

NEWSLETTER

sitzmarke

May 2018 Volume 54 Issue 1



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FROM MISSION CONTROL

BY JAN FERRELL, PRESIDENT

Thank you for allowing me to be your President. Your support means more to me than you will ever know. Let's have some fun this year!



Run, do not walk, to our V.P. Trips, Beverly Roberts, article on the upcoming 2019 destinations. These are a big wow! There's something for everyone.

Trips are what we do---trip coordinators are what we need. A lot of folks don't want to be one because of the perceived mountain of paperwork. Well, that was then and this is now. Help is on the way with our new website. We opted for Club Express to streamline the job of the TCs.

Even more importantly, our secret weapon is our V. P. Trips, Beverly Roberts. I've run many, many trips over the years and have never found a V. P. Trips more helpful than Beverly. If there is a trip that appeals to you, then think about being the TC or an ATC and know that you will have help at any time.

Our first meeting of the 2018-2019 season will be in September. Location is to be determined. We need to have a place that can showcase our trips and activities, offers food and ample parking. Any ideas?

Let's not lose touch this summer and I don't think we will due to our extraordinary V.P. Activities, Lynn Burch. Happy hours, club dinners and activities are scheduled well in advance. As in the past, email blasts will be sent out and you can check out the website to see what's happening.

You can contact me anytime. My email is jferrell123@att.net and my number is 281-799-0001. Warning, I am useless before 9 AM.

I think I can speak for the entire board that this next season will be great BUT only because of its members and your participation.

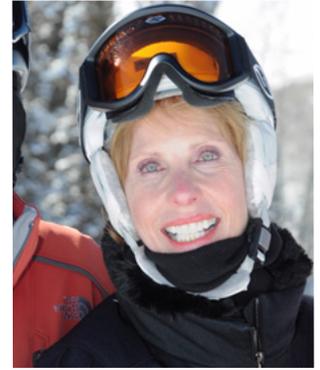
Thank you for being part of the best ski club in Texas!
Jan

COUNTDOWN TO LIFTOFF

BY BEVERLY ROBERTS, VICE PRESIDENT OF TRIPS

Hello from the trip desk!!

Big news!! I am just back from the Texas Ski Council Bidfest Weekend and we have some GREAT TSC trips coming up.



You said you loved Big Sky – well guess what – WE'RE GOING BACK. The TSC Traditional trip will be in Big Sky, scheduled January 5-12, 2019. So, if you missed the trip this year, and heard all the wonderful reviews of it – you better join the trip in 2019. And if you loved the Big Sky trip in 2018 and said you wanted to go back – your wish is granted!!

The next domestic trip is Winter ShootOut, and we'll be going to Breckenridge! I think you'll be excited for all the activities planned, and it looks like the pricing will be really good. Again, when we are ready for trip sign up – don't wait. This will go fast!

For Final Showdown – something different. We're going to Whitefish, Montana. Those that went a couple of years ago loved it, so here's a chance to see and ski a resort we don't visit every year.

The Fall Expedition will be a wonderful RIVER CRUISE!! Destination Portugal. I have not been there, but the presentations were amazing. Don't miss this first class experience. For a Winter Expedition trip, there are two alternatives. The official TSC trip is to Zermatt, Switzerland. But there was also a great amount of interest in an alternative trip to Japan. Currently, it looks like SCSC folks that are interested in Zermatt can join another TSC club and enjoy that trip. For Japan, it looks like SCSC will be partnering with Austin and Dallas for a 'club trip on steroids'. More to come....

Now that the TSC trips are set, we're beginning to work on the club trips. So far, we have two ski trips scheduled, with Trip Leaders in place! Kasia Rezmer is working on the December Vail trip, and Derek Shoobridge is working on a March trip to Schweitzer. Kudos to them for stepping up early!! I have a couple of other potential TCs that are pretty close to making it official for non-ski trips. But I need more people to consider volunteering to run a trip. We are going to have a LOT of great destinations this year. Running a trip will give you an opportunity to go to a great place, meet great people, make a LOT of new friends and contrib-

ute to the success of the Space City Ski and Adventure Club. Please come talk to me about these opportunities – it is work (no denying that), but you will also get enormous personal gratification for doing a great job for your fellow travelers, and you will also get lots of thanks and appreciation for your contributions.

