

DEAR FRIENDS

It was a good winter in Alta, and although our snowfall was 20 percent below average, most ski areas would be excited to have a 432-inch season snowfall. We had new guests migrate to Alta and Alta Lodge, and we welcomed them to the pleasure of staying with us and skiing Alta. April 1 brought us a surprise “April Fool’s Day” powder storm that many said was their best ski day of the season. The summer wildflowers have been beautiful this year, and the monsoon rains have kept Alta green through August and September. On the morning of August 23, we awoke to a surprise—Alta’s upper slopes had received a coat of new snow, and Mt. Baldy was gleaming white in the morning sun. Just a little taste of the kind of Alta weather that we are already looking forward to for the winter!

**- Mimi, Marcus
& the Alta Lodge Family**

SPECIAL EVENT: JIM STEENBURGH BOOK SIGNING

DECEMBER 12

Alta Lodge guests will have an opportunity to hear author Jim Steenburgh talk about his recently published book, **Secrets of the Greatest Snow on Earth: Weather, Climate Change, and Finding Deep Powder in Utah’s Wasatch Mountains and Around the World**. Steenburgh is professor of atmospheric science at the University of Utah. An avid backcountry and resort skier, and creator of the popular blog Wasatch Weather Weenies, Jim is a leading authority on mountain weather and snowstorms, and led the award-winning numerical weather prediction team for the 2002 Salt Lake Olympic Winter Games. His research on snow, winter storms, and forecasting has been featured by The Weather Channel, *New York Times*, *USA Today*, and *Salt Lake Tribune*. Books will be available for purchase at this event.



Alta Lodge

News

Alta’s Traditional Mountain Lodge

Volume 1, Issue 9, 2014-2015

Alta Skiing Gets Better?

Alta is known for its thrilling terrain and deep powder snow – that’s no big secret. But did you know that Alta is also a great place to learn? It’s not just the exceptional snow quality, beautiful scenery and the Alf Engen Ski School – 25% of the trails at Alta are actually rated as beginner runs, and 40% intermediate. The beginner slopes and Sunnyside chairlift in Albion Basin are ideal for children and adults learning to ski, with the ski school conveniently located next to the Albion Day Lodge. Once beginner skiers have

gained confidence with their skiing skills and are ready for more challenging slopes, perfect intermediate runs are found from the Sugarloaf and Supreme lifts.

But how could Alta skiing get better? New this season for the Collins area is a revamped Corkscrew run that will have a much wider and more consistent slope from top to bottom. The project went through Forest Service NEPA analysis, which took 18 months. The State of Utah is actively engaged in reclamation of abandoned



August 23, 2014: Morning snowfall in Alta, and the new Corkscrew run is coming along nicely

mines, and Salt Lake City Water is engaged with efforts to ensure the water quality from the Little Cottonwood watershed. According to Alta Ski Area General Manager Onno Wieringa, “This project is a three-way win for all agencies and will hopefully be a nice improvement for Alta skiers, intermediates and experts alike.” He added, “We are excited about the outcome of having Corkscrew to become a more skier-friendly run, all or part of the Rustler cat track being able to be snowed in by mid-winter, and about the reclamation of the Nina’s Curve erosion gully with the overburden pile that used to sit between Corkscrew and Nina’s Curve.”

The big news for expert skiers is what Onno mentioned – once the cat road fills in with snow, High Rustler will no longer be traversed by two cat tracks, giving skiers one long sustained fall line run from the top of “High Boy” to the Collins base. We’re excited about the changes and we think these improvements are going to be welcomed by all Alta skiers.



Friends of Alta, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, is Alta's local land trust. The organization proactively acquires undeveloped privately owned land in Albion Basin for the preservation of open space to protect the vital watershed, wildlife habitat and scenic views.

