

t has been a whirlwind of activity here at Blue Ridge Estates as the winter season sets in. Now it is time for winter sports, roaring fires, and family gatherings. There is a saying here in North Carolina's high country "If you're lucky enough to live in the mountains, you're lucky enough". That is how we feel about Blue Ridge Estates. Whether snuggling up next to the fire with that special someone or roasting marshmallows with your friends and family, Blue Ridge Estates offers you the opportunity to unwind from the daily grind and enjoy life. The Ski Report will give you a short summary of local winter locales that property owners of Blue Ridge Estates will be just minutes away from.

Can you keep a secret? Boy do I have a secret to tell you. It is one of the best kept secrets in the high country. Just 30 minutes away from Blue Ridge Estates, a new mountain ski resort is being built. Rumor has it, that the project has just gotten off the ground and currently has a tentative opening date for the 2008-2009 skiing season. This will definitely have a positive influence on property value in Blue Ridge Estates which makes it a sound land investment.

Websites to visit:

www.skihawk.com www.skibeech.com www.skisugar.com www.appstate.edu www.boonechamber.com www.townofbannerelk.org www.blowingrock.com www.skinc.com Boone North Carolina is one of the major ski destinations in the Eastern United States. Residents of Blue Ridge Estates are just a short 75 minute drive from three ski mountains that are just outside of Boone. Sugar, Beech, and Hawksnest Mountains are all just short distance from Downtown Boone. Boone is a large city in comparison to our quiet mountain community of Blue Ridge Estates. There are traffic lights and there is traffic. Boone is a college town which is home to Appalachian State University. It definitely has a college town feel to it. Plenty of restaurants, bars and shopping can be found in Boone with more of a modern Americana atmosphere.

Blowing Rock is just south of Boone, a small quaint mountain community. Blowing Rock is great to visit all year round, with its cafes, restaurants, bars, and artist community. Also before reaching the town of Blowing Rock is a factory outlet shopping center, which hosts retailers such as Coach, GAP, Banana Republic, along with many more that will be covered in our up and coming Shopping Report.

Banner Elk is another beautiful mountain community nestled in the same area as Blowing Rock. very close to the Ski Mountains. Banner Elk is much like Blowing Rock with all its amenities. All of these mountain towns can be visited all year round to experience mountain living during each season.



Sugar Mountain: Sugar Mountain

is the largest ski area in North Carolina by about 20 acres (total of 115 acres of skiable terrain). Sugar is located in the beautiful Village of Sugar Mountain, right off of Hwy 184. Sugar Mountain also boasts the largest vertical drop (1200') in the state. The popular mountain offers some great stay and play ski packages with area lodging companies. The lodge at the base of the mountain offers ski and snowboard rentals, cafeterias, lounge, sports shop, locker room and gift shop. Sugar also offers snowshoeing (unique to the area), a snowboarding park that is closed to skiers, and a 700' long tubing park that is fun for the whole family! www.skinc.com, www.skisugar.com





Beech Mountain: On a clear

day, standing 5,506 feet above sea level, you can see mountains in South Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, and both Virginias from the pinnacle of Beech Mountain. Ski Beech is the highest elevated resort in the eastern United States. If you've never visited Beech Mountain and Ski Beech, you owe it to yourself to do so as 'nobody takes you higher' on the east coast. Often when the weather is cloudy at lower elevations, the mountain is sticking out of the clouds into the crystal blue sky and other times it is pouring snow when everywhere below is receiving rain. There are times at Ski Beech when conditions are as good as anywhere in the world. www.skinc.com, www.skibeech.com Ski Beech receives an average of 80" of snow annually, placing them at the top of the list of resorts in North Carolina in terms of natural snowfall. If you are planning a visit to Western North Carolina during the winter and your goal is to see natural snowfall, then Ski Beech is always your best bet! Located high in the mountains of western North Carolina, the Ski Beech summit elevation is 5,505 feet above sea level, with 15 slopes and 9 lifts. Ski Beech has terrain for beginners and also for seasoned experts.

Hawksnest Mountain: Hawksnest Ski

Resort has long been a favorite of locals and visitors for numerous reasons. Chief among them is the fact that they offer terrain that is challenging for all skill levels of skiers and snowboarders. Nearly 20% of their terrain is dedicated to beginners, and 33% to advanced skiers. You will love Sock-Em-Dog, Right Stuff, Chicken Hawk, Merlin, Narrow Gauge and Raven's Run. These slopes offer skiers and snowboarders diverse trails for top-to-bottom fun and excitement. www.skinc.com, www.skinc.com,

