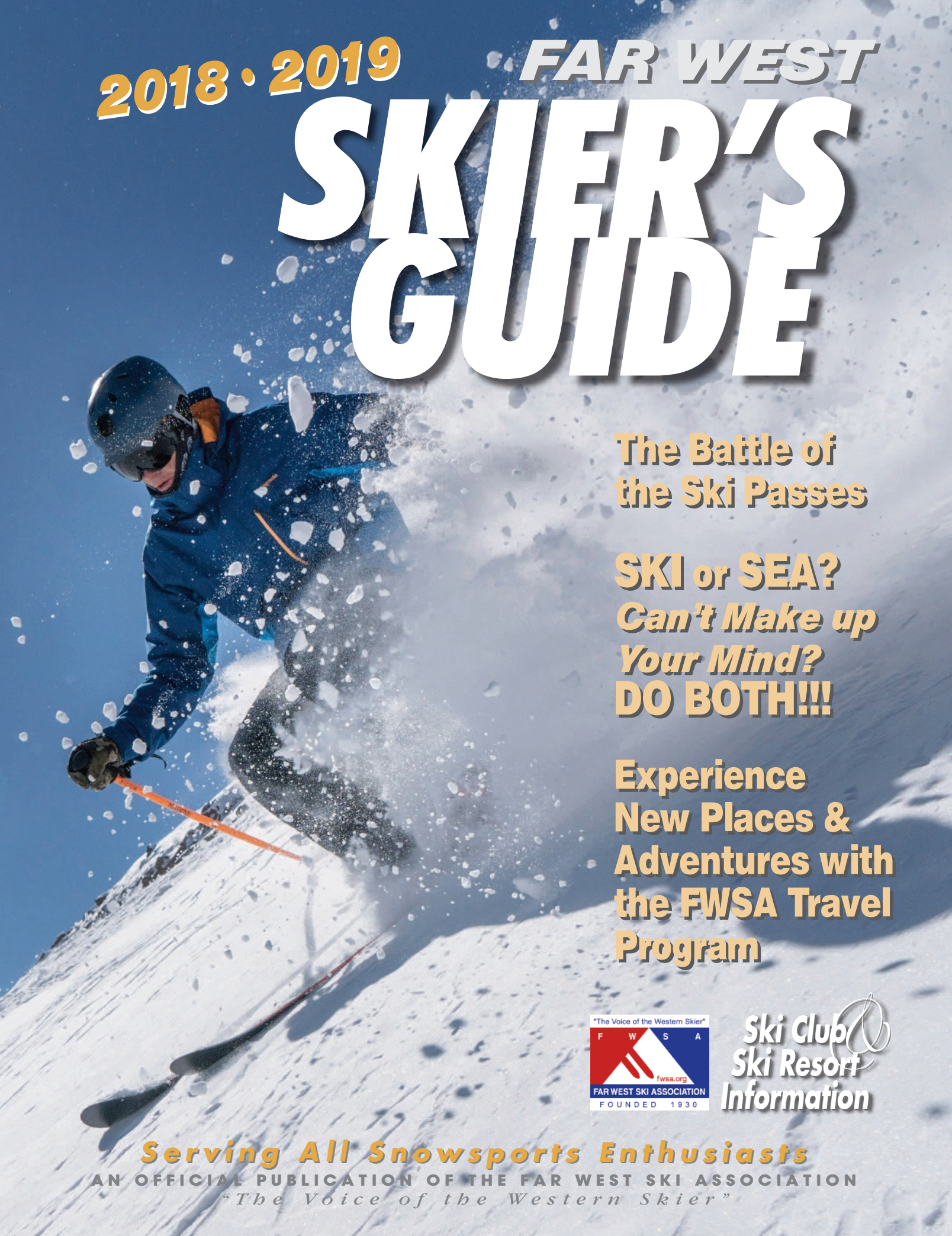
2018 · 2019

FAR WEST

SKIER'S GUIDE



The Battle of the Ski Passes

SKI or SEA? *Can't Make up Your Mind?* DO BOTH!!!

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"The Voice of the Western Skier"
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fwsa.org
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FOUNDED 1930

Ski Club & Ski Resort Information

Serving All Snowsports Enthusiasts

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FAR WEST SKI ASSOCIATION
"The Voice of the Western Skier"

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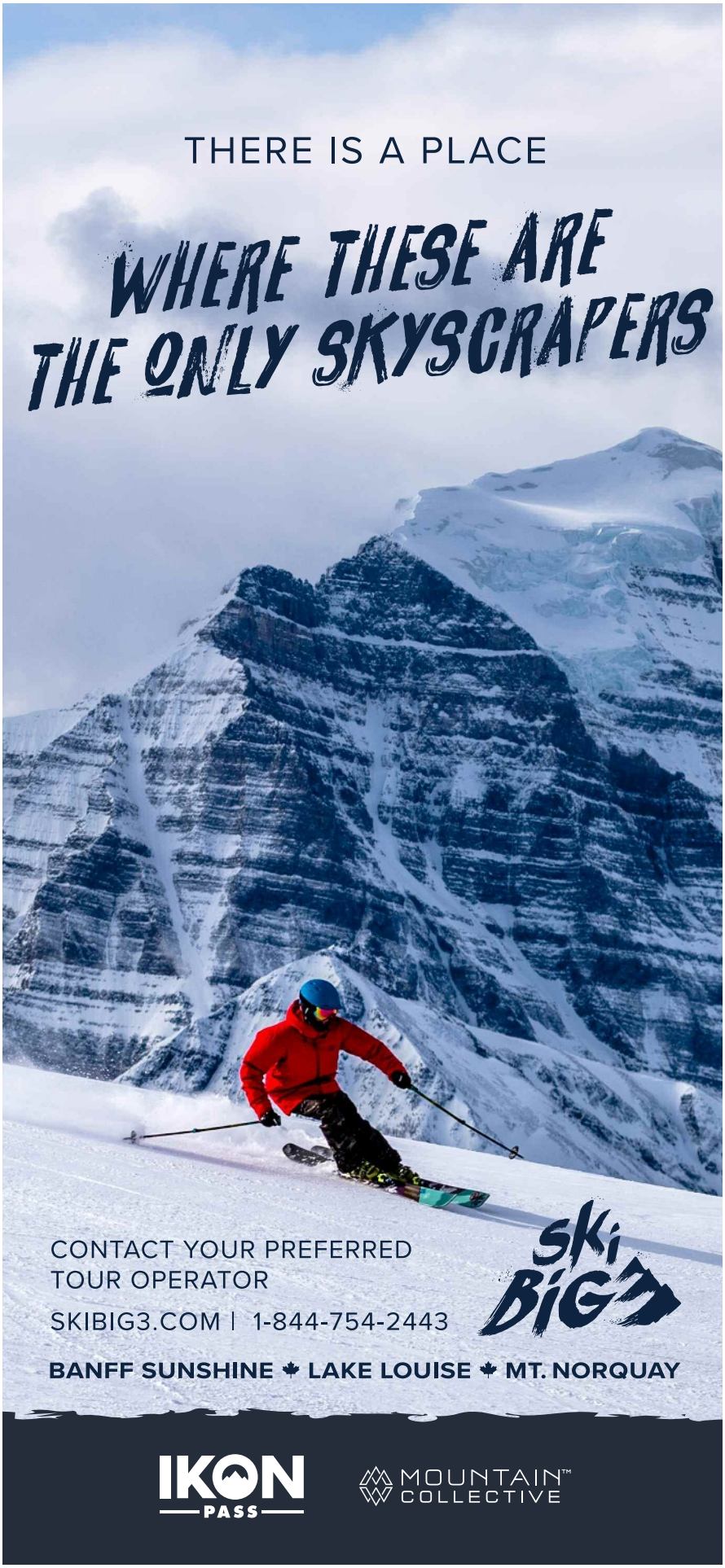

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www.skifederation.org

Plus many council and club websites

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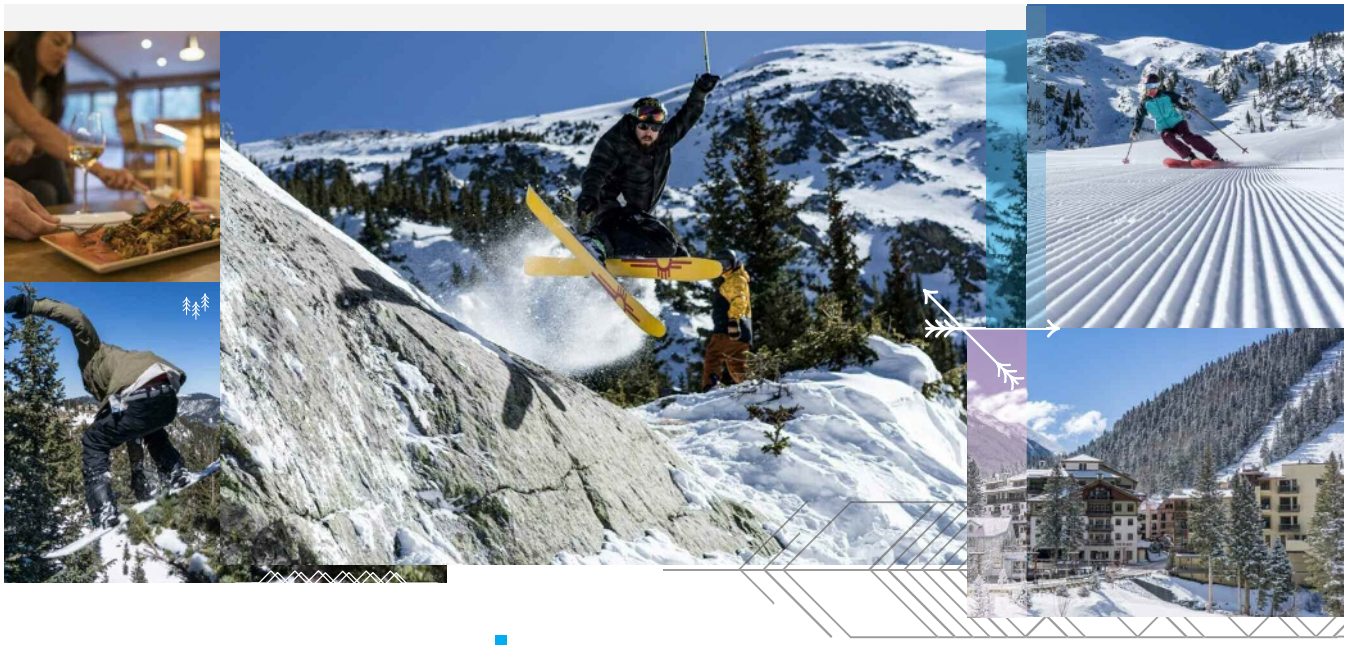

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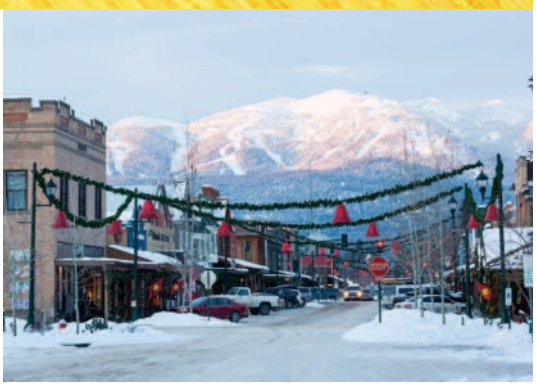

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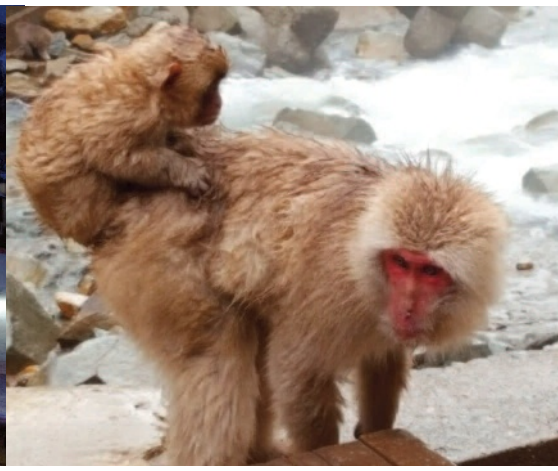
The Far West Ski Association 2019 Ski Week will be held at Steamboat Resort. In addition to fabulous skiing and snowboarding for all ability levels during daylight hours, the resort also offers night skiing.
photo / Steamboat Ski Resort / Larry Pierce, photographer



Ski Weeks are also adventure trips. The 2019 International Ski Week to Hakuba, Japan has the option to visit the Jigokudant Monkey Park.
photo / Sean Mc Erlean, Holidaze Tours

Get the group together and head to the slopes for another great year of skiing, and boarding, and snowshoeing, and exploring new and familiar destinations. *photo / Big White Ski Resort*

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Winter Park Resort is the location of the 2019 FWSA Mini Ski Week.
photo courtesy of Winter Park Resort

Clubs, councils and the FWSA organize ski trips and adventure trips all over the world, like kayaking in Belize. *photo provided by Sandy Blackwell, Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs*

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2018 - 2019

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FWSA Offers Many Benefits, World Travel & Much More!

by Gloria Raminha
President, FWSA

Greetings and welcome skiers, boarders, adventurists and world travelers to the 31st edition of the *Far West Skier's Guide, "The Voice of the Western Skier"*, serving all snowsports enthusiasts. The *Far West Skier's Guide* is published each year to provide information to council and ski club members, and anyone interested in joining an organization that is dedicated to serving its membership with information on organized group activities and group travel, where you can find like-minded friends who ski, board, like to explore new places and enjoy new adventures.

A *Far West Skier's Guide Summer Supplement* has been added to the ***www.fwsa.org*** website in a digital format. This fall/winter edition will also have a digital version. I encourage everyone to check out ***www.fwsa.org***, where you can find information about FWSA's future events, travel plans, convention, member benefits and much more.

FWSA in a not for profit, volunteer organization which was founded in 1930 with the mission to develop and provide benefits for affiliated ski clubs and members. FWSA is one of the largest ski associations in the U.S. with nine councils, representing more than 50,000 members, from over 150 clubs. If you are a member of a club affiliated with one of the FWSA councils, you are automatically a member of FWSA. Additionally, FWSA has direct members from across the country and internationally, but most of our membership covers these 12 western states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

Each year, FWSA offers many exciting trips. Trips that are on our 2019 and 2020 calendar include:

- North American Ski Week, Steamboat Resort, February 2 – 9, 2019
- International Ski Week in Japan to Niseko and Hakuba Valley. A post trip is available to Kanazawa, Kyoto and Tokyo, March 4 – 23, 2019
- Winter Park Resort, March 24 – 29, 2019
- British Virgin Island Windjammer Cruise, May 19 – 26, 2019
- Philippines Dive Trip (date TBD), 2019
- Big Sky Resort, January 25 – February 1, 2020
- Davos, Switzerland (date TBD), 2020
- Big White Ski Resort, March 29 – April 2, 2020
- Croatia (date TBD), 2020
- Ski Solden, Austria (date TBD), 2021

These trips are well planned by our Travel VPs and their staffs. All trips include various amenities, such as, welcome and farewell parties, happy hours, lunches, wine tasting, recreational ski racing, day tours and much more. Our member clubs also have active year around social and recreational events, including their own ski trips, recreational races, dinners, cruises, dive trips, biking, wine tasting, camping and more. Many FWSA and member clubs' activities welcome families and children. Visit our website at ***www.fwsa.org*** or follow us on our Facebook page to learn more about our organization.

Our councils offer recreational ski racing sanctioned by the Far West Racing Association (FWRA). Since we use a handicapping system for our racers, they are grouped with other racers by age groups who have similar racing skills. It allows members of all abilities to have fun and be competitive within their racing class. Recreational racing is a great way to improve your skiing techniques.

FWSA has established important relationships with the ***National Ski Council Federation*** (NSCF), ***United States Forest Service***, (USFS) ***International Ski History Association*** (ISHA), ***U. S. Ski & Snowboard*** (USSA), the ***United States Ski Team***, ***Women's Ski Jumping USA***, ***North American Snowsports Journalists Association*** (NASJA) and ***Snowsport Industries America*** (SIA). We are strong supporters of the ***National Ski Areas Association*** (NSAA) ***Environmental Charter*** and have endorsed their *"Sustainable Slopes"* objec-

tives. We are active participants in the informal and bipartisan ***Congressional Ski & Snowboard Caucus***. Our goal is to effectively represent the interests of all our members and the snowsports public.

The Far West Ski Association will conduct our ***87th Annual FWSA Snowsports Convention*** at the *Hyatt Regency Indian Wells Resort & Spa*, June 13 – 16, 2019, hosted by the Orange Council of Ski Clubs. The fun will begin Thursday evening with the ***Annual Pub Crawl***, which is a great way for the ski industry and delegates to meet and greet on an informal basis. On Friday, events will include the ***13th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament***. Other Friday activities typically include hiking, rafting, spa treatments, wine tasting or other activities unique to the area. Following the Friday optional activities, there will be a ***Pool Party*** followed by a ***Happy Hour*** for all club members, then the ***Annual Silent Auction and Snowsports Trade Show***, which is open to the public. Participants will have the opportunity to bid on terrific ski and adventure packages. Saturday begins with a ***Travel Expo*** and throughout the day features three sessions of the ***Snowsports Leadership Academy***, ***Public Affairs Panels***, a ***Keynote Speaker*** and other activities. There will be an ***Awards Luncheon***, evening ***Reception***, and ***Awards Banquet and Dance***. The final day for the Convention is on Sunday with a ***General Session***, ***Elections***, ***Club*** and ***Council Recognition Presentations***, and a brunch.

FWSA has a working relationship with the ***Far West Ski Foundation*** (FWSF), a non-profit charitable organization that is tax exempt under IRS Code Section 501(c) (3). We work with the Foundation to support our ***Athletic Scholarship Program***, ***Adaptive Sports and Skier Rehabilitation Program***, ***Fly Girls - Women's Olympic Ski Jumping***, and ***Preserving the Legacy – Ski History Program***. The Foundation is growing, and we will continue to work hard to make each year more successful than the last. We thank all of you who have made generous donations to the Foundation. More information is available at ***http://farwestskifoundation.org/***.

We have an outstanding Board of Directors, Trustees, Committee Chairs and Committee Volunteers who make an exceptional team, and are dedicated and committed to making our Association the success that it is year after year. Volunteers have come up through the ranks in their clubs, councils and the Association and have a ton of knowledge and history with the FWSA. I'd like to thank the many volunteers for all they do for our organization. We also have a strong working relationship with our industry partners, and appreciate their continued support of our organization.

I look forward to seeing you on the slopes, in my travels, and at our 87th Annual Far West Ski Association Convention in Indian Wells, California. To all of you, have a fun filled season on the slopes and in your travels. Stay safe and have fun.

Far West Ski Association
Committee Chairs & Other Representatives
2018 - 2019

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Delegates from Far West Ski Association councils and clubs, along with resort and other industry representatives, meet each year to renew friendships and gather information about travel destinations, industry updates and have fun. *photo / L.R. Peck Photography*

Council Services Unites FWSA Councils & Clubs

by Jo Simpson
Vice President - Council Services, FWSA

The Vice President, Council Services, together with the presidents of the nine FWSA member councils, manages programs and initiatives that benefit our clubs - the grassroots of FWSA. We have a talented and involved group of council presidents and program chairs who work hard to administer the programs that we manage. Council Services oversees the following FWSA programs: Club and Council Communication and Outstanding Club Awards, Councils' Man and Woman of the Year Recognition, Charities & Our Community, and Family and Youth Involvement. The Club and Council Communication and Outstanding Club awards programs provide an opportunity to reward hard working volunteers. Our committee chairs strive to administer competitions that are relevant and that are easy to enter.

■ The **Charities & Our Community Service Recognition,** chaired by *Sigrid Noack*, highlights the good work our clubs and councils do to benefit their communities. Our councils and clubs provide an amazing amount of support to local and national charities. The considerable charity and community work of FWSA clubs is further detailed by Sigrid on pages 50 - 51. The yearly club and council charity awards program provides clubs and councils the opportunity to document and showcase their good work. The top scoring clubs and councils are invited to bring a display board or slide show to the annual FWSA Convention so that participants can see all the good work that they do; and that makes them top scorers.

■ The **Councils' Man and Woman of the Year Program** invites councils to send an outstanding man and woman from their member clubs to the annual FWSA Convention, where they are honored, and compete for the FWSA Councils' Man and Woman of the Year. *Sheri Parshall* has just finished her first year as Chair for this program. She brings energy and enthusiasm to provide a wonderful experience for all the honorees at the FWSA Convention. We are grateful to *Gene Fulkerson* and *Donn Bryant* for their years of dedicated service to the program. The 2018 council candidates and the FWSA winners are highlighted on pages 38 - 39. We are grateful to *Big White Ski Resort* for their sponsorship of this program over many years. They provide a ski trip for two to Big White Ski Resort to the FWSA winning man and woman candidates.

■ The **Club and Council Communications and Outstanding Club Awards** saw significant changes in the application and judging process in 2017 that were continued in 2018. *Paul Vlasveld* and *Cindy Krupp* used their substantial technical skills to design a simplified submission and electronic judging process to encourage more submissions. We are thrilled to announce that *Bill King* is taking over this program for 2019.

■ The **Family and Youth Program** has a new chair, *Linda Coxen*. She is working with the FWSA Outreach Committee on ways to attract new, younger members into our clubs.

Council Services strives to provide our hundreds of FWSA ski clubs with tools and information to successfully serve their members. We welcome ideas and feedback from club members and anyone reading this publication. Please contact me with your ideas and requests for information at ***jo_simpson@sbcglobal.net***. I look forward to hearing from you..

Numerous council representatives met with ski resort personnel at the 2018 National Ski Council Federation Annual Meeting held at the Zermatt Utah Hotel in August.
photo provided by Jo Simpson

National Ski Council Federation Brings Councils & Clubs Together Nationwide

by Jo Simpson
National Ski Council Federation, Public Affairs Chair
Sierra League and Council, President

The Far West Ski Association and member councils and clubs are all members of the National Ski Council Federation. The Federation provides Far West councils an opportunity to interact with ski councils in the central and eastern United States to exchange ideas and receive valuable information for our member clubs. Membership in the Federation provides a variety of benefits.

The Federation conducted its first online silent auction in the fall of 2017. The auction was open to the public and included a variety of items, including ski clothing and accessories, resort lodging and lift tickets. It is being repeated in 2018.

The Federation annual meetings are structured to provide a forum for council and ski industry representatives to discuss subjects of mutual interest. The 2018 annual meeting in August was hosted by the Zermatt Utah Resort near Midway.

The Federation offers members a variety of attractive discounts on items such as ski rentals, lodging, car rentals, travel insurance and a variety of ski gear. To access the benefits and other Federation information, ski club members can go to the Federation website ***www.skifederation.org*** and request a password.

Ski clubs can post their trips on the website to attract new members through their trip offerings. They can access the **Members Only** section to get templates for by-laws, requests for proposal for trip bids, club officer job descriptions and other documents that clubs can adapt to meet their unique needs.

The Federation was formed in 1999 to provide ski councils an opportunity to exchange information and to discuss among themselves and with the ski industry, important issues that impact clubs and councils throughout the United States. The Federation represents 29 councils across the United States. The councils have 640 clubs with more than 300,000 club members. The Federation elects officers every two years. The current officers are: President, *Lisa Beregi* (Crescent Ski Council – Eastern U.S); Vice President, *Cheryl Mann* (Texas Ski Council); Treasurer, *Greg Schmid* (Cleveland Metropolitan Ski Council); and Secretary, *Sheri Parshall* (Northwest Ski Club Council). Like FWSA, the Federation is completely operated by volunteers.

For detailed information regarding the NSCF, including participating councils and member resources and benefits, visit our website at ***www.skifederation.org***.

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At the FWSA Convention Silent Auction, representatives from resorts and travel providers met with club delegates. Big White, Steamboat and Whitefish Mountain Resort/Averill Hospitality have also sponsored several special FWSA award programs. *photos / L.R. Peck Photography*

With A Little Help From Our Friends

by Debbi Kor
Vice President - Marketing, FWSA

A partnership is a relationship involving close cooperation between parties having specified and joint rights, responsibilities and benefits. In the Far West world, it is the close working relationship that we have with our many ski industry friends and family throughout the western United States and Canada.

Partnership and sponsorship is an integral part of our organization, and we continue to grow that relationship more each year at the Far West Convention. We rely on sponsors for the Annual Michael German Golf Tournament, the fun-filled Pub Crawl, the Pool Party and other activities, as well as, beverages and entertainment at breakfast and lunch on Saturday, the Awards Banquet on Saturday night, and brunch on Sunday. In addition, our Program Sponsors generously provide week-long trips to our award recipients of the Councils' Man and Woman of the Year, the Western Ski Heritage Award, the Far West Safety Award, and the Environment Award.

The Far West Ski Association Annual Convention is the perfect vehicle for members and industry to share productive one-on-one-time. It provides our members the opportunity to meet and greet representatives from the resorts, lodging companies, and tour operators throughout the country. It provides our partners a venue to showcase their resort, and our club decision makers to plan trips. Members have the opportunity to bid on ski and adventure packages, and everyone has a great time! What better place to roll that all into one gigantic package, than at our annual Silent Auction and Trade Show?

Being a partner with Far West Ski Association presents bonuses to both our members and to our partners. Check out our website ***(www.fwsa.org)*** to see the many member benefits available, just by clicking on ***Member Corner/Benefits***. Simply by showing their FWSA membership card, our members can enjoy discounted rates on lift tickets, ski rentals and clothing, and lodging at some of their favorite ski areas. You'll find that your ski trip can be made more pleasurable and affordable by taking advantage of some of these benefits.

We have many wonderful lodging partners who offer discounted rates, including *The Lexington Hotel*, in Jackson Hole, Wyoming; *Silver Star Mountain Resort* in Vernon, BC, and *The Double Tree by Hilton*, in Bend, Oregon. We also have a host of ski shops and services offering reduced prices on ski rentals and gear including *Rent Skis*, *Ship Skis*, *Rocky Mountain Sunscreen*, and *Powder House*, in the Lake Tahoe area. If you're headed to Park City, check out the *Transportation Network*, for a shuttle from the airport or in and around Park City. Are you going to Steamboat? Check out *Go Alpine*, for 20% off shuttle service from the Denver airport into Steamboat Springs.

Far West Ski Association values the continued support of our many program sponsors within the ski industry. *Telluride Resort*, has been a three-year sponsor of the annual ***Far West Safety Award***, honoring the person within FWSA who demonstrates strong promotional efforts to safe skiing and safety programs at the club and/or council level throughout organized events. *Big White Ski Resort* sponsors the ***Far West Councils' Man and Woman of the Year Award***, presented to outstanding individual council representatives who have made a major contribution to skiing and to their club, council and Far West. They have been sponsors of this particular program since 2001. *Steamboat Ski and Resort Corporation* sponsors the ***Western Ski Heritage Award***, recognizing outstanding effort in the area of ski history by historians in the identification of resource materials through the collection, preservation and protection of appropriate articles and material. They began their sponsorship in 2000. *Aspen / Snowmass* has been sponsoring our newest program, the ***Environment Award***, for the past four years. This program honors an individual who demonstrates good stewardship, and takes a creative effort to conserve and protect our environment. *Whitefish Mountain Resort*, and *Schure Sports, Inc.* have been long-time sponsors of the ***Far West Athletic Scholarship Program***, a highly deserving award to many of our junior racers throughout the Far West area. This year, we were pleased to add *Averill Hospitality (The Lodge at Whitefish Lake and Firebrand Hotel)*, to the mix. We thank you all, and we look forward to seeing you in Indian Wells, California, June 13 - 16, 2019.

If you are a vendor and would like to join Far West Ski Association as a Member Benefit's Partner, or are interested in becoming a sponsor with our organization, please contact me: *fwsadebbi@comcast.net*, or check our website at: ***www.fwsa.org/sponsors***.

2018 WESTERN REGION SKI & SNOWBOARD SHOWS

compiled by Jane Wyckoff

OCTOBER

University of Nevada, Reno Ski Swap
October 5 – 7, 2018
Reno Sparks Convention Center,
Reno, NV
www.unrskiswap.com

Mountain Time Expo & Forum
October 19 – 21, 2018
Dallas Market Hall
Dallas, TX
www.mountaintimeexpo.com

NOVEMBER

SkiFever & Snowboard Show
November 2 - 4, 2018
Portland Expo Center, Portland, OR
www.portlandskifever.com

The 46th Annual Park City Ski and Snowboard Swap
November 2 - 4, 2018
Basin Recreation Fieldhouse,
Park City, UT
www.parkcityskiswap.com

SnowBomb Ski & Snowboard Festival – San Francisco
November 3 - 4, 2018
Pier 35, San Francisco, CA
www.sfskifest.com

SnowJam Show San Diego
November 9 - 11, 2018
Del Mar Fairgrounds, Del Mar, CA
http://10times.com/snowjam-show

SnowBomb Ski & Board Festival – Santa Clara
November 10 – 11, 2018
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds,
San Jose, CA
www.sfskifest.com

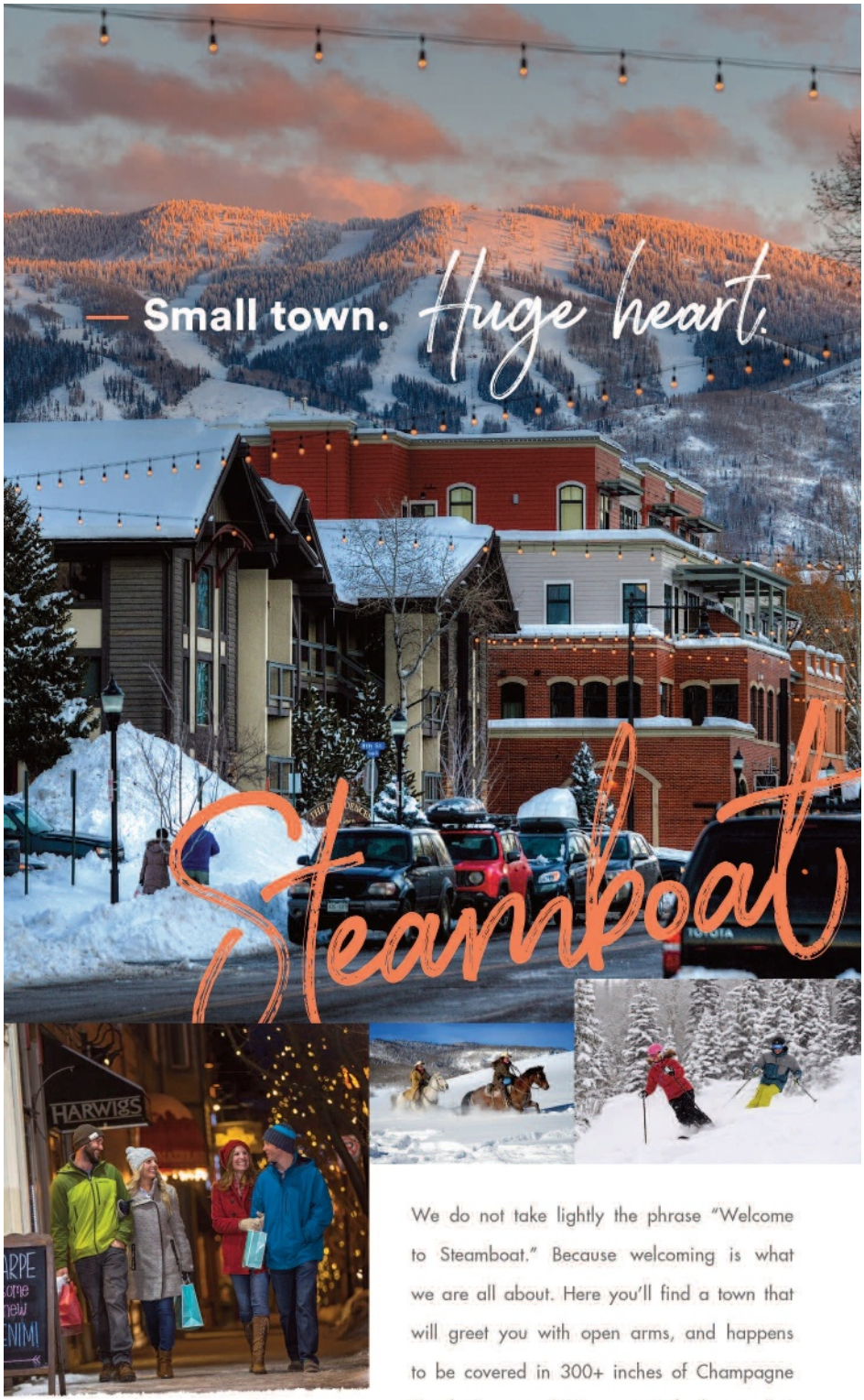
Ski Dazzle Show
Ski • Snowboard • Active Sports • Travel
November 16 - 18, 2018
Los Angeles Convention Center,
Los Angeles, CA
https://skidazzle.com

Colorado Ski & Snowboard Expo
November 16 - 18, 2018
Colorado Convention Center,
Denver, CO
www.skinowexpo.com/denver-expo

SnowBomb Ski & Board Festival - Sacramento
November 17 - 18, 2018
Cal Expo Center, Sacramento
www.sfskifest.com

SnowJam Show Las Vegas
November 24 - 25, 2018
Las Vegas Convention Center,
Las Vegas, NV
http://10times.com/snowjam-show-lasvegas

Mark Your Calendars to attend a Ski & Snowboard Show near you.



Steamboat Welcomes the Far West Ski Association
February 2 - 9, 2019

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groupsales@steamboat.com

We do not take lightly the phrase "Welcome to Steamboat." Because welcoming is what we are all about. Here you'll find a town that will greet you with open arms, and happens to be covered in 300+ inches of Champagne Powder® snow. We're genuinely happy that you're here, and we're delighted to share our little corner of the Colorado Rocky Mountains with you. So come on up! With nonstop flights from five West Coast cities, getting here is easier than ever.

Steamboat

FWSA DIRECT MEMBER APPLICATION 2018 - 2019

Direct membership is available for an individual or family who are NOT members of a FWSA affiliated snowsports club. Members of FWSA affiliated ski clubs are automatic FWSA members. Membership is effective through April 30, 2019.

DIRECT MEMBER BENEFITS

■ FWSA Membership Card ■ Member Benefits & Discounts ■ Copy of the annual *Far West Skier's Guide* ■ Online access to *The Councilman* subscription ■ Invitation to the Annual FWSA Convention and Silent Auction ■ Participation in the FWSA Travel Program, and more.

ANNUAL DIRECT MEMBER DUES:

$30 per member; $50 per couple; $60 per family. Please copy this form and fill it out. Make checks payable to FWSA and mail to: FAR WEST SKI ASSOCIATION c/o

Michael Bouton, VP - Membership,

9632 Dorsetshire Place, Boise, ID 83704
(208) 703-0444 / *mbouton0559@msn.com*

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Home Phone #:

Daytime Phone #:

Fax #:

E-mail:

Signature: Date:

☐ Are you interested in information about ski or snowboard clubs in your area?

The *Far West Skier's Guide* can be sent directly to you.

The FWSG is available at no cost to members through your ski club, however, if you wish to have the magazine sent to you directly, please fill out this order form and include $5.00 to cover postage and handling. Send to:

FAR WEST SKIER'S GUIDE
3115 South Price Road
Chandler, AZ 85248

☐ 2018 - 2019 ☐ 2019 - 2020

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Phone:

E-mail:

The Far West Ski Association has a fabulous international travel program, including ski trips, adventure destinations and cruises where members from different clubs can mingle. In 2018, a group enjoyed the slopes around Banff, Alberta, Canada. *photo / Nancy Ellis*

The Power of Purpose

by Michael Bouton
Vice President - Membership, FWSA

As you are reading this article, I would like you to think about the purpose of being a member of the Far West Ski Association. FWSA is made up of nine different regional councils and many individual clubs in those councils. This periodical is intended to help those non-members find a club in their home area. You will find a listing beginning on page 65. I would like to point out some of the "not so obvious" reasons as to why you should consider becoming a member of a club or possibly becoming a Direct Member of FWSA.

- Relationship building-most adventurous 'Doers' in life desire friends and groups with which to be involved.
- Values - like minded individuals enjoy getting together to share ideas and experiences.
- The benefit of a large number of members can help with buying power and lessen the cost for all.
- The power of your purpose becomes stronger and your life is enhanced in many ways.

The monetary/discount benefits of being a member of FWSA are many and can be found on the ***www.fwsa.org*** website. Here are just a few:

- Lodging at various resorts ■ Adventure trip discounts ■ Equipment and Services at various shops in the west ■ Ski and Adventure trips

Over the past 88 years, the Far West Ski Association has been a not for profit entity and it has developed many programs that benefit our winter sports. Each year, FWSA honors those who participate with ski trips and other valuable rewards. The programs include, but are not limited to:

- Councils' Man and Woman of the Year
- Safety ■ Communications
- Western Ski Heritage ■ Environmental Issues ■ Athletic Scholarships

So now, why not Power up your Purpose and get on board. We are a very welcoming organization with no bias for age, gender, ethnicity, or snowsports enjoyed. We want to invite those younger enthusiasts who want to be involved in something larger than themselves. *We have a place for you!*

"Late Breaking News Flash"

National Brotherhood of Skiers - Western Region Becomes 10th FWSA Council

As we go to press, the Club Presidents of the ***National Brotherhood of Skiers - Western Region***, voted on September 29, 2018 to accept the Far West Ski Association's invitation to become the 10th Council. The National Brotherhood of Skiers was founded in 1972 by Art Clay and Ben Finley, recipients of the FWSA Snowsports Builder Award in 2015. The nationwide organization has a membership of 52 clubs, with the Western Region having 13 clubs with roughly 1,000 members. The NBS has a truly impressive OutReach program, to provide a portion of its resources to clubs who are introducing new youth to winter sports each year. The FWSA welcomes our new council into FWSA; and looks forward to their participation in our programs, learning more about their programs, and working together to achieve our mutual goal of the protection and promotion of snowsports. Watch for additional information regarding our 10th Council on ***www.fwsa.org*** and in the Digital Edition of the *Far West Skier's Guide.*

NORTH AMERICAN TRAVEL

The FWSA Mini Ski Week will be held at Winter Park, Colorado. *photo / Winter Park Resort*

Steamboat Resort - the site of the 2019 North American Ski Week - is famous for its Champagne powder and gladed runs. *photo / Steamboat Resort*

The FWSA's North American Travel Program Offers Many Exciting Destinations!

by Nancy Ellis
Vice President/North American Travel,

The Far West Ski Association North American Travel Program offers trips for ski club and direct members to destinations in North America, Canada, and U.S. territories. Our annual ski week is very popular and features a week of skiing/boarding, parties with dancing, racing, and opportunities for shopping and winter activities in the area. This February, our ski week will be to Steamboat Resort, Colorado and in 2020, we will be going to Big Sky Resort in Montana. Past ski weeks have been to Banff, Breckenridge, Telluride, Whistler, Beaver Creek, Aspen/Snowmass, Jackson Hole, Sun Valley, and Keystone.

We also offer a second ski trip in March which is very popular - the FWSA Mini Ski Trip. This is typically a five day late spring outing. It doesn't include as many planned activities to keep the trip more affordable. Participants have flexibility to explore the area on their own or participate in group activities. This year, we will be going to Winter Park, Colorado. In March 2020, we will be going to Big White Resort, in Canada and in March 2021 we will be going to Zermatt Resort and Spa in Utah. Past FWSA mini ski week trips have been to Alyeska/Anchorage, Sun Peaks, Mt. Bachelor, Big White, Snowbasin, Whitefish, and Crested Butte.

The North American Travel program also plans adventure trips every two years that are non-ski trips. Past trips have included summer trips to Mammoth Lakes with fishing, kayaking, and bike riding; a Panama Canal Cruise; a Caribbean Cruise to the U.S. Virgin Islands, Bahamas, and St. Maarten; and a Mississippi Steamboat Cruise and New Orleans trip. Our 2019 trip will be a Windjammer Cruise in the Caribbean aboard the Vela and we will explore the fabulous British Virgin Islands.

Check the Far West Ski Association website ***www.fwsa.org*** for a listing of our trips and how you can sign up. Looking forward to seeing you on one of our trips!

2019 ■ Steamboat Resort ■ Winter Park Resort ■ Windjammer Cruise

***Above:** There is always something going on in Steamboat, either on the slopes or in the town.*
***Right:** The Steamboat Gondola is only one of 18 lifts transporting skiers and boarders up the slopes of Mount Werner.* *photos courtesy of Steamboat Resort*

North American Ski Week - 2019

Steamboat Resort, Colorado

February 2 - 9, 2019

We're excited to be going to Steamboat Resort for our 2019 North American Ski Week. Nearly $30 million in on-mountain improvements have taken place since we last visited Steamboat for a ski week. We look forward to enhanced terrain to challenge all levels of ability, faster and more comfortable chairlifts, expanded culinary options, and remodeled restaurants, high-tech snowmaking, and much, much more!

Downtown Steamboat has some new additions, as well. Several bars, restaurants, stores, and a new music venue were added in spring 2014. It will be hard to recognize the Steamboat Resort and town as we last saw it!

Mountain Statistics:

- 3,000 total acres
- 165 trails, including gladed tree areas
- 18 lifts
- 3 terrain parks
- Ski Base Area 6,900 feet
- Summit/Mt. Werner 10,568 feet
- Trails – 14% easier; 42% more difficult; 44% most difficult
- Season snowfall: 303" 5 year average

Other Highlights:

- 7- nights accommodations in one of the following lodging properties: *Bronze Tree*; *Canyon Creek*; *The Lodge*; *Eagle Ridge*; *Dulany*; and *Ptarmigan Inn*
- 5 or 6-day group lift ticket or the Ikon Pass
- FREE public transportation throughout Steamboat, the village area, and downtown.
- Hosted Wine Tasting/Après Party
- Non-ski activities available: natural hot springs; guided snowshoe tours; tubing; sleigh ride to Ragnar's on-mountain restaurant; snowmobiling; ice-skating; cross-country ski tours; dog sledding; spa services, and much more!

A favorite winter activity is to board a 20-passenger sleigh pulled by a pair of majestic draft horses which travels around the Yampa Valley's rolling hills. Then settle down to a delicious four-course dinner.

2019 FWSA Mini Ski Week

Winter Park, Colorado

March 24 - 29, 2019

We're going to Winter Park Resort, Colorado, March 24 - 29. Five big mountains provide extensive variety for all levels. The resort offers a total of 2,886 skiable acres, including Vasquez Cirque, a lift-serviced, but essentially a backcountry experience for advanced skiers and boarders. We're staying at the Vintage Resort Hotel which offers a variety of accommodations from traditional hotel rooms to suites. It's a 300 yard walk to the cabriolet to the base village and shuttle service is available.

