

great adventures

A publication of Zephyr Adventures • Issue 14 / June '05

Skate With A Pro

In 1999, Eddy Matzger joined Zephyr in the Pennsylvania Amish Country for a tour that was designed and run specifically for the media. Eddy, with his fun personality and love of skating, was an integral part of that tour. Since then, we have tried and tried to get Eddy as a "guest guide" on another trip so our customers might enjoy the experience of skating with one of the greatest inline skaters ever. Six years later... Eddy is finally able to rejoin us!

Professional racer Eddy Matzger is one of the most well-known and inspirational inline skaters on the planet. He has won over 100 races, including several national championships, and conducts speedskating workshops for hundreds of aspiring racers each year. He has also won fame by skating with the bulls in Pamplona, racing a cable car in San Francisco, and climbing with skates up both the Egyptian pyramids and Mount Kilimanjaro!

Minnesota Skating Adventure
with Eddy Matzger
September 18 - 22
5 days / 4 nights / \$1400
www.ZephyrAdventures.com/Minnesota3.htm

We snagged him for more ordinary activities, however. Eddy will be a guest guide on a new Zephyr tour in September (not listed in our 2005 catalog). He will join us for a five-day skate tour across Minnesota that will take place immediately after the Northshore Inline Marathon. The trip starts in Duluth, finishes in Minneapolis and rolls across some of the finest paved trails in the country. It also features morning clinics with



Pro Skater EDDY MATZGER joins Zephyr

the master, Eddy. Not only is he an outstanding teacher, but he has a contagious smile and love of life that is truly infectious. This tour is not just for advanced skaters – anyone comfortable skating our medium or long routes will love this tour.

Join us on the "Eddy Tour" this year. You never know...it might be another six years before we offer it again!

Guide Training: Lots of Fun & Lots of Work

By Allan Wright, Owner, Zephyr Adventures

Last month, we flew ten Zephyr guides to Hilton Head Island in South Carolina from eight US and European airports for our biannual Guide Training. In the midst of raucous fun, questionable humor, and silly stunts, other things (that affect you) actually took place, too – the improvement of our guide staff.

At Zephyr we do many things to make sure our guides are prepared to make your trip outstanding. We

created the Guide's Guide, a manual of our standard operating procedures. We maintain for each location what we call a "Cheat Sheet," an extremely detailed summary that lists everything we know about the hotels, restaurants, and activities of each tour we run. We arrive at each tour location in advance, stopping by hotels, confirming restaurant details, scouring the routes and adding new things that will enhance your experience. We sometimes send guides on tours "In Training" when they need to learn a new tour location.

We also hold a Guide Training every two years, meeting for four days to cover every aspect of being a Zephyr guide. It is this part of our training that our guides so love and, I believe, has such an impact on making your tour a great experience. This year, in addition to spending a full day on inline skating instruction (a key growth area for us because of our new partnership with Rollerblade and involvement in Camp Rollerblade), we also spent valuable time:

- Going over the intricacies of tour operations and talking about changes for 2005
- Reviewing our guide ratings (from you) for 2004 and agreeing on how we can do even better
- Paddling in kayaks and taking a group bicycle maintenance class in preparation for our non-skating trips
- Covering "soft" subjects like interpersonal dynamics on a tour

In the end, both our veteran and rookie guides (see other article on our two new guides) not only had a ton of fun, but also came away with new skills, new camaraderie, and new enthusiasm for the tour season!

Meet Two New Zephyr Guides

Kathy McSparran



Married, age 39 and met husband Pete when she was just 17. This year they'll celebrate 19th wedding anniversary

Lives in Phoenix, but grew up in Westchester County, New York. Has also lived in Philadelphia, Seattle, Syracuse and Boston.

After 15 years as a Merrill Lynch Financial Consultant, decided to follow her passion and become a full-time skating instructor. "I used to have lots of money and no time at all to enjoy life. Now I have no money but lots of time...and I couldn't be happier!"

Got her start in skating when Merrill Lynch sent her to help set up a pension plan for a sporting goods wholesaler. "They represented Rollerblade Corporation and the promotional materials were laid out all over their office. It looked like so much fun I just had to try it."

When not teaching skating, can usually be found...skating! Tries to skate everywhere instead of driving. Also enjoys hiking, kayaking and scuba diving.

Volunteers at The Pappas School for children of homeless families and for East Valley Bunny Rescue.

Is totally addicted to (although you'd never guess it by looking at her) ice cream. Favorite flavor was Ben & Jerry's Urban Jumble. "I almost had to go into rehab when they discontinued it."

