

# **Welcome to...Stowe, Vermont**

## **(3) Luxury Ski Houses Rental Info**

Stowe is a great vacation four season resort town...winter, summer and foliage season! Often called: "The Aspen of the East"

Recently voted: "Top 10 Ski Resorts" by Ski Magazine

Guests...welcome to our 3 houses! You will notice the breathtaking views of the mountain and ski area from every room!

Owner: John F. Gallagher (978) 526-7512

Our Website: [www.OurRentalParadise.com](http://www.OurRentalParadise.com)

Our email: [susan@ourrentalparadise.com](mailto:susan@ourrentalparadise.com)

Housekeeper/Greeter who opens house: Jenny-Jo Small (802) 279-2109 or (802) 888-6528 (locally you don't have to dial the area code, oddly)

Jenny's email: [jennifers438@earthlink.net](mailto:jennifers438@earthlink.net)

(key to each house is in the lockbox, garage side door, and the code will be emailed to you when you confirm your reservation). (or call us for the code before you arrive)

Tel # at 911 Notchbrook house: (802) 253-2224

Tel # at 1538 Robinson Springs Rd house: (802) 253-6017

tel # at 1936 Notchbrook Rd is (802) 253-2094

Please email us & jenny a few days before your arrival so we can have her open the house for you. Advise of approx. time you expect to arrive.

We own 3 big luxury houses at Stowe, so please note which house you are renting!

## 911 Notchbrook Rd or 1936 Notchbrook Rd. or 1538 Robinson Springs Rd.

Which house is better you ask? Good question. They're pretty similar in that both 911 Notchbrook and 1538 Robinson springs rd. houses have six bedrooms, gourmet kitchens, big dining area, 10 ft high def tv with Direct TV, heated in ground pool for summer, ping pong table, cedar hot rock sauna, pool table and awesome views of the ski mountain of Stowe.

(the 1936 Notchbrook Rd. house has 8 queen beds total, two in each of 4 Master Bedroom Suites).

....And recently added...all three houses now have an outdoor large hot tub for use from Nov. 20 (start of ski season) to April 15—even in sub zero winter temps! (we don't ordinarily use them in summer months as the pool is opened.)

The two Notchbrook Rd houses are only a 5 minute ride to the base of the ski mountain. The Robinson Springs Rd house is a 10 minute ride.

Robinson Springs Rd is in a slightly more exclusive area (the CFO of Kelloggs' Cereals has a \$ 5 million +++ mansion just down the road from our house). Robinson Springs house is a bit newer as it was totally renovated and has a big open kitchen with center island.

Robinson is on a larger 3.5 acre lot (in a bit quieter) neighborhood. You will probably see more deer on Robinson springs rd. The views of the ski slopes are awesome from all 3 houses, though the newest house at 1936 Notch Brook rd. probably has the best views.

We normally enter each house thru the door on side of garage. With massive snowfalls from mid November to mid April, we don't shovel to the houses' main front doors so please enter thru the garage side door.

The association plows all roads and our driveway as necessary (which is often). Often Stowe has natural snow when it's raining just a few miles away! (this past winter, Stowe had 377 inches of natural snow).

Each 6 BR house (911 Notchbrook and 1538 Robinson) sleeps 12 comfortably. There are 2 King beds, all with 600 thread count linens. 2 bedrooms are master suites with their own bathroom. Two bedrooms have Queens and two bedrooms with twin beds. The Master Bedroom in each house has breath-taking views of the slopes, the lifts and the ski mountain. Each house has a crib also.

All beds are made up clean when you arrive. When you depart, please strip each bed and throw sheets in the hallway. Any bed made up is deemed to be clean. Any bed you don't use will be left as made up.

The Kings and Queens have fine linens and comforters. And Designer bedspreads coordinating with the wall colors.

The housekeeper would appreciate it if you have a chance to start a load of wash or two on the day you leave—especially towels. There are plenty of large fresh towels stocked in each bathroom.

### **Gourmet Kitchen:**

We no longer stock any food items in the house so you should stop at a local market and pick up grocery items for your stay milk, dozen eggs, coffee, coffee filters, cereal for kids, There is often liquor in cabinet above the refrigerator (left by previous guests) so help yourself but please replace with fresh premium bottles for the next guests. There are several good gourmet supermarkets locally, one right near the center of town (call the Mac Stowe market) (4 miles from our house approx.). near jct of route 100 and Mountain Rd. For a bigger shopping trip, stop at the big Shaws supermarket on route 100 as soon as you get off Route 89, it's on your right as you head to Stowe center.

