

Winter Weekender By BILL AND BETTY HUGHES

Shoot-the-Chute Enthusiasts Can Find Fun Near Cleveland

According to the phone calls we've been getting, Clevelanders are looking for places to "shoot-the-chutes" — toboggan chutes, that is. So here is a roundup of what's available within easy driving distance:

Snow Valley Toboggan Run on Possum Run Rd. in Mansfield claims the highest toboggan chutes in the area. They are located one mile south of Interstate 71 and Ohio Rt. 13 (next to Snow Trails Ski Area) about 80 miles or an hour-and-a-half drive from Cleveland.

The center offers two chutes which tower high above a valley and flash tobogganers 1100 feet downhill at over 50 miles an hour. There also is a 600-foot chute for children. Chutes are lighted with torches at night and there is a refreshment stand.

Toboggan fee is \$1.50 per person. Toboggans which seat up to four persons rent for \$1.50 or guests may bring their own toboggans. Hours are: Fridays from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Phone: 1-419-522-3252.

Parkview Sports Haven (formerly Holiday Hideaway), 13396 Bass Lake Road (off Rt. 322) in Chardon is about 25 miles from Cleveland and offers 12 toboggan runs from 500 feet to 700 feet, served with rope tows.

Toboggans may be rented for \$1.75 or guests may bring their own. No sleds are allowed. Use of the tow is \$2 per person. The 115-acre recreation center also offers hill skiing, ski-rental equipment and ice-skating. Refreshments are available.

Hours are: weekdays from 6 to 11 p.m.; weekends from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 1:30 to 5 p.m. and from 5:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Phone: 1-286-9949.

Virginia Kendall Park in the Akron-Peninsula area offers park visitors use of two wooden toboggan chutes which catapult riders 2000 feet out to frozen Kendall Lake Toboggans, which seat five persons, rent for \$1.50 for two hours.

The park's toboggan chutes operate only when weather permits so it is advisable to check before making the trip.

There is a 50-cent entrance fee to the park (children under 12 free) and visitors also may enjoy hill skiing (no tows), hill toboggan-



ing and sledding. Ice skating is available on the lake.

The park is located about 20 miles from Cleveland via Rt. 8. Motorists should turn right on Rt. 359, travel for about a mile-and-a-half, then turn left to the parking lot area.

Park hours are 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. when the toboggan chutes operate and until sundown the rest of the time. Phone: 1-RE 3-4900.

Metropolitan Park District, Strongsville section of the Rocky River Reservation, about a 5-minute drive from the Strongsville exit of the Ohio Turnpike or the Royalton Rd. (Rt. 82) exit of Interstate 71.

The first and only refrigerated toboggan slide will open officially the last weekend of January or the first weekend in February. Operated by Winter Fun Inc. are two toboggan runs, each from 700 to 900 feet long and wide enough for one toboggan.

A chalet will offer toboggan rentals, pre-packaged food and drink concession, two fireplaces plus observation decks on the second floor. There is some tobogganing right now. Call 885-2631 for information.

Fees are: Monday through Friday, \$1 for adults, 50 cents for children. Saturday and Sunday afternoons and evenings, \$1.50 for adults and \$1 for children. Four-person toboggans are rented for \$3 for four-hour periods. Spectators are charged \$1 per car.

Hours: weekdays, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Also open Saturday mornings. Will also open afternoon weekdays upon request from large groups.

Punderson Lake located on Rt. 87, two miles west of Rt. 44, about 25 miles from Cleveland, offers a hill for skiing, sledding and tobogganing. Park visitors have use of a tow to the top of the hill.

Hours on weekdays are

from 5 to 9 p.m. and on weekends the area opens when the crowds get there until 10 p.m. Ice skating is available on the lake and the area is illuminated at night. Facilities are free. Phone: 1-JO 4-2201.

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