Let's toast 10 amazing skiers & visionaries who made Maine the way skiing should be.
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 to follow, that they may understand the great achievements of these individuals.

~ Honor Roll ~

Class of 2003
Wendell “Chummy” Broomhall
Aurele Legere
Robert “Bunny” Bass
Amos Winter
John Bower
Otto Wallingford
Al Merrill
Wes Marco
Doc Des Roches
Russ Haggett

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

Class of 2005
Theo Johnson
James C. Jones
Dick & Mary Kendall
Richard S. “Dick” Osgood
Richard “Pat” Murphy
Robert Pidacks
Franklin “FC” Emery
Robert Remington
Karl Anderson
Robert MacGregor Morse

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Program

Masters of Ceremonies
Greg Sweetser • Dave Irons

Class of 2006
Charles Akers
Norm Cummings
Ray Broomhall

Jack Lufkin
George Ouellette
Richard Gould
Irving Kagan

Peter Webber
Fletcher Brown
John Christie

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Glenn Parkinson, Greg Sweetser, Ed Rock, Bruce Chalmers, Tom Bennett, Peter Hussey, Jeff Knight, Bob Flynn,
Connie King, John Christie, Andy Shepard, Carl Soderberg, Dick Doucette, John Williams, Rebecca Woods

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Charles Akers

Charlie Akers started skiing as soon as he started walking, first in his younger years with his brothers, Leon and Mel in the small Western Maine town of Andover where they grew up. His first serious competitive skiing came as a sophomore at Andover High School, a school that was one of the first to compete in four event skiing in the forties.

That year Charlie took first in the state cross country championships. He continued his domination of interscholastic competition by repeating that victory in his junior and senior years and added a New England title as well. His outstanding high school career only got him thirsty for more.

After entering college at the University of Maine in the fall of 1957 he asked to work out with the cross country running team to get in shape for skiing. He wound up joining the team, making the varsity squad three straight years. The strategy worked and Akers quickly made his mark with the UMaine ski team, immediately becoming a consistent high finisher and winner in numerous college competitions. In 1959 he won the NCAA Cross Country Championship and repeated the performance in 1961.

His success in 1959 qualified the Maine skier for the Olympic trials. A strong performance in the trials secured his place as a member of the USA Cross Country Ski Team for the 1960 Olympics, and he took a semester off from UMaine to represent his country in the games at Squaw Valley in California.

Just before graduating from college in 1961, Akers received a letter from the commanding officer of the Army Biathlon Training Center encouraging him to join the group. He accepted the challenge and reported to Basic Training at Fort Dix, New Jersey, as all recruits are required to do. About the fifth week at Fort Dix he was ordered to report to the company commander who very bluntly asked him what he was doing there. Akers explained his intentions of joining the Biathlon Unit in Alaska and proceeded to tell the commander more about the unit. The commander then relaxed and told the Andover native he had never seen orders cut by the Pentagon rather than the Department of the Army.

On completion of Basic Training Akers was sent to Anchorage, Alaska to start skiing and shooting with the Biathlon Unit at Fort Richardson. The next three winters were spent traveling and competing throughout Europe where he established himself as one of the Army's top competitors. At the Olympic Trials he placed first for the U.S. Biathlon Team and represented the USA in that event at Innsbruck, Austria in 1964, where his 16th place was the top American finish in Biathlon.

Following his discharge in 1964 Akers moved to Palmer, Alaska where he continued his skiing as a member of the National Ski Patrol, achieving the highest level as a certified patrolman. He then pursued a career in education as a teacher and principal, retiring in 1986, when he became a bush pilot operating Alaskan Mountain Air. Now retired, Akers credits his rigorous training in skiing as the foundation for all of achievements in life and he thanked the people in Maine who gave him the encouragement and support. Charlie Akers' achievements in skiing have earned him a place in the Maine Ski Hall of Fame.

The University of Maine congratulates

Charlie Akers
A Black Bear legend

Congratulations to
NORM CUMMINGS
on your induction into the Maine Ski Hall of Fame

Congratulations to all the inductees for their enthusiasm, their inspiration, and their ongoing commitment to the sport of skiing.

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Page 4
From Edward Little High School to the Ed Sullivan Show Norm Cummings excelled as Maine’s premier ski jumper. He started winning ski jump competitions as a member of legendary Zeke Dwellley ski teams that won state ski titles in 1950, 51 and 52, and Eastern titles in 1951 and 52. In his senior year in 1952 he won everything is sight, the Maine Interscholastic crown, the Eastern Interscholastic title and the Maine Class B championship. In 1953 he added the Eastern US Prep School Championship and the Eastern ski jumping Championship.

