

Issue 9
Spring 2015

the Christie Chronicle



Spring is finally on the Mountain! Ski Beech Resort will close for the 2014-2015 season on Saturday, March 21st at 5 pm. They are celebrating a fantastic season with festivities to be held at the View Haus cafeteria. Come up and help them celebrate the end of a very successful ski season.

If spring is here, can Tax day be far behind? If you itemize, your amount to write-off for your 2014 timeshare is \$10.79. The calculation is $\$3137.60$ Watauga County + $\$4718.47$ Beech Mountain = $\$7856.07/728$ units, so \$10.79.

For owners who have not done so as yet, we remind you to pay your maintenance fees for fiscal year 2015 in order to avoid accumulated late fees and also to make sure that our complex has the necessary funds for its operations. If you haven't paid yet, please do so soon! If you are having trouble paying your dues, or feel you can't continue your ownership, please talk to us! We appreciate every owner and are willing to work with you in a confidential manner- we may have a solution for you! Call Barbara Freeman (Treasurer) at 828-387-2100.

The collection program is ongoing. We have collected many past due accounts through our affiliation with Aspen Collections. We now have 2 owners assisting our Treasurer in phoning current owners who owe for 2015. Many thanks to owners Dan DePaulis and Ann Scott for stepping up to help Barbara!

Christie Village Update

It was a harsh winter- not a lot of snow, but the coldest recorded temperatures in many years. In spite of the recent plumbing initiate and winterization of units, we still had some pipes freeze and break. Repairs have been made, or are in progress.

Our Treasurer, Barbara Freeman, has done an extraordinary job of renovating several units, and has plans to update more units. If you have not seen the recent updates, plan a trip to Christie Village or email us and we will send you pictures.

This past year has been one of many accomplishments. Christie Village is a member and close partner of the Beech Mountain Chamber of Commerce and Beech Mountain Tourism Association. We are an active participant in their many programs. In addition, Christie Village has forged a relationship with Ski Beech, and was able to purchase discounted ski lift tickets for our owners and guests this past ski season.

Christie Village is in need of owner volunteers! If you can help, please email info@christievillage.com or call Barbara at 828-387-2100. We especially need someone onsite to man the office starting on Friday and through-out the weekend, someone to do small maintenance and anyone willing to work to help clean, paint and renovate our units. Ideally, we would like to find a husband/wife team who could live onsite and manage the complex on a daily basis. If you- or anyone you know - may be interested, please contact Barbara at 828-387-2100 to discuss.

Interval International Update

After 2 years of negotiating with Interval International, they will not reinstate Christie Village into their exchange program. They have indicated that Christie Village would need to have a Professional Management Program in place 24/7 in order to participate now or in the future in the Interval exchange service.

We agree that Christie Village needs a management program, or at the very least a part-time front desk manager, but also realize that Christie Village has a long way to go before funds are available for such a partnership. Rather than raise annual dues to an unacceptable level to fund this requirement, we have elected to remain as an exchange partner with DAE (Dial An Exchange) and continue with Owner Volunteer office staffing.

As an Owner Managed Timeshare Complex, we feel that the Christie Village owners should actively participate in finding an equitable solution for ongoing management and the future funding of Christie Village. This will be an agenda item for the Owners Meeting tentatively scheduled to be held this year on Saturday, Sept. 12th. More info on this important (and fun) meeting and proxy forms will be sent out to all owners at least 30 days in advance of the annual owners meeting.

DAE- OUR EXCHANGE PARTNER OF CHOICE

Please remember that Christie Village is still a member in good standing with DAE (Dial An Exchange), and you can bank and exchange your units there! **DAE** offers: free membership, low exchange rates, a 3-year credit for every banked week, worldwide vacation availability, 24/7 live access to exchange weeks, value added benefits program, discounted rental weeks in prime locations, and more. At DAE, the timeshare owners' needs come first and foremost. Quality service is never compromised. For more information, visit <http://daelive.com>

A recent check of availability on DAE website shows many exciting exchanges available for 2015 destinations, including international locations such as Aruba, Bahamas, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico and over 300 domestic openings such as Branson Missouri, Orlando FL, Hilton Head, SC- and many others. You can search availability without signing into the website by clicking on (fill in the drop down): <http://www.daelive.com/search/default.aspx>

OPTIONS

Do you know your options as an owner at Christie Village? You have many! You can always use your owned week at Christie Village during the timeframe you purchased; after all, that's what you bought and that's what your deed entitles.

