

CRESTED BUTTE MOUNTAIN RESORT WELCOMES WINTER BIKING AFTER 31 YEARS IN BUSINESS, ASPEN'S MCDONALD'S HAS CLOSED NEW GONDOLA AT JACKSON HOLE SKI AREAS FORM MOUNTAIN PLAYGROUND GROUP QUEBEC'S MONT SUTTON TO BE PURCHASED MT. ROSE -- NEAR LAKE TAHOE AND RENO -- IS FOR SALE SQUAW VALLEY MOVES BOTTLED WATER FROM STORE SHELVES CRANMORE TO BUILD NEW BASE AREA THE SPY AMONG US INDOOR SKIING IN FLORIDA FAILS TO GET OFF THE GROUND



CRESTED BUTTE MOUNTAIN RESORT WELCOMES WINTER BIKING

Crested Butte Mountain Resort has decided to welcome bikes during the winter months. With the rise in popularity of "fat bikes" within the biking industry, the resort realized the opportunity of allowing winter riding enthusiasts to enjoy the slopes with other "uphill" users. Almost three years ago, the resort launched an established uphill policy for skiers who were seeking to "skin up" the mountain before and after lift hours, due to the popularity of the sport at the time. The resort also hosted the first Borealis Fat Bike World Championships, January 28 - 31, 2016. The Winter Biking policy is similar to the resort's Uphill Policy for skiers. Winter biking is only allowed before and after ski resort operating hours, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. All bikers need to stop by the Adventure Center between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to review the biking policy, sign a waiver and receive a sticker for their pass.

AFTER 31 YEARS IN BUSINESS, ASPEN'S MCDONALD'S HAS CLOSED

The Aspen Daily News reported that would-be patrons found a locked door and a sign that read, "This business has permanently closed. Thank you for the years of patronage!" As one of the town's longest running businesses, the Aspen McDonald's first opened amid controversy in 1983. But since then, it has served as one the town's cheapest spots to get a coffee, burger, or ice cream. According to Paul Nelson, the franchise owner, McDonald's made the decision to close some underperforming restaurants and the Aspen location was on the chopping block.

NEW GONDOLA AT JACKSON HOLE

Jackson Hole has announced it will shortly be starting work on a new gondola for the 2016/2017 season. The new Sweetwater Gondola which will be located between the existing Bridger Gondola and Teewinot High Speed Quad and will have a mid-station approximately a third of the way up the mountain in the Solitude area, then continue up to terminate just uphill of the Casper Restaurant. It will feature eight-passengers cabins that will take 7.5 minutes to make its ascent.

SKI AREAS FORM MOUNTAIN PLAYGROUND GROUP

Five independent community ski areas have banded together to form the Mountain Playground Group, a new consortium created by the Mountain Rider's Alliance to cultivate a viable niche market in small resort skiing by promoting "the authenticity and uniqueness of soulful ski areas." The five ski areas are: Elk Ridge, Arizona; Bald Mountain, Idaho; Mt. Abram, Maine; Hurricane Ridge, Washington; and Beartooth Basin, Wyoming. The group hopes to share business tips on regular conference calls and benefit from insight into their collective successes.

QUEBEC'S MONT SUTTON TO BE PURCHASED

A group of Quebec investors has agreed with the majority shareholders, the Boulanger family, to acquire Ski Sutton Inc., the owner of the Mont SUTTON ski resort. A meeting will take place in March of 2016, opening the floor for shareholder comments and opinions regarding the offer. While the investors have reached an agreement with the majority shareholders, the acquisition is pending subject to several conditions including acceptance by the majority of the Ski Sutton Inc.'s minority shareholders.

MT. ROSE -- NEAR LAKE TAHOE AND RENO -- IS FOR SALE

After 45 years as majority owner, Fritz Buser, 95, has decided it's time to sell Mt. Rose Ski Tahoe and retire so has put the property up for sale. Over the last 15 years, Buser oversaw millions of dollars in capital improvements to the resort, including adding the Winters Creek Lodge, installing two high-speed six-passenger lifts, and expanding terrain to include the challenging Chutes runs. Mt. Rose includes about 1,200 skiable acres, with a mix of private property and land leased from the U.S. Forest Service. Future projects are still in the works including the goal of expanding the resort into terrain across Highway 431.

SQUAW VALLEY MOVES BOTTLED WATER FROM STORE SHELVES

In an effort to reduce plastic waste in nearby landfills, Squaw Valley-Alpine Meadows has removed water in plastic bottles from its shelves and replaced them with refillable bottles and filling stations. The move, believed to be the first by a winter resort in the United States, is promoted as a campaign not only to reduce waste in landfills used by the resort and surrounding communities, but also a way to urge its customers to change behavior and other resorts to follow suit.

CRANMORE TO BUILD NEW BASE AREA

Boston entrepreneur Joe O'Donnell, along with the father-son team of Brian and Tyler Fairbank (of Jiminy Peak, Bromley, and Cranmore) detailed a \$50 million plan calls for a Cranmore slopeside development called "Kearsarge Brook," which will have lodging, residential, and retail. But their goal is actually bigger: to re-invigorate North Conway, N.H., back to being the iconic ski town it was in the mid 1900s. The plan includes, when complete, 106 new residential condominium residences at the base of Cranmore, and six new buildings that will eventually replace all existing facilities there, with the exception of the ticket office building that was renovated in 2010, and the newer Artist Falls Lodge. Also, the classic Meister Hut will remain as it has been for decades—part of the resort's goal to embrace its history while taking on major change.

THE SPY AMONG US

Last May, 2015, 60 minutes aired the program "The Spy Among Us" which was about Joe Reilly, a retired FBI Agent, and Ptarmigan Ski Club member, Joe Reilly. The Ptarmigan Ski Club of Pennsylvania was privileged to have Joe speak at our ski club meeting in January and recount his most interesting case as an FBI agent. Joe Barsky held a job at some of the top corporations in the U.S. and lived a seemingly normal life--all while spying for the Soviet Union. On a tip from a former KGB agent Joe began following Barsky, which subsequently led to his capture. Sometimes posing as an ornithologist while spying on Barsky, Joe had some very funny and interesting stories to tell which included the hunt, the capture, and the friendship established which has continued today.

INDOOR SKIING IN FLORIDA FAILS TO GET OFF THE GROUND

Plans for Indoor Skiing in Central Florida Fall Through. Xero Gravity Action Sports said this week that their plan to construct a \$309 million, 14-story tall skiing, surfing and snow tubing venue, skateboard and BMX park, and indoor snowball fight center, along with a 250-room Hyatt hotel with rooftop pool and bar, hinged on acquiring land along US-192 east of Celebration, and that deal has fallen through. More. First Tracks!



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.

Contact Andrew Kwang at Vail Resorts about any of our 11 world-class destinations
720-524-5073
akwang@vailresorts.com

Contact Ryan Dohnal at Vail Resorts about any of our 11 world class destinations.
303-404-1839
rdohnal@vailresorts.com

Mt. Bachelor - 360° of AWESOME!
To get the full scoop, call Ann Cook, Group Services Manager,
541-693-0957 acook@mtbachelor.com

Telluride Ski Resort Ranked #1
By Condé Nast Magazine

Telluride Ski Resort
For group rates, contact 888.483.5754 or groupsales@telski.com

