



SCIJ Event 2011

Banff Alberta, Canada



The meeting with a dress code

Black tie for the gala dinner! Easy for the ladies. Their evening dresses could be rolled up in a ski boot. Men have to leave something more important off of their luggage. However Bow Valley Tuxedos Ltd. in Canmore would sell or rent us the sufficient outfits. So, on our way from Calgary we Finns stopped in Canmore and bought whole sets of tux, shirt, shoes, bow tie and suspenders, brand new, for 120 \$. Unfortunately the ones George Clooney and Brad Pitt had once rented had been sold. Anyway, it was probably just a legend.



Lake Louise
Ski Area



Sunshine Village was crouching under a heavy cloud some thousand meters below when we three Finns pushed with our sticks for the first run. Just having gathered some speed i hit a soft snowbank in the fog and hit the hard terrain of Goat's Eye mountain. For a while I waited for the pain to give up, and down we went where Shannon Martin and the other two guides (Sorry, couldn't find your names in my notes) took us. First to the easier slopes like testing what we were made of and little by little, deeper to the steeper parts of the Cloudy Village.

By four o'clock we stated that our choice of the pre tour wasn't so bad after all. Only later did we find the forests and other hidden spots of deep show. However, Delirium Dive, the mother of off-pistes was opened weeks after our departure. Maybe some day.

Only at night I realised that I had broken two ribs. I didn't let it spoil my best SCIJ meetin in 15 years.

Louise gets her nose powdered

Two days later Mother Nature whisked her powder puff like an eager dog his tail covering the Lake Louise resort with twenty cents of water canonized by frost after the slopes had been groomed by snow cats. The result: the terrain smooth as velvet covered with new snow light as feather. Quantity is transformed to quality by marxist dialectics proved right in our choice of the pre tour. While some of the pre tour scijers sat in a bus to and from Marmot Basin we skied our hearts out in resorts close to our hotel and Banff and did so till late Saturday.

SATURDAY. Entering the Magic Kingdom

I had seen pictures of the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel, but its visual effect on me was stunning. The founder of the hotel wanted to build something resembling a Scottish castle, but approaching the hotel felt more like coming to Neuschwanstein or the Magic Kingdom in Disneyworld. There was magic, but I saw kitsch. However, inside the hotel was very cosy and the temperature was at least 15 °C higher than in the Scottish castles and the walls were not green of mould. The rest of the day passed following the old manuscript: "Ciao! Come stai? Wie gehts? Ca va? Hello there, how are you doing, you old flee circus? Still own hair, teeth and hips? Hugs and kisses.

After the registration at Mt. Stephen's Hall we had l dinner at Oak Room and beers and wine with at least ten closest old friends at the Grapes Wine Bar.

SUNDAY: Nourishment for hedonists and culture vultures

The non-ski day offered us entertainment to all tastes. Flavour of the Region, historic and cultural attractions, walk to the breathtaking upper icefalls of Johnston Canyon, a photo expedition to the iconic landscapes of Banff National Park, snow-shoeing and cross country skiing we offered. Soft pressure by friends forced me, a sworn ascetic to throw myself into the world of pleasures of taste: good, bad, bitter, sweet, queer and fresh. Wine and beer we were familiar



Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel



Grand opening with colors



Think Tank on journalists' hamster wheel



with, but alligator, bear, boa, boar, cockroach, dragon, elk, elver, flamingo... ..worms, xiphosuran, yak, zebrafish went easily down because we had had our fair share of the liquids, and after zibeline a zizz was all I longed for. Yummy! Yucky! Yucky! Hmmm.

Will Gadd of Never Never Land

After a relaxing half an hour we were quite happy to receive the most important philosophical message: “Nobody ever died wishing they had spent more time behind a desk.” Thank you Will Gadd for that. Hippie parents had directed young Will to a life that quite a few of us envied. On a hiking trip with Will on the mountains of Banff his mother woke up one morning when a young bear stuck its nose inside the tent. Having no other means of arms she hit the bear’s nose with a hiking boot. To her surprise the teddy retreated. My mother would have had the same determination, but in my youth the bears were rare in my neighbourhood, and the Hoover salesmen were as dangerous as the invaders could get. Will, now 43, has had an exciting life skiing in all its forms, ice, rock and mountain climbing, paragliding, kayaking, caving, mountain biking, many at world-championship level, and as a father passes on the legacy. Please Will, adopt me. I’m only 64.



