

Alta Lodge News

Alta's Traditional Mountain Lodge

2016-2017

PLANNING for the FUTURE OF ALTA

One thing we know about the future is that it always seems to be here before you know it. Planning for the future in Alta is underway with *Alta Ski Area*, the *Town of Alta* and *Mountain Accord*, as well as a proposal for an *Alta Land Exchange*. Salt Lake Valley's growth is rapid, and the interest in outdoor recreation is placing greater demands on our natural environment and resources. Our community needs to plan for growth, while maintaining the environment, quality of life and recreational experiences offered in the Wasatch. There are several planning initiatives happening now, all offering opportunity for public comment and involvement at some phase in the process.

Alta Ski Area is located in the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, and operates by permit on US

Forest Service lands. Alta released its *Master Development Plan* (MDP) Update in 2015. The MDP identified twelve projects for the next five years. The most controversial proposed projects are a tram from Germania Pass to the top of Mt. Baldy, and a new lift from the bottom of the Sugarbowl run to the top of Collins lift. The MDP is currently going through the National Environment Policy Act (NEPA) review process. For more information, please see the Forest Service project pages at tinyurl.com/jva7s5f.

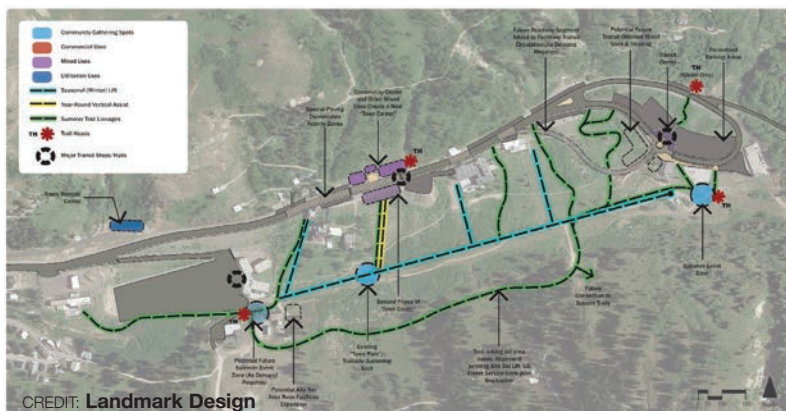
The **Town of Alta** is working on a conceptual land use and transportation plan for the "commercial core" of Alta, which extends from the Peruvian Lodge on the west to the Albion Base on the east. This project takes inspiration from over a decade of planning and visioning

activities in the Alta community, many of which reflect a desire to enhance Alta's year-round economy, pedestrian connectivity, and public spaces, while respecting the unique character of Alta and preserving Alta's environmental quality. Please visit ldi-ut.com/alta to see the draft plan.

Mountain Accord is a joint project of local, state and federal agencies, ski areas and conservation groups, working toward transportation and land use solutions for the Central Wasatch Mountains. Mountain Accord is a public process aimed at addressing immediate concerns, preserving the mountains for future generations, and realizing a long-term vision for the future. Now in its third year and Phase II of the project, efforts are focusing on land preservation and transportation solutions. More information is at mountainaccord.com.

The **Alta Land Exchange** is a proposal by Alta Ski Area for a land swap with the Forest Service granting Alta Ski Area private ownership of a substantial amount of land in Alta's base area, which is currently owned by the American people. Any proposed land exchange would be subject to review and approval under NEPA, which requires a process of public involvement. More information can be found at mountainaccord.com.

All of these planning efforts can have important effects on the Alta skiing experience. We encourage all who care about Alta to learn more about these initiatives and to make your ideas known. Our hope is that the outcomes of these planning processes will result in long-term preservation of the skiing experience for Alta skiers and guests, while maintaining the quality of the environment in Little Cottonwood Canyon. While you are at the Lodge, please feel free to talk with Mimi, Marcus or Cliff to learn more and share your ideas about these planning efforts and proposals.



