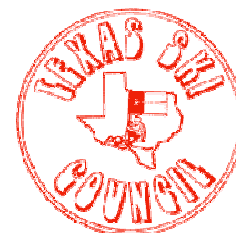


# TSC NEWSLETTER

[www.texas-ski.org](http://www.texas-ski.org)



## A Message From Our President

by Cheryl Mann



We start our new year with a very energetic and talented TSC Board and highly qualified committee chairs. Some of the Trip VPs have already conducted their site inspections and have reported great things! Make sure to check out the website for updated news and information on each of the trips at [www.texas-ski.org](http://www.texas-ski.org).

The energy and positive attitude of the Board was evident during our training meeting the first weekend of May which was held at the Omni Park West who graciously allowed us to use a meeting room. We invited Gene Gilliam, 2009-2010 Race Coordinator, to attend the meeting and discuss some potential race changes for this season. The delegates will have the opportunity

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to make some changes to the race procedures this year.

One decision made during the training meeting was to move the bid meeting to Houston next year. The Marriot West Loop will be the site of the 2010 and 2011 bid meetings. After having the meeting

**Continued on page 5 - See President**

## Breckenridge - TSC Traditional - January 9-17, 2010

by Christine Augustine, VP Traditional

I am a Texan, born and raised on the Mexican border on the extreme southern tip of Texas. Never in my wildest dreams did I ever think I would become an avid skier!

After a previous life in New York City, I moved back to Texas in 1989 and settled in San Antonio. I joined Los Amigos Ski Club to meet people. That simple decision led to a husband, hundreds of friends, and a passionate desire to carve tracks in new snow. Over the past 20 years I have gone on countless ski trips, acted as trip leader more



times than I can remember and served on the board of Los Amigos several times. This is my third year on the Texas Ski Council board. In 2007, I was VP of the trip to Bulgaria and Turkey escorting 127 participants. Last year, I was VP of the spring break trip to Big Sky, Montana with 200 participants. This year I am VP of the Breckenridge trip with 300 participants expected.

Please see **Traditional** on page 4

## Mt. Bachelor, Oregon–Winter Shootout–February 6–13, 2009

by Mary Beth Wilson, VP Winter Shootout

Hello Fellow Skiers! My name is Mary Beth



Wilson and I am really excited to be leading the Mt. Bachelor trip next February 6 – 13. I've been a member of Lone Star Skiers for more than 20 years and recently

joined Dallas Ski Club, so I now enjoy dual memberships. Being a member of Lone Star has given me the opportunity to be an officer, both as

Treasurer and VP of Trips multiple times. In addition, I have had the opportunity to lead numerous trips, both TSC and club, for Lone Star. For the past several years, I have been active in the Texas Ski Council, running BidFest for two years and being Treasurer for the past two years.

The Folks at Mt. Bachelor and I are working hard to make this a memorable trip for everyone. Stay tuned for more updates in future newsletters and on the web.

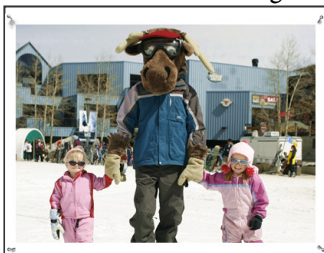
## FALL ROUNDUP at WINTER PARK

November 24–29, 2009

For the second year, TSC Club members will be snowed by the "Authentic Colorado" Winter Park hospitality for the Fall Roundup Thanksgiving trip Nov. 24 – 29, 2009. Many a day has been spent by the expert staff to insure that everyone takes home many memories of a wonderful week of adventure, skiing, snowboarding, relaxation or many other scheduled activities for all.

This is the fifth year for the TSC to promote the TSC Youth Foundation. The Foundation is an ongoing program to encourage children 4-15 to participate in the fun sports of skiing and snowboarding. Again, this year Winter Park Resorts is providing a fantastic affordable Youth Camp. The camp has grown from 33 participants beginning in 2005. There will be activities planned all week to keep the kids having the time of their lives. A continuation of the Wii Guitar Hero Contest, which was very popular last year, will be on the agenda. So kids, be practicing your skills at that guitar so you can win one of the many great prizes. The parents and club members need to start raising funds to sponsor all your kids on the trip in this fun fund raising event for the TSCYF. Ask your club trip leader for the details.