His ski jumping prowess led him to Middlebury College one of the country’s top schools in NCAA ski competition. Through college he continued to compete at all levels, in 1954 winning the Class B State Open Championship in Rumford with the longest jumps for both class A and B. This and other success gave him a shot at the Olympic Trials in 1955 at Iron Mountain, Michigan. That same winter he made a guest appearance on the John Cameron Swayzey News show with live night jumping also at Iron Mountain.

The following year he jumped for the Arthur Godfrey Show on the Olympic Hill at Lake Placid, N.Y.

During his senior year at Middlebury he won the Eastern Intercollegiate jumping crown and in the process set a new hill record at Lyndonville, VT. That year he earned All American honors for his performances in NCAA competition. Through his career he was invited to jumping tryouts for Olympic and World Championship teams five times. Although he never was named to those teams he was ranked among the top jumpers in the United States for from 1954 to 1960. In 1957 the top ten US jumpers were invited to jump live on stage on the Ed Sullivan Show and Cummings was among the group. He continued to compete as a member of the National Special Ski Jumping Squad until 1960 and in 1960 and 61 won the State Class A Open Championship.

When his competitive days ended, Norm’s interest in the sport didn’t end. Because of his ability as a jumper he was valued by high school coaches and assisted in developing many younger jumpers helping them to achieve their full potential. His knowledge of the sport was further utilized as a judge at various events, a position that calls for split second decisions during the short time a jumper is in the air.

In a career that stretched from the late forties to the mid sixties he won more State Open Ski Jumping titles than anyone before or since, making him one of the finest jumpers ever to come out of the state of Maine. His achievements on the jumping hill and contributions to developing young jumpers have earned Norm Cummings a place in the Maine Ski Hall of Fame.
Ray Broomhall

Some skiers have to seek out competition. Ray was surrounded by it. With six brothers and four sisters all involved in skiing it was natural that he would ski. But in the forties and fifties there weren't many lifts to ride so he and his siblings built jumps and climbed the neighborhood slopes in Rumford and Mexico. While he participated in all types of skiing his focus gradually settled in on cross country and jumping.

Through his school years Raymond took part in numerous carnival and school ski team competitions. Following high school he continued to compete in cross country and jumping events. During the sixties he joined his brothers, Robert, Erlon "Bucky", and Philip "Butch" in cross country and Nordic combined events, skiing under the banners of the Chisholm Ski Club of Rumford and the Pineland Ski Club of Andover. In his most recent ski race at the Pineland Skiing and Social Club as part of Andover's 2004 Bicentennial celebration he finished first in his age group in the five kilometer race.

When he wasn't competing he was helping to develop young skiers by coaching at the Chisholm Ski Club. With his own children in the sixties he and his wife Judy got involved with the Bill Koch League expanding his volunteer activity. They coached, ran festivals and competition traveling all over New England.

Among the many skiers he coached can be found the names of 40 sent by the club to junior National competition. And out of those came national and international skiers, Jim and Patrick Miller, Jack Lufkin, Frank Ludick, Elizabeth Chenard, Larry Poulin, Elizabeth Carey, and Ann Arsenault.

Coaching at the club wasn't enough. From 1977-89 and 1980-85 he served as head ski coach at Mexico High School and during those years both girls and boys excelled in cross country. There were a lot of high finishes including the Boys State Championship in 1984 and the Mountain Valley Conference title in 1985.

His coaching expanded to Special Olympics for ten years both at Black Mountain in Rumford and Sugarloaf and he still coordinates a training day for Special Olympians each year to prepare the athletes for the games at Sugarloaf. Returning in high school competition in 1996 he added another five years and more awards as Coed Nordic ski Coach at Mountain Valley High.

For most this would be enough but throughout his adult life Raymond has worked with his brother Chummy to turn Black Mountain into a world class cross country facility. Their work has been rewarded with championships for Black Mountain, 1991 National Biathlon, 1993 and 1999 U.S. Cross Country, 1993 U.S. Masters, 1996 Junior Olympics, and 1999 NCAA cross country championships.

Add to this his work with other championships as chief of course and course preparation at NCAA, World Cup and Olympics and this is only a partial list. He has devoted a lifetime to Nordic skiing, working with young skiers and high level competitors, and this devotion has earned Ray Broomhall a place in the Maine Ski Hall of Fame.
Jack Lufkin was a late starter in skiing, joining the ski team at Stephens High of Rumford in 1962 as a freshman, his first year of skiing. Fortunately he was in a hotbed of Nordic skiing and with the coaching of Mack Miller, Chummy Broomhall and Herb Adams he progressed rapidly. Half way through high school he was consistently a top scorer on a ski team that was among the best in the state and New England competition. His team won both state and New England titles in 1965. Along with high school competition Jack also skied in numerous eastern junior races and in his senior year placed second in the Junior National 10 K in Bend, Oregon.