Credentials include an amazing five IISA teaching certifications: Level

1 (Beginners & Advanced Beginners), Level 2 (Intermediates & Advanced Intermediates), BladeFitness™, Freestyle Dance and Fitness Inline Trainer. Is also a National Examiner (teaches teachers how to teach) for inline skating.

Quote: "Strapping on skates for me is putting on wings. Those wings let you glide, soar and swoop with an effortlessness and a freedom that's pure joy to experience. This year I get to help others discover their own wings at Zephyr's skate camps..talk about an awesome job!"

Gary Passon



Married, 50-something and lives in Ham Lake, Minnesota (a suburb of Minneapolis).

In a former life was a truck driver and is now a personal trainer who works indoors at a local gym and outdoors doing advanced inline skating instruction.

Business name is Trainsmart Sports Conditioning. Trains physical therapy clients and is a Certified Personal Trainer, Sports Conditioning Coach and Group Exercise Instructor (teaches Spin-Cycle, Bosu, Body Pump, Boot Camp, Body Sculpt, and Basic Training classes).

Nickname is "Ironman."

Enjoys skating, hiking, biking, kayaking, canoeing, snowshoe, X-C skiing, and all outdoor sports.

What Allan (Zephyr president) says about Gary: "He is extremely reliable and capable - I know you will all enjoy him."

Trips Gary is scheduled to guide this year include June Nantucket &

Martha's Vineyard Skating & Biking Adventure, Lake Tahoe Multisport Adventure and both September Minnesota Skating Adventures.

Quote from Gary: "I'm excited about my new opportunity to meet people enthusiastic about outdoor adventure. I like TRAILS and to hang with friends who like TRAILS."

Friendly Florida

By Deborah Doyle

Normally one wouldn't expect a 27-year-old man from Boston and a 51-year-old woman from Austin to have much to talk about. But I've learned to expect the most unlikely of friendships to develop on Zephyr trips – friendships born from a shared spirit of adventure and zest for active living. There's just something about rolling along the same trail for miles, reaching out to the same gentle manatee, or tasting your first fried alligator at the same dinner table that instantly breaks down the usual social barriers and bonds our customers together.

I was lucky enough to be a guide on our Florida Skating Adventure this past December. Half of our group were Zephyr Alumni, including seven who had been on this exact tour at least one time in the past. (That's the thing about adventure travel...it's a very healthy addiction!) We spent five delightful days laughing and skating together in the Florida sunshine. The smooth, wide ribbons of the Withlacoochee, Suncoast, and Pinellas Trails were playgrounds under our feet. The paths are so well maintained and so easy to navigate that we could blithely power ourselves along, enjoying great scenery and conversation as we skated and cycled.

The skaters in our group had as little as six months experience on wheels, and as much as several decades. As a guide, I am always happy to lend a supporting arm when a newer skater needs help over a rough patch on the trail, but it truly

warmed my heart to watch as our customers did the same. I felt a pride akin to that of a parent as I witnessed our experienced skaters taking newbies under their wings.

Although skating is the reason most people signed up for this trip, it was only one of many memories we created as the trip progressed. Early on a nippy Sunday morning, 16 of us ventured into the freshwater springs of Crystal River to swim with the manatees. For most of us, this was a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and for all of us, our expectations were greatly exceeded. I was unprepared to encounter such gentle and curious behavior from what looked (and felt) like giant underwater baked potatoes with faces. The inquisitive manatees were out in droves that morning, and although the older, larger ones took little interest in us ("been there, done that" I guess), the younger manatees boldly swam right up to investigate the strange new sea-creatures with neoprene skin and rubber feet. When I timidly extended my arm to stroke the rough surface of a manatee's back, often it would roll over for a tummy rub just like a happy, trusting puppy. Everyone in our group agreed that the rather chilly boat ride back to shore was a small price to pay for connecting with such an incredible species.

After five days of stress-free skating, fun activities, new friendships and great food, I would say our group of 25 customers and three guides formed some bonds that are going to last awhile. So, what did the 27-year-old salesman from Boston and the 51-year-old fitness instructor from Austin have to talk about over dinner, you might ask? Pretty much the same things we would talk about with our "expected" peers... they spoke of family, friends, back-grounds, dating, marriage, relationships, hobbies, etc. And although I don't know this for sure, they might have even talked about skating.

Why Offer Non-Skating Adventures?

You all know we are expanding our adventure offerings from skating to other activities, including hiking, trekking, biking, and multisport trips. However, this flies in the face of a recent survey we conducted where our High Rollers told us skating was their favorite activity.

So, why are we still running non-skating adventures?

First, because they are fun. On our recent Italy Bicycling Adventure we heard over and over from our diehard skaters how much fun they were having on a bike. We know our non-skating trips are fun – we just need to convince our skaters!

