



**NOMINATION FORM**

For

**HONORED MEMBERSHIP**

In The

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

**Dean Robert (Bob) Theobald**

Date & Place of Birth: December 26, 1948, Delta, Utah

Address of Candidate: 2810 Holiday Ranch Loop Road, Park City, Utah 84060

Telephone Number: Cell: 435-714-0301

Email: [Bob@Theoski.com](mailto:Bob@Theoski.com)

Is the candidate still living? Yes

**Nominator information:**

Name: John Clendenin

Address: P.O. Box 1092, Aspen, CO 81612

Telephone Number: 970-274-0385

Email: [john@skidoctors.com](mailto:john@skidoctors.com)

For what category are you nominating this candidate?

Athlete: X

**See enclosed 8 x 10 photograph of the candidate in about 1975 at the age of 27.**

**Bob Theobald merits election to the U.S. National Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame as summarized below:**



10 May 2018

U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame

Attention: Selection Committee  
P.O. Box 191  
Ishpeming, Michigan 49849-0191

Dear Members of the Selection Committee:

I am honored for this opportunity to nominate Bob Theobald for the US Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame.

I met Bob when we were hired in 1968 as ski talent in the Park City West promotional film. One of the highlights of the film was Bob's flips. Despite our initial rivalry in skiing, Bob and I have remained best friends through golf.

Bob pioneered every facet in the development of Freestyle skiing. His competitive record includes being the first to land a "Mobius" front flip in competition securing the combined championship earning \$5,000 - the largest single cash/value in any type of ski competition.

Bob's credits include developer of the "GET HOT" Program, USSA National Freestyle Committee Chairman, a founding director of the International Freestyle Skiers Association, induction into the Intermountain Ski Hall of Fame in 2011, and ski talent in numerous films, TV and magazines.

Please review Bob's competitive record. As an icon in the sport of Freestyle Skiing, Bob Theobald has earned his place in the US Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Clendenin".

John H. Clendenin  
U.S. Ski Hall of Fame member  
Class of 2013

P.O. BOX 1092 • Aspen, CO 81612 • [www.clendeninmethod.com](http://www.clendeninmethod.com) Tel: (970)  
544-0300

E-mail: [info@clendeninmethod.com](mailto:info@clendeninmethod.com)

## **Ski Industry Activities – Bob Theobald**

1966-67 - Ski Shop Salesman - Goldminer's Daughter Lodge, Alta, UT

1967-76 - Ski Instructor - Brighton, Solitude and Park West, UT

## **Professional Freestyle Competitions (Podium Placings)**

1971 - 3rd Aerials (Most Spectacular Division) - National Gelande Championship, Alta, UT

1971 - 2nd Aerials - Intermountain Gelande Championship, Solitude, UT

1972 - 3rd Aerials - Chevrolet/Skiing National Championship - Exhibition Skiing, Vail, CO

1973 - 1st Aerials - Chevrolet/Skiing Professional Freestyle Tour, Waterville Valley, NH

1973 - 1st Aerials (Most Spectacular Division) - National Gelande Championship, Alta, UT

1973 - 1st Aerials "Super Hot Dog Championship" SKI/Beconta Cup, Steamboat, CO.

1973 - 1<sup>st</sup> Combined "Super Hot Dog Championship" SKI/Beconta Cup, Steamboat, CO (\$5,000)

1973 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Overall Season Prize Money

## **Notable Events and Designations Awarded**

1968 - Attempted first front twisting somersault in competition – Alta, UT

1973 - Completed the first front full-twisting somersault (Mobius) in any competition - Steamboat, CO.

