

National Ski Club Newsflash

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VAIL'S EPIC RACE ATTRACTS 300 SKIERS

For those that thought "who would ski all over the world on Vail's Epic Race? Over 300 people signed up to compete and, just 13 days into Vail Resorts' Epic Race to Ski the World started, 44 racers have skied all 12 U.S. resorts on the Epic Pass and are ready to shift to Europe to ski the 14 participating resorts in France, Austria and Switzerland. With another 50 racers poised to join them by this weekend, this is truly anybody's race. The Epic Race is a season-long competition to visit all 26 resorts spread across four countries that make up the Epic Pass. The reward: The first 10 participants to complete the adventure win skiing and snowboard's ultimate prize – a lifetime Epic Pass. If there are any ski club member participating, please advise The National Ski Club Newsletter at wilbanks@ski-club.net for a future article!

NEW VERMONT ADAPTIVE SKI AND SPORTS OPENS AT PICO

The Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports and the Pico Ski Education Foundation officially opened the doors to their new home, the Andrea Mead Lawrence Lodge at Pico Mountain in November. Vermont Adaptive is the largest non-profit organization in Vermont to offer daily adaptive sports programs throughout the state to people with disabilities. The \$1.3 million, 6,000 square foot building is designed for participants in Vermont Adaptive's programs.

ASPEN'S ADAPTIVE PROGRAM NEEDS HELP IN PARALYMPIC YEAR

"The Aspen Valley Ski/Snowboard Club is launching a time-sensitive fund drive to maintain the continuity of the adaptive program. "Named adaptive club of the year in 2011 and 2012, AVSC, the program which is now at risk due to a funding shortfall." Program funding had been supported by grants from the Department of Veterans Affairs (directed to AVSC from the U.S. Olympic Committee), is still not secured for the current year and it is possible the grant won't be renewed, leaving a potential shortfall of more than \$300,000. AVSC's team of adaptive competitors consists of injured service members, disabled veterans and citizen athletes. For information on the adaptive fund drive, contact Barbara Frank, AVSC development director, at 970-205-5102 or see www.teamavsc.org.

NEW INTRAWEST IPO

Intrawest Resorts Holdings Inc., filed an IPO with the New York Stock Exchange to raise up to \$100 million "for working capital and other general corporate purposes, which may include potential investments in, and acquisitions of, ski and adventure travel businesses and assets." Intrawest operates Winter Park and Steamboat in Colorado, Mont Tremblant in Quebec, Stratton in Vermont and Snowshoe in West Virginia, as well as half of Blue Mountain in Ontario.

BIG SKY'S NEW BEGINNER TERRAIN PARK

Big Sky Resort has added a new beginner terrain park with smaller jumps, rails, and boxes to help guests progress into their intermediate and advanced terrain parks. With the addition of in the new Moonlight Basin area, Big Sky Resort has 9 terrain parks, 3 advanced, 3 intermediate, and 3 offering a progression of features for building freestyle skiing or riding skills.

THE EAST COAST'S FIRST ICE CASTLE

The East Coast's first Ice Castle, a frozen fortress with walls of ice reaching 25 feet high, will debut at Loon Mountain Resort in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. The Ice Castles are created from a large sprinkler system yielding a latticework of icicles. By "growing" icicles at night with sprinklers, and then strategically arranging them, they will craft a palatial abode of frozen stalactites and stalagmites. During the day, visitors will explore an icy stronghold that glows a glacial blue; by night, an array of embedded multicolored lights will transform the castle into a frozen, glowing Narnia. Similiar structures at Steamboat Springs in Colorado and the Mall of America in Minnesota hosted lots of marriage proposals, professional photo shoots, and were featured on Good Morning America, The Weather Channel last year.

NEW SKI HISTORY WEBSITE

The International Skiing History Association (ISHA) recently launched a newly redesigned website, www.skiinghistory.org where you can read articles, conduct research, watch videos, and view vintage ski art. It's the most visited website of information about the sport's past has been dramatically improved and now offers access from mobile phones and tablets. Enhanced search capabilities make it much easier to navigate this content-rich site, which starts with a timeline of events going back to 5,000 BC. Go to <http://skiinghistory.org/> for more information.

PHOTOGRAPH YOUR SKIING FROM A GOPRO HELICOPTER

Val Thorens, in France, is rapidly building a reputation as the world's most technophile-friendly ski resort as skiers will not only be able to hire Gopro® cameras but also enlist the services of the latest remote controlled aerial cameras. Mounted on a kind of mini-helicopter, the Gopro® acts as a remote-controlled aerial camera that hovers a little distance from whatever you want to film. Already being widely used by the world's paparazzi, you can rent a remote-controlled camera with pilot for a 10 minute session this winter for 50 euros from Informations Topphoto Galerie (topphoto.com) which also hires out a regular Gopro® cameras for 35 euros per day (with memory card, accessories, and videos burnt onto DVD) or from 72 euros per week.

ITALY'S BORMIO UPGRADES 44-YEAR-OLD CABLE CAR

Bormio has spent 2 million euros upgrading their 44-year-old cable car which runs between Bormio 2000 – and Cima Bianca. The lift, known as the 'White Peak's Lady' is the only one at the famous Italian resort which can carry pedestrians as well as skiers to the top of the slopes from where there are breathtaking view of the Alps and a cozy restaurant "Heaven 3000." The cable car, opened to public in 1969, the only lift on Bormio's upper mountain that can remain open in strong winds, will re-open at the start of the season in December.

NEW BULGARIAN SKI RESORT IS PLANNED

Bulgarian media are reporting that the French Accor chain, which operates 3,500 hotels on five continents, is planning a new 550 million Euro ski resort in Bulgaria. The project, Destination Rila, is at an early stage, but a million euros have already been spent on planning. The new resort, near the existing ski area of Borovets, is reported to have 155 kilometers of pistes, making it by far the largest ski area in Eastern Europe.

WHERE MOST INTERNATIONAL TOURISTS VISIT

The United Nations World Tourism Organization reports on Top 10 Tourist Nations

1. France with 83 million tourists.
2. The United States with 67 million visitors
- 3-4. China and Spain with 57.7 visitors
5. Italy with 41.2 million tourists
6. Turkey with 35.7 million visitors
7. Germany with 30.4 million visitors
8. United Kingdom with 29.3 million visitors
9. Malaysia with 25 million visitors
10. Russian Federation with 25.7 million visitors



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 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.



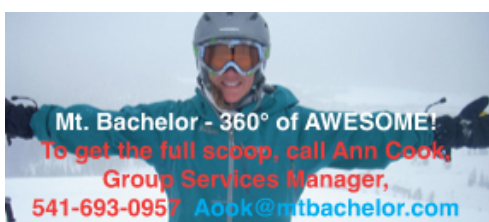
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