newsletter SITTMATE CLUB

VOLUME 49 NO. 9 JANUARY 2014

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making mountains

How the Grand Tetons were Formed General Meeting Program January 13th

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launchpad

spotlight on skiing

f you're not on the slopes skiing, the next best thing may be reading about it. Maybe it's the upcoming Olympics, or the great snow the Rockies have been getting, or perhaps the storyline of Lindsey trying to recapture victory, but recently, it seems there have been many more articles in the general press about skiing, skiers, and the sport in general.

The New York Times just published the 'Ski Issue' in their travel section. Articles that I liked included one on <u>what's new</u> <u>in ski resorts across the US</u>, <u>tips</u> <u>on pursuing powder</u> (with an in-depth interview with Joel Gratz, who was featured in our November issue), <u>36 hours in Jackson</u> <u>Hole</u>, and <u>skiing Valle Nevado</u>, <u>Chile</u>. Earlier in December, the Times also had a fascinating article on <u>taming the snow at</u> <u>Sochi</u> - which is highly prone to avalanches. Incredible engineering required ! As our ski trips take to the mountains this time of year, those of us still in Houston will be learn-

ing about how those mountains were made. Read more about the special program Melinda has lined up for the January General Meeting on the next page.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year filled with good health, friends, and travels.

Lynda Meyer Editor, and VP of Marketing marketing@spacecity.org

newsletter Sitzmarke

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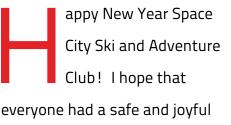
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holiday season.

After so much planning, it is difficult to believe that ski season is already upon us.

from MISSION CONTROL

the Houston Geological Society will be providing a presentation at our next monthly meeting on



Photo credit: Copyright © Jack Affleck / Vail Resorts -- All rights reserved. Vail Village

Our December Vail trip is returning as I write, and we're gearing up for the Park City trip to depart very soon.

To enhance our ski experience in Jackson Hole, Martha McRea from and how they were formed. This should give us a very interesting overview of the area and, hopefully, will make your skiing experience more fun, as you will gain an understanding of how the slopes were

the Grand Tetons

troops. Our club donated enough



items for them to prepare 26 care packages. In addition, there were enough financial donations to pay for the shipping of the packages. Thank you, Space City and Cypress Cares – we make a great partnership!

We also partner with the Texas Ski Council to help bring exciting destinations to our club members. Mark your calendars for April 4 through 6th and head to San Antonio for the annual Bidfest. As our experienced club members know, this is the event that shapes our slate of trips for the next ski season. You can help select trips for next year by participating in

the s

formed.

Our program in December was a tremendous success. Cypress Cares is an organization that provides care packages to our



this event. Go to the Texas Ski Council website, <u>www.texas-ski.</u> <u>org</u> for more information. Enjoy your ski season and I'll see you on the slopes !

Melinda Hughes

President

president@spacecity.org

Photo Credit: National Park Service, Grand Tetons in winter

January General Meeting Monday, January 13th

The Houston Geological Society presents:

How the Grand Tetons Were Formed

The HESS Club 5430 Westheimer Road MAP: <u>http://goo.gl/maps/Aqnfl</u>

> Doors open at 6:30pm Program begins at 7:00pm Cash bar

Interested in membership?

Join online, or contact our VP of Membership, Jan Ferrell, for more information. Family memberships are a great way to get on the slopes with your spouse and kids.

Jan Ferrell

VP of Membership

Have you forgotten your user name or password? Jan can help.

E-mail her at <u>membership@spacecity.org</u>

SITZMARKE NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2014

elcome to the New Year! My elves were really busy last year planning all sorts of fun stuff ranging from a Hawaiian luau to a Christmas Gala so they are off on a well-earned sabbatical for the beginning of this year. And they did a WONDERFUL job. Now I'm looking for some replacements to help suggest and lead activities from February through June. Let me know if you are interested.



We had 70 members in attendance at our annual Christmas Gala at the Post Oak Grill. The dinner and ambiance were

fabulous and we even enjoyed a live band, courtesy of a party going on in the room next door. A special thanks to Lori Aubrecht, who single-handedly

organized this special evening.

