



Snow Hunter's World Weekly Snow News

Week Ending July 9th, 2016

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This is not a sales email but dates from a gentle time of letters and faxes, before email, texts, Facebook, Twitter and even spam. It is sent to you because you asked or because we thought you might be interested in ski news from around the world. If you would prefer not to receive it, just let us know.

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

Term-Time Ski Holiday Ruling May Be Challenged in Supreme Court
Organisations Considering Challenging Vails Attempt To Trademark 'Park City' Reaches 100
Tour Op Offers Minimum Guaranteed Price In Sterling For Lift Pass Purchases
Cervinia Celebrates 80 Years of Key Lift
Former Soviet Era-Ski Resort Reborn
France's Biggest Children's Village To Get Better Still
New Zermatt Theme Trail Shows Glacier's Movements Through The Ages
Famous Apres Ski Bar Revamped
New Zealand Ski Area Re-Opens After Challenging Warm Spell
Ski and Snowboard Stars Go Back To School

NEWS STORY SUMMARIES

1	The Isle of Wight Council has been given permission to appeal to the Supreme Court against a High Court ruling against them and in favour of a father who they had fined for taking his daughter out of school for a family holiday during term time.
2	The number of local Park City businesses and others who disagree with controversial plans by Vail to trademark the name Park City “as it applies to a mountain resort,” has reached 100 according to local newspaper the Park Record.
3	With the pound currently continuing to fall in value against other currencies, most tour operators are stressing that they are absorbing the negative impact of that on foreign travel, guaranteeing prices have not risen since the Brexit vote and for those booking now, that there’ll be no ‘Brexit surcharge.’
4	Cervinia, which recently re-opened for summer glacier skiing, is celebrating 80 years since the completion of the first Breuil - Plan Maison cable car in 1936.
5	What was once one of the Soviet Union’s leading ski resorts is continuing its re-birth as the leading resort of Georgia.
6	Work at Courchevel’s Children’s Village this winter will see further improvements to France’s largest on-snow area dedicated to learning and fun for kids aged 18 months or older.
7	Visitors to the Swiss resort this summer also have the opportunity to visit the new “The Gorner Glacier Through the Ages” themed trail which shows the changing history of the Gorner glacier.
8	One of Canada’s legendary apres ski bars, P’tit Caribou in Mont-Tremblant, Quebec, has been fully revamped and has now reopened after three months of major renovations.
9	Queenstown’s Coronet Peak ski area is re-opening in time for New Zealand’s school holidays after temperature dropped enough for snowmaking guns to be fired up again, despite a lack of natural snowfall.
10	Three of Britain’s top ski and snowboard athletes, including Winter Olympian Snowboarder Aimee Fuller, shared their personal journey and top achievements with hundreds of students from Chobham Academy in London.

Term-Time Ski Holiday Ruling May Be Challenged in Supreme Court

The Isle of Wight Council has been given permission to appeal to the Supreme Court against a High Court ruling against them and in favour of a father who they had fined for taking his daughter out of school for a family holiday during term time.

The High Court had refused the council the right to appeal to them, and the Supreme Court will still have to decide whether it will hear the case.

The government has said it will consider making changes to the law to make sure that parents are fined for taking their children on ski trips and other holidays during term time. The council lost at the High Court on a point of law because the fines regime brought in in 2013 by then education secretary Michael Gove was a variation of an existing law, rather than a clear new law in its own right.

Organisations Considering Challenging Vails Attempt To Trademark 'Park City' Reaches 100

The number of local Park City businesses and others who disagree with controversial plans by Vail to trademark the name Park City "as it applies to a mountain resort," has reached 100 according to local newspaper the Park Record.

Vail Resorts, which acquired Park City mountain Resort in Utah last year say they only want to trademark the name to prevent others setting up ski resorts in other locations with the same name, the company says, but local businesses and others are concerned that they might be limited in their use of the names of the city where they are located if it is 'owned' by Vail.

Vail is reported to have already reached agreement with at least one long established Park City ski industry business which had mounted a legal challenge against the company's plans.

However a large number are still opposed to Vail Resorts' application to the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Tour Op Offers Minimum Guaranteed Price In Sterling For Lift Pass Purchases

With the pound currently continuing to fall in value against other currencies, most tour operators are stressing that they are absorbing the negative impact of that on foreign travel, guaranteeing prices have not risen since the Brexit vote and for those booking now, that there'll be no 'Brexit surcharge.'

