

Windows to the Wasatch

The 2024-25 winter marks 65 years of Levitt family ownership of Alta Lodge. Bill Levitt, captivated by Alta and leaving his New York City roots behind, purchased the Lodge in 1959 with a vision to expand the original 1940s lodge—initially just 12 guest rooms—and share his passion for Alta with even more visitors.

In 1962, Bill enlisted architect John Sugden, a protégé of the renowned Bauhaus architect Mies van der Rohe, to bring his vision to life. Sugden's design introduced mid-century modernism to Alta with the addition of the 18-room "New Wing" (Middle Wing), featuring exposed steel beams and expansive glass walls that offered guests an immersive, natural mountain experience and breathtaking views from their rooms.

As the record 903" snowfall of the 2022-23 winter season proved, Alta Lodge was built to last - from the original 1940s building to the newer additions. But updating the single-paned glass wall windows from the 1960s has been on our minds for years. We needed to address issues related to maintenance from the extremes of weather and time and to improve our environmental and energy efficiency. With numerous challenges, including engineering concerns and finding the right contractor, the project seemed just out of reach—until this past winter.

In February 2024, in Alta's unique "less than six degrees of separation" way, a chance conversation with a loyal guest about our window concerns led us to a perfect solution: a fellow Alta skier and window contractor with the expertise we needed. This serendipitous connection allowed us to move forward with a plan that not only improves sustainability and energy efficiency, but also respects the original Sugden aesthetic and structure.



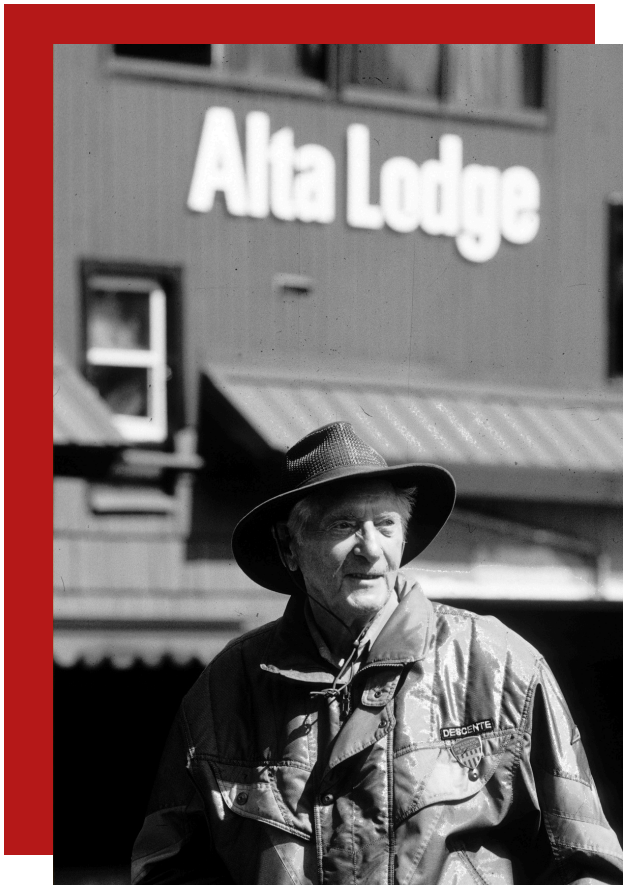
Marcus Dippo, GM Maren Askins, Chef Sam Wolfe (2024)



Even the "Brass" are pitching in to complete our new rooms.
Asst GM Bill Shorter, GM Chic Morton & Chef Bob Wagner (c. 1962)

Construction began on the north side of the Middle Wing as soon as the snow melted this spring, with the goal of completing the south-facing rooms before the first snowfall. If all goes as planned, we'll continue with the East Wing window replacements next fall.

We're thrilled for our guests to experience the benefits of these upgrades: larger windows, enhanced views, and better climate control in the rooms. As Bill Levitt invested in the Lodge 65 years ago, the Levitt family remains committed to preserving his legacy by continually enhancing the Lodge and ensuring a comfortable, authentic home away from home for all our guests.



Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe that fall is here and the countdown to the 2024-25 winter is on. We are excited to see old friends and new and welcome our guests and staff to the Lodge for another season filled with exceptional people, skiing, dining, and experiences. The NOAA forecast is for the return of a La Niña weather pattern, historically resulting in above-average snowfall in Alta. We anticipate another busy and great winter ahead!

As we take time to reflect, life here in Alta has been good. Last winter was the perfect encore to the record-breaking 903-inch season of 2022-23 – which, honestly, we did not hope to repeat. We wrapped up last winter with a continued sense of gratitude for the magic of Alta - an impressive 628 inches of snowfall, countless days of exceptional skiing, and a lodge full of happy guests and staff.

