

TSC NEWSLETTER

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NEWSLETTER 12-13
VOLUME 3



We Need Your HELP!

How? You ask. To help the TSC and the delegates decide on which of these wonderful, exciting, interesting, different (you pick the adjective) destinations being offered we should select for 2014.

The Pre-select Committee, headed up by Gary Roth, has done an awesome job of presenting us a slate of potential trips for 2014. Now it is your job to assist your club and the TSC on which ones make the cut. Your club wants to know your opinion about the slate of trips because it is important we select the places YOU want to visit, be it for skiing or touring.

Should you elect to participate in the selection process, make your reservations NOW for the Drury Plaza Hotel in downtown San Antonio before our excellent room rate goes up. Then register for the Ski BidFest before March 15th at: <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=z6xftyab&oeidk=a07e6x8qmx3f8ef1b0> Or check the TSC website (texas-ski.org) for more details.

For those of you who have been to a Ski BidFest weekend, then you know the fun that is in store. But if you have never been, below is a list of what to expect starting with the hotel.

Hotel: The Historic Drury Plaza has been restored from the previous Alamo Bank Building. It features stunning architecture, comfortable rooms and suites, a rooftop pool and Drury's famous free extras. Best of all, their riverside doors offer direct access to the beautiful San Antonio River Walk. Room rates will be \$130.00 per standard room and \$140.00 per suite, plus applicable taxes per night

with reservations made by March 15, 2013. (After that date, regular room rates will apply.) Hotel guests receive complementary hot breakfast and 5:30 Kickback with appetizers and adult beverages. Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-325-0720 or www.druryhotels.com and give them the Texas Ski Council group number of 2123830.



This is what your \$65 Activity Fee gets you during the weekend (\$75 after March 15th):

Friday, April 5:

- TSC Golf Scramble Challenge or River Boat Excursion (additional fee)
- Early Registration, Reception with cash bar and appetizers
- Round Robin (club delegates and industry reps)
- The San Antonio Riverwalk

Saturday, April 6:

- Bid presentations from ski areas (some new destinations and some of your favorites)
- Lunch

**2013 Texas Ski Council
Ski BidFest
San Antonio, Texas
April 5-7, 2013**

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- Ski BidFest Vendor Show, which attracts over 30 ski resorts and other travel and ski related vendors
- Club Caucus
- Silent Auction with great items donated from participating vendors and ski clubs.
- Buffet dinner and cash bar
- Racing award presentations and golf tournament winners
- The San Antonio Riverwalk

Sunday, April 7:

- Final Bid Presentations
- Announcements of 2014 Destinations

As you can see the weekend is very full of activities and fun things to do and hear. So make your plans now to attend the 2013 TSC Ski BidFest in San Antonio. We want to know where in the world YOU want to ski and travel in 2014. And did I mention, the hotel is right on the San Antonio Riverwalk? See you there. Tere

FROM GARY ROTH, TSC MARKETING

It's that time of the year again, no not ski season, time to plan the trips for next year. Bids started to arrive shortly after New Year's and kept coming in until mid February. This is not a one man job, it takes a team and I had great people helping me:

- Tony Arthur from the Dallas Ski Club
- Charles Chapman from Young at Heart Skiers
- Jan Ferrell from Space City
- Vanisha Mallory from Los Amigos
- Glenn Strother from Lone Star
- Jana Toy from Club St. Bernard

A big Thank You to the Preselect Committee.

So here are the trips that will be presented at the Ski Bidfest Meeting in San Antonio:

Traditional (early to mid January):

- Banff offered by SkiGroup.net
- Mammoth offered by Mammoth Mountain Ski Area
- Park City offered by Sports America
- Whistler offered Winter Ski & Sports

Winter Shootout (early to mid February):

- Jackson Hole offered by Sports America
- Keystone offered by Ski.com

- Lake Louise offered by Ski Canada/Alpine Adventures
- Whistler offered Winter Ski & Sports
- Winter Park offered by Ski.com

Final Showdown (early to mid March):

- Crested Butte offered by Crested Butte Mountain Resort
- Keystone offered by Sports America
- Mammoth offered by Mammoth Mountain Ski Area
- Winter Park offered by Ski.com

Winter Expedition:

- Eastern Europe offered by Snow Tours
- Garmisch-Partenkirchen offered by Holidaze
- Japan offered by Snow Tours
- Madesimo Italy offered by World on Skis

Summer Expedition:

- Croatian Cruise offered by Snow Tours
- New Zealand offered by Active Adventures
- Paris to London Bicycle Trip offered by Bike Tours Direct
- South Africa offered by Alpine Adventures

You will not want to miss these presentations.

