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Ski Clubs Add To Enjoyment Of Sport

Skiing is considered an individual sport, but many people feel that skiing is more enjoyable when done in groups. There are three ski clubs in the five-county area surrounding Traverse City. Much of the enjoyment of skiing comes from the friendships developed through these clubs. The clubs are both social and instructional. They support and plan racing programs for the kids, sponsor get-togethers for the adults, and often help newcomers learn the sport. The Grand Traverse Ski Club is starting its eighteenth consecutive year of sponsoring junior races. All junior skiers up to 14 years of age are encouraged to participate in the events. Emphasis is on sportsmanship, proficiency, and safety. The club also conducts training camps, clinics, assists high school coaches in conducting interscholastic races, and conducts the High School Regional Ski meet, with 20 area schools participating. In addition to the above activities, movies are shown, family days at local resorts are held, and steak fries and cocktail parties are included in the social calendar. Membership is open to everyone promoting the purposes of the club. Membership fees help purchase stop watches, slalom poles, telephone equipment, and other gear necessary for staging the Junior Race Program. Current membership includes 150 families. More information can be obtained by writing the Grand Traverse Ski Club, P. O. Box 265, Traverse City, Mich., 49884. Leelanau Schools has had a ski club since 1946, and this year expects to have about 60 students participating. Besides skiing at their own area at the school, members of the club will use Sugar Loaf, and are planning a trip to Boyne country later in the year. Also on the agenda is a series of movies the group will show to encourage skiing. Crystal Mountain Ski Club has about 60 member families this year. President Bob Miller said the group will again have its monthly pot-luck dinners and racing programs for the kids. The group skis mainly at Crystal Mountain, and is planning a trip to Colorado this coming spring.

U. P. SKIING UP
Skiier attendance in the Upper Peninsula areas rose 13 per cent to 270,000 last season.