



# **A History: International Skiing Fellowship of Rotarians (ISFR)**

**Chartered February 1974**

**1974-2014**

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## Happy 35th Birthday ISFR

You've come a long way ISFR since 1974. The story of our Fellowship is like skiing - there were ups and downs through the early years. This ISFR history booklet is by no means a finished product. It is done as a labor of love that should continue to be a work in progress.

Different people may feel more things could be added to this 35th Birthday History Booklet. We've left room at the end for you to add your own history/memory notes. We have asked people who have seen the birth and growth of our Fellowship to add their memories as well as getting gleanings from our ISFR newsletters. Participants at the 2008 ISFR Ski Week were asked to write down memories and dates of events. In the December 2008 electronic newsletter that was transmitted to all ISFR members we asked members to submit their memories of ISFR. May you enjoy reading this first attempt of a written ISFR history.

### The Birth of ISFR

The International Skiing Fellowship of Rotarians, ISFR, developed out of a relationship of two USA Rotarians - one from Oak Lawn in suburban Chicago, Illinois; the other from San Antonio, Texas. Thanks to Brian Andersen for historical memories.

Davis Boyd, from San Antonio, moved to Oak Lawn, joined the Rotary Club of Oak Lawn in 1966 and met Brian Andersen. They quickly discovered a common love of skiing, arranged a ski trip with their families to Boyne Mountain, Michigan in 1968 and experienced great Rotary fellowship. During that trip they discussed the concept of organizing a fellowship for Rotarian skiers.

At the time neither Brian nor Davis knew anything about how to establish a fellowship. However, by reading articles on how to organize in *The Rotarian* they gleaned enough knowledge and subsequently applied for a charter in 1973. One of the criteria for the charter was that membership include Rotarians from at least two countries. Along with Rotarians from Canada and the members of the Rotary Club of Vail, the International Skiing Fellowship of Rotarians (ISFR) was chartered (organized) in 1974. The first meeting was held February 2-9, 1974 as a joint meeting of the 4th Annual Rotary Club of Vail Ski Week.

According to Brian Andersen it was logical to have the origins of the Ski Fellowship tied in with a popular ski area. As Rotarians from around the world made up at The Rotary Club of Vail they would be invited to join the Fellowship.

From newsletter gleanings we found that the membership grew quite quickly with dues in US dollars of only \$10 per year. In 1993 the dues were \$20 a year or five years for \$80 while in 1998 the dues had been raised to \$25 a year. In 2002 our current dues with continuing membership became \$35 a year. For new members or a skier with a lapse in membership the dues are \$50 for the first year. The new members also receive the coveted "Ski Tips Up" pin. And now ... thirty-five years later, as of December 31, 2008, ISFR has 343 members in twenty-seven countries.

### North American Ski Sites

The following dates and places of the North American ISFR Ski Week were gleaned from members and newsletters. We certainly hope they are correct.

#### **1974 - Vail, Colorado, USA – Chartered (organized) February 2-9, 1974**

The early meetings of the Fellowship were held each year at Vail. The membership, however, wanted the Fellowship to embrace the early spirit of Rotary and "rotate" the ski week meetings at other ski areas. Thus, after a number of years at Vail (1974-1986), ISFR held its annual North American Ski Week at other popular ski venues:

1987 - Keystone, Colorado, USA

1988 - Keystone, Colorado, USA

1989 - Copper Mountain, Colorado, USA

1990 - Copper Mountain, Colorado, USA; 75-100 Participants  
1991 - Copper Mountain, Colorado, USA  
1992 - Copper Mountain, Colorado, USA  
1993 - Sun Valley, Idaho, USA  
1994 - Steamboat, Colorado, USA  
1995 - Whistler, BC, Canada  
1996 - Heavenly/Lake Tahoe, California, USA  
1997 - Park City, Utah, USA; 100 (approximate) participants from 9 countries  
1998 - Breckenridge, Colorado, USA; 107 participants from 12 countries  
1999 - Whistler, BC, Canada; 170 participants from 10 countries  
2000 - Heavenly/Lake Tahoe, California, USA; 135 participants from 12 countries  
2001 - Jackson Hole, Wyoming, USA; 145 participants from 11 countries  
2002 - Banff, Alberta, Canada; 140 participants from 12 countries  
2003 - Sun Valley, Idaho, USA; 157 participants from 9 countries  
2004 - Telluride, Colorado, USA; 135 participants from 7 countries  
2005 - Fernie, BC, Canada; 93 participants  
2006 - Alyeska, Alaska, USA; 180 participants from 11 countries  
2007 - Steamboat, Colorado, USA; 110 participants  
2008 - Whistler, BC, Canada; 194 participants from 13 countries  
2009 - Crested Butte, Colorado, USA; ? participants from ? countries  
2010 - Park City, Utah USA; 109 participants from 10 countries  
2011 - Aspen, Colorado USA; 146 participants from 7 countries  
2012 - Revelstoke, BC, Canada; ? participants from ? countries  
2013 - Telluride, Colorado USA; 59 participants from 7 countries  
2014 - Winter Park, Colorado USA; 80 participants from 7 countries  
2015 - Big Sky, Montana, USA; ? participants from ? countries

## European Ski Sites

Information for European Ski dates and sites was gleaned from Solveig Skauan, Oslo, Norway; *The Snow Line* and from ISFR Board meeting minutes

1995 - Madonna di Campiglio, Italy  
1997 - Madonna di Campiglio, Italy  
1999 - Madonna di Campiglio, Italy  
2000 - Santiago, Chile  
2001 - Madonna di Campiglio, Italy  
2003 - Madesimo, Italy  
2003 - Turkey  
2005 - Madonna di Campiglio, Italy

2007 - San Candido, Italy  
2009 - Alta Badia, Italy  
2010 - Istanbul, Turkey  
2011 - Engleberg, Switzerland  
2012 - Sestiere, Italy  
2013 - St. Anton, Austria  
2014 - Bad Kleinkirchheim, Austria

## How Did Rotarians Find Out About ISFR?

In 1989-90 when Rotary International's President was Hugh M. Archer his theme was "Enjoy Rotary!" The October issue of *The Rotarian* was devoted entirely to the Rotary Fellowships. Richard Geist remembers seeing the article about skiing and this started his interest in ISFR. Richard also commented that President Archer was an avid Amateur Short Wave Radio Fellowship Member at that time and felt that Fellowships were the best kept secret in Rotary. RI President Archer wanted the publicity for Rotary Fellowships that *The Rotarian* could bring. Richard Geist was excited to find a skiing page and called the phone number listed. It was the number of Davis Boyd who was the co-founder of ISFR. Davis was directing the travel arrangements at that time and answered the phone in the Chicago area. Richard had only been a Rotarian for about six years and was really pleased to find skiing as part of Rotary Fellowships.

In that particular magazine there was an ad for the 1990 ISFR trip to Copper Mountain, Colorado, USA. For many Rotarians, including Janet Holland, that was their introduction to ISFR and they took advantage of the opportunity to become involved. Approximately 75-100 participated enjoyed the trip and returned again the following year to Copper Mountain.

Janet Holland remembers that during a very discouraging discussion in 1993 at Sun Valley, Idaho, USA it was suggested that perhaps it was a futile effort and we should just give up. Someone mentioned that we should disband, one person stated that we couldn't disband. He repeated that several times until the question was asked, "Why can't we disband, no one can force us to continue?" He promptly retorted, "We can't disband until we are organized." He continued to say that what we needed was someone who understood marketing, and since Janet's classification was hardware retailing, she should know marketing and promotion. Therefore, Janet Holland became our first ISFR President. She found out later that she was the first female Rotarian to head an International Fellowship. We began to discuss the possibilities of really turning ISFR into a viable, active fellowship.

According to Janet's recollections, Brian Andersen was vice president, and working closely with Davis Boyd and Jim Backoff, our new treasurer, they began to collect names, business cards, and records of those who had attended in the past. Stan Lowe agreed to be our secretary and took the responsibility of writing our constitution, by-laws, and assuring that we were properly listed as ISFR – International Skiing Fellowship of Rotarians.

By late spring of 1993, Janet Holland remembers information began going out to over 1,000 Rotarians on the new mailing list. By phone calls and letters, Rotarians around the world realized that there really would be an International Skiing Fellowship. Contact was made with groups in various parts of the world who had used Rotary Skiing Fellowships in their events. These groups were asked to submit a name of an active Rotarian to be on our international board. The World Rotary Ski Races had just begun in Italy and that event was recognized as the official world ski races for the ISFR.

Janet also recalls the international aspect of Rotary when in one day she received three international calls about the fellowship. The first call was from Erol Bukey of Turkey who became our Board Member and representative from that part of the world. Other calls were from New Zealand and Sweden. Japan sent in dues for a long list of members of the Japanese branch of ISFR. At last Janet recalls we were truly an international fellowship.

Interesting quote by past ISFR President Michael Vervuurt on how he found out about ISFR, "Years ago I was just about ready to nail my skis on the wall of my patio, raffle off my boots at a Rotary Convention and save my ski poles for my old age as walking canes. Then in September 1995, I saw this ad in *The Rotarian* which called

upon skiers to contact a B. Andersen in Chicago. That was my introduction to ISFR. Within a few months I had signed up for the 1996 ski week at Heavenly and became involved with a group of people who, not only possessed the true Rotary spirit, but also had a love for the great outdoors. They were such fun to be with that by the end of the week I vowed never to miss another ISFR Ski Week.”