Draft Alta Commercial Core Plan



Proposed tram from Germania Pass to top of Mt. Baldy



PHOTO: Grant Nakamura

PERFORMANCE SKI CAMPS

DECEMBER 4-8, 2016
FEBRUARY 12-16, 2017
APRIL 1-5, 2017

The Alta Performance Ski camp is for advanced to expert skiers wanting to be challenged with off trail skiing, steeper slopes and fall line skiing. The coaching style takes a progressive approach to all-mountain skiing both on the snow with tactics and techniques as well as off the snow with video analysis, dryland training and presentations. The natural variations in mountain and weather conditions throughout the season will always offer unique challenges to take your skiing to the next level. Sign up for one camp or all three!

MINIMUM ABILITY LEVEL:
Advanced-Expert skiers.

INCLUDES:

- four nights lodging, full breakfast and dinner daily (lunch is additional)
- three days of ski coaching and lift passes
- high end demo skis
- morning yoga (optional)
- tax and Lodge service charge

ARRIVE: December 4 / February 12 / April 1

DEPART: December 8 / February 16 / April 5

RATES:

December \$2,366 / February \$2,665 / April \$2,463 per person, double occupancy, standard room

December \$2,673 / February \$3,271 / April \$2,867 single occupancy, standard room

Slope-facing and economy rooms are also available.

SKI ADVENTURES

This season, have a ski experience like no other by joining a Ski Adventure at Alta Lodge. Take your skiing to the next level with one of these special programs. All of the Ski Adventures combine the comforts of your stay at Alta Lodge with top level coaches/instructors from Alta's Alf Engen Ski School, lift passes, demo skis, and the camaraderie of other skiers. These camps fill up fast as many of our guests return year after year, so sign up early to save your place.

December 4-8 – **Performance Ski Camp**

January 7-12 – **Powder Tracks**

January 19-23 – **Women's Ski Camp for Intermediate to Advanced Skiers**

February 5-9 – **Women's Ski Camp for Advanced to Expert Skiers**

February 12-16 – **Performance Ski Camp**

March 5-9 & March 12-16 – **Women's Ski Camp for Intermediate to Advanced Skiers**

April 1-5 – **Performance Ski Camp**

POWDER TRACKS SKI CLINIC

JANUARY 7-12



PHOTO: John Shafer

Powder Tracks is our signature off-trail skiing program. Guided and coached by a team of outstanding instructors from Alta's Alf Engen Ski School, we have been sharing our love for Alta's legendary powder skiing with Powder Tracks skiers for 14 seasons.

For intermediate and advanced skiers who long to ski powder snow (for the first time or as an advanced skier with more skill and ease),

your instructors will guide you in all mountain and fundamental skiing skills to enjoy Alta's famous snow and terrain. Guests who have participated in the Powder Tracks program are now among Alta's powder addicts. If learning to ski powder is on your list, consider joining us this season.

MINIMUM ABILITY LEVEL: Able to confidently ski groomed Blue/More Difficult terrain, making consistent parallel turns and pole plants. Ready and excited for an introduction to off-trail skiing!

INCLUDES:

- five nights lodging, full breakfast and dinner daily
- lunch on ski days 1-3
- four days of ski instruction and lift passes
- high end demo skis (boots available, if needed)
- morning yoga (optional)
- tax and Lodge service charge

ARRIVE: January 7 **DEPART:** January 12

RATES:

\$3,325 per person, double occupancy, standard room

\$4,112 single occupancy, standard room

Slope-facing and economy rooms are also available.

PERFORMANCE CAMP HEAD COACH STEPHEN HELFENBEIN

**selected to Professional Ski Instructors of America (PSIA)
National Alpine Team**



The PSIA National Team is a very select group of instructors who are responsible for 'training the trainers,' and educating all other certified ski instructors on and off the snow. Stephen participated in the national selection process in April with other PSIA members, and was one of 14 individuals named to the team after a multi-day event in Breckenridge, Colorado. Stephen's term on the team is four years. The rigorous selection process involves extensive ski demonstrations, teaching clinics, presentations and testing. We congratulate Stephen on this major accomplishment!



