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# SKIER NEWS®

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SNOW ANGEL FOUNDATION p. 6 • plus TAHOE SUMMER FUN - p. 6

JACKSON'S BIG DEALS - p. 2 & 3 • ALTA'S AWESOME POWDER 88's - p. 4 & 5 • MAMMOTH LAKES INFO - p. 7

JAN - SPRING 2026 • VOL. 40 • ISSUE 126 • SNOW IS HERE, WHERE ARE YOU EDITION

CRUISING on a POWDER DAY, IT DOES NOT GET MUCH BETTER!  
SKIER TOMMY FLITTON ABSORBS the MOMENT off of ALTA'S WILDCAT LIFT  
with a VIEW of UTAH'S MOUNT BALDY above LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON.

SEE PAGES 4 & 5 and READ MORE on PAGE 7



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Rocko Menzyk photo courtesy of Alta Ski Area: [www.alta.com](http://www.alta.com)

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## HOTEL THAYNES IS ONE OF PARK CITY'S NEWEST HOTELS

*The freshly renovated Park City Peaks Hotel blends ski-day convenience with boutique-style comfort.*

*Find newly renovated rooms, fitness area, lobby and on-site Versante Hearth + Bar.*

PARK CITY, UT – In Park City, every skier knows the value of first tracks. At Hotel Thaynes, a freshly renovated Tribute Portfolio hotel, the mountain is always within reach thanks to a complimentary shuttle to Park City Mountain, Deer Valley and Main Street. Gear up with ease at the on-site Ski 'N See rental shop, where rentals and expertise make getting slope-ready simple.

After the last run, the adventure shifts to après. Versante Hearth + Bar, the hotel's lively restaurant and bar, buzzes with energy every evening. Wood-fired pizzas, hearty entrées and craft cocktails make it the perfect gathering spot to trade stories from the slopes without ever leaving the hotel.

When it is time to unwind, step into spaces designed for recovery. Float between the year-round heated indoor-outdoor pool, melt into the warmth of the dry sauna or breathe deep in the steam room as tired muscles relax. For those who still crave movement, the fitness center keeps every workout on track, even at altitude.

Guestrooms reflect a thoughtful balance of style and function, created with today's traveler in mind. Oversized residential-style bathrooms with backlit vanity mirrors, dedicated workspaces and plush bedding ensure every stay balances adventure with rest. Select accommodations also feature private balconies framing Park City's snow-dusted peaks.

Hotel Thaynes is built for more than just the mountain. The complimentary shuttle makes it simple to explore Park City's famed Main Street, where galleries, shops and après-ski energy keep the town humming long after the lifts close. From sun-soaked hikes in summer to arts and culture year-round, the hotel places you in the heart of it all.

What truly sets Hotel Thaynes apart is the way it blends ski-day convenience with boutique-style comfort. Every detail, from on-site rentals to après cocktails, is designed to simplify your day and amplify your experience. Whether you are planning a family trip, a couple's getaway or a long-awaited ski week with friends, the hotel becomes your personal basecamp in the mountains.

As part of Marriott Bonvoy's Tribute Portfolio, Hotel Thaynes offers the best of both worlds: an independent, locally rooted experience with the rewards and recognition of a global brand. Earn and redeem points while immersing yourself in a property that is proudly original, inviting and deeply connected to its community.

This is where Park City's past meets its future, where shuttles make first tracks easy, where après is served fireside with a wood-fired pizza and where the slopes are only part of the story. At Hotel Thaynes, every stay is designed to remind you that adventure is not just found on the mountain – it is woven into every corner of the experience.

Discover your new ski basecamp in Park City, discover Hotel Thaynes

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For a great Park City lodging experience, please visit  
[www.hotelthaynes.com](http://www.hotelthaynes.com) for info and directly book your stay.

# JACKSON HOLE HAS ACCESS with 13 NON-STOP CITIES, FLIGHT CREDIT SAVINGS and GOLDEN TICKET - the NEW SUBLLETTE QUAD PROVIDES QUICKER ACCESS to STEEPS

TETON VILLAGE, WY – Take an awesome ski resort with fabulous terrain for any ability, add many recent winters of more than 500 inches of powder and a Golden Ticket promotion that takes half off your daily ticket, and it becomes more awesome. Combine that with non-stop flights from 13 major U.S. cities: Washington D.C., Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Houston, LA-LAX, Minneapolis, Newark, Salt Lake City, San Diego, San Francisco and Seattle. You can earn up to a \$500 airfare credit per person, up to \$2,000 per family, when you book by calling 1-866-265-4037. There are many incentives that provide reasons to visit JHMR in this their 60th Anniversary year.

The Golden Ticket Strikes Again

Skiers and snowboarders who own a valid 2025-26 winter resort season pass anywhere in the world can go to JHMR, aka The Big One, and receive a very special rate. Travel to Jackson Hole Jan. 5-16, 2026 and March 16 to April 12, 2026, and receive a 50 percent discount on lift tickets based on the current daily window rate. Lift tickets are subject to availability, as daily capacity is again limited this year.

Advanced purchasing is highly recommended for this deal. For the details on this great deal, visit: [www.jacksonhole.com/lift-tickets/](http://www.jacksonhole.com/lift-tickets/)

Getting to Jackson Hole Mountain Resort

Jackson Hole Airport (JAC) is the only commercial airport in the United States located within a national park, Grand Teton. Upon arrival at the airport, you are an easy 30-minute drive to the mountain resort by car, taxi or rental car.

There are no mountain passes, tunnels or four lanes of bumper-to-bumper traffic. Once in Jackson, their public bus system, named START, allows for efficient and affordable travel between the town of Jackson and the ski area at Teton Village. Rental car agencies are plentiful, as are taxis in the town of Jackson.



JACKSON HOLE, WY – The top of the new Sublette Quad which now completes the high speed access to the top of southernmost peak of JHMR. It opened on December 20, 2024. It joins their Tram plus the Teton, Casper and Thunder High-Speed Quads to help provide easy access to awesome mountaintop views and terrain.

Nate Berenson photo courtesy Jackson Hole Mountain Resort

## Save \$500 per Person, Book Now & Save

Receive up to \$500 off your airfare per person when you book your roundtrip flights, lodging, and lift tickets or an equivalent winter activity. Now is the time to book and save. Whether you are a family of four, a group of friends or a couple, you will find your adventure in Jackson Hole.

JHMR worked with several major airlines to save you up to \$500 on each flight you book to Jackson Hole, based on how many nights you stay.