It is interesting to know from the ISFR 2008 member survey the answers to the question of “How did you first learn about ISFR?” has these four top answers:

- (1) From a fellow Rotary Club member or Rotary friend
- (2) At the Rotary International Convention ISFR Booth
- (3) From a Rotary International Publication
- (4) While attending a ski week and talked to an ISFR Ski Week member.

### **Presidents of ISFR**

1993-1996..... Janet Holland

1996-1998..... Brian Andersen

1998-2000..... Richard Geist

2000-2001..... Charlie Priest

2001-2004..... Michael Vervuurt

2004-2007..... Bill Schneidereith

2007-2010..... Don Goering

2010- ..... Esio Marzotto

## **Telling Our Story Through the ISFR Booth At Rotary International Conventions**

The ISFR Booth along Fellowship Row as part of The House of Friendship has been a way to let many Rotarians and their families know about our group. In the December 1993 ISFR newsletter editor and ISFR President Janet Holland told in great detail what the booth would be like at the 1994 Convention in Taipei. She even told the size of the booth –10 feet by 10 feet. She was asking ISFR members for photo enlargements or videos of their ski activities to use in the booth.

The 1997 International Rotary Convention was held in Glasgow, Scotland. Early memories of the ISFR Booth were from Margaret Hutchinson of the United Kingdom.

She remembered great times with Brian Andersen, Jim Backoff, Richard Geist, Charlie Priest, Michael Vervuurt, and others as they took turns in the ISFR Booth.

At the 1998 Indianapolis, Indiana, USA International Rotary Convention Chris Carroll and her husband Frank chaired our ISFR booth. Their efforts resulted in 45 to 50 new members.

Our booth at the 1999 International Convention in Singapore was set up and staffed, according to The Snow Line May 2000 by Eugenia Cavazzoni, Francesco Cavazzoni, VP Southeast Asia, Chung Lee, and Tong Soo Lee, VP Orient/Korea.

At the 2000 Buenos Aires RI Convention, ISFR President Charlie Priest was inviting members to join him by working in our fellowship booth talking about our passion of skiing. According to our newsletter, Richard Geist, ISFR Secretary, Margaret Hutchinson, Board Member from the United Kingdom, and President Charlie visited with lots of Rotarians who passed by the booth.

In 2001 the RI Convention was held in San Antonio, Texas, USA. Booth chairman was Bill Lehnhardt with the help of his Rotary Partner, Sara. A total of thirty members signed on with ISFR - 28 new members plus two renewals of lapsed membership. According to The Snow Line October 2001 the following people helped at the

booth: Brian and Caryl Andersen, Ray and Kathy Coombs, Jean (John) DeKeyser, Richard Geist, ISFR Secretary, Don Goering, Ed and Lois Goering, Margaret Hutchinson, Rupert Kenyon, Ben and Claudette Lawton, Bill and Sara Lehnhardt, Pete and Patricia Olhasso, and ISFR President Michael Vervuurt.

Ben Lawton volunteered to serve as the ISFR Booth Chairman in 2002 when the RI Convention was in Barcelona, Spain. Those who helped, according to The Snow Line October 2002, were from Europe/Asia: Eugenia and Francesco Cavazzoni, Laura Constantini, Aldo del Bo, Rosetta del Bo, Margaret Hutchinson, and Lorenzo Vidi. North American booth helpers were: Brian and Caryl Andersen, Ray and Kathy Coombs, Richard and Billie Geist, Don Goering, Ed Hauck, Rupert Kenyon, Ben and Claudette Lawton, and Pete and Patricia Olhasso.

Our 2003 booth in Brisbane, Australia, as recorded in The Snow Line, was chaired by Henry Blowey and Margaret Hutchinson, United Kingdom. Our booth was located at a very good spot. It was opposite where regular convention attendees got their "number of times" stickers from RI staff, so we had excellent traffic. ISFR and family members from the USA that helped were: Brian and Caryl Andersen, Richard and Billie Geist, Don and Doris Goering, George Jones, Rupert and Carmen Kenyon, Jim Mundt, Pete and Patricia Olhasso, and Chuck and Joan Tutor. Also helping at the booth were Howard and Rosemary Farrow, Australia, Heather Black and Ted Ralfe, Canada, Eugenia and Francesco Cavazzoni, Hong Kong, and our booth chairs, Henry Blowey and Margaret Hutchinson, United Kingdom

The 2004 Rotary International Convention was held in Osaka, Japan. The location of the fellowship booths was not in proximity to the daily sessions which decreased traffic. One saving grace though was that our booth was located across from the e-mail café which helped attract some convention goers. Hidetaka Ueda, our Regional Vice President in Japan, took our English literature and had it translated into Japanese. This provided the booth with handouts in Japanese which greatly helped. We had only six sign up as new members but several more new memberships came in later as a result of Rotarians taking literature with them. Special thanks to Richard Geist, booth chair, Brian and Caryl Andersen, Ed Hauck, Jim Mundt, Hidetaka Ueda, and Stefanie Valar for helping with booth duty. A special footnote from our Japan ISFR booth - Japanese Rotarian Kenichi Takeda first came to know about ISFR from the 2004 booth in Osaka. Later he was able to contact ISFR and he and his wife Tamiki attended their first ski week in Whistler in 2008.

Ed and Lois Goering from Corvallis, Oregon, USA chaired the ISFR booth for the next three years. The 2005 International Convention which celebrated Rotary's 100th birthday was a special year for all Rotarians and their guests. The booth was positioned quite favorably on the front row upon entering the House of Friendship at McCormick Place. At the end of the convention ISFR had signed up over 40 new members. Assisting Ed and Lois in Chicago were: Henry Blowey, Walt and Nancy Packard, Pete and Arlene Pinske, Mike and Jo Anne Ruby, Barbara Soldwedel, Jim Tomlin, and Board Members Richard Geist, Margaret Hutchinson, John Lowe, and Peggy Martin.

In 2006 Copenhagen was the convention where there was a problem with the booth. Someone at headquarters did not record secretary Richard Geist's request for a booth and we were put on a waiting list for space. We did get a space after a non-Rotarian performance group didn't show up by the appointed hour and we were given their booth. Then they arrived a day late and insisted on their original booth – so we moved to another one. Many Rotarians who visited the booth were not aware of ISFR and were pleased to know about our fellowship. Thirty-four Rotarians along with their spouses from seven countries became new members during the convention. The new members included 22 from the USA, four from Denmark, three from Sweden, two from Canada, one from Greenland, one from Norway, and one from Italy. Those ISFR members and family members who donated time in the booth were: Brian and Caryl Andersen, Jeff Bricker, Don and Doris Goering, John Lowe, Jon Skauan, and Ted and Carole Wier along with chairs Ed and Lois Goering.

In Salt Lake City at the 2007 convention the ISFR booth was expanded beyond just displaying downhill skis. A snow board and cross-country skis were also included in the booth. A number of the new members who signed up joined us for our annual ISFR Convention Social which was held a block from the Convention Center.

2008 had the Rotary International Convention in Los Angeles, California, USA. We had a great place for the booth as it was located right by the doors as people came into the House of Friendship area. The booth was under the leadership of John Lowe and Bill and Colette Paul, all from California, USA. The three of them set up the booth and got it ready for convention attendees. ISFR President Don and Doris Goering assisted with the booth. Over thirty people were signed up as new ISFR members.

The 2009 Rotary International Convention was held in Birmingham, United Kingdom. Henry Blowey and Board Member, Margaret Hutchinson from the United Kingdom chaired the booth.

**Eric & Dob Lutz chaired the booth at the 2010 Rotary International Convention held in Montreal, Quebec Canada.**

## **ISFR Socials At Rotary International Conventions**

Another form of ISFR Fellowship, not even during the annual ski week, has been the organized ISFR Socials at the Rotary International Conventions. To our knowledge, the first organized social by Don and Doris Goering was held in 2003 at the Rydges Hotel alongside the Convention Center in Brisbane, Australia.

Since that 2003 social in Australia, there has been an organized ISFR Social most years sometime during the convention. ISFR members are informed about the place and time for the Social by checking in at the ISFR booth. Members were also informed by electronic messages. Several years Bokoff-Kaplan Travel Service provided the financial resources for the appetizers and the members used a no host cash bar. This non-skiing event is well attended by ISFR members and their guests who are at the convention. It is also a great place for new members who have just signed up to meet ISFR's current members while at the same time enjoying the Rotary International Convention.

In 2009 we again called on Henry Blowey and Margaret Hutchinson, Board Member from the United Kingdom, to make the arrangements for our ISFR Social that was held near the Convention Center in Birmingham.

## **Newsletters Available for ISFR Members**

First ISFR newsletter was published in August 1993 with newly elected President Janet Holland as editor. Plans for this first newsletter was to include two to three issues a year. In the August 1993 newsletter, it stated that the officers elected were for a three year term.

Past ISFR President Bill Schneidereith has edited our ISFR newsletter, *The Snow Line*, for a great many years. Bill writes a very complete summary of the week's news as well as photographs from ski week activities. The ISFR current President also has a President's message in the newsletter. The European ISFR ski events also have great coverage in *The Snow Line*.

