Maine Ski Hall of Fame Celebrating 15 Years

By Dave Irons
Chairperson, Hall of Fame Committee

The class of 2017 includes a champion freestyle competitor, a World Cup DH racer, a long time high school ski coach, an Olympic Cross country skier, an outstanding cross country coach and author, one of the state’s longest serving general managers, a dedicated fund raiser and a cross country racer who won more medals after age 50 than most skiers do in a lifetime.

Ralph Ostlund Most skiers make their mark in the sport in their early years but taking a pair of trains to school made it impossible for Ralph Ostlund to go out for his high school team in New Sweden. While he skied about the time he learned to walk he got away from the sport. In 1973 at the age of fifty he quit smoking and returned to skiing and running. He skied XC races of all lengths and piled up the medals, but most important he passed along his love for the sport organizing races in small towns and worked at school carnivals, local races and other events in the County. He made his mark inspiring younger racers even as he beat them on the course, increasing his schedule of races after he retired at 65.

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Jesse Sandstrom’s Facebook message is just one of many posted on the Ski Museum of Maine FaceBook page: “I can hear him laughing right now “Woo-hoo” Ralph is a true idol of mine. So well deserved. What a swinging man when I met him in 2010.”
Ski Museum of Maine
Snow Trail
Fall 2017
www.skimuseumofmaine.org
info@skimuseumofmaine.org
P.O. Box 359
Kingfield, ME 04947
(207) 265-2023

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, artwork 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.

Officers
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Staff
Executive director: Theresa Shanahan, Kingfield

Upcoming Ski Museum Events

November 1-24
Second Annual On Line Auction
Starts Wednesday, November 1
Ends Friday, November 24
Go to: www.eflea.ca
Locate Ski Museum of Maine
Sign In To Place Your Bids
Looking for the perfect gift?
Bid on the Bethel Winter Get Away

November 24
Grand Reopening
Reception 4:00 p.m.
Come see our newly renovated space and exhibits
Main Street, Kingfield

The Mountains of Maine:
Skiing in the Pine Tree State

An exhibit created by the New England Ski Museum, augmented with considerable additional material from the Ski Museum of Maine, will be on display at the Robinson House of the Bethel Historical Society, 10 Broad Street, through spring 2018.

Admission by donation

For more info, call 800-824-2910 or visit www.bethelhistorical.org
From the president ...

The Ski Museum’s mission is to celebrate and preserve the history and heritage of Maine skiing. This fall we host the 15th annual Ski Hall of Fame Banquet and Induction—our biggest celebration of the year. It’s a joyous party to honor this year’s inductees, to learn about their accomplishments and contributions to our beloved sport and time to share their stories. Many of us attending will have our own stories to tell about our relationships with the inductees. This year’s inductee, Bruce Miles, was a friend of mine from Sugarloaf in the early 70’s. Little did I expect, that 40 years later our paths would cross thanks to the Ski Museum—Bruce as Executive Director and I as President. Dick Taylor is my neighbor in Bethel (in so far as neighbors in Maine can still reside a mile away). He’s always been there to support Nordic skiing in the community. He’s Bethel’s “go-to” guy for technical and coaching advice.

The Ski Museum is embarking on a major preservation project this fall as Theresa mentions in her nearby letter. Thanks to the H. King and Jean Cummings Charitable Fund, we’re now able to catalogue our collection and preserve ephemera and artifacts in archival boxes and proper storage units. Our permanent displays: “Made in Maine” including the Theo Johnsen collection; “Classic Equipment”; “10th Mountain Division”; and “Maine Ski Area” focusing on the museum’s hometown of Kingfield will have a renovated home with new flooring, ceiling, lighting and display layout. We’ll also have space for short term exhibits featuring competition, ski instruction, ski patrol, Nordic, jumping, lost ski areas and Hall of Fame members.

Biographies of this year’s Hall of Fame inductees as well as past recipients and Annual Hall of Fame Programs are posted on the museum’s website at www.skimuseumofmaine.org. You can keep up with the progress on the museum renovation on our Facebook page.

I hope to see many of you at the Hall of Fame Banquet on October 28th at the Grand Summit Hotel at Sunday River.

Wende Gray
President, Ski Museum of Maine
As the summer comes to an end, and the trees begin their transition into beautiful foliage I am celebrating my first year anniversary here at the Ski Museum. I would like to thank our membership and all the donors for your support. It has been such an incredible and challenging journey to learn about the operations of the museum. I would like to thank the Board of Directors as well for their guidance and support.

