



March 12, 2020

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www.chagrinskiclub.com

Greetings Members & Affiliates

This week our club is in Banff Alberta skiing the "Big 3." Next week I will provide you with a review of the trip and of the resorts we skied.

Unfortunately, I had to return home early due to a family emergency. Nevertheless, I had three days of good skiing.

The first day we had a powder day at Sunshine Village. I admit I over-did it that day. The next day most of us headed over to Lake Louise on a bitter cold, but beautiful day. I took it easier that day to recoup my strength. Day three many of us went to different areas but a group of us headed back to Lake Louise.

I felt great that day. The light day yesterday really paid off. My skiing got better and I felt more confident as I became acquainted with the terrain. My love affair with Lake Louise had begun. Then I got the call from Toni, my wife, who was still at our hotel room. Events were occurring back home that demanded our attention.

I cut the day short and returned to our room to figure out what to do. After much deliberation Toni and I decided we needed to head home.

Many thanks go out to Judi Fordyce and Sports America for their compassionate response to our need. They got us on a flight home the next day.

The good news was that things turned out all right when we got home, but we still needed to be there.

The Upcoming Events

Spring Dinner & New Officer Installation

Date— Saturday, May 16th, 2020

Place— Mavis Winkles

8870 Darrow Rd. (Rte. 91)

Twinsburg, Ohio 44087

Time— 6 PM cocktails, 7 PM dinner

More details to follow.

In memorium— Franklin Graf "Frank" Miller

On Sunday Eddie emailed us to announce the passing of Frank Miller, long-time club member and past president of our club.

We all recall Frank's good humor and droll stories. He and his wife Mary Jane were wonderful hosts for CVSC functions at their lakefront home in Walden of Aurora. He and his wife eventually brought a winter home in Avon, Colorado. They spent winters skiing at Beaver Creek and Vail. Frank volunteered his time helping out at FIS events hosted by those events.

Eddie attached the following obituary in the Plain Dealer.

Franklin Graf "Frank" Miller

1938 – 2020

Franklin (Frank) Graf Miller, 81, of Aurora, OH and Avon CO, passed away on March 1, 2020 in Cleveland, OH.

Born Cleveland OH November 8, 1938.

Graduated 1960 Case Western University undergraduate degree Mechanical Engineering; Master's Business Administration. Engineer and international business manager Performed Line Products for more than

40 years.

He served on numerous boards including the YMCA in Cleveland Heights and Geauga County. He served as President of the Chagrin Valley Ski Club.

He loved skiing and international travel. He divided his time between Cleveland and Vail Valley Colorado.

Frank is fondly remembered by his wife, Mary Jane Miller, children Douglas Miller and Mark Miller (Caragh McLaughlin), grandchildren Andrew Miller, Michael Miller, Beckett Miller, great-grandchildren John Miller and Aiden Miller.

Preceded in death his grandson, Douglas Miller Jr.

Thanks Frank for helping making our club what it is. Your congeniality, warmth, and good humor shaped the character of our club. Our prayers go with your family. Ski one for us in heaven's back bowls. Save us a spot in the lift line when it's our turn to



join you.

Lift Line Apocalypse

Remember the days back in the 1960's and 70's when you'd wait in a lift line for a half-hour or longer? I remember waiting 45 minutes in a lift line once at Mammoth in 1969.

Yeah, those were the days of slow, fixed grip, double chairs. You'd stand, slowly trudging your way to get on the lift. You'd spend your time sticking a pole in the snow, scraping snow off your skis, and trying to avoid running your skis over the guy's skis in front of you. You spent a lot of time talking with your friends and making sure no one cut in front of you.

You'd try to get to the slopes early because the lines started to get long by 10:30. You'd go out at noon hoping everybody would be in the lodge for lunch. The lines let up again by 2:30, giving you the chance to make some quick runs before the lifts closed for the day. Even with those efforts you'd wait a long time in the lines.

You'd try to go during the week when everybody would be at work or school. Lines were a lot shorter mid-week. The problem with that solution was you'd have to work or be at school too.

Then came high-speed quads and six packs. They ended the long lift lines. People still avoid going on the weekends because they might have to wait 5-10" in a lift line. Gimme a break. Let's have a little gratitude. You don't know what it was like.

Back in February a perfect storm occurred. A storm combining the weather and multi-mountain passes. Millennials had a chance to revisit those long, long, long lift lines of the past.

A storm had just dumped 38" of new snow onto Vail. Everybody showed up for first tracks. This created the mother of all lift lines. People waited up to two hours for their chance to ride the lift.

