

Want a quick getaway? It's right here in Michigan

BY MARY QUINLEY
CORRESPONDENT

If you're craving a getaway packed with skiing possibilities, why not stay in Michigan where you'll discover a litany of diverse options? Here's a peek at some of the ski properties that the mitten-shaped state has to offer.

BOYNE

Saturday lift ticket rates have been rolled back at the two Boyne ski resorts. "We are the greatest value in Northern Michigan for lift ticket prices," said Julie Ard, public relations manager of Boyne USA Resorts.

An adult pays \$39 at either Boyne Highlands in Harbor Springs or Boyne Mountain in Boyne Falls. The lift ticket can be used at both resorts. Last year's price was \$43. The two diverse properties offer a total of 111 runs. Skiers will discover ten new downhill runs at the Mountain and three new runs at the Highlands. Also new this year is a conveyor system, the longest in Michigan, at the Highlands complex. It was installed with beginner skiers in mind. This slow-moving system features a minimal slope, says Ard. There is no charge to ski in this area. For more info call (800) GO-BOYNE or visit the web at: www.boyne.com.

SHANTY CREEK

Does tubing down a slope

pique your interest? If so, check out the new tubing runs, including a half-mile long extreme run, at Shanty Creek.

The resort, approximately 30 miles northeast of Traverse City, has a variety of skiers from the novice through advanced to its two spectacular mountains.

"We've expanded our terrain," said Barry Godwin, director of marketing.

And, he says, if you haven't been to Shanty Creek within the last couple of years you'll discover increased night skiing and a new lodge.

Bring the family. A snow sports academy offers ski instruction with several kids' programs.

Contact Shanty Creek at (800) 678-4111 or check the web at: www.shantycreek.com.

NUB'S NOB

Nub's Nob is the most natural place I've skied, said Mike Wozniak of Livonia, who enjoys skiing at night because "it's cheaper."

He and his brother, Dan, students at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, prefer the slopes at Harbor Springs more than any other Michigan ski area.

Nineteen-year-old Mike is particularly impressed with the length of the hills he slides. Less time is spent on the lifts, he said.

Dan likes skiing through the



Shanty Creek offers more than skiing. Visitors tube down the half-mile run.

woods at the Harbor Springs resort. "The more trees the better," said the 21-year-old.

The two brothers rank themselves as "high-intermediate" skiers.

Nub's Nob offers a ten-acre hill with a chair lift geared for kids and beginners. A lift ticket is not required to ski on this slope.

"We've added more snow making guns to our arsenal," said Jim Bartlett, general manager.

And, he added, his goal is to assure that each ski and snowboarding experience is "the best it can be."

Need more info on the resort? Then call (800) SKI-NUBS or visit: www.nubsnob.com.

CRYSTAL MOUNTAIN

Thirty-four slopes, ranging from gentle to drop-jaw mogul runs, offer skiers of all levels a challenge at Crystal Mountain in Thompsonville.

Night skiing is featured every day and snowboarders are welcome on all slopes.

The Crystal Clipper is rated as the fastest lift in Northern Michigan. Call (800) 968-7686 or visit: www.crystalmountain.com.



Skiers hit the slopes in Michigan.

TREETOPS RESORT

With an average annual snowfall of 175 inches, Treetops in Gaylord provides an ideal setting for Alpine and Nordic skiing.

Call (888) 873-3867 or (989) 732-6711 or visit: www.treetops.com.

MOUNT BOHEMIA

Ladies, you're invited to ski free this season at Mount Bohemia in the Keweenaw Peninsula.

Now in their third year, this Upper Peninsula property features a slope with a 900-foot vertical drop.

"You wouldn't expect this in Michigan. The drop is almost twice as high as any place in the Lower Peninsula," said Lonnie Gieberman, president. The mountain is as challenging as any place out west, he said.

Mount Bohemia, situated on a site that was once an active volcano, attracts skiers and snowboarders who are considered advanced or expert.

Visit their web site at: www.mtbohemia.com or call (888) 937-2411.

CABERFAE PEAKS

The novice trails have been widened up to 50 feet and have gained ten feet of vertical at Caberfae Peaks in Cadillac.

Snowboarders are welcome. For more info call (800) 968-7644 or (231) 862-3000 or check: www.caberfaepeaks.com.

ALPINE VALLEY SKI AREA

Alpine Valley is southern Michigan's largest ski area with 25 slopes, ten chair lifts and ten rope tows.

Snow tubing and snowboarding facilities are available. Visit: www.skiatpinvalley.com or call (248) 887-2180 for more information.

MOUNT BRIGHTON SKI AREA

If your schedule doesn't allow time to trek north to ski, try Mount Brighton in Brighton. Highlights include a 250-foot vertical drop, 26 runs with seven chairlifts, a snowboard terrain park and an extended half pipe. Night skiing, race programs and a ski school are also available. Call (810) 229-9581 or visit: www.mtbrighton.com.

SKI REFORMATION

Try these Web sites for more ski information:

■ To check current snow conditions and download a discount lift ticket coupon visit: www.goskimichigan.com, the Web site for the Michigan Snowsport Industries Association.

■ For a list of Michigan ski areas visit: www.michigan.org.

MOUNT HOLLY

Last year the Wozniak brothers decided to check out the slopes at Mount Holly located an hour north of Detroit.

"The hill was in good condition," said Dan, who has been skiing for about seven years.

Mount Holly is a full-service ski property with 18 slopes. Sporting a newly developed terrain park and a ski and snowboard school, the complex attracts beginner, intermediate and advanced skiers.

For information call (800) 582-7256 or (248) 634-8260 or check the web at: www.skiimtholly.com.

PINE KNOB

Thanks to a state of the art snowmaker fleet at Pine Knob in Clarkston, the property recovers from midwinter thaws quickly and stays open late for spring skiing.

The trails are lit for night skiers. Ski and snowboard schools are available. For times and rates call (800) 642-7669 or (248) 625-0800 or visit: www.skiatpincknob.com.

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2nd Annual Lessons in Love Contest

WIN a romantic evening THURSDAY FEBRUARY 13

In 100 words or less, tell us your romantic (or funny!) wedding proposal and you could be one of two lucky couples to receive:

- ♥ Transportation, compliments of J.R. Tours, Inc. of Novi
- ♥ A dozen red roses from Wesley Berry Florist of West Bloomfield
- ♥ A romantic dinner for two at Little Italy in Northville
- ♥ Candy from Kilwin's in Birmingham
- ♥ A \$250 gift coin from Orin Jewelers of Northville and Garden City
- ♥ One-night stay at Fraser Inn of Northville
- ♥ Two tickets to the February 13 Red Wing game

SEND YOUR ENTRY TO:
"Lessons in Love Contest"
Cathy Young
Promotion Manager
Phone: 734-953-2155
Observer & Eccentric Newspapers
36251 Schoolcraft
Livonia, MI 48150
e-mail: cyoung@oe.homescomm.net
Fax: 734-953-2232

RULES:
Entries must be received by Friday, January 24, 2003
Entrants must be 18 years old
Entries must be 100 words or less
Entries must include name, age, address, phone, e-mail
Employees of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and Olympia Entertainment are ineligible

Winning couples will be announced in your hometown newspaper *This City* January 30