

NEWSLETTER sitzmarke

April 2019 Volume 54 Issue 11



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FROM MISSION CONTROL

BY JAN FERRELL, PRESIDENT

It's official! Our elected officers are as follows:

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



Our webmaster, Dave Stotz, and the Director of Communications, Ross Baker, have graciously agreed to continue to "man their posts". Helping Beverly with the (at times) daunting task of managing our trips is our Director of Trips, Marsha Lutz.

It will be an exciting year with some very interesting trips being offered at the TSC BidFest in Austin. The meeting is April 12-14, 2019. Check our website for information as well as registration. As always, we will have a caucus to talk about the trips. This is your opportunity to have input as to the TSC trips we will support.

Our next general meeting will be April 8 at Dave and Busters on 6010 Richmond. Hope to see you there!

Spring has finally sprung,
Jan

COUNTDOWN TO LIFTOFF

BY BEVERLY ROBERTS, VICE PRESIDENT OF TRIPS

Hello from the trip desk!!

We have just completed our 2019 ski trips, and what a year! Generally, the snow was phenomenal. It was a little chilly on a couple of the trips (well, the Big Sky and Whitefish folks will tell you it was an arctic experience.....). But irrespective of some single digit weather (use LOTS of handwarmers!!), everyone reported good times with good friends. Many thanks to all of the TCs and ATCs that spent so much time planning, more planning, even more planning, and then following up on every detail to make sure all of their participants had a

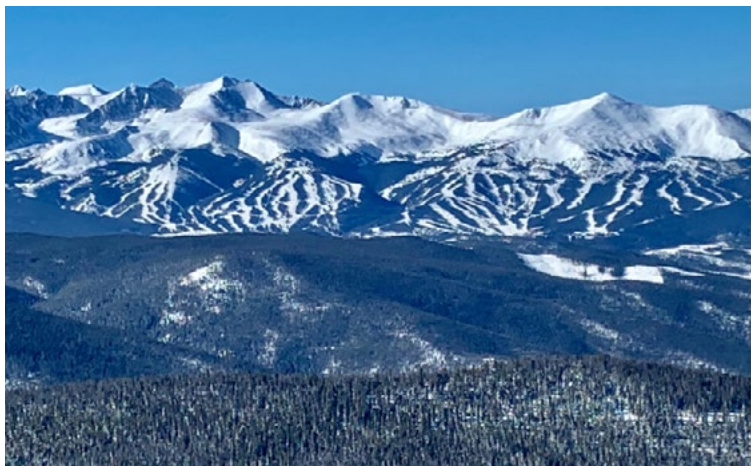


wonderful trip experience. Well done, high fives, kudos, etc!!

Now it's time to look forward to the next ski season!! The ball is already rolling for the December club trip to Vail. More about that soon!! And TSC BidFest is coming up April 12-14. That's when representatives from all the Texas Ski Council clubs meet to discuss future TSC trip options. There are a couple of exciting differences for this upcoming Bidfest. First, we're going to do our best to Keep Austin Weird – TSC style. Yes, the Bidfest will be in Austin this year. We have always enjoyed San Antonio but who doesn't love the Austin vibe? Change is good!! Another very exciting difference is that we will be selecting TSC trips for two years – for the 2020 season and the 2021 season. I am delighted about this change. Knowing the TSC selections for two years out will help us avoid selecting a location this year that the TSC decides to select the next year. Same number of trips – just a better planning model so that we have a variety of destinations. We will be evaluating trips for the Traditional, the Winter Shootout, the Final Showdown, the Winter Expedition and the Summer/Fall Expedition for both 2020 and 2021. You can join us and hear the presentations from the tour operators for their trips. This is your opportunity to experience the TSC trip selection process and provide input. Then after the TSC trips are determined, we will round out our Space City trip slate with club trips. When all the trips are determined – guess what – We'll be looking for YOU to volunteer to help with a trip!

Don't forget the three outstanding non-ski trips we have for the summer/fall travel season. We have chillin' in Punta Cana with George Sargent, adventuring in South America with Jill Nanney, and touring/cruising in Portugal with TSC and Melody Bohlmann. What a variety!! Check with the TCs for the latest trip availabilities, and join the wait list so you can snag an opening or cancellation.

