

CHINA PEAK TIMES



SkiChinaPeak.com

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John Hodges Names Peak's New Director of Mountain Operations

Following the retirement of long time China Peak mountain chief Paul Gray this past winter, former grooming supervisor John Hodges has been named the resort's new Director of Mountain Operations, announced Tim Cohee, Managing Partner.

"Paul stole John away from his construction career in 2015 and it has turned out to be one of the best moves we've made," said Cohee.



John Hodges has been named as the Mountain Operations Director at China Peak Ski Resort.

"In the three years he's been with us he's demonstrated all the traits of excellent leadership - hard work, quality, team play, passion for China Peak and a broad range of talents."

Mainstream Gets Major Upgrade - French Fries

While many skiers enjoy a variety of food items at ski resorts, the most popular item at literally every resort in America, in spite of a push to more healthy choices, remains the same since California's first resorts open 80 years ago: French Fries. And since China Peak opened its Mainstream facility in 2006, one element of its food service has remained the same: no French Fries.

Twelve years later, a new day has dawned at Mainstream Station with the addition of new cooking facilities that will provide French Fries and a host of other food

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A graduate of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Hodges, 37, oversees several operating departments, including snow surfaces, terrain parks, vehicle and lift maintenance, lift operations, snow removal, parking, ski patrol, facilities, utilities and area maintenance. All of these departments were consolidated under Gray in 2014.

"I learned to ski at China Peak as a young kid, and have been in the Huntington Lake area all of my life, as my family has owned a cabin for decades," said Hodges.

"I consider China Peak home, and am very lucky to inherit this job from Paul Gray, who not only did a great job but continues to be a very valuable resource for me as I learn more about the ins and outs of mountain operations. I'm lucky to be working with so many talented leaders, including Rich Bailey, Mike Cornell, Larry Ott, Eric Jorgenson and Graham Jones as well as a group of terrific supervisors."

Previous to his joining the China Peak team in 2015, Hodges had an extensive background as a talented contractor, which has proven valuable at China Peak as the resort continues to upgrade facilities each off season.

Since 2011 the resort has remodeled the Inn, Mainstream, Buckhorn, Jack's Place, the Rental/Demo Center, Sully's, Base Camp and the Welcome Center. It has also added several new employee housing units.



China Peak CEO Tim Cohee has named Spencer Neville, long associated with China Peak and Sierra Summit, to Direct the Ski and Board School. Above is Spencer and his wife, Lorre Neville.

Long Time Ski Instructor Named Director of Ski and Board School

When Spencer Neville ended his Sierra Summit Ski School management career 33 years ago he probably never envisioned how things would end up over three decades later.

"I had a good career in the human resources business until 2018 and frankly thought I would just continue to teach part time until I couldn't ski any longer," said Neville. "Then Tim called with this opportunity to lead the Ski & Board School and it didn't take long to make up my mind. Teaching skiing has been a big part

of my life for 46 years and I'm super excited about taking our program to a higher level."

Neville's skiing career started nearly five decades ago in 1970 as a Junior National Ski Patrol member of the Big Creek Ski Patrol as a student at Sierra High

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Inn @China Peak Rooms Get All New Furnishings

Inn @China Peak guests who have found the historic bunk beds not exactly what they were hoping for will find a new look this winter, as the resort has replaced the bunks with all new queen beds and linens.

"We've had a lot of feedback from our guests over the past few years to offer more standard style hotel rooms with beds instead of bunks," said Russell Morris, Inn Manager. "We now have queens and kings in all rooms, except for the two largest rooms in the main building where they're so large bunks still make sense. We think

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China Peak Management Loaded With Lots of Up and Coming Talent

One of the great things about China Peak is the consistency of its year round staff, which not only provides resort guests with consistent, quality and experienced service but also creates a tight knit group that has battled through a difficult period of drought conditions in five of the eight seasons since

returning to the original name China Peak in 2010. The resort's annual turnover of key year round positions is less than 10%, among the lowest in the industry.

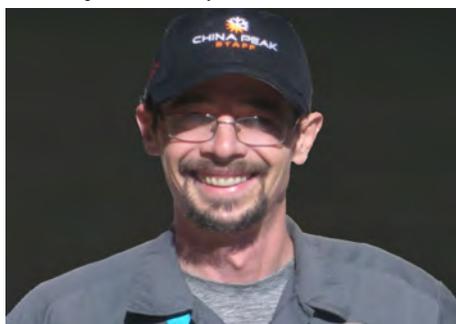
But as some of China Peak's key managers begin to approach retirement age, a new crop of young, energetic and passion-



Chad Sainsbury, Snowmaking & Grooming, promoted to year round status



Austin Waltz, promoted to Snow Removal Supervisor



Russell Morris, took over management of the Inn @ China Peak



Tristan Cohee, promoted to Inn Restaurant Supervisor



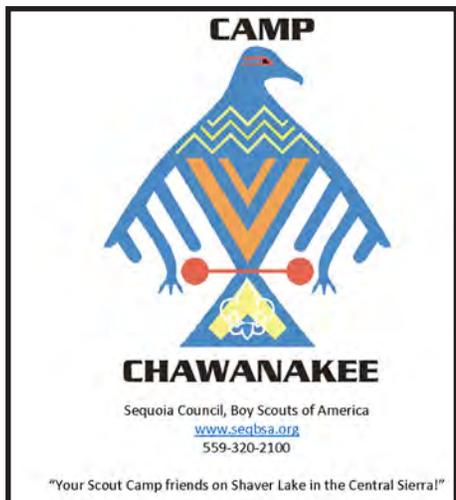
Corinthian Jones, took over management of Rentals, Demos, Repair & Facilities



Eric Montez, Lift Maintenance, promoted to year round status



Brenna Falge is the Marketing Coordinator at China Peak



Matt McNamara, promoted to Lift Operations Assistant Supervisor and year round status. Ate key staff members have emerged over the past few years to shine in areas from the Inn to Grooming and Snowmaking.

"If you're not developing new young talent in today's resort industry you're not doing a good job of planning for the future," says Tim Cohee, resort Managing Partner, who is entering his 40th year of resort management this season. "Even though we're a relatively isolated resort away from the mainstream areas of Mammoth and Lake Tahoe, we are incredibly lucky to have attracted a talented group of new leaders to handle the resort's leader-

Exactly What is an "Environmentalist"?

Environmentalist is not a one-word-fits-all word. It's common to use it in everyday conversation to refer to anyone connected with everything outdoors. Some even use it as a glorified title for members of extremist groups.

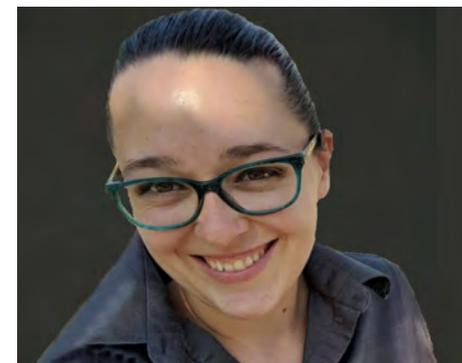
But *who or what* is a real environmentalist? Where might you fit into the conversation? Read on.

Are environmentalists those who realize nature is important and support groups with names like *Friends of the Trees and Lakes*? Have they ever taken time to check what these groups actually advocate? Have they ever visited the outdoor areas in question?

Or are environmentalists the people who respect the outdoors? Those that do everything in their power to protect the forest and wildlife within it? Someone that uses the forests responsibly? The type who stops to pick up litter? The property owner that is careful to clear their land of combustible pine needles and slash? Do they help educate others to do the same?

Perhaps an environmentalist is one who admires the beauty of running water and forests. Thus they oppose damming rivers to provide water for farming. They oppose cutting forest trees for any purpose that sustains a natural landscape?

Is an environmentalist the person who understands forest management? One who realizes the practice of suppressing natural fires allows the fuel load to escalate to unnatural levels. Consequently, they realize this leads to the risk of the catastrophic fires like those that have recently plagued several western states. Do they believe in selective logging



Abby Graves-Warner, Accounting, promoted to year round status. ship in the future."

Here's the talented group of new leaders to look for at China Peak this season who have taken over departments or have been promoted to year round status.

"This is the list of our 'new' group. We have had for some time amazingly talented young people who have become invaluable to our management team, including Katrina Cross, Carrie Burgin, Graham Jones and Lyndsie Stocker. They are what we look for this new group to become, very solid, confident, performance driven, passionate leaders," said Cohee.

to thin the forest to more closely represent a true natural state?

Is an environmentalist a lobbyist paid to represent groups who fervently believe that all natural areas should be totally protected. No public use whatsoever?

Maybe an environmentalist recognizes forest lands are public lands to be enjoyed by everyone. Naturally they believe some areas need to have restricted wilderness designations, while other places are suitable for responsible public use.

Which type of environmentalist are you. It's worth thinking about.

The Inn @China Peak Gets Upgraded Furniture

(Continued from Page 1)

our guests will really enjoy the new look and comfort."

Additionally, Inn staff has completed an innovative redo of furniture in each room, making them far more skier friendly than in the past, replacing old desks and dressers with lightweight storage bins, ski and snowboard storage, convenient hangers and more.

"The rooms work much better for our primary guest who visits in the winter months," added Morris. "They're much more functional for hanging lots of clothing and gear, storing skis, boards and boots, and makes it a more enjoyable stay with more room and gear hanging up. We've always said there's no such thing as too many places to hang wet clothing in winter hotel rooms."

Shaver Lake Sports Moves Into Larger Facility to Better Serve You

Shaver Lake Sports is on the move. After being in their old location since June 1994, owners Dave Powell and son Greg Powell decided to move across the road to a larger location.

The new location is the old hardware store and the old bank building at 41777 Tollhouse Road.

The former bank building will be the new ski/snowboard rental shop. Manager Tyler Powell is looking forward to helping his customers in a larger location. "From our new location you can rent your skis or snowboards by the day or by the season," said Tyler.

"The rental shop carries rental ski boots from a toddler's size 7 to a man's size 15.5. We also rent recreation X-country skis and snowshoes in a variety of sizes," he said.

The old hardware store is now the new location for the retail side of the business. In the winter Shaver Lake Sports carries everything you need for a great day on the slopes or playing in the snow.

