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Midwest ski areas ready and waiting

"FLURRIES" is the official publication of **The Midwest Ski Areas Association.** With the Association's permission, we reprint from their latest issue news of some ski areas popular with Minnesotans.

Here's what's been happening at these ski areas:

. . . **BIG POWDERHORN MOUNTAIN**, in Bessemer, Michigan, has hired DAVE DELPIERE, formerly of Pine Knob Ski Area, to oversee the entire outside operations. Also new at Big Powderhorn is an additional snow groomer. The main chalet has undergone extensive remodeling . . . at **BLACKJACK SKI AREA**, also located in Bessemer, Michigan, they have completed the upper level of the main chalet, serving as both restaurant and bar. Over 100 sets of new rental equipment have been added, and additional snow grooming equipment has been purchased.

. . . The **WHITECAP MOUNTAINS** in Montreal, Wisconsin, have completed their new 4-Place Chairlift, which will service their new South Bowl Area . . . **INDIANHEAD MOUNTAIN** spent the majority of the summer refurbishing their existing lifts. GM Paul Karow reports a substantial increase in bookings, especially mid-week, for the coming season. Their target date for opening is the weekend prior to Thanksgiving.

. . . Earle Dickenson, owner / GM of **BUENA VISTA SKI AREA**, in Bemidji, Minnesota, reports increased rentals, chalet remodeling, and snowmobile updating. Completed during the end of the 1980 ski season was the new triple chairlift . . . The big news from **SUGAR HILLS SKI AREA** in Grand Rapids, Minnesota, is the purchase of **LUTSEN SKI AREA**, in Lutsen, Minnesota. Ski passes will be interchangable between the two resorts. 20 kilometers of cross-country trails have also been added to Sugar Hills. At Lutsen, the top priority has been the complete remodeling of the lifts . . . a new 4-place chairlift servicing the entire area is under construction at **QUADNA MOUNTAIN** in Hill City, Minnesota. New snowmaking equipment has been added. TOM PAGE, was named the Manager of both the ski resort and cross-country areas.

. . . In Park Rapids, **VAL CHATEL** has built a new rental shop and has added enough rental equipment to triple the size of last years' rental shop. GM, SCOTT PETERSON, has cut a new expert trail....**CHRISTIE MOUNTAIN**, in Bruce, Wisconsin, has promoted JERRY BRUEGGEN to co-manager of the area. He'll be working with PAT SORENSON. New rental equipment has also been added . . . A complete bar and liquor lounge has been added to **HARDSCRABBLE SKI AREA** in Rice Lake, Wisconsin. Also new is a complete cross-country ski shop and 14 additional miles of groomed and tracked X-C trails.

. . . A couple of southern Minnesota ski areas also had a busy summer. At **MT. KATO**, in Mankato, Minnesota, a new 4-place chairlift will serve 3 new trails on the back side . . . Mike Hoeft, Hill Manager at **MT. FRONTENAC**, in Frontenac, Minnesota says, "the chalet has gone through extensive remodeling, with the food service area being of top priority. More rentals, too."

. . . **WILD MOUNTAIN SKI AREA**, near Taylors Falls, Minnesota, has increased their already extensive snowmaking system by 33% and has purchased their seventh snow grooming vehicle. Also of interest is a new "Learn-To-Ski-Anytime" Package. Included in this is a beginner lesson, full rental equipment, and an all-day lift ticket on the teaching slope . . . A new slope maintenance vehicle was also added to **POWDERRIDGE SKI AREA**, in Kimball, Minnesota. GM Ron Greely reports they have built a new maintenance service area to house their snow grooming and snow making facilities . . . **DETROIT MOUNTAIN SKI AREA**, In Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, has added a new expert run and increased their rental shop sizeably . . . **EAGLE MOUNTAIN**, in Grey Eagle, Minnesota reports that energy saving devices were on the priority list this summer, which includes new heating in the Main Chalet. Snow Tubing and 10 Kilometers of cross country ski trails are also available to the winter sports enthusiasts.

. . . Around the Twin Cities, **AFTON ALPS**, in Hastings, Minnesota, has spent most of the summer updating their 18 chairlifts. Additional lighting, snowmaking, and snow grooming equipment also was added. For a pretty Sunday drive, visit Afton Alps anytime. And don't forget, Mt. Kato and Afton Alps season passes are interchangable . . . At **BUCK HILL SKI AREA, IN** Burnsville, Minnesota, a new $60,000.00 Sno-Cat hi-lites their improvements. Their snowmaking system has also been expanded. October 11th is the date for their annual ski-swap. Season Passes at Buck Hill / Powder Ridge are also interchangable.

