



# Alta Lodge News

Alta's Traditional Mountain Lodge

Volume 1, Issue 10, 2015-2016

## CELEBRATING 75 YEARS as Alta's First Ski Hotel

Alta Lodge opened its doors to guests on November 29, 1940. The Lodge was dedicated on April 26, 1941, at a ceremony where keynote speaker William J. O'Connor called the Lodge "a monument to the progressive and community spirit of the Rio Grande Railroad" and predicted that Alta Lodge would "play a vital part in the development of Alta and Salt Lake City as the skiing capital of the country."

When guests came to stay at Alta Lodge in 1940, there were 12 rooms, the Sitzmark Bar and a dining room. The single chair Collins lift served skiers for 25 cents per ride. "Margie of the Wasatch" was

filmed at Alta and Alta Lodge during the 1940s as a promotional film for skiing in Utah. In 1949, the waitresses wore dirndl skirts with blouses, bobby socks and saddle shoes. As Alta grew over the years, so did Alta Lodge. After Bill Levitt bought the Lodge in 1959, he hired architect John Sugden to design a new guest room addition. With a bold, modern design that integrated steel and glass, 22 rooms were added to the Lodge. In 1968, another addition was made, with 24 more guest rooms. Today the Lodge comprises the original building, the middle wing and east wing, the pools building, outside decks and a modern lobby, as well as an expanded dining room and kitchen.



## THEN and NOW

"Since 1940, Alta Lodge has been an ongoing full-service Lodge," according to Alta Historical Society President David Davenport. "When it opened, it was the epicenter of the social culture at Alta. The love of skiing, powder and après ski were all aspects of a tradition where the focus was skiing. The Levitt family, who own and operate the Lodge, are dedicated to the traditional lodge style, which exemplifies an approach to skiing that gained its roots in Europe and New England—breakfast and dinner included with stay, no televisions, a common dining area and an opportunity for communal social engagement between guests. This tradition is what brings three and four generations of families back to the Lodge with their own tradition of a skiing lifestyle."

Mimi Levitt recalls her first winter at Alta Lodge. "I drove quickly in three days from New York City to Alta, arriving in the middle of a blizzard in January of 1966. There was a sign at the

bottom of the canyon indicating eight miles up to Alta. After what seemed to be hours, I finally arrived." She adds her initial impression of the Lodge was "warm and cozy"; all dining room tables were "group tables". "Lodge life then was fairly similar to lodge life today. The family atmosphere at the lodge was so comfortable, both for employees and for guests."

Alta Lodge CEO Marcus Dippo came to the Lodge on August 12, 1978 from Wisconsin, and two days later, there was four inches of new

snow on the ground. Over the years Marcus has been a handyman, dining room manager, summer marketing and sales manager, general manager and bookkeeper. He's been CEO of the Lodge since 2005, and has overseen wireless implementation, lobby and Deck Room renovations, summer landscaping, online booking and "managing change at the Lodge." Marcus says, "The Lodge is a legacy for all of us, and we try to keep up with change as necessary for our guests and staff. Our staff feels like the Alta Lodge family, and we try to maintain the long history of keeping guests and employees happy."

William F. Buckley, Jr. recounted his 17-year annual tradition of staying at Alta Lodge with Milton Freedman and Bill Tilden, in the November 1994 issue of Skiing Magazine. "What is life like at Alta and Alta Lodge? Absolutely unregimented. At Alta, you do as you like."

Whether you've been a guest at Alta Lodge for fifty years or just one year, we hope your skiing tradition at Alta Lodge continues, and that when you return, "it feels like home."





## PERFORMANCE SKI CAMPS

**DECEMBER 6-10, 2015**

**FEBRUARY 21-25, 2016**

**APRIL 3-7, 2016**

These camps are for advanced-to-expert level skiers who want to take their skiing experience at Alta and Snowbird to a new level. Led by ski coaches Stephen Helfenbein 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. The camp is designed for advanced skiers seeking to move to the next level. 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 6 / February 21 / April 2

DEPART: December 10 / February 25 / April 6

### DECEMBER RATES:

\$2,095 per person, double occupancy  
\$2,405 single occupancy

### FEBRUARY RATES:

\$2,379 per person, double occupancy  
\$2,972 single occupancy

### APRIL RATES:

\$2,227 per person, double occupancy  
\$2,669 single occupancy

Slope-facing and economy rooms are also available.

