

FWSA Western Ski Heritage Award 2013

Ingrid Wicken

California Ski Library



The winner of this year's prize is Ingrid Wicken, California Ski Library, for her 2012 book *Lost Ski Areas of Southern California*. The lost ski areas (LSA) projects started on the East Coast and Far West's Ethan Chickering launched the Western version (WELSAP) in 1992.

Wicken's book is the most detailed approach to LSAs and will be continued with her research underway for the LSAs of Northern California. The accounting for lost ski areas uncovers real historical treasures – personalities, partnerships, champions and championships – and shows the fabric and evolution of snow-sports.

Did you know that Mt. Palomar had a ski area in 1967? That a year round ski area, Ski Villa in Carbon Canyon, opened in Orange County in 1966? It was a concrete slope paved in plastic tiles, and had a vertical of 280 feet. A pine needle slope was operated by Sepp Benedikter in the summer of 1939. It was on a slope at the corner of Lankershim and Ventura Boulevards, the current location of Universal Studios. Both Ski Villa and the pine needle slope operated for day and night skiing. The pine needle slope attracted many Hollywood celebrities.

Wicken will have *Lost Ski Areas of Southern California* for sale at the 2013 FWSA Convention and Annual Meeting in Reno in June.

The winner of the Western Ski Heritage Prize receives a 5-day vacation for two from Steamboat Ski and Resort Corporation, including 5-day lift tickets to Steamboat, 5 days of rentals, half-day lesson for two and 5 nights lodging.