His success as a high school racer led to a scholarship at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. His outstanding college performance earned a spot on the US Ski Team in 1966. In 1967 he moved up to the "A" team and in 1968 he traveled to France to race in 30 K in the Grenoble Olympics. That same winter in Reit in Winkle, Germany the Rumford native was a member of the first US relay team to score a win in cross country competition at the World Cup level.

Following graduation from college, Lufkin retired from racing and entered the ski industry with California Outward Bound. In 1972 he joined fellow Rumford skier Avery Caldwell in developing the Jackson Ski Touring Foundation, succeeding Caldwell as Executive Director in 1973. He also served as Jackson's ski school director and retail shop manager for the Jack Frost Shop until 1976. During that tenure, Jack joined other cross country skiers including Maine natives, Tommy Upham and Avery Caldwell in creating the Nordic Ski Instructors Association. Lufkin served as the head certification examiner of the fledgling organization for several years. From 1976 to 1978 he developed the Carrabassett Valley Recreation Center, now the Sugarloaf Ski Touring Center.

In 1978 Lufkin moved to the equipment side of the cross country industry as Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Exel Marketing the largest XC distribution company in North America in the early nineties, a position he held until 1994. He served as chairman for the XC marketing committee for Ski Industries of America for many years and was active in organizing and promoting roller ski races and XC coaching clinics all over the US.

In a career in skiing that spanned over forty years, Jack Lufkin contributed at every level winning cross country races in high school and college, representing his country in the Olympics and through his coaching, organizational efforts, and cross country center building and managing. This work has also helped in creating new generations of skiers. These contributions earned Jack Lufkin a place in the Maine Ski Hall of Fame.
George Ouellette started skiing with wooden skis and leather straps for bindings as a youngster in Lewiston, Maine. He skied cross country on his four-event skis to a small mountain on the Bates College campus where he could practice making turns. Considering himself an intermediate to advanced recreational skier, his competition was limited to a few races in college and later recreation against fellow ski writers.

It was as a journalist that Ouellette had his impact on Maine and New England skiing. In 1959 as an announcer for WMTW TV, channel 8, he introduced the first television program in the country totally devoted to skiing. He produced and hosted “Ski Trails”, a half-hour program, 18 weeks every season for the next 11 years. In those pre-cable days, Channel 8’s antenna location atop Mount Washington sent the program into Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont with the signal best in many mountain communities. The show featured filmed footage of major ski competitions in the Northeast, interviews with local, national and international ski personalities. He took his audience on film tours of various Maine, New England, U.S. and European ski resorts and introduced them to new ski equipment and apparel.

Ouellette was among the reporters at Wildcat in 1959 during the Olympic tryouts when the first discussions of creating a new organization for professional ski writers. He was part of a group that gathered in Jackie Jones kitchen in Jackson, NH to get the new organization underway. Over the next few years the group’s meetings led to the first annual meeting in 1963 of the eastern Ski Writers Association and from 1967-69 Ouellette served as the third president of fledgling organization. The organization has had an many 160 members and is the Eastern division of the North American Snowsports Journalists Association with close to 400 members. He was made an honorary member by ESWA in recognition of his service to the organization and the sport of skiing.

During the 11 years of ski trails George showcased all or most of the ski areas in Maine and New England along with such nationally known resorts as Sun Valley, and Jackson Hole. He also conducted and filmed a ski holiday tour of St. Anton, Austria and Davos, Switzerland. In 1969 he hosted a syndicated radio show and in 1971 his PR firm helped develop the theme and produce promotional events for the Tall Timber Classic at Sugarloaf.

His last ski assignment was in 1980 when Chummy Broomhall asked him to serve as a stadium announcer for the cross country events at the Lake Placid Olympics. For skiers all over northern New England George Ouellette served as a pied piper, leading them to the slopes through his show “Ski Trails”. His shows enticed a generation of skiers to the slopes and the organization he helped found helps the current generation of ski journalists to inform even more skiers. His dedication to the sport has earned George Ouellette a place in the Maine Ski Hall of Fame.
When Richard Gould attended high school in the thirties there was little organized skiing either in school or on lifts. Still he was able to develop his skills to become a leading skier at Bates College where he won the State Collegiate Cross Country Ski Championship in 1937. Following college he joined the faculty at Farmington High School in 1938.