This spring, we completed the first phase of our window renovations, replacing the north side windows in the Middle Wing, along with a series of other maintenance and improvement projects throughout the Lodge.

Over the summer months, we kept up the tradition of our legendary summer Sunday brunch and had the pleasure of hosting many wonderful events and weddings. As fall settles in and winter approaches, we're making headway on phase two of the window replacement project, replacing the south-facing Middle Wing windows. So far, so good, and we are on target to reach our goal of completing the exterior work before the snow flies.

The change in seasons also brings about some changes in our management team. After over two decades of service to the Lodge and our guests, Cliff Curry retired as President of Alta Lodge in September. We are above and beyond grateful for Cliff. His love for the Lodge and Alta, along with his hard work and leadership, have kept the legacy of the Lodge alive and thriving. During his tenure, Cliff worked to hire the best staff, was committed to excellence in service, provided a warm and welcoming stay for all our guests, and upheld the traditions that make Alta Lodge special. We would not be where we are today without Cliff's dedication and management. Cliff has graciously passed on the leadership of the Lodge to Rosie O'Grady as President/Innkeeper, and Maren Askins as General Manager and CFO. We invite you to join us in wishing Cliff all the best in his well-deserved retirement and welcoming Maren and Rosie to their new roles at the Lodge.

This coming winter marks another milestone worth acknowledging: 65 years of Levitt family ownership. Amidst the continued mergers and acquisitions in the ski industry, the dedication to preserving the authentic spirit and tradition of Alta Lodge is as strong as ever. Our family and staff are honored to welcome you year after year, just as the Lodge has since its founding in 1940 and Bill's purchase of the Lodge in 1959. We are committed to offering an excellent guest experience while maintaining the unique charm and legacy of our historic mountain inn for generations of skiers to come. We are excited for another fantastic season and look forward to sharing many more memorable moments with you.

-Mimi, Marcus, Cassie, Toby and Alta Lodge Staff



Milestone: Cliff Curry

We are reminded constantly that no condition is permanent. In September 2024 I am retiring from my position as President of Alta Lodge and passing management of the Lodge to Rosie O'Grady and Maren Askins. The timing of this transition is great, for me personally and especially for the Lodge. The Lodge is in terrific shape and we have wonderful people to take us forward – our management, our department heads, all of our employees and the Levitt family.

To be part of running Alta Lodge for the past twenty-three years has been a lifetime experience for me. I have learned a lot – and I had a lot to learn. I've also skied my brains out and had some fun along the way. I am grateful to you all – the Levitt family, our employees, our guests and our managers, for all you have made possible for me in Alta since 1997 – and more important, for all you have done to make the Lodge what it is.



Alta Lodge is an institution in the world of skiing, and more than that, the Lodge is a place of humanity and a labor of love. We have a lot of history here. We also have a bright future – and a great present. The Lodge will continue to be everything a ski lodge should be, for our guests, our employees, and skiers from around the world. Alta Lodge will always work to have the most caring staff, the best food, the warmest and most authentic lodging, and the happiest guests.

I will still be here, this winter and beyond. I will be working much less and spending much more time on the mountain as well as in the Lodge. Here's hoping some of that time will be with you. Thank you for being part of it all in Alta and at Alta Lodge. - Cliff

Summer in Alta

Alta is the perfect summer destination for locals and guests from out of town to escape to the mountains for fresh air, cooler temperatures, incredible views, and, of course, a stunning show of wildflowers.

Weddings and Events

We were honored to host some fantastic couples (including a past employee), along with their families and friends, for some beautiful weddings this summer. We love to share the Lodge with summer guests as much as we do during the winter. It's so fun to see couples say "I do" with High Rustler as a witness and welcome groups for a night or the entire weekend.

We also hosted a handful of private meetings and events, including the 22nd annual Rocky Mountain Knitters' Retreat this fall. We welcomed back host Lisa Sewell (the Basque Knitter) and 70 fiber artists who made the Lodge their home for the weekend, enjoying each other's company, a cozy stay, and great food. Inspired by the cooler temps, fall colors, and each other, busy craftspeople decorated the Lodge both inside and out with their beautiful yarns and projects. [Learn more.](#)

Sunday brunch was as popular as ever this summer. Locals enjoyed the tradition of Sunday brunch al fresco, often in conjunction with a hike. Our weekend weddings and events loved wrapping up their gatherings with a group brunch before departure. Chef Sam and his team delighted guests with a bountiful array of traditional brunch fare, house-made baked goods, specials, and savory dishes.



