

## 2024 ASC Board of Directors Candidate Statements

### **Tol Fishburn**

I first came to Alaska in 1985 as an Infantry officer and paratrooper with the US Army posted to Ft Richardson. I left the Army so I could remain in the Anchorage area with my family and raised 3 daughters here who also became ski enthusiasts. I have now been skiing at Arctic Valley Ski area for 39 seasons. Arctic Valley Ski area means a lot to me and if I'm elected a Board Member I'll be dedicated to working tirelessly to ensure that the Anchorage Ski Club remains a welcoming and vibrant hub for skiers of all levels. My vision for the future of the club is rooted in sustainability and a steadfast commitment to preserving the rich skiing heritage of Arctic Valley Ski area.

In my professional life I have worked many different careers including logistics officer, professor of automotive and diesel mechanics, electrical engineer, and power plant manager. In the summer my passion turns to bicycling. I actively participate Arctic Bike Club events (road racing, mountain bike racing and cyclocross). I've been a long time Arctic Bike Club Board member and am currently serving as the Mountain Bike Division president.

I love skiing, Arctic Valley and the community there. I hope to use my knowledge and experience in economics and engineering to help maintain and guide Arctic Valley into a sustainable ski area for many years to come.

I would be honored to serve on the Board of Directors and look forward to collaborating with fellow members and stakeholders to advance the mission and goals of the Anchorage Ski Club.

### **Erik Gabrielson**

I am a lifelong resident of Eagle River, AK, and some of my first experiences in the mountains were on the "Ski Bus" that would bring ASD school kids to "Alpenglow" in the early 1990's. After a season of skiing via the "Ski Bus", I was drawn to snowboarding in the winter of 1993 and promptly dropped all other sports to dedicate my time and energy to the sideways sliding lifestyle, with Arctic Valley always being my home mountain. These early years made a large impression on me, and I was taken under the wing of some of the original snowboarders that frequented Arctic Valley/Alpenglow in the 90's.

In pursuit of good snow and an equally good education, I attended college at the University of Utah, graduating in 2004 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. While attending college, I steadily progressed through the ranks of freestyle and big mountain snowboarding while in Utah, becoming a sponsored snowboarder in 2000, and pursued the path of backcountry snowboarding via films and photo, starring, and producing in several Utah based ski/snowboarding films and magazines in the early 2000's.

Knowing I was not interested in a typical engineering career straight out of college, I moved back to Eagle River, Alaska and structured my life to work seasonally on the Trans Alaska Pipeline (TAPS) in the summer months as a Project Engineer/Superintendent on large scale piping projects, while having all winter off to pursue my snowboarding passion. I focused on making backcountry snowmachine access ski/snowboard films (Binge. Films) that featured Alaska's awe-inspiring terrain and snow from 2005 through 2013, producing 6 full length ski films.

Eventually, life caught up to me, I got a "town job" and I got married to my beautiful wife Natasha in 2013, then we had our first child, Anika, in 2014, and our second child, Wilder, in 2017. It was around this time that I began riding at Arctic Valley more and more, cherishing the uncrowded powder days and riding the same lifts I cut my teeth on (RIP Military Side). Natasha has also learned to enjoy

the special attributes of Arctic Valley, and we have spent many “dates” at the hill chasing fresh turns until the music and refreshments of the “Afterglow” call our name. We currently have our 9-year-old daughter enrolled in the AVST Freeride team, and I am enjoying teaching our 6 year old son Wilder how to snowboard at Arctic Valley.

I am currently the Estimating Manager at Price Gregory International, an industrial construction General Contractor that specializes in construction of pipelines, power plants, drillsites, process plants, and remote infrastructure. One of our notable projects that most Arctic Valley regulars would recognize is the new ML&P Powerplant at Muldoon Road (the one with the large, colorful mural). I also serve as my company’s State of Alaska Mechanical Administrator. In the summer months I enjoy golfing, surfing, mountain biking, and working on my log cabin in Hatcher Pass. I am an active member of the Chugach Mountain Bike Riders (CMBR), leading and coaching the CMBR Kids youth mountain biking program at Mirror Lake Single Track trails.

I feel that I am at the right time in my life to give back to the ski area that has given me so much, and I would like to formally enter my name as a candidate to the Board of Directors for the Anchorage Ski Club. I feel like we are at a pivotal time for Arctic Valley, with much of the existing lift infrastructure nearing its life expectancy, while the next generation of skiers is swiftly moving up the ranks and popularity in the ski area seems to be gaining. I can offer the board my perspectives/experiences as lifelong snowboarder, a lifelong fan of Arctic Valley, a proponent of youth ski/snowboard programs, and experiences in large scale industrial projects.

Some of my initial goals, if elected to the board, are to establish a youth snowboarding team similar or in conjunction with Arctic Valley Ski Team, and to include a Banked Slalom race in the Merry Marmot festival. I thank you in advance for your vote and confidence in my ability to help steer Arctic Valley successfully into the future.

### **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. Mark married his beautiful wife Erin at Arctic Valley and have been raising their two daughters Talvi Wren and Primrose Amelia up at the mountain. Talvi and Primrose ski with the AVST on weekends. Mark is a past President of ASC and currently serves on the Board of Directors.

### **Josh Morales**

Hello, I’m Josh Morales; I am running for a board seat with the Anchorage Ski Club. I was born and raised in Eagle River and recently moved to the Anchorage hillside. I grew up skiing Arctic Valley; many of my early memories are riding with friends on the Arctic Valley lifts, the “military side” lodge and blueberry picking the slopes in the summertime. My wife, Stephanie and I were married at the lodge and now our daughter is on the Arctic Valley Ski Team.

After high school at Chugiak, I went to college at Western Washington in Bellingham. While there I had a pass to Mt. Baker and skied Whistler, Big White, Cypress, Grouse and Stevens Pass. I returned to Alaska and worked for BP on the North Slope for 7 years, then in a Middle Eastern oilfield for 6 years. In 2018 I left BP to join Stephanie operating our aerial imagery

company. We currently operate a fleet of single engine Cessna's that collect imagery around the country.

Arctic Valley has a storied past and very bright future. I am looking forward to the opportunity to dedicate my time, experience and focus to the Anchorage Ski Club. Please vote for me in this year's board election.

### **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 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.

I have been an active member of Denali Ski Patrol for six years now and this helps to provide great insight into the daily operations and allows me to be ready and available when needed to help solve problems that may arise on the spot.

I have worked professionally as a Carpenter and General Contractor in Alaska for the last 13 years. 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 now served as the Volunteer Coordinator for six 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.