

COLORADO SNOWSPORTS 2017 HALL OF FAME ELECTION CANDIDATE SUMMARIES

Voting Panel Must Vote for 4 of the 15 Candidates

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BRUCE CRANMER
Sport Builder

From his earliest memories, Bruce has been on skis, eventually developing an interest in competition, training and racing in local ski clubs. He entered the University of Colorado and became a valuable alpine member of the 1972 and 1973 CU teams that rejuvenated the CU program. In an unusual career move, Bruce decided to become a cross-country skier, making a smooth transition from the alpine to the Nordic world. He was named to the U.S. Cross-Country Team from 1980 through 1989, representing the U.S. at the 1985 Nordic World Championships. Following his retirement from competition, Bruce was hired as the cross-country coach for the University of Vermont before returning to the University of Colorado in 2000 to become head cross-country coach, a role that he holds today. During his tenure at CU, four of his teams have become National Champions and 14 of his athletes have become individual NCAA champions. As a result of his accomplishments, he was named National Collegiate Nordic Coach of the Year in 2015.



BOB DART
Sport Builder

Bob was a member of the Winter Park family for 37 years before his untimely passing in November of 2015. During that time, he was hugely influential, not only in the growth of Winter Park Resort, but also in the sport of skiing and snowboarding as a whole. Hired as a snowmaker in 1977, Bob served in many different capacities, ultimately being promoted to the role of Director of Mountain Maintenance, overseeing virtually every aspect of mountain operations. As Competition Director, he foresaw the growing popularity of freestyle skiing and snowboarding, establishing programs to assist athletes in these burgeoning sports. He was also an untiring champion of growing sport through inclusion, establishing the Winter Park Ski Education Foundation, which has been helping young athletes compete through scholarships for the last 28 years. These accomplishments are complemented by his incredible contributions to the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Association, for whom he became one of the most respected voices at the highest levels of ski racing.



DIANE BOYER
Sport Builder

Diane Boyer is a passionate Colorado skier and outdoor enthusiast, actively promoting skiing for women and families through her company SKEA Ltd., and her involvement in the SIA and the Colorado Snowsports Museum. From her home base in Colorado, Diane's state and national industry influences are born of her tenure on the Snowsports Industries America board of directors (1998 – 2009), including serving as the first female chair of SIA from 2005- 2007. From 2005 to 2009, as board member and chair of SIA, Diane's efforts to convince the SIA board of directors and Denver and Colorado constituencies to move the annual January trade show from Las Vegas to Denver were fundamentally important to the decision to make this significant SIA trade show move in 2009. SKEA was founded by the Boyer family in 1972, with Diane at the helm as President of the company since 1992, along with also serving as designer and owner for more than 25 years.



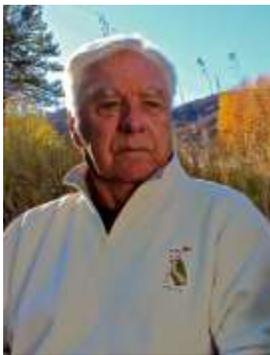
MOE MOSLEY
Sport Builder

Moe founded the Over the Hill Gang Ski Club in 1976, along with two friends, Tom Stein and Bill Magill. His infinite energy drove the development of one of this nation's most successful senior skiing organizations, while also having a positive impact on Colorado senior's quality of life in many ways. The Over the Hill Gang, a year-round activity program created for skiers over the age of 50, was born of two simple premises, ski for an unimaginable number of years and enjoy skiing with those who share that same passion. Based in Copper Mountain, the club offers members the opportunity to share in lasting friendships and camaraderie, while participating in skiing, summer sport activities and social events. Skiing in small groups of 5-10 members of similar abilities and guided by the select OHG staff, made up of members of the Copper Ski and Ride School, members are able to maximize their time on the snow. The original Over the Hill Gang of Copper Mountain celebrated its 40th anniversary in February of 2017.



JOHN LOVETT
Sport Builder

John Lovett was the inventor of the fiberglass cross country ski that forever changed Nordic skiing and ski manufacturing in Colorado. In 1966, at 15, Lovett used his high school's kayak workshop to build a pair of cross-country skis, laminating a maple core with fiberglass. He experimented with the core thickness to get the flex just right, working to duplicate the spring and kick of a good wooden Norwegian ski. The 1966 Lovetts were the world's first fiberglass cross country skis. Eight years later, in 1974, Kneissl and Fischer introduced the first mass-produced fiberglass XC skis in Europe. By that time, John was the owner and operator of a massive ski factory in Boulder. By 1976, Lovett was selling 70,000 pairs a year of foam-core Lovett cross-country skis, private-label skis, and alpine skis—more than Head made at its factory in North Boulder. Lovett was 25 years old when he was approached by Al McDonough of Eastern Mountain Sports, the biggest U.S. retailer of cross-country skis. Within two weeks, EMS agreed to buy the factory.



