

BOLTON, STOWE, SMUGGS and JAY - REASONS TO STAY in WILLISTON, VT

MONTPELIER, VT – Among the variety of improvements at Vermont's ski resorts, a certain theme rings clear. As each ski area listens to its patrons, it is creating the best possible experience for its extended family of snowsports enthusiasts. Here is the latest for Northern Vermont resorts to help you plan your ski and stay visits. Some of this information is restated on page 12. This material was compiled by the Vermont Ski Areas Association and edited for Northern Vermont resorts.

BOLTON VALLEY

This season, Bolton Valley is extending snowmaking on the popular Cobrass trail that connects the main mountain with the Timberline area and is retrofitting a number of its Ratnik snow guns to improve efficiency.

"We've upgraded and expanded our snowmaking capacity considerably during the past three seasons and this year is no exception," noted George B. Potter, Bolton Valley president. "We also are continuously looking at ways to improve our energy efficiency on a resort-wide basis and have been working with Efficiency Vermont to identify areas for improvement."

Working with Efficiency Vermont and Ratnik, Bolton made retrofits to the snow guns to improve energy usage. "We'll have a better idea of how much energy conservation results from the retrofits once the system is in operation," continued Potter. "But whatever efficiencies we gain are well worth the investment." Visit www.winter.boltonvalley.com/mountain/maps.

JAY PEAK

In February of 2010, Jay Peak skiers and riders will have a new spot to rest their tired legs. The Tram Haus Lodge at Jay Peak will open its doors and will serve as the starting point for a number of facelifts planned for the next several seasons.

"While the new Tram Haus Lodge is small by industry standards – a mix of just 57 studio, 1- and 2-bedroom suites – it's a big step for us," said Vice President of Sales and Marketing Steve Wright. "Adding a new restaurant and a small coffee shop will be appreciated; a bar with actual windows will probably be a big hit as well." Wright is referring to the new bar inside the Tram Haus that, unlike its predecessor the Golden Eagle Bar, will have big views of the mountain. The Eagle, in comparison, had small views of a wall.

The Tram Haus Lodge will also house a rental, repair and demo center, providing one-stop convenience for families heading to the slopes.

In addition to the restaurant, bar, bakery and store, the Tram Haus Lodge will include a fitness area with whirlpool, free weights and aerobic equipment. While the use of these facilities will be included in Tram Haus Lodge vacation packages, the amenities will be open to all resort

guests, space permitting. "We want to make sure this updated version of Jay Peak is available to all of our guests, not just the ones staying in our new property," said President and co-owner Bill Stenger. "The biggest part of our brand is skiing and riding, and while that won't change, it will certainly be nice to look out at snow piling up with a Tram Ale in hand and a fire keeping us warm."

SMUGGLERS' NOTCH RESORT

Smugglers' Notch Resort has adding yet another challenging and classic New England-style trail by extending Full Nelson from above midpoint to the base on Sterling Mountain. This bumps the count of expert trails on a mountain known for its intermediate terrain to more than 12.

Together with Flaik GPS technology, Smugglers' is able to offer all students in Snow Sport University ski and snowboard camps (ages 3-15) a way to capture their on-mountain fun. The kids will be outfitted with Flaik GPS units that will track the miles, vertical and trails skied each day and cumulatively. After

skiing, they can log on to review the data with friends and family to share their total on-mountain experience and plan exciting adventures for the next day. Rentals with the same capabilities will be available for \$19.95 per day.

A new Burton Learn to Ride Center at Smuggs will provide the latest and greatest in specialized snowboard equipment that is geared to providing new riders, both children and adults, with a comfortable first time experience.

The Mountain Experience for adults at Smuggs returns by popular demand to bring back a great daylong mountain tour format to skiers and riders at level four or better. Explore Smugglers' three mountains while getting instructional tips from a mountain insider, one of the Resort's Snow Sport University professionals.

For more details at Smugglers' Notch, please visit www.smuggs.com/whats-new-winter.

STOWE MOUNTAIN RESORT

Charm unique to Vermont, combined with a level of service and overall experience found exclusively at the world's top resorts, makes Stowe Mountain Resort a one-of-a-kind four-season destination. In a place where the history, community and landscape are legendary for hospitality and adventure, a nearly completed 10-year master plan has elevated the Stowe brand to world-class status yet again.