Following is the trip schedule for the remainder of 2019 (Vail December will be announced later)



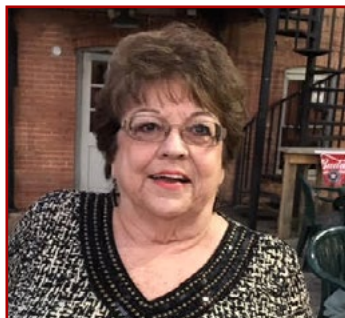
Space City Ski Club 2018-2019 Trips

Destinations	Date	TC	Contact Link	Full Pkg \$/pp w/air	Land Pkg \$/pp
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

Thank you for electing me to be the VP of Activities for another year. I really love planning fun and different activities that I think you will enjoy. Anyone that has a suggestion for an activity or place for a Dinner or Happy Hour please let me know, I am always looking for new things and places.



We celebrated Bil Cusack's birthday by going to try our hand at Bingo at SPJST Hall on February 21 which was a lot of fun. Rowena Roche was the only one who won money but she had to split the pot 3 ways. We had 17 ski club members and quite a few of Bil's family to attend. Mid-March a smaller group went back to try their luck again, no winners this time but they had a great time.

The February dinner at Beaver's on Westheimer had 21 of us enjoying BBQ Chicken, Fried Steaks and a few other things.

The Happy Hour at Churrasco's Memorial location where we had our own room had a smaller than usual attendance but as always we had a great time seeing friends. Lee Swords who is a long time former SCSC member who had moved to Thailand is back in Houston and came to see everyone.

March 23 was the dinner at Steamboat House, the food was delicious and we had our own room for 31 people. It is like a Texas history museum and a few members were treated to a history lesson by the owner.

The March Happy Hour has changed from Johnny's Goldbrick (which is listed on the calendar I gave to everyone) to Rainbow Lodge. I am not dealing with food trucks anymore (and everyone loves Rainbow Lodge) and it is such a beautiful place.

Saturday, March 30 Karen Leeson is going to lead a little longer bike ride than usual starting at Kings Biergarten in the Heights, riding to Saint Arnolds Brewery just east of downtown. I have a separate activity where members that want to go to lunch there and see the beautifully painted ceilings in the restaurant and beer garden can meet up with the riders. Check the website for details.

Dance lessons are continuing monthly with April doing NightClub Two Step, next month may change. Check the website for details.

Both Game Day and Game night will be on their usual Tuesday schedule at Tea + Victory.

The April Dinner will be at Yao's on Westheimer where we had the first dinner in 2017. There are 2 cases full of Yao Ming Rockets memorabilia to see.

April Happy Hour is at the Heights Bier Garten on Shepherd which has lots of outdoor seating and two buildings, one side has all sorts of beer and the other side has cocktails. There is food available and parking in the back.

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 UPCOMING EVENT CALENDAR

March 28	Happy Hour at Rainbow Lodge
March 30	Bike Ride and Lunch at St. Arnold's Brewery
April 3 to 24	Dance Lessons every Wednesday
April 8	Monthly Meeting Dave & Busters on Richmond
April 9	Game Day at Tea + Victory
April 12 to 14	TSC Bid Meeting Austin
April 20	Dinner at Yao's on Westheimer
April 23	Game Night at Tea + Victory
April 25	Happy Hour at Heights Bier Garten

SNOWMASS 2019 TRIP REPORT by LINDA KUPER, Trip Coordinator

SNOWMASS 2019 was a true winter wonderland with plentiful snow (over a foot of fresh powder) and several sunshiny days. The joy of rising in the morning to have a hearty breakfast and then ski out your door is hard to beat. Snowmass was a great host to our 36 skiers from H town, Dallas, Austin, North Carolina, California and Argentina. We arrived at the condos on Saturday afternoon with the staff at Top of the Village (TOV) waiting to bring all our luggage and groceries to our rooms. We were joined by Craig Moffatt who had been skiing in Aspen since Tuesday. TOV hosted a welcome party with wine and cheese that evening. Chris Urbanczyk and Stan Kuper had a scary close encounter during our 1st night. I don't know that I could present this in writing as well as they can explain in person. Ask them to relay the story!!

