

# News

ALTA'S TRADITIONAL MOUNTAIN LODGE



2022 - 2023

## It's About the Skiing

**Why does Alta have such great snow? And why does Alta have so many traverses? And so few lifts? And what do any of those things have to do with each other?**

What's so great about Alta snow? It's not really the lake effect. Lake effect storms add maybe 5% to Alta's annual snow total, mostly early season and late season, when the Great Salt Lake is warmer. It's not the density, exactly. Alta snow is light, but it's not the lightest. There are mountains in Colorado and Montana that probably get lighter snow – although not nearly as much of it. What makes Alta snow so good is that Alta storms usually come in right-side-up. Our storms usually start with south-southwest winds and denser snow that bonds well with the terrain and the base, and finish with north-northwest winds and lighter snow on top, making for creamy, consistent, easy-to-ski powder.

**An average powder day here is a once-in-a-lifetime experience anywhere else; and a great Utah powder day, well, it can redefine your life.**

-Andrew McLean

The other great thing about Alta snow is that there is so much of it – 547 inches average per season. "Our storm" is a low-pressure system tracking in from the Pacific Northwest, and upper Little Cottonwood Canyon is perfectly lined up to maximize the snowfall from that storm on our north-facing slopes. Then there is our location on the continent. Utah in general, and especially the Wasatch Front, are perfectly located to get at least some snow out of almost any storm track crossing the Western US. More



Photo: Rocko Menzyk

snow builds a deeper base, and a deeper base softens the mountain and opens up more terrain.

Why does Alta have so many traverses? Alta's terrain and perfectly spaced trees make for great skiing from almost any point along the ridgelines. We get so much snow, and our storm snow bonds so well to the surface, that skiers can traverse to most of those points.

And that, in turn, means Alta does not need so many lifts. A typical mountain the size of Alta needs ten or twelve lifts to access the same acreage. Alta has only six – including the transfer tow between the Wildcat and Albion bases.

Alta's traverses generally access the steepest and most exciting runs, so experts and intermediate skiers do not share the same runs, unless they want to. They can always just meet up again at Collins for another lap. All of that is why Alta feels like the biggest little mountain in the West.

For more about Alta and Wasatch snow, take a look at the Wasatch Weather Weenies blog, and pick up the book *Secrets of the Greatest Snow on Earth*, by University of Utah Professor Jim Steenburgh.





Photo: Chris Whittaker

# Dear Friends,

Fall is in the air, and winter will be here before we know it. The overnight temps are dipping into the 30s and 40s, we are starting to see more variable weather, with our first early-season snowfall due any time! As the wildflowers prepare to hibernate until next summer, the Quaking Aspens and Gambel Oaks are treating us to a glorious fall show. Opening day just over 4 weeks away, and the excitement is starting to build in the Lodge as we plan and prepare for the 2022-23 winter season.

We opened for the summer on June 1 and kept busy hosting weddings, events, and of course, everyone's favorite Sunday brunch. We even had the opportunity to host a once-in-a-lifetime winter wedding on Alta's 2021-22 bonus closing weekend – complete with an epic powder day! We wrapped up summer with a final Sunday brunch on October 9, before closing for our fall interim.

It sounds like we are in store for a snowy and busy winter, and we look forward to seeing more of our return guests back "home" to the Lodge this year. If you haven't yet booked a stay, we encourage you to reach out to our Reservations department soon to secure a reservation. We also encourage you to explore a mid-week stay. You'll save on nightly rates and beat the weekend crowds.

Chef Sam is looking forward to sharing some new entrées to delight guests after a great day of skiing, and we are assembling an outstanding team to provide the authentic Lodge experience you know and love.

We look forward to welcoming guests back for Alta's 85th winter season, with opening day scheduled for November 18, 2022 - conditions permitting, and a final closing day (no bonus weekend) on Sunday, April 23, 2023.

**-Mimi, Marcus, Toby and  
the Levitt family**



# Sunnyside Up, and Other News From Alta



Photo: PhotoJohn/Alta Ski Area

The big news this year is that Alta Ski Area is taking down the Sunnyside and Albion chairlifts. The two chairs will be replaced by the new Sunnyside lift, a high-speed six-seat chairlift, Alta's first. We can look forward to a smoother and faster lift ride for intermediate and beginner skiers in the Sunnyside area, and an improvement for all skiers in getting around the mountain.

Also welcome will be a new online Albion Base Kids' Ski School reservation system. Parents will be able to complete their child's reservation and release online, guaranteeing their place for the day. We are anticipating things to be much easier for parents, and we have high hopes that there will be no more early morning lineups for ski school.

