

# State Opens More Park Areas For Snowmobiling

LANSING The Department of Natural Resources this week will put snowmobilers "on their good behavior" by opening more lands to them for non-competitive fun in state parks and recreation areas of Michigan.

The DNR is lifting its trails-only rules for snowmobilers at most of these parks and recreation areas under a move to meet growing demands of these recreationists for more cross-country space in Michigan.

In reaching its decision to give snowmobilers more room to roam, the Department also took into account the fact that its latest studies on the experimental use of several large-sized tracts show no need to limit power-sledding to designated trails in state parks and recreation areas.

DNR WORKERS will immediately begin to mark areas in these public sites which will be open and closed to snowmobiling. They hope to have most of these areas properly posted by this week-end.

Field Deputy Director Warren W. Shapton. "The changes we are now making," he explains, "are strictly designed to provide more family-type recreation (or snowmobilers)."

Shapton also observes: "Our experience from several experimental sites indicates that snowmobilers in general have demonstrated good care and common sense in using such open areas. We are now going to open these areas on a broad scale with the hope that snowmobilers will appreciate these expanded opportunities and not abuse them."

Unles the snowmobiling situation gets "out of hand," the large expanses of state parks and recreation areas will be left open to power-sledders throughout this winter, Shapton adds.

## observing sports

So, you think you're an umpire! You sit in the stands and call the man in blue every name in the book. You are a Little Leaguer's father or mother and condemn the ump because YOUR team loses. O-o-o-o-k-a-y . . . folks, here's the thing for you to do.

The mail brings an interesting notice from Oakland Community College's athletic director Pin Ryan.

"The college is preparing to present a special course starting on Feb. 8 in 'The Art of Officiating Baseball.'"

In short, it will deal with HOW TO UMPIRE.

RYAN DISCLOSES that there'll be 10 sessions with Doug Cossey, one of the best ump's in these parts, in charge of the classes.

Cossey has worked in professional baseball, in the College World Series, in the Big Ten, in other college games and in numerous high school games. For the last two years we've shared the honor of umpiring in the Catholic League finals with him.

He knows his business and what he has to say should be very enlightening.

Even if you don't ever plan to umpire yourself, it might be worth attending the once a week classes to be held at Troy High School.

It's pretty cheap . . . just \$20, and the fee includes a rules book and instructor's case book and manual.

Cossey has outlined the following program:

Feb. 8 — Organization and introduction to baseball umpiring.

Feb. 15 — Difference in professional, college, high school, Little League baseball as pertaining to rules one and two.

Feb. 22 — Differences in rules three and four.

March 1 — Rule 5, the dead and live ball.

March 8 — The batter.

March 15 — The runner.

March 22 — The pitcher.

March 29 — The umpire (of all things!)

April 5 — The official scorer.

April 12 — How to work with one man, two men, three men and four men on the field.

The baseball course kicks off three such programs Oakland Community College will offer in the weeks and months ahead.

When baseball is over, sessions will begin on April 19 for football. There'll be basketball classes in September, beginning on Sept. 15.

AS ATHLETIC DIRECTOR Ryan points out the classes offer:

1 — the opportunity to learn the rules and techniques necessary to officiate football, basketball and baseball.

2 — The opportunity to become a qualified, registered official.

3 — Placement opportunities. Upon completion of each 10-week section of the course, your name will be submitted as a qualified sports' official in that sport to all the recreation directors and athletic directors in the Detroit area.

From where we sit, each session — be it baseball, football or basketball — is worth the small financial investment and the time spent.

The classes certainly are a step forward in improving the calibre of sports officiating in schoolboy action in these parts.

FOR MANY YEARS, one has heard complaints about the officiating.

One also has heard cries: "Where can one learn to referee or umpire?"

So, here's your golden opportunity.

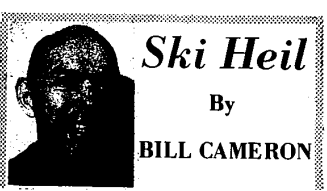
Troy High is easy to get to for those in the Observer area. It's located on Livernois, just north of Big Beaver Road, which is 16 Mile Road.

