



IMPORTED FROM NORWAY

## 1988 VIKIN FJORD NATIONAL TELEMARX SERIES

### Racer Profiles

#### Whitney Thurlow - Crystal Mountain, Washington

A native of Maine, Thurlow received his early training at the Carrabassett Valley Academy and later with the University of Maine Ski Team. He has won four consecutive North American Championship titles in telemark skiing, and is known as a master of the strategically demanding dual slalom race format.

Thurlow placed well in the first International Telemark Championships at Hemsedal, Norway, and has been a pioneer in the development of international competition rules.

He manages a New Zealand alpine ski area each summer and is currently developing the country's first ever cross-country ski resort. During our winter months he is the assistant director of Washington's Crystal Mountain Ski School.

#### Steve Baeder - Alta, Utah

A veteran telemark racer, Steve is USSA's top overall ranked racer in the United States. His ranking reflects consistently high performances in both national and regional competitions. He holds several first-place titles in Vikin Fjord National Telemark Series events, and finishes consistently on the top of his home state's Wasatch Telemark Series.

Baeder skied for the NCAA champion University of Utah alpine ski Team. He is the chief dispatcher with the Search-and-Rescue Squad at Utah's Alta Ski Area, and spends his free time seeking deep powder and steep, untouched terrain.

#### Armin Bischofberger - Stratton Mountain, Vermont

Called "The Beast from The East" by his fellow competitors, Armin was the first eastern competitor to seriously challenge western domination in the sport of telemark racing. Armin survived more than ten grueling runs down Aspen Mountain's steep race course at the '87 Vikin Fjord National Championships to place a close second to Whitney Thurlow in the tournament style event.

Bischofberger has dominated USSA's Eastern Telemark Series since 1984, and received his early training with the Nafels Ski Club in his native Switzerland. He was graduated from the Uznach Culinary School and splits his time as a chef and ski instructor at his home in Stratton Mountain, Vermont.

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Mark Lance - Littleton, Colorado

At 34, Lance is a telemark veteran, having competed in the sport since its "inception" in the late 1970's. Lance recorded three first places during five seasons in Colorado's Summit Telemark Series, and has placed consistently in the "top five" throughout all of his years in the sport.

Lance has a knack for excellence in most sports he tries, including whitewater canoeing and bicycling. He is a graduate of Colorado's Western State College, and is currently finishing his Masters Degree in Business Administration at the University of Denver.

Lance is only able to train on weekends, as he works as a senior geophysicist for Marathon Oil Company. In the summer months he pursues his "newest love" -- fly-fishing.

## Racer Profiles - Women

### Andrea Welch Ryan - Boulder, Colorado

Benched from the Subaru Women's Alpine Tour with a knee injury several years ago, Ryan learned telemark as a form of "therapeutic recovery." She went on to finish second at the 1986 Vikin Fjord Championships and first in the prestigious Rocky Mountain Telemark Series. She is currently the top-ranked woman in the U.S. and placed fourth at the '87 International Championships in Norway.

Ryan's ability as a golfer won her an athletic scholarship to Texas A & M University. She is currently a graduate student at Colorado University and is a teacher with the Boulder Valley School District. She also teaches skiing part time at the Steamboat Ski School in Colorado.

### Melinda Lyon Bell - Aspen, Colorado

"Mindy" rose from a telemark newcomer to USSA's second-ranked racer in only three seasons. She was runner-up in the '87 Vikin Fjord National Telemark Championships and the first American finisher. Bell has excelled in Vikin Fjord National Series races and shared the overall title for Colorado's '87 Rocky Mountain Telemark Series.

She and her husband, Monte, run a telemark racing program at Aspen Highlands Ski Area, and spend their summer months flying hang-gliders and paddling kayaks through whitewater. Bell attended Colorado Mountain College and has worked as a freelance journalist. She is co-owner of a construction company in Aspen, where she earns her living as a heavy equipment operator.

### Kay Kucera - Salt Lake City, Utah

A familiar face from the covers of numerous ski publications, Kay won the 1984 North American Telemark Championships. She retired briefly from the sport to start her own ski clothing company, Kucera Designs, now a manufacturer of racing suits for some of the nation's top ski racers.

Kay returned to win the 1987 Vikin Fjord National Series race at Snowbird, Utah. That key victory helped earn her a spot on the first United States Telemark Ski Team. When she is not tending to her clothing company, Kay spends her summers sail-boarding in the Columbia River Gorge in Oregon.

### Isa Oehry -- Smuggler's Notch, Vermont

A native of the small European nation of Liechtenstein, Isa is one of the up-and-coming racers from New England. She has dominated USSA's Eastern Telemark Series for the past two seasons, and is to perform well at the '88 Vikin Fjord Series events in New Hampshire and Vermont.

Oehry has a very strong European alpine racing background. She attended Johnston College, and teaches skiing at Smuggler's Notch. She is also an accomplished rock climber and mountaineer, and spent last summer tackling rock routes at Yosemite National Park in California.

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### Racers to Watch

Charlie Hassard, Salt Lake City, UT -- Former U.S. Alpine Development Ski Team member and qualifier in the '87 Vikin Fjord Championships. He is pursuing a degree in education, works as an arborist, and manages Utah's Wasatch Telemark Series.

Monte Bell, Aspen, CO -- Having quickly risen up through the national ranks, Monte is also an expert hang-glider and kayaker. Last season he organized a telemark racing program at Aspen Highlands Ski Area. He is a former hang-glider test pilot, and has been known to carry a parachute aboard all airline flights.

Ned Randolph, Snowbird, UT -- Ned was benched in '87 with a knee injury, after posting "fastest time of the day" at the Vikin Fjord Series race at his home in Snowbird. Ned also holds the U.S. record for telemark speed skiing: 73 miles per hour!

Mark Bridges, Breckenridge, CO -- Ranked third nationally, Mark won the '87 Rocky Mountain Telemark Series. Mark recently graduated from the Regis College Business School and is national sales manager for Kazama Ski. He trains all summer on a glacier.

Jim Poore, Park City, UT -- Jim has a number two national seeding with several "top-three" Vikin Fjord Series finishes to his credit. He is a ski instructor, a commercial fisherman, and an accomplished ship builder.

Diane Currey, Breckenridge, CO -- Diane attributes her current top-ten status to many hours of summer training on St. Mary's Glacier in Colorado. She is a graduate of Penn State University, has a private pilot license, and enjoys golf and frisbee.

Kate Hasterlik, Seattle, WA -- A native of Montana, Kate was the '83 NorAm Champion and placed second in the '86 Vikin Fjord Championships. She attended Montana State University and currently works in merchandising for Patagonia.

Beth Long, Jackson, WY -- A former gymnast, Beth is a computer consultant/bookkeeper and U.S. Telemark Ski Team alternate.

Betsy Morin, Boulder, CO -- An interior designer whose training in Steamboat led her to fourth place at the '86 Championships.

Jonelle Mills, Taos, NM -- Former alpine pro from New Zealand has put New Mexico on the map with several top finishes each year.