But what if you want to come at a different time of year? Or what if you don't want to come to Beech Mountain, but would like to travel to another destination? Here's where your options come in- all are subject to availability:

1. You can call the Christie Village office at 828-387-2100 and talk to Jan or Barbara about an **"in house swap"**. You can swap your existing week for another open week. You can even upgrade to a larger unit if one is available. There is no charge for this! During the past year, we have done over 20 in house swaps for our owners.

2. You can **“split” your week!** Maybe you want to come up during your owned week, but only want to stay 3 nights. No problem. Let us know when you want to come back for the other 4 nights, and we’ll find a unit for you during your desired time. The only amount you pay is the cleaning fee (\$50) for your second visit. Your first visit cleaning is covered in your maintenance dues. Only one split per owned week, please, to keep it manageable.
3. You can **permanently switch your week to another time of year.** For a total of \$52 paid directly to Watauga Register of Deeds, you can swap your existing deed for a new one with a new unit and week. Talk to us if you would like to change your week!
4. You can **bank and exchange your Christie Village week with DAE exchange** service. You bank your week, then you have up to 3 years to find and book another resort from the many available destinations on www.daelive.com The current exchange fee for one week is \$149.00 DAE offers many other Getaway weeks and bonus weeks for a very low fee. If you have a specific date and area in mind, and don’t see it available on the DAE website, just “Request”, or call Jan and we’ll talk to the DAE Sales Rep to see if they can find it for you. In the past month, DAE has found a 3bedroom/3bathroom condo in Orlando Florida for the 4th of July for one of our owners. They found a week in Aruba for another owner. If you don’t see what you want, just ask us for help!
5. You can **rent your week direct** without paying any commission fee to Christie Village. Our office is stretched very thin now, and we just don’t have the staff to handle owner rentals, but YOU can do it! One of our owners just recently placed his owned ski week on Craigs List (free listing) and rented it in just a few hours.

You must adhere to the Beech Mountain tax laws, and charge your renter 12.75% sales/occupancy tax. This tax has to be sent to Barbara who reports and pays it to the local tax office. Also, be sure and advise the Christie Village office of your renter’s names and arrival/departure dates so we will be expecting them! There are many rental websites out there- some charge a small fee, but many are free. Check out www.VRBO.com , www.Homeaway.com, <https://boone.craigslist.org>, www.Redweek.com just to name a few.

TIMESHARE INDUSTRY NEWS

Enter the TimeSharing Today (TST) Magazine Contest: Prize \$500!

Topic: Natural and Man-Made Wonders/Deadline Dec 31, 2015

Write an article and tell them about the awesome natural and man-made wonders you encountered within 50 miles of a timeshare resort where you stayed. In an article of 750 to 1,000 words, describe where you stayed when visiting these wonders, why they are wondrous, how you found them, what you saw, and how you felt about the experience. Send photos to help illustrate your trip, including photos of those who joined you. Photos should be high-resolution jpeg format. Email articles and photos to staff@tstoday.com. The deadline is December 31, 2015. The winner will receive a \$500 prize. The publisher and editor of *TimeSharing Today* will select the winning entry.



Redweek.com

Timeshare owners post their units for rent or sale to an audience of over 1.5 million registered users, or exchange it using Dial An Exchange (DAE) via this website. You can rent or buy timeshare units directly from the owner, usually with huge savings. It's FREE to view the destinations and availability. If you'd like to join, the membership fee of only \$14.99 allows you to contact owners about available units, access thousands of resort reviews, and view want ads. Posting your own timeshare for rent, sale, or exchange requires a nominal additional fee. Check out the website www.redweek.com to join and for more details.

