
◀ Ski Museum of Maine ▶

Preserving Maine's Skiing Heritage

Summer 2010

256 Main Street, Kingfield, Maine

207-491-5481

www.skimuseumofmaine.org



Restoring (and remembering) the 1960 Olympic Nordic Ski Trails

*Honoring Rumford's Wendall 'Chummy' Broomhall, Chief
of Race for the 1960 Olympic Winter Games*

By Scott Andrews
Research director

When Squaw Valley, California, got the nod to host the 1960 Olympics, the organizing committee turned to a Maine skier, two-time Olympian and 10th Mountain Division veteran to design the cross-country and biathlon trails.

*The trails for the cross-country and biathlon competitions in the 1960 Olympic Winter Games were designed by Rumford's Wendall "Chummy" Broomhall. After half a century of disuse, miles of these trails have been restored and groomed for classical skiing by a group led by ski historian David C. Antonucci (above). A number of interpretive signs have been set up to recall the cross-country and biathlon competitions, which marked a watershed in world skiing history.
(Scott Andrews photo)*

Wendall "Chummy" Broomhall grew up in Rumford and got started in winter sports through the Chisholm Ski Club. After World War II, he competed in cross-country at the Olympic Winter Games at St. Moritz in 1948 and Oslo in 1952. Broomhall spent the better part of three years designing and supervising the construction of a 65-kilometer Nordic trail system in Tahoma, on the West Shore of mountain-fringed Lake Tahoe, about 15 miles from Squaw Valley.

Broomhall also served as Chief of Race during the competition. He was assisted by C. Allison Merrill, a Mainer who traced his skiing roots to Andover's Pineland Ski Club, as Chief of Course. Both Broomhall and Merrill are members of the Maine Ski Hall of Fame.

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New leadership team at Ski Museum

The Ski Museum of Maine welcomes a new leadership team this month. As of July 1, the Museum is headed by President Glenn Parkinson and Executive Director Bruce Miles, while Scott Andrews assumes an enhanced role as Research Director and newsletter editor. Plus the Board of Directors has four new members. The Museum also says thanks to outgoing President John Christie and outgoing Executive Director Megan Roberts, both of whom remain on the Board of Directors. Read more inside, on pages 2-6 and 10. ✱

President's Report

Most people think of a museum's role as preserving artifacts, that by doing so we are preserving the past. I look at it differently. I see our role as preserving the history and the heritage. These are two separate concepts and when put together they form our role.

Here is how I think about history and heritage. Artifacts, along with information such as who won the big races and when ski areas opened, represent the history of the sport. Maine's ski history will indeed be a big part of what we do.

Heritage is different. It is both more challenging and more rewarding. I have often watched as people look at a rack of old skis. They are impressed, they ask questions. Then there is a point where they see a certain ski. They reach out and touch it and say, "I learned how to ski on a pair of skis just like this."

We have now crossed over from history to heritage, we have made it personal. I think of ski heritage as the smell of the wet wool and the taste of hot chocolate from years gone by. It is memories. It is intangible. It is personal. It is critical.

While our goal is to preserve Maine's skiing history and heritage, we do so by building a foundation and planning for the future. This allows us to be focused and effective. Led by former Board president John Christie and former Executive Director Megan Roberts, we are now settled into our new home on the second floor above the Sugarloaf Outlet Ski shop in Kingfield.

This location, in one of New England's classic ski towns, gives us a base from which we can store our archives and work to preserve Maine's ski history and heritage.



*Glenn Parkinson, the new president of the Ski Museum of Maine, has a distinguished background as an historical researcher. In the picture above, taken nearly 20 years ago, Parkinson is posing with a pair of 19th-century skis at the New Sweden Historical Society. Arostook County was the source of much of the material for his 1995 book, titled *First Tracks: Stories from Maine's Skiing Heritage*. In the late 19th century, skis were typically of unequal length, as shown above. (Courtesy Ski Maine Association)*

Outgoing President's Report

Serving as the President of your Museum for the past several years, prior to which I was on your Board of Directors while Jean Luce masterfully guided the Museum through the turbulent waters of its infancy and youth, has been a singular honor and privilege for me.

