

NEWSLETTER sitzmarke

March 2019 Volume 54 Issue 10



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FROM MISSION CONTROL

BY JAN FERRELL, PRESIDENT

March—where did January and February go? Our February meeting was small but we had some big winners. Sandy Fowler won wine glass charms, Betty Patterson, James Barbee and Marianne Pierce all won \$25 Amazon gift cards. There were 10 lucky members who won drink tickets and Gayle Dale walked away with the grand prize of a new (toy) Corvette car. You just never know what you might win but, remember, you have to be present to win!



Our March meeting is critical as we will elect the officers of our club for the 2019-2020 season. As a member of SCSC, you are the club. The club needs officers to oversee the mechanics of running the largest and best ski club in Texas. Our V. P.s of Activities, Trips, Membership, Marketing and our Treasurer and Secretary are vital to the success of SCSC.

We want to thank the Nominating Committee for their work in selecting this excellent list of candidates for those positions.

Sarah Granbery – Chairperson Nomination Committee

Stewart Traver
George Sargent
Cindy Moore
Louella Stellar
Stan Kuper

Space City Ski Club Officer Slate 2019-2020

Office	Nominee
President	Jan Ferrell
V. P. Activities	Lynn Burch
V. P. Trips	Beverly Roberts
V. P. Membership	Bruce Lowther
V. P. Marketing	Bil Cusack
Secretary	Diane Stotz
Treasurer	Dave Gresko

In order for anyone to be elected we must have a quorum of at least 10% of our total membership. This means we need you to be present and vote. Please plan to attend.

On another note, the annual TSC Bid Meeting will be held in Austin this year April 12-14. Details regarding the hotel are on our website under Events. Details regarding registration for the event will be forthcoming as soon as the TSC provides us with the information. Stay tuned.

As always, I appreciate each and every one of you,
Jan

COUNTDOWN TO LIFTOFF

BY BEVERLY ROBERTS, VICE PRESIDENT OF TRIPS

Hello from the trip desk!!

It has been a great ski season so far. Since the last Sitzmarke, we have completed club trips to Japan and Keystone, the TSC Winter Expedition to Zermatt and Malta, and the TSC Winter Shootout to Breckenridge. Each trip was an adventure in skiing and socializing. We have been blessed with good snowfall in 2019, and each of the domestic trips had at least one memorable powder day – sometimes more! The international trips combined skiing with the exotic locations of Switzerland and Japan, so there was plenty to see and ski. Check out the trip articles this month for Keystone and Japan, and look forward to the other trip articles in the next Sitzmarke.



We still have two outstanding ski trips to look forward to. The TSC Winter Showdown will be at the outstanding resort of Whitefish, Montana. Then, we will conclude the 2019 ski season with a club trip to Schweitzer. Both Whitefish and Schweitzer are excellent, highly rated resorts, that are a little off the beaten ski path. If you didn't sign up, but wish you did – check with the TCs. You never know when you might be able to jump on a cancellation. Watch the website and the weekly e-blasts for availabilities.

Remember, ski season is NOT the end of travel for Space City Adventurers! We have three outstanding non-ski trips that will take you to all points on the globe. Check with the TCs for the latest trip availabilities, and join the wait list so you can snag an opening or cancellation.

- For the first time in several years, we have a beach trip. There are still a few openings for this exotic trip to Punta Cana, and enjoy the luxury of an adult, all-inclusive resort.
- Next trip is Peru and Machu Picchu. This is definitely a bucket trip to see wonders of the world in South America.
- The final trip of the 2019 SCSC travel slate is a TSC land and cruise combo to Portugal. This trip offers everything from UNESCO world heritage sites to the vineyards that are the home of Port wine.

Finally, don't forget the TSC trip selection meeting (BidFest) that is coming up April 12-14. There are several differences to note from previous years. First, the meeting will be held in Austin. And second, to better plan and coordinate TSC and club trips, we will be selecting TSC trips for both the 2020 and 2021 travel years. Be the first to know the TSC ski destinations for the next two years!! Visit www.texas-ski.org for all the details.

Space City Ski Club 2018-2019 Trips

Destinations	Date	TC	Contact Link	Full Pkg \$/pp w/air	Land Pkg \$/pp
Whitefish (TSC)	2/23/2019 - 3/2/2019	Ali Pethick	whitefish@spacecity.org	\$1,442	\$858
Schweitzer	3/3/2019 - 3/10/2019	Derek Shoobridge	schwtc@spacecity.org	\$1,352	\$835
Punta Cana D.R. All-Inclusive	5/4/2019 - 5/11/2019	George Sargent	puntacana@spacecity.org	N/A	\$962
Peru	5/29/2019 - 6/7/2019	Jill Nanney	peru@spacecity.org	\$2,756	N/A
Portugal Cruise (TSC)	9/25/2019 - 10/5/2019	Melody Bohlmann	portugal@spacecity.org	Varies	N/A
Portugal Post-Trip	10/5/2019 - 10/8/2019	Melody Bohlmann	portugal@spacecity.org	\$1,489	N/A

HAVING A BLAST

BY LYNN BURCH, VICE PRESIDENT OF ACTIVITIES

The January Dinner on January 26 at the Blue Onyx on Richmond was a big success. We had 30 people and 3 of them were new members. Rita Marie Therolf is going on the Portugal trip, Cheryl Cowey is going on the Punta Cana trip and Susan Robinson is a big skier who just moved here from Colorado. Make sure you make them all feel welcome.



We had a very wet and cold January Happy Hour at Liberty Station on Washington. It took a while for everyone to arrive between the weather and the traffic but we ended up with about 25. We were supposed to have a food truck there but it never came so we went across the street to another bar and had half-price pizza which was great.

At the Super Bowl Watch Party at Stuart's house we had great food and George Sargent's famous Mango Margaritas plus 3 football pots. First quarter Jan Ferrell and Lynn Burch each won on one of the \$1 pots, second quarter Terry Gray won the \$5 pot and Rowena Roche and Marianne Pearce each won on one of the \$1 pots, third quarter Fred Pethick and Terry Gray each won on one of the \$1 pots and the end of the game Beth Slaughter won the \$5 pot and Terry Gray and Fred Pethick won the \$1 pots again since the score stayed the same.

Dance lessons are continuing monthly with this month doing East Coast Swing, next month may change. Check the website for details.

On February 17, thirty of us went to see Cirque Du Soleil Luzia and it was amazing. It was hard to believe some of the things they can do with their bodies. After the show, 16 of us went to dinner at Babin's Sea food restaurant. The show, food and getting together with friends is always a great time.

Several of us are going to try our hand at Bingo at SPJST

EXTRAVEHICULAR ACTIVITIES UPCOMING EVENT CALENDAR

February 23	Dinner at Beaver's on Westheimer
February 26	Game Night at Tea + Victory
February 28	Happy Hour at Churrascos Memorial
March 6 to 27	Dance Lessons every Wednesday
March 11	Monthly Meeting Dave & Busters on Richmond
March 12	Game Day at Tea + Victory
March 23	Dinner at Steamboat House on Beltway
March 26	Game Night at Tea + Victory
March 28	Happy Hour at Rainbow Lodge
March 31	Bike Ride and Lunch at St. Arnold's Brewery

Hall on February 21 which should be a lot of fun and hopefully we will win some money.

The February dinner is at Beaver's on Westheimer where we had a Happy Hour in 2017 and the Happy Hour will be at Churrasco's Memorial location where we have been in the past.

