the **powder hound**

a publication of the Dallas Ski Club July/August 2018 Vol 48, No 4



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 19, 2018 – Dance Lessons Guitars & Cadillacs, 17727 Addison Rd, Addison

August 5, 2018 – Trip Sign-Up Party Blue Mesa Grill, 14866 Montfort, Addison

August 7, 2018 – 1st Tuesday Happy Hour Chelsea Corner, 4830 McKinney, Dallas

August 25, 2018 – Wine Tasting Private Residence, Dallas

Sept. 4, 2018 – 1st Tuesday Happy Hour Queen of Sheba, 14875 Inwood, Addison

Sept. 8, 2018 – Annual DSC Tennis Tournament Brookhaven Country Club, Farmers Branch

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Remember to check us out our Facebook and Meetup pages!



Dallas Ski Club - a member of the Texas Ski Council



The Dallas Ski Club welcomes our members and guests to our events and reminds every one of your personal responsibility in consuming alcoholic beverages at all activities sponsored by the Club. All our events and activities are non-smoking.

DSC MISSION

The Dallas Ski Club's charter is to create and provide social activities and ski trips promoting friendships and camaraderie for the Dallas/Fort Worth community.

In our 6th Decade of Quality Skiing!

PO Box 810289 Dallas, Texas 75381-0289 www.dallasskiclub.org

THE POWDER HOUND

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George Kelly President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Dallas Ski Club is still off to a great start for this year! We had a fun-filled afternoon near the end of May with 36 DSC members enjoying betting on horses (betting was fun but learning the horse you bet on did not win was NOT fun) at Lone Star Park in Grand Prairie. Our VP of Activities, Cinde Cotton, made this happen and with the help of member Mary Lee Sefried who really has an in with horses, we were allowed to go down and get very close to the horses. It was a great time.

The DSC's publication to our members is the "PowderHound" and has been for over 40-plus years. In this issue you are reading, something has been changed on the front cover with the addition of three little words under the DSC's logo: "SKI – SOCIAL – SUN."



I want to strongly emphasize this is NOT a change in the name of the Dallas Ski Club as we are and will remain a snow skiing organization. The tag line beneath the logo is added to inform potenital members and our advertisers that the DSC also provides other forms of activity and social events to our membership. Frequently, when I have mentioned to someone they should join the DSC, I get back a response of "we don't ski," as they assume that is all we do. We constantly provide to our members five or six snow skiing trips annually with one being outside of the U.S., such as Finland, Japan, Italy, Switzerland, Poland, Austria, New Zealand, Argentina and Chile to name a few international locations where members of the DSC have skied. But we also provide great opportunities to discover and enjoy non-skiing adventures to many places on this planet. For instance, we just returned in May from Cuba, and later this year in October we are going to Patagonia at the tip of South America with an extension to Easter Island.

To name just a few other adventure trips where we have been – Egypt & Nile River Cruise, South Africa, Danube River Cruise, Tuscany Italy, Panama, Costa Rica, Galapagos Islands, Thailand, Iceland, Norway, Ireland – so if you have someone say they don't ski, just say, "Great, here is what we also have to offer to our members, so join us!!!!!"

Remember that you are needed as a volunteer to help support our VP of Activities, Cinde Cotton, in putting on great party events for us, and support our VP of Happy Hours, Catherine Dubord, in checking in members and guests to this monthly event, and, shortly, to our VP of Trips, Betty Graham, when she will be needing trip leaders for all the ski AND non-skiing trips she will be announcing soon.

Lastly, if you have not been attending the happy hour meetings I hope you will start as this is a great way to get to know our members, especially if you volunteer to sit at the check-in table!

Thanks for reading......

