



UPDATES

<http://PacificRimAlliance.org/>

Pacific Rim Snow Sports Alliance Vol. 10 • No. 1 • Spring 2006

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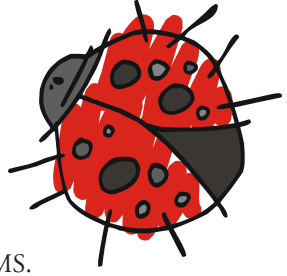
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the Alliance



Val Thorens, France, March 3-11, 2006—

Our trip to Val Thorens, France is just around the corner. We have an opening for one female. If you are interested, give me a call immediately.

It should be a great trip. The early report is that the snow is plentiful and excellent.

Val Thorens with all of Les 3 Vallées makes up the largest ski area in the world, offering an exceptional range of skiing, with very easy links between the different resorts [Méribel, Courchevel]. *[see page 6]*

Vertical Express for MS—

Pac Rim's **Fire 'n Ice Team** competed on Sunday, February 12, 2006 in Big Sky, MT. We placed fourth but we are still in the process of raising funds.

Donations can still be made to **The Heuga Center** by sending checks to me at **10818 Viacha Dr., San Diego, CA 92124.**

Far West Convention—

It's not too early to start planning for the 2006 Far West Convention in Phoenix at the Sheraton's Wild Horse Resort. Just visit fwsa.org and follow the appropriate links.

Heuga Wine Maker Dinner Fundraiser—

You won't want to miss our annual Wine Maker Dinner on Saturday, September 30, 2006, 5 PM. **Mary Timmins** and I are already working on the menu and wines. Now that I am retired I have more time to plan. Cost is the same as last year— \$65

check made out to The Heuga Center for MS. Mark your calendar now because this dinner typically sells out.

2007 Trips—

Another side benefit of being retired is getting the opportunity to check out some new (to me) resorts. For the past few years I've been talking about putting together a "Ski Safari" of the Southern portion of British Columbia. Well, this year I got an opportunity to check it out.

We looked over and skied **Big Mountain, MT**, and British Columbia's **Fernie, Kimberely, Panorama, Kicking Horse, Big White** and **Silver Star**.

It was a great experience and now I have a better feel for what we can reasonably do. What I am proposing is that the first safari cover the Kootneys starting in **Fernie** (maybe two days here), **Big Mountain**, then **Kimberely, Panorama** and **Kicking Horse** (definitely two days here), and then perhaps a day in **Banff**. We would fly in and out of Calgary and rent vans to handle the transportation.

I hope to have something for you after the convention in June.

There has also been a request for a **Vail/Beaver Creek** trip in late January. If you are interested in either trip, please drop me a line. ✨

• **Ski With Pride** •
• **Watch All Sides** •
• **Let It Ride** •
First With Safety Awareness

NATIONAL SKI AREAS ASSOCIATION

Associate Member

NATIONAL SKI AREAS ASSOCIATION

nsaa.org

Membership in Pacific Rim Alliance gives you membership in LA Council of Ski Clubs [LAC], San Diego Council of Ski Clubs [SDCSC], Far West Ski Association [FWSA], and National Ski Council Federation [NSCF].



Coming this Summer — New Zealand & Australia!

TRIPPING AROUND

❖ Pacific Rim Alliance ❖

- VAL THORENS, France March 3-11, 2006
ISTANBUL, Turkey March 11-14, 2006
GREEK ISLES Cruise March 14- 18, 2006
Gene Fulkerson @ 858-467-9469
- WATER SKI COLORADO RIVER June - October 2006
Patricia Ortiz @ 323-651-0686
- NEW ZEALAND & AUSTRALIA July 25 - August 13, 2006
Gene Fulkerson @ 858-467-9469
- WINE MAKER DINNER FOR MS September 30, 2006
Gene Fulkerson @ 858-467-9469
- VAIL/BEAVER CREEK, CO proposed January 2007
Gene Fulkerson @ 858-467-9469
- BC SKI SAFARI proposed February 2007
Gene Fulkerson @ 858-467-9469
- MADONNA DI CAMPIGLIO, Italy proposed March 2007
Gene Fulkerson @ 858-467-9469

❖ Los Angeles Council ❖

- PRAGUE, Czech Republic March 14-18, 2006
KITZBUHEL, Austria March 17-25, 2006
Bonnie West @ 562-699-8880
- A DAY AT "LONG" BEACH July 29, 2006
Mary Albritton @ 323-582-6852
- JACKSON HOLE, WY February 3-10, 2007
Bonnie West @ 562-699-8880

❖ San Diego Council ❖

- ASPEN, CO proposed December 2006
Mike Sanford @ 858-695-1442

❖ Far West Ski/Race Association ❖

- ZERMATT, Switzerland March 11-18, 2006
SOLD OUT *Tucker Hoffmann @ 510-278-5900*
- FWRA RACE CHAMPIONSHIPS, Kirkwood . . . March 17-19, 2006
- GALAPAGOS ISLANDS / MACHU PICCHU May 22 - June 6, 2006
Tucker Hoffmann @ 510-278-5900
- FAR WEST CONVENTION, Phoenix, AZ June 8-11, 2006
- PANAMA CANAL CRUISE Oct 29-Nov 11, 2006
Tucker Hoffmann @ 510-278-5900
- FAR WEST SKI WEEK, Steamboat, CO Jan. 27 - Feb. 3, 2007

Go to "Tripping Around" at <http://www.pacificrimalliance.org> to download color flyers for most of the events listed above.

