



The Ancient Skier

Spring 2017

JOE JONES ORGANIZES SEATTLE'S FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN SKI CLUB

Joe C. Jones grew up in Vallejo, Calif., participating in school sports in his youth. After two successful years on a conference championship football team at Vallejo Junior College, he was recruited by the University of Washington to play fullback on the Jim Owens-led Huskies squad. Joe accepted the challenge and helped the Huskies win back-to-back Rose Bowl games in 1960 and 1961.

Joe graduated from the UW with a degree in journalism and started working for IBM. A few years later, he took over as station manager for KYAC radio in Seattle.

KYAC was the city's first black-owned radio station, and Joe was an active manager who provided commentary to discuss solutions to help break down the barriers African-American athletes faced at that time.

In a 1965 broadcast, Joe encouraged black youth to participate in non-traditional sports such as tennis and golf. He also noted his personal interest in trying skiing and asked if listeners were interested. The station switchboard received 85 enthusiastic calls, and Joe went to work.

He arranged for the YMCA to sponsor buses for transportation and started the East Madison KYAC Ski School. More than 40 black youth began participating on weekends at Snoqualmie Summit. Osborn and Ulland provided Hart Skis, and Webb and Virginia Moffett offered discounts for ski tickets.

Joe teamed up with two proficient black skiers, Paul Cutchlow and Mel Campbell, who volunteered to give free instruction. The pair had met while serving on the armed forces' ski patrol in Garmisch, Germany.

The first wave of mostly inner-city youth thrived in skiing and the program grew. Eventually, Joe became a certified instructor, and, in the late 1960s, he transitioned the school to a commercial venture, called the Mini Max Ski School, with the motto being "mini skis for maximum fun." Joe taught the Graduated Length Method (GLM), an emerg-

ing teaching approach that centered on starting beginners on short skis.

In the new school, Joe retained Mel Campbell, who was becoming a widely known ski instructor. In 1972, Mel became the first African-American to participate in an international ski-instructors Ski Congress in Europe.

Joe not only promoted skiing but also started the University of Washington Black Athletes Alumni Club in 1968. With growing interest from African-Americans wanting to

participate in skiing and other non-traditional sports, he started a club, Four Seasons Northwest, in 1972 for African-American youth and other young people of color. Four Seasons Northwest continues today to promote skiing for disadvantaged minorities and to provide scholarship opportunities to youth so they can ski.

Shortly after, Joe learned of a national gathering of African-American skiers, the first "Black Ski Summit," to be held at Aspen in winter 1973. Joe eagerly attended, and the Summit was a huge success, attended by well over 350 skiers.

At the Ski Summit, Joe got to know Ben Finely and Art Clay, who spearheaded the event with the vision of uniting the various black ski clubs around the country. As a result of the gathering, Four Seasons Northwest became a founding club of the National Brotherhood of Skiers, officially chartered in 1974.

The National Brotherhood of Skiers thrives to this day, representing over 60 clubs in 43 cities, with a membership of approximately 3,000.

In recognition of Joe's tireless efforts in providing young minorities new opportunities in skiing, the City of Seattle and King County proclaimed July 19, 2003, to be Joe Jones Day.



Continued on Page 2



JOE JONES: Joe continues to be an active leader in sports promotion, and, although he has not skied in a few years, he still is hoping to get back on the slopes, as it's a sport he is proud to have learned and exposed others to. *~Kirby Gilbert*

GREAT SKIING AND FUN AT THE 34th ANNUAL SUN VALLEY REUNION

The week of Jan. 21-28, 2017, ended with tired legs and fun-filled memories for many of the 230 Ancient Skiers who participated in the annual ski pilgrimage of Ancients to Sun Valley.

The week started off snowy and cloudy, which brought lots of fresh snow, and it ended in sunshine with fast groomers. The Monday and Friday banquets were as good as always, and there were many informal gatherings in-between.

The Thursday NASTAR races were well-attended and ran as smoothly as can be, with numerous awards passed out Friday night.

*Sun Valley photo below - Leland and Sharon Rosenlund
Photo on right - Sharon Rosenlund, Nanette Stocks, unidentified*



35th ANNUAL SUN VALLEY REUNION SET FOR JAN. 20 - 27, 2018

Mark your calendars for the 35th annual Sun Valley Reunion, scheduled for Jan. 20 through 27, 2018. Enclosed with this newsletter is the Sun Valley room reservation form for booking rooms and providing information on lift package rates. There no longer is a reservation code, but, to secure these room rates, make your reservations with the Sun Valley Reservation Office by December 7, 2017.