The property offers the following amenities:

- Hot Tub; Heated Pool
- Free Parking
- Ski Lockers
- Free Wi-Fi
- Restaurant on site

This Trip Includes:

- Welcome Breakfast
- Farewell Party
- 5 Nights Lodging at Vintage Resort hotel (double occupancy)
- 4 - day Lift Tickets or Use the IKON PASS
- Discounted Ground Transportation from Denver Airport to Winter Park

There are activities for non-skiers such as snowshoeing, snowcat and snowmobile tours, and mountaintop dining in the magnificent lodge at Sunsport. There are many restaurants and shopping in the nearby towns of Winter Park and Fraser. *Gloria Saiya-Woods,* ***Ski.com***, and *Jamie Brooks,* ***Vintage Hotel***, have teamed up to provide us with a fantastic trip.

Registration forms are on the ***fwsa.org*** website. After the first deposit of $50 by check, you can pay by credit card using PayPal or get a 3% discount for paying by personal check, money order, or cashier check. Contact *Gloria Raminha* - the trip leader - if you want to sign up or have questions: ***garski2011@gmail.com*** or (661) 800-8229.

Averaging over 320 inches of annual snowfall, powder hounds will enjoy Winter Park Resort. Add 300 plus days of sunshine. What more can anyone ask for?

Originally opening for the 1939 - 40 ski season, Winter Park Resort is the oldest continuously operated ski area in Colorado. The interconnected mountains contain seven distinct territories, providing ample snow fun for all. Groomers, glades, bowls, powder, steeps, bumps and more can be experienced here. Don't forget the numerous après ski activities, too! *photos / Winter Park Resort / C. Frey*

Adventure seekers will sail around the British Virgin Islands on one of the Island Windjammers' fleet of luxury sailboats.
photo courtesy of Island Windjammers Cruises

North American Adventure Trip - 2019

British Virgin Islands - Windjammer Cruise

May 19 - 26, 2019

Join us as we sail from Tortola and explore the fabulous British Virgin Islands on a 6-night, 7-day cruise on the Island Windjammer vessel Vela. Visit the islands of Virgin Gorda, Norman Island, Cooper Island, Jost Van Dyke and Tortola and enjoy all the adventures those islands have to offer. Dates for the trip are May 19 – 26, 2019.

This Trip Includes:

- Welcome Party & Orientation
- All Meals – sit down with choice of entrée
- Beach BBQ's
- Wine & Cheese appetizer party
- Daily Happy Hours
- All port taxes, meals, adult beverages and soft drinks
- Choice of cabins – deluxe (double occupancy); standard (double occupancy); solo
- Snorkeling (fins available)
- Daily information about islands visited along with available activities and excursions

Options:

- Divers can make their own arrangements to dive with help from the ship's operations manager as sailing schedule permits
- Opportunity to explore islands and eat meals ashore

We have chartered the boat just for our group! Sign up for this *"once in a lifetime"* event. Don't miss the fun! Trip information and sign up forms are located on the FWSA website: ***www.fwsa.org*** or contact *Sheri Parshall*, Trip Leader, *cougskier@aol.com*, ***503-706-0522***. Credit card payments available.

ACRES: 5,800 | AVG. SNOWFALL: 400" | VERTICAL: 4,350'

Big Sky Resort, Montana

2020 FWSA Ski Week

January 25 - February 1, 2020

Big Sky is the destination for the 2020 Ski Week. Big Sky Resort is BIG with four mountains giving you access to more skiing than anywhere else in the United States! You can use the IKON pass or purchase the Big Sky lift ticket giving you access to 5,800 skiable acres and endless ways to navigate 4,350 feet of vertical drop. Runs up to six miles long and glades and bowls covered in 400+ inches of annual snowfall give every age and level of skier and boarder something different.

Getting to Big Sky via air is easy! Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport is 45 miles from the ski area with many airlines providing daily direct flights. Council Trip Leaders will be able to select from a wide variety of lodging options from condominiums to hotel style rooms, all located within walking distance from each other and the mountain. Big Sky is a short distance to the West Entrance of Yellowstone National Park, so people have the option to participate in an FWSA day trip to the park to explore it via snow coach and snowmobile tours.

photo / Big Sky Resort / Jeff Engerbretson, photographer

photo / Big Sky Resort / Jeff Engerbretson, photographer

This Trip Includes:

- Welcome Party
- Picnic
- Banquet & Dance
- Friday Après Party
- Daily Mountain Tours
- Nastar Ski/Board Racing
- Souvenir Pin

Optional Activities:

- Ziplines
- Snowshoe Tours
- High Ropes Course
- Snowmobiling
- Snow Cat Dinners
- Nordic Skiing
- Sleigh Rides
- Giant Swing
- Trampoline
- Ice Climbing
- Back Country Skiing
- Spa Services

Mountain Statistics:

- 5,800 acres
- 300 named runs across 4 mountains
- 36 lifts
- Mountain Village Base 7,500 feet
- Lone Peak Summit 11,166 feet
- Trails – 15% beginner; 25% Intermediate; 42% Advanced; 18% Expert

In 2016, Boyne Resorts, the parent company of Big Sky Resort, announced the BigSky2025 plan, a 10-year, $150-million commitment to on-mountain improvements. As part of that plan, Big Sky has replaced the Lone Peak Triple in The Bowl with the Powder Seeker, a six-seat high-speed chairlift with heated seats and blue bubble covers.
photo courtesy of Big Sky Resort

Sara Clemons and *Mike Hibbard*, ***Sports America Tours*** and *Josh Pelczar*, ***Big Sky*** National Sales Manager, have teamed together to plan an extraordinary ski week experience for our group. Information about the Big Sky Ski Week will be available from Council Trip Leaders in early March or check the FWSA website ***www.fwsa.org*** for information.

Big White Ski Resort, Canada

Plan to Join us on the 2020 FWSA Mini Ski Week

March 29 - April 3, 2020

Big White Resort is the destination for the 2020 Mini Ski Week March 29 - April 3. It's home to the best snow in British Columbia and the longest season in the Okanagan Valley. It's easy getting to Big White by flying into Kelowna's International Airport and taking a 55 minute shuttle to the resort. Big White is Canada's largest totally ski-in, ski-out village. It has 18 on-mountain restaurants, cafes, delis, pubs, and night clubs. The village also has retail stores for snow and snowboarding gear and accessories; a boot-fitter; and gift shops. Everything you need for your stay is located right in the village!

Big White Ski Resort is located on Big White Mountain. At over 7,600 feet, the mountain is the highest summit in the Okanagan Highland. The resort is known for its abundant snowfall, with terrain suitable to all ability levels. BELOW: The village is self contained offering a wide selection of accommodations, restaurants and retail shops to fill any need.
photos / Big White Resort

This Trip Includes:

- Welcome Reception
- Farewell Dinner
- 5 Nights Lodging at the Inn at Big White (double occ.)
- 2 queen bed rooms or 1 - bedroom units
- Hotel porterage
- Hotel Amenities: outdoor heated pool & hot tub; games room; fitness center; complimentary Wi-Fi; galley kitchen with induction cooker, mini-refrigerator, microwave, sink, dishes, cookware, and utensils
- 2 free lift tickets included with each unit per night booked
- Complimentary Snow Host Mountain Terrain Tour
- Ground Transportation from Kelowna to Big White (additional cost)
- Masters Monday – 2-hour group lesson with lunch (additional cost)
- Optional Activities: Ice Climbing; Horse Drawn Sleigh; Dinner & Sleigh Bells; Dog Sled Tours; Snowmobile Tours; Spa Services; Tube Park; Ice Skating; Kelowna Rockets Hockey Game; Snowshoe Tours; Night Skiing

Mountain Stats:

- 294 inches annual snowfall
- 2,765 skiable acres
- Village center elevation – 5,757 ft. Summit elevation – 7,606 ft.
- 15 lifts including 1 highspeed gondola
- 905 groomed acres; 1,525 alpine & glade acres; 460 acres of open bowls
- 15.5 miles of Nordic trails
- Beginner/Easier – 18%; Intermediate – 54%; Difficult/Expert – 22%; Extreme – 6%

Sign up information will be available on the website, ***www.fwsa.org*** beginning in June.

The Battle of the Ski Passes

by Catherine Ohl
Webmaster, FWSA

The battle of the ski passes has been elevated for 2018/2019 as two major companies attempt to entice skiers and boarders to their mountains with their multi-resort passes. The situation is very fluid as both companies have been buying up resorts while adding new partners.

Vail Resorts first introduced its Epic Pass for the 2008/2009 winter season. Over the years, they have added resorts to their portfolio. They currently own or operate 14 resorts, partner with 5 other resorts and are in the process of acquiring another 4 resorts.

In addition, Vail Resorts Hospitality owns and/or manages a portfolio of luxury hotels under the RockResorts brand, a number of hotels and condominiums located in proximity to their ski resorts, three destination resorts at Grand Teton National Park and several award-winning golf courses. They also have a real estate development operation.

Alterra Mountain Company, established in 2017, is a community of 13 iconic year-round ski destinations, including the world's largest heli-ski operation. Alterra is privately owned by KSL Capital Partners and Aspen/Snowmass (Henry Crown and Company). The first offering of the Ikon Pass is for the 2018/2019 winter season in partnership with another 20 resorts.

The unlimited passes offered by both started at $899 in the spring. Their limited passes range from $599 (Ikon) to $669 (Epic). What's new this year is that the senior discount has all but disappeared while both companies now offer a Military/Veterans option and continue to provide attractive kid discounts.

The Ikon Pass is offering unlimited access to 14 destinations, and up to seven days at each of the 21 destinations. The Epic Pass is offering unlimited access to 19 resorts plus limited access to 30 European Resorts in addition to the Hakuba Valley in Japan.

While the EPIC and Ikon Passes are not the only game in town, they are certainly the biggest. Smaller resorts have joined both companies with an offer of 5 – 7 days at each of their resorts.

Vail Resorts and Alterra benefit when skiers buy their passes months before the lifts start spinning, giving them the financial stability to invest in upgrades and pursue strategic plans. They are not affected as much from a bad snow year.

In 2015, Vail Resorts announced that it would spend up to $115 million on improvement to nine of their resorts. Much of these improvements have been completed.

Alterra recently announced a $155 million dollar investment in 12 of their resorts over the next 5 years and will be spending $130 million for the 2018/2019 winter. This is a good thing. The biggest complaint among ski club members is the disappearance of the Seniors discount, especially at Mammoth.

Impact on Non-Members

Unfortunately, the smaller resorts not joining the movement, are left to find their way in a new world where skiers expect lift tickets to cost about $30 to $40 a day. Dozens of smaller resorts across the country are joining forces in a communal campaign to entice skiers away from the Big Two.

The Mountain Collective Pass

The Mountain Collective offers two days at each of 17 destinations for only $449 for adults; and $99 for kids 12 and under. You can purchase additional days at The Collective destinations at 50% off. There are no blackout dates. There is a bonus of two days each at Chamonix in France and Valle Nevado in Chile. The Collective includes a complimentary 1-year Protect Our Winters membership.

The resorts included in The Mountain Collective are: Alta, UT; Aspen/Snowmass, CO; Banff Sunshine, Canada; Big Sky, MT; Cornet Peak & The Remarkables, New Zealand; Jackson Hole, WY; Lake Louise, Canada; Niseko United, Japan; Revelstoke, Canada; Snowbasin, UT; Snowbird, UT; Squaw Valley Alpine Meadows; Sugarbush, VT; Sun Valley, ID; Taos, NM; and, Thredbo, Australia.

Information on these passes is fluid. Check out their respective websites for updates on pricing, new resorts added, restrictions, number of days, and blackout dates.

EPIC Pass: *www.epicpass.com/* ♦ ***Ikon Pass:*** *www.ikonpass.com/*
The Mountain Collective Pass: *www.mountaincollective.com/*

epic PASS™

2018-2019 EPIC Pass Participants

New for 2018-2019 Season

Stevens Pass, WA
Telluride, CO
Resorts of the Canadian Rockies* RCR
Crested Butte, CO
Okema Mountain Resort
Mt. Sunapee
Hakuba Valley, Japan

Resorts Participating in the EPIC Pass Prior to upcoming season

Arapahoe Basin, CO
Beaver Creek, CO
Breckenridge, CO
Heavenly, CA/NV
Keystone, CO
Kirkwood, CA
Northstar, CA
Park City, UT
Stowe, VT
Vail, CO
Whistler/Blackcomb, BC
Afton Alps, MN
Mt. Brighton, MI
Wilmot, WI
Perisher, Australia

**RCR includes Fernie, Kimberley, Kicking Horse, Nakiska, Mont Sainte Anne, and Stoneham.*

The 30 European Resorts are in France, Switzerland, Italy and Austria.

January is Learn to Ski and Snowboard Month

NSAA encourages children and adults to learn by taking lessons from professional instructors. It also challenges current skiers and snowboarders to improve their skills through lessons. Ski and snowboard areas throughout the U.S. offer free and reasonably priced turnkey lesson programs during January. For participating resorts, check out resort websites, or go to ***www.nsaa.org***.

IKON PASS

United States:

Western Resorts:

- Big Bear Mountain Resort, CA
- June Mountain, CA
- Mammoth Mountain, CA
- Squaw Valley/Alpine Meadows, CA
- The Summit at Snoqualmie, WA

Rocky Mountain Resorts:

- Alta / Snowbird, UT
- Aspen Snowmass, CO
- Big Sky, MT
- Brighton, UT
- Copper Mountain, CO
- Deer Valley, UT
- Eldora Mountain Resort, CO
- Jackson Hole, WY
- Solitude, UT
- Steamboat, CO
- Taos, NM
- Winter Park, CO

Eastern Resorts:

- Killington Resort, VT
- Loon Mountain, NH
- Snowshoe, WV
- Stratton, VT
- Sugarbush Resort, VT
- Sugarloaf, ME
- Sunday River, ME

Midwest Resorts:

- Boyne Highland, MI
- Boyne Mountain, MI

Canada:

- Blue Mountain, ON
- CMH Heli-Skiing, BC
- Cypress Mountain, BC
- Revelstoke, BC
- SkiBig3 - Lake Louise, Sunshine, Mt. Norquay, AB
- Tremblant, QB

Japan:

- Niseko United (Hokkaido - 4 resorts)

Australia:

- Thredbo

Be a Part of the NSAA National Bring a Friend Challenge.

The National Ski Areas Association *"challenges"* current skiers and snowboarders to bring newcomers to the snow and help them sign up for lessons from professional instructors - and not just during January.

To learn more about ***The Learn to Ski and Board Month*** or ***The Bring a Friend Challenge*** programs, go to ***www.nsaa.org.***

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Have some fun in the Hakuba Valley's legendary JAPOW powder. *photo / Ski Japan*

Ski Japan's Hakuba Valley

With A Pre-Trip to Niseko & A Post-Trip to Kanazawa, Kyoto & Tokyo

January 25 - February 1, 2019

by Debbie Stewart
Vice President - International Travel, FWSA

Why do people travel internationally? There are many reasons why people travel, and many may not even know why they do it. One may say "because it's fun, because I get to explore new places, because I like to learn new things, because I get to meet new people…"

International travel gives us the opportunity for de-conditioning, to get out of the same day to day activities - the way we work, relax, recreate, eat, engage with others familiar or new. You get out of your normal habits, needs and desires and even open your eyes to different religions and moralities. Essentially, viewing how others live and how nature is so different, one may gain a different perspective of yourself while feeling renewed.

The FWSA International Travel Program offers our members opportunities to have unique experiences, whether while on the annual ski week trip or an adventure trip every other year. Our goal is to provide unique and unexpected experiences while giving the active travelers great opportunities for excitement, fitness, thrills and the adrenaline rush while allowing everyone to have meaningful stories to reminiscence. While bonding with fellow travelers, this gives us many occasions to learn about others, acquaint yourself with the local culture and have a better understanding, broaden our perspectives, expand our horizons with a worldwide view including gratitude and mindfulness.

In 2018, numerous Far West Ski Association members skied Les Trois Vallées, France, visited Lyon, Beaune and Paris; others visited India and many more put on their wet suits to dive in the beautiful seas around Grand Cayman in the Carribbean. The FWSA International Travel program is planning more exciting adventures in 2019. Here are the main destinations being organized now. More information will be posted on ***www.fwsa.org*** as it becomes available.

Visit Japan: *Ski Plus Adventure & Much More!*

Next year's Japan ski and adventure trip is comprised of three components. We are offering a Pre-trip to Niseko, which is located on the island of Hokkaido. Our basic Ski Week will be in the Hakuba Valley Ski Resort area. This is where the 1998 Nagano Olympics were held. During our optional Extension trip, we'll be visiting Kanazawa, Kyoto and Tokyo. This offers something for everyone and a tremendous value for your money.

Our members will enjoy a cultural immersion into the land of Emperors, Buddhas, temples and shrines memorializing Shoguns through many centuries, embracing the rich history, yet cosmopolitan.

During our Pre-trip option, we'll be spending five nights at the Niseko Hilton Hotel, which has its own tram from the hotel to the ski area. Niseko is a town located in the Shribeshi Subprefecture of Hokkaido. To the Japanese people, Niseko principally refers to a mountain range and municipal area. However, overseas, the name has come to refer to a wider area of ski resorts and is often referred to the "Mt. Fuji of Hokkaido".

Niseko is no longer the best-kept secret. It has an abundance of snow, averaging one meter per week (over three feet) and is known for attracting the "powder hounds". After skiing in Niseko, others will join us for the main ski week in Hakuba.

The Hakuba Valley Ski Resort is located at the foot of the Japanese Northern Alps and has nine ski mountains from which to choose. As Japan's premier ski region, the Hakuba Valley offers

The Hakuba Valley offers unforgetable snow covered terrain suitable for all abilities. INSET: *The post trip will travel to Tokyo.*

Explore New Places. Experience New Adventures.

See the World with FWSA!

large photo / Ski Japan • inset photo / Sean Mc Erlean, Holidaze Tours

more terrain, vertical rise and advanced ski slopes than anywhere in Japan. You will have one of the most incredibly unforgettable ski experiences in the Hakuba Valley, offering a variety of terrain to suit all abilities. Many of the ski resorts are centrally located, yet the ski shuttle will take you to the more remote locations, as well. Despite what you may think, snow is far from being on the verge of extinction in Japan . . . they call it JAPOW! They have a reputation of legendary powder and the Epic Pass offers five days of skiing in Hakuba Valley, plus our group will have three hours of a complimentary mountain escort to tour us around the ski area.

Our lodging package includes breakfast daily and five dinners, of which one will be an authentic Japanese dinner show. One will have many meal choices including delectable sushi, wonderful selections of traditional Japanese food and the option of amazing French cuisine.

After a hard day of skiing, you'll want to take advantage of the healing thermal waters of the Onsen. You will want to relax those tired muscles and get ready for another incredible ski day tomorrow.

Our optional day tour will include a visit to the Snow Monkey Park. The monkeys are unique to this area and gather around the thermal waters as though they are humans, relaxing in the bath. We'll visit the town of Obuse and Zenko-ji Temple before returning to the hotel.

We'll conclude our time in Hakuba with a Special Ezura Goryu Drumming and Dinner Show. Then, some will travel back to the US, others traveling on their own, and many will be joining us for the extension trip.

Our extension travelers will take our private motor coach from Hakuba to Kanazawa where we'll spend two nights. Kanazawa is a city located in Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan. During our city tour we'll see an array of cultural attractions which makes it a popular destination. It was a great castle town ruled by an influential leader from the 17th century to the second half of the 19th century. Kanazawa has not suffered from any war devastation or big natural disasters. Thus, Kanazawa has maintained rows of historical houses and various traditional handicrafts and traditional performing arts.

We'll then travel by the bullet train from Kanazawa to Kyoto.

An optional day excursion is planned to visit one of Japan's most famous winter spots on a 3.5 hour tour of the Jigokudani Monkey Park. View the red-faced Japanese Macaques - also known as Snow Monkeys - as they bathe in the steaming hot springs, then follow walking trails within the park. *photos / Sean Mc Erlean, Holidaze Tours*

Kyoto is the capital city of Kyoto Prefecture, located in the Kansai region of Japan. It is most well known in Japanese history for being the former Imperial capital of Japan for more than one thousand years, as well as, a major part of the Kyoto-Osaka-Kobe metropolitan area. Kyoto served as Japan's capital and the emperor's residence from 794 until 1868. It is one of the country's ten largest cities with a population of 1.5 million people and a modern face. The city was dropped from the list of target cities for the atomic bomb and escaped destruction during World War II. Countless temples, shrines and other historically priceless structures survive in the city today, and we'll get to see many of them!

Our next adventure will take us by bullet train from Kyoto to Tokyo. Upon arrival, we'll be met by a local city guide to begin our immersion into the Asian culture of Tokyo. We'll visit the city's most famous temples and shrines. Tokyo, officially Tokyo Metropolis, is one of the 47 prefectures of Japan and has been the capital since 1869. The Greater Tokyo Area is the most populous metropolitan area in the world. It is widely considered the largest and one of the greatest and most futuristic cities the world has to offer. It is the seat of the Emperor of Japan, the Japanese government and the National Diet. Tokyo is in the Kant region on the southeastern side of the main island Honshu, and includes the Izu Islands and Ogasawara Islands. Tokyo was formerly named Edo when Shogun Tokugawa Ieyasu made the city as his headquarters in 1603. It became the capital after Emperor Meiji moved his seat to the city from Kyoto in 1868; at that time Edo was renamed Tokyo. Tokyo Metropolis was formed in 1943 from the merger of the former Tokyo Prefecture and the city of Tokyo.

While in Tokyo, we'll have some free time to explore this incredible city and we'll offer a special optional day tour to Mt. Fuji. We'll journey to Japan's pastoral countryside to see the famous Mount Fuji in all its glory. This dormant volcano last erupted 300 years ago, and the mountain's perfectly shaped cone has inspired artists and poets for centuries.

So, traveling with the FWSA International team provides you the opportunity to experience, achieve personal fulfillment and self-discovery in ways you may never had imagined. We think the purpose of time off is to take a break from your daily routine, to allow yourself to recharge and think about other things. And, travel does this better than anything else. We discover things about others and ourselves, as well as, seeing the world through a different lens, which then enriches our lives.

One of the reasons the ski slopes of Japan have become internationally recognized as a prime destination for skiers and snowboarders is because of its consistent snowfall and massive amounts of powder. In the Hakuba Valley, there are nine major ski resorts united with one common lift pass which are linked by a shuttle bus service. *photo courtesy of Ski Japan*

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10th Annual Dive Trip is Planned for the Philippines - Fall, 2019

Puerto Galera / Dumaguete / Dauin / Apo Island

by Randy Lew
Dive Trip Leader, FWSA

The FWSA 2019 Dive Trip to the Philippines, the center of the world's marine biodiversity, will be in late September to mid-October 2019. The main trip will be a 9-night package to the amazing Marco Vincent Dive Resort in Puerto Galera on the renowned White Beach. A 5-night pre-trip to the Azure Dive Resort will offer a totally different perspective with the spectacular diving in the Dumaguette/Dauin area.

Schools of a variety of fish and clear waters make the Philippines one of the world's top diving centers. Plan to join the FWSA on this adventure.
photo / Roátan Charter

Puerto Galera

Puerto Galera is a soothing vision of shimmering seas surrounded by lush mountains. It is considered one of the most beautiful and developed beach resort communities in the country. The water is certainly the main attraction of the island. It's crystal clear and shimmering, especially during the hot summer months. The sea, framing Puerto Galera, is ideal for swimming, sailing, surfing, snorkeling and scuba diving. In fact, one doesn't have to go by boat to get to a dive site. Within a kilometer from the coast, schools of Moorish idols, trumpet fish, frog fish, lion fish and leaf fish weave in and out of thriving corals and sea anemones while species of starfish – from the speckled red-and-white to the neon-blue Pacific – rest on the sandy floor.

Gradually sloping beaches, with the terrain ranging from powder, white sand to grainy-dark sand to smooth stones to rough coral rubble, comprise a large chunk of the island's 25 thousand hectares. The Department of Tourism's last count pegs the number of resorts at 115. Pockets of isolated, and virtually resort-less coves and beaches are tucked between massive rock formations. Puerto Galera is a tropical paradise that is both rustic and thriving. By day, it echoes with the soft breeze and the pounding waves. At night, it comes to life

Another bonus for Puerto Galera is that the topography of the coastline has sheltered areas where you can dive in most conditions. Very few diving days are lost due to bad weather each year. The Philippines has around twenty named storm systems each year. Not many affect Puerto Galera, as storms are more prone to affect the east coast of the Philippines.

The Puerto Galera diving area stretches from White Beach right around to Coral Cove. It is part of the Verde Island Passage and named by some scientists as the center of the world's marine biodiversity. There are over an estimated 3,000 marine species including a hundred new species discovered within the last few years.

In this area, we have nearly fifty dive sites. The sites are an interesting mix of sloping reefs, coral gardens, deep pinnacles, ship wrecks, channel dives, muck diving, drift dives and sea grass beds. The range of depths means that the scuba diving is great for open water students right through to technical divers.

Due to the large tide difference, especially around the full and new moons, the drift diving can be an exhilarating experience. Canyons is the best place to enjoy the ride. You can see schools of jacks, sweetlips, fusiliers, snappers and batfish, all feeding in the nutrient rich current. Occasional larger visitors like eagle rays, Spanish mackerel and great barracuda often cruise by. The second and third canyons are covered in amazing soft corals. These delicate corals offer a kaleidoscope of wonderful colors that will blow you away.

There are notable ship wrecks around Puerto Galera. The Alma Jane is the most popular. She was sunk in 2003 and lies in thirty meters of water. This wreck has a large school of photogenic bat fish. You can penetrate this wreck easily, as there is plenty of natural light to guide you through the cargo holds. The holds are full of Cardinal fish, and you can see the male carrying its eggs in its mouth. Look out for the small air pockets in the ceiling of the holds, where you may see Banded sea snakes. There is some really nice soft coral growth on the outside of the vessel where you can see many shrimp and crab species.

There are three wrecks in Sabang Bay, which are full of marine life, like leaf scorpion fish, stone fish and harlequin shrimps. Around the east side there are the remnants of a Japanese patrol boat from World War II. In Manila Channel you can find a wreck that is lying on its side and has some nice sponges and a resident frog fish.

There are some really spectacular muck dive sites in Puerto Galera Bay. The most famous area is Giant Clams. It's not uncommon to see multiple Thorny (Spiny) Seahorses. High on the most wanted list for divers are mimic octopus, flamboyant cuttlefish, blue ring octopus, hairy frogfish, ornate ghost pipe and mototi octopus. The other sites in the area are Ship Yard and Montani. You can find some great bottom dwellers like the wonderpus, velvet ghost pipefish and pygmy cuttlefish. Another muck diving area is at White Beach, where you can find bobtail squid, stargazer and coconut octopus on this underrated dive site.

For shark fans, there are a few dive sites where you may have a chance to see them. The area around Kilima has been known for sightings of thresher sharks. Hibo reef is just a few minutes away from White Beach, where you can see resident white tips sharks.

If you are a fan of beautiful coral gardens, then you will be impressed with the scuba diving in Puerto Galera. There are plenty of gently sloping reef dives which are full of color and life. We have barrel sponges that are six feet high that have taken hundreds of years to grow. You can see eight species of anemone fish. Sabang Bay has a sea grass area with resident green turtles. Fans of nudibranch will be happy to learn that we have over six hundred species. Another of the most famous, but hard to spot favorites, is the Pygmy Seahorse. These tiny guys live on sea fans and can be found on a number of dive sites around PG.

You can have all this fun in Puerto Galera without even visiting the main diving attraction which is Verde Island. It's hard to put into words just how good it is. There is a wall of fish that make it hard to see the reef. I would say it has the most fish per square inch than any other dive site in the whole of the Philippines.

Marco Vincent Resort, Philippines *(9 nights)*

Experience the irresistible rhythm of an island's drum beat. See the untamed charm of Puerto Galera. The Marco Vincent Resort offers enjoyable, comfortable and worry-free stay because of its premier quality, service and entertainment.

This Hotel Resort is approximately 100 meters from the renowned White Beach of Puerto Galera. It is an exclusive retreat offering the utmost in relaxation, recreation and fine dining. It is the perfect venue for family vacations, weddings, parties, conferences, seminars, company team building, private gatherings; or simply communing with the exquisite natural surroundings.

Marco Vincent has the best dive boat in the area, "Big Beth," and some truly amazing dive masters. They will spot some of the smallest creatures that you generally pass right over. They also have one dive master for every six divers so you really get custom dives!

Dumaguete / Dauin / Apo Island

Dumaguete is a university town. The population is somewhat more than 100,000 people, with 30,000 of these constituting the student population. Foremost of the city's educational institutions is Silliman University, the oldest American private university in the Philippines, as well as, the first Protestant school to be founded in a predominantly Catholic country. Among the famous landmarks of its campus are the Silliman Hall (built in 1903) which houses the Anthropology Museum, the Luce Auditorium (considered as the Cultural Center of the South) and its Marine Laboratory Museum which houses the second largest whale bone collection in the world.

Located in the southern Visayas, along the southern coast of Negros Island, the waters near Dauin and Dumaguete offer one of the best places on earth for macro enthusiasts and those seeking out interesting creatures, often found during what is known as muck diving.

The dive sites near Dauin consist of sandy, silty bottoms with the occasional coral reef, but the stars of the show are the rare and bizarre critters found in this unique, volcanic environment. From all types of frogfish to flamboyant cuttlefish to ornate ghost pipe fish, photographer or not, you will be amazed by the creatures found here.

One of the highlights in the area is the world-famous Apo Island. There are different dive sites ranging from beginner level to experienced levels. Depth ranges from 15 feet down to 90 feet. A complete contrast to the sandy shores of Dauin, Apo Island is surrounded by coral walls and sloping reefs overflowing with marine life. The well-preserved condition of the marine life in Apo makes it always an unforgettable dive experience, from fascinating soft coral gardens to sea snakes, turtles, huge schools of jacks and barracudas, along with the occasional frogfish! Apo island has it all.

The world-famous place to see whale sharks is only two hours away by boat. In Oslob, divers and snorkelers have the chance to get a close-up experience with the gentle giants. More than 10 whale sharks daily can be spotted in just a small area. Since the whale sharks are being fed by krill, there has been a 99% sightings rate through the last few years. The ideal depth is around 5m. Trips to Oslob are usually combined with dives in Sumilon.

Azure Dive & Yoga Resort, Philippines

(Pre-trip 5 nights)

The Azure Dive and Yoga Resort is a tropical haven tucked away neatly at the small, sleepy town of Dauin, Negros Oriental. It sits on a sprawling 1,620-square meter terrain that gently slopes down to a sandy stretch, just before it merges with the warm, coastal waters of the Bohol Sea. At first glance, the two-story, white-washed structure, robust hardwood posts, and indigenous cogon roofing will already distinctly place you on the Philippines map. The resort was conscientiously built with the Filipino heritage in mind; an extraordinary touch of the Filipino culture can be experienced within its unassuming spaces.

The Azure Dive and Yoga Resort is the quintessence of the Filipino spirit – warm as the inviting blue waters of its private beach; gracious as the palm fronds that bend in the breeze. The unobtrusive presence of a highly-trained staff ensures efficient service and utmost privacy for all guests. The rooms were designed to mimic the comforts of a modern Filipino home, providing tranquil private spaces to retreat to at the end of each day.

There are 13 superior deluxe bedrooms, all with private balconies that provide stunning views of the ocean. Ultra-comfortable Memory Foam mattresses are used on all beds; amenities include air conditioning, flat screen televisions with cable connection, hot and cold shower, and high-speed WIFI. The in-suite bathrooms are built with Kohler fixtures, including luxurious rain showers.

I hope you will be able to join us on this exciting and amazing adventure! Contact *Randy Lew* at ***fwsa13randy@telis.org***.

Note: *See the 2018-2019 digital edition of the Far West Skier's Guide for a summary of FWSA 2018 Ski and Adventure Trips and updates.*

We want to invite you to experience the world with FWSA, an organization you know and trust, to provide unique tours and quality travel at a Great Value!

Upcoming FWSA International Travel Planned

- ***2019 Japan - Hakuba Valley Ski Resort (home of the 1998 Nagano Olympics) with a Pre-Trip to Niseko and Extension Trip to Kanazawa, Kyoto and Tokyo - January***
- ***2019 10th Annual Scuba Dive trip in the Philippines - September***
- ***2020 Ski Davos, Switzerland and adventure trip to Portugal - March***
- ***2020 Adventure Trip to Croatia – Fall, 2020***
- ***2021 Ski Solden, Austria - TBD***

Mark your calendars now to join us!

Join The FWRA Ski Racing Program

by Bob Ellis
Vice President of Racing, FWSA
President, FWRA

Last season, we ended the year with strong snowfall and a very wet spring, which has turned into a very hot summer in the Sierra Mountains. Hopefully, this will result in a nice wet winter in the Sierras and some great skiing. The Race Leagues have set their race schedules for the 2018-2019 race season, and once again we look to bash some more gates this year on the various ski hills that we race on.

Last year, the Far West Championships were held at Mammoth Mountain, and the wet weather hit us hard as we were forced to cancel the first two days of the event, however, we were able to put on the slalom and the giant slalom on Sunday for those that hung around and waited out the weather. The Mammoth Mountain race crew did a fantastic job of prepping the courses after all the bad weather of the previous two days, and the race conditions were excellent. After the dust settled, San Diego League was the big winner with the most points and walking away with the Overall Points Award, Open League came in 2nd, and ULLR was 3rd for the Adults. In the Junior Division, Open League won the Overall Award and the Most Points Per Racer Award. The Roma McCoy Trophy for most points per racer, ULLR came in 1st, Open League was 2nd, and San Diego secured 3rd place.

At the Ski Week at Banff, the races were held at Lake Louise where the racers had fun GS courses, which included a variety of terrain changes and slopes. The Joe Ross Award was won by the Phoenix Ski Club, the Lake Louise All Councils Award was won by the Sierra Council, and the Dual GS Council Challenge Race was cancelled due to too much powder, and we had very few complaints as everybody enjoyed the deep powder immensely.

In 2019 at Steamboat Ski Week, the Dual GS Council Challenge will have teams of 6 members instead of 8, with a minimum of 2 women or children per team. It will be a match race, where each racer will be racing

Large Photo: Numerous racers competed for the gold on the 2018 FWSA Banff Ski Week. The course was on the slopes of Lake Louise. Pictured from top to bottom are: Joyce Hedlund, Aerospace Ski Club; Nancy Ellis, Cabernet Ski and Race Club; and Linda Johnston, Phoenix Ski Club. *photos provided by Nancy Ellis*

TOP: Bob Ellis presented the Joe Ross Award to Arleigh Meiners on behalf of the Phoenix Ski Club, who received the award for the most points for racing at the 2018 Banff Ski Week. LOWER: Bob also presented the Lake Louise All Councils Award to Jo Simpson, Sierra Council President. Sierra received the award for having the most points for racing at the 2018 Banff Ski Week.
photos provided by Nancy Ellis

against themselves, as the difference in time between each racer's first and second runs will be calculated. The team with the lowest net difference of their five racers will be the winner.

Also at Ski Week this year, we will be having the theme of "Night at the Movies" for all the parties and the Dual GS Council Challenge Race. This year, we will be having two Giant Slalom Races at Steamboat. We look forward to having a great time at Steamboat and we hope you will all join us there.

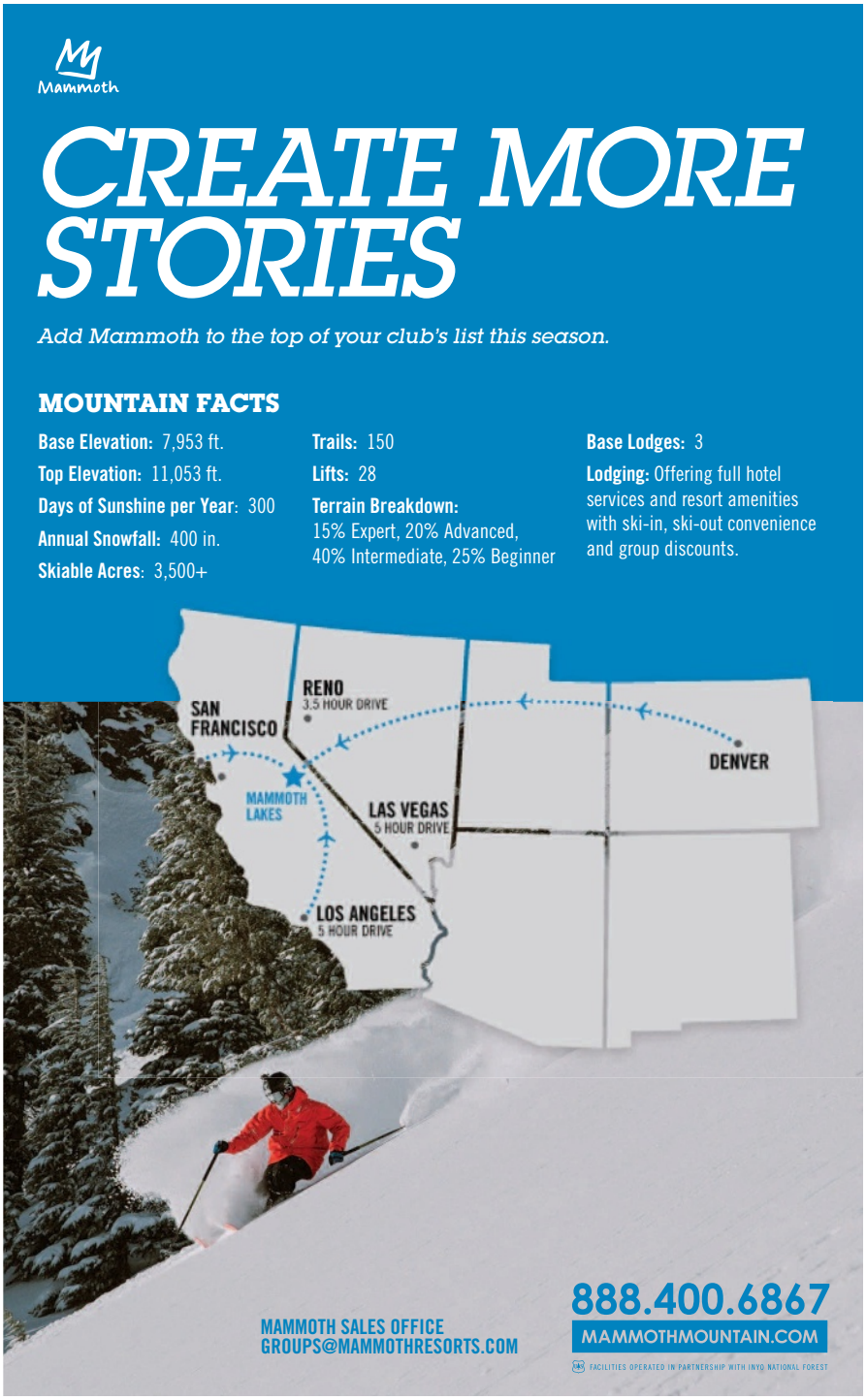
As of press time, the dates and location of the 2019 FWRA Championships have not yet been determined. Check websites for updated information.

2018 Banff Ski Week

by Nancy Ellis, *Vice President - North American Travel, FWSA*

Far West Ski Association would like to thank all of the generous donors to our 2018 Banff Ski Week held February 3 - 10, 2018

- Abominal Sports
- Aardvark Pizza & Sub
- Banff Avenue Brew
- Banff Grizzly House
- Bison Restaurant
- Elk & Oarsman
- Old Spaghetti Factory.
- Park Distillery.
- Saltlik Steakhouse
- SkiBig3
- Wild Bill's



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2018 - 2019 FWRA Race Schedule

by Bob Ellis
President, FWRA; Vice President - Racing, FWSA

Date	Format	Location
OPEN/SIERRA/SINGLES LEAGUES		
January 19	GS	Alpine Meadows #1
January 20	GS	Alpine Meadows #2
February 16	TBD	Alpine Meadows #3
March 2	GS	Alpine Meadows #4
March 3	SL	Alpine Meadows #5
March 16	GS	Sugar Bowl #6
March 17	GS	Sugar Bowl #7
PACRAT LEAGUE		
January 27	PACRAT #1	Mt. Hood Skibowl
February 10	PACRAT #2	Mt. Hood Meadows
February 24	PACRAT #3	Mt. Hood Skibowl
March 17	PACRAT #4	Mt. Hood Meadows
March 31	PACRAT #5	Timberline
ROKKA/ULLR LEAGUES (SCHUSSKI & SAN DIEGO – See ULLR LEAGUE)		
December 15		Mammoth #1
January 9 - 11	ROKKA Race Camp	Mammoth
January 12		Mammoth #2
February 22		Mammoth #3
March 16	SoCals - GS/SL	Mammoth
ALL LEAGUES		
November 26 - 30	Mammoth Masters Race Camp	Mammoth
January 9 - 11	ROKKA Race Camp	Mammoth
February 2 - 9	FWSA Ski Week - GS / SL	Steamboat, Colorado
TBD	FWRA Championships	TBD
TBD	Pacesetters / Clinic	TBD
TBD	Championships - SL	TBD
TBD	Championships - GS	TBD

Schedules subject to change.
Check league websites or www.fwra.com for latest information.

Awards & Silent Auction Donors for the 2018 FWRA Championships at Mammoth Mountain

by Nancy Ellis, *Financial Officer, FWRA*

Far West Racing Association would like to thank all of the generous donors to the Silent Auction held at the 2018 Far West Racing Association Championships at Mammoth Mountain. A portion of the proceeds helps fund the FWSA Athletic Scholarship Program.

- Mammoth Race Department, Mammoth
- Paul Vlasveld, Bay Area Snowsports Council
- Nancy Ellis, Sierra League & Council
- John Walsh, Singles League
- Jo Simpson, Sierra League & Council
- Brett Evart, Olympic Club
- Starthaus, Truckee, California
- The Lodge, Tahoe Donner Association, Truckee, California

As of press time, the dates and location of the 2019 FWRA Championships have not yet been determined. Check websites for updated information.

Kris Westman, from Seattle, is a FWSA Scholarship recipient. She skis for the Stevens Pass Alpine Club in Washington State.
photo provided by David Krupp

The FWSA Athletic Scholarship Program Assists Promising Junior Racers

by David Krupp
Athletic Scholarship Committee Chair, FWSA

The Far West Ski Association Athletic Scholarship Program is entering its 15th year, growing from an initial $1,500 in scholarships in 2004 to $16,500 and 19 recipients in the 2017-2018 season. The total awarded since the program's inception is now over $120,000 to over 120 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 Association (USSA) 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 dryland 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; ***Averill Hospitality***, a premier choice in mountain resort accommodations; ***Schure Sports, Inc.*** *(www.karbonmail.com)*, maker of the Karbon line of snowsports apparel, the ***US Ski Team***, and the ***Far West Racing Association (FWRA)***. Their contributions of vacation packages, snowsports apparel, and cash bring in approximately $10,000 per year as raffle and auction proceeds, as well as, direct cash donations.