# SKI ADVENTURES

This season, have a ski experience like no other by joining one of our Ski Adventures. These special programs combine instructors and coaches from the Alf Engen Ski School, lodging, meals, demo skis and the camaraderie of other skiers. Many of our guests return each season for these programs. Many of our Ski Adventures fill up fast, so please book a reservation soon to save your place.

## 2015-2016 SKI ADVENTURES:

December 6-10 – **Performance Ski Camp**

January 9-14 – **Powder Tracks**

January 21-25 – **Women's Ski Camp For Intermediate To Advanced Skiers**

February 7-11 – **Women's Ski Camp For Advanced To Expert Skiers**

February 21-25 – **Performance Ski Camp**

March 6-10 – **Women's Ski Camp For Intermediate To Advanced Skiers**

April 3-7 – **Performance Ski Camp**

## POWDER TRACKS SKI CLINIC

**JANUARY 9-14, 2016**

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

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



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 you do it. Now in its fourteenth season, the suc-

cessful 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 • two buffet lunches
- tax and Lodge service charge • yoga class (optional)

ARRIVE: January 9 DEPART: January 14

### RATES:

\$ 3,162 per person, double occupancy  
\$ 3,929 single occupancy

Slope-facing and economy rooms are also available.

## SOMETHING NEW THIS SEASON

When the Lodge opens in November, our guests will ski in and ski out by way of a newly re-modeled ski locker room, with more convenience and a much nicer look and feel for our guests. It reflects the dedication to skiing that will always be at the heart of the Alta Lodge experience.

Another improvement to our guests' ski experience will be a renovated Lodge tow. Alta Ski Area is replacing the current tow rope with tow platters that can be held on to or placed between the skier's legs. This provides skiers a much easier tow ride than holding on to a tow rope.





Friends of Alta, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, is Alta's local land trust. The organization proactively acquires undevel-

oped privately owned land in Albion Basin for the preservation of open space to protect the vital watershed, wildlife habitat and scenic views.

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, tree and seedling plantings, and this summer, involvement in a Forest Health Assessment. As part of an ongoing ecological assessment effort, FOA has been instrumental in the Alta Bird Survey program. Additionally, the Bill Levitt Fellow, Ellie Johnson, has been tirelessly pulling invasive plant species, conducting vegetation surveys, and serving as a naturalist host for visitors to Albion Basin, providing information on the local environment and best practices for recreating in the watershed.

The Mountain Accord is an unprecedented collaboration between more than 20 diverse groups working together to make critical decisions about the future of the Central Wasatch. On July 13th the Executive Committee of Mountain Accord came to a consensus on a set of principles that are the foundation of "An Accord." Friends of Alta is committed to being involved in the next phase of this effort, including any NEPA process and legislative actions. FOA will continue to be a voice for conservation as various actions are considered. Of specific note, FOA is concerned about the impacts of proposals for a train up Little Cottonwood Canyon and a tunnel connection with Big Cottonwood Canyon. For an overview of the Accord and more information about FOA's positions on Mountain Accord, please visit the Friends of Alta website or [mountainaccord.com](http://mountainaccord.com).

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](http://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 21-25, 2016 & MARCH 6-10, 2016

Now in its ninth 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. 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 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 21 / March 6

DEPART: January 25 / March 10

#### JANUARY RATES:

\$2,541 per person, double occupancy  
\$3,186 single occupancy

#### MARCH RATES:

\$2,489 per person, double occupancy  
\$3,082 single occupancy

Slope-facing and economy rooms are also available.



### FOR ADVANCED TO EXPERT SKIERS FEBRUARY 7-11, 2016

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

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 three 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
- one buffet lunch
- performance demo skis and boots
- tax and Lodge service charge

ARRIVE: February 7

DEPART: February 11

#### RATES:

\$2,437 per person, double occupancy  
\$3,030 single occupancy

Slope-facing and economy rooms are also available.