The future here at the Museum is looking fantastic. The Museum has been awarded a generous grant made from the H. King & Jean Cummings Charitable Fund of the Maine Community Foundation which will be used to upgrade the facility. We started the renovation at the end of September and the museum will be closed until the renovations are complete. There will be posts on our website, and FaceBook following our progress throughout the renovation, so check us out! Our Grand Opening is scheduled for Friday, November 24th.

Late September the Ski Museum kicked off its Annual Giving Campaign for the fiscal year, which started July 1, 2017. The calendar year for our fundraising drive has changed and we appreciate all and everyone that participated with last year’s Annual Giving Campaign. So, as we all look forward to the upcoming ski season, please help us to keep our mission going forward to celebrate and preserve the history and heritage of Maine skiing and make a donation to this year’s campaign.

On October 28th we will be honoring Bruce Miles and seven other inductees into the Maine Ski Hall of Fame. Bruce has tirelessly worked for the Museum and the Sugarloaf Ski Club and is deserving of this merit. Please join us at this event being held at the Grand Summit Hotel in Sunday River.

This November we will kick-off our 2nd Annual Fall On-Line auction. This may be a wonderful place to shop for early Holiday gifts, or just something new for this coming ski/riding season. A list of items will be available at the end of October online at our website. So be ready to bid on some great items!

Theresa Shanahan
Executive director, Ski Museum of Maine
G.H. Bass ran a weekly series of ads in *The Ski Bulletin* (A News Magazine Devoted Exclusively to the Sport of Skiing) from mid 1936 through late 1937. In the early 1920's Bass started designing a boot with a heel that would hold the leather strap that trail runner skiers started using on their bindings. According to Robert “Bunny” Bass, his Uncle Willard started working on ski boots after the 1928 Lake Placid Olympics when American skiers brought back boots that the Europeans were using. While those first designs were for the jumpers, Willard was trying to make a downhill boot. Bass launched its first alpine ski boot in 1934 by putting a square toe on a stiff logger's boot. Two years later Bass supplied the 1936 U.S. Winter Olympic Team with separate models for jumping, cross country and downhill skiing. 1936 were the first winter Olympic games to include alpine skiing; the Bass Co. did not waste any time in making it clear the Maine shoe industry can rival the best European ski boot.
Class of 2003:

Class of 2004:
Greg Stump, Robert “Stub” Taylor, Linwood “Zeke” Dwelley, Donald Cross, Paul Kailey, Roger Page, Tom “Coach” Reynolds, Sam Ouellette, Jean Luce, Birger Adolph Olsen

Class of 2005:

Class of 2006:

Class of 2007:
Charles “Slim” Broomhall, Jim Miller, Galen Sayward, Winston “Win” Robbins, Murray “Mike” Thurson, Bob Flynn, Tom Upham, Richard “Dick” Bell, Dave Irons

Class of 2008:
H. King Cummings, Bill Cummings, Leslie Bancroft, Hans Jenni, Robert C. Kendall, Julie Parisien, Dan Simoneau, Tim LaVallee, Pat Miller

Class of 2009:
Tom Bennett, Bryon “Bud” Dow, Ted Curtis, John Roderick, Herbert L. “Herb” Adams, John Litchfield, Sarah Billmeier, Les Otten

Class of 2010:
John Atwood, Marcus Nash, Morten Lund, Kirsten Clark-Rickenbach, Joan McWilliams Dolan, Bernard Paradis, Bob Harkins

Class of 2011:
Werner Rothbacher, Edmund MacDonald, John Greene, Horace Chapman, Chip Crothers, Carla Marcus, Owen Wells, David Farrar

Class of 2012:
Andre Benoit, Bruce Fenn, Erlon “Bucky” Broomhall, Frank Howell, L.L. Bean, Natalie Terry, Philip Huusssey, Walter Stadig

Class of 2013:
Rand Stowell, Will Farnham, Greg Poirier, Howard Paradis, Bruce “Boogie” Cole, Gail Blackburn, Craig Gray, Randy Kerr

Class of 2014:
David Carter, Tom Gyger, Anna Parisien Lavins, Bill Briggs, Nikki Pilavakis-Davoren, Rob Parisien, Brud Folger, Carl Burnett

Class of 2015:
Tom Kendall, Luba Lowery, Peter Davis, John Diller, Bruce Chalmers, Jill Sickels Matlock, Megan Roberts, John Ritzo

Class of 2016:
Nancy Ingersoll Fiddler, Ed Rogers, Walter Shepard, Dan “Mouse” Warner, Greg Sweetser, Geoff Stump, Orman “Sonny” Goodwin, Andy Shepard.