MEMBER PROFILES

Marek Urbanek

Periodically we receive a newsy email from **Marek Urbanek**, one of the infamous Polish contingency from Phoenix. We are always delighted.

Marek writes that he had to put skiing on hold for a while since he's had to have corrective surgery on his knee last year.

He retains that his best memories of skiing was with Pacific Rim. As he remembers, the best snow was in Méribel, the best atmosphere was experienced at the Hotel Maria in Moena, and the best extension was to Sicily.

Another great hotel was the Gran Baita in Val Gardena. Excellent food was had at the La Béranganère Hotel in Les Deux Alpes. And the most educating tour was through Pompeii.

In recent years, Marek has traveled to Mexico frequently with

Janina Pajic including a trip in November to Brazil, where Janina's daughter got married. After the ceremony in Rio, they flew to Iguassu Falls for 4 days and saw the falls from both sides.

This spring, they have scheduled a fully escorted 13-day China tour, which starts March 11, 2006. They are considering joining us on our trip to New Zealand, depending on his health. They also need to visit friends in Poland and, like so many of us, only regret that they can't retire and live on the fixed income and travel all over the world.

Marek tried retirement a year ago, but it didn't work out and he had to return back to work for Arizona State Parks. At least his job combines his skills with his love for the outdoors and nature and gives him some time and the income to continue his travels.

Marek and Janina sends everyone their warm greetings. We hope to see them soon on one of our trips. There are a few good ones still in the works. *



Ski Tips

Altitude Sickness—

No matter how often we write or talk about it, we find that some people still get altitude sickness when it can most often be avoided. The higher up you are, the thinner the air, which means your heart works harder.

In addition, unfit people wearing the wrong clothing and going balls-out are candidates for altitude sickness.

You lose an unbelievable amount of sweat through evaporation and exercise. The higher the altitude the more you lose.

Replenish the loss with more water. Do not drink alcohol since it will further deplete your body of much needed liquids.

Protect Your Eyes—

To avoid burning your eyeballs, wear protective goggles or glasses. Note that not all trendy, overpriced eyewear will screen the sun's rays, so look for adequate UV protection.

Protect Your Skin—

Be sure to wear a good sun-block, even on cloudy days. The sun reflects off the snow and is stronger at high altitudes than you think!

Cover Your Head—

Wear a hat or helmet (preferred) as 80% of heat-loss is through the head.

Cover Your Hands—

Wear warm gloves or mittens. Mittens are usually better for those who are susceptible to cold hands.

Dress in layers—

Layering allows you to accommodate your body's constantly changing temperature. Propylene underwear

(top and bottoms) feels good next to the skin, dries quickly, absorbs sweat and keeps you warm. You should also wear a turtleneck, sweater/fleece and waterproof jacket.

Take a Lesson—

Put beginners in ski/boarding school to get them on the right track. Instructors know how to teach so let them do what they do best.

After a few lessons, you'll be able to enjoy riding with your friends and they will be proud to show you their new abilities.

Know When To Stop—

For example, if the clothing layer next to the skin stays wet and you're

chilled, if you're injured, have a problem with equipment or even if you're just simply worn out, it's time to stop for the day. It's alright to stop before the end of the day.

Set a Meeting Place—

If you get separated from your group you should have a time and place to meet. The walkie talkies now available are convenient and an easy way to stay in touch with those skiing different runs.

Drink Water—

Again, this can't be repeated often enough— drink plenty of water. *

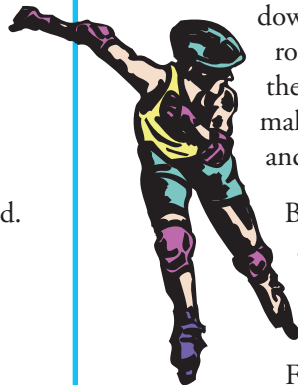


FITNESS

Improve Your Skiing Balance—

One of the best things you can do for your skiing, in or off season, is to roll on skates.

Have you ever watched the pros race? These skiers show very little up and down movement, but spread their feet apart and smoothly roll both skis from edge to edge. There is no pivoting of the skis and rarely any skid—just arc-to-arc carving. They make skiing look so easy. The trick is to find your balance and it will be easy.



Balancing on inline skates is identical to standing over the sweet spot on today's carving ski. There is little margin for error. You can't be too far forward, and sitting back will have you on your butt in a second.

