



Far West Ski Association

presents the **Tommi Tyndall Award** to

Sports America Tours

Sports America Tours was started by Mike Hibbard in 1976 and has grown over the last 41 years to be one of the largest ski tour companies in the United States.

Mike Hibbard started the company on a bet from one of his employers who told him he didn't have what it takes to run a business. Mike was determined to not only start his own company, he was determined to be successful with the business that became Sports America Tours.

Sports America Tours has been heavily involved with the ski market and airlines since the opening. The group coordinators from Sports America go above and beyond supplying just a ski trip. Their objective is to help groups improve their marketing capabilities to help increase their trip size. The company employees have a great understanding of how airlines affect the ski industry since they have a background of working with them for 41 years.

Sports America Tours has been a guest speaker for the National Ski Council Federation, Mountain Travel Symposium, and for many Councils and ski clubs across the country on the subject of group travel.

Sports America Tours was the tour operator for the 2012 FWSA Ski Week to Jackson Hole; the 2013 FWSA Ski Week to Aspen/Snowmass, 2016 Crested Butte Mini Trip, the 2017 Ski Week to Breckenridge, and they will be the tour operator for the 2018 Alyeska/Iditarod Mini Trip. They partnered with Kenwood Vineyards and Korbel to sponsor the Jackson Hole Ski Week banquet; a wine and cheese tasting event at Aspen/Snowmass Ski Week; and were the wine sponsor for the Breckenridge banquet.

Sports America Tours has been a Silent Auction participant at the Far West conventions since 2000. In addition, they have sponsored banquet wine service and Friday night wine for several years as well as beer service at last year's Saturday luncheon.

We recognize Sports America Tours for their continued long-term support of the skiing public, ski industry, and Far West Ski Association and its Councils and Clubs. Sports America Tours embodies the spirit of the Tommi Tyndall Award and is deserving of recognition as this year's recipient.

The Tommi Tyndall Award is given to the ski area or ski area operator who has made a distinguished contribution to skiing in the past year or in prior years.

Respectfully nominated by *Nancy Ellis & Gloria Raminha.*