



REGISTER FILE PHOTO

Jumping high is Chad Van Dusseldorp, a former student at Des Moines Area Community College.

Skiers in Iowa aren't limited to cross-country skiing or cross-country journeys. There are places where you can hit the slopes right here.



DON TATE II/THE REGISTER

Ski Iowa!

Believe it or not, the state has eight slopes for skiing, tubing and snowboarding.

By JANE BURNS
REGISTER STAFF WRITER

Snow and hills, Iowa does have them, so Iowa also has skiing, even if it's sometimes hard to convince people of that.

"I was in Chicago and people said, 'Ski Iowa?' " said Bucky Zietz, general manager of Sundown Ski Area near Dubuque. "I said, 'Not all of Iowa is like what you see along Interstate 80.' People are surprised when they see our video and they see our hill."

Eight downhill ski areas are scattered across the state, and all but one have snow-making capabilities. They do need consistent low temperatures to keep that snow, but given that, most intend to gear up this month. Call for opening dates.

This winter, two new ski areas will be open — Seven Oaks Recreation Area near Boone and Sleepy Hollow Sports Park on the east edge of Des Moines.

These Iowa places aren't trying to be Aspen, but they do offer day trips and a chance to get the legs in shape for other ski journeys.

"I think there's the idea that you have to ski on huge mountains in Colorado," said Lori Bryan, who works at Fun Valley, co-owned by her husband, Kelly. "Those people who go to Colorado have to practice somewhere."

Fun Valley Ski Area

Location: 1066 500th Ave, Montezuma, (515) 623-3456.

Hours: noon to 9:30 p.m. weekdays; 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. weekends.

Cost: Weekend rate is \$16 for age 10 and older, \$6 for children. Weekday rate is \$10 for 10 and older, \$6 for children.

Number of runs: Approximately 13, most in beginning and intermediate levels. The longest are approximately a quarter-mile; the vertical drop is 240 feet.

Lifts: Two double and triple chairlifts.

Lessons: Free beginner lessons with lift ticket; \$15 for private lessons. Groups of three or more, \$5 each.

Equipment: Rental is \$10 for adults, \$4 for children weekends and weekdays.

Other activities: Snowboarding and tubing.

Etc.: A special tubing area opened last year, with four chutes and a cable lift. Tubes rent for \$4 an hour on weekends, \$3 on weekdays. . . . Season passes are \$200 for adults, \$140 for children and \$450 for a family of four. Passes are good at Fun Valley, Seven Oaks Recreation in Boone, and Powder Ridge and Buckhill in Minnesota.

Mount Crescent Ski Area

Location: Two miles north of Crescent, (712) 545-3850.

Hours: 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mondays through Fridays; 9 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. weekends and holidays.

Cost: Weekend all-day rate is \$28 for adults, \$24 for juniors (13-17), \$21 children (under 12). Weekdays: \$22

SKI Please turn to Page 27