NEW MEMBERS WANTED

Ancient Skiers involvement is open to anyone over age 55, and membership is by reference by current members. Some of the best candidate members are those who, like many of us, have skied in the Pacific Northwest since childhood. Please send your skier friends and families to our website: <http://www.ancientskiers.com>. From there, the Ancient Skiers application can be accessed, printed, and emailed. We also have a Facebook page: [https://www.facebook.com/Ancient Skiers](https://www.facebook.com/Ancient%20Skiers). Thanks for helping keep the Ancient Skiers a great group of friends.



REMEMBERING

SKIP VORHEES

Frederick D. "Skip" Voorhees combined his love for mountains, family, and adventure with business in helping develop ski resorts and other outdoor-oriented business enterprises.

Born May 21, 1924, to John D. and Sally Atwater Voorhees in Derby, Conn., Skip spent most summers at his family's ranch in eastern Idaho near Henry's Lake and Yellowstone National Park. Skip also spent a few winters at their rustic ranch and was able to learn skiing. He and his brothers took up skiing behind horses (skijoring) and schussing down the logging skid roads they helped create in summer.

After graduating from Hopkins School in New Haven, Conn., in 1942, he joined the Air Force and became a flight instructor. After the war, Skip returned to skiing, becoming a ski patroller while attending Rutgers University.

In 1946, he traveled to Aspen and helped Percy Rideout cut the lift lines for Aspen's first chairlifts. Following getting his degree in International Business, Skip followed his passion by relocating to Aspen, where he got involved in a variety of adventures and business endeavors. While there, he served as an official at the first North American FIS World Championships, held in 1950 in Aspen. He became a certified ski instructor and started a residential and commercial development company specializing in design and construction of light commercial and industrial buildings as well as year-round vacation developments.

On a summer trip back to the East, Skip met his wife-to-be, Susan. Marriage followed and they traveled to Aspen, where Susan took on the design work for the business while raising a young family. In their many years at Aspen, Skip and Susan became acquainted with many people involved in the ski business and they became friends with Pete Seibert, a 10th Mountain veteran who had just begun looking at development of a ski resort on the slopes of a sheep ranch near Vail Pass.

As Pete began focusing on the initial planning for Vail Resort, he told Skip about other ski development sites he had scouted, including a former ski area on Snoqualmie Pass, the old Milwaukee Ski Bowl. Although the lodge and rail-access facilities had been decimated by fire in 1950, the Ski Bowl area had many of the original ski runs and lift lines in place. Seibert felt the site had good potential, given the growing skier population in Seattle.

Skip took a trip to the site and was intrigued by its possibilities. After getting a favorable taste of the Northwest, he and family moved to the Seattle area. Skip set about evaluating the redevelopment potential of the Ski Bowl, organized a board of directors, and prepared a prospectus to solicit interest. Skip had concluded that it would be best to develop the main ski facilities to the west of the old Ski Bowl on a larger and more suitable ski hill accessible by automobile – an area that became Hyak Ski Area, opening Christmas Day 1959 (and known today as Summit East).

Skip's success with the ski business led him to establish Resort Management Consultants, which, for over a decade,

BILL BLACK

William McEwan Black was an outdoor enthusiast who was one of the early promoters of Crystal Mountain Ski Resort and served as president for several years.

Born to Leo and Dorothy McEwan Black, Bill spent his childhood in Seattle and on Bainbridge Island. During World War II, he served in the Navy as captain of a minesweeper in the Pacific. After the war, he completed college, graduating from Yale University. In 1948, he married Mary Fite, and they had four children, who grew up sharing their love and spirit in skiing, sailing, and camping, including the construction of a cabin on Whidbey Island that they would frequently use.

Meanwhile, his business career led to the presidency of the Seattle Cedar Lumber Manufacturing Co., established in 1890 by his grandfather and grand-uncle in what was then the independent community of Ballard. At one time, the firm was the world's largest producer of cedar shingles.

Bill was part of what is believed to be the first exploratory group to trek in the mid-1950s into the Silver Creek basin to see the skiing potential offered by Crystal Mountain. Until then, much effort had been centered in the nearby Corral Pass area. But attention shifted to Crystal, and a new Crystal Mountain, Inc., was founded, with Bill as one of 15 board members by 1958. Three years later, a year ahead of the resort's 1962 opening, he became the corporation's president, a post he held until 1968. During that time, and for years after, he and his family members were familiar figures on Crystal's slopes.

Outside of ski seasons, Bill and Mary were avid sailors, racing sailboats to Hawaii, and, for five years from 1975 through 1981, they sailed around the world on their 40-foot sloop, Foreign Affair. Later, in the early 1990s, they cast out again, circumnavigating the North Pacific.