The Timeshare User's Group (TUG)

This site has lots of information on timeshares. You'll find ratings & reviews, online forums, classified ads for timeshare rentals and sales, and an advice section. There is a Direct Exchange section where you can exchange your unit/week for free. You must be a member of TUG to make exchanges, and you must be current in your Christie Village annual dues. A one year TUG membership costs \$15.00. The website is: <http://tug2.com/JoinTUG/default.aspx>

THINGS TO DO IN THE BEECH MOUNTAIN AREA

Music, Music, Music!

Bluegrass Music Jam every Thursday, Marion NC Depot 7-9m FREE

Open to all musicians, no scheduled performers. Outdoors bring chairs or blankets (the music moves indoors for inclement weather). For more information, call 828-652-2215 or visit www.downtownmarion.org.

Old Fort Mountain Music Main Street, Old Fort, N.C.

Every Friday evening for more than a decade, folks have gathered to hear and play bluegrass and traditional mountain music. Nobody's paid, everyone's welcome and coffee and sodas are still just a quarter! All musicians are encouraged to join in the fun. Planning to visit? Don't forget to bring your instruments with you! Friday evenings; 7:00pm; Rockett Building, Main Street in downtown Old Fort; for more information call 1-888-233-6111.

Easter Egg Hunt, April 4- Buckeye Rec Center, Beech Mountain

9am-12pm- Games, activities for kids and adults- no charge!

MerleFest, April 23-26, 1328 S. Collegiate Drive, Wilkesboro, NC 28697

Considered one of the premier music festivals in the country, MerleFest serves as an annual homecoming for musicians and music fans. Held on the campus of Wilkes Community College in Wilkesboro, North Carolina, MerleFest was founded in 1988 in memory of the late Eddy Merle Watson, son of American music legend Doc Watson. MerleFest is a celebration of 'traditional plus' music, a unique mix of music based on the traditional, roots-oriented sounds of the Appalachian region, including bluegrass and old-time music, and expanded to include Americana, country, blues, rock and many other styles. The festival hosts numerous artists, performing on 13 stages during the course of the four-day event. For prices, directions and more info, see <http://merlefest.org/information>

Grandfather Mountain Naturalist Weekend, May 15-17

2050 Blowing Rock Highway, Linville NC

The Grandfather Mountain Naturalist Weekend is a fascinating collection of programs and guided walks offered to help guests discover more about the diversity of life at Grandfather Mountain. Join us for three days filled with guided hikes and special presentations on the birds, wildflowers and nature of the

mountain. Included with regular admission. Some events require advanced registration. For more information on the 2015 Naturalist Weekend schedule visit <http://www.grandfather.com/events/naturalistweek>

Street Dance at Town Hall-Beech Mountain Visitor Center

June 6 - Aug 15

Dancers and non-dancers alike will love the old-fashioned street dances on Beech Mountain! A sand dance floor is made in the parking lot in front of town hall and chairs are set out for spectators. Music is provided by a DJ or small local band. Dances take place from 7-9 pm. There's no charge.

Mile High Community Yard Sale-Beech Mountain Town Kite Field

June 13

This annual community event is the perfect time to get rid of all of your unneeded possessions and buy someone else's! The yard sale takes place June 13th from 8am-12pm in the Kite Field next to the Brick Oven on Beech Mountain. Table spaces are \$10 each; bring your own table. If you just want to get rid of your stuff, you may donate it to the Chamber to sell.

91st Annual Singing on the Mountain- Grandfather Mountain

June 28

Thousands gather annually for this all-day outdoor gospel sing and fellowship opportunity. Music from top gospel groups begins at 8:30 a.m., and many families bring lawn chairs and picnics to enjoy the event. Camping (without RV hookups) is available on the field on a first come, first served basis. The event is free according to the longstanding motto: "Whosoever will may come."