

ALL YOU SCHUSSBOOMERS

Watch Your Ski Language

What's a schussboomer . . . a bathtub . . . the fall line . . . suicide straps . . . a christie? Skiing, like all other sports, has a language of its own. To help the newcomers understand better, here's a glossary of the most used terms:

Base snow—Hard-packed snow which has been on the ground for some time.

Basher—A reckless skier who heads downhill out of control.

Bathtub—A large depression in the snow made by a fallen skier. Courtesy calls for the skier to smooth over the trench just as in golf you are asked to replace your divots.

Christie—A fast swing turn with the skis remaining parallel.

Corn snow—Granular-type snow usually seen after a thaw and then freezing weather.

Cracker—A beginner who can't master anything more than a simple turn.

Edging—Tilting the edges of the skis sideways into the snow.

Fall line—The most direct line of descent.

FIS—Federation de Ski Internationale. The international skiing administrative group which also holds the world championships in all but Olympic years.

FIS amateur—One who accepts money for teaching but doesn't advertise his

name with the sport and is eligible to regain his amateur status after staying out of teaching for a year.

Gelandesprung—A jump over an obstacle on a downhill run or vaulting between poles put in the snow.

Granular snow—Old snow in which crystals have stuck together and become large and coarse.

Herringbone—A climbing step in which the tips of the skis are pointed outward in a V position and the inside edges are dug into the snow.

Kick turn—Reversing direction while standing in one place by raising one ski perpendicular and then placing it down in the opposite direction in which you are standing and then bringing the other ski around.

Mambo—A form of the Wedeln technique.

Powder snow—Dry, cold snow which doesn't offer great resistance to lateral movement.

Professional—One who makes his living by teaching skiing.

Schuss—A straight downhill run at top speed.

Schussboomer—A skier who races down hill at top speed in a congested area without regard to other skiers. He's the biggest danger on the hill.

Ski bum—A skier who works at an area in return for lodging and tow passes.

Sitzmark—Just what it sounds like. The same as a bathtub and please fill.

Sidestep—Climbing a hill with skis at right angles to the slope and digging in the inside edges.

Skijoring—Being drawn behind a horse or vehicle.

Ski patrol—Skiers who have passed certain tests in both skiing and first aid and range the slopes as a type of police force.

Snow bunny—A beginner.

Suicide straps—Leather straps used to hold the boot to the ski more firmly than regular bindings and used by racers. They're called "suicide" because the ski remains

attached to the boot if the skier falls.

Slalom—Racing against time in a weaving pattern between flag-marked poles called gates.

Snow plow—Used to reduce speed and stop by placing tips of skis close together and the tails spread apart in a V.

Sugar snow—Usually found in the spring, it is softer and wetter than corn snow.

Tail-wagging—A series of uncompleted but connected turns in alternated opposite directions to reduce speed without stopping.

Telemark—A contemporary turn made in deep snow with

one ski considerably ahead of the other.

Tempo—High-speed, wide-radius turns used to change direction without loss of speed.

Track—A call to clear the path ahead the same as a golfer shouts "fore."

Traversing—Skiing on a diagonal across the face of a slope.



"For a moment I thought we were lost, but this path probably goes right to the lodge!"

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