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# A TASTE OF THE BAVARIAN ROCKIES

By David Eickhoff

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The ambiance and setting could not have been more remarkable. An idyllic village with a Bavarian flavor tucked deep into the heart of the Canadian Rockies. Some majestic, snow covered peaks sprinkled with abandoned lead, zinc and coal mines. A sleepy little town with the distinction of having the world's largest standing cuckoo clock (which yodels, no less). All of this provided the backdrop for 2004's **TSC Winter Shootout**. For the first time, the council and club ventured up to **Kimberley** and **Fernie** in southeastern British Columbia for a week of excellent skiing and adventure.

After a flight to Calgary, 70 club members boarded a couple of buses for a 4 hour, but very picturesque, ride to Kimberley. The community of Banff treated the council skiers to a pizza and beer lunch along the way, putting everyone in a great mood. After some incredibly magnificent scenery through the Canadian Rockies, the group arrived at Kimberley and checked into the Marriott. The club kicked things off with a wine and cheese party, graciously prepared by **Peggy Montgomery** and held in her and **Jerry's** room (that's right, 70 people shoehorned into one room). Fifteen large bottles of wine quickly disappeared which set the tone for the kind of week it would be. The party spilled out into the hallway and got so loud that the hotel staff forced Jerry to move the festivity elsewhere.

On Sunday evening at the **TSC Welcome Reception**, the group was entertained by a live band and a bell-ringing accordion player. **Ray Villarreal**, the club's own dancer extraordinaire, warmed up the dance floor with **Cheryl Kenney**. Once the council festivities had concluded, a group of hard-core club revelers stayed very late and closed the reception down. The group then re-convened in the room occupied by four club members, **Mike Murphy**, **Brett Henderson**, **Davis Tucker** and new member **Greg Botard**. Their room, # 419, became the focal point of activity for the week and nightly parties were held there. 'Party in 419' became a rallying call. Regulars in these nightly endeavors included **Brenda Kuciemba**, **Donna Kidwell**, **Sandra McCunis**, **Mark Chambers**, **Roger Holzman**, **Robert Davis**, **Robert Porter**, **Robert Rexford**, **Maureen Irwin**,

**Ray Villarreal**, **Maria Tramontin**, **Larry Brodt** and **Peggy Schillinger**.

The club was treated to six excellent days of skiing and there were many memorable moments during the week. **Andy Cashio** ignored **Marti Turner's** warnings about following Nelson and exhibited his aerial skiing ability by performing a 360 degree twist and cartwheel. **Jack Sartin** was a bit over his head trying to keep up with **Kurt** and **Karen Schidlowski**. Or maybe it was his skis that ended up over his head. Fortunately, he had his own ski patrol in **Charlene** and **Mike Fleming** as they had to pluck him out of the snow a few times. **Mark Chambers** tried to lead a group of skiers down one run and ended up in a Kimberley parking lot. He practiced his navigational skills again at Fernie but the result was the same.

Mother Nature treated us to some fresh powder on Thursday and the group took advantage of it. **Roberta Rambin** led her group to tackle the black run under the Tamarack Lift. **Robert Vikortin** took Roger on some black diamond slopes. Roger had not fallen in three years but fell three times on the run, fell getting off the lift chair and to top it off, fell while getting on the lift chair. **Jan Cadik** tuned up for his first race by skiing on black mogul runs, leaving Adrienne to ski with Roger and **David Eickhoff**. **Brenda Kuciemba** was intent on learning left turns with her snowboard, but admittedly spent a bit too much time on her backside. **Meynard Nussbaum** got off the trail, went a bit 'over the edge' and ended up hiking in waist deep snow back to the lift. Just months after having major knee surgery, **Kayleen Kill** ended up back in the doctor's office, this time with a broken hip and on the same leg she had previously broken. **Ron Rambin** had the most fashionable ski outfit (equipped with a walkie-talkie) and was often mistaken for ski patrol. **Robert Knupp** and **Lou Klienman** spent the entire week chasing each other down the black diamond runs. Recently transferred **Tom Huzzey** couldn't decide if he wanted to race for Space City or his old club, the Midland Flatlanders. He ended up racing for us but since he did not medal, he was traded back to the Flatlanders for two skiers to be named later. **Jan Ferrell** had

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no trouble with the ski runs but had lots of trouble hanging on to her skis, losing them not once, but twice. The first occurrence was after the club picture, and just to prove it was no fluke, she lost them again later while buying a lift ticket.