We always keep the house stocked with toilet paper, cleaning supplies, trash bags, laundry and dish washer detergents and fine soaps in each bathroom.

Each house has a full sized oven, electric cooktop, electric griddle, dishwasher, refrigerator, 2 coffee makers, toaster, etc.

The housekeepers are instructed not to throw out condiments like ketchup, mustard, olive oils, salt & pepper, etc.

Unopened foods will not be thrown out.

Please leave gourmet coffee in the freezer (even if opened) for the next guests. Preferably Gevalia or Starbucks or Vermont's Green Mountain Coffee would be appreciated.

Dining table seats 10. Eat in kitchen seats 6. All pots, pans, dishes, glassware are provided. The crystal wine glasses should be hand-washed. Please, no glass out at the pool areas in summer.

There is a (relatively new stainless steel) gas grille outdoors on the porch near the kitchen for year-round use. Clean all snow off prior to use and shovel the deck as necessary. Be sure to turn it off when you're finished with it. There are extra full propane containers in the garage if you need to change the tank. Please put the cover back on after it has cooled down. In below zero temps, the gas grille may take a while to light.

Draft beer: due to insurance liability issues, we no longer provide a keg of beer in any of our rental houses. Sorry.

**Trash:** There is a trash compacter in the kitchen. Tie trash bags and place them in the little shed out in the driveway. Do not leave trash to build up in the garage. Our association picks up trash from that little shed (near driveway) every few days. All trash must be tied up in large garbage bags and put out in the little shed. Be sure the shed is closed tight otherwise the bears will be visiting us ! There are separate big plastic buckets in front of the shed for recycling cans and bottles. You can throw those in those containers loose, as recycling cans and bottles don't have to be bagged.

**Hot Tub:** all 3 Stowe houses now have an outdoor hot tub for non-summer usage. We don't use the hot tubs in summer months as the pools are open. Please keep the cover on it when not used. The tub has its own filtration system so the water does not have to be drained. Jenny Jo, our housekeeper and her assistant put chemicals in each tub 3 times a week so you don't have to put any bromide in. It can often get to 10 below zero in January and February in Stowe so it's very exhilarating to sit outside in the tub and look at the ski mountain with the awesome views from our house(s). Hot tubs are running only during ski season, Thanksgiving thru April 15.

The hot tub must be kept running all winter to keep it from freezing so do not turn it off in winter months. Also, the water level must be at the maximum for the heater to work properly so if you splash water or the water level drops down, it needs to be filled to the line marked "max water level".

**Outdoor Heated Pool:** summer only Memorial day thru Sept 15 each year.

In summer, each of our houses has its own private in ground pool, or you can use the association pool if you feel like socializing with others as you come up the hill on Notchbrook Rd. (where 2 of our houses are located) (code to enter the gate is \_\_\_\_ for community swimming pool and the tennis courts on Notchbrook rd (just a block down the hill from our house 911 Notchbrook rd). In winter, there are a few resorts with outdoor heated pools and we're planning on trying to negotiate reduced fees with them. TopNotch and Stowflake both have indoor heated pools for winter usage and you get free use of the pool when you do a daily work-out or you buy a spa treatment or facial. The Swimming Hole, off Mountain rd. is a year round health club with a huge indoor swimming pool and a big slide for the kids and is very reasonable on a daily basis charge. It's a gorgeous club and has cybex machines, weights, treadmills and huge locker rooms in addition to the big pool. The kids slide is only open I think 3-5pm daily so call first if you want them to use the slide.

If you would like the pool heated please contact our staff as there is a daily fee of \$ 50 extra since the cost of heating a pool is quite high (Memorial day thru sept 15)

**Computer:** There is a computer in each Stowe house. We now have high speed satellite internet thru Wild Blue. See instructions posted on the monitor as to how to log on to the internet and how to access email. If it's snowing heavily, web service may be interrupted. (note to previous guests: yes, the old slow dial-up is gone !!!!) (the 1936

Notchbrook Rd. house has DSL high speed service). There is no password and it's live all the time.

