

ON THE MOUNTAIN:

BEAVER CREEK

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The name for Beaver Creek predates local historical records and would appear to have been one applied by trappers or explorers prior to 1880. The main ski mountain was known to early residents simply as Baldy; more recently, to distinguish it from the Baldy Mountain north of Vail, it has been identified as Beaver Creek Baldy.

SKI TRAILS AT BEAVER CREEK

The original trail-naming concept for Beaver Creek called for all ski trails to be named with local reference, grouped in pods associated with the lifts. Upper mountain names were for points on the horizon, others were for horse-tack, mining terminology, birds of prey, farming equipment, wildflowers, etc. Exceptions to the concept have been made in recent years.

1876 A trail branching off Centennial near the bottom of the mountain, and referring to the year when Colorado gained statehood.

Addy's Named for Addy McCord, ski patrol supervisor.

Assay Mining term: the analysis of ore to determine its portion of gold and silver.

Bald Eagle A large member of the hawk family, adults with dark body and snow-white head; a fish-eater which winters on the Eagle River; our national bird.

Barrel Stave Some of the pioneers used barrel staves for skis.

Beano's Trace Beano was Frank Bienkowski, whose homestead was near the foot of Larkspur Bowl, to which this trail leads. A trace is a beaten path or trail, a term more commonly used in the eastern U.S.

Bitterroot Some say this trail is named for the mountain range in Montana, some say for the Montana state flower (which does not grow here); closest local tie would be the Pigmy Bitterroot (Little Lewisia) a tiny flower of the arctic-alpine life zone.

Bear Trap There is still an old bear trap located in the trees near the bottom of this run. A vee of logs steered the bear to the trap, which was concealed under the bait at the narrow end.

Black Bear Glade Black bears have returned to Beaver Creek after

being trapped out during the sheep-raising era.

Blue Bell Named for one of Colorado's prettiest flowers, often found in clumps along a stream, also called chiming bells.

Bootleg The illegal manufacture or sale of alcohol. There was no shortage of bootleg whiskey in Colorado's mountain valleys during Prohibition days.

Booth Gardens High, terraced meadows above Booth Creek in the Gore Range, visible from this trail, reminding early settlers of pictures they had seen of the Hanging Gardens of Babylon.

Borders Loop A trail roughly skirting the edge of the homestead of Al Borders.

Bridle The head harness with which a horse is guided, consisting of headstall, bit, and reins.

Buckaroo Bowl A children's area named for cowboys and broncbusters.

Buckboard A springless flatbed wagon. The name gives a good description of the ride.

C-Prime (Cee-Prime) A spur on the side of Peak C, one of the toughest climbs in the Gore Range.

Camprobber The nickname of the gray jay, of the spruce-fir forest in the subalpine life zone; a fearless raider of food in campsites.

Cataract Steep rapids in a river; here, the name relates to the northernmost summit of the Gore Range, the "point" at the head of Cataract Creek, which flows into the Blue River.

Centennial This trail would have been the downhill race course for the 1976 Winter Olympics, the event that Colorado voters declined to host. 1876 was the year of Colorado's statehood and the centennial of America's independence.

Cinch The bellyband and straps that keep a saddle snugly on a horse. A double meaning here: Cinch is the easiest trail off the mountain.

Dally A couple of turns with a lariat around the saddle horn to secure a roped steer or tow an object. It also means to dawdle or linger, easily done on this road to the village.

Double Diamond More horse talk: a double diamond is a variation of the packer's diamond hitch, with a "diamond" pulled in the ropes on each side, instead of a single one over the top of the

pack.

Falcon Park Local falcons would include the kestrel and possibly the peregrine, a rare and endangered species.

Flattops Seen to the northwest from the top of this trail, the Flattops Wilderness Area, on the White River Plateau, is famous for its hunting and fishing.

Fool's Gold Actually iron pyrites, a common pale yellow mineral (often with glittering flecks) that has fooled many prospectors.

Gold Dust The end result of the washing or milling process that separates paydirt from the sand or rock in which it is found. Legal tender in the historic mining camps.

Gold Rush The most famous was the one to the California gold fields in 1849, but there were others, including the one initiated by returning Forty Niners who discovered the mineral near modern Denver in 1858.

Golden Eagle The largest bird in this area, named for the golden wash of color on its head and shoulders; the local nesting eagle.

