

GREAT CHOICES for GREAT LODGING in NH off I-93's EXIT 32

LINCOLN, NH — An easy ride on Interstate 93 will get you to Lincoln, an extremely accessible ski destination city from anywhere in New England. Exit 32 is a scenic 100 miles north of the Massachusetts border. In the town you will find a large choice of hotels, lodges, restaurants of all types, ski shops and stores. Conveniently located on the west side of the Interstate, North Woodstock is home to the Woodstock Inn and Station with its award winning brewpub and bed-and-breakfast lodging. Most of the lodges in the area offer lift ticket packages to Loon as well as the other nearby resorts of Waterville, Bretton Woods and Cannon. Some also offer transportation.

Below and continued on page 13 are descriptions of lodging that SKIER NEWS staff has experienced and recommend.

Mountain Club on Loon

Since it is slopeside, The Mountain Club on Loon is the closest you can stay to the main slopes without pitching a tent next to the gondola. The property recently completed a \$9 million

renovation and now guests can enjoy all new club rooms, studios and suites. Whether delighting in the awe-inspiring views of Loon Mountain or countless other White Mountain peaks, your everyday world is a distant memory within minutes of arriving at The Mountain Club on Loon.

The Mountain Club on Loon is located slopeside on a bluff overlooking the Pemigewasset River in Lincoln. The Mountain Club provides year-round experiences and a carefree ambiance ideal for families, couples and groups alike. Enjoy the thrills of navigating 55 mountain trails right outside your door on Loon Mountain and enjoy many other local activities as well.

The Mountain Club on Loon Resort and Spa is New Hampshire's only ski-out lodging. Also, for your convenience, guests receive complimentary covered garage parking. Their Health Club features an indoor lap and heated pool, complete cardio and workout rooms. Also find fitness classes, racquetball/squash, indoor basketball, steam and sauna, lockers and

towels.

Room amenities include fully equipped kitchens, complimentary Wi-Fi, coffee makers, hair dryers, and some rooms feature balconies and whirlpool tubs.

Indulge in pampering treatments at the on-premise Viaggio Spa and Health Club. Enjoy delicious cuisine at the Black Diamond Pub. Or experience the simple delights of pool time with your family or a tranquil soak in a hot tub under a starlit sky.

Easily accessible, The Mountain Club is located just over two miles off Interstate 93, which makes it a convenient two-hour drive from Boston. Escape to the breathtaking White Mountains area to a fun-filled place that is a destination all its own, with a relaxing setting, attentive service.

Log on to www.mtnclub.com or call 1-800-229-7829.

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THE MOUNTAIN JOURNAL

THE SKIERS GUIDE to TUNING MAINTAINING a PERFORMANCE EDGE

By TONY CRESPI, SKIER NEWS' TECHNICAL EDITOR

"A lot of people do not understand that tuning has a significant effect on performance," notes former World Cup Tuner, Mike deSantis, owner and tuner at Ski MD, a Boston area shop dedicated to both high performance tuning and boot fitting.

Here is the reality. In New England last season brought multiple days of hard snow and solid granular surfaces. Similar conditions appear in the West in the spring after a hard overnight freeze of sun warmed snow. Unfortunately, these conditions can rapidly degrade a skis performance. Late February, before COVID-19 closed area resorts, a family on the front side of Mount Snow remarked kindly on my turns on the ice. While smiling, I noted that my skiing was more likely a product of the tune than my turn.

"Keeping them in fine shape helps tune you into the technology," notes deSantis. "More than ever tuning is the link between success or a hateful experience."

As one of a handful of former World Cup tuners who tune skis for the public, deSantis brings uncommon expertise to his shop. While many beginners are unaware, racers, coaches, instructors, and experts know a tuned ski enhances edge grip on hard conditions, eases turn entry, and generally makes the overall experience more enjoyable.

"A good tune can drive high performance skiing" echoes Jed Duke, Director of Product Development at Blizzard Skis.

Fortunately, with a few basic tuning tools, it is not difficult to maintain a performance edge. In fact, when you use good tools tuning can be fairly painless.

To start let us demystify key points. First, modern skis do not come with a flat base or perfectly square side edge. Beveling involves setting edges at angles. For those new to the concept, side bevels impact edge hold. The base bevels help ease turn entry and exit. The problem is: how much bevel? Generally, while bevels do vary between manufacturers and across models, many skis come with a 1 degree bevel on the base and a 2 or 3 degree side bevel. Fortunately, most tools can be set to these angles to maintain that factory specification.

With a basic tuning kit, which can cost as low as \$75, you can maintain your ski. Please remember, a day or two skiing on hard, icy, conditions can rapidly erode performance, add marks and scratches on both the base and edges, and generally degrade glide, ease of turning, and edge grip.

