



LEWISVILLE P.L.A.Y.S.

By
Mike Johnson

OK, this is now our 3rd winter living in North Carolina, and one question I have for all of you is, “Where is the snow?”. Of course by the time this article gets published we may have gotten a visit from Ol’ Man Winter...but to date nada this winter in terms of the “white stuff”. It has been well documented now that the past 2 winters were quite extraordinary for these parts, extremely cold and unusual amounts of snow. Heck, we even had our first white Christmas in over 60 years last winter. Don’t get me wrong, I am not wishing for a white out, but just a bit of snow to make the winter complete would be nice (it’s like maple syrup on a stack of pancakes....pancakes just wouldn’t be the same without it). Well, as I just found out recently, you don’t have to rely on Mother Nature to give you a great day in the snow...and here is the story.

One of the “deals” we made with the kids when we moved to North Carolina from Florida was we would go snow skiing (the other deal with the kids resulted in the newest addition to our family..Tank, our English Bulldog). Well for whatever reason we never got around to the skiing thing our first few winters here, but that changed recently. We decided after Christmas that it was time to “head to the mountains” for a family ski trip. First thing we found out is there are quite a few options for skiing near us, and we were amazed when we plugged in the address of ski destinations to find out we could be on a slope within a 90 minute drive of home. Are you serious it has been that close all along and we are now just getting to the skiing thing...at least that is what I am sure our kids thought.

We didn’t, and still don’t have a stitch of ski gear, and barely have clothes fitting for such an adventure. Well, all that didn’t matter since the day we picked to go skiing was 40 degrees, and yes all these ski resorts can rent you everything you might ever need for a day on the slopes (equipment, slope passes, and even clothing). It was so warm and there had been no snow, could we ski...not to worry the ski resorts made snow. Don’t know how to ski, don’t let that stop you, most resorts offer skiing lessons, from the very basic beginners (yes sign us up) to more advanced levels. Got teenagers that think skiing is for “old people”...not to worry, snowboarding (from what I hear a much “cooler alternative) is also offered at many ski resorts. Worried that all that physical activity and fresh air might work up a mighty appetite...not to worry food and drink are never too far away from the bottom of the slopes. Not sure you have embraced skiing as a participant sport and would rather just watch the others ski...not to worry most ski resorts have you covered and you can watch all that is going on from the comfort and safety of a lodge.

If I am making this all sound fairly hassle-free and tons of fun it can be, but be forewarned, a day on the slopes can get a bit pricey. For us, it was about a long overdue promised fulfilled to the kids, and like the credit card commercial says our day together exploring a new family adventure was truly “Priceless”. All I can tell you is if there are a

few pennies saved up in the family rainy day jar, you just might want to call it a “snowy” day jar and head out to the mountains for a day of skiing that everyone will enjoy and remember for a long time. For more information about skiing opportunities in North Carolina you can check out:

<http://www.skinorthcarolina.com/>

Until next time my friends, keep warm, get out and enjoy this great part of the country we live in, and of course.....Tight Lines !!!