

TSC NEWSLETTER

Texas Ski Council Newsletter 08-09 Fall



Market Analysis: Texans Like to Ski – Everywhere!

By Cheryl Mann

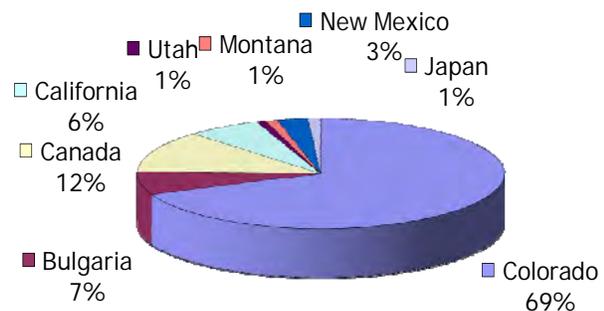
In the 2007 – 08 Snow Season the Texas Ski Council Member Clubs went to many old favorites and exciting new destinations. The 2007-2008 Regional Destinations Percentage by Skier Days Chart depicts by region where our members skied. As you can see Colorado continues to be a favorite. As a council, we went to Breckenridge, Vail, Telluride, Bulgaria and Quebec. The individual clubs went to such other exciting destinations as Keystone, Taos, Tahoe, Italy, Banff, Lake Louise, Japan, Snowmass, Durango, Copper Mountain, Whistler, Steamboat, Salt Lake City, Santa Fe and Aspen. The clubs all report having great ski seasons and looking forward to the upcoming season. The TSC also had a wonderful summer trip experience in Thailand.

In 2008 – 09, the Texas Ski Council will have as its ski destinations, Winter Park, Steamboat, Japan, Lake Louise and Big Sky along with a summer trip to Panama. Following the exciting March trip to Big Sky, we will be looking forward to seeing all of our Resort and Tour Operator friends, along with the Club Delegates and Guests in Dallas April 17-19, 2009 at our annual SkiBidFest where we will be deciding on our 2009-10 TSC trip destinations. Dallas is looking forward to hosting a second great SkiBidFest.

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

See you on the Slopes, somewhere!

Regional Destinations Percentage by Skier Days



TSC Summer Meltdown... So Much Fun in the Sun!!

By Lisa Spotts

The Texas Ski Council had a fantastic time on Mustang Island. About 120 people arrived at the Port Royal Resort to beautiful weather. We had three days of fun in the sun enjoying the fabulous pool and gorgeous ocean.

Lots of activities kept everyone busy. A group started off the weekend golfing at the brand new Arnold Palmer Signature Golf Course while everyone else met up at the resort's pool. Friday night, everyone headed to The Wharf in Port Aransas for a Texas sized welcome party where we enjoyed great seafood, hearty drinks and danced to a live band.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|--|---|
| WINTER SHOOTOUT IN LAKE LOUISE, CANADA | 2 |
| NAGANO, JAPAN – IMAGINE YOU THERE | 3 |
| BRING ON THE KIDS! FALL ROUND UP | 4 |
| TRADITIONAL IN SKI TOWN USA: STEAMBOAT | 5 |
| BIG SKY FOR FINAL SHOWDOWN | 5 |
| 2008-2009 TSC SPONSORS | 7 |
| FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT | 7 |
| MORE PHOTOS FROM SUMMER MELTDOWN | 7 |
| MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR 2009 SKIBIDFEST | 8 |

Throughout the weekend, the Hunt was on!!! The TSC organized a **scavenger hunt** at the resort. Teams had to find seashells and people with tattoos. They searched for green toenail polish and found interesting information about the resort -- Please see *Port A* on page 6

TSC Winter Shootout

Lake Louise, Alberta, Canada

February 14 - 21, 2009

By Lisa Spotts

Join the Texas Ski Council in beautiful Lake Louise! Spectacular scenery awaits with uniquely beautiful terrain that is both vast and varied. Lake Louise is one of the largest ski areas in North America and the largest single ski area in Canada. Lake Louise offers 4,200 skiable acres and 139 runs. The unique layout allows skiers of varying abilities to ski together; there are beginner, intermediate and expert runs from every chair. Beginner and intermediate skiers have access to an abundance of gentle slopes and long cruising runs. Experts can explore endless chutes, glades, gullies and remote bowls in some of the Rockies' most challenging terrain. With the interchangeable SkiBig3 lift ticket, we will also be skiing Sunshine Village and Norquay giving us access to a total of 7,748 skiable acres and 250 runs!!



