

SKI CLUB NEWS

PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE MT. MANSFIELD SKI CLUB

November, 1976

Stowe, Vermont

Tuesday on the slopes, or...

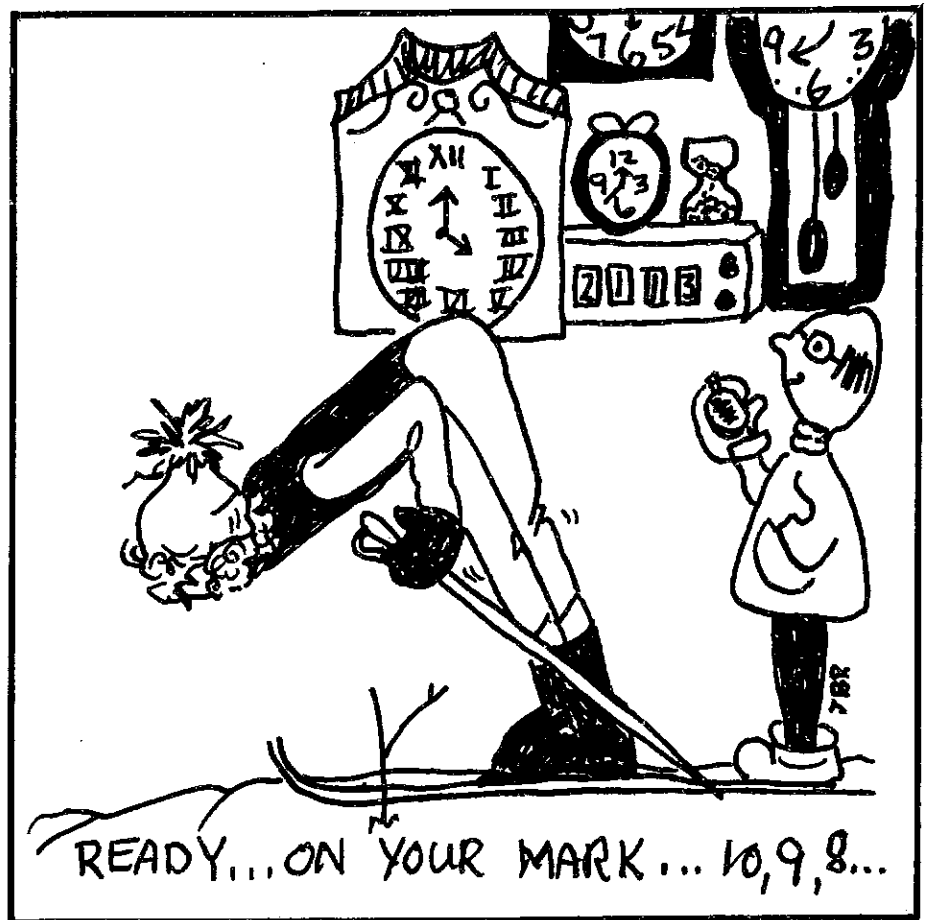
Memories of a brief racing career

by 'Gub' Langdon

You might think that a new rock group had arrived in Stowe, but names like "Pride of Cucamonga", "Vestal Virgins", and "Catch 22" will not be appearing at the Baggy Knees during Christmas week. They are, in fact, names of teams that compete weekly in the Smugglers Bowl Team Race held each Tuesday at Little Spruce. Some years ago, the Wednesday Giant Slalom proved to be so popular and so super-competitive, that a new race was started, the Tuesday Team Race. Four members make up a team; two hundred persons race on a dual giant slalom course; it all takes about two hours. The purpose is to improve your handicap and to improve your standing in the ranks of your peers.

It is not a casual thing. The race requires the use of a mini-computer, as many as twenty persons to run it and many man and lady hours during the week to revise the handicap. Barbara and Marion Baraw are recording times and checking the clocks, Vinnie Buonanno and Homest Bud McKeon handle the public address system and Millie Bryant and Chuck Baraw are busy getting the results out.

Once you have completed the course, you stand by and cheer on your team mates. Then it is off to the Matterhorn to wait for the results. The best racers are chosen to compete against Sugarbush in the Challenge Cup, always a highly spirited and liquid affair. But for most, this is the summit of their racing career. They will remember the feeling in the starting gate. They will remember the excitement of beating their best time by a full two seconds. Andre Decarie, Ros Huebener, Sam Ramsay and Janet Moir, they will remember. The members of "Sugar Magnolia" and "Timber Doodles" will remember. It was fun.



