



Snow Trail

SUMMER 2019

A PUBLICATION OF THE SKI MUSEUM OF MAINE
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The Ski Museum of Maine is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, established in 1995 with the mission to celebrate, preserve and share the history and heritage of Maine skiing.

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History of the Ski Museum of Maine

The Ski Museum of Maine was founded in 1995 by a small group of friends from the Sugarloaf Ski Club. Within a decade the museum became a nonprofit corporation and obtained a grant to begin accessioning an initial collection of artifacts and documents. In 2006 the Board of Directors hired its first executive director and rented exhibit space in downtown Farmington. In 2009 the museum moved to its current location in Kingfield above the Sugarloaf Outlet Store. In 2016 the museum purchased the New England Ski Museum's "Mountains of Maine-Skiing in the Pine Tree State" exhibit for use as a travelling exhibit-dedicating the exhibit to John Christie. A satellite gallery located at the Museums of the Bethel Historical Society opened in 2018.

You can help preserve Maine's skiing history and heritage beyond your lifetime by becoming a member of the Maine Skiing Heritage Society and including a financial bequest to the museum in your estate plan. For more information contact the Ski Museum at info@skimuseumofmaine.org, 207-265-2023.

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President's Column



Wow, has this past winter flown by or what? Maybe because all of us at your Ski Museum of Maine have been really busy...and productive.

It has been so wonderful to see our newest exhibit, "Maine Winter Olympians", receive such enthusiastic response from everyone that has come into the Museum. It will continue to be on display through the end of this year. Along with our travelling exhibit "Skiing in the Pine Tree State", the Olympic exhibit will become mobile for display at different locations throughout the State of Maine.

Our newly revamped John Christie Heritage Classic, held at the Sugarloaf Inn, was a huge success. We want to thank all our loyal supporters for attending and participating. A big thank you to all the folks that helped make it a success, especially Kip Files, Peter Roy, Frank Rogers and Don Fowler for contributing lots of yuks and education during their discussion of the early Sugarloaf nightlife.

Our latest project is recording oral histories. We will conduct in depth oral histories along with shorter interviews. The shorter interviews will be called "Chairlift Chats". They will be recorded at the Museum while skiers reminisce sitting in the Sugarloaf Spillway Chair that is on display. Both types of interviews will be transferred to text and digitally stored. They will be available on our website and we plan to air a series of podcasts. We are learning oral history techniques from specialists including the University of Maine's Folk Life Center. Fundraising (via the JC Heritage Classic) has started. If you would like to donate to our oral history project, please go to our website or call the Museum directly.

The Ski Museum of Maine staff and Board of Directors are working hard to earn and maintain your support. You are our lifeblood and on behalf of all involved, we are extremely grateful for all you do.

With gratitude,
Cooper Friend

THERESA SHANAHAN

Executive Director's Report



The Ski Museum is a great place to visit. The museum is designed to share Maine's ski history - starting at the beginning with the exhibit with skis from the Swedish immigrants in Aroostock County. These skis were predominantly used for transportation. Around the turn of the century, we see a shift in emphasis and skiing becomes a recreational sport. The "Made in Maine" exhibit tells the stories of Maine ski manufacturers with a featured video on Paris Manufacturing.

The museum includes a "Children's Corner" with skis, and toys from the 1930's, and a reproduction "1930's Ski Shop" with ski tuning bench and poster designed by Sasha Maurer for the King and Dexter Hardware Store.

The north wall of the museum tells the story of the ski hills throughout Maine-beginning at Jockey Cap in Fryeburg, home of Maine's first rope tow. A wall map of Maine tells the story of the lost ski areas and Nordic and Alpine ski areas that survive

today. Our permanent exhibit on the "Classic Equipment" is a favorite stop where visitors reminisce about their first skis. The "Maine Olympians - from the Pine Tree State to the World Stage" exhibit has put us on the map. From the first Olympians to current day - Maine has been represented in every Winter Olympics since 1948.

This summer, stop in at the Robinson House of the Bethel Historical Society to view our satellite exhibit "Oxford County Skiing History - From Jockey Cap to Jordan Bowl" which traces the roots of alpine and Nordic skiing and manufacturing at sites located throughout Maine's Oxford County. The exhibit is open Memorial Day through mid-October, Tuesday-Friday 10am to 4pm, Saturday from 1-4pm in July and August. Have a great summer and don't forget to visit the Ski Museum of Maine. The museum is open Wednesday through Friday from 10am to 4pm or by appointment.

Theresa Shanahan

Editor's Note

The theme of the 2019 summer issue of the Snow Trail is Maine Ski Clubs. For many Snow Trail readers, membership in a ski club has been and continues to be an integral part of our skiing experience whether it is enjoying the camaraderie of fellow skiers or volunteering to organize competitions. At the center of ski clubs are dedicated people with a passion for skiing and for sharing the joys of the sport with others. Ski clubs in Maine built ski facilities, hosted youth competitions and taught the next generation of skiers. In a broad way, the development of skiing in Maine mirrors the history of our ski clubs.

This issue tells the story of 7 ski clubs. We plan to continue these stories in the upcoming winter issue and highlight clubs in future issues.

To be continued....

Wende Gray



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From the Collection Early Skiing in Auburn

By Dave Stonebraker

The papers of Norman Litchfield (1887-1984), a bequest to the Ski Museum of Maine in 2008, contain a number of important memories of skiing in Maine, collected by one who had a lifetime passion for skiing and supporting the young people of Auburn. Among the items in the collection is a lengthy monograph entitled, "The History of Skiing in Auburn," which recounts the development of the sport, early winter carnivals and competitions and the many skiers who represented Auburn Ski Club, Edward Little High School and Bates College in skiing from the 1920's to the 1960's.

