

THE STRATTON TIMES

Media Guide | Volume 1

2008 - 2009

Stratton Mountain, Vermont

Forest Management Program Supports Sustainable Slopes

Stratton Mountain, VT - How, where and when to cut trees in order to open new trails, maintain existing terrain or make room for new homes is always a balancing act for mountain resorts and Stratton's forest management plan is green from start to finish; Certified.

Launched this summer, the project promotes sustainable management of Stratton's forest resources, creates jobs for local Vermonters, and produces a line of Forest Stewardship Council certified furniture. The furniture will be handcrafted at Copeland Furniture in Bradford, VT and will be part of a larger initiative that aims to show that consumers are willing to pay a premium for sustainable practices and local goods.

Stratton has long emphasized the importance of sustainability at the resort. Recipient of two Vermont Governor's Awards for environmental excellence and four Silver Eagle Awards for water conservation, wastewater treatment and wildlife habitat protection, Stratton was the first Vermont resort to build a comprehensive Master Plan that included protecting more than 1,400 acres of prime habitat in conservation easements.

The environment and local ties were top priorities in selecting a company to log the 494 acres of land in the forest management plan. "We chose Allard of Brattleboro because of the long-standing, responsible logging reputation and their ability to "Green" certify the timber," said Stratton Permit and Planning Manager Jenna Pugliese.

In fact, Allard is the largest Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified hardwood mill in the state of Vermont. CEO Cliff Allard is a 7th generation Vermont native who has a great respect for the local landscape and ecology. "I wanted to be involved with FSC because its goal of well managed timber land fits hand-in-glove with the way I've operated for over thirty years. FSC certification is recognized and demanded world-wide."

This summer's project started with a forest management plan generated by Stratton with the help of Tony Lambertson of the New England Forestry Consultants (NEFCo), the Department of Fish and Wildlife, local wildlife biologists, citizen's groups and planners.

The project is part of a pilot program initiated by Redstart Forestry and the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund (VSJF). The forest management plan is first reviewed and certified by FSC within the NEFCo group certification pool. The maple logs within the planning boundaries are then cut and harvested from Stratton and milled at Allard Lumber. From there, Champlain Hardwoods, an FSC-certified wood broker will purchase the lumber from Allard and sell it to Copeland Furniture where it will be used to create two lines

SEE FOREST | 4



Matt Blasco rips Kidderbrook Ravine

JAMIE SCHRIEBL PHOTOGRAPHY

The Bark Side of the Mountain

Stratton, VT - Stratton Mountain is well known for snowmaking firepower and corduroy cruisers, yet beneath the polished façade, tucked between trails and spilling off the sides of the mountain is gnarly tree skiing. From beginner and intermediate glades like Moonbeam and Emerald Forest to advanced terrain in Kidderbrook Ravine, Stratton's glades cater to every adventurous skier or rider.

During the winter when Bill Clinton was sworn into the Oval Office, the Buffalo Bills lost their third consecutive Superbowl and Unforgiven was honored with the Best Picture Oscar at The Academy Awards, the first gladed area at Stratton was "officially" cleared for skiing and riding off the beaten path. The area was named Vertigo and it promised challenging, obstacle laden, and unroomed terrain that gave even the best skier or rider a thrill.

"I like skiing trees because they force you to think and react quickly,

you can't just put it on autopilot and cruise," says Stratton skier Wilder "Piste-off" Daniels. "The trees are a way to escape from the crowds, find softer snow, and enjoy the natural beauty of the mountain."

Prior to 1993, tree skiing was illegal at Stratton and ski patrol actively worked to keep people out of the trees. It is also no secret that the ski patrol

was using the woods as an expert playground long before the public was allowed to play. Some would call

it unfair, while others might chalk it up to a perk of the job. However, just because gladed trails weren't "official" and technically illegal to ski on, doesn't mean that nobody did!