Announcements and articles about upcoming ski events are published in the newsletters. A big thank you goes to Bill for keeping our ISFR members informed. And, we have gleaned much information from Bill's *Snow Line* newsletters for the compiling of this 35th Birthday History Booklet. *The Snow Line* newsletter was printed and sent out via US mail to all ISFR members. First electronic *Snow Line* newsletter was written by ISFR President Don Goering and transmitted to all members in September 2007. Former President Bill continues to write the May-June issue while the current President writes the fall and winter e-issues. All newsletters, on recommendations of the ISFR Board of Directors, are now transmitted electronically and printed newsletters, including archived copies, are published on our website.

## **The Annual North American ISFR Ski Week—Activities**

There are many memories from attending an ISFR Ski Week. The following ski week activities gleaned from newsletters and members' recollection are but a fraction of all the activities that have taken place each ski week. Please enhance your own memories, if they differ from what's written here, by recording them on the blank pages at the end of this booklet.

Early memories from Pete and Arlene Pinske from Minnesota, USA tell us that during their 1986 family ski outing to Colorado, Pete made up Rotary at The Rotary Club of Summit County in Frisco, Colorado. He saw a small flyer on a table that said "Ski with Rotarians, send \$25 to Davis Boyd in Chicago." So ... in 1987 we met the group, consisting of the Brian Andersens, the Davis Boyds, the Bill Burchetts, the Dick Herzs, the Pete Pinskes, Bill Black, Billy Bob, and one other couple plus two single men from Chicago. In Keystone, Brian Andersen, Kay Burchett, Davis Boyd, and Dick Herz went heli-skiing.

Arlene and Pete Pinske remember that in 1989 there were two skiers from Spain that joined the group for the week. They also recalled that during the 1990 ski week one of the international skiers had to return home because of the high Colorado altitude.

Our first ISFR President Janet Holland recalls in the August 1993 newsletter that the 1993 ISFR Ski Week was held at Sun Valley, Idaho, USA. She commented a small but enthusiastic bunch of skiing Rotarians were present for the week. However, when thirty-six inches of wet heavy snow fell in less than two days, there were several that decided that the fellowship was more important than the skiing. The local schools closed, avalanches occurred, the snow plows couldn't keep up with the snowfall and the shuttle busses closed down early. But ... it was a tremendous mountain, a beautiful setting, and a great place to ski. According to Janet the après ski entertainment around town was some of the best we have seen.

The 1997 ISFR Ski Week was held in Park City, Utah, USA. It was noted that the skiers again this year had flags on their ski poles even though they didn't fly for long. Pete Pinske is given credit for the creation of the flags. According to reports the weather was nearly perfect and included some of that famous "Utah powder" on the slopes.

When arriving in Breckenridge in 1998 participants found the snow conditions terrific for skiing – cold temperatures with powder covering a packed base according to *The Snow Line* June 1998. On Sunday of that week busses left for Vail where ISFR members enjoyed skiing with excellent snow covering all sides of the mountains. Tuesday of the week was a NASTAR race of those looking for gold, silver, or bronze medals. Among the attendees this year was Toni Mase from Italy who represented the European branch of the ISFR. Toni, accompanied by his wife and daughter, specifically came to our meeting with the goal of building better harmony and communications between the North American ISFR and the European ISFR. This goal was met and as a result of Toni's visit we sensed a stronger bond between the two branches. Toni sat in on the board meeting and we clarified two distinct points: First, we should not conflict in the dates of the two ski weeks and should maintain a sufficient separation of dates to permit Rotarians to attend both; Second, it was brought to focus that the European ISFR is primarily a competitive event where as the North American ISFR is purely for recreation. Toni's visit and message to us, as reported in the June 1998 newsletter, will go a long way toward bringing the two ISFR branches closer.

In 1999 in Whistler-Blackcomb and again since 2008 Rotarians have participated in the Peak-to-Valley Ski challenge which is skiing four miles of vertical in four runs. To accomplish this feat the skiers had to ski two runs top to bottom from each of the two mountains, Whistler and Blackcomb in 2008 and did some back country starts in the next 2 years to accomplish their goals and bring in the pledges.

A special ski week 2000 memory was submitted by Solveig and Jon Skauan of Oslo, Norway of their experiences when they first arrived in Heavenly Valley/Lake Tahoe, California, USA. "When we arrived at Reno Airport we didn't realize that this was the money playing state. We told the bus driver that we wanted to go to Heavenly Valley Ski Lodge. He said, 'You mean Heavenly Valley Casino?' "No casino," we said, but we were told to get into the bus. We looked at our traveling fellows and wondered why no one was sporty dressed, no one with skis and few with luggage. We arrived to the first big casino hotel and then another casino hotel. At last we were told here you are. We looked at a huge hotel, more than 19 levels in glass and aluminum. Where was the lodge? Inside we saw some people in ski outfits which relieved us. The place had much casino stuff. Well, we had a lovely time with our Rotarian ski friends and are still laughing when we think about our surprise coming to a casino and no ski lodge."

*The Snow Line* May 2000 newsletter has recollections of the Heavenly Experience: “The accommodations at Harvey’s Resort were indeed luxurious. Each room had a view of gorgeous Lake Tahoe, and from almost every vantage point on the mountain one could see the lake in the background. Spectacular! It was a real treat being able to ski three different ski areas.”

On Monday we were bussed to Kirkwood Resort. Don Goering recalls the following about the 2000 Kirkwood experience, “Heavy snow during the night time and early morning hours caused the mountain to delay the lift openings. Snow continued during the day and at the noon meal ISFR members were told to be on the bus no later than 3 p.m. for the return trip to Heavenly. Each participant was given a candy bar and a can of pop. Our departure was delayed for a lengthy period of time due to the road being closed by a state snow plow sliding into the ditch. For many of us we experienced a bus equipped with chains that dropped down in front of the drive wheels instead of chains placed directly on the wheels.” Margaret Hutchinson remembers that trip and how Pete Pinsky held her hand at the top of the pass when the bus somewhat shuddered.

On Tuesday of the 2000 week we enjoyed the Tahoe Queen boat as it ferried us up the lake to Squaw Valley. On the ride up the lake we had a wonderful breakfast buffet. There was the option to ski for awhile at the Squaw Valley Ski Area before coming back in the late afternoon with drinks, nibbles, and a great band on board.

The 2000 annual “fun race” was held on the final day with Jon Skauan from Oslo, Norway winning the gold, plus there were two new race categories this year – Telemark and Snowboarding.” Tong Soo Lee, Vice President of Orient/Korea, received a plaque of appreciation for having the most members from one country (other than North America) in attendance for the past two years.

In 2001 the ISFR ski week was held at Jackson Hole, Wyoming, USA. The headquarters accommodations were at the historic Wort Hotel. When you entered your hotel room there on your bed was a soft, warm, cuddly, brown bear with pleading eyes to take me back to your home. Of course, the bears could be purchased at the front desk before you went home. The Wort Hotel was situated in the same block as the “Million Dollar Cowboy Bar” complete with authentic western style saddles for barstools. An interesting town square had arches made of elk racks on each corner which visitors could walk through as they strolled the town square.

On Monday of the 2001 week the skiers went to the Grand Targhee ski area which lies on the western slopes of the Teton range. Targhee was a most unusual area which is wide open, not defined trails, lies for the most part above the timberline. The remainder of the week was spent at Jackson Hole where the conditions were excellent.

In the 2002 ski week at Banff, Alberta, Canada there were four ski resorts where skiers could enjoy the snow. On one day sixty persons took the challenge and went to Kicking Horse for the day. This area had gondola service to terrain formerly accessible only via helicopters.

At a very early morning time during ski week in 2004 in Telluride, Colorado, USA a group of ISFR skiers boarded a bus and went over the mountains to the destination of Purgatory (now know as Durango Resort). It was a very sunny but long day. The return trip over three mountain passes was extremely spectacular.

The 2005 ski week was held at Fernie, BC, Canada. The November 2002 issue of *Skiing Magazine* ranked Fernie the 10th out of the top 25 resorts in North America. “Fernie is no longer a hidden little playground for in-the-know powder hounds,” states the magazine. But ... wait, read what our ISFR *The Snow Line* June 2005 newsletter had to say about our Fernie week. “The season started off with great quantities of snow, but then arrived the January thaw. And thaw it did – all over western Canada. As one ISFR member from Canada stated, “Not in my lifetime have I witnessed such a thaw.” But the great, legendary “Griz” of Fernie must have smiled at ISFR and delivered us from the fate of green grass at the bottom of lifts. On Friday afternoon it began to snow and continued all the next day finally ending on Sunday morning when we were blessed with about two feet of nice, fresh powder and blue skies. An amazing turn- around!

Our newsletter went on to say about the Fernie experience that a number of registrants elected to cancel their trip at the last minute, and they surely must have kicked themselves for not trusting the unbroken chain of highly successful ISFR events. And Fernie was no exception! In addition to the Fernie area, ISFR skiers traveled to Panorama Mountain and Kimberly, each having its own unique characteristic terrain and each proving an enjoyable attraction.

The North American 2006 ISFR event in Alyeska, Alaska, USA was a tremendous success. There were 180 participants from 11 countries. It was possible to greet a moose on one of the hotel's walking paths along with other wildlife. Along with the usual ski slope skiing we were offered helicopter and snow-cat skiing, snowmobiling and dog sled rides.

