

2015 CELEBRATION JUNE 19 - 20

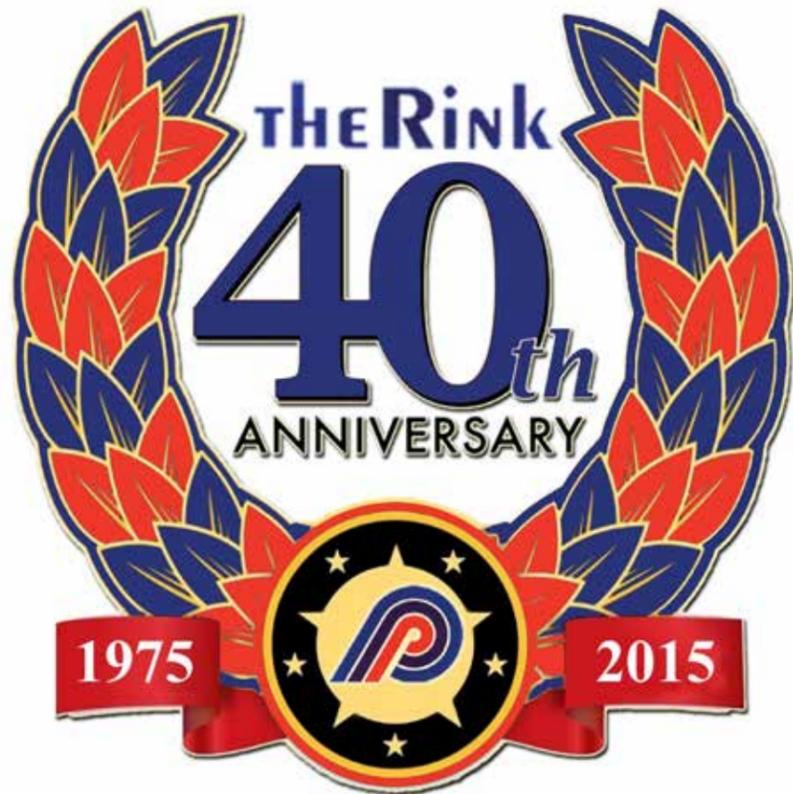


*Gno-Gophers Ski Club*

OF CHICAGO 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

50

*Congratulations  
Sno-Gophers Ski Club  
on your 50th Anniversary Celebration*



**We're Celebrating 40 Years of Fun.  
Come Skate With Us!**

**The Rink**  
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www.THERINKCHICAGO.COM  
email: contacttherink@therinkchicago.com - Nate Simpson



**PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, the Sno-Gophers Ski Club, initially dubbed the Ski Fun League, was founded in 1965 by radio personality Holmes “Daddy-O” Daylie, to provide opportunities for skiing enthusiasts who wanted to ski regularly at an affordable cost; and

**WHEREAS**, the Sno-Gophers Ski Club is the third oldest Black Ski Club in the United States of America and one of the founding members of the National Brotherhood of Skiers dedicated to promoting the sport of skiing within the African American Community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Sno-Gophers Ski Club has sponsored skiers with disabilities, and skiers with special needs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Sno-Gophers Ski Club is responsible for sponsoring and producing skiers who are Olympic hopefuls; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 19-20, 2015, the Sno-Gophers ski Club will celebrate 50 years of existence with a gala weekend extravaganza; and

**WHEREAS**, the Sno-Gophers Ski Club 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration an important milestone in skiing history.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED**, that June 20, 2015 is “Sno-Gophers Ski Club Day” throughout Cook County. Cook County commends the Sno-Gophers Ski Club for empowering and elevating the status African American skiers.

  
**TONI PRECKWINKLE**, President  
Cook County Board of Commissioners



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL  
MAYOR

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago has always been home to vibrant and diverse communities filled with residents who stand – and ski – as innovators in every field of human endeavor; and

WHEREAS, the exemplary membership of Chicago's very own Sno-Gophers Ski Club – the nation's third oldest African American ski club – is a testament to this fact; and

WHEREAS, founded by legendary Chicagoan and radio great Holmes "Daddy-O" Daylie (1920-2003) – the first African-American to host a regularly scheduled radio show on a Chicago network owned and operated radio station (WMAQ, 1956) – the Sno-Gophers Ski Club was established 50 years ago in 1965; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, the Sno-Gophers Ski Club has remained passionate about enjoying, exploring, and expanding the sport of skiing in the African American community with involved initiatives aimed at growing membership, exposing youth, and networking and relationship building among many others; and

WHEREAS, the skilled skiers of the Sno-Gophers Ski Club not only encourage and equip budding athletes who stand among the nation's most talented as Olympic hopefuls but also ensure that the joy of skiing can be experienced by all through longstanding sponsorship of skiers with disabilities and/or special needs; and

WHEREAS, filled with community leaders, diverse families, and respected professionals spanning a variety of industries, the Sno-Gophers Ski Club boasts a distinguished membership of Chicagoans and Chicagoland residents who maintain a commitment to preserving their extraordinary history, promoting opportunities for fun and fellowship, and sharing their love of skiing; and

WHEREAS, from June 19-20, 2015, the Sno-Gophers Ski Club will mark its milestone 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a weekend gala extravaganza themed, *50 & Fabulous*:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RAHM EMANUEL, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, do hereby proclaim June 20, 2015 to be THE SNO-GOPHERS SKI CLUB DAY IN CHICAGO in celebration of the Sno-Gophers Ski Club's enduring presence and impact upon the City of Chicago, and urge all residents to acknowledge this auspicious occasion.

Dated this 5<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2015.

Mayor

OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



## Chicago Sno-Gophers Ski Club "50 & Fabulous" Gala Banquet Program

6:00pm – Doors open (*Photographer available*)

6:20pm – Cocktail hour – Cash bar

7:00pm – Program

- Master of Ceremonies – **Mr. Harvey Brister, Sr.**
- Welcome, **Mr. Larry Earls, President**, Sno-Gophers Ski Club
- Special Recognition
- **Ms. Diane Starks**, President, National Brotherhood of Skiers
- **Founder's Acknowledgement**
- **Prayer**

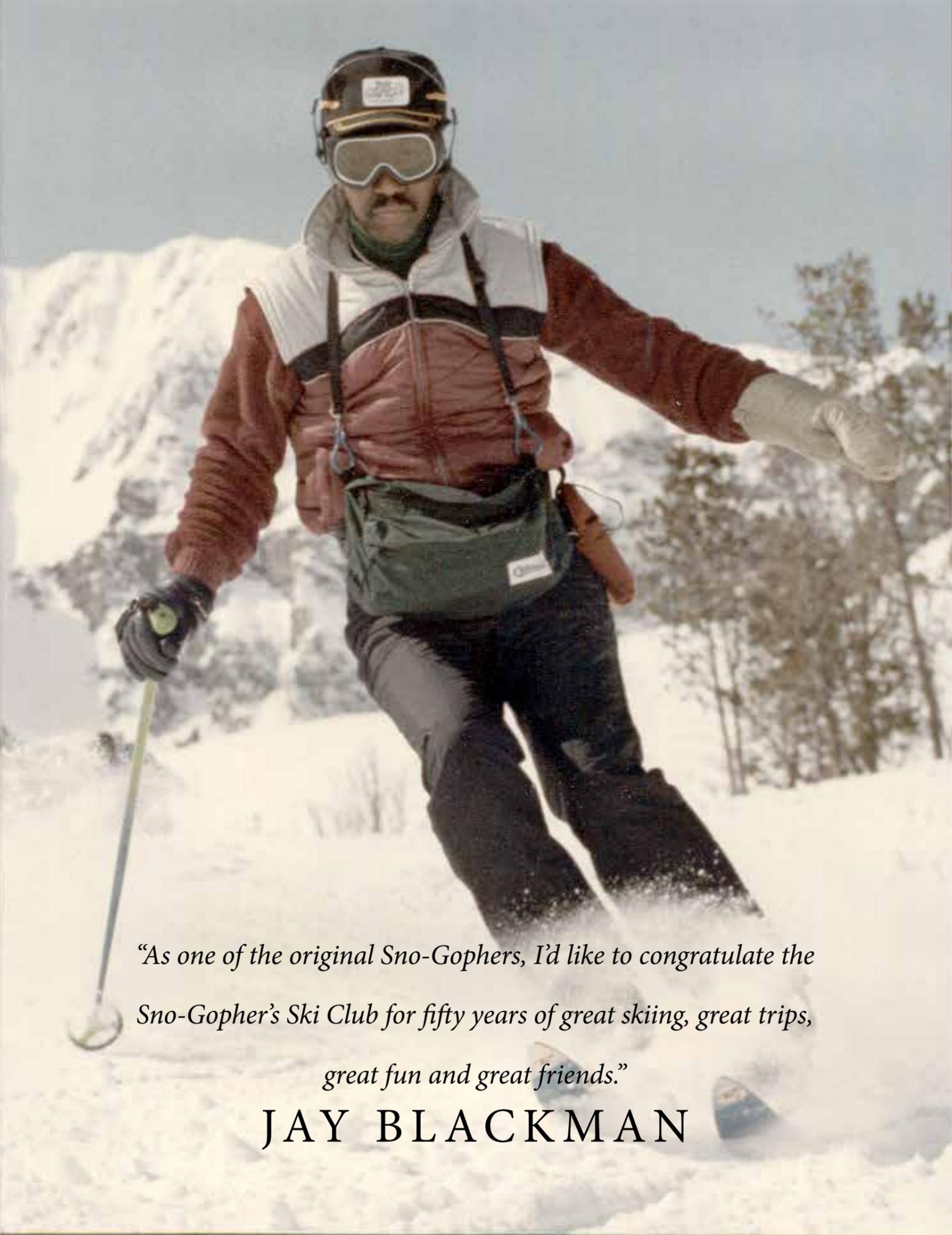
7:30pm - Dinner Served (*Program continues during dinner*)

8:30pm – 9:15pm – Performance by Joan Collaso & Larry Hanks Trio

9:15pm – Closing Remarks

9:30pm – 1:30 am Dance the Night Away

- Music by Les Redmond, C7 Sound



*“As one of the original Sno-Gophers, I’d like to congratulate the  
Sno-Gopher’s Ski Club for fifty years of great skiing, great trips,  
great fun and great friends.”*

**JAY BLACKMAN**

## OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

### PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Greetings Sno-Gophers Family,

Congratulations! This year, 2015, marks 50 years of an incredible era.