Last – don't forget the trips remaining this year! (Vail December will be announced later)

Beverly Roberts – VP Trips

Trip	Schedule	TC	Full Pkg	Land
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

The March 29 Happy Hour at Punk's in Rice Village had a good turnout. Parking is a bit of a problem in Rice Village but Punk's was great and had a really nice patio area that several people enjoyed.

The Art Adventure Tour on Saturday, April 14 started out windy, cold



and wet but Joan Waddill, Marsha Lutz, Peggy Schillinger, Dave & Diane Stotz, Maria Koteras, and Barbie Miller braved the elements to go on a 6 mile hike. They saw several art projects around Houston and then spent some time watching the Art Car Parade downtown before returning to Sawyer Yards to meet a couple of the artists and see their work.



On May 5, Don Macken is taking a group on a hike in Hershey Park. In October the hike went east on the trail, this time the hikers will go west on the trails along the bayou.



May 26 the dinner will be at Amalfi Italian Restaurant on Westheimer by Sun and Ski.

By popular demand, the Happy Hour will be on May 31 at Rainbow Lodge again.

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

May 2 to 23	Dance Lessons every Wednesday
May 5	Hike in Hershey Park
May 14	Monthly General Meeting Live Oak Grill Last Meeting Until September
May 26	Dinner at Amalfi Italian Restaurant 6100 Westheimer
May 31	Happy Hour at Rainbow Lodge 2011 Ella Blvd at T.C. Jester

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

BY ANNE THOMAS, VICE PRESIDENT OF MEMBERSHIP

Our new website hosted by ClubExpress has been launched and membership renewals are in full swing. 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 yr** - \$35.00 for new or renewal applications made before May 31st. Your next membership renewal date will be: 05/01/2019
- **Single 3 yr** - \$94.00 for new or renewal applications made before May 31st. Your next membership renewal date will be: 05/01/2021
- **Dual 1 yr** - \$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 yr** - \$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 yr - \$40.00
- Single 3 yr - \$99.00
- Dual 1 yr - \$70.00
- Dual 3 yr - \$189.00

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

New website enrollment and renewal payment is easy: www.spacecity.org click on the Membership tab and follow the prompts.

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. Also all dues are increased by \$5.00 late fee. We hope you take advantage of our lowered due structure soon.

If you have any questions or problems contact me: membership@spacecity.org

Current members may access my telephone number through the club directory.

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On January 27th, 52 Space City members embarked on a Big Sky adventure. Most of the travelers flying from Houston were on our United flight into Bozeman. The flight encountered no problems and, in fact, landed early. After waiting a short time for the land package bunch on various flights, we met up with Jamie and Scott, our Ski White Diamond reps, and caught our nice bus into Big Sky. Our bus driver gave us tour-like commentary all the way to Big Sky and we had

a liquor/lunch stop along the way for our 1 hour scenic bus trip.

At the Huntley Lodge we were greeted by the cowboy bell

hops, who took care of our luggage. We all checked in as we admired the huge bear statue in the lobby and the roaring stone fireplaces. Next came the easiest delivery of lift tickets I have ever experienced. Jamie gave them out and there were no problems. We were informed it had just snowed and we were blessed with possibly the best snow in North America, in a year when Colorado missed almost all major snow storms. Everyone settled in and most hit our first of 7 organized happy hours of the trip at Chet's bar and restaurant in our hotel to eat dinner and partake of a few libations. One of the best things about Big Sky is the incredible skiing without the high altitude. We stayed at a very comfortable 7000 feet above sea level.

On Sunday, after the incredible Huntley daily breakfast buffet, most participants hooked up with ski buddies and hit the slopes while some took lessons. We figured out if you walk out one side of the Huntley you could ski right down to the Explorer lift to get started, which many did. Craig Moffitt and I did just that. The lift is a 2 seater, which always seems to give me trouble. Yep, at the top of my first lift up Big Sky I promptly fell. It was an any easy fall, only hurting my pride. After an apres' at Chet's we all gathered for a major welcome party in the Cheyenne room. We started with a wine and cheese party hosted by Big Sky and Ski White Diamond, which included a resort orientation and questions/answers. A club dinner followed. I finally got in line after most had gone through and discovered no salad had been brought out. I ordered the dinner, so I know I paid for salad. I brought

this to the attention of the Big Sky Banquet Manager and let him know that a little more wine for our group would ease the pain. He said, "One bottle?" I said, "How about 5 bottles?" Not only did some salad come out with the dessert, but 5 more complimentary bottles of wine came out as well. Jamie and I had a good chuckle over that and the entire club was quite "happy" when they finally stumbled up to their rooms. This photo of everyone was taken at the club welcome party.



