

Midwest boasts plenty of slopes

You won't find any mile-long slopes in the Midwest, but the hills of Indiana and Michigan do offer plenty of excellent skiing, especially for the beginner.

Indiana now boasts nine ski resorts, all of which have snow-making equipment in the event that Mother Nature fails to provide the powdery substance.

Many Hoosier skiers enjoy a weekend in Michigan, where snow generally covers the ground for most of the winter, especially in the central and northern parts of the state.

If you would like to hit the Hoosier slopes, here is a list of the facilities.

Long Mountain

Long Mountain, located one mile southwest of Nashville on State Road 46, has four slopes, including two new runs which may be completed by Christmas. The new runs include Longburn, a connecting trail for advanced skiers, and Longshot, suited for intermediate skiers.

Beginners can practice on two gentle trails, the Pokajong and the Ski School trail.

The resort includes a ski rental shop with equipment to outfit more than 1,000 skiers daily; the pro shop with hats, gloves, goggles, ski and gift items; and the Long Branch restaurant and lounge which specializes in soups and sandwiches.

Group and private lessons are available. Lesson times are 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. and 1:30, 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.

Long Mountain is open from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., but slopes are closed from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. each day for grooming. Call 812-988-4237 for more information.

Nashville Alps

Nashville Alps Ski Resort, located four miles west of Nashville on State Road 46, has five slopes, one beginner, two intermediate and two expert, served by one quad chair lift, one triple chair lift and two rope tows. A beginner ski area is also available.

The lodge has a pro shop, cafeteria and lounge. Hours are 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to midnight Friday through Sunday. For more information Nashville Alps Ski Resort, Route 1, Box 396A, Nashville, Ind. 47448.

Paoli Peaks

Ski Paoli Peaks, located at the junction of state roads 37 and 56 and U.S. 150, about 80 miles south of Indianapolis, now has nine slopes and seven lifts, which can accommodate 7,200 persons an hour uphill capacity. The lifts include one quad chairlift, one triple chairlift, four rope tows and one

platter tow. Beginning, intermediate and advanced skiers all will find slopes suited to their abilities.

The Paoli lodge includes a cafeteria serving fast foods and full meals and a ski shop. The slopes are open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. weekdays and 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. weekends and holidays. Paoli offers a midnight special, skiing from midnight to 6 a.m., Friday and Saturday.

For more information, write Ski Paoli Peaks, Box 67, Paoli, Ind. 47454 or call 812-4696. For the snow report, call 812-723-4698.

Ski Starlite

Located four miles north of Sellersburg on State Road 60, Ski Starlite has 16 slopes, including "bunny" and beginner hills. One double-double lift and four surface lifts carry skiers to the peaks. The lodge has a ski shop, food and lodging.

Hours are 9:30 a.m. to midnight daily with skiing from midnight to 6 a.m. Friday and Saturday. For more information, write to: Ski Starlite, Box 158,

Sellersburg, Ind. 47172, or call 812-246-5471.

Bendix Woods

Bendix Woods County Park, located 12 miles west of South Bend on State Road 2 in New Carlisle, has four slopes: one beginner, one intermediate and two advanced, served by four rope tows. The park also has five miles of cross country ski trails and rental equipment as well as four inner tubing runs, sledding and ice skating.

Alpine and cross country ski races are scheduled for the third weekend in January.

Hours are 6 to 10 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday; 1 to 10 p.m. Wednesday and Friday; 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. For more information, contact Bendix Woods, Route 2, Box 72A, New Carlisle, Ind. 46552, or call 219-654-3155.

Mt. Wawasee

Mt. Wawasee Ski Lodge, located east of the junction of U.S. 6 and State Road 15 near New Paris, has nine ski slopes for the beginner, intermediate and ad-

vanced skier. Skiers can use a T-bar tow and eight rope tows. The lodge has a ski shop and snack bar.

Hours are 1 to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. Contact Mt. Wawasee, New Paris, Ind. 46553, or call 219-831-4112.

The Pines

The Pines, off the Indiana Toll Road near Valparaiso, is one mile west and one mile south of the junction of U.S. 6 and State Road 49. It has seven slopes: two beginner, four intermediate and one advanced, served by one chair lift, five rope tows and three borer lifts. The chalet has two ski shops, a snack bar and the Midwest's largest artificial ski ramp.

Hours are noon to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. For more information, contact The Pines, 674 North Meridian, Valparaiso, Ind. 46383, or call 219-462-4179.

Pleasant Run Ski Area

Pleasant Run Ski Area, located two miles north of Greencastle off U.S. 231, has four slopes: one beginner, two intermediate and one advanced intermediate served by four rope tows. Ice skating, sledding, cross country skiing and a snack bar are also available.

Hours are noon to 10:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday, Sunday and holidays and 11:30 p.m. to 4 a.m. Saturday. Contact Pleasant Run Ski Area, 1 E. Hanna St., Greencastle, Ind. 46134, 317-653-5994.

Ski Valley

Located five miles west of LaPorte off State Road 2 on Forrester Road, Ski Valley has four ski slopes: one beginner, two intermediate and one advanced, served by six rope tows and one T-bar tow. The chalet has a fireplace and a snack bar.

Hours are 6 to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. Contact Ski Valley, Inc., 550 North Forrester Road, LaPorte, Ind. 46350, 219-362-1212.

Off to Michigan?

If you're taking off for the Michigan slopes, you might want to write or call ahead for information. The address for the Travel Bureau, Michigan Department of Commerce, is P.O. Box 30226, Lansing, Mich. 48909. Or call toll free, 800-248-5700. Recommended resorts in Indiana's neighbor to the north include Schuss Mountain in Mancelona, Caberfae in Cadillac, Boyne Mountain and Boyne Highlands, Royel Valley in Buchanan and Sugar Loaf in Cedar.



What could be more fun and exhilarating than a run down a snowy slope?