

ROCKY MOUNTAIN DIVISION

By Patricia Swenson

The Rocky Mountain Division of the United States Ski Association was originally organized as the Western United States Ski Association in the late 1920's. It continued to operate under that name until October 27, 1952, when it was re-organized as the Southern Rocky Mountain Ski Association as a Colorado non-profit corporation. In June of 1964, its name was changed to the Rocky Mountain Division of the United States Ski Association. It exists as one of the eight Divisions of the United States Ski Association covering the states of Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, the Southern part of the state of Wyoming, the Southeast part of the state of South Dakota and the western parts of the states of Nebraska and Kansas, and as such has played an active role in the sport of skiing, not only within its territorial boundaries, but on a National basis.

The Rocky Mountain Division was responsible for the establishment of one of the first Certified Officials Association in the nation in 1949. The Division was instrumental in the organization and activation of the Rocky Mountain Ski Area Operators Association in 1959. The Division was also responsible for the creation of the Rocky Mountain Ski Instructors Association in 1950. In 1964, the Central Intercollegiate Alpine League was formulated by a group of small colleges with an eye to developing additional interest in the sport of skiing.

The Rocky Mountain Division of the USSA has an active program related to ski competitions. The Rocky Mountain Division and the Aspen Ski Club were the first to host the FIS Championships in the United States in 1950. Many international, national, divisional and intercollegiate ski competitions are held in the Division each year. During the 1965-66 ski season, the Rocky Mountain Division classified 1,204 junior and 577 senior competitors for a total of 1,781 classified competitors.

The Rocky Mountain Division of the United States Ski Association functions as a non-profit organization through a Board of Delegates which assemble each spring for the Division's annual convention. The Board of Delegates are made up of a proportionate number of representatives from each of the member ski clubs of the Division. The Board of Delegates at the annual Convention transact the major business of the Division and is the only body with the authority to amend the Division's By-Laws. The Board of Delegates annually elect the officer and directors of the Division. The officers of the Division are the President, First and Second Vice-Presidents and Treasurer, and the Board of Directors which consists of these four officers and twelve additional members elected by the Board of Delegates or appointed by the affiliate groups.

The Board of Directors meet four times each year. These meetings are held in late September or early October, in January, in May and at the annual convention. Matters which must necessarily be taken care of between meetings of the Board of Directors are handled by the five member Executive Committee elected by the Board of Directors. A substantial part of the work of the Division is carried on through Committees that function subject to the supervision of the officers and directors.

The Rocky Mountain Division of the United States Ski Association has its headquarters at the Equitable Building - Suite 214, Denver, Colorado 80202. The principal officers are Charles A. Andrew, President; Sven Wiik, First Vice-President; K. G. Freyschlag, Second Vice-President and Evelyn Masbruch, Treasurer.

EASTERN DIVISION

THUMBNAIL HISTORY OF THE USEASA

By Enzo Serafini

The U. S. Eastern Amateur Ski Association, largest of the USSA's sub-divisions, was founded at Saranac Lake, New York, in the winter of 1921-22. Active in its creation were the skiing enthusiasts who had laid the groundwork in discussions at Lake Placid ski meets the previous winter. It was their belief that such an organization was needed as a clearing house for ideas, standardization of tournament rules, scheduling of non-conflicting competitions, arrangement of circuits for the jumpers and langlaufers, and the promotion of skiing itself.

Elected president of the fledgling organization was Fred Harris of Brattleboro, Vermont. A decade before he had founded the Dartmouth Outing Club. E. R. (Ned) Stonaker, president of the Saranac Lake Ski Club, was made vice president. Charter clubs were the Brattleboro Outing Club, Nansen (Berlin, N. H.) Ski Club, Norsemen (New York, N. Y.) Ski Club, Saranac Lake Ski Club, and Sno Birds of Lake Placid Club.

Sole survivor of that group of men with vision is Alf Halvorsen of the Nansen Club, now a resident of Hinsdale, New Hampshire.

Growth was swift. In his president's address at the association's second annual convention at Lake Placid, February 21, 1924, Harris said that the previous November the association's pioneer clubs included the Sno Birds, Lake Placid Club; Dartmouth Outing Club; Brattleboro Outing Club; Nansen Ski Club; Portland Ski Club; and the Bellows Falls Outing Club. "It (the USEASA) has grown by such leaps and bounds," said Harris, "that its membership now includes twenty-five successful and active clubs in good standing." Obviously elated at the growth, Harris added "From the point of view of membership, it is practically on a par with the National Ski Association..."

Harris was telling the truth. At the National's 22nd annual convention at Duluth in 1926, Harris - with twelve votes, so dominated the proceedings that discord arose. To ease a darkening situation Harris relinquished eleven votes with the statement that Eastern was in the embarrassing position of having more votes than it wanted.

Affiliation with the National Ski Association had come in 1924, but not until there had been considerable pulling and hauling across the nation regarding the geographical composition of the member divisions. The USEASA territory today embraces New England, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and the Eastern Seaboard.

Continually fostered by the USEASA was the organization of new ski clubs with assistance on outlining constitutions and by-laws; planning membership campaigns; overseeing competitions from course to competitor to scheduling; conducting clinics, proficiency tests and instructional programs; god-fathering the sport generally.

The USEASA published annuals in 1928 and 1929, cooperated on one with the National in 1930, did it single-handedly again from 1934-36 and 1957-61. From 1955 to 1961, the USEASA owned and published a tabloid-format organization publication Eastern SKI BULLETIN, switching to a magazine, SKIER, in 1961.