



The Snow Line



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SKIING FELLOWSHIP OF ROTARIANS

Pre-Olympic Visit to Whistler

Imagine the thrill and excitement when the 2010 Winter Olympics begin and we know in advance every twist, turn and drop-off that the race course will throw at the contestants. Well, at least those of us who attended the recent ski week at Whistler will know.

Yet another fabulous week is now history within ISFR. 194 stalwarts from 13 nations were in attendance for the fellowship and great enjoyment the week had to offer. Those who wished for fresh snow got their wish. Almost every morning there was a fresh covering of the softest snow in the Northwest to greet us. Skiing was excellent; views of the jagged, rugged peaks of British Columbia's Coastal Range were breathtakingly beautiful; the fellowship superb; and the hospitality of our Canadian hosts impeccable.

Included in the week's festivities were the welcome party Saturday evening, the joint Rotary meeting with the Rotary Clubs of Whistler, the Annual ISFR Business Meeting with a fascinating lecture by a renown bear expert, a Hockey Night at the local arena, a dinner sleigh ride, a day tour to visit the Britannia Mine Museum, and the concluding Gala.

Given the enormity of 8,200 ski acres it was a welcome foresight that the Whistler organizing committee arranged for local Rotarians to be ski guides 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.

A feature of the Joint Rotary Meeting was a presentation by Maureen Douglas of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Committee. A staggering amount of preparation must be completed during the next two years to stage this mammoth event, including 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 up to Whistler. Next, Chelsea Walker, the powerhouse behind the highly successful Whistler Adaptive Ski Program (WASP), gave us an update on their progress as one of the leading areas offering adaptive ski services.

One unique feature was the Peak-to-Valley challenge fund-

raiser where the goal was to ski four vertical miles with two runs from each of the Whistler and Blackcomb peaks. Well organized by David Oakes, groups of five or six were guided by local Rotarians down Whistler Mountain twice and then twice down Blackcomb. Not only fun, but raised \$6,505.00 for the Davis Boyd Memorial Foundation as well.

The side trip to the Britannia Mine Museum interested all the gold-diggers in our group who were able to pan for gold or anything else that glittered, followed by a visit to the First Nations Cultural Center to study the lore of native inhabitants of the region and a stop to view eagles on the reroute back to Whistler.

Following the Annual Membership Meeting and buffet dinner on Wednesday evening at the beautiful conference center, Michael Allan presented a slide inventory of the local bear population on both of the mountains. Mr. Allan has tracked and photographed a multitude of the locals from their first venture into the world as a cub until adulthood. Distinguishing marks such as color patches and set of the ears and eyes,

etc. permit him to identify each one. Based on the profusion of questions it was certainly a most fascinating lecture.

On Thursday night ISFR was treated to the first-ever Rotary 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 game but also how to create the wave of audience members rising and falling in a sea of colored ribbons. Thanks goes to Wendell Moore for organizing this original and most entertaining event. Dinner at the Nicklaus North Golf Club completed the fun evening.

Sadly, every great ISFR week must come to a conclusion and this was done in style with the Gala Banquet. The silent auction had many highly worthwhile items to peruse during cocktails, and the live auction was quite spirited indeed, thanks to Bill Conklin who graciously agreed at the last minute to fill-in as our auctioneer. Bill did a fine job of getting all the tight-wads to open their wallets and bid.

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Flags and festivities during the hockey-night game. Baa!, baa!, Black Sheep! Loads of fun and everyone was a winner on this evening!

The entire week's event – Peak-to-Valley Challenge, fun race, silent and live auctions, and dessert auction – netted \$34,347.00 for the Davis Boyd Memorial Foundation, of which \$17,173.50 will be presented to the Whistler Adaptive Ski Program. A special thanks to Marilyn Branch who most efficiently organized all the auction items with an able assist from local Rotarian, Linda Marshall – a huge job well done!

This marvelous week would not have happened without the leadership and perseverance of Lyn Stroshin and Noel Villard. Along with support from other local stalwarts, David Malaher, David Oakes, and many others, the week went smoothly but oh so quickly. From all of us who were the beneficiaries of this most enjoyable week we offer our sincere thanks to our Whistler friends.

