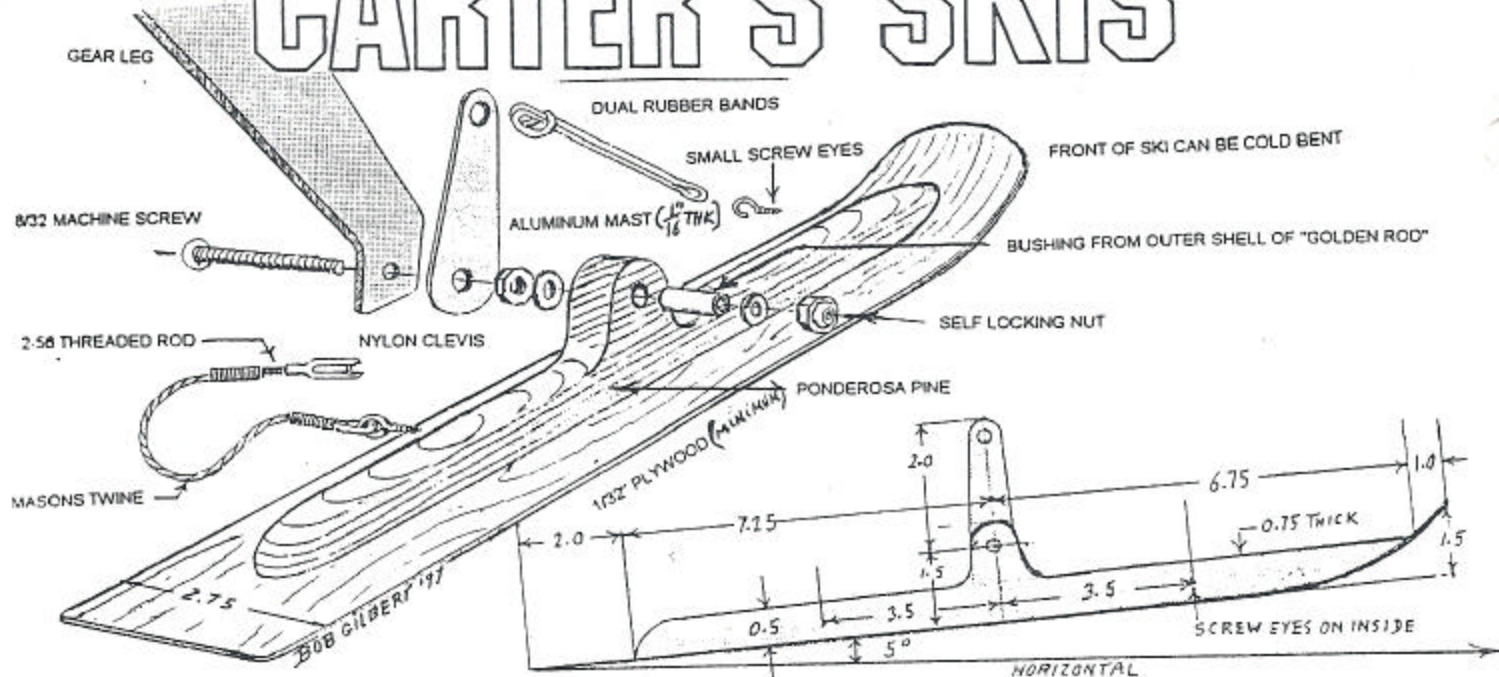


CARTER'S SKIS



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Since we are having so much snow this winter, I thought the members might be interested in some scratch built snow skis.

Carter Pounders brought a set of skis to the February, '97 meeting for show and tell. He had designed and built them a few years prior and thought they would be of interest to the membership. Naturally I had to try a set so when they got to me I made some quick sketches and notes then called Carter at home the next morning for dimensions and more specifics.

The drawings tell most of the story. It took me about six hours to crank them out but I tend to be very slow. The cost was \$4.00 for the plywood (there was a lot left from the 12"x12" sheet) and \$1.00 for a package of miniature screw eyes. The rest of the stuff I already had around the shop. An hour of the construction time was spent making aircraft style 12:1 scarf joints to get long enough pieces for the skis. I'm sure you can come up with an easier way.

The bottom of a can of KRYLON spray paint was the pattern for the rounded front end of the ski. The finish is one coat of thinned thirty minute epoxy brushed on and the bottoms are polished and waxed with paste wax.

These skis are sized for a .40 to .60 model and will have to be scaled for other size planes. Exclusive of the cords and rubber bands

the otherwise complete skis weigh the same as the wheels they replace; 3 oz. each.

I have flown these skis on my .74 FOX powered STIK off of dry grass, wet grass and mud. Takeoffs and landings were about the same as with wheels. Taxiing was good with a larger turning radius than with wheels.

A very slight nose-up pitching tendency was noted on takeoff but all other flight characteristics were quite conventional including loops and rolls.

The aluminum masts need to be 1/16" thick to resist the tension loads from the masons chord caused by the uplift at the front of the skis. I also found that the #8 machine screw axles could be bent by the side loads at the rear end of the ski in a turn or cross wind landing. Somewhere along the way I managed to split one of my skis longitudinally. I now believe the bottoms should be glassed or have two laminations of 1/32" plywood.

These things will glide over mole hills, hoof prints etc. with ease. Oddly enough I haven't had chance yet to try them on snow!!!!

Bob Gilbert