

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 17, 2014

**FAR WEST SKI ASSOCIATION RECOGNIZES CLIFF BLANN WITH THE SNOWSPORTS BUILDER AWARD**



BEND, OREGON: The Far West Ski Association conducted its 82nd Annual Convention and Meeting June 12-15, 2014 at The Riverhouse Hotel & Convention Center in Bend, Oregon, hosted by the Northwest Ski Club Council. The Far West Ski Association, founded in 1930, is a volunteer, non-profit organization representing 160 affiliated ski clubs located throughout eleven regional councils in the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, South Dakota, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. The Association conducts active programs in public affairs, skier safety, ski heritage, athletics, racing, communications, travel, council development, ski industry and community outreach. In addition to the 160 ski club delegates attending the annual meeting, about 100 ski and sports industry representatives participated in the weekend's events.

The 29th Annual Silent Auction on Friday evening raised over \$38,000 to support FWSA programs. The highest bidders purchased ski trips, golf and adventure trips, and sports and recreational equipment. Saturday morning's Travel Expo enabled industry representatives to meet with travel decision makers from the Association's clubs and councils. Saturday afternoon was dedicated to a presentation by Jess McMillan, a Freeskiing World Tour Champion who has won more Freeskiing competitions than any other competitor. Billy Kidd, 1964 Olympic Silver Medalist; also attended and spoke about his friend and 1964 Bronze Medalist Jimmie Heuga. The key presenters in the Public Affairs panel were: John Gifford, President of the Pacific Northwest Ski Areas Association; Dave Ludwig, founder of "Hope on the Slopes"; Matthew Drake, National Ski & Snowboard Association Director for Pacific Northwest; and John Allen, Forest Supervisor, Deschutes National Forest. Bids were presented to the FWSA Travel Committee for selection of the 2016 FWSA Ski Week with the result to be announced later in the summer. The 2015 FWSA Ski Week will be held in Whistler/Blackcomb, Canada from January 31 – February 7, 2015.

Annual recognition awards were presented to members of the ski industry, media, volunteers, racing leagues, councils, and ski clubs. Industry Awards were presented: the FWSA Tommi Tyndall Award for Outstanding Ski Industry Contribution, to Mt. Hood Meadows; the FWSA Bill Mackey Award for Outstanding Ski Industry Employee, to Jason Forrest of Whitefish Mountain Resort; and the FWSA Jimmie Heuga Award for Outstanding Humanitarian, to Lee Perry, Jr., a long time ski instructor who started teaching for Portland Jaycee Ski School on Mt. Hood in 1955. The FWSA Bill Berry Awards were presented to Christopher Van Tilburg, M.D., Author of *"The Adrenaline Junkie's Bucket List: 100 Extreme Outdoor Adventures to Do Before You Die"* and to Ben Jacklet for the *Shred-Hood* website and e-magazine; and the FWSA Warren Miller Modern Media Award to Matchstick Productions & Red Bull Media House for "McConkey". The FWSA Snowsports Builder Award was presented to Cliff Blann, who dedicated his life to the development of Mt. Bachelor Ski Resort.

Gloria Raminha (Bakersville, CA) received the FWSA Hans Georg Award for long-term service to organized skiing. Other volunteers receiving recognition awards included: the FWSA Elizabeth "Schatzi" Wood Award for a decisive contribution to skiing to Debbie Stewart of Sierra Council (Visalia, CA); the FWSA J. Stanley Mullin awarded to Emilio Trampuz; and the FWSA Jordan-Reily Award for Outstanding Contribution to Public Affairs was awarded to Kayla Walker of the Bonneville Environment Foundation. Councils' Man & Woman of the Year recognition program, sponsored by Big White Ski Resort, recognized Nancy Ellis of Sierra Council and Gene Fulkerson of Los Angeles Council. FWSA President's Awards were given to Jane Wyckoff of Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs (Irvine, CA), Catherine Ohl of Pacific Rim Alliance (San Diego, CA) and Jo Simpson of Sierra Council (Reno, NV).