Goshawk A long-tailed, short-winged hawk, blue-gray, whose flight alternates a series of wing beats and short sails.

Half Hitch A quick simple knot used by horsemen.

Half Moon (snowboard trail) A takeoff from nearby Moonshine.

Harrier A slim, sailing hawk of open country, not likely to be seen on Beaver Creek; also known as the marsh hawk.

Haymeadow A sub-irrigated haymeadow in the early days here; hay grew so thickly that it took three horses to pull the mower.

Home Comfort The long and easy way home from the western side down into Beaver Creek Village. The name also refers to a popular brand of early cast-iron cooking stoves.

Home Run A trail cut-off from Home Comfort which also fits in with the history of the area; in the early part of the century baseball was much loved by the pioneers and every town, including Avon, had its team.

Larkspur A blue flower of the delphinium family, found in open grassy meadows or along sheep trails and avalanche paths; cattlemen were not fond of tall larkspur, which killed many of their animals.

Latigo The leather strap that connects the belly band to the

horse's saddle.

Loco A pea-like flower, not a favorite with ranchers; if eaten in quantity, it can cause grazing animals to act "loco".

Lupine This kin of the Texas bluebonnet colors mountain slopes with its deep blue and is favored food for elk and bear.

Moonshine Beaver Creek pioneers skied in the moonshine on homemade wooden skis, and a few of them, no doubt, made the other kind of moonshine - illegal whiskey - during Prohibition.

Mystic Island (trail map "MI") An exception to the original concept of upper-mountain trail names for points seen on the horizon ... A lake in the New York Range (Sawatch) to the southwest; early trail cutters were reminded of it by an island of trees floating in early morning fog on this trail.

Osprey A fish hawk, which hovers over water and plunges in for fish, feet first; not likely to be seen on Beaver Creek.

Paintbrush A favorite wildflower in the region, subspecies varying in color from deep red to pink, yellow, and white.

Peregrine The Peregrine is the fastest and most daring of the falcons; an rare and endangered species due to use of pesticides. Ski area surveyors were convinced they had seen one in this area.

Piney Named for the headwaters of the Piney River in the Gore Range, toward which you ski on this run; historically, the Eagle River and, later, Gore Creek were known as the Piney.

Pitchfork A long-handled fork with curved prongs used for pitching hay.

Powell The highest summit in the Gore Range, named for John Wesley Powell who first climbed the mountain in 1868, the year before he made the first exploration by boat of the Grand Canyon.

Primrose Two classic primroses are found near timberline -- the tall Parry's and the dwarf fairy species.

Ptarmigan A grouse of the arctic-alpine tundra of the Rocky Mountains -- pure white in the winter, mottled (like lichen-covered rocks) in the summer.

Raven Ridge Named for the large, playful black birds (relatives of the crows and jays) which are so common in the Rockies.

Red-Buffalo (note hyphen) An historic pass across the Gore Range, the divide between Red Peak and Buffalo Mountain is the low point seen just above the head of Two Elk Creek, the drainage for Vail's

Back Bowls.

Red Tail (sic -- preferred spelling of this nickname is one word, Redtail) A buteo with a distinctive screaming cry, the red-tailed hawk is frequently seen soaring over the slopes of Beaver Creek.

Ripsaw Named for a jagged, sawtoothed ridge in the Gore Range, seen to the right of Peak C.

Royal Elk Glade A true trophy elk, with seven points on each of its two racks of antlers.

Ruffed Grouse A ground-dwelling, chicken-like bird of the forest. Our local grouse is the blue grouse; the ruffed grouse is not found in Beaver Creek.

Screech Owl A small tuft-eared owl that whinneys (rather than screeches); not likely in Beaver Creek.

Sheephorn Sheephorn Creek drains the northern part of the Gore Range, flowing into the Colorado River beyond Piney Ridge.

Shootingstar Swept-back petals suggest the name of this delicate pink flower found along Rocky Mountain stream banks in early summer.

Spider First ascended in 1962, the peak near the head of the Piney River in the Gores was named for the creature which greeted the climbers.

Stacker A device or person engaged in creating haystacks.

Stone Creek Meadows The stream draining this area was named for Charles Stone, pioneer rancher in today's Eagle-Vail.

Thresher Glade Nickname for the threshing machine used to separate grain from straw on local farms.

