

Anthony Lakes has limited opening

This weekend will be open to season pass holders only

By Kaleb Lay
EO Media Group

Skiers and snowboarders rejoice: Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort opened to season pass holders for the first turns of the season on Saturday, Nov. 28.

Peter Johnson, who manages the resort about 35 miles northwest of Baker City, said snow conditions were excellent for late November.

“It’s looking really good,” Johnson said. “This is by far the best snow, the most snow we’ve had this early (during his decade-long tenure as manager). All the forecasts sound really good. We’ll see if those come through or not, but obviously with COVID, that changes everything for us.”

Among the changes is that the resort has a “zero tolerance policy” regarding the wearing of masks.

“It’s the state mandate, we’re going to be enforcing it,” Johnson said. “We have a business to run, and it’s not a discussion point. Wear a mask or not come up — there’s a lot of other places to go skiing. For the state of Oregon, it’s required, so we’re going to be enforcing it.”

All guests and employees will be required “from the moment you pull into the



Contributed photo
Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort on Nov. 12. The ski area opened Nov. 28.

Anthony Lakes parking lot to when you leave,” except while eating or drinking, and Johnson said that anyone who refuses to wear one will be asked to leave.

Changes can also be expected on the triple chairlift, where the resort will be adopting a sort of cohort-style approach to the ride up the mountain.

“If you show up in the same vehicle, you can ride the lift together,” Johnson said. “We’re not going to force someone to ride with someone they don’t know ... we’re

going to have a lot of changes to our lift line and just asking people to ride with the people they drove up with.”

For example, someone who arrives at the resort alone will ride the ski lift to the top alone, and a group who carpooled to the resort will ride only with the members of that group.

Social distancing of 6 feet will also be required, and Anthony Lakes will have a “floor walker” patrolling the lodge during business hours to help guests maintain their distance, disinfect surfaces

and answer questions as needed.

The Starbottle Saloon will feature a new ski-thru window for service and will place an emphasis on providing outdoor seating, though a reduced amount of indoor seating will still be available.

Notably, Anthony Lakes will also be reducing the number of people allowed on the mountain each day by limiting the number of one-day lift tickets they sell.

“It’s going to be a very tough year for us financially,” Johnson said. “Day tickets are our main source of revenue. I’ve heard some people say we’re just trying to push season pass sales, that is not the case at all. The reason we’re doing passholders only is that pass holders generally make up about 25% of our daily skier visits. So the reason we’re starting with just pass holders is so we can gauge and make sure we’re not going over capacity.”

Johnson said that when the resort starts regular operations, there will be 20 tickets each day for people with a voucher for a purchase of \$40 or more, within the past seven days, from a locally owned restaurant or store in Baker, Union, Wallowa or Grant counties.

The first two weekends of the season will be open only to season pass holders as Anthony Lakes works to gauge the number of people it can safely have on the mountain.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has upended almost every aspect of daily life, Johnson reminded people that finding recreational and exercise outlets is important, saying that “if we were any other business, it would make sense not to open this year,” but that he felt it was necessary to provide a safe way for people to get outside.

SHOOTING THE BREEZE The triple deuce

We can argue until we’ve blown a gas-ket about which cartridges have had the greatest impact on the hunting world at large every day of the week. Valid points can apply more for some than others, although our personal biases for or against anything play a huge role in our validation or lack thereof in any cartridge. Evidence at times is conflicting, so then we are left with numbers, feats and unfortunate chest pounding to set the record straight. A precious few cartridges — in my opinion, a couple handfuls — are simply standouts that require no sugar-coating to sell. These have withstood the test of time and are still outstanding performers in their wheelhouse.

One such is the .222 Remington. After World War II, Remington’s Mike Walker set out to design a rimless cartridge especially for varminters and bench rest shooters. And in 1950 it was groundbreaking as it was the first commercial rimless centerfire .22 caliber cartridge ever offered. From the beginning it seemed destined for greatness. Right away its mild report and stunning accuracy made rifles fly off the shelves. Small-bore bench rest shooters set amazingly high scores, and varmint hunters reveled in rhapsody. As time went by, the .222 Remington inspired the introduction of the .221 Fireball, .222 Remington Magnum and the .223 Remington among many others of smaller and larger caliber.

My own first exposure to the .222 was via a heavy-barreled Remington Model 700 target rifle belonging to a friend. Tack driver would only put it mildly — that rifle, like every other .222, shot better on its worst days than most rifles do on their best. It was years, though, burning in the back of my mind before I found a .222



Dale Valade

of my own. A used but not abused Remington 722 bolt action has since followed me home.

The first attempt at shooting a group was no disappointment, despite the informality of the shooting session. I picked up the only box of factory 50-grain ammo on the shelves at the hardware store, and in my Dad’s pasture, a stone’s throw outside of the city limits of Dayville, I installed the only available scope I had and took to try to sight it in one evening before the light failed completely. At 75 yards, I stapled a target in the center of which was a hand-traced 3-inch circle. Inside of that I had scribbled a small dot, just smaller in size than a dime. Resting over the hood of Dad’s pickup I fired two shots, making adjustments with each, walking the scope to center of impact. After the third shot revealed itself just above center of the dot, I placed two more together with it. For only shooting over the hood of a pickup, I was more than pleased.

For a super efficient truck gun and exceedingly fun trainer rifle, the .222 is an exceptional caliber. In closing, one might ask, “but what about the .223? Wouldn’t that make just as much sense?” In a word, yes, however right now everyone with a .223 or 5.56 caliber rifle is scouring the ends of the earth looking for ammunition. But you can find .222 ammo on the shelves and readily available brass to order from several outlets. Need I say more?

Are you a fan of the .222 Remington? Write to us at shootingthebreezebme@gmail.com!

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The coalition has \$7,000 from the Oregon Cultural Trust to distribute in Grant County to organizations for projects relating to culture and / or heritage.

Applications are available from Karin Barntish, 131 W. Main Street, John Day, Oregon, or call Kris Beal at (541)932-4892 for more information or an application.

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