## DEAR FRIENDS

Our beloved Alta Lodge is celebrating 75 years this season as Alta's first ski hotel, a major milestone for Alta skiers and for us. The Levitt family has owned and operated the Lodge since 1959, and we take pride in providing our guests with a ski vacation that emphasizes exemplary service, a great dining experience, friendship and convenience. Out the back door, Alta's mountain beauty and quality snow beckon you each day.

If you have been our guest over the years, you've likely observed subtle changes to the Lodge. We'll continue to make them with the thought in mind they will enhance your stay with us. Whether you're a new guest to Alta Lodge or someone who has been staying with us for many years, we cherish our friendship with you and will do our best to make your ski vacation at Alta Lodge unlike any other.

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

## CHEF'S CORNER

For the 75th anniversary of Alta Lodge, I have fired up our culinary time machine and brought back a perennial favorite, Mushrooms à la Grecque. It is the perfect appetizer, easy to make and impossible to stop eating. No matter how many bowls we prepare it is never enough. Fresh mushrooms are simmered in a sweet and tangy white wine broth, then chilled. They make a great complement to salads and seafood, but seem to go best with a warm baguette and soft cheese.

### MUSHROOMS À LA GRECQUE:

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 1/2 cups dry white wine
- 1 1/2 cups vegetable or chicken stock
- 1/3 cup olive oil • 1/3 cup lemon juice
- 2 small shallots, chopped • 1 bay leaf
- 2 cloves garlic, smashed • 8 peppercorns
- 2 tsp ground cardamom • 1 tsp coriander
- 1 tsp dried thyme • salt & pepper
- 1 1/2 lb washed button mushrooms with stems (shiitakes or almost any other mushroom can also be used)
- 1 diced red pepper (roasted red peppers added after simmering also work well)

Preheat oven to 325 degrees

Mix the first 12 ingredients and bring to a simmer. Add the mushrooms and the diced red pepper (if using fresh), bring to a boil, then reduce heat for 15 minutes. The mushrooms and broth can now be chilled. Toss with a few tablespoons of chopped fresh parsley and serve. They can be enjoyed after a few hours, but will continue absorbing more flavor as they hold.

**—CHEF Sam Wolfe**

## 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

For our 75th anniversary, Alta Lodge is offering one night's stay, including breakfast and dinner, at the Lodge's 1940 room rate – \$11.40 for a standard room – to guests who book a four-night stay during the period of November 29 to December 13, 2015.



## THANKSGIVING AT ALTA

Alta's ski season typically begins the week-end before Thanksgiving, allowing eager skiers a chance to get an early start to the ski season. For many, skiing the Thanksgiving holiday season is a tradition that brings them to Alta for the simple reason that Alta's early season ski conditions are almost always the best in the West! Start your own tradition and join us for the holiday and a traditional Thanksgiving dinner.

Four Nights Over Thanksgiving 2015—Kids ages 12 & under stay and eat free!

- four nights lodging
- full breakfast daily
- Thanksgiving dinner and full dinner nightly
- tax and 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!

Alta Ski Area's Jump Start is a two-day workshop on December 12 and 13. It's a great way to tune up your skiing skills at the beginning of the ski season. This early season workshop is designed to help strong intermediate and advanced skiers to ramp up their skills quickly. The coaches from the Alf Engen Ski School will help you identify the fundamental skills to ski smoother, with more control and confidence when skiing the mountain every day and any day. The workshop includes an indoor session on skiing fitness and equipment, drills to build skills and individual feedback.

With Alta Lodge early season lodging rates, Jump Start is the perfect excuse for the first ski trip of the season, beginning before the weekend of Jump Start to acclimate, and extending afterward to practice newly improved skills on the mountain.

**WORKSHOP PRICE: \$480**

Please contact Alta Ski School for questions or to sign up: 801-799-2271

## STAFF PROFILE: ALLAN HILTON



Maintenance Manager Allan Hilton and his crew keep the machines humming at the Lodge, while working on continual improvements of our building systems and guest environment. Allan is an Arizona native and grew up on a working ranch near Prescott. This 40,000 acre ranch is also home to the Orme School, a college prep

