

THE U.S. IS NOW THE MOST POPULAR SKI DESTINATION IN THE WORLD
GROUSE MOUNTAIN FOR SALE
WATERVILLE VALLEY ADDS 10 NEW RUNS
POWDER MOUNTAIN ADDING TWO LIFTS
END OF THE ROAD FOR IDAHO'S TAMARACK SKI AREA?
ZELL AM SEE RE-OPENS OLD TERRAIN TO BE PART OF AUSTRIA'S NEXT BIGGEST SKI AREA
AUSTRIA'S KAPRUN ADDS NEW LIFT
NEW SKI TRIP TO KYRGYZSTAN IS FOR YOUR TRULY TOUGH AND ADVENTUROUS SKIERS



THE U.S. IS NOW THE MOST POPULAR SKI DESTINATION IN THE WORLD

Poor snow in France has resulted in the United States becoming the world's favorite ski destination during the 2015-16 season. According to the data from the French ski industry authority, Domaines Skiabiles de France, the US had a 6 % hike to 53.9 million skier days, and French had 52 million -- about three percent less than the past year. The United States held the top spot from 2008 to 2011. But, for the past four years, France has been fiercely boasting the top spot. France continues to be the top ski destination in Europe, however. Austria ended its ski season with 49.9 million -- 4 percent below last year. However, the coming season may bring some good news for Europe as US visitors are likely to increase due to the favorable exchange rates.

GROUSE MOUNTAIN FOR SALE

The CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Company) reports that British Columbia's Grouse Mountain near Vancouver, , after four decades of ownership by the McLaughlin family, is for sale -- including its ski operations and 1,200 acres of property. The popular mountain, which draws 1.3 million visitors annually, has 26 runs and four chairlifts, as well as summer activities.

WATERVILLE VALLEY ADDS 10 NEW RUNS

Patrick Thorne, The Snow Hunter, reports that, Waterville Valley in New Hampshire is working on the first phase of its Green Peak Expansion project which will see 10 new trails cut to provide 45 new acres of skiing and riding this season, serviced by a fixed grip chairlift. This will be Waterville Valley Resort's biggest expansion project in more than 30 years.

POWDER MOUNTAIN ADDING TWO LIFTS

Utah's Powder Mountain ski area is hoping to add two new lifts for the 2016-2017 ski season.

The resort's proposed new "Village Lift," would run up Lefty's Canyon to a planned mountain village development with a second new lift named 'Mary's' continuing on up the mountain from there.

VAIL ADDS THREE QUADS TO WILMOT MOUNTAIN

Vail Resorts are reported to have spent \$13 million on a complete overhaul of their recently acquired Wilmot Mountain in Wisconsin. The historic ski area is one of several smaller Eastern US ski areas (the others are in Minnesota and Michigan) Vail Resorts has acquired as a means of encouraging skiers and boarders to visit Vail's better known international. Skiers at Wilmot Mountain can now purchase Vail's 'Epic Local Pass' for a similar price to what Wilmot-only passes were in the past, but the ticket also now gives them access to world-class skiing at Vail Resorts' nine western resorts, plus Australia's largest resort, Perisher. The three quad chairlifts from Colorado are replacing existing lifts at Wilmot and there are now also two new carpet lifts and a new rope tow as part of a redesigned learning area and a new terrain park -- altogether increasing the area's uplift by almost a half.

END OF THE ROAD FOR IDAHO'S TAMARACK SKI AREA?

Patrick Thorne, The Snow Hunter, reports Tamarack, launched with a \$1.5 billion price tag in 2004 in Idaho, the ski area looks to be going out of business permanently with the news that its remaining chairlifts are set to be auctioned off October 17 for unpaid property taxes. The area was dealt a near terminal blow in 2008 with the global property crash but has managed to remain partially open for most of the past decade thanks to the support of private property owners at the ski area. However local authorities said that land taxes for the ski area have not been paid for three years and now amount to more than a quarter of a million dollars, hence the sale of remaining buildings and lifts valued at over \$5 million. If the taxes are paid in time the auction will be called off, but apparently that's unlikely.

ZELL AM SEE RE-OPENS OLD TERRAIN TO BE PART OF AUSTRIA'S NEXT BIGGEST SKI AREA

Austria's Zell am See has a new lift that will allow it to re-open terrain not used for more than three decades. The ZellamseeXpress 10 seater lift, the first stage in a two year plan to (re)connect Zell am See to the Saalbach- Hinterglemm-Fieberbrunn again, will make Zell am See part of one of Austria's next largest ski areas.

The new lift runs to the top station of the Salersbachköpfl at 1,920 meters, reopening access to once popular downhill runs to the Glemm Valley that resort managers say were used for 50 years between 1930 and 1980. More upgrades are planned in the area for the 2018/19 season as part of the 25 million euro project creating further slopes and an additional cable car connection from and into Glemmtal.

AUSTRIA'S KAPRUN ADDS NEW LIFT

Austria's Kaprun, has the new Schmiedingerbahn lift that replaces the Schmiedinger glacier lifts on the Kitzsteinhorn glacier, becoming SalzburgerLand's highest chairlift. Operating between 2,530 meters and 2,775 meters, the modern 8-seater will include heated seats and pull-down weather-protection hoods.

NEW SKI TRIP TO KYRGYZSTAN IS FOR YOUR TRULY TOUGH AND ADVENTUROUS SKIERS

Snoworks, a British ski tour operator, has added skiing the mountains of Kyrgyzstan for the coming winter. The ski adventure to Kyrgyzstan next February, with accommodation based in traditional yurts, is open to competent skiers who are comfortable on black runs and can ski off-piste. The skiing is exclusively ski touring based and located in the Tian Shan Mountain range, part of the old Silk Road route between the Mediterranean and Asia. The skiing will all be accessed via snowmobiles from the yurt camp and the tour operator says that there's opportunities to explore some of the country and take in some of the culture too. The trip begins on February 11, 2017 and costs just under \$3,000 per person -- which includes 6.5 days ski touring with local guides and a Snoworks Instructor, 10 nights accommodation, most lunches and evening meals, return transfers from the Bishkek Airport and transfers to all ski areas. However, the price does not include flights to Kyrgyzstan. See snoworks.com for more information.



The National Ski Club Officers' Newsflash is emailed each month to America's ski club officers by TheNational Ski Club Newsletter on a year-round basis. 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.