



March 5, 2020

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Greetings Members & Affiliates

Last weekend was wonderful here in Northeast Ohio. I woke up Saturday morning with 6" of light, fluffy champagne powder on our mini-van. I quickly hurried to get my ski equipment for my last day of ski instruction for the season. More snow was in the forecast.

Unfortunately, as I drove south I realized what I had on my mini-van was lake-effect snow. Brandywine only had about an inch of new snow.

Despite that, the air was cold, the sky was blue, and we had packed powder conditions. There weren't many calls for lessons so most of us instructors canvassed and caressed the slopes.

Then more warm weather came on Sunday, and it began to "r" on Monday and Tuesday. Brandywine will be closed until the weekend so I didn't have to teach on Wednesday.

Our local resorts will be open this weekend and they expect to be open the weekend of the 14th. That will probably be their last weekend.

So if you're not coming with us to Banff next week, you've got two more weekends for local skiing.

The Upcoming Events

Banff Ski Trip

- March 7th to the 14th

Stay tuned to the upcoming spring and summer calendar

CVSC Spring Dinner, May 16, 2020 (more to come; mark your calendars)

Banff

Banff has been on my bucket list for some time and I'll finally have a chance to ski the gem of the Canadian National Park system. I've been packing all week. Good thing I began early to pack. I couldn't find by extra GoPro batteries and had to order some new ones. Luckily, I've got an older GoPro so the replacement batteries are real cheap.

The Expected Weather

Let's start with the weather. Junior, the Great Awesome Weather Computer, sez they're going to get snow this Saturday when we arrive. Who knows, the bus from Calgary to Banff may need a snowplow on the front.

Sunday will be partly sunny with a high of 32. Monday will be cold and sunny with a high of 29.

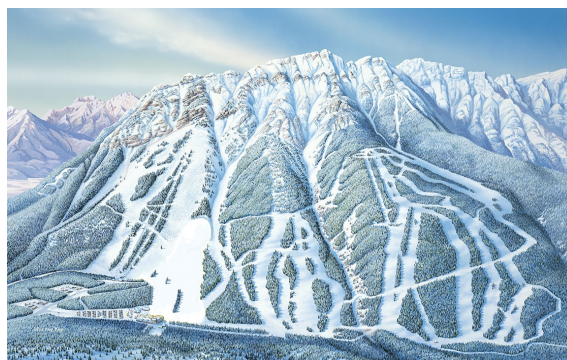
Then it starts to warm up, with increasing cloudiness as the week progresses. Temperatures gradually increase into the upper 30's, then the 40's, and then in the low 50's by Thursday. The weather then cools to the mid-40's Friday and Saturday.

If we're lucky we might get from fresh powder on Sunday, with beautiful skiing weather the rest of the week.

The Ski Resorts

Banff contains three ski resorts— Lake Louise, Sunshine Village, and Mt. Norquay. We will have an opportunity to ski all three over the course of the week.

Mt. Norquay is the smallest and oldest of the three. I've been advised by those in the know, this should be our first destination because it is the smallest. Mr. Norquay summits at 8,038 feet and has a 1,650 foot vertical drop. It is the closest to our hotel. Run difficulty is 38% beginner, 25% intermediate, and 37% advanced, and no expert terrain. It only has 190 skiable acres and it's longest run is 0.7 miles. It has 6 lifts. As I'm writing this they have all 60 of their runs open with a 43" base. They have packed



Mt. Norquay trails

powder and machine groomed conditions. The resort is where the locals hang out and they say don't be fooled by the

size. It is considered a local gem because of its scenic, picture postcard beauty.

Lake Louise is an intermediate paradise. 45% of their runs are intermediates, but advanced skiers won't be disappointed either. 19% of their runs are advanced and 11% are expert. 25% are beginner. This hill summits at 8,652 feet and has a respectable 3,251 vertical feet. With 145 runs and 4,200 skiable acres, there's a good chance we won't ski the same run more than once. If you wanted to you could probably spend the whole week here and not get bored. They have 10 lifts including a gondola. Currently they have a 63-72" base with 141 of their 145 runs open. As of this writing they have packed powder conditions. The problem with Lake Louise is that it is farthest away from Banff. So we may only get a day there. This resort is known for their long cruisers and experts can explore endless chutes, glades, gullies, and remote bowls. I can't wait.