Staying three nights? When you book a vacation, hotel and

\$200 in qualifying activities, you save \$200 on each flight; an \$800 savings in flights for a family of four. Planning a 4-night vacation in Jackson Hole? Receive \$300 in savings on each flight when you book airfare, hotel and \$300 in qualifying activities. Looking for even more savings? Plan a 5-6 night stay with \$400 in qualifying activities and save \$400 on each flight. If you are staying 7+ nights you will receive a \$500 air credit.

Call them at 1-866-265-4037 or scan the QR code in the ad below, and they will help you plan your family's perfect winter escape today.

## Lodging

The wide range of lodging options available around Jackson Hole is as varied as the ski area terrain. Select from standard hotels to high-end resorts. Any setting you choose, the mountain resort or in town, you are sure to love your stay in Jackson.

Kings and Queens of Corbet's - Feb. 7 to Feb. 14

No ski resort in North America has a chute as legendary as Corbet's Couloir. It is a crucible where skiers go to prove their mettle, or more often, to retreat in fear. The run is named for Barry Corbet, a mountaineer who in 1960 spotted a narrow crease of snow shaped like an upside-down funnel, high up on Jackson Hole. Author Christopher Stenner wrote that Corbet remarked, "Someday someone will ski that."

The 2026 Kings and Queens of Corbet's event is set for Sat., Feb. 7, to Sat., Feb. 14, 2026. Qualifying skiers and riders will test their grit and flash their style. The event will be showcased on JHMR's website when completed. Log on to see the show and recap at [www.jacksonhole.com](http://www.jacksonhole.com)

## Intermediate Terrain

Jackson Hole is known for its challenging terrain. However, did you know they are also ranked highly by many for terrain variety? Rolling groomers, adventurous kids' stash parks, and uncrowded long runs are there, too.

They have never been complacent at JHMR, and in the last several years, they have prioritized improving the intermediate ski and snowboard experience to give their guests a large variety of terrain to enjoy.

## Mountain Sports School

This winter, Mountain Sports School is again prioritizing health and safety through new offerings with more individualized attention, smaller classes and protocols to provide a safe learning environment. For a full list of safety FAQs visit their FAQ page at: [jacksonhole.com/winter-faq.html#mss](http://jacksonhole.com/winter-faq.html#mss)

Join them for your ultimate mountain experience. They want you to have your best day ever on skis or on a board, and their professional staff is poised to help you do that. Whether you are looking to perfect your turn, explore some new terrain or have someone guide your day, they are there to help.

## Jackson Hole Rendezvous Festival

The Jackson Hole Rendezvous is a spring lifestyle and music festival providing the most iconic backdrops imaginable for the legendary music acts.

The events will take place in the historic downtown Jackson Town Square on Fri., April 3, and at the base of Jackson Hole Mountain Resort on Sat., April 4, 2026. Log on to [www.jacksonhole.com](http://www.jacksonhole.com) for the participating bands and other fun.

## Off Mountain Adventure

If you want a wildlife experience, look no further than the north edge of Jackson at the National Elk Refuge where thousands of elk winter.

The elk begin their migration out of the high meadows in the fall, usually after the first snowstorm.

They stay in the refuge through the spring when food in their higher habitat becomes more abundant.

The sleigh rides into the elk herd are available via a private contractor, Double H Bar, Inc. The National Elk Refuge also offers educational and daily programs at the Jackson Hole and Greater Yellowstone Visitor Center.

Call 307-733-0277 to book your ride. It is really cool.

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Listen to the Jackson Hole podcast at: [www.AlwaysUpright.com](http://www.AlwaysUpright.com) and find them via the "West" tab.

For all things JHMR, Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, snow totals, great deals and fun events, please visit: [www.jacksonhole.com](http://www.jacksonhole.com)

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# In JACKSON HOLE YOUR VISIT BEGINS with GREAT DEALS for EVERY BUDGET

JACKSON, WY - Whether you are looking to grab a beginner's lesson at Solitude Station on Jackson Hole Mountain Resort (JHMR), cruise the all-new, all blue terrain of the Casper area of the mountain or take a dive into some of JHMR's deep powder stashes, the town of Jackson and Teton Village have lodging choices for you. This is where you will find lodging that is perfect for your ski trip needs and budget. Please consider these choices.

## MOUNTAIN MODERN

### YOUR JACKSON BASECAMP

This unique boutique property puts you smack dab in the heart of Jackson and close to everything this glorious destination has to offer. Here you are two blocks from the charming Town Square, five blocks from Snow King Mountain, 10 miles to Grand Teton National Park, 12 miles from Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, 46 miles to Grand Targhee Ski Resort and 55 miles from Yellowstone National Park.

Recently unveiling a massive expansion in October 2022, the 194-room Mountain Modern disrupts the textbook hotel experience with its frontier flair and plaid-to-the-bone stylish design, vibrant atmosphere, whimsical amenities and more, all at approachable rates. Located in the heart of Jackson, Wyo., along the downtown corridor mere steps to the charming, and very famous, Town Square, Mountain Modern is the perfect home base for year-round adventure where you want to spend every possible minute outdoors. Mountain Modern also debuted The Triple M, a design-forward community social hub designed to be a year-round adventure launch pad to explore all the bucket-list adventures that Jackson Hole has to offer.

See their ad on the right and learn about their ski and stay special packages. You can book now by logging on to: <https://mountainmodernmotel.com> or by calling them at (307) 733-4340. Let the saving begin by using the Rate Access Code "SKIERNWS."

### TOWN SQUARE INNS - OFFERING GREAT CHOICES

Town Square Inns is a collection of four hotel properties in the town of Jackson, Wyo., including 49er Inns and Suites, Antler Inn, Cowboy Village Resort, and Elk Country Inn. Located near the middle of town, they are a short walking distance from many of restaurants, shops and galleries. Stay at one of their four convenient properties, all located within downtown Jackson. Many guests fall in love with the unusual log cabin experience of Cowboy Village Resort.

Many of the room options include fireplaces, and the properties also have fitness centers, hot tubs and indoor pools. To select the right accommodations for your needs, you can view the properties on their detailed website [www.townsquareinns.com](http://www.townsquareinns.com)

### Lift Tickets and Transportation Included

Guests who stay a minimum of three nights will receive amazing package pricing, including lift tickets, lodging and transportation to and from Jackson Hole Mountain Resort. The price for this three-night deal starts at \$419. Town Square Inns' free ski shuttles depart for the mountain from all four properties between 7 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. and the shuttles return in the afternoon between 3 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. It is super simple and easy to hop on the shuttle and make the



JACKSON HOLE, WY - Wheels down for another flight landing at Jackson Hole Airport (JAC) with the beauty of the Grand Teton Mountains as a backdrop. Find easy access with non-stop flights from 12 major U.S. cities. See page two article for more. It is easy to book your flight, just call 1-866-265-4037. JHMR has 4,139 vertical feet of great terrain on 2,500+ acres, half of which are beginner trails and intermediate terrain.

