

Deep Thoughts

How deep was Alta's deepest winter ever?



Photo: Chloe Jiminez/Alta Ski Area
Skier: Katie Hitchcock

- ❄️ 903 inches of snowfall in 2022-23. That's deep.
- ❄️ 217-inch base in April. That's deep.
- ❄️ 547 inches average annual snowfall. That's also deep.
- ❄️ 10 all-day canyon closures.
- ❄️ 5 days Alta Ski Area did not open due to snow safety.
- ❄️ 6 all-day country clubs – Alta lifts open, road closed.
- ❄️ 4 part-day country clubs.
- ❄️ 7 of 7 months, October through April, of above-average snowfall.
- ❄️ March 2023 may have been our best snow month ever, in the best snow year ever.
- ❄️ Snow is perishable, like fresh produce.
- ❄️ Snow is renewable, like... well, like snow.
- ❄️ How lucky are we to be alive in the time of skiing?
- ❄️ How much luckier are we to be in Alta – and at Alta Lodge?
- ❄️ Of those to whom much is given, much is required.
- ❄️ I think I need Alta more than Alta needs me.

Read more about the deepest winter on record in Alta's 85-year history on alta.com: [903 Inches](#) and [Rolling In the Deep](#).

Wow, that's deep.

Dear Friends,

It has been a whirlwind of a year, and here we go again! This time last year, it was just starting to get chilly. We were coming off a warm and glorious fall when the weather switched on a dime and snow started falling on October 22 with a 2-foot storm. From that day forward, it seemed like it never stopped snowing!

The skiing last winter was epic – more powder days, excitement, smiles, and best days ever than we could have imagined. With an average of 5 inches per day from November to April, there was no shortage of free refills.



We also learned that with snow, as with many good things in life, more is not always better. By late March, the weather and the snowpack started to become... difficult. But everyone - guests and employees alike - met the moment with style and grace. Alta Lodge was built to last, and we are here for the skiing. We stayed open through every day of the historic season, and we did some skiing too!

When the season wrapped up in April with a 903-inch snow total, we waited patiently to see what Mother Nature had up her sleeve for spring and the snowmelt. We were fortunate in Alta, as well as in the Salt Lake Valley, that spring took its time to get here. The summer flowers were late to bloom, but they thrived from all the water and gave us a beautiful show.



And now, we are just about a week away from our collective opening day of November 17 (conditions permitting). Snow is on the ground, and it's been cold enough for Alta to make snow. We're excited for winter, knowing that the energy of our experiences on snow and in the Lodge keeps us returning to Alta year after year. No matter how much snow, and throughout all of the changes, mergers, and acquisitions in North American skiing, the essence of Alta and Alta Lodge has remained unchanged – for the better.

Like last year, we are looking at another very busy winter ahead. If you haven't yet booked your stay, we encourage you to make your reservations soon, as availability is becoming limited.

Cheers to a great winter ahead. We look forward to welcoming you back as our guests for an authentic Alta experience.

-The Levitt Family and Alta Lodge Staff

Alta's Avalanche Control: New Solutions for an Age-Old Issue



Photo: Alta Ski Area/Wyssen

Due to the steep walls of Little Cottonwood Canyon and our high snowfall amounts, avalanches are an age-old issue in Alta. Alta Ski Area is known as the birthplace of North American avalanche science. In 1946, former 10th Mountain Division soldier Monty Atwater arrived in Alta and brought a new approach to avalanche safety. After seeing artillery guns used for avalanche control in Italy during World War II, Atwater realized the artillery could be used for snow safety in the ski resort setting. He secured a French howitzer from the National Guard, and set to work triggering avalanches to stabilize the slopes of Alta. Military artillery was a huge success, and became the foundation of avalanche safety in Alta for decades.

