



THE OLDE GOAT

Ibex Ski & Snowboard Club

Meets the first and third Wednesday of each month at:

Crave

1204 W. Rand Road

Arlington Heights, IL

VOL. XLII NO. IIV

February 2005

February Meetings
Wednesday, February 2
Wednesday, February 16

Location: Crave
1204 W. Rand Road
Arlington Heights, IL

Brews 'N Schmooze Hour: 7:00PM
Meeting Time: 8:00 PM Promptly

Bagel's Chips

Hope you are all staying warm during this current spell of cold weather. I battled with a frozen lock on the driver's side door of my car for 2 days. I got locked in the car at school and out of the car at the BOM at Pizzaz. After repeated applications of lock "De-Icer", the long drive to Wilmot, I believe, finally, cured the problem.

Good news is that I did fare better than my student and his 3 friends that were locked in the car in the school parking lot for 15 minutes. Only time a kid wished the parking lot security would notice him.

Winter Park was a great trip. Ibex knows how to end and start a year. Thanks to Lou DiFrancisco and Mark Westlund for being great trip leaders and solving all of the little mishaps that occur. Plus, they planned a great itinerary.

In This Issue

Bagel's Chips	1
Trip Schedule	2
Aspen	3
Granite Peak	3
Trip Payment Schedule	3
Big Mountain	4
Ski School	4
Annual Banquet	4
Slope Scoop	5
Ibex Racing	5
Scuba News	5
Snowbird / Alta	6
Chili Cookoff	6
Things To Do	7
Membership Matters	7
Welcome new members	7
Brighter Side of Life	8
Wilmot	8
Winter Park	9
February Birthdays	10
Ibex Activities Calendar	11
Stay Connected	11

As always, the real stars of the trip were the participants. Everyone "played together well" and tried to include everyone. A great group equals a great time!

January 5th meeting was slightly under-attended "snow sport enthusiasts, got scared away by snow" go figure. Poker was a great hit again. Thanks, Mark. Meeting was short and to the point as promised. It was a nasty night. Thankfully, I live close.

Spamalot, was a great time. Besides the show being funny, I sat next to "Laugh Track Denny". I was laughing at the few weak jokes as Denny laughed at everything. I'm pretty sure he has the script of "Monty Python and the Holy Grail" memorized. Thanks to Patrice for setting up a great pre-theater dinner and obtaining the play tickets. Excellent organization.

Pizzaz Bar of the Month was a great time. Who can argue with \$3.00 appetizers. Pizzaz has a warm ambiance, good service and good food. Nice pick by Craig.

The Snow-riding Season is underway. (Very politically correct for an old chick, 'eh) One trip is down and four to go. Today is 1/16/05 and Big Mountain, Granite Peak and Aspen have very limited availability. Act now if you want to have a chance. All should be a great time. Contact Lynne Moon ibextrips@skiibex.com for sign ups.

continued page 10

IBEX 2004-2005 TRIP SCHEDULE



New Year's in Winter Park, CO (12/28/04 – 1/2/05): **\$850** 28 spots

- Roundtrip Non-stop air to Denver on United Airlines
 - Depart O'Hare 12/28/04 @ 4:55pm, arrive Denver @ 6:33pm
 - Depart Denver 1/2/05 @ 4:10pm, arrive O'Hare 7:33pm
- Ground Transfers
- 5 Nights Lodging at the Beaver Village Condos (4 per unit)
- 3 Day Lift Ticket
- Nastar Club Race
- Wine & Cheese Party
- Mountain Tour



Interlaken, Switzerland (01/21/05 – 1/29/05): **\$1130** 28 spots

- Roundtrip Non-stop air to Zurich on SwissAir
 - Depart O'Hare 1/21/05 @ 4:55pm, Arrive Zurich @ 8:25am
 - Depart Zurich 1/29/05 @ 10:10am, Arrive O'Hare 1:00pm
- Ground Transfers
- Wine and Cheese welcome reception upon arrival
- 7 Nights Lodging at the Chalet-Hotel Oberland (3*hotel) 2 per room
- Full European Buffet Breakfast daily
- Three-course dinner each evening
- Traditional Fondue dinner one evening



Big Mountain, Montana (02/23/05 – 02/27/05): **\$820** 28 spots

- Roundtrip Air – thru Salt Lake to Kalispell, MT on Delta
 - Depart O'Hare 2/23/05 @ 5:05pm, Arrive Kalispell 10:00pm
 - Depart Kalispell 2/27/05 @ 2:10pm, Arrive O'Hare 8:50pm
- Ground Transfers
- 4 nights lodging @ Grouse Mountain Lodge
- 2 per room
- Daily Skier's Buffet Breakfast
- 3 day lift ticket
- Nastar Club Race
- Welcome Reception



Aspen, CO (03/26/05 – 04/02/05): **\$1050** 28 spots

- Roundtrip Air –Non-stop American Airlines to Eagle
 - Depart O'Hare 3/26/05 @8:25am, Arrive Eagle @ 10:16am
 - Depart Eagle 4/2/05 @ 11:14am, Arrive O'Hare @ 3:24pm
- Ground Transfers
- 7 nights lodging at The Gant
- 5 day interchangeable lift ticket
- Nastar Club Race
- Mountain Picnic
- Welcome Reception



MIDWEST TRIP

Granite Peak – Wausau, WI (02/11/05-02/13/05): **\$175** 36 spots

- Drive-up trip
 - Depart Friday, Feb 11 arrive Wausau approximately 3.5-4 hrs.
 - Depart Sunday Feb 13, arrive Chicago approximately 3.5-4 hrs.
- 2-day lift ticket, ski 9:00am to 9:00pm
- 2 nights lodging at the Courtyard Marriott, Wausau (2 per room, queen)
- Full Buffet Breakfast Included
- Indoor Pool
- 700 Ft. Mountain, 72 Runs
- Near local restaurants and night life



FOUR SPOTS ADDED TO ASPEN

Aspen (the trip) is only **73** days away. (1/13/05) We have added four more spots to the trip for a total of 43 skiers.

