 9th – 16th, 2015

Sandra McCunis
sandra@spacecity.org
 281-463-7717



Sandra McCunis

WHY CHOOSE THIS TRIP

- **All-Inclusive 4 star resort on a beautiful Caribbean beach**
- **Expansive swimming pools & acres of lush tropical gardens**
- **Snorkeling & diving along a spectacular protected coral reef**
- **Variety of sports, daily activities & nightly live entertainment**
- **International cuisine - Food & drinks available 24 hours a day**
- **Non-stop flight to Cancun, Mexico on United Airlines**

The Barcelo Maya Colonial hotel is situated on a stunning white sand beach with crystal clear turquoise blue waters surrounded by acres of lush tropical gardens. It forms part of the Barcelo Maya Beach Resort complex, a set of 5 luxurious hotels located in Riviera Maya just 15 miles south of Playa del Carmen.

The all-inclusive resort offers 4 restaurants including a buffet and the international a-la-carte restaurants featuring Seafood, Asian and Mediterranean cuisine. There are 4 bars including a Sports bar, 2 huge free-form pools with a Jacuzzi plus an Olympic-size pool, children's pool and water park. The hotel facilities also include a fitness center with a sauna and steam room. Relaxing treatments for your body are available in their U-Spa & Wellness center.

Also, with the Barcelo All-Inclusive program, you can access the restaurants, bars, pool facilities and beach of the Barcelo Maya Tropical, Barcelo Maya Beach and Barcelo Maya Caribe hotels.

During the day, you can enjoy a variety of activities including tennis, billiards, ping-pong, volleyball, basketball and miniature golf. Free non-motorized sports such as kayaking and windsurfing are available daily. Snorkel off the private beach along a coral reef with colorful tropical fish or swim with dolphins. At night, enjoy the vibrant nightlife that the hotel offers with live shows in the theatre and dancing in the nightclub.

Optional activities and excursions can be arranged at the hotel tour desk. Scuba divers can explore some of the best dive sites in the world. Plan a day trip to Xel-Ha, a natural aquarium park or

Xcaret, an eco-archaeological park. Tour the Mayan ruins of Tulum or Chichen Itza, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Enjoy a visit to Playa del Carmen for shopping and nightlife.

Join us for an unforgettable experience in the Mexican Caribbean!

PACKAGES OFFERED May 9th - 16th, 2015

PACKAGE	PRICE (Pay by PayPal/Check)	DISCOUNTED PRICE (Pay by Check)
FULL	\$1,411	\$1,361
LAND ONLY	\$912	\$877

DEPOSIT: \$150 by check or online via PayPal. FINAL PAYMENT: Due by 3/9/2015

Make the check payable to 'SCSC' & mail to 'P.O. Box 22567, Houston TX 77227' write *trip name* on the check & on the outside of the envelope. Online payments using PayPal are available.





Discover Tuscany, Italy

TSC SUMMER EXPEDITION

OCTOBER 29th – NOVEMBER 7th, 2015

Maria (Mendez) Koterak

maria@spacecity.org

281-797-7084

TUSCANY



**Maria (Mendez)
Koterak**

Leyla Ozkardeh

leyla@spacecity.org

281-785-2325

WHY CHOOSE THIS TRIP

- Trip of a Lifetime – check this one off your “Bucket List”.
- Gorgeous rolling landscapes and stunning architecture.
- Magnificent historic monuments, mouth-watering cuisine and wines.
- 1st Class and Deluxe hotel accommodations. Door to Door pick up to/from your home to airport within a 50 mile radius.

PACKAGES OFFERED Oct 29th – Nov 7th, 2015

PACKAGE	PRICE
FULL	\$3,799
LAND ONLY	\$2,469

DEPOSIT: Full package \$490 / Land Package \$370 - paid by check or online via PayPal.

FINAL PAYMENT: Due by 07/01/2015. Last date for full refund less club cancellation fee: March 1, 2015.

Optional travel insurance protection is available for an additional \$270 and must be paid before Nov 15, 2014. Trip price is subject to change if there is an increase in fuel surcharges by the airline. **Final payments** will be made directly to the Travel Agency (Collette) by check or credit card.

Make the check payable to ‘SCSC’ & mail to ‘P.O. Box 22567, Houston TX 77227’ write *trip name on the check & on the outside of the envelope*. Online payments using PayPal are available.



Trip Report – Breckenridge

By Steve Ying

What happens when 167 Texans get together for a week in the snow? You get a wild seven day party known as the TSC Final Showdown! Thirty-eight long trip participants from Space City Ski Club enjoyed an incredible week of skiing and fun in Breckenridge in the first week of March. In addition, we had ten additional short trip participants that included Ann Dorn, Gin Knebel, Ash Moza, Kathy Mitchell, Ann McIntyre and Patti Foltermann. We had a great mix of participants from non-skiers (like Rudi Peterson attending her first trip) to veteran skier Gary Davis, one of the original Big Dogs. Our group also welcomed three new club members, Nancy Spaeth, Alex Lederman and Don Beckham.

