TRAVEL

Skiiers get ready to hit the slopes

They're called the "silent sports," and whether you participate in cross-country skiing or snowshoeing, they're great exercise and one of the best ways to enjoy Michigan in winter, says AAA Michigan.

And, there are plenty of places in which to take part. Michigan is more than 3,400 kilometers of trails to ski or snowshoe. This winter, at least 900,000 Michiganians will be ready to hit the trails in state and national forests as well as a network of privately operated pathways.

According to the Great Lakes Nordic Ski Council, new equipment that's easier to use, as well as lightweight, layered microfiber clothing for great warmth, combined with a good snowfall last winter, will make outdoor winter activities more enticing and enjoyable.

Skill level

Each year, Michigan hosts events catering to all skill levels of cross-country skiing. This year they include:

■ Discover Michigan Skiing at three cross-country-only facilities and 23 downhill areas offering cross-country or downhill fun.

Sign up to ski Jan. 3-31. Adults ($30) and children ages 7-14 ($20) get a beginner lesson, rental and trail pass. Entry forms are available at participating Michigan McDonald's restaurants and Michigan Ski Industries Association-member stores and ski facilities starting in late December.

■ Jan. 5, Boyne Nordican, 10k and 15k classic style events, Boyne Mountain, (231) 549-6088.

■ Subaru Adventure Days, between Jan. 11 and 31 at participating Great Lakes Nordic Ski Council-member locations. Free rentals, beginner lessons and trail passes for cross-country skiing and other winter quiet sports. Register by calling the specific property, or visit www.skinordic.org

■ Garland Glide, Saturdays during the ski season. Ski nine kilometers of trails and stop at food stations and combine it with a stay at the AAA Four Diamond resort that boasts the largest log lodge east of the Mississippi River. Special family glides also run Jan. 13 and Feb. 10, with a five-kilometer ski for smaller children. Contact (877) 4-GARLAND or www.garlandusa.com

■ Skiers aged 55 and above ski free or at discount rates at participating downhill and Nordic areas throughout the season. For a list call (248) 620-4448 or visit www.goskimichigan.com or www.skinordic.org

■ Jan. 24-26, Noquemanon Ski Marathon and National Ski Hall of Fame half-marathon, from Ishpeming; (888) 57-UNITY or www.noquemanon.com

■ Jan. 27, Women's Ski Tour presented by Subaru. Call (231) 929-7775 or www.womenskitour.com

■ Jan. 28 to Feb. 3, Take Your Daughter (or favorite female) to the trails week. Special women's ski clinics, trail passes and free skiing. Call (231) 271-6314.

■ Feb. 2, White Pine Stampede, Mancelona to Shanty Creek. Call (231) 587-8812 or visit www.whitepinestampede.org

■ Feb. 9-10 Subaru North American Vasa, Acme. Call (231) 938-4400 or visit www.vasa.org

■ Feb. 10, Grand Traverse, Acme, (231) 938-4400.

■ March 8-10, Ski and Feast Weekend, participating Great Lakes Nordic Ski Council locations. Call (231) 271-6314 or www.skinordic.org

Kirov Orchestra of the Mariinsky Theatre

VALERY GERGIEV conductor ALEXANDER TORADZE piano

WED 12/5 8 PM

Hill Auditorium • Ann Arbor

"For the connoisseur of orchestral playing, this was an unforgettable experience." (Glasgow Herald) For this concert, the Kirov Orchestra is joined by Alexander Toradze, internationally recognized as a masterful keyboard virtuoso.

