



# The Ancient Skier

Fall 2018

## ANCIENT SKIERS BANQUET RECOGNIZES NEW HALL OF FAMERS

More than 150 people participated in October's biennial Seattle banquet at the Nile Shrine Center to induct Joe Jones, LeRoy Kingland, Laurie Miller, and Lou Whittaker into the Northwest Ski Hall of Fame.

From the 5 p.m. start to the end of the ceremonies, the room was filled with the constant buzz of socializing and enjoying old and new skiing friends. The energy of the attendees was noticeable throughout the evening. Our Ancients seemed well satisfied with the opportunity to mingle, the dinner, and the comradery of the ceremonial event.

Board member Kirby Gilbert provided introductory remarks and Roster Chair Leland Rosenlund emceed the Hall of Fame presentation. After a break for dinner service, the new inductees were introduced, and, while Lou Whittaker and Laurie Miller were not able to attend, they were well represented by Yosh Nakagawa speaking on behalf of Lou and Charlie Williams accepting the award for Laurie. Certificates for all four new members were presented and each provided short acceptance speeches that were filled with appealing emotion and motivation.

### LeRoy Kingland praises many friends and co-workers

LeRoy provided a gracious and heart-whelming series of thanks to the Ancient Skiers – asking at one point for several to stand in recognition. He noted his long years working with Leland Rosenlund and others at Sports Unlimited and credited Lou Whittaker with his personal start in the ski industry – pointing out what great friends he and others had made along the way and how the Ancient Skiers helps perpetuate those friendships.

### Joe Jones recognizes many who made skiing possible

Joe described his sports life, beginning with football, and how he had never been skiing before graduating from the UW, where he played on two Rose Bowl teams. However, after he landed a job at the KYAC radio station in the central Seattle area, he reached out to the city's minority communities and asked if they were interested in participating in "non-traditional" sports like skiing and golf. He received many calls of interest and went to work lining up buses with volunteers from the YMCA, rental gear donated by Osborn & Ulland, and lift tickets provided by Webb and Virginia Moffett at Snoqualmie.

He described how that success led to his starting the Mini-MAX Ski School, where he hired African-American

instructors so the youth being taught could visualize what it would look like for them to achieve success in skiing. His founding of the Four Seasons Northwest Club was one of his most proud achievements as that group became a charter member of the Na-



tional Brotherhood of Skiers.

### Yosh Nakagawa connects all with Lou Whittaker

On behalf of Lou, Yosh Nakagawa provided an endearing thank you to everyone – explaining why he had such a friendship with Lou (and wife Ingrid) and how inspirational Lou has been to so many people. Yosh described how he, himself, and many others had climbed Mt. Rainier with Lou, who he surmised had summited the volcano more than 200 times. He remarked how proud Lou and Ingrid were to have the friendship and comradery of all those they worked with and continued to gather with during Ancient Skier reunions.

### Charlie Williams pays tribute to Laurie Miller

Charlie Williams, a long-time friend of Laurie who

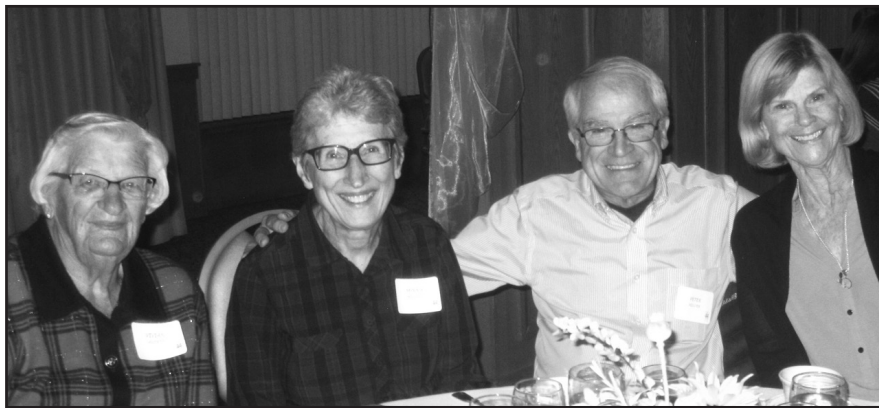
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**Charlie Williams pays tribute to Laurie Miller** *Continued from Page 1*

