

**Cordillera CPOA Board Self-Nomination and Biography**  
**Thomas Kuehn – 713 Webb Peak, Cordillera Summit**  
**July 11, 2023**

Hello Cordillera,

My name is Tom Kuehn. My wife and I just recently joined the Cordillera community and plan to build my retirement homestead at 713 Webb Peak. I probably share the same hopes and dreams as most Cordillera property owners looking forward to building a life and legacy for my family, kids, and grandkids in such beautiful and friendly community. In addition to meeting and making new friendships in Cordillera, my wife and I have volunteered to serve on the Healthy Forests, Wildlife, and Environmental committees of both the CPOA and CMD. We have been working directly and closely with the Eagle County Conservation District, Eagle County Wildfire Mitigation Office, and Colorado State Forest Service to develop and implement a Wildfire and Environmental Mitigation Project on 713 Webb Peak and the larger Webb Peak area.

### **Cordillera Mountain Community Affinity and Commitment**

My wife and I have always been active and members of the communities in which we lived and raised our family of two boys and our golden retrievers. Our home always seemed to be the central station for most of the other neighborhood kids, cub scout, and boy scout activity. My wife organized community and neighbor activities and I organized many Eagle Scout service projects for our HOA's and served as President or officer or volunteer in various HOA's wherever we lived from Southern California to Northern Virginia and back again.

I forged my first and unbreakable bonds with Alpine meadows, valleys, and high mountains in the Bavarian Alps at the age of five through seven where my U.S. Air Force dad introduced me to skiing, skating, sledding, and hiking. My family to the opportunity to travel throughout Europe including and hiking the Alps from Chamonix, France, the Italian Dolomites, Bavaria, Switzerland, and Austria with return visits over the years. In high school in the Boston area, I skied all over the Northeast and Canada. In my college years in Seattle, WA, my friends, and I branched out from skiing to mountaineering, alpine, technical rock, and ice climbing in the Cascades, Canadian Rockies, Utah, Idaho, Montana, Colorado, and the High Sierras. My dad always said that mountaineering builds character, so if you want to know who I am look no farther than my mountain friends and adventures. (But I laid out the highlights of my relevant experience, professional background, and education in the last section of my biography below.)

### **Vision, Platform, and Reasons for Running and Serving as a CPOA Board Member**

As a new Cordillera property owner, I have been getting up to speed on the CPOA and CMD Bylaws, CCR's, PUD, and related Colorado common property, non-profit corporation, and other

laws governing Cordillera. This includes familiarizing myself with CPOA and CMD operations, budgets, rules, and regulations, and history of real estate and economic development, property values, law suits and litigation over the past 25-30 years.

In my opinion, Cordillera has reached a critical turning point in its community, economic, and environmental development along with the opportunity to meeting the present and future challenges long into the future. For the past 25 years the CPOA and CMD have focused building civil infrastructure your homes, and major services and amenities such as world class golf courses, athletic center, Trailhead community center, outdoor pools, hiking trails, and fishing ponds at a high capital cost to Cordillera property owners and taxpayers. With these capital intensive amenities built and mostly paid for we have a unique opportunity for CPOA and CMD to refocus on building community social and recreational services we all envisioned for Cordillera especially needed to provide access and enrich the experiences on seasonal residents, their families, and guests who do not have as much time to take advantage of fixed amenities or the same access to local recreational opportunities in Cordillera and near by in the Vail valley. So, my platform is to refocus CPOA and CMD resources on providing community services not just new capital infrastructure investments like maybe:

- Café and coffee shops at existing or remodeled Trailhead and Town Center Building
- All season recreational programs and transportation for adults, teens, and children
- Shuttle bus services to Vail, Beaver Creek, Eagle for recreation, shopping, entertainment events
- Skier Shuttles to Vail and Beaver Creek
- Tour bus trips to see nearby parks and scenic drives.
- Drive through car wash at existing power wash facilities
- Cordillera Trail hikes and electric bike rentals
- Alpine gardening projects

On a much more serious note, the CPOA has funded strict wildfire mitigation regulations an burdens on property owners which have not been enforced, but have not invested in wildfire and environmental remediation and monitoring projects on common property, member environmental education, and other measures to protect and preserve the Cordillera natural beauty we came here to enjoy.

