

TSC NEWSLETTER

Newsletter 07-08 Volume 2



MARKETING ROUNDUP

By Cheryl Mann, VP Marketing

In the 2006 - 07 Snow Season, the Texas Ski Council Member Clubs went to many old favorites and exciting new destinations. The 2006-07 Regional Destinations Percentage by Skier Days Chart depicts by region where our members skied. As you can see Colorado continues to be a favorite followed by Utah. As a council, we also went to other great destinations such as Austria and Jackson Hole, Wyoming. The individual clubs went to such other exciting destinations as Ogden, Winter Park, Kitzbuhel, Crested Butte, Copper, Steamboat, Vail, Heavenly, Sun Valley, Beaver Creek, Big White, Panorama, Briancon and Aspen. The clubs all report having great ski seasons and looking forward to the upcoming season.



In 2007 - 08, the Texas Ski Council will have as its destinations, Keystone, Vail,

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

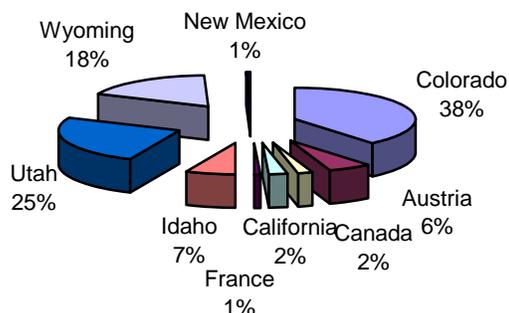
Notes From the Top	2
Fall Roundup in Keystone	2
Traditional in Vail	3
Final Showdown – Quebec City Canada	3
SkiBidFest Update	4
Be the First to Bansko, Bulgaria	4
Winter Shootout: Next Stop Telluride	6
Ski Trips Insurance	7
December Delegates Meeting in Houston	8

Bulgaria, Telluride and Quebec. Following the exciting March trip to Quebec, we will look forward to seeing all of our Resort and Tour Operator friends, along with the Club Delegates and Guests in April 4 - 6, 2008 at our annual **SkiBidFest** where we will be deciding on our 2008-09 TSC Trips. The SkiBidFest will venture a little north in Texas this year to Dallas, Texas.

The annual TSC Marketing survey will be out in the next couple weeks so please be watching your email for more interesting and informative information on the impact the TSC has on the snow sport industry!

See you on the Slopes!

Regional Destinations Percentage by Skier Days



THAILAND: *Planes, buses, Rafts, Elephants, Temples & Shopping What a trip!*

By Hazel Love, Summer Expedition Coordinator

SAWASDEE to the adventurous 142 Texas Ski Council Club members that bit the bullet and ventured out into parts unknown to experience the trip of a life time. Thailand June 28 – July 8, 2007, just as promised, the country of Thailand developed and nurtured all our senses from beginning to end.

For many, due to the weather in Dallas, air

Continued on Page 6 – see Thailand

Notes From the Top

By Peggy Montgomery, President

I would like to take this opportunity to tell everyone briefly about some exciting changes in the 2008 Bid Meeting—first, we will be moving the TSC SkiBidFest to a new location—the Omni Park Central in Dallas, Texas will be hosting the event the weekend of April 4-6, 2008. I think everyone will be pleased with how conveniently located the hotel is to both Dallas airports—Love Field and DFW. The Omni Park Central will also be our meeting location for the 2009 Bid meeting.

Another change to our meeting is we are providing the opportunity for more exchange time between the club members and industry representatives. The fun starts with a Golf Tournament on Friday, which will be completed in time for a new event – the TSC “Round Robin”. This event will be the opportunity for lodging properties participating in the bid process to have the opportunity to meet with individual club representatives for a few minutes to “market” their lodging—not only to help with the selling of the location to the member clubs and give the clubs the opportunity to learn more about the accommodations being offered, but should a bid not be selected, provides the lodging and clubs



Peggy Montgomery explains the exciting new changes to the SkiBidFest to the Delegates in Odessa. It will be a win-win for our clubs and for our industry partners.

with options for a possible club trip. To participate the lodging properties will have to pre-register in sufficient time for us to match them with clubs they would like to interview. We will try, if time allows, providing the opportunity for resorts and lodging that focus on club trips the opportunity to participate. Following the Round Robin we will be hosting a dessert reception in a great atmosphere, with the bar remaining open after the conclusion of the event to allow continued contact between industry representatives and club members.

