



# THE ARLBERG EDGE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ARLBERG SKI CLUB INC

June 2012

Volume 5

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[www.arlberg.co.nz](http://www.arlberg.co.nz)

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[www.arlberg.co.nz](http://www.arlberg.co.nz)

Arlberg Ski Club Inc.  
PO Box 2876  
Auckland

## It's getting colder and the snow has arrived. Yahoo!

RAL is snowmaking and the weather gurus at NIWA are indicating the season may be as good as 2008.

Time to start pulling out your ski gear and preparing for trips to the lodge.

Find and check all your ski gear, including lift passes, before your first trip down. Where did I put it again you say? Don't leave it till you arrive at the mountain and find the pass missing or your binding is broken or ski is delaminating to have it checked, do it now, or have the snow centre do a tune up before the rush, or if new gear is needed consider visiting the Snowcentre, especially if those waist buttons are popping.

Do some checks on your trusty steed; tires, WOF, servicing etc., including radiator antifreeze. If your car is nearing 100K kms or over 6 years old, check those radiator and heater hoses, they should be pliable and easily squeezable, if they feel hard or cracked inside when squeezing or testing them, have them checked or replaced by your professional, if they also suggest your car needs a radiator flush, because of debris. Avoid this... Speaking from experience. Have the radiator removed from the car, take it to the radiator specialist and have the tanks removed for inspection. This will remove heartache and costly repairs later when your car overheats as that mush in the radiator blocks the cooling tubes by doing an in car reverse flush, and trying to save a few \$\$\$. This always happens at the most inopportune moment and when you least expect it. Be prepared - There are some very long lonely roads to Whakapapa, and cell phone coverage is weak at best.



### **Warning! You Can't Hire Chains from RAL on the Mountain any longer.**

Owning and carrying chains and a shovel is really worth the investment, and can't be underestimated. Practicing how to fit them at home is way easier than learning half way up the Bruce Road.



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## Booking Officer Needed

We need someone to oversee the bookings.

The work involves responding to booking requests from mainly non-members and updating members as per the booking guidelines re guest bookings etc. And all done in the comfort of your home. Committee meeting attendance for this position is not mandatory however is welcomed. If you are interested in helping, please contact Michael at [President@arlberg.co.nz](mailto:President@arlberg.co.nz).

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## Events Calendar for 2012

16 June	<b>Turoa</b> projected opening
23 June	<b>Whakapapa</b> due to open
30 June	<b>Mid-Winter Christmas</b> at the lodge
2 – 13 July	<b>School Holidays</b>
2 – 6 July	1 <sup>st</sup> of 2 <b>Kids Weeks</b> . Bring all the little ones including your under 4's and have all the family on the white stuff.
4 Aug	<b>Christiana Derby</b> – Interclub Race Event, hosted by Christiania Ski Club
5 - 9 Aug	School Group of 25 hosted by Arlberg.
6 -9 Aug	<b>Salomon Ladies week 1</b> Ladies this is your chance to show up those men and win great prizes to boot.
18 August	<b>Haensli Cup</b> - Interclub Race Event, hosted by Ruapehu Ski Club
20 – 24 Aug	<b>Men's Week</b> ; run by the Ski School especially for you blokes! Fitness and skills improve as the week progresses. Come on down! Coincidentally it is also <b>Seniors Week</b> and <b>Salomon Ladies Week 2</b>
27 Aug – 31 Aug.	<b>North Island Primary School Champs</b>
1 Sept.	<b>Ngaruhoe Trophy Race</b> - Interclub Race Event, hosted by Ngaruhoe Ski Club. This is the one with a great after ski do.
3-7 Sept.	<b>Uni Students Week</b> - This year will see a mountain wide Varsity Ski Week running. Tertiary student members can bring up to 3 friends at the members' rate. <b>Salomon Ladies week 3.</b> Ladies this is your chance to show up those men and win great prizes to boot
8 – 9 Sept. TBC	<b>Arlberg Race weekend</b> - Show us how fast you can go. Great social racing followed by a catered dinner and a night of partying
1 – 12 Oct	<b>School Holidays</b>
1- 5 Oct.	<b>Kids Week II</b> if you have children under the age of 4 Please feel free to book this week for your family

Mid Winter Christmas  
at Arlberg  
Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June  
(first weekend of school holidays)



Treat the kids and you to some fun and a white Christmas along with the some Christmas trimmings.

