



# The Ancient Skier

SPRING 2025

## Announcing the 2025 Board

We are pleased to introduce the 2025 Ancient Skiers Association

Board of Directors! These dedicated volunteers help keep our organization thriving, from creating the Newsletters, to organizing the biennial Banquet, and working with the Sun Valley committee to organize the reunion.

### 2025 Board of Directors

Ty Anderson – President

Wayne Johnson – Vice President

Karen Audett – Secretary

Jolene Boice – Treasurer

Jacqueline Banks – Communications Coordinator

Nanette Stocks – Membership & Roster

Greg Prothman – Director

Open Position – Director of Banquet Organization

A huge thank you to our outgoing board members Nita Burks (Secretary), Leslie Dizon (Membership), and Joe Habinecht (Treasurer) for their service and contributions! Jolene Boice has shifted to our new Treasurer from a Director Role where she was instrumental in executing the Biennial Banquet.

Welcome to our new board members! Nanette brings a wealth of experience in event management and membership database administration. She first learned to ski at Ski Acres then married Hyak Hot Dogger & CMAC Racer Rick Stocks, she now calls Crystal Mountain her home mountain but prefers the sunny slopes of Sun Valley.

Karen, a second-generation Ancient Skier, has been passionate about the sport her entire life—even attending high school near Crystal in the '70s! She now serves on the Crystal Mountain Safety Patrol alongside her partner, John, who has been on patrol for 36 years, continuing her commitment to the skiing community.

We're thrilled to have them on board!



## Sun Valley Reunion Recap

By Christy Anna Gerber

Blue skies, groomed runs, and great friends made our annual Ancient Skiers Reunion in Sun Valley a wonderful success! We kicked off the week with our welcome party on Sunday in the Boiler Room—always a great place to reconnect, pick up the week's schedule, and start planning the fun. If you missed it this year, mark your calendar for next year: January 11th, 3:00–5:30 p.m.

The week included a group photo at the base of River Run and a lovely evening at the Wood River Museum of History and Culture, where we enjoyed drinks, snacks, and exhibits while mingling with fellow Ancient Skiers.

We also held our always-anticipated NASTAR race on the dual GS course under sunny skies on lower Warm Springs. Congratulations to our winners: Joann Olson & Chic Dohoney (1st), Hurley Hamilton & Stanley Larson (2nd), and Robin Hagenau & Rick Stocks (3rd). Lots of smiles and friendly competition made it a highlight of the week!

Saturday's western-themed awards banquet featured cowboy poetry by Len Gerber, including pieces by Waddie Mitchell and Red Steagall. We honored our racers and presented the Sun Valley Sun Award to Robin Hagenau and Jim Plomasen for their contributions to the ski community.

A huge thank-you to our amazing volunteers who helped make everything possible: Loretta & Wendell Cayton, Connie and Dan DeWerd, Leslie Dizon, Bill Fundy, Marlys & Len Gerber, George Gerber, Robin Hagenau, Rae Kozlowski, Hurley Hamilton, Ron Johnson, LeRoy Kingland, Amy Nelson, Maureen Pressley, Judy Sweeney, Sharon Wellsandt, Brenda Lyon, and Pat Deal.

### Save the date for next year's reunion: January 11–18, 2026!

Our welcome party will be Sunday, January 11 in the Boiler Room, and the Western Awards Banquet in the SV Inn on Friday, January 16. Book lodging early to take advantage of special Ancient Skiers pricing— call 1-800-786-8259 and mention "Ancient Skier," or use the special link found in the Members Only section of the website. We can't wait to see you in 2026!



## Schuss Cayuse: The Golden Days of Skiing in the Northwest

By Robert Grubb

I was born and raised in Sumner WA and was lucky enough to be neighbors with the Martinson family. The 5th son really and went along with them on all their travels.

One such travel was to the cabin at Silver Springs, near present day Crystal Mountain, in the late 1950's. We would go up on Friday nights, park on highway 410 and walk up to the cabin. In those days they didn't plow the roads off of 410 so it meant marching up the road carrying groceries and supplies thru the deep snow. With no electric power or phones it was indeed a remote experience and as boys we loved it. Shoveling snow, lighting the fires and filling the lanterns with oil, to us boys it was just good fun.

