



The Ancient Skier

P. O. Box 331 Kirkland, WA 98083

Spring 2013

2013 REUNION PROVIDES A WEEK OF FUN

The Sun Valley week was perfect with good snow, good weather, and good friends, all at once. Highlights were many, but to name only a few:

Saturday at registration, which was hosted by Bob and Lynn Nicholson, was where it all began with sign-ups for the various weekly activities. Registration is the place we picked up our packets, had a drink, met old friends, and had a chance to unwind after the long trips just getting to the Valley.

Sunday afternoon was the Prime Time party hosted by the Sun Valley Company, and that was great fun with music, more mixing, and getting caught up with our various stories.

Monday was the Western Dinner and that was a success, too. Sharon and John Wellsandt were chairmen, and, as usual, they knew how to throw a party! We enjoyed another great cowboy poem from Len Gerber, which is always a treat, and he surprised us with something new. He had props! We drew the winning ticket for the Beast ride in Sun Valley's largest groomer, and Skippy Kershaw was the winner. She had a lot of fun and excitement. She was so proud of her grooming that she was the first one down on Warm Spring the next morning. She wanted to ski on her beautiful corduroy run.

Tuesday, we went to the Heritage Museum. The board of the museum welcomed us with margaritas and snacks. Skippy Kershaw and Nick Parrish were the hosts, and they stood out in the cold to welcome us; they were great!

Wednesday was Nordic Day. Chairs Bill Price and Pat Berg did a rousing job. Lunch was well attended and the weather was perfect.

Thursday was NASTAR day and 35 skiers signed up for the race. Trudy Schneider and Sheila Leewens won platinum medals (great job you two!). The medal count was fantastic. Besides the two platinums, the racers earned seven golds, nine silvers, and 13 bronzes. All without a crash! Thursday afternoon was the Opera House presentation with popcorn and beer. The

presenter was Dave Butterfield, and he showed his DVD *The History of Sun Valley*. The event was hosted by Patti and Dick Moulton.

Friday was the Dinner Dance hosted by Sandy and Jerry Mailman, and they sure know the ropes. The room looked beautiful, the music was great, and the food was delicious. The wine was provided compliments of the Sun Valley Company.



Thank you to the Mailmans.

The Sun Valley Sun Award was presented by Ross McLaughlin. The award went to Graham Anderson in honor of his work and long associations in the skiing scene, both nationally and internationally. Graham accepted his award most graciously, and we loved his acceptance speech. What a guy!

Peter and Anne Marie Wick missed the dinner because they were on a whirlwind trip to Vietnam. Anne Marie went to great lengths to make sure Peter wouldn't undo knee surgery repair he had in September. Peter returned to Sun Valley and managed to ski like a dream on his birthday, March 1. We should change our name from Ancient Skiers to Awesome Skiers!

Well, that is a wrap. Hope to see everyone next year in 2014. Thank you to everyone for making the week a week of FUN, FUN, FUN!!!

~ Marlys Gerber, chair

A.S. BOARD COVERS LOTS OF GROUND

Below are the highlights of the Board's meeting held January 25th in Sun Valley:

The entry age for membership in the Ancient Skiers Association was changed from 60 to 55.

The five years of outstanding leadership of the Sun Valley Reunion Committee by Marlys Gerber were highly recognized with great thanks and praise. Her committee was to be commended for the outstanding, fun time everyone had at this year's reunion.

Continue the subscription to Skiing Heritage (to be re-named Skiing History in its next issue) for our newsletter editor, Tina Rieman, for her review for articles that might be relevant to our members and which could be reprinted in our newsletters

Len Gerber's term of office on the Board ended December 31, 2012, and he elected to step back from the Board. He was given the Board's sincere thanks for his years of service. Len initiated our move to send our newsletters by e-mail, and about a quarter of our membership now receives the newsletters in that manner

Dick Merritt was recognized for his Board service. His request to step down from the Board was granted and his desire to move into the chair of the Membership Committee was gladly accepted.

