

# INTERSKI 2011 ST. ANTON, AUSTRIA: MY THOUGHTS AND IMPRESSIONS

By Paul Jones (PJ)

AUSTRIA, the host country was a gracious host and very organized to a fault. By that I am saying they wanted to sell the event tickets for lectures, clinics and demos and then they didn't check tickets accurately or at all. The clinic/ workshops were very well attended, but the organizing of them was a real cluster.

Austrians: Were very good but not as disciplined as in the past, that is to say their formation skiing had mistakes; like out of line, out of sync, but skied well on a scale of 1-10 about a 9.25.

Andorra: Was well represented but nothing of any significance. 6.75

Argentina: Had a very successful Interski, mainly because they are the host nation for Interski 2015. Their skiing/ teaching focus is very similar to the PSIA, being more student centered than many of the other countries. 8.0

Australia: Middle of the pack to stronger skied quite well but very arrogant about who and what they are. 8.25

Bulgaria: Very basic presentation, skiing needs some work, but very open to ideas. 4.0



Canada: Solid performance and very relaxed workshop, fun is their focus, to bring the clients back to the mountains. Technical key points are “centered” and “mobile” stance combined with direction, duration, intensity, accuracy and timing of movements. Their organization is very strong and active, but from the eastern part of the country, they are really suffering a lack of new instructors mainly due to very low pay. 8.75

Croatia: Skied very well. Language was a workshop barrier, but have a strong connection to their world cup skiers that has a big influence on their skiing. Their teaching is a bit more classic 8.0

Czech Republic: Pretty weak demos, with change just around the corner from older to newer methods and organization. 3.5

Denmark: Skied very well and have a very student centered approach with a simple theme; RIDE FREE. Versatile skiing be the pilot not the passenger. 8.75



Finland: Skied quite well as most countries had a full compliment of nordic, adaptive, snowboard and alpine. These folks can really drink. Very open and friendly mix of modern and classic approach. 8.25

France: Boy these people can ski and very together presentations in workshop. They skied all conditions and terrain with the full awareness of the situation from safety first and then fun. They have experienced a huge increase in deaths from all the free ride crowd who go off cliffs that none can survive, so new emphasis on off piste procedures. 9.5

Great Britain: Skied pretty well, but nothing special I didn't have any contact with the Brits, 7.0

Germany: Skied quite well, but tight in both stance and presentation, they have eight basic elements to their system and in our workshop we didn't get to them all. Basic athletic stance, tip the ski to turn, theme of the perfect turn. 7.25

Hungary: Skied and demos very well. Drink a lot too; wow, they hurt almost everyone that played with them, by that I mean at their party. 8.75

Italy: Skied the most dynamic classic style seemed to down play their presents. 9.0

Japan: Skied very classic Austrian, with a major difference they ab-stem a lot and have a classic approach to students. 6.0

Korea: Very similar to Japan but much better skiers with only a few ab-stems. 7.25

Montenegro: Nice outfits skiing needs some work 3.0

Netherlands: Very strong skiers, they say we have lots of snow, just no mountains; travel to Scandinavia or Alps mostly France. 8.25

New Zealand: Strong skiers individually, need work as a demo unit. 6.5

Norway: Full compliment of all disciplines, with alpine their weakest, this is another I had only one contact, don't know much about. 5.5

Poland: Pretty good skiing, with some racing background, but some extra movements real edge pressure. 7.0

San Marino: Skied well looked similar to the Italians with slightly more open stance and not as crisp. 6.5

Slovenia: Skied OK, but not consistent as a group, had some very interesting comments about the hips and direction of travel; I think spot on, a few very different exercises. Solid research, interesting interpretation. 7.25

Sweden: Strong individually, need practice time. Had good start to a senior program. Very open to ideas and welcoming attitude, theme - Will, Hill, Skill. 7.0

Switzerland: They take the best team hot skiing, challenging demos, excellent performance, they skied modern and classic mixed together very very well. The obvious thing with Swiss, Austria, France and Italy is they “Know” who they are as a skiing nation and can show what they believe by what they demonstrate, they are not trying to reinvent the wheel continuously. 9.9

USA/PSIA/AASI: Strong individually, but not together as a group, no practice time and maybe not a clear idea of what is expected of them and how to best present this material. Indoor keynote presentation was very informative and the Euro's liked it a lot, statistics about the business in the USA. Workshop wise no buzz, but they did have a specific theme “INCLUSION” that is to say all are welcome and we need product to address all comers, USA had a full compliment of alpine, adaptive, nordic, snowboard. 6.75

A general comment about the snowboard demos, they lacked a sense of presence, very non-descript, this was not just the USA but all the snowboard teams , they just were very blaaaaaaaaaaaaa!!!!!! need to show the full range of what they can do from hard shell to soft, from tricks to racing and park and pipe, we saw a few jumps and a lot of sideslipping.

The Nordic side was similar very little track skiing, some great tele-turns on very hard snow but no real presence with versatility and pizzazz.

The adaptive presence was great to see and what great athletes these folks are, but it was almost like “yah” we do this too. Could really be great demos.

Now a general comment on the Interski format as a whole. The format was 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM lectures; 10:00 AM to 2:30 PM workshops by the countries listed for that day. The organization of these workshops was mostly a big cluster, but they sorted themselves out; then 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM, more indoor presentations/ lectures. The evening show demonstrations from 7:30 PM-9:30 PM where selected teams would show three times down the demo slope their stuff, then to the parties. I will say the finale all nations skiing at the same time and the fireworks was really fantastic!!! However, the rest of the format was clumsy at best.

I would propose a format of on snow demos at the particular venues, alpine nordic, pipe & park , adaptive 8:30 AM to 11:30AM; Workshops 12:30 PM to 3:00 PM; Indoor lectures/Presentations 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM; ski show 8:00 PM to 8:30 PM shorter and sweet. The morning Demos could then be narrated as in the past with each country having 30 minutes this would allow six teams daily and 5 days would allow 30 countries to present on snow followed by workshops of the same.