The winter was turning out to be a bleak ski season until the two weeks of continuous snowfall welcomed us with three feet of new snow just prior to our arrival. Along with the

four powder days we got during our stay, nobody had any complaints about the ski conditions. The most incredible day was actually in Vail where TC Steve Ying and eighteen others from our club enjoyed an epic 11" powder day.

Aside from the great skiing, the trip was also filled with parties and fun activities. We started the week off with a Saturday night club Welcome Party for which ATC, Cindy Moore ordered us twenty extra-large pizzas. That was enough to keep Jeanne-Marie Garcia busy trying to feed left-over pizza to everyone for the rest of the week. Steve Nickels graciously drove his truck from Houston with an ample supply of beer, wine and party supplies, so we were well stocked for the week. Ann Dorn also baffled the TSA scanner at the airport by bringing a whole baked ham in her carry-on bag which provided a nice side dish to our daily diet of left-over pizza.

One of the week's highlights, was a private 70's/80's dance party organized by Cindy Moore at Napper Tandy's Irish Bar on Monday night, where Mike Mason, our own



The whole gang arrived safely at the Denver airport.

professional dance instructor taught many of us including Lauren and Kevin McCreary, Bobby Goel, Rudi Peterson and Debbie Adams the Hustle while Leyla Ozkardesh & Rita Cardenas hustled the crowd at the foosball table.



Apres Ski with Davis Tucker, Lauren & Kevin McCreary and Joan O'Connor

Our club stayed at the Sawmill Creek Condominiums conveniently located a block from Breckenridge's vibrant Main Street. Deb Cini and Jason LaRosa showed their appreciation by making the short walk nightly to the many drinking establishments. James Holland also eventually learned about the short walk, but not after mistakenly taking a shuttle to Sawmill Creek, Colorado which is a forty-five minute drive away from Breckenridge. He tried to get condo mate Davis Tucker to pick him up at 1AM before realizing Davis didn't have a car. Afterwards, James emphasized that it is important to say Sawmill Creek "Condominiums" when catching a ride home. Fortunately, the police provided him a courtesy ride since there is no other way back at 3AM in the morning.

In addition to the nightlife, Breckenridge features over a hundred restaurants. The hands-down club favorite was Le Petit Paris, a French restaurant highly recommended by Maria and Keith Koteras, Nancy DuFrane, Marsha Lutz, Jim Slaughter. Stuart Traver, Leyla Ozkardesh and Rita Cardenas. They said the vivacious and animated French

sisters who owned the place were entertaining and made it feel like home. The rest of us ate pizza and ham in our condos that night.

Space City also made an incredible showing at the TSC Racing event by taking first place in the team competition by a wide margin. Congratulations to our Race Director, Craig Campbell for a job well done. We had the most racers which included David Burrows, Pete Mathieu, Bernie Clinton, Robert Samen and many others. Eighteen of our club members in all braved the single digit temperatures that morning. Rick Levi was our fastest racer. We also won six individual TSC medals; Nancy DuFrane (Gold), James Holland (Gold), Steve Nickels (Silver), Jim Slaughter (Silver), Ross Baker (Bronze) and Marti Turner (Bronze).

Down-hill skiing wasn't the only daytime activity. David Weathersby, Don Beckham, Dale Allman and Joan O'Connor snowmobiled to the Continental Divide. Cindy Moore and Mike Mason enjoyed the two million dollar Nordic center. Kate MacDougall and Jeanne-Marie Garcia visited some interesting museums. Jim Slaughter and Stuart Traver loved hot-tubbing with bikini-clad women.



James Holland, Cindy Moore & Mike Mason



Deb Cini, Jeanne-Marie Garcia, Jason LaRosa and TC Steve Ying pub crawling



Rick Levi and Nancy Spaeth posing before the race



Corey Nelson from Sports America Tours with James Holland



Rita Cardenas and Leyla Ozkardesh - Looking pretty



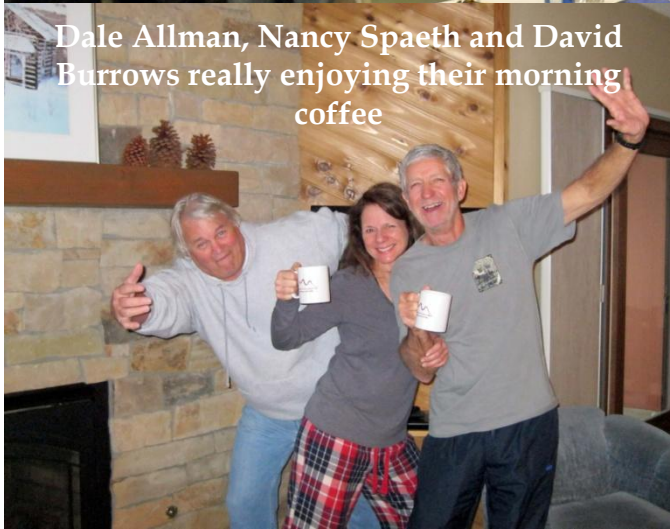
Ross Baker, James Holland, Steve Ying and Steve Nickels lining up for racing