Friends of Alta also works to preserve the integrity of the Town of Alta's zoning regulations in an effort to protect Alta's prized landscape and watershed. In February 2014, FOA filed suit against the Utah Division of Water Rights State Engineer, over his decision to transfer downstream water rights upstream—a decision that if left unchallenged could jeopardize the precious open spaces of Albion Basin.

As part of their Summer Stewardship Program, FOA and partners remove invasive plant species to protect Alta's spectacular wildflowers and native vegetation. Other stewardship efforts include restoration of native vegetation along with tree and seedling plantings. As part of an ongoing ecological assessment effort, FOA began a baseline survey of the breeding bird population in Alta this summer. The "Bill Levitt Fellow," Katie Vittti, has been tirelessly pulling invasive plant species as well as serving as a host for visitors to Albion Basin, providing information on the local environment and best practices for recreating in the watershed.

A donation to FOA is an investment in Alta's future. For more information and news, or to make a tax-deductible donation, please talk with Mimi Levitt or visit: friendsofalta.org.

ALTA IS FOR WOMEN WHO SKI!

Some of our most popular ski adventures have been the Alta Lodge women's camps, developed with Alta Ski Area as a way for women to combine their passion for Alta skiing with a fun getaway with the girls. Women have had such a great time at these camps that many of them come back every year with girlfriends or family. We have two camps scheduled for intermediate to advanced

skiers, and if you're an advanced to expert skier, we also have a women's camp especially for you. "Many women come back each season for the camps, and we are at a point where a lot of them are now ready for our advanced to expert ski camp," says Jen Scott, Special Programs Manager for Alta Ski School.

WOMEN'S SKI CAMPS

FOR INTERMEDIATE TO ADVANCED SKIERS JANUARY 22-26, 2015 & MARCH 8-12, 2015

Now in its eighth season, this popular ski camp grows every year with enthusiastic women skiers from across the country and around the world. Instructors from Alta's Alf Engen Ski School share the secrets of skiing Alta's legendary terrain and snow. Camaraderie in the Lodge includes après ski at the Sitzmark Club and group dining. The camp is for intermediate to advanced skiers. Our January camp always fills up before ski season begins. The March camp is a great time for spring skiing and longer daylight hours. Consider coming early to acclimate or staying longer for extra ski days.

"I thought the instruction was exceptional. All instructors were friendly, enthusiastic, supportive and fun to be around." —Martha F.

INCLUDES:

- four nights lodging, full breakfast and dinner daily
- three days of ski instruction and lift passes
- performance demo skis and boots
- tax and Lodge service charge
- yoga class (optional)

ARRIVE: January 22 / March 8

DEPART: January 26 / March 12

JANUARY RATES:

\$2,390 per person, double occupancy
\$3,011 single occupancy

MARCH RATES:

\$2,282 per person, double occupancy
\$2,870 single occupancy

Slope-facing and economy rooms are also available.



FOR ADVANCED TO EXPERT SKIERS FEBRUARY 8-12, 2015

Are you ready to take your skiing to the next level and ski more of Alta's famous terrain with increased confidence and flow? This camp is for advanced women skiers who:

- are already comfortable on all black runs, in most snow conditions
- enjoy venturing off-piste and into more advanced steeps and moguls
- have the fitness level that allows for a full day of skiing
- enjoy the camaraderie of other dedicated female skiers

Our top women guides will coach you for 3 days of challenge and fun in this smaller group setting.

INCLUDES:

- four nights lodging, full breakfast and dinner daily
- three days of ski coaching and lift passes
- performance demo skis and boots
- tax and Lodge service charge



ARRIVE: February 8

DEPART: February 12

RATES:

\$2,282 per person, double occupancy, standard room
\$2,870 single occupancy

Slope-facing and economy rooms are also available.



