

WHO & WHAT'S NEW FOR 2015-2016

Learn to Ski Month: January marks the 7th annual "Learn to Ski and Snowboard Month. During the entire month, ski and snowboard areas throughout the country will offer some of their best deals for newcomers wanting to try one or both of these winter sports in the most affordable way. "Cost and convenience often are top of mind for people considering taking up skiing or snowboarding," said Mary Jo Tarallo, Executive Director for the snow sports industry's national initiative. "Like anything else, making the sports affordable and accessible requires a little research and smart shopping." The learntoskiandsnowboard.org web site provides access to resorts, as well as a list of snow sports retail shops, tips for newcomers ranging from "How to Save Money", "How to Dress" (starting with clothes from one's closet), "Dealing with Children" and "How to Pack for a Ski/Snowboard Trip". The site also includes links on renting clothing in addition to equipment, on-line swap platforms, clothing and equipment suppliers and much more.

Newcomers who take lessons during January have a couple of ways to make skiing and snowboarding more affordable. Online retailer skis.com/snowboards.com is giving a \$50 gift voucher to anyone who takes a beginner lesson and sends in the receipt. Beginners who bring other beginners for lessons can win substantial prizes for doing so including skis from Head and [Ramp](#), a snowboard from [Ride](#) or a \$500 gift voucher from [Krimson Klover](#). The key is to take the [Bring a Friend Challenge](#). Newcomers who enter the First Day Faces campaign ([#firstdayfaces](#)) are eligible to win a four-day trip to Utah including airfare from a major city. "We think that's an affordable offer", said Raelene Davis, Marketing VP for [Ski Utah](#) and sponsor for the trip.

The New Mountain Collective: James Coleman, the managing partner of *Sipapu Ski Resort* near Taos, and part owner of *Pajarito Mountain Ski Area* in Los Alamos, has purchased *Purgatory at Durango Mountain Resort* and *Arizona Snow Bowl*, near Flagstaff. These four areas, with a total of 3,100 acres of skiable terrain, will now form the Mountain Collective. All are within a four-hour drive of each other in the southwestern United States.

US Women's Ski Jumping Competition: At the World Cup competitions in Sapporo, Japan last Saturday and Sunday, the US Women's Ski Jumping team made a great splash! Sarah Hendrickson placed 5th and 8th, respectively in the 2nd and 3rd competitions, while teammate, Jessica Jerome, placed 13th and 12th, and Nita Englund had an 11th place finish on Sunday. Way to go, ladies!

Happy Anniversary: *Bridger Bowl* turns 60 this month. Both *Winter Park* and *Wolf Creek* celebrate their 75th anniversary this ski season. *Howelson Hill*, the small race hill in *Steamboat Springs* turns 100, and both *St. Moritz* and *Davos* are celebrating 150 years of winter sports this

year. Switzerland will be doing some fun and special things throughout the winter. Congratulations to you all!

FAR WEST 83rd Annual CONVENTION

Salute to San Diego: *The San Diego Council of Ski Clubs* will be hosting the 83rd Annual Far West Ski Association Convention at the luxurious **Town and Country Resort & Convention Center, San Diego, California** from June 4-7, 2015. Come early, or stay late to take advantage of all that San Diego has to offer.

Optional events on Thursday will feature a Historic Trolley Tour of San Diego, the Seal Tour on San Diego Bay and a very special evening Sunset Dinner on the USS Midway. Friday events include a golf tournament, kayaking, biking, and a trip to the San Diego Zoo.

Make your room reservations now!! Call 1-800-772-8527 or book online at our FWSA room reservation site at <http://bit.ly/FWSA-lodging>. When calling for a room reservation, be sure to reference our group name - Far West Ski Association. Our special group rate offers a choice of accommodations in one of the high-rise towers, or a charming garden bungalow. Free Wi-Fi in guest rooms is included. For complete details about all the *Salute to San Diego* - Convention meetings, educational seminars and events, visit www.fwsa.org. The website for the Town and Country Resort & Convention Center is located at www.towncountry.com. For additional information, contact Eileen Sanford, Host Council Convention Coordinator at esanford1@san.rr.com. FWSA industry partners can contact Debbi Kor, FWSA VP of Marketing and Sponsorships at fwsadebbi@comcast.net.

FAR WEST RECOGNITION AWARDS

CHARITY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE RECOGNITION: DEADLINE: *March 20, 2015*

RECOGNITION: The 1st Place Club will receive a \$200 donation and the 2nd Place Club a \$50 donation for the charity of their choice. The 1st Place Council will receive a \$100 donation.

DESCRIPTION: The intent of this recognition program is to encourage charity and community service involvement in all our FWSA councils and clubs and to recognize a club or council for its outstanding financial and/or volunteer support to one or more charitable organizations. All clubs and councils that apply will be recognized at the FWSA Convention. Three clubs and one council will be selected and notified by April 15. They will then prepare a picture display board to be presented at Convention.

