

2021 ASC Board of Directors Candidate Statements

Bryan Kirkpatrick

Bryan A. Kirkpatrick was born and raised in Oregon and moved to Anchorage in 2005 with his family to work as a physical therapist for Providence Medical Center. "We were immediately attracted to Arctic Valley because of the family-friendly atmosphere and steep, un-groomed slopes." Bryan began skiing at age 9 but has been a knuckle-dragger since age 13. He began telemark skiing when his daughters were learning to ski. In the past, he visited AV for its "cheap and steep" and close proximity to home, and he enjoyed his simple role at the ski area as a consumer. That all changed after the emergency meeting of the Club several years back. "There was obviously a lot of volunteer support," which was always the best part of the AV cooperative ski area. "The time was right for me to step up and take a more active role." Bryan volunteers by attending board meetings, spending weekends to help get lifts ready for the season, and he built the bar for the Afterglow pub (for obvious, selfish reasons). Bryan is interested in exploring new revenue sources through development of ideas such as a kids' rope tow and a terrain park. Brian is currently on the Board of Directors and serves as Secretary of Anchorage Ski Club.

Matty Cullens

Matty Cullens has been involved in the ski/snowboard industry since the late eighties. Learning to ski as a teenager at Mt. Ashland (Mt. A) Oregon, he fell in love (as we all did) with the freedom it provided and the like-minded friends he made. At the age of 16 he got his first job at Mt. A and bought a snowboard from a friend with a newly broken leg.

As a young adult he spent time bumming in the Tetons and working at Grand Targhee Resort, but the Pacific Northwest couldn't be left behind and the water tasted funny. Returning to his roots at Mt. Ashland, he became the driving force behind Mt A's commitment of providing enhanced terrain features for the public as well as terrain parks for slopestyle competitions and High School Snowboard events.

His ski area experience spans a variety of service positions including lift operator/maintenance, rental tech, snowboard repair tech, burger-flipper, snowboard instruction, ski instruction, race coach, retail, events/race department, parking enforcement, and terrain park coordinator/designer/shoveler/jump-tester.

Whether it's making sure those new to snowboarding understand how to ride the T-bar or buffing out a shabby unloading ramp, it's apparent that Matty has a desire to create a positive experience for each and every guest, especially those who slide sideways.

In recent years you may have been greeted by Matty at the top of Chair 2 buffing out the "snowboard friendly" unloading ramp while his favorite lines are getting all tracked up. It's rumored he's even been spotted ripping the entire mountain backwards, on skis, but prefers to ride one of his 75 snowboards.

Matty works a full-time job and owns/operates a successful local business. His proudest accomplishment is raising a teenager with his wife Tanya whom he followed to Alaska and wrote this bio for him.

He is truly honored to be a member of the Arctic Valley Board of Directors to provide his outdoor operations experience from a snowboarding perspective, as well as helping to sustain the forward momentum of a place he truly loves.

Matty has been a loyal Anchorage Ski Club member and Arctic Valley volunteer and has been awarded the following:

- Rookie of the year (2017)
- Arctic Valley Black Diamond Award (2017 and 2018)
- Liftie of the year (2019)
- Arctic Valley Golden Shovel Award (2016-2020)

Matt Mead

Matt Mead grew up skiing in Central Washington and riding the familiar Arctic Valley red Riblet brand chairs at Mission Ridge. He ski raced from the age of nine to nineteen, and traveled from November through April every year for races and training throughout the Western States. Matt began his involvement with the Anchorage Ski Club assisting with a municipal tax issue in 2010 and was appointed to fill a Board vacancy in early 2011. He was then elected to his current seat in 2012 and reelected in 2015 and 2018. Matt and his wife Lara were married on top of Chair 1 in March 2012. Matt chaired the Club's Concession Contract Committee as they worked with the State of Alaska to secure long-term site control that was finalized in July 2020. Matt is an Anchorage attorney specializing in Alaska Native, municipal, business, and land-related law.

Mark Heysell

Mark Heysell grew up in Southern Oregon enjoying the outdoors that surrounded him. He quickly learned that his passions were to be found outside. After years of being a fly fishing guide and ski Instructor in Montana and Colorado, Mark was able to move to Alaska and follow his pursuit of outdoor activity. Since coming to Alaska, Mark has completed a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education which has allowed him to work for the Anchorage School District as an elementary teacher in the classroom and now in the gymnasium as a PE teacher. Mark is an active member of the Denali Ski Patrol. When not working with students, Mark can be found floating a river, fishing, skiing, riding bikes or playing rugby around the great state of Alaska with his beautiful wife Erin, their two daughters Talvi Wren and Primrose Amelia. Mark is a past President of ASC and currently serves on the Board of Directors.

Adam Smith

When I moved to Alaska in 2010, I figured volunteering at Arctic Valley would be a temporary way to afford skiing as I settled in. However, after just a few days spent on the mountain, I quickly realized that the Anchorage Ski Club was something I would always want to be part of. Since then, I have helped with everything from running the lifts, fixing the groomer, replacing and upgrading doors and windows in the lodge to larger projects like building the new Chair 2 Public Use Cabin. I also helped execute the many quick renovations to the lodge and ski area operations that were necessary to implement in order to operate safely during the pandemic this last year. I have been an active member of Denali Ski Patrol for three years now and this helps provide great insight in the daily operations and allows me to be ready and available when needed to help solve problems that may arise on the spot. Professionally for the last ten years I have worked as a Carpenter and General Contractor in Alaska. I have been and will continue to bring my experience and skills in construction to the table to help implement Arctic Valley's goals for renovations, maintenance, and project development. After several years of being a devoted Arctic Valley volunteer I was elected to hold a position on the Anchorage Ski Club Board of Directors and have served as the Volunteer Coordinator for three years. If reelected, I will continue to support Arctic Valley in the same way and work to preserve and develop Arctic Valley's goals and mission into the future