

Spring 2024

THE COUNCILMAN

Three O'Clock
Kuus' Cruise

Far West Ski Association's 91st Annual Convention.

The Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, Reno, Nevada

Hosted by Bay Area Snow Sports Council and Sierra League and Council

June 6-9, 2024



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President Linda Westlund

Your FWSA Board of Directors, Committee Leads, and volunteers work together to deliver a broad spectrum of travel and snow sports related programs. While the ski and adventure trips and the annual convention are most highly visible, we offer so much more. A few examples are the FWSA Athletic Scholarship, Safety, History, Charity, Environment, and recognition programs for excellence in leadership and communication. You'll find highlights of recent and upcoming events and achievements throughout this issue of *The Councilman*.

I personally attended North American Ski Week at Steamboat, and Mini Ski Week at Copper Mountain, and look forward to seeing many of you at the 91st Annual FWSA Snowsports Convention in Reno, Nevada at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, June 6 - 9, 2024. Our Annual Business Meeting and Election of Officers will be held on Sunday, and delegates will be electing a President, Treasurer, and Secretary for 1 year terms and Director positions for 2 year terms. We are continuously looking for enthusiastic volunteers to join the board. Please consider nominating yourself or other talented members of your club. Delegates will also be voting on proposed bylaw changes that are essential for more efficient operations. Review the proposed bylaws at <https://fwsa.org/docs.ashx?id=1266542>. The changes are shown in **RED** typeface.

Planning is already underway for FWSA 2025 Events, including fun activities and our Annual Business meeting. We're going back to Palm Springs, California, to Margaritaville Resort, June 12 – 15. We're working to innovate and introduce change to our annual convention and meeting. What recurring features and new ideas are most attractive to secure your continued, returning, or new attendee participation at this event? We hope members and industry friends will join us on our path forward. Fins to the Right, Fins to the Left, FWSA is on the move!

Visit www.fwsa.org often to see what is happening in FWSA. Our website offers information on our travel programs, conventions, memberships, and more. The *Far West Skier's Guide* and *The Councilman* are on the website. Encourage your club members and guests to view the online edition of the 2023-2024 *Far West Skier's Guide*.

FWSA Board of Directors and Trustees gather in Reno, Nevada for their spring meeting at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, the site our upcoming 91st Annual Convention. Pictured (clockwise from left): Sigrid Noack, Charities and Our Community chair; Linda Westlund, FWSA President; Todd Hood, VP Council Services; Steve Coxen, VP Public Affairs; Bob Ellis, VP Racing; Jean McCasey, VP Membership; Nancy Ellis, VP North American Travel; Sandy Blackwell, LAC President; Tom Bundgard, San Diego President; Kristy Welsh, Arizona President; Gloria Raminha, FWSA Past President; Jo Simpson, FWSA Board of Trustees Chair & Sierra President; Joe Harvis, VP Communications; Debbie Stewart, VP International Travel; Debbi Kor, VP Marketing & Sponsorship; Randy Lew, Treasurer; Monica Palmer, Safety Chair; Jane Wyckoff, Skier's Guide Editor & History Chair; Bill King, Club & Councils Communications Awards Chair; Barbara Razo, NSP Liaison & Silent Auction Chair; Sheri Parshall, FWSA Board of Trustees & NWSCC President; and Chris Gill, FWSA Board of Trustees.

Photo credit: Joe Harvis



QR code for the *Far West Skier's Guide*



Debbi Kor Convention Chair

Far West Ski Association's 91st Annual Convention will take place June 6-9, 2024, in Reno, Nevada, and will be co-hosted by Bay Area Snow Sports Council and Sierra League and Council. The beautiful Atlantis Casino Resort Spa will be the host hotel for our stay while in Reno. Located just 10 minutes from the airport, the AAA Four Diamond Resort boasts free hotel shuttles, a Forbes Travel Guide Four-Star Spa, loads of entertainment, restaurants and both indoor and outdoor pools.

The City of Reno itself, known as the "Biggest Little City", will roll out the red carpet for us upon our arrival. The Reno Convention will serve as a gathering place for members coming from across the Far West region. This will show the skiing and snowboarding community coming together in camaraderie, sharing a passion for winter sports to exchange ideas, and forge lasting connections.

We will kick the weekend off with some exciting activities to get us all moving. Thursday's activities will begin in the morning, with a *Tahoe Adventure*, which includes a trip to Donner State Park, a stop at Palisades Tahoe for lunch and shopping, followed by a visit to the Tahoe City Boatworks Mall to check out the SNOW Sports Museum. On Thursday evening, we will make our way to the Reno Market Place, where we will enjoy food, drinks, games, and socializing galore, during the *27th Annual Pub Crawl*.

On Friday, the *17th Annual Michael*

German Memorial Golf Tournament will take place at Magic Carpet Golf, just a short walk or ride from the Atlantis. Here, we will enjoy 19 holes of miniature golf and plenty of fun! You will have an opportunity to team up, enjoy some keen competition for prizes, mingle with your fellow golfers, then finish up with a great lunch and awards and prizes. **OR**...you may choose to go on a tour of the *National Auto Museum*, located in downtown Reno. A collection of more than 200 vintage, classic, and rare one-of-a-kind automobiles, you'll see it all here! We will be finished with all this in plenty of time to get to the Pool Party on Friday afternoon, followed by the Club Happy Hour. Then the real fun begins...the *38th Annual Silent Auction and Trade Show* on Friday evening.

Network with your favorite ski resorts, meet with tour operators to plan future trips for your club and council, get trip details and pricing, and participate in a fantastic Silent Auction that can bring you a variety of hardware, soft goods, not to mention, a number of adventures for the coming season. A drawing will take place during the auction for two Trip Gift Certificates, valid for \$250 towards one of Far West's many skiing or adventure trips the following season.

On Saturday, the convention offers a wealth of educational workshops, seminars, and presentations designed to enhance attendees' knowledge and skills. We will have a hands-on session with two well-seasoned ski technicians,

Phil & Tricia Pugliesi, from one of the local area ski shops, and from the website "Ski Talk", where we'll learn about boot fitting, ski tuning, and the latest in gear. The morning Public Affairs Panel session will be "National Ski Patrol - Bringing Calm to Chaos" - how to handle stress on the mountain, with *Barbara Razo*, *Wayne Wong* and *Tony Margulies*. In the afternoon, we will feature, "Preserving Our Heritage - Western Snowsports Museums & Libraries," with four notable snowsports museum/library founders and historians: *Bill Clark*, Executive Director of the Auburn Ski Club, Inc., and Board Member of the SNOW Sports Museum Foundation, Olympic Valley, California; *Ingrid P. Wicken*, ski historian and founder of the California Ski Library; *Alan K. Engen*, Founder of the Joe Quinney Winter Sports Center with its Alf Engen Ski Museum at Utah's Olympic Park; and *John W. Lundin*, one of the founders of the Washington State Ski & Snowboard Museum, located in Snoqualmie Pass, Washington.

Among those being invited to speak at the 2024 Convention are: *Billy Kidd*, 1964 U.S. Olympic Silver Medalist, and Race Director at Steamboat Springs; *Wayne Wong*, former freestyle Ski Champion, as well as inductee in the Canadian and US Ski Hall of Fame; *Curtis Fong*, "The Guy from Tahoe," who has broadcast thousands of ski reports, hosted numerous TV Ski shows, and basically devotes his winter to covering the sport he loves. Oth-

(Continued on page 12)

"The Voice of the Western Skier"



91st Annual Far West Ski Association Convention June 6 - 9, 2024

"Altitude With Attitude"

at the

Atlantis

CASINO RESORT SPA • RENO

Hosted by *Bay Area Snow Sports Council*
and *Sierra League & Council*



FWRA & FWSA



Atlantis Casino Resort Spa

3800 S. Virginia Street, Reno, NV 89502

Reservations <https://reservations.travelclick.com/98418?groupID=3886343>

or call **800-723-6500**, Group Name: **Far West Ski Association**
Room Rates per night plus tax single or double occupancy —
\$119 (Wed - Thurs) **\$179** (Fri & Sat) + \$17.50 daily resort fee

Room Registration Deadline - May 13, 2024

Hotel Features

- World Class Casino
- Forbes 4-Star Spa Atlantis
- Indoor & Outdoor Pools & Outdoor Whirlpool Spa
- 8 Award Winning Restaurants; 10 Bars & Lounges
- Atlantis Family Entertainment Fun Center
- FREE Wi-Fi in guest rooms, FREE Parking
- Rates are available 3 days pre and post Convention

Transportation

- Air transportation is via Reno-Tahoe International Airport, located just 15 minutes from the Atlantis.
- The Atlantis offers free airport shuttle service (4:30 am - 12:15 am)

Convention Highlights

- Silent Auction & Trade Show
- Snowsports Leadership Academy
- Celebrity Speakers
- Public Affairs Panels
- Saturday Awards Luncheon
- Saturday Awards Banquet
- FWSA General Meeting & Elections

Optional Activities

- **Thursday**
 - Tahoe Adventure
 - 27th Annual Pub Crawl
- **Friday**
 - 17th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament
 - National Auto Museum Tour
 - Pool Party
 - Club Happy Hour

Debbi Kor
FWSA Convention Chairperson
fwsadebbi@comcast.net
or 503.314.7078

Barbara Razo
Silent Auction Chairperson
SilentAuction@fwsa.org
or 714-401-7341

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Convention Coordinator
pvasveld@comcast.net
or 408.314.4649

Jo Simpson
Sierra Host Council
Convention Coordinator
jo_simpson@sbcglobal.net
or 775.722.6468

A portion of the Silent Auction proceeds will benefit "Achieve Tahoe".

www.fwsa.org



91st ANNUAL FAR WEST SKI ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

Atlantis Casino Resort Spa
Reno, Nevada – June 6-9, 2024

“Altitude With Attitude”



Welcome FWSA Club Presidents and Convention Delegates:

Attached you will find the registration materials for the **Far West Ski Association's Convention**, Thursday through Sunday, **June 6-9, 2024** at the *Atlantis Casino Resort Spa*, in Reno, Nevada.

Deadlines:

May 10 is the deadline for early registration of **\$185**. The price will go up to **\$195 on May 11**. **We will only have TWO prices this year**. **May 10 is the deadline** for submission of **ALL** event fees. These include: Thursday's Tahoe Adventure, and Pub Crawl; Friday's 17th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament and National Auto Museum Tour. We will, of course, have our annual **FREE** Pool Party, at the *Atlantis Pool* in the afternoon from 4:00 pm to 5:00pm, followed by the Club Happy Hour from 5:30 to 6:30, before the evening events. Please submit all forms and payments to: **FWSA Registrar, c/o Fran Long, 1729 Ponderosa Ln, Paso Robles, CA 93346....or sign up online through fwsa.org/connect**.

Economic Relief Program:

Again, this year, FWSA offers an "economic relief" program to provide a ski club the opportunity to send more delegates to the Convention. For every six (6) delegates that have paid the full registration package by the registration deadline of May 10, the club will receive a rebate of one (1) paid registration after the Convention (limit of one rebate per club).

Make Your Hotel Reservations NOW!:

Lodging at our group rate (double occupancy) is available at *The Atlantis Casino Resort Spa*. Per our contract, there will be a \$17.50 per day Resort fee, but we will have **FREE IN-ROOM WI-FI, & PARKING**. Refer to the enclosed flyer for the FWSA contracted room rates for our group. The *Atlantis Casino Resort Spa* is located at 3800 S. Virginia Street, Reno, Nevada, 89502. Make your reservations by calling **800-723-6500**, and give them our Group Name: **Far West Ski Association**. You can also book your room reservations on-line at our special FWSA site:

<https://reservations.travelclick.com/98418?groupID=2016540>

Make your room reservations before **May 13**, as that will be that date that the room block is released. **Once our room block is released, The Atlantis Casino Resort Spa will endeavor to take reservations for rooms after the cut-off date, but this will be subject to availability. Room reservations are welcome at the Convention rate of \$119 for June 5-6 (+ June 9); and \$179 from June 7-8, 2024.**

Transportation Information:

Flights should be booked in and out of the Reno-Tahoe International Airport located just 15 minutes from the hotel. Transportation to/from the resort is available by the Atlantis shuttle service.

Theme – Altitude with Attitude:

This year's Convention theme is *Altitude with Attitude*, and features the Thursday evening Pub Crawl, at the Reno Public Market, and Friday evening Trade Show & Silent Auction in the Grand Ballroom. The Saturday Awards Banquet, will be *Black-tie optional* attire.

Contact Information:

Debbi Kor, FWSA Convention Chairperson: fwsadebbi@comcast.net or 503-314-7078
Jo Simpson, Sierra Council Coordinator: jo_simpson@sbcglobal.net or 775-722-6468
Paul Vlasveld, Bay Area Council Coordinator: bayarea@fwsa.org or 408-314-4649
Fran Long, Convention Registrar: registrar@fwsa.org or 805-712-5781

If you have questions, please direct them to the appropriate person above. Welcome to the 89th Annual FWSA Convention.

Debbi Kor, Jo Simpson, Paul Vlasveld, Fran Long

Revised 12-28-23



91st Annual FWSA Convention

June 6 - 9, 2024, Reno, Nevada



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES



\$42

Tahoe Adventure

Thursday, June 6, 2024, 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Includes: Transportation to Donner State Park; Lunch at Palisades, Boat Works Museum.

Leader: Maarten Vandermeer: mavdmeer3881@gmail.com;

Sponsor: TBA 209-482-2056



\$66

27th Annual Pub Crawl

Thursday, June 6, 2024, 5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Includes: 2 drinks, + dinner, games, and fun at Reno Public Market

Leader: Jo Simpson, jo_simpson@sbcglobal.net, 775-722-6468

Sponsor: Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation



\$40

17th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament

Friday, June 7, 2024, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Includes: Transportation, 19 holes at Magic Carpet Golf, lunch and prizes. Max. 36 people.