Winter Park Resort guests will get to experience this



year the resort's newest chairlift – The Village Cabriolet. The \$5.8 million, eight passenger lift connects

The TSC Youth Foundation will encourage children to participate for the 5<sup>th</sup> year

by Hazel Love,  
VP Fall Roundup

the free parking lot at the Vintage Hotel to the base of the new Village at Winter Park Resort and is capable of transporting 2,800 passengers per hour with its 39 cabins.



"With the first phase of The Village of Winter Park nearing completion, the addition of the Village Cabriolet is essential to the vibrancy of this new base village. We have envisioned The Village at Winter Park Resort now for many years. The completion of The Village and its cabriolet moves this vision into an exciting reality," said Gary DeFrange, President and Chief Operating Officer for Winter Park Resort.

Spanning a slope length of 1,436-feet, the Village Cabriolet transports skis, snowboards, wheelchairs, and mountain bikes to The Village and back to the resort's free parking area in a matter of minutes. With the cabriolet in place, Winter Park Resort will no longer use a bus for the Vintage Hotel to resort route, however, shuttle service will remain in place for the resort's other free parking lots.

Spanning approximately 20,000 square feet, The Village at Winter Park Resort features new restaurants, shops and real estate opportunities, not to mention new parking at the Village parking garage; an ice skating and fishing pond; better access to free parking via the Village Cabriolet; and more base area lodging with the completion of Fraser Crossing and Founders Pointe. There are two new

See **Fall Roundup** on page 11.



## Important TSC Dates

Aug 8, 2009	Club Dues and Rosters due to TSC Treasurer
Aug 8-9, 2009	Quarterly Delegates Meeting – Odessa
Sep 24-27, 2009	TSC SUMMER MELTDOWN - Port Aransas
Oct 1, 2009	Lodging Requests/Deposits Due for Summer Expedition Trip 2010
Oct 10, 2009	Participation & Activity Fees due to TSC Treasurer for FALL ROUNDUP
Nov 24-29, 2009	TSC FALL ROUNDUP – Winter Park, CO
Nov 25, 2009	Participation & Activity Fees due to TSC Treasurer for TRADITIONAL
Dec 5, 2009	Quarterly Delegates Meeting – Dallas
Dec 7, 2009	Participation Fees due to TSC Treasurer for WINTER EXPEDITION
Dec 23, 2009	Participation & Activity Fees due to TSC Treasurer for WINTER SHOOTOUT
Jan 9-17, 2010	TSC TRADITIONAL – Breckenridge
Jan 15, 2010	TSC 2010-2011 Officer Applications due
Jan 19, 2010	Participation & Activity Fees due to TSC Treasurer for FINAL SHOWDOWN
Jan 15, 2010	Ski Area Bids for 2010-2011 ski season due
Jan 21-30, 2010	TSC WINTER EXPEDITION – Italy
Feb 6-13, 2010	TSC WINTER SHOOTOUT – Mt. Bachelor
Feb 27, 2010	Pre-Select Committee Meetings – Dallas
Mar 5, 2010	Deadline for Bid Meeting Room Reservations & Registration
Mar 5-13, 2010	TSC FINAL SHOWDOWN— Alyeska
Mar 26-28, 2010	Quarterly Delegates Meeting – Houston Ski Area Bid Selection, Officer Election & Installation
Mar 27, 2010	Annual Marketing Survey due
Apr 1, 2010	Participation Fees due to TSC Treasurer for SUMMER EXPEDITION
Apr 24-25, 2010	Officer Training/Planning Meeting & Board of Directors Meeting - TBD
May 10, 2010	Lodging requests accepted for 2010-2011 ski season (After 9:00 am, CDT)
Jun 5, 2010	Quarterly Delegates Meeting - TBD
Sep 25-Oct 4, 2010	TSC SUMMER EXPEDITION - Egypt

### FALL ROUNDUP from page 2

Restaurants open in the new village. Cheeky Monk is a Belgian Beer Café and LIME is a Mexican cantina. There will be more stores/restaurants open in time for the next ski season.

The Village at Winter Park Resort is an exciting addition and marks a milestone achievement in base area development. The Village at Winter Park Resort adds to the almost \$40 million in capital improvements invested on-mountain over the past five years. Now, in addition to great skiing/riding on enhanced terrain and via new chairlifts, Winter Park Resort can offer guests an even better village to play in.

