



# Alta Lodge News

Alta's Traditional Mountain Lodge

2017-2018



PHOTO: Diego Valladares

## CECRET'S OUT: THE NEW SUPREME LIFT

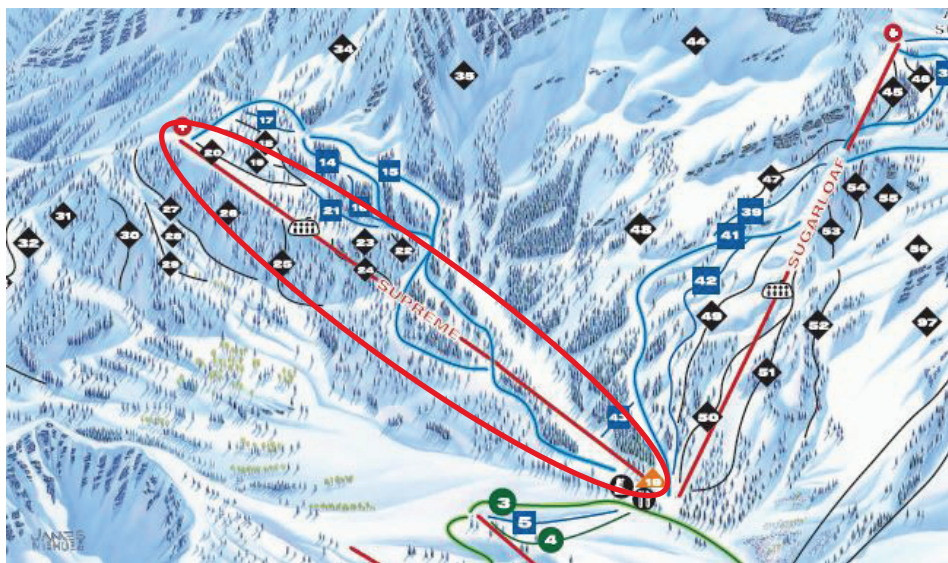
Alta skiers often say, "Don't ever change." When Alta Ski Area does make a change, it is usually well thought out and makes for better skiing. Big changes need approval by the US Forest Service, because all of this north-facing powder skiing belongs to the American people. This year, Alta Ski Area is merging the Supreme lift with the Cecret lift –

a ski area merger we're in favor of! Work has been underway since April to replace the Cecret and Supreme lifts with a new high-speed quad Supreme lift for the 2017-2018 season.

Alta Environmental Center (AEC) staff have been actively involved in the Supreme project, ensuring that a minimal number of trees are cut for safety and

alignment of the lift. The old lifts are being reused, recycled, and re-purposed as much as possible. Native plant materials have been salvaged, with plugs and topsoil to be replanted at the end of construction. Up to 1,000 plants grown from native seed picked last fall will be planted. AEC will continue monitoring the restoration area of the project until it is fully recovered, as well as planting and weeding the area for at least three years after the project is complete this fall.

The new lift will have a capacity of up to 2,400 people per hour. The loading station will be located next to Alf's Restaurant, and the top unloading terminal will be at the existing location near Point Supreme – preserving the longstanding skier hike to Catherine's Area. Supreme lift will now be accessible from the top of the Sunnyside lift, improving the overall skier experience in Albion Basin. Another welcome change is the demise of the dreaded "magic carpet" at the Supreme loading station. We're looking forward to riding the new Supreme with you this season.



ART: James Niehues, courtesy Alta Ski Area

## GUEST PROFILE: MARTY DONALDSON



Growing up in a family of skiers, Marty started skiing when she was 4 years old at Mt. Lemmon outside of Tucson, Arizona. Marty wasn't exactly crazy about the sport in those early days. As she recalls, "I was the youngest of four girls and got all the hand-me-downs. There was only a rope tow back then and I was barely tall enough or strong enough, so it wasn't that much fun for me." When her family traveled to Alta to ski when she was 16 years old, however, Marty had a change of heart. "It was my first visit to a real ski area," she remembers, "I fell in love with Alta on that trip."