Photo courtesy Jackson Hole Mountain Resort

most of your time on the slopes.

Learn more about the fantastic Ski and Stay Package at: [www.townsquareinns.com](http://www.townsquareinns.com) and also see their ad on the right.

Please call 1-800-4TETONS(1-800-483-8667) today to book your winter getaway.

### THE SNAKE RIVER BREWPUB

Rejoice, Jackson's Snake River Brewery is still celebrating. The brewery began 32 years ago. Since then, the establishment has recently been completely renovated. The beers have won numerous awards and their menu has many great selections for casual dining. Stop in when you're in Jackson and join the party, you never know what celebratory event will be taking place or favorite team on a TV screen.

Relive your Teton adventure with an award winning beer and delicious meal at the Snake River BrewPub. They offer a seat for everyone, from the kiddos to the riders and the lifelong adventurers. Local or visitor, live the Jackson life and unwind with friends at the BrewPub known as "Jackson's Living Room."

At the BrewPub, you will find reasonably priced food items from sandwiches to pizzas to pastas and beyond with a kids' menu to match. Their head chef sets a high standard in the kitchen. Nearly everything is handmade. All of the breads and desserts are created in house using only 100 percent organic flour.

The Snake River Brewery and the Brewpub inhabit an old cinder block building that was previously the base of operations for a Coca-Cola distributor. It seemed to be the perfect spot for Wyoming's first brewpub. The owners wanted an open industrial look with lots of light and exposed steel beams. The brewing equipment and wood burning oven would be the artwork. Their major recent remodel adds to this. They were determined to create a brewpub building that was architecturally excellent in style and offered excellent food and beer.

The Snake River Brewery is located at 265 S. Millward Street in the town of Jackson, Wyo. It is only a few blocks away from the famous town square and walking distance from downtown Jackson hotels.

This is a must stop for après ski or to enjoy happy hour. You may just meet a real cowboy or cowgirl in "Jackson's Living Room," the Snake River BrewPub.

You can learn more about the pub and brewery, their beers, the menu and much more including their recent renovations, at: [www.snaikeriverbrewing.com](http://www.snaikeriverbrewing.com)

### YOUR WINTER ADVENTURE AWAITS

There is a winter adventure for everyone in Jackson. You can visit Yellowstone National Park by rental snowmobile, or hike or snowshoe in Grand Teton National Park. Both are unique, scenic and great winter attractions. From fly fishing on the Snake River, to snow skiing at Jackson Hole, the area offers some of the best winter experiences in the world. You can also visit the National Elk Refuge and take a guided sleighride into a herd of thousands of elk.

For more info, please log on to the individual websites in the ads and also view, read and share this page online at: [www.skiernews.com/Spring2026-Jackson2.pdf](http://www.skiernews.com/Spring2026-Jackson2.pdf)

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**SKIER NEWS** • CELEBRATE ALTA'S 88 YEARS

# CELEBRATING 88 YEARS



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**TECHNICAL EDITOR TONY CRESPI EXTOLLS the VIRTUES of CONTINUING to TAKE LESSONS.  
BONUS ONLINE ARTICLE from SKIER NEWS JANUARY-SPRING 2026 EDITION****THE MOUNTAIN JOURNAL****SKI SCHOOL for EXPERTS??****DUE to a FULL JAN-SPRING 2026 EDITION, WE PRESENT THIS INFO as an ONLINE BONUS****By TONY CRESPI, SKIER NEWS' TECHNICAL EDITOR**

Not everyone who skis is an expert. Nor do all folks ski like experts. In truth, not everyone can ski powder in the morning, tackle bumps before lunch and ski ice in the afternoon. Skiing is a challenging sport.

How can you expand your skills? Lessons are one vehicle. With good lessons and good coaches, you can expand your envelope. Remember that the best skiers in the world have coaches.

Okay, not all ski pros are equal. In fact, over the past 20 years or so, writing articles for publications throughout snow country, which have included several hundred ski pointers, I have skied with, worked with and observed countless pros and coaches. From coaches at the U.S. Nationals to PSIA, it is clear your choices vary.

Here is good news. There are many good pros.

Talk to the desk and ask questions. Why does quality vary? To start, the pay is low. It is tough to cobble together a winter teaching skiing with an off-season career with those who bring a very wide range of technical, skiing and teaching expertise. In addition, not everyone is polished in all areas.

Do not accept a bad lesson. Complain and ask to speak with the Director of Training. If unsatisfied ask for another lesson with another pro. Do not ski off.

Remember that skiing should be fun. Lessons should help achieve that goal.

Skiers sometimes ask, what makes a great ski instructor? That is easy. To start, top pros need more than great skiing skills. However, skiing skills are important but not enough. I once had a Ski School Director who told me, after hiring me, that he was hiring me less because of my skiing skills than because of his perception of my teaching skills. He felt heavy mountain time and effective training would easily advance my mountain skills.

What do you think is critical in your coach? That boss felt I was technically a polished skier while not necessarily the best on the team, but he loved my teaching skills and felt my teaching was the exemplar, which set me above the other coaches.

Should you consider a lesson? Only you can answer that question. Still, are you interested in improving? You should know that inside virtually every ski school there is likely to be at least one gifted pro who can make it fun, and who can help add new skills. Sometimes you have to talk to the Director of Training to get that name. Sometimes you can watch different lessons on the hill and gauge success by the sense of fun generated by the group.

So what is the lesson here? It is somewhat funny but in the end, if you want a top pro, remember that learning is supposed to transform. It is really just about helping you better enjoy the mountain, and it is about helping you more effectively enjoy the sensation of sliding on the mountain.

All the flashy clothes, highspeed lifts, costly mountain amenities and high tech equipment are just intended to foster the mountain experience. Pros the like of Killington's Keith Hopkins and Katherine Rockwell, in my mind, know that and have remained focused on helping students grow.

Here at SKIER NEWS we love to ski, and we love the mountains. At the same time, we truly want our readers to maximize their mountain experience. Sometimes lessons can help. Your challenge is to find the pro that can best help you.

Be Aware. Find A Top Pro.

Columnist Tony Crespi has served as both a Ski School Supervisor and Development Team Coach. His column is published throughout the season.