The Tollakson Award was presented to Snowchasers (Class A); Fresno Ski Club (Class AA); and Mountain High Ski Club (Class AAA). The Wentworth Award for the Outstanding Publication was presented to The Unrecables (Class A); Pacific Rim Alliance (Class AA); Mountain High Snowsports Club (Class AAA); and Bay Area Ski Club Council (Council). The Outstanding Website Awards were given to The Unrecables (Class A); Pacific Rim Alliance (Class AA); Mountain High (Class AAA); and Intermountain Ski Council (Council). The FWSA Club & Council History Recognition was given to Snowchasers of Bay Area Snow Sports Council. The FWSA Charity & Community Service Recognition was presented to SLO Skiers of Central Council and Northwest Ski Club Council.

Dennis Heffley (San Francisco, CA) of Rusty Bindings Ski Club, Bay Area Snow Sports Council, was honored with FWSA Safety Person of the Year, sponsored by Aspen Skiing Company with lodging provided by The Gant and the Crestwood Resort Condominiums. The FWSA Western Ski Heritage Award, sponsored by Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation, was presented to Emilio Trampuz of the Mountain High Snowsport Club, Northwest Ski Club Council.

Elections were held at Sunday's General Session. FWSA Officers for 2014 – 2015 are: President, Linda Scott (Cheyenne, WY); Past President, Randy Lew (Wilsonville, OR); Secretary, Wanda Ross (San Jose, CA); Treasurer, William Shadbolt (Seattle, WA); Chairperson Board of Trustees, Robb Margrave (Auburn, CA); VP Communications, Jim Nachbar (Scottsdale, AZ); VP Council Services, Jo Simpson (Reno, NV); VP Marketing, Debbi Kor (Vancouver, WA); VP Membership, Jane Gutierrez (Los Angeles, CA); VP Public Affairs, Mike Sanford (San Diego, CA); VP North American Travel, Nancy Ellis (Truckee, CA); VP International Travel, Debbie Stewart (Visalia, CA); VP Racing, Bob Ellis (Truckee, CA); Trustees, Robb Margrave (CA); Harry Davis (Concord, CA); Gloria Raminha (Bakersville, CA) and Jane Wyckoff (Irvine, CA).

The Far West Ski Association is appreciative of the many sponsors who are a big part of the success of the FWSA Annual Convention. Sponsors included: Aspen / Snowmass; Big White Ski Resort (BC, Canada), Grouse Mountain Lodge (Whitefish, MT), Mammoth Mountain, Mt Bachelor, Nancy Greene's Cahilty Lodge (Sun Peaks, BC), The Riverhouse Hotel & Convention Center, Visit Bend, Ski Oregon, Ski Dazzle, Snowmass Tourism, Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation, Sunriver Resort, Taos Ski Valley, Telluride Ski Resort, Vail Resorts-Heavenly, (Afton Alps, Beaver Creek Breckenridge, Canyons, Heavenly Keystone, Kirkwood, Northstar, Mt. Brighton, and Vail), Mountain Lodge Telluride, Sun Valley, GoodLife Beer, Copper Mountain, Whitefish Mountain Resort, Portland Ski Fever & Snowboard Show, Mt. Hood Meadows, Whistler/Blackcomb, Tourism Whistler, Lodging Ovations, Crystal Lodge and Tantalus Lodge, Winter Park, Northwest Ski Club Council, Skigroup.net, Ski.com, and Volcano Vineyards.

The 83rd Annual Far West Ski Association Convention is scheduled for June 4-7, 2015 at the Town & Country Resort & Convention Center in San Diego, California, hosted by the San Diego Ski Club Council. For additional information regarding the Far West Ski Association, please visit [www.fwsa.org](http://www.fwsa.org).

Pictures available upon request.