Sunday was a beautiful day and most of the group hit the slopes to enjoy some of the fresh snow from last week's showers. Stan put out SCSC flag markers along Dawber run so everyone would know where to turn for the condos. On our second day, Irene Kenny got injured (her first injury in all her years of skiing). She was fitted with a knee brace and instructed to stay put for the rest of the week!! Bummer so early in the trip. (Since returning home, she has learned that surgery is in the near future – Hope you will return to skiing next year with us—Great Lady!!)

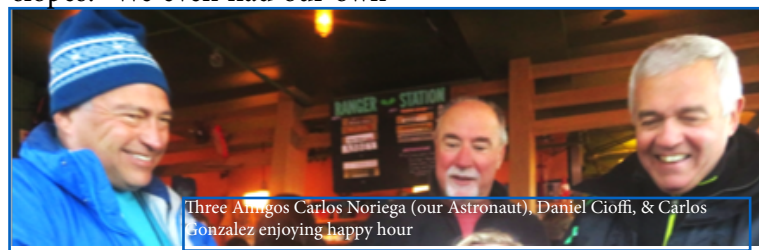


Irene Kenny at the BBQ dinner

We tried a new Snowmass location (The Ranger Station) after skiing on Monday -- new bar with many local IPA's and other interesting beers. Small but quaint and those that participated had a great time. Nothing like a cold beer right off the slopes! We even had our own



friends relaxing with a beer after skiing - Daniel Cioffi and Carlos



Three Amigos Carlos Noriega (our Astronaut), Daniel Cioffi, & Carlos Gonzalez enjoying happy hour

3 amigos with cute hats (Carlos Gonzalez, Daniel Cioffi and Carlos Noriega). Jim Hodges and his lovely wife, Marina, were joined by Jim's daughter and son in law, who were shadowing the trip.

Tuesday was a great day on the slopes followed by our group dinner. Our wonderful ATC Dana Wardell arranged with Hickory House in Aspen to deliver a fantastic BBQ dinner,

complete with ribs and chicken and all the sides. We supplied beer and wine and reserved the party room at TOV so everyone could gather and enjoy dinner. It was very nice to not have to drive anywhere and have plenty of space to mingle and get to know each other better.



Group Dinner—Halcyon Learned, Sandra Stolnacke, Larry Hord, Irene Kenny & Jane Adams



Chaille Hutcheson and Scott Bradshaw



Kurt Schildowski, Allan Simpson and Andy Cashio in line for BBQ dinner



BBQ buffet dinner at lodge (L to R - Lynn Greenberg, Lynn Bodfish, Cathy Boyer, and Carlos Noriega)



Paul Stolnacke, Chaille Hutcheson and Craig Moffatt at group dinner



Craig Moffatt and Scott Bradshaw



Sandra Stolnacke, Marina Wang and Jim Hodges at group dinner

Everyone had a huge family style meal and shared stories and adventures. Rick Adams was pleasantly surprised with the quality of the ribs (not bad being from somewhere other than Texas!). Vicki Faulkner and Allan Simpson had gone to But-

termilk and told us about the extensive set up there in preparation for the X Games which start on next Friday.

Overnight we had an accumulation of 9" of new snow and more snow falling on Wednesday morning. The powder hounds were out early (Chris, Leslie Cashio and Andy Cashio). Most of the ladies decided that this was a great opportunity to visit Aspen and spread some of the wealth around. Cathy Boyer, Lynn Bodfish, Lynn Greenberg, Mary Beth Cihal, Rene Reed, and Christiane Hille enjoyed a nice lunch in town at Little Nell's.