Skiing is not life and death... it's much more important!

The trip will depart O'Hare Saturday morning March 26, 2005 on American flight # 2375. The flight will board about **7:45 AM** for a 8:15 AM departure. We have 40 skiers signed up as this article goes to press.

The weeks activities are coming together quickly. We start off with the Welcome Wine & Cheese Party at The Gant Saturday evening.

Sunday morning we are planning a "First Tracks", an 8 AM start of the day for the first run from the top of Ajax, either in powder or freshly groomed corduroy depending on the weather.

The group dinner is planned for Tuesday evening, the restaurant choice is still open since a table for 44 is not easy to come by in Aspen the last real week of the season.

The NASTAR Club Race is scheduled for Wednesday, March 30, at 10:00 AM followed by a free mountain lunch on Snowmass Mountain at Spider Sabich cabin.

Friday we will be skiing at Aspen Highlands, and watching the mogul/bump races from the deck of the Merry-Go-Round at lunch time. A lunch voucher will be part of your trip packet. Friday night will finish with the World Famous Ibex Pub Crawl starting at the Red Onion.

Debbie Dukes, Ibex Ski School Director, has four qualified ski instructors available for lessons in Aspen. If you are interested, please sign up with the trip leader with a five-dollar refundable deposit for ski lessons. The instructors are Debbie Dukes, John Brandt, Jean Bagel, and Jerry Stein.

The trip is priced at \$ 1,050.00. The trip is less than the cost of a first run movie ticket with popcorn and a large coke. The price includes air into Eagle, ground transfers from Eagle to Aspen, about 1 1/2 hour bus ride, lodging at The Gant, and five of six-day interchangeable lift tickets. Also included a Club NASTAR Race, mountain lunch, lunch voucher good at Aspen Highlands Friday 4/1, and a welcome wine and cheese party.

Based on Chuck Binzel's unfortunate accident in Winter Park, I would like to add emergency contact numbers to your trip sign-up sheet. My thought is someone at home or close to you, in addition to someone with you in Aspen. Please Email the numbers to me @ craig_moon@msn.com For more information or to sign up call Craig Moon at (630)

579-8661

Aspen Trip Leader

Craig

Granite Peak MIDWEST SKI TRIP

The **February 11 – 13th** Granite Peak trip roster has been closed at 30 skiers and some offspring. If you have a last minute desire to attend, call and I'll see if I can help you. Preliminary information was sent out by email on January 13th – final information will be distributed at the February 2nd meeting. Some highlights:

Trip Leader: Patrice will handle all arrangements until the trip takes place – Sue Linzing (thanks Sue) will be your onsite trip leader during the trip.

Lift tickets: If anyone needs any additional tickets beyond those who are listed in each hotel room, the **DEADLINE FOR NOTIFYING ME ABOUT ADDITIONAL LIFT TICKETS is Thursday Feb 3rd**. *NOTE – the child lift ticket applies to children aged 6 – 12. This had been previously publicized as 13 or under.*

Call me with any questions at 847.749.1946. (Save this number –there's a typo in the latest IBEX directory, and it's unlisted).

Patrice - 847.749.1946

Trip Payment Schedule

	Winter park		Interlaken		Granite peak		Big mountain		Aspen	
	Amount	Date due	Amount	Date due	Amount	Date due	Amount	Date due	Amount	Date due
payment 1	\$100.00	8/28/2004	\$100.00	8/28/2004	\$50.00	8/28/2004	\$100.00	8/28/2004	\$100.00	28-Aug-2004
payment 2	\$290.00	9/15/2004	\$375.00	9/15/2004	\$125.00	1/5/2005	\$250.00	11/17/2004	\$300.00	17-Nov-2004
payment 3	\$290.00	11/3/2004	\$375.00	10/20/2004			\$250.00	12/15/2004	\$300.00	5-Jan-2005
payment 4	\$170.00	12/1/2004	\$280.00	12/15/2004			\$220.00	1/19/2005	\$350.00	16-Feb-2005
payment 5										
total	\$850.00		\$1,130.00		\$175.00		\$820.00		\$1,050.00	

Big Mountain, Montana 2/23 - 2/27

Ibex Ski and Snowboard School

Don't miss out on the new ski area for IBEX. It's a great 3000' acre ski area with a friendly small town atmosphere and a fine selection of dining – and drinking - options. With blue runs up to 3.3 miles long, glades, bumps, cruising runs and a mix of 20% beginner, 50% intermediate and 30% advanced/expert, the skiing options can't be beat! And lift lines are nearly non-existent!