In addition, our partnership program through clubs and councils afford us approximately one third of our scholarship funding each year. 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***.

Far West Ski Foundation News & Focus

by John Watson
President, FWSF

The Far West Ski Foundation will focus more effort in 2019 on the identification of opportunities regarding Ski Museums. The aim would include a map and description of all the ski museums available to Far West skiers and snowboarders and their stated needs for the future.

The Foundation expects to make grants totaling over $13,000 in the 2018-2019 ski year. That's over two dozen young racers who'll be helped by FWSF. In addition, the Foundation will make grants to organizations providing on snow instruction to the disabled, enabling them to enjoy adaptive skiing. This year, it is the ***High Fives Foundation*** in Truckee ***(highfivesfoundation.org)*** and the historic ***National Sports Center for the Disabled*** (NSCD) in Winter Park, CO ***(info@nscd.org)***. They've been running this program for over 40 years. A prior year grant was made to ***Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra***, umbrella organization for the ***National Wounded Warrior Center*** in Mammoth. And, in a renewed focus on the Foundation's educational mission, museums will get more attention. FWSF made grants this season to the ***Squaw Valley Museum Foundation*** (SMF) ***(olympicskimuseum.org)***, and the ***California Ski Library*** *(**ingrid@skilibrary.com**)* located in Norco, CA. The ***Tahoe Fund*** (Tahoe City) also received a grant for their stewardship services ***(tahoefund.org)***.

The Foundation conducted its first Honors program and a banner was displayed with the portraits of the honorees at the annual meeting of FWSA. The honorees include *Joe Harvis* and *George and Debbie Stewart*. Joe is personally responsible for most of the wines contributed each year at our convention wine auction. The Friends then conduct the auction, which supports a grant to an adaptive ski school. The Stewarts created a Foundation YouTube video in 2014, to describe what we're about. Check it out on YouTube under Far West Ski Foundation.

And, you can do your part by contributing to the Far West Ski Foundation. We're on the web at ***farwestskifoundation.org*** and you can make your contribution by check or through PayPal (they give the foundation its services without fees). The simplest address for a check through the US mail is *FWSF, Box 2768, Fallbrook, CA 92088.*

In coordination with FWSA, the Foundation will conduct a call for nominations for Far West heroes of snowsport. Those selected for 2019 will have a portrait and short bio portrayed at the FWSA annual meeting in a Hall of Heroes. In 2019, that will be in Indian Wells, CA. Think of all the unrecognized people you have met or worked with in snowsports who have contributed significantly to its success. The person need not be a member of FWSA and the recognition could be posthumous. Start now thinking about this and compile your own short list; start with the three most remembered. Let us know about your list at *FWSF, Box 2768, Fallbrook, CA 92088*, or talk to a Foundation Trustee.

Remember to brunch with friends in October on Founders Day 2018 and 2019. For this and all seasons, ski with friends while you are enfolded in the bounty provided us!

Do You Have Your REAL - ID?

Starting October 1, 2020 every air traveler will need a REAL ID - a compliant license, or another acceptable form of identification, for domestic air travel. A REAL ID is a federally approved card that can be used to board a domestic airplane. Passed by Congress in 2005, the REAL ID Act enacted the 9/11 Commission's recommendation that the Federal Government set standards for the issuance of sources of identification, such as driver's licenses. The Act established minimum security standards for state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards. Beginning Oct. 1, 2020, if you plan to use your state-issued ID or license to fly within the U.S., make sure it is REAL ID compliant. If you are not sure if your ID complies with REAL ID, check with your state department of motor vehicles. You won't want to miss any of the FWSA travel opportunities!

History Committee Offers New Involvement

by John Watson
History Committee Chair, FWSA

The History Committee is launching a new Hall of Heroes program and further identifying clubs that may be eligible for designation as an Historic Ski Club.

With the cooperation of council historians and officers, a systematic identification process will be executed to find all the clubs that may be eligible for designation as Historic Ski Club. Designation requires a simple proof of founding in 1969 or earlier. This can be copies of newsletter or newspaper clippings, minutes, incorporation papers or some other evidence. A reproducible copy of the club logo will be required for publicity. This is a good chance to find where your records, trophies, memorabilia, minutes and photos are stored, put them in some order, assure their continuing security and refresh your memories of good times past! The California Ski Library has offered to take in your materials, as well. FWSA now has 23 Historic Ski Clubs and one Historic Ski Council designated; help us run this total up to 30! Once designated, a digital medallion may be used in visual or online presentation or on letterhead.

Hall of Registry Nominations Requested

Many people have been recognized top to bottom for service, achievement, racing finishes, support to programs or organizations. Did we miss anyone? Are there unrecognized or under recognized people or teams out there that we shouldn't forget? After all, they make up the base of organized skiing. The History Committee, in cooperation with the Far West Ski Foundation, is looking for your input regarding these folks and is starting a Hall of Heroes registry based on input from individuals or from clubs and councils. Neither the proposed hero nor nominator need be a member of FWSA. It would be best if the nominee be forwarded through your council history committee. Each nominee would need a photo and a short biographic sketch outlining the reason why this person is a hero. To get started, send the name and reason for recognition to ***John Watson***, Box 2768, Fallbrook, CA 92088. You can also find the History Chair on ***www.fwsa.org***. Start thinking about your nominee and create your own "short list."

Two Clubs Added to Historic Roster

Two clubs, both from Los Angeles Council, have been added to the roster of 23 FWSA Historic Ski Clubs and one Historic Ski Council (BAC). All have conducted the necessary research and provided proof of operations for the past 50-plus years. The ***Long Beach Ski Club*** was founded in 1938 and the Wailers in 1958. The ***Wailers*** have expanded their name to reflect the broader spectrum of activities offered. It's now ***Wailers: Ski, Snowboard and Social Club.*** Historic ski clubs may use the official medallion on their website and documents.

The FWSA is looking at all council rosters to identify candidates for designation as Historic Ski Club. Our website, ***www.fwsa.org,*** gives the details for application and requirements (including a high-res logo for print and banner). Deadline will be in the spring; exact date will be displayed on the website. Ski clubs are a viable and valuable part of the community and the roster of historic clubs and council prove their worth to it.

Milestone Birthday Coming Soon. Join in the Celebration!

The Association will be 90 years old the first weekend in October, 2020. The actual date is October 7, 1930. We're establishing a Founders Day on that date in 2018. We will establish and publicize a Founders Day through councils and clubs on this date for 2019 and 2020. We will celebrate in San Francisco in 2020, where the Association started, with the date to be published. Let's convene in San Francisco in 2020. But, in the years before 2020, enjoy Sunday brunches with friends and hoist a glass to skiing.

Two other programs will continue the traditional competitions: the Club/Council History Recognition and the Steamboat Western Ski Heritage Prize. The results from all programs will be either announced or displayed at the annual convention. Deadlines for submission are set by the Board of Directors, and for 2019, submitted materials should be in the hands of the committee by March 25. Details are published on ***www.fwsa.org.***

Historic Ski Clubs & Council

Historic Club	Location	Council	Founded
Cascade	Portland, OR	Northwest	1928
Fresno	Fresno, CA	Central	1934
Longview	Longview, WA	Northwest	1935
San Diego	San Diego, CA	San Diego	1935
Sequoia	Visalia, CA	Sierra	1935
Mt. Hood Ski Patrol	Mt. Hood, OR	Northwest	1937
Bogus Basin	Boise, ID	Intermountain	1937
Long Beach	Long Beach, CA	Los Angeles	1938
Bay Area Council	San Francisco, CA	Bay Area	1940
Schnee Vogeli	Portland, OR	Northwest	1942
Idaho Falls	Idaho Falls, ID	Northwest	1947
Phoenix	Phoenix, AZ	Arizona	1948
Grindelwald	Los Angeles, CA	Los Angeles	1949
Vand Bakke	West Covina, CA	Los Angeles	1950
Desert	Richland, WA	Northwest	1953
Hawaii	Alea, HI	Northwest	1953
Balboa	Newport Beach, CA	Orange	1955
Skiyente	Portland, OR	Northwest	1955
Wailers	Los Angeles, CA	Los Angeles	1957
Cheyenne	Cheyenne, WY	Intermountain	1959
Single	Los Angeles, CA	Los Angeles	1961
Snowbounders	Anaheim, CA	Orange	1962
Bergfreunde	Portland, OR	Northwest	1967
4 Seasons West	Los Angeles, CA	Los Angeles	1967

Rafting photo by Linda Johnston ▶

Diamond Peak photos by Emilio Trampuz ▼

▼ *photos / L.R. Peck Photography*

▲

Numerous FWSA Convention attendees came early to experience what the beautiful Lake Tahoe Area offers. From Left to Right: A group of adventurers traveled to Diamond Peak Ski Area to hike along the wooded slopes. They were able to gather for lunch to relax and admire the stunning views. Another group rafted along the Truckee River. Many of the attendees competed in the 12th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament held at Lakeridge Golf Course sponsored by Club Med. Pictured are Chris O'Connor (Club Med representative) and the first place winning team - Mark Conn, Lynnell Calkins, Bill Ramoni and Jan Walters. Susie Casilas, with Club Med, joins them. The Pool Party at the Atlantis commenced the Friday events, followed by the Silent Auction and Trade Show, where attendees and resort representatives mingled. Club delegates learned about numerous resorts and gathered information for planning their next ski trips, cruises, biking or diving adventures.

Friday evening participants attended the Silent Auction and Trade Show, visiting industry booths.

The Sierra League and Council and the Bay Area Snow Sports Council co-hosted the 85th Annual Far West ski Association Convention at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa in Reno, June 7-10. The sharing of the duties worked well, and we had many volunteers to help out from both councils throughout the weekend.

The first arrivals to the Convention enjoyed a rafting trip on the Truckee River sponsored by ***Brian Head Resort*** and organized by *John Walsh* of the Bay Area Snowsports Council's Inskiers Ski and Snowboard Club.

The Convention kicked off with the **Reno Rumble**, a pub crawl in downtown Reno organized by Reno Ski and Recreation Club member *Linda Russ* and sponsored by ***Steamboat Ski and Resort Corporation***. The DJ at the last stop had everyone up dancing.

The fun continued on Friday morning with the **12th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament**, and a hike to Diamond Peak Ski Area that provided wonderful views of beautiful Lake Tahoe from the ***Snowflake Lodge*** where the resort provided hikers with lunch.

The Golf Tournament was organized by *Bob and Nancy Ellis* of the Cabernet Ski and Race Club and was sponsored by ***Club Med***. The golfers enjoyed a continental breakfast, golf and lunch at the ***Lakeridge Golf Course***. *Lauri Thompson* of the Reno Ski and Recreation Club organized and led the hike that was sponsored by ***Diamond Peak Ski Resort***. A number of Convention attendees enjoyed a **Spa Day** sponsored by ***Aspen / Snowmass*** and ***Aspen Tourism***.

The Central Council of California took responsibility for the **Pool Party** on Friday afternoon that was sponsored by ***Jackson Hole Mountain Resort***. *Kim Reihl* of the Fresno Ski Club and Clovis Ski and Travel Club organized the fun.

Friday evening's **33rd Annual Silent Auction and Trade Show** was well attended by delegates and host council club members. We are appreciative of our many exhibitors who provided bid packages and ***Aspen / Snowmass*** sponsored the event. A portion of the proceeds were presented to ***Achieve Tahoe***, who served as bid runners. *Kevin Shea Mobile DJ* provided music for dancing.

On Saturday morning, the FWSA Convention was called to order and delegates proceeded to the Travel Expo to talk about future trips for their clubs and councils with the various resort and tour operators represented. Industry partners presented bids for the 2020 FWSA North American Ski Week.

Three **Snowsports Leadership Academy** presentations were available to delegates to further their knowledge about club leadership. *"Make Your Non-Profit Passion a Successful Reality"* was presented by *Dave Ludwig*, founder of ***Hope on the Slopes***, a non-profit dedicated to raising funds for the American Cancer Society. *"Knock Knock, Who's There to Take Over? Successful Succession Planning"* was presented by *Todd Hood* of the Snowbusters Ski Club of Pasadena and a facilitator in change management. *"I Want to Go on The Trip, Too. Maximizing Travel of Your Clients with Special Needs"* was presented by *Jane Gutierrez* with panel members *Hannah Nishimoto* and *Sigrid Noack* of the Unrecables Ski Club in the Los Angeles Council.

Two public affairs panels were offered that featured Olympians, winners of FWSA

A High Sierra Stampede Was Held in Reno:

FWSA Convention

by Jo Simpson
Host Council Convention Coordinator, FWSA

2018

scholarships to promising junior racers and other notable representatives of the ski world. In addition, *Bob Ellis* led a stimulating panel on *"The Future of Recreational Racing"*.

The **Keynote Speaker** following the luncheon, was *Billy Kidd*, 1964 Olympic Slalom Silver Medalist, who regaled the audience with his Olympic Games competition experiences.

The Saturday evening banquet, with the theme **"High Sierra Stampede"**, was sponsored by ***Alterra Mountain Company*** and ***IKON Pass***, and included awards presentations that are outlined elsewhere in this magazine. A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the ***Councils' Man and Woman of the Year*** awards to *Kim Hovren* and *Michael Bouton*, both of the Intermountain Ski Council. More information about all the awards presented is available in other articles.

Delegates got down to business on Sunday morning with the election of officers for 2018-2019. Awards were presented to clubs and councils for their winning newsletters, websites, and charity work.

Sierra and Bay Area are grateful to all the FWSA volunteers who guided us through the Convention planning and execution. It takes a village to run a Convention and we couldn't be prouder to be part of ours.

(More Convention news appears on the following pages.)

Olympian Billy Kidd, was the 2018 FWSA Convention Keynote Speaker. During his presentation, Billy held up his 1964 Olympic Silver Medal and the Gold Medal he won in the 1970 World Championships.
photos in the Convention section by L.R. Peck Photography

Keynote Speaker, Billy Kidd, Captivated His Audience

by Randy Lew
Past President, FWSA

The Keynote Speaker for the FWSA 2018 Convention was 1964 Olympic Silver Medalist, *Billy Kidd*. Billy has been a great friend and frequent attendee at past conventions and is the Director of Skiing for Steamboat Ski Resort, the site of the FWSA 2019 Ski Week.

At the 1964 Winter Olympics in Innsbruck, Austria, Billy and teammate *Jimmie Heuga*, became the first American men to win Olympic medals in alpine skiing, winning silver and bronze in the slalom. Six years later, Billy won the Gold medal in Combined and a Bronze medal in the Slalom at the 1970 World Championships in Val Gardena, Italy. He retired from the World Cup after that and enjoyed a successful pro ski racing career from 1970 to 1972.

Billy is an outstanding spokesman for the sport and is truly passionate when speaking about skiing. He held our luncheon crowd quite captive, talking of his many experiences and insights into the sport. Many great World Cup racers have come from the Far West region including *Jill Kinmont*, *Tamara McKinney*, *Kyle Rasmussen*, *Daron Rahlves*, *Julia Mancuso*, and *Stacey Cook*.

The one thing that sticks in my mind, before he ended his talk was, *"When you are on the podium, receiving your medal, never forget to thank your parents, and me, for getting you there!"*

Sandy Gaudette receives the Bill Mackey Award plaque from FWSA President, Steve Coxen. *photo / L.R. Peck Photography*

Sandy Gaudette, of SkiGroup.net, Receives 2018 Bill Mackey Award

by Nancy Ellis and Gloria Raminha

Sandy Gaudette, Group Sales Manager for SkiGroup.net, received the 2018 Far West Ski Association's Bill Mackey Award for outstanding service to the skiing public by a ski area employee.

Sandy was recognized for her involvement with Far West Ski Association for nearly twenty years. As a member of FWSA, Sandy voluntarily assisted travel staff in securing air and ground transportation for ski weeks. As air became more difficult to secure, Sandy showed us the value a tour operator could bring to the FWSA Travel Program. For several years, Sandy provided her expertise to FWSA Travel without receiving any compensation.

Now that tour operators are necessary for a successful ski week, Sandy has provided us bid proposals and been involved with numerous trips. Most recently, she assisted us on the 2018 Ski Week in Banff, Canada. We are grateful for Sandy's assistance for so many of our FWSA Ski Weeks, including two of FWSA's largest ski weeks, both in Whistler, and both over 700 participants. Sandy understands the complexities of holding a ski week out of the United States.

Comments from her employer are: *The most loyal employee ever; a ski club and council's BIGGEST advocate; the most organized sales person in the industry; and, the hardest working sales person in the industry.*

Additionally, Sandy has a passion for skiing and golfing, and spending time with great friends and family.

Because of Sandy's tireless work on behalf of FWSA, its clubs and councils, she embodies the spirit of the Bill Mackey Award. Sandy is highly deserving of recognition as the 2018 Bill Mackey Award recipient.

Sugar Bowl Resort Recognized with the Tommi Tyndall Award

by Catherine Ohl and Gene Fulkerson

Sugar Bowl Resort is one of the nations's oldest ski areas. It retains its charms, but with modernization. *photo / Sugar Bowl Resort*

Sugar Bowl Resort received the Far West Ski Association's Tommi Tyndall Award, presented to a ski area or tour operator that has made a distinguished contribution to skiing. The award was announced at the FWSA Convention in Reno.

Perched atop Tahoe's Donner Summit, Sugar Bowl Resort is the closest major resort

2018 FWSA Convention Sponsors

by Jeannine Davis / ***Silent Auction Chair, FWSA***
Debbi Kor / ***Vice President - Marketing, FWSA***

- Delegate Book Printing
  Holidaze Ski Tours
- Delegate Neck Wallets
  Cahilty Hotel & Suites
- Delegate Tote Bags
  Reno Tahoe CVA
- Rafting on the Truckee River
  Brian Head Resort
- Pub Crawl
  Steamboat Ski & Resort Corp.
- Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament
  Club Med
- Spa Day
  Aspen/Snowmass & Snowmass Tourism
- Hike at Lake Tahoe
  Diamond Peak Resort
- Pool Party
  Jackson Hole Mountain Resort
- Beverage Donor
  Great Basin Brewing Company
- Silent Auction Welcome Party
  Aspen / Snowmass
- Silent Auction Welcome Party Beverage Host
  Sports America Tours
- Continental Breakfast
  Mammoth Mountain Ski Resort
- Saturday Luncheon
  Vail Resorts
- Luncheon Beverage Hosts
  Winter Park Resort
  Ski.Com
- Keynote Speaker Presentation
  BikeTours.Com
- Awards Banquet Beverage Host
  Big Sky Resort
- Awards Banquet
  Alterra Mountain Company / Ikon Pass
- Sunday Brunch
  Club Express
- Far West Councils' Man & Woman of the Year
  Big White Ski Resort
- Far West Athletic Scholarship Program
  Whitefish Mountain Resort
  Averill Hospitality
  Schure Sports, Inc.
- Western Ski Heritage Award
  Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation
- Safety Person of the Year
  Telluride Ski Resort
- Environment Award
  Aspen / Snowmass
- Far West Convention Host Hotel & Convention Center
  Atlantis Casino Resort Spa

Door Prize Donors

Kiss My Face
Chaos
Vail Resorts
Brian Head Resort
Crested Butte Mountain Resort
Ski.Com
Atlantis Casino Resort Spa
Hyatt Regency Indian Wells
Nevada Sunset Winery
Bob's Ski & Board Shop
Club Med
Big Sky Ski Resort

to Sacramento and the Bay Area. Sugar Bowl offers terrain to accommodate beginners and challenge experts. As one of the country's oldest ski areas, Sugar Bowl has kept its classic ski atmosphere while providing modern amenities. Guests can access the resort through two portals – a quick ride on the historic gondola to the snowbound Village or slope side parking at the modern Mt. Judah Day Lodge.

In the early days, Sugar Bowl hosted celebrities such as Marilyn Monroe, Walt Disney, Warren Miller, Greta Garbo, Errol Flynn, Norma Shearer and Claudette Colbert, who skied at the Resort. Goofy starred in *"The Art of Skiing"* filmed at Sugar Bowl.

Recently voted a Top 25 Ski Resort in North America by *Outside Magazine*, Sugar Bowl Resort offers a unique combination of old-school charm and modern ski resort infrastructure, providing a sense of character that is rarely experienced at other newer resorts. With 13 lifts expanding four peaks across 1,650 acres and 1,500 vertical feet, all covered in 500" of annual snowfall – the most in Tahoe – Sugar Bowl earns the accolades.

The Ski Area Citizens' Coalition (SACC) issued its annual Ski Area Report Card, naming Sugar Bowl Resort as one of the top 10 resorts nationwide, earning an overall grade of "A." The annual report card is issued based upon a resort's efforts to protect habitats and watersheds, address global climate change, and implement environmental policies. In addition to national recognition by the SACC, Sugar Bowl also received the California Department of Resource Recycling and Recovery Waste Reduction Award. In 2010 Sugar Bowl diverted 177 tons of waste, translating to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to taking 94 cars off the road for a year, and a cost savings of more than $10,000. This is the third year the resort has received a Waste Reduction Award by the State of California.

Sugar Bowl's environmental efforts are designed and implemented by the resort's environmental committee, comprised of resort employees and the newly created Energy Conservation Lead position, meeting monthly to brainstorm ideas and improve existing programs. For more information on Sugar Bowl's environmental efforts visit ***www.sugarbowl.com/environment***.

The FWSA recognizes Sugar Bowl Resort for their continued long-term support of the skiing public, the ski Industry, and environmental efforts. The Resort is deserving of recognition as this year's recipient of the Tommi Tyndall Award.

Silent Auction & Travel Expo 2018 Participants

by Jeannine Davis, Michael Bouton and Debbi Kor

The Far West Ski Association, Bay Area Snow Sports Council and Sierra League and Council extend their appreciation and sincere gratitude to the 33th Annual Silent Auction and the 17th Annual Travel Expo participants. The success of this event is made possible by the continued support from our industry partners. Please include these industry partners in your travel plans for 2018 - 2019 and beyond.

49er Inn and Suites/
Town Square Inns, WY
Alpine Adventures, FL
Alterra Mountain Company/Ikon Pass
Aspen/Snowmass, CO
Aspen Skiing Company, CO
Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, NV
Averill Hospitality, MT
Bahia Principe Resort, Mexico
Banff Lodging Company, Canada
Banff Sunshine, Canada
Betty Donellan, TX
Beyond the Boundaries, CA
Big Sky Resort, MT
Big White Ski Resort, Canada
BikeTours.com, TN
Bobo's Ski Board Patio, NV
Brian Head Resort, UT
Clearly Cayman Dive Resorts, FL
ClubExpress, IL
Club Med, FL
Crested Butte Mountain Resort, CO
Deer Valley Resort, UT
Destination Residences Snowmass, CO
Diamond Peak Ski Resort, NV
Drury Hotels Company, MO
Elevation Bike, Ski & Board, Canada
Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel, Canada
Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise, Canada
Granlibakken, CA
Great Basin Brewing Co., NV
Holidaze Ski Tours, NJ
Homewood Mountain Resort, CA
Huntley Lodge, MT
Hyatt Regency Indian Wells Resort & Spa, CA
Incline Village Crystal Bay Visitors Bureau, NV
Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, WY
Kandahar Lodge at Whitefish, MT
Mammoth Mountain Inn, CA
Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, CA
Miracle Springs Resort and Spa, CA
Mountain Modern Motel, WY
Mt. Norquay, Canada
Mt. Rose, NV
Nancy Greene's Cahilty Hotel & Suites at Sun Peaks Resort, Canada
Nevada Sunset Winery, NV
Panorama Mountain Resort, Canada
Powder Mountain, UT
Pure Adventures, AZ
Reno Sparks Convention & Visitors Authority, NV
Roàtan Charter, FL
Schweitzer Mountain Resort, ID
Ski.com, CO
Ski Banff-Lake Louise-Sunshine, Canada
Skigroup.net, CO
smarTours, NY
Snowmass Ski Resort, CO
Snowmass Tourism, CO
Sports America Tours, CA
Steamboat Ski & Resort Corp., CO
Steamboat Resorts by Wyndham, CO
Squaw Valley Academy, CA
Squaw Valley/Alpine Meadows, CA
Sunshine Village Resort, Canada
Sun Peaks Resort, Canada
Sun Peaks Grand Hotel and Conference Centre, Canada
Sun Valley Resort, ID
Telluride Ski Resort, CO
The Crestwood, CO
The Firebrand Hotel, MT
The Lake Louise Ski Resort, Canada
The Selkirk Lodge, ID
The Transportation Network, UT
Vail Resorts, CO
Val D'Isere Condos, CA
Whitefish Mountain Resort, MT
Winter Park Resort, CO
Zermatt Utah Adventure Resort & Spa, UT

To participate in the 2019 Silent Auction and Travel Expo, please contact:
Jeannine Davis, Silent Auction Chair at ***silentauction@fwsa.org***

The FWSA thanks the industry for your support!

Sheri Parshall, Councils' Man and Woman of the Year Chair, presented the 2018 council honorees. They are (L to R): Dennis Leon and Hannah Nishimoto, Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs; Brian Burgess & Nikki Rubio, Bay Area Snow Sports Council; Linda Johnson and Bill Behnke, Arizona Ski Council; Bill Ramoni and Nan Carnal, Sierra League & Council, Kim Hovren, Intermountain Ski Council; Carol Kane, Orange Council of Ski Clubs; Michael Bouton, Intermountain Ski Council; Bill King and Jackie Lane, Northwest Ski Club Council, and Jean McCasey, San Diego Council of Ski Clubs. Not Pictured: Tom Sekreta, San Diego Council of Ski Clubs.

Kim Hovren and Michael Bouton from the Intermountain Ski Council were honored to be chosen as the 2018 FWSA Councils' Man & Woman of the Year. Congratulations!
photos / L.R. Peck Photography

Far West Ski Association Honors its Club and Council Volunteers

by Sheri Parshall
Councils' Man and Woman of the Year Program Chair, FWSA

Intermountain Ski Council members ***Michael Bouton*** and ***Kim Hovren*** were honored as the ***2018 FWSA Councils' Man & Woman of the Year*** recognition winners at this year's Far West Ski Association Annual Convention, held at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa in Reno, Nevada, June 7 - 10. The recognition program, generously sponsored by ***Big White Ski Resort*** since 2002, rewards the efforts of those ski club members who have been outstanding in service to their clubs, councils, FWSA and their communities. The fourteen representatives from eight Far West councils were honored during a special Friday evening reception, as well as, the Saturday Convention Luncheon.

Honorees were judged on their participation in club, council, and regional activities. The hard-working judges participating this year were ***Karen Bonine*** (Arizona Ski Council), ***Kat Severin*** (Bay Area Snow Sports Council), ***Donn Bryant*** (Intermountain Ski Council), ***Sigrid Noack*** (Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs), ***Emilio Trampuz*** (Northwest Ski Club Council), ***Agnes Johnson*** (Orange Council of Ski Clubs), ***Barbara Blasé*** (San Diego Council of Ski Clubs), and ***George Stewart*** (Sierra League and Council).

We're pleased to introduce you to the talented, generous ski club members who have given so much time and energy to the success of their clubs and councils. These are the council honorees for the 2018 Councils' Man & Woman of the Year recognition.

ARIZONA COUNCIL

Linda Johnson and Bill Behnke

Linda, a member of Phoenix Ski Club, has been busy for years arranging social hours, captaining the council's annual trip to Telluride, and developing learn-to-ski and environmental programs. Bill partnered with Linda on the Environmental Stewardship Committee, and also serves as ski trip coordinator and trip captain for several club adventures. Bill is the newly elected president of Phoenix Ski Club.

BAY AREA COUNCIL

Nikki Rubio and Brian Burgess

Nikki is a member, past president and current VP of Rusty Bindings Ski Club, has contributed hugely to annual social organizations/fundraisers sponsored by her club. Brian, a past board member of Inskiers, continues to work on many activities in support of the current board and its activities. Brian is an active racer, and when not racing can be found as a race day volunteer.

INTERMOUNTAIN COUNCIL

Kim Hovren and Michael Bouton

Kim is active on the Bogus Basin Ski Club board, helps manage a local Warren Miller film festival, and is an active Bogus Basin Masters racer. Michael, also a member of Bogus Basin Ski Club, is an active trip and activities leader, and is working with Bogus Basin Ski Resort to develop a host program. He was the 2017 Host Council FWSA Convention Coordinator.

LOS ANGELES COUNCIL

Hannah Nishimoto and Dennis Leon

Hannah, a member of The Unrecables, is a huge cog in the wheel that allows athletes with mental and physical challenges to enjoy snowsports activities at Mammoth Mountain. Dennis, a member of Wailers Ski, Snowboard and Social Club, is the current secretary of the club, organized this year's "River Bash," and provides assistance to the club Social Secretary when needed.

NORTHWEST COUNCIL

Jackie Lane and Bill King

Jackie, a longtime member of Cascade Ski Club, has worked hard on much needed improvements and upgrades to the club's historic lodge, including a beautiful fire pit. She's also a longtime PACRAT racer. Bill, a member of Mountain High Snowsports Club, is currently vice president of Mountain High, and treasurer of NWSCC. Bill also participates as a racer in the PACRAT race league.

ORANGE COUNCIL

Carol Kane

Carol, a member of Snowbounders Ski Club, is the trip VP and represents Snowbounders at all Orange Council meetings. Carol is a party queen for Snowbounders, helping to organize many social functions, and is serving on the 2019 FWSA Host Council Convention Steering Committee.

SAN DIEGO COUNCIL

Jean McCasey and Tom Sekreta

Jean, a member of North Island Snowdrifters, has been instrumental in her club's trips to Mammoth, and other trips outside the state. Jean is also our FWSA Convention Registrar. Jean is the Race Director for NIS, and has been a great fundraiser. Tom, a member of Action Ski and Snowboard Club, has held several offices including president, VP and editor. For the past two years, Tom has served as vice president of San Diego Council.

SIERRA COUNCIL

Nan Carnal and Bill Ramoni

Both Nan and Bill are members of Cabernet Ski and Race; Bill also belongs to Reno Ski & Rec, and Nan is a member of Tahoe Donner Sr. Alpine Ski Club, where's she's currently the Clinic and Race Chair. Bill works hard as the co-treasurer and head gatekeeper of Sierra League and puts in many volunteer hours as Sierra League Race Director.

The Achieve Tahoe Organization Assisted With the Silent Auction

"If I Can Do This, I Can Do Anything!" This is the motto of Achieve Tahoe. This organization's mission is to build health, confidence and independence through winter and summer sports for all ability levels for both children and adults. Members of this group assisted in the Convention's Silent Auction as bid runners. Jeannine Davis, FWSA Silent Auction Chair, presented a donation check to Cindy Smith, the organization's Administrative Director. Standing From Left to Right: Camille Cauchois, Cindy Smith, Michael Hunter, Jeannine Davis and Haakon Lang-ree. Marina Gardiner is sitting in the foreground. *photo provided by Jeannine Davis*

Several FWSA Past Presidents Attended the 2018 Convention

The Annual Far West Ski Association Convention is a wonderful way to keep in touch with friends and travel companions throughout the years. At the 2018 Convention, we had the privilege to have several past presidents attend. From left to right: Mike Sanford (2003-2006); Steve Coxen (2000-2003, 2015-2018); Jane Wyckoff (1981-1985); John Watson (1971-1973) and Randy Lew (2006-2013). *photo / L.R. Peck Photography*

Hans Georg Award

Jo Simpson, Sierra League & Council, is presented with the 2018 Hans Georg Award by the 2017 Hans Georg Award winner, Arleigh Meiners, Arizona Ski Council, and Far West Ski Association President, Steve Coxen. This is the organization's most prestigious award for service by an individual who has contributed over many years. photos / L. R. Peck Photography

Elizabeth "Schatzi" Wood Award

The Elizabeth "Schatzi" Wood Award - given to a FWSA woman who has significantly contributed to skiing over the past two years was awarded to Jane Gutierrez, Los Angeles Council of Ski Club, by Karen James, also a member of LAC, who was the 2017 winner.

2018 FWSA Convention Award Recipients

Hans Georg Award
Jo Simpson
Sierra League & Council

Elizabeth "Schatzi" Wood Award
Jane Gutierrez
Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs

J. Stanley Mullin Award
Todd Hood
Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs

Jimmie Heuga Award
Dee Armstrong
Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs

Jordan-Reily Award
Amy Berry
Tahoe Fund

Bill Mackey Award
Sandy Guadette
SkiGroup.Net

Tommi Tyndall Award
Sugar Bowl Resort

Terry Smith Award
Kevin Kermode
Mammoth Mountain Race Department

Bill Berry Award, Featured News
Dr. Jon Kedrowski, author
"Skiing and Sleeping in the Summits"

Bill Berry Award, Hard News
Justin Scacco, writer for the
"Truckee Sun"

Warren Miller Modern Media Award
Red Bull Media House,
"Peak Season"

President's Awards
- Jane Gutierrez
Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs
- Michael Bouton
Intermountain Ski Council
- Tom Kelly
U. S. Ski and Snowboard

Councils' Man and Woman of the Year
- Michael Bouton,
Intermountain Ski Council
- Kim Hovren
Intermountain Ski Council

Snowsports Builder Award
- John Watson
- Ingrid Wicken
- Fritz Buser

Program Award Recipients

Western Ski Heritage Award
- Ingrid Wicken
Author - *"50 Years of Flight"*

Safety Person of the Year
- Monica Palmer
Sierra League & Council

Charities & Our Community Awards
- Double Diamond 1st Club
Monterey Ski & Social Cub
Bay Area Snow Sports Council
- Diamond 1st Club
Bogus Basin Ski Club
Intermountain Ski Council
- Diamond 2nd Club -
Don Diego Ski Club
San Diego Council

The Strength of Our Organization is Our Volunteers. We Appreciate All You Do!

We Wish to Thank the 2018 Silent Auction Milestone Participants

10 Year Award
Sun Peaks Resort
Nancy Greene's Cahilty Hotel & Suites
Atlantis Casino Resort Spa

15 Year Award
Brundage Mountain Resort
The Lodge at Whitefish Lake

25 Year Award
Deer Valley Resort

30 Year Award
Aspen/Snowmass
Ski Banff, Lake Louise,
Sunshine,
Sun Valley

J. Stanley Mullin Award

Jimmie Heuga Award

Dee Armstrong received the 2018 Jimmie Heuga Award from Billy Kidd and Steve Coxen for her work with the Unrecables Ski Club. The award was named after Heuga, who suffered from MS and started this organization to help others being affected by this disease. He, along with Billy Kidd, were the first American men to medal in downhill ski racing in the 1964 Winter Olympics with a Bronze and Silver respectively.

Jordan-Reily Award

Thank You for Your Efforts!

TOP: Todd Hood (LAC) was honored with the 2018 J. Stanley Mullen Award presented by George Stewart (Sierra League & Council) who received the 2017 Award. This award is given to a FWSA man who has made a decisive contribution to skiing during the past two years. LOWER: The Jordan-Reily Award is given to an individual or organization who has made a significant contribution to disabled skiing. This year's winner was Amy Berry, CEO of the Tahoe Fund, based in the Lake Tahoe Area. This organization raises private and public funds for environmental improvement projects in the Tahoe region.

Bill Berry Award - Featured News

Dr. Jon Kedrowski, author, ski-mountaineer and geographer from Colorado, was awarded the 2018 Bill Berry Award - Featured News, for his book "Skiing and Sleeping in the Summits". photos / L.R. Peck Photography

Bill Berry Award - Hard News

Justin Scacco, writer for the "Truckee Sun", received the Bill Berry Award for Hard News.

Red Bull Media House, the producers of "Peak Season", were awarded The Warren Miller Modern Media Award. *Unable to attend.*

Terry Smith Award

The Terry Smith Award is bestowed on the outstanding individual who has greatly contributed to the advancement of intramural skiing. Kevin Kermode is a highly qualified USSA Alpine Official who devotes his energies to the success and promotion of ski racing in the west. He coached higher level athletes racing competitively at the Jr. Olympic levels during the 1990's and early 2000. During the past 10 years, he has earned USSA certifications as a Level 1 Technical Delegate, Level 3 Chief of Race, Level 3 Chief of Course, and Level 3 Referee. Kevin is involved in the planning and staging of all the racing activities at Mammoth Mountain, both intramural and USSA. His expertise at organizing and supplying the needs of each event are typically the reason that they run so smoothly and timely. photo courtesy of Mammoth Mountain Race Department

The President's Award is given to the individuals, who the President of FWSA feels has done the most to advance the immediate goals of the Association. In 2018, three President Awards were given by President Steve Coxen. Jane Gutierrez, Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs, served as VP of Membership and brought the Snowsports Leadership Academy modules to new heights of excellence. Michael Bouton, Intermountain Ski Council, is the FWSA Travel Expo Chair and spent innumerable volunteer hours and tremendous efforts as Host Council Convention Coordinator for the 84th Annual Convention in 2017 in Boise, Idaho. Tom Kelly recently retired after 32 years of service to U.S. Ski and Snowboard (USSA), with the majority of his tenure in Public Relations and as VP of Communications. Tom was instrumental in promoting the importance of the FWSA Athletic Scholarship program to senior management and generously donating items for our fundraising efforts. His outstanding presentation at Saturday evening's Awards Banquet addressed the topic of the future of the U.S. Ski Team. *photos / L.R. Peck Photography*

The Snowsports Leadership Academy A Resource for Clubs and Councils

by Jane Gutierrez,
Past Vice-President of Membership, FWSA

The Snowsports Leadership Academy is a FWSA education program developed by the VP of Membership to provide FWSA members training and ideas to enhance their ski clubs and councils. This year, the modules were unique, and well suited for those who attended.

The first session, *"Make Your Nonprofit Passion a Successful Reality"*, was presented by ***Dave F. Ludwig, CPM***. Dave is founder of *Hope on the Slopes*, a nonprofit that has raised over $2.5 million for the American Cancer Society. Dave has also founded *Ski and Ride for A Cure*, a 501c3 organization, to expand Hope on the Slopes to ski areas and resorts where the ACS did not have trained staff. Dave spoke about the formation of ideas and how to process them into a functioning program. He also spoke about things to consider when organizing the business aspect, fundraising, forming a board of directors, and running events on behalf of a 501c3 non-profit. The audience was engaged and interested in all of the tips that Dave provided.

The second session, *"Knock Knock, Who's There to Take Over?"* was presented by one of our repeat and popular presenters, ***Todd Hood***. Todd, a facilitator in change management, spoke about the one aspect of leadership that leads to burn out and clubs disbanding: not having a pipeline of people available to take over. Todd gave numerous suggestions and tips, such as giving a new recruit small tasks to do in the organization so that they become comfortable, then increase the responsibilities. The audience was excited to hear this session and the session was interactive.

The third session, *"I Want to Go on the Trip, Too; Maximizing Travel for Your Clients with Special Needs"* was presented by ***Jane Gutierrez, RN 111***. The immediate past FWSA VP of Membership, who is also an expert in Pediatrics, had an experience on her last coordinated trip with a young man with special needs and wanted to relay to the audience lessons learned. Jane also used a panel of specialists in dealing with clients who have special needs. Members of this panel are also active members of the Unrecables Ski Club and have led trips in this regard. The panel consisted of: ***Hannah Nishimoto***, who has worked with disabled veterans for more than 30 years and assisted with travel arrangements for her club. Hannah is also a PSIA instructor for disabled skiers and is a certified rehabilitation counselor. Second on the panel was ***Sigrid Noack***, who has been involved with The Unrecables Ski Club and the Los Angeles chapter of Disabled Sports USA for over 20 years, and has taken her members on several FWSA annual ski trips. Our final panel member was ***Dee Armstrong****, who was born with a mobility impairment, using Canadian crutches, a wheelchair, or ambulation for short distances. Dee did not let this stop her, becoming a certified adaptive ski instructor. Dee is quite active with the Unrecables. The discussion about planning trips with clients of special needs was heartfelt and eye opening.

FWSA is enthusiastic about bringing topics to the convention that interests clubs and councils. If you have any suggestions, please let us know!

**Note: Recipient of the 2018 Jimmie Heuga Award.*

Jane Wyckoff, FWSA Trustee and Past President, presents John Watson, FWSA Historian and Past President, with a Snowsports Builder Award. John's numerous and extraordinary contributions to clubs, councils, Far West Ski Association, US Ski Association, US Recreational Ski Association, and Far West Ski Foundation span over 50 years. John's overarching contributions brought an awareness and appreciation of the legacy of skiing and recognition to historic entities and individuals who built that legacy. *photo / L.R. Peck Photography*

Southern Council (now Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs) President, John Watson "swearing in" the new FWSA Executive Director, Snuffy Smith, in 1969. *photo provided by John Watson*

SNOWSPORTS BUILDER AWARD 2018

The FWSA Snowsports Builder Award is given to an individual who has made an indelible positive impact on snowsports. The builder honored may be for achievements in athletics,the press, publishers, historians, industry; humanitarian work, area development, or technology.

◆◆◆◆◆

John Watson:

50 Years of Dedicated Volunteerism to the Organizations That Support Our Sport of Skiing

by Jane Wyckoff
Trustees, FWSA

Innovative and brilliant. A founder of ski clubs. Creator of multiple programs and recognition awards on all levels of snowsport – club, council, Far West Ski Association, US Ski Association, US Recreational Ski Association, Far West Ski Foundation - spanning over five decades of dedicated volunteerism.

Since joining the Single Ski Club in 1966 until the present, John Watson's depth of volunteer efforts and the impact on the organizations which benefited from his leadership and expertise, is unparalleled in snowsport history.

As President of Southern Council (now Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs), John set up a mirror image of FWSA programs at the council level in the late 1960s. He was a co-founder of the Mineral King Ski Club and the Single Ski Club of Orange County.

He launched the office of VP of Councils in 1970, a continuing viable, important office on the FWSA Board of Directors. He served as FWSA President from 1971-73 and was a Trustee from 1971-76. He created many of the FWSA service awards that have recognized so many worthy volunteers for a half century.

In 1988, he served as FWSA VP of Public Affairs, planning and conducting the Eastern Sierra Site Survey. An engineer and geologist with Masters Degrees and a minor in History, John launched the History Committee in 2003 and instituted the Historic Ski Club Program in 2010.

On the national level, John was a Director of USSA and a VP of the USSA Sports Division. He founded the Councils Committee and Long Range Planning Committees, assisted Bill Berry with the National Ski Hall of Fame Committee (wrote the first Rules for Governance), and set up the Citizen Racing Committee and program.