Leader: Bob Ellis, rellis9681@aol.com, 530-414-4270

Sponsor: Aspen/Snowmass & Snowmass Tourism **ASPEN SNOWMASS.**



\$15

National Auto Museum Tour

Friday, June 7, 2024, 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Includes: Transportation, entry into Museum. Lunch on your own at Bertha Miranda's Mexican

Leader: TBA

Sponsor: TBA



FREE

Pool Party

Friday, June 7, 2024, 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Includes: Fun and Games, snacks, 1 pool-side beverage

Leader: Fran Long (Central Council of California)

Sponsor: TBA



FREE

Clubs Happy Hour

Friday, June 7, 2024, 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Includes: Socializing

Leader:

Sponsor: TBA

Sign up for 2024 FWSA Optional Activities by **May 10, 2024** using the Registration Form or online at fwsa.org.



**91st ANNUAL FAR WEST SKI ASSOCIATION
CONVENTION**
Atlantis Casino Resort Spa
Reno, Nevada – June 6-9, 2024



“Altitude With Attitude”

Wednesday, June 5, 2024

2:30 pm - 4:30 pm Tote Bag Stuffing

Far West Office/Emerald C

Thursday, June 6, 2024

8:30 am - 4:00 pm Tahoe Adventure - *Sponsored by*
2:00 pm - 6:00 pm Delegate Registration - Delegate Bags - *Sponsored by Crystal Inn Hotel & Suites*, Neck Wallets - *Sponsored by Sports America Tours*
3:00 pm - 6:00 pm Industry Exhibitor Registration
3:00 pm - 4:30 pm Far West Ski Foundation Meeting (By Invitation Only)
5:30 pm - 10:00 pm 27th Annual Pub Crawl - *Sponsored by Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation*

Meet in Hotel Lobby
Grand Ballroom Foyer
Grand Ballroom Foyer
FWSA Suite
Grand Ballroom Foyer

Friday, June 7, 2024

10:00 am - 3:30 pm 17th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament at *Magic Carpet Golf* - *Sponsored by Aspen/Snowmass and Snowmass Tourism*
7:00 am - 6:00 pm Silent Auction Set Up
10:30 am - 2:30 pm National Auto Museum Tour
2:00 pm - 8:00 pm Delegate Registration
3:00 pm - 6:00 pm Industry Registration and Set-Up
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm Pool Party – hosted by Central Council
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm Club Happy Hour
6:00 pm - 6:15 pm Industry Exhibitor Meeting
5:00 pm - 6:30 pm Councils' Volunteer of the Year Reception (By Invitation Only)
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Silent Auction Welcome Party - *Sponsored by*, Beer Service – *Sponsored by Mammoth Mountain Ski Area*; Wine Service - *Sponsored by Ski Big 3 & SkiGroup.Net*
7:00 pm - 9:30 pm 38th Annual Silent Auction & Snowsports Trade Show
9:30 pm - 10:30 pm Exhibitor Booth Breakdown

Meet in Hotel Lobby
Grand Ballroom 1-4
Meet in Hotel Lobby
Grand Ballroom Foyer
Grand Ballroom 1-4
Atlantis Outdoor Pool
Grand Ballroom Foyer
Grand Ballroom 1-4
FWSA Suite
Grand Ballroom 1-4
Grand Ballroom 1-4
Grand Ballroom 1-4

Saturday, June 8, 2024

7:00 am - 12:00 pm Delegate Registration
7:00 am - 8:00 am Continental Breakfast
8:00 am - 8:30 am FWSA General Meeting - Opening Session
8:45 am - 10:25 am FWSA Snowsports Leadership Academy – “SkiTalk” with *Phil and Tricia Pugliese*
10:45 am - 12:15 pm Councils' Volunteer of the Year Judging (By Invitation Only) - Awards *Sponsored by Big White Ski Resort*
10:45 am - 12:15 pm Public Affairs Panel & Guest Speakers – *National Ski Patrol* - “Bringing Calm to the Chaos”: *Barbara Razo, Tony Margulies ChT, and Wayne Wong, NSP*
12:30 pm - 1:30 pm Luncheon & Awards Presentation – Luncheon - *Sponsored by*, Wine Service - *Sponsored by*, Beer - *Donated by*, Bill Berry Award, Media, and History Recognition Awards
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm Keynote Speaker – *Eric LeMarque* – *National Ski Patrol* - *Sponsored by Powder Mountain Ski Resort*
2:40 pm - 4:00 pm FWSA Snowsports Leadership Academy – “Talk to the Pros”: *Wayne Wong, Curtis Fong*
2:40 pm - 4:00 pm Public Affairs Panel & Guest Speakers – *Steve Coxen, VP of Public Affairs* – “Preserving Our Heritage – Western Snowsports Museums & Libraries”: *Bill Clark, Alan K. Engen, Ingrid P. Wicken, John W. Lundin.*
4:15 pm - 5:30 pm Council Caucus - Intermountain / Northwest / Central / Direct Members
BAC / San Diego / NBS
LAC / Orange / Sierra / Arizona
6:30 pm - 7:00 pm Reception (No Host)
7:00 pm - 11:00 pm Awards Banquet & Dance - *Sponsored by*, Councils' Volunteer of the Year - *Sponsored by Big White Ski Resort*, Western Ski Heritage Award – *Sponsored by Steamboat Ski & Resort Corp.*, Musical Entertainment by *Decoy Band*

Grand Ballroom Foyer
Grand Ballroom 1-4
Grand Ballroom 1-4
Grand Ballroom 5
FWSA Suite
Grand Ballroom 6
Grand Ballroom 1-4
Grand Ballroom 1-4
Grand Ballroom 5
Grand Ballroom 6
Grand Ballroom 5
Grand Ballroom 6
Grand Ballroom 7
Grand Ballroom 1-4
Grand Ballroom 1-4

Sunday, June 9, 2024

7:00 am - 8:15 am Eye Opener - *Sponsored by FWSA & Hosted by Bay Area Snow Sports Council & Sierra League & Council*
8:30 am - 10:30 am FWSA General Meeting - Elections
10:30 am - 11:30 am Delegate Brunch, Outstanding Club & Council Awards, Club & Council Communication Awards, Charities Award, Club History Award, Door Prize Giveaway
11:30 am - 1:00 pm FWSA General Meeting Continued
1:15 pm - 2:15 pm FWSA Board of Trustees and Board of Directors Meetings

FWSA Suite
Grand Ballroom 1-4
Grand Ballroom 1-4
Grand Ballroom 1-4
Emerald A-B

Delegates are encouraged to attend ALL events. PLEASE NOTE: some sessions are by invitation only, and are so noted. The Friday night Trade Show is the time for club and council Trip Leaders to bring their Club Profiles and business cards to distribute. TWO FWSA \$250 Gift Certificates will be presented on Friday night (must be in attendance to win). Other prizes will be given away on Sunday morning during the General Session and Brunch.



91st Annual FWSA Convention

June 6-9, 2024, Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, Reno, NV



Altitude with Attitude

Silent Auction & Snowsports Trade Show

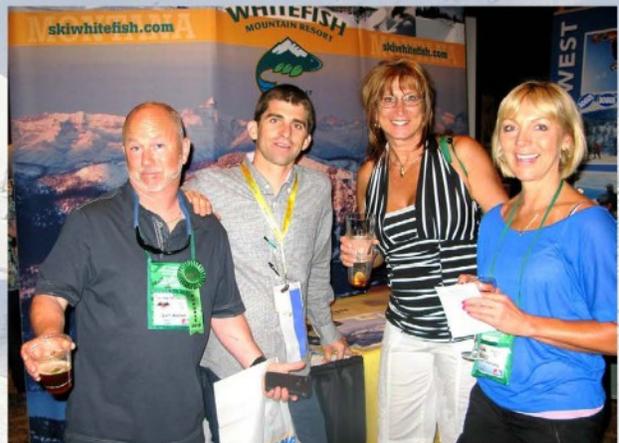
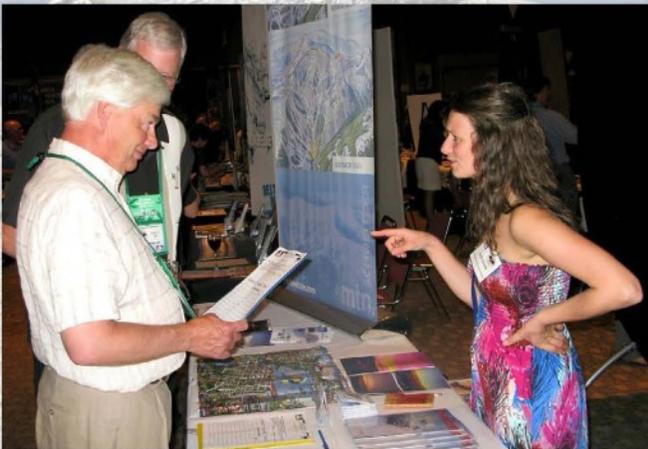
Friday, June 7, 2024,
7:00 pm – 9:30 pm

- **FREE** Admittance
- **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**
- **COMPLIMENTARY DRINK** from 7:00 – 8:30 pm.
- Meet Representatives from your Local & Regional Snowsports Clubs
- Bid on Snowsports and Adventure Trips & Gear
- Meet Olympic Medalists & Snowsport Celebrities
- Meet with Representatives from Ski Areas and Tour Operators

Sponsored by Ski Big 3  and SkiGroup.net



A portion of the proceeds will benefit [Achieve Tahoe](#)



Sign up for 2024 FWSA Optional Activities by May 10, 2024 using the Registration Form or online at fwsa.org.



Debbi Kor Convention Chair

It's 5 O'clock Somewhere! The 2025 Far West Ski Association Convention will be held June 12-15, 2025, at the incredibly wild, incredibly fun Margaritaville Resort in Palm Springs, California. It is a Desert Oasis with Island Soul.

A Jimmy Buffet-themed resort with a Lone Palm Pool, a 5 O'clock Somewhere Pool and Bar, Coral Reef and Paradise Hotel Rooms, Fins Left and

Fins Right meeting rooms, and a Tropics Lounge, what more could we ask for?

This event will be hosted by Orange Council of Ski Clubs, with assistance from all of our other regional councils. Sheila Van Guilder will take the lead as Council Convention Coordinator, along with Co-Coordinator, Maxine Hanlon. The members of Orange Council are geared up and ready to put on an out-

standing event at this resort which sits at the sunny coordinates of fun and relaxation .

Information will be available after July 1, 2024. Please feel free to contact Debbi Kor, Convention Chairperson with any questions: fwsadebbi@comcast.net. Or one of the two Council Coordinators above.

Margaritaville lobby, Palm Springs.

Photo courtesy of Margaritaville Resorts.





Sheri Parshall Councils' Volunteer of the Year

Years ago, I wrote an article for our *Northwest Ski Club Council Skier's Guide*, about winning the Far West Ski Association Councils' Woman of the Year award, about what an incredible honor it was to be selected by a panel of my peers and be recognized for my volunteer efforts for my club and council. To this day, my Councils' Woman of the Year plaque hangs on the wall at our mountain condo, alongside my husband, Dale's own Councils' Man of the Year Award. And, I think about the awesome trip we enjoyed, provided by Big White Ski Resort, our program sponsor.

This awards program is the only one among the many FWSA awards that recognizes our volunteers' hard work at the club and council level. So many times, I'm told "but I don't do anything for Far West Ski Association." And I always answer—"This isn't about FWSA, this is about what you've done

for council and club!" Sure, there are a few extra points given if someone participates at the Far West and National level, but that's a miniscule part of the application process.

We've worked hard to make sure our honorees are truly honored over convention weekend. Whether they're wearing special hats, blinky boas or shiny name tags, we want our honorees to stand out in a crowd, because they're so worthy of all the recognition we can give them.

And Big White? I can't say enough about Big White. I've had a special place in my heart for Big White. Thanks to winning my award, and then my involvement with this program, I developed a great relationship with our Big White reps over the years—I even represented Big White at Warren Miller movies, traveling all over Oregon. So much fun: saving Jim Lloyd from a rat-

lesnake at the Far West golf tournament (that's how we met, LOL!), singing "Oh Canada" with Katie Balkwill at one of our Far West Convention after-parties—soooo much fun. And this is why my ski club, Skiyente, started running our "Skiyente Friends and Family Ski Trip" to Big White almost every year (and going back in 2025)!

As of deadline time, we haven't collected all of the honorees for the 2024 Far West Ski Association Councils' Volunteer of the Year, so I can't give you a sneak preview of who you'll be seeing honored at this year's convention in Reno. I CAN tell you that every single man and woman is an incredible representative of their club and council, and each one is worthy of this award.

We'll see you in Reno, and you'll meet them, too!

Picture: Sheri Parshall at Big White Ski Resort with a gondola

Photo credit: Dale Parshall



(Continued from page 4 Convention Chair)

ers considered are Travis Ganong and Maria Michell Gagnon.

Saturday evening will be the time for the Awards Banquet, recognizing many outstanding individuals within the Snowsports community, and Sunday

will be our General Meeting and Elections of new officers to the Far West Board of Directors. Come play with us and find a little *Altitude with Attitude!* See you in Reno!



Joe Harvis VP Communications

Your FWSA communications team continues to be hard at work providing members with the *Far West NewsFlash*, *The Councilman* and *The Far West Skier's Guide*, as well as our Social Media presence and we're eagerly awaiting our new Marketing Media slide shows and videos highlighting our travel programs and convention promos. We are currently searching for new volunteers to manage our Social Media and an editor for *The Councilman*. Please spread the word among your club members to see who might be interested and have them get in touch with me.

Did you know that all clubs and councils can add their functions and trips to our events calendar? That's correct, your club or council can add your events and trips to the FWSA calendar. It's easy to use, you can even link it back to your website. Consider this to possibly increase your participation.

Have you logged into the FWSA website yet? Currently it isn't necessary to log into the site but soon if you register to attend an event, travel program or convention, you will need to register via the website. At that time, you will need to login to make those reservations. Members who have registered should sign in and review their member profile to update any missing or incorrect information. **We encourage members to verify your information is correct.**

Others can click on "**Member Signup**" and create and complete the registration form. One can even signup to re-

ceive the *Far West NewsFlash* simply by checking the "**NewsFlash subscription**" box under the "**Interests**" section of the Member Profile.