**FIND, VIEW, READ & SHARE THIS PAGE ONLINE at; [www.skiernews.com/Spring2026-lessons.pdf](http://www.skiernews.com/Spring2026-lessons.pdf)****TECHNICAL EDITOR TONY CRESPI REPORTS on SKIING on ICY HARDPACK.  
BONUS ONLINE ARTICLE from SKIER NEWS JANUARY-SPRING 2025 EDITION****THE MOUNTAIN JOURNAL****BLACK ICE: SKIING THE ICY HARDPACK****DUE to a FULL JAN-SPRING 2025 EDITION, WE PRESENT THIS INFO as an ONLINE BONUS****By TONY CRESPI, SKIER NEWS' TECHNICAL EDITOR**

Ice can be clear, blue or black, and real ice resembles those little blocks you acquire from your freezer. I explain this, not because I think you might not know about ice, but because on a Western adventure I heard a skier comment that he considered harder snow as ice. Grinning, I put things in perspective. What we were skiing was neither blue nor black. It just did not qualify as ice.

Black ice, blue ice, boilerplate, grey washboard, and some types of hardpack can be each, in different ways, a nemesis. Each can vary. Have you skied glistening ice? It is not like powder. Have you encountered gray washboard? The stuff I told my lift friend about, blue ice, is the most demanding. Fortunately, it is not common with grooming. However, hardpack and boilerplate still can appear on the mountain. In fact, while mountain managers may cringe at this commentary, I have observed that snowmakers can produce a certain amount of gray (and even blue) hard-pack.

The good news is that ice can make a solid base.

Given that powder days are too rare in New England, and since we could not ski if we waited for powder, experts must learn to master varied conditions. Is it enjoyable? Truthfully? Yes. In fact, Eastern skiers know how to use their edges, and know this is a sure-fire strength. In addition, I think it partially explains why many racers hail from New England. Diversity builds competence.

From a technical angle, there are several strategies most veterans use for skiing hardpack: 1) Maintain a Tuned Ski, 2) Develop a Square Stance, and 3), Learn to Ski Different Lines. You should consider each of these.

**Maintain a Tuned Ski**

While most recreational skiers may not need the high-level precision required for competition, it is helpful to maintain your skis in proper condition.

Are your skis tuned? Top skiers will often tune and polish side edges daily. In addition, waxing helps maximize ease of turning.

If your skis are not tuned, speak to your mountain shop. Consider purchasing basic tuning tools. Even a few minutes of minor polishing and deburring can maintain overall performance between major tune-ups.

**2) Develop A Square Stance**

Some years past, skiing with former U.S. Team Racer Holly Flanders, I was humbled. While the terrain constantly changed, and although the snow was less than ideal, Holly appeared completely at ease. She stood square, evenly balanced, and she seemed ideally positioned for advanced skiing.

A square, well-balanced stance allows for an ideal position for retraction, extension, weighting and unweighting, and allows for subtle adjustments.

Balance and stance are critical on hard-pack.

While there are times virtually any skier will not be perfectly square, the ideal position for hardpack is a well-developed, and square, stance.

Pay attention to your stance.

**3) Learn to Ski Different Lines**

Eastern skiers tend to push their bragging rights about icy technique. One reason is that before grooming came to the forefront, ice was prominent in the East. Folks

realized that to ski often, we had to ski anything. In all honesty, racers have been skiing hardpack for years. The result is that many racers know the benefits.

Generally, if you survive the initiation, and most of you probably have, you will learn that hard-pack can vary from one day to the next and from one trail to another. It is an important point. In addition, top skiers often look smooth because they learn to ski different and varied lines. This can help as it allows you to take advantage of the best snow.

Personally, I wander as things deteriorate, often exploring trails I might not typically enjoy. Remember, most folks do not modify their technique on ice and turn in the same places, and on the same bumps, whether the mountain is blessed with powder or frozen granular. Most good skiers adjust their line.

Watch a top skier the next time you are on your favorite trail. Most top skiers smoothly modify their line as slope and conditions change. Remember, a strong tactical orientation can often be as important as technique.

If you find yourself faced with challenging snow this season, consider your options. Start with tuned skis. Then adopt a square stance. Third, learn to ski different lines. Finally, remember that when slopes are icy, novice runs can ski like intermediate trails and intermediate trails like black diamonds. Explore. The entire mountain is rarely frozen solid.

Savor your day, from your first run to your last run.

Tony Crespi is a former ski school supervisor and development team coach. He has skied on and enjoyed ice-glazed slopes more than he cares to admit.

# NBC'S AMERICAN CENTURY GOLF EVENT CREATES a SUMMER EXTRAVAGANZA in TAHOE JULY 8-12

Retired NHL superstar Joe Pavelski took home the \$150,000 top prize in 2025.

Upwards of 100,000 fans cheered for their celebrity favorites during the five-day event.

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, CA/NV – Summer's premier event, the American Century Championship in South Lake Tahoe, takes place in July at the beautiful Edgewood Tahoe Golf Course in Stateline, Nev.

South Lake Tahoe is a fun place to visit in winter to ski, snowmobile and party or just enjoy the scenery of the snow-capped peaks surrounding the beautiful blue lake.

Summers, however, are spectacular and packed with activities. The Tahoe South comes alive each July with a star-filled celebrity golf event. Plan your summer Tahoe visit for NBC's American Century Championship Celebrity Golf tournament, July 8-12.

The event will once again be televised live on NBC networks on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Many activities begin mid-week on Wednesday, July 8, with Celebrity Pro-Am golf events. This gives the celebs a chance to warm-up to playing at the beautiful Edgewood golf course, which stands at 6,200 feet of altitude. It also gives the fans a chance to greet the celebs when they are more relaxed than when they are in the midst of the weekend competition.

In past years WWE's The Miz played alongside fan favorites like Charles Barkley, Alfonso Ribeiro, Larry

Cable Guy as well as NHL Stars Joe Pavelski and TJ Oshie. The 2024 and 2025 repeat Stanley Cup winner, Matthew Tkachuk, made his second appearance. Legendary sports broadcaster Joe Buck added to the roster again last year. Top notch Stand-Up comic Nate Bargatze also participated for his third time.

You might also rub elbows with athletes like NFL legend Jerry Rice, music greats like Jay DeMarcus, Jason Scheff or Jake Owen and TV stars like Jack Wagner who has played every year since the event began in 1990 and is the only non-athlete who has won the event. Wagner won in both 2006 and 2011. Many fans are able to take selfies with the celebrities.