He founded USSA Ski Week in 1969 and chaired the Ski Week for several years, setting up the initial menu of activities within ski week, including both the Alpine Council Challenge Cup and Nordic Challenge Cup. He became known as the *"father of ski week"* within USSA.

John Watson was a major player in the Association's area development activity, including the failed attempt to keep the proposed Mineral King ski area from being included in the Sequoia National Park, which kept it from being developed as a ski area.

Most notable of his recent accomplishments was his reanimation of the Far West Ski Foundation in 2009 and has served this version as its first and only President. He spearheaded the expansion of the Foundation's mission and goals, including the FWSF fund raising for the FWSA Scholarship program.

John Watson's overarching contributions over his 50 years of service are in two areas:

- Bringing an awareness of the extraordinary legacy of skiing and the connectivity of snowsport to each of these robust risk-taking dynamos called skiers or snowboarders.

- Elevating the status of every ski club or council to that of a mainstay in the broader community fabric - hence the effort toward recognition amongst ourselves and the outward projection provided by programs like the Historic Ski Club.

The FWSA Snowsports Builder Award is given to an individual who has made an indelible positive impact on snowsport. John embodies the spirit of this award. It is indeed appropriate, that we recognized the founder of the Snowsports Builder Award program, John Watson (AKA Dr Know).

Ingrid Wicken, a prolific writer and founder of the California Ski Library, receives a Snowsports Builder Award from John Watson, FWSA Historian and Steve Coxen, FWSA President. For anyone interested in snowsports history and memorabilia, make plans to visit the Library in Norco, California on one of her open houses in 2018 or 2019, to see her impressive collection. Ingrid has authored seven books and numerous professional papers on ski history in various journals.
photo / L.R. Peck Photography

Ingrid Wicken

California Ski Library

by John Watson
History Committee Chair, FWSA

For 35 years Ingrid Wicken has collected books, posters, public and private area development documents. From her fascination with skiing history as a graduate student, to a facility bought in 1988 and furnished at her personal expense, she has created what E. B. John Allen, the unquestionable American authority on ski history, has called "one of the finest ski libraries in the USA" in his update of the ski museums in the USA. She has received multiple awards by FWSA and won the Skade award in March 2018 by the International Skiing History Association. And, she plans to double the size of the library in the coming two years. She plans open houses in 2018 and 2019 to introduce her impressive creation and explain her plans for expansion. Look up the California Ski Library and make arrangements for a visit.

The Ski Library celebrated its 30th year of operation this year. It is the result of over three decades of collecting material that reflects the growth of snowsports in Southern California. The library holds probably the largest collection of paper goods, mementos and graphic material in the USA outside of state-sponsored libraries. It exists because of the devotion to ski history of one person – Ingrid Wicken.

Wicken became interested in and started collecting ski books more than 35 years ago while a graduate student at Cal Poly Pomona. Her Master's thesis was a biomechanical investigation of the diagonal stride on skis vs. roller skis (she was and is an avid cross-country skier). She has written four books on skiing history and numerous articles for events and journals. She has been a Professor of Kinesiology at Moreno Valley College, part of the Riverside Community College District, since 1989.

What started as a fascinating hobby grew - and grew (and continues to grow) – into a fabulous collection of photographs, autographs, cartoons, magazines, legal documents, books, posters, equipment, maps, memorabilia and personal collections of authors and skiers. It's a history of skiing in the USA, with special attention to the West and Southern California. It is open to the public and for research. The Library invites historical material from industry and ski organizations. See it at ***www.skilibrary.com/index.html***.

Ingrid has written seven books and numerous professional papers on ski history in various journals. Her research has resulted in a ski history timeline that provides a framework for snowsport history available for any researcher or editor. She has previously won the FWSA/Steamboat Western Ski Heritage Prize three times – in 2002, 2005, 2013 and this year. She won in 2018 for her book *Flight: Fifty Years of Ski Jumping in California.*

She continues her work on Western Lost Ski Areas. She is the author of one section of the new and authoritative book License to Jump on women in ski jumping. Her chapter in this book, published in Sweden, covers the history of women's ski jumping in the USA and Canada from 1900 - 1950. She was a presenter at the International Ski History Congress held in Mammoth in 2009 (where the movement for an Olympic event in women's ski jumping got its first big push).

The Ski Library in Norco, California, is a fabulous treasure trove that preserves the interwoven strands and connections in skiing's history. Museums devoted to snowsport history have a hard time surviving. Those that exist today owe their survival to a dedicated group of community activists or to one person. That unique person is Ingrid Wicken.

Make plans to attend a Ski Library Open House. Contact Ingrid for dates and times!

An open house held at the California Ski Library in Norco several years ago, had a great attendance. Chuck Morse - former FWSA Executive Director, Jane Wyckoff and John Watson - FWSA Past Presidents, attended the event. Also present were Doug Pfeiffer, former Editor-In-Chief of SKIING Magazine and Mary Hensley and her family, former owners of Kratka Ridge Ski Area. Books are just a small part of the museum's collection. It also contains fascinating memorabilia, personal collections of authors and skiers, plus much more. If you wish to donate items to the museum, contact Ingrid at ingrid@skilibrary.com. *photo provided by Jane Wyckoff*

SNOWSPORTS BUILDER AWARD 2018

The FWSA Snowsports Builder Award is given to an individual who has made an indelible positive impact on snowsports. The builder honored may be for achievements in athletics, the press, publishers, historians, industry; humanitarian work, area development, or technology:

Above: Fritz Buser (right) was a recipient of a 2018 Snowsports Builder Award. He is shown with his son, Kurt. Top Right: Mike Pierce, Marketing Director of Mt. Rose - Ski Tahoe and Travis Hollard, Marketing Coordinator, accepted the Award for them.

Before there were any lifts or all weather roads, dedicated "skiers" would hike up the slopes around Lake Tahoe to ski down them. Shortly after WWII, the original Sky Tavern Lodge was constructed. historical photos provided by Steve Coxen; convention photo / L.R. Peck Photography

Fritz Buser

Mt. Rose - Ski Tahoe: Founder & Developer

by Steve Coxen
Past President, FWSA

Fritz Buser became an early investor in Mt. Rose after meeting some of the founders at the ski shows he attended annually for the previous twenty years, promoting Henke boots. He became the company's majority shareholder in 1971 and has controlled the growth and direction of Mt. Rose ever since.

Fritz was born in the small Swiss farming village of Hemmiken in 1921. Still in his teens, on the eve of World War II, he began his first business venture - trading sardines. In his early twenties at the end of World War II, Fritz decided it was time to think bigger…America. He secured agreements with various prominent Swiss manufacturers to represent their products as a salesman in the United States, including the ski boot company "Henke", the first company that produced buckled (vs laced) boots. Eventually, he acquired principal ownership rights of the Henke boot company.

Mount Rose - Ski Tahoe's history began in the 1930s. Long before any chairlifts were constructed or even an all weather road, Reno locals were skiing in the area. Shortly after World War II, the Sky Tavern Lodge was established. It continues to operate today in the same location southwest of Reno. It is now owned by the City of Reno and operated by Ski Tavern Junior Ski Program.

Devoted skiers from Sky Tavern hiked up to the 9,700 foot peak of adjacent Slide Mountain and skied in the location of the present Mt. Rose – Ski Tahoe. The original Reno Ski Bowl was constructed on the east slope of Slide Mountain (currently the East Bowl of Mt. Rose) and was, at one point, connected to the Sky Tavern via a lift that took skiers to the base of the Reno Ski Bowl.

The 1960s saw substantial changes on the slopes of Slide Mountain. The Reno Ski Bowl evolved into the Slide Mountain Ski Area. In 1964, the north face of Slide Mountain became the Mt. Rose Ski Area. The Mt. Rose Development Company was formed to direct the future of the ski resort and in 1971 Fritz Buser became the owner.

For many years "Slide" and "Rose" operated independently of each other, both expanding in their own ways with more lifts and lodge improvements. The 1984 - 85 season saw the 20th Anniversary of Mt. Rose – Ski Tahoe operations along with two new chairlifts. The "Iron Curtain" between Slide and Rose finally came down in 1987 when Mt. Rose acquired the Slide Mountain Ski Area terrain under a lease agreement with the U.S. Forest Service. The "Slide Side" (as it is affectionately referred to by locals) became the East Bowl of Mt. Rose. The combination of the two ski areas increased the overall terrain of Mt. Rose to 900+ acres and established the resort as a significant player in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

As Mt. Rose - Ski Tahoe moved into the 1990s, improvements continued to take place on the hill with new lifts added that vastly increased uphill capacity and aided in boosting the overall image of the resort. The 1994 - 95 season shined as the 30th Anniversary for Mt. Rose, and this landmark year produced some of the most significant facility improvements in the resort's history; a 2.5 million dollar remodel of the main lodge, which included a BBQ deck and a 300 percent expansion of the indoor dining area. Top-to-bottom snowmaking was also introduced to the resort in the late 90s, giving the mountain the insurance policy it needed to have consistent early season openings.

Mt. Rose screamed into the 21st century with its first high speed lifts, giving Mt. Rose dual high speed, base – to-summit rides to the top. In the separation between the east and north slopes of Slide Mountain lives the extreme terrain known as The Chutes. There was a time when skiers were allowed in the Chutes area at their own risk. The mid 1960s saw the closure of this area until its official opening in 2004. After 10 years of groundwork, Mt. Rose officially adopted these 200 acres into its trail system including the addition of the Chuter lift, providing an exit back to the Slide lodge.

In 2009, the old Slide Lodge, which had evolved from the Reno Ski Bowl days as a simple warming hut through six additions, was demolished and replaced with the Winters Creek Lodge. It features a steel and glass design to bring facets of the mountain into the architecture of the facility.

Fritz's son Kurt has been executive of the company for the past 20 years, overseeing the more recent development. The resort was offered for sale two years ago, but after testing the open market and receiving no offers, Fritz, transferred control to his children and grandchildren.

Ingrid Wicken Awarded FWSA Western Ski Heritage Prize by Steamboat

by John Watson
History Chair, FWSA

Ingrid Wicken is this year's recipient of the Western Ski Heritage Award. She has written seven books and numerous professional papers on ski history. Her most recent book is "Flight: Fifty Years of Ski Jumping in California". Ingrid is also instrumental in the development of the The Ski Library. located in Norco, California. She is pictured with Steamboat Ski Resort representatives, Larry Young and Billy Kidd; and John Watson, History Committee Chair, FWSA. *photos / L.R. Peck Photography*

The purpose of the Far West Ski Association's Western Ski Heritage Program is to raise the awareness of skiers and non-skiers alike, of the contributions made by individuals, groups and companies to all aspects of skiing – competitive, as well as, outdoor winter recreation and fitness. A parallel purpose of an award is to convey the positive role skiing has had in its contributions to the communities in the west.

The Western Ski Heritage Program recognizes interest in western history through the collection, preservation and protection of publications, ephemera and material memorabilia. This prize acknowledges the utilization of all types of media and is not limited to FWSA members.

The Western Ski Heritage Prize has been sponsored by Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation since its origin in 2000, making it the longest-running sponsorship among FWSA programs. Steamboat is one of the areas in the west with a long and diverse history in all disciplines of snowsport. Steamboat made this award into a prize, by providing the winner a five-day ski package for two in Steamboat with lodging, lift tickets, rentals, lesson, lunch and more.

The Prize for 2018 is awarded to Ingrid P. Wicken for her authorship of the monumental reference work on ski jumping in California 1900 - 1950. She also received the ISHA Skade Award for this book three months earlier. This is the fourth time Ingrid Wicken has won this Prize! Wicken, a Professor of Kinesiology at Moreno Valley College, is the leading authority on the history of skiing in Southern California.

In 2004, she founded the California Ski Library, which holds an extensive collection of books, historic photographs, magazines, annuals, brochures, catalogs, programs, newsletters, and other ephemera.

She has written four books on skiing history: *"Pray for Snow: The History of Skiing in Southern California"* (2002), *"Skiing in Southern California"* (2007), *"Lost Ski Areas of Southern* California" (2012), and *"50 Years of Flight: Ski Jumping in California 1900-1950"* (2017). Flight is an encyclopedic reference on ski jumping in California - now no longer practiced. She has been awarded the Far West Ski Association's Western Ski Heritage Prize in 2002, 2005, 2013 and 2018; and the International Ski History Association's Skade Award in 2003, 2008, 2015 and 2018.

Ryan Dohnal, Telluride Resort (sponsor), and Richard Lubin congratulate Monica Palmer - Safety Person of the Year.

Safety Person of the Year
Monica Palmer

by Richard Lubin, D.C.
Safety Chair, FWSA

FWSA believes that safety is an important component in snowsports. We recognize that ski resorts do an extraordinary job of minimizing hazards. Ultimately, safety is based on individual responsibility and behavior.

The Safety Person of the Year Award began in 1998 to recognize individuals who make outstanding contributions to raising safety awareness. This may be done by any number of activities including, but not limited to, articles, demonstrations, and on slope activities. ***Monica Palmer*** of the Reno Ski and Recreation Club in the Sierra Council is this year's Safety Person of the Year Recipient.

Monica really is a constant proponent of safety. She has done numerous safety presentations at her club. She ran a contest whereby a safety slogan would be adopted for their club. They are not only a ski club, but also include other recreational activities like hiking, biking, water sports, and many others. The slogan winner was *"Recreational Safety takes Responsibility and Control"*.

Reno Ski and Recreation Club publishes a very attractive monthly newsletter. Monica Palmer's *"Safety Site"* is a monthly column which features a seasonal safety article in each issue. Many of these articles have contributions from Monica and other RSRC members. Other articles are very timely well-done reprints. She makes all of these articles available for reuse. Presently there are 60 of the highly informative safety articles on the RSRC website at: ***https://www.renoskiandrec.com/safety-archives***.

Telluride Ski Resort is the sponsor of the FWSA Safety Person of the Year. Visit Telluride's website at ***http://www.tellurideskiresort.com/***. For her efforts to increase safety consciousness, Monica is awarded a $750 Gift Certificate to use for lodging, lift tickets and rentals.

The Future of National Ski Patrol Volunteers

by Barbara Razo, NSP

BEGINNINGS

The National Ski Patrol (NSP) in the USA was founded in 1938 by the NSP's first chairman, Charles Minot Dole. "Minnie," as he was known, decided that a "service and safety" organization was in order after he hurt himself skiing at Stowe, Vermont and had trouble evacuating himself from the slope. The National Ski Patrol (NSP) is celebrating their 80TH anniversary. When founded, it consisted entirely of unpaid patrollers. The current numbers and statistics are significant as one of the largest volunteer organizations ever formed. One of the few federally chartered not-for-profit organizations in the U.S., the NSP has since become the world's largest winter rescue organization. The NSP's paid and volunteer members serve on over 600 patrols. A total of 70 percent of members are comprised of volunteers and 97 percent of ski areas incorporate NSP volunteer patrollers in their mountain operations. There are approximately 30,000 members with 27,700 of those members being volunteers. In the last thirty years, numbers have increased slightly with the growth derived from paid professional patrollers joining NSP, as well as, some unaffiliated ski areas coming into the fold.

EVOLUTION

The NSP is composed of 10 geographic divisions plus a single division for all paid patrollers. Members are recognized on the slopes by the red jackets they wear marked by a white cross on the chest and a larger one on the back. The levels of the National Ski Patrol are: 1. Patroller, 2. Alpine Patroller, 3. Senior and 4. Certified. Patrollers with exemplary contributions are given a National Appointment Number. There are also levels of personal achievement given to a Ski Patroller who goes beyond the call of duty. They can be awarded the Blue, Yellow, Silver or Gold Merit Star. The highest Honor of the National Ski Patrol is the Purple Merit Star, which is awarded for saving a life. The National Ski Patrol has an ongoing education system which includes OEC classes and OEC Refreshers. OEC stands for Outdoor Emergency Care and is the basis of the NSP education program. Over the course of its history, the NSP has helped to develop similar patrol organizations in Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Argentina, Chile, Israel, Turkey and Korea.

WHY VOLUNTEER?

Each and every NSP volunteer patroller has a unique and personal story. We come from extremely diversified walks of life. This group of computer technicians, lawyers, chefs, construction workers, street-stripers, sales men and women, teachers, doctors, nurses, financial planners, firefighters, landscape artists, and musicians, all share common values and beliefs. All have a passion to serve our community and help individuals who could potentially be facing life threatening injuries, or are cold or scared, or have become separated from their friends and family, or potentially are lost beyond the resort boundaries. We all have a common goal; it is our job to ensure our patrons have the best guest experience possible with safety as our motivator. It is a privilege to be an ambassador for our ski areas and provide high-level first responder services and care to our guests.

WHO IS WHO?

The Joint Statement of Understanding (JSOU) made with the National Ski Areas Association (NSAA) outlines the relationship between the NSP Patrollers and the ski areas. NSP volunteers act as agents of their ski areas and take their direction from the ski area management. NSP does not manage the patrols, NSP provides the training and certifications to its members who become "unpaid" employees of the mountain. These "unpaid" employees look and act just like the "paid" Pro-Patrollers. Both work under the protocols, operations, and standards of care established by area management.

NSP sets the standard of education and certification. Many ski areas including Big Bear Mountain Resorts, are holding their Pro-Patrollers to be trained in NPS OEC. On any given weekend, we all work in unison, shoulder to shoulder, and are equal and deliver the same level of first responder first aid. As intended, it is opaque to our guests who is a volunteer and who is not. My experience has always been that when an extra 20 - 30+ volunteer patrollers drive up the mountain from the flatlands late on Friday nights in the dark, rain, fog and snow for our weekend duty days, we are welcomed with open arms and relief in the eyes of the paid staff. The personal contributions and sacrifices scream dedication. We buy all our uniforms, equipment, pay for our own lodging, meals and accept loss of income from weekend paying jobs to be in the room by 0700 hours ready to boot up and get out the door for hill set-up and to work our 10+ hour shifts as the "vollies".

WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF THE NSP VOLUNTEER?

Over the last few years, we have learned that some ski areas are disbanding/deactivating the utilization of the Volunteer National Ski Patrols from their resort operations. Arapahoe Basin, Colorado in 2017 and most recently Park City, Utah, no longer have volunteer patrols at their ski areas for different reasons. Both these ski areas have decades of NSP Volunteer Patrol histories. As small to medium size areas are being bought/acquired by larger ski industry corporations, the culture and business models of area management is changing. Big Bear Mountain Resorts has been purchased twice in the last 4 years – first by Mammoth Mountain Resorts and most recently acquired by Alterra Mountain Company, which is an arm of Aspen Skiing Co. It is a legitimate concern by all NSP Volunteers if this is going to be an ongoing trend. Will the risk of engaging NSP Patrols overshadow the benefits of what the volunteers bring to the hill? There can be some very serious legal ramifications when utilizing volunteers. Other influencing factors may include general business decisions, economics, shorter winters, etc.

As a now well-seasoned volunteer patroller, the value of continuing the NSP Volunteer Patrols across the United States and other world countries is clear to me. I gain great personal reward and joy for my service and duty accomplishments. The working relationship with the paid staff patrollers is a perfect blend of education, experience and teamwork. For smaller areas like my home hills of Bear Mountain and Snow Summit, I feel it would be a great disservice to our community and guests to eliminate our volunteer patrollers. We bring significant value. I look forward to continuing my active patroller status for another 10+ years. It is my sincerest hope that the NSP Volunteer Patrol programs will continue to flourish and grow. Hopefully I can recruit one of my grandchildren to follow in my ski tracks.

Barbara Razo – NSP# 210399

- ***Gold Merit Star 2016 / NSP Patroller of the Nation***
- ***Silver Merit Star 2007 / Runner Up for NSP Patroller of the Nation***

Delegates to the morning session of the Public Affairs Program listen to panelists: Ingrid Wicken, Bill Clark, Jon Kedrowski, Troy Humphries and Justin Scacco, as John Watson moderated topics such as our mountains, the climate and our outdoors. *photo / L.R. Peck Photography*

Public Affairs Panels - 2018

by John Watson
Past President, FWSA

` ***The Public Affairs Panels were conducted in two sessions, the first on a spectrum of subjects of general interest and the second focused on the FWSA Athletic Scholarship Program. Moderators were John Watson and Randy Lew.***

Morning Session

Panel One offered a set of views from five disparate sources, views that these sources are more connected than their titles would suggest. The panelists were:

- ***Ingrid Wicken***, author of four books on ski history and founder of the California Ski Library in Norco, California.
- ***Bill Clark***, curator of the *Western America Skisport Museum* and current principal in the foundation supporting development of the *Squaw Valley Ski Museum*.
- ***Dr. Jon Kedrowski***, author and inveterate mountaineer of Mt. Everest, the Colorado Fourteeners, and the Cascades, having summited all, as well as, slept at the summit; and Bill Berry Award winner.
- ***Trey Humphries***, incoming Executive Director of the *High Fives Foundation*, dedicated to the animation of persons wounded in service of our country.
- ***Justin Scacco***, writer for the *Truckee Sun,* and a Bill Berry Award winner for numerous recent articles.

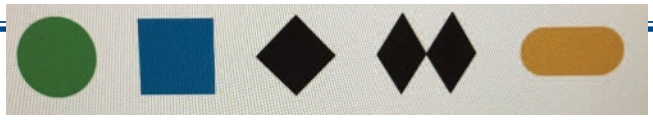
Ingrid Wicken opened the panel session by discussing the ski library, the importance of archives to skiing history, and the importance of museums and artifacts to carry on the story of skiing for the future. Following up on that theme was *Bill Clark*, providing an overview of the objectives and progress of the proposed museum. The Museum would contain modern high tech displays, videos and exhibits of equipment. He pointed out the origins of skiing in the Sierra as far back as 1851 and the evolution of the sport of skiing, as well as, its role in the gold field communities. That role was a global one with the 1960 Olympics with the world focused on Squaw Valley, and the gathering of the athletes. Skiing has a broad reach into communities and can bring together sports, skills, organizations and people. The new Museum intends to capture that legacy.

Dr. Jon Kedrowski is an author, mountaineer and educator. Dr. Kredrowski has lived in Washington State where he worked as a professor of mountain geography at Eastern Washington University. He has authored papers on mountaineering, hiking trails, climate change, and protected areas management in Washington, Colorado, and Alaska. He has climbed five of the seven continental summits, and summited Mount Everest in 2012. His book *"Skiing and Sleeping on the Summits"* documents his summiting and skiing the 20 peaks of the Cascade volcanoes of the Pacific Northwest in 30 days. His amazing journey is documented by many spectacular photos, maps, ski lines, and information on each peak.

Trey Humphries is the incoming ED of the High Fives Foundation. After a spinal cord injury in 2006 at Mammoth that left him paralyzed, Roy Tuscany underwent exhaustive physical therapy and persevered. He skied again after two years of work to get to that point. He recognized that the process he went through could be applied to other injuries, especially those affecting the spine. To pursue this objective, he founded the High Fives Foundation and hired Trey Humphries, who lost parts of both legs in an IED blast in Iraq. His assignment is to organize and conduct outdoor action sports and to raise injury prevention awareness. Check them out at ***www.highfivesfoundation.org***.

Justin Scacco, is a writer for the *Truckee Sun.* His articles cover skiing and ski racing in the Tahoe region. Justin's articles are interesting and informative, and he often features local athletes. His most recent articles covered the US Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame inductions at Squaw Valley in April, a special article on Squaw Valley speed skiing legend, the late Steve McKinney's induction into the Hall of Fame in 2018, and the Far West Masters' fundraiser for the Far West Junior Racing Program at Mammoth.

Note: *The first four speakers received grants for their host 501c3 organizations from the Far West Ski Foundation.*



Slope Difficulties Here's what they mean:

Green Circle: Easier
Blue Square: More Difficult
Black Diamond: Most Difficult
Double-Black Diamond: Most Difficult
Orange Oval: Freestyle Terrain

You'll find them on trail maps and posted on signs on the mountain. The same trail symbols are used at every resort in the US,

Delegates to the afternoon session of the Public Affairs Program listen to panelists: Tom Kelly, Matthew Smallhouse, Amy Berry and Lila Lipanja. Randy Lew moderated topics such as our mountains, the climate and our outdoors. *photos / L.R. Peck Photography*

Public Affairs Panels - 2018

Afternoon Session

by Randy Lew
Past President, FWSA

The afternoon Public Affairs Panel at the 2018 Convention in Reno was moderated by Randy Lew. The panel included ***Tom Kelly***, US Ski Team, VP of Communications; ***Lila Lipanja***, former FWSA Athletic Scholarship recipient and World Cup racer; ***Amy Berry***, CEO of the Tahoe Fund and FWSA Jordan-Reily Award recipient; and ***Matthew Smallhouse***, FWSA Athletic Scholarship recipient and Diamond Peak Ski Team member.

Tom Kelly has been with US Ski and Snowboard for 32 years and has worked 10 Olympics (9 winter and 1 summer). He has supported 72 US Olympic medalists in the finish area. He has been a great supporter of the FWSA Athletic Scholarship Program at the USSA management level. He spoke on some of the changes on the FIS rules, his experience at various Olympics, and touched on the new Safe Sport initiatives. He also briefly mentioned the new direction of US Skiing and trying to build strength and depth coming up the system from the club level.

Matthew Smallhouse, a FWSA Athletic Scholarship recipient, explained some of his challenges excelling in public school while trying to train and compete against other racers who are at specialized academies, which allow those racers to train daily. Matt's on-snow training is limited to weekends and days he needs to take off from school. What was obvious, was Matt's focus and determination to succeed. He also mentioned that his sister, a US Ski Team freestyle candidate, has lived in Lake Placid and had two years of going to school and training there. She and Matt's mom have now moved to Park City where she can train with the US Freestyle Training Group. Matt lives with his father in Reno. Matt's father, Mark, talked about the sacrifices the family has had to make to support the kids and thanked FWSA for Matt's scholarship grant.

Amy Berry, CEO of the Tahoe Fund and FWSA Jordan-Reily Award recipient, explained the mission of the non-profit Tahoe Fund, which is to restore and enhance the extraordinary environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin. She described the scope and efforts in the Sand Harbor Bike Path project and both watershed restoration and hiking trail projects.

Lila Lipanja was a very engaging and energetic participant explaining the challenges and dedication required to succeed at the upper levels of ski racing. She is a 5-time FWSA scholarship recipient and acknowledged the significance of our program in getting her to the US Ski Team, Nor - Am slalom champion and now World Cup starts. She explained that her European background (her father, Vojko, was a top ski racer from Slovenia), helps her survive the tough winter race season living, training and racing in Europe. Lila's mother, Marjorie, also briefly spoke about the impact and importance of the FWSA Athletic Scholarship program.

And, it's still officially Summer!

*More SNOW Fast Tracks Alberta into Winter**

September 19, 2018:

Edmonton has actually now recorded its snowiest September already with six consecutive days of snowfall and 22 cm reported in total so far this month. That beat the previous record of 12.9 cm back in 1965. The official start to fall comes Saturday, but it IS still summer, after all, although you wouldn't know it with September snow records already being broken in Alberta. Temperatures will remain well below seasonal averages this week and there's more signs of summertime snow by week's end.

*And, on the other side of the Pacific Hokkaido, Japan***

September 20, 2018:

Mount Asahidake, the highest mountain in Hokkaido, Japan, just received its first snow of the season! The first snowfall came 10 days earlier than last year.

Do these early snowfalls mean it will be a great ski season? Bring it on!

****www.theweathernetwork.com***
*****www.skijapan.com***

but *"It's all relative."* A Green Circle trail at one resort might be as tough as a Blue Square at another. The trail ratings are consistent within each resort. So all the "Greens" at a particular ski area will be about the same difficulty, as will the "Blues" and the "Blacks." Before you ride a lift during your first few days, make sure you can handle the trails at the top. Some skiers think they can improve by skiing tough terrain when their skills aren't up to that level, but that's a good way to get hurt. Instead, take a lesson. Check your trail map and make sure the trail symbols off of that lift fit your ability. If you have any questions or need directions, talk to a lift attendant or anyone in a resort uniform. *from NSAA Safety hints.*

Bogus Basin Ski Club members celebrate their Diamond category win. *photos / L.R. Peck Photography*

FWSA Ski Clubs Continue Generous Donations

by Sigrid Noack
Charities & Our Community Chair, FWSA

The Far West Ski Association and its nine participating ski councils are committed to supporting charitable giving and volunteerism. Through donations and volunteer services of our individual members in clubs and councils, we hope to enhance the quality of life within our communities. Most of our clubs and councils are in some way involved with charitable activities, doing some amazing work for those who are less fortunate.

At this year's FWSA Convention in Reno, Nevada, we again recognized our clubs and councils for their generous charity support with the 12th Annual *"Charity and Community Service Recognition"*. By openly honoring so many groups at our conventions, we hope to encourage others to become more involved with charity activities and donations. Because we have so many clubs and councils actively supporting a huge variety of charities, FWSA again presented two separate awards to clubs, the *Diamond* and *Double Diamond* classes. The Double Diamond applicants are clubs who have won this recognition in past years, while Diamond applicants are clubs that have maybe applied before, but they are still hoping to win this prestigious recognition. For the first time, this year we are excited to be recognizing all the amazing efforts of our FWSA family by presenting our most outstanding clubs and councils with a special medallion to be shared on their website, on stationery or wherever they choose.

Thank you, Catherine Ohl, for designing this beautiful new medallion for our charity recognition program.

The winning clubs of this *"Charity and Community Service Recognition"* program displayed very impressive picture boards, showing their involvement with charitable community activities. Industry representatives, ski club delegates and visitors expressed their amazement at the variety and the extent of volunteerism and charity support within the FWSA family. This year, we had three club applicants.

The winners for 2018 are:

- **Double Diamond Class:** Monterey Ski & Social Club - *Bay Area Snow Sports Council*
- **Diamond Class:** Bogus Basin Ski Club - *Intermountain Council*
- **2nd Place:** Don Diego Ski Club - *San Diego Council of Ski Clubs*

These wonderfully caring clubs have been doing outstanding work with charitable organizations all year. They are all winners! CONGRATULATIONS!

Monterey Ski & Social Club makes helping others their #1 agenda item every year! What an amazing group of wonderfully caring people! Club members this year helped to serve 2,000 people at the *Annual Community Holiday Dinner* at the Monterey County Fair and Event Center! This huge *Salvation Army* event had club members totally involved from the very beginning to the clean-up, from collecting "tons" of much needed clothing, to procuring the tremendous "mountains" of potatoes, veggies, beverages and desserts, along with the 200 - 250 turkeys needed to feed the hungry crowds. An extensive coordination effort was conducted with the local Police Departments and *Meals on Wheels* to help deliver 300 - 350 meals to those who were unable to attend! Club members peeled potatoes and yams, diced onions and chopped broccoli, cut pies and poured drinks, and happily greeted revelers at the door. The donated clothes gathered by club members were free to everyone. Toys and even bikes were given to wide-eyed kids, while a band played live holiday music, and Mr. and Mrs. Claus waved and chatted with astonished children.

Along with their many volunteer hours and huge efforts, Monterey Ski & Social Club also donates $500 annually to help the *Salvation Army of Monterey County* meet the needs of this huge event. Members believe that the Salvation Army, as well as the community as a whole, greatly benefit from their efforts. The club also held their annual *Poinsettia Fund-raiser* event to benefit both the Salvation Army and the *Food Bank* for Monterey County, this year raising $2,700 by selling 750 poinsettias. Every year, Monterey Ski Club also provides volunteers for other organizations and events, such as the *Sea Otter Classic*, an international bicycle competition, the motorcycle and car races at *Laguna Seca Raceway*, the *Carmel Women's Club*, the Kiwanis *Club of Monterey*, the *American Legion* and golf tournaments at *Poppy Hills*.

The *Pebble Beach Food and Wine* event, the best of its kind in America, receives big support from Monterey Ski Club volunteers, who set up food demonstrations, wine tastings, after parties and golf tournaments for 250 wineries and more than 125 guest chefs. They even handle parking, schlepping ice and dishes, and driving chefs from one event to the other. Added to this list is the cadre of volunteers the club supplies for the *Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance*, the premier and prestigious classic car event. The four-day long affair includes guarding cars, VIP parking, shuttle driving, often pushing older cars to jump start them, handing out maps and rosters of cars, and setting up the famous Retro Auto tent to sell merchandise and provide a mecca for en-

Monterey Ski & Social Club is the winner of the Double Diamond class. Pictured with Sigrid Noack** (third from left) **are members (L to R): Pam Hampton, Sharon Tucker and Kath Maki.

thusiasts to meet and greet. Not all good deeds go unrewarded. Pebble Beach hosts a giant thank you party for volunteers and often provides a souvenir hat or vest as thanks for their generous support.

Monterey Ski Club also has a Gifting Committee whose job is to solicit requests from club members. The club gives back much of the money raised in $150 to $500 charitable donations. In one case, they were able to give $1,000 to victims of the Big Sur fires and mud slides. They invite leaders of these groups to whom the donate, to speak at their meetings. This past year, the club has given out $5,650 in cash donations to food banks and homeless shelters, battered women and mental health groups, Veterans in transition and children using horseback riding to teach them confidence. Monterey Ski and Social Club has earned the respect and even admiration from their community. *Greg Robinson* and *Doug Weaver* have been the recipients of *Dennis Heffley's* special presidential award for *"The One Who Makes a Difference"*. Congratulations to the 105 members of the Monterey Ski Club under the guidance of *Kath Maki*, *Doug Weaver* and President, *Greg Robinson*. Keep up the great work that you do!

Bogus Basin Ski Club, with 200 active members, is very supportive of local Idaho non-profit organizations. The *Warren Miller Film Festival and Premiere* party stands today as the largest annual community connection endeavor for the club. More than 74 club volunteers devoted over three days to this phenomenal event. The "53 Years" of presenting Warren Miller films was celebrated in Boise this year! With over 2,600 people in attendance, this year's event showed record setting net proceeds of more than $3,000 to benefit five of the club's favorite local non-profit organizations: *Recreation Unlimited*, an adaptive ski and snowboard program at Bogus Basin, a chapter of *Disabled Sports USA*; *The Bogus Basin Ski Education Foundation*, offering race training, giving local athletes the opportunity to achieve their highest potential as athletes and competitors; and, *The Bogus Basin Ski Patrol*, helping with operational costs, and the *College of Idaho Ski and Snowboard Team*. A new beneficiary this year was *Protect Our Winters*, a passionate crew of diehards, professional athletes and industry brands mobilizing the outdoor sports community to lead the charge towards positive climate action. Congratulations to all those very active Bogus Basin Ski Club members under the guidance of *Kim Hovren*, *Kalen Thorien* and president, *Darryl Kuhrt*. Keep it going!

Don Diego Ski Club has been enthusiastically working with the *Torrey Pines Kiwanis Club*, and this year, donated $1,000 in support of the *Adaptive Sports Association*, a *Disabled Sports USA Chapter* in Durango, Colorado. A number of club members also volunteer to help staff the *San Diego Festival of the Arts*. This is the main event with which the Kiwanis Club raises funds for the ASA and other programs - last year pledging over $90,000 to support non-profits serving persons with disabilities. The ASA was a major beneficiary, enabling it to award about 20 week-long scholarships to Durango, all expenses paid, including airfare, lodging and ski instruction under the supervision of ASA coaches. Don Diego Ski Club is looking forward to contributing to this program again next year. Congratulations Don Diego Ski Club members and president *Ed Offstein* for your wonderful efforts!

Although our clubs and councils are involved with a huge number of different charity organizations, they seem to especially enjoy working with charitable athletic groups for the mentally and physically challenged.

The ***Far West Ski Foundation*** was established to support training for alpine racing. Later, it expanded on that mission to raise funds and offer grants in four mission areas: Scholarships for under - 20 alpine racers; scholarships and wounded Veteran support to enable the disabled to enjoy adaptive snowsports; support of women's ski jumping, especially scholarships for the development training of its Fly Girls; and support for the preservation in museums and historical snowsports. To learn more, please check out ***www.farwestskifoundation.org***.

"If I can do this, I can do anything!" is the motto of ***Disabled Sports USA***, an organization supported by many FWSA clubs and councils. DSUSA serves more than 60,000 disabled athletes annually, making it one of the largest national multi-sport, multi-disability organizations in the United States. Their mission is to provide national leadership and opportunities for individuals with disabilities to develop independence, confidence, and fitness through participation in community sports, recreation and educational programs. One of the great programs of DSUSA is *Warfighter Sports*, which offers sports rehabilitation programs in military hospitals and communities across the U.S. through a nationwide network of over 100 community - based chapters. The program offers more than 30 winter and summer adaptive sports including skiing, snowboarding, cycling, wheelchair basketball, track and field, watersports and many more. To become involved and learn much more about DSUSA go to ***http://disabledsportsusa.org***.

Can Do MS is another wonderful charity supported by many clubs. One of FWSA's major awards is named after its founder, *Jimmie Heuga*. Can Do MS leads the way to empowering people and families living with MS to transform and improve their quality of life. Everything done at Can Do MS is driven by one simple belief: *you are more than your MS*. With a vision, a mission and core values rooted in the legacy and belief of Can Do MS founder Jimmie Heuga, that everyone living with MS has the power to live full lives, Can Do MS is the start of a whole new way of thinking about and living with multiple sclerosis. To help the most people, Can Do MS takes its programs to cities around the country, taking participants on a profound exploration of their unique condition and empowering them with a *"whole person, whole health & whole community approach"* to living fully with MS. Check out the many wonderful programs at ***www.cando-ms.org***.

Many FWSA ski clubs enjoy being involved with ***Special Olympics***, whose mission is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community. The Special Olympics global community includes athletes, volunteers, coaches, family members, sponsors and supporters. This year, Special Olympics celebrates its 50th Anniversary. For more information and to get involved, check out ***http://specialolympics.org***.

Please refer to the FWSA Community Service site for updated information at ***www.fwsa.org***. Thank you to all of the wonderful, caring club members of FWSA

The Hyatt Regency Indian Wells Resort & Spa is an oasis in a desert and surrounded by beautiful mountains. Check out the slide show in the digital edition.

Fun in the "OC" Sun at Indian Wells

by Sheila Van Guilder

Host Council Convention Coordinator, FWSA

Come join us June 13 - 16, 2019 for the 87th Annual Far West Ski Association Convention. We are headed to Indian Wells, California to enjoy the desert sunshine. The Convention will be conducted at the Hyatt Regency Indian Wells Resort & Spa. Orange Council of Ski Clubs is hosting this event, ably assisted by Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs.

The Hyatt Regency is a beautiful, full-service property in Indian Wells, a real oasis in the desert. The rooms have been recently renovated and are very spacious. To keep you connected to all that is important, there is free Wi-Fi available throughout the property, and five dining options to choose from: Lantana, Roadrunner Café, Agave Sunset Tequila Bar, Oasis Pool Bar, Citrus Marketplace & Café.

The property is surrounded by golf courses, and seven swimming pools and whirlpools, one of which is for adults only. There are three hard-surface tennis courts, and a 24-hour Fitness Center which includes complimentary classes. Check out a complimentary bicycle for a relaxing ride, or the spa with all the relaxation necessary for restoration of your spirits.

There are so many things to see and do in Palm Springs, just a short drive away. The Rat Pack lived, loved and played here. Stars such as Frank Sinatra, Bob Hope and Lucille Ball all built homes here, adding a touch of stardust. Palm Springs is still the playground and get away for the movie stars and moguls working in Los Angeles. The Downtown and the Uptown Design District offer a vast collection of modern retailers, fashion boutiques, consignment dealers, art galleries and antique shops. Stroll through artist-owned galleries and working studios in the Backstreet Art District.

Optional events being planned will whet your appetite to really get to know this region. On Thursday, there will be a bus trip to the Palm Springs Air Museum, a living history museum dedicated to educating the public about the role Air Power played in preserving American liberties and way of life. The traditional Thursday evening Pub Crawl will be in downtown Palm Springs. On Friday, we will take a bus trip to the base of Mt. San Jacinto where you will board the San Jacinto Tram taking us 4,000 feet up for breathless views of

The 2019 FWSA Convention will be held June 13-16 at the luxurious Hyatt Regency Indian Wells Resort & Spa. Bring your golf clubs, tennis rackets, and swim suits; or just relax in the award winning spa. This is a gorgeous location for the 87th Annual FWSA Convention hosted by Orange Council of Ski Clubs, with the able assistance of the Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs.

Most of the holes at the Indian Wells Golf Course are oriented to take full advantage of the awesome views of the San Jacinto, Santa Rosa and San Bernardino mountain ranges. Many of the trees from the original property are beautifully retained in the design of the course.

the Coachella Valley and a delightful luncheon. At that elevation it will be cool enough for a little hike.

Early Friday morning, the golfers will have their opportunity to shine. The 13th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament will be held at the Indian Wells Golf Resort, right at our back door. The golf tournament, will once again, be sponsored by Club Med, sponsors of the 2018 Tourney.

Friday evening, the activities start rolling at 5:30 PM, with hors d'oeuvres and mingling at the Club Happy Hour. The Silent Auction Welcome Party begins at 6:30 PM, as the doors open to the main event of the weekend. The Silent Auction and Trade Show is FREE and open to the public. It's the time to network with ski industry representatives, tour operators, lodging partners, and others to discuss future trips and new additions to their resorts, as well as, bid on adventure packages and mingle with your friends. Don't be surprised if you see a ski celebrity or two among the crowd! Topping off this night of fun, we will have a DJ, Can Do Productions, for your dancing pleasure.

Saturday morning, after a quick breakfast and a quicker business meeting, it's on to share in all the other activities being presented. Throughout the day, you will have many choices. The Travel Expo, for trip planners and decision makers, offering a second chance to meet with the resort representatives to answer questions you didn't get answered on Friday night, to plan another trip. Three Snowsports Leadership Academy sessions will present snowsport, leadership and club educational topics. Forest Service personnel and celebrity guests will be featured in the two Public Affairs Panels. There will be a Racing Seminar for those interested in learning about the Far West Racing Association program, and Bid Presentations for Ski Week 2021. After your busy morning, you'll be able to enjoy a wonderful, relaxing lunch and listen to our inspiring Keynote Speaker.

Saturday evening it's time to Swing and Sway on the Aloha Breeze in the ballroom. Everyone can dress up in their best Aloha shirts and dresses for the Awards Banquet honoring those who have worked so hard over the past year(s) and who will be recognized by their peers for their outstanding contributions to Far West Ski Association. All this will be followed by more music and dancing, putting a wonderful end to an even more wonderful event.

Sunday morning it's down to business, with a General Session and election of officers, plus the presentation of club and council recognitions and charities awards.

You can make a reservation at the Hyatt Regency Indian Wells Resort & Spa by calling ***760-776-1234***, and give our group name *"Far West Ski Association"* to receive our group rate.

