



The Ancient Skier

P. O. Box 15712 • Seattle, WA 98115

Spring 2011

LETS HEAR IT FOR THE GOOD OLD BOYS!



Age is a state of mind, as attested to by the above "Ancients": Eric Lamers-74, John Hansen-84, John Woodward-96, Dave Laster-74

ANCIENT SKIERS SUN VALLEY 28TH ANNUAL REUNION ~ A FANTASTIC EVENT!

It is now mid March and Ancient Skier President John Hansen has asked me to write up a review of the Ancient Skiers 2011 Sun Valley Reunion Week. I am riding up on the Challenger lift at 9:00 a.m. and I realize that spring has come to the Big Wood River Valley. I know this because the first Pacific steelhead are beginning to make their way up to that area just northwest of Galena Summit near the headwaters of the Salmon River. They travel approximately 900 miles from the mouth of the Columbia River to get here. The temperature too tells me spring has arrived because, while it still dips below freezing at night, it climbs up into the 30's and 40's during the day. I arrive at the top of Baldy and ski down College. I stop about halfway down Lower College at that flat prominence and stand next to that special tree and look back over towards the Round

House. From this vantage point I can see Olympic, Exhibition, Canyon, Holiday, Cut-Off, Blue Grouse and Mid-River; about 20 percent of the runs available on America's premier ski mountain and America's first full-destination ski resort. This year we Ancient Skiers helped celebrate the 75th year the Sun Valley Resort Company has been in business, and what a celebration it was!

It all started with the Saturday registration check-in party. Marlys and I, as chairpersons for this year, want to thank John Hansen for organizing the registration and Bob and Lynne Nicholson for manning the registration desk. These very competent professionals make all that hard work look easy. We also thank LeRoy Kingland, Solveig Thompson and George Kohn for acting as greeters for the occasion. The most popular committee members that day were Patti and Dick Moulton, Beth and Dick Byerley and Sandy and Jerry Mailman, who were giving out free drink tickets.

The celebration continued with our Monday evening dinner banquet held in the Sun Valley Inn Limelight Room. Kudos are in order for Ross and Glenda McLaughlin, who staged this extraordinary kickoff dinner with a western theme. Many of us dressed appropriately in western attire. Ross and Glenda had arranged for Bruce Innes and his partner Sue to play western music while we all socialized before dinner. Ross gave us a brief review of the Ancient Skiers and their many annual

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ANCIENT SKIERS 2012 - 29TH ANNUAL SUN VALLEY REUNION ~ PLAN NOW FOR NEXT YEAR!

Arrangements have been made and the contract signed for the 29th annual Sun Valley reunion which will take place January 14 to January 21, 2012. Great news, our ski lift packages will be the same as the 2011 reunion week!

Enclosed with this newsletter is the Sun Valley form for booking rooms and lift packages. When booking, **BE SURE TO IDENTIFY YOURSELF AND INCLUDE OUR CODE: ASK12**. By using the code, Ancient Skiers get a booking commission. This commission is then applied to reduce our expenses and helps keep our event fees as low as possible.

If you were here in January 2011 and made reservations for 2012, please **reconfirm** your room reservation and notify the reservationist that you are a member of the Ancient Skiers and that your room should be booked under our code: **ASK12**. Call Sun Valley at 1-800-786-8259.

The form for registering for the reunion events will be sent out with the Winter Newsletter. The **DEADLINE FOR SIGN-UP WILL BE NOVEMBER 28, 2011**.

If you plan to be away from your home in November, please arrange for someone to send in your registration form before the November 28 deadline. Changes in registration will be permitted through the first week of January 2012.

More detailed information will be available with the registration form accompanying the winter newsletter. **BOOK YOUR ROOM ASAP AS OUR BLOCK OF ROOMS IS LIMITED.**



See you in Sun Valley!

Marlys Gerber, Chair, Sun Valley Committee

ANCIENT SKIERS LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL ~ OFF THE SLOPES TOO!



Laurie Miller, Warren Miller, Sharon Rosenlund, Lee Rosenlund



Peter and Sally Jarvis



Charlotte and Allan Beall



Meg Barto



Len and Marlys Gerber, Buck Drew and Becky Klassen



Anne Marie and Peter Wick

ANCIENT SKIERS SUN VALLEY 28TH ANNUAL REUNION *Continued from page 1*

visits to Sun Valley. Ross and Glenda even sweet-talked me into reciting some cowboy poetry after dinner. (Ed: Len's presentation was fantastic! Done just like a real cowpoke.) The main dinner course was BBQ ribs and chicken and everyone agreed that it was the best tasting dinner ever! Glenda McLaughlin reviewed the week's events for us and we all went home that night feeling that it was the best Monday dinner banquet in years.

