

2017 ASC Board of Directors Candidate Statements

Luke Clement

I'm a lifelong Alaskan who learned to ski at Arctic Valley. My job as an airplane pilot has taken me around the world over 300 times and I have yet to find a place more suited to me than Anchorage, Alaska. My life is dedicated to a few very important people: my wife Heidi, my daughters Story (10) and Lillamor (1), and Family. Our passions include skiing, flying, cycling, real estate, and spending time outdoors. My daughter Story has been racing with the Hilltop Alpine Race Team (HART) for the last two years and I plan to have Lillamor on skis going up the T-Bar before her second birthday. I started ski racing in seventh grade. The sport I love has taken me to amazing places and fostered lifelong friendships with amazing people.

Over the last ten years I've been heavily involved with many aspects of the alpine ski racing world. I foreran and helped set the US Nationals Downhill course at Alyeska in 2007 & 2009. In 2015 I began restructuring the HART program to accommodate all levels of racers. I am a certified USSA Level 100 Coach, and I helped Hilltop create a new homologated race venue. During the restructuring, I realized our kids needed a more challenging training venue if they wanted to advance in ski racing. After consulting with other members of the Alpine Racing community, it was determined that Arctic Valley had the potential to be an amazing race and training venue with a few minor additions. Over the last year I have attended ASC board meetings and worked closely with Operations on the Winch Cat groomer project. I located the groomer in Minnesota, worked with John Robinson-Wilson on the anchor project, and then organized the T-Bar Challenge to help fund it.

I feel Arctic Valley has the potential to be one of the best race and training venues in the country. The ability to provide reliable and consistent grooming to Ptarmigan Bowl will also open Arctic Valley to a wider range of skier and the rest of the terrain will allow today's children of Anchorage to grow up with the same fond experiences that I have enjoyed. I always say "Skiing any day at Arctic Valley, no matter what the conditions, will make you a better skier."

Please accept this as my bid for a seat on the board of the Anchorage Ski Club.

Respectfully, Luke Clement

Lee Fisher

Originally from Seattle, Washington, I moved to Dutch Harbor, Alaska in 2001 after graduating from the University of Washington with a degree in Geography. After living in Dutch Harbor for 5 years, my employer, Horizon Lines, gave me an opportunity to transfer to Anchorage where I still remain employed by Matson Navigation Company of Alaska (formerly Horizon Lines) as the Gatehouse & Equipment Control Manager.

I became involved with Arctic Valley and the Anchorage Ski Club during the 2009/2010 ski season after seeking a change from skiing with our neighbors down the Seward Highway. It only took one day on the hill to realize that not only did I discover a great recreational opportunity, I also discovered a great family of people all sharing similar interests! With one season of volunteering and skiing Arctic Valley under my belt, I was asked to fill a vacant seat on the Board. I accepted the opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors at the end of the 2009/2010 season and I am now running for reelection for a second full term on the Board.

In addition to serving on the Anchorage Ski Club Board, I'm an active member of the Denali Ski Patrol. I also serve on the ALPAR Board (Alaskans for Litter Prevention and Recycling). I love fishing, hunting, camping, biking, and traveling.

Daniel Jensen

Daniel has been in Alaska since 2012 after slowly working his way farther and farther north. Growing up in Steamboat Springs, Colorado he was able to work through various disciplines as a competitive skier: racing, freestyle, and freeride. After graduating from high school he wasn't ready to give up the ski bum life so he spent time working for the resort as a terrain park attendant. Eventually the malnutrition caused by ramen and PBR led him to college where he completed a BS-Business and an MPAc (Master's of Professional Accountancy) from Montana State University. During his time at MSU he completed a 40-hour per week semester internship in the marketing department back in Steamboat, while also participating in various volunteer organizations such as Beta Alpha Psi (accounting honorary organization) and VITA (volunteer income tax association). Wanting to move somewhere with career prospects but also an ability to quickly access the outdoors, Daniel moved to Anchorage to work with one of the largest accounting firms on a local, national, and global level while obtaining his CPA license. In August 2015, Daniel left the world of public accounting to pursue a better work-life balance as a Controller for Waste Connections, Inc. (dba Alaska Waste) where he still works.

Daniel's passion for Anchorage Ski Club and Arctic Valley stems from his love of skiing. After joining as a member and skiing at Arctic Valley, it was quickly apparent how unique the area was in terms of community. His knowledge in finance and accounting would bring a needed diversity to the board. Daniel would like to volunteer his time to help preserve what makes Arctic Valley so special while also helping to see that the club is sustainable for future generations.

John Koltun

John started skiing when he was 6 years old at a small resort in California's Sierra Nevada. He has spent most of his free time in the intervening winters pursuing powder, including a short stint on the National Ski Patrol in Lassen National Park in northern California. He is the owner of Integrated Geospatial, a technology consulting firm specializing in computer-aided mapping technologies, software development, and natural resource management. Undeterred by the rigors of self-employment, his search for snow and adventure brought him to Alaska in 1996. Soon after his arrival, he began skiing at Arctic Valley, attracted by the open terrain and lack of crowds. He began volunteering at Arctic Valley in the early 2000's and contributed whenever possible (and sometimes when not). John is the past President of the Anchorage Ski Club and Chair of the Auction and Technology committees. He is also a member of the National Ski Patrol and volunteers on the Denali Patrol at Arctic Valley, doing his best to keep you safe.

Eric Pedersen

Eric is a lifelong Alaskan with a few minor stints away from the state he calls home. He has lived in Alaska since 1984 and first skied Arctic Valley in 1988. Eric earned his Master's degree from Gonzaga University located in Spokane, Washington in Sports and Athletic Administration with an emphasis in Marketing and focused his academic work on improving the ski industry. Upon completion of his Master's degree, Eric was able to continue working in the ski industry both in a managerial and manufacturing capacity.

After several years of professional ski-bumming, Eric decided to come back home to Alaska to pursue his Master's in Business Administration. When he saw an opportunity to help an old friend out, he jumped at the chance to help save a part of skiing and Alaska History. The 2009-2010 ski season was one of the most memorable. To have been part of resurrecting Arctic Valley from what many perceived were the ashes was very rewarding. Eric is fortunate to continue to support and be a part of the industry he loves by being an active member of the Anchorage Ski Club Board of directors as the Director of Marketing.

Rich Todd

Rich grew up in West Virginia skiing as a kid on neighborhood sledding hills on a pair of skis with cable bindings from Sears. His older sister taught him to ski at small ski areas in West Virginia, Maryland, and Virginia. In high school, Rich took a job at a local ski shop tuning skis by hand so he could buy new equipment. Studying Resort Management at Colorado Mountain College in Steamboat Springs, Rich skied every day in the mythic "Champagne Powder." He worked in several hotels and restaurants before going back to school at West Virginia University to study Geology and guide whitewater rafts. In 2002, Rich and his wife Pam moved to Anchorage and began skiing at Alpenglow to learn "backcountry skills" on tele skis. When ASC called for the Emergency Meeting in 2009, Rich decided to volunteer and become more involved with Arctic Valley. He is interested in all aspects of the ski area and lodge operations.

Rich currently serves on the Board of Directors of Anchorage Ski Club and is a member of the Operations Committee and Membership Co-Chair.