We hope everyone enjoys reading this edition of *The Councilman*. Nick Cowell, our editor, has agreed to continue until we find a successor. **So, we are looking for a new editor.** Please contact me if you or anyone you know might be interested. Please send any comments or suggestions to us at councilman@fwsa.org. A big thank you also goes to our ever-ready proofreaders, Debbi Kor, Jane Wyckoff, Todd Hood, Jo Simpson, Linda Westlund and Gloria Raminha.

Leigh Gieringer and Jane Wyckoff have started the groundwork for the 37th annual edition of the *Far West Skier's Guide*. This issue will again be **digital only, however, if you would like a printed copy you can purchase a subscription in the FWSA Store on the website.** Both Leigh & Jane put numerous hours proofreading all the articles and formatting each issue. Please send comments to us at skiersguide@fwsa.org. **If you are available to proofread either publication, please let me know.**

Also, if you know of a possible advertiser, please get us their contact information, or put them in touch with us at skiersguide@fwsa.org. Every little bit helps. Contact us for rates.

Are you on the mailing list for the monthly *Far West NewsFlash*. You can find current and past issues on the

website under Publications. All clubs and councils are encouraged to submit appropriate articles of interest for their activities, events, and travel programs for publication in the *NewsFlash* simply by sending the information to our editor and publisher, Debbi Kor at newsflash@fwsa.org.

All our publications are in digital format and are accessible from the Far West website at [FWSA Publications](#).

Our website also contains many photo albums of our varied activities through the years. This year alone, we will be adding photos and videos from our Travel programs and the upcoming convention in Reno. Additionally, we have several videos on our You Tube page. George Stewart continues to produce our videos and slide shows. As our multimedia chair, he produced marketing videos in the past and our upcoming trips. They can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/user/FarWestSkiAssoc>.

As stated above we are currently looking for a Social Media guru to chair this committee. Currently Gloria Raminha and I are overseeing our Social Media presence. If you know someone that is qualified, please reach out and let us know. We have recently enlisted help from one of the International Travel staff members to help us get our Instagram page up and running. If you are a social media guru and would like to help or contribute, please reach out to us at socialmedia@fwsa.org.



Todd Hood VP Council Services

Membership Has Its Privileges... Maybe!

The Far West Ski Association continues to seek the opportunity to help our member councils and clubs be more, get more, and do more.

We have all heard that:

- Together Each Achieves More
- There is no I in TEAM (except for that one in the middle of the "A")
- You have to "be in it to win it"

All these statements support the concept that the value of belonging to an organization is only as good as the benefits offered by the organization, and your level of engagement to the organization. The greater the number of leaders that are engaged, the value to your organization increases exponentially. The formula below shows the relationship to the value received.

$$V_b = B_o * E_o^n L$$

Volunteer of the Year Award recipient with FWSA and Big White Ski Resort representatives. Pictured left to right: Chris Gill, past VP of Council Services; Tony Baker, 2023 Volunteer of the Year from the Rusty Bindings Ski Club with the BAC; Big White's Bear Liam Craig; Joel Mawson, Big White; and Sheri Parrshall, FWSA Volunteer of the Year chairperson

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography

The more your leaders engage in a valuable activity, the more value your leaders will extract from the organization.

- An organization may offer numerous benefits to members, but if your level of engagement is little or none, the value received is little or none.
- If an organization provides little benefits to members, regardless of how engaged your members are, the value will be minimal.

By engaging with the Far West Ski Association, your organization leaders will be exposed to opportunities for the benefits below:

- Recruiting New Members
- Communicating with Members
- Volunteer Recognition
- Leadership Development and Succession Planning

- Membership Credentials and Benefits
- Liability Insurance and Operational Best Practices
- Domestic and International Travel
- Domestic and International Snow Travel
- Cruise and Adventure Travel
- Lodging Discounts
- Equipment Rental Discounts
- Transportation and Shipping Discounts

The Far West Ski Association offers these benefits. It is up to your organization's leaders to engage, obtain value and increase the value. Reach out to any Vice President or Committee Chair to increase your organization's engagement.





Debbie Stewart

VP International Travel

FWSA 2024 International Ski Week – Madonna di Campiglio, Italy

This year’s annual International Ski Week was to Madonna di Campiglio, Italy from February 24-March 3, 2024. This beautiful resort is located in a valley between the scenic Dolomites and the Italian Alps with the ability to ski both. We enjoyed spring skiing conditions with warm weather and soft snow. We skied on long runs surrounded by tall evergreen trees, a nice change from much European skiing that is above the tree line. It was an easy walk from our hotel to the gondola to get up onto the mountain. It snowed most days, so much on Wednesday that the lifts did not open but only lightly on other days. Madonna di Campiglio is so scenic and fun that it is easy to see why it is considered one of Italy’s most famous ski resorts.

In addition to skiing, our group of 68 enjoyed staying at the Hotel Relais des Alpes right in the town. There were many shops and restaurants nearby. At the hotel, we had huge buffet spreads with many choices for both breakfasts and dinners. There were multiple locations to meet for happy hours plus a pool and hot tub; several in the group got massages. We stored our skis in a large ski room. Our Welcome Orientation and Farewell Event was held in a beautiful historic room which provided fun socializing in the Far West tradition.

Our optional day tour was to Bolzano, the capital city of South Tyrol, Italy. The South Tyrol Archaeology Museum is dedicated to the life and mysterious death of Otzi the Iceman, the Copper Age glacier mummy whose remains were discovered in 1991. We really enjoyed our city guide who was highly informative with a great sense of humor. We had no idea how interesting and beautiful Bolzano would be. All 40 participants enjoyed this day tour and would like to come back to explore the area more deeply.

After Madonna di Campiglio Ski - Northern Italy Extension Adventure Tour



Pointe Pietra in Verona
Photo credit: Debbie Stewart

We had a group of 41 people on the extension trip in Northern Italy, including four who joined the group only for that tour. We stayed 2 nights in Milan where we visited Milan Cathedral, which is the largest church in the Italy Republic, Sforza’s Castle, Teatro La

Scala exterior, and the historic Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II. The architecture and art in northern Italy span many centuries and styles and create much beauty.

Our walking tour of the town of Como, known for its excellent silks, showed us some of life in the area including shops with wonderful pastries and gelato. We had a beautiful warm day for our boat tour on scenic Lake Como. It was reminiscent of a Hollywood tour with the local guide pointing out villas owned by the rich and famous from various parts of the world, including George Clooney.

After Milan, we stayed in Verona for 2 nights, the largest city in northeastern Italy. The city walking tour included the ancient Roman amphitheater called the Arena where operas were performed, the City Wall, San Fermo Maggiore Church and more.



Our group viewing the Romeo and Juliet balcony in Verona
Photo credit: Debbie Stewart

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Next, we went to La Spezia where we stayed for 3 nights. On our way there, we had three interesting culinary tours where we learned the complex process for making Parmesan cheese, the many ages, and flavors of balsamic vinegar, and in Parma the varieties of cured meats including prosciutto.

The next day we toured the medieval town of Porto Venere, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the most picturesque towns in Italy. It is known for its colorful narrow, multi-story vertical houses with steep stairways. We also toured Genova, the busiest port in Italy and a major economic center. The historic art in this city, much of it in bank buildings, is terrific.

For our last adventure day, we went by train with a guide for a day tour in Cinque Terre, which is famous for their little villages perched high along the rugged cliffs of the Italian Riviera. We stopped at three of the five villages along the Ligurian coastline. These



Farewell event in the Beautiful Relais des Alpes Ballroom
Photo credit: Debbie Stewart

scenic villages and the surrounding hilly areas form a part of the Cinque Terre National Park that was designated as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1997. We walked many steps and climbed many stairs in Italy. For many, Cinque Terre was their fa-

vorite location of the tour.

We returned to Milan for our flight back to the USA. What a pleasure it was to stay at the Sheraton Malpensa Airport Hotel. It is located inside the airport so we could walk to our gates.

FWSA Africa Adventure Trip – 2024

We toured South Africa in 2014 and now it is time to experience another amazing area of Africa. We will be exploring locations in East Africa September 27 – October 7, 2024. We hope to see the “Big 5” during this photographic safari trip and explore areas that FWSA has not been to in a very long time. Let us join together and experience the local culture, as well as seeing the many magnificent animals in their natural habitat.

We will depart the U.S. and fly into Kilimanjaro airport then off to our lodge in Arusha. The next day we will travel to Lake Manyara National Park, which is famous for its tree-climbing lions. We will engage in several photographic safaris/game drives throughout the trip.

On to the Ngorongoro Crater which is 2000 ft. deep and is considered to be the 8th Wonder of the World with its largest intact caldera and abundance of wildlife permanently living on the crater floor. We hope to see a spectacular concentration of wildlife and the big five!

Then off to Serengeti National Park with its famed animal migration and offers arguably the most scintillating game-viewing in Africa: great herds of buffalo, elephants, giraffes, thousands of elands, topi, kongoni, impala, and Grant’s gazelle. Golden-maned lion prides feast on the plain grazers. Solitary leopards and high-density cheetahs prowl the southern plains, yet there are over 500 species of birds in these areas. This will be a feast for your eyes. An optional hot air balloon safari will be taken by some to experience an early morning flight with a bush breakfast...a true “Out of Africa”

experience and much more to experience.

FWSA 2024 13th Annual Scuba Trip to the Philippines

In 2019 FWSA divers and non-divers had the time of their life, and we are going back in 2024! Many participants stated that this was their best trip and are eager to return. We will be staying 5 nights at the Buceo Anilao Beach & Dive Resort, then staying at the Marco Vincent Resort for 9 nights. They pride themselves on outstanding customer service, “World Class Diving”, chef prepared meals on the dive boat, and their dive operation is “Over the Top.” You will not want to miss this one!

FWSA 2025 Ski Week – Tignes/Val d’Isere, France

The French Alps are well known for their world-class skiing. We are extremely excited to offer Tignes/Val d’Isere again! Our last ski week in Val d’Isere was in 2015 and we had a fantastic time. The ski areas of both Tignes and Val d’Isere offer a wide range of skiable terrain while one can ski both areas since they are interconnected. The skiing was incredible, the hotels were great, people were friendly, and the town is charming with many shops and restaurants.

Tignes sits in the heart of the Espace Killy, one of the largest and most famous ski areas in the world. Tignes, the higher of the two resorts that make up the Espace Killy, gives quick and easy access to a huge amount of skiable terrain and back country ski touring. The high altitude of Tignes means that you will be able to ski there for around 10 months of the year, making it a great choice for reliable snow. Val d’Isere ski area is divided into a number of different sectors, and some of them offer a challenging environment that you will revel in if you are looking to step up in difficulty. A new 10-person gondola has been installed,

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(Continued from page 16 International Travel)

making Val d'Isere a very inviting choice for next year's FWSA Int'l Ski Week.

We look forward to returning there.

FWSA Valle Nevado, Chile Ski and Adventure Trip – Summer 2025

Once again, skiing in Chile is back on the FWSA travel calendar. We look forward to flying into Santiago, Chile, skiing in Valle Nevado, then adventure travel in the Atacama Desert. We look forward to offering a summer ski and adventure trip for our Far West travelers...come and join us!



FWSA Greece Adventure Trip – 2025

An adventure trip to Greece has been added to the FWSA International

Debbie Stewart enjoying a cappuccino in Verona

Photo credit: Debbie Stewart

Travel calendar. We anticipate this to be a combination of land and boat adventure tour. Stay tuned for more information.

FWSA 2026 Ski Week – Chamonix, France

Probably the most famous downhill ski resort in the world, Chamonix in France is revered by the world's best

big-mountain skiers and snowboarders who come here to tackle the area's huge vertical descents and extreme off-piste. This report also has plenty of good runs for intermediate skiers; there are more conventional ski areas in the Chamonix Valley, five in total, although only the linked Le Brevent and La Flégère areas are directly accessible by ski lift from Chamonix itself; the others are separate and situated some distance away from the town but served by bus and/or train links. Getting to Chamonix is easy: it is just over an hour from Geneva airport. All snowsports enthusiasts should plan a pilgrimage to Chamonix to experience the magic of the Mont Blanc massif at least once. The town also has a well-deserved reputation for lively nightlife.

FWSA Galapagos Adventure Trip – 2026

Research is underway for the 2026 Adventure Trip to the Galapagos,



which is part of Ecuador, and possibly Machu Picchu, which is in Peru, or to another destination. Stay tuned for the announcement of this trip.

Past FWSA President, Gloria Raminha on a street in Verona Italy

Photo credit: Debbie Stewart

FWSA 2027 International Ski Week – Val Gardena, Italy

The Dolomites always are a popular ski area for their wonderful scenic beauty, good skiing, and popular Italian food so we will return there in 2027 but to a different resort: Val Gardena. This trip will provide the opportunity to ski the popular Sella Ronda circuit that goes through Selva di Val Gardena and to ski La Longia, the longest ski run in South Tyrol that is more than 6 miles long and stretches from Mount Seceda to Ortisol. We plan way ahead; more information will come later.

FWSA New Croatia Adventure Trip – 2027

The 2022 land and yacht trip were sold out, had a waiting list and was such a success, we will be going back in 2027! You will not want to miss this experience.

FWSA New Zealand Adventure Trip – 2028

We will be adventuring to the southern hemisphere in 2028 to explore New Zealand and bordering areas. Stay tuned for additional information.

FWSA Rhine River Cruise & Biking Adventure Trip – 2029

We will be researching details for a land, cruise, and biking through the tulip fields adventure trip for Spring 2029.

As FWSA Vice President of International Travel, I realize that vacation days are precious. The best ones are those that leave people feeling recharged, inspired with the feeling that the explorations were worthwhile, ones where the most cherished souvenirs bring the grandest memories.