The good times just kept on rolling. On Tuesday we visited the Ketchum Ski Heritage Museum for an après ski party of snacks and margaritas. Lynne Nicholson is our acting liaison

between the Ancient Skiers and the Ski Museum. Skippy Kershaw and Nick Parish were at the door collecting our donations to the Ski Heritage Museum. This year we donated approximately \$1,200. We thank these three skiers for organizing this Tuesday afternoon venue. Some of us wondered why so much of the ski memorabilia was missing this year. We were told the museum is in a transition stage in up-grading its exhibits and that, hopefully, next year the skiing exhibits will be featured once again.

Wednesday Pat Berg hosted a trip out to the Sun Valley Club Nordic Center for cross-country skiing and lunch. The Crab Louie was suburb and the Kobe beef burger wasn't too shabby either. If you haven't been there yet, you gotta have lunch there next year! Also on Wednesday Mary Jane Griffith Conger was at the Ketchum Community Library signing copies of the book she wrote about five generations of her family's settlement in the Big Wood River Valley. Incidentally, Mary Jane is Jimmy Griffith's big sister, and he was on the 1950 U.S. FIS World Championship Ski Team and was also on the 1952 U.S. Olympic Men's Alpine Ski Team.



Linda and Dan Brockelmann

The highlight of our mid-week events was Thursday afternoon at the Sun Valley Opera House hosted by Ingrid and Lou Whittaker. Lou, as usual, presented a spellbinding video and narrative recounting his many climbing adventures. We

filled the Opera House for this event and Plum TV even showed up to film the afternoon's entertainment. Thank you, Ingrid and Lou, for such a memorable afternoon.

It just kept getting better and better! After a week of winter-style skiing and all of the week's activities, we topped it all off with our Friday evening dinner banquet held in the Limelight Room. It was hosted by Peter and Anne Marie Wick, and what a fantastic evening they had in store for us. We danced to the music of the Bruce Innes Trio. Sun Valley General Manager Tim Silva

spoke to us about the resort's present and future plans. Peter Wick honored Olympians Jeanette Burr Johnson and Peter Kennedy by awarding them each a Golden Sun Medallion and presenting a brief biography of their skiing and skating careers. Marlys Gerber handed out the NASTAR Race awards. The best of all, however, was yet to come because Peter and Anne Marie had arranged for a surprise guest! World-renowned ski film maker Warren Miller and his wife, Laurie, joined us for dinner. Warren, with his well-known wit and humor, entertained us to a standing ovation. What a wonderful evening we all had! Thank you so much Peter and Anne Marie Wick. Everyone went home feeling this was the best-ever Ancient Skiers Reunion Week

Lastly, we thank all of the Sun Valley Reunion Committee members who each year step up to the plate and make all these good times happen. Margi Albrecht, Bill Armbruster, Charlotte and Allan Beall, Pat Berg, Mary Begley, Marci Blatt, Dick and Beth Byerley, Peggy Corley, Herschel Cox, Willi Eul, Tom Flint, Skip Kershaw, Len and Marlys Gerber, John



Lois Woodward

Hansen, Kendall and Ron Johnson, Judy King, LeRoy Kingland, George Kohn, Frank and Linda Leibly, Sheila Leewens, Jerry and Sandy Mailman, Ross and Glenda McLaughlin, Dick and Patti Moulton, Stan and Robin Nelson, Bob and Lynne Nicholson, Jody Nyquist, Nick and Sandy Parish, Leigh and Louise Rabel, Vicky Sutter, Jim and Judy Sweeney, Solveig Thomson, Susan Thurston, Janet Vincent, John and Sharon Wellsandt, Lou and Ingrid Whittaker, and Peter and Anne Marie Wick. Becky Klassen did an outstanding job handling registrations and producing data for event organization.

See you all next year.

Len and Marlys Gerber,

Sun Valley 2011 Reunion Committee Chairpersons



Len Gerber



Ross and Glenda McLaughlin



John Woodward & Lou Whittakers



Jeanette Burr Johnson, Peter Kennedy



Lee and Sharon Rosenlund, Ellen Steere, Herschel Cox, Monte Steere and Tex Steere



John Osberg, Sally Behnke, Gordy Arwine



Sharon and John Wellsandt



Trudi Schneider, Tex Steere, Dan DeWard, LeRoy Kingland, Marlys Gerber and Linda Orten - NASTAR top awardees!



