

Those daring young men...



in skis and chutes



BOWMAN'S MT. HOOD Resort was the scene of last weekend's paraski meet.

Parachuting and skiing have at least one thing in common: they're both downhill sports.

The similarity seemingly ends there, except for 23 men and six women who combined the two last weekend in Mt. Hood's First Invitational Gran Prix Paraski Meet.

The event was the first of its type to be held at Mt. Hood and only the fourth this year to be held in the United States. If participants have their way, it won't be the last time the two sports are combined on Mt. Hood.

"The jumpers were thrilled," said organizer Ted Mayfield of the Pacific Parachute Center in Sheridan. "We had all kinds of response for the whole weekend. You couldn't have asked for a better weekend."

Paraski competitions are relatively new to the United States, originating in Austria 10 years ago. Mayfield said some parachutists, who also happened to be skiers, thought up the event while trying to think of a way to combine their two favorite sports and still be com-

petitive.

The weekend event on Mt. Hood was designed to help pick a two person team to represent the United States in a world paraski competition that will be held later this year in Austria.

Although the organizers acknowledge that the invitational meet wasn't a financial success, they say the enthusiasm of the spectators and contestants may prompt the sponsors, Bowman's Mt. Hood Resort in Welches and Reser's Fine Foods in Beaverton, to consider holding the event next year.

On Saturday, entrants were scheduled to ski a giant slalom course on the Upper Bowl at Ski Bowl. Weather conditions nixed those plans, and Bud Valian of the Mogul Mouse in Government Camp, was called to plan a new course on 2½ hours notice.

"The guy was just a bundle of energy—thank goodness," said a grateful Mayfield.

Valian set up a nearly one mile long course which started near Silcox Hut above Timberline Lodge.

Gusts of wind of up to 70

miles per hour hampered some of the competition, but Mayfield said snow conditions were good.

"And it was definitely windy and cold."

There was little wind and clear skies for the parachuting contest on Sunday, with the only mishap of the weekend occurring when Gary Knight broke his leg Sunday afternoon on his second jump.

Knight was taken to Gresham Community Hospital, received a full leg cast, and bounced back in time for the Sunday night banquet to collect his award.

"He came back in good spirits. They cast him and released him," laughed Mayfield. "It was unreal."

"He told me he'd be there next year," Mayfield added. "The last time I saw him they were loading him in a van."

A Bell Jet Ranger helicopter took parachuters up 3,000 feet above Bowman's Resort. Their target was a 9 centimeter disc on a pile of sawdust.

Winners were chosen by a combined score from both

events. Hank Barber of Salt Lake City, Utah, took overall honors in the men's division, with Jessie Farrington of Puyallup, Wash., finishing first in the women's division. Her father, 64-year-old Lenny Atkins, was first in accuracy during the jumping event.

Joy Burtis of Salt Lake City took first in the women's ski competition, with Von Bodine from Fresno, Calif., taking first in the men's slalom.

Bodine averaged a speed of almost 50 miles per hour during the slalom, Mayfield said, and came in with a time of 59.8 seconds.

The first paraski meet of this year was held in Bend in January. Then the paraski competitors went to Jackson Hole, Wyo., and Sun Valley, Ind. before coming to Mt. Hood.

Mayfield said the spectators who enjoyed the competition the most were those who saw both the skiing and jumping events.

"There's a lot of pressure," he said of the paraski meet. "That's good competition."



AN OBSERVER watches the action from grounds of Bowman's Golf Course.

Story/photos by Sue Lafky

Springtime

Section two



A SLALOM ski race on Mt. Hood and a parachuting competition rounded out the weekend.