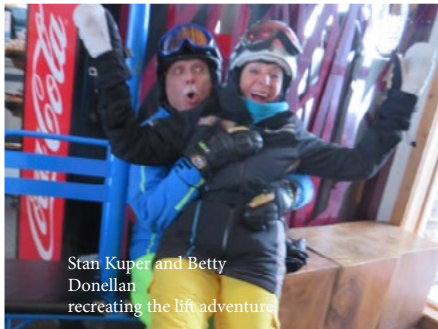
BBQ dinner in their plaid shirts (Allan Simpson and Micki Faulkner) at group dinner



Girls lunch at Little Nell's (from L to R - Cathy Boyer, Lynn Greenberg, Lynn Bodfish, Mary Beth Cihal, Mary Beth Cihal, Rene Reed and Christiane Hille)

Aspen has so many wonderful quaint shops to explore so Halcyon Learned and Irene Kenny decided to check them out. I was surprised that we had so many people who had never been to Aspen (we had a lot of experienced skiers here). The town is full of shops, museums, bars and interesting characters wandering around town. It's such an international collection of people that you hear many languages as you explore the area.

Thursday had most of us back on the slopes enjoying the fresh snow and spending time with our friends. There were several moments of sheer bliss when Rene Reed and Betty Donellan tried to share the same seat on a lift!!



Stan Kuper and Betty Donellan recreating the lift adventure

Seems there's only room for one in each seat...imagine that! Also that day, Rene and Chaille Hutcheson along with Paul Stolnacke attempted to see if the 3 of them could join Scott

Bradshaw, Betty and Stan on a 4 person chair. You need to remember that these are all very experienced skiers!! What a rookie move...the laughter that followed was contagious... Only wish that I could have been there to see this disaster!! With my history of getting hurt on trips, even I know that you can't put 6 on a 4 seat chair!! I think that they all need to receive a calculator for their next b-day gift....

Again our fantastic ATC Dana hosted a special happy hour at TOV party room where she and her condo mates (Linda Licarione, Kathryn Bellis and Cheryl Bac) prepared street tacos using the leftover BBQ from Tuesday's dinner. The theme of the party was "Tie One On" - each person wore a necktie and had a story about their tie. We learned many things about our companions.

For example:



Jim Hodges (Envelopes Tie), Leslie Cashio and Kurt Schidlowski (U.S. Citizen ceremony Tie)



Listening to stories about our various ties at the "Tie One On" party

1. Kurt Schidlowski wore the tie that he had worn when he became a US citizen.
2. Christiane Hille wore a tie that was her grandmother's and she had used it to sew jewelry into it when she came to the US many years ago.
3. Jim Hodges had a tie with envelopes which were marked "Return to Sender" in a tribute to Elvis. It had been a tie he wore at work to add some levity to the office.
4. Lynn Greenburg had a Jerry Garcia autographed tie that she had worn to the Grateful Dead concert.
5. Jane Adams wore her Dad's Army tie from WWII but

had to wear her Grandmother's hat from the WAC's. Jane's head is larger than her Dad's. What a family history of service to our country!

6. Carlos Noriega had on a tie with a picture of a Space Shuttle. We learned that he was a Mission Specialist on a Shuttle flight. SCSC officially has an Astronaut as a member!! Congratulations.

7. Allan Simpson told us about a college encounter with a young lady while wearing his tie – not sure we could believe him but Sandra Stolnacke thought it was an interesting tale which showed the comic nature of our good friend Allan.

8. Last but not least, well maybe it was the least, Chris Urbanczyk made a tie from a pine tree branch he found out on the slopes. His story about how this was acquired without being caught is pretty funny so have him give you the details. He won the Most Creative Tie Award.



Chris Urbanczyk "Most Creative Tie"

This was a great party idea resurrected by Dana from some of our prior trips in the 1970's and 1980's. We really had some

fun times in the earlier years....anybody remember the long john parties we had?

Friday was our last ski day and it was a fun day at a wonderful mountain. The next morning was set for an early departure with bags out at 5:30am (the disadvantage of having to drive all the way back to Denver). The land only people slept in because they had flights from Aspen later in the day. They missed all the fun early in the morning when the bus got stuck in the parking lot trying to leave for the airport. We had a lot of sleepy and cold people trying to assist the "bus driver" (that's what his title was but most of us don't think he qualified for the title) maneuver the bus onto the road so we could leave for Denver. After about an hour, we finally made it onto the road so we could back down the mountain to the mall area and turn the bus in the correct direction for the remainder of the trip. Just what we all needed before having our morning coffee!!!

