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Winter 2019 - 2020 Issue #10

ChinaPeakTimes.com



## Expanded Snowmaking System Ushers In New Era of Consistent Seasons

While debate continues as to the effects of global warming on the winter resort industry, one element of winter weather has become clear since new owners took over China Peak in 2010: inconsistent snowfall.

Since the resort's first season as the 'New China Peak', resort owners have seen five droughts, three near record snowfalls and one season that could be called 'normal'.

As the resort looks to continue a series of major improvements over the coming years, the decision had to be made whether or not to spend several million dollars and invest in a snowmaking system that could for all practical purposes remove the risk of not having significant terrain and lifts open before the critical holiday beginning December 26.

After a successful campaign in 2018/19, Tim Cohee and his two Fresno based partners made the difficult call: invest in a major snowmaking system, large enough to open runs in a few days rather than weeks, and with adequate temperatures have most if not all lifts and major ski runs open for the Christmas holiday.



*Snowmaker adjusts snow gun to lay down a stream of man made snow on a popular ski run.*

"If we look at the 61 year history of our resort, there has never been a nine year period with so many droughts as we've seen since 2010," said resort Managing Partner and General Manager Tim Cohee, who has worked for resorts with some of the largest snowmaking systems in the nation - Snow Summit, Bear Mountain and Heavenly.

"We develop momentum with our guests,

have a long season with many days of great skiing, get ready to further invest in improvements, and then get hit with severe droughts, as we saw in 2012, 2014, 2015 and 2018. It's not only frustrating for our guests to not know when we're going to open and with what, it makes doing any medium to long term planning impossible."

How much more capacity does this new system have than what was in place for the past three decades?



*Snowmaking will allow for China Peak to provide a longer season for their skiers and boarders.*

"We are going from one of the smaller systems in California to among the top eight systems in terms of converting water to snow," said Cohee. "It's a monumental increase, probably six times more snow over any given period of time. In the past it might take eight or nine days to open runs such as Sundown Ridge, Dynamite or Kaiser. With this new system it can happen as quickly as a few nights."

*(continued on page 3)*



*With the extraordinary improvements to the snowmaking system, a talented new park supervisor and a world class park consultant China Peak now offers skiers and boarders a great terrain park.*

## Terrain Park Staff Sets Bar High For New Features and Variety

One challenge of a drought winter is the inability to produce a consistent and quality terrain park. An excellent quality park has always been highly desired by an avid group of local riders who have been disappointed by the quality and number of features on Middle Tollhouse these past several years.

Even when there was adequate natural snow to build a variety of jumps, the resort didn't have the leadership in place to execute on a top level park. That should all be changing this winter.

"The lack of consistent snow, lack of staff and lack of a dedicated terrain park

manager all led to our reputation for not paying enough attention to the park and it's loyal following," said Assistant Director of Mountain Operations and Manager of Snow Surfaces Paul Barile. "In the drought years we couldn't afford to make enough snow in the park when we had ski runs we could not open.

*(Continued on page 12)*

## China Peak Purchases Rancheria Enterprises

This past summer China Peak added a new venture to its summer attractions with the purchase of Rancheria Enterprises, encompassing the well known marina and general store less than two miles from the resort.

"It makes sense to diversify our summer offering to include access to Huntington Lake," said Managing Partner Tim Cohee. "We were approached by the owners this past spring and we were able to operate the resort most of the summer."

The purchase included nearly 100 boat slips, rental pontoon and fishing boats,

*(Continued on page 10)*

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- ★ Major Snowmaking System Installed
- ★ Visitor Kisok at SL Community Center
- ★ Working the Summer at the Peak
- ★ Who Are the Buckhorn Boys?
- ★ Sequoia Brewing Bus Service
- ★ China Peak Buys Rancheria Marina
- ★ Keith Teramoto Tells Amazing Story
- ★ Latest Fresno Ski Club News
- ★ The Snow Making Process Explained
- ★ Adaptive Sports Center Going Strong
- ★ Caltrans Team Keeps the Road Open
- ★ China Peak Terrain Park Upgrades
- ★ Celebrating 40 Years in the Industry
- ★ Sno-Parks Perfect for Family Fun!
- ★ Powder Alliance Benefit is Amazing
- ★ Upgrades at the Inn at China Peak
- ★ Have Your Kids Join CP Race Team
- ★ Paul Barile's 30 Years of Public Service
- ★ Clawson Motorsports Has All the Toys
- ★ Celebrate Your Wedding at China Peak

CHINA PEAK



*Published by Talahi Media Arts, Prather, California - Talahi.com*

# Caltrans Crew 655 Helps Travelers Stay Safe on 168

A new day, a new shift. The crew grabs supplies for the day: a thermos of hot coffee, breakfast burritos, jerky for a quick snack later, dry gloves and any essentials that might make the shift more comfortable.

This is no 8-5 shift, in fact this is no eight-hour shift; the days are long and cold, and the nights are even colder. Weekends don't exist and neither do holidays. Mother Nature dictates when this crew gets to take a well-deserved break and some years she is more generous than others.

Crew 655 also known as the Shaver Lake Crew maintains over 120 lane miles on State Route 168 between Sample Road and Kaiser Pass Road and can easily tell you where each large boulder, sharp turn and roadway oddity is. For many on this



The Caltrans crew works closely with the CHP in keeping drivers safe when traveling along 168.

crew, this familiar stretch of road is home.

The surrounding communities of Auberry, Prather and Shaver Lake rely on this crew. Without them, wintertime tourism would be difficult, routes to school would be inoperable and those who travel to the Valley for appointments, work and errands would be unable to complete their to-do list.

Crew 655 consists of at least 12 crew members (re-enforcements are brought in from other areas if needed) that split the 12 to 15-hour shifts. During these shifts, crew members can be found manning six plow trucks, two blowers, and two graders; often the seat of some equipment never has a chance to get cold, as soon as one person exits the vehicle another enters, and work continues.

As locals and visiting tourists lay in warm beds, half of the 655 Crew is using dump trucks, loaders and blowers to remove snow from local parking lots and truck it to the outer edges of town making room for those who will seek local favorite treats in just a few short hours.

The other half of the crew can be found sanding roadways and clearing out the five local snow parks for visitors who will be coming up for the day.

As the sun rises and crowds descend



The winter season means lots of long hours of plowing roads, sanding icy pavement, alerting travelers to chain control requirements as well as helping stranded motorists to remain safe.

upon the area, the crew will spend a portion of their day partnering with California Highway Patrol to enforce chain control at varying locations including: the top of the Four Lanes, Sierra Marina or Balsam Snow-Park. Those not working the chain control areas are out using a road grader to peel the snow pack and ice off the road and the blowers to get the snow off the road to give a safer and wider travel space for motorists.

Days prior, the crew went into Storm Protocol, the process of planning and executing last-minute repairs, culvert cleaning, weather monitoring, pothole filling,

and preparations for any environmentally sensitive areas that are susceptible to flash floods or rock slides.

The crew carefully times when the storm might hit and just how much time they can spend at home with families before Mother Nature calls them to work. If you happen to head up to the Greater Shaver Lake region for a leisurely weekend, don't forget to show your appreciation to the Shaver Lake Crew. The best way to acknowledge their hard work is to give them plenty of time and space to do their work and remember #DontCrowdThePlow!

## Steps from the lifts.

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Rates and programs subject to change.



**CHINA PEAK**

*Good Times.*

# China Peak's Expanded Snowmaking System Among the Industry's Top Eight

*(Continued from page 1)*

“The key to snowmaking capacity is water flow, how many gallons per minute you can push up the mountain through a system of water and air piping that covers major trails including Upper Dynamite, Middle to Lower Academy, Mainstream, Jack’s, China Bowl, Kaiser, Exhibition, Tamarack and the Terrain Park on Middle Tollhouse. When we get a snowmaking window with temperatures and humidity in the 20s we



China Peak's expanded snowmaking system features a variety of snow guns to cover the slopes.

need to be able to produce large amounts of snow in that narrow window.”

“We hope this new investment, the largest ever in one off season in the resort’s history, changes forever our ability to offer a consistent product between Thanksgiving and Christmas every season, regardless of natural snow. Of course it would be great if Mother Nature delivers several feet early every winter and we never turn the system on, as it’s very expensive to operate, but we can no longer be in a position of wait and see. Providing consistent skiing from mid December, or earlier, well into April is key to our ability to continue making important improvements to this great resort,” said Cohee.

## Buy Online and Save

Save up to 20% off the ticket window rate by purchasing your tickets online at [SkiChinaPeak.com](http://SkiChinaPeak.com)! All day lift tickets are valid from 9 am - 4 pm. Half day lift tickets are available from 12:30 pm - 4 pm.

All online tickets expire at the close of the 2019/2020 winter season or April 30, 2020 whichever comes first. No credits or rollovers will be granted for use during the following season. Make sure to use them up!

Beginner area lift tickets for moving carpets are only available for purchase at the resort.



A group of snow guns that use fans to break water into small particles which the cold air helps turn into snow, stand ready and out of the way while the slopes are open to skiers and boarders.

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# China Peak Managing Partner Celebrates 40 Years in Ski Industry

What started out as a part time winter job teaching skiing and recreational racing while a student at Long Beach State has become one of the longest ski resort management careers in the California ski industry. This past October China Peak Managing Partner Tim Cohee celebrated his 40th Anniversary in ski resort management.

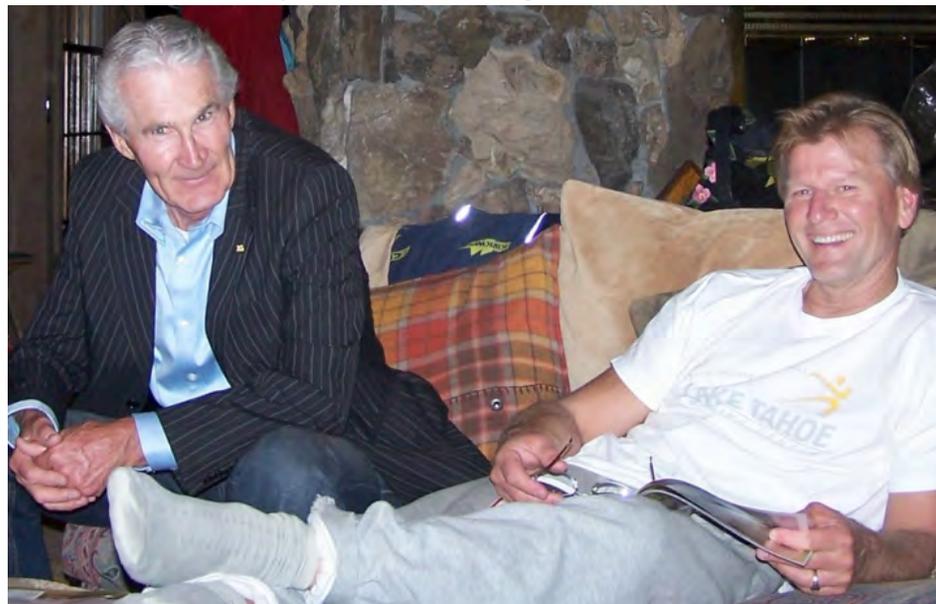
“I don’t think anyone who started out in this business in their teens or early 20s had plans to stay this long,” said Cohee. “Like a lot of career stories I had a lucky break in the fall of 1979 and as they say, the rest is history.”

That lucky break was being asked to interview for Snow Summit’s first ever marketing position, working for General Manager Dick Kun, who became one of America’s most prolific resort operators and builders over the past 50 years. Cohee was hired and his first day of work was October 22, 1979. Prior to 1979 he was a part time ski instructor and assistant race director from 1974-79.

“I knew Dick before that interview as Chris Riddle and I started the Snow Summit Race Department in 1977, the year I graduated from Long Beach State,” said Cohee. “I actually interviewed with his mother, Jo Tyndall Alexander, who along with her husband and Dick’s step father, Tommi Tyndall, founded Snow Summit in the early 1950s. Dick wasn’t convinced his mother and I would get along, but we did. She unfortunately passed away the next summer in 1980, so I reported to Dick from that point on. Our main success through the mid 1980s was educating the Southern

California market on the capabilities of machine made snow, which really put us on the map nationally. Dick and I became close friends and remained that way for 37 years until he passed away in 2016.”

In 1985 Cohee was recruited by another of the national ski industry’s iconic owner/



*Dick Kun, left and a relaxed Tim Cohee hang out together. Prior to 1979 he was a part time ski instructor and assistant race director from 1974-79. Their friendship lasted for over 37 years.*

operators, Bill Killebrew, to join his resort, Heavenly, as Vice President in charge of Marketing.

“That was a tough decision,” remembers Cohee. “On one had it was an opportunity to work at an international resort, for someone who was widely recognized as one of the smartest operators in the history of American skiing. On the other hand Dick and I spent almost every day together for

the past six years, working, skiing, ski racing, playing tennis, golf and taking family vacations. I felt from a career perspective I had to make the move.”