As Winter Sports Coordinator he was charged with overseeing ice hockey, snowshoe races, speed skating and winter carnivals from 1938 to 1944, when he added alpine and cross country skiing to the mix. In 1952 Gould inaugurated four event skiing at Farmington at a time when only a handful of schools were involved in the state championships, Edward Little, Gould Academy, Rumford, Andover, Fryeburg and Wilton Academy.

To compete in all four events, downhill, slalom, cross country and jumping Titcomb Mountain needed a jump and cross country trails. Enlisting the aid of Olympian Chummy Broomhall from Rumford, Gould oversaw the cutting of a three mile cross country trail and construction of a jump. In those days before grooming equipment the cross country trail was prepared by snowshoes. The jump was used until jumping was discontinued as an interscholastic event many years later.

It didn’t take long for Farmington to become a power in Maine high school skiing. In 1954 the team qualified for the Eastern Interscholastic Championship and the New England Championships. The next year the team won the State title and placed second in the East and third in New England. Norm Twitchell won the Skimeister award as the best four event skier in Maine that year. Farmington repeated as state champs in 1957. One legacy of any coach is the athletes he develops and a number of Gould’s skiers went on to success in college and other competition, including Peter and Icky Webber, Tommy Stearns, Dave Horn, Dave Hodgkins and Brud Folger. Another is the success not only of teams he coached but future teams. Through his tenure which ended in 1961 Farmington was always a factor in Maine and New England skiing competition often against much larger schools. Gould’s work helped lay the foundation for one of the most successful ski programs in the state winning 15 state girl’s titles and 12 boy’s championships.

In both 1955 and 1961 Gould was named coach of the year by the Maine Ski Council and in 1978, received the Community Recognition Award.

His work at Titcomb resulted in the area hosting numerous meets including the New England Championships in 1955. Long after his retirement as high school coach Gould continued as an instructor and Titcomb and worked in reconstruction of the cross country trail system. In 1998 his devotion was recognized when the complex was named the Richard B. Gould Cross Country Center.

The accomplishments of lifetime devotion to skiing in Farmington and Maine have earn Dick Gould a place in the Maine ski Hall of Fame.
Most Hall of Fame ski stories start at a very young age but Irving Kagan was close to forty when he first set foot on a ski hill. That was in 1966 when his eldest daughter wanted to learn how to ski. It wasn’t long before he was hooked, building a home at Sugarloaf just two years later.

Shortly after the move he enrolled his son Dan in the Sugarloaf Masters program, an outgrowth of programs at New England ski areas that focused on precise execution of standard ski technique. They had evolved into freestyle competition that included trick skiing that was eventually formalized as ballet, aerials and mogul competitions.

By the early seventies, Irv was taking his son to meets throughout New England and saw that the competitions were rather loose, varying considerably from place to place in rules, scoring and format. Recognizing that to be a fair test, freestyle competition needed overall uniform organization and precise regulations for scoring. Kagan volunteered as Chairman of the Eastern Freestyle Competition Committee and put his precise engineering mind to work developing uniform scoring and judging protocols. He pushed for publication of rulebooks governing freestyle. He combined his expertise with many twelve hour days spent on the hill to develop his recommendations, which became the foundation for amateur freestyle events sponsored by the U. S. Ski Association, which replaced the ongoing professional freestyle as the leading organization the sport.

Kagan developed a point based seeding system for freestyle which became the standard nationwide and was part of the reason USSA took on freestyle as a national competition. His efforts were rewarded by election as chairman of the National Freestyle Competition Committee, then to the USSA Board of Directors, and next Vice President of USSA’s Freestyle program.

Through his work from within the organization, introducing rigorous protocols for training and certification Irv got freestyle inverted aerials into the USSA program. As freestyle flourished under USSA and Kagan’s leadership he moved forward with development and team selection from entry level to a Development Team, Nor-Am Team and National Team.

At the same time he was working relentlessly on the international scene to see that freestyle would become an Olympic event. In 1992 he got his reward when the US received two medals in the new event and since the US has dominated Olympic Freestyle Competition.

Through most of two decades he served in many ways, with one volunteer position piled on top of another while running a successful business, also donating many hours of his Management Information Systems employees and computers to provide the seeding for freestyle skiers. His service included being director on the boards of the Sugarloaf Ski Club, CVA, the Sugarloaf Ski Education Foundation, and numerous non skiing business and service organizations. He organized and ran the first Freestyle World Cup in the US. For his work he received the Julius Blegen award from USSA and he is described as “The Father of Freestyle Skiing as an Olympic Sport”. This total devotion to a segment of skiing in a time of great need has earned Irving Kagan a rightful place in the Maine Ski Hall of Fame.

