## **MIKE SANFORD**



## Member of San Diego Council of Ski Clubs and North Island Snowdrifters Ski & Snowboard Club.

Michael Sanford joined North Island Ski Club in San Diego in 1988. For the past thirty-six years he has worked tirelessly to support the sport of skiing. Not only has he been a leader within his local ski clubs and council, but he has also formed relationships with the ski industry, the National Forest Service, the National Ski Areas Association Snow Sports Industry, International Ski History Association and Ski Museums throughout the U.S. and Ski media which have been invaluable to Far West Ski Association. Mike has significantly expanded the relationship between these organizations and FWSA.

Mike was president of FWSA from 2003-2006. From 1997-2003 he was VP of Public Affairs where he created the Safety Person of the Year Program which was sponsored by

Aspen Ski Corporation and the Western Ski Heritage Award which was sponsored by Steamboat Ski and Snowsports Corporation. He again served as Public Affairs for FWSA from 2006 to 2016.

During his time as FWSA President and PA Director Mike invited Olympians including Nikki Stone, Debbie Armstrong, Nancy Green, and Kris Klug to the annual FWSA Convention. He also invited many of the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division men who served in WWII as a skiing unit in Italy to speak on the Public Affairs panel. He has always had charisma and long-term friendships with the governmental officials of the National Forest Service, and many have returned year after year to FWSA Conventions.

In the National Ski Council Federation Mike was their Public Affairs officer in 2001. As San Diego Council President, Mike was instrumental in having the council join the NSCF in 1999. Mike served as NSCF President from 2007-2009.

Mike was President of the San Diego Ski Council from 1999-2001, Vice-President 1996, and Public Affairs from 1992-1996, 2001-2005 and 2006-2024. He organized and led the annual Aspen December trip for 25 years for the San Diego Council. He also was a member of the Don Diego Ski Club where he worked for 10 years being the auctioneer for the Black

Diamond Silent Auction to benefit the U.S. Adaptive Recreation Center located at Big Bear Mountain raising over \$90,000 for the organization.

## Mike received the

FWSA Jordan Riely Award in 2000 for his work with Public Affairs, the Stanley Mullin Award in 1998 for outstanding service to

FWSA board and was the FWSA Man of the Year 1996. He then received FWSA's highest award, the Hans Georg Award in 2007.

We thank Mike for all his years of service to the sport of skiing. At the present time his love of skiing and people go hand in hand, and he continues to ski and meet new people and still serves on the San Diego Council of Ski Clubs as Public Affairs Director.