

NATIONAL DOWNHILL CHAMPIONSHIPS - MARCH 5-6.

At last has arrived the date that most of us have looked forward to all winter - the National Men's Downhill Championships which the Club is honored by being allowed to sponsor this year at Mt. Mansfield. A great deal of time and effort has been given to the organization of this important meet by Frank Griffin and his committee, and the snow which has been falling steadily over the region for the past several days has eased somewhat the tension under which they have been working lately. A truly fine field of runners has been entered, which includes the best downhill skiers in this country and several top European stars.

Thanks to the cooperation we are receiving from the Vermont Motor Vehicle Department, the State Highway Department and the Town of Stowe, everything possible is being done to take care of spectators with a minimum of confusion. You will realize, however, that with but one highway leading to the mountain, and limited parking space available above Harlow Hill, only those who arrive before ten o'clock each morning can do much picking and choosing with regard to where they park their cars.

Both the downhill (straight) race and the slalom will be run on the Nose Dive - the former on Saturday starting at 2:30 P.M., and the latter on Sunday at 2:00 P.M. Complete details of the races and entrants (including their numbers and running order), together with interesting articles by leading officials of the National and Eastern Ski Associations, are contained in a twenty-five cent program-magazine which will be available throughout the region probably by Friday.

Skiers are urged to use either the Toll Road or the Houghton Trail in reaching the race course. No skiing, naturally, will be permitted on the Nose-Dive except by racers and certain officials.

Spectators on foot should walk into the finish line from the State Forest Service parking area at the foot of the Nose Dive, and thence up the trail to points of vantage on the paths which will be provided. If the Toll Road should be packed hard by the week-end, it will be possible to walk up it to the top.

SKI PATROL

All members of the Ski Patrol who can do so are requested to be on hand during the week-end. There will be several odd jobs to be done just before the races, so come early.

Saturday morning the patrol will meet at the Nose Dive parking area at 10:00 A.M. Those who arrive later report to Bill Mason at the finish line. On Sunday the patrol will meet at the same place at noon. If you can bring another person along to act as a temporary patrolman please do so. To conserve parking space, patrolmen should make arrangements to ride with others so that a minimum number of cars will be needed.

VERMONT INTERSCHOLASTIC SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS

The fourth annual Interscholastic Ski Meet to be sponsored by the Club will be held on March 11th and 12th. This is one of the most important junior tournaments in New England and will be under the direction of Howard H. Prestwich, its' founder. The events will consist of downhill, slalom, cross-country and jumping for both A and B class junior skiers as rated by the Mt. Mansfield Ski Club and the Vermont Headmasters Club.

The program follows:

Friday P. M., March 11:	Slalom and Cross-Country
Saturday A.M., March 12:	Downhill
Saturday P.M., " 12:	Jumping

Many of the schoolboy skiers who will compete in these events are the coming stars of tomorrow. The Club is proud to entertain them each year, and it is hoped that our members will

give the meet the interest that it deserves.

EXCURSIONS

The Rover Boys (and Gals) in Wade Pasture

The writer, a veritable tyro in the art of making two willfully independent skis behave, is completely sold on an apparently neglected phase of skiing, i. e.; the group cross-country tour for the sport of it. This latter phrase is deliberately chosen because the Mt. Mansfield Ski Club excursion to Wade pasture last Sunday was purely that and nothing else. There was no racing impulse, no obvious striving for a show of superior ability on anyone's part, and no fancy didos cut for the benefit of open-mouthed spectators. This neophyte--who has learned well the first axiom of skiing; that of assuming the prerogative of classifying oneself a cut above one's ability--was first intrigued by the notice of the proposed excursion which stated that "those above the novice class" should be able to make the trip. Who among us, in his own mind, is a novice?

Anyway, along with several other not over-confident souls we gathered around those peerless leaders Ab Coleman and Charlie Lord, and this intrepid band took off from the head of the Bingham Falls trail. Almost immediately your correspondent performed a neat nip-up to avoid a yawning chasm on the left. (Why doesn't somebody TELL me about these things?) Nothing daunted by this inauspicious beginning, the gradual climb up the trail past the Sallie and the Brink farms was accomplished in something under an hour.

The next hitch was up and through a really delightful hardwood grove from which we finally emerged upon some of the most beautiful skiing terrain these old eyes have yet encountered. Not a track to be seen! It was all ours! It had been snowing steadily since earlier in the morning, and this wide expanse of rolling land dotted with clumps of spruce was certainly a most urgent invitation to try our quavering christies and sitdown stembogens. Off with the packs, and Charlie had a fire going while the rest with no hesitation took to the slopes.

After a warm lunch, at which many things of little or no importance were settled, the return trip through the pasture land was begun. Though snow obscured the view, this easily reached area is certainly one of the most intriguing places that any skier could wish for. Long, gradual slopes with a maximum of moderate running and a minimum of climbing. The return was accomplished in about an hour, and before the Den was in sight the small but to be envied group already had made plans for another similar trip in the near future. So for the guy or the gal who wants a whole day of sport without having to avoid any but minor natural hazards, we suggest that you pack your lunch and join us on the next excursion.

George P. Buckley

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Excursion to the Luce Hill District

Date: Sunday, March 13th.
Meeting Place: Stowe Forks, on the Smuggler's Notch road at the foot of Harlow Hill.
Time: Start will be made promptly at 10:30 A.M.
Leaders: C. D. Lord and A. W. Coleman.
(If adverse weather demands the cancellation of this excursion, word will be left at the Toll House and The Lodge).

The Luce Hill district is located to the southeast of Mt. Mansfield, and comprises that area of foothills between the Ranch Valley and the valley in which lies Lake Mansfield. The terrain is ideally suited for touring as it consists of trails, old log roads and open pasture land.

This excursion is suitable for skiers above novice classification. The total length will be about 6 miles with moderate climbing. Lunches should be carried.

NOTES

There is still time to secure a National Ski Races pin which the Club is selling for \$1.25 to help cover our expenses. The wearers of these pins will not be solicited for further contributions either at the men's races this week-end or the ladies' races in April.

Please do everything possible to make things easier for the traffic officers who will be on duty for your convenience. Do not neglect to COME EARLY if you wish to be sure of a parking space.