When all is said and done, the new Village is spectacular...with something for everyone, Winter Park now offers your favorite coffee shop, a hearty selection of dining choices, a variety of retail shops, exciting tobogganing and tubing hills, three new terrain parks, a five acre addition dedicated to beginners, enhanced terrain for tree skiing, new intermediate trails, scenic snowcat tours, scenic chairlift rides for foot passengers to The Lodge at Sunspot, ice skating, guided snowshoe tours, evening snow bike excursions plus many other adventures, as well as just relaxing in front of a cozy roaring fire in your condo or community living room. In addition, there are plans for adult fun...a Casino night and Pub Crawl.

For the avid skier the new Eagle Wind triple chair provides access to expanded advanced and expert trails on the backside of Parsenn Bowl. The Panoramic Express is North America's highest high-speed six pack chair ( 12,060 feet above sea level) will takes riders to the top of Parsenn Bowl, Vasquez Cirque and Eagle Bowl.

Winter Park is nestled against the western slope of the Continental Divide, just 70 miles west of Denver. Truly a winter wonderland.



## Aosta, Italy Winter Expedition January 21-30, 2010

by Joyce Bartel - 2010 Winter  
Expedition Coordinator

Skiing is a passion of mine.

I love to travel to different ski destinations each year and get a pin from each area. Sometimes they sit in a box, but they make me happy seeing how many ski resorts I've been lucky enough to visit.

I'm from Akron, OH and tried skiing when I was 18 years old at a little baby mountain called Boston Mills. With no lessons, a little help from a friend to teach me and the fact he forgot to tell me to bend my knees, I can tell you it was a scary experience. Anyway, after moving from Akron to Atlanta, then to Los Angeles, I had the opportunity to move to Denver, Colorado with the airlines. It was so cool to be able to go up to local ski areas, take lessons and enjoy a day of skiing without it being a vacation. When I finally caught on to skiing, it became my passion.



After one more move to Kansas City, I finally ended up in Bedford, TX and have lived in Texas for 30 years. My two children loved to ski, so we took Adventure Tours to Durango several years just to be able to ski each year at a reasonable price. After my husband passed away 10 years ago, I had no one to ski with. I lucked out when Steve Abrey, whom I worked with at GTE and then President of the Dallas Ski Club, encouraged me to join the ski club so I could go on trips and meet neat people. I joined in 1999, and it's been a great ride. Now I'm remarried to a remarkable man whom I met at a Dallas Ski Club event in 2005, and we have 11 incredibly cute grandchildren to spoil. I retired from Verizon when Pat and I married in 2007. Pat likes to ski and we're having a fantastic time traveling, skiing and making memories together.

Please see *ITALY* on page 4

**Traditional** from page 1

In a past life, I owned and operated a travel agency. Prior to this, I was a flight attendant. I have travelled for the past 40 years, circumnavigating the globe four times. The experiences gained on these adventures have been invaluable in my role as trip leader and VP of council trips.

I am now 60 years old and can't wait for the next ski season to begin! I will be taking 300 plus skiers to Breckenridge, Colorado January 9-17, 2010. We will have fantastic skiing, parties and racing.

We are lucky enough to be in Breckenridge



for the annual Uller Festival. This Weeklong celebration of Ullr (pronounced Ooh-ler), the mythical Norse god of Snow, brings a

vivacious energy to legendary Main Street with live entertainment and a bar series, a Nordic event, Ulympics and an ice-skating party. 2010 marks the 151st anniversary, so get ready for more outrageous parties, competition and characters than ever before. Join us to rejoice with Ullr himself and the Texas Ski Council.

What a week!!

**TSC Summer Meltdown  
September 25-27, 2009  
Port Royal Ocean Resort  
Mustang Island - Port Aransas, Texas**



**Royal Blue Lagoon Swimming Pool  
with a Cabana Bar  
Four Heated Spas  
Double Surfin Slide  
Private Boardwalk to the Beach  
Two Lighted Tennis Courts  
Outdoor Shuffleboard  
Water & Sand Volleyball Courts  
Horseshoes, Fishing & Golf**

**DON'T MISS ALL THE FUN!!**

**Contact your club's VP Trips**

**or**

**Sheila Meister - Los Amigos Trip Leader**

[sheilmeister@earthlink.net](mailto:sheilmeister@earthlink.net)

**(830) 708-5578**

**ITALY** from page 3

Some of the positions I've held in the Dallas Ski Club over the last 6 years are VP-Membership, VP-Activities, President-Elect, President and then Past President. In addition to that, I have led many DSC trips to great destinations with fun people. And now I have the opportunity to be Winter Expedition Coordinator for the Texas Ski Council.

