

Gene Fulkerson— Hans Georg Award

I respectfully nominate Gene Fulkerson for the Far West Ski Association's Hans Georg Award. Over the past three decades, Gene has significantly contributed to the advancement of skiing in a number of arenas— Clubs, Councils, FWSA, Racing, Ski Area Development, Sponsorship, Travel, Ski Patrol, and Fund Raising. It would take a book to describe all of his accomplishment. Here are just some of the highlights.

- As President of LA Council, Gene was responsible for
 - Establishing a new constitution and by-laws.
 - Reconstructing the swap with profit and non-profit corporations and increasing the share of profits for the Clubs, Leagues & Council.
 - Procuring the first insurance policy issued for California Ski Clubs— without exclusions.
 - Writing (with Frannie Einberg) “How to Instructions” on setting up non-profit tax exempt organizations. This simple manual is still in use today.
 - Initiating the First Annual Los Angeles Council Ski Week to Mt. Bachelor in 1983.
 - Setting up the “Adopt an Athlete” Program and sending deserving athletes to the Olympics in 1984.
- As VP of Travel for FWSA, Gene
 - Bailed out a faltering trip planned to Argentina in 1990.
 - Bailed out the FWSA Ski Week to the then bankrupt Vail in 1992. Not only were there 650 FW skiers participating, but Vail began the resurgence of the FWSA Ski Week. The FWSA travel program is where it is today thanks largely to the efforts, plans and foresight of Gene and his staff.
 - Took an unprecedented 500 skiers to Cortina in 1996 that got the FWSA European program rolling.
 - Initiated the Ski Week bidding process to occur at the annual Convention and opened the window to plan trips at least two years out. This also brought more resorts and vendors to the Convention.
 - Pushed to get the Ski Week Races sanctioned by the Far West Race Association.
- As a skier, Gene
 - Served as a National Ski Patroller at Bear Mountain for ten years throughout the ‘80s and into the ‘90s.
 - Was a Blind Skier Guide for two years.
 - Was the invited guest speaker at the Pacific Northwest Ski Association Meeting in 1983.
 - Attended the First National Ski Club President's Leadership Meeting held in Crested Butte in 1985.
 - Participated in the initial meetings that ultimately led to the enactment of the the California Seller's of Travel Insurance— something he fought strongly against.
 - Heli-skied and evaluated two proposed ski areas— San Jacquin Ridge (Mammoth to June Mountain interconnect) and the Sherwin Bowl Area.
 - Volunteered in Search and Rescue in the San Bernardino Mountains & Sierra Madre for two years.
- As VP of Development for FWSA, Sponsorship Chairman for FWRA, and an individual, Gene has
 - Procured sponsors for Ski Weeks, League Races, FW Races, Club & Council Events, FW Conventions.
 - Raised funds for US Adaptive Recreation Center— Ski-A-Thon, Silent Auction and Peak-to-Peak ride.
 - Raised funds and made donations for MS and the Jimmie Heuga Center.

As you can see Gene has accomplished a lot for the good of all skiers and snowboarders. The word impossible is not in his vocabulary. His energy and enthusiasm for the sport of skiing is undeniable. Ideas are always on his mind as he plans and analyzes possibilities years in advance. His wit and humor is the catalyst that makes him the person he is. He's like the Energizer rabbit— he just keeps going on and on. He is very much respected by the Ski Industry and the Clubs. When approached for help in the promotion of the sport he is more than happy to lend a hand, present an idea or two, and/or locate the appropriate sponsor.