Our next activity is an afternoon of ice skating on Sunday January 19th, complete with a 30 minute lesson at Ice Skate USA. It

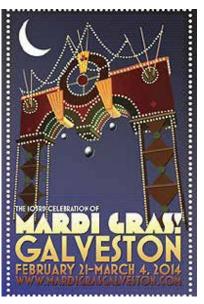




will be followed by pizza and drinks at the California Pizza Kitchen. Fred Pethick is the activity coordinator for this. See the calendar for more information on this fun activity. It promises to be a lot of laughs not to mention good exercise.

Our January Happy Hour will be held at McCormick and Schmick's at Town and Country Mall on January 23rd. Be sure and invite your friends. This is a great restaurant with an awesome Happy Hour menu. A few of you have expressed interest in the 4th

annual Funky Uptown Umbrella Brigade Parade on Friday, February 21st in Galveston for Mardi Gras, so we will be coordinating something for that evening. Anyone want to lead this easy, fun activity?



Email me at <u>activities@spacecity.org</u> or call me at 832-859-8476. Remember that we have a HUGE volunteer party at the end of the summer and you will be invited to attend for free if you volunteered throughout the year.

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NVDI

Is anyone interested in a Super Bowl party this year? Please contact Ali Pethick at <u>alipethick@yahoo.com</u> if you would like to attend a Space City Super Bowl party or want to lead this activity.

Gayle Dale

VP of Activities activities@spacecity.org

Great Happy Hour menu so invite \overline your friends. The SEAFOOD & STE award-Winning McCormick & Schmick's bar program has been praised by diners and critics across the country, earning recognition as Best Happy Hour by such publications as: Seattle Weekly, Kansas City Magazine, Westword (Denver), Los Angeles Downtown News, Rocky Mountain News, Los Angeles Magazine, Washingtonian Magazine and USA Today. 10% savings for food and beverages (non-alcoholic) for AARP members and up to 5 guests. WHAT: JANUARY HAPPY HOUR **WHERE:** McCormick & Schmick's 791 Town & Country Blvd MAP: <u>http://goo.gl/maps/SfpNT</u>

WHEN: Thursday, 1/23 5:30pm - 9pm



B SITZMARKE NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2014 Spin and glide ICE SKATING

Ice Skate USA Sunday, January 19 1:30pm

Optional dining afterwards at the California Pizza Kitchen, rinkside

Memorial City Mall 303 Memorial City Way MAP: <u>http://goo.gl/</u> <u>maps/wTSI0</u>

ACTIVITY COORDINATOR: Fred Pethick



ooking for great winter fun right here in Houston? Join your SCSC friends for some fun and exercise at this massive indoor ice skating rink. Never ice skated before? Or has it been a while? No problem, as a 30 minute group lesson and skate rental is included with your admission.

We will skate for 2 hours with in-and-out privileges, meaning you are free to leave and return to the rink whenever you want. So you can even get in a little shopping in between skating.

Afterwards we will meet for pizza and drinks at the California Pizza Kitchen (since you just burned off those calories!) CPK is located in the mall just outside the skating rink. As an added bonus, a portion of our money spent at CPK will go to the TSC Youth Foundation.

Member Cost: \$14 (payment due by 1/11) Non-member Cost: \$16



Not the typical day in the office

SOUTH AFRICA SEPTEMBER 19-30, 2014

TC: MELODY@SPACECITY.ORG

DOTLIGHT the same as the former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. How did

ter of the United Kingdom. How did that come about? From my grandfather. He was a his-

tory buff and named my father David Lloyd George and my uncle William Sherman. Hence, I am David Lloyd George, Jr.

Are the two of you native born Texans?

No, both of us were born in the same valley in the coal mining area of eastern Pennsylvania.

What brought you to Houston?

David: My job brought us here. We transferred here from Colorado. I was a senior Vice President with Pennzoil. We have 4 children, 3 of whom live in Colorado, and 1 in Wyoming.

Judi: I came with David and fell in love with Houston and its warm weather.

David, I know your real passion is travel and model trains.