Another big change we are planning is to open the Ski Show up to the public for a period of time, after allowing TSC Club members their own uninterrupted time at the show. We hope our industry partners will make other clients aware they are in town and invite them to come by the Ski Show to visit. Hopefully it will be a win-win—industry representatives are able to visit with See Exciting Changes on page 5

Fall Roundup in Keystone

By Mike Morris, VP Fall Roundup

This Thanksgiving the TSC returns to Keystone Colorado for the second time in three years. A traditional favorite fall destination, this will be the last year of a three year contract with Vail Resorts for the TSC Youth Program. This has been a great deal for the kids as participation doubled the second year as the word spread about the program.

Kids ages 3-15 get a four-day ski school package that includes the lesson, lift ticket, rentals and lunch for \$255. That’s about half the normal rate. They will also get a special “kids activity night” and fun race. The TSC Youth Foundation will again be reimbursing part of the transportation costs. At the moment we have eleven clubs and over 300 pillows reserved. I am hoping for 75-100 kids to join those adults. There will be forms available from your trip leader to sign up the kids. The



Great Kid-Package in Keystone – Children ages 3-15 get a four-day ski school package that includes the lesson, lift ticket, rentals and lunch for \$255. What a Deal!

form and the \$255 will need to be mailed directly to the TSCYF Treasurer Marta Hollowell. This will hopefully make things simple for the trip captains and expedite the travel reimbursement this year.

I’ve been with the Flatlanders Ski Club and the TSC for over 20 years and have attended the last ten Thanksgiving trips. I have held Board positions with the Flatlanders for many, many years and still serve as the newsletter editor. I served four years as the TSC Race Committee Chairman prior to running the TSC Board. This is my second year to serve as a

Please see *Keystone* on page 7



TSC TRADITIONAL - January 5 - 12, 2008

By Terry Lippold, VP Traditional

Vail is the TSC destination for our Traditional Trip. A great ski mountain, TSC activities and parties, plus a charming village add up to **a trip you should not miss.**

Vail is the largest single ski mountain in North America with **5,289 acres of terrain** made up of Vail's Front Side, seven Back Bowls and Blue Sky Basin. Skiers can take advantage of Mtn. Tours to familiarize themselves with the extensive terrain Vail offers. These tours cover either the Front Side or go back to Blue Sky Basin.

And if that is not enough, your Vail Ski Pass will also be valid at Beaver Creek, Keystone, and Breckenridge. And it gets even better with a great Lift Ticket value that will allow you to **ski 8 consecutive days with the purchase of just a 5-day ticket!**



All clubs will be staying in the Lion's Head area. This area offers some shopping and restaurants, and has convenient access to the Eagle Bahn Gondola. Continuous bus

Continued on page 5. See Vail

Bonjour TSC Skiers (travelers)....

- ◆ Consider needing a mandatory passport and traveling to a 400 year old French destination, but only one time zone away!
- ◆ Consider incredible dining with fine wine and unique shopping!
- ◆ Consider staying in one of the finest and most photographed hotels in North America!
- ◆ Consider touring and enjoying the only Ice Hotel in North America and one of the largest in the world!
- ◆ AND, Consider skiing and viewing the fabulous St Lawrence River at the same time!

THEN, CONSIDER SIGNING UP FOR THE TSC FINAL SHOWDOWN

Canadian skiing in early March should be fantastic! This trip offers three mountains:

1. **Stoneham** - 20 minutes away, offering the most night skiing in North America.
2. **Mont-Sainte-Anne** - 30 minutes away, with 42 miles of trails, and
3. **Le Massif** - 45 minutes away, perched on the banks of the St Lawrence River. It is the training center for the Canadian national ski team. Jean-Luc Brassard, gold medalist in Moguls freestyle in 1994 Games in Lillehammer, will certainly be available to ski with us. And the TSC is offering interchangeable lift passes for all three mountains.

Our lodging, the **Manoir Victoria** and the fabulous **Fairmont Le Chateau Frontenac** are both within the inner-

QUEBEC CITY, CANADA MARCH 1- 8, 2008

By Steve Abrey,
VP Final Showdown



city walled area. This area was founded in 1608. With its cobbled street, Old Quebec is North America's only walled city and a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Optional day trips will include the incredible **Valcartier winter playground**. This playground features 42 sliding hills, seventeen lifts and some of the most unbelievable and entertaining activity. Another one-of-a-kind trip will be to the **Hotel de Glace, the only Ice Hotel in North America**. The Hotel features 30,000 square feet of incredible clear ice, with an ice bar, ice chapel and much more. Other activities include Snowmobiling, Dog sledding, Cross Country Skiing, Cat Skiing, etc.