They sell snowshoes, snowboots (sizes infant 5 to a man's 13), jackets, gloves, hats, helmets, snow pants, bibs (sizes infant 12 months to a mans 4X). They also sell a large assortment of snow toys to slide down on the snow.

They have a large selection of snow chains and cables for your car or truck. They have everything you need for a tailgate party in the snow. You just need to provide the food and drinks.

California SnoPark Passes are available at \$5 per day per vehicle or \$25 for a season pass. There are five SnoParks in the local region.

During the spring, summer and fall the store carries a huge selection of fishing, camping and watersports items.

Additionally we can purchase footwear, clothing, souvenirs and T-Shirts, sweat-shirts and hats.

The Powells plan on adding a small selection of auto, hardware and plumbing supplies to the store in the spring of 2019.

They will also turn the ski shop section into a bike rental shop for the summer season. They will also rent kayaks, tow tubes, plus more and a small selection of hand-tools.

Shaver Lake Sports sells Fishing & Hunting Licenses year-round and during the winter they sell Sno Park Permits.

Shaver Lake Sports hopes everyone will enjoy their new larger location. Come see them at their new store or you can visit them online at ShaverLakeSports.com!



The new location for Shaver Lake Sports in in the old bank and hardware buildings across the street from the Shaver Lake Deli. One will house the ski/board rentals shop and the other the retail store.

Spencer NeVille is the New Director of the China Peak Ski and Board School

(Continued from Page 1)

School. He then became a National Ski Patrol member in 1972, but tried out for the China Peak Ski School in 1973, which was under the direction of Phil Kerridge, one of the most respected ski professionals in the state.

He graduated from college with two degrees and a teach credential in 1978, and began teaching full time that season.

In 1981 he passed the highest level of professional ski instruction, known as Full Certification, now known as Level 3, which requires a very high level of technical, teaching and skiing skills.

From 1982-85 he worked under Kerridge as a Ski School Supervisor and Assistant Director. In 1986 he moved to a part time

role which he has maintained for the past 32 years. His wife Lorre has been a member of the Sierra Summit/China Peak Ski & Board Schools for decades as well.

"I have a huge passion to see our customers learn to ski or snowboard, or improve their skills, as well as those of our ski and snowboard staff," said NeVille.

"Our goals are to teach more people every year, make sure they have such a good experience they become lifelong customers, create new programs and encourage our ski and board school staff to reach higher levels of instruction as well."

NeVille also likes to remind everyone he is the remaining staff member of the original Buckhorn Boys, dating back to the 1970s.

Mainstream Traffic Flow Improved for Guests

(Continued from Page 1)

items not available in years past.

"If I had a dollar every time someone asked me about French Fries at my bar I'd be rich," said Mark 'Sully' Sullivan, who's as excited as anyone about the new offerings. "I would tell them it's a 150 yard walk across the base area and you could see the shocked look on their faces that we didn't offer them."

"While it may not seem like much, it's a game changer for families who prefer Mainstream as their base for the day."

In addition to the new cooking facilities, Roger Myers, who joined China Peak after a career in food at Kirkwood and is the manager of Mainstream, reconfigured the food line to eliminate hungry guests having to get their food in a narrow, crowded area



'Sully' stands where the new Mainstream food service was being constructed this past November.

behind Sully's.

"The whole experience should be a huge improvement, from food offerings to traffic flow and ease of getting your food," said Myers. "With everything now out in the main area of the building it will make for a much more enjoyable experience. We'll also offer a variety of excellent breakfast choices which we have not been able to do before this winter."

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China Peak Race Team Under Direction of Coach Nick Alexandru

The tradition of teaching the challenging sport of ski racing continues this year under the direction of world renowned champion ski racer and head coach, Nick Alexandru.

Under the guidance of Coach Nick and his team of highly skilled race coaches, athletes as young as seven can learn to safely “run the gates” and become champions.

The China Peak Race Team will be trav-



A youngster listens to their coach during a practice session. They really are able to hone skills.

eling and competing in races throughout the Far West Region which extends from the Lake Tahoe area in the north, to Snow Summit in the south.

China Peak will host racers from across the state on March 2 and 3, 2018. China Peak is scheduled to offer a Giant Slalom and the speed event, Super Giant Slalom.

China Peak is the only local venue to offer the Super G, as it is known to races, because only China Peak has the vertical and



If you would like your child to join the China Peak Team visit online at ChinaPeakRace.com.

terrain necessary to make the race possible.

“We are very excited to host the Super G,” says team President, Dennis Lewis, “because it offers the best, bravest skiers a chance to test their skills. For spectators, it is an exciting, fast race to watch.”

The coaches and athletes (and their par-



The youngsters on the China Peak Ski Team get the opportunity to improve their skiing and boarding skills, while having the chance for lots of friendly competition at a variety of mountain ski resorts.

ents!) have had a busy summer and fall preparing for the coming season. Along with strength and agility work, the team has come together to work on the team house located by the Ski Patrol building at the base area.

New paint inside and out along with new lighting and updated amenities will enhance the team experience.

For the first time, the Race Team will take advantage of video to help racers learn about how they ski and where tactics could help them win races.

You can join the race team and find out more information including upcoming training and races at the web page, www.chinapeakrace.com.

Follow us on Facebook under the China Peak Ski Team.



For the first time Race Team Members will be able to take advantage of videos of their skiing.

Meet the Two New Ski Patrol Leaders



Kevin Qualseth, China Peak Volunteer Ski Patrol Coordinator, 18 years at China Peak



Nathan Bell, Professional Ski Patrol Supervisor, 3 years at China Peak

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The Fresno Ski Club Looks Forward to a Great Season!

This past snow year was disappointing for the Central Valley. China Peak was open for only 45 days and Badger Pass did not open at all.

None the less, Fresno Ski Club members enjoyed an unforgettable season with a lifetime of memories.

In January 2018, they took a week long ski trip to Whistler/Blackcomb in British Columbia, Canada. Another trip to Mammoth/June Mountains in March was a huge success.

Despite the short season, they arranged one weekend trip to the Tahoe region for those that could go. And, never to be discouraged, the Club members got in as many days of skiing at China Peak as they could.

The Fresno Ski Club arranges trips each winter to snow-packed resorts near and far. As a service to its members, the Club arranges all the transportation, lodging, lift tickets, group activities and other optional activities, all at an affordable price.

For 2019, they are planning a February trip to Aspen/Snowmass for 7 nights/5 days skiing at ski in/ski out accommodations. Another 4 nights/5 days skiing is planned for Mammoth and June Mountains in March.

Conditions permitting, Tahoe weekend trips are proposed for January and April. For those who cannot get away, there will be monthly Fun Days at China Peak throughout the ski season, including a possible overnigher with dinner and lodging at nearby Huntington Lake.

Recently, the Fresno Ski Club held its annual Ski Swap & Sale on November 10, 2018 at Fort Washington Elementary School.

For over 50 years the Club has organized and hosted this event as an important service to the local ski and winter sport community, offering new and used snow sport equipment at significant savings.

Skiers and boarders can turn used winter



It's not all about skiing and boarding. The Fresno Ski Club participates in lots of activities. sports equipment, apparel and accessories into cash, and find bargains in pre-owned equipment. And, now that Herb Bauer's has closed, this year's event brought two



Members of the Fresno Ski Club annually sponsors a Ski Swap for members and friends.

other regional vendors to the event, offering new snow ski and snowboard products. The Ski Swap is a great way to clean out your garage and get outfitted for the ski season.

So, if you are a winter sport enthusiast, but missed this year's event, join them at next year's Swap.

For information about joining the Fresno Ski Club, participating in their trips, events and membership, go to www.fresnoskiclub.com.



Fresno Ski Club naturally enjoy skiing and boarding. They frequent China Peak and also travel to other mountain resorts during the season. Learn more at FresnoSkiClub.com.

If You Don't Ski, Just Drop the Others Off and Go Snowshoeing

Okay, you and your friends like the winter time and enjoy the snow. But they like skiing and boarding and you're not interested in that. So drop them off at China Peak and go snowshoeing.

What started as a necessary means of travel thousands of years ago has evolved into a popular alternative winter activity for recreation and fitness. Why? Well, it's fun. That's why.

How do you get started? It's easy. As the saying goes, "If you can walk, you can snowshoe."

It's also inexpensive. You only need snowshoes, hiking boots, warm clothing, gloves, head gear and perhaps poles. That's it!

The learning curve is also much shorter than skiing, snowboarding or cross country treks. All it takes is a few techniques to practice. These include widening your stance (so you don't trip on your snowshoes),

going up and down hills, traversing slopes and pole usage.

Snowshoeing offers participants a low-impact, aerobic exercise that helps you stay in shape during the winter. It's versatile. You can get an easy workout or be aggressive. Plus, your dog can follow along.

Trail etiquette is important. You will often be sharing the trail with cross-country skiers. Try to make your own trail whenever possible, staying out of the tracks these skiers have worked so hard to set. Skiers have the right-of-way on trail systems. This seems obvious, since it's easier for you to step off the trail safely than it is for a cross country skier to stop or go around. Always be polite to the folks you meet along the trail.

Snowshoeing techniques are simple. Get going by walking on flat surfaces when you first start out.



The sport of shoeshoeing is gaining in popularity across the country. If you are interested in trying this winter activity, you can rent a set of shoeshoes from Shaver Lake Sports or REI.

Most snowshoes have simple "strap and go" bindings that fit a wide range of boot styles and sizes. Your stance should be wider than normal when you're on snowshoes in order to keep you from stepping on the insides of your frames. Consequently, you may feel your hips and groin muscles ache after the first few times out. If possible, walk in the steps made by the person in front of you.

Always pay attention to your physical condition, the environment and your gear. Stick to established trails at first. The local SnoPark areas have cross-country ski trails that snowshoers can share. That way, you're never too far from other people, and you're not likely to encounter avalanche hazards. Do not snowshoe alone.

Be aware of winter hazards like creek crossings, changes in weather along with tree or rock wells. If you plan to venture away from a patrolled ski area, be sure you and your companions are prepared. Carry a topographic map of the area, a compass and possibly an altimeter or a GPS to help you navigate. Know how to use them, because the backcountry in winter is not the best place to learn. Before heading out, leave your trip plans with a responsible person and let them know whom to contact in case you don't return on time.

Know the signs of hypothermia so you can recognize them in members of your party. Stay hydrated by

drinking water to keep your muscles functioning and helping your body fend off hypothermia. Keep your water from freezing by using an insulating cover for your water bottle. A vacuum bottle with hot drinks will keep you hydrated and warm.

