

Summer Slalom

Charles Anton

ON December 29, more than thirty skiers, representing nine ski clubs, competed for the Albina Summer Slalom Cup. Competitors included Australians, Austrians, Czechoslovakians, Poles, an Hungarian, and a team of Norwegians.

The race was organised by the Ski Tourers' Association, and the Association's Lake Albina Ski Lodge, the highest ski lodge in Australia, was headquarters for the race committee and some of the competitors.

There have always been a few inveterate skiers who have explored the summer drifts, seeking an illusion of winter in the heat of summer, but since the building of the Ski Tourers' lodge last year, dozens of skiers have learnt the thrill of following the snow to its last refuge among Australia's highest peaks. Ski tourers enjoyed fine skiing from their lodge all through the late spring and summer, and concluded their season at the end of the year with the slalom race.

Spectators and racers travelled from Sydney, Canberra, and Cooma for the race. From the Kosciusko road at Seaman's Memorial Hut spectators crossed to the course in trucks, jeeps and on horseback, and on foot. Members of the Snow Revellers Ski Club, working on their ski lodge at The Perisher during the holidays, took the day off to compete in the race, and drove right to the course in a small utility truck.

The race was held on a huge drift of snow about half a mile long running down a southern gully from the summit of Mt. Northcote.

The various coloured flags set on the glacier-like course of glittering snow, bordered with pink, blue and white mountain wildflowers, made a spectacular show. From the

race course Australia's highest peaks could be seen with long drifts of snow glistening between the rocks like small glaciers.

Nearly one hundred visitors lined the course to enjoy the unique spectacle of some of the State's best known skiers racing through slalom flags under a hot summer sun on perfect crystalline snow, some shirtless and wearing only shorts.

The course wound down the mountain in an ever-narrowing drift of snow, and the finishing flags were placed just above the creek fed by the drift.

The course, with 30 gates, was set by Toni Sponar (Chalet instructor) and had a vertical descent of about 450 feet. Fine clear weather made snow conditions excellent, and the race was run at midday on good crystalline snow.

Jack Rozdale (Chalet Ski Club) won the

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Slalom on Mt. Northcote, 29 Dec., 1951

Photo. G. R. T. Ward.





Albina Lodge, November

G. R. T. Ward

race with two runs averaging 76.2 seconds, followed by Danny Coleman (Snowy River Club) with average time of 76.7 seconds, and Norwegian Ingvar Karlson with runs averaging 77 seconds.

The Norwegians, employees of a Norwegian firm working with the Snowy Mountains Authority, who arrived in Australia only recently, were amazed to find snow here in

summer. They were striking figures on the course in their white cotton ski pants, actually designed for langlauf racing, but perfectly adapted for summer ski-ing. The Norwegians have already formed a ski club, and plan to build a jump at the Blue Cow.

Results:—

	Average time for 2 runs.
J. Rozdale (Czechoslovakian)	1.16.2
D. Collman (Australian)	1.16.7
I. Karlson (Norwegian)	1.17.
J. Godowsky (Poland)	1.17.6
J. Solar (Aus.)	1.18.4
A. Kolve (Norway)	1.19.1
A. Lillejurd (Norway)	1.20.9
C. Anton (Aus.)	1.23.8
A. Neidol (Nor.)	1.23.8
D. Albrechtwich (Pol.)	1.31.7
A. Retter (Aus.)	1.35.6
G. Tacheci (Czech.)	1.35.7
Best time for any run:—	
A. Neidol	1.9 sec.
Hors Concours—	
T. Sponar	0.56.5