[Learn more here](#) about booking Alta Lodge as a unique and memorable venue for a wedding or special event.

SO LONG HOWITZER

UDOT (Utah Dept. of Transportation) wrapped up the Mount Superior Avalanche Mitigation Project this summer with the installation of 16 additional Wyssen Remote Avalanche Control System (RACS) towers on the Mt. Superior ridgeline. This project was the final phase necessary to allow UDOT to retire the Howitzer which has lived above Alta's Wildcat lift since the mid-1940s.

Starting this winter, avalanche control work will no longer include shooting artillery over the road and buildings in the Town of Alta. The Wyssen towers are strategically located above key slide paths in Alta, and with remote operation and wireless communications, the RACS deploy explosive charges to trigger an avalanche.

The transition to RACS technology benefits everyone in the canyon by providing safer and more efficient avalanche mitigation and significantly reducing avalanches from hitting the road. Along with improved safety, this also means reduced interlodge time after heavy storm cycles and, ultimately, more ski time. The Howitzer has been a Little Cottonwood Canyon legacy. Learn more about the conclusion of Alta's avalanche artillery program and watch "Last Gunners" [here](#).



Photo: Deseret News/Ski Utah

KIDS' CLUB & KIDS STAY FREE



The legacy of family is deeply rooted at Alta Lodge, and our complimentary Kids' Club caters to the next generation of skiers and their parents.

We look forward to welcoming Savannah back as our Kids' Club Manager for her third season at the Lodge this winter. Savannah is excited to return and to see all of our younger guests in Kids' Club!

We continue to carry on the tradition of [Kids Stay Free](#) in Early season (Nov. 29 – Dec. 15) and Spring season (April 6-20). Paired with Kids' Club, it makes a ski vacation for the entire family easy and fun!

Alta's Alf Engen Ski School will be offering online advance ski school reservations again this winter. Registration for Kids' lessons will be available soon. Click [here](#) for more information.

And if you have 4th, 5th or 6th graders looking to ski, Ski Utah offers a deal on lift tickets that shouldn't be passed up! Learn more about the Ski Utah Passport [here](#).



From the Kitchen: Maghmour Stew

I discovered this Lebanese eggplant dish, Maghmour, at a tiny restaurant in Venice, Italy. It was served cold as an appetizer, but I always thought, served warm, it would be a great vegetarian entrée. It has become a guest favorite and a regular dish at home in the fall, made with garden-fresh tomatoes and eggplants. I recommend serving it warm with pita bread or over rice. - Chef, Sam Wolfe

Ingredients:

2 large, firm eggplants, skin on, cut into 1" cubes
1 large red onion, quartered, sliced thinly
1 - 15oz can of garbanzo beans, rinsed, and briefly pulsed in a food processor, only slightly breaking them down
1 - 15oz can diced tomatoes
4 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
1 cup olive oil
1 tsp ground cinnamon
1 tsp allspice
2 tsp sumac powder (or 1 T lemon juice as substitute)

1. Toss eggplant with half of the olive oil, spread on a baking sheet, dust with salt and pepper, and roast at 325 degrees F for 30 minutes or until browned
2. Sauté onions and garlic in remaining olive oil, until fragrant
3. Add diced tomatoes and simmer 10 minutes
4. Add the roasted eggplant and spices
5. Simmer 10 more minutes
6. Add more spices to your taste
7. Finish with salt and pepper

Meet Our Guests: Chuck & Barbara “Barie” Carmichael

Relocating from their native Midwest to make sailing a daily activity, the Carmichaels have called Virginia home for the past 22 years, the longest they've ever lived in one place. “We bought a dock with a house,” says Chuck with a chuckle as he describes life in Virginia.

Seeking adventure when it was too cold to sail, Chuck and Barie started skiing in college in the mid-60s, but didn't experience Alta until 1979. They stayed at the Blackjack condos with friends and have fond memories of skiing off the Germania lift and stopping in the old Watson's shelter for lunch. Over the years, they returned to Alta several times, trying out the Hellgate Condos and the Rustler Lodge. In February 2007, they finally found their perfect spot and “home away from home” at Alta Lodge and have cherished their stays in the same Original Wing room every year since.

Chuck likes to joke that Alta Lodge is his “assisted living facility” - but in all seriousness, it is one of their favorite places. They make two roughly 2-week visits each season (once in January and again in late February/early March). While they love the skiing, it's the welcoming and comfortable atmosphere at the Lodge and the people that keep them coming back. They continually meet wonderful guests, make new friends, and enjoy getting to know Lodge staff. Inspired by the late Naomi Wain, whom they met at a joiner table during dinner years ago (and encouraged them to stay for longer intervals), Chuck looks forward to continuing their Alta Lodge tradition for years to come and earning a free 80+ season pass.



