Newspapers by ancestry
https://www.newspapers.com/image/562424619

Downloaded on Mar 23, 2023

# It's not Vail, but Kirksville has own ski slope

By ALLEN SEIFERT
Staff writer

KIRKSVILLE, Mo. — It's not Vail, and it's a little short of Purgatory, but Kirksville now has its own ski area.

"We just opened Rainbow Bend recently," says part-owner Jeff Turner, "and the response has been excellent. We had around 1,000 skiers for our first week end."

Rainbow Basin is located two miles southwest of Kirksville, with the principal slope a northerly-facing incline with a 150-foot vertical producing a run of 1,500 feet.

"Rainbow Basin is similar to the slope they have at Montezuma, Iowa, except that our dropoff is a little steeper," says Turner.

Rainbow Basin is the brainchild of Turner, Richard Marrs and Marrs' nephew Michael Marr. The trio put an estimated $750,000 into the facility which presently covers about 25 acres.

"But we have around 240 additional acres, so we're hoping to add some cabins later and build this into a neat little ski area," says Turner.

There are no overnight lodging facilities at Rainbow Basin at present, but the rough-cut cedar chalet has 7,200 square feet of space which houses a cafeteria, two fireplaces, complete rental facilities, a first aid room, and a pro shop which has been leased by a Kirksville sporting goods company.

Rainbow Basin has teaching professionals available at all times, although Turner says the bulk of the slope's business has come on week ends.

"We have had skiers in a wide age range — from about four up to people in their 60s," he says.

There are three lifts up the slope — two are handle tows, or pony lifts, an improvisation the owners produced after many visits to other ski slopes.

"I am a skier myself, and I've skied most of the slopes and resorts in the west, so we've borrowed ideas from some of them," says Turner.

The Kirksville winter has not been ideal in terms of snow production — most of the heavier amounts have bypassed this Northeast Missouri community to strike the St. Louis and St. Joseph vicinities.

But the owners of Rainbow Basin are well prepared for good — or bad — winters.

"We have snow-making equipment which should be adequate to carry us through the worst winter," Turner says. "We have already put down over a foot and one-half of man-made snow because we haven't had enough natural snow."

Owners of Rainbow Basin hope to open yearly in November and extend their season into March — providing there is no early Spring thaw.

"This is virgin territory for a ski slope such as this one, even though people had used it for a ski area before we began our construction," says Turner. "We haven't really done that much advertising because we wanted to work out the problems and just let people know we were in business this year."

Word of the new ski area has spread rapidly, however, especially among the college crowd.

"We have had a lot of skiers from Columbia and from St. Louis, and and a lot from our own college (Northeast Missouri State University) here," says Turner.

MR. BERT WITH
Services 10:30 A.M., Friday, Meierhoffer-Fleeman Chapel. Pastor Robert T. Kunz officiating. Interment Memorial Park Cemetery.
The family will receive friends 7-8:30 P.M. Thursday, Meierhoffer-Fleeman Chapel.

MR. JAMES M. MILLER
Graveside services 3:00 P.M., Friday, Ashland Cemetery. Pastor Gerald D. Rexin officiating.
Flag folding ceremonies under the auspices of MacDonald-Dugger-Duncan American Legion Post. #11.

Meierhoffer-Fleeman Funeral home
1946 Calhoun 232-3366

HIXSON-KLEIN FUNERAL HOMES
Gower, Missouri
Edgerton, Missouri

TIRES
EXIDE
BATTERIES
NORMAN TIRE CO.
810 So. 6th St.
PH. 279-5861

AGNES L. WALSH
Services Friday 11:00 A.M., Stamey-Lindsey Chapel, Msgr. Charles Noland officiating. Interment Mount Olivet Cemetery. Visitation this evening 7-8:30 P.M. Rosary this evening 7:30 P.M. at our Chapel conducted by Msgr. Noland.
STAMEY-LINDSEY FUNERAL HOME
2335 St. Joseph Ave.

Copyright © 2023 Newspapers.com. All Rights Reserved.
Powered by Newspapers.com