Maine Ski Hall of Fame
Committee Chairman
Dave Irons

Members
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Dan Cassidy
Nikki Pilavakis – Davoren
Dick Doucette
Will Farnham
Tom Hanson
Peter Hussey
Tim Lavallee
Julie Parisien Nuce
Dick Osgood
Glenn Parkinson
Gail Platts
Kate Punderson
Tom Reynolds
Andy Shephard
Carl Soderberg
Greg Sweetser
John Williams
Becky Woods,
Gail Blackburn
Celebrating 15 years...continued from page 1

Karen Hunter Korn Growing up in Bangor, Karen Hunter joined the Sugarloaf Freestyle program in 1975-76 at age nine and began competing in local competition. Success followed quickly winning the J II combined Championship in 1981, 1st in Ballet, 1st in moguls 4th in aerials, and 8th in overall combined at age 14. From 1983 to 1993 Hunter was a leading freestyle contender as a member of three World Championship Teams. In her five seasons on the U.S. World Cup Team she achieved 5 Podiums, 12 top five finishes and 28 top ten finishes.

Chip Cochrane After turning in a 15th place finish in his first FIS Can-Am (Now Nor-Am) Downhill at Sugarloaf at age 15 Chip Cochrane moved quickly up the ladder. He raced Europa Cup in 1976-77, earning a spot in the U.S. Ski Team’s Development team in 1978. In 1981 he raced on the World Cup. Following an injury he turned to coaching and has compiled an impressive record of turning out successful racers at CVA including Bode Miller, Kirsten Clark and Forest Carey.

Ed Rock Ed Rock came to Maine in 1983 to take over as General Manager at Shawnee Peak and inherited a multitude of problems. The first was a hastily installed snowmaking system that had to be almost totally rebuilt something he achieved during one the rainiest summers in memory. In 34 years on the job Rock has overseen adding and replacing lifts, building trails, boosting snowmaking and most of all recovery from a devastating ice storm. His success reflects how he built a dedicated staff, that was willing to get to the mountain after the ice storm when many had no power at home.

Bruce Miles After beginning to teach skiing at Sugarloaf in 1968, Bruce Miles quickly earned PSIA certification in 1970, went on to train UMF students, taught skiing to military personnel in Garmisch, Germany and has achieved lifetime status with PSIA. He has coached, worked as an official, and served the Sugarloaf Ski Club and CVA in several capacities. As a fund raiser he led the way to the building of the new Comp Center at Sugarloaf.

Steve DeAngelis In more than 33 years coaching skiing at Maranacook high School, Steve DeAngelis has compiled one of the most impressive records in high school sports anywhere in Maine. His teams have own 11 conference titles and 28 state titles while he was attracting over 10% of the student body every year to his teams, thus creating hundreds of skiers over his career.

David Chamberlain An All-American Nordic skier out of Bates College, David Chamberlain joined the Professional cross country ski tour as a member of the Subaru and Fischer Ski team. During his professional career he represented the United States at three World Championships and won the Overall Tour Championship twice. He was a skiing guide for United States blind skiers at the 2014 Winter Paralympics.

Dick Taylor At Dartmouth Dick Taylor captained the ski team in 1959 and in 1960 won the National XC 30 K Championship. In the Army he trained for Biathlon placing 11th in the World Biathlon Championships and 6th in World Cup in 1961. He went on to captain the U.S. Olympic Nordic Team in the 1964 Olympics, skiing in the 15, 30 and 50 K events. Following a stint coaching the U.S. Team Dick returned to Maine to teach and coach at Gould Academy where he passed on his skills to a generation of young Nordic skiers.
The Maine Ski Hall of Fame
How It Came To Be

By Dave Irons
Chairman of the Hall of Fame Committee

For a number of years I had been advocating for the creation of Maine Ski Hall of Fame. The state has athletic halls of fame for major team sports such as baseball and football, even though the number of athletes in team sports that had achieved national prominence amounted to little more than a handful. With so many outstanding athletes, ski area builders, top coaches, instructors and other innovators, the list of possible members seemed endless. Each time I brought up the subject to various people in Maine’s ski industry, the question was always: Where would we put a Ski Hall of Fame? For several years that question kept the idea in limbo. When I was invited to join the board of directors for the Maine Golf Hall of Fame, the answer to where put a Ski Hall of Fame presented itself; there was no need for a building. The Maine Golf Hall of Fame, simply organized an annual election and put on the induction banquet. I decided we could do the same for skiing and then contacted Greg Sweetser, Executive Director of the Ski Maine Association. He invited me to prepare a presentation for his members.