After only three years at Heavenly, Cohee received a call from a colleague at Killington, Vermont, Foster Chandler, who



*Tim Cohee enjoys a fast start to his first season at the new China Peak with over six feet of snow by Thanksgiving 2010.*

to 365,000, one of the largest growth stories the industry had seen since the 1970s. It was a great time with incredibly talented people, so talented that over the course of the next several years seven managers from our team at Bear Mountain became General Managers of major resorts, including Jackson Hole, Sierra at Tahoe, Kirkwood, China Peak, The Canyons, Mount Snow, Killington, Diamond Peak and Bogus Basin. Nothing like that had ever happened, and I doubt it ever happens again.”

In 1991 Cohee was looking to advance his career beyond marketing and was asked to interview for the position of President & General Manager of Northstar in Lake Tahoe. There were 112 applicants, 12 selected to interview, but after the first three interviews, of which Cohee was third, then parent company Fibreboard CEO John Roach called off the final nine interviews and decided he would choose between Cohee and then Vice President of Marketing for Sunday River in Maine, Bill Jensen.

At the end of the weekend interviews that September, Jensen was selected, who over the next 25 years became the most successful of the second generation resort operators in the nation. Jensen submitted his resignation from Sunday River that next day to Les Otten, who had become the Golden Boy of the ski industry with his Maine resort, growing attendance in 1980 from 80,000 to an astonishing 500,000 in 1991. He was well known by everyone in skiing, and with Jensen’s departure to Northstar, Otten came calling for Cohee to take over the helm in marketing.

“Les called me in Big Bear Lake and invited me to visit his resort in Bethel, Maine at the suggestion of Bill Jensen. I had been to the Eastern United States maybe once or twice, couldn’t fathom leaving Southern California and S-K-I, but his reputation was so big I decided to make the weekend trip in the fall of 1991.

It was a spectacular time in New England with the fall colors. Les made me an offer I could not refuse, so my wife Anita

(continued on page 5)



*Dick Kun’s Snow Summit purchased China Peak in 1982, renaming it Sierra Summit that summer. Cohee worked closely with Kun at both resorts until 1985. They became close friends.*



# China Peak Managing Partner Celebrates 40 Years

*(Continued from page 4)*

and our two sons moved 3,000 miles to the Western mountains of Maine. I really enjoyed working for Les, an amazing marketer, developer and leader, but it didn't take long for my family to struggle with the dramatic change in weather from Southern California to the East. I could have stayed much longer, as I loved the passion of the east coast skiers and the fierce competition between Sunday River and Killington as the two market leaders, but the distance from the west was just too far."

While Cohee was now recognized as one of the nation's top marketers, with experience on both the east and west coasts, he was still hoping for an opportunity to move into a General Manager role. That came in April of 1993.

"Anita and I were at our 50 acre farm in Bethel, Maine when I received a call from two long time colleagues – Michael Berry, then President of the National Ski Areas Association and former President of Kirkwood, and Bob Roberts, then President of the California Ski Industry Association and a terrific friend and mentor. They said Lake Tahoe's Kirkwood was in rough shape and they had already briefed Kirkwood major-

about Kirkwood, called me all the time to just talk, a great mentor in my life. We became close over those years and Bud was always understanding of how tough a place Kirkwood was, with legendary snowfall, power issues, road issues, etc."

"Just one example of how extreme Kirkwood can be: in 1997 we recorded 76 feet of snow. You can imagine the challenges that brought to the resort and the remote Kirkwood Valley."

While Cohee was happy at Kirkwood, living in the nearby Carson Valley with his now five sons and wife Anita, deeply involved in his son's athletic careers and watching Kirkwood continue to prosper, there was always a thought that some day he might actually own a resort. That opportunity came calling in the fall of 2009.

"I was in contact with Dick Kun weekly, as I was on the Snow Summit Board of Directors at that time. I knew a sale of Snow Summit was likely in the coming years (Snow Summit sold to Mammoth in 2014), and a sale of Sierra Summit prior to that was a key strategy in the sale, as most buyers would be interested only in the Southern California market, which Snow Summit had continued to dominate. I made Dick an offer to buy Sierra Summit, which he and his Board accepted. We opened escrow on the sale in January of 2010, and despite a few tense moments closed the sale on May 21. With the closing we also announced we were bringing back the original name, China Peak."

Cohee's original partner was Tom Klein, the oldest son of Kirkwood founder Bud Klein, who owned Rodney Strong Vineyards in Healdsburg. In 2012 Tom decided to divest his ownership position, and Cohee sought new partners, who he found in the spring of 2012. He has had those same two Fresno partners ever since.

"I am fortunate to have two Fresno partners for the past seven years. They have stuck with the resort through four droughts, two years of heavy snow and one normal winter, and despite all of this, are more excited and supportive of China Peak than ever. We recently purchased Rancheria, the marina and store down the road from the resort this past summer, and have plans for creating a lakefront attraction."

"The biggest news is the installation of one of California's largest snowmaking systems, which will forever change the business model for China Peak, providing a long, reliable season like never before. It will allow us to make plans for growth as we can count on having snow almost exclusive of how Mother Nature chooses to cooperate."

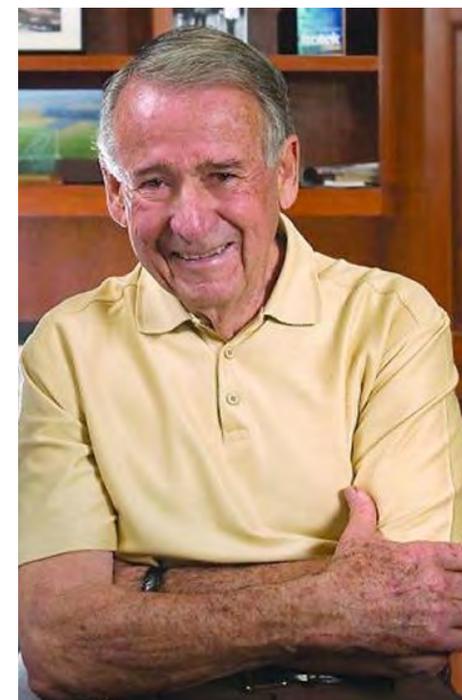
After 40 years and six resorts, any re-

grets?

"I suspect everyone who has had a long career occasionally looks back and evaluates the moves they made. Maybe we should have stayed at Snow Summit, where we would have been closer to family and my long time friend, Dick Kun. Maybe we should have stayed at Kirkwood, which eventually was purchased by Vail Resorts, and not taken the risk of ownership at China Peak, with five droughts in the nine years since the purchase."

"But at this point, I'm happy with where we are. Our resort is about to enter a new era after 61 years with a solid snowmaking system, we have a new lake venture, a terrific staff and small group of dedicated, talented managers, the best we've had since our purchase in 2010, and a great partnership. Two of my sons work for us, another started his post professional ski racing career here, several of my relatives enjoy visiting every winter, and we have thousands of loyal, enthusiastic customers who have stuck with us through a series of rough winters."

"I've been lucky to work with a group of wonderful mentors, leaders and now great friends, including Dick Kun (passed away 2016), Bill Killebrew, Jerry Blann, Pres Smith, Les Otten, Bud Klein (passed away 2014), Tom Klein, Tris Cochrane,



Cohee worked for Kirkwood founder Bud Klein, iconic agriculturist and owner of Rodney Strong Vineyards, from 1993-2010.

Brad Wilson, 'Sully', Chris Riddle, Debbie Neely and of course my two partners in Fresno. And it goes without saying none of this would have been possible without the amazing support of my wife of 33 years, Anita, and my five terrific sons - Taylor, Chase, Nick, Troy and Tristan."

"It's been a great ride. I hope it continues for a while longer."



ity owner Bud Klein on how I might help turn the resort around after droughts and tough winters. I flew out in April, met the Chairman of the Board, and the next morning we had a deal. I became CEO, President and General Manager of Kirkwood Mountain Resort on May 4, 1993."

Between 1993 and 2010 Cohee and a group of talented managers turned Kirkwood around and rebuilt attendance from 200,000 to 400,000, plus managed a real estate development and sales program that added over 300 units and \$250 million in real estate transactions, as well as the addition of 1,000 new beds for overnight guests. It was a great run, by far the longest tenure of any Kirkwood operator since the resort opened in 1972.

"Working for Bud Klein, who founded Kirkwood and was a giant agriculturist in the Central Valley was one of the highlights of my career. He was so passionate



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Again for 2020, China Peak is partnering with the Sequoia Brewing Company to run Monday "Party Bus Trips" from the Woodward Park facility to China Peak Ski Resort beginning January 6.

## After a Half Century, Teramoto Takes Up Running Marathons

*Keith Teramoto has been a long time asset to China Peak. He is a quiet, efficient and dedicated man. The China Peak Times reached out to him in a question and answer format for this issue.*

**CP Times** - You have been at China Peak for 9 years, and a total of 27 between here and Sierra Summit? What do you do?

**Teramoto** - Yes. After graduation from CSUFresno, I spent a year traveling around the world. Then I started at Sierra Summit. I have always been in Food and Beverage. Now I am also in charge of graphic production.

**CP Times** - Do you work the day shift? Do you help with other resort tasks?

**Teramoto** - My average day is 7 am to 10 pm. I help with snow removal and grooming.

**CP Times** - Do you live locally? Do you have a family, kids or pets?

**Teramoto** - I stay up here, but have a house in the valley. No pets or kids.

**CP Times** - How old were you when you decided to lose weight? How much did you weigh? Were you heavy all your life? Did you try a special diet or do your own thing? How long before you reached a target weight?

**Teramoto** - I was 50. I was chunky most of my life, and while at the resort I hit about 250. So I started to loose weight. I simply counted calories, just knowing how much I was eating helped me. Knowledge of food intake and what was good or bad was a key. After about 6 months, I decided



Keith Teramoto says the marathon he finished at the Great Wall of China was the hardest.

to stop, I hand no target weight in mind. I lost 100 pounds total and it felt right.

**CP Times** - What caused you to start running? How did it progress?

**Teramoto** - I started running because I could. Running is personal time just for me. First I ran up here. Just going to the heliport was challenging. Not much oxygen up here. Then I'd just run a little bit farther each time. Next, I did a few 5 and 10k's. While I worked for Sunshine and Monk at Gold Arrow Camp, they invited me to run my first half and full marathons. Sunshine got me through my first half marathont event, staying with me all the way. I still run with Sunshine and Monk.

**CP Times** - What marathons have you run?

**Teramoto** - I have been doing full marathons for three years. I ran in three in San Francisco and several Central Valley marathons. World wide I have run in China, the Czech Republic, Finland and Sweden.

**CP Times** - What was your favorite race and toughest race? What were the highlights?

**Teramoto** - The Jinahanling Great Wall marathon was my favorite and the hardest! The toughest part was going up and down all the steps and dodging the tourists. I spent about 4 weeks touring in China. I got to Nepal after the first two weeks and did a 16 day hike with Ace, a Himalaya's tour group, to base camp one. Then I went back to China for another two weeks.

**CP Times** - Finally, how do you train? Do you have a routine or train with others?

**Teramoto** - I usually run near the resort. But you can find me on the Clovis Trail to Woodward Park. In the mountains, I can do short or long runs. I can head to Portal Powerhouse at the Huntington Lake inlet or continue up as far as Kaiser pass. I also run to Lakeshore and beyond to the dam. I run with whomever, but sometimes coworkers, Aaron, Curtis and Karina.

## China Peak Has Excellent Rental Shop and Great Repair Facilities

No need to stop anywhere else for rental needs and schlep all that gear with you. China Peak rental shops are conveniently located in the base area close to the lifts.

They are completely equipped with a full size range of skis and snowboards for all ages and abilities. The professional staff will assist you with the right equipment and the right fit.

All consecutive day rentals are available at the 1/2 day rate for each additional day. Damage waiver is \$5/snowboard or skis.

If you are a frequent visitor, it may be more convenient to rent skis or snowboards seasonally. Once you sign up, you'll get a rental access card and can bypass the daily rental lines and simply pick up your equipment using a quick check-in, check-out system. At the end of the day you just drop off your equipment. Use the equipment as

much as you like all season.

Seasonal rentals are only \$294 for ages 13 plus and \$220 for children 12 and under. Please note that seasonal rentals are subject to availability and usually sell out very early each year.

To save time, download all the forms at [SkiChinaPeak.com/images/RENTAL.pdf](http://SkiChinaPeak.com/images/RENTAL.pdf), in advance and bring the completed form to the ticket window.

China Peak's full service repair shop, is located at the Daylodge. The excellent professional staff will get you ready and keep you sliding all season.

You can take advantage of same day service, or you can leave your equipment overnight and pick up the next day! Services offered include waxing, mounting and everything in between. This is your one stop shop for your repair needs.

## Shaver Lake Volunteers Build Kiosk at Community Center

The Shaver Lake Volunteers are known for helping make the region a favorite for visitors and they are at it again.