1972 - Pioneer of extreme skiing with a 110-foot cliff/cornice jump - Brighton. UT

1989 - "Legend of Utah Skiing" Alta, UT

1990 - "Legend of Freestyle Skiing" Sunday River, ME

2001 - "Pioneer of Freestyle Skiing" Utah Ski Archives

2011 – "Pioneer of Freestyle Skiing" USSSA Hall of Fame Ceremony/Induction – Sun Valley, ID

2011 – Induction to the Intermountain Ski Hall of Fame

Appeared as ski talent in TV productions and ski films including the NBC Go Show, ABC Wide World of Sports, American Ski Scene, Utah on My Mind, Get Hot, Chevrolet Exhibition Skiing, Time to Go for It, Winter Equinox. Print media included Ski America, Sports Illustrated, Mademoiselle, Time, Newsweek, SKI, Skiing, Ski Racing and numerous regional and local publications and promotional material.

## **Contributions to Evolution of Freestyle Skiing**

1970-76. Developed the "GET HOT" Program, one of the first freestyle ski schools and training centers in the world offering ballet, mogul, and aerial instruction for the advanced recreational skier as well as year-round training for amateur and professional competitors. The "GET HOT" Program featured revolving-carpet ski-decks, on-hill ballet course with sound system, trampolines with spotting rigs and jumps with straw/foam landing areas. Several participants won national and world championships titles.

1972-73 As USSA National Freestyle Committee Chairman, participated in the standardization of rules, judging criteria, qualification procedures and course preparation for amateur freestyle competitions. Produced the first sanctioned Intermountain USSA freestyle competition at Park West, UT. Received the Award of Merit for outstanding service to the sport of skiing from the USSA.

1973 -75 Founding director of the International Freestyle Skiers Association (IFSA) which standardized rules, judging criteria, qualification procedures and course preparation for professional freestyle competitions. Served on safety committee at various events and competitions.

1974-76 - Produced the Utah Demonstration Ski Team comprised of champion freestyle skiers residing in Utah. Promoting Utah skiing via freestyle skiing, the Team performed on ski decks, trampolines, and ski jumps at consumer ski shows and appeared at media events in major metropolitan cities throughout the U.S. and Canada.





See attached letters from people supporting this nomination –.

John Clendenin, Member USSSHOF  
PO Box 1092  
Aspen, CO 81612  
[<skidoc101@gmail.com>](mailto:skidoc101@gmail.com)

Alan K Engen, Member USSSHOF  
4534 Fortuna Way  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84124  
[<A\\_ENGEN@msn.com>](mailto:A_ENGEN@msn.com)

Bernie Weichsel, Member USSSHOF  
240 Bear Hill Rd., Suite 201  
Waltham, MA 02451  
[<berniew@bewisports.com>](mailto:berniew@bewisports.com)

Doug Pfeiffer, Member USSSHOF  
P O Box 1806  
Big Bear Lake, CA 92315  
[2dougpf@gmail.com](mailto:2dougpf@gmail.com)  
[<veepfeiffer@gmail.com>](mailto:veepfeiffer@gmail.com)

John Fry, Member USSSHOF  
58 Edgemont Road  
Katonah, NY 10536  
[Snowfry9@gmail.com](mailto:Snowfry9@gmail.com)

Jim Gaddis, (See Ski Industry Credits in Support Letter)  
2425 West White Pine Lane  
Park City, Utah 84060  
[<jim@gaddisinv.com>](mailto:jim@gaddisinv.com)

**Sources for visual material that can be used at the candidate's induction presentation are:**

- Bob Theobald - Candidate – scrapbook of print articles, photos, and digital copies of films
- University of Utah Marriot Library - Special Collections-Ski Archives - print articles, photos, and digital copies of films
- John Clendenin Productions/Chuck Boone-Winter Equinox



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)

April 20, 2018

U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame  
Attention: Selection Committee  
P.O. Box 191  
Ishpeming, Michigan 49849-0191

Dear Members of the Selection Committee:

It is my pleasure to endorse the nomination of Dean Robert 'Bob' Theobald to the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame. I have known Bob for many years and his many achievements and contributions to skisport are well known to many, especially those associated with Freestyle skiing.