It’s not easy to maintain a ski club for such a long period of time, but we have! Throughout these years we’ve gained many members, lifelong friendships, and even spouses! Throughout these years as a Sno-Gophers member I’ve also watched us come together on numerous occasions to perform multiple tasks for the club. The thought of being 50 years old as a ski club, well, the thought itself should make you proud. The words “Happy 50th” definitely makes me smile.

The Sno-Gophers Ski Club is the 3rd oldest Black ski club in the United States, and we’re still going strong and recruiting new members. The Sno-Gophers Ski Club is recognized as one of the nation’s leading ski organizations, and by grace and with gratitude, one of the founding members of the National Brotherhood of Skiers (NBS) is one of our very own, Art Clay.

We had a great and successful past ski season and our wheels are still churning and our spirits are still burning for our upcoming 50th ski season to begin, kicking it off with our 50th Anniversary Banquet.

I’d like to send a special thank you to the members of the 50th Anniversary Committee and our very own Committee Chairperson, Pauline Washington, for all the hard work you all have done to make our 50th Anniversary Celebration such a success. I would also like to thank those members who greatly assisted me with writing Requests for Proclamation to various heads of state, asking that June 20th be proclaimed as Sno-Gophers Ski Club Day.

In this book you will read several Sno-Gophers’ personal reflections about the impact the club has had on their lives over the years. It has certainly enriched my life as well.

Every year we travel to great destinations to ski. We often join other clubs from the National Brotherhood of Skiers on joint trips. We invite you to join us as well.

I especially would like to thank our neighboring club The Jim Dandy’s for keeping us with that competitive edge, and also for just being fun loving people.

I want to thank each and every Sno-Gopher, past and present, and all friends, family, and guests, for joining us on this joyous and wonderful 50th Anniversary Celebration.

And with the Blessing of the Sno-Gopher Ski Club Family, HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY!!!

*Larry Earls, President  
Sno-Gophers Ski Club  
Ski You Later!*

## Holmes "Daddy-O" Daylie A Tribute to our Founder

*In 1965, Pioneer radio personality Holmes "Daddy-O" Daylie put out a call over the airwaves to come ski with him. He organized the SKI FUN LEAGUE, (known today as the Sno-Gophers Ski Club). The following article highlights the legacy of our founder. (The following article is reprinted from the Chicago Tribune, February, 2003)*

By Sufiya Abdur-Rahman

Jazz deejay Holmes "Daddy-O" Daylie "was to rhyme what Michael Jordan was to basketball or what Redd Foxx was to comedy," said his longtime friend, Dempsey Travis. In other words, he was tops, Pops.

Well, listen. "This is Dad-E-O on the Rad-E-O. The music host who host who loves you most," he used to say to greet his radio listeners. And to introduce a news broadcast he would say, "And now, old midnight sun, don't run before we pay our musical dues. We wanna take you on a five-minute cruise through the world's latest news."

Mr. Daylie, spread his upbeat chatter over the airwaves for WAIT-AM, WMAQ-AM, WGN-AM and other radio and TV stations from the 1940s to the 1970s, died Thursday, Feb. 6, 2003.

"He was one of the first major African-American radio personalities who not only had a following in the black community but had a following in the white community as well," said Bruce DuMont, president of the Museum of Broadcast Communications.

Mr. Daylie, born in Covington, TN, was the youngest of 12 children. After the death of his parents he was raised by an older brother in Chicago and in 1938 Mr. Daylie graduated from Morgan Park High School.

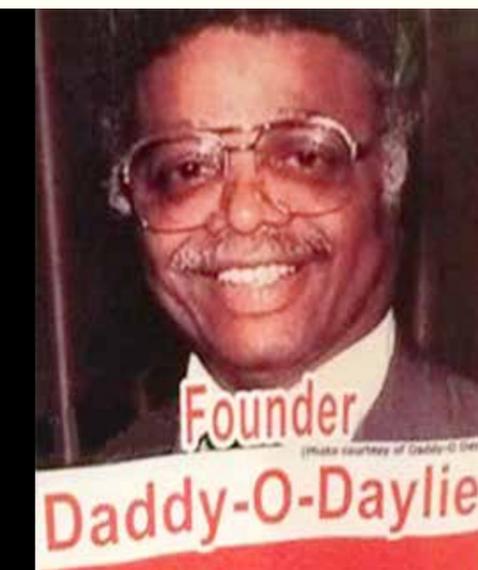
He was a basketball star in school and played for the Harlem Globetrotters for

about six months, Travis said. But that's not what made him famous. The job he got next as a bartender in Chicago really got people talking about Daddy-O. In true Globetrotters' style, he entertained people with tricks while he served them drinks.

"I'm as nice as a mother's advice," he would say as he flipped ice cubes behind his back, Travis said.

In the late 1940s, Mr. Daylie began working as a radio host, and he brought along all the showmanship and jazz knowledge he picked up while being a club bartender. "When he put a song on, he would know something about the music, like he was a cat--a musician," said Travis, who played piano. Mr. Daylie knew all the popular jazz musicians of the time, including Billie Holiday--one of his favorites--Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington, from bartending at venues where they played, Travis said.

But we love him most for introducing Blacks in Chicago to the sport of skiing and being a founding member of the Chicago Sno-Gophers Ski Club.



Holmes "Daddy-O" Daylie

An advertisement for the Sno-Gophers Ski Club 50th Anniversary Celebration. The background is a textured, light brown color. At the top, the text "Joining with our friends and neighbors to" is written in a dark, serif font. Below this, the word "CELEBRATE" is written in large, bold, green, block letters. To the right of the word "CELEBRATE", there is a vertical text "CEA-7501A-AS". In the center, there is a white-bordered photograph of a group of people in business attire clapping. To the right of the photograph, the text "Sno-Gophers Ski Club 50th Anniversary Celebration" is written in a dark, serif font. Below this, the name "R Carson, AAMS®" is written in a bold, dark, serif font, followed by "Financial Advisor" in a smaller, dark, serif font. Below that, the address "1652 East 53rd St Chicago, IL 60615" and the phone number "773-947-6777" are listed in a dark, serif font. At the bottom right, the website "www.edwardjones.com" is written in a dark, serif font, followed by "Member SIPC" in a smaller, dark, serif font. At the bottom of the advertisement, the Edward Jones logo is displayed, consisting of the name "Edward Jones" in a bold, dark, serif font, with the tagline "MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING" in a smaller, dark, serif font below it.

Jacqueline Bearden, Historian

## Sno-Gophers Ski Club – Embracing Our Past: The First 25 Years

A ski club is a ski club, but the Sno-Gophers are unique!

From its birth in October, 1965, inspired by, Holmes “Daddy-O” Daylie, through its adolescence, the club has grown from individuals with great intentions of skiing to a cohesive group of great skiers.

The serious intenders endured: from 50 in the first year, membership grew to 250 by the end of the first decade. The goal established: to promote skiing among blacks with emphasis on youth.

The object of those early years was to fill a bus or two for a few Midwest jaunts. As the last season of the 70’s came to pass, the Sno-Gophers were filling busses for Sugar Loaf and filling planes for Sun Valley. And, they were skiing the bumps from Indian-Head to Innsbruck and comparing the powder of Crested Butte to Chamonix.

Through the years the Sno-Gophers demonstrated their remarkable leadership ability by providing the National Brotherhood of Skiers with an Acting President, a Regional Vice-President, an Executive Secretary and a Financial Secretary. The Chicago Metropolitan Ski Council gained its first Black Regional Vice-President. The United States Ski Association was provided with an Illinois State Chairman and a second Vice-President. The Sno-Gophers were actively involved with PUSH and the National Blind Skiers Association.

The Junior Sno-Gophers were organized in 1973 under the sponsorship of members Alice Cloud and Evelyn Davis. From this group emerged the winner of the *First Annual Galliano Cup* and *1975 Freestyler of the Year*, Teo Hyde.

Under the sponsorship of Omer and Dorothy Namdar, the Juniors experienced a surge in membership, opening the 1979-80 season with 82 members, closing with 166.

