

MT. MANSFIELD SKI CLUB BULLETIN

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Mt. Mansfield Ski Club is entering its sixth season. Thanks to the work already accomplished by the directors and committees - reports of which will appear in this and subsequent bulletins - we will be well prepared for action when snow comes. Although all of our activities deserve equal consideration, there are certain ones which because of their close relation to our skiing pleasure or their newness on our program I should like to stress particularly.

Last winter, as you know, the Club inaugurated a series of Sunday excursions. Their purpose was threefold, -- to acquaint skiers with the delightful touring country in the Stowe area, to interest more people in this truly enjoyable branch of the sport, and to create a wider spirit of companionship among our members. Because of uncertain weather, only two excursions were run, but those who attended seemed so enthusiastic that it is planned if possible to hold one at least every other week-end during the coming season. These excursions for the most part will be suitable for novices who feel equal to a five to seven mile trip, and will give them an excellent opportunity to ski in untracked country under competent leadership. Each excursion will be advertised in advance, and it is my hope that they will prove as popular as they should.

So many have spoken of it in the past that this year we are going to attempt to form a Club ski team. Just what events will be covered depends of course upon the response to the idea. The success of such a venture to a large extent is up to the team members. It is expected that you who are interested in competitive skiing, and wish to race for the Club, will assist the director in charge to form a really cooperative group.

In previous bulletins mention has been made constantly about the value of ski instruction for those who want to get the most fun out of the sport. Too much importance cannot be given this subject, as everyone who has taken lessons will agree. Again this winter Sepp Ruschp and Jacque Charmoz will be in the Stowe region, and although each will be in complete charge of his own school they will cooperate to provide well organized instructional facilities at the mountain at all times during the week and week-end. Complete details will be available soon regarding rates and lesson schedules. Meanwhile, make it a point to invest part of your skiing time this winter in a ski course.

It is gratifying to see that our membership continually is increasing, despite the fact that a certain number drop out each year

I believe that slowly we are building a group of skiers who not only prefer the eastern side of Mt. Mansfield but whose personal enjoyment has benefited from their association with the Club. Although our extremely diverse membership makes difficult that closely-knit quality that would be evidenced by a more purely social organization, I sincerely hope that all of you will feel free to offer any suggestions or criticisms you may wish. All of our activities result principally from the personal interest of members and every addition to the more active list always will be welcome.

William V. Mason

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TRAIL CONDITIONS

As a result of the annual maintenance work done in the Stowe region the general condition of our trails gradually is improving from year to year. The work consists not only of cutting summer growth and removing blow-downs, but also of smoothing, widening and correcting alignment. While no startling changes or additions have been made in the system this fall, a personal inspection of all trails reveals that they now are in better shape than at anytime in the past.

Our maintenance operations for this year are completed, and the trails ready for winter. Fortunately the recent storm did no damage in the Mt. Mansfield area. Trails in the State Forest have been gone over by the CCC, while those on private lands were done by the Club with our own money and the appropriation made by the Town of Stowe for this purpose. The only new trail contemplated is an extension of the Sky Top to join the Luce Hill Trail in the vicinity of the Deer Camp.

All the trails have been measured this fall and the distances will be shown on our new map. Also a detailed survey was made of the racing section of the Nose Dive, and this will be plotted up to show grades, widths and alignment for the benefit of race competitors. As soon as possible more informational signs will be placed at trail intersections, and touring trails will be marked further with orange paint spots.

It is believed that at the present time we are fortunate in having an extremely versatile ski trail development in the Stowe-Mt. Mansfield region. Provision has been made for all classes of skiing ability and all interests from downhill runners to tourers. I hope that more people can be persuaded to discover for themselves some of our fine ski country instead of spending all of their time on the practice slopes or the Toll Road-Nose Dive area.

C. D. Lord, Chairman
Trails Committee

SKI PATROL

The Ski Patrol Committee has been working since early last August on plans for the coming winter. Dr. Thompson of the First Aid Staff of the American Red Cross was present at a meeting held at the home of Mr. Frank Griffin in Stowe which was attended by the Chairman of the Ski-Patrol Committee, Club Secretary, the President and several of the Directors. A general discussion was held on the prevention and care of winter sports accidents and it was agreed by all those present that some movement should be made toward working out a safety program. Dr. Thompson stated that his organization was ready to start this work and asked the cooperation of the Ski Patrols of the various ski clubs.