Hamster wheel or Ferris wheel or merry-go-round

Canada’s finest - in this case not the PD of any city, but journalists - had been recruited to start the discussion. I’m afraid the keynote speakers fly in a different class than most of us and the rat race of today is not quite familiar to them. Also, they only represent one group of journalists, the news reporters. However, the title journalist covers several other professions. A graphic designer may have to do the layout of several magazines simultaneously because new technology makes it possible. Also he or she gives the final touch to the publication. Everything must look exactly as the result is supposed to. Before desk top publishing the designer only drew a layout and the composing room did the paste-up. A freelancer must give all the rights of his/her article and photos to a newspaper, but only gets paid once.

The idea behind the conference comes from an article called The Hamster Wheel by Dean Starkman printed in the Columbia Journalism Review. Here’s how Mr. Starkman summons up the article:

“The point is that it may be true that there is money in cranking out sixty-three-word briefs like, “Microwave Sparks Fire, Kills Dog” (Washingtonpost.com, 8/9/10), but you’d have to prove it. No one has. So to all you editors laying off your best storytellers, rewarding quick hits, and letting your investigative assets wither, I say this: you will be sorry. For the rest of us, the Hamster Wheel’s logical conclusion is Demand Media, the world’s leading hamster-powered content farm, which employs 7,000 freelancers, produces 4,500 items every day, uses algorithms to figure out what to write, has passed The New York Times in traffic, and has just filed for an IPO. It publishes some stuff — “How To Make a Festivus Pole,” “How To Choose Bondage Videos” — that is literally incredible.





Grand Opening

Following the great tradition of SCIJ we marched/lumbered with torches, not along the main street, but from one part of the hotel to another behind our flags and signs with the name of our country. However, the opening was grand enough even without fireworks and all that usual jazz. Karen Sorensen, the Mayor of Banff, Cindy Ady, Alberta Minister of Tourism, Parks and Recreation, Frederick Wallace, President SCIJ Canada and Miguel Aquiso, SCIJ President all had their word and we felt very welcome.

MONDAY: From feast to feast

Monday morning at nine o'clock the bus left and after 40 km the non-pre-tourers finally got snow under their skis in Lake Louise, the largest ski area in Canada.

By midday David Collye, the president of the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers fed us at the Whiskeyjack Lodge with an excellent lunch and a showcase of the opportunities and challenges of the exploitation of the world's third largest oil reserves, the Canadian oil sands. Trying to digest the material and immaterial yield of the lunch we tried to ski some more only to stop at the Whitehorn Lodge for snack, beer, wine dance and limbo. At the highest point of the atmosphere Petzl headlamps were given to us and down the slope we went in the dark to the Lodge of Ten Peaks for another feast. To a big surprise no trees were hurt and nobody was lost. I guess.

There we had the honour to meet Steve Podporski, one of the Crazy Canucks, the first North American to win the World Cup season title in the downhill. In total, he won eight World Cup downhill races, including the notorious Hahnenkamm in Kitzbühel, Austria, which he won twice and set the magnificent speed result of 220 km/h.

MAGIC: When writing this I googled Steve and found that the film "Crazy Canuck! Was about to begin on a Finnish sports channel. In the film the 17-year-old Steve broke his inside and centre ligaments when practicing in Schladming (Please, Steve, join my club. I broke them both in Hintertux) and was forced to watch on TV Dave Irwin, the craziest of the Canucks win the race beating the second place finisher, Klaus Eberhard by almost two seconds.

The band in Whitehorn Lodge had also skied/motored down and great music was played and some twenty of had the opportunity to embarrass themselves in square dance.

TUESDAY: A Day at the Races. The Queen version?

To the sporty elite of SCIJ the Grand Slalom race is the most important part of a SCIJ event.

The track was marked at the Slow Skiing area of the Norquay Ski resort. Being close to the restaurant was well appreciated in the cold weather.

