

Far West News *Flash*

December 2022

Far West Ski Association

HAPPY BIRTHDAY KLAUS OBERMEYER: *Klaus Obermeyer*, the name and face of the *Obermeyer* brand, turned 103 on December 2nd. Klaus founded Sport Obermeyer based on insights he had gained about skiwear while working as an instructor and started the business in the attic of his home. One of the first of many innovations was a down ski parka, stitched together from his own goose-down comforter. After that came suntan lotion, turtlenecks, nylon wind-shirts, mirrored sunglasses, the Boot Fit Press and more. In 1961, the first Sport Obermeyer factory warehouse opened in Aspen, and the innovations continued with “soft-shell” jackets, double lens goggles, and much more. Klaus was inducted into the U.S. National Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame in 1997. He was also inducted into the Colorado Business Hall of Fame in 2015 by Junior Achievement-Rocky Mountain and the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce.

FAR WEST SAYS GOODBYE TO ONE OF OUR FAVORITE 10TH MOUNTAIN MEN: *Bruce Campbell*, a long-time member and co-founder of Grindelwald Ski Club, and friend to many of us in Far West, made his last trip up the mountain on November 22nd. Bruce was 98 years old. He, along with fellow 10th Mountain Division member, Howard Koch, attended several Far West Conventions over the years, the last one in October, 2021, in San Diego, where we helped Bruce celebrate his 96th birthday. Bruce stayed active with the 10th Mountain Division and was the narrator of the 2021 Production of the Chris Anthony film “*Mission Mt. Mangart*”, the story of the taking of Riva Ridge during World War Two. Bruce had an incredible radio voice and was the perfect choice to do the voice over. A memorial service is being planned for some time in January. You can read Bruce’s bio on the Far West website, under Publications/Delegate Book 2021.

SKI INDUSTRY SAYS GOODBYE TO ONE OF THEIR OWN: Bill “Luke” Lewkowitz died on November 22, in Wickenburg, Arizona, at the age of 65. Bill captured the spirit of Jackson Hole, appearing in movies and magazines, and landing a position with Jackson Hole Mountain resort, where we worked for 30 years. His first job was that of a Ski Host, then overseeing sales, securing sponsorships for the resort, and planning major events such as Powder 8s, Ski-Joring, and the Rendezvous Mountain Festival. Bill’s life was all about skiing, cowboy life, and live music. Retiring in 2020, Bill looked forward to spending time with his wife, Natalie, between Wickenburg and Jackson Hole, bringing together families and communities. A celebration of life will be held on February 2nd.

SKI GROUP’S NEW STAFF: As we reported in July, Stephen Hall, owner and President of Skigroup.Net, passed away due to a lengthy battle with cancer. Skigroup has just announced that Stephen’s son, Dylan Van-Leuwen-Hall, has taken over as the CEO of the company. Dylan has been with Skigroup for eight years, and has named Sandy Gaudette as President, and Crystal Foster as Vice President. The new staff thank you for your patience during this transitional period and are ready to carry on as only they know how. Their staff is waiting to serve you for all your trip needs.

FAR WEST MEMBER BENEFITS UPDATE: The 2023 Member Benefits pages have been updated for the coming year. Check out the Lodging pages for four **NEW** Lodging Partners: *The Lodge at Whitefish Lake* and *Fire Brand Hotel* in Whitefish, Montana, as well as *Yotel Pad* at Deer Valley, and *East West Hospitality* in the Lake Tahoe area, with several different properties. Please consider these spots, as well as any of our other lodging partners, when making your travel plans for the new year.

FAR WEST TRAVEL

NORTH AMERICAN SKI WEEK: Ski Week, 2023, at *Jackson Hole Mountain Resort* is FULL. **A WAIT-LIST** is available if you are still interested and want to add your name to it. Dates for this trip are **January 21 – 28, 2023**. Check with your Council Trip Leader or Nancy Ellis, VP of North American Travel for further info: fwsatravelnancy@sbcglobal.net.

FWSA MINI SKI WEEK: *Taos, New Mexico* is the destination for the 2023 Mini Ski Week. This trip is currently FULL, however, **A WAIT-LIST** is available if you are still interested in going and want to add your name to it. Dates for this trip are **February 25 - March 2, 2023**. Go to <http://fwsamini.sat.tours> to preview and sign up for the trip or contact Nancy Ellis @ fwsatravelnancy@sbcglobal.net. ASAP!

