



THE SNO-GOPHERS GAZETTE

April 2022

General Meetings
3rd Tuesdays @ 7PM
Tuley Park
90th & King Drive
Chicago, IL
www.snogophers.org

Executive Board

President
Angelica Faith

Vice President
Luther Lee

Treasurer
Valerie Smith

Financial Secretary
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Recording Secretary
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Larry Earls

CMSC Representative
Duwayne Brown

U.S. Ski & Snowboard Hall of Famers!!!



Art Clay sharing a story of THE Pajama Party hosted by the Sno-Gophers at Sun Valley where a gentleman from D.C. was clad in only a sock, strategically placed. He danced, the sock came off, and an 85 year old or so lady, affectionately called "Sun Valley Sally," went wild!!!

Congratulations to National Brotherhood of Skiers co-founders Art Clay (Sno-Gophers Ski Club – Chicago) and Ben Finley (4 Seasons West – LA), both of whom were officially inducted into the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame (Class of 2019) on Saturday, March 26, 2022 in beautiful Sun Valley, Idaho, nearly 50 years after the Black Summit was first held there.

Art, we thank you for your vision, your pioneering efforts, and especially your "JUST HAVE A GOOD TIME" personality...What a character you are! We love you and we are proud to call you one of our own!!!

U.S. SKI and SNOWBOARD HALL of FAME

U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame Announces the Incoming Class of 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUGUST 22, 2019, ISHPERING, MI – A remarkable group of 7 noted skiing athletes and snow sport builders have been announced as inductees to the **U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame's** Class of 2019. This year's Class of 2019 Inductees were announced at the Hall of Fame Museum in the Upper Peninsula town of Ishpeming Michigan on Wednesday, August 21, 2019. They will be formally inducted next March in Sun Valley, Idaho.

On March 24-28, 2020, **Sun Valley Resort** will celebrate ski and snowboard history as it welcomes the **U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame** to honor its class of 2019. The event will honor athletes and sport builders with lifelong national and international achievements in the sport. **Sun Valley**, with the legacy of its rich and expansive lineage of celebrated athletes and the historic relevance of being known as the birthplace of destination skiing in America will provide a fitting backdrop for the various events.

More details and tickets for the March 28, 2020 induction will be available at SkiHall.com on September 1st.

Among the inductees are freestyle skiing legend **Scotty Brooksbank**, iconic American ski champion and mountaineer **Kit DesLauriers** and nordic combined Olympic medalist **Johnny Spillane**. Also joining the class are the two co-founders of the National Brotherhood of Skiers – **Arthur Clay** and **Benjamin Finley**, along with the late, Grandfather of snowboarding and inventor of the Snurfer, **Sherman Poppen**. Rounding out the Class of 2019 is the ski film visionary **Greg Stump**, and **Jim Niehues** a passionate artist who has created hundreds of hand-painted resort maps still used today.

A national voting panel of over 350 individuals selects the incoming class each year. The class of 2019 will be inducted and honored in Sun Valley, ID, on March 28, 2020 and enshrined the following September at the Hall of Fame in Ishpeming, MI where in 1905 the National Ski Association of America (now U.S. Ski & Snowboard) was formed.

Alpine skiing superstar **Spider Sabich** was also selected during this year's election. His honoring and induction has been deferred to a future Hall of Fame event.

PO Box 191 ~ 610 Palms Avenue ~ Ishpeming, MI 49849

*P: 906.485.6323 ~ E: administrator@skihall.com ~ W: skihall.com
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HIGHLIGHTS