Monday was another excellent ski day. Everyone was expecting super cold weather for Big Sky in January and February, however, the temp was in the upper 20's and lower 30's most of the time. Melinda Hughes and Beverly Roberts skied "grizzly runs" with Charlie Roberts, Keith Kirkman, Bill Bomberger, Jim Hodges, Dan LeMay, Leslie Hadjo and Ed Frieter, until the male "dogs" decided to wait 40 minutes for a tram ride to the top of the mountain. Wisely, the two females scouted out the path over to a lunch location. On Monday evening, 24 of our bunch including Steve & Jeanne Marie Ying, Cynthia Broom & Chris Bowley, Sandra & Sam Cornelius, Lee Joe and Wanda Callahan, embarked on a unique dinner journey via snow cats to a Yurt (think mini-circus tent) nestled in the Montana back country. The ride was magical through the snow covered mountain trails with a spectacular view of Lone Peak. It was very bright under the Super Blue Blood Moon that night which turned out to be a once in a 150 year event. The candle-lit Yurt was rustically elegant with a wood burning stove and live acoustic music. The exquisite five-course meal included filet mignon you could cut with a fork, huge succulent salmon and warm chocolate fondue for dessert. Perhaps the best part of the night was the exhilarating moonlight sled-riding outside of the Yurt which many participated in including John Burke, Linda Erdman, Angela Smitherman, Sandy Oballe and Jeff Purvis. Many people crashed but fortunately none went over the edge of the road. Charlie Roberts did end up smashing and cracking his sled in half.



Tuesday was the one very cold and windy day of the week. We were lucky we didn't pick Tuesday for our snowmobile excursion (our guide told us the wind wreaked havoc at Yellowstone that day!) A few lifts were closed, but most were still open. Many of our fearless bunch braved the cold Montana frontier to conquer the mountains. After the apres', Sandra and Sam Cornelius hosted a terrific group dinner at Andiamos Italian Grille with a great turnout. Let the bonding begin!



Wednesday brought warmer weather just in time for our big Yellowstone adventure. Almost everyone on the trip opted for this day, and none of them regretted it. Several, including Debbie Steplock, said it was the best part of the trip. It was definitely the highlight of the trip for our Austin Skier Vernon Oliver! Half rode the snowcoach and half rode/drove snowmobiles. We made frequent stops to get up close to the many colorful pools and amazing natural wonder of the geysers. We also got up close and personal to many herds of bison, Canada geese, a coyote, elk, ducks and trumpet swans. But the most amazing encounter was the bald eagle we saw towards the end of the ride. We first spotted him in a tree and then as one of our snowmobile trains took off, it flew over them, for quite some time as if it was leading us out of the park. Thank you Steve and Jeanne Marie Ying for organizing this unforgettable side trip as well as the Montana Dinner Yurt.



It was back to skiing on Thursday. Speaking of eagles, ask Tami Kawasugi about her spread eagle face plant. Tami, Ron Rambin, Janet McKenzie, Paul and Sandy Stolnacke, and Rick and Jane Adams loved skiing the Madison area.

Thursday evening brought the much anticipated dinner night out at Buck T-4 expertly organized by Cynthia Broom and Chris Bowley. Although it was not super close I think everyone agreed it was worth the trip! We were served Montana cuisine at its best with many local wild life dishes that you would never see in Houston! That was a night to remember!

Friday was our last day of skiing. Ask Melinda about her dying cockroach imitation. The big dogs had to change the rules for beer fines from double release to single release because of fewer spectacular wipe outs. With the new rules, Beverly, Charles, Stan Kuper, Melinda, Juel Hill, and Bill bought enough happy hour beers to keep everyone happy. Wanda Callahan misjudged her speed and skied right across the back of Bill's skis. He was fine but Wanda wiped out. She never paid her double beer fine.

