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Weather cooperating with NH Ski areas in time for MLK Weekend

Martin Luther King Weekend marks prime ski season in New Hampshire and with the recent shift to colder weather and half a foot of new natural snow in northern NH this week and more on the way, ski areas are trending positively.

All over the Granite State resorts have been pumping out snow with the help of freezing temperatures, allowing many mountains to increase their skiable acreage 10 fold in just the past week.

Cannon Mountain looks to have both Cannon and Mittersill Mountains open for the long weekend with 7-10 more trails opening. Cannon will also be offering special offers only to skiers who have the Adored app, including a 3-day ticket special and a Bring-a-Friend promo for passholders.

Pats Peak will have all 28 trails open, making them one of the only areas to be 100% open this weekend. In addition to the added skiable terrain, Pats Peak will host its 15th Annual Diversity Day Celebration on Saturday, offering skiing, riding, tubing, rentals lesson tips and entertainment from 3pm to 10pm for just \$49. Patriots fans can catch the game on 5 flat screen TVs in the Sled Pub on Saturday where a Smuttynose beer promo will take place from 3-7pm. After that, enjoy live music with The McMurphy's from 7-11pm.

Loon will celebrate the anniversary of snow making technology with its Independence Weekend where guests can enjoy a parade, live music, fireworks and cat rides. Loon will boast 44 trails for the holiday weekend, or 296 acres (a 107% increase in skiable terrain since the first of the year), making it the resort with the most open terrain in New Hampshire.

Mount Sunapee will have 41 trails open for the weekend. That's 44% more than this past weekend.

Granite Gorge starts Cosmic tubing for the season this Saturday night from 6 to 9 pm for just \$25.

Pay just \$159 per day at Black Mountain this weekend for two adults and two juniors.

The new natural snow combined with snowmaking has allowed Ragged Mountain to open 72 acres of skiing for this weekend, along with the Flying Yankee lift. Skiers who stick around Saturday can enjoy some live music in the Stone Hearth Bar from 3 to 6 p.m.

In addition to their 32 trails of skiing and riding, Waterville Valley will host a number of events over MLK weekend including the BMW Winter xDrive Experience on January 15-18, Starry Nights gourmet buffet dinner in the Sunnyside Timberlodge on Saturday, January 16. Also on Saturday Waterville will hold a Nordic skate clinic hosted by 4-time Olympian Kris Freeman.

For those looking to fill their Nordic skiing urges, Great Glen Trials will have 45km of skiing which were made only better after 8" of new snow this week. The ski area will also offer a free wax clinic on Saturday as well as a demo day for skis and snowshoes. Fatbike rentals will be available for the weekend and visitors can take part of Ski with a Naturalist on Sunday from 10:30 to 12 p.m. for free with the purchase of a trail pass.

Bretton Woods received close to 10 inches of new natural snow this week and will have 36 trails (220 acres) open for the holiday weekend.

At Gunstock Mountain Resort, snowmaking combined with several inches of natural snow on Tuesday has allowed the ski area to open 11 more trails since last weekend, for a total of 34 trails and over 100 skiable acres. This weekend be sure to check out the Wildlife Encounters in the Main Lodge, a park jam, a waffle eating contest on Sunday, and live entertainment in the pub throughout the weekend.

The deals, events and weather are peaking just in time for MLK weekend. For more information on New Hampshire ski areas, conditions and events, visit SkiNH.com.

Ski NH is the statewide association representing 33 alpine and cross country resorts in New Hampshire. For more information on ski areas, vacation planning, and updated winter events at Ski NH resorts, call Ski NH at 603.745.9396 or visit the Ski NH website at www.skinh.com. For statewide travel info, visit www.visitnh.com.