

Multimountain passes, including Drifter, offer endless mountain adventures

Skiing can offer endless adventures. After all, each adventure – each day on the mountain – offers new and sometimes seemingly endless possibilities. One day we may enjoy perfect hardpack. Another day we might enjoy fresh powder. And sometimes, we encounter boilerplate and the challenges of hard snow. Each day can bring wondrous moments, moments of challenge, and sometimes the adventures create challenges to our physical and psychological components. Family and friends – the social facets – also add depth. In no uncertain terms, skiing adventures offers an endless promise for memories.

What's your favorite mountain you've skied?

Like so many skiers, I've been asked that question on countless occasions. Most dedicated skiers have also been posed that query. In truth, though, while most skiers will occasionally

enjoyed a vacation to a Western resort, or with the exception of racers who race at different mountains, most folks largely spend most of the winter at a single resort. Because of this, partially I think, even veteran skiers ask my impressions as ski writers and travel writers venture farther than is typical. Now the world has changed.

A friend based in southern New England and with a second home at Stratton, and with children and grandchildren in the Lake Tahoe area in California, bought an IKON pass this year. From Stratton to Killington to Squaw Valley near his children in California his possibilities suddenly exploded. He named several dozen resorts he counts as appealing. Utah powder? Check! Colorado groomers? Check! Heli skiing with CMH Heli Skiing? Check!

The possibilities are extraordinary. But it's not just for Stratton.

Mount Snow skiers also have possibilities. In fact, the Drifter Peak Pass for 18- to 29-year-olds accesses 10 mountains and 25 terrain parks ranging from Attitash and Crotched in New Hampshire to Hunter Mountain in New York.

Years ago, the late Bob Gillen, a ski industry guru, asked if I might have an interest in seeing and skiing a resort with the possibility for a unique story. Understand, he was then the newly-appointed marketing guru at Crested Butte Mountain Resort – what was then a largely unknown mountain at the end of a dead-end canyon in western Colorado. He explained that CB was hosting the US Extreme Skiing Championships, and he explained they had just added a new lift which accessed more extreme terrain he said, than was encompassed by all of Mount Snow. The challenge, he explained, was that I would

need to leave within a day if I were to catch a charter flight he had arranged which would bring a film crew from Denver into

Gunnison, the closest airport to his resort. At the end of his story I agreed. That charter? It was the last flight out of Denver before the airport closed. Snow? The mountain received more than 60 inches that trip. The point? These new passes offer these kinds of adventures. These kinds of memories. And no longer does one need to add lift ticket costs into travel plans.

Interested in new adventures? Whether a new pass holder at Mount Snow or a Stratton skier with a new IKON pass these kinds of new season passes offer new opportunities for travel and building new memories. Is this kind of corporate mountain conglomeration helpful for the ski industry? I don't know. I do know these new season passes offer the possibility for turning ski vacations into a more affordable reality.

Like so many readers, I've spent my life skiing. But, like many of you, I still dream of ski trips to areas I have yet to ski. Sometimes its cost prohibitive to ski other places when you already have a season pass. It is! Today, though, these new passes create new possibilities. Looking for an even more affordable adventure? Here in the Northeast you can use these passes without booking airplane reservations! Forget demographics. Forget extensive planning. With a new pass you can truly have a new adventure at a reduced cost. Mount Snow skier? Consider Hunter in New York. Stratton skier? Consider visiting Sugarbush. Whatever your home base, consider a new adventure. And remember, wherever you travel, savor your adventure, from that first run to your last run.



Mountain Journal

Tony Crespi

Relive skiing history with retro ski day at Bromley

PERU- Dig out those stretch pants, runaway straps, and bamboo poles of yesteryear and celebrate Skiing History Day at Bromley Mountain with the International Skiing History Association and Skiing History magazine. Mark the calendar for Saturday, March 2, and join the parade of vintage skiwear in the base area at 11:30 am.

Wax nostalgic for the retro-ski attire of the '40s, '50s, and '60s and earlier, and celebrate Bromley's legendary 81-year history. All are welcome to join in this walk down memory lane.

After the vintage skiwear parade, a noon buffet luncheon awaits registrants who join Bromley notables,



Riding the old T-bar lift at Bromley Mountain.

NewEnglandSkiHistory.com

ISHA members, and longtime Bromley fans in the Stratton View Room on the base lodge third floor. With the \$20 online pre-purchase of the luncheon event, guests qualify for an advance purchase \$57 lift ticket that day (versus a regularly priced weekend ticket rate of \$87). Registration details at www.bromley.com/winter/ events.

Luncheon attendees, who are encouraged to wear vintage attire, will receive one raffle ticket for the grand prize: a pair of skis donated by Bromley's Potter Brothers Ski Shop, and other ski gear donated by area shops including Bradley's Pro Shop and Equipe Sport. Raffle tickets are limited to lunch attendees only, making the odds of winning highly favorable.

At 12:30 pm, step back

into Bromley's history with a colorful presentation by Manchester Historical Society director Shawn Harrington, board member Bill Badger, and longtime Bromley PR maven Kit Chamberlain. Bromley was one of the earliest ski hills operating in the United States, spanning the eras of rope tows to j-bars to high-speed quads.

The day also includes a free vintage ski-equipment exhibit in the base lodge by Bromley's own Heino Nowak. From 10 am to 2 pm, all are welcome to browse Nowak's museum-quality collection of historic gear that extends back more than a century. Vintage film and still photos compiled by Bob Ellis will run on the big screen.

ISHA representatives will be handing out free copies of the popular Skiing History

magazine along with membership information about joining the international nonprofit organization.

In addition to publishing Skiing History six times a year in print and online, ISHA also maintains skiinghistory.org, the internet's most extensive website for information about the sport's history, and presents annual awards for lifetime achievement and the year's best ski history books, films, and creative media. This year's ISHA Awards will be presented on April 4 at the Alf Engen Museum in Park City, Utah. Learn more at skiinghistory.org.

Bromley Mountain is located at 3984 Vermont Route 11, six miles east of Manchester. For more information visit www.bromley.com.



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