

RA SKI-MAIL APRIL 1, 2018

Editor-in-Chief: Glen Campbell, publicity-2018{at}raski.ca

Cross-Country Editor: Jane Rau

Downhill Editors: Andrea Conway & Maureen Adamache

Snowshoe Editor: Doris Dallaire

Sports Editor: G. Campbell

Weeklong Editor: Doris Dallaire

Foreign Correspondent: Roger Duffy

EXCITING NEW WEEKLONG DESTINATION FOR WINTER 2019!!

Tired of skiing the Alps, destinations in Western Canada and the US? Then this trip is for you, the adventurous skier who wants to try a new destination. Our trip this year will offer guaranteed conditions and no mild spells forcing us to cancel outings as we had to do so many times this past winter. Where? Where else but Antarctica! Although it is the driest continent on the planet, we are guaranteed good ski and snowshoe conditions as the ice sheet has been there for at least fifteen million years.

This trip is a joint effort with the RA Canoe Club, as suggested by some of our members who belong to both clubs. We will fly to Santiago, Chile with Air Canada, a direct overnight flight from Toronto and from there we will transfer to the most southern airport in Patagonia. Canoe club members will be training all summer in large transport canoes like those used during fur trade days. Once in Patagonia, they will then gently paddle our group across the Southern Ocean until the continent is reached a few days later. Along the way we will see icebergs, whales and seals, so be sure and have your cameras ready.

There is a base of over a kilometer of ice for downhill skiers to enjoy. No need to worry about long lift lines, freezing your hands and feet as you go up on the chair lifts or dodging other skiers on the slopes. There are no chair lifts and after a good old-fashioned climb up the hill, you'll be nice and warm as you carve your way down the pristine runs of the Trans-Antarctic Mountains which divide the continent. Cross-country skiers will also be able to enjoy their sport as the trails are well groomed daily by the numerous penguins who live there during this time of year. Snowshoers can enjoy waddling along the shoreline with the many varieties of penguins. Long time members of our club will remember when a penguin was our mascot and appeared as the logo of our club so it will be exciting to be greeted by these creatures and to mingle with them.

Deluxe accommodations have been found in a nearby large whale carcass offering protection from possibly breezy nights. The carcass is located a mere 222 metres from the ski area so truly a ski-in, ski-out location. But we have been assured by our supplier that space is limited, there are no single rooms and that no Club Med is available at this time. Wi-Fi will also be unavailable and no cell phone plan will be needed, a complete holiday from technology. However, meals consisting mainly of

krill and whale blubber will be included daily. Dress is casual but bring layers (several of them) as well as your Canada Goose parkas and seal skin boots. Those packaged hand warmers may also come in handy and take little space when packing.

So check regularly for complete registration details and book early to avoid being left behind. This is a trip you don't want to miss and one you will remember and tell your friends and families about for years to come!

Trip Leader: TBD. Many executive members of both clubs are wanting the privilege of leading this exceptional trip!

TRAVEL TIP FOR THE 2019 WEEKLONG SKI TRIP

The number one priority of the RA Ski Club is the safety of our skiers on our trips. Here's a travel tip that will make you feel safer on those long airplane flights. Although we have faith in the pilots of the planes we fly on, you can never be too careful in case they miss something in their pre-flight checks of the aircraft. Here's the RA Ski Club's two-step, preflight check that you can do prior to boarding the aircraft:

1. Count the engines.
2. Count the wings.

RA SKI CLUB IS EXPANDING!

The RA Ski Club received the following proposal from another club:

For some years now, the Miami H2O Ski Club has wanted to expand our activities beyond the usual waterskiing but nothing seemed to float. Through GOOGLE we have learned of the RA Ski Club and of its diversified program including among other things, hiking, biking, and triking, (oops, that last one is for seniors down here), special bus trips to the more challenging hills a day away, and many other activities which I won't go into here.

Inspired by your success we have revisited the idea of expansion and have now upgraded our program to include;

- Struggle Biking - riding along the spongy shoreline with skinny tires,
- Belly Floating - among the manatees, our State Mammal,
- Dolphin Diving - with/without snorkel (optional),
- Pelican Splatter Ducking - umbrellas recommended,

and our highlight bus trip to the Everglades,

- The Great Gator Slalom Run - while being towed behind a screaming airboat. Note that this is for expert skiers only, because if you fall, the alligators will get you.

