

2011 • 2012

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CLUBS ARE ACTIVE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!



*Active year
around, Scotts-
dale Ski Club
(Arizona
Council)
members hike
Mt. Humphrey.
photo provided by
Mike Rogers*

*The First
Annual
FWSA
Spring Fling
will be held
at Big White
Ski Resort, B.C.
photo courtesy
of Big White
Ski Resort*

TOP: Capital Ski and Sports Club (Sierra Council) members go whitewater rafting on the American River.
photo provided by Jo Simpson

LOWER: FWSA Athletic Program and Far West Ski Foundation help Junior Racers like Dylan Murtha.
photo provided by Nancy Ellis



LEFT: YMCA! Conventioneers let loose!
photo: Emilio Trampuz **MIDDLE: Is it time for lunch, yet?**
Sun Valley photo: Ken Calkins **RIGHT: I guess so! Unless this swan is just camera shy!**
photo: Ken Calkins

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photo: Ken Calkins

Leave it to those creative folks in San Diego to come up with innovative ways to use their ski poles. photo provided by Eileen Sanford **Looks like someone's got everything they need for a great day of skiing on the Sun Valley Ski Week.**



Skiers relax at a Chamonix mountain lodge.
photo provided by trip advisor.co.uk



Racers gather before the main event in Sun Valley.
photo: Ken Calkins

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Park City Chamber/Bureau
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The Premiere Digital Edition of the Far West Skier's Guide Was Well Received

by Leigh Gieringer
Editor - Far West Skier's Guide

Initially produced in 1988, the 2010-2011 *Far West Skier's Guide* was the twenty-third annual, however, numerous requests had been made to also make the issue available over the internet. Thus, the 2010-2011 issue was also the premiere digital edition. The feedback has been extremely positive.

The printed issue concentrates on winter enthusiasts belonging to clubs in the thirteen western states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. The issue is also sent to a participating club in Missouri. However, the electronic version expands those borders exponentially as seen by the readership tracking.

In addition to the western states served by the *Far West Skier's Guide*, readers have viewed the site at: www.fwsa.org and/or www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/farwestskiers-guide/2010-11/ from, but not limited to, Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, and Vermont, plus several Canadian provinces - both east and west. The publication has also been accessed in Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia and New Zealand. Therefore, we are definitely expanding our reach globally.

The majority of views came from conventional computers, but other devices are also being used to access the publication such as the iPhone, iPad and Motorola's DroidX. With e-publishing becoming more and more popular, we feel that the electronic version is an important extension to our communication outreach. It will allow tens of thousands of other snowsport enthusiasts to learn about the Far West Ski Association and its programs. In addition to the printed issue, the 2011-2012 *Far West Skier's Guide* will also be available online. Be certain to check it out and include our advertisers and special digital edition sponsors in your travel plans. Advertisers wishing to reach our readership can contact Leigh at: fwsg@cox.net or 480.600.6099. ▲▲

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Welcome fellow snowsports enthusiasts to "The Voice of the Western Skier" the Annual FWSA's *Far West Skier's Guide*. This *Far West Skier's Guide* is published each year to provide information and reference material to both our ski club members and anyone that may be interested in joining an organization dedicated to servicing its skier and snowboarder membership.

The Far West Ski Association (FWSA) is a non-profit, volunteer organization with emphasis in skier safety, ski travel, communications, club programs, recreational ski racing, ski area development, and family ski involvement. Since its beginning in 1930, FWSA's purpose has been to develop and provide benefits for all affiliated ski clubs and members. In doing so, the Association has benefited all skiers. We welcome all snow enthusiasts, young and old; and we encourage participation in all snow sports, as well as, offer numerous other activities to enjoy.

Our ski clubs provide an opportunity for finding friends who share the same interests. They have active year-round social and recreational events, including ski trips, recreational ski racing, water skiing, river rafting, dinners, theater, cruises, diving, biking, softball, volleyball, go cart racing, car rallies, potlucks, wine tasting, camping, parties, and just about any other activity you can think of. If you want to join with other active, social people and get possible discounted rates for your favorite event, a ski club is the place to find it!

The Far West Travel Program is the

most visible benefit that we provide to our membership. Approximately 575 members attended our Annual Ski Week in Sun Valley last January. Those participants experienced great snow, superb weather, awesome skiing, challenging racing, and wonderful parties and dinners. In 2012, we are looking forward to taking 500 plus participants to the great snow and challenging skiing of Jackson Hole, Wyoming.



FWSA Offers Many Benefits, Trips & Activities

by Randy Lew
President, FWSA

We also have a very active International Travel Program that included a ski trip to the beautiful mountain town of Engelberg, Switzerland with optional extension to Bansko and Sofia, Bulgaria. In July and August we had a small adventure trip to New Zealand and Australia. In October, FWSA ran its second scuba dive excursion to Roatan, Honduras.

Our 2012 International Ski Week will be to Chamonix/Mont Blanc, France (the birthplace of extreme skiing) with a post-trip extension to Morocco visiting the great cities of Casablanca, Tangier and Marrakech.

The benefits of participating in a FWSA trip include: traveling with a group of skiers and snowboarders; friends that you already know; the opportunity to make new friends with people of like interests, value provided by volume pricing and organized activities and tours; and a trip leader to help you with agenda questions and the unforeseen issues that might arise.

Most of our member councils offer recreational ski racing sanctioned by the Far West Racing Association (FWRA). Racers are classified by age and ability level so everyone can



Sun Valley photo by Ken Calkins taken at the FWSA Ski Week, 2011.

have fun and be competitive within their class. The 2012 FWRA Championships will be held at Mammoth Mountain, April 6-8, 2012, and should be a truly memorable event.

Far West Ski Association is one of the country's largest ski associations. Our eleven active councils represent skiers and boarders in the thirteen western states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. In California, there are six individual councils: Bay Area, Central, Inland, Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego. Arizona Council is based in Phoenix, Intermountain Council is based in Pocatello, Idaho, New Mexico Council is based in Albuquerque, Northwest Council in Portland, and Sierra Council in Reno. If your ski club is affiliated with one of these eleven councils, you are a member of FWSA.

Our Association has established important relationships with the National Ski Council Federation (NSCF), National Forest Service, International Ski History Association (ISHA), North American Snowsports Journalists Association (NASJA), United States Ski & Snowboard Association (USSA), the United States Ski Team, and Snowsports Industries America (SIA). We are strong supporters of the National Ski Areas Association (NSAA) Environmental Charter and have approved their "Sustainable Slopes" objectives. We are active participants in the informal and bipartisan Congressional Ski and Snowboard Caucus. Our goal is to efficiently represent the interests of all our members and those of the snowsports public.

Annually, FWSA convenes with our industry partners to conduct a Travel Expo and the business of the Association. Our 2011 Convention, held at the Pacific Palms Hotel & Conference Center in Industry Hills, California, was hosted by the Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs. Special guests included: Billy Kidd, 1964 Olympic Silver Medalist; Steve Bellamy, the founder of The Ski Channel and the producer of the award winning movie "The Story";

Troy Hawks, editor of the National Ski Areas Association Journal; Dave Ludwig, founder of Hope on the Slopes; Chuck Morse, former Executive Director of FWSA; Mark Mackay, sales representative for Atomic Ski; and Bob Salerno, founder of Virtual Snow. We have another outstanding event planned for Ogden, Utah, June 7-10, 2012, as we celebrate our 80th Annual Convention. The Intermountain Ski Council will be hosting their first FWSA Convention and is currently planning many exciting events.

Quoting Steve Bellamy on his press release on TheSkiChannel.com: *"This weekend in the City of Industry, 'The Story' won the prestigious Warren Miller Media Award at the Far West Ski Conference. If you have not been to this event...walk, run, sprint...telemark...whatever it takes - get there! It is one of the best conventions in skiing and stacks up with the biggest of the big."*

On hand were members of Jimmie Heuga's family and legendary Billy Kidd dressed in traditional cowboy hat and bola tie, as well as, many movers and shakers of the ski world. The best thing about the FWSA Convention are the people. The event came with a trade show that featured most of the biggest resorts in the country. Everywhere you looked, there were banners and booths representing major resorts, tour operators and lodging facilities."

We have a wonderful 2011-2012 year planned. The FWSA Board of Directors, Trustees, and committee volunteers are an exceptional team, totally dedicated and committed to making our Association a better organization, by focusing and providing our members with the very best services and representing interests of the western skier in all our endeavors. We value your suggestions. Please contact me, or any of our Board Members listed to the left, to share your ideas and feedback.