We currently have Austin Skiers, Armadillo, Clear Lake, Club St. Bernard, Dallas Ski Club, Lone Star, Los Amigos and Space City Ski Club signed-up. If your club is not one of these, I know you are very welcome to join along with these folks and enjoy this fabulous destination. PLEASE JOIN ME AND OTHER TSC FRIENDS ON THIS MOST MEMORABLE TRIP.....**MARCH 2008.**

TSC SKI BID FEST

April 4-6, 2008

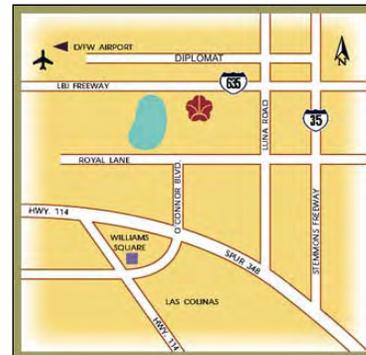
**Omni Park West
Dallas, Texas**

The Texas Ski Council, Delegates, Texas Ski Club members, Guests, Ski Resort Representatives and Vendors from around the world are in for a different & fun-filled experience at the 2008 Ski Bid Fest held at the elegant Omni Park West, 1590 LBJ Freeway. Dallas, Texas April 3-6, 2008. This luxurious four diamond hotel is located near the vibrant Las Colinas Business District and only ten minutes from the DFW International Airport. Room rates

Contact Hazel Love for information.

Phone: 806 794-2363

Email: hazellea@aol.com



will be only \$92.00 per night for reservations made before **February 1, 2008**. Through March 20 the rate is \$99.00 plus applicable taxes (currently 13%). This rate is for Ski Bid Fest participants only. Mark your calendars now and attend this fun filled event.

YOU Could Be the First.....

By Christine Augustine, Expedition Coordinator

How would you like to be among the first Americans to ski in BULGARIA? Well, here's your chance! The Texas Ski Council is going to Bansko, Bulgaria in late January 2008. This is a trip not to be missed!

Bansko is a small town of about 10,000 people founded in the 15th century. Since 2000 it has exploded with new hotels and millions of euros have been spent on the mountain. Most hotels in town are less than 5 years old and have all the amenities one could possibly want. The town is historic but lively with over 100 taverns (mehanas) which serve excellent food and wonderful Bulgarian wine for a fraction of what you are accustomed to paying in other European resorts. The mountain is equipped with the latest detachable ski lifts and hands-free pass technology. 14 lifts serve over 40 plus



miles of runs, both above tree line and along forested trails. It features 5,200 feet drop vertical drop and a 10 mile long run. You will find something here for all ski levels. For the non-skiers, there are extensive spas, daily excursions including Melnik, a wine producing village, Rila Monastery, a UNESCO Heritage site and Thessaloniki, Greece.

There is an optional pre-trip of 3 days in Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria. We will travel by bus to Plovdiv, Bulgaria's second largest city, where we will spend the day. Plovdiv's history can be traced back to the Thracians who fortified the site as early as 5000BC. Here you can visit the remains of the Roman Forum, Dzhumaya Mosque, Mosque Square, which is filled with artists' stalls, the 19th century district of Saborna renowned for its antique shops and the oldest church in the city founded by Roman Emperor Constantine in 337.

Sofia is also filled with history and treasures. The shopping here is excellent. It is a city of statues and monuments, Russian Orthodox churches, mosques, art galleries and Please see ***Bansko*** on page 5

Vail *continued from page 3*

service links the Lion's Head area to Vail village and to other access points for the mountain.

Don't go home without visiting Vail village. This charming village feels like you are in Europe, and is loaded with ambiance. You can find world-class dining, shopping, galleries, nightlife and spa services. Wednesday night is a perfect time to come over, do a little shopping, get a bit to eat, and then join our Pub Crawl to finish out the evening.

We will offer the usual Welcome and Final Awards Parties, have Club and Individual Races, schedule daily happy hours plus there is a Mid-Week Pub Crawl in Vail Village. We're also planning a ski day to Beaver Creek and are scheduling an Après Ski at Adventure Ridge for folks who may want to try Ski Biking or Tubing.