Worse yet, some people paid over \$200 for the opportunity of waiting in the line. Yep, that's what it costs for a single day pass at Vail.

It was so bad that chief operating officer Beth Howard came out and apologized for the lines a few days later. However, she made no mention of refunding tickets.

Because of the fresh pow people began lining up at the base of the Gondola 1 lift at 6 AM. The lift did not open until 8 AM! When it did open the line was so long it did not clear out until 10 AM.

The line pictured above occurred at Lift 5, the High Noon Express Lift, in the back bowls. By 10:30 on Saturday the line for that lift exceed 30 minutes and only grew longer. Guests tweeted out the Sun-down Bowl was "five minutes of pure joy, followed by 2 hours of misery... not sure the people in the end of that line made it up before closing!"

Fortunately, that did not happen. The line had pretty much cleared out by 2 PM Howard admitted it was "an unacceptable experience for our guests and I apologize to anyone who got stuck in it." To their credit, Vail extended the day by a half-hour so everyone could get that last chair.



Lift line apocalypse

In all fairness to Vail, they weren't the only one with a problem that weekend. The dreamed-of powder turned into a nightmare for many. There were closures on I-70, a delayed opening at A-Basin, and Loveland closed down all together. "Hey, if they're closed, let's just go to Vail," I can hear the ski bums saying as they crawled along I-70. Then there was the parking problem. Lots were full and over 450 cars had to park along the roadside.

Howard praised the Vail staff for stepping up to the extraordinary situation. She commented, "Digging out from that kind of snowfall to get our mountain open and be safe for guests requires a Herculean effort

by ski patrol, lift operations, groomers, and the entire Vail Mountain Staff. We were fully staffed— it was truly an all-hands-on-deck scenario— and we spared no expense to get the mountain open as quickly as possible.

She pointed out the "huge investment" Vail made in high-speed lifts to alleviate lift-line concerns and expressed confidence "this was an isolated incident in the midst of extreme conditions." She admitted waiting in the line was "less than ideal." She expressed appreciation for everyone's patience.

However, not everyone was patient. Line waiters said "there was just a huge blob of people. It was just a horde. Nobody was sure they were in the right lines. Everybody was pretty disgruntled." Line waiters became increasingly dissatisfied. They began throwing snowballs at anyone riding the lift alone.

People began booing the ski schools for cutting to the front of the line. One ski patroller even warned instructors not to come to the High Noon lift because of how upset everybody was.

To help prevent this from happening again Howard promises to improve resort-guest communication. She promised skiers and boarders should see more updates and information on all of Vail's social accounts. The EpicMix smartphone app has been updated to give more accurate lift wait times.

Other ski resorts were quick to capitalize on Vail's woes. Red River Ski Resort in New Mexico were quick to publish photos of their empty lifts. The new *Bluebird Backcountry* ski area, an hour's drive north of Silverthorne CO, pointed out they have absolutely no lift lines ever because they have no lifts. They have everything your typical ski area has (rental shop, restaurants, parking area, ski patrol) but no lifts. There you have to earn your turns. That's no joke. People waiting in the Vail lines tweeted out to their friends they should skin there way out of the back bowls rather than wait in the lines.

Everybody blamed the extraordinary skiing conditions and flood of skiers and boarders. However, Vail has had many complaints over the years about the length of their lift lines. I personally remember waiting a half-hour in a lift line at Mid-Vail once.

No mention was made to the possibility the emergence of the Epic Pass (and by extension the Ikon pass too) contributed to this debacle.

It is quite likely only a few schlubs got caught paying \$209 for a day pass and then waiting in a two-hour line. Most of the people in line had their Epic Pass. Many argue the Epic Pass is responsible for "epic lift lines." The passes are victims of their own successes. Many complain their once personal resort joined the Epic or Ikon pass and now they have to wait in the epic lift lines of the 60's and 70's.

Vail (EPIC) and Alterra/Aspen (IKON) may have reinvigorated snow sports but the unintended consequence appears to be they have also reinvigorated the long lift line too.

Rumblings of this began to occur last season. Locals of noteworthy ski resorts like Big Sky MT began complaining about the towns. Local officials and ski resort executives replied saying "don't bite the hand that feeds you." They pointed out how the influx of skiers and boarders with multi-mountain passes have financially benefited their communities.

Vail has not been the only resort with over-crowded slopes, lift lines, and parking lots. Washington's Mount Rainier has been overrun by multi-mountain pass holders (granting them unlimited use of the mountain) who show up after a big storm.

I may have personally witnessed this last weekend when we skied at Sunshine Village AB, an IKON affiliated resort. When we arrived at 9 AM on this powder day their miniscule parking lot was already full and there was a long line at the gondola base. At the end of the day as I took the bus down the mountain road, cars were parked alongside the road for miles.

