

Western Snow Conference

EL FARSANTÉ AWARDS

- 1953 - Boise, Idaho
George A. Lewis
Presented to George because he was foolish enough to design El Farsanté and tried to award it to someone else.
- 1954 - Salt Lake City, Utah
Fred A. Strauss
Presented to Fred for his ability at arriving at 50-year normals at snow courses having only one year of record.
- 1955 - Portland, Oregon
Morley Nelson
Presented to Morley for insisting his poorest forecast on Salmon Falls creek even if 100% wrong, was his best forecast.
- 1956 - Penticton, B. C.
Jack H. Doughty-Davis
Presented to Jack for obtaining a better percentage forecast accuracy by using a different period of months for comparison than those used when forecasting.
- 1957 - Santa Barbara, California
Irv Ingerson
Presented to Irv for his forecast of year 2008 suggesting that California would have all of the population of the U.S. - and his desire to put out snow reports before the surveyors actually go into the mountains.
- 1958 - Bozeman, Montana
Norman S. Hall
Presented to Norman for insisting that Utah is part of the great state of Nevada.
- 1959 - Reno, Nevada
Max Kohler
Presented to Max for his unique observation that with zero measured flow, any finite forecast is infinitely in error, percentage wise. Such forecast errors should be disregarded figuring average forecast error.
- 1960 - Santa Fe, New Mexico
Arch Work
Presented to Arch for losing four life membership certificates in a gambling joint in Reno, Nevada, prior to the award of those certificates at the banquet of the 1959 meeting.
- 1961 - Spokane, Washington
Manes Barton
Presented to Manes for publishing a statement to the effect that spring runoff would be less than expected as a result of greater than average soil moisture beneath the snowpack.

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- 1962 - Cheyenne, Wyoming
Bill Lang
Presented to Bill because he deserved it. (specifically, he directed his helicopter pilot and two poor hydrographers to measure the Mammoth Pass course last March 1, assuring them that from all weather data available they could get in okay. They did! But, getting out was another deal. They were stuck!! Result: Three hydrographers, one flat rack truck, one Piute Indian driver and one Snocat were required. Also, I got pneumonia and was damn near deterred from making the Cheyenne Snow Conference trip - George A. Lewis.)
- 1963 - Yosemite Park, California
Jerry van de Erve
Presented to Jerry for his part in a forecast which proclaimed that the weather for a World Series ball game would be fair. This forecast was issued while it was raining - and it didn't stop raining, either!
- 1964 - Nelson, B. C.
Francis Blanchard
Presented to Francis for his part in taking photographs of the scenery from a ski bubble car and, without recognition, effectively shoving aside Kim Novak in order to get a better view.
- 1965 - Colorado Springs, Colorado
Homer Stockwell
Presented to Homer for appearing on the conference program ready for presentation of his paper when he suddenly realized that his paper and slides were still in Portland.
- 1966 - Seattle, Washington
Dave Rockwood
Presented to Dave for being able to achieve a controversy on the Peace River.
- 1967 - Boise, Idaho
Bob Beaumont
Presented to Bob for his expertise in selling leaky snow pillows.
- 1968 - South Shore, Lake Tahoe
Ray Barsch
Presented to Ray for his irresponsible activities leading to the demise of the 18-foot aerial snow marker by crowding it into extinction with a weird variety of giants, shorties, Bonsai-type dwarfs and repulsive mutations.
- 1969 - Salt Lake City, Utah
Jack Washichek
Presented to Jack for supplying photographs of Lake Tahoe on the cover of the proceedings and listing its location as Boise, Idaho.

