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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.



MT. BACHELOR GETS NEW LIFT FOR 2016-2017

Mt. Bachelor and Powdr Corp. today announced they have signed a contract with lift manufacturer Doppelmayr to install a new east side chairlift, the Cloudchaser, in time for the 2016-17 holiday season. The high-speed detachable quad chairlift, which represents a capital investment of approximately \$6 million, was approved by the U.S. Forest Service in 2013 as part of Mt. Bachelor's 10-year Master Development Plan. The lift's location on the mountain's east side will provide greater protection from the elements during inclement weather. The additional 635 acres of lift-served terrain accompanying the new lift pushes us 4,318 skiable acres to make Mt. Bachelor the fifth largest ski area in the United States."

BRITISH TOUR OPERATOR FIRST TO OFFER SKI TRIPS TO IRAN

Mountain Heaven, a family run ski business best known for organizing chalet holidays in the French Alps is offering guided tours to ski areas in Iran next season, after the easing of United Nations sanctions against Iran, and a fact-finding mission to the country's ski resorts by Mountain Heaven last winter. Iran has a long history as a ski nation and is home to around 20 ski areas including some of the highest in the world. It has a reputation for powder snow and warm hospitality, as well as comparatively low prices for visitors from Western Europe and North America. Mountain Heaven is initially planning to run two trips for about 20 people on each trip. Each trip will be eight days long and include three of Iran's leading ski areas – Dizin, Shemshak, and Darbandsar as well as sightseeing in Tehran. The trip, excluding airfare, cost starts from about \$1,600 based on two sharing with a \$220 supplement for a single room. The package includes airport transfers, guides throughout the tour and entry to sightseeing attractions in the cities as well as most breakfasts and dinners, but does not include lunches or lift passes – both of which are around half the cost of equivalent ski areas in the Alps. Although the tour operator reports Iran is a friendly and welcoming place and getting to the ski areas from the UK is relatively straightforward, with the main resorts quite close to capital Tehran, they advise that travel to the Islamic Republic does have certain issues to be aware of. A visa is required and anyone with an Israel stamp in their passport may be refused entry. Mountain Heaven also points out that women must wear head coverings in public, that alcohol is banned in Iran -- making apres ski a much more low key experience than in the Alps or North America. See details at: mountainheaven.co.uk/resorts/Iran/iranian-ski-experience

VAIL LOOKING AT RESORTS IN ASIA AND CANADA

Vail Resorts is reported to be looking to expand on to a third continent, Asia, and also possibly closer to home with its first purchase in Canada – where the US dollar has significantly increased its buying power in recent years. Interviewed by Patrick Thorne, AKA the Snow Hunter, at the start of the Australian 2016 ski season next month, Vail's CEO Rob Katz said that business into the US was down from all international markets except for Australia because of the strong dollar. He said that the purchase of Perisher, and the introduction of the group's Epic Pass there (which allows season ticket holders to ski at any of the company's US resorts and other partner resorts around the world, as well as Perisher itself, on any day, for one payment), had led to double digit growth in visitors from Australia and Mr Katz added that the country was now the largest international incoming market for Vail Resorts in the US. Mr Katz also said that Vail was now looking to buy more resorts with possible acquisitions in Canada and Japan "a higher priority." He said Vail had also looked at resorts in China, including the country's two most popular winter sports regions, Harbin in the far North East and outside Beijing.

COLORADO SUPREME COURT SAYS AVALANCHES ARE INHERENT DANGERS OF SKIING

The Colorado Supreme Court ruled in May that avalanches are among the "inherent dangers of skiing" so ski resorts can't be held liable for people killed by slides within their boundaries. The 5-2 ruling came in a lawsuit brought by the widow of Christopher Norris, who was killed in 2012 after being caught in a slide on a designated run in Winter Park. Colorado's Ski Safety Act limits the state's ski industry to \$250,000 in damages from lawsuits filed by the family of those killed. That cap has been tested many times since the legislation was enacted in 1979, but no jury or court ever has awarded injured skiers or bereaved families more than that amount. The law includes a list of the potential dangers that skiers assume the risk for, such as ice, packed powder, cliffs and trees but not avalanches specifically. However, it does include "snow conditions as they exist or may change," and the Supreme Court ruled that covers inbound avalanches. In a dissent, Justice Monica Marquez argued that unlike weather, snow conditions or terrain, the average skier does not have the training to assess the risk of an avalanche. According to the dissent, Montana's ski law was changed last year to say that avalanches do not qualify as inherent dangers, and Alaska ski operators can be held liable if they do not adhere to their avalanche-control plans.

50+ SKI CLUB'S TRIP TO CUBA

New York's 50+ Ski Club is tentatively planing a trip to Cuba, October 27th to November 4th, 2016. They must have a minimum of 15 participants to qualify for a group discount, at a cost that will range between \$4000-\$4500 with all but two meals included (three meals a day). It will also include visas, entrance and/or exit fees, group transportation, and trip insurance up to \$1000. Sightseeing will include Havana, Cienfuegos, Trinidad, and the Bay of Pigs. Most people will never see Old Cuba again as it exists today. And from what they understand, now is the time to go, before modernization changes it into just another tourist destination.