PERFORMANCE SKI CAMPS

DECEMBER 7-11, 2014
FEBRUARY 22-26, 2015
MARCH 22-26, 2015

These camps are for advanced-to-expert level skiers who want to take their skiing experience to a new level. Led by ski coaches Stephen Helffenbein and Dr. Collin Bywaters, skiers sharpen their all-mountain ski tactics and techniques on expert terrain. The camp takes a progressive approach to coaching skiers off the hill as well, instructing them in dry land training for better skiing fitness. The small group ratio, two coaches for eight participants, allows for individual attention to each skier.

Stephen and Collin have developed an innovative coaching system that builds all-mountain confidence and versatility. Goals include:

- reading the terrain and conditions for ideal line selection
- skiing an entire line without interruption
- learning how to use your skis in varying snow conditions
- using turn shape to attack the hill while maintaining speed control
- understanding how to attain the best skiing fitness

INCLUDES:

- four nights lodging, full breakfast and dinner daily
- three days ski coaching and lift passes
- dry land training sessions
- performance demo skis and boots
- tax and Lodge service charge
- yoga class (optional)

ARRIVE: December 7 / February 22 / March 22

DEPART: December 11 / February 26 / March 26

DECEMBER RATES:

- \$1,998 per person, double occupancy
- \$2,324 single occupancy

FEBRUARY & MARCH RATES:

- \$2,315 per person, double occupancy
- \$2,938 single occupancy

Slope-facing and economy rooms are also available.

SKI ADVENTURES

Chances are you have been part of one of our Ski Adventures... or at least daydreamed about it! We started with Powder Tracks twelve years ago, and since then have developed a number of different programs, each adding unique experiences for skiers. What sets them apart from other ski area programs are the lodging, meals, and camaraderie, and the coaching of experts from Alta's Alf Engen Ski School or Utah Mountain Adventures. Immerse yourself in one of these programs and take your skiing to a new level.

BACKCOUNTRY SKIING & SNOWBOARDING CLINIC JANUARY 4-8, 2015 & MARCH 29-APRIL 2, 2015

The Wasatch Mountains provide some of the best and most accessible backcountry skiing and snowboarding in the world. With guides from Utah Mountain Adventures, Alta Lodge is the launch point for two backcountry clinics. These clinics are aimed toward those who want to build their backcountry skills and experience the legendary snow of Little Cottonwood Canyon. Whether you are new to the backcountry or an experienced ski tourer, these clinics offer guided touring in the Wasatch, based from the comfort of the Lodge. Backcountry pack, beacon, probe and shovel are provided; touring skis or splitboard, climbing skins and boots are also available to rent. The program includes three guided days in the backcountry, as well as instruction on avalanche awareness, beacon rescue, safe route selection, efficient climbing skills, and downhill techniques. Weather and snow conditions will determine routes. Guide to client ratio is 1:3. Ability Level: intermediate to expert; should be able to ski or snowboard on ungroomed snow. Fitness: should exercise routinely.

Consider coming a day or two before the clinic to acclimate. Want more information? Visit altalodge.com "Ski Adventures" to view a video of



PHOTO: Tyson Bradley

backcountry skiing in the Wasatch Mountains and to see a gear list and itinerary.

INCLUDES:

- four nights lodging, full breakfast and dinner daily
- lunch on backcountry days
- three guided days in the backcountry with instruction
- tax and Lodge service charge
- yoga class (optional)

ARRIVE: January 4 / March 29

DEPART: January 8 / April 2

RATES:

- \$2,093 per person, double occupancy
 - \$2,681 single occupancy
- Slope-facing and economy rooms are also available.

POWDER TRACKS SKI CLINIC JANUARY 10-15, 2015

"Fabulous instructor and my skiing moved up several notches!" —Joan R.

"Instructors were excellent—on and off the snow." —Denise T.



PHOTO: Gregg Davis

Alta is known as a powder skier's paradise. If you have discovered that paradise and want to explore it all, Powder Tracks can help. Now in its thirteenth season, this successful program combines lodging and meals at Alta Lodge, off-

trail ski instruction from Alf Engen Ski School in Alta's legendary terrain, and demos of the newest powder skis from the Deep Powder House. Skiers meet the evening before the clinic begins for introductions and orientation, then spend the next four days building their skills and exploring the mountain. The clinic is for intermediate and advanced level skiers. The group meets for breakfast, après ski and dinner.

