



**NOMINATION FORM**

For

**HONORED MEMBERSHIP**

In The

**U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD HALL OF FAME**

Candidate's Name: **Greg Lewis**

Date & Place of Birth: **1947, Evansville, Indiana**

Address of Candidate: [REDACTED]

Physical Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone Number: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Is the candidate still living? **Living**

**Nominator information:**

Name: Richard Wagner

Address: 350 Birchwood Dr.

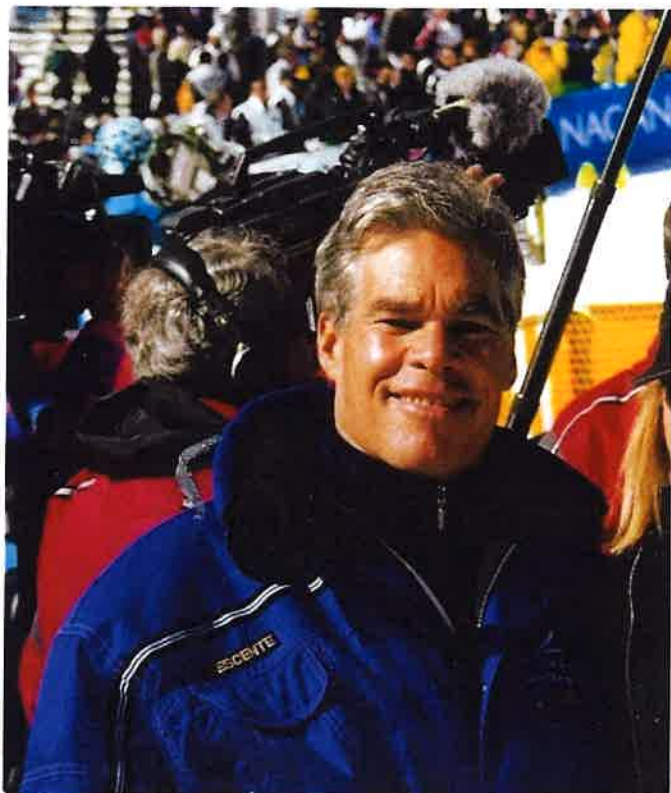
Telephone Number [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

For what category are you nominating this candidate?

Snowsports Builder: **Yes**

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

Growing up in Colorado, Lewis' hero was Buddy Werner, and his aspiration was to be an Olympic skier. Lewis would go to the Olympics seven times (Winter and Summer) but not as a competitor, as a commentator for NBC and CBS, and a producer of the IOC Official Film of the Sarajevo Winter Games. In 1972, he joined Bob Beattie's World-Wide Ski Corporation as Head of Communications for World Pro Skiing. He also oversaw NASTAR communications and announced the pro races on the PA system.

NBC Sports asked Lewis to commentate a pro race in December 1976, which led to a career covering winter and summer sports for NBC, CBS, ESPN, HBO, Turner, and GGP, for nearly 30 years. Lewis hosted coverage of Freestyle Skiing's Olympic debut and exhibition event Speed Skiing in Albertville, as well men's and women's Alpine competition in Nagano. Lewis also hosted World Cup Alpine and Freestyle coverage for national syndicator GGP for nearly two decades, including scores of events, men's and women's, across Europe, North America, Asia, and Argentina. He broadcast cross-racing for ESPN and ski jumping for NBC. He also wrote and narrated ski films for Jalbert Productions.

During that period, Lewis, a two-time EMMY honoree also wrote feature profiles for SKIING magazine, on Billy Johnson and Phil Mahre. Lewis also created and managed the AT&T Skiing Award, which honored "an individual whose commitment to excellence and dedication to skiing profoundly enriched the sport," at an annual gala for more than 20 years. Recipients of the award included Stein Eriksen, Serge Lang, Marc Hodler, Toni Sailer, Nancy Greene, Andrea Mead Lawrence, Klaus Obermeyer, Franz Klammer, and more.

Lewis served as Master of Ceremonies for many events, including US Ski Team Balls in Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Philadelphia and New York City. He MC-ed the induction of the Cochran Family into the Vermont Ski Hall of Fame, and numerous events for the Steadman Clinic, whose surgeons are official doctors for US Skiing and the USOC. For many years he MC-ed the Jimmy Heuga Fund annual galas in Vail and NYC.

