

Skis or Snowshoes: Which are preferred?



The answer seems to be a matter of what decade one joins the Tramp and Trail Club. In the Club's first history book, 1921-1946, the following was written.

"Skiing! It's a magic word for Tramp and Trailers. When it is spoken, eyes light up and tongues wag fast. Skiing is now the major winter activity of the Club and the first snowfall, no matter how light, is the signal for overhauling equipment.

In the first two or three winters, snowshoes were used about as much as skis. But the snow-shoers got tired of standing at the top of a hill, watching others have fun, while their own feet congealed. Most of them bought skis and learned to use the unwieldy things. Today snowshoes are almost obsolete equipment in the Club."



For those who joined in 1997, cross- country skiing was still the main winter activity. There were perhaps one or two snowshoes on the schedule for the entire winter season. However, during the past decade snowshoeing seems to have become the favorite winter activity again, with skiing less preferred. Perhaps it has something to do with global warming and less snow on the trails to safely ski down the slopes. Who knows? But the change in popularity of skis vs. snowshoes over time is interesting. What will be the favorite winter activity in 2035? Only time will tell.

Excerpt from History of the Tramp and Trail Club of Utica, 1921-1946

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