History is happening continuously. And it’s also being continuously lost.

That sad point was underscored 17 months ago with the death of Dr. Omar “Chip” Crothers, a prominent orthopedic surgeon who was the co-founder of Maine Adaptive Sports and Recreation. In addition to losing one of the most imaginative and energetic individuals in the
Founded in 1995, the Ski Museum of Maine is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization established with the mission to celebrate and preserve the history and heritage of Maine skiing. The Ski Museum exhibits artifacts, photographs, artworks, and documents at its location in Kingfield, conducts educational programs to ski clubs, schools, libraries, historical and civic organizations, and hosts social events and activities throughout the year.

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Vice President: Wende Gray, Bethel
Secretary: Russ Murley, Pownal
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Gerry Thompson, Falmouth
Michele Varuolo Cole, Bethel
Karla Wolters, Madawaska Lake

**Staff**
Executive Director: Bruce Miles, Carrabassett Valley

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**Upcoming Ski Museum of Maine Events**

**Friday, October 24**
Maine Ski Hall of Fame Banquet
Lost Valley
Auburn, ME

**Thursday, November 20**
Ski Season Launch Party
Morong Auto Dealership
Falmouth, ME

**Friday, November 28**
Sunri Ski Fashion Show
hosted by Sport Thoma
The Bethel Inn
Bethel, ME

**Saturday, December 28**
Fireside Chat
Mt. Abram
Greenwood, ME

**Thursday, January 1**
Carter’s Last Stand Nordic Ski Race &
Great Ski & Sport Shop Raffle Drawing
Carter’s X-C Ski Center
Bethel, ME

**Saturday, January 17**
SMOM SKEE SPREE
Maine Ski History Day & Auction
Sunday River’s White Cap Lodge
Newry, ME

**Saturday, January 31**
SMOM Dinner & A Movie: STEEP
The Rack
Carrabassett Valley, ME

**Thursday, February 5**
SMOM Celebrates the Camden Snow Bowl
The Waterfront Restaurant
Camden, ME
Reading through the list of new events and programs, it is easy to see that the Museum is working to increase its reach through more diverse offerings aimed at attracting people not formerly aware of or involved with the Museum. Creating an association with a well-known Nordic ski race and producing a video that highlights not only skiing, but also snowboard and biathlon are ways through which the Museum is making efforts to become all-inclusive.

And we’re movin’ on up ... to the County! The Museum has been fortunate enough to bring on new board member and Madawaska Lake resident Karla Wolters who has been performing outreach functions, researching Aroostook ski history, and collecting artifacts. If all this hasn’t been keeping her busy enough, Karla is also partnering with Chad Pelletier, president of the Fort Kent Historical Society, and Kelly Martin, president and board member at Lonesome Pine Trails. These folks are exploring Ski Museum satellite locations in the Fort Kent area, although they have not found just the right spot quite yet. They realize they are just at the beginning of their journey, but the three are determined to make to an Aroostook-based SMOM a reality. It goes without saying that we at the Museum are absolutely delighted at the prospect of a new site in Aroostook County.

Both in terms of archival acquisitions and programs offered to the public, we are very excited and proud of the ways in which the Museum has grown over the last 20 years. We are sure the next 20 years will be even more exciting as we continue to connect with people as fascinated by Maine ski history as we are and engage with others who embrace Maine’s ski heritage. We invite you to join us in this pursuit.

Jill Ducharme, President
Ski Museum of Maine
Let’s play ... Maine Ski Hall of Fame Trivia!

How well do you know your Maine ski history? Find out by correctly answering as many of the Maine Ski Hall of Fame questions below as you can. Good luck!

1. Who is the well-known “Jack of all Maine mountains” who formed a singing trio along with Jud Strunk and Bill Jones that performed at ski shows in major northeastern cities during the 1960s?

2. Who was instrumental in guiding Sugarloaf through its early years and led negotiations for the purchase of the Gondola?


4. Who, along with Les Otten, founded the organization now known as Maine Adaptive Sports & Recreation?

5. Who is the Olympic and World Cup Alpine skier who will be joined by two of her siblings in the Hall of Fame this year?

6. Who was director of Sunday River’s ski patrol from 1971-82 and has had a weekly ski column in the Sunday edition of the Lewiston Sun Journal since 1983?

7. Who was the first woman inducted into the Maine Ski Hall of Fame?

8. Who is the Rumford native that began their career as a ski jumper in the 1920s, but went on to become a Nordic ski racer and actively competed in this sport into their 80’s?