- The announcement of the 7 new members of the incoming class of 2019 was made on Wednesday, August 21st in Ishpeming, MI.
- Eight people have been elected to the Hall of Fame this year. They are: **Scotty Brooksbank, Kit DesLaurier, Johnny Spillane, Arthur Clay and Benjamin Finley, Sherman Poppen, Greg Stump and Jim Niehues.**
- The new inductees will bring the total to 442 Honored Members in the **U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame.**
- **Sun Valley** has been selected as the resort site of the 2020 induction ceremony of the **U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame** and the **Snowsport History Celebration.**
- The **Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame** induction will take place at **The Sun Valley Inn** in the Limelight Grand Ballroom on Saturday, March 28, 2020.
- The induction will be the culmination of four days of activities at the Sun Valley Inn during the March 24-28 **Snowsport History Celebration** which attracts hundreds of skiing history enthusiasts and recreational skiers.
- The induction is expected to sell out, with a field of skiing and snowboarding greats. More than 500 are expected to attend the installation of the class of 2019's 8 inductees.
- The nomination process is open to all, with detailed information available at **www.skihall.com.**
- Nominees are screened by a **Hall of Fame Selection Committee** before being listed on a ballot. More than 350 members of the Hall of Fame National Voting Panel elect the newest Honored Members.
- **Ishpeming** is the birthplace of organized skiing in America and the site of the founding of the **National Ski Association of America** in 1905, now the **U.S. Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame**
- A formal enshrinement ceremony is held each September in Ishpeming, MI, where the Museum is located.
- The induction ceremony rotates venue locations to major resorts, including Park City in 2019, Squaw Valley in 2018, Stowe in 2017, Aspen in 2016 and Steamboat in 2015.
- **The Sun Valley Inn** and **Sun Valley Lodge** will offer special lodging rates to all ticket purchasers.
- \$65 lift tickets will be available to all **Snowsport History Celebration** and induction ticket holders.
- Info and tickets will be available in September at **www.SkiHall.com**

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Hall of Fame Class of 2019

To be inducted Saturday March 28, 2020 in Sun Valley, ID.

Scott Brooksbank - An inspirational pioneer of freestyle skiing, his competitive career spanned three decades earning five world titles in over forty podium appearances. He continues to mentor the next generation of ski champions in the "art of the ski turn".

Kit DesLauriers - After winning consecutive freestyle championships, Kit DesLauriers accomplished greatness by becoming the first person to climb and ski down the summits of the highest peaks of all 7 continents. She is one of the greatest female ski mountaineers in history.

Johnny Spillane - Johnny Spillane blazed the trail for nordic combined in America, skiing to the first World Championship gold in 2003 then leading Team USA with an unprecedented three silver medals at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

Benjamin Finley & Arthur Clay - Their nearly 50 year vision has created tens of thousands of snow sports enthusiasts, generating hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue across the winter sports industry. The NBS' annual gathering is one of the largest ski events in America.

James Niehues - James Niehues, with the utmost care to detail, has meticulously hand painted the overwhelming majority of the trail maps in North America that we all know, love and rely on to navigate the often complicated network of trails and lifts.

Greg Stump - Greg Stump re-invented the ski movie, creating a body of work that remains relevant and influential to this day. Stump stopped making ski movies when he presciently foresaw the dangers of the extreme genre he helped create.

Sherman Poppen - Often called the "Grandfather of Snowboarding" Sherman Poppen invented the Snurfer in 1965, and eventually sold over 1 million units. The snurfer was the first mass produced snowboard. Poppen is credited to be the inventor of the sport of snowboarding.

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QUOTES

David Ingemie, Chairman, U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame

This is quite an amazing class of inductees covering a wide scope of snow sports from Alpine, Freestyle, Snowboard, Nordic, Summiting, artistry and creativity of paintings and film production, to developing an organization to highlight the importance and value of diversification to the sport. I am sure the acceptance speeches at the induction in Sun Valley will be very inspirational and heartwarming.

Justin Koski, Executive Director, U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame

"Each member of the Hall of Fame's Class of 2019 has made a profound impact as an athlete or sport builder within their realm. We are excited to welcome them into our family of snowsport legends and present them with our sports highest honor."

The mission of the **U. S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame** is to honor athletes and sport builders for their lifelong national and international achievements in the sport. **The National Ski Association of America**, now known as **US Ski & Snowboard**, was established in 1905 in Ishpeming, MI, the birthplace of organized skiing in the United States. **The Hall of Fame Museum**, established in 1954, is located on the **Hall of Fame** campus in Ishpeming.

PAST INDUCTION/SKIING HISTORY WEEK SITES

The U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame has been honoring athletes and sport builders annually since 1956. Since 2009, the induction has been held at major resorts nationwide with an enshrinement at the Hall of Fame in Ishpeming, MI in September.

2019 – Park City, UT
2018 – Squaw Valley, CA
2017 – Stowe, VT
2016 – Aspen, CO
2015 – Steamboat Springs, CO
2014 – Park City, UT
2013 – Vail, CO
2012 – Seattle, WA
2011 – Sun Valley, ID

2010 – Beaver Creek, CO
2009 – Deer Valley Resort, Park City, UT
2007 - Snowsports Industries America, Las Vegas, NV
2007 - Snowsports Industries America, Las Vegas, NV

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Justin Koski: 906.235.1670 | justin@skihall.com

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Congratulations Art Clay for the well-deserved honor of being inducted into The U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame !!! Thank you for your pioneering efforts and unwavering dedication to promoting the sport of skiing to our youth and within the African-American community.