Now one ski tour operator, Mountain Heaven, has taken further steps to help skiers avoid the effects of the weakening pound. The company is now offering a guaranteed minimum exchange rate for guests buying their lift passes through them.

This applies to new bookings, which must be booked before the 31st August to qualify for the fixed minimum rate of 1.15 (currently better than the Post Office tourist rate). If the Pound recovers in the meantime guests will still be able to get the better rate.

“In our catered chalets almost all meals are provided and airport transfers are included in the price. There are no nasty extras payable locally, such as tourist tax, so the majority of the holiday cost is payable in Sterling,” said Nick Williams, M.D. of Mountain Heaven, “By introducing the minimum exchange rate our guests know that they will not have to part with extra cash for lift passes should the Pound continue to drop. Guests will still need spending money, of course, but our chalets are so comfortable and offer unlimited wines, so there really is no need to go out.”

The minimum exchange rate offer is only valid for new holidays booked directly with the company before the 31st August and is for individual lift passes only.

Cervinia Celebrates 80 Years of Key Lift

Cervinia, which recently re-opened for summer glacier skiing, is celebrating 80 years since the completion of the first Breuil - Plan Maison cable car in 1936.

The lift, was built within two years of the founding of Cervino in 1934, and played a crucial part in the resort becoming one of the most important ski resort in Italy and indeed worldwide.

Today the resort operates 24 lifts and shares a larger international ski area with Zermatt across the Swiss border.

The summer ski season, which lasts until 4th September, takes places on the largest summer ski area in Europe with 25km of ski runs.

The high altitude with skiing from 3,500m at Plateau Rosà to the 3,883m Klein Matterhorn and Europe's highest lifts at 3,899m at the Gobba di Rollin, means there's often winter-like snow conditions even during the hottest summer months.

There are ski runs for the experts (the World Cup athletes train here) but also runs for less experienced skiers. Freestylers have the Gravity Park terrain park to enjoy.

The Plateau Rosà glacier can be reached from Cervinia town in half an hour with the Cime Bianche Laghi to Plateau Rosà cable car an attraction in itself.

Once at Plateau Rosà a museum entitled “A Mountain of Work” contains an exhibition of photos and tools used to build the first lift systems in the Breuil area 80 years ago.

Former Soviet Era-Ski Resort Reborn

What was once one of the Soviet Union's leading ski resorts is continuing its re-birth as the leading resort of Georgia.

Gudauri was formerly a training centre for Soviet athletes and a luxury destination for the Soviet elite but since the break-up of the Soviet Union has gained a reputation as one of the world's best (and most affordable) heli-skiing destinations from peaks well over 4000 metres high.

But the resort itself, which is located 120km from capital Tbilisi, has benefitted from a complete redesign by the leading international resort design business of Ecosign. They created an 'immediate action plan' for the resort in 2010 and have subsequently created a more detailed masterplan as development work has continued.

Gudauri is being upgraded by The Mountain Resorts Development Company (MRDC) and a local real estate development company, Red-Co. MRDC have now agreed plans with Georgia's Ministry of Economy which local media describes as leading to: "unprecedented infrastructural activities" which means Gudauri will, "...undergo a major transformation to turn the resort into a world leading ski resort."

Red-Co have purchased 50 hectares of land in Gudauri where they plan to build what they believe to be the world's highest ski resort base with an investment of \$150 million (US). This will include two, three, four and five-star hotels (several of which will be Sheraton braded) as well as apartments, townhouses and villas. Amenities will include ice rinks, restaurants, entertainment centres, sports grounds, shops, tennis courts, spa centers and a casino.

On the mountain itself it is reported that the Georgian Government plans to build another gondola this summer following the installation of a high-speed ten-passenger gondola in 2012.

The number of tourists visiting Gudauri is growing each year with the latest figures showing 201,821 visitors to the resort last winter 2015-2016, a new record number. In fact Gudauri is today perhaps one of the fastest growing ski resorts in Europe and quite possibly the world.

France's Biggest Children's Village To Get Better Still

Work at Courchevel's Children's Village this winter will see further improvements to France's largest on-snow area dedicated to learning and fun for kids aged 18 months or older.

Covering some 50 hectares, the children village is already the biggest ski area for children in France. It is fully marked out and a completely closed and secure environment for learning safely and even has its own ski lifts.

