



Annual Conference – Soldier Hollow, UT  
March 31- April 2, 2025  
-DRAFT-

(last update 3/27/25)



**Monday, March 31**

AM Vendor Expo Set-up

Noon Conference Registration upstairs at Soldier Hollow

1-2:30pm **Snowmaking Workshop**

The snowmaking workshop will kick off at 1pm at the Soldier Hollow Nordic Center. Over the course of the afternoon, we'll dive into a hands-on tour of a real Nordic installation. You'll walk the trails and explore the pump house. It promises to be a highly informative and engaging session.

**Location:** [Soldier Hollow Nordic Center](#). Meet at the lodge.

2:30- 4pm **Grooming Workshop**

The grooming session will be on snow where the group will inspect and discuss the product the machines are putting down. The groups will view proper grooming and improper grooming and discuss technique challenges. We will also view interactions and proper track setting. Bring your questions and ideas. We will also tour the Soldier Hollow maintenance facility

**Location:** [Soldier Hollow Nordic Center](#). Follows the snowmaking workshop.

5:30pm Welcome Reception – Heber Valley Brewing. Sponsored by PistenBully

7pm Dinner on your own – We will have groups going to many locations  
Mercantile, Galleria, Lolas  
Suggestions from Local Ian Harvey (TOKO) may be found at the bottom of this agenda.

Note: All meals (Tuesday & Wednesday), outdoor sessions, indoor sessions, vendor expo and socials will take place at Soldier Hollow. Arrive in the morning and stay all day, ski attire welcome.

**Tuesday, April 1**

7:30am Conference Registration upstairs at Soldier Hollow

7:30 – 8:30am Breakfast at Soldier Hollow

8:15am CCSAA Welcome

- 9am Soldier Hollow Welcome  
Ski and groom at Soldier Hollow
- **Grooming Demos** at Soldier Hollow with PistenBully, Prinoth and Snow Rabbitt
  - **On Snow – PSIA Group Ski** with ‘topic stations. Predesignated topics will be selected by groups, with time-outs for conversations. Salient points will be captured by audio/video/notes, and shared back to the conference group at large. Led by Justin Arndt, PSIA National Nordic Team and Scotty McGee, former PSIA Nordic Team Coach.
  - **The Biathlon Experience** at Soldier Hollow, sponsored by The City of Aspen. A maximum of 25 people will take to the range at 9:30am on Tuesday morning. Sign up here:  
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1YWwkoEqnTICgM-11hneLFGU50EAjhSIM/edit?rtprof=true>
- Noon Lunch at Soldier Hollow
- Noon – 6pm Expo Open
- 1 - 2pm **Session #1 – Snow Farming Roundtable**  
Low snow, temperature fluctuations and rain events are now a reality. This roundtable will look at the latest techniques for managing low snow and discuss the latest technology available including snowblowers, Mr Snow, Snow Secure, trucking, plowing, rubber track cat, fencing, shoveling and more.  
*Panel: Bill Pierce – Soldier Hollow, Eric Rector – BCRD, Sally Jones – Tahoe Donner, more...*
- Social/Expo Break**
- 2 - 3pm **Session #2 – The Soldier Hollow Story and the 2034 Olympic Preparations**  
The Soldier Hollow management team will share insights into their history, their current operational plan, and the greatest challenges to hosting the 2034 Olympics. What decisions are they making now and how are those decisions relevant to all cross country ski areas?  
*Luke Bodensteiner, General Manager, Soldier Hollow Nordic Center*
- Social/Expo Break**
- 3 - 4pm **Session #3 – The Storm Shift: How Extreme Weather is Reshaping Recreation and Industry**  
Weather patterns are no longer predictable, and the "norms" we once relied on are fading fast. From erratic storm cycles to unprecedented weather events, the recreation industry faces a new reality—one where snowfall density, seasonal consistency, and generational experiences are being rewritten before our eyes. What does this mean for outdoor

enthusiasts, businesses, and the future of adventure? Let's dive into the data, the challenges, and the path forward in this shifting climate landscape.

*Craig Gordon, Forecaster, Utah Avalanche Center*

4 – 4:30pm **Special Session – Short Topics**

This last session of 30min will briefly touch on some important topics that were not scheduled for a full session this year. Use these as a conversation starter and an identifier of who to speak with to follow-up with over a beer, a meal or skiing

- Lighting
- Leasing vs owning – what is financially best for your ski area
- Course and trail markings
- Tourism

5pm Happy Hour and Ritual Chocolate tasting at Soldier Hollow

Note: We will have some beer and wine, but please bring your own.