We learned to ski with old army skis, poles and boots around the cabin.

At night Elmer Martinson would pull us up and down the highway behind the old Nash. In the daytime, we went upto Cayuse Pass to the ski area. A small parking lot with a warming hut on hwy 123. Across the road were two rope tows and a clearing in the forest. On Saturday morning we would have to join in to shovel out the tows, sidestep the hill as it had a week's worth of snow on it, which in those days was a lot.

We skied thru the trees and on the sidestepped hill and had a ball. The upper rope was a steep one that went over what is now the Chinook Pass road. We would actually grip on the rope as it sent us into the air, drop down and turn at the top. As time went by, we actually progressed into store bought skis and better equipment.

The Cayuse ski area closed the 1959, so the following year we continued our skiing at the White Pass ski area. This meant a longer drive over the pass and down to highway 12 to White Pass. This was quite an improvement in our skiing product as it had a chairlift and much more terrain. We loved the skiing at White Pass but then in 1962 the power line was installed past the cabin to a new ski area called Crystal Mountain. This began our skiing at Crystal and continues today, joined by my wife Debbie, 2 daughters, each with 2 children and their husbands. A family tradition that will last forever.



At White Pass ski area with our newer more modern equipment. Elmer in the middle looking good.



### Let's Connect

Join the Ancient Skiers Members Only Facebook Group! Looking to meet up with your ski buddies on the slopes or in town? Connect in this private group. Get the latest news updates, find ski buddies, and share snow ski news!

 Scan the QR Code with your phone camera to find the Facebook Group Page or visit [Facebook.com/groups/1781555842235537](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1781555842235537).



# White Pass: A GM's Perspective

By Kevin McCarthy



White Pass ski area (WA), opened in December 1952 by the Yakima Valley Ski Club, continues to grow and provide snow sports opportunities for the south Puget Sound, Yakima Valley and the greater Northwest. The Ski Club transitioned to the White Pass Company in the late '50's and since 1960 has had only three General Managers; Nelson Bennett 1960-1984, Kevin McCarthy 1984-2021 and Rikki Cooper leading us into the future.

Nelson Bennett is a name synonymous with the ski industry worldwide; a native of New Hampshire and the University, he arrived at Sun Valley shortly after it opened and stayed an integral part of the resort until 1960.

Fortunately for White Pass, he was the Technical Delegate for the Junior Nationals at White Pass in 1959 & '60 and was lured away from Sun Valley by the persistence of a few White Pass board of directors who were also regular visitors to Sun Valley and knew of his mountain operations abilities; he was the right person at the right time for White Pass.

Soon after his arrival at White Pass he hired Dave Mahre, and together they would take White Pass and make it the ski area it is today. Both were over achievers, had a remarkable work ethic, they were famously argumentative but the results they produced set the standard for the next generation.

The next generation arrived in the form of me and Russ Forman. Russ and I had the pleasure, (well most of the time) of working with Nelson and Dave for many years; Russ arrived in the early '70's and I showed up in the late '70's. Russ climbed the ladder quickly because no one cared more about the quality of work performed and no one could out work Russ Forman.

I got my start because I was from New Hampshire and at University of New Hampshire at the same as Nelson. I would like to think that I had other redeeming values, but I'll let others debate that.

I was young when I was given the keys to the ski area, 27yrs old; and I remember one of the first pieces of advice

from the President of the Board of Directors was that when things are going well you can take all the credit and accolades, but when the "you-know-what" hits the fan you get to take all of that also. And never forget, it's not if we will have a bad snow year it's when – be ready! In other words, we are your strongest supporters but don't come running to us, figure it out, get us through the bad times and toughen up. 36 years later I got to give that same talk to Rikki, she didn't like it, but she knew what she was getting into, and she has the same strong support team behind her.

I think about all the characters and individuals (there is a difference) I have known, from the nocturnal maintenance engineers (night janitor) to the CEO's of the giant resort conglomerates. Most all were fabulous people, but what has to this day given me the most joy at work is getting out before daybreak and helping the staff open the mountain – clean chairs, shovel decks, put up mazes, park cars – just getting out and helping my fellow employees. They never worked for me, we always worked together at White Pass, I never did anything, we always did everything. Never could I walk across the base area in less than 45 minutes. Every parking attendant, lift operator, ticket checker or seller, rental, retail and F&B departments and the maintenance staffs had something I could help them with or vice versa – it wasn't work, it was fun.