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 (FOA) 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. As part of their Summer Stewardship Program, FOA and partners remove invasive plant species and plant trees to protect Alta's spectacular wildflowers and native vegetation. As part of an ongoing ecological assessment effort, FOA is a lead partner in the Alta Bird Survey program, and works with the University of Wisconsin-Parkside on a wetland study. This summer's Bill Levitt Fellow, Shelby Sly (attending University of Utah and pursuing degrees in Environmental and Sustainability Studies and Geography), has been tirelessly pulling invasive plant species, tabling at various events, conducting vegetation surveys, and serving as an Alta Summer Host, providing information on the local environment and best practices for recreating in the watershed.

FOA is excited to announce that Utah Representative Jason Chaffetz is presenting to Congress legislation to enact the Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area Act (CWNCRRA). The proposed legislation would accomplish a great deal for the Central Wasatch, of which Alta is a part. While placing protections on approximately 80,000 acres of our USFS lands, and adding 8,000 acres of new wilderness, it also establishes the White Pine Special Management Area, authorizes evaluation of the Albion Basin Special Botanical Area, directs wilderness boundary adjustments for transit infrastructure improvements in Little Cottonwood Canyon, and authorizes the USFS to conduct NEPA analysis on proposed land exchanges between the USFS and four Cottonwood Canyon ski areas, including Alta. Full engagement in the proposed Alta land swap is a top priority for FOA.

This legislation is an outcome of the Mountain Accord program. FOA has been a dedicated stakeholder attending meetings, writing letters, working closely with like-minded organizations, and finding common ground with not so obvious stakeholders all in the name of conserving and enhancing what makes the Central Wasatch so great! FOA want to thank all the various stakeholders in making this effort possible.

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.

DEAR FRIENDS

As we go to press, there is a cold front moving in with significant snowfall in the forecast.

We had more powder days last winter than we can remember, and winter was still with us well into spring, with a 100-inch base in mid-May! Our locker room upgrade has been a big hit, and guests are also happy with the new Lodge Hill tow, with poma style seats and handles.

Following the most recent challenge by snowboarders in the 10th Circuit US Court of Appeals, the court's ruling

determined that Alta still remains a "skiers only" mountain, and we don't expect that will change. Alta remains Alta, and we're glad for it.

The lifts will start running on November 18 and will continue through Easter Sunday, April 16, 2017. We look forward to seeing you this season!

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

WOMEN'S SKI CAMPS

FOR INTERMEDIATE TO ADVANCED SKIERS

JANUARY 19-23, MARCH 5-9 & MARCH 12-16

We are in our tenth season of hosting women's specific ski camps, and they continue to grow in participation each year. The camaraderie generated through these programs has built lasting friendships on and off the snow. Whether you are a solid intermediate skier excited for an introduction to off-trail skiing or a more advanced skier who is looking to improve skills on Alta's legendary terrain, the Intermediate-Advanced Women's camp is an outstanding program to improve your skiing in a fun and supportive environment with other women skiers. "Really enjoyed the friendliness of all staff and feeling at home at the lodge with all the participants and instructors." *-Ramona 2016*

MINIMUM ABILITY LEVEL:

Able to confidently ski groomed Blue/More Difficult terrain, making consistent parallel turns and pole plant. Ready and excited for an introduction to off-trail skiing!

INCLUDES:

- four nights lodging, full breakfast and dinner daily
- lunch on ski days 1 & 2
- three days of ski instruction and lift passes
- high end demo skis (boots available, if needed)
- morning yoga (optional)
- tax and Lodge service charge

ARRIVE: January 19 / March 5 / March 12

DEPART: January 23 / March 9 / March 16

JANUARY RATES:

\$2,819 per person, double occupancy, standard room
\$3,484 single occupancy, standard room
Slope-facing and economy rooms are also available.