When I joined the Board, the Museum was a collection of artifacts beginning to be catalogued and stored in temporary quarters in Carrabassett Valley; dedicated volunteers who steadfastly believed in the original vision of a handful of skiing enthusiasts that a record should be maintained of the history of our glorious sport; and the dream that one day this record could be put on permanent display for generations to view and expand as the history unfolded.

When I joined the Board, we were yet to conceive of the Maine Ski Hall of Fame, but thanks to Director Dave Irons it has become an important and integral part of our annual activities.

When I joined the Board, we were a small group of dedicated skiers with high hopes that someday a physical Museum could be realized, and by electing Directors who brought new skills, backgrounds, interests and energy to the initiative, we increased

the momentum that would one day result, we hoped, in the realization of our dream.

When I had the honor of becoming your President during the Museum's adolescence, I committed to devoting my time and energy to finding a safe home for our growing collection, and expanding our membership rolls and our revenues.

Through the collective efforts of your entire Board, we found a site in Farmington and were able to convince Megan Roberts to lend her considerable talents to managing the Museum, which included continuing to catalog our collection, organizing it for display and hosting a growing number of visitors at both special events and on a regular schedule.

Finally, just last year, thanks to the generosity of Sugarloaf, we moved into our marvelous location in Kingfield.

What a ride it has been! And thank you for allowing me to tag along.

John Christie

Save these dates!

Maine Ski Hall of Fame Induction and Banquet • October 22, 2010 at Lost Valley Ski Area in Auburn

This is the Ski Museum biggest social gathering of the year, drawing nearly 300 people annually for the purpose of celebrating the induction of our state's most prominent and influential skiers into the Maine Ski Hall of Fame. Perfect pre-season warm-up!

Maine Ski Heritage Classic • February 12, 2011 at Sugarloaf Base Lodge and Sugarloaf Inn in Carrabassett Valley

This is the Ski Museum's most successful fund-raiser, attracting scores of history aficionados and interested schussers to a parade/demo of old-time ski gear and vintage apparel in the afternoon plus a reception with silent and live auctions in the evening.

Executive Director's Report

I want to say how excited I am to be taking on the responsibility of being your Executive Director of the Ski Museum of Maine. As a member of the Board of Directors for many years, I have been constantly in awe of the passion and dedication displayed by my fellow members of the Museum.

The growth we have experienced since 2006, when we moved into our first home in Farmington, has been outstanding. It is due in large part to the energy and guidance of Megan Roberts, our outgoing Executive Director. This growth has occurred in all areas: membership, artifacts and general support.

I am hoping this is just the beginning of a continued growth period for our Museum. As your Executive Director, I will do my best to keep the lines of communication open with you. I will also be exploring new ways to increase membership and support.

In addition to our permanent exhibits here, I am

hoping to develop some satellite exhibits at other ski areas in the state. I also want to encourage schools here in the Western Mountains and around the state to visit the Museum and learn about Maine's skiing heritage. We have just launched a new website www.skimuseumofmaine.org and as with all websites it is a work in progress. I am learning the ropes of maintaining and expanding it. Any suggestions are greatly appreciated.

I am looking to you for guidance and ideas that you might have to help the Museum achieve its goals. Please contact me with any ideas on how we can better work to make this happen. I can be reached at info@skimuseumofmaine.org

Our hours of operation are tied to the hours of the Sugarloaf Sports Outlet. We recently reopened for the summer, and we hope to see lots of visitors.

Bruce Miles

Made in Norway (Maine)



*W.F. Tubbs Catalogue cover
courtesy of Norway Historical Society*

Ski manufacturing was an important segment of Maine's woodworking industry in the early 1900s. Paris Manufacturing Company started making skis in 1900 and W.F. Tubbs, a competitor in neighboring Norway, was also an important factor. An official history of Norway, published in 1922, stated that W.F. Tubbs was producing 60,000 pair of skis per year. Researching the fascinating story of ski manufacturing in our state is an important part of the Museum's "Made In Maine" project.