Steamboat, Colorado, USA was host for our 2007 ISFR Ski Week in North America. Steamboat offered everyone a great variety of excellent terrain from long cruising runs, to bumps, to tree skiing – you name it and it was there waiting for you. The weather accommodated us quite well with a two foot snow fall mid-week which offered some of the best champagne powder skiing imaginable. We had an excursion to Winter Park, Colorado, USA which is the acknowledged Mecca for adaptive skiing worldwide. Following a two-hour ride on snow covered roads across Rabbit Ears Pass in a pair of large vans we were greeted at Winter Park by the manager of the adaptive program who provided an overview of the program and tour of their facilities. Naturally, we all had to sample the snow conditions on the mountains in the afternoon.

A memory Don Goering remembers about the 2007 Steamboat experience included the last scheduled day for skiing. "Early in the morning as we approached the lifts we were greeted by mountain hosts suggesting we go back to our rooms as extremely high winds had blown all the champagne powder off the ski runs at the top of the mountain and caused the lifts to be closed." Also during the Steamboat Ski Week we had an opportunity to meet Billy Kidd, an Olympic Medalist and World Champion.

2008 Whistler Ski Week had almost every morning with a fresh covering of the softest snow in the Northwest to greet us. Skiing was excellent and views of the jagged, rugged peaks of British Columbia's Coast Range were breathtakingly beautiful. Again the Peak-to-Valley activity was held with ISFR members having monetary pledges that they would complete the runs. The money would then be used for ISFR's Davis Boyd Memorial Foundation's project of helping adaptive skiers.

A special treat of the Whistler week was the opportunity to ski the various race courses that will be utilized for the upcoming 2010 Winter Olympics.

In 2009 at Crested Butte, Colorado, we enjoyed working with one of the most dynamic adaptive ski centers in the world. They specialize in "wounded warriors" coming back from military action. We were thrilled to help them raise funds.

In 2010, just before the Vancouver Winter Olympics, our ski week at Park City, Utah, included a trip to the Utah 2002 Winter Olympics museum and training center where we met some of the athletes who would compete in Vancouver, even watching them do training on the amazing ice chutes and Nordic snow jumps. We also worked with their "National Ability Center", another superb support facility for adaptive skiing.

## **The Annual North American ISFR Ski Week—First Timers' Meeting**

ISFR President Don Goering began the First Timers' Meeting prior to the week's opening reception in 2008 at the Whistler-Blackcomb Ski Week. This was suggested by ISFR new member Mike Ruby from Iowa who felt when he and his non-skiing Rotary Partner Jo Anne came for the first time they would have appreciated some extra needed information about the week. So ... this First Timers' Meeting was held for the "first time" at Whistler in 2008. The week was reviewed for skiers as well as non-skiers. The First Timers' Meeting included comments about local mountain guides, home hospitality, hospitality room, annual meeting, group photo, joint Rotary meeting, non-skiing activities, Davis Boyd Memorial Foundation fundraising, and gala banquet. It has been continued each year since. Comments from Board Members, officers, and our tour director felt this helped our ISFR first timers feel welcome. According to the survey from ISFR members this is an event that should be held each year.

## **The Annual North American ISFR Ski Week—Welcoming Reception**

This annual welcoming reception starts the activities for the ISFR Ski Week. It provides an opportunity to renew old friendships as well as welcoming new participants. The week's agenda is reviewed and ISFR officers, Board Members, and local Rotarian leaders are introduced. And, of course everyone enjoys the food that is provided and many also enjoy the no host cash bar.

## The Annual North American ISFR Ski Week—Local Rotary Guides

One of the unique features of our ski weeks has been the local Rotary members who guide the ISFR Ski Week participants around their local ski mountain(s). This is an important way to acquaint the ISFR participants during the first several days with what is available locally for skiing.

*The Snow Line* 2008 talks about local Rotary Guides. Given the enormity of 8,200 ski acres, local guides were a welcome foresight that the Whistler-Blackcomb organizing committee arranged for both Sunday and Monday. Not only did it familiarize us with the two mountains, but also offered a nice interaction between ISFR and the local Rotarians. This new tradition is now a permanent part of Ski Week.

According to the member surveys returned, local ski guides were most helpful as well as great fellowship time.

## The Annual North American ISFR Ski Week—Home Hospitality

An activity that is enjoyed by all ski week participants is the Home Hospitality Evening. Home Hospitality was started in 1998 at the Breckenridge Ski Week. It was reported by President Richard Geist in *The Snow Line* June 1998 that since this activity enjoyed such fine success, ISFR plans to add this as a standard yearly event in North America.

From *The Snow Line* May 2000 there were many positive comments printed in our newsletter from participants at Home Hospitality at Lake Tahoe. The following quotes will repeat the consensus that Home Hospitality is a great event: Don and Izzie MacLaurin, Canada “In one simple word ... fabulous. None of us wanted the evening to stop. We found that we had a lot in common, which led to all kinds of similar experiences during our many conversations. We, as a Whistler contingent, have said for several years that the truly best part of our ISFR week is the home hosting.” Bruce Hartwell, Australia commented “I was hosted for dinner at the Tahoe home of Scotland’s Greg and Grace Morris, together with other Scots, UK, and Russian guests. We were treated to fine fare and great wines – with much merriment, a truly international night.” Jeff Cleeland, USA “Our gracious hosts shared with great enthusiasm their unique version of ‘High Sierra/Lake Tahoe Mountain Living.’ Then, we shared our own stories of international mountain travel. The evening could not have been better spent – new friends, a fine meal, the fellowship of Rotary, and the warmth of a mountain home.” Don Goering, USA “Wow! Fine food, gracious hospitality, and the tremendous fellowship with Rotarians from around the world. A very rewarding experience.” And from Ted and Carole Wier, USA “Being graciously hosted, we enjoyed an outstanding German dinner highlighted by an evening filled with conversation, fun, and laughter. New friendships were formed and we look forward to meeting again soon.”

2002 Home Hospitality had the Banff Rotarians opening their homes to nearly 100 Rotarians and guests for the night of dinner and friendship. And in 2003 Sun Valley Rotarians welcomed us into their homes. *The Snow Line* June 2003 had the following quotes from an article written by Jean “John” DeKeyser, Illinois, USA on Home Hospitality in Sun Valley. “One of the most enjoyable events during the annual ISFR Ski Week is the Home Hospitality evening hosted by local Rotarians. This year was no exception ... Local Rotarian Bob Nero and his lovely bride Meg opened their home ... It was quite a drive from our hotel to the house where Bob and Meg live with their children and there we were greeted with great warmth. Our hosts were absolutely charming and they offered us a wonderful buffet dinner with copious amounts of wine. We discussed everything from skiing, flying small airplanes, traveling, our jobs, and international political events. We even discussed the joy of owning dogs and everyone came up with stories about their favorite ‘pooch.’ The evening ended too soon and after many hugs and invitations to our hosts to come and visit us, we returned to the hotel for a well-deserved rest. The following day a joint Rotary meeting was held at the top of the mountain where our ISFR members had the pleasure of meeting their Rotarian hosts again.”

2006 ISFR Ski Week in Girdwood, Alaska held many fond memories of home hospitality for Peggy Martin, California, USA. The following is from a feature story that was included in *The Snow Line* June 2006 written by Peggy; “We’re grilling salmon tonight – have room for 6 people. That magical word salmon caught my attention and off my daughter and I ran to the waiting cars along with four other salmon-loving ISFR skiers. That was how our home hospitality evening began in the lobby of the outstanding Prince Hotel where our Rotary Club of Girdwood hosts gathered us up in small groups before whisking us to their respective homes for a dynamic evening of marvelous fellowship and fabulous feasting. Already acclaimed by many as the best part of their ISFR week, the Girdwood/Alyeska Rotary families added an even finer touch this year ... of hosting over 150 visiting Rotarians and guests.”

Comments about the 2008 Home Hospitality in Whistler, BC, Canada, from first- time participants, Japanese Rotarian Kenichi Takeda and his wife Tamiki include, “We were divided into small groups and invited to the homes of local club members. We were specially treated by a warm welcome and homemade dishes. Our host was a young Canadian couple. As the night progressed, the topic of our conversation naturally became one of our origins. The host was Dutch and there were Dutch, Italian, Latin American, and Japanese at the dinner table. Seven of us had a really wonderful time together.”

Esio Marzotto, ISFR member from North Vancouver, BC, Canada had the following comments about his home hospitality experience in Whistler 2008, “Home Hospitality provides the opportunity for visiting Rotarians and guests to learn more about the community, their Rotarian hosts, and about the other ISFR members in attendance. But it is much more than a dinner with strangers. It is like a meeting of old friends catching up on what has happened in their lives since they were last together.”

In 2009 we were amazed at the number of lovely homes hidden in the Crested Butte hills where most of our members spent an enjoyable evening with local Rotarians and other ISFR members.

The two Rotary Clubs and members in surrounding communities near Park City provided home experiences in 2010. Some were small farm homes while at least one home was over 11,000 square feet with amazing mountaintop views.

