

December, 2017

Far West Ski Association

WHO & WHAT'S NEW FOR 2017-2018

American Alpine Skiing Icon Calls It Quits: The most decorated American Olympic skier in history, *Bode Miller*, announced that he would be heading to the Olympics in South Korea as an analyst for NBC rather than a competitor. After six Olympic medals across five winter Olympic Games, he is retiring ahead of the 2018 *PyeongChang Winter Games*. Known for his fearless skiing, Bode was often the most entertaining racer on the World Cup circuit, win or lose. He made a habit of miraculously saving his run from certain crashes, including skiing up and along course safety fencing during the 2008 World Cup stop in Kitzbuhel, Austria. While his retirement puts a dent in the U.S. men's chance at a ski medal in 2018, we will wish him well, and cheer on the rest of Team USA in *PyongChang*.

Little British Columbia Resort is Crowdfunding: A tiny Canadian ski resort forged by Scandinavian miners chasing an 1890s gold rush, has become the recipient of a record crowdfunding raise, tapping into skier's and boarder's quest to fend off a wave of consolidation led by Vail Resorts. Investors are lining up to buy a piece of Red Mountain Resort in Rossland, B.C. Red's battle cry is "Fight the Man, Own the Mountain." Located in eastern British Columbia's Kootenay Rockies, Red Mountain is just miles from the Washington and Montana borders, boasting 300 inches of yearly snow that's dry and light. Western Canada's oldest ski resort is legendary among powder hounds for steep, long runs that have groomed national team racers and Olympic champions, including *Nancy Greene* and *Kerrin Lee-Gartner*.

Mt. Bachelor Opens a New Lift: Mt. Bachelor, known for its; Blue-Bird days, and great, light powder, has opened a new lift on the southeastern side of the mountain. *Cloudchaser* adds some variety for those who are looking to get away from the fogged-in Outback chair, the windy Northwest chair, and try something new and fun. Already, it is a hit for all ages. An eight-minute ride to the top, you'll feel the light snowflakes on your face and welcome a new area to take a fresh breath of air and ski. The 635 acres will give you a chance to ski new trails, gullies, ups and downs and just enjoy a great day of skiing. Says Drew Jackson, Director of Sales for Mt. Bachelor, "It chases the clouds away". Try it out on your next trip to Bend, Oregon.

Colorado Ski Areas Adding New & Fun Activities: Mountain Coasters are coming to Colorado. *Steamboat* opened theirs earlier this year. *Aspen Snowmass*, *Purgatory Resort* and *Copper Mountain* will be close behind. *Aspen Snowmass* will host Olympic Qualifying events January 10-14, 2018 for US Athletes in the Grand Prix competitions for snowboarding and freestyle team ski team. *Copper Mountain* hosted qualifying events December 6-10 for halfpipe and big air competitions. *Steamboat*, along with former Olympian and good friend of FWSA, *Billy Kidd* and Bronze Medalist, *Nelson Carmichael* will hold a "send-off" to all Olympic Team Members and former Olympians on January 27, 2018. *Copper Mountain* will host two family events on February 10, and February 20 and *Wolf Creek* will hold their own Olympic Slalom Race on February 25, 2018. WOW! Come join in the FUN!

FAR WEST TRAVEL

Far West Annual Ski Week 2018: **SPACE IS STILL AVAILABLE....**February 3-10, 2018 are the dates set for the 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, or your own council Trip Leader.

Far West International Trip 2018: The 2018 International Trip will be to *Les Trois Vallees*. The dates are March 3rd to 11th, 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 @ fwsaintltrlv@prodigy.net, to be placed on the **Wait List**. She has been able to place some of the folks on the existing list, so if you're even remotely thinking about it, give her a shout.

Far West Annual Mini Ski & Adventure Week: **There is STILL room...**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 southeast 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 and the Fur Rendezvous. Many optional events will be made available, such as a wildlife tour, dog sledding, glacier walk, glacier cruise, heli-skiing/cat skiing, sleigh rides. Contact Gloria Raminha @ garski2011@gmail.com.