Skiing free after the race proved the oldest ski resort in Canada to be much more interesting than the front slopes. Unfortunately the double diamond slope at left of the race-track was closed, but other slopes, very steep but very well prepared, were at our disposal.

Ken Read, another "Crazy Canucks" is a co-owner of the



Thank you "Canucks" for a great meeting



Dutch pea soup of local ingredients



Miriam Fimbry and Janique Lebtauc



Ovidiu tests a replica of the Vancouver Olympics torch

resort. Ken was the first North-American male to win an Alpine ski world cup race. He won the downhill races in Val d'Isere, Hahnenkamm, Lauberhorn in Wengen, Chamonix and Arlberg-Kandahar.

Anyway, once again, Gisella Motta is the SCIJ female WC in GS, and Emanuela Fontana ja Christina Gibert her crown princesses.

The digital era – the future of media

In the afternoon Stéphane Gagné, Vice-President with Transcontinental Media, Jules Older, ex-Editor-in-Chief of Ski Press Magazine and now a San Francisco-based Freelancer, and Frederick Boulay, Program and Production Director for TV5MONDE, discussed some of the challenges and opportunities facing journalists and the media today and in the future. I'm afraid I was elsewhere getting ready for the...

NATIONS' EVENING!!!

To the socialising elite of SCIJ the Nation's Evening is the high point of a SCIJ event. Alberta's imports regulations made the preparations different. We were to pick our native products from an importer's list, but there was nothing from Finland. As a reggae man by heart and rastafari by religion I wanted to be Jamaican that night, but Bar Bados inside the Lone Pine Pub sounded so good that we decided to found a temporary SCIJ team for Barbados. Having ordered Banks Caribbean Lager beer and Mount Gay Eclipse Rum from Barbados from the list and bought bananas from downtown our catering was ready to serve.

The band was just right for the evening, but the climax of the night was when Hartmut Krause (vocal) and Ovidiu Vanghele (drums) performed their serenade to the ladies of the night, the lovely Jagger-Richards classic "Honky Tonk Women".

WEDNESDAY: Sunshine Village now sunny

We had lots of great skiing and great beef at the Lookout Lodge. More snow had landed since our last visit on Saturday and today we even found the thin forest and hit the moguls covered with powder. However, we tried to avoid the biggest bumps and not bother an eventual sleeping bear. There are over one hundred of grizzly and black bears in the Banff national park. As the cougars prey at night but sleep at day, we were not worried about them.

In the evening we were taken to the Calgary Stampede Evening at Wild Bill's. The Stampede inside is a pale shadow of the real thing, but still very entertaining with Indian dances and singing and country music and beer.

The white five-gallon hats effectively separated us tourists and the locals and at the airport advertised the Stampede when leaving.

THURSDAY: A Day at the Races. The Marx Brothers?

The Canmore Nordic Centre was originally constructed for the 1988 Winter Olympics. If the trails were good enough

for Gunde Svan, Marjo Matikainen and the rest, they are good enough. The whole Centre has been refurbished in 2008 with 25 M \$. However, our vice president Uros Sostaric should have skied the ski trail through. He would have found it rather breathtaking. I stopped after half a round being unable to breath deep and push with left arm because of the two broken ribs. Sepp Thayer did the same because of flue. We didn't know then that it was the last time we had the pleasure to compete with him.

Stefanie Weinberger is now the SCIJ female WC in CC, and Anne Henjer and Gisella Motta her crown princesses. The combined points make Gisella the SCIJ Ski Queen in 2011. Simon Matthey-Doret is the SCIJ male WC in CC, and Blaz Mocnic and Martin Blum his crown princes. Combined points make Martin the SCIJ Ski King in 2011. Simon had similar points, but Martin is the 1st in GS, and that does it.

We met with another famous Canadian skier living in Canmore, Thomas Grandi. Thomas has won the GS World Cup races in Alta Badia and Flachau and had nine World Cup podiums. Dave Irwin, the Craziest Canuck also lives in Canmore.

