New Mexico Skies [(505-687-2429, Lat. 32° 54' 14" Long. 105° 31' 44")] is located off Highway 82, 31.6 miles east of Alamogordo (driving time about 40 minutes). Coming from Cloudcroft (Mile 16), you will see a Restaurant/Cafe and roadside store on the left (north) side of the road, just before Mile Marker 31. The turn-off to New Mexico Skies is on the right, .9 mile past the restaurant. There is a 3"x3" white sign for Mt. Joy Estates at the turn-off (Happy Lane). Follow the dirt road (Happy Lane becomes Joy Road, hand-lettered signs from now on), good road, but please respect the 15 mph speed limit, all the way to the top of the ridge (1.5 miles) and turn right (onto Serenity Street, but no sign here). Follow the main road around (it becomes Contentment Crest) and come to the large red-roofed lodge building that you see from the road. The Office is on the upper level of the building--beyond the first left turn-off. Ring the doorbell if no one is in the office, but please not before 11 AM.
**From Las Cruces:** take Highway 70 to the north side of Alamogordo (about one hour) and pick up Highway 82 to the east.

**From Albuquerque:** take I-25 to the south, Highway 380 to the east, Highway 54 to the south, and then pick up Highway 82 to the east. It is about a four hour drive to Alamogordo (5 1/2 hours from Santa Fe).

**From the El Paso International Airport:** take Airport Ave. (toward Ft. Bliss and Biggs Army Airfield) which turns into Fred Wilson Ave., to Highway 54 north toward Alamogordo and White Sands Missile Range (about 1 1/2 hours to Alamogordo).

**From the east:** pick up Highway 82 east of Artesia (Highway 82 through Hobbs is one good way to cross the Texas border). The turn-off (south, left turn) to New Mexico Skies will be .4 mile past Mile Marker 32, west of Mayhill. This route saves more than three hours over going to El Paso.

**Groceries:** Alamogordo (south of the Highway 82 turn-off to Cloudcroft) has, starting from the south end of town: a Super Wal-Mart near Highway 54 (White Sands Blvd) on First Street, an Albertson's supermarket on White Sands Blvd at Tenth Street, and a Van Winkle's IGA east on Tenth street. In Cloudcroft you will find the Mountain Top Mercantile (general store with a great bakery) and an Allsups (convenience store) on Highway 82 as you pass through the village. If you are coming from the east, Artesia is the last place to get groceries other than at local convenience stores, before you get to the turn-off to New Mexico Skies. And coming from the north, Ruidoso has a Super Wal-Mart and a Furr's supermarket, both on Highway 70.