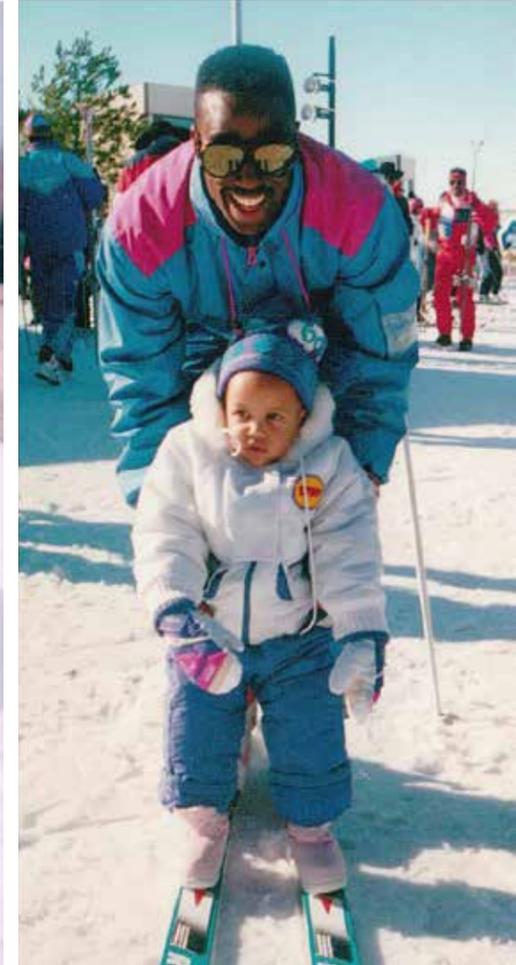
As it grew, the club began to expand its activities, both on and off the snow. A racing program was introduced and members participating in racing clinics learned the rudiments of winning. Many, such as our past President, Joe Long and past Racing Chairman, Noble Pearce became serious racers who have captured NASTAR silver and gold.

The Sno-Gophers’ summer program allows for Gopher camaraderie in the off-season. These include camping trips and the annual picnic, and activities to help members keep in shape like biking and tennis. The club also participated in the Bud Billiken Parade for several years.

The Sno-Gophers have been involved with assisting Chris Montgomery, a blind skier, in training for and competing in the *1982 Handicapped World Cup* and the *1984 Handicapped Olympics*.

The early generation Sno-Gophers under Art Clay and Chuck Hardy conceived ideas and organized events that would attract that adventurous Chicagoan looking for more than “one hill...one weekend...one dollar” type of action. Today our traditions have their roots in those ideas. The annual Sno-Gophers Carnival; and in those days the European Ski Week in even-ending years and the National Black Summit in odd-ending years; and The Monte Carlo Extraordinaire event.

The Sno-Gophers came of age in the 80’s, the serious intenders have indeed endured. A ski club, is a ski club, but the Sno-Gophers are unique.



*Congratulations  
Sno-Gophers on your 50th.*

*Thanks for the memories,  
Donald and Virgie Woods & Family*



OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



**"50 & Fabulous"**

**Pauline Washington, Chairperson**



I thank the Sno-Gophers Ski Club for giving me this honor to Chair our "50th Anniversary"!

I have enjoyed being a Sno-Gopher for over 38 years. I had never imagined participating and traveling across the country skiing and racing. I was asked to go on a weekend trip by Wanda Franklin Robertson, who was Membership Chair. Adele White McCoy was Trip Chair, they said after my many one day and weekend trips as a guest, "Why don't you join?"

I have experienced years of friendship with all of many SGSC Members and NBS Clubs.

I've served on the SGSC Board as Business Manager, Correspondence Secretary, Membership Chair, Newsletter Editor, and in 1981 was crowned "Miss Sno-Gopher".

**50th Anniversary Committee**

*I want to thank the "50th Anniversary Committee" who said YES to working together as a "TEAM"!*

**President, Larry Earls**

- Dee Dee Baskerville
- Donna Beasley
- Carolyn Brumfield
- James Caswell
- Tennye Clark
- Donna Cobb
- Lynne Collins
- Tom Douse
- Angelica Faith
- Gary Jenkins
- Joe Long

**Sylvia Morris**

- Wanda Robertson
- Karen Sweatt
- Pat Vaughn Dossiea
- Soyini Walton
- Adele White-McCoy
- Esau Wilkins
- Angela Williams
- Virgie Woods

**Members at Large:**

- Helen Cook
- Earline Franklin
- George Franklin
- Pat Batom Morehead
- Debra Rice
- Randy Simmons
- Wilma Simmons

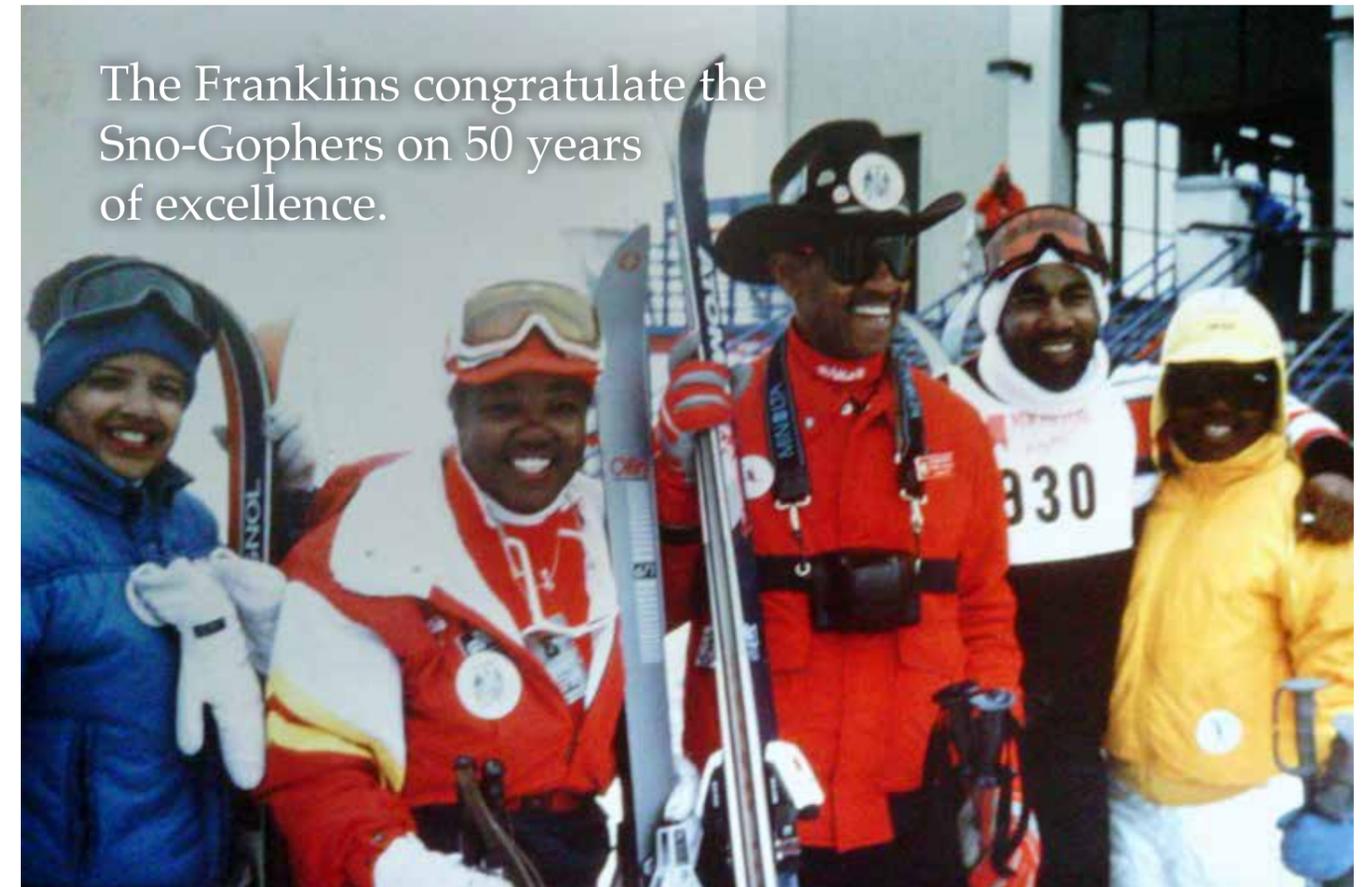
**Special Thanks:**

Bob Winford

*Designer 50th Anniversary Logo*

**Past Presidents  
Sno-Gopher Ski Club**

Year	President
1965-1966	Bill Payne
1966-1969	Eddie Benson
1969-1970	Rochelle Randolph
1970-1971	Clif Robertson
1971-1973	James Fletcher
1973-1973	Eddie Benson
1975-1976	James Fletcher
1976-1978	Theodore Johnson
1978-1980	Joseph Long
1980-1984	Harvey Washington
1984-1986	Oliver Tookes
1986-1988	Earline Rivers
1988-1992	Esau Wilkins
1992-1996	Juanita Curry-Hearn
1996-1998	Denise Johnson
1998-2000	George Franklin
2000-2002	Berry Mitchell
2002-2004	Eddie Benson
2004-2006	Marlin Howell
2006-2010	Christine Holley-Davis
2010-2013	Patricia Williams
2013-Present	Larry Earls



The Franklins congratulate the Sno-Gophers on 50 years of excellence.