The General Assembly

To very few of us the General Assembly is the most important point of a SCIJ meeting. Refurbished rules and regulations we produced and approved after a short discussion. Electing two vice-presidents proved the biggest surprise; only one individual was running. The rules being what they are we couldn't suggest more candidates and thus were left short of one vice president. Many a member must have spent a sleepless night wondering what will come of us. A nice surprise was the invitations to the 2013 event given by the young members of DCIJ Croatia. Another surprise was that the event would take place in Civetta, Italy, with a little help from Giornalisti Italiani Sciatori, SCIJ Italy.

FRIDAY: Free skiing. No obligations?

A small group of us decided to give sunshine Village yet another chance. Sunshine answered to our kindness with the fiercest wind of the week. Somewhere else I would have complained but the off-pistes of Sunshine made me jelly and to forgive the wind. Skiing behind Eva Woytek and Hartmut Krause to places not yet discovered myself was a great finish to a great skiing week.

In the evening we were transferred to another spectacular scenery for the presentation of the 2012 SCIJ event in Turkey. Approaching the Fairmont Chateau lake Louise Hotel by the lake Louise kicks one off one's feet, unless one is sitting in a bus. Luckily I was and didn't get my tuxedo pants muddy.

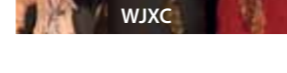
The hotel itself in its enormousness is less attractive than Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel. Its masses are not as delicately divided and in spite its nice roof just a huge hotel.

Dancing through the night

There was some uncertainty about the course of the evening. The Turkish presentation was in one part of the hotel



Traditional snow dance?



Banff 2011 results: Womens Junior Combined

Name	Country	GS	XC	Total
1 Gisella Motta	Italy	1	3	4
2 Eva Susanne Woyte	Germany	5	4	9
3 Anna Henjer	Sweden	7	2	9
4 Emanuela Fontana	Italy	2	8	10
5 Maja Grgic	Slovenia	9	5	14
6 Cristina Gibert	Spain	3	14	17
7 Myriam Fimbyr	Canada	12	6	18
8 Stefanie Weinberger	Germany	17	1	18
9 Petra Lesjak	Slovenia	4	15	19
10 Dana Boudova	Czech Rep.	11	10	21
11 Lorence Milasevic	Switzerl.	13	9	22
12 Maria Linquist	Sweden	16	7	23
13 Barbara Strbac	Croatia	8	18	26
14 Codruta Catalina Sederias	Romania	15	12	27
15 Nadine Haltiner	Sweden	18	11	29
16 Celine Fontannaz	Switzerl.	19	13	32
17 Billie Frenkel	Israel	22	16	38
18 Tanja Radovanac	Serbia	20	19	39

Banff 2011 results: Women's Senior Combined

Name	Country	GS	XC	Total
1 Elisabeth Frerot Soderger	Sweden	2	2	4
2 Barbra Jermann	Slovenia	4	3	7
3 Hanne Kjoller	Sweden	3	6	9
4 Helena Blomquist	Sweden	8	1	9
5 Barbara Goio	Italy	6	9	15
6 Kristin Flood	Norway	12	4	16
7 Andree Ducharme	Canada	11	7	17
8 Janique LeBlanc	Canada	17	5	22
9 Tatiana Pigareva	Russia	13	12	25
10 Anniken Schioll	Norway	14	13	27
11 Aljana Jocif	Slovenia	18	10	28
12 Zdenka Molitorisova	Slovakia	21	11	32
13 Elizabeth Mathiey	Belgium	20	16	36
14 Ksenjia Yoksic	Serbia	25	14	29
15 Aliza Zekak	Israel	23	17	40
16 Janet Dillon	Great Br.	24	18	42
- Lena Höglund	Sweden	1	-	-

Banff 2011 results: Womens Super Senior Combined

Name	Country	GS	XC	Total
1 Branka Malnar-Travas	Croatia	2	2	4
2 Ivana Suhadolc	Italy	4	1	5
3 Cathrine Jouault	France	3	3	6
4 Maria Tolnayova	Slovakia	6	4	10
5 Angos Toth	Hungary	8	6	14
6 Gillain Swain	Great Br.	13	5	18
7 Cathrine Demangeat	France	10	9	19
8 Christine Courcoe	France	12	8	20
9 Eliya Zviel-Roitman	Israel	11	12	23
10 Risa Wyatt	USA	19	7	26
11 Gillian Martin	Great Br.	17	10	27
12 Jaroslava Severova	Czech Rep	18	11	29
- Darina Gyurkovicsova	Slovakia	1	-	-