Rita Cardenas, Stuart Travers, Jim Slaughter, Bernie Clinton, Ross Baker Davis Tucker, Kate MacDougall, Jeanne-Marie Garcia and Mike Mason



Awards night with Jeanne-Marie Garcia, Ross Baker, Kate MacDougall, Bernie Clinton, Jim Slaughter, Nancy Spaeth and Nancy DuFrane



Dale Allman, Nancy Spaeth and David Burrows really enjoying their morning coffee



Race Director Craig Campbell (middle) accepting team award with TSC officers Marsha Lutz and Ross Baker

The week was not only fun, but funny. Even before we arrived, Jeri Wilson tried to buy a bottle of Cupcake Chardonnay at the Applejack liquor store. When Jeri asked the young female attendant for Cupcake, she responded by thanking Jeri for the compliment. That funny moment must have

set the tone for the week. When housekeeping accidentally took Barbara Giesecke's thermal pants with the dirty towels, her condo mates John and Cindy McGowan said it was her fault for wearing terry cloth underwear. When Cindy Moore lost the sole of her after-ski boot walking in the snow, she tried to spray glue it back on. She needs to learn about duct tape. James Holland found out that you can get a speeding ticket while cruising a green run. Dale Allman and Joan O'Connor actually commented that they spent the whole week laughing.

As if we needed another excuse to go out to drink and dance more, the TSC had a Pub Crawl on Thursday night with an 80's costume contest. Cindy Moore probably would have won had her neon boots not fallen apart along the way. She vowed to bring duct tape on her next ski trip. Instead, a couple of guys from Dallas won which really surprised them because they said they weren't wearing costumes. However, Steve Ying and Kate MacDougall did win the TSC Scavenger Hunt which involved solving a series of clues about Breckenridge and taking selfies on their smart phones at various landmarks throughout the week. The \$50 prize was the only way Kate could justify going to museums on a powder day.

We finished the week off with the TSC Farewell banquet and dance Friday night. Of course, Space City closed down the party dancing the Hustle. On Saturday we had to take the long trip home. Everyone was sad that our trip was over but, at least we had pizza and ham on the charter bus to the airport.

Trip Report – Winterpark

By Tony Curry

The Winter Park Spring Break trip was our club's last ski trip of the season. Winter Park (WP) has 5 Mountains of Seven Territories with the expanded terrain for all abilities and a state-of-the-art base village. The low-key casual atmosphere is an ideal and affordable place to learn to ski with family activities as a prime focus.

Beginners to intermediates found the best terrain within Winter Park, Vasquez Ridge, and Parsenn Bowl. Advanced to expert skiers skied the "No Pain, No Jane" terrain. With youngsters out of school for spring break, parents, grandparents and uncles/aunts took those youngsters on a memorable ski vacation in the Snow Country of the Rocky Mountains. Scouts had an opportunity to earn a Snow Sports Merit Badge.



Carolyn Curry and Austin Skiers Gary and Nancy Roth

We joined two other TSC Clubs, including Austin Skiers, led by Gary Roth, and Capital Ski, led by Shannon Owen, who is also the TSC Youth Foundation Chairperson. Meeting, dining and skiing with the other friendly TSC clubs was a wonderful bonus on this trip.

Space City and Ski Club offered full packages including air transportation. The air transportation was a major challenge during the week of spring break. Most airline prices were so steep; we started to look into bus transportation from Houston to Winter Park. John & Nancy Burk opted for the Land package and drove for 18 hours straight with their son, Joe. No baggage fees & TSA lines for the Burk Family on this trip. Since John drove much of the drive, I was amazed that he rose early the next morning from his coma and was ready for First Tracks at 8am.



Boarders Break - Joshua Wyatt, Trinity, Neo and Kaley Curry

First Tracks program was fantastic!!! Each morning at 8am we got on the mountain before everyone else with WP top professional private lesson instructors who know where to find the best conditions and provided us with skiing techniques and tips along the way. Yes, I did state it was at 8:00am. Our Ski in/out accommodations was a great help to ensure we arrived on-time because the groups were gone at 8:01a. We could also start before and avoid the morning rush gathering at the base lifts. At just \$20 a day, the first tracks program was one of the best deals of our trip that was only offered to our TSC clubs on this trip. Our First tracks guide, Darian Liu, would carve a turn so sharp his hip would touch the snow. Our other guide, Tom Cat, said Darian, "had enough force to head back up the mountain."

The first tracks program was such a big hit that WP was expanded to include our last ski day. Kathy Quigley was one of our die-hards to arrive each and every early morning for first tracks. Kathy knew that at 8:01am, the first track groups would be on the chair lifts. During the afternoon, the spring-like conditions and temperatures warmed up to a high of 50f near base with a snow base of nearly 60". But with so much skiable terrain open, most folks started early and skied/boarded the higher elevations as mid-day approached.



Tristan Thomson and Aunt Sharon Goodwin

All three clubs attended the Welcome Party hosted by Winter Park. WP had provided drinks and refreshments. Shannon Owen of Capital Ski recognized each youth on the trip and presented them with an individual TSC Youth Foundation (TSYF) medal of participation. WP representatives presented the many other activities offered on/off the mountain that we could partake in. They also drummed up the interested in a group mountain tour. The folks at Winter Park Guest Services hosted a Mountain Tour group for our clubs. The WP hosts guided us with GoPro Video cameras in tow. They also had published and distributed a fine professional quality complimentary tour video capturing our folks traversing down the mountain. The video included a trace app which is a really cool overlay showing the video footage

alongside with the elevation and traveling speeds.

