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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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By Dr. Charles F. Brooks  
of Clark University

SNOW VS. POND ICE

If the frozen surface of a pond is kept cleared of snow, the ice will be thicker than if a snow blanket is allowed to accumulate. Cold dry winters, then, are most favorable both for skaters and ice companies. In Siberia it has been found that ice over six feet thick forms not only in the far north but also in the dry interior where snow rarely falls. A series of measurements in one region in March compared thickness of ice with depth of snow cover on rivers. Where there was no snow the ice was nearly 40 inches thick, where the snow was four inches deep the ice was about 32 inches thick, and where the snow cover reached 22 inches in depth there was only 25 inches of ice beneath.

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