



# CHINA PEAK TIMES

**FREE**



SkiChinaPeak.com

Winter 2017 - 2018 Issue #8

ChinaPeakTimes.com



## China Peak Celebrates 60th Year With First Quad Chairlift

Sometimes, without any pre-planning, things just work out. Such is the case with the timing of China Peak Mountain Resort's first quad chairlift and the celebration of its 60th Anniversary season.

After 59 seasons with rope tows, T Bars, double and triple chairs, China Peak has made a move into the big leagues of resorts by installing its first ever quad chairlift, the Buckhorn Quad, replacing the old Chair 2, first installed in 1966.

*(continued on page 8)*

China Peak is looking forward to moving more skiers and riders up the mountain on the new Buckhorn Quad which was installed this past summer. Come on up and see what else has changed.

## Veteran Mountain Operation Director Retiring This Winter

Paul Gray, a 30 year veteran of China Peak and Sierra Summit and for the past five years Director of Mountain Operations will be retiring this winter, announced Tim Cohee, resort managing partner and general manager.

Paul started in the mid 1980s as a lift operator, and over the next three decades plus worked in nearly every operating department, but spent most of his career in lifts and lift maintenance. Born in England, Paul met his wife Jennifer at the resort in 1987, and they have two children who were both born and raised on the slopes, Haley and Graham.

Paul was promoted to oversee all mountain operations in 2013, including lifts, lift maintenance, vehicle maintenance, snowmaking, grooming, snow removal, construction, maintenance, terrain parks, ski patrol, parking, utilities and property management.

"I've worked closely with mountain operations leaders since 1993, and never met

### Master Chef Named New Food and Bar Manager

Confidence in a whole new level of food offerings at China Peak is running high this winter with the announcement of Matthew Babcock at the resort's new Food & Bar Manager, a former restaurant owner and caterer who brings a wealth of knowledge and experience that should add quality, service and creativity to all food outlets.

Babcock comes to China Peak with an extensive background in fine dining as well as catering and banquets. A graduate of the Western Culinary Institute in Portland, Oregon, he has spent years in the food industry locally, including his own restaurant, which had customer ratings among the highest in Fresno.

"I am very excited to be part of the China Peak management team, as I'm a big fan of skiing and snowboarding where people of all ages can enjoy vigorous outdoor activity in the cool, crisp mountain air," said

*(continued on page 6)*

anyone with the range of skills and expertise of Paul," said Tim Cohee, resort managing partner and general manager. "You can find people with a lifts background, others with snowmaking and grooming, still others



Paul Gray will retire after 30 years at China Peak and Sierra Summit in various capacities.

with patrol or other operating departments. But to find someone who has expertise in so many areas, including those beyond typical mountain operating departments, is rare. We won't expect to replace all his skills, but hope to find someone with at least some of them. Even that won't be easy."

Paul was well known as a hands on leader, always in the trenches, who asked and received dedication and hard work from his staff.

*(continued on page 21)*

## Nick Cohee Provides Ski Turning Techniques

Skiing is a sport with several variables like weather, snow conditions, terrain and equipment, to name a few. For the purpose of this article we will create an environment which keeps some of these variables at a constant. Take your average day at China Peak: Sunny, no wind with temperatures in the 40's. The trail is Tamarack, a great run on the upper mountain to work on intermediate and advanced level turns.

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# Shaver Lake Area Listings

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42373 Canyon Vista Lane



\$1,295,000 • MLS#485792

42410 Canyon Vista Lane



\$1,095,000 • MLS#466922

42266 Granite Circle



\$950,000 • MLS#485932

39707 Crystal Creek Lane



\$679,000 • MLS#486624

44397 Lakeview



\$649,000 • MLS#490210

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42191 Limber Lane



\$455,000 • MLS#488917

42186 Hanging Branch Road



\$450,000 • MLS#489507

39527 Waterfall Lane



\$449,000 • MLS#492904

40846 Village Pass Lane



\$360,000 • MLS#492289

42218 Elderberry Lane



\$339,900 • MLS#491930

62788 Sunny Vista Lane



\$244,000 • MLS#481633

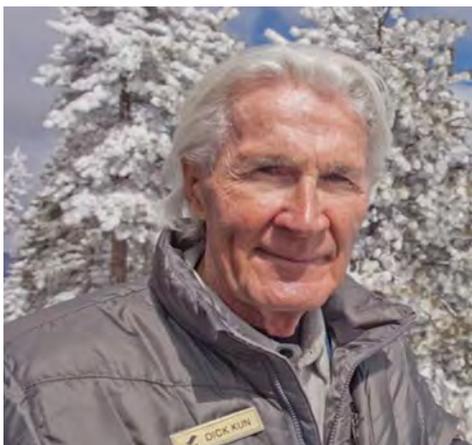
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# China Peak, Sierra Summit Icons Pass Away



Joe Weirick bought China Peak in 1964 and over the next 14 years he made several major improvements.



Richard Kun transformed Sierra Summit into one of the finest mid sized mountains in California.

Within a three month period from late 2016 to early 2017, China Peak lost the two most important figures in the resort's 60 year history, Joe Weirick and Dick Kun.

Kun passed away on Nov. 27, 2016, and was followed shortly thereafter by Weirick on Feb. 8, 2017. Weirick lost his wife, Joanne, one of the most well known and loved members of China Peak and the Huntington/Shaver Lake communities, on Dec. 8, 2015.

Shortly after China Peak opened in 1958 it ran into serious financial difficulties, brought on by a combination of low snowfall and chronic undercapitalization. With the original ownership group forced into bankruptcy early on, Joe, who was working in the banking business at the time in Fresno, decided to take a look at purchasing the fledgling resort with support from his father.

After much consideration he bought China Peak in 1964 and over the next 14 years brought many improvements, including new lifts, trails, facilities and more.

When the resort was purchased by the current owners in 2010, Joe and Joanne would visit often during the winter months, as they maintained many friendships with former staff and long time customers over the more than three decades since they sold China Peak to Snow Summit Ski Corporation in 1982.

In honor of the Weirick's, in 2011 China Peak named the Inn restaurant 'J.W.'s Original Bar & Restaurant'.

Inside the bar are terrific photos of both Joe and Joanne. In 2016, two ski runs off Chair 7 were renamed 'Joe' and 'Joanne's'.

Looking to add another resort to its flag-

ship Big Bear Lake ski area, Snow Summit, one of the nation's most popular ski areas, Dick Kun, whose mother and step father founded Snow Summit in the early 1950s, accepted an invitation from two real estate agents working for well known real estate broker Charles Tingey to view China Peak in the summer of 1981.

Weirick had sold the resort in 1978, but it ran into ownership struggles almost immediately, and was put up for sale three years later.

Snow Summit purchased China Peak in January of 1982, and six months later changed the name to Sierra Summit, hoping to capitalize on the strong reputation in Southern California of Snow Summit and expand its customer base to the south, beyond the Central Valley and Coast.

Between 1982 and 2010, Sierra Summit saw over \$20 million in new investment, transforming the resort into one of the finest mid sized mountains in California, adding more lifts, new runs, extensive run clearing, a snowmaking system from the top to the bottom of the mountain, day

lodges, parking lots and vehicle maintenance buildings.

In 2010, Kun sold Sierra Summit to a small group of investors led by his long time friend of nearly 40 years and former Snow Summit & Sierra Summit Marketing Director, Tim Cohee, who brought back the original name, China Peak.

Kun, a highly accomplished skier, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Ski Areas Association in 2011, and was widely recognized as one of the nation's premier ski resort developers of his generation.

After 50 years of resort development and leadership, he retired in 2015 after selling Snow Snow and Bear Mountain, which he purchased in 2007, to Mammoth Mountain.

He has also been remembered at China Peak with the naming of a run off the top of Chair 1, 'Dick's', a black diamond trail in China Bowl.