For updates or information on FWSA International Travel Program:

Debbie Stewart at:
FWSAIntlTrvl@prodigy.net

Mobile – 559/737-0882

FWSA Travel Videos: <http://www.youtube.com/user/FarWestSkiAssoc/videos>



Debbi Kor VP Marketing and Sponsorship

Another great ski season throughout the wild west this year. Last year, we had snow dumps EVERYWHERE. This year, it seems to be concentrating in the Western U.S., California and Nevada is getting dumped on, while the resorts in Colorado and Utah seem to be having their typical winters. Still, there was more than enough to ski in, and have a good time!



Ski Week 2024 was held in **Steamboat** January 27 to February 3, 2024. Far West had approximately 175 Attendees participating this year. The Welcome Party was at the new Range Food & Drink Hall. Our group was the first group hosted in Steamboat's new spot. The party was attended by, none other, than Billy Kidd. Billy also came to the Farewell Party, bringing his gold and silver Olympic and Championship medals, and taking photos with our members. He gave an inspirational talk about never giving up, and always following your dreams. Throughout the week there were ski days, mountain races, and lots of fun. *Larry Young* did an amazing job of getting everything organized for us for the week, and our Tour Operator, *Sara Clemons*, of *Sports America Tours*, made sure everyone had an excellent time. Thank you to both, who took the time to make

sure our Far West attendees were well taken care of.

The North American Travel Team assisted with selling raffle tickets for the



Karbon ski clothing, benefitting the *Far West Athletic Scholarship Program*. **Schure Sports**, the maker of **Karbon** apparel, has sponsored this program since 2004. The winner of the Karbon wear was *Anneli Ford*, of the San Diego Council of Ski Clubs. Congratulations, Anneli and thank you to all who purchased tickets. Far West raised \$1,325 for the Scholarship Program.

For all those clubs and councils who participated in Ski Week, and to those who visited **Big White, Mammoth Mountain, Whitefish Mountain Resort, Mt. Bachelor** and many other winter resorts, we want to thank YOU, as well as all of our industry partners and Ski Patrollers who went out of their way to ensure our safety on the mountain, and throughout the town and resorts. It provided us all with a way to spend time with friends and family doing the thing that we love to do the most!

With summer right around the corner, it is time to make plans to attend the 91st Annual Far West Convention. We

will be returning to Reno, Nevada, for some fun in the sun. We were last in Reno in 2018, so come back for the week, and check out the town, the casinos, and all that Reno has to offer. The dates for this fabulous event will be June 6-9, 2024. Lodging will be at The Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, with all of the Convention meetings, Silent Auction & Trade Show and Awards Banquet being in the Grand Ballroom. Our charity this year is "*Achieve Tahoe*", so bid high, bid often!



The **Sierra League & Council**, and **Bay Area Snow Sports Council** are co-sponsoring the event. They have been hard at work, planning and putting together a fun-filled weekend for us all. "A Tahoe Adventure" is in store for you on Thursday morning and afternoon, with a trip to Donner State Park, Palisade Tahoe for shopping and

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Jean McCasey VP Membership

Hello fellow FWSA members! We have started a new year with some of our clubs growing and others not so much. The FWSA Direct membership has declined from high 80's to high 60's. I really believe it will grow again once more trips are offered, as that is primarily our base for direct membership.

As for our clubs here in San Diego I have seen a couple of innovative ways to grow membership. One of our clubs started advertising on Meet Up.com This club is unique among other clubs as they offer mid-week trips. They leave on a Sunday and come back on a Friday. They have attracted young people and individuals from outside the area. Another club attended a local Sierra Club meeting to teach individuals how to hike and camp. They set up a booth and advised locals that there were ski clubs in the area. Some individuals were very surprised.

We have also seen a council fold and

clubs are looking to join other councils or join directly to FWSA. If this is your case the club needs to get permission from FWSA and then follow the instructions. Direct Club membership must complete an application, and submit the required documents and check of \$100 for FWSA BOD approval.

Far West Ski Association

Affiliated Ski Club Guidelines

- \$100. Application fee.
- All applicants will conform to 202 and 204 of the FWSA Operations Manual.
- Articles of Incorporation.
- By-laws.
- Club listing of members and officers.
- Clubs applying must have an established membership of 10 or

more.

- VP Membership will submit application and required documentation for BOD approval.
- Spots on Ski Week will be based on availability.

Since the Intermountain Ski Council has disbanded, their member clubs are invited to join another council or become a Direct Club. Contact Jean McCasey, vpmembership@fwsa.org to receive the instruction for Direct Club membership. Club Leaders will complete an application and submit with required documents and a check for \$100 for FWSA BOD approval.

Individuals and clubs please reach out to FWSA for help in any of these areas. With the convention coming up, hopefully we can supply the information you need.

Right: FWSA Ski Week in Steamboat. Riding the lift are (left to right: Ron Phenicie Arizona Ski Council member, Linda Westlund, FWSA President and Kristy Welsh, Arizona Ski Council President

Photo credit: FWSA



Scan this QR code for a quick link to online versions of current, and previous *The Councilman* editions.



Nancy Ellis

VP North American Travel

2024 STEAMBOAT SKI WEEK— JANUARY 27—FEBRUARY 3, 2024

A total of 180 attended this year's ski week representing the following councils: Arizona, Bay Area Snow Sports, Central, Los Angeles, Northwest, Orange, San Diego, and Sierra councils.

A snowstorm the day before people arrived blanketed the slopes with great snow for the week's skiing. We enjoyed a new and better Steamboat with the new Gondola to the top, additional skiing/riding terrain, a new ice rink, and more restaurants. A last minute change to the location of our Welcome Party gave us the honor of being the first group to use The Range Food and Drink Hall. Located in the new base village, we enjoyed delicious desserts and views of the mountain and ice rink while visiting one another and making plans for the week. Billy Kidd dropped by, visited with participants, and let people have their pictures taken with him.

Council activities included dinners, bowling and pizza night, ice skating parties, and happy hours. The FWSA Farewell Banquet ended the week with a delicious buffet and dancing. Billy Kidd attended and gave an inspiring talk about never giving up and continuing to pursue your dreams. He brought a couple of his medals and let people hold them and have their pictures taken with him and the medals.

The Athletic Scholarship raffle for the Karbon jacket and pants outfit received \$1,325.00 for the FWSA Athletic

Scholarship fund. Thanks to the generous donation from Schure Sports, we were able to raffle off the ski outfit to raise money for the FWSA Athletic Scholarship program for junior USSA racers throughout the western United States. The winner of this year's raffle was Anneli Ford from San Diego Council.

A snowstorm came in as we departed on Saturday, refreshing the slopes with snow for the new arrivals. It was a great week!

Thanks to the following FWSA Board members who attended this year's trip and supported the ski week: Chris Ciardi, Nick Cowell, Bob Ellis, Chris Gill, Todd Hood, Jean McCassey, Gloria Raminha, Jo Simpson, Kristy Welsh, and Linda Westlund. I also appreciate the work of our Council Trip Leaders and Travel Staff who made this trip successful for trip participants: Mike Terrey, Karen Albrecht, Laura Priess, Chris Ciardi, Glenn Mundt, Anneli Ford, Carlene Boutacoff, Marilyn Sigler, Mary Alexander, Bob Ellis, Lynnell Calkins, Ken Calkins, and Gloria Raminha. A special thank you to our Tour Operator, Sara Clemons, and Staffers Kevin and Catherine Kornegay from Sports America, and Larry Young, Steamboat Resorts who planned our events and lodging, and whose teamwork gave us memorable experiences.

2024 MINI TRIP--COPPER MOUNTAIN, COLORADO, MARCH 17—22, 2024

The Copper Mini Trip was a great suc-

cess! We had 36 participants representing the following FWSA ski clubs: Action, Aerospace, Avalanche, Balboa, Bergfreunde, Castro Valley, FWSA Direct, Inskiers, Interlachen, Mountain High, Monterey, North Island, Park City, Reno, Scottsdale, and Westwood. This was a great trip for our club members to meet people from other ski clubs. Participants stayed at the Cambria Hotel and condo rooms at Tucker Mountain Lodging, all located in Center Village. People had ski in/ski out lodging or a short walk to a lift.

We enjoyed a delicious assortment of deep dish pizzas, Caesar salad, and iced tea for our Welcome Reception located slopeside at the conference center. The remaining portion of our week was set aside to enjoy skiing, riding, and the many activities in the area. There was something for everyone and the snow conditions were great! Another successful FWSA trip!

2025 NORTH AMERICAN SKI WEEK—BANFF, CANADA, JANUARY 25—FEBRUARY 1, 2025

The destination for the 2025 North American Ski Week will be Banff, Canada. Councils will be using the following lodging properties: Banff Park Lodge, Ptarmigan Lodge, Moose Lodge, and Caribou Lodge, all located in town. The Welcome Party will be at Melissa's Missteak, and the Farewell Dinner and Dance will be at Banff Park Lodge. Both are short walks from our lodging.

Skiers and riders will be able to take

(Continued from page 18 VP North American Travel)

shuttles to three ski areas, Mt. Norquay, Lake Louise, and Sunshine Village. Shuttles run regularly from several bus stops in town and are free to those with an All Area Lift Ticket or IKON pass. We will have a picnic at Whiskey Jack day lodge at the base of Lake Louise Resort. Non-skiers will be given complimentary shuttle passes to the resort and can purchase sightseeing passes to ride the gondola to see the area from the top of the resort.

Mt. Norquay is located minutes from the town of Banff and offers night skiing. It has 4,200 acres of skiable terrain and has a history as an Olympic and World Cup training ground.

Sunshine Village is in Banff National Park and 15 minutes from the town of Banff. Sunshine is higher in elevation than the other two resorts and often gets the most and fluffiest snow of the three. It has 75 percent of its terrain designated as beginner and intermediate and has some of the area's best expert and extreme terrain, with two off

-piste zones off the Continental Divide chairlift.

Lake Louise is known for "biggest" Banff skiing. It has 25% beginner terrain and a green run accessible from every chairlift, 45% intermediate terrain, and 30 percent expert terrain. It has terrain for every level and is great for large groups and families.

Banff National Park is a UNESCO World Heritage site which shouldn't be missed. It has some of the world's most beautiful sites such as Lake Louise Lake, breathtaking mountain peaks, and all kinds of wildlife. It is a unique and special destination.

Information about this North American Ski Week is posted on the fwsa.org website. Contact your Council Trip Leader for additional information and to sign up for the trip.

2025 MINI TRIP—BIG WHITE, CANADA, MARCH 2025

The Big White Mini Trip will be in March 2025. Trip information and sign ups will be available in August.

Looking forward to seeing you on

(Continued from page 18 Marketing and Sponsorship)

lunch, and a stop at the Boatworks Mall to check out the SNOW Sports Museum. This will be followed by a fun Pub Crawl at the Reno Public Market, where we will take over the 2nd floor of the market. We will have room to mingle, enjoy some great food and drinks, play a few games, and socialize with all of our friends that we haven't seen since the last convention. **Steamboat Ski & Resort Corp.** will sponsor the Pub Crawl once again. On Friday, we will do something different and fun, and go to Magic Carpet Golf for the 17th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament, sponsored by **Aspen/Snowmass and Snowmass Tourism**. We will also have a trip to the National Automobile Museum in downtown Reno. For those who love cars, you will be able to view over 200

classics, roadsters, and many one-of-a-kind vehicles, all in one place. Lunch will follow at a local restaurant. After the morning's activities on Friday, join your friends at the Pool Party, and later, the Club Happy Hour, before the doors open to the 38th Annual Silent Auction & Snowsports Trade Show on Friday night. The usual convention activities will take place throughout the remainder of the weekend, including interesting, hands-on Snowsports Leadership Academy Sessions on Saturday morning, featuring two local ski technicians – Phil and Tricia Pugliesi, and one Public Affairs Session, featuring Barbara Razo, Wayne Wong, and Tony Margulies of the National Ski Patrol, learning to "Calm the Chaos". In the afternoon, we will have our named Keynote Speaker, followed by another Snowsports Leadership Session, and a wonderful session, "Preserving Our

one of the Far West North American trips! Contact Nancy Ellis at fwsa-travelnancy@sbcglobal.net or www.fwsa.org for updates on the FWSA North American Travel Program.



Travel Staff with Billy Kidd at Steamboat Ski Week. Back row left to right: Bob Ellis, Gloria Raminha, Nancy Ellis, Lynnell Calkins, Ken Calkins. Front row left to right: Billy Kidd, Mary Alexander, Marilyn Sigler

Photo credit: Nancy Ellis

Heritage – Western Snowsports Museums and Libraries" led by Ingrid P. Wicken, Bill Clark, Alan K. Engen, and John W. Lundin. In the evening, we will have a short reception, followed by our Awards Banquet. Sunday morning will bring the Eye-Opener, which should get you all started with mimosas and Bloody Mary's before making your way to the Ballroom for the Annual Meeting and Elections on Sunday. Registration information can be found at www.fwsa.org/conventions. Online registration is available, as well as mail-in.

Our industry partners are coming forward to sponsor many of the events, activities, and helping to ensure that our major fundraiser of the convention, our Silent Auction, is the huge success that it typically is. We look forward to seeing you there!



Gloria Raminha

Nominations Committee

Anyone having an interest in serving as an Officer or Trustee of our organization, please contact Steve Coxen, Interim Nominating Committee Chair by email at vppublicaffairs@fwsa.org or phone 503-679-9022.

Elections for officers will occur at the Far West Ski Association Annual Meeting & Convention June 6-9, 2024, to be held at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa in Reno, Nevada. Voting will be held on Sunday, June 9. There are By-Laws amendments currently proposed. You can view the proposed By-Law changes on the FWSA Website. Delegates attending the convention will vote on the proposed By-Law changes and elect people to the following positions:

Officers (1-year term)

- President
- Treasurer
- Secretary

Trustees – 2 positions (2-year term)

VP Positions (2-year term)

- VP Marketing & Sponsorship
- VP International Travel
- VP Membership
- VP Communications

Qualified nominees for any of the open positions will be accepted up to the date and time of elections. All candidates must be members in good standing of FWSA.

