

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In this our first bulletin of the year I extend a hearty welcome to our many new members, and a "ski hell" to our old ones. It is most gratifying to note the increasing numbers of people who are availing themselves of the various facilities which have been developed during the past year. I particularly wish to thank those whose efforts have contributed so much to the advancement of skiing interest and enjoyment in the Mt. Mansfield region.

The credit for our new bunk cabin at the Ranch goes to Craig Burt. The thought and ingenuity put into the construction of this cabin can be appreciated only by seeing and using it. To sit around the circular fire after a day on the trails makes one's skiing enjoyment complete. It is my earnest wish that our members and their friends use this cabin for overnight stops as often as possible.

To State Forester P. H. Merrill whose interest and active recreational policy made the work possible, and to Charles Lord who was in charge of design and construction, we are indebted for Mt. Mansfield's fine system of trails and ski runs.

I wish also to thank George Gale our Secretary-Treasurer who is always willing to do anything at any time the club calls upon him. There are, of course, many others who have worked hard and unselfishly. Their cooperation is deeply appreciated.

It is gratifying to note the interest taken in the Mt. Mansfield region by out-of-state people. The attendant publicity of course means more visitors, which in turn aids in providing increased facilities for you. This month's "Country Life" contains a splendid article by Roland Palmedo of the New York Amateur Ski Club in which Mt. Mansfield and our club's hospitality is favorably commented upon. As a further indication of their interest, this New York organization is planning to hold one of their winter ski-meets on the mountain. Mr. Pringle of the Central Vermont Railway has been very enthusiastic and helpful in distributing literature and promoting our section in the metropolitan districts. There are attractive week-end rates from both New York and Boston which will make our trails available to skiers from these cities at a greatly reduced price.

All in all, despite criticisms and disappointments, I feel that at last our club is on its way toward making a definite contribution to Vermont skiing. There is much work yet to be done, but with the increasing enthusiasm among our members this accomplishment will be easier and more rapid.

Franklin E. Griffin, President.

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SKI RUNS AND TRAILS

No doubt most of our members have heard about the new ski runs and trails which have been constructed in the Mt. Mansfield area by the Vermont Forest Service. A map of these developments is available in the club folder, and direction signs have been erected at strategic points for your guidance.

Here is a list of the down-mountain runs and some of the details concerning them. Since accurate surveys have not been made, many of the figures are approximate.

Ranch Valley Ski Runs

Bruce - Length: 2-3/4 miles, Width: 20-40 feet, Max. slope: 20 degrees, Vert. descent: 2400 feet, Exposure: south and southeast, Remarks: An interesting run, rather narrow in places. Joins the Nose Dive at the Toll road.

Conway - Length: 3/4 mile, Width: 10-25 feet, Max. slope: 20 degrees, Vert. descent: 650 feet, Exposure: North, Remarks: Good snow conditions usual because of exposure and sheltered location.

Nebraska - Length: 1-1/4 miles, Width: 10-25 feet, Max slope: 20 degrees, Vert. descent: 1650 feet, Exposure: south and southeast, Remarks: Leads into Lake Mansfield region. Half way down a short trail goes into Nebraska Notch from which a fine view is obtained.

Smuggler's Notch Ski Runs

Nose Dive - Length: 1-3/4 miles, Width: 20-60 feet, Max. slope: 32 degrees, Vert. descent: 2400 feet, Exposure: north and northeast, Remarks: A long steep run. Requires deep snow because of incomplete scrubbing. The club has just (Jan. 20) been informed by Mr. Lord that the Nose Dive is posted between the Toll Road and the Houghton Trail because of insufficient snow. The signs will be removed as soon as conditions permit.

Smugglers - Length: 1-1/2 miles, Width: 10-20 feet, Max slope: 15 degrees, Vert. descent: 1200 feet, Exposure: south and southwest, Remarks: Rather narrow but with an even grade. Fine view of Mt. Mansfield and Smuggler's Notch from upper portion.

Chain Clip - Length: 1 mile, Width: 20-70 feet, Max. slope: 30 degrees, Vert. descent: 1600 feet, Exposure: northeast and east, Remarks: The steepest run in Vermont. Well cleared.

According to Mr. Lord, present snow conditions in the Mt. Mansfield region are such that the steeper runs must not be attempted without making a careful investigation on the way up for exposed or lightly covered rocks and stumps.

Besides the ski runs there is a good system of trails for ski-touring. These are laid out so that loop trips of varying lengths may be undertaken. The Mt. Mansfield Automobile Road, with an average grade of only 10 per cent, provides the easiest route to the summit and to the top of the Bruce and Nose Dive ski runs. This road, moreover, makes a good run down for advanced novices. The Smugglers Notch Road will be kept snow free by the C.C.C. from Stowe Fork to Barnes Camp. Beyond Barnes Camp this road is of course snowbound, and makes good skiing into the Notch.

