

Did you know that you can get aerosol cheese at... KILLINGTON

by Kent Rainville and Mark Bray



The heated cabins of Killington's Skyeship lift carry skiers two and a half miles to the top in just over 12 minutes, offering breathtaking views of the Green Mountains along the way. Each 8-man cabin is uniquely hand-painted with bright colors and designs. (Jerry Leblond photo)



Killington's fleet of 21 "stealth" grooming machines, along with the world's most extensive snowmaking system, insure a variety of flats, bumps, and steeps. Special thinning in wooded areas provides backcountry "Fusion Zones" (Bob Perry photo)

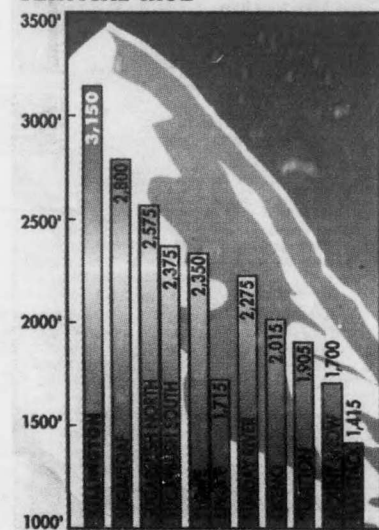
4 guys, a small car, no roof rack, skis, snowboards, cheap beer, and Taco Bell. The nice people at Killington Vermont were daring enough to have us on the mountain for four days and three nights.

The first thing we realised, five minutes before leaving town, was that we didn't have any roof racks. We solved this minor problem by simply throwing everything on the roof, and running a bunch of rope through the car doors to hold it down. The drive to Killington is a bit long, give it ten hours, and don't do it with four guys in a little Toyota. The best route is straight to the bottom of Maine (you can trick the toll booth ladies into taking loonies at par), across through New Hampshire into Vermont, and up to Killington. It's a little longer than driving to some of the big resorts

Even though we didn't use most of them, our condo had all of the major amenities, including a fireplace and dishwasher. It wasn't long before the place had the aroma of fine wine and gourmet cooking.... or was that cheap wine and gourmet corn chips. Food is cheap in the States, and we were even lucky enough to *stumble* across a Taco Bell. Bring on the bean burrito's.

If you've been to any of the big resorts in Maine, you already know that the night life at them is virtually non-existent. This is far from being the case at Killington. The night life there rocks, and clubs like the Wobbly Barn and the Pickle Barrel are packed even on weeknights. The mountain shuttle service will cart your drunken' carcasses all over the place, and the drivers even have tip jars.

VERTICAL RISE



Killington has the greatest vertical rise in the East and, therefore, the longest ski runs.

A FEW TIPS WHEN TRAVELLING IN THE STATES

- Stop at Walmart and try out the "Abflex".
- Buy yourself a Pez dispenser while they're cheap.
- Try to catch the 99¢ Big Mac deal.
- Be sure to ask the border guard for a smoke.
- Don't ask directions from the toll booth lady!

in Maine, but well worth it. Killington is BIG, even bigger than Crabbe.

Driving up the access road, you're staring down the barrel of six interconnected peaks, with 918 acres of skiing/snowboarding. Even with all the rain and warm weather that the East has seen this year, at least 95% of the 165 trails were open and had full coverage. This is due to the mountains' huge snowmaking system and their new fleet of "stealth" groomers, and a new "pipe dragon" groomer that carves out an incredible half-pipe. There is terrain for everyone at Killington, from beginner to advanced, and lots of it! Snowboarders will love the place, with a world class halfpipe (huge 15 foot walls with three feet'o'vert), a snowboard park, and free crackers in the lodges.