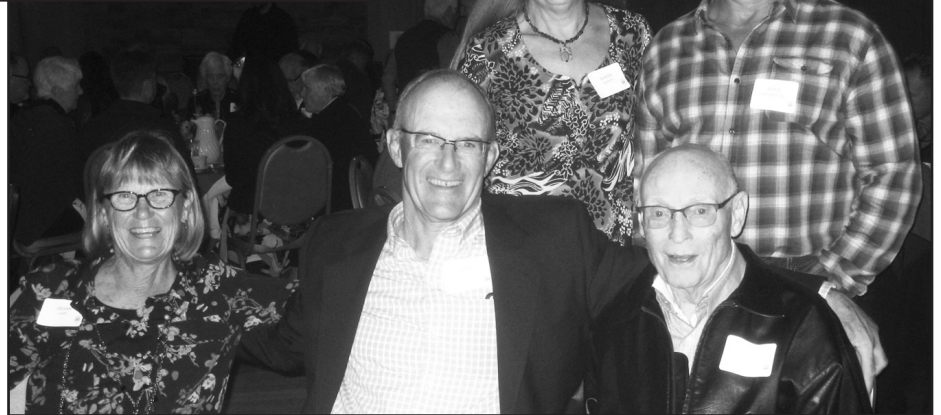
worked with her at the Ski Rack in Seattle, reminisced about the high spirits she brought to daily store operations, and he read a note from Laurie in which she described how she learned to love skiing at a young age with family, friends, and neighbors. She recognized her ex-husband, Hank Kaufmann for his hard-work ethic and Julie Raney, her partner in Mogul Mouse, who eventually took over operations for Laurie. She concluded her written message with an amusing note about her time with Warren Miller -- describing life as interesting and challenging -- with Warren being the public person and speechmaker, while she took care of the "laundry" and did so quite well.

*~ Kirby Gilbert.*



**ANCIENT SKIER BANQUET PHOTOS:**

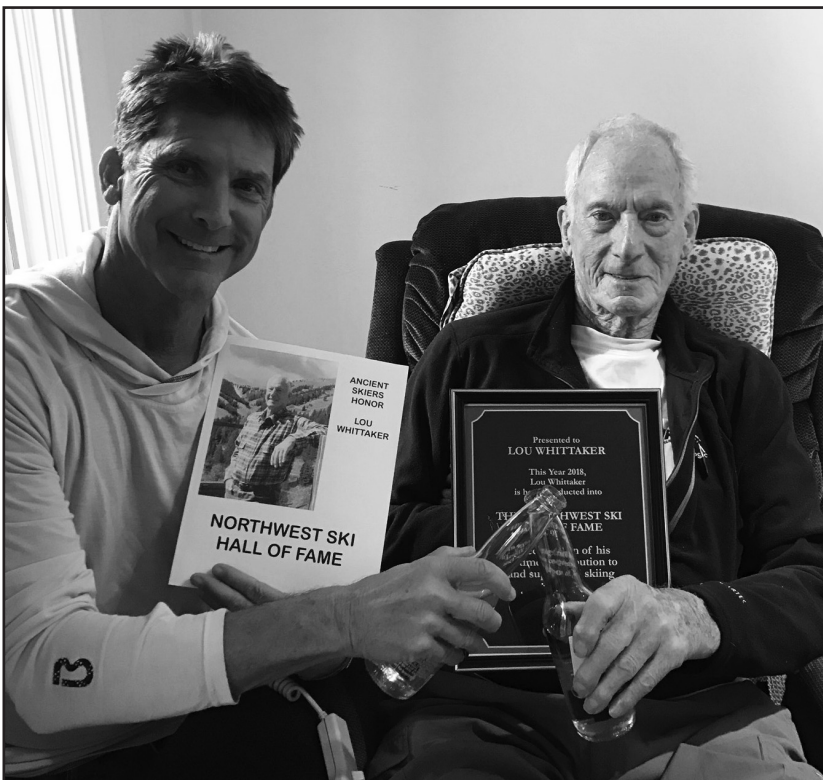
- *Trish Howe, Mary Light, Bernice & Bruce Nurse*
- *Vivian Audett, Myrna & Peter Hillyer, Dorothy Walker*
- *Sitting - Susie Corrack Luby, Bob Luby, Chuck Howe Standing - Karen Audett, John Rutherford*
- *Nile County Club banquet room*
- *Ty Anderson, Bob Anderson, Nita Burks, Julie Anderson, John McCartney*



