Newspapers by ancestry
https://www.newspapers.com/image-view/358687782/

Downloaded on Nov 13, 2025

Kimball Men's Club Progresses

Several years ago, the Kimball Men's Club, determined to do its bit toward development of the winter sports potential of the Gogebic Range, undertook the construction of a recreational skiing area.

Today the fruit of their efforts, the Eagle Bluff Ski Area, is in its third successful season and in a state of constant improvement.

The development, at venerable old Eagle Bluff where generations of local youngsters learned to "ski ride" and jump, is located near the U.S. 2 and U.S. 51 highway interchange on the Michigan-Wisconsin border outside Hurley and Ironwood.

The area, which was opened for business on Dec. 15, 1962, features slopes and trails for every calibre skier, a rope tow, parking lot and chalet. A major addition this year was the purchase of a snow packer to better condition the runs. The Kimball Men's Club has plans for the installation of lights for night skiing, the addition of a rope tow for the "bunny area," and the construction of a T-bar lift for the main slope.

Such large scale expansion is feasible, according to John Sola, spokesman for the group. "The large attendance at the hill justifies all the time and effort put in by those who contributed toward the project," he said. "The Eagle Bluff ski hill is affording healthful outdoor recreation to a countless number of skiers."

Eagle Bluff at one time boasted a ski scaffold where jumps of over 150 feet were made. The Kimball men decided on the hill as the site for their development because of the ideal terrain and location. The necessary property was acquired with the cooperation of the Town of Kimball and the clearing of slopes, installation of tow facilities, and construction of a chalet building, parking area and access roads began in 1962.

Much of the work was performed by volunteers who supplied equipment as well. Work bees were arranged on week ends and evenings and women turned out to prepare lunch for the volunteers.

The hill was opened in time for the 1962 holiday skiers. A large, enthusiastic crowd turned out to witness the official dedication ceremonies where Cheryl Gasbarri of Hurley skied through a ribbon to mark the grand opening.

The Kimball Men's Club sought only to develop a ski area of local consequence, but have found that many of those who travel here to ski the "major" ski areas try Eagle Bluff as well. A representative of a national ski publication described the facility, which features a 250 foot verticle drop, as "approximating a major ski area."

The hill is in operation on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday afternoon at nominal prices for both children and adults.

Club officials have described their constantly growing enterprise as "a good example of what can be accomplished when a group of dedicated individuals get together."

Members of the board of directors are Einar Polso, Henry Hamberg, Eino Nevala, and John Sola, all of Kimball; Sam Kangas and Oliver Harma of Hurley; and Edwin Oja, Ironwood. Einar Polso is the club president and Carl Prosek is hill manager.

Ski patrolmen include Raymond Prosek, Eugene Prosek, John Sola, Jr., and Marvin Kellerman.

Copyright © 2025 Newspapers.com. All Rights Reserved.