

# TSC NEWSLETTER

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NEWSLETTER 14-15  
VOLUME 8



## A Message from Our President

By Camille La Roe —  
President

It seems like just yesterday when we were in San Antonio at our annual Bid Fest selecting the 2014/2015 slate of trips and now we are in the twilight hours of our adventures! By the time this article is read we will have traveled to Beaver Creek, Madesimo, Mammoth and Breckenridge but luckily still have the expectations of Tuscany in our future! We wish away our days during the hot Texas summer for those ski travels to begin and then in a blink of an eye the year has passed. Good news is we can start working on the 2015/2016 adventures and start making plans all over again! The fun never ends!



Marsha Lutz, VP of Marketing and her pre-select committee, composed of a diverse group of club members, are plowing through the RFP's received from our vendors as we speak. They are reviewing all of the proposals received for domestic and international trips and will convene as a group in Dallas on March 14th to whittle the prospects down to our final slate for Bid Fest presentations.

If you haven't made reservations for Bid Fest 2015, April 10 – 12, in San Antonio don't delay. We will be having a blast at the Drury Plaza in San Antonio. Peggy Montgomery has once again volunteered to organize the festivities and that guarantees a great event in itself. A new charity activity has been added on Friday afternoon and will benefit the Texas Youth Foundation. It is being organized by Shannon Owens from Capital Ski and Adventure and President of the TYF. We will be going to the new Top Golf location which should provide a great experience for both the golfer and non golfer. All you have to do is swing a club and try to hit your micro-chipped balls into a dartboard-like target. It's competitive! Its loads of fun no matter your golfing experience! Saturday and Sunday we get down to business with presentations on the final bid selections being made by our vendors. Some presentations are creative with

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costumes and themes but all the presentations provide you and the delegates with detailed facts and figures on the proposed destinations. While your club's official delegates vote on the proposed slate and the final destinations you as a TSC club member can participate in the final selections simply by attending. You can provide your delegates with your input on where you would like to see you, your club and the TSC traveling next season! The better input we have into our destinations the larger the participation we will have by happy club members next season! Happy participants mean a stronger TSC and stronger clubs!

Our current TSC board will meet as a group for the last time before Bid Fest in March. It is another milestone that is hard to believe is passing. It will be with a heavy heart to mark the moment. I want to thank all of our Board and Committee Chairs for the commitment to the TSC this past year. Volunteers are hard to find but we had a great group this year. We had three new VP's of Trips who all put together exceptional trips for the council. Thank you Mary Wine, Sarah Granbery and Zoe Wright. Your hours of dedication are what make our council exceptional. George Kelly and Ross Baker returned to the Board this year and kept the wheels of the train on the track. Marsha Lutz has been a tireless asset as VP of Marketing which will be evident in the Bid Fest presentations. Tere Mayne has been an invaluable resource for me personally as the new TSC President and I can't begin to express my gratitude. Thanks again to the BOD, Delegates and Committee Chairs for making 2014//2015 another successful year for the TSC!

See ya'll in San Antonio!

## TRIPS and More TRIPs – So Many Great Options!

By Marsha Lutz, VP of Marketing

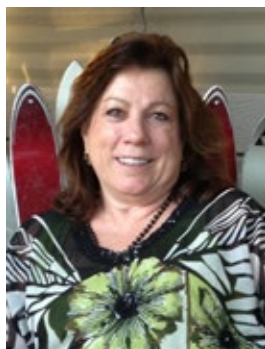
Wow! What an array of trip bids we received for the 2016 season! The reviews and meetings of the Pre-Select Committee is just the first step in a long process of trip planning. But this step is very important and it takes a team of people willing to spend a considerable amount of time getting into the details of the bids to come up with the slate of finalists. I had the following great people serving on the committee:

- Sandy Ellison, Flatlanders Ski Club;
- Jan Ferrell, At Large Member – Space City Ski & Adventure Club;
- Kathleen Kurzejeski, Capital Ski & Adventure Club;
- Laurel Levin, At Large Member, Dallas Ski Club;
- Nancy Roth, Austin Skiers & Boarders
- Andrea Yowman, Houston Ski Jammers

A big Thank You to all of you on the Pre-Select Committee. I really appreciate your help!

After detailed deliberations at our Pre-Select meeting in Dallas on March 14th, the committee came up with the following trips to be presented at the April 10-12, 2015 BidFest Meeting in San Antonio.

TSC members - You will not want to miss these presentations. More importantly, you will want to be a part of your club's caucus and decision making. So if you haven't already, register for BidFest now!



