



Who & What's New For 2013

- **Learn to Ski & Ride Month**

All across the country, ski resorts and ski areas are participating in Learn to Ski and Ride month, throughout the month of January. From Mt. Bachelor and Mt. Hood in Oregon, to Heavenly and Diamond Peak in the Tahoe area to ski areas in Michigan, New Hampshire and New York, resorts are running special programs for those who want to learn the fine art of skiing or boarding. Earn points for the [President's Active Lifestyle Awards \(PALA\)](#) through the President's Challenge. LSSM is a strong supporter of the First Lady's Let's Move initiative.

- **National Safety Awareness Week**

In an effort to raise awareness of ski safety among skiers and snowboarders, many ski areas are hosting safety themed events and activities from January 19 to 27th. From taking precautionary measures before hitting the slopes, to knowing how to recognize something as minor as a sunburn, or as major as recognizing avalanche danger, resorts will ramp up their efforts to engage the public on best practices when it comes to skiing safely. Everyone should become familiar with "The Code", which is seven simple rules to follow:

- √ Before using lift, make sure you know HOW to use it;
- √ Always remain in control and be able to stop or avoid others on the hill;
- √ Don't stop where you will obstruct traffic flow on the hill;
- √ Yield to the skier in front of you
- √ Always look uphill before starting across a hill and yield to downhill traffic;
- √ Use devices to prevent runaway equipment;
- √ Observe all posted signs and warnings, staying away from closed runs or areas.

- **Colorado Gem Cards**

[Colorado Ski Country USA Gem Cards](#) are featuring a new component this season. It is the Flash Deal that offers promotions and additional discounts at the many partnering ski areas. Some of those discounts include a free lift ticket at Monarch Mountain, a two-for-one lift ticket at three different ski areas, and savings on lift tickets at all eight Gems areas. The Gem card can be purchased for just \$10.

- **Southwest Airlines Seasonal Flight Service**

Your trip to the Reno/Tahoe area will be easier than ever this winter, with Southwest Airlines new flight service from Ontario, California to Reno. Service began January 6, and will end March 8, 2013.

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- **NASTAR Finals in Aspen/Snowmass**

NASTAR has announced that Aspen/Snowmass will host the 2013 and 2014 Nature Valley NASTAR National Championships. Skiers will compete at the resort for national titles in various divisions. To qualify for the 2013 Championships, which are set for March 20-24, NASTAR racers must earn a top-five ranking in their age and ability category by February 18, 2013.

- **Happy Anniversary**

Mt. Hood Ski Patrol is celebrating 75 years of service this year. They will celebrate with a reunion and history event on February 21st in Portland. Loveland, Arizona Snowbowl and Stevens Pass ski areas, as well as Ski Magazine will also celebrate 75 years this year. Steamboat Ski & Resort, Big White, Vail, Panorama, Fernie, Schweitzer, Pomerelle, Park City and Las Vegas Ski and Snowboard Resort celebrate 50 years. Northstar and Copper Mountain share a 40th birthday. Here's to many more seasons for you all!

Convention News

It's Time to Book your Room for the Convention

The Bay Area Snow Sports Council is busy planning for the 81st Annual FWSA Convention, to be held June 6-9, 2013 at the fabulous Grand Sierra Resort & Casino in Reno. Be sure to visit our web pages on the [2013 Convention](#) to download the master flyer and for updated information. It's not too early to make room reservations. A Grand Sierra Standard Room is \$79 and the Summit Suites Grand II upgrade is \$104 (double occupancy).

To book your reservation, call 800.648.5080 or 775.789.2129 and use the Group Name: Far West Ski Association 2013. For booking online, go to <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/FarWestSki>. No password is required.

The Grand Sierra Resort & Casino also has an RV Park located next to the Resort. Call for information and to book a site.

Optional Activities

Among the fun activities being planned are: the River Walk Pub Crawl, 7th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament, Reno Run Whitewater Rafting, Tahoe Rim Trail Hike, Grand Sierra Spa Day, and Grand Sierra Resort Fun Day.

Convention Incentive

This year, FWSA is offering an "economic relief" program to provide a ski club the opportunity to send more delegates to the Convention. For every six (6) delegates that have paid the full registration package, the club would get a rebate of one (1) paid registration after the convention. The ski club is free to disburse this rebate as it wishes among its delegates.

Special Guests

Just to provide you with a teaser of what else may be happening at Convention, we're pleased to announce **Daron Rahlves**, the most decorated American Downhill and Super G racer in history, and **Troy Hawks**, Communications Manager of the National Ski Areas Association and Editor of NSAA Journal, will be two of our VIP guests. Come see who and what else we have in store for you.

Information

For additional information contact

- Jane Wyckoff, FWSA Convention Chair, [janewyckoff1@cox.net](mailto:j anewyckoff1@cox.net), 949-933-9607
- Linda Indreboe, BAC Host Council Convention Coordinator, bac.publicaffairs@skibac.org, 408-248-8426
- Industry members please contact Mary Olhausen, omary52@comcast.net, 503-880-7383.

