



The Cruiser

Vol. XXXII, Issue 11.1

Nov/Dec 2014

LONE STAR SKIERS AND ADVENTURE CLUB

*a non-profit, membership-owned and
operated ski and social club*

'Tis the Season...



HAPPY HOLIDAYS from Lone Star Skiers and Adventure Club

'Tis the season to turn your scale back 10 lbs as you party through the holidays! If we don't see you at the LSS Holiday party on Dec. 6th, then please come to Happy Hour on Dec. 9th and give your fellow LSS members a hug. My gift to you is this very hefty issue of the newsletter, combining November and December news.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hannukah, and Happy New Year! ~susan

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My Big Fat Greek Cruise - MAMA MIA! October 13-21, 2015

This trip begins with Athens and ends with Rome. In between you will be on board a cruise ship with Holland America and venture to some of the most beautiful destinations in the Mediterranean. There are pre and post trip options as well.

Itinerary:

Oct 14, Athens, Greece
Oct 15, Ephesus, Turkey
Oct 16, Rhodes, Greece
Oct 17, Santorini, Greece
Oct 18, Katakalon, Greece
Oct 19, At Sea
Oct 20, Naples, Italy
Oct 21, Rome, Italy



You will fly from DFW to Athens and be transferred to Hotel Athens Ledra for an exciting evening in Athens. An optional half day tour of Athens the next day is offered prior to boarding your Holland America cruise ship, Ms. Zuiderdam.

Pricing:

Prices begin as low as \$3,034 for an inside cabin (estimated until air is secured)

Land only package (no air or transfers) - \$1,734

Greek Cruise, contd.

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Price includes:

- One night hotel in Athens
- All transfers
- Port charges
- Taxes
- Seven night cruise with all standard cruise amenities

*Optional room upgrades on ship are available - talk to the trip director.

*Shore excursions can be purchased directly from Holland America. The cruise line will contact participants individually prior to trip with packages offered on board during the cruise.

*Pre trip to Mykonos and post trip to Rome - see trip director for details.

Deposit is \$200 to sign up. When you pay a total of \$350, that money will be sent to tour operator immediately to secure the room of your choosing on the cruise ship. That deposit is fully refundable until June 15, 2015 when final payment is due to the club.

Contact Debbie Rima with questions or to register, debbieRima@yahoo.com.



Santorini, Greek Isles

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LSS Holiday Party

Saturday, December 6

Omni West Hotel

**FINAL DEADLINE IS
NOVEMBER 30TH!**

Last chance to make a reservation for the Annual Holiday Party on December 6th! Price of \$60 members/\$65 guests includes a buffet dinner and dancing.

COCKTAIL RECEPTION: 6:30 - 7:30 P.M.

DINNER BUFFET SERVED: 7:30 - 9:00 P.M.

Drinks: \$7.00 each

We have rooms held for just \$89/night. Call **972/869-4300** and identify yourself with Lone Star Skiers & Adventure Club and request one of the rooms we have blocked or book online:

<http://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/dallas-park-west/meetings/lone-star-ski-club-12>

Mail checks to Debbie Rima
5002 Roundtable Ln., Garland, TX 75044



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WELCOME! Our New Members

Cheryl Acres
Jim Bennett
Jeff Bishop
Patricia Bradshaw
Mary Lee Heald
John Krieger
JoAnna Lands
Alton Moore
Carla Sherman
Charlene Tribble

he

December Events

06 Holiday Party @Omni Park West
09 Happy Hour Cafe de France

January Events

13 Happy Hour TBD
20 Board Meeting @ Pho House

*Board meetings are
held at Pho House on
Alpha Road once a
month.



December HAPPY HOUR

Tuesday, December 9, 2014

5:30-8:00 p.m.

CAFE DE FRANCE

17370 Preston Rd
Dallas, TX 75252
972-733-3400



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*Credit: Thanks to trip director Debbie Rima for writing this article

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Red Jeep Tour group shot in Sedona

LSS Goes to the Grand Canyon and Sedona

Our October trip to the Grand Canyon and Sedona was truly a red rock tour with spectacular weather and nature at its best, displaying glorious colors at every turn.

