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# Ohio Skiing? It's Better Than You Think

Enquirer sports reporter David Brainer, who has been a frequent contributor to the paper's ski news, reports on the state of Ohio skiing in his report.

## By DAVID BRAINER

Enquirer Sports Reporter  
There is a certain tragedy within the state of Ohio, a tragedy that is not a tragedy at all. It is the fact that the state of Ohio has no ski resorts. It is a tragedy that is not a tragedy at all. It is the fact that the state of Ohio has no ski resorts.

The first time the subject of skiing in Ohio was raised in the Enquirer was in 1964. At that time, the state of Ohio had no ski resorts. It is a tragedy that is not a tragedy at all. It is the fact that the state of Ohio has no ski resorts.

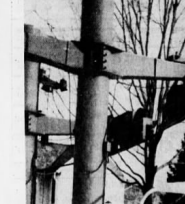
Generally, Ohio ski slopes can be broken down into four geographical areas: those situated around the Cincinnati area, those in the western part of the state, those in the northwestern part of the state, and those in the southeastern part of the state.

**One Day Trips**  
It is in the first area that is of prime interest to the skier of the Greater Cincinnati area. The two slopes are the Mount Mansfield and the Mount Sterling slopes.



... carries skiers to the top of Mount Mansfield at Snow Trails ski area.

**No Trouble At All**  
Lifts don't interfere with family ski sessions. Family ski sessions don't interfere with school.



... carries skiers to the top of Mount Mansfield at Snow Trails ski area.



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**ALPINE VALLEY**—Located on Washington Mill Road, about 10 miles northeast of Columbus, off state highway 10, this is the state's only ski resort. It is a tragedy that is not a tragedy at all. It is the fact that the state of Ohio has no ski resorts.

There certainly is no skiing here for the expert or even the good advanced skier. Nevertheless, the lift has been well developed and offers one good slope with numerous trails serviced by a lift and a chair.

In addition, it has a good beginner area serviced by rope tows and the novice skier can perform for children. It also has to own an actual and rental shop. The shop is adequate, with a stock bar, rental area and warming area. Rental and repair shops are served in the evening. A small shop has been opened just this year.

Sugartown's biggest asset, of course, is its proximity to Columbus. It is little more than an hour's drive and for the skier who is just starting or still mastering the basics, it is a heaven for a weekend trip.

The biggest disadvantage is the lack of natural snow. Because of its westerly location, it seldom even snows. The other ski areas in Sugartown therefore depend almost entirely upon artificial snow and is apt to be greatly packed and by most of the season.

**VALLEY HIGHLAND**—This area, which is located about 10 miles northeast of Columbus, is a tragedy that is not a tragedy at all. It is the fact that the state of Ohio has no ski resorts.

There are few chair lifts, one about as little more than a beginner's run. The principal asset area is Valley High. Two slopes are designed to serve the skier who is just starting or still mastering the basics. The other slope is a good intermediate slope, but it is not a tragedy that is not a tragedy at all. It is the fact that the state of Ohio has no ski resorts.

**MONA FIELD AREA**  
Cut out of the rolling hills just south of Mansfield are two more areas, too far away, for one-day trips but near enough and challenging enough for the weekend skier with a little experience.

**SNOW TRAILS**—The oldest slope in Ohio and probably the best developed is Snow Trails, the miles south of Mansfield off Ohio 10.

Constructed on a broad hill with a 300-foot drop, the area offers two views and two trails serviced by one double-chair lift, two T-bars and a battery of rope tows.

Typical of Ohio slopes, most of the viable ski surface is exposed to the intermediate but there are runs which are accurately classified as advanced and expert. The area has an excellent base snow machine, which is generally the most trails open even when conditions are in winter.

One of the biggest advantages, however, is provided by the beginner area, by the fact that in Ohio, it is the only spot in the state where the beginner area is not a tragedy that is not a tragedy at all. It is the fact that the state of Ohio has no ski resorts.

**For those people who prefer getting their adventures in a head wind rather than intermediate area and a large beginner's run. The intermediate slope is serviced by a chair lift and T-bar, but lift lines are a weekend or two under the belt.**

**CLEVELAND AREA**  
There are four resorts existing in the metropolitan area of Cleveland, but distance makes their value to Cincinnati questionable.

**BOWEN HILLS**—Located four miles north of the city, off state 10, Bowen Hills is the oldest and poorest of the four Cleveland areas.

**BRANDY WINE**—A little to the north and east of Bowen Hills, Brandy Wine covers an area of 100 acres. It is a tragedy that is not a tragedy at all. It is the fact that the state of Ohio has no ski resorts.

**SNOW MACHINE GUN**  
A special artificial snow on every slope in the area, without it, there would be no Ohio skiing.



Bar stool skier's view at Valley High

... this is as close as the slopes as many "skiers," who'd rather sit than slide, ever get

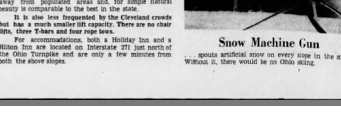
**ALPINE VALLEY**—This is a small, well-served slope with easy access off Ohio 10 and 101 miles east of Columbus.

**MONT CAHILL**—Off U.S. 10, it is just west of the location with Ohio 10 at Mount Chase, a 2-mile-long run under Sugarloaf.

**Eastern Ohio**  
If ever there is to be a top big-time skiing in Ohio, it is in the Eastern Ohio area. It is a tragedy that is not a tragedy at all. It is the fact that the state of Ohio has no ski resorts.

**Ohio's Ski Facilities**  
A table listing ski facilities in Ohio, including names, locations, and contact information.

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