**Good Reading materials:** We keep a lot of current interest magazines on hand such as Home Theater, Motor-trend, Forbes, Wired, Ski Magazine, Caribbean Life and Fortune, Architectural Digest, Wine Spectator, Gourmet, Food and Wine, etc. Please keep these for next guests. If you bring your own magazines, please leave them for the next guests also.

**Sauna :** the redwood sauna will heat up in about 10 minutes. Please no children in there. You can get the heat really cranked up by throwing some cold water on those heated stones. Be careful as stones get extremely hot. Never use after consuming alcoholic beverages. (the 911 Notchbrook and 1538 Robinson springs rd. houses have saunas but 1936 Notchbrook does not). (but the mountain views are better at 1936 Notchbrook Rd.)

**Game Table:** there's a professional game table with 4 leather chairs in the big upstairs family room perfect for Poker, Monopoly, etc. We've left a poker set and several decks of cards for you. At all 3 houses.

**Cool Kids' Stuff:** There is a new talking (electronic) parrot mounted on the wall at each house. You can teach it to talk (if the battery didn't die). The power switch is on the parrot's back. If you rub the parrot's head, he/she sings and talks.

Each house also has a giant 5 foot teddy bear. And a ping pong table. And several chess sets.

Each house has a new pool table with new cue sticks.

There are several chess sets/game tables and board games at each house.

**New:** .....at the 911 Notchbrook rd. house ... we have finished off the garage now for year round usage as a second playroom with a new ping pong table and wine tasting area. With a huge mural of the stowe ski area on the wall (photo taken at our house from the deck !)...very cool. 911 Notchbrook also has a glass covered "bubble hockey" table game in the finished garage space.

### **TV's/Home theater systems:**

We have Direct TV satellite reception. Please note that in snowstorms or heavy rain, the signal may get lost. We also have 7 channels of HBO (channels 500+). Use the "guide" button on the remote that says: Direct TV. Then use the arrow keys up and down. Hit the "select" or OK button to go to that station. CNN is channel 202.

The (stereo) receiver controls the picture and the sound!

We have left a number of DVD movies for your enjoyment. Please be sure kids handle them carefully and they are kept in their protective cases.

There is a 42 inch TV in the upstairs great room at 911 Notchbrook house. There are 2 remotes for this. One for the tv and one for the satellite box. This TV needs to be set to channel 3 to watch the hundreds of channels on Direct TV. Each remote is labeled either "TV" or "Sat".

There is also a DVD player for this tv. To view DVD movies you need to change input on the TV remote (or front button of the tv).

At the Robinson Springs Rd. house, there is a 60 inch high def plasma TV above the fireplace in the big family room, and an excellent 6 speaker Dolby Digital Surround System. XM radio with no commercials and many channels of music can be received on the upper 700-800 channels of Direct TV satellite box. You can crank it up pretty good as the only neighbors to complain about the noise are the deer and the moose and the bears.

High Def channels: check channels 64-99 first. Boston Red Sox are ch. 623 and 624.

At the 1936 Notchbrook Rd. House, we have two large LCD high def wall mounted TV's in each of the primary two master suites. State of the art. This house also has a Tivo (DVR) recorder in the master bedroom plasma TV which has recorded many popular shows for you such as: Jay leno, Grey's anatomy, Oprah, etc.

Game player: at the 911 Notchbrook house, the downstairs bunkbed room for kids has a tv that has an Atari game player and a bunch of game cartridges.

**1936's & Robinson Springs rd. game rooms** has a Bose sound system with mp3 player loaded with thousands of songs—use the remote for the little tv 9 inch screen provided. Or you can select XM Satellite radio. Select the XM button on the receiver and you can change the XM channel by using the remote's arrow keys on lower portion of the Onkyo remote. Channel 7 is 70's music. Ch. 8 is 80's. ch. 20 is top hits. Ch. 54 is new wave music from the last two decades, etc.

**Home Theater:** In the downstairs game room (at all three houses) there is a huge 9 foot wide big screen Projector TV/home theater. The sound and picture comes thru the receiver. Be sure the Satellite box is turned on and the input on the front of the receiver is set to either Satellite or DVD, whichever you want to view. There's an excellent 5.1 Dolby Digital surround sound system with the Home Theater.

The one remote controls all the big screen units. Hit the power button and they all should turn on together. (if the power button doesn't come on, you can turn it on manually on the front of each component as the remote sometimes doesn't send a strong enough signal to power every unit on).

