



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

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**PRESS RELEASE**

## **John C. Ellis Honored With Ski Industry Service Award**

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**Release Date:** Tuesday, April 24, 2012

**Bend, OR** – The Pacific Northwest Ski Areas Association (PNSAA) announced the recipient of the coveted Industrial Strength Award earlier today at the PNSAA awards presentation ceremony. John C. Ellis, a professional engineer, was bestowed the Association’s Industrial Strength honor posthumously.

Ellis first worked on tramways as a high school student and later spent the summer months during his college years working at Spokane, Washington’s Superior Tramway Company – beginning in 1985. In May 1989, Ellis earned his bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from Gonzaga University and began fulltime employment at Spokane-based Aerial Engineering, Inc. Ellis was awarded his professional engineer license in 1995, and served as a project engineer with Aerial Engineering, Inc. for his entire engineering career. He was in the process of purchasing Aerial Engineering, Inc. and Superior Tramway Company when he was diagnosed with his second episode of cancer. He passed away in late 2011.

Ellis was a voting member of the Accredited Standards Committee B77 on Aerial Passenger Ropeways. Further, he was a member of the International Organization of Transportation by Rope (North American Continental Section), the American Society of Civil Engineers, and the National Society of Professional Engineers.

“John had a special knack for helping small ski areas achieve big goals with lift equipment that fit within their capital expenditure budgets,” noted Steve Allen, Stevens Pass Mountain Resort Maintenance Manager and long-time associate of Ellis’. “John was masterful at reconditioning components of chairlifts, or reengineering lift equipment for the precise needs of his customer, which enabled the upgrades and construction of many ski lifts throughout the Pacific Northwest region and beyond,” added Allen.

“John knew what was going on in the ski lift engineering world, and was interested in keeping operators aware of changes to the passenger ropeway code,” observed Casey Hatfield, operations manager at Lookout Pass Ski Area.” “John brought a ton of energy to his design work – to both big projects and small ones,” added Hatfield.

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

“The Superior Tramway Company – in tandem with Aerial Engineering, Inc. – plays an integral role in keeping Pacific Northwest skiing affordable,” noted Scott Kaden, PNSAA President. “John was active with both of these companies and his passion for tramway engineering – and more generally snow sports – was evident to all who had the pleasure of knowing and working with John,” added Kaden.

John Ellis was nominated for this award by Lookout Pass Ski Area and Stevens Pass Mountain Resort. For additional information about John’s career at Aerial Engineering, Inc. and Superior Tramway Company, contact Jim Ellis at (509) 466-6292 or aersuptrm@aol.com. To learn more about the PNSAA Industrial Strength 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](http://www.pnsaa.org) to link to the website of your favorite mountain.