



Russel Davies

If the sheer number of skiing lessons taught were home runs, the name of Russel Davies would be etched at Cooperstown, New York. During his long and lauded career on and around skis, Rus belted out over 5,000 lessons, sending novices and experts to greater heights on the hills. For Rus, life on the slopes began as a kid behind a backyard chicken coop in Pottsville, Pennsylvania using his father's wooden skis in beartrap bindings with shoes and galoshes. He remembers that if he managed a run without hitting the building and made it between the nearby trees it was a win.



A career in skiing was still decades away in 1966, but the spark began with his first formal lessons on the imposing trails at Vermont's Jay Peak and ended in retirement as the most requested instructor, right here at Pennsylvania's 4-season resort, Seven Springs. In between, he quickly learned the finer points of skiing with intense ski week instruction at Jay Peak. Then came his first part-time job as an instructor and ski patroller at Frost Ridge, a small rope tow area near Rochester, New York. There he taught alongside the parents of Olympian A.J. Kitt. But Rus was determined to sample as many ski areas as possible. As an organizer for the Frost Ridge Ski Club, his ambition took wings with trips throughout the northeastern U.S. and Canada, Jackson Hole and Europe.

A job change brought him back to his native Pennsylvania and another rung on the ski career ladder. Rus and his wife Miriam became Certified Amateur Instructors at Jack Frost Ski Area. More job changes sent the family, which now included 3 children to Western Pennsylvania where Rus finally took the plunge into full time Winter Sport work at Laurel Mountain, Hidden Valley and Seven Springs. His long career encompassed racing, trail design, risk management, mountain management and a labor of love, working with Special Olympics. Now, enjoying a well-earned retirement Rus is also able to boast having carved turns at an enviable 125 U.S., Canadian and European ski areas.



RUS DAVIES
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