

Ski areas gear for business

Ski areas catering to northwest Wisconsin residents are busy these days, even though the season is still months away.

Operators are gearing up for the expected surge in cross-country skiing activity as well as the annual influx of downhill enthusiasts.

A number of operations have expanded their facilities and have planned new skiing programs. Rates are going up at some areas, while others have decided to hold steady.

Right now, several are talking about an early November opening and plan to use snow-making machines to meet those predictions. Others indicate they'll open later in the season, with one area operator holding off until after the holidays.

There are at least a dozen ski areas close to the Eau Claire area (see map), and state-wide 62.

In addition to offering downhill skiing, many ski areas have responded to the growing popularity of cross-country skiing by either building new trails or expanding existing ones.

In addition to private operations, a cross-country skiing opportunities exist in a number of state parks and county forests.

The Wisconsin Department of Business Development publishes perhaps the most accurate and up-to-date information on skiing facilities around the state in a foldout brochure, "Wisconsin Skiing."

Copies are available at Department of Natural Resources field offices and by writing to the Department of Business Development, P.O. Box 7606, Madison, WI., 53707.

Here's a summary of new facilities, programs, rates and hours of operations at a few of the area ski hills surveyed by this newspaper:

MT. TELEMAR — 3 mi. east of Cable in Bayfield County; 3 T-bars, 10 rope tows, 3 chair lifts; 10 runs, the longest 2,600 feet; 30 miles of cross-country skiing on nine trails; rentals, instruction, lodging, food, equipment sales; a 33-mile Birkebeiner trail to Hayward; Telemark Academy for Nordic Skiing; Group weekend, transient mid-week, birkebeiner, president's weekend and daily rate packages. 1-715-798-3811 for more information.

HARDSCRABBLE — 5 mi. east of Rice Lake on CTH C in Barron County; 7 rope tows, 8 chair lifts; 10 runs, with the longest 3,010 feet; 10 miles of cross-country skiing on gentle wooded, rolling trails; rentals, food; open Wed., Fri., Sat. Sun. and holidays, rates: \$7 for adults, \$6 for juniors, \$5 for age and under, \$4 at the gate and half price on rentals on Wednesday and Fridays, group rates available for 20 or more persons. 715-234-3412.

BRUCE MOUND — 11 mi. north of Black River Falls or 15 mi. southwest of Neillsville on STH 95 in Clark County; 2 T-bars, 2-rope tows; 7 runs, with the longest 2,500 feet; rentals, instructions; open weekends 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Christmas holiday Dec. 20 to Jan. 1, rates: \$4 for adults, \$3 for students and \$1 for children under age 12. 715-743-2490.

TROLLHAUGEN — 1/2 mi. east of Dresser on CTH F in Polk County; 3 T-bars, 9 rope tows, 2 chair lifts; 13 runs, with the longest 2,640 feet; rentals, instruction, chalet; 3 miles of cross-country skiing trails; open daily from Nov. 15 through 10 p.m., rates: \$8.50 for adults, \$7.50 for juniors and \$6.50 for under 12 on weekends with night skiing 4:30 to 10 p.m. on weekdays costing \$4, plus group rates available. 715-755-2955.

CHRISTIE MOUNTAIN — Bruce in Rusk County on CTH O; doubles chair lifts, rentals, food; open

Wednesday through Sunday, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekends, 10:30 to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays and 4:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. for night skiing; rates: on weekends, adults \$7, juniors \$6, ages 6-11 \$5 and children under 6 free, during weeks, adults \$5, juniors \$4, ages 6-11 \$3 and night skiing, adults \$4, \$3 for ages 18 and under; group rates and season passes available. 715-868-7800.

DEEPWOOD — 9 mi. northwest of Colfax on CTH N in Dunn County; 2 T-bars and 8 rope tows; 16 runs, with the longest 3,200 feet; rentals, instruction, cross country skiing; open Saturdays and Sundays after Christmas holidays 9 a.m. to sunset, rates: adults \$6.50, juniors \$5.50 and age 12 and under \$4. 715-658-1394.

SNOWCREST — 4 mi. south of Somerset on STH 64 in St. Croix County; 1 T-bar, 7 rope tows and 2 chair lifts; 17 runs, with the longest 4,200 feet; 15 miles of cross-country skiing on 5 trails; rentals, instructions, food, night lighting, track setting and trail grooming; open daily till 11 p.m., rates: weekend all day ticket, adults \$8, juniors \$6.50, under age 12 \$5, 6 and under free anytime, on weekdays, adults \$6, juniors \$5.50 and under 12 \$4, night rates, after 5 p.m., adults \$4.75, juniors \$4.45 and under 12 \$4. Group rates available. 715-247-3852.

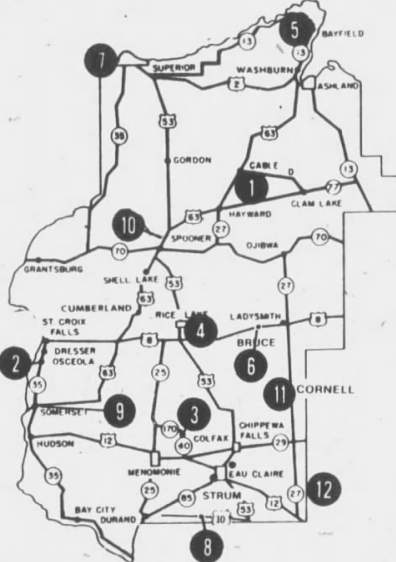
SPIRIT MOUNTAIN — Duluth, Minn., open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily, downhill skiing, cross country skiing on 12 miles of trails, rentals, food, rates: adults 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 1 to 5 p.m. and 6-10 p.m., \$5.50, midday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. \$3.50 — juniors \$5 and \$6.50, under age 12 \$3.50 and \$5. 218-628-2891.

Snow trails book available Oct. 5

Wisconsin Indian Head Country's newly designed 1978 Snow Trails book will be available to snowmobilers and cross-country skiers Oct. 5.

The 32-page book describes snowmobiling and skiing opportunities in the 18 northwest Wisconsin counties forming Wisconsin Indian Head Country.

The publication can be obtained at the Leader-Telegram's office, 3015 E. Clairemont Ave. Sept. 13, in Eau Claire, telephone 834-2781.



- 1 — Mt. Telemark Ski Area, Cable
- 2 — Trollhaugen Ski Area, Dresser
- 3 — Deepwood Ski Area, Colfax
- 4 — Hardscrabble Ski Area, Rice Lake
- 5 — Port Mountain Ski Area, Bayfield
- 6 — Christie Mountain, Bruce
- 7 — Spirit Mountain, Duluth, Minn.
- 8 — Viking Skyline, Strum
- 9 — Snow Crest, Somerset
- 10 — Nest of Eagles, Spooner
- 11 — Baldy Mountain, Cornell
- 12 — Bruce Mound, Neillsville

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