Joe Weirick and Dick Kun will be honored during the resort's 60th Anniversary Celebration this winter.

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# Master Chef Named New CP Food and Bar Manager

(Continued from page 1)

Babcock. "There will be a lot of changes in our food venues this season from faster, easier food lines to fresher, locally supplied food. We will be introducing a new winter menu at J.W.'s Bar & Restaurant at the Inn, as well as hearty options at Buckhorn Grill, Mainstream Pub, the Day Lodge Eatery, plus adding food to Base Camp. My sim-



A happy couple takes a break for food and drinks on the deck at the Buckhorn Bar & Grill. ple philosophy on food service is consumers come first."

Food service is changing dramatically across all venues on the mountain side, the most dramatic found at Mainstream, where the addition of a new kitchen will add popular items to the menu. The new ordering area will be a much simpler and more efficient operation, now located next to Sully's. Guests will place an order and pick up when it's ready, no longer waiting in line.

At the Day Lodge, the outdoor BBQ is

slated to open each weekend and holiday, along with a new walk up 'grab 'n go' offering at the west of the deck. Inside, a much more friendly entrance and exit has been created to ease congestion on busy days.

At Buckhorn next to the new quad chair, guests inside will now order and then grab a seat either indoors or on the outdoor deck. 'The Hut' will open on weekends and holidays with a fun and quick menu.

For dinner, Inn and nearby residents will enjoy a fresh new menu along with specials from Matt's list of favorites.

"With a little luck and a great staff we expect this season for food to be the best in our 60 year history," added Babcock.

## Three Day Learn to Ski Program Best Value in Ski Country

If you are a First Time Skier or Rider, China Peak has an incredible deal for you!

Skiing and snowboarding are two exciting and exhilarating activities, but it takes a few days to get the hang of it.

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When you are learning to ski or ride, you need to move around on relatively flat ground, ride beginner moving carpets, learn to stop, turn left and right.

Finally you need to learn how to ride a chairlift.

This usually takes about three days. So the brilliant instructors at China Peak came up with the Three Day, \$149 Package.

It includes everything you will need: a restricted lift ticket for Chairs 4 and 6, rental equipment and group lessons.

Visit LearnToSkiAndRide.com for valuable information about this program.



With the addition of the new Buckhorn Quad lift, the Buckhorn Bar & Grill will be even more popular as it caters to skiers and boarders during the 2017-2018 season at China Peak Ski Resort.

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## Inn @ China Peak Receives Room Upgrades, Smart Style and Condos

Guests at the Inn @ China Peak this winter will notice a series of in room upgrades that make it far more convenient and user friendly, according to Inn Manager Russell Morris.

“When Tim Cohee purchased the resort in 2010 he and his wife Anita made major changes to the Inn, which totally changed the experience in the rooms as well as the restaurant and bar. Our focus this fall was to make the rooms far more friendly for our winter guests, taking into consideration ski and snowboard equipment, boots, ski clothing and more,” said Morris. “Most hotel rooms at ski resorts don’t focus on how guests manage the space when they have a lot of gear, plus their kid’s gear. Our guests will find it much easier to store and hang everything, giving them more room to relax and spend time with family and friends.”

Rooms with closets have been converted to ski/board storage, with room to put several pair, along with boot shelves and numerous hangers for jackets, pants, helmets, gloves and more.

Rooms without closets will now have designated locations for skis/boards as well as furniture ideal for hanging gear.

Old style furniture in the rooms has been exchanged for a light, modern look with more functionality.

“This will be a big improvement in the usefulness and therefore enjoyment of our Inn rooms,” added Morris.

In addition to the room improvements, there are also upgrades to the Inn bar, including colors, lighting and comfortable bar stools.

If you’re looking for larger quarters, China Peak has several Huntington Lake Condos available during the season. They are managed by Nicole and Graham Jones.

Nicole loves the Sierra, having worked in Ski Patrol and was a Timber Crew member for the Forest Service. They enjoy raising their daughters: Sierra, 3 years and Claire, 8 months.

To arrange for a condo, call The Inn at China Peak at (559) 223-2500, Ext. 2.



Above, Nicole and Graham Jones with their girls enjoy life and their job here at Huntington Lake.

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# New Quad Lift Will Enhance Overall Experience of China Peak Visitors

*(Continued from page 1)*

“Our new 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.”

In addition to the installation of the new lift, Director of Mountain Operations Paul Gray oversaw significant run work at the unload area and onto upper Kaiser and a vastly improved Exhibition.

“Mike Cornell, who runs our winter grooming and snowmaking is also a very talented heavy equipment operator. He did 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,” said Gray.

“Skiers and riders will notice a significant difference, much more open, much better access to the slopes.”

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.

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

“As excited as we are about the new quad lift, we had to test it before we could operate it this winter”, said Rich Bailey, Ski Patrol Director for China Peak. “So test it, we did!”

Officials simulated a fully loaded lift, which is loading 42 out of 45 chairs. Cal-Osha crews filled nearly 168 trash bins with around 36,000 pounds of water.

Bailey said with four bins to a carrier, they acted as the weight of people.

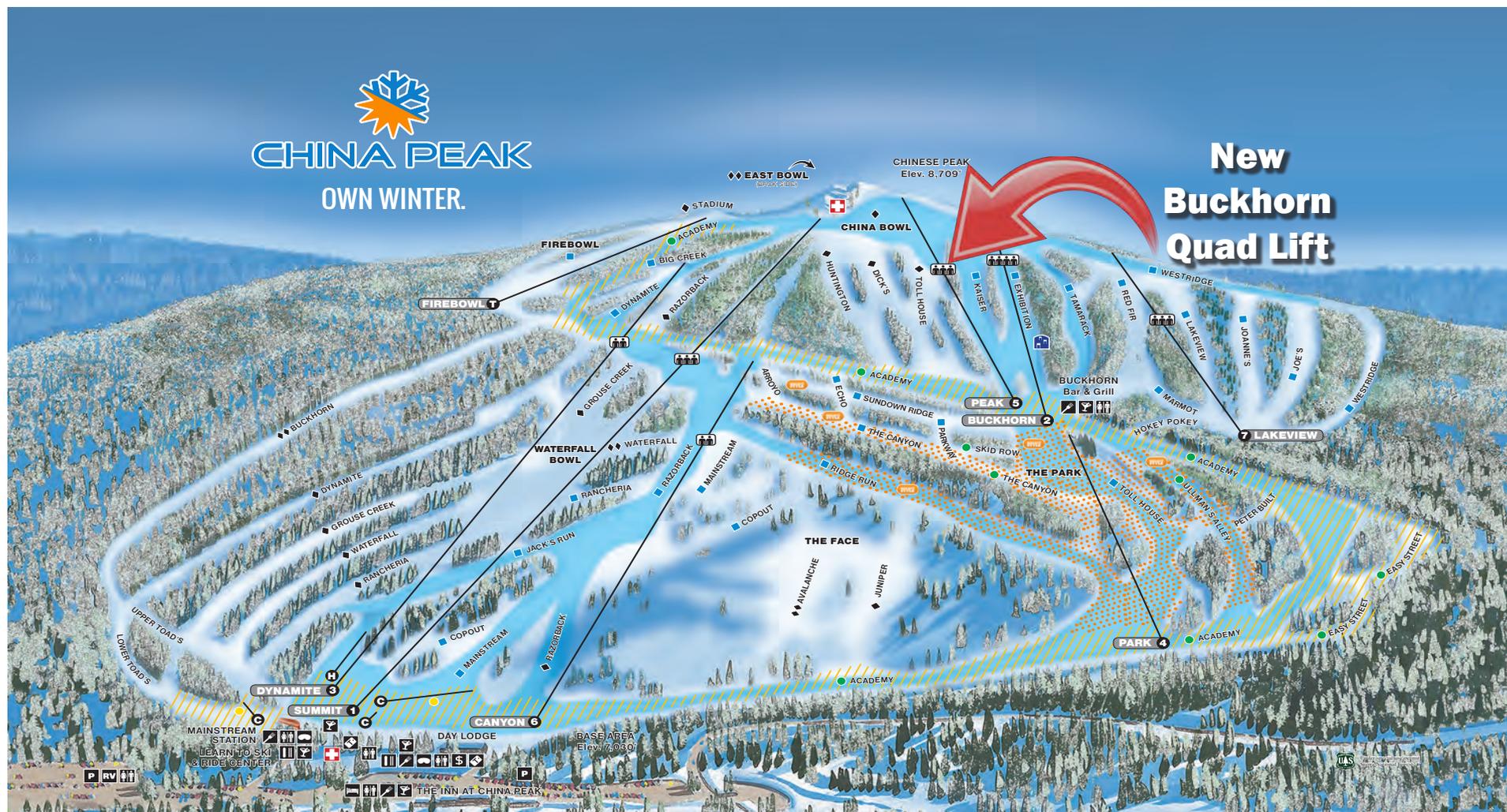
“The whole test is that the brake holds, our emergency brakes holds, all of the backups that we have, and there’s a bunch of backups obviously kind of like an air plane, if you have one system fail you want a redundant other system to catch you if you have to,” Bailey said.