9. Who is credited with pioneering snowmaking in Maine and patented their revolutionary snow-grooming equipment?

10. Who was the first freestyle skier to do a 720 in ballet competition and the first to do a helicopter spread in aerial competition?

11. Who is the prolific ski writer that collaborated with Minot Dole to write *Adventures in Skiing*, the only biography written about the founder of the National Ski Patrol?

12. Who is the first snowboarder inducted into the Maine Ski Hall of Fame?

Don’t worry, we wouldn’t leave you hanging. Answers can be found on page 11.
From the executive director ...

The question I am asked by a lot of members that have been to the Ski Museum in Kingfield is, “What’s new at the Museum?”

This past summer we were very fortunate to receive a very large donation of library items from the New England Ski Museum in Franconia. The donation consisted of many books written about various aspects of the sport. Many were on the various methods of teaching skiing devised by different cultures during different times. They include French, Austrian, Italian and American techniques of skiing. Other books include topics about the many ski areas that sprung up during the late 1940s and 1950s across the country.

The collection also includes copies of the American Ski Annual published from the early 1940s to 1960. These annuals put together by the National Ski Association give us a window into the ski world of the years they were published. They are a collection of stories about notable people, places and events of the period. Results of the major ski competitions that took place are included and give us records of who the stars of the competition scene were. Each region of the United States would submit a synopsis of what progress was made that year in the development of ski areas across the country.

The collection also includes many issues of the Eastern Ski Bulletin, a newspaper published during the winter season by the United States Eastern Amateur Ski Association. The dates of the collection run from 1932-1960. Through these news stories, we are able to collect information on the development of ski areas across the East and particularly Maine and what was happening at these areas during this period. While cataloging these items, I found it very easy to become engrossed while reading stories about the installation of a new lift at Pleasant Mountain or results of the Wes Marco Slalom Race held at Titcomb Mountain.

As our library grows, so does our ability to be able to conduct more research on the evolution of the sport of skiing in Maine and also of Maine’s contribution to the sport nationwide.

Bruce Miles, Executive Director
Ski Museum of Maine
Finders and Forever Keepers in Aroostook County

By Karla Wolters
Ski Museum of Maine

Every year when I arrive in Maine (yes, I live in Maine, but I am from “away”) I ponder what Ski Museum historian Scott Andrews will want me to do, what lost ski areas I might find, what objects might shed light on Maine skiing, and who I will meet along the way.

This summer, Scott immediately pointed me in another direction, asking if I would be willing to share the Ski Museum of Maine information while displaying Aroostook County skiing pictures, a map of lost ski areas in the County, old skis, ski attire, ski wax, and other memorabilia at County summer festivals. This adventure sounded like fun, and my roots as a teacher told me that some visitors viewing the display just might learn something. Little did I know how much I would learn from others.

The day before the first festival, the Midsommer event in New Sweden, I was in my garage bay (i.e., display area) needing four hands to put a display piece together, when I heard a booming voice say, “Need any help?” The voice belonged to Doug Anderson, who in less than two minutes solved my display issue. He asked if there was anything else he could do for me. Oh, yes, Doug spent six hours that day helping me get my display together. As I thanked him, he offered to share information with me later in the summer about his father, Laverne Anderson, the youngest finisher in the Bangor to Caribou Ski Marathons in the 1930s.

The next event was the Fort Fairfield Potato Blossom Festival. The parade in this event is always spectacular and the Parade Committee was eager to applaud the County’s first Olympic athlete, Russell Currier, a U.S.A. biathlete. I was asked to invite him to be in the parade if he was in the County. Fortunately, he was at home and at the urging of his parents and high school ski coach, Bob Sprague, he agreed to participate in the parade. But it wasn’t that easy. He had a workout to do in Fort Kent the morning of the parade after driving up from Stockholm, then he had to drive from Fort Kent to Fort Fairfield to get in the parade line up by 11 a.m. before navigating the downhill parade route on his roller skis. Russell was a terrific addition to the parade!

The Ski Museum of Maine outdoor display in Fort Fairfield drew many visitors including a baby less than one year old and several former skiers over 90 years old. I was thrilled when a mom of six brought her inquisitive crew. An elderly man who had engaged me in conversation early in the day returned in the late afternoon with his White Bunny Ski patch and a tear in his eye remembering all of his skiing adventures on that hill.
A few days later I was talking with my neighbor at Madawaska Lake about my research and he offered to loan me an unusual Walter Stadig glass bottle of liquid ski wax. Walter Stadig was an incredible athlete, inventor of the snowplow, builder of numerous skis, a developer of ski areas, and a great promotor of skiing. What a thrill to share this rare wax bottle in my displays.

