



COOL GLIDING

Longtime ski clubs
thriving in Sussex,
Hubertus

Submitted photos

Skiers at Ausblick in Sussex at the club's "Men's Day" event last month. The club has been in operation for nearly 50 years and includes 400 active memberships.

SUSSEX — What Ausblick provides for its members during the winter months, according to Dennis Evinrude, is a way to stay healthy.

“What we offer people is an alternative to hiding in their house when winter comes,” said Evinrude, general manager of Ausblick, a membership-based ski club in Sussex.

The club has been in operation for nearly a half a century.

Originally owned and operated by Marquette University for the school’s Avalanche Club, whose members dubbed it “Maryhill,” the property was later bought and turned into a for-profit membership club, according to the organization’s website.

Three years after that change, in 1974, it was bought by the general members and turned into a non-profit corporation, Evinrude said.

Currently, Ausblick Inc. is limited to 400 memberships.

“That gives us a club population of about 1,700 souls,” said Evinrude, who said early in the club’s existence, members largely came from Brookfield, but now the group is “much more diverse.”

“Our members come all the way from Shorewood to Madison,” he said, adding that there are at least one or two current members from Illinois.

Ausblick membership is currently full, and Evinrude said the waiting list typically lasts between 12 and 18 months.

The club-style ski experience, offered through paid memberships, is an option some seek out when looking for limited crowds and quick access to lifts, Evinrude said.

“What it amounts to is we have very (few) lift lines,” he said. “They like the ambiance of the lodge and the privilege of skiing at a private area where the load on the slopes is controlled.”

Nearby, in Hubertus, the Heilliger Huegel Ski Club also runs a membership-based program. The club began with a charter of 50 mem-



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Area ski clubs

For more information on area ski clubs, including membership rates:

- Ausblick – ausblick.org
- Heilliger Huegel – www.hhskiclub.com

bers in 1936, according to its website.

The club formed the Heilliger Huegel Outdoor Education Foundation in 2015, has an active racing program, and an agreement with neighboring landowners allowing for grooming of approximately 3 miles of trails for Nordic skiing and snowshoeing, according to the website.

At Ausblick, Evinrude said there are approximately 100 employees, with up to 30 working on a given day.

The club does not include a restaurant for purchasing food, but does have a grill “bigger than most restaurants” for members to use in the 7,000-square-foot lodge.

“Everybody brings their own food,” Evinrude said. “We want

them to consider this their cottage, to come here and treat it like their own.”

The hill has about six “distinct and different ways to get down the slope,” according to Evinrude, who said the club has invested in Olympic-class grooming machinery and snowmaking machines.

“In the beginning of the season, we like cold weather so we can make our base. We call that the cake,” he said. “We count on Mother Nature for the icing.”

Evinrude, who is now in his 48th season involved with the club, said he believes the group will continue long into the future. He said those interested in memberships do not need to be experienced skiers.

“One of our past presidents, he and his family joined without knowing (previously) how to ski. We have an extremely strong snow sport school,” said Evinrude, who said children can start lessons early.

“We love people starting at age 3, to get something on kids’ feet other than shoes,” he said. “Get them used to moving out on the snow.”