

Outdoors

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SUPER SPORTS

The Skier Will Find A Way

You Don't Have To Go To Colorado, Q-C Buffs

By Mike O'Donnell
of the Times

There was a wall poster circulating in Iowa just after the world's "ski laws" in granite type. The words were somewhat a picture of a skier in full dress standing in a crowd.

Skiing in Iowa — or Illinois for that matter — may sound to some like hanging out in Nebraska. But it can be done, hands-on, all over Illinois slopes every day.

Some Iowa trails are like Mount Duck in Bettendorf's Duck Creek Park — little more than a winding hike with a simple low rope arrangement. Others, like Sandstone near Dubuque, and Chestnut Mountain at Calmar, Ill., have several difficult slopes, chairlifts and lodges.

NEITHER IOWA nor Illinois has mountain resorts, but both states do have trails — from trails. The 14 ski trails of Sandstone, for instance, are located on a picturesque hillside above the Little Maquoketa River. The slope runs nearly three-quarters of a mile with a vertical drop of 400 feet.

Ski operators haven't exactly thought the mountain to mountain, but they've done the next best thing. It's not a ski lift thing, though. We're talking about downhill skiing — skiing where gravity does the work. It's sort of like falling down the stairs without all the pain and suffering.

There are those who think the only type of skiing suited for Iowa is cross-country skiing. It's true that there are ski paths along the ground with the idea of going from point A to point B.

Cross-country skiers look down their noses at downhill skiers much the same way jiggers look down their noses at beer drinkers. It's unfair, really, because downhill skiing is a fun and exhilarating sport.

IT ALSO takes a good degree of physical ability to ski downhill. Skiing all day is a tiring proposition, although "cross" skiers get in shape to go skiing while skiers can't go to sleep.

If downhill skiing were a track and field event, it would be the pole vault. Cross-country skiing would be the 100-meter race.

It isn't really that difficult to learn how to ski. If it were, all of those people wouldn't be doing it, and a lot of people are doing it these days. Most lodges offer lessons — Mount Duck Mountain and Chestnut Mountain are two.

Remember, they WANT you to know how to ski so that you will buy lift tickets. Hands-on, even offers a free lesson for first-time skiers when they rent equipment.

Which is why this article is about — skiing. Skiing isn't the cheapest hobby in the world, but a lot of people are doing these days who don't drive a Porsche or a Jaguar.

A MEASURE of how popular ski-ing is in the Quad-City area is the growth of ski clubs. There are now 10 ski clubs in the Quad-City area, up from about 100 members.

These skiers of East Moline is a typical midwestern skier. He works in a management-level job where he makes a good income, but he's no Bonaventure. He belongs to the Skier's Club and goes skiing whenever he can find time and can afford it.

"I got started about four years ago," Hesterman said. "I always wanted to try it, but I never had a chance until I tagged along. This was in Devil's Head near Jewett's Lake, Ill."

"Now I go to Colorado about once a year for a longer experience. Transportation — it costs a lot to go to Colorado, but it's worth it."

The reason Hesterman belongs to ski clubs is for the money-saving travel packages the clubs can offer. Most recently, his club sponsored a weekend trip to Vail, Colo., last fall.

"WE JUST got back. About 100 people went to two hotels. The first was \$18 for two days' lodging, lift tickets and water meals. Then, it was \$12 for two days' lodging, lift tickets and water meals. Most skiers, now people to work up to \$100."

When Hesterman goes to Colorado, he saves money by buying lift tickets for the whole week, and by going when the resort's snow is best.

"The beginner will need to rent equipment. Buying a lot of equipment to start with is not recommended because a person will not grow cheap equipment and wear it out. But if her money's worth out of it, she'll have it."

About \$10 is a standard rental fee for boots, poles and skis with an other \$10 for lift tickets. Hesterman said the cost isn't much more in Colorado than it is in Iowa for those items.

If you find yourself going to the water ski area a lot, several lift tickets are available at a substantial savings. There are also rental rates for skiers skiers.

When it comes time to buy equipment, there are other ways to save.

"I HAVE good equipment, which I bought of the Chicago ski show, so I got a quite a bit cheaper," Hesterman said. "Also, in another month or so, they're having big sales."

Other places to save on equipment include the mail, ski, ski and supermarket business boards.

It's best, however, if you take an evening to refraction of season length and bag limits for pheasant, quail and quail for next fall." Mosk added. "Hopefully, depending on the severity of the winter and the success of next spring's nesting seasons, we will see a lot of birds."

A NUDGE was used "Where Has The Wildfowl Gone?" is available for students to interested schools, organizations and groups, according to Glenn Harper, supervisor of the Illinois Department of Conservation's information and education division.

The "Bum-bum" show examines how man's influence has contributed to the growth of wildlife populations in Illinois. (Transcripts of the show are available by contacting any of the Department's five regional offices or the Chicago Information and Education Office.

When in doubt, sit down. This beginning skier practices this good advice with a "outback" (Times photo by Mickey O'Donnell).



"Hedger" skiing is one of the newest winter sports. It includes elements of ballet, gymnastics and figure skating. The skier practices a "outback" on the slopes of Sandstone ski area. The photo (Times photo) person skier who is on your first stepping trip. Clothes are something a budding skier should give thought to as well. Flow pants are fine for the first time out, but it doesn't take too many times in the wet snow before the value of warm, windproof ski clothes becomes evident. Spring skis are a good place to look for bargains if you don't mind buying a year behind the fashion scene.

Where To Go

Mount Duck, Duck Creek Park, Bettendorf. Season: Dec. 15-March 1. Slopes: one beginner, 1,200 feet. Lifts: one rope tow in operation 4 p.m. weekdays, at noon weekends and holidays. Operated by city parks department, individual lessons and equipment rental available.