FWSA 2023 INTERNATIONAL TRIP: **THIS TRIP IS SOLD OUT! A WAIT LIST IS IN PLACE.** The Far West 2023 International Ski Week will be to *Zermatt, Switzerland* from **February 25 – March 12, 2023**. **A waiting list is in place for the extension** to *Costa del Sol, Southern Spain and Mallorca*. For further information, contact Debbie Stewart, VP of International Travel: fwsaintltravel@prodigy.net

FAR WEST SKI COUNCILS

SIERRA LEAGUE AND COUNCIL: Sierra Council held their annual welcome winter party Sunday, Dec. 4 and Welcome Winter it was! A Sierra snowstorm closed I-80 west of Truckee because of spinouts over the Donner Pass. That resulted in all the traffic from Reno and points east piling up in Truckee, making a 15-minute drive through town 45 minutes or more. So, they closed the Interstate at the Nevada state line to give some relief in Truckee. Some of the Reno attendees got through and some didn't. It apparently was a matter of timing when they got to the state line. Those who made it had a great time! It's the hazards of living in snow country!

NATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF SKIERS – WESTERN REGION: Members and leaders of the metro Los Angeles clubs of the NBS Western Region attended and exhibited at this year's Ski Dazzle ski show at the Los Angeles Convention Center December 9, 10 & 11, 2022. The show opened with a BANG and was crazy-busy all weekend long! Thanks for all who attended, participated and helped out in the booth!

Members of the NBS Western Region convened in Breckenridge, CO as a prelude to the NBS50 event from December 7-11, 2022 for The Homecoming Experience: https://nbs.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=681344&module_id=534227 hosted by the NBS Midwest, East, and Rocky Mountain Regions.

The NBS Western Region will join thousands of attendees from approximately 50 NBS member clubs representing the African diaspora from around the globe for the National Brotherhood of Skiers 50th Anniversary Black Summit <https://www.nbs.org> in Vail, CO from February 4th through 11th, 2023.

LOS ANGELES COUNCIL OF SKI CLUBS: **SKIING IS BACK!** Get your gear ready and let's go skiing. Century City, Wailers and Conejo Ski Clubs are planning some exciting trips for 2022-2023: Mammoth Trips in December and January; *Century City's* annual trip to Banff & Lake Louise in January; *Conejo's* trip to Thailand and Aspen/Snowmass, and *Long Beach's* trip to Steamboat the end of January and first of February. And don't forget about the *Unrecables*, who will be doing their holiday shopping at Ralph's to take advantage of their community program, as well as Amazon, for the Amazon Smile dollars. LAC has it going on!

FAR WEST SKI FOUNDATION

"YUM" FUNDRAISER FOR FAR WEST FOUNDATION: Thank you to all who bought "Chocolate for a good cause". See's Candies donated 10% of the profits to **Far West Ski Foundation** for candy orders placed

by December 2nd. Several of our members purchased and/or ordered items from Sees for the holidays. If you missed out on this one, you will have another chance in the Spring. Our next fundraiser will be for Easter.

The over-arching objective of the **Far West Ski Foundation** is to sustain snowsport to ensure that the inspirational experiences of snowsport will remain for future generations. FWSF missions are: **Building for the Future** - with its Athletic Scholarship Program for junior racers; **Rehabilitation and Renewal** - with its support of adaptive snowsports programs; **Sustaining Snowsports** - with support of special snowsports activities; **Preserving the Legacy** - with research, preservation, education and publication of snowsports history.

FWSF is an autonomous public benefit corporation, in compliance with law and regulations under Section 501c3 of the IRS Code. For additional information please contact: Jane Wyckoff, FWSF Vice President, 949.933.9607, janeyckoff99@gmail.com.

FAR WEST SKIER'S GUIDE

2022-2023 Far West Skier's Guide: We are pleased to announce that the **2022-2023 Far West Skier's Guide**, an official publication of the Far West Ski Association, has been posted on our website at www.fwsa.org. The direct link is: https://fwsa.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=623165&module_id=351581.

Beginning in 2021, the Skier's Guide became a Digital-Only Edition, with a small number of printed copies for snowsport museum collections, advertisers, and sponsors. This year's 35th Annual Edition is the largest one we have published, with 100 pages. A subscription program is being developed for next year, for readers who wish to receive a printed copy. Some of the things you will find in this year's issue include:

- *"You Can Play an Important Role in Sustaining Snowsports!"* featuring four highly active snowsports foundations – the Far West Ski Foundation, US Ski & Snowboard Foundation, National Winter Sports Education Foundation, and Squaw Valley Ski Museum Foundation.
- *"National Brotherhood of Skiers, Inc. Celebrates 50th Golden Anniversary of NBS Summit,"* a milestone in the history of snowsports.
- *"Secret Swiss Destinations", an article* by renowned and award-winning snowsports writer Jimmy Petterson, author of *"Skiing Around the World."*
- An extensive Public Affairs section, which includes Area Development featuring numerous members of the industry, plus articles on the environment, climate initiatives, and safety.

If you are a snowsports writer and have ideas or an interest in contributing to the publication, either through submitting an article, or purchasing an advertisement, please contact the Skier's Guide staff at: skiersguide@fwsa.org.

Happy Holidays!

Stay Safe! Stay Healthy!