The preparation was quite simple. I took along a copy of the Golf Hall of Fame program to show what we could do. I also selected skiers who could make up the first class. They were 10 who had such an impact on Maine skiing that no one could argue their inclusion. Four – Wendall “Chummy” Broomhall, John Bower, Al Merrill and Ralph “Doc” DesRoches were already in the US National Ski Hall of Fame. The rest had equal credentials; Aurele Legere, Robert “Bunny” Bass, Amos Winter, Otto Wallingford, Wes Marco and Russ Haggert. We had skiers, builders, a grooming innovator and one of the state’s first ski instructors. It was a cross section of those who had founded and built the ski industry in Maine. We would
create a written record of the achievements of these skiers through a program with biographies. Ads in the program would pay for the printing and banquet expenses. I should have anticipated the response from Ski Maine’s ski area members; “We’ll support it if you head up the program.” Any hope I had that this would be a Ski Maine project disappeared, and I had no choice but to put my money where my mouth was.

Actually, it was work, not money.

That meeting with the Ski Maine Association was in the fall of 2002. Sweetser then suggested I meet with the Ski Museum of Maine, board of directors and he arranged for me to make a presentation. Knowing what happens when good ideas are turned over to a committee for study, I decided this time to act before I made the pitch. I booked Lost Valley Ski Area in Auburn for the inaugural banquet, October 24, 2003 and then presented the board with all the details; location, cost per person for dinner, quotes for printing the program and an estimated ad revenue of $5,000 which would cover all expenses. My only question of the Ski Museum board was, “Will this be done as part of the Ski Museum of Maine?”

The answer was yes and I spent the rest of the 2002/2003 ski season rounding up a Maine Ski Hall of Fame Committee; Connie King, general manager Lost Valley, Bob Flynn head coach from Bates College, Tom Bennett from the Down East Ski Club, Dick Osgood, former Edward Little ski coach, Will Farnham, retired racer, coach and NSP, John Christie, former owner of Saddleback Mt and general manager of Sugarloaf, Karl Anderson, former US Ski Team athlete and of course, Greg Sweetser.

The committee started by discussing the makeup of the first class and the 10 nominees I suggested were agreed upon. Naturally other names came up and were most certainly deserving. But we had to start somewhere and if the hall of fame became the success we anticipated, there would be plenty of years to elect those whose name came up. That initial sense of success is borne out by the current Honor Roll of 121. We then went on to develop a mission statement.

“The mission of the Maine Ski Hall of Fame is to recognize those skiers, who through their efforts and achievements have brought distinction to Maine skiing. Some of
these skiers made their mark in competition. Others were founders who built the sport into a way of life for so many Mainers. Still more were teachers who led countless skiers and competitors into our sport. Some had an intense impact on local skiers while others gained prominence on an international scale. Thanks to these skiers Maine has an industry that is a vital part of the economy, not only in the mountains, but throughout the state.

It is to recognize the importance of skiing to Maine and its citizens that the Maine Ski Hall of Fame has been formed. By enshrining those men and women who founded and built the sport in Maine, competitors who brought prominence to Maine skiing, their coaches and mentors, and others who have made significant contributions, we shall create a permanent record of their endeavors and achievements. By doing this we shall preserve this history for those who follow, that they may understand the great achievements of these individuals.”

With a mission statement in place, the committee moved onto the details of the banquet. All of us had induction banquet experience with other halls of fame, either as committee members, inductees, or presenters and we all knew that long speeches would kill the event. It was decided that we would not hire a professional emcee because the evening was to be about the inductees, and not someone from out of town telling jokes. Having experienced what can happen when friends make the introductions (Everything they say reminds them of another story which they add, and add, and add) we decided to carefully script the introductions and divide them among those of us with public speaking experience. In this way there was no danger the introduction would take longer than the honorees acceptance speech. With this approach we have been able to keep the program moving, with the anticipated one or two exceptions!