## **The Annual North American ISFR Ski Week— Joint Meeting with Rotary Host Club(s) & ISFR**

Each ski week ISFR members and guests have a joint Rotary Club(s) meeting. ISFR members enjoy the fellowship with the hosts as well as some Rotarians exchanging their club banners with the local host club(s).

Host clubs for 2000 were The Rotary Club of Tahoe-Douglas County and The Rotary Club of South Lake Tahoe.

In 2001 the joint meeting was held with The Rotary Club of Jackson Hole. It was held in the gondola shed atop the mountain. Non-skiers were able to join in the noon lunch by taking the gondola to the lunch site. Skiers just skied to their meal!

The 2002 meeting with The Rotary Club of Banff was held at the Banff Park Lodge. Cary Mullen, a former member of the Canadian Men’s Olympic and World Cup Downhill Team and a Calgary Rotarian gave an inspirational speech.

In 2003 the Joint Rotary Meeting was held with The Rotary Club of Ketchum-Sun Valley high at the Historic Round House Lodge on Mt. Baldy. A program on the founding of Sun Valley and its evolution through the formative years to the present was a very informative program.

At Fernie 2005 the meeting was at noon at the Wood Bistro and Tapas Bar. The Wood was accessible by skis or vehicles.

On the mountain in 2006 at Alyeska, Alaska the joint Rotary meeting was held at noon with The Rotary Club of Girdwood. The participants filled the Sitzmark Restaurant to overflowing. Many club banners were exchanged that noontime.

The 2008 breakfast joint Rotary meeting with The Rotary Club of Whistler and The Rotary Club of Whistler Millennium included a presentation by Maureen Douglas of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Committee. A staggering amount of preparation must be completed between 2008 - 2010 to stage this mammoth Olympic event. Preparations include a new fleet of snow groomers just to handle the daily needs of the competition, re-routing some of the ski terrains, lodgings, office space, and even completely rebuilding the Sea-to-Sky Highway from Vancouver to Whistler that will cost 600 million dollars. This joint Rotary meeting also had an update given by Chelsea Walker on the Whistler Adaptive Ski Program (WASP) and their progress as one of the leading areas offering adaptive ski services.

In 2009 the joint meeting included a breakfast buffet with The Rotary Club of Crested Butte and The Rotary Club of Gunnison. The program featured information about Crested Butte's adaptive ski program.

Legacy Lodge in the heart of the Park City base area provided a huge third floor meeting room for us in 2010. With our members and the two local clubs, it was SRO for a great meal and excellent program on their adaptive ski program, the National Ability Center (NAC).

## **The Annual North American ISFR Ski Week—Annual Meeting**

Annual meetings are held sometime during the ski week where new officers and new Board Members are introduced. This is when the location of future ski weeks may be introduced. It is also a time to inform the ISFR membership of any new or existing activities or actions that have been brought before the ISFR Board of Directors.

In the past years the annual meetings have included an optional meal as well as a time for fellowship. Many years we have had entertainment after the business meeting. Entertainment has included comedians, vocal groups, public school and college faculty, park ranger, and individuals talking about their local area experiences.

In 2003 at Sun Valley, a one-man comedy routine by Mike Murphy kept us highly amused. Our 2004 annual meeting at Telluride was held at the historic old Telluride Opera House. The Davis Boyd Memorial Foundation presented a preview of the Adaptive Ski Video made in Whistler and featuring commentator David Malaher. The highlight entertainment of the evening was a touring USO group who sang and danced their way right into our patriotic hearts.

The 2005 annual meeting at Fernie ended with a delicious lasagna dinner. Entertainment included a pictorial tour of Alyeska presented by our hosts for the next year, Larry Daniels, and Phil and Diana Livingston.

In Alyeska 2006 the annual meeting was held at the Portage Glacier's Visitors Center. The program was a presentation called "Kids From the Bush." This program to teach skiing to underprivileged children was started by a local school teacher with her personal funds who discovered that through skiing the children broke out of learning deficits and high suicide rates, resulting in a turn around in their lives. Our Davis Boyd Memorial Foundation is assisting with this effort.

The 2008 Whistler annual meeting included a very informative presentation from Michael Allan through a slide inventory of the local bear population. Mr. Allan has tracked and photographed a multitude of the local bears from their first venture into the world as a cub until adulthood. Distinguishing marks such as color patches and the set of the ears and eyes, etc. permit him to identify each one.

And ... the 2009 annual meeting at Crested Butte, Colorado, USA was held at The Club at Crested Butte. It was our 35th ISFR Birthday Party complete with birthday cake and surprises!

The Utah 2002 Winter Olympic Museum in Park City, at the training center, hosted our annual meeting in 2010. We heard about plans for 2011 in Aspen and Mount Titlis, in Engelberg, Switzerland. We also met 35 Olympians who were training there and headed to Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics at the end of the week.

## **The Annual North American ISFR Ski Week—Group Photo**

A special event and appreciated is the annual group picture. Each household gets a copy of the photo to take home with them. Pictures become a treasured memory of who attended that particular ski week.

## The Annual North American ISFR Ski Week—Hospitality Room

New in 2008 was a Hospitality Room that was *open for all ISFR ski week participants and local Rotarians*. The Hospitality Room has been continued each year since and expanded to include coffee, tea, hot chocolate, snacks and even cold beer with a "voluntary" donation. There are also puzzles, ski magazines, cards, and newspapers for ISFR participants and local Rotarians to enjoy. It is staffed by ISFR volunteers. The survey from ISFR members felt that for sure the Hospitality Room should be continued as a regular part of each ISFR Ski Week. The survey wanted a central place for Après Ski time, so the Hospitality Room is trying to answer that request.

## The Annual North American ISFR Ski Week—Non-Ski Activities

The following non-ski week activities have been gleaned from newsletters and ISFR Ski Week participants' recollections.

Pete and Arlene Pinske, Minnesota, USA recall it was in 1988 that Joe Skoda, a tax specialist, conducted a breakfast tax seminar which most everyone attended. He said we could deduct the trip if we attended the meetings, which we did, and the meetings were very interesting. He held these meetings for at least three years. At one of the breakfast meetings, there was a speaker from Colorado who spoke of a new communication service coming which would be free. It turned out to be the internet!

The December 1993 newsletter reported that, "One of the highlights of the Sun Valley, Idaho, USA week was the moonlight sleigh ride to a cabin in the woods for dinner. Snow, gently falling on the participants the entire time, the full moon, the wine, and delicious food with a strolling musician combined to make it an evening to remember."

This same December 1993 newsletter announced that at the 1994 Steamboat Site for ISFR there would also be a tax seminar series held which would qualify part of the trip for a tax deduction.

In 1995 the Pinskes remembered that some skiers and non-skiers took the scenic train ride from Whistler to Lillooet, BC, Canada.

The 1997 ISFR Ski Week in Park City, Utah USA had many opportunities for non-skiing activities according to *The Snow Line* June 1997. Mid-week a tour of the Park City Mining Company proved to be quite an adventure – at a quarter of a mile underground. This silver mine has not been actively mined for the last decade but has been preserved and sections of it are open to tours. Following our tour a delicious Mexican buffet was catered, complete with the traditional Margaritas. Another non-ski activity was the opportunity to tour the Mormon Tabernacle. The world-famous choir was not rehearsing that night but everyone enjoyed the trip.

In 1998 Breckenridge non-ski activities included attending an evening Backstage Theater performance. Another activity was a group bus ride to a special rustic rural setting barbecue restaurant situated south of the Climax Mine on Colorado Highway 91. A very enjoyable evening was held among other ISFR participants.

In 2001 a group of around seventy ski week participants ventured to Yellowstone National Park and either drove snowmobiles or rode the snow cat for the eighty-four mile round trip to Old Faithful Geyser. After that many miles on the snowmobiles, there were more than a few sore backsides that evening. We had stopover visits in Yellowstone National Park at the mud-paint-sulfur pots areas, special scenery sites, and the very familiar "Coors Beer Can" waterfall scene. Lunch was enjoyed at the Old Faithful Inn. Park authorities noted, even in 2001, that the number of snowmobiles might be regulated into Yellowstone because of the noise and other pollution.

In 2002 at the Banff Ski Week a day long tour was planned. Places stopped were Emerald Lake in Yoho Park for coffee and sweets to hear a special presentation and see a display of the Burgess shale fossils discovered in 1909 at the foot of the mountain. The fossils revealed many new mysteries about early life on earth. At noon a special lunch was held at Chateau Lake Louise overlooking Victoria Glacier. Participants ventured out onto frozen Lake Louise and enjoyed ice sculptures that had been made for an earlier contest. Don and Doris Goering served as hosts for the bus ride. While on the bus participants played a Rotary trivia quiz as well as having bus riders tell something about their country of origin.

Non-ski activities in 2003 at Sun Valley, Idaho included a walking tour of local art galleries and cooking classes for gourmet cooks. There was a dinner held at the Trail Creek with three large twenty person horse-drawn sleighs serving as transportation. It was very cold, so blankets were very much appreciated on the sleigh ride.

Another 2003 evening non-ski activity was a bus trip to the Galena Lodge for a truly gourmet dinner. Galena was a turn of the century general store for the local ranchers and miners. It has been preserved and today is a lodge next to a vast cross-country ski track in the Galena National Forest of the Sawtooth Mountains in Idaho.