### 36th ANNUAL SUN VALLEY REUNION SET FOR JAN. 19-26, 2019

Get yourself ready for some fun skiing and mingling during the Ancient Skiers' 36th reunion at the Idaho resort. Our Sun Valley week will start with registration from 3 to 6 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 19, in the Sun Valley Inn Continental Room. You will get your packet with name tags, reunion event schedule, and information about ticket exchange privileges. There also will be a no-host bar for all to enjoy while visiting with other Ancients, and sign-up sheets will be available for the week's various activities.

Highlights will include the Monday Western dinner night, so be sure to bring your Western wear. There will be activities each day, including a private ski museum tour on Tuesday afternoon and Friday's wind-up banquet dinner-dance, so bring your dancing shoes, too. More information on the weekday events will be provided at the Saturday check-in.



*Lou Whittaker and son, Peter, toast Lou's induction into Ancient's Hall of Fame*

With this Newsletter are two forms: "REGISTRATION FORM" and "RETAIN THIS COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS." Fill out the registration form, total the event charges, and send the completed form with your check made out to and mailed to ANCIENT SKIERS, P.O. Box 1295, Sun Valley, ID 83353, postmarked no later than Dec. 7, 2018. Please: no email responses. Copy the information from the Registration Form onto the Retain This Copy for Your Records form and bring it to the Saturday registration in case any discrepancies arise. You'll also find copies of the forms at the Ancients' website: <http://www.ancientskiers.com/> (Click on "EVENTS" at the top of the screen and then select "Sun Valley trip.")

You may purchase discounted lift tickets at the inside ticket counter at River Run Lodge.

Questions? Marlys Gerber at (206) 271-1575.



*Ancient Skier Banquet Front row: Anne Marie Wick, Judy Sweeney, Charlie Williams, Vicki & Jack Seznick. Standing: John Wright, Lisa Sweeney, Melissa Boender; Lynn Sweeney*

