

# Rundown

(Continued from Page 7)

Day, Dec. 15. Hacienda Parties all season long. SnowBomb Sick and Twisted, Feb. 11 and Mar. 12. Dummy Downhill, Mar. 11.

### Heavenly

**Website:** www.skiheavenly.com.

**Snowphone:** (775) 586-7000.

Twenty square miles of terrain straddle the California-Nevada border, making Heavenly the land of alpine opportunity. Its rolling shoulders, long boulevards, and unobstructed views of Lake Tahoe create most of the pleasure. Thanks to a multi-million dollar commitment made by Heavenly over the past two decades, the ski area now has the largest snow-making system in North America blanketing almost 70% of the skiable trails. This year Heavenly spent another \$6 million in on mountain improvements, a total of \$36 million since 2002.

### Check Out

Killebrews and Motts contain enough steeps to choke the most courageous. On a powder day, beeline directly to Olympic Chair for first tracks in Western Perimeter trees. Also check out Check out the new High Roller Nightlife Terrain Park located on World Cup at the California Base.

### Don't Miss

Snow Search Super Qualifier, Jan 7. Jackpot Railjam Series all season long. South Shore Soldiers Camp, Mar. 13-Apr. 1.

### Homewood

**Website:** www.skihomewood.com.

**Snowphone:** (530) 525-2900.

Many winter enthusiasts are discovering this West Shore sleeper that offers incredible beauty and hard to beat value.

Homewood has eight lifts spread over 1,260 acres. Its lakeside location is both blessing and bane: It makes for the best views, but environmental concerns hamper attempts to upgrade its Sixties-style facilities. As a result, the shoreline resort offers no high-speed chairlifts or polished amenities.

But what Homewood lacks in luxury, it makes up for with some of the best powder skiing in the region. With 8,740-foot Ells Peak to block high winds Homewood's snow typically comes down loose and fluffy rather than crystallized.

### Check Out

Last year the resort installed the new Quail Triple chair. This year its added a Magic Carpet for the kids at the South Side Children's Center. On a powder day, head to the Ellis Chair for fresh tracks in the trees in Hobbit Land. On a powder day check out Outer Limits off Quail Face.

### Don't Miss

SnowBomb Sick and Twisted Slopestyle, Feb. 5.

### Kirkwood

**Website:** www.kirkwood.com.

**Snowphone:** (877) KIRKWOOD.

Kirkwood, "the wild child," of Sierra ski resorts is growing

up. After 33 years, the last ski resort built in California has matured into adulthood. It's a birthday everyone can enjoy.

Once known for a lack of high-end luxuries, the high alpine resort is redefining mountain hospitality. Since 1995, a fruit basket of nearly \$250 million in new development has launched the historically laid-back sanctuary into the upper tier of North American winter playgrounds.

### Check Out

Expedition: Kirkwood, California's only resort based backcountry education program, teaches skills needed for backcountry skiing and riding.

Seasoned Kirkwood ski patrollers and certified guides lead all programs, which include necessary backcountry specific equipment, including avalanche beacon, probe and shovel.

### Don't Miss

SnowBomb Sick and Twisted Slopestyle, Mar. 26. North American Freeride Championship, Mar. 29-Apr. 2. Jammin', Apr. 14-16. Mountain Dew Vertical Challenge, Mar. 25.

### Mt. Rose

**Website:** www.skirose.com.

**Snowphone:** (775) 849-0704.

If there is a predominant geological statement to Mt. Rose that immediately captures the eye it's the Chutes.

Towering over the Mt. Rose Highway, and situated just under the resort's 9700-foot summit elevation, the Chutes reign supreme among all the left hooks that drop on the point of Rose's jaw.

Plunging into the Chutes is not just hard, deliciously so, but a place that engages the whole skier or rider. It's adventuring into one of North America's most monstrously mean places to rip. Half northwest facing, the other half northeast, with a vertical drop of 1,500-feet, the Chutes seasonally offers every variety of snow: stormy pillow mounded chutes to mid-season shadowed slopes and spring-time corn that funnels into sparsely timbered benches.

### Check Out

The Bunker, a barbecue pit that gets deeper as the Sierra snow piles higher, overlooks Tahoe Meadows and Lake Tahoe. Gatherings are spontaneous affairs occurring at the whim of host Hans. When he's in the mood, signal flags festoon a knob on Rose's frontside. The bunker lies between Upper Lakeview and the Kit Carson Traverse, below the Lakeview Chair terminus.