Excerpts from the Litchfield papers provide a glimpse into the passion and support of a town for an emerging sport nearly a century ago. The tale begins on a Sunday afternoon during an especially snowy winter:

"It was a good winter for skiing, not too cold and plenty of snow, in 1922 – fifty years ago (when Mr. Litchfield was writing in 1972, at age 85). Harry Ford, George Wallingford, Stanton Smith, Roland Whitehouse, Ray Thompson and the writer (Norman Litchfield) with their families were skiing on Brann Hill on a sunny Sunday afternoon. Brann Hill was right in their 'back yard,' and Mr. Bamford had given them permission to ski on his pasture land. It was wonderful just to be out of doors after a week of work inside. We could overlook the two cities to the East with Sabattus Mountain and Greene clearly seen. To the North was Mt. Gile and Lake Auburn and to the west lay Minot and Hebron with majestic snow-clad Mt. Washington towering over all."

Litchfield reminisced about the challenges of beginning the sport and acquiring equipment:

"We had long wooden skis of ash or hickory with no steel edges made by the Northland Ski Company, bought at Weils Sporting Goods Store, Court Street. With each pair came a four page booklet – How to Ski. . . . A backstrap attached to the toe-iron on each side went around the heel of the boot and was tightened by an ingenious clamp. This gave the very necessary tension laterally to hold the toe firmly into the toe iron and allowed the boot heel to be raised off the ski to make walking easier. The G.H. Bass Company of Wilton had a ski boot with a very stiff heavy sole attached with wooden pegs."

Within three years, interest in skiing and jumping increased dramatically as a group of Auburn citizens "bought the Pettingill

Farm and deeded it to the city. . . . At this time, Pettingill Park was just a gully with a brook winding through it. . . . The side of the gully nearest Field Avenue provided the in-run for the ski jump (and) a starting tower about five feet high was built and a take-off of plank constructed about three feet high."

In 1924, Auburn organized its first Annual Winter Carnival, using the new park and its rudimentary jump as its focus. Mr. Litchfield's description, perhaps quaint to current ears, swells with civic pride:

"The park swarmed with youngsters all asking questions at the same time. The chill wind blowing down the gully didn't cool their enthusiasm one bit. There were snowshoe, ski and skating races for the younger boys and girls and they loved it. That night a parade of skiers with skis on their shoulders marched from the Park down Goff Street to the corner of Court & South Goff. At seven-thirty Hebron Academy engaged Coburn Classical in a well-played game of hockey. After the game, costume skating was enjoyed and prizes awarded the persons wearing the best costumes."

In the following year, 1924-1925, "organized skiing began in Auburn with the founding of the Auburn Ski Club with thirty charter members" (see the Auburn Ski Club story on page 9).

Notes and Questions:

- A reader interested in Maine's ski clubs may find additional information among the papers of the Ski Museum; and ongoing work to catalog the museum's holdings will allow patrons to do onsite and online research;
- Can a reader provide an account or narrative of learning to ski at Brann Hill? Where was it, exactly? Did it have a lift?
- Can a reader remember and trace on a map the route of the cross country trail Mr. Litchfield describes from Brann Hill to Taylor Pond and back?

Dave Stonebraker, archivist at the Bell Lipman Archives of Hebron Academy is chairman of the Ski Museum's Collections Committee. Dave was inducted into the Maine Ski Hall of Fame in 2018.



Sugarloaf Ski Club

By Jean Luce

In 1948 Maine's government decided to aid the economic development of its mountainous regions by encouraging the formation of the Maine Ski Council. The Council, with Robert "Bunny" Bass (President of Bass Shoe Co.) as the leader, was charged with the mission to find Maine's most developable ski mountain, comparable to those in New Hampshire.

The Council learned that Amos Winter and some boys from Kingfield were cutting a ski trail on Sugarloaf Mountain. Convinced it was the right location, the Council gathered regional businessmen and formed the Sugarloaf Mountain Ski Club in April 1955. The Club met often at the Worster House in Hallowell. Bunny Bass and board members Amos Winter, Phineas Sprague, John Poirier, Wes Marco, Fred Morrison, Henry Poirier, George Cary, Fletcher Brown and Scott Scully secured a lease for land from Great Northern Paper Co., surveyed a lift line and began constructing an access road with volunteer labor. By October 1950, with several trails, a rope tow and a T-bar lift in place, this was becoming a major business beyond the scope of a volunteer club. At the Club's third annual meeting, the 43 members present heard about improvements to the hut, the success of two ski races and the need for fundraising to complete the road.

A corporation formed by some of the club directors "bought out" the ski area from the Ski Club in exchange for 1,000 shares in the new corporation. The Ski Club continued recruiting volunteers from its membership to run the ski races and raising funds through social events to pay a professional race coach to train its junior members every Saturday. By the mid 1960's, junior racers, in order to be competitive with those in the rest of New England, needed financial aid for coaching at events and travel expenses. The Ski Club board formed the Sugarloaf Regional Ski Educational Foundation as an IRA tax exempt arm of the Club to attract larger contributions. This new organization allowed the Club to focus on organizing the Alpine and Freestyle events and recruiting the race workers. The revenues from social events funded the local school district's learn-to-ski-program.

In the late 1970's, more than just major fundraising was



*Impromptu meeting of early board members:
Back, L to R - Richard Luce, Dick Bell, Bunny Bass, George Cary.
Front - Bob Scott, Amos Winter, George Mendall*

needed to keep Sugarloaf's well-trained ski racers and freestylers in Maine. The ski academy concept, where skiers could train at a high level and receive a quality education, had taken hold in Vermont. Sugarloaf Ski Club's families were leaving for Vermont. The Foundation ran a tutorial program once a month with students housed among members but it proved to be no match for Vermont's academies. In May of 1982, the Foundation established the Carrabassett Valley Academy.