Find a wide paved area with a gentle pitch. The yard at a local school might be your best bet. Set up some obstacles and "run the gates." Wear a helmet, knee and elbow pads and wrist protectors, and "crave" this slope all year round. The more miles you skate, the more ready you'll be to make precise turns on the slopes. *

INDUSTRY

Ski News

by Catherine Ohl

Big Bear Road Closed—

Hwy 330 has been closed due to a mudslide. They do not anticipate it opening until the end of March.

Alternate routes are HWY 38 (through Redlands) or HWY 18 (through Lucerne).

For automated information on road conditions, please use a touch-tone telephone to call (800) 427-7623 and enter the highway number on which you plan to travel.

US Resort Lift Ticket Prices—

The U.S. has the world's most expensive six-day lift pass, priced at more than \$500.

For bargain-hunters, Iran is believed to have the cheapest six-day lift ticket in the world, with a pass for the resort of Dizin (which has a good selection of chair and gondola lifts) priced at \$32.

Norway is marginally the most expensive destination in Europe for children, Canada and Switzerland have the best value children's lift ticket pricing, typically a third to a half of the adult price.

Steamboat to Auction Grand Summit Condos—

American Skiing Co. (ASC) is selling the remaining units in its Steamboat Grand Resort Hotel & Condominiums on March 18 during a live and online auction. The auction will offer one-, two- and three-bedroom units and penthouse residences, including more than 200

fractional shares and more than 30 whole units, representing about 35 percent of the total units in the facility. This makes it the largest ski-resort auction of its kind.

Intrawest Reviews Strategic Options—

Intrawest has initiated a review of strategic options for enhancing shareholder value, including, but not limited to,

a capital structure review, strategic partnerships or business combinations. The company has retained Goldman, Sachs & Co. to assist in the review, which is already underway. No timetable has been set for its completion.

"During the past 24 months, Intrawest has made significant progress in broadening its range of leisure businesses, most notably with the acquisition and expansion of Abercrombie & Kent, as well as extending their business reach into Europe and Asia.

Schwarzenegger Lends Muscle to California Resort Marketing—

Governor **Arnold Schwarzenegger**, the California Travel and Tourism Commission (CTTC) and California's winter resorts have launched a California Snow Campaign to boost visits to the state.

The California Snow Campaign includes a 30-second spot featuring Governor Schwarzenegger skiing, along with upbeat greetings from California ski and ride luminaries such as **Glen Plake**.

The 30-second commercial kicks off with the Governor on skis against blue skies and powder-blanketed mountains. California's ski and boarder icons appear throughout the spot, which concludes with the Governor and pals encouraging visitors to "grab (their) sunscreen and party hat and head to California."

This program is all part of CTTC's \$7.3 million annual media buy and includes and cross-marketing with United Airlines, Southwest Airlines, and Warren Miller Entertainment.

Colorado's Early Season Hits an All-Time High—

The 25 member resorts of Colorado Ski Country USA (CSCUSA) set a new record for skier visits during the first part of the 2005-06 ski and snowboard season. Collectively, the areas hosted more than three million skier visits through December 31, 2005, up 5.6 percent from last season and nearly 11 percent ahead the state's five-year average.

With as much as 20 feet of snow so far this season, Front Range destination resorts are fueling the growth. Front Range area visits grew by more than 10 percent. ❄️



Courtesy Steamboat Grand, CO

KID'S KORNER

4 kids & grandkids

Spring is here...Water, Sun and Fun

While childhood memories are often filled with carefree days, emergency room doctors know it as "trauma season." Tragedies peak during the warmer months because children are supervised less, have more free time and engage in more outdoor activities.

Water Safety Tips for Kids—

- If you do not know how to swim, always wear a life jacket.

If you fall, get pushed in or accidentally get near deep water, a life jacket can keep you floating on the surface until you can get help. Even strong swimmers should wear a vest in deep or rough water.

- Swim with a buddy.

You've probably heard this many times, but it's worth saying again. If you get into trouble, your friend can get help fast.

- Always go feet first into unfamiliar water.

There could be rocks or tree stumps in rivers and lakes. Even pools can be more shallow than they look. So always check out the depth of water before you dive in.

- If you see someone in trouble, signal the lifeguard or responsible adult.

Don't try to rescue the person yourself—you could get pulled under the water. Wave your hands over your head to signal the lifeguard or another adult.

- Don't EVER pretend you are drowning. *It wastes lifeguard's time and may take their attention away from someone who really needs help.*

- It's a good idea to stay near people who know you and will notice if you are in trouble.

If you are with a group of people, have a check-in time and place to meet. Be sure

you show up on time so you won't give the adults gray hairs.