Twenty instructors' classes were planned for the New England Ski area as the contribution of the Red Cross. These classes were to place special emphasis on winter sports accident prevention, care and rescue methods. The first two classes have just finished; one in Stowe and one in Northfield. Out of these classes there will be a sufficient number of qualified instructors so that any skier in this vicinity, at least, will have an opportunity to receive First Aid instruction at the beginning of the season.

This year we plan to extend our First Aid facilities. During the summer twelve more caches were built by the C.C.C., which, with those now in place on the Nose Dive, bring the number to fifteen. It is expected that these caches will be erected on permanent foundations and equipped early in the season. Intermediate First Aid stations will be placed in existing shelters as soon as equipment is provided for them. A map showing the location of these First Aid stations will be posted at the Toll House, Ranch Camp, Barnes Camp and the shelter at the Nose Dive parking area. These First Aid stations are for the use of all skiers, but skiers are asked to cooperate by reporting the use or removal of any material or equipment from these stations, so they will not be depleted in time of emergency.

The committee feels that the patrol could use several more patrolmen. In view of the fact that the Red Cross looks to the Ski Patrol as the logical body to carry out its safety campaign, it seems only fair to ask that any new patrolmen shall have passed the Standard Twenty Hour Course in First Aid. Any patrolman now on the rolls of the ski patrol who has not had First Aid is urged to take this course as soon as convenient. Any skier who has had First Aid training within the last three years, considers himself a fairly competent skier, is interested in the work of the Ski Patrol, should communicate with the Chairman of the Ski Patrol Committee at Montpelier, Vermont.

It has been suggested that a Women's Ski Patrol would be an innovation as well as something of real value as an auxiliary to the men's Ski Patrol. We know of two girls in particular who struggled through the thirty hour instructors' course with that view in mind. If enough interest is shown in this matter, some action may be taken on it later.

The Committee hopes to popularize and bring to the front the work of the Ski Patrol. It also hopes to make it interesting and worthwhile for the members, and looked upon by all skiers as a respected organization working for the general promotion of safety in skiing.

Ski Patrol Committee,
Luther S. Booth, Chairman,
24 Vine Street,
Montpelier, Vermont.

SKI TEAM

The last annual meeting voted to organize a Club ski team. This resulted from many suggestions made last winter, and should fill a definite place in our activities for those who are interested in competitive skiing.

In the beginning, because without actual data to go on it seems that the most interest is in that direction, probably the emphasis will be placed on the formation of a downhill squad. The first step must be to secure official USEASA race classifications for each man. Since the Competitions Committee plans to hold frequent Time Trials, these will provide an opportunity to secure or improve ratings, besides affording training under actual race conditions.

In order that preliminary arrangements can be made, I wish that every Club member who would like to try out for the team will write me now, giving his name, address and age, as well as any official race classification held. Also mention what type of event interests you. Do not let the fact that you have no rating deter you from writing, as we may be able to form several groups of different classes. This advance information will give me a chance to gauge our possibilities, and perhaps arrange a meeting before skiing begins.

O. Abbiati, Chairman,
Ski Team Committee,
90 Circle Street,
Barre, Vermont.

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting was held in Stowe on August 4, 1938, which happened to be one of the hottest evenings of the summer. In spite of more timely diversions, a fair turnout was present. Officers and directors elected for the 1938-9 season were:

President	W. V. Mason	Waterbury
Vice-president	F. E. Griffin	Stowe
Secretary	A. W. Coleman	Montpelier
Treasurer	D. F. Ryder	Waterbury

Directors-at-large

C. O. Burt	Stowe
C. D. Lord	Waterbury
H. H. Prestwich	Burlington
A. W. Gottlieb	Stowe
P. T. Olton	New York
L. S. Booth	Montpelier
C. B. Chase	Stowe
R. E. Bassett	Stowe
O. Abbiati	Barre