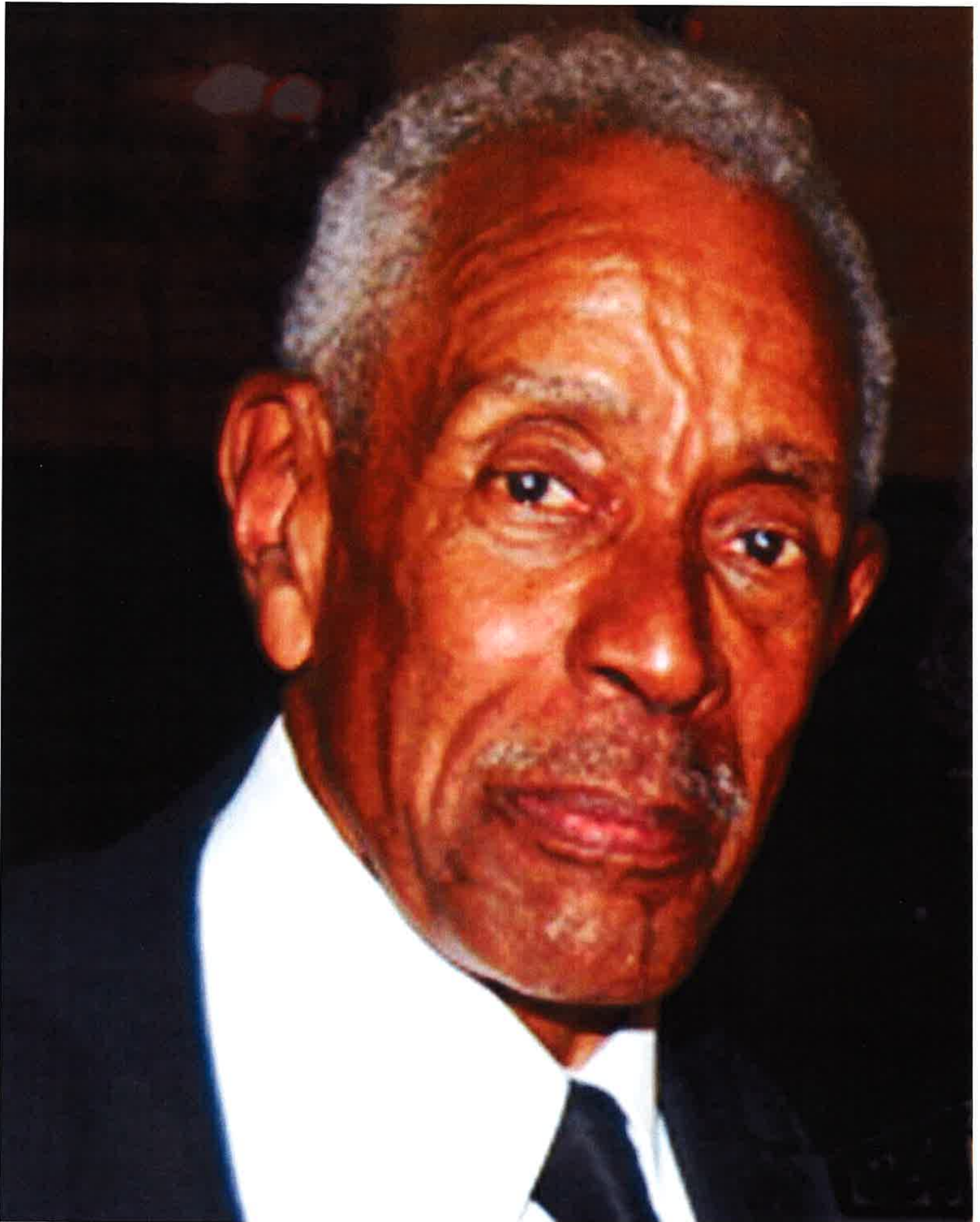


An 8 x 10 photograph of the candidate must be supplied:



An 8 x 10 photograph of the candidate must be supplied:



State why the candidate merits election to the U.S. National Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame (limit this statement to 250 words):

I am pleased to nominate Ben Finley and Art Clay as a team/pair for the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame. This nomination is an acknowledgement of their impact on the ski riding industry by literally drafting thousands of individuals to the sport while simultaneously expanding the pool of talented American athletes seeking berths on the United States Winter Olympic teams.

