

**HISTORY** continued from page 5

refreshments. It will also include two ecological toilets.

Skiers and riders this year will get a chance to experience a new glade called Casablanca. It's going to be the largest glade in the northeast, according to a recent Saddleback release. There will be 44 acres of inbound un-groomed tree skiing. Casablanca will offer challenging double black diamond glade experience with chutes, steeps, tight lines and open areas for cruising.

"Our latest improvements are designed to capitalize on what makes Saddleback different from other mountains in Maine," Warren Cook, CEO and general manager said.

Other improvements include two new snow groomers and tillers to the grooming fleet, snowmaking improvements and the completion of 12 on-mountain condominiums prior to the upcoming winter season.

## SADDLEBACK MOUNTAIN STATS

Top elevation: 4,120 feet with summit snowfields  
 Base: 2,460 feet  
 Vertical: 2,000  
 Skiable acres 220 boundary to boundary  
 66 trails and glades  
 Longest trail: 3.1 miles from summit to base  
 Biggest glade: 44 acres (The biggest glade in the East)  
 Terrain Parks  
 Snowmaking: 85 percent  
 Lifts: 5 (2 quads, 2 doubles, 1 T-bar)  
 Ski school for private and group lessons  
 Child care available  
 Web site: saddlebackmaine.com

## \* SPRUCE MOUNTAIN

Spruce Mountain Ski area is located on Spruce Mountain Road, across from bridge on Route 4, on the banks of the Androscoggin River in the town of Jay. This small mountain with an elevation of 300 feet is run by the Spruce Mountain Ski club and volunteers from Livermore, Livermore Falls and Jay.

The mountain has been in operation since 1956. It was originally located in North Jay on what is known as Dean Hill.

Alpine skiing, snowboarding and cross country skiing, along with a snowboard park with jumps and table tops are available for skiers and riders.

"I've been involved with snowmaking and designing snow systems at Spruce since 1990," said Richard Couture, Vice President of Operations and Maintenance. "I've been a member of the Spruce Mountain Club for 25 years." The club was organized in 1956. There are approximately 250 to 300 members.

In 1960, the mountain operations moved to Jay across from the Otis Mill. The mountain kept the name, Spruce. "Everybody knows it as the Spruce Mountain ski area," Couture said.

Otis Mill has helped in supplying the power to operate the lifts, lights and everything, according to Couture. "They have donated free power until the mill ceased operating in June 2009. We're still working on things at this point. The power source is still being looked into."

Couture said that they run seven snow guns to get the mountain open and ready.

During regular season, the ski area is open Wednesdays 6 to 9 p.m., Friday 6 to 9 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays 12 to 4 p.m. The mountain is open Monday thru Sunday on school vacation weeks.

The mountain is owned by three local towns, Jay,



Skiers and riders enjoy a day on the slopes at Spruce Mountain. The base lodge is shown at right. The icy Androscoggin River flows by at center left. (Photo courtesy of Spruce Mountain)

Livermore Falls and Livermore. The land was purchased from a private landowner around 1990, so as to keep the ski club operating.

## SPRUCE MOUNTAIN STATS

Elevation: 300 feet  
 Number of trails: 13  
 Three rope tows -- 1,300 foot and 2,800 foot  
 Snowmaking: 50 percent  
 Ski school lessons during school vacation (Christmas and February)  
 Base Lodge with concession stand  
 Snowboarding  
 Cross country skiing intermediate terrain 1.5 Km loop  
 Website: www.sprucemountain.org

*Dan Cassidy is a veteran skier of Maine, New England, western, Canadian and European mountains. He is First Vice President of Eastern Ski Writers Association, member-delegate of the North American Snowsports Journalists Association and is vice president of the Ski Museum of Maine, located in downtown Kingfield.*

Thanks for making us your health care provider. You've made a healthy choice!

## Your Family's Health Care is our Primary Concern



The Morrill family, Wayne



The Rush family  
Carrabassett Valley



Carol Wiley, Wilton



The LaMarche family, Rangeley

**Dermatology**  
Coming in September!

**Internal Medicine**  
778-4922

**Family Medicine**  
778-3326 • 645-4577 • 897-6601

**Surgery**  
778-6579

**Orthopaedics**  
778-9001

**Pediatrics**  
778-0482

**Urology**  
778-4353

**Women's Care**  
779-6394



*Franklin Health*

Multi-Specialty Medical Group  
www.fchn.org/franklin-health

A program of Franklin Memorial Hospital