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Skiing areas in northern Indiana.

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2 The Pines	Ski Resort	Near Valparaiso
3 Ski Valley	Ski Resort	Near LaPorte
4 Bendix Woods	Ski Resort	West of South Bend
5 Pokagon State Park	Toboggan	North of Angola
6 Potato Creek State Recreation Area	Cross Country Skiing	4 Miles West of North Liberty
7 Miami Snowmobile Trails		East of Goshen Southeast of Bristol
8 Gateway Snowmobile Trail		4 Miles East of LaPorte

Skiing: Beaucoup Snow

By GEORGE TILFORD
Outdoor Writer

The winter outdoor sports season is under way in Northern Indiana, offering downhill and cross country snow skiing, snowmobiling, tobogganing, camping, ice fishing and ice skating.

Three of the state's four skiing resorts are open with a good base of packed snow on the slopes, and at midweek most of these areas had from 6-12 inches of natural snow on the landscape.

The fourth, Mt. Wawasee, near New Paris and about 10 miles south of Goshen, is under new management. Major construction work of adding another lift, reamping the ski runs, adding additional snowmaking machines and improving the chalet is behind schedule.

At midweek only an inch of natural snow was on the ground at Wawasee. The management hopes to have a couple of the slopes covered with artificial snow today if the snow making machines are in working order.

It's a different story at the Pines near Valparaiso, Ski Valley near LaPorte and Bendix Woods, 12 miles west of South Bend. These resorts have a foot or more base snow on the downhill slopes.

Pokagon State Park, 5 miles north of Angola, and Potato Creek State Recreation Area, 4 miles east of North Liberty and about 10 miles south of South Bend, for the first time have opened cross country skiing trails. Pokagon also offers toboggan rides, winter camping, a modern inn with comfortable rooms and good dining facilities and both parks have ice fishing and ice skating. Bendix Woods also has cross country ski trails that are lighted for night activities.

Snowmobilers may enjoy their machines in three areas at no charge.

The Miami Snowmobile Trail is comprised of two areas in Elkhart County with 33 miles of trails. One is east of Goshen and the other is southeast of Bristol. County roads around the trails have been opened to snowmobilers, to aid getting to riding areas.

The Gateway Snowmobile Trail is located in LaPorte County, 4 miles east of LaPorte. It has 10 miles of trails through natural woodlands, open fields and orchards.

For folders describing the trails, with location maps, write the Department of Natural Resources, 612 State Office Building, Indianapolis 46204.

Funds used to lease the trail right-of-ways and to build and maintain the trails are provided from snowmobile registration fees. Two clubs, the Snowgoers of LaPorte and the Elkhart Snowmobile Club, donated time and manpower to lay out and construct these trails while registration fee money was used for building materials. The DNR selected the sites and negotiated leases from private landowners for permission to use the lands during the winter season.

Back to skiing:

The Pines has seven slopes. Tow fees are \$6.50 weekends, \$5 weekdays and \$4.50 after 4 p.m. Ski equipment rental (boots, skis and poles) is \$7.50 per day on weekends, \$6 weekdays and ski equipment for children under 17 is \$5 per day. Skiing hours are noon-10 p.m. weekdays, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. The Pines is 4 miles north of Valparaiso. For skiing information call 219-462-4179.

Ski Valley is 2 miles west of LaPorte. It has three slopes with five rope tows. Tow fees are \$6 per day weekends and \$4 weekdays. Equipment rental is \$6.50 per day Saturday and Sunday and \$4.50 weekdays. Hours are 6-10 p.m. weekdays, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. For information call 219-362-1212.

Bendix Woods, a St. Joseph County park, has four slopes and two cross country trails. Tow fees on weekends are \$4.50 per day for adults and \$3 for children under 12. Weekday tow fees are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children. Rental equipment is \$6.50 per day on weekends and \$3.50 weekdays. Rental equipment for children is \$3.50 per day. Hours are 6-10 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 1-10 p.m. Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. The cross country course fee is \$1 per day.

Mt. Wawasee tow fees are \$5.50 weekdays, \$7 weekends and \$4 weekdays after 4:30 p.m. Rental equipment is \$7 weekends or \$6 per day during the week. Rental equipment for children under 12 is \$1 less than adult fees. Hours are 1-10 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday. The area has eight lifts or tows, one for each slope. For information on conditions call 219-831-4112.

Cross country skiing at Pokagon and Potato Creek is free and rental equipment is \$1 per hour.

Potato Creek has four trails from 1.5 miles in length. The trails are open daily from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission to the park is free.

Pokagon has three cross country trails from 1-3 miles in length. Rental equipment is available from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. A park admission fee of \$1.25 per car is charged at Pokagon.

The double track 1,400-foot toboggan slide at Pokagon is the state's most famous winter attraction. The slide is refrigerated and natural snow is not necessary to keep it in operation. At midweek, however, the area was covered with nearly 6 inches of snow.

Toboggan rental is \$1 per hour and each rider is charged 25 cents per ride in addition to the toboggan fee.

Winter camping at Pokagon is \$3 per night per campsite. Each campsite has an electric outlet and is near a modern shower and washroom. Rates at Pokagon's Potawatomi Inn are from \$15 single to \$18 for a double room with twin beds and TV.

For skiing and toboggan information call 219-833-2012. For inn reservations call 219-833-1077.

For skiing information at Michigan and Ohio resorts phone the Alpine Haus in the Glendale Center, 8100 N. Keystone Ave. The number is 225-5134. A recording will list current skiing and snow conditions at the popular resorts.