

DR. HUBERT SEEMANN

PA. SNOWSPORTS HALL OF
FAME BIO



When Hubert Seemann arrived on American shores more than half-a-century ago, he was already a highly regarded instructor in the German Ski Association and Germany's famed Mountain Rescue Unit. He had sharpened his edges on lofty alpine peaks.

Settling in Pennsylvania and chasing the snow was a challenge in those days with Keystone State snowmaking in its infancy and winter weather, a fickle commodity, at best. But Hubert was no stranger to challenge and there were hidden gems not far from his Gilbertsville area home. There was Pine Forge, an early southeastern Pennsylvania pioneer ski area. He landed an instructors berth there and raised the level of instruction at a time when Pennsylvania skiing was still looking for direction. Spring Mountain then came into Hubert's sights. He was offered a chance to lead a ski school. It was the pivotal 1963-64 season when Spring Mountain began ascending as a prime Philadelphia area teaching mountain.

But, Hubert Seemann, a career public school educator and administrator saw new challenges ahead in Pennsylvania. His work in the German Mountain Rescue Unit propelled him into the National Ski Patrol. But as an educator, Hubert saw a new horizon, the introduction of skiing to people with disabilities. He began with the blind and learned the teaching methods that would put Pennsylvania's visually impaired outdoor enthusiasts, on the slopes.

But another mountain was calling. A chance meeting with the developer of Doe Mountain Ski Area (now Bear Creek Mountain Resort) lead to Hubert's hiring as the fledgling area's first ski school director. It was here that Hubert took the next big step in launching adaptive skiing programs in Pennsylvania for wounded warriors returning from Viet Nam to the nearby Valley Forge Army Hospital. He learned to ski on one leg using outrigger skis. With a careful selection of partners

and instructors, the program grew and became a beacon to amputee veterans and a source of pride for Hubert.

The amputee skiing program was a stepping stone for Hubert to work with Pennsylvania Special Olympics and as a skiing counselor to the Boy Scouts of America.

You'd think that his own skiing might be neglected. Far from it. Hubert became active in NASTAR racing, capturing both gold and silver at the Keystone Winter Games of 1994/95 when he was already pushing the golden age of 70.

Hubert at age 84 still teaches at Bear Creek and has been followed on the snow by two PSIA certified daughters and a granddaughter, now teaching snowboarding at the burgeoning Berks County resort.

A career public school teacher, a Fulbright scholar and retired Pennsylvania school administrator, Hubert Seeman's contribution to Pennsylvania ski instruction, Adaptive Skiing innovation, Ski Patrol, racing and his work with youth, have made him a worthy candidate for the Pennsylvania Snow Sports Hall of Fame.