Mary Kate Buckley, president of Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, commented the multi-mountain passes facilitate what she calls the "snow chaser." Historically, skiers and boarders planned trips months in advance. However, there is a new breed



A surprising twist- Empty slopes at Passo del Tonale in Italy due to cases of Coronavirus in Northern Italy.

of ski bum with a multi-mountain pass who take a wait-and-see approach, booking lodging just a few days ahead of time in response to predicted snow storms.

Last season Jackson Hole saw good snow and a dramatic increase in their skier visits. Multi-mountain pass holders made up 15% of their visitors and this caused more volume than they could handle.

The long lift lines have led some resorts to drastic measures. Back in December Crystal Mountain WA announced it would no longer sell lift tickets on weekends to help curb the lengthening lift line. They also planned to limited advanced single-day passes. The first weekend under this new policy sold out online ticket sales in less than 24 hours. This is a surprising action since ski resorts typically after the high margin return from single-day weekend lift tickets.

I am sure the snow suits in the ski lodge board room have been contemplating what to do about this. Yes, there will be apps you will be able to tap into telling you where the shortest lift lines are. It is predicted the days of the ticket window sales of lift tickets are gone, along with wire wickets and day-lodge crock pots. I also suspect though, EPIC and IKON will give you less for the same amount of money in an effort to limit access to resorts.

Epilogue

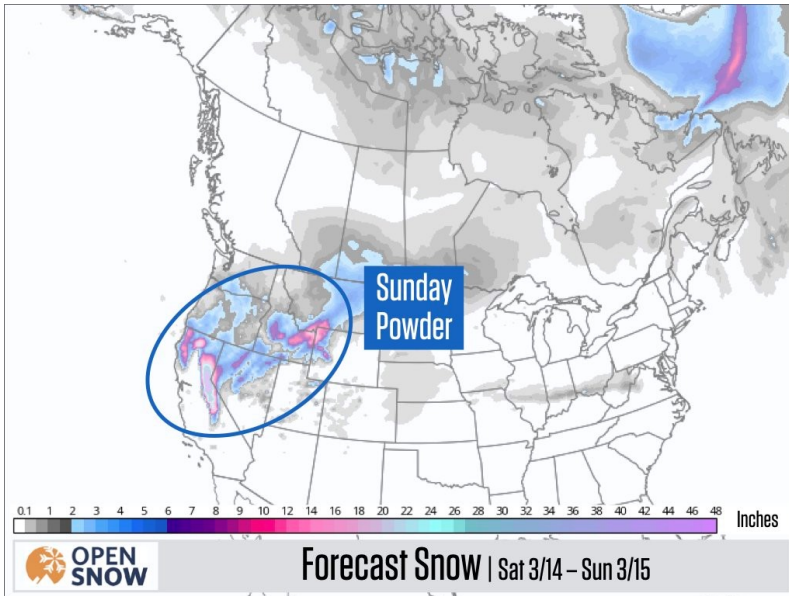
In an odd twist of fate, skier visits have fallen off a cliff in the past week or so. The Italian ski resort Sauze d'Oulx had one of their busiest weekends and then became a ghost town. It turns out there was a spread of coronavirus along northern Italy and

this has led resorts to abruptly end their season. Cases are turning up in Colorado and Wyoming. Coronavirus phobia may be the cure for the long lift line on a powder day.

Ski Report for 3/12/20

Boston Mills will be OPEN this weekend with Sunday being the last day of the season. This is your last chance for some local skiing and boarding.

So tell us oh Great Awesome Weather Computer,



what does this weekend have in store for us.

It looks to be a fairly sunny, with some clouds, and somewhat mild temperature. Friday will be in the upper forties and then drop to the upper thirties on Saturday, and be a fairly mild sunny day in the low forties for our last day of the season.

Junior is calling for some "r" Friday in western New York with a high of 50. Then it will be sun and clouds the rest of the weekend with temperatures in the upper thirties.

Western Pennsylvania will have some "r" Friday, mostly cloudy on Saturday, becoming mostly sunny of Sunday. Temperatures will be in the mid-fifties on Friday and in the low-to-mid forties for the rest of the weekend.

Junior predicts snow will fall this weekend only out west with deep powder (2-3 feet of snow) and likely to continue into early next week. Parts of Idaho and Wyoming could also see significant snow but Junior feels less certain of this.

The storm expected to hit California will move east and bring a few days of snow to Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Colorado, Idaho, Wyoming, and maybe Montana. Snow chasers get your EPIC and IKON passes ready and be making your reservations to your favorite resorts this weekend and into next week.