Carole Taylor also was thanked for her many years as chair of the Roster Committee. She has turned over the reins to Leland Rosenlund, who was welcomed to that position.

The new Board members replacing Len Gerber and Dick Merritt are Tex Steere and Bill Price. They were thanked for their acceptance to serve.

It was decided that our membership list shall be used only for Ancient Skier Association purposes.

UPDATE ON SKI MUSEUMS

Two museums, the Northwest Ski and Hall of Fame Museum in Leavenworth and the Washington State Ski and Snowboard Museum at Snoqualmie Pass, are actively being developed. In Leavenworth, Georgia Bakke has a space where photographs of Hall of Fame honorees and their biographies will be displayed. At Snoqualmie Pass, Dave Moffett is working with a developer for space in a restaurant which will be part of a townhouse complex at the summit. Both museums are non-profits and will be looking for donations. More about the museums will be in the next newsletter.

Front Page Photo: *Rolf Fromm, Linda Orton, Mary Kay Olson, Jill Price, Ellen and Monte Steere, and Leland Rosenlund gather in front of Seattle Ridge Lodge for a run together. All Newsletter photos courtesy of Leland Rosenlund.*

2014 SUN VALLEY REUNION DATES SET

Contracts have been signed and arrangements have been made for the 31st annual Sun Valley reunion, January 18 through 25, 2014. Deadline for registration is Nov. 27, 2013.

Enclosed with this newsletter is the Sun Valley room reservation form for booking rooms and for lift package rates. There is no longer a reservation code, so be sure to make your reservation under the Ancient Skier Association name. This will get us a booking commission, which is used to reduce our expenses and keep our event fees as low as possible.

If you were here for the 2013 reunion in January and you made reservations for 2014, please reconfirm your room reservation and inform the reservationist that you are a member of the Ancient Skier Association and that your room should be booked under our organization. Call Sun Valley at 800-786-8259.

The form for the reunion events will be sent out with the Winter 2013 newsletter. The program for 2014 will be similar to last year. However, we have new activities planned, including snowshoeing and riding "The Beast." Bring snowshoes if you have them, or they can be rented in town.

During the 2014 reunion, another featured event will be a display of art and craftwork created by some of our members. The work may or may not be for sale, depending on arrangements made with the artist or crafts person.

More details will be included in registration documents sent with the Winter 2013 newsletter.

See you at the 2014 Sun Valley week reunion.

*~ Bill Price, Chair
425-392-3927*

YOU KNOW YOU'RE AN ANCIENT SKIER IF...

- On Monday mornings during ski season, you looked for names of your friends who might be in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer column that listed ski injuries which happened over the weekend as reported by the National Ski Patrol.
- When checking in at the Challenger Inn at Sun Valley, you drove through the passageway under the clock tower of the Inn and parked at the Inn's front entrance.
- After a spill on the hill, you were told, "Fill in your sitzmark!"
- While skiing the old Limelight chair at Sun Valley, you read the poem written by the lift operator, "The goal of every ski instructor in life is to teach at Sun Valley and marry a rich wife."
- You remember putting on three strap-on chains on rear wheels when the "Chains Required" sign was out on your way to the pass. But you only put them on the wheel which would be seen or heard by the State Patrolman checking for chains!

~ John Hansen

MILWAUKEE SKI BOWL HISTORY, 1938-1950: REVOLUTION IN LOCAL SKIING

Editor's note: Here is the third installment of the Ski Bowl history written by John W. Lundin and Stephen J. Lundin for HistoryLink.org, based largely on their research found in the digital archives of The Seattle Times, which sponsored free ski lessons at the Milwaukee Ski Bowl and provided extensive coverage of the local ski scene. The first two installments appeared in the fall and winter newsletters. Photo credit: Ed Notske.