| | Lake Louise | SkiBig3 Combined |
|------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Base Elevation | 5,400 | |
| Summit Elevation | 8,954 | |
| Number of Trails | 139 | 250 |
| Skiable Terrain | 4,200 | 7,748 |
| Beginner | 25% | 23% |
| Intermediate | 45% | 39% |
| Advanced | 30% | 38% |
| Lifts | 7 | 23 |
| Gondolas | 1 | 2 |



Lodging

Located just minutes from the Lake Louise ski area, The Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise will be the home for all of the Texas Ski Council for the week. It was voted "Best Accommodation in Canada" by Ski Canada Magazine. The historic hotel offers best in class service, luxury accommodations and numerous dining options at seven on-site restaurants. There is a fitness center, salon and spa services, pool, hot tub, as well as The Mountain Heritage Programs that offers snowshoeing and hikes right out the door.



Optional Post Trip

Jasper: We'll be staying at Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge. Enjoy homelike comforts and amenities in a village of charming cedar chalets and heritage log cabins surrounded by majestic mountains and beautiful Lac Beauvert. Skiing is available at nearby Marmot Basin.

Fernie: The Wolf's Den Lodge is a comfortable ski-in ski-out hotel located right at the base of Fernie Alpine Resort. An amazing 30 plus feet of natural snow blankets Fernie's five alpine bowls and offers an incredible variety of terrain for all levels.

Both options are available February 21-24. If you choose both post trips, you will be returning home February 27.



NAGANO, JAPAN – A Fantastic TSC WINTER EXPEDITION

January 23 – February 1, 2009

By Steve Abrey, *Winter Expedition Coordinator*

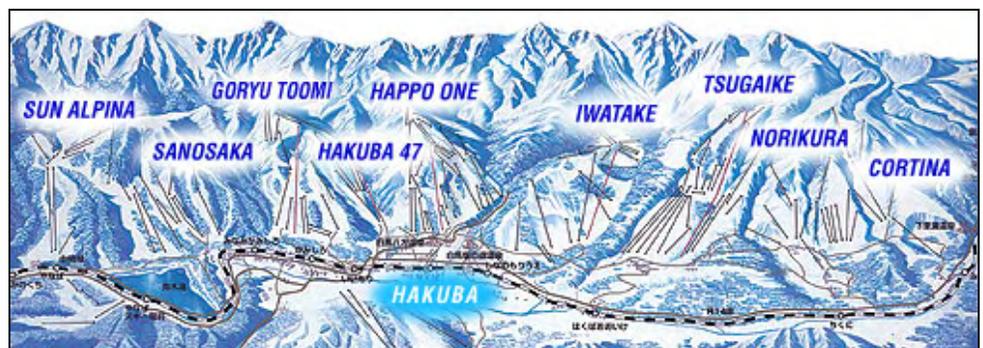
Once again, YOUR TSC is offering a trip of a lifetime. Imagine skiing the same slopes at Nagano-Hakuba, Japan, as the most skillful skiers did in the 1998 Winter Olympic Games!!

Or imagine seeing the famous "Bird's Nest" or natatorium where Michel Phelps won his world record 8 gold medals for the United States. Sign up for Japan and the post trip to Beijing and you can be a part of this special group while joining your friends with TSC and your local club.

The basic trip leaves the US on Friday January 23, and returns Sunday, February 1, 2009. It includes five glorious nights and six days in Hakuba, Japan. While there you will be able to ski the Hakuba valley. From one end of the valley to the other, and with 10 resorts accessing over 200 runs, Hakuba is the ski Mecca of Japan. There is terrain to satisfy the novice to the expert skier. State of the art lifts and gondolas and excellent grooming facilities will assure you a wonderful skiing experience. Cross-country, snowshoe tours, Matsumoto castle, Zenkoji Temple and the snow monkeys at Jigokudani Hot Springs round out other alpine adventures in the region. The basic trip also includes two days and nights in Tokyo. A half-day city tour is included which leaves you plenty of time to shop and explore on your own. All breakfasts are included as are most dinners on this complete package.

