

Escape

a chronicle of the christie lodge owners association

Twenty-Five and Counting **Beaver Creek Celebrates 25th Anniversary**

Mountain men, cattlemen, lumberjacks, trappers, farmers and other adventurous folks took root in the beautiful Beaver Creek Valley in the late 1800s.

A particularly favorite spot was Bachelor's Gulch, now popular as the central point for skiing from Beaver Creek to Arrowhead. It was so named because it was settled by a bunch of wild bachelors living off the land. They were later invaded by Allie Townsend (for which current resort *Allie's Cabin* is named), considered the first female resident of Beaver Creek.

Allie's father, Zach Allen, was a sheriff's deputy killed in the line of duty in 1876. The current resort *Zach's Cabin* is so named for him.

In the early 1900s, many folks in the area raised lettuce, which unbeknownst to many, thrives in high altitudes. Later the Great Depression forced most people to seek opportunities elsewhere, and the area sat in quiet solitude.



Bird's eye view of Beaver Creek Village taken from high on the ski mountain.

In 1972, the Vail resort executives purchased the land in Beaver Creek and surrounding areas and began plans for developing a resort. Even before it opened, it was named as a site for the 1976 Olympics, but alleged political pressure from Denver interests kept the Vail Valley from accomplishing this goal. Construction continued, and on December 15, 1980, Beaver Creek opened to the public.

As a person familiar with the area, you no doubt know that Beaver Creek is a feast for the eyes and a delight for the senses. Famous resorts such as Switzerland's St. Moritz, Italy's Cortina, and Spain's Val d'Aran affect the look and feel in countless ways and result in a pleasing mix of luxury and beauty found in few other places.

As for skiing, Beaver Creek Mountain was meant to accommodate skiers of all ability levels. That design proved timeless and today the

Winter '05 ~ '06

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(BC's 25th Anniversary - continued from previous page)

mountain is enjoyed by a variety of both winter and summer sports enthusiasts.

In spite of the Olympic near-miss of 1976, Beaver Creek has been home to major events such as the World Ski Championships in 1989 and again in 1999. The latter competition featured the introduction of the Birds of Prey downhill course, respected as one of the three most difficult World Cup downhill runs.

In 1997 village-to-village skiing was introduced and the resort now boasts 1,600 acres of groomed slopes that allow traditional skiing, snowboarding and a host of other winter activities. At the top of the mountain is a snowshoe and cross-country park, ice rink that operates all year, spas and a plethora of activities for families.

Today there are ten high-speed quad lifts, two triple chairs, two doubles and a surface lift that can carry over 31,000 happy snow enthusiasts to the summit each hour. This is quite a contrast to BC's early days twenty-five years ago, when just four chair lifts were running to serve 425 acres of skiable terrain. Superpipes, like the one enjoyed today, were unknown back then.

If you're new to Christie Lodge ownership, be aware that the entrance to the Beaver Creek facilities is less than a mile from our Lodge. A free bus service will pick you up at the Lodge's front door and whisk you up the mountain for a day or evening of fun and exploration.

Many activities are planned to help celebrate the resort's 25th anniversary, including the Beaver Creek Snowshoe Shuffle



This is the only way you can visit Beano's Cabin or Zach's Cabin for fine dining - by snowcat!

presented by Vail Valley Medical Center, in April. This is one of the largest snowshoe races in North America and is expected to again draw more than 1,000 participants. One hundred percent of proceeds from the Snowshoe Shuffle go to the Women's Cancer Coalition (WCC), operating under the auspices of Vail Valley Medical Center Foundation.

We encourage you to spend your week with us this year and take advantage of the festivities offered, both for the 25th anniversary and for normal, spectacular events regularly happening in the area. Give our Concierge a call before you come and we will be very happy to help you get the most fun out of your visit.

Oh, by the way, we've received a lot of snow already and the ski season promises to be a great one!

Incentives Offered . . .

We are very fortunate to have a great group of owners (you!) that regularly pay maintenance fees when due. This keeps the Association healthy and allows us to constantly make improvements to ensure your ownership in the Christie Lodge is one of which you can be proud and cherish.

