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New Hampshire resorts offer more than soft snow this spring

If you're a skier in New England, you love spring skiing. The soft snow, the warm temperatures and of course the theme parties that happen at resorts across the Granite State all March make it worth the trip to your favorite ski area.

Whether you want to pull out that neon one-piece snowsuit from 1988, dust off your favorite Hawaiian shirt, or test your pond-skimming prowess, there's a weekend event for you in New Hampshire this month.

If you're looking to start your spring off with some competition, Cranmore will host the Hannes Schneider Meister Cup on Friday through Sunday, March 11-13. This team event has age classes from 13 and under to 90 plus. Your registration comes with breakfast, lunch, lift ticket, a gift bag and more. Be sure to stick around for Saturday night Cranapalooza for more family fun, music, entertainment and more.

On Saturday and Sunday, March 12 and 13, Pats Peak will hold its 25th Annual Hawaiian Weekend with hot tubs on the deck, Hawaiian themed lunch specials, the Man of Steel Rail Jam, beer promos, and live music from the Jah Spirit Reggae Band.

Mount Sunapee will host its Dummy Big Air Contest on Sunday, March 13. Build a dummy or just watch as manmade dummies are judged on how they are sent flying off a jump towards a target.

Cannon Mountain's 80's Day and Old School Duel will be held Saturday, March 19. Show up to ski or ride in your best '80s gear and receive \$10 off any full day ticket that day. Then on Saturday, March 26, Cannon will host BodeFest with Olympic medalist and four-time world skiing champion Bode Miller where there will be racing, a silent auction, prizes and a chance for kids 18 and younger to ski with Bode. Visit www.cannonmt.com/bodefest for more information.

On Friday and Saturday March 18 and 19, King Pine will hold its Cynthia's Challenge 24 hour Ski-a-Thon, a fundraising event that helps ease the financial burden of children and their families encountering the staggering expenses associated with specialty medical needs. Participate on your own yourself or with a team. Participants receive dinner breakfast, lunch, and a t-shirt.

On Sunday, March 20 Gunstock hosts its Spring Thing Event. Gather your friends to assemble a team to celebrate the first day of spring with cardboard box sliding contest or the snow sculpture contest. There will be prizes, live music, beverage specials and s'mores throughout the day.

Bretton Woods will host its 29th Annual Beach Party on Saturday, March 26. In addition to the great spring skiing and riding there will be live island style music, a BBQ lunch, and plenty of après ski fun. For those daring enough, there will also be the annual Slush Pool event. Ski or ride all day with \$30 lift tickets.

For more Hawaiian fun, head to Waterville Valley on Saturday, April 2 to participate in the Last Run Luau Pond Skimming and Duck Race. Bid Aloha to the ski season with Waterville's 4th annual pond skimming challenge or sign up and buy a duck for the Charity Duck Race.

Also on April 2 Loon Mountain will celebrate the return of spring by heading back to the '80s. Break out your straight skis for a day of big hair and bold fashion choices.

It wouldn't be an '80s Day throwback party without an outdoor DJ, outdoor bar, photo booth, costume contest and much more. It's all capped off with an après-ski performance from '80s cover band Fast Times in the Paul Bunyan Room.

To find even more events at more mountains including concerts, races, and all the springtime fun on the slopes available at NH resorts, visit the spring skiing & deals event guide at www.skinh.com/spring-events-deals.

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.gov.