Typically folks on vacation will want to know: "What is there to do and see here?" "Where can I camp?" "If I go out to Court-right Lake, is there someplace where I can get propane?" "What's on the other side of Kaiser Pass?" "Is there a grocery store around here?"

Now, thanks to the friendly SL Volunteers, there are answers to those questions at the new kiosk in the SL Community Center parking lot.

This wonderful organization realized that previously there was no way for tourists to get an overview of what to see, where to go, and what to do when they get to the area.

Diverting from their normal focus on building and maintaining trails, the Volunteers led an effort to construct a Visitor Information Kiosk in the parking lot of the Shaver Lake Community Center, just in front of the picnic area.

The kiosk is roofed and ADA accessible, and it consists of ten 3' square printed metal panels. One will show local businesses, while two others will describe the businesses and features to be found exploring east on Dinkey Creek Road or heading north to Huntington Lake and over Kaiser Pass.

Other panels will show hiking trails on the Shaver Lake Volunteers Trail Map and features of the CSHS Museum of the Central Sierra.

CalTrans posted a sign on Highway 168 offering "Visitor Information ¼ Mile ahead on the left" to make it easy to find the turn into the Community Center area.

Additional informational panels are being planned and will be installed as soon as they are completed.

Shaver Lake Volunteers feel that this project will be helpful for both visitors and local businesses. They would like to thank the several cooperating agencies for their help as well as design service by Cartographer Kim Briggs and Talahi Media Arts.

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# California Law and How to Use Snow Chains for Winter Travel

If you are planning to visit regions offering winter activities like Yosemite National Park, the Shaver Lake area or the Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks, you need to know the rules regarding snow chains and how to properly use them.

Snow chains or cables are devices fitted to a vehicle's drive tires. They add traction when driving through snow and ice. They are usually purchased to match the tire size (diameter and tread width).

From November 1 to April 1 in California, all vehicles are required to carry tire chains (or cables) when they enter a chain control area, even if it isn't snowing at the moment.

Consequences of not having them in

morning to a blizzard.

California's winter weather is inconsistent, with wet years and dry years. In general, it will probably snow sometime during the winter in the mountains. It could snow as early as November. By late April, snow season is usually over.

Beyond that, it's hard to know ahead of time what might happen. For advance planning, you may want to know what the chances of snow falling are for your destination. Search online for any of your favor-



*If you do not have chains or cables on your vehicle, you may end up off the road and in trouble.*

ite weather apps but be sure to pick your weather location at the highest elevation you plan to visit.

For up to date road conditions and closures you can follow Caltrans on their website or get their app for your mobile device. The following are the California DMV levels of snow chain requirements. You'll see them listed on signs like the one on this page.

Requirement One (R1): Chains, traction devices or snow tires are required on the drive axle of all vehicles except four wheel/ all wheel drive vehicles.

Requirement Two (R2): Chains or traction devices are required on all vehicles except four wheel/ all wheel drive vehicles with snow-tread tires on all four wheels.

(NOTE: Four wheel/all wheel drive vehicles must carry traction devices in chain control areas.)

Requirement Three (R3): Chains or traction devices are required on all vehicles, there are no exceptions.

Regulations require that you **MUST** carry chains when driving in designated chain control areas, marked by a sign that says, "CHAINS REQUIRED" - even if you are driving a four-wheel-drive vehicle.

Unless it starts to snow, no one is likely to stop you and search your vehicle to see if you have chains with you. During a snowstorm, Caltrans or the CHP may close the roads to all motorists who don't have chains on their tires. And in the rare instance that you got in without chains and snow starts when you didn't expect it, you



*The California Highway Patrol is very active in monitoring chain control during the winter months. Without the proper use of chains, vehicles can slide over the center line into oncoming traffic.*

might get a traffic ticket, and/or your vehicle could be towed out of the snow area at your expense.

Few car rental companies allow you to use chains or cables. If they do they will hold you responsible for any damage they cause, so you will need to check with yours to be sure.

To find out if you have snow tires on your vehicle look on the wall of the tire for the letters MS, M/S, M+S or the words MUD AND SNOW - or an icon of a mountain with a snowflake. If any of those are present, you may be able to drive without chains in R-1 and R-2 conditions.

You can buy chains at auto parts stores, tire companies and sporting goods stores. A set will cost \$40 or more. When you buy your chains or cables, ask someone to show you how to put them on. Then try it yourself.

According to CalTrans, you need to install your chains before you reach a checkpoint, which will be about within a mile after passing a "Chains Required" sign. Pull off the road on the right to do that.

If chains are required, the speed limit automatically changes to 25 to 30 miles per hour. After you pass the End of Chain Control signs, find a safe area to get off the road and remove them.

**CHAINS  
REQUIRED  
1 MILE  
AHEAD**

**4-W DRIVE WITH  
SNOW TIRES OK  
CARRY CHAINS**

*California Vehicle Codes regarding chains and cables are written to keep you safe on the road.*

those areas could include fines and charges for damages from an accident. You might also have to pay towing fees if a law enforcement officer stops you and decides the safest thing to do is to have your vehicle towed out of the snow area.

That all sounds pretty daunting. However, if snow conditions could be predicted with accuracy, it would be easy to know what to do, Mother Nature can change her mind about weather quickly in the Sierra Nevada.

A drive that starts out on a sunny afternoon along the Central Coast or further inland could take you into a situation where you'd not only need chains, but you'd need to put them on in a hurry. Or you could drive to your destination and encounter little snow on the way, but wake up in the



*If you have never put chains on your vehicle, it is a good idea to practice before you hit the road.*



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# While on the Slopes, Remember to Have Fun, Ski in Control and Be Safe

Please keep in mind the safety of yourself and those around you at all times. Your patronage is appreciated and your frequent visits are encouraged.

**Freestyle terrain** may contain jumps, hits, ramps, banks, fun boxes, jibs, rails, half pipes, quarter pipes, snow cross, bump terrain and other constructed or natural terrain features. **PRIOR** to using the area you are responsible for checking it out and obeying all instructions, warnings and signs. Freestyle skills require maintaining control on the ground, and in the air.

**Watch for the Orange Oval**, a symbol, which identifies freestyle terrain on the hill. Check out the sample signage and vocabulary to make sure you're up to speed on the basics. **Smart Style** is a terrain park safety initiative, which you need to understand in order to use terrain parks safely.

## Four Main Points of Smart Style



**Make a Plan** - Always make a plan for each feature you want to use. Your speed, approach and takeoff will directly affect your maneuver and landing.

**Look Before Your Leap** - You are responsible for inspecting Freestyle Terrain before initial use and throughout the day. The features vary in size and change constantly due to snow conditions, weather, usage, grooming and time of day. Do not jump blindly. Use a spotter when necessary.

**Easy Style It** - Always ride or ski in control and within your ability level. Do not attempt Freestyle Terrain unless you have sufficient ability and experience to do so safely. You control the degree of difficulty you will encounter in using Freestyle Terrain, both on the ground and in the air.

**Respect Gets Respect** - Respect Freestyle Terrain and others. Only one person on a feature at a time. Wait your turn and call your start. Always clear the landing area quickly. Respect all signs and do not enter Freestyle Terrain or use features when closed.

Use of Freestyle Terrain exposes you to the



risk of serious injury or death. Inverted aerials are not recommended. You assume the risk!

## Heads up. Your responsibility code

Skiing can be enjoyed in many ways. At ski areas, you may see people using alpine snowboard, telemark, cross-country and other specialized ski equipment, such as that used by disable or other skiers. Regardless of how you decide to enjoy the slopes, always show courtesy to others and be aware that there are elements of risk in skiing that common sense and personal awareness can help reduce. Observe the code listed below and share with other skiers the responsibility for a great skiing experience. Always stay in control, and be able to stop or avoid other people or objects.

People ahead of you have the right of way. It is your responsibility to avoid them. You must not stop where you obstruct a trail, or are not visible from above. Whenever starting downhill or merging into a trail, look uphill and yield to others. Always use devices to help prevent runaway equipment. Observe all posted signs and warnings. Keep off closed trails and out of closed areas.

Prior to using any lift, you must have the knowledge and ability to load, ride and unload safely. Know the code. It's your responsibility. This is a partial list. Be safety conscious.

## Skiing/Boarding can be hazardous sports

Skiing in its various forms (Alpine, Nordic or Boarding) is an inherently hazardous sport with many dangers that can cause injuries and/or death. You should understand that by using the facilities, you are agreeing to assume all risks of injury, property damage, and/or death. Your purchase of the ticket and its use are an agreement to hold China Peak Mountain Resort harmless for your injuries, property damage and/or death that may occur in any way during your use of our facilities. If you do not agree to be bound by the above, please do not purchase a ticket or use the facilities. Please read your lift ticket carefully.

## Deep Snow and Tree Well

Skiing and snowboarding off groomed runs in powder is one the best parts of the sport, but can have deadly results if the proper precautions are not taken. Tree wells and deep snow can trap you and lead to Snow Immersion Suffocation (SIS). Tree wells form around the bases of trees when snow falls on branches and around the tree, creating a deep pit near the trunk that can become a trap for skiers and snowboarders. Also, deep snow can be overwhelming to the point where you cannot pull yourself out. Both can be deadly.

The best way to protect yourself against Snow Immersion Suffocation is to stay on



Above are four visitors riding the quad lift with a view of snow surrounding Huntington Lake in the background. Always remember to be very careful when you are getting on and off the ski lift.

groomed runs and avoid areas with tree wells and deep snow. When skiing or snowboarding in ungroomed areas ALWAYS ski and ride with a partner and keep each other in sight at all times. If you lose sight of your partner, act immediately! Snow Immersion Suffocation can be fatal in minutes! By entering ungroomed areas, you accept the risk of Snow Immersion Suffocation.

## Chair Lift Safety

It is your responsibility to know how to ride a chair lift safely. Need assistance? Ask the lift attendant for help. Smallest kids should load closest to the attendant. Children under 51" tall are required to ride with an adult, and if in a lesson may not always ride with an instructor. Remove and carry backpacks. Do not use phones, music or games while loading or unloading. It is OK to miss a chair and wait for the next one.

When loading, watch for approaching chair and then sit to the back once seated! Drop something? Let it FALL. Any item dropped can be picked up later.

Get On - As a chair passes you at the "Wait Here" sign,, move ahead quickly to the "Load Here" sign and line up evenly. When the next chair comes behind you, sit

on the seat, and slide back as far as you can - to keep from falling off the chair.

Sit Back, Sit Still, Hold On - Sit way back to keep from falling from the chair and enjoy the ride to the top! No horsing around, it's dangerous when you are riding up in the air.

At the Top, Plan Ahead to Unload - At the "Unload Here" sign, it is time to get off. Stand up, and ski down the ramp. Watch for others ahead and ski around them. Move out of the way quickly, so others can unload too.

## Backcountry

China Peak Mountain Resort maintains an open boundary policy. The terrain beyond the ski area boundary is in its natural state and entering the backcountry involves risks including those posed by deep snow, avalanches, steep terrain, cliffs and other terrain variations. The ski area assumes no responsibility for skiers or snowboarders beyond the ski area boundary. Areas beyond the ski area boundary are not patrolled or maintained. The cost of rescue in the backcountry, if available, will be the responsibility of you or your heirs. By entering the backcountry beyond the ski area boundary, YOU ASSUME ANY AND ALL RISKS OF INJURY OR DEATH.

## Helmets

Helmets are recommend while skiing and snowboarding. Visit Lids On Kids.org for more information on helmet safety.

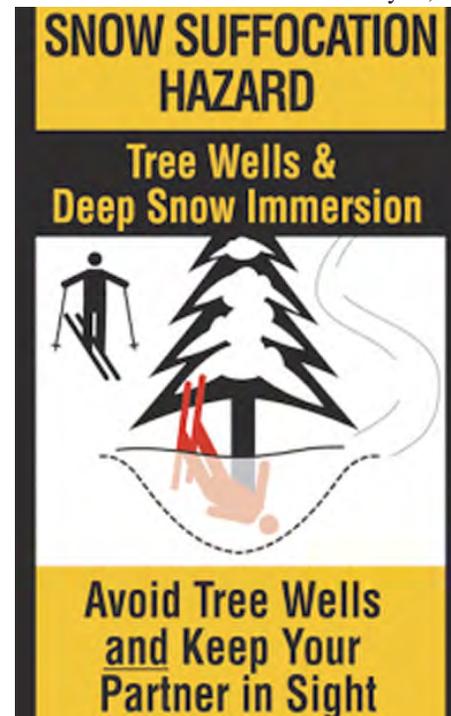
## It Is The Law

Persons involved in a skiing or boarding accident, who leave the scene of the accident knowing or having reason to believe that any other person involved in the accident is in need of medical or other assistance, except to notify the proper authorities or to obtain assistance, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

## Other Information

The use of electronic devices with headphones while skiing, snowboarding and riding lifts or using surface transport is unsafe and discouraged by China Peak Mountain Resort. Snow cats, snowmobiles, other vehicles and snowmaking equipment and operations may be encountered at any time.