In 2007, Marty joined our very first Women's Ski Camp, and she hasn't missed a year since! Coming back from a ski injury, Marty found the camp to be a nurturing and supportive environment to strengthen her skills. Marty expanded her ski camp repertoire, sometimes attending two or three camps in a season, including Powder Tracks. After participating in a few camps, Marty came to the Lodge on a solo four-day ski trip and recalled her feelings about returning to the Lodge: "Room 2 is my favorite room, my home away from home."

Now living in Lexington, Kentucky, a location known more for horses than skiing, Marty joined a local ski club and has since skied in quite a few places, including St. Moritz in Switzerland and Portillo in Chile. Building on her ski camp experiences at the Lodge, and the friendships she has made with other participants, she and another camp guest organized a women's heli-ski trip to Canada a few years ago. The trip, based out of the CMH Gothics Lodge in BC, was almost entirely composed of Alta Lodge Women's Camp participants and instructors! While Marty seeks out a new adventure every couple of years, she maintains, "it is never as good as Alta."

Marty makes the most of her Southern summers by staying active with cycling and walking her dog, Balou. She also helps her husband in his thoroughbred horse business, Donaldson Bloodstock. Regardless of where she is or what she's doing, the draw of the "greatest snow on earth" and her second home, Alta Lodge, is never far from Marty's mind.

## DEAR FRIENDS,

Snowfall last season got off to a slow start, beginning with Thanksgiving weekend. Over the years, we've seen that late-starting winters, following a dry autumn, end up being some of the snowiest. True to form, once the 2016-2017 season started, it never seemed to let up. Weather in January was especially active, with lots of big powder days and a few of the elusive "country club" ski mornings, with open lifts and a closed road. The rest of the season it continued to snow and snow, with a season total of 596 inches. Special recognition goes to the avalanche crews and ski patrol who got the mountain safely opened day after day for Alta skiers.

We're always prioritizing upgrades to the Lodge facilities. This year, we're remodeling the Dining Room, with a new layout, surfaces, furnishings and lighting. We're also replacing windows and radiators for better comfort and energy efficiency. We have a tight schedule from our



PHOTO: John Shafer

summer closing on October 1 to the winter opening on November 21, so it's going to be exciting. We're looking forward to a fresh new dining space that works better for the Lodge and our guests.

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

## TRY A NEW EXPERIENCE THE NEXT TIME YOU STAY WITH US!

If you are interested in trying something new on your next ski vacation, look no further. There are plenty of exciting options right here in our own backyard, all accessible during your stay at Alta Lodge.

**Powderbird Heli Skiing:** Take your skiing to new heights—literally! Conveniently located less than a mile from Alta Lodge, Powderbird is the only heli-ski operation in the Wasatch Mountains. Ski epic new terrain and catch a bird's eye view of Alta and the surrounding Wasatch.

**Utah Mountain Adventures:** Enjoy a day or two touring the Wasatch backcountry with expert guides from Utah Mountain Adventures. Learn new skills and venture into fresh territory with guided backcountry skiing/snowboarding or ice climbing. There are no lift lines when you're earning your turns.

**Ski Utah's Interconnect Tour:** Skiing up to six of Utah's best resorts in a day, this guided tour will take participants on an adventure through both resort and backcountry terrain.

**Alta's Alf Engen Ski School:** Want to improve your skills or experience more of Alta's legendary terrain? Consider participating in a group lesson or hiring a private instructor to guide you around the mountain.

If you are an intermediate to advanced skier who is interested in strengthening your skills, but maybe not quite ready to join an immersive **Alta Lodge Ski Adventure**, you may be interested in a **Jump Start Clinic** (December 16-17 and February 3-4). During these 2-day weekend workshops, elite instructors from the Alf Engen



PHOTO: Diego Valladares

Ski School will help you make the most out of your skiing and Alta experience. Book a four-night stay at the Lodge over the weekend to include a warm up day on arrival and a day after the clinic to apply your new skills.