Farmer, aviator, sky diver, ski patroller, Cornell graduate and Stratton tree skiing guru Nate Pond has been discovering, cutting and ripping through the trees since he moved to Stratton from Aspen Highlands in 1970. Now 76, Nate Pond continues

SEE BARK SIDE | 4

WHAT'S NEW?

- Six new glades and trails in the Sun Bowl area of the mountain adding intermediate and expert terrain for the upcoming season.
- Grooming fleet enhanced with Prinoth Sherpa Winch Cat (for grooming steep pitches) and a Prinoth BR350 terrain park cat with more horsepower and range of motion for better functionality when creating terrain park features.
- Saturday night terrain park events/competitions on the Tyrolienne Slopestyle course. Under the lights and open to all, these events will feature innovative rails and features. Details and calendar to be announced.
- Stratton is investing a half million dollars in energy efficiency programs including snowmaking. Last year, Stratton invested \$4 million, increasing snowmaking coverage to 95 percent.
- PEAK Program: Peak, is a program for teenagers ages 13 to 18, looking for an aggressive ski group that will challenge them in all aspects of the outdoor sport. This all mountain ski program will include skiing in the trees, moguls, parks, and Nastar course. Snowshoeing and après-ski activities will be offered periodically throughout the season. As a high-level program, participants will obtain knowledge of the mountain, expert skiing abilities, and respect for other skiers. We hope that teens will take advantage of this unique opportunity to spend their weekends outdoors with their Stratton friends.
- Easy Street: Long recognized for its gentle teaching terrain with 45 acres in the Learning Park and the world's first Burton Kids Parkway, this year Stratton Mountain launches a family friendly trail that starts at the summit and runs for nearly three miles. Mountain Guides will be stationed along the route as a reminder that this trail is designed for an easy-does-it style of skiing and riding. This mellow route starts on Mike's Way, winding around the back side of Stratton and on into the Meadows, delivering big-time views of Mount Equinox, the Green Mountains and over to the Adirondacks; a unique experience perfect for the whole family, new skiers and riders, and everyone looking to take it easy.

NEWS BRIEF

Full Moon Snowshoe Hikes

Challenge yourself and experience something new will find what they are looking for on a guided Full Moon Snowshoe Hike. Hikes depart on full moon evenings from the golf course parking lot. If you don't own your own pair, snowshoe rentals are available from First Run Ski Shop. Reservations are required. Call the Sports Center 802.297-4230 for more information or to make reservations.

Time to Eat the Donuts

Be a part of one of the mountain's best kept secrets. Fresh made donuts are available every weekend morning at the Stratton Mid Mountain Lodge. Perfect after an early morning cruising the mountain's fantastic groomed trails or taking advantage of top notch tree skiing. The Mid-Mountain lodge is also an excellent place to warm up and refuel when you want to avoid the base area crowds. A large patio with heat lamps will allow you to comfortably lounge as you watch skiers and riders come down the North American: "Frank's Fall Line" trail.

Stratton Kid's Programs

Stratton offers some of the best kids programs around. From season long programs aimed at developing promising young skiers of all types, to day or hour long private and group lessons, you'll be sure to find the perfect spot for your child.

- Childcare Services: Fully licensed and ready to provide a safe and fun environment for children aged 0 – 3.
- Little Cub: For kids ages 4 – 6 who want to get out on the mountain and ski with Stratton ski and snowboard instructors. Great program for any level.
- Group and Private lessons for any age.

T.I.P.S Program

For teens interested in becoming Ski or Snowboard Instructors. Teen skiers and riders between the ages of 14 – 17 are eligible for qualification to participate in Stratton Ski and Snowboard School's Teen Instructor Training Program. Four weekends in a row, sessions will be balanced between classroom settings and on-snow activities. Curriculum is based on written material and methods of the PSIA (Professional Ski Instructors of America) and AASI (American Association of Snowboard Instructors).