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- 1970 - Victoria, B. C. Canada
Thomas J. Henderson
Presented to Thomas for his personal involvement in a routine aircraft landing on a cloudless day with no wind and unlimited visibility ---- WHEELS UP!!!
- 1971 - Billings, Montana
Gordon Nicholas
Presented to Gordon for demonstrating his outstanding aptitude in producing field program confusion through peculiar radio antenna installations and preserving complete radio silence during storm periods and related rescue party maneuvers.
- 1972 - Phoenix, Arizona
Robert T. Davis
Presented to Bob for implying that WSC members might care to bring more than one wife to Phoenix and for otherwise botching up various announcements and material related to that meeting.
- 1973 - Grand Junction, Colorado
Harry Hunter
Presented to Harry for publishing a runoff forecast for Okanagan Lake eight hundred times average and then suggesting that water would be in short supply for the coming summer.
- 1974 - Anchorage, Alaska
Jack Wilson
Presented to Jack because, while snow survey supervisor in Idaho during a very high snow year, he was quoted by a local newspaper as saying, "the snow is too deep to measure".
- 1975 - Coronado, California
Don McAndrew
Presented to Don for being the program chairman and at the same time having the audacity and guts to leave the snow survey program. Also for being the only snow surveyor to have a Tucker Snocat stolen while parked on top of his cabin, and after apprehending the thieves by chasing down the tracks inviting the larcenous party in for dinner!
- 1976 - Calgary, Alberta
Dib Carpenter
Presented to Dib who traditionally hosted the Fisher Porter Co., hospitality room for arriving in Calgary on a Canadian holiday when all liquor stores were closed - no booze! Also, for the trouble he caused Bob Brown while checking the El Farsanté award through customs by exclaiming when Bob was asked the Little Chili Snapper's value - "Its priceless!!"
- 1977 - Albuquerque, New Mexico
Fritz Limpert
Presented to Fritz while local arrangements chairman, for setting up the 46th Annual meeting of the Western Snow Conference at Otter Crest, Oregon, and then retiring.

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1978 - Otter Rock, Oregon

Vail Schermerhorn

Presented to Vail for: 1) His errant directions to a participant in the conference who eventually never showed up; 2) Some participants had to "wait" all day in the hospitality room at the airport for the shuttle bus; 3) And when the shuttle busses did arrive, one of the bus drivers had no idea where the Inn at Otter Creek was and had to depend on compass directions from participants who had only a "foggy" idea where they were going either!

1979 - Sparks, Nevada

Jim Meiman

Presented to Jim for poking a hole in a !!metal!! Snow pillow with a snow sampler at the Joe Wright SNOTEL site during the cooperative SCS-CSU pillow analysis study on an inspection tour with the Undersecretary of Commerce. This resulted in an out of funds the following fiscal year.

1980 - Laramie, Wyoming

Bernie Shafer

Presented to Bernie for proposing modification of the Western Snow Conference publication policy after the conference had operated successfully for many years without long and cumbersome rules and many other boo-boo's too numerous to mention.

1981 - St. George, Utah

Ron Moreland

Presented to Ron for submitting a paper for presentation at the Western Snow Conference with the date off by 10 years, and also for volunteering to have the 1982 Western Snow Conference out of sequence in Reno, Nevada.

1982 - Reno, Nevada

Bob Brown

Vengeance! Bob was again the awards chairman and the award was to be presented to Ron Jones. However, on this 50th Anniversary Meeting of the Western Snow Conference, the General Chairman, Jack Wilson in his infinite wisdom took the microphone and appointed Bill Lang temporary awards chairman. Since the awards chairman has immunity. The "Famous Forecaster" was then fittingly presented to Bob Brown.

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1983 - Vancouver, Washington

Tom George

Presented to Tom for a multitude of reasons: 1) Forgetting about an organizational meeting in Vancouver with Bob Richards after Bob had made the long trek from B. C.; 2) underestimating members attendance by 50 percent and overestimating spouse attendance by 100 percent (at least he had his priorities straight). 3) Bungling the no-host bar and instead having a no-bar host! 4) The Mayor of Vancouver arrived one hour before his scheduled welcoming speech. 5) And finally in every case, trying to blame someone else!

1984 - Sun Valley, Idaho

Phil Farnes

Presented to Phil for assuring the El Farsanté award committee for many years that he had received the "Little Chile Snapper" in the past when, actually, he had not! In addition, it was felt that anybody who had been in the snow business as long as Phil and had done nothing of distinction deserving of the "Famous Forecaster", was either a good faker or awfully skilled at "snow" jobs!!