Notes from Your ISFR President:

As members of ISFR and as Rotarians, I extend my personal greetings to each of you. Did you know that our ISFR membership now stands at 426 members from 29 countries spread over 5 continents? We are truly an international fellowship. Nothing demonstrates that more than to report that 194 ISFR members and guests from 13 countries spent a tremendous week of fellowship, fun and service through our Davis Boyd Memorial Foundation at the Whistler Blackcomb Ski Resort in British Columbia, Canada last February.

I sincerely thank and want to publicly express my sincere appreciation to Lyn Stroshin and Ken Roggeman and the many Whistler area Rotarians that put together the wonderful week we experienced with lots of snow. Let me mention a few of the activities that were highlights for me. The opening reception was a wonderful opportunity to renew old friendship and meet our first time attendees. Then the Home Hosting or Home Hospitality was enjoyed by many of us. Our Annual Meeting gave us the opportunity to hear from Whistler area expert on bears, Mr. Michael Allan. Boy, does he know bears and their living patterns.

Thursday was a very big day for many of us as we took on the "Peak to Valley Challenge," skiing the Whistler and Blackcomb mountains, four times top to bottom, with our pledges for money for each foot of vertical that we accomplished. I made it top to bottom – 4 times – 4 miles – and I know many others did also.

For me one of the highlights of the week was attending the Women's Hockey League "All Star" hockey match. The only problem I had that evening was that the side I was cheering for was unsuccessful. I was amazed that many of the ISFR attendees had never seen a hockey match before. The women's hockey match was a new and enjoyable cultural experience for many of us.

From Doris' view, my dear non-skiing wife, the opportunity to experience the mountain again through a ride down the mountain on the "Sno Limo" was an interesting and enjoyable experience, an opportunity that has not been available at other ski areas.

As usual the Gala Banquet and Auction was another successful event thanks to many ISFR members who brought items for the silent and live auction to benefit our Davis Boyd Memorial Foundation and subsequently the Adaptive Skiers of the Whistler area. ISFR members Marilyn Branch who served as the Auction organizer and Bill Conklin of the Rotary Club of Redwood City, California as our last minute, volunteer Auctioneer deserve a tremendous round of appreciation by all of us for their work.

I hope each of you will register now for our week together at Crested Butte, Colorado, February 7–14, 2009. Under the leadership of the Crested Butte Rotarians working with our Tour Contractor and Tour Director, another great week is in the works for all us to enjoy. Register now and have the opportunity to win a 5-day ski pass and/or dinner for 2 on ISFR. To be eligible, you must have your registrations made by June 27, 2008 with Bokoff Kaplan Travel. The registration form and schedule of the week's activities are on our ISFR web site: www.ISFRski.org The 2008-09 event will be the 35th Anniversary of ISFR according to those that helped start the fellowship. We will be doing some special things at the Crested Butte week. So don't miss it!!

Also for 2009, our members in Italy will be conducting the 8th ISFR Ski Meeting of Rotarians' World Championships. I sincerely hope that many of you will make arrangements to participate in the wonderful week of skiing activities that Aldo and Laura Del Bó are putting together. This event is scheduled for the week of March 14–21, 2009.

My sincere appreciation to the members of the Board of Directors of ISFR for the time and dedication they put forward to directing our fellowship. Most especially I want to thank Richard Geist, our Secretary, for his continual assistance. I "lean" on Richard a great deal because of his past experience in the leadership of ISFR. We need to also express our sincere appreciation to Richard's family members, Gayla Self and Scott Geist, for their assistance in many of the administration tasks necessary to keep the Fellowship up-to-date.

Will you provide your talents and time by serving on the Board of Directors? Our volunteer organization only operates if ISFR members, who are all busy people, find a way to serve on our Board. Please let our Secretary Richard know if you can, and are willing to serve.

Lastly, ISFR still needs volunteer members to respond to the call for help in the ISFR booth at the Los Angeles Rotary International Convention to be held June 14–18, 2008. Please do not pass up this opportunity to help get the good word to other Rotarians about ISFR and the great skiing and fellowship we all enjoy each year! Let me or our Secretary Richard Geist know if you can serve as a co-chairperson of our booth. Plus we need others to help staff the booth on three to four-hour shifts. It is too large a job for one or two members.

Thanks to everyone for your help in making this Fellowship the very best!