INCLUDES:

- five nights lodging, full breakfast and dinner daily
- four days of instruction and lift passes
- performance demo skis and boots
- tax and Lodge service charge
- yoga class (optional)

ARRIVE: January 10 DEPART: January 15

RATES:

- \$2,949 per person, double occupancy
- \$3,700 single occupancy

Slope-facing and economy rooms are also available.

CHEF'S CORNER

This is a dish for all seasons. We introduced it last winter as a breakfast special, and it quickly became a favorite ski fuel. This summer it debuted on our Sunday Brunch, and was equally popular with hikers, bikers and Sunday-paper-reading loungers. It has become a frequent request year round. This strata is a hearty, yet delicate bread pudding with kale, yams, and whatever bread you have on hand. We use sourdough rolls that absorb the delicious custard. Our Sous-Chef Dan Scott is obsessed with this dish. This is his favorite version.

YAM AND KALE STRATA

INGREDIENTS:

6 cups of bread cut into 1/2 inch cubes
1/2 quart Béchamel sauce, chilled (see ingredients below)
4-5 medium eggs, whipped
1-2 yams peeled, diced, cooked in boiling water until soft; chill
1 T chopped garlic
1/2 medium yellow onion thinly sliced
1-2 bunches kale thinly sliced without the stalk
1 1/2 c grated Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese

BÉCHAMEL SAUCE:

1/2 qt heavy cream
1/2 c roux: 1/4 c flour combined with 1/4 c melted unsalted butter, pinch of ground clove, pinch of salt
Bring cream, salt, and clove to simmer and thicken with roux until thick like paste. Reduce heat and stir constantly for 1 minute. Remove from heat and cool.

Preheat oven to 325 degrees

Sauté garlic, onions, and kale until cooked thoroughly; cool. Combine all ingredients in a large mixing bowl, reserving 3/4 cup of cheese for the topping. Place mixture into a greased 12"x10" 2" pan. Sprinkle remaining cheese on top. Cook for 30 to 40 minutes until the top is golden brown. Allow to rest for five minutes before cutting.

—CHEF **Sam Wolfe**

MORE SKI ADVENTURES

If you would like to try additional ski adventures on your own, our Reservations staff or Manager on Duty can assist you with making arrangements. Ski adventures are always dependent on weather and snow conditions!

INTERCONNECT TOUR

Ski Utah offers the advanced skier a unique opportunity to ski as many as five resorts in a single day. Guides lead skiers through the spectacular backcountry of the Wasatch mountain range as well as several runs in the ski resorts. A four-area tour begins at Snowbird and includes Snowbird, Alta, Brighton and Solitude. This tour is not for the faint of heart! The trip requires some walking and traversing, and the ability to ski in off-trail snow conditions. The tour operates from mid-December through mid-April, conditions and weather permitting. More information: skiutah.com

WASATCH POWDERBIRD GUIDES

Experience the dream of a lifetime with helicopter skiing and snowboarding in the scenic backcountry of the Wasatch Mountain range. Prices vary depending on time of year and number of skiers. More information: powderbird.com

SNOW CAT SKIING

Alta Ski Area offers a unique skiing adventure of guided off-trail skiing on those superb powder days in Grizzly Gulch Bowl, located above Alta. A special snowcat with heated cabin takes skiers to an elevation of 10,500 feet. Your playground is 375 acres of incredible bowl skiing, dropping to an elevation of 9,000 feet. Prices are \$325 per person for five runs. Call Alta's Alf Engen Ski School at 801-799-2271 for information and reservations; or visit alta.com.