RANCH CAMP

The club's Ranch Camp is functioning this winter in traditional style under the supervision of camp manager George Campbell. Members will find, however, a surprising change in the old stronghold, for Santa Claus Crig Burt has thrown together a pip of a new bunkhouse complete with real springs, mattresses, blankets, and a trick stove that will do most everything except wake you up in the morning. There are, moreover, separate rooms for ladies or bashful gentlemen. To experience all the delights of the new cabin, which accommodates ten people, will set you back only one dollar per night. It may be reserved for groups or clubs upon application.

George keeps the pot boiling seven days a week in the main camp building. For what he modestly calls a full meal, either at noon or at night, he charges fifty cents. Lunches to take out on the trail are of course less. The day rate for three meals is one dollar. As a concession to civilization George has tea constantly on tap, and this delicacy costs not a cent. And while the snow lasts you may eat sugar-on-snow until you burst.

This main building contains bunks for ten, which with blankets are fifty cents a night. Club members who carry their own blankets and chop their own wood may use these bunks without charge. If you bring your own provisions, George will cook them for a very small fee.

As a matter of fact, the only thing that George will not do is to make beds. This task you must perform for yourselves. When the road is open a team may be obtained for transportation between Stowe Fork and the camp. And don't forget this important point--club members receive a ten per cent discount on all the rates quoted.

OTHER ACCOMMODATIONS

Barnes Camp on the Smugglers Notch road will be open all winter, and under ordinary weather conditions can be reached by automobile. Mr. C. F. Lyons, the owner, is in personal charge. He cordially invites all skiers when in his section of the mountains to make Barnes Camp their headquarters. He will be glad to correspond with anyone regarding his rates and facilities.

Through the courtesy of their managers, The Green Mountain Inn and The Mountain in Stowe village extend to members a discount of ten per cent on all charges.

SKI INSTRUCTION

The club has been fortunate in securing the services of Mr. James Trachler of Hanover, N. H., a former cross-country ski racing and ski-jumping titleholder, as our instructor for the 1935 season. The rates for a course of ten lessons is surprisingly low--\$4.00 for adults and \$3.00 for juniors. Classes already have been formed for Saturdays and Sundays. You are invited to join one of these or to form your own group of ten or twelve for week-day lessons. Write President Griffin at Stowe for particulars.

COMING EVENTS

Intra-club competitions

- Jan. 27: Novice & third class ski races at Ranch Camp.
Snowshoe races at Ranch Camp.
Feb. 3: Club championship down-mountain ski race, and third class down-mountain ski race on Mt. Mansfield
Feb. 10: Club ski-jumping championship at Stowe.

Other competitions

- Feb. 16-17: Mt. Mansfield Ski Club Winter Carnival.
Feb. 21-24: Interscholastic invitation ski meet.

Social

- Feb. 21: Club dance at Stowe.

From time to time you will receive further details concerning these events.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Although there are many derisive remarks directed against people who attempt to learn skiing from books, the fact remains that an intelligent absorption of some competent treatise on the art will bring great benefits not only to the novice but to the more advanced skier as well. Two such books by Englishmen which are instructive, and enjoyable reading besides, are THE COMPLETE SKI-RUNNER by Arnold Lunn and MODERN SKIING by A. H. D'Egville. Mr. Lunn as everybody knows is the high-priest of the skiing faith, and his works must be considered compulsory for the winter sports library. Captain D'Egville, recently a boon to Canadian skiing through his secretaryship at Lucerne-in-Quebec, is an advocate of the more exuberant maneuvers such as field-jumping and jump-turning.

Ski Annals

After several years of hibernation a rejuvenated U.S. EASTERN SKI ANNUAL made its appearance late last fall. In format it is a creditable effort--the photographs in particular being well chosen and finely reproduced. Despite the fact, however, that some uncritical enthusiasts have compared it favorably with the British Ski Year Book, an aura of the publicity snops together with certain inexcusable omissions combine to place it far down on the list of worthwhile skiing publications.

The BRITISH SKI YEAR BOOK requires no comment on its traditional excellence.

The CANADIAN SKI YEAR BOOK, this year in a new dress, presents as usual many articles of interest to New England skiers.

The winter magazine number of APPALACHIA contains a fairly complete description of Vermont ski runs.

NOTES

A few hundred feet east of the Mt. Mansfield Automobile Road (at elevation 3550 feet) at its junction with the Nose Dive and Bruce runs, the Vermont Forest Service has commenced construction on what is to be a one room stone hut designed especially for winter use. Before the work was suspended in December, the inner frame structure was erected so as to be available as a shelter during the present season.

Robert St. Jock, one of our members, has a cabin plane available at the Burlington Airport and will be willing to give special rates to members wishing to attend the Olympic winter games tryouts at Lake Placid during February. The round trip fare will be \$8.75 per person, providing two or three wish to make the trip which includes an all day stop-over. For further information, telephone Mr. St. Jock at 780 Burlington.

Members are asked to donate the club a 5 x 7 glossy enlargement of any particularly interesting photograph which they may have taken showing club activities.

The club plans to issue this bulletin at least every three weeks during the winter. Its purpose is to keep you posted on what the club is doing, as well as to acquaint you with the facilities at your disposal. You in turn are asked to send the editor (A. W. Coleman, Montpelier) any information which will be of interest to your fellow members.