– Don Goering
President, ISFR



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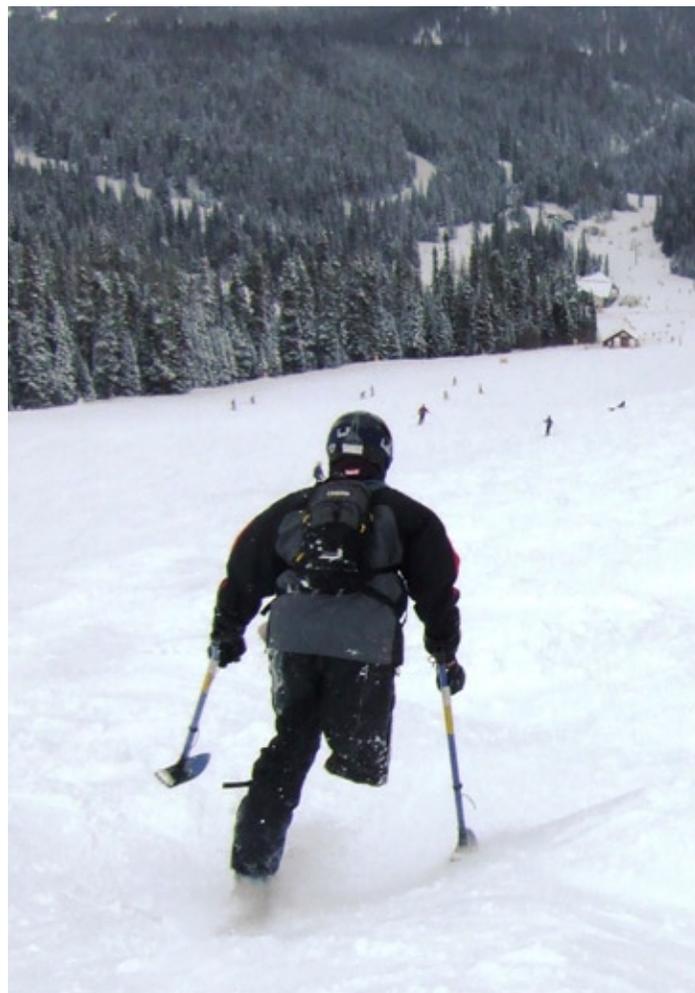
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A local adaptive skier navigates the slope with ease, not to mention the skill involved.

Foundation Update

Over the past year the Davis Boyd Memorial Foundation has embarked on a new initiative: working with disabled veterans' programs around the Rotary world. We are looking at supporting adaptive skiing as another way of reaching out to those with a variety of disabilities.

This year we provided 30 scholarships to the International Congress on Adapted Sport that NSCD (National Sports Center for the Disabled, headquartered in Winter Park, Colorado) hosts each summer at the Timberline ski area on Mt. Hood in Oregon. These scholarships will provide housing for the ski instructors who will either learn or advance their knowledge of adaptive ski teaching. The Davis Boyd Memorial Foundation determined some years ago that one of the needs for physically and mentally challenged students is more qualified instructors. We have since supported the training of ski instructors in Canada, Russia and the United States.

Also this past year we reached out to the Chicago Metropolitan Ski Council to support one of their instructor members to be trained at the NSCD. We made proposals to local area Rotary clubs to provide them with a matching grant. The program was so successful that the cost of the training was totally supported by the local clubs. We would like to hear from our ISFR members about other local organizations to which we can provide support.

We currently have provided a Matching Challenge Grant to the Rotary clubs of the Whistler area to raise training funds for the Paralympics. This grant will provide up to \$500 per club to be matched dollar for dollar. These funds will provide training for 10

coaches in Canada and the US.

This year's ski week at Whistler not only raised awareness of ISFR in the local community, but it also raised the awareness of Rotary's affiliation with the Whistler Adaptive Sports Program (WASP). WASP was given money to help the fledgling adaptive ski program the last time that ISFR was in Whistler (1999). It was very satisfying for all ISFR members to see an extremely strong and successful adaptive ski program now functioning in Whistler. A successful program, however, creates greater needs for funding. Rotarians in Whistler were delighted to learn that a check for \$17,173.50 will be presented to the Whistler Adaptive Sports Program by ISFR. Altogether \$34,347.00 was raised by the auction and other activities.

Bill Paul's brainchild, the Peak-to-Valley Challenge, alone raised \$6,505.00. What an enjoyable way to raise money! That morning some brave souls in groups of 5 or 6 were guided by local Rotarians down Whistler Mountain twice and twice down Blackcomb Mountain in the Peak-to-Valley Challenge. David Oakes did a fine job of coordinating the ski guides each morning and planning the routes down the mountains for the Challenge.