## KEN SYVERSON EARNS FIRST NORTHWEST CERTIFICATION

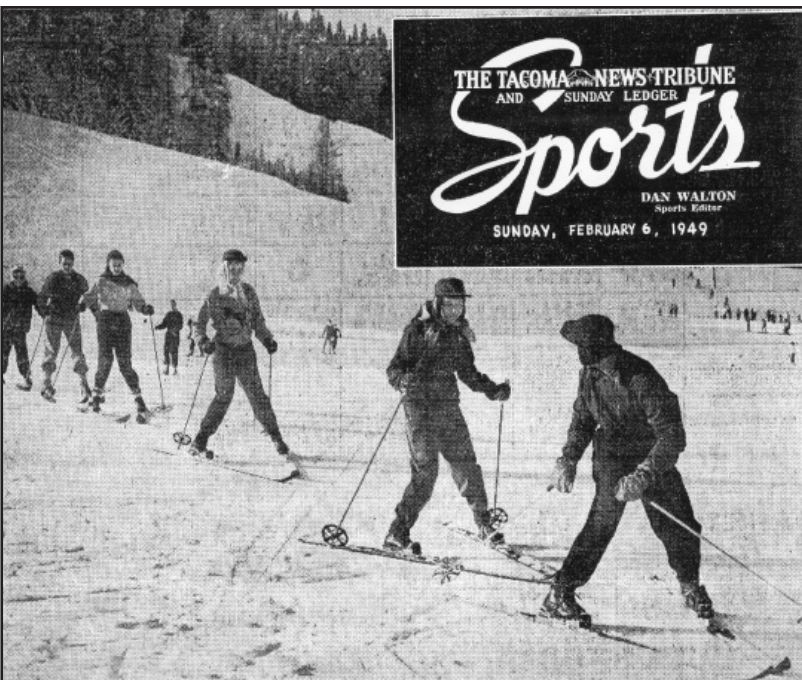
Out of all 78 persons now in the Northwest Ski Hall of Fame, more than one-third served as ski instructors at some point in their years in the mountains. While not in the Ski Hall of Fame, Ken Syverson is one person who is arguably among the most legendary ski instructors of the Pacific Northwest.

Ken was born in South Dakota but grew up in Tacoma and started skiing at Paradise in 1928. With the growing interest in skiing, he and John Condon of Seattle formed the Paradise Ski Club in fall 1934. Ken also served as a Mount Rainier climbing guide in the summer. He took 10th in the notorious mass-start first Silver Skis race in spring 1934 and placed 17th in slalom and 19th in downhill in the combined National Championships and Olympic Tryouts on Mount Rainier in 1935.

While serving as chief instructor at Paradise in December 1935, he guided Count Felix Schaffgotsch of Austria on skis around the Mount Rainier terrain all the way up to Camp Muir. At that time, the Count, hired by Averell Harriman, chairman of the Union Pacific Railroad, was beginning his search of western mountains for a location suitable for development of a major ski resort. While the Count was impressed with Mount Rainier, it was just a month later in January 1936 when the Count was led into the appealing terrain around Ketchum, Idaho, making that location his first choice for development of a new resort, Sun Valley.

Ken then guided the legendary Hannes Schneider disciple, Otto Lang, around Paradise on skis on his first visit to the Northwest in spring 1936. After Lang decided to set up his Arlberg Ski School in the Northwest, he appointed Ken as first assistant.

Ken ran the Otto Lang Ski School operations at Paradise in 1937-38. The next year, when the Milwaukee Ski Bowl (originally called the Snoqualmie Ski Bowl) opened, he led its first ski school. The following year saw the start of the popular Seattle Times Ski School, with Ken named director. In 1939, when the Pacific Northwest Ski Association held its first certification tests, Syverson received card No 1.



*Ken Syverson leads his class of snow bunnies down a gentle slope at Milwaukee*

started his own school, and, in 1959, he brought Leo Scheiblehner from Austria to infuse the new Austrian methods into the Syverson Ski School. Sadly, Ken passed away at age 63 in 1972, and, today, only skiers older than about 70 years old probably remember him or his name or anything about his legacy as the Number One instructor of the Pacific Northwest.



*Ken Syverson and Max Sarchett demonstrate high speed christies at Mt. Baker*

With great organization and motivation skills, Ken led the Times Ski School for almost two decades. Shortly after the Milwaukee Ski Bowl lodge burnt down in 1949, he moved the ski school to Ski Acres, which Ray Tanner had opened in 1948-49. He continued to teach skiing and lead ski schools at Snoqualmie, Ski Acres, and Stevens Pass right through the 1960s. When the Times discontinued its ski school in 1956, Ken

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### Newsletter

Kirby Gilbert, Writer and editor  
Mike Dederer - Edits and writer  
Tina Rieman - Newsletter Design

### Membership & Roster Chair

Wayne Johnson  
P.O. Box 331  
Kirkland, WA 98083  
soundrunner5@comcast.net  
253-229-1888

~ Kirby Gilbert.