My final display of the summer was in Fort Kent at the World Acadian Congress. One of the busiest locals that week was Kelly Martin, president of Lonesome Pines. With many other events to attend, Kelly made time to assist me from beginning to end with my display, even offering a wonderful old film of skiers in the early days of Lonesome Pines. Chad Pelletier loaned many artifacts from the Fort Kent Historical Society. Chad also shared with me his dream of having a satellite Ski Museum of Maine in the Fort Kent area, focusing on the history of skiing in the County. Kelly, Chad, and I hope to make this dream a reality in the future.

My last two adventures of the summer took place in Houlton, where in the Aroostook County courthouse attic I discovered that Caribou—Caribou High School that is—really did have a Winter Carnival in the 1920s; two in fact in the same year, 1922, that took place a week apart. The reason for having two carnivals was that the first one was “too crowded.”

At the Houlton Recreation Department I visited with Marie, the “Jill of all Trades” who spent time before my visit going through the Recreation Department scrapbooks to find pictures and articles about the lost ski area Hovey Hill, home of the Haus Frau Ski class led by Sandy Gregg. She graciously allowed me to share the Houlton ski pictures with Scott Andrews.

It was a busy, exciting summer for this ski researcher in the County. I cannot thank those people enough who found me and helped me in a myriad of ways to share the history of Aroostook County’s skiing past and the vision of its present and future. I will be forever indebted to them for their hard work and enthusiasm.

Karla Wolters and visitor in front of the Ski Museum of Maine exhibit at Lonesome Pines in Fort Kent during the World Acadian Congress. (Kelly Martin photo)
Connecting with the Bethel Community

By Wende Gray
Vice President, Ski Museum of Maine

This past summer the focus of the Bethel Satellite Museum committee was community outreach. Its fall and early winter focus will be on fundraising events to support opening a Bethel Satellite Museum location in 2015.

On Molly Ockett Day, July 17, the Ski Museum displayed old photographs and artifacts from the Oxford County region at its booth on the town common. Committee members were on hand to chat about the early days of skiing at Sunday River and Mount Abram. Bethel resident, octogenarian Mary Paine, recalled the days of the original rope tow on Vernon Street where the Eden Ridge development now houses two dozen condominiums. She strapped her son's skis on with canning jar rubber gaskets. Is it any wonder that she remembers Paul Kailey, owner of Bethel’s first ski shop Sunri, carrying him down the slope after her son lost his skis and wrenched his knee?

The Ski Museum returned with its booth and Oxford County display for HarvestFest on September 20. Sales of local apples and cider at the booth were no match for the Bethel Chamber’s Chowdah and Apple Pie Cook-offs. Ski Museum president Jill Ducharme, secretary Russ Murley and board member Dave Irons’ wife, Pat, all served as judges for the contests.

On September 17, Jill Ducharme, Michele Varuolo Cole, and Wende Gray spoke at the Bethel Chamber’s monthly breakfast meeting about the Ski Museum’s history and plans for the future. Business members present were very enthusiastic and voiced their support of the project and willingness to help with fundraising. The following day, the Bethel Citizen newspaper printed a lengthy article about the proposed satellite museum. On October 11, the Museum board members attended a table display at the Ski Depot on the Sunday River Access Road, reaching out to skiers and season ticket holders during Sunday River’s annual Fall Festival.

A full calendar of fundraising events is set for late fall and winter beginning with the Sunri Ski Fashion Show scheduled to take place at the Bethel Inn Resort on Friday, November 28. Hosted by Sport Thoma, the reception and fashion show will feature skiwear from the 1940s to today’s latest designs. On Sunday, December 28, Mt. Abram will host a Fireside Chat at its base lodge at 5 p.m. On Thursday, January 1, Carter’s Cross Country Ski Center in Bethel will be the site of the drawing for the Great Ski & Sport Shop Raffle. The drawing will be held following the 30th Annual Carter’s Last Stand, a Nordic ski race held on New Year’s Day that will benefit the Ski Museum this year.

Dave Carter, who will be inducted into the Maine Ski Hall of Fame on October 24th,
sadly passed away earlier this year. However, his wife, Anne, will be honoring his memory and his contributions to the sport of Nordic skiing by continuing to hold the race he established in 1985.

