

SKIYENTE SKI CLUB

Entry for Tollakson Outstanding Club of the Year Award Competition

Skiyente Ski Club is a small, close-knit group of women who share the love of snow sports, winter and our mountain, Mt. Hood. We want to support other women and in turn be supported—both in the sport and in life. The Club, through its members and activities, provides the opportunity to develop that camaraderie and the sense of belonging that we all cherish.

Non-Ski Activities—Community Activities and Services

Our Club supports the community in many ways. This year we have chosen the Mt. Hood Cultural Center and Museum in Government Camp, Oregon; Shepherd's Door in Portland; and the Portland Mountain Rescue for our main philanthropic focus. The organizations are either related to our mountain or to women.

The Mt. Hood Cultural Center and Museum (Museum) is very dear to us as it is the focal point for community activities on Mt. Hood. This winter the Museum featured a two month exhibit, "The History of Women in Skiing". Skiyente members planned, organized, and created exhibits showcasing the Club's 50 year history. Included were collections of trophies, plaques and metal won by the Club and members—past and present, an exhibit of women's ski fashions from the 1920's to present, Club paraphernalia representing our 50 year history, descriptive displays explaining the Club's historical philanthropic efforts, social events and sports activities. The display attracted many first-time museum visitors helping to spread the word about the center and its connection to the community. This exposure helps enhance donations to the Museum.

The Museum was the venue for Skiyente's After Ski Après Party and Silent Auction. This event was open to the public and was advertised widely, both to showcase the Museum and Skiyente. The majority of the proceeds from the silent auction went to the Museum's Capital Budget Fund for installation of an elevator which is necessary for the Museum to become disability accessible. By Club year-end we will be donating more funds to the Museum.

In addition, we have many members who volunteer their own time to the Museum. We have two Club members on the Museum Board. Several members volunteer as docents. As a Club, we participated last fall in the Museum's Heritage Days adding to the success of the event. We promoted the sport of skiing and our Club. As PACRAT Race participants, Skiyente encouraged the PACRAT Board to hold an after race party at the Museum to further attract first-time visitors. Skiyente members organized the party and offered Museum tours.

Portland Mountain Rescue is a volunteer organization on Mt. Hood that helps locate missing people. From donations they receive, they are able to provide some of the equipment necessary for these volunteers to be successful. This year Skiyente is collecting "spare change" at all of our functions and meetings. At the end of the year the funds will be donated to Portland Mountain Rescue.

Every year Skiyente raises funds and donates proceeds to an organization that helps women and their families. This year our Holiday Drawing proceeds were donated to Portland Rescue Mission's Shepherd's Door. This is a long term, live-in facility for women and their children. Its program helps the women gain life skills and job skills to become self-sufficient and independent. In return, the manager of the facility came to one of our meetings and shared some very positive, success stories.

Several years ago, Skiyente adopted a 2 mile section of Oregon Highway 35 adjacent to Mt. Hood Meadows Resort. Each year we do two highway clean-ups of the stretch. We always find some unique, if not amazing stuff! Trying to guess what we will collect is one of the fun rewards to go along with knowing we have helped keep our mountain beautiful.

Skiyente's annual tradition of honoring an individual who has contributing significantly to the snow sports and to Mt. Hood has become a very prestigious community award. Members of this elite group are held in very high regard. For our entire 50 year history we have done this and people now beg, tease and try to bribe us to become the recipient.

Non-Ski Activities—Club Social Activities

Skiyente Ski Club is also into having fun! We are great party organizers, givers and participants. We hold many traditional events annually. Some are for women only and many are for families and friends to join in. We start off our ski year with a Wine and Cheese Social as a membership drive for prospective members to learn about the club and meet our members. We have a Fireside Holiday Party along with our Holiday Drawing fundraiser. We sponsor the King Winter Dance and Coronation where our King Winter is crowned. To honor our past Kings, we have a dinner before the dance. As part of our Masters' Races Week-end we have a Mardi gras theme awards dinner for participants. We hold a Tailgater Party in the Meadows resort parking lot in the spring. This year it was so successful that the collections jar donations from the 'strays' (term of endearment for non-members) paid for the whole event! Every year we throw a Thank You Night party and invite all of the non-members who have helped us throughout the year. Because we had so many activities this year, we had lots of guests to honor and also had a great time. We always honor one individual in particular for his/her outstanding support. This year our Crystal Cup Award went to Dennis Foreman, the husband of one of our members. He has been there any time we needed help. Spring Fling is a women only event that might be on the snow or away from it. This year it is planned to be a week-end trip to the beach. Though our Club doesn't formally meet during the summer months, we do hold a Summer Function. This past summer we held a water ski party and barbeque on Government Island in the Columbia River. We stood around and talked about snow and Government Camp!