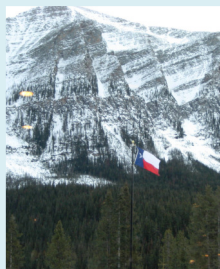
And for all of you, I encourage you to sign up



for the International trip to Aosta, Italy. Mark your calendar for January 21/22 to January 29/30, 2010. It will be an incredible trip. The Aosta Valley is in the northwest corner of Italy sandwiched between France and Switzerland. If you like to ski, join us on this trip. There are 5 world class ski areas that are in or close to Aosta (Aosta-Pila, Courmayeur-Mont Blanc, LaThuile, Valtournenche-Brzail-Cervinia-Zermatt, and Montrosa Ski: Ayas/Gressoney/Alagna). They are known throughout the world for excellent snow and suitable for all levels of skiers. The town of Aosta is a historic city with quaint shops, restaurants, castles, churches and Medieval Art.

We are planning many day tours to the surrounding areas. Hope you will sign up for this trip. More details will be on the TSC website under Trips.





## Texans Invade Canada Lake Louise TSC Winter Shootout February 14-21, 2009

by Lisa Spotts  
VP Winter Shootout



The Texas Ski Council had a marvelous time in Lake Louise. Almost 200 Texans arrived to beautiful blue skies and were greeted at the Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise with the Texas flag flying high, as promised. We had a very busy week skiing four resorts, going on several day trips, attending lots of parties and enjoying all the amenities at our fabulous hotel.

We started the week off with a Welcome Party on the Terrace surrounded by the majestic beauty of the Canadian Rockies and numerous ice sculptures. Everyone stayed warm with wood-burning fireplaces and complimentary hot chocolate with schnapps...very tasty. The TSC Youth Foundation raffle took place at the party with lots of prizes donated by the hotel, area restaurants, the mountain and lots more businesses. The big winner was Michael Hines who won "The Best Seat in the House" prize for the Farewell Dinner. He and seven friends were treated to a special table on the last night that included complimentary wine and were the first to be served.

On Monday, TSC skied at Norquay and had a great time. A group of adventurers headed to Johnston Canyon for an ice hike where they saw lots of frozen waterfalls and icicles. They were even treated to groups

of ice climbers along the way. The group then enjoyed a fabulous lunch before heading back to the hotel.

The TSC skied at Lake Louise Ski Area on Tuesday and Wednesday. We had beautiful blue skies and warmer than normal temperatures. A little more snow would have been nice, but we happily made due with what we had. Another group of Texans headed to Banff for sightseeing, shopping, hot springs and dining in this beautiful village. Wednesday was race day for the TSC and they went off without a hitch. The mountain had a great course and we had several first time racers. There was only one casualty when Geoff Shute fell while he was carrying his skies to the starting gate and sliced his hand open. After a quick fix with duct tape, he decided to race. At the awards party, he received the Purple Hand Award for being the most determined racer. What a trooper!!!

Wednesday night was the Mountain Rocker party at the Lake Louise Ski Area. We were told it would be a dinner and dance. And, BOY, was it!! The evening started out with a contest and we had to Limbo for Dinner! What a hoot!! Then we were treated to prime rib, shrimp and tons of salads and side dishes. The dancing continued with a mambo

Continued on page 10, see **Lake Louise**

### President continued from page 1

in Dallas, San Antonio and Austin in the past, we are excited about trying out our new venue. Please let me know if anyone in your club would like to assist in the planning or working the bid meeting.

Our board is wanting and looking for new and innovative ideas on how we can improve our processes and interaction with our clubs and vendors. Please forward any ideas to me.  
[cheryllmann@yahoo.com](mailto:cheryllmann@yahoo.com)

### Delegates Meeting August 8-9, 2009 Odessa, TX

**Location:** MCM Elegante Hotel  
5200 East University

**Room Rate:** \$119 per night + tax  
(includes full breakfast)

#### Reservations:

Ask for Texas Ski Council rate by July 23  
432-368-5885 or 866-368-5885  
Hotel has a shuttle from the Airport

**Saturday night** – Summer Mummies and dinner  
Cost is \$20 + bus ride + dinner on own  
RSVP to Mike Morris [msmorris@cableone.net](mailto:msmorris@cableone.net)

## It's a Wrap!! Big Sky, Montana – TSC Final Showdown Trip

March 14-21, 2009 – by Christine Augustine, VP Final Showdown

**H**ave you ever heard the term “save the best for last”? Well, that’s just what the TSC did in the 2008/2009 ski season. Big Sky, Montana was the last trip of the year - the spring break trip. And what a trip it was!