I hope to see many of you on the slopes this coming year at our Ski Weeks and the FWRA Championships. Please join me in Ogden, Utah for our 2012 Convention. ▲

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Photo: Keoki Flagg

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OUTREACH

FWSA COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLICATIONS



Council presidents from around the country gather at the NSCF Annual Meeting which was held at Mammoth Mountain in September, 2011.

photo: Bob Wilbanks, editor and publisher of the National Ski Club News

National Ski Council Federation Serves Councils & Clubs Nationwide

by Jo Simpson

Public Affairs Chair - National Ski Council Federation

Sierra Council President

The Far West Ski Association and member councils benefit greatly from belonging to the National Ski Council Federation (NSCF). The Federation provides Far West councils an opportunity to interact with ski councils in the central and eastern United States to exchange ideas and get information to disseminate to member clubs. Dialog with ski industry representatives is an integral component of the annual national meeting, which was held this year at Mammoth Mountain, September, 15-18.

The Federation provides a wide variety of benefits to members. If your ski council belongs to the Federation, you are also a member of the Federation. The Members Only section of the Federation website contains a resource center with 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 user name and password for the Members Only section are available from council presidents. The website also offers members a variety of attractive discounts on items such as travel insurance, ski rentals, lodging, car rentals, and a variety of ski gear in the Members Only section of the website. The Federation website will have a complete renovation this year that will expand the information offered and improve navigation within the site. Look for it and check it out!

The Federation was formed in 1997 to provide councils an opportunity to exchange information and to discuss important issues that impact clubs and councils throughout the United States. The current officers are: President, Joe Harvis (New Jersey Ski Council); Vice President, Dennis Heffley (Bay Area Snow Sports Council); Treasurer, Dawn Peterman-Harris (Metropolitan Milwaukee Ski Council); Secretary, Lisa Beregi (Crescent Ski Council - Eastern U.S.). For detailed information regarding the NSCF, including participating councils and member benefits, please visit www.skifederation.org. ▲▲

Far West Members Prepare for Winter, 2012

by Debbi Kor

Vice President - Marketing, FWSA

Ski season 2011 saw incredible heights and depths of snow, the most recorded in the past 20 years. With all that snow came an inordinate amount of skier visits to the resorts for the season. According to NSAA, 2010-2011 saw 60.54 million skier visits to the nation's ski areas. Nearly a dozen areas were open on July 4 and had more than 50,000 visits on that one day alone! Boreal even had skiers on the hill on July 25. Incredible! What will the 2012 season bring us?

However much snow we get, each new season brings with it, a chance to escape to a beautiful winter wonderland. To wake up on a cold, snowy morning, be the first one to hit the trail, making fresh tracks down your favorite run. Aaahhh, there's nothing quite like it! FWSA clubs ventured to many ski areas in 2011, and will take us to the likes of Whitefish, Telluride, Big White / Silver Star, Steamboat and Vail in 2012, plus many more resorts.

Far West provides many opportunities to cash in on the bargains from our lodging partners, such as The Grand Sierra Resort & Spa in Reno, Horizon Casino Resort in Lake Tahoe or The Painted Buffalo Inn in Jackson Hole; and a host of ski shops offering up great discounts, like Sports Exchange or Dave's Ski & Board Shop in Truckee. Save on shipping your skis and get in touch with Black Tie Ski Rentals located in a number of resort locations. Grab some wax from Dominator or Hertel Wax and get those skis ready for your next ski-cation. We guarantee you will find some good deals on the Members Benefits page of the Far West site.

Far West values the continued support of our many program and event sponsors within the ski industry. Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation, Big White/Silver Star, Aspen Skiing Company, Grouse Mountain Lodge, Whitefish Mountain Resort, and Karbon.....we thank you. We enjoy hosting you each year at the FWSA Annual Convention, and look forward to seeing you in Ogden, Utah in June, 2012.

If you are a vendor and would like to join Far West as a Member Benefits Partner, or get involved in a sponsorship with our organization, please contact me: fwsadebbi@comcast.net, or check out our website at: www.fwsa.org/membership/benefits. ▲▲

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- Bryant Reiff



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Meetings and Locations Vary
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E-mail: president@arizonaskicouncil.org
Website: www.arizonaskicouncil.org

Bay Area Snow Sports Council

P.O. Box 5429, San Jose, CA 95150
2nd Monday 7:30 PM
The Englander, 101 Parrott Street San Leandro
President: Dennis Heffley (925) 825-3262
E-mail: bac.president@skibac.org
Website: www.skibac.org

Central Council

2561 Alameda Drive, Paso Robles, CA 93446
Meetings and Locations Vary
Hosted by different Central Council Clubs
President: Fran Long (805) 238-1375
E-mail: fancat2007@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.centralcouncilskiclubs.org

Inland Ski Council

232 NE Nightshade Court,
Lee's Summit, MO 64086
Meetings Vary
President: Dan Crawford (816) 805-0384
E-mail: macrci@aol.com

Intermountain Ski Council

P. O. Box 4621, Pocatello, ID 83201
Meetings Vary
President: Don Anderson (941) 375-8724
E-mail: andersonbloom@gmail.com
Website: www.intermountainskicouncil.org

Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs

P.O. Box 83338, Los Angeles, CA 90083
1st Monday, 7:00 PM The Grinder Restaurant
Sepulveda and Manchester, Westchester
President: Norbert Knapp (323) 793-4250
E-mail: lacpresident@lacouncil.org
Website: www.lacouncil.org

New Mexico Council

P.O. Box 415, Edgewood, NM 87015
Meetings Vary
President: Diane Stearley (505) 281-3755
E-mail: dmstear@att.net
Website: www.skinewmexico.org

Northwest Ski Club Council

P.O. Box 1915, Portland, OR 97207
Meeting quarterly - refer to website
Shanghai Noble House Restaurant
President: Sheri Parshall (503) 912-0064
E-mail: president@nwski.org
Website: www.nwski.org

Orange Council of Ski Clubs

20630 Travis Road, Yorba Linda, CA 92887
2nd Monday 7:00 PM. Location TBD
Check website.
President: Judy Thurman (714) 779-8534
E-mail: ylskicat@aol.com
Website: www.orangecouncil.org

San Diego Council of Ski Clubs

P.O. Box 17496, San Diego, CA 92177
1st Wednesday 6:30 PM
Meeting location rotates
President: Eileen Sanford (858) 761-6192
E-mail: esanford1@san.rr.com
Website: www.skisandiego.org

Sierra Council

1691 Ashbury Lane, Reno, NV 89523
Meetings Vary
President: Jo Simpson (775) 787-7556
E-mail: jo_simpson@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.sierraleague.com

Communications: The Key to Success!

by Eileen Sanford
Vice President - Council Services, FWSA

The FWSA Board is looking forward to a fabulous year. As newly elected Vice President of Councils, I am excited about joining the FWSA leadership team. I have the responsibility and unique opportunity to work with the presidents of the eleven member councils to identify strengths that can be shared, and to identify common problems, and to work to support joint solutions.

The Council's Committee will be looking at renewing the Outreach Programs that have been successful in prior years, and creating and implementing new programs to help the regional Ski Councils better serve their member clubs. This year, the *Skin Cancer Prevention Program for Children and Families* was very successful. Fran Long wrote a grant given by the state of California for \$5,000 to implement a sunscreen safety program. Fran and her committee came up with Savvy Snake, a cute logo to remind kids to use sunscreen while skiing or boarding. The Savvy Snake stickers were a big hit at the trade shows in western states. The pamphlet explaining the program objectives also included a puzzle for the kids on the back. The banner, displayed at trade shows and at the FWSA Convention, brought attention to the program. Thanks to Fran for a job well done. We will continue to promote the program this year.

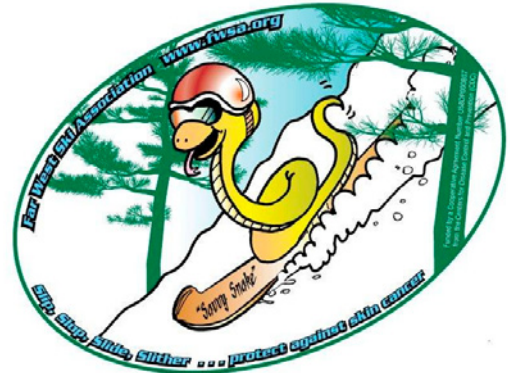
In the communications arena, Leigh Gieringer does a fantastic job with our Annual *Far West Skier's Guide*. This year will make the 24th consecutive year for the printed magazine. A digital edition is also available at www.fwsa.org and at www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/farwest-skiersguide/2010-11/. Also in the area of communications, Mary Azevedo has edited *The Councilman*, which is a newsletter to FWSA members. She has done a wonderful job for seven years and we thank her for her devoted service. *The Skier's News* is an e-mail monthly newsletter to members developed by Barbara Bryant. She has worked hard to keep us up to date about ski and snowboard happenings in FWSA Councils. Next year's editor will be Debbi Kor. We look forward to her positive energy and journalism abilities as she reports each month. The newsletter is available to anyone who registers for it on our website at www.fwsa.org.

