

WEEKEND SKIER

BY DAN MARGULIES

Before you get the thermals on



The sun wasn't up and it was pouring rain, but that doesn't stop a real skier from getting up and into three layers of clothes. Who needs ski reports when the slopes opened weeks ago?

Last Sunday I was all set to start out in the rain, sure that it was snow further north, when good sense took hold.

"Is this stuff rain or snow up there?" I asked.

"For the last six hours it's been rain, and it's not getting any colder," came the reply. A detailed check proved it was snowing in Maine.

Tragedy for a day tripper. But slope owners were obviously undaunted. Several had called the ski information center to report things like "10 to 40 inch base, corn conditions."

"Corn" is a ski industry euphemism for wet snow, and a common report in the spring. During a heavy late fall rain it means slush. Very sticky stuff.

Local ski shops will have condition reports later in the season. For the real early bird a call to Ellis Ski Information, a slope funded operation for northeastern areas, is in order. The New York number is 925-7724. You can also call 800-243-3520 toll free, but the line is very busy.

One mountain that deserves some business is Glen Ellen in Waitsfield, Vt. This area is leading the way to the future by

knocking down last year's lift ticket prices by \$1. Weekend day tickets go from \$10 to \$9 and weekday tickets are down to \$7.

In the interest of saving money, skiers can try "The Great New Hampshire Rip-Off," a coupon book costing \$5 and reported to offer \$500 in discounts from the New Hampshire Ski Area Operators Association, Box 707, Boston, Mass. 02116.

One free season pass to Mt. Tom in Holyoke, Mass. is available. To get it you need a female aoudad. A male of the South African mountain goat species escaped from an amusement park near the ski

area last August. It has been surprising motorists and eyeing skiers strangely. The theory is that a female would bring it out of the woods.

For the beginner, Mt. Snow, Vt. is offering a first: the "guaranteed" ski week. Using the Graduated Length Method, which starts you out on easy-to-handle short skis and works up, Mt. Snow guarantees a week of instruction will have you skiing parallel. If not, the lessons continue free.

NOTES: Bedford students can register in the Fox Lane Ski Club today (Saturday) and next Saturday between 9 and 11 a.m. at the Middle School Gym. Members must have new applications and a parent's permission slip on file before they can participate in any of nine trips planned by the club.

Club directors will be on hand at the gym to check members' skiing equipment. It is suggested that parents accompany their children.

The Yorktown Parks and Recreation Department has planned seven day trips for Junior and Senior High School students beginning December 26.

Yorktown is also planning a full week ski trip to Interlaken, Switzerland February 16 to 24. Jet transportation, rooms, and breakfast are included for \$315.

For information on day trips or the week in Switzerland contact Brian J. Slavin, recreation supervisor, at 245-4650.

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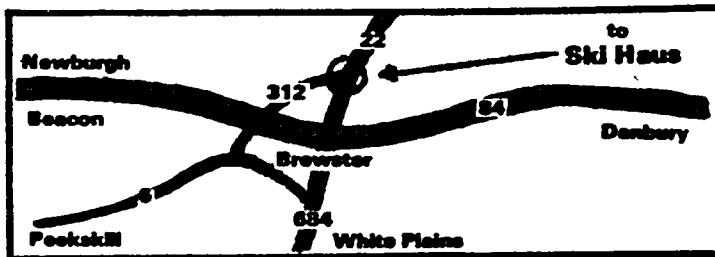
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