Alf Engen Ski School also offers an exciting **Snow Cat Skiing Adventure** in Grizzly Gulch. Guided by members of Alta's Ski Patrol and Ski School, you'll enjoy easy access to 375 fresh acres of the "greatest snow on earth."

For an adventure accessible to all levels of skill and experience, try **Snowshoeing or Nordic (XC) Skiing** in and around Alta. Both are fun and relaxing ways to get out and experience our spectacular surroundings and nature, at a different pace. Snowshoes and nordic skis are available to rent from **Alta Ski Shop**. There is plenty of terrain to explore whether you want to break your own trail or enjoy Alta's groomed 5k track.

Please contact Alta Lodge Reservations with any questions you may have about these adventures, and to book your stay!





SKIER: Lucy Sackbauer  
PHOTO: Noah Wetzel

## PERFORMANCE SKI CAMPS

DEC. 7-11, 2017, DEC. 14-18, 2017  
FEB. 11-15, 2018, APR. 6-10, 2018

Ramp up your skiing skills this winter with one of Alta's Performance Ski Camps. These camps are targeted toward "aspiring and thriving expert skiers" who want to explore concepts of great skiing and expert technique, while honing skills in the sport you love. Lead coaches from Alta's Alf Engen Ski School have put together an outstanding program that includes on-snow drills and challenges, combined with off-snow presentations and video analysis to further enhance your understanding and connection. The program emphasizes:

- Reading the terrain and conditions for ideal line selection
- Skiing an entire line without interruption
- Learning how to use your skis in different snow conditions
- Using turn shape to attack the hill while maintaining speed control
- Recognizing your skiing strengths and specific improvement goals

These four-night, three-day camps include lodging with full breakfast and four-course dinner daily (lunch is additional), three days ski coaching with video analysis, morning and afternoon tech talks, three days Alta lift passes, high end demo skis, and yoga classes.

### RATES (vary by camp dates):

\$2,450-\$2,705 per person, double occupancy, standard room

\$2,820-\$3,326 per person, single occupancy, standard room

Slope-facing and economy rooms are also available.

# 2017 2018 **SKI ADVENTURES**

We are excited about our line-up this year with the same great programs that our guests love, along with the addition of a second early season Performance Camp and

a new Alta Breakthrough Camp in March. Space is limited, and these camps fill up fast with returning guests. Book early to hold your spot!

Dec. 7-11: **Performance Ski Camp**

Dec. 14-18: **Performance Ski Camp**

Jan. 6-11: **Powder Tracks**

Jan. 18-22: **Women's Ski Camp for Intermediate to Advanced Skiers**

Jan. 28-February 1: **Women's Ski Camp for Advanced to Expert Skiers**

Feb. 11-15: **Performance Ski Camp**

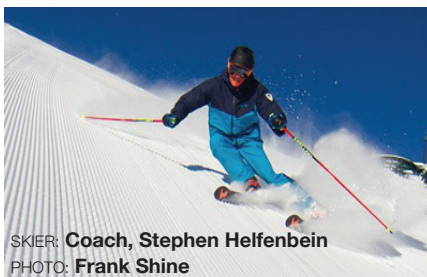
Mar. 4-8: **Women's Ski Camp for Intermediate to Advanced Skiers**

Mar. 11-15: **Alta Breakthrough Camp**

Apr. 6-10: **Performance Ski Camp**

## NEW! ALTA BREAKTHROUGH CAMP

MARCH 15-18, 2018



SKIER: Coach, Stephen Helfenbein  
PHOTO: Frank Shine

A co-ed camp for intermediate skiers and beyond! If you are already passionate about skiing, then you probably have a strong desire to become an even better skier. In this new program, select coaches from Alta's Alf Engen Ski School are excited to introduce you to precision skiing, which is the ideal use of your equipment through accurate movements. After three consecutive days dedicated to integrating these precise movements, you can expect

to take your skiing to the next level, with more confidence and fluidity.

