



ROAD TRIP Sunday river

Sunday River. 101 trails, 570 acres, great snow, and cheap beer.

By Mark Bray and Kent Rainville

As volunteers for the Brunswickan, we're often called upon to take time away from our precious school breaks in order to fill the pages of this paper that you all enjoy so much. It's a rough job, we know, but somebody's got to do it! This time around, we were fortunate enough to be able to visit *Sunday River Ski Resort* near Bethel, Maine.

Sunday River is almost six hours from Fredericton, a little further than *Sugarloaf*, but well worth the extra drive. The hill has seven interconnected peaks with 2300 ft. of vertical, snowboard parks, plenty of bumps, heaps of steeps, and the new Jordan Bowl area — which has a kick-ass high speed quad. They have the most quad chair lifts in the east (7), allowing you to criss-cross among the peaks quickly and easily. The variety of terrain available guarantees to challenge even the most experienced skier/snowboarders, and you can go almost all day without hitting the same run twice. Our rag-tag group included two skiers and three snowboarders. We were all

impressed with the quality and quantity of black diamond and double diamond terrain; of which Sunday River boasts as having more than any other resort in New England. Equally impressive was the snowmaking system, which covers about 90% of the trails, and puts out some pretty darn good fake snow. Oh yeah, the full sized bus in the snowboard park was an interesting idea, but the bolts holding the plexiglass onto the windows

don't do wonders for your base!

We were lodged in one of *Sunday River's* 700+ on-mountain condos, which are reasonably priced at around \$70 a night (per person), including lift tickets! There is also a pretty classy hotel at the bottom of the hill, or for those on a lesser budget there is a dormitory at around \$25 bucks a night. Our condo was right on the hill, had all the modern amenities and was quite opulent, at least by our standards! A good bus system will take you directly to your condo or to another base area, and there is a small grocery store at the main lodge. But who needs groceries, one of the great things about Maine (other than the accents) is the cheap junk food. Not only does Little Debbie have a whole isle of the super market devoted to rotting your teeth, but the corn chips are piled to the ceiling and even come in one pound bags. Heck, if you hurry, you might even catch the 95 cent Big Macs at Mc D's.

Sunday has some deals on for the march break that are definitely worth checking out, and even with the horrible exchange rates, you can spend a few days without having to get another student loan. There is a toll free number you can call to get all the gory details & conditions, here it is — 1-800-543-2-SKI.

If anything negative is to be said about *Sunday River*, it lies in the area of apres-ski activities. There are two pubs (that we could find) in the village area, neither of which managed to keep our attention for more than 15 minutes. Even though it was "College Week", we were hard pressed to find another living soul after 7 p.m. In the end, we were forced to head back to our condo and consume disgusting quantities of Old Milwaukee and corn chips. (*Bummer*). A small price to pay for huge fun on the slopes. Many thanks to John at Sunday River marketing for allowing us to visit your great resort!



Getting ready for another smooth ride down Sunday River.



There's only one way to ride the bus.