In short, we need to ask our members what they think would improve Cordillera living while protecting and preserving the natural environment we all love. We need to take a fresh look at the costs and benefits of how we allocate and spend our budgets to get the most out of our dues and taxes.

## **Qualifications, Relevant experience, professional background, and education**

So, what about my “relevant experience, professional background, education, etc” the CPOA asked about. In brief, my education and career has been driven by an unquenchable quest for knowledge translated into action leading me into Systems Engineering and Science, Analytical and DNA Sequencing Instrumentation, and AI machine learning and data science as a systems

scientist and inventor that I am still working at today. I earned MS and PhD degrees in these fields at the University of Washington in 1972-1976 (between skiing and mountaineering trips) and finishing up my dissertation at North Lake Tahoe while skiing every day of that season. My first job was as a Senior Engineer at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, from about 1976 to 1980, where I met my wife who was working at JPL as an environmental analyst, and a skier.

In 1979, JPL sent me on assignment to work at the President's Office of Science and Technology (OSTP) in Washington, DC to work on the Presidential Summit on Solar and Alternative Energy, during the mid-east oil embargo and energy crisis. I completed this assignment but was called back to OSTP six months later and was asked to interview for a scientific advisory position at the newly created U.S. Department of Energy which had been recommend by my previous OSTP working group. I was soon offered the job as the first Executive Director of the Energy Research Advisory Board reporting directly to the DOE Undersecretary of Science and Technology, and for a while the Deputy Secretary of Energy for about 8 years mostly during the Reagan Administration.

With that experience under my belt, I teamed up with a friend who had just retired from the Navy and as the Deputy Director of OSTP when I worked there to try our hand as entrepreneurs to start up an advanced portable environmental instrument based on the transfer and commercialization of NASA-JPL technology that was sent to look for signs of life on Mars. We worked on that project for about 15 years, including forging partnerships with Hewlett Packard and Agilent located in Silicon Valley, manufacturing, selling, and deploying our instruments on various on-site environmental, forensic, US Customs, and DOD around the world applications and then sold the company to a competitor. I alternated with my partners serving as Chairman, CEO, COO, President, and Chief Scientific Officer of this company.

After that I was free for a while to poke around doing other things including working for the newly formed Homeland Security and then serving as a senior intelligence analyst stationed in Iraq working for the Joint IED Defeat Command trying to save US combat soldiers lives from IED's which is a lot harder than it sounds.

My next entrepreneurial adventure was focused on the development and application of three generations of DNA/RNA Sequencing Instrumentation (from about 2000 to present) used for the human genome project which my company redirected to molecular diagnostics based on microbial, metagenomic, and multi-omic RNA/DNA sequencing and AI machine learning algorithms on for medical and genetic assays. After a few years of clinical research on various infectious and microbiome-based diseases, we focused our molecular diagnostic assay development of the early detection, diagnosis, and prevention of Colorectal Adenomas and Cancer resulting is several important patents, diagnostic algorithms, and an FDA breath through designation ready for FDA clinical trials today.

So that's what I do for a living, but my main goal is to retire as soon as possible, so I can travel and enjoy living in wonderful Cordillera. I suppose this biography was more than you bargained

for, but I thought you all deserved to know as possible who you are voting for and trusting to look out for yours and our common interest in this Cordillera election.

In summary, I think I have the qualifications and life experiences that can make a unique difference and contribute to improving Cordillera life now and into the future. Please vote for me if you also think I can do so and let me know your ideas about what can and should be done differently to change the same ole status quo in Cordillera.

Tom Kuehn