1985 - Boulder, Colorado

Jack Hannaford

Presented to Jack for his over dedication as general chairman for arriving at the conference on his honeymoon. (Now he didn't have his priorities straight!)

1986 - Phoenix, Arizona

Ron Jones

Presented to Ron for assuring the 1986 meeting of the Western Snow conference that everything was set up; however... 1) The shuttle bus service contracted refused to take the secretary, Bob Davis, to the hotel and even after calls from Ron, the same thing happened several times to other participants... 2) Then the tour busses for the technical tour arrived at the hotel one day too soon!!... 3) In addition, the hotel changed ownership at midnight the night of the banquet and the entire hotel staff was being fired. Members were forced to check out with the old management and recheck in with the new management, and neither management could find the correct registration information... 4) and finally for the lingerie show in the bar before the banquet.

1987 - Vancouver, B. C.

Bob Richards

Presented to the illustrious Robert P. Richards for trying to sabotage the 1988 western snow conference by presenting misleading facts in the 1987 western Snow Conference pamphlet, i. e., "See you in "KALISPEL", Montana on "April 13-16, 1988", instead of "See you in KALISPELL", Montana on "April 19-21, 1988". Also for exceptional "merrymaking", escapades on the S. S. Beaver and the confusion over changes in scheduling between the Cowichan Room and the Coquitlan Room (I'm still

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confused). Finally, I'm sure allowing his "right-hand man", Janis Matthews, to lead the merrymaking and deliver his nomination speech, went a long way towards furthering his well deserved award.

1988 - Kalispell, Montana
Dave Johnson

Presented to Dave Johnson for the ultimate error ever made in the spirit of the "Famous Forecaster of Furnace Creek" while overseeing the activities of the SCS Snow Survey, Water Supply Forecasting staff, a bulletin was issued after the March 1, 1988, Westwide Water Supply outlook which read: "Forecast tables for the March 1, 1988, Water Supply Outlook for the Western United States are INCORRECT for all basins except the Columbia River and Alaska." That's 251 bad forecasts folks, need we say more!!

1989 - Fort Collins, Colorado
James K. Marron

1) Tried to pass off the 1987 treasurer's report for the 1988 report, 2) failed to procure for the new members the bolo ties which are so important to the membership, 3) for suggesting that the members who have received the El Farsanté should now have to wear a special bolo tie to identify them, and 4) for somehow showing up at the meeting without the registration gift usually provided to the registered attendees.

1990 - Sacramento, California
Bob Swanson

Presented to Bob for transgressions beyond belief.

1991 - Juneau, Alaska
George Clagett

George won mainly due to outstanding speaking abilities and repeated PROLONGED performances over the last several years. He just accumulated too much momentum. Generally everyone believed that if George had not received the award for his past performance he would certainly have been given the award by acclamation for his performance as local arrangement person for the banquet and the primary functions at this banquet.

1992 - Jackson Hole, Wyoming
Jerry Beard

Jerry won mainly due to outstanding organizational ability that found him without a slide projector as late as one hour before the first presentation.

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1993 - Quebec City, Quebec

Neil Berg

The direct cause of this award stemmed from a list of transgressions related to setting up the Joint meeting - a list too long and certainly too embarrassing to Neil to commit to print. In spite of the apparent inept handling by Neil Berg, the joint meeting was a tremendous success, long to be remembered by all who attended.

1994 - Santa Fe, New Mexico

Doug Speers

Suggested that El Farsanté should be dismembered and passed out in pieces to all of the SCS retirees.

1995 - Sparks, Nevada

Hal Klieforth

Successfully negotiated a Conference room rate that was actually higher than that charged to someone off the street. Delivered the technical program to Chuck Troendle at the last minute with numerous spelling errors, mostly misspelled names, including his own! He tried to tailor speaker's times according to his own interests.

