

Hans Georg Nomination

Robin Morning

Nominated by:
John Watson
Marianne O'Connor

Robin Morning has an Olympian spirit and her racing record and achievements as a teacher, author, ski historian, and talented musician prove it. After youthful years of dedicated racing training under the tutelage of Dave McCoy, she arrived at the 1968 Olympics only to have her aspirations dashed by a serious accident during her last downhill training runs. Her decade of racing was over.

Undaunted, she moved on to take a university degree in kinesiology, obtain a teaching credential and began a teaching career in the high schools of San Diego. Raising a family came next, with many ski trips to Mammoth with her children. Using her background in skiing and kinesiology Robin developed a Ski Conditioning class at a local college and brought her students to Mammoth several times each season for on-slope coaching and training. She also played the guitar and sang folk and Celtic music, appearing in several local beach community music houses, and recorded a CD of her music. She currently plays with a local Eastern Sierra music group at festivals and weddings.

Our Olympian, always entranced with the Eastern Sierra, remains close to her old coach and his family. This closeness enabled her to collect a huge number and variety of records and photos of the Eastern Sierra, the McCoy family story and the history of the era that saw the establishment of skiing there. She began a liaison with the new Mammoth Ski Museum in the 1990s and began writing and assembling images for her new vision of the record she saw and lived. After several display cycles in the museum using her materials, she supplied research material to Martin Forstenzer for his book Mammoth all the while aiming for her masterpiece Tracks of Passion. She was awarded the Steamboat Springs Western Ski Heritage prize by FWSA three times for her work and recently ISHA presented her an achievement award for Tracks of Passion.

She planned and completed a major international event on the scale of a national championship - but in ski history. This is the latest jewel in her crown of achievements. For only the second time, the International Ski History Congress was held in the USA in Mammoth in April 2009. The Congress was held in conjunction with the International Ski History Association and attracted 300 participants and authors from all over the world. This remarkable event attracted over 50 professional papers, several keynote speakers and many ski movies, both antique and current.

Remember those ski training trips for college students? She now teaches Nordic skiing and is a junior Nordic team coach at the Tamarack Cross Country Ski Center in Mammoth.

For an Olympian lifetime of racing, teaching, coaching and bringing ski history to life and to Far West, we nominate Robin Morning for the 2009 Hans Georg award.



photo courtesy Catherine Ohi