

New ski areas bring local fun

By RAMSEY HARIK
Bloomington South

Ski resorts are popping up all over Indiana this year; and now there are two complete resorts in Brown County, each within 15 miles of Bloomington.

The resorts, Long Mountain and Nashville Alps, are but two of the numerous ski areas Indiana now offers. Others are Paoli Peaks in Paoli, Pleasant Run in Greencastle, and The Pines in Valparaiso.

Both Long Mountain and Nashville Alps feature complete lighting for night skiing and snow-making equipment capable of blanketing all slopes with man-made snow.

Long Mountain

Long Mountain, one mile west of Nashville right off Ind. 46 offers "the best place to come if you're a beginner or intermediate, in the state of Indiana," says representative Terri Stine.

Long Mountain boasts two intermediate slopes (one straight and one with moguls), a novice slope, and a ski school hill. The longest run measures about 1000 feet with a vertical drop of 100 feet.

IN THE WAY OF SKI lifts, the resort utilizes a quad chair lift for the two large slopes and rope tows for the novice area. All-in-all, the four slopes can handle about 3200 people an hour with a minimum of waiting.

The resort is a compact area, with all four slopes visible from the 40x80-ft. lodge.

The Long Mountain lodge has a restaurant with 150 seats, serving basic fast-food type meals. The Ski-a-Long ski shop offers a few skiing necessities, along with complete ski rental equipment for 1000 skiers.

The rental skis are new wood and fiberglass Elan and Swallow, with Technica boots and Tyrolia safety bindings.

A SQUAD OF instructors will be working at Long Mountain. The resort's learning area was very carefully designed and built a and has a "perfect slope," said Stine. Group and private lessons are offered.

In addition to the instructors, Long Mountain will have on hand an all-volunteer scout patrol; and there is an emergency medical unit nearby in Nashville.

Rates for Long Mountain vary from \$6 to \$8, and ski rentals are also \$6-\$8, depending on the time of week. Group rates for 15 or more people are available except on weekends. Hours are 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and 5-10:30 p.m. every day.

There is plenty of room for expansion at Long Mountain. If a great demand for a higher slope arises, the management has an

area already picked out and ready for construction.

LONG MOUNTAIN is ready to open "as soon as it's cold enough," said Stine. Optimum temperatures for snowmaking are 18-28 degrees.

Nashville Alps

Nashville Alps boasts the tallest hill in Indiana and bigger slopes than 90 percent of those in Michigan, pitched representative Pam Tyskiewicz.

Four miles west of Nashville, the Alps sport seven slopes — three intermediate, two advanced, and two novice. The longest run is about 2100 feet.

"WE CAN HANDLE just about anybody,"

says Tyskiewicz. There will be 40 instructors available for lessons at any level. The novice skiers' and "bunny" learners' slopes are separated from the other slopes, thereby eliminating interference with other skiers.

The intermediate area has a quad chairlift, while the advanced area has a triple lift and the beginning slopes have two rope tows. These lifts can accommodate a total of about 4200 people an hour.

One special feature at Nashville Alps is a 4.8-acre lake dug adjacent to the slopes. This lake holds more than enough water to keep the slopes covered with man-made snow even if the winter brings with it no snow at all.

The Nashville Alps lodge will have hand-crafted all-wood Nashville furnishings and will feature a gourmet cafeteria-style restaurant with a variety of specially prepared foods.

"THE PRO SHOP IS probably the best in the state. It will have just about everything a person could want," boasts Tyskiewicz. Twelve hundred pairs of new Elan skis and Technica boots are also available for rent.

A 60-man volunteer ski patrol will be on hand at Nashville Alps to provide assistance or first-aid to skiers.

Rates at Nashville Alps will range from \$6 on weeknights to a high of \$12 on weekend days. Rentals will be \$8-\$9. Hours are weekdays 8 a.m.-10:30 p.m. and weekends 8 a.m.-midnight. Group rates will be \$2 off everything for groups of 25 or more.

The Nashville Alps management has definite plans for building an Alpine slide in the spring and hopes to construct other facilities such as a water slide and grass skiing to make it a year-round recreational area.



Photo by Seth Pizzo

NASHVILLE — Snow Bunnies are holding on to their hats in anticipation of snow to cover the slopes of Long Mountain and Nashville Alps (above). Although both of the new Brown County resorts have snow

machines, the weather must be colder than recent temperatures. With the warm weather and lack of snow the resorts have only been open on a day-by-day basis.