



## NOMINATION FORM

For

### HONORED MEMBERSHIP

In The

### U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD HALL OF FAME

Candidate's Name: Tom Sims

Date & Place of Birth: December 6th, 1950 in Los Angeles, CA

Address of Candidate: 531 Park View Trail, Solvang, CA 93463 (Hilary Sims/Widow)

Telephone Number: 805-448-3936

Email: Hilary@simsnow.com

Is the candidate still living? If not, provide date and place of death: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Sims deceased. He passed away September 12th, 2012 in Santa Barbara, California

#### Nominator information:

Name: Casey Buckleitner

Address: 3496 Geigler Dr, Gaylord MI 49735

Telephone Number: 989-370-1003

Email: Caseybuck@gmail.com

For what category are you nominating this

candidate? Athlete: \_\_\_\_\_

Snowsports Builder: \_\_\_\_\_<sup>x</sup>

Heritage: \_\_\_\_\_

(See appendix one at the end of this form for category definitions)

An 8 x 10 photograph of the candidate must be supplied: x\_\_\_\_\_

**State why the candidate merits election to the U.S. National Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame (limit this statement to 250 words):**

**As and inventor** - Sims is frequently credited with inventing the first modern snowboard. He built his "Skiboard" prototype in wood shop class in seventh grade in 1963, and followed with several skateboard and snowboard industry firsts, including the first snowboard with metal edges, women's-specific snowboard. He was also the first to incorporate some of the earliest high-back binding systems, and built the first snowboard halfpipe used in competition.

**As and athlete**, he was the first World Champion of snowboarding in 1983, he was a professional skateboarder and won the legendary Mt Baker Banked Slalom in 1985. Sims was a snowboarding stunt double for Roger Moore in the 1985 James Bond film "A View to a Kill."

**As a business person**, his company, SIMS snowboards, was the first to feature a "Pro Model" snowboard, the Terry Kidwell, which is the first with a rounded tail. He is also equipment sponsor of Hall of Fame member Craig Kelly. For years Sims and Burton snowboards with rivals for dominance for the leading market share in the snowboard business. Sims snowboards is still in business and was started in 1976, a year before Burton.

**In chronological order by year, list the candidate's achievements:**

(eg: January 12, 1965: proposed the establishment of the Professional Ski Instructors Alliance)

1963 - Tom Sims builds a snowboard (he calls it the "ski board") in 7<sup>th</sup> grade shop class. He wants to be able to skateboard in the snow. This is four years before the launch of the "Snurfer" and he was convinced that someone had seen him riding the Ski Board used that as inspiration for the Snurfer.

1969 - Sims builds the World's first full-size snowboard. The smaller snowboards Sims rode for much of the 1960s would not float well in powder, so Tom designed a five foot long board with a ski shaped nose. It performed very well

1975 - Tom Sims is world Champion of Skateboarding

1976 - Sims Snowboards is founded.

1982 - World's First Heel & Toe Hold Down Binding - After building aluminum proto-types, Tom designs a Polyethylene vacuum formed toe-piece and heel-loop binding system which vastly improved edge control and snowboard riding performance. Tom realized that he needed to transfer as much energy to his edges as possible in order to increase edge hold.

1982 - World's First Metal Edge Snowboard - Tired of having to use his skis in hard pack conditions, Tom decides to put metal edges on his snowboard and discovers a whole new world of control and response at ski areas and in competitions.

1983 - World's First Snowboarding half-pipe - Tom built the World's First half-pipe at the inaugural World Snowboarding Championships.

1985 - Tom Sims wins the slalom event at the U.S. Open of Snowboarding

1985 - Tom Sims wins the legendary Mt Baker Banked Slalom

1985 - Sims snowboards introduces the first pro model snowboard, the Terry Kidwell signature is also the first snowboard with a rounded tail.

1993 - Sims launches the Noah Salasnek pro model, one of the first true twin freestyle snowboards

1994 - Sims launches the first model to be labeled "All Mountain"

1994 - Sims Snowboards releases the first women's pro model, the Shannon Dunn

1998 - Sims invents the first snowboard binding with adjustable toe ramp

1998 - Sims releases the first carbon snowboard, the Project Hex

2012 - Thomas Paul Sims passes away from Cardiac Arrest

2013 - Tom Sims is inducted into the Skateboarding Hall of Fame

**On one page provide additional data, anecdotes, etc. that you feel are pertinent to this nomination:**

There is an annual snowboard contest in California called the “Tom Sims Retro World Championships” that celebrates the heritage of snowboarding.

Currently there is a documentary in production celebrating Tom Sims’ life and achievements titled “Pure Juice”

The Sims brand is one of the most recognizable in the history of snowboarding.

Tom’s widow Hilary has recently relaunched the brand with premium boards manufactured in Colorado, much to the celebration of the snowboard community.

**Please list the names and addresses of those people who are supporting this nomination (Minimum of three - limit six):**

Jake Ingle - Builder of the 2018 Winter Olympic Halfpipe - 218 E Main Street Gaylord, MI 49735

Sean Cannon - Midwest Ski Leged - 8317 Alba Hwy, Elmira, MI 49730

Jon Cyruk - Retired professional Freestyle skier - 329 Glenwood Trail Gaylord, MI 49735

**Please provide a list of sources for visual material that can be used at the candidate's induction presentation:**

<https://snowboarding.transworld.net/photos/the-fathers-of-snowboarding-tom-sims/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2012/09/19/business/tom-sims-snowboard-pioneer-and-world-champion-dies-at-61.html>

\_\_\_\_\_ Casey M Buckleitner \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of nominator

Mail completed nomination form to: U.S. Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame, P.O. Box 191, Ishpeming, MI 49849 or email to: [administrator@skihall.com](mailto:administrator@skihall.com)