Come out to play with us in the *"playground"* of the rich and famous. Palm Springs and Indian Wells offer a ton of fun. With so much to do in the area, come early and stay late. Make a VACATION out of it. The Hyatt Regency Indian Wells Resort & Spa offers everyone a welcoming atmosphere and luxury accommodations. You'll be very comfortable in your spacious room. The golf course, swimming pools, tennis courts and spa are all top notch. Check it out at ***www.hyatt.com/en-US/hotel/california/hyatt-regency-indian-wells-resort-and-spa/champ***.

For additional information, visit the Far West Ski Association website: ***www.fwsa.org***. Detailed information will be posted as it becomes available. For detailed information regarding optional events and local programs, contact *Sheila Van Guilder*, Host Council Convention Coordinator, at ***svanguil@yahoo.com***. For opportunities to promote services and products to our club members, all snowsports representatives, tour operators, resorts and Indian Wells businesses are encouraged to contact *Debbi Kor*, FWSA VP of Marketing & Sponsorships and FWSA Convention Chair at ***fwsadebbi@comcast.net*** or *Jeannine Davis*, Silent Auction Chair at ***silentauction@fwsa.org***.

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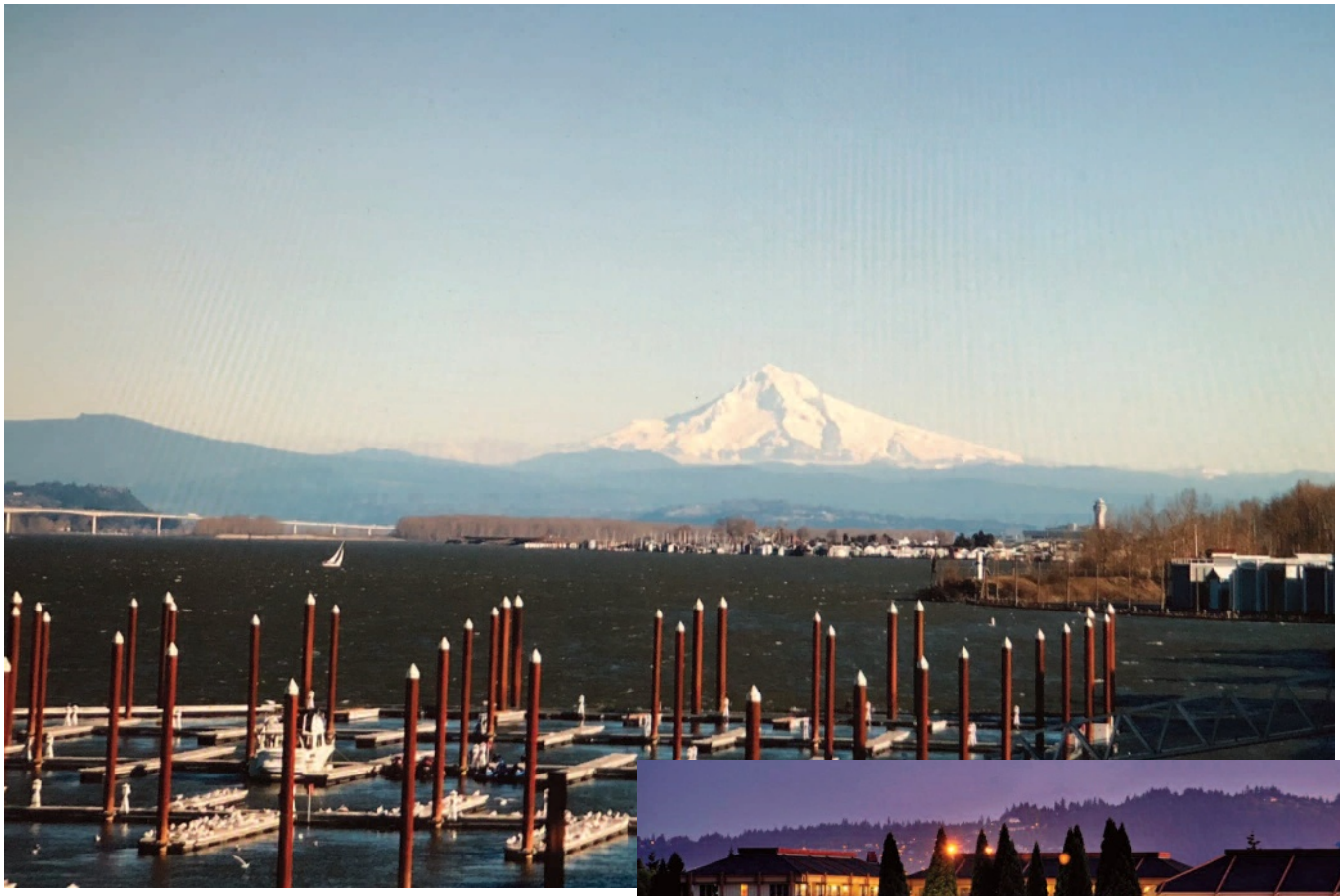


The lovely Red Lion on the River – Jantzen Beach, located in Portland, Oregon, is the site of the 88th Annual Far West Ski Association Convention. You'll enjoy being on the Riverwalk, with beautiful views of the river, plus easy access to many recreational activities located in the surrounding area. The hotel offers a variety of amenities, including an active night life, with JB's Night Club. *photos courtesy of Red Lion Hotel on the River*

Pacific Northwest: We're Coming Back - for Convention 2020!

by Debbi Kor
Convention Chair, FWSA

Far West Ski Association's 88th Annual Convention will be held in the beautiful Pacific Northwest, in Portland, Oregon. The weather is sunny and warm, the trees are lush and green, the Willamette and Columbia Rivers are flowing and the beautiful view of Portland at night is not to be missed.

Our host for this event will be Northwest Ski Club Council. *Sheri Parshall*, FWSA Secretary and Past President of NWSCC will be the Convention Coordinator. Committees are already beginning to form, the volunteers coming forward to head up this awesome 90th Birthday Celebration of Far West Ski Association, May 28 - 31, 2020.

We will be staying at the Red Lion on the River – Jantzen Beach. Located in the Northern part of the city, the resort's outstanding hospitality and service allows for successful meetings and unforgettable leisure activities. Guests can enjoy championship golf, tennis, a pool overlooking the Columbia River, a walk along the dock and a nice patio area to relax on. Far West actually held the 65th Annual Convention here in 1997.

Located just 12 minutes from the Portland International Airport, the Red Lion offers pick-up service at the near-by MAX station for those who wish to take the Red Line train from the airport. Otherwise, LYFT, Uber, or taxis are available.

Recently renovated guest rooms (320 non-smoking rooms) offer king and double queen rooms, plus various suites for your lodging pleasure. JB's Night Club, will be available for group get-togethers, and the Espresso Lounge is open each morning at 6 a.m. for a quick Grab-N-Go before heading out for the day.

A fun and unique Golf Tournament is already in the planning stages, along with other Optional Activities. Being in the Northwest, we will not be at a loss for things to do: skiing on Mt. Hood, hiking in the Columbia River Gorge, cruising the mighty Columbia or wonderful Willamette River. Portland is known as "Bike Town", so there will plenty of opportunity to go for a nice ride. The ideas and activities are endless.

Free Wi-Fi is available in guestrooms, ballroom, and social spaces, lobbies and restaurants, and complimentary on-site parking is offered, as well. Additional information can be found at ***www.redlionontheriver.com***.

Skier Visits Hit 53.3 Million in the 2017-2018 Season

Preliminary Results from NSAA's Kottke Survey Reflect a Strong Start and Finish

"I am pleased that the 2017-18 season was right in line with our 40 - season average, with Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Northwest performing above the 40 - year average . . . ."

Kelly Pawlak, NSAA president and CEO

Whitefish Mountain Resort has been named by SKI Magazine readers as the top resort in the west for "Overall Satisfaction" in this year's "Resort of the Year" issue. The October, 2018 edition is available on newsstands in late September. It's no wonder why since Whitefish is one of the resorts that set records for skier visits as tabulated by the Kotteke End of Season Survey. The mountain averages more than 300 inches of snow annually on its 3,000 acres of trails, bowls, chutes and glades. The resort is also a popular summer paradise. *photo courtesy of Whitefish Mountain Resort*

MARCO ISLAND, FL: May 4, 2018

The National Ski Areas Association (NSAA) announced today that US ski areas tallied an estimated 53.3 million skier and snowboarder visits during the 2017-18 season, down 2.8 percent from last season's 54.8 million total. The annual skier visit count, an important industry metric, was released today at the NSAA Convention and Tradeshow being held this week in Marco Island, Fla.

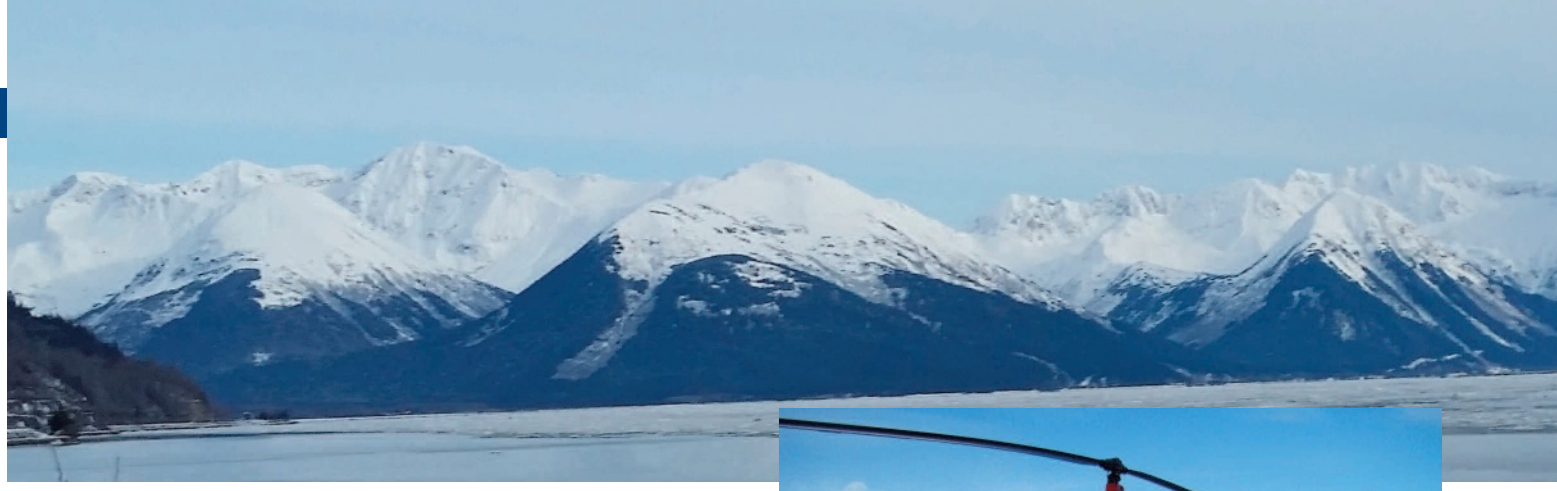
This past season, ski areas in the Midwest experienced an impressive rebound, as skier visits grew by 17 percent in this region to 6.4 million visits. In addition, the Southeast region had a strong season, up 3.6 percent to 4.3 million visits from 2016-17. The Northeast region held steady at 11.8 million visits, less than 1 percent down from the previous season. The Rocky Mountain, Pacific Northwest, and Pacific Southwest regions were down slightly more, ranging between -5 and -14 percent.

Visitation was up more than 52 percent in October and November and up 18 percent in March, due to a strong start and finish to the season. Resorts in several states set records for skier visits, including Whitefish and Bridger Bowl in Montana; Stevens Pass in Washington; Jackson Hole in Wyoming; and Schweitzer Mountain in Idaho. Resorts were open an average of five additional days this season over the prior season – a testament to the investments in efficient snowmaking infrastructure and a commitment to providing an outstanding experience to guests. Thanks to abundant snowfall totals late in the year, two resorts in Michigan – Boyne Mountain and Mount Bohemia – have been competing since mid-April to see which can stay open the longest this season.

Notably, the share of visits that included a lesson at US ski areas increased this season, indicative of the growing appetite to learn to ski and snowboard. These activities provide terrific opportunities to get outside in the winter and spend time with family and friends.

"I am pleased that the 2017-18 season was right in line with our 40-season average, with Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Northwest performing above the 40-year average," said Kelly Pawlak, NSAA president and CEO, *"Ending on a positive note with many spring records will help drive season pass sales."*

NSAA will release a final report of the Kottke End of Season Survey this summer. For more information, visit NSAA online at ***www.nsaa.org.***



Participants on the Far West Ski Association's 2018 Mini Ski Week traveled to Alyeska Ski Resort and Anchorage, Alaska. Alyeska is situated within the Chugach Mountain Range, and is the only North ▶

The Public Affairs portfolio of programs is designed to present the positions of the FWSA to the outside world. Since its founding, Far West has been known as *"The Voice of the Western Skier"*. Our Association has been active in many broad areas that cover ski area development, safety, volunteer liability, transportation, taxation and tariffs, ski history and consumer advocacy. Topics such as the new collaborative ski pass movement, ski area development, protecting our snowsports environment, and the future of US skiing and ski competition are of particular interest to our membership and the *Far West Skier's Guide* readership.

We also better educate our members in areas, such as, the impact of changing demographics and the need for increased diversity, snowsports industry efforts like ski area growth, regulatory efforts to modernize state ski laws, expanding snowmaking capabilities, development of e-commerce in the industry, resort developments, consumer tendencies, the Forest Service's involvement in area development and the requirements to meet visitor's various needs based on demographics such as age, capabilities, interests and other factors.

The width and breadth of the FWSA's Public Affairs program is significant and FWSA is committed to doing all we can in communicating issues, educating our membership and reaching out to the general public on a huge range of issues and interests that might be included under the large umbrella of topics that could be considered "public affairs". We strongly encourage all skiers and boarders to get involved in issues that might affect them either directly or even indirectly. Stay informed about industry news, government activities, area developments, legislation, public meetings, consumer advocacy and trends, safety issues, product developments and introductions. To keep abreast of issues and stay informed about relevant news, please visit ***www.fwsa.org***. Here are some topics of current interest.

ALPINE SKIING NOTED AS THE 11TH MOST DIFFICULT SPORT

ESPN published a list of what their experts deemed to be the 60 most difficult sports. To determine the difficulty of each sport, a panel of eight judges ranked each one in 10 categories, including considerations such as endurance, power, nerve, and hand-eye coordination. After each judge scored each sport in each category, the results were compiled, averaged, and a final score out of 100 was given.

Starting with boxing and ending with fishing inbetween, there are all types of sports, ranging from curling to three different types of rodeo events. ***Skiing???*** There are four types of skiing that made the most difficult sport list: Alpine, Freestyle, Ski Jumping, and Nordic - Ranking 11th, 25th, 29th, and 30th respectively.

SWISS SCIENTISTS MAKE SIGNIFICANT ADVANCEMENT IN UNDERSTANDING AVALANCHES

A team of Swiss scientists have released a study in which they've created animated simulations of what exactly causes a slab avalanche. These Swiss scientists took an extremely micro-level approach to the causes of avalanches, looking at the specific physics involved in what triggers an avalanche, as well as, how that impetus results in a small fracture that spreads throughout the snowpack. The scientists have been able to take numerical findings, and turn them into extremely accurate animation sequences. By finding a way to take measurements from snow packs and plugging them into an animation sequence, these researchers have developed a new way to understand avalanches that could ultimately work itself into avalanche detection centers across the world. While development isn't at this point yet, it's conceivable to imagine avalanche detection centers having sensors set up across mountain ranges providing them with numerical data that they can plug into animated recreations of their mountain ranges, helping them have a more thorough and exact understanding of when and where avalanche danger exists.

2022 WINTER OLYMPICS FOCUS ON GENDER BALANCE, INNOVATION AND YOUTH ASPECT

Monobob and Big Air Skiing, are among seven events added to the 2022 Winter Olympic Program. These events were announced as additions to the 2022 Olympic program following an International Olympic Committee Executive Board meeting in July in Lausanne, Switzerland. Monobob will be a women's event, while both genders will compete in big air. The other additions are mixed team events in aerials skiing, ski jumping, short track speed skating and snowboard cross. In addition, the women's ice hockey tournament will add two teams and mixed doubles curling will add two teams. The changes were made with a "real focus on the innovation and youth aspect", as well as, the goal of improving gender balance. IOC Sports Director *Kit McConnell* said, *"We want to move toward gender balance and eventually gender equality…We feel with Beijing we are getting close to that."*

FEDERAL SKI FEE RETENTION BILL, OF 2018

The National Ski Areas Association (NSAA) is encouraging resorts

▶ ***American ski resort that has mountain, glacier and ocean views. Many also were able to take a helicopter ride over the snow covered peaks. Great skiing. Awesome scenery.*** *photos provided by Nancy Ellis*

PUBLIC AFFAIRS 2018

by Paula Hazzard
Vice President - Public Affairs, FWSA

FAR WEST MEMBER COUNCILS cover 12 states, with 9 regional councils and more than 150 CLUBS, with a combined membership of over 50,000 skiers and snowboarders.

on public land to help line up co-sponsors for the Ski Area Fee Retention Act of 2018, which was introduced in the US House of Representatives and the Senate earlier this year. According to NSAA, the bill would earmark a major portion of U.S. Forest Service permit fees, roughly $22 million to $24 million of the roughly $37 million resorts on public lands pay in permit fees, for improving ski area permit administration, processing of ski area proposals, and addressing any backlogs in permit administration or processing, The fees can also be used for interpretation, visitor services and support of USFS Avalanche information/education.

SNOW & BOARD ASSOCIATIONS

The International Skiing History Association (ISHA) is a US based organization working to preserve and build awareness of the sport's heritage through its skills and long experience in editing, research and publishing. ISHA publishes a magazine enthusiastically read six times a year by skiers and boarders alike around the world. It makes ski history accessible to thousands of enthusiasts on the Internet. You can visit their webpage at ***www.skihistory.org***.

U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame, offers a subscription to the International Skiing History Association's bi-monthly Journal, *Skiing History Magazine*. Along with the journal, you will have access to heavy discounts on hundreds of brands and quarterly giveaways. When you become a Patron Member, you will be entered in annual drawings for great prizes. ***www.skihall.com***

NATIONAL SKI COUNCIL FEDERATION/NSCF

The National Ski Council Federation was formally established in 1999. It consists of the largest 29 ski councils (including councils in the Far West Ski Association) in the United States, and boasts a total membership of approximately 300,000 snowsports enthusiasts. A wide variety of discounted benefits are offered. A few categories of these discounted benefits are: car rentals, hotels and resorts, sporting equipment and gear, including helmets, adventure travel and ski and board rentals.

AREA DEVELOPMENT

◆ ***Timberline Lodge, Oregon Purchased Summit Ski Area.*** R.L.K. and Company, operator of Timberline Lodge and Ski Area, has purchased Summit Ski Area in Government Camp, which is located on Mt Hood, less than six miles from Timberline.

◆ ***Mammoth Announced $10 Million in Improvements.*** Mammoth Mountain continues to evolve as a four-season mountain resort with a new round of investments in summer activities and infrastructure at Canyon Lodge, aimed at improving the guest experience. Combined, the Alterra Mountain Company's new investments in Mammoth total over $10,000,000 in capital improvements this summer, and include the construction of the tallest zip line in the country and a new Via Ferrata climbing route. Both are anticipated to complete construction and be open by October.

◆ ***Tahoe Ski Resort Develops Plan to Adapt to Low-Snow Seasons.*** Heavenly Mountain Resort's plan calls for widening a dozen trails and removing potentially hundreds or even thousands of trees. The hope is to reduce skier and snowboard traffic bottlenecks on busy days at the South Lake Tahoe resort straddling the California-Nevada line. Low-snow seasons are expected to become more common due to climate change.

◆ ***GREEN NEWS: AND THE WINNER IS . . .*** Sustainable Travel International has named Vail as the first mountain resort IN THE WORLD to achieve certification as a "sustainable destination." It's also the first resort of any kind in the United States so certified. The effort to get certified was launched several years ago. The destination being certified includes Vail, the town, and Vail, the ski area, as well as the watershed of Gore Creek, where both are located. Particular efforts by the town include a ban on disposable plastic bags and mandated recycling, plus an effort to improve the water quality of the creek through governing the uses of adjoining land.

PROTECT OUR WINTERS (POW)

In 2007, pro snowboarder *Jeremy Jones* founded Protect Our Winters. At that time, Jeremy was finding that more and more resorts he'd always counted on for good riding, were closed due to lack of snow. Something was clearly going on, and he felt the need to act. But, he couldn't find any organizations focused on mobilizing the snowsports community on climate. There was a gap between the impacts that climate change was already having on our mountains, and any organized action being taken to address it. And so, Jeremy founded Protect Our Winters.

Soon afterward, other concerned pro athletes, individuals, resorts and winter sports companies joined in. Since then, Protect Our Winters has grown from a kernel of an idea into a worldwide network of over 130,000 supporters – a social movement on climate, designed to activate a passionate community. As POW's earliest supporters were renowned athletes and respected corporations, the movement quickly grew to include the wider outdoor sports community, as their playgrounds and livelihoods also depend on healthy winters. POW's key formula for engaging 60 million+ outdoor sports enthusiasts is globally: relevance and authenticity. We All Need Winter! ▲▲

FWSA Submits Resolution Opposing Trade Tariffs on Snowsports Products

by Jane Wyckoff
FWSA Trustee

In late summer, the Snowsports Industries America (SIA) issued a Tariff Update with information regarding how SIA was responding to the proposed trade tariffs and how organizations could get involved.

The Administration proposed a 10% - 25% tariff on over $200 billion worth of U.S. Products produced in China. On the current list were a number of snowsports products:

- Ski gloves
- Safety Helmets
- Knit Hats and Head Gear
- Sport Bags

Per SIA, during the last season's selling season (August 2018 – March 2018), these goods generated over $779 million dollars in retail sales. Due to a concern about the impact the proposed tariffs would have on manufacturers and our retail partners, SIA urged action to do everything possible to get the items removed from the list. ***(www.snowsports.org)***

Nick Sargent, SIA's President, was among hundreds who testified at the US International Trade Commission. *"The products of interest to SIA are not the type of products that are the targets of the Chinese acts, policies, and practices of concern to the United States and imposition of additional duties on these products, therefore, would not aid the goal of China eliminating such acts, policies, and practices,"* wrote SIA President Nick Sargent in a letter to the USTR. ***(www.snewsnet.com)***

Past President Randy Lew wrote a *"Resolution Opposing Increasing Trade Tariffs"* on behalf of the Far West Ski Association, which was voted on and approved by the Board of Directors. After stating the facts regarding the trade tariffs, the resolution ended:

"Therefore, Be It Resolved That Far West Ski Association, representing nine member ski councils, 150 adult recreational ski clubs, and over 50,000 ski club members in the twelve states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming, urges the US International Trade Commission to reconsider these tariffs and to better understand how they negatively affect U.S. manufacturers, U.S. retailers, and the U.S. consumers. We request that these items be removed from the U.S. Trade Representative list of additional imported items to be taxed."

The resolution was submitted to the U.S. Trade Representatives office, Office of the President of the United States, Washington Senator Patty Murray, Washington Senator Maria Cantwell, and Washington Congresswoman Jaime Herrera Buetler.

Following the hearings, the Administration approved tariffs in late September on $200 billion worth of US imports from China. The list of proposed products will face a 10% tariff (increasing to 25% on January 1, 2019). Among the 6,000 products on the list, the snowsports-specific products included: sports bags, knit hats and ski gloves. Safety helmets were removed from the final list. Following is the statement from SIA:

"As the Administration moves forward with their tariffs, we're thankful that our collective efforts to bring some common sense to the product list were heard, and that safety helmets were removed from the USTR tariff list. Unfortunately, there is still more work to be done as ski gloves, knit hats and sport bags still remain. These tariffs pose an economic threat to our manufacturers and our retailers, and we will continue to work hard to make sure that these products are exempted from the list." -Nick Sargent, President, Snowsports Industries America.

To read the full Testimony of Nick Sargent to the US International Trade Commission on August 27, 2018, and additional information on this topic, go to ***www.snowsports.org***.

Lookin' Good on the Slopes: Ski Fashion Trends for 2019

by Leigh Gieringer

What's trending in the ski fashion world for the upcoming season? Predictions seem to indicate that black will be back. Mix in some white and grays for a monochromatic appearance. Possibly subtle patterns combining all three colors will take center stage. For an exciting contrast, add some purples and pinks for accents, but don't take your reds and blues to Goodwill yet. You will not be thrown off the chairlift, or bar stool, if you are fond of a more traditional color selection. Or, if you are wearing last year's styles.

One of the biggest trends according to *Vogue Magazine*, is wearing a Balaclava - or ski mask which covers most of one's face. If recent fashion show catwalks are any indication, the 2019 varieties incorporate bright colors, bold patterns and chunky wool knit textures. Perhaps the choice of basic black as the dominant current fashion color is that it will blend with all these colorful head coverings. Not only will these masks keep the wearer warm when the wind blows, the snow flies and the temperature dips, but more importantly, this head covering will act as an identifying feature. After all, if the face is covered, and everyone is wearing black, how would you recognize your ski buddies? Simple: look for a familiar Balaclava! Might be good to have a password in case someone else bought the same design. For après ski activities, you might want to seek out a hooded parka - possibly with leather detailing or faux fur trim. Only time will tell! It will be interesting to see if these predictions are accurate. In the meantime, get your skis out of storage and have a great season!

Snowboarding on Sicily's Mt. Etna offers a panoramic view over the Mediterranean.
photo / Jimmy Petterson

SKI OR SEA?

Can't Make up Your Mind?

DO BOTH!!!

AND, PARTAKE IN SOME CULTURE, TOO!

by Jimmy Petterson

It's March, the winter at home has been long and hard, and it is finally time for a family or group vacation. Your significant other wants to go to the beach and work on her tan. The kids are screaming to go to an amusement park, and you had hoped to get in some spring skiing in the mountains. Ahh . . . the pleasures of compromise. Maybe you are part of a group with no idea what each member would like to do. You pause a moment in the midst of this chaos and disharmony and ponder your options. You can: (A) capitulate to your spouse or go with the group selection, and be utterly bored for seven days on the beach. (B) Go along with your kids' suggestion, but one day at a theme park is more than enough for you. (C) Make a stand on behalf of your own wishes, discuss reasonably, and ensure that the family, or group, will be on unfriendly terms during the whole vacation, no matter where you go. (D) Take separate vacations. *Now, there's a thought!* Or, (E) consult the *Far West Skier's Guide's* handy *"Ski or Sea Guide"* to find a suitable solution.

Perhaps the beach goers would be satisfied with the beaches along the southern California coast, while you cavort in the snows of the nearby San Gabriel Mountains. Or, you could take the kids to the original Disneyland near Los Angeles, and there would be time left over to ski in any one of the many different ski areas in the San Gabriel Mountains, as close as an hour drive from downtown L.A. There are other alternatives, as well, if you are looking for a more exotic vacation. What about the big island of Hawaii for riding the surf and traversing a slope? Combine some spring skiing in the Maritime Alps with a visit to the Côte d'Azur. Anyone voting for Sicily? What about Greece or Cyprus? Or?

There are only a handful of geographical locations in the world to which God has been overly generous, blessing them with a sunny seacoast and snow capped mountains, both in near enough proximity to each other so as to allow a person to enjoy the pleasures of each - both on the same day!

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Perhaps, there is no better place for a ski and sea holiday than Southern California. The beaches around Los Angeles are legend, from the surfer's paradise of Malibu to Venice Beach where the full gamut of California lifestyle is on parade under a microscope. Plus, there are numerous other beaches further down the coast. Most people are also well aware of some of the family entertainment that exists in and around Los Angeles like Disneyland and Universal Studios. Other entertainment attractions in Southern California include the additional amusement parks of Magic Mountain and Knott's Berry Farm; animal and aquatic life on display at the L.A. and San Diego Zoos as well as Marine World, various television studios, where the filming of TV shows can be watched, and the world-class sports teams like the Lakers and Clippers (basketball), the Kings and Ducks (hockey), the Dodgers and Angels (baseball), and the Rams and Chargers (football) can be attended.

When one adds to all these other recreation possibilities, the fact that there are six different ski areas between 45 and 100 miles from Los Angeles, one begins to understand why so many people have made this area their home. When visiting Los Angeles, one can choose among Bear Mountain, Mountain High, Mt. Baldy, Mt. Waterman, Snow Valley Mountain Resort, and Snow Summit for skiing. There are about 60 lifts among these areas, and although one cannot compare the San Gabriel Mountains with the Rockies, they do offer some fairly good and convenient skiing from mid-November into April.

During a trip to L.A., Caspar Möller and I decided to visit Mt. Waterman, which, along with Mt. Baldy, has some of the best off-piste skiing in Southern California. It had been raining for a few days in the city, and we awoke to an L.A. morning right out of the 1930s – the pre-smog era when Angelinos invariably rose each morning with a view from the snow to the sea.

We wove our way through five lanes of rush-hour traffic, heading northeast, and the snow covered range looked close enough to touch. As we wound the last few miles along Angeles Crest Highway, we could already see the possibilities. Off to our right were a whole array of steep ridges and ravines among very widely spaced pines. Whichever route through the trees which an off-piste skier would choose took him right back to the road, just a short hitchhike back to the lower lift.

***Upper:* Southern California palms juxtaposed with the snow-capped San Gabriel Mountains are an incongruous sight. *Lower:* One of the top resorts in Southern California is Mountain High, near Wrightwood.**
photos / Jimmy Petterson

Mt. Waterman is one of the smaller areas in Southern California, with only three lifts, but we needed no more. The powder was superb, and we were all alone in the trees. Thumbing a ride was easy at first, but became increasingly more difficult as the day went on. Something had to be done. Usually, powder hounds are ecstatic to have their slopes exclusively, but we needed a third skier now. We combed the lunch cafeteria, trying to discern by people's garb, who might be a likely candidate for off-piste skiing. There was nobody.

We took one run on the piste and saw a lone skier doing some serious mogul bashing, and we knew we had our man. Our recruit was

When skiing in one of the ski resorts of Southern California, one is not far away from the surf in La Jolla pictured above. *photos / Jimmy Petterson*

only too willing to be shown some powder gullies, and for the rest of the day, we took turns, skiing two runs of powder and running a shuttle bus service for the other two.

Our return to L.A. took us through the downtown freeway interchange at exactly the worst time of the evening – 5:30 PM. The traffic was at a dead standstill, and a number of horns were honking impatiently. Caspar and I were passive. Our dinner might have to wait an extra hour, but we somehow were returning to the city with a better understanding of why ten million people were willing to put up with this kind of inconvenience on a regular basis.

HAWAII

Beach Boys, what's the matter with you guys? How come you never sang to us about skiing in Hawaii? You gave us *"Surfin' U.S.A."*, *"Let's Go to Hawaii"*, *"Surfin' Safari"*, etc., and nary a song about schussing Mauna Kea or snowboarding the volcano! You better believe that Mauna Kea is quite a mountain at 4205 meters, certainly deserving of a song. In fact, if one follows the contours of the volcano down to the sea bottom, it is the highest mountain in the world!

Skiing the big island of Hawaii, as one can well imagine, is no ordinary experience. Here, one can enjoy an après-ski under a palm looking out over the Pacific Ocean. There are no lifts on Mauna Kea, so the uphill transportation for skiers consists of a four-wheel-drive vehicle.

The season here is long, albeit totally inconsistent, and the reliability has not gotten better with the advent of global warming. Christopher Langen, who has organized ski trips to Mauna Kea for more than 20 years, relates that he has skied in every month from November to July, but that February and March are the most reliable.

Skiing on Mauna Kea is a very interesting experience. One can sometimes ski as much as an astounding 1500 meters of vertical after a large dump, according to Chris, but the snow line is quite variable, and it is best to call for information to verify conditions. When I was there, my son Erik and I skied about 50 vertical meters.

Upper Right: ***Jimmy Petterson enjoys the moonscape of Mauna Kea on the big island of Hawaii.*** *Photo by Erik Petterson Sjöqvist*

Middle Right: ***Erik Petterson Sjoqvist feels the wind in his hair at Laupahoehoe Point, one of the many beautiful spots on the big island.***

Lower Right: ***Hawaii just wouldn't be Hawaii without the lovely hula girls.***

While North America has a fair number of ski-and-beach possibilities, it is by no means the only part of the world where one can enjoy this combination of pleasures. Perhaps, there is no better place for such a holiday than the French Riviera.

Left: Aynur Alkara enjoys the view and the fresh snow in Limone.

Right: The picturesque Old Town of Antibes in France is only a two-and-a-half hour drive from the snow of Limone in Italy.
photos / Jimmy Petterson

MARITIME ALPS & THE COTE D'AZUR

Right in the Alps, one has a few possibilities to enjoy a ski and beach holiday. The Maritime Alps stretch all the way south to within about a 75-minute drive from the Cote d'Azur. Such resorts as Isola 2000 and Auron in France and Limone in Italy are each that close to the turquoise waters of the Mediterranean.

Last spring, I followed my own advice and took my girlfriend's love of sun and sea into consideration before planning our Easter holiday. Aynur and I flew to Nice, rented a car, and settled into a small hotel in Juan les Pins, close to Antibes. That became our base of operations. From there, we could let the weather and our own whims determine each day's activities. If there was fresh snow on the mountains, we could be there before the lifts opened without an ultra-early wakeup call, and if we preferred a leisurely day exploring Antibes or wandering through the Picasso Museum, we could choose that option.

Our first ski destination was Isola 2000, a purpose-built resort offering 19 ski lifts, 120 kilometers of pistes, and a wide variation of slopes to suit all ability groups. The sun was strong, and yet the north-facing side of the mountain still offered winter snow in the morning. We rode the lifts to the highest point in the system, the Cîme de Sistron (2603 m), from where we had a view back to the Mediterranean. This part of the ski area had some of the most challenging terrain, including the heavily moguled Morisset and Mesclun runs and the long and varied Super Vallon descent. Still, there were some excellent blue and red cruisers for Aynur, as well.

Following a leisurely lunch on a sunny veranda, we finished the day on the sun-drenched slopes of the south-facing Lombarde lift. There, we could spray corn snow into the spring air to our heart's content and the pistes were virtually empty.

Just a short drive one valley up the road from Isola is the ski resort of Auron. With 21 lifts and 135 kilometers of pistes, its size is very similar to that of Isola. This is also a purpose-built resort, but it is linked with the quaint medieval village of Saint Etienne de Tinnee, where we spent the night instead of driving back to the coast. The little-known Auron proved to be a pleasant surprise, offering a plethora of off-piste possibilities, particularly the glades near the steep Roche Iglière piste. My eye spotted off-piste routes almost everywhere among the larches on the St. Etienne side of the mountain, and I made a mental note to return here sometime in the heart of winter.

The temperature of the water at this time of year is not really conducive to a long leisurely swim, but upon returning to Antibes, I couldn't resist the temptation of the classic experience of skiing and swimming on the same day. I chose a picturesque spot, raced quickly into the sea, splashed around for a few seconds and returned even more rapidly to a waiting towel.

There are innumerable lovely towns along the Cote d'Azur and time is one's only limit to how many villages one wants to explore and discover. While the old town of Antibes is one of my personal favorites, Cannes and St. Tropez each has its own charm and Monte Carlo, of course, with its beautiful casino and interesting citizenry of ex-patriot millionaires, is a unique spot, as well.

We also made a visit to Menton, the last town before the border, where we enjoyed a spectacular rainbow while we indulged in a shellfish platter in one of the seaside restaurants. The squall of rain and subsequent rainbow boded well for some powder and sunshine for the following day, so we headed back up the mountains toward Limone.

The road begins to climb the moment one leaves the sea, and from high atop a pass, we watched a spectacular sunset over the Juan les Pins peninsula in the distance. Soon, we settled in for the night in another quaint village - Dente - only a few kilometers short of the Col de Tende and Limone, just the other side of the French-Italian border.

Limone is a medium-sized resort with 16 lifts and 80 kilometers of pistes, and a good skier can get a reasonably good overview of the resort in a day. The morning did indeed bring both sunshine and powder and Aynur and I wasted no time in getting into the powder.

The resort only goes up to 2085 meters, but with many north-facing slopes, this was high enough for powder, even in April. We rode the lifts up to the highest point and hiked an additional ten minutes to access the lovely Alpetta descent. This is a meandering valley that winds its way gradually back to the village of Limone. Alpetta is off-piste for novices, and its mellow slopes made for a perfect excursion for Aynur. On a spring day with good visibility, she could get an off-piste experience away from the crowds, which was inspiring and yet non-threatening.

The snow-covered Sierra Nevada mountains of southern Spain create a picturesque background to the Alhambra Palace in Granada. *photo / pixabay.com*

ANDALUSIA, SPAIN

It was with a combined ski, beach, and cultural vacation in mind that my friend, Arne Bredow, and I packed a suitcase full of ski paraphernalia along with a couple of bathing trunks, and boarded a plane for Málaga in mid April. Despite the Sierra Nevada having hosted the 1996 World Championship of Skiing, most people are unaware of the fact that just two hours from the Costa del Sol, the Sierras tower 3,500 meters above the sea. I must admit, we got some cross-eyed stares from lobster-red British tourists and bewildered Scandinavian sun worshippers as we carried our skis and boots through the streets of Torremolinos to our rental car. No matter – we knew what we were doing.

Arne and I bought some empanadas, a bag of pistachio nuts, and some coconut juice for the ride, and we headed north to Granada. A half-hour drive from the ski area, the magnificent old city of Granada is ample proof that a vacation to this region could combine culture with snow and sand, but that would have to wait. We hairpinned our way up the highest road in Europe, past blooming apple trees and acres of olive orchards. Soon the pastoral green scenes of springtime passed away into the valley, and the landscape transformed into a winter white.

The road, known as los Neveros, goes up to 3100 meters, but for skiers, there is no necessity to drive higher than 2100 meters, the elevation of the village and the base of the lift system. We could see at a glance that the village was not going to compete very strongly with Austria for coziness. The buildings were mostly high-rise apartments, reminiscent of many of the French ski stations, with just enough of the odd chalet-like structure intermixed to make the whole scenario totally incongruous. Suffice is to say that with the grand and historic city of Granada just a stone's throw down the valley, and the cost of accommodation there being less than half the price of a room in the ski village, there was no doubt about where we would prefer to settle in after the ski day was finished.

There are 21 lifts to choose from here, and most of them service beginner and intermediate ski terrain. We immediately made our way over toward the Laguna chair lift, the highest lift, which takes a skier up to just under the peak of Mt. Veleta. The Laguna lift offers 700 vertical meters of skiing, and accesses a fair amount of off-piste terrain. We spent most of the morning discovering various routes between the rocks of this section of the mountain, known as Tajos de la Virgen.

At midday, we stopped at the middle station for a large plate of paella (a typical Spanish dish consisting of saffron rice cooked with chicken, pork, shrimps, and mussels) and a bottle of Rioja wine. *"Quite tasty,"* I thought to myself, as I let the meal digest.

The wide open slopes of the Sierra Nevada offer lots of off-piste possibilities. *photo / Jimmy Petterson*

After lunch, we cruised around the rest of the lift system. The day we had arrived in Torremolinos, I had taken a dip in the Mediterranean, and the mercury had hit 90 degrees Fahrenheit. But, here in the mountains, it was 27 degrees, and we skied on firm winter snow, rather than the spring snow that I had expected.

After the ski day was finished, we still had time to wander around in Granada for a few hours. In the city, the snow-capped Sierras provided a picture postcard backdrop, behind the orange walls of the world famous Moorish Palace, the Alhambra. We circumambulated the old citadel, visited the gargantuan Catholic church in the city center, and began to meander through the crooked cobblestone streets of the old town in search of a restaurant.

One could easily spend many hours exploring the nooks and crannies of the old town, where the streets are so narrow that a motorcyclist would probably scrape his knees on both sides, attempting to ride around here. We finally found an appropriate bistro, where a plateful of mixed fresh fish and two carafes of sangria sent us very satiated to lullaby land.

During the following days, we alternated among sight-seeing visits to nearby Gibraltar and the picturesque village of Rondo, beach time in Torremolinos and Marbella, cultural visits to Malaga and Granada, and of course, more skiing in the Sierra Nevada. Our week in the Andalusia section of Spain did, indeed, provide us with the balance of snow, sand, and culture that we had initially sought.

Rupert Scheiner sprays up some powder high above the clouds and the sea on Mt. Etna.

SICILY

Sometimes the skiing itself is the main attraction, while on other occasions, the beauty, serenity or dynamic power of the surrounding nature can be a more dominant aspect of the day's proceedings. This can often be the case when skiing on Mt. Etna on the Italian isle of Sicily. It is the most active volcano in Europe. Her pent up energy is unpredictable, her volatile temper is irrational and her behavior is as difficult to chart as the movements and activities of a scorned woman.

Surprisingly, the Sicilians have built not only one, but two separate ski resorts on the slopes of Etna. As strange as that may seem, it is not shocking that during the course of her frequent eruptions, Mt. Etna has often destroyed the ski lifts along with woodlands, villages, and anything else that comes in the path of the lava. The Sicilians, however, have learned to live in their unpredictable environment, and they answer Etna's insults and abuses by merely rebuilding what she breaks.

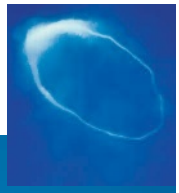
Etna Sud is a group of four lifts situated near the village of Nicolosi, while Etna Nord, close to Linguaglossa, has five lifts. Both areas were damaged severely during the eruptions of 2001-2002, and the number of available lifts can quickly change due to volcanic activity, so it is always advisable to contact the ski areas shortly before making a visit. While this all may sound a bit risky, the experience of skiing under plumes of smoke while overlooking the Ionian Sea shimmering in the distance can well overshadow a bit of insecurity.

One day, while riding up the gondola on Etna Sud, we suddenly beheld our host mountain blowing a perfect smoke ring into the sky. I have watched many smokers, over the years, exhale a series of rings from their mouth, but I must admit that this was the largest one I had ever seen.

The ski runs range from gentle to intermediate in ability, and the off-piste terrain is similar, allowing freeriders to cruise around the mountain at will. Etna rises a full 1000 vertical meters above the highest lift on Etna Nord, creating many possibilities for ski touring as well. The mountain, which has a diameter of approximately 40 kilometers, is immense, and ski touring is the best way to avail oneself of many of those square kilometers of snow.

On one occasion, we hiked above the lifts to within a few feet of the slowly moving lava. The outer shell was hardened volcanic rock, but underneath that layer, the lava was a glowing red. Periodically, one of the outer stones would tumble down exposing us to a blast of volcanic heat. Lava reaches temperatures of between 1,300-1,800 degrees Fahrenheit, and this liquid heat warmed up the chill mountain air like a sauna. Further above us, the lava was flowing out of one of the craters like a golden river, but we could not proceed any higher. At night, one can often see small rivers of lava against the pitch-black background.