Then we have *Sunshine Village*. This is a skier's



View from a Lake Louise ski run

mountain with 56% of their runs rated advanced (48%) or expert (8%). Only 18% of their runs are beginner and 26% are intermediate. This mountain tops out at 8,957 feet and has the biggest vertical of the Banff resorts at 3,510 vertical feet. However, they are not the largest by acreage. They have a decent 3,358 skiable acres and 145 runs. They have 12 lifts including 1 gondola. Sunshine Village is only a few miles down the road so it is likely we will spend more time here than any of the other Banff resorts. This place is famous for its above-the-tree line skiing and breathtaking vistas. They've been getting snow pretty much everyday last week. Currently they have a 69" base with packed powder conditions. They have 139 of their 145 runs open.

Banff the Town

Banff is "SKItown Canada." It is a resort town and one of Canada's most popular tourist destinations. It's known for its mountains and hot springs. It not only attracts alpine skiers, but also hikers, bikers, and "scramblers" (i.e., hiking up steep terrain that combines hiking with rock climbing).

The town was settled in the 1880's when Canada's transcontinental railway ran through the Bow Valley. Canada established a federal reserve in 1885 around the Cave and Basin hot springs. They began marketing the site as an international resort and spa as a destination on the new railway.

In 1887 the small reserve expanded from 10 square



The top of Sunshine Village Resort

miles to 260 square miles. It was named the "Rocky Mountain Park" and became Canada's first national park.

The town of Banff was named by George Stephen, president of the Canadian Pacific Railroad, in honor of his birthplace, Banff Scotland. That was in 1884. The town is the only municipality within the national park.



The first chairlift in the area opens at Mt. Norquay in 1948

The railroad built a series of grand hotels in the area, including the famous Banff Springs Hotel.

Skiing at Banff began in the 1880's when Scandina-

vian axemen employed by the railroad used skis to hunt and to aid in clearing the land.

In 1894 George Paris had his American buddy from North Dakota visit him. Paris got around in the winter using snowshoes but his buddy turned him on to skis as an alternative method of getting around. His buddy sent him a pair of skis and Paris liked them. He gave up snowshoeing and inspired locals to fashion their own skis.

Two years later the railroad imported professional Swiss mountain climbing guides. Too many amateurs were falling to their deaths climbing the local mountains. The guides kept the guests safe as they scrambled up the mountains.



A ski jumper high over Mt. Rundle at Mt. Norquay.

In the winter the mountain guides imported their favorite go-to winter activity from their home in Switzerland—skiing. The prim and proper locals consider skiing “outlandish,” but the local teenage punks loved it. The mountain guide era culminated with the most famous Canadian mountain guide of them all, Conrad Kain from Austria. He too had a pair of skis.

Kain would go on to build a ski jump down Tunnel Mountain into the heart of town in 1911. He organized a winter sports festival that ran all night with the help of over 100 lamps. Other skiing pioneers in the area included Cyril Paris (George’s son), Cliff White, and his brother Peter Whyte.

The Banff Ski Club formed in 1917 and local businessmen realized promoting winter sports would be a great way of attracting tourists in the dole drum winter months. They created the Banff Winter Carnival complete with ski jumping, cross-country skiing, and skijoring with horses. An ice palace was the center of the event. This carnival continued until the 1960’s.

The Banff Ski Club members got more skiing proficient with the help of Swedish skier Gus Johnson. Because of that club members began exploring the high country. They found that logging and forest

fires provided ready-made slopes on Mt. Norquay. They cleared out the brush and created the Canadian Rockies first ski resort in 1926. In 1928 the club built a cabin at the base that included a sleeping area. Other cabins would spring up in the area over the next few years.

In 1930 a cabin was built at Lake Louise and another built in 1933 at Sunshine Meadows (later to become Sunshine Village). Roads started coming to the region in 1935 making the infant resorts accessible by car. By 1936 ski clubs from Calgary flocked to Mt. Norquay on the weekends in various forms of transportation—car, bus, train.

Things continued to grow for the area. Lodges



The Lone Pine Lodge at Mt. Norquay.

were built and rope tows installed. The first chairlift came to the area in 1948 at Mt. Norquay. Curiously, the lift was built for summer tourists wanting to see the sights. The lifties soon realized skiers liked the lift even more.

In the late 1950’s Hans Gmoser became the Warren Miller of Canada. His first of many films entitled *With Skis and Rope* was shown across North America and promoted backcountry skiing. Hans would later pioneer heli-skiing in the area in the early 1960’s.