Organized by Gary Roth of the Austin Skiers was a first class dinner at Doc's Roadhouse at WP base just across from zephyr lift. Louise Wyatt of Space City had volunteered to take really nice photos of each of the families attending. We met up with fellow skiers/boarders daily at lunchtime on the mountain tops at either Snowasis or Sunspot restaurant facilities. WP provided free S'mores by Fire Pit at base at end of one of our mid-week ski/ride day with the Curry triplets (Neo, Kaley & Trinity) and Joshua Wyatt who enjoyed their fair share.

It must have been a coincidence that the morning after St Patrick's Day I noticed some folks getting a much later start on the ski day. I did hear some mumbling about Pub Crawls on St Patrick's Night. The Burk family, Sharon, Tristan and Kathy's first stop was Randi's Irish Saloon which had a live Irish band and served green beer. Due to the spring conditions at WP we had to cancel our evening tubing event, but a group of folks from Capital Ski Club went into Frazer Tubing location and had a great time. The daily trip pattern seemed like Déjà vu or a scene from the repeating Ground Hog day movie.



Kathy Quigley, Joe Burk, Keith Hayden (Austin Skiers), & John Burk

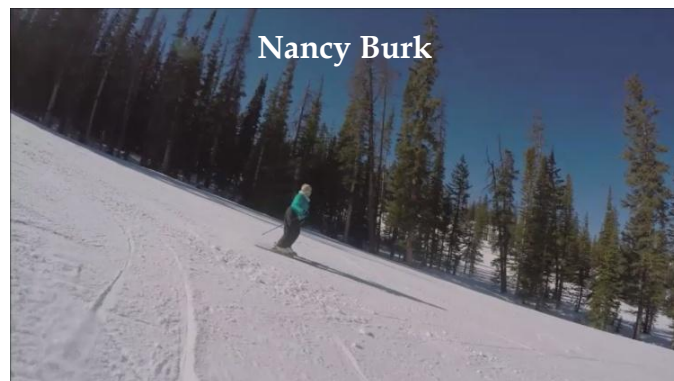
As I finished skiing on the mountain for the day, I would see Sharon Goodwin getting her couple of miles of walking/jogging in around the WP Village. I also noticed a woman resembling Louise Wyatt in the hot tub which I later discovered was Louise. I would find myself chatting with Louise and in a blink Louise would find the array of outdoor hot tubs. It was like how superman would find a phone booth and change clothes. My Family and the Wyatt family all decided to take one midweek day off from skiing the mountain and venture to Cooper Square and downtown Winter Park for some shopping and a bit of sightseeing.



Joshua and Louise Wyatt



Carolyn Curry, Louise Wyatt, Kathy Quigley, Pricilla Johnsen (Austin Skiers)



Nancy Burk



Curry Family Carolyn, Tony, Kaley
Trinity, Neo

Towards the end of the journey, the Burk family had arrived home safe with a return drive in 16.5 hours which was faster than their arrival due to fewer stops and faster driving. John Burk was still exhausted a bit, but got back into his normal routines in Houston and back on the tennis courts. This is our family's second Spring Break Trip to Winter Park with Space City which each time has been a unique adventure.

Between the 3 clubs we had 24 youth on the spring break trip. We all had such an enjoyable trip that we will plan for a three peat next season.

Ski U Later.

Trip Report – South Africa 2014

By T.C. Melody Bohlmann

“The trip of a lifetime!” echoed with emphatic enthusiasm. That pretty much describes the South Africa Expedition. The source of enthusiasm were the animals, the people, the beautiful and geographically diverse countryside, the food, the culture...and for some, the low cost and quality of wonderful handmade locally made crafts.

I will describe some of my favorite moments. The most memorable was seeing the faces of the participants who had just returned from their first game drive. Even the most stoic of faces lit up brighter than the Uptown Park area the evening after Thanksgiving! Listening to “I had no idea we would be so close to the animals and that we would see so many different animals just being out one time,” or watching Dave Stotz describe his literal eye-to-eye encounter with an elephant.

The excitement when the whales were spotted off the Cape Peninsula and everyone piled off the bus trying to get those elusive photos. Hearing the voices of the cooks and wait staff sing native songs and playing musical instruments with such enthusiasm that it moved us as well as entertained us. It was a surprise that South African cuisine was so good, plentiful and dirt cheap. Seeing Roger Holzman after he completed the strenuous *Featherbed* nature walk. He reminds me of Thomas, the engine that could. Watching Marsh Lutz, Joan Waddill, Ann Rogers, Lynda Meyers, and others hug or get petted by an ostrich at the Oudtshoorn Ostrich Show Farm.. Seeing Juile Davis-Raley sit on the rocky Cliffside of the Cape of Good Hope, serenely appreciating the Ceylon blue ocean view while Ross Baker, Jay Leggett, and a whole contingent of participants, climbed the cliff at the Cape of Good Hope to see the lighthouse and for a better view of the Cape.