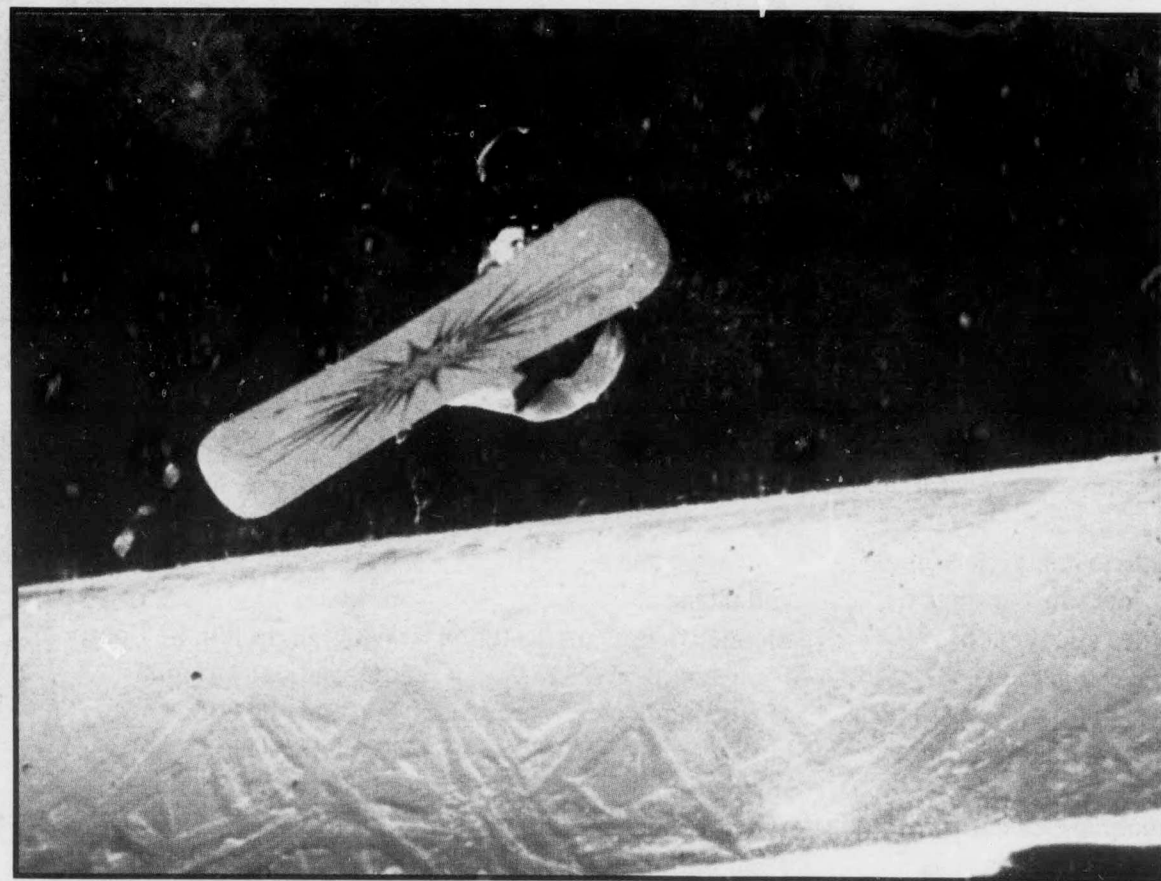
So here's the deal. It's a long drive, but we all agreed that it was better terrain than any of the big resorts in Maine. The best deal for students is to stay off mountain, and to buy a college "extra credit card". The \$30 card gives you a free day skiing, and saves you \$18

on lift tickets, and you can use it at Killington, Sugarloaf, Mt. Snow, and Bromley. There are literally dozens of places to stay on and off the mountain, and you're best bet is to call the Killington lodging bureau for details (1-800-372-2007). The best deal we found was 5 days lift and lodging at the Howard Johnsons in Rutland (17 miles from the hill), for \$268 American p.p.d.o. You can also stay a little closer to the mountain in little motels for about \$40 per night for a double room. As for on the hill accommodations, you can get 5-day packages for as low as \$350-400, including lift tickets.

We had piles of fun, many thanks to Laura and Kim at the Killington News Bureau!

Killington features:

- New England's greatest vertical drop - 3,150 feet
- World's first eight passenger heated gondola - Travels 1,200 feet per minute.
- World's most extensive and powerful snowmaking system
- New England's highest altitude skiing - 4,240 feet.
- The East's highest capacity lift system - 20 lifts with a capacity of 36,327/hr.
- The East's longest ski/snowboard season - open mid October to late May.
- Longest trail in the U.S. - Juggernaut, in its 10.2 miles, drops 3,100 feet.



Killington local Dick Nessboever rips it up in Killington's world class half-pipe, which is serviced by the mountain's new "Pipe Dragon" groomer. (Kent Rainville photo)