It's open to all. Just bring cash for the donation can.

### Don't Miss

Elvis Day, Jan. 7. Slide Back Retro Day, Feb. 11. Dummy Downhill, Mar. 4. Bud Light Ladies Day, Mar. 25.

### Northstar-at-Tahoe

**Website:** www.northstarattahoe.com.

**Snowphone:** (530) 562-1330.

Call Northstar-At-Tahoe the Charles Atlas of Sierra Nevada ski resorts. Its modest mountain used to have a clear niche: attracting families and teaching them how to ski. Sand got kicked in the face with its

nickname "Flatstar." Hip locals never set an advanced ski boot on its slopes. During the past decade, however, the Booth Creek owned area spent more than \$15 million on on-slope improvements. Nonetheless, it was the opening of terrain off Mount Pluto's backside that trumped any mixed feelings about on-snow experience.

Indeed, watching folks rocket about its slopes you realize the Addams Family is replacing the Von Trapps. The resort has beefed up its 70 runs and 2,420 skiable acres with a healthy tonic of steeps, chutes, cruisers, and bumps which dwell alongside manicured boulevards tilted just enough for ego boosting turns.

### Check Out

The terrain of Lookout Mountain which gives the impression of skiing a wilderness preserve. Its advanced runs offer a panoply of narrow romps and playful pitches that complement the thigh burning, straight liners of the Backside Express Quad. Also check out the Terrain Parks of Northstar that have recently received nationwide respect for it's top

quality parks and pipes.

### Sierra-at-Tahoe

**Website:** www.sierra-tahoe.com.

**Snowphone:** (530) 659-7475.

Better carving surfaces make for better carvers. Much of the 2,000-acre resort's appeal relies on its meticulous grooming of modest fall-line faces free of traffic and immutable homey atmosphere.

When the wind howls atop nearby Echo summit, Sierra's front side of old growth perfectly spaced trees off the Grand View Express become catcher's mitts for fastballs of powdery snow and welcomed dumping grounds where blowing winds are often quieted to rustling bough and the muffled whoomps of skier's tracks.

Riders can enjoy "The Gauntlet," one of the terrain parks containing tabletops, gap jumps and more. If you're not into attitude beware of the 300-foot halfpipe. It attracts a sometimes young and salient crowd.

### Check Out

Skip the crowds at the

eateries in the main lodge and enjoy a smoked tri tip sandwich over in the West Bowl while sitting on a beach chair soaking up the rays. The Grandview Bar and Grill. Looks like an oversized lift shack but offers the best views of Lake Tahoe.

### Don't Miss

Coup de Shred "War of the Shores," Dec. 17. American Jibber Rail Jam Series, Feb. 12.

### Squaw Valley

**Website:** www.squaw.com.

**Snowphone:** (530) 583-6955.

Squaw Valley USA is truly a winter wonderland like no other.

Site of the 1960 Winter Olympics, the legendary mountain has a long history as a world-class resort destination with something to offer everyone. The 4,000 acre playground offers six peaks, 34 lifts, an aerial Cable Car and North America's only Funitel. Receiving an average of 450-inches of snow per year, Squaw Valley USA is known for its long season, often open for skiing and snowboarding through Memorial Day. See RUNDOWN, Page 14

**TAHOE Lakeshore Lodge & Spa**

*Stay and Play at Tahoe Lakeshore Lodge & Spa. Conveniently located just minutes from nightlife, casinos and world class skiing!*

- Lake views & Fireplaces
- Hot Tub and Heated Pool
- Casino & Ski Shuttles
- Free Continental Breakfast
- Full Service Day Spa

Call 800 448-4577

Ask about our wonderful ski season rates!

www.tahoelakeshorelodge.com

## The Season Never Ends at the FaGowee's of Sacramento

We are a year-round ski and recreation club devoted for 27 years to providing activities during and after the ski season. Membership is open to all adults interested in joining friends on a variety of exciting trips and adventures:

- \*Skiing Trips
- \*Snowshoe Trips
- \*Hikes
- \*Biking
- \*Camping
- \*Luaus
- \*Car Rallies
- \*Clam Digs
- \*Abalone Dives
- \*BBQs
- \*Dances
- \*Parties

& Much, Much More...

Contact Membership Chair Karen @ (916) 985-8523

www.sacramentofagowees.org