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New Hill Opens; Others Make Improvements

Fox Cities Area Slopes Are Ready

Skiers in the Fox Cities area this season will find some exotic new trappings at ski areas within a few minutes drive from their homes.

Take the new A-frame chalet at an area called "The Pink Panther," for example. Or the new chairlift at another nearby hill. Or new snowmaking equipment.

Believe it or not, The Pink Panther is the name of a hill easily within 30 minutes drive from the Fox Cities. And the Pink Panther himself, adorned in ski attire, welcomes you as you drive in.

The new area, located three and a half miles south of De-Pere along State 32 boasts a cozy A-frame chalet and snowmaking equipment.

Night Skiing

The hill is located on a ledge overlooking the Green Bay area, a situation that lends special excitement for night skiers. The hill is lighted for night skiing on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights from 7 to 10 p.m.

On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, the hill will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Two De Pere brothers, Don and Roy Cain, began working on the area four years ago, and the results of their efforts are beginning to show. There are two separate hills with two rope tows. Slopes are groomed throughout the year with Sno-Cat equipment.

Free instructions are offered for women every Tuesday afternoon.

Future plans for the hill include a chairlift, a larger chalet, dining facilities and a lighted skating rink.

Hidden Valley

The first chairlift in the Fox Cities area is ready to go now at Hidden Valley, located on U.S. 41 south of Denmark. The shortest route from the Fox Cities is along Outagamie County Trunk Z to U.S. 141, then south on 141 to the entrance road, a distance of about 40 miles.

The 1,000-foot long double chair is fast (rated capacity of 1,200 skiers per hour) and will service all slopes, including runs fitted to the abilities of beginners, intermediate and advanced skiers.

Hidden Valley, which has the most complete facilities in the area, has also expanded its snowmaking facilities and widened some of its slopes. There are now six open slopes. Snow grooming equipment is used intensively.

The area also has six rope tows, and a modern lodge with a beer stube in a fireplace setting. There also is a complete line of new and rental equipment.

Open at Night

The hill is open for night skiing on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. and during the day on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Certified ski instructors are on hand.

Calumet Hill has undergone a change in management this season. Calumet County will manage the hill, following the demise of the Fox Valley Ski Club which had previously operated it.

The county's plans for operation of the hill remain essentially unchanged. Four rope tows will operate on four open slopes. Rental equipment will be available at a warming house.

The hill will be open Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

After a slow season last year, when lack of snow plagued all area developments, Ski-View Ridge near New London has continued to make improvements.

Purchase Land

All tows have been rejuvenated and 15 acres of new land have been purchased for future lengthening of a major run and further contouring of the hill.

Basically a membership club, Ski-View was formed in 1956. It now has over 600 members. Skiers are allowed to ski without a membership for three days, then are asked to join.

Family memberships cost $40. Indivdiual memberships for youths are $12.50.

Though the hill could operate only seven days last year, season ticket sales have continued to increase this year, according to club officers.

The hill is open on weekends and at night when conditions permit. It consists basically of three separate runs served by a number of rope tows. The longest run measures 2,300 feet.

There Is No Snow Below the new double chair lift at Hidden Valley near Manitowoc, but the lift is operational and ready to go. Below the lift are the aluminum pipes of a newly expanded snowmaking system, awaiting consistently cold temperatures to begin operation. The chairlift, first in the immediate Fox Cities area, has a rated capacity of 1,200 skiers per hour and serves six slopes.

Improvement Listed

View Ridge Ready, All That's Needed Is Good Snowfall

BY ROGER PITT
Post-Crescent Staff Writer

NEW LONDON — Everything is set for the Dec. 28 opening of View Ridge Ski Hill — providing the unfriendly forces change and the slopes are blanketed with snow.

Winter has been unfriendly to Mo-Ski-Tow Hill, Inc., members who operate the hill. The skiers most desired item — snow — has been noticeably lacking since the View Ridge Slopes were opened in the early 1960's.

This condition which has prevailed through most of the skiing seasons has failed to dull the spirits of members. George Kubisiak, president, has traditionally stated, "We have the most skiable grass in the country" when queried about the lack of snow.

The faithful backing of members and unending hours spent shaping the facility into a skier's heaven will be appreciated once prayers are answered.

The most successful season, as far as skiing, was in 1966-67 when 'old man winter' cooperated with a feathery covering which blanketed the ground for most of the season.

Kubisiak said a fire which destroyed an old vacant house this fall was at Mosquito Hill and not at the View Ridge site.

He reported season tickets were coming in real good and that a nice gathering turned out for the annual pre-season kickoff Nov. 16.

The ever optimistic club president predicted, "a lot of snow and a good ski season."

List Improvements

Several improvements of the facilities at View Ridge Hill should make the 1968-69 skiing season more enjoyable. Projects include:

— Remodelling two main lines and installing new safety gates and shut-off systems on all tows.
— Construction of a new tow building and additional lights for night skiing.
— Improvement of the unloading area at the top of the hill.
— Modifying snow grooming equipment.
— Stained the outside of the main chalet and upholstered chalet benches.
— Built a 1,000 foot graveled road in the View Ridge sub-division.

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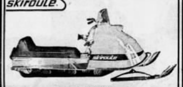
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