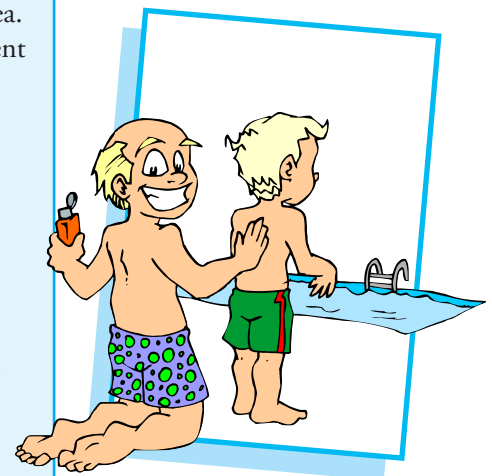
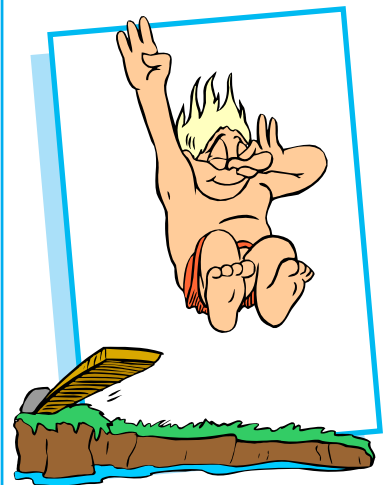
- Don't let your friends tease you into something you don't want to do. *Even if all your friends are jumping in, don't do it if you are afraid or feel like you can't handle it. Knowing your limitations is nothing to be embarrassed about.*
- Make sure you always follow the adult in charge's instructions!
- Wear sunscreen! *



Online Safety for Kids—

Kids, here's are some Safety Tips for you when you go online.

- Don't ever give out information about yourself like your last name, your phone number, where you live, or where you go to school.
- Never e-mail a picture of yourself to strangers.
- If somebody emails something to you that makes you uncomfortable, don't look around or explore. Tell your parents.
- Making plans to meet your internet buddies in real life is a really bad idea. People in real life can be very different from how they are online.
- Don't open up e-mails, files, or web pages that you get from people you don't know or trust.
- Don't ever give out your password, except to responsible adults in your family.
- Always follow your family's rules for the using the internet.
- Don't ever do anything that costs money. *



Val Thorens, France

March 3-11, 2006

France Trip Includes—

- Round trip air on Swiss from LAX to Geneva
- Luxury Coach transfers from Geneva to Val Thorens
- 7 nights Lodging at 3-star plus Hotel Novotel [private bath, dbl. occ]
 - Ski-in / Ski-out in Village Center
 - Seven Breakfasts and Seven Dinners
- The Usual Parties, Souvenirs and much MORE!

What's NOT Included—

- US & Foreign Departure Tax - est. \$150 [subject to change]
- Return Extensions up to 30 Days - est \$50 [subject to availability]
- Excursions from Val Thorens
- Lift Tickets
- Tips and Personal Items

Reservations & Information—

- Contact **Gene Fulkerson** at 858-467-9469
- Send \$600 deposit payable to Pacific Rim to 10818 Viacha Dr., San Diego, CA 92124

\$1999
+ airport taxes

About Val Thorens—

Val Thorens is the highest ski resort in Europe at 2300 m [7,600 feet] and also the summit of the 3 Vallées. Les 3 Vallées, the largest ski area in the world, offers an exceptional range of skiing, with very easy links between the different resorts. Thus, anyone can ski the 3 Vallées. And as for the off-piste possibilities, there's just no limit...

Istanbul, Turkey

Optional Extensions

March 11-16, 2006

Turkey Trip Includes—

- Round Trip Air
- Luxury Coach Transfers
- Daily Breakfasts
- 4 Nights Lodging at 4-star Hotel [private bath, dbl. occ]
- 1 Night Zurich [private bath, dbl. occ.]
- Full day tour of Istanbul
 - Blue Mosque, Hippodrome Square, St. Sophia Museum, Topkapi Palace, Underground Cistern, and Grand Bazaar
- The Usual Parties, Souvenirs and much MORE!

\$679

Also in the works is a 4-day cruise March 15-20, 2006 of the Greek Islands



New Zealand, South Island

July 25 - August 5, 2006

New Zealand Trip Includes—

- Non-stop air from LAX to Auckland via Qantas
- Air from Auckland to Christchurch, Queenstown to Auckland
- Nine Nights 4-star Lodging with Private Bath (dbl. occ.)
 - 2 Nights at Elms Hotel in Christchurch
 - 2 Nights at Edgewater in Wanaka
 - 5 Nights at Novotel Gardens in Queenstown
- Luxury Coach Transfers to/from airport & Christchurch to Wanaka to Queenstown
- The Usual Parties, Souvenirs and much more!