Welcome to Our Ski Tuner's Clinic

The Basic Guide to Edge Maintenance

1. Wipe your skis daily after use

Wiping skis minimizes corrosion and helps remove harmful chemicals and pollutants.

2. Maintain a smooth and sharp edge

Minimally use a diamond stone to remove burrs. Fortunately, manufacturers offer tools which can easily maintain a smooth, sharp feel to the edge.

To start, purchase a "file holder" against which you can clip the diamond stone. There are multiple holders. One basic, affordable tool is the FK/SKS Variable

Sharpener at approximately \$40 with file. Place the diamond stone in the holder. Then, gently move the stone along the side edge of the ski until burrs are removed and the edge becomes smooth. The blue stone is an excellent stone and is 325 grit.

The idea behind a holder is that these simple devices can grip and hold a diamond stone, file and polishing stone at a set angle while providing a consistent, reliable, and rapid tune.

"You need a guide," emphasizes deSantis. "Look for something with a plastic body and a dial which says 1, 2, or 3 degrees. Choose one that easy."

Your hand can waiver so a tool is key.

3. Inspect the bases

"Worry about the edge more than scratches. You'll feel that!" explains deSantis.

I generally leave my base edge alone but maintain the side edge. Periodically, have your mountain shop check the bases. Major scratches and gouges can be filled.

4. Wax

Waxing protects the base and makes a ski glide and turn more easily. Most racers and pros hot wax their skis but an iron can pose risk. deSantis suggests the Pro-Glide, a round cylinder which effectively uses "line pressure" to safely melt rubbed wax into the base.

Tools:

1. A wiping cloth.
2. A diamond stone to smooth burrs and maintain sharpness. DMT Diamond stones are popular and relatively inexpensive.
3. A side edge file with a diamond stone holder. A best buy is the FK/SKS Variable Sharpener.
4. Wax.

The Advanced Guide to Edge Maintenance

1. Mark your edges with a magic marker for filing

Top skiers maintain a sharp edge. Whether a well-practiced tuner or a newcomer one trick pros use is to mark the edges with a black magic marker. This helps provide a visual guide. The black marker should disappear evenly as you file and polish the edge.

2. Use a file holder to maximize edge tuning

A. Start with a diamond stone to remove burrs using the blue DMT.

B. Use a file to tune dull skis.

C. Polish with a diamond stone.

Start with an extra course diamond stone to remove burrs and case hardening. We also recommend using the diamond stone wet.

3. Be sure to polish

Remember how smooth and polished your edges were when new?

Be sure to use a fine diamond stone to restore a polished feel. We suggest a red diamond stone

4. Practice on an old ski

Tuning can maximize performance. But it can take

practice. Practice on an old ski to learn. Feel the difference.

The Black Diamond Guide to Edge Maintenance

This is the professional tune.

1. Start by having the base restored

Base filing and stone grinding help keep the base smooth and flush with the edges. Understand, if the base is either convex or concave performance is affected and the ski will not turn as it was designed. If the bases are especially worn it may be necessary to have the skis stone ground on a machine. But, even after stone grinding, the base will need minor hand filing to finish the process.

Do not confuse a tune with a stone grind. If you have a complete tune they reset bevels. After the base is flat base edges need to be beveled.

Skiers sometimes over file the base bevel. Once it is set gently maintain it with a diamond stone. The side edge is where you do most sharpening.

2. Remove excess sidewall

Racers and top tuners typically use a skyver to remove excess sidewall material. It makes tunes last longer and tuning is faster. The FK Sidewall Skyver is one affordable tool that will help you accomplish this.

3. Prepare side edges

For the average skier diamond stones are great and can maintain sharpness. Whenever you feel burrs then pull the diamond stone down the edge.

"If I am going to file I always diamond stone first," notes deSantis. "And I finish with a red diamond stone."

3. Apply a clean coat of wax

Waxing protects the base and helps ensure a smooth, easy turning, gliding ski. From liquid waxes which can be wiped onto the base and buffed to the Pro-Glide, waxing can be rapidly accomplished without risk. I no longer use an iron.

In the end, tuning need not take excessive time. With a side file holder, two diamond stones of different grits, a file and wax, most skiers can maintain maximum performance with minimal effort.

"Lower variables equal greater success," says deSantis.

The take home is that after a few days even a top race ski will begin to lose performance. After last season I plan to have Ski MD restore my front side carver to factory specifications. Then I will polish with a diamond stone and wax daily. It would not matter the ski. Know, as example, I tested a Volkl Deacon last season. It was a strong ski but after a few runs on the ice I felt the loss of edge grip. Tuning could easily have restored its grip.

Maximize your performance.

Maintain your edge.

Technical Editor Tony Crespi has served as both a Ski School Supervisor and Development Team Coach.

A frequent contributor to publications throughout snow country, his column is published throughout the season.

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