In March we have the normal game day and night and the meeting. March 23 is the dinner at Steamboat House where we went about a year ago. It is like a Texas history museum and the food is wonderful with plenty of parking. The March Happy Hour has changed from Johnny's Goldbrick (which is listed on the calendar I gave to everyone) to Rainbow

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Lodge. I am not dealing with food trucks anymore and everyone loves Rainbow Lodge where I intend to have a Happy Hour every spring.

March 31 Karen Leeson is going to lead a little longer bike ride than usual with a stop at Saint Arnolds Brewery for a drink or snack. I plan to also have where members that want to go to lunch there and see the beautiful painted ceilings in the restaurant and beer garden can meet up with the riders. Check the website for details.

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.

FROM THE MARKETING DESK

BY BIL CUSACK, VICE PRESIDENT OF MARKETING

There was a restaurant called “The International House of Pancakes”. Their pancakes were very good, and anytime breakfast was mentioned, The International House of Pancakes was high on the list of places to go. This made the owners very happy.

BUT, they couldn't help noticing that at dinner they had an empty restaurant. Pancakes were not a choice for eating between noon and midnight. The owners added lunch and dinner choices, but still, people didn't flock to “The International House of Pancakes”. “Hmmm” said the owners. “Maybe we need to remove the word Pancakes from our name to encourage customers to give us a try at dinner.” So they changed the name to IHOP and now they have customers all times of the day.

The reason I tell this story, as Marketing VP I have run into a very similar situation in promoting Space City Ski and Ad-

venture Club. We don't offer much to a younger generation with families, and the appeal we have to 50+ age group is very limited due to that group is not packed with skiers. Have you tried to interest your friends in the club only to be told “I don't ski”? I have. When I network and promote the club, I tell them the fun things we do but the conversation ends when I mention Space City Ski and Adventure Club. “I don't ski”.

Over the next several months we would like your input for rebranding the club to insure a future beyond our time. How many of us will continue to ski even 5-6 years from now? Give us your suggestions and at some point in this year we will put it in a poll.

BTW, a name change is a simple move. Our corporate (legal name) would still be Space City Ski and Adventure Club but we would file for a dba (doing business as).

Bil Cusack Marketing@SpaceCity.org

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

BY ANNE THOMAS, VICE PRESIDENT OF MEMBERSHIP

March Membership Moments

We are thrilled to have 135 new member applications since May 1st. Welcome new members!! Our total paid membership is currently 483 plus 11 TSC reciprocal memberships give us total membership of 494.

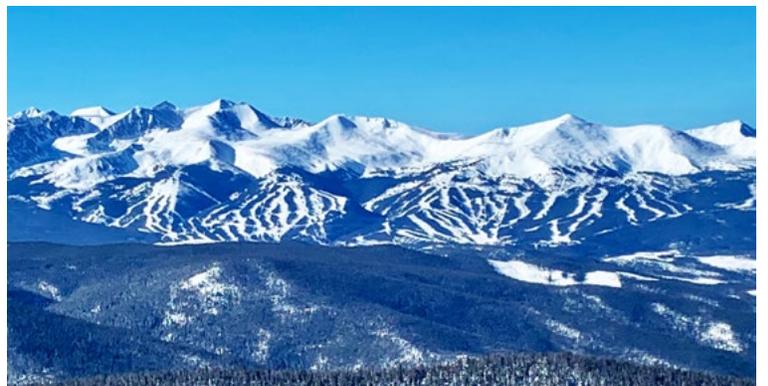


Watch for announcements next month about our new competitive renewal dues structure and please consider renewing as soon as possible when renewal is opened April 1st.

KEYSTONE 2019 TRIP REPORT by MIKE WILLIS, Trip Coordinator

The Keystone group, most of whom were SCSC trip veterans, arrived very early to make sure that they could get through security in plenty of time to make the plane, a direct flight into Denver from Houston Hobby. Seeing a fresh coat of snow on the ground on the approach into Denver added to the excitement, giving us a hint of what we would experience in Keystone. All of us were lucky to get our bags and skis without much of a wait, and the bus was ready to make our trek to Keystone. Little did we know that we had a rogue bus driver who was going to blow past the regular grocery stop at the King Super in west Denver, intent on making a stop in Idaho Springs. But all was well as the grocery store was well stocked; however, there was a bit of grumbling about the adjacent liquor store that was sporting higher prices than most of us were used to. The bus trip into Keystone was a bit longer than usual due to heavy traffic – a sign of all the locals that were headed to the mountains for the weekend to enjoy the fresh snowfall.

After a bit of confusion about some of the sleeping arrangements in the condos, we were able to get settled in at the Pines Condominiums. Later that evening, all of the group made it to the TC's condo for a welcome party of pizza, appetizers, salad, and wine, beer, and nonalcoholic drinks. Kudos to my honorary ATC's, Stephanie Willis, Sandy



Fowler, and Miranda Kelly for doing the heavy lifting of getting everything set up for the evening. We all could sense the electricity in the air with the expectation of a great ski week on the horizon. Fresh snow was on the ground with more falling as we peeked out the windows.

Most of the group got out early the next morning in a gray, cloudy day with the winds beginning to turn to gusts. But the weather quickly turned in a day or two to bluebird days with seldom a cloud in the sky. The Big Dog skiers were leading the pack – heading out early for any black runs they came across. On speaking with Keith Kirkman, the leader of the Dogs, they must have skied practically every black run during the ensuing days at least once if not many times. Steve Ying, sporting his yellow ski suit, was all over the mountain as well; skiing alone not due to unpopularity, but because no one can match his speed and stamina. It's amazing what blue skies and fresh snow can do to make us all feel like youngsters again! (But most of us can only imagine skiing with the vigor of Steve.)

Craig Campbell made good use of his Epic Pass – he had returned from the Japan trip early Saturday morning, jumped in his car at the airport and hot footed it straight up to Keystone. I was surprised to receive a text from him that he was in town Saturday night and in his condo sometime around 9:00 pm, only a few hours after our bus had arrived. Needless to say, he was out early Sunday morning skiing the mountain, enjoying another great week of skiing.

Meanwhile, many of us were getting our ski legs, enjoying the green and blue runs with an occasionally black run mixed in. David Klaus was doing his best imitation of a ski instructor leading several of us down some blue runs and navigating us to the next run for us to do. Anne Thomas, Sandy Fowler, and Bob Reidenbach kept up a good pace following his speedy skiing. Bob started out slow in the morning, but really got his act together in a very short time. He looked like a completely different skier by the second day out.

Meanwhile I heard that Angela Zumwalt, Melinda Hughes, and Susan Stanley were schussing down the slopes, intent on setting the unofficial record for the fastest woman down the blue runs. According to reports, Angela may have done just that – when are the next Winter Olympics?? Brigitte Florshulz and Sandy O'Balle made good use of their 6-day lift tickets – I don't believe they missed a day of skiing while, later in the week, they also enjoyed some late night live music at the Snake River Saloon and Steakhouse. Karen Leeson and Bil Cusack went tubing off Dercum Mountain early in the week, and relayed the fun time that they had to many people. Miranda Kelly and Stephanie Willis took a day off from skiing in the middle of the week and did the tubing thing as well – much laughter and fun was had.