FWSA Qualifications for Positions as approved by the Board of Directors are:

President:

1. Held a voting position on the FWSA Board for a minimum of four (4) years.
2. Attended at least three (3) FWSA conventions within the five (5) years prior to the current convention.

3. Attended at least one (1) North American Ski Week within the five (5) years prior to the current convention.

Treasurer:

1. Understanding of cost center accounting and GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles).
2. Working knowledge of MS Excel and QuickBooks or the current FWSA accounting software.
3. Held the Treasurer position in a FWSA ski club or council or has demonstrated equivalent job experience as an accountant who has done financial preparation and analysis.

Trustee:

1. Held a voting position on the FWSA Board a minimum of three (3) years.
2. Strong business, financial, and leadership skills.
3. Attended at least three (3) FWSA Conventions within the five (5) years prior to the current convention.

VP of International Travel:

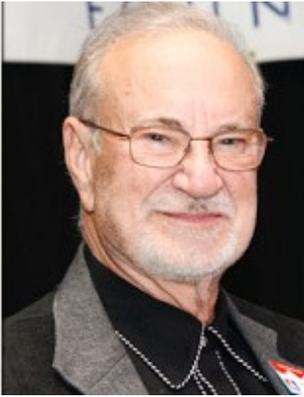
Must meet either a or b below:

- a. Held the position of club or council "Trip Leader" and led a minimum of 2 trips of 25 or more people.
 - b. Served as an FWSA Trip Leader, assistant Trip Leader, or FWSA Ski Week staff member for a minimum of two (2) trips.
2. Assisted as a volunteer on at least one trip related to this position.

Desirable experience with the following:

- Standard accounting procedures
- California Seller of Travel Program
- Travel Budgeting generating an organizational profit

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Steve Coxen Public Affairs

FWSA Public Affairs

The Far West Public Affairs program covers a variety of topics of concern to snowsports enthusiasts. These topics include Ski Area Development, Consumer Advocacy & Trends, Snowsports Safety, Environmental Issues, and Snowsports History. I will address ski area development in the Fall Issue of *The Councilman*.

Consumer Advocacy & Trends – Ski Resort Passes

Ikon (Alterra) – The Ikon pass went on sale March 14 for the 24/25 ski season. The pass will offer 58 global destinations across the Americas, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan. Ikon pass holders will now get two additional Friends & Family discounts, for a total of 12 for the 24/25 winter season. Each Friends & Family discount provides a minimum of 25% off the single day lift ticket price posted for the day the discount is used to ski or ride at an eligible Ikon Pass destination. For all Ikon Pass products and pricing, go to:

<https://www.ikonpass.com/en/shop-passes>.

Epic (Vail) – The Epic pass allows unlimited access to 42 resorts including Vail, Breckenridge, Park City, and Whistler Blackcomb plus limited access to partner resorts in North America, Europe, and Japan. The full Epic pass price is \$982 with discounted pricing for the Epic Local pass and Epic 4-Day pass. For pricing options go to <https://www.epicpass.com>.

Indy – The Indy pass is currently sold out. The Indy pass is expected to provide two-day access to 200+ Alpine and Nordic resorts across the US, Canada, Europe, and Japan for the 24/25 ski season. It has been reported that as more resorts are added additional passes may go on sale. Stay tuned. This pass sells out fast. More info at <https://www.indyskipass.com>.

Recognition Programs and Awards

History Program – Far West Ski Association was founded in 1930 as the California Ski Association. From the very beginning, the Association has been actively involved in the development of skiing as we know it today. Every year we recognize an individual who has made an extraordinary effort to collect, archive, preserve and share the contributions of snowsports to the community at large. This individual will receive the Western Ski Heritage Award which will be presented at the Convention in Reno, June 6-9, 2024.:

Other Far West history programs include:

The Club & Council History Recognition Award – In 2008 Far West launched this program to develop club, league, and council histories. The objective of the annual program is to capture important information about skiing from the skier’s perspective and especially that of the club skier.

Historic Ski Clubs, Councils, Ski Schools, and Ski Patrols – Organizations falling in these categories with

over 50 years of operation may receive a FWSA Historic Recognition designation.

Safety Program – We emphasize safety at all levels of Far West, council, club, and especially individual responsibility. Each year we recognize an individual member of Far West who has made a significant contribution to safety at the Club and/or Council level. The Richard Lubin Safety Person of the Year honors the person who has done the most to promote safety through safety articles, on mountain activities, presentations, public speaking, working ski patrol, and more. The 2024 Safety Person of the Year will be announced at the Convention in Reno, June 6-9, 2024.

Environment Program – This program encourages development of awareness and programs that educate club and council members about sustaining snowsports through conservation and protection of our environment. The program encourages individuals, clubs, and councils to help spread awareness of effective ways to mitigate climate change and protect our environment by supporting snowsports industry initiatives such as the National Ski Areas Association “Sustainable Slopes” program or the Snowsports Industries America “Climate Policy Agenda.”

So What About the Environment?

It’s very hard not to notice our climate is changing. In the not too distant past,

(Continued on page 31)



Bob Ellis VP Racing

This year we had ski week at Steamboat with good skiing conditions. Our race days had nice weather with sunny skies. The GS race was well run by the Steamboat Race Department with Sierra Direct winning the Joe Ross Award for most points, Reno Ski & Rec was second, and Phoenix Ski Club

was third in points.

The Council Challenge Race was completed in less than an hour with everybody having a great time on the courses. The Lake Louise Award was won by the Sierra League with 369 points, Arizona Council was second with 238 points, and Los Angeles

Council was third place with 159 points. These awards will be presented at the Reno Convention.

The Far West Championships was held on April 3-4, 2024 in Mammoth Mountain.



Above: LA Council Team L-R Art Pressel; Don Shafe; Michele Shafe; Rick Harrington; Suzette Wheeler; Laura Priess

Photo credit: Nancy Ellis

Right: Super Sixties Sierra Team (1st place Costume and 1st place overall) L - R Lisa Vandervoort, Larry Greco, John Schultheis, Laura Greco, Jo Simpson, Paul Vandervoort

Photo credit: Nancy Ellis



Right: Far West Team Back to front Bob Ellis, Larry Young (Steamboat), Brett Evert

Photo credit: Nancy Ellis



Left: San Diego Team L-R Jeff Meyerson, Nick Cowell, Martin Wascher, Cheryl Reiss, Rick Bonnett, Susan Trebon

Photo credit: Nancy Ellis





David Krupp Athletic Scholarship Chair

US Ski Team member, AJ Hurt, has surprised the world with her recent World Cup results which included a podium 3rd in Slalom in Kranjska Gora, Slovenia on January 7, 2024 and another podium 3rd in Giant Slalom on February 10, 2024 in Soldeu, Andora. These are the best Woman's US Ski Team results by anyone not named Shrifin!

AJ has been a six-time recipient of the Sierra Council Frank App Memorial / FWSA Athletic Scholarship (2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020). Her parents were so appreciative of the scholarship grant as they were both working two jobs to help support her dreams of making the US Ski Team. She started skiing at a young age and racing with the Squaw Valley Race Team. At age 15, AJ was invited to be part of the National Training Group and was showing great results for her age group.

AJ is one of the four FWSA Athletic Scholarship recipients which have been on the US Ski Team and started World Cup Races. Lila Lipanja (2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014); Garret Driller (2011, 2013); and Foreste Peterson (2011) have also competed at the highest level. Lila has won multiple NorAm and Europa Cup races and continues her World Cup aspirations as the #1 ranked independent female slalom ski racer.

The Far West Ski Association Athletic Scholarship Program is ramping up for its 20th year, growing from an initial \$1,000 in scholarships in 2004 to

\$10,250 and 14 recipients in the 2023-2024 season. The total awarded since the program's inception is \$203,500 to 146 different recipients. The program is designed to provide financial assistance to junior ski racers throughout the western United States where FWSA has a presence. Applicants must be junior alpine ski racers affiliated with the United States Ski and Snowboard Team and must participate in racing programs in states where FWSA has regional councils. These include California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Arizona, Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming. Scholarships are awarded based on financial need, athletic performance, academic achievement, and community service.

Skiing is an expensive sport and the costs involved in ski racing cannot be left up to the parents alone to incur. For younger athletes the costs are modest. However, for 16 through 20 year olds, where competition becomes national and even international, the costs can be significant. Without the help of outside resources, many junior racers simply cannot compete. For a top competitor, expenses can reach \$20,000 per year. This is not a seasonal sport for these racers; it includes a full year of ski-related involvement. After the winter race competition has concluded, competitors engage in dry-land training; then off to summer camps. Camps typically run about \$1,200 per week, not including transportation.

Winter training costs range from

\$1,000-\$1,500 each season. Most applicants work part time to offset expenses. The demands on their time is significant. They must balance their time between training, competition, school, work, and community service. Despite these demands, the average GPA for these recipients consistently exceeds a 3.9 average. Our scholarships are modest compared to the need, but they do make a difference in the overall scope of the resources they require.

The funding of the scholarships come from a number of sources: raffles, auctions, club and council partnerships, and direct contributions from club members, clubs, and councils. The FWSA has greatly benefitted from the generous support from its sponsors including **Whitefish Mountain Resort** (www.skiwhitefish.com), a year round winter and summer resort and **Grouse Mountain Lodge** (www.glacierparkcollection.com/lodging/grouse-mountain-lodge/) in Whitefish ; **Schure Sports, Inc.** (www.us.karbon.com), maker of the Karbon line of snowsports apparel; the US Ski Team, and the **Far West Racing Association**.

Finally, the **Far West Ski Foundation** (www.farwestskifoundation.org), a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, is a valuable resource for encouraging tax exempt donations. For more information on the Far West Athletic Scholarship Program, please visit www.fwsa.org.



Sigrid Noack

Charities and Our Community Chair

Charities & Our Community

FWSA is very proud of all our ski club members, who spend a huge amount of time supporting so many charitable organizations. Congratulations to all our ski clubs and councils, who are involved with charitable activities!

This is our fourth year of making a charity recognition video! We are again asking clubs and councils to send us information about their charity activities during the past year, so that we can produce another interesting and fun video.

With our new and improved, even more simplified Charities & Our Community recognition program, we are able to recognize and honor all the clubs and councils involved with any kind of charity work. *Showcasing* instead of *Competing* became our new program plan.

Our third video turned out very well, and we showed it at the Boise, Idaho convention last year. The video was quite impressive, showing the unbelievable amount of charity work our members are doing. Charities are al-

ways in need of help, and FWSA clubs find the need and continue on, doing what they do best, helping others. We *showcased* all our clubs' charitable activities and at the convention, we played the video all weekend long. Our industry partners and show attendees had a chance to view just how devoted our members are, supporting their favorite charities.

Congratulations FWSA ski clubs and a big thank you to Paul Vlasveld, BAC president, who has volunteered again to do the computer work. Please check out last year's video on our FWSA website and take a look at our phenomenal FWSA charity involvements.

At our 2024 convention in Reno, Nevada this June, we are planning to show our fourth charity recognition video. Ski clubs have been asked to send us photos and short videos, showing their charity activities during this past year. Also, we would like to include logos of the clubs, as well as of the charity organizations, that they support. There are no other requirements for clubs to be included in the video. But clubs do need to send

something to participate in the charity recognition program to show that they participated in some charity work this past year.

Hopefully we will again have many ski clubs honored in our video! All participating clubs will also be receiving an FWSA certificate of recognition and a medallion, that can be used on their website and in newsletters and correspondence.

Almost all of our 150 clubs are presently doing some kind of charity work. It continues to amaze us just how many charities and what a huge variety of organizations have been impacted by the generosity of our ski clubs. More than 200 charities have benefited from the dedicated work of our ski clubs. FWSA very much appreciates all our members' efforts! Thank you and congratulations!

Our ski clubs and their members are all winners at FWSA! Contact Sigrid for more information: charities@fwsa.org.

(Continued from page 22 Nominations committee)

- Writing Requests for Proposals (RFP's), conducting a bid process, and writing and negotiating trip contracts.
- May substitute other similar experience for any of the above

- May not receive personal financial or other benefits as a result of being a club, council, or FWSA Trip Leader for an FWSA sponsored trip. For example— a trip leader who works as a tour operator or for a travel agency may not receive compensation or other benefit for their business or company. They may not use

If elected to either VP of Travel position, the VP:

(Continued on page 33)



Jane Wyckoff

History Committee Chair

It has been exciting and busy preparing for the upcoming 91st Annual Far West Ski Association Convention, planning a special panel, plus our history awards and recognition programs.

Preserving Our Heritage – Western Snowsports Museums and Libraries

Conducting the FWSA Convention in Reno was a perfect opportunity to introduce attendees to the new SNOW Sports Museum to be built in the Olympic Valley. The Public Affairs Panel entitled “Preserving Our Heritage – Western Snowsports Museums and Libraries”, will feature four notable snowsports museum/library founders and historians, who will provide valuable information to take back to your clubs and councils on efforts being made to sustain snowsports through research, preservation, education and publication of snowsports history. The panel participants are:

Bill Clark, Executive Director of the Auburn Ski Club, Inc., and Board Member of the SNOW Sports Museum Foundation, Olympic Valley, California.

Alan K. Engen – Founder of the Joe Quinney Winter Sports Center with its Alf Engen Ski Museum at Utah’s Olympic Park.

John W. Lundin, one of the founders of the Washington State Ski & Snow-

board Museum, located in Snoqualmie Pass, Washington.

Ingrid P. Wicken, founder of the California Ski Library, located in Norco, California.

History Recognitions and Awards

A special thank you goes to Joe Harris, VP of Communications, for “getting the word out” regarding the award and recognition programs available to the clubs and councils. The history recognitions and awards will be presented at the FWSA’s Annual Convention.

The **Historic Club, Council, Ski School, Ski Patrol Recognition** program was established to recognize and honor these entities for over 50 years of service and contributions to snowsports.

The **History Recognition Award** is to encourage the writing, collection and preservation of club and council history, by recognizing a body of work that educated members about their history.

The **Western Ski Heritage Award**, sponsored by Steamboat Resort since 2000, was designed to recognize recent work which shows the role of snowsports in the larger community.