Register for Bidfest now!

Important TSC Dates	
March 9-16, 2013	TSC FINAL SHOWDOWN— Big Sky, MT
April 1, 2013 *	Participation Fees due to TSC Treasurer for SUMMER EXPEDITION
April 5-7, 2013	Quarterly Delegates Meeting – San Antonio Ski Area Bid Selection, Officer Election & Installation
April 7, 2013	Annual Marketing Survey due to VP Marketing
May 4 & 5, 2013	Officer Training/Planning Meeting & Board of Directors Meeting - TBD
May 6, 2013	Lodging requests accepted for 2013-2014 ski season (After 9:00 am, CDT)
June 1, 2013	Quarterly Delegates Meeting - Dallas
Sept 6-14, 2013	TSC SUMMER EXPEDITION - Ireland



Vail- TSC Fall Roundup 2012- REPORT

By Linda Raymer, VP Fall Roundup linda@texas-ski.org

SMALL TRIP-BIG FUN!

In Mid December, 42 hopeful TSC members converged on Vail. They were awarded with Snow, Friends, Stellar Shopping & Dining and a Premier Resort.

We had a wonderful week of memories made by the collaboration of Los Amigos and Austin Skiers. Included were a sprinkling of members from other TSC clubs. We were happy to welcome seven new TSC club members. Many folks began their trip by attending the Vail 50th anniversary musical celebration and fireworks show.

Mother Nature cooperated and the talented Vail snow making and grooming teams kept us on the hill and smiling! Everyday folks were pleasantly surprised and came off the mountain grinning and recounting a great day on the snow.

Our accommodations were at Landmark and Vail Spa in Lionshead Village. Both properties were convenient to the gondola and the public transportation. Accessing shopping and eating was a breeze. Non skiers certainly took advantage of shops and spas!

The 50th Anniversary Celebration offered lots of opportunities for us. On Sunday, we were able to demo skis and boards free via DEMO DAZE at the base of Gondola One. Vail and Lion's Head Village are magical at Christmas. All during the week carolers rambled through the villages, decorations were magical, and the plethora of shopping and dining opportunities were plentiful.

We began the week together at the Sunday Welcome Party and Wine Tasting at Vail Spa. Andrew Kwang, our Vail rep, was "Johnny on the spot" with plentiful "eats" and Sara Clemons of Sports America made sure the vino was flowing!

One evening, Los Amigos Trip Leader Glenn Boeck, crafted a special dinner at the Vistas Country Club. Everyone was invited to attend. We took vans over to our special evening of fantastic food, spirits and a piano bar. Many thanks to Glenn for orchestrating this evening!



Vail offered a special week of free access to the Black Forest race course. Our avid racers loved the sound of "free" and had great fun zipping down the gates.

Hot tubbing is always a popular activity after a vigorous day on the slopes. It was fun to see the tub filling up day after day from my balcony! Hello hot tubbers!

The week wrapped up with a Farewell Party at the elegant Tavern on the Square. We had fabulous food and the free libations kept flowing. It was a casual style gathering with participants reminiscing the week of fun. Since we didn't have formal TSC Races, we engaged our competitiveness by having a Vail Trivia contest. Each club fielded a team and iPhone research was allowed!

One thing we know; we are passionate about winning on and off the mountain. Austin squeaked by and answered one more question correctly, but each team was very crafty at finding answers to some very obscure questions!

How good are you at Trivia?

1. Where did the name "Vail" originate?
2. How much was a lift ticket when the resort opened?
3. What is the longest run on Vail Mountain?