The trip is priced at \$820 and includes airfare, 4 nights lodging, 3 days lift ticket, daily Skier's Buffet Breakfast, NASTAR race, and welcome reception.

Free ski lessons with Jean Bagel are available. A \$5 refundable deposit will hold your spot when you sign up with the trip leader.

Nearly 20 people have already signed up for this great trip.

THERE ARE ONLY TWO SPOTS LEFT

So don't delay and sign up NOW!

Ann Bass

(630) 983-5964 or trillium10@aol.com

If you haven't thought about it, it is never too late to take a lesson. Take advantage of the free lessons offered by the ski and snowboard school. You will be surprised at what you can pick up!

Lessons:

The following instructors have volunteered to teach on the trips this year. A \$5 refundable deposit for each trip holds your spot for lessons. Your instructors are:

Interlaken, Switzerland - Bill Haussmann (ski)

Big Mountain – Jean Bagel (ski)

Aspen - John Brandt, Debbie Dukes, Jerry Stein (Ski)

Granite Peak - Bob Kimicata, John Brandt, Debbie Dukes, and Jean Bagel (ski)

Sign up for lessons on these trips with your assigned TRIP LEADER.

If you would like to arrange for a private lesson for yourself or children (including kids under age 8), please see Debbie Dukes.

Debbie

Ibex Annual Banquet

Mark your calendars!!!

We're breaking new ground with a beautiful new venue this year that I think you're really going to enjoy!!!

Location: **European Crystal Restaurant & Conference Center**
519 W. Algonquin Road, Arlington Heights 60005

Date: **Friday, April 22nd**

Time: **6:00p**

Plan on the following:

- Hot & Cold Hors d' Oeuvres
- Four hours Premium Brand Bar
- Four Course Dinner with wine service
- Fun Stories and Award Distribution for the year's best/funniest antics
- Relax, unwind and then let loose to tunes provided by a carefully-selected DJ
- Dancing the night away on a beautiful Brazilian Mahogany Dance Floor

The room is beautiful and the food is exquisite!! I'm really looking forward to the European Crystal hosting our annual tradition and I'm hoping to see you all there!!!

Remember: gather your fun and funny stories and pictures from the ski trips and activities. It's best to notate them on the post-trip surveys while they're still fresh in your mind! For non-trip antics, send them to me or to any EB member. **Better yet: surprise a fellow club member by submitting a story about something that he/she did and revel in their embarrassment when they receive an award for their antics!!!**

So mark your calendars and pay attention to your club members!!!

Janine

SLOPE SCOOP

WOW! What a great first ski trip of the season for IBEX. We had such a great time in Winter Park over New Years!

For those of you that have not signed up for a ski trip yet, you are really missing out on some of the best fun there is this time of year.

I cannot say enough about what a great job our trip leaders are doing. I am so proud of the way they are all handling their trips and taking control and getting it done. Those of you that are signed up are really the lucky ones because you will have a great ski trip this year. A comment was made to me on the Winter Park trip from someone that has gone on two ski trips with IBEX that actually belong to another local club, stating that they have never been on a more organized trip before. IBEX has come a long way with trips and it is all of the great pride and effort that everyone has put into trips that make us the exceptional club to be a part of.

We sold another spot on Big Mountain so now we are down to two spots left. See Ann's article. We also have more additional spots on the Aspen trip so if you know anyone else looking for some great spring skiing and partying with a great group, bring 'em on down!

Hope to see all of you at the next meeting.

Lynne Moon – Trip Chair

Patrice Conaway – Trip Assistant

SCUBA NEWS

WARM WEATHER TRIPS

ST. LUCIA – February 5 to 12

Anse Chastanet is a beautiful resort built into the pitons. The rooms are open air with views that are spectacular. Diving is on sheer walls that are almost in front of the resort. The price per person is \$2500 for air, hotel, diving and three meals a day.

AMBERGRIS CAYE, BELIZE – May 28 to June 4

Banyan Bay is a beautiful resort that is a short walk to town. This destination has a lot of activities for non-divers, but also some very good diving. The cost of the suite is \$350 per person. The airfare is around \$750.

TURKS & CAICOS – November 5 to 12

Enjoy a week of diving off the Caribbean Explorer II. Check the next newsletter for more details.

If you would be interested in any of these trips or have other suggestions, please let Cindy Warta know at mgwarta@msn.com or at 847-394-8805.

Cindy Warta

847-394-8805 mgwarta@msn.com

IBEX RACING

Racing is a great way to tune up your skiing, even though you are in the Midwest. Sometimes skiing in the Midwest is vertically disappointing, but racing offers some new challenges. By turning when you do not necessarily want to turn, you are forced to learn to be lighter on your skis and therefore a more proficient skier.

People often feel that they have to be a good skier to race with CMSC. I can assure you that is not the case.

CMSC breaks up the racers by gender, age, and skill set (including never evers). Therefore no previous experience is required. The courses are set for the specific race classes as well. So for the less experienced racers, the gates are set further apart, and for the more experienced racers; PSIA are followed. You can also meet people from many different ski clubs as this is a CMSC sponsored activity, so all clubs from the Chicago area participate, and some ski clubs from MI and WI also attend.

If you have never raced, I encourage you to attend at least one race.