6:30pm Dinner at Soldier Hollow

8pm Fireside Chat at host hotel Best Western Heber



**Wednesday, April 2**

7:30 – 8:30am Breakfast at Soldier Hollow

8:15am Daily update

9am Ski and groom at Soldier Hollow

- **Grooming Demos** at Soldier Hollow with PistenBully, Prinoth and Snow Rabbitt
- **On Snow – PSIA Group Ski** with 'topic stations. Predesignated topics will be selected by groups, with time-outs for conversations. Salient points will be captured by audio/video/notes, and shared back to the conference group at large. Led by Justin Arndt, PSIA National Nordic Team and Scotty McGee, former PSIA Nordic Team Coach.

Noon Lunch at Soldier Hollow

Noon – 6pm Expo Open

1 - 2pm **Session #4 – Current and future challenges to running a Nordic center and what to do about them.**

Weather, politics, staffing, large capital expenditures and relevance in a warming planet. This session will be a round table sharing solutions to many of the issues facing our industry.

*Panel: Matt Sabasteanski*

## Social/Expo Break

2 - 3pm

### **Session #5 – Retail Trends and How Your Shop Can Positively Impact Your Customer**

Learn what makes a successful retail program and how that program can help shape your customer's experience. Round table will include industry experts from both the supplier and retail perspective.

*Panel: Ian Harvey - TOKO, Sally Jones – Tahoe Donner, Richard Hodges – White Pine Touring, Robert Lazzaroni – Salomon*

## Social/Expo Break

3 - 4pm

### **Session #6 – Diversity Your Offerings to Stay Relevant in a Changing Landscape**

With weather issues and a changing customer base, this workshop will break the group down into smaller groups to discuss innovative ideas to keep your ski area vibrant and fresh to attract your local community and those traveling from afar. Share your ideas and learn from others undertaking the same thought challenges.

## Social/Expo Break

4 – 4:30pm

### **Special Session – Short Topics**

This last session of 30min will briefly touch on some important topics that were not scheduled for a full session this year. Use these as a conversation starter and an identifier of who to speak with to follow-up with over a beer, a meal or skiing.

- Optimizing ski school as a revenue stream
- US Forrest service
- Ski Patrol
- Insurance

5pm

Happy Hour at Soldier Hollow

Note: We will have some beer and wine, but please bring your own.

6:30pm

Dinner at Soldier Hollow

8:30pm

Fireside Chat at host hotel Best Western Heber

**Thank you to our great sponsors!**

  
Vendor Expo Attendee

- PistenBully
- Prinoth
- HKD Snowmakers



- Ski Cat Snowcat Rentals
- Mountain States Snowcat – Snow Rabbitt
- Yellowstone Track Systems
- CHS Snowmaking
- DEMACLENKO
- TOKO
- Nordic Group International
- Best Nordic Ski Great Escapes
- JB&B Capital
- Ritual Chocolate

### **Food suggestions from local Ian Harvey (TOKO)**

There are a few places to eat that are within walking distance from the hotel in Heber City. They are

Don Pedro's Mexican Restaurant - this is a basic but decent Mexican restaurant that serves the usual Mexican dishes. It's about a 3 minute walk. 11am-9pm.

Little India Fine Dining - this is an Indian restaurant that is located about 3 minutes walking from the hotel. I have eaten there once and didn't find it very good, but I have a lot of friends who love it. So, I am wondering if I need to go back and try it again as I ate there shortly after they opened. 4pm-9:30pm.

The Hub - this place recently expanded greatly and changed their menu. They serve food all times of the day and have a very wide "American" menu. I haven't been there for years, but it's totally OK. It's about a 2 minute walk from the hotel. 7am-9pm.

Betty's Cafe - I haven't seen it or eaten there, but the listing looks OK. Breakfast and "American" food. 7am-3pm.

Jade's Cafe - Jade's has been there for about 8 months. The food is amazing. It's expensive and often full of Park City people. 4 minute walk from the hotel. 7am-4pm.

For dinner, Don Pedros is the obvious safe choice as while the food is not exceptional, nothing is at all bad. I think everyone likes Don Pedros, but foodies don't love it.