PROGRAM
Debussy — La Mer
Prokofiev — Piano Concerto No. 2 in g minor
Tchaikovsky — Symphony No. 5 in e minor, Op. 64

Presented with support from Wallid. Media sponsor WCSX 91.3 FM

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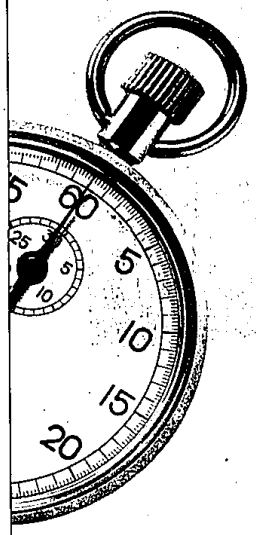

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TONIGHT, DEC. 2 • 7 PM — BLUE OYSTER CULT/ FOGHAT/APRIL WINE
Seats as low as $151

FRI., DEC. 7 • 8 PM — Scheduled to compete:
MICHELLE KWAN, TODD ELDREDGE, SARAH HUGHES, MICHAEL WEISS, DOROTHY HAMILL and more!

FRI., DEC. 14 — Amy Grant & Vince Gill ... a Christmas to remember
with The Nashville Symphony Orchestra featuring Nickel Creek and Rachael Lampa
Bring a new unwrapped toy
FOX 2 TARGET

SAT., DEC. 15 — Holiday Tennis Challenge
featuring ANNA KOURNIKOVA vs. AMANDA COETZER
plus DOUBLES MATCH with LUKE & MURPHY JENSEN

SUN., DEC. 16 — KENNY ROGERS Christmas from the Heart
Bring a new unwrapped toy

WED., DEC. 26 — TEMPTATION REVIEW featuring Dennis Edwards/ THE COASTERS featuring Carl Gardner/THE CONTOURS

SAT., DEC. 29 — Just Added • On Sale Now — BARENAKED LADIES

TUE., FEB. 19 — Rescheduled Date — JUDAS PRIEST

PALACE of Auburn Hills
Tickets available at PalaceOfAH.com, the Palace Box Office and all TicketMaster locations.
Charge at (248) 645-6666. Group discounts available on select shows. Call (248) 377-0100 for more information.

THE 36TH ANNUAL WJR CHRISTMAS SING!

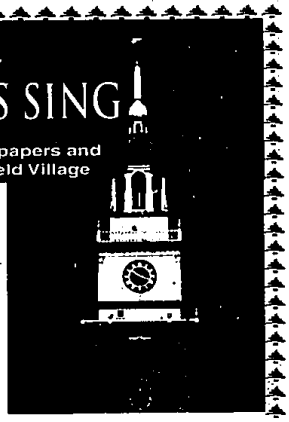
In partnership with The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village

Hosted by WJR's Paul W. Smith

along with the Farmington Community Chorus, the gang from WJR, Larry Santos and Santa!

Wednesday, December 5, 2001
7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

In front of the Clock Tower at Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn



Join us for our annual Christmas Sing!

Everyone will receive a song book compliments of Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. And a special thanks to English Gardens for the holiday decorations.

If you are unable to attend the Sing, tune your radio to News/Talk 760am and listen to the event live! For more information, visit wjr.com

You could win a $300 certificate to the Doll Hospital and Toy Soldier Shop or one of 5 Golden Rings compliments of Edmund T. Ahee Jewelers

If we call your name during the "Twelve Days of Christmas" song during the Christmas Sing broadcast, you'll win one of five gold rings!

Also, everyone listening to the broadcast will have a chance to hear a secret holiday message. If you remember the message and can tell us the next day during the Paul W. Smith show, you could win a $300 gift certificate compliments of the Doll Hospital and Toy Soldier Shop!

Yes! Enter me into the 5 Golden Rings Contest

Mail entry form by December 3, 2001 to:
WJR FIVE GOLDEN RINGS CONTEST, 3011 W. GRAND BLVD. STE. 800 DETROIT, MI 48202.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Age (must be 18 years or older to win) _____

WJR 760am — The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers — FARMER JACK — English Gardens — HENRY FORD MUSEUM & GREENFIELD VILLAGE featuring IMAX THEATRE — A Different Reason Every Season