



February 6, 2020

Written by [Doug Waltman](mailto:dwaltman@roadrunner.com), dwaltman@roadrunner.com Edited by [Eddie Svec](mailto:esvecii@gmail.com), esvecii@gmail.com
www.chagrinskiclub.com

Greetings Members & Affiliates
The Upcoming Events
Third Ski Bus Trip!

- SIGN UP NOW!
- Holiday Valley
- February, 9th 2020
- Contact Dave Rock.
- Details inside.

Hakuba Japan Ski Trip Overview

Our club flies out tomorrow to Hakuba, Japan for our first ski trip to that country. We will be staying at the Habuka Nominoki Hotel, right next door to the Hakuba Happo-one Winter Resort.

Our club will definitely ski there but Hakuba is home to ten ski resorts in the Hakuba Valley. It is referred to as the Japanese Alps. While the northern island of Hokkaido is where the really deep pow is, the Hakuba region is the country's most popular ski country. There's no shortage of powder there either

The Happo-one Winter Resort receives 400 to 500 inches of snow per year. It hosted the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano Japan where the alpine skiing, downhill, super giant slalom, and combined slalom events occurred.

It's base elevation is only 2,493 feet above sea level and rises to an elevation of 6,007 feet, for a total vertical drop of 3,514 feet. As ski resorts go, Happo-one is relatively small with only 494 skiable acres and 13 runs. Yes, these aren't the tallest mountains but I know certain members of our club will breathe a whole lot easier as they careen down the mountain.

If the size sounds a bit puny, don't worry. There are an additional 9 ski resorts in the area should

you get bored at Happo-one. All of these resorts are small by Western and European standards, but there are lots of them. Overall, they have over 200 runs in the valley, or as they like to call them— "courses." There are over 2000 skiable acres and 139 lifts. That does not count the extensive back-country skiing that's available.

Altogether they offer an expansive amount of terrain for all skiing abilities. There is something for everyone there, from beginners to experts. The place is famous for their powder, tree skiing, and moguls. Apparently, the Japanese love skiing moguls.

Lifts take some getting used to. Seats are lower than those in Europe and the US. Supposedly most trails are pretty easy, but there is plenty of tough stuff available. Slope pitches can exceed 35 degrees. I've read skiers have to take a lesson on navigating these expert runs before gaining access to them.

What makes their snow so good? We like to call it "lake effect" snow, but they call it "ocean effect" snow. Like many ski areas winds blow over evaporating bodies of water, lift up the moisture, and then drop it down wind in the form of snow. We see this in the Pacific Northwest, Utah, and in the Great Lakes of course.

It also happens in Japan. Frigid, dry, Russian winds blow east and absorb moisture from the Sea of Japan. It's then dumped on the Japanese Alps. The snow has a low water content making it fluffy champagne powder like we see in Utah.

Our crew should find the temperatures relatively pleasant. This time of year day-time highs run in the 20's. I've heard it is generally cloudy.

Our crew going there is going to eat well. This is supposedly one of the best parts of Japanese skiing. Reportedly the food is good just about any place you go, both on and off the slopes. Not only that, prices are pretty reasonable.



Early Japanese skier with a single bamboo ski pole



Ski areas in the Hakuba Valley

History of Skiing in Japan

Eighty percent of Japan is covered by mountains. So it is no wonder this country fell in love with skiing. The only more mountainous countries are probably Austria and Switzerland.

Skiing came to Japan in 1911 by the Austro-Hungarian soldier Major Theodore Edler von Lerch. He came to Japan to assist the Japanese army as an exchange officer. He watched Japanese soldiers trudge through the snow on Mount Hakkoda and suggested they might try skis to get around.

Back then Lerch taught soldiers to use shorter skis and only one long ski pole. Eventually the Japanese adopted the use of two poles within a decade.

The sport first gained popularity in the 1930's when the Japanese government paid another Austrian, Hannes Schneider, to give ski lessons. This was a large scale effort with Schneider at the base of Mt. Fuji giving instruction to thousands of people using a loudspeaker. Schneider was also famous for his three-piece suits, that he always wore, even when he was skiing.

In 1956 Chiharu Igaya won a silver medal in an alpine event, and was this country's first alpine medal in a winter Olympics. To this day, she is the only Japanese alpine Olympian to win a medal.

The Winter Olympics were held in Sapporo, Hokkaido in 1972 and were quite successful. This led to a skiing boom in the country beginning in the 1980's.