Bailey said this new lift is sure to draw a crowd. “I think personally it’ll be the most popular chair here,” Bailey said.

Plan your trip to China Peak right now!



Aside from the installatiuon of the new quad, a completely new loading area for the Buckhorn Quad was moved nearly 100 feet, creating room around Buckhorn and the existing Chair 5.





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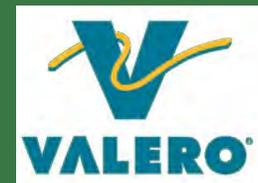
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Lakeshore Restaurant and Saloon



Shaver Lake Lodge Restaurant and Bar



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 Jack'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 Lodge Restaurant and Bar at the Point has been a popular gathering place for friends and family for decades. It features a full service bar. Open for lunch and dinner. See ShaverLakeLodge.com for upcoming events. (559) 841-5393.

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.

Subway Sandwich - Prather is a great place to start the day with a breakfast treat on the way up the mountain or the perfect location to pickup some great food on your way home. Featuring wraps, personal pizzas, chopped salads, kids's meal and much more. (559) 855-7827.

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. ShaverLake-Pizza.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 & chips, chicken tacos. Catch the latest sporting events on 4 TV's and we have Direct TV NFL Sunday Ticket. (559) 841-4411.

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The Hungry Hut is under new management and has been completely remodeled. They offer all the standard burgers and sandwiches, 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.

Falcon Junction Shell Food Mart is a full service convenience store with Krispy Krunchy Chicken, grilled burgers and other fast food items. Visit the Beer Cave. Fountain drinks as well as delicious hot coffee are available for visitors. (559) 855-8800.

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Falcon Junction Shell Food Mart



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Shaver Pub 'n Grub



Norm's Village Cafe



The Hungry Hut



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# China Peak Celebrates 60th Season

It was in **January of 1958** that a few bold, passionate skiers opened the doors at China Peak with one chair and a few rope tows in the base area.

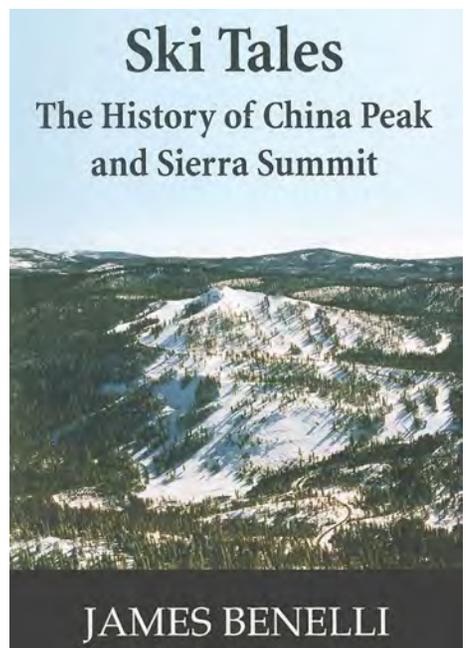
Through financial difficulty, big winters, droughts and everything in between, the resort survived it all and celebrates it's 60th season this winter, thriving as the only major resort on the west slope of the Central Sierra serving tens of thousands of families throughout the Central Valley and Central Coast of California.

"China Peak was the 11th ski area opened in California, the first being Sugar Bowl in 1939 and the last two Kirkwood and Northstar in 1972.

Of the 21 active resorts in California today, nine remained privately owned," said Tim Cohee, the resort's managing partner since 2010 and a 43 year veteran of the state's ski industry.

"China Peak's history has been as colorful and full of ups and downs as any, but it has survived all of it and today is a successful and integral part of the recreational landscape throughout the High Sierra mountains. We are one of the most unique resorts in the nation, as we are the only mid sized mountain serving an entire population base of well over one million people."

A terrific book was written by one of China Peak's longest standing and most loyal skiers, Jim Benelli, in 2009, provid-



A unique, dramatic and often humorous tale of China Peak and Sierra Summit over 52 years.

ing a fascinating history of the resort over its then 51 year life. It is available at Amazon.com.

But here's a much shortened version of a handful of important dates in China Peak's 60 years of operation combined with an array of pictures, provided by Benelli and others, highlighting this unique ski resort:

## 1958 ---



This is the building that housed the motor drive unit and bull wheel for Chair 1, built in 1958.



Prior to 1990, the pool was a very popular spot to hangout. It was just steps from the nearby bar.



Dick Hudson, Jack and Lorraine Dunn follow Fritz Mlekusch down Academy in early 1960s.

Backed by a small group of investors, China Peak opens in January with one chairlift and a few rope tows at the base area. Undercapitalized from the beginning, this original group operated the resort for



Looking back over the foot bridge towards the China Peak Ski Resort main buildings in 1960s. seven years before running into insurmountable financial difficulties, eventually filing for bankruptcy in 1964.

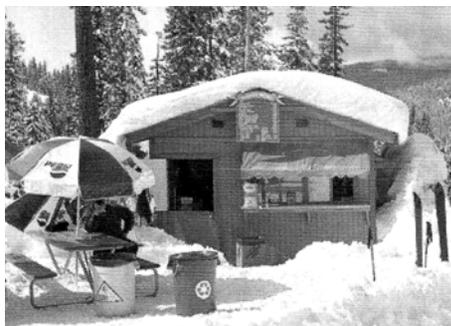
## 1964 ---

A young Fresno banker by the name of Joe Weirick bought the resort, and along with his wife Joanne (married in 1964),



Tim Cohee is flanked by Joanne and Joe Weirick, who ran China Peak Resort for 14 years.

began a 14 year operating run which saw many improvements including chairlifts, runs, the original snowmaking system, buildings and more. Joe and Joanne become iconic fixtures in the Shaver/Huntington Lake communities for decades, up until their deaths in 2015 and 2017 (see article in this issue).



The early ski up Midway which had bathrooms around back and picnic tables for weary skiers.



Above, Lorre Mock and Neville Spencer plow through the deep powder behind Rich Bailey

## 1966 ---

China Peak installs its second chair, #2, extending from the bottom of the existing Chair 4 to the top of the ridge. After 50 years of service, the lift has been replaced for the 2017/18 season with the resort's first quad chair.

(Continued on page 17)



This cute little snack bar was mounted on skis and could be positioned anywhere on the mountain.



This is a very early picture of China Peak Resort active and well trained Ski Instructors.



Otto Tamm and family in the early years. He founded the Estonian Ski Club over 50 years ago.



Members of the Estonian Ski Club dress up for their annual trip to China Peak Mountain Resort.



