

Patricia Lecy:

43 for a few more days; her birthday is October 3. Party Time in Minneapolis!

Lecy's legacy: Founder and president of Ski Challenge, Inc., a 1,000-racer-strong adult racing league staged at five Minnesota ski hills (Buck Hill, Hyland Hills, Powder Ridge, Wild Mountain and Spirit Mountain, where the championships are held).

Race-on d' être: "I love seeing the camaraderie that grows among the racers. Since I started the Ski Challenge 10 years ago, with 37 racers, I've seen great friendships, even marriages, develop. I started this racing league so that Minnesota skiers would have an incentive to ski locally. There's a million excuses not to ski locally—'It's too cold' or 'I have to do laundry'—

patricia lecy

but if you're in a league, you don't want to let your team down. You'll come ski no matter what."

Teams I race on: "Sputnik' at Hyland Hills on Tuesday nights, 'Open One Before Closing' at Wild Mountain on Wednesdays, 'Natural Intimidators' at Buck Hill on Thursdays and 'Mad Hatters' at Powder Ridge on Sundays."

Fellow race chaser: "My husband, Roger. He skis just above my level, so it's a challenge to keep up with him. Roger races on three teams in the Ski Challenge, including GLM, which in this case stands for 'Good Looking Men.'"

Ski idol: "Mickey Armstrong. She's in her 60s, races in the league (and beats me) and runs marathons. When I'm her age, I'd love to be able to do that."

Ski turning point: "It was 11 years ago at Winter



Park, Colo., when my husband and I tried the coin-operated race course. At age 33, it was my first time ever on a race course. We ran that course all day, and the next year I started the Ski Challenge."

NASTAR
handicap: 3457, silver-medal level

My gear: "K2 skis, Tecnica boots, Marker Selective Control bindings."

My racing career highlight: "Just seeing measurable improvement every year...seeing the dramatic improvement in my free skiing as a result of racing. Trails that I wouldn't have considered skiing 10 years ago don't phase me now." —Reade Bailey