

TRAVEL

Michigan celebrates winter on skis and snowmobiles

Winter has taken its time to arrive this year despite predictions of a "long, hard" winter following last year's gentle weather.

Certainly Michigan's skiing and snowmobiling industry is hoping that we get lots of snow in the next three months.

Though Michigan isn't blessed with the mountains of the West or New England, abundant snow falls in the northern part of the state and several good size hills make for attractive destinations for downhill skiers. In addition, the state has proven a popular location for cross-country skiing and snowmobiling.

AAA Michigan reports that many ski areas have invested in snow making equipment to help mother nature along. They also report new runs at four areas and new inner tubing parks or runs in place at four areas.

Here is AAA Michigan's rundown on skiing in the state:

Northern Lower Michigan: Several resorts report major slope additions. At Boyne Mountain, near Boyne Falls, nine new intermediate runs will be served by a new three-place chair lift.

Both Boyne Mountain and visitor resort Boyne Highlands, near Harbor Springs, will sport new or improved snowboard parks up to 2,000 feet long, as well as family tubing parks.

Boyne Highlands also added a "couloir," a steep, narrow run similar to those high in the mountains of western ski areas. It will be only 20 feet wide. Boyne also purchased a "Pipe Dragon" half-pipe groomer.

Crestal Mountain, near Thompsonville, boasts eight new intermediate slopes and a high-speed, four-place chair lift. The runs increase ski terrain by 25 percent. The "quad" lift replaces a three-place model that was moved to service the new runs. Beginner skiers can learn in a new teaching area away from the crowds. The resort also purchased a half-pipe groomer. Near Cadillac, Caberfrance widened its tallest North Peak by 45 feet and raised it by 60. It increased



AAA MICHIGAN

Teen appeal: Michigan ski resorts were among the first to promote snowboarding, a sport that has won the support of many teens.

snowmaking capacity 15 percent, purchased a new slope groomer, refurbished lodge rooms and added an outdoor pool and hot tub for guests.

Nub's Nob, near Harbor Springs, added one intermediate and one beginner trail and widened two others. It also increased snowmaking nearly 10 percent and night skiing terrain by 40 percent. The resort, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary, also purchased a Pipe Dragon snowboard park groomer.

The Homestead, near Glen Arbor, says new fine-spray snow guns double its capacity and allow snowmaking at higher temperatures. Skiers also can stay at 23 new condo-style rooms or upgraded hotel rooms.

Shanty Creek near Bellaire continues its expansion at Schloss Village, including a fifth four-place chair lift and short advanced run. It is upgrading its snowboard program and continues constructing an 84-suite lodgeside hotel for next season

that will include a tunnel to the lifts. Hanson Hills, near Grayling, has a new \$92 family learn-to-ski package with lift tickets, lessons and rental equipment for up to six.

Treelaps, near Gaylord, moved its cross-country trails to a more pristine setting and is building new condos and townhouses for next season. Mt. Mica, near Charlevoix, added a new ski rental area and lounge with a deck. Sugar Loaf, near Cedar

Mt. Holiday, near Traverse City, expanded its tubing area and snowboard park and upgraded slope grooming and snowmaking.

Central Lower Michigan: Apple Mountain, near Freeland, between Saginaw and Midland, added a restaurant and lounge overlooking the slopes. It also added shaped rental skis, which have wider tips for easier turning and learning. Snowflake,

near Harrison, is redoing a snowboard park. Keweenaw, near Grand Rapids, has 1,000 sets of new rental skis and increased snowmaking. Pando, near Rockford, bought a new slope groomer. Bittersweet, at Osego, increased rental skis - including shaped skis - and snowboards by 20 percent, and snowmaking 15 percent. Mulligan's Hollow, near Grand Haven, and Silver Ridge, near Farwell, upped snowmaking 50 and 30 percent, respectively.

Timber Ridge, near Gobles, expanded its terrain park 50 percent, added a new snowboard rental area and is upping snowmaking 40 percent and adding family learn-to-ski programs.

Southern Lower Michigan: Alpine Valley, near Milford, increased snowboard, rebuilt its half-pipe, purchased a half-pipe groomer and new slope groomers, and is adding a tubing park with rope tows and snowmaking that increases output at higher temperatures, while Mount Brighton added snowmaking and rental snowboards.

Upper Peninsula: Blackjack, near Bessemer, added 350 pairs of shaped rental skis, a 4,000-foot-long tree run for black diamond skiers and new terrain includes a "tunnel of snow." Indianhead Mountain, near Ironwood, added 10 acres of glade skiing, a new snowboard half-pipe and shaped rental skis.

Marquette Mountain expanded

its snowboard park and added alpine-style window seating to its cafeteria. Ski Drulo, near Iron River, added a Pipe Dragon half-pipe groomer and a second story deck onto the lodge.

Silver Mountain, near St. Ignace, expanded snowmaking to cover all runs and added 15 kilometers of intermediate cross-country ski trails. Norway Mountain, near Iron Mountain, built a 1,000-square-foot addition for a ski shop and will offer performance ski rentals.

