



Gelandesprung Gazette

"34 years and still going downhill."

www.gelandesprung.org

March 2004

The Gift of the Gab Reputedly bestowed upon the Pres. from Kissing the Blarney Stone

The ski season is just flying by as fast as the Gelandesprung Power Skiers at SearchMont! By the time you receive this newsletter there will only be a few more opportunities to ski with the club. If you have not signed up yet, it might be possible to go on the Marquette weekend trip depending on hotel room availability. For those going, it will be an enjoyable adventure with all of the festivities involving the Spring Carnival. Being Irish, it's also fun because we get to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. If you are **not** Irish, it's fun because we get to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. (Ditto) Don't delay or you might miss out.

The trip to SearchMont was GREAT. Brian Fowle and Jason Derenne were awesome trip leaders. Not only was the snow **great**, the skiing **fabulous**, crossing the border into Canada smooth, (Thanks, Tom) but there also was a new theme introduced: "**The Mole.**" Our task was to discover the identity of the Mole. **The Mole** had three tasks to accomplish during the weekend. Either Brian started us rookies out easy or **The Mole** was really good, because **The Mole** accomplished its tasks by bar time on Saturday.



Hats off to Brian for creativity!

Mark your calendars for April 17 and make plans to attend the Spring Banquet at Legends. It will be an enjoyable evening with excellent dinner selections and one last opportunity to socialize with your ski friends before summer fun begins. Also, we will have the election of new officers.

There is an informal committee that has been talking to members who would make good leaders for the club. They have been giving potential leaders friendly persuasion to run for office. There will be a slate of nominees prior to the banquet. So come to the banquet without fear.

Slated for election are President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. I continue on the Board as Past President and Dick Wortiska has offered continued volunteer time to the board in an advisory position. In addition, the Board is seriously looking into adding "Trip Coordinator" as a board position. If you are interested in running for an office contact a board member.

Enjoy the rest of the winter.

Jeannene, President

Social Committee

Summer Social Committee is looking for volunteers to help plan for the Summer Activities. We are also looking for volunteers to host an activity. If anyone is interested, we will be discussing this starting at the March 2 General Meeting.

Contact Kevin Klase

497-8842 or kevinkl@ci.green-bay.wi.us for more information.





Zermatt in Winter

On Jan 16, 84 Sly Fox and Gelandesprung members headed out for a European adventure. Call it buses, planes and buses and trains. 3-hour bus ride to O'Hare, 9-hour plane ride to Milan, 3-hour bus ride to Visp, Switzerland (NO potty stops allowed) and finally a 15-minute train ride into Zermatt. It was cloudy, so the famous view of the Matterhorn was hidden. We proceeded to our two hotels, the Perren and the Ambiance, on foot while the hotel's electric minivans took our luggage ahead. A bit of rest, a walk downtown to rent ski equipment, a gluehwein (hot spiced wine)reception, and dinner at the hotel, and we were ready to call it a day.

Since this was a large group in two separate hotels, and such an extensive ski area, I really can't relate everything that went on. So this will be somewhat of a personal account. The first day was a snowy one, but everyone was anxious to get out on the mountain. We boarded the Gornergratbahn downtown for the 45 minute ride to the top of the Gornergrat ski area. This is probably the first time most people ever used an electric cogwheel train as a ski lift. The top was above the tree line as most of the skiing is at Zermatt, and most people got their initiation in white-out conditions above tree line. Bodies were falling all over the place from a combination of vertigo, mini-moguls of loose fresh snow, and skiing off the edge of the trail into snow banks you couldn't see. We learned quickly to watch for the florescent poles which marked the edge of the ski runs. We also learned to avoid snow boarders who decide to sit down in the narrowest part of the trails to talk on their cell phones! Some people called it an early day and rode the train back down to the bottom while the hard cores skied down on the runs into town. The nice thing about this is you get to stop at all the many quaint huts where liquid refreshment is available along the trails. Stopping at all of them could cause liver damage. These are all privately owned establishments and not your typical American ski lodge. Some are even old barns, and some are just a board on top of a pile of snow with 20 bottles of schnapps lined up.

Zermatt is billed as a "traffic free" village. There are no internal combustion engines allowed (well, almost none). It does have hoards of electric taxis that are bigger than golf carts and can still run you over if your not paying attention. The architecture follows strict building codes that dictate that everything must be impossibly cute, with heavy timbers and chalet style roofs. Nonetheless it has all the necessities of a ski resort, namely bars, restaurants, discos, ski shops, and lots of shopping. It is small and easy to walk to any where once you get your balance right, because they do not clear the snow off of the streets, and a few people got the Zermatt initiation on arrival by falling right on their butts when walking down the street. This is bad for walking, but good for skiing, because you can often ski to where you want to go if it is down hill.