The First Annual SMOM SKEE SPREE Heritage Day and Auction is set for Saturday, January 17, at Sunday River’s White Cap Lodge with Shipyard Brew Haus hosting the event. Also at Sunday River during Sunday River’s GO50 Week in January, the Ski Museum will present a Fireside Chat on Monday, January 26. Other Bethel events including ski film nights and wine dinners are planned to take place in the area throughout the ski season.

The Museum staff and board of directors look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!
Maine Adaptive Sports
(continued from page 1)

history of Maine skiing—Crothers was inducted into the Maine Ski Hall of Fame in 2011—we also lost the chance for him to recount the story of his 32 years with the dynamic organization that he launched.

As part of its mission to actively research and publish all aspects of the history of skiing and snowboarding in Maine, the Ski Museum has recently been working with Maine Adaptive to document and publish its story before any more key pieces are lost.

The first phase of this project has been to review hundreds of photographs and documents in MAS files and to create a PowerPoint digital slide show, using the same general format as the Ski Museum’s Fireside Chats. The show will debut on October 23 at a private gathering for MAS supporters and will subsequently be presented in a volunteer training session on November 4. At least one public viewing will be scheduled during the 2015 ski season.

Some highlights include:

- Maine Handicapped Skiing (as it was known for most of its existence) was launched during the 1983 ski season at Sunday River. Eight students participated that first year. As the decade progressed, enrollment swelled, volunteer participation increased and MHS established its signature event, the annual Ski-A-Thon, which is its largest fundraiser.
• The capstone event of the first 10 years was the construction of a headquarters building alongside Sunday River’s Sundance Trail. Sunday River owner Les Otten—the other MHS co-founder—donated the land, while Crothers led a capital campaign to raise the funds needed. The new building was ready for the 1991 ski season.

• Expansion and program enhancements characterized the 1990s. Nordic skiing was added for the 1996 season. The following winter saw a pilot program in snowboard instruction, which grew beyond its initial test stage into a full-blown MHS activity in 1998. In January of 1998, MHS expanded geographically, adding a weekend program at Sugarloaf.

• In late winter, 1998, Carl Burnett, a 15-year-old mono-skier from Cape Elizabeth, won three junior events at the National Disabled Championships and in July he was named to the United States Disabled Ski Team. (Burnett will be inducted into the Maine Ski Hall of Fame on October 24.)

• The end of the 1999 ski season marked another turning point. That summer MHS embarked on its first warm-weather activities, which now include canoeing/kayaking, golf, and cycling.

• As MHS entered the 2000s, it was clear that ongoing expansion of its summer activities suggested that a new name was needed. Thirty years after its founding, Maine Adaptive Sports and Recreation was adopted as the organization’s moniker.

Maine Ski Hall of Fame Trivia Answers

1. John Christie, 2006 HOF inductee
2. Rand Stowell, 2013 HOF inductee
3. Theo Johnson, 2005 HOF inductee
4. Dr. Chip Crothers, 2011 HOF inductee
5. Julie Parisien, 2008 HOF inductee
6. Dave Irons, 2007 HOF inductee
7. Jean Luce, 2004 HOF inductee
8. John Roderick, 2009 HOF inductee
10. Frank Howell, 2012 HOF inductee
11. Morten Lund, 2010 HOF inductee
SMOM Film to Premiere at Season Launch Party

By Russ Murley
Secretary, Ski Museum of Maine

This year’s short documentary film is a far more ambitious undertaking than the Museum has tackled to date. This year’s video, *21st Century Ski and Snowboard Competition in Maine*, will focus on the topics of freeskiing and the Dumont Cup, snowboarding via profiles of Maine natives Seth Wescott and 2014 Maine Ski Hall of Fame inductee Nikki Pilavakis-Davoren—the first snowboarder to receive this honor, and the dynamic sport of biathlon that combines cross-country skiing and rifle shooting.

Intended to draw a younger demographic than SMOM has appealed to in the past, the video was developed with an emphasis on the fast-paced theme of two styles of competitive skiing and snowboarding that has rapidly evolved in Maine since the turn of the century. This 15-minute film will take the viewer to three regions of Maine that have played a significant role in shaping the recent evolution of these sports: Sunday River will be at the forefront of freestyle, Sugarloaf at the fore with snowboarding, and Aroostook County spotlighted in biathlon.

The video is slated to premiere at the 4th Annual Ski Season Launch Party to benefit the Ski Museum of Maine. The event will be hosted by the Sowles family and the Ski Maine Association on Thursday, November 6, at the Morong Auto Dealership of Falmouth, located at 187 U.S. Route 1. The Sowles family will open their showroom for the reception and Ski Museum’s displays of Maine skiing artifacts, photos and memorabilia. The Morong dealership’s wonderful collection of classic and antique automobiles also will be on view.