Many new friendships were forged throughout TSC participants. Many thanks again to Sara Clemons of Sports America, Andrew Kwang of Vail Resorts and the Trip Leaders from Austin and Los Amigos. Your flexibility



and persistence made our Vail experience a reality.



Your dedication shined! Another thanks goes to all the participants who helped create a pre-Christmas adventure.

See you soon on another TSC trip!!



Steamboat Springs – TSC Traditional 2013 - REPORT

By Marsha Lutz, VP Final Showdown

Steamboat provided lots of special events and surprises for us during their 50th Anniversary Week. We had participants from 9 ski clubs – Armadillo, Austin Skiers, Capital Downhill, Clear Lake, Club St. Bernard, Lone Star, Los Amigos, Space City and Twisters. Most everyone arrived Saturday afternoon and evening without incident. Once darkness fell, we were treated to a beautiful torchlight parade and a spectacular fireworks show that went on for a good while. Billy Kidd lit the cauldron which was burning brightly every evening – next to the 50-year old gondola car (which has been grounded for many years!)



Another surprise was how fast the temperature dropped Saturday night. The first few nights saw lows of a biting cold -26°F! Sunday and Monday the highs were barely above 0° – but at least there was no wind and the sun was out. And we were lucky that there had been at least 3 big snowfalls during the weeks prior to our arrival, so the mountain was completely open.

The Sunday night Welcome Party provided more surprises. One was a visit from Olympian Billy Kidd who gave us a ski pep talk, signed posters and posed for photographs. He told us that Steamboat has the proud distinction of being home to more Olympians than any other place – reportedly more than 60 over the years. More fun occurred as Andy Rossbach (Steamboat rep)

and I gave out more than 30 door prizes. It was unbelievable how generous the local establishments were. We had so many prizes that we had lots for the Final Awards Party as well. Thank you Steamboat! In between all of the prize drawings and poster signing, TSC's own Dave Thomas was entertaining us with his song and music.



Despite the cold weather, we had a fair number participate in the downtown Steamboat Springs Pub Crawl. A few made it to all four stops (Old Town Pub, Sweetwater Grill, Carl's and Ghost Ranch Saloon), but most people landed at Old Town Pub so they could hear more from Dave Thomas.

Because it was so cold, a repeat Mountain Tour was offered on Tuesday. Yours truly participated in it and learned some new interesting facts that I had not heard on any of my five previous visits. There is a unique weather station called Storm Peak Lab near the top of Mt. Werner used by scientists from all over the world as these mountain top weather labs are rare. We also learned that the race timing shack is the oldest building on the mountain – was the first lift ticket office.

From Wednesday on, there was a warming trend and we skied in warm 20°+ weather. But we must have chased the cold to Dallas because sleet delayed the LSS short trip. We thought the flight might get pushed back to Wednesday but Hopper pulled some tricks out of his magic bag and his group got to town in time to meet us at the SportsAmerica Kendall wine tasting event held at the Olympic Hall in downtown. The next day some



of the group took a day off to do some non-skiing activities. Snowmobiling and snowshoeing seemed to be the most popular choices, but a couple more adventurous types did some snow cat skiing in the back

country.

Thursday was a great day for racing – clear and warm. Steamboat provided a fellow Texan to do the race announcing. Matt told a lot of local lore/info in his Texas drawl - making us feel home while away from home. The picnic was great with lots of food. Steamboat made an extra effort to get non-skiers to the picnic area. Just one more example of how they were always ready to help and ensure we had a good time. Western hospitality at its best! Heh - take a look at Andy's hat in photo below!



Our Final Awards party was once again held in the Champagne Powder Room at the top of the gondola building. We were served Western Barbeque. I was told we would love it and I have never heard so many people compliment a meal. Prior to the food and fun music by a great band named SunDog, race results were presented.