Banff 2011 results: Mens Junior Combined

Name	Country	GS	XC	Total
1 Martin Blum	Germany	1	3	4
2 Simon Matthey Doret	Switzerland	3	1	4
3 Boris Bregar	Germany	2	4	6
4 Blaz Mocnik	Slovenia	4	2	6
5 Andrea Mugnaini	Italy	6	6	12
6 Christophe Ungar	Switzerland	5	8	13
7 Francois Egger	Switzerland	13	5	18
8 Marius Danci	Romania	10	12	22
9 Sensini Michele	Italy	12	10	22
10 Carl Blomgren	Sweden	14	11	25
11 Martin Sterba	Czech Republic	18	7	25
12 Aleksandar Bogoyalenski	Bulgaria	11	18	29
13 Fredrick Wallace	Canada	9	22	31
14 Stephane Deleury	Switzerland	22	9	31
15 Sastre Xavier	Spain	16	16	32
16 Norbert Palinkas	Hungary	20	15	35
17 Thierry Delezei	Switzerland	15	21	36
18 Amir Zeldner	Israel	23	14	37
19 Bruno Schmitz	Belguim	25	13	38
20 Istvan Hegedus	Hungary	21	20	41
21 Michael Zoltbroda	France	27	17	44
22 Luis Simon		24	23	47
23 Slobodan Petrovic	Serbia	28	25	53
24 Park Seong-cheol	Korea	29	27	56

Banff 2011 results: Mens Senior Combined

Name	Country	GS	XC	Total
1 Ralf Scheuerer	Germany	2	1	3
2 Gigio (Luigi) Brecciaroli	Italy	1	6	7
3 Miroslav Parobek	Slovakia	6	4	10
4 Miguel Angel Aquiso	Switzerland	4	8	12
5 Kimmo Sarlin	Finland	9	3	12
6 Hartmut Krause	Germany	10	5	15
7 Kjell Malmberg	Sweden	7	9	16
8 Milos Batistuta	Slovenia	15	2	17
9 Gytis Markauskas	Lithuania	8	10	18
10 Matteo Contessa	Italy	11	7	18
11 Julian Stoyanov	Bulgaria	3	18	21
12 Renaud Richebe	France	12	12	24
13 Bartha Csaba	Hungary	18	11	29
14 Damien Simonis	Australia	21	16	37
15 Youssef Mouhyi	Morocco	20	19	39
16 Peter Moe Christensen	Denmark	25	15	40
17 Stasys Grigaliunas	Lithuania	26	14	40
18 Sergio Dovio	Argentina	23	20	43
19 Rom Nachman	Israel	27	17	44
20 Sukra Kucuksahin	Turkey	24	21	45

Banff 2011 results: Mens Super Senior Combined

Name	Country	GS	XC	Total
1 Matjaz Albreht	Slovenia	1	2	3
2 Gregor Pucelj	Slovenia	2	9	11
3 Olof Rytovaara	Finland	7	4	11
4 Jan Matula	Slovakia	10	1	11
5 Axel Odelberg	Sweden	5	7	12
6 Jacques Morrisette	Canada	6	8	14
7 Petr Kubka	Czech Republic	15	3	18
8 Tine Guzej	Slovenia	12	12	24
9 Jan Maly	Czech Republic	13	11	24
10 Jaroslav Kopic	Czech Republic	18	10	28
11 Pierre Sormany	Canada	28	6	34
12 Milan Minaric	Slovakia	19	16	35
13 Dusko Stajic	Bosnia- Herceg.	17	22	39
14 Jean-Claude Meier	Switzerland	22	17	39
15 Beppe Errani	Italy	27	13	40
16 David Tweedy	Canada	20	25	45
17 Barry Moore	Great Britain	25	23	48
18 Peter Daalder	Netherlands	29	21	50
19 Dario Laruffa	Italy	31	20	51
20 Danijel Popovic	Croatia	36	15	51