But, let me outline our journey from the beginning. Over half of the participants elected to begin our journey with the pre-trip to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. We flew into Johannesburg, S. Africa and spent the night at the Protea hotel. This was a modern hotel close to the airport to allow us to get horizontal and reset our body clocks as S. Africa was seven hours ahead. The next morning, we flew to Kasane, Botswana and traveled by vans to Zimbabwe. At the border, we encountered our first wild life – herds of warthogs and some elephants. We stopped on the way to our hotel for a sundowner cruise on the Zambezi River enjoying cocktails, local snacks, and

A rare sight indeed!



hippo and elephant sightings. We continued by bus to the majestic Kingdom Hotel, aptly named. We toured Victoria Falls, considered the largest curtain of water in the world, beginning in the Rain Forest, seeing Livingstone Statue, the Chain Walk, some cataracts, and then toured the Falls Bridge. This is where we appreciated Tom Hogle, the diligent "watch guard," of our stuff. We had a Boma dinner and experienced some traditional BBQ and entertainment at the Victoria Falls Safari Lodge. We experienced our first game drive of the Expedition at the Nakavango Estates which was a great introduction to some of the antelope varieties and to rhino's and giraffe. While in Victoria Falls, some did elephant safaris meaning that they literally rode on the backs of the elephant. For those of us that passed on the elephants and could get past sharing our weight with the local crew, we rode a helicopter. I enjoyed riding shotgun with the

pilot and sharing the panoramic view of the falls and the gorge on a helicopter tour with Ron and Roberta Rambin, Tom Hogle, and Patti Richards.

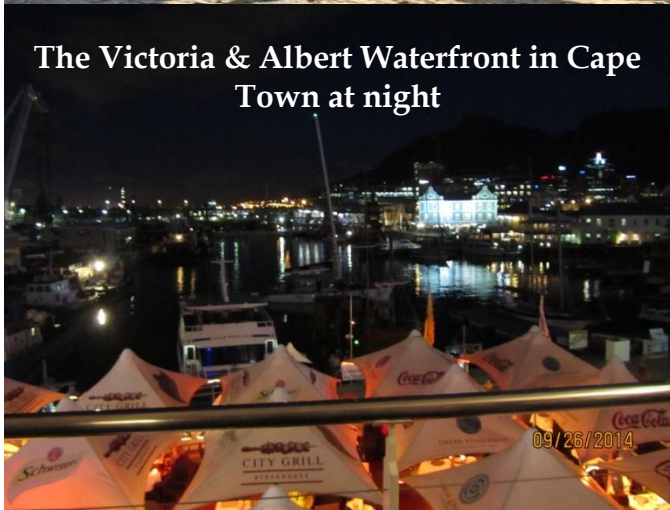
We spent our final night in Victoria Falls having an elegant and fabulous dinner in the Livingstone Room at the historic Victoria Falls Inn. We flew back to Johannesburg, S. Africa where we met up with our Main trippers at the Protea Hotel. The next morning we made our way to Port Elizabeth on the eastern coast of the country. We traveled to Kariega, a family owned private game reserve that has rich biodiversity and lush landscapes. We stayed in well-appointed chalets that had great views and were remote enough to enjoy the landscape - we were in the bush. The rangers would pick us up from our chalets to go on our safaris and take us to the main lodge for meals. We experienced sunsets and sunrises, a

George, David, Roger, Jay, Diane, Beth, Christina, Sandy & Joann on a game drive





Amy Collwell taking a wild ride on the ostrich. Go Amy Go!



The Victoria & Albert Waterfront in Cape Town at night



Diane & David Stotz enjoying the sundown river cruise on the Zambezi River with Joan Waddill in the background

traditional barbeque Boma dinner and were entertained by the Boma Singers. These were our cooks and wait staff playing the drums and other instruments and singing traditional local songs to us. Amy Colwell, was the first up to clap and try the local dances. I believe most of us saw the "big 5" - lions, elephants,

rhino's, buffalo, and the cape leopard. We also saw the rare white rhino with tusks. Truly amazing. Larry Robinson and James Schneider had great luck fishing in the river at Kariega ... and they were really that plentiful and big!



Joann DeBlasis, Jill Nanney, Marsha Lutz, Christina Anderson & Pat Musemeche



Marilyn Swanson and Larry Robinson with Melinda and Dennis Hughes in the background at Marilyn's



Jay Leggett at the Cape of Good Hope Most Southwestern Point of the African Continent

We then journeyed along the famous Garden Route with its great beaches along a narrow strip of fertile land that is nestled between

majestic mountains and the Indian Ocean. Our first overnight on this journey was at the Tsitsikamma Inn in the Village of Storms River. Some enjoyed the Woodcutters tour, Segway riding, or bicycling in the Tsitsikamma Forest, and many enjoyed ziplining along the canopy. Some toured the bridge. Marilyn Swanson, Larry Robinson, and many of us danced away at Marilyn's 60's Diner named after Marilyn Monroe. We saw some vintage motorcycles, cars, and Elvis memorabilia. Yes, we were still in S. Africa. Just goes to show you how much influence Hollywood and the US have on other countries.

