

# Skiers Have to Ski To Be Members Of Potomac Valley

By Ron Fett

Potomac Valley Skiers is a local group of serious-minded outdoorsmen who believe that members of a ski club should ski as well as talk about the sport and wear its fashions.

To accomplish this, they put into their constitution a requirement that new members must pass a basic ski proficiency test and must go on at least three club-sponsored outings before they are eligible to join.

The club, which is celebrating its third anniversary this month, was organized by "a few former leaders of the big ski club in town who felt a certain loss of identity, or perhaps direction, in that 3000-member conglomerate, according to president Larry Pease of Rockville.

"We wanted a smaller group of active skiers who would be knowledgeable in the sport, and who want to travel and work and ski together."

The caliber of recruitment is indicated by the fact that more than half the 70 members are qualified ski patrolmen, instructors, uniform test judges or alpine racing officials.

"We have a constitutional ceiling of 200 members, and we are in no hurry to reach that figure," Pease said. "Almost all our members have retained their affiliation with the Ski Club of Washington, so we have not turned our backs completely on bigness."

PVS was incorporated in the District on Nov. 16, 1965. Founding members were Dick King, Bill Stecher, Packard Anderson, Brooke Armat, Doris Hege, Mike Rura, Penny Sayre and Hank Thomas.

The club meets once a month throughout the year, usually in the homes of members. The meeting next Tuesday at 711 Carter rd., Rockville, in Pease's base-



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ment, will feature a workshop on preparing equipment for the coming ski season.

On week nights during the winter, the club sponsors regular "evenings on the snow" at nearby resorts. It also prints an "area-of-the-weekend" listing where members can gather to ski together.

Through affiliation with the U.S. Eastern Amateur Ski Association, the Pennsylvania Ski Federation and the Blue Ridge Ski Council, its members are eligible to participate in a dozen or more charter flights to Europe and the West. One group has rented a house in Davos, Switzerland, for two weeks in February.

Summer activities include tennis, sailing, rock climbing, surfing, camping, golf, water skiing and hiking. The club's newspaper is called "Toot," an "official bugle that trumpets the doings of the membership."