During the Bosnian War in the early 1990's, Lewis teamed with Olympic Silver medalist Christin Cooper to form an international, Olympian-based humanitarian organization called Spirit of HOPE. Lewis and Cooper travelled to Sarajevo during the War, under the auspices of the UN High Commission on Refugees and delivered sports equipment to children in the worst war-torn regions of the city. Sports Illustrated honored Cooper and Lewis as "Hometown Heroes" for their work in Sarajevo. In 2015, the International Skiing History Association honored Lewis with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

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

Greg Lewis, Chronology of My Life in Skiing

- 1955: Age 7, take my first ski lesson ever, on Little Nell, Aspen, CO
- 1956 – 59 Member of Denver's Polar Bear Ski Club, which skis at Arapahoe Basin
- 1959 Age 11, win my first ski race, Polar Bear Ski Club
- 1960 – 63 Ski with Denver's Eskimo Ski Club, increased focus on racing
- 1964 – 65 Ski racer for Colorado Academy private school (Denver)
- 1965 – 69 Middlebury College
- 1969 – 70 Instructor Aspen Ski School
- 1970 – 72 Aspen Mountain Professional Ski Patrol and Sports Editor Aspen Today newspaper.
- 1973 – 76 Head of Communications for World Pro Skiing, preparing all media materials, overseeing all media tours and press conferences, and serving as PA Announcer for WPS Head-to-Head racing. Introduced the horse-racing style of play-by-play announcing, for more than 150 race days, from California to Italy. Was press agent for Spider Sabich at the time of his death.
- 1977 – 2002 Television sports commentator for **NBC, CBS, GGP, ESPN**. Started as analyst (expert commentator) and quickly moved to host position. I covered World Cup (men and women), freestyle (men and women), ski jumping and cross country, across the US, Asia, Canada, Europe and South America. Wrote feature profiles on various skiing stars, including Phil Mahre and Billy Johnson, for SKIING magazine.
- Master of Ceremonies six times for the annual Jimmie Heuga Foundation events in Vail and NYC.
- Master of Ceremonies (two years) for US Ski Team Balls in NYC, SLC, San Francisco, and Philadelphia.
- 1980's - Conceived and managed the **AT&T Skiing Award**, which annually honored an individual whose commitment to skiing and dedication to excellence profoundly enriched the sport. Recipients, determined by a blue-ribbon panel of esteemed international ski industry leaders, including Marc Hodler, Bob Beattie, Andrea Mead Lawrence, Nancy Greene, Franz Klammer, Stein Eriksen, Toni Sailer, Phil Mahre, Bernhard Russi, and others.
- 1981 **Two-time EMMY honoree**—once for Writing and once for Special Production (the first time ever an American network—NBC—provided top-to-bottom coverage of a World Cup DH—the Arlberg Kandahar from St. Anton, Austria,

1994 In partnership with US Olympic and World Championships Silver Medalist Christin Cooper, founded Spirit of HOPE (Humanitarian Olympians for Peace), a global, Olympian-based humanitarian organization, dedicated to deploying the influence of Olympic athletes around the world to promote Olympic values, and advocate for peace and well-being in war zones, famine areas, and other volatile regions of the sports world. Travelled to Sarajevo during the Bosnian War, and delivered wide variety of recreational equipment.

#### Olympics

1983, producer/writer, Road to Sarajevo, 13-part series previewing the 1984 Games.

1984, field producer/writer, the IOC Official Film of the Sarajevo Games

1987, writer, commentator for Road to Calgary, 13-part syndicated series previewing the 1984 Winter Games.

1992, CBS Network host commentator for the first-ever Olympic moguls competition and speed skiing competition.

1994, Lillehammer, on-site Ambassador for IOC Top Sponsor VISA

1998, CBS. Network/Turner host of all Nagano Olympic Games Men's and Women's Alpine skiing events.

2002, Correspondent CBS News for the Salt Lake Games. Host of live presentations of Bud Greenspan's Top Ten Winter Olympians of All Time, from Park City: Honorees included skiing starts Bjorn Dahle, Jean-Claude

Killy, Andrea Mead Lawrence.

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

Greg Lewis entered the ski world in April 1955, in Aspen Colorado, taking his first lesson on 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division Army surplus gear.

After receiving an Honorable Discharge from the USMC and graduating from Middlebury College in 1969.

Lewis moved to Aspen, taught in the Aspen Ski School and then joined the Aspen Mountain Ski Patrol.

Lewis is an active skier, cyclist, hiker, and scuba diver. He dove to a depth of 230 feet to celebrate his sixtieth birthday.

Since retiring from network TV, Lewis has written parody, lyrics, commentary, and poetry. His recently completed an epic poem, "Chasing Wonder," a 14,000-word, entertaining and insightful marriage of allegory, rhyme, wordplay, values, ideals, and joy. Critical readers have called "Chasing Wonder" a "work of art," a "book of miracles," and a "beautifully crafted, imaginative, extremely clever story, filled with powerful insights into life that will stand the test of time."

During the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games. Lewis, an NBC Sports commentator, wrote and produced a poem called "Legs, Legs, Legs," a joyful look at all the different shapes and sizes of Olympian legs, and the tasks they perform. The feature earned Lewis an EMMY award for Writing and was the only feature NBC aired three times during its 17 days of Olympic coverage.

As the 2015-16 ski season neared its close this past week, members of The International Skiing History Association (ISHA) and the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame came to Aspen to ski a little, party a lot, and honor those who have made significant contributions to the world of skiing and snowboarding. On April 7, in the ballroom of the Hotel Jerome, ISHA gave Greg Lewis its Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his 30-plus year career as a network and syndicated sports broadcaster, much of it covering the ski world.