We traveled Route 62 which is considered the longest wine route. All along the route, there were fabulous views of greenery, fertile valleys against a semi-desert of the Klein Karoo and towering Swartberg mountains, rivers, and streams. We arrived at the Knysna Lagoon and the Featherbed Nature Reserve. Most took a tram ride to the top to hike through the reserve. Our next stop was the ostrich farm in Oudtshoorn. This is where some experienced the ostrich petting. Amy Colwell was the first person to volunteer to take a wild ride on the back of an ostrich. She inspired Diane Morrow, Carol Johnson, Diane Stotz, and others to take a ride on the wild side. Most of our pictures are blurs as they move very quickly but Brian Baxendale captured the great one we have in the article! We stayed overnight at the Berluda Farmhouse and cottages. The owners served us a wonderful dinner that was overseen by the matriarch of the family. One of our guides, Frank, sang the S. African national

anthem for us. The group then went on to the Cango Caves which were very interesting and beautiful and Frank serenaded them again with the great acoustics. In Cape Town, one of the world's most beautiful cities, we stayed at the Winchester Mansions on the Atlantic seafront close to the Victoria & Albert Waterfront. The group experienced Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, the Cape Point, Simons Town, got up close and personal with African penguins on Boulders Beach, went on cable cars to the top of Table Mountain which is a national park, and toured Robben Island seeing the lime quarry where Nelson Mandela and his fellow prisoners did hard labor and his prison cell. The group also enjoyed visiting the Blaauklippen and other wine estates where they give tours and tastings.

A few of our folks went on to Krueger where they reported additional fantastic experiences. It was a long journey but everyone will tell you this journey was well worth it. Pictures, especially my pictures, just don't do S Africa justice; you just have to experience it!





**Trip Coordinator (TC)/
Assistant Trip Coordinator (ATC)
2015-2016 Application**

Do you love to ski or snowboard? Do you enjoy working with people and making new friends? Are you good at planning and organizing? If your answer is YES to these questions, SCSC needs YOU to join the great team of Trip Coordinators and Assistants running fun ski trips to exciting destinations.

Please complete this form and return to V.P. of Trips, PO Box 22567, Houston, TX 77227 or email to trips@spacecity.org

<i>Name:</i>	<i>Telephone-Cell: (___) ___ - ____</i>
<i>Address:</i>	<i>Telephone-Work: (___) ___ - ____</i>
	<i>Telephone-Home: (___) ___ - ____</i>
<i>Preferred contact type: (circle all that apply) Telephone: Home Work Cell or e-mail</i>	<i>E-Mail Address:</i>
<i>Occupation:</i>	<i>Year you joined SCSC (Approx):</i>

Position you are applying for: _____TC _____ATC _____Either

(Note: In order to serve as an ATC, you must have taken at least one ski trip with SCSC. In order to server as a TC, you must have served as an ATC on at least one SCSC ski trip or an AC for a large activity or experience running trips with other organizations.)

What type of SCSC ski trip do you prefer to run?
_____TSC (Texas Ski Council) ____Club (SCSC) _____Either

What length of SCSC ski trip do you prefer to run?
_____Long (week long) ____Short (4 or 5 day) _____Either

Where would you like to run a trip (Destination/s)? _____

Availability: Dates that you are *Unavailable* to run a trip (If any): _____
Preferred dates (If any): _____

Are you available for monthly meetings usually the 2nd Monday of the month (September-May)? Yes ___ No ___

Are you available for monthly happy hours usually the 4th Thursday of the month? Yes ___ No ___

Are you available to attend 2 to 3 training sessions? Yes ___ No ___

(Training sessions likely will be May, June or July 2015)

On what side of town do you live/work? _____

Prior SCSC Volunteer Experience: TC/ATC/AC-Activity Coordinator /AAC-Assist. Activity Coordinator/Officer (Start with most recent)

Year	Trip/Activity/Office	Year	Trip/Activity /Office

SCSC-Ski Trips Taken

Non-SCSC Ski Trips Taken

Year	Trip	Year	Trip	Year	Trip	Year	Trip

Other Volunteer Experience: (Start with most recent)

Year	Organization/Office	Year	Organization/Office

Computer experience:

_____Microsoft Word

_____Microsoft Excel

_____Other

Do you have access to a computer at home or work?

_____Yes

_____No

Do you have access to a fax machine at home or work?

_____Yes

_____No

Can you make & receive SCSC related phone calls at work?

_____Yes

_____No

Can you send & receive SCSC related e-mail at work?

_____Yes

_____No

What other experience/skills can you bring to the position of TC/ATC?

Why are you interested in running a SCSC ski trip?

Having a Blast

Greetings! We are rolling into May with a new VP of Activities, which is me, Jo Barrie. I will do my best to offer a variety of fun and interesting events throughout the year, but let me make one point perfectly clear: if you want another luau complete with Tahitian dancers and in-ground pig roast you will have to pester Gayle Dale. That was truly a special event, created by the former VP of Activities, Gayle, and her husband Dana. I can appreciate all the hours and sweat that went into planning that!