The Councils' Man & Woman of the Year Program chaired by Donn Bryant, helps recognize the council leaders at the FWSA Convention. It is one of the Council Services finest programs and Donn does an outstanding job of putting all the pieces together, as well as honoring the council nominees and winners. This year's council nominees and winners can be found on page 30 of this issue.

Two important charity and community service programs are now included at the FWSA Convention. *The Charity & Community Service Recognition Program* and the *Community Service Awareness Program*. These awards encourage our councils and clubs to get more involved with charities and community service. Thanks to Sigrid Noack for her continuing leadership of this program. See her article for this year's winners on page 40.

Club and council competition for The Tollakson Outstanding Club, Wentworth Outstanding Club Publication, Outstanding Club Website, Outstanding Council Publication and Website competition continues to be refined by Lennia Machen, Communications Awards Chairperson. This year, they will review and edit the judging criteria and create a web page for the competition to allow posting of information, criteria, rules, dates, etc., and develop training materials for judges.

If you belong to a local club, don't forget to regularly visit their website for ongoing activities. Also check the council website for your area. They are listed to the left. Additionally, if you are looking to join a club, a complete list with contact information can be found in the club section beginning on page 62. Remember to check www.fwsa.org and sign up for the FWSA monthly email on that site. We appreciate all the local club and council support of FWSA programs. Ski and snowboard safely and remember Savvy Snake's motto - Slip, Slop, Slide, Slither with sunscreen. Have a great year! ▲▲





David Krupp leads one of the Snowsports Leadership Academy modules at the June FWSA Convention. Delegates learn different aspects about several topics that they can take back to their clubs. The educational program has been very successful. Each year, more topics are developed.

photo provided by David Cooper/Bad Boy'z Photography

Building Your Snowsports Program

by David Krupp
Vice President - Membership, FWSA

Snowsports Leadership Academy

The Snowsports Leadership Academy expanded its platform at the 79th Annual Far West Convention in Los Angeles this past June. The purpose of the program is to provide an informational forum to the members attending and has evolved into a valuable resource at the conventions. This was the fourth year for the program and now involves eight components:

- Taking Office
- Membership and Communications
- Risk Management
- Travel Programs Management
- Technology Resources
- Ethical Responsibilities
- Ski Equipment Design
- Building Membership Through Racing

In addition, as an integral part of the program, each delegate to the FWSA Convention was given the Leadership CD which contains a myriad of information on each of those components (with expanded topics). You can look forward to this outstanding resource being available on our website soon.

Next year, we will introduce a new installment to the series on the expanding offerings in snowsports including all mountain touring and ski cross.

Any questions regarding Membership or the Snowsports Leadership Program can be addressed to membership@fwsa.org. See you on the slopes. ▲▲

Direct Membership in FWSA Is Available for Non-FWSA Club Members

Want to get more out of your winter program? Become a member of FWSA! Most FWSA members are already included due to their involvement in a club that is part of Far West. With approximately 180 ski and board clubs from Alaska to New Mexico, there are many groups from which to choose. However, not everyone has a club or council near them. As a result, there are those who are or wish to become direct members.

As a direct member, one receives the same benefits that all members receive: Access to all Far West trips and events (year-round domestic and international travel, recreational racing, FWSA Convention) news and information (travel, industry, history) member discounts (passes, lodging, gear, clothing) and the camaraderie of your fellow snowsports enthusiasts. Fill out the membership form to the right and mail with payment made out to the Far West Ski Association to the address on the form. ▲▲

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ANNUAL DIRECT MEMBER DUES: \$30 per member; \$50 per couple; \$60 per family. Please make checks payable to FWSA and mail to: **FAR WEST SKI ASSOCIATION** c/o David Krupp, VP - Membership, FWSA. 1524 10th Street, #K, Santa Monica, CA 90401.

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?

Please list the 2011-2012 FWSA trips you plan on attending.

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 xerox form, fill out and return with a check for US\$5.00 to cover postage and handling. Send to:

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

☐ 2011-2012 ☐ 2012-2013

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Travel With FWSA: Our travel participants, drawn mainly from our many ski clubs west of the Rockies, are friendly, fun, intelligent, exciting and a pleasure to travel with. We meet for meals and gather almost every evening to celebrate the day's end, make plans and team up for the following day's skiing and/or adventure. We travel to exciting world renowned locations to explore, ski, etc. Our trips are thoroughly planned and well organized. Far West contracts with experienced, proven and reliable tour operators, who provide great accommodations and professional guides that hold your interest throughout the trip. We strive for and have been successful in getting our whole group into one hotel, if possible, making it easy to meet each other, party and keep abreast of all activities. It's imperative that our participants go home with lasting memories, tons of pictures and new friends. We strive to provide continuous opportunities for people to reconnect on each of our trips.

2012 FWSA Travel Starts with Annual North American Ski Week to Jackson Hole, Wyoming

by Gloria Raminha

Vice President - North American Travel, FWSA

Jackson Hole is the location for the 2012 FWSA Annual North American Ski Week-January 28 to February 4. Far West Ski Association's Travel VP and Travel Staff are working with Spencer Long from Jackson Hole along with Mike Hibbard and Sara Clemons with Sports America Tours to plan a week of activities (welcome party, pub crawl, day trip to Grand Targhee, mountain lunch, alpine racing, banquet and dance and après awards party). The theme for the 2012 Ski Week is a "Country/Western Hoe-down", so be sure to come dressed in your best western outfits.

With one of the
highest ver-

tical rises of any ski resort in the U.S. and an epic annual snowfall of over 400 inches, Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, with its impressive 2,500 acres of inbound terrain, will offer our ski week participants some of the best ski and snowboard experiences in the world. Known for its steep terrain, consistent fall line, deep light powder and endless back-country, Jackson Hole also allows beginners and intermediates to excel at their own pace on a variety of groomed runs and open bowls. Jackson Hole offers one of the most advanced lift systems in the country, which includes both an eight-passenger gondola accessing intermediate and family terrain and the iconic 100 passenger aerial tram leading to the expert's winter playground.

The resort is made up of two mountains, Apres Vous and Rendezvous. Apres Vous Mountain is Jackson Hole's beginner and intermediate mountain. Rendezvous Mountain offers the steep terrain for which Jackson Hole is famous for with its chutes, bowls, and glades. Both mountains combined provide plenty of groomed runs for the cruisers. A super-pipe and terrain park is also available for both skiers and boarders.

Mountain Facts:

Two mountains: Apres Vous and Rendezvous
2,500 acres of in-bounds terrain
Vertical drop of 4,139 feet
116 named runs
Base elevation - 6,311 feet
Summit elevation - 10,450 feet
Open backcountry gate system accesses over 3,000 acres
38.25 foot average annual snowfall

The ski resort is located at Teton Village, 12 miles northwest of the town of Jackson on Highway 390 via Highway 22. It is also only five hours drive from Salt Lake City, Utah. The rustic town of Jackson is special and unique due to its cowboy hospitality, preserving the Old West character. Council Trip Leaders are offering lodging at both the Mountain Village and in the town of Jackson.

The area around Jackson Hole provides optional activities that both skiers and non-skiers will enjoy. Some of these activities include, but are not limited to, Yellowstone tours, Elk Refuge tours, dog sledding, snow shoeing, and cross country skiing.

If you are interested in participating in the 2012 FWSA Ski Week at Jackson Hole, sign-up with one of the Council Trip Leaders listed on the flyer. The flyer is available on the FWSA website at www.fwsa.org.

Although known for its black diamond slopes, Jackson Hole does offer skiing and boarding for all ability levels. photos courtesy of Jackson Hole Resort





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Big White Ski Resort will be the location of the premiere FWSA Spring Fling. photo courtesy of Big White Ski Resort

Inaugural FWSA Spring Fling Ski Trip To Be Held At Big White - Spring, 2012 -

For the first time, FWSA will hold a second, but shorter, ski trip, which Big White is thrilled to host as the bid winner. The Far West Spring Fling is planned for March 27 to April 1. For those members that attend our annual convention, you know the Big White crew always delivers a fun time, so this is sure

to be a trip to mark on your calendars. The trip will be limited to 100 FWSA participants, which includes five nights lodging, a three or four day lift ticket package, welcome party and a farewell wine festival with fireworks display.