MARCH RATES:

\$2,760 per person, double occupancy, standard room
\$3,366 single occupancy, standard room
Slope-facing and economy rooms are also available.



PHOTO: John Shafer

FOR ADVANCED TO EXPERT SKIERS

FEBRUARY 5-9

We have been taking it to the next level with the Advanced-Expert Women's camp for over five years. The goal of this program is to support "all mountain" female skiers who possess strong mountain and skiing skills to further enjoy Alta's famous terrain and many snow condi-

tions. Enjoy the camaraderie of other dedicated female skiers while top instructors coach you for three days of challenge and fun in a smaller group setting.

MINIMUM ABILITY LEVEL:

Skiing groomed Black/Most Difficult terrain with confidence, and some experience in ungroomed snow, moguls and off-trail. Ready for more challenges and varied terrain.

INCLUDES:

- four nights lodging, full breakfast and dinner daily
- lunch on ski days 1 & 2
- three days of ski instruction and lift passes
- high end demo skis (boots available, if needed)
- morning yoga (optional)
- tax and Lodge service charge

ARRIVE: Sunday, February 5

DEPART: Thursday, February 9

RATES:

\$2,760 per person, double occupancy, standard room
\$3,366 single occupancy, standard room
Slope-facing and economy rooms are also available.



PHOTO: John Shafer

CHEF'S CORNER

SALMON *with* PONZU SAUCE

Salmon Ponzu is one of our most popular dishes in both our winter and summer seasons. It is a requested recipe year-round and overdue for a Newsletter close-up. We use wild caught or responsibly farmed salmon; either option works well. Our secret is a quick teriyaki style marinade and then cooking on a charcoal or gas grill.

MARINADE:

- 1 cup tamari/soy sauce
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 T chopped garlic
- 1/2 cup chopped scallions

Mix well. Taste; if it is too salty you can add a little water. Marinate the salmon for as little as an hour.

PONZU SAUCE:

Ponzu is a traditional Japanese dipping sauce. You can find pre-made versions, but it is easy to make and tastes much better than store bought.

- 1 cup mirin (Japanese rice wine, available in most markets)
- 1/4 cup tamari/soy sauce
- 3T lemon juice

Reduce the mirin by one-third on medium heat. After it has thickened slightly whisk in the Tamari/Soy and the lemon juice. Traditionally it includes a few crushed red pepper flakes – up to you. It can be served hot or cold.

SALMON:

- 1 lb. wild or responsibly farmed salmon, cut into 4 oz. filets, marinate 1 hour.

Pat the filets dry after they come out of the marinade, treat your grill with a non-stick spray, and cook filets on a hot grill.

It is very handy to use a long tonged carving fork or a thin fish spatula to turn the fish. The first few filets may want to stick to the grill. We like to rotate the fish twice on each side for nice grill marks, and then turn after about 4 minutes. Repeat the turns and cook 4 more minutes. The fish is ready when a sharp knife or carving fork slides without resistance through the thickest part of the filet.

I like to serve the grilled filets over mixed greens with some julienned carrots to garnish the top. Any rice or grain makes a great accompaniment. Generously spoon the Ponzu over the salmon. Happiness ensues.

–Chef **Sam Wolfe**

ALTA LODGE SKI WEEK

When was the last time you took a one-week vacation? A full week of skiing in Alta is a vacation you will long remember. Relax, settle into the comforts of the Lodge, and get to know Alta like a local – ski, eat, sleep, repeat. Planning your dream ski vacation couldn't get any easier – book your flights, pack your bags, and leave the rest to us. Our ski week package includes lodging, full breakfast, and dinner daily, along with round-trip airport shuttle, lift tickets, and demo ski rentals. Truly an effortless way to “live the dream.”

Contact Alta Lodge reservations for availability and pricing on your preferred dates.

THANKSGIVING SKIING AT ALTA

Get an early start on the ski season during Thanksgiving weekend! Not only will you beat the crowds, but you'll also get your legs in skiing shape quickly for the rest of the season. This year, relax and spend Thanksgiving with us and on the ski slopes; don't shop, cook, or do any dishes... all weekend long!