What's Not Includes—

- US and Foreign Departure Fees, Security Fees and PFCs
 - US taxes to be collected with Final Payments [est. US \$250]
 - NZ taxes to be paid in Auckland or Queenstown on exit (est. NZ 25)
- Tips

Extra Options Available for Additional Cost—

- Heli-skiing, Bungy Jumping, Para-Penting, Jet Boating, Golf, More
- Return Extensions for Up to 30 Days (from \$50)

Cancellation Policy Will Apply—

\$1979
+ airport taxes

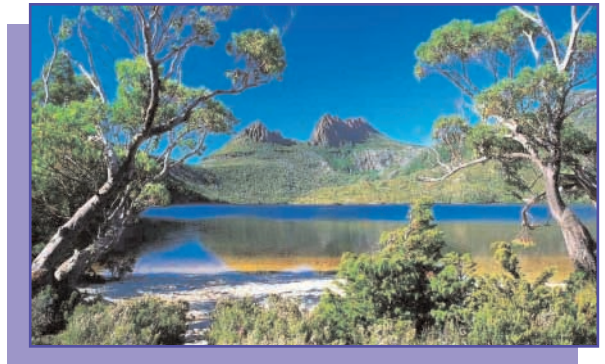


Holidaze

Treble Cone / Lake Wanaka



Queenstown in Winter



Tasmania

Tasmania & Australia

August 5-13, 2006

Trip to Include—

- Air from Queenstown to Melbourne
- Air from Melbourne to Tasmania
- Nine Nights 4-star Lodging with Private Bath (dbl. occ.)
 - 2 Nights in Caines
 - 2 Nights in Melbourne
 - 4 Nights in Tasmania
- Some tours & meals

\$tba
+ airport taxes

Reservations & Information—

Send \$500 to hold your spot to

Pacific Rim, 10818 Viacha Dr., San Diego, CA 92124

For more information, contact Gene Fulkerson at

858-467-9469 or gene@pacificrimalliance.org

Payments for air will be made directly to the tour operator

only
\$110

Water Skiing & Wake Boarding at its Best

2006 Colorado River Schedule

- Two Days Water Skiing • Equipment • Instruction •
- Sandy Beaches • Camping • Food • Beer • Wine • Soda •

June 9-11 August 18-20 Sept 22-24 October 20-22
July 14-16 Sept 8-10 October 6-8

For information: Visit www.RadarRiverRats.org
Call Patricia at 323-651-0686 (before 9 PM)

Everyone Welcome — Friends, Family, Beginner, Expert

WINE MAKER DINNER

Saturday, Sept. 30, 2006, 5 PM

10818 Viacha Dr, San Diego

YES, please sign me up!

Sorry I won't be able to attend.

Here's my Tax Deductible contribution
for The Heuga Center.

For Information—

- Call Gene at 858-467-9469

Send Check—

- payable to **Heuga Center for MS**

- to Gene Fulkerson at
10818 Viacha Dr., SD, CA 92124

100% of proceeds to benefit
The Jimmie Heuga Center for MS!

\$65



Since this is a fundraiser for charity, there will be no refunds.

Far West 2006 Convention

June 8-11, 2006

Sheraton Wild Horse Resort, Phoenix, AZ

Convention Highlights —

- Friday night **Silent Auction**
- Saturday **Seminars**
- Saturday **Luncheon**
- Saturday night "Boot Scootin' Boogie" **Awards Banquet & Dinner Dance**
- Sunday morning **Eye Opener**
- Sunday morning FWSA **Business Meeting**

Fun Optional Activities —

- Thursday night **Rawhide Dinner** with live Country Music
- Friday **Golf Tournament** at Whirlwind Golf Club, includes lunch
- Friday **Hike** in the beautiful South Mountain Park, includes lunch
- Friday **Aji Spa Day** with lunch, 50 minute treatment of your choice and day use of spa facilities
- Boat to **Gila River Casino**

Convention Registration —

- Register for complete convention, optional activities or meals at www.fwsa.org
- Early registration through May 15th for \$135 per person

Hotel Reservations —

- Call 866-837-4156 or local 602-225-0100 and state your affiliation with FWSA
- Follow the link at www.fwsa.org under the Convention tab.
- Reserve now before May 15th for special \$129 per night rate

Contact Information —

- Arleigh Meiners, Host Council Convention Chair
- E-mail at arleigh.meiners@cox.net
- Phone at 480-391-2612

Wild, Wild West



2006 FWSA Convention
Arizona Ski Council

"The Voice of the Western Skier"



**ALL Clubs
members are
invited to
reserve your
room today at
the fabulous
Sheraton Wild
Horse Resort
in Phoenix, AZ.**

Clearly, no other piece of ski gear has gone from extreme esoteric to the top of almost every skier's must-have list as quickly or as convincingly as the ski helmet. In the process, the dawning of the Age of Head Protection has brought with it a modicum of confusion.

Helmet can be divided up into three categories: Racing / High-Performance, Freeride, and Sport Recreational.

Race High-Performance

You live for speed. You just know that everything goes better with hot wax. These race-stock babies are built for you.