boarding school from which Allan graduated in 1981. In Flagstaff, Arizona, Allan worked for the Nature Conservancy doing restoration and renovations on the historic Fern Mountain Homestead, ran snowcats to groom the slopes at Arizona Snowbowl, and ran his own tree care business. Allan also began a lifetime pursuit of his passions for rock climbing and river running, with ascents of Yosemite's El Capitan and multiple runs on the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. Allan came to Utah in 2002, and started at Alta Lodge in 2005. Allan says, "Working at Alta Lodge has enabled me to keep those passions for climbing and boating alive, and pass along a love of skiing and the great outdoors to my two wonderful children." As Maintenance Manager, Allan has led many improvements over the last ten years, both aesthetic and mechanical. Allan says, "With a 75 year old building in a high alpine environment, I have my work cut out for me. I am looking forward to many more successes at Alta Lodge as well as in my personal and recreational endeavors."



## GUEST PROFILE: MARK & ERNESTA KRACZKIEWICZ



PHOTO: Mark Krackiewicz

Last April, we had a chance to sit down for a talk with longtime Alta Lodge guests Mark & Ernesta Krackiewicz. They were here for the last ten days of the season, and were fortunate enough to be here when the 22-inch storm hit April 14-16. Mark's family first came to Alta Lodge in the late 1990's, and have been coming every year ever since. Son Andrew comes every year to ski with them. Mark now comes four times a year, beginning right after Thanksgiving. He has participated in the Alta Performance Camp four times, and likes the small, personal three-day camp, adding that the videoing is the key element. During the 2013-2014 season, he managed to ski 40 days at Alta. Mark comes half the time on his own and stays in the dorms. When Ernesta comes, they stay in nicer digs in the east wing of the Lodge.

Before retiring, Mark was with the US Agency for International Development, and has lived and worked in Jordan, Morocco and Poland. Mark's father served as a diplomat in Paris, and Mark went to boarding school in Switzerland, where he learned to ski in 1948. While living in Morocco, they skied in the Atlas Mountains, where Mark said you could see Marrakesh and the desert from the ski area, and where they once were snowed in. He recalls flying from Jordan to Switzerland, and when the airport manager saw him get off the plane with skis, he was so excited to see someone from Jordan carrying skis that he had to take a photograph. Poland had skiing as well, but the facilities were "not the greatest".

Some of Mark's favorite times at Alta are "blue sky days on the Backside, and skiing off the Collins lift early season when it is snowing so hard that your tracks are filled in by the time you return for the next run."

# 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? Whether it's a weekend getaway or Sunday Brunch, we're a convenient 30 minutes from Salt Lake City. The mountains surrounding Alta provide several 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 a great place to unwind from a busy summer, catch up on reading or take a walk in the mountains.



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, workshops, seminars and more, with group sizes from 10 to 80 people. Larger 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 ideal choice for weddings. A Friday night rehearsal dinner 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 Photography

## 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,  
conferences,  
and private parties,

Contact:

Rosie O'Grady  
at 801-742-3500  
or [rosie@altalodge.com](mailto:rosie@altalodge.com).

# REMEMBERING NAOMI WAIN

Our dear friend Naomi Wain, always in line before the Collins Lift opened, and a guest at Alta Lodge for 50 years, died on June 14, 2015 at age 93, while attending a music festival. We will miss her. Her daughter Nancy sent the following email to Mimi.

I know she truly treasured you and her Alta family! You and Alta made her life worth living, especially these last few years. You have been wonderful to her, and it was always appreciated. Please know that she was having a wonderful time at the Ojai Music Festival... And it was very sudden. She went the way she hoped she would, at the top of her life, doing something she enjoyed, and ending with no fuss or apologies. It was indeed a great year for her! In addition to her usual ski trips, she skied the Alps in France with the 70+ club, went to the Galapagos Islands, drove herself up the coast of California on Highway 1, and then, last week, to the Ojai Music Festival. As you know all too well, she loved adventure and the wonders of the natural world.

Please feel free to give people my street address as well as my email address. We welcome letters and emails. (If desired, donations



in her name can be made to Planned Parenthood, the Natural Resources Defense Council, or Friends of Alta.)

beissers@becmail.net  
Ken and Nancy Beisser  
25 W. Quinto St.  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105



Alta Lodge has been awarded a 2015 Certificate of Excellence, and once again, we thank our guests for your comments on TripAdvisor about how much you enjoy staying with us. "Alta Lodge is pleased to receive our fourth 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**