



new County ski hill is mostly 'family' project

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Skiing in Chippewa County has previously been limited to a few steep fields or to "Baldy Mountain" off County E near Cornell but work has been steadily progressing on a two-run ski hill just off new US 53 near New Auburn.

The project, the brain child of two Town of Auburn farmers who haven't put on their skis in years, has incorporated a lease of county land and has involved as many as nine people in investment of time, labor, cash and enthusiasm. While the project is sizable, the development is still primarily a family matter.

Wayne Pingle, who was on hand as the Chippewa County Board's Land, Forest and Parks Committee visited the project earlier this week, explained that the hill involves a vertical drop of 230 feet with runs up to 3,000 feet. A rope tow has been purchased from Telemark and will be installed sometime this winter.

Pingle noted that one of the runs should be ready for skiers this season but the chalet must be built and the other slope still needs work. What will probably be the main run has been cleared from the thick oak forest to a width of 100 feet but the developers plan to increase

this to 300 feet.

Wayne and his brother Orville own the land where the ski resort is being born. This week the field where skiers will probably park was being harvested. Wayne noted that the project has been a wintertime activity for the farming developers so it has moved slowly but deliberately.

Clyde Allison, a neighbor and investor in the ski hill, noted that snow making equipment is still a ways off for their project, but indicated that as the facility grows, further improvements would be made.

The hill is about two miles off the US 53 interchange at New Auburn and can be seen from the four lane highway, however Wayne Pingle doesn't expect that their hill will cut into the crowds heading north to older ski areas but feels that the hill will provide challenges for skiers who are looking for a new hill to try out. Being as close to Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls skiers, the Pingles and their fellow investors could be pleasantly surprised by a steady clientele who appreciate not having to burn up a lot of fuel to pursue their favorite sport.

WAYNE PINGLE
(foreground) of Rural New Auburn, shows members of the County Board's Committee on Land, Forests and Parks where further development of his ski resort will be taking place. Committee members pictured are: Everett Duval (left) of Sampson; Harold Walters, Chairman, of Cornell; and Charles Naiberg, Cadott.