[01] Boeri Tactic

The world's first hybrid helmet combines the exceptional impact resistance of classic molded

construction with the weight savings and graphic possibilities of the new in-mold designs. Goodies include removable chimney plug vents, a removable ear and neck

drape, and a patented, 'Head-loc' fit system. www.boeri.com

[02] Carrera Fireball Racing

If you've got the cojones grandes to tuck anything, then you should have the good sense to wrap yourself into this bombshell. Spartan in the

extreme, the Fireball's rugged, molded shell sports a chinstrap, a PVC loop goggle strap, Open Hearing Zone earpieces and a stay-dry DRT Weave liner. www.carrerasport.com

[03] Giro Talon

You can psyche out the competition completely in this compact racing shell. Seamless sculpted sides. Passive air vents. Lock-down Aerodynamic Racing Covers. Plush fleece padding. www.giro.com

[04] K2 Black Hawk

Darth Vader, move over — there's a new lid in town. And its BMW-assisted design looks like nothing you've seen before. TMI construction. Active channel venting. TPR interface. An MX portal for visors. Removable head and ear liners. www.k2skis.com

Louis Garneau

[05] Stream Team Z

[05] Stream Team Tribal

Pricing is the only thing that's

remotely modest about this high-performance duo. Aerodynamic ABS hardshells. And impact-absorbent EPS liners with dual air vents. Plus vented ear covers. teamcnd@louisgarneau.com

[07] Marker Cheetah

Reviewers loved the Ronfalin ABS outer shell with its Jetstream lines and slippery paint. They lapped up the Posh Meryl liner and snuggled comfortably into the Ultra-fit memory foam. www.marker.net

[08] Salomon Crossmax

[09] Salomon Mach 2 Racing

Salomon says serious terrain and serious speeds call for serious protection. Hence, its full-shell, full-face (standard w/Crossmax, optional w/Mach 2) racing helmets. Who are we to argue with that? Men praised the Autofit system and Coolmax liners.

Visit www.salomonsports.com for information on helmets. ❄️



Courtesy Big Sky, MT



Whatever you do when you start trying on new helmets, bring your goggles.

BIG SKY WRAP-UP—

by Gene Fulkerson & Catherine Ohl

photos by Karen Abbott, Larry Armstrong, Joe Escamilla, Deborah Tallent, Karen Tallent, Catherine Ohl



Gene, Fay, Joe, RC, Bob



Patricia, Hans, Birgit



Gene & Kirsten at top Lone Peak



Bob, Karen Guth, Joe, RC, Fay



Kirsten & Karen Abbott

There's more to Big Sky than just its unforgettable setting near Yellowstone Park. Maybe it's the spectacular Lone Peak, the 400 inches of annual snowfall, 85 miles of named runs and lots of elbow room. Lift lines are basically non-existent here. The skiing and riding is the ultimate experience. Words alone can't begin to describe how awesome this mountain is.

We arrived at various times on Saturday, February 4, 2006. **Gene Fulkerson** and **Catherine Ohl** drove and brought the liquid refreshments. It was snowing and they weren't sure they were going to make it up the mountain without chains (they did).

The first surprise to greet us was that the entire group was upgraded from hotel rooms in the Huntley to the Shoshone condos. We each had a one bedroom with two baths. AND we still got the great buffet breakfast every morning.

The second surprise was that it stopped snowing on Sunday and we all had an awesome week of skiing. There was lots of powder for everyone. Those in search of fast cruisers found the snow a bit soft and a more of a workout for the first couple of days. The cruisers were amazing.

The Slopes—

Karen Abbott and **Kirsten Benson** hooked up with **Larry Armstrong** to tackle the untracked stuff at the top.

It was thought that only **Gene Fulkerson** could keep up with **Karen Abbott** and **Kirsten Benson**. The two women were pretty worn out by the end of the day and there were mumblyings that **Gene** skied them hard and made it look easy. They went over to

Moonlight Basin for lunch and went back the next day to ski it.

Hans & Birgit Iliev hadn't skied in a while. Just about everyone suggested they might want to rent the latest in equipment. They hooked up with **Patricia Ortiz** the first day and hung together for the entire week.

Fay Mumbauer, RC & Joe Escamilla, Karen Guth, and Bob Berg skied together mostly. Can't say we saw much of **Nick** or **Nancy** on the slopes but they did ski and had a fabulous time.

Robert Nordquest, the only beginner, took lessons. Everyone, especially his wife **Claudia**, was quite impressed with his skiing by the end of the week.

The Parties—

Sunday night we all meet in the party suite for food and the Superbowl. **Fay Mumbauer** was in the kitchen (as she was every night) and cooked chicken quesadillas for everyone. Meanwhile **Claudia Nordquest** ran the superbowl pool— Gene won the first quarter, **Nick Friedman** won the second, **Bob Berg** got the third, **Hans Iliev** won the fourth quarter and the finals.

What a great way to start off a fabulous ski week. Monday, Big Sky hosted a Welcome Party in our party suite. They brought us food and wine and lots of information. Most of us began to make plans to visit Yellowstone.

We continued to meet nightly for cocktails and appetizers. Thursday night, the whole group enjoyed a wild dinner at Buck's T-4.

 continued on page 11

MORE BIG SKY WRAP-UP—

More Big Sky News from page 10

Our final night was celebrated in the party suite. We watched the opening ceremonies of the Olympics while enjoying a spaghetti feast prepared for the group by **Fay & Patricia**.

