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Ski resorts in Illinois

Instead of driving to Wisconsin or Michigan, you can save gas money and ski at one of the eight ski resorts located in Illinois. Though the resorts mostly are geared to beginning and intermediate skiers, there are several resorts that have slopes to challenge the advanced skier. Instruction and ski rentals are available at all the resorts. The numbers on the map correspond to the numbers next to the ski areas, and mark the approximate location of the areas.

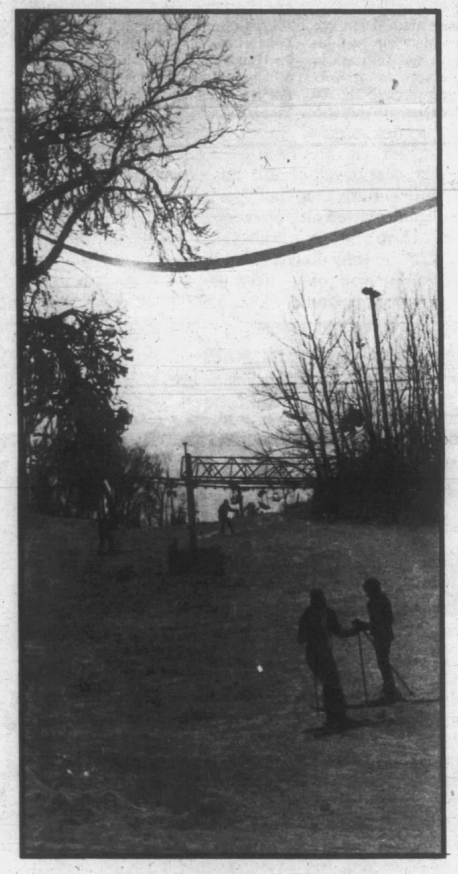
1. Buffalo Mountain Ski Area *Algonquin 312/426-7326 beginner to advanced open mid December through March,* open weekdays 2-10:30 p.m., weekends 9:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m. instruction, ski rentals, no lodging at base.

2. Chestnut Mountain Lodge *Galena 815/777-1320 beginner to advanced open December 15-March 15,* open daily 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., night skiing Tuesday-Saturday, 6-10 p.m. instruction, ski rentals, lodging near base.

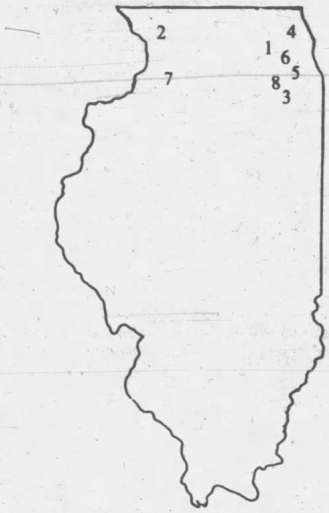
3. Four Lakes Ski Area *Lisle 319/964-2550 beginner-intermediate open mid December-March 1,* open weekdays noon to 10 p.m., weekends 9 a.m.-10 p.m. instruction, ski rentals, no lodging at base, motels nearby.

4. Holiday Park *Ingleside 312/546-8222 beginner-intermediate open December-March,* open weekdays 11 a.m.-11 p.m., weekdays and holidays 9 a.m.-11 p.m., instruction, ski rentals, no lodging at area, motels nearby.

5. James Park Winter Sports *Evanston 312/869-9449 beginner-intermediate open December 1-April 1* open weekdays 4 p.m.-10 p.m., weekends 10 a.m.-10 p.m., instruction, ski rentals, no lodging at area, hotels nearby.



6. Marriott's Lincolnshire Resort *Lincolnshire 312/634-0100 beginner open December 15-February 25,* open Wednesday-Friday 5-11 p.m., weekends 11 a.m.-11 p.m., instruction, ski rentals, lodging at area.



7. Plumtree Ski Area *Shannon 815/493-2881 beginner-advanced open December-March,* open weekdays noon-10 p.m., weekends 9 a.m.-10 p.m., instruction, ski rentals, lodging 7 miles from area.

8. Villa Olivia Ski Area *Bartlett 312/742-5200 beginner-intermediate open December 1-March 20,* open weekdays 11 a.m.-11 p.m., weekends and holidays 9 a.m.-11 p.m., instruction, ski rentals, no lodging at area, hotels nearby.

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