What made this so easy for me was my family, my wife Rose and all the kids loved to ski, so let dad work all the time, just make certain dad, you turn those lifts on so we can ski!!!

When I made the decision to retire, I believe I shocked most people, including myself. It was time, Rikki Cooper, a smart, focused, highly respected 36 yr old was ready to become the new GM. We were about to sell to a group of five young Yakima couples who had grown up at White Pass and wanted to keep it - White Pass. I was criticized by some, cheered by most, but completely focused on handing it over to the next generation. I believe in the next generation, if you don't believe, you are in trouble, thankfully they are doing just fine.



*Nelson Bennett's 100th Birthday at the 2015 Ancient Skiers Sun Valley Banquet*



## A Note from the Skipper

As you have now read there are a lot of changes on the Board. With those changes come some new methods of administration of our organization. One big one is the online Membership Application Form.

Membership Application Forms are available in the Members Only section of AncientSkiers.com. Simply e-mail your completed form to [Membership@AncientSkiers.com](mailto:Membership@AncientSkiers.com) and submit your payment via Venmo. Now is the perfect time to recruit your long-time skiing friends to join the Ancient Skiers community.

On a Personal Note: This past year has brought its share of challenges for many in our Ancient Skiers community. Like so many of you, my wife Nita and I have faced some health hurdles—she's shown incredible strength and resilience through three surgeries following a tough ski injury. Others among us are courageously navigating health issues, some serious, and yes, the ever-popular joint replacements that seem to come with the territory of being seasoned skiers.

But through it all, what stands out most is the unwavering spirit, kindness, and support within this group. Becoming a more "ancient" Ancient Skier may have its physical demands, but it also brings a deeper appreciation for friendship, laughter, and shared memories. Over my six years as Skipper, the greatest gift has been getting to know such a remarkable group of people. Even when the path is hard, this community lifts each other up—and that is truly something to celebrate.

My best wishes to all, Ty

## Join the Ancient Skiers Board!

The Ancient Skiers are seeking a passionate and organized individual to join our Board! We currently have an open position, and we'd love to see increased representation from our vibrant skiing communities at Stevens Pass, Snoqualmie Pass, Mt. Baker, White Pass, Mission Ridge, and other Northwest mountain resorts.

This board member will play a key role in planning and coordinating our cherished BiAnnual Banquet, working closely with the Treasurer and fellow Board members. In addition, this role will help bring our members together by organizing fun, engaging events that celebrate our shared love of skiing and mountain life.

If you're enthusiastic about skiing, enjoy bringing people together, and want to help shape the future of our club - **Get Involved** Help keep the spirit of Northwest skiing alive and thriving! Contact Ty Anderson at [Board@AncientSkiers.com](mailto:Board@AncientSkiers.com) for more information.

## Last Sweep

### Remembrances

Obituaries can be found on the website [www.AncientSkiers.com](http://www.AncientSkiers.com). We ask that you kindly contribute by emailing remembrances to [Board@AncientSkiers.com](mailto:Board@AncientSkiers.com). With family's permission, we are happy to post funeral information on the website or Ancient Skiers social media.

## Members Only

Our website [AncientSkiers.com](http://AncientSkiers.com) has recently been updated. We have added a new "Members Only" Page for information, including access to event registration. The page is password protected: please save this in your confidential records.

## Sponsor a New Member

[www.ancientskiers.com/member-information/](http://www.ancientskiers.com/member-information/)  
\*New membership forms must be received by the end of November to be eligible for the upcoming Sun Valley Event discounted lift tickets.

### ANCIENT SKIERS BOARD

Ty Anderson	President
Wayne Johnson	Vice President
Jolene Boice	Treasurer
Karen Audett	Secretary
Nanette Stocks	Membership
Open Position	Director
Greg Prothman	Director
Jacqueline Banks	Communications Coordinator

### Join the Facebook Members Only Group!

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 [Board@AncientSkiers.com](mailto:Board@AncientSkiers.com)

 [Facebook.com/AncientSkiers](https://www.facebook.com/AncientSkiers)



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