Improvements are coming in snow safety, too. Alta Ski Area is installing Wyssen Towers – remotely controlled avalanche exploders – on Mt. Baldy as the ski area prepares to phase out avalanche control artillery by 2024. The towers will allow Alta Ski Patrol to do snow safety work more effectively and quickly to open the powder skiing on Ballroom and the Shoulder. Another thing we love about this is that it relieves the call for a Mt. Baldy tram, and we expect the Mt. Baldy hike to remain an Alta rite of passage. Although Alta Ski Area has Forest Service approval for a bigger chair in the Wildcat area, there are no current plans in place for that. For now, the Wildcat double will remain as the last fixed-grip chair in Alta, a throwback ride to one of the most wild and wonderful areas of the mountain. Finally, Alta Ski Area is continuing to smooth out the terrain on the Alta Lodge Hill to improve early-season ski and lift access to the Lodge.

## It's About... the Parking?

Last year, the Alta community and Alta Lodge navigated the challenges of a new parking permit system. This year, with a few adjustments, we expect things to be a bit smoother for everybody. There will be a \$25 per night charge for Alta Lodge guest parking. As always, we will assure parking for our guests if wanted; there is no need to reserve parking with Alta Ski Area. And, as always, the best way to get to Alta is by Alta Shuttle... no worries about vehicles, tires, road conditions, driving, or parking!





# It's About Our Guests

## JANET CARPENTER



Longtime guest Janet Carpenter passed away peacefully earlier this year at 96. An inspiration to us all, Janet made her last run six years ago at 90 but continued to return to the Lodge with family through 2020.

Janet and her late husband Vince started their annual pilgrimage to Alta Lodge in 1951 – back when the Lodge housed the Alta Ski School and its director Alf Engen. The quality of the snow and skiing initially drew Janet and Vince to Alta. But the friendships and memories made at the Lodge brought them back almost every winter. "You just meet the most wonderful people and become lifelong friends," said Janet in an article from the *Salt Lake Tribune* in 2006. "....We just love to come here and ski and settle in." The Carpenter family has been "settling in" at the Lodge every January for over 70 years. A legacy we hope will continue for generations to come (the fourth generation is on the way!).

## JILL ISCOL



Jill Iscol, a guest of the Lodge for almost 45 years, passed away this spring. Jill's first Alta vacation was with her husband, Ken Iscol (a Lodge guest since 1971), as newlyweds in 1978. From this point on, Alta vacations became a fixture for the Iscols.

Traveling from New York, they returned to Alta every season for decades, sharing the mountain and Lodge with their children from birth and meeting up with other friends and their families for "great snow, great friends and great hospitality." According to Ken, the Alta experience was foundational to how they spent their lives and how Jill wanted to raise their children. "Momma Jill" enjoyed the skiing and the togetherness of life-long friends and family in the Lodge. Ken and Jill's children are now adults, but the tradition continues. The next generation has also been skiing since birth with the hope that they will return to Alta with their children. In Jill's memory, a tree has been planted in Albion Basin through the Friends of Alta memorial tree planting program.

## Summertime in Alta

Most of us come to experience the magic of Alta in the winter. But the summer season is what keeps many of us here indefinitely.

We are excited to share Alta's majestic summer season with guests and locals alike for weddings and private events with lodging from June to October. Enjoy an authentic lodge experience with your friends, family, or co-workers to gather and celebrate a special event, or meeting of the minds, with outstanding food and excellent service Alta-style. Paired with incredible views and fresh mountain air, a kaleidoscope of summer wildflowers, and access to world-class hiking, you'll take your love for Alta to a whole new level.

Exclusive bookings are available for a private Lodge experience. [Learn more](#) →



# BAKER'S CORNER: SWEET TREATS

## COCONUT HAYSTACKS

12 oz (3 sticks) butter  
2 cups sugar  
6 eggs  
1 lb 2 oz desiccated coconut  
(about 8 cups)

Melt butter and sugar together over low heat. When melted add eggs and cook for 2 minutes. Stir in coconut and cook over low heat for 3 more minutes, stirring constantly. Remove from heat. Leave in pot stirring occasionally until cooled.

When chilled, scoop into one inch balls. Bake at 350 degrees F. Check after 12 minutes. Once they begin to turn brown, they will burn very quickly.

Cool and drizzle with melted chocolate.



