

MIDLAND SKI CLUB NEWS

OCTOBER 2013

Autumn Socials & Christmas!

Autumn Social Evenings continue with the following events:

16th Oct: South America nite: Tony Costin: Ascent of Mt Aconcagua, and MSC skiing trip to Chile

6th Nov: Ski Technology

6th Dec: Christmas Party!

All events will be held at the usual location, LandRover Sports and Social Club, Billsmore Green, Solihull B92 9LN. Please meet around 7.30 for a prompt 8pm start.

Membership Renewals

Members are reminded that **all** memberships expire each year on 1st October, and as such **renewals are now due**. You'll either find a renewal form in with this newsletter (if you get it by post) or will receive one shortly. Please check the form, correct as necessary and return without delay. Alternatively you can renew online at www.midlandski.org.uk/renewal.

Please renew by the end of October at the latest.

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Midland Ski Club Members Special Offers:

- Free eye test and 20% off all spectacles
- Free contact lenses trial
- Oakley glasses and sunglasses collection (10% off)

Offers apply to all the club members and family and **only** at Vision Express Harborne. Terms and conditions apply.

**Vision Express, 144 High Street, Harborne B17 9NP
0121 428 4835 Private car park at the rear of store**



This year's Warren Miller ski and snowboard film tour kicks off on 14th November with the London Premiere of "Ticket to Ride".

The nationwide tour of Warren Miller's 64th annual movie continues until mid December. With goodies for every ticket holder and a prize draw every night, it's the perfect excuse to get together with your skiing buddies and get stoked for the season ahead!

The local showing to us is at the Vue Cinema, Leamington Spa, on 27th November at 8pm.

Get you tickets now at www.warrenmiller.co.uk before they sell out.

MSC Chile - August 2013

This August saw the 3rd Midland Ski Club trip to Chile, after a long time in the planning nine of us left Birmingham one sunny summer's day to fly to Santiago and Chile's winter. The transatlantic flights were well planned to pass much of the time by sleeping overnight, but the views over South America were sadly limited by the dark.

On arrival in Santiago, somewhat jetlagged, we climbed into 2 golden chariots (well, gold coloured Japanese people carriers) and drove for 5 hours south on the Pan American Highway to the first ski resort, Termas de Chillan. Our first day was not auspicious as it rained, which helped us to test our skiing in poor visibility, the technical spec (or otherwise) of our ski wear, and also the Chillan coffee and hot chocolate on a regular basis. The smell of bad eggs in places round the resort reminded us we were among volcanic mountains, and we could see steam rising from cracks not so far around the valley. Luckily the second day was bright and the rain had fallen as fresh snow higher up. But the weekend brought the local crowds, and we were reminded of skiing in Scotland with very orderly queues lining a long way up the mountain side! But we all enjoyed Tres Marias, the longest piste in S America, at 13km, which took us from



Alpine type scenery above the tree line at the top, down through scattered volcanic rocks and stunted trees either side of the piste and finally down to the snow covered bamboo at the bottom.

After two days we were ready to move on to Portillo (5 hours back up the highway), which gave us plenty of time to speculate on the men standing at intervals on the roadside, just swinging carrier bags. Guessing what was in the bags was the game that stopped us from asking 'Are we nearly there yet?'. After guesses such as: bricks, shopping, cheeses, one bag was silhouetted against the sun, and we saw a curled shape. Could they have been fresh eels caught in the roadside ditches? Mmm lovely, as

one of us had been brave enough to try the eels on the menu at dinner the night before.

Arriving in Los Andes in the afternoon sun, we sampled the local ice creams, the beers and the fiesta atmosphere on the town square in the sunshine before dinner (mmm eels on the menu again). Portillo was a good drive up into the mountains, near the border with Argentina. We drove past cowboy film landscapes, with small scrubby bushes and cacti on the hillsides and then round a corner were barren, rocky, towering hills. Then we had to drive up the thirty something hairpin bends with numerous juggernauts to overtake on the way, which felt like some playstation game. Portillo starts at 2880m, and has two sides to ski, with a lake in the middle to avoid. There were a range of good slopes plus three 'slingshot' lifts,



which were entirely different from any other uphill transport. The closest description would be a 5 person very rapid button lift, making you ski up the hillside very fast with 4 other people shoulder to shoulder, then suddenly stopping, with no flat area to get off. The challenge was to get unhooked from your button without either falling over, knocking someone else over, or tangling skis, whilst avoiding sliding down the steep slope backwards. Oh, and the skiing down was good: unpisted and steep. Great fun if you like risky skiing, but not for all of us. The sun shone and the resort had enough runs to occupy us for two days, including skiing through a tunnel for the old trans-andean railway, but sadly no powder.



