N° 3 - FÉVRIER 1985

THE VERBIER NEWS

Letter from the Production Manager

Well here we are again, 3rd issue and still in business. Twelve pages this time, you lucky people. The main criticism to date (yes someone has dared to criticise us, must be the lack of corporal punishment in Switzerland) has been the small number of interesting and informative articles ie the paper can be read in 3 minutes flat. Well we now hope to, with this issue, answer our critics and put things to rights.

If anyone resident or visiting Verbier would like to write an article that they feel would interest our readers we would be pleased to publish it. Alternatively we can arrange for someone to interview you and write it for you.

To contact either Jay or myself, phone 77487 or drops a note in the Verbier News letterbox at the Mont Fort Pub.

See you in two weeks.

ANDY KEEN

HÔTEL-RESTAURANT

Les Touristes

Verbier-Village

- Raclette
- Cheese fondue
- Sirloin Steak

Réservations: François 75147

For group of over 9 people we drive you back to the PLACE CENTRALE

Telecabine Medran I

The lifts we are presenting to you today have replaced the old Medran I which transported in 34 years millions of passangers and thousands of tons of building material for all constructions during the 60ś.

The new lift is modern, quick, comfortable and has over 4 × times the capacity of the old ligt. It will come into its full use when the second section between «Ruinettes - Attelas» is built in the following years. We have not been able to translate the technical information, but if you want any specifies answered, I am sure televerbier will oblige.

Télécabine Médran I

Le télécabine que nous vous présentons aujourd'hui a remplacé le bon vieux Médran I qui a transporté, en trente-quatre ans, des

Lettre du Production Manager

Nous revoici, troisième édition. Nous sommes toujours là. Douze pages cette fois car la critique nous a trouvé un peu court la dernière fois en articles et en informations. Avec cette édition, nous pensons vous démontrer le contraire. Si une personne de passage ou habitant à Verbier désire écrire un article ou, le cas échéant, se faire interviewer par un de nos reporters, vous pouvez nous contacter au numéro de téléphone suivant: 77487 et demander Andy ou Jay.

Bonne semaine.

ANDY KEEN

Horaires services locaux Saison d'hiver 1984-85

Local Services Timetable Winter Season 1984-85

OFFICE DU TOURISME
TOURIST OFFICE
Tél. 7 62 22
08.30 - 12.00 h.
14.00 - 18.30 h.
10.00 - 12.00 h. Dimanche/
16.30 - 18. 30 h. Sunday

ÉCOLE DE SKI
SKI SCHOOL
Tél. 7 48 25
08.45 - 12.15 h.
14.00 - 18.30 h.
17.00 - 18 h. 30 h. Dimanche/ Sunday

ADMINISTRATION COMMUNALE
LOCAL ADMINISTRATION
Le Châble, tél. 7 11 20
Fermé - Samedi/Saturday

TÉLÉVERBIER S.A.
Information - Tél. 7 60 00

URGENCES
EMERGENCIES
Jours et nuits - Tél. 7 12 56
Day and night - Tel 7 12 56

POLICE CANTONALE
COUNTY POLICE
Tél. 7 60 69, Verbier
Tél. 7 11 61, Le Châble
07.30 - 12.00 h.
16.00 - 18.00 h.

PTT
POST OFFICE
Tel. 7 40 44 - 7 40 45 - 7 40 46
07.30 - 12.00 h.
13.45 - 18.30 h.

CLINIQUE
LOCAL HOSPITAL
Tél. 7 40 24 et 7 65 94 (permanence)
09.00 - 11.30 h.
15.30 - 17.30 h. Consultations

ÉCOLE DU SKI FANTASTIQUE
Tél. 7 44 24
17.00-19.00 (7days)

BANQUES
BANKS
Tél. 7 45 66, CEV
7 01 81, BPS
7 54 33, UBS
7 61 61, BCV
08.30 - 12.00 h.
14.00 - 17.45 h.
08.30 - 12.00 h. Samedi/ Saturday

Crédit Suisse c/Michaud
Tél. 7 44 44
08.30 - 12.00 h.
14.00 - 18.30 h.
09.00 - 12.00 h. Samedi/
14.00 - 19.00 h. Saturday
09.00 - 12.00 h. Dimanche/
15.00 - 18.00 h. Sunday

DENTISTE
DENTIST
Tél. 7 51 21
08.00 - 12.00 h.
14.00 - 18.00 h.

POLICE MUNICIPALE
LOCAL POLICE
Tél. 7 53 71

Off piste

Is there anyone in town who can answer our mystery of the moment? What were the circumstances that lead to Magnus (Ski-Service) breaking his wrist. He seems to be, for reasons best known to himself, keeping the whole affair under wraps. Possible theories to myself or Jay. Printed at discretion of publishers.

