

WAY BACK WHEN



The ski jump at the old Intervale Ski Area. (COURTESY OF VERGIL ABBOTT)

The old Intervale Ski Area

INTERVALE — The Conway Daily Sun in its Saturday editions likes to print vintage photographs pertaining to the area's history, many of them loaned by readers, to be used for "Way Back When...."

Today's pertains to the old Intervale Ski Area, with images donated by Vergil "Cookie" Abbott of Ossipee.

Jeff Leich of the New England Ski Museum writes that Bartlett was home to a ski area that was part of a multi-resort empire called Ski Tows Inc. assembled by brewing heir Fred A. Pabst, Jr. Finding skiing more congenial than taking a position in the family business, Pabst embarked on building ski areas around the northeastern U.S. and nearby Canada in the mid-1930s.

One of his early locations was Intervale Ski Area in Bartlett, just behind the New England Inn and near the base of the Maple Villa Trail. As he did at many of his other areas, Pabst installed an early J-Bar lift, which was the state of the art in ski lifts at the time.

In 1939-40 the Eastern Slope Ski Club obtained help for Intervale by the Works Progress Administration, which did slope and trail work and built a foot-bridge over the East Branch to allow for parking on Town Hall Road. That was

the peak year of Pabst's "chain store" of ski resorts, and Intervale contributed 10 percent of his total receipts of \$33,664.

In the next few years, it became evident that the war and the far-flung nature of Pabst's empire were both hurting his business, and he began to retrench, ultimately moving many of his J-Bars to Bromley, Vt., where he could concentrate on a larger, consolidated operation.

The Stimpson family operated Intervale after the war. The area featured a Poma lift installed in 1956, a ski jump used by school teams, and a Tucker Sno-Kitten for grooming.

"There is just about the right amount of ski terrain for the capacity of the lift," wrote Sel Hannah after looking over the area for a potential buyer in 1961. "The surrounding terrain lends itself to expansion. The area can double."

Hannah estimated it would cost about \$175,000 to put in a double chair and expand the area to match it. The New Jersey resident did not pursue the area, and by the early 1970s Intervale was leased to Eastern Mountain Sports, the outdoor retailer, which operated it as a Nordic center for several years.

Dick and Priscilla Stimpson's son, Rich, and his wife Pam reside in the area's old base lodge.

THANK YOU

SNOW REPORT from page 3

Race is slated for March 23 along with a passholders' barbecue and entertainment by the Jeremy Dean Band. The 26th annual Beach Party returns March 30, featuring a slush pond. The Mount Stickney Cabin has a barbecue beginning at 11 a.m.

CANNON (823-8800; 66 of 73 trails) hosts an Old School Duel freestyle event March 23. The Blizzard Splash returns March 30, followed by Bode Miller's BodeFest April 6. It's a day of fun to support the Turtle Ridge Foundation, hosted by New Hampshire Olympic gold medalist Bode Miller of Franconia. Register now on-line.

CRANMORE (356-5543; 57 of 57 trails): Be sure to check out the Mountain Adventure Park (Mountain Coaster, Giant Swing, Soaring Eagle Zipline and Tubing Park all open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Indoor Adventure Center open noon to 7 p.m. Saturday, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday).

Cranmore's annual Spring Splash returns March 23 (test your water skimming ability!), and Cranarchy will feature a barbecue and informal rail jam beginning at noon March 24.

Cranmore's rescheduled Mountain Meisters Jesse E. Lyman Memorial Downhill is now set for Wednesday, March 27. It will be followed by the annual end-of-season Mountain Meisters awards banquet and party at Zip's — bring your Meister pass for admission.



Cranmore Mountain Resort hosted its third annual SnowSki school reunion cocktail reception at Zip's Pub Friday, N. (second from left) and Donnie Newton (far right) were Chr and Cranmore general manager and president Ben Wilcox. Toni Matt and Franz Koessler. Members of the hall are hon.

Cranmore general manager and president Ben Wilcox notes that the scheduled end of Cranmore's 75th anniversary season is now set for Easter Sunday, March 31 — join Cranmore at 8 a.m. at the lift for an 8:30 a.m. morning service, followed by an Easter egg hunt at 11 a.m.

KING PINE (367-8896; 17 of 17 trails): March is Uber Spring at King Pine. The spring calendar continues March 23 with a Wacky Obstacle Race and Kids Fun Run, along with the last night skiing of the season. On March 24, pond skimming and Reggae. Simon Crawford plays at the Trails

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