One of the ways we say, "Thank you!" to our owners who pay promptly, is our exchange week giveaways. Locations available are all the properties through RCI and II.

We hold these drawings twice a year, just after each billing period. We draw names of three owners from this group. Then we pick up the exchange fee for each winner's week!

The lucky winners of free exchange weeks this period are:



Constance Addington
Colorado Springs, Colorado

W.G. & Carole Pettijohn
Coppell, Texas



Edward & Edda Bingham
Aurora, Illinois

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Late Fee Charges Change Slightly

As you can see by the cash budget at right, the Lodge management has a tremendous fiduciary responsibility. A big part of that responsibility is the collection of owner maintenance fees. It is important that we receive these in a timely manner.

Hopefully most of you have never experienced receiving a late charge when paying your fees. To help you avoid this, the Association has worked hard to provide online payment options, setting up recurring credit card or automatic bank withdrawal options and sending statements as far as 90 days prior to being late. Our goal is to make it easy for you.

If a maintenance fee is received after the due date, a surcharge is assessed in order to recover the additional expense of collecting the late payment. The previous surcharge was 5% of the current maintenance fee due which does not cover the costs of collection. Because of this, the Board of Directors has approved a flat late fee assessment of \$25.00 per occurrence.

The new late charge will become effective for the 2006 #1 maintenance fees due January 1, 2006 and late February 1, 2006. Please understand that this policy is for the continued good health of our Association.



At the owners meeting, General Manager Lisa Siegert-Free described Vail's Front Door Project showcasing Vail Village's future directions

CHRISTIE LODGE OWNERS ASSOCIATION CASH BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR ENDING 6/30/06

REVENUES			
ASSESSMENTS	\$	4,005,475	
COLLECTIONS	\$	1,025,000	
ANCILLARY	\$	2,205,242	
VACATION OWNERSHIP SALES	\$	40,000	
TOTAL REVENUE	\$		7,275,718
EXPENSES			
MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION	\$	2,038,435	
ROOM OPERATIONS & GUEST SERVICES	\$	1,913,528	
PROPERTY OPERATIONS & MAINT.	\$	898,879	
OVERHEAD EXPENSES	\$	903,349	
OWNER ACCOUNTS	\$	230,000	
MIS	\$	207,427	
RESORT	\$	418,009	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$		6,609,627
LESS: RESERVE FUNDING REQUIREMENT	\$	285,447	
PAYMENT OF DEBT - Net of Notes Receivable	\$	314,441	
NET INCOME FROM OPERATIONS	\$		66,202

2005 Owners Meeting Held

The 2005 Annual Owners meeting was held in Dallas, Texas on October 8, 2005. Announcements included: The Christie Lodge's fiscal year ending June 30, 2005 netted higher year over year occupancies and rental room rates, RCI renewed our Resort of International Distinction status, the Vail Valley Chamber and Tourism Board raised us to a Gold Plus property and Expedia rated the Christie Lodge 3 stars.

The Board of Directors and management presented the prior Annual meeting minutes, reported on the status of the Christie Lodge, elected three Board members, presented the 2004 audited financial statements and distributed the 2006 annual budget.

The Association is pleased to announce the election of Kristen Nostrand, Bill McReynolds and Jonasue Phillips to the Christie Lodge Board of Directors. Kristen Nostrand is a director of marketing with Proctor and Gamble and brings extensive business experience to the Association. Bill McReynolds, veteran Board member, is the Chairman of the Audit Committee and was formerly with Arthur Andersen. Jonasue Phillips is an active attorney and currently serves on the Board Legal Committee. The Lodge was awarded a "clean" 2004 audit opinion and Lodge management announced that budgeted maintenance fees will not increase in 2006. The 2006 budget and other important information can be found online in the owners section of www.christielodge.com.



LEGAL MATTERS

Your Timeshare Interest at the Christie Lodge is real property and as such, it is an asset that is part of your estate. You should plan for its disposition at the time of your death to insure that your intended recipient receives ownership without unnecessary costs and expensive delays in estate proceedings.

There are three ways in which owners generally take title to their Timeshare Interest: solely, in one owner's name alone, as joint tenants (the deed will actually contain the words "joint tenants") with rights of survivorship, or as tenants in common where each owner is considered to own a completely separate interest in the property.