Seasonal Programs

For children up through adults, Stratton's seasonal programs are aimed at developing talented skiers and snowboarders in events ranging from snowboard half-pipe to the giant slalom. Some programs such as Allegro travel to competitions throughout the country and consistently train some of the sport's best athletes.

Stratton Sports Center

The Stratton Sports Center offers everything you need to stay in great shape and relax after a long day on the slopes. Large weight and cardio room, pool, indoor tennis courts and more!

Green Mountain Women

Stratton offers Green Mountain Women on Wednesdays. Every non-holiday Wednesday, women from the mountain come together to ski, ride, and socialize. Women of any age and ski or ride ability are welcome. Stratton also offers a women's camp, set for January 26 – 27, February 9 – 11 and March 9 – 11 (available for two or three days). This is a great way to meet and socialize with other women who share your passion for skiing or snowboarding while improving your skills. Rates are \$298 for two days and \$389 for three.

Ice Skating

One of the best alternative or après ski activities is ice skating on the pond on the Village Common. Skating is available (weather dependent) on Saturdays and select holidays. If you get cold, come inside the Mill House for hot chocolate, board games and a warm ambience.

The Wreck

This is the ultimate youth center with video games, pool and air hockey tables, a basketball court, indoor skate park, climbing wall and more! The Wreck is open to anyone 20 and under. Children nine and younger must be supervised by adult.

The Stratton Trailblazers

An over age 50, group with 900 members who like to get together to ski, socialize and celebrate the fact that just because you are getting older doesn't mean you have to slow down. strattontrailblazers.com

Learn to Ride

Burton Learn to Ride Programs at Stratton incorporates the right equipment with proven teaching methods to make learning to snowboard easy and fun for everyone. Kids Learn to Ride programs are also available and create an atmosphere that will give kids an unmatched introduction into the world of snowboarding! Package includes two 2-hour group lessons, Learning Park lift ticket, and full-day equipment rental.

Magic Trax

Learn to ski quickly and with surprising ease on the newest generation of short side-cut skis in our Magic Trax program. The program includes two 1 3/4 hour group lessons. Equipment and Lower Mountain lift ticket included.

Great Snow – Guaranteed

Every mountain says it has great snow. Stratton guarantees it! Skiers and riders are invited to go out for an hour – any time, any day – and if they're not happy, they'll get a ticket for another day. That's confidence.

Making the Snow

Snowmaking blankets 95 percent of the terrain with a system so powerful it can bury three football fields in a foot of snow every hour. And thanks to a 150-million gallon water storage pond (plus another 72 million gallons in reserve), Stratton has the raw material to cover every trail on the mountain with two feet of snow; using HKD tower guns that would take 13.5 days.

The science of snowmaking blends compressed air and pressurized water, factoring temperature, humidity and wind speed into the mix. Even with the most efficient system you'll find anywhere – Stratton has invested \$20 million in its system – making great snow is still part art form.

We sat down with Lynn "Cape" Capen, chief among of Stratton Mountain's snowmakers...

What's your idea of good weather?

18 degrees Fahrenheit, 40 percent humidity, winds at 5-10 mph. You need a little wind to spread out your snow. Depending on the conditions, we're maxing out on either air or water (11,400 gallons a minute). In marginal temperatures, it's air. In colder weather, we max out the water which is more efficient.

That sounds like significant firepower, what else is in the arsenal?

Stratton's air and water pumping capacity puts our snowmaking system among the top in New England, if not at the top. As far as the guns, we use 405 HKD tower-mounted and another 100 (Royal Knight, Snowstorm ...) air/water tower guns, 380 land guns and 14 quiet fan guns.

Is machine-made snow real snow?

It's better than real snow. Mother Nature gives you what she has to offer. Here we're in charge of quality, adjusting the mixture to create the snow we want. In the beginning of the season, we want heavier snow (more water) to build that base layer (1-2 feet for a beginner trail, 2-3 feet for intermediate, 3+ feet for expert terrain). We use lighter snow (more air) for a quality surface, and on a bump trail that's about a foot of surface snow. Natural snow doesn't last as well.