Since our condos were on the shuttle route and not ski in, ski out, many of the group met for après ski each evening,

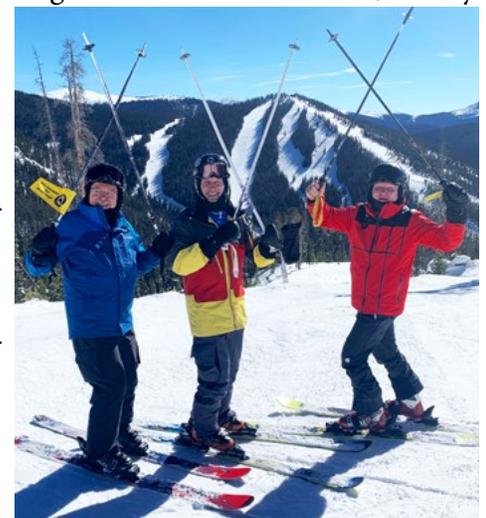
relating their exploits of the day and gulping down some alcoholic beverages before making an early dinner date or heading back for a hot meal at the condos. We consistently had more than half of our group taking over a larger area of tables wherever we met after skiing. Charlotte Cooper, with her bubbly personality, was the life of the party at most of the happy hours even though she chose not to try her hand at skiing. She was also a font of information about the bases and surrounding area, having spent several days of energetic shopping and exploration. On our last après ski happy hour of the trip, it was a shame that all of us but Karen Leeson had left before Bil Cusack got up on stage and joined the band, playing the hand drum, doing an outstanding solo during one of the songs.

On Wednesday night we met at the Zuma Roadhouse for an optional dinner. The food was great and everyone had a great time. Most of us broke up into large and small groups at various tables. Stephanie Willis was making her usual rounds snapping pictures of everyone. Chuck Albright mentioned to me that night that this was his third evening in a row enjoying a steak dinner – what more can you ask for?

From Wednesday through the end of the week we had absolutely perfect bluebird days with little wind and blue skies. What better way is there to finish up the week!

We were all given lunch cards worth \$15 for each ski day – several of the group said they just barely used up the entire amount before the end of the trip; however, finding a place to spend our additional Mountain Money proved to be a challenge for some of us. But rest assured, what was left was spent at the Last Lift Bar on our final happy hour. Anne Thomas relayed that Chuck Albright said after the week that it was like winning at Monopoly what with all the vouchers, mountain money, and gift cards being passed out.

Saturday morning 20 of us had our bags picked up by the porters, and we trundled down to the bus to make a quiet bus ride back to Denver, catching our flight to Houston while the other 13 went their merry way on to Breckenridge for another week of skiing. We arrived to a humid, cloudy Houston early in the evening and headed back to our humble abodes – a little tired but refreshed and full of life with a week's worth of wonderful skiing and mountain living under our belt. The one question most of us had on our mind: Where are we skiing next year!??



Ohayo (pronounced like Ohio) means Hello in Japanese and boy, it was a big Ohayo for 53 participants from Space City, Austin, and San Antonio Ski Clubs when we arrived in Japan. This country is by far one of the most modern and clean Asian countries that many of us have ever been to. Unemployment is very low and the Japanese culture honors cleanliness so everywhere we went, there were no slums, trash, homeless people or crime and the Japanese people are so gracious and helpful.

Marsha Kilgore, Gloria Lopez, Tami Kawasugi, Bob Wray, Thuy Rocque, Laura & Jim Nowicki, Penny Chancey, Barbara Carlson, Annie Benzon and Myra Whitten were the 11 lucky participants who left Houston a few days ahead to enjoy a pre-trip to the beautiful ancient city of Kyoto. We arrived late but the Kyoto New Miyako Hotel did not disappoint. It has an excellent location across from the main Kyoto train station. It also offers a fantastic breakfast buffet at any of their 3 restaurants. One buffet was all Western style, the other was all Japanese style, but the crowd favorite was the restaurant serving both styles of breakfasts.

The next day we were rewarded with a full city tour of Kyoto with a terrific Japanese guide named Taku, who spoke excellent English. He's quite a handsome young man so several of the ladies ended up calling him "Hot Taco" by the end of the day. It was a beautiful sunny day with very comfortable cool temperatures. We started out at the Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion) because Taku knew that it would not be busy first thing in the morning and we could take photos of the Golden Pavilion reflection in the surrounding pond.... and he was absolutely right!

Next we went to the Sanjusangendo Temple where we saw thousands and thousands of Buddha statues, which was



fine, but the fun part was the "shoe shuffle" where we had to take our shoes off and wear their slippers which were either way too small or way too large for most of us. So we never really "walked" but "shuffled" around the temple! However, the funniest part was reading everybody's fortunes that we all bought at the temple. The tradition is to buy a fortune paper for 100 Yen (\$1) and if it's a good fortune, you keep it, if it's a bad fortune, you tie it to a wooden tree and leave it behind at the temple. Evidently the Japanese have a sense of humor or else something got lost in the translation because it said Barbara shouldn't eat seafood otherwise her stomach will get upset and it told Penny that she will find love late in life.....well, Penny said she's 71, how much longer does she have to wait???? Our third stop was the Kiyomizu-dera Temple which was a really fun area to eat and shop, so Taku let us loose for 2 hours to find lunch and shop. Many of us ate at a wonderful Soba noodle and tempura restaurant and then got Green Matcha ice cream. People watching was also fun since there were many young girls and women dressed up in beautiful kimonos walking around the area, so we all had some good photo ops! Our final destination was the Fushimi Inari Shrine, which is a Shinto shrine with 10,000 gates. We learned how to purify our hands before entering the shrine and how to pray properly (2 bows-2 claps-1 bow-pray). There were many orange colored gates to walk through all inside a forest with surrounding mountains, so it was quiet and peaceful.

We were short on time so we couldn't go all the way to the top, but Bob, Thuy, and Tami raced up the hill trying to cross as many orange gates as possible for good luck. This is also where Bob began his one-bad-joke-a-day trend and told everybody that he saw Bill's Gates shop where they were building new gates for the shrine. Bob, don't quit your day job!!! The street food around the shrine smelled heavenly so Thuy & Tami couldn't resist and bought some teriyaki beef skewers. What a wonderful first day in Kyoto.....hum, what should we do tomorrow????



Well, it turns out that we liked Taku so much as our guide, that when we found out he was free the next day, quite a few of us hired him again to take us around to more sights in Kyoto! So, on the 2nd day, we started out north of Kyoto at the famous Bamboo Grove and

Botanical Gardens. The bamboo trees were majestic and so tall that you cannot see the tops of them. We enjoyed the serenity of the bamboo forest with the birds chirping all around us. We were rewarded with yet another beautiful day with mild cool weather so Barbara, Thuy, Tami, Bob, and Gary (from Austin ski club) took a scenic boat ride along the river while the rest of the group went to a monkey park. At lunch, Taku took us to the famous Nishiki Food Market where there were endless rows and rows of stalls selling food, souvenirs, flowers, etc. Taku also took us to his favorite Ramen Noodle restaurant and OMG, it was absolutely the BEST ramen noodle bowl I've ever had. The gyoza dumplings just melted in our mouths and we washed it all down with a cold glass of Asahi beer. Wow, it doesn't get any better than that folks! The best is yet to come because our last stop was at the famous Gekkeikan Sake Brewery where we learned how sake was made and why this area of Kyoto and this brewery is world famous for their sake! We tasted numerous sake and everyone ended up taking at least one if not more bottles of sake home....well, some didn't quite make it home since we "tasted" more sake during the bus ride back to the hotel. Well, Marsha and Gloria took it easy and enjoyed the hotel amenities and some shopping. Myra, Annie, Laura and Jim booked a different Kyoto tour with Tours by Local but for sure everybody enjoyed their last day in Kyoto.