Because this was our 50th Anniversary year, we had some extra special parties and activities. Last summer we kicked off our celebration with a week-end long family camp-out. It was great fun with stories and jokes around the bonfire, family relay races, a barbeque, hiking and even jewelry shopping—thanks to one of our members! We held a Sunday Brunch for past and present members. We had over 60 participants and 17 past presidents in attendance. The already mentioned Ski Après Party was one of our Anniversary events. More than 100 people attended that soiree. As part of our history and connection with the mountain, we scheduled a Club sleepover at Silcox Hut at Timberline. Silcox was originally built in 1932 by the W.P.A. and was the terminus and warming hut for the Magic Mile chair lift. Because of an unfortunate mix-up, we were not able to stay, but Timberline did serve us a wonderful dinner in the beautiful and historic main lodge. We will be going to Silcox next spring free of charge!

Sports Awareness/Promotion Activities

Because so many Skiyentes have families of varying ages, family ski activities are just understood to be part of our lives. Kids of all ages take to the slopes with their parents or with each other. Older ones watch the younger ones and they all learn from one another. This winter Skiyente organized and sponsored the first family-oriented ski trip that was open to all NWSCC clubs. We went to the youth oriented resort, Big White in British Columbia. We held a family fun race with lots of awards. For many, many years Skiyente has contributed funds to the family of an up and coming young female racer so that she can do her best. In recent years, this scholarship has been administered by the NW Snow Sports Foundation. Skiyente members are active in the foundation as members and on the Board.

Several Skiyentes are on the PACRAT Board and have encouraged the outreach to the Special Olympics of Oregon ski racers. As a result, Special Olympics have a PACRAT team.

Our members are very active in sports awareness organizations. We have several members who are involved with the NWSCC, PACRAT and FWSA—from Officers/Board members to just active participants. Many are involved with the Snow Sports Advocates organization. We have members that are ski instructors. In the past, members have been active in Ski Patrol and the Mountain clinics.

This year one of our new members initiated the use of a "yahoo group" website to help facilitate easy communication between members. It is used to find a ski buddy, a car pool rider and just for disseminating general ski information.

Sports Development Activities

Our monthly Club newsletter, The Maiden Forum, is used to promote ski safety and conditioning information as well as a communication tool for activities. Safety and information articles are included throughout the year. We hold one of our meetings at a local ski shop annually, so that we can keep abreast of the new equipment

that is available. Friends of Skiyentes are always offering tips, instructions and advice on such topics as waxing techniques, effective helmet fit and ski design for various terrain and/or ability. During our summer camp-out we encouraged walking and hiking to keep those legs in shape. We held two all day race clinics this winter for member racers and non-racers. Each clinic was 'manned' by an experienced volunteer coach. (It's no telling what a man will volunteer for when a bunch of women are involved!) They each worked us very hard, emphasizing technique and conditioning as both critical elements for improving both race and recreational skiing.

Sport Activities

Our Club holds an annual club race, The Maryanne Cup, named after our first president and founding member, Maryanne Hill. At 86, she still participates as a spectator and is involved with our awards ceremony. At the League level, we have two PACRAT teams which included 19 racers this year. Our teams placed fifth and eleventh out of sixteen teams. Members participated in the NWSCC trip to Mt. Bachelor this year and members generally attend the FWSA finals. This year is likely to be no exception.

Skiyente Ski Club offers the only Masters Races on Mt. Hood. This year we had nearly 80 racers participate. We hold a slalom race, The Skiyente Cup, on Saturday and a Giant Slalom race, The Memorial Cup, on Sunday. This year the races were held at Mt. Hood Meadows in March. The Skiyente Cup, a perpetual trophy, is presented to the fastest woman of the day. The perpetual Memorial Cup is presented in memory of one or more friends of Skiyente who have recently passed on. This year we honored three individuals: Armonica Gilford, a Skiyente sister who succumbed to complications from an auto accident, Carrie Hanson, a sister of a Skiyente sister and John Holfling, a former King Winter.

Because we are a small snow ski club we do not focus, as a Club, on other competitive sports. Our members are active in other sports as individuals and some participate at a competitive level. One of our members is a highly ranked doubles tennis player. Others play team sports of soccer and softball and participate in golf tournaments. We have several members with boats that spend summer months skiing on the water that was mountain snow the winter before.

As previously mentioned, Skiyente did a family trip to Big White, members participated in NWSCC trips and members generally participate in FWSA race league finals. Because we had so many 50th Anniversary activities this year, no members participated in FWSA Ski Week. In most years, we have several members participate.

As you can see, Skiyente Ski Club, though small with only about 40 active members, is a very active group of women that accomplish significant feats with respect to charitable contributions of money, of time and of support for our community and for the sport of skiing. It all produces a place where friends can come together to help each other and enjoy each others company. And, we have a great time doing it!