George Kelly

2018-2019 DSC TRIPS

Patagonia Adventure October 31 - November 9, 2018

Big Sky, Montana January 5 - 12, 2019

Zermatt, Switzerland January 19 - 26, 2019

Aspen, Colorado February 2 - 9, 2019

Whitefish, Montana February 23 - March 2, 2019

Banff, Canada March 14 - 19, 2019

Croatia Cruise May 17 - 28, 2019

Portugal September, 2019

NEW DALLAS SKI CLUB MEMBERS

David Cheek Dallas, TX 75360 214-708-8793 dcheek@fdic.gov **Cynthia Pruett** Plano, TX 75025 214-458-8260 cakpp@yahoo.com

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Jsharvey555@aol.com

John Harvey Garland, TX 75044

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DSC Cuba Trip, May 2018

What a treat! The tumultuous history of Cuba and the current travel restrictions for Americans made for a very unique travel experience. The US Government has authorized travel from the US to Cuba to persons or groups who meet strict requirements. Our 22 member group met the requirements for the Person to Person section of the Educational Activities category. The U.S. Department of Treasury explains this as, "Travelers utilizing this general license must ensure they maintain a full-time schedule of educational exchange activities intended to enhance contact with the Cuban people, support civil society in Cuba, or promote the Cuban people's independence from Cuban authorities, and that will result in meaningful interaction between the traveler and individuals in Cuba." Among other things, this required submitting for approval a comprehensive itinerary of authorized locations and personal interactions for every day of the trip. Betty Graham did an awesome job of negotiating this mine field. I think she is qualified to join the State Department now.



We were, in fact, able to have meaningful interaction with numerous people in Cuba. In addition, our guide suggested that we take gifts of hard to get school supplies and similar items to give to carefully selected groups in Cuba.

Our trip leader, Lynn Erickson, stepped up to the plate and knocked a home run. Our trip really got started at her house the night before departure. Lynn hosted us to a fine dinner at her beautiful house and introduced us to Liliana, our US guide who traveled with us for the entire trip. Liliana's background made her uniquely well qualified for this job. Her great, great grandfather was the President of Cuba; her great uncle was President of Cuba and her father was the Attorney General of Cuba prior to the revolution. She was born in Cuba but her family left when Castro took over. However for many years she has been spending a lot of time in Cuba and during the trip she gave us background information from many perspectives. At Lynn's she helped us fill out our Cuba visa forms; they must have absolutely NO errors. Then she gave us an extensive briefing on all the practical matters related to traveling in Cuba.

The next day, Wednesday, May 2, we flew on American Airlines to Cuba with a connection in Miami. We arrived in the afternoon and were met by our Cuba guide, Adriana, and Abel, our bus driver for the week. Adriana is a young,

Cuban licensed guide who started studying English extensively when she was very young and speaks it fluently. Both she and Liliana were always with us for the rest of the trip, except when we were released for free time, providing fascinating briefings on history and culture, herding us through complicated arrangements and solving every problem.

We checked in at the Sheraton Four Points, the only hotel in Havana that is still managed by Americans....Sheraton owns 49% and the Cuban government owns 51%. We had our first delicious Cuban dinner that night at Restaurant Habanera, a paladar rated 5.0 by TripAdvisor. We ate most of the meals on the trip in paladars, which are Cuba's baby steps into capitalism. They are legal, privately owned restaurants. Some are private homes with a restaurant addition and some are more elaborate.

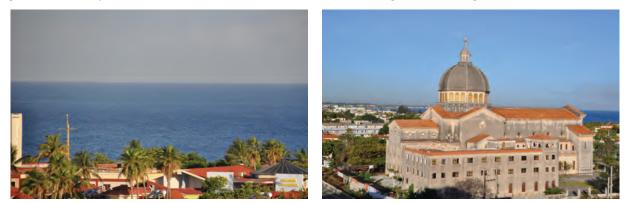
Thursday we launched into a multi-day series of culture and people to people visits which I will try to cover reasonably briefly, although that will be hard since they were so interesting. Our first visit was to the Corona Cigar factory. It is the biggest one in Havana that hand rolls cigars. They try to keep their methods at least semiprivate so no cameras were allowed inside. There were hundreds of workers grading, sorting, rolling and packaging cigars. There was no air conditioning but considering the strong tobacco odor the large open windows were pretty much a necessity. After we watched a worker roll a few cigars the company guide asked for a volunteer to try rolling one. DSC new member, Nurse Heather Raymond volunteered and rolled one that to my untrained eye seemed as good as the ones done by the pros. I think she may have found a new calling.

We moved onward to a walking tour of Old Havana, lunch at El Rum Rum, and a visit to Hemingway's house and grounds. His house was sealed immediately after his 1961 sudden death in Idaho and everything remains exactly as he left it. We could not enter the house but we could see all of the rooms and belongings easily through the open doors and windows.