Far West International Adventure Trip, 2018: Far West has executed a contract for an adventure trip to India. The dates are set for October 5-21, 2018. We will be visiting all the must-see places while in Delhi, Jaipur, and Agra. Of course, we'll be visiting the UNESCO world heritage site of the Taj Mahal. We'll also be traveling by air, motor coach and by train to get the true experience of India. Included will be Ranthambore National Park where we'll be on 2 animal safaris. Contact Debbie Stewart: fwsaintltrlv@prodigy.net.

This trip is limited to 35 participants, so mark your calendars now as the marketing materials are currently being prepared.

FAR WEST CONVENTION

SIX Months And Counting: *The Bay Area Snow Sports Council and Sierra League and Council* have been busy planning the 2018 Convention, to be held June 7-10, 2018 at the Atlantis Casino and Resort Spa. We'll have rafting on the Truckee River, our Annual Michael German Golf Tournament, a day hike in South Lake Tahoe, a Spa Day, and other fun things planned, along with our usual Silent Auction, Travel Expo, Educational Seminars, Panel Discussions with local experts on forestry, ski areas, and other issues, a great Keynote Speaker, and just a good time for everyone. Make your reservations now: <https://reservations.travelclick.com/98418?groupID=2016540>.

It really does take a village to host a convention. We are asking our FWSA family to help us. If we can get a lot of **VOLUNTEERS** to help out with the myriad of tasks, it will spread out the work and make the convention fun for all of us. We need volunteers beginning with registration and pub crawl sign-in on Thursday afternoon, helping get optional event participants onto busses Friday morning and registration on Friday afternoon. Helping hands are needed throughout the convention to take meal tickets, staff hospitality suite events and many small tasks that will take only a short amount

of time and help to lighten the host councils' load. Contact the convention host coordinators: Jo Simpson, jo_simpson@sbcglobal.net and Paul Vlasveld, pvlasveld@comcast.net.

SOMETHING NEW.... For any current members of this Yahoo Group, or any **NEW** members who sign up between now and **March 1st**, your names will be entered into a drawing. The winner will be awarded a **PAID Convention Registration (\$159)** to the 2018 Far West Ski Association Convention in Reno, Nevada, June 7-10, 2018. All you have to do is email me, at fwsadebbi@comcast.net and let me know that you are interested in coming to convention, or want to join up as a new member to

receive the monthly **Far West News *Flash***.

FAR WEST COUNCILS

San Diego Council of Ski Clubs: The Council recently returned from their annual sojourn to *Aspen*. Sixty-eight people joined the group for their trip. Though skiing was limited to Ajax Mountain, everyone had fun Pub Crawling, shopping, and oh yeah...a bit of skiing. SDSCC has announced their nominees for Far West's Councils' Man and Woman of the Year for 2017-2018. Their candidate for Woman of the Year is Jean McCasey, of North Islanders, and the Man of the Year is Tom Sekreta, from Action Ski Club. Congratulations to them both. Also awarded at their recent Christmas celebration, was the *Joe Harris* award, which went to *Rusty Etzel*.

Sierra League and Council: Sierra Council held their annual holiday party Dec. 9 in Tahoe Donner. Along with having a great time, they raised \$2,088 for the *Frank App Memorial Scholarship Fund* that is administered by the FWSA Scholarship Program. Sierra wants to thank the *Bota Baggers Ski Club* for their donation of \$1,707. Bota Baggers' members are folding into the Cabernet Ski and Race Club and they generously voted to donate their remaining club funds to the scholarship.

FAR WEST SKIERS GUIDE

Skier's Guide Now Available: The 2017-2018 Far West Skier's Guide has been printed and distributed to affiliated FWSA Councils. Check with you Council for copies. The Digital Edition, complete with a 28-page insert has been uploaded. Access the 2017-2018 Far West Skier's Guide Digital Edition from the Far West site (www.fwsa.org), or directly at: www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/farwestskiersguide/2017-2018.