

# Far West Ski Association

presents the **Snowsports Builder Award** to



## *Ingrid Wicken – California Ski Library*

The Ski Library celebrated its 30th year of operation this year. It is the result of over three decades of collecting material that reflects the growth of snowsports in Southern California. The library holds probably the largest collection of paper goods, mementos and graphic material in the USA outside of state-sponsored libraries. It exists because of the devotion to ski history of one person – **Ingrid Wicken**.

Ingrid became interested in and started collecting ski books more than 35 years ago while a graduate student at Cal Poly, Pomona. Her Master's thesis was a biomechanical investigation of the diagonal stride on skis vs. roller skis (she was and is an avid cross-country skier). She has written four books on skiing history and numerous articles for events and journals. She has been a Professor of Kinesiology in Moreno Valley College, part of the Riverside Community College District, since 1989.

What started as a fascinating hobby grew— and grew (and continues to grow) – into a fabulous collection of photographs, autographs, cartoons, magazines, legal documents, books, posters, equipment, maps, memorabilia and personal collections of authors and skiers. It's a history of skiing in the USA, with special attention to the West and Southern California. It is open to the public and for research. The Library invites historical material from industry and ski organizations. See it at <http://www.skilibrary.com/index.html>.

Ingrid has written seven books and numerous professional papers on ski history in various journals. Her research has resulted in a ski history timeline that provides a framework for snowsport history available for any researcher or editor. She has previously won the FWSA/Steamboat Western Ski Heritage Prize three times – in 2002, 2005, 2013 and this year. She won in 2013 for her book, "Flight: Fifty Years of Ski Jumping in California".

She continues her work on "Western Lost Ski Areas". She is the author of one section of the new and authoritative book "License to Jump" on women in ski jumping. Her chapter in this book, published in Sweden, covers the history of women's ski jumping in the USA and Canada from 1900-1950. She was a presenter at the International Ski History Congress held in Mammoth in 2009 where the movement for an Olympic event in women's ski jumping got its first big push.

The Ski Library in Norco, California, is a fabulous treasure trove that preserves the interwoven strands and connections in skiing's history. Museums devoted to snowsport history have a hard time surviving. Those that exist today owe their survival to a dedicated group of community activists or to one person. That unique person is Ingrid Wicken.

*The FWSA Snowsports Builder Award is given to an individual who has made an indelible positive impact on snowsports. The builder honored may be for achievements in athletics, the press, publishers, historians, industry, humanitarian work, area development, or technology. In short, FWSA honors those who have made significant contributions to snowsports.*

Respectfully nominated by *John Watson*.