An official statement issued last week by GARUDAA Airlines, appolagised to an Indian farmer from the Kashmir province after his wife was split in two by a pair of K2 715 Comps, jetisoned by a Garudaa 747 on route from australia to Switzerland. The Garudaa spokesman went on to add, «they were of a highly suspicious nature, we could not take any chances with 178 women and children on board.» Two Australian brothers are wanted for questioning.

We would like to apolagiste for the absence of another article from our spaceship reporter. When we last spoke to him, he said, and we quote, «Hey man, after the last snow fall my spaceship captain told me they had some problems with the Quaziphonic phaselock thermoplopper whirly shaft, and that the local garage in Le Chable said it would take 300 years to develop the technology to produce a new one Unreal».
Just after we spoke to our reporter, the very same component was identified hanging from the ear of an Australian poof called Tet, who had mistaken it for a guirly earring. When asked as to its origin, he said, «An old Aborigne gave it me». This lends credence to the theory that the Aborignes are the most intelligent and advanced race in Australia today.
The Spaceship is now fully operational, so the next snow cannot be far away.

"MR. T WANTS YOU"

SKIP & WILLY

Small Ads
Petites annonces

EXCHANGE-GRASSE (south of France) summertime appartment, sleeps 4/6, swimming pool, tennis court **FOR APPARTMENT** in Verbier to sleep 4. Winter (low season).
☎ 00 44 78434798.

WANTED 200 cm slalom ski's. Skis & Bindings - under 200Fr, 224 Calesburg.

FOR SALE. Rock hopper skis-the real Macoy. Kneissl, 185 cm Salomon bindings (505). Fischer C4 Comps 205 cms with Salomon bindings (555E). 224 Calesburg - above Banque Populaire Suisse - opposite Tara Club - Andy.

FOR SALE. Boots - Nordica Comps (size 7) 50SF. Nordica Freestyle (size 11) 50SF.
Racing Ski Pants - large - 25SF.
Gerard - address as above.

MOUNTAIN AIR

SKI TUNING SPECIALISTS

OPPOSITE FER A CHEVAL

CRYSTAL®
GLIDE FINISH

bienvenue !

Chocolates

Extraordinary H-C Verbier

The Verbier Hockey Club is having a fantastic season. For its 20th Anniversary the Hockey Club of Verbier-Bagnes has won its first 10 championship games and its not finished yet.

With such a point average, the team could not be caught up, and so became the 4th division runner up before the end of the season.

On February the third, the team and a large number of fans went to Sierre to play against the H-C Rarogne for promotion to the 3rd division. In the case of victory, the H-C Verbier-Bagnes would be promoted for the fisrt time in its history to a superior division.

The game was historic, and when Verbier won 6 to 5 the stadium went Wild.

On Saturday evening Verbier will play its last game of the season against the second of the group the H-C Montana at the sports center.

Friends and fans we hope you will all come to see the game on February 16th. We are sure you will not regret it, also, after such incredible season, we think the team needs to be shown all of our support.

A member of the Committy

Verbier Welcomes Volvo

From Monday 11th Frebuary until Saturday 16th February the worlds top pro fresstyle skiers will be in Verbier. They will be putting on two electrifying public shows full of action, drama and thrills, right beside Ruinettes restaurant on Friday 15th February and Saturday 16th February.

There will be a Volvo ski show film night in the Pub Mont Fort on Tuesday 12th February at 7.30pm, a Super Giant Slalom below Attelas on Thursday 14th February (conditions permitting) and then the two acrobatic ski shows on Friday 15th February and Saturday 16th February at 12.30 pm.

These skiers are the Worlds Best — their show is exciting — Don't Miss It!

VOLVO
SKI SHOW

Extraordinaire HC Verbier

Le Hockey-Club de Verbier vit une saison vraiment terrible! effet, pour fêter sa 20e saison, le HC Verbier-Bagnes s'est off le luxe de jouer et gagner 10 matches de championnat sa perdre un seul point... et ce n'est pas fini. Ayant tellem d'avance, l'équipe du président-joueur Stéphane Jost ne p vait plus être rejoint et devenait de ce fait finaliste de 4e lig avant la fin du championnat.

Le 3 février, l'équipe se déplaçait à Sierre avec une importa cohorte de supporters pour assister à un match historic contre le HC Rarogne en vue de la promotion en 3e ligue. En de victoire, le HC Verbier-Bagnes monterait pour la premi fois de son histoire en ligue supérieure. Quel match, quel s pense, quelle ambiance!... Et Verbier a gagné par 6 à 5.

Le samedi soir 16 février à la patinoire de Verbier, le HC Verb Bagnes terminera son championnat contre le deuxième groupe, le HC Montana.

Supporters et amis, notez la date du 16 février dans vo agenda et venez nombreux à la patinoire de Verbier. Vous n regretterez pas et les joueurs méritent amplement vo soutien.

Un membre du com

Verbier accueille le Volvo Ski Show

Du lundi 11 au samedi 16 février, les meilleurs skieurs freestyle seront à Verbier. Ils feront deux démonstrati éblouissantes à côté des Ruinettes le vendredi 15 et samed février.

