



# The Ancient Skier

P. O. Box 331 Kirkland, WA 98083

Spring 2015

## 2015 REUNION WEEK PROVIDES GREAT SKIING AND COMRADERY

Ancient Skiers chalked up another fabulous Sun Valley Reunion week in late January with blue skies, beautifully groomed conditions, and wonderful events and participation. The week started on Saturday with the registration event offering much needed time for many to unwind after their long travels. Following a lively reception, the ski week got under way with small groups on the slopes Sunday as well as others enjoying a history tour offered by Sun Valley.

The Monday night banquet hosted by Connie and Dan DeWerd held true to its Western theme with great outfits allowing classy photo shoots and then easy mingling by the many participants. Tuesday was another great ski day on Baldy and Dollar, with groups also meeting for morning hot chocolate and then lunch in the Seattle Ridge Lodge.

Wednesday was cross-country day on the Sun Valley trails followed by lunch, but most still were downhill skiing and continuing to be captivated by Baldy's near-perfect trail conditions.

On Wednesday evening, many from the group met up for line dancing, led by Peggy from dancezensv.com. Thursday was another group ski day, including NASTAR races on Lower Warm Springs. Thursday afternoon was the Opera House presentation spiced up with popcorn and beer. The presenters were Tim Silva, general manager of the Sun Valley Company, and Dick Dorworth, a National Ski Hall of Famer, who calls the Sun Valley area home.

Tim Silva provided an overview of the extensive Sun Valley Lodge remodeling, expected to be completed in time for the busy summer season. The upgraded structure will retain much of its classic, historic feel but will change from 148 rooms to 95, with much larger individual units, and will include a major spa facility.

Dick Dorworth described his life of skiing experiences, starting with learning to ski by watching Emile Allais at Squaw Valley in 1950. Dorworth's skills led him to racing and on to further training at Aspen. From there, he went on to Portillo, Chile, where, in 1963, he broke the world speed record on skis. After participating in a speed skiing circuit in Europe, he decided he had had enough of this dangerous event and ended his racing career. Coming back to the United States, he shifted into coaching, guiding mountain climbing, writing ski articles and books, and settling in the Wood River Valley.

A super week of fun ended with the Friday night dinner in the Sun Valley Inn's Limelight Room, with more than 275 seasoned skiers on hand. Peter and Anne Marie Wick were hosts, and Marlys Gerber emceed the event with presentations for the NASTAR races and other accomplishments. A special tribute was paid to Nelson Bennett by rolling in a spectacular sparkler-topped birthday cake to celebrate his recent 100th birthday.

Thanks to all the hard work of the committee members for another wonderful ski week!

~ Kirby Gilbert



### 2016 SUN VALLEY DATES SET

Contracts have been signed and arrangements have been made for the 33rd annual Sun Valley Reunion, January 16 through 23, 2016. Deadline for registration is December 3, 2015.

See Page 4 for details.

# CRYSTAL MOUNTAIN HOSTS "SKI WITH STEIN" SUMMER CAMPS IN GREEN VALLEY

"Stein."

"Toni."

That's usually all you needed to mention to skiers a few decades ago when you wanted to talk about Stein Eriksen or Toni Sailer.

It's no wonder then that "Ski with Stein" became the tagline for the first season of early-summer ski racing camps at Crystal Mountain in 1966 and 1967 – with Jack Nagel as the driving force for both years. It was a time, too, when the summer ski camp scene was being sorted out in the north-west United States, with Crystal and Mt. Baker, Wash.; Timberline, Ore.; Red Lodge, Mont.; and others in the mix.

### Green Valley put to the test

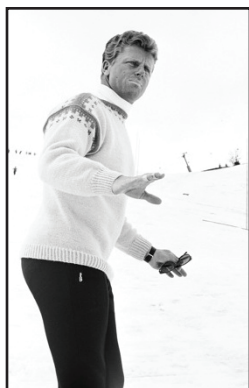
Opening in Dec. 1962, Crystal Mountain's namesake summit tops out at 6,872 feet, with the long-lasting snow of Green Valley's big basin tucked in just below the chairlift-served summit (and a gondola these days, too). It was there that the camp sessions were focused.

