



*Kathleen Byrnes
President, Los Angeles Council*



The busy part of the Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs (LAC) year is past and it is a little quieter now—everyone is off skiing! While El Nino has been stymied in Southern California by persistent high pressure, the more northern area has received record rain and snow so skiing in the Sierras is the best in years.

Prior to skiing, there were several events that brought together members of the 28 LAC clubs:

Man/Woman of the Year Competition

On October 18, 2015, nine contestants entered the competition for LAC’s Man and Woman of the Year for 2015.

Woman of the Year Candidates: Leslie Eastham (Century City Ski Club); Dee Armstrong (The Unrecables), Kathleen Byrnes (Wailers Ski Club), Kathy Geathers (Snow Busters Ski Club), and Danielle Battut (Single Ski Club) and the Man of the Year Candidates: Kris Flaig (Long Beach Ski Club); Steve Markman (Single Ski Club), John Gray (Unrecables); and Charlie Ellingson (Wailers Ski Club), gathered at Kathleen Byrnes’ home for a bit of conversation and light refreshment and to be interviewed by the judges from the Council’s clubs: Aaron Algazy (CCSC), Cynthia Carter (Long Beach Ski Club), Ginger Caples-Urode (Single Ski Club), Glenda Phillips (Unrecables), and Sandra Gail (Wailers Ski Club) held court asking the candidates some questions about themselves and what they do to promote and support their club.



After the interviews, the judges conferred and the votes were tallied. At the Snow Gala, on October 24, the winners of the 2015 man and woman of the year competition were announced with much fanfare: **Kathleen Byrnes (Wailers) And John Gray (Unrecables)**. These two great candidates will now go on to represent LA Council at the 2016 Far West Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona, and with their backgrounds of work within their clubs and council, LAC has great hopes to once again have winners at the Convention, as we have many times in past years.

Snow Gala



This year’s Snow Gala, *Snow Ball 2015*, took Carnival as its theme. Held October 24 at Pickwick Gardens, the party was filled with exotic masks and costumes. Following a wonderful dinner, attendees bid on wonderful items during The Unrecables Silent Auction and on the California Gold Ski Pass. The evening culminated with great dancing and many photo ops. It was a great party!



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Springtime in Arizona

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Ski Dazzle

In an effort to provide value to LAC's Member Clubs, we held a survey of Member Clubs to discern activities LAC should start, stop, or continue. As a result of the survey, we conducted a best practices workshop on club leadership at our annual President's Luncheon in August 2015. Because the current administration questioned the value of attending Ski Dazzle LA, the nature of the LA Council's participation was re-structured. As a result of Ski Dazzle participation, nine member clubs sent 25 representatives to volunteer and man the booth. Those volunteers met enough people to distributed four boxes of *Far West Skier's Guides* with tri-folds. We received rousing approval from the volunteers for the booth activities, in spite of the location of the booth. During the weekend, LAC collected 90 names and email addresses of attendees that we can refer to member club trips and activities. As an indication of success, one Ski Dazzle attendee paid to take his daughter on the SnowBusters Ski Club Learn to Ski Trip in January.



Warren Miller Screening

To further its mission of supporting the success of member clubs, LAC partnered with Warren Miller Entertainment by exhibiting at the Redondo Beach screening of *Chasing Shadows* on Thursday, December 10, at the Performing Arts Center. Current, former and prospective members and their families came together for a great night of music, and film!

The exhibition at the screening was the second of a two-part collaboration beginning at Ski Dazzle LA from December 4-6 to increase awareness of the LAC and its member sports clubs, promote Warren Miller Entertainment projects, and bring fun for attendees.

Club Skiing and Racing

Most of the LAC clubs went skiing this winter, some to Mammoth (bus and drive-up) as well as other locations within and outside California. Some also raced. Following are examples of these outings:

Last month 90 members of Century City, Long Beach, Spacepark and Edelwiess ski clubs joined together for an epic week of skiing at Aspen and Snowmass. We were greeted by a snowstorm as we flew into Aspen, which required one of our two planes to be diverted to Grand Junction and half our group to the requisite 2.5 hour bus ride to get to the resort. However, the storm deposited over 2 feet of fresh, dry, light powder, delighting those of us who rarely get the opportunity to experience such light untracked deep powder in California. The temperature stayed in the teens and low twenties most of the week, which kept the powder in pristine condition. We stayed at the luxury Gant property, with private shuttles and other upscale amenities. In addition to skiing with friends, we shared racing, breakfast, lunches, apre-ski get-togethers and an amazing closing night dinner. These week long trips are not only incredible bargains, offering prices substantially below those available to individuals, but they form the backbone of deep, lasting friendships which are made and nourished and that contribute to keeping our clubs together, alive and growing. Everyone is looking forward to next years' trip!

The LAC clubs had a beautiful day for the second club race of the year at Mammoth. San Diego had a large contingent of racers and beat the LAC clubs, but all had a good time and are looking forward to the final races of the season in March.