



ISFR

November 2014

The Rotary Club of Big Sky hosts the ISFR Jan. 31 – Feb. 7, 2015.



Lots of new activity at Big Sky! Big Sky is now over 5800 acres (2343 hectares) with the addition of several new easy gladed runs, and further improvement and widening of a couple of the groomers. For the ISFR members, perhaps the most important are Lizette and Pomp (Sacagawea's children) on either side of the green Sacagawea run. They are listed as blue as they are glades, but are on the very easy pitch of the Southern Comfort area. Also, Dakota Gully has been widened and opened to get a blue rating, so now there are good intermediate runs in the Dakota Territory.

The press release has a link to the new trail map that all ISFR members will receive soon. This image is only the main map, and does not have the South Face insert for runs off the Tram, Shedhorn nor Dakota lifts and the Bowl detail that will be on the printed map.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/vbeug5bl325ljk4/Trail%20Map%202014-15-01.jpg?dl=0>

Of particular interest to ISFR attendees is that our Bluegrass "Big Sky Big Grass" festival will be at the resort the last weekend of the ISFR meeting (Feb 6-9). The website is www.bigskybiggrass.com. All of the musical venues will be within an easy walk from the

Shoshone/Huntley hotels where the ISFR members will be staying. We have our Gala on Thursday, Feb 6, but no ISFR scheduled events on Friday or Saturday.

The only negative is that I just heard from the Papparazzi Fur people that they will be out of town our week, so the proposed style show luncheon is to be cancelled.

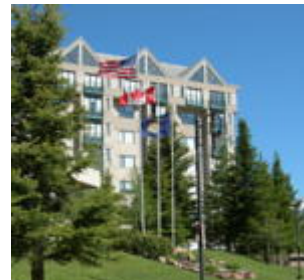
Lots of excitement here at the club level. You can certainly say that the Rotary Club of Big Sky is eager to host the ISFR.

By Jeff Strickler

All accomodations for the ISFR have been arranged at Big Sky Resort's Huntley Lodge and Shoshone Hotel (the Huntley is now sold out) which share the same lobby and are just a few yards from the base area lifts. Make your reservation directly with the Shoshone.



Huntley Lodge ***



Shoshone Hotel ****

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, 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 trip:

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. Downtown art gallery tour and lunch.

Sat. Feb. 7:

Departure day

Register on line available at, www.isfrski.org/

March 7–14, SAAS FEE, SWITZERLAND

The Rotary Club of Saastal will host all ski-loving Rotarians to enjoy an unforgettable week of friendship and skiing in Saas Fee, the "Pearl of the Alps." You will meet interesting friends from all over the world. Enrich your mind, experience genuine Rotary ideals and participate on the slopes in leisure skiing and several winter sport 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.

Program of the Week (Note changes from previous publication)

Saturday March 7 Arrival Day

- 09:00-18:30 Registration at your hotel or tourist office
- 16:00 Guided tour through Saas-Fee/historical and cultural background
- 18:00 Get together/welcome drinks
- 19:30 Dinner at your hotel
- 22:30 Nightcap at one of Saas-Fee's bars (tba)

Sunday March 8 Opening Day

- 09:30 Meeting point for skiers at Alpin-Express valley station.
Discover and enjoy the ski area and its winter sport options with local Rotarian guides
- 12:30 Lunch at Morenia mountain restaurant
- 18:00 Opening Ceremony at the village Square/musical program/free drinks
- 19:30 Get together dinner with local Valais/Wallis specialities

Monday March 9 Ski Guiding Day/Training Day

- 0:930 Meeting point for skiers Alpin-Express valley station welcomed by local Rotarians
- 12:30 Lunch at the Gletschergrotte mountain Restaurant
Option: snowshoe hiking to the gletschergrotte restaurant
- 17:00-19:00 Rotary Meeting / Meeting point Metropol Keynote: "The Walser people"
- 19:30 Dinner at your hotel
- 22:30 Nightcap at one of Saas-Fee's bars (tba)

Tuesday March 10 Charity Day

- 09:30 Meeting point for skiers at Alpin-Express valley station
Skiing with young blind people and attendants
- 12:30 Lunch at Three Sixty highest revolving restaurant in the world
Charity project media press conference
- 17:30 Meeting point Hannig valley station/dinner and entertainment at Hannig summit
- 21:00 Torchlight night sledding to Sass-Fee

Wednesday March 11, 1st Saas Valley Day/Nordic Competition

- 09:30 Number bibs distribution at the round church of Saas-Balen
- 10:00 Start cross country race Saas-Balen to Sass-Almagell
Option 1: Winter hiking Saas-Grund to Sass-Almagell
Option 2 Skiing in the Kreuzboden/Hohsaas, Saas-Grund area
- 12:30 Lunch at the Olympia Restaurant Sass-Almagell
- 14:00 Free skiing in Sass-Almagell
- 17:00 Visit historical Saaser Museum
- 19:30 Dinner at your hotel
- 22:30 Nightcap at one of Saas-Fee's bars (tba)

Thursday March 12, 2nd Alpine Competition

- 9:30 Meeting point valley station Alpin-express/number bib distribution
Viewing giant Slalom "Eiskristall"
- 10:30 Start first giant slalom race
- 11:30 Start second giant slalom race
cross country race Saas-Balen to Saas-Almagell
- 12:30 Lunch at Mistral restaurant (village)
Option: Excursion/hiking on Hannig
- 16:30 Get together/meeting point Metropol, presentation: "Next ISFR Ski Meeting"
- 17:00-19:00 ISFR Committee Meeting
- 19:30 Dinner at your hotel
- 22:30 Nightcap at one of Saas-Fee's bars (tba)

