

The Ancient Skier

SPRING 2024

Thoughts from the Skipper

Ty Anderson

It takes a crew to run a ship. This ship has many passengers, some cargo, and a destination set by those who steered before us. From time to time, we are reminded by our peers of the stars to steer by. But our voyage is long-term, and we, the board, must think to the future as guided by our goals. This crew, comprising the board, the Sun Valley Committee, and past leadership, is highly dependable, capable, and motivated in their tasks. The secretary, Nita, is a great scheduler. Leslie, our membership chair, is a dynamo with records. The two Directors brought on to keep us abreast of rapidly changing technology and organizational challenges, as we grow – and we are growing – are acing their tasks. Ideas flow in from our membership, and my job is simply to adjust the rudder a little bit to avoid rough waters.

However, in the next few years, we need to find, train, and implement changes for watchstanders. Give us a hand; let us know if you're up for "a trick at the wheel" (your turn to steer).

Thanks, Ty

P.S. On a personal note, I want to honor a member who has skied his last run. David Bruce Black was a ski instructor of long standing, a many-year member of our association, and my boss at the Washington State Ferry System. He was "The Best" at his job (Operations Officer). It was Dave who told me about this great group when he rode my boat home to Poulsbo daily. When I checked into the Association, I realized I had many friends as members. I was hooked!

Thank you, David, for your service to the State of Washington and your great support of Ancient Skiers.

Ancient Skiers 2024 Sun Valley Reunion Recap

Christy Anna Gerber

The 2024 Ancient Skiers Sun Valley Reunion Week was an absolute blast! Despite some initial fretting over the delayed snowfall in the Pacific Northwest, our worries melted away as Sun Valley greeted us with several storms adding to their snowpack just in time for our arrival. It was like the mountain knew we were coming and decided to throw us a party!



Now, let me tell you about our adventures. Our week kicked off with a bang as we gathered for the Sunday reception to greet old friends with warm hugs, fist bumps, and the sound of clinking glasses as we 'cheered' to seeing our friends again. Monday started with our group photo at Lookout Lodge on a not-so-sunny day. No worries, though! We just brought the sunshine indoors and flashed our brightest smiles for the camera. And let me tell you, the rest of the week was a skier's dream come true!





Leroy Kingland & Peter Kennedy

We kept the fun rolling with activities galore. From exploring Ketchum's newest gem, the Wood River Museum of History and Culture, to tearing up the slopes in the famed NASTAR race, every moment was filled with laughter and excitement. And let's not forget the Poker Run on Baldy, where teams dashed around solving clues and building the perfect poker hand. Congratulations to Team Old Boys for blazing a trail and finishing first and Team CM Dynamos for holding the winning hand!

But the most anticipated highlight? Our Thursday NASTAR race was an absolute spectacle! Cheers echoed through the valley as our fearless Ancient Skiers charged through the gates, leaving a trail of adrenaline in their wake. Huge shoutout to our top men and women skiers: first place finishers Chic Dohoney & Joann Olson, second place Greg Prothman and Robin Hagenau, and third place Stan Larsen, and Hurley Hamilton, congratulations for dominating the podium!

As the week drew to a close, we dusted off our cowboy boots and hats for a Western-themed banquet like no other. With an opening toast from LeRoy Kingland, cowboy poetry from Len Gerber, and a special Sun Valley Sun Award honoring ski historian John Lundin, the night was filled with warmth and camaraderie. And of course, what's a banquet without some foot-stomping, boot-scooting dancing to a live band?



But behind every successful reunion, there are the unsung heroes who make it all possible. A heartfelt thank you to Barbara Amick, Wendell & Loretta Cayton, Patrick Deal, Len & Marlys Gerber, Robin Hagenau, Hurley Hamilton, Ron Johnson, LeRoy Kingland, Rae Kozlowski, Bob & Sarah Peshkin, Maureen Pressley, Vicki Seznick, and Sharon Wellsandt. You are the true MVPs!

Save The Date for next year's reunion! We will see you in Sun Valley January 19th through the 26th in 2025!

Pro tip: Book your lodging sooner rather than later, the lodge rooms and rentals around Sun Valley will fill up fast as once again, the Martin Luther King, Jr holiday falls within our week. It's been a couple years since that has happened but all the more reason to secure your lodging now.



Ski Resort News

Crystal Mountain is anticipating the opening of its new 25,000 sq. ft. skier services facility, Mountain Commons. The exciting new building will bring new guest services, retail, and dining as well as an expanded slope-side beach area for the 24/25 winter season.

Emeritus Member Stories

Born: March 24, 1930
David Whitmore (94 years young)
Past President of PNSIA ...He doesn't remember which year.

My law firm, Whitmore & Whitmore created the corporate structure, Wenatchee Mountain Inc., which became Mission Ridge Ski Area. I was the attorney for Mission Ridge until it was sold to two guys from Seattle who were partners and fraternity brothers.

I taught with the ski school under Gordon West on weekends for about 25 years. Before Mission Ridge I ran the Squilchuck Ski School with Bob Church, another certified ski instructor,

David J Whitmore
Alive but not kicking much.

Ancient Skiers Association 2024 Biennial Banquet Event

Saturday, October 26th, 2024
Nile Shrine Golf Course
6601 244 th Street SW
Mount Lake Terrace, WA 98043

5:00PM - 8:00PM
Ballroom and Caravan Room



In our forthcoming 2024 Summer Issue Newsletter, we're excited to present a full menu featuring PNW Surf and Turf, as well as Ala Carte Vegetarian options. Pricing details will be provided. Please indicate your attendance with a YES or NO for a preliminary head count. We look forward to hearing from all of you.