The hotel I was staying at, the Ambiance, was right on the trail coming off of the Sunnegga ski area. It is owned and operated by a couple, Hannelore (Honey) and André Koeslich. Hannelore is a Zermatt native who took over the family business years ago after she met André when they were both working in the Bahamas. André is a master chef, and the food at the Ambiance was heavenly. Anyway, Honey and Andre's tropical idyll was interrupted by a call from her parents to come home and help run the family hotel. They agreed to do it for one year, and that was 15 years ago. I must also mention our two young waiters (snow boarders) from Germany, Peggy and Falk (pronounced Fike!). About the third day, Peggy asked me to tell all of my people to be sure to close the door tightly when we came in late. And there begins a story.

Apparently, Monday night, an inebriated Australian wandered into the hotel with the door unsecured. Being very cold and drunk, he wandered the halls like Goldilocks, looking for a suitable place to crash. If people did not lock their rooms from inside, they got a visit. After getting chased out of Jane Kurath's room, the gentleman from down-under finally found his rest in

Continued on next page

Jack Sweitzer and Charlie Mineau's room. He would have passed the night peaceably on the floor, but about 6 AM, he got cold and decided to crawl in with Jack. Jack called out "Stop it, Charlie!". He was then disconcerted when he heard Charlie's voice from the other side of the room "Stop what?" Jack then said "If you're over there, then who the _____ is this?" and he turned on the light. Then he jumped about six feet.

Monday morning dawned clear, and we awoke to the morning church bells and looked out our window to see the glorious sight of the first rays of sun hitting the peak of the Matterhorn. Now this is a sight to see, and we knew we really were in Zermatt. At the breakfast buffet, we made our plans to head to Italy. The ski area of Cervinia was included on our lift passes and this looked like the day to go. We took a taxi to the lift station on the south end of town, and headed up the Matterhorn express gondola. We skied down to Furgg and took a cable car to Trockener Steg, where we caught the Klein Matterhorn cable car. This station is built into a rock pinnacle called, surprisingly enough, Klein Matterhorn (Little Matterhorn). At this point, we were 12,500 ft up. Since Zermatt is the same elevation as Denver, 5300 ft, it is 7000 ft of vertical. From here, we skied down, crossing the border into Italy. The runs were big cruisers down to the Italian village of Cervinia at 6500 ft elevation. We immediately had to turn around and head back to Switzerland.

It was here that I got my Lunar nomination, by forgetting my back pack at the outdoor bar at Trockener Steg. I skied down from there in a nonstop fast cruiser to Furgg then waited for the slow pokes to show up. Finally, Jack Sweitzer arrived and said "Sam, I've been trying to catch up with you since you left. Weren't you wearing a backpack?" OH,___! The lift back to Trockener Steg had just closed, and I would not have been too worried about the pack, but I had put my and Deb's passports in it for going to Italy. To make a long story short, I got it back the next day.

The other ski area at Zermatt is called Sunnegga, and believe it or not, the lift from Zermatt is a subway. Technically, it is an underground funicular, which is in a tunnel bored up the mountain 2000 vertical feet. Two trains are

connected by a cable and pass each other in the center where the tunnel widens and they switch tracks to pass each other. Chair lifts continue up from here. We saw an avalanche next to the lodge above on Wednesday, and since nobody knew if any one was in it, they had to bring in helicopters, sniffer dogs, and finally 20 people shoulder-to-shoulder with long poles probing the snow. Apparently nobody was in it, as a ski instructor dropped by to tell them that he had laid down the tracks at the top of the fracture zone earlier that day. Never mind!

We had about a foot of fresh snow on Tuesday, then clear weather the rest of the week. Thursday, we had our apres ski party at the Hotel Alex. The Alex is a much bigger and fancier place than the Perren or Ambiance. Many, many Lunar nominations were put forward: someone tried to ski down a flight of steps in town, someone spent a day chasing after ski poles left in a gondola, someone tried to step into skis wearing cat-tracks on the their boots. But in the final run off, yours truly was beat out by one better (Hurrah!) Tom Van den Bogart belly bumped someone from behind who he assumed was Bill Secor while out on the town one night. When the someone turned around protesting in German, Tom knew it wasn't Bill, because Bill's German isn't that good. The prize was a hot water bottle shaped like a heart with a Swiss flag emblem.

Special "Nice Guy" awards were presented to Jerry Pangrazzi and Dick Wortiska for giving ski lessons. Jerry actually has a piece of paper from the PSIA that says he knows what he's doing. He's in charge of Ski Brule's ski school. We thanked Dick Wortiska again, along with Phil Andreas for serving as my assistants on the trip. I would also like to thank Deb Bramschreiber for spending an afternoon shopping for prizes. Jennifer Mineau organized a special side trip to Rome for 30 people when we got to Florence (and brought 'em all back). Finally I want to thank everyone on the trip, for helping out whenever a hand was needed, loading and unloading buses (especially the ones without enough luggage room.) Everything went smoothly and the trip was a real pleasure for me. Lets do it again sometime.

Sam Fontaine , Trip Leader

Gelandesprung Ski Club *SPRING BANQUET*

Saturday, April 17, 2004

Cocktails: 6:30 PM

Dinner: 7:30 PM

Legends Brewhouse & Eatery

Across from McDonalds, 1-1/2 miles south of Fox River Bridge

\$15.00 Per Person

Family Style

Broasted Chicken or Ribs or Baked Cod

Beer, Wine & Soda Included!