We feel that both clubs compliment each other in the variety of events offered and that if merged your members could drop in anytime to freely take part in our activities and we would be able to drop in and freely take part in your activities. Definitely a win-win situation and at no extra cost either way. Who knows, perhaps a billeting arrangement could be set up. Details would have to be worked out.

I trust you will consider this proposal in a positive manner.

Thank you and best regards,
Studs Lennox
H20Ski@yahooee.FL

CROSS-COUNTRY BACKCOUNTRY SKIING CLINIC

Date: Saturday Dec. 1, 2018, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Cost: \$20 (cash only, no bitcoins please.)
MEET: RA west wing lobby at 8:45 a.m. for departure at 9.
REGISTER: RA east wing desk

Some of our skiers are interested in backcountry skiing, so we have designed a one-day course for all cross-country skiers from beginner to expert. We will use as a basis the book, “Backcountry Skiing Adventures – Avalanche Skill Training and Crevasse Rescue – Steep Skiing Clinics.”

Items to bring with you:

- Skis & poles
- Backpack with four days of food
- 100 feet of rope

Register early! There are only 20 places, and this course is expected to fill up fast.
Course conductor: Tom Wiley

TEST YOUR SKI KNOWLEDGE

=====

If you answer all the questions correctly, you win a free downhill lift pass for Camp Fortune’s magic carpet for June & July, 2018.

1. In the 2018 PyongChang Olympics, the Canadian who won the gold medal in men’s freestyle skiing moguls is:

- a) Justin Trudeau
- b) Justin Bieber
- c) Donald Trump
- d) Mikael Kingsbury

2. The Canadian ski hill with the most vertical is

- a) Pakenham
- b) Camp Fortune
- c) Mont Sainte-Marie
- d) Revelstoke

3. In 1956, Montreal's Lucile Wheeler won Canada's first Olympic alpine medal – a bronze in downhill in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy. What was her seat number on her flight back to Montreal?

Answers in our next Ski-Mail.

RA SKI Q&A CORNER

=====

The RA Ski club reached into its mailbag to answer some ski-related questions from our members.

1. Q: I'm a new cross-country skier, and someone suggested I get waxless skis to use in the spring. Can you explain what these are?

A: It's very important your skis match the ski conditions, otherwise you will either be slipping back or sticking to the snow. Not fun. The RA Ski Club has a strong cross-country program, and we go out every week, alternating Saturday mornings and Sunday afternoons. Most of our outings are in Gatineau Park, but several times we ski elsewhere, such as Nakkertok and Montebello.

2. Q: I have just taken up downhill skiing and want to become an expert. I'm 88 years old. What would you recommend?

A: Congratulations at starting skiing at your age! The RA Ski club caters to downhill skiers of all ages and all levels. On our bus trips, whether you are a beginner, intermediate skier, or like the black and double-black runs, we make sure you have someone to ski with at your level. Our club motto is "Friends to Ski with and to Be With."

3. Q: Do I need to use poles when snowshoeing?

A: Excellent question. The RA Ski Club has a strong snowshoe program, led by Doris Dallaire. Our schedule includes both weekends and weekdays, and we car-pool to local trails including Mont Cascades, the Greenbelt, Gatineau Park, Wakefield and a moonlight outing to Mer Bleu.

4. Q: What is glade skiing, and if I try it, is there anything I need to be concerned about?

A: Yes. Do you know that the RA Ski Club has been in existence since 1966? During that time, we have helped downhill skiers enjoy and improve their skiing. For downhill, we cater to all types of skiers – alpine, telemark and snowboard.

5. Q: I am a new member and waffling between Down Hill and Cross Country skiing. As I am on a limited budget should I buy long ski poles or short ski poles, or one of each? Any information would be a help. Thanks, DB.

A: This is the first time we've had a question involving both downhill and cross-country. You'll be happy to know that when the RA Ski Club plans our weeklong trips, we always choose a destination that has both downhill and cross-country skiing!

6. Q: A report has it that the RA Ski Club will be matching the other local ski clubs in increasing the price of the first six rows of seating on future bus trips based on the fact that those at the front of the bus arrive at the mountain sooner than those at the rear of the bus. Has this policy been finalized and how much will the increase be?
Concerned member,
Phulla Malarki

A: We're going to vote on this at our next executive meeting. That's the first 24 seats. Since it's a 44-seat bus, we're thinking of a surcharge of $24/44 = 54\%$. Any higher, and I think people would opt out of sitting in the six front rows.

SEEN ON A T-SHIRT

=====

I'm a skiing Dad. It's like a normal Dad but way cooler.