Friday March 13, 3rd Free Skiing Day, Farewell Ceremony

- 9:30 Meeting point for skiers at Alpin-Express valley station, welcomed by Rotarians
- 12:30 Lunch at Plattjen Mountain Restaurant
Option, Excursion, sunbathing and hiking Hannig
- 19:30 Gala Dinner/Races prize ceremony/Entertainment by local village ensembles

Saturday March 14, Departure Day

Individual departure or extended stay as individually planned

Accommodation: Recommended Hotels



Ferienart Resort and Spa
from CHF 190 per pax/night
incl. half board *****



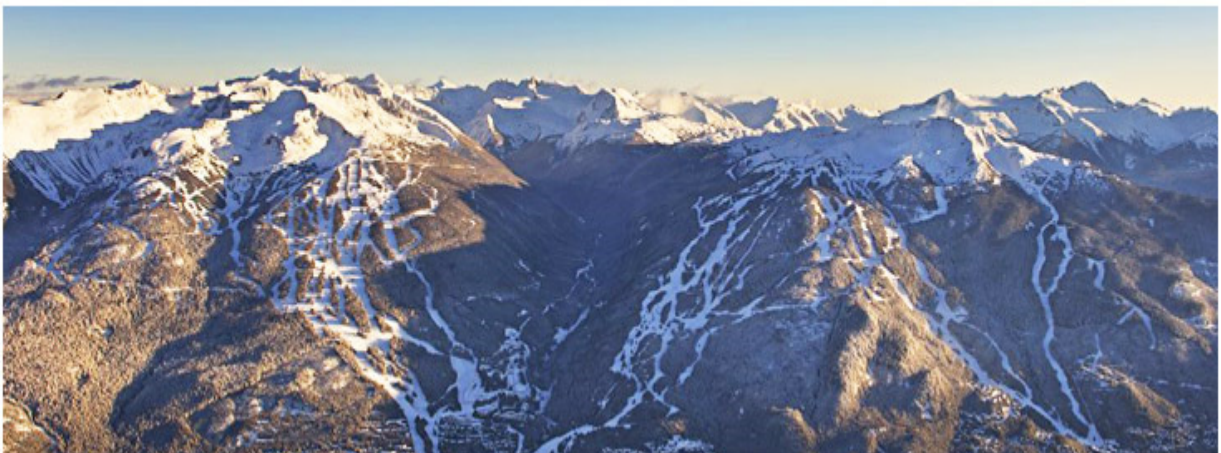
Best Western Metropol
Hotel from CHF 150 per
pax/night ****



Allalin Hotel
from CHF 150 per pax/night

Accommodation and Registration available online at: <http://saas-fee2015.ch/typo3/index.php?id=2>.

February 20-27, 2016 Whistler Blackcomb, British Columbia



Mountain Update

Building on the installation of two new lifts this season, Whistler Blackcomb (WB) revealed another major capital investment Tuesday, Feb. 4 with the announcement of new eight-passenger gondola cabins for its Whistler Village Gondola.

The \$6-million project will see the lift's current cabins, which have been loading guests since 1988, replaced with 160 eight-passenger cabins with more comfortable seating, reduced vibration and noise over lift towers and equipment storage space outside the cabin.

"You get into this cabin and the ride will be so far from what the experience is now that you'll feel like you're in a brand new gondola," said WB's vice president of planning, government and special projects, Doug Forseth.

Improvements will also be made at the base of the Whistler Village Gondola, and at the Olympic and Roundhouse stations during this period to enhance the functionality of the interior spaces as well as the terminals' appearance.

Whistler Blackcomb will spend an additional \$5.9 million on updating its information technology infrastructure, including installing a radio-frequency identification (RFID) system with lift access control gates at most mountain lifts — this is expected to drastically reduce lift ticket fraud and guest wait times.

"We now have people out there with scan guns, and if you walk up on a cold day like this and you've got your pass tucked inside you've got to unzip your jacket to get your pass out, and that can be uncomfortable," said Forseth, who added that the new technology, which is already commonly used throughout Europe, will give riders the ability to pass through main access points, as well as some mid-mountain and alpine lifts, without showing their pass.

Everyone will have to get a new pass.

"It should be a little faster, a little simpler and more comfortable for everybody," he added. The RFID system will also give guests the ability to see what lifts they've been riding, as well as enable WB staff to track what areas riders are using.

"That will help us plan the ski area experience better," Forseth said. "If we have underutilized lifts, we'll look at what we can do to spread things out to make it a little more even."

Whistler Blackcomb Voted #1

The annual Reader's Poll was revealed today on social media and on SKImag.com, and will be published in SKI MAGAZINE's Resort Guide, hitting newsstands at the end of September. Along with being named No. 1 overall, in variety of terrain, off-hill activities, and après, Whistler Blackcomb also scored highly in a number of other categories, including No. 2 in the lifts, lodging, and dining categories.

"Congratulations to Whistler Blackcomb on this well-deserved honor," says Andy Bigford, SKI's publisher. "Our readers are smart, savvy, well-traveled and consistently blown away by Whistler's vastness and variety, both on and off the hill. I wholeheartedly agree with the reader who wrote: 'Every skier should have Whistler on a bucket list.'"

. Audain Art museum to open in Whistler in Fall of 2015. See details at www.audainartmuseum.com

Tim Lovell

CALENDAR

BIG SKY, MONTANA,	January 31 – February 7, 2015
SAAS -FEE, SWITZERLAND,	March 7-14, 2015
CHAMONIX, FRANCE,	January 17-23 2016
WHISTLER, CANADA,	February 20-27, 2016
JACKSON HOLE, Wyoming USA	Feb 5 - 12, 2017

For more information on all events, www.isfrski.org/