

MT. MANSFIELD SKIING

The Periodical Bulletin of the Mt. Mansfield Ski Club

Vol. VIII

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No. 5

SUGAR SLALOM THIS WEEKEND

The third annual Mt. Mansfield Sugar Slalom will be run on the Nose Dive April 11 and 12. Originally scheduled for the 25th and 26th, the earlier date has been set to forestall any possible sabotage by the weather man.

Twelve different entry groups will compete this weekend in Mt. Mansfield's classic spring corn session. The Sugar Slalom is everybody's race, from little girl-children to great grandpappies. According to Howard Prestwich, the race maestro, if you don't find a group for which you are eligible, he will make one for you.

The first Sugar Slalom was held in 1939 with a field of fifty-seven. Marion McKean and Mil on Hutchinson were the top scorers. The next year over one hundred and sixty skiers of all sizes battled on the Nose Dive from dawn until dusk, with Robert Meservey and Marilyn Shaw taking the honors.

Last spring the meet had to be cancelled because of early rains. Although designed as the final event of the Mt. Mansfield skiing season, the Sugar Slalom has received such popular acclaim that its preservation is of permanent importance.

The different classes of entries for the 1942 Sugar Slalom will be:

1. Class A & B, Men, Open.
2. Class A & B, Men, Amateur.
3. Class C, Men.
4. Class A & B, Women.
5. Class C, Women.
6. Veterans—over 32.
7. Super Veterans—over 35.
8. Junior Women—under 16.
9. Boys—under 19.
10. Junior Boys—under 16.
11. Unclassified, Men.
12. Unclassified, Women.

MERRY-GO-ROUNDERS

By David Burt

It was the aim of the Merry-Go-Round meet to determine a downhill champion, not of one particular trail but of all trails in the Mt. Mansfield region. For this purpose four representative trails were chosen,—the Nose Dive, the Chin Clip, the Steeple and the Bruce.

Downhill racing requires technique, judgment, stamina, presence of mind, and nerve. All racing trails demand these qualifications in varying degrees, but on each trail one or two predominate. The reason that the Nose Dive is such a great racing trail is because it sets, to a greater degree than any other trail, a uniformly high standard for all of these requirements. If one had to select predominating qualifications for running the Nose Dive, they would probably be technique and judgment. The Chin Clip definitely requires presence of mind. The Steeple Trail, although about the same length as the Chin Clip, is a more open and a faster run, and calls for plenty of nerve. The Bruce, because of its length and varied terrain, makes the greatest demand on stamina.

Several people questioned the choice of the Bruce Trail,

DOWNHILL BASH A SMASH

The Mt. Mansfield Merry-Go-Round uncorked last month by Howard Prestwich won an indisputable place in the Club's permanent list of annual events. Bob Meservey, Dartmouth jackrabbit, toted the fastest aggregate time in the four downhill races, and Marilyn Shaw was first in the women's division.

The Nose Dive, Chin Clip, Bruce and Steeple trails provided a stern test of downhill racing under widely different snow conditions. Competitors and officials alike were unanimous in expressing their enjoyment of this new type of meet. It was run in a fairly informal manner, with plenty of laughs, excellent performances and no accidents.

In the team scores, the Sepp Ruschp trained Norwich skiers beat Dartmouth, and the Stowe Snowballs (David Burt, Emile Couture, Marilyn Shaw, Priscilla Raymond, Betty Ware,) won in the mixed group. The young gentlemen racing under the banner of Porter's Emporium, let down their host at the Stone Hut by trailing the field.

WESTERN FLASH CARVES EASTERNERS

Wintersports writers had a field day when Barney McLean of Colorado took the Eastern combined downhill and slalom title at Mt. Mansfield in February. Phrases about the East being East and the West being West were ridden to a fare-thee-well by the news jockeys.

McLean won the downhill race, his time of 2:18 being within two-fifths of a second of Milton Hutchinson's Nose Dive record established in 1940. Bob Meservey of Dartmouth won the slalom, with McLean in second place. Sepp Ruschp set the slalom.