Il y aura un film du show au Pub Mont Fort mardi 12 à 7 h. 30 super géant sous les Attelas jeudi 14 (beau temps de mise) e deux démonstrations acrobatiques le vendredi et same 12 h. 30.

Ces skieurs sont les meilleurs au monde, leur show est ép touflant. Ne le rater pas.

LE MAZOT HÔTEL-RESTAURA
☎ (026) 7 68 12 FONDUE: Fr. 26.-

The first Glendale competition to be held in Verbier

Many people may have already heard by word of mouth about the «Glendale» competition to be held under les Attelas at the end of February. The «Glendale» competition which originated in Canada and the U.S. is a long distance jumping competition, the competitors taking off a flat jump about 15ft. high, and landing on a steep incline anything up to a 100 feet downhill.

As this is one of the most spectacular of skiing competitions, we hope there will be a lot of spectators to see these daring young people on their flying skis-Lots of beer and refreshments planned... Looks like things are going to be lively.

Our thanks to Televerbier.

Events

If you were in Verbier on the 31st of January you would have no doubt been aware of the first ski service downhill race of the season which we are pleased to report was a resounding success.

Over to Denis from Ski Service for our on the sport report.

After initial problems with hiring walkie talkies we eventually managed to find a pair, reserved the piste, got hold of pole flags, race numbers, made up posters, decided the prizes, asked a course setter to do his business and after a million and one other things, were ready to go.

It was a hot day and the snow got softer therefore the ruts became larger, teams of people were sent to slip the course but, still a few racers fell, the best of all, being Gorping who caught his ski tip on a pole resulting in a one and a half somersaults with a twist and skis and sticks flying in the air — very spectacular!

The next cheer from the large crowd was for John Hinkinson who raced down the course in a head scarf, fishnet stockings, make-up and a large pair of red underpants around his knees! His prize was for courage in fancy dress! Have you ever seen anyone ski a giant slalom course on cross country skis? I had'nt until Thiemy «le suisse» came down! Not only did he ski well, he went round every pole, therefore earning himself a prize. Where were all Telemarkers I wonder? All practising for the next race, no doubt.

There were 85 racers on the day, some good, some bad, but all there for a fun time, and that is the reason for the Ski Service Races.

The next race will be on Thursday 14th February. Keep your eyes and ears open!

Une compétition in à Verbier

Nous avons décidé d'innover et de vous présenta tition inédite à Verbier. Nous parlons d'un «Gl compétition très populaire au Canada et aux U.S fait un saut en longueur sur skis de descente, les décollant d'un saut plat de 2 mètres de haut et plus de 20 mètres en contre-bas.

Vu que le «Glendale» est une des compétitions les culaires de ski, nous espérons beaucoup de sp dernier week-end de février pour voir ces glorieu machine volante.

Ce sera la grande fête, alors préparez-vous à u américaine.

Nous aimerions remercier Téléverbier pour le supp donne.

Squash Tournament = Carniv

From the 18th to the 23rd February
1st group-Men
2nd group-Losers of 1st round
1st group-Women

Inscription: Reception of Sports Centre - 77601
Referee: Bernard Varderlinden Tel. 75919 or 77500
Participation: Men 20Fr
Women 15Fr
Closing date for inscriptions: Sat. 17th 8.00pm
Finals from 4.00pm 23rd
Many Prizes to be won.

Tournoi de squash du Carnaval

Du 18 au 23 février 1985.
1 tableau messieurs
1 plate messieurs (pour tous les perdants du 1er to
1 tableau dames

Renseignements et inscriptions: réception du Ce (7 76 01)
Juge-arbitre du tournoi: M. Bernard Vanderlinde 7 75 00
Frais de participation: dames 15.—
messieurs 20.—
à régler au moment de l'inscription. N'oubliez pa lisiblement le bulletin de participation.
Clôture des inscriptions: le dimanche 17 février à 2
Fine plate: le 23 février à 16 heures
Finale dames: le 23 février à 16 h. 30
Finale messieurs: le 23 février à 17 heures
Suivies de la remise de nombreux prix.

THERE IS NO *WAY* LIKE SKI SERVICE *WAY*
WE DO IT *ALL*...

Danger Avalanche

An avalanche can be one of the most awsome of natural phenomena and also probably one of the most dangerous. As the atmosphere that envelopes us mixes to create a storm, unleashing javalins of lightning earthwards. So humidity, temperature, wind and snowfall conditions combine to form and release an avalanche.

Avalanching in the Verbier area occurs mainly off piste, the marked piste areas being blasted after heavy snow fall to ensure safe skiing.

The following article was written by a group of skiers from Canada to help you ski with maximum saftey and enjoyment. It in no way endorses off piste skiing which can damage plant life below the snow, but is a guide to skiers who may find themselves skiing in dangerous terrain where avalanches may occur.

