

The Avalanche

OCTOBER 2013

From the Summit

I was going through my usual Friday night routine last week—sitting on the couch, eating Cheetos, drinking PBR, and watching lousy movies on TV—when one of my all-time favorites came on: Fiddler on the Roof. As I watched the big guy dance around and sing, I got to thinking, “what if I were a rich man?” Haven’t you ever wondered that yourself? I paused the movie and took a few minutes to set my dreams in order. I came up with a few ideas, but for your sake, I’ll stick to the skiing-related ones.



If I were a rich man... For starters, new gear is an obvious choice. No more of this one-ski quiver anymore. I’d have a set of skis for out west and a set of skis specifically for the east. Same deal on the boots. I’d have softer boots for the powder days and a pair of “OMG these are tight” boots for icy days when I want to do 100mph down Cannonball. Some of you are thinking about sherpas to carry the skis and boots for you; however, I’m thinking, why do I need sherpas? Screw the sherpas, I need ski-in, ski-out!

That brings us to the good stuff. Where would you buy your ski home? This is a tough one. As most of you know, I have a thing for Killington. I’ve already checked that box though. Instead, how about buying Killington? That’s right, the whole resort! I suppose it depends on just how rich I am. When it was last sold in 2007, it cost a mere \$85.2M. If I were a really, really rich man, I’d think about it. But that dancing Russian didn’t say “if I were a *really, really* rich man,” he just said “rich.” So let’s move to plan B.

I’ve always wanted a house out west. But there are so many choices, where do I even start? For me, it’s all about access. I want direct flights and a quick drive from the airport to the resort. That eliminates about 75% of the options. So what’s left? Utah! Salt Lake City is an easy flight from Boston and the ski areas are less than an hour from the airport. I can leave the house in the morning and be skiing by noon. No kidding—they actually promote that fact. The conditions are always amazing and there are some pretty epic resorts out there. There are resorts in other states that I like better, but for a total package, it’s hard to beat Utah. How about one of those massive slope-side homes at The Canyons? There’s a nice 15,000 sq. ft. on sale for \$15M right now. And that’s about \$70M cheaper than Killington. If only I were a rich man.

What would you do, if you were a rich man (or woman)? Now, back to the movie...

Roger “Tevye” Stokey
President



Poker Run 5!



Congratulations to Scott Muma, winner of the 5th annual Poker Run! Scott took home a cool \$100 in cash for his winning hand. The not-so-honorable mention goes to Rick Howe, for being the 1st-place loser. He received \$50 for being almost as good as Scott.



\$99

Membership & Trip Special

- Are you a new member? -or-
- A prior member that has not joined in at least 3 years (10-11 season)?

\$99 gets you a one-year membership and a day trip of your choice!

Contact: Michael Finegold (774-392-2567) or Len Hills (508-563-3941)

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BRECKENRIDGE

Now accepting Wait
List reservations!

Be one of the first to experience Peak 6 at Breckenridge—a huge addition to an already sprawling resort. With Peak 6, Breckenridge offers 2,901 acres across five peaks (almost 4 times the size of Killington), 11 bowls, the highest chairlift in North America, family-friendly terrain and a world-class ski school, all situated above an authentic, hip mountain town with awe-inspiring views. Renowned for the welcoming spirit and friendly character of their locals, with over 200 restaurants, bars, and shops, there are many good reasons why “Breck” is one of the most popular ski resorts in the Western Hemisphere.

The Important Stuff:

Dates: February 22—March 1

Price: \$1590

Trip Leader: Bud Shaw (508-477-3717, budco1@comcast.net)

Includes:

- 5 of 8 day lift (also valid at Keystone & Arapaho Basin)
- 7 nights lodging (Mountain Thunder Lodge Condominiums)
- Roundtrip airfare (and transport to/from hotel in CO)





To Autumn

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find
Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,
Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;
Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,
Drowsed with the fume of poppies, while thy hook
Spares the next swath and all its twined flowers:
And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep
Steady thy laden head across a brook;
Or by a cider-press, with patient look,
Thou watchest the last oozyings, hours by hours.

