

# 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 [wilbanks@ski-club.net](mailto:wilbanks@ski-club.net).



## SUNSHINE VILLAGE GETS CANADA'S FIRST HEATED CHAIRLIFT

The Banff area's Sunshine Village is building the first heated lift in Canada complete with footrests and bubble covers. It's called the TeePee Town LX and will open this November!

## B.C.'S MOUNT WASHINGTON SKI RESORT SOLD

Vancouver Island's Mount Washington Ski Resort, has announced its sale to Pacific Group Resorts, Inc., which already owns three ski resorts along the U.S. East Coast: Ragged Mountain, N.H.; Wisp, Md.; and Wintergreen, Va.

## NEW LIFTS AT U.S. RESORTS

Utah's **Solitude Mountain Resort**, now owned by Deer Valley, has upgraded the Summit chair to an express quad, creating a faster route to the expert terrain of Honeycomb Canyon.

**Stratton**, Vermont is adding \$8.5 million in upgrades to its base lodge. The now-23,000 square-foot facility houses an upscale cafeteria-style restaurant that will serve up to 400 guests within its two-story design. Called the Summit, it is the highest year-round, lift-served guest facility in North America. The second level of The Summit and adjacent outdoor decks are available for private functions, group meetings, etc.

**Sugarbush**, Vermont, has upgraded Valley House double chair to a quad with a loading conveyor belt which will double uphill capacity.

**Vail Resort** is swapping out the frontside Avanti Express, which was a quad, with a high-speed six-pack with a loading conveyor belt in the hopes of dispersing skiers more quickly from the Lionshead **Purgatory**, in Colorado, has a new high-speed quad chairlift and three new runs just west of the new lift.

## RESORTS LOOKING FOR GOOD SKIERS AS INSTRUCTORS

From SAM magazine: The Fairbank Group's resorts—Jiminy Peak, Mass., Bromley, Vt., and Cranmore Mountain Resort, N.H.—are looking to hire 250 ski and snowboard instructors by late November.

First, the group says that "not all instructors need to be experts." "If a potential instructor is highly motivated, we will teach them to ski or snowboard better through paid training.

Second, the areas are recruiting from a broad audience. "Intermediate level skiers and snowboarders can work as assistant instructors if they're at least 14 years old". Karen Dolan, Cranmore snowsports school director encourages high school students to become instructors, as it looks good on college applications. "We're teaching them life-long job skills, outdoor safety, and people skills. I may be biased, but it's certainly a lot cooler than flipping burgers," she said.

Third, "most part-time instructors at the three resorts work evenings, weekends, and holidays," so schedules can be flexible.

Fourth, there are perks, like skiing privileges.

## LAS VEGAS SKI & SNOWBOARD RESORT TO BE RENAMED LEE CANYON

The Las Vegas Ski & Snowboard Resort is officially changing our name to Lee Canyon -- returning to their original name when established in 1963. According to the resort; Lee Canyon, as a name, reflects more of what we stand for now, and that's an unpretentious year round family outdoor recreation area. In the days to come you will see the resort re-brand to the new name including resort signs, uniforms, brochures, trail maps, and social media.

## NEW OWNER FOR MAINE'S LOST VALLEY SKI AREA

SAM Magazine reports that Scott Shanaman, a New Hampshire tramway inspector, used crowd funding and local events to become the new owner of Maine's Lost Valley Ski Area -- with its 15 trails, two chairlifts and one lodge. The ski hill plans to open for the season on Dec. 18. The ski resort, 35 miles southwest of Augusta, Maine, had been in financial trouble since June 2014. The previous owners were facing almost \$1.6 million in debt.

## NEW LINK AT FRANCE'S PORTES DU SOLEIL

At the Portes du Soleil ski region work to complete the 16 million euro connection between Châtel's Super-Châtel and Linga ski sectors will be completed in time for this winter with a new 6 seater and 4 seater chairlifts, named the "Gabelou" and "Portes du Soleil" chairlifts, make the connection on the French side of the giant French-Swiss with the piste link called "La Forestière" opening this December.

## SKI COOL IN FRANCE'S VAL THORENS WITH A NEW CONCEPT IN SKI SCHOOL

Following a new trend is for shared consumption: car-sharing, apartment-sharing, groups sharing special offers... Val Thorens charging a ski school class 62 Euros and up to five people can join the class, dividing the cost between them. To try the service you go online before your holiday and enter the dates of your holiday, you ski or boarding level, and a brief statement of what you're aiming to achieve. More information from [ski-cool.com](http://ski-cool.com)

## NEW LIFTS IN EUROPE

In **Val Gardena and Alpe di Siusi** the old "Comici 2" double chairlift is seeing a big upgrade to a fast 6-seater chairlift with loading via a mobile carpet conveyor. The new lift cost 3.5 million euro.

The first new high-speed detachable quad chairlift is due to go in to service at **Les Houches** in France's Chamonix Valley this winter and will replace the Cha and Chamois drag lifts and will transport 2000 passengers per hour.

**Engelberg** Switzerland has added a new eight-seat gondola which will take visitors directly from the valley station to the mountain at Stand, a vertical ascent of nearly 4,600 feet, in just 16 minutes

## #1 SKI DESTINATIONS IN THE WORLD

Despite poor snow conditions last season, France sold 53.9 million skier days last season. The United States was a close second, with 53.6 million skier days and Austria was in third place with 51.8 million.

## EUROPE AND CANADA "ON SALE"?

As of late October, the Swiss Franc was .98 to the U.S. dollar and the Euro was .91 to the dollar (down from an average of 1.33 in 2014) and the Canadian dollar was worth about 76¢ U.S. (down from .91 average in 2014) That's great for U.S. ski clubs that want to ski outside the U.S. -- as ski trips to Europe and Canada are basically "on sale." See the average annual exchange rates for the past 20 years at <http://www.usforex.com/forextools/historical-rate-tools/yearly-average-rates>.

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## WHAT SKI CLUBS' TRIPS WERE COUNTED IN OUR ANNUAL

"WHERE ARE AMERICA'S SKI CLUBS SKIING THIS SEASON" Article? Click below.

>> [Click here.](#)