*Sno-Gophers Ski Club
Chicago, Illinois*





Sno-Gophers Ski Club

Executive Board

2021 - 2022



Angelica Faith, President

Luther Lee, Vice President

Valerie Smith, Treasurer

Carolyn Brumfield, Recording Secretary

Pauline Washington, Membership Chair

Robert Winford, Jetliner Chair

Jamie Montgomery, Racing Chair

Duwayne Brown, CMSC Rep.

Cheryl Buckner Grubbs, Social Chair

Bernard Barry, Junior Advisor

Wanda Goldsby, Newsletter Editor

Larry Earls, Business Manager

Joyce Godwin, Midwest Chair

Christine Winford, Financial Secretary



Art Clay
&
Ben Finley



U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD

HALL OF FAME

Class of 2019

*March 23 - March 27, 2022 **

Sun Valley, Idaho

(Ceremony originally scheduled for March 25 - 29, 2020 postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic.)

Art Clay

Art Clay was born in Mississippi and at age 4 moved with his family to Chicago where he was raised alongside his four sisters. Art holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Social Science from Clark Atlanta University. Art is an active member of the NAACP and the Kappa Alpha Si, a fraternity of undergraduate and alumni chapters on major college campuses and in cities throughout the country, whose purpose is to assist community service efforts, support scholarships, after school programs, and national projects. Art is a retired Investigator from the Department of Children and Family Services.

Art shared by the time he reached the age of 30 he'd run out of fun things to do. Summers were filled with picnics, camping, swimming and scuba, and trips to Jamaica and the Bahamas. Winter in Chicago, on the other hand, had been rather dull. Art listened to a local disc jockey, Daddy "O" Daylie, who sponsored a summer softball league, a bowling league, and several other fun things to do, invite his listeners to a meeting of a ski club he had formed. Art joined the Sno-Gophers Ski Club and was introduced to some of the most beautiful women he'd ever seen, one of whom he married.

Art's first ski trip was to the Playboy Club at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. It was a disaster. Nighttime, below-zero temperatures, and underdressed skiers. Art fell out of the chairlift. Art was invited to another ski trip to Powderhorn Mountain. Again, Art fell out of the chairlift, eventually wound up tangled in some trees, and was offered much-needed assistance by a gentleman named Elgin Lee who insisted on taking Art to the bunny hill to teach him how to ski. It worked! After an hour with Elgin, Art was hooked on skiing.

While a member of the Sno-Gophers Ski Club, Art organized another ski Club, "The Gang," with a theme of "Come Hang with The Gang." Art is the mastermind behind the Sno-Gophers Ski Club's annual Carnival which began in 1969 with "fun races," Alpine races, and costume parties. Other African-American ski clubs were invited to participate (Jim Dandy Ski Club of Detroit, The Ski Twisters of Chicago, and Four Seasons of New York). By 1971, Carnival had attracted over 300 participants. As Sno-Gophers Trip Chair Art also expanded the ski season from a few one-day trips per year to include one week-long trip and more.

In 1971, Art was introduced to Ben Finley and pitched the idea of African-American skiers coming together for a week of skiing and fellowship at a major resort in the Rocky Mountains. In 1973, the 1st Black Summit came to fruition in Aspen, Colorado, and the National Brotherhood of Skiers, or "NBS," was formed.

Art currently lives in Chicago with his wife of over 40 years, Mamie, and enjoys traveling, camping, playing board games, and socializing with friends.

Ben Finley

Ben was born and raised in the Sugar Hill section of Harlem. He holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame, a Master's degree from New York University, and Executive Program certificates from UCLA and the University of Southern California. As an engineering student at Norte Dame Ben founded Notre Dame's 1st Black fraternity. He has since been recognized for his many contributions to Notre Dame for recruiting and mentoring African-American students, known as "Ben's Kids." Ben is also an accomplished scuba diver, biker, and sailor.

