

# The "father" of Modern-day Telemark Skiing of Steve Barnett

..... EXPLORE: Steve Barnett is no longer the name it once was in the telemarking word. Have you faded from the limelight?

BARNETT: Let's say I'm retired from gurudom. All I ever intended to do was to do show people what was possible using one system of skiing. In the small pond of skiing, I had an influence, I accomplished what I wanted.

EXPLORE: So who are the current gurus?

BARNETT: Everyone's a guru. If you're a great skier or write a book you're suddenly a guru. That's good because we can learn from all of them. Some can help us ski fast, others teach us to ski bumps, still others can help us negotiate difficult snow conditions. All these good skiers help account for the dramatic improvement in the general level of skiing.

EXPLORE: In some respects you'll come out of "retirement" this year when your new book THE BEST SKI TOURING IN AMERICA is released this fall. Tell us about the book.

BARNETT: The book is a natural extension of why I learned to telemark - to ski the backcountry. To me the turn was always a means to an end. Like my first the boo, I hope this one will open people's eyes to what's possible. I also hope it will expand many skiers' horizons by introducing them to the diversity of experiences possible in North America. It's hard to compare a ski trip in Baja to another in Alaska. Skiing on the Gaspè Peninsula is completely different than the icefields of British Columbia. Still, all the tours in this book offer unique settings and the possibilities for great skiing. They are wonderful tours.

EXPLORE: After this book, what's next?

BARNETT: I want to write books on biological and zoological subjects. I have a strong science background and always presumed that's where my career would be - other things just got in the way. That's not to say I'll give up skiing. I love to ski, whether it's on downhill slopes, tracks, or in the backcountry. I just never intended to make it my career.

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Questa poesia, così come altre che pubblicheremo sono poesie di Lito Tejada Flores, uno dei primi riscopritori dello sci a tallone libero. Le poesie sono tratte dal suo libro sullo sci a tallone libero in fuori pista, le ho trovate molto belle ed ecco perché le trovate qui. Su uno dei prossimi numeri troverete anche la prefazione al suo libro, prefazione estremamente interessante.

This poem has been taken from a Lito Tejada Flores, a well known hree heel skier and expert. In the next issues you will be able to find others, they are all taken from Lito's book "Backcountry skiing" a masterpiece of our skiing style.

**La brutta neve non è che  
un fenomeno transitorio:  
neve i cui cristalli non hanno  
ancora assunto la loro forma finale  
come dura neve primaverile o neve zuccherina**

**Bad snow, most experts agree,  
is a phenomenon of transition: snow  
whose cristal have not yet  
assumed their final form  
as hard spring ice or perfect corn**

**Sciarla è una nuova esperienza:  
a volte ci riescono delle belle curve,  
curve dove neve e sci, raggio e arco sono unità**

**Skiing bad snow, you get another view:  
from time to time a few  
turns simply happen, perfect turns  
where snow and skis, radius and arc,  
are one!**

**Ti coglierà come una sorpresa.  
Poi, a occhi chiusi, fantasticherai  
su quella discesa, su quella neve  
su cosa tutto ciò significhi**

**It take you by surprise.  
Afterwards with closed eyes you wonder  
about the descent, the snow, and what it meant.**

**Noi siamo forse un fenomeno transitorio?  
e la brutta neve solo paura e superstizione?  
Quando avremo appreso abbastanza,  
e saremo caduti abbastanza, solo allora sapremo  
che la neve è neve e che parole  
come "brutta" o "buona"  
sono solo assurdità  
così come "si potrebbe", "si dovrebbe"**

**Perhaps we are phenomena of transition?  
"Bad snow" only fear and superstition?  
When we have learned enough, skied  
and fallen enough, we will know  
that snow is only snow, that words  
like "Bad" and "good" are just as absurd  
as those others, "ought" and "should".**