Yellowstone—

Tuesday, **Larry, Nick and Nancy Necklemann** saw the splendor of Yellowstone via a snow coach. That night we were wowed with their photos. Patricia did the snow coach later in the week.

Wednesday, **Gene, Catherine, Joe & RC Escamilla, Robert Berg, Karen Guth, Birgit & Hans Iliew, Karen Tallent** (and her husband **Jerry**), and **Deborah Tallent** went snowmobiling in Yellowstone. What a great way to see the park. We were a bit worried at fist since it was about -5°F when we arrived in West Yellowstone. No problem as the sun shone bright and warmed the air.

Oh yes, we promised not to mention that in a blonde moment, **Karen T** crashed her snowmobile into a tree. Fortunately no one was hurt, including the snowmobile and her husband, **Jerry**. It did make us late for cocktails.

Whatever vehicle chosen, Yellowstone was an awesome experience. Besides the animals & Old Faithful, the most amazing sight was the regrowth of the valley since the fire from 15 years ago.

Siblings—

This was a trip for siblings. The obvious pair would be **Karen & Deborah Tallent**. Another **Karen (Abbott)** had the best time skiing with her sister **Kirsten**. Most of us were surprised to learn that **Robert** and **Hans** are half brothers. But that's

not all. **Patricia's** brother drove 3 hours to spend a little time with her.

Thank you—

It was a great trip. **Catherine & Gene** hung around to ski the Heuga Vertical Express on Sunday. The group took up a collection and donated more than \$350 to the Heuga Center for MS as a way of saying thanks.

It was a great group and we treasure all the friendships and the fun! Hope to see you next year in either Italy, Vail or BC. Stay tuned for trip information for 2007. *



Karen, Gene, Kirsten



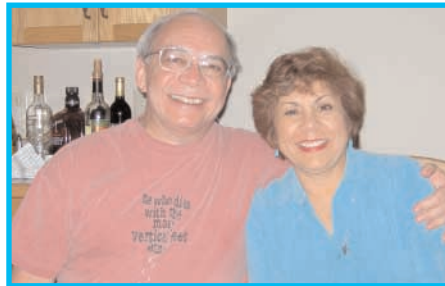
Patricia & Larry



Bob, Fay, Gene



Robert & Claudia



Joe & RC



Nancy & Nick



Deborah & Karen



Snowmobilers take Yellowstone

Check out recently posted photos on web site!

LATE BREAKING NEWS

Intrawest Sells Mammoth Real Estate—

After the sale of Mammoth Mountain to Starwood Capital, Intrawest announced that it will sell the majority of its real estate holdings in the town of Mammoth Lakes for \$60 million pre-tax profit to the same company.

The real estate comprises the future development of over 1,100 residential units and 40,000 square feet of commercial space.

Intrawest will retain a 15% interest in the joint venture with Starwood and will act as development manager, which will allow Intrawest to earn management fees from the future development.

The proceeds from the sale will be used by Intrawest to pay down debt. The deal closing will take place in two stages— the first to close by end of March, the second by end of April.

Big Mountain Adds Glades and Superpipe for 2005/06—

Big Mountain Resort, Whitefish has geared up for this winter with the construction of a Superpipe and newly gladed runs.

The wheels are in motion for a major expansion of the Outpost Lodge and additional village plans will emerge when the bears wake up this spring.



Courtesy Big Mountain, MT

Les 3 Vallées Go Green—

In the continuing trend to identify and quantify the efforts made by ski resorts to minimize their environmental impact, Courchevel in France has detailed what Les 3 Vallées, the world's largest ski area, is doing in this regard.

- Les 3 Vallées entirely uses hydro-electric power for its electricity requirements.
- Biodegradable diesel is used in all its company vehicles.
- Snowmaking has minimal impact on the existing topography and is located in an area where no protected species live.
- The lift pylons of the new Chapalets Chair were anchored directly on to existing rocks to avoid the need for creating new concrete tower bases.
- Organic toilets have been installed at the base of the ski lifts.
- All old lift installations are dismantled and recycled once their working life is complete.

Respect the Mountain Campaign Wins Innovation Award—

The Ski Club of Great Britain's "Respect the Mountain" Campaign, was launched to help safeguard the natural environment and the long-term future of skiing and was given the Lucy Dicker Award.

The award is presented annually by Les Arcs in the memory of **Lucy**



Courtesy Courchevel, France

Dicker, an intrepid skier who tragically lost her life in the French resort of La Grave.

The policy introduced by the Ski Club is aimed at raising awareness of environmental issues with regard to snowsports, and gives advice on how to help preserve the mountains with a seven-step guide.

Since its launch, the "**Respect the Mountain**"

Campaign has grown and this season will see the introduction of an environmental database on www.skiclub.co.uk which advises skiers and boarders on what resorts are doing to help protect the environment, ranking their performance on different criteria including recycling, green power, traffic reduction and building policy.