ANDY

Here is a brief introduction to avalanche safety. The first things we would like to mention are that avalanches are only predictable to a certain degreee and just when one thinks everything is safe and stable, the big one can still come down, so in respect to this, the best thing is to be prepared for the worst. With this attitude, if anything should happen, at least you have a **chance** of survival. Avalanches are very serious and should not be taken lightly.

Conditions that promote avalanche activity are: steep terrain, anything over 20 degrees is steep enough to slide and should be treated with due respect.

: change in weather conditions, fresh snow falling at a rate of 2 cm an hour, especially when accompanied by wind after several hours is almost certain to create avalanche activity.the wind plays a major role in promoting dangerous slopes.

We are thold hat the prevailing winds here in Verbier blow South West to North East which meand the North East slopes receive the majority of the windloading activity (wind deposited snow). the wind loaded slopes can be recognised by cornices being formed on top of the pitches or on top of similar facing slopes. There are also local winds blowing across the faces, there directions changing everyday which tends to fill gullies and chutes with windloaded snow. Windloading can take place where a slope changes from one degree of steepness to a steeper degree. Temperature change, caution should be taken especially when there is a sudden. This is the reason sun exposed slopes quite often slide around midday.

When skiing in the backcountry or off piste slopes these are some basic precautions which should be taken:

1. Check the weather and avalanche report. For up to date conditions in the Verbier Region phone 76000.

2. Try to ski off piste with someone who is familiar with the area and is knowledgeable in backcountry travel and first aid.

3. Do not traverse potentially dangerous avalanche slopes. If there is no other choice, traverse one at a time fifty to one hundred metres apart.

4. Ski one at a time pointing down the fall line as much as possible, try to avoid making large traversing turns.

5. Once at the bottom of your run, make sure you stop in a safe place, to one side of slope or another. Avalanches are not necessarily released by the first skier down the slope. Behind large rocks, trees or on a ridge is usually safe.

When in the backcountry, avalanche cord, climbing rope and snow saw could also come in handy.

Enjoy your skiing in Verbier and have a nice time.

Danger avalanche

Une avalanche peut être un des phénomène naturel des pl effrayants. Ainsi le vent, l'humidité. la température et les con tions d'enneigement peuvent se combiner et déclencher u avalanche.

Les avalanches à Verbier se produisent surtout hors d endroits pistés, car toutes les pentes dangereuses donnant les pistes sont controlés régulièrement.

L'article suivant a été écrit par un groupe de skieurs venant Canada pour vous aider à skier en toute décontraction et avec maximum de sécurité.

AN

Voici une brève introduction sur les précautions à prendre. ne peut prévoir le danger d'avalanche que jusqu'à un cert point et quand on pense que tout est bien stable, une au avalanche se déclenche, alors il vaut mieux se préparer au p si vous allez faire du hors piste. Avec cette attitude, si quelc chose devait se passer, vous auriez au moins une chance survie. Les dangers d'avalanches sont très sérieux et ne doiv pas être pris à la légère.

Les conditions propices aux avalanches sont: tout terrain plus de 20 degrés et dangereux

: un enneigement de plus de 2 cm à l'heure suivi de ve Le vent est une des causes principales dans les dangers d'a lanches. Le vent à Verbier vient normalement du sud-ouest, qui veut dire que les versants nord-est reçoivent la plupart d neige soufflé. Les pentes soufflés sont reconnaissables corniches qui se trouvent sur leurs sommets. Il y a aussi vents traversières qui remplissent les goulets et les vallons.

Il faut faire attention aux sauts de température, surtout si c' une hausse. De ce fait, les pentes exposés au soleil gli souvent vers le milieu de la journée.

Si vous allez faire du hors-piste, voilà quelques précaution prendre:

1. Renseignez-vous sur les conditions de météo et d'ava ches. Pour la région de Verbier, téléphonez au 76000.

2. Skiez avec une personne connaissant bien la région et premiers secours.

3. Ne traversez pas les pentes dangereuses, si vous n'avez le choix, gardez un espace d'au moins 50 mètres.

4. Essayez de suivre au maximum la pente, sans faire de lar traverses.

5. A la fin de votre descente arrêtez-vous dans un end protégé (arbres, gros rochers, etc.) car une avalanche n pas nécessairement déclenchée par le premier skieur.

L'équipement que vous prenez peut vous sauver la vie, une p et une sonde sont des nécessités.

Prendre un «réflecteur» avec soi, peut vous aider énorméme par exemple si vous êtes ensevelli sous un mètre de neige 50 mètres d'où commence les recherches. Il leur faudra exa

Did you know?

... Helicopter insurance is available at the post office at a cost of 20SF for the year, in the event you ever need to be evacuated from any mountain in Switzerland, Air Glacier Helicopters will transport you to the nearest suitable hospital.

... off piste skiing can be dangerous. Be aware of snow conditions, always ski with a group, let someone know your plans and do not forget to inform them when you will return.

... slalom races can be organized for your group with timers, equipment and supervisory personnel. Call Duff at.