Porcupine Mountain, near Ontonagon, built a 1,500-square-foot chalet expansion for a new cafeteria, extended a double black diamond run by a quarter mile, added children's day care and more rental skis and snowboards.

AAA Michigan and Travel Michigan have produced a one-page guide, "Downhill Destinations 1998-99," which charts the services at state ski areas. The guide is available at all AAA Michigan branch offices. Skiers can also call (800)MI-4-SNOW for daily conditions.

AAA Michigan also reports on the increasing popularity of cross-country skiing which is attracting 900,000 Michiganders to the state's 3,400 kilometers of trails.

Events to get skiers on the trail this winter according to AAA Michigan include:

Discover Michigan skiing, Jan. 4 through 31. At 12 partici-

pating downhill locations with cross-country skis, beginners get a lesson, equipment rental and trail pass for \$25 for adults and \$15 for children ages 7 to 14. For information, call (248)620-4448.

■ Ski Fest, Jan. 10. Rent skis at a discount and take a lesson on groomed trails at a dozen participating ski areas statewide. Food is included at many of the areas. For more information, call (616)271-6314.


Winter is an important season everywhere in Michigan, but in the Upper Peninsula it helps define the area and several events are scheduled to celebrate Old Man Winter in the UP on skis, snowmobiles and snowshoes.

On Jan. 9, Feb. 13 and March 13, the St. Ignace Snowmobile Poker Run features snowmobilers racing along groomed trails in pursuit of the best poker hand. For information, call (800)338-6660.

Sault Ste. Marie holds its annual Snowmobile Rally, Jan. 9-10. Call (800)647-2668.

The Brockway Mountain Challenge Cross Country Ski Race in Copper Harbor is Jan. 23 featuring a 15km race up and over Brockway Mountain. Call (906)523-4884.

Michigan Tech's annual Winter Carnival is Jan. 30 to Feb. 6 featuring a variety of ice and snow events. Call (906)523-4884.



SAVE THIS SCHEDULE

exercise with fitness factory

- Aerobic Classes
- Step Classes

WINTER CLASS SCHEDULE

11 - WESTLAND
St. Theodore's Catholic Church
(8200 Wayne, bet. Warren & Joy Rds.)
1 day per wk/\$53 2 days/\$75 12 weeks
M/W 6:00 P.M. Low/Hi Impact Jan. 4
SPONSORED BY: Parks & Recreation Department/Recreation Center (36651 Ford Rd., E. of Newburg, behind City Hall-734-722-7020)
1 day per wk/\$53 2 days/\$68 Unlimited/\$94 11 weeks
** \$11.00 rental fee will be charged for the step classes
M/W 9:30 A.M. Hi/Low Impact Jan. 11 Staff
M/W 5:55 P.M. Low/Hi Impact Jan. 11 A. Schumake
M/W 7:05 P.M. Sculpt & Tone Jan. 11 P. Nixon
T/TH 9:25 A.M. Hi/Low Impact Jan. 12 B. Savolax
T/TH 7:05 P.M. Step Circuit Jan. 12 L. Range
*Babysitting available \$1.50 per child/\$3.00 per family

12 - PLYMOUTH
John's Fitness Extension (Ply. Trade Ctr., 9282 General Dr. Ste 180 & 190, bet. Ann Arbor Rd. & Joy, E. of Lilley)
1 day per wk/\$58 2 days/\$75 Unlimited/\$94 12 weeks
*M/W 9:30 A.M. **Rotation Jan. 4 C. VanHoe
T/TH 9:30 A.M. Hi/Low Impact Jan. 5 K. Rudolph
*Babysitting available \$1.50 per child/\$3.00 per family
**Classes will include Low/Hi, Aerobic Circuit and Sculpt & Tone
SPONSORED BY: Plymouth Parks & Recreation
Plymouth Cultural Center (525 Farmer-734-455-6620)
1 day per wk/\$53 2 days/\$68 Unlimited/\$94 11 weeks
M/W 6:00 P.M. Low/Hi Impact Jan. 11 S. King

13 - LIVONIA
Holy Cross Lutheran Church (30650 Sh. Mile Rd., E. of Merrimack)
1 day per wk/\$58 2 days/\$75 Unlimited/\$94 12 weeks
**NOTE: No night classes Feb. 17, 24, March 3, 10, 17, or 24; made at registration
*M/W 9:00 A.M. Hi/Low Impact Jan. 4 P. Peitz
M/W 6:00 P.M. Low Impact Jan. 4 M. Kopsor
M/W 7:10 P.M. Hi/Low Impact Jan. 5 K. Rudolph
T/TH 9:00 A.M. Sculpt/Tone Jan. 5 T. Brander
*Babysitting available \$2.00 per child/\$4.00 per family