Finley & Clay are the founders of the National Brotherhood of Skiers, Inc. (NBS), a 44 year old, all volunteer, nationwide umbrella for over 50 predominately African American ski clubs, nationwide, whose mission is *to identify, develop, and support athletes of color who will win Olympic and international winter sports competitions representing the United States and to increase participation in winter sports.*

The NBS biennially hosts their "Black Summit" convention at selected major ski areas. Summit '93 in Vail, CO drew over 3000 people and has been recognized as the largest ski convention in America. The Black Summit experience is the catalyst to significantly increase the number and diversity of America's skiing populace.

Transitioning urban youth to the start gate of an Olympic event is a complex ongoing challenge, and since 1984, with NBS support, 6 athletes of color, identified in the attached anecdotes, have kicked the start wand at Olympic events. Most recently, the NBS was the cradle for the concept, purpose and development of the National Winter Activity Center (<http://winter4kids.org>) located in Vernon, NJ, to introduce, train and develop tristate youth in winter sports.

Snowsports Builder Award

Art Clay & Ben Finley

Founders National Brotherhood of Skiers

Submitted by
Catherine Ohl, Awards Chair &
Jane Gutierrez, VP Membership

At a time when African Americans on the ski slopes were a rarity and black ski clubs were an exception, Ben Finley and Art Clay were not deterred from their vision to create a national Black Summit. The two founders met in 1972 after being introduced by a mutual friend while Finley was President of the Four Seasons West Ski Club of Los Angeles and Clay was Trip Director of the Sno-Gophers Ski Club of Chicago.



They moved forward with a proposal to bring together 13 black ski clubs for an event that was called "A Happening," but was later changed to "Black Summit," at the suggestion of a member of the Jim Dandy Ski Club of Detroit. The Black Summit would represent black skiers coming together at the summit of Ajax Mountain. The purpose was "to identify and discuss problems and subjects which were unique to the black skiing population and to ski and socialize", according to Finley.

The historic gathering took place in Aspen, Colorado in 1973 and was attended by more than 350 skiers. There was an overall sense of camaraderie that pervaded the event and this same feeling is still significantly associated with all Black Summits.

The images of this occasion will forever stay in the minds of those who witnessed this event. As the East Coast met the West Coast, there were discussions of Teo Hyde of Chicago who was recognized as an aspiring contender for a position of the U.S. Ski Team.

The formation of the national organization was set for Thanksgiving weekend in 1973 in Salt Lake City, Utah. At a meeting of the club leaders, it was pro-posed that the primary purpose of the organization would be to place a black skier on the U.S. Ski Team. Those in attendance unanimously embraced this mission. Thus, began the commencement of the first national organization of predominantly black ski clubs.

The National Brotherhood of Skiers was chartered in 1974 and incorporated as a non-profit organization in Illinois in 1975. It received its 501(c)3 designation in 1978. The founding clubs were: All Seasons Ski Club (Oakland, CA); Black Ski, Inc. (Washington, D.C.), Cascaders Ski Club (Chicago, IL), Chicago Ski Twisters (Chicago, IL), 4 Seasons Northwest (Seattle, WA), 4 Seasons West Ski Club, Inc. (Los Angeles, CA), Inner City Ski Burns (Cleveland, OH), Jim Dandy Ski Club (Detroit, MI), Slippers-N-Sliders Ski Club (Denver, CO), Sno-Burners Ski Club (New York, NY), Sno-Gophers Ski Club (Chicago, IL), Sno-Rovers Ski Club (Boston, MA), Ujama Ski Club (Compton, CA).

2015 Far West Service Awards



Black Summit '75 was hosted by the Sno-Gophers Ski Club and was held in Sun Valley, Idaho. Over 750 skiers attended. The clubs in attendance elected Ray Mott of Black Ski, Inc. as the NBS' first President.

History continued to be made with the NBS as Olympian, Bonnie St. John-Dean was the winner of two Bronze and combined Silver medals at the 1984 Paralympics in Innsbruck, Austria. Jahi Rohrer of Denver and Andre & Suki Horton of Anchorage competed in the U.S. National Championships. The NBS progress continues.