On Tuesday, the club boarded a bus and took a ninety-minute ride to Fernie, an old, historic coal-mining town. This community is home to the Fernie Alpine Resort, a world-class ski area known for outstanding bowls and extreme skiing. The locals like to brag about Fernie's mild temperatures and massive snowfalls. We were met at the mountain by friendly 'Fernieite' guides who gave us the red carpet treatment and spent a day showing us the breathtaking mountain.

After an exhausting day of skiing at Fernie, the entire club got together for a well deserved feast at the Old Brauernhaus, an historic German restaurant in downtown Kimberley. The restaurant is housed in a 300-year-old building, originally built in the Alps but dismantled and reassembled in Canada in the 1980's. The occasion was particularly special since we had a large contingent of Germans and east Europeans (Zengers, Schidlowskis, Heynes, Cadiks, Anneliese Unterharnscheidt, Casper Schmidhammer and Brigitte Litz). We were served plate after plate of appetizers and Bavarian specialties while a group of entertainers went around to the tables and employed club members in their act. Council President **Gary Butler** and his two brothers Charles and Johnny got in one act involving poles and hats. On the mouth-watering menu that night was maultaschen (German ravioli), geschnetzeltts (venison), baurenplatte (coldcuts and cheese), bundnerfleisch (beef) and jagergeschnetzelttes (strips of pork and free to anyone who could pronounce it correctly).



Wednesday was Nastar race day. **Marti** and **Nelson Turner**

did an excellent job as race directors and Council Race Director **Jeff Sarff** selected the club race order. We had 40 skiers race. Everyone did a fantastic job and, most importantly, had fun. Many of the non-racers showed up to cheer us on to the finish. The final medal count was 3 Gold, 11 Silver and 10 Bronze. There were 8 others who scored 25 points and 6 others with points. Congratulations to the medal winners:

**GOLD – Michael Murphy, Kurt Schidlowski, and Brigitte Litz.**

**SILVER – Karin Schidlowski, Jan Cadik** (on his first SCSC trip!), **Helmut Zenger, Kasper Schmidhammer, Nelson Turner, Andy Cashio, Calvin Doody, Ron Rambin, Bob Porter, Robert Davis, and Merlyn Harger.**

**BRONZE – Evan Lowe, Robert Viktorin, Gary Sequeira, Gunnar Heyne, Marti Turner, Leslie Cashio, Maria Tramontin, Sharon Sequeira, Cheryl Kenny and Martha Zenger.**

After a successful day of racing, the club headed into town for a Pub Crawl. The bus stopped off at six different watering holes where club members were able to drink, play pool and darts and hob nob with the locals. The last stop on the tour was the Ozone pub, an establishment equipped with a DJ and dance floor. **Bob Davis**, never shy about sharing his opinion, quickly let the DJ know that his rap music selection would not cut it with this group. After changing the format to classic rock, the club led by **Kim Kujawa, Lisa Thomas**, Maria and Brenda kept the dance floor full until closing time. The buses had long since left the Ozone so the group was forced to taxi back to the Marriott where the festivity continued in 419 (where else?) and lasted until the wee hours of the morning. Party animal **Greg Botard** probably had the most fun that night. He woke up the next morning (or was it the afternoon?) wearing some clothes of a woman he met the night before at the Ozone. When asked about it, he just muttered 'what happens in 419, stays in 419'.