## TSC BidFest Trip Finalists

### Traditional

Banff - Ski Canada Holidays  
Crested Butte - SkiGroup.net  
Snowmass - Sports America  
Sun Valley -SkiGroup.net  
Whistler - Winter Ski & Sport

### Winter Shoot Out

Banff - SkiGroup.net  
Crested Butte - SkiGroup.net  
Sun Peaks - Ski Canada Holidays  
Telluride- Sports America

### Final Showdown

Banff - Sports America  
Crested Butte - Sports America  
Lake Louise- Ski Canada Holidays  
Quebec - Ski.com  
Whistler - Winter Ski & Sport

### Winter Expedition

Andorra - Andorra  
Banff - SkiGroup.net  
Costa Rica - Collette  
Quebec - Ski.com

### Summer Expedition

Barge/Bike Tour on Danube River -  
Bike Tours Direct  
Greece - Collette  
Iceland - Holidaze  
Imperial Cities of Europe - Collette  
Whitefish -Whitefish Mountain Resort



# Madesimo, Italy - TSC Winter Expedition 2015 Report

By Tere Mayne, TSC Expeditions Coordinator

## MADESIMO – THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!

We had a total of 63 people from 6 clubs attend the trip to Madesimo. At Christmas the resort was pretty empty as there was very little snow. By the time the TSC arrived they had gotten 12 feet of snow. Yes that is feet! Snow was everywhere making it difficult for the buses to get to one of the hotels (mine). From what I heard the skiing was fabulous except for the wind a couple of days. It did manage to snow a few more inches while we were there making the skiers happy. Unfortunately for our skiers, 6 or 8 inches fell our final evening making it interesting for our descent down the mountain.

Hotel Le Meridiana, my hotel, was charming with typical European touches. The staff was enjoyable, attentive to our needs and a few spoke English. Hotel Andossi, where the majority of our people stayed, was also very nice with excellent amenities and English speaking staff. From what I hear, the staff went above and beyond catering to everyone's needs especially at breakfast where the chef was cooking eggs to their order. And in typical Italian style, the food was superb and way too plentiful in both hotels. By the 3rd night most people adjusted their ordering style and choose two of the first course instead of the heavy second course. Wine at both hotels was very reasonably priced. Most evenings you could see groups enjoying several bottles of wine with dinner and maybe even an after-dinner drink of Grappa. Speaking only for my group of dining companions, we were usually the first to sit for dinner, but generally the last to leave the room, having too much fun talking, drinking and planning the next day's adventure. I really think the staff missed having the wine drinking American once we left.

Madesimo is a small remote village at the top of the mountain. Even though the elevation at the base was about 4500 feet, it took about 45 minutes to get up the mountain from the next larger town of Chiavenna. Not that it was a long distance, but it had 27 hairpin turns up the mountain. That was just counting the 180 degree turns and not the other 90 degree or so curves along the mountain road. Now mountain passes don't normally bother most people in a car, but doing this in a 55 passenger bus adds some excitement to the drive especially when sitting in the front row. On our first morning arriving at the top, everyone in my bus gave the driver a standing ovation for his expert driving skills. For those planning to just ski Madesimo, the long route

up and down the mountain was not a problem as we were staying at the top. However, for those taking the day excursions, they got to experience the 27 hairpin turns several more times.

We did have 6 excursions during our week long trip. There were two different days of Italian cooking classes by 2 chefs. In my class we learned how to cook Risotto the Italian way which is much firmer than we usually have it at home. We also were shown how to make Tiramisu from scratch including the lady fingers, but it takes much more time than I am willing to spend. So I plan to continue to purchase this wonderful dessert in the future. The other class learned how to make pizza dough and pasta from scratch and then prepared 3 wonderful dishes.



Our first excursion out of Madesimo was to the Lake Como area with lunch in the village of Bellagio which is where the lake splits into two branches. Participants were also treated to a ferry ride across the lake. On Tuesday afternoon, we had a well attended, half day trip to the town of Chiavenna where we had a lovely walking tour of the old town by the local guide from the tourist office. Then we boarded the bus to go visit Mamete Prevostini Winery to taste their house wines along with the local cheeses, sausages and breads of the area. Everyone was quite happy on the return trip up the mountain to Madesimo as we were through the 27 hairpin turns and back at our hotels before we knew it, just in time for dinner. In addition, Wednesday, about twenty people did a day trip into Milan to shop, explore the sites and eat. There was no tour of the city, so everyone did something different during the day, but all did see the beautiful Duomo, Milan's showpiece cathedral with an amazing roofline and most walked down Via Dante, the grand pedestrian boulevard and popular shopping area. The city cen-





ter was a great place to stroll and appreciate Italian fashion design both in the windows and on the local office workers.

I must say the best excursion was our Thursday trip to St Moritz by way of the UNESCO World Heritage Bernina train. We traveled 2 hours to Tirano to board the train to the cosmopolitan resort of St. Moritz, Switzerland. Most of us had no idea what beautiful sites were in store for us. This panoramic train lets you experience the beauty of the Alps in total comfort and style. The entire line is characterized by a series of breathtaking landscapes, through numerous tunnels, over more than 60 bridges and viaducts, including the famous Circular Viaduct of Brusio, and then curving up to a height of 2,200



meters passing the majestic setting of Lake Bianco and by the Bernia region's mighty glaciers to the world's most expensive ski resort – St. Moritz. This train route is a masterpiece of civil engineering and one not to be missed. This well attended trip had both skiers and tourist.

