

The Avalanche

Lake Louise, Alberta Canada

JANUARY 2012

From the Summit

The season, which started so promisingly way back in October, is really having a hard time getting going. As I look skyward, I see a few flakes, but "the big storm," the one that really blankets the Northeast has been as elusive as a unicorn. Where is the snow? Time for everyone to do their snow dance, or make a sacrifice to Ullr, or you can do what I do: praise the snow makers, and hope for cold weather.

It takes roughly 200,000 gallons of water to cover an acre of slope a foot deep, and the average trail covers about 5 acres. That's a million gallons of water. It isn't cheap either; snowmaking costs run anywhere from \$1000 to \$5000 per acre/foot. The higher costs occur when conditions are marginal, i.e. when the humidity is high and the temperature is barely below freezing. Bean counters don't like marginal conditions, but they'll blow snow anyway, because no snow means no skiers, and no income.

Snowmaking requires both water and compressed air. Many ski areas have large banks of compressors for "making" air. When snowmaking conditions are marginal, the systems tend to be "air limited;" that is, they are using all the air the resort can make. In good conditions (cold and dry), resorts are "water limited;" they run out of water before they run out of air. Ski areas are generally limited on the amount of water they can draw so they don't damage the wildlife that depends on the streams they draw from.

So much energy is used by ski resorts, that improving energy efficiency is paramount. "Low E" (for energy) guns are all the rage, as are fan guns, which look like jet engines with water. The latter are expensive: as much as \$25,000 a pop. When you consider that Mt Snow has installed 250 of them you realize the importance of snowmaking.

At the bottom of the whole chain are the snowmakers. Working for barely above minimum wage, they are out in the middle of the night, when the wind is howling, hauling guns and hoses up and down the mountain to make the snow. A year like this is particularly tough; as rapidly as they set up one area, fire up the guns, they are setting up for the next. It's a tough job, and when you see them from the lift, give them a shout, and let them know you appreciate the job they are doing.

Yep, I'll hope for snow, but thank a snowmaker. As someone who has done a lot of "product testing", the man made snow of today is far better than that of even 10 years ago. Time to go skiing!

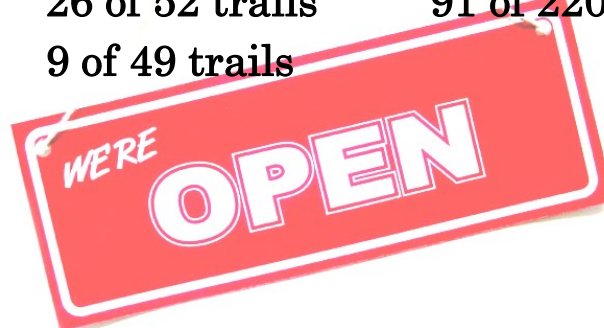
Roger
President



Conditions!

Resorts currently open, as of January 3. The editor has taken considerable privilege in limiting the list to certain major resorts. There are plenty of other resorts open that are not captured here. The only resort worthy of mention that is not currently open is Mad River Glen, set to re-open January 6 (and that is probably pending a miracle...)

Attitash	23 of 73 trails	118 of 280 acres	5 of 10 lifts
Bretton Woods	25 of 102 trails	141 of 464 acres	4 of 9 lifts
Cannon	21 of 72 trails	64 of 264 acres	6 of 10 lifts
Jay Peak	18 of 76 trails		8 of 8 lifts
Killington	46 of 140 trails	256 of 752 acres	12 of 22 lifts
Loon	36 of 61 trails	223 of 370 acres	9 of 12 lifts
Mount Snow	27 of 80 trails	227 of 470 acres	10 of 20 lifts
Okemo	54 of 119 trails	281 of 632 acres	11 of 19 lifts
Stowe	51 of 116 trails	250 of 500 acres	10 of 13 lifts
Stratton	49 of 94 trails	258 of 600 acres	8 of 11 lifts
Sugarbush	49 of 111 trails	240 of 484 acres	11 of 16 lifts
Sugarloaf	33 of 153 trails		9 of 14 lifts
Sunday River	52 of 132 trails	272 of 743 acres	12 of 16 lifts
Waterville Valley	26 of 52 trails	91 of 220 acres	7 of 12 lifts
Wildcat	9 of 49 trails		2 of 4 lifts





At the January 5 meeting, we will be raffling off the following items (must be present to win):

- Rossignol S74W—brand new woman’s skis, 154cm, \$499 value (bindings not included)
- **Five (5)** Stonegrind tune-ups—valid @ Sportworks, \$45 value each
- Dynastar “Exclusive” Ski Bag—\$49.99 value, holds skis up to 165cm
- Roxy “Dots” Ski Bag—\$46 value, holds skis up to 210cm
- High Sierra Ski Bag—\$39.99 value, holds skis up to 203cm
- Ten (10) Swix Ski Straps

Also, we had an extra yankee swap gift that will be included:

- American Tourister Travel Blanket and Pillow
- American Tourister Eye Shade with Earplug Set (great for the bus trips!)

Tickets will be sold at the meeting for \$1 each with raffles for each individual item. Purchase tickets and place as many or as few into a basket for each item’s raffle you’d like to be entered in!

HUGE thanks to Sportworks, Ltd in Duxbury, MA for donating these items! Sportworks has been a tremendous supporter of this club. You can thank them through your continued support of their store.

