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Ski Enthusiasts Get Hill Ready for Winter Season

Regional Jump Meet Staged in 1943 at Historic New London Site

BY DICK MCDANIELS

New London — Cultivating interest in winter sports in this area is a natural, especially when the facilities are available, and a group of energetic, young men from New London, Appleton, Oshkosh, Neenah, Menasha and Green Bay have worked out the combination and come up with "Mo-Ski-Tow Hill, Inc."

While Mo-Ski-Tow hill is nothing more than the name of a club, Mosquito hill is a concrete object and the club members have developed the hill to provide the conditions to stimulate winter sports in this area once again.

Mosquito hill may ring a familiar bell for many sportsmen in this area, as it has been a winter sports haven off and on for many years. Motorcycle enthusiasts know the hill as the site of a number of thrilling hill climbs, which featured dare-devil riders on a "break-neck" hill.

Ski Jumping

Probably the pinnacle of the hill's fame was reached early in the 1940's when the hill sported a giant scaffold for ski jumping.

Many area sportsmen recall that the central United States jumping tournament was held there in 1943. They also recall the hill record was established by Torger Tokle, Norway, who several years later died while fighting with the Allies in Italy.

While previous activities on the hill have been largely spectator sports which featured a few contestants and hundreds of watchers, members of Mo-Ski-Tow have changed the arrangement to open the hill to general participation.

Main Backer

George Kubisiak, president of Mo-Ski-Tow Hill, Inc., a former graduate of the New London Wooden Wing Junior Ski club, is one of this area's main backers of the new club. Kubisiak and a number of other former junior skiers went into senior circles and found the jumping field became more difficult as the years passed and the easier type of hill skiing became one of the most popular winter sports.

A group of about 20 young men and women from New London and the Fox River valley started to concentrate each weekend on finding a place to ski for recreation, rather than enter the jumping competitions.

Hills Enough

The wheels of their cars covered hundreds of miles in the search and finding of the recreation they sought. After a while they became weary of the riding and decided there are hills enough in the New London area to provide the type of skiing they were after.

At first, a tri-city ski club was talked of with the idea of promoting ski jumping, but soon the idea faded as prospects of a general winter recreation program were born.

Early in June, the idea started to jell at a series of meetings called to further the plan. Shortly afterward, the small group started to look for a site. Trips were taken to the Fish and Game club farm, where the hill was found to be too short, and to the ledge, where possible sites were found and discussed.

Start Work

However, Mosquito hill always remained as the most likely place as the hill was a natural for downhill skiing as well as jumping. Kubisiak, Edwin Knapstein, Jr., and Kurt Schoenrock of New London, and Miss Cindy Thompson and Fred Heinemann, Appleton, made up the group that started the ball rolling.

The services of Merle Belling, Appleton, a ski enthusiast, soon were acquired. Belling has laid out several hills, including "Fun Valley" at Crivitz, which has become one of the better ski areas in the state. He also helped the Calumet Ski club prosper.

5-Year Lease

Belling and club members negotiated a 5-year lease with Neo Poole on a 32-acre section of Mosquito hill, facing the north, with an option to re-lease or buy. The hill is covered with thick Montana matting grass that will give the club additional days of skiing as only a few inches of snow will be needed.

Since then, club members have been working just about every Sunday on improvement of the hill. Their efforts have brought forth two tow ropes for skiers. One is 850 feet long and is for the hill with the milder grades ranging from about 5 to 18 degrees.

A warming house has been built and the tow rope leads to the top of the lower grade hill, where the more experienced skiers can connect with the long 1,200-foot tow line for the steeper hill that has slopes ranging up to 42 degrees. Thus the hill will provide down hill skiing for all types and ages of skiers from beginners to experts.

Tow Lines

The tow lines are powered by two tractors under direction of Martin Beckman, New London, who will serve as the tow operator.

Also available on the hill are two areas where ski jumping will be held for juniors. Utilizing the hill for a scaffold, the club has built two jumps. One allows skiers to jump about eight feet and the other will allow leaps up to about 35 feet. The club also has an area which can be converted into a jumping hill that will allow jumps up to about 60 feet.

Other recreation at the hill includes an area that will be made into an ice rink. Sleigh rides and dog-team rides also will be on the agenda for winter recreation.

167 Members

At the present time, the club has 167 members and facilities on the hill to handle about 600 skiers. The club is interested in promoting skiing and other sports on the hill for juniors so special rates have been established.

Members will get the benefit of special rates, under a life membership plan. Members can use the hill on season's tickets for $10 and their families can use the hill under a same plan for $20.

The hill will be open on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday each week, with skiing at night. Club members installed lights to cover the hill.

Ski Patrol

A ski patrol has been organized by the club to be prepared for emergencies. Patrol members are being schooled in first aid and are being equipped with toboggans and other equipment by a fund donated by the New London Lions club. Leonard Weiss, Appleton, is the instructor.

Arrangements have been made to offer ski instructions.

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