Twenty-five club members piled into four vans after arriving in Phoenix and began our adventure. Our pit stop to Bashas to buy happy hour supplies got us off to a great start with everyone running up and down aisles loading up food and alcohol to hold us over for the weekend. Some of our new folks swore there was no way we could use up all the wine we bought, but we were determined to prove them wrong.

After checking in to our wonderful hotel in the heart of the Grand Canyon, we headed over to our first view and happy hour spot where we were awed by the

Grand Canyon, contd.

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splendor of the majestic Grand Canyon. We sat in our little amphitheater sipping wine and munching on cheese and crackers, even finding an old Meetup friend and her boyfriend up there at the same spot.

Saturday, most of us headed out for the most wonderful river float trip about 2 hours away, while others hiked or rode mules. Boris Greenberg thought he'd try to hike to the bottom of the Canyon. I think someone forgot to tell him that is normally a 2-day hike. He made it to the bottom then realized he needed to get back up top by the end of the day. Needless to say, he was one wiped out guy that evening. We then celebrated our second happy hour at a different viewpoint then headed out for dinner.

Sunday, we packed up and headed south through the Oak Creek Canyon with its glorious fall colors, then on to the beautiful town of Sedona and our red rock jeep tour. We were entertained by cowboy and cowgirl tour guides. After returning with most of our innards pretty much still in place after climbing over the pretty large boulders, we met poolside to celebrate our final happy hour amidst the glorious red rock views that were also our views from our rooms. It was wonderful to be joined by long-time members Dick and Arlene Vendor who were also touring the red rocks of Arizona. We finished our evening with a wonderful meal at Mesa Grill out by the airport.

We've returned to Dallas with many new friends and lots and lots of wonderful pictures. This trip was truly the most wonderful red rock tour!



Debbie on the river float trip



TSC FINAL SHOWDOWN - Breckenridge February 28-March 7, 2015

In Colorado, there are a total of 53 peaks that rise 14,000 feet or higher. From Breck, you can see three of them: Quandary, Grays Peak, and Torreys Peak. From the top of the Imperial Lift many more 14,000 foot peaks in the heart of the Rockies are visible, including Mt. Massive, Mountain of the Holy Cross, and even Pike's Peak away in the distance. Not only are they a spectacular sight, they also have a big influence on snow conditions in Breckenridge. Moist air is forced to travel over the summits, and when it reaches the point of condensation, the snow begins to fall – right over beautiful Breckenridge.

Breckenridge, contd.

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As the largest historic district in Colorado, you can be sure the history of Breckenridge is rich and colorful. There are far more things to do in Breckenridge than ski and snowboard. Whether it's exploring the Country Boy Mine, the only authentic mine in Summit County, or dogsledding with Siberian Huskies, there's a host of Breckenridge activities to keep your vacation fun-filled and action-packed. Try an après-ski massage in a Mountain Sanctuary Day Spa, treat yourself to some new gear from the Gore Range Outfitters, or catch that blockbuster you've been waiting to see at the Speakeasy Movie Theatre. There is plenty to see and do in Breckenridge, no matter what time of year you're planning to visit. This mountain town offers so much to explore, everyone will stay excited.

Our tour operator is also working on a pub crawl with a vintage 80s theme, a ski day in Vail, lots of happy hours and parties, and so much more!

We're staying at Beaver Run Resort, a full service, slopeside resort that makes vacationing in the Rocky Mountains fun, adventurous, luxurious, and convenient, with concierge service, wi fi, onsite dining, ski rentals, spa, and much more! Beaver Run is 3 blocks to historic Main Street, and is located at the bottom of Peak 9 of the ski area.

For more info contact, Debbie Rima at debbierima@yahoo.com



Beaver Run Resort

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*Credit: Newsletter Editor Susan Swaim for writing this article