More recently, NBS member and US Disabled Team member, Ralph Green competed in the 2006 Winter Paralympics in Torino, Italy, and 2010 in Vancouver, Canada. Errol Kerr was a member of Team NBS from 2000 until 2009 when he joined the Jamaican Ski Team to compete in the Vancouver Olympics.

Today, the organization has grown to 50+ clubs representing 43 cities and a membership of 3,000. The NBS is recognized by the ski industry as one of the largest ski organizations and its Summit as the largest gathering of skiers and riders, more than any other ski convention in the United States.

Diana Starks serves as the organization's president: "My passion for skiing goes back to my first national ski trip to Heavenly Valley Ski Resort in Lake Tahoe, NV. To be at the top of the mountain and look out at the mountain to the left, and the desert to the right; and to be able to ski in two states on the same lift ticket was a thrill for me! I took a five- day race clinic and won a bronze NASTAR medal at the end of the week."

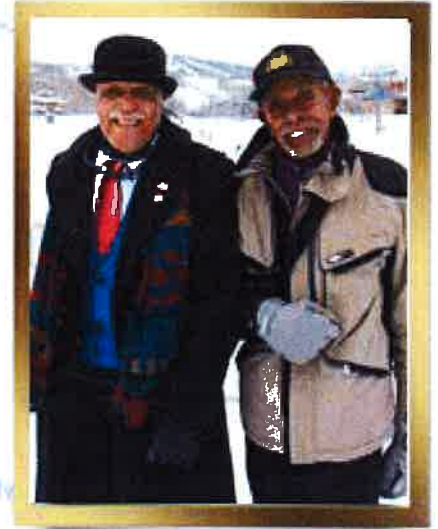
REI is a proud partner and supporter of the National Brotherhood of Skiers whose mission is to "identify, develop and support athletes of color who will WIN international and Olympic winter sports competition representing the United States and to increase participation in winter sports." It is through the local chapters, that the NBS provides education and opportunities to increase participation in the sport.

To raise funds for their program, the NBS hosts a Summit each year bringing together hundreds of winter sports enthusiasts. The 2015 Summit was held in Aspen Snowmass February 21-28th.

2013 marked the 40th anniversary of the Brotherhood's first organized meeting, which happened in Aspen. It is fitting that NBS returned to Aspen Snowmass this year for its annual Black Summit with more than 1,500 skiers and boarders in attendance.

It is with great pride that the Far West Ski Association recognizes Ben Finley and Art Clay for their contribution to skiing and for bringing a passion of the sport to black skiers across the nation.

2015 Far West Service Awards



In chronological order by year, list the candidate's achievements:

Ben Finley

- January 1966 - Conceived, organized and managed the 1st ski trip of the 4 Seasons West Ski Club, Los Angeles, CA
- 1966 - 1987 - Served as President of 4 Seasons West Ski Club, Inc, Los Angeles, CA, a 501-C7, California Corporation, the first predominately African American ski club west of the Rockies.
- September 1972 - Proposed, drafted and disseminated to 13 predominately black ski clubs, scattered across the nation, a proposal for "A Happening" to take place in 1973.
- February 1973 - Organized and managed the 1st Black Summit in Aspen, CO with 350 people in attendance.
- August 1974: Assisted in incorporating the National Brotherhood of Skiers as an Illinois, Not-For -Profit Corporation
- February 1975 - Developed and presented the 1st Constitution & By-laws of the National Brotherhood of Skiers in Sun Valley, Idaho
- 1977 - 1979: Served as Vice President, Western Region of the National Brotherhood of Skiers
- 1978 - 1982: Served as Executive vice President of the National Brotherhood of Skiers
- 1982 - 1986: Served as President of the National Brotherhood of Skiers
- 1986 - Present: Served as a Board Member of 4 Seasons West Ski Club, Inc. now celebrating its 50th anniversary.
- 1988 - 1990: Served as Director-at-Large of the National Brotherhood of Skiers
- May 2015 - Accepted the Far West Ski Association Snowsports Builder Award.