Snowboards came on the scene in the 1990's and were not initially welcomed. However, alpine skiing

began to show a decline then. Just as in the USA, resort operators realized that snowboarders had money too and welcomed them to their slopes. Now snowboarding is just as popular as the two planks.

Snowsports took a plunge in the 2000's. Skier visits dropped from 18.6 million in 1993 to only 13 million in 2005. Problems at the time were due to a national economic down turn and resorts still banned snowboards.

Japan is a winter sports Mecca that hosts international skiing events every year. This includes World



Japanese pow day

Cup ski jumping, alpine events, Nordic, freestyle, and snowboarding venues.

There are currently about 500 ski hills all around the country. The word has been getting out internationally about the quality of their powder, also referred to as "Japow."

The Hakuba Valley

In ancient times the Hakuba Valley was known for a type of serpentine stone used for making stone axes. Approximately 2,000 years ago people began settling there and growing rice. Community leaders made large tombs for themselves in the area. In about 1200 AD the area fell in the realm of Emperor Shirakawa who built a palace for his daughter. After her death that palace became a temple.

A road passed through the area used to transport salt from the Sea of Japan to Matsumoto for processing. This ancient road still runs parallel to the current train line.

In 1894, Mt. Hakuba was officially named and shortly thereafter a church missionary and mountain climber, Walter Weston climbed it. He later went on to help establish the Japan Alpine Club in 1900.

In 1899 a Japanese naturalist, Reizo Kono, studied the plants and wildlife of the area only to find the mountains contained many rare plants. This caused the area to become nationally known and it



Skiing in Hakuba Valley is about alpine vistas

became forbidden to collect any plants from the mountains.

Electricity came to the area in 1919 along with the first motor vehicles. Eventually a trainline was built in 1932.

Shortly after skiing was introduced to Japan, Hakuba was recognized as the place for early skiers and mountaineers to go. Locals acted as mountain guides. Small bed & breakfasts began appearing in the late 1940's. Skiing started becoming popular in Japan after the end of the war and this led to the construction of ski lifts in the early 1950's. Happo-ono was built in 1958. Most of the hotels in the area were built during a skiing craze that swept the country in the 1980's.



Hakuba offers off-piste glade skiing with lots of pow

This culminated in 1998 when the Winter Olympics were held in Nagano, with many events being hosted by the local Hakuba resorts. Since then, ski bums around the globe have discovered the area with their numbers ever increasing. Over 200,000 foreigners came to ski there last

year. Consequently signs all over the area are printed both in Japanese and English. Our folks won't have any trouble reading the menus and signs. Bon appetite folks for the food and skiing.

Ski Report for 2/6/20

I was riding the lift with a pair of ski patrollers last night and remarked "This is the worst winter I can ever remember." Both patrollers gave a nod and one gave me a high five. The one then proceeded to tell me of how he got soaked in the "r" on Tuesday night.

Once again we had spring conditions last night at Brandywine. All the runs are open except for Grizzly. That run was mostly covered on Saturday and we even skied it. Now it's mostly grass and dirt.