Congratulations to

**SYLVIA MORRIS**

*an original Sno-Gopher 1965*

**Happy 50th Anniversary**

*The Morris Clan —*

*Guy Tiffani*

*Meghan*

*Guy II*

*Davon*

*Mischa*

*Connie*

*Congratulations  
Sno-Gophers Ski Club on your  
50th Anniversary Celebration*



**Michelle A. Harris**  
Alderman, 8th Ward

8539 South Cottage Grove  
Chicago, IL 60619  
(773) 874-3300

AldermanMichelleHarris.net | MichelleHarris8@gmail.com



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*(a skier for 41 years)*

# Sno-Gophers Personal Reflections - On the Past 50 Years

## Reflection on Ernest Rose and Donald Brown, National Ski Patrol Elite

By Ron Blackman

*Ernest Rose, earned the right to wear the rust-orange parkas of the Ski Patrol in 1971. He was the first African American to join the National Ski Patrol. An organization comprised, at the time of more than 17,000 men and women. He was joined a year later by Donald Brown. A decade later, Sno-Gopher Ron Blackman wrote an article about the two of them for the Chicago Defender in January, 1982. The following is an excerpt from the article.*

If you've ever skied on the Majestic Hills ski area you have undoubtedly seen these two gentle giants, they are visible. Rose is picturesque of 6'4" on a 215 lb. frame, while Brown is a few inches shorter. They wear orange ski jackets, designed to be seen from a great distance, so that the large white cross displayed on their backs can be seen. Brown and Rose belong to that elite dedicated group of skiers, The National Ski Patrol.

For the past eleven years Ernest Rose has been making the Saturday and Sunday drive to the hill to do his thing. Last year (1981) he received his ten year service award, presented to him by The National Ski Patrol. Brown received his award this year (1982).

The Ski Patrol are the guardian angels of the slopes. Their presence is not to intimidate but to see that safety on the hill is maintained. "Safety on the ski slopes is a must," says Rose. "We try not to confiscate anyone's lift ticket, but if anyone is endangering oth-

ers, we'll simply turn them over to the management and let them deal with the situation.

To be a member of the Ski Patrol is not that easy of a task. First and most important you must be able to ski all terrain under various conditions. There is no doubt of Brown and Rose's skiing ability. Rose's rock steady skiing technique has earned him the name "Doctor Rock." He gave me my first lesson eleven years ago. Secondly, you must pass the American Red Cross Advanced First Aid Exam and possess skills in toboggan handling.

All of these skills are important because they must be ready at all times and under different circumstances to perform first-aid on and off the hill, also rescue operations and getting injured skiers down safely. It's a big responsibility and they get their due respect from skiers and fellow patrolers.

## Reflections From Harvey Zay Brister, Sr.

It all started one day in the year 1965 as I was listening to my favorite radio personality at the time, Daddy-O Daylie. During this period of time Daddy o had created a Riding club, a Camera Club, a Bowling Club and a few other clubs. As I heard him talking about forming a Ski Club, I wrote down the information about the very first meeting to be held that Thursday night. We had 35 people in attendance. Daddyo invited an official from the United States Ski Association to assist with the organizing of this new Ski Club.

To get started, they asked for volun-

teer officers to fill each position. I volunteered to fill the position of USSA Representative which required traveling to various cities around the country. Most of the positions were filled that night. Since that was 50 years ago, I don't remember all the names of the first officers. Bill Payne was the first president. Eddie Benson was elected shortly after that.

I often thank about some of the great ski areas that we covered like, Aspen, Vail, Jackson Hole, Steamboat Springs, Keystone, Breckenridge, A-Basin, Park City, Snowbird, Alta, Lake Tahoe, Squaw Valley, Sun Valley, Big Sky, Indianhead, Boyne Mountains, Banff and Lake Louise. In Europe we skied Switzerland, Austria, France and Italy. These are just a few areas where we skied. The Black Ski Summits were simply amazing!! My years spent in the Sno-Gophers Ski Club have been some of the best of my life!!

## Reflections From Joe Long (NBS President, 1986-1988)

In February of 2013, the National Brotherhood of Skiers (NBS) celebrated its 40th anniversary. I'm celebrating my 43rd year of skiing and still going strong. Thanks to my love for the sport and the N.B.S., I've forced myself to stay in excellent health and tip top physical condition. I frankly feel like a 19th century gunfighter that's annually challenged by younger guns, I must always win, so far so good.

In addition to attending the very first summit in 1973 (Aspen, Co.) I've attended every annual gathering since. I began my career with the NBS in

1977, as Midwest Regional Vice President. I became national treasurer in 1980. In 1982 I was Sno-Gophers Club President and in 1986 served as national president. Since I've skied in almost every county that has skiing available, I have made and maintained friends around the country and the world. During our winter months, I have skied almost every major ski resort in the United States, Canada (where I did helicopter skiing), and Europe. In addition, in the summer months I have skied in Argentina and Chile, what a life! Thanks to my love of skiing, the Sno-Gophers Ski club, and NBS, life has been great, and the adventure continues.

I've served NBS for 25 years from 1977 to 2002, having created many committees and served as Chairman or member of too many committees to mention now. In addition to the NBS national corporate office and executive director, these were only two of my creations. I still stand ready, willing and able to contribute to the progress of the NBS.

## Reflections on Ski Racing, Hot Shot, Jackie Bearden

The National Standard Race (NASTAR) chose Jackie Bearden as a top female racer because of her average

lowest handicap in the Midwest Region. She is a member of the Chicago Sno-Gophers Ski Club. She competed against four other women in the United States within her age category during the 1986-1987 NASTAR finals at Snowmass, Colorado. With more than twenty years of ballet and downhill competition under her belt, she faced the biggest challenge of her skiing life, a chance at a national title. She won. *From Naomi Bryson*

Jackie also placed first in the 1990 Miller Lite NASTAR finals for her age group. She posted the best time for 4 of her six runs, despite making her last run with her boots accidentally unbuckled. *Jet Magazine, 1991*

## Reflections from Sylvia Morris

In the beginning a call went out over the air waves from Daddy-O Daylie for all would-be skiers to gather for a night ski trip to Wisconsin. I got my grandmother to babysit my six month old son, put on my warmest clothes and went to night school at Wilson Junior College. I faked being sick in order to go on the trip and I joined a group of happy bus riders that went skiing. Daddy-O was on the bus to Wilmot with us. That was the coldest night in the history of skiing – that was

our whole conversation, "the Hawk had real competition that night." It was so cold and uncomfortable I don't believe, Daddy-O ever came again. Those of us that did venture out in our rented equipment had a great time.

Years later I was in a terrible car accident that broke my nose, ribs and four vertebrae in my back. When the Sno-Gophers heard about my accident they came out in droves to lend support. They did more for my morale than any medicine. While I was recuperating, they brought food, and did chores in the house for us. My husband was in a different hospital recovering from a heart attack.

In 1973, a group of Sno-Gophers started the junior club. That was one of our best efforts. My children started skiing at two years old, as soon as they were potty trained. My husband tried skiing one time. He said, I could ski, and he would fish.

I don't think there is a committee in the Gophers that I haven't worked on. I have held various offices in the club—Vice President, Social Chair, Membership and Business Manager. I have had a ball with the Sno-Gophers for 50 years. I have formed some of the best friendships of my life through the Sno-Gophers Ski club. Hang in there for future generations.

Joe Long at Winter Park



Jackie Bearden and Pam Rice with two Jim Dandy racers.



Congratulations Sno-Gophers Ski Club on your 50th Anniversary

# TAMIKO'S GLUTE CAMP

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SOUTHSHORE  
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\$15 Sessions  
or 10 sessions for  
**\$125**

Stop going to personal trainers who have never lost weight.  
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Lose Fat • Build Your Core • Build a Better Booty • Look Great

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At Any Age!

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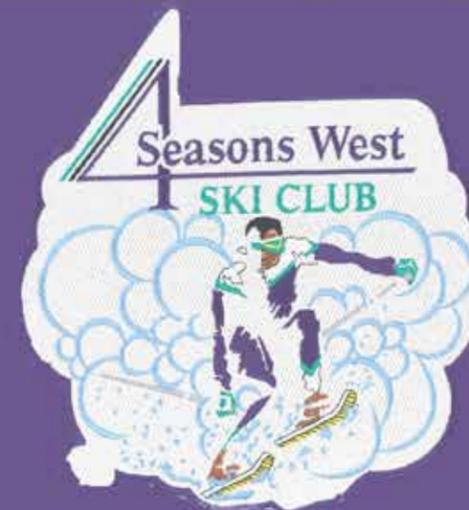
After



## Congratulations Sno Gophers



## Thanks for 50 Years of Memories



Congratulations to The Sno-Gophers Ski Club on their 50th Anniversary! Pam Rice Founder & Editor of BlackChicagoSailors.org



# BlackChicagoSailors

"The largest group of African American skippers of both men and women in the country."