An optional pre trip, to Kyoto, the crown jewel of Japan, departs January 21 then joins up with the main group four days later in Hakuba. You may also extend on to Beijing, China, from February 1 – 6th. This post trip includes a five night stay at a 4 star hotel with all breakfasts, 4 lunches and 4 dinners. PLUS: a full day tour of Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City, a full day tour of The Great Wall and Ming Tombs and a full day tour of Hutong and the Temple of Heaven.

Wow, what an opportunity and experience await the person who signs up for this adventure!



PORT A -- SUMMER MELTDOWN



(continued from page 1) they know how many planks there are on the boardwalk. All of this was documented by very interesting, creative and humorous photos. Team members were even seen buried in the sand and sliding down the twisty slide. All had a great time. The winning team was Debbie & Greg Thornell and Candis & Michael Hines of Lone Star Skiers.

Starting off Saturday was a **water volleyball tournament**. Teams battled fiercely for hours resulting in a



three-way tie for 1st place. But Lone Star was victorious after the tie-breaker. Then everyone headed to the ocean for beach games. Los Amigos dominated the games winning at tug-o-war, egg toss and water balloons-in-the-bucket. The afternoon cocktail contest was a success. Awards were given to Tere Mayne from Austin for the **Tastiest Drink**, Rex Hulbert of Lone Star won **Most Colorful**, **Mystery Prize** went to Cathy Elston and Linda Ruper of Space City, and **Most Creative** cocktail was awarded to Tere Mayne. That evening, all participants enjoyed poolside cocktails and dinner, as well as the

awards ceremony.

The final event of the weekend was a **bonfire** on the beach after dinner. After unloading truckloads of wood from all over Texas, members of Los Amigos built one of the biggest bonfires I've ever seen...it was pretty hot! Our very own TSC President, Peggy Montgomery, brought all the fixins for s'mores and all had a fantastic time under the stars.

It was great weekend. I want to thank all the trip leaders and everyone that helped throughout the weekend. I couldn't have done it without ya'!!! And be sure you make plans to join us next time at the beach.



Fall Round Up -- Winter Park, Colorado

Nov. 25 - 30th, 2008

Bring on the KIDS!!!

By Hazel Love

Now is the time for all Skiers, Snowboarders and Adventurers to pull out the winter gear, make sure everything is in top shape including that body that will be tested to the extreme in Winter Park, Colorado this Thanksgiving, Nov.25 - 30th 2008. Can you believe this trip is almost here?

Brad Carothers and Nancy Citriglia with Winter Park Resorts and Lori Adis with Rocky Mountain Tours are diligently working to make sure this Fall Roundup is the best one ever. All clubs are staying either at the Zephyr, which is ski-in/ski-out, or the Frazier Founders Point, a very nice new facility, or the kid friendly Vintage Hotel. All three will make for a wonderful vacation.



This fabulous mountain has a total of 3,078 skiable acres which includes 142 designated trails and 1,212 acres of off-piste terrain. The past four years have been filled with improvements including new chairlifts, restaurant renovations, five addition acres dedicated to beginners, three new terrain parks for snowboarders, enhanced terrain for tree skiing, and many new trails.

For the expert snowboarder or skier, the Rail Yard Terrain Park on Allan Phipps trail will make you think you've died and gone to heaven. The terrain park on Jack Kendrick trail has rails and features for the intermediate rider. Discovery Park has small

See KIDS on page 6.

TSC Traditional STEAMBOAT, CO SKI TOWN, USA

January 10-17, 2009

By: Mike Morris, VP Traditional



Ski Town USA or "The Boat" will be the site of the 2009 TSC Traditional ski trip. Steamboat is a small town that is big on western heritage and hospitality. At 6900 feet the base area is easier on our bodies than some of the higher resorts while the mountain still provides a vertical drop of almost 3700 feet. Between the almost 20,000 pillows at all price ranges, outstanding and varied dining choices, "champagne powder" and friendly people this should be a trip to remember.

