



Recharge Your Batteries, NOW!

I believe that every now and then, it is good to get away for some much-needed rest and relaxation. I mean this not only from a physical standpoint, but from a mental one as well. We need to step outside of our daily routines and take a real good look at the direction in which we are heading. To escape from the forest, to view the trees. A much needed recharging of the batteries, so to speak.

Fortunately for those of us in this profession, there is a slow time during which we may take full advantage of any opportunity that may present itself. Such was the case for me in January when an invitation to go skiing for a week in Jackson Hole, Wyoming crossed my path. Needless to say, I did not have to be asked twice. There is nothing like standing atop a snow-covered mountain peak at 10,000 feet, gasping for air, with two boards strapped to your feet to clear your head, is what I always say. Focusing on the immediate task at hand—survival—is certainly one of the first and foremost concerns that quickly comes to mind.

Now, ordinarily I would not even make mention of this expedition, but considering the crew that accompanied me, I hope you will find my story most appropriate and possibly a bit entertaining. You have all heard of *The Magnificent Seven*, *The Dirty Dozen* and *Ocean's Eleven* . . . well, I am here to relate the epic of *The Terrific Ten* (movie rights pending). I wish I could tell you that the story is about ten people from different walks of life, backgrounds and culture coming together for the sole purpose of conquering the slopes of Jackson Hole, certainly the makings of another reality show. (But frankly, does the television audience need another reality program?) The truth of the matter is, we were ten guys with similar backgrounds and lifestyles, all friends and acquaintances. Brought together into one house, at the base of one very large and very steep mountain, all with some common goals. One of which was to successfully navigate these slopes without breaking anything and secondly, to find time to unwind from the rigors of our chosen professions and have some good ole-fashioned fun.

To tell of our week's adventures would only be redundant; once you know the cast of characters your mind will take you on your own journey. First (in no particular order) we have Don "I'll Ski Where I Want to Ski" Cross. Don has a very distinct way of skiing down a ski hill. He is very direct. He skis to his own "code." And if you accidentally cross Mr. Cross, plain and simple, he'll take you out. This was not known until the second day of skiing when an unsuspecting Jon Jennings innocently trespassed in Don's ski-line. Needless to say, he made that mistake once, only once. That brings me, of course, to Jon "Iron Man" Jennings. For most "humans," skiing/snowboarding all day, everyday for a week would push physical endurance levels to the max. Not Jon; no, Iron Man Jennings had to run a mini-marathon every morning before we took to the slopes. Stud that he is, it seemed like he even enjoyed making the rest of us look like spineless wimp-a-zoids. Next, there was Joel "The Bionic Man" Purpur. The fact that Joel was always the first one to the hill, and the last one to leave, was not what impressed me the most. The fact that Joel went a whole week without being surgically repaired in any way, now that was stupendous. Although, I have

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yet to hear from him upon our return. Are you in a sling again, Joel? Which brings me to the chairman of the organizing committee, Erwin "Action/Cut" McKone. As you may have guessed, Erwin also got the dubious honor of putting all highlights on videotape. It is my guess he is now working diligently in the edit room piecing together a skiing epic. Look out, Warren Miller. The star of the soon-to-be-a-hit movie would, naturally, be Brian Baker, "The Widowermaker." With a name like that, enough said. Brian snowboarded like he was still in his 20s. Oh, yeah, he actually is. Making sure we always had a table at the local watering hole was Mike "I'll Meet You at the Moose" Mumper. Rumor has it the Budweiser delivery truck had to make one extra stop the week we were there. Coincidence, I think not; I just wonder, how did they know? Then there was Tracy "Tex" Murphy. Tracy made sure we blended with the locals as much as possible, toting Stetsons and all. Tell me, what do city boys wearing cowboy hats look like to you? My point exactly! Complementing this already

fine field was Scott "Jared" Witte. Scott made the mistake of sharing an innocent little story with a few friends. It seems Scott has a few things in common with a certain Subway turkey-sandwich eater. Unfortunately for Scott, the name just stuck like barbecue sauce to a slab of ribs. Next, we had Dan "Valet" Stratton. Dan's the one non-golf person in our group, but we bring him because he has the uncanny ability to park a car anywhere and still have it be there upon our return. Last but not least was myself, Kevin "Crash" DeRoo. For those of you who know me, "Crash" is pretty much my name in every sport I do, including golf. My real claim to fame this particular week would be skiing on equipment older than the Widowermaker. And that really never even bothered me until it was pointed out that a pair of skis that were screwed onto the outside wall of one of the ski shacks as decorations were newer than mine. Now that hurt.

My purpose in sharing all of this is that even if you absolutely love what you do (and most of us do),

everyone should still take some time, get away and recharge those batteries. As for our Association, this year's events are falling into place. By the time you read this, the Midwest Hospitality Room in Atlanta will be a pleasant memory. I certainly would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our commercial sponsors who graciously participated in donating to this glorious function. We could never do this without you. It is something we as MAGCS members should all be very proud of. I would also like to thank the behind-the-scenes people who really bring it all together: Tim Anderson, Dave Armentrout, Sylvia Lima, Paul Yerkes and the entire Board of Directors. Your diligence has once again paid off; you all have raised the bar again. Next on the docket: the March meeting, which will take place Tuesday the 11th at the Midwest Golf House where Bree Hayes will be presenting "Team Building and Group Dynamics." Hope to see you all there.



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