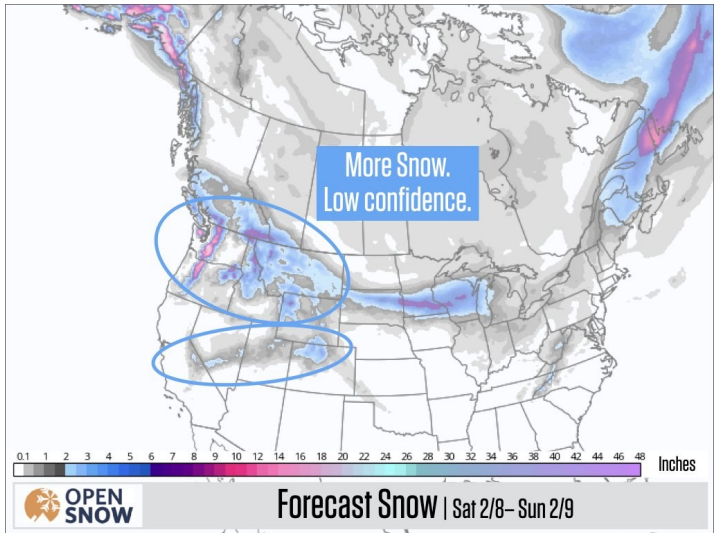
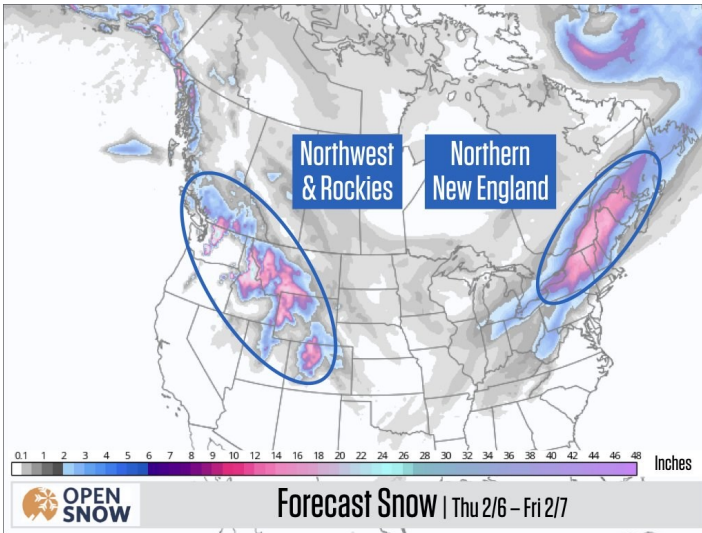
Conditions last night were groomed granular with lots of wet New England powder at the bottom of the hill. Junior, the Great Awesome Weather Com-

puter, tells me to hold fast because conditions will be improving over the next 24 hours.

Western New York expects "r" today with a high in the upper 30's. That will turn over to snow tonight and tomorrow. Junior isn't expecting much accumulation Friday. Some snow is expected Saturday afternoon with a high of 31. For our ski bus trip on Sunday to Holiday Valley we can expect cloudy skies with a high of 38 and maybe a flake or two in the afternoon.

Holiday Valley has 48 runs open now and conditions should improve a bit this weekend. Unfortunately, I don't expect any of the glade runs to be open. Expect groomed granular conditions, hard pack, and icy spots. This trip will likely be a good time to work on your edge control.

Western Pennsylvania will have a high of 53 today



puter, tells me to hold fast because conditions will be improving over the next 24 hours.

This past week we saw snow accumulation of 20" or more at Snowbird, UT, Taos, NM, Whistler-Blackcomb, BC, and Lake Louise, AB. However, in preparing the ski report table I noticed a slight but definite reduction in the bases of many ski areas across ski country. Could that be a sign of spring? I hope not yet.

As you can see in the map above, the Northeast, Northern Rockies, and Central Rockies will see significant snow fall tomorrow. Friday and Saturday will be powder days in New England. The other map shows some heavy snow expected in the Pacific Northwest this weekend. Otherwise it looks to be a fairly quiet snow weekend.

As I said above, conditions are looking good for us locally too. We're expecting a wintery mix today that will turn to snow tomorrow. We're looking at getting just a few inches though. Temperatures Friday and Saturday will stay just shy of freezing with night-time snow making lows. We can expect a little snow on Saturday. Sunday warms up a bit to the upper 30's and cloudy. Next week temperatures will stay in the upper 30's with mostly cloudy skies. There's likely to be some snow in those

and drizzle. That too will turn over to snow tonight and tomorrow. Then expected partly cloudy days over the rest of the weekend with temperatures rising from 30 to 38 by Sunday. Then, bad news, they are expecting three days of intermittent "r."

For our folks going to Japan, Junior sez they expect snow Saturday and Monday. Maybe you're get a chance to enjoy some of that Japow! Temperatures in the early part of the week will be in the low to mid-30's and get warmer as the week progresses. Temperatures will rise to the low 50's by week's end. Expect partly-sunny skies mid-week. Unfortunately, Junior sez there could be periods of "r" Thursday and Friday. I hope that's just at the base for you guys.

I have to go to a ski instructor workshop this weekend so I can't join the folks on the ski bus. I know you're looking forward to Toni's chocolate chip cookies and I'm sorry to disappoint you.

Get out and go skiing or snowboarding.