The two newest components of the project that have touched guests in Stowe significantly this past year are Spruce Camp and Stowe Mountain Lodge. The Spruce Camp base lodge includes restaurants, a bar, indoor and outdoor fireplaces, rental shops, retail, guest services, event space and public lounge areas. Stowe Mountain Lodge, a hotel and spa that just celebrated its first anniversary, has been recognized already as one of the "greenest" and most luxurious mountainside accommodations in the world.

TRAPP FAMILY LODGE

New programs offer more opportunities to explore at Trapp Family Lodge. The Nensa - Introduction to performance skiing and racing is Dec. 12-13. Take daily tours with members of the von Trapp family Jan. 3-9, while they point out features of the property and relate some of its storied history.

The Catamount Trail Association Women's Day Clinic happens Jan. 10. It will offer women an opportunity to receive instruction in the traditional skinny-ski track disciplines of both classic and skating as well as backcountry and telemark techniques. Instructors for this event include some of the world's best female skiers.

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PLEASE SEE PAGES 4 and 5 for MUCH MORE INFO on RAGGED and GUNSTOCK and PLEASE SEE PAGE 3 for MUCH MORE INFORMATION on BOLTON VALLEY

GUNSTOCK and RAGGED – REASONS TO STAY in TILTON, NH – THE GATEWAY TO THE WHITE MOUNTAINS

NORTH WOODSTOCK, NH – Every summer, New Hampshire's ski areas roll up their sleeves and get to work improving their resorts for guests. This past summer was no different with many improvements underway across the state. Following is a list of projects in the Granite State for the 2009-10 winter season. Here is a presentation of what is new at New Hampshire resorts in proximity to Tilton. Information is presented in full for more New Hampshire resorts on page 9. This information was compiled by Ski New Hampshire.

ATTITASH

A focus on snowmaking improvements leads the way at Attitash for this winter. New snowmaking pipe, snow guns, flow meters and more were installed to ensure optimal snow quality regardless of what Mother Nature provides. Guests will find enhancements to the base areas and lodges. The rental shop will have an upgraded inventory as well.

BRETTON WOODS

Bretton Woods is now home to one of the longest, year-round Canopy Tours in the United States. The tour descends over 1,000 vertical feet and consists of a series of tree-top zip lines, suspension bridges and hiking trails. The tour concludes with the Williwaw Racing Zip, a dual, side-by-side zip line running right into the base area. The Williwaw Racing Zip can also be enjoyed without participating in the entire Canopy Tour.

CANNON MOUNTAIN

Cannon is in the midst of phase two of its expansion. Among projects underway this summer were improvements to the Notchview and Peabody Base Lodge that will double the size of the pub, base lodge and family room areas. Cannon conducted small-scale brushing and trimming on the recently reopened Mittersill Ski Area. Other projects include the purchase of a Prinoth BR350 grooming machine, new snowmaking pump, upgrades to the mechanical and

electrical systems for the facilities, and expansions to the rental shop and retail areas.

GUNSTOCK

Gunstock worked this summer to completing a two-year \$3.25 million expansion. Guests will find a new fixed-grip quad chairlift along with two new trails and two extended trails in the Gunshy Beginner Complex. The new lift will result in almost quadruple the uphill capacity in the area. The snowmaking system was upgraded through

the addition of 4.5 miles of new snowmaking pipe, 13 new tower fan guns and 25 Ratnik tower guns that were refitted to be more efficient. These snowmaking improvements, along with a capacity of 6,000 gallons of water per minute, will result in nearly double the snowmaking capacity compared to three years ago.

RAGGED MOUNTAIN

It is not often that a ski area jumps out from the pack and makes a major statement in the marketplace. That is just what has happened at Ragged Mountain in Danbury, N.H. After just two short years under new ownership, New England skiers and riders have taken notice and returned, or tried Ragged for the first time, in great numbers. It may be the easy access and proximity to the Boston Metro area (just 90 miles away) combined with a skitish economy that is keeping skiers closer to home. It may be Ragged's affordable pricing in that same economy. It may not be the economy at all.

Everyone talks about outstanding customer service. For some it is just lip service, for others just a slogan. At Ragged Mountain, the entire staff really gets it. Drive into the parking lot, which is very close to the mountain, and you are greeted by a cadre of hosts who help you park, greet you with a genuine smile, and if needed, help you with your equipment. No one is telling them to do this; they are just that kind of people.

WILDCAT MOUNTAIN, PINKHAM NOTCH

Among the improvements made this summer at Wildcat is additional snowmaking pipe to enhance the snowmaking system. The Jib Lot was moved to the Lower Catapult Trail to improve the terrain park experience and the maintenance building was improved.

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