

Carving contest of a different kind at Northstar

Snow is for skiing, snowboarding and snowball fights, among other things. One of the most creative uses for the white stuff will be showcased Feb. 8-12 at Northstar ski resort, at the inaugural Carve Tahoe competition. It's free to spectators.

At the snow-sculpture contest, expert snow-carvers from more than 20 countries will shape 20-ton blocks of snow into imaginative figures.

On Feb. 13, judges will decide which entries are the best. The sculptures will be on display "until the sun melts them away."

While you're there, take a free spin on Northstar's ice-skating rink, which will operate into April (skate rental is \$10).

To learn more about Carve Tahoe, go online.

– *Sacramento Bee*