



SNOWCAT SKIING

It's the Cat's Meow

BY ANNETTE UDALL

(Above) State-of-the-art 16 passenger snowcats transport skiers to new heights in a quick 15-20 minutes

Nestled deep in the heart of the Canadian Selkirk Mountain Range, just west of the legendary Bugaboos are the exclusive Great Northern and Selkirk Wilderness resorts, two of the finest snowcat skiing operations Canada has to offer. With a combined 50 plus years of wilderness skiing

experience, Selkirk Wilderness Skiing (est. 1975) and Great Northern Snow-Cat Skiing (est. 1979) provide deep powder enthusiasts with the ultimate quality all-inclusive snowcat skiing vacations.

Great Northern's founder and owner, Brent McCorquodale, and Selkirk Wilderness' owners, Allan and



**(Top) Heaven on a skier's earth
(middle) The Selkirk Mountain
Range in British Columbia — the
home of legendary snowcat skiing
(bottom) Crazy Eights — cat ski style**

Brenda Drury, had an inkling this snow-laden interior valley was prime powder real estate when they pioneered the sport in the late 70s. The Selkirk mountain range is characterized by consistent snowfall (600-800" annually), very little wind and relatively moderate temperatures — conditions powder skiers world-wide have come to identify as the pinnacle in wilderness deep snow skiing. These pristine peaks offer skiers an expansive and varied terrain of wide-open bowls, well-spread trees, steep chutes and gentle slopes at a relaxed, comfortable pace. No crowds or lift lines in this vast winter playground.

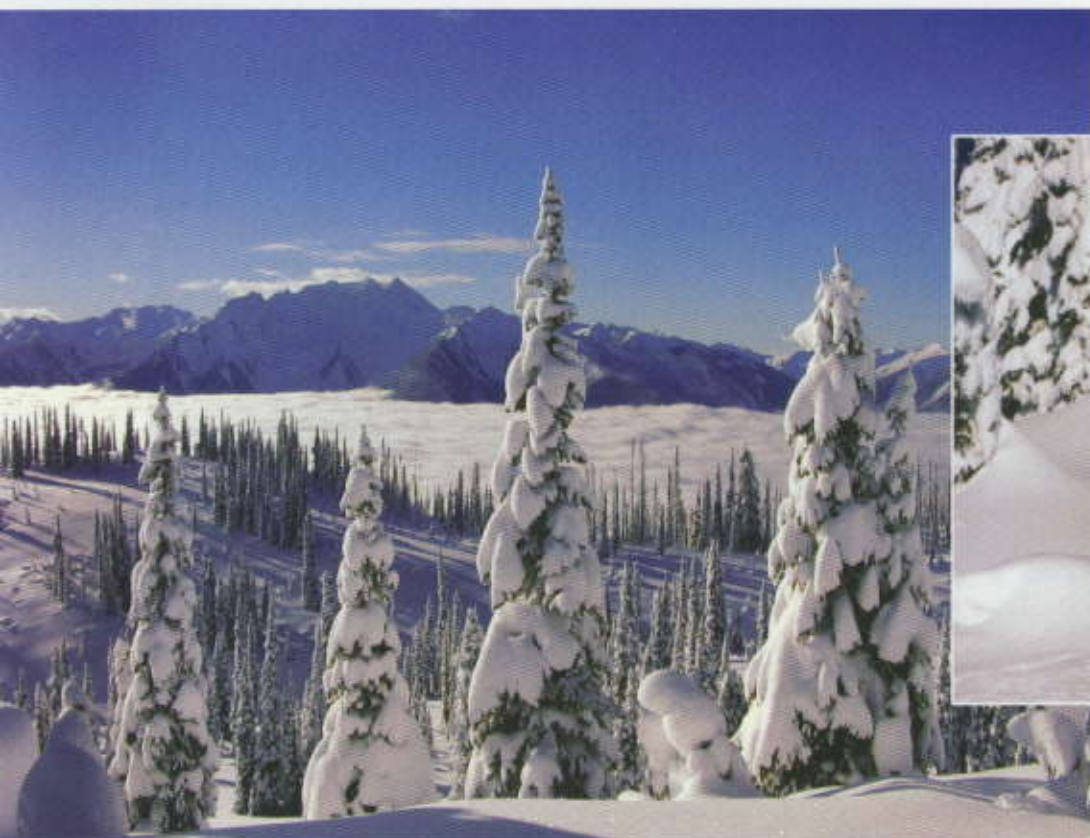
Allan and Brent's years of experience finding the best snow and terrain in their respective areas guarantee skiers favorable snow conditions virtually everyday of their vacation. Weather and snow conditions change quickly in these big mountains; fortunately, snowcats are never "grounded." Great Northern and Selkirk Wilderness both operate new, state-of-the-art powerful snowcat machines



that ensure small groups of skiers a smooth, quiet ride from cozy base lodges to wild, remote terrain and breathtaking scenery. Cat rides average 15-20 minutes, allowing time to rest, warm-up and clean off goggles. Skiers can expect to log 8-12 runs, equating to 12-15,000 vertical feet — but who's counting?

A special camaraderie, unique to cat skiing begins even before guests arrive. From the first call to the reservation office to the very last powder curve, well-trained staff at Great Northern and Selkirk Wilderness sees to it that guests' needs are fully taken care of. On arrival, skiers are given a detailed safety orientation, equipped





(Above) On top of the world, its not just a feeling (inset) Ego-snow-skiing through B.C. powder



with avalanche beacons and instructed in their use. A lead guide and a tail guide who attend to the group's safety and enjoyment on the mountain accompany skiers each day. Guides also offer teaching and assistance in deep powder skiing techniques.

After a full day of skiing, guests ski back to the lodge to reinvigorate with a hot sauna or jacuzzi, enjoy après ski recreation and tasty hors d'oeuvres, or simply relax by the fire. Casual gourmet meals – from eclectic to extraordinary – are shared family-style together with new and old time ski friends. Both Great Northern and Selkirk Wilderness pride themselves in their dedication to customer service excellence and friendly western Canadian hospitality.

Great Northern Snow-Cat Skiing and Selkirk Wilderness Skiing both look forward to welcoming first-time and experienced powder skiers for an extraordinary and unforgettable snow-cat ski adventure this winter in British Columbia.

And skiing aside, these majestic Canadian mountains alone can inspire your reverence and sense of pure wonder. For many, "It's the Cat's Meow". 34



A snowcat chugs up to uncharted bowls of pristine powder

The snowcat season in British Columbia runs from mid-December to mid-April. Skiers should be of intermediate ability and be prepared for a wide range of snow qualities in both alpine and treed settings.

Photography courtesy of Great Northern Snow-Cat Skiing and Selkirk Wilderness Skiing



SNOWCAT SKIING DEEP IN TRADITION....

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