We pulled into the train station of San Moritz about 11am just as our cloudy snowy day turned to beautiful sunshine; however it was still very cold outside. About 12-14 people walked from the train station with their ski equipment up to slopes of San Moritz to ski at this world famous resort for the afternoon. The other 30 or so people just strolled the winding,



steep streets of the town to eat, window shop and people watch. Fortunately for us, there was much activity in town that day (great for people watching) as they were playing the Snow Polo World Cup matches on the frozen Lake St. Moritz. A few of us ventured up to the renowned Kulm Hotel to find lunch. Instead we found an exquisite lobby bar area with huge picture windows that over looked the Snow Polo matches below. Being cold from outside, we found 3 chairs in a sunny location, ordered 3 pots of amazing tea and just enjoyed both the stunning views over-looking Lake St. Moritz and the beautiful fashions inside the lobby. It truly was an experience of ultimate satisfaction for everyone on the trip.



Even though our stay included dinner nightly, eight of us ventured out to try some local fare that was highly recommended by others on the trip- Dogana Vegia. Be sure to come to hungry we were told, because as soon as you sit down the table is covered with appetizers of all kinds such as salami, cheese, olives, vegetables, beans and bread. The best way to experience this restaurant is to have Dario (chef/owner) select the meal and of course the wine. In no time bottles of wine appear followed by plates and plates of food before you realize they've brought out 6 or 8 courses. The old log cabin custom house has quite an eclectic charm with candles burning on every table. Since Dario was both our chef and waiter, we all had plenty of time to wandering around the



many rooms to check out all the stuff on the walls. We were all shocked that we were the only people in the restaurant since not only was the meal outstanding, the experience is one we will not forget. In the words of Amie Rodnick "It was a magical evening!"

Friday we awoke to another typical day in Madesimo, a bit snowy. Several people skied another day, while others did a little shopping at the local stores. The Euro was in our favor making shopping a good deal. About 13 of us took the last of the cooking classes that afternoon. I don't think we were quite ready to depart Madesimo. By dinner time we had well over 6 inches of new snow. Most of us were not looking forward to our 27 hairpin turns down the mountain with snow covered roads, but there was only one way down. At dinner that evening we all toasted to a great week in Madesimo, to the new friends we made and the wonderful memories.

## 2015-2016 TSC Officer Nominations

The TSC Nominating Committee Chair, Jan Ferrell from Space City and her committee members, Jackie Bayly-Bryant from Austin Skiers and Lynn Carter from Club St. Bernard, would like to announce the following slate of nominees for the 2015-2016 Texas Ski Council Officers:

<b>President</b>	<b>Camille La Roe</b> Space City Ski Club
<b>VP Marketing</b>	<b>Marsha Lutz</b> Space City Ski Club
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Mary Wine</b> Texas Ski Rangers
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Rachel Jackson</b> Capital Ski & Adventure
<b>VP Traditional</b>	<b>George Kelly</b> Dallas Ski Club
<b>VP Winter Shootout</b>	<b>Ann Rogers</b> Space City Ski Club
<b>VP Final Showdown</b>	<b>Andrea Yowman</b> Houston Ski Jammers

## Mammoth – TSC Winter Shootout 2015 Report

By Sarah Granbery, VP of TSC Winter Shootout

It was the week of a full moon and the Super Bowl when 60 plus Texans landed in Mammoth Lakes, California. Almost everyone arrived in Mammoth as scheduled except for a few kind souls who volunteered to spend one night in San Francisco because the small plane that flies into Mammoth was over-weight. Those folks made it to Mammoth just in time for the Welcome Party Sunday evening at Dry Creek Bar. We were welcomed to the party at Mammoth Mountain Lodge by two Texas state flags flying over the deck. Dry Creek Bar was a great setting for Super Bowl watching and a welcome party. The staff at the hotel had prepared a delicious menu for us. I particularly liked the hot dog paninis!

We had a surprise visit from the local celebrity, Wooly. He was very popular and must be in at least a hundred pictures! Later in the week Wooly was spotted on a local bus with skis in hand headed for the Village.



Although we didn't really have any fresh snow, skiing was enjoyed by much of the group all week. While some were skiing others were en-





joying sightseeing activities in the Sierra Nevadas, such as, Bodie Ghost Town, June Lake, the tufa formations in Mono Lake, and the snow-cat adventure up to the summit to view the minarets.

Several different groups enjoyed the fabulous chefs and restaurants in and around Mammoth during the week. Of particular note were Chef Freddy at Brasserie, upstairs at the Mammoth RockNBowl, The Restaurant at Convict Lake and Lakeshore at Tamarack Lodge.

A wild and wooly pub crawl mid week was attended with much enthusiasm by over 30 Texans. We started our crawl at the Mammoth Brewing Company where many of us tried their beer flights sampling a variety of brews. Stop number 2 was at the Clocktower, a local hangout, then on to Campo's where a number of folks decided to have dinner while the others headed on over to Gomez's. Gomez staff welcomed us at the door with straw cowboy hats and a goodie bag with t-shirt and all kinds of fun gadgets. The



margaritas and guacamole kept us going forward to the next stop on the crawl, Smokehouse for excellent ribs, and finally Lakanuki.