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The week was full of fun, fabulous skiing and West Coast powder snow. More importantly, was the ever-present Rotary fellowship, along with new acquaintances by Rotarians from 13 different countries. There were 194 people registered for this event. Almost one-quarter were new ISFR members, including Ken Roggeman, the President of the Whistler Rotary club, who went on to win the trip to Crested Butte!

– Brian Andersen

President, Davis Boyd Memorial Foundation,

– Lyn Stroshin

Director, Davis Boyd Memorial Foundation



Home Hospitality Sunday

Always a feature at ISFR annual events. Whistlers' started with the usual confusion of hosts trying to find their guests in a crowded hotel lobby. Karen Peddie had her hands full placing 150 guests in local Rotarians' homes. But it all got happily sorted out in the end.

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.

– Esio Marzotto



Hospitality courtesy of the Malahers. (l. to r.) Richard Geist, Kari-Anne & Jan Wold, host & hostess David & Rosemary Malaher, and Billie Geist. This looks like the conclusion to a wonderful evening.



Another evening of fellowship along with a sumptuous dinner. (clockwise) Michael Vervuurt, Suriname; Esio Marzotto & Margaret Landstrom, North Vancouver; Kenichi & Tamiko Takeda, Osaka Japan; and home hostess Laurie Van Leeuwen (husband Len took the photo).



Destination: *Crested Butte*

The place to be in February, 2009 will be Crested Butte, Colorado. This “user-friendly” mountain will have much to offer for all levels of ability – from the timid beginner to the expert seeking challenges. No need to just dream about the beautiful tree-lined runs deep in fluffy powder, or the breath-taking vistas, or the many evening fellowship opportunities – no need to dream, just sign up !

The dates are Saturday, February 7 to 14. All manner of activities are available to skier and non-skier alike. Here are the primary attractions:

- Home hospitality
- Cross country skiing
- Moonlight snowshoe tour
- Snowmobile tour of back-country
- Sleigh ride dinner
- Dog sled adventure
- First-tracks with breakfast
- Last-tracks with dinner
- Back-country powder experience
- Walking tour of town
- Art tour
- And a spa right at your door-step

The headquarters hotel is the luxurious Elevation Resort & Spa. This is a ski-in-ski-out site appealing to everyone in our ISFR group. There is in addition a lesser-cost option at another excellent, nearby hotel.

Did I mention fellowship? There will be an abundance of that with the Welcome party, Home Hospitality, the Annual Meeting with dinner, and the Gala Banquet along with many opportunities to dine around town with friends.

To register or for more information, contact Marc Bokoff at Bokoff-Kaplan Travel – www.bokoffkaplan.com. Details relative to the Crested Butte event are also on the ISFR web site.

E-MAIL CHANGES

Has your e-mail address changed?
Keep ISFR updated on any changes in your e-mail address since all of our correspondence is done electronically.
Be sure to advise our Executive Secretary at isfrsec@isfrski.org of any changes.

The International Skiing Fellowship of Rotarians is a group of Rotarians dedicated to promoting skiing as an opportunity for fellowship and service. This fellowship operates in accordance with Rotary International policy, but is not an agency of, or controlled by, Rotary International.

European 2009 Event Announced

Val Badia, Italy, is announced as the site for the 2009 “8th Rotarians’ Ski Meeting World Championship.” The event will be held from March 14-21, 2009. Val Badia is a territory in RI district 2060 and is situated near Bolzano in one of Europe’s largest ski areas known as “Dolomiti Superski” in the magnificent Dolomite Mountains.

Be sure to mark these dates on your ski calendar for this outstanding event and stay tuned to the ISFR web-site for additional information relative to the weekly schedule of events and registration data.



Reproduction of the brochure for “8th Ski Meeting Rotarians’ World Championship”

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Download the application form from the ISFR web site www.isfrski.org

or call/fax our Executive Secretary, Ms Gayla Self, who can be reached at 817-563-0340, or e-mail: isfrsec@isfrski.org

Send membership form with your check payable to: ISFR, and mail to: PO Box 151711, Arlington, TX 76015.

Dues for new memberships are \$50 USD and any prior members with a break in consecutive membership are \$50 and are categorized as "new." Thereafter, annual dues will revert to \$35 USD annually.

