



The Ancient Skier

FALL 2023

Thoughts from the Skipper

Looking at our wake from the past five years I'm happy to say we are in smooth sailing. During the Covid crisis we lost many old friends and prominent members. At the same time, our annual reunion and bi-annual banquet had to be canceled. Amazingly our membership grew. Now, with reunions back and plans underway for our next bi-annual, we are still growing as ski instructors, ski patrollers, area employees, equipment reps, hot doggers and racers of 30 and 40 years ago are remembering how much fun we had with friends. And, as Ancient Skiers, how much fun is still in store.

We have 803 households with a total of 1341 members. It is nice to see so many sons and daughters of our pioneer members now able to take a break from their busy lives and come on board for the continuing journey of Ancient Skiers.

See you in Sun Valley
Ty Anderson



Sun Valley Reunion

LIFT TICKET & ACCOMMODATION INFORMATION

Please complete the form in this newsletter and return it by December 15th. An email will also be sent on November 13th with an online registration option.

Exclusive Sun Valley Resort Discount Lift Ticket pricing is reserved for registered reunion event attendees only. Purchase your lift tickets at the Recreation Desk in Sun Valley village, near Konditorei. To ensure eligibility for our discounts, register using the provided form or the November email. The Sun Valley staff will have a roster of registered members, so make sure you're on the list to enjoy the special pricing!

2024 Ancient Skiers Lift Ticket Prices

DO NOT include Lift Ticket Payment with your registration form.

Accommodations: To secure lodging at Sun Valley Lodge with our exclusive rates for Ancient Skiers members, dial the reservations hotline at 1 (800) 786-8259. Mention your membership for special pricing.

Recollections of an (not ready to be called) Ancient Skier

By Willem L. "Bill" Alma

I wonder how many of us can still recall our first day on skis? I can vividly remember that day, as a 10 year-old, now close to 68 years ago! My mother took my younger sister and me up to Snoqualmie Pass on a week day. We were out of school, because my older sister had come down with a case of mononucleosis, and we were quarantined. Tough luck. At that time, the Pass was not open for mid-week skiing, so no lifts were running. We climbed a gentle slope, and once I felt that first thrill of coasting downhill, I knew I was hooked!

That first day was sunny, but, as most of us who learned to ski at Snoqualmie know, we had plenty of opportunities to ski in less than ideal conditions – wet snow (aka Cascade cement), pouring rain, gripping the rope tow enough that our mitts and liners soon wore holes, and our parkas becoming soaked through. Even a plastic bag, with holes for head and arms, didn't do much good. An all day rope tow ticket cost \$1.50 back then, which fit my parents' budget just fine. Certainly, not mine. An all day chair lift ticket cost \$2.50, so I then decided I'd best find odd jobs around the neighborhood, to make that extra \$1.00. At 25 cents an hour, I only had to work 4 hours, so I could join the rest of my buddies whose parents thought the cost of a chair ticket was reasonable. Chalk that up to character building.

In the mid 50's, the Pass had one chair lift, one poma lift, and many rope tows. Do any of you remember what an A&T rope tow gripper was? That device clamped on to the rope, probably wearing it out, rather than the leather faced mitts that most of us wore. Surely, Webb Moffett wasn't happy about that. I never had a gripper, but no loss; I was much happier riding the chair lift up to the Thunderbird restaurant, skiing down all of its 400 vertical feet.

Prior to 1962, our family skied mostly at Ski Acres, and got to know the owners Ray and Virginia Tanner well. Occasionally, we'd take the excruciatingly (or so it seemed) long trip to Stevens Pass. My favorite visit there was in 1961, when the area promoted an international slalom competition event, featuring names like Anderl Molterer, Christian Pravda, and Stein Eriksen. I remember Peter Kennedy also raced. Stein's big claim to fame at that time was his famous flip, which people came from miles around, just to see. Pretty impressive, for this at the time 15 year-old.

Ski Resort News

At Snoqualmie, my favorite instructor was Stan deBruler, whose son Jay, Bruce Kirschner of K2 fame, myself, and others were part of the racing class. Our end of the season races in 1962 were a blast. I won second place, behind Bruce. Somewhere, I still have the trophy. Stan was a real gentleman; I kept in touch with him for many years thereafter.

At Ski Acres in 1957, a new instructor from Austria came on the scene – Leo Scheiblehner. Leo taught our advanced class when I was in 7th grade. He was a great skier, but with his heavy German accent, it wasn't easy to understand him. Leo would often say, "You gotz to ski like a ropinn in a poosh!" It took me years to figure out he was saying, "You've got to ski like a robin in a bush!" That was his technique – Leo was a very graceful skier, from whom I learned a lot.

When Crystal Mtn. opened for the 62/63 season, it was a natural for us to head there. Leo and his wife Mo, whom he had met and married when he went to Lake Tahoe for two or three seasons, also came to Crystal. In 1964, after Jack and Lila Corrock built the Alpine Inn, Mo and Leo managed both the inn and the restaurant. That summer, Leo, who was every bit as good a carpenter as he was a skier, built all the booths and chairs in the Snorting Elk Cellar. To my knowledge, those booths and chairs are still in use, close to 60 years later!

