

Escape

a chronicle of the christie lodge owners association

Local Bear Sightings Cause Excitement and Concern

We have heard about encounters with bears in East Vail and even in Vail proper. In recent years it has become more prevalent in Avon. Most of us think of bears as warm and cuddly zoological wonders, but in reality, these animals are wild. There are exceptions, such as highly trained television and movie stars, like Gentle Ben and Bart the Bear. Such celebrity bears and the special relationship they have with their trainers can leave us with a misguided impression of wild animal behavior. From our wildlife's viewpoint, we are never a friend.

Most bears in Colorado are black bears and presently there are up to 12,000 of them estimated to be in our state. Males average about 275 pounds but have been reported to tip the scales at over 450 pounds. The name "black" is a misnomer as the color ranges from blonde to brown to black.

These days their natural habitat is being encroached upon by our ever-expanding human developments and housing. This actually places us into closer proximity with their habitat. The old adage is true, "They were here first." Bears are quite clever and learn to associate human



Not all bears are as happy as this fellow seems to be. If you encounter a fuzzy beast like this one, stay out of its way and DO NOT FEED THE BEARS.

habitation with food resources, in homes or in our trash. It's not their natural way, but it is a bountiful opportunity they will explore.

In particular, last summer our area experienced a number of people and bear encounters where bears, attracted by the smell of human food, entered into homes and kitchens! These bears are quite confident and unconcerned whether or not people are home. During the summer and fall bears gorge themselves in preparation for winter hibernation. They need to develop a final layer of fat and will forage anywhere they learn is successful and they will eat about anything providing calories.

This problem does not have a perfect solution. Most local municipalities have regulations in place for storing trash, trash receptacles and other attractions, e.g., pet dishes left available outdoors. Additional hints and guidelines are also published every year for area residents. The Colorado Division of Wildlife heavily promotes

(see 'Wildlife' on next page)

Winter '07

(Wildlife - continued from previous page)



It might be cute and cuddly, but remember, most likely Mom isn't far away and she doesn't like her children playing with strangers.

relocation of "rude" bears and a problem bear is killed only when it has been determined an absolute necessity. One very sad result of bears investigating human food resources is that mother bears will teach all food sources to their cubs and the next generation of our bear population is put at risk.

All of us at the Christie Lodge are very committed to pursuing a proper response to this problem and that is to teach the bears that there is no food available to them in and around town. Christie Lodge did have a young bear visiting the property this past summer and we took it very seriously. He came two nights in a row and then seemed to move on elsewhere.

We have since installed bear-resistant trash containers, in most areas, in compliance with our local regulations. In the front areas of the buildings, we have installed completely bear-proof trash containers. We also bring to the attention of our guests when bear sightings occur and distribute guidelines for owners and staff, which define a heightened awareness and provide safety hints. We participate on the local task force for bear awareness and control. Local businesses, residents and officials are always interested in preventing and reducing the number of "in-town" bear episodes.

If you happen to have a bear experience anytime you visit the

outdoors, there are several things you can do to assist your own safety. First of all, keep your distance. Never approach wildlife and bears in particular. You should back away slowly and do not run. Running away can trigger the bear into a hunting response. Do not try to capture the moment with your camera, especially using a flash. This kind of activity is often perceived as threatening to bears. When possible call 911; the operator will dispatch the fastest available help for the situation.

We feel that bears are doing what comes naturally and, as humans, we can and should assist the bears by taking responsibility for our actions and strongly promoting the benefit and use of preventive measures. First on this list is, using common sense. Do not leave food in your car or outside on the decks. Lock your doors, wherever you're visiting, even here at the Lodge! Use the bear-resistant trash receptacles.

Most importantly, do not let this affect your plans to visit us in any way! The Colorado Division of Wildlife, the Avon Police, the Christie Lodge staff and many other interested parties are working towards solutions that will first and foremost improve the safety of humans and, thereby, will benefit the bear population. So, come on up and enjoy your stays with us; relish in the beauty of the Rocky Mountains and when you are lucky enough to see our wildlife firsthand, please appreciate them from a distance!

Canadian Lynx Thriving in the Mountains

In the 90s a few Canadian Lynx were brought to the Vail area in the hopes of reviving the almost-extinct population up here. The one in our lobby was one of two known to meet an untimely demise.

Today over 200 are known to live in the mountains surrounding the Lodge. For more lynx and other critter info, point your browser to <http://wildlife.state.co.us/>.

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Christie Lodge Again Hosts Charity Golf Tournament

We are proud to report that in June of 2006, 105 golfers at the Cotton Ranch Club in Gypsum, Colorado, joined more than 2,000 golfers around the world to participate in the 2006 Christel House Open. Australia, England, Germany, India, Mexico, South Africa, Spain, the United States and Venezuela hosted the charitable-minded golfers. That's six continents!

The Christie Lodge and Grand Timber Lodge of Breckenridge donated their time and efforts to coordinate and host the Cotton Ranch Club site. The Colorado event raised more than \$23,000 to benefit the Vail Valley Charitable Fund and Christel House.