I learned to make these in pastry school while working as a TA for Bo Friberg, who wrote the book on being a pastry chef. Literally. It's called *The Professional Pastry Chef, Third Edition*. As he explained, he came up with this exceedingly simple and wildly popular recipe while working as an apprentice in Sweden in the 1950s. Coconut was becoming available again after being rationed during World War II, and its overwhelming popularity led him to find a use for it that took little effort and could be made quickly in bulk. I applaud his reasoning, especially when the snow is flying at Alta. Use desiccated (or macaroon) coconut and not the sweetened variety. The batter can be refrigerated for weeks and scooped and baked when needed.

- Jim Hilding, Head Baker

## Spring Performance Camp



It's never too late in the season to work on your skiing. If you are an advanced to expert level skier and are wanting to hone your skills, look no further than our Spring Performance Camp.

This immersive package includes 4 nights lodging with breakfast and dinner, 3 days on snow with elite coaching from

Alta's Alf Engen ski school and high-end demo skis from the Deep Powder House. You will learn how to effectively use your gear to optimize your performance, ultimately building your confidence and skill set on snow. You'll leave a better skier and will be amazed at the muscle memory and progression when you hit the snow the following season. [Learn more](#) →



## KIDS STAY FREE

For all our skiing families, a reminder of Kids Stay Free - children 12 and under stay free during Early season from opening day, Nov. 18 through Dec. 15, and again in the Spring season from April 9 to closing day, April 23.

Coupled with our complimentary Kids' Club, families can avoid peak season crowds and enjoy time well spent on the slopes with significant savings.

[Learn more](#) →



# Employee Profile: Jamie Stockham

**Tell us a little about yourself:** I was born in Syracuse, NY, but grew up mostly on the island of Oahu. My father is from NY and my mother is Hawaiian. I have lived across the US, including New York, Oklahoma, Las Vegas, Hawaii, Seattle, Los Angeles, Alaska, and Chicago before I found Alta.

**When did you learn to ski and develop your passion for the outdoors?** My parents started taking me alpine skiing at the age of 3 by dragging me down the mountain with a rope around my waist. When we moved to Oahu, I cultivated a love for the ocean and surfing through middle and high school. Then at 16, I took up snowboarding because of my love for surfing. I discovered backpacking and climbing while attending college in Seattle and realized that I could always find happiness and centeredness as long as I was outdoors with space to move - losing myself in nature and being a part of something so big and magnificent. After college, I moved to Lake Placid for 6 years. My love for the wilderness continued to grow and became more prominent in my life through work and community. Climbing and mountain biking dominated my summers. Winters were consumed with ice climbing and backcountry adventure. I soon learned to telemark ski because snowboards in the backcountry mostly involved snowshoes back then. I have spent my winters telemarking ever since and have never looked back no matter how much my friends make fun of me for it!



When I moved to Alta I found all that I loved about the mountains back east, except everything was bigger and the conditions were always better. My summers have been filled with biking, trail running, hiking/backpacking, and most recently fly fishing. Don't tell anyone, but I love the summers here even more than the amazing winters! As the seasons pass, my passion for different activities flows and ebbs and flows again, but my love of the outdoors seems to be the glue that holds it all together.

**What brought you to Alta Lodge and what keeps you here?** I got a job at the Front Desk and moved to Utah in the winter of '05 to try out life as a "ski bum." I loved being in Alta and at the Lodge so much that I ended up staying that summer. I knew within 12 months of living here that I wanted to stay indefinitely and make Utah my home. I lived in our employee housing for the first 5 years of working at the Lodge but have since moved down to Salt Lake where I live with my wife and family. This will be my 17th year in Alta and at the Lodge. I have been in many departments since my days as a deskie (front desk), working maintenance/handy, kitchen, night auditor, and in reservations. But for the past 13 years, I have been working "back of house" as the Lodge Bookkeeper.

I love the atmosphere that the Lodge fosters. This begins with the style and values with which the Levitt family choose to run the Lodge. There is an environment here that you don't find in most businesses. I think the interpersonal interactions in the Lodge are really special. It is hard not to want to talk to someone with a big smile on your face when you have just come in from the mountain with 2' of fresh snow! I missed a lot of those interactions when I took over the Bookkeeping position. But since I have been enjoying working on the floor as a manager-on-duty once a week for the past few years, I'm grateful that I get to see and be a part those interactions again.



Photo: John Shafer

## SPRING SKIING, YES PLEASE!

It's no longer a secret that spring skiing in Alta is amazing. From full on storm skiing and powder days to perfect bluebird groomers, spring in Alta is exciting through the last turn on closing day. There is always plenty of snow and terrain to be skied, ear to ear smiles and long days to soak it all up. Alta's closing day is Sunday, April 23, 2023. Now's the time to plan ahead to include a spring trip in your skiing lineup.

**Book your stay today!** →