Gwen & Leon Anderson  
Stan Bailey  
Robert Bassett  
David Blackwell  
Glen Cajandig  
Ernie Coleman  
Charlotte & Develt Crockett  
Mike Davis  
James Frederick  
Claudia Fegan

Frank & Tess Garner  
Ted Graves  
Edmond Geringer  
Deborah Grant  
Marlon Harvey  
Karen Harris  
Kenneth Harris  
Leonard Hawkins  
Stanley & Edith Hill  
Johann Hudson

Charles Hunter  
Gerald Jackson  
Boyd Jarrell  
Michelle Jarrell  
William Keith  
Frank King  
Ben Lovely  
Lance Lovely  
Eunice Jackson Lyle  
Jack Lyle

Robelle McMiller  
Paul Mixon  
Nate Morgan  
Yasir Namdar  
Yvonne Nelson  
Chiaka Patterson  
William "Bill" Pinkney  
Pamela Rice  
Eric Ricks  
C. Scott Roberts

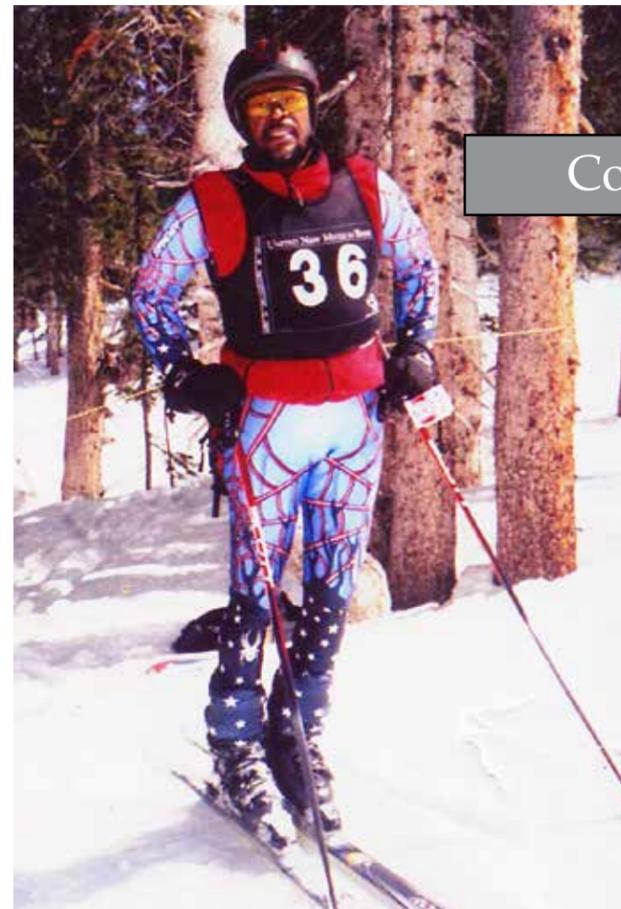
Wanda Roberson  
Andrew Ryal  
Earl and Helen Scott  
Roger Shuppert  
Wesley Smith  
Ava and Issac Stanley  
Alpha Ray Thompson  
Joli J. Thompson  
Paul & Wendy Thompson III  
Dehlia & Gretano Urgesi

David Ward  
Jim Winbush  
John Ford  
John Buckner-  
David and Judy Davis  
David Driver-  
Venetta Edwards  
Elliott El-Amin\*  
Keith Hall  
John Johnson\*  
Kofi Moyo\*  
Bob Nelson  
Rose Rogers-Harris-  
Rory Simpson\*  
Leroy Thomas  
Burt Waters-  
Pearlie Taylor  
Brian Essex\*  
Tony Davis-  
\* Turned to Powerboats!  
- No longer sails

[www.blackchicagoSailors.org](http://www.blackchicagoSailors.org)



*Pioneers —  
Blazing a path in the snow  
50 years of golden memories  
Congratulations SnoGophers!  
from Soyini Walton  
in Memory of Milele Cheryl Simms*



Congratulations to "Sarge"

**David Dodson**  
Expert Men Masters  
Gold Medal (1st) Gold

#36 Winterfest 2004  
Taos, New Mexico

Time 1:15  
84 Gates  
Super 1 1/2 mile — Finish 6th

## Sno-Gophers Ski Club — Downhill Racing

by Ted Johnson and Pam Rice

“When you can point your skis in the direction you want to go...you have control” —  
“Racing teaches you to control your skis.” —“Everybody races”. These were the phrases of Ted Johnson. Johnson is mostly recognized for his contribution to the Sno-Gophers Ski Club’s racing program. To know this, you have go back to the early 1980’s.

Ted discovered early, that if you want to ‘lead folks’, you need to have your ‘act together’. As a member of the Chicago Police, at the time, Ted started racing with various police organizations throughout the country. The opportunity and necessity to ‘hone’ his skills, learn the rules of skiing, and practice what he was preaching, was imperative.

Johnson’s first race was at the second NBS (*National Brotherhood of Skiers*) Summit (1975) in Sun Valley, Idaho. The Sno-Gophers Ski Club of Chicago hosted the summit that year. Jim Fletcher was President and Ted was Vice President. Johnson felt it was important that the club was represented by a skier who could hold his/her own on the race course.

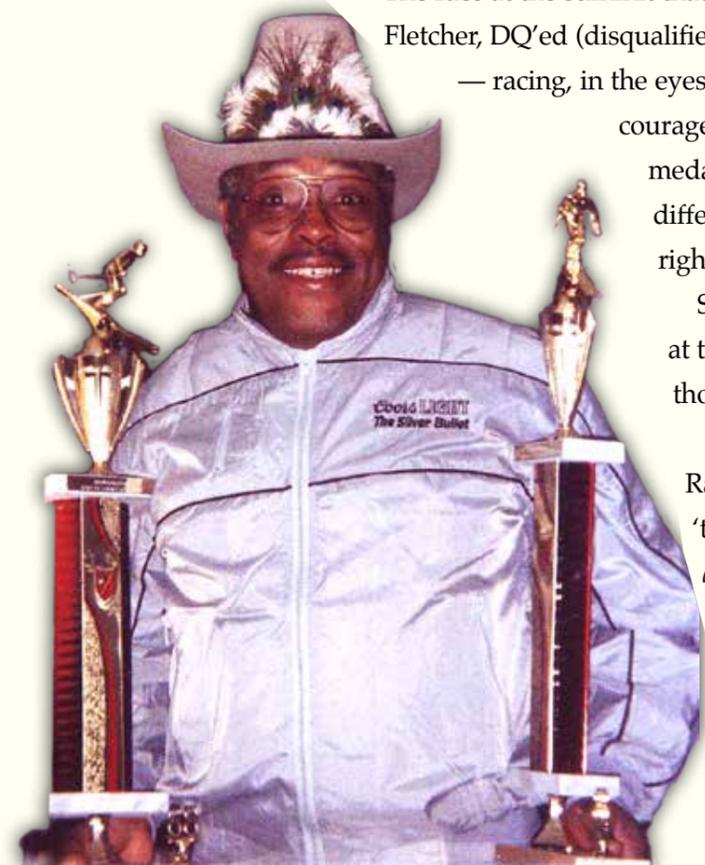
The race at the summit that year was called ‘*The President’s Race*’. During that race, Jim Fletcher, DQ’ed (disqualified), so it was up to Ted to make a good showing. After that — racing, in the eyes of Johnson — became serious. Every Sno-Gopher was encouraged to race on each trip. It was not always about winning a medal, but practicing going through the gates, learning about the different area courses, how to calculate handicaps, having the right equipment, and most of all, learning by watching others.

Signing up for NASTAR (National Standard Race) and being at the top of the run became a social and competitive event for those who were looking for a challenge.

In the early 80’s the Sno-Gopher Carnival would hold “Fun Races”. These races were more of an obstacle course than a ‘true race’. With that, Johnson decided the Sno-Gophers could *and should*, become competitive, and be taken seriously.

After attending a few NBS Annual Midwest meetings

*One of the Sno-Gophers Ski Club’s top male racers and a pioneer of the club’s racing program, Theodore (Ted) Johnson*



*Sno-Gophers Ski Club’s, Ted Johnson*

and seeing the running of the Annual Meeting Challenge Cup, Johnson saw an opportunity to institute the same program at the Sno-Gopher’s Annual Winter Carnival. With Coors as a sponsor, the ‘Coors Challenge Cup’ was created (later to be called the *Clydesdale Challenge Cup*). It was decided that the top ten female and male racers of the day’s race would have an opportunity to compete for this prestigious prize.

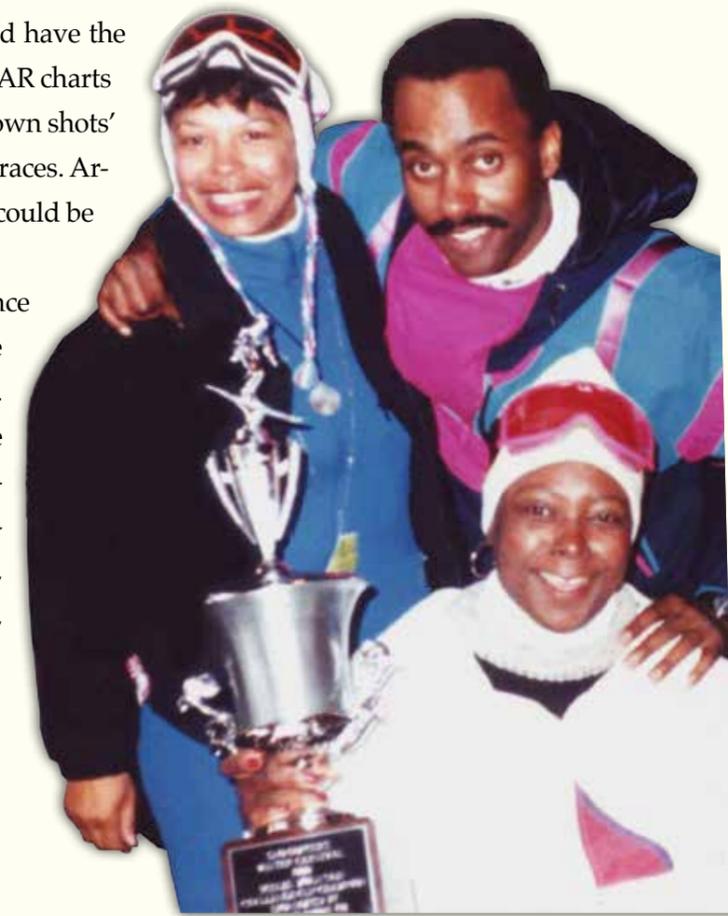
Later, to make it fair for everyone, ski professionals, ski instructors, ski patrollers and others — the rules were changed. The winners were ineligible to participate, for two years following. These rules were the same as other ski organizations around the country. The Jim Dandy’s Ski Club of Detroit, followed suit.

