

Far West News *Flash*

September 2023

SAVE \$50 ON MOUNTAIN COLLECTIVE PASS: *Mountain Collective* is offering a special promotional deal to ski councils. Mountain Collective Passholders will receive two days each at 24 dream destinations. Then receive 50% off all additional days at The Collective destinations. That's a total of 48 days (or more) at destinations such as Aspen, Sun Valley, Jackson Hole and Big Sky. There are no blackout dates. More information and a complete list of resorts is available at www.mountaincollective.com. The \$50 discount is available at www.mountaincollective.com enter promo code: *TMCGroup2324* at check out. Must be purchased **before October 1st**.

ALTERRA ANNOUNCES 3,700 ACRES EXPANSION: *Alterra Mountain Company* has announced a large expansion of ski terrain at Deer Valley. Over the next few years, Deer Valley will expand their skiable area, providing access to the east side of Bald Mountain more than doubling their size and making Deer Valley one of the largest ski areas in North America. The development of the New Village and Portal at the base, will bring additional full-service access to the resort, including world class lodging, dining and retail amenities. Portions of the expanded area will be introduced in the 2025/2026 season.

COPPER MOUNTAIN TO OPEN NOVEMBER 13TH: *Copper Mountain* has announced plans to open their 2023-2024 season on Monday, November 13. Their newest mid-mountain lodge, *Aerie*, will open, which will redefine the dining experience at this resort. With *Far West* running their mini ski week to Copper in March, 2024, members will be able to take advantage of this new facility. Additional new amenities at the base area include: a child care facility for employees and community members, heated sidewalks, expansion of one of the parking lots and additional mountain bus service. Plans for the 2024-2025 season include the upgrade to the existing Timberline Chair, from a quad chair to a high-speed 6-pack, which will increase the lift's uphill capacity two-fold.

BRIGHTON RESORT INTRODUCES NEW FEATURES THIS SEASON: *Brighton Resort* won't be left out in the cold any longer with a slow quad chair. This coming season, they will debut their new 6-pack high-speed chair, which replaces the old Crest Express Chair. The new chair will have you to the top of the mountain in just over 5 minutes. They have also added a new mid-mountain lodge. Drop in to the Side Winder Grill to warm up, have a burger and relax mid-day. It features 2 dining halls as well as some outdoor space. Future plans are for a "*chondola*" to be put in. This will be a combined chair lift/gondola, which people can ride up to ski, or to just take in the view.

TAOS COMPLETES FIRST OF TWO CHAIR INSTALLATIONS: *Taos Ski Valley* announced the completion of its new Pioneer Chair, which accesses predominately beginner terrain. The new chair is a fixed triple, like the old one, except with an improved design that places the lift a little further down the hill for better access from the resort's base area. Taos plans to open the lift for the upcoming season. Besides Pioneer, Taos will be replacing its Chair 4 lift on the backside of the mountain, giving ready access to the Kachina Basin area, including the Kachina Peak Lift, which provides access to some of Taos' most extreme terrain. The new Chair 4 will be a high-speed detachable quad chair, anticipated to open by next winter.

THE COUNTRY'S FIVE OLDEST SKI AREAS: Skiing has a long history, reaching back hundreds of years, but organized resorts have only been in the U.S. for about one hundred years. We found five resorts, not as well-known, and smaller than most of the more popular areas, but they still attract those who are seeking something smaller and typically less crowded. These five areas are listed here, from the oldest known, to the fifth oldest: #1 is *Howleson Ski Area, CO*. Howleson first opened in 1914. This ski area is known for sending more athletes to international competitions than any other ski area in North America. It has produced 89 Olympians since its conception, combining for a total of 130 Winter Olympic appearances. The

resort has the largest and most complete natural ski jumping complex in North America; #2 is *Storrs Hill Ski Area, NH*. This ski area opened in 1923. The ski area originally operated as a ski club for the local high school, but later, in 1925, the resort had a ski jump built on the hill. The resort built its first lodge in 1935 and had its first tow rope installed in the same year; #3 is *Mountain High Resort, CA*. Less than a two-hour drive from Los Angeles, making it one of Southern California's most visited ski resorts. As the population of Southern California began to boom in the 1920s, skiers flocked to the San Gabriels near where Mountain High Resort operates today, to recreate during the winter. The resort's official opening year was 1924; #4 is *Granlibakken Ski Resort, CA*. which is located on the shores of Lake Tahoe. Skiing was new to the Tahoe area in 1927, when a toboggan slide was built, which brought winter activities, like skiing, to Snow Canyon (the locals' name at the time for what is now Granlibakken). Shortly after opening, the ski area hosted a group of Norwegian skiers on a tour of the western U.S. and gave ski jumping exhibitions. The group included Lars Haugen, the seven-time national ski jumping champion, who gave the resort its Norwegian name, which means "hill sheltered by trees"; and #5 is *Mt. Hood Skibowl, OR*. A resort that offers skiing and riding during the winter and many summer activities in the off-season, Skibowl is known for having the largest night skiing area in the country. Initially begun as two separate resorts, Skibowl and Multorpor, the two merged into one in 1964. Founded in 1928, Mt. Hood Skibowl is the fifth oldest ski resort in the U.S.