Ben's professional career included developing circuits for the Apollo spacecraft and the guidance system for laser-guided weapons, flying the world's first automatic target recognizer, developing a helicopter collision warning system, and chasing surveillance radars in the United Kingdom. In sum, Ben's professional career was dedicated to the design and development of electro-optic and RF sensor systems for the Department of Defense, NASA, and international customers.

Ben began skiing in 1963 after a camping trip with his girlfriend to Yosemite National Park on Thanksgiving weekend. Upon leaving the Park she suggested they stop by Badger Pass and watch the skiers. She wanted to try skiing, Ben did not, but offered a challenge to take and pass scuba diving lessons in exchange for a skiing trip. Six weeks later Ben was back at Badger Pass enrolled in ski lessons and the rest is history!

Ben is best known for introducing African-Americans to the sport of skiing. In 1966 Ben co-founded 4 Seasons West Ski Club in Los Angeles, California. In 1973 he conceived and directed the 1st Black Summit, (now known as "The Summit"), along with Art Clay. Ben has served as NBS President (1982 - 1986), NBS Executive Vice President, NBS Director-At-Large, NBS Regional Vice President, and NBS Regional Director. Ben saw the NBS as a way to give back to the community. He initiated the youth component of the NBS, now known as the NBS Olympic Scholarship Fund.

Ben Finley currently lives in Los Angeles, California with his wife, Andy.

Today, over 60 Clubs, boasting approximately 5,000 members make up the NBS. The Summit continues as an annual event and is recognized as one of the largest skiing events in the world, thanks to Art Clay and Ben Finley! Art and Ben both remain active in their respective Clubs and The National Brotherhood of Skiers where the mission remains: To identify, develop and support athletes of color who will win international and Olympic winter sports competitions representing the United States, and to increase participation in winter sports.

SOURCE: "Mountains of Memories and Myths: The Living History of the National Brotherhood of Skiers," Naomi Bryson (Past NBS President and also author of "The Day the Snow Turned Black")





2022 Black History Month Media Coverage

<https://abc7chicago.com/arthur-clay-black-ski-club-chicago-skiing/11570658/>

<https://chicago.cbslocal.com/2022/02/25/art-clay-national-brotherhood-of-skiers-sno-gophers-black-history-month/>



President's Message



Greetings Sno-Gophers Family!

Our 2021 – 2022 ski season has come to a speedy yet memorable end, and so, too, has my fourth and final year as president of the Sno-Gophers Ski Club.

I am humbled by our many accomplishments which included updating our Bylaws, increasing our membership, hosting multiple fundraisers, and returning our Club to financially solvent status. I am also humbled by the hard work and dedication shown by our Board members over the past 4 years and I wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to each and every one of you! I could not have done the job of president without your unwavering support!

I am confident the Sno-Gophers Ski Club will continue to grow and prosper as I pass the proverbial baton to the next administrative regime. I can honestly say I have no regrets and I am looking forward to starting my next chapter.

I thank one and all for your invaluable support and encouragement during my presidency. You are much-appreciated, well-respected, and I am eternally grateful to you!



GOD BLESS and Ski ya later...

Angelica Faith, President
Sno-Gophers Ski Club



Pauline Washington
Membership Chair

Hello Fellow Sno-Gophers Ski Club Members,

We had a successful membership drive this 2021 – 2022 ski season! I'd like to personally and publicly thank vested member Ella Stringfellow for recruiting nearly 10 new and returning members! WAY TO GO ELLA!!! The Sno-Gophers roster stands at 138 members strong:

Renewals – 65

Vested – 60

New – 13

I encourage each and every one of you to attend the Sno-Gophers Ski Club monthly meetings and events, and please bring a friend! Also, mark your calendars early for our annual Sno-Gophers picnic in July (4th Sunday) and Sno-Gophers Ski Show in October (4th Saturday).

2021 Sno-Gophers Ski Club New Members:

Marlon Conway

Tara Donald

Candace Gunn

Quency Hampton

Regina Hardaman

Andrea Janes

Dionte Montgomery

Erica Montgomery

Carla O'Leary

Juan Thomas

Diane Walters

Monica Whiteside

Taishon Williams

Jarese Wilson

Alberta Jordan Rigsby

Aida Jackson

Brian Johnson

Yours truly,

Pauline Washington, Membership Chair



Sno-Gophers Ski Club

2021 – 2022 Membership Application

Thank you for your interest in the Sno-Gophers Ski Club in Chicago, America's third oldest Black ski club founded in 1965. Please complete this application and return it with your membership fee to the Membership Chair at either the Ski Show, Membership Meeting or mail to: Sno-Gophers Ski Club P.O. Box 43638 Chicago, IL 60643.