For information regarding our history recognitions and awards, please contact me at history@fwsa.org.

The Far West Ski Association Turns 90 Book

The digital edition of *The Far West Ski Association Turns 90* book is located on www.fwsa.org. Published in 2020, it celebrates the history of our Association, and contains historic articles by renowned award-winning authors. There was a limited press run for museums, libraries, and advertisers. We still have a few copies remaining for sale. You simply need to link into the FWSA Store on our website and pay online, or contact FWSA Treasurer, Randy Lew at treasurer@fwsa.org.

FWSA to Celebrate 100 Years in 2030

It is not too early to start thinking about the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Far West Ski Association in 2030. If you would like to contribute to this project as a researcher or writer, or have histories you would like to share, please contact me.





Alan Christian

Far West Ski Foundation President



The Far West Ski Foundation is the non-profit, 501c3 organization that facilitates tax deductible donations for the Far West Ski Association. Grants are made to individuals or organizations that fall into four broad categories.

Scholarships for junior racers
(**Building for the Future**)

Support for adaptive programs
(**Rehabilitation and Renewal**)

Grants to museums and historical archives
(**Preserving the Legacy**)

Grants to developing snowsports activities
(**Sustaining Snowsports**)

Legacy Project

In 2024 we will roll out a new program that will archive the stories of our members and we hope will increase donations for future grants. We encourage you to tell your skiing story and submit a one-page vignette with a photo. The legacy of individual Far West Skiers has been largely overlooked. This will be your opportunity to add to our/your recorded history. This new project will be launched at our upcoming 91st Annual FWSA Convention to be conducted June 6-9 in Reno. You can also make "in memoriam" donations to honor departed skiers. We archive such donations, and I encourage you to spread the word among your clubs and councils that FWSF is a respected conduit that directs funds to a broad range of snowsports activities.

Snowsports Museums and Libraries

I've visited five ski museums in the past two years and am proud to announce that four will be represented at our FWSA Convention. The afternoon Public Affairs Panel will be: **Preserving Our Heritage – Western Snowsports Museums & Libraries**. Panelists will provide valuable information to take back to your clubs and councils on efforts being made to sustain snowsports through research, preservation, education and publication of snowsports history. Board member Jane Wyckoff has led the effort to arrange for the panelists, which include notable founders of snowsports museums/libraries and historians:

Bill Clark, Board Member of the SNOW Sports Museum Foundation

Ingrid P. Wicken, founder of the California Ski Library

Alan K. Engen, founder of the Joe Quinney Winter Sports Center with its Alf Engen Ski Museum

John W. Lundin – a founder of the Washington State Ski & Snowboard Museum

For more detailed information about snowsports museums and libraries, contact Jane at vicepresident@farwestskifoundation.org.

Rehabilitation & Renewal

Board member Gloria Raminha leads the rehabilitation and renewal projects. She presented the Copper Mountain's Adaptive Ski and Snowboard Sports Program with a grant from the Foundation at the FWSA Mini Ski Week conducted at the resort in March. The an-

nual Wine & See's Candies Auction will again be conducted at the FWSA Convention at the Silent Auction to support these programs. For additional information, contact Gloria at adaptive@farwestskifoundation.org.

See's Yum-Raising

The Far West Ski Foundation conducted another successful Spring See's Yum-Raising in March, under the direction of Board members Jane Wyckoff and Joe Harvis. Our next See's Yum-Raising will be in November for the holidays. We set up a FWSF Storefront on the See's Candies site, and all orders are completed online. It is easy to do and all proceeds support the FWSF's missions. If you are not on our distribution list to receive the information to order, please send an E-mail to Joe Harvis at technology@farwestskifoundation.org, and we will add you to our database.

For more information about any of these programs, I can be contacted at alanchristian87@gmail.com or 925-451-9314. Donation checks or transfers are facilitated by our Treasurer, John Reinhardt, johnreinhardt@hotmail.com, 503-954-1941. For more information on your Foundation, visit the website <https://farwestskifoundation.org>. We will be updating the website during 2024. If you have web skills, we could use your expertise. Interested in joining our board or offering ideas? Please give me a call.



Barbara Razo

National Ski Patrol Liaison

"National Ski Patrol - Bringing Calm to Chaos" FWSA 91ST Convention Public Affairs Panel Session

The National Ski Patrol Safety & Wellness Team Hits the Road! We are pleased to share that some of the crew of the NSP Safety & Wellness Team from the NSP Far West Division will be presenting at the Saturday Morning 06-07-24 Public Affairs Panel Session at the 91st FWSA Convention in Reno Nevada.

The NSP Safety and Wellness Program was founded in 2022. This program was brought to life under the initiatives of the National Ski Patrol Wellness Task Force. Their mission statement is as follows.

National Ski Patrol is committed to creating and supporting a culture of wellness, safety, and resilience for all our members and those whom we serve. Honoring NSP core values, we will provide our community with awareness, leadership, guidance, education, and resources.

The Safety & Wellness Program movement was designed by patrollers for patrollers. Its aim is to promote wellness strategies that focus on the 3 E's: Educate, Engagement, and Empowerment. Our goal is to equip patrollers with the necessary skills to effectively incorporate these strategies into their daily lives, using language and terminology that is easily understandable.

The program includes various behavioral techniques, such as effective

communication, eye contact, modality matching, mirroring, and the use of global words. By incorporating these techniques into our wellness strategies, we aim to create a more positive and empowering workplace culture specifically tailored to the needs of patrollers.

Their mission extends beyond the slopes, with an aim to empower FWSA leaders and members to not only become healthier, more composed skiers but also better family members, life partners, employees, citizens, and ultimately, better humans.

Tony Margulies, CHt, an award



Picture: Tony Margulies

Photo credit: Barbara Razo

winning NSP ski patroller, wellness educator, and hypnotherapist. Tony is the author of *NSP Far West Region Wellness Fundamentals*, "Three E's." Tony is also a certified hypnotherapist who helps clients achieve their goals with the subconscious



Picture: Wayne Wong

Photo credit: Barbara Razo

mind. Tony, the panelist leader, will be joined by Wayne Wong and Barbara Razo. Wayne Wong is a seasoned NSP leader with a dedicated career spanning over 48 years. His expertise extends beyond patrolling, as a Nordic Patroller, teacher, and administrator. He is currently serving as the Safety and Wellness Advisor of the Far West Division, NSP and is the cornerstone of the SoCal Region. Barbara Razo



Picture: Barbara Razo

Photo credit: Barbara Razo

sits on the FWSA Board as the National Ski Patrol Liaison and serves as active patroller and Safety & Wellness Team Representative for San Bernardino Mountain Patrol. Barbara has over twenty years as an NSP Educator and Trainer, as well as serving as an EMT Field First Responder. In 2016, Barbara was named the NSP Patroller of the Nation and in 2023 she was the awardee of the FWSA Richard Lubin Safety Person of Year.

We hope you will be able to attend this empowering presentation of how to bring calm to chaos, on or off the slopes. See you in Reno – June 6-9, 2024.





Gloria Raminha Social Media

If you have not done so yet, check out The Far West Ski Association Facebook page. There are still members who are unaware that FWSA has a Facebook page and other Social Media sites. We have been getting more and more activity on our Facebook page. We currently have followers from all over the world, but we would like to continue to grow our Facebook member base. Our leadership needs to keep spreading the word to council and club members to follow/like us by logging on to <https://facebook.com/farwestski>. There is also a Facebook Group page which is a way for people to interact with each other. The link to the group page is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/farwestski/> or you can use the QR CODE to the Facebook Group page below right.

Recent popular posts were the Far West Ski Foundation See's Candy Fundraiser for the Christmas and Easter holidays, posts from the Steamboat, Madonna Di Compiglio/Northern Italy and Copper Mountain trips, Mikaela Shiffrin and Jessie Diggins results from this season's events and other posts related to FWSA such as travel, public affairs, etc.

Other Social Media links we would like to invite members/guests to are: <https://twitter.com/farwestski>, <http://>

<youtube.com/user/farwestskiassoc> and <http://instagram.com/farwestskiassociation>.

The Far West Ski Association launched the FWSA Outstanding Social Media Award to recognize member clubs' and councils' social media presence. Todd Hood has been the program coordinator from the beginning. The FWSA Outstanding Club & Council Social Media Award is given to the club or council whose Facebook Page or Group is judged best based on activity, growth, and engagement. Although the current scope is for Facebook sites, the committee is interested in expanding the program to include other forms of social media in addition to Facebook Groups. If you have input for the program, please email pastpresident@fwsa.org with your thoughts.

The top three social media sites, based on activity, growth, and engagement will be recognized at the Far West Ski Association Annual Convention at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa in Reno, Nevada, to be held from June 6-9, 2024. In addition to the FWSA Outstanding Social Media Award Program, the Far West also shares social media best practices with member clubs and council.

Facebook group insights files were submitted for eight Facebook Groups

this year. One club submitted for the first time this year. The eight submitters represented clubs from four FWSA Councils, one Council, and an unaffiliated Facebook group that is inquiring about FWSA. The top three social media sites, based on activity, growth, and engagement and will be recognized at the Far West Ski Association Annual Convention at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa in Reno, Nevada, to be held from June 6-9, 2024. In addition to the FWSA Outstanding Social Media Award Program, the Far West also shares social media best practices with member clubs and council.

If you have input for the program, please email pastpresident@fwsa.org with your thoughts.





Monica Palmer Safety Committee Chair

Staying Fit in the Off-Season

Hopefully, most skiers know the importance of ski conditioning in the fall as we anxiously await the first major snowfall and the beginning of a successful and fun filled ski season. However, unless we continue our adventures in warmer weather with sports like hiking, road biking, mountain biking, tennis, pickleball or golf, or exercise at home or in a gym, then we need to do more body strengthening before the snow falls. This is much easier if we can continue the outdoor sports fun in the ski off-season.

Some say it is too hot in the summer,

but if we can either start in the early morning or wait until the sun is lower in the sky in the early evening, these outdoor activities can help you stay physically fit year-round. If you have a friend or group of friends to do this with you, it is more fun and encourages you to continue and not skip the outings. Some ski clubs, such as the Reno Ski & Recreation Club that I belong to, have fun activities year-round. Besides skiing and snowshoeing in the winter, we enjoy hiking, tennis, outdoor concerts, biking, and other fun activities.

If you have children, take them with you if they are old enough to partici-

pate. It is good to instill healthy activities outdoors and less time watching television or electronic devices or games.

Be sure that your skis have been cleared of road dust from riding on rooftop, waxed and stored in a cool dry place like an inside closet. A hot garage can cause damage to your skis. Also check your helmets, goggles, boots, etc., so that any repairs or replacements can be done before opening day at your favorite resort.

(Continued from page 23 Public Affairs)

ski resorts were experiencing low snowfall during the season. Many areas have been looking for ways to improve their snowmaking capabilities. Some areas did not open at all during the season and some areas closed permanently.

More recently, ski seasons have started later in the year. In the Northwest, 2024 was one of the latest (if not the latest) ski resort openings on record. Not only is this discouraging to the snowsports enthusiasts, but it has a huge effect on the resorts and their employee base. On the other side of the coin, once the snow begins to fall, we have seen record snowfalls re-

cently during the winter months. In the past, when many ski areas have wound down their operations, usually in April, they are now confronted with a large snowpack. Ski area operators are confronted with the decision of whether or not to stay open into late spring or early summer.

One of the many consequences of climate change is that extreme snow conditions create safety issues. Per Monica Palmer, our Safety Chair, avalanche deaths are on the rise. Monica reports so far in the 2023-24 winter season, **11 people** have been killed by avalanches in the United States, according to the Colorado Avalanche Information Center. Last season, 30 people died. A vast majority of skiers

who are killed in avalanches die in backcountry areas. Our clubs and councils need to be diligent and resourceful in promoting safety on the mountain.

What can we do about the changing environment. First of all, get involved. Read the NSAA "Sustainable Slopes" initiative and the SIA "Climate Policy Agenda." Look for activities at the local level government and projects to mitigate climate change at your local ski resorts. Spend some time researching what bills are pending at the state and federal levels regarding the environment. Write to your representatives. Be active.



Jane Wyckoff

Editor, *Far West Skier's Guide*

By this time, hopefully everyone has had an opportunity to link into the **2023 -2024 Far West Skier's Guide**. You can link into the Skier's Guide at www.fwsq.org and download the digital copy.

Post on Your Club & Council Website

We have another 100 page edition, jam-packed with information regarding Far West Ski Association programs and a council section featuring each of our councils, with ski club listings. We also included industry news with updated initiatives, and feature articles you will enjoy reading.

We encourage you to post on your club and council website, so your club members can link directly into the publication. This is a benefit to club members belonging to the Far West Ski Association! To post on your website, your webmaster will need the following links:

Live Link: <https://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/farwestskiersguide/2023-24/index.php>

Animated Icon: <https://pages.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/farwestskiersguide/2023-24/assets/pagecurl.gif>

Subscription to Purchase the 37th Annual Far West Skier's Guide

A special thank you is extended to **Randy Lew**, for setting up and manag-

ing the subscription service for the *Far West Skier's Guide* on www.fwsa.org in the FWSA Store. Last year we offered subscribers an opportunity to purchase a printed copy online and pay by credit card. We also printed copies for snowsports libraries/ museums, sponsors, industry partners, and advertisers. You must purchase prior to the October 1, 2024 deadline to receive a printed copy of the 2024-2025 edition. The site is active now.

