

# National Ski Club Newsflash

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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>



## **NORTH TAHOE LAUNCHES FIRST-EVER FREE SKI SHUTTLE**

The North Lake Tahoe Chamber/CVB/Resort Association in partnership with the Truckee/North Tahoe Transportation Management Association and Placer County, the town of Truckee and several ski resorts recently launched the region's first-ever, area-wide Free Ski Shuttle, serving North Lake Tahoe, Truckee and Donner Summit between area lodging properties to 9 different ski resorts on weekends and holiday weeks through March 31. In addition to the Free Ski Shuttle, a number of ski resorts offer their own free ski shuttles, such as Alpine Meadows, Squaw Valley, Homewood Mountain Resort, Northstar California and Diamond Peak. Photo: Northstar's ice rink. Courtesy of Vail Resorts.

## **ZORB RIDE GOES VERY WRONG IN RUSSIA**

A Russian man died and another was injured on January 3, when an extreme attraction went wrong in the republic of Karachayevo-Cherkessiya. Denis Burakov, 27, and his friend Vladimir Shcherbov, 33, were set to roll from the top of Mussa-Achitaro Mountain in a zorb\* made of transparent plastic. A zorb is a huge clear plastic ball that you enter and ride inside. For reasons unknown the zorb went off the trail and fell into a huge gorge with a 70-80-degree slope. The ball flew for about a kilometer and stopped on the ice-covered Peacock's Eye Lake in the gorge. Rescuers had to use skis to get to the lake. Burakov was still alive, but died in an ambulance after being carried out of the gorge -- which took six hours. Shcherbov has been taken to a hospital with concussion and multiple minor injuries. One the guy's friends filmed the ride and uploaded it onto YouTube. See it at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VK3bt7VyQJI>.

## **SEWAGE YELLOW SNOW CAUSED BY RUST?**

After a decade of legal battles, a ski resort in Northern Arizona recently became the first in the world to make artificial snow totally out of sewage effluent. On Dec. 24, Arizona Snowbowl fired up its snow guns for the first time, and to everyone's surprise, the snow that blasted onto the mountain was yellow. According to Snowbowl's manager, the problem was caused by rusty residue in the new snow-making equipment that carries the wastewater directly from Flagstaff, sewage treatment plant. Environmentalists and Native American groups have long opposed the ski area's snow-making plan, arguing that the wastewater snow poses risks to public health and the ecology of a mountain considered sacred by 13 American Indian tribes and the state Department of Environmental Quality, said the agency was "looking hard" into complaints it had received claiming that the presence of the manufactured snow on the slopes violated state laws on the use of reclaimed water, which prohibit ingesting it. sick," said Kaelan, who describes himself as a proficient skier.

## **NOVA SCOTIA SKI RESORTS REQUIRE HELMETS**

Nova Scotia is believed to be the first region in the world where wearing a ski helmet has become compulsory. The Eastern Canadian province introduced the new law at the start of this season in which anyone not wearing a helmet risks a fine of \$250 Cdn. Nova Scotia is home to three small - medium sized ski areas, one of which, Ski Wentworth, was carrying a clear notice about the new law on its homepage, promoted via the new [www.helmetmatch.com](http://www.helmetmatch.com) web site which states; "The Snow Sport Helmet Act is a world-first, designed to keep our noggins safer on Nova Scotia's ski and snowboard hills. Brain injuries are the leading cause of death among skiers and snowboarders of all ages, and helmet use reduces the severity of injury by up to 60%. Helmet laws in France, Italy and some individual states/provinces require children to wear helmets and in the case of Italy threaten fines to ski resorts themselves if children are found skiing without helmets on their slopes, in Nova Scotia parents or guardians are responsible to ensure anyone under 16 in their care is wearing a helmet. 16s and over are responsible for wearing their own helmet, "Getting caught without a helmet could also cost you a \$250.00 fine.

## **LAS VEGAS RESORT DONATES HELMETS TO KIDS**

The Las Vegas Ski & Snowboard Resort has donated over 1,000 ski helmets to local children this season in a program called Lids for Kids. The program after an 11-year old girl died while sledding in a restricted area near the resort.

## **SKI APACHE REPLACED FIRE DAMAGED LIFTS**

Ski Apache's Apache Arrow Gondola was the only passenger gondola in New Mexico when it was destroyed in a massive forest fire last June. The replacement gondola began operation on January 18 and is still the only gondola in the state -- but it's twice as fast as the older gondola that it replaces. The new gondola is part of a \$15 million in improvements over the summer which included two more lifts -- most of those investments were mandated by the fire. Ski Apache is owned by the Mescalero Apache Tribe.

## **STEVENS PASS TO GET NEW LIFT**

The new owner of Washington's Stevens Pass, CNL Lifestyle Properties, has announced a new \$4 million on a ski lift and skiing terrain addition to begin in April and be complete by December. The resort will replace an existing chair lift in Mill Valley at Stevens Pass with a high-speed lift that should cut the ride time in half, the company said. CNL Properties is a nationwide real estate investment trust based in Orlando, Fla., that also owns the Summit at Snoqualmie Resort at Snoqualmie Pass, in Washington.