So is every flake is unique?

Pause. Every snowflake is different.

Describe the "Sleeve Test."

Let the snow fall on your sleeve, and if it sticks that's good base snow. If it bounces, like good snowball snow, it will hold up to traffic. Powder floats off your sleeve.

What role does experience play in making great snow?

Experience definitely makes a difference. We have our game plan, starting two or three days out then finalized each afternoon at 1:30, but out there on the gun runs, we have to be ready to adapt to changing conditions, whether it's wind speed and direction or rising humidity, falling temperatures. Always adjusting the

blend. Water regulates density.

We make snow at every opportunity, making the most of even marginal conditions... We will not open a trail until it is ready!

Grooming it down

Most people know them by the name Groomers, though others may call them Snow Farmers, Groomologists, Mountain Men, or even Groomsmen. By the time most of us wake up in the morning, many of these guys have already put in eight hours of work! During the winter, you will find the crew out on the hill seven days a week often working hours that would make only a bat jealous.

Senior Groomologist Al Desroches grew up in central Massachusetts and started skiing at Stratton with his uncle at the age of 5. He thought that golf course maintenance was his calling and spent some time doing just that before arriving at Stratton in 1987 to work as a groomer. Eight years ago he became the trails and slopes manager, or the architect of Stratton's "Gold Medal Grooming." When he is not working crazy hours or home with his family, Al is likely to skiing or riding on his two favorite trails, Spruce and Polar Bear.

FAST FACT

The Empire State Building is 37 million cubic feet. Stratton snowmaking can cover 135,000 cubic feet in one hour and could fill with the Building with snow in just over 274 hours or 11.4 days!

Sat down with the man himself, Al Desroches...

How can you tell when a trail is well-groomed?

In a word: smooth. Grooming should be seamless. Each groomed pass overlaps with the same snow grade (without berms or ridges). No back up or turn-around passes show. All passes are straight, top to bottom. Smooth.

Stratton consistently earns top rankings for its grooming. How do you turn around some of those challenging conditions?

We watch the weather patterns closely and act immediately. We know the mountain and where the snow is. Experience plays a big role and we utilize some techniques I would rather not divulge.

You know the mountain better than anyone. How do you ski or ride it?

I've been skiing Stratton since 1968. I snowboard too, but I can go anywhere on skis. Even though I'm older now I still get in the bumps. My personal favorites are Spruce and Diamonds in the Rough glade, Freefall when it's half and half (groomed and bumps), Polar Bear, Tamarack, Vertigo - the first glade we cut here at Stratton and I played a role in building it... **CONTINUED ONLINE**

stratton.com/mediaroom

25 Years of the U.S. Open Snowboarding Championships at Stratton: Then and Now

When the U.S. Open Snowboarding Championships moved to its current home at Stratton Mountain back in 1985, the times, the sport, the culture, and most certainly the fashion were very different than today. As Stratton gets ready to celebrate its 25th year hosting the premier snowboarding competition in the world, let's take a look how times have changed, or not.

THEN - Halfpipes are dug into the ground rather than shaped out of snow and the biggest ones are 125 feet long and 5 feet high. There is no halfpipe competition in the Open.
NOW - The Superpipe is 450 feet long with 22 foot high walls and is the marquis event.

THEN - Shoulder pads are worn by women everywhere as a bold and powerful fashion statement.
NOW - Shoulder pads are now reserved for bold and powerful athletes competing in contact sports such as football and hockey.

THEN - The Open snowboarding events are the Men's Slalom and Men's Downhill.
NOW - Men and women compete in Slopestyle, Halfpipe and Big Air competitions.

THEN - Absolutely Radical, the first magazine dedicated to snowboarding hits the newsstands.
NOW - There are hundreds of snowboarding magazines, blogs, sites...