Venezue, Memorial Hill, Dubuque. Season: Christmas to mid-March. Slopes: one beginner, one intermediate, longest 900 feet. Lifts: two rope tows in operation evenings only, Tuesday through Friday, afterwards only on weekends. Closed Monday. Operated by city parks department and South-Mid Club.

Sandstone, Adley Road, Dubuque. Season: Dec. 15-March 15. Slopes: 14 runs — 20 percent beginner, 30 percent intermediate, 10 percent expert. Longest is 1,000 feet. Lifts: four rope tows, two chair lifts.

Special features: Free beginner lessons with purchase of lift ticket and equipment rental. Lessons offered for groups and individuals, including holding and ballet skiing. Free lessons are available for the blind and for amputees. There is a nursery service, snack bar and lounge in the lodge with another lodge under construction.

Newly activities include: cross-country trails, cross-country remains, snowshoeing, sanding, rope skiing, and ice fishing. Sandstone offers many special rates for groups and also has package prices in conjunction with local hotels.

Chestnut Mountain Lodge, Calmar, Ill. Season: Dec. 15-March 15. Slopes: four beginner, seven intermediate, two expert. Longest only 1,200 feet. Lifts: seven rope tows, three chair lifts. In operation daily, times varying with the season.

Special features: accommodations for up to 400 guests in lodge and auxiliary rooms with cafeteria and dining room, indoor swimming pool, sauna, nearby cross-country trails. Individual and group lessons available. Equipment rental available.

Other features include: child care, annual ski carnival in January, governor's cup race in February, ski clinics in October. Live entertainment on weekends, package rates available.

Prairie, Skanska, Ill. Season: Nov. 10-March 1. Slopes: one beginner, one intermediate, one advanced intermediate. Lifts: one T-bar, one chair lift, in operation daily.

Special features: Individual and group lessons using Grillo ski, snowshoe, reduced rates for groups, large lounge area, snack bar, dining room, cross-country trails, cross-country trails, snowshoeing. Annual ski carnival in January, ski clinics in October. Live entertainment on weekends, package rates available.

Other areas, Iowa — Creston Hills, Creston; Fox Valley, Monticello; Holiday Mountain, Estherville; Hoyer's Bend, Hillcrest; Humber, Waterbury; Humber, Humber; North Star, Decatur; Hi Valley, Boone; Ski Villa, Waverly.

Other areas, Illinois — Four Lakes, Lake; Holiday Park, Ingomar; James Park, Evanston; Lake Valley, Spring Grove; Maroon's Lanes, Lanesboro; Vista Oaks, Bartlett.

Cross Country

Black Hawk State Park, Rock Island. 24 acres, warming house, locker, parking and one of the park's year-round lodge offered. Camping open to youth groups only.

Hennepin State Park, near Ottawa. 15 acres of open field, locker and parking facilities.

Johnston Park, Trenton. 100 acres, warming house, locker and parking facilities.

Julius College State Park, northwest of York. 33 miles, locker and parking.

White Pine State Park, near Mount Morris. 11 miles and 100 acres, camping, warming house, parking and locker.

Lake Le-Ago-Na State Park, Napoleon County. 4.5 miles of trails, warming house, concessions, ski rental and parking facilities.

Montpelier Palisades, Saxena. 3.7 miles and 600 open acres, camping, warming house, parking and toilet facilities.

Rock Lake Park, Rockford. 2.2 miles of trails and 1.000 open acres, camping, warming house, parking, concessions, ski rental (weekends only) and locker.

Argyle Lake State Park, McDonough County. 14 miles shared with McDonough, camping, locker and parking.

What To Read

61M: Graduated Length Method by Cliff Taylor, Truett Books, \$2.95 in paperback. A how-to book for beginners, with plenty of pictures.

The Complete Guide to Cross-Country Skiing and Telemark by Art Tabor and Martin Loring, Vintage, \$4.95 in paperback. Covers outfitting, equipment, techniques.

Skating Night by Joan-Claude Kelly with Mike Holstad, Doubleday, \$2.95 in paperback. French ski champ tells the in-between or expert skier how to do it.

The White Book of Ski Areas by Robert C. Ernst and John R. Ureman, Boreas, \$1.95 in paperback. Everything you could possibly want to know about where to ski is in this book.

Skiing in The Midwest by Patricia Hanks, Contemporary Books, \$7.95 in paperback. Interesting chapter about racers and snow reports.

Skiing The Best by Mike Jaffe and Dennis Kasper, Vintage, \$2.75 in paperback. Tells you where the big hills are and how to get there.

OUTDOOR BRIEFS

THE POOR results some Illinois hunters are experiencing are being blamed on a loss of habitat, not hunting pressure.

Many disappointed game hunters have returned from hunting excursions with an empty bag and complaining of a shortage of quail and quail. Many of the same hunters also have apparently commented that the Illinois Department of Conservation either limit or eliminate the support for some species.

The Department is not putting war with a move.

Although hunting popularity is blamed for low game population, the actual decrease in loss of suitable habitat, according to James Mosk, a DEC biologist. "Protective water cover, suitable nesting sites, available emergency food supplies and all of the other, necessary elements for the survival

of a species have rapidly been altered and changed."

The growth of agricultural practices as well as other developments have destroyed much of Illinois' wildlife habitat, Mosk added. The low populations are also blamed on two other sources.

Game counts by DEC biologists confirm that low populations of quail game species — quail, quail and pheasant — have been declining for several years. Pheasant populations in which was once considered their prime range, now are roughly 10 percent of what they once were, Mosk said.

The biologist involved does not indicate the population of pheasant, quail or quail have reached a point of no return, but that hunting no longer is justified.

"In effect, it is argued to the wisdom of the people, serious consideration is being