

RA SKI-MAIL APRIL 1, 2019

Editor-in-Chief: Glen Campbell, publicity-2020{at}raski.ca

Snowshoe Editor: Doris Dallaire

Cross-country Editor: Jane Rau

Sports Editor: G. Campbell

Weeklong Editor: Jaime Impey

International Editor: Bill Buck

China Correspondent: Roger Duffy

2020 DH WEEKLONG

RA weeklong chair Jaime Impey has received a number of complaints about the weeklong trips being too cold. Your RA Ski Club listens to its members, so your RA Ski executive has decided to hold next year's weeklong trip in the summer, to Saint John's Newfoundland, June 12-17, 2020.

The Newfoundland Department of Tourism has decided to make Newfoundland a summer destination for skiers. A massive iceberg will be towed into Saint-John's harbour and turned into a three-run ski hill. The iceberg ski hill is the brainchild of Mergatroid MacGillicutty from the Newfoundland government's tourist office, in response to frustrations over summer ski tourism previously lost to destinations such as Chile and New Zealand.

The ski hill's official opening is June 12th, and the RA Ski Club will be among the first customers! Needless to say, we're very excited to be a part of the launch and can't wait to be the very first skiers to ski through the red tape on opening day!

Priced at \$1299 per person, double-occupancy, the package includes:

- Airfare, Ottawa to Saint John's, a direct flight on Air Canada
- Deluxe accommodation at the Saint John's Y.
- Breakfast daily
- 6-day lift pass
- Welcome reception with all-you-can drink Screech
- Free lifejacket to go over your ski outfit.

RA SKI CLUB BUYING CHILEAN SKI RESORT

Due to the resounding success of our trips to Andorra, Val David, Tremblant and St. Sauveur, the RA Ski and Outdoor Club is pleased to announce that we will begin year-round skiing this summer. To facilitate this, we have invested our surpluses from these trips in a 75% share in a wonderful resort in Portillo Chile. Publicity Chair Glen Campbell will depart immediately following approval of the purchase at our AGM to take over as the Director of Ski Operations at the resort.

CHINA DEVELOPING A SKI RESORT ON THE MOON

A news report circulating through the Chinese grapevine appear to confirm that space probes from the People's Republic of China have revealed a large number of snow-covered craters on the far side of the moon. As the rims of these craters are quite mountainous the Chinese are now in the early stages of developing this region into a super skiing area. Hoping to attract the attention of the huge North American skiing fraternity, the largest of these mountains has been given an English name, henceforth to be known as the Greater Crater. The also-proposed Trump Hump failed to impress the naming committee.

Learning of this discovery, a group of Ottawa soon-to-be billionaire Pot-Shop owners were quick to spot a potentially lucrative money-making opportunity and have begun plans to jump into the space travel industry by investing in the development of disposable passenger rockets capable of bringing die-hard skiers to this exiting new frontier. After several, shall we say, aromatic meetings, they decided to call their consortium SPACE-DOUBT. (Saying it fast kind of has a nice ring to it.)

Their plan is to make these excursions a once in a lifetime, super-special event, a be all to end all. Simply put, unlike Coca Cola bottles, this is a non-returnable trip. Definitely #10 on anyone's bucket list. Since these will be one-way journeys, fuel requirements are half the normal amount thereby allowing double the passenger capacity, all the while keeping safely within the weight-to-power ratio specifications mandated by the Nepean City Council. Pricing will be variable as all passengers must pay with their entire life savings, a plan similar to a person entering a long-term care facility here at home. Contracts will be issued to cover all aspects in this regard and helpful hints will be included such as updating wills (why?) and reminding everyone to be sure to give any leftover 2-for-1 ski passes to a favourite nephew before departing. Note that skis and boots go free.

In keeping with our club motto, MORE THAN JUST A SKI CLUB, the RA Ski club has applied to be the exclusive ticket agent for this endeavour. May I suggest you keep yourself up-to-date for all the latest developments by monitoring our weekly Ski Mail.

Bon Spaceage.

Lunar Tuner Ski Shop

GRAND OPENING SPECIAL

Bring in your skis and get

ONE EDGE SHARPENED FREE

Offer valid during the Year of the Otter

2020 SNOWSHOE WEEKLONG – A TRIP LIKE NO OTHER!

Next winter, we are having a snowshoe trip like no other! And we will welcome cross-country skiers and downhill skiers because this destination has it all, even something for hikers, beach and water sports lovers! We are looking into fat bike rentals as well for the cycling crowd. How can that be you wonder? Well it's all about destination folks!

And our destination is the very beautiful Atacama Desert in Chile, the driest place on Earth where you can see a gazillion stars at night and where sunshine and beautiful

weather is a sure thing. No days of wishing you could be out enjoying whatever sport you want to do in January 2020 because it's too cold or too icy or the roads too full of snow to get there.

