### Tom Beach



Tom Beach became a familiar figure, some might even say, "character" as he made his way around a multi-state world of skiing. For more than three decades, Tom entertained and informed skiers, retailers, and resort operators as the colorful mid-Atlantic representative of K2.

Tom Beach took his job to extreme levels. A bold sense of humor colored his popular training clinics. He was tenacious in convincing reluctant mountain operators to put snowboarders on the slopes, and he was a major booster of "ski demo days."

But Tom was perhaps, best known for the antics and flair that marked his growth within the ski industry and the contribution that he made to area skiers. We know that he served as President of the venerable Eastern Ski Representatives Association. What is not as well known is that Tom has privately complained that he was actually in the men's room while his colleagues were electing him, unawares to that vaunted post.

It was a bit of a surprise when in the late '80s, a super-hero of sorts—a caped crusader known as Captain K2—hit the slopes and trails at Pennsylvania ski areas. It was not so surprising when area managers and skiers alike suspected the real identity of this jester of the J-bar, clad only in tights during sub-zero days, was none other than Tom Beach himself. Tom has always believed that there's no substitute for experience when evaluating ski performance. It was an easy leap to the concept of demo days on the mountain to help rally skiers to the K2 corner.

Tom used his on-the-hill techniques to advocate for snowboarders as well, demonstrating how even a minimally talented rider was not to be feared on skier traversed trails.

Tom Beach now resides in Ormond Beach, Florida, where he has become quite proficient at blending a variety of rums with the juices of many fruits. And he now enjoys the fruits of a long and successful career with his inauguration into our Hall of Fame, class of 2010.

#### **Bob** Danzeisen



**Bob Danzeisen** was no stranger to open spaces and snow covered terrain when he gravitated to a sport that would become a lifetime experience and a livelihood. Bob may have been born a city lad in Philadelphia, but was raised on a farm in pristine Bucks County.

His entry into the world of Alpine skiing came when he organized a group ski trip for a young adult Catholic Club. Bob was a member and had no trouble taking a leadership role for a trip to Split Rock Lodge in the Poconos. Twenty-five people went along on that first ski jaunt. The year was 1960. For Pennsylvania skiing, that was an impressive number. Bob and 22 others on that trip were all beginners. They found the Jimmy Johnson Ski School at Big Boulder. That weekend launched in Bob Danzeisen an affection for the sport that would shape his life and contribute to the growth of skiing and later snowboarding in Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey.

Bill began taking groups to Mt. Snow on bus trips from Mitchell & Ness. In the second year of the trips, someone mentioned that someday there would be a ski shop in South Jersey. In May 1961, Bob attended

the SIA Ski Show in New York City and that June he became that somebody by opening a 1,000 square foot store in Haddon Heights, New Jersey. Forty-eight years have now gone by and Bob is still running bus trips to the Poconos from his 31,000 square foot store in Cherry Hill.

On June 2, 1981, Bill Stenger and Bob Danzeisen were part of a group that spearheaded the formation of the Tri-State Cooperative in Philadelphia. Ski shops in the Delaware Valley and the ski areas in the Poconos organized to attract new skiers through a media campaign which included TV, radio, and newspaper. This cooperative consisted of nine ski areas and twenty-one ski shops and introduced many new skiers to the sport through a unique and affordable program.

For his tireless contributions to snow sports in both Pennsylvania and New Jersey, the name of Bob Danzeisen is added to the roster of the Pennsylvania Ski and Winter Sports Museum Hall of Fame.

## Ken Gable



Ken Gable has become a name synonymous with ski clubbing in Pennsylvania. For nearly four-and-a-half decades, Ken has been enjoying life on the slopes and giving back as much as he gained in exhilaration and pleasure.

For Ken, just being on the mountain wasn't enough. He wanted to share it in a big way. Soon after discovering the sport that became a lifetime love affair, he gravitated to the camaraderie of the Bucks County Ski Club, volunteered to run the club's ski races at Big Boulder and was soon elected to the presidency.