CONTACT: Sigrid Noack, FWSA Charities & Our Community Chair, 310-499-8181, sig4ski@earthlink.net

SAFETY PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD: DEADLINE: *March 20, 2015*

RECOGNITION: New sponsors this year, *Telluride Ski Resort* and *Mountain Lodge, Telluride* have donated a 5-night ski package for two with lodging, 4-day lift tickets, and 4-day rentals.

DESCRIPTION: The FWSA is a proponent of safety in skiing and snowboarding. Every year we hear about tragic deaths and injuries that happen during our favorite winter activities that remind us of the great importance of safety. We have a number of ways in which we promote safety and one of our more viable ways is through the Safety Award. The award is for the individual, within the association, that has done the most to promote safety through a number of criteria. These include articles on slope safety, and other ways to raise safety consciousness. The link to detailed information and entry form is: <http://fwsa.org/MemberCorner/Programs/program-safety.html>

CONTACT: Richard Lubin DC, FWSA Safety Chair, 925-828-7454, botaboardr@comcast.net

WESTERN SKI HERITAGE AWARD: DEADLINE: *March 20, 2015*

RECOGNITION: Since 2000, *Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation* has donated a 5-night ski package for two with lodging, lift tickets, rentals, on-mountain tour, half-day lessons and a lunch at Ragnar's Restaurant.

DESCRIPTION: The Far West Western Ski Heritage program annually recognizes the best effort in the prior year that communicates the contributions of snowsports to the community at large. The purpose of the Far West Western Ski Heritage program is to raise the awareness of snowsports participants and non-participants alike of the contributions made by individuals, groups and companies to all aspects of snowsports – competitive as well as that of outdoor winter recreation and fitness. A parallel purpose is to convey the positive role snowsports has had in its contributions to the communities in the West. It recognizes outstanding effort in the area of snowsports history to find, preserve, document and share the history of snowsports in the West. The Award is open to an individual or a group leader (it is not restricted to Far West membership) and can be self-nominated or nominated by a club or club member. Materials and history programs will be evaluated against the objectives of the program by individuals selected for their knowledge of the history of Western snowsports and that of the Association. The link to detailed information and entry form is: <http://fwsa.org/MemberCorner/Programs/program-wsh.html>

CONTACT: John Watson, FWSA History Committee Chair, 760-723-6539, geospace@pacbell.net

ENVIRONMENT AWARD: DEADLINE: *March 20, 2015*

RECOGNITION: *New this year!* Sponsors, *Aspen Skiing Company* and *Snowmass Tourism, The Gant* and *Crestwood Condominiums* have donated a 5-night ski package for two with lodging, lift tickets, rentals, and a full-day group lesson.

DESCRIPTION: The Environment Award is designed to encourage good stewardship of our environment. We want to inspire and reward creative efforts to conserve and protect our environment. This award should recognize a special action that the applicant took, or something he or she put in place that made a difference. Some areas to consider are: Volunteering at the community level, particularly in a leadership role; conducting or arranging for an environmental event (s) for the club, council, or public; writing a series of columns regarding environmental conservation, education or protection in your ski club or ski club council newsletter; or being pro-active in environmental protection.

CONTACT: Mike Sanford, VP of Public Affairs, 858-761-6191, bubasnfrd@aol.com

FAR WEST HISTORICAL RECOGNITION PROGRAM: DEADLINE: March 20, 2015

RECOGNITION: Certificate suitable for framing.

DESCRIPTION: The FWSA launched the Historical Recognition Program in 2008 to develop club, league and council histories. The objective of the annual program is to capture important information about skiing from the skier's perspective and especially that of the club skier. Selection for the award is based on digital (preferable) or mailed presentation of club or council history according to a set of weighted criteria and judged by knowledgeable ski historians. The History Recognition is not for outstanding club or council, although it is anticipated that material may be common to both types of presentations. Think of these histories as museum or library reference resources. The link to detailed information and entry form is:

<http://fwsa.org/MemberCorner/Programs/program-historical.html>

CONTACT: John Watson, FWSA History Committee Chair, 760-723-6539,
geospace@pacbell.net

FAR WEST CLUB & COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS COMPETITION: DEADLINE: March 31, 2015

RECOGNITION: Certificate suitable for framing and a digital award to place on club or council website.

DESCRIPTION: The Club and Council Communications Awards website is up and can be found at: <http://fwsaca.org/educomm>. These competitions are designed to promote excellence and outstanding performance and are open to all clubs and councils within Far West Ski Association. The information you will find on this site concerns entries for the following five competitions: Tollakson Outstanding Club of the Year; Wentworth Outstanding Club Newsletter of the Year; Wentworth Outstanding Council Newsletter of the Year; Outstanding Club Website Award; and Outstanding Council Website Award. The deadline for all categories is **March 31, 2015**. Clubs and Councils may access the 2015 updated criteria, judging information and submit 2015 entry forms. Online registration and an "invite code" is required to gain access. The Invite code:

FwsaEdu2015.

