

Mt. Holly Ski Patrol Tops

Ski Heil

By

BILL CAMERON



"Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, this is your captain speaking." This week's column is being written 15,000 feet in the air. It's 7 p.m. I'm returning from a quick business trip to New York and Connecticut. My deadline is noon tomorrow. How does Joe Falls do it? He turns out a daily column and I struggle with a weekly one. There lies the difference between a pro and an amateur. He does it for a livelihood, while I do it because. Come to think of it, why do I do it? Probably because, as my former secretary says, "It satisfies your ego and you don't want to disappoint your 10 readers."

Whatever the reason, I don't think I'll have to worry about a Nobel prize this year. My book promises to be more interesting!

New York hasn't changed. People are still rushing around. I attended the ski show at the Coliseum on Saturday, and although the same corporation conducted the Detroit show, I must say the Detroit show surpasses the "big show" in overall atmosphere and the warmth of the people.

THEY MAY have had more people but probably not as knowledgeable or as interested as we "Flatlanders." Like they say, it's a great place to visit.

I did manage to confirm a short trip to France that I'll be taking Dec. 5. While there I will visit the 200 ski areas

of Flaine, Avoriaz, Les Arcs and Les Menuires. Though certainly not as well known as other well-established ski areas, they are gaining a reputation among Europeans as "the place to ski". It will give me something to write about.

There was a time I was under the impression that skiers had to be the hardest group of athletes, but I ran into another strange breed of sportsmen today -- the "frostbite salars."

These kooky people were sailing in something akin to a bathtub in Greenwich Bay and tipping over and going back for more! The temperature was 40 degrees and wind blowing at about 30 mph.

I was invited to sail and seriously consider it, but my pre-ki conditioning class wouldn't believe I got that close to the water. No one can tell me that sailing is a winter sport.

Before I close, let me confirm that there will be a ladies ski day this season. It will be held again on Thursdays and we'll start after the holidays. Keep your eye on this column for full details.

Happy Thanksgiving!

With a clean sweep of awards in international competition, the Mt. Holly Ski Patrol has been selected as the "Outstanding Ski Patrol of the Year" by the National Ski Patrol System, Inc.

Mt. Holly's 56 member Ski Patrol won the national trophy in competition with the over 800 ski patrols in the United States including Alaska and Europe which comprise the National Ski Patrol System.

Judging for the outstanding ski patrol award considers the team's contributions in its own area and for skiing as a sport. Considerations include developing precedent-setting procedures accepted by the national system; contributions to the promotion of the sport of skiing; and the promotion of safety and accident prevention in the patrol's area.

Dick Warden, patrol director for Mt. Holly, feels that his patrol team has made a major contribution in the area's safety and accident prevention. Their "Student Grading Patch Program" has reduced Holly's accident rate by more than 25 per cent in the last four years. The program has been adopted by many of the other local areas, and is beginning to spread to other states.

The National Ski Patrol System has a membership of more than 21,000 patrolmen. All are unpaid volunteers, who donate their skilled services to:

1 - Promoting safety and accident prevention in the sport of skiing.

2 - Serving the skiing public without charge in the rescue and first aid treatment of injured skiers.

3 - Promoting safety and accident prevention in the sport of skiing.

Warden says, "This year, our new improved 1,500 foot-long ski run at Mt. Holly will call for increased vigilance and alertness on the part of all patrol members, as we are looking for our second national award."

Mt. Holly is completing a major improvement program. Holly's new slope has a vertical drop of 225 feet, the highest in lower Michigan. Two new chair lifts will raise skiers to the top of the new slope. New and larger snow making equipment has been installed, and the lightgram. Holly's new slope has been improved throughout the entire area.

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2 - Serving the ski area management as a trained and skilled rescue organization operating as economically as possible.

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Michigan's Theme: Big Fun In The Snow

The fabulous winter pastime of having fun in Michigan's snow is accentuated in the new December-March Michigan Calendar of Travel Events, according to the Michigan Tourist Council.

Snowmobile and skiing events dominate the listings with family fun events not far behind.

December is the traditional season for the family and events during the month are centered around the holiday season. The Kalamazoo Nature Center features a display of "Christmas trees around the world" during the later part of the month—an event cited by the Discover America Travel Organizations as one of the top twenty travel events in the nation for December.

Other holiday events include the Christmas Carnival at Detroit's Cobo Hall, Christmas in Greenfield Village with other exhibits at adjoining Henry Ford Museum, Dearborn and a Christmas play at the Museum daily during the last two weeks of the month.

