HEY, SOL, WHAT’S UP?

By Fred Hobbs

*Here is a letter drafted by the charter members of the newly formed WMTS (We Miss The Snow) organization, Denver-area chapter.*

December 3, 2012

TO: Mr. Winterset “Sol” Soltice

Dear Sol,

We don’t want to hurt your feelings, if you have any, by calling you “Old Man Winter.” In our community, “old” is not a word we toss around lightly. However, we feel compelled to address a few concerns regarding your long-standing and important role in the management of appropriate weather phenomena.

Your last name is used to mark the longest or shortest days of the year. Your brother, Somerset, takes care of that longest day, but you got the short end of the deal. Well, the shortest day is coming up and as we understand it, the beginning of winter. And that also means that most folks around these parts should by now have experienced a snow fall sufficient enough to have lasted at least a few days before melting. Even though official winter is not quite here, enough of the white stuff should have been deposited on our Front Range peaks already so that we could proudly proclaim: “we live in Denver, The Queen City of the Plains at the foot of the SNOW CAPPED ROCKIES.

So, what’s up, Sol? Are you ready to give us that glorious sight of snowflakes falling? When can our members get out their Flexible Flyers? When can we e-mail or text our “flatland furriner” relatives that the snow in the high country is really sufficient to provide the dreamed-about quality skiing experience for which we are world famous? When can we strap on our skates and take a few turns around Evergreen Lake? And, for many of us, when can we just glance out our nearest window and see a blanket of white dotted with handsome evergreens, their branches trimmed in verdant contrast to the fallen snow?

Now, we realize you have, in other climes, constituents who don’t share our love of being able to see the moon on the crest of the new fallen snow. Some of them even live here. They enjoy the fact, in Denver’s perfect climate, that on Christmas Day it is possible, sometimes to play a round of golf or take a walk wearing just a light jacket. Detractors point out that if there is no snow, sidewalks don’t become treacherously ice-covered. And, of course, pathways, driveways, highways and runways don’t need to be cleared.

But, Sol, we in the WMTS implore you, don’t take all the snow away. We hear that a move is underway called global warming that will result in turning our winter landscape into cactus and sagebrush, our lawns into pebbles and sand, our mountains into barren rock piles.

We can help by conserving what we have now; our members are all for that. Ski area operators have found a way to create small amounts of snow for the slopes…artificial snowmaking with water. Those are all good moves, but mostly it’s up to you.

You’re the man, Sol. Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!