REI at Riverpark and Shaver Lake Sports will rent and sell snowshoes. They will fit you with a pair that is appropriate for you. You don't need special shoes for snowshoeing, just waterproof hiking boots.

It's easy to learn to use snowshoes. Within five minutes you'll be having a good time. You're not gonna be able to go as far because you can probably go about half as far as you can walk. So if you are used to walking five miles on a hike during the summer, you're probably are going to go about two and a half miles in that same amount of time.

For snowshoes, it's imperative that you have the right size and maybe even have extensions for them so you don't sink into the snow. Extensions are tails that you clip onto the end of snowshoes to increase the surface area meaning you won't sink.

The size of snowshoes are dependent on how much a person weighs. The heavier a person is the larger snowshoes they'll need to keep them from sinking into the snow.

The sales staff at the store from which you bought or rented them will make sure you have the right ones for your height and weight requirements.



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China Peak Mountain Resort Features Summer Activities

China Peak opens for its summer operations weekends from 4th of July through Labor Day, but has numerous special events that now stretch the season from late May through mid October.

Come up this summer. Enjoy outdoor activities like taking a scenic chair lift ride to the top of the mountain, thrill to the mountain biking trails or play disc golf.

China Peak hosts weddings, corporate meetings, reunions and other special events from late spring through mid-October.

Come up out of the Central Valley heat and stay at the Inn at China Peak during the summer months and enjoy comfortable evenings and cool, crisp mornings.

Scenic Chair Ride

The view is spectacular from the top of China Peak at 8,700 feet. Ride up and enjoy a long, easy hike down the mountain, or ride back down.

Live Fridays

Join us on select Fridays for live music from 6:30-9:30 pm. Enjoy cocktails, appetizers or dinner as you watch the sun set over the ridge.

Weddings

Select China Peak for your special wedding day. The resort's professional team

will assure your special day is perfect. For complete wedding information, visit ChinaPeakWeddings.com

Mountain Biking

There are great trails set up for mountain biking. If you don't have your own, China Peak has a fleet of full suspension mountain bikes for rent.

Disc golf

Enjoy the 27-hole scenic disc golf course, accessed via a chair lift ride to the top of China Peak.

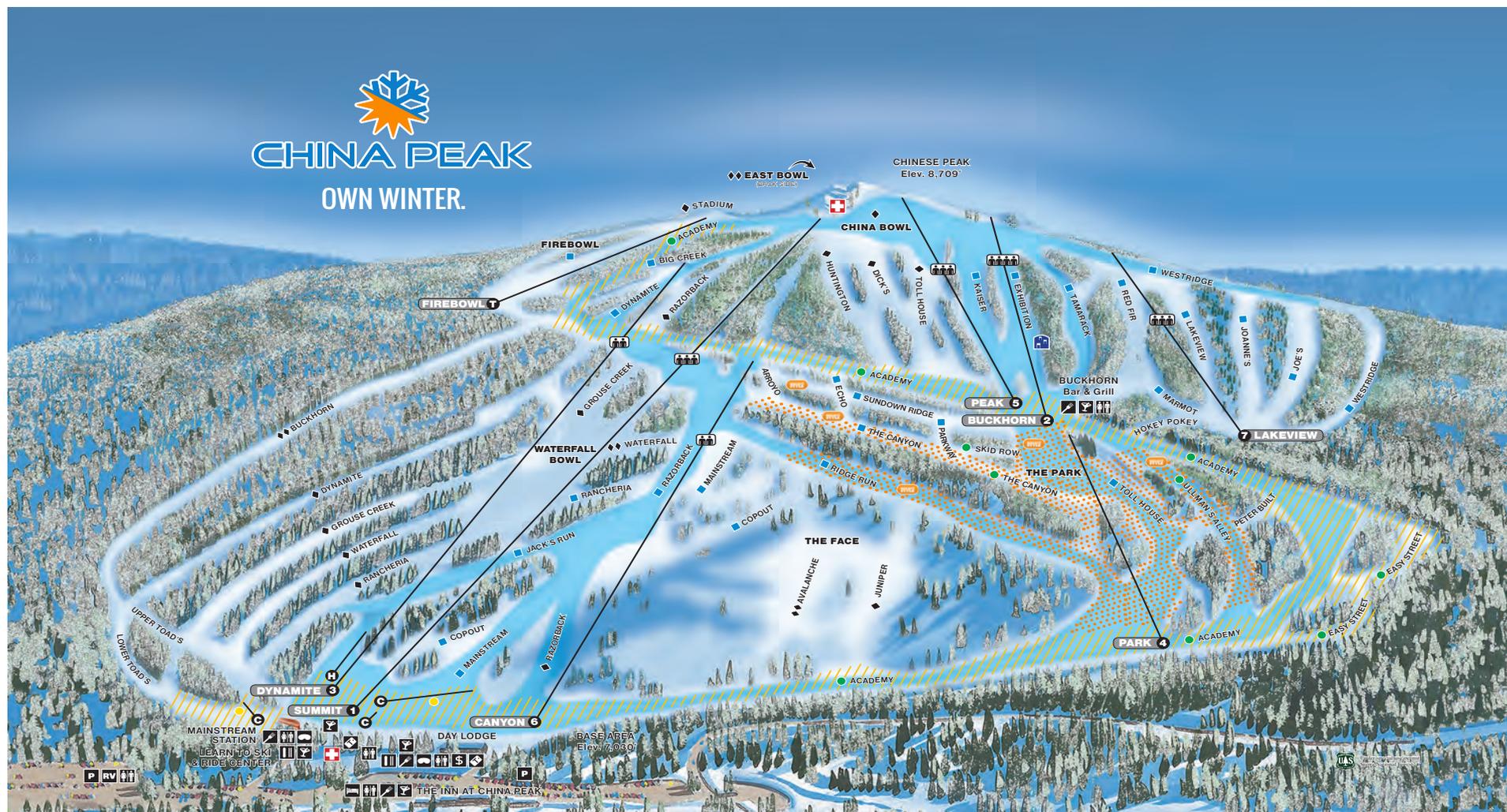
Trail Run

Set for a Saturday in August. Participants can challenge a one mile race to the top of China Peak, a 10K or half-marathon course following trails to well over 8,000 feet. Enjoy live music, a Brew Fest and great food.

Other Local Mountain Events

These include, but are not limited to, the annual Climb to Kaiser Bike Race, the Youth Fishing Derby in June, the spectacular fireworks show at Shaver Lake around the Fourth of July, The Shaver Lake Open Water Polo Tournament, the Huntington Lake Regattas held in July, the Logger's Jamboree and The SARs Wild Run, in August.

For full details visit China Peak Ski Resort at SkiChinaPeak.com or GoShaver.org.





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Whether you are looking for world class hiking, skiing, fishing, off-road trails, snowmobiling, rock climbing, horseback riding, snowshoeing, hunting, cross country skiing, sailing, sightseeing or photography, the Shaver Lake and Huntington Lake region offers it all. When it comes to scenic beauty, natural wonders and recreational opportunities, Fresno County's Sierra Nevada provides endless opportunities for all ages.



Families come near and far to enjoy playing in the snow. There are five SnoParks in the region.

This region basically draws visitors from the Central Coast and San Joaquin Valley communities, but has a strong showing from Southern California as well.



Snowshoeing has become popular in the past few years. You rent them at Shaver Lake Sports.

The SLVB does not have an office. But copies of the SLVB Brochure are available at most business establishments in the region. The group has created and maintains a strong social media presence with a website, Facebook and Instagram pages. The website features outdoor recreational activities, a calendar of events and community businesses in the area, as well as providing information needed to facilitate a good visitor experience. It also links to



Bundle up the youngsters and bring them up for a day or an extended vacation here in the Sierra..

It is common to see grandparents sharing their experiences with their offspring here in California's Central Sierra. This is a wonderful place for folks of all ages.

The Shaver Lake Visitors Bureau (SLVB) was formed in 2013. It is a 501(c)3 non-profit group and is dependent upon donations. Your participation would be greatly appreciated.

Shaver Lake's Annual Fireworks show is a major endeavor of the group and is funded, in part, by a annual fundraising dinner. The Firework's Show will be held on July 6th in 2019.

the Facebook and Instagram accounts.

The SLVB meets on the second Tuesday of each quarter, at the Shaver Lake Village Hotel's breakfast room at 6 pm. Everyone is invited to attend and become a part of the effort to promote this unique region. Please visit the website GoShaver.org for further details. You can also contact the group by phone at (559) 841-3350.



**It's not just about the skiing.
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Jim Benelli's Passion for Flying, Life, Learning and Adventure Never Faded

The China Peak Mountain Resort extended family lost one of its most faithful members this past fall with the passing of James Benelli.



Jim enjoyed skiing well into his 70s, showing that this can be a life-long sport for all people.

Jim was born on December 12, 1932 in the heartland of Pittsburg, Kansas, to Vae Frakes and Andrew J. Benelli.

They were descendants of homesteading farmers and Italian immigrants who came to the region to work in the coal mines. Growing up, Jim's father was a watch maker and owned a jewelry store.

However, running a store in a small town wasn't for Jim. Jim always had a sense for adventure and developed a passion for flying early in life, washing and fueling air-



Another happy student earns his wings with Jim's help. This time it's Ed, son No. 3. planes to earn money for lessons.

He met and married Claire Marsh at Pittsburg State University. Together they welcomed a daughter and three sons into their family.

In 1960, his flying career brought the family to Fresno. After teaching new pilots



A Flying Tigers Airlines CL-44 cargo plane used extensively on Asian routes in the 1960's.



Jim's early flying career included offering customers \$2 sight-seeing flights using float planes. and flying all manner of small aircraft at Chandler Air Field, he joined Flying Tigers Airlines and began flying the "Big Iron."

His career flying CL-44's and DC-8's took the family to Tokyo for a year and to Fairbanks, Alaska for two years.

In Alaska, Jim even flew crews of smoke jumpers into and out of the states's interior to fight wildfires. Jim was very proud of his service in Alaska, and the family remembers those years living in a camp trailer as some of their best years.



Jim made Captain on the DC-8 and flew both Asian and European routes.

He retired as a DC-8 Captain on Asian and European routes. He later received the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award.