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Peter Webber

Peter Webber’s career in skiing has touched many sides of the sport and his name has been a part of Sugarloaf almost from the beginning. He skied at Sugarloaf with Stub Taylor and Amos Winter as early as 1949 and skied in the first Sugarloaf Schuss in 1953 as a senior at Farmington High School. Somehow he found time to participate in four sports in high school and still excel at skiing. As a four event member of the ski team Webber won the state slalom and downhill titles in 1952 and 53.

This led to a solid career at Middlebury where the Webber name is as synonymous with skiing as it is with Sugarloaf. Once again he competed in four events and in 1957 captained the Middlebury ski team participating in NCAA championships along with the winter carnival competitions.

Returning to Farmington following graduation he opened the Village Ski Shop there in the winter of 1957. In the mid sixties he teamed with Paul Kailey to open Sunri Ski Shop the first shop at Sunday River and at the same time expanded Peter Webber ski shops to include stores in Lost Valley, Waterville, Augusta and Carrabassett Valley. This involvement in retail led the young entrepreneur into another segment of the ski business with the creation of Peter Webber Imports, bringing Ulli hats and sweaters from Austria in the sixties and seventies. From 1968 to 1978 he was Eastern sales manager for K2 with a warehouse and service center in Waterville.

Moving to Sugarloaf in 1977, he bought the Sugarloaf Inn and became a key player in the expansion of the resort to true destination status. That year he began construction of the first of some 400 condos between 1978 and 1988. In 1983-84 he built the Sugar Tree Club, the resort’s first fitness center and surrounding condominiums.

He became a member of the Sugarloaf board of directors and served as Chairman in the early and mid eighties, an important time in the resort’s growth.

Webber was one of the first to recognize the need to make Sugarloaf a year round resort and in 1979 he began thinking about golf. In 1982 he met Robert Trent Jones Jr. in Vail and through his efforts brought Jones to Sugarloaf. Ground was broken in 1983 and the Sugarloaf golf course has become a major factor in building summer traffic adding to the financial viability of the resort. His contribution was recognized in 1984 when he received the Margaret Chase Smith Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

Throughout his business career Webber found time to work on numerous projects and charitable endeavors. As one of the founders and constant supporters of Carrabassett Valley Academy, Peter and his wife Martha have been described as “The spirit behind CVA”. He started the CVA Fall Classic Golf Tournament in 1985 for scholarships. After Martha’s death the funds were put into the Martha B. Webber Scholarship Fund and more than $1 million has been raised through the 22 years. Through Martha’s illness and since her death, Webber has been heavily involved in the fight against the disease and for his efforts in 2005, received the Meredith Burgess “Spirit of Life Award” for his “unfailing optimism” advocacy and delivering a positive message to cancer survivors. All that embodies the spirit of life.

These achievements and contributions over a life time have earned Peter Webber a place in the Maine Ski Hall of Fame.
Fletcher Brown

Fletcher Brown started skiing in the early thirties at Deerfield Academy leading to his joining the ski team at Williams College which he captained in his senior year. Following graduation in 1938 he spent the next three years at Cannon Mountain, starting out as a ski instructor at Peckett’s on Sugar Hill. He moved to the ski school at Cannon Mountain from 1939 to 1941 where he served as co-director along with Peter Gabriel.

Brown's skiing was interrupted by World War II when he joined the navy and following aviation cadet training, served as a PBY pilot from 1941-1945. Those years in the Pacific where his only no skiing years from 1933 to the present and he still skis in his 91st year.

Returning to Cannon after the war, he served on the ski patrol. When Roland Peabody was absent, often weeks at a time, Fletcher assumed his duties as overall director of the ski area.

In 1946 he returned to Maine to join his father's automobile agency, where he completed his working career, assuming the Presidency of the dealership on his father's retirement.

Back in Maine he quickly became involved in skiing, working with Robert Bass to form the Maine Ski Club Association, forerunner to the Maine Ski Council. He represented Maine with the Eastern Ski Association.

The next year, 1947, through his association activities and skiing in Tuckerman Ravine Brown became acquainted with Amos Winter which led to his involvement with efforts to build a ski area on the north side of Bigelow Mountain. That dream ended with the construction of Long Falls Dam on the Dead River, which created Flagstaff Lake and cut off their access to the mountain. Looking cross the Valley Winter and his Bigelow Boys gazed at the snowfields atop Sugarloaf and found a new location for their dream.

