LeRoy D. Kingland

LeRoy cultivated a passion for skiing at age six on a small rope tow near a State Park in Northern Iowa; then graduated to skiing behind horses and old Model A’s. In 1957, LeRoy followed his brother Bruce, for whom Bruce’s Bowl is named, to the Puyallup/Sumner area. Bruce had become friends with Wally Staatz, Jim Boyle, and other early founders of Crystal Mountain. Knowing that Crystal Mountain was more than likely going to become a reality, Bruce and LeRoy bought a cabin at Silver Springs in 1958. It’s still in the family and regularly used and maintained by LeRoy’s nephew Scotty and niece Jennifer.

LeRoy started his first job at Crystal in 1962/63, running chainsaws to clean ski runs and clear chairlift lines in the summer and Avalanche Patrol and managing the Alpine Inn for the Corrocks in the winter. In the spring of 1963, LeRoy went to work for Lou Whittaker in the ski business, traveling 11 Western states. On May 1, 1963 Lou and LeRoy were attending a ski show in Los Angeles. The phone rang. It was President John Kennedy calling for Lou to tell him that his twin brother, Jim Whittaker, had summited Mt Everest.

LeRoy spent the next 38 years in the ski business selling skiing, mountaineering and hiking equipment along with other sport categories. His professional accomplishments include positions with the Washington State Ski Recreation Board, through which Crystal Mountain was a direct benefactor. He was also a member of various boards of Ski Industries of America, whose focus is to promote the winter sports industry in the US. LeRoy’s other board involvement promoted events such as Ski Demo Days held at Crystal Mountain, targeting consumer and retail groups. The events are a success and still held today.

LeRoy is without a doubt one of Crystal Mountain’s biggest fans and supporters. Despite the demands of his business, Sports Unlimited, LeRoy never missed a season at Crystal averaging 50-80 days a year. In the early days LeRoy, along with other stockholders, was allowed through the Forest Service to do brush cutting to clean and open new runs on the mountain. He was one of the founders of the Sunny Side Sliders and participated in the Lemans top-to-bottom races, Enduros and various other functions during his many winters at Crystal.

LeRoy has many passions. In 1972, he and 5 buddies climbed Mt McKinley (Denali) in Alaska and were the first to ski off the summit. The climb took 31 days to complete. He’s sailed across the Pacific to Hawaii and back, flown airplanes for 45 years, still windsurfs, plays golf, hikes, and treks most recently spending two weeks in Bhutan with Lou and Ingrid.

“I’ve had the best experiences of my life up at Crystal, made so many great friends and created so many memories. I am very grateful for this honor and want to thank all of you so much for honoring me in this memorable way.”