This winter 16-17 the children's village promises more fun for kids with a new wooden hut being built this summer where children will be able to take a break from the snow in what the resort says will be a "magical place in the middle of the forest." They'll also be able to can also get a snack and drink a hot chocolate there.

New Zermatt Theme Trail Shows Glacier's Movements Through The Ages

Zermatt is open for snowsports year round and currently enjoying excellent summer ski conditions.

Visitors to the Swiss resort this summer also have the opportunity to visit the new "The Gorner Glacier Through the Ages" themed trail which shows the changing history of the Gorner glacier.

The hike, which takes 2-3 hours to complete and is not a circular route, goes southeast from Furi towards the tip of the Gornergletscher and illustrates how far this once huge glacier has retreated in the past 150 years due to climate change.

From Furi, one follows the signed trail (from July 2016) for at least one hour of walking to reach the present area at the end of the glacier. Nearly 150 years ago in 1869 the tip of the Gornergletscher, still the second largest ice field in the Alps was located near the walk's starting point at Schweigmatten near Furi.

The new trail has been created by two Zermatt citizens, Klaus Julen and Othmar Perren. Working with geographer Hanspeter Holzhauser, the Zermatt Bergbahnen lift company ensured the project moved forward.

The 10 information signs with details in English and German located along the theme trail explain various facts including that during the Little Ice Age (1300 to 1850/60) the expansion of the glacier was at its greatest with the furthest point reached in 1859. In that year it reached Schweigmatten and buried a dozen stalls under the mass of ice.

The retreat of the glacier began in 1865 and so far it is 3,120m or nearly two miles shorter than it was 150 years ago. The glacier section between Riffelhorn and Schweigmatten used to be called Bodengletscher but there is no longer any ice left in that area today.

Famous Apres Ski Bar Revamped

One of Canada's legendary apres ski bars, P'tit Caribou in Mont-Tremblant, Quebec, has been fully revamped and has now reopened after three months of major renovations.

Although having only first opened its doors as recently as 1993, Le P'tit Caribou has become a requisite stop in Mont-Tremblant and become internationally known après-ski experience. The three new owners – Joshua Wilson, Sébastien Turgeon and Tyler Matthew Lane – took on this major renovation project in the establishment when the last ski season ended in April.

The new-look Le P'tit Caribou is almost unrecognizable. On the main floor, the establishment still offers a large open space, including an enormous central bar. A new stage has been created for live shows and the DJ booth has been raised a bit higher and is now located in a gondola cabin.

Scattered throughout the bar are a few old ski lift chairs as a reminder of its choice location at the base of the ski hill. In the basement there's the Wine & Whisky Bar, designed for those who enjoy vintage wine and spirits.

Added to this lounge space is an intimate terrace overlooking Lac Miroir and surrounded by nature, making you feel like you are in an entirely different place. As for the old terrace, it has become the counter for the outdoor bar with a window opening that allows clients to order their drinks without having to come inside!

Finally, for sunny days, an enormous retractable door will create an open space between the bar and the terrace. In terms of construction, particular attention was paid to soundproofing: walls with

better insulation, high quality windows and the use of raw materials including wood, stone etc. The lighting and sound systems were also replaced and are now more versatile, offering multiple possibilities.

“We wanted to start this new chapter in the history of Le P’tit Caribou by completely revisiting the look of the bar and by significantly improving the client experience,” said the new owners, “So with this modernized space we invite our clients to rediscover what made Le P’tit Caribou so successful since its creation: a prime location, a unique ambiance and quality service.”

New Zealand Ski Area Re-Opens After Challenging Warm Spell

Queenstown’s Coronet Peak ski area is re-opening in time for New Zealand’s school holidays after temperature dropped enough for snowmaking guns to be fired up again, despite a lack of natural snowfall.

New Zealand has reported the warmest six successive months in its history and after a promising dip in temperatures at the start of the season a month ago, accompanied by heavy snow which allowed some early-opening resorts to claim the best starting conditions in uyear5s, a return to warm weather which caused thawing, no natural snowfall and weather to warm for snowmaking, led most of the country’s centres that were open to close again, and for those that still hadn’t opened to delay doing so.

Burt recent freezing temperatures, flat-out snowmaking and confidence in the forecast to come – including snow touted for mid next week – has seen Coronet Peak’s ski area manager Ross Copland make the call to reopen this Saturday (July 9) in time for the start of the New Zealand school holidays.

