



Thursday, Nov 29 - Super Combi
Friday, Nov 30 - Downhill
Saturday, Dec 1 - Super G
Sunday, Dec 2 - Giant Slalom

Look for crew invites in September

★ NEW TO THE TEAM ★

Caroline Hardin - Operations Coordinator

Hello to the Talon Crew! My name is Caroline Hardin and I have assumed the role of Operations Coordinator for the VVF and have the wonderful responsibility of coordinating the Volunteers. I was previously in the Sales Department and was present for the 2006 Birds of Prey, so I've seen the amazing amount of effort, heart, and hard work that this crew puts into producing such an amazing, world-class event. Dick and Mary have been kind enough to take me under their wing and teach me the ways of the Talon Crew, so I know as a team we will be successful. I'm always open to suggestions and comments, so please feel free to contact me if you have any new ideas or ways that we can improve. I look forward to meeting and working with all of you in the coming months and years.

Cheers! Caroline Hardin . chardin@vfvf.org . 970-748-5921

Michael Imhof - Vice President of Sales and Operations

Dear Friends:

I recently have had the good fortune to join the Vail Valley Foundation. I have for many years (I worked for Vail Resorts, Inc. heading up Strategic Alliance and Colorado Pass Sales from 1998 to late 2006) admired the Foundation both for its myriad contributions to the community and its loyal, passionate and engaged volunteer base and corporate team. Although I am new to the Foundation it is plain to see how critical each one of you is to everything we do. I sincerely hope you know how much we appreciate your commitment and selfless efforts each year to help make The Vail Valley Foundation a better organization, a better steward of community initiatives and a better partner to its staff and volunteers. I am honored to be part of the team and I look forward to meeting and getting to know you in the coming months.

Your calls or emails are always welcome. Have a wonderful Summer.

Positively, Michael Imhof . 970-949-1999

Volunteer Spotlight

Andy Linger (10 year Talon Crew Veteran) is spending the summer solo-hiking on the Continental Divide Trail from Mexico to the Canadian border. Starting from the Mexican border in late April, Andy probably has the most difficult part of the trek behind him. During May and into June, he had several days of post-holing in the snow. A strenuous effort!

With the trail buried under snow he has been navigating by compass and good judgment. When we went to press Andy was heading past Steamboat Springs with his next journal installment to hit around July 17th at Encampment, WY. In spite of the conditions and slow going he is right on target - averaging close to 20 miles per day.

Andy is publishing daily reports on his web site - www.andylinger.com. His write-ups are well written and interesting. In spite of wet and muddy trails, post holing, and days of high winds - he is having a quality time in the mountains.

What some guys won't do to get in shape for Birds of Prey!

Race Manager Wins National Award

Greg Johnson, Beaver Creek's race manager, has received the 2007 U.S. Ski Association's John J. Clair Jr. Award which recognizes service beneficial to the U.S. Ski and Snowboard teams. Johnson won the award for his work preparing Beaver Creek's Birds of Prey course for the annual World Cup races.

"Obviously the award was very much appreciated. It really points out the success we are collectively having at Beaver Creek with our World Cup event, and that is also really helping the US Ski Team. We have had an American on top of the downhill podium here for 4 years in a row now, and they are also doing great in the other events. The team has earned a huge number of World Cup points here lately, and they almost 'own' our hill! It's incredibly rewarding after all the challenges we've had with the weather the last few years, and seeing the Talon Crew work so very hard to pull the events off in extreme conditions, to see the US Team doing so well. To me, that's really the ultimate reward for doing what we do. Each member of the Talon Crew should know that their efforts don't go unnoticed. They've been amazing the last few years and the US Ski Team and all of us here really appreciate that."

Whistler, BC – A dozen of Whistler's Weasel Workers are still talking about the openness, friendliness and warm hospitality they received at Beaver Creek last December. We enjoyed ourselves immensely, made many friends and came back with many great ideas, many of which we started to implement this past March during our Canadian National Championships. Not least of these is a Soup Tent, an idea that is spreading here like wildfire.

We were greatly helped this year by a number of our Beaver Creek friends who travelled to Whistler to work on the Canadians. These included Lauren Williams, the original "Soup Lady", Thom Theys, Rick Roach and James Kleckner (forgive me if I've missed someone). Of course, Greg Johnston was here, as our TD, assisted by the most able and ever-smiling, Ron Rupert.

Next year our racing season at Whistler is going to be bigger and better than ever.

On January 30, we will start work on the women's downhill course, newly built for the 2010 Olympics. Commencing February 6, the Canadians will be the first races run on this new track, with a Downhill and a SG for both men and women. There will be no Technical events.

These races will end on February 12.

By the end of the Canadians, work will have started to prepare the Dave Murray Downhill course for two men's World Cup races, a GS and a SG., to be held on February 22 and 24. Also, following the Canadians, we will have to maintain the women's course for two women's World Cup races, a downhill and a SC. These races commence with training runs on February 18 and continue through February 23.

Last year, with races just on the Dave Murray Downhill track, we had a paid crew of about a dozen and a volunteer crew of almost 500. Next year, with two tracks to build, our staffing needs will almost double. There will be many opportunities to join our team and we would welcome the expertise, knowledge and good company of our Beaver Creek friends. As we look forward to future years, we are particularly anxious to build up our cadre of Section Chiefs and Crew Chiefs. We hope to attract some of your experienced people, to familiarize themselves with Whistler as course workers next year, so as to be Section and Crew Chiefs in future years. .

Please keep your eye on our Web site at <http://www.weaselworkers.com>. It's defunct right now, but it will soon come to life with all sorts of information, both useful and useless.

We hope you will join us in February. We're going to have a ball. Be part of the inaugural races on Whistler's new women's downhill track. We think it's going to be a "winner". We'll see you in the Beer Tent. Don't be late.

EXCITING NEWS

Bid for 2013

It's official—the Vail Valley Foundation will return to the campaign trail as the USSA recently selected the VV to mount an effort to bring the 2013 World Alpine Ski Championships to the Vail Valley.

Strong challenges are expected to come from Schladming, Austria; St. Moritz, Switzerland and Cortina, Italy. The 2013 World Championships will be awarded in May 2008 at the FIS Congress in Cape Town, South Africa.

"Vail/Beaver Creek is unmatched, not just in North America, but throughout the ski world for its history of outstanding major events," offered Bill Marolt, CEO of the US Ski and Snowboard Association. "Year in and year out, they have proven to host the highest quality of events. This is a very strong candidacy for 2013 from a proven organizing committee."