

PLAN a SUMMER VISIT to SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, JULY 7-12, and ATTEND NBC'S AMERICAN CENTURY CHAMPIONSHIP

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 great, fun place to visit in winter to ski Sierra-at-Tahoe or just enjoy the scenery of the snow-capped peaks around beautiful Lake Tahoe. Summers, however, are spectacular and packed with activities. The South Shore comes alive each mid-July with major celebrity golf.

Plan your summer Tahoe visit for the American Century Championship Celebrity Golf event July 7-12, 2020.

There are many activities beginning on Tuesday, July 7, with Pro-Am golf events as the celebs warm-up to playing at 6,200 feet of altitude at this beautiful golf course.

Olympic and World Cup skier Bode Miller plays in the event. Justin Timberlake returned after playing in 2015, 2016 and 2017. He rejoined many fan favorites Charles Barkley, Ray Romano, Alfonso Ribeiro, Larry the Cable Guy and



SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, CA/NV - Steph Curry, Justin Timberlake and Aaron Rodgers are just three of the many fan favorite celebrities who play in NBC's American Century Championship. Plan to attend July 7-12 or watch on NBC. SKIER NEWS photo - Dave Leonardi

former San Jose Shark, Joe Pavelski.

You could rub elbows with great athletes like NBA great Steph Curry, who played the past four years. Meet Jerry Rice and music greats like Rascal Flatts, TV stars like Jack Wagner or baseball greats and contenders to win John Smoltz and Mark Mulder. Many people are lucky enough to get autographs or take selfies with them.

It will also be broadcast live on NBC on Saturday, July 11, and Sunday, July 12.

In 2019, Tony Romo, former NFL quarterback and 2018 winner, won with great play on all three days as he led the field of 80-plus celebs on all three days.

If you are looking for great lodging in South Lake Tahoe, check out the Ridge Tahoe at: www.ridgetahoeresort.com or Hotel Becket at: www.hotelbecket.com. Both are linked on: www.skiernews.com/LodgingWest.htm

For great photo essays from past American Century events, please log on to www.skiernews.com/TahoeGolf.htm

WHAT'S NEW for 2020 at SQUAW VALLEY | ALPINE MEADOWS

OLYMPIC VALLEY, CA - After a record-breaking 2018-19 snowfall season spanning nine calendar months, Squaw Valley Alpine Meadows welcomes guests this season with new lifts, events, experiences, dining and bars.

The new Treeline Cirque chairlift at Alpine Meadows is an \$11 million detachable, high-speed quad chair that transports skiers and riders from the base area to Sherwood ridge in five minutes, where the journey once took 45 minutes or more. The lift features a mid-station for quick access to some of Alpine's best low-intermediate terrain. From the top terminal, skiers and riders can drop into expert terrain on the front side or venture into the back bowls of Sherwood, which boast the resort's best views of Lake Tahoe. The protected alignment of Treeline Cirque makes it favorable in high winds and inclement weather, and the rapid access from the base area will dramatically improve the skier experience for a wide range of ability levels.

The Tram Car Bar, a restored 70's era Squaw Valley tram cabin, made its home on the Olympic House deck, serving drinks as the Aerial Tram soars overhead. Skiers and riders can duck in for a "Backscratcher" cocktail, a spicy take on the Moscow mule named for a favorite ski trick of the 70's hot-dogging days. The 7,000-pound silver tram cabin is a nod to Squaw Valley's storied past - the original logos and unique shape of the cabin is the ideal après-ski photo op with the iconic Tram Face in the background. Tram Car Bar serves Pabst Blue Ribbon on draft, wine, bubbles and other vodka cocktails, with a daily happy hour 3-4 p.m.

The Leap of Love, a collective Leap Day mountaintop wedding, will take place on Feb. 29, 2020 (Leap Day). Up to 50 couples will get married or renew their vows at the picturesque High Camp Upper Observation Deck, with panoramic views of Lake Tahoe and the snow-capped Sierra Nevada. The ceremony will be followed by a laid-back gathering in the Terrace Bar & Restaurant and a group ski down 3.2 miles to The Village at Squaw Valley.

Squaw Valley Alpine Meadows will host the U.S. Freestyle Moguls National Championships March 19-22, 2020. The event will bring together the best moguls skiers from around the country for a weekend of intense competition in moguls and dual moguls. The event will be held on the historic Red Dog trail at Squaw Valley, frequent home to international snowsports competitions since the 1960 Winter Olympic Games. The country's brightest freestyle moguls talent is expected to compete, including Olympians and World Championship medalists Jaelin Kauf, Tess Johnson and Brad Wilson.

Tremigo Mexican Kitchen and Tequila Bar, a new Mexican restaurant from the owners of the Auld Dubliner, began operations in The Village at Squaw Valley for the 2019-20 winter season.

Alpenglow Expeditions introduced two new winter activities for the 2019-20 season. Based in The Village at Squaw Valley, the local mountain-guide service lead half-day guided snowshoe tours through the beautiful Shirley Canyon. Known for its summer hiking trail, Shirley Canyon's winter wonderland can now be explored with a professional guide. Three-hour guided tours will leave The Village at Squaw Valley each Saturday and Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Visit: www.alpenglowexpeditions.com for more info.

In response to demand for more guided experiences, The North Face Mountain Guides program expanded with a new half-day offering to complement the existing full day option. Started in 2014, The North Face Mountain Guides take groups of up to four skiers and riders to discover the resort's most coveted terrain, secret stashes and hidden groomers. The program is loved for its priority lift line access, ideal for big powder days.

