

Howelsen Hill Ski Area



Ski Area History:

The heart of this ski town lies in the humble beginning of its first ski area. From the seeds planted early in the century, a community dedicated to the sport of skiing and the spirit of winter grew, producing a world-class winter recreation resort and 69 winter Olympians.

Howelsen Hill was named for its founding father, Carl Howelsen, a Norwegian who came to Steamboat Springs in 1913 and encouraged its residents to embrace skiing and winter. As soon as he arrived Howelsen built jumps out of snow and organized competitions including the first Winter Carnival in February 1914. By December 1914, a committee under Carl Howelsen's charge began clearing the underbrush and timber on a hill across the river from downtown, in order to build more permanent wooden jumps. The second Winter Carnival took place in February 1915 at Howelsen Hill officially opening the ski area on what was once an area popular for grazing elk.

Capital improvements at Howelsen Hill began before most of Colorado's other ski area sites had been scouted. The first amenities were built for the 1920 Winter Carnival and included a 150-seat heated grandstand, a toboggan slide, and a lighted skating rink. In the 1930s downhill and slalom courses were built and the first lift, a boat tow powered by a Model T Ford engine and transmission, opened in 1938. Night skiing appeared in 1937, and in 1939 more trails were introduced and the boat tow was replaced by a double-boat tow, which could carry 200 skiers per day 1,000 feet up the hill to the slalom courses. By 1940 the ski area boasted a 465-foot vertical drop, three jumps for Class A and B riders and beginners and a toboggan course. In 1945 a rope tow was added serving the beginner runs. In 1946 Howelsen Hill hosted the National Ski Jumping Championships for the first time. On January 31, 1948 the longest single span chairlift in the country and the first to combine chairs and T-bars was dedicated.

From grazing elk to farming Olympians...

Howelsen Hill overcame its share of challenges over the years including a 100-mile-per-hour windstorm in 1921 that leveled area trees, a fire that burned down the 90-meter jump in 1972, and the collapse of the lodge in 1992. With

every tribulation, the town rallied and funded the necessary renovations to keep the area in business. Howelsen Hill stands today in large to the credit of Steamboat Springs residents and is part of what made the town earn its moniker, Ski Town USA®, for providing a home for the Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club, which has produced 64 Winter Olympians since 1932. Howelsen Hill has held World Records in ski jumping, and World Cups in special jumping and Nordic Combined. It is also the oldest ski area in Colorado in continuous use.

Howelsen Hill was added to the Colorado state registry of historic places in 2000 and the tow house built in 1947, received a \$100,000 grant from the Colorado Historical Society in 2003 to preserve the structure. Through the Colorado Ski Heritage Project, Howelsen Hill raised \$3 million for rebuilding the 60K jump as a 68K with a plastic run so it can be used for training year round

Mountain Statistics:

Location:	845 Howelsen Parkway, 970-879-8499
Year Opened:	1915
Owned & Operated by:	The City of Steamboat Springs
Elevations:	Summit.....7,136 feet Base.....6,696 feet Vertical Rise.....440 feet
Skiable Terrain:	Alpine, 50 acres; Nordic 150 acres
Longest Run:	1 mile
Snowmaking:	50%
Trail System:	15 alpine trails, 4 lifts; 20K of cross-country trails
Trail Classification:	25% beginner, 20% intermediate, 55% advanced
Terrain Parks:	Half-acre terrain park; skate park (open waether permitting)
Jumping facilities:	HS 127, HS 100, HS 75, Hs 4, HS 3, HS 2
Snowfall:	150 inches



Photos © Tread of Pioneers Museum,

Upper left: the first Steamboat Springs Ski Club with coach Carl Howelsen at Howelsen Hill, 1915

Lower right: Howelsen Hill at night, 1956

Hours of Operation:

Monday:	Noon - 6:00 p.m. (Nooner = 12-2)
Tuesday:	Noon - 8:00 p.m. (Nooner = 12-2)
Wednesday:	9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. (Nooner = 11-2)
Thursday:	Noon - 8:00 p.m. (Nooner = 12-2)
Friday:	Noon - 6:00 p.m. (Nooner = 12-2)
Saturday:	9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Sunday:	9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Lift Ticket Pricing:

Senior:	\$10
Adult (19-59)	\$15
Youth (7-18)	\$10
Child (6 & under)	\$5
"Nooner"	\$5
Night Skiing	\$6
Nordic day pass	\$7.50



Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club:

The Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club is the oldest ski club west of the Mississippi. Originally formed to plan and promote the first Winter Carnival in 1914, today it provides advanced training for all disciplines: Alpine, Nordic, Freestyle, and Snowboard and has trained more Olympic and World Championship skiers and members of the United States Ski Team than any other club in the country. SSWSC provides year-round training and coaching for over 1,000 athletes, has produced 64 Winter Olympians and sent 21 of its athletes to the 2006 Winter Games in Torino, Italy.

Summer Activities at Howelsen Hill:

- Summer Jumping
- The Howler Alpine Slide
- Baseball & Softball fields
- Tennis
- Sand volleyball
- Horseback riding
- Mountain biking
- Hiking
- Skateboard Park
- BMX Park
- Rodeo at Romick Arena
- Ice skating at Howelsen Ice Arena



Photo © Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club

Follow in their tracks...

Visit the Tread of Pioneers Museum



Carl Howelsen is arguably the first ski pioneer to head to Colorado. Called the "father of skiing in Steamboat Springs" Howelsen is also said to have taught Colorado the sport of skiing. These facts and other Steamboat Springs skiing history can be found in a permanent display at the **Tread of Pioneers Museum**.

Artifacts including skis, boots, and even an original chair from Howelsen Hill,

the first chairlift of its kind, can be found there.

The Tread of Pioneers is also the keeper of over 4000 historic images including Howelsen Hill dating back to its opening season in 1915. Stored in a digital library, the photos are available for reprint by appointment.

No journey to Steamboat Springs is complete without a visit to the Tread of Pioneers Museum, located in downtown Steamboat Springs at 800 Oak Street.

Open year round: 11am - 5pm, Tuesday - Saturday
\$5 adults, \$4 seniors, \$1 children
970-879-2214
www.treadofpioneers.org
topmuseum@springsips.com



2006-2007 Events at Howelsen Hill Ski Area

December 9-10	Nordic Combined World Cup B
December 20	Nordic Town Challenge Race #1: Howelsen Hill Relay
December 15-17	Alpine FIS Holiday Classic
January 15	Nordic Town Challenge Race #2: Howelsen Hill Climb
January 21-22	U.S. Ski Jumping & Nordic Combined National Championships
February 7-11	94th Annual Steamboat Springs Winter Carnival
February 9-11	Galandesprung National Competition
March 3	16th Annual Steamboat Pentathlon
March 7-11	NCAA Ski Championships

Ongoing Events:

Recreational Jumping with Instruction: Tuesday nights, \$5 for lift ticket, \$12 for lessons
Hitchens' Brothers Wednesday Night Jumping Series: Every-other Wednesday, Mid-January-Early-March
Town Challenge Alpine and Telemark Race Series: Every-other Thursday night, December-March