

Ski Maps

Maps are powerful educational tools. They tell us much more than simply geography, they can teach us about politics, history and much more. What about ski maps? What can we learn from them?

The Ski Museum of Maine has just received a \$10,000 gift to collect, preserve and to study Ski Maps. This will allow us to buy archival storage material and equipment to digitize the maps. As we build our collection, we will be looking to see what we can learn from them. Early maps showed not trails but rather what ski facilities towns had. They showed where you could find jumps, tows, open slopes and ski trails. These Ski Maps show the importance of community involvement and support as skiing grew in popularity.

Some of these early maps had written descriptions of individual trails. The *Skiers Guide to New England*, published in 1939, described the Devil's Kitchen, an expert trail in Bethel this way, "The upper end has a 20' tower [for skiers to slide down] to furnish speed for the first turn."

Trail maps of an individual ski area show how it grew over the years. By studying and understanding Ski Maps and Trail Maps through the years we will learn about the evolution of the ski areas and of the skisport itself.

We need your help to grow our collection. We are going to focus, but not limit ourselves to Maine. We are looking for Trail Maps and related material such as brochures. We are looking for maps and brochures not just of the ski areas that are still open but also those Lost Ski Areas such as Mt. Agamenticus in York, Hurricane Mountain in Falmouth and Enchanted Mountain in Jackman.

Our goal is to digitize the maps and to create an on-line exhibit sharing both the maps and what they teach us.

If you have maps that will help us with our efforts to document Maine skiing and snowboarding, please contact the Museum at: skimuseumofmaine.org for contact info.