A successful flying career is capped off by the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award.

This prestigious award is issued by the FAA to recognize individuals who have exhibited professionalism, skill, and aviation expertise throughout their careers.

Following an amicable divorce, he married Denise McMullen in 1990, and enjoyed his retirement years building his dream home in the mountain community

of Tollhouse.

When he discovered China Peak in the 1960s, he immediately fell in love with skiing everything from Academy to the Face. He asked to join the Ski Patrol and was welcomed into a special fraternity of skiers who are dedicated to serving others.



A ski school student receives a lesson from his favorite instructor- his own granddad.

When he retired from his career as an aviator, he began teaching others, young and old, to ski at China Peak and during the Sierra Summit years as well. He later



Here is a view poolside at the China Peak Mountain Resort - back in the Day! joined the facility's Pro Patrol.

He loved the mountains and his fellow instructors and patrollers. He even tended bar, poolside, a couple of years when he just didn't want the season to end. If you and your family put in some seasons at



Jim and sons, Andy and Ed, take a break from work on the house to go skiing in the front yard.



Here Jim is at home in the mountain community he loved. Notice his China Peak baseball cap. China Peak, you'll remember the pool - those were the days!

Jim has seen heavy snow years where the chairs had to be dug out and the Buckhorn was buried, and he's seen other years, too.

Jim made his home on Tollhouse Road, just downhill from Cressman's. On heavy snowfall years Jim could even ski some fresh powder right in his own front yard. How's that for mountain living?

But no matter the snow depth, the people at China Peak were always the best part of the mountain.



Jim and Denise at book-signing event for Ski Tales. Looks like another Blue Bird day at the Peak!

He was active with the Bald Mountain Volunteer Fire Department. He continued working as a ski instructor and ski patrol member at Sierra Summit and then again, China Peak.

(Continued on Page 11)



Jim also volunteered and provided medical services for the Bald Mountain Fire Department.

Benelli Collaborated With Tim Cohee in Creating the China Peak Times in 2010



All bundled up, Jim and Denise get ready ready to take on China Bowl.



Jim puts the finishing touches on a 1951 BMW, a motorcycle he'd owned for over 60 years



Jim and Denise on a trip to St. Anton, Austria. Even though he had traveled the world many times, the mantel over his fireplace reads, "East, West, Home is Best."



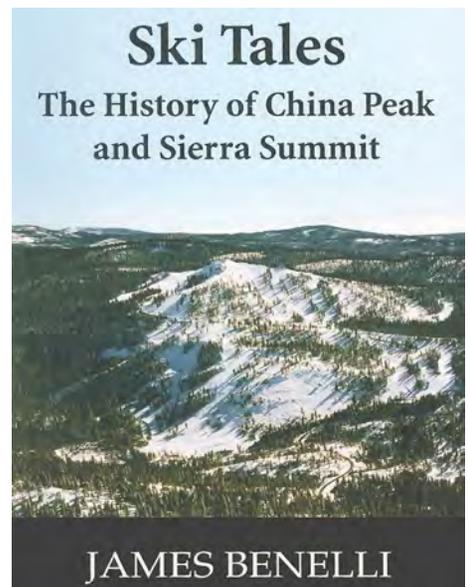
After decades in a barn, the Ol' Black Beauty is on the road again.

(Continued from Page 10)

In between traveling the world with Denise, teaching and flying small aircraft again, and restoring antique cars and motorcycles, he developed an interest in local history and began writing for a local newspaper.

After he finished instructing and working first aid, he still could not stay away from the mountain.

So in the early summer of 2010, he decided to tell about his experiences and wrote a book. It is *Ski Tales: The History of China Peak*.



Jim combined his knowledge of China Peak and Sierra Summit with his love for writing in this book.

Available on Amazon.com and elsewhere, it's been described as, "written by an old timer who has been schussing the



Jim and Denise were frequent participants supporting fundraising events like the Crab Feed. nooks and crannies and the steeps and the deeps, for 50 years."

Upon learning that the new China Peak managing partner, Tim Cohee, had published a newspaper at his previous tenure at Kirkwood Ski Resort, Jim offered to create



At one point he decided he would like to raise chickens so he could have his own egg supply.

one for China Peak.

On August 27, 2010 his Facebook page included this "Attention Skiers: We are creating a new resort newspaper, *The China Peak Times*, I am the editor, and looking for articles."

Working together, Jim and Tim Cohee, developed the China Peak Times into an entertaining, informative and well received tabloid publication.

Jim continued, overseeing Volumns #1 through #4 as editor and publisher until 2014, when the current publishers took over the operation.

"My Dad had a passion for life and ad-



The very first edition of the *China Peak Times* was published for the 2010 - 2011 season.

ventures that he passed on to many, many first-time skiers," said his son Ed.

"This includes introducing the joys of skiing and boarding to three generations of skiers in his own family. Let's all take a few turns for my Dad this season."

"Jim was a tremendous supporter and



Here are three generations of Benelli's that all consider China Peak home.

loved by many at our resort, China Peak," said Tim Cohee. "I had the privilege of getting to know Jim well, working with him on creating fantastic large print photographs now in the Inn, where we mounted a plaque several years ago thanking him for his contribution. He took several photos of me over the past many years, and I was always happy to see him on the mountain or just in the lodge. We will always remember the significant contribution Jim made to the ski school and overall culture of China Peak."



Jim and sons Bill and Ed enjoy an afternoon on the porch at his Tollhouse home.



Jim is pictured above with his three granddaughters: Audrey, Jessica, and Madeline.



Jim and Denise give a toast to the sunset at the coast.

"Jim will be missed," said Denise, his wife of 28 years. "He had a passion for life, love, learning and adventure that never faded."

"As we look forward to the 2018-2019 season, I can almost hear Jim say, 'Think Snow!'"

Adaptive Sports Center Staff Offers Services for Those With Disabilities

The Adaptive Sports Center, under the direction of Executive Director Randy Coffman, will again be active for 2018-2019.

CCASC plans to be open Friday - Monday, 9:00- 5:00 this winter, Thursdays by advance reservation only. Sit-skiing (bi-ski and mono-ski), stand-up skiing, 3 & 4 track skiing, adaptive ski biking, mountaineering, and snowshoeing are offered.

There are 15 PSIA certified Adaptive Winter-sports Instructors to serve guests, including instruction for the vision impaired. Adaptive Sports cross country skiing on the trails in the Shaver Lake area will be offered. Wounded Veterans participate free. Scholarships and grants are available for some disabilities.

"We now have an 11 passenger van", said Randy Coffman, Executive Director, "that will be used this winter to transport groups of adaptive sports participants from the bottom of the four lane in Auberry to China Peak on days of operation."

"We are also the only Adaptive Sports Center in California that now has a specialized sit-ski that has been designed to enable stroke victims, and other persons with the ability to use one side of their body (hemiplegia), to enjoy skiing. We bought it directly

from a company in France. There are only two others in the United States."

In December 2017, CCASP participant John Cook traveled to "Hartford Ski Spectacular" in Breckenridge, Colorado for a weeklong clinic for wounded veterans.

This culminated in a ski race at the end of the week. JC had no intention of competing, but after awhile he thought "Why not?" Why not indeed. JC and his team won a Silver Medal.

Join us on February 24, 2019 for the **7 Hours on the Razor** fundraising event. This is a ski-athon on the "Razorback", a popular China Peak run. Participants must register and collect pledges to benefit the CCASC. Wear a costume! Win prizes! Registration now at dojiggy.com!

Volunteer: please volunteer. No experience needed. CentralCalAdaptive.org/volunteer.

Some discounts and scholarships are available to non-veterans: Contact them for more information.

For more information call (559) 593-2504 or email at info@centralcaladaptive.org, Reserve now, as of this writing they are 70% full. Visit them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CenCalAdaptiveSports and on the web at www.centralcaladaptive.org.



Volunteer and John Cook, in CCASP specialized sit-ski, work their way down a run at China Peak.



Central California Adaptive Sports Center staff member and program participant ride the lift.



The Central California Adaptive Sports Center offers programs during the winter at China Peak.



The Mountain Safety Guide returns for its second year after an extremely successful introduction across all member resorts (100,000 guides distributed last year, 72,000 more ordered this year).

It contains safety education for every resort guest, covering what to do before going to a resort, loading and riding lifts, navigating potential hazards (including deep snow and avalanche awareness), and understanding trail signage.

The guide is offered in digital and print formats. The print version waterproof and tear-resistant. The free guide will be available again at resorts in a pocket-size format (like a trail map).

The Mountain Safety Guide received the National Ski Areas Association's (NSAA) inaugural Safety Impact Award, marking the first time NSAA has honored a state association with a safety award.



SkiCalifornia.org

"All resorts make safety an essential priority, and they are committed to addressing safety every day in their operations. I think the Mountain Safety Guide sends a powerful message because this is the first time our resorts have come together with one all-encompassing educational platform," said Michael Reitzell, Ski California president, in a press release. "This guide is designed to help the millions of guests be our resorts' partners in safety."

"Skiing and snowboarding are fun and exciting outdoor sports, but like any sport they have inherent risks," said Amy Ohran, president and general manager of Boreal Mountain Resort, in the release.

"People should ski or ride at a speed that allows them to stay in control and be able stop safely. Most serious injuries occur from collisions at high speed. The educated skier is a safer skier. The smart snowboarder is a safer snowboarder," added Chase Allstadt, a veteran ski patroller for Squaw Valley Alpine Meadows.

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LIDsonKIDS.org

A Helmet is a Great Idea



Again for 2019, China Peak is partnering with the Sequoia Brewing Company to run Monday "Party Bus Trips" from Woodward Park to China Peak Ski Resort beginning January 7.

"Party Bus" Runs Mondays from Sequoia Brewing Up to China Peak

The Sequoia Brewing Company has been a China Peak Ski Resort partner in the past and this year is teaming up again.

This season the Sequoia Party Bus will run on Mondays beginning Jan 7 through March 25 or possibly longer if weather and interest support it. Riders check in at 7:15 at Sequoia Brewing Company at Champlain and Perrin in Fresno. Bus departs at 7:30.

Return check in begins at China Peak at 3:45 with a 4:00 departure arriving back at SBC around 5:45. Discounts and promotions at China Peak and SBC apply when you show your lift ticket. The cost is still the best deal in California, \$49 includes the ride and an all mountain lift ticket. Ride only is \$20.