Art Clay

- 1969-1977: Trip Chairman of the Sno-Gopher Ski Club, Chicago Illinois. Responsible for leading groups of skiers to trips every week (between Thanksgiving and Easter) to resorts across the US, Canada and Europe
- 1970: Started Sno-Gopher Ski Carnival, an annual, Midwest outing which continues to attract hundreds
- 1971: Had the vision to get African American skiers together for a weekly outing 1971: Conferred with Ben Finley and put together the first "Black Summit" at Aspen which attracted approximately 500
- 1972: Coordinated international ski trip taking over 150 African American skiers to Corchevel, France
- 1973: Coordinated international ski trip taking over 200 African American skiers to Lech-Zurs, Austria
- 1975: Assisted in incorporating the National Brotherhood of Skiers as an Illinois, Not-For -Profit Corporation
- 1975: Served as Chairman of Black Summit '75, attracting national corporate sponsorship
- 1975/83: Served as Midwest Region Vice President of the National Brotherhood of Skiers.
- 1978/2000: Conceived, organized and managed "The Gang" Ski Club of Chicago - NBS's most popular Club
- 2015: Accepted the Far West Ski Association's Sports Builders Award

National Brotherhood of Skiers Annual Meeting Locations

2017: Keystone, CO	2002: Snowmass, CO	1987: Lake Placid, NY
2016: Heavenly, CA	2001: Keystone, CO	1986: Crested Butte, CO
2015: Snowmass, CO	2000: Copper Mountain, CO	1985: Park City, UT
2014: Sun Valley, ID	1999: Salt Lake City UT	1984: Heavenly, CA
2013: Snowmass, CO	1998: Sun Valley, ID	1983: Big Sky, MT
2012: Sun Valley, ID	1997: Vail, CO	1982: Steamboat, CO
2011: Steamboat Springs, CO	1996: Innsbruck, Austria	1981: Snowmass, CO
2010: Winter Park, CO	1995: Steamboat, CO	1980: Crested Butte, CO
2009: Snowmass, CO	1994: Copper Mountain, CO	1979: Sun Valley, ID
2008: Breckenridge, CO	1993: Vail, CO	1978: Steamboat, CO
2007: Steamboat Springs, CO	1992: Copper Mountain, CO	1977: Vail, CO
2006: Banff, Canada	1991: Park City, UT	1976: No AMCC
2005: Vail, CO	1990: Heavenly, CA	1975: Sun Valley, ID
2004: Copper Mountain, CO	1989: Steamboat, CO	1974: No AMCC
2003: Whistler, BC Canada	1988: Purgatory, CO	1973: Aspen, CO

On one page provide additional data, anecdotes, etc. that you feel are pertinent to this nomination:

I am pleased to be able to offer the selection committee the following additional information regarding the impact that Finley & Clay have had on Winter Sports:

(1) October 2016 *Powder* Magazine Article,

<http://www.powder.com/stories/meet-the-national-brotherhood-of-skiers/>

(2) NPR 2015 Article:

<http://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2015/02/28/389530731/the-black-summit-draws-african-american-skiers-and-boarders-to-aspen>

(3) Team NBS Article:

http://myppk.com/Users/14942/PDFs/About_Team_NBS.pdf

(4) National Winter Activity Center Video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rj7_CPDfjUA

(5) Mountains of Memories & Myths, author: Dr. Naomi Bryson

http://www.amazon.com/Mountains-Memories-Myths-National-Brotherhood/dp/1499067682/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1458240517&sr=8-1&keywords=Naomi+Bryson

(6) Nick Badami, a U.S. Ski Hall of Fame Inductee, and his son Craig were significant NBS sponsors prior to their deaths.

Please list the names and addresses of those people who are supporting this nomination (Minimum of three - limit six):

Peggy Allen, President NBS
20 Munro Court
Troy, NY 12180

Jane Gutierrez, President, 4 Seasons West Ski & Snowboard Club, Inc: Vice President, FWSA; Secretary, National Ski Councils Federation
11720 Wilkie Ave.
Hawthorne, CA 90250

Joe Long, Past NBS President
1507 E. 53rd St
Chicago, IL 60615

Naomi Bryson, Past NBS President
26234 S. Buttonwood Dr.
Chandler, AZ 85248

Kim Bentley, Past Vice President, Rocky Mountain Region
22829 E. Alamo Lane
Aurora, CO 80015

Please provide a list of sources for visual material that can be used at the candidate's induction presentation:

Additional visual material can be found electronically at the NBS' media website found at: myppk.com/get/nationalbrotherhoodofskiers

Signature of nominator

Mail completed nomination form to: U.S. Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame, P.O. Box 191, Ishpeming, MI 49849 or email to: administrator@skihall.com