The final dinner was held Friday night at the Conference Center at Mammoth Mountain. We had a fabulous buffet dinner of barbeque with lots of yummy side dishes. Prior to our feast we had the awards ceremony to announce the results of the racing that took place Wednesday morning. We had 20 racers who all had successful runs! The individual awards are as follows: Women's 35-49 group, Cinnamon Mitchell (CSB) 1st place, Tracey Allely (SCSC) 2nd place, and Renee Arriaga (SCSC) 3rd place. Women's 50-59 Shari Clark (SCSC) 1st Place, Joanna Wolf (CSB) 2nd Place, and Claire Coffey (CSB) 3rd Place. Women's 60-69 group Shelby Benton (LSS) 1st Place. Men's 35-49 Group Marco Coronado (SCSC), 1st Place; Men's 50-59 group David Hensley (LSS), 1st Place, Dave Stotz (SCSC) 2nd Place, and Kevin Mazurkiewicz (AS), 3rd Place. Men's 60-69 group Fred LeVay (LSS) 1st place, Stuart Traver (SCSC), 2nd place, and Ronnie Slate (LSS), 3rd place. Men's 70+, Wayne May (LSS) 1st place and Michael London (AS) 2nd place.



Fastest Female went to Shari Clark of SCSC and Fastest Male went to Fred LeVay of Lone Star. Division I first place was awarded to SCSC, second place Lone Star, and third place to Austin Skiers. The results for Division III are first place Club St. Bernard and second place to Capital Ski and Adventure Club.



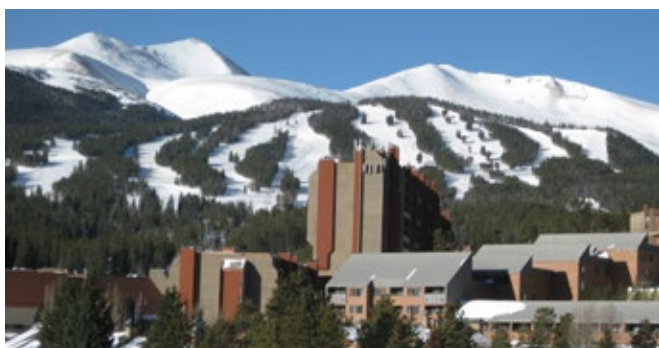
As we left the party a light snow began to fall. We woke up the next morning to 7-8 inches of new snow. While the Lone Star skiers awakened to learn if they could fly out or would have to stay, the other clubs all loaded their bus and or

SUV to drive to Reno. For St. Bernard, SCSC, and Austin the first leg of the trip back to Texas was a bus trip up US 395 to Reno. During the second hour of this trip the group sighted 6 complete rainbows. We took it as an omen of good travel fortune.

A very special "thanks y'all" goes out to Laura Kennedy, Stephanie Pollard, and Stephen Remillard for the much appreciated Mammoth bags, beanies, hats, pins, etc. distributed to all trip participants.

## Breckenridge – TSC Final Showdown 2015 Report

By Zoe Wright, VP of TSC Final Showdown



What a great week in Breckenridge! Great snow!! We had 167 Texans making up six (6) TSC clubs (Armadillo Ski Club, Austin Skiers, Clear Lake Area Ski Club, Dallas Ski Club, Lone Star Skiers, and Space City) who attended Final Showdown in Breckenridge, Colorado. Everyone had the opportunity to ski & board with some of the best snow conditions! Two clubs (Dallas Ski Club & Lone Star Skiers) were iced in in at two Dallas airports on Saturday morning with flight cancellations. A small group from the Dallas Ski Club drove to Breckenridge from Dallas, and arrived early Sunday morning. Others took later flights once the Dallas area thawed out. On Sunday night, we started the week with the TSC Welcome Party. It was held at Beaver Run Resort in Peak 5 Room. Everyone had the opportunity to mix, mingle and meet the rest of the TSC groups there. Andrew Kwang, National Group Sales Manager, Vail Resorts Inc., and Mike Hibbard, President of Sports America Tours donated many items for giveaways. Jenny Gleason from Breckenridge Resort gave a summary of the Breck ski area. She also provided a table with information on Breckenridge activities, and mountain statistics.

Breckenridge is comprised of five distinct peaks, each with their own



Mike Hibbard, Andrew Kwang & Zoe Wright

unique characteristics and features! With great snow conditions during our week in Breck, there was no shortage of ski terrain to explore. On a snowy Monday with cold temps, we enjoyed a great ski day. After a day on the mountain, some enjoyed the Après Ski at Park Avenue Pub. On Monday afternoon, the TSC club Race Directors met and discussed the TSC race rules and the upcoming club races. Many thanks to the club's Race Directors who worked hard to make sure that all of their racers had their EpicMix card registered, and delivered all important race information to their club racers.