Dinner Includes:

***Coleslaw, garlic mashed potatoes, gravy, dressing,
vegetable k'jour, fresh bread, dessert, and coffee/milk***

MUST R.S.V.P. BY April 9, 2004 Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Name _____

Name _____

____ Ribs
____ Chicken
____ Cod

____ Ribs
____ Chicken
____ Cod



MAIL TO: Gelandesprung Ski Club
P.O. Box 10422
Green Bay, WI 54307-0422

GELANDESPRUNG SKI CLUB
34 Years And Still Going Downhill

Marquette Mountain Spring Carnival



Friday, March 19 - Sunday, March 21

Trip Leader: Carl Williquette

Phone: 920-434-2407

Enjoy Spring Carnival events at Marquette Mountain! We will be staying at the Ramada Inn, downtown Marquette. The bus loads at the Ramada Plaza Hotel, Ashwaubenon, at 5:00 PM and will leave promptly at 5:30 PM.

— **The trip includes** —

- Two nights lodging
- Two breakfast buffets
- A wine and cheese party
- Saturday night dinner
 - 2-day lift tickets
- Saturday picnic on the hill
 - Saturday race
- Sunday pig roast at the main lodge.

Openings Still Available!!

Total trip cost:

\$205

Payment Due Now.

MAKE PAYMENTS TO:
Gelandesprung Ski Club
P.O. Box 10422
Green Bay, WI 54307-0422



March

8 John Gaie	25 Rhonda
9 Bart Sheard	Rozmiarek
13 Mary Lou Kuske	29 Dave Lindow
20 John Gaus	31 Cindy Rendall

NEW MEMBER

Stacy Boulanger

Gelandesprung General Membership Meeting

March 16, 7:00pm
at the
RAMADA PLAZA HOTEL
2750 Ramada Way

Calendar of Events

March 2

Gelandesprung General Membership meeting - 7pm

March 5-March 7

Gelandesprung - Big Snow 2 (Porkies & Blackjack), departing at 4:30pm

March 5-March 7

Sly Fox - Searchmont Weekend, departing at 5pm from The Bar in Appleton

March 16

Gelandesprung General Membership meeting - 7pm

March 19-March 21

Gelandesprung - Marquette Mt. Spring Carnival, departing at 5:30pm

March 27-April 3

Sly Fox - Park City, Utah trip

April 17

Spring Banquet, Legends Brewhouse, 6:30pm

Note:

Gelandesprung's General Membership meetings are held at the RAMADA PLAZA HOTEL, 2750 Ramada Way. Ski trips depart from the same location.

The MOLE of SEARCHMONT

Ahhhhhhhhh ... Searchmont, Canada ... another GRAND trip we had. This GELANDESPRUNG ANNUAL SEARCHMONT TRIP is still pulling them in. This is my 4th season skiing and my 4th time on the trip count on me for next year. Well, we had 49 - plus our driver Jack to make 50 crossing the boarder with no problems mind you. Stay tuned, because the trip next year may be even better. Searchmont has plans for some major construction this coming summer.



this, the Mole did that ... Are you the Mole? Is that your final question? I'm guessing the game was a hit. I need suggestions on how to make it better for next year, next trip or just my trips. Call or email me with suggestions.

Saturday morning brought partly cloudy skies and beautiful temperatures about 6" of new snow on top of the grooming from the night before. The word was

"You should have been here yesterday" was heard from those skiing when it was snowing on Friday. Well I'm here to tell you that skiing was tough for everyone on Saturday with the snow bunching up like concrete. But Sunday was a "KILLER"!!! A reported 20,000' of vertical was skied by the veteran Gelandesprung crew with Dick leading the pack or was it Carl ending at the "Double Double Chair"??? The new snow from Saturday was now groomed and faster then ever for Sunday.

Paul had a great comment as he & I rode up the chair lift, went something like "When you sign up for a trip like this with the club these are the snow conditions your hoping for."

The trip back reveled a few stories for the Obtuse Award. Turned out it was Bobb (with 3 "B"s) telling about Lisa Zeise and her realization that keeping "Items" in her chest jacket pockets can hurt when you fall on them. We'll leave the rest of that story alone.

Major thanks to all for helping out where you did and to Jason for being assistant trip leader.

"Wishing for (More!!!) Snow"
Brian Fowle - Trip Leader



Anyway, all started off as the weather channel predicted ... SNOW ... SNOW ... and more SNOW!!! The bus left a little late (just a little — "Thank You" Paul for keeping in touch by cell phone otherwise you would have been left behind) By the time the bus hit Escanaba for a little pizza and fast food we had about 8" of fresh snow and when we got to Manistique, MI we had upwards of a foot of the white heavy stuff. 35-45 mph for a good section but still made it to the boarder by midnight.



New on the trip a "Full Weekend" game "The Mole of Searchmont" won by no other than my buddy Derek (and he gave me plenty of clues which I didn't catch on

to) as the weekend progressed, I continually heard about the Mole — the Mole grab my ski and tossed me into the trees, the Mole drank my drink, the Mole did



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