

Far West Ski Association

presents the **Snowsports Builder Award** to



John Watson— Over 50 Years of Dedicated Volunteerism

Innovative and brilliant. A founder of ski clubs. Creator of multiple programs and recognition awards on all levels of snowsport – club, council, Far West Ski Association, US Ski Association, US Recreational Ski Association, Far West Ski Foundation—spanning over five decades of dedicated volunteerism.

Since joining the Single Ski Club in 1966 until the present, **John Watson's** depth of volunteer efforts and the impact on the organizations that benefited from his leadership and expertise is unparalleled in snowsport history.

As President of Southern Council (now Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs), John set up a mirror image of FWSA programs at the council level in the late 1960's. He was a co-founder of the Mineral King Ski Club and the Single Ski Club of Orange County.

He launched the office of VP of Councils in 1970, a continuing viable, important office on the FWSA Board of Directors. He served as FWSA President from 1971-76. He created many of the FWSA service awards that have recognized so many worthy volunteers for a half century.

In 1988 he served as FWSA VP of Public Affairs, planning and conducting the Eastern Sierra Site Survey. An engineer and geologist with Masters Degrees and a minor in History, John launched the History Committee in 2003 and instituted the Historic Ski Club Program in 2010.

On the national level, John was a Director of USSA and a VP of the USSA Sports Division. He founded the Councils Committee and Long Range Planning Committees, assisted Bill Berry with the National Ski Hall of Fame Committee (wrote the first Rules for Governance), and set up the Citizen Racing Committee and program.

He founded USSA Ski Week in 1969 and chaired the Ski Week for several years, setting up the initial menu of activities within ski week, including both the Alpine Council Challenge Cup and Nordic Challenge Cup. He became known as the "father of ski week" within USSA.

John Watson was a major player in the Association's area development activity, including the failed attempt to keep the proposed Mineral King ski area from being included in the Sequoia National Park, which kept it from being developed as a ski area.

Most notable of his recent accomplishments was his reanimation of the Far West Ski Foundation in 2009 and has served this version as its first and only President. He spearheaded the expansion of the Foundation's mission and goals, including the FWSF fund raising for the FWSA Scholarship program.

John Watson's overarching contributions over his 50 years of service are in two areas:

- Bringing an awareness of the extraordinary legacy of skiing and the connectivity of snowsport to each of these robust risk-taking dynamos called skiers or snowboarders.
- Elevating the status of every ski club or council to that of a mainstay in the broader community fabric, hence the effort toward recognition amongst ourselves and the outward projection provided by programs like the Historic Ski Club.

The FWSA Snowsports Builder Award is given to an individual who has made an indelible positive impact on snowsport. John embodies the spirit of this award. It is indeed appropriate, that we recognize the founder of the Snowsports Builder Award program, John Watson (AKA Dr. Know).

The FWSA Snowsports Builder Award is given to an individual who has made an indelible positive impact on snowsports. The builder may be honored 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 *Jane Wyckoff*.