Running hors concours (forerunner to you), Norman Richardson of the Sepp Ruschp Ski School turned in the best slalom and combined times of the meet.

because they thought it was so easy. How many Club members recall the winter of 1934 when the first slalom ever held in Stowe was run on the hill where the village water reservoirs are located? How many then present knew that the winner was a New Hampshire high school boy, persuaded to come to Stowe because Craig Burt Jr. and Richard Kelly of the Norwich Ski Team knew he was a wonderful skier, had skied in Europe, and had a room full of trophies? How many would have ventured to guess that this boy was to become America's greatest skier? Who of us were present one year later when a freshman from Dartmouth raced down the entire three-mile length of the Bruce in five minutes and eleven seconds? How many of the Merry-Go-Round competitors waiting eagerly at the top of the Bruce for the 5-4-3-2-1—realized that the trail they were about to run (a trail some of them had never seen) was, on that day eleven years ago, pronounced by Dick Durrance to be a sweet trail?

(David Burt recently received an appointment to the U. S. ski troops, and on March 30 enlisted in the Army. It is indeed fitting that one of the foremost names in the development of Mt. Mansfield skiing should be represented in the sport's supreme venture.—Ed.)

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Edited by A. W. Coleman * * *
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It is good news to hear that the Green Mountain Club plans to develop Vermont's famous Long Trail for ski touring. Already some work of this nature has been done in the vicinity of Sherburne Pass, and probably extensions will be made during the summer. A large part of the Long Trail is readily adaptable for skiing, and with new locations cut around the more precipitous sections the GMC hopes to create a touring trail comparable with the well known Maple Leaf Trail in the Laurentians.

The ski trail network throughout the Mt. Mansfield region, and the fine developments made by Edward S. Bryant in the Bolton Mountain area, will form an important part of such a system. For a long time now, Charles Lord, our pioneer trail blazer, has had visions of linking Bolton to the south and Jeffersonville to the north by ski trail. Camels Hump is accessible on skis, and without a great deal of cutting the Forest Service foot trail would make an ideal run. And it is not too visionary to foresee a chain of winter cabins stretching the entire length of the State.

Photographs of Eastern skiing are wanted now for the 1942-43 American Ski Annual. Club members are urged to submit prints for the consideration of the editorial board.

Although the Annual will not be published until fall, plans already are underway to top the high standard set by the current issue. Roger Langely, president of the National Ski Association and editor-in-chief of the Annual, has issued an appeal for the cooperation of all skiers.

If you have taken any good pictures this winter, please send 8 x 10 glossy prints before July 1st. to A. W. Coleman, Eastern Editor, 25 Liberty St., Montpelier, Vt. It should be an honor for any skier to have a photograph accepted for the Annual.

How Fritz Kramer, anchor-man for the Mt. Mansfield patrol, manages to keep so good natured is amazing. Despite having to lug around toboggans four times his size, and skiers four times his weight, he continues to remind us of a benevolent fieldmouse—until he is called to help a hysteric woman. Hysteric women are an anathema to Fritz. He doesn't like them. But they like him.

This will be the last issue of MT. MANSFIELD SKIING until, we hope, next fall. The future, however, is not exactly uncomplicated for any of us just now. It is anybody's guess what may happen before fall. But one thing is certain,—Mt. Mansfield will not budge for a while, and snow will continue during the winter as it has for some time.

A PRACTICAL SKI TECHNIQUE

By Ergo

The test of the practicality of any skiing manoeuver naturally must be the efficiency with which it achieves its purpose. Despite the fact that a few alleged skiers appraise their ability on the basis of dancing the kiss polka at the Smugglers Tavern with that cute trick they fell in with on the Ski Meister, nevertheless the real purpose of skiing is to move from one place to another with skis. Whether the skier is on his skis, or whether the skis are on him is immaterial so long as they are an integral part of the movement. And if you try to dance the kiss polka with your skis on, you simply will be leaving yourself wide open for a polka in the kisser, which won't get you anywhere.