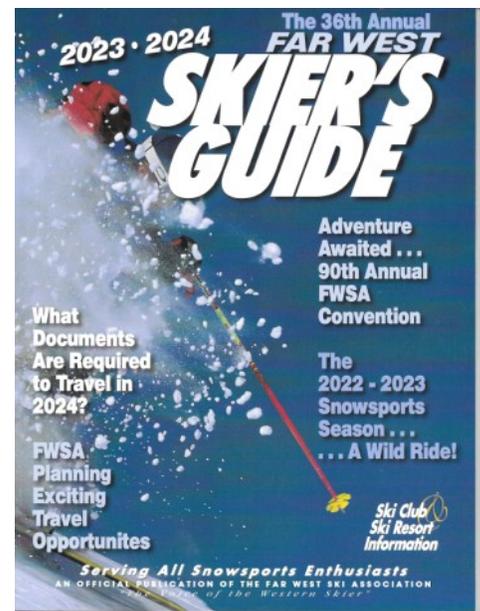
Museum Collections - We are still looking for additional copies of the 1999-2000 and 1994-1995 editions of the *Far West Skier's Guide* for the museum collections. If you have a copy of these years and would like to donate to a museum collection, please contact us at skiersguide@fwsa.org.

Advertising - The *Far West Skier's Guide* production expense is supported by advertisers. If you are aware of any businesses that might be interested in advertising, please refer the contact to us. And we encourage you and your club members to click into the advertisements and videos so our advertisers know that they are actually reaching their target market!

Pictures/Articles - We are always looking for pictures of club and council activities, so as you are enjoying another fabulous snowsports season, and attending your club and council

events, please keep us in mind. We need more snowsports pictures, not just summer and social activities!! When submitting pictures, include a caption, full names of people in the picture, and a photographer's credit. Pictures need to be at least 300 DPI and in JPG or TIF format. We also accept GIF and PNG. If you have a topic of special interest to you, and would like to contribute an article, we would be more than happy to discuss it with you!

We truly appreciate any and all assistance provided over the years to continue to produce a high quality publication for our members, snowsports enthusiasts throughout the west, in addition to readers throughout the US and abroad.





Todd Hood Succession Planning Committee

What a Great Idea...We Need Someone to Work on That...Would You Be Willing to Help?

As a leader, you have undoubtedly found yourself in a discussion with a complainer. They may approach you with something like; "I've been meaning to talk to you about something," "I've been thinking that..." or "I have a bone to pick about..." While some leaders may cringe when they hear complaints or recommendations from people on the sidelines, these are prime opportunities to engage new leaders, who may be passionate about their concerns.

Instead of being defensive about the complaint or recommendation, the opportunistic leader listens with the intent to involve. Hear them out to understand if they are just complaining, or are presenting a potential solution, with intent to address. Some complaints are just complaints, while others may be

attached to potential solutions.

Instead of bristling at the complaint, try the following: "that is a great idea that we might be able to consider. Of course, you know that we are limited in the number of volunteers, but if you would be willing to help, I'd like for us to investigate it. Would you be willing to help?" Most times they will decline, but when you get someone that is willing to step up, it will be well worth all those that decline. In the best case, you will receive an engaged volunteer that may become a future leader. In the worst case, they will have been heard and challenged to be a part of the solution, not the problem.

Have your club leaders "overstayed their welcome"? No one wants to say it, but at some point in time, leaders have to turn over the reins. It is best to relinquish control while you have someone who is ready and willing to serve.

In its newest Value of Volunteer Time report, Independent Sector, with the Do Good Institute, announced on April 19, 2023 that the latest value of a volunteer hour is estimated to be \$31.80, which is a 6.2% increase from 2021 to 2022. As a leader in your respective organization, you know the value of a dependable leader is PRICELESS. So why don't we spend more time investing in our volunteers to become dependable, effective, and accomplished leaders.

The Far West Ski Association can help your club build your leadership pipeline through leadership development programming like FWSA Sips and Snacks with the Experts, Snowsports Leadership Academy, and best practice sharing.

Contact successionplanning@fwsa.org to join the effort to invest in your future leaders.

(Continued from page 26 Nominations committee)

FWSA participant contact information as a source for their personal or business marketing.

- Will oversee all FWSA trips assigned to their Travel position and attend those trips unless an

FWSA Trip Leader has been assigned to coordinate/run that trip.

FWSA By-Laws, job descriptions and the Operations Manual are available on the FWSA website at www.fwsa.org. To find the link, click on the "About" tab, then click on the "Governance" tab.

All candidates will have access to space for flyers and election materials at the registration area and on the tables on Sunday. In addition, each will have the opportunity to speak to delegates (see the Convention Schedule of Events for time and location). The elections will be held during the general assembly on Sunday.

The Nominating Committee Chairman will oversee elections. Members for an elections committee will be solicited at the Convention. All elections will be by secret ballot. Vote totals are confidential to the elections committee and records will be destroyed after verification by the committee and certified by a Trustee exercising oversight.



Kristy Welsh Arizona Ski Council



The Arizona Ski Council (ASC) was formed to promote skiing and friendship among the clubs. Our mission has been to promote activities, promote safety on the slopes and build camaraderie of fellow skiers and adventurers. Our clubs serve skiers, snowboarders, hikers, bikers and social members/adventurers, in the state of Arizona. ASC currently represent 2 ski clubs, with members primarily in the Phoenix metro-area.

Phoenix Ski Club (PSC)

Scottsdale Sea & Ski Club (SSSC)



The Arizona Ski Council does not directly run any ski trips, but support our clubs and their trips. PSC and SSSC work together and have reciprocity between them. It is very common to see our skiers attending events with both clubs. It is great that our clubs support each other.

In the past, the Arizona Ski Council has hosted a number of activities. The clubs have been very active, with nu-

merous ski trips and events, notably the Far West ski week Steamboat, the SSSC ski trips to Banff, Park City, Telluride and Copper Mountain. We did a charity event with Feed My Starving Children, and attended the Far West Convention in Boise, ID in June 2023. This Summer and Fall, the Scottsdale Ski club is going to do a Greece Cruise



and a Rhine River Cruise. The Phoenix Ski Club is going to Copper Mountain in April and South America to ski in Aug-Sept 2024. There are still several ski trips planned for the rest of spring from both clubs.

The Phoenix Ski Club is more than just a ski club. PSC is an active adult social club, which just started up its monthly meetings and is on its way. This active adult social club will be going full speed ahead with its year-round, non-profit, social and outdoor activities. They have always prided themselves in offering a variety of amazing activities, to appeal to everyone. They even have 'spur-of-the-

moment' events, which are mind-boggling. They did it all and will do it all.

For more information and events: <https://www.phxskiclub.org/>

The Scottsdale Sea & Ski Club is a premier activities club, making their come-back. SSSC is oriented towards active adults 21 years and older.

SSSC is a year-round, non-profit, volunteer-run social and outdoor activities organization with a variety of events designed to appeal to just about everybody. They have weekly happy hours and many other events like hiking, bicycling, kayaking, skiing, camping, golfing, cruising, concerts and both domestic and international trips.

Check out their activities and ski trips. You'll find SSSC a friendly group, and constantly on the go. Subscribe to their email mailing list for up-to-date information on the activities.

<https://sssc.clubexpress.com/>

Don't just dream of having an exciting life, join one of our clubs and make it happen. If you can dream it, we can do it.

For other exciting Arizona Ski Council events or links to our club web sites, please access:

<https://arizona-ski-council.org/>



Paul Vlasveld Bay Area Snow Sports Council



You will always hear how proud we are of the volunteers within the Bay Area Snow Sports Council (BAC)!

Bac will be voting on the following candidates for the BAC Board of Directors that will be voted on at our April BAC General Council Meeting:

- Treasurer – Open
- Secretary – Karen Davis
- Membership – Benelia Terry
- Industry Liaison – Brad Hart
- Benefits – Open
- Travel – Gail Burns
- Communications – Dennie Warren
- Past President – Dennis Heffley
- Public Affairs – Harry Davis
- Marketing – Open
- Webmaster – Ashkan Ahani

The BAC is moving forward with having events during the non-ski season to continue a focus on what our council represents and validate why clubs should be part of us. In turn, we are also sharing why people should join our Member Clubs.

BAC completed a very successful winter mini trip to Whitefish, MT in March 2024 and is planning another Bike and Barge in 2025. In addition, BAC members had a great time at the FWSA ski week at Steamboat.

BAC congratulates Cathy Baird from Inskiers Ski Club as the BAC Volunteer of the Year. BAC honored all the Club Volunteer of Year candidates at an honoree dinner.

BAC and Sierra Council are in the planning stages for the 91st annual FWSA convention in Reno, NV. We

expect it will be a fun and successful convention just like the 2018 convention that both councils co-hosted.

We completed a successful race season and are planning for next year. It was great to see everyone in person at the races. We looking to make some changes to attract racers to our race leagues.

In closing . . . I have had the honor and privilege of representing The Greatest Council in FWSA. It is the dynamic and diverse people who have been and currently are members of the Bay Area Snow Sports Council and Far West Ski Association Board of Directors that continue make BAC a thriving and successful Council.

Great snow at the top of Steamboat Resort

Photo credit: Nick Cowell





Fran Long Central Council



Central Council Ski Clubs is one of nine councils that make up the Far West Ski Association. Each council covers a geographic area within the FWSA boundaries. Central Council in the central California area, comprising the area between the Sierra and the sea from Santa Barbara to Salinas. If you live within this geographic area, read on for information and ski clubs that might interest you.

There are seven clubs in Central Council, ranging in size from about 25 members to upwards of 200 members. Within those clubs you will find a wide

range of activities, offering something for everyone...skier, boarder, or non-skier. Numerous snowsports trips are planned by our individual clubs. The larger clubs, Fresno Ski Club, Santa Barbara Ski and Sports Club, and SLO Skiers (San Luis Obispo), each plan two week-long ski trips as well as numerous shorter trips to our local ski areas: Mammoth, Tahoe, and China Peak. Ski trips are open to club members as well as members of other clubs within the council.

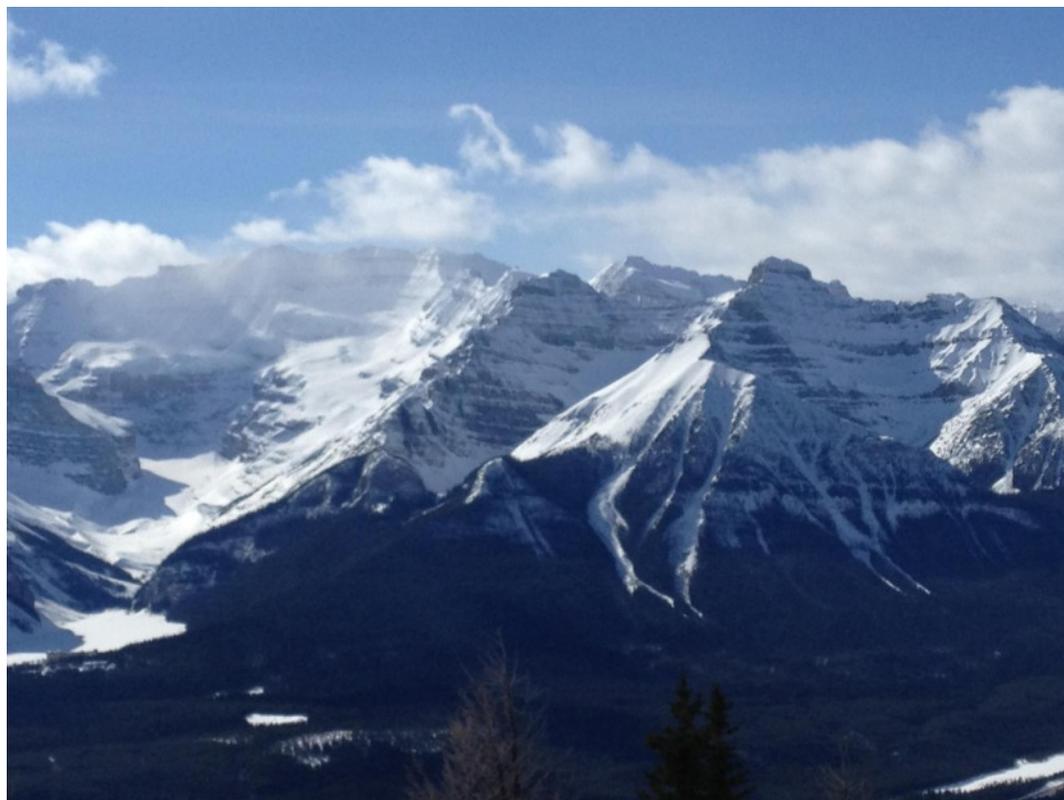
All our clubs offer year-round activities ranging from local happy hours, wine

downs, dine arounds, hikes, campouts, etc. to international adventure trips, bike trips, and cruises. All of our clubs welcome non-skiers as members and active participants.

As a council, we do not organize our own snowsports or adventure trips. Rather, we appreciate and support the efforts of our individual clubs as they organize trips and local activities for their members. We also support, and encourage, participation in all Far West Ski Association's snowsports and adventure trips.

Awesome view of the mountains of Banff, Canada

Photo credit: Central Council of Ski Clubs





Sandy Blackwell Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs



LAC has had a GREAT winter season – lots and lots of ski trips to Mammoth. Lots of other weeklong ski trips occurred: Beach Cities – Snowmass; Century City – 5 Mammoth trips starting in December through April, and 3 weeklong trips, with one of those to Niseko Japan. Long Beach has 5 Mammoth trips planned, and a week-long trip to Sun Valley, Idaho. Wailers has 5 trips to Mammoth planned, and for fun – their trips are themed. Our new club, Let’sLinkUp, has done a few trips to Mammoth, a hike up to the Hollywood Sign, and a week at Zermatt, Switzerland, with an extension to Tomorrowland (a music festival held in the French Alps at the Alpe d’ Hues Resort), along with weeklong trips to Jackson Hole and Snowmass. On the Hill Gang has done 3 of its 5 or 6 trips to Mammoth. BUT the Unrecables

beats them all with 8 Mammoth trips planned to start in mid-November.

There are a few of our clubs that already have their summer season planned. Conejo has a trip to Turks & Caicos, the Dalmatian Coast trip, Scotland trip, and a River Cruise set up.

There is lots of the world to see, join a club and have fun seeing it all.

LAC just attended with FWSA in **Steamboat, CO**, for their annual ski week. A few pictures are attached. The trip leader commented that “It was a great week for the skiers in Steamboat. Great weather, a few bluebird days made it so we got to ski every day. And just missed a huge storm, so wonderful skiing. My favorite spot for lunch was sitting on the porch with a view overlooking the entire town.”