Bill eventually succumbed to cancer, but he remained active until passing away at age 93 at his beloved Whidbey Island cabin. He is survived by his wife, Mary; their four children; eleven grandchildren; and nine great grandchildren.

offered feasibility, design, and construction management services. During that time he carried out studies and planning for many resorts, big and small, throughout the West.

Following his career in ski area planning, Skip and Susan moved into new adventures starting a company, Arctic Adventures, that offered some of the first organized group travel to the high Arctic regions of Canada. From 1978 through 1994, Skip and Susan led small groups, using Twin-Otter aircraft on skis to take them to far-north destinations in April of each year.

Skip became an activist in helping others, particularly in local affairs, such as the City of Medina Planning Commission and the board of the Overlake School, and he wrote two books: *Tales of the Arctic* and *Tales of Idaho*. He is survived by Susan Voorhees, his wife of 61 years, three sons, and four grandchildren.

LORRAINE ATWOOD

Ski season at the Sahalie Ski Club will not be the same with the passing of Lorraine Atwood. The Snoqualmie-based club thrived in part because of Lorraine's passion for skiing, her dedication to ski racing, her love for children, and her investment into relationships that lasted for decades.

Lorraine grew up on a farm in Eastern Washington before attending Lincoln High School in Seattle. Her love for skiing started on Mt. Rainier in the 1930s. At Paradise, she met her future husband, Stan Atwood (1916-1991), while skiing Rainier's open slopes. They married in 1944 and had three children, Stan Jr. (1946-2001), Susan, and Tom.

During the war years, Stan joined the 10th Mountain Division, training with the ski troops at Camp Hale, Colo., before changing course and joining the Navy as an officer.

With three children, both Stan and Lorraine carried their passions for skiing into the world of ski racing, specifically focusing on young children. In the 1950s, Lorraine could frequently be found on the slopes cheering on the young beginner skiers learning to ride the rope tows. She became a favorite with kids and carried her support for them into their teenage years -- offering them support and assistance at every stage.

Lorraine was instrumental in the functioning and success of the Pacific Northwest Ski Association (PNSA) and was a full-time employee for many years. She was a member of the team that developed the Elite Season Pass for racers, an early collaborative ski ticket that was valid at many ski areas that hosted top races in the region.

Outside of her PNSA efforts, Lorraine spent countless hours volunteering for many ski races in the Pacific Northwest. This commitment kept her on the ski slopes for hours, hand timing with stop watches, and cheering on the kids she had supported since the rope tow years.

Lorraine and Stan both were early members of the Ancient Skiers and Lorraine continued skiing at Snoqualmie Summit (now Summit West) into her early 90s.

Her family continues to treasure and enjoy the relationships established by Lorraine through the PNSA and the Northwest ski communities.

KENNY VAN DYKE

Kenny van Dyke was an accomplished ski racer and son of Northwest ski pioneer Hjalmar Hvam. He passed away in January 2017.

Kenny was born in 1928 to Hjalmar and Katherine Hvam. During his first year, his mother lost her life to tuberculosis. Because Hjalmar's occupation with the U.S. Forest Service kept him away from home, Kenny grew up in Government Camp, Ore., at the home of Hjalmar's Swiss skiing friends Fred and Ann Van Dyke. Kenny took to skiing like his father and his adopted father, Fred, who, in 1937, became the first manager of Timberline Lodge. Kenny lived in the lodge before the war years, winning many junior ski races while also attending school in Welches, Ore., and, later, Grant High School during the war.

Kenny wanted to join the mountain ski troops, but, in view of the war ending, there were needs for other outdoors-skilled troops, and he ended up serving as a paratrooper in the U.S. Army Infantry in Japan as part of the post-war occupational forces.

After successful military service, in 1950 he joined the Sun Valley Ski Patrol, working for Nelson Bennett. Among his fellow patrollers were such ski champions as Jack Reddish and Dick "Mad Dog" Buek.

In Sun Valley, he met the love of his life, Betty Million, whom he married there in 1951. They had three children, Randy, Tory, and Lisa and returned to Government Camp, spending most of their time at the Van Dyke cabin, skiing all winter and fishing and hiking in the summer.

In 1957, Kenny bought the Mountain Shop in Portland, which he ran for the next seven years with the help of his stepfather, Fred. He sold the shop in 1964 and became a ski equipment manufacturing representative traveling the Southwest selling equipment for Osborn & Ulland.

Kenny loved working in the woods, working in summers for Everett Darr in clearing ski runs at Multitorpor Ski Bowl close to Mt. Hood. He continued ski racing through middle age, and his love for speed continued off the slopes in his passion for automobile racing. He won several races in his 1962 Alfa Romeo Veloce.

Skiing later in life, he suffered several injuries, but his positive outlook left him cheerful and friendly. His motto was always, "Fast between Falls."

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