



then-unofficial World Cup. Then, in Dec. 1977, Telemark was the host for the first FIS cross country World Cup.

DREAM OF THE WORLDDLOPPET

The dream of an international cross country ski series grew with Wise in the mid-70s. One of the key proponents was an American Birkebeiner skier, John Lindstrom. Lindstrom was an airline pilot for Delta Airlines and regularly took part in overseas races. He told Wise about races like the Vasaloppet, and the European series, including the Euroloppet and Alpenfris. Wise's dream was to create a series highlighting the best race in each country and to provide 'citizen skiers' as Wise called them, an opportunity to achieve the goal of completing each race in the series to earn a medallion.

"Tony had such a great imagination," said Lindstrom. "He was always out ahead of everyone. He really seemed to pick up on the idea of an international event – having a Worldloppet and making the Birkie a part of it."



The first Worldloppet meeting attendees in front of Telemark Lodge, USA in 1978



Fritz Lang of König Ludwig Lauf