Conveniently located just east of Kelowna in the Okanagan Valley, Big White is Canada's

largest totally ski-in, ski-out resort village, and offers exceptional spring skiing with their renowned Okanagan Champagne Powder. In fact, their bountiful, dry powder was voted the "Best Snow in North America" by readers of *Condé Nast Traveler*. Big White is uniquely blessed with sunny weather and dry powder; thus, it makes for the perfect venue for this Far West Spring Fling with participants working on their goggle tans and enjoying outdoor BBQ's.

Participants will have a great range of optional activities including a 60 foot ice climbing tower, snow tubing, snow biking, snowmobiling, exploring the backcountry on cross country skis or snowshoes, sleigh rides through the wilderness, and even mush your own dog sled. Big White also offers a full array of food and beverage facilities ranging from casual to fine dining, complete with live après entertainment daily. If you're after relaxation, soak up the sunset in a steaming hot tub, sit by the fire sipping hot chocolate, tantalize your senses at one day spas or stroll through their retail outlets.



5 Night/3 or 4 Day Ski Package From \$520 to \$595 (Transportation Not Included)
Ski-In, Ski-Out Hotel Lodging // Welcome, Tubing, & Farewell Parties Included
Big White Wine Festival & Fireworks Display During FWSA Spring Fling (Optional)

Gloria Raminha
 fwsa.natravel@sbcglobal.net

Fran Long
 francat2007@sbcglobal.net

bigwhite.com/farwest

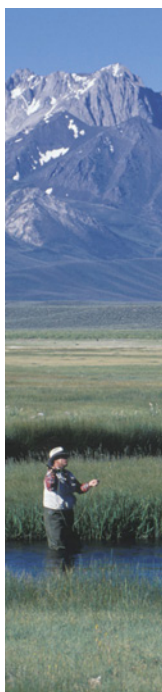
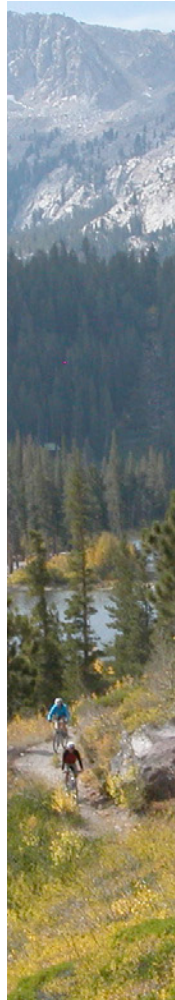
Prices in US Dollars as of August 15th // Price Subject to Change (Based on Exchange Rate) CST #2036983-40



Mountain Facts:

2,834 acres of skiable terrain
 Vertical drop of 2,550 feet
 16 lifts / 118 runs
 Base elevation 4,950 feet
 Summit elevation 7,606 feet
 24.5 foot average annual snowfall

If interested in this trip, please check the FWSA website Big White flyer at www.fwsa.org for more details and contact information to reserve your space for this trip.



There is just so much to do at Mammoth in the summer, too. Hike, bike, fish, kayak, and golf for starters. Or, just relax in the cool mountain air:

photos courtesy of Mammoth Mountain Ski Resort

Mammoth Mountain Summer Adventure

- Summer, 2012 -

July 2011 was the first FWSA Mammoth summer adventure trip which included bike riding, hiking, fishing, kayaking, barbecuing and s'mores at a campfire everyone enjoyed. In 2012, we are planning another Mammoth Mountain trip from the last weekend in July, through the first weekend in August. Fran Long is going to be the trip coordinator and will include daily activities for all to enjoy. Options for lodging will be condo, or camping. FWSA members will be able to choose the week long option or any amount of days and activities they would like to partake in. For more details on this trip, please read the article written by Fran Long on page 67, or check out the flyer at www.fwsa.org.



photos courtesy of the Norwegian Cruise Line

The group will be sailing on the Norwegian Cruise Line's "Pearl" (top photo) through the Panama Canal (lower photo) on its way to Miami.

FWSA Plans Cruise Through Panama Canal

- Fall, 2012 -

Skigroup.net (Stephen Hall and Sandy Gaudette) have made arrangements with the Norwegian Cruise Line on the ship "Pearl" for our members to travel through the Panama Canal. The ship will depart from Los Angeles on September 28 and arrive in Miami, October 12, 2012. The cruise includes 14 nights on ship, all meals and floor shows, welcome cocktail party and a farewell party. The itinerary for this cruise is:

Sept 28	Los Angeles	Oct 6	Puntarenas
Sept 29	At Sea	Oct 7	At Sea
Sept 30	Cabo San Lucas	Oct 8	Transit Panama Canal
Oct 1	Puerto Vallarta	Oct 9	Cartegena
Oct 2	At Sea	Oct 10	At Sea
Oct 3	Huatulco	Oct 11	At Sea
Oct 4	Puerto Chiapas	Oct 12	Miami
Oct 5	At Sea	Oct 12	fly home

Check out the FWSA website www.fwsa.org for the cruise flyer and more detailed information such as price, payment schedule and cancellation policies, or you can contact Gloria Raminha at: fwsa.natravel@sbglobal.net.



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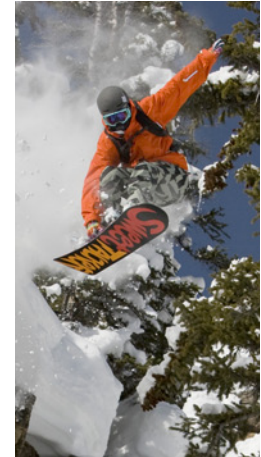
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Colorado office:
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info@skigroup.net



LEFT TO RIGHT: Silver Queen Gondola ascends the slopes of Aspen Mountain. Photo / Hal Williams / Aspen Mountain forms the backdrop for a horse and carriage ride in downtown Aspen. Photo / Hal Williams / Aspen Mountain skier pauses to survey the mountain. photo / Frank Shine / Skiers ride the Village Express six-pack lift at Snowmass. photo / Jeremy Swanson / Ajax Tavern is a popular après ski destination. Photo /Daniel Bayar Snowboarder enjoys the ride. photos courtesy of Aspen Skiing Company

Aspen/Snowmass is the Location for the 2013 North American Ski Week

FWSA members will pack their bags and head to Aspen/Snowmass for the Annual FWSA Ski Week from February 2-9, 2013. Mary Manning with Aspen/Snowmass, Mike Hibbard and Sara Clemons with Sports America Tours are thrilled to be hosting this Ski Week.

Aspen/Snowmass offers four amazing mountains; Snowmass, Buttermilk Mountain, Aspen Mountain and Aspen Highlands. Butter-

milK welcomes beginners. Less experienced skiers can cruise wide rolling trails while experts can enjoy the terrain park. Snowmass covers 3,132 acres of skiing and offers runs for every ability. Aspen Highlands is the locals' favorite, known for its steep terrain, groomed cruisers and scenic views of the maroon bells. Aspen Mountain serves up untold variations of double black, cruisers and glades for skiers

and snowboarders, Aspen Mountain rises an impressive 3,267 feet from the heart of downtown Aspen.

The Council Trip Leaders, Travel Staff and I are looking forward to the site tour at Aspen/Snowmass in early in 2012 to start preparations for what should be an exciting and enjoyable return visit for Far West Ski Association members to Aspen/Snowmass.

With over 5,300 acres of terrain, unparalleled events and endless nightlife, it's no surprise that Outside Magazine named Aspen/Snowmass "the world's greatest ski town."

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FWSA Also Has An Active International Travel Program

by Norm Azevedo

Vice President - International Travel, FWSA

In 2011, we visited Switzerland, Bulgaria & Romania. In 2012, we are headed to Chamonix/Mont-Blanc, & Morocco.



Chamonix/Mont-Blanc, more commonly known as Chamonix, is a commune in the Haute-Savoie area in the Rhône-Alpes region in southeastern France. It includes 16 villages and hamlets, and plenty of great skiing!

photo: trip advisor.co.uk

Last year's Ski Week to Switzerland was a great success. We were blessed with a foot of new snow when we reached Engelberg, and it held up wonderfully until we left Interlaken at the end of a long week of snow fun. After the Switzerland Ski Week, we headed for Bansko Ski Area, Bulgaria for a few more days of cold, but great skiing. Finally, for those who could afford to be away for three weeks, we toured Romania for the adventure of a lifetime.

During the fall of 2011, a group, lead by Gloria Raminha, toured Australia and New Zealand: Auckland, Rotorua, Wellington, Queens-town and the Cairns Great Barrier Reef.

Although the FWSA is primarily a ski organization, more adventure and scuba trips are being planned. A dive group headed to Honduras in October. Next, we are off to Chamonix/Mont-Blanc, France for our 2012 Ski Week.