Crystal still was almost new, but, by the time of the camp, its slopes already were well known to racers, with Jean-Claude Killy, Karl Schranz and their peers having competed there, and with past and future national championships on the Crystal calendar.

Add to that Stein Eriksen, perhaps the world's best-known skier at the time. He had earned both Olympic and FIS World Championship medals skiing for his home country, Norway, and his 1952 Olympic gold medal was the first ever won by a male alpine racer from outside the Alps.

While still racing for Norway, Eriksen moved to the United States after the Olympics, beginning as a Sun Valley instructor and a much-watched skiing showman on Baldy – execut-

ing his graceful flips on Ridge Run, making his classic turns down the south edge of Rock Garden where he could be seen from the lift line below, or just being a friendly presence in the Roundhouse or on a Sun Valley/Baldy bus. Then came stints as ski school director at a succession of American resorts, with his move from Sugarbush to Snowmass coming a year after the first Crystal camp.

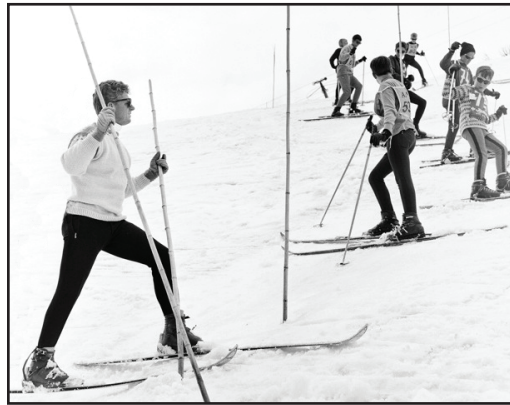


Nagel, also a 1952 Olympian and a former U.S. national

champion, who directed Crystal's resident ski school and racing program, teamed up with Eriksen and other coaches in guiding young racing hopefuls during three 10-day sessions at Crystal.

### Training had an international flavor

On-snow time integrated important elements of national and international training plans with lessons learned by Eriksen in Norwegian summer glacier skiing programs and with use of closed-circuit instant-replay television coverage of a portion of the training runs, an approach



Nagel pioneered at Crystal. Slalom, GS, and downhill all were part of the curriculum.

A portable on-mountain booth served as TV Central. Inside were a camera used to shoot up the slope through a front portal, a large TV monitor, and a snow-covered inside pathway with entry and exit side doors for racers and their coaches to ski in and review the just-completed runs.

It was a curious setup – skiing indoors to watch TV. But it was simple and effective.

Late-afternoon and evening off-slope activities included dry-land training and testing, swimming and water games, hiking, and most everything else that could be squeezed out of the four-year-old resort's features. Lodging was at Crystal's then-almost-new Alpine Inn.

### Racing experience a prerequisite

Signing up were youngsters with at least novice racing experience, and kids under 12 were welcome if they had an appropriate racing background, such as Mitey Mites or junior classification.

Guiding them, along with Eriksen and Nagel, were top Crystal coaches and Italian Roberto Gasperl, who had taught for Eriksen since 1964 and who was to return to Crystal for the 1967 summer camp, as well. (Gasperl worked with Eriksen for several more years, ultimately serving as a Snowmass ski school supervisor before quitting and joining the ski patrol there in 1980. He died a year later, killed in a major slide while on a routine avalanche blasting patrol. Today, two Snowmass chutes bear his first name.)

~ Mike Dederer

*Photos top to bottom: Stein works with young racers; Jack records individual runs; Stein talks with his hands. Photos: Mike Dederer.*



**WHO WAS THERE HAVING SO MUCH FUN?**

1. Marlys Gerber 2. Mark Thoreson, Madi Kraus, Leland Rosenlund 3. Nelson Bennett celebrates his 100 birthday 4. Pat Nuckols, LeRoy Kingland, Lila Corrock, Joan Olson, Dodie Knight 5. Leland Rosenland, Tex Steere, Kirby Gilbert, Mary Lynne Evans 6. Sharon Rosenlund, Nanette Stocks, Rick Stocks, Ellen Steere, Monte Steere 7. J. DeBruler and Torrie Kohler enjoy the ride up.

