

It was 44 degrees this morning, so Fall is officially in full swing, which means that Winter can't be that far away. That naturally got me thinking about snow. Let's all do a snow dance and hope we have a "real" winter, like we did in 1967, 1979, and even as recently as 2001.

Everybody who lived in the Chicago area back then remembers the "Big Snow" of January, 1967. I was just shy of my 5<sup>th</sup> birthday. The memory that stands out from that storm is that my sister and I bravely ventured outside after the snow stopped falling. We attempted to walk around the house, and got stuck in a snow drift. Fortunately, we were stuck near the kitchen window, and were able to shout to my mom, who came out and rescued us.

The back-to-back storms in 1979 set records for the deepest snow cover and the longest continuous snow cover in the Chicago area. I was a junior in high school, and the happy result of the storms was four consecutive days of no school, although we did have to attend "optional" basketball practice each day.

The last old-fashioned winter we had around here was as recent as 2001. It actually started with the storm in early December, 2000. I came home from work and noticed something sticking out from the snow drift by the front door. It was my new skate skis! I got a lot of use out of them that winter.

Here's hoping that we can add 2006 to the list of "real" winters!

Larry