Back in the late 1960s/early 1970s, when Gelande jumping competition was being highlighted at Alta, Utah, Bob performed a forward twisting somersault, the first ever attempted in competition. In 2006, I highlighted Bob's spectacular inverted aerial performances in a video presentation which I titled *SKI SPORT – Snapshots From the Past*. This DVD is still being shown periodically by the Alta Historical Society to visiting guests at Alta as part of their "Fireside Chat" program.

In January 1989, Alta celebrated it's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a ski area by hosting a special day named "Legends of Utah" Ski Event. A number of past great skiers participated, including Bob Theobald. I had the pleasure of skiing with Bob in a duel slalom exhibition at that event.

Bob Theobald has an outstanding record of accomplishment as competitor, a ski sport innovator, and as a pioneer in freestyle skiing at the national level. He served as a founding director of the Professional International Freestyle Association and formed the Utah Demonstration Ski Team Tour which promoted the sport nationally.

In summary, please include my name as one of those who strongly feel Bob Theobald qualifies for consideration to the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,



Alan K. Engen  
U.S. Ski Hall of Fame member  
Class of 2004

May 14, 2018

Nomination Selection Committee

U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD Hall of Fame

Dear Selection Committee:

I write to support the Nomination of Bob Theobald to become a candidate for election to the US SKI & SNOWBOARD Hall of Fame. Bob's application is being submitted by John Clendenin, in the Athlete Category.

I have known Bob since the earliest days of Freestyle skiing: Bob truly was a pioneer in the development of the sport. He not only created some of the earliest programs that help spread some of the new sports recognition and appeal, but he also was a competitor in the IFSA (The International Freestyle Skiing Association) Tour that I oversaw in the winter of 1974 as well as many regional ones in Utah, where he was based. Bob, while one of the better Freestyle Competitors, left his mark on the sport thru his innovative teaching programs - like his "Get Hot" school - that attracted, nurtured and supported, some of the athletes who went onto set the standards for this Homegrown "American" sport as it grew in International prominence. Bob is one of the pioneers who, justifiably, can take proud in seeing Freestyle Skiing become an Olympic sport - which happened when Freestyle Skiing appeared for the first time as an Olympic Medal sport at the 1992 Albertville, France Winter Olympic Games

The contributions that Bob Theobald made to the growth of Freestyle Skiing in its formative years has proved to be a major factor in the continued growth - and success -of Freestyle Skiing; it continues to draw some of the largest - both on-site as well as on TV - crowds to witness any Olympic Competition. And the foundation of that popularity - and success - is the credibility the sport has achieved do to early success of competitors like Bob Theobald; which on it's own is pretty impressive - see Bob's list of competitive and other athletic achievements as outlined in his official Nomination application.

Bob's contribution to elevating Freestyle Skiing to the recognition it has today, though, goes beyond the example he set for others during his years as a top Freestyle Competitor, and his ground-breaking "Get Hot" school. Bob provided the growing sport his expertise in its formative years by the first Chair of National Freestyle Committee, under the USSA as well as serving as a founding director of IFSA, where he was instrumental in creating the rules and judging criteria for the first series of professional competitions.

Thank you for reading this message. If you need more information from me, re Bob Theobald's qualifications, and background, for nomination into the US SKI & SNOWBOARD Hall of Fame, please don't hesitate to ask. Thank you for reading this message.

Bernie Weichsel,

Honored member US SKI & SNOWBOARD Hall of Fame, Class of 2016; Chairman Hall of Fame, 2009-2014



May 28, 2018

Dear Colleagues....

This is a letter of support for the nomination of ROBERT (BOB) THEOBALD to the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame as an Athlete, although qualified for the category of Ski SportsBuilder as well.

Bob, best known as THEO to his friends and admirers around Salt Lake City and throughout ski country, was born on Dec. 26, 1948. He was not hooked on skiing until 1961 at age 13. By 1966 he moved to the great slopes and fabulous snow at Alta, Utah where he worked at the Gold Miner's Daughter ski shop. For several years he taught skiing at several local ski areas.