Where are the songs of Spring? Ay, where are they?
Think not of them, thou hast thy music too,--
While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,
And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn
Among the river shallows, borne aloft
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;
Hedge-cricket sing; and now with treble soft
The redbreast whistles from a garden-croft,
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.

John Keats (1795-1821) was an English Romantic poet, whose reputation grew considerably after his death. By the end of the 19th century he had become one of the most beloved of all English poets. Today his poems and letters are some of the most popular and most analyzed in English literature.

-poemhunter.com

BIKE & BARGE

...the Loire Valley

The Loire, a legendary river listed as World Heritage by UNESCO. Europe's last untamed river, the Loire has always fascinated by its unexplained caprices: in turn calm and savage, it has carved out a line in the earth full of surprises, from green islets to moving sandbanks. Following the course of the river, discover the Loire Châteaux: Renaissance homes, medieval fortresses, architectural heritage listed by UNESCO. Kings, artists and authors all had the right idea. Seduced by the Loire, a great many of them decided to settle along the banks of this river. Each of these monuments has some great stories to tell.

-loirevalleytourism.com



Includes:

- 7 nights lodging aboard a hotel barge
- 3 meals per day included
- Bicycle rental
- Entrance to 1 Chateaux
- Entrance to 1 Vineyard
- Transfers in France from Gare Du Nord to barge and back
- \$1199*

Trip Leader:

Michael Finegold—774-392-2567 or
mfskier@comcast.net

Note: we are taking wait list only at this time. Contract Michael for more info.

*does not include airfare, to allow for added vacation time before or after. Price may fluctuate slightly due to exchange rates.





GOING FOR GREEN

Patrick Thorne, The Snowhunter

When I first started writing about ski resorts nearly 30 years ago we were, although I didn't know it then, still in a period of growth in Europe and North America. New resorts, such as Beaver Creek and Valmorel, were still opening and the news each winter was always of new lifts, new runs. The environment was sometimes mentioned, but usually in the context of some long-haired environmentalists having the audacity to slow the development of one ski slope or another – curse them.

By the 1990s the expansion was over, the news was not of new runs, but of better lifts on existing routes, and always more and more snowmaking. Then in 2005 the world's media cottoned onto climate change. Somehow ski resorts became not the victims of it, but the epitome of all that was wrong with mankind's excess, destroying our own planet. Suddenly resorts became very environmentally aware, not exploiters but stewards of their local patch.

I realise I have included an awful lot of generalisations for which I apologise; there are many ski resorts that have always had a green ethos, most of which were ahead of increasing media coverage on the global warming issue, but I wanted to give this context as a background to how things have changed, and continue to change.

Around the time of that explosion in media interest I had been building a database of the world's top 250 resorts, and what they were each doing on the environment (you can still

see the Green Resort Guide online in the resorts section of skiclub.co.uk, although it hasn't been updated for a few years), and I did have to cut through an awful lot of guff about "ethos" and "principles" in some cases to find any hard facts about what some resorts were doing about the environment. Sometimes it boiled down to zero.

But in the 8 years since, things have changed. Although the credit crunch and the lack of an instant catastrophe has pushed climate change down the public agenda, the subject and, most importantly, the attitude has visibly become a part of ski resort DNA. No new project is announced now without a preamble about the environmental aspects. More importantly, some major capital investment by ski resorts, and the travel companies that serve them, has helped our industry to become world-leading, if we weren't before, in environmental responsibility.

Examples? In Aspen a new waste gas recycling scheme from an old coal mine both generates power and cuts CO₂ emissions, which dwarf energy consumption by the resort, so it can claim to save more CO₂ than it generates. At Whistler a new hydroelectric scheme also generates more electricity than is needed by the resort, and on the US east coast giant new wind turbines produce all, or nearly all, the





power requirements of a few smaller ski areas you may not have heard of: Berkshire East and Jiminy Peak.