January is spotted with snowmobile, skiing and skating events ranging from safaris to treasure hunts. Winter festivals and similar community observances will be held at Traverse City, Atlanta, Ludington, Sault Ste. Marie, Cadillac, Petoskey and Cheboygan.

A traditional Michigan ice-fishing event—Tip Up Town U.S.A.—is scheduled for mid-January at Houghton Lake.

February brings more snow events throughout both peninsulas, including the midwest championship sled-dog races at Kalkaska, sports car ice race at Grayling and the Michigan Tech winter carnival, Houghton-Hancock.

The international 500 mile snowmobile classic is scheduled early in February at Sault Ste. Marie, and the famed North American snowmobile championships will be held at Munising late in the month.

MICHIGAN'S EARLIEST golfing event—the Ice Cap and golf tournament is listed for mid-February at Grand Haven, during the same period the Pine Mountain ski jumping tournament is going on at Iron Mountain.

March listings include the Brockway Mountain cross country ski races at Copper Harbor, the ski tournament at Ishpeming and the national "hot wheels" championship derby" at Saginaw. The latter features children from seven to 12 years of age racing miniature electric cars and vying for top prizes of a college scholarship and a trip to Disneyland.

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CABERFAE, one of the few ski areas selected as a NASTAR racing center, provides standardized skier ratings and national recognition.

Brighton Offers All Facilities

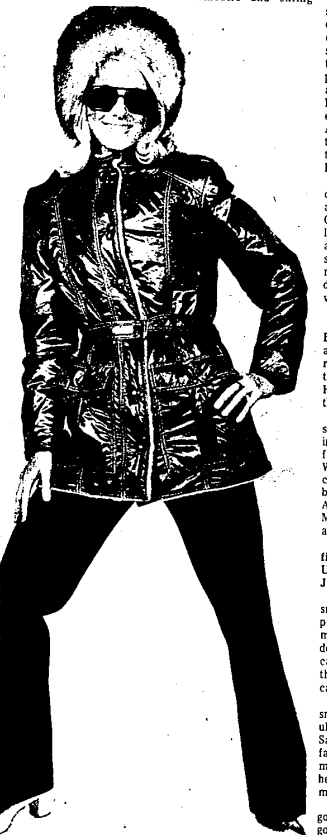
Mt. Brighton offers excellent slopes for every skier—beginner, intermediate or advanced.

Offered are three chairlifts, J-Bar and 10 polypropylene rope tows to insure a speedy return to the top.

Skiing is available day or night until 11 p.m.

National Ski Patrol members are always on hand to assist the skiers.

For ski reports, call Mt. Brighton, 313-227-1451, or Southeast Michigan Tourist Council, 313-962-9010.



SKI ATTIRE—Cire finish is important in coats, and is an asset to this ski jacket. Easy snap front and shearing lining will keep skier warm—and attractive!

Caberfae Prepared

A record high 150,000 skiers is expected by Caberfae ski area during the coming season. Noting that advance interest has been running higher than ever, Manager Merle Trepp projected breaking last year's record of 100,000 skiers early in 1971.

"The Caberfae area can handle 10,000 skiers per day," Trepp stated, "and because of the number of slopes available, overcrowding and long lift lines are eliminated."

In all, the Caberfae area comprises 580 acres, 520 of which are actively used for skiing. This includes 25 slopes with 26 operating uphill lift units.

Alpine Valley Finishes New Expansion Job

"We hope to be able to serve 200,000 skiers this year if we have good weather," explains Joseph F. Kosik, co-owner of Alpine Valley Ski area in Milford. "We have made over \$600,000 in improvements over this past summer and we feel we can handle as many as 6,000 skiers daily."

To accommodate these numbers, Kosik and his partner, Willis Stoick, have added a double chairlift, one more ski run, and a new separate area for beginners and intermediate skiers which will be served by four rope tows on two new slopes. So skiers will have three new slopes at Alpine this winter.

In addition, a new locker room and ski office have been added. The parking lot enlarged and a new entrance road laid out to insure easy, prompt entrance for all cars.

Dave Delpiere, manager of Alpine Valley, points out the area now has seven chairlifts which gives Alpine the largest capacity of any ski area in Michigan. With the addition of the new run, Alpine offers skiers over 80 acres of slopes to enjoy. The steepest run has a vertical drop of 210 feet with a length of 1500 feet.

IN SEPTEMBER, a fire destroyed the compressor

and the building that houses essential to skiing in southern Michigan. It is the compressor that makes the artificial snow so



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