FAR WEST COUNCIL'S MAN & WOMAN OF THE YEAR PROGRAM: The Councils' Man & Woman of the Year program recognizes top volunteers from each council at the FWSA Annual Convention. Since 2001, Big White Ski Resort has donated a 5-night ski package for two with lodging, lift tickets and transfers for the Councils' Man and Woman of the Year.

FAR WEST TRAVEL

Far West Mini Ski Week 2015: This trip to **Whitefish Mountain Resort**, March 30 - April 4, 2015, includes 3-4 days of skiing, lodging at Grouse Mountain Lodge, both Welcome and Farewell Parties, and optional activities such as snowmobile tours, day spa, Glacier Park tours, dogsled adventures, sleigh rides, and more. Check out the Travel Section on the Far West website.

Far West International Trip 2015: We are still looking for people for our **Val d'Isere** trip in 2015. This International Ski Trip comes with a pre-trip to Paris, March 10-14, the main trip

March 14-21, and a post-trip to Provence and the French Riviera March 21-28, 2015. There are actually 5 options for this trip: a) Paris & Val d'Isere; b) Val d'Isere Ski Week; c) Paris, Val d'Isere and Provence/French Riviera; d) Val d'Isere and Provence/French Riviera. Paris will NOT be sold alone, but you can do a Stand Alone trip to Provence and the French Riviera. (FWSA can assist you with transportation on a case by case basis). Contact Debbie Stewart for part or all of this incredible trip: fwsaintltravel@prodigy.net.

Far West Mississippi River Trip: June 19 - 23, 2015 with an additional two days - June 23-24, 2015 in **New Orleans**. This trip will be a 3-night roundtrip paddleboat cruise aboard the American Queen from New Orleans. It will be a "Southern Culture Cruise" with stops at Oak Alley Plantation and Baton Rouge, LA. Trip includes all meals, wine/beer with dinner, soft drinks, water, and coffee. Also included is 1 night at a local hotel before the cruise. It includes transfers to the ship, steamboat-style entertainment, daily lectures, and a Welcome Party. June 23-24th will be at the New Orleans Hotel Bienville House. New Orleans tour options include airboat/swamp tours and ghost/paranormal tours. See the Far West website for further information.

FAR WEST MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

New Benefits Partners Added: A number of new Member Benefits Partners have been added to the Far West website for the coming season, including two new lodging partners in Utah: *Hyatt Place*, in Holladay and *Hyatt House*, in Sandy, Utah. Both offer unique lodging experiences for those skiing Alta, Snowbird, Brighton, Solitude ski areas. *Canyon Transportation* also offers 15% off transportation from the SLC airport with proof of your Far West membership.

FAR WEST SKIER'S GUIDE

Far West Skier's Guide Digital Edition: Have you checked out the digital edition of the 2014-2015 *Far West Skier's Guide*? It can be accessed from the Far West Ski Association's website at www.fwsa.org or through the following link:

<http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/farwestskiersguide/2014-15/>. In addition to the entire printed issue, the digital edition also has a 24 page digital only insert featuring more information and articles of interest to skiers, boarders and active adults for year around activities. Please pass the link on, place it on your websites and also put it on your Facebook pages. Past DE issues have been viewed by snow enthusiasts around the world. Enjoy!

SKI SAFETY

Skier Safety: As the Pacific Northwest and California skiers and boarders are doing their snow dances and patiently waiting for more snow, please don't forget to be careful in the marginal conditions that currently exist. Mt Hood was hit with two terrible accidents over New Years. The first was a 37 year old man who died of severe chest trauma after a high speed crash and the second was a 19 year old female who remains hospitalized, recovering from traumatic brain injury, Both of these people were expert skiers and former high school racers. Neither was wearing a helmet. **FWSA – First With Safety Awareness**

Two prospects from the U.S. Ski Team were killed earlier this month in an avalanche while skiing near their European training base in the Austrian Alps. The team said Ronnie Berlack,

20, and Bryce Astle, 19, died in the incident near the Rettenbach glacier in the mountains over Soelden, the venue for the annual season-opening World Cup races. Berlack, from Franconia, New Hampshire, and Astle, from Sandy, Utah, were part of a group of six skiers who were descending from the 3,056-meter Gaislachkogel when they left the prepared slope and apparently set off the avalanche. The other four skied out of the slide and escaped unhurt.

10th MOUNTAIN DIVISION ICON REMEMBERED

10th Mountain Division Leader: Earl Ervin Clark, a World War II veteran who was instrumental in forming the 10th Mountain Division National Association, and a member of the Colorado Ski Hall of Fame, died December 28 at his home in Littleton, CO. He was 95. In 1971, Clark was among the founding members and first president of the 10th Mountain Division National Association, which grew to have more than 5,000 members. He also played a role in forming the International Federation of Mountain Soldiers, a group that includes German, Austrian, Italian and French mountain ski soldiers. On St. Patrick's Day, 1942, Clark joined the Army and volunteered for an experimental skiing unit, which became the 1st Battalion of the 87th Regiment — the nucleus of the soon-to-be-formed 10th Mountain Division.