



## Far West News *Flash* March, 2014

*Far West Ski Association*

### WHO & WHAT'S NEW FOR 2014

**Happy Anniversary:** *Park City Mountain Resort* turns 50 this year. *Grand Targhee* is 45 years old and *Big Sky Resort*, conceptualized by NBC newscaster, Chet Huntley, celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this season. Internationally, *Mount Tremblant*, in Quebec turns 75 and *Marmot Basin*, in Alberta, turns 50. Happy birthday, everyone.

**Taos Ski Valley Purchased:** The founding Blake family has sold *Taos Ski Valley* to a conservationist based in New York City. Taos was the last of New Mexico's founding-family-owned resorts to be sold. Immediately following the announcement, Taos released news of the first new terrain expansion and lift projects for the 2014-2015 season, which will increase the mountain's advanced and expert lift-service terrain by 50%. The Kachina Peak area, with a summit at 12,450 feet, will be lift-accessed for the first time ever. The area was previously accessible only by hiking up. It provides superb scenic views.

**2014 Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame Inductees:** Six athletes and sport builders have been elected to the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame for their contributions to the sport. Honorees include big mountain skier *Scot Schmidt*, freestyle pioneer and world champion *John Clendenin*, 2006 Olympic moguls bronze medalist *Toby Dawson*, freestyle aerials champion *Kris Feddersen*, globally acclaimed ski film producer *Joe Jay Jalbert* (Far West Warren Miller Award Recipient in 2005), and ski show pioneer *Jerry Simon* (Far West Snow Sports Builder Award Recipient in 2008). The six will be formally inducted into the Hall of Fame at a ceremony to be held in Park City, Utah on Saturday, April 5.

**Far West Race Championships:** The Far West Race Championships are coming up the weekend of April 4-6, 2014 at Mammoth Mountain. The price is just \$69 for the races, which include the Pace Setters Race and Clinic on Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, the Slalom Race on Saturday, and the Giant Slalom on Sunday. Lodging will be at Mammoth Mountain Inn. Contact Bob Ellis for more information: [Rellis9681@aol.com](mailto:Rellis9681@aol.com).

### FAR WEST SKI ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

**Have You Made Plans To Attend The Volcanic Paradise Convention?** What are you waiting for? The 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Far West Ski Association Convention, June 12-15, 2014, in Bend, OR, is drawing closer than you think!! FIRST—make your lodging reservations. Simply call The Riverhouse at **800.547.3928 or 541-389-3111**. Group Name: Far West Ski Association 2014. Don't forget—The Riverhouse offers Convention rates 3 days prior and 3 days post. There is SO much to do in Central Oregon—this is the place to relax, unwind, or take advantage of all those outdoor activities that abound in the Bend area. See Visit Bend at [www.visitbend.com](http://www.visitbend.com) or Central Oregon Visitors Association at [www.visitcentraloregon.com](http://www.visitcentraloregon.com) for all the information you need to plan your extended stay in Central Oregon! Traveling in your RV? Reserve space now as spots fill fast!  
Scandia RV Park [www.scandiarv.com](http://www.scandiarv.com).  
Crown Villa RV Resort [www.crownvillaresort.com](http://www.crownvillaresort.com)

**How About That FWSA 6-Pack Program—To Save On Registration Fees?** Clubs and Delegates— Take advantage of the FWSA 6-Pack Program. This is a super deal. With every six (6) paid delegates that have paid for the full registration package, from the same club, your club will receive a rebate of one (1) paid registration after the convention (voting & non-voting delegates qualify). You get 6 delegates for the price of 5. That's a savings not to be overlooked!

**Sign Up Now For Convention Optional Activities!** Thursday is set for a Mt. Bachelor adventure, followed by the Annual Pub Crawl that evening. Friday is "Optional Activity Day" beginning with the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament at River's Edge Golf Course; Hike and Sightsee at the world-famous Smith Rock State Park; or Shop-Dine-Wine @ Old Mill District. The Pool Party, later Friday afternoon, will cool you off before the annual FWSA Silent Auction on Friday night. And Saturday night erupts for the real *Volcanic Paradise*. We'll have a live band this year. Northwest Ski Club Council guarantees you'll dance your flip-flops off to the sounds of Thrillride. Yes, we said flip-flops! The attire for Saturday night is black tie & shorts. You can check out *Thrillride* at [www.thrillrideband.com](http://www.thrillrideband.com).

For more information, please contact Host Council Convention Coordinator Mary Olhausen at [omary52@comcast.net](mailto:omary52@comcast.net).

## FAR WEST BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Far West Elections:** Elections of officers will occur at the FWSA Annual Meeting & Convention June 12-15, 2014 at the Riverhouse Hotel & Convention Center in Bend, Oregon. Delegates will elect their President, Secretary and Treasurer for one-year terms and two (2) Trustee positions for two-year terms. In addition, the following functional Vice Presidents will be elected for two-year terms: VP of International Travel, VP of Communications, VP of Membership, and VP of Marketing. If you are interested in running for one of these positions, job descriptions, Bylaws, and the Operations Manual are linked to the FWSA website under About-Governance at [www.fwsa.org](http://www.fwsa.org). For more information contact Steve Coxen at [stevecoxen@yahoo.com](mailto:stevecoxen@yahoo.com).

