

National Ski Club Newsflash

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NEWEST ATTEMPT TO BUILD AMERICA'S FIRST INDOOR SKI RESORT ANNOUNCED
CLUB MED TO OPEN SECOND SKI RESORT IN CHINA
US SKI AREA BOSS AND OWNER CHARGED WITH USING RESORT IN FRAUD
WHISTLER ANNOUNCE \$345 MILLION SPENDING PLANS
SOLDEN GETS A NEW GONDOLA
ALTA'S SNOWBOARDER BAN TO CONTINUE
NORTH AMERICAN SKI RESORTS STILL OPEN
POLICE SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS, PROVIDES COMPETITION, CAMARADERIE, & CHARITY

NEWEST ATTEMPT TO BUILD AMERICA'S FIRST INDOOR SKI RESORT ANNOUNCED

America's first indoor ski resort dates back to 2004 as New Jersey's Xanadu Meadowlands, but construction stalled several times before a company called Triple Five took ownership of the project in 2013 and revamped the concept with another company called SNOW Operating which plan to open North America's first indoor snow center, Big SNOW America, at American Dream adjacent to the megaplex at the Meadowlands Sports Complex by 2017. The 12-story snow center hopes to offer year-round skiing, snowboarding, and snow tubing, surrounded by a collection of snow-focused retail outlets. Big SNOW America will share American Dream which is supposed to have more than 450 other enterprises, including North America's largest fully-enclosed indoor DreamWorks Water Park, an amusement park, a 285-foot tall observation wheel, luxury movie theatres by Cinemex, a 70,000 square-foot Sea Life Aquarium & Lego Discovery Center, and an NHL-size ice rink. The Dream also features a 460,000 square-foot luxury and fashion area, and 15 full-service restaurants.

CLUB MED TO OPEN SECOND SKI RESORT IN CHINA

Club Med Beidahu situated in China's Jilin province. is a newly-redeveloped resort, and will have 176 rooms, 19 slopes, a fitness room, plus a spa and Jacuzzi is expected to open next season.

US SKI AREA BOSS AND OWNER CHARGED WITH USING RESORT IN FRAUD

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission have brought a case against Ariel Quiros, owner and chairman of Miami-based Q Resorts, which owns Vermont ski resort Jay Peak along with William Stenger, the president and CEO of the resort.

The case alleges that the duo began selling securities a decade ago and since then has raised more than \$350 million from more than 700 investors in at least 74 countries, but that at least \$200 million of that money was 'misused' with Quiros allegedly "systematically looted" more than \$50 million of the investor funds to finance his purchase of Jay Peak, buy a luxury condo, pay taxes and buy another resort.

The case centers on the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program which the US launched in the 1990s to bring in foreign investment by giving foreigners a green card if they invest \$500,000 or \$1 million in a commercial enterprise in the US and created or kept 10 permanent full-time jobs for U.S. workers.

The SEC alleges that Quiros, Stenger and their related companies transferred funds between various investors to conceal shortfalls and budget issues at seven projects, centered on seven securities offerings connected to Jay Peak, with the shortfalls allegedly due to Quiros' taking the \$ 50 million+ for his own use.

Quiros and Stenger are yet to comment.

WHISTLER ANNOUNCE \$345 MILLION SPENDING PLANS

Whistler Blackcomb has announced plans to invest \$345 million on upgrades in a three phase investment, to making the resort a bigger year-round attraction. Planned big ticket items include the Watershed, a 163,000 square foot facility featuring activities like waterslides, the latest deep water surf simulator technology, cliff jumping and rock climbing experiences, a wave pool, hot and cold pools, bowling, food and beverage facilities and retail amenities which will also include a new high-speed lift to replace the Magic Chair and connect Blackcomb's upper and lower bases by 2018.

Arizona to install its first high-speed 6 passenger lift.

Arizona Snowbowl in Flagstaff will install the only high-speed 6-pack in Arizona. The new Grand Canyon Express is a 5.8 minute ride, and new trails and snowmaking will also be added at Snowbowl for next ski season.

NEW CHAIRLIFT IN NEW ZEALAND

Work on the a new high speed quad chairlift at Whakapapa to replace the New Zealand ski area's Centennial Chair double chairlift is well underway. Whakapapa, part of the Mt Ruapehu resort shared with Turoa, is scheduled to open for its 2016 season in June.

SOLDEN GETS A NEW GONDOLA

Solden in the Austrian Tirol is to replace its key Giggijoch gondola, which lifts skiers and boarders from the resort up to the heart of the ski area, this summer. Full details of the new Giggijochbahn are yet to be full released but the resort says the new gondola will be more comfortable, faster and have around 80% higher capacity of 4,500 people / hour which should have a significant impact on peak time queues.

ALTA'S SNOWBOARDER BAN TO CONTINUE

A legal attempt by a group of snowboarders to force Alta Ski Area to open its skier-only slopes snowboarders was stoped by a panel of judges from the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver that upheld a lower court ruling and dismissed the case. The court found that the plaintiff, Wasatch Equality, failed to establish that the ban of snowboarders by Alta constituted an action by the state. Because Alta leases more than 80 percent of its resort from the National Forest Service, Wasatch Equality maintained that the ban violated the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which provides equal protection under the law. But just because the Forest Service annually reviews Alta's lease and operations plan, does not mean the state is forbidding snowboarders, the court found. "In granting Alta's and the Forest Service's motions to dismiss, the district court found that the Forest Service did nothing to influence Alta's decision to ban snowboards and the Forest Services' receipt of a usage fee each year didn't sufficiently involve the government to otherwise attribute the ban to the government," the ruling states. Of Alta's 2,130 acres, 1,800 are leased from the Forest Service. The court's ruling notes that 120 other ski resorts across the country have similar arrangements with the Forest Service, where ski resorts rent the land.

NORTH AMERICAN SKI RESORTS STILL OPEN

Ohio's Erie Shore Ski Club reports that the following ski resorts will be open for skiing in May.

here are their PROJECTED closing dates.

1. Arapahoe Basin - closing June 1
2. Banff Area Lake Louise - closing May 9 and Sunshine Village - closing May 23
3. Killington - closing May 20
4. Mammoth - closing May 29
5. Mt. Bachelor - closing week-end of May 28/29
6. Snowbird - closing May 30
7. Timberline, OR - closing May 25
8. Whistler Backcomb - closing May 30. Whistler Mountain closed on April 17

POLICE SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS PROVIDES COMPETITION, CAMARADERIE, & CHARITY

The North American Police Ski Championships will be held March 18-25, 2017 for active and retired police officers and their guests from across the globe. Police ski teams representing the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Australia, Austria, New Zealand, Germany, and Italy will come together for a week of skiing competition including slalom, giant slalom, super giant slalom, which also allows guests to compete on the same race course within their skill level. You do not need to be an expert skier to compete. If you are not interested in racing, please join us anyway and take advantage of a great ski vacation with a great group of skiers.

Throughout the week of competition, the racers and their families gather nightly for awards ceremonies, camaraderie, and fund raising to benefit the chosen charities. The event is run by volunteers, active and retired police officers. See <http://www.napsc.org/> for details.



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.

Telluride Ski Resort Ranked #1
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For group rates, contact 888.483.5754
or groupsales@telski.com

