

August, 2017

*Far West Ski Association*

## WHO & WHAT'S NEW FOR 2017-2018

**Digital Screen on Chair Lift:** This winter you could be staring at a screen while on a chairlift — and *no, not the screen of your phone*. A Denver-based company has raised \$150,000 and has agreements with two resorts in the United States to install screens on the safety bar of chairlifts for this coming winter. This process is *LiftDigital*, and is similar to those screens seen at gas station pumps, in elevators and in taxis. Contracts have been signed with *Winter Park Resort* and *Wachusett Mountain Ski Area* in Massachusetts for this coming winter season. The screens will include information like GPS, trail maps, safety tips, weather updates, social media and trail conditions, while displaying ads. Each seat on the chairlift will receive a screen, and *Alpine* is aiming to install 180 screens on *Mary Jane's 6-person SuperGauge* chairlift at *Winter Park* and up to 120 screens at *Wachusett*.

**Aspen Heads \$1.5 Billion Ventures:** The new joint venture formed by affiliates of KSL Capital Partners, LLC ("KSL") and Henry Crown and Company ("HCC") announced on July 31, 2017 the completion of their previously announced acquisition of Intrawest Resorts Holdings, Inc. (**NYSE: SNOW**) ("Intrawest") and Mammoth Resorts. Through these transactions, *Squaw Valley Ski Holdings* ("SVSH"), previously owned by affiliates of KSL, *Intrawest* and *Mammoth Resorts* are now combined as one company. This new entity boasts 12 four-season mountain resorts with approximately six million skier visits, and 20,000 skiable acres. The capital from the Crown family does not affect *SkiCo* and the *Aspen* resorts are not part of the deal. For the full 2017-18 winter season, the new company will continue to honor the existing pass products that are currently on sale, including the *Rocky Mountain Super Pass +*, *the M.A.X. Pass*, and *the Mountain Collective*. The new company expects to launch a new name and brand prior to the 2017/2018 ski season. The twelve ski areas include: *Squaw Valley, CA; Alpine Meadows, CA; Mammoth Mountain, CA; Snow Summit, CA; Bear Mountain, CA; June Mountain, CA; Steamboat, CO; Winter Park, CO; Stratton Mountain, VT; Snowshoe Mountain, WV; Blue Mountain, Ontario, and Mont Tremblant, Quebec*.

**United States Ski and Snowboard Association:** The U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association have rebranded their name. The governing body will now simply be known as *US Ski & Snowboard*. According to the organization, the changes will unite athletes, members and fans as one team with a vision to be the best in the world in Olympic skiing and snowboarding. The new logo features elements of the American flag, the letters "US" and a mountain, in a shield design. "With the continuous evolution of our sports, it was important for us to have a common brand that truly represented who we are as an organization and what we aim to achieve across all of our different sport programs and teams together," said Tiger Shaw, US Ski & Snowboard's President and chief executive.

## FAR WEST TRAVEL

**Far West Dive Trip 2017:** Far West is headed to *Roatan, Honduras* for our 2017 Annual Dive Trip. Scheduled for September 23 – 30, 2017 at the Mayan Princess Beach Resort, the trip includes 7 nights lodging, 3 meals per day, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, and 16 boat dives for the amazing ground package price of \$899 per person double occupancy. The non-diver price is \$849 per person double occupancy. Please contact Randy Lew for more information at 530-304-0802 or [fwsa13randy@telis.org](mailto:fwsa13randy@telis.org). **1Spot still available for single female!**

**Far West Annual Ski Week 2018:** February 3-10, 2018 are the dates set for the next Far West Ski Week, which will be held in *Banff*. Known for its exceptional natural beauty, wildlife, and incredible landforms, Banff is an awesome place to ski. Whether you ski at Sunshine, Lake Louise, or Mount Norquay, you will get an event-packed week of skiing, apres parties, a Welcome Party, Awards Dinner and much, much more. Contact Nancy Ellis @ [fwsatravelnancy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fwsatravelnancy@sbcglobal.net), or your own council Trip Leader.