Carnival to feature family skiing

The 1977 Stowe Winter Carnival places its emphasis on the family ski week. The highlight of the full nine days of winter activities will be the seven-day "Equitable Family Skiing Challenge". The Mt. Mansfield Ski Club will play a major role in the smooth running of this

event.

Other activities during Carnival Week (January 21-29) will include the Celanese Sled Dog Races; a real Vermont Fiddlers' Contest sponsored by Ski America; the St. Pauli Girl Tyrollian Night; a

(Continued on Page 2)



SKI CLUB NEWS

PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE MT. MANSFIELD SKI CLUB

Editor
Contributing Editors

Linda B. Adams
Lanou Hudson, Duncan Langdon, C. Paul Reed
William J. Riley, Danielle Shaw
Photos courtesy Stowe Reporter

1976-77 Officers

President
1st Vice President
2nd Vice President
Exec. Sec'y-Treas.
Interim " "

Thomas Amidon
Stephen P. Adams
Don Rathbone
Paul K. Biedermann
Duncan Langdon

Directors

Sepp Ruschp
Phyllis Bell
Lanou Hudson
Henry Simoneau
Dawn Hazelett

Peter Ruschp

Anthony Thompson
Gale Shaw, Jr.
Angelo Pizzagalli
Dr. Bishop McGill
Kerr Sparks

President's Message

Dear Members and Skiers,

The first snow of the year has fallen on the mountain, which always causes those of us who love skiing here in Stowe to think of getting out the equipment and anxiously await the opening of the season.

The Directors of your Club met recently and reviewed the program of the Club, including the race schedule, Junior Race Program, and social activities, most of which are elaborated upon in other parts of this Newsletter.

The Junior Race Program will again be headed by Paul Reed, who ran the Junior Race Program this past season, and who has been a coach within the Program for the past several years. Assisting Paul in this Program will be Coaches Tim Beck, Bob Bortree and Bart Bradford. As in the past, the Program is already off and running with dry-land training, all of the participants anxiously awaiting the accumulation of snow for actual race training.

This past summer your Club, together with the assistance of the Mt. Mansfield Ski Educational Foundation, assisted the sponsorship of several of the Junior Racers from the Club in training in South America. From all reports received from this training, the training provided was most worthwhile and valuable to these young racers who represent you and the Club during the winter season.

As always, your Club will be sponsoring several races, including the Starr Trophy Race, and Sugar Slalom Race. In addition, and most importantly to several of the members, including Dr. J. Bishop McGill, the Ski Club Championships are scheduled and will be held the latter part of the season, allowing those who need it the maximum amount of training during the winter season. As most of you will recall, last winter ended abruptly and the Club Championship Race was unable to be held, which was unfortunate for one member who had travelled overnight all the way from powder skiing in the Bugaboos on a "red eye special" to compete in the race, only to find me raking my lawn on the morning of the race. Needless to say, this member is most anxious to have another go at it.

Again, as has been the case in the past, the Mt. Mansfield Company very graciously has continued a discount program for members of the Club, always a welcomed benefit. However, as in the past, it is imperative that you as a member carry your membership card to receive this discount. Please do yourself, the Club and the management of the mountain a favor and follow this rule.

Finally, Sport Bell and the social committee are well on their way to finalizing preparations for the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner-Dance with a membership meeting. The particulars of this social activity are set out specifically elsewhere in this Newsletter; and I look forward to seeing as many of you as can make it there. It has been great fun in the past and we look forward to the same this year. See you then.

Tom.



The late Gertrud Gabl Buettner

Dear Members,

As many of you know, Gertrud Gabl Buettner, daughter of long-time Stowe friend and instructor, Pepi Gabl, and World Cup winner, was tragically killed in an avalanche in St. Anton this past year.

On behalf of you as members of the Club and Stowe skiers, I sent a telegram and letter of sorrow and sympathy. The following is the card that I received back from Pepi, as translated by Sepp Ruschp, which I felt all members should share in.

"For the sincere sympathy for the death of my beloved wife, and our daughter, we send you our deepest appreciation and thank you again."