THEN - Andy Coughlin (Downhill) and Tom Sims (Slalom) win the U.S. Open events.
NOW - In 2008, Shaun White won both the Men's Halfpipe and Slopestyle Events while Kjersti Oestgaard Buaas won the Women's Slopestyle and Torah Bright the Women's Halfpipe.

THEN - Michael J. Fox is busy going "Back to the Future".
NOW - More than 40,000 people attend-



From left to right: Stratton President Sky Foulkes presents Jake Burton Carpenter and Donna Carpenter with a locally made glass trophy commemorating 25 years of snowboard instruction at Stratton.

NOW - Harrison Ford is busy going back in time making a new "Indiana Jones" movie.

THEN - Only seven percent of U. S. ski areas allow snowboarding.
NOW - More than ninety-seven percent of ski areas allow snowboarding.

THEN - At the U.S. Open, riders utilize speed suits to shave seconds off of their times.
NOW - At the U.S. Open, styles reflect the meeting of fashion and function with waterproof materials, fur lined hoods, and a huge array of colors and styles.

THEN - The terms "radical" and "gnarly" can often be heard coming from the mouths of snowboarders.
NOW - After a 15 year hiatus, the terms "radical" and "gnarly" can often be heard coming from the mouths of snowboarders.

THEN - Attendance is in the hundreds for the first U.S. Open held at Stratton.
NOW - More than 40,000 people attend-

ed the U.S. Open in 2008.

THEN - You're "stoked" to get out on the hill and shred!
NOW - You're still "stoked" to get out on the hill and ride!

THEN - Advanced binding systems, metal edges and boards with rounded tails are introduced to the market.
NOW - Companies such as Burton are introducing technological advances such as jackets with built in, battery operated heating systems.

THEN - The U.S. Open competitions were held on the Suttanner trail at Stratton.
NOW - The Big Air competition is held on Suttanner but the rest goes off in the Sunbowl area of the mountain.

THEN - Stratton is home to a recently conceived yet prestigious snowboarding competition.
NOW - Stratton will once again host the oldest and most prestigious snowboarding competition March 16 – 21 2009!

Stratton's Freestyle Terrain Parks Continue to Break Ground



Stratton takes safety seriously. This May, the mountain was presented with its fourth National Ski Areas Association (NSAA) Safety Award. Stratton's Safety Education Session (SES) serves as a model program for terrain park safety.

It's all about progression. From the beginner Burton Kids Parkway to the Superpipe and Slopestyle course built for the world's best and open to all in the U.S. Open After Party, Stratton has a park for every free rider, from grommet to Olympic medalist.

And once again, Stratton earns the No. 1 spot for terrain parks in the 2008 SKI Resort Survey. New last year and the first of its kind, The Burton Kid's Parkway was designed and created by Burton and the Stratton Snowboard School. This beginner park is designed for teaching and always staffed with park crew and snowboard school instructors.

The little rippers learn about park features, etiquette, and safety. The park itself features a stop light at the approach to a jump or rail which demonstrates when it's best to wait and when it is safe to go.

From there, Stratton offers parks at every level with features for beginner to expert. In addition to the Superpipe and US Open Slopestyle Course, open to all after the March event, Stratton skiers and riders will find a boardercross course, rails, rollers ... and fresh features throughout the season.

Stratton is also home to the Stratton Mountain School, where promising young skiers and riders can mix a first class education with top notch coaching. Over 100 of the school's alumni have been named to U.S. National Teams and 30 have participated in the Olympic Games. Olympic alumni include Gold Medal winning snowboarder Ross Powers, and Silver Medalist boardercross phenom-enon Lindsey Jacobellis.

Stratton's parks are also the stomping grounds of teen snowboarder and 2010 Olympic hopeful Brooke Shaw who was featured in Sports Illustrated. Visit stratton.com for descriptions and models of our parks and pipes.

STRATTON DEALS

Stratton Mountain, VT – No reason to wait for winter to start planning that ski and snowboard getaway especially now that Stratton Mountain has announced an early booking offer that includes big savings, price protection and a relaxed cancellation policy.

