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tain offers a variety of terrain for all levels of skiers and riders. “We have an exceptionally good hill for beginners serviced by a handle tow. In addition, we have a terrain park that has beginner and intermediate sized boxes and rails. New this season in the terrain park is “The Chute,” a combination quarter pipe wall and roller snow feature that should be a lot of fun for a variety of skiers and riders. The alpine slopes also offer a number of glade areas, for intermediate and expert users. During the off-season we concentrated on expanding and improving lighting for night skiing.”

Titcomb Mountain also offers Nordic skiers some of the best terrain in the western mountains with wide trails that accommodate both skaters and classic skiers. These rolling trails meander through beautiful woods and meadows, and are groomed daily. “Our grooming equipment includes two Bombardiers, one with a track setter, as well as a Ginzoo groomer that is towed behind a snow sled or Arctic Cat Prowler (new in 2008). Improvements this season include lighting of the “arena,” she said.

Andrews said that they have a number of children’s lesson programs that are offered either after school or on weekends. All of their programs are affordable for families.

The Nana Webber After School Program is only \$5 per lesson and \$5 for rental equipment. The Saturday Ski and Snowboard Program include eight weeks of one-hour lessons and a full day lift ticket for only \$90.

The Bill Koch After School Cross-Country Ski program is only \$35 for six weeks of group lessons and trail passes.

In addition to the traditional programs, Titcomb Mountain has partnered with Sugarloaf and Sunday River in a new ski and ride program. The “Maine Learn to Ski and Ride Card” program packages a lesson and three days of lift tickets and rentals into one card. The



Skiers at Titcomb get ready to ride the Pony lift.

(Photo courtesy of Titcomb Mountain)

\$89 Maine Learn to Ski and Ride Card can be purchased at Titcomb Mountain and will provide the following:

Day 1 — Ticket, rental and lesson at Titcomb Mountain

Day 2 — Ticket and rental at Titcomb Mountain

Day 3 — Ticket and rental at either Sugarloaf or Sunday River

This card can be purchased at Titcomb Mountain Lodge during operating hours that are scheduled to start Dec. 18. Advance reservations will be required for the first day ski or snowboard lesson portion of the package. These lessons will only be available on Saturdays, Sundays and during school vacation weeks.

TITCOMB MOUNTAIN STATS

Top elevation: 750 feet

Vertical: 350 feet

Two T-bars and one handle tow

Four easiest trails, five intermediate trails and six most difficult

Longest run is 2,200 feet

Night skiing on Wednesday and Saturday nights

One Terrain Park

Private lessons available

Rental shop

Cross-country on 16 km of ski trails for both skate and classic skiing

Telephone: (207) 778-9031

Website: www.titcombmountain.com



This unidentified member of the Werner Rothbacher Ski School performs a ‘pole stand’ in front of the Sugarloaf base lodge in the mid 1960s.
(Photo courtesy of Sugarloaf Ski Club)

* SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN

Sugarloaf Mountain is located in western Maine in the town of Carrabassett Valley. The mountain rises 4,237 feet above sea level and is the second highest peak in the state.

Local skiers and riders have come to be known as ‘Loafers’ to the mountain with the only lift service and skiable snowfields in the east.

The Sugarloaf area is rich in history dating back to the 1940s when a few young skiers began to take some turns, not on Sugarloaf, but on Bigelow Mountain.

In 1950 a young man from Kingfield named Amos Winter, along with several others, took a look at Sugarloaf Mountain. The dream of a new ski mountain became a reality and in 1951, Sel Hannah from New Hampshire came over to help lay out the first trail. The Sugarloaf Ski Club was formed and things began to take shape. The first trail, known as Winter’s Way (named after Amos), was cut during the summer and skiers began to flock to the area during that winter.

A rope tow was installed in 1953, along with the construction of a ski hut in 1954, near the top of what is still known as the Birches slope.

The Bigelow Corporation was established during the 1959-60 seasons. The corporation purchased land off Route 27 and developed home sites —what became known as Sugarloaf Village.

Sugarloaf became a big player in the ski industry when the 9,000-foot gondola was installed in 1966. The four-passenger cable car was able to transport skiers from the base area to a new summit lodge where skiers

were able to ski the snowfields. The gondola also put Sugarloaf on the global map as a must-ski mountain. In 1971, the World Cup races were held that attracted skiers from all over the world.

During the 1970s, with the lack of natural snow, there became a real need for snowmaking. Since that time, the newest snowmaking technology has been used along with the most advanced systems installed to cover more than 54 miles of trails.

Condominiums were built slope side, along with the Village Center near the base area during the early 1970s.

In the fall of 1982, Sugarloaf Mountain Corporation, along with Peter Webber, local entrepreneur and the Town of Carrabassett Valley signed an agreement to build a championship golf course. This transformed this winter play land into a four season resort.

In the mid-1980s, the West Mountain double chair was installed, along with base lodge expansion and other improvements to office buildings. In 1985, the Sugarloaf Mountain Hotel was built; including 119 condominium units around the mountain area. Included with this was a 5,000-foot triple chairlift, indoor pool, auditorium, commercial space and tennis courts.

Additional improvements were made in the late 1980s to chairlifts, new efficiency snowguns and adding new trails.

In the 1990s, The Town of Carrabassett Valley helped again with more financing to assist in snowmaking

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