



Photos by Travis Hudgons

## Winter wonderland comes to Stone Mountain

By Gale Horton Gay

**S**creams and squeals of fear and delight are the new sounds coming from Stone Mountain Park's newest attraction.

Snow Mountain, the park's new winter-to-nearly spring attraction, is open, and it seems that adults are having as much fun as the children slipping, sliding and playing in the manmade snow.

The highlight of Snow Mountain is the 11-lane tube race area where large red, green or blue rubber tubes carry single or double racers down the snow-covered hill.

"I was laughing," said an exuberant **Joel Manby** after making a run. "I hit my butt hard. It was fast."

It's a curious sight—folks arriving at Stone Mountain Park in ski gear to take advantage of the equivalent of three football fields of manmade snow. Snow Mountain officially opened Dec. 31, and last Monday was "Media Night," when media representatives were invited to inspect and experience the park on a day when the temperature was in the mid-60s.

**Alex Walker** of Douglasville, who was keeping an eye on his 18-month-old daughter **Sage** who was

toddling around in an area reserved for little tykes called Snow Valley, said he was impressed with the venue.

"I didn't think it being this warm they would have such success with snow, but the experience and the way it's run here it's really superb," said Walker.

Stone Mountain Park's snow making equipment is not dependent on cold weather and draws water from the park's lake, filtrates it before freezing it into manmade snow.

In addition to tube racing and the children's play area, Snow Mountain also features:

- An area for throwing snowballs at targets
- Fire pits where guests can warm themselves and purchase make-your-own graham cracker-chocolate-marshmallow treat s'mores
- A moving sidewalk that carries tube racers from the bottom of the hill to the top
- Places for those who want to sit and watch the action

Cost for this winter activity is \$25 for a two-hour session. Snow Mountain will be open until March 1.

For more information, visit [www.stonemountainpark.com](http://www.stonemountainpark.com).



Is that a snowman Amaia Henley, 6, of Kennesaw is working on in Snow Valley at Snow Mountain?



John Robert Aldridge, 7, of Alpharetta flies down the snow-covered great lawn at Stone Mountain Park's Snow Mountain.



Sage Walker, 18 months old, gets her "snow legs" in the little tykes Snow Valley area at Snow Mountain.