

Hans Georg Nomination

CATHERINE OHL

Nominated by:
Jane Wyckoff
Steve Coxen

The Hans Georg Award is given for distinguished accomplishment and long-term contribution to skiing. **Catherine Ohl** embodies the spirit of this award. Her contributions to ski clubs, councils, Far West Ski Association and affiliate organizations span over 40 years. Catherine is passionate about skiing – the organization, the history and safety.

Catherine started skiing in 1972, moved to Mammoth and worked for the US Forest Service. While at the USFS she worked on the proposals for Sherwin Bowl and the June to Mammoth Interconnect. She is a graphic artist of great skill, creativity, artistry and productivity. As owner of A Cat Meowz, she produces a wide variety of logo designs and printed materials. Her technical skills in website design and multi-media presentations are beyond compare. Her high energy allows her to be involved in many projects at one time and she enthusiastically finds more creative and more efficient ways to complete them.

Catherine became involved at the grass roots level as a Travel VP, Secretary, Membership VP, Newsletter Editor or President for various ski clubs (Century City, River Rats, Pacific Rim). Involved in both the Los Angeles and San Diego Councils, she was the newsletter editor for LAC for four years and won top honors at FWSA for her publication. Some of her many accomplishments on the council level include: key executor of the first four San Diego Family Picnics; brought database management to LAC; co-chaired LAC and SDC Galas; revived the LAC annual Directory and published it for six years; and designed logos for the LAC and SDC. She also implemented a logo design for Central Council.

Her contributions to Far West Ski Association and particularly the annual Convention are numerous. She designed all the graphics, layouts and registration materials for the 1999, 2003, 2005 and 2012 FWSA Conventions. Her production of the 2012 Convention brochure was a huge step forward in simplifying FWSA's Registration process. Her technical skill in website development can be found in both the 2005 and 2012 Convention websites she developed. She researched and redesigned the Far West Awards booklet in 2000 and continues to do so today. She brought the "Great Eight" Awards program into the electronic age in 2007 and she continues to administer the program. Under her leadership the awards solicitation, nominations and voting are mainly done electronically. Catherine designed and implemented the slides for the FWSA Awards Luncheon and Dinner in 2006. It started with just the Service Awards but now covers every aspect of the two events. This showcase of FWSA programs and awardees has received numerous accolades from our industry partners and special guests attending our Conventions. As a key member of the 2012 Convention Committee, Catherine visited Ogden on several occasions this past year and was the lead in developing and coordinating Optional Activities and publicity efforts in the local community.

Catherine's numerous volunteer hours as the Host Council Coordinator for the 75th Anniversary FWSA Convention in 2005 resulted in a true celebration of 75 years of snowsports. She brought innovation to the Convention, including the very popular multi-media presentation, still a part of the program today. This event brought together an incredible history celebration with participation from clubs, councils, museums, resorts and industry celebrities. She personally researched and put together more than half the history exhibits. She is the recipient of both the FWSA Ski Heritage and FWSA Ski Safety Awards.

Catherine's contributions to ski related charities speaks volumes about her generosity, both in volunteer time and finances. She has been very involved in raising money and awareness for: USARC, the Unrecables, Mammoth Junior Race Program, Special Olympics, Relief Sarajevo, Chris Klug Foundation and Can Do MS (formerly Jimmie Heuga Center). Each year Catherine and Gene Fulkerson host a 7-course gourmet dinner with wine pairings at their home. The entire fee to attend the fabulous event is donated directly to Can Do MS. Catherine and Gene secure the wine donations and pay all expenses.

Catherine is an ambassador of snowsports. Her passion exudes in everything she does, and she promotes its programs on the ski slopes or wherever travels take her. We are honored to nominate her, and Catherine Ohl is indeed worthy to be a recipient of the Far West Ski Association's Hans Georg Award.



Photo courtesy Catherine Ohl.