FAR WEST TRAVEL

FWSA 2023 DIVE TRIP: The FWSA 2023 dive trip will be at the *Little Cayman Beach Resort* on *Little Cayman*, a beautiful and tranquil island in the *Cayman Islands*, **October 7 – 14, 2023**. **There is still ONE room available.** Little Cayman had been named a top dive site in the Caribbean for its iconic Bloody Bay Wall, year-round perfect diving conditions, pristine coral reefs, and spectacular marine life. Little Cayman Beach Resort brings this magnificent experience beneath the sea directly onto the sand. Bloody Bay Wall is the main attraction, but there are other sites that are equally as exciting with numerous tunnel systems and crevices, both on the shallow reefs and out over the wall. Offering some of the most beautiful reef structures to be seen in the underwater world, this is where divers in-the-know go. Many dive operations claim the late Philippe Cousteau declared Bloody Bay Wall to be one of the three best dives in the world. The information is now available on the FWSA website at www.fwsa.org. or contact Randy Lew at: fwsa13randy@telis.net.

FWSA 2024 NORTH AMERICAN SKI WEEK: **STEAMBOAT SKI WEEK HAS AVAILABILITY!** The North American Ski Week dates are **January 27 - February 3, 2024**. The trip includes: 7 nights lodging, a Welcome Party, a Farewell Party, and lots of fun with your Far West friends and family. Racing will be available, along with Council get-togethers, and many opportunities to wine, dine and shop your way through Steamboat. Lift tickets will be: \$533-\$622 for a 5-6 day ticket; or \$472-\$561 for Seniors. Steamboat is an **IKON** Pass Resort. IKON Holders can purchase a 6th day for just \$72. Online registration is open **NOW**. Go to fwsa.org to get all of your Council Trip Leader contact information and request the Council's online registration link. For further information, contact Nancy Ellis: fwsatravelnancy@sbcglobal.net.

FWSA 2024 INTERNATIONAL SKI WEEK: **DOUBLE OCCUPANCIES STILL AVAILABLE!** The 2024 International Ski Week will be to *Madonna di Campiglio, Italy*, with an extension trip to Northern Italy. The dates for Ski Week are **February 25-March 3, 2024**. This trip will include 7 nights lodging at the 4 Star *Hotel Relais des Alpes*. The lodging package includes daily breakfast & 5 nights' dinner at the hotel providing 2 nights to dine out on your own in Madonna. *We will be offering an optional day tour during the week if one chooses to explore the local culture.* The **FULL EPIC Pass (7 consecutive days)** is also valid on this trip. **Skirama Dolomiti** can be used at: *Madonna di Campiglio, Pinzolo, Folgarida-Marilleva, Pejo, Ponte di Legno-Tonale, Andalo-Fai della Paganella, Monte Bondone, Folgaria-Lavarone* for. The extension trip - **March 3-10, 2024** - will be in Northern Italy, which will include Milan, Lake Como, Verona, balsamic tasting in Modena, La Specia/Cinque Terra, Portovenere...with day tours included and free time to explore on your own. Initial trip registration will be handled in the traditional method – you will complete the forms and send along with a check payment for your initial registration 1st payment. Subsequent payment may be made by check, cashier's check, money order OR via our online Pay Pal Credit Card process. For further information, contact: Debbie Stewart, fwsaintltrlv@prodigy.net.

FWSA 2024 NORTH AMERICAN MINI SKI WEEK: **COPPER MOUNTAIN** will be the destination for the 2024 Mini Ski Week. The dates of the trip are **March 17-22, 2024**. Noni Love, of Copper Mountain will be our representative host, while Sara Clemons, President of Sports America Tours will be the tour operator for this particular trip. For further information, contact Nancy Ellis: fwsatravelnancy@sbcglobal.net

FWSA 2025 NORTH AMERICAN SKI WEEK: The North American Ski Week, 2025 will be to **BANFF, CANADA**. Dates for this trip will be **January 25 – February 1, 2025**. Steve Pampel, of Ski Big 3 will be our Banff representative, and Sandy Gaudette, of SkiGroup.Net will be the tour operator. For further information, contact Nancy Ellis: fwsatravelnancy@sbcglobal.net.

FAR WEST HISTORY

ISHPEMING HISTORIC SKI CENTER: Alan Christian recently visited the US National Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame in Ishpeming, MI, as a representative of FWSF and FWSA. Far West is well represented, with many of our fellow skiers enshrined or noted, including: Joe Ross, Snowshoe Thompson and J Stanley Mullin. Although the Hall is maintained to acknowledge past accomplishments, Alan noted that the entrance is adorned with a Mikaela Shiffrin mannequin offering a look ahead to one who will no doubt be a future honoree. It's often easy to forget that we are a part of a much larger national ski scene. For more information go to [Home - U.S. Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame \(skihall.com\)](http://Home-U.S.Ski&SnowboardHallofFame(skihall.com)) Outside of the center is a sign that reads: "The sport of skiing was introduced to America in the 19th century by Scandinavian immigrants. The first ski club in Michigan, and one of the first in the country, was formed in Ishpeming in 1887. It held its first public ski meet on February 25, 1888. The longest jump was one of 35 feet. Since then, this city has produced many famous ski jumpers, who have gained experience on renowned *Suicide Hill*. Here, in this city, the National Ski Association was formed on February 21, 1904. The National Ski Hall of Fame and Ski Museum is located here because of Ishpeming's historic role in developing skiing in America".

Stay Safe! Stay Healthy!