Web Right next to Spider!

Westfall Road Westfall was the local surveyors' description of the terrain falling off to the west from what later became known as Spruce Saddle.

Yarrow Indians and pioneers used this healing herb, marked by feathery leaf and white umbrella blossom, on wounds and in tea.

SKIWAYS

Skiways in Beaver Creek today are named for the lodges and

condominiums toward which they go. Former skiways were named for President Gerald Ford and first ski school director Bob Dorf.

CROSS-COUNTRY TRAILS (McCOY PARK)

Aurora Named for a mine located at the head of Beaver Creek.

Buckskin A mining claim in nearby Lake Creek.

Cabin Loop For a loggers' cabin found nearby.

Discovery

Little Lulu A mining claim in nearby Lake Creek.

Meadows

Morning Star A mining claim in nearby Lake Creek.

Polaris

Sanctuary

Sunshine

The Wild Side

SNOWSHOE TRAILS (BEAVER CREEK)

Coyote Corner A coyote was seen here.

Ermine's Tale (sic) The tail of the ermine (winter weasel) is an important element in formal royal garb in Europe.

Lost Buck Apparently no special significance.

Village Loop Encircles the village area.

LIFTS

BC #1 Haymeadow (1980-81) Named for the former haymeadow it traverses.

BC #2 Highlands (1986-87) Named for the condominium development it serves.

BC #4 Rose Bowl (1986-87) Named for the wife of Vail Associates former owner George Gillett.

BC #5 Drink of Water (1980-81) Named "Drinkawater" by early mountain surveyors for the spring near the bottom of the lift.

BC #6 Centennial Express (1980-81) Originally only to Horseshoe Park and a link with Lift #7 enroute to Spruce Saddle; named for its relationship to the Centennial ski trail (see Ski Trails).

BC #8 Stump Park (1980-81) Named for the many old tree snags in this area.

BC #9 Westfall (1980-81) Serves this area of the ski terrain (see Mountain Areas).

BC #10 Grouse Mountain Express (1991-92) Serves this area of the ski terrain (see Mountain Areas).

BC #11 Larkspur (1983-84) Serves the Larkspur Bowl and associated runs.

BC #12 Strawberry Park Express (1994-95, but replaced earlier lift 1987-?) Passes near -- but not over -- Strawberry Park.

BC #13 -- It was resolved, very early in the planning of Beaver Creek, that there would never be a #13.

BC #14 Elkhorn (1995-96) Named for the lodge at its base.

MOUNTAIN AREAS

Beano's Named for bachelor pioneer Frank Bienkowski, who homesteaded the area in 1919.

Birds of Prey The original collection of steep runs -- Golden Eagle, Peregrine and Goshawk -- which, along with intermediate Red Tail (sic), drop into Beaver Creek from Spruce Saddle.

Grouse Mountain A ridge of Beaver Creek Baldy, named for the common forest bird. Also the name of a peak in the Sawatch Range which is 5 miles to the south and cannot be seen from the ski terrain.

Haymeadow The area immediately above today's village was a large sub-irrigated haymeadow during the pioneer era.

Larkspur Bowl Named for one of the wildflowers that grow in profusion there during the summertime. To the pioneers this area was drained by Larkspur or Beano's Gulch.

Rose Bowl Named for the wife of Vail Associates former owner, George Gillett.

Spruce Saddle The landform, along with its groves of spruce trees, suggested this name. This, in turn, suggested the "horse-tack" names of the ski runs descending from it.

DECKS

Chair Twelve Located off Beano's Trace, just below the top of Lift #12, with a spectacular view of Mount Jackson.

Gold Dust Near the bottom of the Stump Park (#8) Lift.

RESTAURANTS

Allie's Named for Alice Allen Townsend, wife of first Beaver Creek settler, George Townsend.

Beano's Cabin Named for homesteader Frank Bienkowski; the restored ruins of his cabin are behind the modern building.

Red Tail Camp (sic -- should be one word) Restaurant with decks at the foot of Birds of Prey trails.

Spruce Saddle Cafeteria located at top of Centennial Lift (see Mountain Areas). Contains Rafters, a restaurant built in the rafters of the original high-ceilinged Spruce Saddle building.

Taters Quick-service restaurant at the top of Strawberry Park lift which features baked potatoes.