

February 23, 2011

## Backcountry Film Festival is sold out, second year in a row

This is the second year Friends of the Rossland Range decided to do this event, but an even better program, we think, than last year's backcountry ski film fest that also had several various backcountry ski films. This year, filmgoers can expect an evening (just under 2 hours in total) of mostly short films that each in their own way celebrate the beauty, adventure and entertainment the winter backcountry offers us. There is much more local and regional content than last year, and the ability to show the new Banff award-winning feature film, "A Life Ascending" is quite exciting.

The FORR backcountry film fest is supposed to be an entertaining night of film and fun, at a reasonable price for all ages and families to enjoy. But it is also 1 of the few opportunities for FORR to reinforce the importance to everyone in the community of the recreation tenure application for the Rossland Range that FORR was able to put together based on a long and invaluable community consultation process. (see Rossland Telegraph article dated Feb 16, 2011, read it [here](#))

There will be information available that night on other less publicized FORR programs, and each filmfest ticket includes an annual FORR membership, the ticketholder only has to sign up at the door. A raffle will be held at intermission for Black Jack Ski Club certificates, Hockey Tickets donated by the Rossland District Credit Union and a Betty Go Hard gift certificate. Rossland Interactors will provide refreshments for sale, proceeds go to Interact programs. No alcohol will be served (this is an all ages event).

All event proceeds first go to produce the event, and any remaining proceeds will go to fund Friends of the Rossland Range goals and programs. The event is also our primary membership drive for the year and supports our goal to communicate and engage the community in our efforts.

Similar to the recreation tenure application, the backcountry ski film festival was created from the efforts of many in the community who came to FORR with the concept, good film and program suggestions, funding ideas, local films for the event, and the ability to implement those ideas. The films are primarily acquired as a group of films prepared for showing as an evening of backcountry ski films (through a Boise-based non-profit organization, Winter Wildlands Alliance).

When we can get quality local backcountry skiing content and film footage to show also, we will make room for it!

FORR appreciates the local backcountry skiing film footage contribution from local filmmakers, "professional" or otherwise.

Four of the local films are "debut showings" that have not been seen in public venues yet. Stew Spooner's "Long Skis, Deep Powder" is footage of the Rossland Range that he has just recently put together from the early 1990s, "Adventures Somewhere in the Rossland Range" is Jim Firstbook's film of Rosslanders skiing their home turf, and "Pigs in Heaven" is Michele DeJardins' film of friends and their pooch skiing a secret line in the Rossland Range in April last year. "Extreme Tobogganing" was produced and directed by 16 year old Florina Beglinger (who resides at the Durrand Glacier Chalet, in the Selkirks), and this entertaining film stars her friends who are all very enthusiastic about their extreme sport.

"Schuss" by Dave Heath of Rossland is a tribute to the early days of skiing in Rossland and it is timeless. "Australis" by Granite Films is 1 of the longer films (27 minutes) and features Chris Davenport's ski venture and journey to the Antarctic Peninsula, while "Desert River" by Sweetgrass Productions (who made the famous

“Signatures” film) is a short film of a beautiful ski adventure in the Chilkats near Haines, Alaska. “Cross Country Snowboarding” by Holiday Films is just plain funny. Finally, “A Life Ascending” is the new award-winning Banff film festival documentary about Reudi Beglinger and his family who live in the Durrand Glacier Chalet.

Once the outline of the event took some shape for last year’s festival, it takes teamwork, good communication and sharing the responsibilities to organize it. There is room for people of many different types of interests and experience within the various programs of the Friends of the Rossland Range Society and hopefully the message is clear that input, contributions and/or volunteers from all parts of the community are all encouraged anytime, and meetings are open to everyone. FORR has a long history in the community, and more details, contacts and meeting dates can be seen on [www.rosslandrange.org](http://www.rosslandrange.org)

Without our sponsors, and the generous individuals who represent them, this event would not be possible nor so affordable, so FORR sincerely thanks all the contributions from: *Columbia Basin Trust, Teck, Nelson District Credit Union, Kootenay Nordic Sports, Mountain Life, Gerick Sports, Big Red Cats, Whistle Tours, Powderhound, Butch Boutry Ski Shop, Rossland Rotary/Interact, Kootenay Association for Science and Technology, Rossland Council for the Arts and Culture, Rossland Mountain Film Festival, Ptarmigan Films, Winter Wildlands Alliance, Red Mountain Resort, Black Jack Ski Club, Kootenay Mountaineering Club.*