

# CURT CHASE

Curt Chase was an innovator and motivating force in ski instruction for nearly 50 years. One of the founding directors of the Professional Ski Instructors of America (PSIA) he had a significant impact on the development of the American Ski Technique.



Curt Chase (right) with legendary Hall of Famer Friedl Pfeiffer.

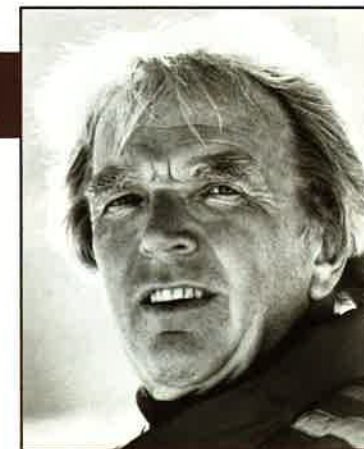
He first learned to ski at the age of 10 and was inspired in the 1930s by America's ski star of the time, Dick Durrance. A good ski racer, he was on the ski team for the University of New Hampshire for two ski seasons in the early 1940s and later would have raced at the 1950 World Championships in Aspen had he not broken his leg.

In 1943 he became a survival training instructor for the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division. As a staff sergeant he fought in the battle of Mount Belvedere in Italy and was awarded a Bronze Star Medal. From 1951 to 1953, as a civilian, he was again a survival training instructor for the Strategic Air Command. In 1946 he had moved to Aspen and immediately organized, trained and directed the Aspen Ski Patrol. He also became an apprentice ski instructor for the Aspen Ski School, beginning a career that took him to the Otsego Ski Club in Gaylord, Michigan, the Strategic Air Command and then to directing the ski school at Grizzly Peak in Red Lodge

Montana for four years. By 1959 he was not only a certified instructor but also the chief examiner for ski instructors in the Northern Rocky Mountain Ski Instructors Division. In 1962 he helped found the PSIA and a year later took on the leadership of the Aspen Ski School, a position he held for 17 years. In 1968 he was the coach of the U.S. Ski Instructors Demonstration Team at the 8th INTERSKI being held in Aspen that year.

He studied the art of ski instruction, emphasizing the practical and comfortable methods of skiing that would become part of the American Teaching Technique and have a huge impact on ski instruction nationally and internationally. It has been said that he had direct contact with more than 1,000 instructors and likely influenced more than 100,000 more. He had the legendary George Joubert's book Teach Yourself To Ski, translated into English in 1970.

After retiring as Snowmass's ski instruction leader in 1983, he continued as a ski instructor for another 10 years while also enjoying skiing for up to 180 days each winter.



## Curt Chase

Born Oct. 3, 1922  
Died June 6, 2014

Resided in Colorado

### Career Awards & Highlights

- 1943**  
Survival Training Instructor,  
10th Mountain Division
- 1946**  
Organized and trained the  
Aspen Ski Patrol
- 1951-1953**  
Civilian survival training instructor,  
Strategic Air Command
- 1962**  
One of eight founding directors  
of the PSIA
- 1963 – 1980**  
Aspen Ski School Director
- 1980 – 1983**  
Snowmass Ski School Director
- 1989**  
Inducted into the Colorado  
Ski Hall of Fame
- 2012**  
Recipient of the PSIA Lifetime  
Achievement Award