I think the most challenging aspect of this trip was to get everyone down to our big final dinner party at Chopper's Grub and Pub in Big Sky on Friday evening. We had a large group and there was limited bus and shuttle transportation. Linda Erdman was my knight in shining armor! While a big group (including a lot of non-SCSCers) was waiting for the Skyline bus to take one load of us down, the driver had left the bus and locked it. Linda stationed herself at the door. As soon as the bus driver unlocked the door Linda called for SCSC members first, then Uvalde (a liftee from Texas) then the Dallas group. Everyone was quite amused, except for maybe the driver! Also a big thank you to John Burk who chauffeured several van loads to the party and back. Eventually the whole group got down to Choppers, where we enjoyed brisket, chicken, mashed potatoes, honey glazed carrots and cherry cobbler. Oh yes, there was a bit of alcohol consumed there too in true SCSC fashion! A live band was slated to start at around 10:00 p.m. but as I waited around in anticipation, dance shoes in hand....everyone else in our group swarmed out to head home. Party poopers! Alas, I wasn't going to stay by myself, so I gave up. If you can't beat 'em, join 'em!

We woke up to the realization it was Saturday...our last fabulous breakfast buffet in Big Sky this year. Everyone began to ask the same question, "Who is going to cook me my omelet made to order with anything I want this next week?????" Depression was setting in as we loaded the bus to head back to Houston. We passed out cards (where I got some of the snippets above) and most of the cards were not little stories but instead were raving about what a fantastic time they had on this trip, what great, wide, cruising, challenging blues they found in Big Sky, what an accommodating resort it was, how they loved the ski valets and boot



drying racks, how they loved all of the extra events and side trips which created much group interaction and new friend formations. Ed said he only had one bad fall and one black eye....really Ed? How do you get a black eye from a ski fall? I want to hear the real story! But this is my favorite, "Great trip meticulously planned from beginning to end, including the trip to Yellowstone and dinners. This was my very first time at Big Sky and I definitely want to come back. Big thanks to our great trip leads, Cindy and Steve, and to Cynthia and Sandra for organizing the dinners." I am not sure who wrote that, but thanks! Leslie Hadjo wrote, "Great

mountain with tremendous variety. Excellent ski-in/ski out. Great local village with many places to eat and drink. Met new nice people. Although I prefer the usual condo arrangement the meal organization almost compensated and they were all good. Flawless organization and execution by Cindy and Steve. Loved skiing with the Big Dogs." Awe shucks. Thanks.

In closing, I again owe much of the success of this trip to Steve Ying who is listed as my ATC, but who was in actuality more of a "Co-TC." I could have never pulled off half of the fun events if it was not for Steve and his wife Jeanne Marie, who helped tremendously. The success of this trip was truly a group effort and is a testimony to how fantastic a trip can be when other participants volunteer to help lead group dinners, help arrange side trips, help with group transportation, etc. Don't forget that previous sentence the next time the club, or your TC, asks for volunteers. Without volunteers, trips like this won't happen!

SLC SAMPLER: "WHERE ARE WE TODAY?" ARLEN ISHAM, TC

After months of planning, Saturday morning finally came! An excited bunch of eight met at Hobby Airport to head out for the Utah "Ski Sampler" trip. Ten people had signed up for the air tickets. The "check in" lines were really busy that morning and unfortunately two members, Frank Yu and Karen Birdwell had to catch a slightly later flight. But everything turned out okay, as we all regrouped at the Salt Lake City airport, luggage and all! Sue Yu referred to it as one of her "many adventures".



Land travelers were Nora & Mike Montgomery, Jim Hodges and Keith Kirkman. Nora and Mike drove in from Durango, Colorado. Jim and Keith came from the last SCSC ski trip in Colorado and then drove to join us to check out the slopes. Mike and Nora Montgomery actually met at the club in 1996 on a trip to Red River, got married shortly after that. They now reside in Durango, but decided to renew their membership just to come on the sampler trip and are looking forward to finding out what trips the SCSC will be offering in 2019, hoping to join us again.

Once united, everyone talked about how excited they were about the days to come....six days, six ski resorts. We were only hoping it would snow.... just a little more.