New...Each house has XM Satellite radio in the game room, either thru the upper channels on Direct TV. Or thru the receiver in the pool table room which has its own XM radio built in (which we pay for). Excellent quality. Esp. with those Bose 301 wall mounted speakers.

Each house also now has an MP 3 player with hundreds of songs loaded onto the drive and plays thru the stereo. And various internet radio stations are also pre-programmed in (though I prefer to listen to XM satellite radio)

The pool table (at each house) was just refinished, so please be sure children do not stand on it. Be sure kids don't abuse the pool table or cue sticks or the ping pong tables.

Master Bedroom TV at 911 Notchbrook: This Sony set also has Direct TV. Be sure the satellite box is powered on and the tv is set to channel 3 (or channel 4). For music set the Direct Tv box to the 700/800's for high fidelity xm radio stations.

### **Direct TV channels:**

HBO channels are around 500-550. there are several HBO channels in high def widescreen format. Also a few high def movie channels between 70-80

XM Satellite Radio is on Direct TV also. You can listen to about 50 commercial free XM stations on channels 700/800 or so. For best results play it through our stereo receiver for awesome sound.

Local channels are 3, 6 and other low #'s.

Please shut off the Projector TV after using it, by hitting the "off" button twice.

### **Fireplaces**

Each large house has 2-3 fireplaces. We use the one most often in the upstairs great room. We normally leave the "flue" open. Before you light any fireplaces, look up the chimney and be sure the heavy metal flue is open so smoke doesn't fill the room.

There is plenty of good hardwood firewood stacked in the garage. Light the fire by using smaller pieces first. Place newspaper under the firewood and around the grate. Keep feeding newspaper as necessary. It's sometimes easiest to use a "fake log" (dura-flame) to get the fire going (which you can buy in local supermarkets)

Keep the protective screen in front of the fireplace. (it has the New England Patriots logo on it of course)

Be sure the fire is out before you go to bed (and protective screen closed so no embers fly out of the fireplace)

If you use the downstairs fireplace in the game room, be sure the flue is open as we normally keep it closed. Again, please be sure the protective mesh screen is closed after the fire gets going.

Never let the fireplaces burn unattended.-- but you knew that.

Always keep the garage doors closed (in winter). It gets very cold in the winter and kitchen pipes will freeze up if those garage doors are left open. (sometimes 20 below zero—yikes)

There is a ping pong table in each garage (all 3 houses).

The 1936 Notchbrook Rd. house has 2 fireplaces but both are gas. No real wood burning in this house though you'll hardly miss it as the gas fireplace is oversized. For the gas log fireplace in the big family room, the control is the white box on the wall, ten feet to the left of the fireplace. Turn the thermostat up and the fire comes on. There are two (thermostat) white boxes on the wall and it's the one on the right.

**Heat:** We have oil fired heating system at 911 Notchbrook Rd. house. We normally set thermostats to a comfortable level prior to your arrival. Generally, 68 degree settings keep the house very comfortable. The auto thermostats normally bring the temperature down at night and Raise it early in the morning. (For 911 Notchbrook house, the round thermostat in the kitchen under cabinets to left of refrigerator controls most of the house).

The Robinson Springs RD house and the 1936 Notchbrook Rd. house have propane heat, and radiant heat under the floors on the entire first floor so the stone tiles feel warm to your bare feet.

**Keeping warm at night:** well of course, cuddling is best, but besides that, each bed has 2 woolen blankets plus the designer bed spread. And of course high thread count Egyptian cotton sheets on all beds.

**Ski gear:** Please keep all skis and poles in the garage or outside. You can keep ski boots warm by keeping them in the entrance area off the garage.

Phones: We have an unlimited Long Distance calling plan for the continental United States, so call anywhere in the country and it's on us. (this does not apply to international calls)

### **Skiing at Stowe:**

Stowe is a great place to learn to ski and for intermediate skiers. There are 2 mountains at the main base lodge/Mt. Mansfield. The one on the right has the Gondola (enclosed

red boxes) and is more challenging. Expert skiers will want to use the Gondola and those lifts on the right side of the double mountains. The 3<sup>rd</sup> mountain is called Spruce and that is across the street from the other two—where they are building new condos and a new hotel complex fronting the slopes.