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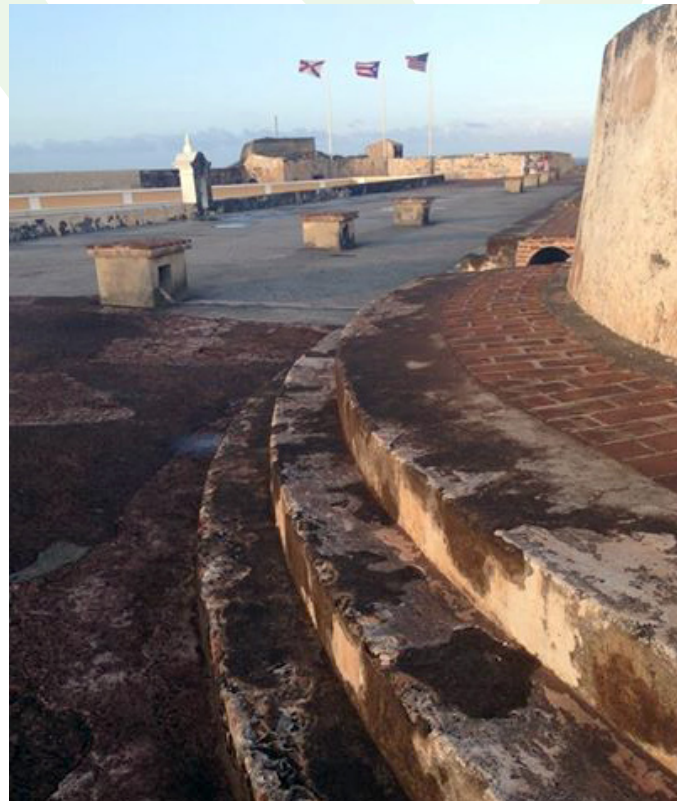
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Puerto Rico Arriba! Que Magnifico!

It was a lovely time in Puerto Rico for seventeen LSS members who journeyed there with me November 8 -14th. The weather was perfect and the water blue and the people friendly. Our lodging at the Embassy Suites in San Juan was conveniently located a block from Isla Verde beach where a number of us started off Friday night with CoCo Locos (pina coladas) at the suggestion of Fred Wright, our tour manager for this refreshing seven day trip. By the following evening, Saturday, all members had arrived and were settling into their accommodations before partaking of a lively dinner at Metropol just down the street. It was at this point you knew you were no longer in the United States proper but in a territory where Latino culture rules. Besides the cock fighting establishment witnessed on the way to dinner and the juxtaposition of Spanish and English everywhere, you knew as did Dorothy, it's no longer Kansas. And now let the party begin.

Our first day trip as a group was to the Bacardi Rum Factory located outside of San Juan. I now know why the bat is the Bacardi mascot. And I tasted a variety of rums, each sweetly distinct. And I bought some rumballs.

However, the more interesting part of the day was spent in the Old San Juan district of the city. We arrived there rather late in the day but I think most members got just enough of a taste of it's uniqueness to want to come back and explore later in the week. I loved the castles – El Morro – and the history of conquest in Puerto Rico. If only the walls in the castles could speak. There were fantastic views out over the ocean from higher levels. Very near by museums, fine shopping, and dining were to be had in Old San Juan. I know that many members of



El Morro, a fortress and castle in Old San Juan

Puerto Rico, contd.

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the group took advantage and were left wanting more time to spend there.

Onto the rainforest, our second group excursion. Traveling to El Yunque we had a delightful young guide named Andrea. She deposited us at the Visitor's Center for a brief introductory film on the only tropical rain-

forest in the US parks system. Then as a group we hiked down a trail, a rather long and winding one, to get to La Mina Falls. Some of us got very wet before hiking back up the later half of the trail. All along the way we were surrounded by lush vegetation. Giant snails and little lizards were visible but otherwise no wildlife sightings although birds could be heard. We were told that besides the concrete poured trail itself, we were seeing and experiencing what the Taino (the indigenous people of Puerto Rico) would have experienced many, many years ago.

Later the same day we boarded our bus and drove to Fajardo, a mid-size city on the far eastern coast of the island. There we met the outfitters who were to lead us into a mangrove swamp where the bio-luminescent creatures glowed. Puerto Rico is known for having 3 of the 5 or 6 bio-luminescent pools in the world. They require a certain temperature and type of water to exist so it wasn't until our kayaks had entered the mangrove channel that the 'glow' began to happen. Each time you dipped your paddle or touched the water, the water was indeed luminescent. Sadly these creatures die at point of contact. But they reproduce rapidly. I can only speak for myself in saying that the kayaking through the channel was a great challenge. Many other kayaks were coming and going and there were no lights and it was pitch black if not for the glow



Debbie P, Susan, and Deby W hiking in the rainforest

rings attached to the backs of each kayak. Now for the good part. Emerging onto the lake, Laguna Grande, the sky was beautiful to behold. And coming back we were swept along with a current, so - less struggle, more coasting. I thought to myself what a hardy group we were to have hiked a rainforest and kayaked through a mangrove swamp in one day. Exhausted!