**Far West International Trip 2018:** There is **still room** on the 2018 International Trip to *Les Trois Vallees*. The dates are March 3<sup>rd</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018 for the main part of the Ski Week. The optional extension, to *Lyon, Beaune, and Paris*, will begin March 11, and end March 18, 2018. Contact Debbie Stewart @ [fwsaintltrl@prodigy.net](mailto:fwsaintltrl@prodigy.net), or go online [www.fwsa.org](http://www.fwsa.org) for more information.

Debbie is also looking into an Adventure trip, for 2018, to India, and working on RFP's for a 2019 ski trip to Japan, and a 2020 trip to Davos. Stay tuned.

**Far West Annual Mini Ski & Adventure Week:** February 25-March 4, 2018 are the dates set for the next Mini Ski Week at *Alyeska Resort*, and in Anchorage, at the *Captain Cook Hotel*. Located 40 miles north of Anchorage, Alyeska is set in the Chugach Mountain wilderness. A fun place to ski, and the hotel Alyeska, a wonderful ski in/ski out place to stay.

Anchorage is the site for the ceremonial start of the Iditarod dog sled races. We will stay at the Hotel Captain Cook, in downtown Anchorage. Many optional events will be made available, such as a wildlife tour, dog sledding, glacier walk, glacier cruise, heli-skiing/cat skiing, sleigh rides and much, much more. Contact Gloria Raminha @ [garski2011@gmail.com](mailto:garski2011@gmail.com).

## FAR WEST COUNCILS

**Los Angeles Ski Council of Ski Clubs:** *Four Seasons West* ski club is going to Beaver Creek, CO to join 400+ National Brotherhood of Skiers' (NBS) members from across the country, at the 20th anniversary of Eastern Region's early season event. The dates for this event are December 3-9, 2017.

**Intermountain Ski Council:** Intermountain Ski Council is planning a Rendezvous to *Sun Valley*, January 2-7, 2018. All of the ski clubs will be invited to the Sun Valley Resort for a week of skiing. If you want to join us, give Paul Markowitz a call @ 208-850-9962 or email @ [pmarkowitz@cablone.net](mailto:pmarkowitz@cablone.net). Pricing is very good and ski tickets are \$60/ day.

## FAR WEST CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

**YouTube Videos from 2017 Convention:** George Stewart has kindly put together all of the videos that our Videographer, *Tony Okun*, of *Oh Show! Productions* did at this year's convention. This covers all the Educational Sessions, as well as our Keynote Speaker, *Charlie Linville*. If you missed the convention, or even if you were there, and want to revisit any of these sessions, please click on these links to watch some extraordinary footage. The boot fitting video link...[https://youtu.be/LC66cE\\_cOyo](https://youtu.be/LC66cE_cOyo). *How to Keep Your Skis in Tip Top Shape:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mh8V9sLrHak>. "Making Love to Your Members" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=96UFlv9b2s0>. How To Build and Maintain a Successful Ski Club: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7LQWeL2hPeI>. FWSA Convention Keynote Speaker Charlie Linville: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o\\_tY2zS5orc&t=27s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o_tY2zS5orc&t=27s). And, lastly, highlights from the 2017 FWSA Convention: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AnRbqen5b9A>. Enjoy these. You'll be glad you watched.

## FAR WEST FOUNDATION

**FAR WEST SKI FOUNDATION:** Far West Ski Foundation is the skiers' way to support important investments in the future of snowsports. Those programs that our Foundation supports are the *U.S. Women's Ski Jumping*. Women ski jumpers are training now for the 2018 Winter Olympics in *Peongchang* next February. *The Far West Athletic Scholarship Program*, which helps many young athletes with a leg up to further their race training. Several Alpine ski racers, under the age of 20, are selected yearly on merit by the expert FWSA committee. Lastly, is the *Vail Veterans Program*. Grants help take care of today, as well as tomorrow, by enabling the disabled through on-snow rehabilitation techniques with the objective of adaptive skiers and boarders always being with us, and by bringing the story of winter sports and their immense effects on our society and economy in the 150-plus years since the origin of organized skiing in North America in the mining camps of California. You can use *PayPal* to direct your fee contributions to the Far West Ski Foundation. Or use our website [farwestskifoundation.org](http://farwestskifoundation.org). Funds are needed to make grants before the snow flies! And remember, your contributions are tax deductible.