Outgoing Executive Director's Report

As you may have seen elsewhere in this newsletter, there are changes afoot in the leadership of the Ski Museum of Maine, which I am sure will bring it to a new level and will expand the work toward our mission. I felt it was time for me to move on to new ventures, especially in knowing that the Museum is financially stable, growing and vibrant.

I appreciate all that we were able to accomplish since I became Executive Director in 2006. With the help of so many we were able to have a real exhibit for the first time. Since opening that first exhibit four years ago, our collections and displays have improved and expanded. We thank all of you who brought in your treasures to share with the many people who are interested in our great skiing heritage.

Our new website is maintained from within and we encourage everyone to help build the online collection. Even jotting down one or two paragraphs of a ski memory will add to the history and keep it from getting forgotten, for as

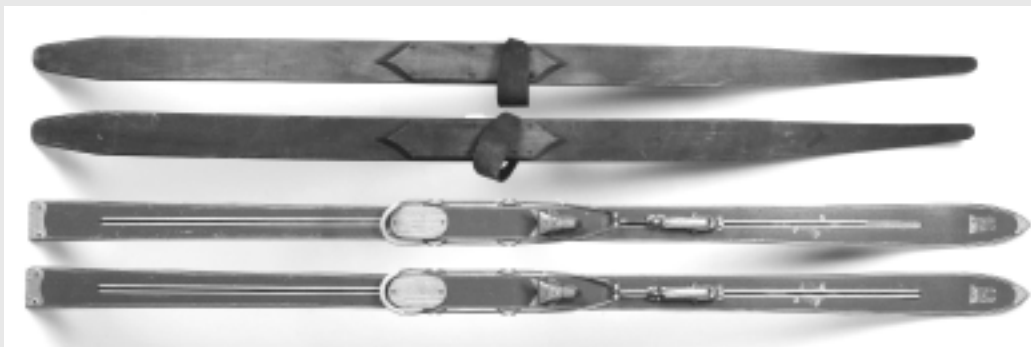
a generation leaves us they take their memories of "how it was back then." I want to especially thank John Christie and Greg Sweetser of the Ski Maine Association for their hard work and contributions. John's availability and willingness to jump in to help with whatever needed to be done made my job so much easier and enjoyable, and Ski Maine's executive director Greg Sweetser was invaluable with our events. Even though John and I will be stepping down from our positions, we are still on the Board of Directors and will continue to be involved.

Even though the Ski Museum of Maine is in a great position right now, there is still much to be done. Volunteers are always needed! I am sure Bruce Miles will be asking us to help with the many tasks. Let's say YES and join the fun.

Again, I thank all of you for sharing in this wonderful experience.

Megan Roberts

Timeline Bookends



Of all the companies that made skis in Maine, Paris Manufacturing Company had the longest time span, 66 years. PMC started advertising skis in its 1900 catalogue, and exited the business in 1965. The above skis, from the Museum's collection, approximately represent the timeline bookends of PMC's ski manufacturing. Top pair was made about 1905, while the bottom pair dates from the 1960s. (Jay York photo)

Research Director's Report

With this report I introduce myself in a new role at the Ski Museum of Maine. As many of you know, for the past four years I've served as one of a dozen-plus directors, and for the most recent two seasons I've been spearheading the Museum's program of Fireside Chats, a series of narrated digital slideshows that deliver the message of Maine's rich skiing heritage to historical societies, schools, civic organizations, ski clubs and mountain resorts in every corner of the state.

My new role of Research Director embraces a much wider sphere of operations. I will continue to research, create and deliver the Fireside Chats, plus I'll also be developing satellite exhibits, directing an oral history program, editing the Museum's newsletter and providing content for our new website. Researching our Made-In-Maine program will be another major focus.