Friday took us to Fusterlandia where a Cuban artist turned his impoverished neighborhood into a fantasy land of colorful art, all at his own cost. Now the neighborhood is thriving from the visitors. Next a visit to Revolution Square, the site of many rallies by Fidel Castro, an hour or more at the huge San Jose Craft Market, and lunch at Floppy Joe's Bar. After lunch we spent considerable time at the Fine Arts Museum, followed by dinner on our own. A large group of us attended an all strings concert by the Orquesta de Cámara de La Habana. Later the night owls among us attended the extravaganza show at the Tropicana. I heard rave reviews and saw corroborating videos from the attendees but I went to bed instead.

Saturday we visited the Viñales valley, a UNESCO World Heritage Centre a couple of hours drive west of Havana. It is spotted with karst mountains rising vertically out of the farmland, one of which had the enormous Mural de la Prehistoria painted on its south face. Nearby we visited a small tobacco farm where layers of tobacco hung from poles all the way to the thatched roof of the drying barn. We had lunch at an organic farm and then visited a valley overlook where we were serenaded by festive musicians. We have videos of some of our group dancing with their star male performer, but I won't name them. What happens in Cuba, stays in Cuba--until it doesn't. That night was free time so some of us had dinner at the marvelous Hotel Nacional de Cuba where we soaked up the memories of Winston Churchill, Frank Sinatra, Ava Gardner and many other famous visitors.

Sunday was adios Havana, hola Cienfuegos. Along the way we stopped in the sleepy town of Palpite to visit the home of a man who, for years, has been feeding the few remaining Bee Hummingbirds, the smallest birds on the planet. When hurricanes approach the island he attracks the birds into his house to protect them. Most of us managed to catch a quick view of one or two. While we were searching for Hummingbirds, Adriana delivered some



of our gifts to a deserving local school. Because it was not on our approved itinerary we could not visit the school but she said that the students and teachers were thrilled to get the supplies.

Farther south, on the Caribbean side of the island we visited the small, remote town of Playa Giron, which is on the eastern side of the Bay of Pigs at the exact spot where the US Cuban mercenaries landed and were defeated quickly in 1961. We visited the Giron Museum and saw some weapons and photos of the event.

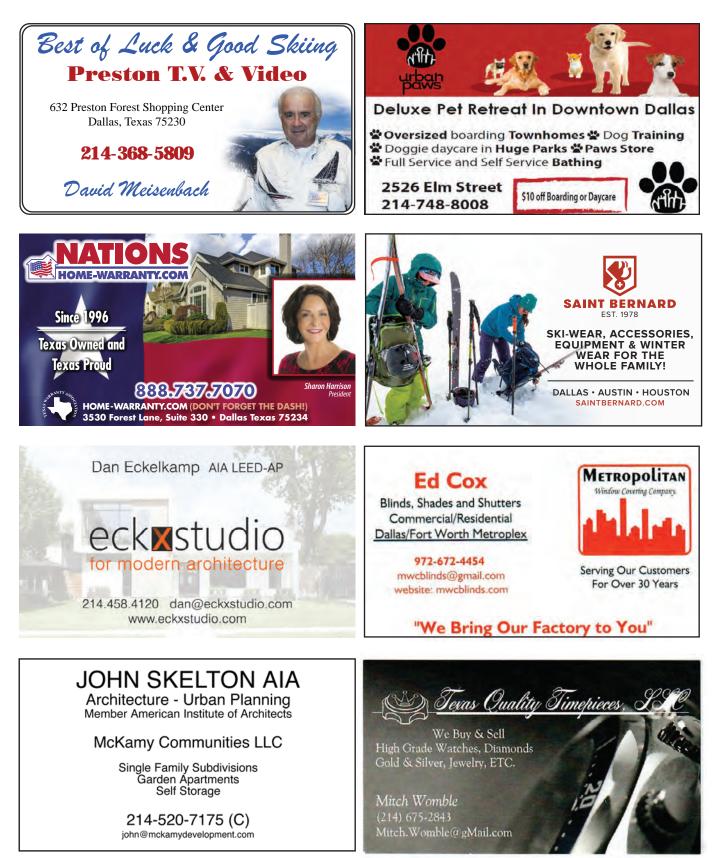
After arriving in Cienfuegos, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, we had lunch at the paladar, Finea del Mar, followed by a walking tour of Cienfuegos. That evening we had a pork buffet in a beautiful garden setting at the Los Laureles restaurant next to our hotel, the Jague. (pronounced hah' way)