We then drove to Santiago to spend some time on an interesting

Catherine Frankenburg

sightseeing tour of the central area, we were told there had been a drought for three years, which had affected the price of their fruit and vegetables as well as the amount of snow cover in the mountains. We also had a leisurely tour of 'the second largest wine producing company in the world' with some mandatory wine tasting; well we couldn't upset them could we?. A second luxurious night in Santiago and then we were off again to our final destination, Farrelones, with access to three different neighbouring ski resorts (El Colorado, Vallee Nevado and La Parva) for a final 5 days skiing. If it's Friday it must be El Colorado (a conical mountain, which if you took a couple of lifts travelling left and followed the path to the left, you ended up where you started - disconcerting!). The variety of the three resorts, which one day will surely be linked, together with the friendly and cosy atmosphere of the Posada, with the hot tub; the staff who pampered us by taking our boots and skis to the drying room after skiing and returned them to us next morning, plus the fabulous food helped us to relax and recharge our batteries. We were then ready for a last trip to Santiago, for some last minute essentials (market bargaining for bracelets; croissants and coffee in



the sun; or shopping for presents or dulce de leche biscuits) before we were back on the plane all too soon.

There were no ski injuries, no trips to hospital, no food poisoning or anything else that prevented us from skiing, and our trusty gold chariots survived unscathed but were definitely much muddier by the end of the holiday. Maureen and Roger finally learnt not to even try buying boiled sweets for the journeys, David learnt to trust a sat nav when driving in Santiago rush hour traffic, and we all learnt a lot about skiing in Chile, their food and wine, the eels, and the friendliness of the Chilean people. Another successful MSC holiday was had by all.

YE OLDE SARACEN'S HEAD

PUB & DINING

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WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS OCTOBER AT YE OLDE SARACEN'S HEAD...



CASK ALE MONTH IS HERE!

Over the month of October we'll be changing the beers on our pumps, showcasing lots of different local ales from some of the best breweries around, including Warwickshire Beer Co.

CHRISTMAS BOOKINGS NOW BEING TAKEN!

Looking to impress the family this year? Or maybe it's your turn to organise the office party?

Whether you visit with, you can be sure of a great time; with all our food cooked fresh, and our Christmas party planner to help out with the arrangements – all you need to do is look forward to your visit.

[VIEW OUR MENUS HERE](#)



ENJOY A FREE BOTTLE OF WINE*

(Print this email and show when you order, T&C's apply)

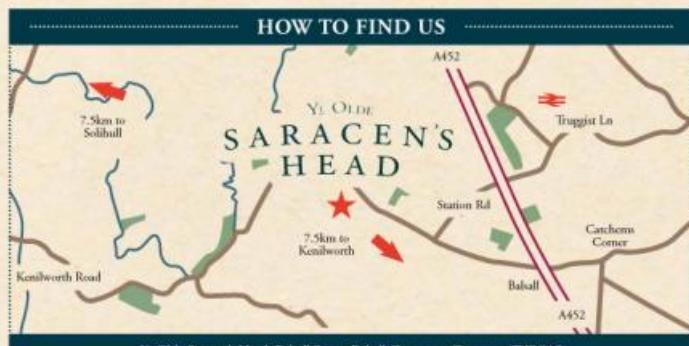
NAME:

EMAIL:

If you would prefer not to hear from us, please tick here:



HOW TO FIND US



T&Cs: Enjoy a free bottle of Montini Tisbiano Grattato or Novitz Sangiovese Merlot on us, when you purchase 2 main courses from our main menu. Valid 1st October - 31st October 2013, and this offer can't be used in conjunction with any other offer.

Skier Wanted!

I am looking for a female club member willing to room share and attend either an introductory off-piste or all-terrain course in January, with either SCGB or Snowworks. If you are interested contact Miriam Nokes, 01527 541451 or 07812 493235..

MIDLAND SKI CLUB SPECIAL:
25% off all food on bill,
No limit to party size. Drinks excluded.
Offer extended to 30th November 2013
Offer redeemable upon proof of
membership of MSC or show this
newsletter!

Racing News

The summer racing season is drawing to a close and there have been some fantastic performances from many skiers.

In the Gloucester Summer Race League we've had a number of new skiers starting racing - and they have achieved some very good results. It did look like we were going to slip a place in the series, but excellent August and September performances have put us solidly back in third place - which we should maintain at the final race of the year on 12th October.

In the various National and British Championships which have been running indoor and outdoor we've had age group podiums from Anya, Jack, Tilley, Seamus, Helena, Amy, Johnny, Mark, Adam, and Ollie. Johnny also took **overall** winner at the Welsh Open. (Apologies to anyone I've missed.)

As ever, full results for all MSC racers can be found on the website at www.midlandski.org.uk/results and videos of most of the runs can be found at www.midlandski.org.uk/videos.



Taking the Silverware home from Gloucester.

Ski Shows

Unfortunately this year's Ski & Snowboard Show at Birmingham's NEC has been cancelled due to a clash of dates with the new Manchester Ski Show - 25th to 27th October.

For many years MSC members have had complementary tickets to the Birmingham show, and we are investigating if the concession will be available for Manchester.

Keep an eye on your email inbox or the website for more information nearer the time.

FOR SALE: Ladies Skis:

SALOMON 'SELECT TOUCH' 158 cm. Only 2 weeks on snow. As new. £175 o.n.o.

Testers' Report: "Brilliant piste ski for good intermediate and above. Fantastic edge hold and instant response. Stable at speed and nicely balanced. Wants to be pushed."

I agree with the above, they are fast and sail over crud without a murmur. But too long for me. Contact Miriam Nokes, 01527 541451 or 07812 493235.