Call (559) 233-2500 with questions.



# Long Time Rider Enjoys His Summer Job at China Peak

This past summer Blake Blackburn, son of long time China Peak skier and Peak Club Member Julie Blackburn, took a break from his studies at U.C. Santa Barbara to learn about snowmaking, construction, terrain parks and more. Here's a recap of his time at the Peak.

## How long have you been riding at the Peak?

I've been riding up at China Peak since I was 2 years old, so basically since as long as I can remember. I used to have the long rope that connected me to my dad so I would not go too fast as he would tell me to "pizza" and "french fry". I was always mediocre, then I joined the Sierra Summit Ski Team in third grade. That's where I learned most of the talent I have today.

## You worked this past summer at China Peak during your break from college at U.C. Santa Barbara. How was that experience?

I wanted to work at the resort to do something different, something I've never done before, and to do something that I felt like I could learn a lot of valuable information and actually make a difference. When I first thought about working up there, I thought I would be working on building cool mountain bike trails and maybe some terrain park features to help with our winter park. I ended up doing a large assortment of things, none of which were working on mountain bike trails, which I was more than OK with. But I did work with Nick Cohee and built a new trail we added this summer called "NUTZ", which is a very cool and technical line for mountain bikers.

After that, I worked on snow making and the terrain park. Building the snowmaking hydrants wasn't necessarily hard, but what was difficult was hiking these hydrants up and down the mountain. I would have 2 x 40 pound hydrants over my shoulders, walking up steep slopes, super tough.

When it came to the features, there was a lot of work to do. Before we started, there were basically 50 unusable features. Most all of them were all different colors, had lots of rust on them, had bent metal, etc. So we started with disassembly, then moved on to metal work, where we grinder down all the rust and made and major adjustments that were needed. Then we started to measure out all the new wood we needed to cut in order to replace all the old broken wood pieces. By the time winter is here, there will be far more features than the half dozen we had last winter.

## Are you excited about the new terrain park this winter?

Yes, I'm very excited for what's going on in the park. We have a new consultant helping us plan out our parks, my cousin, Brandon Strong.

He has a lot of experience in terrain park setup, helping set up most of the X Games as well as parks for other major mountains, such as Northstar in Lake Tahoe. This winter will feature an advanced terrain park on Tollhouse and a new beginner park on the run next door, called Ullman's. We also cleaned out our half pipe which is looking very nice.

## Do you plan on working at China Peak during your college breaks?

Hopefully this winter break I can get up there and work on the terrain park, maybe get in a grooming machine. We also have plans on doing a couple very cool events next summer which I hope to be involved with.

## Do your future plans include a career at The Peak?

I have no set plans on my future, but if I ended up being involved in the mountain resort business, I would not be surprised. I had a lot of fun up there this summer, and being involved with hands on big projects is what I really like to do.



This aerial view gives you the size of Rancheria Enterprises that was purchased by China Peak. It features slips for mooring, boat rentals, a gas dock, convenience store, cabin rental and day use.

# China Peak Buys Rancheria Resort, a Popular Marina, at Huntington Lake

(Continued from page 1)  
boat engine repair, kayaks, a general store, winter boat storage and the only fuel station both on and off the lake. The resort's manager is Mark Sullivan, better known by China Peak winter guests and now summer lake visitors as 'Sully', who runs 'Sully's' in the Mainstream Base Lodge during skiing months.

According to Sully, excellent progress was made this summer in cleaning up the facility, noticed by the regulars who have frequented Rancheria over many summers.

"Virtually everyone who came by or has a boat in our marina commented on how much cleaner the resort looks even after only a few months," said Sully. "We'll make several more improvements before we open for summer 2020."

The biggest plans in the future include

food and beverage service near the lake on the resort's U.S. Forest Service Special Use Permit, providing access from both the shore and boaters. The handful of campgrounds will be converted to day use.

"Adding a restaurant and bar will be a huge addition to the experience at Huntington Lake," said Sully. "We're looking at several options this winter and should have a solid plan in place with plans to open the facility in June of 2020."

Rancheria also offers a large private cabin for rent through Vacasa.



LIDSONKIDS.org

A Helmet is a Great Idea



Blake Blackburn (left), who worked this summer at China Peak during a break from U.C. Santa Barbara, enjoys a day on the mountain with younger brother Beau, parents Ross and Julie, plus 'Justin'. The family has been avid skiers and riders at China Peak for decades.



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# China Peak Very Attractive to South Bay Skiing Market

China Peak has always been a resort that appealed to avid skiers and riders in Central California from Bakersfield to the south, to Merced to the north, and from the greater San Luis Obispo and Paso Robles area along the coast. Through no major effort on their own, the resort is beginning to appeal for the first time to customers outside their traditional market, points north of the Central Coast.

“This past winter we started noticing more customers from Santa Cruz, San Jose, those cities north of our traditional markets,” said Tim Cohee, resort Managing Partner. “While we’re the same distance in mileage as it is to travel to South Lake Tahoe, there are plenty of great resorts on

“Simple. Traffic,” says Cohee. “The incredible value created in the multi resort season passes and no limit on sales has created a traffic jam in South Lake Tahoe on Highway 50 like no one has ever seen, ever.”

Cohee knows of what he speaks. He not only lives on the other side of the Sierra and drives Highways 50 and 88 often all winter on his way to and from China Peak, he spends a great deal of time in South Lake Tahoe, was former Vice President of Heavenly and President of Kirkwood. He knows what it was like previously, and says the traffic on Saturday and Sunday afternoons now is nothing like previous seasons.

“People will say ‘there’s always been traffic in South Lake Tahoe on winter



The South Bay drive to the Lake Tahoe ski resorts is one that no skier looks forward to after work on Friday, not to mention the return drive home on Sunday. Come up to China Peak for a weekend.

the south side of the lake, including Sierra-at-Tahoe, Heavenly and Kirkwood. It was puzzling to see high end SUV’s coming into our resort with license plate brackets advertising car dealers in those areas.”

What’s the cause?

weekends’, but this is nothing like what we’ve all seen for decades,” says Cohee. “We’re talking 8-12 hour commutes home when without traffic it’s 3.5-4 hours. In spite of the high quality of resorts in Tahoe, some skiers are saying it’s not worth the



Not only can the drive to and from the Lake Tahoe regional ski resorts extend travel time by several hours, the wait times in the lift lines can also be very long and frustrating. Come ski China Peak.



China Peak skiers and boarders don’t have to worry about standing in line and waiting a turn to head up to the top of the mountain. Their biggest worry is having enough energy to ski all day long!

incredible traffic on the drive home, especially with kids who need to be in school Monday morning.”

“I’ve had several conversations with new customers from these more northern markets and it’s very interesting how they’ve come to find China Peak,” says Cohee. “Apparently the frustration has been enough for them to spend time look-

their drive home.”

Are the new markets going to represent future growth for China Peak?

“The big issue is housing. We only have 48 rooms at the resort and those rooms fill up most every weekend and holiday. There are a few condos for rent at Huntington Lake, but 90% of our overnight capacity is in Shaver Lake.

“We need our lodging, dining partners in Shaver Lake to welcome these new out of market customers,” continued Cohee, “and show them the combination of China Peak and the funky town of Shaver Lake is a viable alternative to sitting in traffic for hours.”

Several such lodging partners will be found on a Lodging link off the informative [SkiChinaPeak.com](http://SkiChinaPeak.com)



You can find real fresh powder snow on the slopes at China Peak and make more runs too!

ing around at options. They feel our size, snow quality, variety, private ownership and friendly vibe is enough to offset faster lifts, nicer lodges and in some cases a bigger mountain. We’re big enough, good enough and fun enough to warrant a look, and based on what we hear, they like what they’ve experienced. Perhaps most importantly, no lift lines and no major traffic on



Spend more time zipping down the slopes instead of standing in a lift line wating your turn.

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During this past summer, the China Peak staff spent a considerable amount of time working on improving upon the terrain park facilities on the mountain. Come up and experience the upgrades.

## Planning Ahead for Winter Travel Allows for Unexpected Events

Here is a word to the wise for travelers to the mountains between late November and early April. Plan ahead for the unexpected and you will be ready for whatever Mother Nature decides to throw at you.

Therefore, during adverse conditions, consider these tips to keep you, your family and friends safe on your winter adventures.

Be aware of your route and check what the weather conditions will be like during your trip. Use the internet for current weather information. Write down the Cal-Trans Road Conditions Phone Number (800) 427-7623.

Make sure to bring plenty of water and drink it often. When the weather is chilly, dehydration might seem unlikely, but according to a study by the Mayo Clinic, as little as a 1- 2 percent loss of body weight can lead to fatigue and reduced alertness, both of which can be dangerous when you are driving in the winter. Keep water out of the trunk as it might freeze there.

Eating enough food is important because your body needs more nourishment in cold weather than it does on a hot summer day.

Choose sandwiches, fruit or a thermos of soup over cookies, candy bars and convenience foods that may be loaded with sugar. To be safe in case of any unforeseen circumstances, carry at least a day's worth of food and water in a warm area of your vehicle.

Take some time to decide what to pack in a winter travel safety kit. You most likely always carry a cell phone with you. Include things that you don't normally have in the car, like an ice scraper, a tow rope, tire chains, a tarp (which you can kneel on while putting on your chains), cat litter (which you can use as a traction aid if stuck in the snow), warm blankets, warm gloves, any feminine hygiene products you may need, a stocking cap, flashlight (with extra batteries), candle, matches, a couple rolls of toilet paper, a pocket knife, axe, electrical tape, duct tape, shovel, a well stocked first aid kit, a can of lock de-icer, sunscreen, bug spray, several glow sticks, can opener, and the usual car stuff: folding emergency triangle, a couple of flares, some basic tools, jumper cables, rope and can of fix-a-flat.

If you become stranded on the highway, it is best to get your vehicle off the roadway if possible. Chances are that a Highway Patrol officer or sheriff will find you and provide assistance.

However, it is almost always safer to remain with your vehicle when stuck in the snow in extreme conditions, rather than try and walk. Your vehicle, along with the items that you brought with you for just such an emergency should suffice you until some sort of help comes along.

## Summer Planning and Hard Work Lead to Excellent CP Terrain Park

(Continued from page 1)

With our new snowmaking system, a talented new park supervisor and a world class park consultant we are in the best position in years to provide a top shelf park."

New leadership will come from the newest of Tim Cohee's sons to join the resort's team, Troy, who recently graduated from Sierra Nevada University in Lake Tahoe with a degree in business, concentrating on Ski Business and Resort Management. He was also a national caliber ski racer and is very familiar with quality parks, as he's lived in the Lake Tahoe area his entire life. Nick Cohee was part of the resort's management from 2016-2018 until he returned to a top level coaching opportunity at the Sugar Bowl Academy. Troy's younger brother, Tristan, manages the Buckhorn Bar and J.W.'s Restaurant and Bar in the Inn at China Peak.

"It was clear to everyone involved we did not properly focus on the park, even when we had the snow," said the younger Cohee, who is also part of the snowmak-

ing/grooming team. "We committed this summer to repair over two dozen features so we had a great variety of boxes, rails and more to provide a park experience competitive with many of the state's top parks."

In addition, China Peak added a world class park designer and builder to its team, Brandon Strong, who happens to be the nephew of one of China Peak's Fresno based partners.

Now living in Truckee, California, Brandon was one of the top designers and builders for Snow Park Technologies (SPT) based in Verdi, Nevada, well known by anyone involved in terrain parks as the premier park builders in the world for nearly two decades. Virtually every major event featuring terrain parks, including the X Games and Olympics, were under the direction of SPT.

"Growing up in Fresno and riding Sierra Summit (previous resort name 1982-2010) for years, I'm very confident our new Terrain Park team can design and build parks to rival the best in Tahoe and Southern California," said Strong. "I've been working with Troy all summer on features and design. As soon as weather permits we'll roll out a series of exciting features, both man made and natural. The resort was known for great parks in the past, and we fully expect to bring back the excitement this winter."

Another 'insider' to join the Terrain Park team this past summer was Blake Blackburn, who spent weeks working with Troy and Chad Sainsbury, Grooming Supervisor, on repairing old features and building new ones. Blackburn is a junior at the University of California, Santa Barbara, majoring in Economics, and has been riding China Peak since he was born.

"It was great to be part of the new terrain park team, working with Troy, Chad and my cousin Brandon Strong on dedicating ourselves to a fun, exciting and consistent park," said Blackburn.



The terrain parks at China Peak have gone through a summer improvement program.



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**Camp Chawanakee at Shaver Lake**



# Five Sno Parks Along 168 Near Shaver and Huntington

For an inexpensive outdoor adventure, you can hardly beat what the California Sno-Park program offers. Young and old alike can easily take advantage of the winter recreational activities along Highway 168 between Shaver and Huntington Lakes. Just look for the Sno-Park signs.

