



PACIFIC NORTHWEST SKI AREAS ASSOCIATION (PNSAA)

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PRESS RELEASE

What's New in 2012/2013 at your Pacific Northwest Ski Areas

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La Conner, WA – Last winter was another great season with plentiful snow, especially in the spring, with skiing lasting well into May for many resorts. Amazingly a few resorts skied into July. During the pre-season, resort work crews have been busy with chairlift installations, building out bike parks, and significant enhancements to guest service buildings. As is the case each fall, all ski area operators are ‘tuning up’ ski lifts, day lodges, parking facilities, and the compelling array of ski school programs.

OREGON To provide guests with convenience, accurate vertical feet tracking and innovative access products, **Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort** has installed Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) gates at every lift. Mt. Hood Meadows also upgraded Shooting Star high speed quad lift by adding 20 chairs, increasing uphill lift capacity by 30%. Mt Hood Meadows received a second consecutive National Ski Area Association (NSAA) Sustainable Energy Grant to convert message board signs to battery power. **Mt. Bachelor** is constructing the new Bachelor Butte administration building that will consolidate staff offices into one location improving communication and efficiency as well as allow removal of the temporary “sprung” structure. Also as part of the project, the Bachelor Ski & Sport building will be renamed the Mountain Gateway building and will house all guest services, including a new Guest Services Sales Center on the lower level.

WASHINGTON **49^o North Mountain Resort** is installing a new chairlift for the 2012-2013 season. The double chairlift will serve the 1,144 vertical feet on Angel Peak moving 1,000 guests per hour to the summit. With this addition 49^o North will have a total of seven (7) chairlifts. **Mt. Spokane Ski & Snowboard Park** completed a 1,200 square foot addition to the main lodge that adds 100 additional seats and a new outdoor deck. **The Summit at Snoqualmie** broke ground and will complete the foundation for the new Silver Fir Lodge. The second phase of construction will begin next summer completing the lodge in time for the 2013/2014 season. **Crystal Mountain** will complete the first stage of its Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrade. The new system will meet all current state discharge standards and is capable of being enhanced to meet future standards. **Stevens Pass Mountain Resort** has removed brush, trimmed alder, and thinned

gladded areas to assure as early as possible opening and create new lines through trees on both sides of the mountain.

IDAHO Schweitzer Mountain Resort has completed an upgrade of their Musical Chairs lift with new chairs that have a restraining bar and outside bales, allowing easier loading especially for beginners. Schweitzer also has completely redesigned their Ski and Ride Center to enhance the guest experience when renting equipment or booking a lesson. **Lookout Pass** has installed a triple chairlift to replace a rope tow. The new lift will service their beginner area providing an enhancement to the guest's learn to ski/ride experience.

ALASKA Alyeska Resort has added a new high-speed detachable quad chairlift from the base area. Ted's Express, named for former Alaska Senator Ted Stevens, will replace Chair 4. This chair will be the second high speed quad at Alyeska Resort. Alyeska is also installing two Flex Turbine MT250 gas turbines which produce both electricity and hot water (co-gen) using low cost natural gas. These units will be used primarily to produce power needed to operate during periods of power outages.

For additional information on these exciting developments in the mountains, please visit your favorite mountain's website or call (877)533-5520.

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The Pacific Northwest Ski Areas Association is a non-profit trade association, which represents the interests of ski and snowboard facilities located in Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Idaho, Montana, and California. The Association's member ski areas – most of which operate on public land – collectively host an estimated 5.3 million visits annually. For additional information on Pacific Northwest skiing and snowboarding, contact the PNSAA office at (877) 533-5520, or visit www.pnsaa.org to link to the website of your favorite mountain.