



The Ancient Skier

P. O. Box 331 Kirkland, WA 98083

NOMINATIONS ABOUND FOR NORTHWEST SKI HALL OF FAME

Because we have had so many strong nominations come in since the last Hall of Fame event in 2016, the Ancient Skiers Board selected six strong candidates to vote on for this year's induction. With your help, we would like to induct four new members into the Northwest Ski Hall of Fame at our Oct. 14 biennial banquet.

Here are biographies of six nominees that have been submitted over the past year to Roster Chair Leland Rosenlund. A pre-stamped postcard enclosed with the mailed newsletter serves as the ballot for casting your vote for four of the six nominees. Please review the Hall of Fame selection criteria and biographies, mark your household's four choices, and mail as soon as possible, but **not later than June 29, 2018**.

The purpose of the Northwest Ski Hall of Fame is to honor and perpetuate the names and accomplishments of individuals who have had a positive impact on our sport and its future in the region. To help in your voting, the selection of inductees should be based on the following criteria:

- Uncommon energy, enthusiasm, and excitement as a leading force in the sport.
- Individuals who have made major contributions to the sport over a considerable period of years.
- Individuals who have helped increase awareness and appreciation of the sport by the public.
- Those who have brought lasting fame to snowsports in the Northwest.

Nominees are: **Tammy Dix Jensen, Joe Jones, LeRoy Kingland, Laurie Penketh Kaufmann Miller, Julia Davina Silva Jones Webb, Lou Whittaker**. Please see names and bios on pages 2, 3 and 4.

GREAT SKIING, RECORD TURNOUT AT 35TH ANNUAL SUN VALLEY REUNION

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 fully 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. The Limelight Room was decorated with cowboy boots and beautiful flowers, and more than 200 spirited participants there listened to Terry Palmer provide insights to interviewer Glenda McLaughlin on what it is like to be an Olympian.

On Wednesday, we had our Skiing Through the Ages Fashion Show, a new event that was very successful. The new Limelight Hotel in downtown Ketchum offered us a wonderful room and stage with pizza and beer for the over 80 Ancients who attended. Madi Kraus won the oldest-outfit award for her tattered cord knickers ensemble with fancy wool vest from the early 1920s, and Jim Plomasen honored Jack Nagel by wearing a bright red and metallic silver one-piece suit (Jack's 'Jumpin' Jack Flash flight suit) sporting a giant gilded bunny feature on the back. The event was organized and emceed by Loretta Clayton.

A super week of fun ended with the Friday night dinner in the Sun Valley Inn's Limelight Room. Over 225 attended the event organized and jointly emceed by Anne Marie & Peter Wick, Glenda & Ross McLaughlin, Sandy & Jerry Mailman, and Judy Sweeney. Lou Whittaker gave a special tribute to Warren Miller, who



A good day on Seattle Ridge. Skiers from l to r: Dave Laster, unidentified, Terry Fox, Ellen Steere, Sharon Rosenlund, Monte Steere, Chris Raaum, unidentified
~ Leland Rosenlund photo

passed away Jan 22, 2018. The Golden Sun Award, presented by Peter Wick, was given to Len & Marlys Gerber for their lifetime contributions to the ski industry and the Ancient Skier organization. The evening ended with many seasoned skiers dancing to Kenny and the Starlighters.

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

~ Kirby Gilbert

PLEASE REVIEW THE HALL OF FAME NOMINEES -- THEN VOTE

Tammy Dix Jensen

Tammy was raised in Spokane and started ski racing as a sophomore in high school in 1956. She was an athlete in many sports, including polo, and served as "Miss Rodeo Princess of America" in 1958. In the winter of 1957-58, she made it to Europe and raced on a European circuit, improving in competitions at Garmisch-Partenkirchen, St. Anton, and Zermatt. Hannes Marker and Anton Kästle witnessed her skiing abilities and provided her with quality equipment.

After high school, Tammy started skiing at Sun Valley, where she worked as a waitress in the Challenger Inn for Ned Bell, a manager who reported to the resort's renowned general manager, Pat Rogers. She began skiing with the Sun Valley Ski Club and represented the club traveling throughout the West with Ron Funk and Dick Dorworth. In the next few years, she continued to improve, representing the Pacific Northwest Ski Association (PNSA) in national races. She took 2nd in the PNSA Championship combined races at Sun Valley in 1960, just beating out Canadian star Nancy Greene.

In 1962 and 1963, Tammy won the PNSA giant slalom championships. In 1964, she took first in downhill in the Vail Trophy races. On her home turf in Sun Valley, she continued to do well and, remarkably, in the last Diamond Sun Standard Races held at Sun Valley, she broke the women's downhill course record with a time of 2 minutes and 35 seconds.