In addition to the video screening and informal reception, the evening’s program will also include a silent auction and the Museum’s latest Fireside Chat, *Miracles Happen Here: The Inspiring Story of Maine Adaptive*, created and presented by Scott Andrews, the Museum’s historian and friend of Maine Adaptive.

The Ski Season Launch Party fundraiser is just $15 per person in advance or $20 at the door. Light fare, cash bar, and Carrabassett Coffee will be served. See details on the next page and buy tickets online at www.skimaine.com/launch.
2014 Ski Season Launch Party
presented by
Ski Maine & Morong Falmouth
Thursday, November 20th
6:00 pm to 8:30 pm
Morong Falmouth ~ Falmouth, Maine

6:00 pm to 7:30 pm
Reception & ski history displays, vintage cars, lite fare & cash bar

6:00 pm to 7:30 pm
Silent Auction

7:30 pm to 8:15 pm
21st Century Ski and Snowboard Competition in Maine, a short film
Maine Adaptive Sports, Fireside Chat
presented by Scott Andrews, Ski Museum of Maine, Historian

$15 per person, $20 at the door

www.skimaine.com/launch
or call (207) 773-7669
to order your tickets today!
Maine Ski and Sport Shops Support the Ski Museum of Maine

The Museum is so very appreciative of the support we’ve received from ski and sport shops throughout the state. They are pitching in to help the Ski Museum promote awareness of Maine’s skiing history and help raise funds for Museum projects.

Nine shops including Kittery Trading Post, Ski Depot in Jay and Newry, Carter’s X-C Ski Shop in Oxford and Bethel, Auclair Cycle & Ski in Augusta, Bethel Nordic Center, Nomad Adventures & Active Wear in Portland, Northern Lights in Farmington, Ski Rack Sports in Bangor and True North Adventureware in Bethel have donated gift certificates totaling over $1000 for our winter raffle. The prize drawing will be held on January 1, 2015 at Carter’s Cross Country Ski Center in Bethel.

Says Jon Morrill, vice president of Kittery Trading Post, “We at the Kittery Trading Post are wholeheartedly in support of the Ski Museum of Maine and their efforts to preserve our skiing heritage. We’re planning to host one of the Museum’s history talks here at the store and are developing a promotion to help the Ski Museum acquire vintage ski equipment, clothing, and memorabilia.”

“It’s so nice to know those in the ski business are behind us and willing to make such generous donations to help the Museum continue to acquire and preserve ski-related artifacts as well as the personal histories of Maine skiing figures,” said Museum president Jill Ducharme. “At the Museum, we see how equipment manufacturers and retailers have been as instrumental in shaping Maine’s present-day skiing community as the ski areas and ski clubs. As much as anyone, they have truly helped pave the way.”

Raffle tickets can be purchased online at the Museum’s website: www.skimuseumofmaine.org
Memberships are an important part of our ability to have a ski museum. Please support generously. Please either go to our website at www.skimuseumofmaine.org and download an application or use the application below and send to: Ski Museum of Maine, P.O. Box 359, Kingfield, ME 04947

Name: ________________________________
Address: ______________________________
City: _________________________________
State: __ Zip: __________________________
Phone: ________________________________
Email: ________________________________

Please check membership level:
☐ Bronze $25   ☐ Platinum $250
☐ Silver $50   ☐ Lifetime $1,000
☐ Gold $100   ☐ Additional Donation: $ ___________

Name(s): ______________________________

Can you help? ☐ at events
☐ be a Saturday host at the museum
☐ with museum projects/exhibits
☐ with data entry and/or cataloging
☐ clean museum pieces
☐ other

Mission Statement
“To celebrate and preserve the history and heritage of Maine skiing.”

We recognize that not everyone is enthusiastic about skiing and snowboarding and all the excitement around the history involving fun in the snow, so please let us know if you would like to be removed from our mailing list by either calling or emailing. Thanks.

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Held in 1936 and 1937 over a 176-mile course, the four-day Bangor to Caribou Marathon cross-country ski race began in downtown Bangor and ended on the streets of Caribou with three intermediate overnight stops along the way. The Aroostook Republican called it "The Greatest Skiing Race Ever Attempted." Above, crowds line Sweden Street in downtown Caribou in anticipation on the final day of the race. (photo courtesy Caribou Historical Society)