Chamonix / Mont-Blanc

Chamonix, situated at the foot of the magnificent Mont-Blanc, is on the Swiss-Italian border. Chamonix is the world capital of mountaineering and a world renown ski resort. Chamonix hosted the first Winter Olympic Games in 1924 and consecrated the valley as a winter Mecca. Chamonix today, is a popular tourist destination that links Italy via the Mont-Blanc tunnel. The town meets

both tourist and transport demands; and preserves an exceptional natural environment. Chamonix is dotted with architectural heritage sites where traditional and modern styles co-exist. You can see hotels and palaces from the golden age, Art Deco façades, traditional farmhouses, colossal villas and chalets adding to Chamonix's unique charm.

The beauty of Chamonix is its slopes for intermediates and beginners, plus renowned challenging runs for advanced and expert skiers and snowboarders. The area is divided across six resorts, each with its own specific feel and diverse terrain. The six resorts are; Brévent, Flégère, Grands Montets/Argentiere, Les Houches and Le Tour. Together, the six resorts cover over 87 miles of groomed runs that are connected by a free bus service. Skiers will find Chamonix Valley snowsports outstanding.

Chamonix offers snowshoeing, paragliding, speed skiing, cross country skiing, hiking, ice skating and romantic horse drawn sleigh rides. They also have indoor swimming, indoor tennis or squash, tenpin bowling or you can watch a movie at the theater.

A must is catching the Aiguille du Midi Cable Car for a panoramic trip to the Plan de l'Aiguille located at over 12,600 feet above sea level. It is the lookout point for Mont-Blanc, the highest mountain in Western Europe. The

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view of Mont Blanc, and the surrounding mountains, is breathtaking. A café, restaurant and souvenir shop are located in the complex. The Mer de Glace rack railway train departing from Chamonix Station goes up 6,276 feet to Montenvers at the base of the Mer de Glace glacier, the largest glacier in France. You can explore inside the glacier in a manmade tunnel or sip hot chocolate in the lookout restaurant. Chamonix village has all the top name skiing and snowboarding equipment and rental stores.

We are still taking reservations for Chamonix. Most participants have already signed up, so space is limited. This promises to be an exciting ski week. Get in on this trip before it's too late.

A Post Trip to Morocco is Planned After the Chamonix Ski Week:

Morocco is a mysterious land of ancient ruins, sacred mosques, Kasbahs, noisy souks, endless Sahara desert and rugged Atlas Mountains. We will explore Morocco for one or two weeks, starting March 17 in Casablanca, then travel through the country and end in Marrakech. The one week Morocco trip is for those who can't take two weeks away from the job or home and still want to experience Morocco. The one and two week tours will take separate buses, routes and have separate itineraries. Both Morocco trips are followed by an overnight stay in Geneva on the way home. The average Moroccan temperature during March is mid 70's Fahrenheit. This is a perfect time to be travelling in Morocco.

Here's a sample of what we'll experience on the one week tour:

We will visit Casablanca's masterpiece Hassan II Mosque, and explore the UNESCO cultural heritage site in the Roman city of Volubilis. Visit Fes Medina, the ancient walled city with a labyrinth of hidden treasures. Experience the Sahara Desert "one of the most amazing places on earth". We will travel to Merzouga sand dunes in 4x4 vehicles, ride a camel to a small oasis, enjoy a tagine dinner around a campfire and sleep under carpeted Berber tents. The next morning, we will see the sunrise over the sand dunes. Then off to the "door of the desert," Ouarzazate, visit Kasbah Ait. Jemaa el Fna square, Marrakech, where you will encounter snake charmers, music, dancers, exotic food and intrigue.

The two week tour has everything in the one week tour; plus a lot more.

There'll be more time to study, shop, relax and enjoy the country. We'll visit the old international city of Tangier, Tetouan coast, Chefchaouen in the heart of the Rif Mountains, the Jewish holy city of Quazzane, and more. We'll also spend more time traveling through mountains, Berber villages, ancient sites and exploring the Sahara.

We have a two week Morocco only tour, which joins up in Casablanca with those coming from the Chamonix Ski Week for the two week extension. Those joining the two week extension group will have separate flights to and from Morocco and spend their final night in Paris rather than Geneva going home.



photo courtesy of travel-to-honduras.com

2011 Dive Trip Roatan, Honduras

The Roatan, Honduras dive trip led by Randy Lew was held October 22 - 29, 2011. Last year's Cozumel Dive Trip was such a success that we planned the Roatan dive.

Roatan is the top of an underwater mountain range, about 40 miles long and three miles wide. It's located on the edge of the Cayman Trench that provides clear water visibility - consistently good from 80 to 100 feet. You will see animals such as whale sharks, turtles, dolphin, and rays. The trench drops thousands of feet right off the end of the island. Water temperature averages in the low eighties.

Roatan is surrounded on all sides by a living coral reef containing nearly every species of coral growing in the Caribbean Sea, including rare black coral, and sponges of all colors and shapes.

The reef is home to seahorses, queen angel fish, stoplight parrot fish, blue tangs, and fairy basslets. It slopes gently from shore providing excellent snorkeling and diving from nearly any point on the island. The reef stretches out to sea and then drops off an underwater cliff. Roatan is famous for its wall dives. Many crevices, chimneys, and caves punctuate the reef creating an impressive and varied topography.

Innsbruck, Austria March, 2013 Ski Week

with a pre-trip to Garmisch, Germany

Innsbruck hosted the winter Olympics in 1964 and 1976. It's called the "Capital and heart of the Alps" with good reason. Alpine views are everywhere and ski slopes just a funicular ride from the center. Its Tyrolean medieval Old Town is home to imperial palaces, world-class galleries and Zaha Hadid's avant-garde designs.

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From the slopes of the Nordkette (Nordpark) Ski Area, skiers stop to gaze at the breath-takingly beautiful views of the city of Innsbruck in the valley below. photo: Jimmy Petterson

Innsbruck is dominated by mountain sports. An underground train links the historic 'Old Town' of Innsbruck with the Nordpark ski area, however, there are ski resorts on all sides of the city. From it's train hub, St. Anton and Kitzbuhel are an hour away, Italy is just to the south and the biggest glacier skiing in the Alps, Stubai Glacier is close by.

Garmisch-Partenkirchen is in the Upper Bavarian Loisachtal Valley, framed in an Alpine setting for culture, nature, sports and recreation. It's just 56 miles from Munich and 34 miles from Innsbruck. Activities include skiing, hiking and mountain climbing, classical music festivals and of course, the world famous Neuschwanstein (Sleeping Beauty's Disney Castle).

Garmisch has Germany's highest peak, Zugspitze Mountain (9724 feet) and it's known worldwide. In 2011, it hosted the Alpine Skiing World Cup and International Ski Jumping. Skiers will have 53 cable cars, lifts, and a cogwheel train going to the mountain tops. When not skiing, you will find theaters, art exhibits, tobogganing, spas and many city excursions.

Put the Innsbruck Ski Week and Garmisch extension on your 2013 calendar and keep checking the FWSA website, www.fwsa.org for details as they develop.

The Far West website, www.fwsa.org, has all current travel announcements, flyers and details. Check them out. We accept all International trip participant placements based on the date their deposit is received by Far West Ski Associations International Travel. 



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The race challenge is a popular activity on ski weeks. It is a wonderful way to meet others on the trip, as well as improve your skiing abilities. photos: Ken Calkins

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Racing into 2012

by Bob Ellis

President - FWRA

Looking forward to 2012, we are having the Far West Championships at Mammoth Mountain on April 6-8, 2012. Please put this date on your calendar, as we are expecting on having a great time competing on Fascination and Andy's Gold for the Gold. This is a great time to visit Mammoth Mountain and experience the huge variety of slopes and runs around the mountain. Discounted lift tickets and lodging will be available.

The Championship weekend will include race clinics and pacesetter races on Friday, the slalom races on Saturday on Fascination and Andy's Gold, and the Giant Slalom races on Sunday probably on Terry's and Fascination. On Saturday night, we will have our Awards Banquet for the slalom and the Silent Auction, so bring your checkbook and take advantage of the great items available at the auction.

In 2011, we received tremendous snowfall from February through June, which did cause some cancelled races and challenging racing conditions for some races. In 2012, we are looking forward to a more normal snowfall and hopefully more consistent snow conditions.

The SoCals will once again be at Mammoth Mountain, with the date yet to be finalized, probably in mid-March, while in Northern California, the NorCals will also be in mid-March at Alpine Meadows.