Several club members preferred to soak up suds at the more tranquil Kelseys, a bar adjacent to the Marriott. **Steve Kenney, Jan, Tim O'Neil and Larry Hord** were seen daily sampling the fine Canadian beers and ales with the funny names such as Moosehead, Grizzley Bear, Rockhopper, Warthog and Kokanee.

The full (and free!) breakfast area in the Marriott provided a great locale every morning for swapping stories and reliving the previous days skiing and partying. The aroma of fresh waffles being prepared could be detected throughout the hotel, which tended to lure people to the site. **Rena Sartin** and **Christina Heyne** did not ski but spent the mornings in

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the area planning the day's activities. **Roger Straub, Johanna Kuang**, and the always-late rising **Nancy Sarff** also spent their mornings here enjoying conversation as well as the fine food.

The council awards party was held on Thursday and Space City was well represented. The club won Division 1 with 1758 points! In the individual races, we had seven skiers place. **Bridgette Litz** and **Kurt Schidlowski** were both 1st in the Super Seniors division. Bridgette was later heard commenting 'I enjoy being referred to as Super, but not as a Super Senior'. **Karen Schidlowski** was 2nd in Super Seniors, while both **Michael Murphy** and **Leslie Cashio** were 2nd in Seniors. Andy is working on a trophy case to hold Leslie's awards. Finally, **Helmut Zenger** was 3rd in Super Seniors and 'rookie' **Jan Cadick** was 3rd in the Senior division. Other club members who competed in the individuals were **Evan Lowe, Jeff Sarff, Andy Cashio**, and **Nelson** and **Marti Turner**. **Karen Geiger** was busy taking lots of photos at the party and caught Jerry red-handed a few times, stealing wine from Peggy. A country & western band provided live entertainment and **Jack Sartin** showed that he really could quit his day job. He got up on stage and took the microphone for a few songs, sounding just like a professional C&W vocalist.

There were several activities to choose from on Friday evening and the club split off into three different directions. The main ski run was lit up (which happens to be the longest illuminated run in Canada) so **Ray, Maria, David** and **Brenda** tried some night skiing. **Jerry** and **Peggy** led a group off to the Country Club restaurant. Enjoying the fine meal was **Ky** and **Rhonda Griffin** (who were always nicely garbed),

the Turners, the Sequeiras, the Rambins, the Cashios and **Maureen Irwin**. The highlight of the evening though was the hockey game. The mayor of Kimberley offered free tickets to council members provided they would root for the home team. A number of club members took advantage of this offer. **Larry Hord, Jan Ferrell, Carol** and **Robert Viktorin**, **Evan, Meynard, Sandra** and **Greg Botard** all enjoyed the match and rooted the local team on to a convincing victory over Crested Butte. Evan took the game a bit too seriously though, and was nearly thrown out for yelling at the referee and pounding the plexiglas.

After the evening's activities, the club gathered for one final 'let no beer go to waste' party in 419. By this time, the room had become Kimberley's biggest tourist attraction, stories from 419 were becoming legendary and skiers from other clubs were dropping in to join in the entertainment. **Jan Ferrill** and her infectious smile were in rare form administering 'truth serum' to those who listened.

The ubiquitous **Bob Davis** was sharing his thoughts on the secrets of the universe. **Sandra McCunis**, proving that size does matter, was showing off the length of her ring finger to interested men. The always glamorous-looking **Donna Kidwell** took the role of a psychic matchmaker, pairing up available men and women based on zodiac signs and horoscopes.

The Kimberley/Fernie trip was a great success for the council and club. The weather could not have been better. The ski in/ski out Marriott facility provided great convenience and the amenities on the mountain were excellent. Recent upgrades at the two resorts put them in a class with many others in North America. There is no doubt the club will be back to sample Bavarian enchantment all over again.



Martin Bradley  
keeping his head  
warm "Doggie  
Style" (Left)

Pam and Ron face  
off in a photo duel  
(Right)