The 2023 winner was NBA star Steph Curry, who skipped the 2024 event to prepare and win the USA Basketball Gold in the Summer Olympics. Curry finished in 5th place in 2025 with a +58 Stableford score. Mardy Fish, USA Tennis great and the defending ACC Champion, finished 9th also in 2025 with +53 Stableford points.

Last year, perennial top 10 finisher John Smoltz, retired MLB pitcher great and now sportscaster, finished 2nd with +64 points. Newcomers to the top finishers were country music star Jake Owen who finished in 3rd place with +62

Stableford points and finishing in 4th place was MLS great and soccer announcer Taylor Twellman with +61 points. This very tight field separated 4th place from second by only three points. Legendary LPGA golfer Annika Sorenstam finished 7th with +55 Stableford points.

In other news, Charles Barkley (NBA great, retired) beat the Caesar's betting odds against him to finish 69th. This after his best score ever in 2024 with -4 Stableford points, tied for 52nd place. Last July, Barkley began his play on Friday with his best round ever, scoring an Eagle on the 2nd hole, worth +6 points, to finish the day with a +9 score in 24th. He slipped on Saturday and Sunday to 69th scoring -17. This was his second best finish since 2003 when Stableford scoring was adopted for the tournament.

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For photo essays from past American Century events and happenings on and off the Edgewood-Tahoe golf course, please visit [www.skiernews.com/TahoeGolf.htm](http://www.skiernews.com/TahoeGolf.htm)

For on-course podcast interviews with many athletes and celebrities, log on to [www.AlwaysUpright.com](http://www.AlwaysUpright.com) and click the "Sports and Entertainment" label.

## The SNOW ANGEL FOUNDATION IS EXPANDING ITS MISSION from CAMPAIGN to MOVEMENT

THERMOPOLIS, WY – What began as a simple but powerful message has grown into a far-reaching safety movement across the ski industry.

The Snow Angel Foundation was born out of a tragedy in 2010 when a young man collided with Co-founder Kelli Johnson and her five-year-old daughter Elise while he was riding between 50 and 60 miles per hour. This event left Kelli with a severe traumatic brain injury while both Elise and the young man perished. In 2017, the Johnsons launched the Ride Another Day safety campaign, a grassroots effort focused on encouraging skiers and riders to take personal responsibility on the slopes. The campaign resonated deeply, helping spark conversations about speed, awareness and decision-making in mountain environments.

The Ride Another Day message quickly gained traction. Resorts recognized that the campaign was doing more than raising awareness. It was changing behavior. As a result, a handful of ski areas invited Chauncy and Kelli Johnson to share their personal story and safety insights at ski patrol refreshers and annual staff orientation meetings. These early presentations marked a turning point that led to the formation of the Snow Angel Foundation in 2023.

What followed was an evolution from a public awareness campaign into a comprehensive education and training organization.

Today, the Snow Angel Foundation provides structured training programs for resort leadership teams, ski patrol, instructors, guest services staff and other on-mountain departments. These programs focus on communication, collision prevention, bystander awareness and building a proactive culture of safety across resort operations.

Beyond resort staff, the Foundation expanded its reach to guests and families. Through youth-focused presentations, parent education sessions and community events, Snow Angel helps skiers and riders of all ages to understand not only how their choices impact not only their own safety, but also the safety of everyone sharing the mountain.

Recognizing that safe habits start early, the organization is now expanding into schools, ski clubs and race teams. These age-appropriate programs bring safety education directly to youth, teaching speed management, spatial awareness and respect for others in ways that resonate both on and off the slopes.

This growth reflects a broader shift in the ski industry. Safety is no longer viewed as a rulebook, but as a shared responsibility and cultural value.

Today, the Snow Angel Foundation works with well over 30 ski areas and resorts across North America, including resort groups, regional associations and partners in Canada. What began as a single campaign has become a collaborative movement, uniting resorts, families and young athletes around a common goal of helping everyone enjoy the mountain and ride another day.

About the Snow Angel Foundation

The Snow Angel Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing on-mountain collisions and fostering a culture of safety across ski resorts, communities and youth programs throughout North America.

For more info or to get involved, contact:

Chauncy Johnson Co-Founder, Snow Angel Foundation  
<https://snowangelfoundation.org>  
[info@snowangelfoundation.org](mailto:info@snowangelfoundation.org)

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## PURGATORY RESORT: A COLORADO SKI RESORT for FAMILIES, BEGINNERS and BIG MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE

DURANGO, CO – At Purgatory Resort, you will find an authentic Colorado ski experience where family-friendly fun meets big-mountain adventure. Nestled in the San Juan Mountains near Durango, this Colorado ski resort combines a welcoming atmosphere with terrain and activities that appeal to families, beginners and powder chasers alike.

### A Reputation Stacking Up

Purgatory has been steadily earning recognition in the ski world. OnTheSnow users recently voted it the best ski resort for beginners in North America. That speaks directly to how newcomers and families experience the mountain and illustrates that learning to ski at Purgatory is approachable and rewarding.

Durango itself has also gained notice as one of Colorado's most appealing ski towns, and Purgatory plays a central role in that reputation. Together, they create a destination that combines great skiing with a vibrant community and year-round attractions.

### Terrain, Powder and Adventure

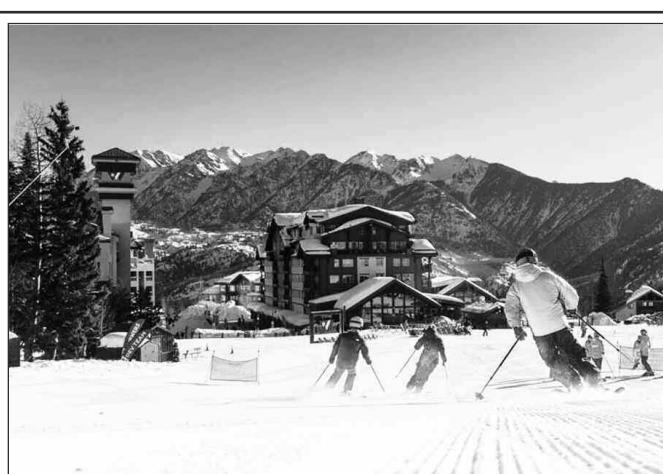
Purgatory offers more than 1,600 acres of varied terrain, from wide-open groomers to glades and challenging tree runs. The mountain averages 260 inches of snow each year, giving skiers consistent powder days.

One of the factors that makes Purgatory unique is its backcountry access. With 35,000 acres of guided terrain, Purgatory Snowcat Adventures is the largest snowcat skiing operation in Colorado. Skiers and riders can explore bowls, glades, and untouched powder with experienced guides leading the way.