Our kayaks await us in the bay of Fajardo

Puerto Rico has beautiful beaches but the islands surrounding it known as the Spanish Virgin Islands have the best beaches. It was our third excursion agenda that took us to Flamenco Beach. Trip Advisor rates it as #3 in the world of top ranked beaches. Again we journeyed to Fajardo, to the marina, and boarded our catamaran. After a couple of hours at sea we anchored close to the shores of Culebra, the island, and Flamenco, the beach. We beheld gorgeous water in those Caribbean shades of blue that we all see on postcards and a sandy white beach with

Puerto Rico, contd.

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just enough surf to make you want to stand in it and splash with each incoming wave. A small coral reef was visible. Several of us swam there and snorkeled. Lots of coral types: brain, fan, branch, and small fish were seen. The beach was lightly populated and I looked for Gilligan and Mary Ann but saw no trace of the S S Minnow.



La Mina Falls in El Yunque rainforest

Puerto Rico, contd.

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LSS Ski Trips

January 10-17, 2015

Beaver Creek Long and Short

This is the TSC Traditional ski trip. We are staying at an incredible ski-in, ski-out lodging on this fabulous mountain! This trip is WAITLISTED.

January 23-31, 2105

Madesimo, Italy

This is the TSC Winter Expedition. This wonderful Italian town right on the Swiss border offers it all - fabulous skiing and day trips to fabulous locations like St. Moritz. Parties! Wine! A perfect trip for both skiers and non-skiers. This trip is WAITLISTED.

January 31-February 7, 2015

Mammoth Mountain

This is our Winter Shootout ski trip. We're staying at ski-in/ski-out lodging. You'll even get to Mammoth early enough to sneak in an extra day of skiing. This trip is WAITLISTED.

February 28 - March 7, 2015

Breckenridge

This is our TSC final showdown trip. Breckenridge, home of the best snow in Colorado. The layout of the mountains almost always guarantees great ski conditions. This is also ski-in/ski-out lodging.

SPOTS ARE AVAILABLE, contact Debbie Rima at debbierima@yahoo.com.



Contact Trip Chair: Allison McMillan, 806-544-9892 for more information.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

02 Terry Smith
03 George Michael Harper
04 Francis Griffin
05 Sheryl Potts
06 Carolyn Gigac
08 Betty Bogart
09 Gene Meyer
11 Monica Rowe
11 Mark Davidson
11 Val Juarez
12 Pamela Autrey
14 Terry Davis



17 Susan Riewe
18 Michael Hines
18 Rusty Wells
19 Rosita Martinez
20 Catherine Griffin
20 Roberta McAllister
20 Andy Via
21 Leah Afshar
21 Ann Bracken
25 Olga Wharton
28 Pamela Queen
29 Charles Gibbs

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 01 Dave Martinez | 11 Suzanne Flute | 15 Niles Wallgren |
| 04 Patricia Fekete | 11 Dan Buchanan | 18 Jim Fain |
| 06 Sonja Thompson | 12 Rex Hulbert | 18 Lou Fox |
| 07 Steve Suddith | 12 William Buehler | 18 Charlotte Shero |
| 08 Dennis Cuccia | 13 Teri Crosby | 20 Cheryl Reinhart |
| 08 Dilshad Delawalla | 13 Barry Queen | 20 Courtney Awalt |
| 09 Dave Hensley | 14 Jean-Francois Bedard | 25 Judith Lamson |
| 09 Cathi Lane | 15 Bethany Reinhart | 26 Jori Andrade |
| 10 Carl Byler | 15 Tom Stiffler | 27 Chris Taylor |

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Dennis Arnold
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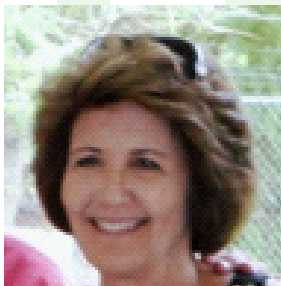
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