Now it's time to say Sayonara to Kyoto so the following day we savored our last wonderful breakfast buffet and boarded a bus for our long ride to Hakuba Valley to meet up with the rest of our group and start the ski holiday! As we entered Hakuba Valley, we were greeted with snow-capped mountains and numerous ski resorts on the way to the hotel. The Tokyo Hotel in Hakuba is centrally located amongst all the 10 ski resorts but closest to Happo One, which was one of the primary downhill skiing competition venues during the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano Japan. The rest of our Space City crew arrived really late that night from the states,

so the Kyoto pre-trippers used the time to settle in to the hotel and get their ski equipment rentals at Rhythm Japan Ski Shop for the week.

The next morning at breakfast, at last all 23 Space City participants were reunited. The other 12: Ash & Madhu Moza, Evan & Ginger Howell, Mary Heafner, Danielle & Will Houston, Debi Underwood & Kurt Jones, Cameron Underwood & Kristen Farmer, and Craig Campbell all made it after the long flight from LA and bus ride from Tokyo. Once again, the hotel breakfast buffet was unbelievable with both Western and Japanese cuisine. About half the folks skied that day and the rest explored the town. There is a great free ski shuttle system in Hakuba Valley so all you do is decide which ski resort you want to ski that day and then find the right color ski bus and check their bus schedules.

Most people skied at Happo One the first day since it was the closest, but several of us went to Iwatake in the morning and Happo One in the afternoon. Of course, those lucky few who had the Epic Pass got a free 5-day lift ticket pass good at any of the HV ski resorts. However, all is not so bad as the daily lift tickets are fairly inexpensive



(compared to US standards) at \$44-\$60 per day. Unfortunately, that first day was a complete white out where visibility was extremely challenging. The other challenge was the fact that there was a lot of snow, but the snow is a little heavy and wet so that also made skiing somewhat difficult. Oh, did I mention that there aren't really any signs on the ski runs, and if there are, they're in Japanese! Nevertheless, we all braved the conditions and had fun on our first Japan ski day and of course after the hard day, several people relaxed at the hotel's "onsen" (thermal hot springs) to soak the tired bones and muscles!

All the dinners in Hakuba Valley were included in our trip package in the hotel's Grand Banquet Room so that first evening, we had a Welcome Reception hosted by our local tour operator, Ski Japan, with drinks and appetizers followed by a French Menu Dinner. The multi-course dinners every night were works of art as the friendly waitstaff presented us with exquisite dishes artfully presented, which also tasted heavenly. The 2nd dinner was a Japanese Menu once again with beautiful presentation but many of the dishes were mysterious and not readily recognizable, but almost everybody was adventurous enough to try everything. The beef

hot pot was wonderful as were the sashimi selections. The 3rd dinner's theme was back to a French menu complete with fish and meat dishes. Several of our participants are vegan and vegetarians and the chef did a wonderful job accommodating those guests with equally impressive dishes. The trip's Most Avid Skiers Awards must go to Cameron, Kristen, and Craig who skied all 4 days that we were in Hakuba... they sure got their Epic Pass worth. Those 3 skied again the next day while everybody else went on the Snow Monkey day tour. The bus ride out to the Snow Monkey park was very scenic but the highlight of the day (besides the snow monkeys) was our guide Kenji. He was SO entertaining, knowledgeable and funny. He kept us entertained and informed the whole day with stories about Japanese culture, the snow monkeys, and the tidbits about Japan and Hakuba Valley. Once we arrived at the park entrance, there was a pretty long hike in the forest on snowy trails then up a lot of steps to get to the snow monkeys. It was a fairly tricky and tiring hike, but it was all worth it to see the snow monkeys running around and sitting in the thermal hot springs - especially the babies clinging to their mamas! I wonder what they think about the hundreds of tourists running around taking pictures of them soaking in the hot tub!!!



Later, we went to the town of Ebisu and had a wonderful traditional Japanese lunch with a sizzling hot pot and chestnut rice! The town was really quaint, and Kenji turned us loose to explore for an hour, so we had very little time there but somehow...ALL of us found the only Apple Strudel and Ice Cream shop and the sake shop! Go figure. Finally, we ended the day at a Sake Brewery where we toured the museum and of course tasted and bought more sake! What a good day.

About half the group skied the following day at other ski resorts such as Cortina and Hakuba 47. Once again, the conditions weren't great with fog and clouds but there was plenty of new snow as it had snowed continuously overnight. The other half of the group took another day tour visiting

the famous Matsumoto Castle. It is one of the oldest surviving castles in all of Japan because it was never attacked, although the palace was burned to the ground so the only surviving structure is the 5-story pagoda. The volunteer guides at the Castle are senior retired Japanese men and women who speak English and are passionate about sharing their national treasures with tourists. One of the guides, a retired engineer, was so passionate that he gave quizzes throughout the tour to 5 of our participants who were in his group! The building is very old and impressively built but the worst part was climbing up and down 5 sets of extremely steep wooden staircases (they are more like ladders than staircases). One of them was over 60 degrees steep....yikes!



This was one of those times where the clean Japanese culture of taking our shoes off sucked because it was SO cold that most of our toes were frozen by the time we were done. To be honest, I was pretty glad to get out of there so I could put on my warm snow boots again. Next, we visited a Miso Brewery where we had a most delicious lunch with food prepared with their own miso. We learned how they make miso, which is a fermented soybean paste that is used as a condiment in cooking. We learned and tasted the difference between a 1 year miso (white) and 3 year miso (red) and 10 year miso (black). We hurried to the gift shop and scooped up various miso products to bring home. The 10-year miso sauce is out of this world. Next, we visited a museum where they showed us the ancient art of wood printing and gazed at some of the most beautiful framed wooden printed art pieces. The most famous is from the artist Hokusai, so we got to see his famous print of the Kanagawa Wave and the red Volcano. We even got to make our own Hokusai prints to bring home as souvenirs. However, that wasn't enough for many of us, so we nearly cleaned out their gift shop purchasing postcards, fans, coasters, large prints, etc. We ended the day at another sake brewery! Our guide for this day was an American named John who married a Japanese woman

and has lived in Japan for over 30 years. He's a rice farmer in Hakuba Valley and told us wonderful stories about how he came to be a rice farmer in rural Japan, and entertained us all day with his humor and knowledge. We are batting a thousand on good guides in Japan!

On our final day in Hakuba, several of the ladies enjoyed a Kimono and Tea Ceremony experience. Mary, Penny, Gloria, Marsha, Madhu, Ginger, and Myra were whisked away to a local Japanese mansion where a team of women spent nearly an hour on each person putting on their kimonos and then they enjoyed a tea ceremony while wearing their kimonos.



The ladies were completely transformed into exotic Japanese ladies by wearing the exquisite kimonos and we heard (and saw on pictures) that they had the most wonderful time! Several others including Tami went on a snowmobiling tour, while most everyone else took advantage of the very last day to ski in Japan and headed up the slopes. At the hotel, the sun was out, and it looked to be a bluebird skiing day, so Thuy and Ash were so excited as they headed over to Goryo and Hakuba 47 to ski the last day. Well, it wasn't meant to be because the fog and snow rolled in and it was another white-out condition, so they skied the lower elevations until the first shuttle came to get back to the hotel. Oh well, we tried.

On our final night in Hakuba Valley, we were treated to the special Japanese Farewell Banquet, complete with a special Drumming show. We transferred over to the Goryo ski resort and were treated with the most impressive Japanese food buffet EVER!!! There was a Sashimi tray with thousands of dollars' worth of sashimi of tuna, salmon, snapper, etc. There was a Tempura station where fresh shrimp and vegetable tempura were made. There were endless noodles, soups, meats, desserts but the best part was the Drumming show!