You can sign up per race or per weekend. Attached is the schedule:

Sat	Jan. 08	11:00 am	Wilmot	Slalom
Sun	Jan. 09	11:00 am	Wilmot	GS
Sat.	Jan 15	11:00 am	Wilmot	Slalom
Sun	Jan 16	11:00 am	Wilmot	GS
Sat.	Feb 05	10:00 am	Marquette	Slalom
Sat.	Feb 05	1:00 pm	Marquette	Super G
Sun	Feb 06	11:00 a	Marquette	GS
Sat	Feb 13	11:00 am	Wilmot	Slalom
Sun	Feb 14	11:00 am	Wilmot	GS
Sat	Feb 20	11:00 am	Wilmot	Slalom
Sun	Feb 21	11:00 am	Wilmot	GS
Sat	Feb 26	11:00 am	Mt LaCrosse	Slalom
Sun.	Feb 27	10:00 am	Mt LaCrosse	GS

The website is www.skicmsc-race.com and the hotline # is 312-346-1268 ext 1.

This can be used for up to date race info esp. if weather is bad.

SKI FAST!!

Pat Calabrese

IbexRacing@SkiIbex.com

Snowbird/Alta: Ibex needs to go there!

Familiarization Trip report by Jean Bagel.

“Utah, the greatest Snow on Earth!” is the moniker. Utah seldom disappoints. I always thought of Utah as “a late season destination” as they get much of their snow in late February and March. However, December 10th weekend was great snow, plus 4" new snow. I know, paltry compared to the 22" of snow J9 and Mark experienced over Thanksgiving weekend. This place has snow Opening day till Closing.

I have skied Snowbird and Alta many times over the years. Always plenty of snow, 500" average at mid-mountain. Which translates into plenty of powder stashes in the bowls.

Snowbird/Alta are located in the Little Cottonwood Canyon about 45 minutes from the Salt Lake Airport. Hidden Peak elevation of 11,000 feet promises snow even when they are golfing in Salt Lake City.

I had not skied these areas for at least five years, even though they are 2 of my favorite areas. In the last few years Snowbird and Alta have become connected via a lift from Snowbird's, recently opened Mineral Basin. Alta, has replaced the “Old Collins chair and the Germainia chair” with a High Speed Quad, Collins Chair that runs from base to the summit by Snowbird. According to a local, “this was needed for 65 years”. It really is sweet.

Mineral Basin opens Snowbird up to other Black Bowls and more Blue and Green Runs that are truly “Runs” versus the “Road Status” of some of the front side blues and greens.

Alta Lodging is limited and more family or “American Plan”, meals included, small rooms with large lodge common areas. Very nice and quaint, but not what I envision Ibex desiring, even though the one Lodge was good enough for JFK, Jr.

My lodging was at the Cliff Lodge at Snowbird. Excellent hotel rooms all with a full mountain view, even from the shower (Quirk of the designer/original owner. Very cool, but you have convince your roommate it's cool or schedule accordingly.) I have stayed here before and the rooftop hot tub and spa are awesome.

Snowbird also offers condo lodging, adjacent to Snowbird Center. Cliff Lodge is an easy ski to Snowbird Plaza, but at night about a 100 yard walk over snow.

Cliff Lodge is the ultimate ski in ski out destination. Each room has a locker with “self coded lock”. Locker has boot dryers in the locker and the ski down to Snowbird Center is right out the door. Return to Cliff Lodge is via the Chickadee lift and then a short ski downhill to the ski lockers.

There are a various types of restaurants on the property. All feature good food. There are a couple places that have bands during “High Season”.

I've always found great places to eat at Snowbird. Nightlife is limited, but to tell you the truth with all of the great snow and the altitude. I've lasted about one drink back in the room before I crashed. The days are so filled with skiing, scenery, and

CHILI COOKOFF

Yet another fine tradition is coming up soon — are you ready???

Joe Davis will be hosting the Chili Cookoff again this year — he has already secured some great, unique prizes for the cooks so brush off your favorite chili recipes!!!

The event will be held at Joe's house on **Saturday, March 5th at 6:30p**. If you're bringing chili, you're a valued, no-fee attendee! If you're not culinarily inclined, then you're still a valued attendee — albeit a paying one: \$8 for advance signup and \$10 at the door. Signups and maps to Joe's house will be available at the February meetings.

This event has always proven to be a fun outing for all! Trip stories are shared over tasty pots of beans, chilis, beef, chicken, vege's — all washed down with the fine beverages that are available to you and included in your fee (wine, beer and soda).

Advance signup ensures that we have adequate supplies of side-snacks and beverages. So if you're planning on attending, save yourself some money and us some planning shortages. Come out to the meetings, sign up to cook (or just to taste!) and plan on having a chili-good time!!!

Janine

activities at the Snowbird Center, like Après Ski bands on the plaza, that you sleep very well.

So what about those Utah, Mormon Liquor Laws? Think of Utah as a Big Precinct similar to Chicago Precincts. “You just gotta know how to play the game”. Basically, you pay a “club fee”, which translates to a cover charge. However, being astute business people most of Snowbird is covered with one fee. Otherwise, a person joins for a week for about \$5.00 and they can get about 5+ friends in. Of course there is always the “ask your friend”, who you have never seen before, who is already in the club tactic. In other words Utah has some liquor quirks, but they want to keep their customers happy. Liquor is not a problem as long as you “learn the rules”; it's like Travel Yahtzee, but more fun.

