



WHO & WHAT'S NEW FOR 2016

Ski Visits Increase in 2016: “El Nino” is being credited for a 50% increase in skier visits to Western North America this season. The snowpack figures were back up to “average” after the four previous drought years, and skier visits in the southwest region of California, Nevada, and Arizona, were up by 53.1% over the previous year. The Pacific Northwest saw an increase of 141.5%, while New England states actually took a dramatic down turn. It pays to live in the West. At least in did this past season.

Powdr Corp Buys Eldora Mountain Resort: Adding to their portfolio, Powdr Corp has just purchased *Eldora Mountain Resort*, in Colorado. Along with *Copper Mountain*, they now have two of the most accessible resorts to serve skiers. Colorado’s ‘ Front Range ’ is one of the best ski markets in the world. Eldora is thought of as a leading entry point and training ground for children and beginners. CEO and owner of Powdr, John Cumming says “We want to work hard for more people to join us in the adventure-filled world of snow sports.”

Arlberg To Be Largest Austrian Ski Region: Austria’s *Arlberg* ski region will be the country’s first area to offer almost 200 miles of lift-linked runs when a new project, physically joining the two largest areas around Lech and St. Anton, is completed. This is being done by installing four new gondolas this summer. With the completion of this project, *Arlberg* will move into the world’s top five areas in terms of size.

Dubai To Build New Indoor Resort: Dubai plans to build a new indoor resort which will be three times the size of the existing 400 meter-long *Ski Dubai*. The new addition will be a record 1,200 meter slope, and will stretch from the Meyden race track to Burj Khalifa. It is estimated that it will house up to 78,000 people once it is fully completed, which should be done within the next five years.

Brexit Effect On American Travelers: If a trip to the U.K. is in your future plans, you may want to take advantage of some of the crazy prices that are being offered up now, since Britain’s exit from the EU. Cash in on cheaper-than-normal flights. If you’ve already booked a flight, book as many other parts of your trip as possible now. Hotel rooms, activities, car rentals, and anything else you can book ahead of your travel dates will save you money. Consider adding an additional destination now that you’ll be saving on your main flight. Be prepared for crowds, though. With so any people outside the U.K. looking to pick up a good deal, the number of travelers will surely increase. However, with Brexit, many Brits are likely to be vacationing close to home, too, so keep that in mind.

FAR WEST HISTORY

Far West History Program: The Far West History Program currently consists of three elements: the Club/Council History Recognition, Historic Ski Clubs Designation, and the Western Ski Heritage Award, sponsored by *Steamboat Ski Resort*. All three elements were successfully displayed at the 2016 Annual Meeting and Convention. The History Recognition was especially noteworthy because the research by Mary Azevedo presented an earlier date for the founding of Bay Area Skisports Council, which was 1940. This makes Bay Area the first Historic Ski Council and the Association's oldest. Thanks to the efforts of Maxine Hanlon and George Kish, we were able to verify two more Historic Ski Clubs – Vand Bakke (1950) and Snowbounders (1962) – in addition to the Phoenix Ski Club (1948 incorp). Arleigh Meiners has promised that Phoenix will be bringing its history to Boise next year. We will be asking the Intermountain Ski Council for dates and evidence of early ski clubs and histories. We now have 18 Historic Ski Clubs with the addition to the Bay Area Historic Ski Council.

We were fortunate to have submitted a video *Echoes of the Peaks, An Early History of Skiing in Northern Arizona*, written and produced by Jane Jackson of Flagstaff, winner of this year's Western Ski Heritage Award. She enlisted the support of Gavin Boughner for direction and production and with original music by Jesse Bouvier, operating as Cloud Chaser Filmworks. Both men are associated with Northern Arizona University.

The Snowsport Builder award is not technically a part of the History Program but draws on similar research resources. Jane is also the biographer for Jimmie Nunn, who was honored with the Association's Snowsport Builder Award. Nunn spent nearly three decades as an architect and ski area designer in Arizona. Unique for FWSA and the award, also honored was Ronnie Lupe who is singularly responsible for the development of Sunrise Ski Park on the tribal lands of the White Mountain Apache Tribe. Lupe was born in a wickiup on tribal lands and is the Chairman of the Tribal Council.

FAR WEST TRAVEL

Far West Dive Trip 2016: *SPOTS STILL OPEN!* Far West is going to *Fiji* September 24 - October 1, 2016. We will be at the amazing Beqa Lagoon Resort, and the 2nd week, October 1-October 8 at Paradise Taveuni Resort. Register for either week of stay for both weeks. The land & dive package for Beqa Lagoon Resort is \$1916 (dbl occ), and round-trip air from Los Angeles into Nadi, Fiji is \$1,578 per person. The land & dive package for Paradise Taveuni Resort is \$2,171 (dbl occ). There is a significant discount for non-divers! Enjoy 2 beautiful resorts, experience Fijian culture & entertainment, create new memories with new and old friends, and much more. For other information, contact Randy Lew, your Dive Trip Leader at: fwsa13randy@telis.org.

Far West International Trip 2017: The international ski trip for 2017 will be to *Austria and Hungary*. Ski week is set for March 12-19 in *St. Anton*, with an extension trip from March 19-16, to *Vienna and Budapest*. The extension trip is also being offered as a Stand Alone trip for those interested. Participants will be staying in one hotel for the week in St. Anton - The Schwarzer Adler Hotel, and will be getting one lift pass, which allows skiing in 5 areas. You'll experience a Welcome/Orientation, a mid-week day tour, mid-week après party and a Farewell party. We

have 24 people signed up for ski week thus far. If you want to add your name to this growing list of participants, contact Debbie Stewart at: FWSAintltrvl@prodigy.net.

FAR WEST RACING

Far West Race Championships 2017: The 2017 Far West race championships will be held at Mammoth Mountain, March 31-April 2, 2017. There will be a Pacesetter Race, a Slalom Race and a Giant Slalom race throughout the weekend. For more information, contact Bob Ellis, Far West Racing Association, rellis9681@aol.com.

FAR WEST BOARD MEETING

Far West Board Of Directors To Meet: The Far West Board of Directors will be holding their annual Summer meeting July 22-24, 2016 in Sacramento, California at the *Hilton Sacramento, Arden West*. On the agenda for this annual meeting will be Convention 2017, which will be held in **Boise, Idaho** next June 7-11; Far West Travel for 2017; and budget planning for the coming year. We will also be selecting the destination resort for the 2018 Annual North American Ski Week. Look for the outcome of that meeting in next month's issue of the Far West **News Flash**.