All Sno-Parks provide access to snowplowed parking lots, play areas and restroom facilities. Remember to bring toilet paper with you; sometimes the bathrooms run out. Handi-wipes are, well, handy too!

These Sno-Parks are ideal for self-guided adventures like throwing snowballs, building snowmen, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, sledding and playing with your pets. Be sure to bring a plastic bag for something fido might leave in the for-



Plan to take home a very tired and extremely happy youngster after a day playing in the snow.

est. Naturally, snow conditions determine accessibility and opportunities available at each location and will vary during the winter season. It is a good idea to go early because parking is on a first-come, first-served basis and the lots can fill up fast, particularly on weekends and holidays. Be very aware of children playing as you enter and exit a Sno-Park. Be sure to be a good neighbor by packing out whatever you packed in. No one likes to play around an



Dog sled teams take advantage of several Sno-Park facilities from which to venture into the winter wonderland that is found in the Sierra National Forest. It is exhilarating to see these animals work.

area littered by someone else's trash.

Now back to the inexpensive part! Sno-Park use requires a permit from November 1 to May 30. The fee is \$5 per car, per day or you can buy an annual \$25 pass. All passes can be purchased online or at several stores including Cressman's, as well as



Group of cross country skiers get set to spend the day exploring trails from a Sno Park area.

those in Shaver and at Huntington Lakes. An online service fee of \$1.95 will be added to the price of each permit.

Sanger resident Rich Moser remarked recently, "We had a great time, the kids love it. On our last trip it was snowing, so it wasn't super crowded. But even when it is, the people around you are typically very friendly and more than willing to share their sleds. Everyone is just having a good time."

Always make sure to keep an eye on the youngsters. If they wander past the tree line by themselves, it can be deceptively dangerous. If there has been heavy snows, tree wells can form into which a child can fall and you wouldn't even notice.

If you arrive later in the day and parking is hard to find, do not make the mistake of parking on Highway 168 over the white line. Don't double park anywhere. This creates unsafe conditions and the CHP officers and Fresno County Sheriffs will ticket and/or have



your vehicle towed for reasons of safety.

After you pass the Big Creek turnoff on Highway 168, the first Sno-Park you will encounter is Balsam Meadows. It is located on the north side of Highway 168, east of Shaver Lake. Snow play of all types is encouraged. There is no snowmobiling al-



Since you're here, I have to ask "Do you want to make a snowman?" Sorry, you made me do it. lowered. Contact Camp Edison at (559) 841-3134. GPS: 37°9'33.79"N, 119°14'33.84"W.

The Coyote Sno-Park is next, located on the north side of Highway 168 east of Shaver Lake. Here cross-country skiing,



Several local Sno-Parks offer parking and access to groomed trails for snowmobiling adventures.

dog sledding, and snow play are allowed. No snowmobiles riding in this area. Contact: High Sierra Ranger District at (559) 855-5355. GPS: 37°10'3.20"N, 119°12'22.92"W.

The Tamarack Sno-Park is the next one along Highway 168. It is on the east side of the road. All winter activities are allowed here including: cross-country skiing, dog sledding, and snowmobiling. There are lots of trails to follow. Take a map with you so you find your way to interesting destinations. Contact: High Sierra Ranger District at (559) 855-5355. GPS: 37°9'45.02"N, 119°12'8.50"W.

Eastwood Sno-Park is off Highway 168

on Kaiser Pass Road. Activities allowed here are cross-country skiing, dog sledding, and snowmobiling. Contact: High Sierra Ranger District at (559) 855-5355. GPS: 37°15'21.04"N, 119°9'39.10"W.

The last Sno-Park is at Huntington Lake on the west side of Huntington Lake Road, three miles from the Eastwood Sno-Park and near Lakeshore Resort. Here you can go cross-country skiing, dog sledding, and snowmobiling. Contact High Sierra Ranger District at (559) 855-5355. GPS: 37°15'5.30"N, 119°10'27.23"W.

The Sierra National Forest allows pets.



Don't be too surprised to see a cycling enthusiast with a "fat tire" bike riding on the winter trails. Owners are responsible for their actions and welfare. Pets should either be leashed or under direct voice control. When in areas with other visitors, pets should be kept on a leash.

Clean up after your pet. It will only take a few minutes and there is no single action that will more favorably impress your fellow campers.



For a real hearty work out, try a day of exploring the Sierra National Forest on snowshoes.

# Spend Your Precious Time on the Slopes, Not the Road

It is late Friday afternoon in the South Bay area. You just got off work and your car is packed and ready for a weekend getaway with nothing but you, fresh powder on your mind and your ski's (or board). It's now 5 pm. Decision time. You can either head to South Lake Tahoe or you can travel 4 hours to China Peak Mountain Resort, a hidden gem of the Sierras.

Traffic aside, I am sure if you have visited any Lake Tahoe resorts on a Saturday you have seen how the lift lines can sometimes end up looking like Disneyland with wait times to match. Why wait 15 minutes in a lift line when you could be lapping the park, carving up groomers or even getting waist deep in some secret powder stashes?

The answer is simple: Discover China Peak, in the heart of the Central Sierras, above Fresno. This ski area has been a best kept secret for years. It is time to extol it's virtues.

"China Peak is especially attractive for families," stated Tim Cohee, Resort Managing Partner, CEO and General Manager. "A family vacation here is hundreds of dollars less than most resorts. With the larger resorts certainly having more amenities, the fact is families with kids are more interested in the overall cost as long as the resort offers a quality experience, which we certainly do."

Here is a fact, China Peak is California's only Central Sierra west slope resort offering terrain, acreage and elevations comparable to Tahoe Resorts, minus the crowds, of course. The absence of crowds allows guests to slide through lift lines in minutes allowing them to focus on what's important: really good skiing.

While the mountain is well known to



*China Peak is a family favorite destination and you're invited to come up and ski us sometime!* Central Valley skiers and boarders, Bay area and Central Coast snow-goers should note that it is just a 4 hour drive (on average) from the coast between Oakland and Pismo Beach to China Peak's slopes.

"My family has been China Peak pass holders since I was a baby" said Marissa Neely, a 22 year old Santa Cruz native. "Thanks to China Peak being such a short drive from Santa Cruz, I learned how to ski and then later snowboard which ultimately led to me becoming a team rider for Santa Cruz Snowboards, then earning a scholarship for college in Tahoe. No matter where I

was riding in Tahoe, I always returned home to China Peak where the crowds were non-existent and the riding was great. Where else can you ride untouched powder at 2 p.m. on a blue-bird Saturday? It is safe to say that I am a season pass holder for life, and look forward to raising my future kids on this mountain. Hopefully they like snow as much as I do!"

San Jose resident Diane Swing, a long time CP season pass holder, had this to say.

"My family loves coming to China Peak because there is something for everyone. We have three teenagers and they enjoy boarding and skiing, especially on the terrain parks. The lines are typically very short, so we are able to get in a full day of skiing and



*China Peak moves guests up the hill on three double chairs, four triple chairs and a quad lift. boarding, rather than standing around. All of my kids have gone through lessons here as well, which has been a great experience."*

"Best of all," Swing continued, "it's close in proximity to the Bay area and reasonably priced. We don't have to sit through hours of traffic to get to the slopes!"

Now what about the mountain itself? China Peak has great overall structure. It offers a drop of nearly 1,700 vertical feet. With a base at 7,000 feet and a top of 8,700 feet, this place can get a ton of snow. China Peak's skiable acres rivals Alpine, Northstar, Sierra and Sugar Bowl, all in the region around Tahoe.

Plenty of lifts get skiers around the mountain, including three double chairs,



*Spring skiing and boarding is very popular with all age groups. The slopes and weather are great.*



*Above are short lift lines, at the right powder snow skiing and below shows terrain park action. four triple chairs and a quad lift. The beginning area features three moving carpets.*

Chair 4 leads to the Tollhouse terrain park. This is the a very popular location. Here riders can go big without worrying about people dropping in on them.

The 2.25 mile long Academy run gives new skiers and boarders some mileage for a warm up on a wide top-to-bottom Green run. In addition to beginner friendly runs, there are multiple options for Blue, Black and some exciting side-country runs. Most all stem off from Academy.

There are 44 trails from novice to expert. Almost all runs are designed for intermedi-



ate, advanced and expert skiers and riders.

Getting to those runs is fairly easy because China Peak is known for short lines and open terrain. All you need is your trusty trail map for guidance. Perhaps the biggest challenge is finding the energy to keep going all day.

When you get low on energy, there are four food outlets catering to every appetite, from quick snacks to hearty meals. Buy food and drinks at Sully's Pub in Mainstreet Station, Buckhorn Bar and Grill and Jack's Bar at the Day Lodge. For the full apres ski experience make reservations for the Inn at China Peak.

Stay at the resort for the best opportunity to get first chair at 9 am. Reserve a room at the Inn at China Peak (559) 233-2500.

Additionally, there are several lodging opportunities including condos. SkiChinaPeak.com/lodging-options suggests other regional lodging options.

Meanwhile, China Peak is surrounded by a year around outdoor paradise offering hiking, fishing, 4-wheeling, snowmo-



biling, rock climbing, horseback riding, snowshoeing, hunting, cross country skiing, boating, and sightseeing. This region encompasses Huntington Lake, China Peak Mountain Resort, Edison and Florence as well as the Pacific Crest Trail to the north. To the east there are the Dinkey Creek Wilderness, McKinley Grove of Giant Sequoias, Courtright and Wishon Reservoirs as well as the well known Dusy Ershim off road vehicle trail. To the south you can explore adventures offered by the foothill communities of Prather, Auberry and Tollhouse. To the west are the San Joaquin River, Redinger Lake and the old railroad bed trail to Big Creek.

As a convenience to current and future visitors, the *China Peak Times* wants to facilitate a positive visitor experience. So a huge regional map, pictures of what you can do and see in the local region along with a "dining, lodging and things to do" list is available at ChinaPeakTimes.com. This information is useful in helping to plan a vacation any time of the year. You can also contact the staff at (559) 298-3133.

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# The Buckhorn Boys Predate Buckhorn Bar at China Peak

The following is a story of friendship. One that developed quickly and was built around girls, a common love for adrenalin pumping outdoor adventures and beer. It led to a group called the Buckhorn Boys and has endured for 50 years.

"It all began back in the summer of 1969," says Rich Manfredo, one of the original crew. "Three Valley guys were introduced to three mountain guys by some young ladies."

It seems they were all at the popular Huntington Lake Dances promoted by Charlie Hull at Lakeshore Resort in the 60s and 70s."



The Buckhorn Boys decided to have some T-shirts printed to further advertise they exploits.

These young men all worked for Mid Valley Sports and then Pieroni Ski & Sports, after it opened in 1973. They all loved to ski.

"We were all part time instructors at China Peak," continued Manfredo, "so we had a lot of time off during the day to get ourselves into trouble. The area where the run Buckhorn is today had plenty of rocks and stumps to do flips and other aerials *plus* the public couldn't see us so we wouldn't get fired!"

Dave Best, Bob Raus and Manfredo were the city guys. Rick Hudson, Skip Bullock and Rob Hayden were the mountain guys. Bill Perry and Spencer Neville, now Director of the Ski School, were early additions.

Since boys will be boys, they enjoyed parties. After a day on the slopes, they decided to have one. But there was a problem. Nobody had any beer and worse yet, very little cash.

"And the only beer we could afford," said Manfredo, "was Buckhorn Beer at 99 cents a 6 pack."

Naturally they bought several to share. Four or five hours later, with empty cans all around them, they decided to call themselves the Buckhorn Boys. This soon led to the unlikely formation of the Buckhorn Boys Exhibition Team.

They referred to themselves as being "Experts on land, snow, water and in the air."

According to their "tongue in cheek" calling card, their exploits included water skiing, hang gliding, auto cross, backpacking, nordic as well as alpine skiing,

spelunking, mountain climbing, and scuba diving.

A couple of years later they actually had some T-shirts printed for the guys to share with others.

In 1973, the "Buckhorn Boys Streaked the Peak" when guys clearing the way down the hill had clothes on, but the guys following did not. It's a well kept secret who was who!

"We built a 30 ft tall ramp out of 2x4's and plywood that resembled a ski jump in 1973," continued Manfredo. "Then we attached astroturf to it, hauled a hose up to the top to wet it down to make it slippery! Lastly we borrowed the Port-a-Pit from Bullard High. We set the whole thing up in front of Pieroni Ski and Sports where we worked. We did flips, gainors and other tricks off of it for our annual Ski Party in November!"

"We even got hired to transport it around to put on exhibitions for other events, including Mammoth Mountain, Fashion Fair Shopping Center and Castle Air Force Base, to name a few."

"Since we were great exhibitinists," said Manfredo, "in 1974 Dave, Rick and I flew our hang gliders down Razorback to the Day Lodge."

