

UP HERE, YOU NEVER GROW OLD

SUMMIT'S SENIORS HAVE FUN IN GROUPS



LEFT: Stew Everard, chairman of the board of directors for Copper Mountain's Over the Hill Gang, skis 70-90 days every season.

contacts

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SENIOR CENTER

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IT'S EASY FOR 68-YEAR-OLD STEW Everard to stay young — he just skis. Seventy to 90 days a year, that is, for at least four hours a day. He skis more vertical in a week than some 25-year-olds get in a month.

He and his wife have been part of the Over the Hill Gang for 13 years. They live at Copper Mountain during the winter and Connecticut for most of the summer. He stays in shape by going to the gym, biking, hiking and golfing.

Over the Hill Gang has been active for 32 years at Copper Mountain. It's for people 45 and older, and most of its 500-plus members are in their 50s and 60s — while a couple are in their 80s. The group skis with guides, whom are mostly certified ski instructors, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays in small groups of five to 10.

What keeps Stew coming back is the friendships and the clinics that improve his skiing. He skis for the pure joy of it, saying, "Skiing is one of those things that gives you pleasure for yourself; you do it for your own satisfaction."

The group also hosts monthly gatherings, be it a 1960s dance (hippie garb required) or a night at the Lake Dillon Theatre.

"The vast majority of members are ex-

tremely active people," he said, adding that they come from all over the nation, and even the United Kingdom and Australia.

Membership is \$230 for a single and \$435 for a couple, but guests can drop in for \$20 a day, or ski in with a member.

LOOSEY GOOSEY

Loosey Goosey, a local membership "loose-ly" affiliated with Over the Hill Gang international, is a club for active singles and couples age 50 and older.

"We all like to have a good time; we like to be fit and we like the outdoors," said member Jen Schrage. "We come from all walks of life, from all over the United States."

Annual membership is a manageable \$5. The gang skis three times a week spread between Breckenridge, Keystone and Arapahoe Basin, and it welcomes visitors to join the fun. It hosts weekly wine and cheese socials at the Summit County Community and Senior Center and also meets for biking during the summer.

SENIOR CENTER

The Over the Hill Gang's not the only group of fun-seekers in town. Summit County Seniors welcomes permanent residents and

seasonal visitors 55 and older. The annual dues are \$5.

Members actively engage in outdoor and volunteer activities. They also sponsor the Senior Winter Games, where athletes can finally earn that medal they've always deserved.

"The energy of the seniors is dynamic," said Diane Rogers, administration tech at the Senior Center. "They're educated, they're athletic, they're fun, and they're very plugged into the community."

The Senior Center organizes trips to concerts, theater performances, sporting events, historic locations and other attractions. Year-round activities include bridge, mah-jongg, fitness classes, discussion groups and book clubs. The Summit County Community and Senior Center (at the County Commons) hosts luncheons on Tuesday and Thursday, dinner on Monday and a monthly potluck. Every summer, members organize a rummage sale, which helps support other senior services in the county — and it's a must-go-to sale. ☺

— Kimberly Nicoletti