

#142  
**George Macomber**  
Born: 1927



*George Macomber has a record of accomplishment and service within USSA that could well earn him recognition as a Skisport Builder. However, his records in alpine competition put him at the top as a competitor.*

From 1948 through 1969, George made significant contributions in the area of ski administration, organization and future planning. In the Eastern Division – USSA, he chaired the Sanctions Committee (1948-1949), the Downhill-Slalom Committee (1950-1951), the Publications Committee (1952), and the Eligibility Rules Committee (1958-1969). Under the National Ski Association flag he was chairman of the Downhill-Slalom Committee in 1953 and of the ICC Downhill-Slalom Committee from 1954 to 1956. He served as an Eastern Director in 1949-1950, and as an Eastern officer 1951-1956, with the last two years as president of USEASA. During this time, he was elected as a vice-president of N.S.A. in 1954 and 1955. It was under his administration that USEASA took the very large step forward of hiring a full time executive director to run the Eastern office.

George has been a director, officer, trustee, committee chairman and committee member of corporations, hospitals, community welfare organizations, and schools. He was a founder and later a president of Wildcat Mt. Corporation (1956-1967), contributing tremendously to the growth of New Hampshire high-country skiing.

As a collegian at M.I.T. and a member of its ski team, he began to collect the silverware that is part of the legend of “the Cat” as George was known on the national team. In 1945, he was generally in the first three positions in collegiate competitions, with slalom being his strong suit. With a year off in 1946, he trained at Alta and surprised many students of the national ski scene by placing 1<sup>st</sup> in the downhill, 3<sup>rd</sup> in the giant slalom, and 8<sup>th</sup> in the slalom, for a 4<sup>th</sup> in the combined of the Alta Cup. That same year he was 4<sup>th</sup> in California’s Sugar Bowl Silver Belt Giant Slalom.

In 1947, George “arrived.” Some of the high points were a slalom 3<sup>rd</sup> in the SRMSA championships at Aspen, a slalom 3<sup>rd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the combined at the IASA Championship at Jackson Hole, and a 3<sup>rd</sup> in the downhill and combined at the Sun Valley Olympic tryouts. He was then selected for the 1948 Olympic Team.

After a great 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the New Year’s Giant Slalom at Davos, Switzerland, in 1948, George was injured in training and missed the Olympic Games, but he came back later in the year to win the Silver Belt Giant Slalom in Sugar Bowl. In 1949, George tied for 1<sup>st</sup> in the Gibson Trophy Race, 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Sun Valley S.C. Championships, and scored 1<sup>st</sup> across the board at the Nationals at Whitefish, Montana. Injured while training for the Roch Cup at Aspen, he nevertheless came back for a 6<sup>th</sup> in the slalom and an 8<sup>th</sup> in the combined at the North American Championships at Aspen. He also scored a 9<sup>th</sup> in the combined at the Harriman Cup, Sun Valley, and a tie for 3<sup>rd</sup> in the National Giant Slalom at Reno’s Slide Mountain.

In 1950, as a member of the U.S. Team at the F.I.S. World Championships, he was injured at Aspen while training. Nevertheless, he scored 15<sup>th</sup> in the slalom, 22<sup>nd</sup> in downhill and 42<sup>nd</sup> in giant slalom in those championship events. He placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the Eccles Cup Giant Slalom at Ogden that year. He was also 5<sup>th</sup> in slalom and 6<sup>th</sup> in the combined of the North Americans at Banff. At Sun Valley’s Harriman Cup, he scored 9<sup>th</sup> in the downhill and 9<sup>th</sup> in the combined. In the Eastern Championships at Stowe he won the downhill, scored 5<sup>th</sup> in slalom, and 4<sup>th</sup> in the combined. He won the Webber Cup Downhill on the ever dangerous Wildcat.

During 1951, he was re-injured in the Slalom of Lauberhorn, but earned a 21<sup>st</sup> in the Downhill Lauberhorn Trophy in Wengen beforehand. The injury string carried through the Olympic year of 1952. Even though he had made the Olympic Team, he was unable to compete in the games.

In 1954, George scored a 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Webber Cup Downhill, in 1956 a 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Orvis Trophy Race, and between 1954 and 1962 many other first and high placements. In 1962, he was a dominant figure in Veteran competitions in the East and at the Nationals. When 1967 came around, he swept the Group 3 (age 40-47) National Veterans’ Championships.

Always extending his racing limits, it was inevitable that George meet *Dame Misfortune* on occasion on the racing hill. However, injuries never kept him down for long and he was soon back, better than before.

George Macomber was elected to the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame in 1973.