But one club wasn't quite enough. Ken had more to share. He became involved with the Eastern Pennsylvania Ski Council and rose to the Presidency of the regional ski club umbrella organization in 1978. It was a launching pad to the Vice Presidency of the Pennsylvania Ski Federation.

Ken was and still is a hands-on leader. He chaired the successful EPSC Bargain Barn which drew acclaim and media attention, as the event raised critical funds to bankroll the council's popular

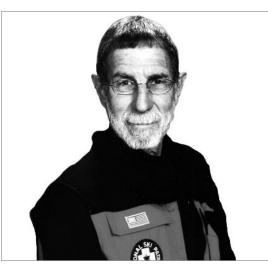
Junior Racing Program. Ken also chaired the council's Safety Committee and earned the coveted Fritz Koenig award.

Ken Gable didn't stop there. While the Bucks County Ski Club still had its own hill and ski patrol, he became a member of the patrol, joining the ranks of the National Ski Patrol. He soon moved on to patrolling at Doe Mountain, and in 1988 he received one of NSP's highest honors with the award of National Appointment 7053. In 2002 Ken was named Ski Patrol Director at Bear Creek Mountain Resort, a post he held for six years. He still patrols at Bear Creek and Snö Mountain.

When not on the slopes and trails, Ken Gable and his wife Fay enjoy sailing the Chesapeake and spending time with their grandchildren.

Ken Gable now sails into our Hall of Fame, class of 2010.

#### Ed Hirshman



An early retirement from a rewarding career as an engineer and product marketing executive allowed **Ed Hirshman** to turn to a labor of love. When Ed said farewell to friends and colleagues at Harrisburg's AMP Incorporated, the world of Pennsylvania skiing gained a devoted volunteer who has racked up thousands of hours as Regional Director of the National Ski Patrol's Eastern Pennsylvania Region. For seven years Ed doubled in brass, serving in the regional directors role and cruising the slopes as a key member of the Ski Patrol at Ski Roundtop. Patrolling was in his blood. Ed took pride in his ongoing involvement at all levels with the NSP Outdoor Emergency Care continuing education programs.

Ed Hirshman came to skiing nearly 45 years ago, learning the ups and downs of the sport as a fledgling member of the Susquehanna Ski Club. His first winter took him to the fabled slopes at Vail, Colorado. He was hooked. Within two years, Ed was accomplished enough on skis to volunteer for the National Ski Patrol and win a patrollers berth at Roundtop. He made progress

and within two more years achieved Senior Patroller status. Among Ed's numerous awards are an NSP National Appointment in February 1981; Eastern Division Outstanding Alpine Patroller for 1988, an NSP Distinguished Service Award in 2000; and the 2002 Eastern Division Outstanding Administrative Patroller Award and Runner Up National honors–NSP Outstanding Administrative Patroller. Early retirement also allowed Ed to become more deeply involved as a Certified Special Olympics Alpine Skiing Coach. For five seasons, Eddie, as he prefers to be called, has been a guiding light for Special Olympians at the prestigious Pennsylvania State Games.

Beyond skiing, Eddie has been continuously involved in promoting and participating in the annual fundraising bike tours of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. He has been the perennial Captain of an annual road cycling bike team completing 20 years and served as a member of the Pennsylvania Ski & Winter Sports Museum Board of Directors. Currently he is a Staff Instructor for the American Red Cross and also holds American Heart Instructorship certification.

Both the EPA Region and the Ski Roundtop Patrol have named annual awards after Ed Hirshman to honor his dedication to the outdoor sports world.

And now we honor him as a member of this Hall of Fame, class of 2010.

## Douglas W. Howlett



Our Pennsylvania Ski and Winter Sports Museum Board of Directors lost one of its most tireless contributors with the passing earlier this year of **Douglas Howlett**. The loss of Doug has left a cavernous void in our hearts, but his legacy is the dedication and enthusiasm that fueled the work of his friends and colleagues devoted to preserving the rich history of our sport.