Beginners and novices will like the mountain on the left mountain, beginning with Toll-house lift on the far left. (first time skiers should do Spruce as it's super super easy)

We generally park our car at Toll-house lift. You can walk into the Mountain Inn motel and buy your lift tickets at the motel's desk by driving under the covered area in the Main Entrance to the motel. There's always plenty of parking at Toll house lift and it's very convenient. Leave your shoes in your vehicle. Note: Toll lift only runs on weekends though.

Note: there are big discounts on lift tickets if you call Stowe 7 days in advance and Purchase multi day tickets. Call (888) 253-4TIX. If you have an American Express card there's also a 4<sup>th</sup> day free when you buy a 3 day pass, along with a huge discount for the 7 day advance purchase.

We usually have lunch at one of the restaurants on top of the mountain. The Cliff House can be reached by riding the Gondola up to the top. If you don't want to ski down, you can also just ride the Gondola down to the bottom. Excellent food and fine wines at the Cliff house for lunch, every day. On the left side mountain at the top is a casual dining restaurant called the Octagon. Real nice and great for kids.

The other ski slope of Stowe is called "Spruce". It is part of Stowe and is across the street from the main base lodge. The same lift ticket covers all 3 mountains. Spruce is more wide open and has a kids' ski school and babysitting service. The chair lift here is real slow and ideal for beginners. If you've never skied before, Spruce is perfect as they have a real gentle slope where you won't pick up much speed and an easy slow chair lift.

There are ski and boot rental facilities at each base lodge if you need them.

**Ski & Snow-board rentals:** try Pinnacle Ski and Sports at 3391 Mountain Rd. about a mile from the Matterhorn as you're going into town. [www.skiessentials.com](http://www.skiessentials.com) or call them at (802) 253-7222. Getting your equipment the night before will get you on the slopes for the best skiing which is early morning with fresh powder and the sun. After lunch skiing is considered the worst as shadows make it harder to see. Or try Darkside Snowboards on Mountain Rd. for snowboard rentals

**Restaurants:** best ones nearby for gourmet are the Blue Moon in center of town (a 3 mile ride from our house). Other good ones include Ye Old English Tavern on Mountain Rd., Edson Hill Inn's gourmet restaurant, and some of the country inns nearby including the Trapp Family Lodge (the family of Sound of Music fame). Steve & Erika's is a new country restaurant at Ten Acres Lodge just a 5 minute ride from our house (call (802) 253-8585

**Hana** is a new Japanese steak house on Mountain Rd. 4 miles from our house. They do the “Teppan-yakki” style of cooking on the table in front of you. If your kids have not seen the Japanese chefs twirling the knives while they cook, it’s an interesting show. They also have pretty good sushi and sakes. Call (802) 253-8878 but you probably don’t need a reservation unless it’s Saturday night.

**Top Notch resort** (is just one mile from our house 911 Notchbrook and 3 miles from the Robinson Springs Rd. house) and has an excellent gourmet restaurant, and a full spa for massages and indoor pool. It’s expensive but classy and worth it !

The new restaurant at Top Notch is called “**Norma’s**” and it’s excellent. Casual gourmet and of course kid-friendly also. Open kitchen concept and done very well (as is everything at this 5 star resort).

Something really cool....every Saturday night in winter you can have dinner at the top of the mountain restaurant, called the Cliff House. Gourmet fare, prix fixe and they take you up on the gondola. Super romantic. 2 seatings: 6pm and 7pm. They also pour fine wines. The Saturday night gourmet dinner series runs from January thru March only but hopefully they’ll pick this up for the summer months also!

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*For excellent gourmet fare, try:*

**Hen of the Wood** grille in nearby Waterbury is superb (says John). Super fresh ingredients-- many locally grown-- and real nice wine list. Only a 15 minute ride from Stowe south on route 100 to Stowe Rd. Call them at (802) 244-7300. (near the jct of the highway Route 89 that you probably came in from, and route 100 the road leading into Stowe). We had an outstanding meal here in mid May 2007. Two male chef partners own it. It has an open kitchen design in an old grist mill on a fast flowing brook. The food is cutting edge and these guys really know “the devil is in the details”. Fine selection of interesting wines by the glass, warm home baked breads, terrific service and a menu that changes every week.

The local cheeses from nearby Vermont farms were exceptional. Most items are locally grown and the beef and lamb are from Vermont—and delicious.

also in Waterbury is a really cool brew pub *the Alchemist*.

