

STEAMBOAT WESTERN SKI HERITAGE PRIZE FOR 2008

John Watson, History Committee

The Steamboat Resort Western Ski Heritage Prize for 2008 is awarded to Robin Morning, researcher on Mammoth and principal biographer of Dave McCoy and his family. Her book “Tracks of Passion” is not just a history of the development of Mammoth Mountain, nor is it a history in the involvement of the McCoy family. It is truly a remarkable history of an era over seven decades and an area – the Eastern Sierra Nevada. Steamboat Ski and Resort, an historic area in its own right and focus of many other historical works, makes the prize possible annually. The Association owes a debt to Steamboat for this partnership.

The purpose of the Association's Steamboat Western Ski Heritage program is to raise the awareness of snowsport participants and non-participants alike of the contributions made by individuals, groups and companies to all aspects of snowsport - competitive as well as that of outdoor winter recreation and fitness. A parallel purpose is to convey the positive role snowsport has had in its contributions to the communities in the West. It recognizes outstanding effort in the area of snowsport history to find, preserve, document and share the history of snowsport in the West.

**Past winners of the prize and their contributions to the body of ski history include:
2007 Catherine Ohl, San Diego – historical displays at the FWSA 75th anniversary
2006 Robin Morning, Mammoth Lakes – displays for the Mammoth Lakes Museum
2005 Ingrid Wicken, Norco – completion of the California Ski Library
2004 Martin Forstenzer, Independence - completion of his book “Mammoth”
2003 Catherine Ohl, San Diego – deployment of the ski history site on the Internet
2002 Ingrid Wicken – book “Pray for Snow” on the Southern California ski areas
2001 Chris Miller, Portland – documentation of the historic Cascade Ski Club
2000 Sutter Kunkel (dec), Long Beach – scrapbook of the 1950s and early 60s FWSA with focus on the Flight Program**

Robin Morning was a protégé of Dave McCoy and a product of his coaching. She is one of our own. Here are her own words from her biographical sketch. *The owner of Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, Dave McCoy, took us under his wing along with a troop of about twenty other kids. Fantasy ruled. We lived and breathed for being on that mountain. I found a friend, Wendy Allen, who was as obsessive as I was about memorizing lyrics and the two of us almost drove the other ski racers crazy with our incessant singing.*

The National Ski Team was infiltrated with ski racers from Mammoth. We raced in Europe, South America and all over the USA. I bought a nylon stringed guitar and two songbooks.. Peter, Paul & Mary and Joan Baez.



In 1968 in Grenoble, France, at the Olympics I broke my leg in a downhill training run, the day before the opening ceremonies. From a bed in a French military hospital, I watched Jean Claude Killy, Nancy Green and Peggy Fleming win, but that's another story. Nancy brought me her roses. Wendy, who was also on the team, brought me chocolate. Sgt. Pepper ruled, and life was "groovy" if you didn't think about what was really happening in the world, and that was impossible.