Special-focus programs and satellite exhibits will be a major thrust of my efforts, and several important anniversaries suggest themes. First, the upcoming season will mark the 75th anniversary of several key happenings, including the state's first rope tow in Fryeburg and the founding of the Penobscot Valley Ski Club.

Second, the upcoming season will also be the 50th for four Maine ski areas: Mount Abram, Bigrock, Black Mountain and Saddleback. Opportunities for special commemorative exhibits are obvious!

Most of my time will be spent outside the Museum. Much of Maine's ski history is yet to be discovered – photos in an dusty attic or family album, records in a local historical society or newspaper articles in the microfilm files of a town library. Maine stretches 405 road miles from Kittery to Madawaska – a lot of territory.

My role includes meeting many people and making new friends for the Museum. Recent contacts include members of Maine's Finnish-American and Norwegian-American communities. Both groups were important to Maine's skiing heritage.

I invite suggestions. Call me at 773-9609 or email me at schussme@yahoo.com. I'd love to hear from you. And I'd love to present a Fireside Chat to your ski club, school, civic organization or favorite mountain.

Scott Andrews

Book a date for a Fireside Chat!

The Ski Museum of Maine's principal education and outreach program is a series of Fireside Chats, narrated digital slideshows that depict Maine's rich skiing heritage from the 1870s to today. Fireside Chats are presented to ski clubs, civic groups, historical societies, public libraries and ski areas all over Maine. Four titles are currently available, plus an addition two will be ready for the 2010-2011 ski season. Each lasts about 50 minutes. Visit the Fireside Chats page on the Museum's website for details: www.skimuseumofmaine.org.

To reserve a date for a Fireside Chat, call Scott Andrews at 773-9609 or email schussme@yahoo.com

Restoring Ski Trails *Continued from front page*



David C. Antonucci is a ski history buff from the Lake Tahoe region of California. He is the author of the definitive account of the 1960 Winter Olympics, *Snowball's Chance: The Story of the 1960 Olympic Winter Games*, plus he led the effort to restore, re-clear and groom miles of the long-disused cross-country and biathlon trails for public use. (Scott Andrews photo)

Olympic organizers) and became totally overgrown during the following decades. Although much of the original acreage was subsequently developed for housing, a significant portion became the Ed Z'berg Sugar Pine Point State Park, which is used mostly in the summer.

That might have ended the story, but a few years ago David C. Antonucci, a Lake Tahoe Nordic skier, writer and local history buff, discovered the remains of the trails and the biathlon ranges during his midsummer rambles through the park.

Intrigued, Antonucci formed a committee to research, re-clear and restore some of the trails. The committee arranged to have them groomed during the snow season, plus it erected interpretive signs for visitors. Thanks to Antonucci's energy and enthusiasm, fully backed by the California parks department, miles of those restored trails provide excellent skiing in the Lake Tahoe region. The television cameras have vanished, the crowds have disappeared and the shooting has stopped, but these routes – tracked for classical skiers – now offer skiing solitude amidst the park's towering pines.

Last February, I met Antonucci and together we skied some of the 1960 Olympic trails. We chatted about the

(Interestingly, this team of officials who hailed from the adjacent towns of Rumford and Andover was mirrored by a pair of athletes from Maine who competed on these cross-country courses: Jack Lufkin of Rumford and Charlie Akers of Andover.)

The 1960 Olympics marked a watershed for skiing in this country and the world. Among the many Squaw Valley firsts was the inclusion of biathlon. To be sure, rifle-toting skiing soldiers had competed in "Military Patrol" in the 1924 Games, but the event had been subsequently dropped. By 1960, biathlon was evolving into a civilian competition that closely resembles today's form. Biathlon was ready to claim a place on the world stage, and it happened in California.