The flight home was on time and there were no problems getting through TSA in Denver even with the government shutdown (not part of the original trip plan). We had a fun trip with a fantastic group of people. Thanks to all of you for joining Dana and I on a great week in Snowmass.



L to R – Carlos Gonzalez, Christiane Hille, Lynn Bodfish, Daniel Cioffi, and Cathy Boyer



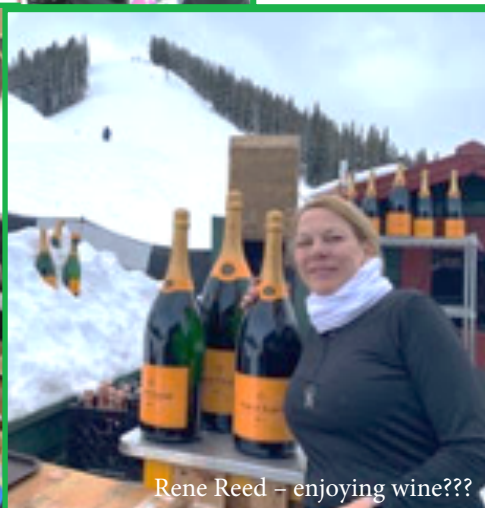
Leslie and Andy Cashio hitting the slopes early.



ATC Dana Wardell enjoying lunch at the Ranger Station in Snowmass Village



Rick & Jane Adams - lunch on the mountain



Rene Reed – enjoying wine???



Kathryn Bellis and Cheryl Bac at lunch break



Forty-nine Space City Ski Club members signed up for Texas Ski Council Winter Shootout Week in Breckenridge, Colorado and joined 120 other Texans from San Antonio, Dallas, Austin and Clear Lake.

It surely was nice that front desk took care of the situation, even before we complained.

All our SCSC participants joined at Ann Dorn's condo for the Club Welcome party. Appetizers, Salad and Pizza, beer and wine were provided. Jim Edwards helped Gin Knebel get ready to distribute all lift tickets and TSC Credentials while I was busy cooking and preparing food for the party with my roommate Juel Hill.

Sunday was perfect weather for skiing and some of us got together at Vista House for lunch.

We started warming up for the trip on December 3, 2018 with the pretrip party hosted by our ATC Gin Knebel at her home in Quail Valley. About 30 of us gathered to enjoy food, wine and beer. We also got to know some of our new members who signed up for this trip. Jose Fernandez, who signed up for single supplement, immediately got connected our new members Mo Rafizadeh and Farhad Bozorgmehr. This new friendship made it easy for me to assign these 3 gentlemen as condo mates. Mary Lee Heald wowed the crowd with her Ski Boot Shaped Purse - it was quite the conversational piece! After party was over, I had to call Mary Lee because she forgot to take her purse home.

The TSC Welcome Reception Party coincided with Super Bowl Game day. The Texas Ski Council arranged to open the ballroom at 4 pm, and they set up the big screen for us to watch the Super Bowl game prior to the welcome party. Most of Our Space City Club participants were very prompt and we got the best tables - close to the TV and close to the Taco Bar!

Thirty of our Space City Ski Club skiers flew together via Southwest to Denver and were greeted by Elizabeth from our tour operator Ski White Diamond. Janet McKenzie, Bill Reilly, Dale Allman from Jacksonville, Bill Voltz from Chicago and Dan Lemay from Tulsa joined us on the bus ride from the airport to our Beaver Run Condos in Breckenridge.

Monday was another beautiful day for skiing and Our Tour Operator, Ski White Diamond, offered a Mountain Tour to all TSC members. Leyla, Rita Cardenas, Deb Cini, Nick Morrone, Pete Mathieu and I joined the mountain tour guided by Jamie Alford, the owner of Ski White Diamond. Joan Waddill and Debra Moser are a few others who joined the Mountain Tour with other TSC skiers. Jamie and his staff showed great organization and communication skills during the trip planning, and amazing commitment of service by meeting all the clubs at the airport. I appreciate his efforts!

When we arrived at the condos, Steve & Jeanne Marie Ying, Anne & Thomas Thomas, Ross Baker, David Stotz, Susan Stanley, Keith Kirkman and Craig Campbell were already there. They had spent the previous week with the club skiing in Keystone, then joined us at Breckenridge for the TSC trip.

