



WHO & WHAT'S NEW FOR 2017

January is Learn to Ski and Snowboard Month: The “unofficial kick-off” to Learn to Ski and Snowboard Month is Friday, January 6, 2017. This is when resorts across the U.S. and Canada host events to determine a Guinness record for the World’s Largest Ski and World’s Largest Snowboard Lessons. LSSM organizers focus on having beginners take lessons from professional instructors rather than encouraging newcomers to teach themselves or try to learn from a friend, family member or spouse. Since its inception in 2009, nearly 750,000 people have taken their first ski or snowboard lesson with the LSSM initiative. Several LSSM offers include those from the states of: New York, Utah, Vermont, Michigan, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Washington, Idaho, Nevada, and Colorado. Learn to ski month continues through February 28, 2017.

Backcountry Rescue May Cost You At Steamboat: *Steamboat* is believed to be the first resort to officially say it may impose a fine on skiers or snowboarders who venture beyond the ropes and subsequently need to be rescued by Steamboat ski patrollers. The proposed fine, which is now delineated on trail maps and on-mountain signs, is aimed at keeping inexperienced skiers and riders out of the backcountry. The fine could be as high as \$500, although Steamboat officials say it may not apply to every case – and none has been assessed so far. “The situations vary from ski area by ski area because some have much greater backcountry access than others, but where this is an issue it’s becoming a bigger and bigger one by the year,” Colorado Ski Country USA’s Chris Linsmayer told *SnoCountry.com*. “It’s an on going discussion within the industry and the rescues do really put strain on a ski areas who have to divert important resources and ski patrol staff to conduct them.”

“If you don’t know, don’t go” is the mantra issued by the Steamboat Ski Patrol that has already had to pull people out of dangerous situations in the backcountry this season.

UberSKI Launched in Eagle and Summit Counties: People living or vacationing in Colorado’s mountains who need a dependable ride to and from the many ski areas in the state, can now take an Uber ride to their hill of choice. To request an *UberSKI* ride, users only have to open the app and enter their ski destination. They must request the designated “UberSKI” ride, so that they will get a vehicle which will work for them. Drivers for UberSKI will have vehicles that can carry up to four passengers and their skiing or snowboarding gear. The UberSKI ride will cost an additional \$6.

New Lift Technology Opens Mountains To Kids And Disabled: The Swiss Alps offer breathtaking panoramic views and year-round adventure. Yet, the challenges of making the mountains accessible require monumental feats of engineering expertise. A new ski lift for children and handicapped persons will enable them to enjoy remarkable mountain scenery and activity. ABB is powering the new six-seater chairlift in the Klosters-Madrison mountain resort, one of the most popular ski and mountain regions in the Swiss Alps. This special chairlift is designed to provide

more safety, security and comfort using an adaptive mono-ski. A size recognition control system lifts small children and mono-skiers to the correct seat height to easily load onto the chair. An automatic locking clip allows the special skiers to use the chair lift by themselves.

FAR WEST CONVENTION

Far West's 85th Annual Convention: The 85th Annual Far West Ski Association Convention will be held June 7-11, 2017, in beautiful Boise, Idaho, at the *Grove Hotel and Boise Centre*. The theme is "**BOISE IS...**" with the event being co-hosted by *Bogus Basin Ski Club & Intermountain Ski Council*. Their Convention Committee has been hard at work planning activities and events to keep everyone busy for the four days we will be there. The resort is located minutes from the airport, in the heart of downtown Boise, so there will be plenty to do, whether you are doing a Far West activity, or just want to take some free time to shop and see the town. For room reservations, call the *Grove Hotel* at **888-961-5000** and refer to our group name: "**Far West Ski Association**". You can also register on-line at the FWSA room reservation site located at: <http://bit.ly/FWSA2017-lodging>. For additional information, visit the FWSA website (www.fwsa.org). Further information will be posted as it becomes available. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to attend our *FIRST-EVER* Convention in Boise. Come early - stay late and enjoy all that Boise and its' surrounding area has to offer.

Charities and Community Service Recognition Program: FWSA encourages all clubs and councils to get involved with charities and community service. The *Charities and Community Service Recognition* Program has been recognizing clubs for their charitable work at each convention for the past ten years. The Charity Recognition Program has created two different levels of application for Clubs. We have the *Diamond* and *Double Diamond* 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 two separate levels will hopefully give all groups an added incentive to apply, and then to apply again. Each Club category will have a first and second place winner. The Council category will recognize a first-place winner. FWSA has not yet determined how the winners will be recognized, but certainly, it will be special! Please stay tuned.

The top two 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. **Application deadline is March 26, 2017.** 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 skisig@gmail.com.

FAR WEST TRAVEL

Far West Mini Ski Week 2017: The 2017 Far West Ski Association's "**Spring Fling**" Mini Ski Trip will be held at *Sun Peaks Resort / Nancy Greene's Cahilty Hotel and Suites*, British Columbia, Canada, March 21st to 26th. Sun Peaks Resort offers incredible access to cross-country skiing, downhill skiing and snowboarding. Optional activities during your stay may include: dog sledding, snowmobile tours, snow bikes, tubing, ice skating, snowshoeing, spa day. We are pleased that we now have on-line payments through *PayPal* after your initial deposit has been mailed. To sign-up for this trip, please complete the registration and waiver forms and mail your initial deposit to Gloria Raminha. After that, participants may make payments online at

www.fwsa.org using PayPal, or can be mailed to Gloria. If the dates don't fit into your schedule, we can arrange for an earlier or later arrival or departure. **Remember, Sun Peaks is in Canada, so you MUST have a passport. Your passport must be valid for at least six months after our trip dates.**

Far West International Trip 2017: SPOTS AVAILABLE on the international ski trip for 2017 to **Austria and Hungary**. Ski week is set for March 12-19 in **St. Anton**, with an extension trip from March 19-26, 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 International Trip 2018: The 2018 International Trip will be to Les Trois Vallees. The dates are set for March 3rd to 11th, 2018 for the main part of the Ski Week. The optional extension, to Lyon, Beaune, and Paris, will begin March 11th, and end March 18th. Stay tuned.

FAR WEST SKIER'S GUIDE

Far West Skier's Guide is Out: The printed edition of the *2016-2017 Far West Skier's Guide* has been distributed to the councils, ski shows and numerous sports shops. If you have not seen it yet, you can access the digital version online at the links below. Similar to past years, the Digital Edition also includes a **Digital Only Insert**. The Insert contains FWSA trip info and reviews and other ski related information.

Participants had a fantastic time in Italy on the 2016 International Ski Week to the Dolomites and extension trips to Florence and Rome. Read about their adventures. Looking for a ski destination that appeals to all? You'll find it in the DE Insert. Additionally, there are a lot of ski resort improvement updates. Get informed! More year around skiing is being developed. Summer skiing is taking hold in several locations in the USA - and it is not on glaciers! You can keep those ski skills tuned even in the warmer months!

Read about it in the Digital Insert. **The 29th Annual Far West Skier's Guide** is available at: <http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/farwestskiersguide/2016-17/>; from the FWSA website: www.fwsa.org; and from the National Ski Council Federation website: www.skifederation.org, plus many FWSA ski club sites.

If you are interested in being included in the **2017-2018 Far West Skier's Guide**, please contact Leigh Gieringer at fwsg2@cox.net.