

North Carolina's snowy slopes offer challenge

By WENDELL WOOD

Believe it or not, there is snow in the South, as seen by the recent manna from Blue Heaven. And where there's snow, there's skiing.

Luckily, North Carolina and Virginia are prepared with a variety of ski areas to choose from. But are you prepared?

After selecting from more than a dozen ski mountains (all less than six hours from Chapel Hill), the prospective skier should look into equipment rentals closer to home if not already owning equipment, since rentals at resort areas usually involve higher costs and longer lines.

Beginner skiers should stick with shorter skis (135-150) and looser bindings to help prevent leg injury.

In Chapel Hill, Carolina Outdoor Sports on Franklin Street rents skis, boots and poles for \$18.50 per weekend, \$45 per week, \$7.50 per weekend day and \$6.50 per weekday. The group rental rate is 10 percent cheaper.

Durham Sporting Goods at Northgate Mall rents its ski package for \$9 per day, \$11 per weekend day and \$48 per week.

Edelweiss Ski Haus on Wendover Drive, Greensboro provides rentals for \$10 per weekend day and \$7 per weekday.

After rounding up the necessary equipment, the skier should check out the closet for a suitable ski wardrobe.

"Fingertips and toes are the most susceptible to frostbite," said UNC senior Robin Waters, a member of the National Ski Patrol at Sugar Mountain. So, warm, waterproof mittens or gloves are a must, as well as at least one pair of wool socks.

Waters, a Charlotte native has been skiing since age five. She stressed the importance of layering clothing for warmth and freer movement. Because ears and nose are also frost-bite targets, a snug toboggan and scarf are advised.

For the laid back or budgeted skier, Scotchguarded blue jeans over long johns are preferable, but waterproof ski pants or bibs are drier and allow more flexibility. Inexpensive (\$20-\$30) bibs are sold in many department stores.

The last touch to a skiing get-up may include goggles or plastic sunglasses. When the sun shines, the slopes are bright, and the snow guns also hamper vision. Sunscreen



helps prevent wind- and sunburn (but a healthy glow may be a Ft. Lauderdale substitute).

Several bucks later, one is ready for the slopes and gets on the chair lift to the mountain's top. Uh oh, chairlifts are not as easy as they appear to be. However, getting on (remember to secure the safety bar) is easier than getting off.

"Beginners fall off the lifts more than on the slopes," Waters said. The proper technique for exiting the lift is by holding both poles in one hand, bending the knees and pointing both skis straight.

"Don't try to snowplow off the lift," she advised.

Nevertheless, it is a mistake from the beginning to take the lift to the top.

"Take a lesson before you ever get on the chair lift," Waters urged beginners. "And stay on the beginner slope at first."

Waters had another suggestion for skiers.

"If you're tired, don't ski," she said. Skiing burns about 600 calories per hour, so long cafeteria lines are not an excuse to avoid eating. Just pack a lunch.

After all this advice, the novice can now conquer the advanced trail, right? Wrong again.

"Beginners shouldn't try new stuff at the end of the day when they're tired and the slopes are icy," Waters said, adding that most accidents occur after 1 p.m.

One survives the first day of skiing by following the above advice and now is ready mentally for spring break in Aspen. The novice has joined the ranks for whom the words "And now for the ski report at Appalachian" blaring over a local radio station are as important as a horoscope is to an astrologer.

"It's never too late to learn," Waters concluded. "Last week I got my 55-year-old dad on skis for his first time!"

Wendell Wood is a staff writer for *The Daily Tar Heel*.

New band strives toward originality

By SHELLEY BLOCK

The John Santa Band has evolved recently into a group which John Santa, lead vocalist and guitarist, says he believes has tremendous talent and potential.

The newborn band, which has been playing together since November, was brought back into existence with the addition of Les Britt, David Brown, Carey Floyd and Ed Sparrow. Santa is the only remaining musician from the original "John Santa Band, which produced the album *Rainmaker* in 1980.

Although the band has experienced change, one of the band's previous practices has remained constant—their music is 100 percent original, which the members see as a strong advantage.

Santa said "playing copy music is too easy." The band members get greater satisfaction out of developing their own style rather than trying to imitate other groups, he said.

Although Santa has written all of the music they presently perform, the band hopes to incorporate some of the other member's original music as well.

