



One of the ski areas which is within driving distance for a day of skiing is Chestnut Mountain Resort near Galena, Ill. This view overlooks the three-chair lift.

For a plum satisfied day of skiing

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Plumtree Ski area near Lanark, Ill., is one of the places to ski which is closest to the Quad-Cities. But even at ski resorts there are other things to do besides ski, and an accompanying list illustrates the decided variety and availability of nearby winter activities.

By Beverly Van Hook
of the Times

Quad-City people who have decided this is the year to start to commence to begin to take up skiing may

find their first step to the Rockies at The Plumtree Ski area near Lanark, Ill., an easy 90-minute drive from the Quad-Cities.

Why is Plumtree a beginning skier's dream?

Well, a couple of yards outside the equipment rental shop is the kind of longish, yet gentle slope beginners love plus a 29-member certified ski school staff. There are two snow machines (on two recent trips to the area, at least one of them was working full time), and two lifts, a 1,500-foot chair lift and 1,200-foot T-bar.

THE ROUGH hewn verticle-sided lodge has a dining room, dance floor, a massive stone fireplace and lots of two-story windows overlooking the slopes. It does not have overnight accommodations.

Downstairs, just a few callumps in ski boots from the bunny slope is the Barrel Lounge which offers chili, a selection of hot sandwiches and snacks and drinks ranging from soft drinks and hot chocolate to beer, wine and schnapps.

The center was built seven years ago and is owned by the 1,300-member Lake Carroll Property Owners association. The association has opened its lodge with its restaurant, downhill ski area, cross country trails (bad year for that, so far), outdoor tennis courts and swimming pool to the public. And many property owners donate their time to provide amenities, such as the Top of The Hill cocktail lounge, recently completed by volunteers.

ALL DAY skiing is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Always give a call first to be sure the lifts are operating.) And night skiing under the lights is from 5:30 to 10 p.m.

Lessons range from \$4 per hour for a member of a group to \$10 for a private lesson. There's also a special weekend beginner's package — lift ticket and all-day (five-hour) instruction for \$15. Register for that at the rental shop before 9:30 a.m.

Adult all-day lift tickets run \$8 and rental equipment (skis, boots, poles) is \$9 on weekdays and \$10 on weekends. Those 12 and under pay \$1 less.

You find Plumtree by taking Illinois 5 to Illinois 78 (Morrison exit), turn right on U.S. 52 at Mount Carroll to Lanark, turn left on 72 at the caution light in Lanark and follow the signs to the ski area. An alternate route from the Quad-Cities is to take Illinois 84 to Savanna, then U.S. 52 to Mount Carroll.



Snowmobiling will be the sport at the Green Lake Antique Snowmobile Enduro Challenge scheduled for Feb. 7-8 in Green Lake, Wis.

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