Page 1 and 3 photos courtesy of Leland Rosenlund

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**REMEMBERING**


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**GUSTAV RAAUM 1926 - 2014**

Gus was born in Brevik, Norway. In early childhood, his family moved to Lillehammer, several years before the German invasion and the Nazi occupation. During those nine years in Lillehammer, Gus took part in high school sports and excelled in ski jumping. Similar to Stein Eriksen, Gus boycotted Nazi-sponsored ski competitions and trained in secret during the war.

In 1946, Gus won the junior class in ski jumping at the Holmenkollen ski competition in Oslo, once considered the World Series of ski jumping. More than 100,000 spectators, including the Norwegian Royal Family, watched this post-war event. Overnight, Gus became a national hero. This resulted in a trip the following year touring the U.S. with the Norwegian Ski Jumping Team. The team visited Seattle, and, with his Viking spirit of risk taking, he ended up staying. Knowing little English, he entered the University of Washington where he earned a degree in accounting and received his CPA.

While a member of the UW Ski Team, he won the NCAA national ski jumping title twice, while also earning All-American honors. Gus was proud to be the only skier ever to be inducted into the Husky Hall of Fame (1992). It was through his membership as a Sigma Nu that he met his wife-to-be, Claire Thompson. They were married shortly after their graduation in 1950, a union that lasted 62 years until Claire's death.

After 17 years as a CPA in Seattle, Gus decided to try resort management. He moved the family to Jackson Hole in 1967, began work as vice-president and general manager for Paul McCollister at the Jackson Hole Ski Corporation, and was soon promoted to president. In 1970, he was recruited

by Chet Huntley to oversee the development of the Big Sky of Montana resort near Bozeman.

Eight years later, Gus returned to Seattle to join old friend Harold Hill to form Hill-Raaum Investment Company, which later became Hill-Raaum-Pietromonaco. Gus was a founder of the Nordic Heritage Museum in Ballard and a proud member of the Norwegian American Chamber of Commerce, Norwegian Commercial Club and Sons of Norway.

He was very active within the international ski world, including 16 years as the chairman of the FIS Ski Jumping Committee. He officiated and attended seven Winter Olympic Games and seven World Ski Championships as well as national and regional ski jumping competitions. In 1980, Gus was Chief of Competition for ski jumping at the Winter Olympics in Lake Placid.

He received numerous awards and recognition for his involvement in organized skiing. Gus was elected to the US National Ski Hall of Fame in 1980 and was president of a now-defunct worldwide ski friendship society that included his friend King Harald of Norway. Gus also served on the board of the Ancient Skiers Organization and was inducted into the Northwest Ski Hall of Fame.

He is survived by his children, David, Christian, Lisbeth; six grandchildren; and three great-grandsons.

Gus' recounting of the events of Ole and Lena at our banquets in his original Scandinavian accent will be missed.

**ANCIENTS GO DIGITAL**

Visit our new website:

<http://www.ancientskiers.com>

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Enclosed with this newsletter is the Sun Valley room reservation form for booking rooms and for lift package rates. When registering, please let them know you're an Ancient Skier, as we get a rebate on all the rooms registered to Ancient Skiers, which helps keep our costs down. Skiers not staying in the Sun Valley facilities will still be eligible for discounted 5-out-of-6-day lift tickets. More details will be included in the registration documents sent with the Winter 2015-16 newsletter in fall of this year.

**CAN YOU TOP THIS:**

I was in the Pioneer in Ketchum one night when the late Phil Gillis was tending bar. The following exchange occurred, including what may be the fastest comeback I've ever heard: Customer, clearly tired and sick, and ready for a stiff shot: Hey, Phil, what's good for the crud? Phil: Soft skis.

~ Mike Dederer

*Send us your funny moment. and keep it to a short paragraph. We'll print it and you'll become famous. Or not., But we'll be entertained.*

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