

2009 USAWS - AWARD OF MERIT

Charlotte Melchers



In the late 70's Charlotte purchased a ski boat and began teaching young adults and children to ski. She became a member of the Gold Coast Ski Club, which began her long and dedicated service to the sport. With the help of Elmer Stailing she took over running tournaments and put the club back in the good graces of AWSA as they had been denied tournament sanctioning. She spent many years with the club as treasurer, tournament chairman and a few years as show director.

1982 ----- Through Charlotte's direction the GCSC went to Jim McCormick's in Plant City as the working personnel needed to run the South Regional Tournament. Upon the death of young Jimmy 2 weeks before the tournament, with Charlotte's guidance GSCS was able to pull the tournament together.

1983 ----- Charlotte along with other Gold Coast members acquired Mills Pond Park, Lake Lauderdale site for use of the GSCS.

1990 ----- Charlotte moved to Boynton Beach and became very active in the Ski Club of the Palm Beach serving on the Board of Directors, also serving as President and Treasurer for many years.

Over the years the Ski Club of the Palm Beaches and Okeeheelee Park, under the leadership of Charlotte as the Tournament Director of most events, hosted

Five Southern Regional Championships - 1984, 1993, 1997, 2000, 2002

Ten National Championships - 1986, 1987, 1988, 1994, 1995, 1997, 1998, 2004, 2005, and will be hosting the 11th one this year, 2009.

One World Championship - 1989

Three professional tournaments - the first pro tour stop, 1984; the first U.S. Open, 1986; the first America's Cup, 2000

More than 100 class C tournaments over the past 20 years.

She served as;

Both Chief Judge and Tournament Director of the 1994 Nationals

Masters Judge 1993 through 2006:

Chief Judge of the Masters 2007,08 & upcoming 2009 which will be the 50th Anniversary year.

Judge at the Olympic Festival, Oklahoma City, OK 1989

Judge at 10th Jr. World Tournament in Okahumpka, Fl.

Chief Judge of Southern Regionals 1991 and 2001

Charlotte helped organize and revive the Florida Water Ski Federation in 1976

Has been a member of the Florida Hall of Fame Committee since its inception in 2003

Served as Southern Regional Councilperson 1980-88

Was an AWSA National Director 1989-1995

Is an AWSA Honorary National Director

Served on the Skiers Rating Committee,

Served on the Judges and Classification Committee

Committee member of the Palm Beach County Sports Commission

Organized and worked numerous clinics since the 80's

for skiers

for juniors and seniors

for handicap skiers

for officials

for drivers

Charlotte is a Senior Judge, a Senior Scorer, and a Pan Am Judge.

Charlotte is a very dedicated to the sport and has worked hard and long to promote the sport throughout the world and to put South Florida on the map as a premier area for water-skiing.

Award of Merit Criteria

The award of merit is awarded each year to a person active in USAWS. It emphasizes participation at the board level (USAWS or Sport Division) and does not necessarily require participation as an athlete. The committee should consider volunteerism as an official, committee person, or sport division board member. The award of merit should be given to the USAWS member that has given back to the sport at multiple levels. Regional through National participation should be considered. Volunteerism in any sport divisions should be weighed by the committee.

Nominations should be sent to USAWS (Awards Committee Chair) by August 1 and should include all information available about the nominee. Information should include but not be limited to: tournament official experience at regional National or World level, Local Club participation, state or Regional offices held, and National board positions held throughout the nominee's life. Include regional and national committee work as well as any honors or awards previously received by the nominee.

AWARD OF MERIT RECIPIENTS

Award of Merit was approved by the board of directors in 1975.

1976 Lou Abel & Stan Parker

1977 Muriel Barlow & Jessie Johnson

1978 Ted Burnette & Barbara Stailing

1979 Louise Fox & Tim Sartell

1980 NO AWARD GIVEN

1981 Ralph Winn

1989 Earl Robertson

1990-91 NO AWARD GIVEN

1992 Jeffry Armstrong

1993 Mary Jo Power

1994 C.W. Lowe

1995 Ed Brazil

1996 Bob Corson & Frank Harrison

1997 Tony Baggiano & Ed Walker

1998 Dave Clark

1999 Andrea Plough

2000 Harry Robb & Jack Travers

2001 Jim Grew

2002 Sherm Schraft

2003 Will Bush

2004 Mark Crone

2005 Jerry Stansberry

2006 Mary Gail Holcombe

2007 Jeff Smith

2008 Charlotte Melchers