

# Four Southern Indiana Ski Resorts Ready for Winter Snow Skiing Season

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If skiing is your way of spending a winter day, then the Columbus area has four places to participate in that winter activity.

Available in the Columbus area are Nashville Alps and Long Mountain Ski Resort, both in Brown County; Paoli Peaks at Paoli; and Ski Starlight near Sellersburg.

At Nashville Alps, there are seven slopes for skiing, divided for both the novice and the experienced skier. Nashville Alps has three intermediate slopes, two advanced, and two "bunny" or beginner slopes.

Vicky Burton, office manager, said the anticipated date for opening the resort is Dec. 15. But like every ski resort, the opening date depends on weather conditions. Nashville Alps makes its own snow using water from its own lake and the water must reach a certain temperature before the snow can be made, she said.

Two chairlifts handle 4,200 people an hour, which "means more time skiing and less time waiting," she said. The Nashville Alps has a number of jumps on the advanced slopes.

For the beginner, "the bunny hill has a double rope tow — a tow on each side of the hill," said Mrs. Burton, which can make it a lot easier for the novice skier.

Like all the ski slopes in the area, Nashville Alps offers ski instruction for groups and individuals. "We have different programs for different needs," she said. The Alps offers specific times for group instruction but is able to "adapt to someone's needs" for private instruction.

The Alps will offer special discounts for groups of 15 or more. The discounts depend on the number of people in the group, and the Alps must have at least one week notice in order to qualify for the discount.

A lodge is available at the Alps which offers a restaurant, snack bar and lounge. The Alps has 1,100 pairs of skis available for rent.

Once the season gets underway, the Alps will be open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. and 8 a.m. to midnight Friday through Sunday. The Alps is located on Ind. 46, just west of Nashville.

The Long Mountain Ski Resort plans to open Dec. 1, said manager Ron Long, again depending on the weather. "We need frost on the ground for at least two days so the man-made snow will stay on better and longer."

Long Mountain has six slopes with a 150-foot vertical drop. Long Mountain has one advanced, one beginner and four intermediate slopes. The resort has one chairlift and one cable tow that can handle 2,300 skiers per hour, Long said.

Ski instruction is offered seven days a week in both group and private lessons. "We teach the American teaching method," said Long, which is training skiers on full-length skis instead of short skis. Long said 25 in-



**LEARNING HOW** — Even if you do not know how to ski, all four southern Indiana ski resorts offer lessons — for adults and children. First-time skiers should have some instruction before hitting the slopes.



**FLYING ALONG** — As long as the weather is cold enough, there will be snow on the ski slopes at southern Indiana's four ski resorts — even if it doesn't snow — thanks to snow-making machines.

structors are available, and private lessons can be arranged "whenever it is convenient."

Special discounts can be arranged for groups of 15 or more. The Long Mountain Lodge offers a restaurant and game room for skiers, overlooking the slopes. A package plan has been arranged with motels and hotels in the Nashville area, he added.

Ski equipment can be rented from the lodge. About 750 pairs of skis are available.

Long Mountain is southwest of Nashville on Ind. 46 eight-tenths of a mile west of Nashville. The slopes will be open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Sunday.

If one wants to get an early start

on the skiing season, Ski Starlight at Sellersburg plans to open Sunday if the weather conditions are right. "We have everything ready to go," said Steve King, marketing director. "We need two or three nights in a row of 25 to 26 degree weather." Ski Starlight boasts the highest vertical drop of any ski slopes in the area, said King, which is a little over 500 feet. Starlight has eight slopes presently, with three new slopes becoming available the first week of December. The 11 slopes include five expert, two intermediate, and four for beginners.

King said Starlight has two double chairlifts and four "platter" lifts. King said the platter lifts are cables with discs that the skier can either hang on to or sit on.

The Starlight ski lodge has a lounge open seven days a week and has ski packages with motels and hotels in the area. Starlight offers 1,600 skis for rent and a complete ski shop in the lodge.

Starlight's ski instruction involves "instructors for each ability level," said King. Group lessons are available at set times, and private lessons can be arranged.

Starlight has a several group programs for special discounts, he said. Groups of 20 or more qualify for the discount rates, and arrangements must be made one week in advance. Starlight's regular rates are kept the same throughout the year.

Ski Starlight is located seven miles off Interstate 65 on Ind. 60. Ski Starlight is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. and 9 a.m. to 5 a.m. Friday through Sunday.

Near Paoli is Paoli Peaks, which is scheduled to open Dec. 12. Jim Baker, ski school instructor, said Paoli Peaks has six major runs — four intermediate, one beginner and one advanced. The slopes have a 300-foot vertical drop. Paoli Peaks has a large area with three tow-ropes and a "pony" lift for beginners. The area is set off for beginners only, said Baker. Paoli has four chair lifts that can handle 7,200 people per hour.

Baker said Paoli has a "complete ski school" with 35 instructors. Group and private lessons are offered. In January, Paoli has a five-week adult program that is geared for people who have never skied before.

The Paoli ski lodge offers a ski shop, cafeteria and game room. A special feature of the lodge is its weekend baby-sitting special for children ages 6-12. For a fee, the children will be given skiing lessons while the parents ski.

Paoli has 1,800 pairs of skis available for rent. Special discounts are available for groups of 25 or more on the weekends and 20 or more during weekdays. Groups must give a three week notice to qualify for the discount, said Baker.

Paoli Peaks is open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. During holidays, extended hours are offered.