The program includes daily indoor tech sessions that introduce a specific training theme, followed by focused on-snow sessions in the morning, and wrapping up with opportunities to apply new skills around the mountain in the afternoon.

The four-night, three-day camp includes lodging with full breakfast and four-course dinner daily (lunch is additional), three days ski coaching with video analysis, morning and afternoon tech talks, three days Alta lift passes, high end demo skis, and morning yoga classes.

### RATES:

\$2,705 per person, double occupancy, standard room

\$3,326 per person, single occupancy, standard room

Slope-facing and economy rooms are also available.

## FAREWELL TO GEORGE FETT & JONI DYKSTRA

Two of our long-time managers are leaving us this fall – George Fett, Operations Manager, and Joni Dykstra, Marketing & Media Relations.

George is in Nepal for the fall and winter season, kicking off eighteen months of world travels. Joni is looking forward to retirement and the additional time she will have to hike, bike, ski and

explore more of the West and the world.

We appreciate all of George's and Joni's contributions to the Lodge, and we're grateful for all they have done to make the Lodge better. We wish them all of the very best on their adventures, and look forward to seeing them back in Alta many times in the coming years.

## CHEF'S CORNER

### CRANBERRY-ORANGE SCONES

Do you remember that delicious almond cake dessert special from your last Alta Lodge vacation? What about the coconut macaroons at tea time, or the fresh baked sandwich bun at lunch? These tasty treats and many more of Alta Lodge's signature baked goods come to you compliments of Jim Hilding, our Head Baker. Today we are sharing his recipe for the oh-so-popular Cranberry-Orange Scones.

*Yield: 12 scones*

Preheat oven to 375 (preferably on a convection setting)

- 14 ounces flour
- 3 ounces sugar
- Pinch of salt
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 5 ½ ounces butter, cold, cut into 1/4" cubes
- 3 ounces dried cranberries
- Zest of 1 orange
- 6 fluid ounces buttermilk

Combine flour, sugar, salt and baking powder. Cut cold butter into dry ingredients until mix resembles coarse cornmeal. Add cranberries and orange zest and mix just until combined. Add buttermilk all at once and mix until dough comes together. Do not overmix.

Cut into desired size and bake for approximately 15 minutes until they begin to brown on edges. Enjoy with friends and family!

—Head Baker **Jim Hilding**

# THANKSGIVING OPENING AT ALTA

With kids back in school and the days getting shorter, it feels like the holidays are right around the corner. That means ski season is almost here! Thanksgiving is always a highlight of early season, but this year we're even more excited because the holiday coincides with Alta Ski Area's opening weekend. Alta Lodge will open its doors to guests on November 21, so you can be rested and ready when the lifts start turning on Alta's opening day, Wednesday, November 22.

This year, come celebrate opening day and work up an appetite for turkey with family ski time! Spend the afternoon playing games in the deck room and enjoying tea and fresh baked goods. Your children can head down to Kids' Club for more fun, including supervised arts and crafts, games, movies and more. The best part? You can forget about shopping, cooking, and all of those leftovers. The toughest decision you'll make is whether you should unwind in the hot tub or enjoy an après ski cocktail while Chef Sam Wolfe and staff prepare your indulgent Thanksgiving feast. Our delicious holiday meal puts a gourmet spin on all the beloved classics, includ-

ing roasted turkey with pine nut-apricot dressing, ginger-pumpkin pie, and more.

Treat yourself to the warmth, peace and comfort of an Alta Lodge Thanksgiving this year, and let us help you start a new family tradition. Book four nights over Thanksgiving weekend, and kids ages 12 and under stay and eat free. Your stay includes:

- four nights lodging
- full breakfast and dinner daily
- tax and service charge

#### RATE:

\$912 per person (adult), double occupancy, standard room. Two kids ages 12 and under stay free in their parents' room during early season.

Other room types are available.



PHOTO: John Shafer

## STAFF PROFILE: CLIFF CURRY

### What do you do at Alta Lodge?

My job is President and General Manager. I've been GM since 2001, and I took on the job of President in 2016. It's great to represent the Lodge and help set our direction. The values, vision and identity of the Lodge started with Bill Levitt, and those continue today through Mimi, Marcus, Toby and the Levitt family.

