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Autor: Farmer, Colin
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Above: The new Niederhorn aerial cableway, four groups of three cars from Beatenburg.

New - Niederhorn aerial cableway **Bernese Oberland news** by Colin Farmer

This past winter has seen the inauguration of a new attraction in the Bernese Oberland resort of Beatenberg - a high capacity aerial cableway up to the Niederhorn. The new facility replaces the chairlift which has been in operation for a remarkable 49 years. The cableway comprises four groups of three cabins (17 persons per cabin), with a combined capacity of 600 passengers an hour.

The new facility provides a long-awaited link between Lake Thun and the Niederhorn, the total journey now taking only 25 minutes. Passengers arriving at Beatenbucht Station by boat or car (new covered parking facilities have been constructed), take the funicular to Beatenberg as before. The Beatenberg Station is located next to the new Aerial cableway station, with regular departures up to the Niederhorn. At 1950 metres (6400ft.) above sea level the Niederhorn is an excellent hiking area and offers outstanding views of Lake Thun and the Eiger-Monch-Jungfrau region.

1997 IAU World Crossbow Championships

The Crossbow Association and the population of Ringgenburg-Goldswil are organising The

World Crossbow Championships from 7-10 July in conjunction with the Bern Cantonal Crossbow Festival (4 - 13 July). The dual event promises to be a unique sporting occasion.

Another major attraction will be the "Masters of the Top" event on 10th July, following the official World Championship programme. The event on the Jungfrauoch (11,333ft.) will enter the record books as the world's highest altitude tournament in any shooting sport.

On the James Bond trail

For more than 20 years visitors to the Schilthorn have been following in the footsteps of secret agent James Bond. The 2971metre (9748ft) peak was the setting of the film "On Her Majesty's Secret Service".

Last summer saw the introduction of a new aerial cableway with panorama cabins offering double the window area and 10% extra space, also a new James Bond bar offering snacks and drinks, other new facilities include a souvenir shop and newspaper stand, but the main attraction is still the famous revolving 'Piz Gloria Restaurant' - modest prices with an "all round" view of the Alps as you refresh yourself.