If you own your Timeshare Interest in joint tenancy with a spouse or child, an estate proceeding in Colorado is not required and title passes automatically upon death to the other joint tenant. This is the result that owners such as married couples usually desire and expect to get. Unfortunately, the original developer of the Christie Lodge conveyed property to most married couples as tenants in common. Recent sales are made to joint tenants unless otherwise requested.

The result is that on the death of one tenant in common, the separate interest of the deceased goes to the deceased's estate. Thereafter, the property can only be dealt with by the deceased's executor or personal representative through a Colorado probate proceeding. This can be complex for Colorado residents but is even more complex for owners living outside Colorado. Proper estate administration may well include a probate in the owner's resident state and an ancillary probate proceeding in Colorado.

The cost and complexity of one or more estate proceedings to deal with a deceased owner's Timeshare Interest can be avoided if husband and wife owners convert their tenancy-in-common interests to joint tenancy interests. The conversion simply requires executing and recording a deed from a husband and wife, as tenants-in-common, to a husband and wife, joint tenants, in a form that the Lodge staff can provide to owners wishing to make the change.

The Association does not have a copy of your original deed, which will need to be provided by you to make this change. The recording fee is \$6 for the first page and \$5 for each additional page. If the co-owners are not spouses, the conversion may have gift tax consequences that will require you to consult with your own legal counsel.

A little planning can save you time and even substantial legal fees if estate proceedings are later required. It is in your best

interest to have title to your Timeshare Interest pass upon death to one of the owners free of probate. If you have any questions, feel free to call or email the Owner Accounts Department at 1-800-845-0257, lhauge@christielodge.com.

CAUTION-CAUTION-CAUTION-CAUTION

We have received correspondence from several owners regarding services that promise a quick sale of your timeshare, usually for much more than its actual value. One owner reports on such a service often seen on television that promises a quick solution. "We sent them \$1,295 and all the paperwork. We were told they'd get back to us with three bids. Never happened."

The unit was allegedly listed on the internet for a year with no results. At least that was their story.

An equally famous company seen in magazines guaranteed a sale after being told of other rip-offs. For obvious reasons, we don't name them here but this Florida-licensed company, according to an owner, "got our \$895 and didn't sell." It was the same story as before.

Don't lose your shirt! If you decide to sell your unit, beware of services promising results too good to be true. It could be an expensive scam.



Our General Manager, Lisa Siegert-Free, offers this advice to owners wishing to sell their unit(s), "For a variety of reasons, the Christie Lodge does not have a resale program for current owners. However, the staff can answer questions about your pursuit of a sale of a unit."

"One of the best solutions may be to find a friend or relative willing to purchase the unit. Another option is that if your children want the unit, you can change the deed to their name(s) for a modest fee."

"Additionally, there are internet sites that will list a timeshare unit for free or for a minimal fee like \$20. To locate these sites, type "timeshare resales" under whatever search engine you use. Please be aware to never put money up front with anyone! There are a lot of scams out there!"

Calendar of Events - Winter'06

January, 2006

Humor on the Slopes	6 ~ 8
Beaver Creek Snowshoe Adventure series	7
The Honda Session	12 ~ 15
Winter Film Festival, <i>Works of David Cronenberg</i>	13 ~ 14
STARS: <i>Color Me Dark</i> Imagination Celebration	19
Moscow Chamber Orchestra, Celebrating 50 Years	20
<i>Shylock</i> , Historic Theatre, Gareth Armstrong	27
<i>One Man Star Wars Trilogy</i> , Charles Ross	28

February, 2006

<i>An Evening on Broadway</i> , VV Theatre Co.	11 ~ 12
Beaver Creek Snowshoe Adventure Series	11
Royal Winnipeg Ballet, <i>The Magic Flute</i>	14
Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver, <i>Bluegrass Gospel</i>	15
Family Show, <i>Chinese Golden Dragon Acrobats</i>	16
The Second City Improv & Sketch Comedy	17 ~ 18
American Classic Theatre <i>The Trip to Bountiful</i>	19
Contemporary Dance, <i>Nicholas Andre Dance Theatre</i>	23
Folksy Blues, <i>Jackie Greene</i>	25
Billboard World Chart Toppers, <i>Soweto Gospel Choir</i>	26
<i>Tap Dogs</i> 10th Anniversary Tour	27