Away from the mountain, there is plenty of beach and culture nearby, stretching from Syracuse to Taormina. The Rocks of the Cyclops jut out of the ocean near Aci Trezza like the long necks of sea serpents, making this a beautiful location to stop for a swim. Syracuse is a living museum of antiquity, where Greek and Roman ruins can be found almost everywhere amidst the modern-day city. Catania, by contrast, is a baroque city, where such landmarks as the Fontana dell'Elefante, the Church of Santa Maria dell'Indirizzo, the Arco di San Benedetto, and the San Giuliano Church create a completely different kind of atmosphere.



Volcanic Mt. Etna, emitting its steamy discharge, blows a perfect smoke ring into the sky. Nature can be so fascinating! *photos / Jimmy Petterson*

Perhaps the most beautiful spot along the coast is the village of Taormina. It is here that the creations of God and man form a most harmonious union. The village is built on the hillside overlooking a beautiful turquoise bay. The narrow cobblestone streets of Taormina seem to defy modern day cars to transgress their sanctity, as they wind among old stone houses. And, five-minute's walk from the central square lie the superbly preserved remains of a Greco-Roman theater.

All the while, Etna broods over the whole scene like an omnipotent white god who has observed various cultures and civilizations come and go without ever relinquishing her power.

In the end, a visit to Mt. Etna offers much more than just a ski and beach holiday. Over 400 years ago, historian Tommaso Fazello, wrote that Etna was *"wonderful because it does not allow the fire to be extinguished by the snows nor the snows to be dissolved in the fire."* That same balance between fire and ice that fascinated Fazello can give a visitor a nature experience hard to replicate anywhere else in the world.

Note: The areas included on the previous pages are just a few destinations where one can spend a day on the slopes, and an evening relaxing to the sounds of ocean waves slapping against the shores. For more destinations where one can combine ski with beach and interesting cultural experiences, including Greece, Crete and other intriguing locations, visit the 2018-2019 Far West Skier's Guide - Digital Edition. The insert appears between pages 64 and 65 in the digital version.

Jimmy Petterson is an American, educated at the University of Southern California, and graduated cum laude with a Bachelor's degree in history, a Teaching Credential, and a Master's degree in Instruction and Curriculum. He could have spent his life as a teacher, molding young minds and preparing the next generation to take over our world. Instead, to his father's great disappointment, he has spent most of the last 46 winters as a ski bum, living from hand to mouth to support his skiing addiction. Jimmy has skied in 75 countries and his ski articles have been published in 20 countries. He has also hosted a 6-part TV series called "Raider of the Lost Snow". He has also authored and photographed a coffee table book called "Skiing Around the World". Volume II of the book will be released in 2019. (See http://www.skiingaroundtheworldbook.com).

2018-2019 FWSA Digital Insert

The Far West Ski Association offers more than ski trips to the world's most famous resorts. In October of 2018, numerous members traveled to exotic India for a very unique, educational and enjoyable adventure trip. photo / Debbie Stewart

See the world with FWSA!

Photo 1:

The Far West Ski Association offers more than ski trips to its members. In addition to pre and post trips near the scheduled international ski trips, every two years, a non-ski, adventure trip is planned. In past years, groups have visited the pyramids in Egypt, sailed down the Danube, ventured to Antarctica and traveled to many other intriguing destinations. In October of 2018, a group of FWSA members traveled to India for a very unique, educational and enjoyable adventure trip. Some of the ladies on the trip joined several Indian women to showcase the colorful attire.

photo / George Stewart

The FWSA Adventure Trip - 2018: India - A Most Unique & Memorable Destination

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FWSA 2020 International Ski Week is to be held in Davos, Switzerland; followed by the Solden, Austria Ski Week in 2021.

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Photo 2:

The FWSA Adventure trip for 2020 is planned for exploring Croatia. One of the stops will be to Dubrovnik. Affectionately known as the "Pearl of the Adriatic", this beautiful historic walled city is currently one of the top tourist destinations in the Mediterranean. In 1979, the city joined the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites.

photo / Pure Adventures

Croatia: Europe's New Riviera

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Photo 3:

Jimmy Petterson, author of the* Skiing Around The World *book, shares his travels to ski areas that are close enough to some of the world's best beaches and cultural centers, allowing skiers to enjoy their favorite sport with other activities on the same day or during the same outing. Several Ski/Sea locations were featured in the 2018-2019 printed edition of the Far West Skier's Guide. The digital only insert offers a continuation of other Ski/Sea locations including Greece, Cyprus and Lebanon. Pictured to the right are the snow covered peaks which are visible from the astounding monasteries built on the cliffs of Meteora in central Greece.

photo / Jimmy Petterson

Sea or Sea: Can't Make Up Your Mind? DO BOTH / Part II

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INSERT CONTENTS

Far West Ski Association Welcomes New Council
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PHOTO 4:
The National Brotherhood of Skiers - Western Region (NBSWR) is comprised of member clubs serving communities from San Francisco to San Diego and Las Vegas to Los Angeles. They also have developed an excellent OutReach Youth Program to introduce children to snowsports. *photo provided by Todd Hood*

National Brotherhood of Skiers - Western Region Joins Far West Ski Association as its 10th Council
Page 64 - 18

Take Your Kids & Grandkids to the Slopes
Page 64 - 20

PHOTO 5:
Want to make first tracks after a generous powder dump? Or, would you like to be one of the last to traverse the slopes? Does safety and helping others appeal to you? You might want to check out becoming a member of the National Ski Patrol! Senior OET Training Instructor, Gregg Nolan, conducts a class at Snow Summit.
photo provided by Barbara Razo

Red Jackets - White Cross - IS IT A FIT FOR YOU?
Page 64 - 22

Does Your Ski Club Need A Liability Policy?
Page 64 - 27

PHOTO 6:
The Big Bear Lake Area is known as a wonderful winter sports area near Los Angeles. Spend a day, a weekend, an extended weekend, midweek or longer frolicking in the snow. Big Bear Lake is also a great destination for summer mountain fun, too! Enjoy on-water activities? Boating, kayaking, and paddle boarding are popular; so is hiking along mountain trails. Make it a point to visit the high country before or after the FWSA Convention which will be held in nearby Indian Wells next June.
photo / Big Bear Visitor's Bureau

Visit Big Bear Lake for Summer Mountains of Fun Going to or from the FWSA Convention
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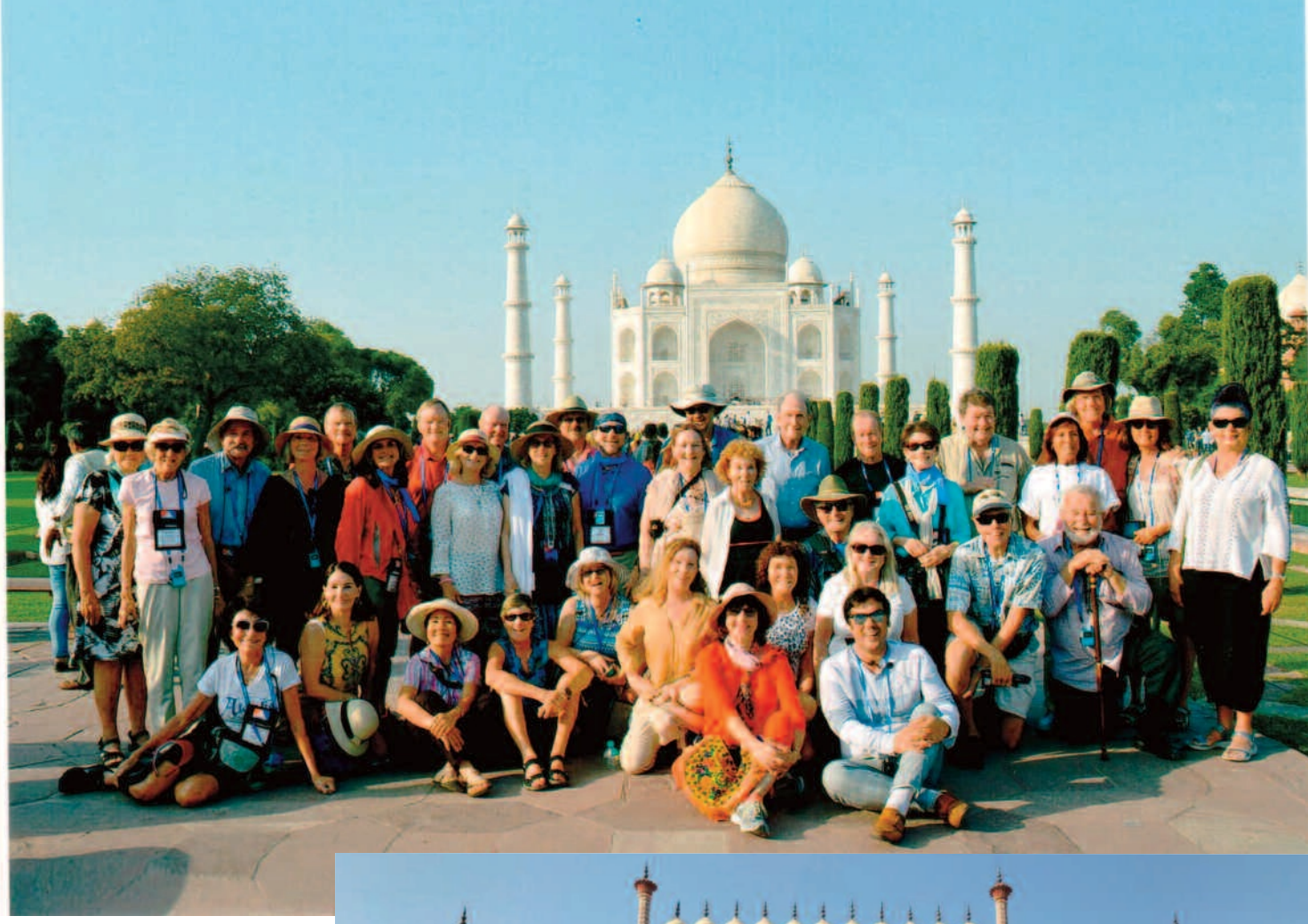


ABOVE: Members of the FWSA Adventure Trip posed in front of the historic Taj Mahal in Agra, India. The name translates to "Crown of the Palace". It was commissioned by Shah Jahan, one of the Mughal Dynasty emperors. This family ruled in the 16th to 18th Centuries. The first Mughal ruler, named Babur, defeated his enemy in 1526. One of his passions was to construct huge buildings in his honor, however, few of his structures have survived. His style became known as Mughal architecture which combines Islamic, Persian, Turkish and Indian elements including symmetrical balance and large domes cornered by slender minarets. His grandson, Akbar, was also a prolific builder of massive structures including the Agra Fort, and several others still in existence. The huge size was to represent their power and importance. Generations later, Shah Jahan became Emperor. He inherited the passion to create masterpieces from nearby sandstone and marble, however, instead of a "bigger is better" concept, Shah Jahan's desire was to refine his projects. His style was focused on elegance, symetry and balance. The interiors contain large halls with vaulted gateways and delicate jewelled wall art. Although the Taj Mahal wasn't the only building Shah Jahan commissioned, it remains the most renowned and recognizable example of Mughal architecture. Three and a half centuries later it has taken its place as one of the "New 7 Wonders of the World; and is on the UNESCO Heritage Sites list. It's construction took about 22 years, with 22,000 workers helping in the construction. Who carried all that ivory-white marble? A thousand elephants! LOWER IMAGE: This impressive red sandstone entrance greets visitors to the Taj Mahal and its beautiful formal gardens. The entrance connects to crenellated walls bounding three sides of the complex. The Yamuna River runs along the fourth side. The FWSA travelers are only a few of the 7-8 million annual visitors to this beautiful, unique, exquisite and historic masterpiece. *India photos / George and Debbie Stewart / content researched on Wikipedia*

The FWSA Adventure Trip - 2018:

India - A Most Unique & Memorable Destination

by Debbie Stewart
Vice President - International Travel, FWSA

Traditional Indian clothing depends on many factors including climate/season, geography, culture and ethnicity of the region. There is also a great diversity in the weaves, colors and materials used determined by the individual's region, religion and rituals, as well as whether the apparel is for everyday usage or for ceremonial or formal wear. There are different styles, prints and hand embroidered embellishments. One can find more of the traditional dress in rural areas, while most urban areas are more influenced by western styles; or a mixture of both.

Traveling to India, one must think adventure! India is a large country with incredible diversity, architecture, contrast, color, warm and kind people, history, cuisine, spirituality… yet it's real, it's raw and it's inspiring. The people have been very intent in keeping the heritage and structures from years past. India is the land of palaces, and a land of color. They believe that life is a celebration and to spread happiness all around.

One would really expect lots of hustle and bustle, street talk, crowded roads with lots of activity and incomparable noise. While in Delhi, Jaipur, Agra and Jodhpur, 36 FWSA participants had the "big city" experience with aggressive traffic, people everywhere sharing the area with cars, buses, tuk-tuks, rickshaws, scooters, ox and camels pulling carts along with cows, dogs and other animals.

We visited the must-see attractions. The Agra Fort is the largest private home of the Mughal. We also stopped in Jaipur – "the pink city" which is painted regularly. We also got to see Jodhpur – "the blue city", and the Amber Fort. One of the highlights was the Ranthambore National Park, where we enjoyed two jungle safaris, temples, shrines, a food kitchen for the public that has no cast discrimination, where the prince may be seated next to the pauper, the spice markets, and so much more.

A true highlight in the northern area of India was visiting the Taj Mahal! A World Heritage Site, which is a designation by the United Nations, that recognizes an area of the globe being of profound natural or cultural importance to all of humanity. This certainly fits that description and the amazing structure that it is. This ivory-white marble mausoleum, perfectly symmetrical on all sides, sits on the Yamuna River in the city of Agra. It was commissioned in 1632 by the Mughal Emperor, Shah Jahan to house the tomb of his favorite wife, Mumtaz Mahal a Persian princess who died giving birth to their 14th child. The tomb is the centerpiece of a 42-acre complex, which includes a mosque and a guest house, and is set in formal gardens bounded on three sides by a crenellated red sandstone wall.

It was important to take our members for a school visit. This school visit was quite moving and emotional for some. We brought school supplies to the children and visited each classroom. The children were so polite and respectful while standing up to greet us. We felt proud, emotionally touched and was a precious opportunity to discover and give back.

We then flew from Jodhpur to Kochi, a sleepy colonial city situated in the southwest corner of the India peninsula to enjoy the relaxing tropical area of Kerala. The state of Kerala shares the title, *"God's own country"* with New Zealand and Yorkshire. The beautiful lush scenery is a true contrast to the northern areas. We had a fun jeep tour through the Munnar area which is known for their tea plantations. Twenty-seven percent of all teas in the world come from this extraordinary region.

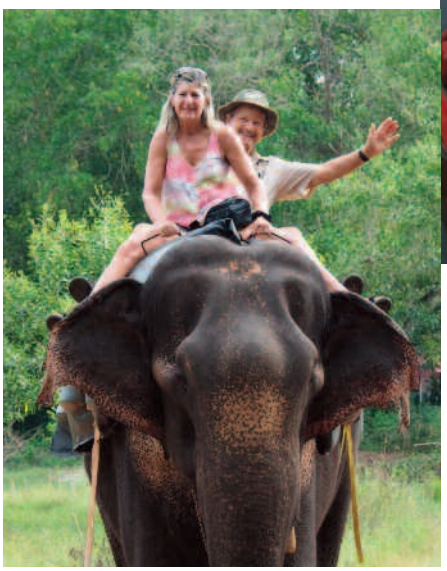
Then, to mix it up, we planned a different lodging experience…on a houseboat! We had seven 3 bedroom / 3 bath houseboats complete with a 3-person staff on each boat to tend to all our needs which included preparing our meals. This was the perfect ending to the trip while cruising the backwaters, the rivers and lake of the Kerala region. It was a beautiful setting; and charmed our hearts forever.

While many may be skeptical of traveling in India and never ever thought they would be enthralled with this special country - many of our participants expressed that this was the best and most unique trip of their life.

Namaste*!

**Translation: I bow to you — used as a respectful greeting in India.*

Snake charmers date back to Egyptian times, but the early 20th Century seemed to be the height of this activity. A snake charmer, dressed in traditional Indian attire, plays and waves around an instrument called a pungi. Snakes, mostly cobras, can sense the sounds, but are unable to hear. They respond to the movement. The Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 prohibited the ownership of snakes. It wasn't until the early 2000's that the Act was modified to allow Snake Charmers to be reclassified as street musicians, and to entertain tourists and perform at festivals and celebrations under strict regulations..



Although not on the official trip itinerary, several members took the opportunity to take an elephant ride.

ABOVE: FWSA participants on the India trip visited a school while in the country. Note the drawings in the background are in English. The group's visit provided the opportunity for the children to use their English speaking skills and interact with the Far West group. Members of the group brought school supplies from the States to give to the students who sincerely appreciated receiving them. IMMEDIATE LEFT AND RIGHT: It's not unusual to be entertained by traditional drummers and other street musicians, including snake charmers. Note the beautiful arches in the background of the facing page.

Click on the arrow to the left to view a short video on this travel adventure.

The 2020 Far West Ski Association's Annual International Ski Week Will be Held in Davos, Switzerland

Make "First Tracks" on one of the Far West Ski Association's Annual Ski Weeks. *photo / Jimmy Petterson*

If you're looking to go big, then a Davos ski vacation is right up your alley. Davos is an alpine town and municipality in the Prattigau/Davos region in the canton of Graubunden, Switzerland. Davos is located on the river Landwasser in the Rhaetian Alps. The alpine village consists of two parts – the Davos Dorf (village) to the northeast towards Klosters and Davos Platz (place) to the southwest, which opens into the valley.

Davos in Grisons is a place of superlatives. The largest ski resort in Switzerland and the highest city in Europe, Davos features five separate skiing areas: ***Parsenn*** - the largest with pistes for all levels and the longest downhill run. ***Jakobshorn*** – renowned for its snowboarding, as well as, a variety of skiable terrain. ***Pischa***, ***Madrisa*** and ***Rinerhorn*** – all family friendly with many outdoor activities on and off the mountain.

Davos is very well known for excellent skiing, the prestigious conference center which holds the world's Economic Forum, and reputation for high quality Wellness Centers. Davos offers many opportunities for both skiers and non-skiers alike…a FWSA International Ski Week trip you won't want to miss.

2021/ Solden, Austria

Austrian charm and hospitality are incomparable. Solden hosts the Alpine Ski World Cup and is one of Europe's most renowned ski and snowboard resorts. The infinite number of slopes and ski trails for all levels and abilities, coupled with the perfect grooming of no less than 91 miles of slopes, make Solden a truly unique winter sports center. Thirty-two state-of-the-art ski lifts and gondolas providing a total capacity of 70,000 persons/hour guarantee ultimate skiing fun without queuing.

Think BIG when you think about SOLDEN! Solden is Austria's first resort offering no less than three mountains peaks above 10,000 ft. Solden's marvelous BIG 3 peaks mark a new dimension in skiing and experiencing the Alpine scenery, opening new perspectives with their viewing platforms. Snow is guaranteed from October through May thanks to its high alpine location of the slopes up to 10,958 feet, two glacier ski areas and excellent snow-making systems covering about 75% of the slopes with 350 snow guns.

Solden is synonymous with sports and entertainment. Besides the great variety of skiing and snowsport activities, Solden also offers a wide range of entertaining highlights. You will enjoy great après-ski atmosphere, as well as, weekly events such as night skiing and a Solden Party.

ROATAN CHARTER

Honduras | Cayman Islands | Indonesia | St. Lucia | Fiji | Philippines & much more

Old Town Dubrovnik is located along the shores of the Adriatic Sea. With its centuries old history, the beautiful and unique city is on the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites. This view was taken from on top of the ancient wall surrounding the city. *Croatian photos provided by Pure Adventures*

Croatia: Europe's New Riviera

by Natalie Cook
Pure Adventures

Dreaming of the crystal waters, delectable cuisine, and laid-back leisure of the Mediterranean? You should know old favorites Italy and France have competition: their eastern neighbor in the Adriatic - Croatia! This coastal country is Europe's hottest riviera today, welcoming visitors with an abundance of breathtaking natural wonders, rich history and culture, wide array of outdoor activities, and an emerging food and wine scene that's putting old favorites of the region on standby.

Perched at the intersection of western Europe and the Balkans, the land Croatia now occupies has changed hands and kingdoms countless times over thousands of years. The result is a distinct culture that mimics some neighbors, but stands out as unique.

Ancient walled towns dot the dazzling coastline, providing endless winding alleys to explore. From a market held in the ruins of Diocletian's Palace in Split to set-scoping in Dubrovnik for "Game of Thrones" fans, Croatia's coastal towns and cities are hubs of culture, history, and seaside leisure.

Dubrovnik is one of the most storied – not to mention scenic – port cities in Croatia as the capital of the extinct Republic of Ragusa. The resilient people of Ragusa managed to remain a free state from 1382 to 1804 before coming under the sovereignty of Venice. Many of the few direct descendants of the Ragusa people that remain reside still today in Dubrovnik.

Traveling north up the coast, you'll eventually reach Split, home of the sprawling palace of the Roman Emperor Diocletian. The city was founded as a Greek colony in the 2nd or 3rd Century B.C. before eventually also being absorbed into the Republic of Venice. Diocletian's Palace remains an integral part of the old city, which grew up around its fortress-like structure. Don't miss the lively public market that is still held in the excavated cellars of the palace! These two resilient cities are bursting with rich history dating back thousands of years to, as recent as, the wars in the early 90's.

Beyond its fascinating history and urban hubs, Croatia's main attraction is all natural. The small country is a world leader in nature conservancy with nearly 8% of its land mass designated as national parks. The national park system is a crowning gem for Croatia and features eight parks in island, coastal, and inland settings alike. These natural paradises include emerald lakes, caves, and deep canyons and ravine caves for exploring. Many of its thousands of islands are quite mountainous, making for dramatic inland waterfalls and truly spectacular views of the sea from their peaks.

There are ample opportunities to experience these stunning landscapes on foot, on bike, and from the water. Nature parks abound with hiking and biking paths, or take a leisurely countryside walk from one winery to the next for a laid-back afternoon of tastings. Get a different vantage point in a kayak to observe the underwater wildlife and take in coastline landscapes.

One popular option for exploring this coastal paradise is by biking and hiking on the islands while using a yacht or catamaran as a "floating hotel". This type of tour provides a fresh perspective on island life in the Adriatic Sea. Meals are often included, allowing you to enjoy a sunrise coming over the water with a cup of warm coffee in hand, as well as, sunsets over island peaks with a glass of local wine. There are boats that can accommodate parties as small as eight people, and up to groups as large as 40.

Pro tip: If you are not used to riding bikes in hilly terrain, a pedal-assist E-bike will make your bike rides and vacation much more enjoyable! The islands and the Dalmatian Coast are quite hilly, so a little extra boost with every pedal stroke will ensure everyone can keep up while saving energy for exploring off the bike.

The islands and coast of the Dalmatia region are a popular destination for explorers looking to experience the flavors of Croatia, too. The region's climate is ideal for growing grapes and olive trees, making its wine and olive oil much sought-after delicacies. White wines dominate the scene, particularly Pošip, a full-bodied wine with hints of almond. Red wine lovers won't be let down either. The popular Plavac Mali is reminiscent of a bold Zinfandel with notes of blackberry.

You'll want to reserve a meal to try Dalmatia's signature dish, Peka. It starts with a bed of mixed vegetables and meats (chicken, lamb, veal, and octopus are favorites!) that are drizzled with fine local olive oil and sprinkled with herbs before being covered with a bell-shaped clay dome and cooked in a fireplace or fired oven.

If you're an adventurous eater, be sure to try the popular black risotto. Packed with fruits of the sea, it gets its dark hue from squid ink. (Careful with your dinnertime photos with this dish, though -- your lips and teeth will be black too!) And, if you make it to the Peljesac Peninsula, be prepared for mussels considered among the best in the world.

Now is the time to experience all this booming riviera has to offer -- culturally, historically, naturally, and deliciously!

In addition to its historic past, the natural geography is spectacular. See the coastline and islands by boat or bike. Island back roads make a cycling or hiking paradise. Don't forget your camera!

SKI OR SEA?

Can't Make Up Your Mind?

DO BOTH!!!

Part II

by Jimmy Petterson

Christer Henning sprays up the powder in Lebanon's Feraya Mzaar Resort, which overlooks the Mediterranean Sea.

*"There are only a handful of geographical locations in the world to which God has been overly generous, blessing them with a sunny seacoast and snow-capped mountains, both in near enough proximity to each other so as to allow a person to enjoy the pleasures of each - both on the same day!" **

GREECE

There are no less than 20 different ski areas in this Mediterranean country, more famous for its beaches. The largest of the resorts is Mt. Parnassos, situated 175 kilometers from the capital. Lower down, on the same broad mountain that is home to the ski resort lie the ruins of Delphi, perhaps the most significant location of ancient Greek times. It was here that people would come to the temple of Apollo to listen to the oracle's predictions of the future, between 1000 and 300 BC.

On our way to the skiing, we paused for a couple of hours to rummage through the fascinating remains of the pre-biblical stadium, temple, and amphitheater, but we needed no oracle to enlighten us about the coming days. The ominous dark clouds closing in quickly from the west spoke a thousand words . . . and the future was not at all what we had expected. Arriving in Greece on March 28, we had anticipated a week of spring skiing, but that was not at all in the oracle's crystal ball.

By the time we reached Arahova (940 m), the picturesque mountain village that services Mt. Parnassos, snow was falling heavily. The red tile roofs were turning white, and the locals were busily pulling their wares off of the displays along the main street and back into their old stone houses. Arahova is the mountain equivalent of some of the lovely whitewashed villages of the Greek Isles. Here, among the narrow, winding, hilly cobblestone streets, one sees young colorfully clad skiers and snowboarders juxtaposed with elderly Greek women in their traditional black garb.

The next morning, most of the 24 kilometers of road that separated us from the skiing were covered in Bing Crosby's favorite color, but this was Easter, for God's sake. It was not Christmas, and we were in southern Greece! I kept our car in second gear, and crept slowly upward. Snow chains are not standard equipment in rental cars in Greece. At 1750 meters altitude, we pulled into the parking lot of the ski center, where the snow banks were about two meters high.

All our preconceptions about skiing in Greece were being shattered minute by minute. Apollo was the god of the sun, but he was definitely out to lunch. Snow was falling steadily, and above us stood a massive mountain covered in pure virgin powder. Mt. Parnassos ski area is made up of fourteen lifts, which spread out across a broad, treeless area of the mountain between the altitudes of 2260 and 1600 meters.

For the next few days we braved the elements and skied nothing but powder before moving on. Greece is a wonderful place to mix skiing, swimming, and culture, and we made the best of the opportunities. We stopped in Athens for a look at the dramatic Parthenon, on the Acropolis overlooking the city. Then we drove north, toward Macedonia, stopping for a swim in Maliakos Bay, by the village of Stilida.

One of the highlights of our road trip came in Meteora, a three-square-kilometer area of huge and bizarre rock formations with sheer cliffs on all sides, which rise over 400 vertical meters straight up over the village of Kalambaka. Ancient monasteries are precariously and spectacularly perched atop six of these perpendicular rock walls, the oldest of which dates back to the twelfth century.

From Meteora, the snow-covered mountains of Vasilitsa could be seen glistening in the sun, beckoning to us. That did not last for long. I am not sure who the Greek god of snow was, but he had already figured prominently in our spring sojourn through this land of mythology, and as we drove, he once again reared his head. What had begun as a sunny morning turned into a snowstorm by the time we reached the slopes.

***Above:** When Traveling to Greece for a ski holiday, a visit to the Parthenon on the Acropolis in the heart of Athens, is an easy way of mixing culture with your sport. **Right:** Klaus Arpia enjoys the powder in the trees of the Kalavryta ski resort in southern Greece.*

It was Sunday, and a cacophony of sound attacked us at the base of the mountain. Hard rock blared from two huge speakers situated in front of one of the small restaurants, Greek pop music emanated from the neighboring hut while Greek Orthodox Church music droned through the speakers hanging from each lift tower. Fortunately, the snow was better than the music.

Through the storm, we could make out the contours of unusually beautiful trees flanking the piste. Robola, as these trees are called in Greece, are a very large species of pine, which grow in odd, asymmetrical shapes in the altitudes between 1600-2200 meters. They are often used in Greece to make special wine barrels, which give a very distinct taste to the wines, but here, their snow-laden branches hung down to the snow and served to give a fairytale look to the landscape. We wove our way between the robolas, played amidst some small rocks and cliffs, and left our tracks in 40 centimeters of powder all over the mountain.

In the days to come, we also tried the skiing in Kalavryta, Velouchi, Tria-pente Pigadia, Seli, and Vorras. One Sunday, we skied at the military training facility on Mt. Olympus, open to the public free of charge on weekends.

During our two weeks in Greece, we learned to discern mythology from reality. That there is no skiing or no good skiing in this rugged, ancient land is a myth. That one should expect warm weather and spring conditions is another myth. Most ski areas in Greece have a season that extends from early December until mid-April, and only dies out because of lack of interest rather than a shortage of snow.

The reality is that Greece is a small country with many ski centers, historical sites, and beach resorts, all in close proximity to each other. The water is still cold in early spring, but one can easily swim and ski on the same day. A rental car is really the only effective way to enjoy this kind of combined vacation. Be prepared for any and all kinds of weather. Pack warm clothes, shorts, strong sun cream and an umbrella, and by all means, don't forget a good set of tire chains.

**From Part I of Jimmy Petterson's SKI or SEA article appearing in the printed edition of the 2018 - 2019 Far West Skier's Guide. photos / Jimmy Petterson*

Jean Michel Pons gets some air high up on Mt. Troodos in Cyprus.

CYPRUS

At the far eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea lies the small island country of Cyprus. Throughout its long and storied history, many different empires have ruled Cyprus including the Greeks, the Turks, and the British.

The British officially relinquished control of Cyprus in 1960, but their influence is still pervasive today. If the ruins that are visited all over the island are the remnants of the Greek and Roman periods in Cyprus, then the myriad of pubs that abound in each major city are proof that the British "cultural" heritage has outlasted its legal jurisdiction.

Another institution introduced by the British to Cyprus is skiing. Cyprus seems like an unlikely place to have ski slopes, but to the surprise of all but the most knowledgeable skiers, Mt. Troodos, situated in the middle of the Greek part of the island, is home to four ski lifts.

To be sure, skiing on Cyprus is a novelty. The lifts and slopes are short and nobody short of a total fanatic would come to Cyprus for the sole purpose of skiing. Cyprus is, after all, a summer resort with its focus on beaches and sunshine. Nevertheless, an off-season visitor to the country can experience the diversity of skiing and swimming in the sea on the same day. The mercury on a typical day in February might reach 20 degrees centigrade or more on the coast, while an hour's drive can bring visitors to a winter scenario.

The ski runs are situated amidst a beautiful forest of cypress trees, and the views from the peak (1950 m) stretch out over green farmland to the sea. Despite the shortness of the pistes, some of the terrain is relatively steep, and one can even ski off-piste in the forest.

An off-season visit to Cyprus offers the opportunity to visit the prettiest beaches, famous monasteries, Byzantine churches, and other historical sites without the crowds. It is also a time of year when one can get to know the friendly local people, when they are not caught up in the entrapments of their high season. If one decides to visit Cyprus during the winter months, then by all means, a day on the slopes of Mt. Troodos is a must for any skier.

Jimmy Petterson poses in front of the rental shop of the Cyprus Ski Club on Mt. Troodos.

Christer Henning finishes his Lebanon ski day with a dip in the Mediterranean, only about one hour from the snow.

LEBANON

Hardly anywhere else in the world can one combine skiing, beach, and culture within a closer proximity to each other than in Lebanon. Beirut has beaches, but the sand and sea in the nearby beach resort city of Jounieh, 20 kilometers to the north, are even more impressive. From there, it is less than an hour to the skiing at the 1850-meter base of Faraya Mzaar. The Dome du Mzaar rises an additional 615 vertical meters above the sea, which appears to be close enough to dive into from the peak. Faraya is the largest of a handful of ski resorts, including Faqra and Qanat Bakiche, which are very close to each other in this same part of the country, close to the coastline.

The weather and conditions may not be at all what you might expect on a visit to a country in this part of the world. During my visit in late March, I experienced snowy weather almost the entire time, with more than a meter of new snow falling during our short stay.

Even fair-weather skiers, however have plenty of options. While the snow was dumping on the Dome, 20 crow-kilometers away, it was sunny on the coast, and we went swimming in the outskirts of Byblos, the oldest city in the world. There, one can rummage through the ruins of 17 different civilizations, the oldest of which dates back to 5000 years before Christ.

East of Beirut is another "must" destination for those with an affinity for the antiquities–the ruins of Baalbek. A person may have seen the Acropolis in Athens or the Roman Colosseum, but they will pale in comparison to the remains of the Temple of Jupiter and the Temple of Bacchus in Baalbek. The sheer size of the structures, the amount of what is still intact, and the lack of tourists with which one has to share this archeological wonder, combine to create a unique experience. The six remaining pillars of Jupiter's Temple are 22 meters high, the world's tallest, and some of the blocks of stone used at this site are also among the largest in the world. In the old Roman quarry nearby is one stone, almost ready for use in some future project, which weighs approximately 1000 tons, and would have taken 40,000 men to move into place. Add to all of this excellent food, low prices, and some of the friendliest people in the world, and Lebanon becomes a "can't miss" destination for ski and sea.

LEFT: The ruins of Baalbek are every bit as impressive as anything in Greece or Rome, but without the crowds.

The preceding article has included some, but by no means all of the word's areas where it is possible to combine a ski and beach vacation. Croatia, Corsica and Turkey, famous for their beaches, also have ski areas that are not too far from the sea. And what about Crete – have you ever skied on Mt. Psiloritis? The distance between snow and surf is a little further in New Zealand and Australia, but a holiday that combines skis and surfboards is definitely possible in either country, as well.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – October 10, 2018

Far West Ski Association Welcomes New Council

by Gloria Raminha
President, FWSA

It is with great pleasure to announce the **National Brotherhood of Skiers - Western Region** (NBSWR) has joined Far West Ski Association (FWSA) as the 10th council in the Association.

On June 10, the Far West Ski Association Board of Directors approved an invitation to the NBSWR to become the tenth FWSA council. The NBSWR member club presidents voted on September 29, 2018 to accept the FWSA invitation.

The NBSWR is comprised of 13 member clubs and a probationary club, serving communities from San Francisco to San Diego and Las Vegas to Los Angeles. The Western Region clubs are part of the National Brotherhood of Skiers (NBS), which is also one of the largest organized ski associations in the country. A non-profit organization, the NBS was formed in 1974 by 13 ski clubs across the country and now has a membership of over 50 clubs, representing nearly 50 cities. The primary goals of NBS are to promote winter sports among minorities and develop educational programs among minority children to stimulate a sportsman like attitude regarding winter sports and provide scholarship funds for potential Winter Olympic athletes of color.

FWSA is one of the largest ski associations in the United States, now with 10 active councils representing more than 53,000 skiers and boarders from more than 160 clubs in 12 western states – Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. FWSA will hold its 87th Annual Convention at the Hyatt Regency Indian Wells June 13 – 16, 2019 in Indian Wells, California. For additional information regarding the Far West Ski Association, please visit our website at ***www.fwsa.org.***

National Brotherhood of Skiers - Western Region Joins Far West Ski Association as its 10th Council

by Todd Hood
Vice President - Western Region, NBS

On September 29, 2018, the Presidents of the member clubs of the National Brotherhood of Skiers - Western Region (NBSWR) voted to accept the invitation to join the Far West Ski Association (FWSA) because in a TEAM, Together Each Achieves More! The 14 independent entities that comprise the NBSWR have joined together to benefit from economies of scale, shared information and resources, and overall camaraderie. Each organization has their own identity, yet we share common objectives of expanding interest and participation in organized snowsports. That same concept holds true for the NBSWR and the organizations that comprise the FWSA.

Being a member council of the FWSA is not just on paper, however. There are responsibilities as a member council. The Vice President of the NBSWR will hold a position on the FWSA Board, and has duties as such. The NBSWR will promote and bring registrants (as delegates representing member clubs of the NBSWR) to the Annual Convention. Councils and member clubs contribute articles to the communications outlets of the FWSA (*The Councilman*, *Far West Skier's Guide,* and *News Flash*), and participate in the FWSA Service Awards and Club and Council Recognition Programs. These programs include funding the participants to compete in the Councils' Man and Woman of the Year Recognition Program. The NBSWR will promote the trips and events of the FWSA, even though there are no minimum participation requirements.

There are countless other benefits that we hope to achieve, but some expected benefits of the NBSWR becoming a council in the FWSA include:

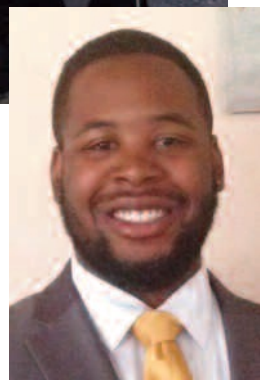
- Recognition in the industry at the regional level (our footprints align)
- Exposure of FWSA member councils and clubs to the diversity of the NBSWR, our clubs and our members
- An injection of new faces and new energy into the FWSA
- Additional sources of time, talent, and treasure for all organizations
- Direct access to build relationships with industry travel providers through the FWSA Annual Convention and beyond
- Access to industry information, leadership development opportunities and travel offered by the FWSA
- Ability to offer more travel opportunities, potential fundraisers, and activities with marginal overhead

About the NBS

The following is a brief synopsis of the history of the National Brotherhood of Skiers provided by its founders, Art Clay and Ben Finley. Art and Ben were the recipients of the FWSA's Snowsports Builder Award in 2015, presented to an individual that has made a contribution to benefit snowsports, a contribution that has made an indelible impact on the sport.

At a time when African Americans on the ski slopes were a rarity and black ski clubs were an exception, Ben Finley and Art Clay were not deterred from their vision to create a national Black Ski Summit. The two founders met in 1972 after being introduced by a mutual friend, while Finley was President of the 4 Seasons West Ski Club of Los Angeles and Clay was Trip Director of the Sno-Gophers Ski Club of Chicago. They moved forward with a proposal to bring together 13 black ski clubs for an event which was called *"A Happening"*, but was later changed to *"Black Summit"*, at the suggestion of a member of the Jim Dandy Ski Club of Detroit. The Black Summit would represent black skiers coming together at the summit of Ajax Mountain. The purpose was *"to identify and discuss problems and subjects which were unique to the black skiing population, ski and socialize"*, according to Finley.

The Historic gathering took place in Aspen, Colorado in 1973 and was attended by over 350 skiers. There was an overall sense of camaraderie that pervaded the event and this same feeling is still significantly associated with all Black Summits. The images of this occasion will forever stay in the minds of those who witnessed the event. As the East Coast met the West Coast, there were discussions of Teo Hyde of Chicago, who was recognized as an aspiring contender for a position on the U.S. Ski Team. The formation of the national organization was set for Thanksgiving weekend in 1973 in Salt Lake City, Utah.



Above:** The National Brotherhood of Skiers has an excellent youth program to encourage their members' children to learn to ski and board.* *photo / Clifford Sims, Jr.* ***Left:** The Rivers' triplets are participants in the NBS OutReach Youth Program, along with numerous other children.* *photo / Henri Rivers* ***Clifford Sims, III, has gone through the program as a child, and is now the Assistant Youth Director. He is a long time member of the 4 Seasons West Ski and Snowboard Club. *photo / Clifford Sims, Jr.*

At a meeting of the club leaders, it was proposed that the primary purpose of the organization would be to place a black skier on the U.S. Ski Team. This mission was unanimously embraced by those in attendance. Thus, began the commencement of the first national organization of predominantly black ski clubs.

The National Brotherhood of Skiers (NBS) is one of the largest organized ski councils in the country. A non-profit organization, the NBS was formed in 1974 by 13 ski clubs across the country and now boasts a membership of over 50 clubs representing nearly 50 cities with a membership of over 3,000 skiers, snowboarders, and non-skiers. The National Brotherhood of Skiers - Western Region (NBSWR) is comprised of 13 member clubs (and a new probationary club) serving communities from San Francisco to San Diego and Las Vegas to Los Angeles. One of the organizations primary goals has been to get more African Americans outdoors and participating in winter sports, and to support youth with goals of becoming a member of the US Ski and Olympic Ski Teams.

OutReach Youth Programs

As the NBS ventured beyond those formative ideas, to proactively seek out and support athletes whose dreams were to represent the United States in the Winter Olympics, the mission statement has evolved to not only embrace those dreams but to recognize how the NBS can make a difference by expanding participation. That statement is:

"To identify, develop and support athletes of color who will WIN international and Olympic winter sports competitions representing the United States and to increase participation in winter sports."

Since then, progress has been made as athletes such as Andre and Suki Horton became members of the US Ski Team. Bonnie St. John was an Olympic medalist in the Paralympics in 1984, and Ralph Green competed in the 2014 games in Sochi.

The NBS has taken bold steps to act on its mission through its OutReach program, which provides a portion of resources to clubs who are introducing new youth to winter sports each year, coast to coast, in a structured program on and off the slopes.

Following is a testament from a member of the 4 Seasons West Ski and Snowboard Club regarding their program:

"If it wasn't for 4 Seasons West Ski and Snowboard Club, I wouldn't be here today. My mother and father were avid members of the club who met each other at a 4 Seasons West Meet and Greet in 1989. Four Seasons West helped them build a strong bond that would assist in bringing me into this world in April, 1995. Since then, it has been my birthright to be an ambassador of this club.

It wasn't until a week before my 7th birthday in 2002, that I was presented my award of a 'ski' medal', by coming down the slope on my own at the Annual Bad Boys trip to Mammoth Mountain. The mission of 4 Seasons West is to expose the younger generation to the untraditional sports of skiing and snowboarding, and if it wasn't for this club, I may have never found my love for it. Each member of 4 Seasons West carries warmth, compassion, and care that I have never seen from any other organization. The beatitude of every club member gave me the confidence and resilience to make it down the icy slope.

My vision of 4 Seasons West Ski and Snowboard Club is to flourish for many years to come. Being newly appointed as the Assistant Youth Director, my aspiration is to give that same feeling

that I had going down the mountain, to upcoming youth, who may have never been exposed to winter sports, living in Southern California. Whether you are a beginner or a veteran, skier or snowboarder, or just want to see snow for the first time, a 4 Seasons West Learn to Ski and Snowboard trip is a golden experience of the lifetime that I would recommend to anyone."