This Familiarization Trip to Snowbird/Alta was great. Met people from 20+ clubs from across the country. There may be some opportunities for “Club Weeks or Weekends” which would be fun.

I highly recommend Snowbird/Alta, 4 stars.

Later,

Bagel

ACTIVITIES CORNER: Things to Do!!!

Greetings, Ibex! Following are the non-trip activities that are going on for the next few months. Come on out and join us in the fun!!!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>
Weds, Feb 2 nd	Games Night	Mark Westlund
Weds, Feb 9 th	Wilmot Outing	Mark Westlund
Friday, Feb 18 th	BOM: Bacchus Nibbles	See below
Weds, Feb 23 rd	Wilmot Outing	Mark Westlund
Weds, March 2 nd	Games Night	Mark Westlund
Saturday, March 5 th	Chili Cookoff	Joe Davis
Friday, March 11 th	BOM: Curraugh	See below
Sat, March 12 th	Kids Event: TBD	Bob Kimicata
Friday, April 22 nd	Ibex Annual Banquet	Janine Westlund

BAR OF THE MONTH: Friday, Feb 18th

In the spirit of the Valentine's season (or to remind those of you who need a little ribbing to remember) we return to our traditional February BOM: Bacchus Nibbles. Bacchus was honored by the Greeks and Romans as the god of wine and festival. Two of our favorite events!!! Bacchus is located 20817 N. Quentin Road in Kildeer (847.438.3212).

NEXT MONTH: We're going to practice celebrating St. Pat's Day on Friday, Feb 11th at Curraugh's Irish Pub in Schaumburg, so we'll be primed for whatever comes our way on that day!!!

WILMOT OUTINGS

If you're not on the mailing list for this and want to be, make sure you shoot an email message to Mark (markwestlund@comcast.net) and tell him to keep you informed about when the weather permits for them to be hitting the Wilmot slopes. This is a great way to practice (or develop) your technique!!!

CHILI COOKOFF: Joe has graciously agreed to once again host this annual tradition. Block your calendars and get your best chili recipes ready to try to stump your fellow Ibex! Please contact Joe to sign up in advance — better yet: attend a meeting in February and talk to him in person.

GAMES NIGHT: The games will be held at the first Wednesday meeting of each month starting at 6:30p and breaking for the meeting minutes before resuming play. Come on out and show your hand!!

KIDS EVENTS: Bob Kimicata has tentatively blocked off March 12th for Kids Events. Please either come to the meetings or contact him for further information.

Ibex Annual Banquet Mark your calendars! The Banquet is on the horizon!! See related article inside this newsletter.

AND FINALLY: A NOTE ON THE SURVEYS: The survey results have been tallied, summarized and presented to the EB and BOD for review and consideration. The findings will be discussed at the February 16th meeting.

Janine

Membership Matters

Current Membership for 2004-2005: **150**

Welcome to the following new members

Michael Borowiak
Bruce & Barb Conrad

Membership categories:

Single (e-mail)	\$ 20
Single (paper)	\$ 28
Couple/Family (e-mail)	\$ 35
Couple/Family (paper)	\$ 43

Dave

IbexMembership@SkiIbex.com

THE BRIGHTER SIDE OF LIFE

A good time was had by all Ibexers who attended the historic media night debut of *Spamalot* on January 9th. Preceded by a group dinner at The Italian Village, the Shubert Theater show was pronounced a Broadway (in Chicago, that is) hit.

Key learnings to be gleaned from this event:

1. If you think a Loop restaurant located one block from the theater is going to be desolate because it's 4:30 on a Sunday afternoon, think again. Everyone else going to the show goes to the same restaurant.
2. WGN Radio's John William's Friday segment on "the brighter side of life" rips the music from Python, originally featured in *The Life of Brian*.
3. Sara Ramirez is going to be a big star based on her performance in *Spamalot*. She has previous film credits, but who knew the mousy bookstore clerk in "You've Got Mail" could belt out a tune like that?
4. If Andrew Lloyd Webber grates on your nerves, this is the satiric cure for you.
5. If you attend Ibex meetings, you got first dibs on these hot tickets. I apologize for not anticipating the demand, but it's always a guess.

The physical venue was a bit challenging. Seated in the Upper Balcony, the viewing angle is steeper than I recall from my late '70s foray into the Shubert. (Another historic event: the debut of a 22-year-old unknown named Christopher Reeve starring with Katharine Hepburn – but I digress). I did notice a few male Ibexers availing themselves of the . . . uh . . . viewing angle. You know who you are.

This show was appealing to all fans of humor, not just Monty Python fans, and was chock-full of Python familiarities and brand-new oddities that were refreshingly obnoxious and insensitive in this politically over-corrected world. Those planning on a future political career should not attend, but all else should. I felt we were a part of history, because this show will likely be around a long time.

Patrice Conaway

Family Nite at Wilmot

We had plenty of snow to ski on Saturday night, January 15th. Wilmot had done a great job of weathering the rain that had poured only a few days earlier. Fourteen skiers and 3 other non-skiing members came out to join us Saturday afternoon.