For snowshoers, we won't need to worry about icy conditions and freezing our hands as we try to get our snowshoes fastened to our boots, in fact we won't need to even bring boots, a simple pair of running shoes will do. And your regular snowshoes will work just as well in the sand as they do in fresh snow. Cross-country skiers won't need to worry about which wax to bring, just bring your waxless skis and if you do need a little help, you can use some extra-virgin, pure Chilean olive oil to help you slide better in the sand.

Downhill skiers can go right from the hotel to the nearest sand dune and try out the slopes. If they are having difficulty finding some black runs after drinking a few pisco sours, they can have another pisco and the slopes will seem steeper and it will be downhill the rest of the day! Hikers, water sports and beach lovers should have no trouble hiking to the Pacific Ocean from the hotel, after all Chile is just a long skinny country along the Pacific. It can't be that far!

After this memorable adventure, (well maybe the downhill skiers won't remember too much), we will have an extra day in Santiago where we can ask Glen Campbell to give us a guided tour of the best gelato places in town before returning home.

WALT DISNEY TO BUILD SKI RESORT AT MOUNT PAKENHAM

The Walt Disney Company is proposing to expand its Parks & Resorts division with a new major \$7-billion, world-class ski resort at Pakenham.

Named 'Pakenham, A Disney Ski Resort', the all-season resort project is a partnership with the Ottawa Senators.

"This is an exciting new venture for the Walt Disney Company, and we will be bringing our very best to this global tourist destination to provide guests from around the world with an experience only Disney can deliver," said Elias Oliver, chairman of Walt Disney Parks & Resorts, in a statement. "This ski resort immerses all visitors into the magical worlds of some of their favourite stories and allows them to meet their most beloved characters."

Under Disney, Pakenham will be expanded from its current 10 runs to 124 ski runs over 3,000 acres of terrain, six gondolas, 24 chairlifts, and four lodges on the mountains.

Life-sized statues of some of Disney's most famous characters will provide directions on the slopes, and ski runs, gondolas, and lifts will all reference to names from the Disney universe.

Each of the four alpine lodges, with food and beverage options, will be uniquely designed with the Disney touch. One lodge will be themed after the cottage from *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, the second lodge will be attached to a 10-storey replica of Rapunzel's tower from *Tangled*, the third lodge will be themed after the Rebel's ice base on the planet Hoth from *Star Wars*, and the fourth lodge will be themed after Wandering Oaken's Trading Post and Sauna from *Frozen*.

A large main village at the base of the ski resort will revolve around "Main Street, Canada" – an area with 70 international retail stores, 30 restaurants, four spas, a dozen entertainment venues including movie and show theatres, and an audio-animatronic *Country Bear Jamboree* attraction.

TEST YOUR SKI KNOWLEDGE

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If you answer all the questions correctly, you win a free downhill lift pass for Camp Fortune's magic carpet for summer 2019.

1. How many Olympic medals in alpine skiing has Canada won since alpine skiing debuted at Garmisch-Partenkirchen 1936?

- a) 0
- b) 11
- c) 222
- d) 3333

2. The Canadian downhill ski area with the most kilometers of trails is

- a) Vorlage
- b) Camp Fortune
- c) Mont Sainte-Marie
- d) Whistler-Blackcomb

3. In the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin, Jennifer Heil won the gold medal in moguls (Canada's first gold medal that Olympics). When she returned to Canada, what time did her flight arrive?

Answers in our next Ski-Mail.

RA SKI Q&A CORNER

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

1. Q: I have recently switched from downhill to cross country skiing and would like to be able to use some of my downhill equipment. Can you tell me how to adapt my downhill ski boots so that I can use them on my new XC skis? The XC bindings are NNN.

A: This is an easy question to answer. When we plan our weeklong ski trips, we choose a location that is suitable both for downhill skiing and cross-country. In February, for example, we went to Andorra, a small principality between Spain and France, with an extensive system of cross-country trails.

2. Q: Should I wear boots or shoes when I snowshoe?

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.

3. Q: How do I wax my waxless skis?

Cross-country skiing is not fun if your skis aren't waxed correctly. 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.

4. Q: Can I bring my kids on the RA Ski Club's day bus trips?

A: Yes, but you are responsible for them and have to look after them on the ski hill. More important, when we arrive back in Ottawa, you have to take them home with you. Remember, if you don't want them, we don't want them either.

SPORTS CORNER

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World Cup Skiing

Canadian men and women surprised everyone at last weekend's downhill races in Sweden by how well they did. Here are the final results for the Canadians.

- Women's Slalom: Laurence St-Germain 1:59.65
- Men's Giant Slalom: Trevor Philp 2:22.72
- Women's Giant Slalom: Marie-Michelle Gagnon 2:05.21
- Mixed Alpine team event: Canada 1:38.80

Congratulations to our Canadian skiers! We're proud of you!

SEEN ON A T-SHIRT

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I ski. What's your superpower?