



March 20, 2020

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COVID-19 KILLS SKI SEASON!

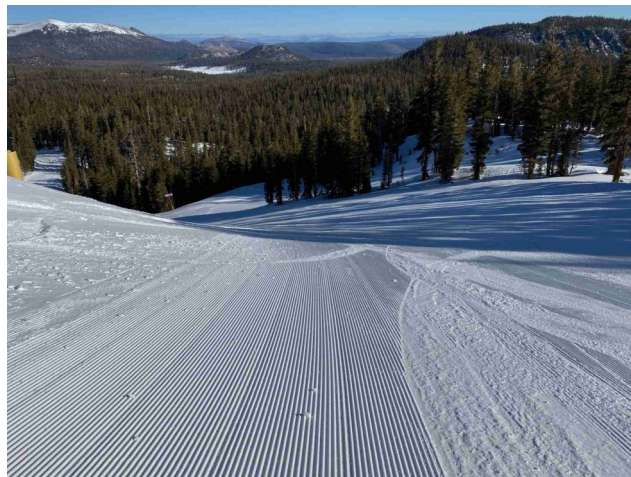
Greetings Members & Affiliates

There are some very disappointed ski bums in north-east Ohio. Locals clubs headed out west to enjoy their ski vacation only to find the resorts CLOSED.

We had the Fagowees going to Mammoth, CA this week— area closed. There is the Cleveland Metro Ski Council and Stark Ski Club at Lake Tahoe this week— areas closed (they probably cannot even go gambling). Erie Ski Club planned to be at Red Mountain BC, this week— area closed. Suburban Ski Club hoped to be at Telluride next week but then the Colorado governor decided to close all the resorts. Well, at least they are not they're not stuck there wondering what to do. However, Silverton Mountain, CO may disregard the governor's mandate.

In hindsight, our club was lucky to get out of Canada. The day after our folks got home Prime Minister Trudeau closed the border. However, US citizens were exempted— for now.

The crisis hit close to home too. Club members Ed



Nicely groomed but utterly empty runs at Mammoth

Svec and Dave Carlson had their trip to Colorado cancelled this week. The disappointment would have been bad enough but they had a triple whammy. They won't be receiving a refund for the condo they rented because technically it is a "government shutdown." That means the condo has no obligation to refund what they paid. The final coup de gras is that they have an unused EPIC pass they are not going to get to use.

I would not be surprised if other local clubs had the

same thing happen to them too.

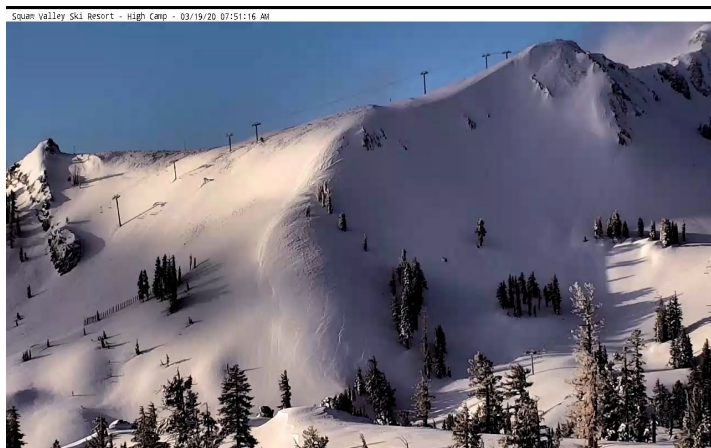
It's a real shame because the Sierras got dumped this week. Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows received a 100" storm! Nobody can enjoy it though, even if you're willing to skin up the mountain. No uphill travel is allowed since it is private property.

Not everybody closed— yet. Banff remained open earlier this week, but closed as of yesterday.

There are other areas open throughout North America but most of these are small resorts. Those open are listed in the ski report. White Pine Ski Resort,

WY remains open and offers a free roll of toilet paper with every purchase of a lift ticket.

However, nearly all of the major resorts have turned off their lifts.



A picture perfect powder day with 100" of new snow at Squaw Valley's Headwall. Too bad we can't enjoy it.

Resorts are in chaos. EPIC and IKON resorts are considering refund requests, but there is nothing definite now. IKON CEO Rusty Gregory commented "Each resort will work directly with guests in canceling their visit and will provide refunds to those who have hotel and other bookings during this closure period." He went on to say they have heavy call volume and requests folks be patient with the process.

Vail so far has not extended refund options for EPIC pass products. They are willing, for now, to refund certain pre-paid Vail Resorts products purchased on line. These included lift tickets, ski school, lodging and vacation packages, winter activities, childcare bookings, and equipment rentals. Sorry Ed and Dave, it looks like you're out of luck getting any EPIC pass refunds- for now.

It's late in the season. Many areas expected to only remain open until mid-April. At this point it appears most will not re-open. Some of the late closers might re-open in, maybe, late April and possibly stay open until Memorial Day. It's anybody's guess. I wouldn't be planning any trips at this point.

It appears however, that the ski season is a casualty of the coronavirus. Time to get the bicycles, golf clubs, and kayaks out.

The Upcoming Events

Spring Dinner & New Officer Installation

Date— Saturday, May 16th, 2020

Place— Mavis Winkles **(IF OPEN BY THEN!)**

8870 Darrow Rd. (Rte. 91)

Twinsburg, Ohio 44087

Time— 6 PM cocktails, 7 PM dinner

More details to follow.

In memoriam

Our club was hit with another loss this week. Sandy Colombi's husband, Ben, passed away after a long illness.