Mike Psaras came all the way from St. Louis to ski with his nephew, Matt. Matt was a never ever snowboarder and mastered the heel side and toes side turn! Way to go Matt! Mike worked on carving through more of his turns by using his edges. Cindy Donmyer brought her daughter, Quinn and 2 friends, as well as her nephew, Scott. All three girls worked on their snowboarding skills with Bill Haussmann. Scott was a repeater from last year. He worked with Jean in the tow rope area with his brand new skis. Newlywed, Bridget Haussmann, practiced her pole plants while Kathy Brownfield worked on matching her skis earlier in the turn with John Brandt who skied his class down Broadway. New member Todd Osterbur, practiced his linked wedge turns by graduating from the tow rope to the chair lift with Jean as his instructor. All in all we had 4 snowboarding lessons and 5 ski lessons.

After the lessons were over, we adjourned to the bar to eat dinner and watch the Pittsburg/Jets playoff game. Some brought their meals while others ordered pizza. Ken Fruh and Steve Lenius joined us for the game. The discounted lift tickets were good until 11:00 p.m. so after warming up, we went back out to practice our new skills!

The following instructors want to thank everyone for taking lessons:

Bill Haussmann – Snowboarding

Jean Bagel – Skiing

John Brandt – Skiing

Debbie Dukes - Skiing

Debbie

SKI at Wilmot

Join us at Wilmot on non-Ski club Wednesday nights.

Weather permitting, we plan to ski between **5:00pm to 9:00pm on February 9th and 23rd**.

An e-mail group will be created and sent out to all interested members the day of the event, indicating if the ski conditions/weather is favorable for a night of skiing. We will simply meet in the lift line directly in front of the main doors at Wilmot Mountain.

If you're interested joining us, please send e-mail to Mark Westlund. See you on the slopes!

Mark

markwestlund@comcast.net

Winter Park Recap

The first ski trip is now officially under our belts and a good time was had by all!! It started a bit rocky, with the airline losing at least one bag each for Ed, Chuck and Patty; and CJ catching the brunt of a flu during the flight that took her down with a menacing fever. Especially after the unlit airline seat and the overflowing toilet, we thought that “three problems would be the end” for Patty. Such was not the case, but we’ll get to that later. After we finally realized that the missing luggage was not to be retrieved that evening, we headed out, bought enough food and beverages to last us twice the planned duration of the trip and eventually found ourselves checking into the condominium around midnight. Has anyone ever seen a bus taking a “running start” to get up a hill?

Wednesday was a pretty good day of skiing: moderate snow, good lunch, better après ski. And although there were missing bags, Ibex pulled together to get their own on the hill where possible: Craig loaned his extra jacket to Ed. However on seeing “Mini-Moon” from a distance, Craig was overheard to comment on the color of “Ed’s” jacket. I believe he said “MY GOD THAT’S OBNOXIOUS!” (But it looks good on you, Craig: honest!!) However at the end of the day, what to our surprise but to learn that the hot tub is just about another ski hill away! Okay, so that’s a mild exaggeration, but it was indeed a (un)healthy walk down a fairly steep walkway. So hottub activity was forgone by all but the heartiest Ibex. And we were pleased to have received bags for Ed and Chuck. But what about Patty? Nope — no bags for Patty. Having finally learned after however many trips we’ve all taken that we never finish the beverages we purchase via the wine/cheese party, this time we collected the remnants and continued the party in the Trip Leaders’ condo and ordered pizzas. It was a light dinner, but we like to think of ourselves as a trim group.

Thursday, however, was an entirely different ski story — although the jury is still out, we collectively estimated to have received approximately **6 inches of fresh powder** the prior night!!! **WOW A GREAT DAY!!!** A blast was had by everyone on the hill! Unfortunately, we lost Dan to the flu this time. However Dan’s excuse for missing a day of skiing was that he mis-read the time and thought it was CST instead of mountain time. (CJ: buy him a good watch for his bday.) Health was not on our horizon for this trip. Much to the dismay of all on the mountain that day, *Saint Chuck: Snowboard Instructor Extraordinaire* upheld his training schedule sacrificing precious hours on the best powder day of the trip. Fortunately his students were running a bit (?) late enabling him to enjoy a bit of the powder for a few runs before class started.

And what about bags for Patty? Nope — no bags for Patty.

Friday Ibex went out to hit the races! Although there were some great times posted, the gold eluded all of us. But not by much: Janine was the fastest female missing the gold by 8/100ths of a second with CJ closely behind; and Lou was the fastest male, inching Craig by only 6/100ths of a second!!! (Next time we take the pace-setter out for a pre-run beverage or a really large breakfast!) After lunch, however, more troubles hit our members. Sheila Loberg suffered a mild concussion undoubtedly conquering some heroic, memorable run. (she is okay) “Major

Moon” took a morning tumble before the races that tweaked his knee and left him skiing the calmer runs that afternoon. And last but certainly not least: Chuck took a wrong turn in the trees while boarding and broke his tib/fib. This injury is worthy of some printed story — so here it is:

