

It's all downhill from here

By KATIE JOHNSON, For the Tribune

Winter. It's the season when every outdoorsman's fancy turns to skiing.

Even in North Dakota, there are plenty of places to cut a trail down a mountain, er, hill. Montana and South Dakota also have ski resorts within a North

Dakotan's reach.

NORTH DAKOTA

Watch for Mandan's Huff Hills, 15 miles south of Mandan just off Highway 1806. After opening, they plan to run Thursday and Friday from noon to 9 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Lift tickets will be \$14 per day, \$9 for ages 11 and under and \$12 for seniors. Weekday prices will be slightly lower. Rentals will be available.

Bottineau Winter Park, nine miles north and 1.5 miles west of Bottineau operates Thursday through Sunday. Weekend prices including rentals and lift tickets are \$21 for adults. Snowboard rentals are available. For information call 263-4556.

Frostfire Mountain sits six miles west of Walhalla on Pembina County highway 55. Lift tickets are \$20 for adults, \$18 for ages 13-17, and \$10 for ages 6-12. Rentals cost \$13 for juniors, \$9 for ages 6-12. Private and semi-private hour-long lessons are available on weekends. Beginning Dec. 19, Frostfire will expand from weekends-only to daily hours. They will be closed Christmas Day. Call 549-3600 for more information.

Lake Region Winter Sports Inc., located 10 miles south of Devils Lake operates on Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. Lift tickets are \$10 for adults, and \$6 for seniors and ages 12 and under. Rentals are available for \$10.

Lessons are not formal, but Dennis Olson, treasurer and slope manager says, "There's always somebody there willing to teach them how to use the ropes and handle the slopes."

For snow conditions, call 766-4035.



Skiers glide off one of the lifts at Terry Peak ski area near Lead, S.D.

By JEFF OLSON of the Tribune

Fort Ransom Ski Area near Lisbon is waiting for Mother Nature to snow. Resort hours will be Wednesdays from 4-10 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tow tickets are \$8 for adults, \$7 for ages 12-17 and \$3.50 for under 12. Rentals are available for \$7. Call 282-5733 for more information.

MONTANA AND SOUTH DAKOTA

Big Mountain at Whitefish, Mont., is open daily. Lift tickets are \$30 for adults, \$23 for ages 13-18; \$16 for ages 7-12. Lessons and

rentals are available. Call 1-800-858-5439 for ski and snow information.

Big Sky south of Bozeman, Mont., has day skiing from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and night skiing from 4-9 p.m. Full day adult lift tickets are \$35, children 10 and under ski free with the purchase of an adult ticket. Rentals are \$19 for adults, \$14 for children. Call 406-995-4211 for ski and snow information.

Bridger Bowl north of Bozeman will be open every day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Lift tickets are \$23 for adults, \$10 for ages 12 and

under, and \$15 for seniors. Rentals are \$13. Bridger Bowl offers lessons and has several levels of programs. Group lessons are \$20 per person. Jan. 15 is Jim Bridger's birthday and prices will be discounted.

Terry Peak near Lead, S.D., will be open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. beginning Friday. Lift tickets are \$27 for adults, \$20 for ages 6-17 and \$15 for seniors. Rentals cost \$17.50 for adults, \$10 for others. Lessons are available. Call 1-800-456-0524 for ski and snow information.

SKI CLUB

Looking for peers with a kindred fervor for the slopes?

The Bismarck-Mandan Area Ski Club has planned three ski trips this season for anyone interested in paying a modest membership fee.

Gary Peightal, club president, says a 1992-93 membership of \$12 per family, \$9 for adults and \$7 for students through college includes the opportunity to attend this season's discounted trips and receive next season's newsletter.

The ski club also plans to hold another swap shop in early spring, so hold on to any ski gear you want to replace.

Club prices include transportation, lodging and lift tickets. This season's trips include:

- Feb. 12-15: Big Sky/Bridger Bowl III, Bozeman, Mont., \$175.
- Feb. 27-March 3: Colorado, \$375.

- March 25-28: Red Lodge, Montana, \$155.

For more information on the trips, call the ski phone at 258-8960.