UTAH MOUNTAIN ADVENTURES

Experienced ski and mountain guides are available for alpine ski tours in Utah's spectacular backcountry or for climbing the frozen waterfalls of the Wasatch. Instruction and guided activities are offered to individuals and groups of all levels of physical ability. More information: utahmountainadventures.com

EMPLOYEE PROFILE: GREGG DAVIS



As it happens with so many people, Gregg and his wife Sheridan came for "one season" in Alta. It was the winter of 2001-2002, and after that first season, they came to the realization it was time for a lifestyle change. They sold their 1854 farmhouse in Vermont, moved to Utah and found jobs in Alta. Gregg has worked at Alta Lodge since 2002, and has been Dining Room Manager since 2004. He brought with him extensive experience running restaurants in Michigan and Vermont.

His top three passions are skiing, mountain biking and wine, and he and Sheridan pursue those activities all over the world. They've skied in April in Alaska, and on the volcanoes in Oregon. They combine mountain biking and Shakespeare festivals, in Ashland, Oregon in the spring and Cedar City, Utah in the fall. Gregg says that in three years he and Sheridan will have completed the full canon, having seen all of Shakespeare's plays. To do "research work" for the dining room wine selection, they have gone to different wine producing regions in the United States, New Zealand and South Africa. Next year they'll check out Malbecs in Chile and Argentina. Gregg also learned to scuba dive in 2011, which has led to annual dive trips to Mexico in May. "Wildflowers are the best part of summer in Alta," says Gregg, and he is on a mission to identify as many as possible, guided by the *Flora of the Wasatch* app. It's a great way of life, due in part to standby airline benefits and a caretaking residence at Alta, as well as the pleasure of working at Alta Lodge.

NAOMI WAIN ALTA LEGEND



If you are a regular Alta Lodge guest, chances are you have met Naomi Wain. Naomi lives in Santa Barbara and comes to Alta every month of the ski season, for two weeks at a time. Naomi discovered skiing at the age of 40, and she was instantly hooked. Her love for skiing led her to Alta to learn how to ski powder with the famed instructor Eddie Morris. When her husband Jack was busy working, he encouraged her to venture to Alta Lodge on her own, saying, "You are never really alone when you stay at Alta Lodge". Jack was also a dedicated skier, and they both participated in the NASTAR ski racing competition. Naomi pursued NASTAR racing through the age of 90. At the NASTAR National Championships in 2012, Olympic gold medalist Picabo Street presented Naomi with the Pauline Arias award, for "the senior lady who exemplifies the love and passion Pauline had for NASTAR racing." Naomi says, "If a course opens on the Alta Race Hill any Friday or Saturday, I'll be there—but it needs good snow. The one time this year I turned up when it was open, only those under 10 years old were allowed. Perhaps next season I can try again!" Most mornings, Naomi is in line at 9:15 am when the Collins lift opens—and she is frequently on the first chair. Last season she skied 53 days, took 256 lift rides and skied 370,039 vertical feet. 2014-2015 will mark 50 years that Naomi has been staying with us at Alta Lodge, and it always brightens our day to see Naomi walk through the door.

SUMMER in ALTA

We love summers in Alta! With over 200 varieties of wildflowers, mountain lakes, starry nights and beautiful days, what's not to like? The mountains surrounding Alta provide a vast array of hiking trails and numerous spots for rock climbing, either on your own or with a guide. Ambitious mountain bikers have access to challenging terrain, and road bikers test their strength with a steady climb up Little Cottonwood Canyon. Alta Lodge is the perfect overnight summer lodging in Alta, whether for a wedding or a conference, or just to unwind from a busy summer and catch up on reading or take a hike.



PHOTO: Scott Lommele

CONFERENCES, MEETINGS & RETREATS

Imagine your next meeting in a mountain setting with natural light, fresh air and incredible views. We host nonprofits, academic institutions, national and local businesses, seminars and more, with group sizes from 10 to 80 people. Groups can book the entire lodge for an exclusive re-

treat including meals, meeting space and lodging. We can arrange for guided activities such as hiking, photography, rock climbing and yoga. Our attention to detail and the beautiful location make Alta Lodge an ideal place for meetings and retreats from June through October.