"The generosity of both these organizations is absolutely extraordinary," noted Cheryl Wendling, Senior Vice President of Christel House. "The children of Christel House extend their heartfelt thanks to these companies and their employees for their support."

Christel House Open

The Vail Valley Charitable Fund helps individuals who live and work in the Vail Valley, who have critical financial need due to medical catastrophes, accidents or long-term illness.



Literally thousands of children have been aided by these two generous charities.

Christel House is an international children's charity serving over 2,400 children in five countries, including the United States. Its mission is to help children break the cycle of poverty and become self sufficient, contributing members of their societies.

CHRISTIE LODGE OWNERS ASSOCIATION - FISCAL YEAR ENDING 6/30/07 - CASH BUDGET

REVENUES		PROPERTY OPS & MAINT.	\$1,098,716
ASSESSMENTS	\$4,068,097	OVERHEAD EXPENSES	<u>\$887,645</u>
COLLECTIONS	\$1,156,861		
RENTAL	\$1,780,340	LESS: OPERATING EXPENSES	<u>\$6,814,697</u>
ANCILLARY	<u>\$506,691</u>		
		RESERVE FUNDING REQUIRED	\$313,440
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>\$7,511,989</u>	DEBT PRINCIPLE PAYMENTS	<u>\$323,996</u>
EXPENSES		LESS: NON-OP EXPENSES	<u>\$637,436</u>
MGT. & ADMIN.	\$2,236,752		
ROOM OPS & GUEST SVCS.	\$2,591,584	NET INCOME FROM OPERATIONS	<u><u>\$59,856</u></u>

Q. Why are these owners doing a happy dance?

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:

Jeremy & Kimberli Emerson
Ogden, Utah

Sam & Marilyn Anzalone
Indian Wells, California

Celeste & James Novak
Willowbrook, Illinois



A. Because they paid dues on time and won a week!



Silver Crown Status Awarded to Lodge

The Christie Lodge has been awarded the Silver Crown designation by RCI for the fourth year in a row! The Silver Crown designation replaces the former "RID" designation - Resort of International Distinction.

RCI's Resort Recognition Program sets an industry standard for monitoring quality accommodations of timeshare properties. To be part of this recognized group is a great accomplishment that is earned by hard work and consistently producing high levels of service and quality. This rating from RCI is the result of our owners and exchange guests who have completed the comment cards.

Our Silver Crown rating not only helps to profile our resort, but also gives our RCI members increased trading power.

David McDonald, RCI's Director of the Mid-America Region, wrote in a letter to Christie Management, "I have had the honor of visiting your property several times in 2006 and you and your staff have shown great passion and interest in servicing all guests with professionalism and warm enthusiasm. Your proactive stance in the timeshare industry and participating with ARDA (the American Resort Development Association) has put The Christie Lodge in the forefront of many issues in the United States."

After the holidays, Mr. McDonald will personally present the 2007 Silver Crown plaque to Christie Lodge. All in-house owners and guests will be invited to attend this event. Christie Lodge management thanks our owners and staff for supporting our goal of creating memorable vacation experiences for all of our owners and guests.



Annual Meeting Was Enjoyed by All Who Attended and Two CLOA Board Members Were Re-elected

On Saturday, October 14, 2006, the Christie Lodge Owners Association held a very successful Annual Owners Meeting here at the Christie Lodge. The meeting was attended by approximately 100 owners. The annual business of the association was conducted at the meeting. In a shared presentation Lisa Siegert-Free, General Manager, and Shirley Byrne, Assistant General Manager, demonstrated fascinating changes to the lodge in side-by-side photos from past years and the present. B. Jay Bliss, Front Office and Reservations Manager, presented a variety of hints for owners from the Reservations Department.

Our management company, Resort Advisory Group, Inc., provided the beautiful 25th anniversary brunch. The event was catered by Columbine Bakery. Our members of Management and many

members of the Christie Lodge Team attended the meeting and also worked on meeting preparation, set-up and food service. This meeting was a fabulous presentation of the high quality work that we accomplish here at the Christie Lodge.

An election was held to fill two open Board positions. Elected to the Board was Dr. Art Olson, from Niceville, Florida. "Dr. Art" has served in past years as a Board member and as President, and he currently serves as the Commercial Owners' representative. The voting members also re-elected Mr. Steve Vickers from Larkspur, Colorado. Mr. Vickers is a returning Board Member and additionally serves on the Audit Committee. We very much appreciate their time and dedication to the Christie Lodge Board of Directors.



Returning Board member Dr. Art Olson is an esteemed educator and an accomplished skier and mountain biker.



Returning Board member Steve Vickers enjoys his ranch after a career in the IRS catching bad guys.