Tuesday was Vail Group Ski Day. This was an optional activity. On Tuesday morning many braved the morning snow and freezing temps, and rode over to Vail Resort to take advantage of some great skiing and shopping at Vail Resort. Others stayed in Breckenridge to ski, and shop. With over 200 quaint stores on historic Main Street, there was no shortage of shopping in Breckenridge.

Wednesday was our club race day on the public EpicMix Race Course at Peak 9 on Sundown Run. The weather was COLD and WINDY, but we had 59 dedicated TSC racers. Eighteen Individual medals were won. Thanks to the Breckenridge Race Department for their great assistance, and the TSC officers who braved the cold weather at the top of the race course.



The results for the TSC Club Races are as follows:

PLACE	DIVISION I	DIVISION II
1st	Space City Ski Club	Dallas Ski Club
2nd	Austin Skiers	Armadillo
3rd	Lone Star	CLASC

Congratulations to the Fastest Female: Polly Newman of Austin Skiers, and Fastest Male: Lou Horwitz of Austin Skiers.





Division I Clubs

Division II Clubs

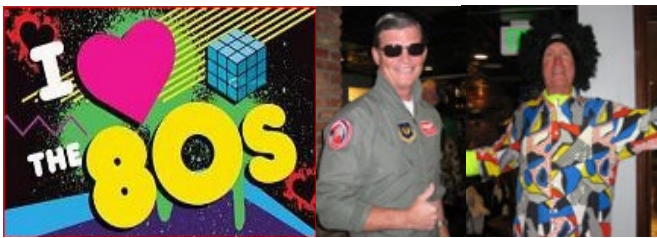
Other Individual placements were as follows:

#### Female Results

Ages	35-49	50-59	60-69	70 & up
1st	Nancy DuFrane	Polly Newman	Brenda Herman	Gail Rogers
2nd		Jackie Bayly-Bryant	Suzanne Joyner	
3rd		Marti Turner	Anne Cronin	

#### Male Results

Ages	35-49	50-59	60-69	70 & up
1st	James Holland	Lou Horwitz	Tom Mowdy	Terry O'Neel
2nd	Steve Nickels	Lee Flagg	Bobby Guilbeau	Jim Slaughter
3rd		Xander Fleming	Ross Baker	



Wednesday night was the 80's Flashback Pub Crawl, led by Cory Needham of Sports America Tours (our pub crawl leader). The pub crawl began at Park Avenue Pub. After a few drinks, everyone moved over to The Dredge (floating barge restaurant and bar) then to the Blue Stag Saloon, and ended at Cecilia's. On Friday night, two prizes were awarded to the best 80's attire for the Pub Crawl. The two winners were Joe Meuller of Lone Star Skiers, who brought out the bright neon colors, and Bob Botsford of the Dallas Ski Club who dressed in his flight suit as Maverick (Tom Cruise – 'Top Gun' movie). We had other great participants who dressed in great 80's attire. Prizes were donated by Sports America Tours. Many thanks to Cory Needham for his great pub crawl leadership!



Austin Ladies at Pub Crawl

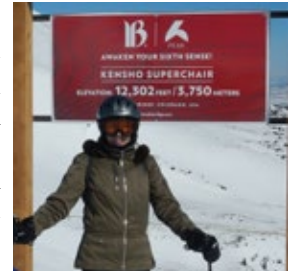
During the week many others participated in a "Selfie" Scavenger Hunt – themed scavenger hunt incorporating a photo concept. Participants picked up their scavenger hunt clues at the Welcome Party on Sunday evening. Throughout the week they had to figure out the location of each clue and then used

their phone/digital camera to 'take a selfie'. On Friday evening at the Final Awards Party, two prizes were awarded for creativity, and answering all the clues. Steve Ying and Kate McDougall of the Space City Ski & Adventure Club were the two winners. Prizes were donated by Sports America Tours.



Steve Ying &amp; Kate McDougall

Thursday was an open day for great skiing. Some made it over to Peak 6, the new ski area. Peak 6 is the newest and biggest ski resort terrain expansion in over a decade, and Breck's first above treeline terrain. The ski day was completed by Après Ski at the Blue River Bistro for 2 for 1 martini's.



Brenda Herman at Peak 6

On Friday evening the TSC officers presented the TSC club race awards at the Final Awards Reception. The reception and dinner was held at The Village in the Ten Mile Room. We rounded out the evening with a great buffet dinner followed by dancing with music provided by a great DJ. With our 80's theme, the DJ played 'Danger Zone' from the 'Top Gun' movie. This song brought out Bob Botsford of the Dallas Ski Club (a.k.a. Maverick) and his fellow Dallas Ski Club friends to the dance floor. Even the, 'Cotton-Eye Joe' brought out the line dancers!

Final Showdown 2015 was a great Texas Ski Week in Breckenridge. I would like to thank Andrew Kwang with Vail Resorts, for his support to the TSC. Special thanks to Sara Clemons, Special Groups Manager of Sports America Tours for her hard work and planned activities she provided. Thanks to Mike Hibbard, and Cory Needham of Sports America Tours, who provided the on-site service. Special thanks to the great Trip Leaders and Coordinators from the six (6) TSC clubs. Without the dedication of the club Trip Leaders and



Breckenridge Trip Leaders



Coordinators, this trip would have not been a success. Many thanks to the TSC Officers who participated on this trip (Marsha Lutz, VP Marketing, Ross Baker, Secretary, and George Kelly, Treasurer), who assisted me at the TSC parties, TSC club races, and helping with race results.