"Later the China Peak staff cleared this area and named it Buckhorn, commented Manfredo. "Tim renamed Midway when it was upgraded after the run Buckhorn," concluded Manfredo, "not knowing that the run was named after a group of crazies, the Buckhorn Boys, that love this place as much as he does!"



After giving 30 years of public service, retired sheriff, Paul Barile, has taken on important duties at China Peak Mountain Resort. Here he is with his trusty assistant, Bodie, in the cab of a snow cat.

## Paul Barile Named Assistant Director of Mountain Operations

Paul Barile is Assistant Director of Mountain Operations at China Peak. This is actually a second career for him.

"After retiring from the Merced County Sheriff's Department," says Barile, "I began doing two things: getting paid to ride horses in the California Sierra Nevada during the spring, summer and fall and then worked the winters at China Peak."

"I learned how to operate a snow cat in the mid 80's when I was a volunteer with the US Forrest Service grooming snowmobile trails in the Huntington Lake and High Country areas.



Paul enjoys traveling the Sierra backcountry. Here he rides Kopie, leading his mule, Millie.

He began as a groomer and snowmaker in 2016. Two years later Barile accepted a full time position as Grooming Supervisor.

"I am a third generation Huntington Lake resident and my family has been on the mountain for over 80 years," stated Barile. "Our first original Huntington Lake cabin was built by my father and grandfather. Our second Huntington Lake home was built in 1983 by my father, brother and myself following the big winter of 82/83."

His family began skiing at China Peak in the early 60's. He personally began coming to China Peak with his family in the early 70's.

"Since May of 2019," he continued, "I have been overseeing and supervising the

construction of the new snowmaking system as well as the newly purchased Rancheria Marina and Store at Huntington Lake."

"I'm 50 years old," says Barile, "and am proud of my 30 years of Public Service."

Twenty of those years were in Law Enforcement. He was involved with uniform patrol, search and rescue, deputy coroner, dive team, public information and undercover narcotics detective.

He spent 12 years as a paramedic and is a former American Ambulance STAR Rescue Team Member, trained in mountaineering rescue, swift water rescue and dive rescue.

"All my spare time is dedicated to my love of riding horses, packing mules and working as a packer and mountain horse guide in the Sierra Nevada high country. I average 1,500 miles on horseback per season. I look forward to covering more mountain territory."



Barile is proud of 20 years in law enforcement, as part of his 30 years overall in public service.

# Major Cross Country Ski Trails in the High Sierra Ranger District

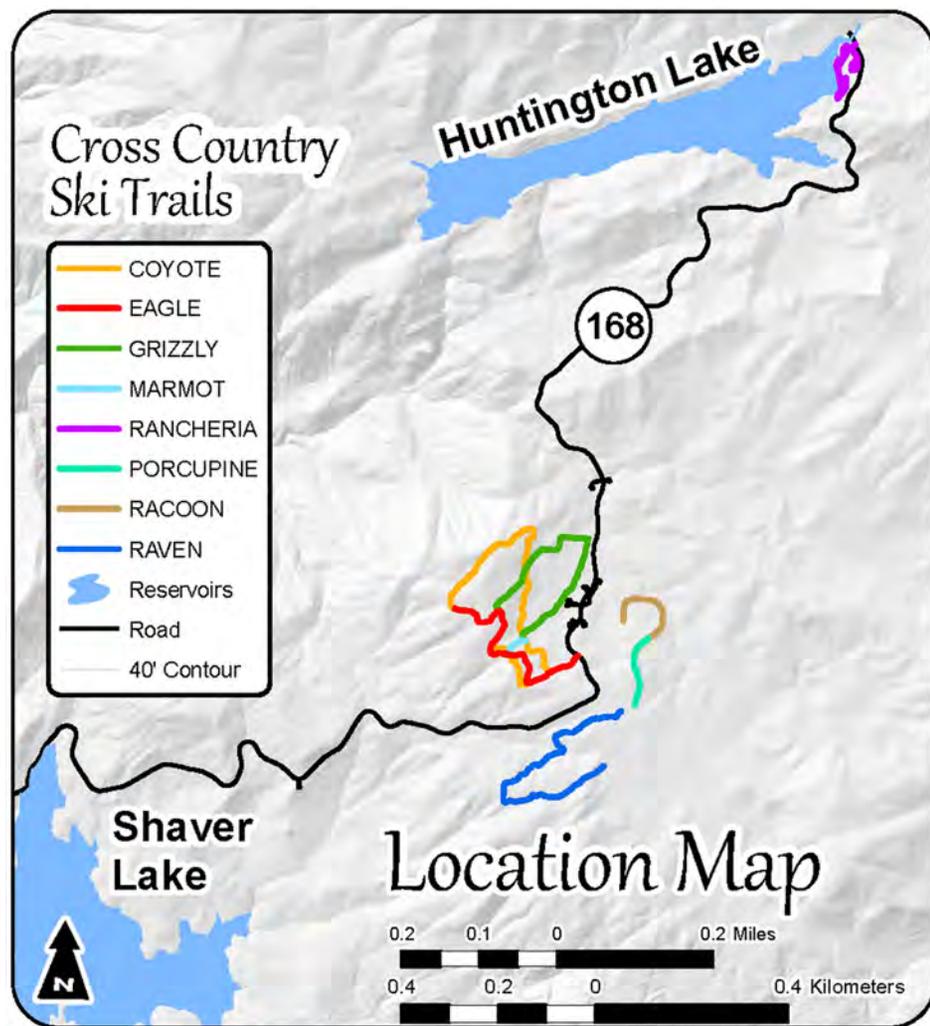
In the Sierra National Forest, any snow-covered forest road or trail can be used for cross-country skiing. The High Sierra Ranger District, in the Kaiser Wilderness, has several cross-country ski trailheads along Highway 168 that provide access to eight designated and marked ski trails.

Most of the trails are between 7,000 and 7,500 feet in elevation. They range in length and difficulty from a mile and a half beginner trail at Huntington Lake to a six-mile advanced trail at Coyote Nordic

The trail follows the road to Shaver Lake Vista where there is a panoramic view of the Shaver Lake Basin. On a clear day, skiers may view the Coast Range across the San Joaquin Valley. The trail follows the same route back to the trailhead.

**Marmot Trail • (Difficult) • 2.2 miles**

The trail follows a road and trail system for most of its length, but does allow the skier to do some cross-country for a short section of the route between the N7 and N11 location markers. This trail is rated



The useful map above outlines the cross-country ski trails that can be explored from the various Sno-Parks in the Shaver and Huntington Lakes region. Use it to enjoy some winter adventures.

Trailhead on Tamarack Ridge.

**Coyote Nordic Trailhead**

The Coyote Nordic Trailhead is located approximately 11 miles north of Shaver Lake on the west side of Highway 168. Vault toilets and trail information are available at the site. Trails in this area offer the novice and experienced skier a variety of terrain and scenic viewpoints. Snowshoers and hikers are asked to walk to the side of the Nordic ski track. This area is closed to all motorized vehicles during the winter.

**Eagle Trail • (Easy) • 5 miles**

more difficult as there are some steeper grades to negotiate.

**Coyote Loop • (Difficult) • 6 miles**

The trail follows road and trail systems around the Tamarack Mountain area. There are several scenic vistas along the way. They provide views of Red Mountain, Huntington Lake, Kaiser Ridge and Shaver Lake areas. The trail is rated most difficult due to the length and steeper grades.

**Grizzly Trail • (Difficult) • 5.7 miles**

The trail follows road and trail systems to the east of Tamarack Mountain. The



Group of adventurous cross-country skiers take a rest after trekking to a mountain top from the Coyote Sno Park. The view is of Shaver Lake and then the Central Valley on the horizon in the distance. The trail crosses the Coyote Trail after about three miles. At this point, skiers may elect to ski to the trailhead by other routes. The trail is rated more difficult due to the length and steeper grades.

**Tamarack Ridge**

**Nordic/Snowmobile Trailhead**

The Tamarack Ridge Nordic/Snowmobile Trailhead is located approximately 11 miles north of Shaver Lake on the east side of Highway 168. Vault toilets and trail information are available at the site. Trails in this area offer the novice and experienced skier a variety of terrain and scenic viewpoints. Snowshoers and hikers are asked to walk to the side of the Nordic ski track. This area is open to motorized and non-motorized use during the winter. Ski trails are marked with blue diamond-shaped markers. Over snow vehicle routes are marked with orange diamond-shaped markers.

**Porcupine Trail • (Difficult) • 4.0 miles**

The trail follows road and trail systems near the South Fork of Tamarack Creek area. The trail passes a scenic vista of the Kaiser Ridge area. At the N4 location marker, skiers may elect to return to the

trailhead via the same route, Forest Road 9S23/Chipmunk OSV (over-snow vehicle) trail, or by navigating cross country.

**Raccoon Trail • (Difficult) • 4 miles**

The trail follows road and trail systems near the South Fork of the Tamarack Creek region. The trail loops within 200 feet of the South Fork of Tamarack Creek and is rated more difficult due to the length and steeper grades along the way.

**Raven Trail • (Difficult) • 4.4 miles**

The trail follows road and trail systems to the southwest of the trailhead and accesses a scenic vista of Shaver Lake. The trail is rated most difficult due to the length and steeper grades.

**Rancheria Nordic Trail • (Easy) • 1.5 miles**

The trail is located within the Rancheria Campground in the Huntington Lake area on the west side of highway 168. The trail follows the road system in the campground via several short loops and provides access to Huntington Lake. Skiers should beware of thin ice on the lake.

*The China Peak Times thanks the U.S. Forest Service for the information used to present this information.*



A group of cross-country skiers set out from one of the regional Sno-Parks to see the winter wonderland, get a vigorous workout, stop for a well deserved rest, a delicious picnic lunch and beverage.

# China Peak Inn Room Upgrades Make Facility More User Friendly

How many times have you stayed in a hotel while on a ski trip, walk into the room and wonder if the person designing the room ever went skiing?

“Our rooms are small but we have worked to make them more user friendly than what we’ve found at most hotels, even the nicer, higher priced properties,” said Russell Morris, for the past three years the manager of the Inn at China Peak.

“We put ourselves in the position of our guests, as well as our own experiences and tried to add small things to make our rooms work well for our guests.”

Morris and his staff conducted some research to determine what makes a hotel room for skiers work?

“Hooks are critical as everything is often wet. Guests need to be able to hang stuff up: hats, jackets, gloves, pants, socks, anything wet. We like to say, there’s no such thing as too many hooks in a ski hotel.”

“When guests only stay one or two nights, typical with over 90% of guests, they don’t need to put things in drawers. People want easy access to their stuff.”

“There are many things guests need for the day: helmet, goggles, under clothes, jackets, long underwear, ski pants, socks, ski or snowboard boots and gloves. All such items fit nicely in baskets you can see.”

“Also, you need a place to put your skis and

boards that is as out of the way as possible, with a rubber mat to absorb the water than drips off, rather than soaking the carpet in the room. Simple things make a big difference.”

While they’re not technological, it seems you can call the rooms at the Inn at China Peak ‘smart rooms’!

## New This Season for Regional Lodging

The Rancheria Chalet, only two miles past China Peak, is the closest place to stay off site. Perfect for up to 10 people! Equipped with a full kitchen, DirecTV, wifi and more! Check it out and book now at [vacasa.com/unit.php?UnitID=26746](http://vacasa.com/unit.php?UnitID=26746).

There are more than a dozen regional lodging options serving China Peak Mountain Resort that have been conveniently listed on [SkiChinaPeak.com/lodging-options](http://SkiChinaPeak.com/lodging-options).

## Bring Your RV for a Stay at the Peak

China Peak is one of the only mountain resorts in the nation to allow recreational vehicle parking on site. Due to its popularity, these sites fill quickly.

Sixteen RV spaces are available. Each is 15 feet wide to allow for pop-outs. Each space has a 20 amp electrical and a TV cable hookup. There is no dump facility on site. All RV guests must check in and sign the policy agreement at the Inn at China Peak’s front desk prior to parking.

**Please Note:** RVs not allowed entry to China Peak from 8 am - 5 pm on weekends



and holidays, no exceptions. The skier traffic is heavy during peak morning and afternoon hours, there is NO access to RV spaces during the day due to full parking lots!

You are welcome to arrive during 8 am - 5 pm on any midweek, non-holiday period.

During snow events all RV’s will be directed to park in designated sites to accommodate snow removal, no exceptions!

RV rates are just \$49 per night, per space, for non-holiday periods and \$59 per night on holidays\*. All rates are also subject to a 12% resort fee. Please be aware that weekend stays require a two-night minimum

and holiday\* periods require a three-night minimum stay.

Reservations and a one night deposit are required. Any balance is due 14 days before arrival. If you must cancel, please do so 14 days before arrival to receive a full refund. Black Pass holders receive a discount of 20% Sun. - Thur, non-holiday\*.