The musicians each characterize The John Santa Band's style of music differently. Brown, drummer for the group, said they played "rock with blues and Latin overtones." Floyd, bass guitarist and back-up vocalist, referred to their music as "melodic rock and roll" while keyboard player, Sparrow, called it "folk-oriented rock." Santa, however, said the most accurate description of their type of music is "John Santa Band music. That says it all."

The band has been performing at The Grinder Switch in Durham, but they hope to expand their scope of performances to other parts of North Carolina as well as to South Carolina and Virginia, and possibly even to "Saturday Night Live."

The John Santa Band plans to produce its second album within one year. The title track will be "Beasts of the Southern Wild," a tribute to the story of the same title written by Doris Betts, a distinguished professor in the UNC English department.

The musicians have developed a very close working relationship with each other and with recording engineer, Tom Harned, because of the extensive amount of time that the band spends together.

"We are a tight band," Floyd said. "The performers are very sensitive to each other. Every time we play it gets better."

Shelley Block is a staff writer for *The Daily Tar Heel*.

| Mountain | Location | What's There | Lift Ticket Prices | | | Snowfall | Lessons/hour | Information/Snow Report | Special Features |
|--------------|--|--|----------------------------|-----------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|
| | | | Weekend (½ day) | Weekday (½ day) | Nights | | | | |
| Appalachian | U.S. 321 between Blowing Rock and Boone, N.C. | 365' vertical slope, peak 4000'. 7 slopes, 2 double lifts, 3 ropetows, ski repair shop, restaurant, bar, cafeteria. | \$15 (\$12) \$9 (\$7) | | \$6 all nights but Thurs. 6-10 p.m. | 100" annual 100% snowmaking | \$8 per hour | P.O. Box 106 Blowing Rock, N.C. 28605 (704) 295-7828 | French Swiss Ski School boot/binding clinics |
| Beech | 4 miles north of Banner Elk | 809' vertical, peak 5,484'. 12 slopes, 5 double lifts, 2 J-bars, 1 pony lift, ski shop, rentals, repairs, 2 restaurants, cafeteria | \$20 (\$16) \$14 (\$10) | | \$14 weekend \$8 weekday 5-10 p.m. | 100% snowmaking | group-\$10 private-\$20 | P.O. Box 277 Banner Elk, N.C. 28604 (704) 387-2011 | ice skating, ski movies, Alpine Village |
| Cataloochee | Maggie Valley, N.C., 4 miles west of Asheville | 740' vertical, 5400', 8 slopes, 1 double lift, 1 T-bar, 2 rope tows, day lodge with cafeteria | \$17 (\$12) \$10 (\$7) | | \$6 Mon-Sat 7-10 p.m. | 100% snowmaking | group-\$7 private-\$15 | Rt. 1 Box 500 Maggie Valley, N.C. 28751 (704) 926-0285 | weekend instructor clinics |
| High Meadows | Roaring Gap | slopes, 2 rope tows | \$10 | | | | | | indoor pool |
| Hound Ears | Blowing Rock, State Rt. 105 near Boone | 107' vertical, 1200' beg./int. slope with double I chairlift, one beg. 500' slope with rope tow, restaurant in club and lodge | \$14 | | | 100% snowmaking | group-\$7 private-\$15 | | Fri-Sat. skiing only |
| Seven Devils | off Hwy. 105 between Boone and Linville, N.C. | 600' vertical, 6 slopes, 2 double lifts, rental ski-shop, cafeteria | \$18 (\$10) | | \$8 Wed-Sat 6:30-10 p.m. | 20-100" annual 100% snowmaking | | Rt. 1 Box 129-A Banner Elk, N.C. 28602 (704) 963-4306 | |
| Sugar | N.C. 184 between Linville and Banner Elk, N.C. | 1,200' vertical (1-1½ mile runs), 8 slopes, 3 lifts, 1 rope tow, 2 T-bars, 1 platter pulls, day lodge with cafeteria, 2 bars | \$20 \$15 (\$10) | | \$9 Mon-Sat 6:30-10 p.m. | 100% snowmaking | group and private with 20 instructors | P.O. Box 369 Banner Elk, N.C. 28604 (704) 898-4521 | indoor tennis |

****prices with student identification