In those years, as still today, Alta abounded with what I called Soul Skiers, those who skied for the love of "doing your own thing", a mantra for, dare I write it, young rebels of the sport, the so-called Hot Doggers. Soul Skiers ski for the love of the sport, a freedom of movement, the sense of speed, the ability to do your own thing. By 1965, much of American Skiing had lost its soul. Rather than being a quest for freedom and the thrill of speed was replaced by too many skiers seemingly obsessed with 'do I look elegant' "Are my feet together?" They skied as if... by the numbers....like painting by the numbers...Remember? How inelegant!

This stultifying era of supposed skiing was gradually interrupted by the youthful 'Hot Doggers' and quite unknowingly, perhaps, skiers like Theo led the way back to more skiing freedom, more inventiveness. It was called Freestyle Skiing. Theo, circa 1970, had developed a program called Get Hot...offering lessons in stunt/ballet skiing, mogul skiing and aerial skiing. Gradually the skiing world followed. To conventional skiing eyes, Theo sometimes wore outrageous ski clothing of his own design, like over the boot top flared bell bottoms, hand made by lady friends, decorated with bright colored applique. Ski clothing designers frequented Get Hot and Freestyle events to see what ideas might inspire them. For sure, bright colors were replacing navy blue.

Theo, during his Get Hot era, embodied the true spirit--the soul--of Alpine skiing. True, his competition expertise involved a lot of Big Air time, it was the spirit of personal freedom which he exuded. Inspiring, to say the least.

Theo embodied athleticism and proved it in competition. Not everyone is aware of the hours devoted to training, to getting and keeping in shape, all in the interest of greater control of one's body movements.

And with that, I rest my case: Bob Theobald has rightfully earned a position as an Honored Member, Athlete and Sports Builder in the U.S. Ski Hall of Fame.

Respectfully submitted  
Doug Pfeiffer  
Former Editor-in-Chief Skiing Magazine

JOHN FRY  
58 EDGEMONT ROAD  
KATONAH, NY 10536

May 17, 2018

John Clendenin  
PO Box 1092  
Aspen, CO 81612

Dear John

I heartily support your nomination of Bob Theobald for election to the U.S. National Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame. Bob was a significant, formative figure in the development of freestyle acrobatic skiing in the 1970s when I was editorial director of SKI Magazine and covering the sport. His influence was multiple. As a pioneering athlete, demonstrator of the new sport, and as a director and founder of organizational freestyle, Bob Theobald definitely belongs with the 400 skiers in our national ski hall of fame.



John Fry

Honored member of U.S. Ski Hall of Fame, 1995.

Author: The Story of Modern Skiing; No Hill Too Fast.

Founder: National Standard Ski Race (Nastar); Nations Cup of Alpine Skiing.



April 20, 2018

Selection Committee  
U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame  
P.O. Box 191  
Ishpeming, MI 49849

Dear Selection Committee:

This letter is in support of Bob Theobald for induction into the US Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame. My credentials to substantiate my support are: I was a three time NCAA champion and All American in the early sixties as a member of the University of Utah Ski Team, Giant Slalom National Champion in 1962, founder of the Park City Ski Team in the late sixties which still exists today. Coached and developed hundreds of athletes, one of which is Ted Ligety.

I serve on the board of directors for the University of Utah Ski Archives, the Alf Engen Ski Museum Foundation and other organizations related to the ski industry.

I have known Bob for over 40 years during which time I sponsored him for his induction into the Intermountain Ski Hall of Fame. In this capacity, thorough research of his accomplishments both as a sport-builder and proven world class freestyle competitor was done.

I support and encourage his nomination into the US Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame. His accomplishments are detailed in the accompanying material.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jim Gaddis', is written over a circular blue stamp or watermark.

Jim Gaddis