



**ISFR**

**June 2014**

**January 31- February 7, 2015**  
**Big Sky, Montana, USA**

The Rotary Club of Big Sky will host the North American week for the International Skiing Fellowship of Rotarians, January 31 – February 7, 2015.



Come and enjoy the Biggest Skiing in America on 5,750 acres (2,325 hectares), 4,350' vertical drop (1320 m), 22 chair lifts, 7 surface lifts, 250 named runs covering over 110 miles – all for one lift ticket. Big Sky has famous steep bowls, glades and black diamond challenges, but it is also a delight for the family skier. Three lifts serve only green runs, of which there are 48 on the mountain, and the 59 named blue runs will give you tons of cruising pleasure.

Big Sky Resort was awarded the 2014 Best Resort Terrain by the visitors to OnTheSnow.com in the Visitor's Choice Awards (VCA) and the Smart Choice award from FindTheBest.com, scoring 97 out of 100 in the smart rating score. Great terrain, consistent snow and non-existent lift lines are a few of the attributes, which continually give Big Sky Resort top rankings.

Big Sky is easy to get to with direct non-stop flights to Bozeman-Yellowstone International Airport (BZN) from over 12 cities in the US. Coach bus transportation, 45 miles down the beautiful Gallatin Canyon, will deliver you right to your hotel.



All accommodations for the ISFR have been arranged at Big Sky Resort's Huntley Lodge and Shoshone Hotel which share the same lobby and are just a few yards from the base area lifts. There is also plenty to do on your non-skiing days. Big Sky is the Base Camp to **Yellowstone Park**. The Park's NW corner is just 14 miles south of Big Sky and a day touring by snow coach, snowmobile, or cross country skis is a must. In addition to days on the slopes with our adaptive skier program, a day has also been arranged to go to Bozeman to tour the Eagle Mount facility for people with disabilities, and to see Montana Grizzly Encounter and the famous paleontology display at the Museum of the Rockies. Horseback riding, fly fishing in the blue ribbon Gallatin River, zip lining, snow shoeing, dog sledding, fur style shows, snow cat and sleigh ride dinners, and spa therapy are other popular options. If you like Cross Country, the #1 rated Nordic Skiing is at Lone Mountain Ranch, which is on the free shuttle bus route half-way between the Mountain and Meadow Village. Back Country adventures abound as well in the surrounding Gallatin National Forest as well as the NW corner of Yellowstone Park.

For those ISFR members who like skiing in the northern Rockies, the Rotary Club of Jackson Hole has arranged a 3 day extension to come either before or after Big Sky. You can preview the ISFR venue for 2017, and prolong your fun. Jackson Hole is about a 3 ½ hr drive south through Idaho and over Teton Pass. A car will be needed, as there is no bus service, and air connections are through Denver or Salt Lake City.

### **Program For The Week:**

#### **Sat. Jan 31:**

Registration and Welcome Reception

#### **Sun. Feb: 1**

9:00AM Guided mountain tours by local Rotarians  
Green groomers, blue cruisers, bumps and steeps  
4:00 PM: Super Bowl Party with food, games and things for the non-sports fans

#### **Mon. Feb. 2**

9:00 AM: Guided mountain tours by Local Rotarians  
"Tour of the Trees" (Glade skiing at its best)  
"Tour of the Moonlight side of the Mountain" (Easy Groomers on the north side)  
6:00 PM: Home Hospitality with local Rotarians

**Tues. Feb. 3:**

- 10:00 AM: Cross Country Skiing at Lone Mountain Ranch
- 6:00 PM: ISFR Annual General Meeting  
Dinner on your own at choice of restaurants

**Wed., Feb. 4:**

- 12:00 PM: Lunch at Moonlight Lodge  
Ski in, drive, or take the shuttle bus
- 5:30 PM: Big Sky Joint Rotary Meeting and Dinner  
Speaker: Rich Yehle, Yellowstone Park Ranger – Yellowstone Ecology

**Thur. Feb. 5:**

- All day: Yellowstone Snow Coach tours  
See bison, elk, mud pots, Old Faithful in warm comfort & back before 5
- 9:30 AM: Yellowstone backcountry XC skiing. Break trail with the Big Sky Snow Striders
- 6:00 PM: Farewell Gala Dinner and Auction

**Fri. Feb. 6:**

All Day: Bozeman Day:

Take the coach bus to Bozeman to tour the Eagle Mount facilities that provide adaptive skiing, horseback riding, and swimming. Visit Montana Grizzly Encounter, and the Museum of the Rockies with their award winning exhibits of paleontology and Western culture. Down town art gallery tour and lunch.

**Sat. Feb. 7:** Departure day

For registration details, [www.isfrski.org/](http://www.isfrski.org/)

**March 17–14, Saass Fee, Switzerland**

In March 2015 , the Rotary Club of Saastal invites all ski-loving Rotarians to enjoy an unforgettable week of friendship and physical exercise in Saas -Fee, the " Pearl of the Alps " . Get to know interesting friends from all over the world. Enrich your mind, experience genuine Rotary ideals and participate on the slopes in leisure skiing and different winter sports competitions. Saas -Fee, the attractive and car-free glacier village at 1800m altitude , surrounded by 13 over four-thousand meter mountain tops, is at the foot of the highest Swiss mountains. It received in 2012 the silver award for " Best Ski Resort ". We promise you a varied program, excellent organization and a week of fine fellowship in one of the most beautiful and attractive ski resorts in the world. Saas -Fee and the Rotary Club of Saastal are looking forward to your visit.