For more info on Arlberg's mid-winter Christmas, contact Linda at [membership@arlberg.co.nz](mailto:membership@arlberg.co.nz)

Combine the beginning of the ski season and school holidays down at the lodge.

Get in early, before the crowds, to organise season ski or board rentals from RAL, [http://www.mtruapehu.com/winter/season\\_rentals/](http://www.mtruapehu.com/winter/season_rentals/) check-out this season's kids holiday & weekend programs; or even the adult's master programs.

[http://www.mtruapehu.com/winter/courses\\_and\\_programmes/](http://www.mtruapehu.com/winter/courses_and_programmes/)

**Join in with us**

- \* book in for the weekend and some extra days for school holidays
- \* bring a secret Santa gift (\$2 shop type) for each person booked
- \* be prepared for Christmas food and festivity on Saturday evening



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## Mountain Update:

## RAL Lift Developments

Back in 2006 plans were afoot to build the Tenants Express and Valley Express chairlifts at Whakapapa and the High Noon Express at Turoa with associated upgrades to snowmaking and chalet facilities. With funding and consents in place the Turoa developments proceeded in 2007. Since then the Knoll Ridge Fires and the forced removal and relocation of Turoa's High Flyer have gobbled up scarce investment funds. On the Whakapapa side with Iwi concerns for the Valley Express and the higher capital cost of those large lifts the development plan was reviewed and two new lifts are now proposed.

**1. A Knoll Ridge Express to replace both the Valley and Knoll Ridge T Bars.**

The Knoll Ridge Express would carry 2,800 persons / hour, 35% more than the combined capacity of the two T Bars. It would load at the bottom of the Waterfall T Bar and unload at the bull wheel of the current Knoll Ridge T Bar. The upper two thirds of its length would be near exactly on the line of four previous lifts (the original No 2 Chairlift, then No 3 Chairlift, then Knoll Ridge Poma, then the current Knoll Ridge T Bar).

Access to the top of the Gut would be easier (rather than having to use Lemmings Leap) and a higher traverse line than currently available from the Knoll Ridge T Bar unload would provide easier access into the Valley terrain. Egress from the Valley back to the base of this new Knoll Ridge Express would be via a new cut track traversing out of Te Heuheu Valley from below the Timing Hut, around the bottom of Cinder Track Ridge past Dog Leg corner to the lift. An under/over pass at the Dogleg corner will be needed to eliminate congestion and skier conflict

