

MT. MANSFIELD SKI CLUB BULLETIN

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It is inevitable, I suppose, that some of our members may not feel that they are getting as much from their association with the Club as they had hoped. Maybe they are expecting too much. It is possible also that the Club is not doing all that it should for skiers. But one thing is certain, the directors and others actively engaged in our work are doing about all, and in some cases more, that they have time for. The fact that we have a sincerely interested membership throughout the East, however, makes us feel that we are not entirely wasting our efforts.

It must be realized that all of the really active members have family and business duties, besides being rather keen to do a little skiing themselves. The primary purpose of the Club is to further trail development at Mt. Mansfield, but naturally as the organization gains in members and prestige such other obligations as competitions, excursions, instruction, and emergency first-aid facilities require a growing amount of money and attention. With no other motives than an enthusiasm for skiing and a belief in the Club's contribution to the enjoyment of skiers in the Mt. Mansfield region, and with little other revenue besides the membership dues, the active group has given willingly of their free time to doing the many necessary chores for which they feel responsible.

We do not ask or expect that everyone who lives or skis on the eastern side of Mt. Mansfield should join the Club. Nor do we expect all of our members to help us with our various tasks. But what we do expect is that every member, or anyone else for that matter, who criticizes us for not doing enough along any line should offer his services to help remedy the deficiency instead of just crabbing about it.

A.W. Coleman

VERMONT DOWNHILL CHAMPIONSHIP

The Vermont downhill championship race will be run on the Nose Dive next Sunday afternoon at 2:30. The results will be combined with the Vermont slalom scores made at Woodstock earlier in the winter, although it is not necessary to have been in the slalom to run the downhill.

SKI PATROL

All ski patrolmen are requested to meet at the Nose Dive Ski Hut not later than noon on Sunday, Feb. 19, for duty in connection with the Vermont downhill race. Such a high standard was set by the patrol during the U.S. Eastern meet that we must leave no stone unturned to

retain our record as the best volunteer group in New England.

Luther S. Booth

A PRACTICAL TECHNIQUE

(continued)

Further observations have convinced the writer that there is a crying need for a more simple and fool-proof method of stepping than those standardized by the various accepted techniques. While the expert can stop at will on any slope or trail merely by executing a snappy christy, the average skier rarely carries such a turn completely to its proper conclusion. On the rare occasions of success he falls down anyway from sheer surprise, but usually about halfway through he finds himself scooting off on a tangent toward a 36 inch yellow birch or some equally immovable object. When the poor chap realizes that disaster is imminent, he assumes a more or less horizontal position amid a welter of flying snow, poles, skis and dismembered extremities. Herein lies the danger, for he may slide into the tree anyway, or bite a chunk out of his favorite skis-- and of course there always is the resulting crater to imperil his fallows.

The following maneuver is detailed in the hope that it may solve the problem of a forceful and reliable means of stopping quickly on skis. However, some caution in its use is advised, for while never failing in its purpose, certain features make it a device suitable more to moments of emergency than to habitual use.

The Snub Brake

This exercise may be started as soon as the skier realizes that his stop turn is not going to be all that the book said it should. Simply bend forward now from the waist and drop the poles transversely across the path of movement, retaining at the same time the normal grip on the straps. This allows the skis to run over the poles and as their forward course continues the resulting leverage will pull the doubled skier onto his head. At this point it readily can be seen that not only do the poles act as a definite brake, but great resistance is offered by the skier's head and neck which by now are well beneath the snow surface. Complete stoppage of all motion is instantaneous. The difficulty about the whole thing is that the skier will be unable to reassume the normal running position without assistance, and for this reason the Snub Brake should under no circumstance be attempted when you are alone. It is less troublesome to break your leg on the yellow birch than to remain jackknifed with your head submerged to the shoulders until spring.

(The author of A Practical Technique is determined to continue his anonymity for the reasons previously given. Members desiring further enlightenment on matters of detail may address their questions to the Bulletin.—Ed.)

EXCURSIONS

The Club will conduct a cross-country excursion, probably to the Luce Hill district, on Sunday Feb. 26th. The meeting place will be the Toll House, and the start made at 10:30 in the morning. This tour will be suitable for novice skiers who are capable of a five mile trip. The climbing is not difficult. Bring your lunches and please be on time.

RANCH CAMP NEWS

Those who are looking after things up at Ranch Camp have paraphrased an old saying somewhat, believing that the way to a skier's heart is through his or her stomach. The result is that folks staying at the Ranch, or skiing in for Sunday dinner, are assured of a variety of wholesome and appetizing meals.

After a day spent on the trails, skiers' appetites are apparently of just the right degree to heartily appreciate such dishes as baked beans cooked in old fashioned bean pots, hot maple syrup on hot biscuits, sizzling roasts of ham, beef, pork and lamb, and gigantic apple, berry and apricot pies. Everything is served family style at Ranch Camp, with second and third helpings perfectly in order.

The Camp also is continuing its well established tradition of a free cup of tea to anyone at anytime. There seems to be something about a cup of hot tea after an afternoon of stem turns and Christies that helps a skier forget about the possible sitzmarks he has left behind him.

LETTERS

Dear Sir:

I may be all wet on this, but the current commotion about the general apathy to cross country skiing leaves me cold. How can one get all steamed up about the delights of cross country skiing when most of the sales talk comes from skiers who spend all of their time romping up and down the Nose Dive! And anyway, if everybody is having a good time, in spite of broken necks, why try to make them do something that they apparently don't want to do...

Nobody enjoys a tour more than I do, but when the urge comes on I just go out and tour. It doesn't seem necessary to wait until some National Committee forces it down my throat... What with all the organization these days it is impossible to ski in peace. The beauty of cross country skiing is that no artificial developments are necessary for its enjoyment—you just go out and ski where you want and when you want...

Larry Kordus

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Frank Elkins the skiing specialist of the New York Times, and Harry Cross of the Herald-Tribune, were on hand for the Easterns and turned out some mighty nice copy about Stowe and the Club. Frank coined the slogan "When you think of snow, think of Stowe" which he wrote me was available to the community with his best regards.

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Henry Simoneau, the Stowe cannonball, tied for fifth place in the Eastern downhill and placed eighth in the combined, which was mighty sweet going. Norman Richardson of Newport unfortunately could not get to the downhill, but did an excellent job in the slalom—he also cleaned up at the Underhill meet, pacing our budding team to its first victory.

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It is regretted that with this issue of the Bulletin all members who have not paid their 1938-39 dues will be dropped from the mailing list. If you forgot about sending your dollar, mail it now.