

Nomination of Catherine Ohl for History Award 2002

In the past, being a pack rat, Catherine Ohl has done much to uncover, maintain and share her discovery of the history of her clubs (Century City Ski Club, Radar River Rats and Pacific Rim Alliance), Los Angeles Council (LAC), Far West Ski Association (FWSA) and Skiing in the West.

In 2001-2022, she concentrated her research on FWSA and the Southern/Los Angeles Council. She has

- Spent more than 200 hours scanning in Sutter Kunkel's portfolio on the early days of the FWSA Charter Flight program. She has created a pdf document of more than 300 pages chronologizing the history of the Charter Flights. She has printed out a copy for viewing at the FWSA Convention.
- Spent over 100 hours meeting with the "Legends of the Grindelwald Ski Club." She has interviewed many of them. In addition, she has reviewed and scanned Grindelwald's 50 year President's Book and their 50 plus years of newsletters. At least three members of Grindelwald have been Presidents of FWSA and two of the FWSA awards are named for past Grindelwald members.
- Begged, borrowed and scanned in the small amount of FWSA literature she has been able to find. She is building a paper and electronic library of the literature she finds. The pdf files will eventually be available for download on the Pac Rim History Web Site.
- Redesigned and wrote the booklet for the LAC Snow Gala. The new program now includes her research to date with a short history of Southern Council, list of past presidents, list of past queens & kings, and a brief history of the 30 clubs currently members of LA Council. She continues her research, adding to the history, and updating this information on the Pac Rim History Web Site.
- Redesigned and wrote the FWSA Award Booklet. The book is a work in progress. The book, as it went to press, included her research to date. She rewrote the history portion of FWSA based on her research. She uncovered three FWSA presidents that were not previously listed in the current FWSA literature (and she suspects there are more errors). She added the FWSA time-line she created. She added omissions and corrected errors and spellings found in previous editions of the book. She has researched each of the people who the FWSA Awards are named for and included a short biography and photo in the new book. She added other awards as a part of the history such as the sportsfest, presidents, safety and history awards. This information is kept up to date on the Pac Rim History Web Site. Also a pdf copy of the book is available for download from the site.
- Created a biography data base (in FileMaker Pro) of FWSA personalities by concentrating on past award winners and officers. She is also writing a brief history of each person, creating a pdf file which will be available for download from her Pac Rim History Web Site. Eventually, the data base will also be accessible from the web site.
- Created and maintains the Pac Rim History Web Site. The site began as a general history of skiing in the West with statistics and brief histories on ski resorts west of the Rockies. She then got involved in research on skiing in the LA Basin. And of course, she has continually updated the information she has uncovered on FWSA and LA Council.
- As editor of a number of Club newsletters, she has started a history column to share the history of skiing. She also distributes this information to other LAC ski clubs for inclusion in their newsletters.