11 / 12 Trip Schedule

DATE	DAY	DESTINATION	COST	TRIP LEADER	TIME
Dec. 14	Wednesday	Mt. Snow / Killington, VT	\$75	Roger Stokey	5:00
Jan. 4	Wednesday	Loon, NH	\$75	Steve Carr	5:00
Jan. 11	Wednesday	Stratton, VT	\$75	Mimi Schlichter	5:00
Jan. 22-27	Sun-Fri	Sugarloaf, ME	\$365	Bud Shaw	DY*
Feb. 8	Wednesday	Okemo, VT	\$75	Len Hills	5:00
Feb. 16	Thursday	Cannon, NH	\$75	Scott Northrop	5:00
Feb. 19-26	Sun-Sun	Steamboat, CO	\$1475	Bud Shaw	FLY
Feb. 29	Wednesday	Killington, VT	\$75	Scott Muma	5:00
Mar. 3-10	Sat-Sat	Whistler-Blackcomb, BC	\$1799	Michael Finegold	FLY
Mar. 7	Wednesday	Bretton Woods, NH	\$75	TBA	5:00
Mar. 15	Wednesday	Wildcat, NH	\$75	Camille Morgan	5:00

- Trips highlighted in **ORANGE** are **GUARANTEED TO GO!**
- Trips highlighted in **GRAY** are overnight trips
- *DY-Drive Yourself
- All trips subject to our deposit and liability policies, found elsewhere in this newsletter and on our website.
- Non-members are subject to a \$15 surcharge.
- Don't sign up at the last minute! You may incur additional fees!



11/12 TRIP LEADERS

Roger Stokey 508-292-8370	Bud Shaw 508-477-3717	Scott Muma 508-331-7344	Mimi Schlichter 508-548-3278
Steve Carr 508-563-9498	Len Hills 508-563-3941	Michael Finegold 774-392-2567	Scott Northrop 508-563-6731
Camille Morgan 508-759-7616			

Stratton, VT January 11, 2012

This trip is guaranteed to go! Stratton is a club favorite, with eleven lifts including a high-speed base-to-summit gondola and four six-passenger chairs, 93% snowmaking, and 2003 feet of vertical. Stratton ranks in the east top 10 (SKI Magazine) for snow, grooming, lifts, terrain parks, service, lodging, dining, on-mountain food, apres and nightlife. Sign up on the website today!

\$75 member rate (bus & lift ticket)

Trip leader: Mimi Schlichter—(508) 548-3278



OKEMO

Skiing Vermont terrain at Okemo is quite the treat as its winter operations consistently receive accolades and win awards for snow quality, grooming, terrain parks, family programs, slope-side lodging, resort dining and its friendly, professional staff. The mountain features 632 acres of terrain, 96% snowmaking coverage, and 2,200 feet of vertical drop, the most vertical in southern Vermont.

Cost: \$75. Trip Leader:

Len Hills—(508) 563-3941

February 8, 2012



SUGARLOAF, MAINE

January 22—27, 2012

\$365

- White, White, World Week
- 5 nights condominium lodging
- 5 1/2 day ski pass
- Free group lesson each day
- Singles can be accommodated (fee)
- Monday evening “Welcome Social”
- Daily use of the Health Club

Deadlines: \$200 due: A long, long time ago
\$165 due: you missed this deadline too

Contact: Bud Shaw @ 508-477-3717 or budco1@comcast.net



If Scott likes it...



...so will you!



Steamboat.

February 19–26, 2012

Few resorts can boast of the name recognition that Steamboat enjoys. The name conjures up images of “Champagne Powder” (a phrase the resort has actually registered), skiing in the aspens, cowboy hats and Billy Kidd. The skiing and riding is spread over four peaks and a prominent ridge, which forms a range or massif. Draped over this varied landscape are nearly 3,000 skiable acres, 142 trails and 3,600 vertical feet. The glades of Pioneer Ridge and Sunshine and Storm Peaks catch and hold much of the 337 inches of light, dry powder that fall in an average season. It’s six peaks are filled with world-class groomed cruisers, bumps, steeps, open meadows, legendary tree skiing and Mavericks, North America’s longest super pipe. Plenty of variety for novices to experts.

Includes:

- 7 nights condominium lodging at The Ranch
- 5 out of 6 day lift ticket
- Round trip airfare
- Transportation between Denver and Steamboat

Price:

- \$1475 per person, based on double occupancy
- Singles welcome—we’ll try to pair you up; if not, single supplement is available

Contact:

Yankee Swap!

Thanks to all those that attended and participated in our Yankee Swap in December. A great time was had by all! Especially Humphrey the dog...







Membership & Trip Special

- Are you a new member? -or-
- A prior member that has not joined in at least 3 years (07-08 season)?

\$99 gets you a one-year membership and a day trip of your choice!

Contact: Michael Finegold (774-392-2567) or Len Hills (508-563-3941)



~ Deposit/Refund policy ~

Deposits help ensure that a space is reserved for our members. These deposits apply to bus trips, weekend trips, week-long trips and more. Late cancellations are not entitled to a refund, nor is the club responsible for finding a replacement for you. You must find your own replacement, although we will endeavor to help you whenever possible. Deposits are further subject to the conditions imposed upon us by our suppliers, agents or other providers. We make every effort to refund as much money as possible but cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Inquire of your trip leader for specific information regarding your particular trip. The club recommends that you consider trip insurance whenever possible.

January 5 Meeting:

Agenda:

- Amazing raffles!
- Bingo with prizes!
- Free food!
- Trip sign-up!

**7PM start @
The Beach House**

Contact Us?



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 Tom Burt
 508-392-9672

By Web:
www.uppercapeskiclub.com



President:
 Roger Stokey

Treasurer:
 Leonard Hills

Membership:
 Scott Northrop
 Pam Tremarche

Website:
 Michael Finegold

Vice President:
 Scott Northrop

Secretary:
 Rick Howe

Newsletter:
 Tom Burt



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45 Depot St. Duxbury MA.
Directions available at our website:
www.sportworksltd.com