David and Lou were pounding the bumps all morning and Chuck kept right up with them (on a snowboard!!) During a little tree run, David and Lou were bolting through when they heard Chuck calling them on the radio. In his usually calm voice, he says, “Guys, why don’t you call a Ski Patrol for me. I broke my leg.” Not being able to see him, David hops out of his skis to walk back up the hill to find him and Lou hops on the radio to locate help. In true team fashion, Ibex pulled together using their radios and their muscles both to get Chuck off the mountain and to make sure the Binzel luggage made it home. “What muscles” you say? It seems Chuck’s rescue team wasn’t graced with the fittest of Winter Park Ski Patrols, leaving Lou and David to pull the rescue-sled uphill to get it to Chuck. Then there was the very trying experience watching the out of shape Patroller ski the sled with Chuck to the bottom...the guy was a menace to himself and Chuck! Chuck was clearly in more danger on that sled behind the struggling Patroller than he was in the trees. David and Lou had to assist him several times on the way down as he struggled, with the other (younger and in better shape) Patroller long gone. [Many, many thanks to David for walking uphill to locate Chuck moments after his fall; to Lou, Mark and the various other “radio voices” who banded together to locate a mountain rescue patrol; to Ivana and Anna for packing the Binzel’s remaining luggage; and to the Loberg Family for “adopting” the extra luggage for the journey through the airports.] Chuck spent the remainder of the trip in a Denver hospital. Fortunately he and Susan had some friends in town that could take Susan to him in Denver. The Binzels returned home Monday evening only to turn around again the following Friday and head for Utah! You just can’t keep those Binzels down!!!

Many more Ibex hit the hottub that evening in preparation for the New Year’s outing. (Some hit their pillows — everyone prepares differently.) And bags for Patty? Nope — no bags for Patty. Dinner at the Shed was great — we had our own room to ring in the New Year. However, once the midnight bell tolled, all but the heartiest (read: Lynne, Craig, David & Lou) started looking for a taxi at 12:05a. Yes, we call it: The Aging of Ibex. Sad, but true. Taxis were timely and ready to serve. Especially after the first taxi received a rather generous tip! Jan was in charge of tipping for her particular taxi and learned the hard way that it’s important to differentiate “per person pricing” from “per ride pricing”. Guess you made his night, eh Jan?

Saturday: The Day After.

You would think with the conservative nature of the Year End celebration that more Ibex would be out skiing. But such was not the case: Brian hit the cross-country scene; some went shopping; Mike and Carolyn went tubing; Sara, Patty, Pat, Sue, Lynne, Craig, & Jan hit the bar to watch the Iowa Game. Who won that game again? (Yep — I can see Sarah frowning now.) After dinner, instead of a pub crawl we decided to try a condo crawl in an attempt to whittle down the aforementioned volume of beverages that were left over. Many enlightening stories were shared. We learned about some appendage issues that would have been unbelievable were it not for the fact that it occurred to

acquaintances of both David and Lou. (Big, big, huge, messy ouch — you'll have to ask them.) Interesting tattoo and other bodily-decoration stories made for good laughs. And who could forget Mickey's story about poor Lugnutz? He won't be passing out in a car driven by his rugby friends anymore; the headaches alone will kill him! By the end of the evening, we realized we are definitely losing our beveraging touch (but the year started off well for the housecleaner for condo 1611!)

Oh and what about those bags for Patty? Well, it seems they were waiting for her at the Denver airport under someone else's name!! Fortunately she located them before continuing her journey on to Cheyenne.

So we have two morals to this lengthy story, my friends:

- It's always a good idea to have a radio on hand when you're skiing. Just ask Chuck.
- It's always a good idea to have your name on your luggage. Just ask Patty.

Other memorable notes for which not enough information was provided on the trip surveys to build into a story:

- Karen & Ed "semi-naked" barefoot journey into the hottub. ????
- David and Lou are apparently still quibbling over who is the "nice one", although this is a 'relative comparison' in this circumstance.
- "If it's a margarita, it's gotta be good." (courtesy of Senor Fee)
- Newly-suggested Ibex event: Naked Tobogganing. Sarah volunteered to ref this event; she has all the hand-signals down now that she figured out the "shrinkage" call.
- "Finally made it to Parsenn Bowl. Mistake. Mike skis down first only to hit a mogul and fly out of both of his skis. Now it's my turn - - - where do I go? After a long, long time, I finally make it down. Ski through the trees, no problem. Stop mid-mountain to have some water and a soda. Make it to the bottom only to find out 1 hour has gone by. How time flies when you're having fun!!!"

Thanks to all for a great trip!!!

Mark & Lou & Janine

February birthday wishes to:

James Miller	02
Faulds Orchard	13
Kent Lessen	17
Debbie Dukes	20
Bruce Conrad	21
Jeff Smith	22
Ed Masopust	23
Donna Scharer	23
Julie Nearing	28
Glen Chiechi	29
Pat Calabrese	29

Chips

Stay tuned for Ibex Activities that will keep you warm and happy as we hit the winter doldrums. J9 and her merry band of activity leaders have a few things planned and more under consideration. Remember there is no such thing as a bad idea for an activity. You have an idea, suggest it and more than likely it will occur. Chances approach 100% if your idea brings you as the activity leader. Thanks for everyone's continued volunteerism. All of you make Ibex the great club it is.

Thank you very much to everyone who completed the Meeting Survey. Without your input the Executive Board has no choice but to "do as we damn well please". Seriously, the Executive Board and the Board of Directors are looking at the results of the survey and will make adjustments as they are indicated. Unfortunately, we only had a 14% response from the membership.

By the way, questions, comments, or criticisms are always welcome. ibexpresident@skiibex.com

The rest of the executive board's emails can be found on our website www.skiibex.com

Final note: Even though the 2005 calendar year has just begun, the Ibex Year is approaching the end of the third quarter. The Ibex Year ends in April. This means two things: Year End Party April 22nd (details forthcoming), and Elections for the 2005-2006 Executive Board and Board of Directors.