Book any four nights over Thanksgiving weekend, and kids ages 12 and under stay and eat free.

- four nights lodging standard room
- full breakfast daily
- Thanksgiving dinner, and full dinner nightly
- tax and Lodge service charge

RATE:

\$900 per person (adult), double occupancy, in a standard room. Two kids ages 12 and under stay free in their parents' room during early season. Other room types are available.

GET READY TO SKI!

JUMP START YOUR SEASON WITH ALTA'S TWO-DAY WORKSHOP

DECEMBER 10 & 11

Here's a great way to tune up your skiing skills at the beginning of the ski season. This early season workshop is designed for strong intermediate and advanced skiers to ramp up their skills quickly. The coaches from Alta's Alf Engen Ski School will help you identify the fundamental skills to ski smoother, with more control and confidence, every day and any day. You'll be on the snow from 9:30 to 12:30, break for lunch and then back on snow from 1:30 to 3:30.

With Alta Lodge early season lodging rates, Jump Start is the perfect reason for the first ski trip of the season. Consider arriving before the weekend of Jump Start to acclimate, and extending your stay afterwards to practice newly improved skills on the mountain.

WORKSHOP PRICE: \$500 for two full days of ski instruction. Does not include lodging, lift pass, or lunch. Please contact Alta Ski School for questions or to sign up: 801-799-2271 or skischool@alta.com.

STAFF PROFILE: CATIE ROBINSON



Catie grew up in Michigan, and her introduction to Alta came as a young child when her family visited Utah every spring. After college at the University of Vermont, where she graduated in 2013 with a degree in history and statistics, Catie returned to Alta – the place that “most feels like home to

me” – and began working in Kids' Club at the Lodge.

Catie has managed Kids' Club since 2014. She says, “As manager of Kids' Club, I help both the parents and the kids enjoy their ski vacation. After Kids' Dinner, the kids are occupied with movies and other activities, and parents are able to relax in the Dining Room with a great meal. Usually, when I have had an awesome day of skiing powder, kids from around the US and the world have had just as amazing day too, and it's pretty great to talk with them about it and get excited for another day of skiing.”

Catie also enjoys serving guests in the Dining Room and the Alta Lodge “no-kids” club, the Sitzmark. For Catie, the best part of being in the canyon is skiing out the door. “I especially like it when the lifts are closed, it's snowing hard and it's very quiet. If I am outside, it feels like being wrapped in big comforter,” said Catie. “Last winter I had a milestone event when I hiked Baldy and skied the High Shoulder,” she said. “I never thought I would be able to do something like that, and there I was – it was really great!”

GUEST PROFILE: JO BLUM and PETER DAVIS



Jo and Peter first came to Alta in the 1980s, and have been Alta Lodge guests since the early 1990s. "When we walked into the Lodge, we thought, this is our kind of place – no cooking, great food, convenient and easy to ski from," said Jo. "When you look at Baldy and Superior, it hits the reset button and you really do feel like you are getting away from it all."

As Alta regulars, Jo and Peter come three times a year from Boston, and both have season passes. You'll recognize Peter by the trademark top hat he wears in all types of weather conditions, using a "stampede strap" to keep the hat in place when the wind picks up. Jo and Peter met through the Appalachian Mountain Club. Jo wasn't a skier then, but when she watched Peter ski from the day lodge, she thought it looked like so much fun that she had to learn. She has been skiing ever since.



Jo's favorite runs are the Backside (when the snow is good) and Catherine's Area. Peter likes skiing under the lift at the top of Collins. When powder hasn't graced the slopes, they both say the groomed runs and sunshine are wonderful. They are supporters of Friends of Alta and have been part of fundraising events in Boston.

Back home in Massachusetts, Peter practices law. Jo has retired from her career as a legislative and political strategist, and stays active with running, walking and visits to the gym. During summer season, they visit the Canadian Rockies, Switzerland, and Austria, where they follow a passion for hiking.

