

Like Early Alpine Skiing

By DAVID McCARTY

GREENCASTLE, Ind. — Visiting Pleasant Run at Greencastle is like skiing through a time warp into the early days of Alpine skiing.

Unlike the four other ski resorts in this area, Pleasant Run has no chairlifts, poma lifts or other modern conveyances. Four rope tows drag skiers up the 135 foot vertical elevation in much the same manner as the pioneering American ski resorts of New England in the 1930s.

But just because there's nothing fancy about Pleasant Run doesn't mean there isn't good skiing here.

Skier's Edge visited this small resort, located two miles north of Greencastle on Ind. 231, on a Saturday afternoon when skies were clear and temperatures were in the mid-30s.

It should have been the resort's most crowded time, but there were less than 50 skiers on the hill. There never was a lifeline. One could ski to the bottom, grab the rope for a quick ride to the top and ski back down as long as his strength held out.

Need Strength

Strength is definitely a prerequisite for skiing Pleasant Run. Riding a rope tow up a gentle, short bunny hill is no problem, but riding one up a long, fairly steep ski hill over and over puts a strain on the arm and shoulder muscles that must be felt to be believed. By the day's end, one skier commented he felt as if his arms were an inch longer.

Rope tows also are notorious for chewing up expensive leather ski gloves. The ski shop sells hard leather glove protectors that are well worth the \$5.50 investment if one intends to ski here often.

But what Pleasant Run lacks in convenience, it makes up in the amount of skiing it provides. Because there was little or no lifeline, the skier could ski at his

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own pace. In four hours, a skier can complete about three times as much actual skiing here as in a full weekend day at Paoli or Nashville Alps with their half-hour lifelines.

Another advantage to the lack of lift facilities is the low price of a day's skiing here. Without the overhead of building expensive chairlifts, Pleasant Run can charge about half the major resorts fee for a day's skiing.

A day rope tow ticket on the weekends is only \$7 and during the week, it drops to \$5. Season passes are \$100.

Ski rental also is cheaper. Boots, skis and poles may be rented for \$7. Pleasant Run provides group and private instruction at rates much lower than the larger ski resorts. It also offers special group rates and discounts to college students.

The resort's terrain is similar to the small ski resorts in Northern Indiana like The Pines. Rather than develop Paoli-like trails, Pleasant Run has taken one hillside and prepared its entire surface for skiing, providing wide expanses of open terrain suited to skiers of all levels.

The run on the left as one faces the hill is the most challenging. It drops steeply from the top, levels off to a very flat section, and then drops off again less steeply.

The right-side area is wider and less steep, ideally suited to beginning and intermediate skiers. A small bunny hill area to the far left is reserved for neophyte skiers.

Pleasant Run is open from noon to 10:30 p.m. during the week and from 9:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. weekends. There also is a special night skiing session from 11:30 p.m. to 4 a.m. Saturday nights.

Pleasant Run is the closest downhill ski resort for Indianapolis-area skiers.

For more information and a complete snow condition report, call the resort at 1-653-5994.