

Far West News *Flash*

February, 2019

Far West Ski Association

WHO & WHAT'S NEW FOR 2019

Mikaela Shiffrin Makes History: Fighting a chest cold, *Mikaela Shiffrin* propelled herself down the course on February 16th to post the fastest second run, convincingly winning the slalom race at the **Worlds Championships** in Are, Sweden, thus becoming the first person ever to win four consecutive World Championships! Way to go, Mikaela!

Sun Valley & Snowbasin Hop onboard the Epic Pass: Two of the largest family-owned resorts remaining in the ski and snowboard industry will come into the Epic Pass portfolio next season. *Sun Valley* and *Snowbasin*, both owned by the Holding family, announced that for the 2019-2020 season, Epic Pass holders will get seven free days at each mountain, and half off the ticket-window price on subsequent visits. Holders of other Epic Pass versions, such as the Local or 4-Day passes, get more limited-access to the two mountains. Pass-holders at Idaho's *Sun Valley* or Utah's *Snowbasin* will get 50% off the window price at any of 18 resorts owned and operated by Val Resorts, which issues the Epic Pass. *Sun Valley* becomes the first Epic Pass partner in Idaho.

High Fives Foundation FAT Ski-A-Thon: On March 3, 2019, the *High Fives Foundation* from Truckee, Calif. will team up with GoPro and Vermont North Ski Shops to share the slopes of *Sugarbush Resort* in Warren, Vt. with over 200 skiers and snowboarders in the Eighth Annual Fat Ski-A-Thon. Prior to the event, participants will reach out to their contacts to raise funds for the Foundation. Through amazing support in years past, the Annual Fat Ski-a-Thon has become the largest fundraising event for the *High Fives Foundation*. The organization has set a goal of raising \$200,000 at the March 3rd event. When participants gather, they will take fun laps with friends and family, while searching for prizes in an exciting scavenger hunt. The Fat Ski-a-Thon is a public event, and anyone is welcome to participate or donate at www.fatski.highfivesfoundation.org

FAR WEST CONVENTION

The Countdown is On: We are **FOUR** months from the 87th Annual Far West Ski Association Convention. This year, we will be in beautiful Indian Wells, California, June 13-16th. The Orange Council of Ski Clubs will be our hosts, with LA Council of Ski Clubs assisting. We will be staying at the *Hyatt Regency Indian Wells Resort & Spa*, next door to the Indian Wells Golf Club. Registration packets will be sent next week to all member clubs and councils. There are two fun events planned for the day on Thursday: a trip to the *Palm Springs Air Museum* and a *Legends & Icons Homes Tour* before heading out on the *Pub Crawl* on Thursday evening. Friday will bring the *13th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament*, a *Spa Day*, and a trip to the *San Jacinto Tram*. In the meantime, check out the website's Convention Page for further information: www.fwsa.org/convention.

FAR WEST TRAVEL

2019 Windjammer Sailboat Adventure Trip: *We still have room for YOU!* The 2019 Island Windjammer Sailboat Adventure Trip is on, and we will be sailing on the *NEW* sailing vessel *Vela*. The ship departs Tortola and will sail May 19-26, 2019. Extended stay on the island of Tortola will be available. Contact Sheri Parshall at cougskier@aol.com or visit <http://www.fwsa.org/Travel/Cruise/2T019-FWSA-Windjammer> for more information.

Far West 2019 Dive Trip: This will be an exciting trip to *Puerta Galera in the Philippines*. The Philippines is known as “the Center of the World’s Marine Biodiversity”. We will be staying at the beautiful *Marco Vincent Resort* for 9 nights. In addition, we will also be offering stays at the *Azure Resort in Dauin/Dumaguete*, on the east coast of Negros for 5 nights. The dates of this trip are September 28-October 12, 2019. Sign up today by contacting Randy Lew at: fwsa13randy@telis.org.

2020 North American Ski Week: We’ll be going to *Big Sky, Montana*, for 2020 North American Ski Week. Big Sky is BIG with four mountains giving access to more skiing than anywhere else in the United States. The Big Sky lift ticket or IKON pass gives skiers/boarders access to 5,800 skiable acres. Runs up to six miles long and glades and bowls covered in 400+ inches of annual snowfall give every age and level of skier and boarder something different. Check with your council trip leader or the FWSA.org website for more details beginning this Spring.

