



# Val Thorens

## LES 3 VALLÉES

### 23<sup>rd</sup> FIPS Congress Val Thorens, France April 2022

The 23<sup>rd</sup> FIPS Congress was hosted by FIPS and held at Val Thorens, France from 23-30 April 2022. Ten countries participated with 105 international and ten local attendees.

After informal welcome drinks and dinner on Saturday evening the congress formally commenced on Sunday with the procession of countries with their flags and the congress was opened by local officials Eric Bonnel, Sara Lombruni from SETAM (lift company) Thomas Lachaux (Tourisme office) Raphael Lizy régie des pistes des Belleville. FIPS President, Jean-Louis Tuillon, then extended a warm welcome from FIPS.



The Congress, focused on ski patrol professional development and sharing of new evidence-based protocols and best practices consisted of a series of morning indoor presentations and workshops. In the afternoons, outdoor workshops, demonstrations along with multi-country practical scenarios were presented. There were meetings of various Special Interest Groups throughout the week identifying areas of study for the next congress and review of progress on current activities. National delegates also attended FIPS Board meetings and the FIPS General Meeting.

**PROGRAM for FIPS 2022 at Val Thorens**

*Subject to change*

	Saturday, 23Apr22	Sunday, 24Apr22	Monday, 25Apr22	Tuesday, 26Apr22	Wednesday, 27Apr22	Thursday, 28Apr22	Friday, 29Apr22	Saturday, 30Apr22
	Arrival Day	FIPS Welcome Day	MedicalSIG Day	Medical SIG Day 2	Visit/Free Ski Day	AvalancheSIG Day	Last Day	Departure Day
07:30		Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Goodbye Breakfast
07:40			announcements	announcements	Resort opening & ski with the Patrol option - small groups (must register by Tues lunchtime)	announcements	announcements	
08:30		Official Opening	Presentations and workshops	Presentations and workshops		Presentations and workshops	Presentations and workshops	
09:00		Official Opening/Flag Raising	China - Olympics/Paralympics	Positioning patient in toboggan (Ca)	Mountain Planet in Glenoble or Free Skiing	Avalanche prevention at Val Thorens	Next congress presentations	
09:30			Pandemic - 3 best & 3 improvements	- learning techniques		GPS patrol tracking	Skiers with disabilities	
10:00			Morning Tea	Morning Tea			FIPS/FIS - future Winter Olympics?	
10:30		Val Thorens presentation (indoors)	Handling of injured child	FIPS medical recommendations - minimum core curriculum		Morning Tea	MedicalSIG - update, next congress	
11:00		Service des pistes presentation	CPR for children, Spinal restrictions			Dme rescue actions (Ro)	patrol services for disabled skiers	
11:30		Support for FIPS - Helly Hansen	French ski patrol use of drugs (Fr)			Safety in the snow for kids (book)	HH partnership/congress feedback	
12:00		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
12:30	Check-in day	Presentations and workshops	On-piste activities	On-piste activities	On-piste activities	On-piste activities	Presentations/On-piste	
13:00		Ski Area Visit	MedicalSIG - on-piste	MedicalSIG - on-piste		Avi/RescueDog - on piste	Tech/Disabilities on-piste	
13:30			Management of child injuries	Toboggan driving and patient positioning (Ca)	Mountain Planet or Free Skiing	Avi - Rescue dog demo (Fr)	Duse of Dreonce (Fr)	
14:30	Pick up ski hire equipment	Free skiing	Free skiing	Spinal management		Free skiing	Patroller sled challenge or Free skiing	
15:00				Free skiing				
16:00								
16:30								
17:00	FIPS Exec Meet (if needed)	Board Meeting/Social	SIG Meetings - Medical			SIG Meetings - Medical	Board Meeting	
17:30			SIG Meetings - Rescue dogs			SIG Meetings - Disabilities		
18:00	Welcome to FIPS - Drinks	(includes 2024 congress proposals to Board)	SIG Meetings - Avalanche	SIG Meetings - Technology	LegalSIG	SIG Meetings - Avalanche	Social time	
18:30			SIG Meetings - Technology	SIG Meetings - Disabilities		SIG Meetings - Rescue dogs		
19:00	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Closing Dinner	
20:30							Hotel Restaurant	
21:00	Social time	social event	social event	social event	social event	social event		
21:30								
22:00		Romania	Italy	Scotland / Sweden	United States	Canada / Chile		
22:30								
23:00								