The Ski Club continued to host more regional and national events each season. The Foundation raised funds to support the local kids rising up in the competition ranks, their travel expenses and the local schools' learn-to-ski programs.

There was one more organization to emerge from the Sugarloaf Ski Club – the Ski Museum of Maine. In the 1990's the Club recognized that our ski history – that of the State of Maine – should be preserved before it was too late. Several of the Club's directors with the help of board member and attorney Greg Foster formed the Ski Museum of Maine in 1995. Jean Luce was elected its first president.

Today the Sugarloaf Ski Club has 493 memberships totaling some 1400 individuals. This includes many families that are third and fourth generation offspring of the original board and members.

Jean Luce of Carrabassett was the Ski Museum's first president and a member of the Maine Ski Hall of Fame Class of 2004.



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Ragged Mountain Ski Club

by Wendy Zwecker

The Ragged Mountain Ski and Snowboard Club, named after one of the Camden Hills on which the Camden Snow Bowl is located, traces its roots back to the early days of the Snow Bowl in the 70's. With growing interest in ski racing, a group of parents formed the club and joined USSA as a member club enabling the Snow Bowl to host sanctioned races. The club initially concentrated on competitive Alpine and Nordic skiing for kids. As its focus broadened, the club organized as a 501c3 non-profit organization in the 80's.

In the 1990's club members Sue Wooton, a 4th grade teacher, and Eliza Hazelton, a parent started the 4th Grade Learn to Ski Program to introduce young kids to the sport. At first, just Camden Rockport Elementary School benefited from this program. Today 15 schools participate with 438 students enrolled. In the beginning volunteers staffed the program. As the program expanded, the ski club began raising funds to assist the Snow Bowl to cover the costs of professional programming.



The Ragged Mountain Ski Club has increased its financial support to include "Lids for Kids", programming and equipment needs, and scholarships. The club raises funds through pancake breakfasts & chairlift rides in October, an annual auction held at the Waterfront Restaurant in November, and

membership dues. The club is now 180 members strong and growing.

In recent years, the club has established social and outreach programs. The Family Fun Race, a fun, festive way to introduce racing to skiers features a mountain obstacle course with limbo, balloon grabbing and small jumps. The Family Fun Race has been free to the community. Girls Tuning Night, conducted by Sidecountry Sports teaches young girls how to



take care of their ski gear in a relaxed setting. It keeps girls engaged and excited about the sport.

The RMSC goal has always been to support the Camden Snow Bowl and provide a gateway for coastal residents to get on the slopes and gain an appreciation for the sport in a unique location off the coast of Maine. Because the Snow Bowl is town owned there are limitations due to municipal budgeting. The Ragged Mountain Ski and Snowboard Club wants to ensure the Snow Bowl's continued operation and that is remains a focal point of the greater mid-coast community. The club's email is rmscsnowbowl@gmail.com; Facebook page @RaggedMountainSkiandSnowboardClub.

Wendy Zwecker is president or the Ragged Mountain Ski and Snowboard Club. Her children are third generation Snow Bowl skiers.





Auburn Ski Club

by Dave Stonebraker

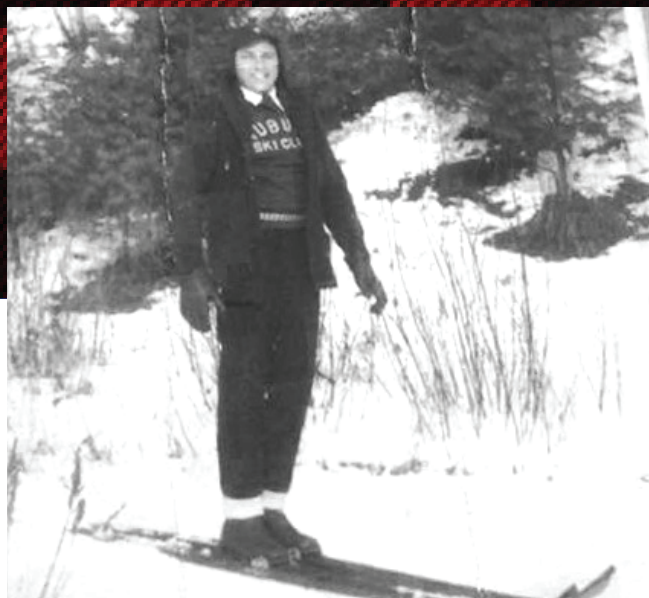
In 1924-1925, "organized skiing began in Auburn with the founding of the Auburn Ski Club with thirty charter members". The jump at Pettingill Park was enlarged and on Sundays, excursions began at Brann Hill for skiers and snowshoers. "Our trail led up the hill, down the other side through the woods, across the flat to Taylor Pond, up the Pond to Rice's Beach where we stopped for coffee and lunch, then returned to the starting point by the way of Upper Lake St. to Park Av. The distance was about five miles. We felt it was a privilege to climb the hills in order to have the pleasure of running down."

