

THIS WEEK'S COVER STORY

Ski, sled or skate

Stories by Carl Damm • QUAD-CITY TIMES



Enjoy the winter fun right here in our own backyard



Midwest ski resorts have long played second fiddle to ski areas in the Rockies and Appalachians. "This isn't an 'Oh, I wish I could ski' kind of thing," says a representative of the industry. "It's always been a place where you can always get a lift, but the attraction is missing. Ski resorts are realizing the advantages of staying close to home. It's an increasingly cheaper here, slopes are less crowded and the hills, snow-covered landscape can be breathtaking. At several resorts near the Quad-Cities, an 11-hour day of skiing now includes an lift as well, which includes lift tickets, ski, boots and bindings—all you need. A 1990 season week in Columbia, and the same one-day package will be \$20 to \$300. Prices in travel time and

rent, accommodation and food (over 3000 to stay in here that days to make it into the mountains, and you'll spend \$1,000 to \$2,000. "I'm in the ski or lift or ski, you can always get your technique and physical condition maintained at Midwest ski areas. "Skiing is what you make of it. You can have as much fun in the Midwest without spending a lot of money," said Joe Washburn, president of Chautauque Mountain Ski Corp., Galena, Ill. "Before that anyone in the ski industry, before anyone in Chautauque Mountain can tell, he will be an administrator for 14 years for Chautauque Ski Resort, a trail in Dubuque, Iowa, across the Mississippi River. Chautauque and Chautauque resort about four miles from Iowa, Chicago, St. Louis, and Springfield, Ill., with 1700 acres of ski area. "Skiing is what you make of it. You can have as much fun in the Midwest without spending a lot of money," said Joe Washburn, president of Chautauque Mountain Ski Corp., Galena, Ill. "Before that anyone in the ski industry, before anyone in Chautauque Mountain can tell, he will be an administrator for 14 years for Chautauque Ski Resort, a trail in Dubuque, Iowa, across the Mississippi River.

Here are some spots to take it all in

- **Scott County Park, Leas Grove, Wis.** Warming house open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.
- **High Point Park, Clinton, Iowa.** Three groomed trails of varying difficulty overlooking the Mississippi River. Open from dawn to dusk.
- **Mississippi Palisades Park, Nevada, Ill.**
- **Cross Valley Sports Complex, Moline, Ill.**
- **Hawick Forest Preserve, Havana, Ill.**
- **Duck Creek Golf Course, Davenport.** Permanent markers for those trails will be installed in January.
- **Black Hawk State Park, Rock Island, Iowa.** Call ahead at 797-0758.
- **Palmer Hills Golf Course, Bettendorf.**
- **Scott County Park, Leas Grove, Wis.**
- **Eastern Twp., Eastern Avenue and 21st Street, Davenport.**
- **Middle Park, Leas Grove, Bettendorf.**
- **North Park, adjacent to Paul Norton School, Bettendorf.**
- **Scott County Park, Leas Grove, Wis.**
- **Ericksen Community Center in Iowa, Clinton, Iowa.**

Ski resorts near Q-C

Here are thumbnail sketches of nearby ski resorts.


- **Chautauque Mountain, Galena, Ill.** Spent \$1.2 million this year on improvements, including a \$400,000 chair lift (waiting for four skiers, more snow-making and grooming machinery, and hotel and lobby remodeling. Open in 1988. Skiable runs include: Maximum length, one-half mile. Vertical drop, 275 feet. Two chair lifts. Adult one-day lift ticket is \$15 on weekends and holidays, \$11 Mondays through Fridays. Equipment rental for adults is \$15 on weekends, \$11 Mondays through Fridays. Night skiing (lighted), from 6:30 to 10 p.m. is \$13 for lift ticket and \$11 for rental. Open 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Phone (815) 777-2220.
- **Sundown Ski Resort, Dubuque, Iowa** Connected both beginners areas to form one large area with two runs and adding parking spaces. Opened in 1973. Vertical drop, 275 feet. One chair lift. Skiable runs include: Maximum length, one-half mile. Vertical drop, 275 feet. Two chair lifts. Adult one-day lift ticket is \$15 on weekends and holidays, \$11 Mondays through Fridays. Equipment rental for adults is \$15 on weekends, \$11 Mondays through Fridays. Night skiing (lighted), from 6:30 to 10 p.m. is \$13 for lift ticket and \$11 for rental. Open 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Phone 1-800-357-6676 or 319-524-6757.
- **Snowstar Ski Area, Anthonia** Weather permitting, will open two new runs (advanced and intermediate) in January. Additional snowmaking equipment this year. Opened in 1985. Vertical drop, 228 feet. Two chair lifts. Skiable runs include: Maximum length, one-half mile. Vertical drop, 228 feet. Two chair lifts. Adult one-day lift ticket is \$14 on weekends and holidays, \$11 Mondays through Fridays. Rental is \$12. Night skiing (lighted), from 6:30 to 10 p.m. is \$13 for lift ticket, \$11 for rental. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Phone 738-2696.
- **Mount La Crosse, La Crosse, Wis.** Skiable runs include: Maximum length, 1,200 feet. One chair lift. Vertical drop, 125 feet. Three chair lifts. Adult one-day lift ticket is \$20 on weekends and holidays, \$11 Mondays through Fridays. Two-day lift ticket (Saturday and Sunday) is \$27. Secret citizens, \$5. Rental is \$15 on weekends, \$11 weekdays, \$11 nights. Open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays. Phone (608) 738-0944.
- **Mount Camden, Camden Park, Milan** One 300-foot "bunny slope" for beginners and a warming house with fireplace. The hill is divided into skiing and sledding areas. Opened in 1978. Cost is \$2.50 for rope tow, \$10 for rope tow and rental. Phone 77-5533.

Jan. 8: 'Let's Go Ski America'

If you've never skied, mark Jan. 8 as your introduction. That's the day of the second annual national "Let's Go Ski America." The day is for fun as participating ski resorts. The one-day deal kicks off a month of activities to get Americans to take to the slopes. For more information, call 1-800-888-6754.

The latest: Snowboarding is catching on

Snowboarding, a cross between downhill skiing, surfing and skateboarding, is catching on fast in the Quad-Cities. The Midwest's first snowboard competition will be Jan. 21 at Davenport Ski Area in Anthonia. The event will be cosponsored by Chautauque Ski & Palisades, Davenport. Chautauque, which makes snowboards manufactured by Burton, the company that originated the device, will about six of the boards last winter manager Tom Hoverson said. This year he will be expected to sell 20 boards to the area. Last year, snowboarders were made of recycled fiberglass, wood and metal. But the boards are wider—they can be up to 12 inches across—and about four feet in length. The day's feet are strapped into buckles on the back, and it's off to "surf" the slopes. "It's easier for skateboarders. At first when skiers try it, it usually puts their ego in place," he said. Snowboards cost about \$70.



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