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John Caldwell

Born: 1928

Information submitted by C. Allison Merrill in a nomination letter written to the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame

John Caldwell is a man known to most cross-country skiers because of his long continuous devotion to the sport through competition, coaching, writing, and organizing.

John was born on November 28, 1928, and graduated from Putney School and Dartmouth College. Upon leaving Dartmouth in 1950, he began his teaching career at Lyndon Institute in Lyndon, Vermont, and then he served in the U.S. Navy. From there, he moved to the Putney School where he was on the faculty as a teacher of mathematics.

As a competitor, John was a four-event skier four years at Dartmouth. In 1952, John competed for the United States in the Winter Olympics at Oslo in the combined event.

John was an outstanding ski coach at Putney, developing such skiers as Bob Gray, Bill Koch, Martha Rockwell, Mary Heller, Tim Caldwell, Jim Galanes, and others. Of equal note is his development of several outstanding Putney School ski teams. From 1965 until 1972, he served as coach of the U.S. Cross-Country Ski Teams, the Olympic Teams and World Championship Teams. In 1978, he led a group of American skiers to Australia, and in 1980, he served as the coach for the Australian Olympic Cross-Country Ski Team. In 1984, he was the coach of the U.S. Team at the Sarajevo Olympics, and in 1989, he was the coach of the F.I.S. Team at Lahti.

Caldwell's writings include six editions of the popular *The Cross-Country Ski Book*, first published in 1964, and the more technical, *Caldwell on Cross-Country*. Also, he has written many articles for *Skiing Magazine* and other ski media.

As a volunteer, John has organized many cross-country ski meets including the 1975 National Cross-Country Championships and served on numerous committees and in other capacities for the Eastern Ski Association and the United States Ski Association. In 1978-1979, he chaired USSA's Nordic Competition Committee.

Few people have devoted as much time to helping the young know the joys of skiing, and the people of America understand the sport as John Caldwell. In 1965, he was awarded the Russell Wilder Memorial Award, USSA's Award given to an individual for best focusing the interests of America's Youth on the sport of skiing.

John has been a devoted teacher, developer, participant and enthusiast of skiing for many years and has dedicated himself to improving the sport of cross-country skiing during his life. He was one of the founders of the New England Nordic Ski Association and was its president for the first six years.

John Caldwell was elected to the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame in 1983.

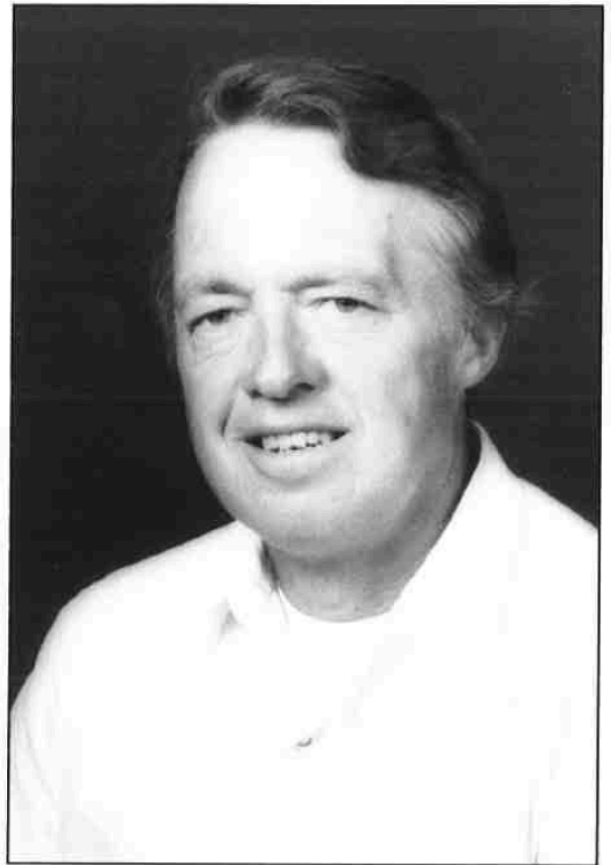


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