Telluride in 2004 had several options for non-skiers. One activity included a walking tour of art galleries and historical features that included the preservation of the "Red Light District" shacks. A special part of this activity was the story of the "Fallen Doves of Telluride," which was a real life story of Telluride's "Red Light District." The presentation was portrayed with dolls dressed in period clothing and direct quotes from Telluride residents at that time in the town's history.

Another special non-ski event of the Telluride week was when we rode on busses over to the century old mining town of Ouray, Colorado. Ouray is the site of the very beautifully restored Beaumont Hotel that dates back to the 1800's. Guest rooms have all been restored to their original elegance with modern conveniences added. The dining room was the focal point of our attention serving their specialty - smoked prime rib cut generously thick. Wonderful!

2005 found non-ski activities included the sport of Curling. We spent one evening at the Fernie Curling Center where there were five sheets of ice (lanes to bowlers). ISFR members and guests enjoyed participating or observing the sport of Curling. It was quite a night to watch a bunch of novices trying to slide the large stones just the right distance only to have your opponent knock it off. A pizza party topped off this evening of a non-ski activity.

### **{Tour of museum, snowshoeing, etc.}**

These notes about non-ski activities for the 2006 ski week were gleaned from President Bill Schneidereith's notes. In Alyeska, Alaska, USA we boarded a special train that was scheduled just for our ISFR group for a three hour ride south to the coast town of Seward, Alaska. We saw beautiful scenery as we made each turn of the train track. In Seward we visited the center for all manner of sea life. We were scheduled to go out to see the whales but the high cold winds made the water voyage unsafe. We still toured the ship and ate our lunch buffet on board. On the return trip on the train we enjoyed a buffet dinner, dancing, an 'ompah' band, a wonderful sunset, and of course the Rotary ISFR fellowship.

### **{Helicopter ride, dog sled rides, cooking with resort chef}**

Another non-ski 2006 activity was when we all moved into Anchorage, Alaska, USA to see the ceremonial start of the famous Iditarod dog sled race of 1,100 miles from Anchorage to Nome, Alaska. This 2006 event had eighty-three dog sled teams participate in the grueling nine to ten day race. The race included entries from Italy and the Scandinavian countries.

In 2007 Steamboat Springs had a special non-ski activity that included a tour of the town's historical sites. We visited the original hot sulfur springs which gave the town its name.

Another 2007 special event was when ISFR participants ventured downtown to Steamboat Springs to enjoy their annual winter games and parade. Unusual games included a rider holding onto a scoop shovel pulled by a horse on the snow-covered street. The event was timed and it was a wild time for the shovel rider. Other horse drawn races included pulling skiers over a course that included several small jumps and at the same time trying to beat the clock.

The Steamboat Springs winter parade featured their high school marching band on short snow skis. We were told that their marching band was the only one in the USA that marched on skis. Other parade entries included vintage ski-related vehicles. The town had a special meeting place for some non-skiers. It truly had a restaurant named "The Mahogany Ridge Bar and Grill."

The 2008 Whistler non-ski activities included a visit to the Britannia Mine Museum where all interested gold diggers in our group were able to pan for gold or anything else that glittered. The trip participants were treated to a visit to the First Nations Cultural Center to study the lore of native inhabitants of the region and to stop to view bald eagles on their return trip to Whistler.

A special non-skiing participants activity was the “Sno Limo” ride. The Limos were non-motorized chairs on skis, guided by a Limo operator, and invented by a Canadian Rotarian. The Limos allows the non-skier the thrill of skiing for the first time, or for those who can no longer ski, the memory of how it used to be to go swishing down the slopes. By using the Sno Limos, participants were able to go on the mountain and see some of the areas where the 2010 Winter Olympic Skiers will be competing.

On Thursday evening of the 2008 Whistler week ISFR participants and local Rotarians were treated to the first-ever Women’s All Star Hockey Game. The players skated onto the ice waving the flags of all 13 countries represented by ISFR visitors. We learned not only the finer points of the hockey game but also how to create the wave of audience members rising and falling in a sea of colored ribbons. ISFR President Don Goering and the Mayor of Whistler threw out the ceremonial hockey puck. After the game they returned to the red carpet, which was rolled out on the ice, and presented the winning team trophy. Thanks to the Whistler Rotarians for organizing this original and most entertaining event. According to our host Rotarians the idea to have the hockey match was so well received by the women hockey players that this first 2008 Hockey Match might be repeated annually and would be sponsored by The Rotary Clubs of Whistler. After the hockey game we completed the evening with a delicious meal at the Nicklaus North Golf Club.

Activities in Crested Butte in 2009 revolved around the quaint ski town near the mountain resort.

There were almost too many activities to keep track of in 2010 in Park City, with local events and travel into nearby Salt Lake City with opportunities to see the unique, exciting and beautiful facilities of the great Mormon church headquartered there. **In addition the following non-ski options were available:**

- ◆ Snowshoeing to view the backcountry, track moose, etc.
- ◆ Hot air balloon rides
- ◆ Walking tour, including Park City Historical Museum
- ◆ Horse-drawn sleigh ride with dinner on the mountain
- ◆ Only ski-in distillery, High West Distillery
- ◆ City tour of Salt Lake City

## **The Annual North American ISFR Ski Week—Gala Banquet**

Gala banquets have, for a number of years, capped off a weeklong activity-filled time. Most ski weeks the banquet is held in the hotel where the week’s activities are held. On occasion they are moved to a special area. These evenings, complete with music for dancing, provide a time for sharing the week’s fun.

At the 1997 banquet the meal was held at the local country club in the valley with a magnificent view of downtown Park City and the mountains. Prior to the dinner the Mayor of Park City addressed our group and gave a briefing on the 2002 Winter Olympics which were held at several sites in the Salt Lake area. About seventy percent of the skiing competition was held in the Park City vicinity, including Deer Valley.

After 1998 when the Davis Boyd Memorial Foundation was formed, the Gala Banquet served as an activity where many donated items from ISFR members from their respective countries have been on display and then spirited silent auction bidding took place. Some years there are also live auction items. Board Members of The Davis Boyd Memorial Foundation usually attend to the auction of items and desserts.

Desserts, all homemade and donated by the generosity of the local host Rotary Club(s), have been auctioned off with proceeds going to the Davis Boyd Memorial Foundation.

The Jackson Hole Gala Banquet according to *The Snow Line* June 2001 was held at the Snow King Resort. A rib roast was served and entertainment featured Western music. Homemade desserts were donated by the Rotary Club of Jackson Hole. After much spirited bidding \$2,000 was netted for the Davis Boyd Memorial Foundation from the dessert auction.

In 2002 our banquet was held in the remarkable Banff Springs Hotel. Some called this beautiful hotel a castle. Our group photo was on the large stairway. We were a tightly knit group to fit in all participants in the space available.

In 2003 at Sun Valley the Gala Banquet was held at the River Run Lodge. It was a formal affair and ISFR participants came dressed in their best clothes, many in tuxedos and cocktail dresses. Again, our group photo was on a stairway and all the smiles were well recorded. It is said that we all “Cleaned Up Really Well!”

At our 2006 Gala Banquet held in Anchorage, Alaska a raffle was held for the chance to ride in a dog sled in the ceremonial start of the famous Iditarod race. The sled was driven by Rotarian Martin Buser who was a three-time Iditarod winner. Karren Little of Hesperus, Colorado, USA was the lucky raffle winner.

The theme for the 2007 Gala Banquet was “A Cowboy Formal” and that meant participants came wearing boots, jeans, vests, and other western wear. Some even came with their “ten gallon hats.”

It has been the custom that the ISFR President chooses the style of clothing to wear for the closing banquet. President Don in 2008 and again in 2009 declared ski causal as the appropriate evening’s attire.

We took over the lovely local Mobil Four Star River Horse Restaurant in Park City in 2010.

## **The Davis Boyd Memorial Foundation**

Brian Andersen shares the following; “As a Rotarian, Davis Boyd served on almost every level of club, district, and international service. He was especially active in youth programs including Interact and Youth Exchange. He chaired the Chicago Southwest Community Special Olympics for more than ten years. Davis worked tirelessly to enhance and develop programs with ski areas, ski schools, and local ski area Rotarians. In the early nineties Davis was an integral part of a committee that led the charge to donate money to adaptive ski programs in ski areas where the ISFR Fellowship was hosted.

In 1996 Davis Boyd succumbed to a valiant battle with cancer. As a tribute to his hard work and unselfish dedication to Rotary and the Skiing Fellowship, the International Skiing Fellowship of Rotarians established the Davis Boyd Memorial Foundation. The Foundation’s function is to raise money to support local adaptive ski programs and to provide scholarships for the training of adaptive ski instructors. In addition, members of the Skiing Fellowship are working directly with challenged skiers. The Foundation is international in scope, currently working with economically depressed areas of the world to develop adaptive sports programs. The work in conjunction with local Rotary Clubs to increase the dollars donated, such as through the Rotary International Foundation Matching Grants.”

Gleanings from June 1997 *The Snow Line* tells us that at the business session in Park City, Utah, USA the ISFR adopted the Davis Boyd Memorial Fund. “In true Rotary fashion, Brenda Oakes of Whistler, British Columbia, volunteered to create our first auction item, a quilt made of old ties. Brenda will make a pattern for the quilt after she receives enough ties from the members. She will then sew it together and offer it for sale – a truly fantastic idea.” Additional donations to the Memorial Fund were obtained at the banquet in Park City when President Brian auctioned off Jim Backoff’s and Charlie Priest’s hats, and at the close of the evening, when Jim Backoff held Brian Andersen’s hat for ransom. Including other incidental donations, the Davis Boyd Memorial Fund in 1997 had \$328 in their operating account.

