

People@KPMG

## Alpine Adventure

### First-ever KPMG U.S. Ski Competition Connects KPMGers in Steamboat Springs

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In late March, more than 30 KPMG people gathered in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, for a unique networking event: the first-ever KPMG U.S. Ski and Snowboard Competition.

An offshoot of the KPMG International Ski and Snowboard Competition hosted in past years by the Swiss member firm in Davos, Switzerland, the U.S. event brought together partners and professionals from 13 offices across the country, as well as KPMG International's Ireland member firm, for a weekend of friendly competition among colleagues. The trip was open to KPMG people of all skiing and snowboarding abilities, and attracted beginners through experienced racers.

"There's a real spirit of camaraderie that makes this experience about so much more than the race," says **Katie Thiel**, an Audit senior associate based in Nashville who also participated in the KPMG International competition in 2008 and 2009. "Being a member of the team for the past few years has not only reinvigorated my interest in the sport, but also allowed me to meet new people and build long-lasting relationships throughout the firm."



### Grassroots Effort

The plan to host a competition in the States developed shortly after organizers **Michael Clubine** and **Nancy Rovito** received word that the 2010 KPMG International competition had been cancelled due to budgetary constraints. After clinching the top spot at last year's competition in Davos, edging out 68 other teams from 10 KPMG International member firms around the world, the U.S. team was anxious to hit the slopes again – even if it meant paying out of their own pockets.\*

"We believe in this as an event that connects people, and we didn't want to let a whole year go by without it," says Clubine, an Advisory senior manager based in New York who serves as team captain. "We reached out to the captains of the other member firm teams, and while many were not able to participate, the Ireland member firm was thrilled to be able to send some of their people to Steamboat."



Audit Associate Chris Capicotto gets in position at the starting gate.

### In Good Company

The weekend began with a warm welcome from Martin Hart, a KPMG alumnus and former owner of the Steamboat Springs Ski Resort, who hosted a dinner at his home for the KPMG skiers and snowboarders on Friday evening. Also in attendance was former world champion skier and Olympic silver medalist Billy Kidd, now the director of ski services at Steamboat, who mingled with the group and spoke about his experiences in elite international competition.

Early the next morning the participants shifted into competition mode as the race got under way. With snow falling at the top of the mountain, each skier and snowboarder took at least two runs down Steamboat's modified giant slalom course in an effort to clock the fastest time. Adding to the fun of this year's competition was the fact that the course allowed each participant to race head to head against a fellow competitor, something new for those who had taken part in past events.

As daylight faded, the racers rode the gondola up to Steamboat's summit for an après-ski celebration, where they recapped the day's highlights and recognized the top finishers. New York Audit Associate **Chris Capicotto** and Cypress-based Finance and Accounting Manager **Maria Piperova** were named the competition's biggest winners, taking home trophies for fastest male racer and fastest female racer, respectively.

And while performance is part of the experience, says Rovito, a Finance and Accounting manager in Montvale, "more than anything, this year's trip was about getting to know each other, having fun, and sharing our passion for skiing. We had people from all different offices, associates through partners, both CSD and CSS – all enjoying the opportunity to spend time out on the slopes with both old and new friends."

The following people from across the U.S. firm also participated in this year's event: **Marina Boichenko, Harold Bordwin, Cole Harrison, Matthew Davis, David Friedrichs, Charlie Hosner, Mike Isham, Chad Libertus, Robert Liquerman, Ryan Millerick, Glen Moyers, Dmitri Nikiforov, Trey Patterson, Alex Salem, Valeri Startsev, Carl Thorngren, Anastasia Warner, Christopher Young, and Michelle Zauss.**



Maria Piperova clocked the fastest time among the female racers.

If you're interested in being added to the KPMG U.S. ski team mailing list, please contact [Michael Clubine](#) or [Nancy Rovito](#).

\* Please note: This was not a firm-sponsored event and participants were responsible for all associated costs.

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