

Dr. John Dematte

Dr. John Dematte is known as one of the founders of organized ski racing in Pennsylvania. In 1975, he developed a junior racing program at Jack Frost Ski Area that had eight participants. The next year the program expanded to forty racers and within four years a total of 180 racers. Dr. Dematte worked to include all local racing programs as events sanctioned by the United States Ski Association. He also successfully worked to have racing programs in other parts of the northeast sanctioned by the USSA, requiring that all racers become USSA members. His work resulted in the creation of the northeast council of the Pennsylvania Alpine Racing Association, for which he served as Chairman. The council eventually included the following ski areas: Bear Creek, Big Boulder, Blue Mountain, Camelback, and Shawnee. Dr. Dematte developed standards of performance for race officials, instituted a training program for referees and technical delegates, and developed a promotion system for alpine race officials. He also established an education committee within PARA, which served to plan and promote training clinics. Dr. Dematte organized and chaired the first referee certification clinic in Pennsylvania and in cooperation with USSCA and the Headmaster at Burke Mountain Academy in Vermont; he organized and chaired the first level one coach's certification program, which then led to the creation of other coach's certification programs in the northeast. Dr. Dematte was instrumental in instructing officials from a number of ski areas in the operation of the computer program for race administration and scoring results. Dr. Dematte has served as a past member, vice-chairman, and chairman of the Pennsylvania Alpine Racing Association. He also formed the Jack Frost Junior Racing Foundation, which promotes amateur ski racing. In recent years Dr. Dematte has worked with others to expand the junior alpine racing program to Denton Hill, Montage, and Spring Mountain Ski Areas.

Dr. Dematte has been responsible for creating a number of alpine ski racing awards and he has received a few awards of his own. Dr. Dematte is known as the father of the Northeast Council Junior Alpine Racing Aware and sponsored the Dr. Dematte Junior Racing Program Sportsmanship Award. He is a recipient of the Lake Harmony Businessman's Award and the Big Boulder Award for promoting youth ski programs. The alpine racing ski trail at Jack Frost Ski area is named "Dematte's Demise" in his honor.

One of Dr. Dematte's colleagues noted that, "Seldom has one individual, over many years, provided so much commitment, energy, leadership and personal resources to the youngsters in the alpine ski racing program."