For reservations or more details, please call the Inn at China Peak at (559) 233-1200 or email [CPIInn@skichinapeak.com](mailto:CPIInn@skichinapeak.com).

**\*Holiday dates are 12/26/19 through 1/4/20, 1/17/20 through 1/19/20 and 2/14/20 through 2/16/20.**



## Gift Cards Are Available Online and at the Peak

China Peak gift cards are excellent gifts for skier or snowboarder friends and family. They are perfect for the holidays, birthdays and anniversaries or for someone who wants to learn to ski or snowboard.

Gift cards are available anytime, in any amount, at regular price. Cards are valid for all services at China Peak including lodging, season passes, lift tickets, food and beverage and sport shop merchandise.

Purchase gift cards online in denominations of \$25, \$50, \$100 and \$200 or more. Gift cards are delivered via USPS Priority Mail and are usually mailed out within two business days. Please allow 5-7 days for delivery. For expedited shipping, contact Guest Services at (559) 233-2500, extension 5100.

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# Those With Disabilities Enjoy Thrill of Winter Sport Activities

The Central California Adaptive Sports Center (CCASC) is a non-profit organization located at Shaver Lake and China Peak Mountain Resort.

For five years, CCASC has provided over 6,000 hours of winter and summer programs to persons with disabilities and their families, including wounded Veterans from the Central Valley and other parts of California.

**Activities:** CCASC offers lessons for persons with disabilities of all skill levels and interests, including sit-skiing, stand-up skiing, ski-biking, snow-shoeing, cross-country skiing and mountaineering. Family



An exceptional group of CCASC volunteers ensure those with disabilities have a great time.

members are encouraged and welcome to participate in all activities.

**Availability:** Snow permitting, the anticipated opening of the Adaptive Center is on



Sometimes it is hard to tell who is having the most fun, the volunteer or the folks they assist.

Saturday, November 30, and will be open for reserved and drop-in lessons Friday thru Monday. They will also be open on Thursdays for advance reservations only. Although they can often accommodate drop-ins,



Grant funding from the Department of Veteran's Affairs enables the CCASC to offer lessons to Veterans with disabilities for free. Family members are offer discounted lift tickets and rentals.

advance reservations are strongly recommended.

**Veterans Participate Free:** Grant funding from the Department of Veteran's Affairs enables them to offer free lessons to Veterans with disabilities. Family members are offered discounted lift tickets and rentals.

**The CCASC team requests your help:**

Help the CCASC keep up the momentum. This important work cannot continued without your help. Become a new sponsor or renew your past sponsorship.

Sponsorships help enhance the quality of life of persons with disabilities by providing scholarships and quality equipment for participants in the program.

An annual sponsorship is \$350. The CCASC organization is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. They will provide you with a tax receipt for your records.

**What They Do In Return:**

Sponsors are provided with one adult all

day ski lift ticket to be used any time during the ski season at China Peak Mountain Resort.

1. Recognize your organization at all fundraising events throughout the year, with the option of placing your banner at the event location;

2. Place your name and logo in the CCASC annual magazine, which is circulated in the Central Valley;

3. Your logo will be included on their web page with a link back to your website at [centralcaladaptive.org/supporters](http://centralcaladaptive.org/supporters);

4. Send you a framed certificate of sponsorship and a copy of the annual magazine;

5. Use your donation to provide high quality outdoor adventure opportunities for the participants.

Sponsorship checks may be sent to CCASC at PO Box 147, Shaver Lake, CA 93664. You may also contribute by credit card online.

## Huntington Lake Condos, Cabins and Land

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- Welcoming beautiful custom mountain home on wooded, flat .45 acre across from Huntington Lake beach area, plus large loft/playroom \$839,000
- Exceptional mountain home with lake views on a beautiful 1/3 acre across from Huntington Lake, close to marina and store. Meticulous attention to detail from master craftsman builder. Must see! \$1,045,000

### Cabin for Sale

- USFS cabin with cute kitchen, massive brick fireplace, large redwood deck 2/2 \$199,500

### Land for Sale

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An excited bride and groom enjoy a ring exchange moment during their wedding ceremony at China Peak. This is a perfect venue for your friends and family to share your special moments.

## Shop for All the Winter Gear You May Need, All Available Conveniently at Reasonable Prices

A complete selection of winter outerwear from Burton, Roxy, Volcom, Descente, Spyder, DC, O'Neill, 686 and more are available at China Peak Sports, located on the lower level of the Day lodge near Chair 6.

Shop the complete selection of goggles from Smith, Spy, Anon and Von Zipper and the huge variety of beanies, helmets, gloves, neck warmers and stomp pads.

China Peak logo wear from soft shells and tees to hoodies and everything China

Peak at the satellite shop, located in Mainstream Station, is always stocked for your convenience on those stormy days or just to grab some sunscreen and chapstick.

Thinking of getting a helmet this season? Stop by and let the sales staff help fit you properly. All current season passholders enjoy 10% off all purchases of \$100 or more on non-sale items, excluding GoPro items. Black Pass passholders enjoy 15% off the same type of purchase.

## Plan Your Wedding at China Peak for Winter or Summer

Why not have your own private resort for your special day. China Peak is much more than a special event venue - it's an entire wedding experience.

With unparalleled beauty and flexibility, a wedding at China Peak Mountain Resort is nothing short of magical.

Sixty miles north-east of Fresno, this 1500-acre ski resort can be transformed for a winter or summer wedding or for those looking for a unique experience.

This beautiful mountain resort is where you and your closest family and friends can spend a weekend together at your own private mountain oasis.

You can make your celebration deliciously memorable. Impress your wedding guests with the dynamic flavors prepared by our wonderful on-site catering experts. Whether for a sophisticated cocktail buffet, an intimate brunch, or a grand reception banquet, discover their tempting menus, where every element is customizable to your tastes.

Explore your wedding day or special events options. Planning a wedding is truly an art, which is the very reason why couples rely on the knowledge, preparedness and creativity of wedding professionals

who have been down this road "a time or two" to guide you on this journey. You can begin exploring your wedding day options by visiting [ChinaPeakWeddings.com](http://ChinaPeakWeddings.com) or contacting Wedding Coordinator, Tess, by email at [weddings@skichinapeak.com](mailto:weddings@skichinapeak.com) or by calling her at either (559) 673-5684 or (559) 960-5014.



Happy couple share a kiss on a chair lift ride after their wedding ceremony at China Peak.

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# Snowmakers Open Slopes to Longer Resort Season

Mother Nature is fickle. Some years she treats us to massive snow fall events. These can start in early November and last through April or longer. At other times she is stingy and provides very little snow fall.

As you know an expanded snowmaking system has been installed at China Peak. The goal of the operating staff is to enable the snowmaking team to create enough snow so every lift can be operational before Christmas and hopefully a significant number will be available by Thanksgiving.

The expanded system will initially provide 1,500 gallons per minute (gpm) of water. This water flows to 100 energy efficient HKD Tower Snow guns and 30 medium energy Ratnik Ground Snow guns. Eventually, 3,000 gpm will be available from the base along with additional snow guns.

The water and compressed air are being delivered through recently installed 12 inch pipeline extending from the new base area pumphouse to the area known as Piccadilly, located just above the top of Chair 6. If all goes well and China Peak receives cold temperatures prior to Thanksgiving, the resort expects to open a limited amount of upper mountain slopes without the benefit of natural snow for the holiday.

Thus, for the 2019/2020 season, all base area slopes, Academy and major trails serviced by Chair Lift 6 will be open by Thanksgiving with around 1.5 feet of man-made snow, even if no natural snow falls.

The Tower Mounted HKD Snow guns are fixed and easy to operate. Medium E Ratniks operate like the old sled gun and are more effective in steep, narrow places and areas in close proximity to ski lifts.

You ask "what's the difference between natural and manmade snow? Can skiers and boarders tell the difference?" Great questions. Here are the answers.

Man made snow is made by snowmaking machines pumping water droplets at high speed through a condenser, rather

than naturally falling from the sky. Natural snow has a complex crystalline structure whereas snow from snow machines is simply frozen fragments.

It's good to ski on and most skiers can't tell the difference between a groomed slope with machine snow and one that's all natural, unless you compare it to fresh powder. Machine-made snow is denser and a tiny bit rougher to ski on and it packs down into ice faster.

Today, most ski runs are a combination of natural, weather-made and machine-made snow. Thus the actual ski run surface is blended together over time.

So what components go into making snow? Well, you need labor, water, compressed air or fans, electricity, cold temperatures, the proper humidity and a computer system. Electricity runs the fans,



Snow gun using water and compressed air is adjusted by the snowmaking staff on the slopes. pumps and pressure jets. Computer systems constantly monitor humidity and temperature and adjust the pressure to maximize snow conditions. Labor provides the skilled workforce to manage the machines, keep them running, move them around the slopes and a small army of snow cats to groom the snow.

Cold Temperatures - 28°F or below. At this temperature, more snow can be produced and it is less at risk of melting as soon as it is made. On a warmer day, snowmaking machines can be set to make smaller droplets so more of them freeze. On a colder day they can be set to make larger droplets and more snow.

It can get too cold for snowmaking machines to operate. If the machine is running below -2°F and the water stops because of a power outage, the pipes can freeze, explode and destroy the expensive machines.

Humidity - snowmakers use the wet-bulb temperature (WBT) to determine if they can operate a machine. This is the temperature read by a thermometer covered in a water-soaked cloth plus moving air similar to what the water droplets experience when thrown from the snow gun. The lower the humidity the more snow



The China Peak grooming crew and their snow cats are responsible for keeping the slopes in great condition so skiers and boarders experience an exceptional time hitting runs all over the mountain.

produced per hour. The ideal humidity is less than 30%. The best weather for production is cold and dry.

Snow guns use compressed air or fans to fire water at very high speed into the air, thus splitting the liquid up into tiny particles that freeze, travel further into the air and eventually fall on the slopes below.

Natural snow develops when water vapor in clouds freezes and falls to the ground. Snowflakes are made up of hundreds of these frozen crystals that form around small specs of dirt in the air.

Snowflakes grow in complexity and size as they fall to the ground. Once it hits the ground, snow can take on many forms.

A major benefit of machine snow is that it lasts longer and is more resistant to rain. It is fantastic for making a good base for natural snow to fall onto. It is also very good for ski competitions.

If it rains, machine snow is more likely to hold together for longer periods, but it gets slushier faster because of the inherent higher water content.

The entire management and staff at China Peak hope that your experience on the slopes is an enjoyable one.

The goal is to provide China Peak guests with a longer season and excellent snow coverage that this expanded snowmaking operation allows.

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# Plan an Educational Winter Field Trip for Students and Teachers

## School Field Trips

China Peak is your destination for Winter Outdoor Education, offering a school field trip opportunity that students and teachers will be talking about for years to come!

The U.S. Forest Service and China Peak joined together to present an interactive outdoor experience including a day of skiing or snowboarding at group rates, as low as \$30 per student Monday to Thursday and \$35 on Friday, non-holiday\*.

Price includes:

- a video presentation by the U.S. Forest Service introduces the concept of public lands, snow science and mountain safety
  - an all mountain lift ticket
  - rental equipment, skis or snowboard, boots, bindings and poles
  - an any level group lesson with our staff of professional ski and snowboard teachers
- China Peak offers lunch services and discounts for parents and siblings as well.

Each visit can feature a different science lesson. Some optional pre-visit lesson packets available for teachers to review.

Groups must have a minimum of 15 students (ages 5-18) and 2 chaperones. Rates are based on the group size, day of the week and frequency of visits.

This program is available midweek,

non-holiday\* beginning January 6, 2020. Ask about special discounts available to groups visiting four or more times per season.

Contact Group Sales to book your date today at (559) 233-2500, 5010 or just email Groups@skichinapeak.com. To get more about weekend and holiday group rates visit [SkiChinaPeak.com/field-trips](http://SkiChinaPeak.com/field-trips).

\*Holiday dates: December 26, thru January 4, January 18-20 and February 15-17.

## Group Rates

China Peak offers excellent group rates for your next group outing. With a group of 20 or more, you can select from a host of options for both skiers and snowboarders of all ability levels.

Group rentals available Sunday to Friday, non-holiday\* at 30% off regular rates. Skis or snowboard, boots and poles are \$36 for adults and \$25 for kids 12 and under. Group demos are \$58. Helmet rentals are \$8. Group lessons are \$38 not including rentals.

Tasty meals offered for groups, are served at the base area picnic grove, the Inn dining room or the mid-mountain Buckhorn location. Menu items vary. Breakfast and dinner options also available.

Extend your stay with discounts mid-week at the Inn at China Peak. For Group Rate lodging info visit [SkiChinaPeak.com](http://SkiChinaPeak.com).

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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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## CP Race Team Develops Skills, Builds Character, Enriches Families

The China Peak Ski Race Team program is designed to not only develop ski athletes, but to promote a healthy lifestyle, enrich the child/family experience and foster a love for snow sports.

