



## **PACIFIC NORTHWEST SKI AREAS ASSOCIATION (PNSAA)**

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

## **Joe Gmuender Receives Pacific Northwest Ski Industry Award**

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**Bend, OR** – Last evening, the membership of the Pacific Northwest Ski Areas Association (PNSAA) presented Joe Gmuender with the Association's coveted Industrial Strength Award. Founder and principal of Gardnerville, Nevada-based Gmuender Engineering, LLC, Gmuender was on hand at the PNSAA Operations & Maintenance Conference to graciously accept the 2011 Industrial Strength Award.

Gmuender has 30 years of ski lift design and construction experience. His career began on a Lift Engineering field crew position (summer months), which he served while earning his bachelor's degree in civil engineering at Lehigh University. From 1983 to 1986, Gmuender served as a project engineer with Lift Engineering. From 1986 to 1990, Gmuender was employed as the East Coast project engineer/general manager for Doppelmayr Ski Lifts. In 1991, he affiliated with Pettit-Morry Insurance Company (now Wells Fargo) and performed ski lift inspections and loss control services for ski areas throughout the west. In 1997, Gmuender started Gmuender Engineering, LLC, where he continues to serve as a principal in the corporation, providing engineering design and consulting services to ski areas, ski lift manufacturers, insurance companies, and governmental agencies.

Gmuender is a licensed professional engineer in nine states. Gmuender is a member of the Accredited Standards Committee B77 on Aerial Passenger Ropeways, where he is chairman of the Electrical Subcommittee. He is also a member of the National Tramway Standards Board, and serves as the president of the International Organization for Transportation by Rope – North American Continental Section. Additionally, Gmuender is the western United States representative for Chairkid and Star Lifts USA, where he assists with design and installation of conveyors and surface tows. Some of his more notable lift engineering projects includes the Portland (Oregon) Aerial Tram, the Village Gondola at Mammoth Mountain, and the Peruvian Tunnel Conveyor at Snowbird Ski & Summer Resort.

## **PNSAA Press Release (con't.)**

“I feel Joe’s greatest contribution has been his willingness to share his knowledge. In his role as a ski lift inspector, Joe continues to take the time to instruct and share his intimate knowledge of wire rope transport. He has a unique ability to break down complicated subjects to a level that all can understand, which makes him a valuable instructor on so many different levels and complex subjects,” noted Tom Scully, Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort Director of Lifts.

“While Joe is universally respected for his engineering solutions that effectively and efficiently convey skiers uphill,” commented Scott Kaden, president of the Pacific Northwest Ski Areas Association, “I am equally impressed by his passion for snow sports and how he volunteers countless hours of instruction on behalf of the lift engineering community, and the PNSAA organization specifically. It has been a distinct pleasure to work with someone who conveys such energy and enthusiasm for his professional life,” added Kaden.

For more information about Joe Gmuender’s career, or more detail about the PNSAA Industrial Strength Award, contact Scott Kaden at (541) 386-9600 ([skaden@gorge.net](mailto: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, Montana, California, and Alaska. The Association’s member ski areas – most of which operate on public land – collectively host an estimated 5.3 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](http://www.pnsaa.org) to link to the website of your favorite mountain.