Every day but Wednesday was a bluebird day. Brilliant blue clear sky and great temperatures for spring skiing. The views from the mountain tops were post card perfect! The snow quality was beyond reproach. Wednesday, we did get eight inches of fresh powder. To some it was a day for lessons and for the powder hounds it was a day to behold!

Most of the 200 participants stayed at the Huntley Lodge. Each morning we ate a wonderful buffet breakfast that offered everything under the sun while we looked



out the ceiling to floor picture windows giving us a view of the snow conditions and weather. The Crazy Austrian Brothers drew a big crowd every time they were on stage in the bar.

There were other activities to keep us busy. A zip line opened the week we were

there and many took advantage of this new adventure. We skied to the beginning of the zip line and zipped with our ski boots on while our ski equipment was being taken by sled to the end of the zip line. Others went to the national park for either snowmobiling or Artic Cat excursions. Still others went fly fishing! These name only a few of the many other experiences we were offered.

The Texas Ski Council hosted the two traditional parties – Welcome and Farewell. As an experiment, the awards ceremony was held separately from the Farewell party. There was a better than expected turn out to cheer on the individuals and clubs that did the best.

All in all, it was a perfect week!



### THE TREASURER'S REPORT

by Mike Morris

**I**m Mike Morris, the new Treasurer of the Texas Ski Council. Many of you know me from my many years on the TSC Board, Race Committee and just being on trips! This will be my first time to handle the books for any organization. I am confident that with Mary Beth Wilson's assistance I can get through the year without too much heartache.

I am happy to report that the TSC is still in fine financial shape. This year as in the last few, the officers' travel expenses will be our biggest challenge. Club dues need to be turned in to me by the Delegate meeting on August 8th. Please include a copy of your roster from last year. I'll try to send out a reminder a few weeks before any payment deadlines to the TSC.

If you have any questions please feel free to give me a call at (432)366-8036 or drop me an e-mail at [treasurer@texas-ski.org](mailto:treasurer@texas-ski.org). Looking forward to a great year!

### More Fun in Big Sky



## TEXAS SKI COUNCIL 2009-2010 SPONSORS

### PLATINUM

#### Vail Resorts

Vail, Beaver Creek, Keystone,  
Breckenridge & Heavenly Ski Resorts

Alpine Adventures/Ski Europe/Ski Canada

#### Beyond Boundaries

### SILVER

#### Sports America

### BRONZE

Copper Mountain Ski Resort, Colorado  
Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, Wyoming  
Ogden/Weber Convention Visitors Bureau  
Ski.com  
Winter Park Resort

## 2009 SkiBidFest Wrapup

by Anne Myers – Bid Committee Chair

The annual SkiBidFest was held the weekend of April 17-19, 2009, at the Omni Park West Hotel in Dallas, Texas. Close to 200 Ski Club Delegates and guests and Ski Industry Representatives enjoyed the weekend festivities.

Although the rains came on Friday morning and washed out the golf tournament, many people had a great time bowling and playing games at a nearby facility. Others headed into historic Grapevine and had a fabulous time wine tasting. The Round Robin with the Club Delegates and Ski Reps was a great success, followed by a reception in the hotel bar.

Saturday morning came early for the Delegates, as the presentations began at 8:00 am. After a full day of viewing what the mountains had to offer, everyone was eager to relax and enjoy the dinner and party that evening.

Sunday morning was another early affair with the Winter Expedition presentations. After much discussions and voting by the Delegates, the following areas were selected for the 2009-2010 Ski Trips:

- Fall Roundup - **Winter Park, Colorado**  
VP of Trip – Hazel Love
- Traditional – **Breckenridge, Colorado**  
VP of Trip – Christine Augustine
- Winter Shootout – **Alyeska, Alaska**  
VP of Trip – Don Wilson
- Final Showdown – **Mt. Bachelor, Oregon**  
VP of Trip – Mary Beth Wilson
- Winter Expedition – **Aosta Valley, Italy**  
Winter Expedition Coordinator – Joyce Bartell
- Summer Expedition – **Egypt**  
Summer Expedition Coordinator – Rachel Anderson

The **Texas Ski Council** wants to congratulate each of the winners and give out a big **Thank You to the Platinum, Silver and Bronze Sponsors** listed above.