It's hard to describe how fantastic these young and old, male and female drummers were, showing their talents on these giant ancient drums. The crowd was on their feet the whole

time completely mesmerized by the drum beat and the drummers' athleticism. Oh, there was audience participation! Many of us got a chance to try our hands at beating the drums with some guidance from the professionals of course. WOW, what a way to end our visit to Hakuba Valley!



Well, it's now time to say Sayonara to the Japanese Alps and head back to Tokyo. We enjoyed the hotel breakfast buffet yet one more time then loaded the bus heading to the Nagano train station to take the Bullet Train to Tokyo. Another marvel of Japanese modern technology and efficiency! The bullet train left at 12:58 on the dot and 90 minutes later we were at Tokyo Station. OK, we are now experiencing the massive humanity and crowds that we've seen on TV as 53 American tourists snaked our way through the station and streets to get to our buses for a 1/2 day Tokyo city tour. We drove by the Imperial Palace where the Emperor and his family live, we stopped at Asakusa shopping district, and finally visited the famous Meiji Shrine. It was a quick afternoon tour, but it gave us an overview of Tokyo, and our guide gave us some good suggestions on where to visit the following day when we are on our own to explore Tokyo. Finally, we arrived and checked in at the Grand Prince New Takanawa Hotel. This hotel is enormous and beautiful with a great location close to one of the large train stations. Several of us went over to the train station to check out the restaurants and shops that evening and ended up finding where all the local Japanese men go to drink after getting off the train from work. It's interesting nowadays to find bars full of men smoking!

On our one free day in Tokyo, everybody divided into groups and targeted different areas of Tokyo to visit based on their interest. We all braved the Tokyo's efficient mass transit system of trains, subways, and buses. They were very clean but definitely packed with people. Tami & Bob checked out the museum district and the zoo to see the pandas. Mary and several ladies from the Austin club went shopping at the famous haute couture Ginza District then met up with Evan & Ginger for drinks at sunset in the Park Hyatt sky bar. Thuy, Marsha, Gloria, and Penny went to the Asian Bazaar area to shop for souvenirs then up the top floor of the Metropolitan Building for a panoramic view of Tokyo, but Mt. Fuji was covered up in clouds. Ash & Madhu also went



shopping around town. Debi and Danielle started their trip in Tokyo first so they knew the city better and showed the rest of their families around town (Cameron, Kristen, Kurt, and Will)! Annie, Myra, Jim and Laura were the most adventurous and went to a Sumo Wrestling match!

Well, it was finally time to say Sayonara and Farewell to Japan as we have to head back to the states. This country has made a lasting impression on all of us - whether it's the modern

amenities or the clean streets and cities, or the wonderful food like the noodles (Ramen, Soba, Udon) and sushi, or the quiet respectful nature of the Japanese people, or the tasty sake, or the grand hotels, or the super clean Japanese Bucee's truck stops, or the numerous efficient vending machines everywhere, or the beautiful ski hills of Hakuba, or the history and monuments of ancient Japan. Each one of us brings back his or her own unique set of memories of our time in Japan and our experience enhanced by the fact that we shared it with our Space City friends. For me, my best memory of Japan has to be the heated toilets complete with flushing sounds and choice of "buttons" to make the bathroom experience the most memorable ever!



BLUE ONYX JANUARY DINNER



LIBERTY STATION HAPPY HOUR



CIRQUE DU SOLEIL SHOW



SUPER BOWL PARTY



TRIPS 2018-2019 BY BEVERLY ROBERTS, VICE PRESIDENT OF TRIPS



Picture courtesy of Whitefish Mountain Resort

Trip Coordinator Ali Pethick

Whitefish@spacecity.org

Land Only \$858 Full Package \$1,442

We fly out of Houston on United Airlines Saturday, February 23, 2019 and return on Saturday, March 2, 2019

HOUSTON / KALISPELL FEB 23rd IAH 2:40 P.M. DEN 4:16 P.M., 6:55 P.M., KALISPELL 9:15 P.M.

MAR 2nd KALISPELL 2:10 P.M. DEN 4:29 P.M., 6:55 P.M. IAH 10:20P.M.

The airport is only 30 minutes to our lodging at Morning Eagle Lodge, Whitefish Mountain Resort's newest, slopeside luxury condominium property. It provides pure Montana pampering in the center of the resort village. The two-story lobby at Morning Eagle Lodge features a large stone fireplace

and lounge area, while building amenities include a heated, secure underground parking garage, ski lockers and the only on-mountain fitness facilities. While staying at Morning Eagle Lodge we will take advantage of the surrounding views while sitting in the top floor hot tub.

Once called Big Mountain, Whitefish Mountain in northwestern Montana offers spectacular views of nearby Glacier National Park and with over 3000 acres - more terrain than Jackson Hole or Aspen, and rarely a lift line! Vast bowls, tree skiing, steeps, and some of the longest intermediate groomers, Whitefish can accommodate skiers and riders of all levels and abilities. Powder, huge terrain, no lift lines, gourmet food, perfect location, make this a trip not to miss. Last year Whitefish had record snow, 426 inches. During the 123 days of Whitefish Mountain Resort's season, it snowed 80 days. Additional lifts have aided in maintaining the experience of un-crowded slopes.

It's clear that Whitefish is in a resort's sweet spot: still small enough to offer the intimacy that nurtures skiing's most enduring traits, yet also growing at a pace that brings in enough cash and creative energy to upgrade the place just about every season. Last year Whitefish was in Ski Magazine's Top 10, finishing between Crested Butte and Steamboat. Service and character are a testament to the resort's small-town attitude.



Photo by Helene Robinson, SCSC member who lives in Whitefish

Pair deep powder with spectacular views of Glacier National Park and the shimmering waters of Whitefish Lake below. Ski/ride through perfect corduroy or test your skills in the terrain parks.



Snow Ghosts picture courtesy of Whitefish Mountain

The mountain is separated into three faces. The front side is primarily serviced by the Chair One high speed quad and has the most skiable terrain. Chair 2, which also runs on the front side was replaced with a high-speed quad in 2007. The front side has seven of the mountain's nine chairlifts.

The back side of the mountain is serviced by Chair 7, also a high-speed quad. The back side has more tree skiing terrain, and additional terrain can be accessed by T-Bar 2 on weekends and during select holiday periods. The western aspect of the mountain contains the Hell Roaring basin. Serviced by Chair 8, a fixed grip triple chair, Hell Roaring basin is the most advanced skiing on the mountain with cliffs, vertical chutes, and tight tree skiing. The intermediate Hellfire trail is the longest on the mountain; it runs 3.3 miles from the summit to the base of Chair 8.



Pictures from Helene Robinson - Cross country skiing.

Whitefish offers some of the lowest lift ticket prices available. And those of us still kicking/screaming/skiing at 70+ ski/ride for free.