In the coming years, the Sno-Gophers Ski Club would have the largest number of racers placing in the top 25 on the NASTAR charts between 1985 - 1995. Racing chairs were able ‘to call their own shots’ because of the ‘numbers’ the Sno-Gophers would bring to races. Areas would struggle, some days, to find ‘pace-setters’ who could be competitive enough.

Most Sno-Gopher racers had built up the confidence and skills to go to any area in the country, head to the race course, ‘size-up the prizes’ and plan to leave with the ‘loot’.

While racing may have intimidated a few skiers, there were many skiers who benefited from the drive and encouragement that our early racing chairs set upon members. The quality of the club’s members skiing improved, skiing was made safer, and it made going to ‘hit the slopes’, much more rewarding.

*Sno-Gophers Ski Club’s top female racers Jackie Bearden and Pam Rice, along with top racer, Michael Solomon from Detroit’s Jim Dandy’s Ski Club.*



# ROMANCE TRAVEL MAGAZINE

*Congratulates the Chicago Sno-Gophers Ski Club  
On their Fabulous 50th Anniversary  
and we salute our Publisher and  
Sno-Gophers Club Member, Donna Beasley*



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OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

## Sno-Gophers Ski Club — Cross-Country Racing

by Pam Rice

I became fascinated with cross-country skiing after seeing members of the Jim Dandy's Ski Club, like John Smith, Naomi Bryson and Fred Smith during the Sno-Gophers Winter Carnivals. They were a refined group of skiers and I was impressed with the thought having the diversity in skiing options.

There was also a group of higher-performing cross-country skiers, who I later found out were also 'runners and skaters'. That was an *ah-ha* moment. Here was a group of skiers that did not have an opportunity to compete because cross-country racing was not in our offerings.

When I started the cross-country division for the Sno-Gophers Ski Club, I recruited several downhill skiers, who were 'up for the challenge'. Also, there were plenty of skaters in the Sno-Gophers. I knew it would be a great 'sell'. The first recruit was Helen Cook.

The beauty of cross-country was that it did not require travel. The city's golf courses on wintery Sunday afternoons were the place to ski. We had a few cross-country enthusiasts like Olivia Baker, Tommy Waterford, and Fran Williams to name a few.

At our Annual Sno-Gopher Carnival, the event took on *fast*. There were novice, intermediate and advance categories. We later added a Veteran's category.

Soon, several participants from the clubs in Ohio and Michigan were taking part in the cross-country races. These races became fierce and competitive. We've had up to fifty skiers participating at any one time. The

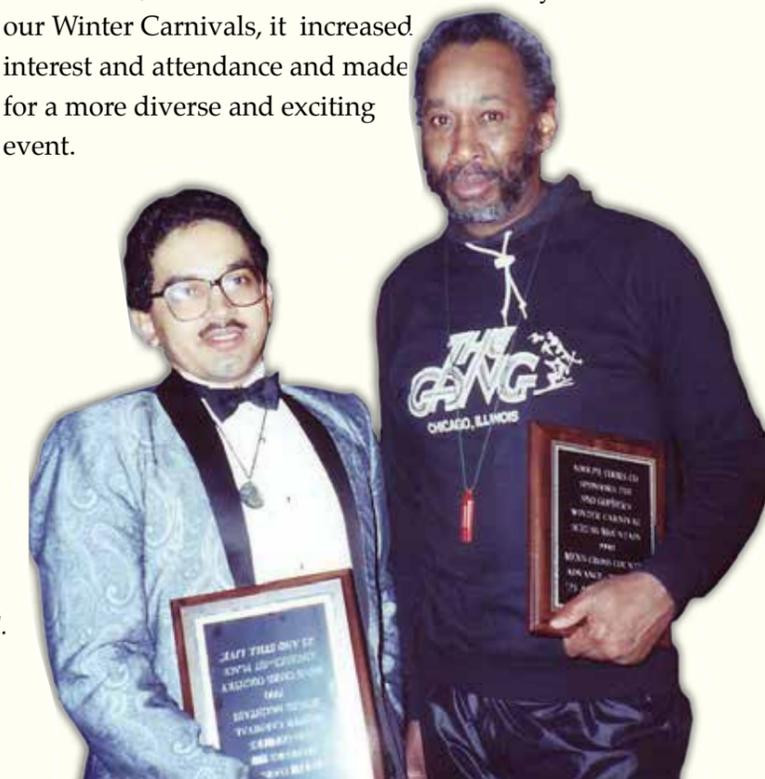
number of cross-country trophy winners were almost as many for downhill.

At our annual Carnival, there were skiers who would come specifically to race cross-country. The race course had become so competitive, at one point, we added a 'leg' of the race that was uphill and another 'leg' that was downhill.

At the Summit(1987) Lake Placid, NY, the Sno-Gophers had their first and largest contingent of cross-country skiers. (See Lake Placid photo in back)

I was asked by the past director of the NBS (National Brotherhood of Skiers) cross-country ski division to head NBS cross-country, of which I declined. I served as the Sno-Gopher Ski Club Cross Country Director for seven years before turning over the reigns to Helen Cook.

I am sure, with the addition of cross-country races at our Winter Carnivals, it increased interest and attendance and made for a more diverse and exciting event.



Top cross-country skiers, Reuben Ortega from Michigan, and Alpha Ray Thompson from The Gang at a Sno-Gopher's Ski Club Carnival.

*James Caswell & Family  
salute the Chicago Sno-Gophers Ski Club on their  
50th Anniversary.*



*We represent four generations of Sno-Gophers,  
the vested, the current, the juniors and the future.*

# KAPPA Chicago (IL) Alumni Chapter

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Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.  
extend their congratulations to the  
Sno-Gophers Ski Club  
on achieving

50 Years!



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# Reflections From Art Clay



I started skiing in the late 60's. My first ski trip was with the Sno-Gophers to the Playboy Club. They called it a ski party, "A Loaf of Bread, A Jug of Wine and A Doll By My Side." It cost about \$15 to go and for that cost you got a lift ticket and some skis. They had the whole ski building. On one floor you got the equipment, on one floor there was the bar and another floor there was the party.

## Learning To Ski

That first ski trip was really just falling down the hill. I would say at the time, there were no Sno-Gophers who actually knew how to ski. John Dunham said, he'd teach me, but he fell getting off the lift. And we pretty much fell all the way down. I said that's enough, I'm not trying this anymore and went into the lodge to get my loaf of bread and jug of wine, and started partying.

I met people on that trip like Paula and Carolyn Wright. They called and said let's go to Indianhead. I had just gotten a new car so I said yes and we drove up to Indianhead. We went to Powderhorn. We were going to take a lesson called Stem Christie, but we got there so early we decided to take a run. On that run I kept running into the bushes. I told the ladies to go ahead and I'd get myself down. While I was laying in the bushes, a man about the size of an elf, no more than 5 feet tall, comes over to help me. He had on one of those big German hats they use to wear, that looked like it had a shaving brush stuck out of it. He said let me take you down. I wasn't in-tuned with a lot of white people and I said that's alright, I'll get

down. But he insisted. What he showed me to the bottom of the hill was enough to make me go on the bunny hill. When he let me go, I could go anywhere on the mountains around here I wanted to. His name was Elgin Lee, and I didn't know it at the time, but he was a professional ski instructor. So he got me started, and from that point-on, whenever the Sno-Gophers had a trip, I was on it.

## Serving as Trip Chairman

In the beginning the Sno-Gophers were a raggedy group with no structure. I had formed some business sense and organizational skills in college. They had a few officers, but they weren't keeping the books right. Back then no reports were made after the trip or parties. People wouldn't turn in the right amount of mon-

ey, or no money. So after one of our parties, where the bar sales were not turned in we started making reports and accountability mandatory. And we also started a newsletter. These things are still part of the Sno-Gophers today.

After being in the club a year, I became the trip chairman. The trips became more fun and exciting. My goal was to get enough people to make the trip go and be successful. We got folks to go cheaply.

Mamie and I have been traveling and skiing together for decades and its great. But we also travel alone and its great. I think people should just travel. Get out there and ski. Over the last 40 years, the folks that I have met in the Sno-Gophers have become an integral part of my life. I love them all.

## CONGRATULATIONS Chicago Sno-Gophers Ski Club on Your Fabulous 50th Anniversary

and To Skiers, Father and Daughter, William Johnson and Joyce Johnson

Remember, That On A Clear Day, You Can Ski Forever and Ever and Ever  
*Love, Mom Johnson*



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Dorothy Bell Cowan — Original Member and Secretary, 1976 - 1977

Charles Lynch — Friend and Supporter of Sno-Gophers

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*"The best decision I ever made was to join the Chicago Sno-Gophers in 1995. The friendships, travel experiences, fun parties and line dancing in more places than I can count are some of the most memorable moments of my life. To be sure I've had some of the scariest moments of my life like competing in my first race and if I remember correctly "only" race. I never had a need for speed. Skiing with the Gophers changed me, made me a better person and helped filled my life with joy. Thanks for the decades worth of good times, Sno-Gophers."*

— Donna Beasley

## How Travel With the Sno-Gophers Made Me A Courageous Woman

By Donna Beasley

**M**y first trip west was with my ski club, the Chicago Sno-Gophers. We were attending the Black Ski Summit (a bi-annual ski and party event for African-American skiers across the USA) at Steamboat Springs in Colorado. But, as the lift kept climbing higher and higher I learned what a real mountain was, real fast. By comparison, I'd been skiing on mole hills in the Midwest.

