



WHO & WHAT'S NEW FOR 2015-2016

Happy Birthday Far West Ski Clubs: *S'no Joke Ski Club* celebrated their 30th anniversary earlier this year. *Mountain High Snowsport Club* celebrated their 40th birthday earlier this fall, *Skiyente Ski Club* turned 60, and *Bergfreunde Ski Club* will be celebrating their 50th anniversary in the coming year. These clubs are all members of the *Northwest Ski Club Council*. *Balboa Ski & Sports Club*, a member of the *Orange Council of Ski Clubs* turned 60. Here's to many more years of fun activity for you all.

Happy 80th Anniversary Sun Valley: *Sun Valley*, America's first destination ski resort opened in 1936. They will be holding a number of special events to celebrate their anniversary throughout the year. I'm sure that we've all had some epic times at Sun Valley! These past 80 years are just "*Mere Moments in the Evolution of Skiing!*" Happy birthday, *Sun Valley!*

Skadi Fest at Vail: *Vail Resort* will host the inaugural *Skadi Fest*, an all-women's ski event at the Colorado resort's Lionshead base, January 20-22, 2016. *Skadi* was the Norse goddess of winter. Vail will, in essence, be hosting a gathering of ski goddesses from near and far. It will be a weekend of female skiers being treated to customized on-mountain guided experiences with female instructors, and female-specific ski equipment demos. From film premieres to culinary presentations and wine tasting education, *SKADI Fest* is about the full experience, both on- and off-mountain.

UberSki Unveils in Utah: *UberSki*, hailed as the first skiing-specific foray for the ridesharing company has launched in Utah. As of December 9th, *UberSki* has started offering rides in AWD vehicles, along with space for your gear. A partnership with *Backcountry.com*, *UberSki* will offer rides from Salt Lake City to any ski resort near Ogden, the Cottonwood Canyons or in Park City, all for the same base rates of *uberX* and *uberXL* plus a \$4 surcharge. *Uber* is making a concerted effort to spread out to more resort towns, and has just opened in the Reno/Tahoe area as well.

Learn to Ski and Snowboard Month: The nonprofit *Learn to Ski and Snowboard Month* is partnering with the *U.S. Forest Service* to help encourage skiing and snowboarding on National Forest lands, including the chance to establish a world record for the largest single day for ski and snowboard lessons. The world-record attempt and a "Bring a Friend" promotion are ways to help promote the benefits of outdoor recreation in the winter and to highlight the availability to world-class winter sports on lands managed by the Forest Service. The Forest Service has a long history with the snow sports industry. Today, their federal lands account for 23 million skier visits on 180,000 skiable acres. Skiing on Forest Service-managed lands also contributes \$3 billion in local communities.

Throughout the month of January, many locations throughout the U.S. will offer special learning deals for beginners. This year, that effort includes a chance to set the *Guinness Book of World Records* for the Largest Ski and Snowboard Lesson taught in one day. This takes place on Friday, January 8, at 10 a.m. For those who want their chance to be a part of history being made, join us. The focus will be on beginner lessons. Participating in the event is fun and easy at many resorts located on National Forests throughout the west, including resorts in: California, Idaho, Colorado, Oregon, Nevada, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. For more information on Learn to Ski and Snowboard month, go to:

<http://www.learntoskiandsnowboard.org>

FAR WEST CONVENTION

Far West Annual Convention Just Six Months Away: *Arizona Ski Council* will be hosts to the Far West Ski Association's 84th Annual Convention, June 9-12, 2016, in Scottsdale, Arizona, at the beautiful *DoubleTree Resort by Hilton Paradise Valley-Scottsdale*. The resort is located minutes from downtown Scottsdale and 12 miles from the Phoenix International Airport. Rental cars and shuttle services are available at the airport. For room reservations, call 1-800-498-7396. Reference our group name - **Far West Ski Association**. You can also book on-line at the FWSA room reservation site <http://bit.ly/FWSA-2016-Lodging>. The Group Code is **FWS**. For rates and complete details on room accommodations, visit www.fwsa.org and select Conventions. The "Zonies" have lots of exciting and adventurous activities planned for us. Plan to come early, and stay late to take in all that's available in this beautiful city.

Charities and Community Service Recognition Program: FWSA encourages all clubs and councils to get involved with charities and community service. Changes were implemented last year for our Charity Recognition Program, creating two different levels of application for Clubs: We now have the Diamond (novice) and the Double Diamond (masters) award. Any Club that has won first place in this wonderful Recognition Program in a past year will apply in the Double Diamond category. All other Clubs will be in the Diamond category. The 2 separate levels will hopefully give all groups an added incentive to apply, and then to apply again. The first prize in each Club category will be \$200 and for second place \$50. The Council award remains the same, with one category and with a \$100 recognition for first place. All prizes will be donated to the charity of the Clubs and Council's choice. The top 2 Clubs in each category and the winning Council will be invited to display a picture board at Convention. All groups that apply will be recognized at Convention. Information and applications can be obtained on the Far West website: www.fwsa.org regarding this wonderful program, and how easy it is to apply for this recognition. For any Charity & Community Service questions, contact *Sigrid Noack* at sig4ski@earthlink.