**Michael’s on the Hill:** Michael is a Swiss trained chef formerly with Lespinasse in NYC and this is an outstanding restaurant. Yes you can bring kids but screaming babies might not be a good idea. In an old house on route 100 in Waterbury, 15 minute ride from our house. For reservations, call (802) 244-7476.

Edson Hill Manor is very close to our Robinson Springs Rd. house and is considered an excellent country inn gourmet restaurant and has acres of cross country ski trails. Call (802) 253-7371. [www.edsonhillmanor.com](http://www.edsonhillmanor.com)

For a fun funky meal, all the pub restaurants are good-- particularly Gracie's pub (recently relocated to Mountain Rd.). Gracie is a dog so everything in this casual pub is poochie-themed. This is a pub done very well. Real good steaks from local cattle farm in VT.

Sunset Grille is good casual dining as are the 2 Mexican restaurants along Mountain Rd. where you can certainly get a good Margarita and fresh hot chips with salsa to start.

The Shed brewpub is also good on Mountain rd. for casual fare and locally crafted beers/ales. Super big cheese burgers.

the Matterhorn Bar (on Mountain Rd. near our Notchbrook Rd. houses) is real good for pizza and (amazingly) sushi. In winter, it's packed by 3pm for happy hour-- apres skiing. They have a great selection of draft beers, pool tables, games for kids and the pizza is excellent. At night they have bands play which are often quite good. A collection of Stowe town characters and tourists hang out there so grab a seat at the bar, enjoy a Guinness Stout on draft and meet some of the locals. I've even seen former members of the Grateful Dead in this place.

In Burlington, about a 35 minute ride, try these restaurants: The Waiting Room, Smokejacks, Single Pebble (gourmet Chinese), Trattoria Delia and the Wine Works wine bar.

For a day trip, visit Dakin Farm gourmet store about a 45 min ride from Stowe. They smoke meats there for mail order sale, cheeses, etc. [www.dakinfarm.com](http://www.dakinfarm.com) or call (802) 425-3971. They show you how they make maple syrup, etc.

Brewery Tour: Magic hat beer company is in South Burlington VT and offers tours and free samples. [www.magicchat.net](http://www.magicchat.net) or call (802) 658-BREW. Open year round, so you might want to spend a day touring Burlington VT., a very cool college city and enjoy some of their fine restaurants after shopping and sight-seeing. About a 30 minute ride from Stowe up Route 89 (north-west)

**Activities:** (besides skiing of course) (Summer & Winter & Fall foliage season)

Play tennis at Topnotch Resort (just down Mountain Rd. from our house) (they have indoor courts for year-round play). Code for the tennis courts and the heated community pool gate is \_\_\_\_\_

In Spring, Summer and fall, play tennis on one of the 2 tennis courts in our Notchbrook association (combo for lock is in phone book/top drawer in kitchen. The tennis courts for the Robinson Springs Rd house are not locked.

**Swimming Pool:** each of our 3 houses has its own in-ground pool, but if for any reason you'd like to use the association pool in Notch-brook go ahead. The combo is (in our kitchen at 911 Notchbrook rd. top drawer or ask jenny jo our housekeeper). Robinson Springs also has a modest swimming "pond" with a raft near the tennis courts you're welcome to use.

Get a massage, facial, nails, etc. at Topnotch (802) 253-8585 (more expensive)... or Stoweflake (802) 253-7355(less expensive) resort. (note: Top Notch is worth the extra bucks \$\$\$). Both are located on Mountain Rd. Stoweflake resort on Mountain road also has a beautiful spa and workout area is free if you get a massage.

For a more reasonably priced massage, call Danu at (802) 999-0610. She's in Stowe's lower village at 56 Old Farm Rd. and is also a Reiki master.

Try Cross-country skiing—you can rent equipment at Trapp Family Lodge but call 24 hours in advance at (802) 253-8511. They also offer a snow shoe tour which is real good exercise.