As the Auburn Winter Carnivals provide the stage for winter fun, the Auburn Ski Club soon began to focus on competition. In 1926, Litchfield noted that South Paris defeated Edward Little, the first mention of school competitions. Presumably, the events contested were cross country skiing and snowshoeing, skating and jumping. This second Auburn Carnival also included exhibition skating and a collegiate hockey game, but the centerpiece was the jumping at Pettingill's new and enlarged facility. "The crowd remained 'til the last jump in



Left to right: 1st row, Cameron, Quance, Hamblin, Woodbury; 2nd row, Richard Dweley (mascot), Samson, Wright, Lothrop, Bixby, Eveleth, Kessell, Meserve, Pratt; 3rd row, Dweley (coach), Abbott, Estes, Christensen, Bowden, Magee, Ray, Thompson, Jordan.

spite of a cold north wind blowing down Pettingill Park. It was Lewiston-Auburn's first taste of ski jumping and the twin cities liked it. They liked it to such an extent that there was general opinion on the grounds that [the jump should be enlarged so that] longer jumps comparable to Brattleboro and Lake Placid



could be made. The Ski Club added ten additional feet to the top of the tower to discover that the longest jump that could be made was seventy-five feet."

In subsequent years, a group of Ski Club jumpers including brothers 'Tick' and Jim Haskell, Wayne Stevens and Wallace Lovell "competed with distinction on all the big 60 meter in the East. The Auburn Ski Club had cross country runners as well, and Merlin Blackford was the State Open Championship in 1929 and '30. Wayne Stevens was the first Auburn boy to get national recognition in ski jumping as he was chosen to try out for the U.S. Olympic Team to compete in Lake Placid . . . in 1932."

Litchfield continues his history by describing the gradual emergence of alpine skiing in the period, noting how early downhill technique was shared from one area to another. In the winter of 1930 – 1931, Dartmouth College invited member clubs of the Eastern Amateur Ski Association to send a representative for a week of training with coach Otto Schneibs on the new 'Austrian technique' pioneered by Hannes Schneider. The Auburn Ski Club sent 'Win' Durgin, who would soon become the coach for Bates College.

"At last the Sunday came when 'Win' returned to Brann [Hill,] and all the faithful assembled to receive instruction in the new technique of controlled skiing. 'Win's' first downhill run was a revelation. He could turn right or left with his skis parallel and with a smooth straight up and down motion of the body [making] beautiful linked rhythmical turns. Boy, this was it. This was what Northland's booklet "How to Ski" . . . hadn't told us. Controlled skiing has set the sport on the course it followed ever since."



Penobscot Valley Ski Club

by Robert D. Dunlap

The history of the Penobscot Valley Ski Club begins with Win Robbins, an engineering student at the University of Maine, who organized a trip to Tuckerman's Ravine in 1936. Excited by the experience, Horace Chapman, Charlie Lord, and Don MacNaughton began cutting a ski trail on Bald Mountain in Dedham in 1936. The club was organized the following year. In 1940 the club installed a tow at Kings Mountain in Orrington, and in 1951 Bill Weeks and a crew from the telephone company moved the tow to Bald Mountain. The club built a lodge at Bald Mountain in the early 1950s. Clarence Young, whose dairy farm was located at the base of the mountain, ran the facility with his family.

The club began sponsoring an invitational ski race in 1940 drawing teams from around the state. In 1947 after the war racing resumed when Bangor Commercial publisher James



Ewing, who had seen Silver Skis Races in the West, offered a Golden Skis trophy and publicized the race in his paper. Between 1947 and 1963, the Golden Skis Race was held annually with between 40 and 70 racers.

Club meetings were held at the Bangor House, owned by Horace Chapman, with committees for safety, grooming, rope tow operation, racing, entertainment, and privy maintenance. The business meetings were usually followed by a ski movie. The club used the proceeds from mountain operations on Thursdays and weekends to purchase a Bombardier for grooming, an oil heater for the hut, and shelters at the top of each tow. The Club powered the tow with a V8 engine from Clarence Young's old Chrysler.

In fall 1969 Morris Koritsky proposed that the club sponsor a ski equipment sale. The first of these ongoing events took place in October 1970. Also in 1969 Earl Tracy, who had skied in the U.S. Eastern Amateur Ski Association certified ski races throughout New England, started setting gates and teaching skiers how to run them. The racers trained at Bald, Hermon Mountain, Mount Snow in Winterport, and Squaw Mountain. The club sold Bald Mountain in 1974 and placed the proceeds in a trust fund to help sustain its activities. Race training moved to Squaw Mountain. Club racers who grew up in the PVSC program included Chip and Tris Cochrane, brothers who skied on the World Cup circuit and were U.S. Ski Team representatives.

The club's Caribou Bog Race was organized in fall 1982, following the old Bangor, Old Town & Milford Railroad bed through the Caribou Bog. Some 290 skiers entered the first event. Skier numbers vary depending upon snow and weather conditions. As many as 455 skiers have entered the race.

Robert Dunlap served as the Club's archivist.

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The Downeast Ski Club

by David Irons

In 1948 Tom Bennett, a member of the Portland YMCA's Gay 20's Club was seeking an outdoor activity for the Club. The Gay 20's Club provided returning GI's with dances and social activities, but Club members were more interested in outdoor recreation. According to Bennett this led to organized hikes in the fall and bus trips to Pleasant Mountain (now Shawnee Peak) to ski. This offshoot from the Y formed the Downeast Ski Club and soon skiing at Pleasant Mountain was a regular activity for the club.

Every Sunday morning a bus picked up the group to ski for the day and return to Portland at night. Some skiers stayed at a camp on the Mountain Road. They decided it would be great for the club to have a place of their own. They approached Russ Haggett, founder and long time manager of Pleasant Mountain. He sold them an acre of land adjacent to the ski area for \$50. Bennett noted that the land wasn't so adjacent with nearly 500 yards separating the property from the base lodge. Today the entire space between is occupied by the mountain parking lot. The Club cleared a cross country trail to the base lodge and cut trails from the mountain to ski back to the lodge.