There was a huge turnout for the April 29th "Louisiana- style" Crawfish Boil, a big thank you to Jeanne Marie Garcia who hosted this wonderful event which included live music by Ben Reyna. Another big thank you to Peggy Schillinger who is getting May off to a racing good start by reserving a section for us at the Sam Houston Race Park for Kentucky Derby Day! It's all about the horses, the wagers, and the hats. You'll have to ask Peggy if anyone came out richer than they went in.

Moving forward into May, we have an opportunity for you to learn something new. Beginners' Hustle Dance lessons will be starting up on Friday, May 29th. What is the Hustle you ask? Put your imagination to rest. We will have a demonstration for you at the May General Meeting on Monday, May 11th. For more info contact Ann Dorn at activities@spacecity.org

The end of May brings on the AIA Sandcastle Competition. Derek Shooobridge has only ten volunteer slots to fill. Contact Derek at activities@spacecity.org

More events are in the pipeline! Please be sure to frequently check out the list of activities found under the "Activities" tab on our [website](http://www.spacecity.org) (www.spacecity.org) and also be sure to read the "News from Space City Ski Club" emails that are frequently sent out.

Our bayou city percolates with a crazy volume of entertainment to be experienced. We have a diverse group of members and interests and I hope to offer something for everyone. It takes two to three months to get an activity from "this is a great idea" stage to the point where we can publicize it as "open for business." At the April General Meeting I posted a list of ideas and suggestions as a springboard for more ideas and I will have it on display again at the May meeting. If there is something that sparks your interest, I encourage you to talk to me about it.

Host an event that is exciting or dear to you, that makes it easy to share the experience with others. If you have never led an activity before I can help you with the process. Partner with a friend and co-host an activity!

When we gather for happy hours and events

NEW - Now you can purchase SCSC Logo Products!

We have our e-store at Land's End and you can select any product you like to purchase. Once you've selected a product, you may select our logo to apply to your item(s).

Shop & enjoy!

You can find the link to the e-store at www.spacecity.org, under the Welcome block.

we are eager to connect with friends and that is an important part of our activities. We also want to make newcomers feel welcome and comfortable so remember to reach out and invite the unfamiliar faces to your conversations.

Until next month ...



Jo Barrie
VP of Activities

UPCOMING EVENTS

May

May 28th: HAPPY HOUR at Cedar Creek Bar & Grill

May 29th: BEGINNING HUSTLE DANCE LESSONS - Get your feet excited!

May 30th: AIA SANDCASTLE COMPETITION in Galveston

June

June 14th: ASTROS vs. MARINERS
Enjoy a Sunday afternoon at the ballpark!

June 25th: HAPPY HOUR at Churrasco's at I-10 & Gessner

July

July 18th: ANNUAL VOLUNTEER PARTY - Details to come!

August

August 9th: BOWLING! - Always fun, Always cool

Membership

I have been elected VP of Membership for this new term. Thank you for your trust in my leadership. Right now is the time to renew to receive a \$5.00 discount on your dues prior to May 31st. Renew online, in person at the May 12th general meeting or happy hour, or by sending it snail mail to our P.O box.

As we strive to increase membership, we are discussing having an award for the member who brings in the most new members and the member who brings BACK past members who have not renewed in the last 2 years. We will be discussing this option during the summer and will let you know by the August Sitzmarke. Hopefully, we can implement an incentive for our members to increase our membership. Right now our club and the Austin Skiers have the same voting number (10 votes) at our Texas Ski Council meeting. We have a lot of influence on the Texas Ski Council selection of trips as long as we can maintain, or increase, the number of members who take TCS trips.

Our President would like to reinstate the Ambassador Program. If we do so, at least one Ambassador will be at each General Meeting. The Ambassador will introduce guests to as many members as possible. We need to make sure all potential new members feel extremely welcome. Everyone should take time to talk to all guests, get to know them and give them reasons to join SCSC. Contact me, or Cindy Moore, if you would like to be an ambassador. Ambassadors will be invited to the volunteer party and will receive a special name badge to wear to every meeting and happy hour.

We are also discussing an option for a drawing for all potential members, or new members who just joined at each meeting, possibly every month. This will be decided prior to our September General Meeting. They will put a business card, or complete an information form, and we would draw a winner at each meeting.

If you have any suggestions, please feel free to email membership@spacecity.org. We are open to any suggestions that might increase our membership.

I am looking forward to a very successful new term.

Thank you again.



Patty Finch
VP Membership

Member Profile - Jan Ferrell

I was happy to oblige your new V.P. of Membership when she asked me if I would write my last Membership Profile. It is someone who helped me last year

whenever I called, no matter what time of day and without judgment. That someone is Jan Ferrell.

Jan said that in 1985 she learned how to ski--sort of, and as there are no slopes anywhere near Houston, she took advantage of the revolving indoor ski slope at Oshman's Sporting Goods Store. Picture a carpet, slight incline and a mirrored wall. Boots, buckles, bindings, poles and skis were all eye-openers. She took her first ski trip -- to Taos. It was certainly not a beginner's mountain as those of you who have skied there can attest to. She quickly discovered that she could ski on any mountain that was carpeted. Her love of skiing, however, was born there.



