

# Hans Georg Nomination

*Catherine Ohl*

Nominated by:  
**Fay Mumbauer**

I first met **Catherine Ohl** at the Far West Convention in 1995 and was overwhelming impressed with the way she had organized the finances of the Far West Ski Week to Whistler under Gene Fulkerson. This was just the first of many of Catherine's widely varied accomplishments I've personally witnessed over the years.

Catherine is the type of person who sees a job that needs doing and just does it. She has carried this same work ethic with her to organized skiing. She is passionate about skiing—the organization, the history, and safety. She has been recognized for some of her efforts and is the only person to have won both the history and safety awards twice.

Catherine's most notable feat for Far West was in pulling together Los Angeles Council, Orange Council and Far West and putting on one of the best ever conventions for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. While she didn't do all the work personally, she had the vision, leadership, and picked key people to see that it got done right and on schedule. And in doing so, she brought innovation to the Far West Convention, including the very popular multi-media presentations, that are still a part of the convention today.

Not only was she in charge of the 2005 convention, she put together an incredible history celebration with participation from clubs, councils, museums, and resorts. She personally researched and put together more than half the exhibits.

Catherine served for five years on Ski Week Staff. She was creator and editor of the Travel Update, a quarterly publication. She was official ski week photographer as well as travel accountant, secretary, hotel coordinator and Survival Guide originator and executor. She was especially challenged in 1996 as she was instrumental in getting the 500 Far West skiers to Cortina, Rome and Florence. Many forms and procedures Catherine developed for the travel program then are still in use today.

Among the numerous other tasks Catherine has performed for Far West are

- Put together sponsorship brochures for the 2004 and 2005 conventions.
- Designed & printed all the graphics, layouts, signage, and registration packages for the 1999, 2003, 2005 conventions.
- Originated the Travel Expo as an alternative to the Travel Carousel in 2003. She ran the Expo again in 2004.
- Researched, corrected and redesigned the Far West Awards book in 2000 and continues to do so today.
- Brought the "Great Eight" Awards program into the electronic age. Under her leadership, solicitation, nominations and voting were mainly done electronically.

Catherine is also involved in skiing at the grass roots level. For the past 30 years, she has served as President, Travel VP, Secretary, Membership, and/or Newsletter Editor for the various ski clubs (Century City, Rats, Pacific Rim) and Councils (Los Angeles, San Diego).

- Newsletter editor for LAC for four years and won top honors for her publication every year.
- Key executor of the first four very successful San Diego Family Picnics.
- Published in National Ski Club Newsletter.
- Brought data base management to LA Council as VP of Membership.
- Co-ran galas in both Los Angeles and San Diego.
- Revived the Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs annual Directory and published it for six years.

Catherine has been very involved in raising money and awareness for ski related charities, including but not limited to, USARC, the Unrecables, Mammoth Junior Race Program, Special Olympics, Releaf Sarajevo, Chris Klug Foundation, and the Jimmie Heuga Center. She has raced, published, raffled and/or wined & dined others for these charities. Whether able to participate or not, she has helped raise a minimum of \$1,500 every year for The Heuga Center for MS.

Catherine is a valued addition to every organization she joins and has done much to promote and improve organized skiing. She is definitely worthy of this most prestigious award.



photo courtesy Bunny Arms