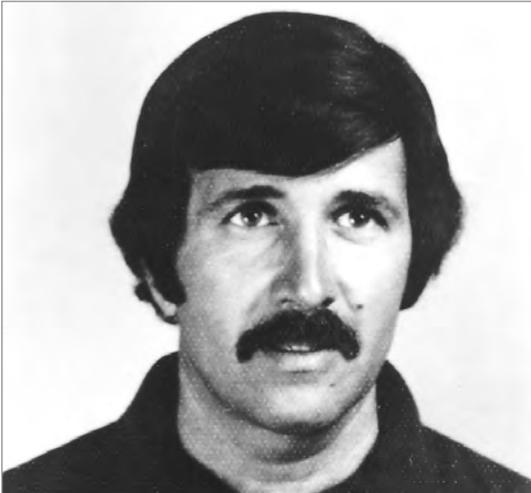




Al Marozzi



Alfred "Al" Marozzi was born in 1941 in Southern New Jersey and never saw a mountain until he went to college at East Stroudsburg University in Pennsylvania. He graduated with a Master's Degree in Health, Physical Education, and Recreation and was soon hired to teach in the Bangor School District in Bangor, Pennsylvania. He decided to take up a new sport...skiing.

Because he was a physical education teacher, Al figured that he certainly didn't need lessons, so he bought a new set of ski equipment and a new outfit, and headed up to the newly opened Camelback Ski Area. He took the chairlift up to the top of the mountain and went down the first trail he came to: THE ROCKET. Needless to say, he survived the event and became thoroughly hooked on skiing.

Al's passion led him to become a member of the National Ski Patrol at Buck Hill. He was soon introduced to Marilyn Hertz, Ski School Director at Camelback Ski Area, where he became a ski instructor in 1974. He was excited to discover that Marilyn wanted to change the traditional methods then being used to teach children to ski (essentially teaching them as little adults). With his physical education background and his love of skiing, he started to develop a new approach for children that used games, activities, guided discovery, exploration, and movement techniques. It was based on a positive approach that emphasized having fun while learning.

He tried out some of his ideas on his school students and he introduced skiing to his elementary classes by using an indoor ramp. The concept caught the attention of the Pocono Mountains Vacation Bureau, which asked him to provide a demonstration of his techniques for the local news shows as part of their "Ski the Poconos" promotion. He was also asked to present the same program to the PA State Health and Physical Education Convention at Seven Springs, PA.

Al wrote his master's thesis on a "Movement Education Approach On Teaching Children How To Ski," which formalized all of his ideas. The Professional Ski Instructors of America formed a committee to research methods on teaching children how to ski,

and Al was asked to serve on this committee and submitted his thesis material at one of their workshops. Many of his approaches were utilized and became an industry standard for teaching children how to ski.

Al was able to put his ideas into practice on a daily basis at Camelback Ski Area, where he became the Children's Supervisor in the late 1970s. His program was rated one of the top three in the country by *Ski Magazine*, and in 1979 Al was asked by the magazine editors to write a book on teaching children to ski. "*Skiing Basics*" was published in 1980, with an introduction by Mort Lund. Al became Camelback's Assistant Ski School Director and then Ski School Director in 1990. In 1994 he left Camelback after 27 years, and he and his wife Kathy opened a ski rental and repair shop near Blue Mountain Ski Area. Five very warm winters later, Al retired from teaching and the ski shop business, and he and his family moved to Long Beach Island, New Jersey, where Al gets to fish and boat frequently, his other passions.

