

National Ski Club Newsflash

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Proposed New Heli-Ski Operation Near Telluride

Vermont Ski Areas Oppose Fine for Out of Bounds Skiers

Silver Mountain Extends Deadline for Sale

Windham Mountain Buying Adjacent Golf Club

Google Maps Now Includes Ski Resorts

Waterville Valley to Expand

X Games Venue May Change

Jackson Hole Intermediate Terrain much improved

No More Volunteer Ski Guides in France

Arlberg To Get new Funitel



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>



Proposed New Heli-Ski Operation Near Telluride

According to the Denver Post, Todd Chapman, a controversial property-rights advocate known for proposing developments to "add value" to remote mining parcels in pristine terrain and forcing the Forest Service or others to buy the properties -- often to prevent the development -- has announced plans to develop a 1,300-acre helicopter- and human-powered ski area in the steep terrain of a basin popular with backcountry skiers near Telluride. He said that he and his partner, Ron Curry, have begun the formal permitting process to access Forest Service land surrounding the 103-acre belt of mining claims they acquired in 2010 -- but the Forest Service says that they have not received any proposal and that part of the area Chapman and Curry are claiming is already inside the permit for Telluride's Helitrax Skiing. Is it an industry shake-up or a shake-down?

Vermont Ski Areas Oppose Fine for Out of Bounds Skiers

Vermont's Public Safety Commissioner and the head of the Vermont Ski Areas Association both that they oppose legislation that would impose a \$500 fine for skiers who deliberately go out of bounds at ski areas, get lost and then require rescue. State officials however say it's a recurring problem when rescue crews are called out, frequently at night and in tricky terrain, to bring thrill seekers back to safety after they get lost or into trouble. The Vermont Senate Judiciary Committee is taking testimony on the proposal.

Silver Mountain Extends Deadline for Sale

Silver Mountain Resort in Kellogg, Idaho, has extended an online auction deadline in hopes of receiving additional qualified bidders. Their original January deadline to sell parts of the resort, ski area, golf course and other properties had the deadline extended to March 19. Terms of the auction were also restructured to make it easier for bidders to choose which elements of the resort on which they wish to bid. The auction includes the 1,600 acre ski area and the three-mile gondola connecting it to town, an indoor waterpark, a property management contract for 270 condo units and 14 commercial units, and the nine-hole Galena Ridge golf course. Jeld-Wen Inc., The current owner whose principle business is window and door manufacturing has invested \$60 million over the past 17 years to make Silver Mountain a year-round destination but then decided in 2010 to focus on their core business and to sell the resort.

Windham Mountain Buying Adjacent Golf Club

Windham Mountain Resort has entered into a basic agreement with Windham Country Club to make the club part of the resort. A majority of the club's shareholders have approved the sale to Windham Mountain Partners, the ownership group behind Windham Mountain. Windham has been focused on developing year round business, and the addition of the club is part of that effort. The country club was damaged by Hurricane Irene in 2011.

Google Maps Now Includes Ski Resorts

Google announced that its Google Maps app, which is available for free on Androids and iPhones, now includes 38 new maps of ski runs and lifts from some of the most popular ski resorts in the United States and Canada. There are also other maps available: Ski TrailMaps Pro, \$3.99 on Android, and iTrailMap, free on iPhone, offers digital versions of several resort maps for download, and also include snow forecasts, weather reports and slope webcams. The Ski Tracks app, \$0.99 on iPhone, is a GPS-tracking app that allows you to record your runs for the day.

Waterville Valley to Expand

The Waterville Valley Ski Resort is to get its first trail expansion in 25 years. The National Forest Service has been studying the proposed expansion and will be issuing a final report this month, after which there will be a final comment period of 30 days. The project would include the construction of one detachable, four-person chairlift, as well as eight new trails and one glade in the Green Peak area. It would increase beginner and intermediate terrain, and offer a more gradual level of terrain challenges at the resort. See more at: <http://www.unionleader.com/article/20130227/NEWS02/130229252#sthash.I072Gx5s.dpuf>

X Games Venue May Change

ESPN has announced that it's entertaining new venues for the X Games with a final announcement due in April 2013. The 2014 X Games will be held in Aspen, Colo., where they have been held since 2002. ESPN has announced a list of eligible winter destinations for 2015-2017 games that include Lake Tahoe, Calif.; Park City, Utah; Le Massif, Quebec; and Aspen. According to their press release, "The aim is to explore different options and determine what is best for the progression and growth of the X Games franchise. Official proposals from the qualified entities were due to ESPN by April 2." Past winter X Games have generated up to \$10 million in revenue for the host location and attracted 20,000 to 25,000 spectators a day, plus a TV audience of 232 million.

Jackson Hole Intermediate Terrain much improved

In a trip report, the Charlotte Ski and Snowboard Club (NC) reports that Jackson Hole's intermediate skiing has greatly improved with the addition of the new state-of-the-art Casper high-speed, 4-passenger, detachable chairlift last summer when the resort also expanded some existing trails to make them more attractive to intermediate skiers. Also, in 2011, they added the Marmot lift that services intermediate terrain from the top of the Gondola to the base of the Thunderlift.

No More Volunteer Ski Guides in France

A court in Albertville, France has said that volunteer guides showing ski groups around a ski resort breaks French law, which states that leaders of organized groups on-mountain must be qualified ski or snowboard instructors. The dispute began when a ski host employed by the British tour operator, Le Ski, was stopped by police on the pistes in the Trois Valles region of France. The guide was informed that his actions were illegal, and was told to report to the Courchevel gendarmerie later that day. The prosecutor in Albertville summoned Le Ski, resulting in the ruling. The ruling against Le Ski will put an end to such service for all British tour operators and could also apply to ski club groups.

Arlberg To Get new Funitel

A new funitel lift with 10 giant gondola cabins will extend the ski slopes in the Arlberg by some 40 miles of pistes and connect several more resorts to the Lech sector for the 2013-2014 ski season. The 1.25 mile long, 12 million euro, Doppelmayr-built Auenfeldjet cable-car will cross the Auenfeld pass to the Geissbühel Alpe creating a link between Lech-Zürs and the resorts of Warth-Schröcken, thus creating a 211 mile long ski area on one pass. With 211 miles of runs, the Arlberg will be one of the world's seventh largest lift and piste linked ski areas and the largest in Austria. However the links are slightly tenuous with the connection between the St Anton and Lech sectors are over fairly extreme terrain accessible only with a guide.