Mount Snow: Disneyland or Aspen?

By Norman Sandler

When given the choice of staying at the facility and attending classes or splitting for two weeks among most other resorts, one of the most luxuriously equipped ski resorts in New England, I would speculate that most would choose the latter.

This past January when The Tech was offered the opportunity to send an editor to Mount Snow, Vermont, for two days of living in luxury, I surely included having unlimited access to all ski and recreational facilities at the large resort area, some 2½ hours from Boston.

Boasting the world’s largest ski lift system, along Route 100 in southern Vermont, Mount Snow is an interwoven maze of trails and slopes (ranging from beginners’ to the expert north slopes), ranges from the dormitory-style $14 per day Ski Bunk to the $37 per day per person suites of the luxurious Snow Lake Lodge. It’s_si gn within a sign with the ski slopes through the exclusive “Air Car” cable car system.

First impressions

Leaving Boston around 10 in the morning and arriving at Snow at approximately 10, we were immediately awed by the size and design of the base lodge, as well as the large ice sculpture outside. The best idea that Mount Snow offers of the resort is of a “Winter Disneyland.”

The buildings are all large and brightly colored, and with the lift ticket sales office over Snow Lake, and the snow mobile rental, the sign on the appearance of a ski lodge is reserved for civic leaders of the nation.

This, the instantaneous impression, quickly diminishes as one walks through the country-style base lodge. There are all the usual comforts that one would expect, the ski boot room, with the current promotional emphasis placed on being one walk through the forest surrounding the area, marked trails, leading throughout. 

Over the lower parts of the mountain, this particular reporter decided to spend the morning skiing, most of the slopes were packed from excessive use by too many people who surprisingly access to congregate on the lower slopes.

The weather was perfect, with a clear blue sky and warm temperatures which made it seem like spring skiing.

Mount Snow’s 44 slopes are well marked for skiing with all degrees of experience, from the 700-foot beginner bowl run for beginners to the expert slopes of the north face, with names like Devil’s Drop.

All slopes are adequately served by Snow’s 15 lifts, which include double chair lifts, seven double chair lifts and two unique and challenging lift systems, the only ones in the world, which run 6000 feet to the summit of the mountain, either serving slopes of all degrees, as well as one cross-country trail located at the top. Cross-country is integrated with downhill skiing at Mount Snow; there are marked trails leading throughout the forest surrounding the area, and cross-country rental equipment is available at one of the lodge units at comparatively lower prices.

After a ski run

The apres-ski atmosphere at Snow is similar in many respects made for any ski enthusiast, with the cocktail lounges and bars throughout the mountain.

A feature of the expansive February 13, 1972

We feel that while Cucchissi’s intentions are good, some changes should be made before any area attempts to emulate Mount Snow’s success. The latter totally prevents a batter from protecting himself stealing and advancing on wild pitches and a rule whereinto a game is to be declared the final one of the Bi leagues to a status equalling that of C leagues. From past season to eliminate tie games.

Although this is one worry which we did not meet to concern ourselves while at Snow, an inspection revealed that all equipment is excellent and even lower than competitive prices.

Skiing at Mount Snow is a completely different experience from any other area in Vermont. In many cases, the costs are substantially lower than for comparable items at other areas.

Yes, I’m a skier—why do you ask?

During the week we had been at Snow since Monday and would remain through Friday with un-limited skiing, daily lessons, food, lodging, and use of ski and recreational facilities.

Having received the grand tour of the area, as well as comparing notes with Snow’s News Bureau and Public Relations Office, we secured lift tickets and equipment and headed for the slopes, trying to keep in mind that we were there to ski and nothing more. It was a rather difficult task.

Weather and conditions were great the first day, with the slopes for the most part in very good to excellent shape. Toward the upper portions of the mountain, which incidentally is a National Forest Area leased to Snow by National Forest Service, the slopes were most powdery, although temperatures that day approached the mid-30s.

The weather was very informal as well as crowded with skiers who enjoy their various experiences from that day on the slopes, and prepare for the evening’s activities. These include gourmet meals at one of the various hotel dining rooms, and later the prospects of spending the remainder of the evening taking advantage of the nightly entertainment, the well-stocked cocktail lounges, dips in the heated indoor Japanese dream pools, or as was the case with one ski week customer, a combination of the latter two, while providing comic relief for others at the lodge.

Back to the slopes

It was up at 7:30 the next morning, thanks to an impatient alarm clock, for an early start to breakfast at the hotel and then on to the slopes.

Skiing, somewhat under-conditions, had worsened overnight; it was cloudy and, hopefully, entailing the mountain, everything was possible. There was a cloud base in the upper slopes and before, although temperatures were warming up, there was no new snow and little effect of the fresh-fallen snow.

Upon making it to the main base lodge and securing lift tickets and equipment for yet another day’s skiing, we headed for the guided tour of the top of the mountain, (I must attribute to the fast talking and spontaneous adiposed stier, of course), as well as an insomnium pledge which I had made, somewhat under-conditions, for the effect of the fresh-fallen snow.

After making it to the top of the mountain, the photographer truly enjoyed the skiing, but found myself with getting down the slope, the effect of the fresh-fallen snow.

The photograph truly enjoyed the skiing, but found myself

"Comic relief"—The Tech editor fotografsthimg at MountSnow.com

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