

WHO & WHAT'S NEW FOR 2015-2016

Sun Valley Joins Mountain Collective: *Sun Valley* is now part of **The Mountain Collective** along with *Alta, Snowbird, Aspen/Snowmass, Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, Whistler/Blackcomb, Alpine Meadows, Squaw Valley, Lake Louise, Sunshine Village, and Mammoth Mountain*. What a great way to change up your skiing opportunities. Passes for 2015-2016 are on sale now.

Steamboat is MAXing Out: A great snow experience is to be had through the **MAX Pass** which is now being offered at *Steamboat*, as well as 21 other resorts throughout the U.S. Ski or ride 5 days at each of these locations, for a total of 110 days on the mountain. You can purchase your 2015-2016 pass now. Areas included are: *Steamboat, Mt. Bachelor, Big Sky, Winter Park, Copper Mountain, Crystal Mountain, Brighton, Boreal, Las Vegas Resort and Summit at Snoqualmie, and Cypress Mountain* in the West; *Blue Mountain, Boyne Mountain, Boyne Highlands, Killington, Loon Mountain, Pico Mountain, Snowshoe, Stratton, Sugarloaf, Sunday River* and *Mt. Tremblant* in the East.

Colorado Skier Visits Up Mid-Season: Colorado Ski Country USA reports an increase in skier visitation in January and February. Skier visits to Colorado resorts were up by 3.7 percent during the second period of the 2014/2015 season (January 1, 2015 through February 28, 2015), compared to the same period of the prior year. "At the start of the season we set a strong pace in visitation, and that pace continued through the second period, exceeding expectations given some bouts of unseasonable weather in January," explained Melanie Mills, president and CEO, Colorado Ski Country USA. "The steady pace of skier visits speaks volumes to Colorado's reputation for having consistent, reliable snow conditions and being the top ski destination." With great spring skiing conditions all around the state, resorts are welcoming spring break visitors and guests from all over the world. "Looking ahead we're cautiously optimistic; especially since we still have a lot of ski season left. March and April are typically very snowy months in Colorado and we'd be thrilled to see this pace continue," said Mills.

FAR WEST CONVENTION IS ONLY THREE MONTHS AWAY

Convention Registrations Have Been Mailed: Registration packets for the 83rd Annual Far West Ski Association Convention were mailed to Council and Club Presidents late February. These forms are also available on the Far West website (www.fwsa.org/convention). We will be holding this year's convention at the luxurious **Town and Country Resort & Convention Center, San Diego, California** from June 4-7, 2015. Plan your summer vacation to come to San Diego. Join us for all the convention activities, then stay a few days to take advantage of all that San Diego has to offer.

We'll have some Optional Events on Thursday, including 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 The 9th Annual Michael German Memorial golf tournament, kayaking, biking, and a trip to the San Diego Zoo. All of this will be followed up by a fun Pool Party on Friday afternoon, and our 30th Annual Silent Auction and Snowsports Trade Show on Friday night.

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

Deadline Nearing For Far West Recognition Awards: Far West's various Recognition Awards will be presented at the annual convention in San Diego this June 4th-7th. We hope to have many entries to select from. If you have not gotten your entry in for one of these yet: **Charity and Community Service Recognition, Safety Person of the Year, Western Ski Heritage Award, Environment Award, Far West Historical Recognition Program, any one of the Far West Club & Council Competitions, or the Far West Council's Man & Woman of the Year**, you still have until March 20th. Please see the Far West website (www.fwsa.org), or last month's issue of the News Flash for more detailed information.

FAR WEST SKI ASSOCIATION ELECTIONS

Elections of officers: Elections will occur at the FWSA Annual Meeting and Convention, June 4-7, 2015 at the Town and Country Resort & Convention Center in San Diego CA. Delegates will elect the following to one-year terms.

President, Secretary, and Treasurer

Elections for two-year terms will be for the following positions.

Two (2) Trustees
VP Council Services
VP North American Travel
VP Public Affairs

If you are interested in running for any of the above positions, please contact Harry Davis, Nominating Committee Chairman, at harrykaren@comcast.net. FWSA By-Laws, job descriptions, and the Operations Manual are linked to the FWSA website at www.fwsa.org. Nominations for any of the open positions will be accepted up to the date and time of elections.