Early photograph shows the Day Lodge and Sun Deck before the beginner slopes had been regraded to slope to the east. More than one novice skier ended a run bumping into the front of the building.

## Celebrating 60 Wonderful Years of Providing Ski Resort Services

(Continued from page 16)

**1968 ---**

The Firebowl T Bar is added to the resort's growing lift network.

**1973 ---**

The Weirick's add Chair 3 to the upper east side of the mountain.

**1978 ---**

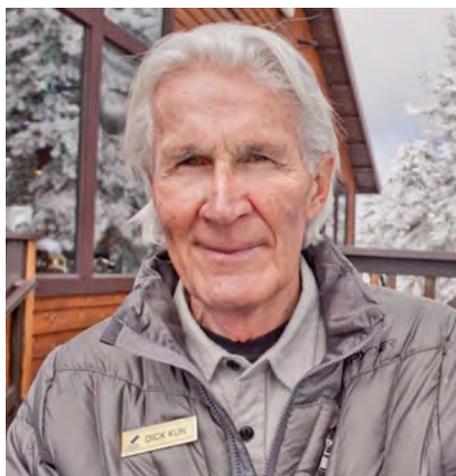
Joe and Joanne Weirick sell China Peak to two local attorneys, who, representing a local wealthy women convince her to put up \$4 million to buy the resort. Joe would later say the only reason he sold China Peak was he never thought in a million



Phil Kerridge was the Ski School Director for China Peak and continued on with Sierra Summit. years it would be worth that much money. The new ownership ran into troubles from the get go.

**1981 ---**

After four tumultuous ownership years



Above is Dick Kun, President of the Southern California Snow Summit Corp. that bought China Peak.



China Peaks is sold to the dominant resort in Southern California, Snow Summit, one of the nation's most successful ski areas, operated by Dick Kun,



Sierra Summit General Manager Pete Scaparo with wife Maureen and girls Kim and Jennifer.



whose mother and step father founded Snow Summit in 1952. Over the next 28 years Snow Summit invests over \$20 million in the resort, including lifts, runs, snowmaking, parking lots, day lodges, vehicle shops and more.

**1982 ---**

After the first year of operation Snow Summit changes the name of China Peak to Sierra Summit, looking to capitalize on



This chair serves beginner and intermediate runs. It was created out of bottom half of old Chair 1. its parent resort's dominance in the Southern California market and reflect a new image. In that first summer existing Chair #2 is split into two lifts, the lower section now Chair #4, separating the different ter-



Photo shows a snow making gun using air and water to blast out a chilled mist, thus making snow! rain offerings for lower level and high level skiers and snowboarders.

**1984 ---**

Sierra Summit opens Chair #5 serving the best advanced terrain on the mountain, China Bowl.

(Continued on page 18)



Here you see a gathering of Sierra Summit Ski School Professionals capturing a moment in time.



Members of the Sierra Summit Management team including Pete, Gary, Brian, Boomer and Rich.



A group of skiers gets ready for a group lesson on the challenging slopes of Sierra Summit Ski Resort.



Mike Nolan was a Ski Patrol Director and is sharing time with his Search and Rescue Dog Brika.



Ski instructor works with a younger student on learning the proper techniques for success.



Deep powder snow graced Sierra Summit in the winter of 2008. Always have your skies at the ready.  
(Continued from page 17)

**1986 ---**

Sierra Summit begins the first phase of a significant snowmaking expansion, even-



Snowmaking allows the resort to augment the amount of snow on the ground during the season.

tually adding snowmaking on several major runs from the top to the bottom of the mountain.

**1995 ---**

Sierra Summit replaces old Chair #1 with a triple chair, accessing the mountain's upper and lower eastern and middle terrain.

**2006 ---**

Sierra Summit opens four new runs on the upper west slope and adds the final chair it will build, #7, providing popular intermediate terrain.

**2010 ---**

After 28 years operating Sierra Summit,



Visitors come from the Central Coast, the San Joaquin Valley, Bakersfield and Southern California.



In 2004, a 50' x 100' tent-like structure named Mainstream Station was built to offer food service, a bar and protection from the elements. The next year it was doubled in size to accommodate more visitors.

## After 60 Years, the Future Continues to Look Bright for China Peak Visitors



Tim Cohee is China Peak Mountain Resort's Managing Partner, CEO and General Manager.

Snow Summit Ski Corporation sells the resort to two investors led by long time ski resort executive Tim Cohee, who began his ski career at Snow Summit in 1976 and was previously the President of Kirkwood



Mountain Resort near Lake Tahoe. Cohee becomes the resort's Managing Partner, CEO and General Manager and based on local support, brings back the original name, China Peak.

**2013 ---**

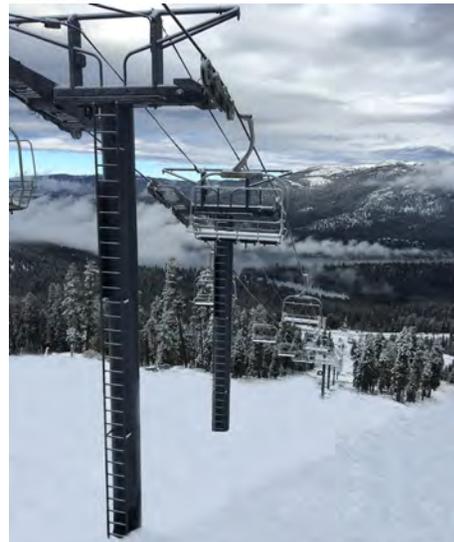
Cohee's long time family friend and partner sells his interest in China Peak to two long time Fresno based businessmen



Adaptive Sports Center is a very active partner in providing services to persons with disabilities, and lifelong China Peak skiers. The three of them now own the resort; between the two owner groups over \$5 million has been invested in China Peak over the past eight years.

**2017 ---**

China Peak celebrates its 60th Anniversary season by opening its first quad chairlift, the Buckhorn Quad, replacing the old Chair 2.



First ever quad chairlift, the Buckhorn Quad, replaces the old Chair 2, installed in 1966.



Ski California (aka the California Ski Industry Association) and its member resorts have unveiled the first Mountain Safety Guide for the 2017-18 season. The free guide will be available at resorts in a pocket-size format (like a trail map).

"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. Because of these risks, we need to remind the veterans and introduce the newcomers to our sport about their responsibilities – like being aware of your surroundings, the conditions and your ability," said Amy Ohran, president and general manager of Boreal Mountain Resort, in the release.

"We want our guests to leave the mountain with a great experience, and one way to do that is knowing the risks and understanding how to be safe, smart and in control."

As California and Nevada resorts gear up for the 2017-18 season, Reitzell hopes that, along with last year's record winter snowfall that extended operations at some resorts into summer, the upcoming 2018 Winter Olympics will draw even more skiers and snowboarders this year.

"People should ski or ride at a speed that allows them to stay in control and be able to 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.

The guide contains safety education every resort guest should know, covering everything from what to do before going to a resort, to loading and riding lifts, navigating potential hazards – including deep snow and avalanche awareness, and understanding trail signage. SkiCalifornia.org



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The China Peak Race Team program enables youngsters to get experience in Alpine Ski Racing. The coaching staff helps team members build individual skills, build confidence and team spirit.

## Teamwork, Loyalty, Camaraderie Are the Cornerstones of the China Peak Race Team

The China Peak Race Team program is designed to develop skiing athletes and promote a healthy lifestyle, enrich the child/family experience and foster a love for snow sports. They work to develop a life-long love for the sport of Alpine Skiing.

Through the fundamental development of skiing, training, and teamwork disciplines the China Peak race team and the coaches, strive to create a resource for personal development for each one of the athletes.

They provide alpine ski racing youth with a supportive environment of teamwork, skills development and competition.