I also want to thank those on the SkiBidFest committees, whose hard work made this SkiBidfest 2009 among one of the most enjoyable.



Members of Space City Ski Club  
attending Bid Meeting in Dallas



## Egypt Cairo and Nile River Cruise Summer Expedition – September 25 to October 4, 2010

**H**ello, fellow Texas skiers. My name is Rachel Anderson and I am proud to be your new Summer Expedition Coordinator. As a member of the Ski Jammers Ski Club of Houston, I have been skiing for 25 years. I have held the offices of Secretary, Vice President, President, Trip Chairperson and Trip Leader. As Trip Leader, I have led trips to The Canyons, Breckenridge, Whistler and Big Sky. I'm looking forward to being on the Texas Ski Council Board and I'm excited to be the Summer Expedition Coordinator.



**by Rachel Anderson,  
Summer Expedition Coordinator**

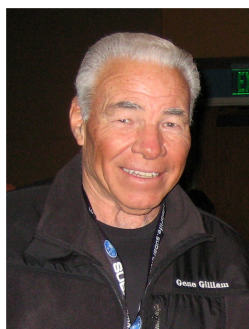
This year our trip will be to Egypt. It is going to be an outstanding opportunity! We will have several

tours combined into one trip. A Nile River Cruise for 4 nights, then Cairo and the Pyramids for 4 nights and finally Alexandria.

We will begin our Egyptian Expedition with a four-night cruise down the Nile from Luxor to Aswan. We will cruise on a 5-star superior river ship.

Our stay in Cairo, the present day capital of Egypt, will include three full days of tours. Each tour includes an English-speaking guide and lunch. The first day we will visit the Pyramids, Sphinx, stepped Pyramids of Sakkara and Memphis. The next two days are city tours of Cairo and Alexandria. In Cairo, we will stay at the 5-star Ramses Hilton Hotel, where breakfast is included.

## Racing Update *by Gene Gilliam, Race Director*



**A**t the Delegates Meeting on June 6, 2009 the TSC Race Committee submitted proposed changes to the Race Rules. These changes will be voted on at the Delgates meeting in August, 2009, in Odessa, TX.

Proposed changes are as follows:

3 age divisions under 50	3 age divisions at 50 & Over
15 & Under	50-59
16-34	60-69
35-49	70 & Over

Also, an award (Larger Medal) will be given to the fastest male and female in the Individual Race.

Do away with the Rule that allows a racer to drop down to a younger age group (Race Rule 7.0).

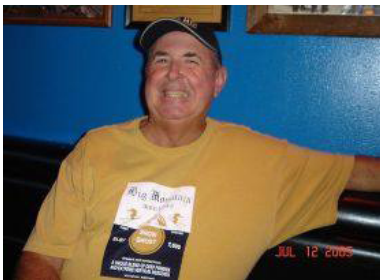
Other issues included the ski resorts responsibility in setting up the Club races and the Individual races, such as, the number of gates for each race and the length of both courses. And, providing a large score board and a loud speaker system to announce the time and/or handicap of each racer. For the awards night, the committee recommended that the awards be held at a happy hour immediately before the dinner.





**George E. Hardin II**  
**June 12, 1950 –**  
**May 10, 2009**

The Texas Ski Council extends its condolences to the family of George Hardin. George was a member of Lone Star Skiers in Dallas and was a very active member. He participated in numerous ski trips over the years, held positions on the Board as Treasurer and VP of Trips, and was a Trip Director several times. He also served on several committees for the TSC.