With its convenient southern Vermont location, range of accommodations from convenient hotels to spacious mountain homes, lively Village and scores of activities all at the heart of the resort plus a full menu of packages with big savings, Stratton is the smart choice for a winter vacation.

Here's a sample of Stratton's signature packages and deals. Visit stratton.com or call 1.800.STRATTON for complete details and more options. Sign up for Stratton's newsletter and be first to hear about new events and packages.

The Best Early Booking Offer

Book by October 31, 2008 and save 30 percent off midweek, 20 percent off weekends and 10 percent off classic lift and lodging packages (not valid holidays). Price protection and relaxed cancellation policy make this the ultimate offer.

The Inn-clusive at \$99

This package is available at the Inn at Stratton Mountain and includes lodging, lift ticket, breakfast, lunch, and rentals all at just \$99 per person/ per night (double occupancy) and available midweek and select weekends. Add the kids for just \$35 per child/ per night.

A Case of the Mondays

Turn an ordinary weekend into a three-day escape. Book Friday –Sunday in any Stratton lodging property and ski Monday for FREE! Rates start at \$55 per person/ per night early season and \$85 per person/ per night during the peak season (based on double occupancy, plus tax and service)

Kids Ski and Stay Free

That's right, kids 17 and younger ski and stay for free when two adults purchase a lift and lodging package at any Stratton condominium. This special offer is available from November 30-December 25 and from March 22- Closing. Packages start at \$101 per adult/ per night (two-night minimum and double occupancy required).

Classic Lift and Lodging Package

Throughout the season, Stratton offers a lift and lodging package with unbeatable savings, starting at \$59 per person/per night on weekdays and \$95 per person/per night on weekends.

X2 Card

Get a free day of skiing or riding and savings all year long when you purchase the X2 Express Card for just \$79! The X2 card delivers savings every time you use it with \$30 off your ticket on weekdays, \$20 on weekends, and \$10 on holidays. Visit stratton.com or call 1.800.STRATTON to purchase your X2 Card and free day of skiing.

stratton.com/mediaroom

“Fresh Tracks” Take on New Meaning

Stratton Mountain, VT- Back before it was hip to go “Green,” Stratton was launching landmark wildlife studies, water conservation and energy efficiency programs, innovative land use planning and other initiatives that have earned the resort two Vermont Governor’s Awards for environmental excellence and four Silver Eagle Awards. Every year, Stratton has decreased the size of its ecological “footprint,” reducing what it can and offsetting what it can’t by purchasing 100 percent renewable energy credits.

This year, the Stratton Green Team and Fresh Tracks initiative has taken it’s commitment to sustainable Stratton one step further by nominating representatives from every depart-



RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Corporate vehicles include Toyota hybrids
- Stratton partners with Renewable Choice offering free lift tickets for guests who purchase renewable energy credits
- 1,499 acres of prime wildlife habitat donated to conservation easements
- Stratton was the first ski area in the country to special order low-emission compressors for snowmaking
- 150 million gallon snowmaking pond stores spring run-off for use during times of low stream flow

ment, from accounting to sales, to spearhead and support initiatives designed to ensure that the environment is a priority in day-to-day operations. Team selections were made by

Planning and Permit Manager and Green Team leader Jenna Pugliese along with Stratton President Sky Foulkes and the Senior Leadership Team. “This top-level support illustrates that sustainability is a key business objective for Stratton Mountain,” said Pugliese. “Our company policy recognizes that ‘the environment is our No. 1 as-

set,’ and we expect that with greater involvement across the entire resort, Stratton will play a stronger role as an industry model for environmental stewardship.”

FOREST (from page 1)

of quality, FSC certified, hard wood furniture. “The idea is to test whether a premium price can be obtained for Copeland’s furniture lines if consumers are aware of where the trees came from, how they were sustainably managed and how many local jobs were involved all along way,” said VSJF Executive Director, Ellen Kahler. “Hopefully this pilot program will be successful and serve as a model that we can expand and include other FSC certified companies throughout the state.”

