

# *Summer Season Goes Big!*



The Utah Olympic Park and the Joe Quinney Winter Sports Center/  
Alf Engen Ski Museum now have extended summer hours...  
open daily from 9 a.m. – 8 p.m. through September 1st, 2008.

# **SKI MEISTER**

**THE ALF ENGEN SKI MUSEUM FOUNDATION**

Summer 2008

[www.engenmuseum.org](http://www.engenmuseum.org)

# Free Family Fun Day

## Alf Engen Ski Museum Joe Quinney Winter Sports Center

**Saturday, July 12, 2008**

**2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

*\*There is a Park charge from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m*



- ➔ Free Admission
- ➔ Free Activities: face painting, docent-led tours
- ➔ ½ off Park rides-Zipline, Comet, Chairlift and Alpine Slide
- ➔ Watch athletes train - freestyle and ski jumping

## Utah Olympic Park – Summer Attractions

**Open Daily 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.**  
**Free admission to the museums  
and walking tour of the park  
(June 7 – September 1).**

Go to [www.olymparks.com](http://www.olymparks.com) for more information.



### The Flying Ace All-Stars Saturday Freestyle Shows

Every Saturday at 1 p.m.  
(June 14- August 30)  
Adult - \$10  
Senior/Youth (3-17) - \$7

### The Comet Summer Bobsled Rides

Open daily 1 p.m.-5 p.m.  
Saturdays 2 p.m.-6 p.m.  
Ages 14+ only - \$60

### Guided Tours

Adults (18-64) - \$7  
Senior 65+/Youth 3-17 - \$5  
10 a.m.-5 p.m. (tours depart at  
the top of the hour)

### Xtreme & Ultra Ziplines

Xtreme Zip - \$20  
Ultra Zip - \$15

### The Quicksilver Alpine Slide

Adult - \$15  
Adult with child (3-7) - \$20

# Alf Engen – Soccer Star

By Roy Webb

Just about anyone who has strapped on a pair of skis has heard of Alf Engen. What many may not know of him, however, is that Alf was also famous as a soccer star. Soccer was a major sport in Utah in the years before World War II. In 1922, Victor Johannsen, a Norwegian immigrant, founded a soccer team composed of Scandinavian immigrants, called the Vikings. It wasn't until the Engens joined the Vikings in the 1930s, however, that the team became a powerhouse in Utah soccer.

Alf was already a celebrity soccer player in his native Norway, and came to the Vikings with all the skills to make the team a championship club. A center midfielder, he quickly stood out as the most versatile player on the Vikings team. The center mid is traditionally the team captain, the playmaker, the one who both sets up the goals and coordinates the defense (think David Beckham), and Alf fulfilled that role admirably. He could score from 30 yards out with either foot, and was known for his ability to head the ball into the net. Alf led the Vikings to their first Utah State Championship in 1932, and the team repeated the feat under his leadership for the next two years. Nor was Alf the only skier who stood out on the soccer pitch; his brothers Sverre, who played goalkeeper, and Karre, a right halfback, were also members of the Vikings, as were ski jumpers Einar Fredbo, Halvar Hvalstad, and Oskar Andreason.

All through the 1930s, Alf's picture appeared on the sports pages of local newspapers almost as often for his soccer exploits as for his ski jumping championships. An article in the *Salt Lake Telegram* about a 1932 game against the Ogden Blue Stars noted that "Alf Engen ran wild in the second [half] to score the 'hat trick' [three goals in one game] and added a fourth for good measure." Alf also played on all-star teams that played visiting clubs from California, Montana, and other states, and sometimes traveled to play.

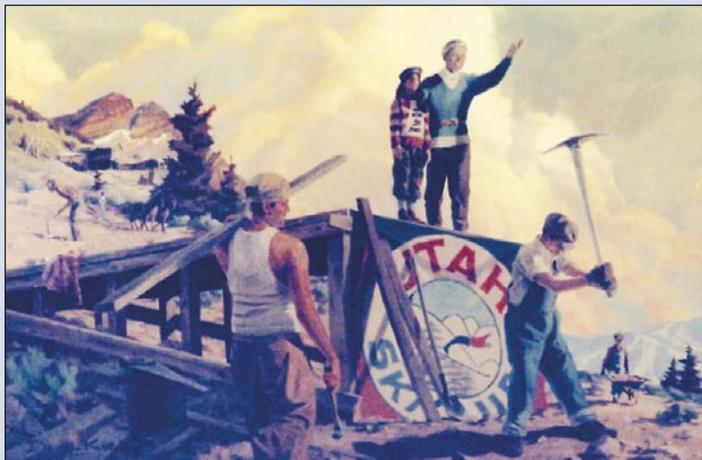
Soccer in the 1930s was far different than it is today. Grass fields were a rarity; they were commonly dirt, cinders, or even blacktop. Alf and the Vikings played in heavy, ankle length boots imported from Europe that featured a hard toe with hobnails for traction. There were no substitutions; you played the entire 90 minutes, unless you got hurt. Injuries were common, and Alf was hurt on more than one occasion. Through it all, however, Alf displayed the same sportsmanship that made him one of the most beloved athletes in American sports history.