Our suggestion is for groups of four and five to enroll. Travel over to Troy together.

You'll not only have a lot of fun, but you're certain a wind up a winner.

Who knows, the \$20 could pay handsome dividends. If you land your own assignments to officiate games, you can pocket several hundred dollars a year without much trouble while having a good time.

Ask the man who knows.



## Ski Heil

By  
BILL CAMERON

Don't you feel sorry for all those airlines that are having financial difficulty? As an individual traveler you have probably taken it for granted that it really is no problem going from Detroit to Chicago or New York. You are right. But, try asking about the various excursion rates and you've opened up Pandora's Box.

Let me give you an example. Why is it cheaper to fly to Buenos Aires and return within 30 days? If I stay over 30 days it will cost another \$75 to a \$100.

Why must I travel with a group for a group affinity rate to my destination, but can return by myself? You'd be amazed at the different rate schedules available.

The tourist is welcomed with open arms and 7, 15, or 21 days excursions at discount prices. Common sense would tell you that it is more economical to schedule five flights a week at capacity than 10 per week half full. Any school child can figure that out. But for some reason it has escaped the "brains of the industry."

TOW LINES

Ladies Ski Day - children can come tomorrow, at reduced rate, but no lesson.

Don't forget the United Skiers Service bus to Boyne Country leaving every Friday evening at 7 P.M. from Schneider's Sport Shop in Dearborn and Oakland Mall at 7:45 P.M. Call 278-1311.

Pro races at Boyne Mountain Saturday and Sunday, February 13 and 14.

Has anyone seen Vern Converse or Marty Pavelich?

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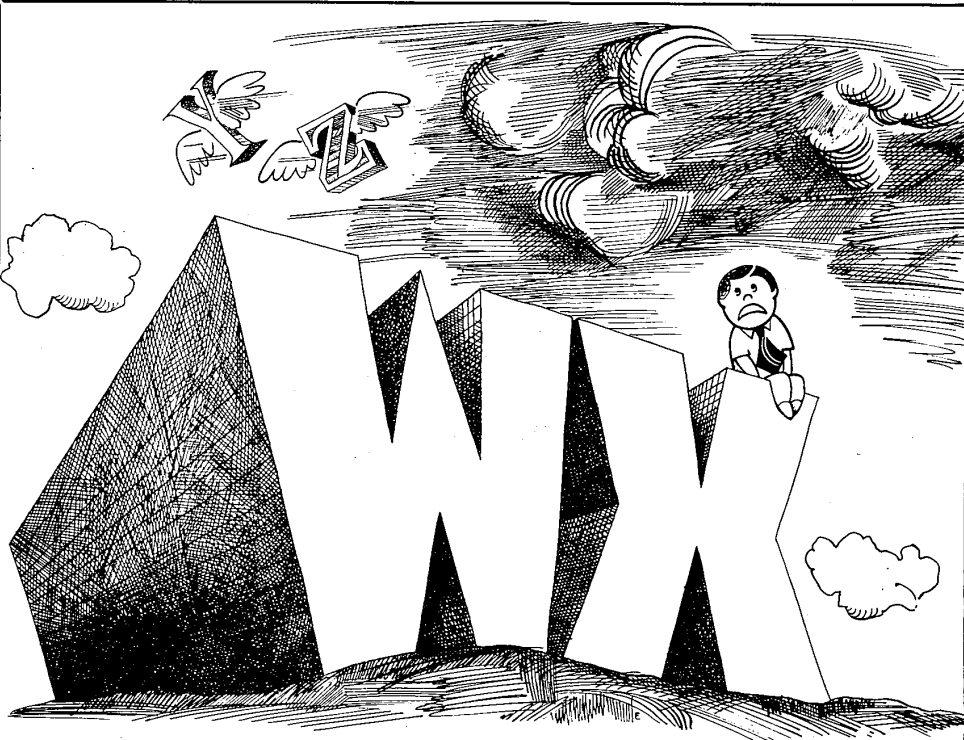
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