I fell getting off the chair lift. I got to my feet, and looked down and couldn't see the bottom. I began to shake. Under my ski clothes sweat oozed through my long underwear. The thing about skiing is if you got yourself up there, you got to get yourself down.

"Come on Donna, let's go. It's just like any other run, just more of it," said my friend. He took off and stopped a few yards down and I'd skied to him. We did that 3 or 4 times and it was obvious it was going to take me a very long time to get down that mountain. I made him go on without, so I could take my time without him pressuring me to go, go, go. It took me two hours to get down that mountain. I hit the resort's bar, ordered a hot chocolate with peppermint schnapps and vowed never, ever to do that again.

I woke in the middle of the night and the still, small voice in my head said, "you've got to go back up. If you don't do it, you'll never ski again. Don't let fear win." So the next day, I did what I should have done in the first place, I took lessons from a ski pro until I could ski down that mountain with my dignity intact.

Since then I've skied on mountains from Pennsylvania to Utah and Canada to Nevada. I've been scared out of my wits on many a run following my Sno-Gopher buddies down a trail above my ability level. A few times I've read the trail map wrong and went the wrong way. And a couple of times a new skier has lost control and plowed me down. The joys and challenges of skiing has made me a braver, more confident woman. But it was back at Steamboat Springs, a few years later, where I gave myself the badge

### Women

#### A Class

1. Tiffany Brown Windham
2. Sade Upshaw
3. Celestine Bell

#### B Class

1. Angelica Faith

#### Masters Class

1. Pauline Washington
2. Debra Rice
3. Valerie Smith

### Men

#### A Class

1. Brian Grimes
2. Jamie Montgomery
3. Broderick Page

#### B Class

1. Derell Simpson
2. Dwayne Brown
3. Tony Samuels

#### C Class

1. Larry Earls
2. Steve Taylor
3. Karl Jackson III

### Masters Men

1. George Franklin
2. Joe Long
3. Tom Douse

### Ken Meyers Award Women

Tiffany Brown Windham

### Ken Meyers Award Men

Brian Grimes

### A Courageous Woman (cont'd)

of courage. I was on my way to my club's Western picnic at the foot of the mountain. I had gotten on the wrong lift and when I exited the chair there was not a soul in sight. The first rule of skiing is to never ski alone. So I was pondering where I could wait for someone when a glance down the mountain revealed a pristine, never skied on fresh trail of snow. I swear I heard the mountain whisper, "ski down me."

So I asked myself, "girl when are you ever going to get another chance to ski on virgin snow?"

The argument that went on in my head about safety, and not knowing what level of run it was or where it was going to take me was brief. I took 3 deep breaths and took off. On most ski runs the snow is groomed and packed down by ski machines. My skis sank into the snow like I was standing on pillows. It was the first time I understood why they call snow powder. The powder bounced up and around me as I sliced through it. I skied from one side of the trail to the other yelling "woohoo" all the way down. When I got to the bottom I was right at the picnic. I felt like a rock star as I headed for a hamburger and a plate of baked beans.

*Happy 50th Anniversary  
Sno-Gophers Ski Club*

*Loveya  
Mamie and Artie*

*Reflections of a Grateful Skier*

*by Lynne M. Collins*



How do you thank those upon whose shoulders you stand? I will try. Jackie Bearden, thank you, for drilling it into our minds at the Markham Roller Rink, that the Skate Family was really missing something special. Yes, we were great skaters, but, if we would just try it, we could take our game to a whole 'nother level! It would take Glendell Forrest, a woman who can sell ice to Eskimos, to get about 50 of us to "try it."

Oh! My! God! It was 1984 and the Gophers were gearing up for their 25th Anniversary. We were hyped-up! And trying it, for the first time, our whole world-view changed, overnight. We skied down Midwestern ice at Americana.... We slipped and skied on ice at Sundown....

Then came the challenge of our lives, 1985, -40 degree temps would not deter us, Alpine Valley.... What a rush!! To have your goggles freeze up while schussing down the face of the mountain, and your nose turn to ice; the effects of frost bite for three whole winters.... Some things you never forget... Yet, I digress...

Thank you, Arthur Clay. You know that you are loved and welcomed into another family, when Art's voice blasted from the back to the front of the bus, "Hey, he spent \$1,000 and didn't even buy skis!" Um-hm... I could relate to that unknown sister who spoke live on Park City TV, "No, I can't ski; but, I look like I can ski!" WTW?

Thank you, Ozell McKinney, for holding the tips of my skis, while down-hill and saying, put your weight on the inside of your down-hill ski and carve that edge! Thank you, Gus Ivy, for telling us, one day, while at Winter Park, "you've got to find that 'sweet spot'.... You'll know you've found yours when you reach out over your skis, just right, and in control. I found mine on my first in-control Black Diamond, (that same day?) and found myself shouting, out loud "get out over them! Get over those skis!!" Oh! My! God! What a RUSH!

Thank you, Larnell Holts and Calvin Shumate, for being such patient ski partners... And thank you, Bob Johnson, for being poetry in motion, and my inspiration... for when I beheld the Man, all I could think was, "Wow! When I grow up, I want to ski like HIM!"

When you stand above the fir trees, at 10,000 feet, and look over the mountain of glistening powder and your heart fills with peace and serenity, and you behold your skiing dream come true, you KNOW that there is a God. And I am forever grateful.

Ski yaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!



## To my Chicago Ski Family:



Thank you for enriching my world with so many wonderful firsts:

- My first summit, including parking garage parties, pajama party and outdoor dance picnic (Steamboat);
- My first NBS Regional (Taos, NM);
- My first trip to Idaho where I skied (Sun Valley), shook the hand of Presidential hopeful Senator John Kerry (on his snowboard near Roundhouse Restaurant) and shopped the best resale shop on earth (The Gold Mine Thrift Store in Ketchum);
- My first downhill race (Carnival at Schuss / Shanty Creek);
- My first ride on a snowcat (Picnic on the Hill Aspen Snowmass);
- My discovery of a charming, warm, secluded Wine Hut invaded by Sno-Gophers (White Cap Mountain, WI);
- My first time meeting the NBS' Olympic hopefuls (Vail);
- My first read of each ski season's published schedule with payment plans.



**What a club! What a blessing!! What a life!!! What a legacy!!!!  
Congratulations!**

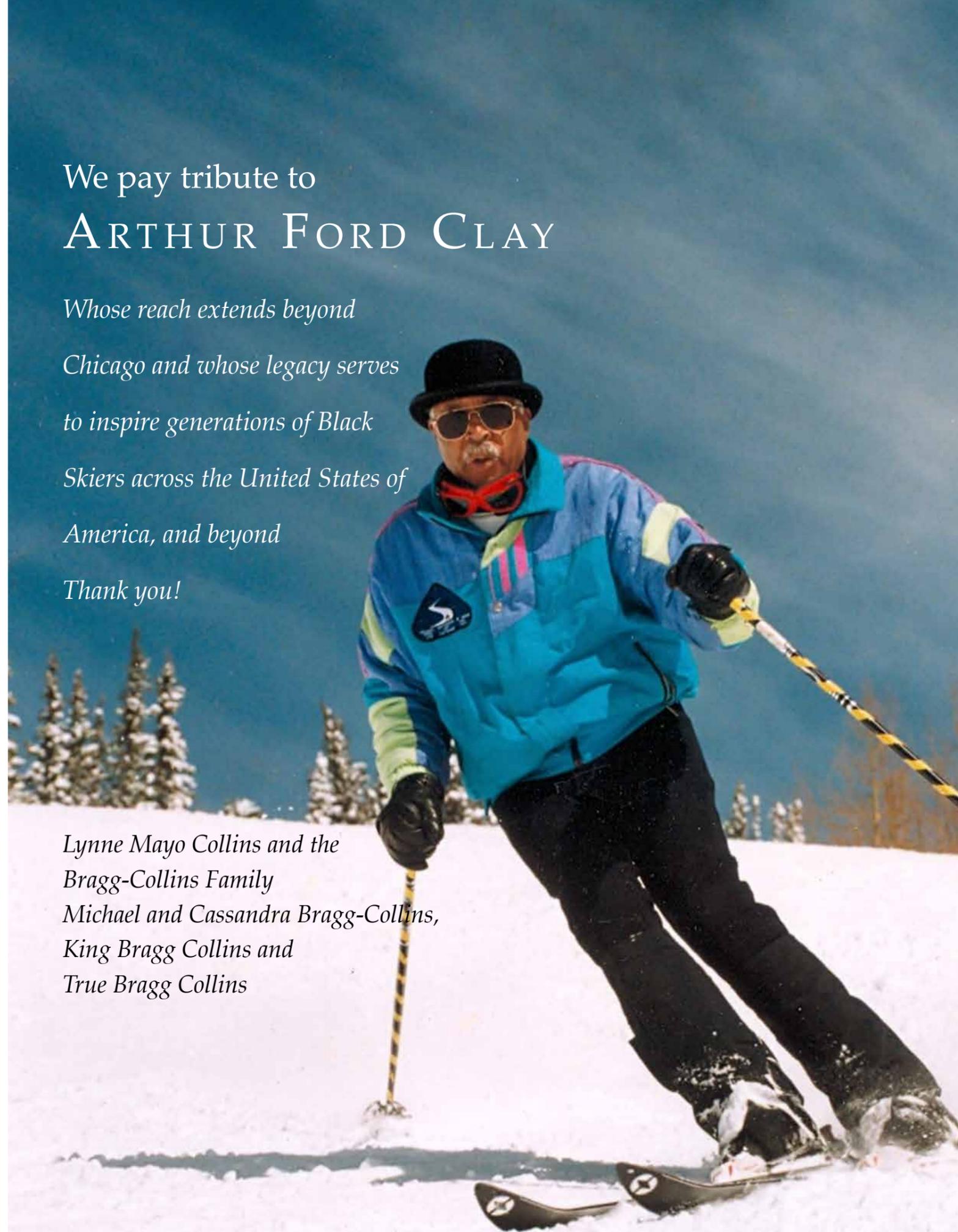
—Debra Rice

## We pay tribute to ARTHUR FORD CLAY

*Whose reach extends beyond  
Chicago and whose legacy serves  
to inspire generations of Black  
Skiers across the United States of  
America, and beyond*

*Thank you!*

*Lynne Mayo Collins and the  
Bragg-Collins Family  
Michael and Cassandra Bragg-Collins,  
King Bragg Collins and  
True Bragg Collins*





NBS Summit 1987, Lake Placid, New York. SGSC cross-country skiers (not in order) Calvin Perry, Richard Dickinson, Olivia Baker, Fran Williams, Jackie Bearden, Pam Rice, Pat Johnson, Lavinia Cross, Rose Thompson and others in front of the Official Subaru Ski wagon.