Bennett credits Ray Riley, one of the Mountain's owners, in encouraging them to build the lodge much larger than the 20 X 30 structure they envisioned. The final structure was 28 by 52. With only 88 members paying just \$2 in dues there was little money in the till to finance such a project. They set out to raise the funds with raffles, Scotch auctions and finally ski movies. The first and most important fund raiser asked each member to pledge \$10 at a time when \$30-40 was a week's pay. Tom said, "It wasn't easy but all 88 members contributed."

A key feature of the lodge is the stone fireplace. Tons of stone were transported from Portland to Bridgton for \$20 by a stone mason who was a friend of club treasurer, Nick Aceto. Before 1952 heat had been provided by a 250 gallon oil tank converted to a wood furnace. It sat where the fireplace hearth is today. There was no running water, but the lodge did have lights, an outhouse and a piano.



In 1960 the club turned the deed to the lodge over to the YMCA in exchange for capital needed to install running water, a concrete foundation, insulation, kitchen facilities, and inside toilets. The full cost of the improvement ran to \$12,300. For a lease of \$1.00 a year, an agreement provided the "Y" with use of the Lodge for its Day Camp and Outreach Programs in summer while allowing DESC full use of the Lodge from October to April.

In 1961 the DESC teamed with Hans Jenni, a Swiss Ski Instructor, to introduce Learn to Ski Programs through the "Y" for the people of Greater Portland. Hundreds of participants learned the basics of skiing with two lessons at the "Y" and two at Pleasant Mountain.

(continued on page 15)



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Pineland Ski Club

by Leigh Breidenbach

In early 1960, Everett Greateon from the Maine Department of Economic Development, in a nationwide effort to promote the upcoming 30th Pineland Ski Club (PSC) Winter Carnival, which included the 30 kilometer Nordic U.S. National Championships wrote to the New York Times proclaiming, "Andover, Maine . . . (as) one of the prettiest towns in the state ... in a snow belt surrounded by mountains And thanks to efforts of the Pineland Ski Club, it could soon be the ski capital of the nation." Andover had a reputation for Winter Carnivals and ski jumping. Between the early 1920's and the late 1960's Andover had four different jumps, from a short lived mammoth jump known as the "Mankiller" to "a lighted 15 meter jump and slope, within a stones throw of the grammar school, where during the hours between school-out and bed time pink cheeked youngsters can become athletes in the wholesome heartfelt surroundings of our snow valley." (PSC Press Release 2/6/1960) The PSC had a secret weapon in Warren Percival, the club's publicity chairman who could write some wicked funny press releases. Percival left no stone unturned including nudging the editor of the Eastern Ski Bulletin (USEASA publication) concerning the upcoming 1961 Carnival; *"One month from today our ski club [will] hold several important competitive skiing events, and it seems you people in the Eastern Ski Bulletin office are unaware of this fact . . . After a ski touring jaunt about our farm here in Andover with my wife and grey hound dog, during which I ran through one deer yard, lost my wife for an hour and a half, and saw some blow-down fir trees that we will have to cut for pulp wood this spring, I returned to the farm to doff my 1940 parka, Bass boots of the same year and Trailmaster*



skis (made in Mechanic Falls, Maine in 1938 . . . I sat down to you know what, or maybe you don't but any way I began perusing the Bulletin for the third time . . . and to find any mention of the ski events we are holding next month, I could not. Now this thing has got to stop. If we

are to keep on working like hell all year to raise money to keep our 30km trail and 40, 50 meter jumps in shape to hold competitive events we should get some recognition in the Bulletin, the lodestar of amateur winter sports . . . "



The Pineland Ski Club had been a dues paying member of the United States Eastern Amateur Ski Association since 1939 when the club was known as The Pineland Ski and Social Club.

Early ski clubs were founded for social aspects as well as athletic events, and the annual Winter Carnivals were the highlight of the long snowbound winter season - the winter version of the county fair. The pre-1960's carnivals were considered by many in Andover to be "The Major Event" in town and it did take the entire town to pull it off. Since there were no hotels in town, and staying in Rumford was out of the question, the citizens of Andover would open their homes and spare rooms taking in the skiers from away, often including entire college teams and U.S. Team athletes. For the 11th carnival in 1939, the ski club president wrote to the University of New Hampshire Ski Team coach offering ". . . to take care of their expenses provided they were reasonable, and of course take good care of them while they were here." In 1950 for the 21st Winter Carnival, the ski club was still offering to help teams from as far away as Long Island, N.Y. By 1962 it took a total of 17 committees to run the carnival weekend. (Ski, Hill, Race, Plowing, Housing, Trophy, Prize, Sunday Dinner, Junior Program, Ticket & Ticket Sales, Parking, Publicity, Cafeteria, Dance, Queen & Transportation for the Queen.) A 1961 PSC press release described the towns efforts this way, ". . . Being a small town of approximately 800 population it



Pineland Ski and Outing Club

ANDOVER, MAINE

has always prided itself in the quality of it's citizens and not it's numbers. Times too numerous to mention have come up when a larger ski club was unable to hold important USEASA meets"

Funding for Andover's biggest social event of the year, fell to the candidates for carnival queen. Each queen candidate was supported by a manager to help collect donations , solicit prizes from local business, and sell tickets to the multiple weekends activities from the 15 km and 30 km cross country races (which ran through the middle of town) to the jumping events on Lone Mountain, the weekend cafeteria and of course the ball itself. The girl who raised the most money was crowned the Pineland Winter Carnival Queen. For years, Violet Swain of East Andover, was the favorite choice for any queen candidate from East Andover and had the reputation as the manager to beat. Betty Merrill Britt from Andover tells the story that every time her father, Waldo, visited a local business for donations Violet Swain had been there first. According to Philena Crooker Chaisson, 1947 Pineland Winter Carnival Queen, Violet would take her queen charges to the beer parlors on Waldo and River Streets in Rumford on Thursday nights to sell tickets. In those days, Thursday was payday in Rumford!