In March 1964, Tammy won the giant slalom in the North American Championship races at Crested Butte, and, after winning the Canadian giant slalom championships, she was chosen as an alternate on the U.S. Ski Team. She went on to race for the U.S. Ski Team through 1966, quitting after she got married. Tammy and husband returned to Spokane, where she went on to coach junior racing program at Mt. Spokane for 45 years, having a profound impact on many of the youth passing under her direction. She was a college instructor at Spokane Community College for many years, also serving as head coach for the men's and women's tennis teams and men's soccer team.

Tammy still keeps involved in the ski community in Spokane, serving on the board of trustees for the non-profit Mt. Spokane Ski and Snowboard Association. In that capacity, she has helped spearhead many improvements at Mt. Spokane through her position on the executive committee for facilities and operations.

Joe Jones

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 lead the team to success in back-to-back Rose Bowl wins in 1960 and 1961.

Joe graduated from the UW with a degree in journalism and started working as station manager for KYAC, Seattle's first black-owned radio station. He was an active manager who provided commentary to discuss solutions to help break down the barriers African-American athletes faced.

In a 1965 radio commentary, Joe encouraged black youth to participate in non-traditional sports such as skiing and asked if other listeners were interested. The station switchboard received 85 enthusiastic calls and Joe went to work.

Joe Jones *(continued)*

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 & 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 first wave of mostly inner city-youth thrived on 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 emerging system centered on starting beginners on short skis.

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, as well as in other non-traditional sports, in 1972 he started the Four Seasons Northwest Ski Club for African-American youth and other young people of color. Four Seasons Northwest continues today in promoting skiing for disadvantaged minorities and in providing scholarship opportunities for youth to ski.

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

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

The Brotherhood 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.

Joe continues to be an active leader in sports promotion, and, although he has not skied for 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.

LeRoy Kingland

LeRoy was born on the family farm in Iowa and learned to ski at age of six on a rope tow in northern Iowa. At age 17, he joined his brother Bruce in the Pacific Northwest. Bruce had become good friends with Wally Staatz, Jim Boyle and others involved in getting Crystal Mountain started, and, in 1958, they bought a cabin at Silver Springs. After Crystal's opening season in the winter of 1962-63, LeRoy landed a summer job helping clear ski runs and the new Green Valley chairlift line as well as helping Jack and Lila Corrock build the Austrian-style Alpine Inn at Crystal.

Importantly, in 1963, he went to work for Lou Whittak-

PLEASE REVIEW THE HALL OF FAME NOMINEES -- THEN VOTE

LeRoy Kingland *(continued)*

er in an endeavor that launched his ski business career, making sales trips across 11 states and assisting with ski show exhibits. LeRoy continued spending as much time as he could at Crystal Mountain, helping with avalanche patrols and working for Jack Corrock at the Alpine Inn.

When Lou split his business into retail and wholesale, he let LeRoy take over as representative for the various product lines that Lou had been promoting. LeRoy spent the next 38 years in the ski business selling skiing, mountaineering, and hiking equipment along with other sports equipment. He started Sports Unlimited and served as representative and wholesaler for several lines of domestic and European ski products. Later, he partnered with Raichle-Molitor, with the combination becoming one of the largest rep distributors in the United States. Gaining proficiency in the ski industry, LeRoy helped others in outdoor recreation planning. He served in various volunteer appointed positions with the Washington State Outdoor Recreation Commission and logged eight years as president of the National Ski Industry Association. He was also a long-time member of various boards of Ski Industries of America, whose focus is to promote the U.S. winter sports industry.

LeRoy's efforts in promoting skiing involved significant efforts in growing the Ski Demo Days events held at Crystal Mountain each year -- targeting consumer and retail groups. The events are a success and still held today.

LeRoy is without a doubt one of Crystal Mountain's biggest fans and supporters. Despite the demands of his business, Sports Unlimited, through the 1980s LeRoy never missed a season at Crystal, averaging 50 to 80 days a year. In the early days, LeRoy, along with other stockholders, was allowed through the Forest Service to do brush cutting to clean and open new runs on the mountain. He was one of the founders of the Sunnyside Sliders and participated in the Le Mans' top-to-bottom races, enduros and various other functions during his many winters at Crystal.

As an expert skier, LeRoy competed at White Pass, Crystal, Mt. Hood and Sun Valley and, later, in Masters' ski races. LeRoy has many passions and that includes helping others. After moving full time to Sun Valley, he became the namesake of LeRoy's Ice Cream in Ketchum Town Park, a non-profit supporting six youth ski programs in the area.