One dollar from every sale of the 2019-20 Squaw Valley Alpine Meadows signature beanie will benefit the Shane McConkey Foundation, a local non-profit organization that

supports kids, wildlife and the environment. This year's beanie features a scaled rendering of the Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows mountains, with the silhouette of the eagle statue that sits atop KT-22 in honor of Shane's legacy. Beanies are available at locations across the resort as well as at the online logo store.

The new Mountaineer app-based shuttle service kicked off for its second season and will operate through April 12. In its inaugural season, Mountaineer transported over 81,000 passengers and removed at least 20,000 vehicle trips from access roads in Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows. New this season, Mountaineer will offer extended evening hours in Squaw Valley (until 10 p.m. daily) and holiday service in Alpine Meadows. In addition, two more vehicles were added to the fleet in order to meet demand and further reduce weekend wait times.

About Squaw Valley | Alpine Meadows

Squaw Valley | Alpine Meadows is an internationally renowned mountain resort in North Lake Tahoe, Calif., and proud host of the 1960 Olympic Winter Games. The resort spans 6,000 skiable acres across two mountains, with stunning views of Lake Tahoe and the Sierra Nevada. Skiers and riders of all ability levels are welcomed by over 65 percent beginner and intermediate terrain, while legendary steeps, towering cliffs and heart-pumping chutes continue to provide legendary skiing and riding. With an annual average of 450 inches of snowfall and 300 sunny California days, Squaw Valley Alpine Meadows is known as the Spring Skiing Capital™. Squaw Valley | Alpine Meadows is on the Ikon Pass, the new standard in season passes, which grants access to 41 iconic destinations across five continents.

Visit www.squawalpine.com or call 1-800-403-0206 to learn more.

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THE MOUNTAIN JOURNAL

EXPLORING CHILDREN'S SKI SCHOOL PROGRAMS

By TONY CRESPI, SKIER NEWS' TECHNICAL EDITOR

Ski brochures paint mountain resorts as a kind of wonderland of fun. For parents though, the thrills are not on the hills unless the kids are happy. Fortunately, you need not look far to find children's programs. In fact, you need only follow the yellow brick road as far as the children's center at most area resorts.

Children's Games

It has been said that life's lessons are often first learned in the games of childhood. If anyone has wondered about the importance of play in child development they are in for a surprise.

The truth is that games - child's play - have been an area of close scrutiny by child psychologists and child development specialists. In fact, during games children can learn sportsmanship, teamwork, and children can learn that losing can be as important as winning.

In a way, skiing can serve as an introduction to winter. Rather than staying inside, snowsports can offer a freedom from gravity, excitement and adventure.

Eminent Swiss psychologist Jean Piaget (1896 - 1980) maintained that children learn a great deal about adult life through the games of childhood.

On The Mountain

Many parents want to know that ski resorts are providing quality children's programs. Fortunately, scattered throughout the country are talented instructors involved in developing quality children's programs.

What is a key ingredient? Fun!

Ideally programs emphasize fun rather than more formal lessons. The key is the instructor. The mountain or the hill is important and the lifts are important, but the right instructor can make the day a true adventure.

Selecting a Children's Program

Here are four keys to consider when selecting a children's program

Well-Trained Staff

Look for well-trained staff. Understand that this is tough. Because resorts pay pros small salaries, well-educated teachers are not likely to elect careers in ski resorts. At the same time, resorts are striving to refine these programs, and sometimes a graduate will take time to teach skiing before embarking on a more traditional career. On weekends many fine pros teach part-time.

Understand that training can vary. Some staff may hold college degrees in areas such as child development or education while other staff may have received their training through PSIA. Some staff have both. Like most things in life, expertise can vary. Ask about staff training and expertise.

A Good Facility

You want a warm and safe building facility. You will also want a viable "drop-off and pick-up" area with a lunch program and something to do on a cold or rainy day. Look for more than a coloring book.

Can you vary your choices? Or, are you locked into one resort? If you have options choose the program right for you.

Ideally, visit a few programs when you are in snow country without the kids. Otherwise, call and ask for downloaded images. Talk to the supervisor.

Accessibility

Do you dread carrying the entire family's gear to the mountain? Do you have images of spending your day running to and from the mountain? Ideally look for a facility which is accessible. What that means is the children's center is convenient.

After dropping off the kids, you may want to sign-up for a lesson. Good programs stagger times from when the kids sign-up for their programs, and the time you can sign up for your programs. Also ask about parking.

Tailorability

Some programs offer a variety of options. From learn-to-ski options to racing programs for children, the choices are deep. Ask questions. Compare. Decide on the program you need.

Children's programs, in a general way, offer the opportunity for children to explore their place in different social situations. Indeed, children's programs can offer children an important way to learn to negotiate, compromise, and to learn to develop responsibility.

Look over the children's programs at your ski area. Do children play cooperatively? Does the program balance cooperation with competition? Is the staff enthusiastic? Is there an adequate staff to student ratio? Ideally, one instructor for every 4 to 5 children is good. Does the staff encourage rules which reflect a philosophy of moral education? In other words, is the staff sensitive to sometimes unruly children? Ski programs can, and should, encourage a level of conformity.

In a general way, children's programs can serve an important role in children's lives. Under the watchful eye of a responsible, knowledgeable adult, children can develop in responsible ways. Many parents know this of course. But now, ski school has begun to recognize this, too. Learn which programs you think will be appropriate for your children.

Look for a program that's going to teach your child in an atmosphere that is interesting and stimulating and one that suits the ability level of your child.

In the end, look for a fun option. When sports stop being fun, kids stop participating.

Be aware.

Savor your adventure, from that first to your last run.

Technical Editor Tony Crespi has served as both a Ski School Supervisor and Development Team Coach. A thoughtful observer of children's programs, his column and instructional ski pointers are published throughout the season.