

**MOUNTAIN COLLECTIVE PASSES OFFER VALUE AT SIX DESTINATIONS**  
**VAIL RESORTS ADDS ELDORA TO EPIC PASS**  
**FREE CAT SKIING AT LOVELAND**  
**NEW TERRAIN, LIFTS, & SUMMER ACTIVITIES FOR VAIL RESORTS**  
**CHECK ONLINE FOR SKI EQUIPMENT/LUGGAGE TRAVEL FEES**  
**BRECKENRIDGE EXPANDS TERRAIN**  
**SKI AND SNOWBOARD MONTH ATTRACTS MORE STUDENTS**  
**GREEK PEAK GETS NEW OWNERS**  
**CRESTED BUTTE WANTS TO EXPAND ONTO SNODGRASS MOUNTAIN**  
**UPGRADES TO ATTRACTIONS & INFRASTRUCTURE AT ZERMATT**  
**BURKE MTN OFFERS \$25 LIFT TICKET TO CLUB MEMBERS TOMORROW.**



The National Ski Club Officers' Newsflash is emailed each month to America's ski club officers by The National Ski Club Newsletter on a year-round basis to augment our four printed issues which published in November, January, March, and May. If you wish additional club officers to receive the Newsflash, please email their names, club name, their office within the club, and email addresses to <mailto:wilbanks@ski-club.net>

Click on the logo below for a great video to play at meetings to help sell your ski trips to Switzerland.



<http://www.youtube.com/user/myswitzerland>



## **MOUNTAIN COLLECTIVE PASSES OFFER VALUE AT SIX DESTINATIONS**

This year's Mountain Collective passes are \$349, for two days of skiing at each of six destinations: AltaSnowbird, Aspen/Snowmass, Jackson Hole, Mammoth Mountain, Squaw Valley/Alpine Meadows, and Whistler Blackcomb. The card also comes with a 50% discount on all additional days with no blackout dates.

## **VAIL RESORTS ADDS ELDORA TO EPIC PASS**

Vail Resorts has added Eldora Mountain Resort to the Epic Pass for the 2013-2014 ski season, giving Colorado skiers and snowboarders unlimited, unrestricted access. The Epic Pass now features nine resorts across three states and access to 25,080 acres, 35 bowls, and 33 terrain parks at Vail, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge, Keystone, Arapahoe Basin, and Eldora in Colorado; and Heavenly, Northstar, and Kirkwood in California and Nevada at \$689 for adults and \$359 for children (ages 5-12). New this year, Vail Resorts will offer the "Keystone A-Basin Pass," which features unlimited access to two of the closest mountain resorts to the Front Range and some of the best terrain at \$279 for adults and \$199 for children (with limited holiday restrictions). That's only \$100 more than the cost of a four-pack ticket!

## **FREE CAT SKIING AT LOVELAND**

Loveland Ski Area provides free cat skiing access to the North Side of the Ridge on a first-come, first-served basis. When operating, the Ridge Cat will pick up a new group of skiers and riders just beyond the Gate 1 North off Chair 9.

Snowcats will drop skiers and riders off at Gate 4 North. This ski terrain is only accessible by foot or snowcat; there is no lift access here. Ridge Cat tours may be offered when conditions are suitable and to coincide with open terrain north along the ridge from Chair 9, above Chair 4, and toward Marmot. To access the Loveland Ridge Cat, you must have a valid 2012-2013 Season Pass/Lift Ticket and a 2012-2013 Loveland Ridge Cat Access Pass. Pick up a Loveland Ridge Cat Access Passes at no charge at the Loveland Basin Season Pass Office seven days a week 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Guests need to read and sign the Loveland Ridge Cat Access waiver.

## **NEW TERRAIN, LIFTS, AND SUMMER ACTIVITIES COMING TO VAIL RESORTS**

Vail Resort has announced a new six-pack chairlift at Vail, a new on-mountain restaurant at Beaver Creek, and 543 acres of additional ski terrain and two new chairlifts at Breckenridge. They will also spend \$25 million for the first phase of Epic Discovery at all resorts. That's the company's summer activities plan enabled by federal legislation in 2012. The resort will get new zip lines, ropes courses, climbing walls, Forest Flyers (alpine coasters), summer tubing, education centers, and expanded hiking and mountain biking trails at Vail, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge, Keystone, Heavenly and Northstar. The company will also spend \$10 million each on Afton Alps near Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Mt. Brighton near Detroit, Michigan.

