

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – August 24, 2008**

**NATION’S RECREATIONAL SKI COUNCILS MEET IN COLORADO**

**WINTER PARK, COLORADO:** The National Ski Council Federation (NSCF) conducted its 10th Annual Recreational Ski Councils Meeting August 21-24, 2008 in Winter Park, Colorado, hosted by the Winter Park Visitor’s Bureau and the Vintage Hotel. The NSCF, founded in 1998, is a not-for-profit organization made up of ski councils and their respective ski clubs throughout United States. The Federation’s purpose is to strengthen councils, with industry participation so they may better serve ski clubs through improved communication, education and benefits. The Federation conducts active programs in public affairs, communications, council development, racing, ski industry relations and skier outreach. President Mike Sanford, San Diego Council of Ski Clubs, was successful in attracting 26 Councils representing an estimated 330,000 recreational skiers and racers throughout the US. They were joined by 19 ski industry representatives from resorts, travel agencies and news media.

Activities over the weekend included educational sessions, reports on the progress of existing action committees, development of goals and expected outcomes for next year’s activities. Past efforts included the creation of a Resource Center, the collection of skier data from the clubs in order to better inform their industry partners on the importance of organized recreational skiers to the ski industry, the revision of by-laws and creation of a business plan. Future efforts will include development of common and best of breed business practices, following developments in airline baggage rules, examination of liability insurance practices and a focus on development of youth involvement.

The meeting opened with an enlightening brief from Winter Park President and COO Gary DeFrance on developments and future plans for the resort. The group also attracted presentations from the National Ski Areas Association, the Internal Revenue Service and the Arapaho & Roosevelt National Forest & Pawnee National Grasslands (National Forest Service). NSAA provided vital statistics on the overall health of the industry and skier visits from the ’08 season as well as information on the many services offered to Ski Councils through NSAA’s array of programs. Leonard Avant from the IRS discussed non-profit tax procedures. Glenn Casamassa, the Forest Supervisor of Arapaho & Roosevelt National Forest explained the Services organizational structure and provided important and dramatic information on the beetle infestation damaging the lodgepole pines in the surrounding forest.

The group enjoyed the hospitality of Winter Park Resort, the Vintage Hotel and Cooper Creek Square. Biking, miniature golf, dinner at the beautiful Lodge at Sunspot and the restaurant fare of local eateries filled out the weekend. Attendees got a good taste of the local area and a good idea of its capability to host incoming skiers who want to access Winter Park.

| Officers for 2007-2009 are: President, Mike Sanford (San Diego Council of Ski Clubs); Vice President, Keith Fanta (Chicago Metropolitan Ski Council); Treasurer, Dawn Peterman-Harris (Metropolitan Milwaukee Ski Council); Secretary, Lisa Beregi (Crescent Ski Council); .

The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual National Ski Council Federation meeting is scheduled for August 2009 at John Ascuaga’s Nugget, Sparks, NV. For additional information regarding the NSCF, please visit [www.skifederation.org](http://www.skifederation.org).