Mark April 22nd on your calendar. This Year End Party will be an event you do not want to miss. Remember to send any pictures you want included in the slide show (plus, the one's others don't want to remember) to Dick Homan, richardd@mc.net. Who knows the Slide Show itself may be worth the admission cost.

Do you like Ibex and want to see it continue to be a strong viable club? Do you see a need for improvement in the way Ibex is run? Do you want something more in life in your free time than: doing laundry, staring at the walls, or staring at a TV on a wall? THESE AND MANY MORE REASONS ARE WHY PEOPLE VOUNTEER FOR A LEADERSHIP POSITION IN IBEX!

IBEX NEEDS YOU! Please consider running for an Ibex office. Talk to any Board of Directors member or Executive Board member for more details. Or contact Jean Bagel, President Executive Board, ibexpresident@skiibex.com or Mike Warta, Chairman of the Board of Directors, mgwarta@msn.com or Becky Muir Schultz, Elections Chair, becster57@aol.com

2005 IS WHEN VOLUNTEERISM COMES ALIVE!
Hope you are enjoying the New Year. Hope to see you soon.

Later,

Bagel

February 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Games Night Ibex Meeting	3	4	5 12:00a St Lucia Dive trip
6 12:00a St Lucia Dive trip	7 12:00a St Lucia Dive trip	8 12:00a St Lucia Dive trip	9 Wilmot Outing 12:00a St Lucia Dive trip	10 12:00a St Lucia Dive trip	11 12:00a St Lucia Dive trip	12 12:00a St Lucia Dive trip
13	14	15	16 Ibex Meeting	17	18 BOM Bacchus Nibbles	19
20	21	22	23 Wilmot Outing	24	25	26
27	28					

Stay Connected!!! Two-Way Radios

If you don't already have one, you might want to consider purchasing a two-way radio to stay in touch with your fellow Ibex while on the mountain*. The prices have dropped significantly in the past few years and are well worth the current cost.

They were worth their weight in **gold** on the Winter Park trip as they **significantly** expedited the information flow to our injured members (see trip recap). Case in point: after Chuck's called on his radio to notify his buddies that he was injured, he had a friend by his side in 2-3 minutes and a ski patrol there in less than 10. Given where he was skiing, had he not had a radio he literally could have been on the mountain for hours before help even located him! And depending on the temperature, that time can translate into frostbite potential. Not good.

They are also good for locating lost skiers who might ski at a different pace than those with whom they started their day. And they are useful for hearing about mid-day schedule changes (such as when a Winter Park après-ski bar changed its name unbeknownst to the Trip Leader at press time). Although they are still line-of-sight technology, once an injury is heard on any radio, Ibex is known to geographically spread out to increase the communication frequency and get help quickly.

Motorola makes a nice rechargeable radio (T5720) with 22 channels and 10 call tones that you can get for about \$60/pair at Tweeter, Radio Shack, Dick's Sporting Goods, and the FogDog website (as well as many others). If you want to go higher end, their T6550 has the features of the 5720 but with more bells and whistles (and will set you back about twice the simoleans as well).

Talk with any club member to learn about their radios and see for yourself! Better yet: have a chat with our resident Motorola-Man: Lou DiFrancisco. Lou has graciously offered to look into sharing his Motorola discount with any radio-inquiring Ibex. (Remember: he enjoys light, low-carb beer. J)

So if I still haven't convinced you to purchase a radio, please try to ski with someone who has one (and make sure you don't lose them!)

(* Domestic use only; apparently illegal on international slopes.)

Ski safely and enjoy the season!!!

Janine

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

President

Jean Bagel (847) 749-1932

Trip Chairwoman

Lynne Moon (630) 579-8670

Assistant Patrice Conaway (847) 749-1946

Membership Chairman

David Toy (847) 638-2202

Activities Chairwoman

Janine Westlund (847) 998-1495

Secretary

Ed Bendickson (847) 223-2871

Assistant Patty Zastawny (630) 893-7751

Treasurer

Kathy Burns (847) 991-2899

Assistant Joe Davis (847) 985-1699

Joe Heater (847) 991-2160

Board of Directors

Jean Bagel, Lorna Ballam, Carl Berg, Lucy DiFrancisco,
Lou DiFrancisco, Denny Gawlik, Mike Warta, Becky Schultz

Thank you for your help with this mailer: Jean, Cindy, David,
Patty, Janine, Lynne, Sarah, Patrice, Craig,
Debbie, Ann, Pat, Mark, Lou

Ed Bendickson

Secretary IbexNewsletter@Skilbex.com

When life brings changes ...

Help us keep our records up to date. When life brings changes to your life, please fill out this form and either bring it to a meeting or mail it to:

**Membership Chairman Ibex Ski & Snowboard Club
P.O. Box 1542, Palatine, IL 60078**

Or e-mail the information to:

IbexMembership@Skilbex.com

Name: _____

Street address: _____

City, state, zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Home phone: _____

Work phone: _____

Cell phone: _____



IBEX Ski & Snowboard Club

P.O. Box 1542

Palatine, IL 60078

First Class Mail

Check out the IBEX web site

www.Skilbex.com

Email: IbexMembership@Skilbex.com