Rez Hotline
1-888-325-6343



Calendar of Events - Winter '07

January, 2007

Honda Session Snowboard Event	12~14
<i>The Chieftains</i> Irish-Celtic concert	14
Josh Blue - Last Comic Standing	15
<i>Pink Floyd</i> Laser Spectacular	25
Mountain Dew Vertical Challenge	27
George Winston in concert	30

February, 2007

Culinary Classic/Celebrity Chef Ski	1~3
THE FRAY live in concert	3
Paul Taylor Dance Company	3
Anne Akiko Meyers - violinist	5
Neil Simon's <i>Lost in Yonkers</i>	6
Jo Dee Messina in concert	7
Bela Fleck and the Flecktones in concert	9
Mountain Dew Vertical Challenge	10
<i>Pirates of Penzance</i> musical	11
Aspen Santa Fe Ballet	14
Bud Light <i>Street Beat</i> free concert	14, 21, 28
An Evening on Broadway	17~18
Vail's <i>Mardi Gras</i>	17~20
<i>The Lettermen Sing Broadway</i>	22
Great Moments in Opera	27
<i>Carmen</i> full-scale opera	28

March, 2007

Humor on the Slopes	1~4
<i>Capitol Steps</i> political satire	4
Bud Light <i>Street Beat</i> free concert	7, 14, 21, 28
<i>Pilobolus</i> - contemporary dance	8
Moscow Chamber Orchestra	10, 12
<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> Aquila Theater	11
Steve Tyrell in concert	14
Pat Methany & Brad Mehldau contemporary jazz	18
<i>Aesop's Fables</i> by Jim West's Puppets	21
Countrywide American Ski Classic	21~24
Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra	22
Del McCoury Band in concert - bluegrass	23
Arlo Guthrie and the Guthrie Family	26
Leo Lionni's Family Theater	27
The Spencers' <i>Theater of Illusion</i>	28
<i>Vail Film Festival</i>	29~31
Chris Botti contemporary trumpet	30
<i>Swan Lake</i> Moiseev Russian Ballet	31

April, 2007

<i>Spring Back to Vail</i>	Daily 1~15
<i>Vail Film Festival</i>	1
Beaver Creek Ski Mountain Closes	15
Vail Ski Mountain Closes	22

Maintenance Engineers Keep Busy . . . as Always

The Christie Lodge siding is sporting a new coat of paint! The management team and staff were excited to learn that the building could be repainted under warranty! The entire cost to the Lodge was only the \$100 deductible!

With new paint on the building, it seemed fitting that improvement be considered for updating the faded terra cotta color on the metal roof areas, which are affectionately referred to as the Christie Lodge "eyebrows". The metal was in good condition, but the paint was worn and faded, due to our wonderfully sunny days.

The awnings, which we refer to as the Christie Lodge "eyelashes", were also ready for replacement. It was suggested that this project would be a great time for a color change! After approval meetings with the Town of Avon, we have a crisp new contemporary look for the Christie Lodge!

The new color is forest green and is a dramatic presentation against the sterling gray building. The new paint, color, awnings, and the new Christie Lodge logo on the front awning, offer a classic style that is warm and inviting.



Another upgrade was subtle and inconspicuous, yet we are expecting some good "feelings" about this one.

The upper floor windows were showing their age and many were not operating

properly; the lodge wasn't able to maximize natural ventilation for summer cooling. We are pleased to report that these old windows have been replaced with new windows of an advanced design with significantly greater functionality.

The upgraded windows include commercial grade thermopane glass and heavy duty metal framing. The new window panes can be easily accessed for cleaning inside and out. The new Thermopane glass will help reduce the radiant heat entering the atrium.

The best advantage is the windows can be fully opened which will significantly enhance the building's natural airflow. Summer stays may have a whole new "feel" here at the lodge.

Be sure to check out these enhancements on your next visit. Your Christie Lodge has never looked so beautiful!

Getting to Know Us . . .

Charles Frey was born and raised in Switzerland where he also received his formal hotel training. After working in several countries in Europe, such as Holland, Germany, and France he moved to South East Asia. There he worked in top rated hotels in Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines before coming to the United States in 1981.

Charles came to Vail in 1993, accepted a position with the Sonnenalp Resort and served as Resident Manager and General Manager for nine years.

He left the Valley in 2003 to pursue other interests; however, he missed the beauty of the Vail Valley. Returning to Vail in November 2005, Charles became Director of Operations at the Christie Lodge.

He directs the House-keeping, Security, Engineering and Grounds departments, supervises the Managers on Duty and serves as a member of the Executive Committee.

Charles has been married to Christina for 28 years and they have two children. Their daughter, Nicole, is a reporter for the Vail Daily and their son, Sacha, studies archeology at the University of Michigan.

In his spare time, Charles likes to play tennis, ski, read books of all sorts and occasionally go fishing. He loves cooking, traveling and getting to know other countries, people, and cultures.



A professional international flair is Charles' claim to fame at the Christie Lodge.

Charles brings to the Christie Lodge over 35 years of international experience in the hospitality industry. We thoroughly appreciate Charles' talents and contributions and we are delighted to have him on The Christie Lodge management team.



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