ALTA in APRIL

Join us in April, when the Alta community hosts a variety of events for spring skiing fun in the mountains. Get a sneak peek and make some turns in next season's skis from dozens of manufacturers at the annual free demo day. The Alta Gala is held at La Caille restaurant and supports Alta's three non-profits: Friends of Alta, the Alta Historical Society and Alta Community Enrichment. Alta Lodge celebrates spring with Kids Stay Free, starting April 2 (two kids ages 12 & under staying in their parents' room, meals included) spring mountain picnics, and après ski receptions with wine and appetizers for Lodge guests. Don't miss the whacky last weekend events with costumed skiers and Alta's Frank World Classic—a day of skiing silliness below the Wildcat chair. It's an outrageous spectator event that brings out the crowds.



PHOTO: John Shafer

SUMMER SEASON in ALTA

The things that make Alta such a great place to ski also make it a beautiful place to be in the summer. The high alpine setting is abundant with wildflowers from mid-June through August. Around Alta, popular hiking trails include Catherine Pass, Cecret Lake, Cardiff Pass and Twin Lakes Pass. A few miles down the canyon, trails accessed from the White Pine trailhead include hikes to White Pine, Red Pine and Maybird Lakes. For the more skilled and adventurous hiker, there is the hike to the Pfeifferhorn. Near the base of the canyon there is rock climbing—both bouldering and numerous multi-pitch climbs on classic clean granite. Mountain biking is also becoming more popular in the canyon, with trails in Albion Basin and Snowbird. Lodging during summer season begins at \$99 per night and includes continental breakfast.



PHOTO: Scott Lommele

WEDDINGS, CONFERENCES, RETREATS and PARTIES

The mountain backdrop at Alta Lodge is a spectacular setting for summer gatherings. Enjoy the clear, cool mountain air, natural lighting, delicious food and outstanding service, along with detailed event coordination offered by Alta Lodge. Unwind, get a restful sleep and awaken in the mountains for your group event. Contact Rosie O'Grady at rosie@altalodge.com or 801-742-3500 to discuss planning your special event. "Our guests raved about how easy it all was, how delicious the food was, how beautiful the place is, and about what a nice time they had."

- Ruth and John



PHOTO: Bobbi Tolman

SAVE ON ALTA LIFT TICKETS

If you plan to ski Alta for 10 or more days this coming winter, consider the "Pay As You Go" Alta Gold Card. Purchase the Gold Card for \$259 and receive 50% off the daily window rate for any ticket type you ski. Your credit card is attached to the pass and charged the evening after your day of skiing. The Gold Card is personalized with your picture and is non-transferable.

Find more ticket and pass options at Alta.com



FAREWELL TO BRIAN LOHNES

At the end of the ski season, we said goodbye to long-time employee Brian Lohnes. Brian and his wife Kate, who first met while working at the Lodge, have moved with their two children to Eden Prairie, Minnesota. Brian first came to Alta Lodge in 1994, when he began working at the front desk, and became a long-time Manager on Duty at the Lodge. Over the years Brian made friendships with many guests whom he will miss seeing on their regular visits to the Lodge. We wish Brian and his family all the best, and we are excited for them to make Alta Lodge ski vacations part of their family tradition. Alta Lodge President and General Manager Cliff Curry said, "Brian has exemplified the commitment to guest service and the genuine caring for our guests that's at the heart of the Lodge."



For the fifth year in row, Alta Lodge has been awarded a Certificate of Excellence by TripAdvisor. "We are happy to be recognized again with a Certificate of Excellence," said Cliff. "The most important thing we look for in our TripAdvisor reviews is the recognition of our service, caring and genuine friendliness. We strive to make our guests' experience in the Lodge effortless, so our great food, warm atmosphere and ski-in, ski-out location shine through." Share your Alta Lodge experience with other travelers using the TripAdvisor link at altalodge.com.

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