TSC Officers at Breck

## Discover The Best of Tuscany – TSC Summer Expedition

Six Departure Dates: Beginning Sept 3, 2015 through Oct 30, 2015

By Tere Mayne, TSC Expeditions Coordinator

### Tuscany--Memories in the Making Six Departure Dates beginning in September

Just picture rolling landscapes, savory wines, delicious food and stunning architecture...this can only be Tuscany. On this special journey you will enjoy walking tours in Italy's most charming towns, visit magnificent historic monuments and sample mouth-watering cuisine and wines. Just think 9 wonderful nights in ITALY! This will be a vacation to remember!

Your voyage begins with roundtrip home to airport sedan service on all air-inclusive tours within 50 miles of the airport. After an overnight flight to Rome, Italy, join your fellow club members for a festive welcome dinner at a local restaurant where regional foods, fun Italian music and fine Italian wines kick off your Tuscan adventure.

The next morning we travel north from Rome to the medieval walled city of Assisi, the birthplace of the patron saint of Italy, St. Francis. During your free time, meander along the streets and perhaps you will find a charming restaurant for lunch like Bucca di San Francesco, La Stalla or La Pallozza.



After lunch we will continue on through beautiful Tuscany, ending in the famous spa resort town of Montecatini

Terme, your home for the next six nights.

The next day, we journey through the low-lying hills and olive groves of Tuscany to Siena, (only about a 45 minute bus ride) one of Italy's most beautiful cities. Part of Siena's fame lies in its coloring. Soft shades of ochre, yellow and red make up the majority of its buildings. You will embark on a lovely walking tour through Siena's narrow streets and behold stunning palaces, mansions and the historic Piazza del Campo. Enjoy some free time and have lunch in one of the many cafes. Or climb the 500 narrow steps of the Torre del Mangia and be rewarded with unparalleled views of Siena's

rooftops and the countryside beyond. Relax this evening with dinner and wine with your fellow club members.



After breakfast, day 5 begins with a tour of San Gimignano, (less than 45 minutes away by bus) one of the most picturesque places in Tuscany. Today only 15 towers remain, but at one time there was more than 70 which made it possible to cross the town by rooftop rather than street. After lunch, your day continues with a special visit to a Tuscan winery for the opportunity to sample a selection of the local wines that have made Tuscany so well-known. In the evening you can explore the various dining options Montecatini Terme has to offer.

On Tuesday we head to Florence, (about 30 minutes away) for a cultural tour of this magical city. Firenze is the “Cradle of the Italian Renaissance”. Michelangelo, Dante, Galileo, gelato, red wine, amazing food – these are just some of my favorite things about Florence. Our local Florentine guide highlights many of the city’s priceless treasures as we stroll through the historic center of Florence. You will have plenty of time to explore the city on your own. Radiating out from the Duomo are Renaissance-era neighborhoods. Though the majority of the sights are north of the Arno River, the area to the south, known as the Oltrarno, has its charms as well.



Wednesday you have the opportunity to enjoy a day of leisure to relax and experience the local flavor of Montecatini Terme. Remember this is spa town. Or perhaps you will choose to take an optional excursion to Pisa and Lucca. Pisa, best known for the Leaning Tower, is best seen on foot where your guide will show you the sites. Your option continues with a journey to historic Lucca, a charming fortress town filled with churches (99 of them), terra-cotta –roof buildings and narrow cobblestone streets. Here Caesar, Pompey and Crassus agreed to rule Rome as a triumvirate in 56 BC. For the most part motorized traffic doesn’t exist in the historic center of Lucca so walking or biking is a pleasure in this flat city. Again dinner is on your own.

Thursday you will again visit Florence for a delightful day to explore the many treasures of this great city. Begin the day learning the traditional

Italian techniques of leather making during a visit to a family-owned leather shop. Then partake in a special presentation on the history and workmanship of fine Florentine gold. You will have free time to visit a museum, indulge in a Tuscan lunch or shop for local crafts. Return to Montecatini Terme for a Tuscan feast featuring traditional cuisine and savory wines.



Friday we say goodbye to Montecatini Terme and head south to the cosmopolitan capital of Italy, Rome! You have an opportunity to enjoy an optional tour of Vatican City to visit the collections of the Vatican Museums and St. Peter’s Basilica. Follow a local expert guide on a three hour, in-depth visit through the vast collection including the Sistine Chapel. Or explore the city on your own and visit some of the major sights. In the evening join your friends for a farewell dinner, and celebrate the end of a memorable trip to the unforgettable and ever-beautiful region of Tuscany.