One key aspect that had not yet evolved concerned course design, and the onerous 1960 requirements created a challenge for Broomhall and Merrill. Today's biathlon courses loop through a single target range, so that a competitor in a race with four shooting stages will pass through the same range four times. For the comparable race in 1960, Broomhall had to create four separate shooting ranges – 250 meters, 200 meters, 150 meters and 100 meters – each range with its own safety zone and each spaced at the specified interval along the ski trails.

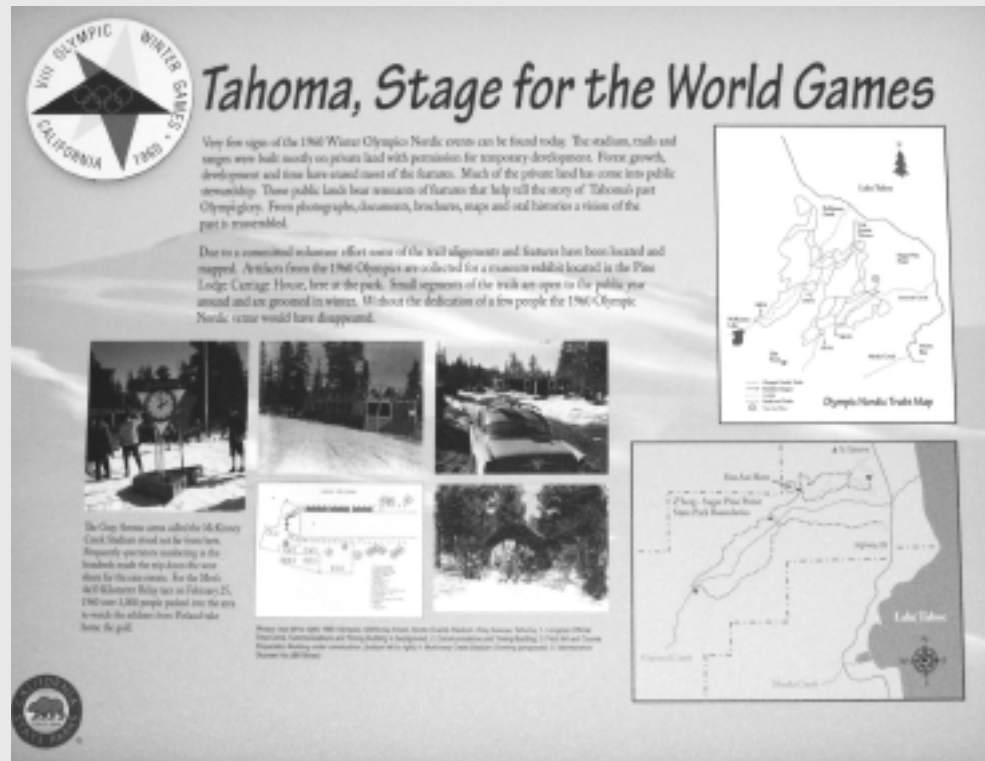
Restoration project

When the cheering was over and the Winter Games lapsed into history, the trails reverted to forest (as intended by the

Restoring Ski Trails *Continued from page 7*

significance of the Squaw Valley Olympics to the history of skiing in America, and he gave me a copy of his book that recalled those momentous Winter Games. Titled *Snowball's Chance: The Story of the 1960 Olympic Winter Games*, it was published late in 2009 as part of the 50th anniversary observations. Antonucci also kindly donated a copy of his excellent book to the Museum. *Continued on page 9*

The world's best cross-country skiers and biathletes came to Tahoma for the 1960 Olympic Winter Games. Four Mainers were also there. Wendall "Chummy" Broomhall (Rumford) was the course designer and Chief of Race, assisted by C. Allison Merrill (Andover) as Chief of Course. Cross-country skiers Jack Lufkin (Rumford) and Charlie Akers (Andover) were the two Mainers who competed in Tahoma. (Scott Andrews photo)



Biathlon was included in the Olympic Winter Games for the first time in 1960. The sport posed several unique challenges to course designers and race officials Wendall "Chummy" Broomhall and C. Allison Merrill: Four separate shooting ranges, each with its own safety zone and cohort of officials, had to be interspersed at the proper intervals along the trails. Signs (above) have been placed to recall the races that passed by this point. (Scott Andrews photo)

Remembering the legacy

Antonucci notes that the Squaw Valley Olympics afforded an opportunity for the organizers to start with a blank slate – wild forest with almost no roads – and tailor the competition ski venue according to the rules of the *Federation Internationale de Ski*.