Second, because they allow us to run trips where skating is impossible: Montana, Italy, Ireland, and Tibet are all places skating just doesn't work well. Yet these are great places to travel.

Third, because many skaters can't fathom spending five (or seven) days on skates and running non-skating or multisport tours is a great way to get these people to join us. Once they know us and realize how much fun our trips are, we can get them to also try our skating adventures!

We won't give up on skating and will continue to add new skating adventures. However, if you haven't yet tried one of our non-skating adventures, come join us on our Lake Tahoe Multisport Adventure in August. Not only does it include skating, we mix in a couple days of hiking, a day of river rafting, a half day each of mountain biking and lake kayaking, plus an optional swim in the crystal-clear Tahoe water! You will love it!

Lake Tahoe
 Multisport Adventure
 August 14 - 19
 6 days / 5 nights / \$1700



As of 6/15/05

Thank you, High Rollers, for continuing to be such a large part of our success.

We wouldn't be where we are without you!

Below are our High Rollers, preceded by the number of tour days traveled with us.

- 85 Ralph Clayton
- 76 Mike & Pat Knauss
- 53 Ann & Jim Waterman
- 48 Barry Haicken
- 43 Vivian Haicken, Kirk Piepho
- 37 Diane & Richard Madlon-Kay, Marty Springs
- 34 Eddie Lee, Pam Stauffer
- 33 Bobbi Jacobs-Meadway, Hana Meadway
- 32 Rick Gilberg, John Goushian, Karen Handley, Ronen Levy, Rick Otis, Tony Santucci
- 30 Bill Lewis, Jay Meadway, Bill Whalen
- 29 Neil Hindle
- 28 Miriam Hollahan, Cheryl Mendez
- 27 Judi Hoffing, Donna Liotta, Pam Nelms, Laurie Reese, Jeanette Sobania, Madelyn & Ron Spencer
- 26 Francisco Barahona, Susi Pense
- 25 Joe Sabatini, Mary Ann Simet, Phil Thompson
- 24 Marianne Dill, Ginny Hench, Don & Susan Larson, Beth Macchiarolo, Sue Tilley
- 23 Marlena Crovatt-Bagwell, Chris Ellertson, Vicki Engard, Anthony Furio, Wes Johnson, Marian Melish, Dirk Rettberg
- 22 Marcela Pearson
- 21 Vicki Cunningham, Barry Cunningham, Devon Metz, Robert Picardo, Butch Quick, Donna Weidema
- 20 Carol de Onis, Jeff Fass, Christian Imensek, Lynea Kelly, Jolene Larson, Anthony & Mary Klieman, Brian Renaud, Bill & Ruth Sherman, Renate Witt

Thank you!

888-758-8687
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Get Fleeced This Year

And we mean this in the best possible sense! If you travel with Zephyr Adventures this summer and book a 2006 adventure within a week of completing your 2005 trip, you will receive a stylish and comfy black fleece vest (well, this is



how Kris describes it, anyway) with a colorful embroidered Zephyr logo.

You'll receive a copy of our 2006 schedule on your 2005 trip or, for those of you not traveling with us this year, on September 1st.

Remaining 2005 Trips

Netherlands Skating Adventure / Jul-Aug
WAITING LIST ONLY

Lake Tahoe Multisport Adventure / Aug

Switzerland Skating Adventure / Aug
ONLY 3 SPACES LEFT

Tibet Trekking Adventure / Aug-Sep

Minnesota Skating Adventure / Sep
ONLY 2 SPACES LEFT

Minnesota Skating Adventure with Eddy Matzger / Sep

Nantucket & Martha's Vineyard Skating & Biking Adventure / Sep

Camp Rollerblade Hilton Head / Oct
Florida Skating Adventure / Dec

Camp Rollerblade Is A Wild Success

With 25 participants from age 10 to 80, our first-ever Camp Rollerblade "weekend" took place June 4 and 5 in San Francisco. By all measures, the camp (taught by skate guru Liz Miller, Allan Wright and a third local instructor) was a major success and up to seven more weekends are planned for major metropolitan markets in 2006.

Camp Rollerblade weekends offer a "no-frills" way to learn to skate – they don't include the meals, lodging, extra activities and vacation setting that we offer on our five-day camps.

The ultimate goal of these two-day camps is to grow the sport of inline skating. (And, yes, to hopefully create new Zephyr customers.)

Moved recently?
Switched internet service providers?
Please let us know of any updates to your address or your e-address.
Call us at 888-758-8687
or email us at
info@ZephyrAdventures.com
so we can keep in touch.
By the way, we will never give your information to anyone, and we keep our mail to you to a minimum!

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