

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 21, 2006

**FAR WEST SKI ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES
74TH ANNUAL CONVENTION**

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CHANDLER, ARIZONA: The Far West Ski Association celebrated its 74th Annual Convention and Meeting June 8-11, 2006 at The Sheraton Hotel Wild Horse Pass Resort & Spa. The annual event was hosted by Arizona Ski Club Council. The Far West Ski Association, founded in 1930, is a non-profit organization representing 165 affiliated ski clubs located throughout ten regional councils in the states of Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington. The Association conducts active programs in public affairs, skier safety, ski history, athletics, racing, communications, travel, council development, ski industry, and community outreach. In addition to over 200 ski club delegates attending the annual meeting, about 150 ski and sports industry representatives participated in the weekend's events. Special guests included Billy Kidd, 1964 Olympic Silver Medalist; Jimmy Petterson, International Skier; Troy Hawks, Editor of the NSAA Journal; and Harv Forsgren, Regional Forester, Southwest Region.

The 21st Annual Silent Auction on Friday evening raised over \$36,000 to support FWSA programs. The highest bidders purchased ski trips, golf and adventure trips, 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. Bids were presented to the FWSA Travel Committee for selection of the 2008 FWSA Ski Week with the result to be announced at the FWSA board meeting in July. The 2007 FWSA Ski Week will be held January 27-February 3 at Steamboat Springs, Colorado. The Far West Racing Association held their annual meeting on Saturday. The 2007 FWRA Championships will be held March 30 - April 1, 2007 at Mt. Bachelor, OR.

Annual recognition awards were presented at the Awards Banquet to members of the ski industry, media, volunteers, racing leagues, councils, and ski clubs. Industry Awards were presented to: (1) the Tommi Tyndall Award for Outstanding Ski Industry Contribution, to Big White Ski Resort; and (2) the Bill Mackey Award for Outstanding Ski Industry Employee, to Kris McKinnon, Aspen Ski Resort. The Bill Berry Awards were presented to April Darrow, freelance journalist and former managing editor of NSAA Journal for Hard News and to Jimmy Petterson, author of the book "Skiing Around the World" for Feature Article. The Warren Miller Modern Media Award was presented to Steve Porino, NBC and OLN broadcaster, of Bend OR.

Ken Calkins of Los Angeles Council received the Hans Georg Award for long-term contribution to skiing. Other individuals receiving recognition awards included: (1) the Elizabeth "Schatzi" Wood Award to Debbi Kor-Lew of Northwest Council for FWSA Outstanding Woman of the Year; (2) the J. Stanley Mullin Award to Robb Margrave of Bay Area Council for the FWSA Outstanding Man of the Year; (3) the Jordan-Reily Award for Outstanding Contribution to Public Affairs, to Scott Kaden, President of PNSAA, Hood River, OR.; (4) the

Jimmie Heuga Award for Outstanding Humanitarian, to Sigrid Noack of Los Angeles Council; (5) President's Awards for Outstanding Contribution to FWSA, to Michael German, Kathy Hoffmann and Steve Coxen. Top honors in racing included the Terry Smith Award to Jim Sommer. Mary Beth Fitchlee, Arizona Ski Club Council, was selected Councils' Woman of the Year and Jeff Peebles, Arizona Ski Club Council, was selected Councils' Man of the Year.. The FWSA Safety Award, sponsored by Aspen/Snowmass Resort, was presented to Catherine Ohl, and the FWSA History Award, sponsored by Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation, to Robin Morning.

Tollakson Outstanding Club first place winners were First Place to North Island Snowdrifters, San Diego, CA and Second Place to Bergfreunde Ski Club, Portland, OR (Class AAAA); Pacific Rim Alliance, Los Angeles, CA (Class AAA); Mountain High Snow Sports Club, Portland, OR (Class AA): The Unrecables, Los Angeles, CA and Skiyente Ski Club, Portland, OR. tied for First Place (Class A). The Wentworth Outstanding Club Publications Awards for first place were presented to: The Unrecables (Class A); to Don Diego Ski Club (Class AA); to Pacific Rim Alliance (Class AAA); and to North Island Snowdrifters (Class AAAA). Website Awards for first place were given to: The Unrecables (Class A); Mountain High Snowsports Club (Class AA); Pacific Rim Alliance Snow Sports Club (Class AAA); and Bergfreunde (Class AAAA). Council award winners were Los Angeles Council for best newsletter and Northwest Ski Club Council for best website.

Elections were held at Sunday's General Session. FWSA Officers for 2006-2007 are: President, Randy Lew (Wilsonville, OR); Past President, Mike Sanford (San Diego, CA); Secretary, Debbie Stewart (Visalia, CA); Treasurer, Nancy Kelly (Lodi, CA); Chairman Board of Trustees, Steve Coxen (West Linn, OR); VP Communications, Ray Craig (Thousand Oaks, CA) ; VP Council Services, Fran Long (Paso Robles, CA); VP Marketing, Debbi Kor-Lew (Wilsonville, OR); VP Membership, Barbara Bryant (Truckee, CA); VP Public Affairs, Scott Bowker (Sunnyvale, CA); VP North American Travel, Lynnell Calkins (Redondo Beach, CA); VP International Travel, Norm Azevedo (Walnut Creek, CA); VP Racing, Bob Ellis (Truckee, CA); Trustees, Ken Calkins (Redondo Beach, CA); Linda Westlund (Scottsdale, AZ), and Robb Margrave (Novato, 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, CO; Banff Lodging Company, Alberta, Canada; Big White Ski Resort, BC, Canada; ClubExpress.com; Intrawest; Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, WY; Mountain Chalet Golf & Ski Gifts: Silver Star Mountain Resort, BC, Canada; SkiBig3 – Ski Banff – Lake Louise – Sunshine, Alberta, Canada; Snowbasin, a Sun Valley Resort, UT; Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation, CO; Vail Resorts – Vail, Breckenridge, Beaver Creek, Keystone, CO and Heavenly, CA; and Arizona Ski Club Council.

The 75th Annual Far West Ski Association Convention is scheduled for May 31 thru June 3, 2007 at the Hyatt Regency in Santa Clara, California. For additional information regarding the Far West Ski Association, please visit www.fwsa.org.

Note: Pictures are available upon request.