This year, the FWSA Ski Week will be at Jackson Hole, Wyoming on January 28 - February 4, 2012. We plan on having some fun filled mountain events along with some great racing. Jackson Hole has a long and interesting NASTAR course which we plan on using for the Qualifier Race and the Council Challenge Races. After the races, we will probably see you quenching your thirst in one of the local bars. The top of the mountain has some fantastic bowl skiing, so don't miss the bowls while you are there.

Remember, Far West Racing is set up so anybody can compete with us on skis or snowboards. We have four age groups in every skill class, and 11 skill classes all separated by sex. Women go first in every skill class and older racers also go first in each group. If you haven't tried racing and you always wanted to, there is no better time than the present. Contact one of your local clubs or race leagues and give racing a shot, or give it a try at FWSA Ski Week. Not only is racing fun for all ages and abilities, it also helps you improve your skiing or boarding skills. Additional information is on the racing website at www.fwra.com. We look forward to seeing you on one of the many hills we race on in Oregon, California, Nevada or Wyoming.



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Silent Auction Donors for the 2011 Far West Racing Association Championships

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 2011 Far West Racing Association Championships at Alpine Meadows Ski Resort. A portion of the proceeds helps fund the Far West Ski Association Athletic Scholarship Program.

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2011 - 2012 FWRA Race Schedule

by Bob Ellis

President - FWRA; VP - Racing, FWSA

Date	Format	Location
Open League		
Dec. 11	Clinic	Northstar-at-Tahoe
Dec. 18	Clinic	Northstar-at-Tahoe
Jan. 7	GS	Alpine Meadows Race #1
Jan. 8	GS	Alpine Meadows Race #2
Feb. 11	SL	Northstar-at-Tahoe Race #3
Feb. 12	GS	Northstar-at-Tahoe Race #4
Feb. 25	SL	Squaw Valley Race Race #5
Feb. 26	TBD	TBD
Mar. 10	SL	Sugar Bowl Race #6
Mar. 11	GS	Sugar Bowl Race #7
Pacrat League		
Jan. 8		Mt. Hood Meadows
Jan. 29		Ski Bowl
Feb. 11		Mt. Hood Meadows
Mar. 11		Ski Bowl
Mar. 25		Mt. Hood Meadows
Apr. 2	Make- up	Mt. Hood Meadows
Rokka/ULLR Leagues (Schuski & San Diego-See ULLR League)		
Dec. 5 - 9	ROKKA Ski & Race Week	Mammoth
Dec. 10	GS	Mammoth Race #1
Dec. 9 - 18	LAC Ski, Board, & Race Week	Mammoth
Jan. 7	SL	Mammoth Race #2
Feb. 11	GS	Mammoth Race #3
Mar. 24	SoCals GS	Mammoth
Mar. 25	SoCals SL	Mammoth
Sierra/Singles Leagues		
Jan. 7	GS	Squaw Valley Race #1
Jan. 8	SL	Squaw Valley Race #2
Jan. 21	SL	Northstar-at-Tahoe Race #3
Jan. 22	GS	Northstar-at-Tahoe Race #4
Feb. 25	SL	Northstar-at-Tahoe Race #5
Feb. 26	GS	Northstar-at-Tahoe Race #6
Mar. 3	Super G Clinic	Northstar-at-Tahoe
Mar. 4	Super G	Northstar-at-Tahoe Race #7
Mar. 10	GS	Alpine Meadows Race #8
Mar. 24	NorCals SL	Alpine Meadows
Mar. 25	NorCals GS	Alpine Meadows
All Leagues		
Jan. 28-Feb. 4	FWSA Ski Week Qualifier GS/GS/SL	Jackson Hole, WY
Apr. 6	FWRA Championships Pacesetter / Clinic	Mammoth
Apr. 7	Championships-SL	Mammoth
Apr. 8	Championships-GS	Mammoth

Racers/Leagues and Councils Vie . . .

. . . for Coveted Race Trophies



Roma McCoy--Race League at Championships with the most points per racer--this year Schusski Race League

Winning Race League at Championships--AAA Division--with the most total points--this year Open League (BAC)

All Councils Challenge--Council at Ski Week with the most race points for the week--this year BAC

The trophies were presented at the 2011 FWSA Convention.

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The Far West Ski Association founded its Athletic Scholarship program in 2004 to provide financial assistance to deserving young ski racers. Applicants must be junior alpine ski racers licensed by the United States Ski and Snowboard Association (USSA) and participate in racing programs in the states represented by the councils of the FWSA. Scholarships are awarded based on financial need, academic performance, competitive achievement and community service. Additional information is available at: www.fwsa.org.

Last year's program helped fifteen young athletes from Washington, Oregon, California and Nevada. All but four finished last season in the top ten in their year group in one or more disciplines. Most notable of these was 16 year old Lila Lipanja from Incline Village, NV, who scored a second place in Slalom at the J-2 Nationals, and after a creditable performance at the U.S. National Championships, was invited to join the U.S. Ski Team's Development Team.

This year, 45 eligible athletes applied for scholarships. These include 25 junior women and 20 junior men from seven western states. Nine are former scholarship recipients. Ninety-six percent have a 3.5 or better grade point average (GPA) with 19 having 4.0s.

The FWSA Athletic Scholarship Program Benefits Junior Racers

Richard Shawkey

Athletic Scholarship Program Chairman, FWSA

Over 80 percent rank top twenty in their year group for one or more ski racing disciplines. We anticipate that the number of scholarships for the 2011 - 2012 season will be maintained at 15; approximately 33 percent of the applicants. Members of the Far West Ski Association take pride in the scholarship program and its contribution to junior ski racing. The FWSA looks forward to the day when it is able to support all the deserving scholar-athletes. Donations to the program through the tax exempt Far West Ski Foundation are welcomed.

One of the program's greatest achievements in 2011 is the growth of the partnership program. Scholarship program partners are clubs, councils or commercial enterprises that pledge to contribute a minimum of \$500 per year for at least three years to support an athlete. The partners set the criteria, usually based on the athlete's resi-

dence. For example, Skiyente Ski Club of Portland, OR, our first partner, has specified that the award shall go to the top female racer in the Pacific Northwest. Last year, we were pleased to welcome the Mountain High Snowsports Club of Portland, OR, the Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs, and the San Diego Council of Ski Clubs as new partners.

The FWSA Athletic Scholarship Program has greatly benefited from the generosity of its sponsors: Whitefish Mountain Resort (www.skiwhitefish.com), a year around family fun destination; Grouse Mountain Lodge (www.grousemountainlodge.com), the premier choice in mountain resorts; Schure Sports Inc. (www.karbonmail.com), maker of the Karbon brand of snowsports apparel; and the Far West Racing Association (www.fwra.org), America's top recreational ski and snowboard racing venue. We extend our sincere thanks to these sponsors for their continued support. ▲▲

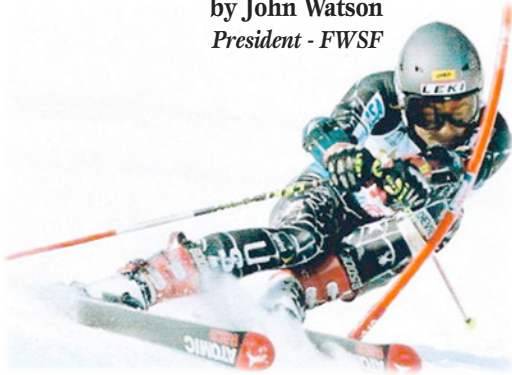


LEFT: Sixteen year old Lila Lipanja from Incline Village, NV, scored a second place in Slalom at the J-2 Nationals, and after a creditable performance at the U.S. National Championships, was invited to join the U.S. Ski Team's Development Team.

RIGHT: Linnea Baysinger, age 16, from North Bend, WA, finished the 2011 competition season ranked nationally 9th in Downhill and 13th in Giant Slalom for her age group.
photos provided by
Dick Shawkey

Far West Ski Foundation Objectives

by John Watson
President - FWSF



Nicolò Monforte, age 16, from Olympic Valley, CA, was ranked 9th in Super G, 15th in Downhill, and 16th in Giant Slalom in his age group for the 2011 competition season.

The FWSF aims to support four principal objectives and has been active in all four in the past year. Our job is to raise resources – funds, as well as people – to support programs in the four objective areas. The four objective areas are: athletic scholarships, rehabilitation and restoration using snowsports, historical research and a broad category called sustaining snowsports. FWSF is a 501c3 corporation to which contributions are tax deductible, consistent with the IRS code.