Yes, I've been to at least 100 countries. I ride trains in Europe every year while visiting friends. I research the country before I get there to get a feel for the region. I am involved in many model train shows all over the world.

What is the most interesting place you've been to?

The most interesting place is the United States. You can't find another an English speaking country that is as interesting as our own. My favorite state, of course, is Pennsylvania. **How about you, Judi?**

We live on a golf course and I am an avid golfer. I've been a competitive golfer for years and have even won a few tournaments. I love football. I'm a fan of the Broncos and the Texans.



What is the furthest place the two of you have travelled?

Hawaii, believe it or not! It is actually further than Egypt.

David, what is your favorite place to go skiing?

Definitely Vail/Beaver Creek. They have the best skiing in the world in my opinion. I'd like to go to Sapporo, Japan.

Judi, you are not a skier now but where is one of your favorite places to travel?

I love exploring America. Every U.S. citizen should do more of it. I have visited a small part of every state in the union.

Our club offers a lot of activities. Is there anything you would like to suggest we do in the coming year? We do so many different things so we can't add anything to the mix. What is something few people know about you?

David: I am a lexicographer. I got hooked on words while reading classics like Charles Dickens in high school. I learned Latin and French there and scientific German at Penn State. That made me a 'word merchant'.

And you, Judi?

I don't know what people don't know about me.

Thank you for letting us get to know you better! I look forward to seeing you at a meeting or event soon.

Thanks for agreeing to this interview, David and Judi! The two of you have been with the club for some time now. How did you find us and when? David: I've been with the club since 1998. I found it when I attended Houston Chronicle Snow Days at the George R. Brown Convention Center. I joined right there on the spot and my first trip was to Alyeska, Alaska. Judi decided to join about 3 years ago to go on summer trips. We have travelled with the club to Egypt, to Alaska, and to Ireland. David, you have an interesting

name—David Lloyd George, which is

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Jenny, welcome to the club! You are one of our newest members. How did you find out about us?

I relocated here from California and was looking for some way to go snowboarding that was cost effective. Living in California, I could drive to a ski area. I was also looking to make new friends. **More about you--what do you do?** I'm in the engineering industry and I design buildings. I'm currently working on some buildings in the Energy Corridor.

How did you get involved in engineering?

When I started applying to different colleges, my dad was influential in helping me determine my major. He suggested Civil Engineering, but then I discovered I was more drawn to Structural Engineering because I like the design aspect of that field. Architects come up with the vision for buildings, but they are actually designed by engineers.

Outside of work, what occupies your time?

Well, I've only been here 3 months. I'm making new friends and exploring local activities. I recently went to the Festival of Lights at Moody Gardens. In addition to skiing, I am interested in the theater, ballet, and opera, so I'm looking forward to learning more about those. I also feel there is a lot of spirituality in Houston so I am exploring that as well.

How long have you been skiing? I grew up in New Jersey and started skiing when I was 8. Now I'm more in to snowboarding. I discovered Lake Tahoe when I lived in California and after skiing in the Poconos, there is no going back! Lake Tahoe is beautiful and I love powder skiing.

Where would you like to travel? Europe – especially Austria. I once was on a train going to Venice and was impressed by the snow I saw all over the Alps. What have you found about Texas that is different from California?

I haven't been here long enough to understand the nuances. I do like Houston but I definitely need to find out how to acclimate myself to this humidity!

Last, but not least, what is something you'd like people to know about you?

I'm thinking about getting a dog or a cat.

Thanks for becoming a member, Jenny. See you at an event or meeting soon!

Member interviews by Jan Ferrell

VP of Membership

membership@spacecity.org



SITZMARKE NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2014

OUR GUESTS RANKED US NUMBER ONE OUR COMMUNITY MADE US WHO WE ARE.







SITZMARKE NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2014 13 COUNTDOWN TO LIFTOFF

I hope everyone had a great holiday season! I can't believe it is over! Now the New Year is here and our first ski trip has already returned from Vail in December. All of the mountains are getting great snow, but if you haven't decided on your next ski trip, time is running out. As I write this, Mammoth still has space available and we were able to reduce the full package price with cheaper air direct into Reno. Unfortunately, we had to release the remaining



lodging space on Winter Park & Breckenridge to prevent penalties. If you are interested in either of these trips, please let the TC know and we may be get some lodging back if a group of 4 registers. Plus, if you are interested in adventure, we still have space on our trip to S. Africa in September. Also, if a trip is full, the trip will accept wait-list/ stand-by registrations. Those on the wait-list are the first members contacted if a participant cancels and space opens up. The trip status can change quickly so please check with the TC for the latest trip information.