World-wide Effort

ISFR's efforts around the world are graphically illustrated via this photo of a booth in the House of Friendship during a Rotary International Institute Zones meeting. The primary purpose of this display booth was to promote ISFR and the new ski event planned for April, 2008 in Åre, Sweden. Pictured: seated is RI President Wilfrid J. Wilkinson with ISFR Board members Jon Skauan and Jan Wold left & right with Thorvald Prebensen, center.



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Selcuk Somer

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International Board

Appointments and Decisions

2008 Annual Meeting, Whistler, BC, Canada

Resolutions:

- Esio Marzotto was elected to the Board of Directors and also appointed as Vice President for Canada.
- New chapter formed: "Snow Flake Turkish Chapter" formed which is the first official chapter of ISFR.
- Approved the ISFR booth for the 2008 RI Convention in Los Angeles.
- Renewed contract with 5 Star Web Design to maintain our web site.
- Decision made to publish the newsletter by electronic means only.
- Board authorized a sub-committee to solicit bids to manage events following the 2009 event.

Joint Meeting with Whistler Rotary Clubs

Lyn Stroshin (pictured), President of the Millennium Whistler Club, Local Events Chair and long time ISFR member, greeted close to 200 visiting ISFR Rotarians and guests and a large number of local Rotarians to the Tuesday meeting. Featured during the meeting was a presentation on the 2010 Olympics. It was an inside look at the magnitude of the event and the years of preparation required to stage it. Attendees got a first-hand look at the 600 hundred million dollar rebuilding of the Sea-to-Sky highway as they traveled to and from Vancouver.



1.

1. Henry Blowey from the UK proudly displays an official native ornament at the Squamish Cultural Center.
2. Starting gate of the annual "fun" race to benefit the Foundation. Just look at all that beautiful new snow.



2.



3.



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6.

3. That is Marilyn Branch showing off some of the auction items at the Annual Gala. Marilyn most unselfishly dedicated her entire week to cataloging and organizing the silent auction items. Great job, Marilyn! **4.** A happy trio. (l. to r.) Brian Andersen, Margaret Hutchinson and Susan Hossfeld.
5. President Don Goering presenting the trophy at the conclusion of the hockey match. That is Don on the left and Wendell Moore, organizer of the local Senior Ski Team, on the right. **6.** Panning for gold – or anything else that glitters – during the side trip to the Britannia Mine Museum.



7. Hungry members enjoying the buffet table during the Annual General Membership meeting. **8.** The group from “Down Under.” Regional Vice President & Board member, Martin Shanny holding the Australian flag, along with others from Australia offering a salute. **9.** Perusing the silent auction items on display. Be generous folks, it all benefits our Foundation to aid adaptive skiers. **10.** Selcuk Somer and wife, Ulku, from Istanbul, Turkey. Selcuk is ISFR’s Regional Vice President for the Middle East and Board member, and has a great reason to appear so happy: He just announced the formation of ISFR’s first Chapter known as “The Snow Flake Chapter.” Congratulations to Selcuk and all the others who worked so diligently to bring this new chapter into being. **11.** ISFR’s Regional Vice President & Board member, Yohichi Karasawa on the right with Masakatsu Maeda, both from Hokkaido, Japan. **12.** A pair of long-term Board members from Redwood City, CA. (l. to r.) Bill Bergler and John Lowe. **13.** From Bucharest, Romania: Paul Popescu, Christiana Bica and Oanu & Radu Nicolau. **14.** Climax to a great week – a most successful Gala, with a spirited auction and a delicious meal.

Keep Your Dues Current

If you have not paid your ISFR dues for 2008, please remit to stay current. Download an application from the “join/renew” section of our web site and send payment to our Executive Secretary, PO Box 151711, Arlington, TX 76015.

New memberships are \$50 USD annually and any prior members with a break in consecutive membership will be \$50 and be categorized as “new.” Thereafter, annual dues will revert to \$35 USD annually.

ISFR needs to have a stable base of members and that means remitting dues even if you are not planning to attend that year’s ski event. Also, by consistently staying current on your dues you will remain on our mailing list and always have a listing in the ISFR directory of members.



Thank you for being a part of ISFR!

Visit ISFR’s Web Site
www.isfrski.org

Keep current with ISFR activities and future ski events which are posted on our informative web site. A complete listing of all officers and directors is provided for your use along with a convenient, direct e-mail link to our Executive Secretary.

Interested in joining ISFR? Download a membership form from the web site and either fax or mail to remit.

**This is a great web site,
 quite professional – check it out.**