

The April 1<sup>st</sup> issue is sent out a few days early, as our editor had to flee the country.

#### RA Ski-Mail – April 1/10

Editor-in-chief:	Glen Campbell
Sports Editor:	G. S. Campbell
National News Editor:	Glen C.
Environmental Editor:	G. Campbell
Downhill Weekend Editor:	Arlene Buck
Downhill Weeklong Editor:	Bill Buck
Lifestyles Editor:	Sue McMullen

#### 2010 DH/XC WEEKEND TRIP – SKI PORTILLO, CHILE

The long weekend in August 2010, we will go to Portillo Chile for our three-day weekend trip. Price: (including taxes)

- Double occupancy \$2,100 \*
- Single occupancy \$2,500 \*

\* A surcharge applies if we don't get 300 registrants.

Package includes return air fare from Ottawa to Santiago, Chile and bus from Santiago to Portillo where we will stay for four nights and ski three days. Includes hotel.

Not included: Lift passes, meals, towels, blankets, pillow, and bed.

Cross-country skiers are welcome! There's a 1 kilometre cross-country ski trail a short 45-minute walk from the hotel.

To register, form a line behind Glen Campbell at the RA east desk at 9 am sharp April 1, 2010.

#### 2011 WEEKLONG TRIP

Next year's weeklong trip is set! Due to the warming weather in many ski areas, next year we will travel north to Alaska. We fly to Anchorage January 1, where weather is expected to be a mild +5 degrees, then catch our dog sled teams to journey another 100 km north to find snow. Price is only \$8000, meals of seal and blubber included. Participants are advised to bring flashlights, since lifts are open for an hour after the 12:30 pm sunset. Registration is open from 9:00 am until noon this Thursday, April 1. Hurry! Space is limited.

#### **RA SKI CLUB LAUNCHES NEW "SNOWHARMONY" SITE!**

The RA Ski Club is on the cutting edge when it comes to supporting its members. Recognizing the angst that many of our skiers, boarders and telemarkers are feeling after the so-called "winter" of 2009-2010 (otherwise known as the winter of our discontent), the club is launching "SnowHarmony".

**What is SnowHarmony?** This innovative, interactive site will match you with your perfect snow destination, 24/7, anywhere in the world! You will only be required to answer a short survey of about 1000 questions. Once we receive your enrolment fee, the amount to be determined by the club at its sole discretion but not to exceed twice your annual salary or pension, you will automatically have access to SnowHarmony!

**What will SnowHarmony do for you?** Your survey results will be analyzed by our state-of-the-Art multi-tasking survey collider, located several stories below ground at a secure location. Art will then match you based on a random formula that only he knows. He will consider such factors as, are you:

- A powder hog or a slush puppy?
- A fashionista or an off-pista?
- Only there for the ski chalet cuisine or do you actually go on the hills and trails?
- Really skiing, boarding or telemarking or just posing for pictures?
- Running for cover as soon as temps dip below -40 C, or out there until you hear the rescue choppers?

Once all the data has been analyzed, synthesized, reorganized, modernized, upsized, downsized, generalized, specialized, rationalized and otherwise chewed up, as Art has been taught to do over his 35-year career, your perfect snow destination will be revealed! Art may even tell you what it is.

**Now that you know your perfect snow destination, what do you do?** SnowHarmony will give you access to thousands of pictures of your perfect snow destination! SnowHarmony allows you to browse its entire picture catalogue, until you feel a sense of calm and hope overtake you; a deep and abiding tranquility and optimism that next year winter really, really will come to Ottawa, that next year it will arrive early and stay late, that there will never, ever be less snow than you want, that your skis will get so much use that they'll wear out before you do, that your knees will hold up just a little longer.

**SnowHarmony! There for you through the grim, snowless days of summer!**

RA Ski Club not responsible for damage caused by drooling on keyboard.

## COLOURED BELT SYSTEM FOR SKIERS

The Canadian Ski Association has adopted a coloured belt system for skiers, similar to the ranking system in martial arts. President Mergatroid Macgillicutty says, "Skiers will feel much more comfortable on the slopes knowing the ability of someone coming down the hill towards them. You can easily recognize a beginner by his/her white belt, so you can quickly head for the side and hide behind a tree until the skier goes by, whereas if you see the skier is wearing a black belt, you don't have to worry."

RA Ski president Doris Dallaire says the RA is ready to implement the ranking system. Doris says, "Testing for the various belts will be done by our downhill weeklong chair, Bill Buck, right after his knee operation to fix his torn ACL, MCL, NCL, OCL PCL, and QCL."

The system of belts is the same as that used in Judo. Beginners start off wearing a white belt, and gradually work their way through the various colours to the black belt.

#### BELT REQUIREMENTS

- WHITE

Have skis, poles and boots (either rented, borrowed or your own.)

Can find the ticket booth and buy a lift ticket by yourself.

- YELLOW

Able to put your ski boots on within 20 minutes. Boots don't have to be on the correct feet.

Able to put your skis on by yourself, right side up and pointy-end forward.

Memorize: "The laws of physics are strictly enforced on ski slopes, particularly the law of gravity."

Lift stops for less than 10 minutes after you fall getting off the lift.

- ORANGE

Able to put boots on all by yourself within 10 minutes. No help from your ski buddy. Boots have to be on the correct feet.

After falling on a ski run, able to get up without help.

Lift stops for less than 5 minutes after you fall while getting off the lift.

Can get your skis off all by yourself.

- GREEN

Go all day without falling while getting off the lift.

Able to put your ski boots on by yourself within 5 minutes. (Boots have to be on the correct feet.)

Able to stop. Falling or dropping an anchor doesn't count.

- BLUE

After lunch, remember which ski rack you locked your skis on, and can find your skis. (No fair asking for help.)

Able to put your skis back on after a fall.

Can do a mogul run without crying, "I want my Mommy!"

#### BROWN

Able to remember where you parked your car.

Able to ski moguls while talking on a cell phone.

Remember to bring poles (quantity two), skis (quantity two) and boots (one left, one right) to the ski hill three times in a row.

- BLACK

Remember where you put the key to your ski lock.

Able to dodge a snowboarder hurtling toward you.

Able to use a poma lift.

Able to text on your cellphone while skiing moguls.

## SPORTS NEWS

Canadian men and women downhill skiers did very well in the alpine ski races in Garmisch Partenkirchen, Germany last weekend. Here are the results for the Canadian alpine team:

- Ladies' downhill: Britt Janyk 1:37.37
- Men's downhill: Manuel Osborne-Paradis 1:58.60
- Men's Super-G: Eric Guay 1:26.36
- Ladies' Super-G: Emily Brydon 1:21.14

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

## ENVIRONMENT CORNER

Save cows! Drink beer, not milk.