

## Today Rettenbach Glacier shows its incredible white side of winter

Some say it is pure luck, others are of the opinion that Sölden made a deal with the Weather God. The FIS Audi Ski World Cup Opening ranks among the very special highlights. All meetings of the Organizing Committee take place during the summer months. Generally, it's the season where most sportsmen think about swimming or playing golf. That's exactly not the case with the 35-person team directed by President Jack Falkner; everyone fully concentrates on the coming winter season. Long-term forecasts presented by Race Director Rainer Gstrein are scheduled at the end of every meeting. Predictions on the occasion of the second Organizing Committee meeting at Central Hotel Sölden in July 2009: "The first snowfalls worth mentioning will occur in calendar week no. 42!" As always the team smiled at the early weather forecasts of Race Director Rainer Gstrein. Also today he presented his opinion: "The women's and men's World Cup races scheduled for 14 and 15 October 2009 will not be cancelled due to a lack of snow - if ever because there is too much snow. In high Alpine regions it is always possible that a front carrying snow moves towards the glacier on the race days. But one thing is for sure: we won't have a lack of snow. Additionally, 24 snow making devices produce premium quality snow. We have already started the final slope preparation with a team of 6 experts. In the course of the next days the slope preparation staff will comprise some 40 persons", explains race director Rainer Gstrein.

In Sölden the weather has always been considered as a matter of fact. Nobody can change it, everyone trusts in the Weather God's grace and the expert organizing team. The entire staff is highly professional, thus guaranteeing perfect snow conditions and events. Jack Falkner is proud of the state-of-the-art infrastructures and the premium technical devices on the glacier. From the Glacier Stadium almost the entire race course can be seen – spectators experience the challenging races without stepping on snow! Enough parking areas, excellent food and drinks, and all modern amenities are provided on the occasion of the World Cup Race at some 3000 meters above sea level. Also the Press Center can be found in immediate vicinity to the Glacier Stadium. Within a minute all media partners can take full advantage of the fiber optic network in order to send the latest information from Sölden's Glacier to the rest of the world!

But this year the Organizing Committee came up with another attraction. Monday, 26 October, is a national holiday in Austria. Reason enough to present a live concert on the Ö3 Glacier Stage - performed by Wolfgang Ambros, one of Austria's most renowned pop singers. Highlight of the ultimate Gösser Ski Festival will be a mass karaoke performance similar to the event initiated by Pink Floyd in London a couple of months ago. The audience, some of the ski stars and Wolfgang Ambros will present Austria's unofficial hymn live on stage: "Schifoan" (skiing) finally kicks-off the Olympic Winter Season! The song's final saying will be the motto of this year's World Cup Opening: "... the best thing I can do is to stay until Monday!" We warmly welcome you to Sölden and the FIS Audi Ski World Cup.

Tickets are available in all Austrian Raiffeisen Banks and via Internet at [www.soelden.com](http://www.soelden.com)

Shuttle buses are running between many Tirolean villages, Rettenbach Glacier and back. More detailed information on bus schedules in the single villages or via Internet.