(Statement from Clifford Sims III, 4 Seasons West Ski and Snowboard Club, a member of the Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs and the National Brotherhood of Skiers - Western Region).

Get Involved - Upcoming NBS Western Region Club Youth Activities:

- ***NBSWR Urban Winterfest*** - January 17-21, 2019 - Midway, Utah - *Youth@nbswr.org* or *http://www.UrbanWinterfest.net*
- ***4 Seasons West Learn To Ski & Snowboard Trips*** - Various 2019 Dates - Snow Valley Ski Resort - *4SW@nbswr.org*
- ***SnowBusters Ski Club Learn to Ski/Board Better*** - February 9, 2019 - Southern California Resort - location TBA *SnowBusters@nbswr.org*
- ***NBSWR BEST/OYC Youth Leadership Camp*** - Summer Weekend TBA 2019 - Lake Castaic, CA - *Youth@nbswr.org*

National Brotherhood of Skiers - Western Region Club Listing:

All Seasons Ski Club, Oakland, CA
Blade Runners Ski Club, Los Angeles, CA
Camellia City Ski Club, North Highlands, CA
Ebony Ski & Racquet Club, West Sacramento, CA
Executive Board Snowboard Association, Los Angeles, CA
Fire & Ice Ski Club, San Jose, CA
Four Seasons West Ski & Snowboard Club, Los Angeles, CA
Inland Empire Ski & Sports Club, Riverside, CA
Mountain View Ski Club, San Diego, CA
Sierra Snow Gliders, Inc. Las Vegas, NV
SnowBusters Ski Club, Pasadena, CA
U2 Can Ski Club, Stockton, CA
Winter Fox Ski Association, Los Angeles, CA
Snow Pros*
(Probationary Club as of 9/29/18)

Annual Black Summit 2019

The Annual Black Summit will be held at Steamboat Springs, Colorado, March 2-9, 2019. For additional information, contact Todd Hood at *VicePresident@nbswr.org.*

(Editor's Note: Todd Hood is the Succession Planning Committee Chair of the Far West Ski Association. He is a recipient of the 2017 FWSA President's Award and the 2018 J. Stanley Mullin Award, given to a male for outstanding volunteer efforts on behalf of snowsports.)

Take Your Kids & Grandkids to the Slopes

by Leigh Gieringer

Playing in the snow at a very young age is one way to get children to enjoy winter activities.
photo / Aspen/Snowmass

Many ski club members are also parents, or grandparents. They may belong to a family oriented organization, in which case, these ski clubs may offer family adventures where kids are included. Other clubs are primarily adult only groups, but members may also have children or grandchildren, and plan non-club sponsored trips each year with their families. As long-time skiers and boarders, many of us like to share the sport with others who enjoy it. That is one reason we are a part of a ski club. But, we also wish to introduce the slopes to the younger generations in hopes that they - too - will enjoy it as much as we do.

As with many things, it is recommended, if possible, to introduce children to the snow and its many activities at a young age. When they are very young, most resorts have child care facilities to safely tend to their needs while you are enjoying your favorites trails or terrain parks. The very young are kept busy with indoor games and activities when not sleeping. As they become a bit older, playing in the snow is added to the agenda. Sledding, making snowmen or snow angels, and building snow castles introduces them to the fluffy powder. Perhaps, at that point, it could be time to get them on skis, but how do you start?

It is recommended to place children into professional ski schools to learn proper techniques. Many resorts offer package deals which include equipment rentals, lift tickets and lessons from a resort ski instructor, providing a great introduction to the sport. Some resorts will start children as young as three or four. The children also need to feel comfortable being away from Mom and Dad.

One way to help prepare them is to show them the trail map of the resort prior to their lesson. Indicate where they will be and where you will be. Private lessons at this age are typically one to two hours. Group lessons are longer. Remember to dress them properly, especially if they are not used to colder weather, or the snow. It is best to obtain clothing that is intended for the sport. If they are cold, they may not want to return to our winter paradises.

Many ski shows have swap meets for you to pick up used equipment and clothing. If you own ski boots, even winter goulashes, let the children walk around the house in them. That way, they will get used to wearing those boots. If you already have skis and you

Have you ever watched a young child enjoy the experience of sliding downhill on a pair of skis, or a snowboard? This one is certainly having fun! And, making wonderful memories, as well! Learning to ski or board at an early age typically results in a life-long desire to return to the slopes. Most resorts offer excellent terrain for beginners and a wonderful staff to assist in the learning process for children of all ages, including adults. It is so important to start them out with the proper instruction. June Mountain is a favorite family resort. *photo courtesy of Mammoth Mountain*

live in an area that has snow, allow the kids to walk around to test them out in familiar territory like your back yard, or a local park.

Don't forget mittens, which are warmer than gloves, and easier to put on. Just make certain they are waterproof! Comfortable helmets are a necessity. They can be rented or purchased depending on how often the family will be slopeside. A pair of goggles should also be on your list to protect their eyes. They also protect against a strong wind and keep them warmer.

Instructors for the younger groups are trained to make learning ski skills as fun as possible with games, refreshments and lunch breaks and many resorts have a mascot to entertain them while they are learning their new skills.

Most young children are quite active, so they should be able to ease into a few hours on the slopes without a problem, but you can develop some fun activities which will help them when they are actually on skis. One of them is to get several plastic cones, empty milk containers or other objects and place them in your yard to represent a race or obstacle course. They can run around them. Unknowingly, they are learning to traverse. This activity helps them to make turns when they do get to the snow.

Each time you return to a resort, book lessons for your children with a professional ski instructor. They will build more confidence and their skills will improve. The first several times they may be confined to the bunny hills and magic carpet, but with time and practice, they will be able to advance to find slopes they most enjoy at their level. And, learn to ascend the slopes in a chairlift. They may even be able to keep up with their more experienced Mom and Dad.

Learning is not only for children. There are numerous people who - for one reason or another - have not experienced real winter fun. There is nothing like cruising down a slope, under a clear blue bird sky. Now is a good time for someone - child or adult - who has never participated in snowsports to engage. If you want to learn a new sport, participate in the *Learn To Ski and Snowboard Month*. Each January, many ski resorts and rental shops offer their best deals to encourage never-evers and those wanting to improve their abilities to learn from professional ski or board instructors. Of course, anytime during the winter months is a good time to improve your snow riding talents. Instructors are available to assist throughout the season. The slopes are less crowded on weekdays, thus those are a good time to practice when you can have the slopes pretty much to yourself and/or your group of friends or family. Who knows, with time, experience and perseverance you may even enjoy the steep and deep, a mogul field or double black diamond terrain. If those types of runs aren't appealing, there are numerous other greens and blues to explore. Additionally, there are a multitude of beautiful and comfortable lodges for a little R and R.

Safety is a top priority at mountain resorts. These transitional Ski Patrollers at Big Bear Mountain need to learn the mountain trails they will be patrolling. Each is trained by an experienced supervisor before they can go on duty.

RED JACKETS – WHITE CROSS –

IS IT A FIT FOR YOU?

by Barbara Razo, NSP

At the end of each day, on-duty Ski Patrollers gather for a roll call to determine that they are all present, accounted for, and have safely returned from their day's assignments. Additionally, they are asked to report about any concerns they may have experienced throughout their day.
NSP photos provided by Barbara Razo

Becoming a member of the National Ski Patrol at your favorite ski area could be one of the most rewarding, eventful journeys of your life. There is no "rule book" of who should or shouldn't become a Ski Patroller. NSP members DO all share the same passions and goals. They all have a desire to help others and this is made possible through the NSP world-class educational and training programs. It doesn't matter what you do for employment Monday to Friday, when the weekends come – it is your turn – your time to enhance the safety and enjoyment of the snowsports communities around the globe. As added perks you get to improve your skiing and snowboarding skills and enjoy some of the best riding moments with some of the best skiers and snowboarders ever as the First-On and Last-Off the hill.

So, you want to become a member of the National Ski Patrol? The first requirement is that you will need to live near one. The requirements and expectations vary, depending on the resort. Contact a few nearby resorts to obtain their qualifications. The second requirement is that you are a decent skier or boarder, and willing to improve your abilities. Sign up for training courses to become certified, and pass the qualifying examinations. Coursework is heavily weighted toward, but not limited to, outdoor emergency care. Once certified, ask to join the National Ski Patrol. Smaller resorts, with a more moderate terrain, would be a good choice for starting a position as a beginning Ski Patroller. Resorts with a steeper terrain and the potential for more hazardous weather conditions require more experienced patrollers and might not even consider a new trainee to be on their patrol. Once on the team, your skiing or boarding skills will improve as you are spending more time on the slopes. Certification needs to be renewed every two years. Patrollers also need to be able to handle and navigate various types of terrain and equipment in a timely and professional manner. A Patroller's knowledge and proficiency is extremely important. Assists and accidents vary, too. A patroller can merely help with simple things like providing directions, or choosing the best way down the mountain. Their services could assist in a life threatening event; and many other situations.

MY STORY

This year begins my 18th year as a Volunteer National Ski Patroller for Big Bear Ski Patrol at the Big Bear Mountain Resorts of Bear Mountain and Snow Summit Ski Areas, located in Big Bear City, California. I grew up skiing in Big Bear starting at the age of 3 years old. My mom was an avid skier and was also a volunteer NSP patroller in Big Bear. I married young and spent most of my twenties having babies – 3 boys and 3 girls in 9 years. For over a decade I didn't get to make any fresh tracks in the fluffy white stuff I had grown to love as kid and teenager. As a young mother and wife, I worked as an Administrative/Executive Assistant for a variety of employers and industries. In 1993, I had the pleasure of meeting an Icon and integral member of the Far West Ski Association (FWSA), Jane Wyckoff. Jane, a Past-President of the Far West Ski Association, invited me to participate in the planning and execution of their annual Silent Auction and Convention. FWSA being another amazing volunteer organization made up of strong members, all who have the common love of skiing, outdoor activities and travel, enticed my interest enough to join. I continued to work by Jane's side for the next 10 years on the FWSA Silent Auction. Early on, Jane introduced me to Ron Anderson who was part of the FWSA Board of Directors. Through conversations with Jane as a past NSP Patroller and Ron, a current 20+ year NSP Volunteer of Big Bear Ski Patrol, I quickly knew I wanted to join NSP. I imagined the joy I would have skiing (and riding) with my six children (they are snowboarders now) like I did with my mom for most of her 60+ years of skiing.

I had already started taking night classes for the nursing program pre-requisites at my local community college when I decided to fast track my first responder education by earning my EMT certification in December 1999. I simultaneously enrolled and passed the NSP OEC Course. I began my On the Hill Patroller training that winter at Snow Summit. In addition to my weekday employment, I have worked the last 18 years as an EMT Ambulance Driver/Attendant on weekends when not scheduled on the hill. Being OEC trained and participating in the annual OEC Refresher Program has truly made me a much stronger and confident EMT.

I am honored to say I am a NSP Patroller. The camaraderie of this organization is unparalleled. I hold my fellow Ski Patrollers, whether volunteer or paid staff, in very high regard. We are family. We support each other and embrace each member of our personal families like our own. We share all our life experiences with one another. We encourage, coach, mentor, counsel, rejoice, sing, dance and cry with each other. We all have what is often referred as a "Patroller's Heart". It is this heart that solidifies our passion and dedication not only to our members, our communities, and our guests, but also to our mountains and the environments we patrol and protect.

DAY IN THE LIFE OF A PATROLLER

All NSP Patrollers are educated and certified as OEC Technicians. OEC stands for Outdoor Emergency Care, and is the foundation of the NSP Education Programs. This course teaches emergency area practices and first responder techniques to ensure the safety and well-being of injured or ill guests participating in snowsports and other outdoor environmental activities such as mountain biking. Trainings include search and rescue techniques, avalanche control, mountaineering, toboggan handling, knot tying and many other essential skills.

Patrollers arrive before the lift ticket windows open. All Patrollers, paid and volunteer, are briefed usually in the base patrol room (often referred to as the First Aid Room), at the morning meeting. Scheduled events and special details are reviewed. Communications regarding the happenings of previous days, weekends, and incidents are shared and discussed as coaching and learning conversations. Assignments and hill-set-ups are dispatched to the Patrollers and trainings to the leaders.

The Hill Patrollers are always the first riders up the chairs. Once all the runs have been "set-up/readied" for operations, they are opened in sequence, usually from the center of the resort to the outside runs. Patrollers are usually assigned to a specific run or group of runs and it is their responsibility to monitor and maintain the runs with proper signage, free of debris, etc. during their duty day shift. Patrollers are free to ski the resort and are always available by radio on frequencies unique to the resort and their management. At the Big Bear Ski Patrol resorts we use an "ON-DECK" rotation of staff through our patrol stations at the top of each mountain. This method helps to even the load of which Patroller will take the next injured guest incident aka "wreck".

The Base Patrollers work in the Base (First Aid) Room and are responsible to cover incidents in the base areas, lower chair runs that are accessible by foot, the area restaurants and shops (sports shop, rental shop, repair shop, etc.), and the parking lots. The Base Patrollers spend the early mornings spreading "ice-melt" on walkways and steps that could be deemed hazardous, greeting guests, sharing area run maps and answering questions at the ticket windows. All medical supplies are inventoried and stock levels verified for the full day of work ahead. An interesting statistic is that the Base Patrol (First Aid) Room has usually 2-3 times more walk-in injured or ill guests than the number of guests who are transported from the hill.

All Patrollers assess, stabilize, transport and transfer medical care as necessary of guests, with the same common goal to ensure the best guest experience possible.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Many resorts have applicant screening days. We do this one time each season at Big Bear Ski Patrol (BBSP) and it is called "Ski with Patrol Day (SWPD)." You are invited to shadow our Hill and/or Base Patrollers during their duty day. Mentors and Trainers may also include Ski and Snowboard Proficiency Level testing during this SWPD event. This is a great time to learn the various options to become part of your local NSP Patrol. At Big Bear Ski Patrol we have Alpine (Hill), Base (First Aid) Room, and Hill Safety. I am excited about the Hill Safety Team Program that is being renovated this season at BBSP. I am one of the Team Captains and we are currently recruiting for candidates. It is not too late to get involved for this 2018-2019 season.

If you want to learn more about becoming a volunteer member of the National Ski Patrol you can access this link on the ***www.nsp.org*** website; DIVISIONS, REGIONS, PATROLS. For information regarding options at the Big Bear Ski Patrol Resorts of Snow Summit Ski and Bear Mountain Resorts, you can email *iwant2patrol@gmail.com;* or you can text me at (714) 401-7341, or email me at *brazo@bigbearskipatrol.com.*

Written by Barbara Razo – NSP# 210399
Gold Merit Star 2016 / NSP Patroller of the Nation
Silver Merit Star 2007 / Runner Up for NSP Patroller of the Nation

Each morning during the ski season, a group of National Ski Patrollers gather to get their assignments for the day.

Does Your Ski Club Need A Liability Insurance Policy?

by Fred Liebel

So, you just got a call from your club's vice president telling you of an accident that happened on this weekend's club trip to your favorite ski resort. Apparently, one of the club members lost control while on his favorite double diamond trail and ran into another skier at the bottom of the run, breaking the other skier's hip and leg and sending both down the hill in separate ski patrol toboggans.

Worse yet, on the way down the hill, the injured skier was overheard yelling at your member, *"My brother is an attorney and he's going to sue you for all you're worth!"*

What Happens Next?

If you have a general liability policy via FWSA you will take a detailed report from all who witnessed the incident, file it away and then you can go back to a restful sleep that night knowing that the FWSA liability policy covers you and the rest of the club's board members for negligence claims brought against the club for claims of bodily injury and property damage to another party. So, when the member gets sued along with the club - the club has an unlimited defense war chest for defending the club in the lawsuit, along with an additional $3,000,000 in liability limits if the club is found to be negligent in organizing the trip or in the club's supervision of the club member who skied into the other skier.

Sure enough, eight months later you get served with a lawsuit naming the club and all its board members as defendants in the lawsuit… alleging you were reckless and negligent in organizing and supervising your club members and the plaintiff is asking for $750,000 in damages for his injuries, loss of income from work, and his pain and suffering. Maybe it was discovered that the club member had consumed a beer or two during lunch with the other club members. While most courts have conceded that inadvertent collisions are an inherent risk of skiing and therefore assumed by participants; recent court decisions have pointed out that the consumption of alcoholic beverages, an activity not ordinarily associated with skiing, may have unnecessarily increased the risk of collision. Furthermore, *"the increased risks presented by the consumption of alcohol are not inherent in the sport of skiing. So, a skier has a duty not to increase the risks of the sport beyond those inherent"*, and as such, these lawsuits have moved forward without the protection the typical inherent risk doctrine.

Defense of Frivolous Law Suits:

Even if the lawsuit is completely without merit, you still must defend yourself and the club (remember you and your fellow board member were all individually named in the lawsuit). *Where will the money come from to answer the lawsuit, and to start defending the club?*

You obviously must respond to the lawsuit; and many states are allowing these lawsuits to move forward…. If you have a liability policy via FWSA you can turn that lawsuit over to the carrier for a first dollar defense of the claim. Once notified the carrier will immediately hire an attorney to represent your club, and its board members. You can rest easier at night knowing the carrier has your defense handled, and that you and your fellow board members - as defendants - have coverage via FWSA's insurance program.

Recent legal precedent is constantly changing. More and more states are allowing injured skiers to sue for injuries caused by other skiers on the slopes. Since most states allow the ski areas themselves to avoid lawsuits by skier waiver forms, it is forcing injured parties to look for other sources of reimbursement for their injuries.

Off Snow Claims:

Even off the snow claims are covered. Here are some other examples of claims:

Example 1: During a club picnic, a member hits a volleyball out of bounds and it slams into a kid riding by on his bicycle. The child suffers a serious head injury…

Example 2: During the club annual golf outing, a member hits a passing Mercedes with an errant golf ball…

Example 3: A club member can attempt to sue the club (regardless of any waivers or releases they may have signed).

If your club failed to purchase coverage without the benefit of the FWSA liability policy, you would be left to pay for an attorney to defend the club, and pay any awards to the plaintiff. The small premium charged (based on the number of active members in the club) would be far less expensive than the defense costs (even if it's a baseless lawsuit). Thus, work smarter not harder, and secure your club's protections via the FWSA liability insurance program… its money well spent in this day and age, and especially in such a litigious society.

PS: Don't be fooled by some of the other liability policies out there that cover your club for premises only and thus limit coverages to your meetings and exclude coverage for sports activities. Make sure you purchase the right policy via FWSA's liability program… it's broader and protects your club better than most any other program out there. To secure coverage for your club, and sleep better at night; call 619-369-9121 or email me directly: *fred@C3Insurance.com.*

About the author: Fred Liebel, a broker at C3 Risk & Insurance Services, has been in the insurance industry for over 35 years; and the Insurance Broker for FWSA for the last 23 years. Skiing has always been a passion for Fred, and protecting your club is his first priority.

Kayaking and canoeing are perfect ways to explore the many inlets and hidden coves that can be found along the shoreline of the lake. Rentals are available at launch ramp sites and marinas. Or, you can bring your own, however, they will be inspected before they can be launched. There are a number of swimming beaches, as well. Swimming is only allowed within fifty feet of the shore. LEFT: *Located in the higher elevations of the San Bernadino National Forest, the scenic environment is not only beautiful, but also relaxing. Bring your camera!* photos / bigbear.com

Visit Big Bear Lake for Summer Mountains of Fun Going to or from the FWSA Convention

by Jane Wyckoff, Trustee

Big Bear Lake, California, is well known for its outstanding snowsports at Bear Bear Mountain Resort and Snow Summit. The Big Bear Lake region normally receives significant winter snow because of its high elevation. The average is 72 inches per season. It is located just a couple hours drive from Indian Wells, site of the 87th Annual Far West Ski Association Convention, June 13-16, 2019.

The lake is a reservoir in the San Bernardino Mountains, at a surface elevation of 6,750 ft, roughly 7 miles in length and 2.5 miles at its widest measurement. It is completely snow-fed, with no other means of tributary or mechanical replenishment. Located northwest of Indian Wells, surrounded by the San Bernardino National Forest, Big Bear Lake is accessible via four scenic highways. They are: Highway 330 from Highland, Highway 38 from Redlands, Highway 18 from Victorville, and Highway 18 from San Bernardino.

Big Bear Lake was originally inhabited by the indigenous Serrano Indians for over 2,000 years before it was explored by Benjamin Wilson and his party. It was once populated by grizzly bears, from which the area received its name. The population of the Big Bear Valley grew rapidly during the Southern California Gold Rush from 1861 to 1912. Grizzly bears were not found in the region after 1908, but today, there are black bears in the region since their introduction in 1933.

Big Bear is a perfect destination for some early summer fun either on the way to the Convention, or before returning home. While the warmest month in Big Bear is July, June offers a comfortable average temperature of 76.2 degrees with an average low of 41.8 degrees. The Big Bear area is a Natural Treasure that includes access to 600,000 acres of the pristine San Bernardino National Forest, hundreds of miles of trails, 3,000 acres of crystal clear lake surface, and 23 miles of lake shoreline. It's about reconnecting - to nature, to your friends, your loved ones.

For some high altitude fun in Big Bear give ziplining a try. Action Zip Line Tours is located in the middle of the national forest, and consists of 9 zip lines. Adventure seekers have the opportunity to fly through the air like a bird! You won't need to travel to faraway exotic places to get a rush of adrenaline, zipping through the forest on exciting zip lines. Suspend high above the forest floor overlooking mountain vistas, zip through forested landscapes and cross over rocky canyons. The highly trained guides facilitate the entire tour from equipment checks to clipping in each participant to the zip lines. All required equipment including harness, helmet and heavy duty gloves are individually fitted for each participant. For other options, take in sweeping alpine views when you book a tour with Helicopter Big Bear or ride the Snow Summit's Scenic Sky Chair.

For water adventure seekers, there is a myriad of fun activities available! These include kayaking, canoeing, paddleboarding, wakeboarding, parasailing and jet skiing in the marinas. For those looking for a bit more relaxing water activity, you can see the Big Bear Lake from the deck of the Big Bear Pirate Ship, setting sail for a 90-minute adventure aboard the Time Bandit. Or, you can take the slow and easy Miss Liberty Paddlewheel Tour.

Get back to nature when you go camping in Big Bear Lake! Known for having great campsites, Big Bear campgrounds offer out-

There are numerous trail heads for mountain biking and hiking for all ability levels over thousands of acres available within the San Bernadino National Forest. A favorite choice is to take the Snow Summit Scenic Sky Chair to the summit (8,200'), then follow the trails to the mountain base. It offers numerous breathtaking vistas of the lake and forest. Don't forget good walking shoes, a bottle of water, a good sunblock, sun glasses and a protective hat or helmet. *photo / bigbear.com*

door enthusiasts several options. Whether you want a lakefront Big Bear RV Park full of amenities, or simply tent camping, there are campsites for every outdoor lifestyle. Big Bear even has free campsites, set deep in the forest, where you can reconnect with Mother Nature. There are also pet-friendly campgrounds and hiking trails. Four-legged family members are always welcome.

Are you a fisherman? The rainbow trout is the most popular species of fish found in Big Bear Lake, as its depths allow rainbow trout to thrive, even in the heat of summer. Other species are abundant in the lake during the summer months, like largemouth bass, channel catfish, and a variety of panfish, which make great fishing for younger anglers. Charter Fishing experiences are available.

How about Mountain Biking? This world-class mountain biking region has more than 100 miles of trails and Forest Service roads for bikers of all ages and skill levels. The network of trails in the Big Bear Valley range from an easy 30-minute ride to a challenging 26-mile journey. The Skyline Ridge (2N10), which passes through Snow Summit Ski Resort, is one of the more popular Big Bear biking trails. It offers the most scenic views in the valley with Mount San Gorgonio to the south, and Big Bear Lake to the north

If you want to get off the beaten path to find a quiet place where you can just breathe and take in the beauty of the outdoors, there are unique locations that will give you the space you need to completely unwind. Stop at the Big Bear Discovery Center to get brochures and maps. Picnics are encouraged and all trails are pet friendly. Nestled in the forest just a few minutes away from Big Bear Village is a pristine 80-acre preserve owned and managed by The Wildlands Conservancy. From mid-May through Mid-November, you can explore the trail winding around a protected 20-acre alpine lake and meadow, surrounded by a towering forest. You can also take an easy off-road adventure through Holcomb Valley. This scenic route takes you through an area that was thriving with activity during the gold rush of the 1860's. At 12 selected markers you can get out of your vehicle and walk to the sites. History buffs will appreciate seeing abandoned mines, grave sites and a hanging tree for horse thieves and other old-time criminals.

The Big Bear Alpine Zoo offers the opportunity to see rescued bears, wolves and mountain lions. It is a rehabilitation facility offering injured, orphaned and imprinted wild animals a safe haven; temporarily, while they heal or permanently, as they are unable to survive on their own. Roughly 90% of all the animals brought to the Zoo for rehabilitation are successfully released back into their native environment. Those that remain will be on exhibit, because they are either too injured or have been imprinted by humans and cannot be released back into the wild to care for themselves.

There is a charming district known as The Village in the heart of Big Bear Lake. It is a central hub for shopping, dining and entertainment. The Mountain Room Escapes or the Bowling Barn offers fun indoor family entertainment. Also offering family fun is Urban Adventure Quest, a smartphone guided, walking scavenger hunt through The Village. If you are a history buff, you would enjoy a step back in time at the Big Bear History Museum, to discover the rich and varied history of the mountain community.

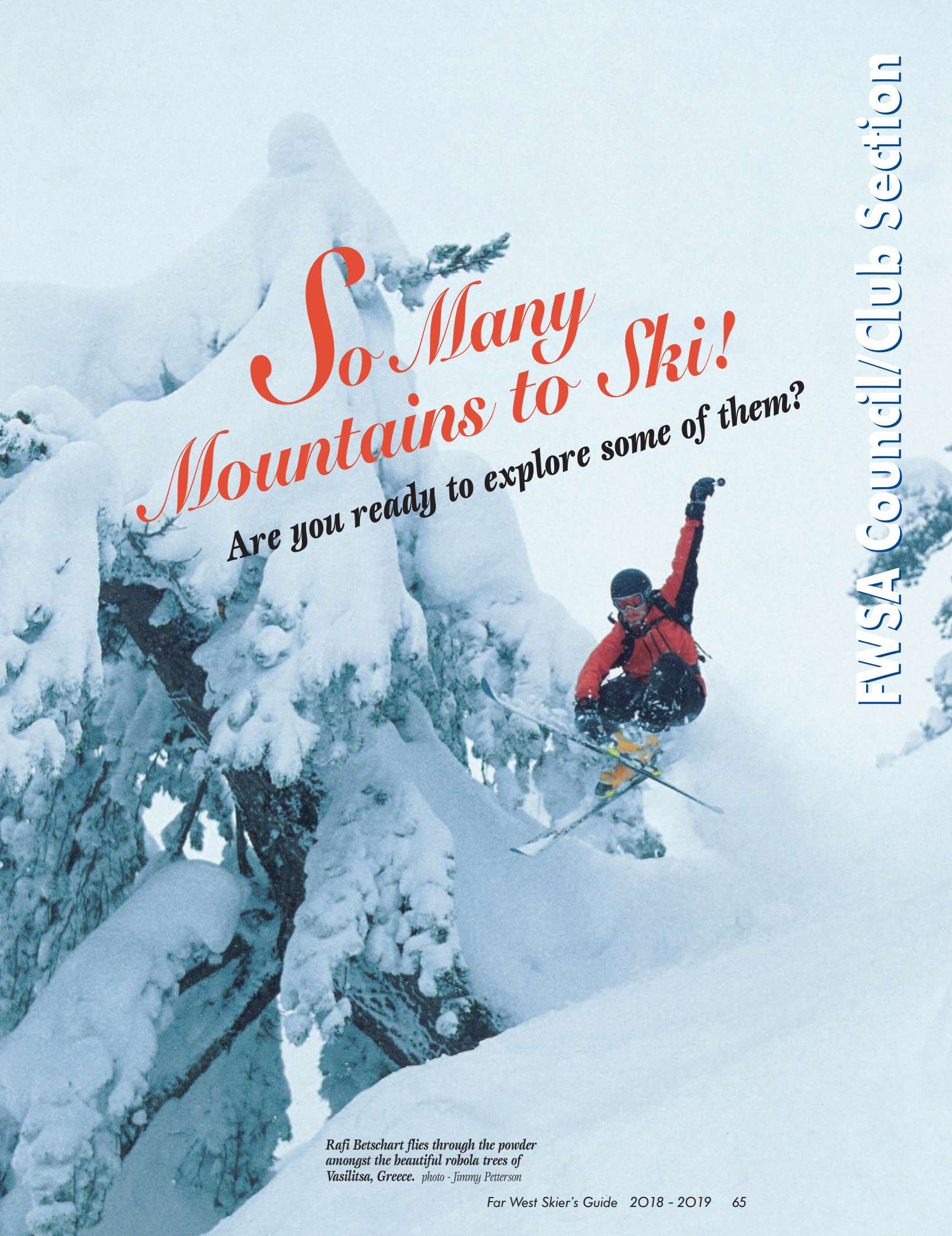
Lodging opportunities abound at Big Bear. Pick from a wide variety of homes and luxury cabins through Big Bear Cabins, (***destinationbigbear.com***), Airbnb, trivago, and many other on-line sources, with choices ranging from rustic and simple to luxuriously grand. Perfect accommodations await you, your family, friends and groups with a great selection of locations, amenities and décor.

So many choices of outdoor and indoor adventures await you at Big Bear Lake! For detailed information regarding things to do in Big Bear, visit the Big Bear Lake Chamber of Commerce website, located at: ***https://www.bigbear.com/things-to-do/***.

(References Include: www.bigbear.com, www.bigbearmountainresort.com, www.bigbearvacations.com/, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_Bear_Lake_California)

So Many Mountains to Ski!

Are you ready to explore some of them?



Rafi Betschart flies through the powder amongst the beautiful robola trees of Vasilitsa, Greece. photo - Jimmy Petterson

Arizona Ski Council

by Arleigh Meiners, ASC Past President

***Left:** Kirk Miles, Bill Behnke and Tim Avedovich skied on a Copper Mountain ski trip.* *photo provided by Arleigh Meiners*

***Above:** Arizona ski bunnies enjoyed après ski fun after a great day on the slopes at Lake Louise Ski Resort on the FWSA Ski Week. L to R: Kathy Welsh, Georgeta Mihailovici, Kristy Welsh and Linda Westlund.* *photo / Linda Westlund*

Arizona Ski Council (ASC) represents two ski clubs, a hiking club, a corporate club, a sailing club and a social club that totals around 600 members, primarily in the Phoenix – Scottsdale metro-area, with membership open to non-profit clubs in the state of Arizona. Our clubs serve skiers, snowboarders, hikers, bikers and social members.

The Arizona Ski Council sent seven delegates to the FWSA Convention held in Reno, Nevada, June 7-10. *Bill Behnke* was Arizona Ski Council's Man of the Year and *Linda Johnston* was Arizona Ski Council's Woman of the Year. ASC is very proud of both Bill and Linda.

The Arizona Ski Council had their election of officers at their April Board Meeting. Results of that election are: President *Wanda Himler*, Vice President *Karen Bonine*, Secretary *Jim Nachbar*, and Treasurer *Dodi Bailey*. The Past President is *Arleigh Meiners*. The Arizona Ski Council is hoping to take 36 participants on the 2019 FWSA ski week to Steamboat, Colorado. To keep track of the other exciting Arizona Ski Council events, access ***www.arizonaskicouncil.org***.

Arizona Outdoor Travel Club, (AzOTC), has changed its name to ***Arizona Hiking and Travel Club***. AHTC is mostly a hiking club, and they continue to have hikes all year long. At the April 26, 2018 meeting, the AHTC Board of Directors voted to discontinue the Arizona Hiking and Travel Club, after December, 2018. Go to ***www.azotc.com*** for more information on their exciting trips.

The ***Boeing Employee Adventure Club*** is a Corporate club, and continues to do its hiking schedule and family events around town. Employees may contact ***www.boeing.com*** for more information about recreation activities that are planned!

Phoenix Ski Club, (PSC), had their election of officers in April. *Bill Behnke* was elected President for the coming year. PSC is celebrating their 70th Anniversary this year. PSC had an entry in the Scottsdale Parada Del Sol Parade on February 10. Over 60 PSC members took part in the Parade. PSC will also be conducting a 70th Anniversary banquet. The Banquet is planned for October 20, 2018. Over 100 members and guests plan to attend. PSC is very active!

PSC is going to Park City, Utah in December, 2018. This is a Ski College Package that the club is doing on a yearly basis. PSC will be going to Telluride, Colorado in January, 2019 for ARIZONA DAYS. PSC will do a family ski trip to Arizona Snowbowl in February of 2019. The first week of March, PSC is doing a week ski trip to Northstar/Heavenly. PSC will wrap up the ski season with a ski trip to Copper Mountain in April of 2019. In September 2018, PSC did a Rhine River Cruise. In December the club plans a trip to New York City to celebrate the Christmas activities. In April of 2019, PSC has planned a trip to New Zealand; and in July they will be offering a weekend in Flagstaff, Arizona. Summer activities for PSC included a family Ice Skating event, wine and cheese party, hikes, swim parties, happy hours and many other activities. Please go to ***www.phx-skiclub.org*** for more information about the Phoenix Ski Club.

Scottsdale Sea & Ski Club, (SS&SC), is an adult ski and social club. SS&SC had their election of officers in April. *Martin and Sarann Wolfson* were elected co-presidents for the coming year. SS&SC has happy hours every Friday evening. The club has its 2018-19 ski trip schedule posted on its website. SS&SC is traveling to Park City, Utah in December of 2018. This is a Ski College Package that the club is doing, along with the Phoenix Ski Club. In January of 2019, SS&SC will be joining the PSC on their annual ARIZONA DAYS ski trip. SS&SC will wrap up its ski season with a week ski trip to Aspen/Snowmass in February of 2019. In July of 2018, members traveled to Sedona, Arizona for a wine tour weekend, followed by a Boat and Adventure tour in Croatia in August/September. In October of 2018, SS&SC will take a trip to Tucson, Arizona. In March of 2019, a trip is planned to Costa Rica, and in May, a Cuba Adventure. For more information about all the other SS&SC activities go to ***www.scottsdaleskiclub.com***.

Sailing Adventure Club, (SAC), is a social club based in Phoenix, Arizona with activities ranging from local sailing, and non-sailing events, to out of country sailing adventures. Due to challenges finding someone to maintain the website and newsletter, SAC moved towards being a Meetup group only. In doing so, they have attracted about 135 new members. SAC is not a singles group, but beware… to this date, ten couples have met and married within the club! SAC is no longer charging dues, so anyone can join via Meetup.

Arizona Ski Council

www.arizonaskicouncil.org.
President: *Wanda Himler*
(602) 326-2205
president@arizonaskicouncil.org

Arizona Ski & Social Clubs

Member Clubs & Contact Information

ARIZONA HIKING AND TRAVEL CLUB
www.azotc.com
President: *Mark Miller*
623-640-5375
markm50@yahoo.com

BOEING ADVENTURE CLUB
www.boeing.com
Representative: *Glenn Pyle*
glenn.t.pyle@boeing.com

PARTY TIME SPORTS
President: *Gary Gertz*
ggg44@q.com

PHOENIX SKI CLUB
www.phxskiclub.org
President: *Bill Behnke*
(602) 828-0050
bill@hireztech.com

SAILING ADVENTURE CLUB
Meet Up Group
Commodore: *Ralph Morgan*
rhmorgan@oco.net

SCOTTSDALE SEA AND SKI CLUB
www.scottsdale-skiclub.com
Presidents: *Martin & Sarann Wolfson*
president@scottsdale-skiclub.com

Phoenix Ski Club celebrates milestone event: 1948 - 2018 Happy 70th Anniversary!

Bay Area Snow Sports Council

by Paul Vlasveld, President

Above: ***Lake Tahoe is a favorite destination for Bay Area Snow Sports Council members. Views of the lake from many of the resorts are spectacular, including this one from the slopes of Diamond Peak.***
photo / Diamond Peak / Zac Smith, photographer.

Right: ***Several BAC members traveled to Banff on the 2018 FWSA Ski Week to ski the Big3 Resorts.***
photo provided by Paul Vlasveld

The Bay Area Snow Sports Council (BAC) is a very active part of the Far West Ski Association and the National Ski Council Federation (***www.skifederation.org***). Our focus is Having Fun. One might ask, *"Who should join a BAC club?"* A very simple answer is YOU!

We welcome snowboarders, skiers, cross country, people who enjoy snow shoeing; and those who prefer non-snow social activities. Bay Area Snow Sports Council has fun doing a variety of club and council activities on and off the snow.

The BAC has 24 active member clubs based in the greater San Francisco Bay area which extends as far north as the Napa Valley, south to Monterey / Carmel and east to Modesto. We feature two separate leagues within the BAC. Our Open League has 26 clubs and welcomes individuals, couples, families and their children. Our Singles League is made up of four clubs with their full membership being over 21 years of age; and members must be single to initially join one of their clubs. You'll find fun things to do all year long with our clubs.

There is the social aspect to the BAC clubs! Non-skiers and non-snowboarders find their way to our member clubs for activities such as dancing, hiking, camping, bike riding, tennis, golf, adventure travel, etc. In fact, we have members who have been on all seven continents of the world. Yes, that includes Antarctica!

You'll be amazed by the variety of trips available through the BAC, our various clubs, and the Far West Ski Association. The locations include many Tahoe venues, domestic locations, adventures to Europe and just about all points on a compass. You can find members of the BAC going to the slopes just about any time during the winter! As an example, in 2018, we had members skiing in: Banff, Canada; Jasper, Canada, and many additional locations. During 2019, already scheduled trips are to: Steamboat Springs, Colorado; Italy; France; and many other locations.

Another wonderful part of the BAC clubs and our members is how we volunteer our time and energy through community outreach and fund raising programs. Our main benefactors are ***Achieve Tahoe*** (Formerly DSUSA) and the ***Far West Ski Foundation Scholarship Program***. Over the years, we have raised over $395,000 for their programs! Many of the clubs volunteer time and money to their designated charitable organizations.

The history of the Bay Area Snow Sports Council is just as amazing as what is taking place today. In mid-1940, the Bay Area Ski Federation was organized *"For the welfare of Bay Area Skiers"* and voted to join Far West as the Bay Area Council (BAC) Ski Clubs in 1961.To embrace all snow sports activities, the current name of the BAC is *"Bay Area Snow Sports Council"*. During all four seasons our BAC clubs are very active!

In November, BAC will hold the 13th Annual Winterfest event where the BAC clubs can meet with our industry partners in a relaxed and fun atmosphere to celebrate the coming winter sports season.

We, in the leadership of the BAC, are very lucky to have our clubs and their members associated with us along with having the Lake Tahoe area in our "backyard". Our members are amazing and the amount of history and diversity of local places to ski / snowboard is a true gift. Our Recreational Race Schedules for 2018 - 2019 will be featuring Alpine Meadows, Sugar Bowl, and Squaw Valley (venues subject to change). In addition, there are the Far West Championships at Mammoth Mountain! Become one of our "racers". Come out and have a great time! Even if you don't race, please join us at the slopes during any of our on mountain events. Cow bells are encouraged!

In our continued efforts to share information with our BAC members, we have a monthly BAC General Meeting where we welcome and look forward to having guest speakers who talk about their resorts, products and/or travel opportunities. This year, we are also putting a great deal of energy into sharing information on how to improve our various clubs through informative and interactive conversations!

If you have any questions or need more information about the BAC, please contact me at *bac.president@skibac.org* or look at our website at ***www.skibac.org***.

To our members, clubs and those who donate and support our efforts, I always like to say - *"Thank You for Being the One Who Makes the Difference!"*

Please check out one of our clubs, come to the slopes with us and have fun with our Volunteer Non-Profit Organization!

Bay Area Snow Sports Council

www.skibac.org
President: *Paul Vlasveld*
(408) 314-4649
pvlasveld@comcast.net

Bay Area Snow Sports Council Ski and Social Clubs

Member Clubs & Contact Information

ALPINEER
http://alpineerclub.blogspotcom
President: *Jeff English*
jeng122@comcast.net

APRES SKI CLUB
www.apres.org
President: *Mark Hochendoner*
apresmark@gmail.com

BERKELEY SKI CLUB
www.berkeleyskiclub.org
President: *Jeffery Kurtock*
president@berkeleyskiclub.org

BLADERUNNERS SKI & SPORTS CLUB
(Lockheed Martin Employee's Club)
bladerunnersskiclub@yahoo.com
President: *Monique Huygen*
mhuygen@comcast.net

CASTRO VALLEY SKI CLUB
www.cvskiclub.org
President: *Claudia Fernandes*
claudia.fernandes4108@gmail.com

FIRE AND ICE SKI CLUB
www.fireandiceskiclub.net
President: Michael Cunningham
Mikecalpha06@gmail.com

GOLDEN GATE TOP OF THE HILL GANG
www.ggtothg.org
President: *Roger Avery*
rogeravery@me.com

INSKIERS SKI & SNOWBOARD CLUB
www.inskiers.com
President: *Ed Pease*
president@inskiers.com

MARIN SKI CLUB
www.marinskiclub.org
President: *Kurt Burkhard*
kurtburkhard@comcast.net

MODESTO SKI CLUB
www.modestoskiclub.com
President: *Don Shaver*
donaldshaver@gmail.com

Numerous skiers from all councils participated in the 2018 Ski Week to Banff. Plenty of snow was there to greet them. *photo provided by Nancy Ellis*

MONTEREY SKI & SOCIAL CLUB
www.montereyski.org
President: *Greg Robinson*
gregrobie@ix.netcom.com

NISEI SKI CLUB
www.niseiskiclub.org
President: *Armand Gutierrez*
president@niseiskiclub.org

NORTH BAY SNOWONDERS
President: *Mary Redfern*
themnmns@comcast.net

OAKLAND SKI CLUB
www.oaklandskiclub.org
President: *Wayne Nelson*
nelson.wayne1@gmail.com

OLYMPIC CLUB
(Private – Member Sponsored)
www.olyclub.com

PENINSULA SKI CLUB
www.peninsulaskiclub.org
President: *Dan Brennan*
danisflying@yahoo.com

RUSTY BINDINGS SKI CLUB
www.rustybindings.com
President: *Janet Spencer*
Jspen52@gmail.com

SAN FRANCISCO SKI CLUB
www.sfskiclub.org
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igoroski@aol.com

SAN FRANCISCO VIKING SKI CLUB
www.sfvikingskiclub.org
President: *Laura Salcido*
laurabiking@yahoo.com

SNOWCHASERS SKI CLUB
www.snowchasers.org
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harrykaren@comcast.net

SNOW DRIFTERS SKI & SNOWBOARD CLUB
www.snowdrifters.org
President: *Jeff Persoff*
president@snowdrifters.org

SNOWGLERS
(Employees of Google)
President: *Yao Cheng*
yaocheng@google.com

SOUTHBAY SKI CLUB
www.southbayskiclub.org
President: *Susan White*
skysierra@yahoo.com

SUNBURST SKI CLUB
President: *Gordon Mann*
sharkmann@suddenlink.net

Lauren Nagle and Donna Webb help Central Council check out a bike and barge trip in Italy.
photos provided by Fran Long

Central Council of California

by Fran Long, President

Snowsports councils are clusters of snowsports clubs located within a given geographical area. Central Council of California represents ski clubs located in the central California area, extending from the Sierra to the sea, and from Salinas to Santa Barbara.