Bil Cusack and Arlen picked up two luxurious Dodge Caravans which were perfect for transporting ski equipment and bags. After unloading the baggage at the Homewood Suites, a group took one of the vans to Ski N Sea to pick up rental equipment. The store offered a 30% discount which was really appreciated by all. Karen Birdman bought a pair of really nice used skis and bindings. She found some brand new boots that fit perfectly in the bindings. She was outfitted very nicely and could not wait for the next day to arrive to try them. It had been a long 10 years since her last ski trip. In the meantime, Frank, Sue and others went to Smith's grocery to pick up some food while Arlen ran out to the government liquor store to pick up some necessities. Later that night the pre trip party started back at the Homewood Suites. The hotel provided a private room where everyone socialized and enjoyed Pizza from "Litzas Pizza", hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer.

Day 1- Sunday Solitude – Every morning started out with a full hot breakfast. Today's choice included sausage biscuits and gravy. Waffles, cereal, yogurt and juices and coffee was available. This is included in the price which is a huge perk to this trip. Full breakfast at Homewood every day. Everyone but Nora Montgomery and Sue Ann Chu went skiing. Nora and Sue planned to explore Salt lake City. The rest of the group split up into two parts with Keith Kirkman and Jim Hodges heading



off to parts unknown on black slopes. Karen Leeson, being a newby, took beginning lessons all day. Fortunately, she was the only one that showed up to classes so her group lesson ended up to be private. She described it as “well worth it”. Bil Cusack hit the higher slopes while Arlen Isham led the rest skiing greens and blues. We got a wakeup call coming off the top on “Back Door” just before lunch, bumps and very hard packed. Lunch was at the Last Chance Mining Camp. By moving around the mountain, we found some decent snow on some runs to enjoy the day. Off the mountain about 4:00 PM.

Arlen Isham brought his bright red tasseled hat borrowed from his son all week, so he could be seen easily and found on the mountain all week, but decided to buy a helmet for about the same cost as renting one for the week.

Sunday evening was fun as the group ate the rest of the Pizzas and other food from Saturday night as we took over the Lobby and watched the Super bowl. It was observed by the editor that both Keith and Jim really like Maipé Malbec.

Monday, Park City (Cruise Day) – Beautiful blue sky with a few clouds. Easy drive to Park City with the two rented vans. Keith Kirkman and Jim Hodges decided to take advantage of the better snow at Brighton. In general the challenge each day was to do the entire mountain, not every run, but a great cross section. The snow at Park City was not the best; Craig Campbell and Arlen Isham took the mountain tour with the guide and then cut away to meet for lunch. The meeting place for lunch at the Viking Yurt proved tricky to find, only a couple people made it. We did not ski any of the Canyons, but worked our way around the Park City Mountain to find the best runs. The snow on the top was better. Karen Birdwell missed the return van back to Salt Lake City but found her way home late that night.

The Happy Hour at Homewood included a great salad, combined with chicken wings/legs, great soup, wine & beer. Many of the group never left the hotel to eat outside the food & drink was supplied during happy hour nightly.



Some people played cards in the lobby, while other showed up at the spa where more wine was available. Talking about building security changes, Bil Cusack told us the story about how he tuned a piano in the middle of the Astrodome 30 years ago with no one there but him.

While on the SLC sampler Frank Yu, informed several of us on the way to ski that Mt Hawaii (Mauna Kea) was the tallest mountain in the world. Sounds like a bold claim, however Frank said you had to start at the ocean bottom then measure to the mountain top. The ocean is 18,860 feet around Hawaii and the 13,802 above sea level for a total of 32,662. With Mount Everest at 29,029 feet above sea level. So Frank's claim is correct. Not sure how many of you measure from the ocean floor however.

Tuesday, Snowbird (Get Serious Day) – Snowing early with low visibility. It was a very tough day to ski with the low visibility, Jim, Keith, and Arlen went through the tunnel and tried skiing Mineral Basin, but quit after a couple runs. You could not see where you were going. Back on the front side around the middle of the morning, it started to clear up. The snow was great with about 6 to 10 inches depending on the location, so there was better skiing in the afternoon. Back at Homewood, dinner was pizza, soup and a great salad with desert. Afterwards, we hung out at the spa.

Bil & Karen were delighted to get to do some other activities in the Salt Lake area like a drive to “Elk Island” for the Thursday afternoon, where they hiked, saw wildlife, and the Great Salt Lake. Then that evening they took a tour that included the major landmarks in downtown SLC, ending with listening to the Tabernacle Choir rehearse with the full 60 piece orchestra!

