

Despite the fact that this winter many people have taken up skiing with apparent seriousness, a widespread misconception seems to exist regarding the value of competent instruction. Skiers who spend all of their time on practice or ski tow slopes quickly gain a certain superficial proficiency which enables them to turn and twist in a most engaging fashion, but which breaks down completely under any conditions other than the familiar hardpacked surface. While such practice slope sliding is in itself enjoyable as a form of relaxation, it is not conducive to becoming a skier. Real skiing only can be learned by mastering the fundamentals through the teaching of a competent instructor.

Learning to ski consists of a great deal more than learning to turn on skis. Anyone with a little trying can achieve an effective christy on hard snow. And anyone can run fairly fast downhill without falling. But to control skis in whatever snow you find yourself is something else again, and should be the aim of all who profess an interest in the sport.

People returning from the open country or the mountains often say, - "The skiing was terrible. Why, the snow was so bad I couldn't do a thing". Forwith they rush to the hardpack and restore shattered nerves with all manner of gay flourishes which send the bystanders into gasps of admiration. How much more enjoyment they would have if they could say, - "There were hills and there was snow, and we had some grand skiing", The only way to be able to feel this way is to learn to ski.

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At Mt. Mansfield we are fortunate in having a ski instructor who is second to none. Sepp Ruschp can ski with the best, and in Austria has excelled in downhill, slalom, cross country and jumping competitions. But above all, he has been trained in the business of teaching others to ski. Sepp is not merely a good skier who has turned his hand to teaching, he is a first class skier who has been taught by the great Hannes Schneider to be a ski instructor.

All Club members are urged to talk with Sepp next time they are at the Toll House. Ask him about skiing. Tell him what you would like to get out of the sport, and let him tell you how best to go about it.

MEMBERSHIP

What You Get

A question often asked by those whom we invite to join the Club is, - "What do I get for my money?" Though the phrasing is not too well considered, the intention of course is to find out exactly in what way one's personal skiing enjoyment will be heightened by the proposed association. This is a reasonable desire and demands a straight answer.

The Mt. Mansfield Ski Club was formed by a group who enjoyed skiing on the eastern side of the mountain and who felt that by combining their efforts and enthusiasm they would improve the facilities for their sport to a much greater degree than could be attained by individual activity. This was and still is the basic reason for the Club's existence. The original group gave impetus to a planned skiing development, and the Club's growth in numbers and reputation served to enlist much needed assistance which otherwise could not have been secured. Moreover, from time to time compatible interests other than those of a purely sporting nature were attracted to the movement and have helped to provide those attendant facilities without which no ski center is complete. To appreciate the success of the cooperation one has only to observe the developments for skiing which have been made in the region during the past four years.

So far as the Club is concerned, a skier visiting the eastern side of Mt. Mansfield probably can enjoy himself equally whether a member or not. It should be obvious that with nominal dues of only a dollar a year we are in no position to secure for our members cash returns such as discounts or other remunerative privileges. The Club is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to develop for skiers the eastern side of Mt. Mansfield, and membership in the Club

provides an opportunity for all those who use and enjoy the skiing facilities to contribute their influence and help not only in the creation of new developments but in the improvement and maintenance of those we now have.

Deadline

On January 15th, 1938 all who had not paid their 1937-1938 Club dues automatically ceased to be members. After this issue of the Bulletin those names will be dropped from our mailing list. If you have not sent your remittance to Miss Woods, and wish to continue your membership, you may be reinstated by the payment of overdue accounts.

SAFETY

All skiers before ascending the mountain or commencing tours in the region should never fail to leave written word at Ranch Camp, Toll House, The Lodge, or Barnes Camp stating where they are going, as well as when and where they expect to return. Upon returning they should check out at one of these points, giving information as to where their original message of departure was left.

Although this precaution to some may sound a trifle silly, it is impossible to over-emphasize the grave dangers inherent in skiing in uninhabited mountain country. It is very easy to become lost even on well-marked trails, especially in adverse weather. As to the hazards of a winter injury, however slight, they should be obvious to everyone. Even if a skier has no concern for himself, he should at least consider the risks run by the search party that goes out to find his remains.

NOTES

The ski trail map this year has been prepared by the State Forest Service, and as soon as pocket size prints are available they will be sent to members with a description of each trail. Large maps of the Mt. Mansfield region are posted now at strategic locations.

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The Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club has kindly given skiers permission to use two of their cabins which are accessible by ski trails on the eastern side of Mt. Mansfield. These are Taylor Lodge in Nebraska Notch, and Taft Lodge located under the Chin at the top of the Merrill Run.

It should be understood that the ski club is responsible for the condition of the cabins during the winter, and members are requested to keep this in mind when using them. The cabins are not winter-proof, nor can they be heated easily; therefore they should be considered as shelters only. Since only limited supplies of fire wood are available, it should be conserved for possible emergencies.

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The New Year's Eve Ski Ball was extremely successful, both financially and socially. Two records were broken during the evening; one by Mrs. Gale Shaw and her committee who staged the best Club dance yet, and the other by Charles Lord who won the Big Apple contest.

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INTERSCHOLASTIC SKIING

Howard Prestwich, chairman of our Junior Competitions committee, announces the establishment of Vermont Interscholastic ski classifications in cooperation with the Vermont Headmasters Club and approved by the U.S.E.A.S.A. The classifications cover downhill, slalom, jumping and cross-country events, and will become officially effective at the Vermont Interscholastic Championships to be held at Mt. Mansfield-Stowe under our sponsorship on March 11th and 12th.

To further the Committee's work among the schools, it issues a periodical bulletin containing information about such things as classification trials, official judges and competitions.

Although it does not receive much publicity, this junior skiing work being done by Mr. Prestwich undoubtedly is one of the most important contributions to the sport in New England.