“It’s been a lot of hard work behind the scenes to get to this point. We’ve made every snow flake up here. We’re obviously beyond delighted to open this weekend,” says Ross.

Coronet Peak’s 217-strong snowmaking system has belted out 51.5 million litres of water when temperatures have allowed over the past 16 days, that’s converted into 129000m³ of snow volume.

The result is a 30 to 40cm snow base on the upper part of the mountain and 10-15cm at base, with more snowmaking expected to add to that overnight into Saturday.

Coronet Express will fire up at 8am on Saturday morning for First Tracks pass holders. Throughout the day and into the evening other lifts operating will include the Meadows chair enabling access to the Big Easy trail and beginner conveyors.

The Greengates chair will continue to run for sightseeing and tubing throughout the day, and the chance to soak up stunning views from the Ice Bar.

Night Skiing kicks off for the season on Saturday from 4pm continuing into the dark.

“It’s looking set to be an awesome night with an airbag down on the deck, a DJ spinning tunes, our famous Coronet Peak pizzas back on the menu and warming braziers burning. There will also be a

Bobsled Championship knock-out competition running from 6.30pm with some epic prizes to be won for those who dare to enter.

“It’s a fantastic way to kickstart the school holidays and welcome the thousands of Kiwi families and overseas visitors who’ll come up the mountain in weeks to come. It’s great news for the Queenstown economy that we’re up and running again.”

Ross says sister skifield The Remarkables has proved just how well it’s been able to cope with the influx of skiers into Queenstown over the past two weeks.

“We’re so lucky in Queenstown to have the option of two ski areas to cater for visitors and a huge flexibility to move resources and staff between the two.

“The Remarkables has had large numbers of Australian school holiday visitors and people have had a great time.” www.nzski.com

Ski and Snowboard Stars Go Back To School

Three of Britain’s top ski and snowboard athletes, including Winter Olympic Snowboarder Aimee Fuller, shared their personal journey and top achievements with hundreds of students from Chobham Academy in London.

Charlie Raposo, who is currently ranked Britain’s best Giant Slalom skier and has competed at the World Championships, World Junior Championships, European Youth Olympics, as well as the North American Cup Tour and European Cup Tours; teammate Nick Moynihan, member of the Delancey Senior Alpine squad who took 1st in the British Championships GS, in Tignes (2015); and Winter Olympic Aimee Fuller who recently claimed 7th in both the South Korea and Czech Ladies Snowboard Slopestyle World Cup talked to children ranging from 5 years to 11 years old in three school assemblies.

During the assembly they presented their personal training videos and spoke about their biggest achievements, in hope to inspire their young audience to work hard at their own goals.

“It was a lot of fun to come in and inspire the kids today at Chobham. They were all super responsive and it was very rewarding,” said Charlie.

One of Chobham Academy’s students, Kara Maloney (aged seven) commented, “I absolutely loved meeting Charlie, Aimee and Nick. The best thing was learning about doing snowboard tricks. It was good to meet an actual person from the Olympics. Everything they said was amazing.”

After each of the presentations, the athletes also offered a chance for the children to dress up in their equipment and then afterwards, they gave away various prizes during a Question and Answer session for those interested to find out more.

Students also received information about how to get involved in Snowsports through the charity Snow-Camp, which offers a unique combination of skiing and snowboarding to support inner-city young people.

“It is important that children and young people realise they don’t have to live in the Alps to get involved in Snowsports,” said Snow-Camp Founder and Director, Dan Charlish, “At Snow-Camp, we provide different programmes based at local snow centres and dry slopes, which teach young people how to ski and snowboard whilst developing new skills and gaining new qualifications which can support their future.”

Organised by real estate investment, development and advisory company Delancey, which is the Principal Sponsor of British Ski & Snowboard and Charity Partner to Snow-Camp, it is hoped that these assemblies will not only encourage more children to work hard to pursue their dreams, but also to generate more support from the nation for Great Britain’s Snowsports athletes.

“Being Principal Sponsor of British Ski and Snowboard over the last six years, has provided us with the invaluable opportunity to not only support our nation’s top athletes, but to also encourage the community to get involved in the sport,” said Jamie Ritblat, founder and CEO of Delancey commented, “These assemblies not only raise awareness of Snowsports in schools, but also leave the children feeling determined and inspired to achieve their own personal goals, which is very important.”