In 1960 Cliff White and his wife purchased the little Sunshine Village Ski Resort and built it into a major ski destination over the next 17 years.

Over the next few decades the resorts would grow and the skiing became more extreme. Unskiable chutes became possible. Snowboarding came to the area in the 1980’s, just like everywhere else.

The Mountain Smoker event started up again in 2007 after a 23-year hiatus. The challenge in this event is to see how many laps of the Lone Pine run you can ski at Mt. Norquay in three hours. 17-year-old Phil Hudec completed 20 runs. Not far behind was Banff local Eddie Hunter, complete 16 runs at the age of 81.

With over 8,000 acres of skiing, 30 feet of cham-

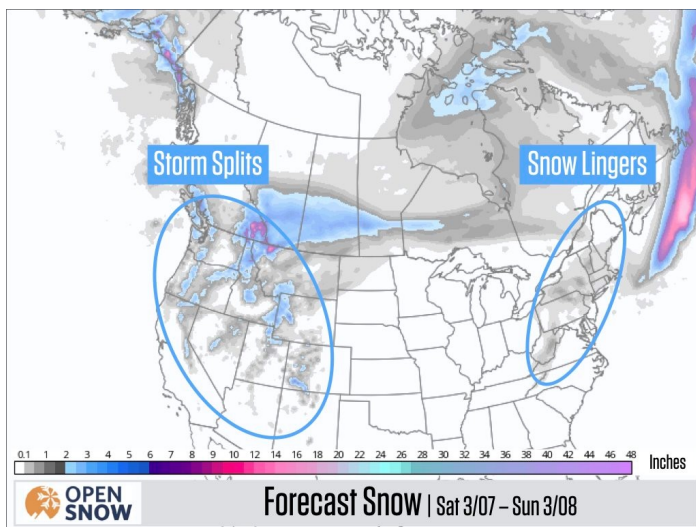
pagne powder per year and a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site for its scenery I believe we are in store for an experience of a lifetime. So take your cameras and take lots of pictures and video.

Stay tuned as I report how things are going from Banff itself next week.

Ski Report for 2/27/20

We had great skiing last weekend but it all went to poop when more "r" came earlier this week. However, don't let your bare backyards fool you into thinking there's no skiing. There is still plenty of that this weekend. As I said out the outset, our local resorts hope to squeeze out two more weekends. Other areas in our region will probably be good until at least the end of March.

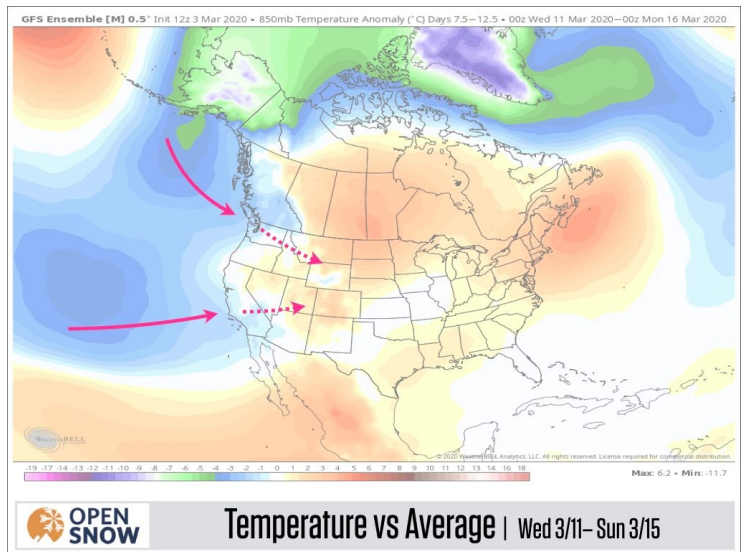
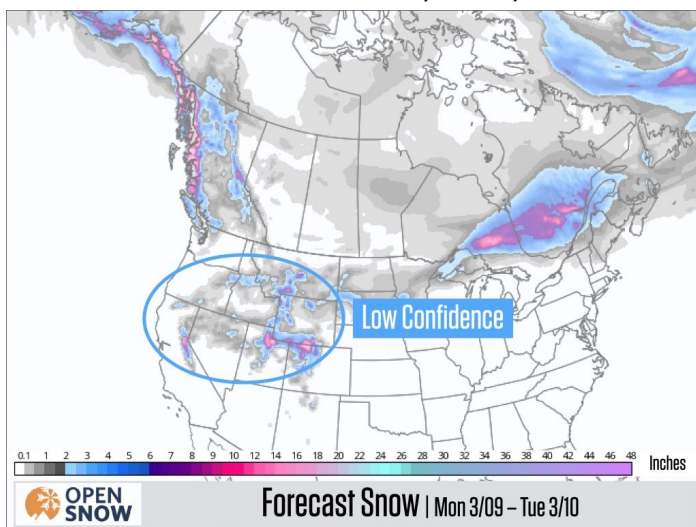
Locally we'll see some snow Friday giving way to a bluebird weekend with temperatures rising from