They are committed to being a learning organization. Through the USSA program of SkillsQuest – they develop an age appropriate progression of the necessary basics through advanced skills.

**Coaching education:** Building on the

success to enhance the knowledge and skill of the team coaches and program volunteers.

Adhering to the rules and regulations of the USSA, the club education is built around the USSA Guide to Club Excellence and the pursuit of running a developing ski racing club.

**Training Info:** The race team trains, weather and snow permitting, every Saturday and Sunday as well as major school holidays (with the exception of the four scheduled Central Series races).

Core training day - 8:30 am to 1 pm with a short lunch break. Early morning speed training is also provided on a limited basis. Training includes free skiing drills to develop fundamental ski technique and gate training to further develop technique and tactical skills.

For team applications, please fill out the contact form at [ChinaPeakRace.com](http://ChinaPeakRace.com)

## Fresno Ski Club Gathers at China Peak for Winter Fun and Fellowship

This year the Fresno Ski Club is celebrating it's 80th anniversary and making plans for a great ski season. An anniversary event is planned for February 24th and will be open to the public.

The Fresno Ski Club has earned a reputation for offering outstanding ski trips each winter to snow packed resorts both domestic and international. The club makes all the arrangements for travel, lift tickets, housing, group dinners, and other optional activities. The club's reputation and history means trips are offered at discounted prices taking advantage of its group purchasing power.

This years destinations will be to Whistler-Blackcomb in British Columbia January 20 – 27, and the regional trip to Mammoth will be March 11 – 16. Always supportive of its home resort, monthly Fun Days are scheduled at China Peak for January 6, February 9 – 11 and March 3.

It's not all about skiing. The Fresno Ski Club is active off the slopes as well offering social events, hikes, community

outreach activities, fellowship and more. Every fall the Club sponsors a ski swap, providing the public a convenient venue to turn their still useable ski, snowboard, and snow equipment into cash.

The Fresno Ski Club is affiliated with The Far West Ski Association. Visit [www.fresnoskiclub.com](http://www.fresnoskiclub.com) to learn more about the organization.



Fresno Ski Club members gather together on outings during the winter and summer. Join them.



## China Peak Season Ticket Black Pass Option Amazing

The greatest powder stashes in the West have joined forces to create the Powder Alliance, now 16 resorts who offer FREE SKIING benefits to top-tier pass holders from other participating Powder Alliance areas.

All 2017/18 season passholders have the option of upgrading to a China Peak Black Pass with benefits that include a membership in the Powder Alliance. Restrictions apply and all tickets must be used in the

same season as the accompanying pass. Please see individual resort pages for directions, benefits, and restrictions prior to visiting. Tickets are non-transferable and may be used by the pass holder only.

Offer does not apply to midweek, spring, or other restricted options. Tickets and offers are valid during the 2017/2018 winter season only. Details at [PowderAlliance.com](http://PowderAlliance.com).



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# New Faces, Promotions and People to Watch at China Peak

While China Peak has one of the most consistent management teams in the ski industry, with many managers showing over 20 years of experience, a few new faces arrive every few years to add talent and depth to the resort's operation. In addition, there are a handful of promotions and many young people who are future leaders demonstrating passion, skill and promise.

## New Faces.

Two new managers have joined the team at China Peak. **Matt Babcock** is the resort's new **Director of Food & Bever-**



Matt Babcock

**age**, and brings with him over 20 years experience as an Executive Chef, caterer and restaurant owner. **Katie Hamilton** will join the management team in China Peak Sports after a retail career in the Lake Tahoe area.

## Promotions.

A host of talented staff members have seen promotions for the 2017/18 season. In the world of grooming, **John Hodges** was named **Grooming Supervisor**. After a half doz-



Katie Hamilton



Sylvia Flores

Russell Morris

en years in food, housekeeping and facilities, **Sylvia Flores** accepted the position of **Facilities Supervisor**. At the Inn @ China Peak, **Russell Morris** was named **Lodging Supervisor**. In Tickets & Season Passes, **Shy Gallegos** moved up to **Ticket Supervisor**. The **Purchasing Department** is now under the leadership of **Amber Rivera, Supervisor**. In retail, long time staff member **Mark Webster** has moved up to **Supervisor**, working with Katie Hamilton.

## People to Watch.

"We are very excited to have a large number of staff members who over the past few years have shown they have what it takes to succeed in our industry. It's critical we build the talents and leadership of our younger staff to put them in position to grow with us," said Tim Cohee, the resort's managing partner and general manager.



Mark Webster

Keep an eye on this group as you enjoy their efforts this winter:

- John Hodges**, grooming and snowmaking
- Paul Barile**, grooming and snowmaking
- Lionel Garcia**, lodging and housekeeping
- Shy Gallegos**, tickets
- Chad Sainsbury**, snowmaking & grooming
- Mark Webster**, ski shop
- Addy Graves**, accounting
- Katie Reckas**, human resources
- Eric Montez**, lift maintenance
- Megan Glaser**, ski & board school
- Mylan Biltz**, ski & board school

# Gray Retiring, Will Remain Close By

(continued from page 1)

"Three things come to mind when we talk about Paul Gray," said Cohee. "The first is his 'McGuyver' like skill set, from construction to engines and everything in between. The second is the tremendous loyalty he created among his key staff. Finally, he has a work ethic that is nearly unduplicated in his line of work."

"It's been a rewarding career," said Gray, who arrived in the United States from England in 1981, a few years before seeking work at what was then Sierra Summit. "Like a lot of people who have long careers in one place, you never envision it that way at the beginning, but all of a sudden you look up and it's been 30 years. I hope as time goes by I am remembered as someone who brought a strong work ethic, passion and dedication to the resort and my staff."

Paul purchased two businesses in Shaver Lake last year, towing and snow removal. He will spend more time operating those businesses, but also looks forward to working less, skiing more, what he calls "a return to a more normal life."

"Jennifer and I aren't going anywhere, will be just down the road, probably forever. I'm sure if the resort needs my help at some point, I won't be hard to find," said Gray.



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# 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 2017-2018.

**Activities:** lessons for persons with disabilities including sit-skiing, stand-up skiing, ski-biking, snow-shoeing, cross-country skiing and mountaineering. Family members are encouraged and welcome as well.

**Availability:** available to all persons with disabilities Thursday through Sun-

day, Thanksgiving weekend through the close of the season. Advance reservations are strongly recommended.

**Veterans Participate Free:** offering lessons to Veterans with disabilities at no charge. Discounted lift tickets and rentals are available for family members.

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

**Duration:** half-day runs 9:30 am - 12 or 1 pm - 3:30 pm. Full day 9:30 am - 3:30 pm.

**Location:** programs take place at China Peak unless otherwise designated.

**Legal Stuff:** liability release form required. Under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult approved by the parent.

**Join us on March 4, 2018** 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](http://dojiggy.com)!

**Volunteer:** please volunteer. No experience needed. [CentralCalAdaptive.org/volunteer](http://CentralCalAdaptive.org/volunteer).

For more information or to schedule a program: [randy@centralcaladaptive.org](mailto:randy@centralcaladaptive.org) or call 559-593-2504.



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



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The Shaver Lake Visitors Bureau (SLVB) actively promotes this area and is proud to partner with the China Peak Ski Resort.

Shaver Lake's Annual Fireworks show is a major endeavor of the group, as well as promoting the Logger's Jamboree, the SAR Race, the Shaver Lake Waterpolo Tournament, the OctoberFest and Ghostwalk, as well as many other exciting events that occur during the year.

This local organization was formed in 2013 to unite the business community and to involve the entire community in responsibly promoting tourism and the overall economic health of the mountain area in

and around Fresno County's Sierra Nevada. It is a designated 501(c)3 non-profit group and is dependent upon donations.

The SLVB meets the second Tuesday of each month 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.

The SLVB maintains an informational website presence that 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.