Photo credit: Justin Olsen, The beach at The Canyons

As you know, our team of TCs and ATCs has worked throughout the last year coordinating our club's fantastic ski and non-ski trips. They are a great group of volunteers and we appreciate their hard work!! Please let them know how much you enjoy the trip you went on. We will soon be looking for trip leaders for next season in just a few weeks. When you are a trip leader, it is a great way to meet the members of the club and get involved. We love our volunteers!

All destinations - Vail-Dec, Park City, Garmisch, Jack-

countdown to LIFTOFF (continued)

son Hole, Vail-Dec, Mammoth, Keystone, Breckenridge, Winter Park and S. Africa – offer a wonderful opportunity to have fun and create new memories with long time and new friends.

Come to the next General Meeting on January 13th to meet the TCs and ATCs and find out other information they can share about your trip or any trip you are interested in, including options and the parties planned for your trip!

Take care & stay safe! Cheers!

Susan Blome

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VP of Trips trips@spacecity.org

PLANNING YOUR TRIP

If you haven't decided on your next ski trip, time is running out. Mammoth still has space available and we were able to reduce the full package price with cheaper air direct into Reno. Unfortunately, we had to release the remaining lodging space on Winter Park & Breckenridge to prevent penalties. If you are interested in either of these trips, please let the TC know and we may be able to get some lodging back if a group of 4 registers. Plus, don't forget our S. Africa adventure next September. If your favorite trip is full, go ahead and join the waiting list. Those on the wait-list are the first members contacted if a participant cancels and space opens up. Your TC will always have the latest information for a destination.

LET WINTER BRING OUT THE PHOTOGRAPHER IN YOU

New for 2013-14! We're running a photo contest. Photos from any Space City activity or location are eligible. The winners will have their photos published in our Annual Ski & Trip *Sitzmarke* print edition. FInd out more at www.spacecity.org/photocontest