### Highlights of the Ski Week :

- Rotarians all generations from over 15 countries Europe, America and Australia,
- Grand opening ceremony,
- Daily ski guiding by local Rotarians in all 3 ski areas and up to 3500m ( Allalin ),
- Great alternative program for non-skiers,
- Exciting competitions - alpine and cross country,
- Surprising insight into local history and culture,
- Joint dinner and many opportunities for memorable meetings and fellowship,
- Numerous activities including night sledging on Hannig mountain,
- Recognition of Rotary charity for blind persons,
- Grand Gala evening featuring fine dining and an entertaining program,

Information und Anmeldung unter: [www.saas-fee2015.ch](http://www.saas-fee2015.ch)

### In Memoriam Michael Vervuurt

January 1993 the phone rang at my office in Wageningen, Netherlands. 'Who is speaking' (the conversation was in Dutch) "Michael Vervuurt from Suriname" (I had never heard of the man) "Hello what can I do for you?" I saw your name on the list of participants of the Rotary Ski meeting in Madonna di Campiglio, Italy. I wanted you to know that I will be there also and I am looking forward to meeting you there".



This was Michael, undaunted approaching people to get acquainted and to stay connected. During the preparations and at the actual ski meetings Michael took the lead to contact all his friends and facilitated that they would stay in the same hotel. During the ski meetings he made new friends and not only with the ladies who could not help but fall for his persuasive charm. Michael loved ISFR and everyone he ever met skiing. Michael was always good for a laugh. He enjoyed skiing tremendously and followed "his" group often without fear where other skiers would have hesitated.

Michael's dedication and ability to connect people was not unnoticed by the ISFR Board and Michael was elected President of the ISFR for three years, 2001-2004. Quite an achievement for someone from Suriname, former Dutch Guiana, a tropical country north of Brazil. After his term he stayed active in the ISFR Board and as a liaison officer for the European Chapter Committee. The ISFR has benefitted from his preparedness to serve. We are grateful for what Michael has done for the ISFR and for the participants of numerous ski meetings.



Michael passed away on good Friday, April 18. He was 75. The last years his health was showing signs of age. During the ISFR meeting in Park City 2010 he was hit by a stroke and it appeared he did not ever fully recover from that. He was much more uncertain and occasionally confused. This was also reflected in his skiing. He preferred to stay on the easier slopes in good weather.

Nonetheless, Michael was still eager to make people feel comfortable. Joan, my wife, and I encountered great hospitality and friendship when we visited Suriname early March 2014, only a month before Michael died because of a not earlier detected tumor in his large intestine. We will miss Michael and cherish the memory of his charm and friendship.

Erik Lammerts van Bueren  
Bill Champion

## **ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION SYDNEY AUSTRALIA JUNE 1 – 4, 2014**



This year's International Convention in Sydney, was held at a great venue, the Olympic Park. The lively Convention, with 18,000 registrants, highlighted Rotary's considerable progress in eradicating polio, with the recent news of a polio-free S.E. Asia. 340 Rotarians climbed the Sydney Harbour Bridge (including a member of ISFR!), with 50% of the ticket price going to *Polio Plus*, and many Rotarians walked the 3k walk in Cathy Freeman Park to *End Polio Now* also. And the Australian Premier, Tony Abbott, at the opening plenary was pleased to announce the Australian Government's pledge of AU\$100,000 to eradicate polio.

The Convention plenary had a variety of speakers, including the former Australian cricketer, Brett Lee, speaking of his work with children in India. As usual, the House of Friendship was the favourite meeting place for Rotarians between sessions. The host organization had done an excellent job of organizing the extensive Billabong House of Friendship, with over 300 booths. Our ISFR booth was kept busy and a record of 36 completed application forms were received.

The Convention had got off to a flying start with entertainment by the Australian Motown group, Human Nature. The closing entertainment of The Ten Tenors and Marina Prior were also magnificent, showing the high quality Australian talent.

Many thanks to all those ISFR members who helped at the booth, including Al and Jerry Morris, Russell and Marjolein Marnock, Mike and JoAnne Ruby, Martin Sheeney, Lyn Stroschin, John and Carolyn Roberson, as well as President Tony and Pru Sheer. And we look forward to welcoming the new members to Big Sky or Saas-Fee, or both!

Margaret Hutchinson  
Henry Blowey

## **GREETINGS FROM EVANSTON**

I would like to share with you some of the excellent commentary that your story, [Skiing Fellowship supports disabled athletes](#), is generating on the [Rotary Service Connections Blog](#). One Rotarian commentator from Maine remarked;

*"...I SKI WITH THE MAINE ADAPTIVE SPORTS PROGRAM. I CAN HONESTLY TELL YOU MONOSKIING HAS CHANGED MY LIFE. THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING ADAPTIVE SPORTS. IT MAKES ME PROUD TO BE A ROTARIAN."*

Thank you again for submitting such an outstanding story for Rotary Fellowship's month, and as always please feel free to pass along any photographs, project descriptions, or Fellowship activities for us to share with the broader Rotary family. Thank you again.

Jesse Davis  
Regional Grants Officer/Rotary International

## **CALENDAR**

BIG SKY, MONTANA, January 31 – February 7, 2015

SAAS -FEE, SWITZERLAND, March 7-14, 2015

CHAMONIX, FRANCE, 3<sup>rd</sup> week January 2016

WHISTLER, CANADA, February 20-27, 2016

For Details, [www.isfrski.org/](http://www.isfrski.org/)