## *2010 Winter Shootout*

*Alyeska, Alaska*

*March 5 – 13, 2010*

*Don Wilson, VP WSO*



*...more info to come*

## **AND WE ARE OFF TO A WONDERFUL YEAR!**

by Tere Mayne, VP Marketing

Wow! What a great ski season we had this past year and the fun should continue through this coming year as well. My excitement for the Texas Ski Council grows with the beginning of each year as I look forward to the wonderful trips the TSC has to offer. We have some old favorites, a couple of resorts we haven't seen in a while, and even a few new destinations for your club members to enjoy. Breckenridge and Winter Park are those tried and true resorts that just get better each time we visit. Although we have been to both Alyeska and Mt. Bachelor, it has been more than eight years since we last skied either of these amazing mountains on a council trip. And then we have the new, exciting, and maybe even exotic locations in which we have never visited – Aosta Valley, Italy and an Egyptian Cruise down the Nile River. I don't know about you, but I want to go to all these wonderful places.

I have enjoyed serving on the TSC board in many roles over the past years (Treasurer, Trip VP 3 times, Summer Expedition Coordinator, and Secretary), but I

am most excited about being the incoming Marketing VP. My predecessors have done an outstanding job working with the industry representatives and our members clubs in providing wonderful ski and travel destinations throughout the years. The council is regarded by the industry as a top notch professional organization with high integrity, and I will do everything I can to maintain this reputation. All these great relationships are of no value to our member clubs, however, if the information gained is not disseminated to everyone. I will work hard to ensure information is communicated to you accurately and in a timely manner.

At this time I am rounding up the last of the club's Marketing Surveys and as the information is crunched we can see where we, as a council,

See **Marketing** on page 11



## Lake Louise, continued from page 5

line and line dancing. The only regret was that the party ended too early. Fortunately, the group had more entertainment in the Glacier Saloon with live music.

Thursday was a busy day! A group of extreme skiers headed to Kicking Horse for the day. Another group headed out on a tour to the Columbia Ice Fields and a really nice lunch. Others decided to head into Banff or go skiing in Sunshine or Lake Louise. It was a free for all. But everyone had great stories that evening while we danced the night away in the Glacier Saloon at the hotel.

On Friday, most people headed to Sunshine for one last day of skin. There was finally some fresh powder and the group had a great day. That night was the Awards Cocktail Party and Farewell Dinner. Gene Gilliam did a great job announcing all the race winners. Then our Best Seat winners table was served a nice dinner...then everyone else was served.

People had a great time during the week with all the beautiful sunshine doing lots of other fun outdoor activities...snowshoeing, dog sledding, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, hiking, and sleigh rides. Yes, we could have used more snow, but the weather was great and we were able to really enjoy all the outdoor activities.

What a great week!! Ski Canada and the staff at the Fairmount Chateau Lake Louise were great and made everyone in the Texas Ski Council feel welcome. Thanks to all the Trip Leaders for working so hard and bringing such a great group to Canada.



## Japan Expedition/Beijing Extension

January – February 2009

by Steve Abrey, Winter Expedition Coordinator



Another trip of a lifetime, especially with the 39 wonderful travelers who picked up the banner of the Texas Ski Council and headed to Kyoto, Hakuba, Tokyo and Beijing! No luggage was lost, flight connections went smoothly and the hotels were first class.

Kyoto was our first stop. Established in 794, Kyoto remained the hub of civilization in Japan for over a thousand years. Even today, although the capital has moved to Tokyo, Kyoto retains its unique position as the country's historical and cultural heart. Several of our folks saw a lot of traditional kimonos and were even favored with seeing a bride in traditional dress in the hotel lobby. Pam and Scott Doane spent a wonderful afternoon touring many lovely Japanese gardens and Lynn Erickson remembers the beautiful Geishas.

On to Hakuba. Hakuba Valley, located in the heart of the Japanese Alps, is a huge expanse of resorts offering incredible ski terrain. Located in the Nagano Prefecture, Nagano and Hakuba received International attention when hosting the 1998 Winter Olympic Games. Great skiing, but so much more! After a fantastic French lunch on the slopes, the group was off to visit the adorable snow monkeys. Maybe not so adorable after our long, icy hike up the mountain to their hot springs home! Next, a stop for lunch at the historic town of Obuse, home to the beautifully preserved 240 year old Masuichi Sake Brewery. After lunch, and a little more sake, we headed to Nagano City, home to Zenkoji Temple, one of Japan's most revered temples and home to the first image of Buddha brought to Japan in the 7<sup>th</sup> century. Green beer and ice cream topped off our trip to the Wasabi Farm. An amazing farm!



Then, a tour to Matsumoto Castle. It is one of only four castles in Japan that have been designated as a World Heritage Site. So much more to say about Hakuba and the great times we shared with old friends and new friends! Who can forget Pam's karaoke night and the onsen hot springs in the hotel.