**Umiak Outfitters** offers cross country and snow-shoeing adventures and other outdoor sports. Call (802) 253-2317

Horseback riding: check yellow pages. Or try the Stowe Equestrian Center (802) 888-9464. Also see our website: [www.ourrentalparadise.com](http://www.ourrentalparadise.com)

**Workout Facility:** For indoor swimming, and a place for treadmills and weights, by far the best spot is the new **Swimming Hole**, as they call it. This is a big beautiful health club with a huge indoor pool and a water slide indoors for the kids (slide is only open a few hours a day so call them). They have excellent new Cybex exercise machines, free weights, treadmills with plasma TV's, etc. A really nice facility and a bargain at just \$ 19 per day for adults and \$ 10 for kids. Located on Weeks Hill Rd., just off Mountain Rd. About 3-4 miles from our house.

Or you can use the gym facilities at Topnotch or Stoweflake, both of which have indoor pools and their spa treatments also. For a reasonable daily fee.

Go for a nice walk around our neighborhood which is a cul-de-sac.

Rent some mountain bikes and zip around Stowe center.

Go shopping on Mountain Rd. stores and the center of Stowe

Hit the shops on Route 100, the Cabot Cheese outlet, and the excellent Cider Hollow shop where they make the cider. And you must have one (or two) (or 3) delicious hot cider donuts while there.

For Outlet shopping, take a 35 minute ride to Essex Shoppes in Essex, VT where you'll find Ralph Lauren, Adidas, Osh Kosh, Bass, and other big names.

[www.essexshoppes.com](http://www.essexshoppes.com) or call for directions (802) 879-6543

Visit the **Ben and Jerry's ice cream** plant and tour the factory and enjoy some samples of the world's best ice creams. Route 100 just south of Stowe.

Explore the shops and Main St. of Waterbury, just south of Stowe off route 100. some funky places and the excellent gourmet bistro restaurant "Hen of the Wood".

**Dog Sled Ride:** this is in Eden Mills, VT a 45 minute ride. Call (802) 635-9070. We did it on a recent Alaska cruise trip with the kids. Very cool.

[www.dogsledridesvermont.com](http://www.dogsledridesvermont.com) . Another dog sled is run by the Stowe Ski area several nights a week for \$ 150. Call (800) 253-4754

**Golf:** Play golf at nearby Stowe Country Club (open to public) or the Country Club of Vermont (7 miles from our house) which is semi private. The Farm golf course nearby on the road out of town is a great deal (see our website: [www.ourrentalparadise.com](http://www.ourrentalparadise.com))

Now, there's a brand new 18 hole champion golf course at the Spruce ski area. I saw this new course in mid May 2007 and was amazed at how green and perfectly manicured it was. Very hilly and challenging, but beautiful. A must play for the serious golfer for sure, though it's "private" so you may have to talk your way in.

Take a ride thru the "notch" of the mountain and visit Smuggler's Notch ski area (this road is not open in winter)

Try fly-fishing (there are several stores which rent equipment and guides) (links on our website). One company that sponsors tours is [www.catamountfishing.com](http://www.catamountfishing.com) in Stowe and their tel is (802) 253-8500. Year round fishing guides including ice fishing, river wading and canoe fishing. Brook trout also (right near our house is Notchbrook loaded with brook trout I'm told)

Visit the nearby Trapp Family Lodge (2 miles from our house) and have dinner or high tea or lunch (they were the family from the Sound of Music film)

For Kids of all ages: ride the Alpine slide which is a go-cart type of sled with wheels located on the Spruce ski area (summer only). Adults can take little kids. There's also bungee jumping for kids and an obstacle course for kids at Stowe in summer months.

Go Antique shopping around Stowe for some treasures.

Visit the Johnson Woolen Mill in Johnson VT. And the maple store next door to it.

Sit on our large wrap-around deck and enjoy a cocktail while taking in the awesome views of Stowe ski area, Mt. Mansfield and the panoramic views!

Watch a movie on our big (10 foot) screen TV in lower level Game Room (dvd's are provided)

Shoot some pool on the full sized billiard table in our lower level game room. Play ping pong with the kids on the table in our garage.

Order take out pizza from the Matterhorn bar which has excellent wood-fired pizza for take out and enjoy a few cold brews while you wait for it. Their sushi is also quite good (surprisingly). Conversations with the locals can be very lively at their bar and they have many beers on draft. On Mountain Rd at junction of Notchbrook Rd. so it's nearby.

John's recommendation for best thing to do while on vacation: Do something you don't do at home, and cook a big meal during the day for a grand lunch. Open a few nice bottles of wine and relax in front of the fireplace. Then take a little siesta along with....

