

# 500,000 skiers expected on a wide variety of slopes

New hills, new chairlifts and refurbished lodges will greet the more than half a million skiers who hit the slopes of southeast lower Michigan's eight conveniently located ski areas this winter, according to Automobile Club of Michigan.

A good number of these skiers will be persons who return weekly and even daily to ski on season passes purchased for themselves and sometimes for the whole family.

Owners of southeast Michigan area ski operations report business in the upcoming season should be at least as good as last year's record.

THE BIG selling point for these ski areas is their proximity to centers of greatest population. Ski enthusiasts from large Michigan cities are no more than 45 minutes to an hour away from southeast Michigan skiing.

Both Mt. Holly and Mt. Brighton are opening new hills this winter and

both also will have new chairlifts. Mt. Holly has spent an estimated \$35,000 to build a new advanced hill and also constructed a plastic snow hill that can be used for giving lessons in summer or winter.

Mt. Brighton had the highest number of skiers in the state last winter—almost 200,000—and has expanded with a new hill for intermediate and advanced skiers and new double chairlift.

FIVE OF the eight southeast Michigan ski areas feature complete ski shops and all but one offer equipment rental and ski lessons.

Rental of skis, poles and boots ranges from \$3 to \$7.50 a day on weekends. Private lessons run \$10 to \$15 a person, and group instruction ranges from \$3 to \$3.50 a lesson.

With daily lift and tow tickets costing anywhere from \$3 to \$7.50 a person, a day of weekend skiing should

run between \$6 and \$15. There are reduced prices for children.

NONSKIERS more interested in keeping warm than in downhill racing will find dining rooms and cocktail lounges with weekend entertainment at five of the eight ski areas in southeastern Michigan. All eight have cafeterias or snack bars.

Southeast Michigan skiers can choose from the following ski areas:

Alpine Valley, Milford—This Swiss-style ski lodge has a rathskeller restaurant featuring a sunken dining room and wine cellar decor, as well as two cocktail lounges, a snack bar, cafeteria and complete ski shop. After skiing on Alpine's 15 slopes, visitors will find entertainment in the lounge on weekends. Open 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. weekends. Phone: (313) 987-4183.

Black Forest, Port Huron—Only snack bar service is available but there is a motel nearby where skiers can go for dining. Black Forest has seven runs but no ski shop. Open 5-10:30 p.m. weekdays and from 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. weekends. Phone: (313) 984-4189.

Mt. Brighton, Brighton—Two spacious cafeterias and a charcoal grill for limited menu dining can be found beneath the lodge's soaring wooden beams. There is a cocktail lounge where weekend visitors can listen to live entertainment while watching Mt. Brighton's 15 runs. Mt. Brighton has both a ski school and limited ski shop. Open 10 a.m.-11 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. weekends. Phone: (313) 227-1451.

Irish Hills Sports Park, Orsted—This lodge offers travel trailer hook-ups at 32 campsites renting at \$4 a night, including electricity. There is a 100-bed dormitory where groups of 25 or more can spend the night. Food

can be purchased at a cafeteria and a snack bar in the rustic lodge, which features a sundeck overlooking the slopes and a cocktail lounge where there is live entertainment on weekends. Open noon to 11 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. weekends. Irish Hills has 16 runs, a ski school and rental shop. Phone: (517) 667-1237.

Mt. Gramplan, Oxford—Mt. Gramplan's skiers can enjoy a bite to eat at an upper level cafeteria that gives a view of the lodge's seven runs. There is a limited ski shop. Open 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. weekdays and 9:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. weekends. Phone: (313) 628-2450.

Mt. Holly, Holly—Mt. Holly's skiers have 19 runs to choose from. There is a complete ski shop and ski rental, a cafeteria and dining room and a cocktail lounge offering weekend entertainment. Open 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m.-11 p.m. weekends. Phone: (313) 634-6288.

Pine Knob, Clarkston—Pine Knob's gourmet restaurant, Klosters at the Knob, is situated at the foot of a 2,600-foot slope, the longest in southeast Michigan. Skiers also will find a cafeteria and a cocktail lounge featuring live entertainment after 9 p.m. daily. Pine Knob has 10 runs and a complete ski shop. Ski instruction is available. There is skiing from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. weekdays and from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. weekends. The restaurant is open for dinner from 5 p.m. to midnight Monday through Saturday and from 2 p.m. until midnight on Sunday. Phone: (313) 394-0000.

Teepie Hill, Pontiac—Located in the Highland Recreation Area, this lodge is for people concerned only with skiing. There is no equipment rental and skiers who come off Teepie Hill's nine runs will find a snack bar and warming shelter its only amenities. Open 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on weekends only. Phone: (313) 334-8223.

## Sledding hills

Winter sports at Kensington Metropolitan near Milford include hills for sledding, several special runs for tobogganing, rinks for ice skating and hockey and ice fishing on Kest Lake. For details phone 685-1261 in Milford.

## Stony Creek sports

Hills for tobogganing, sledding and cross-country skiing, plus ice skating rinks and ice fishing are major winter sports at Stony Creek Metropolitan near Utica. For details phone 781-4362 (Washington).

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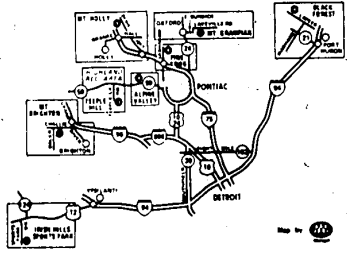
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### Where to Ski in Southeast Michigan



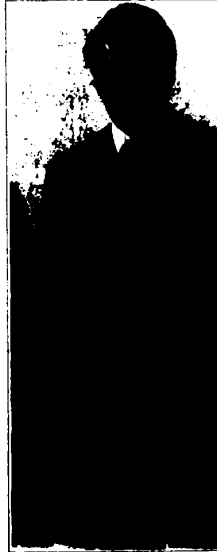
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