For the 1940 ski season, a giant ski-jump was built at the Ski Bowl for the jumping events of the National Four-Way Ski Championships in March. A new lift was built to hoist skiers to the top of the jump. The Class A hill had a greater-than-200-foot capacity, and Class B and C hills were constructed as well. The Milwaukee Road spent \$15,000 on the big hill, designed by one of the most accomplished jumping hill designers.

The National Four-Way Championship was held between March 13 and 17, with events split between three different areas. Downhill and slalom races were held on Mount Baker; the cross-country race was held on Snoqualmie Pass; and the



jumping competition at the Ski Bowl. Skiers from all over the country came to compete.

The biggest event was the jumping competition. Alf Engen, a Norwegian ski instructor at Sun Valley, and Torger Tokle from Norway faced off on the big jump. Tokle was looking for revenge after Engen beat him in the National Jumping Championships at Berlin, N.H.

Sigurd Hall of the Seattle Ski Club won the downhill race at Mount Baker. Engen was third in the downhill, but won the slalom, beating two dozen racers. The skiers left Mount Baker for Snoqualmie Pass where the cross-country and jumping events were held.

Special trains took spectators to the Pass, leaving every half hour beginning at 8:30 a.m., and huge crowds were expected. Expectations were high that one of the jumpers would beat the national record of 257 feet set that year at a meet in Wisconsin. Twenty competed on the Class A jump on the Bowl's Olympian Hill. Others competed on the Class B jump. The jumping event overshadowed the cross-country competition, a rough 11-mile course in which Engen finished fourth.

The Seattle Times published a picture of Tokle jumping over the Ski Bowl, with a headline saying "Torger Tokle Rides out of the World." Tokle had longer jumps than did Engen, but Engen was the winner as Tokle "failed to display the form" shown by Engen. In ski jumping, points are awarded for form as well as distance. Engen, "the stocky skiman from Sun Valley went off with the works," winning

the overall title in the Four-Way Competition. "The newsreel boys expressed disappointment that they only had one spill to film in the jumping event, as only the first jumper fell, and the rest rode out their leaps."

The Ski Bowl ended the 1940 season on March 27, with only 18 inches of snow remaining.

Fourth Season

The Bowl opened its fourth season on January 4, 1941. Fare for the ski train was reduced to \$1.25 for adults, and \$1 for students. One train left Seattle at 8:30 a.m., returning at 5:00 p.m. "You can enjoy endless thrills and healthful fun at the beautiful snow fields at the Milwaukee Road's popular Milwaukee Ski Bowl. With its facilities improved

every year, the Ski Bowl is better and more popular than ever." The Seattle Times ski lessons were offered again under the supervision of Ken Syverson. The Pacific Northwest Ski Association offered ski jumping lessons to juniors at the new ski jump at the Ski Bowl.

On January 12, the Ski Bowl hosted a giant slalom race for 75 of the best skiers in Washington and Oregon. The race was nearly a mile long, and was watched by 1,249 spectators who rode two "specials" to the Ski Bowl. Scott Osborn, "veteran Northwest ski racer," won the race by four seconds.

Ski jumping was the passion in 1941. The first jumping competition was at Leavenworth in February, where Tokle had a "mighty leap of 273 feet," setting a new North American record.

Excitement was great for the National Jumping Championships at the Ski Bowl on March 3. Tokle's new record made him a favorite, but the competition was tough. Last year's winner, Alf Engen, had made a jump of 267 feet in Michigan, which would have set the record but for Tokle's jump at Leavenworth.

On March 3, Tokle, "the human sky rocket from New York," jumped 288 feet, setting another North American record in front of an excited crowd of 5,500 fans. Engen was second, and Arthur Devlin of Lake Placid was third. Tokle said that he wanted to come back next year, and if the take-off was moved back 30 feet, he could jump 325 feet.

