

THE SKI TEST ISSUE

6 Transceivers Tested: which ones can you trust? →



ski canada

OUR BIGGEST TEST ISSUE EVER!

56 TEST REPORTS!

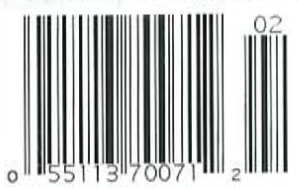
THE BEST ALL MOUNTAIN SKIS

PLUS! NEW THIS YEAR: BIG MOUNTAIN

10 TOP ROCKIES RESORTS WHO MADE THE LIST?

A Taste of Quebec | Breckenridge & Heavenly | Austrians at Sun Peaks

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Cloudy with a chance of P-TEX.



WEATHER ALERT!

Winter, coming soon



◆ The big news item lately is the *Farmer's Almanac* prediction of "numbing cold" over much of the U.S. this winter. The mid-section of the continent will be hit hardest and the Great Lakes will be "bitterly cold and dry." This mustn't be confused with the more-widely quoted *Old Farmer's Almanac*, which foretells



winter temperatures one to two degrees below normal with snowfall above normal in Ontario, normal in eastern Canada and below normal in the west.

But Chief Meteorologist and Tarot Card Reader Paolo Greenenie at the Ski Canada National Weather Centre & Daycare found several problems with the prediction. El Niño looks



as if it's warming up the mid-Pacific once again, which usually means warmer temperatures spreading west to east over the winter, depending on the strength of the event. Added to this is the lowest level of sunspot activity in several decades, which may result in colder temperatures as UV and soft X-ray emissions



plummet and so fail to excite the Earth's upper atmosphere, allowing more heat loss. The connection between sunspots and climate is not fully understood, although an extended sunspot minimum in the 17th century coincided with the Little Ice Age, when the Thames froze over frequently in winter



and British skiers first dreamt of flying EasyJet en masse to the Alps for après ski. Then, of course, there's rising CO₂ in the atmosphere contributing to the Greenhouse Effect.

So, Greenenie's response for a 2010 prediction? "They'll all cancel each other out and it'll be a normal winter. Now, is that my beer?"

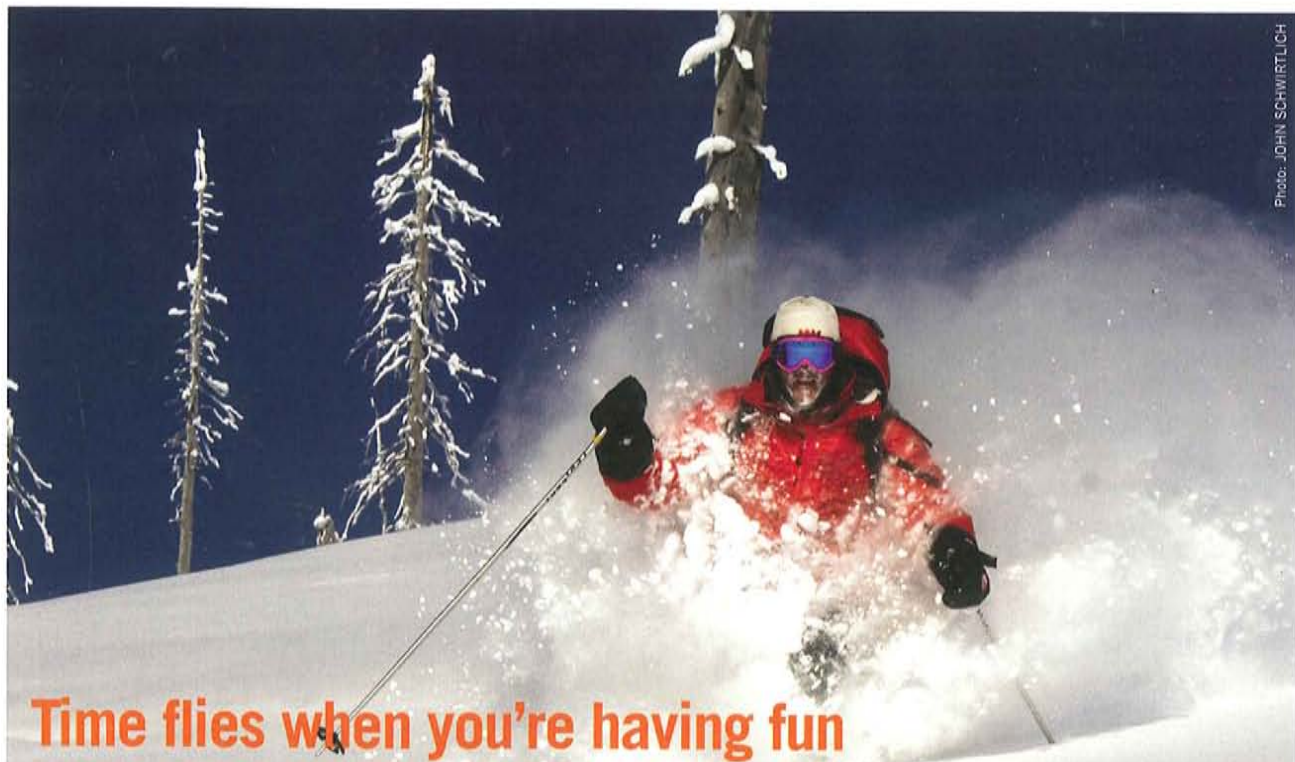


Photo: JOHN SCHWIRTLICH

Time flies when you're having fun

◆ Okay, so the contour lines on Mike Wiegele's tan suggest he's already reached that 40 milestone, but it's hard to believe he's been taking clients heli-skiing for 40 years. Royalty, rock stars and kingpins of business still crowd

the helicopter each morning, but starting this year there's a little extra space for those who just want a taste of the sweet life. Wiegele's offering three- and five-run day trips this winter for those skiing Sun Peaks and Marmot Basin, about a

two- or two-and-a-half-hour drive away. No, Wiegele powder isn't cheap, but the \$750-\$850 day does include guiding, instruction, powder ski rental, safety equipment, lunch and grins. www.wiegele.com