



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

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

## **Kent Fellows Honored with PNSAA Tower of Excellence Award**

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**Bend, OR** – Earlier today, the Pacific Northwest Ski Areas Association (PNSAA) presented the Association’s prestigious 2011 Tower of Excellence Award to Kent Fellows, director of facilities and electrical maintenance at Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort. This award recognizes a ski area employee who has steadfastly contributed to the success of a ski area’s mountain operations.

Fellows’ career with Mt. Hood Meadows began in 1990 when he decided to take the winter term off from college to do some skiing. After just a few short months as a lift operator, he was promoted to ‘operator-in-charge’ of the popular Texas Chairlift, and was retained later that spring to paint ski lifts for the summer months. In September 1991, Fellows accepted a year-round position as lift maintenance technician, and continued to serve the lift maintenance department in various capacities for the rest of the 1990s. In January 1997, Fellows was promoted to lift electronics technician, and in 1999, enrolled in a Licensed Maintenance Electrician (LME) program. Shortly thereafter, Fellows was promoted to lift electrician. He excelled in this position, gained a tremendous amount of knowledge and experience, and single-handedly built a robust lift electrical maintenance program for the resort. In 2006, Fellow’s career path veered slightly when he was promoted to facilities maintenance manager. In 2010, he was promoted to facilities and electrical maintenance director.

“Kent displays exceptional attention to detail,” noted Tom Scully, Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort Director of Lifts. “He created his own lift electrical department, which he oversees to this day. It is because of his vision, and the standard he created earlier in his career, that our lift systems perform at such high levels today. He has created exceptional preventative maintenance procedures and standards, and this is why I call him out as a model for emulation,” added Scully.

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

“Kent stands out as a true leader. He meticulously carries out his job responsibilities with great pride and competence, while also maintaining inspirational and empathetic leadership,” commented Jami McCaslin, Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort Executive Director for Human Resources. “Throughout the season and on a daily basis, he maintains focus on priorities important to the success of the company, while simultaneously providing direct support to his entire staff. Kent knows that the success of his own operation and that of Mt. Hood Meadows is built not just upon strong, technical competence, but also knowing his people and treating them well. We are fortunate to have Kent on our team,” added McCaslin.

“Kent has an awesome combination of technical skill, practical thinking, diligence, and a can do attitude. He really embodies our company core values and culture of continual improvement. It is truly an honor and inspiration to work with Kent,” added Matthew Drake, Chairman and CEO of Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort.

For more information about Kent Fellows’ current responsibilities at Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort, contact Jami McCaslin at (503) 337-2222, extension 1312 or [jami.mccaslin@skihood.com](mailto:jami.mccaslin@skihood.com). For additional information about the PNSAA Tower of Excellence award program, contact Scott Kaden at (541) 386-9600 or [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.