

VON TRAPP FAMILY

Johannes von Trapp (1939 to)

Sam von Trapp, son (1972 to)

Why come home?

There are so many things to return to, but it breaks down mostly to family and business. I was born here and I grew up right on the property, where my sister Kristina now lives with her husband and two children. I always knew I wanted to come back here and be part of the resort. I studied economics and geography in college (Dartmouth) as a sort of preparation for the family business.

Describe the last two years being back in Stowe.

I'm an extremely gung-ho person, very intense about everything I do, whether it's learning a new language, skiing, surfing. At first, I didn't want to rest. Everywhere I looked I would see things I could help out with, but now I'm learning to pace myself. And I'm learning to balance my love of working outdoors—splitting wood, digging ditches, fixing the deck on the cabin—with interacting with people. At some point I have to accept that my time is better spent indoors.

Since you've returned, Trapps has started making snow for its cross-country trails. Whose idea was that?

The idea came from Charlie Yerrick, the director of our Nordic Center. Initially the plan was to spend the 2007-2008 season checking out basic snowmaking systems and then install one for the following winter. But when I saw I could do a fairly basic portable system, we just went ahead and did it. We dug the ditches for the pipes and put in the hydrants. I enjoyed the topography of it—the physics of nature. It will mean we can stay open a little later and be able to maintain a more predictable level of snow throughout the winter.

For 12 years you've followed the snow as a ski instructor, from Colorado to Chile. This must be a big change.

For 12 years I've pretty much seen only winter—Aspen and then Chile and Brazil. But since I've been back I have loved the flow of the seasons. I still find myself looking forward to