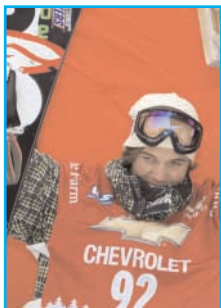
For skiers and boarders who want to show their support of the campaign and their respect of the mountains, the Ski Club is selling "**Respect the Mountain**" green wristbands. The profits from the wristbands go straight towards a carbon replacement tree planting scheme and research projects which the campaign funds.

Pinzolo Offers Birthday Treats—

Anyone with a birthday during the ski season might like to consider joining Pac Rim in Madonna di Campiglio. Nearby Pinzolo gives birthday boys and girls a free lift ticket for the day.

However whether you'll be able to make full use of the ticket is open to debate as the resort also lavishes you with a free three course lunch in the mountain restaurant. ✨

SNOWBOARD STRIP



Mason Aguirre

U.S. snowboarders dominated the 2005-06 Olympic season, leaving their mark on every important event from the Olympic Winter Games and Chevrolet U.S. Snowboard Grand Prix to the World Cup tour and every significant international event in between.

Seven Olympic medals won by American athletes were the highlight of the winter and included

- an unprecedented gold-silver sweep in the men's and women's halfpipe contests.
- the second consecutive halfpipe gold-medal sweep by U.S. riders.
- a gold and silver in the first Olympic snowboardcross competition.
- one medal in the parallel giant slalom. *

Membership Application 2005-06

ALL Pacific Rim Alliance attendees must be a member to participate in one of our trips. Our membership year is from 1 July 2005 through 29 September 2006.

To join the Pacific Rim Alliance, fill out the following and send with your check [payable to Pacific Rim Alliance] to:

PACIFIC RIM ALLIANCE
10818 VIACHA DR., SAN DIEGO, CA 92124

NAME[S]: _____

HOME ADDR: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

E-MAIL ADDR: _____

HOME PHONE: _____

WORK PHONE: _____

FAX LINE: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____

Indicate Membership [Includes membership in FWSA]

- \$8 INDIVIDUAL Membership
 \$10 FAMILY Membership—Significant other, spouse, children, friends residing at same residence qualify

WAIVER: I am aware that participation in the Pacific Rim Alliance events has, in addition to the usual risks, dangers and hazards associated with travel, snowboarding, alpine, Nordic, Heli & off-piste skiing, certain additional risks, dangers and hazards including, but not limited to: boarding, riding and disembarking ski lifts; changing weather conditions; exposed or hidden natural or man-made objects; avalanches; failure to ski or ride safely or within one's own ability; and negligence on the part of other skiers and boarders, the organization or their staff. I freely accept and fully assume all such risks and danger and the possibility of personal injury, death, property damage or loss, resulting therefrom.

Signature

Date

Signature

Date

Pacific Rim Trip Sign-Up Form

[You must be a current member to sign up for this trip— include Dues and Membership Application if not a member]

PRINTED NAME[S] _____

Val Thorens, Fr 2006

New Zealand 2006

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____

FAX _____

E-MAIL _____

DEPOSIT DUE:

\$600 / person for France

\$500 / person for New Zealand / Australia

—Send this Form with Your Deposit Made out to Pacific Rim Alliance to:

Gene Fulkerson, 10818 Viacha Dr., San Diego, CA 92124

Pacific Rim Alliance

P.O. Box 420552
San Diego, CA 92142



First Class Mail



Spring 2006



PACIFIC RIM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT... Catherine Ohl
MEMBERSHIP..... open
TREASURER.... Patricia Ortiz
TRUSTEE..... Bernie Stanton
TRAVEL..... Gene Fulkerson



E-Mail us at info@pacificrimalliance.org

Mission Statement

The PACIFIC RIM ALLIANCE is a non-profit organization dedicated to the appreciation of skiing, snowboarding, sight-seeing, photography, travel, public affairs and civic awareness. The Alliance is further oriented to the building of international relations among skiers, snowboarders and sports organizations throughout the Pacific Rim. The Alliance is a member of **San Diego Ski Club Council, Los Angeles Council, Far West Ski Association.**

Surplus moneys above requirements for deposits for future trips will be donated to non-profit organizations devoted to charity, research & education. We are especially interested in, but not limited to, supporting Ski Area Development, Adaptive Ski Programs, Jimmie Heuga Center for MS and Olympic & Junior Racers, Mammoth Ski Museum.

For Information & Forms, Contact-

- Catherine Ohl 858-467-9469
ohl@acatmeowz.com [e-mail]
- Gene Fulkerson 858-467-9469
gene@pacificrimalliance.org [email]
- Membership 858-467-9469

2006+ Trip Schedule-

- Val Thorens, France & Istanbul March 3-16, 2006
- New Zealand & Australia July 25 - Aug 13, 2006
- Madonna di Campiglio, Italy March 2007