### Why did you come to Alta?

To ski. When I first skied Alta in 1989, I was practicing law with a big firm in Seattle. Riding up Supreme for the first time, I looked around and thought, I should quit my job and move here. In 1996, I did. That was the best move I ever made.

### Why did you stay in Alta?

To ski. Sometimes that means a few laps at the end of the day, getting out for a sidecountry run, or just a cross-country ski around town. My favorite time is late afternoon on Collins when it's storming hard and the mountain is empty. In the summer, the weather is perfect, there are wildflowers everywhere and you can see forever from the ridgetops.

### What keeps you at Alta Lodge?

I love the Lodge, the Wasatch Mountains and the Alta community. I appreciate the Levitt family ownership group for their people values, business values and long-term perspective. Early on, I told Bino Levitt that I'd work here if they didn't pay me at all. I have been



told that was not good salary negotiation.

### What's your idea of good management?

To surround myself with people who are better than I am. It's disappointing how easy that is to do.

Seriously, it's our front line staff and managers who make the Lodge great. There are a lot of bright, talented people who want to ski, but what we look for in our employees above all is kindness, good intentions and good manners. Those are qualities we can't teach. For our part, we have to make sure our employees have a happy life in Alta. That's the invisible motor that makes us run.

Everything we do ultimately has to be about our guests. If we have a dilemma in running our company,

we have to ask, what will make for the best guest experience in the long run? If we can answer that question right, and if we treat each other well, plan well, and work hard, we're going to be fine.

### What keeps you up at night?

Climate change. Politics. Anything that is not going well at the Lodge. Parties at the Deep Powder House.

### What else motivates you?

Mountains, rivers and deserts; hiking, boating and paragliding. My dog Dusty; he's one of our Lodge mascots and he's pretty wonderful.

I've served as an elected member of the Alta Town Council since 2008; the issues I care most about are environment and transportation. Our watershed needs protection, the canyon road needs improvement, and we need better trails and walkways.

Skiing is still a big motivator for me. Improving my skiing – that's big.

### What's the identity of Alta Lodge?

It's one of those authentic places that people fall in love with. We have a lot of history here, but I think we have a good future too. Not to mention a good present. It's about a high level of service, caring for our guests, the Sitzmark, the history of the place, and the skiing. It's always about the skiing. We intend to have the kindest employees, the best food and the happiest guests.



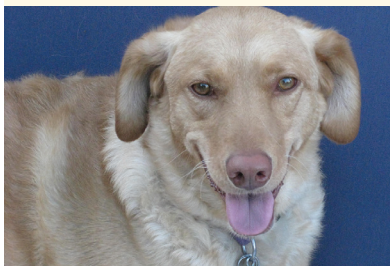


As Alta's local land trust, the mission of Friends of Alta is to protect the environment of Alta, including watershed and wildlife habitat areas; to preserve Alta's unique character and heritage; and to encourage stewardship and sustainability of Alta's environment and community. Friends of Alta (FOA) was formed as the Alta Defense Fund in 1981. Since then, the organization has continued to grow to include conservation, environmental education and restoration projects, scientific surveys, and strong community partnerships. We prioritize the acquisition of privately held, undeveloped parcels of land, and keep them undeveloped by means of conservation easements. FOA is engaged in local and regional planning initiatives as well as local zoning to plan for the future of the Central Wasatch.

Alta holds a special place in people's hearts. One of our co-founders, Pat Shea, nailed this sentiment when he proclaimed "Alta is a state of mind." There are and will continue to be perpetual pressures on Alta and the Central Wasatch as Little Cottonwood Canyon grows more popular, neighboring ski area ownerships are consolidated, and stakeholders plan for Alta's future. We are reminded that our organization plays a unique and essential role in the local community.