All seats are sold online only and must be purchased by midnight on the Sunday prior to travel. Click on the Bus Trips link under the Resort Service tab to purchase. Advance purchase recommended. If you have any questions please feel to contact Leisa Donley at (559) 233-2500, ext. 5010.

Be advised any passenger using foul language, or displaying inappropriate behavior while riding the bus to or from China Peak, will be immediately removed from the bus by the bus driver and/or chaperone, regardless of location of drop off.

For those interested in bus trips for selected weekends from outlying communities like Bakersfield, Fresno or San Luis Obispo, please check SkiChinaPeak.com.



China Peak Season Ticket Black Pass Option Amazing

All China Peak passholders have the option of upgrading to an optional Black Pass for an additional \$50 fee at the time of purchase or to upgrade after the time of purchase for \$100.

Among other perks, this gives you an exclusive membership in the Powder Alliance and thousands in savings around the resort.

Eighteen resorts now offer FREE SKIING benefits to top-tier pass holders from participating Powder Alliance ski areas.

As a member of the POWDER ALLIANCE, you get up to 3 visits at each of the participating resorts, including FREE and discounted skiing and riding. Restrictions apply including holiday/blackout dates. Restrictions may vary by resort. Please visit powderalliance.com for details.

Black Pass holders also receive Buddy ticket discounts of \$5, \$10 and \$20 off regular price, discount varies depending on

day and age. They are valid for two buddy tickets per passholder, per day. Buddy must be of the same age or younger.

- 10% off food and beverage at Mainstream Station, Day Lodge and Buckhorn, excluding alcohol purchases.

- Unlimited nights at the Inn at China Peak at 50% off regular room rates (suites are excluded), valid Sunday through Thursday, non-holiday. Not valid 12/24/18 - 1/03/19, 1/20/19, 2/17/19. Valid for super senior, senior, adult and 20 something passes only, subject to availability.

- 20% discount off private lessons and demo ski and snowboard rentals.

- 15% off purchases of \$100 or more (non-sale items) at China Peak Sports.

- 20% off RV sites valid non-holiday, subject to availability. Tickets and offers are valid during the 2018/2019 winter season only.

Families Can Enjoy Snow Play at Five Convenient Regional Calif. Sno-Parks

Pick a day and pack your family and friends in the car and head for one of the five Sno-Parks in the Shaver and Huntington Lakes region.

They are all accessed via Highway 168 between 60 and 75 miles from Fresno. They are Balsam Meadows, Tamarack, Coyote, Eastwood and Huntington Lake.

You will be pleased to find snow-cleared parking lots with sanitation facilities. Enjoy the snow play areas or try the cross-country ski and snowmobile trails. Snow cleared parking lots cannot be guaranteed on a daily basis because of weather conditions and snow plowing priorities.

A Sno-Park permit is required for each vehicle from November 1 through May 30. Day Permits for \$5 or Seasonal Permits for \$25 are sold by local vendors.

Parking is on a first-come, first-served basis. If you cannot find parking in the Sno-Park area, be very careful where you park your vehicle.

The California Highway Patrol will ticket you if your vehicle is on the highway sticking out beyond the snow plow poles. This is for your safety and the safety of Cal Trans employees keeping the roads open for your convenience.

Overnight parking, including in-vehicle

camping is allowed except where noted. Tent camping or sleeping outside in the parking area is prohibited.

Trash containers may not be provided, so pack out your trash. Carry a shovel, blankets, water, flashlight and tire chains.

Vehicles parked overnight need to be out lined by stakes at all 4 corners with 1x2 inch by 8-foot poles to prevent accidental damage by snow removal equipment. Lock your vehicle and do not leave items of value in sight.

Remember that your common sense, skill level, use of proper clothing, and respect for the terrain and weather all affect your safety, so take time to plan your trip.

Call (800) 427-7623 for a CalTrans recording on highway conditions.

China Peak Seasonal Lockers Still Available

Skier and boards will be happy to note that seasonal lockers are available for them at China Peak Ski Resort.

This is in response to requests made in the past to have additional lockers in place for those that needed them.

To make arrangements to reserve your locker, please contact Lyndsie at lyndsie@skichinapeak.com.

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Shaver Lake, California

Central Sierra Restaurants Offer a Variety of Foods for Those Taking Advantage of Outstanding Local Activities



Blue Sky Cafe



The Inn at China Peak Restaurant



Cressman's General Store



Lakeshore Restaurant and Saloon



Shaver Lake Gas and Food Mart



Shaver Lake Coffee and Deli

The Blue Sky Café specializes in providing appetizing breakfast selections, fresh sandwiches, crepes, salads, coffee drinks, shakes and smoothies. They have free WiFi and are located next to Bob's Market. ShaverBlueSkyCafe.com (559) 841-7106.

The Inn at China Peak Restaurant and J.W.'s Bar offer great food and drink. Enjoy a drink and appetizers, then step next door and have dinner. You will enjoy the experience and it is fun to watch all that is going on. SkiChinaPeak.com (559) 233-2500.

Cressman's General Store at the top of the four lane features breakfast beerocks, pastries, deli sandwiches, cookies and more. Cressman's is known for its take and bake pizza and delicious daily entrées. Cressman.org. (559) 841-2923.

Lakeshore Restaurant and Saloon offers varied casual meal choices and a price range to meet any budget. The adjacent bar is a mountain classic. At Huntington Lake, just 2.5 miles past China Peak. Lakeshore-Resort.com (559) 893-3193.

Shaver Lake Coffee and Deli offers chunky bread, grab and go burritos and a variety of deli lunch items. Several coffee drinks are available. The friendly staff serves patrons daily year round where you can sit indoors or outdoors. (559) 841-3555.

Shaver Lake Pizza all pizzas made with fresh ingredients and covered with toppings. Import and domestic beers are available. They also offer great Calzones, salads, hot sandwiches and appetizers. Shaver-LakePizza.com. (559) 841-7249

Short Horn Bar and Grill is locals favorite place to meet, eat, drink, dance and chat. Friendly atmosphere, great cheeseburgers, fries, other sandwiches and cold drinks. They have the only pool table in town. (559) 841-6464.

Shaver Pub 'n Grub is known for the atmosphere and the drinks. Featuring burgers, pastrami sandwich, fish and chips, chicken tacos. Catch the latest sporting events on 4 TV's and we have Direct TV NFL Sunday Ticket. (559) 841-4411.

Norm's Village Cafe Great Breakfast and Lunch menu. Order Chunky Bread. Open daily 7 am to 2 pm. Offering comfortable indoor seating. Fast friendly service from an excellent staff. Reasonable prices and delicious food. (559) 841-4108

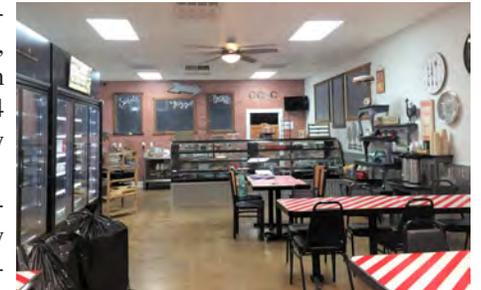
The Hungry Hut is a wonderful diner in which to get some delicious food. They offer great hamburgers and fries, plus great milk shakes. Indoor and outdoor seating. (559) 841-3222

The Trading Post is Shaver Lake's popular dining house. Enjoy a drink at the beautiful bar and then sit down to great food, their top priority. Indoor and outdoor seating is available. (559) 841-5394

Shaver Lake Gas Mart offers you a variety of food types including a full Mexican Food menu, complete Chester's Fried Chicken selections, Shaved ice and scoops of ice cream. Cold beer and fountain drinks. (559) 841-5303.

Pizza Factory - Prather features "real hand tossed pizza", delicious salads, a variety of pasta, plus hot and cold sandwiches. Cold beer and fountain drinks. Lots of indoor seating. (559) 855-2800.

Creekside Catering & Take Out Offering delicious breakfast, lunch and dinner items. Food to take out or relax in the diner and enjoy your breakfast or lunch. Select from a wonderful selection of fresh bakery items. Excellent catering services at reasonable prices. (559) 855-2277.



Creekside Catering and Take Out



Short Horn Bar and Grill



Shaver Pub 'n Grub



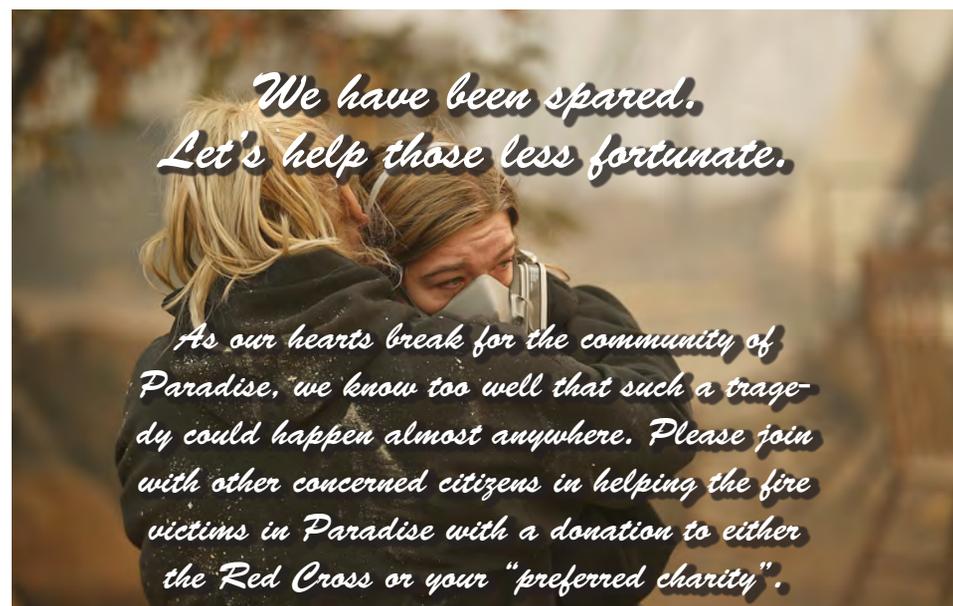
Norm's Village Cafe



The Hungry Hut



Pizza Factory - Prather





Riding through the snow covered forest on a snowmobile can be a very relaxing experience. You can bring your own machine or rent one from local businesses at Huntington Lake or Shaver Lake.