... hang-gliding rides are available at the top station of Savoleyre lift. A great way to see Verbier and the Valley.

... it is possible to have a video made of your holiday in Verbier. It makes a nice monento of your ski vacation, for information call Bernice 74351.

... it is possible to complete the 30 mile round trip of the 4 valleys in one day. An early start and strong legs are recommended and a cheap lunch in Thyon 2,000 is a nice halfway treat.

... Mogul Mania (Bump Skiing Competition) is coming again in early March. It is open to everyone so get your legs into shape.

... Televerbier is at the beginning of a 5 year expansion plan, more lifts and more pists for an already giant area.

... Verbier is the sunniest alpine resort in Switzerland with an average of 1 1/2 hours more sun per day than the second sunniest place, Davos.

... at Super St Bernard one can ski for 17 km from Suritz over the Italian border to the small village of Etroubles where an excellent lunch awaits.

... a postal bus departs 3 times weekly for a day trip to Super St Bernard and Aosta, Italy. See PTT for details.

... 42,000 skiers per hour can be lifted up the slopes in the Verbier area. A total of 84 lifts.

... The Verbier area boasts 320 kilometres of marked pistes.

Saviez-vous...

... une assurance hélicoptère est en vente à la poste Fr. 20.— dans le cas d'un accident sur n'importe quelle tagne en Suisse, Air-Glaciers vous descendra à l'hôp proche.

... le ski hors-piste peut être dangereux, faites atte conditions de la neige, ne skier jamais seule, quelqu'un de vos plans et votre heure présumée de re

... des courses de slalom peuvent être organisées groupes, avec équipement et personnel. Tél. Duff au

... Mogul Mania (competition de bosses) et prévu pou mars. C'est ouvert pour tout le monde alors mu jambes.

... Téléverbier est dans une période d'agrandissemen sur plusieurs années, plus de pistes et de remontées

... vous pouvez faire du vol en delta plane du haut de une belle manière de voir Verbier et la vallée.

... il est possible de faire une vidéo de vos vacances pour plus d'informations, tél. Bernice au 74351.

... un car postal part trois fois par semaine pour la Super Saint-Bernard et Aoste (Italie). Voir les PTT po détails.

FOX SPOR

Ski hire and repairs.
Situated next to Medran lift departu
Ski waxing 3.—
We check your bindings free

HOLDERS PRESENTS THE SECOND ANNUAL

MOGUL MANIA

MOGUL MANIA

Thursday 14 Feb / Registration Wensday 13 Feb at the Mont Fort Pub Between 17:00 and 22:00
Open to anyone 18 0r over
Qualifing run:
From the filed of competitors entered, only the top 32 men, 16 women and 8 masters will qualify for the dual finals. To qualify each skier will be required to complete one run individually and will be judged according to to the FIS Mogul skiing criteria.

Turns 50% round short-radius turns, aggressive fall-line skiing down the most difficult line.
Speed 25% the skier will be scored in relation to the spacesetters time.
Air 25% two differant and spontaneous upright aerial manœuvres.

DESCENTE DE QUALIFICATION

Parmi tous les compétiteurs, seulem premiers hommes et les 16 premières les 8 premières masters (30 ans et plu se qualifier pour les Finals Format «D être qualifier, chaque skieur indivi devra compléter une descente et sera ju les critères de bosses de la F.I.S.
Virages 50%: virages ronds et cour aggressivité dans la ligne de pente
Vitesse 25%: temps chronométré en re le «pacesetter»
Sauts 25%: deux sauts droits différents nés.

FINALES FORMAT «DUO»

Les premiers skieurs qualifiés seront

A QUI S'ADRESSER?

Seuls les propriétaires ou les agents patentés (avec pignon sur rue) ont le droit, de par la loi, de louer des appartements en Valais. En effet, un concierge, un artisan, par exemple, n'ont pas l'autorisation de s'entremettre pour louer (ou pour vendre!) un logement de vacances. Les gérants considèrent la location comme un service. Ils offrent les garanties financières requises pour ce genre d'activité et sont à même d'éviter les conflits toujours possibles entre loueur et locataire. Ils sont équipés pour les petites réparations, le transport de bagages, pour renseigner et orienter leurs clients. Ce sont des professionnels. En général leurs prestations sont plus efficaces et moins chères que celles d'un propriétaire privé.

Une agence de l'extérieur ne peut s'occuper de vous avec le sérieux souhaité en cas de problèmes. Elle ne peut connaître la région comme les agences établies sur place.

Que votre séjour chez nous vous soit profitable et agréable!

GUINNARD IMMOBILIER

The GUINNARD AGENCY was founded in Verbier in 1965 and has during this time specialised in management and letting of chalets and flats. This was the principal occupation of the agency.

This enterprise, which has been renamed GUINNARD IMMOBILIER, has become one of the most foremost agencies in Valais. It manages over 250 lodgings in Verbier — one of the most successful resorts in the Alps — and actively participates in its development.