Please visit the website GoShaver.org for further details. You can also contact the group by phone at (559) 841-3350.

## 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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## Try Snowshoeing in the Wilderness

If you're looking for a new adventure, you should try take a snowshoe trek in the Sierra National Forest.

Snowshoeing is one of the country's faster-growing winter sports over the last 16 years. After all, if you can walk, you can learn how to use snowshoes!

Many advanced skiers use snowshoes to participate in some great backcountry hikes to find Mother Nature's holy grail: deep, unscathed powder.

Snowshoeing is also a great alternative for outdoor enthusiasts – especially those who like running.

What's so great about snowshoeing? The sport is easy to learn, virtually inexpensive, poses little risk of injury and is a great way to exert energy during the cold winter months.

The sport helps burn more than 600 calories per hour. It is estimated that someone snowshoeing can burn more than 45 percent more calories than walking or running at the same speed.

Most sporting goods stores in a region close to the snow will have snowshoes for sale and or rent.

If it's covered in snow...go for it! But, be careful. Don't take risks and most importantly, have fun.

The prime areas for snowshoeing are usually in or around a ski resort or snow play area.

Although many people like the individuality and peacefulness of snowshoeing, it's a good idea to snowshoe with a friend or partner.

Bring a global positioning system (GPS) device and a compass to help better navigate remote and wooded areas.



Snowshoeing with a group of friends or with the family is an excellent way to get some exercise.



Nick Cohee retired from Professional Ski Racing in 2016 ranked among the top 60 giant slalom skiers in the world. He had a 13 year FIS career, highlighted by a World Cup start in Austria, a bronze medal at the 2015 U.S. National Championships, two NCAA 1st Team All-Americans at the University of Utah, a North American Cup Win, 35 FIS wins and 67 FIS podiums. He is now China Peak's Director of Skiing Services.

## Guide to Working on Your Intermediate and Advanced Level Turns on the Slopes

(Continued from page 1)

Elements of a ski turn involve an athletic stance, shoulder width apart and solid fore/aft, side to side balance.

Where is the body weight? Is it behind the heels, or are you standing over the front of the shins in a readied position? If the answer is yes to the latter then there is hope yet! Hands are up and forward as if you are balancing a Peak Burger, chili fries and coke on a cafeteria tray. Hips are tall, you are not sitting on the toilette when skiing. Chest and shoulders face down the hill with confidence and anticipation. Ankles cocked, shins pushed against the tongues of the boots, hips shoulder width, athletic stance, hips tall, shoulders rolled forward, hands wider than elbows and palms facing out allowing for pole touch or plant if necessary. This is the body position of a skier. Muscle memory is a key component to skiing so it is important to find your position at the top of every run.

Now that you have the position, let's move to the turn. The turn will be broken down into three phases: beginning, middle and end. In the beginning of the turn, skis are pointed across the fall line to control speed. As skis cross the fall line you begin to apply pressure to the downhill ski, which is defined as the lower ski down the hill from your body. If you are making a turn to the right it is your left ski, in contrast a turn to the left the downhill ski is

your right ski. In this example, we will be turning right, or a left footer (right turn in skiing is a left ski turn). As you apply pressure to the downhill ski the side cut of the ski will initiate the turn. In this moment in time remember the balance portion of the body position. No longer in a standstill position you'll need to factor in a change in balance point from center, on balls of the feet, equal weight distribution, to shifting more pressure and weight on the outside foot, shin and ski. With confidence and commitment, you move your body down the fall line, stand strong on your downhill ski and prepare for it to come around.

As the beginning of the turn becomes the middle or the apex, speeds will increase because you are no longer going against the fall line. Forces of gravity will want to push you over in the middle of the turn because the apex has the most energy stored. Your equipment and body position are being tested by the speed and gravitational forces, pushing you against the downhill ski.

The key is to stand strong on the downhill ski and resist against the forces wanting to push you over. Hands, hips and shoulders driving through the apex. Your core is flexed and your body is skeletally stacked against the powers that be as your skis bend and begin to cross the fall line, entering the final stage of the turn.

The apex of the turn is like a loaded

spring. Energy stored in one turn needs to be transferred to another. As you cross the fall line again, the tension and torque from the forces pushing you down begin to subside. The dynamic, angulated position your body is in at the apex of the turn gracefully moves upward and forward. Following your skis briefly in end of the turn (also called transition phase) weight gradually shifts from the left foot dominant downhill ski to the right footed new downhill ski. As you cross the fall line, body position in mind, you have just completed a turn and are ready for more.

Practice the body position for a ski turn at your home in the door frame or at work, with your hips pushing or resting against one side of the frame and your feet on other, keeping your shoulders level and hands forward.

Muscle memory and cross training are great ways to gear up for another winter and don't forget to enjoy the learning process as it should be rewarding as the end result.

Nick Cohee is a former professional skier who was ranked among the top GS skiers in the world, was a NorAm winner, bronze medalist at the 2015 U.S. Nationals and raced the 2015 World Cup Opener in Soelden, AUT. Prior to his professional career he was team captain of the University of Utah Ski Team and a two time NCAA All-American.



Again for 2018, China Peak is partnering with the Sequoia Brewing Company to run Wednesday "Party Bus Trips" from Woodward Park to China Peak Ski Resort for just \$20 beginning January 3.

## "Party Bus" Runs Wednesdays 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.

A China Peak 'Party Bus' will run every Wednesday starting January 3 from the Sequoia Brewing Company (SBC) on Champlain and Perrin.

The price for the Wednesday bus is just \$20 for those with a season pass. For \$49 you can ride the bus and get a lift ticket or a first time visitor can get a Learn to Ski Package for \$49.

With the food and drink specials at Sequoia Brewing Company following a great day on the slopes, this is a great deal. The bus leaves SBC at 8 a.m. and returns for happy hour at 5:30 p.m.

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.

Meanwhile, Sequoia Brewing Company owner Scott Kendall asked his brew mas-

ter to craft a limited edition called Garage Sale Pale Ale. The concept came about when Kendall was attending the Adaptive Sports Center fundraising event this past summer at China Peak.

"This is a double dry hopped pale ale" Kendall said. "It is brewed using a 20% Rye malt to give it a cold weather kick. Rye is a winter hearty grain that provides a toffee like sweetness with a slightly spicy finish. It's perfect for cold winter days."

The Garage Sale Pale Ale was flavored with a combination of Centennial, Cascade, Simcoe and Chinook hops. Two dry hoppings of Crystal and East Kent Goldings finish the ale with a spicy aroma to match the unique Rye malt complexity.

The Sequoia Brewing company has three locations: the Tower District, Woodward Park and Visalia. For complete details visit SequoiaBrewing.com.

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

## Special Olympics Winter Games January 28 - 30

Over 70 student athletes from around the Central Valley will compete in Alpine and Nordic Skiing events January 28-30.

The event is made possible by the hard work of the local community. Free lodging is provided by local cabin owners.

Snowboarding, downhill and cross country skiing, and snowshoeing are featured.

"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."

Donation checks can be sent payable to the Shaver Lake Lions Winter Games to P.O. Box 377, Shaver Lake, CA 93664.



## Cross Country Ski Enthusiasts Have Miles of Trails Available in the Sierra

Dropping from the sky at the rate of four inches an hour, cotton like thick flakes of snow surround you while gliding along a trail in the Central Sierra Nevada's Kaiser Wilderness. Tree branches lie almost vertical as they are covered with heavy wet snow. The darkness of the afternoon storm is inviting, pleasantly warm and almost perfectly devoid of sound. The crunch of our skis as they grip the snow in the track before us is the only sound in the forest.

Cross-country does not require a steep slope or any mechanized towing device to get participants up hills. California has organized a Sno Park permit system that allows parking in the Sierra National Forest. There are five such Sno Park areas between Shaver Lake and Huntington Lake. All have restrooms as well.