1996 - Bend, Oregon

Al Rango

For completely destroying our concept of what a snowflake should look like during his 3-D presentation of microscopic photography of snow, and in the process, attacking our conference's long-standing and revered icon, the snowflake, Al Rango was awarded this year's dubious honor. Having to view Al's presentation of magnified snowflake structures through those ridiculous 3-D glasses "really made the whole thing quite fuzzy"!

1997 - Banff, Alberta Canada

Joint meeting w/54th Annual Eastern Snow Conference.

Peter Palmer

Awarded because he had the longest, unbroken string of El Farsanté nominations without having actually received the award. However, the 1997 nomination got him over the top.

1998 - Snowbird, Utah

Phyllis Snow

Although the local arrangements committee may have been mostly responsible for the issues at Snowbird, the responsibility and the award both fell to our outgoing General Chairman, Phyllis

1999 - South Lake Tahoe, California

Scott Pattee

Snow pillow issues have often resulted in El Farsanté nominations, and even the Award. However, Scott repeatedly assaulted at least one pillow installation, resulting in

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multiple perforations and complete death and destruction of the entire facility. Rumor has it that this was not the only facility destroyed under Scott's supervision.

2000 - Port Angeles, Washington
Chuck Troendle

Some years ago, Chuck took on editorship of the Proceedings of the western Snow Conference. He generated more than the usual number of transgressions regarding the assembling, printing and distribution of the Proceedings. Then Chuck resigned from his normal day job, and by default from his editorship of the Proceedings, leaving WSC in an extremely difficult (and financially embarrassing) position. Incidentally, he also failed to mail the Proceedings to the WSC life members - including the Chairman of the Awards Committee!

2001 - Sun Valley, Idaho
Harold Steppuhn

Harold has for years presented professional papers at WSC in which he and his infamous Ford pickup truck blundered through one seemingly improbable research project after another in the wind and snow swept plains near Swift Current, Saskatchewan. Anyone of these tales individually may not have triggered this award, but in sum total, El Farsanté has finally caught up with Harold!

2002 - Granby, Colorado
Kelly Elder

In spite of his attempts to remain almost anonymous, Kelly and his South Continental Executive Committee were in responsible charge of all arrangements for the WSC at Granby, CO. That should be enough said. But Kelly somehow arranged it so there was no food, or meals available at the conference facility - or in most of the entire town - until well after the conference had started. Note that Kelly had transportation for himself, so he could find food for himself - but most of the other members did not.

2003 - Scottsdale, Arizona
Don Huffman

Don, the current WSC General chair, has been nominated for El Farsanté numerous times - but always just failed to connect. The accumulation of near misses and general indiscretions finally reached critical mass in Scottsdale, and the Awards Committee finally gave Don the nod and the well-deserved El Farsanté.

2004 - Richmond, British Columbia
Randall Osterhuber

The official General Chairman's snowflake Bolo tie is to be awarded to the outgoing General Chair at the Awards Banquet where he concludes his last official act of turning over the reins of WSC to the new incoming General Chair. Randall, as

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WSC Secretary and keeper, guardian, and supplier of the official General Chairman's ties, on his own volition and unbeknownst to anyone else, handed not one, but two Chairman's ties, over to the presiding Chairman one year early and out of sequence at the Scottsdale, AZ Western Snow Conference.

Moreover, when asked for the proper North Pacific Area General Chairman's tie for presentation at the proper time in Richmond, B.C. He just stared blankly and could not remember to whom he had given not one, but both ties which had been in his possession for safe keeping! Fortunately, the situation was resolved, but with no help from Randall!

2005 – Great Falls, Montana

Bruce McGurk

Bruce has an accumulation of transgressions over the years. However, in Scottsdale, AZ, he had the responsibility for managing and operating the PowerPoint displays for the presenters in the technical sessions. He failed to return to the session after lunch-break, thereby making it impossible to resume the program until he finally came sauntering into the technical session where all attendees were impatiently waiting for the presentations to start. Moreover, after receiving El Farsanté in Great Falls, the following year in Las Cruces, NM he pulled the same transgression after the lunch break! What kind of pattern is this?