### Family Ski Vacations in Colorado

Few resorts make skiing as accessible for families as Purgatory does. The Kids Ski Free program is one of the best family ski deals in Colorado. Children 12 and under ski free every day of the season, with no blackout dates or fine print.

Wide beginner areas, gentle slopes and progression-friendly lifts give kids and first-timers confidence while keeping the experience fun.



DURANGO CO — Purgatory Resort is where families come to learn, explore, and enjoy authentic Colorado skiing, surrounded by some of the best views in the Rockies. Named Best Ski Area for Beginners in North America (OnTheSnow Visitors' Choice Awards), Purgatory offers uncrowded slopes, an unpretentious vibe, and convenient access to historic Durango. Best of all, lift tickets start at \$9 and kids 12 and under ski free, no strings attached. Visit: [purgatory.ski](http://purgatory.ski)

Photo courtesy of Purgatory Resort

Skiing is only part of the story. Purgatory also offers tubing hills, snowshoe adventures, and other winter activities that make the resort fun for everyone. Even if skiing or snowboarding is not your thing, there are plenty of ways to enjoy the mountain and the snow.

### Durango: The Perfect Base

A trip to Purgatory is not just about skiing. Only 25 minutes away, Durango offers restaurants, breweries, shops and history that make the trip feel like a full Colorado ski vacation. Guests can ride the historic Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, soak in the Durango Hot Springs, or enjoy the lively downtown after a day on the mountain.

This blend of mountain adventure and small-city charm makes Purgatory more than just a ski resort. It is a complete Colorado experience.

### Slopeside Lodging at Purgatory Resort

When the lifts close, Purgatory makes it easy to stay close to the action. Lodging in the base area includes ski-in/ski-out condos, townhomes and private homes, as well as units with fireplaces and mountain views.

Guests who want to be near dining and activities can stay within walking distance of restaurants, shops and après-ski fun.

Purgatory also partners with lodging providers in nearby Durango to offer a wider range of accommodations, often with the best rates and packages. Whether staying slopeside or in town, guests can count on comfort, convenience and options to fit every trip.

### Why Purgatory, Why Now

Ski vacations in Colorado have become more expensive, and many resorts lean heavily on exclusivity and price. Purgatory offers something different. It delivers quality skiing, approachable pricing and a sense of welcome that is hard to find at larger mountains.

With recognition as the best ski resort for beginners, one of the largest snowcat operations in the country, family-first perks, slopeside lodging and activities for non-skiers, Purgatory is carving out a unique place among Colorado ski resorts. It is not about being the flashiest destination. It is about being the kind of mountain people return to year after year.

If you want a ski vacation that blends adventure, comfort and authenticity, Purgatory Resort should be at the top of your list.

Please view, read and share this page on [www.skiernews.com/Spring2026-News.pdf](http://www.skiernews.com/Spring2026-News.pdf)

For more info to help plan your trip today, please log on to: [purgatory.ski](http://purgatory.ski)

# ESCAPE to UNREAL WINTER ADVENTURE in MAMMOTH LAKES

MAMMOTH LAKES, CA – Let us address the Mammoth in the room. With Mammoth Mountain reporting an average of 400 inches of snow per season and simultaneously boasting over 300 days of sunshine, this destination delivers the ultimate winter getaway. Surrounded by boundless acres of breathtaking national forest, encompassing one of the biggest and one of the best skiing and snowboarding resorts in California, Mammoth Lakes is a West Coast wonderland. Superior snow conditions, a giant vertical drop and a monster amount of fresh powder per year prove that California's premier four-season alpine paradise lives up to its larger-than-life name. The only downside? You cannot capture it in a snow globe and keep it forever.

At an elevation of 11,053 feet and home to the highest lifts in California, the mountain towers over the competition. With 25 lifts, 175 trails, 3,500 skiable acres and an impressive 3,100-foot vertical drop from the summit to the base lodge, you are guaranteed thrills and excitement at every turn. Whether this is your first trip or you make the pilgrimage every year, this mountain always offers something new and unique. No wonder it is a bucket-list destination for any skier or snowboarder countrywide. The fun does not stop at the slopes. Mammoth Lakes has over 3 million acres of wide-open wilderness to explore. So slip on some snowshoes and trek up to Minaret Vista for unreal views of Mammoth Lakes' signature mountain skyline. Glide across more than 140 miles of cross-country trails. Hold on tight while tubing at Woolly's Tube Park, or skate around the new Olympic-sized LA Kings Ice indoor rink. Whatever you are into, a wide range of winter recreation ensures that there is enough fun for everyone.

Mammoth Lakes is so amazing that it is nearly unbelievable. Where else can you barrel down a powder-soft mountain taking in views of glistening crystalline lakes while the California sun beams through an azure sky? Where else can you soak in the warm hues of a classic California sunset while breathing in crisp mountain air and savoring the warmth of a fire by your feet after a long, rewarding day on the slopes?

*Publisher's Note: By press time on Dec. 30, Mammoth Mountain reported 73 inches of new snow over a two-day period. This brought their total-to-date to 113 inches and counting.*



MAMMOTH LAKES, CA - While cruising down one of the many powder filled trails of Mammoth Mountain, a skier gets their exhilaration fix on one of the many great days the region has to offer. Visit Mammoth Lakes, Calif., to indulge in an area known for having more than 300 days of sunshine and a 400 inch average of snowfall per season. Flying to Mammoth Lakes is easy via the nearby Bishop, Calif., airport (BIH) connecting through Denver or San Francisco. To find convenient flights go to: [www.visitmammoth.com/flying](http://www.visitmammoth.com/flying)

Christian Pondella photo courtesy of Mammoth Lakes Tourism

Where else does real life feel so unreal? When you come down from the clouds, you are greeted with a small-town experience that feels just as unreal. Simply head to The Village at Mammoth, where relaxation and après-ski vibes are at their highest. Enjoy a tasty bite or a hot toddy at a local restaurant. Snag one-of-a-kind souvenirs at the local shops or enjoy live music as you hit the bar scene. There is so much to love in this mountain town, and thanks to the free trolley service, it is easy to take it all in.

Any day of the week Mammoth Lakes has a lot to offer, but on weekdays, you practically have the place to yourself. Consider booking your trip beyond the weekend and unlock an extraordinary winter vacation that ensures more runs and less wait times, more thrills and fewer crowds, more opportunities to break personal records and less background noise. Lift tickets cost less too. In addition, midweek ski days come

with midweek après-ski specials, on and off the mountain. Expect to get food and drink discounts at some of your favorite local hangouts. Accommodations are often more affordable midweek. From cozy chalets with mountain views to boutique hotel rooms in the heart of town, you have the best options available at the best rates.

