

Ethan Chickering

Jordan-Reily Award 2004

Years of Activity 2002 - 2004

Citation: Ethan “Chick” Chickering is no stranger to activity in support of Public Affairs. He has long been interested in the health and availability of skiing to the public. This most often means some form of liaison with landowners or regulators. In 1992, in response to the need for funds as reported in the annual meeting, he, George Burt and Don Anderson raised several hundred dollars in an impromptu campaign while the convention was in session.



But this nomination is for his latest contribution to the Association’s programs – and it is still a work in progress. Ethan is originally from New England and while on a visit several years ago discovered a project there on “lost ski areas.” He got intrigued with lost resorts after visiting the New England Lost Ski Areas Project on the NELSAP web site. The site is a user friendly one that makes it easy for visitors to participate and contribute their own information on lost resorts. The website has contributed to the identification of more than 500 lost ski areas in New England. According to John Fry, former editorial writer for Ski Magazine, the website has become “a vibrant virtual colony of skiers, who are enlarging the sport’s record in a way that no book publisher or author could have undertaken, The average visitor’s age of 37 but the enthusiasts range from octogenarians to 12-year-olds.

FWSA’s Chickering was inspired by the website and has begun a project of his own to document lost areas in the West. Chick’s work is entitled “Western Lost Ski Areas Project.” There are at least 134 lost ski areas in California. His definition of lost ski areas includes any area that had at least a rope tow (even portable). Some are lost and some were absorbed into bigger areas. He plans to track both and is soliciting help in collecting information. He has done research personally and enlisted the support of others as well as created a dedicated website linked to FWSA’s and various other related history-related sites. All of this activity has been carried out with minimal expenditures.

The project has a future. In Chick’s words, “We are linking to existing websites that cover the lost ski areas of Washington and Southern California. We would like to thank those organizations for their efforts. Also, we’d like to thank The Colorado Skier website for their list of the lost ski areas of Arizona, Nevada, and New Mexico. This fall, we’re planning to take a trip up to northeast California and I’ll be taking some pictures of the old Mt. Lassen Ski Area and the original Mt. Shasta Ski Bowl from the panther meadows lodge.

WELSAP will doubtless go on for several more years and in reality may never be 100% complete, but it is an appropriate precursor to the 75th celebration in 2005 and his work compliments that of our prior honorees.