Steamboat has over 70 restaurants and bars - plenty to keep us busy for a week! The ski area has six peaks and almost 3000 acres that should provide plenty of choices for the 450 plus Texans during our stay there. Steamboat broke a record last season with over 40 feet of snow! They had over 100 inches in each of the months of December, January and February! They have recently made \$16 million worth of on mountain improvements and are in the process of rebuilding the mountain village! The Yampa Valley Airport is only 22 miles away and recently remodeled - doubling the size of the terminal and adding many amenities.

As you can see there has been a lot of new activity since we were there three short years ago. There will be the usual parties, racing and more parties during the week. Steamboat has always been a favorite of the TSC and mine. I am looking forward to a great trip next January!



TSC FINAL SHOWDOWN - March 14 - 21, 2009

In July of 1969, Chet Huntley obtained an option on 1,880 acres of ranch land for \$7,500. For an additional \$7,500 he obtained another option on 6,834 more acres. In February of 1970, Jean Claude Killey heil-skied what was then called Lone Mountain. He gave it a "thumbs up" and Big Sky became a reality. What would Chet think if he could see Big Sky now?

The terrain is as vast as the heavens at Big Sky. Today, the Big Sky Resort - Moonlight Basin Interconnect gives you access to 5,512 acres of some of the best snow in America. A 4,350 vertical foot drop puts the spot among the country's biggest players. 26 lifts and 200 plus trails, where lift lines are unheard of and the average annual snowfall is 400 inches helps to make Big Sky grand, awe-inspiring, wide-open, and glistening under a big blue sky. Sounds like the perfect place to spend a spring vacation of awesome skiing!

Mountain adventure - rather than a be-seen scene - remains Big Sky's focus, so it's not Continued on next page, see Big Sky.



**Dig deeper.....
See what's at Big Sky!**

KIDS from page 4

entry level features for the beginners. Since this is our fourth year with the Texas Ski Council Youth Foundation (TSCYF) many of the kids who joined us for several years have advanced their skills to the higher levels and will really enjoy what Winter Park has to offer.

For the non skier don't think you will just be sitting by the fireplace. Fraser Tubing Hill, Bowling, Sleigh Rides, Snowmobiling, Ice Skating, Spa Services, and lots of shopping are just a few of the extra activities to keep you busy. Friday night we scheduled "KIDS NIGHT OUT" at the Vintage Hotel. Among the activities to keep the kids busy are a Wii Guitar Hero Contest and Wii Dance Revolution Contest. Both of these activities are fundraisers for the TSCYF. Ask your club trip leader for details about how participants can win gift cards and other exciting prizes. I'm looking forward to seeing you and the kids in Winter Park this Thanksgiving!

**BIG SKY**

Can you picture yourself there?
Continued from page 5.



unusual to see "Gone Skiing" signs hanging in shop windows on a powder day.

In addition to skiing you can spend time at the Tubing Park, go dog sledding, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, winter fly-fishing, sleigh ride and attend a back country yurt dinner – just to name a few activities! Your week can be filled to overflowing with things to do or you can spend your days on the slopes and late afternoons and evenings in the peace of a spa.

Whiskey Jack's, located in the Mountain Mall, is the place for après ski. There are plenty of restaurants and bars to frequent. There is something for every one – from complete game dinners to hamburgers and pizzas. Stay in Big Sky, go to Moonlight Basin or down to the Meadows.

Don't forget to watch the fabulous fireworks

display on Saturday night!

The Kids Club offers activities for children from 3 to 5 PM Monday-Friday; ideal for ages 4 and up and free to TSC members.

Accommodations run from deluxe hotel rooms to condos. Big Sky has a place to call home for every budget.

We will have a welcome reception on Sunday, a side trip to Bridger Bowl on Wednesday, Club and individual races on Thursday and the grand finale farewell party Thursday night that features a dinner and a DJ for your dancing pleasure.

