



PACIFIC NORTHWEST SKI AREAS ASSOCIATION (PNSAA)

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PRESS RELEASE

John Pucci honored with the Tower of Excellence Award

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Release Date: Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Hood River, OR – Earlier today, the Pacific Northwest Ski Areas Association (PNSAA) presented the Association’s prestigious 2012 Tower of Excellence Award to John Pucci, Schweitzer Mountain Resort’s retiring director of ski patrol operations. The Tower of Excellence award recognizes a ski area employee who has steadfastly contributed to the success of a ski area’s operations.

Pucci’s long and distinguished career with Schweitzer began in 1965, when he filled a patroller position on the resort’s ski patrol. In 1972, Pucci was promoted to patrol director – a position he held until he retired earlier this week. For a short period of time, Pucci also assumed the position of Schweitzer’s mountain manager. During his 45 years of employment at Schweitzer, Pucci oversaw all aspects of the patrol function and masterfully directed the patrol’s day-to-day operations.

“John leads by example and with integrity and has earned the respect of all who have worked with him,” noted Bill Williamson, Schweitzer Mountain Resort Mountain Operations Director. “Over the course of his career, he has led and assisted on countless searches and rescues – always maintaining his cool and professionalism. His contribution to Schweitzer Mountain Resort, the town of Sandpoint, Idaho, and the many individuals he has mentored is truly extraordinary,” added Williamson.

“It is difficult to measure the success of someone like John because his function at the resort is primarily that of accident prevention, risk management, and, emergency mitigation,” noted Scott Kaden, PNSAA President. “John’s legacy, in part, is the hundreds of young ski patrollers he has trained and mentored, and who have gone on to have successful careers both within and outside ski area management. I congratulate John for his very successful patrolling career and hold him out as a model for emulation,” stated Kaden.

For additional information about John Pucci’s career at Schweitzer Mountain Resort, contact Tom Chasse, Schweitzer Mountain Resort President and CEO, at (208) 263-9555 or tchasse@schweitzer.com. To learn more about the PNSAA Tower of Excellence award program, contact Scott Kaden at (541) 386-9600 or skaden@gorge.net.

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The Pacific Northwest Ski Areas Association is a non-profit trade association, which represents the interests of ski and snowboard facilities located in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Alaska, Montana, and California. The Association’s member ski areas – most of which operate on public land – collectively host an estimated 5.5 million visits annually. For additional information on Pacific Northwest skiing and snowboarding, contact the PNSAA office at (541) 386-9600, or visit www.pnsaa.org to link to the website of your favorite mountain.