

Terry Smith Nomination

KEN KAWAHARA

Nominated by:
Bob Ellis

Ken Kawahara stepped up and has been a leader in ULLR League and Far West Racing Association for almost a decade as the Race Chairman for ULLR League. Ken's quiet devotion and participation as ULLR League Chairman has not gone unnoticed. Many times Ken has shown leadership and vision with his actions and has stepped up to produce results to help the organizations. Ken has been involved with scheduling races, organizing his team for the Championships and other race events. His team did so well last year, ULLR won the Roma McCoy Trophy for most points per racer at Mammoth Mountain in April 2012.

Ken first started skiing at Mammoth in 1984. Growing up in Seattle, Ken never tried it in Washington. Ken took a leave of absence from his job at TRW to be a ski bum at Mammoth in 1986-87, one of the worst snow years ever, and worked at Footloose.

Ken first joined the TRW ski club in 1985, then the Long Beach Ski Club in 1994. Ken started ski racing with Long Beach in 1994, where he was part of a group of LBSC racers known as the "F Troop". In 1998 he served as the LBSC Elske rep, then joined the Beach Cities Ski Club in 1997, and was briefly a member of the South Bay Ski Club and the Singles Ski Club.

In 2004, Ken made the mistake of volunteering to be the ULLR League Race Chairman, where he has been stuck ever since. Ken has attended every Championship Race and Summer Rules Meeting since becoming the ULLR Race Chairman, and has made his presence known with his contributions and ideas. Ken has also been very instrumental in acquiring silent auction donations from several parties and being a positive force at all of our meetings.

In 2012 Ken retired from TRW after 37 years in the defense industry and has been living in Mammoth during the winter and Washington state during the summer.

In addition to Mammoth Mountain, Ken has also skied at June Mountain, Mt. High, Mt. Baldy, Bear Mountain, Kirkwood, Heavenly, Alpine Meadows, Northstar, Snoqualmie Summit, Mt. Baker, Stevens Pass, Crystal Mountain, Jackson Hole, Alta, Snowbird, Park City, Canyons, Deer Valley, Solitude, Sundance, Taos, Telluride, Aspen, Aspen Highlands, Snowmass, Vail, Keystone, Breckenridge and Beaver Creek.

Prior to skiing, Ken was an amateur auto racer, racing in Showroom Stock and Formula Vees in the Sports Car Club of America auto races in Washington, Oregon and California in the 1970s. He also moonlighted as an engineer/mechanic for various professional auto racing efforts through the 1990s.

In Ken's spare time, he enjoys cycling, windsurfing and building and flying radio control airplanes. Ken also makes some great home crafted beer.

Ken Kawahara is very deserving of this award as he continues to strive to increase the number of racers, improve the organization with new ideas and to lead his racers at racing events throughout Far West.



Photo courtesy Mammoth Mountain.