Okay, hang on; I'm getting close to the end. On Monday we drove to Trinidad, east of Cienfuegos. Trinidad is characterized as the Disneyland of Cuba but I never could see the connection. However it did have a tall old building with a tiny winding staircase to the top from where we could get an awesome view of the city. We had lunch at the El Dorado restaurant in town and then drove to the Valle de la Ingenios (sugar mills) to visit one of the last remaining small sugar mills in Cuba of the hundreds that used to be there. It was no longer operating but we got to see the equipment used by slaves and oxen to press the sugar juice from the cane and the very large cast iron kettles used to boil it in.

Tuesday, our final day, we drove to Santa Clara, about an hour and half north of Cienfuegos to catch our outbound flight. There is a good airport at Cienfuegos but American Airlines stopped flying there last year when the US clamped down on Cuba visits. Our flight did not leave until late afternoon so we visited the large Che Guevara Memorial in Santa Clara. His mausoleum and museum are on the site but they closed just as we got there because they lost electrical power. It was too hot to wait around for them to reopen so we moved on to lunch at the very picturesque, palm studded Hotel Los Caneyes. From there it was just a matter of flying back home. What an outstanding trip. Betty, Lynn, Liliana, Adriana and Abel all deserve accolades for making all of this work out so well.

-John Shriner





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3333 Golfing Green Drive, Farmers Branch

Players sign-in at 4:30 pm | Play begins at 5:00 pm

Mixed Doubles ~ Awards for all levels of play!

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Players - \$40.00 Non-Players - \$15.00 Dinner with Wine/Beer/Soft Drinks immediately following the tournament...

We are limited to 16 Women & 16 Men Players who will compete in one of two levels (A & B) to be assigned by our Tournament Director.To play, you must personally contact the Tournament Director, Ed Cox, to determine your playing level.

Sign up for this event on our website (DallasSkiClub.org) and pay with your credit/debit card or mail your check to: DSC – Attn: Tennis, P O Box 810289, Dallas, TX 75381

> For information, please contact: Ed Cox, Tennis Tournament Director, at 972-672-4454

An Afternoon at the Races

An afternoon at the races and what an afternoon it was! We are so lucky to have Mary Lee Sefried in our organization because she was able to set up some really cool behind the scenes adventures. Thirty-six of us made the journey down to Lone Star Park on May 26, 2018. We were seated in our own section of The Silks dining room right on the glass. We had our own waiter and a hostess that could take our bets and pay out our winnings so we didn't even have to wait in line.

We learned terms like: "In the money; jolly long shot; odds on; pacesetter; win, place, or show and on the board" just to name a few. The next big surprise sprung on those in attendance was the introduction of a gentleman who has been in "professional horse betting" for many years. He came to our tables and spoke and entertained our group for about twenty minutes. He even gave us tips for several of the races. I took some of his suggestions and won some money!

Then we were treated to a tour of the track. Our first stop was the media room where three or four stewards watch the races to oversee all aspects within the races to ensure guidelines and regulations are

adhered to. They are well-respected members of the racing industry and maintain the integrity for race day operations. They also would take a photo of the winning horse, jockey, trainer and owner. Our next stop was down on the field to the Paddock Circle where the horses are brought before each race. We were able to see the horses and jockeys "up close and personal". A few of us were able to go into the jockey quarters where they dress and get weighed and just relax. Some of them ride in more than one race. The quarters were pretty sparse and the jockeys themselves are very small... more so than I imagined.

The Bartells, Laurel Levin, Tom Keever and the Wombles were all busy making bets for each race. You didn't want to sit any out because they are so fun to watch! Dick Gromel was not talking about his wins and losses but Karen Yocum, Lori Seibold and George Kelly sure were! Lori and George kept saying how much they won, but didn't mention how much they bet. I think they probably broke even. Vincent Hrenak was able to bring his daughter at the last minute and apparently she is very much into horses. Guy Huntley and Louise Hytken were busy taking pictures of our group, our tour and some of the finishes of the races. Carol Brown and Jerry Aris had their own way of betting and even though I was sitting next to them I couldn't tell you their method.