Declared candidates at the date of this publication are:

President - Linda Scott, Incumbent

Secretary - Linda Foster

Treasurer - William Shadbolt, Incumbent

Trustees (2) - Jane Wyckoff, Incumbent, and Wanda Ross

VP Council Services - Jo Simpson, Incumbent

VP North American Travel - Nancy Ellis, Incumbent

VP Public Affairs - Joe Harvis

FAR WEST TRAVEL

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 Annual Dive Trip: September 26-October 3, 2015 are the dates set for the annual Far West Dive Trip. 2015. Our destination this year is ***Plaza Beach Resort, Bonaire***. The Diver package price is \$1,115, with the non-diver price at \$836. This price includes 7 nights lodging in a Junior Suite (dbl occ), all meals and drinks (alcohol included), use of paddle boards, kayaks, and catamarans, 6 days of 2-tank boat dives and unlimited shore diving. Airport transfers are also included. Join us for this extraordinary trip. You'll have time to explore and experience the local culture, or simply relax and enjoy the resort. Check out the Far West website, or contact Randy Lew, your Trip Leader at: fwsa13randy@telis.org. Limited group air is available on Delta Airlines RT from Los Angeles to Bonaire estimated at \$725 per person.

Far West Annual Ski Week 2016: January 30th-February 6, 2016 are the dates set for next year's Ski Week to Telluride. Telluride was just ranked as the Number One Ski Resort by Conde Nast Traveler for the 2nd year in a row. Check with your council's Trip Leader to make your reservations for your week of fun. Stay tuned for further details.

FAR WEST SAYS GOODBYE TO DEEDEE CORRADINI

Women's Ski Jumping Leader Passes: Global Leader for Women's Rights, former Mayor of Salt Lake, and the President of Women's Ski Jumping, USA, *Deedee Corradini* will be sadly missed. Deedee attended our convention in 2009, and again in 2012 held in Ogden, Utah. She was the Keynote Speaker in Ogden, speaking passionately about her fight in getting Women's Ski Jumping as an Olympic event. That dream was realized in the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics. "There's no one else who could have led us and made the difference she did. She was a force! She was amazing to watch. We will deeply miss her, but also are profoundly grateful that we knew her and experienced this great journey with her at the helm", said Peter Jerome, founder of WSJ-USA. Deedee was presented with the FWSA Snowsports Builder Award in 2009.

SKI RESORT FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGES

Ship Skis - a New Benefits Partner: Our newest Benefits Partner is *Ship Skis*, located in West Palm Beach, Florida. What began as a company who shipped golf clubs, has now grown into something more. They are offering our members a \$5 discount on shipping your skis OR golf clubs to your favorite vacation destination. Check them out on our website (Member Corner/Benefits), or on their website: shipskis.com.

FAR WEST SKIER'S GUIDE

Warmer Climate Creating Havoc at Ski Resorts: As New England areas confront sidewalk avalanches and digs itself out from underneath a blizzard, West Coast skiers are dealing with the opposite problem. Squaw Valley, which averaged 450 inches of snowfall per year between 2008 and 2014, has received less than a third of that amount this season, according to a February snow report. The snowpack situation is so dire there that the International Ski Federation canceled the skicross and snowboardcross World Cup two weeks before it was scheduled to launch, in early March.

Much has been made about the impact of global warming, but nowhere is it felt deeper than at ski resort towns, whose economies depend almost entirely on snowfall. If it doesn't snow, no one comes to town to ski, which means no one attends après activities, or buys groceries or gasoline, and the town loses a revenue stream it depends on. This is happening across the entire western high country.

"It's a bigger issue than, 'Oh, we can't ski,'" says Diana Madson, executive director of the non-profit *Mountain Pact*. "It's loss of jobs and major environmental degradation." The country's \$12.2 billion winter tourism industry can't survive on snow-gun slopes. Ski resorts account for 36 percent of winter tourism-related employment. In order to protect winter—and the hundreds of thousands whose livelihoods depend upon a snow-filled season—we must act now to support policies that protect our climate, and in turn, our slopes.