When Doug Howlett took up skiing at Michigan's Boyne Highlands, the slopes of

Pennsylvania and New Jersey were on track to receive one of the region's most enthusiastic patrollers and cheerleaders. Within a few years of launching his debut on the snow, Doug was in the Garden State, joining the National Ski Patrol in 1970 with his wife Cheri and wearing the uniform at Ski Mountain in Pine Hill.

But change was inevitable and Doug watched his mountain base at Ski Mountain close. It wasn't long before he answered the call to cross the Delaware and start fresh at suburban Philadelphia's Spring Mountain. Doug's diligent efforts

have been rewarded with a shower of patrol service awards and he has twice been honored as "Patroller of the Year."

As if he didn't have enough on his plate, Doug also took on the role of Outdoor Emergency Care Instructor and Instructor Trainer for the NSP. He expanded his involvement to ski areas across the state by helping to plan, teach, and supervise the annual training programs. By 2002, Doug was serving on the national NSP Instructor Development Committee which creates new patroller training material. In addition to assisting with the development of the NSP's computer based Instructor Development Course, his major assignment was rewriting and expanding the Instructor Development textbook, which is still utilized nationally by the NSP. In 2008, the NSP National Board of Directors elevated Doug to the position of National Program Director for their highly regarded Instructor Development Program.

Doug was also honored with a Ski Patrol National Appointment (#9126), one of the highest service awards bestowed on members by the NSP National Board of Directors.

Off the slopes, Doug spent a lifetime as a dedicated educator and school administrator. When the snows melted, we found Doug Howlett on the water, teaching, racing and beating the drum for his other love, the sport of harnessing the wind in the cockpit of a graceful sailboat.

Doug has, sadly, as sailors would say, "crossed the bar." He now drops anchor as a revered inductee to our Hall of Fame, class of 2010.

# Bill Stenger



Skiing in Pennsylvania got a shot of youthful adrenalin with the arrival 36 years ago of **Bill Stenger**. Full of energy and enthusiasm, Bill arrived as Assistant General Manager of the Jack Frost/Big Boulder complex in the Pocono Mountains and soon became the GM. It was a springboard to innovation that took Pennsylvania skiing to the next level.

It wasn't unusual to see Bill everywhere from the trails and lifts to the kitchens and heads. He was creating a new environment for the leisure skier and families that were then entering the sport.

Bill was instrumental in organizing promotional efforts to broaden the learn-to-ski market in the mid-Atlantic area by organizing ski areas and ski shop retailers to promote the sport of Alpine skiing.

During Bill's PA tenure, he was President of the PA Ski Areas Association for six years and frequently took the ski industries case to Harrisburg legislators and Governors. He was Chairman of the Pocono Mountain Vacation Bureau ski committee for many

seasons. Bill always promoted the sport before his own corporate interests and emphasized cooperation among areas as the surest way to expand the market.

But all good things often give way to better things. After 10 years of service to Pennsylvania skiers and the snowsports industry Bill returned to his native Vermont, where today he is President and co-owner of Jay Peak Resort. Bill and his wife of 38 years, Mary Jane have enjoyed life and thrived in the Green Mountain State. Their two sons, Andrew and Jaime, who learned to ski at Jack Frost Mountain work for Bill at Jay Peak in the Construction Division and the Retail and Golf Operation. His daughter, Meredith, born in the Poconos when Bill was there lives in nearby Swanton, Vermont.

On his years in Pennsylvania Bill said, "I look back at my time at Jack Frost Mountain as the best learning experience I could have asked for."

And Pennsylvania warmly recalls the contribution that Bill Stenger made to the ski industry and the skiing experience here, by proudly inducting him into the Pennsylvania Ski and Winter Sports Museum Hall of Fame-the class of 2010.