\$155.00 - 3/DAY ADULT	\$137.00 - 3/DAY SENIOR
\$198.00 - 4/DAY ADULT	\$174.00 - 4/DAY SENIOR
\$241.00 - 5/DAY ADULT	\$211.00 - 5/DAY SENIOR
\$285.00 - 6/DAY ADULT	\$249.00 - 6/DAY SENIOR
SENIORS 65 - 69yrs 70 Yrs + Free	

- Discounts on ski rental & lesson packages available for TSC, also Never-Ever ski discount program
- Free mountain tours
- Race fee is \$18.00 per person, 2 Runs same Day
- Extra buses for Mountain Lodgings to the 2 Parties
- Public Snow Bus to the Mountain to Town & Back is Free

SKI WEEK FUN SCHEDULE

- Ski week pin and badges, welcome party, pub crawl in downtown Whitefish, banquet and ever important on-site representatives.
- Welcome party at the Whitefish Lodge Grand Ballroom. D.J. with 2 drink tickets for beer or wine included plus pay bar, hot & cold Appetizers: chicken satay, bison sliders, vegetable platters, toast points, cookies.
- Pub crawl downtown Whitefish and drink discounts.
- Banquet at Mountaineer Square Village Grand ballroom with D.J and roasted chicken breast, Waldorf salad, Yukon potatoes, vegetables, breads, dessert and coffee.
- Optional Glacier Park Picture tour and visit Apgar Visitor center with park naturalist 45 minutes from town.

Other Optional activities Include:

- DOG SLEDDING
- SNOWMOBILE
- CROSS COUNTRY
- SNOWSHOEING

Schweitzer Mountain Resort, Idaho The Best Kept Secret in North America

March 3-10, 2019

Full Pkg: \$1,451 Land Only: \$853

TC Derek Shoobridge hlift@aol.com



Photo by Ski Idaho

The Mountain: Schweitzer is the largest ski area in Idaho (bigger than Sun Valley) and Washington. The resort boasts 2,900 acres of varied terrain for skiing and snowboarding. Home to incredible bowls, chutes, groomed cruisers and some of the best tree skiing in America (over 1,200 acres of trees!!), Schweitzer offers something for everyone.

Base elevation is 4,700 feet and summit elevation is 6,400 feet which is great news for those who have trouble with altitude. Vertical drop is 2,400 feet and annual snowfall averages 300 inches.

Schweitzer maintains 92 trails (10% Beginner, 40% Intermediate, 35% Advanced and 15% Expert) plus open bowl skiing. At 2 miles, the longest continuous groomed run is Little Blue Ridge.

There are 32 kilometers of Nordic trails for cross-country and skate skiing, snowshoeing and fat tire snow biking.

The resort also offers snow tubing at Hermit's Hollow Tubing Center with 2 side-by-side chutes that stretch over 100 yards.

Lift lines are rare to non-existent. A network of 9 lifts (including one high-speed six-passenger chair named Stella and two high-speed quads) whisk skiers and riders to the top in minutes. Total uphill capacity is 12,502 people per hour.

Selkirk Powder Company: The resort has its own cat skiing operation and, if you've never been cat skiing, this is the perfect opportunity to give it a try. Day long adventures start from the summit and have skiers on untracked backcountry powder by 9:30 a.m. Skiers typically complete up to 10 runs and rack up as much as 14,000 vertical feet on 4,350 acres of diverse terrain.

Selkirk Powder also offers guided snowmobile tours along groomed logging roads through thousands of acres of private and state-owned forests and has the only heli-skiing operation in Idaho.



Lift Tickets: Regular lift tickets are available through Space City at the prices listed below:

- 4 day adult - \$256
- 5 day adult - \$318
- 6 day adult - \$380
- 5 day senior - \$286

Lodging: We will be staying at Selkirk Lodge in the heart of Schweitzer Village. The lodge features hotel-style accommodations with an option for 1 king or 2 queen beds. Our rates are based on double occupancy but single supplements are available for an additional \$823.

The lodge is a short walk to the base area and the lifts. Just steps away are three outdoor hot tubs and the resort's heated pool. A micro movie theater is located onsite and shows three family movies a day. There is also an onsite spa which offers massages and a variety of other services.

A daily hot breakfast buffet is included in the package. This is a great opportunity to meet with fellow skiers and plan your day. Other lodge amenities include unlimited wireless internet, unlimited local calling, in-room coffee and hot cocoa, onsite laundry facilities, free safe deposit boxes at the front desk, daily newspapers, a business center and free ski and snowboard storage.

Travel: We leave Bush Intercontinental Airport on Sunday, March 3rd at 2:40 p.m., arrive in Denver at 4:16 p.m., leave Denver at 7:00 p.m. and arrive in Spokane at 8:24 p.m. On Sunday, March 10th, we leave Spokane at 6:00 a.m., arrive in Denver at 9:17 a.m., leave Denver at 11:35 a.m. and arrive in Houston at 2:55 p.m. All flights are with United and are subject to change.

The trip to and from Spokane will be in a luxury private coach. There will be a short snack and alcohol stop on the way to Schweitzer Village on Sunday night.

More Fun: Since we will all be exhausted on Sunday night, there will be a welcome reception on Monday night which will include a baked potato bar with soup, salad, a dessert and one drink. Representatives from Schweitzer and Ski White Diamond will be available to answer your questions.

On the first day of the trip, there is an optional full mountain tour. There will be daily suggested lunch meeting places and happy hours as well as some optional group dinners.

There are several dining opportunities in Schweitzer, including the Sky House summit lodge located at the peak of Schweitzer Mountain. Sky House options include a restaurant, full-service bar and café. The lodge offers 360-degree stunning views of the Selkirk Mountains, Lake Pend Oreille and the entire resort. At this time, Sky House is not open for dinner.

There is a small market in Schweitzer Village as well as shops which sell gear essentials, specialty equipment and demo rentals. There is also a local artist cooperative which showcases drawings, paintings, jewelry and more.

For more shopping and dining options, Schweitzer's home base is the music-and-arts-loving town of Sandpoint. Voted by Rand McNally as the Most Beautiful Small Town in America, Sandpoint is located on Lake Pend Oreille. To get to Sandpoint from the Village, catch one of the hourly shuttles from the Red Barn parking lot. Visit Sandpoint's website www.VisitSandpoint.com for information on year-round and winter activities in Sandpoint.

TC: Derek Shoobridge hlift@aol.com cell: 713-501-1032

ATC: Linda Erdman lshe7818@flash.net cell: 713-818-1951



Mamajuana* or Bust!

At The

Luxury Bahia Principe Ambar

An Adult All-Inclusive Resort

Punta Cana, Dominican Republic

May 4th Returning May 11th, 2019 – 7 nights!

Land Only \$962 Air Estimated at \$650**

See Below Regarding Airfare

TC: George Sargent george_sargent@yahoo.com



George and Rowena at the Ambar in 2014



Mamajuana



Map By George Sargent Via Google Maps

Join the Space City Ski and Adventure Club at one of the best beach adventures in the world. Travelers will be rewarded with your first Mamajuana* (customary and a must try) or a cocktail of your choice upon arrival at the **Luxury Bahia Principe Ambar**. Okay. That's a long name so I'll just call it the Ambar. The Bahia Principe is a mega resort including multiple locations catering to the whims of patrons from around the world. The Ambar is a secluded section for adults only yet Ambar patrons may visit other areas of the resort. TripAdvisor reviewers give the Ambar a 4.5 rating out of 5. I've been there and it is a nice place!

The club and I will be looking for 28 excited participants to take advantage of this tropical paradise. Additional bookings will be at the prevailing rate provided the resort has openings.

The Ambar includes just about everything you could want. There are 2 pools so you can't go far without finding a favorite tanning location. It has 5 different restaurants for fine dining and many more in the other family oriented sections. It's impossible to go hungry. The drinks are unlimited and the cocktail bars are all over the place including a swim up

pool bar and watering hole on the beach. Outdoor activities even include the use of kayaks and catamarans available upon request.

