

Outing Club offers discounts on skis

By JOHN P. HOLT
Collegian Staff Writer

Now that Christmas Break is over and the Penn State football team has finally become No. 1, what can students look forward to for the remainder of Winter Term?

Joining the Penn State Outing Club is one way to overcome the midwinter boredom of classes.

Club members may rent cross-country skis for \$7.00 plus a \$5.00 deposit and ski for a week on several dozen trails in central Pennsylvania, said co-president Eric Freed.

A \$5.00 annual membership fee gives students the opportunity to rent skis while allowing them to participate in the many functions the ski division has scheduled this year, Freed said.

An overnight trip is planned for this weekend at the Outing Club cabin in Shingletown Gap.

Last year about 30 people signed up, and even though there was plenty of room for everyone, Freed said, a few people slept outside "to rough it."

Activities planned for the weekend include hiking, trail-building in Bear Meadows, and if it snows, skiing and snowshoeing.

An organizational meeting will be held at 7:30 tonight in 8 Intramural Building.

Anyone interested in cross-country skiing may attend the club's cross-country ski carnival starting at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 15, at the IM Building. Free ski use and lessons for beginners will be offered, with a film on technique in 10 IM Building following the carnival.

"What we really need to do now is to hope for some snow," Freed said.

Cross-country skiing has blossomed from a mere 1,000

advocates in 1970 to more than four million in 1982, according to U.S. Ski Association statistics. Ease of learning and low outfitting costs — \$100 to \$160 for skis, bindings, boots and poles — are given as reasons for the upturn in cross-country skiing.

Cross-country skiing has long been a winter pastime of many Outing Club hiking division members who wanted to exercise and get outdoors. Three years ago Tom Thwaites, hiking division adviser, suggested the Outing Club open a cross-country division.

Since he was named the new division's adviser, Ralph Seeley has seen the division expand. The division owns 80 pairs of cross-country skis which they rent to members of the Outing Club.

Club members are encouraged to participate in all activities, Seeley said.

"Since we work closely with the hiking division, we have fun all year long building trails and clearing those already in existence," he said.

Freed and Seeley are concerned with low membership in the club this year. Both believe this is because the club was unable to publicize activities on the HUB ground floor Fall Term because of renovation work.

"We didn't have a bulletin board until very recently so we had no place to put up our schedules or sign-up sheets," Seeley said.

Outing Club memberships may be obtained at the club office in Room 8 of the IM Building or at any division meeting or trip.

"We view cross-country skiing as a simple close-to-nature, cheap, athletic way to see a lot of backwoods and some wildlife," Seeley said.



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