Today, however, artillery is becoming a tool of the past. The US Army wants the howitzer back, and new technology offers safer and more efficient ways to mitigate avalanches. Over the past few years, you may have noticed new towers on Mount Baldy, East Castle, and Mount Superior. Remote Avalanche Control Systems (RACS) have been installed to allow avalanches to be triggered remotely. This summer, Alta installed the final Wyssen tower RACS on Mount Baldy, completing the project and allowing Alta Ski Patrol to discontinue the use of avalanche artillery on Baldy.

Alta continues to be a leader in snow safety. The RACS move Alta's avalanche mitigation efforts into the future. The days of early morning artillery fired overhead will soon be a thing of the past. The RACS offer increased safety for Alta Ski Patrol and skiers. And they are more efficient, ultimately decreasing interlodge times and allowing quicker access to powder skiing after a storm. [Learn more](#)

Ginger Snaps: A Classic Treat

Ginger Snaps have been an Alta Lodge mainstay for over 50 years. These classic crispy treats were introduced to Lodge guests back in the 1970s by then Head Baker, Dorie Raddon, and her Assistant Donna Hart, as an accompaniment to a scoop of ice cream for lunch or dinner dessert.

Ginger Snaps continue to be a guest favorite and are available daily at lunch or dinner à la carte or, of course, with ice cream. You might also find them on occasion at teatime. If you haven't had an Alta Lodge Ginger Snap, be sure to try some on your next visit or enjoy the recipe to make them at home.

6 oz (1.5 sticks) butter
2 cups sugar
2 eggs
1/2 cup molasses
1 1/2 tsp apple cider vinegar
4 1/4 cups all purpose flour
1 1/2 tsp baking soda
1 1/2 tsp ginger
1/2 tsp cinnamon
1/4 tsp cloves

Cream together butter and sugar. Beat in eggs one at a time until creamy, then stir in molasses and vinegar. Add dry ingredients and mix until incorporated and dough forms. Scoop into one-inch balls and bake at 350 degrees F. on ungreased cookie sheet for 6-8 minutes.

PARKING: PERMITS ARE HERE TO STAY

After two solid years of permitted parking in Alta, the consensus is that the parking controls have been vital to preserving the Alta experience. Permitted parking will continue again for Alta's 86th season for day use on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays along with all overnight parking.

Hands down, the best way to get to Alta is by shuttle. We recommend Alta Shuttle as the most economical, safest, and most efficient means to travel to/from Alta Lodge and the airport. There are no worries about vehicles, tires, road conditions, driving, or parking!



There is no need for Alta Lodge guests to reserve parking with Alta Ski Area. If you do bring a car to Alta for your stay, Lodge guests will be charged \$25 per vehicle per night for overnight roadside parking. We have limited first-come, first-serve guest parking at our entrance, and we will always ensure overnight parking for our guests.

[Learn more](#)



Photo: Rocko Menzyk/Alta Ski Area

Spring in Alta

The “Cecret” is out that spring skiing in Alta can be as much fun as a powder day (and we can still be skiing powder)! From bluebird days and perfectly groomed runs, to storm skiing and corn skiing, spring in Alta is exciting to the last turn on closing day – and there’s fun to be had for every skier.

The snow and terrain are plentiful, as are the longer days, sunshine and goggle tans. And with less crowds and the added benefit of our lower springtime rates and Kids Stay Free program, spring is a great time to sneak one more trip in as a solo skier or family.

Advanced to expert skiers looking to work on their turns in a group setting can take advantage of our popular co-ed [Spring Performance Camp](#), April 7-11, 2024. By learning how to put your skis to work for you, you’ll optimize your performance, naturally build your skillset and confidence on snow, and become a better skier. You’ll also be amazed at how the spring training sets you up for the following winter season.

Alta’s closing day is Sunday, April 21, 2024, and our last night of lodging will be Saturday, April 20. If you haven’t experienced closing day at Alta, bring a costume and join us for all the closing day festivities!

BOOK TODAY!

Summer Weddings & Events

Ahhh...summer in Alta. Those few months when our snow-covered mountains transform into lush green hillsides, when Albion Basin is blanketed in a kaleidoscope of wildflowers, when world-class hiking is right out our door, and when love is in the air. Summer in Alta is a treasure.

