

Joe Harris Service Award Criteria

The Joe Harris Award is given by the San Diego Council of Ski Clubs to one who has shown distinguished Accomplishment and long term Contribution to the skiing community in the San Diego area. This award is given to an individual who has contributed significantly to organized skiing through club, council, racing, the Far West Ski Association, and even national activities. The award reflects a long-term extraordinary contribution over more than a five-year period.

Criteria:

- May receive this award only once,
- Five year minimum service of extraordinary caliber required

Nominations

Nominations may be made by past recipients, Council Board members, and Helen Harris.

Voting Eligibility

The voting committee consists of past recipients and the Council President. Helen Harris may vote to break a tie.

About Joe Harris, Founder of the San Diego Council

Joe was born in Chicago and moved to San Diego at the age of three. He started skiing in his 30's when San Diego Ski Club had its rope tow in the local Cuyamaca Mountains. One of his instructors was Henry Mandolf.

Joe was employed in Convair's Flight Test Dept. in 1952 when he was asked to start a ski club for the employees at Convair. He insisted that Convair be a 100% Far West ski club. In the early 60's, because the Southern Council of the Far West was too far away, Joe spear-headed an informal association of the San Diego

ski clubs with the help of Convair and San Diego ski clubs. The two clubs established a Sno-ball, Ski Trade Night (swap), Race League, and dryland lessons. The clubs participating in these activities at that time were Convair, San Diego, Don Diego, Astronautics, Torrey Pines, and Solar.

In 1963 FWSA asked that this association become a Council of the FWSA. Joe was nominated as the first Chairman and served as President for the next eight years. Joe actively participated in the Far West Ski Association, being a member of the Far West Board of Directors and Chairman of the San Diego Council.

Joe and Bruce Barr started the dry land ski lessons for the YMCA as one of their recreational programs in 1958. It proved so popular that it was moved to Balboa Park and offered to the public via the San Diego Park & Recreation Dept., the YMCA, Stanley Andrews Sport Store, and Convair/Don Diego club members. All services were volunteered. The charged fee paid for administrative charges and primarily for the cost of snow for the final lesson.

Since Joe was the prime dryland ski instructor who also arranged bus trips to Snow Summit, convoys to Sun Valley, Idaho and promoted the Junior Racing program, he was presented with the 1964 Viking Skier Award, only the second one given to a San Diegan. The first one was presented to Henry Mandolf the year before.. The idea of this award was conceived by SAS and given to the area on behalf of the Association for the Furtherance of Skiing in Oslo, Norway, the home and birthplace of Skiing. In Norway this Viking Skier is well known as “Birkebeiner”. I choose to call it “the Skimeister Tropy”