Her husband was never a member of the club but Sandy has been a central figure in our club for years. She chaired the Sunshine Committee, which identified members going through hardship and brought them comfort.

For the past few years we haven't seen much of Sandy because she has been devoting much of her attention caring for her husband.

Our club will be donating a gift to charity in his name.

Sandy, we pray for comfort for you and your family.

Banff, the Big 3 Trip Report

By Lisa Brand

The Canadian Rocky Mountains of Alberta are magnificent! Snow-capped craggy mountains dotted with picture-perfect tall straight evergreens dressed with caps of white snow, and blue-gray skies with swirling mist, greeted us as we climbed into the mountains in our shuttle bus that transported us from the Calgary airport to Banff.

The weather was frigid most of the week we were there: well below freezing, often in the teens, and



Old photo of Banff area mountains. Switzerland times 50

even below zero some mornings; Fahrenheit! The wind was our constant companion; sometimes gentle, but sometimes so fierce that it wanted to eat our ski poles and permanently numb our noses.

The sun greeted us with its bright welcome on day number one, but thereafter, despite its best efforts to shine, except for a short sweet performance now and again, the dark clouds won the battle for the rest of the week. But nothing could darken our spirits... well, except for the malevolent creep of coronavirus throughout the world.

We arrived at the Calgary, Alberta airport on Satur-

day, March 7th. A comfortable bus ride of less than two hours brought us to the Ptarmigan Hotel in Banff. There we were treated to a welcome reception of pizza, veggies, dips and drinks, and an overload of information about BANFF SkiBig3: **Lake Louise, Banff Sunshine, and Mt. Norquay.**



Chagrin Valley Ski Club takes to the slopes at Sunshine Village

We were also enticed with details about other activities to fill our time if we weren't skiing: a public hot tub/pool set outside with a great view of the mountains, just a short bus ride through town; canyons to hike (after renting crampons for safety); ice sculptures at Lake Louise; spa services; shopping in town; a local movie theater.

Lake Louise, one of the largest ski resorts in North America, is vast. It presented magnificent, never-ending views, and countless chair lifts to all sorts of



Ice Sculpture at Lake Louise

terrain: wide open bowls; chutes; groomed slopes; and gentle blue and green tracks. A one hour plus shuttle bus ride there provided an opportunity for a few extra winks in the morning heading out, and a much-needed quick nap on the way back after a

strenuous day.

Banff Sunshine, with three beautiful mountains to ski, was less than one half hour away by shuttle bus. It's substantially smaller than Lake Louise, but also had all types and levels of runs, crisscrossing three mountains. In fact, because of its location straddling the continental divide, it receives more snow than the neighboring ski resorts. One slope at Sunshine is called "Tincan Alley", because early settlers dumped their cans and trash at the bottom, creating an environmentally toxic humongous heap of crap, which was cleaned up in the 70s. Beans anyone?

Mt. Norquay was only a ten-minute ride by shuttle. It's a small friendly family-type ski resort, which was a favorite with some, due its close proximity.



Pattie, Eric, Ben, & Bruce on a black diamond adventure

However, it didn't have the variety of runs as the other ski resorts. The local free shuttle bus service to all three resorts, with pick-up right outside our hotel was so good, that if a bus was full, another would be called for, and within minutes, the rest of the gang would be on their way.

All three ski resorts are located in the Banff National Park. It was established in 1885 and is one of Canada's oldest national parks. It encompasses over 6500 square miles of mountainous terrain that includes glaciers, ice fields, dense coniferous forest, alpine landscapes and much wildlife: elk, moose, mule deer, white-tailed deer, caribou, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, bison, and occasionally, that rare species: Chagrin Valley Ski Club members! Some of us were lucky enough to observe elk in the wild: roaming around the perimeter of the hotel parking lot, nibbling on the branches of young bushes and eyeing the guests, who were eyeing them.

We headed back to the states on March 14th, after a wonderful week of skiing; socializing; sharing meals, including a pizza party mid-week; and sharing stories and laughs with friends. But some anxiety pervaded our thoughts, as we had heard the

disturbing news all week about the spread of coronavirus, and airport TVs were a constant reminder about the risks of travel.



Gnarly moguls at Lake Louise

Planes were only partially filled, and we were all aware of precautions to take: lots of handwashing, and there were very few good-bye hugs at Hopkins airport. Let's hope that the coronavirus pandemic is soon cut short, and that our memories of this trip, last long.

Ski Report for 3/20/20

As I stated at the beginning, there are still a few resorts operating across North America. The number is dwindling though.

Snowbrains published a list of open resorts as of 3/19/20. Who knows how many of these will remain open after this weekend.

Alaska

- Alyeska
- Eaglecrest Ski Area
- Hilltop Ski Area

California

- Dodge Ridge
- China Peak
- Donner Ski Ranch

Idaho

- Lookout Pass Ski Area

Michigan

- Big Snow – Indianhead Mountain
 - Mont Ripley
 - Mount Bohemia
 - Pine Mountain
 - Ski Brule

Minnesota

- Andes Tower Hills Ski Area
- Lutsen Mountains

Montana

- Discovery Ski Area
- Montana Snowbowl
- Teton Pass Resort
- Showdown

New Mexico

- Ski Apache (closing 3/22)

South Dakota

- Terry Peak Ski Area

Washington



Mountain guide describing the back bowls of Lake Louise

- 49 Degrees North

Wisconsin

- Granite Peak Ski Area
- Whitecap Mountain

Wyoming

- Meadowlark Ski Lodge
- White Pine Ski Area

Canada

- Hudson Bay Mountain — British Columbia