## FAR WEST SKI FOUNDATION

**Foundation Sets Sights for 2014:** Members, industry partners and friends of the Association are the principal, historic and continuing donors to the Far West Ski Foundation – which in turn supports, through grants, some very important and high-profile programs. The Foundation acts on behalf of organized snow sports and provides a convenient avenue for tax-deductible contributions to athletic scholarships, women's ski jumping, adaptive skiing and rehabilitation and education. The Foundation provided over \$10,000 in grants in 2013. We'd like to enhance our scholarship grants for promising young skiers "on the way up" in 2014. The *Women's Ski Jumping Team* will start a rebuilding process. We had great response to the *Vail Veterans Program* for injured military skiers and to the *Snowbasin Adaptive Sports Foundation*, and we would like to increase these grants. Our education and ski history mission will soon be consumed by the new *Squaw Valley Museum*. With support from our traditional friends, we hope to top that \$10,000 this year---the Foundations' **50<sup>th</sup> YEAR**. Contributions may be made through the web page: [farwestskifoundation.org](http://farwestskifoundation.org).

## FAR WEST TRAVEL

**Register on Line for South Africa:** To sign up for the South Africa Trip, which is set for September 5-16, 2014, with an extension to *Victoria Falls* September 16-20, 2014, go to FWSA's new interactive website at: <https://fwsa-connect.herokuapp.com>, click the "sign up" link to create a new account; click on the "confirm" link in the email you receive and then use your new account to "login". Look in the Trips menu to sign up for our trip to Africa. You can also view the trips you have signed up for and make online payments using your PayPal account or your credit card. Space is limited, so register NOW. Click on the link to view the Safari video on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/SzDrEr7LlHg>. Contact Debbie Stewart for more details at: [fwsaintlrvl@prodigy.net](mailto:fwsaintlrvl@prodigy.net).

**Far West Dive Trip:** The FWSA 5<sup>th</sup> annual scuba dive trip will be October 11-18, 2014 to Occidental Grand Cozumel Resort on the great island of Cozumel, Mexico. The price is \$1,138 for divers and \$758 for non-divers. Price includes 7 nights at the Occidental Grand Cozumel (2 persons in a deluxe room), all meals and drinks including alcohol!! The dive price includes 5 days of 2 tank boat dives and unlimited Nitrox. Contact Randy Lew at 530-304-0802 or [fwsa13randy@telis.org](mailto:fwsa13randy@telis.org)

**Far West Ski Week 2015:** Reservations can soon be made for the North American Ski Week to *Whistler Blackcomb*, January 31 to February 7, 2015. A fun week is being planned by our travel staff, along with Ski.Com and all the folks at *Whistler*. The council trip leaders and travel staff returned last month from their Site Inspection and will have full details to us soon. Watch for further updates in the News Flash, or contact your own council's trip leader for more information.

## FAR WEST COUNCILS

**Bay Area Council:** The Bay Area Snow Sports Council (BAC) will hold their 9th Annual Tailgate BBQ / Oakland A's Baseball Game & Fireworks Show Benefiting Disabled Sports USA Far West Division on Saturday August 23, 2014. Last year we had 146 people at the event. This year we hope to get 200!

The BAC is also in the planning stages for the celebration of our councils 75th Anniversary in 2015! From what is being talked about, we will have various events during the entire year of 2015 to reflect on our accomplishments and talk about our wonderful future.

## FAR WEST SKIER'S GUIDE

**Digital Edition Now Available:** Have you visited the Digital Edition of the 2013-2014 issue of the *Far West Skier's Guide yet?* In addition to all the information found in the printed edition, there is also an extra 28 page insert with more feature articles including one on Yellowstone National Park, the end of the ski season resort fun, Exploring the World on Two Wheels, the answers to the Resort Quiz found in the printed issue and much more. The link can be found at [www.fwsa.org](http://www.fwsa.org), [www.skifederation.org](http://www.skifederation.org), <http://boundforsnow.com/far-west-skiers-guide-2013-2014/>, FWSA council websites and many of their club sites. The direct link to the Digital Edition is <http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/farwestskiersguide/2013-14/>.

## HELI-SKIING GUIDE CAUGHT IN AVALANCHE

A 31-year-old Bend, Oregon native heli-ski guide, Aaron Karitis, was buried in an avalanche on Saturday, March 15, in an Alaskan back country area known as Kicking Horse Valley.

Aaron was a very experienced heli-ski guide with *Southeast Alaska Backcountry Skiing Adventure (SEABA)* and was flown up 4,000 feet on the mountain with four clients to ski down. He was finishing his condition-check precautions when the slide was triggered. His four clients and fellow guides were not caught in the avalanche and were able to rescue him because he was wearing a locator beacon. Aaron was buried under 7 feet of snow for about twenty minutes and was unconscious when found. Unfortunately, Aaron passed away on March 17<sup>th</sup> from his injuries. He was to have been one of our guest speakers at this year's convention. For anyone lucky enough to meet this incredible young man, he was truly a shining star.

This avalanche followed one, 30 feet deep, which hit the High Campbell chairlift, the highest of 10 chairlifts, at Crystal Mountain Resort on Mount Rainier, Washington on March 11. The avalanche was intentionally triggered by the Ski Patrol, who threw a 40-pound explosive on unstable snow as a safety precaution on a slope known as "The Throne" in the High Campbell basin. "That got a bigger result than any of us anticipated" stated Tiana Enger, Crystal Mountain's marketing director. It brought down more snow than expected and wiped out a chairlift. Luckily, no one was injured. The area had been closed, and the explosion was set off at 4:45 p.m. Monday after the resort had closed. However, the slide knocked the lower terminal off its foundation and toppled one of about 10 towers.

This is the time of the year that the snow is softening, and we ALL need to be more careful and aware of where we are skiing. Be safe out there, when you're enjoying your Spring Skiing!