Far West Charity & Community Service Recognition Program

New for 2013

FWSA encourages all clubs and councils to get involved with charities and community service. The Charities and Community Service Recognition Program has been recognizing clubs for their charitable work at each convention for the past seven years. Information can be obtained on the [Far West website](#) regarding this wonderful program, and how easy it is to apply for this recognition.

The top 3 clubs will be invited to display a picture board at Convention. From these three, the winning club will receive \$300, and the two runner-ups will each receive \$100 to be donated to the charity of their choice. In addition, we have now added a secondary level to that, and will award \$100 to the top ski club council. All groups that apply will be recognized at Convention.

Application deadline is March 15, 2013. For more information about how to get your club on the "Honor Roll of Clubs and Councils Supporting Charities", or any Charity & Community questions, contact Sigrid Noack at skisig@earthlink.net.

Far West Travel

North American Travel Program

With ski season in full swing and other upcoming fun North American adventure trips, Far West would like to remind you and your ski club members, friends, and family of upcoming trips for the Far West North American Travel Program.

Aspen / Snowmass Ski Week 2013

- The Aspen/Snowmass Ski Week is just around the corner, happening February 2nd to 9th. Space is limited, so if you are interested, please go to www.fwsa.org and check the flyer to contact a council Trip Leader in your area.

Mt. Bachelor Mini Ski Week 2013

- The 2nd annual mini ski week trip is to Mt. Bachelor, March 25-30 with lodging at the Riverhouse in Bend, Oregon. We have a great ski package, so be sure to check the flyer on the website for sign-up details.

Mammoth Summer Fun 2013

- June 27-30 is our Summer Fun Adventure at Mammoth Mountain. More details for the trip will be posted on the website soon.

Caribbean Cruise 2013

- Fall of 2013, we are planning a Caribbean cruise on Norwegian Cruise Lines. Details, along with dates and pricing will be available on the Far West website soon.

Beaver Creek Ski Week 2014

- Lastly, save the date for next year's Far West 2014 Ski Week in Beaver Creek, Colorado. The dates are January 25 to February 1st, 2014. Council Trip Leaders and Travel Staff have just returned from the site visit, during which they had the opportunity to visit many lodging properties to begin making plans for this incredible trip. Information will be made available in February 2013.

International Travel Program

Spots are still available for the trip to Innsbruck, Austria, with the extensions to Garmisch and Munich. The complete registration packet is available on the Far West website: www.fwsa.org. When traveling with Far West, rest assured that you are traveling with well-qualified travel leaders and experienced tour operators to ensure your travel experience will be exciting, enjoyable and memorable.

Check the Far West website often to find the most up-to-date travel information.

Travel Tips

Lastly, sit back, relax and enjoy your trip with FWSA. Here are some things to remember when traveling internationally:

- Pack light to enjoy the freedom of mobility – Happy Travels!
- Have some local currency on hand for the country you are to arrive in.

- Have a mix of money handy—Debit Card, Credit Card, ATM Card, cash in easy-to-exchange \$20 bills.
- Have documents, plus photocopies, of passport, airline ticket, driver's license, railpass/car rental voucher, insurance details
- FWSA highly recommends travel insurance for all participants.
- Stay fit on long flights by doing knee flexions (bending and straightening your knees); dorsiflexions (keeping heel on floor, point toes up); plantar flexions (with heels on floor, point toes down); eversion (gently roll sole inward); inversion (gently roll sole outward)
- Walk around and stretch periodically.
- Hydrate.

Far West Athletic Scholarships Program

Ski Week Raffle

Dick Shawkey will be busy selling raffle tickets at Ski Week again this year. The tickets will be \$5 each or 5 for \$20. The prize, for those who have attended previous ski weeks, or have been lucky enough to win in the past, know, is a coveted ski outfit from the makers of Karbon Ski Wear. You will have your choice of a pair of pants and jacket made to order for next ski season. See Dick, or one of the other volunteers selling tickets at the Welcome Party, Apres parties, and Farewell Banquet. The winner will be drawn the night of the Banquet. If you are willing to help Dick sell tickets, please contact him (rshawkey@comcast.net) or seek him out at the Welcome Party.

Far West Ski Foundation

Charitable Giving for 2012

The American Taxpayer Relief Act extends the rules for charitable contributions from IRAs or Roth IRAs to December 31, 2013. Individuals over 70½ years of age may transfer funds directly to a charity from their IRAs without it being counted as income. In addition, funds transferred prior to February 1, 2013 may be credited toward your charitable giving for the 2012 tax year.

The Far West Ski Foundation can receive your Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) and if desired, direct it to one of the Foundation's funds, such as the Far West Athletic Scholarship, the Westlund Fund (rehab through snow sports), Women's Ski Jumping, or Snowsports History and Museums. Send your QCD to President, FWSF, Box 861, Fallbrook CA 92088, or to John Reinhardt, Treasurer, FWSF, 5285 SW Meadows Rd #380, Lake Oswego, OR 97035.