



2025 Hall of Fame Inductee Steve (Ferk) Ferkovich

“Ferk” has served on the National Ski Patrol for 68 years. He began patrolling at age 15 at Cooper Hill Ski Area in Leadville, Colorado. This past ski season marked Steve’s 60th season on the Crystal Mountain Ski Patrol. In 2000, after retiring from The City of Seattle as a Bridge Design Engineer, he served on both the Volunteer and Pro Ski Patrol at Crystal.

Steve was born and raised in Leadville, Colorado. His dad was a Safeway manager and during Steve’s high school years he would plow the store parking lot before going to school. In 1965 after graduation from the University of Colorado with a degree in Civil Engineering and Business, he relocated to Seattle to work for Boeing. Ferk planned to explore the Washington ski areas to decide where he would continue his ski patrolling passion. In 1965 he found Crystal Mountain where he camped in a tent with a friend and has never looked back.

Steve met his wife, Charlene, in the Boeing cafeteria when she commented on his goggle tan! They are still happily married today after 57 years. Steve and Charlene used the SKIBACS lodge and were active in the Boeing Ski Club. Their daughter Marci was born in 1972 and shortly thereafter, the family did weekend treks in a camper on the east bank of the CM parking lot.

Imagine how many injured skiers Ferk has helped in 68 years?! When leather ski boots and safety straps were the norm, he saw a lot of ankle injuries. Now with plastic boots, knees have become the primary injury. During his long career, Ferk has tobogganed over 1000 injured skiers to the first aid room. At 83 years old, Steve still hauls bamboo, shovels snow, raises and lowers tower pads and helps maintain miles of rope lines. He will always cover for fellow ski patrollers and has mentored numerous new patrollers. Some of Steve's fondest times patrolling were when he was a member of the six person POSSE (Promotion of Safe Skiing Enjoyment). From 1972-1981 the POSSE spent their days doing guest services, speed control, and shoveling the back traverse - notorious then for monstrous wind rolls.

Ferk’s favorite part of the ski season is the extended last few weekends after the official closure date when fewer folks are on the hill and everyone is happy in the sunshine. "Work Like Ferk" is a motto adopted by the Crystal Mountain Ski Patrol. No one works harder or has given more to the Crystal Mountain Ski Patrol than Ferk. He prefers to be out patrolling or doing projects rather than being in the Patroller’s (AUK) house. And no one is more humble. Though he would never correct someone for referring to “Iceberg,” in 2006, on Steve's 50th ski patrol season, his favorite CM ski runs were renamed after him: Upper, Middle, and Lower Ferks.

Steve has received many awards, just to name a few: Most Inspirational Ski Patroller (chosen by fellow patrollers) – 3 times; Crystal Mountain Ski Patrol Hard Working Bastard -Silver Award; Gold Award; National Ski Patrol Distinguished Service Award 1995; PNW Skier Hall of Fame Inductee 2022 from the Ancient Skiers. In 2011 Steve received a National Ski Patrol Purple Merit Star for saving his friend's life - his teammate suffered a heart attack seconds after they had finished skiing the Peak to Valley Race at Whistler.

When Steve is not at Crystal Mountain patrolling, he enjoys being with family, including his daughter and her husband and his two grandkids, doing yard work, participating in events at the NW Legend GTO Car Club, Motorhome travel, and cycling. Ferk lives life to the fullest and for the foreseeable future plans to continue his passion for ski patrolling at Crystal Mountain. Look for Steve and Charlene making their beautiful turns skiing down our beloved mountain.