Shortly after Brown was part of an Association meeting in Hallowell attended by representatives throughout the state, where it was decided to pursue a major new ski area at Sugarloaf.

The next step came when Brown, Amos Winter, Robert Bass and two others went to the corporate headquarters of Scott Paper near Philadelphia. These negotiations led eventually to the purchase of bulk of the land on Sugarloaf's north side, 1,760 acres for $15,000. It helped that Scott's attorney was an acquaintance of Brown's. In an interesting side note, Scott Paper noted that the value of timber on the mountain was estimated at $25,000 and if the ski area made enough money they could pay for it, and that was paid off in three years.

Fletcher Brown was one of the skiers who helped Amos Winter cut Winter's Way and the access road to the foot of the mountain. Taking advantage of his Cannon Mountain contacts he took the lead in hiring Sel Hannah to design Narrow Gauge and Sluice. When the Sugarloaf mountain Crop was formed to succeed the Sugarloaf Ski Club, Brown was an initial director, serving for many years and as Vice President under Robert Bass.

His life long devotion to the sport of skiing and his work in building Maine Skiing through the early years at Sugarloaf have earned Fletcher Brown a place in the Maine Ski Hall of Fame.

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06/07
Maine Ski Hall of Fame
Sugarloafer inductees:

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Irv Kagan
Fletcher Brown
John Christie

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John Christie

John Christie started skiing at the Camden Snowbowl before he started school and skied through high school as a recreational skier. At Bowdoin College he entered competition, skiing in all four events. In 1958 he won the State Intercollegiate Downhill Championship. After graduation in 1959 John spent the next two years on a fellowship at the University of Stockholm in Sweden. Returning to the states in 1961 he went to Sugarloaf to race in the Sugarloaf Schuss and stayed on to work on patrol.

That led to his entrance into the ski business as he spent the summer installing T-bars four and five and was named Amos Winter’s Assistant Manager in the fall. Along with Jud Strunk and Bill Jones he formed "The Sugarloafers" singing group that entertained at ski shows in Boston, New York and Detroit, 1963-65.

In 1965 Christie was named General Manager at Sugarloaf and it was under his leadership that the mountain installed the four passenger gondola, a major step forward. He helped to promote Sugarloaf and the sport by hosting a ski instructional program on WABI in Bangor, 1965-67. Along with his managerial duties he served as president of the Maine Ski Council, the Sugarloaf Ski Club and the Ski Maine Association, and in 1968 received an award from the Maine Ski Council in recognition of "distinguished service to skiing in Maine".

In 1968 John moved to Vermont to take over as Vice President and General Manager of the Mount Snow Development Corporation. His leadership was recognized when he was elected President of the Vermont ski Areas Association in 1970 and a director of the National ski Areas Association in 1971. He became President of the Vermont Chamber of Commerce in the spring of 1972. That fall he returned to Maine when he purchased Saddleback Mountain. He received the Maine Publicity Bureau’s President’s Award in 1973. In 1976 he sold Saddleback and thought he had retired from the business and the sport.

The hiatus lasted until 1993 when his twin sons Josh and Jake learned to ski at the Camden Snowbowl. He returned to skiing and in 1996 returned to Sugarloaf as a recreational skier. John is making up for lost time getting more than 50 days a year on the mountain.

Once back in skiing it didn’t take long for him to get involved beyond recreational skiing, being elected to the board of directors of the newly formed Ski Museum of Maine in 2002 and President in 2005. He also played a key role in forming the Maine Ski Hall of Fame, serving as chairman of the selection committee 2003-2005, a position he gave up to accept the Ski Museum presidency.

Except for a hiatus he has been involved in skiing at many levels most of his life and many of those positions were as a volunteer for organizations that play an important role in skiing. For this lifetime of devotion and achievement John Christie has earned a place in the Maine Ski Hall of Fame.
Thanks to technological advances in digital imaging and Internet communications, the Ski Museum of Maine is now presenting its ‘product’ to a global audience. By partnering with the Maine Historical Society, photos from SMOM’s own collections as well as other skiing organizations are available for free public viewing with a click of the mouse.

This exciting SMOM project is currently an early stage. This past winter, we published one exhibit comprising 13 photos of Pleasant Mountain. Selected from the collections belonging to Shawnee Peak, the original black-and-white prints were scanned and uploaded to the historical society’s online digital archive at www.MaineMemory.net. A brief explanation and interpretation accompanies the exhibit, and the whole show may be viewed 24/7 via that website.