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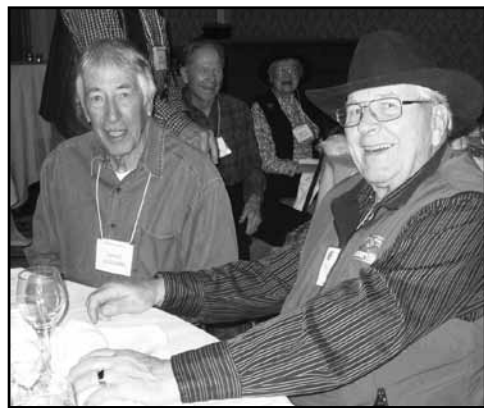
Graham Anderson (third from left) joins past recipients Lou Whittaker, Peter Kennedy, Jannette Burr Johnson, Nelson Bennett, Chuck Welsh and Dick Byerley

Graham Anderson receives 2013 Sun Valley Sun Award

Several years ago, Peter Wick, a member of the Sun Valley Reunion Committee, suggested creating an award for Ancient Skier members who have been involved in notable ski activities through the years. When his idea was enthusiastically accepted, he crafted medallions of two-inch gold Sun Valley Suns on a lanyard to present to recipients. This year the committee chose Graham Anderson to receive the award.



The Band



Dave Gossard, Ross McLaughlin



Charlotte Beall, Signe Lamb, Len Gerber



Sharon Wellsandt, Leroy Kingland, Bob Nicholson



Lou Whittaker, Karl Stingl Jr., Nelson Bennett, Russ Lamb



Christie and Graham Anderson

Once again . . . It happened at Sun Valley

. . . and Leland Rosenlund, with Rolf and Beate Fromm were there to prove that Sun Valley is a happening place and Ancient Skiers have more fun. The threesome stopped long enough to pose in front of the National Safety Week snow tower on top of Baldy.



Jeanine and Dick Loudon, Bill and Jill Price



Leland Rosenlund, Lou Whittaker, Leroy Kingland, Nigel Jones, and Russ Lamb with statue of Lou carved by himself, cast in bronze by Russ



Russ Lamb, Peter Kennedy, Marlys Gerber, Leroy Kingland, Lou Whittaker, Jeff Smull - Happy Birthday to Marlys



Peter Kennedy, Jack (Corky) Corrock



President John Hansen with Theresa and Nigel Jones



Margaret Boyle, Torrie Kohler, Hartley Paul

MILWAUKEE SKI BOWL HISTORY, 1938-1950: REVOLUTION IN LOCAL SKIING *continued from page 3***World War II and After**

The United States entered World War II on December 7, 1941, changing everything in the country, although it took some time for the full effects of the war to be felt.

The 1942 ski season started as planned at the Milwaukee Bowl. The Ski Bowl opened on January 3, and 800 boarded the trains on January 10, for Garfield day. Skiers who went to the Bowl found new improvements, including work done on the surface of the Bowl to smooth out its runs. Times ski lessons were given another year and Olav Ulland offered a junior jumping program. But some changes had to be made. Limits were placed on ski trains to comply with wartime demands, so there was only one train per day going to the Bowl, and it was limited to 70 skiers. A special "defense" ski evening ski event was held for Boeing and shipyard workers in late January.

The Seattle Ski Club hosted a jumping competition at the Ski Bowl with the proceeds going to the Red Cross War Fund. Torger Tokle, "the human airplane," competed along with 20 other of the West Coast's best jumpers. Tokle won the event but did not set a new record. He thought a 300-foot jump was possible given the existing setup.

March 27 was the final weekend for the 1942 season. Conditions had changed by the winter of 1942-1943. The Milwaukee Road decided not to operate the ski train, because the Office of Defense Transportation ordered that no sports specials could run for the duration of the war, and Times ski lessons were canceled. In December 1942, the Milwaukee Road shut down the Ski Bowl and committed its resources to the war effort.

