

Pottstown isn't th

BY CANDACE WATSON

Scot West, a new Peoria Ski Club instructor, says he prefers the slopes at Pottstown, Ill. to the ones that he taught on in Austria.

The Peoria Ski Club is getting ready to go into its active season with a winter carnival complete with style show, ski position classes and ski exercise classes. Says West, "We promote skiing in a big way."

West has been a member of the club for a year now and says the Peoria Ski Club boasted more than 1,000 members last year. There is a count of 600 this year, and West says the membership will really pick up when the season gets underway.

Within the club, four ski instructors with certification, teach various skiing skills, and at least one of the instructors goes along on all of the trips the club makes. Also, says West, the club tries to add more instructors each year.

West said that he learned to ski while attending college in Colorado. After he graduated he says he had a "spell of taking it easy and a chance to go to Europe," and so he did.

While in Austria, in need of temporary work, West was hired as a ski instructor for English children who were on school tours. He laughs now recalling his employer wanted his pupils to think that he was Austrian and not American. For the year, he had to change his name to Paul and adopt an Austrian accent.

If at first consideration Peoria doesn't seem to be a suitable environment for snow skiers, West denies the fact.

"We have ski facilities right here in Peoria," he says. At Pottstown we have a

snow-making machine which we will put to work as soon as our first snow falls. We have rope pulls and slopes, better slopes than the ones I taught on in Austria."

In addition, as a member of the ski club, West says there are a host of trips to various ski resorts that a member can make. Big week-long trips this year will be made to Salt Lake City, Utah; Steamboat, Colorado; Breckenridge, Colorado; and Verbier, Switzerland.

Besides the annual winter show, coming up in January, West says the "Smubiks" which is "Ski Bums" spelled backwards, provide nine parties through the year. During off season he says the club sponsors trips to Missouri for canoeing, outings to Jubilee State Park, Caribbean cruises, backpacking trips and river parties.

"A funny thing is that a lot of people who are members of the ski club don't ski. They just join so that they can come to the parties and attend some of our other functions," says West.

This year's winter carnival is to feature drink making tips, a broadened ski style show featuring everything from wearing apparel to ski equipment, and some tips on skiing from West.

West says he hopes to show the proper body position for Austrian style, French style and "the American scream, which is what I call the free style that is used in America."

With all of the skiing action which the club organizes, it is strange to assume that Peoria is a barren area for skiers. According to West, the efforts of the club have made Peoria as nice a place for schussers as he had known in Austria.

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WHEN THE PEORIA Ski Club announces its sport spectacular Winter Review, can the first snow fall be far behind? Apparently, these club members think not, as they practice a few schussing techniques on grass. While they are waiting for the white stuff, the club members are making last minute preparations for the organization's annual evening event which will be held at the Peoria Hilton Friday. Helping with the affair are, from left, Curt Welty, co-master of ceremonies; Joni Coe, who will demonstrate ski exercises; Jan Brooks, who will model ski outfits; Pat Brown, co-master of ceremonies; and Nick Maloof, producer-director of the show.



PEORIA SKI CLUB member Scot West checks the edge of his snow skis to make sure they will be in shape for the active season the club has planned.

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Peoria Ski Club readying for annual spectacular

Peoria Ski Club's sport spectacular Winter Review premieres in the Peoria Hilton's Grand Ballroom Friday night.

An "early bird" bar will open at 7 p.m. A display of winter sports fashions and equipment will be featured from Brown's Sporting Goods. Ski specialty shops from Chicago, Bloomington, Champaign, Moline Springfield and Galesburg will also be exhibiting the latest in winter sports equipment.

Movies of "hot dog," or trick, skiers will be screened at 8 p.m.

The Winter More Seventy-Four Review will formally get underway at 8:30 p.m. with opening music, composed and arranged for the review by the show's producer-director, Nick Maloof.

Thirty-five ski outfits will be shown from Brown's Sporting Goods. Freddi

Brown from the store will be offering special tips on how to coordinate ski outfits.

Scot West, a Peoria Ski Club member and a former ski instructor in Austria, will give some pointers on skiing.

Joni Coe, physical fitness director at the Peoria YMCA, will demonstrate some pre-ski exercises for getting into shape for the winter.

Mike Dentino will perform.

Peter Vermiel will show how to mix ski drinks.

Curt Welty and Pat Brown, both Peoria Ski Club members, will emcee during the evening.

Afterward, a dance will be held from 10 p.m. to 1 p.m. with music provided by Bill Hardesty and the Holiday Brass.