

# COLORADO SNOWSPORTS 2018 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.



**CHRIS ANTHONY**  
*Inspirational*

For more than 27 years, Colorado native Chris Anthony has traveled as a member of the Warren Miller film team as both an athlete and host of the nationally acclaimed film tour. During his career, he has free-lanced for several publications, co-authored a guidebook, commissioned and written a screenplay and hosted and produced several television and film projects. He has also volunteered thousands of hours for a number of charitable organizations and along the way, raised over a million dollars on their behalf, prior to building his own youth outreach project. In 1998 Colorado Ski Country named Chris the spokesperson for their 5th & 6th Grade Passport Program. The program served as a platform for him to design his own school-mentoring curriculum, now operating under the Chris Anthony Youth Initiative Project. Chris has engaged more than 70,000 students over 19 years through school programs.



**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.



**TRACEY & TIM CANADAY**  
*Sport Builders*

Over the past 35 years, Tracey and Tim Canaday of Never Summer Industries have contributed as much to Colorado's snowboard industry as any other individuals. Since 1983, when the brothers built their first snowboards under the name of Swift Snowboards, to today, when Never Summer is the third largest snowboard brand in the U.S., the company remains inseparable from their personalities. Since the beginning, Tracey and Tim have steadfastly adhered to their core values: manufacturing a product of incredible quality that you only get with local Colorado craftsmen, giving back to the community and fostering the unwavering loyalty of snowboards throughout Colorado and the United States. Every year, Never Summer builds a series of custom boards that are available for purchase only by active and retired military, with all revenue donated to military charities. They do the same for fallen firefighters and multiple cancer charities like the Colorado-based Morgan Adams Foundation and Shining Stars Foundation.



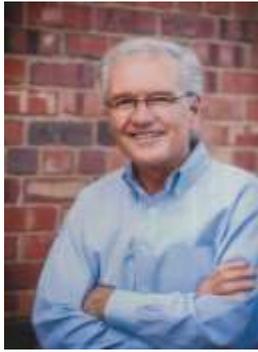
**EUGENE DAYTON**  
*Sport Builder*

Eugene Dayton is truly one of the pioneers of Nordic skiing in Colorado. Gene founded the Breckenridge Nordic Center in 1969, operating the facility for 48 consecutive seasons, while also operating the Frisco Nordic Center from 1988 to 2016. He was co-founder of the Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center (BOEC) in 1976, helping to create an organization that runs the adaptive ski programs at Breckenridge and Keystone, serving students from 41 states and six countries. The BOEC brought the Norwegian Ski for Light program to the United States in 1976 with the help of Famer Olaf Pedersen. Today, the program's intern graduates provide ski instruction for visually impaired Nordic and alpine skiers at ski areas nationwide. In addition, the BOEC's Wounded Heroes Family Adventures hosts injured soldiers and veterans from the U.S. and Great Britain, providing ski and wilderness training for soldiers and their families, along with lodging and group activities.



**BRAD GHENT**  
*Sport Builder*

As a walk-on competitor on the University of Colorado Ski team, Brad helped the Buffs compile their string of eight consecutive national championship titles, earning Honorable Mention All-American status in 1974. Following his graduation he transferred his talents to the administrative and coaching side of the sport, serving as director of the Elbert Series and being named as the head coach for the Winter Park Race Team. That experience would translate to a development coaching offer from the U.S. Ski Team, a role that concluded in 1986 as Head Women's Alpine. His team won one gold and two bronze medals at the 1985 World Championships. In 1991, Brad took over the role of coordinating the Talon Crew, the large group of course volunteers that help prepare the track for the Birds of Prey World Cup races. He also served on the board of trustees for Ski and Snowboard Club Vail during the organization's rise to prominence. He earned his FIS Technical Delegates certification in 2001 and has officiated at countless competitions, from junior through World Cup



**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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.



**RIK HEID**  
*Athlete*

Rik was an excellent ski racer in the midst of a promising career on the World Pro Ski Tour in the 1980's. However, he experienced a life-changing injury in 1986, falling off the roof of the Mid-Vail restaurant while repairing the roof. He would ultimately lose his left leg below the knee as a result of that injury, but he never gave up skiing. Equipped with prosthesis, he started racing again, gaining a spot on the U.S. Disabled Ski Team in 1987 as an LW-4 racer. He would remain a member of the team through the 1994 campaign. During his tenure with the Disabled Team, Rik collected a total of ten Paralympic medals in 11 events, over the course of three Paralympic Winter Games, including a four-medal performance (two gold and two silver) at the 1994 Paralympics in Lillehammer, Norway. He also claimed four World Championships medals in the 1990 World Championships in Winter Park. Rik now volunteers for the Vail Veterans Program.



**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 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 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.



**ELLEN POST FOSTER**  
*Sport Builder*

Ellen Post Foster has demonstrated world-class athleticism and skill throughout a career that began with winning national and international freestyle competitions. She was selected to a pair of four-year terms to PSIA's National Demonstration Team, where she represented the U.S. as an Interski demonstrator. Over Ellen's career as an educator, she has authored five instructional books, including *Skiing and the Art of Carving*, which established her as a leader in ski instruction and race coaching for over 25 years. Most recently, she co-authored PSIA's Alpine Technical Manual and is currently co-authoring PSIA's new Core Concepts manual. Her ability to articulate concepts and technique through her writing and presentations have helped resort ski schools grow the sport. Her accomplishments led to her induction into the US Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame in 2016.



**JEFF GORSUCH**  
*Sport Builder*

Jeff has been a Sport Builder his entire life. A 3<sup>rd</sup> generation member of Colorado's iconic Gorsuch family, Jeff was 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.



**SCOTT RAWLES**  
*Sport Builder*

Scott Rawles enjoyed a standout competitive career from 1981-1994 as a professional mogul skier, with 7 career wins, 20 podiums and 5 top three Overall standings on the World Pro Mogul Tour. He helped to develop the Team Breckenridge freestyle program as a moguls coach and then Program Director from 1989-2001. During the course of his coaching tenure with the U.S. Team, Scott coached at five Freestyle World Championships resulting in 20 medals and four different World Champions in Moguls and Dual Moguls. Under his direction, the U.S. Freestyle Team won the Nations Cup three times and he was named USSA International Coach of the Year on three separate occasions. After fourteen years, Rawles moved on from the U.S. Team in 2014 only to be recruited by the Chinese Moguls Team. Scott qualified two athletes for the 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeongChang, his fifth Winter Games coaching assignment. At the four previous Winter Olympic Games, he helped the United States Team to 7 medals.



**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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 in Schladming, Austria and Bormio, Italy. 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.