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Charm in the Small Ski Areas

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Skiers who gravitate to the big ski areas to the exclusion of the small ones are missing much of the charm, novelty and variety that the sport has to offer.

Kids, families and devotion to the simple business of skiing, without too many trimmings are characteristic of these smaller hideaways. If you're looking for a refreshing antidote to size and sophistication, it pays to get off the beaten track now and then.

Don't expect to find nothing but humpy-dumpy skiers on the little hills. Usually you'll find a few hot ones, locals or possibly a stranger or two responding to a private need to escape.

The scenery can have tremendous appeal, often for its cozy heart-warming seclusion.

One of the most picturesque of the smaller areas that I have seen, from any angle, is Cedar Hills, Riley Creek winds through its valley, and the whole place is intriguing with skiers winding around on it.

The owner, Russell H. Zakariassen, a successful nurseryman, former Hopkins councilman and current Hennepin County Park Reserve District commissioner, has some of his moneys workers, some of his children, and some extra help running the ski area and gives it some of his own time.

It seems that everyone involved in running a ski area has to keep moving. There is approximately a problem a minute. When I was there Russell and Ken Glock (co-manager of the area with Tony Westerman) were relocating and readjusting a Sugar Hills Super-Snowgum which was beginning to cover a long intermediate run across the creek from the chalet.

I found Kurt Thompson, a YMCA ski instructor from Robbinsdale, arriving for another in a long series of visits. He's been skiing Cedar Hills for four years.

Sue Peterson, 14, 5736 Sheridan Av. S., Sue Peterson, 14, 5824 Sheridan Av. S., and Lorie Ecklund, 14, 5941 Upton Av. S., were tackling the gentlest run by the



RUSSELL ZAKARIASSEN AND KEN GLOCK
There's 'a problem a minute' at Cedar Hills



chalet, and John Vanderlinden, 14, 3117 W. 86th St., Bloomington, was trying some quick turns.

The snow was fast, hard and smooth underneath with an inch or two of light stuff for cushioning. Everyone was having fun, and the kiddos and pop were going fast in the snug hilltop building, a chalet in winter and golf clubhouse in summer.

Russ had a self-operating Cedar Hills slide viewer going inside. "I like to show the summer scenes in winter and the winter scenes in summer," he said. Psychology, I guess.

You'll find the place by turning north on Eden Heights Road off of Hwy. 212 and 169 on the way to Shakopee.

Ski-Tonka, in its second year of operation, is proceeding sensibly and gradually to keep pace with its patronage. It has put the second floor of its chalet into use. The new level has a beautiful stone fireplace and wide outdoor balcony.

Ski-Tonka's outstanding feature is its width and potentially big capacity—12 ropes and eight runs, all wide and all open. Snowmaking will grow with the area. I found two runs well-covered and a third under the guns. This was adequate for the hundred or more present.

On the balcony I found Mike Newberg, 12, Mike Taylor, 14, and Mike's brother Danny, 10, all of Wildhurst, Excelsior.

Chris Regan, 12, his sister Mary, 14, and Meg Anderson, 14, all of Wayzata, skied down a slope near the snow guns.

On another run at the west end Mariye Om, 17, Mary Roush, 17, Pam Chapman, 12, and Sandy Hesselgrave, 13, all of Mound, surveyed the broad width of the area while they took a breather.

In the chalet ground floor office Manager Dick Primus and Budd Hagen, ski school director, filled me in on a truly ambitious after-school ski program, a Hagen transform. It starts Jan. 8 and runs through February.

They will run buses to 19 schools in five school systems (Mound, Wayzata, Orono, Wauwatosa, Delano). Each kid will get two hours of supervised skiing a week. Eight-week fee (transportation, instruction, lifts) \$23.90.

Ski-Tonka is found by going west on Hwy. 12 through Wayzata and Long Lake, turning south at the kennel on Stubbs Bay Road and turning right at the lakeshore. From Excelsior you can find it by turning north off Hwy. 7 onto County Road 19, going north to County Road 84 and there turning east.

Chatter: The cold wave has slowed down the skiers



GIRLS SKIED WHILE SNOW WAS MADE AT SKI-TONKA
Mag Anderson and Mary Regan, both of Wayzata, took to the slopes

but it's giving the snow-makers a chance to pour it on. Lee's Run and all the runs across the area through Yuhakken are going strong at Trollhaugen. The Poplar River at Lutsen has been crossed and George Nelson Jr. hopes to have far-side skiing on 1/2-mile Mystery Run this weekend. To the south Wedk has all runs in operation, and at Frontenac all runs are going on the south face and two on the north. Buck Hill has most of its runs thickly covered and starts its Wednesday Ladies' Days Jan. 10 with a fashion show. Night skiing began New Year's Eve at Ski-Tonka . . . Bob Goodrich is planning an invitational Gold Cup Race at Mount Frontenac for ski instructors from the various areas, 8 p.m. Feb. 10, plus a "best-fitting stretchpants" contest for girls . . . The judges' panel is filled.

WHAT'S UP? Saturday—Buddy Werner League Races, 2 p.m., Buck Hill. Star Silver Skates Derby (two days), Lake Nokomis Speedskate Track. Planetarium ("The Year 1968") 11 a.m., 2 and 3 p.m., Public Library.

Sunday—Films on Denmark and Hawaii, 3 p.m., American Swedish Institute. Gallery Tour (Medieval and Renaissance Paintings) 2:30 p.m., Minneapolis Institute of Arts. Discussion ("The Playboy Philosophy," Calvin Appleby, social science instructor) 7 p.m., The Cup, 1371 1st Av. S.

Monday—Weekly classes in boating seamanship begin, 7:30 p.m., Hopkins Senior High School, to run 13 weeks.

Tuesday—North Star Ski Touring Club films and slides on Norwegian ski touring, 8 p.m., St. Louis Park Community Center, 6212 W. Lake St., public invited. Lecture ("The Sculpture of Henry Moore," Sam Sachs II) 8 p.m., Minneapolis Institute of Arts.

Thursday—Snowmobile Winterama (4 days) opens, Lac du Flambeau, Wis.



SUE PETERSON AND LORIE ECKLUND
The girls got set for rumpus at Cedar Hills