SRI & ADVENTURE CLUB

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TRIP CALENDAR OCTOBER

3-7 CALIFORNIA WINE COUNTRY

DECEMBER

7-11 VAIL SHORT**7-14** VAIL LONG

JANUARY

4-11 PARK CITY

24-31 GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN

FEBRUARY

8-15 JACKSON HOLE 22-MAR 1 VAIL

MARCH

- 1-8 MAMMOTH
- 8-15 KEYSTONE⁽¹⁾
- 12-16 BRECKENRIDGE SHORT
- 15-22 WINTER PARK⁽²⁾

MAY

APRI

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER 19-30 SOUTH AFRICA

Destination	Dates	Prices Full/Land Only (before cash discount)	Final Pay- ment Date	Trip Coordinator	Assistant Trip Coordinator
2013					
California Wine Country	Oct 3-7	\$773 - land & cash only	8/30/13	Linda Kuper <u>linda@spacecity.org</u> 713-478-9094	
Vail, CO - Short	Dec 7-11	\$756 - land only	10/14/13	Ann Rogers	
Vail, CO - Long	Dec 7-14	\$1,229 - land only	10/14/13	ann@spacecity.org 281-703-0454	
2014					
Park City, UT TSC Winter TraditionaST ONLY	Jan 4-11	\$1,310/\$851	11/11/13	Betty Donellan <u>betty@spacecity.org</u> 310-702-2090	Leslie Hajdo <u>leslieh@spacecity.org</u> 281-419-6237
Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Bavaria, Germany, IST ONL TSC Winter Experience		\$2,148/\$1,067	11/11/13	Barbara Brescian <u>barbara@spacecity.org</u> 713-516-5322	Sarah Granberry <u>sarah@spacecity.org</u> 713-392-5255
Jackson Hole, WY TSC Winter SiNAIT-LIST ONL	Feb 8-15	\$1,327/\$753	12/2/13	Anne Thomas <u>anne@spacecity.org</u> 713-589-3660	Steve Ying <u>steve@spacecity.org</u> 281-433-4122
Vail, CO WAIT-LIST ONLY	Y Feb 22-Mar 1	\$1,204/\$860	11/24/13	Jim Hodges j <u>im@spacecity.org</u> 281-829-6155	Arlen Isham <u>arlen@spacecity.org</u> 713-560-0187
Mammoth, CA	Mar 1-8	\$1,385/\$901	1/13/14	Sandra McCunis <u>sandra@spacecity.org</u> 281-463-7717	
Keystone, CO	Y Mar 8-15	\$1,135/\$709	11/11/13	John Burk john@spacecity.org 281-468-1912	
Breckenrid		\$578 - land only	1/13/14	Patti Finch <u>patti@spacecity.org</u> 936-520-1486	
Winter Park	Mar 15-22	\$859/\$520	12/9/13	Cindy Moore <u>cindy@spacecity.org</u> 713-628-7613	
South Africa TSC Summer Expedition	Sept 19-30	\$5,130/\$2,938	TBD	Melody Bohlmann <u>melody@spacecity.org</u> 210-410-7302	

(1) Spring Break & Family Optional Trip # 1 (2) Spring Break & Family Optional Trip # 2

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 packages do not include air. Ground transportation will be included and available on selected trips for land package participants if they can meet the group at the destination airport in time to meet the group. Ground transportation will not be delayed for land package participants arriving later than the group. Check with your Trip Coordinator for ground transportation arrangements if you are choosing a land package.

Published prices do not include baggage fees, equipment rentals or lift tickets, and are subject to change. All trip deposits can be made with PayPal; however, final payment must be made by check to receive the discounted rate. 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.

TRIP COORDINATORS FOR 2013-14

CALIFORNIA WINE COUNTRY OCTOBER 3-7, 2013 Linda Kuper, TC linda@spacecity.org 713-478-9094

- 2 custom tailored, guided wine excursions
- Harvest season in Sonoma/Napa areas
- Quaint town of Healdsburg (reminiscent of Tuscany in the fall)
- Complimentary wine tastings at local wineries
- Fall is a beautiful time to visit Northern California -SORRY, IT'S OVER experience fall color & crisp weather



Linda Kuper

VAIL CO DEC 7-14 or 7-11

Ann Rogers, TC ann@spacecity.org 281-703-0454

- Short & long options available
- Largest ski resort in the United States
- 5,289 acres of skiing
- Famous Back Bowls

PARK CITY, UT - TSC TRADITIONAL

JAN 4-11 Betty Donellan, TC betty@spacecity.org 281-374-2172 / 310-702-2090

Leslie Hajdo, ATC leslieh@spacecity.org 281-419-6237

- World's Best Snow
- Three mountains to ski Park City, Deer Valley, The Canyons
- Terrain for all abilities
- Park City is a charming mining town to explore

WAIT-LIST ONLY



Ann Rogers

Betty Donellan



Leslie Hajdo



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and why you should choose their

GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN, BAVARIA, GERMANY - TSC WINTER EXPEDITION

JANUARY 24-31 Barbara Brescian barbara@spacecity.org 713-516-5322

Sarah Granbery sarah@spacecity.org 713-392-5255

- Savor the tastes, sounds and skiing of a Bavarian mountain resort town
- Ski the panoramic roof top of Germany
- Terrain for all abilities
- Step back in time to tour the 'real Disney castle'
- Historical sites, interesting excursions, art and culture WAIT-LIST ONLY



Barbara Brescian and Sarah Granbery

JACKSON HOLE, WY - TSC WINTER SHOWDOWN

FEB 8-15 Anne Thomas anne@spacecity.org 713-589-3660

Steve Ying steve@spacecity.org 281-433-4122

- SCSC/TSC trips are packed with activities on and off the slopes
- Offers 40% Blue Trails and ski terrain for all abilities
- Mountainside Lodging- No long bus rides!

 Elevation – base 6,311' is good for sleeping; summit -10,450' is great for skiing.