FWSA Convention – Reno, NV (June 6 -9, 2024) is shaping up into an event that will be a great time for all. We are back to more of our usual events (18 hole golf outing, pub crawl, Tahoe tour, and some very informative Snowsports Leadership Academy topics. LAC’s Volunteer of the Year Norbert Knapp (Grindelwald Ski Club) is a great candidate in this honorary competition.

LAC’s small but intrepid group had a great time in Steamboat, CO at the end of January, going with FWSA, as we usually do. Next Year – Banff!

The LAC website has some wonderful updates, please check it out: www.losangelescouncil.org

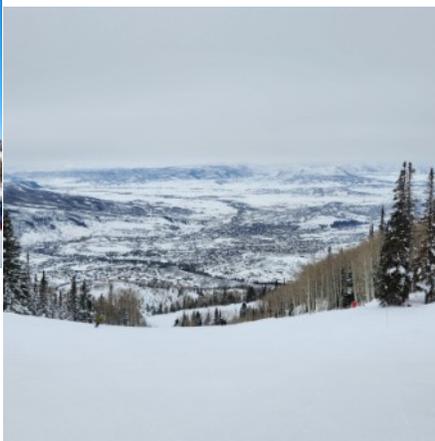


Above: View of the valley while at lunch at Four Points Lodge at Steamboat.

Photo credit: Laura Priess

Below: overlooking Steamboat: The building picture is of the Steamboat Springs Village. Large Hotel is the Steamboat Grand.

Photo credit: Laura Priess



Above: View from top of Elkhorn lift at Steamboat.

Photo credit: Laura Priess



Sheri Parshall Northwest Ski Club Council



As I'm sure most of the west coast agrees, this has been an extraordinary winter—Christmas season droughts, floods, blizzards—it's been a plethora of weird winter motion.

Shawnee Hinman, US Forest Service, gave us great insight into the history of ski resorts and the processes of the US Forest Service. We strongly recommend Shawnee as a guest speaker at any of your club or council gatherings.

Northwest Ski Club Council has been working around all of that—we just celebrated our very first in-person council meeting and are working to have more. We have a brand new director of travel in Barbara McClean, who is working hard on our NWSCC travel going forward. Mark Galt, in Seattle, manages a Facebook page that has 20,000-plus members! Steve Coxen (I don't know—you might know him) is our public affairs guru. Linda McGavin masters our web site AND that crazy trip to Bend every year that

we call the Bachelor Blast. Bill King, our treasurer, keeps us on the straight and narrow when we can snag him from being president of Mountain High Snowsports Club. Same with Laurie Steinbruck and Tom Arnold, who represent our Eugene, Oregon, contingent by way of Altair Ski & Sports Club—thank you both. Our council is so lucky to have Dave Tragethon, who works closely with Pacific Northwest Ski Areas Association, as a member of our board. Dave gives us an up-front-and-personal look into the trends of the ski industry, as well as keeping a close look at weather outlooks for our region. Please look to see when Dave will be speaking at our council meetings—you should snag him too!

Last but not least, I want to recognize the chair of our race league, Ulla Brunette. Ulla is the chair of PACRAT (Pacific Northwest Area Clubs Racing Alpine Teams) representing more than 220 racers from over 20 clubs in

NWSCC. Despite weather challenges early in the year, we're definitely going to finish strong. Other leagues may give us a little crap for being that "beer league", but we've got the racers, we've got the support of our resorts, and last but not least, we have the apres ski thing nailed. The last race of the season is a fundraiser, the Laura Green Memorial Race, which is a fundraiser for the Mt. Hood Ski Patrol. We invite everyone to attend. Contact me at cougskier@aol.com for more information!

Going forward, NWSCC has acquired the necessary technology (computers, projectors, screens) to "project" any and all council gatherings, and hope to increase our participation, accordingly.

Northwest Ski Club Council looks forward to seeing you all in Reno in June!!

Colorful trees were lit up in the town of Steamboat Springs, Colorado during FWSA Ski Week

Photo credit: Nick Cowell





Sheila Van Guilder Orange Council of Ski Clubs



Orange Council of Ski Clubs is excited to begin the planning for the FWSA 2025 Convention at the Margaritaville Resort in Palm Springs, California. We will have our first planning committee meeting on April 16th at the committee chairperson's home. These meetings will continue on the 3rd Tuesday of each month until the convention date. We welcome all those willing to help plan the convention activities. Please call Sheila at 714.656.6032 if you are

interested in joining us.

The first quarter of 2024 was highlighted by our Presidents dinner held in February. There were 26 club presidents, trip coordinators and club representatives in attendance. This event is sponsored and paid for by Orange Council each year to recognize all the club leadership that works so hard to keep us all skiing. It was held at Buca Di Beppo in Huntington Beach and a full Italian dinner was served. The

highlight of this year's celebration was Meatballs. There was a lot of flak served up after last year's dinner because they were not provided. Mea Culpa.

We are working on finding leadership for the 2025 FWSA Ski Trip in Banff, Canada, and to present a trip down the Mississippi River for our membership.

Have you met this many Resort Representatives lately? You can with the FWSA. Pictured left to right: Sara Hopkins, Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation; Lisa Jennings, Snowmass Tourism; Stacey Stern, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area; Larry Young, Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation; Sean McErlean, Holiday Ski Tours; Barbara Moran, Grouse Mountain Lodge; Joel Mawson, Big White Ski Resort; Mary Manning, Aspen/Snowmass, with Debbi Kor, FWSA Vice President – Marketing & Sponsorship.



Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography



Tom Bundgard San Diego Council of Ski Clubs



The 2023-2024 ski season at Mammoth Mountain started out a little slow this season, with many runs not open yet for the December Race. It may have been a late start, but the storms started rolling in and we now have plenty of snow! This season, the snow continues at an incredible rate, and it hasn't stopped, so the March 1st Race

was cancelled due to a Blizzard, and there was more snow during the Championships, but the races were held.

As evidenced by the great turnout our Council's Irish themed Pre-St Patrick's Day Happy Hour at Bully's East on March 14, our members are excited to

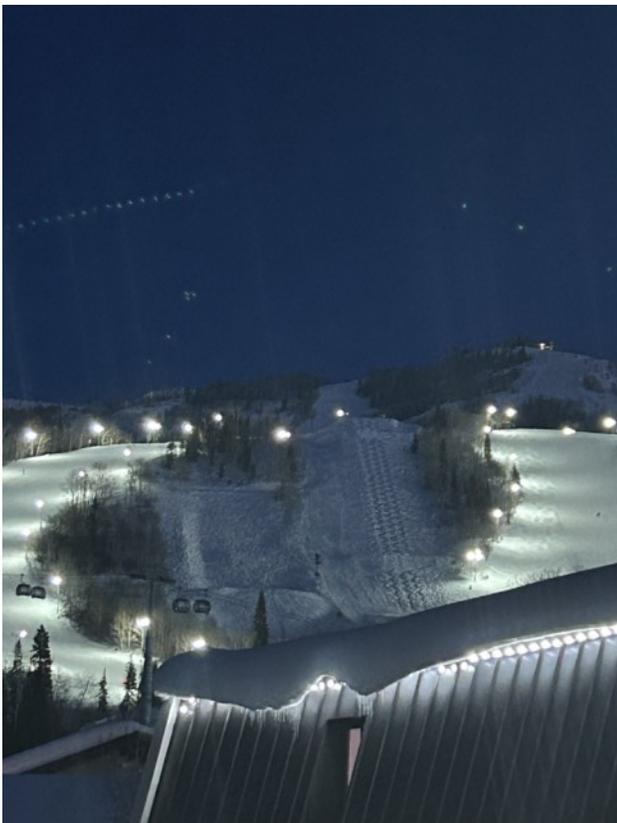
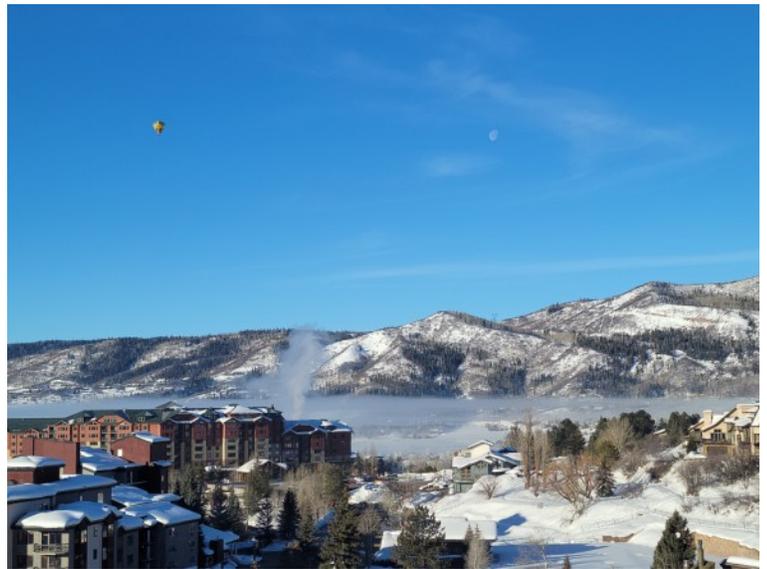
get together. We are looking forward to the Convention in Reno in June.

Our upcoming Italy Bike and Barge trip (Venice to Mantova) will be from August 28 to September 8 and currently has 26 people signed up. There are still 2 shared cabins available.

See you on the mountain.

Right: The daily balloon ride is across from the Third Quarter Moon above Steamboat Springs during FWSA Ski Week

Photo credit: Nick Cowell, NISD



Left: Evening Starlink Satellite deployment above Steamboat Springs Colorado? No, just effects of light and lenses of the camera.

(Hint: look cross corners for light sources)

Photo credit: Lee Cording, NISD



Jo Simpson Sierra Council



Sierra Sweeps Race Awards at Steamboat!

Sierra Council racers won the Lake Louise Award for the scoring the most points in the GS race at the FWSA North American Ski Week in Steamboat. The Sierra Council Direct Members won first place for the Joe Ross Award for the most club racing points and the Reno Ski and Recreation Club won second. AND our Sierra Costume team won first place for costumes and match points in the Council Challenge. Kudos to Lisa Vandervoort for organizing our teams to compete in the Council Challenge and to Debi Phelps for making the costumes.

Sierra Council had 32 participants on the trip. Unfortunately we had five last minute cancellations which reduced our number. Our trip leader, Carlene Boutacoff, did a great job of getting us organized and planning social gatherings. We enjoyed a council dinner at

the Ore House restaurant. We shared the top floor of the restaurant with the San Diego and Los Angeles Councils.

Sierra was able to secure a townhouse lodging property in Steamboat that allowed us to host council social gatherings there. Carlene and the others who stayed in the townhouse organized a welcome and a farewell gathering. Thanks to Lisa and Paul Vandervoort, Laura and Larry Greco and Cynthia Stormer for pitching in to make the gatherings successful. The Vandervoorts and Grecos also organized an ice skating party at the village ice rink and Betty Donellan organized a bowling party. We had a busy week off the slopes!

Sierra is looking forward to co-hosting the FWSA Annual Convention in Reno June 6-9. We will be co-hosting with the Bay Area Snow Sports Council at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa.

Our Sierra race season has had one

race at Northstar. There are additional races scheduled for Palisades on the Alpine side and another at Northstar.

Charles Zaretsky of Reno again is the recipient of our Frank App Memorial Scholarship, which is administered by the FWSA scholarship program for promising junior racers. We are following AJ Hurt on the World Cup circuit, who was our recipient for a number of years until she aged out of the program. AJ recently won her first World Cup podium.

Our larger clubs are enjoying social gatherings and skiing together. The Las Vegas Ski and Snowboard Club had trips to Mammoth and Brian Head. The Tahoe Donner Senior Alpine Ski Club enjoys frequent ski days at the Tahoe resorts. The Reno Ski and Recreation Club hosts ski days at Mt. Rose, as well as frequent happy hours and game nights.



Above: Sierra Council's team won the costume and match point competitions at the FWSA Ski Week at Steamboat. L-R: Debi Phelps, Paul Vandervoort, Lisa Vandervoort, Kat Sevrin, Laura Lindsey, John Schultheiss. The theme was Hawaii.

Photo credit: Bill Phelps



Above: Sierra racers received the Lake Louise Trophy for the most points in the GS race at Steamboat.

Photo credit: Bill Phelps



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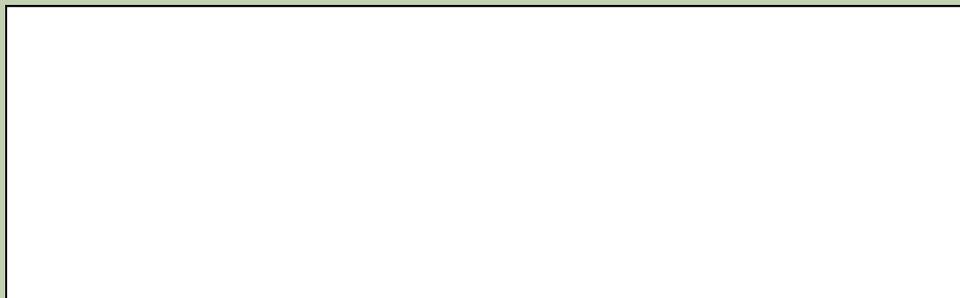


**Nick Cowell, Editor
The Councilman**

FWSA keeps a database on members, clubs and councils. It is important that information in this database be current so that communications are received in a timely manner. Changes in club or council officers; membership addresses and phone numbers; members' club affiliations; club or council meeting location; or, requests for information from the database must be sent to the FWSA President, Linda Westlund, at president@fwsa.org. The Far West Ski Association website at www.fwsa.org has a Ski Club Officer Update Form. Clubs can upload the [Officer Update Form for 2023-2024](#).

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION ABOUT FWSA.

www.fwsa.org.



The Voice of the Western Skier