Future owners of Copeland’s line of FSC-certified, Vermont grown furniture will know that they are supporting Vermont businesses like Allard Lumber and Copeland Furniture which employ over 115 local workers.

Stratton Village: In the Heart of it All

Stratton has always been more than a place where people ski – or snowboard. Back in 1961, Stratton opened with lifts and trails, a base lodge and ski school, hotels, homes and a Chapel of the Snows. So even before there was a Village, Stratton Mountain was a community.

Today, at the heart of that community is Stratton Village where friends and families come together for a heaping plate of après nachos or go their separate ways to explore. Days begin and end here with everything from spa and internet café to timeless jewelry and the No. 1 snowboarding shop in New England.

Syd and Dusty’s offers the largest selection of Burton gear, outerwear and apparel outside the factory. Already the region’s best snowboard shop, exciting changes are in store for 08/09 with an announcement expected by September.

In other news, the selection of technical outerwear and apparel from The North Face expands with the opening of the new North Face Summit Shop in Stratton Village. Established 1968 in San Francisco, California, the brand has been a leader in manufacturing quality gear for outdoor enthusiasts.

First Run continues to provide the area’s best boot-fitting service slopeside along with a complete fleet of demo skis, outerwear, and all the essentials for winter sports and outdoor fun.

Shoppers with a taste for the finer things in life will find one of the only Bogner boutiques in North America, where function and fashion meet in the latest European skiwear styles. For the ultimate Stratton souvenir, Von Bargaen’s has created a bear charm in sterling, gold or with a diamond.

Restaurants and shops line the pedestrian walkway, which features a radiant underground heating system. It’s as if it only snows on the mountain. And with everything so close, it means guests won’t need a car once they arrive at Stratton Mountain Resort.

For après, the Wine Bar offers a great selection straight from Napa, Grizzly’s means live music, beer specials, wings, and pizza and the Green Door Pub is a local’s favorite with Jager on tap, pool tables and a \$6.99 Steak and Brew deal.

When it’s time for dinner, choices range from family fare to fine dining. Muligan’s serves up a hundred varieties of beer, big margaritas and bigger fajitas, prime steaks, fresh seafood and a kid’s menu. For pizza, pasta and salad bar, there’s Mulberry Street. Extraordinary dining experiences await at Verde in the Village or Luna, in the Stratton Mountain Club, reservations required please.

And since breakfast is the most important meal of the day, stop by Café on the Corner for Sadie’s pancakes and Vermont maple syrup before hitting the slopes.



ABOUT US:

Stratton Mountain is a four season resort in the Green Mountains of southern Vermont and conveniently located just three hours from Boston and four hours from New York City.

TERRAIN:

92 trails
600+ acres of skiable terrain
100+ acres of glades

LIFTS:

17 total lifts including 12 person summit gondola, four high speed six packs, and a 560 foot covered magic carpet (longest in the east)

ELEVATION:

Highest peak in southern Vermont at 3,875 feet

VERTICAL:

2,003 Feet

MEDIA:

We are pleased to provide complimentary skiing and riding for media on assignment. Please contact Myra Foster (mfoster@intrawest.com) at 802.297.4137 or Will Riseley (wrisley@intrawest.com) at 802.297.4137 at least 72 hours in advance to arrange a visit.

Visit stratton.com/mediaroom for additional stories, press releases and all media related content.

BARK SIDE (from page 1)

to ski as many as 40 days per year, volunteers on the Stratton Ski Patrol, and still just can’t seem to stay out of the trees. When he is not skiing, Pond spends much of his time running his farm in nearby Andover and flying around in his Cessna which he keeps and flies in and out of his back yard.