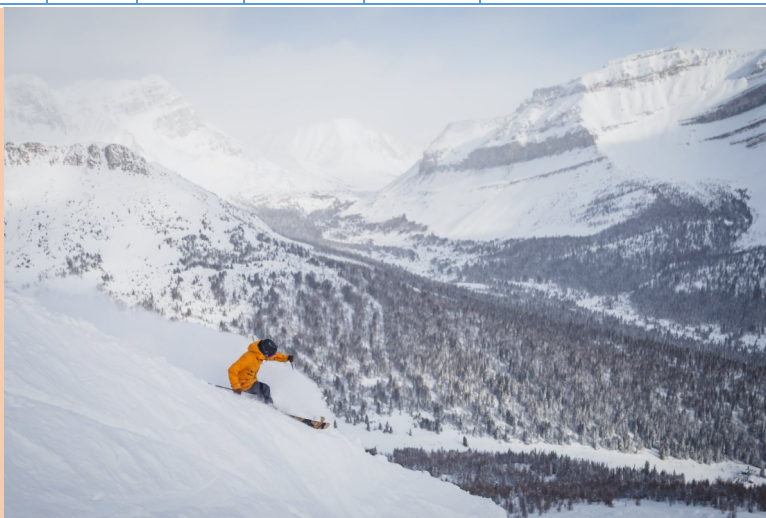
Ski Report for the weekend of February 6, 2019

Resort	open runs	% open	Base	Snow past week	Snow this weekend	Conditions/Comments
Eastern Great Lakes						
Holiday Valley NY	48	80%	22-59"	0"	5"	Machine groomed
Seven Springs PA	29	88%	26-38"	3"	3"	Machine groomed, packed powder
Bristol NY	28	82%	12-40"	2"	2"	Machine groomed, packed powder
Snow Trails OH	17	100%	20-36"	0"	1"	Wet snow, machine groomed
Peek'n Peak NY	25	93%	29"	3"	5"	Packed powder, machine groomed
Kissing Bridge NY	13	33%	6-50"	4"	4"	Machine groomed, packed powder
New England						
Stowe VT	109	94%	36-60"	2"	18"	Powder, HOWL! 15" expected Friday!
Killington VT	117	75%	28"	0"	14"	Machine groomed, hard packed, MEOW! 8" expected Friday
Jay Peak VT	74	91%	30-40"	4"	17"	Machine groomed, packed powder, HOWL! 17" expected Friday!
Cannon Mtn NH	63	65%	11-30"	0"	8"	machine groomed, MEOW! 7" expected Friday
Sunday River ME	109	81%	20-30"	0"	7"	Machine groomed, MEOW! 7" expected Friday
Sugarloaf ME	104	64%	24-30"	0"	9"	Hard packed, machine groomed, MEOW! 8" expected Friday
Catskills						
Hunter Mtn NY	45	67%	18-36"	0"	3"	Machine groomed
Windham NY	39	72%	12-26"	0"	3"	variable, hard pack
Belleayre NY	35	70%	12-24"	0"	3"	Machine groomed
Poconos						
Camelback PA	36	97%	36-50"	3"	2"	Variable
Elk Mtn PA	22	81%	12-40"	5"	8"	Machine groomed, variable, MEOW! 7" expected Friday
Blue Mtn PA	35	88%	30-48"	0"	0"	closed
Upper Midwest						
Boyne Mtn MI	48	80%	42"	3"	3"	Machine groomed, variable
Nubs Nob MI	53	100%	48"	0"	4"	Machine groomed, variable
Granite Peak WI	68	100%	48-88"	0"	5"	Variable, machine groomed
Lutsen Mountains MN	60	97%	30-60"	2"	0"	Machine groomed, packed powder
Mt. Bohemia MI	105	100%	40"	4"	1"	Packed powder, variable
Northern Rockies						
Jackson Hole WY	121	91%	28-90"	13"	6"	Packed powder, machine groomed
Grand Targhee WY	97	100%	87-92"	12"	7"	Packed powder, machine groomed, MEOW! 6" expected Friday
Sun Valley ID	115	96%	39-55"	1"	0"	Packed powder, machine groomed
Big Sky MT	310	98%	45-78"	9"	5"	Powder, packed powder
Lake Louise AB	139	96%	59-64"	26"	2"	Packed powder
Sunshine Village AB	128	86%	55"	15"	4"	Packed powder
Schweitzer ID	92	100%	62-114"	8"	4"	Packed powder, machine groomed
Central Rockies						
Aspen/Snowmass CO	331	98%	37-54"	7"	6"	Packed powder
Vail CO	195	100%	58"	13"	12"	Powder, packed powder, MEOW! 8" expected Friday
Telluride CO	130	88%	44"	3"	2"	Packed powder, machine groomed