Alfons Buettner
Pepi & Gretl Gabl & Family
Munich-St. Anton

Tom Amidon

Family skiing

(Continued from Page 1)

Village Night with square dancing, parade and fireworks; and a cross country race sponsored by Yankee Magazine. Kodak will return to sponsor another Stowe Winter Carnival Photo Contest; Coca Cola has put up \$1,000 in cash prizes for this year's snow sculpture contest; and Las Vegas night at Topnotch will feature an extensively expanded showcase of prizes.

WRFB promises up-to-minute snow reports

Visitors and "locals" alike will now be able to keep up-to-the-minute on snow and weather reports during the ski season on the new commercial FM Radio station in Stowe.

WRFB-FM (102 MHz) went on the air March 1st, 1976, and provided snow and weather conditions during the final month of the ski season last year. The "New 102" features local and national news and variety music daily from 6 a.m. to midnight.

Returning this season will be the "Trailswep" program each evening at 7 p.m. The 3 minute program offered listeners a review of the trail conditions at Mt. Mansfield and Spruce Peak through the eyes of the members of the Ski Patrol. Head Ski Patrolman, Hal Wilhelm, was unusually candid about the conditions, and provided listeners a chance to plan for the next day's skiing. His comments were prepared following conversations with other ski patrol members after their final sweep of the Mountain. In addition, two other reports are heard each morning at 7:45 and 10 a.m.

The Station operates from studios at the Stowe Center on the Mountain Road and a transmitter near the Octagon on Mt. Mansfield.

Although it serves Morrisville, Waterbury and some sections of the Mad River Valley, it is local to Stowe in that schedules of community events, late changes in the forecasts and other weather information are broadcast immediately.

Principals in the operation are Brian Harwood, formerly of WDEV in Waterbury, who is general manager and host of "AM on FM" the morning show from 6 to 9; Ken Squier, one of the owners at WDEV in Waterbury and a commentator for CBS TV Sports, and Bill Riley, head of the Mt. Mansfield News Bureau.



by Lanou Hudson

New things happen from time to time on Mansfield, but a gal as a full time professional patroller is quite a radical change. This year Gail Oberg, whose home is in Springfield, Vt., will be the first. A blue eyes, red headed gal with an impish grin, and a love of the out of doors. While she was at Johnson College three years ago she skied Mansfield, found the challenge to her liking and returned many times. This year when the chance came to turn "Pro" she took it. As the youngest of a family of three she learned early to take her "lumps" as a matter of course. As of this time she has

not tried hang gliding or rock climbing, but will not rule out either one. Seems like she will be a helpful addition to a going outfit. Good luck Gail, and if such a thing exists, Gail is my candidate for a Swedish leprechaun. When you see her you will understand.

Patrol Director Wilhelm contemplates no changes in patrol area leadership, Larry Smith as his assistant, Phil Tomlinson on Mansfield, Clarence Hayford, Gondola, and Lee Fay on Spruce.

Now all we need is that white stuff to start the season - So - see you soon.

Club discounts continue!

Lift ticket discounts have always been a benefit of membership in the Mt. Mansfield Ski Club, and this year is no exception. Ski Club members will receive a \$2.00 discount on an adult full day ticket and a \$1.00 discount for juniors.

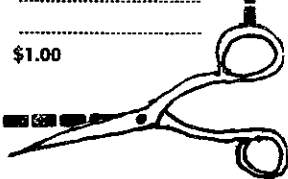
Ticket discounts will also apply to half day and group rates...check at the club office for a full rate breakdown.

Of course the big savings continues for season ticket holders. A regular single season pass sells for \$350 but a club member pays only \$325. Mid-week 5-Day passes are regularly \$200 but a full \$25 less for MMSC members.

In order to be allowed these special prices it is msot important to carry your club membership card when purchasing your tickets—no one will be allowed the discount without presenting the card each time at the ticket window to be stamped with the date. This is a must!

If you haven't already renewed your club membership, this is the last issue of the MMSC Newsletter you will receive. If you plan to ski a lot in Stowe this season, these discounts really add up. In addition you will continue to receive the club magazine and will help support the youth and racing programs. Send in your application today!