14 - SOUTHWFIELD
SPONSORED BY: City of Southfield
(Register through Southfield Parks & Rec. - 248-354-9603)
1 day per wk/\$48 2 days/\$62 Unlimited/\$78
Brace-Lederle Comm. Ed. Bldg.
(18575 W. 9 Mile Rd., bet. Southfield & Evergreen) 10 weeks
M/W 6:00 P.M. Sculpt & Tone Jan. 11 S. Reynolds
M/W 7:00 P.M. Low Impact Jan. 11 Staff
T/TH 6:00 P.M. Sculpt & Tone Jan. 12 K. Bishop
T/TH 7:00 P.M. STEP Jan. 12 K. Bishop
Student must provide own STEP

15 - FARMINGTON
Plymouth Cultural Center (525 Farmer-734-455-6620)
1 day per wk/\$53 2 days/\$68 Unlimited/\$94 11 weeks
** \$11.00 rental fee will be charged for the step classes or bring own step
M/W 8:20 A.M. Low Impact Jan. 4 S. Kambouris
*M/W 9:35 A.M. Hi/Low Impact Jan. 4 P. Kambouris
M/W 6:00 P.M. Sculpt & Tone Jan. 4 P. Kambouris
M/W 7:10 P.M. Hi/Low Impact Jan. 4 P. Kambouris
W 8:20 A.M. Aerobic Circuit Jan. 6 S. Kambouris
*T/TH 9:15 A.M. STEP Jan. 5 P. Kambouris
T/TH 6:00 P.M. Hi/Low Impact Jan. 5 K. Rudolph-Smith
T/TH 7:05 P.M. STEP Jan. 5 K. Rudolph-Smith
Sat 8:30 A.M. Hi/Low Impact Jan. 9 L. Burke
Sat 9:30 A.M. Sculpt & Tone Jan. 9 M. Navarro-Bloom
*Babysitting \$2.00 per child

Faith Covenant Church (14 Mile & Drake)
(Call 734-661-9191 for more information)
1 day per wk/\$53 2 days/\$68 Unlimited/\$95 11 weeks
*M/W 9:25 A.M. Low/Hi Impact Jan. 4
*M/W 10:30 A.M. Sculpt/Tone Jan. 4 C. Peterson
T/TH 7:00 P.M. Low/Hi Impact Jan. 5 K. Roberts
*Babysitting available \$2.00 per child
SPONSORED BY: Farmington Hills Recreation Center 11 weeks
Farmington Hills Activities Center
(28500 11 Mile Rd., Gate 4 Door C-248-473-1816)
1 day per wk/\$53 2 days/\$68 Unlimited/\$95
*M/W 9:30 A.M. Sculpt & Tone Jan. 4 L. Morris
M/W 6:30 P.M. Hi/Low Impact Jan. 4 W. Kambouris
T/TH 9:25 A.M. **Rotation Jan. 5 J. Sinc
Sat 9:00 A.M. Hi/Low Impact Jan. 9 K. Rudolph-Smith
*Babysitting available \$2.00 per child
**Classes alternate between Hi/Low Aerobics/Circuits/Fat Burner. Check with instructor.
SPONSORED BY: Farmington Community Ed. 8 weeks
(Register through Farmington Comm. Ed. 248-489-3333)
1 day per wk/\$39 2 days/\$50 No Classes: Feb. 15 & 17
Farmington Community School
(30415 Shilohwood, bet. Tuck & Orchard Lk. Rd.)
*M/W 9:00 A.M. Hi/Low Impact Jan. 18 Staff
*Babysitting available \$2.00/child-must be walking-no infants

16 - NOVI
Novi Center
(45175 W. 10 Mile Rd., bet. Novi & Taft-248-347-0400)
All Novi students must register/pay through Novi Pks. & Rec. office (248-347-0400). Registrations/Payments will not be accepted through the Fitness Factory office or through the instructors. Non-Resident fee 20%. Please bring a mat or towel to class.
NO CLASSES: Jan. 16 or 18, Feb. 15
1 day per wk/\$47 2 days/\$62.50 Unlimited/\$79
** \$11.00 rental fee will be charged for the step classes or bring own step
*M/W 9:00 A.M. Low Impact Jan. 4 S. Kelly
*M/W 10:15 A.M. STEP II Jan. 4 Staff
M/W 6:15 P.M. Hi/Low Impact Jan. 4 L. Burke
M/W 7:25 P.M. STEP II Jan. 4 B. Balagan
*T/TH 9:00 A.M. Sculpt & Tone Jan. 5 S. Flanagan
*F 9:00 A.M. Fat Burner Jan. 8 S. Kelly
Sat 8:00 A.M. Sculpt & Tone Jan. 9 Staff
*Babysitting \$1.50 per child/\$3.00 per family



Novi Meadows (25549 Taft, N. of 10 Mile)
(Register through Novi Comm. Ed. - 248-449-1206)
NO CLASSES: Feb. 15 through 18, March 3 & 4
1 day per wk/\$40 2 days/\$62 Unlimited/\$78 10 weeks
M/W 7:00 P.M. Hi/Low Impact Jan. 18 T. Smith

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