

A Bit Of Winter Weather Needed Ski Lodges Ready For Opening

By James Robey
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Enough of this mild weather. Bring on the snow, or, if not snow, at least cold weather so the ski areas can make their own.

The traditional opening of Ohio's ski season is Thursday, Dec. 1, and Ohio's 10 skiing and sledding resorts say they are ready.

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MOST OF THE resorts have added improvements ranging from new snow makers to new buildings. Several have redecorated since last year.

Sugarcreek Ski Hills at Bellefontaine off Washington Mill road will begin its second season with a new stone building that includes a ski shop and more ski rental equipment.

William James, one of the Sugarcreek owners, said the rope tow also has been lengthened on the 850-foot Sugarcreek slope.

"If the weather permits snow makers will be operating on Dec. 1," James said.

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VALLEY HIGH at Bellefontaine, site of the state ski championship races in February sponsored by the Dayton Ski club, also is ready for a Dec. 1 opening.



Tom Latham, new manager at Valley High resort, said "we have redecorated outside and in and have added metal skis to the rental department."

The five Valley High slopes, ranging from the 3,000-foot Sugarbush trail to a 500-foot slope for beginners, are served by a double chair lift and three rope tows.

Snow Trails near Mansfield

plans a Dec. 5 opening, but doubtless would be persuaded to move that date forward by a little winter weather.

"This year we changed some of the lifts to make more room for skiing, renovated the lodge, redid the ski club room and installed new floors," said manager Roxy Felde.

Snow Trails has two slopes for beginners, three for in-

termediates and two for advanced skiers.

Clear Fork Ski resort, also near Mansfield, will be ready to open anytime between Dec. 1 and Dec. 15.

Improvements at Clear Fork include a new double chair lift, more snow-making equipment, new building for ski rentals and an expanded Rathskeller.

The other Buckeye ski and sledding resorts are in northern Ohio. Four are in the Cleveland-Akron area.

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SKI OHIO Country, a free brochure by the Ohio Development department, presents more details on the location of the resorts, facilities and rates. A copy of the brochure is available by writing the department at Box 1001, Columbus, O. 43216.

The cost of spending a day at a ski resort varies only slightly from one ski area to another.

At Valley High, for example, the fee is \$4.25 for skiers who use the chair lift on weekdays or \$2.75 for the rope tow. On weekends and holidays it's \$5.75 and \$3.75, respectively.

Rental equipment, boots, poles and skis, cost \$5. Most of the resorts also have bargain prices for children under 16.