As an illustration, some skiers may find that a particularly difficult slope is descended best on the hands and knees. If skis are being worn, they must be dragged behind which is tiring and inefficient. To toss them down the slope might aid movement, but definitely could not be considered as skiing. A possible solution to this impasse is to ski up the slope and walk down, instead of vice versa, which still will give you a fifty per cent rating as a skier. However, for the average performer the simple application of my Practical Technique will earn him a perfect score for intention if for nothing else, and moreover will get him downhill faster than most generally accepted methods.

Climbing on Skis

Climbing is extremely repugnant to the average skier, but only because he believes it involves going uphill. Let us clear away such an outmoded conception.

DETAIL. Choose a slope served by a tow or lift and ride to the top. Since you must wear your skis during the trip you will not have lost any face unless you become tangled in the machinery. Contrive now, with the aid of passers by, to take your stand just below the top of the slope, skis together, facing uphill, weight firmly on your poles. Hold this until you have got your second wind. Now rhythmically slide your left ski uphill about a foot and shift your weight onto it. Immediately you will fall forward on the ski and slide backward downhill about three feet. Possibly you will lose your second wind and most of your first, but a few moments rest will set you right again. Next shift your weight back to your poles and resume a verticle stance by allowing your skis to slide down another foot or so. By repeating this movement you will be surprised to find yourself at the bottom of the slope before you know it, and all ready to grab the tow for another whirl.

The only part of this exercise requiring particular care is to be sure when you fall forward (uphill) your chin does not become imbedded in the snow between the skis, as that would prevent backward slipping.

Everett Bailey, for the past two winters an instructor in the Sepp Ruschp Ski School, now is serving as an officer in the U. S. armored forces.

William Mason, Huntley Palmer, Warren Warner and Jerome Lawrence are the first Club members to pass the USEASA second class proficiency test.

Sepp Ruschp recently returned from a two-weeks tour of western ski centers with Lowell Thomas.

REVIEWS

By Les Collins

We were pleasantly surprised to see featured in the March 6 issue of THE SKI BULLETIN an article by our associate in these pages who is known to hundreds of aspiring skiers simply as Ergo. It bolsters ones morale to find that a teacher of his fundamental greatness at last has hit the slicks. Although the piece is not concerned with Ergo's revolutionary Practical Technique, it reveals a new and deeper phase of his philosophy.

Local Color

Everybody around these parts is in a tizzy over the short story "Downhill Is Lonely" by David Judson in the March 14 SATURDAY EVENING POST. It's about a race on the Nose Dive, and if you know the trail you will get a real sock (and no falls) from going along for the ride.

Besides being a good job, it is the only strictly authentic ski story that we have known to make the big time. Judson is a National patrolman, and was director of the N. S. P. film made at Mansfield three years ago.

What surprises us is that a skier's story should find a place in the Post. Despite the countrywide enthusiasm for skiing, we hold that it is a long ways from being a truly national pastime. However, this may prove an event of some significance.

Booms-a-Daisy

The deliberate construction of bumps on ski trails to induce control at danger spots is advocated by Red Valens in the February issue of SKI ILLUSTRATED. He reasons that since many accidents, especially in races, occur when skiers crash into the woods at bad pitches or corners preceded by more or less wideopen stretches, the existence of a series of bumps in advance of a potential hazard would insure that top speed could be maintained only by those capable of handling it.

Skiers of lesser abilities either would check or fall on the bumps before running into danger. The expert could take the bumps in his stride or with but slight checking.

Mr. Valens mentions the scene of Ted Hunter's injury on the Nose Dive three winters ago as an example of a straight-away leading into a tight section of trail. However, he incorrectly locates that accident on Shambles Corner. Actually, Hunter was thrown off the trail by a bump just above the Lower Schuss.

It is extremely doubtful to us whether this scheme would achieve the desired result. From observation we believe that bumps anywhere on a trail are definitely a hazard.

Arlberg

Skiers will be interested in the article about Hannes Schneider in THE NEW YORKER of February 28. For those unfamiliar with the history of alpine skiing, it will provide a few facts that will demonstrate the great importance of the Arlberg technique to the sport.