Athletic scholarships are building for the future on a proud legacy. The selection committee is at work determining the scholarship winners for 2012: the results will be posted on www.fwsa.org in October. For 2010-2011, FWSF and Far West Racing Association granted over \$7,500 to augment the scholarship program of FWSA, resulting in training support to 15 athletes in the Alpine disciplines. Trustee, Dick Shawkey, Scholarship Chairman, is the champ at raising funds owing to his innovations and dedication. The Scholarship Program has benefited by partnerships with industry and the Northwest, Los Angeles and San Diego Councils. In the coming year, special committeemen will serve to enhance resource development in the FWSA clubs and councils. Eileen Sanford is onboard in this collaboration; she is the FWSA VP-Council Development. Further volunteers and supporting teams are welcome.

This year's achievements by Far West scholar - athletes are at www.fwsa.org. For more information, go to farwestskifoundation.org. ▲

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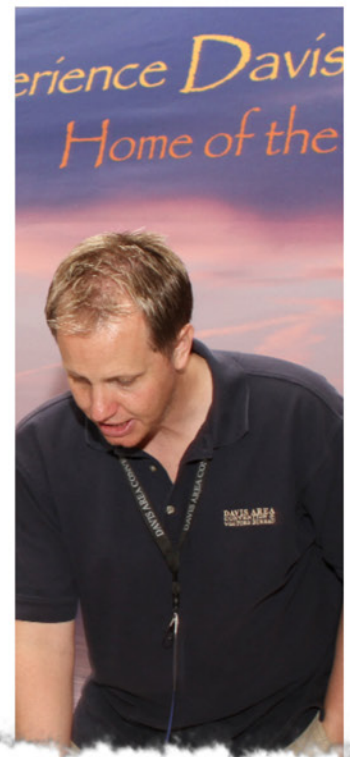
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Industry representatives participate in the Friday Silent Auction and mingle with convention attendees.

Photos by David Cooper / Bad Boy's Photography

FWSA 2011 Convention Snowsports Celebrities, Multimedia Show & FWSA Leadership Info Panel Sessions Delight & Inform Attendees

by Scott Bowker

Vice President - Public Affairs, FWSA

The FWSA 2011 Convention Special Guests included Steve Bellamy (The Ski Channel and The Tennis Channel founder), Billy Kidd (1964 Olympic Slalom Silver Medalist), Warren Asa (10th Mountain Division, 86-G veteran), Bruce Campbell (10th Mountain Division, 86-I, M veteran and Southern California Chapter President of 10th Mountain Division Association Inc.); Troy Hawks (National Ski Areas Association Journal Editor), Howard Koch (10th Mountain Division, 86-C veteran, National Historian & former Southern California Chapter President of 10th Mountain Division Association Inc.), Dave Ludwig (founder of American Cancer Society Hope On the Slopes program), Chuck Morse (former Executive Director Far West Division USSA, and former VP Director Marketing Snowbird, former Western States Managing Director Sales and Marketing Vail/Beaver Creek).

During Saturday's Luncheon, Troy Hawks, Communications Manager for the National Ski Areas Association (NSAA), gave a presentation highlighting the latest news as it relates to the U.S. ski industry, including season-ending statistics and current efforts to grow the sport. Last season, the ski industry set a new visitation record with 60.54 million visits. Also some 75,000 ski and snowboard lessons were given during the month of January, as part of the grass-roots Learn to Ski & Snowboard Month initiative. This January, organizers have set a goal of getting 150,000 people to sign up for lessons. More details and great deals on lessons can be found by visiting the website at www.skiandsnowboardmonth.org.

In the multimedia presentation on Saturday afternoon Steve Bellamy talked about the challenges of founding The Ski Channel and The Tennis Channel.

He has produced, directed, written and hosted numerous television shows and films. The film he recently wrote, produced and directed entitled *"The Story"* about a diverse group of people who have devoted their lives to the mountains, is garnering critical awards and is being pushed through the Academy Award nomination process. Steve played an edit of some of the recent accolades of the film *"The Story"*, humorous end credits, and a very moving "Hope" segment from the film with the story of 5 time Paralympic Medalist (2010 SG/GS/SL, 2006 SL, 2002 DH) and 2007 Overall World Cup Paralympic Champion skier Stephani Victor (www.youtube.com/watch?v=-_SDspgNrcQ). Stephani said "My story is a story of a human being willing to take some chances and to dare to dream. Don't wait a second more. Go out and do what's in your heart."

Bellamy said the model for the Ski Channel website is the Huffington Post model with



2011 FAR WEST SKI ASSOCIATION

photo: Emilio Trampuz



photo: Emilio Trampuz

TOP: The Saturday Night DJ gets the crowd involved. **LEFT:** Troy Hawks (NSAA) was a 2011 Convention luncheon speaker. **MIDDLE:** Steve Bellamy from The Ski Channel and speaker at the multimedia presentation, received a FWSA Banner from Mike Sanford, past president, FWSA. **RIGHT:** Club and council ski history is being documented. John Watson, History Committee Chair, has done a fantastic job inspiring members to gather, document and share their findings.

expert opinion pieces and people talking to people. His vision for The Ski Channel is to be the CNN of Skiing and seen as a neutral Ski Switzerland. Touch Ski 3D iPhone app by The Ski Channel with virtual ski racing and ski jumping options were discussed. A trailer of "The 2nd Story" about more stories and athletic accomplishments was shown. The Ski Channel offered the FWSA clubs the option of showing of this film in their local areas for a small fee as a club fundraiser and a membership recruitment tool. On Sunday morning, a fascinating viewing of the entire "The Story" was provided.

The Leadership Info Panel Sessions included Public Affairs, Outstanding Club/Coun-

cil Recognition Programs plus two Snowsports Leadership Academy sessions "Skiing Equipment Design: Getting the Right Fit; Building Membership Through Racing" and "Taking Office: Now What?". (See FWSA VP Membership David Krupp's article on page 11 for more details on the Snowsports Leadership Academy sessions.)

Scott Bowker led the Public Affairs sessions with guest speakers Steve Bellamy, Warren Asa, Bruce Campbell, Troy Hawks, Howard Koch, Dave Ludwig, and Chuck Morse. The wide ranging discussions covered the future of skiing, impact of snowboarding, effect of demographics, impact of downturns, role of FWSA, snowsports media - getting its attention and communicating your message effectively, adaptive snowsports, environmen-

tal impact of resort development, Arizona Snowbowl snowmaking case (US Forest Service approval of the use of reclaimed wastewater by Arizona Snowbowl to make artificial snow and subsequent challenge by the Navajo Nation which was the first major legal challenge to the 1993 Religious Freedom Restoration Act), Public Affairs section of FWSA Making History video created by John Watson FWSA History Chair, and challenges of nonprofit fundraising (continuity, branding, youth involvement, combining passion in a fun, family event). Emotional stories of 10th Mountain training and its European campaigns including Riva Ridge were shared by the 10th Mountain veterans.

Lennia Machen, FWSA Communication Awards Chair, led the Outstanding Club/Council Recognition Programs session about how to get the most out of these programs and take your club to the next level. ▲▲

Event Sponsors

79th Annual FWSA Convention

by **Debbi Kor**

Vice President - Marketing & Sponsorship, FWSA

We extend our appreciation to the following sponsors of Far West Ski Association's 79th Annual Convention. Their generous support was a significant contribution to the financial success of this year's FWSA Convention. By offsetting Convention costs through the sponsorship program, we are able to offer a more comprehensive and informative program, and a more affordable delegate registration fee. Please include these industry partners in your travel plans for 2011 - 2012 and beyond.

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<i>Spa Day</i>	<i>Snowmass Tourism</i>
<i>Pool Party</i>	<i>Mt. Bachelor</i>
<i>Silent Auction Happy Hour</i>	<i>Ski Dazzle</i>
<i>Silent Auction Entertainment</i>	<i>Telluride</i>
<i>Continental Breakfast</i>	<i>Mammoth Mountain</i>
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Silent Auction & Travel Expo - 2011 Participants

by **Mary Olhausen** - *Silent Auction / Travel Expo Chairperson, FWSA*
Debbi Kor - *Vice President - Marketing & Sponsorship, FWSA*

The Far West Ski Association and Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs extend their appreciation and sincere gratitude to the 26th Annual Silent Auction and Travel Expo participants. The success of this event was made possible by the continued support from our industry partners to the efforts of our Association. Please include these industry partners in your future travel plans.

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10 Year Award

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 Miracle Springs Resort

15 Year Award

Big White Ski Resort
 Silver Star Resort
 Canyons Ski Resort
 The Riverhouse
 Whistler/Blackcomb

20 Year Award

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 Grouse Mountain Lodge
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25 Year Award

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 at the 80th Annual FWSA Convention
 in Ogden, Utah - June 7-10, 2012.***

Councils' Man & Woman of the Year Program Recognizes Volunteers!

by Donn Bryant
MWOY Program Chair, FWSA



Gary Gunderson and Debbie Stewart are the winners of the 2011 Councils' Man & Woman of the Year Award.

