



# News Letter

MIAMI SKI CLUB INC. P.O. BOX 560943 PINECREST, FL 33256-0943

JANUARY 2009

## Happy Hours

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**January 2, 6-8 PM**

**Fritz and Franz Bierhaus**

Drink specials and appetizers

60 Merrick Way, Coral Gables (305) 774-1883

**January 9, 6-8 PM**

**Villagios at Merrick Park** (Appetizers)

(in a select area) 358 San Lorenzo Ave.

Coral Gables, (305) 447-8144

**January 16, 6-8 PM**

**Hoja Nueva**, drink specials and appetizers

New location in Westin Colonnade Hotel

180 Aragon Ave. Coral Gables (305) 441-2600

**January 23, 6-8 PM**

**Giorgio's Grill**, drink specials

606 N. Ocean Dr., Hollywood, (954) 929-7030

**January 30, 6-8 PM**

**Senor Frogs**, 2 for 1 drink specials

3480 Main Highway

Coconut Grove, (305) 448-9990

## Above board

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As is probably the case for most of you, things have slowed down a little over the holidays for us as well. This season's ski trips are pretty much closed out, and outside the Florida Ski Council trip to Telluride next January, it is a bit too early to be negotiating 2010 ski trips. The Austro-Hungarian trip is also pretty much set, so our focus turns to May, when we plan to have the Club take off for a mini vacation in the Bahamas. Watch upcoming issues for more information on this fun and affordable trip!

The first six months of this fiscal year were very hard on us. We have had a lot of issues to deal with, and the economy only added to our challenges. The second half, however, should be much smoother sailing, with fewer obstacles. We can use a little reprieve, before starting on the 2010 trips in April!

## Dine-a-round

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**Tuesday, January 27, 7 PM, Valentino Sul Mare**  
7330 Ocean Terrace, Miami Beach (305) 866-8444

Our first Dine-a-round of the year will kick off at Miami Beach's little-known Italian restaurant. Located south of Surfside, facing the sand dunes of the Atlantic, Valentino Sul Mare is on a somewhat private street and well off the beaten path, just east of Collins Avenue. This intimate setting only enhances the authentic and absolutely delicious offerings which will be prepared specially for our group of culinary explorers.

We will be treated to al fresco dining and a special, customized menu of Italian cuisine featuring: *antipasti freddi* (cold appetizer): a choice of *grigliata mista di verdure* (a variety of grilled vegetables marinated in extra virgin olive oil, balsamic vinegar & a touch of garlic, from Veneto), or *calamari fritti con zucchini* (fried calamari & zucchini with a mild spicy fresh fra diavola tomato sauce on the side, from Campania); Main Courses: a choice of *pappardelle alla Bolognese* (wide spinach noodles with traditional Bolognese meat sauce from Emilia-Romagna); or *penne alla vodka e salmone* (Penne with fresh salmon, tomato, vodka, parmesan cheese and a touch of cream); or *shrimp Valentino* (shrimp sauteed in virgin olive oil, mushroom and cream sauce over fettucine, from Creativa); or *vitello Marsala* (veal scaloppini sauteed in butter with mushrooms and Marsala wine, from Lombardia). Dessert: *Tiramisu*; Beverage: One glass of wine; coffee.

Come, bring your friends, members and guests, to what is sure to be yet another pleasant Miami Ski Club dining experience. To RSVP, please make check of \$42 for members, or \$47 for guests, payable to the Miami Ski Club. Tax and gratuity are included. Send to H. Allen Benowitz, 1865 Brickell Avenue, Tower A, PH 11, Miami, FL 33129-1657. Or you can call Allen at (305) 586-1181(cell) or Jo and Allen at (305) 856-1402 at home.



# Letter from the Prez...

Happy New Year!

I hope the holidays brought you a little reprieve from the economic gloom and doom the media seems to be saturated with these days! Lot of times, just hanging out with your friends over a drink or taking part in something you enjoy makes you forget about a problem or two, and allows you to readjust your attitude just a little more into the positive part of the spectrum. And this is perhaps one of the greatest values of this Club. When I look at my personal friendships, I realize just how many of them originated in the

Club. And the same holds true for a lot of you. At one of the recent board meetings, we discussed ways to make things more fun, how to draw more people out, and how to introduce new things into the mix. Someone mentioned an idea of doing a business card exchange type of a networking event. My immediate thought was that one of the things I truly appreciate about this Club is the fact we are not at all about "networking". There are many of you I have known for great many years, without really knowing (or caring, for that matter), what anyone does for a living. In this day and age, that is rather refreshing. I would much rather talk to people because we share a common interest and because I enjoy their company, rather than because they can be of use to me business wise. Ultimately, this makes for much more genuine and long lasting friendships. And over the years, the Club has done just great for many of us. Without much further thought, we have moved on and left the networking concept behind. Hope you don't mind...

As much as the Club is all about the people and what we do, no amount of good will and warm fuzzy feelings will make us survive into the future. We need to maintain our volunteers and fiscal soundness, to be here for another forty years. It seems that every day heralds the fall of another iconic institution or corporation. Layer by layer, the weaknesses in the system and the structures of these giants are being exposed, and many are not surviving. But we are determined not to have that be the case for this Club! And I am very happy to report that despite the frightening economy and the drastic reduction in spending, we are managing just fine. Even though we expected a slow year, the performance of our ski trips was even more dismal than anticipated. But we are too stubborn to just let things go, and through very careful budgeting, cutbacks and some incredibly diligent work on the part of our VP, we have not only managed not to lose money on the trips, but at this point we fully expect to be solidly in the black! Even though we are only half way through the year, we seem to be doing quite well under such diversity. Now, what we need is more volunteers! But more on that subject later. Until next time, make the best of the New Year, and don't forget to have some fun!

