

cataloochee ski area

by Cristina Velocci



With winter in full force, most of your family's activities have likely been limited to the great indoors—making your kids stir-crazy, and subsequently making you just plain crazy. Now seems about as good a time as any to bundle everyone up, pack up the car and drive the three-and-a-half hours to the Cataloochee Ski Area in North Carolina's Maggie Valley.

Situated on Moody Top Mountain amid the Great Smoky Mountain range, this family-friendly ski area has been a winter tradition for novices and veterans alike. Whether your brood masters moguls or slips and slides on the bunny slopes, Cataloochee guarantees a good time for all ages and skill levels, and promises powder all season long with the help of the most advanced snowmaking system in the Southeast. These automated snowmaking machines use sensors placed along the mountain to detect the temperature and humidity and deliver readings every few minutes. The result is consistent, dependable conditions throughout; all that's needed is one cold night to go from bare grass to a winter wonderland ripe for skiing (for a ski report, call 828-926-3588).

If this is your family's first time hitting the slopes, Cataloochee is an excellent starting point: of the 10 trails and slopes, Beginner's Luck and Wolf Creek are two areas dedicated to learners and have moving carpet lifts and smooth, even terrain. Both are isolated from the main trails, allowing you to familiarize yourself with the process and focus on skill-building. Half of the ski-area's slopes are rated intermediate in difficulty, the most popular being Rock Island Run and Lower Omigosh. Veteran skiers and snowboarders can get their thrills on the steep 1,500-foot Upper Omigosh or do stunts and tricks in Cat Cage Terrain Park, which has ramps, rails and boxes. Even if you don't ski or intend

to learn, the stunning mountaintop vistas and après-ski gatherings are reason enough to come.

Though skiing is no more dangerous than bicycle riding or playing tennis, it's best to learn the right way and even better when taught by a certified pro. The Cataloochee Ski and Snowboard School offers instructions at various levels and is a member of the Professional Ski Instructors of America. Most of the instructors have been certified through the organization, where they receive additional training. All ski school participants have access to their own lift lines during lessons for more time on the slopes.

Lessons are available for both skiing and snowboarding and may be taken in class or private settings. Class lessons, offered daily at 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., match you with other skiers or snowboarders at your skill level and last an hour and a half (\$18 per person). For more individualized attention, a private lesson can be customized according to your goals for the day and will enable you to build skills more quickly. An hour-long session costs \$45 and a full-day (6 hours) costs \$170. Whatever the setting, taking instructions is valuable for teaching novices the basics as well as experts new techniques.

For kids, specially trained and selected children's instructors put safety at the forefront in teaching the Children's Ski School. Kids are placed according to age group: Catt Trackers instructs ages 4 to 7, while Catt Explorers teaches ages 8 to 12. In addition to basic snow skills such as walking, gliding, stepping and turning, classes cover how to properly handle equipment and ski safely. These lessons are offered as a two-and-a-half hour half-day (ski, \$60; snowboard, \$70) or six-hour full-day (ski, \$80; snowboard, \$90).

1080 Ski Lodge Road
Maggie Valley, NC 28751
828-926-0285 or 800-768-0285
cataloochee.com

pencil it in

February 2007

elea blake Cosmetics

Feb. *Make-up Bag Makeover.* Having relationship issues with your make-up bag? Never fear! Bring your bag and any extra make-up supplies to elea blake during February, and receive a FREE Make-Up Bag Makeover.

Partnership for Families, Children and Adults

Feb. 1 – 28. *Second Annual Cell Phone Collection Drive.* The Partnership for Families, Children and Adults is again launching its community-wide campaign to collect used, unwanted cell phones for its Family Violence Shelter and Services. Proceeds will fund advocacy, awareness and educational programs about domestic violence and will be applied to the shelter's general operating expenses. First Tennessee is offering its branch locations as collection points.

American Heart Association

Feb. 3, 6:30 p.m. *Heart Gala 2007 – Shaken Not Stirred.* The Sheraton Read House Hotel will be transformed into the mystery and intrigue of Bond, James Bond. The evening begins with a cocktail hour and silent auction followed by an elegant dinner in the Silver Ballroom, a live auction and dancing. The event is expected to raise more than \$100,000 for the American Heart Association. Tickets are \$150 and tables start at \$2,000. For more information, call 423-668-4900 or visit americanheart.org.

Cupid.com/PreDating

Feb. 6, 8:30 p.m. *Speed Dating Event For Single Professionals.* Come meet someone special. Cupid.com/PreDating is a fun way for busy professionals ages 25-45 to meet. Go on up to 12 six-minute dates and determine who you would like to hear from again. \$32, Fox and Hound Bar & Grille, 2040 Hamilton Place Blvd.

Tennessee Aquarium

Feb. 10, 7 – 9 p.m. *The Lovell Sisters in Concert.* Rock the Aquarium with the tight harmonies and innovative fusion of country, folk and contemporary acoustic music as the talented Lovell Sisters take the stage. Tickets: \$15. Register online at tnaqua.org/Events/Calendar.asp or call 423-267-FISH.

Executive Women International

Feb. 13, 5:30 p.m. *February Meeting.* Chattanooga's premier organization for networking and leadership development will be meeting at the Walden Club. For more information, or if you'd like to attend the meeting, please visit ewichattanooga.org or call Carolyn Stringer at 423-757-5641.

33rd Annual Chattanooga Antiques & Garden Show

Feb. 23 – 25. Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sunday, noon – 5 p.m. *Chattanooga Antiques & Garden Show,* now in its 33rd year, benefits The Houston Museum of Decorative Arts and its education programs. Three-day passes can be purchased for \$15 at The Brow Gallery, Flowers By Gil & Curt, Haskell Interiors Design Collection, Southside Antiques, Yessick's Design Center and The Houston Museum of Decorative Arts. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 423-267-7176 or visit the-houstonmuseum.com.

Hunter Museum of American Art

Feb. *Hunter Happens Programs.*

- Feb. 1 – Enjoy an opening reception for a new exhibition by Carrie Mae Weems
- Feb. 8 – Groove to the reggae sounds of the Milele Roots in the spectacular Hunter Museum lobby
- Feb. 15 – Art and music combine as the Chattanooga Symphony and Opera quartet perform
- Feb. 22 – Paris Hits Atlanta – High Museum director Dr. Michael Shapiro shares the "Genesis of the Louvre" project at the High Museum.



As a fun alternative to skiing and snowboarding, Tube World provides a diversion for the whole family. A conveyor lift takes you up the mountain in this five-run snow-tube park, and \$20 per session allows you to slide down until your heart's content. There is a minimum height of 42-inches, so smaller children can enjoy a miniature version at the Wee Bowl Snowplay (\$5 per session).

Skiing doesn't have to be expensive—you don't have to purchase your own equipment since most can be rented on site; warm, heavy clothes can double as snow gear; and, if you are able to get away for a few days during the week, you can take advantage of some great deals Cataloochee offers. Sundays through Thursdays, children 17 and under stay overnight free at participating Maggie Valley accommodations and ski free when accompanied by a paying adult. Plus, every Wednesday is family day, when children under 17 also receive a free lift ticket when accompanied by a parent purchasing a full price lift ticket.

After a long day of skiing and boarding, cozy up with the family at the lodge and warm up with a cup of hot chocolate in front of the double-sided fireplace while catching a bluegrass band. This mini-winter break will give new meaning to playing in the snow.



Do you have an event taking place in March? The ladies of Chattanooga want to know about it! Send the date, time, a brief description and contact information to: editor1@blushmag.net.