Should you want to extend your trip to Italy, we have both a pre-trip and post trip option. The pre-trip is to the picturesque region of the Cinque Terre. The post trip is a two night stay in the historic city of Rome. Check with your club for your departure dates. If those dates don’t fit your schedule, there are 5 other dates that may. Feel free to contact me for information on the other departure times. This Tuscany trip is one you will remember for a lifetime.





# Beaver Creek - TSC Traditional 2015 Report

By Mary Wine, VP of TSC Traditional

Texans have a way of showing up on a mountain and letting everyone know that snow sports and having a good time are a part of our DNA. All fourteen clubs of the council were represented totaling 401 participants – the largest council trip in years. We all had high expectations of living the Beaver Creek motto – *Not Exactly Roughing It* – and we were not disappointed. In fact, the week of exceptional service started when the clubs arrived at Denver International Airport and were greeted by Pete Feyerherd, Brian Olehy and Jennifer Olehy of Winter Ski and Sport. Pete, Brian and Jennifer greeted each airplane and efficiently directed the clubs to their ground transportation. Karl Winter and I stayed busy at the resort making final preparations and being available to meet each bus as they arrived and provide the club level Trip Coordinators (“TCs”) with a goodie bag for their club.

I’d like to give a special thanks to the TCs who made connecting with so many people less challenging. They quickly disseminated the contents of the goodie bags (lift tickets, trail maps, Beaver Creek pins, credentials, schedules etc.) so everyone could immediately begin to show Beaver Creek that the TSC had arrived. The TSC Traditional credential not only gave participants access to TSC events, but was a passport to savings for many things Beaver Creek had to offer. TSC members had access to discounted meals and spa services in Beaver Creek and the neighboring river walk town of Edwards. I could always find a council member at the C-Bar, Powder 8 or Dusty Boot near the base of the mountain. As Texans, we

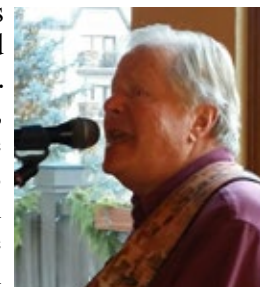


quite a few Texans enjoying a meal and libations at the Gashouse in Edwards. Dallas Young at Heart even made their way to the historic Minturn Saloon for a club dinner featuring Colorado cuisine and some of the best margaritas in the Rockies. Although there

was more than enough activity to keep us busy in Beaver Creek, the adventurous ones took advantage of the easy transportation to neighboring communities. Many opted to use their transferable ski pass to spend a day at Vail.

Our participants stayed in six luxurious properties managed by Wyndham Vacation Rentals or East-West Resorts. Nearly half of the participants stayed at The Charter at Beaver Creek which also served as a central location for the council. The Charter provided meeting space for our welcome party, race meetings and a daily happy hour featuring our own Dave Thomas. Once everyone settled in and had a good night of rest we were greeted by an army of mountain hosts to start our ski week off right with small group guided tours where they shared fun facts about the mountain and noted the best runs for all skill levels. We regrouped that evening for a Welcome Reception at the Charter.

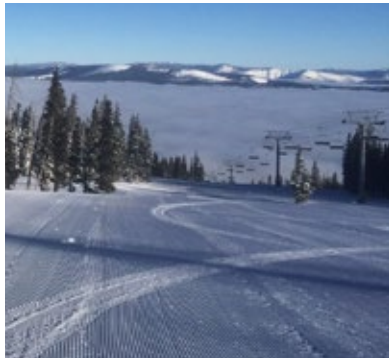
The Welcome Reception is more accurately described as the Welcome Party. The energy level was so high that outsiders were drawn to the energy, but quickly turned away by our trusty sentinels Brian and Pete. Inside the reception, there was plenty of food and drinks to consume while we swayed to the music of Dave Thomas. In addition to the buffet food, servers moved through the room bring the hors d’oeuvres to us so the socializing could continue uninterrupted. The atmosphere was so festive and set the tone for the entire week.



We were also joined by a few representatives from Vail Resorts, Vilar Performing Arts Center and the management and a therapist from Spa Struck. I had the privilege of announcing the raffle for an abundance of Vail swag, tickets to shows at the performing arts center and a spa package. Spa Struck took it one step further by providing complimentary chair massages to rub away the stress of travel and our first day on the mountain. In

addition to the four pairs of tickets raffled from the performing arts center, their representative, LeeAnn Marshall was there so the rest of us could buy discounted tickets to the Takac symphony, the March Fourth Marching Band and comedian Ralphie May. All shows were attended by TSC participants, but I heard that we had a fabulous showing at the March Fourth Marching Band. The feel of that show was explosive, foot stomping, high energy music coupled with colorful cirque type dancers, acrobats and stilt walkers. The icing on the cake was that our Texans and many other attendees filled the orchestra pit and added to the dancing entertainment.

The weather was perfect providing snow at night and blue skies by day. Steve Slade of Space City Ski Club captured the beauty of the mountain in the attached photo.