The race team trains, weather and snow permitting, every Saturday and Sunday and major school holidays with the exception of the four scheduled Central Series races. Core training day is from 9 am to 2 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 contact Jennifer Cedar at [cpraceteam@gmail.com](mailto:cpraceteam@gmail.com). For more information about the race team, please visit [ChinaPeakRace.com](http://ChinaPeakRace.com)

The Far West Central Series will come to China Peak on February 29 and March 1, 2020 for the Super G and Giant Slalom. For details visit [FWSkiing.us](http://FWSkiing.us).

The Race Team Mission is very basic, yet important. We strive to develop a life-long love for the sport of Alpine Skiing.



*Coaches teach young team members that they must practice, practice and practice to get better.*

Through the fundamental development of skiing, training, and teamwork, the China Peak race team and our coaches strive to create a resource for personal development

for each of the young athletes. Thus, teamwork, loyalty and camaraderie are cornerstones of the China Peak Race Team.

The alpine ski racing kids are provided with a supportive environment as the coaches strive to allow each athlete to reach their full potential, both personally and athletically.

The coaching staff knows that for ski racers to achieve long-term success and enjoyment, they must first develop into



*Members of the China Peak Ski Team wait in line for their turn making a run down the course.*

great skiers. Then, and only then, they can become great ski racers.

Through the USSA program of Skills Quest – we are committed to age appropriate progression starting with fundamental skiing skills and then augmenting the advanced skills required to race.

Parents should know that by skiing with the coaches and staff of the China Peak Race Team program, athletes can look forward to being rewarded for working on those things that will bring out their full potential as ski racers in the long run. Coaches track their progress so parents can see how their children are growing in all aspects of the sport.



*China Peak Ski Team competitor takes a run down the slopes during a race. If your family is interested in becoming a part of this group, contact Jennifer Cedar at [cpraceteam@gmail.com](mailto:cpraceteam@gmail.com).*

## Fresno Ski Club Members Invite You to Join in Fun and Festivities

The Fresno Ski Club includes a diverse group of individuals who enjoy year around sports, outdoor recreational and social activities. Snow skiing/boarding has always been, and always will be, the first and foremost common focus. Whether it's ride sharing for a day trek to China Peak, a weekend to Tahoe, Mammoth or an entire week at a world class ski resort in the US or Canada, members are assured opportunities for fresh tracks, snow-packed fun and camaraderie on the slopes.

Using its group purchasing advantages and excellent history, FSC is able to offer fully loaded, high value ski packages at substantial savings to members. The Club makes all the arrangements for air and ground travel, lift passes, housing, group dinners, and other optional activities. Trip packages are flexible to permit Members to use their air miles and pre-purchased season passes. Some of the Club's most recent trips have included Steamboat, Aspen/Snowmass, Park City/Deer Valley, Breckenridge, Steamboat, Aspen/Snowmass, Whitefish, and Whistler/Blackcomb.

This year trips are planned to Jackson Hole and Mammoth. Extended weekend trips include the Tahoe area. China Peak, the home resort, will see popular Fun Days, typically on a Saturday and includes lunch.

Throughout its history, the Fresno Ski Club has been a great venue for people meeting people with similar interests, resulting in lasting friendships. It's a friendly group. And, no one ever has to ski alone. Whether you are an experienced and avid

skier, or returning to the sport years later, the Club is comprised of all skill levels of skiers and snowboarders.

Members range from the beginner novice to the accomplished. There is no need to be shy, even if you have forgotten how to snowplow. Members are always willing to be a ski buddy for you to observe, emulate, and from which you will ultimately improve your skills on the slopes.

When the snow melts, members do not rest. Utilizing e-mail announcements and monthly general meetings to keep everyone informed, members group together for day hikes, biking, days at a lake, or perhaps taking in a local art show, concert, or visiting a winery.

Other social activities include a popular once-a-month Wednesday Hump Day meet-up at a local restaurant and social get-together during the summer, fall and winter. The Ski Club is an organization that gives every member the opportunity to participate in year around events.

The Fresno Ski Club is one of the oldest ski clubs in the U.S. Founded in 1934 and incorporated in 1937, FSC has been in continuous operation since then.

The Club is managed by a 12 person Board of Directors, elected annually. Affiliated with Far West Ski Association, club members have access to additional economical world-wide ski, scuba and sight-seeing trips.

Check out their website: [www.fresnoski-club.com](http://www.fresnoski-club.com) or on Facebook. The Fresno Ski Club welcomes you!



*Members of the Fresno Ski Club are pictured above in Feb. 2019 at Aspen/Snowmass which saw 68 skiers and boarders traveling along to one of the annual ski trips to a major skiing destination..*





Those interested in a variety of ways to take advantage of outdoor sports need to visit Clawson Motorsports in Fresno to see a full array of motorcycles, snowmobiles, jet skis, ATVs and more!

## Find Your Perfect Ride at Clawson Motorsports Store

Clawson Motorsports and Clawson Honda of Fresno go back over 80 years. Jack Clawson opened Clawson Boatworks in Fresno and claimed to have made the first sailboat to sail on Millerton Lake. Jack built a successful business and sold it to Norm Christensen around 1964. Around that same time, Norm incorporated Honda Motorcycles into his inventory. Due to the successful venture with Honda, he was awarded the 12th Honda Automotive Dealership in the U.S., Honda's first in the Central Valley.

Honda quickly made an impact on the auto industry with the release of the small, more fuel-efficient Honda Civic and it was right about that time that Jim McKoane dared to dream the impossible. The McKoane family became the new owners of Clawson Honda of Fresno and Clawson Boatworks in November 1975, just prior to the successful launch of the Honda Accord in May of 1976.

Jim McKoane began his automotive career while attending college at USC, and continued to follow his dream as he moved his family to the valley in the late '60s, operating a dealership in Hanford prior to his purchase of Clawson Honda.

The McKoane family started their business with 17 employees, and 44 years later their company has grown to employ over 275. As a locally owned business, the McKoane family has made it a priority to provide customers with excellent products and services. They are committed to employees, customers, and the community.

Over the years, the McKoane family grew along with the business they love. In the spring of 1986, the Honda motorcycle and Honda car business had grown enough to require two different locations, both on

North Blackstone. Just a few years later, in 1991, as the business continued to grow, another move was scheduled to the building behind the auto dealership.

One year later, Clawson became a Yamaha dealer, and the name was changed to Clawson Honda Yamaha. The powersports industry was growing and so was customer demand. By November 1992, Clawson had added both Kawasaki and Suzuki brands to their line-up, requiring another name change to accommodate the broad diversity of brands, and Clawson Motorsports was born.

This homegrown success story doesn't stop there. The Clawson Motorsports stable continued to grow with the addition of SeaDoo watercraft in 1997 and the Polaris lineup in 2004. This growth spurt prompted a move to their current and much larger location at 6334 N. Blackstone.

About seven years later, as exciting opportunities continued to find their way to the McKoane family and their growing business, they were proud to announce their expanding winter powersports selection with Polaris sleds and snowmobiles, rounding out their inventory and making Clawson truly the motorsports superstore, where you will always find more to ride.

The McKoane family line offers powersports with the largest pre-owned selection of Harleys and the best race-ready motorcycles for competitive and recreational riding.

Come see the KTM and Husqvarna dirt bike, sportbike, and dual sportbikes as well as ATVs, UTV's, street bikes, 3-wheel bikes, watercraft and snowmobiles. You can always find your ride at Fresno's Clawson Motorsports. [Clawsonmotorsports.com](http://Clawsonmotorsports.com) Located at 6334 N. Blackstone, in Fresno.

## Who's Ready for Snow? Shaver Lake Sports Is!

During the winter months, the year-round Shaver Lake Sports converts from summer sports to winter sports. So gone are the swimsuits, lake floaties, kayaks and such, to make room for the Winter gear.

The Ski and Snowboard Rental Shop is the only ski and snowboard rental shop from the Central Valley to Shaver Lake on the way to China Peak.

The rental staff can accommodate all ski and snowboard enthusiasts with rentals of all sizes! Equipment is in stock for toddlers all the way up to a men's size 16 boot!

For your convenience, daily and seasonal rentals are available. With daily rentals, if you rent for multiple days, each consecutive day is at the half day rate.

Seasonal rentals are your best bet. Come in and get fitted. Once you pick up your equipment, you keep it until China Peak closes. This gives you the opportunity to go straight to the resort! Any time during the season you need a resizing or a waxing, just bring your rental equipment in and the staff will happily do work for no charge!

A wide variety of Snowshoes and Cross-Country Ski equipment is also on hand. For daily rentals after you have rented once from us **This Season**, give us a call at (559) 841-2740 at least one day in advance to reserve your equipment and it

will be ready when you arrive.

Along with rentals, the shop crew is skilled at full-service tuning. They have a grinding and edging machine, and do p-tex repairs, some binding repairs as well as hot wax.

If you're in a rush, a quick wax machine is on hand that can get you in and out in minutes!

Stop by and say hi to the father and son shop managers Greg and Tyler Powell. With over 35 years of combined experience in the field, they assure the highest quality in a timely manner.

As your one-stop shop, you'll find many snow toys, beanies, gloves, snow pants, jackets, helmets and much more. Other items include boots, wool socks, and thermals for those extra cold days. If there is chain-control, please stop in. In addition, a large inventory of tire chains and cables to fit most tire sizes are in stock! Safety first! It is important to insure everyone is prepared for a fun day in the snow! Sno Park Permits for \$5 per day or \$25 for the season are sold here.

Remember Shaver Lake Sports new location, at 41777 Tollhouse Rd, Shaver Lake on the east side of the road or visit [www.shaverlakesports.com](http://www.shaverlakesports.com)

Open seven days a week, except for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter!



Shaver Lake Sports offers the only Ski and Board Rental Shop aside from China Peak in the entire Central Valley. Daily and seasonal rentals are available, as well as a repair and tuneup shop onsite.



Welcome to our beautiful resort community. We hope you enjoy your stay!



Beth Brown



Tami Myers



Sandy Crew



Eric Rhoads



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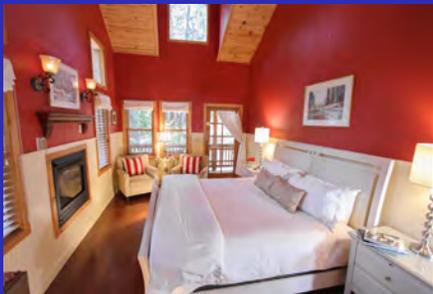
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**Our staff will tow the snow mobiles to Huntington Lake for free.**  
**DOT certified helmets provided • Must be 5+ to ride • Must be 18+ to rent**  
**42157 Tollhouse Road Shaver Lake – Next to Ken's Market**

## BRATTON REAL ESTATE INC.

29533 Auberry Rd Suite 102, Prather, CA 93651 • 559-855-7685

For information on these listings and other properties for sale or for rent, **call us** or **visit our website**.



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**WELL-MAINTAINED 3 BD HOME**  
29322 Fallen Oak Rd, Tollhouse, CA 93667  
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**3 BD/2.5 BA CONDO NEAR COLLEGE**  
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## Winter

- Ski & Snowboard Rentals & Waxing
- Snow Sleds, Saucers, Tubes
- Snow & Ski Apparel
- Hiking and Snow Boots
- Camping Gear
- Fishing Tackle & Licenses
- Hunting Supplies & Licenses
- Snow Tire Chains
- Snow Park Passes
- Souvenirs

## SHAVER LAKE SPORTS

Open year 'round for all your sporting needs!



## Summer

- Camping Gear and Supplies
- Hiking & Work Boots
- Fishing Bait & Tackle
- Fishing Poles & Nets
- Fishing Licenses
- Beach Toys & Sporting Goods
- Summer Apparel
- Boating Supplies
- Souvenirs

[www.ShaverLakeSports.com](http://www.ShaverLakeSports.com)

(559) 841-2740

[ShaverLakeSports@gmail.com](mailto:ShaverLakeSports@gmail.com)

41777 Tollhouse Road, Shaver Lake, CA 93664

### Happy Camper General Store

Located Inside Camp Edison



### Shaver Lake Marina

559-841-5331 [ShaverLakeMarina.com](http://ShaverLakeMarina.com)



Summer Fun!

- \* Groceries \* Sundries \* Ice \* Hand-Scooped Ice Cream \*
- \* Firewood \* T-shirts \* Sweatshirts \* Souvenirs & More!

- \* Boat Slips\* Pontoon Boats \* Fishing Boats \* Canoes\*
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## Shaver Lake Hardware Now Open! 559-841-3600

We provide the tools & supplies you need to take care of your home and business

41698 Tollhouse Road, Shaver Lake, CA 93664

[www.ShaverLakeHardware.com](http://www.ShaverLakeHardware.com)



We carry all types of hardware supplies including:

- Drill Bits and Drivers
- Door Hardware
- Electrical Supplies
- Nuts and Bolts
- Saws and Blades
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- Work Boots

Visit our website for  
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