WEDDINGS

Beautiful weddings in a spectacular mountain setting are especially romantic and unforgettable at Alta Lodge. The intimate and private setting, combined with easy access from Salt Lake City International Airport, make the Lodge an easy choice for weddings. A Friday night rehearsal dinner, Saturday lunch, and Sunday Brunch are great additions for a festive weekend. Our on-site wedding coordinator helps plan and host the rehearsal dinner, ceremony and reception from start to finish. A complimentary wedding night stay is included for the bride and groom, and special lodging rates apply for wedding guests.



PHOTO: Erin Kate

PRIVATE PARTIES

Alta Lodge customizes every private party to the needs of the event. Family reunions, business dinners, wine pairing dinners, and engagement and anniversary parties are just some of the private events hosted at the Lodge. If you have a special event coming up, our dining, service and setting will make it memorable.

For weddings, meetings,
and private parties,

Contact:
Rosie O'Grady
at 801-742-3500
or rosie@altalodge.com.

OUR FAVORITE ALTA RUNS

Alta has so many great runs that picking a favorite is never easy. Some of Alta's best steep runs take a little hiking to get to... and the others take a little more hiking! If off trail skiing is not your thing, the Alta cat crew know how to smooth out a run for perfectly carved turns. Springtime corn snow skiing is also a special treat. We've gathered some favorite runs of our staff—some may be favorites of yours as well.

Marcus: *Yellow Trail from the top and through the willows south of Susie's to the bottom.* "I was in the right place at the right time several times last year to make this run mostly untracked. It's a little exercise/earn your turns' to the traverse at the top of Yellow Trail and picking a line through obstacles to get out at the bottom."

Mimi: *Across Ballroom to Sign-line, thence down Main Street to High Meadow to Lower Rustler.* Of course, it would depend on the conditions..."

Cliff: *Eddie's.* "The Eddie's rock crossing with (or without) the ropeline, followed by the booter to the top, is an Alta rite of passage. It's rated R... or NC-17 in firm conditions. Whether you take the top entry or the PG-13 entry through the Rosso Gate, Eddie's is one of the purest steep lines in Alta. No

matter how many times you've seen this movie, it always seems to hold the best snow on the mountain."

Sam: *"Gunsight is my favorite Alta run.* It is a big fat trough that seems to catch and preserve whatever snow is available. It features multiple aspects, nooks, and pokes that offer day long freshies. I even like the little side step up to the top, staying high skier's left and swooping in fast. After all that fun, you get your choice of North Russ, the Nest, or Rustler 4. What could be better? Fortunately many of my ski buds do not share my stoke. Patroller Andrew McCloskey dismisses my fave as less vert, more hike. Good."

Jamie: *"I really like up Catherine Pass, over to Brighton and back to Alta via Twin Lakes Pass.* There are lots of frozen lakes and good views along the way. For something shorter, I like over to Fantasy Ridge via Grizzly Gulch and that pass to Silver Fork. Fantasy Ridge provides great views and a good place to sit and have a snack! It sees very little traffic too."

Joni: *"Gunsight—beautiful views on the way there and then a long, fall line pitch."*

Got a favorite Alta run? We would love to hear about it—post it on our Facebook page and tell us why it's your favorite.



Thank you to our guests for your gracious comments on TripAdvisor about how much you enjoy staying with us. "Alta Lodge is pleased to receive our third consecutive TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence," said Marcus Dippo, Alta Lodge CEO. "Our staff strives to offer our guests a gracious personal lodging and dining experience, and this is recognition that our consistent efforts are appreciated by both new and returning guests, winter and summer."

altalodge.com
801-742-3500
Reservations:
800-707-2582