

History Of Rib Mountain

Rib Mountain, for many years, has been a place where people from all over the world can come and enjoy the great sport of downhill skiing. Rib Mountain was one of the first ski hills in the nation, it opened in 1937. The hill originally had six runs. These runs were made mostly by residents of Wausau. Of course there were no big chair lifts back then so they used a half-mile long T-bar. There was not a lot of power in those days so they relied on a Ford V8 motor to move the T-bar!

Later on in 1984 the state of Wisconsin agreed to what would be called a Master Plan for Rib Mountain. This plan gave the Rib Mountain Ski Area 385 more acres of land. This was a big deal for the ski area because it allowed them to build eight more runs and expand there original chalet that was built in 1937.

I sat down and talked to my grandpa, Tom Gerstenberger, about the history of Rib Mountain. My grandpa has skied at Rib Mountain since 1965. At that time he was a teacher at Edgar High school. My grandpa had a passion for skiing and wanted to teach younger kids how to ski as well. So, he created the Edgar High School Ski Club. He was the leader of the Edgar Ski Club from 1965 to 1981. My grandpa would take the kids out behind Edgar High School where there was a small hill and would teach them how to ski. After he taught them the basics of downhill skiing he would take them to Rib Mountain. My grandpa stated, "At the time there were only five or six runs with one chair lift going right up the middle. There were also a few rope tows." He also said that he would bring the kids to Rib Mountain at night because Rib Mountain was the only ski hill in the area to have skiing under the lights. He remembered when the lights

were moved from the golf course to the ski hill. He also stated that, "There were only two runs open during night skiing. They were called Dusky and Big Rib. The kids would go up and down hundreds of times and I would have to beg them to get back on the bus when it was time to go."

Rib Mountain has come a long way since my grandpa was the head of the Edgar Ski Club. In fact, since the year 2000 they have added 58 new runs and have put in seven new chair lifts. One of these chairlifts is a technologically advanced high speed chairlift. Rib Mountain does more than just provide the ski hill. They also provide lessons and many other different areas of entertainment such as bands that play inside the new Sundance Chalet and Grill. All of these advances from the original hill in 1937 have made Rib Mountain Ski Area one of the best ski destinations in our area. Rib Mountain has changed tremendously and has become an amazing area for families and friends to spend time together and enjoy the great outdoors.

By,

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References

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