Looking Back

A crowd gathers to tour the Brown Ranch - June 2015

Jim Crawford and Anna Fang
Community Room Dedication - July 2015

Snurfer Display in the Ski Town USA exhibit

Kids Kabin Preschool on the cabin porch - November 2015
Olympian Tribute Display to Open at the Ski Area
By Candice Bannister, Executive Director

“It taught me to train hard and dream big...and believe that I could achieve at any level.” - Olympian Johnny Spillane on the Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club

Steamboat Springs' Olympic tradition is second to none. Boasting more winter Olympians than any other town in North America, our Olympic heritage runs strong and deep. To honor all of our local Olympians who represent Ski Town USA® on the world stage, the Tread of Pioneers Museum and the Steamboat Ski and Resort Corporation have partnered to produce an Olympian tribute display at Thunderhead Lodge at the top of the Gondola at the Steamboat Ski Area. The exhibit was made possible through a generous donation from the Duffy family in honor of Ed and Jayne Hill.

The exhibit will be accessible after the Ski Area opens on Scholarship Day on November 25, so you can view the exhibit anytime you go up on the mountain—for skiing, dinner, or hiking in the summer.

The exhibit tells the story of the competitive spirit and quest for excellence that began with Norwegian ski jumper, Carl Howelsen. Among his many contributions, Howelsen introduced the town of Steamboat Springs to the sports of skiing and ski jumping, built the first ski jumps at Howelsen Hill, and founded the legendary Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club and Winter Carnival. He also coached Steamboat's first Olympic, ski jumper, John Steele.

As Olympic competitors continue to make Steamboat Springs their home or return here to coach the next generation, our Olympic heritage and passion for winter sports thrives to this day.

The display features local “History Makers” who have accomplished a high level of achievement in their sports or contributed greatly to the sports heritage of Steamboat Springs. They are the elite class of athletes who are pioneers in their sports, or medaled for team USA, and most are members of the National or Colorado Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame, or both. These athletes are John Steele (Nordic); Gordy Wren (Nordic & Alpine); Buddy Werner (Alpine); Ann Battelle Ayad (Freestyle); Nelson Carmichael (Freestyle); Shannon Dunn-Downing (Snowboarding); Katy Rudolph Wyatt (Alpine); and the 2010 U.S. Nordic Team: Brett Camerota, Johnny Spillane, Bill Demong, and Todd Lodwick.

Another major segment of the exhibit is the “Olympian Spotlights.” This area is designed to be interchangeable to feature various Olympians in the future. Current Olympians highlighted in the display are Caroline Lalive Carmichael (Alpine); Jim “Moose” Barrows (Alpine); Travis Mayer (Freestyle); Kris “Fuzz” Fedderson (Freestyle); Tyler Jewell (Snowboarding); Chris McNeill (Nordic); Skeeter Werner Walker (Alpine); and Todd Wilson (Nordic).

A key focus of the exhibit is a looping photo slide show that provides an all-inclusive list of our local Olympic athletes with their attending Olympics, as well as their teams and disciplines. Project leader and Tread of Pioneers Museum Curator, Katie Adams, worked with a team of designers and an exhibit committee that included Mike Lane, Public Relations Director at the Steamboat Ski Area, and Candice Bannister, Executive Director of the Tread of Pioneers Museum. Adams spent many hours researching, writing, and contacting Olympians to create an accurate and compelling exhibit.

The museum staff and Board are eager to bring our local history and exhibits outside of the museum's walls and to the community. The Ski Area provides a prime public location, and we strongly believe that this exhibit greatly benefits the Ski Area, the museum, and the community.

Now on Display:

Volunteer Spotlights

Dawn Lillie
Dawn Lillie and her husband Tom moved to Steamboat Springs from Michigan in 2013, and soon afterward, she started volunteering at the Museum. The main reason she chose the museum for a volunteer position is that she’s very interested in the history of Steamboat Springs and the entire Yampa Valley. For Dawn, the museum is a very comfortable environment to work with a great staff, and she thoroughly enjoys talking with guests who visit from all over the country and beyond. She and her husband have been extremely impressed with the numerous Brown Bag Lectures and Marianne Capra’s extensive knowledge on the historical walking tours. “I am looking forward to becoming much more educated on the entire area as I continue to volunteer at such a fabulous museum.”

Katie Fletcher
Katie Fletcher and her husband Van have lived in Steamboat since 1986. For many years, Katie was a substitute teacher and her husband was a teacher, counselor, and psychologist with the local schools. Katie has volunteered at the Tread of Pioneers Museum for 15 years, and one of the aspects of volunteering she likes best is meeting people, both locals and people from all over the world. “I really enjoy talking to the museum visitors, especially locals who can add to my local history knowledge. It’s interesting to talk with people who have or have had family here and ones from other parts of the country and the world.”

Lynn Bear
Steamboat Springs has been Lynn Bear’s hometown since 1971, and she has been volunteering at the museum for five years. Lynn spends most of her museum volunteer time reading historical books to residents at the Doak Walker House care center and the Casey’s Pond Assisted Living Center. Being a volunteer at the museum has given Lynn the opportunity to participate in three of her favorite pursuits: “sharing her love for this beautiful valley with visitors, furthering her understanding of Routt County’s history, and reading. “Whether I am at the museum’s front desk or reading aloud to the Casey’s Pond residents at the Grove and the Doak Walker House, I am anxious to share the Tread of Pioneers Museum’s story.”

Volunteer Opportunities!

The Bud Werner Memorial Library and Tread of Pioneers Museum need you! We are partnering on a project to digitize and make available on the web Three Wire Winter magazine and the magazine's supporting materials: oral interviews, transcripts, and photos. We are in need of history-loving locals who have the time to listen to the interviews while reading professional transcripts of the interviews for errors. If interested, please contact Alysa Selby at 970-347-4929 or by email at alyusanowithourlibrary@gmail.com.

Other volunteer opportunities include: four guides/a.k.a. docs, research center assistants, collections assistants, front desk attendants, and more! Contact Tamra at stparks@springsips.com.

What is Colorado Gives Day?

Please consider supporting the Tread of Pioneers Museum on Colorado Gives Day! Colorado Gives Day is an annual statewide movement to celebrate philanthropy in Colorado through online giving on Tuesday, December 8, 2015.

Colorado Gives Day features a statewide $1 Million Incentive Fund provided by Community First Foundation and FirstBank, one of the largest giving day incentive funds in the country. Every nonprofit receiving a donation on Colorado Gives Day will receive a proportionate share of the Incentive Fund, which increases the value of every dollar donated. In addition to the statewide Incentive Fund, Routt and Moffat nonprofits will benefit from Yampa Valley Gives’ $20,000 Incentive Fund.

Donations Can Be Pre-Scheduled NOW!

For your convenience, you can schedule your donation ahead of time (after Nov. 1) to make sure the value of your gift to the Tread of Pioneers Museum is increased by the additional Incentive Funds available on Colorado Gives Day. We appreciate your considering this online giving opportunity that can help leverage additional dollars for the museum. Your support helps us continue to collect, preserve, and share the history and the heritage of the Steamboat Springs area.

Thank you for your continued support of the museum!