Join us for a nostalgic journey back to the slopes with our Vintage Ski Fashion event! Dust off your retro ski gear and bring your prized items for display. It's a chance to showcase the timeless style of yesteryear while reminiscing about the golden days of skiing.

Don't forget to submit your nominations for the NW Ski Hall of Fame by the end of June. Along with the nomination, please include a written statement detailing the individual's accomplishments or contributions to the snow sports industry, and if available, include photos to support the nomination.

Meet and Greet Golf Tournament

There's been discussion about organizing a Meet and Greet golf tournament at the Nile Club Course before the dinner on October 26th. The format is yet to be determined, but it's likely to be Best Ball.

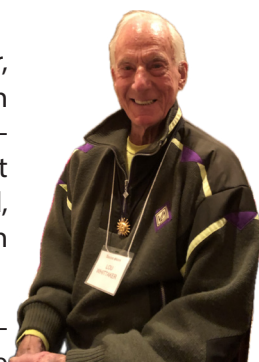
The cost is quite reasonable at \$39.00 for 18 holes and \$19.00 for a riding golf cart. All attendees are responsible for covering their own golf fees. We're looking at teeing off around 12 o'clock, anticipating a round lasting approximately 4 hours, give or take.

If you're interested in this new idea, please respond with a YES or NO. The event is open to all members, both men and women, though it's contingent on favorable weather conditions.

Best regards, *Joe Habenicht*, ASA Treasurer

The Life and Legacy of Lou Whittaker: A Tribute to a Mountaineering Icon

Lou Whittaker, a legendary mountaineer, passed away peacefully at his home on March 24 at the age of 95. Born in Seattle on February 10, 1929, Lou and his wife, Ingrid, split their time between Ketchum and Ashford, Washington, near Mount Rainier, a mountain that became synonymous with his life.



Lou and his twin brother, Jim, began mountaineering at age 12, with Lou earning the nickname "Rainier Lou" after his first summit of Mount Rainier at 16. He founded Rainier Mountaineering Inc. (RMI Expeditions) in 1969, reflecting his passion for teaching and guiding others in the mountains.

Beyond mountaineering, Lou was known as a masterful carpenter, philosopher, and philanthropist. He leaves behind a legacy of influencing thousands of lives through his adventures and teachings. Lou is survived by his wife, Ingrid, his twin brother, Jim, his sons, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

From Tragedy to Triumph: Mike Vowels' Return to the Slopes (1956-2024)



Mike Vowels, once a professional aerialist and renowned skier, faced a life-altering accident in 1984 at Alpentel Mountain in Washington. The collision with a tree left him paralyzed from the waist down at the age of 29. After a long hiatus, Vowels rediscovered his passion for skiing through a sit-ski, becoming an ambassador for Sun Valley Resort. Overcoming emotional

barriers, he embraced therapy and opened up about his accident, eventually resolving to return to the sport. Learning to sit-ski was a daunting journey, filled with challenges and crashes, documented in a self-produced film. Despite the difficulty, Vowels persisted, skiing the mountain several times a week.

Reflecting on his professional skiing days, Vowels reminisced about his fierce competitions with friends like Jeff Brons, where life was often a financial struggle. He recalled his proudest moments as a pro, winning back-to-back leases on a Porsche 914 and pioneering tricks like the "Vowelscopter" and the "Mobius Flip." Despite the crash that ended his competitive career, Vowels retained his love for skiing, finding solace in the mountains even after his accident.

Vowels' journey is one of resilience and determination, marked by moments of triumph and introspection. He lived to ski, surrounded by friends and inspired by the feats of modern freestyle skiers. Grateful for every moment on the mountain, Vowels cherished the joy and freedom skiing brings, embodying the spirit of perseverance and gratitude. Sadly, Mike died tragically in a car accident this winter in the Sun Valley area. May he rest in peace.

First Tracks!

Welcome new members!

Edward Abbott & Gabriele Heys

Steve & Jody Allen

Susan Atwood & John Filippone

Joel Aves

Jon & Harriet Bakken

Roger & Ann Beck

Gary & Julie Benson

Jim & Karen Buckley

Aaron Bueler & Carolyn True

James Cunnington

Evan & Jan Day

Carey & John Dondero

Jerry & Debbie Flandro

Tammara (Dempsey) Gibbons

Glen & Joan Griswold

Christine Hudson

Patrick James & Andrea McDermott

Mike & Vivian Katagiri

Jeff & Patty Katz

Michael Kennedy & Anne Fraser

Brown

Kurt & Leslie Krause

Fred Langsted

Stanley Larsen & Rachel Plesko

Joseph "Tuck" & Linda Leitzinger

Brent & Kathy Lower

Molly Malone & Tom (Milton)

Tormey

Judy Meyer

Jennifer & Lee Prewitt

Carl & Karen Prothman

Chris & Kerry Reid

Monica & Jim Reynolds

Tamara Roberts & Alejandro Pita

Gregory Soghikian

Ann Stafford

Kim Teufel

Alan Wallace & Deb Fouts

Anne Zauner

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

Kristian Berg 1925-2023

Vivian Audett 1928-2022

Jack (Corky) Corrock 1926-2023

Lou Whittaker 1929 - 2024

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

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