George Ondricek, [president@miamiskiclub.net](mailto:president@miamiskiclub.net)



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# Dinner & theater

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**Sunday, January 11, 5 PM for dinner,  
6:45 PM Gable Stage At The Biltmore theater  
1200 Anastasia Avenue, Coral Gables**

**5 PM:** To make a full, fun evening of it, please join us for pre theater dining at Fontana Restaurant Italian cuisine at the Biltmore. A three course dinner special is \$35 plus tax and gratuity or you can order a la carte. Dinner at your expense.

**6:45 PM:** Please meet at the GableStage for the theater. *The Adding Machine* is darkly comic and heartbreakingly beautiful, this award-winning musical adaptation of Elmer Rice's incendiary 1923 play tells the story of Mr. Zero who, after 25 years of service to his company, is replaced by a mechanical adding machine. A satiric view of capitalism that bears comparison with our own unsettled economy today. Southeastern premiere with music by Joshua Schmidt, libretto by Jason Loewith & Joshua Schmidt. "A brilliant musical that gets under your skin and stays there! Uncompromising and remarkable!" *New York Times*

RSVP by January 6th and make checks out to Miami Ski Club for (Theater only) **\$45 for members** and \$50 for guests and mail to **Pamela Epstein at 12602 SW 103 Court, Miami FL 33176**. Contact Pam to RSVP or for information at **(305) 772-1500** or **[specialevents@miamiskiclub.net](mailto:specialevents@miamiskiclub.net)**. Check out [www.gableStage.org](http://www.gableStage.org) for more information, or call (305) 445-1119.

# Empire tour

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## AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN EMPIRE TOUR

**June 4 - 18, 2009, \$7,895**

(land only \$6,512; single supplement \$2,827)

**June 18 - 21, 2009 Czech Republic extension,  
\$1,260 (single supplement \$744)**

Even though we have picked up a few more participants since the late November opening of this trip, we still have spaces available!

If you have been looking at this trip, you know that it is an absolutely first class venture, with five star accommodations all the way, wonderful food and many of the extras these trips have become known for. What makes this trip a bit different from the ones we've done in the past, is the intimacy of this trip. From the very beginning, it was intended to be as much as possible an insight into the culture and history of the places we'll be visiting. So many people view the places they visit from a moving bus,

# Trip corner

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Having the busy holiday season behind us and the first pre-trip parties just around the corner, we are sure you are ready to hit the slopes. Our first pre-trip parties for Breckenridge and Snowmass are on January 3, 2009. What a way to welcome the new year! If you have been unable to commit to one of our fabulous trips, you may call our trip leaders and see if we can squeeze you in! (Prices subject to change.)

As of this writing, we have space for a single male and a single female on our Jackson Hole trip:

**Jackson Hole, WY, Feb 21 to 28 \$1,850**  
**Inn at Jackson Hole**, walk out/ski in, includes breakfast  
Adriana Dermirdjian: [jacksonhole@miamiskiclub.net](mailto:jacksonhole@miamiskiclub.net)  
**(305) 532-1147**

**Breckenridge, CO, Jan 10 to 17 \$1,555**  
**Beaver Run Resort**, includes 6 hot breakfast  
Bill Grieco: [breckenridge@miamiskiclub.net](mailto:breckenridge@miamiskiclub.net)  
**(305) 721-9154**

**Snowmass, CO Jan 17 to 24 \$1,995**  
**Wildwood Lodge**, includes hot breakfast  
Maggie Zaitz: [snowmass@miamiskiclub.net](mailto:snowmass@miamiskiclub.net)  
**(305) 807-1098**

Due to constantly changing airline regulations, we strongly suggest that you make last minute inquiries with your airline about baggage restrictions and baggage fees to avoid disappointments or additional unforeseen charges. Different airlines give different treatment to boot bags, ski bags and ordinary luggage. Be safe - check it out.

with tours served up cold from the standard tourist menu. This trip will do its best to be the exact opposite. We will be staying in intimate, quiet places with rich histories, right in the heart of it all. Our tours will be very personal and unique, taking us behind the scenes and into spaces not readily accessible to most people. You will be able to touch and feel history, like you have never before.

If you desire to make this trip completely first class, Lufthansa offered us special pricing for business class upgrades at only \$2,224 per person additional.

To get more details on this incredible trip, please go to our web site, **[miamiskiclub.com](http://miamiskiclub.com)** and see the full trip sheet, watch slide shows and download all the necessary forms. To sign up, or to get more information, please contact the trip leader, **George Ondricek** at **[empiretour@miamiskiclub.net](mailto:empiretour@miamiskiclub.net)** or give him a call at **(305) 234-7344**.



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January 2009						1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	6 pm FRITZ & FRANZ Coral Gables	10	
11	12	13	14	15	16	6 pm HOJA NUEVA Coral Gables	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23	6 pm GIORGIO'S GRILL Hollywood	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30	6 pm SEÑOR FROG'S Coconut Grove	31	

**11** 6:45 pm  
GABLE  
STAGE  
Coral Gables

*Board  
meeting*

**27** 7 pm  
VALENTINO  
SUL MARE  
Miami Beach