Jan has skied all over North America, Austria several times, as well as one of her favorites -- Finland. She said that she found skiing in Snowmass colder than Finland. Also on her travel list have been England, Scotland, Ireland, Germany, France, Russia, Estonia, Sweden, Denmark, Austria, the Netherlands, Spain and Belgium, Mexico, the US Virgin Islands and the British Virgin Islands. Tuscany is next on her radar and she's researching a trip to Israel next year.

Throughout the past 30 years, Jan has also been involved in the administration of ski clubs starting with Los Amigos Ski Club in San Antonio where she was VP of Publicity, VP of Membership and was their first female President. President was the easy one, she stated, if you know how to delegate.

We are now lucky to have her as a member of Space City Ski Club where she was VP of Membership for 3 years, ran domestic and international trips, and ran club activities and volunteered for others. She attends and loves the Sand Castle competition in Galveston

each year. After 30 years of skiing, she has hung up her gear and given away her ski clothes. She lamented that they didn't fit any more anyway. Whose does?

Jan has been SCSC Delegate to the Texas Ski Council (TSC) and helped to organize the latest Bid Fest where this year's trips were chosen. She was also on the TSC Nominating Committee for officers as well as the TSC Pre-Select Bid Review Committee. When she wasn't coordinating TSC activities, she could be seen sitting at the welcome desk at meetings helping me with all the membership support issues.

There's no telling where she will show up next but one thing is for sure, SHE WILL SHOW UP. Thanks Jan. I couldn't have done it without you. Ali Pethick

Member's Corner



Photos by Ron Hayes

Our Leadership Team 2015-2016

President	-	Cindy Moore	president@spacecity.org
VP of Activities	-	Jo Barrie	activities@spacecity.org
VP of Trips	-	George Lopez	trips@spacecity.org
VP of Membership	-	Patricia Finch	membership@spacecity.org
VP of Marketing	-	Bobby Goel	marketing@spacecity.org
Treasurer	-	Maria Korteras	treasurer@spacecity.org
Secretary	-	Ali Pethick	secretary@spacecity.org
Auditor	-	Keith Kirkman	auditor@spacecity.org
Director Of Trips	-	TBD	

Our Board of Directors 2015-2016

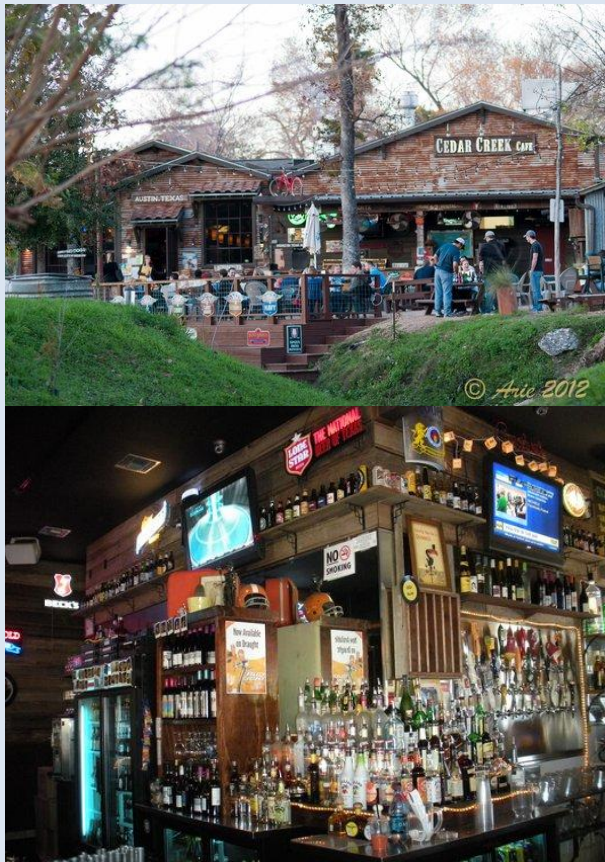
Chairperson	-	Melinda Hughes	melinda@spacecity.org
Director	-	Gayle Dale	gayle@spacecity.org
Director	-	Jim Hodges	jim@spacecity.org
Director	-	Marti Turner	marti@spacecity.org
Director	-	Sandy Fowler	sandy@spacecity.org
Director	-	Ann Rogers	ann@spacecity.org
Director	-	Bill Bomberger	bill@spacecity.org

May Happy Hour

*Thursday, May 28th
5:30 – 8:30 pm*

Cedar Creek Café, Bar & Grill

1034 W 20th St, Houston, TX 77008
Ph: 713-808-9623



DOWN BY THE CREEK!
In the Heights/Shady Acres
neighborhood
Cedar Creek caters to an eclectic
crowd looking to relax and enjoy
quality cocktails, beer and grub.
Texas Spirits + Craft Beer + Cocktail

Sitzmarke

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Members are emailed a link to the Sitzmarke
each month. Non-members may download the
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Us/Club Documents section on
www.spacecity.org

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