It has been 12 years since the TSC has gone to Vail and everyone at the resort is very excited that we are finally coming back! So make sure to mark your calendar with "gone skiing" from January 5 - 12, 2008 and come join us for a fun filled week in Vail.

Exciting Changes 2008

Continued from page 2

other customers and the TSC may pick up lots more people to come have fun in the snow with us! We are also planning to have some of our local clothing and equipment retailers participate in the show. In addition, we are offering some alternatives for spouses whose preference is to not sit in the bid presentations, but want to come for the fun. Although, even they may want to check out the great facility where the presentations will be held! Of course, there will be dining, dancing and the inevitable salute to our industry partners on Saturday evening!

Feel free to contact me if you would like to provide any feedback on the new things we are planning to incorporate into our BidFest this year—and watch for more details on our website and by mail. Looking forward to seeing all of you in Dallas in April.



Bankso , Where a nod "NO" really means, "YES"! *(continued from page 3)*

Roman ruins. You will have lots of free time here to explore on your own.

Istanbul is the optional post-trip destination. A short flight from Sofia, you will find yourself in one of the most intriguing cities in the world. Here we will spend 3 days exploring never to be forgotten sights, eating wonderful food and going back into the time of the Ottoman Empire.

If this is not enough for you, a quick study in Bulgaria's history will give you an insight to how truly diverse the country is. Bulgaria is Europe's oldest country. At one time, Bulgaria was Europe's largest country. The Cyrillic script is credited to Brothers Cyril and Methodius who were from the part of Bulgaria that is now Greece. The first Bulgarian Empire was created in the 7th century. The Turkish Ottoman Empire conquered and ruled Bulgaria from 1396 until 1878. The Balkan Wars at the beginning of the 20th century resulted from the collapse of the Ottoman Empire. In 1945, Bulgaria was taken over by the Russians. In 1989 the last communist leader was removed from power. Since then, Bulgaria has made an amazing comeback.

Through all history, the Bulgarian people have retained their love of country and countrymen. You will find them to be warm and friendly toward visitors. But remember, a nod of your head up and down to us means no, but to a Bulgarian, a nod no means yes!

Thailand *continued from page 1*

flights were cancelled to DFW so getting to San Francisco International Airport was an adventure all its on. Although we had plenty time to get to San Francisco (we thought) several clubs made the connection on Singapore Airline by the hair on their chinny chin chin. There the hospitality of the Asian people began, always gracious, courteous and accommodating.

Our first destination began in Hong Kong, the first of the pre-trips planned for us by Alpine Adventures/Ski Europe. Some of the clubs planned their own excursions of the cities

(continued on page 6)



Thailand continued from page 5

we visited. For our group, we stuck to the scheduled plan so we as novices could get the most out of this beautiful region of the world.

Trip Highlights:

- ❖ Hong Kong: Beautiful Metro Hotel and Guided City Tour which included a beautiful view from atop Victoria Park overlooking the modern architectures and landscape of the city, Junket boat tour of the canal, awesome choreographed Laser Light Show, museums and shopping tops the list.
- ❖ Bangkok: After a great breakfast at the Rembrandt Hotel, Destination Asia (our land tour company) escorted us on a tour of the Landmarks of Bangkok. We saw countless Buddha's, Golden, Emerald, Sitting, Standing and Laying Down. All were in magnificent Temples. One Buddha was even tucked into an outlaying cave.
- ❖ The Floating Market and Bridge over the River Kwai, a leisurely dinner cruise down the Chaophraya River with entertainment and beautiful night lights, and of course lots of market shopping.
- ❖ Chiang Mai – Another great place for market shopping where many bartered to their hearts content for their souvenirs. My favorite experience took us to Elephant country where we rode elephants down the river, through the forest and actually anywhere else they wanted to go. We cheered and fed the elephants as they entertained us. Later we drifted down the lazy river on a relaxing raft. The less adventurous of us satisfied their palate by taking a Thai Cooking Course in Chiang Mai.

Participants on the Angkor Wat, Cambodia trip climbing the steep steps to the tower.



- ❖ Phuket: Five Star Graceland Resort and Spa was our home for the next four nights at this tropical paradise. Time for leisure at the beach, Scuba diving and Snorkeling the Phi Phi Islands, a Sea Canoe/Kayak Cave Exploring Tour (where they filmed some James Bond movies), a Sunset Dinner Cruise, the Phuket Fantasea Show and Dinner (Las Vegas Style) and last but not least more shopping.

