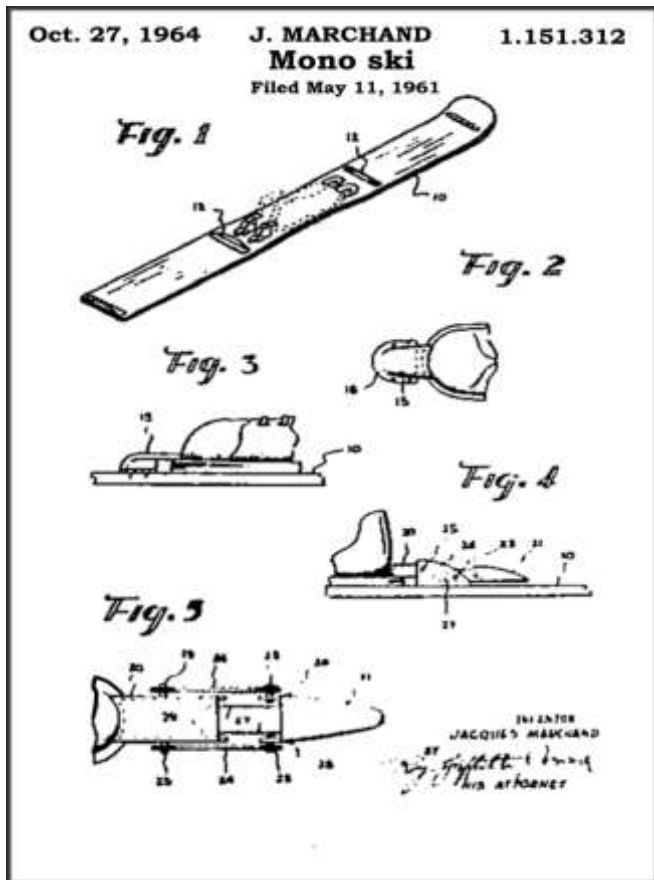


MONOSKI

– a short history of esprit de glisse!



The monoski was invented in 1961 by Jack Marchand, but the invention did not really take off right away.



Eight years later Mike Doyle, a professional surfer, had a dream about surfing in snow and got obsessed with building a board to surf real powder. He built many monoskis and ripped many bindings, but at last got the hang of it and skied faster than the ski patrol in Jackson Hole. They got really angry and wanted to ban the single ski from the slopes!

Mike found that monoski was a great invention for the ultimate feeling for snow. The interesting paradox is that if your feet are stuck together, you have to ski with your whole body, and that gives you an enhanced feeling of freedom and joy! In November 1971 the first monoski article was published in Ski Magazine, called "Man, I can hardly ski on two skis. How can I ski on one?"

268 consecutive figure-8 turns!

Mike went to Canada in 1972 and made a monoski film that won film awards in Europe. It exploded on the screen when Mike Doyle and Joey Cabel made 268 consecutive figure-8 turns in perfect deep powder.

Powder Magazine used a photo of the completed 8's in one of the premier issues in 1973.

Esprit de Glisse!

In 1978, Yves Bessas imported the first "single-skis" from America. Alain Revel, Pierre Poncet, FiFi, "Turtle" and Phillip Lecadre from Chamonix started to ski them as crazy. They developed into real masters of monoski and became the founders of "La Glisse" - the Glide"-movement. They searched for the ultimate ski feeling, and found it naturally on Monoski!





DURET - "Pierre Poncet"

In 1980 DURET manufactured the first French real "monoski": the "Pierre Poncet" edition.

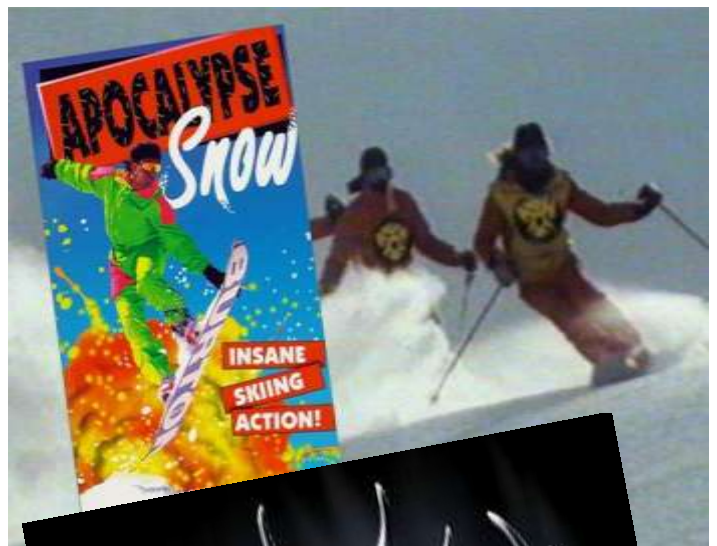
Michel Duret travelled around France to let people try the monoski-feeling and sold monoskis directly from the back of his car. A really passionate advocate for the MONOSKI esprit!

Apocalypse Snow!

Then it all happened with Apocalypse Snow. Rossignol sponsored 3 episodes of this fantastic monoski movie filmed at Les Arcs by Didier Lafond.

The plot is simple: two teams have a tough competition to win the "esprit de glisse".

The films contain the most crazy skiing, full off fantastic images of the pure joy as well as straightlining (full speed down without turning only reducing the speed by tilting backwards so the back of the monoski digs more into the powder), tandem monoski, Monoski-rugby, monoski on water etc... And skiing on water is a favourite in the Monoski-events in France, just relax, push the tail down and lift the tip, and glide over the 10 meter water basin!