May 1, 1976	MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION	April 30, 1977
Please complete application and mail with remittance to: Mt. Mansfield Ski Club, R.R. #1, Stowe, Vt. 05672		
<u>PLEASE CHECK ONE</u>		New Member <input type="checkbox"/>
		Renewal <input type="checkbox"/>
LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	INITIAL
STREET	CITY	STATE
Zip Code		
Husband and Wife		\$ 15.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Senior (over 18 yrs.)		10.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Junior (under 18)		7.50 <input type="checkbox"/>
Family Junior (under 18. Parents must be Members).....		3.50 <input type="checkbox"/>
Family Membership (All children under 18).....		25.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
DATE OF BIRTH		
Children's Names		
.....		
.....		
.....		
.....		
Club Emblem Pin <input type="checkbox"/>		\$1.50
Patch <input type="checkbox"/>		\$1.00





Dry land training began early in October for all levels of junior ski racers under the direction of this years coaches: (L-R) Head Coach C. Paul Reed, Tim Beck, Bob Bortree and Bart Bradford. Workouts have included rip-roaring soccer games, hikes (runs?) up and down Little Spruce and Mt. Mansfield and a wide variety of exercises.

Summing up & looking forward

by C. Paul Reed

In summarizing the previous year's efforts on the race scene it became apparent to me that the year that ended in April was perhaps a truly pivotal year in terms of the direction of the Ski Club's Racing Program. Rather than tell you who did what, I would prefer that we consider all the racers to have worked toward a truly great year's effort.

The winter of 1976 saw the resurgence of MMSC racing prowess that resembled the strong teams of the 1950's and 60's. Not since 1970 had we put a club member on the Jr. National Team; in 1976 we put on four. However this is not totally the reward for one year's work, this represents many years of grass roots ski development starting at the III & IV level, elevating to the I & II group and finally culminating with the winter's effort we had last year.

It has been the hope and direction of the MMSC to function as a total ski club; an organization where you can start as a Hopeful and end as a member of the U.S. National Team, still skiing for the MMSC. This is one of the club's unique aspects, to have a program good enough to get a racer to the National Team without having to leave home and pay the exorbitant costs of the ski academy syndrome. It is these facts that make the MMSC unique in today's world of ski racing. Combined with the club's tradition and present day strengths we have the natural advantage of the best ski mountain in the East.

Yet without the backing of the Mt. Mansfield Company all of this couldn't exist. Their help and cooperation comes at all levels and from many different people, However our greatest thanks goes to the administration—to Mr. Sepp Ruschp, Mr. Kerr Sparks and Mr. Henry Simoneau.

May this year be just the beginning to the rekindling of the strength of the MMSC Race Program and in future years may we all work toward a progressive, strong ski club.

Many thanks, once again

The Mt. Mansfield Ski Club wishes to thank those members who have contributed to the Mt. Mansfield Ski Educational Foundation, Inc. since the last listing was published in our November 1976 newsletter:

Charles DeGanahl
 Samuel M. Tarnower
 John H. Hall, Jr.
 Howard A. Allen, Jr.
 Starr Foundation
 Sweet & Burt
 Betsy Riley
 Arthur Wittels
 John Baas, Jr.
 Louis Stoler
 M. Lee Scott
 Arthur Goodrich
 Angelo Pizzagelli
 Murry Lapin
 George Hodgson
 J. Bishop McGill, M.D.
 Rev. Marcus Hall, Jr.
 Arthur Topping
 Michael Heitner
 Louise Springer-Miller
 Helen Dougherty
 The William Reisner Foundation
 Allen Beck
 Dennis Roberts

Philo R. King, Jr.
 Herman Dederer
 William Street, M.D.
 Clarke Lyon
 S.G. Phillips Corp.
 Richard Sheer
 Donald Webb
 Walter Yusen
 J. N. Cooke
 Lewis Bell
 V. Gibney Patterson
 Betsy E. Isham
 Stephen Berry
 Robert Justice
 Allan Caldwell
 J. Thomas Light
 Dr. Norio Higano
 Donald Rathbone
 The Alice & Fred Netter
 Foundation
 Benjamin Bierbaum, M.D.
 Arno Heyn
 John Hardy, M.D.
 Lois Graham



Portillo: THE place to train downhill

by Dani Shaw

Portillo begins at 9,500 ft. and is surrounded by high rocky peaks where nothing grows. But there is plenty of snow and it is excellent. It can be either dry and light or corn depending on the previous day's weather. While we were there this summer, it was always sunny except for two snow storms. Needless to say, this made for great downhill training on the Roca Jack, a steep (2,000 foot vertical drop), wide open run that pours out from between the rocks and undulates like a roller coaster for one and a half miles.