Lynne and Bob Nicholson



Cowgirls Sally Behnke and Solveig Thomson



More cowgirls: Ingrid Whittaker, Anne Marie Wick, Marlys Gerber, Glenda McLaughlin, Judy Peters and Jeanine Loudon

ANCIENT SKIERS LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL ~ OFF THE SLOPES TOO!



Laurie Miller, Warren Miller, Sharon Rosenlund, Lee Rosenlund



Peter and Sally Jarvis



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Anne Marie and Peter Wick

SURPRISE REUNION HAPPENING!

Without any prior knowledge, during Lou Whittaker's Thursday Opera House presentation of his climbing experiences, Lou noticed that Warren Miller and his wife, Laurie, had come for Lou's video and slide show. So at the conclusion, he asked Warren to stand and be recognized. It was a great surprise to everyone and Warren was warmly greeted. Warren's wife, Laurie, has been a member of Ancient Skiers for a few years but this was the first time she and Warren had been able to be at a reunion. As Warren was never formally a member of the Ancient Skiers Association, his friends convinced him he should join. At the Friday banquet, he submitted his application for membership which was received and approved. The events of the night were so much fun for them, it resulted in Warren writing the following article which appeared in The Idaho Mountain Express, February 11, 2011 and is reprinted with the permission of Warren Miller.

* * *

I just spent a great four days in Sun Valley with the Ancient Skiers. This is a group that takes the word "ancient" and makes the most of it. Here are just a few examples:

John Woodward still competes on the veterans' racing circuit on almost a weekly basis. He is 96 years old. He is a real sight to see when he is in his skintight downhill racing suit with matching colored brain bucket. His downhill ski poles are bent in graceful curves so he can get in a deeper, more aerodynamic tuck. I was impressed when he remembered that I had made a promotional ski film for him when he owned Anderson & Thompson Ski Company in 1954. Widowed, he recently remarried and the story goes that he and his wife went to REI to register for their wedding: naming new bicycles, new kayaks and new camping gear. That's living for the future.

Nelson Bennett ran the Sun Valley Ski Patrol for many years. I hadn't seen Nellie since I stopped skiing with him 35 or 40 years ago because he refused to use those new fangled safety bindings. He kept saying, "I've never been hurt with these Dovre Toe Irons." However, two or three years ago someone at the Denver airport stole his 39-year-old, lace-up leather boots and he almost tore the airport apart looking for them.

Nelson Bennett is also 96 years old. (At only 86, I was beginning to feel very young.)

Banquet hostess Anne Marie Wick and her husband, Peter, after spending 36 winters restoring wooden powerboats, have finally put their 55-foot Chris-Craft on the market. They planned on skiing 100 days this winter but Peter, at 80 years old, broke his shoulder on his third day of skiing.

The afternoon before, Lou Whittaker gave a great speech in the Opera House about what it feels like to summit Mount Everest as the leader of a successful expedition. Lou ran the guiding school on Mount Rainier for many years and has climbed to its summit more than 300 times.

The master of ceremonies at the dance asked anyone with a metal joint replacement to stand up. More than half of the

240 people in the audience stood. Then he asked the people with only one knee or hip replacement to sit down. But this left more than half of the people still standing. When he asked the people with two knees and two hip replacements to remain standing, nine people were still on their feet.

The Ancient Skiers honored two of their members who had won Olympic medals. In 1952, Jeanette Burr had won her medal in the giant slalom wearing Buddy Werner's tights. This was the first time that skintight racing togs were ever worn in a ski race. That year, Peter Kennedy also won a silver medal as a figure skater in the Olympic pair skating with his sister.

Once all of the awards were given out I was asked to interrupt the program with a speech about the real old days at Sun Valley. The real old days being 1947, when the general manager Pappy Rogers let Ward Baker and me live in our eight-foot-long trailer and sleep in the Challenger Inn parking lot for two consecutive winters. I earned a season pass and three meals a day

by painting cartoon murals on the walls of the employee cafeteria. He said I could eat there as long as I was painting the cartoons on the walls.

After talking for about 10 minutes, my wife Laurie started giving me the sign that I had already talked long enough. I don't know about the audience but I sure had a grand time talking to old friends about how good those old days were. But were they really? Snow grooming had not been invented and when I lived in Sun Valley there were very few runs on Baldy. As a matter of fact there were only four single chairs and we could ski in powder snow from one storm to the next.

In the late '30s, Dick Durrance and his crew designed the mountain trails and they were way ahead of their time as nearly the entire mountain was cut in the fall line. In my opinion, it is probably the single best developed mountain in the world.

These amazing Ancient Skiers were all out on the hill early the next morning for first tracks in the groomed corduroy, which speaks highly for hip and knee replacements.

~ Warren Miller



Warren & Lou reconnect after many years.

