

Skiing

Although I never cared for skiing (all that time, effort, and money, to slide down a hill on a couple of sticks?), the rest of the world is of the opposite opinion. Skiing has a long history; it's become a multi-billion \$\$ industry; and it's even in the Olympics (of course, so is water polo!)

Until the mid-1800s, skiing was primarily used for transport, and since then has become a recreation and sport. The oldest and most accurately documented evidence of skiing origins is found in modern day Norway and Sweden. The earliest primitive carvings circa 5000 B.C. depict a skier with one pole, located in Rødøy in the Nordland region of Norway. The first primitive ski was found in a peat bog in Hoting, Sweden, which dates back to 4500 or 2500 B.C. Joel Berglund reported in 2004 the discovery of a primitive ski, or "85cm long piece of wood", carbon tested by researchers in 1997 while excavating a Norse settlement near Nanortalik, Greenland. The primitive ski dated back to 1010, and is thought to be Greenland's oldest ski brought by Norsemen circa 980 A.D. The word "ski" itself is one of a handful of words Norway has exported to the international community. It comes from the Old Norse word which means "split piece of wood or firewood".

The first public skiing competition ("betting race") was held in Tromsø, Norway on 19 March 1843. It was also the first skiing competition reported in a newspaper. Military ski races were held in Norway during the 18th century, and ski warfare was studied in the late 18th century. The first Australian recreational ski club was formed in 1861 at Kiandra, where the first documented international downhill carnival was also held. [<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skiing>]

Since skiing has become so popular, and skiing centers (such as Squaw Valley, Vail, etc.) have become so famous, that's where I have my skiing covers, in my Famous Places collection.