In a land where the locals wear yellow most every day to show love for their King, (the Kings favorite color) we were most welcomed.



Sea kayaking in the Andaman Sea, Thailand



By Jeff McGuire, VP Winter Shootout

Winter Shootout TELLURIDE, CO February 2-9, 2008

Our Winter Shootout trip is shaping up fast and most clubs are asking for more space. We will kick off the week with a welcome party and watch Super Bowl XLII. Happy Hours, Club Parties, Après Ski, and Ski Races on Thursday will round out the week. Come and join in on the fun with you ski club and ski with the TSC.

The Telluride TSC Ski Experience offers a genuine mountain experience for all levels of skiers thanks to a mix of quality terrain at all points on the mountain. From refined groomed runs to challenging bumps, there truly is something for everyone. Even beginners and intermediate skiers can ride to the highest peaks and enjoy terrain and views typically reserved for the experts. There are 2 high



speed gondolas, 7 high speed quads.

Nestled in a box canyon surrounded by majestic, 13,000 foot peaks of the San Juan Mountains. Just six blocks wide and twelve blocks long, the National Historic District is a window into the town's illustrious past and a showcase of spirited individualism and



KEYSTONE RESORT COLORADO

(Continued from page 2)

TSC Trip VP and I am looking forward to a great Thanksgiving 2007!

It will be tough to see and do everything that Keystone has to offer as the TSC will keep you entertained with a dinner dance, racing, apre'ski events, a kid's night out and an awards event. There are so many opportunities for fun at Keystone that you might find it hard to stay for just a few days. There are over 3000 acres of fun that include a new terrain park and night skiing. There will be discounted lessons for never ever adults as well as those wanting get in some early season fine-tuning.

Make your reservations now to enjoy the Texas Ski Council's Fall Roundup trip to Keystone for a Thanksgiving you and your family will always treasure. There aren't many things better than being in the mountains with family and friends during the holidays!

PLATINUM

Vail Resorts

Ski Europe/Ski Canada/
Alpine Adventures

GOLD

Ski.com/Sportours
Sports America
Ski Alpine Xperience

SILVER

Mont-Sainte-Anne
Stoneham & Le Massif

BRONZE

Mammoth Mountain Resort
Ski Salt Lake
Grouse Mountain Lodge
Northstar-at-Tahoe/Sierra-at-Tahoe
Telluride Ski & Golf Company

Support our 2007 SkiBidFest Sponsors

TELLURIDE, COLORADO

(Continued from previous page)

community. Perched at 9,500 feet mid-mountain on the south side of the ski area, the distinct beauty of Mountain Village entices the most discriminating guests with its luxury hotels and condos, stylish boutiques, innovative dining, world-class Golden Door Spa, and state of the art conference center.

Mountain Village is the ultimate mountain retreat, enchanting everyone with its modern alpine elegance and its breathtaking views of the most magnificent peaks in the San Juan range. Besides its luxury condos and hotels, it is the recreational and social activity center, with sports shops, restaurants, banks, a market, home furnishings store, antiques, jewelry, gifts, apparel, and more.

I hope you plan to join me and the rest of the gang for our exciting trip west. to Telluride, 2008's Winter Shootout



Check us out on the WEB
at texas-ski.org and
stay top of all the TSC
happenings.

Protect Your Investment with Trip Insurance Through the TSC.

The TSC is pleased to be joining other ski clubs in partnering with AIG Insurance to provide affordable travel insurance for ski trips. By using a special link the TSC web site www.texas-ski.org ski trip participants can receive travel insurance for a discounted rate (at this time 5% of the trip cost). A link will also be set up on club websites soon. Ski vacations can be full of the unexpected—airport closings, injury, illness, and lost luggage. Purchasing trip insurance is one way to assure that the unexpected doesn't get in your way! Check out the flyer on the details of the insurance on the TSC website and then click on the AIG link to purchase your trip insurance.

DELEGATES MEETING

HOUSTON DECEMBER 1ST

**LOCATION: Hobby Hilton
8181 Airport Blvd**
(There is a shuttle pickup at the Hobby Airport)

TIME: 10:30 AM – 4:30 pm

ROOM RATE: \$89 per NIGHT

Space City Ski Club will have their annual Holiday Party on Friday, Nov 30th and has extended an invitation to the TSC Delegates and their guests. Contact Kayleen Kill, kayleenkill@att.net, for more information on cost and location.

Texas Ski Council
5203 Cloudcroft Dr
Austin, TX 78749