So if you have not yet tried cross country skiing, perhaps this is the year that will lead you into a new outdoor sporting adventure.

Perhaps you will glide through the forest, watching a quiet drama unfold as mounds of snow cascade off the top branches of the pine trees and proceed, like an avalanche, down the tree, clearing snow off the entire tree.

Stop by Shaver Lake Sports when you are in the area to learn more about the trails available. You can also check out the Shaver Lake Visitors website at GoShaver.org.

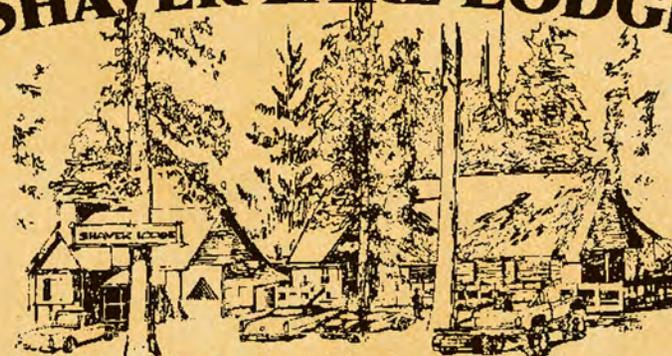


Cross country skiing is a sport that can be shared alone or with a group of family or friends.

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# China Peak Ski Resort Open During Spring - Summer - Fall

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.

Outdoor enthusiasts can select from several outdoor recreational activities like taking a scenic chair lift ride to the top of the mountain, thrill to the Mountain biking trails or play disc golf.



The entire resort is available for weddings, corporate meetings, reunions and other special events during the 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, 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 informa-



tion, visit [ChinaPeakWeddings.com](http://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.

**Mud Run** - Set for a Saturday in August. Take on the challenging 8K course of mud



and obstacles China Peak slopes. Then, enjoy live music, a Brew Fest and great food. **Other local mountain events** include the spectacular fireworks show at Shaver Lake around the Fourth of July and the annual Huntington Lake Regatta that is held in July

For full details visit the China Peak Ski Resort at [SkiChinaPeak.com](http://SkiChinaPeak.com).



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# The Special Relationship Between Sequoia Brewing and China Peak

When I first considered purchasing Sierra Summit in 2009, I met two people who became instrumental to the process. The first was John Williamson, a long time Fresno resident, athlete and insurance broker who was also the college roommate of my long time friend and financial analyst for the purchase, Brad Miller. John, who passed away suddenly in 2013, was an incredibly generous guy who housed us for six months while we secured our new resort, introduced us around town and made sure we had plenty of good wine after long due diligence days.

The second was Scott Kendall, who I was told to look up when I arrived in Fresno by one of my long time friends, Mike Mellows, whose wife went to school with Scott's wife, Michele. Scott not only became our first marketing partner in Fresno, but he introduced us to many other important contacts in the Fresno business community that we still have today. My first meeting with Scott was eight years ago, and he and his wife Michele have been our #1 supporter, marketing partner and friend to China Peak ever since.

-- Tim Cohee

**CPT:** What is the history of the Sequoia Brewing Company?

**SCOTT:** We purchased Butterfield's Brewing in the Tower District in 2000, then shortly thereafter in 2002 changed the name to Sequoia Brewing Company.



**CPT:** When did the other breweries open?

**SCOTT:** We opened SBC on Champlain and Perrin five years after the Tower location in 2005, then added Visalia in 2015. All three have been huge winners.

**CPT:** What was your background prior to purchasing Butterfield's in 2000?

**SCOTT:** I was in a management role with Marie Calendar's, where I spent 20 years. It was a good company and I learned the tools necessary to become a successful entrepreneur.

**CPT:** What's special about SBC?

**SCOTT:** We are a family owned business, the oldest hometown brewery in Fresno. And I think most people would say

we make great beer.

**CPT:** When did you get involved with China Peak?

**SCOTT:** Our family has been skiing there for years, but there was never any interest from the ownership group to work with local businesses. When Tim Cohee bought the resort, that changed immediately, as he knew from two decades in Lake Tahoe working with the most visible community based businesses that those connections were critical to establish.

**CPT:** How did you guys meet?

**SCOTT:** We had a mutual friend, Mike Mellows, who told Tim to look me up when he arrived in town back in 2009. We met, saw the opportunity to work closely together on a number of fronts, and that was it. We became good friends and have done lots of things to our mutual benefit over the past eight years.

**CPT:** What do you enjoy most about your relationship with China Peak?

**SCOTT:** First, it's one of the last privately owned and operated resorts in California so China Peak is like most of the businesses in Fresno, very entrepreneurial. And like SBC, they have a long time, loyal, caring staff who work hard every day to provide a quality experience for their skiers and riders.

**CPT:** We hear you have a tight relationship with Sully, who runs the bars at China Peak.

**SCOTT:** Sully is the classic iconic ski resort bartender. He's from Massachusetts, and even though he's been in the West for 30 years, his speech is as pure Boston as it was when he left for California in 1988. When he was at Kirkwood with Tim from 1994-2010, he was by far the most well

known person at the resort. Sully's the kind of guy where you meet him once and you feel you've known him your whole life. I'm pretty sure a lot of China Peak customers head up the mountain to hang out with him, as important as the skiing.

**CPT:** How did the Pray for Snow Party, now in it's eighth year, get started?

**SCOTT:** Tim and I were talking about creating buzz and energy to kick off the ski season, and Pray of Snow parties have been around a while, so it made good sense to start one in Fresno. It's been a huge hit, something the real skiers and riders in Fresno put on their calendar every year.

**CPT:** Any final thoughts?

**SCOTT:** Yes. Ski local.



Tim Cohee, China Peak General Partner and CEO says he met Scott eight years ago, and he and his wife Michele have been the #1 supporter, marketing partner and friend to China Peak ever since.

## Snowmobiling in the Kaiser Wilderness and Along Huntington Lake Region Very Popular

If you've ever been snowmobiling, you know it's the ultimate snow adventure. If you haven't, well, it's time you tried. The local region offers the perfect setting for first-timers or seasoned experts.

You have access to California's greatest playground including: thousands of acres of trails, pristine backcountry, spacious meadows, historic landmarks and lush forests.

Enjoy the sensation of sharing this mountain experience with family or friends as you embark on a classic ride to enjoy an adventure you will not soon forget.

Escape the winter shadows as you mean-

der through old growth forest and through the meadows here in the Central Sierra. Enjoy a view of snow covered peaks of the Kaiser Wilderness or the Dinkey Wilderness depending upon the area in which you are traveling. There is grandeur in the, spectacular sunsets, rich alpenglow and the natural beauty of the great outdoors that will leave you truly speechless.

Unlock the mysteries this mountain paradise at night! An after hours exploration will take you high into the mountains to reveal the many night secrets by moonlight.

(Continued on page 29)



The Kaiser and Dinkey Creek Wilderness area in the Central Sierra have hundreds of miles of trails that a snowmobile enthusiast can enjoy during the winter months in the Sierra National Forest.



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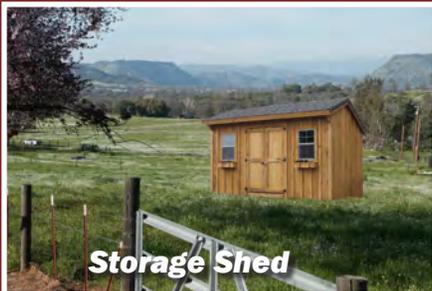
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# China Peak Ski Patrol Puts Main Focus on Visitor Safety

Watching over and keeping skiers and riders safe is an important part of any mountain resort's daily routine. At China Peak, this responsibility falls on the shoulders of Rich Bailey.

"The patrol staff takes accident prevention very seriously," said Bailey. "They are constantly working to promote mountain awareness to skiing and riding guests. Their primary goal is to prevent accidents."

