

# NEWSLETTER

## Winter? Where did it go?

*It's time to gear up for Merry Marmot!*

**MERRY MARMOT**  
**APRIL 2011**



## PICK, CLICK, & GIVE

We've received the midway pledges on for this years pick-click-give donations. Thank YOU! But we're hoping to do better! Your support is critical to the success of the Anchorage Ski Club, and Arctic Valley Ski Area. We are just barely in the top 100 out of about 400 organizations. We are tied with AFACT and Arc of Anchorage (\$2,700), and just beating out Bingle Camp Ministries (\$2650). Our goal for this year was \$2,600 and 65th place. People are giving more this year, and currently we are at \$2,700, ranking us at about 90th place out of ~400. It is great that so far we have met a portion of our goals - but we would love to stay in the top 100! So please donate if you can. **IT IS NOT TOO LATE!!!** Your donation can in no way goof up your already filed permanent fund! Even if you have already filed, you can still go to the pfd site or pick.click.give and ask for part of your permanent fund check to be donated to the Anchorage Ski Club at Arctic Valley. Look for the "Add or Change a Charitable Contribution" button at the PFD Division home page.

### FIRST RUN VEST?

Folks up on the hill this year have noticed, a someone running to the front of each lift just prior to opening, then heading up the mountain for first tracks. His bright orange vest has "First Tracks" in bold letters all over the place. Who is this guy? This year at our annual auction in October we auctioned off the now



famous first run vest. The winning bidder reserves himself the first chair following ski patrol, with a seven chair lead over the next passenger if requested. Our winning bidder John has been taking full advantage of this now coveted prize!

### Note from the President...

There is no doubt it's been frustrating watching the folks in the lower 48 enjoy snow that should be ours! We've been extremely fortunate with three great Saturdays, but once again we're waiting for snow. A huge thanks to the operations crew that have kept the mountain in the best shape possible. It's been fun to enjoy something we generally don't see at Arctic Valley, groomers.

I would like to thank the great group of returning volunteers, and the new faces that have joined our team this year. Even when the powder isn't chest deep Arctic Valley is one of the greatest places to enjoy some time above tree-line.

We're also working hard to get a sample of the future tube park before spring arrives. Can anyone say tube races at Merry Marmot!

I look forward to seeing everyone up on the hill.

*Alan Heckart - President*



## BOARD ELECTIONS - ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 9TH

The Anchorage Ski Club annual members meeting is scheduled for April 9th this year. At this meeting members will have the opportunity to vote on new board members, receive updates on club operations, and provide input for the future. We have 4 acting board members that the board of directors appointed this year that are up for election All are long time volunteers at Arctic Valley Volunteers. Here is a quick introduction:

**John Koltun** started skiing when he was 6 years old at a small resort in the California Sierra's. 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 co-owner of Geographic Resource Solutions, a technology consulting firm specializing in computer-aided-mapping technologies, software development, and natural resource management. He co-founded GRS in 1989 when he and 2 other foresters decided to make a go of it on their own. Undeterred by the rigors of self-employment, his search for snow and adventure brought him to Alaska in 1996 when his wife, Beth, convinced him to open an office in the Great Land. Soon after their arrival, they began skiing at Arctic Valley, attracted by the open terrain and lack of crowds. They began volunteering in the early 2000's and have contributed whenever possible and sometimes when not.

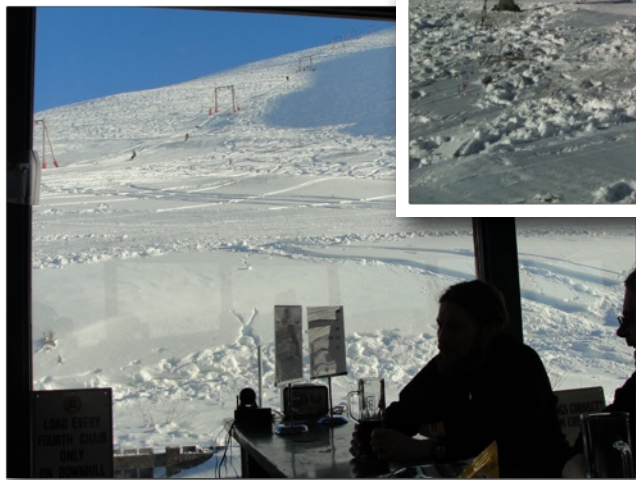
**Rich Todd** grew up in West Virginia skiing as a kid on neighborhood sledding hills on a pair of skis with cable bindings from Sears. His older sister taught him to ski at small ski areas in WV, MD and VA. In high school, Rich took a job at a local ski shop tuning skis by hand so he could buy new equipment. Studying Resort Management at Colorado Mountain College in Steamboat Springs, Rich skied everyday 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 in Arctic Valley. Interested in all aspects of the ski area and lodge operations, Rich is committed to keeping Arctic Valley open and maintaining a thriving Anchorage Ski Club.

**Lee Fischer** - 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 5 years in Dutch Harbor, my employer, Horizon Lines gave me an opportunity to transfer to Anchorage. I became involved with Arctic Valley and the Anchorage Ski Club during the 2009/2010 ski season after seeking a change from 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 by the Board to fill a vacant seat. 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. In addition to serving on the Board I love fishing, hunting, camping, and traveling.

**Eric Pederson** is a lifelong Alaskan with a few minor stints away from the state he calls home. He has lived up here since 1984 and first skied Arctic Valley in 1988. After receiving his Masters degree in Sports and Athletic Administration with an emphasis in Marketing and the Ski Industry at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Eric worked outside of Alaska where he was able to work 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 Masters 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.

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LAST SEASON?



On The Hill

**General Manager**

John Robinson-Wilson

**Lift Supervisor**

Mike Powell

**Lodge Manager**

Julie Kopeschka

**Liftie #1**

Chris

**Liftie #2**

Jason

Board of Directors

Alan Heckart

-President

John Robinson-Wilson

-Second Vice President

Beverly Luedke-Chan

-Treasurer

Mike Vechter

-Recording Secretary

Daniel Ligon

Mark Haysell

Bryan Kirkpatrick

Carol Jewell

Kyle Culver

Lee Fischer

Eric Pedersen

John Koltun

Rich Todd