



THE ARLBERG EDGE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ARLBERG SKI CLUB INC

August 2012

Volume 7

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Winter Update in the Snow.

National Park / Whakapapa Wonderland



Evening photo 20th July 2012 – 50cm snow base

Good News is - we now have a 117cm base and all lifts have been opened. So get to the lodge and enjoy the snow and après.

After a great buildup early July, heavy rain washed away some snow and runs at Whakapapa, including the Waterfall T and the Express. RAL did a great job, carting snow to open up the Express runs within a couple of days. Well done RAL!

Up the top a good base allowed skiers and boarders to ski the trails for the remainder of July.

The lodge has had a few school groups staying recently and during the last week of August will have 3 school groups; all participating in the primary school championships and hosted by club members.

Visit the website

www.arlberg.co.nz

Contact Us

www.arlberg.co.nz

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Mount Tongariro Erupts

When we posted the advert about the Tongariro Winter crossing in the last newsletter no one had any idea that Mount Tongiriro which had been dormant for over 100 years was about to Erupt. It happened Monday the 7th of August at 11.50pm causing an ash plume and later a frenzy of scientific activity along with road and airport closures after loud explosions and rocks and ash were seen bellowing out of the earth on the northern side in the vicinity of the Te Mari Craters area facing towards the Ketetahe hut which also took a direct hit from falling rocks.



Photo of an Impact Crater on the Tongariro Crossing

Although Mt Tongariro is over 20Kms from Arlberg Ski Club, it pays to be aware of your surroundings and emergency procedures when entering the volcanic region. Some of us have walked the Crossing several times, and now we have a new adventure to investigate and look forward to.

Check the Doc and area websites for the latest info or contact Stewart Barclay from Adrift outdoors on 0800 462 374 for trip schedules.

New Over Snow Transport

While the access trail to the far west was under construction mid July, RAL were providing free over snow transport to and from the far west Café via their new snow cat, carrying up to ten passengers with skis carried in the front crate. This made for easy access and a comfortable ride.

The initiative opened up the west T for some fast downhill runs - midweek yahoo!!

Primarily the transport will be available on demand for passengers at \$15 per person up and down the mountain to clubs etc, bookings and info can be found on the RAL website.

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Mountain Hosts

Mountain Hosts are Skiers with experiences that take free guided tours for those new to the mountains who wish to take a tour and avoid the lift lines on weekends, and get to know a new trail or two according to their experience levels.

Recommended to advanced intermediate and above levels.

The guide is usually a clubbie or custodian from another club, who has knowledge of the various runs and knows how to read the various snow conditions to help you get the most out of your ski experience. They operate in groups from 2 to 8 skiers, so this can make for a fun time.

They can be recognized by their Orange ski jackets and leave from the flags at the left of the offload station of the Express chair above the new café. Normally about 10.30am & 1.30pm
This is a great service provided by RAL and like minded skiers, so you can get the most out of your time on the snow and get to know your mountain.



Race Weekend

15th / 16th September



Race weekend is scheduled for the 15th and 16th September. Racing will be Saturday morning 15th. Save day Sunday morning 16th.

This is a morning of fun racing open to all levels of ability.

Divisions are –

Men – Masters, Seniors, Intermediate, Juniors and Snowboard

Women – Masters, Seniors, Intermediates, Juniors and Snowboard

We also have a division for our younger club members – Under 12 champion skier and Under 12 champion snowboarder

Enter on the day.

Race Rules

- No racer can enter in more than 1 division
- Masters are those aged 45 years and over (and do not want to compete in the Senior Division).
- Seniors – senior or junior members who have been placed first or second in previous Intermediate Division
- Intermediate Division is for skiers who wish to compete and are not defined as seniors
- Juniors are classified as racers 13-18 years (inclusive) and have not won a junior event in previous years.

As well as the normal trophy and cup awards we will be awarding spot and booby prizes. Come along and join in the fun. We have a fun weekend lined up and great food for Saturday night (no extra cost). A snowman building contest is planned (providing we have enough snow around the club) so get your best snowman clothes sorted and be ready to impress!

Contact John Hutchins captain@arlberg.co.nz or 021 927 723 for further details

Note from Editor:

I need material - stories of interest , lets have some of your Ski photos of this season Please contact me at reidmossman@xtra.co.nz or Ph 0216 888 38 to help out.