## **CHECK ONLINE FOR SKI EQUIPMENT/LUGGAGE TRAVEL FEES**

Thanks to Richard Davidson of Ski Europe for sending us a link to check out bag fees:

Check it out at

<http://www.snowpak.com/news/toolkit/skiandsnowboardbagfees.html>.

## **BRECKENRIDGE EXPANDS TERRAIN**

Breckenridge will open Peak 6, a 543-acre ski expansion that includes two new chairlifts. The expansion will increase Breck's skiable terrain by 23%.

## **SKI AND SNOWBOARD MONTH ATTRACTS MORE STUDENTS**

Ski and Snowboard Month/Bring a Friend (LSSM/BAF) for 2013 taught 153,000 kids and adults to ski. That's an increase of more than 50,000 new skiers over 2012.

## **GREEK PEAK GETS NEW OWNERS**

A federal judge approved the sale of Greek Peak, New York, for \$6.76 million to two local businessmen, John Meier and Marc Stemerman. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the principal lender and receiver, did not register any objection.

## **SUMMIT AT SNOQUALMIE CELEBRATES 75 YEARS**

The Summit at Snoqualmie is celebrated its 75th anniversary on Sunday, March 24, 2013.

## **CRESTED BUTTE WANTS TO EXPAND ONTO SNODGRASS MOUNTAIN**

Crested Butte Mountain Resort submitted a new Master Development Plan to the U.S. Forest Service after their lift-served expansion onto Snodgrass Mountain was refused. The new plan incorporates previous approvals at the main mountain, as well as adjacent private land development projects, new proposals for terrain outside their existing permit area on Crested Butte, and a reduced proposal for Snodgrass Mountain -- the source of controversy in the past. They now propose lower-impact levels of winter and summer activities on Snodgrass Mountain, such as backcountry skiing and snowcat operations, but they're not proposing lift service on Snodgrass, asking instead to expand the terrain and lift capacity on Crested Butte Mountain, including expanding the amount of much-needed intermediate terrain. They propose to add 18 new trails on 133 acres of newly developed terrain which would give the resort 101 trails on 771 acres -- a 21% increase. The plan also adds more than 300 acres of undeveloped sidecountry-style intermediate and expert terrain -- a 33% increase. Overall, they are seeking a 440-acre expansion of the current Special Use Permit boundary.

## **UPGRADES TO ATTRACTIONS & INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ZERMATT**

Switzerland's Zermatt has announced it plans to spend the equivalent of \$1.27 billion U.S. in an initiative called "Strategy 2018." Meeting on the resort's Gornergrat, key partners of Destination Zermatt-Matterhorn signed an action plan committing to an investment plan focusing on constant upgrades to the quality of the resort's tourist attractions and infrastructure as well as creating new tourist experiences and communication.

"Large and long-term investments secure our competitiveness," said Daniel Luggen, Director of Zermatt Tourismus, who stressed that the secret of the success was everyone in the resort working together. Already Zermatt has a slogan for successful cooperation within the village: "Wagaguz," meaning "Wir arbeiten gemeinsam am Gedeihen unseres Zermatt," which translates as "We work together for the success of our Zermatt."

The signatories of the Strategy-Charter are the representatives of the municipality, the Matterhorn Gotthardbahn, Zermatt Bergbahnen AG, the Zermatt Hotel Association, the Chamber of Commerce and Zermatt Tourismus.

Full details of major capital projects resulting from the investment have not been published; however, while stressing the need for sustainable development the resort has spoken of creating a World Cup ski run, creating a "spectacular ski jump run" over the Gornergratbahn tunnel, strengthening and securing its heliski

business, and expanding its summer ski offering. Zermatt is one of only two resorts worldwide that tries to open 365 days a year, weather permitting, as well as boosting non-snow-based summer activities and sports around the resort, according a stellarium and observatory on the Gornergrat. The golf course will be extended to 18 holes, existing sports facilities will be improved and made available for indoor and outdoor use, and a medium-sized events center added.

**BURKE MOUNTAIN OFFERS \$25 LIFT TICKET TO CLUB MEMBERS TOMORROW.**

Vermont's Burke Mountain is holding their first ever Ski Club Spring Fling at Burke Mountain! Ski & ride for just \$25, Tomorrow, Saturday, April 6 if you present your ski club membership card/ID at any ticket window.

**CORRECTION FROM OUR JANUARY ISSUE**

The Florida Ski Council June meeting is not in Tampa as reported in our January issue. They will be at the Mission Inn at Howie in the Hills May 30 - June 2.

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