For visitors with a taste for mountain luxury, stay tuned to the exciting opening of Limelight Mammoth hotel and residences this winter. This all-electric facility pairs sweeping Sierra views, elevated amenities and a vibrant après scene at its Limelight Lounge, all just steps from The Village.

With a High Sierra climate delivering one of the longest seasons in the country, along with massive snowfalls and bluebird skies, you can make this ski season your best yet. Book a trip to Mammoth Lakes and experience the real unreal.

## GETTING to MAMMOTH LAKES IS EASY

Getting to Mammoth Lakes and Bishop has never been easier. United Airlines offers nonstop flights from San Francisco and Denver to Bishop, CA (BIH), in addition to easy one-connection service from the East Coast.

This winter United Airlines expands its Bishop schedule, with double weekend service to make your trip even smoother.

You can also fly nonstop directly to Mammoth Lakes in under an hour with Advanced Airlines from Carlsbad or Hawthorne-LA.

To book your flights from anywhere, please log on to: [www.visitmammoth.com/flying](http://www.visitmammoth.com/flying)

View, read and share this page online at: [www.skiernews.com/Spring2026-NewsEditorial.pdf](http://www.skiernews.com/Spring2026-NewsEditorial.pdf)

To learn more about Mammoth Lakes, please listen to the Mammoth Lakes podcast episodes, please visit: [www.AlwaysUpright.com](http://www.AlwaysUpright.com) and easily find them linked on the West section label.

For more Mammoth Lakes information please go to: [www.visitmammoth.com](http://www.visitmammoth.com)

Please find more great Mammoth Lakes information at: [www.visitmammoth.com](http://www.visitmammoth.com) or at: #KeepMammothUnreal

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#### Link to Technical Editor Tony Crespi's ideas on taking lessons.

#### Find it at

[www.skiernews.com/Spring2026-lessons.pdf](http://www.skiernews.com/Spring2026-lessons.pdf)



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## BE AWARE, SKI WITH CARE, KNOW THE CODE

Ski resorts can be enjoyed in many ways. At the areas you may see people using alpine, snowboard, telemark, cross country and other specialized ski equipment, such as that used by disabled or other skiers.

Observe the code listed below and share with other skiers the responsibility for a great skiing experience.

1. Always stay in control.
2. People ahead of you have the right of way.
3. Stop in a safe place for you and others.
4. Whenever starting downhill or merging, look uphill and yield.
5. Use devices to help prevent runaway equipment.
6. Observe signs and warnings, and keep off closed trails.
7. Know how to use the lifts safely.

#### KNOW THE CODE, IT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

(This is a partial list.)

## From the PUBLISHER'S DESK:

By Publisher and Editor, Dave Leonardi

Welcome to SKIER NEWS edition number 126, published continuously since 1988.

**REMINDER - MORE PODCAST EPISODES ADDED at: [www.AlwaysUpright.com](http://www.AlwaysUpright.com)**

When you are skiing or snowboarding, it is best to be always upright. That is one of the reasons why SKIER NEWS decided, when we launched our podcasts, to name our newly minted podcast episodes just that. You can find the episodes online at [www.AlwaysUpright.com](http://www.AlwaysUpright.com). The series has interviews with ski industry insiders as well as legends in music, entertainment and sports. Many episodes were recorded at NBC's American Century Championship in Lake Tahoe in July by Publishers Lorie and Dave Leonardi who are working media at the event.

The podcast home page is divided into three landing pages. They are Western Ski News; Eastern Ski News and Sports and Entertainment. Larry the Cable Guy gets it done in his second Entertainment based podcast as well as famed comedian Nate Bargatze, both are funny and informative. Also this year country star Jake Owen joined along with Miles Teller from Top Gun Maverick, and famous MLB and NFL broadcaster Joe Buck joined with great interview.

Also interviewed was the 2008 Phillies' World Series Champ Jimmy Rollins. Jay DeMarcus returned with news of his stellar group, Rascal Flatts, reuniting. In more entertainment news Jason Scheff, former lead singer with Chicago, discusses his new project "Lead Singers of Classic Rock."

Many hospitality and ski industry marketers and PR spokespersons are interviewed as well and comprise many of the podcasts. More episodes will be added and will continue throughout the ski season.

Check it out at [www.AlwaysUpright.com](http://www.AlwaysUpright.com) and also sign up for our email updates.

#### CELEBRATE! SKI RESORTS MARK BIG ANNIVERSARIES

This winter season at least three ski areas are marking major milestones in their existence.

In the Poconos of Pennsylvania, Shawnee Mountain is celebrating its 50th Anniversary with fun events planned all year long. See: [www.shawneemt.com](http://www.shawneemt.com) for all the details. We apologize to Shawnee for previously reporting it was their 25th and stand corrected.

Jackson Hole, in Wyoming, is joyous about their 60 years of building a great ski resort. From their humble beginning in 1964, they now are a major resort with seven high-speed quads, two gondolas and their world famous tram that rises 4,139 vertical feet from their base. Look for their many events and more at: [www.jacksonhole.com](http://www.jacksonhole.com)

Alta Ski Area, located in Little Cottonwood Canyon in Utah, celebrates their 88th year of operation. Why the 88th year? It highlights the super powder days they receive and the abundance of "Powder 8" competitions they have had. Look for those events and more at: [www.alta.com](http://www.alta.com)

#### GET SET FOR THE 2026 WINTER GAMES - ITALY SHOWCASES OLYMPIC EVENTS

NBC will once again bring America closer to the 2026 Winter Games. They are in Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy. Milan will be home to the ice competitions. The outdoor events will occur in Cortina d'Ampezzo. "Ski Mountaineering" will be one of the newest Olympic games.

The events will begin on Friday, February 6, 2026 and continue through the closing ceremony on Sunday, February 22. They are officially known as the XXV Olympic Winter Games and it should be an exciting 16 days, especially the USA ice hockey games.

NBC will broadcast the events over many of their platforms. You can find their schedule by checking [www.nbcolympics.com/schedule](http://www.nbcolympics.com/schedule)

Go Team USA especially Men's and Women's ice hockey, skiing and all of the many Team USA athletes. Mikaela Shiffrin and Lindsey Vonn should rally our downhill skiers as Jesse Diggins looks to conquer the 10k women's cross-country event. Bring home the gold!

#### OUR USUAL CLOSING THOUGHTS

Think snow, ski safely and stay well.