**Here’s how:** Call up www.MaineMemory.net on your web browser. No special codes or passwords are needed. On the left-hand side of the home page, click on “View All Exhibits.” A listing of exhibits will appear, alphabetical by title. Scrolling through the list, find “Skiing Pleasant Mountain” about two-thirds of the way down. Click on it and the exhibit’s introductory page will appear; the centerpiece is a photo taken at the top of Maine’s first chairlift, circa 1955. Photos may be viewed in ‘list’ or ‘slideshow’ format... just click the appropriate button.

The images in SMOM’s inaugural exhibit depict Maine’s first T-bar, the state’s first chairlift and an early grooming snowcat. Equipment runs the gamut from hickory skis and lace-up leather boots to the early years of synthetic materials and step-in bindings.

SMOM president and 2006 Hall of Fame inductee John Christie, who skied Pleasant Mountain in the 1950s and 1960s, was delighted with the online exhibit.

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Emery Travel  
Frank Emery Class of 2005  
Greg & Cindy Foster  
Sugarloaf Ski Club  
Don & Nancy Fowler  
Greg Sweetser & Debbie Freeman  
John & Sylvia Sowles  
Peter & Delinda Smith

**Congratulations from The New England Ski Museum**
“It was such fun when I visited the site!” enthused Christie. “Everything looked so familiar to me. It transported me back.”

The photos in this exhibit represent an infinitesimal segment of Maine Historical Society’s six-year-old web-based project. The award-winning online archive currently numbers about 10,000 images, mostly old black and white pictures that pertain to every aspect of life in Maine.

Candace Kanes, who directs the Internet project for the society, notes that most materials have been submitted by very small organizations such as ours, and that her website allows unprecedented worldwide access.

Expect more this winter. Two online photo exhibits are being prepared for this coming ski season, and both have strong connections to the Hall of Fame and its members.

The first revolves around cross-country skiing in the Rumford area. Approximately a dozen photos belonging to Hall of Fame member Wendall ‘Chummy’ Broomhall, depicting scenes from 1939 into the 1970s, will be published this winter.

Ditto the second exhibit, which features photos of the Down East Ski Club in the 1950s and 1960s. Several of these pictures have been borrowed from the collection of Downeast Ski Club member Tom Bennett, who has also gathered other images from fellow club members.

4120 ft. elevation~2000 ft. vertical

Congratulations Class of 2006 Inductees
To the Maine Ski Hall of Fame!
A SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS TO
JOHN CHRISTIE
THANK YOU FOR YOUR
DEDICATION TO THE SPORT OF SKIING.
FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT
SADDLEBACK MOUNTAIN
RANGELEY, MAINE

Congratulations
to this year’s inductees
to the
Maine
Ski Hall of Fame!

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Three years ago we held the first banquet to induct the first class of Maine skiers into the Maine Ski Hall of Fame. That distinguished class was made up of ten skiers who played key roles in creating the ski industry here in Maine and even around the world. Recognizing them established the Maine Ski Hall of Fame and last year we added ten more in the Class of 2004 and again in 2005. The names of the first three classes can be found in the Honor Roll at the front of the book. This year’s class continues our mission of recognizing the visionaries who shaped our sport.

As you read the biographies of this year’s class you will see that we have a pair of Olympians in Charlie Akers and Jack Lufkin, a pioneering broadcaster, George Ouellette, three who played important roles in building ski areas, Fletcher Brown, Ray Broomhall, and John Christie, a great ski jumper, Norm Cummings, a coach, Richard Gould, a key figure in organizing freestyle, Irving Kagan and a resort builder and competitor Peter Webber.

These skiers represent many aspects of skiing and all have had a major impact on the sport. This program book documents their achievements and creates a permanent record of their contributions. With this group we now have 40 members enshrined in the Maine Ski Hall of Fame, and we have just begun. With more than 30 Maine skiers listed as members of the US Ski Team Alumni and numerous instructors, ski patrollers, and many builders who helped create our sport in Maine or represented us in competition, it will take years to recognize them all. And this is where you come in.

The committee reviewed a number of nominees and had to decide which skiers would go in this year and which could wait awhile. If there is a bias it is toward those older skiers. That first year only three of ten were alive to accept their awards in person. This year we have nine still with us and one of our goals is recognize the deserving pioneers while we can still invite them to join us in person. Through the ski museum and our committee we know of many, but not all. If you know of someone whose contribution to skiing rises to the level of those already enshrined, contact a committee member or visit www.skimaine.com and start the nomination process.