There was some reduction in percentage of open runs for our region over the past week. There was only an inch or two of new snow and perhaps an inch of snow expected in some areas this weekend.

New England saw a dramatic drop in their percentage of open runs this past week. They received at most 2" of new snow, but this Sunday they get a reprieve. Areas expect between 4 and 9 inches of freshies.

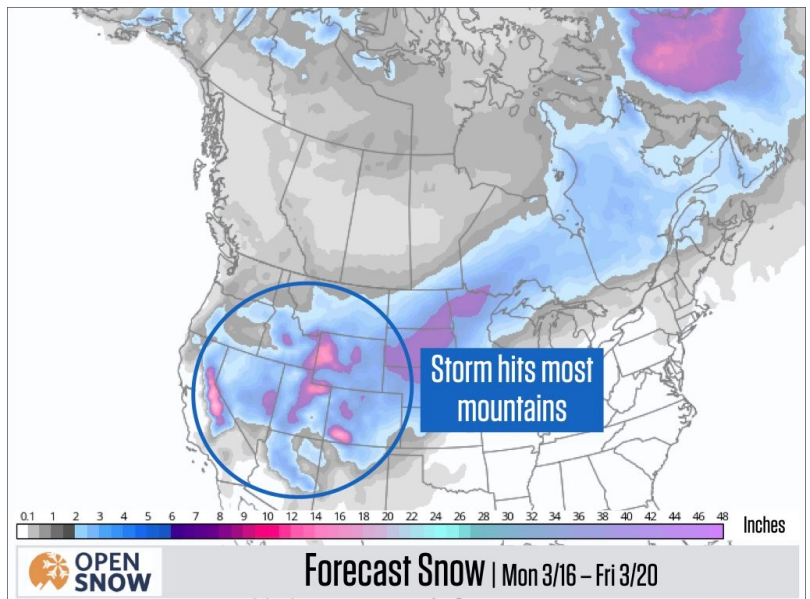
The Catskills saw some drop in their percentage of open runs this week. There was some fresh snow but none is expected this weekend. They have spring conditions.

The Poconos saw no change in their percentage of open runs this week. They did not receive any snow and none is expected. Expect only spring conditions.

The upper Midwest received some new snow this past week but not much is expected this weekend. Some areas cut back in their open runs but others have not.

Some areas in the Northern Rockies got up to 22" this past week and 1-9" is expected this weekend. Some spring conditions are present but it's still winter.

There hasn't been a significant change in percentage of open runs for the rest of the west even though some areas report spring conditions. The place to be this weekend is the



Sierras. They are expecting up to 40" this weekend. The eye of that storm appears to be Squaw Valley-Alpine Meadows. That's an IKON pass for you snow chasers.

Finally, the surprising increase in percentage of runs open occurred this past week in the sampled Southern Rockies' resorts. Collectively they increased their open runs by 11%. They too expect a up to 9" this Sunday. They also have the highest percentage of resorts who are 100% open.