Summer Expedition to PANAMA

Be sure to make your plans to join the TSC and the member clubs on our exciting Summer Expedition to Panama, June 28 – July 5, 2009, at the fabulous Royal Decameron Resort at the Costa Blanca (www.decameron.com). Updates will be in the next TSC Newsletter.



TEXAS SKI COUNCIL 2008-09 SPONSORS

PLATINUM

Alpine Adventures/Ski Europe/
Ski Canada

SkiAlpine Experience/Para-ski

Vail Resorts:

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

SILVER

Big Sky Resort, MT

Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, WY

BRONZE

Copper Mountain Ski Resort, CO

Sports America

Sunday River Resort, ME

Ski.com

Telluride Ski Resort, CO



FROM THE DESK OF THE *PRESIDENT*

By Peggy Montgomery

Just back from a really fun event--The TSC Summer Meltdown--a good time was had by all--a big THANKS and APPLAUSE to LISA SPOTTS for all her hard work--she was like the Energizer Bunny all weekend! Coming up next is the Fall Roundup Trip at Winter Park, followed by four more months of Great TSC Trips.

As both the TSC and Club trips come up, I hope all of you have encouraged your members to evaluate using **Travel Insurance**, particularly with the state of the ski industry. Trip interruption aspect of insurance can be just as important as the medical aspect, as those that went to Quebec experienced last year! Being reimbursed for unexpected overnight stays due to weather/flight cancellations can be a real benefit. For insurance you have the option of obtaining the **AIG Travel Guard** protection available through the TSC website (just click on the Travel Insurance link), through a tour operator (check with your TSC Trip VP to see if travel insurance is available) or through numerous resources on the internet. While it is specifically encouraged for international trips, you can just as easily have need for the insurance on domestic trips, so I encourage all clubs to recommend that their trip participants check into it.

For those of you that have noticed the recent news articles regarding the financial stability of AIG, Inc., the parent company of Travel Guard, please note that these articles were about the parent company. AIG Travel Guard's policies are underwritten by American Home Assurance Company and National Union Fire Insurance Company. Both are member companies of AIG Commercial Insurance, whose substantial capital position is independent of its parent. Further, AIG, Inc. has obtained the financing it needed to stabilize itself. If anyone wants more information, please contact me at: president@texas-ski.org.

As we look to the upcoming trips--enjoy more end of summer pictures from the TSC Meltdown in this newsletter--**LET'S ALL WISH FOR LOTS OF SNOW THIS YEAR!!!**



More photographs
from this year's
Summer Meltdown.





TSC SKI BID FEST

April 17-19, 2009

Omni Park West

1590 LBJ Freeway

Dallas, Texas

Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-THE OMNI.
Ask for the Texas Ski Council rate.



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 2009 Ski Bid Fest held at the elegant Omni Park West, 1590 LBJ Freeway, Dallas, Texas, **April 17-19, 2009**. This luxurious 4* hotel is located near the vibrant Las Colinas Business District and only ten minutes from the DFW International Airport. Room rates will be only **\$99.00 per night with reservations made before Jan 31, 2009**. After that date the rate is \$109.00 plus applicable taxes (currently 13%). This rate is for Ski Bid Fest participants only.

As a Ski Bid Fest participant you are invited to attend:

- Friday, April 17 - A fun filled & different TSC Golf Scramble Challenge with lots of prizes for all skill levels.
- Friday evening—Early registration and reception with cash bar and dessert.
- Sat. April 18—Bid presentations from ski areas from around the world.
- Sat. The Ski Bid Fest Vendors Show
- Sat. night—Silent Auction with great items donated from participating vendors and ski clubs.
- Education- Come find out how your Council works and return home with new ideas for your ski club.
- Planned activities and excursions for spouses and guests.
- Sat. night— Cocktails, plated dinner and party until midnight + DJ
- Sun.- Announcements of 2009-10 destinations

Contact **Anne Myers**—Bid Committee Chair, for more information: amyers@satexas.com

Or check our web site for registration forms: www.texas-ski.org

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