Kim Hampton and Bill Elizondo remember sliding down the mountain, as Jerry Montgomery and Steve look on in amazement. And, what about that wonderful goat cheese, made by our tour guide, Rob. A very special experience!

See JAPAN on page 11

Save the DATE !!!



Bidfest 2010

March 26-28

Marriott West Loop  
Houston, TX



## *Notes From the Secretary*

*I am Lisa Spotts and this is my first year to serve as the Secretary for the TSC, after leading the Winter Shootout to Lake Louise last year. I've been a member of Lone Star Skiers in Dallas for 10 years and I've led numerous trips and held several positions on their Board. I'm also a member of the Dallas Ski Club.*

*As the Secretary, it is my job to record the minutes from the delegate and board meetings accurately and to ensure the board is kept aware of action items and when they are due. I also keep the records for the TSC. In addition, I create this newsletter three times a year. Please send me your club newsletters so I know what fun things you are doing. I'm always looking for great pictures to feature in the newsletter,*

*...so please send them to [secretary@texas-ski.org](mailto:secretary@texas-ski.org).*



## **Marketing from page 9**

spend our ski/travel dollars. I know this past ski season was difficult for all of our clubs as trip participation was way down. We all know there were several factors for this down turn – Hurricane Ike in late summer, jobs layoffs of our members, and the down market which affected the overall economy. All in all, I feel the TSC member clubs still had an impact on the ski and travel industry. With our next issue, I should have more information on just how much of an impact we had and where.

Your comments and suggestions are always welcomed. Please let me know if you think a bid process should be changed or even eliminated. Stay cool this summer and keep thinking about SNOW!



Reps attending Bid Meeting for the 1<sup>st</sup> time receive a "special" welcome toast

## **Japan** continued from page 10

After the quiet of Hakuba, it was off to Tokyo for a quick visit via the amazing Bullet Train. Fast-paced, energetic and busy, Tokyo provided our group with a myriad of memories as we all explored the city on our own using Tokyo's elaborate system of trains and subways. How about tea in the Park Hyatt hotel, home to the movie, "Lost in Translation?" Sarah Koldyke and Mary Ray even took a one day trip to Nikko, a splendid shrine complex just outside of the city.



We bid goodbye to Mt. Fuji, our wonderful guides, heated toilet seats and bidets and an amazing population of polite and gracious Japanese citizens. Some of our travelers

headed home and some headed to Beijing for a week long post trip.

Beijing, capital of the People's Republic of China, is the political, cultural and tourist center of the country. And, tour it we did! With very few breaks during the day and very few complaints, our group left the hotel at 8 in the morning, sometimes not arriving home until 8 that evening. We were walked out, a little exhausted, but amazed by all we had seen, done and, yes, eaten! Almost straight off the plane from Tokyo, we headed for the 2008 Olympic Village to see and tour the Bird's Nest and the Watercube, both feats of architectural ingenuity and design. We visited the Temple of Heaven, Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City and the Summer Palace, all rich in history, tradition and largeness. We were intrigued by the large groups of 50 plus year old retired adults enjoying the park areas and practicing Tai-Chi, calligraphy, dancing, cards and a variety of sports. Muriel Mimura and Kim Hampton celebrated their birthday together at the Great Wall of China. Later, our wonderful guide, David, provided us with a surprise birthday cake. We went to a performance of the "Legend of Kung Fu", attended a special acrobatic show and saw the Giant Panda Bears at the zoo. We ate Peking Duck, lots of rice and vegetables, silk worms and insects. We visited a silk factory, a pearl factory and a tea house with many shopping opportunities at the factories and many other outlets. Good prices and good bargaining usually prevailed! A fond memory was our lunch in the Hutong (old lane) district, followed by a rickshaw ride through the area. Such a contrast to the lives of those living in the high rises of the city!

Thank you to all of our participants for making this such a memorable, special and fantastic trip!



***Special  
contributors  
to the success  
of the TSC***



Linda Raymer,  
TSC Webmaster



Peggy Montgomery,  
TSC Past President



Division I: Lone Star  
Skiers won first place!



Division II: Clear Lake  
took the cup!



Division III: Dallas  
Ski Club wins the cup!



3001 S. Hardin #110-128  
McKinney, TX 75070