The Arlberg technique today is the result of long scientific development. It is not a static system that inevitably must be succeeded by newer and more progressive teachings. In Central Europe Schneider's ideas survived many a battle with other theories, even weathered constant attacks by the great Arnold Lunn over certain matters of detail. The survival and strength of the Arlberg technique, however, is not the result of Schneider's ability in debate, but rather is proof of its progressive spirit and fundamental truth.

SKI PATROL NEWS

By Luther S. Booth

As we idly type the heading for this alleged column and wonder just how to begin, we have the fleeting thought that the name in itself is distinctly a misnomer. News today is War News. For this reason we have tried during the winter to lighten this column a bit, even to the point of printing contributions coming under the general heading of poetry. Still with that thought in mind—and to beat The Editor to the gun, and he does mean gun this time—we reach down into the bag and come up with the following misinformation gleaned from various first aid examination papers which have fallen our way. If you get a laugh, fine; if you don't laugh, check with the text book—you may be wrong too.

Care of wound with arterial bleeding: "Do not use a tourniquet but secure doctor as soon as possible". And the other extreme: "One should apply a tourniquet until the artery can be tied". Time Marches On! but not for the victims of these tourniquet wielders.

Definition of a punctured wound: "A wound made with a rusty nail, or some other old thing". And a more concise description gives it as "The Hole". Three punctured wound would make a man a three holer, no doubt.

A crushed wound: "Squizzed together more than a pinch". Could this have been picked up in a Greek restaurant?

Asked to give four uses of a bandage, one seeker of comfort came through with this. "To kneel on while giving artificial respiration". And maybe he's got something there.

Calling the FBI. The question was, "When does the work of the First-Aider end?" And the answer: "The work of the first-aiders ends when the doctor pronounces the victim dead". If this is the goal of that particular first-aiders, then we have a fifth columnist in our midst, or a kill-for-the-thrill murderer. Quick, Watson, another rum and coke!

And now let's be serious . . . It is easy to become hardened to suffering, especially if the victim is a stranger. But when a fellow you know as a friend—a pal who will kick off his skis, leave his work and pitch in and help until everything is under control—cracks up and is seriously injured, then you know that you are not as hard as you thought you were.

We are thinking of Howard Moody, one of the most popular ski instructors on the mountain, who cracked up on the S-53 Sunday before last. He was badly injured and in great pain. Any movement of his body increased his suffering and it was evident that it was with the utmost effort that he kept control of his emotions. Our observations at the scene of the accident convince us that he is not only the gentleman and sportsman we knew him to be, but a fellow with intestinal fortitude—guts to you. He even laughed a bit at a vintage wisecrack of ours while on the way to the hospital. As a tribute to his popularity it can be stated that the Ski Patrol responded en masse with a real desire to be of assistance to a friend. The very best wishes of the Ski Patrol go to Howard, wishes for a speedy recovery.

CONTROL IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT

It is unfortunate that all skiing accidents bear the stigma that the victim was out of control. Whether he be a downhill racer of proven ability, or a practice-slope novice who ties himself in a knot doing snowplows, the implication is that he was doing something he should not do. This blanket attitude of censure is harmful to the sport.

Often one hears the remark that all skiers habitually are out of control, and that it's a wonder they aren't all killed. No distortion of fact could be greater. The average skier has had dinned into his consciousness so much the need for turning and stopping that he is muscle-bound with control.

Now without a doubt control in skiing is a virtue, and as such possibly its own reward. But too many self-appointed critics would make of control the object of skiing rather than the means to increased enjoyment.

Our downhill trails are cluttered with skiers who stop on every corner and at the top of every steep pitch. They cling like flies along the edges and piously characterize as a schuss-boomer the lad who really tries to do a decent job of running. Yet the skier who tries to run a trail straight through, with half a dozen legitimate falls, has an infinitely better chance of getting somewhere with his skiing than the one who continually stops and crawls no-fall in between.