March, 2006

<i>La Boheme</i> Teatro Lirico D'Europa	2 ~ 3
<i>Catalpa</i> , Donal O'Kelley storytelling theatre	4
Beaver Creek Snowshoe Adventure Series	5
<i>Bud Light Street Beat</i>	8, 15, 22, 29
<i>Chris Botti</i> , Trumpet Virtuoso	8
<i>Junie B. Jones</i> Family Musical Theatre	9
<i>Sex and the Second City</i> Comedy Theatre	11 ~ 12
Hungarian Symphony Orchestra	16
Contemporary Dance, <i>Alonzo King's LINES Ballet</i>	18
Dine In Movie	18
Mike Albert's <i>Ultimate Tribute to Elvis</i>	19
Polish Chamber Orchestra, <i>Mozart's 250th Birthday</i>	20
Stand-up Comedy, <i>Kathleen Madigan</i>	25
Shemekia Copeland, R & B Blues	26

April, 2006

Beaver Creek Snowshoe Adventure Series	1
Contemporary Dance, <i>Blind Date</i>	2
Stand-up Comedy, <i>Steven Wright</i>	3
<i>Fiesta Primavera</i>	8 ~ 18
<i>Bud Light Street Beat</i>	5, 12, 19

This is only a small portion of the multitude of activities happening in our area this season. For more information on anything here which interests you, or for answers to other questions on local activities, please do not hesitate to contact our concierge. Ask for Julie Imada, featured on the back page!

Avon's Bike Path Is a Local's Favorite



Citizens who voted in the annual "Best Of Vail and Eagle Valley" contest named the Edwards Bike Path, East Vail Bike Path and Avon Bike Path as their favorites in the "Best Place to Run" category . That's the Eagle River on the right, within easy biking (or even walking) distance from the Lodge.



The ECO Trails program develops, promotes and cooperatively maintains a scenic and safe trail system of urban, paved, multi-use, non-motorized trails. The program is funded by a designated sales tax collected in the Eagle River watershed of Eagle County.

Instant Weather Report Available on the Web for Vail Valley

Danielle McLaughlin Sheehan, Marketing Manager of Beaver Creek Resort invites all to instantly check BC snow conditions and area weather in general by logging onto the site at right . . .



<http://beavercreek.snow.com/mtn.report.asp>

Getting to Know Us . . .

We are happy to have a Vail Valley veteran take the reigns of our Concierge department. Julie Imada moved here five years ago from Denver and knows the Valley well, partially due to her stint as a reporter for a local newspaper.

She can make your stay at the Christie Lodge much more enjoyable by cluing you in on what's happening around the area and giving you tips on where to find great food, great skiing, great sports activities and just about anything else you might want to do in the myriad of choices out there.

When you visit us, be sure to attend the wine and cheese party we sponsor for owners and guests each week. Julie hosts this popular event and will make sure that you are well fed, well entertained and that you have a good time.

You can also enjoy the stretch classes, arts and crafts activities and the guided walks to Nottingham Lake, where

guests learn more about our local history. Julie would love for you to participate in these programs.

Julie is also community minded and has worked with the Denver-based *PeaceJam Foundation*, a non-profit organization that serves young people. The 14 Nobel Peace Laureates that *PeaceJam* works with all agree that it is necessary to teach peace, conflict resolution, tolerance, and acceptance to youth around the world.

However, her most important duty outside the Christie Lodge is being a mom! Four-year-old daughter McKenzie takes after her mom and is already on the slopes when she's not attending the Family Learning Center in Edwards. Skiing from childhood is a legacy that anyone would enjoy and we bet that McKenzie will become just as accomplished as her mother. Neither use a snowboard!



Concierge Manager Julie Imada can help you do and see more during your next stay

Julie also likes to read, in particular, historical accounts, biographies and sometimes a little fiction. She also likes computers and favors those little Macintoshes. In any case, do yourself a favor on your next visit and stop by the Concierge. You may be surprised at all the services you can enjoy.



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