For a number of years, PSC with volunteer only labor had been maintaining two F.I.S. approved cross- country race courses, a 15 km and a 30 km. The only other approved F.I.S. cross -country courses in the 1950's were in Squaw Valley, California site of the 1960 Winter Olympic Games. Starting in 1959, the officers of the PSC mounted a multi year local and national effort to rebuild the "Mankiller" jump that had been shut down

in the early 1940's, into a 90 – 100 meter jump that would match the jumps at Iron Mountain, Michigan and Steamboat Springs, Colorado. By this time Andover was a nationally known Nordic event site and the PSC determined there was a need for Eastern jumpers to train on bigger jumps in order to be competitive with the Europeans and Western skiers. Unfortunately the "Mankiller" originally constructed with the help of the Nansen Ski Club from Berlin, N.H and New Deal, National Youth Administration Funds was never rebuilt. By 1962 the PSC, President closed the effort, "Lacking the funds to develop what is probably the largest competitive winter sports attraction east of the Mississippi River, we confine our endeavor to sponsoring the our 35th Winter Carnival." By the late 1960's the interest in the winter carnival had started to decline; skiers were becoming more involved in alpine events and Andover had fewer jumpers to help maintain the jumps. The carnival was very dependent on the money raised by the queen candidates who started to have other interests. The Pineland Winter Carnival and Ball ran continuously from 1929 – 1968, came back from 1976 – 1978.

The current Pineland Ski and Outing Club still host an annual Andover Winter Carnival with cross-country, sledding and snowshoe events for all ages.

Leigh Breidenbach served as editor of the 2017/2018 Snow Trails. She is a past member of the Ski Museum Board of Directors and member of the Maine ski Hall of Fame Class of 2019.

Caribou Skee Club

by Karla Wolters

This article is an excerpt from a story written by the late Karla Wolters that appeared in the Winter 2013 Snow Trail. She researched articles from the Aroostook Republican newspapers dating back to the 1890's.

The March 1893 edition of the Aroostook Republican details the dedication of a "Skee Club" camp. About 45 people attended and they were treated to Mrs. R.L Townes' oyster stew. It must have been a delightful event as the party did not

break up until 11 pm. Everyone enjoyed the ride home on their skees, snowshoes, pungs and sleighs. Three weeks later 30 folks returned to what was now called "snow shoe camp" (At the time skee and snowshoe were used interchangeably for the long boards.) They ate, played whist and returned home to Caribou.



Megan Roberts, past Ski Museum Executive Director, shows off a pair of "long boards".

In January of 1894 the Caribou Skee Club held their annual meeting and elected officers. The club held several get-togethers at the "Camp" that winter travelling back and forth on Skees and Indian snowshoes (similar to today's snowshoes) and of course partaking of Mrs. Townes' oyster stew. In 1895 the club met on January 15 to elect officers. Travelling to camp wasn't pleasant: "the crust was like ice and the long snow shoes (skis) slipped and glided about with no apparent idea to the direction in which they were traveling". The February 13, 1895 issue of the Republican carried the last article about the Caribou Skee Club that Karla could find. It was written with a report of the great turnout, the devouring of refreshments and a final statement that summarized what the Caribou Skee Club had been and what the members hoped to accomplish in the future: "These snow-shoe and ski trips are a feature in Caribou's winter amusements, and being a very healthful exercise, should be upheld and promoted."



A Limited Edition 2019 Skee Spree Poster is for sale at skimuseumofmaine.org/store

(continued from page 11)

Another milestone in the sixties was the creation of the annual ski sale in 1962. The Downeast Ski Sale, the Saturday after Thanksgiving is a Portland tradition ushering in Maine's ski season. It has grown from \$1000 that first year to as high as six figures. It is the Club's major fund raiser.

Following the death of Russ Haggett in 1991, the Club established a Memorial Fund to recognize Haggett for his contributions Maine skiing. The Scholarship Fund awards two scholarships of \$1000 each to graduates of Lake Region High School who were members of the ski teams.

In 1996 the YMCA decided it no longer needed the Lodge for their activities and put it on the market. The Club had the high bid of the two that were offered and bought the building for

\$50,000. It was the first time in its nearly fifty year history that the club had a mortgage but it didn't last long. In less than a decade the mortgage was paid off.

The original lodge continues to be the heart of a group that has boosted Pleasant Mountain more than 60 of its over 80 year history. The DESC hosts an annual chili dinner for the entire mountain staff. Club members serve as ski patrollers and ski instructors and as a volunteer marketing team spreading the word about Shawnee Peak throughout southern Maine.

Dave Irons is a ski journalist and author of Pleasant Mountain at Shawnee Peak.



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MAINE SKI HALL OF FAME

By Dave Irons

The Maine Ski Hall of Fame was established as a division of the Ski Museum of Maine to recognize skiers who brought distinction to Maine skiing through competition, either as athletes or coaches. The Hall also honors those who pioneered the sport in Maine, ski makers, ski area builders, instructors, volunteers and others who have made a significant contribution to the sport. The Class of 2019 will bring the number of those honored to 144. The class includes a Sugarloaf historian, a double Olympic Gold Medal snowboarder, a ski maker, an endurance skier, a Paralympian, and a pair of Nordic competitors.