We are excited to share Alta's majestic summer season with guests and locals for weddings and private events with lodging from June to October.



Photo: Sabrina Photo Co

Experience an authentic lodge stay with your friends, family, or co-workers to gather and celebrate a special event or meeting of the minds with outstanding food, personal service, and Lodge hospitality.

For a truly unforgettable experience, book the Lodge for an exclusive event or weekend – perfect for a destination wedding! [Learn more](#)

KIDS STAY FREE



Families that ski together stay together.

Make memories as a family and join us during our early season (opening day to December 15, 2023) and spring season (April 7 to 21, 2024), where children 12 and under stay free.

Paired with our complimentary [Kids' Club](#), families can avoid the peak season crowds and enjoy time well spent at a savings.

Families traveling with children can also plan ski school days in advance and book lessons online. [Kids Ski School Lessons](#).

Photo: Chris Whittaker



Meet Bill and Carolyn Stutt: Guests of the Lodge for Forty Years!

When did you start skiing? Bill learned to ski in the Dolomites while he was in the Navy, stationed in Triest, Italy, and Carolyn quickly learned just after she and Bill were married on the cusp of a trip to Gstaad, Switzerland. Since then, the Stutt family has grown up skiing in Alta. The younger family members have been on snow since they were out of diapers, learning to ski just after learning to walk!

How did you discover Alta Lodge? Upon learning the “well-kept secret” of Alta and Alta Lodge from his Goldman Sachs partner (and regular Lodge guest), James D. Robertson, Bill arranged a stay at the Lodge in January of 1982 with his son, David. It was an exciting first experience as the snowfall in Alta had been monumental, and the canyon road was closed when they arrived. After several days of waiting in Salt Lake, with their hearts set on Alta, Bill and David finally made it to te Alta Lodge via helicopter. This was the beginning of the now 40-year tradition of the Stutt Family's annual Alta Lodge stay and Alta ski vacation.

What keeps you coming back? Carolyn says it's because of “so many wonderful memories – Alta Lodge is our home away from home! Bill and I were married on December 26, 1983, in Glen Rock, NJ – a second marriage – he came with three children and I with two – we wanted to focus on our lives together but, more importantly, on making one family out of two...e pluribus unum – out of the many one...and I knew from my first visit to Alta Lodge in March of 1984 that Alta and the Alta Lodge would play a major role in making that happen.”



Photo: Carolyn Stutt



Photo: Carolyn Stutt

Bill and Carolyn became fast friends with Bill and Mimi Levitt, further strengthening their connection to the Lodge. “Alta Lodge is FAMILY – skiing at Alta is and always has been, a FAMILY experience – allowing each of us to form memories together as we share the experiences that only Alta can offer....we were destined to make this an annual FAMILY affair – and 40 years later there is no end in sight! God willing, our family tradition will be carried on beyond our three current generations (soon to be 4th generation) – and – hopefully to all those generations yet unborn!”

Bill received his free Alta season pass when he turned 80 and made great use of it annually for a decade. In March of 2017, when he turned 90, Bill and Carolyn decided to hang up their skis together for good. The flame for their annual Alta vacation continues to burn, though, and roughly twenty-five Stutt family members carry the torch and return to Alta every winter. Carolyn joyfully still makes all the lodging reservations, shuttle bookings, and party plans.

SPECIAL MEMORIES

- Alta Awards Dinners - which began in the Deck Room in 1984 – a family tradition that continues to this day.
- March 1991 – Jason Shull's 21st Birthday – complete with T-Shirt covered in 21 - \$1.00 bills – AND – a Gorilla dressed in a Bikini from Salt Lake City singing Happy Birthday to him in the main dining room....hilarious....great fun!
- The many, many birthday celebrations of Bill and other family members over the years, complete with original poems and songs to celebrate.
- March 2018 – Kate Brewer's engagement to Doug Fletcher – another wonderful family celebration at our Home Away from Home.
- March 2022 – Zoom Birthday Celebration during the Alta Awards Dinner celebrating Bill's 95th birthday – complete with a birthday cake and candles that the kids blew out on Bill's behalf – it was great fun even though we were not there in person.
- We Zoomed again in 2023 and look forward to doing the same again this year and every year thereafter so we can share in the joy of our family being together, enjoying a very special place – A PLACE WE ALL LOVE!

