



WHO & WHAT'S NEW FOR 2016

Vail Resorts Buys Whistler Blackcomb: Adding to their portfolio, Vail Resorts has just purchased Whistler Blackcomb, the largest ski resort in North America. There will be no changes made, however, until after the 2016-2017 season has passed. Add another resort to your list for use of your future Epic Pass.

Happy Anniversary to Two Golden Member Clubs: Happy 50th anniversary to *Bergfreunde Ski Club*, a member of Northwest Ski Club Council. They will celebrate their anniversary with a reunion party on Saturday, October 1st. If you're a former Bergie, get in touch with Thea Wood to find out more: theanadine@yahoo.com. To the South, *Four Seasons West Ski and Snowboard Club*, a member of Los Angeles Ski Club Council, will be celebrating their 50th anniversary on September 24th, 2016 at the California African American Museum.

Mountain Collective Expands its Line Up: *Telluride Ski Resort* and *Revelstoke* have just been added to the phenomenal line up of ski resorts under the Mountain Collective umbrella. Now you can enjoy 28 days at 14 of the world's best mountain destinations. *PLUS* get 50% off any additional days with no blackout dates. Passes are on sale for a limited time at only \$409. Whistler Blackcomb will continue to honor the Mountain Collective Pass for the full 2016-17 winter season.

Commercial Flights Return to Telluride: Commercial air service to *Telluride Airport* will resume December 17, 2016, following a two-year hiatus. Colorado Flights has completed a deal with *Great Lakes Airlines* to reinstate its service from Denver. Great Lakes will run year-round flights between Telluride (TEX) and Denver International Airport (DEN), averaging 10 flights per week, with one per day during slower periods and two or more per day during busier times of year. The trip takes 45 minutes, and leaves guests with a 10-minute ride into town or to the resort.

Ski Butlers Adds New Locations: One of Far Wests' Member Benefits Partners, has just added two new locations. New for winter 2016-17, *Ski Butlers* ski and snowboard rental delivery service has added locations in Sun Valley, ID and Big Sky, MT. Entering its 13th year in business, *Ski Butlers* provides personalized service delivering ski and snowboard equipment and accessories to a hotel, condo or wherever is convenient for the customer. At prices competitive with most resort ski shops, *Ski Butlers* makes renting equipment convenient and hassle-free for patrons of 37 ski resorts across the U.S. and British Columbia.

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 roundtrip air from Los Angeles into Nadi, Fiji is \$1,578 per person. The land & dive package for Paradise Tavenuni 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 CONVENTION

SAVE THE DATE, 2017: The 85th Annual Far West Ski Association Convention is all set for next June 7-11, 2017, in beautiful Boise, Idaho, at the **Grove Hotel and Boise Centre**. Michael Bouton, host council Convention Coordinator says "We are only 10 months away from one of the most '*unconventional*' FWSA conventions that you will ever be a part of." "BOisE", or Boise IS ready to host. The plans are coming together for a fun-filled and educational time with skiers and boarders from all over.

The Optional Activities include: white water rafting, a Natural Hot Springs experience, mountain biking, hiking, leisure biking and wine tasting, along with our famous Pub Crawl. Don't forget the 10th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament, as well. Plan on coming early and staying late for some great experiences in Idaho. "Boise IS *anxious* to see you.

Early reservations can now be made by calling the **Grove Hotel** at 888-961-5500. Mention that you are with the Far West Ski Association for the group rate. Or, you can book on-line at <http://bit.ly/FWSA2017-lodging>.

FAR WEST COUNCILS

L.A. Council Events Coming Up: *Four Seasons West Ski and Snowboard Club*, will be celebrating their 50th anniversary on September 24th, 2016 at the California African American Museum. Everyone is invited. The event is formal and the ticket cost is \$125. Please visit <http://4sw-50th-gala.eventbrite.com> or call Djae Edmonds at 424-261-4859.

The *Beach Cities Ski Club* will be holding their annual Clambake October 14-16 at Lake Cachuma, in Santa Barbara. Contact www.bcskiclubs.org/clambake 2016 for more information.

And, the Annual Snow Gala will be held on Saturday, October 22 at the Embassy Suites, in El Segundo. The theme this year is "Movie Memories". Cost is \$75 per person. RSVP to Karen James at: kjames48@sbcglobal.net.

PICABO STREET OPENS ACADEMY

Picabo Street Academy: Picabo Street has partnered with Michelle Demschar, former USSA Domestic Development Director, to form the *Picabo Street Academy*. During her time at USSA, Michelle worked with a challenged group of athletes trying to balance their schools and athletics. They found Dan Kemp, most recently serving at USSA's TEAM Academy in Park City (until 2014), to serve as headmaster of the new school. Dan has worked for decades with elite athletes to accommodate their sports and still be prepared for college.

Creating a more flexible academic schedule is at the core of the academy, which will offer accredited courses, including Honors and AP-level classes, through an online educational partner coupled with one-on-one classroom instruction for a wide-ranging student body. "The idea that we weren't only downhill or alpine, aerials or freestyle, but that any student with a high-level extracurricular drive..... if they have something that removes them from the academic setting that should be OK. 'We will make it so that the student has the responsibility and the accountability within the academic realm to be a part of it,'" said Kemp. "It could be a three-year plan, a four-year, or five, but our students will truly be college ready." Picabo then added "I just want to wrap my arms around the whole thing, and say, 'Hey let's get these kids prepared to go, in a way that will keep them in the sport – or whatever – longer, (and provide) that sense of security that they're doing something about the other side of their life in the meantime'. "I love the idea of having the opportunity to mentor."