They're not all in North America either; a giant photovoltaic solar array at the Austrian resort of Werfenweng (it's in the Crystal brochure!) is part of a comprehensive project to make the resort carbon-neutral. There are many more examples.

And more important still, for each of these big capital projects there have been 1000 smaller initiatives. The growing snowmaking systems,



and the new replacement lifts, are invariably far more efficient than those they replace – so newer is happily greener. The recently announced massive snowmaking system at Lech in Austria uses the same amount of green energy in a season as a single 100-bed, 3-star hotel. And remember, hotels in ski resorts use less energy on heating than equivalent buildings by the Med do on their air con, and in most cases you produce less CO₂ reaching them too as they're closer – especially if you go by Eurostar.

More new projects are being announced for 2013–14 too, including a carbon-neutral ski resort that is being developed at the site of the old Kobla ski area, near Bled in Slovenia (2864. si/en), continuing the trend for "green" to be "mainstream," rather than something first fought against, and then grudgingly accepted and added on as an afterthought.

Patrick has been writing ski resort news stories since the mid 1980s and, in 1998, began writing his The Snowhunters World Snow Resort News digest every week, year round.

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*Have an interesting idea for an article?
Send it to thomas.burt@comcast.net.*

2013 - 2014 Trip Schedule

DATE	DAY	DESTINATION	COST	TRIP LEADER	TIME
January 8	Wednesday	Stratton, VT	\$75/79	Mimi Schlichter	5:00
January 15	Wednesday	Killington, VT	\$75/79	Roger Stokey	5:00
January 26-31	Sun-Fri	Sugarloaf, ME	\$387	Bud Shaw	DY*
February 5	Wednesday	Okemo, VT	\$75/79	Len Hills	5:00
February 12	Wednesday	Sunday River, ME	\$75/79	Scott Northrop	4:30
Feb 22-Mar 1	Sat-Sat	Breckenridge, CO	\$1590	Bud Shaw	FLY
Feb 26	Wednesday	Bretton Woods	\$75/79	Steve Carr	5:00
March 5	Wednesday	Cannon, NH	\$75/79	Scott Northrop	5:00
March 12	Wednesday	Wildcat, NH	\$75/79	Camille Morgan	5:00
May 3-10	Sat-Sat	Bike/Barge-France	\$1199	Michael Finegold	FLY

- \$75/79—sign up by 12/31 and pay only \$75. On 1/1/14, prices increase to \$79.
- Trips highlighted in gray are overnight trips
- *DY—Drive Yourself
- All trips subject to our deposit and liability policies, found elsewhere in this newsletter and on our website.
- Non-members are subject to a \$15 surcharge.
- Don't sign up at the last minute! You may incur additional fees!



2013—2014 TRIP LEADERS

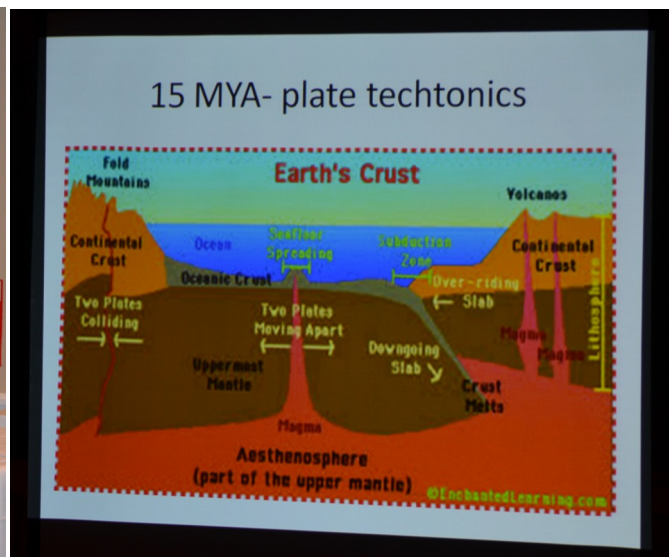
Roger Stokey 508-292-8370	Bud Shaw 508-477-3717	Camille Morgan 508-759-7616	Mimi Schlichter 508-548-3278
Steve Carr 508-563-9498	Len Hills 508-563-3941	Michael Finegold 774-392-2567	Scott Northrop 508-563-6731