Soccer star, Alf Engen

By the late 1930s, Alf's ski career had come to take on more importance, and he finally left the soccer pitch for the slopes. Today, his career as a soccer star is all but forgotten, save by the members of the Vikings S.C. (the club is still in existence and still fields teams). The only tangible reminders of Alf's career as a soccer player are the newspaper clippings in the Alf Engen scrapbooks, part of the Utah Ski Archives, and the Strand Trophy, on display in the trophy case at the Alf Engen Ski History Museum.

## Engen Brothers mural unveiled early January at the renovated Utah State Capitol Building



The Engen Brothers mural, painted by Utah artist David Koch, is proudly featured in the House of Representatives Chamber in the newly renovated Utah State Capitol. The painting depicts the Engen brothers constructing the take-off at storied Ecker Hill in the early 1930s. The background features a miner, his cabin, and a portion of Alta's rugged Devils Castle peak, signifying the transition from mining to skiing in the early part of the 20th century. The young girl standing with Alf Engen on the take-off represents the significant impact ski schools, such as the Deseret News Ski School, had on the growth of ski sport in Utah.



## Chairman's Letter

by Scott Ulbrich



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Welcome to the 2008 Summer Edition of the Ski Meister Newsletter. We are enjoying our sixth year of entertaining guests here at the Alf Engen Ski Museum.

Our foundation continues to excel in attracting an increased number of visitors each year. Our guest numbers were up 25% compared to 2007. The FREE entrance to the museum and the park introduced in May, 2007 has also contributed to a higher number of Utah residents visiting the museum (increased from 10% to 35% over the year).

Our board's focus this year is to renovate and improve our popular interactive exhibits and, through our new exhibit committee, design exhibits to showcase the rich history of skiing in the Intermountain West.

Thank you to all who continue to support the Alf Engen Ski Museum Foundation. Without your generous contributions and memberships we could not continue to maintain and expand our museum and programs.

This summer is a great time to bring your whole family and any out-of-town visitors to the museum. Enjoy a free, fun, and educational experience seven days of the week with our extended hours from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.



## Education Program

We had another wonderful Educational Field Trip School Program for the 2007/2008 school year. We educated and entertained over 1,650 students, parents and teachers.

*Dear Connie,  
Thank you very much for allowing us to come to your fabulous museum. We had a wonderful time and everyone was so good to us. Our children had so much fun - they loved being there. Everyone on your staff made them feel very special. We appreciate your kindness.*

*Sincerely Shawnie Swain  
(Teacher - Majestic Elementary)*

*Dear Alf Engen Ski Museum Docent,  
Thank you for telling and showing us about Alf Engen. It was very interesting. Before I didn't want to ski, but now I want to. Thank you so much, I hope I visit again.*

*From Natalie  
(Student - Valley View Elementary)*

*Dear Docents,  
Thank you so much for showing us everything. I learned so much about skiing. It really makes me want to come back and ski more. I loved sitting in the bobsled. Thank you!*

*Kersa  
(Student - Valley View Elementary)*

*The Alf Engen Ski Museum field trip was a wonderful opportunity for our students to learn about Utah history, the 2002 Olympics, as well as the natural landscape of northern Utah. The docents were warm and welcoming and the students were guided through interactive and engaging lessons throughout the museum. As a result of this field trip, students were exposed to a plethora of new experiences that enriched their lives. Thank you for allowing us to come and be a part of this wonderful experience!*

*Thank you,  
Ms. Micken, Mrs. Moody and Mrs. Smith  
(Granger Elem. 4th grade)*

## In Memoriam

### Jack Hamlin Walker

By Alan K. Engen

As 2008 began, Utah skisport lost another pioneer and avid lifetime enthusiast. Jack Hamlin Walker passed away, at age 92, on January 28, 2008 of natural causes. Jack is remembered for his ski jumping exploits on Ecker Hill in the 1930s as well as his competitive spirit. Along with his close buddy, Vern Walker, Jack actively participated in locally sponsored alpine events for nearly eight decades.