“Broomhall and Merrill designed the first cross-country trails to meander through thick forest according to strict *FIS* criteria,” explains Antonucci. “Rather than make a course using existing road corridors or naturally open terrain, they created a new cross-country ski area literally from the ground up.”

Antonucci notes that this approach morphed into the national ideal a decade later when ski touring returned to popularity and cross-country ski centers popped up all over the country.

Antonucci also recalls that the challenge of California's freeze-thaw cycles was solved with typical Yankee ingenuity – a jury-rigged snow grooming machine that was built to Broomhall's specifications by a machine shop in Concord, New Hampshire.

“When faced with the West Coast's daunting freeze-thaw effect on snow conditions, Broomhall envisioned a powered device to pulverize the snow surface to restore its granularity,” Antonucci explains. “He mated a grain flail chopper (an agricultural implement) to a 40-horsepower gas engine and mounted the whole contraption on a pair of snowmobile runners. Using Tucker Sno-cats in their first application as snow grooming machines, he towed the prototype powered tiller over the ice-like snow surface to prepare it for ski tracks. The new device successfully restored granular conditions to a depth of four inches.”

Antonucci sums up the Rumford native's contribution to America's skiing heritage and international Olympic history: “The course, grooming and organizational innovations developed by Broomhall for the 1960 Winter Olympics still resonate through the cross-country skiing industry and Olympic competitions.”

Last winter Broomhall traveled to California to take part in the celebrations and became good friends with Antonucci. Broomhall will celebrate his 90th birthday this December. Although he hasn't skied in several years, he remains active with the Chisholm Ski Club. Among his projects this summer is supervising the reconstruction of the Black Mountain Nordic trails and stadium in anticipation of the 2011 and 2012 U.S. National Cross Country Ski Championships.

Fifty years ago, Broomhall was active in getting Black Mountain started. Half a century later he's still hard at work. ✱



Wendall “Chummy” Broomhall was Chief of Race for the cross-country and biathlon competitions of the 1960 Olympic Winter Games, held in Tahoma, California. Broomhall fought with the U.S. Army's famed 10th Mountain Division in World War II, competed in the 1948 and 1952 Olympics and was instrumental in establishing Black Mountain in Rumford as a premier competitive venue. He turns 90 this December. (Scott Andrews photo)

President's Report *Continued from page 2*

Megan Roberts has worked as Executive Director to build a collection of Maine ski artifacts and to build the Museum itself. She has resigned from her position as Executive Director but is remaining involved by staying on the Board. Bruce Miles, who has been on the Board for a number of years is now our new Executive Director.

The other big change is that John Christie, who has led the Museum as President over the last several years, has stepped down. Not only has John brought a clear focus and drive to the museum he has also brought a wealth of stories and anecdotes. But most of you know John and already know that.

I have been a skier since I was three and have been involved with ski history for a number of years. I have served on the Boards of the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame, the International Skiing History Association and for 10 years I was President of the New England Ski Museum.

In 1995 I authored the book *First Tracks, Stories From Maine's Skiing Heritage*. It was in researching and writing *First Tracks* that I began to understand the vital role that Maine, its small communities and so many people have played in the growth of the skisport in this country.

In planning for the future one of our major projects will be "Made In Maine." We will be

identifying and documenting the many ski equipment makers that worked here in Maine. Some of them were small with little impact. Some such as Paris Skis or Bass boots were national leaders. We will continue building our collection of Made-In-Maine equipment and will be preserving the stories.