2020 Mini Ski Week: *Big White* is the destination for the 2020 Mini Ski Trip. Big White is home to the best snow in British Columbia and the longest season in the Okanagan Valley. Big White is Canada’s largest totally ski-in, ski-out village. It has 18 on-mountain restaurants cafes delis, pubs, and night clubs. Stay tuned for further information.

Future Far West International Trips: Far West will be offering an Adventure trip to *Croatia*, September 3-13, 2020. We will be working with *Alpine Adventures* on this particular trip. Stay tuned for more news on this one. The 2020 International Ski Trip will be to *Davos, Switzerland*, with an extension to *Portugal*; and a Ski Week trip to *Solden, Austria* will take place in 2021. Make room on your calendar now for one, two, or all three of these fantastic trips!

FAR WEST SKI CLUBS & COUNCILS

Northwest Ski Club Council: Northwest Ski Club Council is running an *Eastern European Cruise* on the *Danube River* from *Bucharest* to *Budapest*. Dates for the trip are August 29 – September 11, 2019. **This trip is open to ALL FWSA members, family and friends.** There is a pre-trip extension for three nights to *Transylvania, Romania*, and a post-trip extension to either *Prague* (four nights) or *Vienna* (three nights). You also have the option of structuring your own pre- and/or post-trip. This trip is operated by Grand Circle Cruise Line, and is on a smaller boat (approx.. 160 passengers). Grand Circle can work with you to arrange flights from anywhere in the U.S. and to other European cities, should you want to structure your own pre- or post-trip. Following is a link to a 7-page brochure with a full descriptions of the itinerary, and contract numbers for more information, and to sign-up for the trip:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/57a132e0cd0f6818387287c7/t/5bce9ad4104c7b508aae1a4c/1540266751252/Eastern+Europe+River+Cruise+Flyer.pdf>. John & Jeanne Reinhardt will be your trip leaders. Contact John at: johnreinhardt@hotmail.com.

Reno Ski Club: The Reno Ski & Recreation Club’s “*Mamma Mia*” cruise **HAS AN OPENING FOR ONE COUPLE, or 2 friends who would share a bed.** The trip is **May 18-25, 2019** with an **Optional 3-night pre-stay in Athens** prior to the Cruise. It sold out immediately, but there has been a last-minute cancellation and there is now a cabin available on this great trip. Deadline for getting in on this great offer is **March 10, 2019**. For more information, go to: <https://www.renoskiandrec.com/upcoming-trips>, or call Deborah Haling, 602-909-9485.

IT'S A BRONZE FINALE FOR LINDSEY

On February 9, 2019, *Lindsey Vonn* wrapped up her illustrious 18-year career as the most successful female ski racer in history, going out with a bronze medal in the downhill at the FIS Alpine World Ski Championships in Are, Sweden.

Lindsey left everything on the hill, as she competed in her final event in typical Vonn – *all or nothing* – fashion over her long career that has brought her 82 World Cup Victories, eight World Championship medals, including two gold in downhill and super-G at the 2009 World Champs in Val d'Isere, France, and three Olympic medals, including the downhill gold at the 2010 Games in Whistler, B.C.

Vonn stood on the podium one final time to accept the bronze medal in a joyous awards ceremony, as Swedish legend, *Ingemar Stenmark*, who holds the all-time World Cup win-record of 86 victories, presented the awards to Lindsey, and her 2 competitors, Slovenia's, Ilka Stuhec, who took gold, and Corinne Suter, from Switzerland, who took home the silver.

In victory, defeat, battling back from crashes and injuries, Vonn will be remembered as a vicious competitor who brought the sport of alpine ski racing to the mainstream of American sports.

"I always risk everything, all the time", she said. "That's the reason I was able to win so much. Also, the reason why I crashed so much and had so many injuries." She went on to say "I'm in a position where my body isn't allowing me to ski the way that I know that I can...and that's why I'm retiring. My body isn't letting me do what I need to do to win races. That's the best I could have done today. There's not another gear. I'm very, very happy and thankful for bronze today."

Thank you, Lindsey, for bringing so much joy and energy to the sport of Downhill Ski Racing to so many!