Miles of Groomed Snowmobile and Cross Country Trails Await Travelers

Throwing your legs over the saddle of a snowmobile and roaring off into the snow covered landscape is one heck of a thrill. The region in and around Shaver Lake offers a wonderful opportunity to enjoy this popular outdoor winter sport, be you a first-timer or a seasoned expert.

Enjoy a view of snow covered peaks of the Kaiser Wilderness or the Dinkey Wilderness depending upon the area in which you are traveling.

The backcountry around Huntington Lake region features scores of snowmobile trails that are well maintained.

Lakeshore Resort owner Steve Sherry oversees his staff as they groom the Kaiser Road to the summit as well as the Tama-

rack and Huntington Lake regions.

All and all about 150 miles of groomed trails are available for riders and cross country skiers to enjoy.

The Sierra National Forest has developed several marked ski trails along Highway 168. Most of the trails are between the 7,000 and 7,500 elevation.

They range in length and difficulty from a one mile beginner trail at Huntington Lake to a six mile advanced trail near Tamarack Ridge.

Come and enjoy a day of winter fun. If you don't have your own machine, there are two local businesses that offer snowmobile rentals. Details at LakeshoreResort.com or ShaverLakePowerCenter.com

Great Opportunity - Learn to Ski or Ride Package - Ages 4 and up - Just \$179 (online)

If you are a **First Time Skier or Rider**, visit LearnToSkiAndRide.com for information about your first day on the snow for just \$179 (online)!

This program includes three days of rentals, group lessons and a beginner area ticket (valid for the moving carpets) for each day. All three days do not need to be



consecutive. Valid for beginners ages 4+.

Includes rentals, a group lesson each day and a beginner ticket valid for the moving carpet on all three days. Access to chairlifts is allowed during a lesson with an instructor.

Purchasers may upgrade for an additional fee to a chairlift ticket after 12 pm after completing the lesson. After completing the third day you will receive an all mountain ticket to finish the day along with an ID card that gives you half-price tickets, rentals and group lessons for the remainder of the season.

The purchaser is committing to learn to either ski or snowboard, not both. If at any time during the three day program purchaser decides to switch to skiing or snowboarding, the program starts over and purchaser is required to purchase a new three day package.

Upgrade prices to an all mountain lift ticket for days 1 and 2. Details available online at SkiChinaPeak.com

Special Camp Designed to Provide Kids With Lessons for Skiing or Riding

China Peak kid's lessons are the best way to introduce a child to the world of skiing and riding. They develop skills so they can enjoy the mountain with you!

It is highly recommended to start youngsters off on skis. It's easier to learn than snowboarding for the younger ones. Once they get comfortable on skis, they can try snowboarding.

Kid's Camp is an all day or half day program spent with the coaches and staff focused on kid's having fun and learning.

Campers meet at the Ski and Board School meeting area 30 minutes before lesson start time.

- Includes an all mountain lift ticket
- Includes equipment rental for the day
- Includes two hour group lesson
- Includes lunch at 12 pm

All Day Kid's Camp - \$139 10 am - 3 pm

For skiers and snowboarders ages 6-10. Beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. Two, 2 hour group lessons, 10 am - 12 pm and 1 pm - 3 pm

- Includes lunch at 12pm

Half Day Kid's Camp - \$109 10 am - 1 pm, 12 pm - 3 pm

For skiers and snowboarders ages 4-10. Beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. One 2 hour group lesson

- Lunch at 12 pm
- Lunch Only - \$25 12 pm - 1 pm

MINI SKIER - \$73

This special lesson package is for your future skiers. With Mom and/or Dad along for support and encouragement, the staff helps make the first time sliding experience as much fun as possible! Riding the kid's little moving carpet makes the first time fun and easy. For age 3 youngsters.

- Includes lift ticket
- Ski equipment
- One hour lesson



Little kids can easily learn to ski at China Peak under the guidance of the skilled teaching staff.



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Ockenden Ranch
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MLS # 509888



Timber Ridge
\$699,000
MLS # 508078



Granite Ridge
\$679,000
MLS # 497274



Ockenden Ranch
\$669,000
MLS # 503427



Commercial - Shaver Lake
\$669,000
MLS # 492716



Pine Ridge
\$556,900
MLS # 511184



Ockenden Ranch
\$549,000
MLS # 510789



Granite Ridge
\$549,000
MLS # 506567



Granite Ridge
\$525,000
MLS # 495419



West Village
\$419,000
MLS # 509074



Sierra Cedars
\$375,000
MLS # 494999



Sierra Cedars
\$359,900
MLS # 494171



East Village
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Silvertip
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Sierra Cedars
\$325,000
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Shaver Lake North Office
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MLS # 508435



Musick Creek
\$819,000
MLS # 511400



Granite Ridge
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MLS # 509377



Musick Ridge
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MLS # 512955



Granite Ridge
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Musick Falls
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West Village
\$299,000
MLS # 511407



Tollhouse
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Buckhorn
Quad Chairlift

Buckhorn Quad Chairlift Enhances the Overall CP Visitor Experience

China Peak skiers and riders will notice a significant difference at the resort with much more open space and much better access to the slopes. This is due to the Buckhorn Quad that replaced Chair 2 in 2017.

“Our Buckhorn Quad is a spectacular lift, a real game changer for the thousands of China Peak skiers and riders who enjoy our most popular upper mountain terrain,” said Tim Cohee.

“It’s big, wide, state of the art, comfortable and moves nearly twice as many people up the mountain as the old Chair 2, which means lift lines on even the busiest days are just about impossible.”

The new bottom terminal is so much cleaner and further up the mountain it totally changes the look of this very popular gathering area.

While the new quad was installed, significant run work was done at the unload area, the upper Kaiser and also vastly improved Exhibition.

A great job reshaping the unload area, creating a new run around the rock outcropping at the top of the lift and making huge improvements to the entire top section of the runs off the lift was done by Mike Cornell.

Another huge advantage of the new lift is the new loading area, which has been moved up nearly 100 feet, creating much more room around Buckhorn and the existing Chair 5.

Rich Bailey, who has been with the resort since the old China Peak days, said this new lift is sure to draw a crowd.

“I think personally it’ll be the most popular chair here,” Bailey said.

Local Organizations and Donations Support Special Winter Olympics

Over 70 student athletes from around the Central Valley will compete at China Peak in a variety of Alpine and Nordic Skiing events February 24 - 26.

Snowboarding, downhill and cross country skiing, and snowshoeing are among those events featured.

This event often sees kids competing for the first time at a sporting event. The thrill of participating is a wonderful experience for the kids. They have a lot of fun. Their family and friends are really proud of them.

These athletes go from learning the basics, like how to turn around on your skis without crossing them, to how get up when you fall down with skis, to working on techniques of the sport.

For example, how does one go up an incline without sliding back? What is the best placement of the ski poles?

The athletes, coaches and volunteers stay in Shaver Lake during the three-day competition at China Peak. For many of the athletes, the stay at Shaver Lake is their first time away from home.

“Donations are used to purchase food and awards for each participant,” says Event Chair Barbara Hankins. “Dinner will be served on Sunday and Monday and breakfast on Monday and Tuesday.”

“It is a nice self-esteem builder, and we are thrilled to be part of it,” Hankins said.

China Peak donates Alpine equipment and lift tickets. A variety of local community organizations help with the event and

provide breakfast and dinner for the kids. The volunteers are happy to be involved and feel the effort is well worth it.

Hankins said the event goes beyond the finish line.

“It’s exciting to see these athletes compete to the best of their ability,” she said. “But far more important than a competition, it is training for life.”

Donations are the life’s blood of the Special Olympics. They are much appreciated. Checks can be sent payable to the Shaver Lake Lions Winter Games to P.O. Box 377, Shaver Lake, CA 93664.



The Shaver Lakes Special Winter Olympics gives Central Valley kids a chance to compete.



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Building a snowman with your family can be a wonderful way to spend an afternoon during the winter here in the Sierra Nevada. Below is a brief description on "How to Build a Snowman".

Building a Snowman and Decorating It Is a Wonderful Way to Spend Family Time

When the winter arrives with heavy snow, get the family and your friends together to build a snowman!

What could be more simple than rolling up three snowballs and stack them with the largest on the bottom and the smallest on top.

Next you go wild with your artistic side as you decorate your new friend. Hey, they need a face, arms, clothes and who knows what!

Check for snow that's moist and packable. Scoop some up and press it together. If it easily forms into a ball, you can make a snowman. Build your snowman on a flat surface. Try to put him in the shade. This will help the guy last longer. And who doesn't like a snowman who can last longer.

Roll up your snowman by packing a snowball with your hands for the bottom section. Continue adding to it and make it into a round shape. Wear warm, waterproof gloves to protect your hands from handling cold snow.

Create a smaller middle section and put it onto the bottom ball. Make sure to center it on the bottom. Form a one foot snowball for the head and put it on top. Then pack some snow between the sections to the snowman a uniform look.

For a little different look, create a really

large fat body and put a head on top of it.

Now the real fun begins: bringing your creation to life. Stick the traditional carrot in his face for a nose. For the eyes, use charcoal, buttons or pebbles. Make a mouth with a row of pebbles, charcoal or a couple of sticks.



Above is a "fat body" snowman with a fairly simple array of decorations for his face and torso.

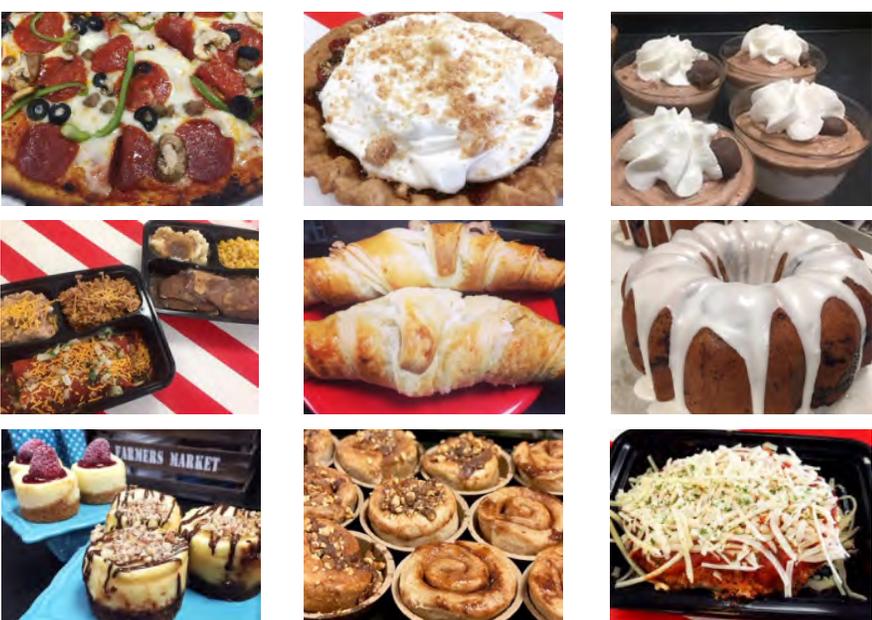
Place two sticks for the snowman's arms. If you want, put a shirt or coat around the snowman's body. Top him off with a hat, scarf, a tie, sunglasses, or other accessories to make your snowman stand out from others.