The people who built skiing in Maine will also be a focus. We have an active program to record their stories. This oral history program will help preserve the heritage of skiing in Maine.

Maine has many great stories and Scott Andrews is very good at telling them. He has held his Fireside Chats across the state. Scott and the rest of us at the Ski Museum of Maine will work hard to share the stories with you. We need your help to be effective and we want to share with you the results of our efforts.

Looking back at the last few years we have come a long ways. Looking forward to the next few years I am very excited about what we can accomplish.

If you have any thoughts or questions please share them with me, or anyone on the Board. My e-mail is: Parkinson.glenn@gmail.com.

I look forward to working with you to document and preserve Maine's skiing history and heritage.

Glenn Parkinson

Board of Directors 2010-2011

The Board of Directors has four new members for the 2010-2011 year. They are Betsy Doyon of Bethel, Cooper Friend of Ellsworth, Jim Quimby of Rangeley and Carl Theriault of Fort Kent. The other directors are Scott Andrews of Portland, Dan Cassidy of Winslow, John Christie of Washington, Tom Hanson of Orrington, Peter A. Hussey of Kennebunkport, Dave Irons of Westbrook, Peter Judkins of Farmington, Glenn Parkinson of Freeport, Megan Roberts of Farmington and Greg Sweetser of Cumberland. In the next issue of this newsletter, we'll take a look at the four new faces.

High school yearbooks offer research opportunities

By Scott Andrews
Research director

Last month was the season for high school graduations and the publication of yearbooks. For most graduates, yearbooks are highly personal possessions, filled with hopeful notes and signatures of friends. Decades-old yearbooks are also significant historical documents that record the early years of skiing in Maine. Over the past few years, I've examined about 100 volumes and discovered many insights and learned many key dates.

A stellar example is *Oracle*, published annually (sometimes more often) by students at Edward Little High School in Auburn. A complete collection is held by the Auburn Public Library.

Oracle records the beginnings of the school's Outing Club and Winter Sports Teams in the 1920s. *Oracle* follows that story through the 1930s, when skiing emerged as the main focus of competition, and Edward Little, coached by the legendary Linwood "Zeke" Dwellley, emerged as one of Maine's powerhouse teams.

Amethyst, published by Portland's Deering High School, shows a similar path. The big exception is emphasis and direction. Recreational skiing rather than competition became the school's main focus in the 1930s, and the Deering High School Ski Club, under the tutelage of Ted Johnson, established its own weekend retreat in the town of Sebago.

Other helpful series of yearbooks are from Fryeburg Academy, Kents Hill School, Paris High School and many others. But there are far too many for me to personally peruse them all – especially because the collections are scattered all over the state in local libraries and schools.



The Edward Little High School ski team emerged as one of Maine's powerhouse squads in the 1930s. But the beginning of skiing at Edward Little was decidedly modest, as suggested by the cover of the February, 1923 issue of Oracle, a publication by the school's students. (Courtesy Auburn Public Library)

But that problem presents opportunities for volunteers who would be willing to comb through their local collections of high school yearbooks and report their findings to the Ski Museum of Maine. Interested? Call me at 773-9609 or shoot me an email at schussme@yahoo.com and I'll help set up a plan. ✱

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SKI MUSEUM OF MAINE



Memberships are an important part of our ability to have a ski museum. Please support generously. Please either go to our web site at www.skimuseumofmaine.org and download an application or use the application below and send to Ski Museum of Maine, P.O. Box 359, Kingfield, ME 04947

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- Can you help?
- at events
 - be a Saturday host at the museum
 - with museum projects/exhibits
 - with data entry and/or cataloging
 - clean museum pieces
 - other

Mission Statement
“To preserve and publicize the business of skiing in Maine, while celebrating Maine’s ski history and heritage.”

We recognize that not everyone is enthusiastic about skiing and snowboarding and all the excitement around the history involving fun in the snow, so please let us know if you would like to be removed from our mailing list by either calling or emailing. Thanks.