On Wednesday morning patrollers were able to join with the local patrol and assist with opening the resort. Later participants enjoyed a free ski day or went to Grenoble to Mountain Planet: the international meeting place for mountain professionals.

Since 1974, and every two years, the Grenoble exhibition park is home to the biggest international mountain professional trade show. Exhibitors come from all over the world and from every field of expertise in the area, making the show the place to be for meetings, sharing experience, and learning about what the industry has in store for the future. The show gathers together all of the players from the winter and summer mountain industry as well as designers of hilly urban areas. From start-ups to worldwide leaders, including professional and public organizations.



During the evenings, member countries hosted socials sharing local foods, snacks, and drinks. This year Romania, Italy, Scotland and Sweden, United States, Canada, Chile, and Australia together or singularly hosted evenings enjoyed by all. The Congress concluded on Friday evening with the closing dinner during which the FIPS flag was transferred from France to Sweden, the host in 2024. In addition, appreciation for the retiring president, Jean-Louis Tuillon, was expressed by all in attendance and various mementos were presented. The new FIPS president, Marie Nordgren was welcomed to her new position.

## Congress Activities

**In-door and outdoor presentations and workshops** covered a range of topics relevant to ski patrol as outlined in the program shared earlier.

*Presentations from the congress, shared for broader publication will be available for individual use to web registered subscribers on the [www.fips-skipatrol.org](http://www.fips-skipatrol.org) web site*



## FIPS Special Interest Groups

- Some Special Interest Groups (SIGs) met during the Congress to plan for the next two years
- The Special Interest Groups established by FIPS include:
  - Medical
  - Avalanche
  - Technology
  - Risk Management and Legal
  - Disabilities
  - Rescue Dogs
- SIGs also meet using Skype or other social media platforms at various times between congresses
- Patrollers interested in joining any of the SIGs should register via the [FIPS-skipatrol.org](http://FIPS-skipatrol.org) web site or send a message to the Secretary

## The FIPS General Meeting and Board Meetings

The Board met twice during the Congress and included the FIPS Biennial General Meeting. The key outcomes were:

- Reports by the President, Secretary and Treasurer and the challenges of COVID and associated FIPS congress scheduling
- Following the Biennial General Meeting the new Board elected Marie Nordgren (Sweden) as President and thanked Jean-Louis Tuillon (France) for his leadership as President of FIPS over the last eight years
- At the request of the new President the meeting agreed that Rik Head (Australia) will continue as Secretary, and Bruce Lochhead (Canada) as Treasurer and Canadian Government Liaison
- Following excellent presentations from Canada and Sweden during the Congress, the Board decided that the 24<sup>th</sup> FIPS Congress will be at Riksgränsen in Sweden in 20-27 April 2024 and that Canada would have first right of refusal for the 2026 congress.
- FIPS membership fees remain unchanged
- There was an update to the Board on the Helly Hansen donation and associated projects, liaison with FIS and IPC, the international patroller team supporting the Olympics in China
- FIPS welcomed the Omega Team in Montenegro as a National member and thanked Poul Kongstad who retired as Coordinator of the Medical SIG



*A very big thank you to the Val Thorens resort, Jean-Louis Tuillon and to the team, in background, who worked tirelessly to make this a most successful congress.*

This report and, where the authors have agreed, a number of the indoor presentations are available on the FIPS website to registered subscribers for individual private use.

## FIPS Contacts

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