the low 40's to the upper 50's by Sunday.

Western New York and Western Pennsylvania will have the same basic forecast. Only they expect to get more snow than us on Friday and temperatures through the weekend will be a bit cooler.

While it "r'd" locally there was a good deal of new snow in the northeast. Holiday Valley received a



yard of snow in the past week. Stowe VT got over 40" this past week.

Things out west were fairly dry this week. The exception was the ever-snowy Mt. Baker WA. They received an incredible 45" dump earlier this week.

In preparing the ski report I noticed a definite decrease in reported base and number of open runs this week. Could that be an early sign of spring? Quite possibly. Spring is just over 2 weeks away. This past week I've been having kayaking dreams at night. The ski instructors have been talking about getting their bicycles out.

Junior could not give me the weekend forecast for specific resorts this week but could provide a global map. Overall, there does not appear to be much happening this weekend throughout all of ski country. Next week there might be some heavy snow in the Sierras, northern Utah, and Northern Colorado. SKItown USA looks like it get a good dump early next week. Things are going to be warmer than average next week Junior tells me.

It looks like Daisy and Stokes will be sleeping on the couch this weekend rather than getting outside.

Time is growing short for the season so get out there for some last laps down the hill.

Hot Off the Presses!

Judi Fordyce was interviewed and mentioned in the March 2020 issue of **Prevention** magazine. The article, "Feel Younger at Any Age", begins with "Judi Fordyce's happy place is a ski resort where she can take in sweeping mountain views and breathe in cool air before pushing off on a run that lets her "dance down the slope."" The six page article mentions that she started ski

ng at 59 and is quite flattering as the author quotes Judi about busting expectations, getting comfortable with risks, and making the most of your age. Congratulations Judi!

Pick up a copy this month to read more.

Ski Report for the weekend of March 5, 2020

Resort	open runs	% open	Base	Snow past week	Snow this weekend	Conditions/Comments
Eastern Great Lakes						
Holiday Valley NY	48	80%	22-59"	36!"	?	Machine groomed
Seven Springs PA	31	94%	28-40"	5"	?	Machine groomed
Bristol NY	32	94%	24-48"	6"	?	Machine groomed, variable
Snow Trails OH	19	100%	20-36"	2"	?	Packed powder, machine groomed
Peek'n Peak NY	26	96%	12-36"	19"	?	Packed powder, machine groomed
Kissing Bridge NY	12	31%	6-50"	18"	?	Machine groomed, variable
New England						
Stowe VT	82	71%	36-60"	41!"	?	Machine groomed, variable
Killington VT	134	86%	30-36"	10"	?	Machine groomed, variable
Jay Peak VT	81	100%	45-55"	30"	?	Machine groomed, variable
Cannon Mtn NH	64	66%	27-75"	9"	?	Machine groomed
Sunday River ME	135	100%	26-32"	8"	?	Machine groomed
Sugarloaf ME	149	92%	34-40"	18"	?	Corn snow, hard packed
Catskills						
Hunter Mtn NY	40	60%	18-36"	0"	?	Machine groomed
Windham NY	46	83%	12-32"	0"	?	Machine groomed, spring snow
Belleayre NY	35	70%	16-28"	3"	?	Machine groomed, variable
Poconos						
Camelback PA	36	92%	36-50"	0"	?	Spring snow
Elk Mtn PA	26	96%	12-40"	5"	?	Machine groomed, variable
Blue Mtn PA	38	95%	36-48"	0"	?	Machine groomed, no snow in a month!
Upper Midwest						
Boyne Mtn MI	49	82%	42"	5"	?	Machine groomed, variable
Nubs Nob MI	53	100%	54"	4"	?	Machine groomed
Granite Peak WI	68	100%	52-106"	1"	?	Packed powder, machine groomed
Lutsen Mountains MN	61	98%	30-72"	0"	1"	Machine groomed, variable
Mt. Bohemia MI	105	100%	40"	3"	0"	Packed powder, variable
Northern Rockies						
Jackson Hole WY	117	88%	35-101"	9"	?	Packed powder, machine groomed
Grand Targhee WY	97	100%	98-99"	12"	?	Packed powder, machine groomed
Sun Valley ID	107	89%	33-55"	0"	?	Packed powder, machine groomed
Big Sky MT	310	98%	56-92"	0"	?	Packed powder, machine groomed
Lake Louise AB	139	96%	67-77"	23"	?	Packed powder, variable
Sunshine Village AB	138	95%	73"	28"	?	Powder, snowing daily the past week
Schweitzer ID	92	100%	61-110"	1"	?	Packed powder
Central Rockies						
Aspen/Snowmass CO	334	99+%	48-65"	11"	?	Packed powder
Vail CO	195	100%	72"	4"	?	Powder, packed powder
Telluride CO	141	96%	49"	2"	?	Packed powder, machine groomed