There are local caterers if you wish to have a chef come to the house. Check yellow pages in the phone book.

Each (of our three) house has an inground pool for summer usage.

Chemicals are put in weekly and pool cleaned by a maintenance person. Please keep the blue solar cover on the pool at all times when you're not swimming as it keeps dirt out and keeps heat in and eliminates evaporation.

You can use the built-in charcoal grille by the pool or the gas grille up on the deck. Please no glass outside near the pool. Use plastic cups only near pool.

The pool is 8 feet deep. Always watch little children at all times around the pool.

Never leave children unattended by the swimming pool or outdoor Jacuzzi. Never swim alone of course.

In winter, there is a cover on the pool but be sure kids do not walk on it as they could fall in if the water is not frozen. Keep children away from a closed pool in off season.

Down by the 2 clay tennis courts, there is an association pool (at the 911 Notchbrook Rd. house) also which you are welcome to use if you feel like socializing with our neighbors. The tennis courts are often locked and the combination is usually in our kitchen top drawer written on inside cover of the phone book.

To unlock the tennis court gate (for 911 Notchbrook house) the combo is: (email our staff or see the inside of phone book at the house, top kitchen drawer)

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The Robinson Springs Rd. house also has 2 tennis courts in our association, on your way in to our house about a mile before our house. There is no lock.

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Misc: Please conserve water as much as possible. Water is precious up there.

Please turn off all lights when not in use as electricity is quite expensive in rural Vermont.

Most importantly: Have a great, relaxing and safe vacation !!!

By the Way... We also own two big beautiful 5-6 BR houses in St. Maarten in the Beautiful Caribbean—right on Dawns' Beach which is one of the world's best beaches.. Check out details on our website:  
[www.ourrentalparadise.com](http://www.ourrentalparadise.com)

We also now have two other ski houses at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire. They're right on the trails, ski on/ski off. Luxury 5 BR houses with terrific views of the slopes.

And two new houses in St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands—one a 5 BR, and a 6 BR house being built. See our website for photos and info.

Directions to Stowe houses:

(the key to each house is in the lockbox by garage door. The code is \_\_\_\_\_). Be sure you get the code emailed to you by a member of our staff when you confirm your reservation.

(take route 89 north, then route 100 (exit # 10) for Stowe, Vt.; follow signs to Stowe. In center of town, take a left onto Mountain Rd. Follow for 3-4 miles or so. For the house at 911 Notchbrook, at the Matterhorn bar/restaurant take a right onto Notchbrook Rd. Go up about ½ mile. House is on the left. There is a (fake) bear stand-up at driveway. House is large grey contemporary. Sign at driveway says "Gallagher".

For the 1936 NotchBrook Rd. house, follow directions as above, but keep going on Notchbrook, and road turns into dirt road by bearing right. Keep going and road turns into a big circle to the left. House is around the bend 100 yards. Sign at driveway says "Gallagher"

Stowe is a 3.5 hour drive from Boston and 1.5 hour drive from Montreal.

For the Robinson Springs Rd. house, off Mountain Rd. you take a right after the “Arbor Inn” onto Edson Hill Rd (there’s an empty restaurant building there also). Keep following the road 2 miles or so. Then take a left on Sanborn Rd. Go 2 miles. It turns into Robinson Springs RD.

Our house # 1538 is on the right. (it’s the house after the Rooster sign named Levy) Cedar contemporary house. Enter house thru garage door on the right is usually best. Sign at foot of driveway says: “GALLAGHER”

Before You Depart:

1. Please start a load of sheets or towels if possible in both washing machines
2. It would help the maid if you stripped the beds and put soiled sheets in the hallway
3. Please fill and start the dishwasher (detergent under sinks)
4. Place the key back where you found it
5. Be sure you have all your personal belongings
6. A little gratuity for our house-keeper is appreciated...maybe 20-30 \$ or so.
7. Have a safe trip home
8. After you return home, email john and book your next vacation!

Best personal regards,

John F. Gallagher owner and bon vivant !

Please conserve electricity and water as both are precious in ski country. Shut off lights, etc when not in use.

Shut off the home theater projector by hitting the “off” button twice when not in use.

Our houses are in very quiet, luxury communities so please keep noise levels down at night, esp in summer months if you’re out by the pool or have windows open as sounds does carry in the mountains of Stowe Vermont.