It took us thirty-five hours to get to Portillo from New York. Originally, my brother Tiger, myself and Lisa Klein had planned to go to the Eastern Ski Camp in Bariloche, Argentina, but that camp was cancelled at the last minute and arrangements were made for the Eastern group to join the Rossignol-Nordica Camp in Chile. However, this change of plans necessitated our taking an indirect flight from New York through Buenos Aires where we waited twelve hours at the airport to change planes to Santiago. Then it was a three hour bus trip from Santiago on "switchback" roads up the mountains to Portillo. We had all fallen asleep by the time we arrived at the hotel at 2:30am and it was quite a transition to look out and see snow.

The first week we free-skied, ran a little G.S. and got used to skiing and running gates again. By then the U.S. and Canadian National Teams had arrived and we began running downhill in the mornings. We boot-packed the course and most of the time it stayed "packed powder", but towards the end of camp, after several days of warm sun melting the snow, it froze up at night and the surface got pretty fast. Some of the National Team members got up to speeds of 70-80 mph on the top part of the course before coming to a pre-jump and then a big compression. They would get going so fast they would have to pre-jump fifteen yards ahead of the bump. The coaches felt, however, that Portillo is one of the best places in the world to train downhill for all level racers because the snow is so good and there are no trees.

In the afternoons we trained slalom or G.S. on the other side of the bowl.

One day Herman Gollner, the head coach, took a group of guys on a climb to the Crest of the Andes, a pass through the mountains at 13,000 feet leading to

Argentina. About 80 kilometers north of there was the site of the airplane crash of the Paraguayan soccer team written about in the book **ALIVE**.

The last few days of camp Herman and the other coaches built a jump onto the hotel's outdoor heated swimming pool. They would schuss down the slalom hill onto the jump and do a flip into the pool. Soon lots of guys started getting into the act and it was quite a show. Some of the kids took the bladders out of their boots and replaced them with towels. Some

wore shorts, but Bobby Cochran went in complete with Ellesse pants. Not everyone could perform the stunts like Herman and there were some pretty funny landings in the pool.

On August 23rd we left for a day of shopping in Santiago and after spending a night there we boarded a plane home. It was a shorter trip back, but after three great weeks on snow in wintertime Chile, it was a weird transition again to step out into 90 degree temperature at Kennedy airport.



"The Coaches felt...that Portillo is one of the best places in the world to train downhill..."

1976-77 MMSC Race Schedule

January 8	Northern Vermont Qualifiers
January 15-16	Junior & Senior Series
	Stowe Slalom Derby
January 21-24	Stowe Winter Carnival
	Equitable Family Challenge Skiing Days
February 26	Stowe X-C Derby
March 5-6	Pro Race
March 11-12	A.I.A.W. Women's Championships
March 15-16	Eastern Spring Series
	FIS & National
March 19	Hopeful's Finals
March 20	Granite Cup Finals
April 2	MMSC Championships
April 3	Stowe Public School Championships
April 10	Easter Parade
April 16-17	38th Annual Sugar Slalom
	Sat. 2 run Slalom Qualifier
	Sun. Dual Slalom



FIRST CLASS MAIL

Annual Meeting/Dinner-Dance is November 27th

The annual MMSC Dinner-Dance has established itself at THE pre-ski season party in Stowe. A delicious roast beef dinner, a fun-filled auction of equipment and season pass, and of course, dancing to a live band all contribute to this special evening at the Grand Motor Inn.

The Saturday after Thanksgiving has become the traditional date and this year it is November 27th. The annual MMSC meeting will begin at 6pm — members should be sure to be on hand to watch President Amidon attempt to set a new time record. Depending upon Tom's success, the cocktail hour will begin sometime between 6:15 and 6:30. Dinner will be served at 8 and Auctioneer Gub Langdon will begin at 8:30 with dancing to follow.

No inflation here — the fee is the same as last year! \$25 per couple, \$15 single, for the roast beef dinner and two free cocktails. Be sure to make your reservations early!

Mail your name and the number of reservations you wish to MMSC, RD1, Stowe, Vt. 05672 or call the Club office at (802)253-7704 today.

See You There!



Photos by Lanou Hudson