Tux²

Tux visits Tux – about 50 geeks and one huge penguin travelled south to the beautiful village of Lanersbach in Tux, Austria, to hack Linux, drink beer, and hike in the Alps. *By Heike Jurzik*

The municipality of Tux [1], located in the Schwaz district of Tyrol, Austria, comprises the five villages of Vorderlanersbach, Lanersbach, Juns, Madseit, and Hintertux at the foot of the Hintertux glacier. From July 30 to August 6, 2011, hikers and hackers from various countries all over the world conquered the lovely village of Lanersbach for the 13th Linux Beer Hike (see the "Linux Bier Wanderung" box).

Most of us travelled quite a bit to get there, so it was nice to see the local Tourism Association give us a warm welcome, including some free Zillertal beer. (Sorry again for rickrolling you with QR codes!) We set up the hacklab in the "glacier hall" in the newly built "Tux Center," from which we had a beautiful view of the Hintertux Glacier – an amazing sight.

A long-term LBW tradition took place on the first day: A gentle welcome hike to get used to the area and altitude. Apologies again to all of you who expected a nice, easy stroll instead of discovering a geocache near a hidden chapel 2,000 meters (6,562 feet) above sea level.

Ain't No Mountain High Enough

The Hintertux glacier is one of the most popular summer skiing regions in Austria, so it was no surprise that some action happened on top of the mountains. While four of us tested the snow quality 3,200 meters (10,500 feet) above sea level, others found some caves and the "Ice Palace" (a naturally occurring glacial crevasse with mysterious ice formations). We also went on a glacier walk with a mountain guide to learn more about the perpetual ice. The Tux valley offers many excellent hikes and walks.

Some are easy and gentle on geek legs, while others are a bit more challenging and not for people who are afraid of heights. One of the nicest tours was to the Tuxer Joch Hut then down through the Weitental past some spectacular waterfalls.

Geek Games

All in all, hiking is becoming more and more popular at the LBWs, with more walks than talks at the hall – maybe we need to meet at more boring areas to get in more L and less B and W. Despite the huge amount of time we spent outside, some talks were given during the week, including a presentation on practical IPv6 tips, Linux VLANs, and QoS.

Instead of tips and tricks for home brewing, this year we learned how to create something excellent from vodka and (a particular type of) licorice. A practical demonstration showed how to make two variations of the drink called, in various countries, "Dropka," "Salmiakki Koskenkorva," and "Schwarze Sau," amongst others. Of course, samples were provided.

Cheers!

LBW 2011 was again a lot of fun. I would like to thank all the people who helped to make this event special, especially Elisabeth Kröll and Hermann Erler from the Tux-Finkenberg Tourism Association for all their help. Plenty of pubs and restaurants gave us a warm welcome during the week, in particular Hermannsklause in Lanersbach and the Junser Gasthäus'l in Juns – thank you all, we will be back! ∎∎∎

LINUX BIER WANDERUNG

LBW [2] is a week-long event that takes place in a different European country each summer, drawing together open source and free software enthusiasts and friends from more than a dozen countries. It is an entirely volunteer-run event, funded from a combination of donations among the attendees toward the cost of the hall, Internet access, and so on.

INFO

[1] Tux website: *http://www.tux.at/en/*

[2] The Linux Beer Hike 2011: *http://lbw2011.wordpress.com/*