Membership Type: New () Renewal () Vested () **Membership Fee:** \$60.00 new & late/\$50 renewal

Personal Information (Club Use Only—Unless Preapproved)

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Birthdate: Month _____ Day _____ Gender: Female () Male ()

Emergency Contact Information:

Name _____ Phone _____ Relationship _____

() I would like my SGSC newsletter emailed. () I do not have an email.

() I do not wish to share my email address shared with the NBS.

Downhill Skiing Level (Check all that apply)

() Never-Ever () Beginner () Intermediate () Advanced () Expert Have you ever raced?
() yes () no

Snowboarding Level (Check all that apply)

() Never-Ever () Beginner () Intermediate () Advanced () Expert Have you ever raced?
() yes () no

Cross-Country Skiing Level (Check all that apply)

() Never-Ever () Beginner () Intermediate () Advanced () Expert Have you ever raced?
() yes () no

Other Interests _____

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

OFFICE USE ONLY

Check Number _____ Amount _____ Cash _____ PayPal Confirmation # _____
Received by _____ Date _____ Receipt _____

The following information and pictures *are for use by the Sno-Gophers Ski Club only and will only be shared upon notification directly.*

I have been a Member of SGSC since: _____

I have held the following Board Offices: _____

I was on the following Committee(s): _____

My favorite memory or Event: _____

Thank you for sharing!

Upcoming Events

- CMSC Trip Seminar

Saturday, May 14, 2022

Sheraton Chicago O'Hare Airport Hotel

- Sno-Gophers Ski Club's Annual Banquet

Thursday, May 19, 2022

Harborside International

11001 S. Doty Ave East

Chicago, Illinois 60628

6:30PM - 9:30PM

Cost: \$60

(Make checks payable to Sno-Gophers Ski Club; Call Valerie Smith for mailing @ 773.802.1405)



Sno-Gophers Family

James Caswell (Vested Sno-Gopher)

Ronald Bell (Brother of Celestine Bell)

Ira Lynch (Vested Sno-Gopher)

Major McCoy (Husband of Adele White-McCoy)

SNOGOPHERS 2022 Winter Carnival - Crystal Mountain



Happy 50th/50th Anniversary to Mr. & Mrs. Cook!!!

**50 Years of Marriage
&
50 Years on the Job (Mr. Cook)**

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Snowmass, CO NBS Summit 2022



2022 NBS Summit

February 5th - 12th, 2022
Snowmass, Colorado
Race Results



- Donna Jean Andrews - Intermediate Snowboard, 2nd Place
- Aliciee Griffith - Intermediate, 2nd Place
- Karl Jackson - Intermediate, 4th Place
- Tony Samuels - Intermediate, 2nd Place
- Duwayne Brown - Advanced, 3rd Place
- Brodrick Page - Advanced, 4th Place
- Calvin Williams - Advanced, 5th Place
- Ozell McKinney - Advanced, 1st Place
- Cornell Goins - Expert, 3rd Place
- Bob Winford - Expert, 1st Place
- Jamie Montgomery - Vertical Challenge, 1st Place
- Jamie Montgomery - Showcase Team, 5th Place
- Jamie Montgomery - Vertical Challenge, Fastest Competitor
- Purple Heart - Aida Jackson
- Club Competition Results: Jim Dandys, 1st; Black Ski D.C., 2nd; SNO-GOPHERS SKI CLUB, 3RD PLACE

**Alpine Valley Ski Resort
("Never Evers" Trip)
Elkhorn, Wisconsin
Sunday, February 27, 2022**



First-time skiers William Godwin, Lawrence Brown, and Kim Jones!



Angelica Faith (President); Takeya Turner (First-time snowboarder); Alpine Valley Ski Resort Resident Clown; Tara Donald (New Member/Snowboarder); Luther Lee (Vice President); Ella Stringfellow; Skyy Turner (First-time Snowboarder/Takeya's mom); Valerie Smith (Treasurer); Eric Chu (Snowboarder Friend); Johnny Ray





Park City, Utah (The Canyons)

March 26th – April 2, 2022











*Happy 55th Anniversary
(Again!)*

Sno-Gophers

Ski

Club

Established 1965