THE AV

October Meeting

A huge thanks go out to those that made it out to our October meeting last week! Special guest Eric Chandler from FitPlan (more info below) provided helpful advice on preparing for the upcoming season. Also, Michael summarized 90 million years (I'm rounding off...) of the Earth's geological evolution and how it relates to his Bike and Barge trip to France next year. Next month? How the internal anatomy of a ping pong ball contributed to the endangered Lynx population of Copper Mountain (just kidding Michael—it was interesting!).



FitPlan, a division of Cape Cod Rehabilitation, is a fitness-based facility designed for people of all ages. Fitness memberships are available at either our [Mashpee](#) or [Hyannis](#) location with access available to our warm water pool with a Jacuzzi bench. In-

cluded with a membership is a fitness assessment, instruction in proper use of equipment and unlimited use of facilities. Members are also able to take advantage of all land and aquatic classes at no charge. **Call for more information on an upcoming Ski Conditioning class!**

508-477-6128 or <http://capecodrehab.com/services/fitplan/>





SUGARLOAF, MAINE

January 26—31, 2014

\$387

- White, White, World Week
- 5 nights condominium lodging
- 5 1/2 day ski pass
- Free group lesson each day
- Singles can be accommodated (fee)
- Monday evening “Welcome Social”
- Daily use of the Health Club

Deadlines:

\$200 due November 1

\$187 due December 15

Contact: Bud Shaw @ 508-477-3717 or budco1@comcast.net

Note: Membership dues MUST be paid prior to sign-up



Food / Can Drive!

Bring 3 canned/dried goods to the next meeting and you'll be entered into a raffle! Bring 5 goods and get two raffle tickets! Or, go the lazy route and give us \$5 to donate to the food pantry and we'll let you have a ticket..

Prizes go to 3 winners. Proceeds will be given to the Falmouth Service Center and Bourne Food Pantry.





BUS PARKING

has changed...



Day trip buses will now depart from the Beach House parking lot on Route 151 in North Falmouth. Please park along the back row of the lot, not in any of the front or middle spaces. A map is available on the website (although, if you need a map, you need to come to more meetings!).

calling all bowlers!



Watch the schedule on the website for upcoming bowling nights. A successful experiment last spring, these nights at The Lanes in Mashpee are back by popular demand!

Next night: November 13 (must sign up on site)

Agenda:

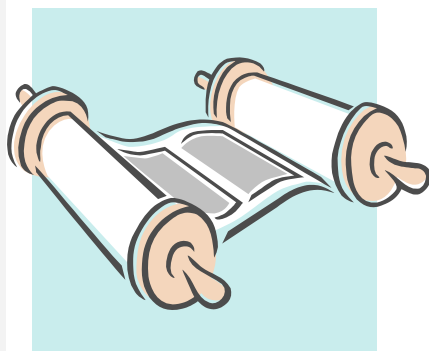
November 7 Meeting:

- Officer elections!
- Food / Can Drive - bring 3 items and get a raffle entry!
- Free food!
- 7PM start @ The Beach House
- Other activities TBD



ELECTIONS!

will take place at the 11/7 meeting.



BY-LAWS & POLICIES

Are posted on our website under the “Club Information” section. Members are encouraged to read the by-laws and are expected to adhere to the policies.

~ Deposit/Refund policy ~

Deposits help ensure that a space is reserved for our members. These deposits apply to bus trips, weekend trips, week-long trips and more. Late cancellations are not entitled to a refund, nor is the club responsible for finding a replacement for you. You must find your own replacement, although we will endeavor to help you whenever possible. Deposits are further subject to the conditions imposed upon us by our suppliers, agents or other providers. We make every effort to refund as much money as possible but cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Inquire of your trip leader for specific information regarding your particular trip. The club recommends that you consider trip insurance whenever possible.

Contact Us?

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www.uppercapeskiclub.com

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Scott Northrop
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