During Richard Geist's presidential two years 1998-2000 he gives us the following sequence of the creation of The Davis Boyd Memorial Foundation. "Brian Andersen, Stanley Lowe, and Richard had discussions before he became president that it would be best to incorporate a Foundation and let that arm collect and disburse funds to the challenged skiers and other related activities. Due to the laws of the US concerning acceptable donation deduction for US income tax, filing purposes, etc. ISFR had by 1997 already made a couple of small donations to the area's challenged ski organizations where the ISFR annual ski event had been held. These funds, at that time, were being disbursed from the ISFR operating fund bank account. Through the help of Stanley Lowe and John Lowe (no relation) and Richard Geist they were able to incorporate the Foundation in both Colorado and Wyoming. Later it was just of the state of Wyoming. With the help of Jim Tomlin a year later, the IRS designation of 501 c(3) charitable organization was obtained and the Davis Boyd Memorial Foundation has been off and running since that time helping many challenged recipients and instructors around the world."

***The Snow Line*** June 1998 told of fundraisers for ISFR that included a lively and congenial banquet on the final evening in Breckenridge. The auction had a multitude of trinkets and accessories donated by the resorts of Breckenridge and Whistler. The centerpiece of all donations were the two most unusual and fascinating quilts made by Brenda Oakes from previously owned neckties. Effective auctioneering by Paul Burrows ... netted a total of almost \$2,000 for ISFR. Michael Vervuurt paid \$350 for Brenda's large quilt and a Summit County Rotarian paid \$150 for the small quilt.

***The Snow Line*** June 1999 tells us that at the climax of the 1999 Whistler week \$3,000 Canadian was presented to the Disabled Skiers' Association of British Columbia. The funds were made possible by the banquet night auction and raffle. Brenda Oakes crafted one large and two smaller quilts for the auction and the large quilt in a raffle alone raised \$1,650 Canadian. A prominent Whistler artist, Isobel MacLaurin, also donated an original painting to the auction. It was noted that the Disabled Skiers' Association used the ISFR donation to purchase some much needed equipment and promptly went to the Canadian Handicapped Championships and won a host of medals

In ***The Snow Line*** May 2000, in keeping with our tradition of giving something back to local ski programs for the handicapped, the proceeds of the silent auction and the fun race at Heavenly Valley/Lake Tahoe permitted ISFR to donate \$1,500 to the "I CAN" adaptive ski program of the Douglas County Schools.

In 2001 it was noted by our newsletter that from the Jackson Hole ski week auction and fundraising, the ISFR presented \$2,500 to the local organization which helps handicapped skiers enjoy the sport.

***The Snow Line***, June 2003 reported that in Sun Valley, Idaho, USA a total of \$13,138 was raised. The Davis Boyd Memorial Foundation provided \$2,500 to The Rotary Club of Ketchum-Sun Valley to use for their local Adaptive Ski Program. There is a tremendous need for instructors capable of working with the disabled and it is ISFR's intent that additional, talented instructors be made available for the various programs through attendance at adaptive training workshops. According to the newsletter, The Rotary Club of Girdwood, Alaska has received the first ISFR scholarship for \$750. This scholarship will be used as seed money by Girdwood Rotarians to apply for Rotary International Foundation Matching Grants. Matching Grants will enable Girdwood instructors to train Far East Russian ski instructors who, in turn, will teach adaptive skiers in their own country.

In ***The Snow Line*** May 2004 it was reported that the Davis Boyd Memorial Foundation raised approximately \$21,000 – the best year yet. The Foundation donated approximately \$10,500 to the Telluride adaptive ski program representing half of the proceeds; the other half will go into an endowment fund for training, scholarships, and other adaptive support projects. The foundation also received \$4,350 for the new Patricia Olhasso Scholarship Fund.

In ***The Snow Line*** June 2005, Brian Andersen reported a total of \$19,927.34 was raised. The Fernie area received approximately fifty percent of the proceeds from the raffles, auction, dessert and ski race for a total of \$9,962.17. This amount was donated to the Castle Mountain Adaptive Ski Program which serves the Fernie area.

According to an e-mail from Brian Andersen dated March 31, 2006 after the Challenge Alaska activity at Alyeska, Alaska, USA the following quote was received, “The Board Members of the Davis Boyd Memorial Foundation thank you for your enthusiastic involvement in the week’s activities. Your generosity – whether participating in the fun ski race, donating a gift for our auction or being the successful bidder – helped to make this year another successful one. We are still finalizing the accounting, but the Foundation expects to donate approximately \$11,500 to The Rotary Club of Girdwood for the benefit of Challenge Alaska.”

Gleanings from *The Snow Line* June 2007 tell us about STARS (Steamboat Training Adaptive Recreational Sports). Friday morning’s ski race proved to be interesting as high winds shut down the top of the mountain. The course was in a protected valley, but what a challenge to get there with the gondola and upper-mountain lifts shut down. Throughout the week’s efforts \$25,381 was raised for the Davis Boyd Memorial Foundation. The Foundation donated \$12,734 to the Rotary Club of Steamboat Springs for a matching program to benefit the STARS program.

At the 2008 Whistler Ski Week with all the fundraising events – the Peak-to- Valley Challenge, fun race, desert auction, and the silent and live auctions \$34,347 was realized for the Davis Boyd Foundation. \$17,173.50 was presented to the Whistler Adaptive Ski Program. A special note that the Peak-to-Valley challenge, Bill Paul’s brain-child alone raised \$6,505. For the Peak-to-Valley Challenge groups of five or six Rotarian skiers were guided by local Rotarians down Whistler Mountain twice and twice down Blackcomb Mountain.

Please Note: The above-sited comments about the donations and activities for the Davis Boyd Memorial Foundation no doubt does not include all the activities this great foundation has done for the adaptive ski programs around our world. It is however a start to list some of their activities.

## Special Award to Stanley Lowe

In our 2004 ski week Stanley Lowe was honored at the closing banquet. He was presented a special award for his legacy of skillful organization to ISFR in its formation and specifically for preparing the documents of incorporation, crafting our constitution and by-laws and holding the position of Secretary from 1993 to 1997 as well as acting as ISFR’s legal counsel for many years. When the Davis Boyd Memorial Foundation was created Stanley Lowe was instrumental in crafting the constitution and by-laws for this new entity. The award also carried a lifetime membership along with sincere appreciation for his unselfish dedication to our ISFR Fellowship. This information was gleaned from *The Snow Line*, May 2004.

## Italian ISFR Ski Week

The 1st Ski World Championship Ski Races was held in Madonna di Campiglio, Italy in 1995.

The 2nd Ski World Championship Ski Races was again held in Madonna di Campiglio, Italy on January 26-February 2, 1997. Richard and Billie Geist wrote the following comments in *The Snow Line* June 1997, “This charming ski resort is one of the four which is nestled in the Dolomite Mountains. This Italian mountain range offers skiing for every type of skier. From the easiest greens to challenging blacks, Madonna di Campiglio definitely had something for everyone ... The ski extravaganza left little time for boredom, from the memorable downhill torch-lit ski procession of Bosnian children during the opening ceremony, to the very last good-byes said at the closing event, every minute was truly a memory.”

The 3rd Rotarian Ski Meeting World Championship was held in Madonna di Campiglio again in 1999.

*The Snow Line* June 2001 newsletter reported on the 4th Championships held at Madonna di Campiglio. One hundred seventy-five participants from Scandinavia, Germany, Austria, Holland, Belgium, France, and Turkey were present. The Giant Slalom course, which had been set up by one of Italy’s top coaches, the dinner at a mountain refuge with subsequent descent on skis by torch lights, and especially the gala dinner on Friday night were highlights. ISFR was represented by incoming President Michael Vervuurt.

Margaret Hutchinson, Board Member from the United Kingdom wrote the following about the 5th Rotarians' Ski World Championships that she and her husband Henry Blowey attended. "It was held February 15-22, 2003 at Madesimo, a village high in the Italian Alps above Lake Como. The event was attended by several hundred Rotarians coming from all corners of Europe. The event dominated the village for the week and it was hosted by The Rotary Club of Colico in District 2040. Skiing is taken seriously in Europe. The races included not only the Giant Slalom and cross-country, but also uphill skiing. In cross-country it is from the border of Russia to the border of Sweden for five days and you must be in super shape to handle this Rotary race. Several social events were organized including a day tour to the beautiful Swiss town of St. Moritz, hosted by The Rotary Club of St. Moritz. One evening we went up the mountain by snow cats. After dinner, there was the alternative of skiing down by torchlight. An abundance of the local specialty wine, Valtellina, was available which was sold to benefit Polio Plus."

The 2005 6th annual event was held at Madonna di Cammpiglio and was attended by ISFR President Bill Schneidereith. Some of his comments gleaned from his message in the ISFR newsletter relate to the truly international aspect of ISFR. "Twenty-eight countries were represented with a total of two hundred seventy-seven attendees. The skiing competition was keen and of the highest caliber with great talent. Skiers were grouped both overall and by age brackets for the slalom events and the cross-country events. In addition there were events for the women, children, and other Rotary affiliates."