Since it is the peak season, some of our condos were not ready for us to check in. For those that had to wait, management provided gift certificates to use within the resort.



A lot of SCSC skiers participated poker challenge on the mountain and later joined for BBQ lunch provided by TSC. The same night, we had the club dinner at Ann Dorn and



We had a snow storm Wednesday in the morning. Those who were brave enough to face the snow enjoyed the freshies! Those people thought the skiing conditions were the best, but some of ladies thought it was the best day to go to town for shopping. Leasa & Robert Clements, Cindy and John McGowan, Deb Cini and Nick Marrone thought it was best day for Snowshoeing or Dog Sledding.

Thursday was TSC Race day. Marti Turner, Joan Waddill, Charles Albright, Joe Zurfley, Ashok Moza, Hugh Williamson, David Stotz and Mohammad represented our club and competed with other clubs in the extreme cold and bad conditions. We thank all our brave skiers who skied for our club!!!

Ashok flew in Monday late eve and had to leave as soon as he finished his race on Thursday to go back to his work.

Friday was our last day of skiing, the weather warmed up



and there were wonderful skiing conditions, but a power outage occurred about 8am, affecting the entire county. David Stotz was lucky enough not to get stuck in the elevator as he was heading out to the airport right before the power outage struck. The lifts were not operational, and no one was sure when the outage would be corrected. Some people got the news that chair lifts might not be running all day and decided to pick up their ski gear from ski lockers



or return their ski gear. Jim Edwards, Ron Rambin, Dan Lemay, Susan Stanley are a few who decided not to ski. Charles Albright and Joe Zurfley were about to take a shuttle to Keystone, but then the chair lifts started moving and we could ski at least 4 hours before our Farewell Party.

At the Farewell Party, Anne Thomas' nephew, Hugh Williamson, won Gold medal as best skier of All and Mohammad and David Stotz got Silver medals for their age group. After the awards ceremony we all enjoyed dinner and dancing. As always, Our Space City Club skiers are last ones to leave the dance floor. Did I not hear that our Space City Ski Club created the words to live by: "SKI HARD, BUT PLAY AND DANCE HARDER" ?

The return bus was packed with 43 participants. Beverly and Charles Roberts decided to go to Utah to ski with Keith Kirkman instead of flying back with us. Craig Campbell drove back to Houston and brought back our Club banner to the Monday club meeting for Ali Pethick to take Whitefish trip.

We had the chance to get together 5 times during the trip: the club welcome Party, TSC welcome Party, Poker Challenge/ BBQ lunch on the mountain, Club dinner at Ann's Condo and TSC Farewell Party. After two additional get-togethers for the pre and post trip parties, I feel like this Breckenridge Trip was al-

most a Big Family Trip.

We scheduled our post trip party one week after our trip since a lot of our members signed up for other activities or other ski trips. Nick Morrone graciously opened his house for our Post-Party and it was all worth it for people drive far to tour his new updated mansion and his collection of antique cars. Some of us enjoyed dancing upstairs in his private bar/ disco dancing room.

We all had a great time not only at the slope, but all the time. We all did what we wanted to do - either non-stop skiing, or easy skiing with lots of rest and enjoying the vacation.



Best group of people ever, and it would be an honor to join this amazing group again for other trip. I am already itching for next year skiing. How about you?



SCSC MARCH GENERAL MEETING



STEAMBOAT HOUSE DINNER



CHURRASCO'S HAPPY HOUR



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



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 boat 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.



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!!



SCSC GENERAL MEETING

APRIL 8, 2019

DAVE & BUSTER'S

6010 RICHMOND

6:30PM - 8:30PM

APRIL HAPPY HOUR

1433 N. Shepherd

(Turn on 15th off Shepherd to go to parking lot in back)

Heights Bier Garten

Thursday April 25 5 TO 8:30 PM

Happy Hour prices until 6 PM

1 side has Cocktails for half price \$4 to \$6

1 side has select beer at \$3 and wine half price

No food specials but they have sandwiches, salads, and sausage



Sitzmarke

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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

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