Once again we ask God to bless our troops all around the world, helping to keep the peace as they continue to defend America against terrorists and other evil-doers so that we can continue to enjoy the blessings of liberty here in our beautiful homeland. We hope you continue to view, read and enjoy our websites and podcasts. All are linked from [www.skiernews.com](http://www.skiernews.com)

Please also contact our advertisers for the great deals they provide to our readers.

## ON THE COVER

### ALTA SKI AREA, UTAH

Alta Ski Area located near Salt Lake City in Utah's Little Cottonwood Canyon is a delight for powderhounds. Alta is a "skiers only" mountain and annually known for its deep snow. The last three winters they received more than 2,000 inches. This year's first big dump should be on its way soon to help Alta celebrate its 88th anniversary on which many great skiers have carved "Powder 8's." Log on to: [www.alta.com](http://www.alta.com) for updates and please see their ad on pages 4 & 5

Copyright January, 2026, The Skier News, Inc. S.S.N. 1094-0960 Vol. 40 - Issue 126 We are now printed on gluten free paper with no GMO's! SKIER NEWS, published by The Skier News, Inc., a New Jersey Corporation, distributes two national and two regional editions for this ski season, from November through Spring. These double editions are labeled November-January and January-Spring. Summer and Fall issues are published online at [www.skiernews.com](http://www.skiernews.com). The inaugural issue was published November, 1988. in the ski industry, that was pre-historic cons ago.

SKIER NEWS gratefully acknowledges the assistance of all of the fine organizations associated with skiing and we are by concept dedicated to promote skiing. We consider the term "skiing" to be the all-comprehensive, generic term for all downhill snowsports.

Appreciation is hereby, once again, proclaimed to Mark Bunzel, now of Washington state. His original technical and computer suggestions, in 1988, helped make the first edition possible. Now he publishes Fine Edge boating books in the Pacific Northwest.

Thanks again to the pre-press and press room staff of Brad, Vanessa, Scott, Tim, Dan, Jim, Chris, Joe and many, many more.

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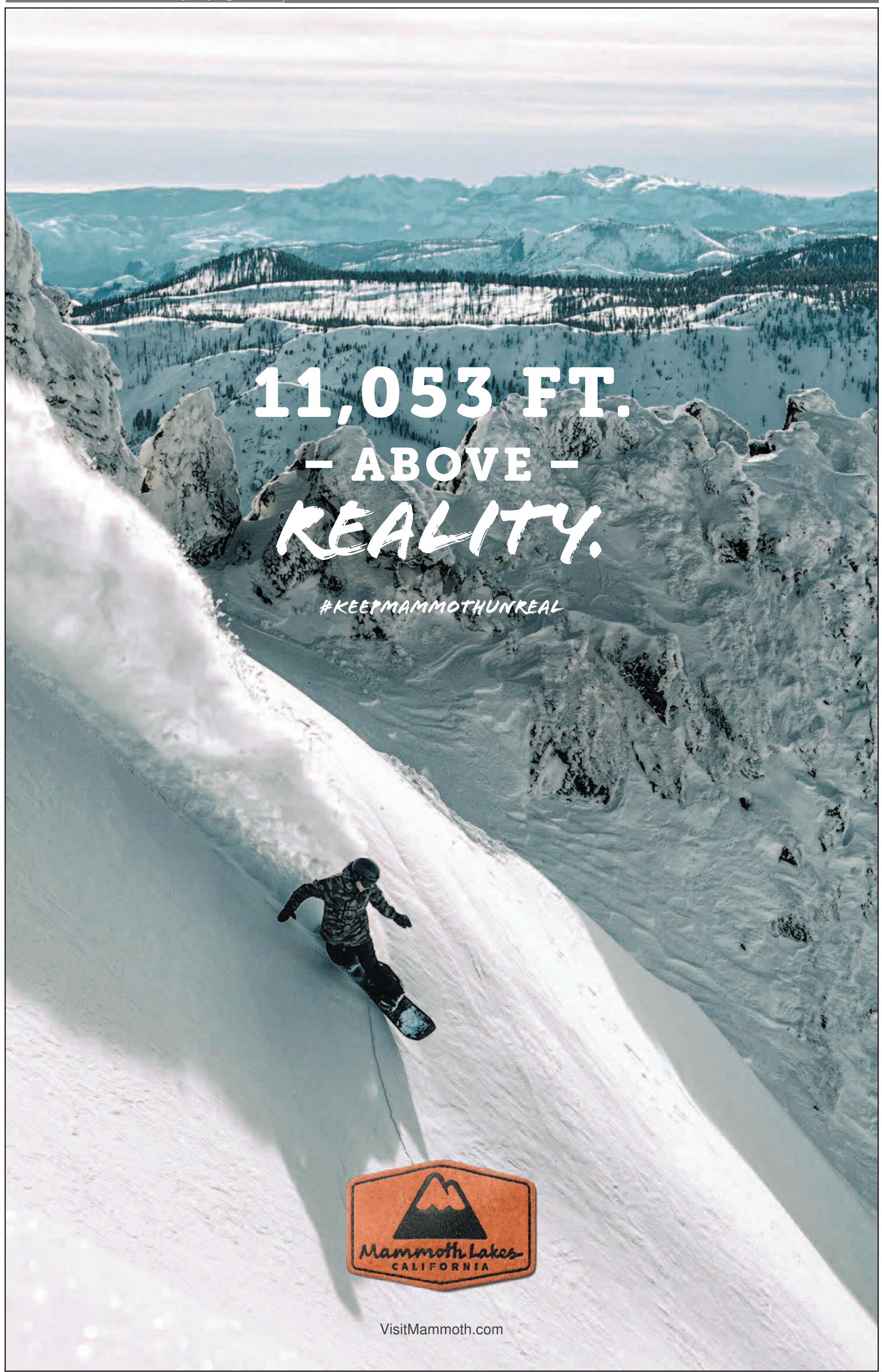
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SKIER NEWS is published in the shadows of the beautiful but now defunct, formerly rope tow serviced Bell Mountain Ski Area in Hopewell, New Jersey, Exit 7-A. Printed in New Jersey off of Exit 3. No animals were killed or maimed in the production of this publication. This publication was not tested on animals.

Unsolicited manuscripts formerly were used as kindling for our office wood stove and now digitally deleted with a loud "wo-hoo."

One more thing, we do not use a period to end a sentence when that sentence ends with a web URL address. Some knuckleheads might think that the period is part of the web address! Not you, of course, but the guy who picked up the copy just before you or maybe the other guy also at the rack, but don't stare. But just in case we forgot to eliminate one, you would know better than to use the period when typing the URL. Thanks. Why are you still reading this fine print?

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