Again in 2007 the 7th Italian ISFR week had one hundred seventy Rotarians from sixteen countries. ISFR was represented in a repeat performance to this event by President Bill Schneidereith.

From our Italian friends, "The destination for the 2009 8th Rotarians' Ski Meeting World Championship was held March 14-21, 2009 at Alta Badia. Alta Badia is the avant-garde representative for the World Cup cross-country skiing that stands out at the beginning of winter. A valley connected to the other valleys of the Sella Ronda, favored by its affiliation to the Dolomite Superski. The valley wanted the chance to welcome the 8th Ski Meeting Rotarians' World Championship with its slopes and panoramas and the marvelous superb hospitality in the wide-ranging hotels in all the star categories equally rich in family atmosphere. In Alta Badia you will find it all!"

In 2010, International Skiing expanded to Istanbul Turkey and in 2011 the International trip head for Mount Titlis, Engelberg, Switzerland.

## **ISFR Presidents Visit Other Countries' Ski Weeks**

In the President-elect year of 1997 Richard and Billie Geist accepted the invitation to participate in the Second Rotarians' Ski Championship event that was held in Italy. The Geists were the first western hemisphere attendees and the reception they received was wonderful. As a result of this visit and dialog, the ISFR Board was able to sanction the Italian event as an official ISFR meeting to be held every other year.

Words gleaned from *The Snow Line* June 2003 as Michael Vervuurt, ISFR President had three points to list as he compared the North American Ski Week to the Italian Ski Week. "First, is the wonderful friendship and fellowship throughout our organization. Second, the evident warmth of love that so many of those present at our gatherings had for him and Board Members. Third, the overwhelming number of compliments and words of encouragement given to express their feelings of satisfaction and gratitude for how well both of our events were organized and came to culmination of Rotary Spirit. Our meetings are getting better every year."

ISFR President Bill Schneidereith attended his second Italian ski week in 2007. Bill explained the opening ceremony in the town square with the Mayor, District Governor, officials of the local organizing committee and preceded by the Italian Alpine Marching Band. They energized the participants for the week ahead. In mid-week the ski race competition was held. The course was very challenging and the addition of thirty inches of new snow on the mountain added another layer of difficulty. The Europeans did once again prevail in the overall number of skiing awards. The concluding ceremony was held in the same town square with the dignitaries presenting the medals for first, second, and third place awards. The medals were specifically cast just for the occasion and each was presented with the recipient on a tiered podium just like the Olympics. And the marching band made a repeat performance. Following the ceremonies was a five-course gourmet dinner with various wines of the region. The evening had warmth of old friendships and the kindling of new ones.

Our 2009 ISFR President Don Goering was unable to attend the 8th Rotarians' Ski Meeting World Championship week March 14-21, 2009 at Alta Badia. Don was at the Rotary International headquarters in Evanston, Illinois, USA at the same time for training for another Rotary assignment that he has accepted.

## **Turkish ISFR Chapter**

Charter Number One was granted on April 1, 2007 to the Snow Flakes Turkish ISFR Chapter as the first Chapter Affiliation. Much effort on the part of our long-term Board Member and Regional Vice President, Selcuk Somer helped to form this first chapter of ISFR. Fourteen charter members chose Mazhar Izmiroghlu as the first Chapter President. A certificate signed by ISFR President Don Goering and ISFR Secretary Richard Geist was sent to the members of our first affiliated chapter. This chapter is the first country group to be formally organized in our ISFR Fellowship.

The object of this Snow Flake Chapter of the Turkish Fellowship, as stated in the by-laws of their chapter, is to develop the acquaintances between Rotarians, create new acquaintances, promote the skiing activities, and by participating in international skiing events to improve the image of Turkey in the international circles.

We welcome our Turkish skiing Rotarians and may we together have many years of skiing enjoyment.

## **ISFR in Sweden, Switzerland, Australia and New Zealand**

There are mentions of past ski activities in these countries but so far only Switzerland has planned a future event for 2011. We are not able to find a lot of information on activities. If you have memories of these countries, please let us know so we can include them in the next update. Remember ... this is a work in progress.

## **ISFR in South America**

Gleanings from the May 2000 *The Snow Line* had a report that the first ISFR ski event in South America was held in August 1999 in Santiago, Chile. Leon Koifman was the host with a chalet high in the Andes at the ski resort of LaParva. As we understand there were three present – Richard Geist, Michael Vervuurt, and Leon Koifman and they hope there will be a repeat performance some day.

## **Rotary International Presidents and ISFR**

In 1989-90 when Rotary International's President was Hugh M. Archer his theme was "Enjoy Rotary!" The October issue of *The Rotarian* was devoted entirely to the Rotary Fellowships. Thus, we in ISFR feel a special wave of gratitude for RI President Archer reminding Rotarians world wide about Fellowships.

Rotary International 1993-1994 President Robert R. and Mrs. Barth were named honorary chairmen of the International Skiing Fellowship of Rotarians as described in the December 1993 newsletter. President Janet Holland met with RI President Barth at Rotary International headquarters to ask his permission to name he and his wife as ISFR Honorary Chairmen. Their conversation included the favorite topics of both – Rotary and skiing. In the July 1993 issue of *The Rotarian* Mrs. Barth was pictured hang gliding with skis. President Barth prefers to stay closer to the snow, primarily in cross- country skiing.

Janet assured RI President Barth that no work is expected from them but expressed the hope of all the skiing Rotarians that the Barths would be able to join them at a fellowship event sometime in the future.

In our 2006 ski week in Alaska we were honored to have Rotary International 2005– 2006 President Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar join us at our Friday evening's banquet. President Carl gave an informative address about the status of Rotary International and its emergence into China and Cuba. Participants of the ski week enjoyed conversation and photo opportunities with our Rotary International President.

A special picture in *The Snow Line* of June 2008 shows Rotary International 2007– 2008 President Wilfrid J. Wilkinson sitting in the ISFR Booth in the House of Friendship during a Rotary International Institute Zones meeting. Joining President Wilf was Jon Skauan, Jan Wold, and Thorvald Prebensen. The primary purpose of this display booth was to promote ISFR and the new ski event planned for April 2008 in Are, Sweden.

## Site Planning Handbook

Since 2001 a handbook, edited by Don Goering, has been available as a guide to any interested Rotary Club that may desire to host an ISFR ski week event. This Site Planning Handbook begins to outline the protocols, expectations, and timelines necessary for a successful bid to be presented to the ISFR Board at their annual meeting. The handbook is now available on our ISFR web site [www.isfrski.org](http://www.isfrski.org)

## Tour and Travel Contractors

For a number of years several ISFR members served as tour directors. They made all the arrangements in cooperation with local Rotary Clubs and the ski areas for the annual ISFR Ski Week. The tour director also did the publicity and handled all the funds. Thanks go to our first tour directors Brian Andersen and the late Davis Boyd who organized and helped get our charter in 1974. Later in our ISFR history Past President Charlie Priest and then Pete Olhasso spent many hours making arrangements for the ISFR Ski Weeks. All members say "Thanks Brian, Charlie, and Pete for your dedicated work."

In 2003 the Daman-Nelson Travel Service did the arranging of the 2003 ISFR Ski Week at Sun Valley, Idaho, USA.

Pete Olhasso asked to be relieved of his responsibility after the 2006 Alaska week. The ISFR Board contracted with a commercial travel company, Bokoff-Kaplan Travel Service of Norwich, Connecticut, USA to develop the detailed plans for the ski weeks. Bokoff-Kaplan had previous experience working with Rotary groups attending the Rotary International Conventions. They also had extensive involvement with their Rotary District's Youth Exchange Program. The ISFR Board felt there should also be an ISFR member who serves as a liaison between the Tour Contractor, ISFR Board, and the local Rotary Club(s). First serving in this capacity was Jeff and Sandy Bricker, Lititz, PA, USA. Starting in 2008 Marilyn Branch of Telluride, CO, USA took over this liaison role of Tour Director.

In ski weeks of 2007 and 2008 Marc and Allison Bokoff with Bokoff-Kaplan Travel Services gave us two wonderful ski weeks in Steamboat and Whistler. In July 2008, the Bokoffs sold their travel agency to TLG (The Leaders Group) who took over the plans that the Bokoffs had begun for the Crested Butte Ski Week. Bonni Simon and Randy Trost from the TLG Bokoff-Kaplan Travel worked closely with our ISFR Tour Director, ISFR President, the Crested Butte Rotarians and the Crested Butte Ski Resort area. For 2010 ISFR Ski Week Premier Travel from Salt Lake City started preliminary plans for the week's arrangements but the arrangements were taken over once again by TLG where Bonni and Randy worked closely with Marilyn to plan a spectacular week.

This 35th Birthday History Booklet was compiled by ISFR 2009 President Don and Doris Goering of Ames, Iowa, USA. The Goerings also provided financial assistance to have these booklets printed and distributed to ISFR members at the ISFR's 35th Birthday Party on February 11, 2009. The party was part of the ISFR's annual meeting held during the ISFR Ski Week on February 7-14, 2009 at Crested Butte, Colorado, USA. This document was also posted on our website and it is updated periodically by the Webmaster.