Besides skiing, he loves sailing, climbing, flying and golf. In 1972, he and five buddies climbed Mt. McKinley (Denali) and were the first to ski off the summit. LeRoy follows his sporting interest, living in Sun Valley during winters, Maui in shoulder seasons, and Hood River in summer. LeRoy's smile is contagious; he still skis Baldy every day he can; and, when he comes off the mountain, he always says it was a great day, no matter what the conditions.

Laurie Penketh Kaufmann Miller

Laurie was born and raised in Seattle. Her parents had learned to ski on outings with their church group at Paradise and at the Milwaukee Ski Bowl. Laurie would ski at Paradise on weekends with her family, who would stay at the Copper Creek cabins near Longmire.

In 1959, she helped raise money with her church youth group to build St. Bernard's Chapel at Snoqualmie Summit. Through that effort, she got to know Virginia Moffett, who of-

Laurie Penketh Kaufmann Miller *(continued)*

ferred her weekend employment the next season at the ski area.

Laurie knew how to sew and made most of her clothes. She couldn't afford all the ski clothes she wanted so she made her own stretch pants and parkas and went on to make them for friends and outfitted some ski school instructors.

Sportscaster learned of her efforts and offered her a junior position in their design department, where she learned a lot about the manufacturing process working under Tony Collins.

After high school graduation, Laurie worked as a stewardess for Northwest Airlines, and, in 1966, she and friend Judy Sweeney both attended Griffin Murphy Business School. After marrying skier Hank Kaufmann in 1967, they had the idea to open a ski shop where families could bring in their old gear and swap for other gear. In 1968, while Hank was working at Boeing, she opened the Ski Rack on Westlake Avenue where they not only sold ski items by consignment but also retail gear.

The small shop prospered, and, later in the 1970s, she started the Mogul Mouse Ski School based out of the Ski Rack, with classes going to Snoqualmie Summit. She hired and trained instructors and later expanded operations to Crystal Mountain. Many local youth learned to take up skiing under her Mogul Mouse ski programs.

In 1976, she and Hank purchased a 42-acre abandoned mink ranch near Easton, Wash. They went to work creating trails and opened it up for cross-country skiing. In summer, they used it as soccer camp for boys and girls. Mountainholm Cross County Ski and Soccer Ranch became another success.

It was after her divorce from Hank that she met Warren Miller in the Lookout Restaurant atop Baldy Mountain. It was a chance meeting that would shape the remainder of their years. "I had no idea that Dec. 27, 1984, would change my life for the better, forever," he recalled. Laurie became his staunch supporter, partner, and wife. (They married on March 9, 1988).

Laurie introduced Warren to the San Juan Islands in Washington, where the two built a home on Orcas Island and lived for the past 26 years. They made an amazing team, with Laurie quietly in the background making things happen. Her efforts helped Warren stay active as he gained increasing recognition as a celebrated icon of modern skiing.

BIENNIAL BANQUET - OCTOBER 14, 2018

Our biennial Ancient Skiers' banquet is scheduled for Sunday evening, Oct. 14, at the Nile Shrine Golf and Country Club in Mountlake Terrace, Wash. A highlight will be induction of four new members of the regional ski community into the Northwest Ski Hall of Fame. The registration form for the banquet will be included in the Late Summer 2018 Newsletter. There will be ample social time for swapping news with old ski buddies and for meeting new members before and after dinner and the award presentations.

SUN VALLEY REUNION - JANUARY 19-26, 2019

Another event to mark on your calendar is the 36th annual Sun Valley Reunion, Jan. 19-26, 2019 - with more information to be sent to you in the next newsletter.

PLEASE REVIEW THE HALL OF FAME NOMINEES -- THEN VOTE**Lou Whittaker**

Most everyone has heard of Lou Whittaker and his mountain climbing career, but, to Lou, skiing is second nature and fits well with his lifelong passion for being in the mountains. Lou and twin brother Jim were born in Seattle in 1929 and, a few years later, were very active in the Boy Scouts, including climbs on Mt. Rainier. Both skied and started helping with ski patrols on Rainier.

The pair graduated from West Seattle High School in 1947, and Lou and Jim earned basketball scholarships to Seattle University, graduating in 1952.

After high school, the two began guiding for the Rainier National Park Company, and, in 1951, Lou became director of the Rainier Mountaineering Guide Service. But that was short-lived because the brothers were drafted into the Army's 10th Mountain Division. Their assignments including teaching at the Camp Hale, Colo., Cold Weather Training Command.