Ski Report for the weekend of 2/6/20 continued

Resort	open runs	% open	Base	Snow past week	Snow this weekend	Conditions
Central Rockies (continued)						
Steamboat CO	169	100%	55-74"	14"	18"	Powder, packed powder, HOWL! 14" expected Friday!
Copper Mtn CO	148	99%	39-69"	8"	10"	Packed powder, powder, MEOW! 8" expected Friday
Breckenridge CO	177	95%	51"	7"	10"	Powder, packed powder, MEOW! 8" expected Friday
Keystone CO	128	100%	41"	7"	8"	Powder, packed powder
Winter Park CO	165	100%	54-56"	14"	12"	Powder, MEOW! 9" expected Friday
Snowbird UT	132	94%	105"	21"	2"	Packed powder, machine groomed
Park City UT	331	97%	50-64"	4"	1"	Packed powder, machine groomed
Deer Valley UT	100	98%	66"	3"	4"	Powder, machine groomed
Snowbasin UT	107	100%	83"	9"	0"	Packed powder, machine groomed
Powder Mtn UT	154	100%	66"	17"	0"	Powder
Southern Rockies						
Taos NM	109	99%	70"	20"	0"	Powder, machine groomed
Ski Apache NM	7	16%	38"	12"	0"	Packed powder, variable
Arizona Snowbowl AZ	39	71%	52"	0"	0"	Packed powder, machine groomed
Lee Canyon NV	26	100%	25"	3"	0"	Machine groomed, variable
Pacific Northwest						
Whistler Blackcomb BC	233	99+%	98"	22"	5"	Hard pack, machine groomed
Sun Peaks BC	137	100%	70-78"	13"	0"	Powder, machine groomed
Revelstoke BC	75	100%	79-100"	7"	3"	Powder, machine groomed
Mt. Bachelor OR	113	100%	76-100"	6"	4"	Powder
Mt. Baker WA	38	100%	125-155"	19"	25"	Powder, MEOW! 9" expected Friday
Mt. Hood Meadows OR	35	41%	93-222"	14"	13"	Wet snow, machine groomed, MEOW! 8" expected Saturday
Sierras						
Mammoth CA	154	100%	47-87"	0"	2"	Machine groomed, hard packed
Squaw Valley/Alpine CA	170	69%	43-95"	3"	1"	Packed powder, machine groomed
Heavenly CA	95	97%	29-59"	2"	2"	Packed powder, machine groomed
Northstar CA	1005	100%	18-54"	6"	1"	machine groomed

Foto of the week: Lake Louise 2/2/20



Join us this winter on our day ski bus trips.

Forget the white knuckle drive to Holiday Valley and back. Sit back, sleep, relax, drink, eat, and chew the fat with friends. Then enjoy a day on the slopes at a discount. All trips are on a Sunday.



Chagrin Valley Ski Club Bus Trips For 2020 February 9th & February 23rd



The bus LEAVES the Solon Marcs parking lot (SR 91 north of SR 43 and south of Solon Road) at 6:00 AM sharp.

A second stop is made at the Willoughby Hills BP Gas Station lot (SR 91 north of I-90) at 6:20-6:30 AM. Park at far end of Cracker Barrell/Texas Roadhouse lot.

- The bus leaves Holiday Valley at 4:00 PM.
- Bring your own dinner/beverage.
- The per day of the trip cost will be \$30 per CVSC member and \$35 per guest.

Email your single pay/day reservation to:
daverock46@yahoo.com

Single pay reservations NOT cancelled by the Friday prior to Sunday trip will have member charged \$30.00 bus fee.

Pre-paid members contact Dave by email ONLY if you will not be there.



Pick Up Point GPS address:

**Marcs (Solon) 6231 S.O.M. Center Road, Solon, OH
BP Gas Station (Willoughby): 2481 S.O.M. Center Road,
Willoughby Hills, OH**



Message Dave Rock (daverock46@yahoo.com)
for more info.



Join CVSC members for laughs, bus movies, shared meals, some libation and of course fun on the slopes!

Nonmembers welcome.

\$35 for bus, same discount on tickets (\$56 pp).

Email, Text, Call or Message Dave Rock for more information.

Dave Rock: (440) 622-9516 - daverock46@yahoo.com

Here are the CMCS members' trips for February and March. One Day, Multi-day and weeklong.