The first hall of fame ceremony in 2003 had 218 people attending the banquet at Lost Valley Ski Area in Auburn. The six-plus pages of ads in the program paid for the printing and awards. After buying dinner for each inductee and a guest, we were left with a balance in the treasury. The event has grown each year in every way. Attendance at the banquet now reaches 300-plus, and ad revenue has grown to the
point where we print 24 pages instead of the original 16. The income from the banquet has played a vital role in supporting the mission and programs of the Ski Museum of Maine.

The Ski Museum of Maine and the Maine Ski Hall of Fame are all about the history and heritage of skiing in Maine. As we approach our 15th annual banquet the biographies of the inductees including this year’s create a 70,000 word story of the history, heritage and spirit that is Maine skiing. These biographies give readers a rich sense of the breadth of Maine skiing – whether it’s the story of Birger Olsen, who brought winter carnivals to Portland in the 1920’s, Theo Johnsen, who wrote the nation’s first ski book in 1905, Otto Wallingford, who invented the “Powdermaker,” or Olympians such as John Bower, Karl Anderson, Julie Parisien and Kirsten Clark. These programs are available at the Ski Museum of Maine and the biographies can be viewed on line at www.skimuseumofmaine.org.

(Condensed from the original article, published in the Ski Museum of Maine Newsletter, Fall 2010)
Ski Museum Is Getting A Much Needed Face Lift .... And More!

Thanks to generosity of the King and Jean Cummings Charitable Trust Fund, the ski museum received a grant this past summer, to help update the physical museum space including our office area, create new exhibits, and to purchase materials to insure our artifacts are properly stored and archived. The trust seeks to support programs in the arts, education and cultural preservation in geographic areas where King and Jean Cummings lived, worked and/or had an interest. The trust was started by King because of his love for the Western Central Mountains of Maine, and his desire to fund good causes that contribute to quality of live and a stronger local economy. Warren Cook, King’s nephew played a pivotal role in the SMOM receiving the grant. Cook is on the Cummings Charitable Trust BOD and chairperson for the grant committee. According to Cooper Friend, a SMOM board member and long time Sugarloafer; “Warren is a big supporter of the ski museum and thought the grant was just plain a good idea.”

The King and Jean Cummings Charitable Trust Fund is part of the Maine Charitable Foundation, located in Ellsworth, Maine.
2nd Annual Skee Spree 2017 Donors

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Coffee Hound Coffee Bar  
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Wende Gray

2nd Annual Skee Spree 2017 Donors
The Ski Museum of Maine deeply appreciates all the generous donors that contributed to our 2017 Annual Giving Campaign. The Ski Museum’s generous members contributed a total of $14,720, another new record. Your contributions allow us to continue our mission – Celebrate and preserve the history and heritage of Maine skiing. Thank you!

$999 - $1,500
Dick & Cate Gilbane
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$250 - $499
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Ralph & Joni White - Bangor
Memberships are an important part of our ability to sustain the Ski Museum. Please support generously. Please either go to our website at www.skimuseumofmaine.org or use the application below and send to:
Ski Museum of Maine, P.O. Box 359, Kingfield, ME 04947

Name: ____________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________
City: ______________________________________________
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Would you like to become a Ski Museum Volunteer?
Let us know how you would like to help:
☐ at events
☐ be a Saturday host at the museum
☐ with museum projects/exhibits
☐ with data entry and/or cataloging
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☐ other __________________________

Please check membership level:
☐ $25 newsletter & SMOM logo sticker
☐ $50 + lapel pin
☐ $100 + 10% off gift shop purchases
☐ $250 + SMOM logo coffee mug
☐ Lifetime $1,000 + black fleece vest with SMOM logo
☐ Additional Donation:
$ __________

Mission Statement
“To celebrate and preserve the history and heritage of Maine skiing.”
Chummy Broomhall (second from left) looking over the 40 km course for the 1950 World Championship cross country races, that were moved from Lake Placid to Rumford due to a lack of snow. Chummy wore many hats for this event; President of the Chisholm Ski Club, course preparation and competitor. The CSC and town of Rumford had less than 56 hours notice to prepare for their international guest. Chummy is the last remaining member of the 2003 inaugural HOF class. Look for more tales of Chummy in the Winter 2018 Snow Trail.