Skiing started again after World War II ended. In 1945, lights for night skiing were installed at the Snoqualmie Summit ski area. In 1946, the Milwaukee Road resumed operations of the Ski Bowl, changing the name from "Snoqualmie Ski Bowl" to "Milwaukee Ski Bowl" to eliminate confusion with the Snoqualmie Summit ski area. The first high-capacity ski lift on Snoqualmie Pass was

installed at the Ski Bowl in 1946, a surface lift that could carry 1,440 skiers per hour.

In 1947, the Milwaukee Ski Bowl hosted the Olympic Ski Jump Trials for the upcoming 1948 Olympic Games, bringing in competitors from around the world. A new jumping record was set at the trials.

The year 1948 was a busy one for Snoqualmie Pass. The Ski Bowl hosted the U.S. ski-jumping championships. A new ski area, Ski Acres, which had the first chairlift on the Pass, opened one mile east of the Snoqualmie Summit. The Mountaineers built a lodge on land between the Ski Acres and Summit ski areas to replace their earlier building, and it was lost to fire during World War II.

On December 2, 1949, tragedy struck as the Milwaukee Ski Bowl Lodge caught fire and burned to the ground. The only thing left standing was the fireplace, where "thousands of young enthusiasts once warmed themselves." The Milwaukee Road had spent as much as \$30,000 the prior summer to prepare a new ski run and cut new trails, to make the bowl the "best all around ski center in the state."

The railroad adopted a temporary solution for the 1950 season. A temporary building was built with rest rooms, first aid, and space for the ski patrol. A new spur line was constructed, on which several train cars were located for use as a kitchen and warming hut to accommodate the 200 skiers taking Times ski lessons.

After the 1950 season, the Milwaukee Ski Bowl closed for good as the railroad decided not to rebuild the lodge and to get out of the ski resort business. The Ski Bowl remained closed until 1959, when the Hyak Ski Area opened in its location. Hyak never generated the same excitement as did the Ski Bowl, and it was overshadowed by the ski areas at the Snoqualmie Summit, Ski Acres, and Alpentel.

This concludes the Milwaukee Ski Bowl history from the March 16, 2012 Seattle Times by John W. Lundin and Stephen J. Lundin.

REMEMBERING**CLAIRE THOMPSON RAAUM 1928 - 2013**

Claire was born in Tacoma and, throughout her childhood, loved the water, spending summers at the family beach house on Vashon Island and, later, as counselor at the Tacoma Girl Scout Camp and as Waterfront Director at the Camp Fire Girls' Camp Sealth on Vashon Island. She was the first Tacoma Rodeo Queen, riding a high-stepping horse in the parade.

From Tacoma's historic Stadium High, she went to the University of Washington, earning a degree in General Studies and Nursery School Education. While at the university, she was on the Silver Fish synchronized swim team. But, most importantly, Claire met Gustav Raaum, that handsome ski jumper from Norway, and married him in 1950! Her smile most likely dazzled him.

For 25 years, she shared stories of her fifth-generation pioneer family with Puget Sound grade school students while wearing a pioneer dress and bonnet and carrying an antique rifle. For 50 years, she sang in church and community choirs. Claire and Gus regularly attended Ancient Skiers Sun Valley reunions and the Sun Valley Dixieland Jazz festivals. Claire loved to spend time in her garden, cross country skiing in the mountains, and rowing her boat at their Allyn Bay beach house.

Claire is survived by her husband, Gus; children David (Patricia), Christian (Joanie), Lisbeth Raaum Harris (John), six grand children, and one great grandson.

SUN VALLEY'S EARL HOLDING 1926 - 2013

He was a man with a vast business empire, but Earl Holding was best known to Ancient Skier members for the new vitality he brought to Sun Valley after his purchase of the resort in 1977. Mr. Holding, who died April 19 in Salt Lake City, is well remembered in the words of Sun Valley's Jack Sibbach, who underscored the wealthy Utah native's love for the Valley. "He looked at the long term. He improved on it all the way through his ownership," Sibbach said.

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