Next, Lou gained a contract with Recreation Services at Fort Lewis for buying and maintaining ski equipment made available to military servicemen and their families; and, in the late 1950s, he started working for Osborn & Ulland, selling skis and expanding the store's outdoor equipment offerings.

In 1962, Bob Mickelson, manager for Edelweiss ski apparel in Tacoma, and business partner Jim Griffith bought Tacoma's VIP Sports and asked Lou to run the store, which was promptly renamed Whittaker's Chalet. A year later, Lou opened his own business, a wholesale sporting-goods operation named Sport Chalet, to supply retail stores ski and outdoor wear nationwide, and a few years later, he opened another retail sporting goods store in Tacoma on 38th Street.

In the 1960s, Lou helped the Clover Park School District arrange buses for students to ski at Crystal Mountain, greatly increasing participation. He also worked out a mid-week school bus program for parents. In January 1965, Mickelson and Griffith had Lou help guide them on a ski outing to layout the new Alpental ski development on Snoqualmie Pass. The next year, they hired Warren Miller to make a promotional ski movie featuring Lou skiing the new terrain.

In summers, Lou was drawn back to Mt. Rainier and, after serving as chief guide under the mountain's main concessionaire for 14 years, he and a Tacoma lawyer formed Rainier Mountaineering Incorporated (RMI) in 1969. It was the mountain's sole professional guide company for more than 30 years.

Lou himself was a monster on the mountain. He'd rope as many as a dozen clients behind him. These days, a crew of eight clients will ascend with a team of four professional guides. "Was it safer? There was nobody killed," he says. "But the judgment calls you had to make were a little tougher, because I was alone."

Lou was known for being able to reliably verify equipment quality and performance, and, in 1972, he became a design and testing consultant for Jan Sport in Seattle. He brought a lot of enjoyment to the industry and was known for his ski rep convention feats -- spanning across hotel hallways with his feet against one wall, hands on the other, and working his way up to the ceiling, where he would do stretched-out pushups.

Lou Whittaker and his wife, Ingrid, are active members of Ancient Skiers. Winters are in Sun Valley and summers in Ashford, Wash., at the base of Mount Rainier.

Julia Davina Silva Jones Webb

Julia was born in Victoria, B.C., but moved to Seattle when young. She was one of four children, with brothers Nigel and Nick Jones later becoming patrollers at Sun Valley and sister Fay instructing with the Sun Valley Ski School. She learned to ski at Snoqualmie and Stevens Pass and became active skiing with the Roosevelt High School ski team where she won an all-city title in 1962.

Her father was a guide for the Seattle Mountaineers and, in the 1950s, was manager of the Snoqualmie Pass lodge. At the Mountaineers' Snoqualmie Pass operation, Julia volunteered to help newcomers ski.

In the early 1960s, she raced for the PNSA, representing the Illahee Ski Team and, in 1963, competed in PNSA regional Olympic trials at White Pass. Her interest in skiing grew during college when she spent a 1964 semester abroad at the University of Innsbruck to ski Austria's renowned ski slopes.

In 1965, Julia joined the Sun Valley Ski School under the direction of Sigi Engl. There, she skied in an early Roger Brown ski movie and also served in the first ski ambassador program, started by Engl in 1969. Working as a dedicated ski instructor for more than 53 years, she was instrumental in programs to benefit youth and others at Sun Valley.

In the 1960s, she was the first woman instructor to take an adult class onto Baldy, and, in the 1970s, she invented the Green Carpet on Quarter Dollar to assist beginning students climb up the slope. Julia had other firsts, including being the first woman to ski in the Christmas Eve torchlight parade on Dollar and the first woman instructor to qualify for the Sun Valley team in the Annual Ski School Pro Am races. She convinced Sun Valley Ski Corporation to provide free skiing for children under age 4 on Dollar Mountain and provide discounts for college students coming to ski Sun Valley during their college breaks. Julia also was instrumental in not only gaining equal pay for men and women instructors but, additionally, for equal distribution of private lessons between the men and women of the Sun Valley Ski School.

Julia helped author and is featured in the Jill Kremetz 1990 photo essay book, *A Young Skier*. Beside teaching, Julia continued to compete in skiing,

taking 4th in the Senior Nationals Giant Slalom in 1973. In the 1990s, she consistently won her age group in the "Leif's Race" competitions, named after Sun Valley's legendary Leif Odmark, involving a combined format of giant slalom racing on Baldy in the morning followed by a 5K cross country race in the afternoon. Julia has volunteered for numerous ski-related programs in Sun Valley over the years and continues to enjoy teaching skiing at Sun Valley today.

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