Ski Report for the weekend of March 13, 2019

Resort	open runs	% open	Base	Snow past week	Snow this weekend	Conditions/Comments
Eastern Great Lakes						
Holiday Valley NY	47	78%	18-55"	1"	0"	Machine groomed
Seven Springs PA	26	79%	26-38"	1"	1"	Machine groomed, wet snow
Bristol NY	32	94%	18-40"	2"	0"	Machine groomed, variable
Snow Trails OH						Temporarily closed, perhaps opened this weekend
Peek'n Peak NY	26	96%	12-36"	1"	0"	Machine groomed, variable
Kissing Bridge NY	7	18%	6-50"	0"	0"	Machine groomed, variable
New England						
Stowe VT	67	58%	36-60"	2"	4"	Machine groomed
Killington VT	65	42%	36"	2"	6"	Machine groomed, hard packed, MEOW! 6" Friday
Jay Peak VT	19	23%	43-53"	2"	3"	Machine groomed, variable
Cannon Mtn NH	63	65%	27-75"	0"	7"	Powder, packed powder, MEOW! 7" Friday
Sunday River ME	109	81%	22-30"	0"	8"	Machine groomed, MEOW! 8" Friday
Sugarloaf ME	71	44%	26-32"	0"	9"	Machine groomed, MEOW! 9" Friday
Catskills						
Hunter Mtn NY	45	67%	12-24"	2"	0"	Machine groomed
Windham NY	38	70%	12-32"	0"	0"	Machine groomed, spring snow, no new snow in 2 weeks
Belleayre NY	35	70%	12-24"	2"	0"	Spring snow
Poconos						
Camelback PA	39	100%	36-50"	0"	0"	Spring snow, no new snow in 3 weeks
Elk Mtn PA	25	93%	12-36"	0"	0"	Machine groomed, variable
Blue Mtn PA	39	98%	30-48"	0"	0"	machine groomed, weekends only
Upper Midwest						
Boyne Mtn MI	46	77%	42"	1"	0"	Machine groomed, variable
Nubs Nob MI	47	89%	48"	1"	0"	Machine groomed
Granite Peak WI	68	100%	56-93"	1"	0"	Packed powder, machine groomed
Lutsen Mountains MN	61	98%	30-72"	3"	0"	Machine groomed, variable
Mt. Bohemia MI	105	100%	40"	6"	1"	Spring snow, variable
Northern Rockies						
Jackson Hole WY	132	99%	30-102"	14"	4"	Packed powder, machine groomed.
Grand Targhee WY	97	100%	97"	7"	4"	Packed powder,
Sun Valley ID	104	87%	33-55"	1"	9"	Machine groomed, spring snow, MEOW! 6" Sunday
Big Sky MT	310	98%	60-102"	0"	8"	Powder, packed powder, no snow in 2 weeks, MEOW! 7" Sunday
Lake Louise AB	141	97%	59-77"	17"	1"	Packed powder, variable
Sunshine Village AB	135	93%	81"	22"	5"	Powder, (I can personally attest to this)
Schweitzer ID	92	100%	64-116"	14"	4"	Packed powder, machine groomed
Central Rockies						
Aspen/Snowmass CO	326	97%	46-64"	19"	3"	Packed powder
Vail CO	195	100%	69"	3"	2"	Powder, packed powder
Telluride CO	134	91%	50"	3"	7"	Packed powder, machine groomed. MEOW! 6" Friday

Ski Report for the weekend of 3/13/20 continued

Resort	open runs	% open	Base	Snow past week	Snow this weekend	Conditions
Central Rockies (continued)						
Steamboat CO	169	100%	64-86"	6"	6"	Packed powder, spring snow.
Copper Mtn CO	149	99%	53-83"	3"	4"	Packed powder, machine groomed
Breckenridge CO	187	95%	74"	2"	4"	Powder, packed powder.
Keystone CO	128	100%	54"	4"	2"	Powder, packed powder.
Winter Park CO	166	100%	72-73"	2"	3"	Powder, packed powder
Snowbird UT	136	97%	119"	6"	0"	Packed powder, variable
Park City UT	332	97%	57-71"	7"	1"	Packed powder, machine groomed
Deer Valley UT	103	100%	72"	11"	1"	Packed powder, machine groomed
Snowbasin UT	101	94%	84"	4"	1"	Packed powder, machine groomed
Powder Mtn UT	151	98%	61"	6"	1"	Packed powder, month long drought finally ended
Southern Rockies						
Taos NM	110	100%	73"	5"	8"	Packed powder, machine groomed
Ski Apache NM	47	100%	38"	4"	1"	Packed powder
Arizona Snowbowl AZ	44	80%	60"	0"	4"	Packed powder, machine groomed, no snow in 2 weeks
Lee Canyon NV	26	100%	30"	0"	4"	Powder, machine groomed
Pacific Northwest						
Whistler Blackcomb BC	234	100%	102"	19"	1"	machine groomed
Sun Peaks BC	135	99%	78-87"	6"	1"	Machine groomed, packed powder
Revelstoke BC	75	100%	59-109"	9"	0"	Powder, machine groomed
Mt. Bachelor OR	113	100%	85-95"	3"	4"	Spring snow, variable
Mt. Baker WA	38	100%	175-205!"	54!"	2"	Packed powder, machine groomed
Mt. Hood Meadows OR	75	88%	108-164"	3"	5"	Machine groomed, spring snow
Sierras						
Mammoth CA	146	91%	39-78"	3"	6"	Packed powder, machine groomed,
Squaw Valley/Alpine CA	211	86%	32-86"	1"	40!"	Packed powder, machine groomed. HOWL! , 15-25" DUMPS
Heavenly CA	94	97%	26-52"	0"	15"	Packed powder, machine groomed, MEOW! 7-8" dumps
Northstar CA	93	93%	18-50"	0"	30!"	machine groomed, hard packed. HOWL! 19" Sunday!

Foto of the week — Sunshine Village AB
3/9/20



The season is almost over (for scheduled trips!).

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.

WEEKLONG TRIPS					
Location	Start Date	Sponsor Club	Trip Leader	Email	Phone
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