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Ski area to open Dec. 11

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WAVERLY—Say "Iowa" and people think of cornfields, not downhill skiing. If they consider skiing at all, it's through cornfields, as a popular T-shirt depicts.

But there are downhill skiing sites, one of them on the outskirts of this Northeast Iowa city, only a short drive from Waterloo. Oak Highlands Ski and Recreation Area, owned by A.C. Dunkelberger and his sons, Mark and William, will open its winter season Dec. 11.

The area has been there for 10 to 12 years, Mark says, but he and his partners have expanded and revamped it for this year's skiing season. They purchased 15 additional acres, bringing the total to 70, and have installed snow-making equipment, three handle tows, a T-bar lift and a double chair lift. Only rope tows were used before.

Six downhill runs are available to accommodate skiers: three beginner, two intermediate and one experienced. The area has a 150-foot vertical drop and the longest run is about 1,400 feet.

For those without skis, boots or other essentials, a full line of rental equipment is available. For those who don't know anything about the sport, Oak Highlands offers lessons, and ski school will be conducted twice daily throughout the season. The National Ski Patrol will be on duty daily.

Lift tickets are \$7 weekdays and \$8 weekends for adults and \$5 weekdays and \$6 weekends for students, including those at the college level. Special group rates are also available.

Hours will be noon to 10 p.m. weekdays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturdays and noon to 8 p.m. Sundays.



A.C. Dunkelberger, left, and his son, Mark, are co-owners of Oak Highlands Ski and Recreation Area near Waverly. Another son, William, is also a partner in the business which has been expanded and renovated for the coming season.

Downhill skiing is not Oak Highlands' only attraction. There are also cross-country ski trails (rental equipment available) and an 800-foot tubing hill. Specially made tubes have been purchased for this new addition.

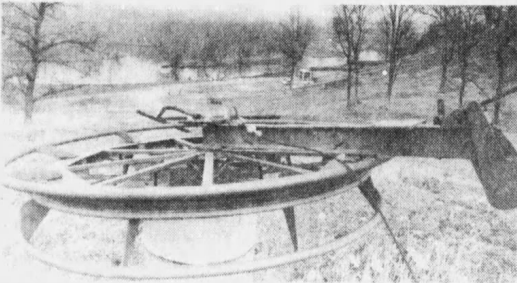
The lodge, featuring a snack bar and grill, will be open the same hours as the recreation area.

During the summer months, the area continues to provide recreation for area residents. It is the site of a hydrotube water slide.



Courier photos by Bill Oakes

The skiing season will open Dec. 11 at Oak Highlands even if Mother Nature doesn't cooperate: Owners of the ski area have purchased snow-making equipment. Skiers may choose from six downhill runs according to their experience.



Among the new equipment installed at the ski area is this top pulley for a rope tow on one of the new hills. Three new handle tows were added for the '82-'83 season.



This double chair lift will make getting back to the top of a ski run at Oak Highlands easier this

season. A new T-bar lift, a type of miniature chair lift, is also being installed.