The results for the CLUB RACES were as follows:

	Division I	Division II	Division III
1st Place	Austin	Armadillo	Saint Bernard
2nd Place	Space City	Twisters	Capital Downhill
3rd Place	Lone Star	Clear Lake	

The woman with the fastest time in the club races was Kimber Gurss and the fastest man was Greg Bryant. Kimber was also our youngest racer. A special award was given to James Doolley – our oldest racer. James got a silver NASTAR medal at age 93! In our minds, this amazing accomplishment was worthy of a gold so he was presented with a TSC medal as well.



Awards for the INDIVIDUAL RACES included:

Female	21-34	35-49	50-59	60-69	70+
1st	K. Gurss	M. Reininger	J. Cobb	C. Bonn	
2nd	K. Wheeler	S. Owen	J. Bayly-Bryant	B. Herman	
3rd	A. Smith	S. Meister	J. Young		
Male	21-34	35-49	50-59	60-69	70+
1st		M. Aubin	G. Bryant	B. Fennel	R. Vanoni
2nd		J. Montreuil	L. Horwitz	R. Harvey	L. Kiplin
3rd		E. Reininger	D. Pennington	D. Hensley	K. Walton

This reflects some small adjustments we caught during the awards announcements (blame it in our race computer issues!). We won't take away any one's medal, but we may still owe a couple of you a chunk of metal to hang around your neck.

I heard from many that they really had a nice time in Steamboat. That is due in large part to our tour operator SportsAmerica and all the great Steamboat staff. And, of course because of the efforts of all the great trip leaders, race directors and TSC officers and the camaraderie of a great group of participants! Thank you all for making this a memorable trip. Until next season...



Granada, Spain – TSC Winter Expedition 2013 - REPORT

By Derlyn Gordon, Winter Expedition Coordinator

If you missed the Winter Expedition of 2013 to Spain, all I can say is "so sorry"! We had a marvelous time! It had been raining for two weeks before we arrived but the Americans brought sunny skies to Spain as the weather was perfect. We enjoyed a few tapas as we toured the cities.

Sixty-five people had an amazing time in Barcelona. It definitely became the favorite city in Spain for many. The architect, Gaudi, has his name all over the city. Some would comment that obviously Gaudi did not design the handrail for these stairs as it did not ergonomically fit your hand as his handrails did! Gaudi was a man of curves. Nothing he designed or



built was straight. Gaudi is known for Sagrada Familia, Casa Milia, Casa Batllo, and Park Guell. Other places visited in Barcelona were the Las Ramblas, Barri Gotic Quarter with the cathedral, the Barcelona History Museum with the Roman city remains, the Picasso Museum in El Born district, the Santa Caterina Market,

Joan Miro Museum and the Block of Discord. Overlooking the city is Montjuic, a high point to show off the city and port. Just outside Barcelona, we visited Montserrat, the Monastery, where we heard the Boy's Choir.

Next we boarded the train to Granada. The Americans with "our two weeks' worth of luggage," were packed into our tiny cabins! We traveled overnight and tried to get some much needed rest—not! In Granada, we were joined by the other sixty-eight people for a total of one hundred thirty-three people from seven clubs. Here we enjoyed skiing the Sierra Nevada in the Andalucía Mountains and touring the area.

The first day was touring the Senorio De Nevada Winery or skiing. The famous Alhambra, a favorite of many in



Granada is a beautiful historical palace occupied by the Moors for 250 years. In 1492, the Catholic Monarchs, Ferdinand and Isabella forced the Moors to

leave. Becoming a fortress in the ninth century until, it once again became a palace in the fourteenth century. Then in the sixteenth century King Carlos V demolished parts to construct a new palace. The Generalife Gardens surrounding the palace are beautiful. (Insert picture of Alhambra) The city tour of Granada showed us the Corral del Carbon, Alcaiceria Market, Plaza de Bib-Rambla, the Cathedral, Royal Chapel, Plaza Isabel La Catolica where Columbus unfurled the contract to Queen Isabella, Plaza Nueva, Paseo de Los Tristes-- "Walk of the sad Ones," with the

Moorish baths, the Albayzin, the old Moorish quarters with San Nicolas Viewpoint of the Alhambra. The Sacromonte district is the Roma community where the Flamenco dancing, the Zambra, was enjoyed in the caves. Here the Gypsies are abundant with music and wares set up on the narrow streets.



