

New Mexico Ski Hall of Fame

2013



Paul Souder



Paul Souder was born in 1930 and started skiing in 1962 while working at Sandia Labs in Albuquerque. By 1964 he was proficient enough at skiing to join the Sandia Peak Ski Patrol where he was an integral member through 2004. His Lab schedule allowed him to work on the patrol during some weekdays.

Paul was especially active on the patrol in ski and toboggan handling instruction and training. During his years of service he interacted with countless skiers, some hurt and needing patrol assistance and many with whom he shared his enthusiasm for skiing. He was instrumental in saving four lives and finding three people in serious trouble on the end-of-the-day patrol sweep of the hill. He once assisted in a vehicle accident recovery after he noticed fresh tire tracks leading off the road.

Always interested in improving his skiing experience, Paul became a Certified Ski Instructor at Purgatory Ski Resort and participated in ski racing at other areas including Ski Santa Fe and Taos Ski Valley.

After retiring from Sandia Labs in 1991, Paul started a branch of the rough-rider program modeled after Lito Tejada Flores's teaching and his books and videos with senior skiers.

The program became quite popular with seniors at Sandia Peak.

Paul has said "Being part of the Sandia Ski Patrol was a rewarding experience, there's a certain satisfaction in helping another human being in trouble. I was also a ski instructor and really enjoyed working with people who want to improve their skiing."

After decades on the slopes, Paul has never tired of the sport, which he says he finds "addictive." "It's fun at any level," he says. "The more you ski the better you get and better you get, the more fun it is."

Paul still skis, and enjoys working with patrol candidates who need to improve their skiing

