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**SKIING A MOVIE SET BATTLEFIELD IN RUSSIA --**  
**OR SKI A REAL BATTLEFIELD IN ITALY'S MT. VICETTA TUNNELS**  
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**NEW CHAIRLIFT AND DRAG LIFT FOR CHAMONIX**



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).

## **SKI VISITS TO WESTERN NORTH AMERICA BOUNCE BACK**

The 'El Niño weather system is being credited with a 50% jump in skier visits over the previous exceptionally poor season. The snowpack figures were back up to 'average' after the four drought years and according to data from the National Ski Areas Association (NSAA) in the US visits to ski areas in the southwest region (California, Nevada and Arizona) increased by 53.1 percent over the previous year, reaching a total of 7.38 million. Whilst the Pacific Northwest saw a huge 141.5-percent growth to 4.83 million visits. Utah posted their best stats for a decade. Nationwide however total visits reached 53,925,300, only a 0.6 percent increase over the previous year as this past season it was a bad winter for New England so numbers dropped there by nearly a third.

## **CHILDREN MUST WEAR HELMETS ON NEW YORK STATE SKI SLOPES**

New York state's senate has passed a law that requires any child skier or snowboarder aged under 14 years to wear a protective helmet on the slopes at the state's ski areas. The terms and conditions, including the age to which children must wear helmets and the penalties for not doing so, as well as whether the ski area or the parent or both are liable, varies from one region or country to another.

In New York state the new law is probably the most lenient in that regard with children aged up to 14 required to wear a helmet and parents liable for a small fine of \$50 (US) if they're found on the slopes without one. The fine can however be waived if the parent shows they have acquired a helmet between being charged with the offense and a subsequent court date. Ski areas are to post signs warning of the new rules and also detail them on lift tickets and other literature.

## **POWDR CORP BUYS COLORADO'S ELDORA MOUNTAIN RESORT**

Powdr Corp. has purchased Eldora Mountain Resort. This amplifies Powdr's presence in Colorado and serves as a strategic complement to Powdr's other Colorado resort, Copper Mountain. "Colorado's Front Range is one of the best ski markets in the world. Expanding our footprint here, with now two of the most accessible resorts to serve those passionate skiers, is an enormous honor," said John Cumming, CEO and owner of Powdr. "Eldora is admired as a leading entry point and training ground for children and beginners. We want to work hard for more people to join us in the adventure-filled world of snow sports."

## **THE EAST TENNESSEE MOGUL MASHERS CAPTAIN FOR A DAY 2016 PROGRAM**

Captain for a Day is The East Tennessee Mogul Mashers annual event that takes mentally and physically handicapped adults at Dawn of Hope residents on a boat ride, provides lunch, and gives the residents a gift bag will be on July 29. Dawn of Hope is a day facility in Johnson City, TN. This year's event on will be South Holston Lake and its Friendship Marina is providing their marina, 3 pontoon boats, and a place for lunch. There will be about 25 residents and their counselors. Residents will arrive at the marina around 10:00 pm. Club members will help them onto the boats, drive around the lake, come back to the marina and have lunch.

## **ARLBERG TO BE THE LARGEST AUSTRIAN SKI REGION IN 2016-2017**

Austria's Arlberg ski region will be the country's first to offer almost 200 miles of lift linked runs when a huge project to physically join the two largest sectors around Lech and St Anton by installing four new gondolas this summer is completed next winter. The lift-linked part of the Arlberg will then total around 190 miles of runs, plus 21 miles of runs not-linked in nearby areas of Sonnenkopf or Pettneu. With 211 miles of linked runs the Arlberg also moves in to the world top 5 in terms of size. How long the Arlberg will remain Austria's largest after 2016-2017 remains uncertain as a few of the other big areas are reported to be considering mergers that could potentially take them up to 218 to 250 miles of linked-runs size.

## **RUSSIA PLANNING A "WAR THEME" SKI RESORT**

The Hollywood Reporter reports that Russia's new Citadel ski resort is about to give people something they never knew they needed: A place to enjoy snow sports and combat. Russian movie director Nikita Mikhalkov has won Oscars for his war films (Burnt by the Sun, Best Foreign Language Film, 1995). And the director recently made his ski industry debut by opening a ski resort that based on those films – the slopes will be decorated to look like battlefields. Barbed wire and war-torn tanks included. The resort will also double as an education center for the people of Russia. "Ski slopes will be located on an imitation battlefield, marked with barbed wire, which will be made of rubber. There will also be burnt tanks, but you won't get injured bumping on them," Mikhalkov said. The resort will be built in Russia's Volga region, near the city of Nizhny Novgorod. That's also where some of Mikhalkov's war movies were filmed. The Russian resort is scheduled to open to the public within the next three to four years.

Editors note: For those who just can't wait a few years to see a battlefield from their skis or wish to see a real (not a movie set) mountain battlefield, you can always take the battlefield tour of Mt. Vicetta which was the site of a major WWI battle in 1917. It's in the Dolomite Superski area and you can go through real battlefield tunnels used as defenses and housing by the Italians, as well as by the Germans and Austrians a century ago near Marmolada. I skied there several years ago, toured the tunnels, and found the whole experience really fascinating! Bob Wilbanks

## **DUBAI TO BUILD NEW INDOOR RESORT 3 TIMES LONGER THAN ITS 400 METER-LONG SKI DUBAI**

According to U.K's Guardian, Dubai's newest addition to skiing is a 1,200-meter ski slope to stretch from the Meyden racetrack to Burj Khalifa. Dubai's current indoor resort, Ski Dubai, is 400 meters long, so the newest project will be three times larger than the already massive ski sanctuary. It's also estimated to cost roughly \$6.8 billion and house up to 78,000 people once it's fully completed within the next five years.

## **NEW CHAIRLIFT AND DRAG LIFT FOR CHAMONIX**

Two new lifts have been announced for Chamonix's Le Brevent ski area next winter. The Parsa chair lift is currently being upgraded to a new detachable six-seat chairlift with the former fixed-grip lift removed. The Leitner built lift will cut the uphill ride time to under four minutes and increase capacity on the route to nearly 3,000 people per hour. The old drag lifts will also be replaced by one modern drag lift. The new lifts will mean better skier flow in the sector and better facilities for beginners.