

# Far West News *Flash*

April 2015

*Far West Ski Association*

## **WHO & WHAT'S NEW FOR 2015**

### **Squaw Valley Plans Base to Base Gondola Connection with Alpine**

**Meadows:** For years, Andy Wirth and Troy Caldwell have skied the North Lake Tahoe resorts of Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows together. Wirth is the President and CEO of Squaw, and Caldwell owns the 460 acres of private property that separates Squaw from its neighbor Alpine. And so their chairlift conversations led to the April 13 announcement that Squaw Valley Ski Holdings, LLC plans to connect the two resorts with a base-to-base lift.

They aren't the first to imagine a connection between the resorts. Alpine's snowy bowls are easily spotted from Squaw's KT-22, a storied peak known for the steep terrain that spills down its north flank to the resort village. The physical connection moved closer to realization when KSL Capital Partners bought Squaw in 2010 and then merged that ski area with Alpine in 2011 to offer 6,000 acres of terrain on one pass. This recent announcement came after a legal agreement that allows Squaw to build and maintain a lift on Caldwell's property, known as White Wolf. It's similar to an existing contract between the two parties: Squaw already leases Caldwell's land atop KT-22 for resort operations. Guests currently move between Squaw and Alpine via a free shuttle. The proposed base-to-base gondola would be the first on-mountain infrastructure to link the two. "It's definitely a dream come true," says Caldwell.

**\$50 Million Dollar Makeover at Park City/Canyons:** The Park City Planning Commission gave unanimous approval for Vail Resorts' plan to build an interconnecting gondola between Park City and Canyons ski areas, among other capital improvements totaling \$50 million. The end result will reportedly represent the largest single ski area in the U.S., with more than 7,300 acres of skiable terrain.

### **U.S. SKI AND SNOWBOARD HALL OF FAME INDUCTION**

**2015:** America's Ski Town U.S.A, Steamboat Springs, honored ten new inductees

to the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Those inductees included: Olympic champion snowboarder *Ross Powers*, World Alpine Championship medalist *Erik Schlopy*, noted big mountain skier *Chris Davenport*, ski instruction pioneer *Curt Chase*, and goggle innovator *Bob Smith*. Others include resort designer *Joe Cushing*, World Cup race winner *Kristina Koznik*, alpine development leader *John McMurtry*, women's innovator *Jeannie Thoren* and *Ralph Miller*, one of the great American ski racers from the 1950's.

## **FAR WEST ANNUAL CONVENTION IS TWO MONTHS AWAY**

**Convention is Coming Up:** Registration packets for the 83<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.fwsa.org/convention)). This year's convention will be held 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 a few 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](http://www.fwsa.org). The website for the Town and Country Resort & Convention Center is located at [www.towncountry.com](http://www.towncountry.com). For additional information, contact Eileen Sanford, Host Council Convention Coordinator at [esanford1@san.rr.com](mailto:esanford1@san.rr.com). FWSA industry partners can contact Debbi Kor, FWSA VP of Marketing and Sponsorships at [fwsadebbi@comcast.net](mailto:fwsadebbi@comcast.net).

**FWSA is offering an "economic incentive" program this year, 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 by the May 8, 2015 deadline, the club will receive a rebate of one (1) paid registration after the Convention.**

## **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 their President, Secretary, and Treasurer to 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 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](mailto:harrykaren@comcast.net). FWSA By-Laws, job descriptions, and the Operations Manual are linked to the FWSA website at [www.fwsa.org](http://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 – Steve Coxen

Secretary - Linda Foster

Treasurer - William Shadbolt, Incumbent; Randy Lew

Trustees (2) - Jane Wyckoff, Incumbent; Gene Fulkerson, 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](mailto: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 SKI FOUNDATION**

**Vail Veteran's Program:** One of the programs that the Far West Ski Foundation supports, the Vail Veterans Program, was the official charity of the Vail Film Festival, which took place on March 26 - 29, 2015. You can watch the Vail Veterans Program movie trailer that debuted during the festival ([info@vailveteransprogram.org](mailto:info@vailveteransprogram.org)). Thank you to each wounded veteran and his/her family for sharing your inspirational stories, and to our team for all of their hard work.