

# Western Ski Heritage Award

Marianne O'Connor & Robin Morning

Olympian **Robin Morning** and **Marianne O'Connor** planned and produced a major international event on the scale of an international championship - but in ski history. Planning and execution extended over more than a year. For only the second time, the International Ski History Congress was held in the USA.

The Congress was held in Mammoth Lakes and the Mammoth Ski Museum in April 2009 in conjunction with the International Ski History Association and attracted 300 participants and authors from all over the world. This remarkable event included over 50 professional papers, several keynote speakers of world renown and many ski movies, both antique and current.



Much archival information was presented in the ISHC for the first time. The intimate role of skiing in communities globally was a frequent theme. The role of skiing in the development of a national unity was highlighted in papers and on film on the recovery of Austria after WW II and of Norway after its independence. Premiered was a keynote movie on the life of Andrea Mead Lawrence, unfortunately screened the day after her death. A longboard demonstration race was held, with participation from the historians.

The ISHC participants included many legends of skiing, some making presentations and others who came for the fantastic skiing and to meet old friends. It was a truly remarkable and history-making Event

The purpose of the FWSA Western Ski Heritage Prize sponsored by Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation is to raise the awareness of snowsports participants and non-participants alike of the contributions made by individuals, groups and companies to all aspects of snowsports - competitive as well as that of outdoor winter recreation and fitness. A parallel purpose is to convey the positive role snowsports has had in its contributions to the communities in the West. It recognizes outstanding effort in the area of snowsports history to find, preserve, document and share the history of snowsports in the West.

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