Councils are all about providing information, and sometimes activities, for the clubs located within their boundaries. Most, but not all, Central Council of California clubs have very strong and active travel programs and numerous non-snowsports activities available to their members. In addition to what the club's provide, the council offers another layer of activities and services.

Additionally, as a member of the Far West Ski Association and the National Ski Council Federation, our members have access to all of the benefits offered by both of those organizations. Benefits include additional travel opportunities and discounts on lodging, equipment rental, etc.

There is no way to list them all, but here is a sampling of what lies ahead for Central Council of California and its member clubs in the coming year:

■ ***Fresno Ski Club*** has two week-long ski trips planned for 2019; Aspen/Snowmass in February and Mammoth Mountain in March.

■ In February, 2019, ***SLO Skiers*** will be going to Steamboat, and in March they are going to Mammoth Mountain.

■ ***Santa Barbara Ski & Sports Club*** will be going to Telluride in January, 2019, and to Banff, Canada in March.

■ Central Council of California will be supporting all of the Far West Ski Association travel opportunities. In addition, a bike and barge trip to Italy is being planned for August, 2019.

As one can see, our clubs are very active, and they surely have an adventure to fit the interest and budget of all our snowsports enthusiasts.

Central Council of California currently has eight member clubs. Check us out. If you live in the central California area, chances are we have a club near you. Look around, join as a stranger, and plan to leave with many lifelong friends.

Check out our website for information and contacts for our many adventures: ***www.centralcouncilskiclubs.org***.

Top: Mammoth Mountain is a favorite resort for Central Council and other SoCal clubs. It's no wonder since, in addition to great terrain and abundant snow in most years, Mammoth also offers scenic gondola rides, snowcat tours, backcounty adventures, guided mountain tours, Woolly's Tube Park, and snowmobiling. The area also provides excellent terrain for nordic skiing and snowshoeing.
photo courtesy of Mammoth Mountain

Bottom Left: Several Santa Barbara Ski & Sports Club members have fun on their Park City ski trip. Bottom Right: A sign on the slopes in Telluride instructs snowriders to SLOW down. A group from SLO skiers couldn't pass up the opportunity to personalize the sign.
photos provided by Fran Long

Central Council of California

www.centralcouncilskiclubs.org
President: *Fran Long*
(805) 712-5781
francat87@gmail.com

Central Council of California
Member Clubs & Contact Information

AVALANCHE SKI AND SPORTS CLUB
Serving Bakersfield, Kern County
www.centralcouncilskiclubs.org
President: *Donna Webb*
dblazekwebb@gmail.com

CAMBER SKI CLUB
Serving the Salinas Valley and parts of Monterey County
Activities: *Jayne Camic*
camicski@aol.com

CLOVIS SKI AND TRAVEL CLUB
Serving Clovis and Fresno County
President: *Kim Riehl*
kimriehl18@gmail.com

FRESNO SKI CLUB
Serving Fresno County
www.fresnoskiclub.com
President: *Mark Vester*
markvesterski@att.net

OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL ENTHUSIASTS
Serving Fresno County
Facilitator: *Bob Strickland*
Bstrick60@att.net

SANTA BARBARA SKI AND SPORTS CLUB
Serving Santa Barbara County
www.sbski.org
President: *Robert Palmer*
president@sbski.org

SLO SKIERS, INC., A SKI SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB
Serving San Luis Obispo, Southern Monterey and Northern Santa Barbara Counties
www.sloskiers.org
President: *Vince Kirkhuff*
president@sloskiers.org

SNOW TRACKERS
Serving Exeter, California
www.centralcouncilskiclubs.org
President: *Helen Salsbury Jacobsen*
helenzz@aol.com

Clubs in the Intermountain Ski Council have plenty of choices for their skiing and boarding pleasures. Among them is spending time in Big Sky, Montana - pictured above. LEFT: *Historic Sun Valley is another favorite. The ISC offers their council's annual "Rendevous Ski Trip" to all members of FWSA. Numerous skiers certainly enjoyed it last season. Plan to join them.*

photos by Don Pribble

Intermountain Ski Council

by Paul Markowitz, President

The ISC has had a great year. Both our Man and Woman of the year candidates were honored by the Far West Ski Association at the 86th Annual Convention in Reno this past June. *Kim Hovren* and *Michael Bouton* were selected by the panel of judges for their achievements over the past five years. Both had been very instrumental in the Council's hosting of the 85th Annual Convention in Boise the previous year. Both had been very involved with their club, ***Bogus Basin Ski Club***, for many years. Congratulations to both Michael and Kim.

The council has a new web site and information available for our members and all of you reading this article. Please log on to ***www.intermountainskicouncil.org*** and let our webmaster, *Lennia Machen*, know what you think. She has done a terrific job with the design and content. Thank you, Lennia.

"Rendevous Ski Trip" in Sun Valley! FWSA members invited.

The council has a new V.P. of Membership, *Brad Smith*, of the ***Park City Mountain Sports Club***. Brad has been very involved with his club and brings much experience to this position.

The council will be hosting our traditional Meetup ski trip to Sun Valley - January 7 - 12, 2019. You can join us. Just call and make your own reservations for the week or just the weekend. We have arranged for some great rates both in the lodge or condos. The lift ticket prices are very appealing, as well. We'll be hosting a wine and cheese social Saturday evening and everyone is invited. So come and ski one of the best mountains in the country.

Intermountain Ski Council

www.centralcouncilskiclubs.org
President: *Paul Markowitz*
(208) 850-9962
pmarkowitz@cableone.net

Intermountain Ski Council *Member Clubs & Contact Information*

AGGIE SKI CLUB
Serving the Logan, Utah area
President: *William Hamann*
aggieskiclub@gmail.com

BLACK HILLS SKI CLUB
www.bhskiclub.com
Serving the Rapid City, South Dakota area
President: *Rich Emerson*
bhskiclub@gmail.com

BOGUS BASIN SKI CLUB
http://bogusbasinskiclub.org/
Serving the Boise, Idaho area
President: *Darrayl Kuhrt*
president@bogusbasinskiclub.org

CHEYENNE SKI CLUB
www.cheyenneskiclub.com
Serving the Cheyenne, Wyoming area
President: *Jodee Pring*
cheyenneskiclub@hotmail.com

HILL SKI CLUB
Serving the Hill Air Force Base, Clearfield, UT
President: *Norm Bates*
waterski1layton@comcast.net

IDAHO FALLS SKI CLUB
www.ifskiclub.com
Serving the Idaho Falls, Idaho area
President: *Don Rasch*
skibiz@ida.net

McCALL WINTER SPORTS CLUB.
Creating World Class Kids Through Winter Sports
Executive Director: *Chris Costa*
(208) 918-0234
mccallwintersportsclub@gmail.com

PARK CITY MOUNTAIN SPORTS CLUB
www.pcmsc.org
Serving the Park City, Utah area
President: *Kathy Kelleher*
kathykel2@aol.com

POCATELLO SKI ASSOCIATION
www.pocatelloskiandsnowboardassociation.com
Serving the Pocatello, Idaho area
President: *Richard Antill*
rantill2000@msn.com

PRIMETIMERS SKI CLUB
Serving male skiers at the Bogus Basin Ski Resort
President: *Ben Doty*
bdoty80826@aol.com

SNOWBER SKI & SNOWBOARD CLUB
www.snowber.org
Serving the Cottonwood Heights, Utah area
President: *Matt Dominesey*
info@snowber.org

Above: Clyde McNeal, a member of the Bogus Basin Ski Club, makes first tracks in fresh Grand Targhee powder. Grand Targhee is known for having deep powder and a variety of excellent terrain. Located on the west side of the Grand Tetons, the resort is consistently hit by pacific storms that dump plenty of snow as they reach the high mountain range. Right: Another favorite ski destination for ISC is Powder Mountain in Utah. The resort is considered one of the premier powder skiing destinations in the world. If 8,400 plus acres is not enough, the resort also offers snowcat skiing, terrain parks, backcountry skiing, and nordic trails. If cruising is your style, try their three mile long run.

Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs

by Sandra Blackwell, President

Los Angeles Council delegates to the 86th Annual Far West Ski Association Convention in Reno June 7-10, following the annual Awards Banquet. LAC has a long tradition of nurturing volunteers, who become leaders in Far West Ski Association and many other snowsports organizations.
Attendees included: (Back Row L to R) Sandy Knapp, Karen James, Norbert Knapp, John Watson, Brenda Holden, Hannah Nishimoto, Sandy Blackwell, Todd Hood, Jane Wyckoff, Lynelle Caulkins, Dennis Leon, (Front Row L to R) John James, Dee Armstrong, Jane Gutierrez, and Sigrid Noack. The delegation included President Sandra Blackwell - current President, six Los Angeles Council Past Presidents and two Far West Ski Association Presidents. *photo / L.R. Peck Photography*

The Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs, Inc. currently consists of 26 snowsports clubs that cover a large area from Santa Barbara to Long Beach, and east to the Inland Empire. LAC is one of the largest of the nine councils of the Far West Ski Association, and one of several that are part of the National Ski Council Federation. The make up of the council clubs is older (yet young thinking and acting) with club leaders and members, and we offer networking opportunities for fun and future planning. Due to the large population and number of ski clubs involved, the club make up is very diverse, with small clubs, large clubs, winter and summer sports programs, that they often blend together for better pricing and more fun involved.

The main ski resort for bus trips and drive up trips for the council clubs is Mammoth Mountain Ski Resort, a five hour drive from central Los Angeles. Mammoth offers a myriad of year round outdoor activities (skiing in winter; mountain biking, hiking and camping in summer). This is also where most of the council races happen, and they are part of Far West Racing Association. Los Angeles supports two race leagues: ROKKA and ULLR chaired by *Laura Preiss* and *Ken Kawahara*, respectively. Included on the schedule are: ROKKA Race Camp; the Ski, Ride & Race Week; three race weekends, the SoCal Championships, and the Far West Racing Association Championships.

Los Angeles Council participates in the FWSA Ski Week each year. Our new VP of Travel is *Todd Hood*. Banff was a wonderful winter wonderland last year and this year's upcoming Steamboat trip set for February 3 (and hopefully a bit of skiing with legendary *Billy Kidd*), should fill the bill for anyone skiing, boarding or just having fun. LAC also takes advantage of FWSA's international trips; and the "mini week" ski trips that have become popular for their interesting ski resort choices and great pricing.

Paula Hazzard, VP of Programs, organizes the council's main event, our Snow Gala. This year marks the 69th year of hosting this evening of dining, dancing, and award prizes, with the most important event being the announcement of our Man and Woman of the Year, who then go on to represent LAC at the FWSA Convention.

We also hosted our own "Mini Convention," to get ready for Indian Wells next year, at one of our general meetings where an Award Winning Miniature Golf Course tested our golf abilities, and prizes were awarded for luckiest shot, most putts, highest score vs. best score, and the ever - popular "goodie" bags were given to all the participants. We actually got a bit of business done while strolling along the fairways.

The 86th FWSA Convention in Reno, Nevada this past June was yet again an Over - The - Top event. The council had 18 members in attendance. In addition to the many activities offered, one of the highlights is always the Awards Banquet held on Saturday evening. Our congratulations to the following LAC recipients of some of the top awards:

Elizabeth "Schatzi" Wood Award and the ***President's Award:*** *Jane Gutierrez* (Four Season's West); ***J. Stanley Mullin Award:*** *Todd Hood* (Snowbusters), ***Snowsports Builder Award:*** *John Watson* (Pacific Rim Alliance), and ***Jimmie Heuga Award:*** *Dee Armstrong* (Unrecables).

Five great awards for LAC members!

Los Angeles Council continues to be represented within Far West Ski Association as members of the Board of Directors, Board of Trustees, and its various committees. There are seven members currently who are FWSA officers that continue on after the June Convention, or as appointed Committee Chairs. They are:

Jane Wyckoff (Pacific Rim Alliance), Trustee;
Paula Hazzard (Edelweiss Ski Club), VP of Public Affairs;
Catherine Ohl (Pacific Rim Alliance), Webmaster;
Sigrid Noack (Unrecables), Charities & Our Community Chair;
Todd Hood (Snowbusters), Succession Planning Chair;
David Krupp (Century City Ski Club), Athletic Scholarship Program Chair; and
Norbert Knapp (Grindelwald Ski Club); Secretary of Far West Ski Foundation.

There are always those that work behind the scenes, and without them, this would not be possible, so I would also like to thank the following LAC Board members for their diligent efforts in making the council a great team to work with:
VP of Communications - *Cynthia Carter*;
Treasurer - *Karen James*;
Secretary - *Sandra Knapp*, and
Past President - *David Krupp*.

For details regarding all of the Los Angeles clubs and activities, please visit us at: ***www.la-council.org***.

Members of the Conejo Ski & Sports Club went tubing on their trip to Belize. This island paradise, located on the Caribbean coast of Northern Central America, is a growing tourist destination, and features cave tubing and zipline adventures.
photo provided by Sandy Blackwell

Woolly Mammoth welcomes members of the Unrecables Ski Club on one of their monthly trips to Mammoth Mountain. With Woolly are Eric Hayden, Dee Armstrong and Hannah Nishimoto. The Unrecables create opportunities to develop life skills through participation in adaptive sports, and are affiliated with the United States Adaptive Recreation Center (USARC). *photo provided by Hannah Nishimoto*

Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs

www.lacouncil.org
President: *Sandy Blackwell*
(818) 441-6191
President@lacouncil.org

Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs *Member Clubs & Contact Information*

AEA (AEROSPACE) SKI CLUB
South Bay
www.aeaclubs.org/ski
President: *Christine Haight*
AEA@LACouncil.org

ASIAN SKI & BOARD CLUB OF LOS ANGELES
Los Angeles
www.asbcla.org
Contact: *Warren Tanaka*
Asian@LACouncil.org

AUSLICH SKI CLUB
Belmont Shore/Long Beach
President: *Joe Vanderhoof*
Auslich@LACouncil.org

BEACH CITIES SKI CLUB
Beach Cities
www.bcskiclub.org
President: *Bruce Lee*
BCSkiClub@LACouncil.org

BUCKHORN SKI AND SNOWBOARD CLUB
Angeles National Forest
buckhornlodge.org
President: *Rodney Rice*
Buckhorn@LACouncil.org

CCSC SPORTS
West Side Los Angeles
www.ccscsports.org
President: *Kay Collins*
CCSC@LACouncil.org

CONEJO SKI & SPORTS CLUB
Thousand Oaks
www.conejoskiclub.org
President: *Jim Robertson*
Conejo@LACouncil.org

EDELWEISS SKI & SPORT CLUB
San Fernando Valley
www.edelweissskiclub.org
President: *Wendy Goldzband*
Edelweiss@LACouncil.org

EXECUTIVE BOARD SNOWBOARD ASSOCIATION
Los Angeles
President: *Cheyenne Aldridge*
EBSA@LACouncil.org

FOUR SEASONS WEST SKI AND SNOWBOARD CLUB
Los Angeles
www.4sw.com
President: *Jane Gutierrez*
4SW@LACouncil.org

GRINDELWALD SKI CLUB
Los Angeles
www.grindelwaldskiclub.org
President: *Philip Grant*
Grindelwald@LACouncil.org

INLAND EMPIRE SKI AND SPORTS CLUB
Riverside
www.iessc.com
President: *Teri Allard*
IESSC@LACouncil.org

KRONENSTADT SKI CLUB
Pasadena
www.kronenstadtskiclub.com
President: *Bruce Bailey*
Kronenstadt@LACouncil.org

LONG BEACH SKI CLUB
Long Beach/South Bay
www.longbeachskiclub.org
President: *Kris Flaig*
LBSC@LACouncil.org

LOS PADRES SKI CLUB
Simi Valley/Ventura County
www.lospadresskiclub.net
Co-President: *Tom Reed*
LosPadres@LACouncil.org

ON THE HILL GANG - LOS ANGELES
Los Angeles
www.ohgla.org
President: *Annette Mann*
OnTheHillGang@LACouncil.org

PACIFIC RIM ALLIANCE
Southern California
www.pacificrimalliance.org
President: *Catherine Ohl*
PacificRim@LACouncil.org

RADAR RIVER RATS WATERSKI CLUB
Southern California
www.radarriverrats.org
President: *Catherine Ohl*
PacificRim@LACouncil.org

SAGA SKI CLUB
Los Angeles
www.sagala.org
President: *Sal Veas*
SAGA@LACouncil.org

SANTA BARBARA SKI & SPORTS CLUB
Santa Barbara County
www.sbski.org
President: *Robert Palmer*
SantaBarbara@LACouncil.org

SNOWBUSTERS SKI CLUB
Pasadena
www.snowbusters.com
President: *Yolanda Lockhart*
Snowbusters@LACouncil.org

SPACE PARK SKI & SNOWBOARD CLUB (TRW)
South Bay
www.spaceparkskiandsnowboard-club.org
President: *Robert Shepard*
Space Park@LACouncil.org

THE UNRECABLES
Los Angeles
www.unrecables.org
President: *Michelle McCarthy*
Unrecables@LACouncil.org

WAILERS SKI, SNOWBOARD & SOCIAL CLUB
San Fernando Valley/Los Angeles
www.wailersskiclub.org
President: *Regina Reilly*
WailersSkiClub@LACouncil.org

WESTWOOD SKI CLUB
West Los Angeles
www.westwoodskiclub.org
President: *Scott Peer*
Westwood@LACouncil.org

WINTER FOX SKI & SNOWBOARD ASSOCIATION
Los Angeles
www.winterfox.org
President: *Ida Cochrane*
WinterFox@LACouncil..org

photo / Lisa Miller

During a ski trip to Brundage Mountain, Idaho, several people participated in a day of snowcat skiing. The resort offers around 19,000 acres of backcountry terrain, plus its marked trails.

Celebrating the 175th Anniversary of the start of the Oregon Trail, members of multiple Northwest ski clubs participated in a bike ride following the original wagon trail. *photo / Emilio Trampuz*

Northwest Ski Club Council

by Christine Ciardi, NWSCC President

Living in the great northwest lets the members of the Northwest Ski Club Council enjoy a wide variety of natural beauty. The council includes clubs in the beautiful states of Oregon, Washington and Hawaii. Everyone is out in nature and the great outdoors. Our home mountains are primarily volcanoes, promising unique experiences.

Our council supports approximately 40 clubs and non-profit organizations. NWSCC clubs enjoy many different activities, along with social events. Clubs organize trips (single day and multiple day) that include hiking, golfing, biking, camping, backpacking, sailing, wind-surfing, kayaking, and canoeing - you name it. Some trips include several activities on the same trip. Other events are brew festivals, wine tasting, happy hour gatherings, game nights and the list continues. Thanks to our clubs, members can add camaraderie and fun competition to their lives while enjoying the outdoors. We don't just ski or snowboard, although that's how we start the fun.

Clubs vary in size and are located all over these states, but each is welcoming. ***Cascade Prime Timers Ski Club*** is for members age 50+, ***Skiyente Ski Club*** is for women only, and ***Schnee Vogeli Ski Club*** is men only. These clubs are long time staples in Oregon. One of our unique clubs, ***Cascade Ski Club***, is one of the oldest in Oregon, with a deep history dating back more than 80 years. Their rustically beautiful lodge in Government Camp welcomes skiers and families of all ages and experience. The lodge offers bunk-style accommodations and in-house dining. Another unique club, ***SKIBACS*** in the Seattle area, has enjoyed their own lodge at Crystal Mountain since 1966.

For more than 30 years, ***PACRAT League*** has provided the exciting opportunity to participate in recreational alpine racing for skiers on Mt. Hood, and recently added snowboarders to the excitement. PACRAT recreational racing organization is part of NWSCC. They are all about having fun on the mountain with both old and new friends. Novices can learn to compete at their own skill level and watch their improvement through the season. Don't want to organize your own team or don't know other racers? No problem; check out their website, and they can get you connected. In a typical year, over two hundred racers participate on teams, then celebrate the season at their annual Rat Attack party and awards ceremony in the spring.

NWSCC invites every member club to appoint a representative to attend council meetings and act as liaison between the club and the council. NWSCC meetings are held at least four times a year in the Portland Metropolitan area. Those interested should check our website to confirm meeting dates and locations. We support our industry members by holding several meetings at their locations. NWSCC meetings feature guest speakers from the ski and snowboard industry, regional ski areas, media, and resort properties. Sometimes, we feature someone in the health, fitness, or safety industries, to keep us updated. This is also a time for clubs to share what is going on within their group, and to promote trips that are available to other club members. Council meetings begin with an informal social time, followed by presentations. Everyone is invited to attend and is encouraged to get involved.

Check out our website ***http://nwskiers.org/***. It includes information about individual clubs with links to their websites to get more details. There is also an up-to-date calendar of club and council events/trips with search function. Many trips organized by individual clubs are open to all NWSCC club members. Clubs are continuing to fine-tune their trip schedules for the 2018 - 2019 ski season. Members should check the trips and events section of our website frequently for new opportunities.

There are many benefits of membership in a NWSCC affiliated club. Discounts are negotiated by NWSCC, Far West Ski Association, and the National Ski Club Federation. Our website shows links to benefits from all three organizations.

We're looking forward to a wonderful 2019. *Let's go skiing!*

Northwest Ski Club Council

www.nwskiers.org
President: *Christine Ciardi*
(503) 819-3128
c2blondie@hotmail.com

Northwest Ski Club Council
Member Clubs & Contact Information

Hawaii

HAWAII SNOW SKI CLUB
Location: Aiea, Hawaii
http://www.hawaiiskiclub.com/fmain.htm
pres@hawaiisnowskiclub.com

Oregon

ALTAIR SKI & SPORTS CLUB
Location: Eugene, Oregon
www.altairsports.org
skialtair@yahoo.com

BEND SKI CLUB
Location: Bend, Oregon
www.bendskiclub.net
bendssc@aol.com

BERGFREUNDE
Location: Portland, Oregon
www.bergfreunde.org
skiclub@bergfreunde.org

CABERNET SKI & SAIL CLUB
Location: Portland, Oregon
www.nwskiers.org
johnoreinhardt@hotmail.com

CASCADE PRIME TIMERS SKI CLUB
Location: Portland, Oregon
www.cascadeprimetimers.org
president@cascadeprime timers.org

CASCADE SKI CLUB, INC
Location: Government Camp, Oregon
www.cascadeskiclub.org
lodge@cascadeskiclub.org

INTERLACHEN SKI CLUB
Location: Fairview, Oregon
contact: cougskier@aol.com

MOUNTAIN HIGH SNOWSPORT CLUB
Location: Portland, Oregon
www.mthigh.org
info@mthigh.org

MT. HOOD SKIKATS
Location: Portland, Oregon
www.nwskiers.org
Jeannie@jeanniecoyle.com

MULTNOMAH ATHLETIC CLUB
Location: Portland, Oregon
https://themac.com/

OREGON NORDIC CLUB - PORTLAND CHAPTER
Location: Portland, Oregon
www.onc.org/pdx-onc
membership@onc.org

SCHNEE VOGELI SKI CLUB
Location: Portland, Oregon
www.schneevogeli.com
svsc_info@schneevogeli.com

SKIYENTE SKI CLUB
Location: Portland, Oregon
www.skiyente.com
skiyente@gmail.com

Washington

1 WORLD OUTING CLUB
Location: Seattle, Washington
http://www.outingclub.org/
Information@Outingclub.org

ALP DU LAKEMONT SKI CLUB
Location: Seattle, Washington
http://adlskiclub.com/
info@adlskiclub.com

DESERT SKI CLUB
Location: Tri-Cities, Washington
www.desertskiclub.org
info@desertskiclub.org

LONGVIEW SKI CLUB
Location: Longview, Washington
https://www.facebook.com/longviewskiclub/
janerosi@wildblue.net

S'NO JOKE SKI CLUB
Location: Seattle, Washington
www.snojoke.org
info@snojoke.org

SEATTLE EASTSIDE SKI & SNOWBOARD MEETUP GROUP
Location: Kirkland, Washington
http://www.meetup.com/SeattleEastsideSkiers/
clintlunde@hotmail.com

SEATTLE SKI AND SNOWBOARD MEETUP GROUP
Location: Seattle, Washington
www.meetup.com/SkiSeattle/

A dozen members of the Mountain High and Ski Kats clubs ski inside Little Zig Zag Canyon on Mt. Hood. *photo provided by Emilio Trampuz*

SKIBACS SKI & SNOWBOARD CLUB
Location: Seattle, Washington
www.skibacs.org
info@skibacs.org

SKIHAWKS SKI CLUB
Location: Seattle, Washington
www.skihawks.org
artarneson@comcast.net

VANCOUVER SNOW & SPORTS CLUB
Location: Vancouver, Washington
www.nwskiers.org
sandyschill33@gmail.com

WIHSKI CLUB
Location: Seattle, Washington
www.wihski.com
duchschererj@yahoo.com

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Charitable Associate Members

CHILL PORTLAND
Location: Portland, Oregon
www.chill.org
michaelw@chill.org

HOPE ON THE SLOPES / SKI & RIDE FOR A CURE
Location: Tacoma, Washington
www.hopeontheslopes.net
Lori.Harmer@cancer.org

MEADOWS RACE TEAM
Location: Hood River, Oregon
www.meadowsraceteam.org
meadowsraceteam@gmail.com

MT. BACHELOR SPORTS EDUCATION FOUNDATION
Location: Bend, Oregon
www.mbsef.org
mbsef@mbsef.org

MT. HOOD CULTURAL CENTER & MUSEUM
Location: Government Camp, Oregon
www.mthoodmuseum.org
info@mthoodmuseum.org

MT. HOOD SKI EDUCATION FOUNDATION
Location: Government Camp, Oregon
www.mthoodacademy.org
seth@mhsef.org

MT. HOOD SKI PATROL
Location: Mt. Hood, Oregon
www.mthoodskipatrol.org
mhsp@onebox.com

NORTHWEST TRAIL ALLIANCE
Location: Portland, Oregon
www.nw-trail.org
info@nw-trail.org

OREGON ADAPTIVE SPORTS
Location: Bend, Oregon
www.oregonadaptivesports.org
info@oregonadaptive sports.org

OREGON CANCER SKI OUT
Location: Wilsonville, Oregon
www.cancerskiout.org
cancerskiout@gmail.com

OUTDOORS FOR ALL FOUNDATION
Location: Seattle, Washington
www.outdoorsforall.org
info@outdoorsforall.org

SKI TO DEFEAT ALS
Location: Portland, Oregon
www.SkiToDefeatALS.org
ski@alsa-or.org

SkiDUCK
Location: Redmond, Washington
www.skiduck.org
clintlunde@hotmail.com

On Sunday morning of the 2018 FWSA Convention, delegates from Orange Council (with the Los Angeles Council Committee Volunteers) invited everyone in attendance to come to the 2019 FWSA Convention to be held in Indian Wells, California. PICTURED (in orange) FROM LEFT TO RIGHT. Jess Gorman, Sigrid Noack, Maxine Hanlon, Dallas Debatin, Sheila van Guilder, George Kish, Jane Wyckoff, Norbert Knapp, Sandra Knapp, and Ken Muzzy. In the background are Gloria Raminha - the newly elected FWSA President; Sheri Parshall, FWSA Secretary, and a life-sized cardboard image of retiring President Steve Coxen. *photo / Emilio Trampuz*

Orange Council of Ski Clubs

by Maxine Hanlon, OCSC, Past President

We celebrate our skiers, snowboarders, racers and all the on and off hill activities of our clubs and organizations. That includes the multitudes of activities at the beach, back bay, local hills, picnics and interaction with other clubs and organizations. We have members in Senior Volleyball Oympics and regional tennis events.

Our council has been interacting with clubs in our area and with like minded individuals since Orange Council was established in 1971. Our members range in area from Orange County, Southern California and in the Midwest. Our council is an active member of Far West Ski Association, National Ski Council Federation, and Far West Racing Association. Our members serve as volunteers in these organizations, as well. *Sheila Van Guilder*, as Council President, is on the FWSA Board of Directors and *George Kish*, Council Treasurer, is the FWSA By-Laws Chairman. *Jess Gorman* was the Orange Council Trip Coordinator for the 2018 Far West Ski Week to Banff, Canada, and will lead our group for the 2019 trip to Steamboat Springs, CO. *Maxine Hanlon*, V.P. of Racing and Schusski Race League Chair, represents Orange Council members in racing events. We are looking forward to this year's race schedule at Mammoth Mountain Resort for December 15, 2018, January 12, February 22, and March 16, 2019. We race with ROKKA Race League.

Members of Huntington Beach Ski Club traveled to Mount Bachelor for their Out-of-State ski trip in 2018.
photos / Bill Knight, unless otherwise indicated

This year, we welcome a new member to our council, the ***United States Adaptive Recreational Center*** at Bear Mountain. On September 23, ***Balboa Ski and Sports Club*** entered the *Susan B. Komen Race for the Cure* for the 16th time. On the weekend of October 12-14, *USARC's Peak to Peak* ride from Bear Mountain to Mammoth Mountain celebrated its 24th year. On the following weekend, ***Huntington Beach Ski Club*** conducted its 2nd year of *MS Bay to Bay Bike Ride*. All of these activities show the good heart of our members and a way to get into shape for the upcoming snowsports season! These are just a few of the charity events that each club sponsors.

Our clubs start with a Mammoth Mountain Resort schedule and work toward other resorts. This year, you will find Orange Council clubs in Steamboat Springs (FWSA Trip February 2-9, 2019), Jackson Hole, as well as, Aspen and Snowmass.

Our Council's 5th Annual Picnic was held on October 6, where we announced that the 88th Anniversary of the founding of the Far West Ski Association was the next day, on October 7. We will be involved with the FWSA's 90th Anniversary celebration in 2020 in San Francisco. Each year we also have a President's Dinner in February, where the Presidents of all the clubs are invited, and able to exchange ideas regarding club programs and their challenges and successes.

The Orange Council of Ski Clubs is pleased to be the host council for the 87th Annual Far West Ski Association Convention, to held June 13 - 16, 2019 at the fabulous Hyatt Regency Indian Wells Resort & Spa. The theme is *Fun in the "OC" Sun*. Our Steering Committee has been hard at work during the past year making plans for the Convention. We have a lot of fun events planned! Come early and stay late, and enjoy all the sights and activities Indian Wells and Palm Springs have to offer. For updated information, visit our council website at: ***https://orangecouncil.org***,

Orange Council of Ski Clubs

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Orange Council of Ski Clubs
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Members of Orange Council have the best of two worlds. They can enjoy the "great life" living near the coast to participate in water sports like kayaking or paddle boarding just a few miles from home.
Top and Lower Right: Members of Fountain Valley Ski Club gather for "Wet on Wednesdays". They rent or bring their own boards or kayaks to paddle the waters of Sunset Beach. In winter, the San Gabriel Mountains are nearby, too! It's an easy commute to spend a day or several days on the slopes!

You're Invited!
Orange Council will be hosting the 87th Annual Far West Ski Association Convention, to be held at the Hyatt Regency Indian Wells Resort & Spa, June 13 - 16, 2019.

Top Left: Huntington Beach Ski Club members like to party. And, they have fun! Mardi Gras offers just another reason to get together. Middle Left: In the summer months, they like to hike. This trek near Lake Cachuma helped develop a good appetite before a delicious clambake. Bottom Left: Rackets in hand, Balboa Ski & Sports Club participated in a great tennis event.
photo provided by Maxine Hanlon

Doug Hazlett, Mike Sanford, Dick Wood and Nick Cowell are among those who are celebrating at the "Salute to 55 Years of San Diego Council Snow Ball Gala".

Participants on the North Island Ski Club trip to Steamboat gathered for a group photo.
photos on this page provided by Chris Gill

San Diego Council of Ski Clubs

by Chris Gill, President

The San Diego Council of Ski Clubs is in its 55th year of being a Council. *Joe Harris* was the founder of the San Diego Council and served as the president for eight years. Today, the San Diego Council has the Joe Harris Award, which is given out every year at our annual gala. This award is given to an individual who has contributed significantly to organized skiing through a club, council, racing, the Far West Ski Association, and even national activities.

At our annual Gala, (2017) the recipient of the Joe Harris award was *Rusty Etzel* from ***Torrey Pines Ski Club***. Our Man of the Year was *Tom Sekreta* from ***Action Ski Club*** and *Jean McCasey* from ***North Island Snowdrifters***. Our Gala for 2018 is themed **Sno Ball** to reflect the beginning days of this annual event. We are hoping to have all the past ski club presidents, council presidents, the Men & Women of the Year winners, along with the Joe Harris recipients. We will be honoring all those with special ribbons for the year they served or won.

Currently, the San Diego Council has eight active clubs. ***Action Ski Club*** identifies itself as *"an active social group of singles and couples who live, work and play in the San Diego area."* They are very active with bike rides & brewery tasting, hiking, camping and wine tasting bus trips down in Mexico. Their fly-away trips will be to Revelstoke, Canada, along with Squaw Valley in the 2018 - 19 ski season.

Don Diego Ski Club has been active for over 50 years. They enjoy taking their members on local hikes, as well as, to the Sierra's (Mt. Whitney) and the Grand Canyon. Don Diego offers three mid week ski trips to Mammoth every year.

North Island Snowdrifters was formed in 1977 by 12 federal employees, whose motto was, *"What all clubs should be is a good circle of friends who just happen to ski"*. Of course, this has spilled over into travel, houseboat trips and now Sunday Dinners. North Island decided to see how they could attract back their previous members; and those who no longer skied. The Sunday Dinner concept has turned out to be a huge success. They have now seen previous members rejoining their club.

Torrey Pines Ski Club has been around since 1960. At one time, they had over 2,200 members. Today, Torrey Pines is a ski club that has year around skiing, international travel, biking, sports activities and ethnic dining nights. Torrey Pines runs several wonderful Day Tripper Bus trips to visit museums, historical sites and theater performances. Torrey Pines and Don Diego Ski clubs have combined their ski trips for the bus and fly-aways.

Pacific Rim Alliance has been active in both San Diego and the Los Angeles area. Pacific Rim has great summer activities they host every year. The club offers its members, from June to October, water skiing and wake boarding on the Colorado River in Needles, California. They also have a Cabo San Lucas trip every year, as well. Their fly-away ski trips are to Big White, in Canada.

San Diego Ski Club is our oldest club and was established in 1935. The SDSC group in 1959 had engineers transport and erect a surplus WWII Quonset hut and remodeled it to provide club skiers with their own accommodations. This was done because there was not enough lodging when Mammoth Mountain first opened. Today they still have a Quonset Hut and continue to work on it every year so they can keep having individual and family skiers stay there. The San Diego Ski Club has a lot of individuals who love the racing aspect of the ski season.

The San Diego Council started off the ski season with their annual trip to Aspen. The SDSC took over 60 people on this popular trip. The council added a pub crawl as one of the nightly activities of this ski trip. The San Diego Council will be going to Aspen again in 2018. We already have over 50 people signed up for the FWSA Steamboat Ski Week.

The San Diego International Travel Committee has been very busy setting up our travel calendar for both 2019 and 2020. The first of the two trips in 2019 will be a bike and barge trip from Amsterdam to Bruge, Belgium with a post trip to Greece. This trip takes place in late April through the first weeks in May. Our bike trip is sold out with a waiting list. The second trip will be in October where we will be traveling with Grand Circle to Australia and New Zealand. There is a pre-trip to Melborne, with a post trip to Fiji. *Eileen Sanford*, our International Travel Director, is looking at a Mosel Bike & Barge adventure which will include a pretrip to Munich, Germany and post trip to Vienna, Austria for 2020.

The San Diego Council held their elections in April. We have a new Vice President, *Ira Lindenfeld*. Ira has been a member with the North Island Snowdrifters and has held many positions with them. We are looking forward to having him on our board. Ira is taking on the challenge of updating our current

In March of 2017, Aspen hosted the prestigious World Cup.

council website. The remaining board was re-approved for the 2018 - 2019 term. They are: *Chris Gill*, President; *Tom Bundgard*, Past President; *Debbie Schroeder*, Secretary; *Ron Hausch* and *Don Gill*, Treasurers; *Allan Godwin*, Travel Director; and *Eileen Sanford*, International Travel Director.

The Alpine Race League held their awards ceremony and the induction of the new San Diego Council Board. We are very proud of our Alpine Race League as they took the 2018 So Cal Championship.

The San Diego Council had a guest speaker from USARC *(Adaptive Program of Big Bear, California) Sara Rosell*, who went over the program and the impact snow skiing and water skiing days have on the people who participate. The San Diego Council was very impressed by the organization and presented Sara Rosell with a $500 check to their organization. We look forward to forming a continued partnership with this organization.

The San Diego Ski Council looks forward to the upcoming ski season, attending the FWSA Ski Week in Steamboat, and the FWSA Convention in Indian Wells to see old friends and meet new ones.

San Diego Council of Ski Clubs

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San Diego Council of Ski Clubs

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The San Diego Council runs an annual December trip to Aspen / Snowmass. With the Holidays around the corner, it is a very festive time of year to go skiing.
photo / Aspen / Snowmass

John and Angelika Baum enjoy a moonlight snow hike and dinner last winter with members of the Reno Ski and Recreation Club.
photo provided by Jo Simpson

Sierra League and Council

by Jo Simpson, President

Sierra League and Council co-hosted the 2018 FWSA convention in Reno with the Bay Area Snow Sports Council. We are grateful to all our volunteers who stepped up to organize optional activities, register delegates and much more.

We are especially grateful to the Reno Ski and Recreation Club for providing so many volunteers and turning out in force for the Friday evening Silent Auction and Trade Show.

Our 10 Sierra Council clubs and race teams enthusiastically welcome new members to join in their snowsports and other activities. The larger member clubs offer a variety of year-round activities, including golf, tennis, campouts, hiking and trips to summer festivals. Their membership meetings provide additional opportunities for social interaction, as well as, their parties and happy hours.

Our members enthusiastically participate in the Far West Ski Association trips. Sierra Council won the contest for most points in the two races held at Lake Louise during the 2018 FWSA Ski Week.

Our council spans a large geographic area in Nevada and northern California. There are two Sierra Council ski clubs in Las Vegas - the ***Las Vegas Alpine Ski and Snowboard Club*** and the ***Las Vegas Ski, Snowboard and Sports Club***. They offer winter ski trips, hiking and year-round social activities.

There are two clubs which are largely based in Truckee. ***The Tahoe Donner Senior Alpine Ski Club*** members mostly live in Tahoe Donner. They enjoy group ski days at Lake Tahoe ski resorts throughout the winter, as well as social activities.

While most ***Cabernet Ski and Race Club*** members live in

Top Left: Reno Ski and Recreation Club members enjoy a barbecue after a ski day at Mt. Rose - Ski Tahoe. Lower Left: Reno Ski and Recreation Club members show off their costumes at the St. Valentine's Day Massacre party. both photos by Susie Jacox

Above: Tahoe Donner Senior Alpine Ski Club racers celebrate after a fun race. Submitted by Kat Severin.

the Truckee - Tahoe area, they have members in a variety of locations. As its name indicates, the club's primary focus is racing.

The ***Capital Ski and Sports Club***, based in Sacramento, offers skiing and social activities. The ***Sequoia Ski Club*** is in Visalia, California. The ***RU Ski Club*** draws primarily from the Bay Area. As the name indicates, many of their members are Russian.

In northern Nevada, the ***Reno Ski and Recreation Club*** offers a full schedule of social activities throughout the year, as well as, summer camping trips and group ski days at Lake Tahoe resorts.

The ***Top Gun Club*** members include mostly active and retired military members and airline employees in northern Nevada and the Lake Tahoe area, who enjoy racing.

Sugar Bowl Ski Club members live in the San Francisco Bay area, and call Sugar Bowl their home resort.

Recreational ski racing is a key activity of our council. We share the race course with the Bay Area Snow Sports Council's Singles and Open Leagues, and typically schedule eight races during the season. This collaboration keeps participation costs affordable and enhances the racing experience.

Sierra racers span all ability levels. Any skier who can make linked turns can have a fun time on the race course competing with skiers of similar ability. It's fun to meet and engage in friendly competition with members of other clubs.

Try racing. It's a fun way to expand your skiing experience and improve your ability while making new friends. Junior racers are welcome if accompanied by a racing parent or guardian, and they race for free. Our racers are generous with their time to introduce new racers to the world of friendly competition.

Check out our clubs. Sign up for a trip or activity. Ski clubs are a great way to meet active adults who enjoy outdoor recreation and a wide range of social activities.

Visit our website ***www.sierraleague.com*** for links to the member clubs, racing information and Sierra Council activities.

Sierra League and Council

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Sierra League and Council *Member Clubs & Contact Information*

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The Digital Only Insert can be found between pages 64 and 65 online. www.fwsa.org

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Room Rates per night plus tax single or double occupancy — **$139** per night
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- Agua Serena Spa
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- Oasis Poolside Bar
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Transportation

- Air transportation is via Palm Springs (30 minutes), or Ontario (1.5 hours) or Los Angeles LAX (2.5 hours).
- Transportation to the airport is available by car rental or shuttle.

Convention Highlights

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

Optional Activities

- **Thursday**
  - Pub Crawl
- **Friday**
  - 13th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament
  - Aerial Tram Ride in San Jacinto
  - Spa Day
  - Pool Party

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A portion of the Silent Auction proceeds will benefit the USARC.

www.fwsa.org

"The Voice of the Western Skier"
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FAR WEST SKI ASSOCIATION
FOUNDED 1930

Far West Ski Association Turns 90

Help Us Celebrate in San Francisco!

The Far West Ski Association was born (as the California Ski Association) in the Palm Court of the Palace Hotel at a lunchtime meeting on October 7, 1930. And, we're going to return to the Palace on October 10, 2020 to celebrate the 90th birthday of this historic ski association. Celebrate the achievements, wartime survival, the ups and downs, the medals and the expansion of the Association and its programs. Meet up with ski friends of times past. See memorabilia and photos from across nine decades. And, come to San Francisco, one of the greatest party towns in the world. For periodic updates on 2020 in San Francisco, send YOUR email address to FWSA.watson@gmail.com.

The Far West Ski Association International Ski Week will be held in Davos, Switzerland. Davos photo by Jimmy Petterson