While my many years of skiing at Crystal are now in my rear-view mirror, I feel fortunate to have met so many great people there, most of whom I'm happy to call good friends. Sun Valley is now my home area, the perfect spot for us old timers to migrate to. Thanks to Ancient Skiers, I have the means to see those old friends. As I get older, I realize how much I value those relationships. I wouldn't have it any other way.

A Visit to the PNW Hall Of Fame

By Nita Burks

In August, I had the occasion to pass through Leavenworth. I wanted to stop and see the beautiful display Georgia Bakke, curator, has done to upgrade our Hall of Fame location and photos. Wow! Am I impressed!



The location is well marked as you can see in the beautiful sign. It's easy to find as it's right in town next to the Nutcracker Museum. Several years ago, PNW Ancient Skier Association donated some funds toward this project. The displays are beautifully framed with photos and description of each inductee. There is also a QR code to learn more information about each inductee. I urge everyone

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Going Cashless?

Businesses, including major ski resorts like Vail Resorts, Snowbird, Killington, and Big Sky, have embraced cashless transactions, a trend driven by safety concerns during the pandemic. Vail Resorts, an industry leader, adopted this policy early on, and there are no signs of reverting. Mt Hood Meadows will also go cashless for the 2023/24 season to improve internal operations and enhance guest experience.

Tamarack Expansion

Boise National Forest has approved Tamarack's request to expand its terrain by over 2,000 acres. While this approval doesn't guarantee the expansion, it could potentially make the resort the eighth-largest in North America.

Wildfire Support

Big White Snow Ski Resort in British Columbia, Canada, supports wildfire evacuees by providing resources and assistance, embodying its family-friendly ethos.

Stevens Pass New Chairlift

During the off-season, Stevens Pass upgraded with a new four-seat chairlift and introduced the MyEpic app for passes and lift tickets. Renowned for its authentic PNW mountain experience, Stevens Pass offers excellent powder and off-piste terrain for guests to explore.

Flying & skiing in one simple package?

Alaska Airlines and Mountain Collective have introduced a new program that lets skiers bundle their international ski trip with flight bookings. This innovative offering allows members of Alaska Airlines' Mileage Plan to choose from 24 global ski resorts, streamlining travel and skiing arrangements into one convenient package.

Alterra Buys Schweitzer Mountain

Alterra Mountain Company, the parent company of Ikon Pass, has expanded its portfolio to include 17 ski resorts. Recently, the Colorado-based company acquired Idaho's Schweitzer Mountain Resort, which has been part of the Ikon Pass since the 2021-'22 season, offering limited access with seven days on the full pass and five days on the Base Pass.

Three Injured After Lift Detached

A sudden gust of wind caused a chair to detach from a lift at Thredbo Ski Resort in Australia, injuring three snowboarders. The incident occurred on the Kosciuszko Quad Express due to a "freak gust of wind." Wind speeds of around 33 miles per hour were recorded at the lift's top shortly before the accident.



to take the time to view it if you are in the area. Inductees are also listed in our webpage at www.ancientskiers.com.

To nominate someone for our honor, simply send a letter with qualifications following guidelines in our Spring 2023 newsletter, available on our website. Include a photo in ski gear, if possible. Nominations must be received by early spring for consideration. The new Hall of Famers will be announced at our October 2024 banquet at Nile Country Club in Shoreline, Wa.

Stay tuned for the banquet date, to be announced in our Spring 2023 newsletter, website, and Facebook page.

First Tracks!

Welcome new members!

- Tammara Gibbons
- Jon & Harriet Bakken
- Anne Zauner
- Judy Meyer
- Tamara Roberts & Alejandro Pita
- Susan Atwood & John Filippone
- James Cunnington
- Patrick James & Andrea McDermott
- Ann Stafford
- Stanley Larsen & Rachel Plesko
- Aaron Bueler & Carolyn True
- Brent & Kathy Lower
- Chris Hudson
- Monica & Jim Reynolds

Pushing 90?

Emeritus Membership

If you are approaching 90 years old or are 90+, we would like to recognize your time on the slopes. Please contact the board with your date of birth so we can honor you at our next banquet with an Emeritus Membership or receive a certificate by mail.

Last Sweep

Remembrances

- 2017 Richard Radeke
- 2018 Bob Bridge
- 2019 John Carson
- 2022 Claudia Lastar
- 2023 Leighton Wood

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

Did you get your pin?

No? Email board@AncientSkiers.com and let us know. One per member.



Website Update

Our website 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.



Volunteers Wanted!

In our mission to bring Northwest skiers together, we are looking for volunteers to help our group organize more member events, meet-ups, ski days, and service opportunities, and write historical ski articles for this newsletter. If you are interested, please fill out this short survey online.

AncientSkiers.com/Volunteer-Today

ANCIENT SKIERS BOARD

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Join the Facebook Group!

Contact Us:

- www.AncientSkiers.com
- Board@AncientSkiers.com
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