Employee Profile: Mike Campanelli

If you have been staying with us over the past decade, you've hopefully met Mike in the Dining Room, Sitzmark bar, or maybe even through Reservations this summer.



Where are you from? I grew up in Guilderland New York, near Albany; New York's Capital Region.

How did you get into skiing? We were a ski family growing up. My Dad is an avid skier and I have vague memories of bombing down the slopes of Mad River Glen on a ski leash with Dad at the helm to keep me out of the trees when I was four years old. Our family was members of the Schenectady Winter Sports Club (SWC) which had a rustic ski lodge in Waterbury, VT. I don't think there was a school break when our family did not head to Vermont to bunk at the SWC lodge and ski Mad River Glen or Sugarbush.

What brought you to Alta and Alta Lodge? My path to Alta took a few years to develop. I first skied Alta in back-to-back years during ski trips over winter break from college. During those early trips, we stayed in the valley, rode the UTA bus each day, and sampled all four of the Cottonwood resorts. Alta was my favorite then and still is.

After graduating from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, I headed to California to work in medical device design. While I went on to pursue my career in California, a good friend from those college ski trips went straight to work at the Rustler Lodge after graduation. If I was not in Tahoe for a weekend of skiing, I was visiting Alta as an employee guest at the Rustler, crashing on the floor and spending a couple of hours shoveling to pay for my stay. One week, we had sunshine and blue skies every day. It was lovely skiing, but not the epic Alta powder days you dream of. Back in my cubicle in Menlo Park, CA, watching the snow report for Alta, it snowed every day for three weeks straight. It was then that I determined the only way to not miss a cycle like that was to be living in Alta. It took another year for the financial crisis to reach my company, but it only took one round of layoffs during the summer of 2009 for me to solidify my winter plans. I knew where I was heading when layoffs reached me. The crazy thing was that they kept me on until the end. I was never laid off; I was one of eleven employees left and actually had to quit my engineering job when the snow started falling in Alta. I don't regret that decision in the slightest.

Going into my 14th year in Alta and 10th year at Alta Lodge, I have enjoyed every minute. There are so many great things that have kept me here. The powder and the terrain are obvious, but there are four seasons of beauty in the mountains. The spring melt, transitioning into summer wildflowers and wildlife. The first snow dusting in the fall and the wonderful colors of the aspens. There is endless outdoor recreation beyond the ski slopes with biking and hiking right here and even more opportunities in every direction. Those barely scratch the surface as to what makes Alta special to me. We have an incredible community with unique personalities and a multitude of talents.

My brother eventually made it out to Alta and has made a life in this community and now is working here at the Lodge. Alta is where I met my wife, while she was working at the Deep Powder House ski shop. We have been married three years and have a little house in the valley between the canyons. When I am not working or skiing, you'll find me traveling the west with our little tear-drop camper in tow. Heading to bike trails, rivers for kayaking, or down the Baja peninsula for surf.

FAVORITES

Alta run: I feel like that's confidential. I could tell you but then I'd have to kill you. OK, all kidding aside – I would probably have to go with Gunsight proper (yes, from the top, the longest side-step) for the last run of the day, watching the sun fall over the Oquirrh Mountains west of SLC, having the slope to yourself and taking it along the rope line all the way down to Home Run.

Alta Lodge meal: The Wild Mushroom Risotto is a treat, along with the Chocolate Pot de Crème for dessert.

Working at the Lodge: Seeing the ear-to-ear grins on everyone's faces after an incredible day in the mountains.