It was a good group that enjoyed hanging out together at meals, watching the Super Bowl, the





opening of the Olympics, and enjoying the pool and hot tub at the hotel.

Wednesday, Snow Basin (Hang out Day) – Clear day with a few clouds. A pleasant drive north to Snow-

basin, about 70 minutes. Snowbasin missed the snow storm on Monday evening and Tuesday. Not good snow - a lot of hard packed. Jim, Keith, and Arlen went over to Strawberry basin for a couple runs and left there to get back to better snow on the middle of the mountain. The best run was Needles. Lunch was at the top of the gondola. Joe Zurfle and Bryan Yu went to Alta to ski to take advantage of the snow, dropped the day before. Karen Birdwell enjoyed the mountain so much, she stayed over for a while and came back to Salt Lake City later.

Wednesday Happy Hour included beef tacos, a great salad, soup, beer & wine. Craig and Joe went out to Wings to watch the Purdue basketball game. Sometime in the evening, Craig realized his driver's license was missing. Much discussion about whether it was left at the Snowbasin ticket counter. Craig was trying to contact Snowbasin to see if they found it. Eventually on Thursday evening, it was discovered by the room maids in Craig's bed. Much relief, he now knew he could go home.

Thursday, Alta (Good Snow Day) – Cloudy day, with about 2 inches of new snow. Bil Cusack, Karen Leeson, & Karen Birdwell decided to take a day off. Bil and Karen wanted to drive over to Elk Island. The rest of us really enjoyed Alta. The snow was great with lots of fun through the whole day. Great runs. My GPS showed that I traveled about 70

miles including the lift lines and my maximum speed was 48 Mph. Nice social in the lobby in the evening along with enjoying the spa.



Friday, Deer Valley (Last Chance Day) - Deer Valley – Easy drive over. Blue Sky Day. Craig, Joe, & Mike went to Alta. Bil, Karen L, & Arlen went to Deer Valley. Somehow Deer Valley had managed to generate snow that was great. Karen Leeson was doing pretty well on her 3rd. day of skiing.

Keith Kirkman and Jim Hodges checked out of the hotel on Friday morning so they could drive to Beaver Creek before the snowstorm, that was forecast for Friday night and all day Saturday. They beat the storm and enjoyed the new snow at Beaver Creek with the club.

Our evening party included Firehouse Subs, salad, lots of hors d'oeuvres along with beverages. The group takes over the lobby again to watch the Olympics opening ceremonies. Then, unfortunately, it was time to pack and go home.

Saturday, and darn(!) we have to go home. Karen Birdwell decided to donate her ten year old skis to the hotel. Same thing Arlen Isham did 8 years ago. We had a flight from Salt Lake City to Houston, stopping in Phoenix. Not sure who plugged the plane toilets, but they quit working, so our group got relocated for another plane to Houston. Despite the delay, we got home at a reasonable time. Tired, but full of good memories of our Utah Sampler.



I had heard praises about Beaver Creek before I went, and it certainly did not disappoint! Wow! What a great resort and our accommodations at The Charter were supreme! This place had everything to offer including large bedrooms, indoor/outdoor hot tubs, steam rooms, saunas, game rooms, great meeting rooms and a lively bar! All this plus a large ski area with multiple levels of skiing and 200 members of The Texas Ski Council for the “Shootout”, you have a perfect ski trip!

We began our trek with chains on our bus due to the amount of snow falling the first night but that only meant good snow on the mountain the following days. The second night we were treated to a welcome reception hosted by TSC and since it was Valentine week, the theme was started that evening and carried out during the week. Heart stickers were placed on all the Space City Ski Club name tags because our hearts are always with SCSC. Anne Thomas went over all the activities for the week, final registration for TSC races were completed, and friends reunited and discussed, what else, skiing! TSC offered an optional backcountry snowshoe excursion which was also a big hit!

Fifty-Five SCSC members experienced our trip and as usual, the “Big Dogs” Diane Baker, Ross Baker, Barry Caspar, Jim Hodges, Dennis Hughes, Melinda Hughes, Keith Kirkman, Beverly



Roberts, Thuy Rocque, (our Trip Coordinator), Richard Rocque, and Hugh Williamson hit the slopes early every day and skied with great vigor and style. Did you know that Thuy and Richard met in Beaver Creek? It was a great story and I understand that Thuy was very skeptical of Richard’s skiing ability and made him audition for the “Big Dogs” and RICHARD HAD BEEN A SKI INSTRUCTOR! I really enjoyed finding new ski partners with Marti Turner, Ann Rogers, Gloria Lopez, Jean Eng, Cindy Rapisand (who joined us from Austin) and Rita Cardenas. I have seen Rita in the SCSC Club for a long time but never got to know her. Proof as Bill Bomberger says, “You have to get involved to get to know people!”