DAVE STAPLETON
Sport Builder

A fifth generation Coloradoan who grew up in Aspen, Dave had a passion for ski sport that evolved from his time as an athlete, coach and official, punctuating these efforts by focusing on producing premier international competitions at Colorado ski resorts. One of the numerous legacy markers that Dave established dealt with skier safety and standardization of alpine competition courses. Along with three other leaders, Dave developed and launched a landmark initiative with the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Association to the International Ski Federation that mandated specific standards for alpine course design. Dave's work in the area of racer safety helped to form many of the practices that are in place today in the ski industry regarding risk management. Both on and off the hill, Dave could drive his high standards with coaches, officials and athletes because of the level of respect he commanded. It was understood that there was never a personal agenda, but that his motivation was always about safety and fairness.



JOHNO MCBRIDE
Sport Builder

Johnno McBride is now the Head Alpine Coach for the AVSC after an impressive career with the US and Canadian National Alpine Teams. Raised in Aspen, John trained with the Aspen Ski Club. He was named to the US Development Team and went on to race for the University of Vermont. He coached AVSC from 89-95 and then the US Ski Team for a decade where he led his athletes to a US record number of wins and podium finishes on the World Cup in addition to Olympic and World Cup medals. He coached Bode Miller to Olympic medal performances and 2 overall Crystal Globes and Daron Rahlves to 28 World Cup podiums and 12 World Cup wins. He returned to Aspen to coach at Challenge Aspen, a competitive ski team for individuals faced with cognitive or physical challenges, but a year later the Canadian Team recruited him to lead their speed team through the 2014 Sochi Olympics. He led the Canadian team to 20 podiums, including Eric Guay's downhill gold medal at the 2011 World Championships and a bronze medal by Jan Hudec in the Super G at Sochi.



BOB KUNKEL
Sport Builder

Bob Kunkel is a veteran ski and tourism industry executive with a career that has spanned the better part of the past 40 years. His most notable contribution to skiing and snowboarding in Colorado was the championing of the 5th Grade Passport Program that provides students free access to Colorado Ski Country USA member resorts, introducing snowsports to a generation of kids and providing an affordable way for families to participate in the sport. Currently in its 21st year, more than 500,000 Colorado students have participated and the program is active in Utah, New Hampshire, Vermont, Michigan, New York, Maine, Pennsylvania and Idaho. Following marketing stints in Winter Park and Vail/Beaver Creek, Bob became Senior Vice President of the Durango Ski Corporation. In 2003, he became the Business Development Manager for the City of Durango before moving on to his current role as the Executive Director of the Durango Area Tourism Office in 2014. During the 2016 Governor’s Tourism Conference, Bob received the Chairman’s Award for Outstanding Colorado Tourism Efforts.



CHRIS DAVENPORT
Athlete

For the better part of the last decade, Chris Davenport’s primary focus has been on backcountry skiing and ski mountaineering, dramatically contributing to the rise and popularity of the current AT backcountry movement. In 2007, he became the first person to ski all 54 of Colorado’s 14,000-foot peaks in one year, adding another 46 13,000-foot peaks to the record in 2015. As a result, Chris was named National Geographic’s “Adventurer of the Year” for his vision and success on the Colorado-based project. He has authored two coffee table books that celebrate Colorado’s mountains, “Ski the 14ers” and “Fifty Classic Ski Descents of North America”. Most recently, he was named one of ESPN’s 10 Greatest American Freeskiers of all time and was inducted into the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame in 2015. His accomplishments have brought tremendous visibility to the sport that makes Colorado the desired destination for skiers from all over the world.



JAKE HOESCHLER
Sport Builder

In 1988, Jake Hoeschler formed the National Ski Insurance Program to help Colorado ski shops make skiing a safer sport and protect them from frivolous law suits, which were driving up the cost of their liability insurance to the breaking point. He developed the program by convincing an A+ insurance carrier to provide a special liability insurance rate to the ski shops if they changed the way they were doing business to concentrate more on skier safety and claim reduction by incorporating the risk management procedures he developed. To make the sport safer, the employees needed to be educated in safety procedures and technicians certified before installing or adjusting binding settings. The program started with Gorsuch Ltd and Sports Stalker (Christy Sports) over 30 years ago and now insures almost every ski retailer in Colorado and many throughout the United States. Because of the program, a great number of stores became very successful and a large number are thriving today.