The following trips are listed on the Cleveland Metro Ski Council's website under "trips". It is suggested that you search the individual ski club's website to gain more information on any specific trip you may be interested in.

ONE DAY TRIPS

Location	Start Date	Sponsor Club	Trip Leader	Email	Phone
Ellicottville, NY	9-Feb-20	Chagrin Valley Ski Club	Dave Rock	daverock46@yahoo.com	(440) 622-9516
Holimont, NY	12-Feb-20	Fagowees Ski Club	Doc Tony T	holimont@fagowees.com	(440) 225-5035
Seven Springs, PA	14-Feb-20	Stark County Ski Club	Janet Brunecz	bruneczjm@yahoo.com	(330) 412-5415
Ellicottville, NY	23-Feb-20	Chagrin Valley Ski Club	Dave Rock	daverock46@yahoo.com	(440) 622-9516
Ellicottville, NY	28-Feb-20	Stark County Ski Club	Jeri Johnson	skierjkj@gmail.com	(330) 495-9260
Ellicottville, NY	6-Mar-20	Stark County Ski Club	Roberta Graham	skiingdef@gmail.com	(330) 418-2613

MULTI DAY TRIPS

Location	Start Date	Sponsor Club	Trip Leader	Email	Phone
Bristol, NY	7-Feb-10	Beaver Valley Ski Club	Ray Lucci	raymond@luccikitchens.com	(724) 312-7080
Okemo, VT	2-Feb-20	Stark County Ski Club	Scott Hunsinger	huns@roadrunner.com	(330) 340-7548
Kissing Bridge, NY	14-Feb-20	Snowballers	Ron Boetger	rboetger@gmail.com	(440) 951-2568
Canaan Valley, WV	21-Feb-20	Beaver Valley Ski Club	Ray Lucci	raymond@luccikitchens.com	(724) 312-7080
Holiday Valley, NY	21-Feb-20	Fagowees Ski Club	Mark Pillon	mrpillon@gmail.com	
Holiday Valley, NY	13-Mar-20	Beaver Valley Ski Club	Ray Lucci	raymond@luccikitchens.com	(724) 312-7080

WEEKLONG TRIPS

Location	Start Date	Sponsor Club	Trip Leader	Email	Phone
Hakuba, Japan	7-Feb-20	Chagrin Valley Ski Club	Judi Fordyce	juditravels@live.com	(440) 289-5511
Hokkaido, Japan	18-Feb-20	Chagrin Valley Ski Club	Judi Fordyce	juditravels@live.com	(440) 289-5511
Sunday River, ME	23-Feb-20	Suburban Ski Club	Joe Sullivan	joe@suburbanskiclub.org	(216) 932-3636
Mammoth Mountain, CA	29-Feb-20	Lewis Ski Club	Tom Vannuyen	mammoth2020@lewisskiclub.org	(440) 879-8088
Banff, Canada	29-Feb-20	Warren Ski Club	Mary Kirila	mekskier1@gmail.com	(330) 502-9360
Banff, Canada	7-Mar-20	Chagrin Valley Ski Club	Judi Fordyce	juditravels@live.com	(440) 289-5511
Kingington/Sugarbush, VT	3-Mar-20	Sandusky Ski Club	Tina O'Hara	tinacm70@yahoo.com	(419) 357-7158
South Lake Tahoe, CA	8-Mar-20	Goodyear Ski Club	Mary Beth Grether	mbgrether4@gmail.com	(330) 328-3797
Mammoth, CA	14-Mar-20	Fagowees Ski Club	Tom Keller	tomkeller@gmail.com	(216) 224-1066
Lake Tahoe, CA	14-Mar-20	Cleveland Metro Ski Council	Curtis Bell	curtiscmsc60@gmail.com	(330) 240-8005
Red Mountain, BC	14-Mar-20	Erie Ski Club	Vince Dunsworth	red2020esc@gmail.com	none given
South Lake Tahoe, CA	14-Mar-20	Stark County Ski Club	Art Pokopac	pokieman@aol.com	(330) 697-7491
Telluride, CO	21-Mar-20	Suburban Ski Club	Beth Silverman	bethsilverman59@me.com	(216) 799-2001
Lake Tahoe, CA	4-Apr-20	Beaver Valley Ski Club	Ray Lucci	raymond@luccikitchens.com	(724) 312-7080