GUINNARD IMMOBILIER employs 10 full time and several part time staff. These assistants chosen for their competence and helpfulness care for 2500 holiday makers each year. Also our agents are State qualified and can give expert advice to buyers and sellers and deal with the very specialised problems of property arising in the mountains.

SERVICE PROVIDED
HOLIDAYS LETS
THE MANAGEMENT OF THE ACCOUNTS
ADMINISTRATION - FIXED DOMICILE
PURCHASE OR SALE
UPKEEP AND SUPERVISION - PROMOTION

ANDRÉ GUINNARD - CH 1936 VERBIER
☎ (026) 7 53 53 - Télex 473 428

PUB MONT FORT

Bar & Restaurant

What is a Ski-Bum

Some people will call him a high-school drop out, others may call him an irresponsible product of society. He can be an honest graduate in Computer science or a thirty-two year old successful divorcee. They come from all walks of life but every ski-bum comes for one common reason: a love for the sport of skiing.

The attractions to skis is quite unexplainable though. There is something addictive about being able to glide down a mountain on snow as fast (or as slow) as you like. So much so in fact that people will give up anything and everything to live in a ski resort for one or more winter seasons: these are pure-blooded ski-bums.

Anyone who has ever had a good skiing holiday in the Alps knows that nothing in the world can equal waking up to a fresh sunny morning, everything around you covered with a layer of new powdery white crystal snow. Now add to that the possibility of gliding over that same powder on a mountain slope; then take into consideration the relaxed and easy going atmosphere surrounding a ski resort, the social events, the ever continuing night life etc. mix all these ingredients together and its not hard to understand why someone becomes a ski-bum.

How does a ski-bum support himself, as they too cannot live on snowflakes and apres ski alone You may even find one delivering croissants to your chalet at six in the morning. a lot of them though, have saved up enough from past employments, allowing themselves to just ski and have fun for the whole season.

Ski-bums come in different shapes and sizes, sexes and nationalities. Any night of the week in one the many ski-bum locals, you will find Swedes, Brits, Canadians, Yanks and Aussies all mixing in together, as if borders never exhisted. But it does help to speak English, whatever kind it is, because English in the international ski-bum language.

The best skiers in any ski resort are not the ski instructors, who must teach all day, but the «professional ski-bums», who must ski all day. The reason why you hardly ever see one in action is because they ski where the normal (sane) people don't venture, usually on the backside of the mountain where the «piste basher» can't reach. A «piste basher» is not a type of skier as one might imagine, but a sort of caterpillar tractor which smoothes out the slope to make it easier for the skiers, flattening any lumps or moguls on the piste. They are the worst enemies of the ski-bum; a good skier loves skiing on mogul fields. It offers challenge and variety and a totally different approach to skiing.

Mogul skiing though, is not where it all ends; ski-bums stick to the powder, the ultimate ski experience. Powder skiing is more difficult to harbour than moguls, but more satisfying once accomplished. To find the powder, you often have to ski very far away from the normal pistes, sometimes you must even climb, to reach that hidden valley whose location is known only by the ski-bum.

So what do the ski-bums do after the winter season of snow fun is over? Some will return home to the old boring work routine of 9 to 5. Others will head down to the Riviera and find work as deck-hands on a charter boat for the summer. A few will head out to the Canary Islands and teach wind surfing. But the helpless «ski-bum junkie» will spend his summer down under, skiing in Australia, where summer is winter and winter is summer.

He is a unique breed, dedicated to skiing and everything surrounding it, usually an av

Hang Gliding

Tired of the same old grind? Looking for new thrills in life? Have you ever thought of hang-gliding?

I've just come down to earth, literally and figuratively, from a dual flight with Philippe Bernard, owner and chief piolot of «Vol Biplace» a hang-gliding establishment operating from the top of Savoleyre lift here in Verbier.

In the course of arranging for this interview Philippe offered to take me up for a flight so as to have a better understanding of the experience of unpowered flight.

For me, it was a unique experience and one which I intend to repeat as often as possible.

After our flight I put a few questions to Philippe.