Wednesday was race day and the weather was perfect on the Epic Race course. In fact, the weather was so gorgeous that far more people opted to show off their racing suits than I was mentally prepared to handle. Talking about an epic day! Vail Resorts offers multiple Epic products – the basic card at no charge. Those who had an activated Epic card on their body while on the slopes now had access to a wealth of information related to their ski day. This included mountain stats, photographs, race registration and several other perks based on the information provided in their online Epic profile. We had 140 registered racers attack the blue and green gates on the dedicated Epic Race Course. Most of those runs were captured by the Epic Photographers. The pictures were emailed to the racers at the end of the day if there was an email address attached to your Epic product. The racers earned medals and a commemorative bandana. Lew Horwitz from the Austin Skiers was the fastest man while Emma Adams of the Texas Twisters claimed the title of fastest woman. The club results were as follows:

#### Division I

- 1st Los Amigos
- 2nd Space City
- 3rd Lone Star

#### Division II

- 1st Armadillo
- 2nd Texas Twisters
- 3rd Dallas Ski Club

#### Division III

- 1st Capital Downhill
- 2nd DFW Young at Heart
- 3rd Club St. Bernard



Tom Mowdy

Thursday evening ushered in a quiet storm and a thunderous storm. No, I'm not talking about the weather. The quiet storm was the arrival of the Texas Ski Rangers. This club, with the support of the Texas Ski Council Youth Foundation, carried out their commitment to developing a new generation of snow sport enthusiasts. In addition to about thirty-five adult participants, ten youth made their way to the mountain after a full day of school and evening travel so they were ready to spend a long weekend of lessons, tubing and other activities geared to fostering long term relationships with fellow snow sport enthusiasts. It's the extra effort of the TSC Youth Foundation and clubs who commit to creating an environment for youth development that will keep the TSC thriving in decades to follow. Janet Reed, the Texas Ski Ranger Youth Director, deserves special thanks for organizing the youth activities.



The farewell dinner occurred at the Hyatt with the power and presence of a thunderous storm. If anyone questioned the wisdom of having the event on a Thursday, those questions were quickly put to rest by the energy level of the crowd and the number of people that stayed to the very end. Perhaps the freedom of knowing you don't have to pack when you get home and be up for an early flight added to the festivities. Most were





pleasantly surprised to have a plated dinner with a healthy portion of chicken and beef. The live band, Peter Fontanese and the Vail Allstars, was absolutely fabulous and kept everyone on the dance floor with a nice array of 70's, 80's and 90's music. There was also another opportunity to distribute swag from our sponsors from Vail Resorts, Level 9 Sports and Collette travel. The Houston Ski Jammers and the Texas Ski Rangers are also affiliated with the Rocky Mountain Region of the National Brotherhood of Skiers. One of their sponsors, Korbel, provided a wonder-

fully decorated bucket with a scarf and variety of champagne.

In conclusion, I want to give a special thanks to Karl Winter and his entire staff from Winter Ski & Sports as well as the TSC Board members for having a very strong presence and having a willingness to help in any capacity needed. With these people on my team I had no worries and knew that I too could say that I was "Not Exactly Roughing It." Thank you for a wonderful season. See you next year!

## Important TSC Dates

<b>April 1, 2015</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>Participation Fees due to TSC Treasurer for SUMMER EXPEDITION</b>
<b>April 10-12, 2015</b>		<b>Quarterly Delegates Meeting – San Antonio</b> <i>Ski Area Bid Selection, Officer Election &amp; Installation</i>
May 16-17, 2015		Officer Training/Planning Meeting & Board of Directors Meeting - Houston
Tentatively: June 13, 2015		<b>Quarterly Delegates Meeting – Austin (Tentatively)</b>
<i>September 3 - September 12, 2015</i>		<i>TSC SUMMER EXPEDITION - Tuscany Group 1. Capital, DFW, Lone Star, Twisters</i>
<i>September 10 - September 19, 2015</i>		<i>TSC SUMMER EXPEDITION - Tuscany Group 2. Ski Jammers, Ski Rangers</i>
<i>September 24 - October 3, 2015</i>		<i>TSC SUMMER EXPEDITION - Tuscany Group 3. St. Bernard, Los Amigos</i>
<i>October 1 - October 10, 2015</i>		<i>TSC SUMMER EXPEDITION - Tuscany Group 4. Dallas</i>
<i>October 15 - October 24, 2015</i>		<i>TSC SUMMER EXPEDITION - Tuscany Group 5. Austin, Clear Lake</i>
<i>October 29 - November 11, 2015</i>		<i>TSC SUMMER EXPEDITION - Tuscany Group 6. Space City</i>

# TEXAS SKI COUNCIL SPONSORS 2014-2015



## PLATINUM LEVEL

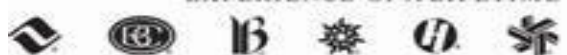


**Mammoth**

## GOLD LEVEL



**VAIL RESORTS**  
EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME



## SILVER LEVEL



## BRONZE LEVEL

**ASPEN SNOWMASS**  
THE POWER OF FOUR  
SNOWMASS - ASPEN MOUNTAIN - ASPEN HIGHLANDS - BUTTERMILK