 Avoid Houston restaurant crowds by celebrating Valentine's Day in a skier's paradise





Steve Ying and Anne Thomas

TRIP COORDINATORS FOR 2013-14

VAIL, CO FEB 22-MAR 1 Jim Hodges jim@spacecity.org 281-829-6155

Arlen Isham arlen@spacecity.org 713-560-0187

- Largest, single mountain ski area in North America
- Vail International Condos located near Lionshead Village; walk or shuttle to gondola lift
- Dining and nightlife rated among the best in ski country
- Non-stop flight to Denver followed by a short 2 hr bus ride
- Skiing for everyone wide open groomed runs, famous back bowls



Jim Hodges and Arlen Isham

МАММОТН, СА

MARCH 1-8 Sandra McCunis sandra@spacecity.org 281-463-7717

- Mammoth Mountain has the most open terrain in the U.S.
- Average of 400 inches of snow and 300 days of sunshine
- Lodging in premier ski-in, ski-out condominium hotel
- The Village at Mammoth with shopping, dining and nightlife
- Overnight stay on Friday in Reno hotel with great entertainment included

Sandra McCunis

KEYSTONE, CO - TSC FINAL SHOWDOWN, FAMILY TRIP MARCH 8-15

John Burk john@spacecity.org 281-468-1912 WAIT-LIST ONLY, but could expand lodging for groups of 4

- Spring [Break] Skiing / Family Optional
- 3 Mountains at Keystone plus Breckenridge & Arapahoe Basin
- One scheduled day at Vail with transportation included
- Texas Ski Council (TSC) parties, activities and discounts
- Terrain for all abilities





and why you should choose their

BRECKENRIDGE SHORT

MARCH 12-16 Patti Finch patti@spacecity.org 936-520-1486

WAIT-LIST ONLY

- Patti's favorite destination!
- Over 2,300 acres for skiing, including 800 acres of bowl skiing
- Breckenridge is an authentic mining town with lots of character
- Easy access from the Denver airport
- Terrific 'learn to ski' area



Patti Finch

WINTER PARK, CO

MARCH 15-22 Cindy Moore cindy@spacecity.org 713-628-7613 WAIT-LIST ONLY, but could expand lodging for groups of 4

• Coincides with Houston & Spring Branch ISD, several college spring breaks, and the trip is geared for children of all ages

- Seven nights of value-priced lodging are offered
- Lift tickets are inexpensive and lesson packages for all ages
- Winter Park offers terrain for all abilities, with lots of gentle slopes for beginners

SOUTH AFRICA - TSC SUMMER EXPEDITION

SEPTEMBER 19-30, 2014 Melody Bohlmann melody@spacecity.org 210-410-7302

• 'Bucket List' South Africa destination with a 3 night pre-trip option available for Victoria Falls and a post-trip to Kreuger Park.

• This trip has something for everyone – the adventurer, nature lover, animal lover, wine taster, historian, photographer, and the shopper.



Melody Bohlmann



Cindy Moore

our LEADERSHIP 2013-14

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Visit our <u>website</u> for the most

up-to-date information.

JANUARY

4-11 Park City Ski Trip

9 Garmisch Pre-Trip Party

13 General Meeting

19 Ice Skating

23 Happy Hour





FEBRUARY 10 General Meeting 8-15

Jackson Hole Ski Trip

22-1

Vail February Ski Trip

27 Happy Hour

club CALENDAR

23

MARCH 1-8 Mammoth Ski Trip

10 General Meeting

8-15 Keystone Ski Trip

12-16 Breckenridge Ski Trip

15-22 Winter Park Ski Trip

27 Happy Hour

recent PHOTOS November HH













J Space City, Ski Club

recent PHOTOS December General Meeting





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recent PHOTOS December General Meeting











SITZMARKE NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2014 27

recent PHOTOS Christmas Jingle Mingle Gala











recent PHOTOS Christmas Jingle Mingle Gala







recent PHOTOS Christmas Jingle Mingle Gala











January General Meeting Monday, January 13th

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How the Grand Tetons Were Formed

The HESS Club 5430 Westheimer Road MAP: <u>http://goo.gl/maps/Aqnfl</u>

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