2006 – Las Cruces, New Mexico

Bob Whaley

Bob Whaley, long time member and contributor to the WSC, had an exemplary record over the years. Bob was General Chairman in 2005-2006. As the General Chairman, he is obligated to bring and wear the Presiding General Chairman's tie at the conference. He not only did not wear, but forgot to bring the special tie to the Conference. He finally qualified for the El Farsanté.

2007 – Kailua-Kona, Hawaii

Matt Brunengo

Matt has been an active WSC member for a number of years, and has delivered various technical presentations, most related to his incomplete PhD thesis. To conclude his research, it appears as if he has developed a Monte Carlo based forecast model that works for him, and him alone. At his presentation this year, he announced that he has been pursuing the requirements for a degree for 19 years, and finally he believes that he is getting close to completion and approval of his thesis, which should complete his requirements. He has been telling us this for years. Well, we will see!!

2008 – Hood River, Oregon

Randy Julander

Randy has managed to escape the El Farsanté for many years by covering his many transgressions with Randy-isms. He finally showed his true colors several times this year by 1) threatening to hold a "dry" Western Snow Conference in Utah in

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- 2010, 2) as snow mobile safety instructor at the West-wide snow school he was observed racing around on snowmobiles without a helmet, not just once, but several times, and 3) forbidding our collegiate and research colleagues from using snow survey data with asking "HIM" first!
- 2009 – Canmore, Alberta
Ron Abramovich
- 2010 – Logan, Utah
George P. Ingersoll
George claimed to be in charge of the Annual Meeting (as Area Chair) and wanted to take credit for other's good work and the success of the meeting. However, it turned out that the things he actually WAS in charge of were minor and mostly had to be rescued by other WSC members. The Awards Chair was too sharp for the very clever Mr. Ingersoll!
- 2011 – Stateline, Nevada
Frank Gehrke
Frank has been a regular attendee at Annual Conferences, but less so when they have been very far from California. He has led the Cal. Snow Survey Program for years, and while favorite focus areas have been nurtured, some key snow sensors have remained broken for years. Frank has excelled in disappearing right before WSC jobs are handed out, and his DWR hiring practices have nearly gotten some WSC members run over! Recognition cannot be avoided!
- 2012 - Anchorage, AK
Jon Lea
Jon has been leading the Oregon-Washington DCO for years, but led an expedition that had so many problems: mixed up diesel and gas in tanks, lost the keys to the truck, failed to fill the Snow Cat tank, had a flat and the spare was flat too, got both vehicles stuck at the same time so the winches were useless....the list goes on and on! Recognition is deserved!
- 2013 - Jackson, WY
Brandon Moore
Brandon has been a great help with moving the WSC into the modern digital age, but he sometimes moves too fast and forgets to "proof" his work. The errors in the Reg-Online system this year were both hilarious and serious...what year am I registering for, actually? What decade? Typos.... Brandon has never worried about small stuff.....
- 2014 - Durango, CO
Maury Roos
Maury is a long-time member but keeps his head down in terms of WSC business. Notable gaffes include retiring from Cal. Snow Surveys, but forgetting to stop coming to work! Also of

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note, he of often absent for the 2nd day of Tech sessions because he heads out with the Spouse Tour to do sightseeing. Finally, as California struggles with unprecedented drought, his poster questioned whether it was a record breaking event - boom!

2015 - Grass Valley, CA

Kevin Richards

Kevin organized the Spouses Tour and the Tech Tour for the 2015 meeting. In general, all went well until he informed the Tech Tour participants, on Wed. afternoon, that all attendees needed steel-toed boots, flame-retardant shirts, etc, to be able to attend the Tour in the morning! A lack of planning. . .

2016 - Seattle, WA

Rick Kattelmann

Rick has served the WSC in many ways over the years, and normally his judgment is pretty good. But trekking with Rick reveals a quest for efficiency that leads to delusions: 30 Jack in the Box hamburgers to cover the 30 meals of a 10-day backpacking trip???? Sounds worthy of the little faker. . . .