. . . On December 13, their 33rd Anniversary, **MT. TELEMARK**, Cable Wisconsin, Will officially open their $3,000,000 Sports and Convention Center, adjacent to the Telemark Lodge. This building will house four indoor tennis courts, ski shop, ski school, cafeteria and bar. The top American and Canadian Cross Country Skiers will be on hand for the Annual Gitchi-Gami Games. Dec. 15 to 18th. Thanksgiving is the target date for the downhill ski area to open . . . At **SPIRIT MOUNTAIN** in Duluth, Minnesota GM Bruce Simons reports the addition of two snow grooming vehicles, more lighting to the 4 expert runs, additional snowmaking and expanded chalet space.

. . . New **WELCH VILLAGE** General Manager Dick Lempke indicates that the snowmaking system has been increased by over 50%, after pumping $100,000-plus dollars into that system. Three new expert trails have been added to the East Side, along with new lighting on the front main slopes.

. . . Planned improvements for **PORT MOUNTAIN SKI AREA, IN** Bayfield, Wisconsin, include completion of 15 miles of cross country ski trails . . . Jim Horton, PR Director at **TROLLHAUGEN SKI AREA**, in Dresser, Wisconsin reports three new expert runs have been added. Two of the more popular existing runs have been recontoured, the snowmaking capacity has been increased, and 200 sets of rental equipment have been added. We will see lots of warm smiles at Trollhaugen during their 30th season . . . at **BIRCH PARK / SNOWCREST SKI AREAS**, near Somerset, Wisconsin, GM Roger Lecy has kept his crews quite busy. A new snowmaking system has been added, giving Snowcrest 4 times the present snowmaking capacity. The chalet has undergone a new look and the rental shop has been converted to the Spademan system. At Birch Park, general refurbishing of their existing facilities was on the priority list.

. . . **COFFEE MILL SKI AREA**, near Wabasha, Minnesota, on the scenic Mississippi River Valley, reports additional snowmaking with extensive modifications to their existing racing and expert ski slopes . . . GM Gary Engensen, **HYLAND HILLS SKI AREA**, in Bloomington, Minnesota, reports a new diesel-powered snow grooming vehicle has been added to their fleet, and additional snowmaking machines have been purchased . . . Our MSAA Member across the border, **LOCH LOMOND SKI AREA**, in Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, has spent a good part of the summer remodeling the large main chalet, with the emphasis on the two liquor lounges. Snow making and snow grooming equipment have also been added. Ward Bond, Owner / GM also makes note that a shuttle service to the ski area is available at all of the major Thunder Bay Area Motels.

Mid American Ski Guide

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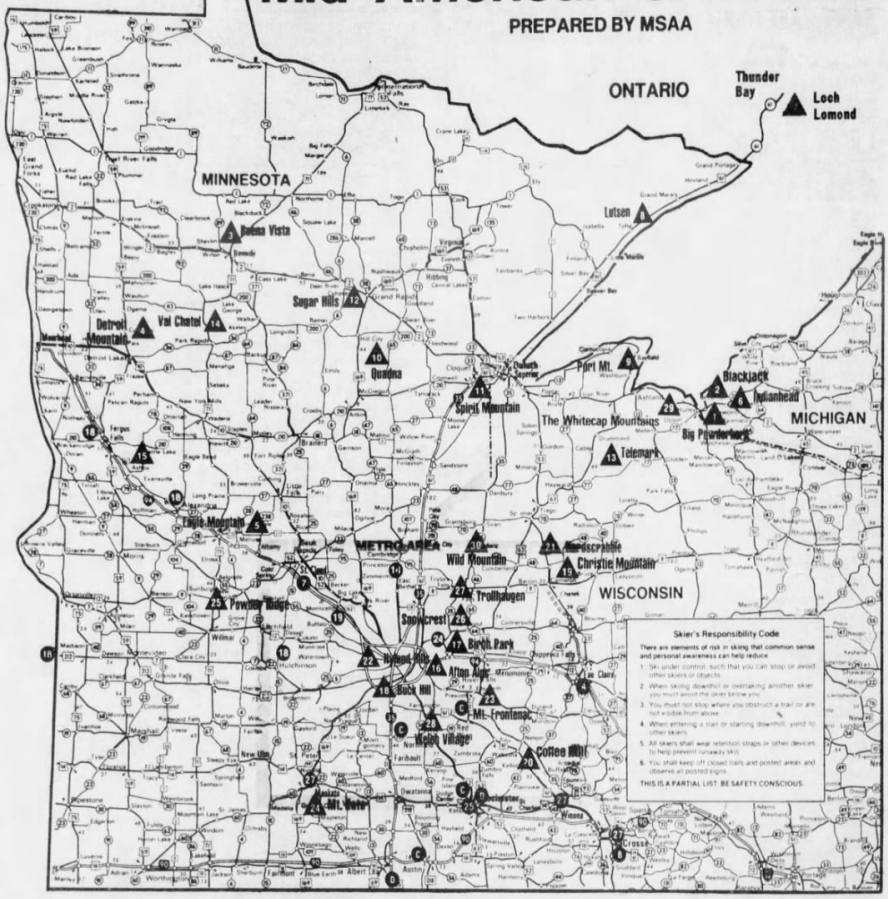

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