Chuck and Barie have cultivated many delightful memories from their Alta Lodge vacations. Introducing their family to the Lodge has been a lot of fun, and they regularly invite others to join them during their stays. One of their greatest joys recently has been passing the love of skiing on to their grandchildren, who have taken to the sport—exclusively at Alta!—with enthusiasm and skill. Watching their grandkids enjoy skiing has been incredibly rewarding.

Another highlight of their Lodge stays is the dining. Barie loves the carrot cake and not having to cook while on vacation, while Chuck enjoys all the meals, especially the desserts. They also find returning for lunch a delightful alternative to on-hill options. They appreciate the chance to relax and take their boots off, and Chuck says it “beats the dickens out of any of the on-hill options.”

“Alta Lodge and Alta Ski Area are hard to beat compared to anywhere in the world.”

Nick Bolinder: **Maintenance Manager**



We are happy to welcome Nick to the Lodge as our Maintenance Manager.

Originally from Boise, ID, Nick moved to Alta after his 2012 graduation

from Utah State University. He met his now wife Lauren (who some may know from Ski School), during his second season in Alta. He is excited to be working at the Lodge and looks forward to getting to know our guests and sharing the Alta experience.

We're thrilled that Nick has decided to join our team and make Alta Lodge his Alta “home”.

Winter stays at Alta Lodge have become a cherished tradition for Barie and Chuck. They've become hooked over the past couple of decades, finding that “Alta Lodge and Alta Ski Area are hard to beat compared to anywhere in the world.” Barie finds that the “longer stays offer plenty of time to do everything and enjoy a pleasant, relaxing vacation,” including experiencing diverse mountain conditions, meeting new people, and appreciating the unbeatable service at the Lodge.

If you cross paths with the Carmichaels during your stay, be sure to say “hi.” You'll be glad you did!



Visit our newly updated website and book your stay now!

altalodge.com

Housekeeping Manager: **Hector Salgado**



Our Housekeeping Manager, Hector, and his team do a fabulous job behind the scenes tending to the Lodge and all of our guests!

Where are you from? I grew up in the town of Hermosillo in the state of Sonora, Mexico - an exceptionally hot and humid place, especially compared to Utah!

What brought you to Alta and Alta Lodge? My journey towards Alta and the Lodge started while I was still living in Mexico. After finishing my college studies, my father encouraged me to enroll in an English course, where it took me only six months to learn and sharpen my English skills. From there, I decided the best field to practice and enhance my new language was hospitality. So I accepted a front desk clerk position at a hotel in Mexico, which I greatly enjoyed.

When I landed in Salt Lake City in 2018, a big snowstorm had just passed through town, leaving in its wake a dazzling snow-capped panorama. I started to think how exciting it would be to live and work in a place with winters offering such splendor. From my earlier hotel experience, it was clear to me that a career in hospitality was what I wanted to continue pursuing, and I was overjoyed to land a position on the housekeeping staff at Alta Lodge.

My first day at Alta Lodge was on May 1, 2018, a memory that still stands fresh as a summer breeze in my mind. I was excited to be a member of Alta Lodge staff and to reignite my English. For the next two years, I lived and worked in the Lodge. I didn't ski, but it gave me the chance to hike a lot during the summer. I was mesmerized by the beauty of summer in Alta. I literally hiked every single day and became immersed in mountain life.

At the end of the 2021 summer season, I was offered a promotion to Housekeeping Manager. I didn't have to think twice before accepting. I have a great team of housekeepers who work hard together year-round. We are happy and proud members of the Alta Lodge staff, dedicated to serving our guests, the Levitt family ownership, and our fellow Lodge employees. I have learned so much here, and we have an incredible community.

How did you get into skiing? I love to hike (up to Cecret Lake in the summer is my favorite), but I have yet to ski. Instead, I have preferred to enjoy the remarkable views of the slopes and surrounding mountains from the Lodge in the winter. However, my goal is to learn to ski this winter. I have tons of support and encouragement from fellow co-workers who are willing to teach me, and I'm excited to learn.

FAVORITES

Alta Lodge dessert: The Key Lime Pie!

Working at the Lodge: It's the best thing that has ever happened to me. I love making every day count and working towards our guest satisfaction.



Welcome Back! Peter Swiggett: Reservations Manager

We are excited to have Peter return as Reservations Manager for his seventh in-person winter at the lodge, after spending some time working remotely for us.

Peter's first season was the winter of 2015-2016, where he worked at the Front Desk, and in the Dining Room in later years. He is thrilled to be back home in the lodge community and will look forward to seeing you all in the lift line.