China Peak Mountain Resort is the proud recipient of a number of industry honors over the past several years. Perhaps the most important is the resort's status as one of the best in the nation when it comes to providing care for resort customers.

This is due in large part to Rich Bailey. He has lead China Peak to achieving one of the best safety records in the industry. Bailey is proud that the China Peak Volunteer Ski Patrol is recognized as a national leader.

Bailey is one of the most experienced and decorated ski patrol professionals in the nation. His career spans over four decades,

"Simply stated," said Bailey, "we have an awesome crew of passionate patrollers! Many in this dedicated crew have provided ski patrol duties for over 20 years."

"Our patrol has won numerous BEST IN THE NATION AWARDS for instructors, individuals, paid patrollers, and volunteer patrollers," boasted Bailey.

"I have proud that our guys and gals have volunteered to help other patrols with training, avalanche courses, first aid as well as assisting when they were light on their own patrol," continued Bailey.

Typically patrol members help park cars, bus tables, handle traffic control on the highway. This is additional to providing at least

14 days of patrolling per year at the ski area.

Of course patrollers like to help injured skiers and bring them down the hill in sleds. They practice these skills almost endlessly. But they really prefer just cruising all over the mountain without incident.

Volunteer patrol coordinator Randy Baerg spends many hours ah week to make his patrol team the best in the west. Each year, Baerg, along with his Board of Directors, make sure to facilitate the training of volunteer candidates. They are well prepared and earn the privilege of wearing a **Red Cross**.

"Randy works very hard to help bring out the best in each of our volunteers," said Bailey.

The China Peak Ski Patrol team is always looking for qualified individuals to join with them in preventing accident and providing hill safety. Contact Rich Bailey at (559) 233-2500.



Under the guidance of Rich Bailey, highly trained individuals patrol the China Peak slopes.



Riding through the snow covered Sierra National 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.

## Miles of Groomed Trails Are Maintained by Lakeshore Resort and Rancheria Enterprises

(Continued from page 27)

Experience the thrill and adventure as you cruise along. The rush, the beauty and your heightened senses will be a pleasant surprise for an evening out!

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

The Rancheria staff grooms the Kaiser area while the staff at Lakeshore Resort groom the Tamarack and Huntington Lake area. All and all about 150 miles of groomed trail for riders to enjoy. Both businesses rent snowmobiles. Local snowmobile club, Sierra Snowmobile Club. This is a fun club with rides scheduled every season. There are businesses that rent and/or maintain snowmobiles listed below. Check out the Huntington Lake Snowmobile Trail Map

Both cross country skiing and riding snowmobiles are popular, family oriented winter sports.

Cross-country skiing is the fastest grow-

ing winter sport in California. It requires fewer beginning skills and the needed equipment is fairly inexpensive.

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.

Few things in life can rival the thrill of roaring along on a powerful snowmobile through a spectacular winter wonderland.

Snowmobiling is a great family sport. There are more than 200 miles of groomed and maintained trails around Huntington Lake, Tamarack Ridge and into the Kaiser Wilderness.

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. One also does repair work. Details at LakeshoreResort.com or RancheriaEnterprises.com

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# Terrain Parks - Bigger is not necessarily better. Being creative is the key to providing excitement.

Terrain Parks have created a lot of buzz since their inauguration in the early 90's. Shortly after the start of snowboarding, there were snowboard parks.

Snowboard parks were the only place on the resort which allowed any sort of jumping. Back then jumping and freestyle were not in line with most resorts' customer base.

Soon after, the rebellious snowboarder movement trended up, and skiers wanted a piece of the action. Snowboard parks became terrain parks, terrain parks became super pipes, X games and Olympics and here we are today.

We have progressed the sport of skiing and snowboarding at an incredible rate.

Where do we go from this progression?

Parks nearly got out of hand, with pipe walls exceeding 20 feet and table tops the size of a family house. The features shown on television take days sometimes weeks to build and tens of thousands of dollars. As an industry, we have tried to cater to the "big-



Come enjoy the wonderful thrills you can achieve on the China Peak Resort Terrain Park. ger is better" mentality, spending time, labor, money and on low snow years, valuable snow.

That is until Gen Gunnarson, VP of Snow Park Technologies (SPT), suggested maybe we were missing the mark. Maybe going bigger isn't always better. Maybe taking

a clicker to our super park and clicking a whopping eight participants on our busiest days is more than just a measurement of how little our advanced parks get used.

Gunni spoke at the NSAA convention last spring, giving insight to a new direction for terrain parks, arguing that the return on a terrain park may be much greater than previously thought.



The Jurassic Park setup is just one of the several Terrain Park features you'll find at China Peak.

Shifting parks from bigger, to more creative, from borderline dangerous, to more rhythm and flow, were a few takeaways from Gunni's lesson.

Diving into demographics one can see the millennial market is the largest market on the planet, exceeding the baby boomers by a few million. Millennials grew up in the days of the exploding extreme sports, though most of us can't do double back-flips on a snowmobile.

In order to survive as an industry, we need to cater to the millennial market.

We at China Peak are excited to move in the new direction that terrain parks are going. With the purchase of five new features, including a 32-foot curved box, 90-degree wall, box with barrel rail, and two new rails, we hope to create several options for most ability levels.

The boarder cross will make a comeback this winter on Canyon, giving skiers and



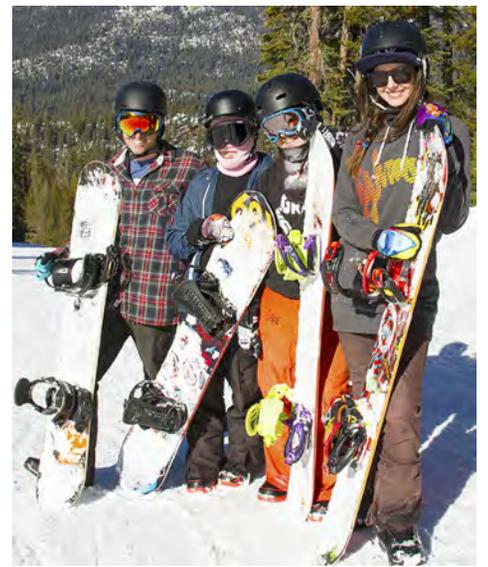
Long line of snowboard enthusiasts practice their tricks on the slopes at China Peak. There are a number of additional features for 2017-2018, including a 32-foot curved box and two new rails.

boarders a chance to practice going over rollers and hitting banked turns at speed.

For beginners looking to test the park waters, we will be adding enhanced terrain to Ullman's Alley, including rollers, snow level boxes and mini jumps.

Finally, with the help of a strong terrain park crew, we will add a jump line and intermediate to advanced features on Ridge Run.

As we enter into our 60th year in business, our goal is to expand on our already fantastic terrain. Better flow in our jump lines, more creative jibs, dad parks, enhanced natural features and learner based terrain. Come join us and find your park.



Bring your boards and take advantage of the new Terrain Park additions made over the 2017 summer.



Family fun means playing in the snow and is for kids of all ages. Five Sno-Parks are located in Fresno County's Sierra Nevada and are ideal for tubing, building snowmen and throwing snowballs.

## Central Sierra Nevada Features Five Sno-Park Locations for Winter Time Family Adventures

Plan to take a day this winter season and bring family and or friends into the local Sierra Nevada for an exciting day of outdoor adventures.

Here's a question for you. What can you do with a carrot in one hand and two lumps of coal in the other? Well, you can build a snowman!

So pack your companions into 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 include 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.

Be advised that 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. 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 own refuse. Always carry a shovel, blankets, water, flashlight and tire chains.

Remember that your common sense, skill level, use of proper clothing, and respect for the terrain and weather all affect your safety, so take some time to plan your trip. Call (800) 427-7623 for a CalTrans recording on highway conditions.



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