Seth Wescott

Of the thirty or more Maine skiers who have competed in the Olympics, only one has brought a gold medal back to Maine in the able bodied games. Snowboard Cross was introduced in the 2006 winter games in Torino, Italy and Seth Wescott won that first ever event. Four years later Wescott successfully defended his title winning his second gold medal in the Vancouver Olympics. From 2004 to 2010 Seth Wescott was a dominant competitor in Snowboard Cross adding a gold and two silvers in the World Championships along with three silvers and a bronze in the X-Games during that span.

Henry Anderson

Henry Anderson carried on a tradition where skiing got its start in Maine. Born in New Sweden in 1894, Anderson grew up where skis were used as transportation and soon were

used for racing. In his basement workshop this descendant of Maine's earliest skiers made his own skis and from 1926 to the early thirties it was his winter work. Using silver birch he was able to complete a pair in a day which he sold for \$7.00. He made XC racing skis for members of the New Sweden Athletic Club, and the Caribou and Fort Fairfield ski teams. His contribution to the sport is recognized each year by the annual Henry Anderson Memorial Ski Dag, the 44th version of which was held in February of 2019.

Leigh Breidenbach

Leigh Breidenbach has done it all in skiing and had an impact wherever she skied. Working her way through the University of Maine, Farmington she taught skiing at Sunday River. After graduation Leigh joined the school's Ski Industry Program under Doc DesRoches and Tom Reynolds and became a key part of the program. After both retired, she became director of the program. A fully certified Level III PSIA instructor Breidenbach has played a key role in numerous ski education programs at both UMF and ski resorts. She has served the Ski Museum of Maine Board in several capacities.

Don Fowler

Don Fowler has not only demonstrated a love of skiing by being on the mountain every possible day, but also by being an ambassador for the sport. As one of the founders of the Ski Museum of Maine he has donated countless hours as the organization's clerk and attorney.

In his devotion to Sugarloaf Don has compiled the complete history of the resort. Management often consults him for clarification of historic facts. Without his contribution the Ski Museum would not have its sound legal foundation.

Billy Chenard

Billy Chenard carried on a long tradition of highly competitive Nordic skiers coming out of the Chisholm Ski Club. Whether skiing for Rumford High or in Eastern competition Billy was always near or at the top. As a member of the eastern Junior National Team he won the National Junior Nordic Combined title in 1972. After high school he made the U.S. National Team. Following his competitive career, Chenard gave back to his sport by developing the cross country trails at Sugarloaf and the Balsams, both recognized by racers as being among the best layouts in the East.

Lindsay Ball

Visually impaired Lindsay Ball started skiing at age 6 with Maine Adaptive Sports and wound up competing for Lawrence High School in Fairfield. In 2011 while at UMF she was named to the U. S. Paralympic team and went on to compete in the 2014 Winter Olympics in Giant Slalom. During her time on the team Lindsay mounted numerous podiums in World Cup and Nor-Am competition. She has won gold medals in both Downhill and Giant Slalom. Now graduated from UMF, Lindsay gives back by serving as Vice president of the Maine Organization of Blind and Athletic Leadership Education.

Paul Schipper

Paul Schipper didn't set out to become a symbol of loyalty to Sugarloaf generating publicity throughout the country and some even Worldwide, but that's what happened. It started during the 1981 ski season when he realized he had not missed a single day the mountain was opened. That was the beginning of the "Streak". From age 57 in 1981 until 2005 Paul Schipper skied every day Sugarloaf was open regardless of the weather, his health or obligations. As a retired airline pilot he was a keen weather observer and reported to the marketing department after his runs every day and VP Marketing Chip Carey used the streak to get much needed publicity for the resort.

Robert Zinck

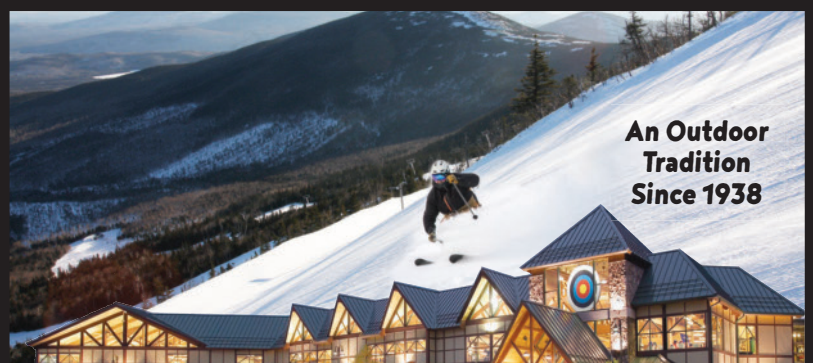
Robert Zinck got his start with the Chisholm Ski Club and developed into an all around athlete. His specialty was ski jumping and he jumped wherever he could, at Black Mountain in Rumford, the Swan's Corner Gould Jumps in Bethel, the Big Nansen in Berlin and all over New England. His list of victories on jumping hills include the 1972 Class A high school title, 1973 Maine and New England Class A Jumping crowns, 1974, Junior Nationals, 1974 Canadian Junior Nationals, and 1975 Junior nationals, 2nd place. In 1976 he led his Dartmouth ski team to a tie with Colorado for the NCAA Championships. Zinck was named to the U.S. National team for 1976-77.

Dave Irons is a ski journalist and founder of the Maine Ski Hall of Fame.