— Dave Irons, Chairman
Maine Ski Hall of Fame
Ski Maine is a non-profit trade association representing the Maine ski industry. Its mission is to increase the availability and enjoyment of Maine skiing and snowboarding for children, individuals, and families. Maine is fortunate to benefit from a wonderful quality of life, outstanding recreation opportunities, and national and international recognition as a premier skiers’ destination. Ski Maine is proud to support the legacy of our state’s best season and honor the inductees of the Maine Ski Hall of Fame.

Ski Maine Association
PO Box 7566
Portland, ME 04112
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Skiers have been enjoying Maine winters for over a century.

Congratulations Class of 2006
Thank you for the commitment and passion you have injected into skiing in Maine over the years.

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e-mail: steve_neal@acordia.com
Maine is very rich in ski history, yet many people do not realize it nor recognize the place this history holds within the American ski world. Because of this, many of those who have valued the special spirit our sport entails are concerned this history will be lost. It is this concern which motivated the founders of the Ski Museum of Maine to organize.

Established with the mission to “preserve and publicize the business of skiing in Maine, while celebrating Maine’s ski history and heritage,” the board of directors has undertaken a number of projects to identify and preserve our skiing heritage and to share this heritage with the younger generations. The formation of the Maine Ski Hall of Fame is an exciting outcome of this effort.

Founded in 1995 by Don Hayes of Ellsworth, Don Fletcher of Orono, and Greg Foster of Cumberland, the Ski Museum of Maine board expanded over the years to include Jean Luce, Stratton; Dick Keenan, Cape Elizabeth; Tony Jessen, Freeport; Don Fowler, Carrabassett Valley; Glenn Parkinson, Freeport; Al Webster, Carrabassett Valley and Holden; Tom Hanson, Orrington; Fran Clukey, East Holden; Greg Sweetser, Cumberland, and Megan Roberts, Farmington. Currently, its Officers are: John Christie, President; Dan Cassidy, Vice President; Tom Hanson, Treasurer; Don Fletcher, Secretary; and Don Fowler, Clerk. Other Directors are: Cindy Hiebert, Peter Hussey, Dave Irons, Jean Luce, Bruce Miles, Glenn Parkinson, Greg Sweetser, and Scott Andrews.

The museum’s supporting membership funds and donations have enabled us to receive a matching grant specifically to hire a professional archivist who spent six days teaching and training us in the proper methods of identifying, filing and storing our archives. Volunteers have continued this process preparing the wonderful archival records of Sugarloaf and Bald Mountain, Penobscot Valley Ski Club, Sugarloaf Ski Club, and the Maine Ski Council. Penobscot Valley Ski Club has also provided a grant to purchase a scanner, enabling the records to be duplicated through our computer program, PastPerfect for safe keeping as well as easy access. The supporting membership includes lifetime members Regis and Carolyn LaPage, Walter Melvin, Jr., Sally and Al Webster, Don Fletcher, Guy Williams and Charlotte Zahn. Their leap of faith has been joined by a number of corporate members and individual skiers across the state. We encourage all who share our concerns and goals to send their contributions to The Ski Museum of Maine, P.O. Box 359, Kingfield ME 04947. Individual membership is $25, Family $40, Supporting/Corporate $100 and Lifetime $500.

And here’s the most exciting news in the eleven-year history of the Museum: On September 12, 2006, the Board voted to sign a lease for a real “headquarters” for the Museum to both display its growing collection of artifacts, documents, and memorabilia, and to house and provide working and archiving space for staff and volunteers at Church Street Commons in Farmington, the beautifully restored (Knowlton McCleary building now) home of Mountain Counties Heritage. At long last, and after careful research and deliberation, this landmark move is the realization of the dream of the original founders of the Museum to have a safe facility in which to collect and store items representing Maine’s rich skiing history, to provide space to work on cataloguing and archiving these materials, and to render them accessible to the public for viewing and examination.

The Board recognizes that this significant step will require a new level of financial commitment on the part of everyone interested in the mission of the Museum, so it also endorsed the implementation of an aggressive membership and fund-raising initiative, the first evidence of which you are witnessing tonight at the Hall of Fame ceremonies.

As important as the decision to move into a real home, at long last, was a move by the Board to assure adequate management of both the operations of the Museum and the organization and execution of an aggressive membership and fund-raising campaign. Megan Roberts, long-time Farmington ski activist with the Ski Club and its ski facilities there, and a member of the Museum Board, has been retained as a Consultant to work with us to realize our ambitions. Please join us in thanking her for taking on this task and wishing her every success.

You can show your support of the Museum by becoming a member, and you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping to preserve the history of the sport we all know and love.
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