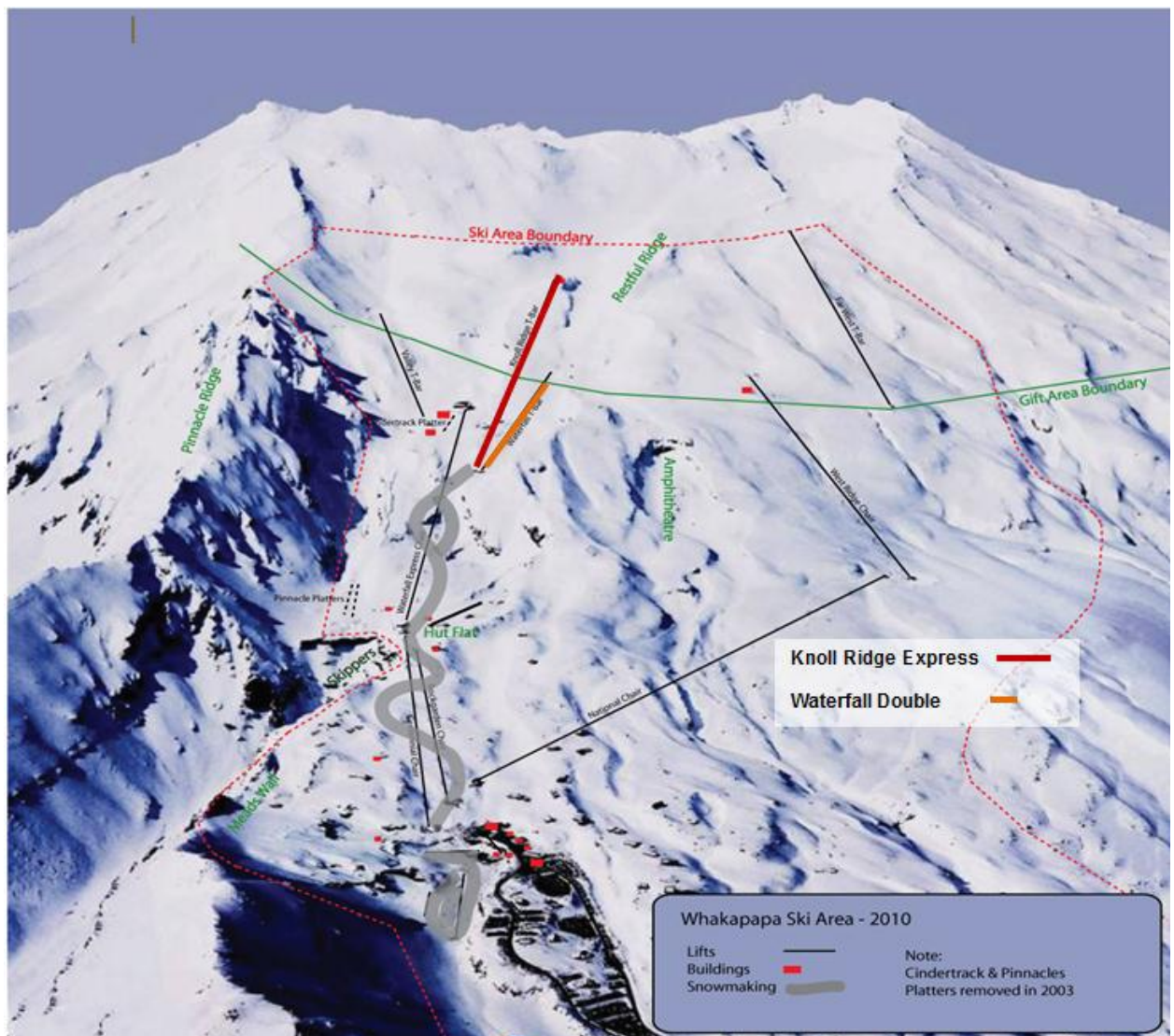
from those passing through Dog Leg corner from top of Waterfall Express and down to the Staircase slopes and those traversing out of Te Heuheu Valley back to the Knoll Ridge Express.

## 2. Double Chairlift to replace the Waterfall T Bar

A Double Chairlift following the same line as the Waterfall T Bar to provide an improved ride for low intermediate skiers and boarders who currently use the T Bar but more importantly as a chairlift it would provide for a far greater range of options for trail development. They are currently limited in this regard as all T Bar lines effectively “cut the slope” and therefore constrain the building and maintenance of fall line ski trails.

RAL believe that these two lifts have a greater likelihood of being granted resource consent. They have been consulting with Iwi groups and DOC on this configuration for the past two years. Whilst this consultation has been positive they do not presently have any agreement that there would be no objections if and when a consent application is lodged. They continue to progress this matter. These lift developments are a high priority for capital investment at both ski areas.

The photo shows these general lift lines marked on it.



