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When Snows Pile Up, Wisconsin Awaits Skiers

Six New Areas Will Welcome Ski Fans

By George Bushnell Jr.

MADISON, Wis.—Six new ski areas as well as expanded facilities in many of the state's existing winter sports sites will greet outdoor fans who will start coming to Wisconsin steadily after mid-December.

Bushnell

During the summer most of the areas were busy adding ski runs, enlarging chalets, installing more tows or lifts, and expanding sports equipment to entice the estimated 500,000 visitors who will crowd the state's 52 winter resort areas. Week-long package rates are more attractive, as snow-bunny skiers realize that it takes a full five days of intensive instruction to get the knack of skiing.

Nor have the larger areas forgotten that all-important factor of apres-ski. Many chalets have enlarged food serving operations, added ski tog shops, and built added rooms with fireplaces and roomy seats. The comraderie of the ski crowd, beginner or expert, has revolutionized winter garb and added a new dimension in hospitality and friendliness.

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Wisconsin's winter sports season depends on temperatures and snowfall from year to year. Usually, skiing is good from about mid-December thru February and sometimes into March.

If you're looking for plenty of company, particularly over the Christmas and New Year's holiday season, you'll surely find it. The vacationing high school and college students pour in and lines are long at the tows and lifts. After the first week in January, the snow is often even better for skiing, and the vacationing students have returned to classes.

Wisconsin winter sports areas get top cooperation from the tourist-conscious state. Roads are kept free of snow and ice, even in the worst storm conditions, so skiers can drive in from surrounding states on the week-end most convenient for them.

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Even the most avid ski buff has to admit that skiing isn't the least expensive way to spend a week-end. But the package rates have become almost universal, and a typical five-day learn-to-ski week at a good resort is about $125, including lodging, lessons, tows, and breakfast and dinner. Lunch isn't included because it's usually a sandwich and mug of steaming coffee or cocoa.

Rental of ski equipment is advisable for the beginner, until he or she gets the feel of how to use skiis, poles, and boots. Again, rates vary, but are typically from about $6 to $9 per person daily.

Tows are another expense, and vary, too, the rope tow costing less than the T-bar or chair lift. But rates are competitive from area to area, so it's largely a matter of convenience or preference.

Six new ski areas are operating this season.

Hilly Haven, south of DePere, has four runs, a chalet, and a snack bar and observation room for nonskiers.

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Florence County Ski Hill, on highway 101 south of Florence, has a warming house, three rope tows, and a longest run of 1,300 feet. The Paul Bunyan hill is two miles north of Lakewood, and has a heated chalet serving refreshments, three rope tows, and four runs. Manitou valley, nine miles south of Superior on highway 35, offers six runs, four rope tows, a chalet and ice skating with snowmobile rides planned.

Timberline, two miles west of Arena on highway 14, has two runs, a T-bar lift and a 2,000 foot longest run.

Birch Park, two miles east of Houlton on county road E, has 10 runs from 900 to 1,700 feet long, a modern chalet and refreshments, six rope tows and T-bar lift and is open four nights each week.

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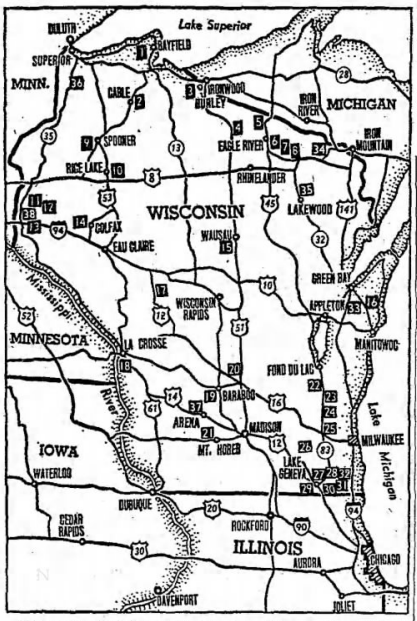
This year, 20 of the 52 ski areas are open daily thruout the season, and 25 use snow machines to give nature an assist.

Wilmot mountain [formerly Wilmot hills], a southeastern area popular with Chicagoland skiers, has added a third chair lift and is open daily and every evening. Little Switzerland, near Slinger, is open Wednesdays, and offers 15 ski runs.

Deepwood, near Colfax, has added a second T-bar lift. White Cap mountain, west of Hurley, is under new ownership, and has remodeled its chalet, added a trail, and plans overnight lodgings next season. A snowmobile ride is planned as an added activity at Manitou valley.

Rib mountain, one of the state's popular central area resorts, has increased its longest run to 3,880 feet. Skyline, just north of Friendship on highway 13, is now open daily.

The 1966-1967 Wisconsin ski brochure, listing and locating the ski areas and facilities is available from the Wisconsin Vacation center, Dept. C. T., 205 N. Michigan av., Chicago 60601. [Telephone 332-7275].



Wisconsin which boasts 49 ski areas, offers a wide variety of resorts. Among them are: 1, Mount Ashwabay; 2, Mount Telemark; 3, White Cap Mountain; 4, Mus-Ski; 5, King's Gateway; 6, Chanticleer; 7, Northernaire; 8, Sheltered Valley; 9, Lockhaven; 10, Hagen's Hardscrabble; 11, Trollhaugen; 12, Englewood; 13, Ski Mac Ski; 14, Deepwood; 15, Rib Mountain; 16, Hidden Valley; 17, Bruce Mound; 18, Mount La Crosse; 19, Birch Haven; 20, Cascade Mountain; 21, Norway Basin; 22, Wunderburg; 23, Slinger's Little Switzerland; 24, Maryhill; 25, Delafield; 26, Mount Fuji; 27, Indian Nob; 28, Holiday Hill; 29, Majestic Hills; 30, Wilmot Hills; 31, Spring Valley Winter Park; 32, Alpine Valley; 33, Hilly Haven; 34, Florence County; 35, Paul Bunyan; 36, Manitou Valley; 37, Timberline; and 38, Birch Park.

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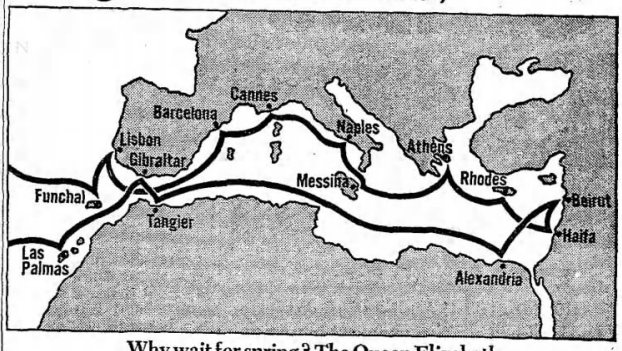

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