



Gus Weber, Mammoth Mountain Ski School Director 1955-69.

Gus was a Swiss ski instructor who wanted to be an American cowboy.

—PETER MEAD

Gus Weber

Gus Weber skied with a style all his own. He used Kniessel slaloms no matter how deep the snow, zipping through mogul fields, facing down the fall line, his upper body quiet, wiggling from his knees down, feet wide apart, making a swivel and a little jump between each turn, sometimes turning several times on top of a single mogul.

Gus was always outgoing, always had time for someone, and was very honest. He'd tell it like it was. Every fall he came to me and said he didn't want the ski patrol messing around with his instructors because we would be a bad influence on the girls.

—DARYL AUKEE
MAMMOTH SKI PATROL DIRECTOR

Gus loved to bitch about everything he liked...in the old days, it was his mother or Dave...he would pound his knuckles on the table, almost break it. Towards the end of his reign in Mammoth, he cared mostly about his mules, horses, and dogs. The most fun he had was skiing around with a chain saw, going off to cut a stump somewhere.

—FRITZ FREY
MAMMOTH SKI INSTRUCTOR

Ski School 1957–58

*F*rank Waters was a tough guy. He came from East L.A., a street fighter who learned to ski at Snow Valley. He was a plumber and did a lot of repair work around the ski lodge.

*P*ete Mead was very secure, almost to the point of shyness, very masculine, loved being a cowboy, a skier, a bulldozer operator. He never bragged, never pushed other people around even though he was a well-built guy, can't think of a bad trait about him.

*F*reddie Haemisegger was an educated guy. He married Emily Coates and built the Yodler with her brother, Frankie, then went on to be a stockbroker in Houston.

—JOHN FLOOD



Bob Pringle and Peter Mead



Mammoth Mountain Ski School 1958. From left: Pino Lella, Gus Weber, Bob Pringle, Lester LaVelle, Moe Dubois, Tom Purkiss, Freddie Reich, Peter Brinkman, Shirley Johnson, Mike Howden, Pete Mead, Bob Bergstrom, Bob Cooper, Eddie Riley, John Flood, Ralph Swarens, Timmi Griffith, Hadley Gray, Annie MacInerny, Elf Foster.



Ski instructors and a ski patroller digging out the bottom of Chair 1.



Lessons in Gus's Pasture.



"I've got you!"

Early 1960s

I grew up in Bishop but didn't ski. After high school I got a job at Mammoth washing dishes, did night janitor work, poured concrete...then I graduated to fry cook and slept under the ramp of Chair 1.

Watching the instructors, I got interested in skiing because of the clothes they got to wear. They had three sweaters, three pants, and three jackets, tan, blue, and red and they wore a different uniform everyday. And the girls... I never saw so many pretty girls as those who came up from Los Angeles and unloaded off the buses. I started shadowing instructors to learn how to ski...when they noticed what I was doing, they took me in.

The first day I was to teach beginners, about '59 or '60, I could make a parallel turn to the left, but not to the right. I took a two-hour clinic with Timmi Griffith. I was so enamored with her snowplow that I couldn't concentrate on a thing she said. Gus assigned Hadley [Gray], Rhubarb [Marcellin], and me to take the three beginners' classes. It was Hadley's first class too. After collecting tickets, we didn't know what to do, not even where to go. So, we followed Rhubarb to Gus's Pasture and copied everything he did. If he told a student they were leaning too much, that's what we said. I did that for a whole year. On my day off, I finally went up the tow and watched Gus and the rest organize a ski down.

—LYLE VIERS

At 10:00 a.m. we would line the students up and separate them by ability. I had a base salary, free meals, and 50 percent of privates, which cost about \$5.00 per hour.

—JOHN FLOOD



In 1963, Hans was pirating ski school lessons at Mammoth. He had clients, but because of his ups and downs he was more reclusive than not. He had lost his permit, hadn't paid the money, and it was apparent he had settled on the wrong side of the mountain. His tow above the road was still going and on moonlit nights after a few cocktails, we would go skiing up there. Unfortunately, Hans was only in his fifties when he died. He was a dancer, a painter, a photographer... and he started the first art fair in Mammoth.

—ED CEREDA



Hans Georg's Christmas card photo of his ski hut at Observation Point.

Hans Georg

Hans Georg promoted Eastern Sierra skiing in the numerous newspaper and magazine articles he wrote on skiing and ski technique. He published two books, *Skiing Simplified* in 1938 and *Modern Ski Systems* in 1954. At the time of his death in November 1965, he was working on a third book, *The New Modern Ski Systems*.