Over a broadcast career that saw him work as an on-air journalist for NBC, CBS, ESPN, HBO, Turner, and "an alphabet soup of others," Lewis was on the air for the production of seven Olympic Games, myriad World Cup ski races, and hundreds of other events under the NBC Sports World banner. If there was a sporting competition (the centenary of Irish Hurling or Swamp Buggy Racing in the Everglades) in play and a camera to cover it, Lewis was there. From running tracks to diving platforms, from polo fields to bobsled runs, his sets were the venues of the games. There he shared with viewers the stories of the athletes and their pursuit of victory.

But his brightest moments took place in the mountains, or as he puts it, from "St. Moritz to Nagano, from Sarajevo to Salt Lake, from Lillehammer to Lake Louise to Las Leñas in Argentina." He was the pre-eminent broadcast voice of the most exciting period in the history of ski racing and the rise of the great American skiers as they conquered the sport. There was Phil Mahre, the overall World Cup champion for three straight seasons from 1981 through 1983, and Tamara McKinney, also a World Cup overall champion, in 1983. Two Americans ... the best in the world, at the same time.

In the early 1970s, Bob Beattie, perhaps the most important figure in the creation of modern ski racing in America, moved his operations from Boulder to Aspen. He was looking for someone to do public relations for the World Pro Skiing Tour and a mutual associate from Middlebury (Beattie also attended and coached there in the 1950s) suggested he and Lewis talk.

**“In 1972, I won a really big prize,” Lewis humbly remembers. “Bob Beattie, who has done more for ski racing than anyone else —ever — hired me to be the publicity director and PA announcer for World Pro Skiing. Spider Sabich and Jean-Claude Killy were the stars my first year. I announced hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of head-to-head races. And I began to learn what would be my craft.**

**The experiences with the World Pro Tour helped create relationships that led to his next big break. “In December, 1977, NBC Sports contacted me and asked if I’d like to commentate on a pro ski race they would broadcast on the network’s new weekly series called ‘Sports World,’” Lewis recalled. The network had just won the rights to the 1980 Olympics that were to take place in Moscow, Russia, and they embarked on producing programs that would cover the Olympic Sports in a new format.**

**While those Games did not appear on NBC due to the boycott of the Olympics under President Jimmy Carter, for Lewis it was the beginning of a glorious life on both television and in the mountains. Emmy Awards, great friendship and the opportunity to chronicle the great moments of the sporting events that mark the collective memories of our lives were the rewards. But there were sacrifices as well.**

**For 25 years with NBC, Lewis would travel 200-250 days each and every year, living out of a perpetually packed suitcase and surviving on airline peanuts as he accumulated an amazing 6 million miles of air travel. That is the equivalent of 250 times around the earth.**

**Lewis received his Lifetime Achievement Award at the Jerome, he “had the crowd in his hand” during his acceptance speech, according to Rick Moulton, ISHA Awards Committee Chairman. Over 130 were in attendance at the dinner, including Lewis’ 94-year-old mother and his son, Yale. As Lewis spoke, he displayed not just humility, but also the precise diction and the deft script writing that have been the hallmarks of his lifetime as a communicator. He closed his speech with the words:**

**“How lucky am I? How lucky are all of us here?”**

**Please list the names and addresses of those people who are supporting this nomination.**

1. **Bernie Weichsel** [berniew@bewisports.com](mailto:berniew@bewisports.com)

In the ski Industry's constant struggle to increase the number of people taking up the sports of skiing and Snowboarding, TV is still the most effective medium to reach possible converts. And in the use of that medium, for showcasing the best our sport has to offer, no one has proven more effective in getting a cross a positive message about Skiing, than Greg Lewis.

2. **AJ Kitt** [aj.kitt13@gmail.com](mailto:aj.kitt13@gmail.com)

3. **Douglas Lewis** [lewis@madriver.com](mailto:lewis@madriver.com) 923 W. Abigail Dr. Kamas, UT 84036

4. **Tiger Shaw** [tiger.shaw@usskiandsnowboard.org](mailto:tiger.shaw@usskiandsnowboard.org)

5. **David Ingemie** <mailto:djingemie@gmail.com>

**Franz Klammer** [<franz.klammer@aon.at>](mailto:franz.klammer@aon.at)

Congratulations on your consideration to be nominated to the US Skiing Hall of Fame. You would be such a deserving recipient. I have so many memories of your contributions like being the MC while supporting my wife Eva accepting on my behalf the AT&T award in Aspen when I had a scheduling conflict. The fun times we shared while co-commandating the 1992 Olympic in Albertville and always being there lending your talents and voice to projects to promote the sport of skiing, in most cases at no charge. Greg, I wish you and yours only the very best during these challenging times and good luck with the final nomination process.

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



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](mailto:administrator@skihall.com)