Jack made many contributions to Utah skiing. He was the founder of the Mount Olympus Ski Club that was active in the late 1930s and into the mid 1940s. He possessed a rich sense of humor, great story telling ability, and a true passion for the sport of skiing. I will never forget his comment to me when he was once reflecting on his days of ski flying on Ecker Hill. He said, "Alan, those were the barnstormer days, when men were men, and most were crazy as hell. I particularly loved the Norwegians. They were my heros! In fact, for a time, I even changed my last name to Reklaw (the reverse of his last name Walker) since I thought it had a more Scandinavian ring to it."

Well done, Jack. You will long be remembered for playing a significant part in Utah's rich ski history.

### Nick Badami

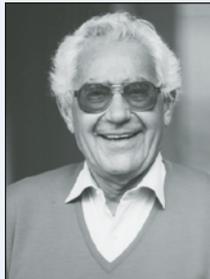
By Bill Marolt (President/CEO - USSA)

Nick Badami, one of the most influential figures in the history of the U.S. Ski Team, died June 4 at his home in Tucson, AZ at 87.

Badami's leadership over parts of three decades helped popularize the FIS Alpine Ski World Cup, helped Salt Lake City become host to the Olympic Winter Games of 2002 and provided a modern business model for the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association (USSA) where he served as board member.

He began his tenure in winter sports in 1975 when he purchased Park City Ski Area. With his son Craig, the Badamis brought global acclaim to the resort through the development of the America's Opening World Cup races that became the opening of the FIS Alpine Ski World Cup for more than a decade.

Badami is survived by his wife, Avis. His only child, Craig, was killed in a helicopter accident at Park City Mountain Resort following a World Cup race in 1989.



## Director's Letter

By Connie Nelson

Summer is in full swing here at the Alf Engen Ski Museum and the Joe Quinney Winter Sports Center. As Scott mentioned, our guest numbers continue to increase, due in part to Summit County's generous **1% Restaurant Tax** marketing grant.



This year our Education Program saw over 1,650 students, teachers and parents from 24 schools. Thank you to the never-failing docents who ensure our program's quality and presentation are second to none! Generous grants from **Summit County, Marriner S. Eccles, Wells Fargo and the Sunrise Rotary Club** make this program accessible to schools that would normally not be able to attend this type of field trip. Each student receives a "goodie bag" containing educational materials that pertain to snow sports as well as a family pass allowing three people to try the park's zip rides at no cost.

Our very popular "Ski Like an Olympian" interactive exhibit is getting a face lift thanks to the generosity of the **George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation** and the **Office of Museum Services**.

Hope to see everyone at our **Free Family Fun Day** - Saturday, July 12th from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.!



Joe Quinney Winter Sports Center site dedication - August 28, 1999 - we have certainly come a LONG way!

### SKI MEISTER

A publication of the Alf Engen Ski Museum Foundation

Connie Nelson, *Executive Director*

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Inquiries, questions, or submissions of press releases and articles of interest for the Alf Engen Ski Museum Foundation newsletter are welcome. Send correspondence and newsletter submissions to the Foundation office.

# Donor Wall Members



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**\$1,000,000+ Donors**

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## November 2007 - June 2008

New membership benefits!  
See the included pledge envelope.

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*2990 Bear Hollow Drive*  
*P.O. Box 980187*  
*Park City, Utah 84098*

WILL and JEAN PICKETT



INTERMOUNTAIN SKI HALL OF FAME

## Save the Date – 2008 Intermountain Ski Hall of Fame Induction

**Thursday, September 18, 2008**

5:30 p.m.

Joe Quinney Center

The cost per person will be \$75,  
which includes food and drink.

**The 2008 Class**

Alvin F. Cobabe, Utah

Founder-Powder Mountain Ski Area

Albert F. Korfanta, Wyoming

Ski Pioneer–Pinedale, WY

Patrick Miller, Utah

Ski Sport Innovator–former U of U ski team coach

***Don't forget – Free Family Fun Day!***  
Saturday, July 12 from 2 - 6 p.m. at the Joe Quinney  
Winter Sports Center/Utah Olympic Park!