Wearing a worn John Deere cap and blue overalls, Nate’s eyes light up whenever he speaks about skiing and his days as a tree skiing trailblazer. Many of the trails now designated as gladed ski runs were discovered, cut, and skied by Nate and his friends such as Ray Hawksley. When the topic of naming the glades comes up, Nate laughs and speaks of runs with names like Jagermeister (now Kidderbrook Ravine), Grizzly Woods (now Moon-dance), and a few which are better left out of print!

There also exist a couple gladed trails that Nate considers “for eyes only,” meaning one should never speak about these locations so as not to spoil the privacy and bounty of untracked lines. According to Pond, seemingly mythical places with names like “Heartthrob” and “Disneyland” are out there on Stratton Mountain beyond the public’s radar and provide some of the purest and least spoiled skiing and riding to be found.

Realizing the popularity of these “off the beaten path” spots after opening Vertigo in 1993, the mountain began a tree skiing renaissance as Stratton trail crews went to work in other areas of the mountain. The fruits of their labor can now be seen on the Stratton trail maps with more than 15 official gladed trails and a few more in the works.

Stratton Trails and Slopes Manager Al Desroches was here for the creation of those first gladed trails. “We first determine the location, entrance, boundaries, and exit. We then determine the ski lines by reading the grades and hazards of the area. Finally we proceed to selectively cut, leaving the healthy and cutting unhealthy or dead trees.”

While not the first mountain to formally embrace skiing in the trees, Stratton has taken the concept to new levels by opening up what was once the exclusive domain of experts to all levels with beginner and intermediate glades like Sunbeam and Eclipse.

Another new concept combines glades and parks with tree runs that feature natural terrain features. The Test Pilot trail is Stratton’s longest, most innovative, and probably least known “official” glade, located just off the Kidderbrook trail. Originally conceptualized and cut by Nordic skiing Olympian Bill Koch, Test Pilot was cut in a sustainable manner that would make Nate Pond proud, by removing only underbrush and dead trees, and incorporating the topography of the land into “features” like small cliffs, banks and jumps. During the off-season, Stratton will be thinning out some of the dead trees and making this gladed playground even better.

For the adventurous, Stratton has a huge selection of glades just ripe for the ripping. Maybe this year will be the year that you stumble upon “Disneyland” or “Heartthrob” but if you are lucky enough to stumble upon these tree skiing Valhallas, remember to keep them “for eyes only”.

For the full version of this story visit stratton.com/mediaroom.

EVENTS

• Oct 11 – 12: Annual Chili and Chowder Cook-off and Beer Festival

Think you have the best chili or chowder around? Prove it at the first Columbus Day Chili and Chowder Cook-off. Live music and a large assortment of area microbrews will make this weekend a party you don’t want to miss.

• November 27 : Thanksgiving Gobble Gobble Wobble 5K Run/Walk

What is Thanksgiving without a 5K to help build up that appetite? The run/walk is open to anyone and starts at the Mill House on the Village Common.

• November 29: Holiday Tree Lighting

On Saturday from 3-6 p.m. join us in the Village for the annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony. Enjoy the quaint village ambiance and a warm drink as Stratton ceremonially ushers in the holiday season.

• January 17: Men Who Cook

Always a hit! Local men double as chefs and serve up their favorite signature appetizers, entrees and desserts. \$25 entry gets you unlimited tasting and voting privileges.

• January 24-25: Stevek Mogul Challenge

Are you up to the challenge? Prove yourself in this annual amateur mogul contest.

• January 31: Tubbs “Rompe to Stomp Out Breast Cancer Snowshoe Race

• February 28: Stratton Challenge

A Stratton Foundation benefit ski event.

• March 16 – 22: Burton U.S. Open Snowboarding Championships

The mother of snowboarding events, this long running competition will be celebrating its 25th year at Stratton with the largest purse in professional snowboarding and the all of the best riders in the world!

• April 11-12: Spring Fling Weekend and Annual Pond Skim

One heck of a party to celebrate the end of the ski and snowboard season. Food, fun and the always popular Pond Skim contest make this a great way to go out.

Visit stratton.com for the most up-to-date schedule.