FAR WEST TRAVEL

Far West Mini Ski Week 2016: Signups are being taken for the 2016 mini ski week trip to **Crested Butte** trip March 21—26, 2016. You can enjoy this true Colorado ski town, with wide open green and blue groomed trails to more advanced long cruisers and the famous extreme limits of the North Face and Headwall. There will also be FWSA activities and optional local activities available. We have on-line registration and credit card payment available. Go to www.fwsa.org and click on the travel tab for more information, or contact Gloria Raminha, Trip Leader, at Garski2011@gmail.com or (661)800-8229 (cell). Don't miss the fun!

Far West International Trip 2016: There's still room on the 2016 Int'l Ski Week trip to **Cortina d'Ampezzo** and extension trip to **Florence and Rome, Italy**. The optional extension trip will be to the *Tuscany* region – 3 nights in Florence with day tours to Sienna & San Gimignano and 4 nights in Rome. If one chooses to not go to Cortina, we will fly you from the US to join us for the extension trip – we call this the "Stand Alone" trip. Contact Debbie Stewart for more information: FWSAintltrlv@prodigy.net.

Far West Adventure Trip 2016: The 2016 Far West Adventure Trip will be to **England and Ireland** September 12-22, 2016, with an extended bike tour in *Ireland* from September 22-26. If you haven't put this on your calendar yet, now is the time to do that. Your trip leaders, Debbie and George Stewart have a phenomenal trip planned for you. For further information, contact Debbie at: FWSAintltrlv@prodigy.net.

Far West Dive Trip 2016: Get ready for the trip of your life! Plans are for the group to go to **Fiji** in September, 2016. Official details are being finalized now, so stay tuned to your Far West News Flash for the latest updates. For other information, contact Randy Lew, your Dive Trip Leader at: fwsa13randy@telis.org.

Far West Annual Ski Week 2017: Ski Week 2017 has been set, and will be in beautiful **Breckenridge, Colorado**, January 28-February 4th, 2017. The town of Breckenridge has a colorful

history full of gold mining, saloons, booms, and busts. There is much to do to keep skiers and non-skiers busy for the week. There are historical tours, shopping, spas, pubs, and plenty of restaurants to keep you active. We have lots of slope-side lodging with many close to town. Council trip leaders will begin promoting this trip in Spring, 2016.

Far West Mini Ski Week 2017: *Nancy Greene's Cahilty Lodge at Sun Peaks Resort*, boasting to being the second largest ski resort in Canada, is our destination for the 2017 Mini Ski Week, March 21-26, 2017. We will have an incredible trip with 133 runs to choose from, spread out over 3 mountains, a ski-in, ski-out village, and virtually no lift lines. We will have more information about this trip in the near future, so stay tuned.

FAR WEST COUNCILS

Northwest Ski Club Council: Volunteers from *Skiyente Ski Club* worked together with members of the *Mt. Hood Cultural Center and Museum* to put on the museum's annual *Heritage Night* and a wonderful celebration of their club turning 60 in September. A silent auction was held, with proceeds going toward the Museum. *Mountain High Snowsport Club* celebrated their 40th anniversary late this past summer by holding a Reunion Picnic of current and former members of *Plaza Ski Club and Edgeset Ski Club*, which joined forces 11 years ago to become *Mountain High*. Several past presidents were in attendance at the celebration. Lastly, *Bergfreunde Ski Club* will be celebrating their 50th anniversary in Spring, 2016. The *Bergies* have several functions planned to honor the "60's" era, including a sock hop and several other events throughout the spring. All of the NWSCC clubs are readying their members for trips to **Big White, Sun Peaks, Silver Star, Telluride** and other ski areas this coming season.

Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs: In an effort to continue to further our mission of supporting the success of our member clubs, The *Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs* partnered with Warren Miller Entertainment by exhibiting at the Redondo Beach screening of "Chasing Shadows" on Thursday, December 10, at the Performing Arts Center. Current, former and prospective members and their families came together for a great night of music, and film! The exhibition at the screening was the second of a two-part collaboration beginning at Ski Dazzle LA from December 4-6 to increase awareness of the LA Council and its member sports clubs, promote Warren Miller Entertainment projects, and bring fun for attendees. Stay tuned for more opportunities to come together for entertainment and excitement in 2016!

FAR WEST SKIER'S GUIDE

Far West Skier's Guide On Line: The 2016 issue of the *Far West Skier's Guide* is now available through your council or club, or at your local ski area or ski shop through Certified Folder. It can also be found online at: <http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/farwestskiersguide/2015-16>. In addition to the content of the current printed version, there is an additional insert in the on-line version, located between the general FWSA information and the Council/Club sections. (*Pages 66 and 67*). Technologies relevant to skiing and the development of ski resorts introduced in the past decades have resulted in dramatic changes to winter sports. Skiing as we know it has substantially evolved, but did you know that evidence of strapping flat boards on one's feet has been traced back thousands - yes thousands of years - before the birth of Christ? Go to www.fwsa.org to read about the history of skiing through the millenniums.

Have you tried "**Skinning**"? It has become one of the hottest winter-time fitness trends. Don't know what it is? Check out the article beginning on page 12 in the 2015-2016 *Far West Skier's Guide* insert?

Lift ticket discounts are offered at many resorts depending on certain qualifications. Young children, students, active military and seniors all could qualify depending on the resort. Some resort even offer "Senior Skiing" at no charge. Check out pages 14 - 15 to see "**40 Western Resort Where Seniors Ski Free.**"

These are just some of the highlights of the 2015-2016 *Far West Skier's Guide* digital insert. Search it out! Clubs and councils are encouraged to add these links to their websites, and members are invited to share them with their social media contacts.

Happy holidays! Here's to an "Awesome" 2016!