LONNY VANATTA
Athlete

Once in a generation, there comes a home-grown talent so special that it takes another generation to fully appreciate that talent. Such is the case with Steamboat’s Lonny Vanatta. Lonny got his start in the Little Toots program at Howelsen Hill, then rose through the ranks to the U.S. Ski Team and reached the heights of glory on the World Pro Ski Tour in the late '70s and early '80s. Something about the dual format of the pro series ignited Lonny's competitive nature. He quickly emerged as the top American on the tour, which featured purses in the five-figure range and more television exposure in those days than World Cup racing. During a career that lasted from 1978 through 1984, Lonny won 20 professional races. He was the top American pro four years running and captured the World Pro slalom title in 1981. His best overall ranking on the tour was third. No professional American ski racer has eclipsed the accomplishments that Lonny realized.



CHRIS DIAMOND
Sport Builder

Since retiring from his role as President and COO of the Steamboat Ski Resort in 2015, Chris Diamond has transitioned from running a major Colorado ski area to writing about it. His new book, “Ski Inc.,” provides a candid and colorful behind-the-scenes view of what it takes to manage a successful resort in a constantly changing industry. Chris began his ski industry career in 1972 at Killington, Vermont, serving as the assistant to the president. He rose through the ranks and moved to Steamboat in 1999 to lead the resort as President and COO. Since his first day on the job, Diamond has led the resort through challenges and successes, parlaying one of the strongest brands in the destination industry into a new generation of year-round resorts. He is a past chairman of the National Ski Areas Association, also holding a similar role with Colorado Ski Country USA for six years. Chris was recognized by NSAA for his accomplishments when he was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2013.



JEFF GORSUCH
Sport Builder

Jeff has been a Sport Builder his entire life. A third generation member of Colorado’s iconic Gorsuch family, Jeff has been exposed to the ski racing and retail sides of the ski industry since he could crawl. Jeff moved to Aspen after college and has run the families’ Aspen retail operation for the past 25 years. Growing up Gorsuch, Jeff inherited a deep appreciation for the trailblazers of the ski industry and has devoted his spare time to giving back. From an Aspen community perspective, his philanthropic focus is on kids, working with local organizations like the Aspen Valley Ski and Snowboard Club, the Aspen Education Foundation and the Aspen Community School. He has been lauded for his kids ski program that provides up to 300 pair of skis, boots and poles annually to people who can’t afford them. He also has served as the president of the Aspen Valley Ski & Snowboard Club and on the boards of the Aspen Education Foundation and Aspen Community School.



WALT EVANS
Sport Builder

Walt Evans has been involved in Colorado and US ski racing for 46 years, until his retirement from the Aspen Valley Ski Club in 2016. From 1978 to 1983, he served as the first Executive Director for the Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club, a position he held until 1983 when he went to work with the United States Ski Association as Alpine Program Director for the Rocky Mountain Division. In 1997, he became the USSA National Competition Director, overseeing and rebuilding their domestic competition program in all US Ski and Snowboard sports. During his time with USSA, Walt helped engineer the National Development System, a program which worked with top clubs nationwide to provide elite training opportunities for rising Alpine racers. In 2013, The U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association honored Walt during its annual USSA Congress in Park City, Utah, with the John J. Clair Jr. Award, recognizing service to the organization where he spent nearly 30 years.



JOHNNY BUXMAN
Athlete

Johnny Buxman was an amazing pure ski racing talent throughout the course of his 18-year amateur and professional career. He was promoted to U.S. Ski Team A Team status in 1981, showcasing his abilities with what would prove to be the top result of his amateur career with an 8th place showing in the famed Hahnenkamm Slalom in Kitzbuhel, Austria. Entering the 1985 campaign, Buxman was ranked as the top Slalom skier in the United States, earning a 10th place World Cup finish in Slalom in Park City, Utah. He was also named to represent the U.S. at the 1982 and 1985 Alpine World Ski Championships. Following his 1986 retirement from the U.S. Ski Team, Buxman joined the ranks of the U.S. Pro Tour, where he would continue to chase his ski racing dream for another eight years. In 2015, he was honored with the Decade of Excellence Award (1970-1980) by Ski and Snowboard Club Vail.