The Ambar actually has two areas. We will be located closest to the beach. All the rooms at the Ambar are totally remodeled within the past year. So our rooms should be nice and fresh. The rooms will come with either a king size or two full size beds. You get to choose. The bathroom includes a hair dryer and the bathtub is hydro-massage. Other room amenities include Wi-Fi, a stocked mini bar, coffee and tea making facilities.

The beach is deep with shady palm trees growing in sugar white sand. But don't be afraid to venture directly to surfside where the blue water extends well beyond your distant view. It's your choice, just lay back and enjoy or soak in the crystal waters. You can't go wrong either way.

Punta Cana offers other great activities. Our group will plan several day excursions that may include options for zip lining, catamaran island exploration, swimming in cenotes and horseback riding on the beach. Punta Cana is known for its golf courses. If you are an avid golfer, I'd like to find a volunteer to lead a group. The activities outside the confines of the resort will be a la carte. Anyone can decide what they want to do and when to do them. I'll help with that.

*Our official club drink will be the Mamajuana! Tradition has it that Mamajuana should be the very first drink consumed upon your arrival! This herbal drink should get everyone in the mood for fun. Mamajuana is a concoction made from rum, red wine and honey soaked with special tree bark and herbs. But forget the recipe. You just need to know the Dominicans consider this an aphrodisiac. You be the judge! Or just take some back home for medicinal purposes. Ha!

**Airfare: The ski club is offering this trip as a land only package at this time. The intent is to offer a group airfare package for those wishing for the club to make those arrangements. I will support you either way whether you wish to book your own or to take advantage of the group airfare. Southwest is my preferred Airlines although I may check with others. I've talked to the Southwest Airlines group department and the agent suggested airfares for our May 2019 departure may not be available until October or early November. Relax. That's still about 6 months out from our travel date. For now, I'll make a list of names interested in the group airfare. The airfare price above is strictly an estimate although it is an actual airfare price for February and March 2019.



Let The Party Begin



A View of One of the Pools



Two Views of the Grounds

Enchanting Peru

Discover Peru's breathtaking beauty!

May 29 – June 7, 2019 (10 days)

\$2756 Full Package

TC: Jill Nanney jill@spacecity.org

Trip at a Glance:

- Direct flight from IAH to Lima; airfare taxes, fees & fuel surcharges; Intra-Peru flights, ground transportation and transfers
- 1 night in Lima, 2 nights in Yucay, 3 nights in Cuzco, 2 nights in Puno
- Visit the Lost City of the Incas, breathtaking Machu Picchu, and explore Cuzco, the fabled capital of the Inca Empire. See unforgettable Lake Titicaca and the floating islands of the Uros before ending in colonial Lima
- Accommodations at First Class hotels
- 12 meals: 8 full buffet breakfasts (B), 2 lunches (L) and 2 dinners (D)
- Comprehensive sightseeing tours including admission fees
- Experienced English-speaking guides

Day-by Day-Itinerary

May 29 (Wed): Depart & Arrive in Lima. Depart Houston at 4:30 PM on your nonstop flight and arrive into Lima at 11 PM. Transfer to your hotel for a quick one night stay in Lima. (Not to worry, you will do touring of Lima on your final day in Peru!)

May 30 (Thur): Your flight departs shortly after 8 AM for a short flight to Cuzco, the fabled capital of the Inca Empire, perched at about 11,000 feet above sea level. On arrival, journey to the nearby Sacred Valley of the Incas. The valley has amazing landscapes of fertile land, mystical ruins and indigenous villages. On your way to the Sacred Valley, enjoy



lunch at Princesita private restaurant and in the restaurant's gardens experience a Shaman ceremony, one of the ancient rituals of Peru. Next, visit Awana Kancha, a weaving center that keeps ancient weaving techniques and traditions alive.

Arrive at your hotel located in the quaint village of Yucay and surrounded by lush gardens. This evening your tour director hosts a welcome dinner and orientation. (L,D)

May 31 (Fri): Pisac and Sacred Valley Excursion. On today's excursion visit the world renowned and colorful Indian market in Pisac where many beautiful crafts are traded. Later, travel through the lush valley to Ollantaytambo and explore the splendid ruins of this massive ancient fortress. The village below is a fine example of the Incas incredible urban planning skills. Return to your hotel in Yucay later this afternoon. (B,L)

June 1 (Sat): Machu Picchu Rail Excursion/Cusco Embark today on an expedition to Machu Picchu. You'll ride aboard the Vistadome train through the lush Urubamba Valley passing along stunning scenery. Arrive at "The Lost City Of the Incas" rediscovered in 1911. The beauty of its location and the genius construction make Machu Picchu travel the jewel of all Inca settlements and a top stop in your Peru vacation packages. To this day nobody can explain how the Incas managed to transport the huge blocks of limestone for the city's construction onto the mountaintop. An expert guide leads you through the ruins and shares with you the amazing story of Machu Picchu. You'll have some free time to further discover the mystical ruins and absorb the beauty of this enchanting site.



Later, re-board the train and journey to magical Cuzco. (B)

June 2 (Sun): Cuzco is a vibrant town, dotted with archaeological sites. On a guided walking tour, visit the main Inca and Colonial monuments. See the Plaza de Armas, the center of the Inca Empire and the impressive 16th century cathedral, built on the ruins of the Inca Palace. In the old town view magnificently restored colonial buildings. Your hotel is superbly located in the heart of the old town near the lively Plaza de Armas. Evening at leisure. (B)

Jun 3 (Mon): Venture today to the outskirts of Cuzco to visit the amazing ruins of Sacsayhuaman, an Inca architectural masterpiece with fabulous views of the city below. The impressive ruins of Sacsayhuaman, 3 km above the main city, awaits you with a breathtaking view onto Cusco. You make your way to the sanctuary of Qenqo, the sentinel of Puca Pucara and the temple of water named Tambomachay before making your way back to the hotel. (B)

June 4 (Tues): Cusco/Puno/Lake Titicaca. Embark on a thrilling journey to Puno. As you traverse the rugged snow-capped Andes you'll enjoy the breathtaking scenery and see quaint local villages as well as herds of llama and alpaca. Visit the charming village of Andahuaylillas, with its renowned 17th-century church. Arrive at your hotel overlooking majestic Lake Titicaca. (B)

Jun 5 (Wed): Lake Titicaca Boat Excursion. Situated on the border between Peru and Bolivia, Lake Titicaca is South



America's largest and highest navigable lake. Today, embark on an unforgettable journey to explore the magnificent scenery and fascinating life on and around the tranquil lake.

First, visit the floating islands of the Uros Indians that still practice the old traditions of fishing, trapping birds and living on the lake plants. The totora reeds, which grow abundantly in the shallows of the lake, are used for their boats, houses and to build the very islands on which they live. This way of life began over 500 years ago when the Uros built the islands in an effort to isolate themselves from the Kollas and the Incas. Later, proceed by boat to Taquile Island, where the indigenous inhabitants are dedicated to agriculture and crafting of high quality textiles. You'll witness their customs, traditions and unique costumes before returning to your lakeside hotel. (B)

June 6 (Thur): Lake Titicaca/Lima. Early this morning, transfer to the airport for your flight to Lima departing at 8:30 am. Upon arrival into Lima around 10 am, enjoy a guided tour of both colonial and modern Lima, founded in 1535 and later dominated by the Inca nation. See the historical center and the San Francisco Church as well as Plaza de Armas and the Government Palace. Later, see the fashionable districts of San Isidro and Miraflores with their beautiful parks and elegant residences. This evening join your fellow travelers at a festive farewell dinner at a famous local restaurant. After dinner, transfer to the airport for your flight departing shortly after midnight. (B,D)

Jun 7 (Fri): Your nonstop flight departs Lima at 12:35 AM. Arrive Houston 7:15 AM.

