

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

SOVEREIGN LAKE SKI AREA

SILVER STAR RECREATION ÀREA VERNON, B.C.

P.

Prepared By:

ORTH OHANAGAN CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLUB

In Co-operation with B.C. Parks



REVISED DECEMBER, 1988

Silver Star Recreation Area occupies 8714 hectares (33½ sq. miles) of land surrounding 1890 metre-Silver Star Mountain, about 25 kilometres from Vernon, B.C. Within this attractive area are extensive facilities for downhill and cross country skiing and snowmobiling.

The area is one of the most favourable in the province for cross country skiing. With an average snow depth of 140 cms, many hours of winter sunshine, uniform temperatures slightly below freezing, and an elevation of 1600 metres (5,300 feet), a prolonged skiing season extending from early November to the end of April is possible. In addition the proximity of food, lodging and apres-ski facilities nearby in Silver Star Village or Vernon make the area convenient for visitors.

HOW TO GET TO SILVER STAR

Turn east off Hwy. 97 on to 48th Avenue (Village Green Inn) which becomes Silver Star Road. The turn to the cross country ski area is well marked, at about 22 kms from Highway 97. Good winter tires must be used during the winter season.

CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRAILS

The development of Silver Star Recreation Area has been a co-operative effort involving the Ministry of Parks, the North Okanagan Cross Country Ski Club, the Recreation Council of B.C. and the Vernon Snowmobile Association.

B.C. Parks is responsible for the planning and construction of parking lots, trails, shelters, etc. It also provides staff and equipment to supervise and groom the trails during the ski season. During 1988, Parks carried out a major upgrading and smoothing of trails and constructed a new log warming hut at Black Prince.

The Ski Club assists with the planning and construction of the ski trails. Its members have provided approximately 10,000 hours of volunteer labour for trail construction and maintenance. The Club also sponsors federal-provincial work projects, the most recent program completed 2 major trails: Gold Mountain and Centre Star and constructed a new change and waxing hut.

DESCRIPTION OF SKI TRAILS

The trail names were taken from old mining claims staked during the first half of the century on Silver Star Mountain, where there was considerable mining activity, or for people prominent in the development of the recreation area.

The trails are marked with color coded signs, located at trail heads and junctions, indicating the degree of difficulty to be expected in skiing them.

SOVEREIGN (Beginner) 1.4 km return; an easy loop in the Sovereign Lake Area.

WOODLAND BELL (Beginner) 4.2 km return; a loop with scenic viewpoint.

MYSTERY (Intermediate) 2.5 km return; trail starts from Woodland Bell and rejoins it following an exhilarating downhill run and an invigorating uphill jaunt.

BLACK PRINCE (Intermediate) 3.0 km return; trail starts from Mystery and offers a variety of skill-testing hills and turns before returning to Mystery.

HALF SOVEREIGN (Beginner) .6 km; an easy loop using part of Sovereign.

 $\mbox{WYLIE'S LOOP}\ (\mbox{Beginner})\ .5$ km; a flat beginner's trail leaving from the ski school area.

SILVER QUEEN (Advanced) 4.9 km; two-way trail accessible from Sovereign and Maid of Vernon at the south end and from Black Prince at the north end.

PRINCE OF WALES (Advanced) 2.5 km loop; accessible from Maid of Vernon or Silver Queen.

MAID OF VERNON (Intermediate) 1.5 km loop; leaves Sovereign and returns to School Yard, providing access to Lookout Spur.

LOOKOUT SPUR (Intermediate) 0.5 km return; leads from Maid of Vernon to attractive view of Okanagan Valley.

ABERDEEN (Advanced) 4.8 km one way; two-way trail which leads from snowmobile parking lot to summit of Silver Star Mountain. Provides attractive views of the lakes, Vernon and surrounding area, mountains to the south and Monashee Mountains to the east.

CENTRE STAR (Advanced) 4 km; two-way trail connecting the Summit to Black Prince. Accessible from Aberdeen or Black Prince.

GOLD MOUNTAIN (Advanced) 4.4 km; two-way trail connecting Sovereign Lake parking lot with Silver Star Village.

MONTEZUMA (Advanced) 2.4 km; loop for training and racing.

MONTEZUMA'S REVENGE (Advanced) 2.2 km; loop for training and racing.

WHITE ELEPHANT (Advanced) 3.0 km; loop for training and racing.

The last three loops were designed as a flexible and challenging racing trail system, separate from the main trail system.

All trails are groomed.

NO CHARGE FOR TRAILS

All the cross country ski trails in the Sovereign Lake Area are free to the public.

TRAIL COURTESY AND ETIQUETTE

Cross-country skiers can help make their skiing and ski experience of others more enjoyable by observing a few common courtesies. Please remember:

- try to keep on the ski trails
- o not to ski more than two abreast when travelling in a group
- move over to the side of the trail when you stop to let others pass
- · watch your speed when visibility is poor
- · shout "track" if you wish to pass another skier on the trail
- · take any garbage you may have to a proper disposal area
- · please don't leave anything on the trails
- · trees or shrubs must not be damaged or cut
- make fires only in an emergency

Additional trails for which a daily charge is made are provided by Silver Star Mountain Resorts Ltd. in the resort area (4 km of trails lighted for night skiing).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Please write to B.C. Parks at the address given below if you would like more information on cross country skiing, snowmobiling or other winter recreation opportunities at Silver Star Recreation Area.

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

If you have any comments or suggestions, please write to the Ministry of Parks, or the North Okanagan Cross Country Ski Club at the addresses given below.



MINISTRY OF PARKS
Okanagan District Office
P.O. Box 318, Summerland, B.C. V0H 1Z0

NORTH OKANAGAN CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLUB P.O. Box 1543, Vernon, B.C. V1T 8C2

SAFETY: For your own protection, always obey posted signs; never walk on ski trails and always travel with a companion. Be aware of snowmobile crossings on some trails. The nearest telephone is at Silver Star Lodge.

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Ambulance: 542-5454 • R.C.M.P.: 545-7171 • B.C. Parks: 494-0321