REMEMBERING



LODOVICO "LOODY" CHRISTOFERO 1917-2010

Loody was a longtime executive in the Boy Scouts of America, serving in Wenatchee, Bellingham, Portland and Seattle for 31 years. Scouting was his life, earning an Eagle Scout award in Ballard's Troop 125 and serving on the staff at Boy Scout Camp Parsons.

With these beginnings, Loody became a skilled mountaineer, climbed most Northwest peaks and backpacked countless miles in the Olympics and Cascades.

During World War II, he flew 70 missions over the Burma Hump to China and was called up to serve in England during the Korean conflict.

In his 70's he thought teaching skiing would be fun so went through instructor training and taught at Snoqualmie for five years. Loody was a board member of the Northwest Ski Museum and Hall of Fame.

PAUL MORFORD 1933-2010

Paul graduated from Washington State University in civil engineering. There couldn't have been a prouder WSU alumnus. A lifelong skier, he got tremendous enjoyment from his annual trips to his Sun Valley condo with his wife, Carol, children and grandchildren.

~ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS ~

New Members

Alger, John & Sharon Ann Lawson: 5601 53rd St. West, Tacoma, WA 98467; 253-471-4994; Trophy98@hotmail.com
 Andersen, Corky & Mary Jean; 10615 Misty Hill Road, Orland Park, IL, 60462; cwajr@ix.netcom.com
 Chamberlin, Bob & Katy; 11405 169th Ct. NE, Redmond, WA 98052; 425-503-4183; bobc@bc.org
 Burt, James & Marion; 2764 72nd Ave SE, Mercer Island, WA 98040; 206-232-9725; mkislanko@mindspring.com
 Fisher, Richard & Jen; 8245 Northrop Place SW, Seattle, WA 98136; 206-484-9963; rafisher@richardafisher.com
 Gaffney, Joe & Terri; 1414 E. Valley, Seattle, WA 98112; 206-325-4889; gaffneyjoe@dorsey.com
 Kohler, Victoria (Torie); PO Box 231, Bondville VT 05340; 802-297-1182;
 Massey, Steve & Sue; 10632 NE 12th Pl., Bellevue, WA 98004; 425-455-9458; Mr.bogey@comcast.net
 Morgan, Charlie & Barbara; 7301 Beverly Lane, Everett, WA 98203; 425-353-9770; barb@cmaarch.com
 Price, Bill. & Jill; 1228 231st Ave. SE, Sammamish, WA 98075-7160; 425-392-2972; lovemyskis@hotmail.com
 Rose, Jim & Cathy; 21616 Nootka Road, Woodway, WA 98020; 425-775-2234; james.rose7@comcast.net
 Bartleson, Bob; PO Box 5885, Ketchum, ID 83340; 206-406-7167; bartleson@msn.com
 Miller, Warren; PO Box 350, Deer Harbor, WA 98243; 360-376-6488

Roster Corrections and Additions

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 Carlson, Stan & Gwen: 10826 Evergreen Terrace, Lakewood, WA 98490; 253-670-4063
 Lucas, Joy: 206-772-6665
 McGuire, Sig: Ancient Skier Emeritus
 Rabak, Dave; 1501 166th Ave. NE, Kasson, MN 55944
 Senner, Glo: 6720 E. Greenlake Way North, #702, Seattle, WA 98103; 206-517-2063
 Simonson, Lois; Ancient Skier Emeritus
 Swanson, Mike & Wendy: 425-481-1931
 Woodward, Craig & Juliann: 270-327-9754
 Woodward, John: 845-778-5497
 Gerber, Len & Marlys: PO Box 794, Ketchum, ID, 83340; Marlys' cell: 206-271-1575;
 Len's cell: 206-617-9270

Kinney, Jack: 11045 8th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98225; cell 206-409-3211
 Waterhouse, Ted & Jo Ann: 5624 East Lighthouse Dr. Port Orchard, WA 98366,
 phone same

Passed Away

Christofero, Loody, December 2, 2010	Mansell, Nancy, August 2010
Comfort, Esther	Pruzan, Harry
Fisher, Jim "Kimo", summer 2010	Chappelle, Richard, February 27, 2011
Fite, Marilyn, summer 2010	Odom, Robert, March 17, 2011

Ancient Skier Officers

John Hansen	President
Len Gerber	Vice President
Ed Taylor	Secretary
Frank Leibly	Treasurer
Mary Lynne Evans	Membership Chr.
Richard Merritt	BOD Member

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Photo credits in this newsletter: George Kohn, Ross McLaughlin, Leeland Rosenlund, Anne Marie Wick.