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Pick up food to take out or relax in the diner.



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Retired Professional Ski Racer Nick Cohee, seen here above, has been appointed as the Head FIS Coach of the prestigious ski training program at Sugar Bowl Academy near Truckee, California.

Nick Cohee New Head FIS Coach at Sugar Bowl Academy

Nick Cohee, son of China Peak Managing Partner Tim Cohee and the resort's marketing chief for the past two years was named the Head FIS Coach this past summer at the prestigious Sugar Bowl Academy near Truckee. Cohee moved to Truckee with his new bride Meagan after their marriage at China Peak June 23.

In his new role, Cohee will oversee the



Nick Cohee will help develop next generation of top U.S. skiers at the Sugar Bowl Academy. development of the academy's top athletes, those looking to qualify for North American Cups, National Championships and at the top level, World Cup. The past summer and fall the athletes and coaches trained in New Zealand, Germany and Italy, and spent the early ski season training and racing based out of Summit County in Colorado, where one of the best early snowfalls created top racing and training conditions.

The Sugar Bowl Academy is one of the top private academic and ski racing program in the nation, producing not only elite ski racers but graduating students who attend a handful of America's top colleges. The best athletes not only compete at the highest level across the U.S. and

Europe but have an opportunity to earn college scholarships at the top ski racing universities in the nation, including the University of Utah, University of Denver, University of Colorado, University of Alaska, University of Vermont, Montana State and more.

Cohee, a graduate of the University of Utah in 2012 where he earned a full athletic scholarship, was one of America's top giant slalom racers from 2008-2016, earning over 30 victories and over 60 podium results in his impressive career.

He was a two time NCAA 1st Team All-American, Team Captain, won a North American Cup race in 2012, was the Bronze Medalist at the 2015 U.S. National Giant Slalom Championships and earned at World Cup start in Sölden, Austria in 2015. He ended his career in 2016 after suffering a significant injury during training in Aspen, and joined China Peak's management team in 2016.



'Visit Nick this winter and ski free at Sugar Bowl with your China Peak Black Pass'.





Bang Energy Drink to Sponsor All New China Peak Music Series

Bang, the new energy drink that is taking the fitness crowd by storm and distributed in the valley by Donaghy Sales is sponsoring the all new China Peak Music Festival this winter.

Live music will be featured on the Day Lodge deck on the first and third Saturday in January, February and March of 2019. Bands will be well known among the Central Valley music scene.

VPX products are manufactured that meet and exceed customers' expectations. VPX initially focused on sports nutrition supplements but has since expanded into the ready-to-drink performance beverage market. VPX's beverages, such as Redline Energy, VPX's Redline Xtreme, Protein Rush, Bang Energy Drinks which target consumers seeking drinks to improve performance

Bang gives users a more intense workout, greater energy and superior fat burning capabilities that increase overall fitness performance, whether it be weight training, cardio workouts or sports.

For complete information on Bang, visit their website, vpxsports.com.





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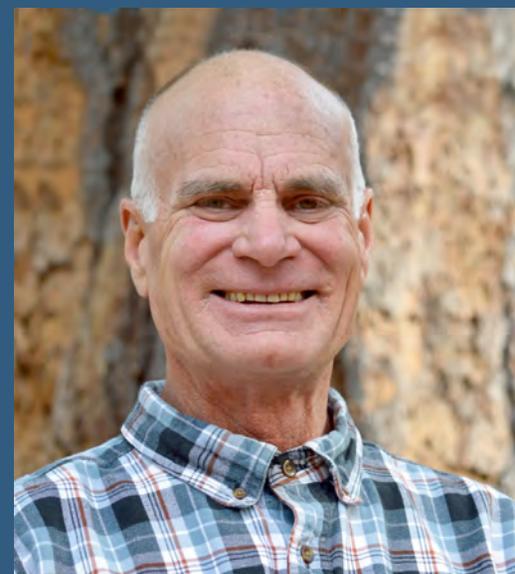


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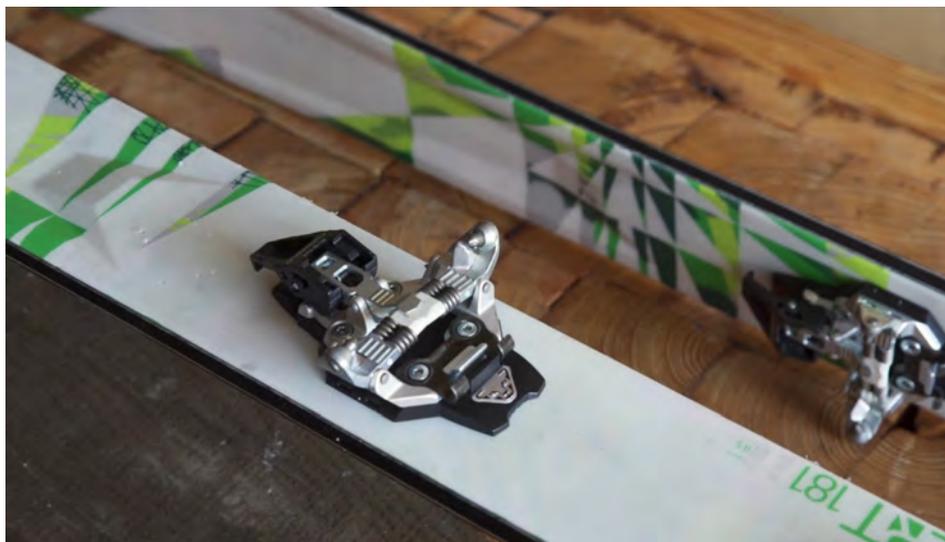
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Many ski and board enthusiasts are looking for a good, reputable shop in which to trust their ski equipment for repairs, tuning and waxing. REI in Riverpark has added 2 technicians to their staff.

Rich Bailey Presented the Jack Pieroni Award for His Service and Dedication to Winter Sports

The Jack Pieroni award was established in 2009 to provide inspiration and recognize others with lifelong passion for winter sports, as demonstrated by Jack.

Given in April, the Jack Pieroni award represents the high honor presented by the winter sports community.

An Awards Committee, comprised of area ski industry leaders, accepts nominations from December 1st through Jan 31st each year. The committee meets to evaluate the nominees and select the recipient, one who has made significant achievements and contributed significant time and talent to the local central California winter sports industry.

The recipient for 2018 is Rich Bailey from China Peak. The award was presented to Rich at the Fresno Ski Club's Annual Spring Fling Auction April 20, 2018 by the two individuals that nominated him, Jerry Garwick and Brian Haskins.

Rich Bailey has been with China Peak since the late 60's and involved with China Peak/Sierra Summit in different facets such as ski patrol, snowmaking and grooming, and contributions to winter sports safety.



From left: Dave Ward, Brian Haskins, recipient Rich Bailey, Jerry Garwick and Mark Vester.

At any ski resort, it takes a strong team effort to produce high national marks for overall safety.

China Peak veteran Rich Bailey has consistently led the efforts in the local mountains. He is recognized as one of the most experienced and decorated professional patrolers in the nation. This is a reputation he has earned over the past four decades, Bailey leads both the professional and volunteer patrols.

Congratulate Rich when you see him on the slopes or in the lodge

REI Adds Ski Technician Staff to Offset Herb Bauer Sports Closing

REI at Riverpark realized there would be a need for additional staff for winter sports with the recent closing of the Herb Bauer Sporting Goods Store.

They now are ready and waiting with five experienced snowsports technicians for the 2018-2019 season. Previously, they only had two or three on staff.

Their Wintersteiger is up and running, far ahead of the snow. Several customers have already been welcomed as they brought in some pre-season work for the staff.

Each REI snowsports shop is committed to providing top quality ski and board tuning. Customers can get assistance with binding mounts and calibrations, waxing services, and a very wide range of tuning service packages.

REI is pleased to host hands-on clinics to help folks learn valuable waxing skills for themselves. They schedule ski and snowboard waxing workshops periodically. For specific dates and times, check their website: REI.com/learn.

Proper tuning of your downhill skis will keep you gliding along smoothly and having fun on the snowy slopes.

Tuning your skis properly involves three primary steps: Base repair, Edge work and Waxing.

How to know when to tune your skis?

First, look at the bases for scrapes. Big holes that expose the core usually need to be repaired by a shop equipped to weld in new base material, but smaller scrapes and gouges can easily be fixed at home.



The Riverpark REI Sporting Goods Store now has five well trained technicians to serve you.

Next, check edges for rust/small burrs.

Minor edge work is easy to do at home, but extensive repairs and sharpening are best done at a ski shop.

Always finish up by waxing your skis.

It's also recommended that you wax your skis throughout the ski season even if you're not doing base or edge repairs.

You can't wax skis too frequently; the more you do it, the faster your skis will glide along the slopes.

Base Repair

Everyone gets some base damage at some point, usually from skiing over a rock that's not adequately covered by snow. A gash in your base affects how well your skis glide, so it's important to repair the damage. The tools you'll need include: clean towels, base cleaner, rubbing alcohol, metal scraper, P-Tex candle, lighter, wire brush and razor blade.