Rarely do we see any straight running these days except among racers. Straight running is in the dog house because of the whispering campaign that makes of it a crime against society. Let someone have an accident when taking a slope straight, and he is pilloried by every skier in the neighbourhood. The ability to run straight, however, is as much a desirable quality in a skier, and one requiring as much practice, as the ability to turn.

A person who is content to be a controlled skier must resign himself to being a timid skier. Good skiing demands technique, judgment, experience,—but also it requires nerve. Heaven knows that there are plenty of skiers around without the basic minimum of technique, but there are many more with adequate technical foundation and no nerve. They can control all over the place, but they have been talked into using it the wrong way.

—Paul F. Vail

BEAVER BREAKS

Out of the confusion of the past two winters there has emerged a new word to designate those who formerly were called Bashers. The modern term is Beaver. By original definition (Ted Hunter's, we believe), a Beaver is one who tears down the trail, ricocheting from tree to tree, his steel edges wreaking havoc among the flora of our beloved mountain. As is the case with all language, however, corruption has changed the meaning so that now it includes almost everyone who skis except oneself. Otto Hollaus states the case thusly, "A Beaver is the other fellow".

The quaint sayings and quotable quotes from the hearts if not the minds of Beavers should be preserved for posterity. Who has not been subjected to the endless stream of questions and statements, on any and all subjects, that issues from these earnest souls?

It seems that some of our trails are not so well known as we would think. At any rate, the man who inquired for the Snow Dive evidently has never heard of the Nose Dive. And the two girls seeking information about the Perry Bush Trail and the Merry Widow Trail certainly gave the name of our state forester a twisting.

On snow conditions, there was the Beaver who asked when it was going to snow corn snow; while an observation concerning some of our spring slush was to the effect that it would be alright if it only would dry up and get powdery.

The first aid toboggans seem to create a great deal of interest. A middle aged matron asked at the Toll House, "Where do they do tobogganing around here?" A patrolman arriving at the Octagon was greeted with, "Are you the fellow who came up with your bobsled?"

But for pure simplicity, one case tops all the others. It was a clear, cold day, when skis are lightening fast on the packed and icy trails. A group on the Nose Dive was arrested by the familiar scrapping, grinding, gnashing sound that denotes the Beaver at play. When it finally came to rest amid a shower of snow and bark, it asked with the innocence of a babe, "Is this the Toll Road?"

Was it Wordsworth who said "the child is father of the man", or could it have been a student of Ergo?

—Betty Ware & Susie Applegate

SECRETARY'S NOTES

The following committee has been appointed to prepare nominations for officers and directors for 1942-43: William Wood, chairman (15 Vine St., Montpelier, Vt.), Miss Gertrude Dobbs, and Miss Doris McKenna. Please send your suggestions to Mr. Wood. The annual meeting will be held in May, and notification of the date will be sent you later.

For your information, Article V, Section 2 of the By Laws follows in part.

A nominating Committee of at least three ordinary members, none of whom is an elective officer of the Club, shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. The members of this Committee, and a list of the offices to be filled, shall be announced to ordinary members before a notice of the annual meeting is posted, together with a request for suggestions for nomination. The list of candidates nominated by the Committee shall appear with the notice of the annual meeting.

The elective officers and directors of the Club, with the present incumbents, are:

President, Dan F. Ryder	Waterbury
1st. V. Pres., Maj. Charles A. Goodrich	Northfield
2nd. V. Pres., Howard H. Prestwich	Essex Jc.
Secretary, J. Carpenter Brock	Montpelier
Directors-at-Large:	
Kendall H. Bishop	Montpelier
Luther S. Booth	Montpelier
Clyde B. Chase	Stowe
A. W. Coleman	Montpelier
Albert W. Gottlieb	Stowe
A. Kenneth Hoyt	Stowe
Lanou A. Hudson	Burlington
Jerome A. Lawrence	Burlington
Don C. McCallister	Northfield
William V. Mason	Waterbury
John M. Moore	Barre
Huntley Palmer	St. Johnsbury
Dr. Edwin H. Steele	Waterbury
Warren G. Warner	Stowe

The Club will sponsor a dance at the Stowe Memorial Building on April 11, at which the race competitors will be guests.