## Another northern hemisphere adventure

Guy and Beau Worthington share their ski trip to Canada

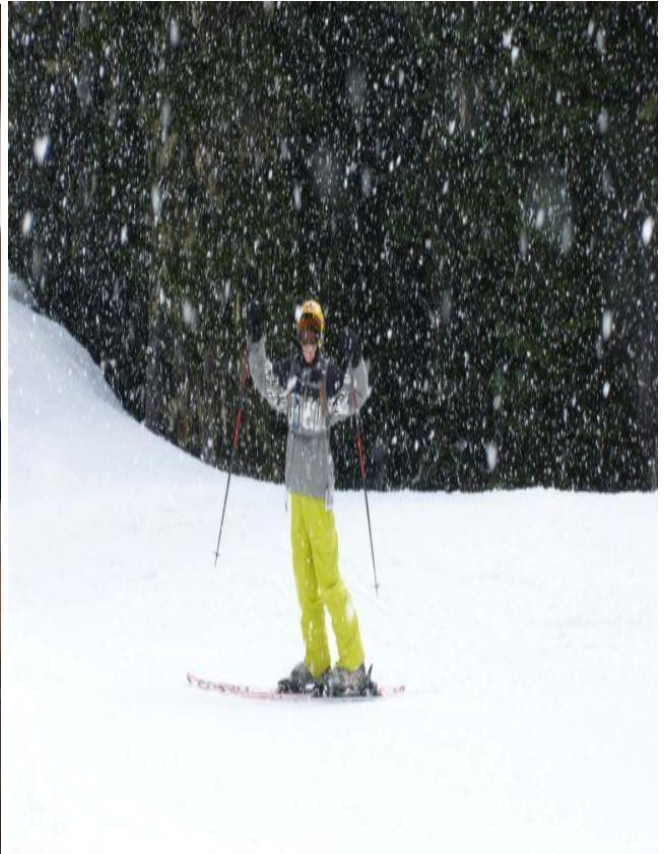


On the 4th of April, also known as the 1st term holidays my dad took my brother and me on a trip to Whistler, Canada. We departed the airport late Wednesday night, for what was to be mine and my brothers longest flight trip ever, 13 hours long!

After the restless and arduous flight, upon leaving the plane it was the sharp breeze that reminded us all were we actually were, slightly jet-lagged we still had a 2 hour bus ride to whistler village. To our surprise the hotel dad had booked was right next to the mountains, which made lugging our gear around a great deal easier.

Our first skiing day started and we quickly realized Blackcomb mountain was to be our favorite. Fortunately for us, the day before we arrived there had been a massive pile of fresh snow all over the mountains. That made for golden skiing as it was crisp snow on a virtually empty mountain due to everyone at school. Easter holidays rolled around and the mountain became buzzing with people coming for the long weekend. The most memorable moments of our time on the mountain was when we were getting some advice and tips from dad on skiing the perfect moguls on the top of Blackcomb, tackling the freestyle terrain and landing a nice jump, also that good feeling at mid day after a hard morning skiing, sitting down in the roundhouse enjoying a hot Poutine, which is a very popular Canadian dish with potato chips covered in gravy and cheese chunks. Our stay at the Sundial hotel was awesome thanks to the impeccable staff service, comfy beds and a roof hot tub that would offer relaxation and time to talk to fellow travelers after a tough days skiing.

Overall it was an amazing experience to see what the other side of the world offered us and how amazing it could really be!



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## Update on the Lodge:

Our last main work party was held the weekend of April 21/22. Much work was undertaken by the enthusiastic volunteers to improve and maintain our Arlberg Ski club for the coming season.

Work included:

- ✓ Passing in 12 cu meters of dry Firewood including a mix of Pine, Macrocarpa, Gum and Eucalypt type woods, from two suppliers, the team executed this well and we even had a game going of "Who am I" to pass the time, which sped away very quickly, and cleanup was super efficient. This was no small feat. Timing and Teamwork being the essence.
- ✓ New smart snow board racks, courtesy of Shane Gregory, were fitted to the walls above the existing ski racks.
- ✓ Concrete was placed to deflect water away from the outside wall, seeping to the entrance stairs.
- ✓ Window cleaning – inside and out.
- ✓ Upgraded computer, thanks to Shane and also the Chateau who donated a used keyboard to assist the installation when at the last minute we found connectors differed.
- ✓ General cleaning and paint touchups were achieved around feeding us in the kitchen.
- ✓ Roof and gutters were inspected, sanded and painted where appropriate.
- ✓ Some electrical work was carried out, bulbs, timers, drying room etc.
- ✓ Emu parade - Rubbish collection around the lodge.