Q. Philippe, how many years have you been hang-gliding.
A. 7 years.
Q. What qualifications are required from you in order to operate your business?
A. I hold licences as a hang gliding pilot, as an instructor and also as a pilot for a two man hang glider. I also instruct qualified pilots who wish to be licenced to fly a bi-place.
Q. Is this the only hang-gliding instruction you do?
A. No, I have the largest school of hand-gliding in Switzerland, the «Ecole Vol Libre» in Geneva.
Q. The first thing I thought before we went up was «is that thing really safe»?
A. Providing the pilot has been properly trained and considering the advances in design and testing, hang-gliding is probably safer than skiing. I have made over 2,000 flights with passagers and somewhere around 5,000 flights total without an injury.
Q. Can anyone take a flight with you or learn to fly themselves?
A. Any physically active person can learn to fly a hang-glider, but it is something that takes time and dedication. As for the bi-place hang glider I had the pleasure of having along as a passenger, the oldest person to fly in a hang-glider in Europe and he was 90 years old!
Q. I noticed you have a parachute as a safety precaution have you ever used it?
A. The parachute is capable of safely returning to earth both persons as well as the glider, but I've only ever used it in tests.
Q. What do you do on your own, for fun, with your hang-glider?
A. I enjoy acrobatics and cross-country flying which involves long distances and duration flights, summers are very good for high altitude flying. Last winter we made a film called The Sandbirds Expedition on hang-gliding in the Sahara desert which was a lot of fun, we hope to show it in Verbier sometime in March.
Q. About the glider itself Philippe, can you tell us a bit about their construction and performance
A. the bi-place I use here in Verbier is 23m squared and 30 kg and is constructed of aluminium and the material used is dacron. It's very strong and capable of carrying 200 kg. The single seat high performance hang-gliders are technically more refined of course to allow for acrobatics etc.
Q. The idea of a hang-glider is as old as mans desire to fly, has it reached its apex in design and performance?
A. Not yet, with improvements in aerodynamics and with new materials in construction, hang-gliders can and will continue being improved upon.
Q. What are the limits Philippe? Where, how high, how fast?
A. The limits have not been reached yet, but the current records

Vol delta

Fatigué de la même chose? Cherchez-vous des émo fortes? Avez-vous penser faire du vol delta?

Je viens de revenir sur terre après un vol avec Philippe Ber propriétaire et pilote de «Vol Biplace», une école se trouvar les hauts de Savoleyres à Verbier.

Philippe peut prendre les courageux et ceux qui le sont m pour un vol incroyable par-dessus Verbier et la vallée.

Pendant l'interview Philippe m'a offert de faire un vol ave pour mieux comprendre le vol delta.

Pour moi ce fut une expérience unique et je vais essayer réaliser le plus souvent possible.

Après notre vol, j'ai posé quelques questions à Philippe.

Q. Philippe, depuis combien de temps fais-tu du vol delta?
A. Depuis sept ans.
Q. Quelles qualifications sont requises pour que tu pui faire ce travail?
A. J'ai des licences de pilote une et deux places et un b d'instructeur.
Q. Travailles-tu seulement à Verbier?
A. Non, j'ai la plus grande école de vol delta en Suisse à Ge «Ecole de Vol Libre».
Q. Le vol delta n'est-il pas toujours dangereux?
A. Si le pilote est chevronné et considérant les innovat dans le matériel, je pense que le vol delta est moins da reux que le ski. J'ai fait plus de 2000 vols avec passage plus de 5000 vols sans accident.
Q. Tout le monde peut-il apprendre à faire du delta?
A. Toute personne physiquement active peut apprendre cela prend du temps. J'ai récemment eu le plaisir d'a comme passager l'homme le plus vieux à avoir fait du delta en Europe et il avait 90 ans.
Q. J'ai remarqué que tu avais un parachute, l'as-tu déjà util
A. Le parachute est capable de descendre les deux passa et l'aile sans danger mais je ne l'ai utilisé que lors de te
Q. Que fais-tu tout seul pour t'amuser avec ton aile?
A. Je fais du vol acrobatique et du vol de distance et durée. est bon pour le vol d'altitude. L'hiver dernier nous avons un film appelé «The Sands birds expidition» sur le vol dans le désert du Sahara que nous espérons montré à bier en mars.

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Where have you got FUN?
Where have you got VIDEO CLIPS?
Where have you got GOOD MUSIC?
Where have you got also a NICE MEAL?
and finaly

Q. Peux-tu nous expliquer la construction de l'aile Philippe?

A. Le bi-place que j'utilise à Verbier fait 23m² et pèse 30 kg. La voile est en dacron et la structure est faite en aluminium, le tout étant capable de subir un poids de 200 kg.

Q. L'idée du vol delta est vieille comme le désir de l'homme de voler, avez-vous atteint les sommets du possible?

A. Pas encore, avec les avances techniques et du matériel nouveau de nouveaux sommets seront atteints.

A. Les limites ne sont pas encore atteintes mais les records de Suisse sont: altitude 5000m, vitesse 120 km/h.

Merci Philippe, le vol a été incroyable et tu as fait un nouvel adepte.

