

Southeast ski areas ready for big year

Southeast Michigan ski areas are looking forward to a great year, according to Sid Baker, president of the Travel & Tourist Association of Southeast Michigan. Last year's experience and a good summer tourism season point to continued growth among the region's ski areas.

Mount Brighton, near the city of Brighton, has a new 24,000-square-foot building to greet the 1986-87 season. The new structure contains a cafeteria, additional rest rooms, a new ticket area and additional ski rental space.

In addition, Mount Brighton reports 1,000 new pairs of skis and boots available for rental this year.

Mount Holly, near Holly, has redesigned the Dixie Doodle Hill into a new intermediate hill called the "Mozart." They promise it will ski "like a symphony." The slope has been heightened by 50 feet and lengthened by 200 feet. It will be serviced by a new high speed triple chair lift. Mount Holly also reports new snow-making equipment and a line of new step-in rental ski equipment.

Riverview Highlands, in the downriver Detroit suburban area, has installed a new Poma lift which will triple the usage of the back hill slope. The ski areas reports a line of new junior step-in

ski rentals with the entire line of rentals having step-in bindings.

New this year at Riverview Highlands will be a series of theme nights during night owl skiing sessions on Fridays from 11 p.m. to 2 a.m. Nights will be sponsored with special thematic events and equipment available.

At Alpine Valley, in the Highland/Waterford area west of Pontiac, the big story is the completion of a conversion of an intermediate hill to an advanced intermediate slope which was several years in the making. The hill has risen 60 additional feet and the four ski runs average an additional 500 feet in length.

In addition, Alpine Valley has installed a new outside ticket building and has added a top-of-the-line snow groomer to its already top-notch fleet. Also added are 200 pairs of new rental equipment.

Contact information for the local ski areas follows:

Mount Brighton, 4141 Baurer Rd., Brighton (313) 227-1451

Mount Holly, 13536 S. Dixie Highway, Holly, 1-800-582-7256

Riverview Highlands, 15015 Sibley Rd., Riverview (313) 479-2080

Alpine Valley, 6775 Highland Rd., Milford (313) 887-4183

