

ASPEN 'FIRE AND ICE'

By Matt Kailey

Fire and Ice, Aspen Gay Ski Week 2009, takes place from January 11-18, with parties, entertainment, hot guys and gals and the most fun you'll ever have in the cold, cold snow – oh, and there's skiing, too! Check out some of the highlights below and find the complete schedule and more information at www.gayskiweek.com.

Ski Week Comedy Show and Downhill Costume Contest

Paul J. Williams (aka Sister Helen Holy), producer, emcee and hostess: "The fun thing about Downhill is that it brings not only the participants of gay ski week but also the residents of Aspen out to see it. That's a great way for the two crowds to mix, and everybody has such a great time. And I try to do everything I can do to make it fun for everybody included. ... You never know what the participants are going to come down in, but it's always a lot of fun and one of the highlights of Ski Week. You can count on the Downhill Costume Contest being well attended and over the top. This will be my eighth year producing the comedy show, and I've



devised a formula where I bring in a gay male comic, a lesbian comic and a drag performer, and the show is affectionately known as A Fag, A Drag and a Dyke. And we're sticking to that again this year, and bringing back one of our drag acts that's done really well in the past, a guy by the name of Mark Alan Smith, who's a phenomenal vocal impressionist, and he just brought the house down when he was there a few years ago. My gay male comic is Scott Kennedy, who's been all over Comedy Central and is a really big old bubba. Most people would never know he's gay because he's kind of a redneck. And Erin Foley is my lesbian, who's really new to the scene and hip and fun."

Purple Reign, Prince Tribute Band

Jason Tenner, Prince: "This is my 12th year. I started doing Prince in the summer of 1997. ... I went out and dressed up as Prince for a Halloween party ... and I was already doing music and had a band, so I decided we should start putting Prince stuff in the show and that was the most popular stuff we were doing, so we're like, 'Hey, this is the town for it – Vegas, impersonators.' ... We script it very loosely. My guys don't have to take acting classes or anything. It's all about the music.

(No one in the band is gay, but) Prince is one of those guys who you don't quite know. I wouldn't be surprised at all if he were (gay). He's kinda got the androgynous thing down, for sure. And I think that's why the producers of (Gay Ski Week) chose Prince – he's kind of got that androgynous thing down. And he's a pretty man. ... We definitely don't do his current thing. He's a Jehovah's Witness now and he doesn't cuss, he's removed all the sexual themes from his performances. I think God *made* sex, personally, so I don't see why there's anything wrong with it. So you can definitely expect to see the nastier side. And then, of course, all the hits."



Aspen Friendship Cup

Glenn Witman, captain of GForce gay hockey team: "Our team is a collection of the best gay ice hockey players in North America. We are on a mission to break down the negative stereotypes that exist in our sport today towards GLBT athletes. From professional teams to amateur rec-leagues and from high schools to colleges, gay athletes still face exclusion, stigma and abuse. GForce's mission is to help change minds and lead a paradigm shift toward a more open-minded understanding of the GLBT athlete. What better way to do it in one of the toughest sports and with an all-star group of players leading the way through very competitive play?"

"We started out playing during Aspen Gay Ski week and we brought up a local Denver gay team. We didn't do too well and lost the first two years. The third year we won, but we knew we had to recruit nationally to stay competitive. So we contacted all the gay teams throughout the country – 20 of them at the time – and



asked them to refer us their best players. Thus we have GForce, and now we have won three years in a row."

Ski Week Celebration

Join *Out Front Colorado*, Baskit Underwear, GForce Hockey Team and Vodka 14 for a Ski Week Celebration from 3 - 6 p.m. on Friday, January 16, with free vodka, underwear giveaways and a meet and greet with the hot guys of GForce. ■