

Murrysville's P.V. Park, a great place for cross-country skiing

Local cross country skiers have found out that Murrysville's Pleasant Valley Park is a great place for their sport. According to Ed Straub, on Feb. 18 there was a substantial base of packed snow and about four inches of new powder on the surface. The temperature, in the twenties with minimal wind, was ideal.

"The nearly two miles of old farm roads in the park are great for cross-country skiing. They are wide enough for two people to ski side by side, have a fairly smooth surface, and tend to follow terrain contours. Many of the popular X-C ski trails in the Laurel Mountains are often only one person wide, and because of rocks and tree roots require a lot of snow cover but can still be tricky," says Straub.

Straub gives the following directions for enjoying the trails in the park. From the parking lot, located off Pleasant Valley



Ed Straub on one of the trails in Pleasant Valley Park.

Rd. about a mile South of Rt. 22, follow the farm road to just past the old storage building. By staying on the left where the road splits skiers avoid the big dip, and come out at the same place. At about 3/10th of a mile the

road splits again. The road going off to the right has a nice downhill run about 1/10th of a mile long with a small bend in the middle.

For the next 5/10th mile, the road is fairly level with woods to the right and old farm pasture to the left. The road splits again at about 9/10th mile from the start. If skiers go straight the road curves back toward Pleasant Valley Rd, but will not take them back to the parking lot. If they take a left at the 9/10th mile split, there is another nice 1/10th mile downhill run that curves to the left. After a short

wooded section, the road splits for the last time. Going straight they will encounter a short, steep drop down to a small stream. By turning right, they will have another nice 1/10th mile downhill run followed by a level section where the road parallels Lynn Run. The road enters private property where it crosses Lynn Run so skiers need to turn around and head back. Fortunately they can climb back up most of the downhill runs without a lot of effort.

"To enjoy some nice cross-country skiing without spending a couple of hours driving to the Lau-

rel Highlands, I suggest visiting Murrysville's Pleasant Valley Park," states Straub.