Edge Work

Rust and burrs on your ski edges cause drag and slow you down on firm snow, so getting rid of these abrasions can help your

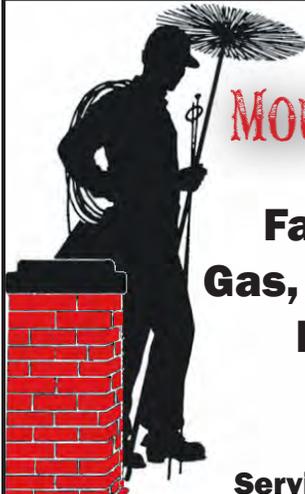


Get ready for the slopes and keep your equipment well maintained for the winter ski season. skis perform their best. The tools you'll need include: clean towels, diamond stone, gummy stone and rubbing alcohol.

Waxing

Waxing your skis is the best way to protect them and keep them performing at their peak. It's important to wax your skis after completing base repair and edge work, as well as throughout the ski season to ensure your skis glide smoothly. Waxing every three or four outings is a good practice. Tools you'll need include: clean towels, rubbing alcohol, wax, plastic scraper, set of brushes and waxing iron.

"The above suggestions on how to care for your equipment were made by REI" - The Editor



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Fat Bikes Gain in Popularity as Mountain Cyclists Enjoy Winter

Don't be overly surprised this winter to see a bike rider cruise by you on a wintry day. Cross country skiers, people on snowshoes and those riding snowmobiles are seeing more bicyclists on the trails.

Mountain bike enthusiasts are no longer forced to pack away their rides and wait for the snow to melt. More and more cyclists are gearing up with fat tire mountain bikes. So what's a "Fat Bike". They are defined as mountain bikes sporting tires with a width of 3.5 to 4.8 inches. These have been around for more than a decade.



Many mountain bikers take to the snowy trails in the local mountains to get their regular exercise, but their popularity has surged in recent years.

Snow riding and fat bikes emerged as an offshoot from mountain biking in the late 1980s. It got a huge boost from the first Alaskan Iditabike event in 1987 in which riders followed snowmobile and dog sled tracks.

Even with fat tires to help the bikes float on the snow surface riding in winter still has its own set of challenges. For starters, it doesn't take much warming for the snow to soften and make pedaling a challenge,

Easy Access to China Peak Remains a Reason Why It Is a Favorite Winter Skiing Destination

The easy access to China Peak Mountain Resort makes it a perennial favorite for the Central Coastal and San Joaquin Valley skiers and boarders.

This low-key resort on the western side of the Sierra Nevada is just 70 miles north-east of Fresno along Highway 168.

China Peak offers nearly 1,700 feet of vertical runs and gives you sweeping views of the surrounding terrain from its highest point at 8,700 feet.

The recent addition of the Buckhorn Quad, replacing Chair 2, enhances the overall attraction of this family oriented winter vacation destination.

The goal is to be a place that's easy to get

particularly for beginners who aren't used to lowering tire pressure for extra traction. And stopping in deep snow can come with another problem. If the snow is soft it's easy to posthole a leg which can result in a tumble.

Snow riding also means riding in cold weather which necessitates layers of clothes. And once the rider gets moving he or she needs to manage the outerwear to avoid overheating which can lead to sweat soaked clothes and a sudden chill.

One of the main thing aspiring winter riders need to remember is safety. There are risks inherent to backcountry travel in any season. But mountain bikers attempting to head out in the winter need to be especially prepared for the conditions.

In general, not only is there less daylight and higher cold weather risks, there tend to be fewer people in the backcountry in the winter which increases the isolation factor.

You're just more exposed, you are out on your own. You are in the wilderness and far away from safety.



Fat bikes feature tires ranging from 3.5 to 4.8 inches. They have opened the winter to cyclists.

to, and that has something for everyone. Kids can build their skills on Progression Park in Ullmann's Alley. More advanced boarders and skiers ride the rails, boxes, hips, and spines of popular—and challenging—Tollhouse Park. Canyonlands gives skiers and boarders a place to play on bank turns, rollers, and jumps.

Many skiers are surprised to learn China Peak is the eighth largest resort in California, and has the fifth highest base elevation and the sixth highest peak.

For an old-time end to your day, plan on staying at the Inn at China Peak. Then put up your boots and relax at J.W.'s Original Bar, in the unpretentious base lodge.

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Canine Care: Winter Safety Tips

Brrr It's cold! Be attentive to your dog's body temperature. If your pet shivers, put a stylish sweater on. Frostbite commonly occurs on your dog's paws, ears and tail. Signs are coldness and pain of the area when touched.

Be sure to dry your dog after being outside. As the winter season is upon us and people prepare their cars and homes for winter, one of the biggest health risks for dogs and cats is exposure to antifreeze. Many pets seem attracted to ingesting this toxin, which can lead to a medical emergency in affected pets. Many pets will present nonspecific symptoms of loss of appetite, increased thirst/urination, and/or vomiting and weakness.

Treatment consists of aggressive IV fluid therapy, as well as a specific antidote to bind to the toxic ingredient. Even with early detection and treatment many pets often die of complications related to kidney failure. Therefore, it is important to limit potential exposure of this chemical in garages, make sure that cars are not leaking antifreeze. Be aware of toilets treated with it in vacation homes.

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CHINA PEAK TIMES



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Chef John's home made soup of the day.
Cup - Bowl

Garden Salad

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Add grilled chicken

Caesar Salad

Chopped Romaine tossed with croutons,
Caesar Dressing and Parmesan Cheese
Add grilled chicken

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The Bacon Mac is back!
Elbow pasta with creamy cheese sauce,
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and Jalapeno Peppers

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Sauteed Southwestern Shrimp
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a light cream sauce

ENTREES

All entrees include a cup of soup du jour or small garden salad.

Buckhorn Boys' Ribeye

Tender grilled, 12 oz ribeye steak, served with roasted potatoes and seasonal vegetables

Grilled Salmon

Seasoned in house and grilled. Topped with a citrus aiola and
served with wild rice and seasonal vegetables

Moroccan Chicken

Grilled chicken, mushrooms, artichoke hearts in a creamy sauce,
served with white rice and seasonal vegetables

Bacon Wrapped Meatloaf

Bacon wrapped meatloaf topped with a Korean B.B.Q. sauce and
served with mashed potatoes and seasonal vegetables

Braised Pork Lasagna

Layered Lasagna, with house made braised pork,
served with garlic bread and seasonal vegetables

Peak Pasta

A bed of Al Dente Penne pasta topped with sautéed mushrooms and sun dried tomatoes in a rich creamy
white wine sauce includes a cup of soup du jour or a small garden salad add chicken or shrimp

BURGERS & MORE

Served with your choice of fries, cup of soup du jour, or small garden salad. Add Onion Rings

Hamburger

Two Angus all beef patties on a ciabattia roll, topped with lettuce, tomato, pickle and onion
Add Cheese Add bacon Add Guacamole Add patty
Make it a Huntington! Add bacon, cheese, onion rings and BBQ sauce

J.W.'s Chicken Club

Grilled chicken breast with bacon, lettuce, tomato, onion, guacamole
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Fish and Chips

Three battered pieces of cod, served with tartar sauce and fries

SIDES

Add each

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BEVERAGES

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*Chef John Ratliff's Menu for J.W.'s
Restaurant at the Inn @ China Peak*



Winter Safety Tips Regarding Propane Storage and Utilization

Winter brings the opportunity for lots of outdoor recreational activities as the snow-fall blankets the terrain. While snow provides for skiing, boarding and snow play, it creates problems and presents some safety issues of which all of us need to be aware.

“Of particular interest in winter to a service business like ours,” said Jason Rinker, Mountain Flame Propane, “is how to help properly educate customers regarding their use of propane during the winter season.”

Here are some important suggestions Rinker has, particularly for mountain residents or those with second homes in the region as well as those who might be renting cabins.



1. Check your levels. Especially before a snowstorm or other inclement weather, it is important to know how much propane is left in your tank. It is best to arrange for a tank to be filled once it is around the 20% mark. This way you can ensure you have enough to last you through the storm, and then some, as delivery afterwards could be delayed due to road conditions.

2. Make sure you have marked the location of your propane tank with a flag, stake, or pole. The marker should be higher than the typical snowfall for the area. This will help avoid having the tank damaged as you or someone else is clearing snow with a plow or shovels. It will also let your delivery driver know exactly where the tank is.

3. Clear the snow away from the tank, as well as any lines or valves. It's a good idea to clear snow away from any exterior roof or side vents that are used to expel carbon monoxide from your propane appliances. You don't want carbon monoxide leaking into your home. Heavy piled ice and snow can also pose a risk of causing damage to the tank and its components. It's a good idea to keep the tank cleared in general. Use a broom or brush to gently remove snow, as a shovel may damage the tank.

4. Make sure that you maintain a clear pathway to the tank. If the delivery truck normally parks in your driveway, make sure that is clear as well. If the tank is not accessible your propane cannot be delivered on time, if at all. This could create a need for an emergency refill call, which can cost you extra fees.

5. To alert you to possible leaks, propane gas contains an additive that gives the naturally odorless gas a pungent, unpleasant smell, sometimes described as rotten eggs or a decaying animal. Make sure everyone in your household knows what propane gas smells like.



For your safety, it is a good idea to keep the propane fuel lines and regulator free of snow.

If you smell this gas at any time, make sure to do the following right away. Put out all open flames and do not turn on any appliances, lights, or phones. Turn off your main gas line immediately and call your local propane dealer. Open windows to allow for ventilation. Evacuate the area as soon as you can.

“It is important to be aware of dead and dying trees near your propane tank,” continued Rinker. “Have them taken out before they can damage your tank or regulator. When you encounter really heavy snow and need to shovel off a roof, be careful not to dump it off the roof onto your propane tank. This can damage the tank as well as the pipes and fittings, causing gas leaks.

Finally, never use a stove or bring a gas grill indoors for space heating. Only use appliances indoors that are designed and approved for that purpose. Never store,



For your safety, it is a good idea to keep the propane fuel lines and regulator free of snow.

place, or use a propane cylinder indoors or in enclosed areas. Never use outdoor propane-powered appliances indoors or in enclosed areas. Without proper ventilation, deadly carbon monoxide (CO) fumes produced can build up.

Carbon Monoxide is a tasteless, odorless gas. Detection in a home environment is nearly impossible by humans.

The symptoms of CO poisoning are similar to the flu. Nausea, vomiting, confusion, sore muscles, headache, dizziness, light headedness, loss of balance, etc. Often, people who experience these symptoms simply go to bed thinking they are coming down with a cold. Some never wake up.

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