VOL BI-PLACE

Philippe Bernard

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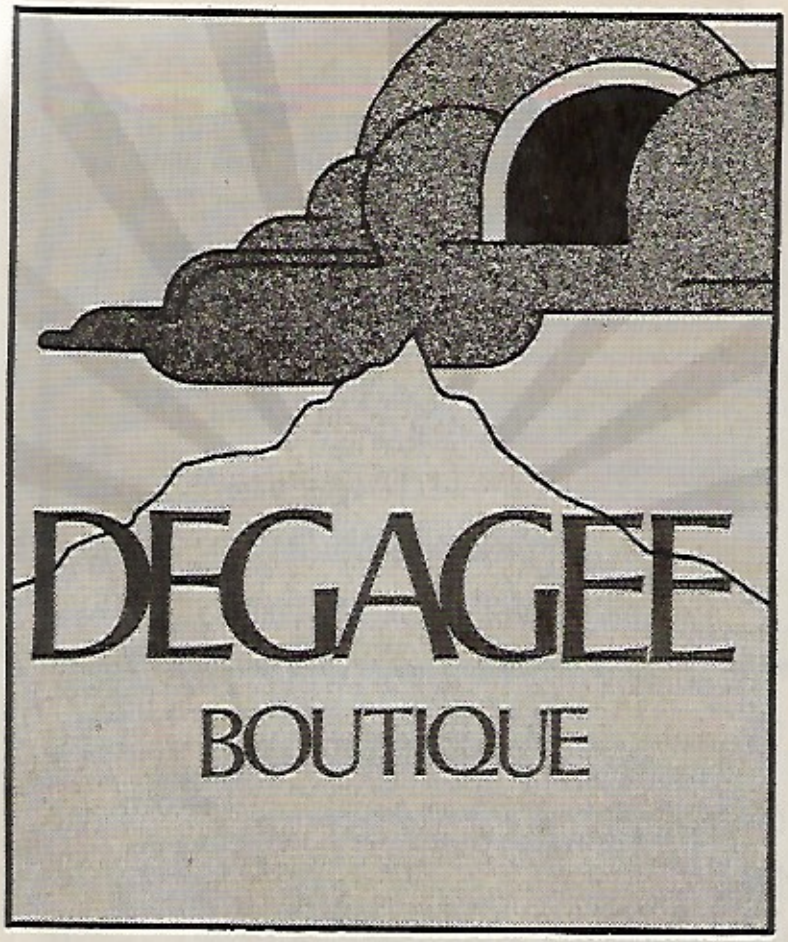
Verbier Forthcoming events
Programme des manifestations

Mercredi 6	SKI, descente aux flambeaux des enfants
Vendredi 8	HOCKEY, Verbier - Nendaz II à 20 h. 30
Samedi 9	THÉÂTRE, Groupe théâtral de Lourtier
Mardi 12	VOLLEY-BALL F, Verbier - Sion I, salle polyvalente, 20 h. 30
Mercredi 13	VOLLEY-BALL H, Verbier - Monthey, salle polyvalente, 20 h. 30
SKI, descente aux flambeaux des enfants	
Vendredi 15	HOCKEY, Verbier - Montana-Crans II à 20 h. 30
	SKI, Volvo ski-show, Ruinettes
Samedi 16	SKI, Volvo ski-show, Ruinettes
	Ski, ski-handicap
	CURLING, Tournoi du Bon Père William
Dimanche 17	CURLING, Tournoi du Bon Père William
Mardi 19	CARNAVAL, Cortège pour les enfants
	BAL de Carnaval organisé par la fanfare Fleur des Neiges
Vendredi 22	FILM «La Nuit de la glisse», à la salle polyvalente à 20 h. 30
	TENNIS, Tournoi international de tennis au Centre sportif avec la participation de Björn Borg, Ilie Nastase, Adriana



Aux hôtes de Verbier

La Station «qui sourit au soleil» est heureuse de vous acc
et vous souhaite la bienvenue.

Elle vous recommande d'utiliser les TRANSPORTS PUBLI
d'exiger pour votre voiture la place de parc privée que doit
nir votre logeur. En libérant la voie publique et en respecta
signalisation, vous éviterez la fourrière, et vous rendre
vacances plus agréables.

Merci et bon séjour.

CHER HÔTE
Votre voiture se trouve à un emplacement interdit au static
ment. Cette négligence devrait être sanctionnée d'une
amende et votre voiture devrait être évacuée par la fourriè

Nous vous prions donc, dorénavant, d'observer plus atter
ment le règlement de circulation en vigueur à Verbier,
aurez ainsi moins d'ennuis tout en facilitant considérable
le travail de la police communale et cantonale.

Nous vous en remercions à l'avance.

Administration communale de Ve
Office du Tourisme Ve

To Verbier Guests

Verbier, «The resort which smiles at the sun» is happy to welcome you. We highly recommend you to «USE OUR PUBLIC TRANSPORT» and request that you leave your car in the private parking place, which should be allocated by your hosts.

To ensure that your car will not be «towed-away» by the police, please leave public areas fee and follow the traffic regulations, and your vacations will be all the more pleasant.

Thank you and have a good time.

DEAR GUEST
If your car is in «A no parking» area, you have broken the by-law, normally you would pay a stiff fine and your car would be «towed away» by the police. Henceforth, we kindly ask you to observe more attentively the local traffic regulations, your stay in Verbier will be more enjoyable, and less trouble, making the work of the local cantonale police much easier.

We would be most grateful for your assitance.

Administration Office of Bagnes
Tourist Office Verbier

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