The Southern Snow Seekers Ski Club  
wishes the  
Sno-Gophers Ski Club  
continued success on their  
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[www.SouthernSnowSeekers.org](http://www.SouthernSnowSeekers.org)



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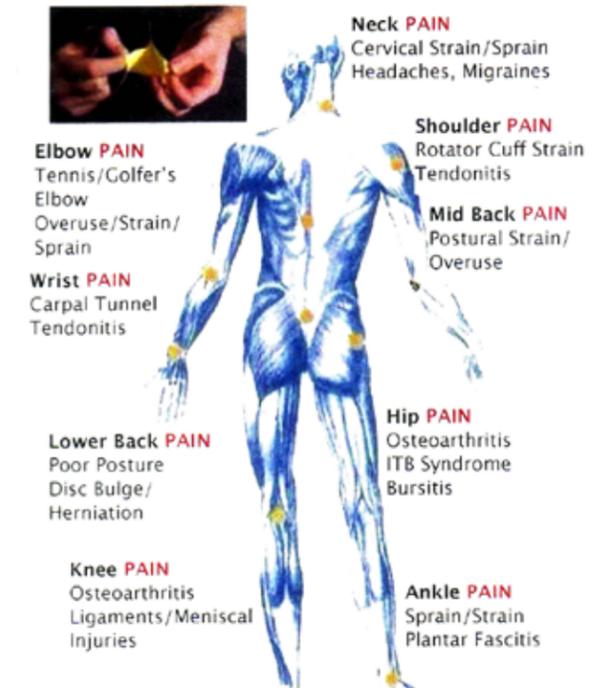
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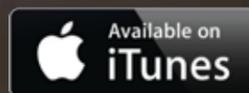
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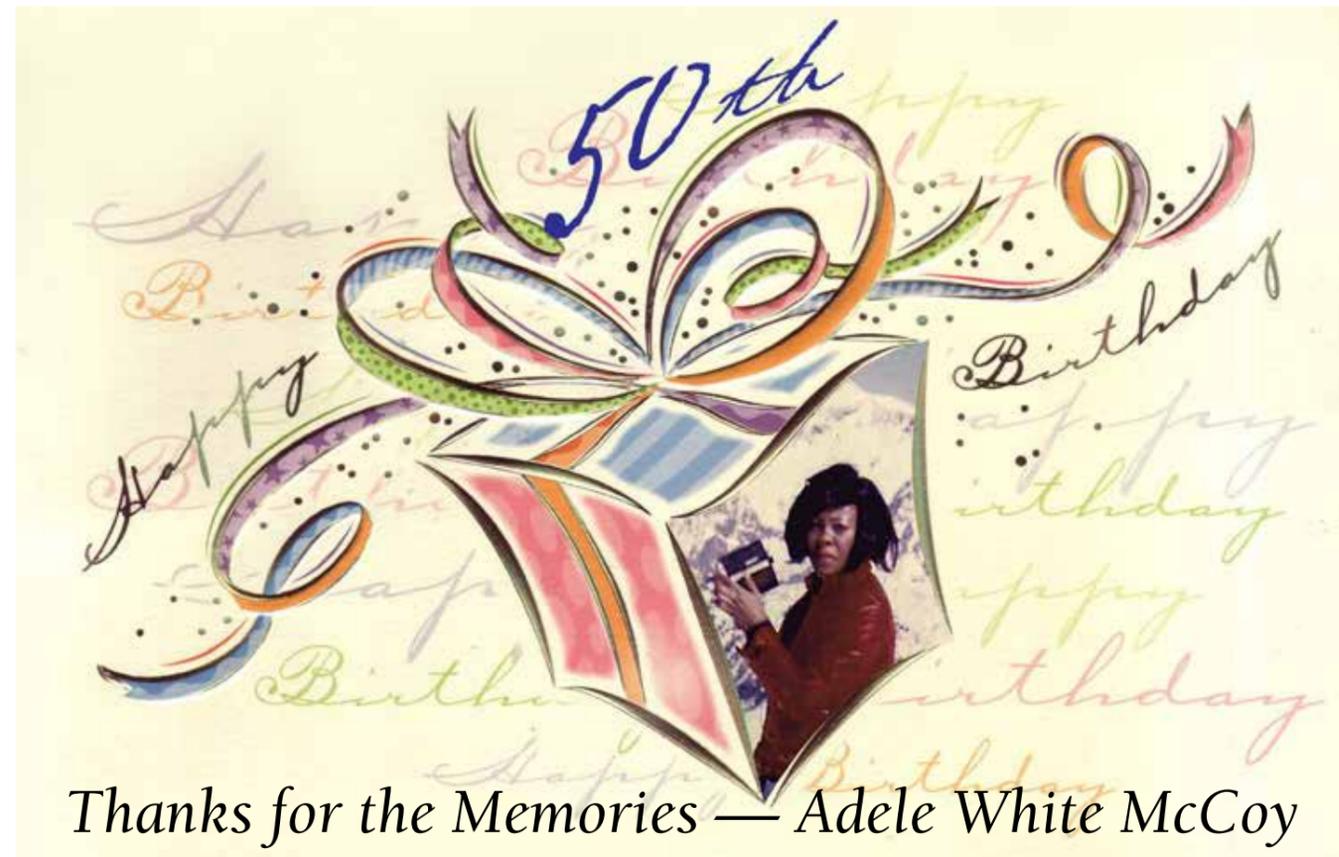
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Thanks for the Memories — Adele White McCoy

Thank You LORD I can ski,  
because my soror showed me in  
1973...

GOD Bless you Pam Rice for the  
GIFT of SKIING and  
all that goes with it,  
the Sno-Gophers Ski Club!

Love, Linda Faye



(P.S. Love you Ma for buying so many tickets to parties  
that you never attended. NOW THAT'S SUPPORT!)

Congrats—for 50 years!

My daughter, Linda Faye has been  
skiing since 1973. She's loved  
being a part of the Sno-Gophers  
for 42 years. WOW!

God Bless All

Ms. Amerline Jones





Olivia Louis Baker



OLIVIA BAKER began skiing at the age of 35, joining the Chicago Ski Twisters along with her sister Lavinia Cross. They later transferred their membership in 1974 to the Chicago Sno-Gophers opening up western ski and international destinations such as Austria, Hungary and Canada. She entered competitive racing earning several downhill and cross-country awards.

Olivia served the club in a number of capacities including Vice President, Chairperson on the Nominations Committee, and co-sponsor of the Jr. Sno-Gophers. Most memorable was her passion for introducing youths and adults to the sport of snow skiing. Often, Olivia could be seen on a beginner's slope holding a firm snow plow while assisting a novice skier down the hill.

As a retiree, Olivia continued to speak fondly of the relationships and adventures that emerged through her membership in the Chicago Sno-Gophers Ski Club.

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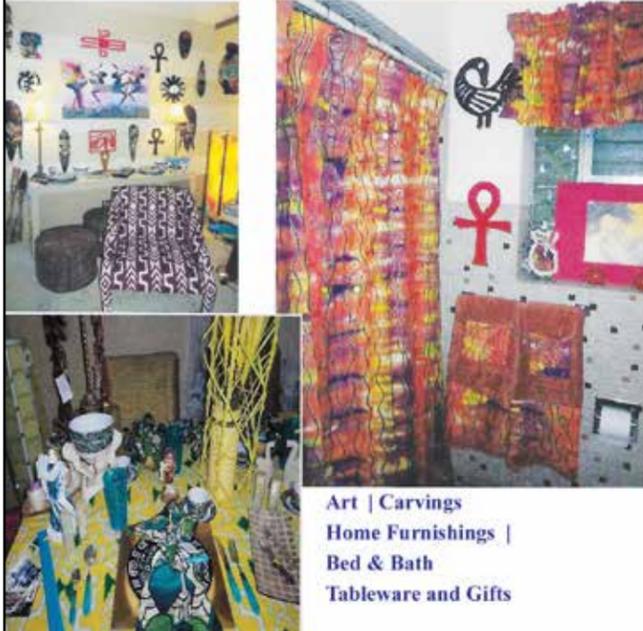


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## Congratulations to the Sno-Gophers Ski Club as we celebrate 50 years of skiing.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve on your  
 board as a former President and Social Chair.

I am proud to be a member of a historical  
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