Stay connected with FOA by following us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, or by signing up for our Photo of the Month! For more information please visit [friendsofalta.org](http://friendsofalta.org) or contact Jen Clancy at 801-742-9719 or [info@friendsofalta.org](mailto:info@friendsofalta.org).

## DAISY LEVITT 2005-2017



In Memory

# ALTA in APRIL

Join us during the last few weeks of the season and enjoy the easy going, relaxed pace and the long, sun-filled days that April brings! Warm days mean toasty toes and happy kids (and parents). Join the Lodge for an on-mountain picnic or a guided star gazing tour. If

you stay for Closing Day, you'll experience the costumes and revelry of the legendary Frank World Classic ski jumping competition, High Boy celebration, and dance party in the parking lot! Book a four-night stay during April 8-15 and the kids stay free!



PHOTO: Aliza Whalen

## SUMMER SEASON in ALTA

While it's no secret that we live for fresh Alta powder and the endless fun that winter provides, we believe our summer season is just as special. As the snow melts in May and June, Alta's slopes fill in with lush vegetation followed by an explosion of wildflowers, making for a colorful and breathtaking display. Our high elevation means we have perfect weather for outdoor recreation. Mild, sunny days and cool evenings provide a perfect contrast to the dry desert heat of Salt Lake City. Albion Basin is home to some of the most beautiful hiking in the west, with abundant wildflowers and wildlife such as moose, marmots, hummingbirds and more. Miles of scenic trails, just steps from Alta Lodge, provide easy access to high alpine lakes and stunning views of the Wasatch Range.



PHOTO: Diego Valladares

## WEDDINGS, CONFERENCES, RETREATS and PARTIES

In the summer, Alta Lodge provides a picturesque setting for romantic mountain weddings. The mountains are a magical backdrop for both ceremony and celebration. Family and friends dine and dance the night away under twinkling lights on our outdoor patio, making memories that will last a lifetime. Destination weddings, where guests can spend the entire weekend in the mountains, are especially popular at the Lodge.

We also host mountain retreats and conferences during the spring, summer and fall months, welcoming guests from all over the country. The serene, quiet setting and casual atmosphere are perfect for groups who would like to host a quiet, relaxing retreat away from the "conventional" meeting environment. Outside of these special events, we are open to the



PHOTO: Erik Seo

public for lodging daily; Saturday Lunch and Sunday Brunch every weekend from early June through September. We recommend planning a full weekend adventure to experience all that Alta summer has to offer. If you are interested in hosting your wedding or group event at Alta Lodge next summer, please contact Rosie O'Grady, Director of Sales and Marketing, at 801-742-3500.



# Alta Lodge Kids' Club

Designed for our younger guests ages 4-12, Alta Lodge's complimentary Kids' Club is a great way for your children to have a blast with other kids during their ski vacation. It's also a great way for you to have some time to unwind. Relax, grab



PHOTO: John Shafer



PHOTO: John Shafer

a drink in the Sitzmark, or savor a romantic dinner knowing your kids are having fun.

To start their day, young skiers can take our convenient Kids' Club shuttle to the Albion Base for ski school in the morning, and back to the Lodge in the afternoon. Parents are welcome to accompany their children on the shuttle. After a fun day learning new skills on the mountain, your kids get to enjoy creative supervised activities such as arts and crafts, games, and sledding. They'll have the chance to eat our kid-friendly dinner, with special menu options including pizza and chicken fingers (and of course fruits, veggies and dessert), or to eat with you as a family during regular dinner service. Finally, they'll wind down the evening with hands-on games or a fun movie in the kids' room. Come see why kids and parents alike rave about the Alta Lodge Kids' Club!



In 2017, Alta Lodge received the TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence for the sixth consecutive year. We are honored to be recognized again this year and to have such wonderful guests who share their love for Alta Lodge on TripAdvisor. Our staff endeavors to make every guest feel welcomed and cared for during their stay with us, and we are happy that 75% of Alta Lodge guests are returning visitors to the Lodge. We thank all of our guests who come to Alta each season, and our staff who continue to help make your Alta vacation a wonderful and memorable experience.

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