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In Memoriam



Phineas Sprague

Phineas Sprague, 93, avid Sugarloafer, passed away at home on February 7, 2019. He served in the Army Combat Engineers in the European Theater from 1943-1946 then enrolled in the Bowdoin College Class of 1950. As founding president of the Bowdoin Outing Club, he shared a vision with other skiers to establish a first rate Maine ski area with an FIS regulation racecourse. On blustery Easter Sunday, 1948 Phin, Erland and Amos Winter, Stub Taylor, Woody Gar, Odlin Thompson and Mickey Durrell climbed the AMC trail to the top of a Sugarloaf with an assortment of skis, skins and snowshoes

hoping that Sugarloaf would be the ideal mountain. Phin recalled, "Stepping off the wind-cleared Sugarloaf summit, we were up to our waists in powder snow". Thus began a happy adventure of clearing the Access Road and marking trails with Sel Hannah and Bigelow Boys as well as establishing the Sugarloaf Ski Club. In 1953 Marylou and Phin purchased "Wee Farm" in Kingfield where they hosted family, friends, and friends of friends and introduced a multitude of skiers to Kingfield and to the joys and challenges of Sugarloaf.

John "Tom" Gyger passed away July 4, 2018 at his home in South Bridgton at the age of 70. Gyger was recognized for his contributions to Maine skiing through ski patrol as a member of the Maine ski Hall of Fame class of 2014. Although he grew up in Maine he started his ski patrol career at Pat's Peak in New Hampshire, where he became a senior First Aid Examiner. Returning to Maine in 1979, he joined the Pleasant Mountain ski Patrol and immediately got involved in First Aid training at a time when the National Ski Patrol was moving from Red Cross to their own Winter Emergency Care

Course. Upgrading his instructor status in the new courses, Gyger continued his work as a first aid examiner and in 1981 was appointed First Aid Adviser for the Maine Region.

Over the next two decades Tom worked tirelessly on first aid training at every level, within the Shawnee Peak Ski Patrol, the Maine Region and the Eastern Division. For his work he received a National Appointment from NSP #5922 and a Distinguished Service Award. Tom Gyger was a true leader in First Aid training, devoting a full career to this most vital aspect of ski patrolling.



John "Tom" Gyger



Morten Lund

Morten Lund, Hall of Fame Class of 2010, died December 21, 2018 at his home in Accord, NY, at age 92. Born in Augusta Lund graduated from Bowdoin College and attended Harvard Law School before turning his attention to writing. He covered skiing and sailing for Sports Illustrated when it began publication in 1954. In 1962 he joined SKI Magazine writing articles on learning to ski on short skis and collaborated with Cliff Taylor on GLM, (Graduated Length Method) teaching. In 1985 he was a founding writer on a new ski publication, Snow Country and in 1993 he co-founded Skiing Heritage, the first publication dedicated to the history of skiing, which he edited for 15 years.

Through his career, Lund wrote well over 400 features and 14 books. His books on Skiing included, Ski GLM, Adventures in Skiing and Skiers World. Mystery, a chapter from Skiers World is the lead story in The Ski Book, which he edited along with Bob Gillen, a collection of the some of the World's finest articles on the sport of skiing. Over a career spanning six decades the name Mort Lund was easily one of the most recognized by skiers worldwide. Among the honors Lund received were entry into the U. S. Ski Hall of Fame and the International Skiing History Association's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Happenings



The University of Maine Folk Life Center's "Story Wagon" made appearances at Sugarloaf Homecoming in October and the Skee Spree at Sunday River this spring. The Story Wagon is a 1970's trailer converted into a recording studio. Professor Kreg Ettenger and PHD candidate Tim Whiton conducted oral history interviews at the events. Podcasts can be heard on line at www.skimuseumofmaine.org by clicking on News and Stories.



Two student groups toured the museum this winter, Maple Tree Community School from Readfield Maine and a group of British students vacationing at Sugarloaf. Executive Director, Theresa Shanahan and Board Member, Dave Stonebreaker, acted as docents and answered questions. They were particularly interested in "skinning" up the slopes. They learned to appreciate chairlifts.



Congratulations to Chris Mills of Camden and Leigh Breidenbach of Turner who turned in the fastest times of the day. Results are posted on the Ski Museum website at skimuseumofmaine.org/blog/psot/legends-of-maine-race-results



Nearly three dozen skiers over the age of 50 raced in the 2nd Annual Legends Race at Mt. Abram on March 14.

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Langlois LLC Group
Maine Adaptive Sports & Recreation
Maine's Northwestern Mountains
Mountainside Real Estate
Northeast Climate Associates
Shipyards Brewing
Ski Maine Association
Skowhegan Savings Bank
Smokin' Good BBQ

Stanley Museum
Sugarloaf Mountain Corp
Sugarloaf Ski Club
Sunday River Ski Resort
The Bag & Kettle
The Irregular
The Rack
Tranten Family Inc
Town of Carrabassett
Valley Gas & Oil
Waterfront Restaurant
Woodenskis.com
WSKI TV17 (Snowfields Productions)
Members as of May 1, 2019



PO Box 359
Kingfield, ME 04947



The Maine Ski Hall of Fame committee and the Ski Museum of Maine Board of Directors would like to invite you to the 17th annual Ski Hall of Fame Induction Dinner. The eight members of the Class of 2019 have been influential in shaping the sport of skiing in Maine.

Seth Wescott, Henry Anderson, Leigh Breidenbach, Don Fowler,
Billy Chenard, Lindsay Ball, Paul Schipper, Robert Zinck

Saturday, October 19, 2019 KING PINE ROOM AT THE BASE LODGE

Sugarloaf Mountain, Carrabassett Valley, ME

4:30 pm to 6:30 pm – Inductee Reception

6:30 pm-8:30 pm – Dinner and Awards

The reception and dinner is \$55 per person

Reception only is \$25 per person

Ski Museum of Maine members may make reservations beginning August 25th.

Open reservations begin September 1st.

Call the Ski Museum at 207-265-2023

RESERVE ONLINE at www.skimuseumofmaine.org

LODGING AVAILABLE starting at \$105 plus tax & resort fees.

Call 800-643-8231