In the spirit of keeping things simple, this will be one trip (no pre-or post-trips) and there will be a limit of 26 people max. So don't miss out and sign up today!

Featured Hotels

Lima: Hotel Jose Antonio Bellavista
Calle Bellavista 133 Miraflores, Lima, Peru

Yucay: Sonesta Posadas Del Inca Yucay Hotel
Plaza Manco II 123 Yucay Urubamba, Cusco, Peru

Cusco: Hotel Novotel Cusco
Calle San Augustin 239 Cusco 0, Peru

Lake Titicaca: Hotel Libertador Puno
Isla Esteves s/n Lago Titicaca Puno, Peru

TSC Fall Expedition Portugal and the Douro River Cruise

September 24- October 4, 2019

TC Melody Bohlmann

Experience the unique sites and culture of Portugal with a taste of Spain on this combination land and river cruise Main trip. We start our journey by flying into Lisbon and we stay there for two nights in a four-star hotel. We then travel to Fatima and sightsee in Coimbra and then board the brand new, exclusively chartered river vessel the *MS Emerald Radiance* for our seven-night river cruise along the Douro River. We also venture to Rodrigo, Vega Terron, and Salamanca, Spain. We end the Main trip in the home of Port wine, Porto, and fly back to the US. Or there is an optional three-night, four-day post trip to Barcelona for an

additional cost estimated to be \$1,489 which includes airfare but doesn't include a Barcelona city tax (approximately \$3 per person per day).



Picture source Bing.com

The Itinerary for the Main Trip:

DAY 1 –Depart the USA Depart the USA on your overnight flight to Lisbon, Portugal.

DAY 2 –Lisbon, Portugal. Upon arrival, you will be met by a Mayflower Tours representative and transferred to your hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure to explore Lisbon. This evening, join your Mayflower staff and fellow travelers for an included dinner. Included Meal: Dinner

DAY 3 –Discover Lisbon. After breakfast, an included tour highlights the famous sites of the city. See Jerónimos Monastery, ‘Monument to the Discoveries,’ and Belem Tower, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Enjoy a free afternoon to shop, dine and experience this cosmopolitan city on your own. Included Meal: Breakfast

DAY 4 –Fátima / Coimbra. Enroute to the ship in Porto visit Fátima, home to the Sanctuary of Fátima, an important Catholic pilgrimage site. The city’s fame originates from the apparitions of Our Lady of the Rosary that appeared to three shepherd children in the nearby fields. Continue to Coimbra and its famous university before arriving in Porto to embark the *MS Emerald Radiance*, home for the next seven nights. Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 5 –Porto / Pinhão. Today is a day of sailing through the twists and turns of the Douro Valley. Designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, this area is sparsely populated by small quaint villages and typical communities with vineyards and small farms. This afternoon, the ship arrives in the village of Pinhão, perfectly situated on a river bend surrounded by terraced hillsides that produce some of the world’s best Port wine. Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 6 –Pinhão / Vega de Terron. Begin the day with a visit to a beautiful quinta vineyard with spectacular views of the Douro Valley. Learn about wine production and its importance to the culture and economy. This afternoon, the ship sails for Vega de Terron, gateway to Spain. Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 7 –Salamanca, Spain. Today’s excursion takes you to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Salamanca, Spain. During the guided walking tour, see amazingly detailed and intricately carved buildings of the university, the 12-th century Romanesque church of San Martin and the house of Shells. Regal splendor abounds in the Plaza Mayor, the heartbeat of the city. You’ll have free time to explore independently before returning to the ship in Portugal. Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 8 –Pocinho. Arrive in Pocinho and disembark for a morning excursion to the Coa Valley Museum. Designed to blend in with its surroundings, the concrete structure houses prehistoric stone carvings made by the early inhabitants of the Douro which were uncovered during construction of a nearby dam project. Return to the ship for lunch and relax on deck as the ship sails through idyllic surroundings on the way to Régua. This evening, enjoy an off-ship dinner at a traditional vineyard estate. Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 9 –Régua. After arriving in Régua, journey to the marvelous baroque village of Lamego, home to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Remedies one of the most important pilgrimage sites in Portugal. See the Sanctuary

perched atop the hill, with its iconic 686-step granite staircase, decorated with the traditional Portuguese blue and white ‘azulejos’ tiles. Return to the ship in Régua after the excursion. Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 10 –Porto. Having traversed the Douro River, the ship returns to Porto – a city with an eclectic mix of modern and ancient architecture. An included tour highlights the sights from historic landmarks to the scenic beauty. And it wouldn’t be complete without a visit to a wine cave for a tour and tasting of Port wine. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure in Porto. Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 11 –Porto / USA. This morning, disembark the *MS Emerald Radiance* and bid a fond farewell to Portugal, filled with memories of this remarkable cruise along the ‘river of gold.’ Included Meal: Breakfast

Please note that the pricing is still under negotiation and will probably need adjustments. Also, since this trip includes a river cruise, there are different cabin levels on the ship and pricing will vary based on cabin levels. This is a TSC trip so there will be other clubs selecting cabins. Because of this, the dates for this trip could change and there will be others vying for the cabin choices. Sign up early for your best chance at the cabin of your choice!! Currently, the primary potential date is September 25, 2019 but depending on sign up levels and cabins available, the dates may be changed to early September or early October 2019.

The pricing includes airfare **provided that you register on-line and pay the non-refundable deposit of \$400 per person before October 1st**. The deposit is non-refundable unless you buy the trip insurance from the Tour Operator, Mayflower, and the non-refundable cost of the trip insurance for the Main trip is \$429. If you register on or after October 1st, the cost will go up significantly (\$675 or more) to cover airfare.

Best Current Estimates for each cabin based on per person, two in a cabin with airfare **if registered and deposit received prior to October 1:**

Riveria Deck \$4,553 (lowest level cabin 153 to 170 sq ft, at river level with small window that does not open).

Vista Deck, Cat B \$4,913 (160 sq ft, large balcony type window that opens with screen

Vista Deck, Cat R \$5,273 (188 sq ft, large balcony type window that opens with screen

Horizon Deck, Cat A \$5,453 (160 sq ft, large balcony type window that opens with screen

Horizon Deck, Cat P \$5,543 (170 sq ft, large balcony type window that opens with screen

Owners Suite \$5,903 (285 sq ft, floor to ceiling windows that open with screen)

Riverview Suite \$6,083 (300 sq ft, floor to ceiling windows that open with screen)

All cabins have bathroom with shower and hair dryer; complimentary WiFi; two twin beds that can be put together, 16 dresser, closet, telephone safe, individual climate control, flat screen TV; mini-fridge.

OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM 2018-2019

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



FEBRUARY HAPPY HOUR Churrasco's Memorial

947 N. Gessner (Across Gessner from Memorial City Mall)

Thursday February 28 5 TO 8:30PM

Happy Hour prices all day

\$5.95 selected cocktails and wine Beer \$3.50

Bar Bites \$5.95 to \$6.95

Free parking in garage behind restaurant



SCSC GENERAL MEETING

MARCH 11, 2019

DAVE & BUSTER'S

6010 RICHMOND

6:30PM - 8:30PM

MARCH HAPPY HOUR

RAINBOW LODGE

2011 ELLA AT TC JESTER

THURSDAY MARCH 28 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 glass

Selected Domestic & Draft Beer \$3 glass

Selected House Martinis \$5 glass

Bar Snacks \$6 to \$10

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



Sitzmarke

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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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