Ski Report for the weekend of 3/5/20 continued

Resort	open runs	% open	Base	Snow past week	Snow this weekend	Conditions
Central Rockies (continued)						
Steamboat CO	169	100%	66-88"	3"	?	Packed powder
Copper Mtn CO	149	99%	59-90"	7"	?	Powder, packed powder
Breckenridge CO	187	100%	79"	9"	?	Powder, packed powder
Keystone CO	128	100%	56"	8"	?	Powder, packed powder
Winter Park CO	166	100%	74"	5"	?	Powder
Snowbird UT	140	100%	120"	7"	?	Packed powder, machine groomed
Park City UT	325	95%	55-70"	6"	?	Packed powder, machine groomed
Deer Valley UT	103	100%	70"	8"	?	Powder, machine groomed
Snowbasin UT	107	100%	86"	0"	?	Packed powder, machine groomed
Powder Mtn UT	140	91%	61"	0"	?	Packed powder, no new snow in nearly a month
Southern Rockies						
Taos NM	98	89%	68"	0"	?	Packed powder, machine groomed
Ski Apache NM	3	6%	38"	4"	?	Packed powder
Arizona Snowbowl AZ	35	63%	56"	0"	?	Packed powder, machine groomed
Lee Canyon NV	26	100%	30"	3"	?	Packed powder, machine groomed
Pacific Northwest						
Whistler Blackcomb BC	234	100%	100"	8"	?	machine groomed
Sun Peaks BC	137	100%	76-86"	5"	?	Machine groomed, packed powder
Revelstoke BC	74	99%	59-102"	15"	?	Powder, machine groomed
Mt. Bachelor OR	111	99%	86-96"	3"	?	Hard packed, variable
Mt. Baker WA	38	100%	165-197"	76!"	?	Packed powder, machine groomed, 45" dump earlier this week!
Mt. Hood Meadows OR	60	71%	111-167"	10"	?	Hard pack, machine groomed
Sierras						
Mammoth CA	150	93%	40-77"	9"	?	Packed powder, machine groomed, month long drought ended!
Squaw Valley/Alpine CA	210	86%	36-88"	8"	?	Packed powder, hard packed, 3 week drought finally ended!
Heavenly CA	93	96%	30-61"	20"	?	Packed powder, 3 week drought finally ended!
Northstar CA	95	95%	18-49"	9"	?	Powder, machine groomed, month long drought finally ended!

Foto of the week – Sunshine Village/Banff
3/4/20



There are only a few trips left!

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	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
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
Banff, Canada	7-Mar-20	Chagrin Valley Ski Club	Judi Fordyce	juditravels@live.com	(440) 289-5511
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

Boston Mills Winter Carnival

SUN, MAR 8, 2020



Time: **9:00 AM - 10:00 PM**
Admission: **Snow Pass required for on-snow activities**

The Boston Mills Winter Carnival date is **March 8!**

Winter Carnival is everyone's favorite spring event! (Please note- Carnival does NOT indicate the last day of the season) Head out for fantastic snow conditions, warm weather skiing, fun events for all ages, great food + drinks, and fantastic giveaways ALL day!

Go to www.bmbw.com for more, complete information!