I think all of us stayed until the end of the last race.

A fun afternoon for sure!

-Cinde Cotton, VP Activities







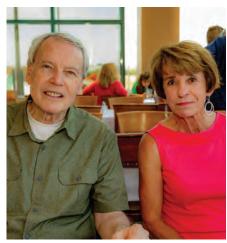




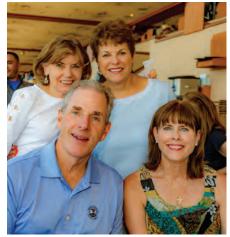






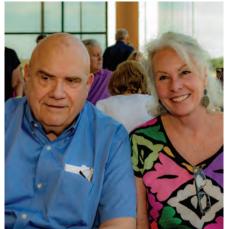
























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Eleanor Mcguire	7/4
John Shriner	7/4
Ralph Doherty	7/5
Vince Hrenak	7/7
Lance Wetherill	7/7
Dick Gromel	7/8
Carol Zahn	7/8
John E. Vandigriff	7/12
Karen Topletz	7/13
Vicki Topletz	7/13
Lynda Taylor	7/13
Crystal Hansen	7/16
Bill Gigac	7/18
Sarah Koldyke	7/18
Judy Zumberge	7/18
James Piot	7/19
Kathryn Bond	7/25
Tom Keever	7/25
Joanna Lands	7/27
Bob Ziegler	7/28
George Myers	7/29
Tiffany Schmidth	7/30

AUGUST

Janet Stone	8/1
Cinde Cotton	8/2
Rick Huskisson	8/2
Sybil Collins	8/3
Tom Jones	8/4
True Mann	8/4
Cecil Lillard	8/5
Mary Phillips	8/6
Janice Seefeldt	8/7
Nancy Farrar	8/8
Randy Jones	8/8
Barbara Hogue	8/9
Larry Fellman	8/10
Tony Arthur	8/11
Sharon Doherty	8/11
Betty Lu Chupik	8/12
Ira Archer	8/13
Eleanor Casey	8/13
Rick Shaw	8/13
Margaret Darphin Mall	8/13
Nancy Kelley	8/15
Elandra D Weinberg	8/17
Gladys Koh	8/18
John M. Welch	8/18
Terry Duke	8/22
G. Roland Love	8/22
David Pennington	8/22
Eva Merchant	8/24
Kim Wall	8/25
Monica Gifford	8/26
Nick Mayrath	8/26
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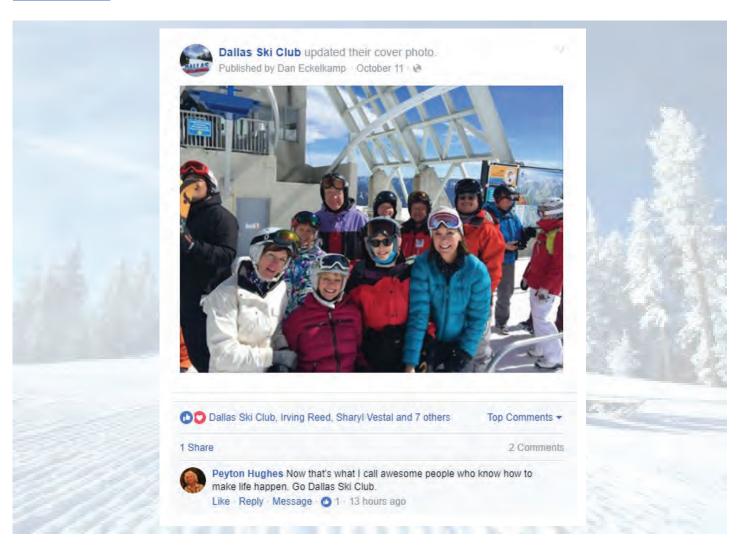
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Our Facebook page <u>https://www.facebook.com/DallasSkiClub/</u> is your one-stop shop for galleries, events, and more. The club's former "Group" is now closed to new members as we want everyone to "Like" us on our <u>Facebook Page</u> and actively share your trip and event photos. Keep them coming!



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