A Big Thank You to those who attended, a great weekend was had; we all enjoyed each others company. The lodge is now in great shape and ready for the ski season.

Our team:

Glen McBean, Linda Danen, Nicola Wilson, Nicky Ryan, Sophie Dixon, Shane Gregory, Richard McDonell, Rob Wynyard, Jeep Tai, Liz and Kate Schellekens, Peter and Rochelle Jones, Chris Donald, Mark Lewis and Reid Mossman

These work parties are a great way to make new friends, give a little time and really find out what's special about Arlberg and our members and friends, and we even have a new video clip of our time together made into a short movie by Kate and Sophie, that is good enough to post on our website... watch this space.



## Book and Use the Lodge



### **Bookings:**

Its shaping up to be a fantastic Ski Season this year, all the signs are there already: So we need you to re familiarize yourself with club & booking rules on the website and booking system, you should already have those dates you wish to go and make sure your booking access is working, (i.e. paid your subs) **Tip:** if you have a new credit card make sure you edit and update your Pay Pal account with the new card numbers or other changes required. Talk to your boss and or better half, if not self employed for that extra time off, as midweek is often the best time to ski, with no waiting in lift lines. South Islands Coronet Peak and Mt Hutt ski fields have just opened and Turoa is scheduled to open 16<sup>th</sup> June with Whakapapa on the 23rd June. Get in early as some dates will go fast and are in demand (see Events Calendar).

### **Friends Make the Best Members:**

Most members of Arlberg have been introduced as family or friends of existing members and to keep Arlberg thriving we need more members. Speak to your friends and work colleagues and invite them to come skiing this winter at Arlberg.

It's really surprising that people that are spoken to on and off the Mountain, can't believe the value that Arlberg offers in providing accommodation and meals (excl lunch) and how easy it is to get to the lodge and yet be so close to the chairs.

So talk to your mates and get them along so they too can experience what Whakapapa and Arlberg offer.

## Arlberg at the Snowcentre Showcase May 2012



As part of our ongoing search for prospective members we had a stall at the Snowcentre Showcase held during the University Ski and Board Sale. There was plenty of interest with a competition to win 2 night's accommodation attracting 67 entries, 100 of our new brochures given out, approximately 200 of the business cards and 45 prospects signing up for a Holiday Voucher promotion. The competition winners are Maryann White and Gareth Williams.

### Turning Prospects into Members

To encourage new members to stay two sets of two bunks per weekend are reserved (Outside school holidays and Race weekend) for members to book up to two prospective new members at members' rates with prior approval from the booking officer and without having to wait until the Monday before the booking. We hope you can plan ahead with these prospects to entice them to join. The deal is only open to new prospects (people who have never stayed in the lodge) and is only available to them once. Bookings will be accepted on a first in basis, multiple bookings by the same member will be at the committee's discretion. Remember mid-week bookings for guests can be made at anytime. Bookings can only be made once subs for 2012 have been paid and the database updated. Best to allow a few weeks from paying sub for this to happen.

## Not always about skiing

Whakapapa is a great place to visit anytime of the year



December

The above photo was taken on a MC trip to Wellington. The editor has had a passion for motorcycles, as have many New Zealanders due to the early motoring heritage of NZ and being a convenient and low cost means of transport. Some early Motorcycles are now becoming rare and are being collected and can be found around the country by enthusiasts.

Any Arlberg member, who is licensed, has a road legal bike and would like to be involved in day outings or overnight trips are encouraged to get in contact. Recent trips include East Cape, Cape Reinga, Coromandel, West Coast North, and East Coast North.

Note from Editor:

I need material - stories of interest and photos.

Please contact me at [reidmossman@xtra.co.nz](mailto:reidmossman@xtra.co.nz) or Ph 0216 888 38 to help out.