Thuy planned lunches on the slopes and Après ski every day. However, the Black Diamond Bistro quickly became our main hangout when we discovered “Dave” the musician in the bar and

had many spontaneous sing-a-longs in the afternoon including “I’ve Got Friends in Low Places” the club theme song. I know I enjoyed surfing the internet with our own “Dave” David Stotz looking for good sing-alongs and



Hugh kissing me in the bar had nothing to do with my enjoyment one evening. Music continued with a good band and “Dave” entertaining us at our TSC Dinner, Awards and Dancing in the Park Hyatt. SCSC was represented with various members receiving recognition for the TSC races. Hugh along with Thuy made us proud as



we cheered their accomplishments. Did you know that we had at least 5 octogenarians who skied on the TSC trip! That should give us all some inspiration. Other members on the SCSC trip included Kristen Barrett, Jenny Berg, Andy Berg, Andy Cashio, Leslie Cashio, Nancy DuFrane, Ken Feaster, Kevin Fester, Chaille Hutcheson, Rick Jaeger, Kelly Miranda, Ron Rambin, Michele Reynolds, Charlie Roberts, Jana Rosenbaum, Julie Rothermund, Michael Rothermund, Steve Slade (great humor as usual), Susan Stanley, Lara Sterzing, Tom Thomas, Raymond Koteras, Maria Koteras, Whitney Leavell, Harriet Leavell, April Macha, Janet McKenzie, Ash Moza, Nelson Turner, Bill Volz, Marina Wang, Hugh Williamson (personality galore), Stephanie Willis, Mike Willis and Laura Zavala.

SCSC had our own Club Dinner and thanks to Thuy, again, Valentine candy was given to every member. A final Farewell Apré Ski was hosted by TSC on our final night and it was sad to see the week come to an end! So many new and old friends to tell goodbye but so many fond memories of this great trip.

I need to add a personal note here: I received some distressful news on this trip and I have to give compliments and thank you to Thuy, especially, Richard, Cindy, Michelle, Laura, Beverly, and all the members who knew and gave me support and encouragement. Please know this comes from a very grateful heart.



CROATIA BOAT & BIKE TOUR NATIONAL PARKS OF DALMATIA

JUNE 22 – JUNE 30 2018

TCs: Rita Cardenas Rita@spacecity.org

Leyla Ozkardesh 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 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 Pašman. There is plenty of time to explore the two islands of Pašman 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

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/

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

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

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Vice President of Trips	Beverly Roberts	trips@spacecity.org
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Chairperson	Bill Bomberger	bill@spacecity.org
Director	TBA	TBA

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

Click for TSC Newsletter:

www.texas-ski.org

TSC Newsletter



MAY GENERAL MEETING

6:30-8:30pm Monday
May 14, 2018

LIVE OAK BAR AND GRILL
10444 Hempstead Road
Houston, Texas 77092

Don't miss the May 14 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.

MAY HAPPY HOUR

RAINBOW LODGE

2011 ELLA AT TC JESTER

THURSDAY MAY 31 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

HAPPY HOUR PRICES TO 7 pm

Rainbow Lodge is a 100 year old cabin overlooking beautiful gardens in the middle of Houston. It looks like an antique hunting and fishing lodge full of collectibles. There are several patio areas and we will use one if the weather is permitting.



Happy Hour prices are:
Selected wines \$6 to \$10
Selected Dom. & Draft Beer \$3
Selected House Martinis
\$5 glass

Bar Snacks \$3 to \$6

Parking is mostly valet-
DO NOT PARK IN THE
KING'S BIERGARTEN
PARKING LOT, YOU WILL
PROBABLY BE TOWED!!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR HAPPY HOUR
AT THIS BEAUTIFUL RESTAURANT

Sitzmarke

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Vail's Gore Creek Trail by Ross Baker

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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

GENERAL INQUIRIES

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