That night we had a fabulous party at the El Capriccio. First we enjoyed a horse show and training bull fighters working with a young bull to give us a taste of a what a real bull fight would be like. We were served hot drinks and dessert. Next we headed inside for an open bar, snacks, and dancing to a DJ. Numerous people commented that this was our best TSC party ever!



On Tuesday, the skiing was a little icy but everyone still enjoyed the slopes and the weather. The non-skiers enjoyed a scenic excursion to Alpujarras, the most fertile area in Spain. While on Wednesday, we either skied again or toured the villages of Ubeda and Baeza. Grove after grove of olive trees were seen as they also saw the Sacra Capilla of Our Savior, St Mary Synagogue, and Museum of Olives.

Thursday morning we boarded the buses for Torremolinos. Soon after our arrival in the beautiful Mediterranean coastal city, we left for a tour of Gibraltar. This interesting tour explained the military significance of the Rock of Gibraltar in World War II. We saw Europa point, St. Michael's cave, and the Baboon Monkey Reserve. Our last day,





merchants almost attacked you trying to sell their wares. However, they were glad they went so that they could experience a bit of Africa. Others spent a relaxing day on the beach across from our hotel and

some had a very long day to Tangiers. It was quite a cultural shock compared to Spain. Most could not believe how dirty it was and how the

a bit of shopping in the San Miguel Market.

Twenty five people left for Madrid the next morning while the rest of us headed back to Texas. While on the post trip to Madrid, they enjoyed the cities of Seville, Cordoba, Toledo, and of course, Madrid. The Royal Palace and the Prada Museum were highlights in Madrid.

As you can tell from this account, we were going, going, going the entire time and saw many things in these Spanish cities. All of the comments were that we all had a wonderful time in Spain! I know I loved it!

Telluride – TSC Winter Shootout 2013 - REPORT

By Christine Augustine, VP Winter Shootout

The snow gods were kind to the TSC once again! Telluride had marginal snow and very low temperatures until the day our group arrived. We got lots of new snow and the sun came out so we had bluebird days nearly all week! It was as close to a perfect week as anyone could ask for!

The group of 264 was dispersed over 6 different lodging properties. We had some transportation issues the first 24 hours but those got straightened out and seemed to work well for the rest of the week.



The Welcome party was held at the Telluride Convention Center. It was a huge success! Our own TSC member, Dave Thomas played his foot stomping, hand clapping, sing-along and very danceable music much to everyone's

delight. The food served was outstanding and there was an abundance of the tasty treats. I have never before, on a TSC trip, heard so many compliments regarding the food.

On Thursday, the races were well attended by 142 participants for the club race and about 60 for the individuals. There were no injuries during the races. The Telluride staff and Nastar staff were excellent with helping us organize before, during and after the races. We did things a bit differently this year. The TSC reps, who were working the TSC race computer, were nowhere near the race course but in the village toasty warm in an office. They received the information they needed via a real-time feed

over the internet. We also were able to give them the information they needed electronically. All went extremely well!



Immediately following the races, the TSC sponsored a Valentine party at Goronno Ranch. We had a keg of beer and a great potato bar. It was a beautiful sunny day so many stayed out on the deck. Dave Thomas was set up inside and once again entertained us with his music. He also read the "dysfunctional Valentine" cards written by each club. There were hoots, jeers and much laughter over the cards.

Friday at 5:30pm we gathered again at Telluride Convention Center for our awards presentation. This was immediately followed by our Farewell banquet. It was a festive atmosphere where we enjoyed a delicious plated meal. To complete the scene, the DJ spun records while





we danced the night away.

All in all, it was a week filled with new snow, brilliant sunshine, good

friends and an all around great trip!



A NOTE FROM YOUR TSC SECRETARY:

I have appreciated the opportunity to serve as your Secretary for the past three years and look forward to the chance to serve the TSC in some future capacity. - Ross Baker

TEXAS SKI COUNCIL SPONSORS 2012/2013

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