



Newsletter

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Preferred Carpool Parking Test

By Mackenzie Eppersom-Valum

In partnership with the Alta Environmental Center the University of Utah's [Environmental and Sustainability Studies](#) Internship Program will be testing a preferred carpool parking strategy in the Wildcat Base parking lot at Alta Ski Area. Private vehicles with 2 or 3 and more passengers (driver included), on the day of the study, will receive preferential parking closer to the lifts and the lodge. An optional survey will be given to the public regarding their experience with this new parking strategy. This study will provide Alta Ski Area with a better understanding of its guests' habits, allowing the ski area to determine future parking needs that are both convenient and support environmental friendly initiatives.



This parking test and surveys for this study will take place on the following dates:

February 17th, 19th, and 20th (W/F/S)

March 2nd, 4th, and 5th (W/F/S)

March 9th, 11th, and 12th (W/F/S)



**ENVIRONMENTAL AND
SUSTAINABILITY STUDIES**
UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

Why do Birds Matter?

David Sibley, the author had this to say...*Birds make any place a chance for discovery, they make a garden seem wild, they are a little bit of wilderness coming into a city park, and for a bird watcher every walk is filled with anticipation. What feathered jewel might drop out of the sky next?* (quote from www.audubon.org).

Join us in celebration, discovery and conservation of the birds in Alta. In partnership with Tracy Aviary, Friends of Alta and the Alta Environmental Center, Alta Ski Area is proud to host Skiing & Birds on Saturday, March 5th, 2016. A fun afternoon of skiing or snowshoeing, birding or just enjoying Alta followed by an après ski gathering with bird, outdoor and conservation enthusiasts. This event seeks to raise awareness and support of the partnered Citizen Science Bird Monitoring Project in Alta.

A three-year study, with the help of Citizen Science volunteers the partners seek to develop a breeding bird baseline list of species and a better understanding of Alta's feathered residents' habits and needs. To discover more about the citizen science efforts, opportunities and neat facts, this is the event to attend.

To read more about the Bird Monitoring Project and Citizen Science opportunities please visit www.alta.com/alta-environmental-center/research-education/bird-survey-project.

Discover the birds of Alta by snowshoe or skis!

Skiing and Birds

March 5, 2016

\$10 Early Bird Discount through February 5th!

MARCH 5th SCHEDULE		TICKET PACKAGES	
12:00 pm	Skiing & Snowshoe Registration	Event Pass	\$65
2:30 pm	Birding Ski Tour	Snowshoe Pass	\$85
3:00 pm	Birding Snowshoe Tour	Ski Pass	\$100
5:00 pm	Après tour mixer, Albion Grill	V.I.P. Pass (details on website)	\$650

SPONSOR **PARTNERS**

Purchase Tickets at: tracyaviary.org or 801-596-8500 x124

Proceeds benefit Tracy Aviary & Friends of Alta conservation programs

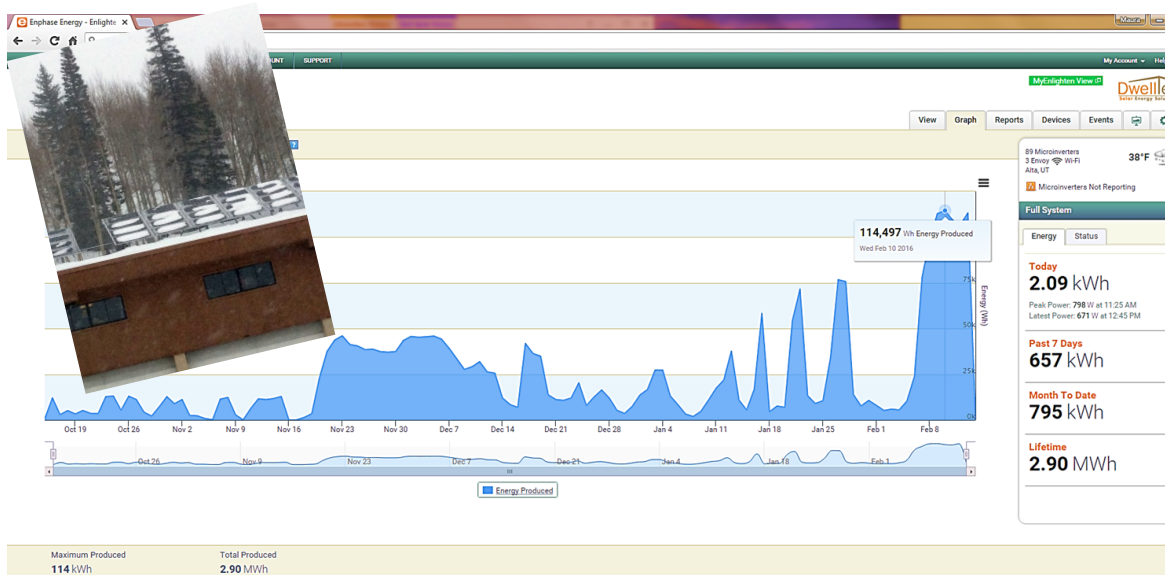


“In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks.”

—John Muir

On the Sunnyside

It's time for a little update on our solar panels installed earlier this winter. Located at Albion Base on the Cat Shop, Wildcat Base on the Buckhorn, and the top of Collins lift on the Patrol Dispatch building production ebbs and flows with the snow, as to be expected. So far all three systems have produced 2,898 kWh, which is about 8% of the total estimated annual production. Total annual production for the entire system was estimated to be about 1% of all of Alta Ski Area's power usage (including lifts and buildings).



So, what does 2,898 kilowatt hours mean? Well, this is about equivalent to running Collins lift for one day or Wildcat lift for 4 days; or the Albion Day Lodge for 4 months or the average Utah home for 3.5 months. These equivalents estimate electricity only. However, it is important to remember solar production depends on the available solar rays hitting our panels. This can be limited when it snows and of course at night. As the graph displayed above, the sunny days really stand out. As this experiment continues Alta Ski Area will continue to monitor the energy production as well as required snow removal, which thankfully has been minimal so far even with a more average snowfall year. Keep an out eye out for our panels, because they may not look like it, but they're working hard!

February—March Sustainability Events

If these highlighted sustainability events catch your eye, check out our full sustainability calendar at alta.com/alta-environmental-center/resources#sustainability-events.

- **Tour With a Ranger:** A fun, informative, and complimentary program all winter. Meet at the top of Sunnyside lift at 1:30pm, weekends and holidays. For more info: cottonwoodcanyons.org
- **Mar 5—Skiing & Birds:** Support our bird monitoring project in Alta and join us for a light feathered afternoon. More info at tracyaviary.org/upcoming-events/skiing-birds
- **Mar 10-11—Recycling Conference:** The Recycling Coalition of Utah will be hosting its annual recycling conference in St. George. For more info visit utahrecycles.org/events/march-2016/
- **Mar 12—Snowshoe with a Naturalist:** Join Cottonwood Canyons Foundation for a complimentary one and half-hour tour in Alta exploring nature at its finest. For more info contact: info@cottonwoodcanyons.org
- **Mar 14—Alta Winter Bird Survey:** Join Tracy Aviary for the monthly bird survey on skis in Alta. More info at alta.com/alta-environmental-center
- **Mar 17-19—Utah Environmental Education Conference:** Join [USEE](http://usee.org) in Southern Utah for a weekend of networking, brainstorming, compelling workshops, and profound keynotes. More info at usee.org/events/annual-conference



Photo by Liz Rocco—Green Team, Patrol