Derby competitions

The first monoski competition was a derby at Vars in the Southern Alps 1985. A Derby is a race in which all monoskiers race simultaneously down from the top down to the lowest point in the valley. First one down is the winner!

The Chamonix Derby became the most popular of all monoski events. Monoski joined the French ski federation and the first Monoski championships took place in France in 1986.



212.30 km/h on a monoski!



From 1990 to 2002 there was an ongoing battle between two monoskiers: David Arnoud and Xavier Cousseau. The goal was to be the first to pass the 200 km/h barrier on monoski. David Arnoud was closest at 196.507 km/h, but in Les Arcs, 2002, Xavier Cousseau achieved 201.130. Since then he has polished his record ten times, and in 2006 he set the astounding current world record time: 212.300 km/h. He is now the fastest monoskier on the planet; the reigning Speedski champion! His new goal is to breach the 220-limit.

The set-up is simple: put yourself in the best possible aerodynamic body position and try to pass the measurement equipment at the bottom of the slope as fast as possible. ***The Acceleration is the same as in a formula 1 car, faster than an aeroplane at start, about 0 to 200 km/h in less than 6 seconds.***



You need a really tight suit, because in speeds over 200 km/h ordinary ski clothes becomes like parachutes. Xavier needs about 45 minutes to get into his suit, and he can not do it alone. To be able to keep the advantageous body position in really high speeds you need a lot of power and relaxed strength.

Lately there has been a new wave of Speed skiers coming up. DURET has a speedski monoski model and Xavier Cousseau holds Speedski testing events all over France, so that everybody can try it and get their time on a nice diploma. At the monoski events in France, speedski is often part of the activities, and many monoskiers pass the 100 km/h barrier easily.



Frenchman Philippe Henry, is an excellent monoskier that recently passed 142 km/h on his specially designed DURET speedski mono. The Future for the sport looks promising. The monoski speedski body position has to be different from the ordinary bi-ski powerstance, to get the balance right. It makes it even more difficult and YES we like the challenge!

Duret -World Cup



1985



2010

In 1985 Jean Philippe Thevenod of Duret created the first "World Cup" monoski with a tail wider than the waist ("wasp shaped")

It was the best Derby competition monoski available and the model has developed and is still available at DURET.

Thank You Jean Phi!

In 1998 White Knuckle sponsored the Monoski participation in the Derby de la Meije in La Grave France



After the millennium, enthusiastic people in France, United States, Japan, Germany and Sweden, started to organise themselves and created organisations and organised events. More and more Monoski-events are scheduled every year.

In France there will be 11 monoski-meeting this season. In Sweden/Norway there will be 2 events: Real Vikings Monoski-Hemsedal and Real Vikings Monoski- the Northern Light tour (Riksgränsen, Abisko, Björkliden, Narvik)



MONOSKI



www.RealVikingsMonoski.com

Extreme Carving!



The last couple of years has shown a new trend: monoskiers in icy pist, carving like crazy, laying parallel to the ground, balancing on the edge and showing the WHOLE underside of the monoski!

Since the introduction of the DURET Xtrem CARV, several really good monoskiers has taken up this extrem carving practice: freerider **Bent** in Norway, Gothenburg-based **Mimo** etc...

The way they treat their extrem carv and how the use the gravity in motion is truly awesome!



carving is like being in orbit: you are always falling ... carvers fall continuously during each turn ... carvers recover from each fall by getting up ... carvers get up by falling across their board, into the next turn ...

Carving style defines riders.

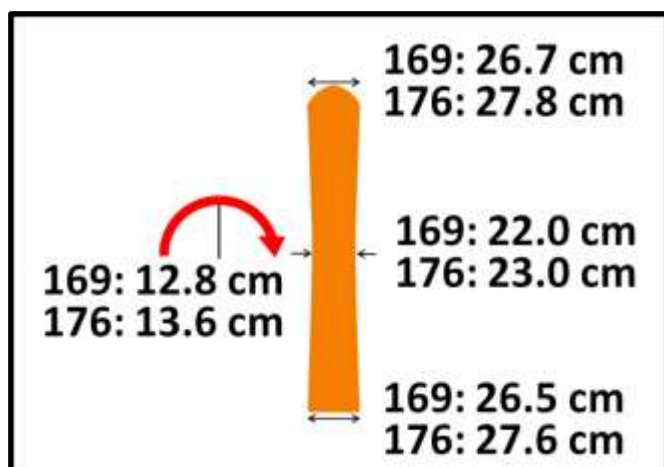
Each rider has a very specific style that is almost as unique as fingerprints.

The blue-plate ice makes everything go twice as fast. It's a zone where all thoughts must keep up with a faster version of real time.

After YOU get used to carving in this accelerated time, the rest of reality seem slow!

Carving is the best way to experience gravity in its purest form. When carving, it feels like you are flying on a **magic carpet**, you are channelling gravity in the most efficient way possible. Carving is so efficient that it feels like you are being propelled by something more than just gravity - a fifth force that is derived entirely from geometric symmetry. **Perfectly carved turns have a feeling of absolute purity**

Xtreme Carv details:



When will you try it ?



In 2010 DURET offers 16 different monoski-models.



There are also a lot of smaller hand craft production firms are responding to the increased demand: Aluflex, Monoblade, TARDY, Nordic Board, CODA board, Rabbit on the Roof etc...

Many find that Monoski gives more Ski-feeling than ordinary skis or snowboard. People with knee- or back problem, find it much easier and more relaxing to ski a Monoski. Monoski is also great to develop balance and leg endurance. Seth Morris and many mogul skiers find it natural to also have a monoski as a working tool for both practice and pleasure.



THE WAY OF LIFE

When will YOU try it? - www.RealVikingsMonoski.com