FROM LEFT: Michael Bouton, Sheila Van Builder, Richard Theil, Laura Meldrum, Debbie Stewart, Joe Goldhammer, Sandra Knapp, Jack Miller, Wanda Ross, Gary Gunderson, Linda McGavin, and Paul Vlasveld.

photos by David Cooper/Bad Boyz Photography

Congratulations to the Councils' Man of the Year, Gary Gunderson of Northwest Ski Club Council and Debbie Stewart, Woman of the Year from Sierra Ski Council. FWSA recognizes top volunteers from each council during the Councils' Man and Woman of the Year Recognition Program at the FWSA Annual Convention. Our councils honor dedicated men and women who have made significant contributions to organized skiing within their council over a multi-year skiing and ski organization career. These honorees have volunteered their time to support club, council, community service, race league, and FWSA efforts to enhance the skiing experience for our members.

Council Honorees are:

Bay Area Snow Sports Council
Intermountain Ski Council
Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs
Northwest Ski Club Council
Orange Council
San Diego Ski Council
Sierra Council / League

Wanda Ross

**Sandra Knapp
Linda McGavin
Sheila Van Guilder
Laura Meldrum
Debbie Stewart**

Paul Vlasveld

**Michael Bouton
Jack Miller
Gary Gunderson
Richard Theil
Joe Goldhammer**

A big "Thank You" to Big White and Silver Star Ski Resorts for their continuing support and sponsorship of the Councils' Man & Woman of the Year Program. Our winners were awarded a five-day ski vacation at Big White and Silver Star, and each of the other council honorees received a three-day ski vacation to Big White or Silver Star!

Chairman Donn Bryant announced the winners. Helen Harris presented the winners with champagne. Katie Balkwill and Anna Tilly (representatives of Big White/Silver Star) presented the winners with plaques and certificates. ▲▲

OOPS: The 2010 Man of the Year was Jim Sommer of Sierra Ski Council. He was correctly named in the 2010-2011 issue of the Far West Skier's Guide, however, the picture was not of Jim. This is the correct picture. Please accept our apologies for the error.



Bob Salerno accepts the FWSA Bill Mackey Award for outstanding service from FWSA President, Randy Lew.

photo by David Cooper/Bad Boyz Photography

Bob Salerno Receives Bill Mackey Award

by Sigrid Noack & Steve Coxen

Bob Salerno, founder of Virtual Snow, Los Angeles, received the Far West Ski Association's Bill Mackey Award for outstanding service to the skiing public by a ski area employee. This award was presented at the Annual FWSA Convention in Industry Hills.

Bob is a two-time world champion of freestyle skiing. He developed the idea for the business from his freestyle training days in Utah. Before freestyle skiing was a recognized sport in the Olympics, Bob was already a legend in freestyle skiing. He was the Aerials World Champion in 1974, the World Champion of Hotdog (trick) Skiing as an individual in 1998 and Team Hotdog Skiing in 2000. He was also the World

Brief Summary of FWSA

Snowsports Builder Awards: **Dave McCoy**, Founder of Mammoth Mountain;
Norbert Olberz, Founder of Sport Chalet;
Martha Perez, Co-Founder of Sport Tours
Hans Georg Award - **Lynell Calkins**, FWSA Past VP of North American Travel
Elizabeth 'Schatzi' Wood Award - **Sheri Parshall**, Northwest Ski Club Council
J. Stanley Mullin Award - **Dennis Heffley**, Bay Area Snow Sports Council
Jimmie Heuga Award - **Dianna Digian-domenico**, Unrecables Ski Club
Jordan-Reily Award - **Christina Thomure**, Grand Targhee Resort
Bill Mackey Award - **Bob Salerno**, Virtual Snow LA
Tommi Tyndall Award - **Alpine Meadows**
Bill Berry Hard News Award - **Tom Striensta**, San Francisco Chronicle

Champion of the mogul Enduro (a 5-hour competition of nonstop moguls, aerials and slalom gates) in 1978 and 1979.

As the founder of Virtual Snow LA, Bob has been actively involved in promoting skiing and snowboarding for the past 20 years. Virtual Snow LA provides ski and snowboard instruction on state-of-the-art simulators in an indoor environment. Bob encourages the use of Virtual Snow lessons before ever getting on real snow. With this dry land experience, people will spend their first days on the real mountain never falling down! Imagine that! Most ski club members have already had some on-snow experience, and they use Bob's equipment to move to the next level, maybe even the next higher racing class. It is also a great way to just get in shape for ski and race season or while recuperating from injuries.

Bob has been intimately involved with the Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs and many of the ski clubs in the LA and Orange County area. At club meetings, he offers tips and advice on improving skiing and snowboarding. He consistently donates Virtual Snow's services and lesson packages for club and council fundraisers. He was a speaker at the 2005 FWSA Convention panel sessions. Often a vendor at Ski Dazzle, he brings his equipment so that people can experience downhill skiing at the Convention Center.

Bob Salerno is truly a wonderful asset to the skiing community. He promotes the future of the ski industry. Whether you've never been on skis or you're an expert, Bob Salerno makes it possible for you to love your skiing or boarding experience.

Service Award Winners

Bill Berry Featured News Award -

Wendolyn Spence Holland, Book "Sun Valley, an Extraordinary Experience"

Warren Miller Modern Media Award -

Steve Bellamy, Movie "The Story"

President's Award Recipients -

George Stewart, FWSA Webmaster

Bob Ellis, FWRA President

Program Award Recipients -

Western Heritage Award - Erin Barber,
San Diego Ski Club Historian

Safety Person of the Year - Gordon Cardona,
Unrecables Ski Club

Club & Council History Recognition - Single Ski Club of Los Angeles

Charity & Community Service Recognition - Monterey Ski & Social Club

For information about the FWSA Service Awards program, contact Catherine Ohl, Awards Program Chair, at ohl@acatmeowz.com



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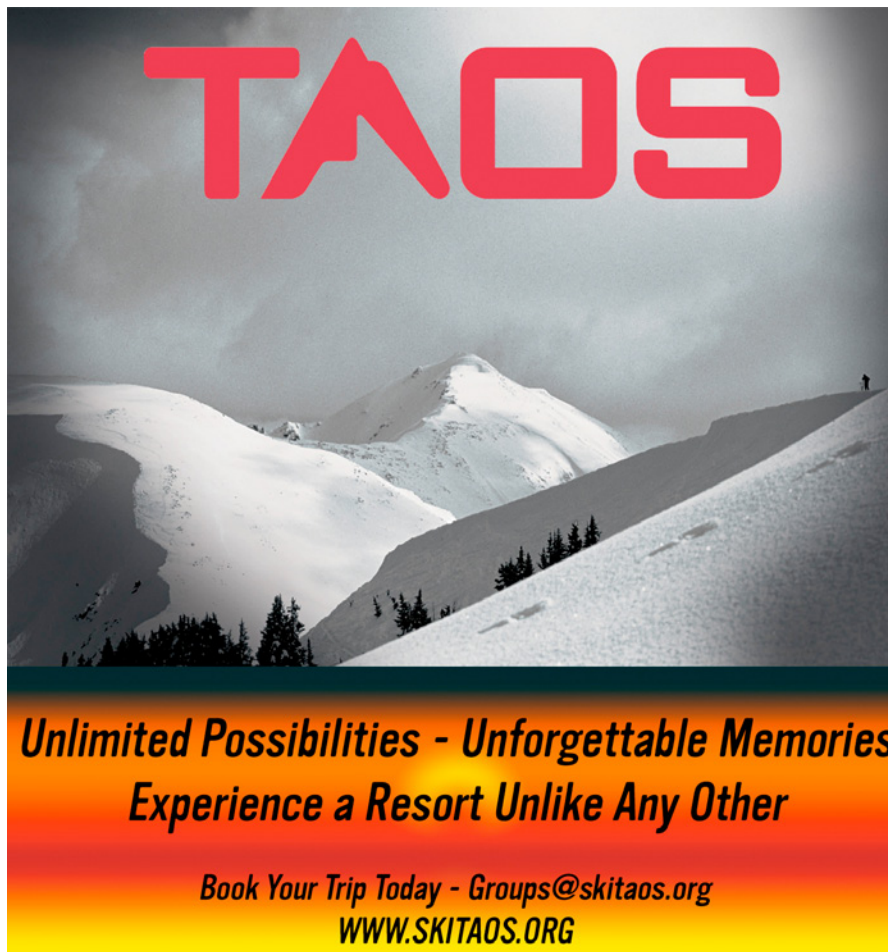
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Alpine Meadows Recognized with Tommi Tyndall Award

by Gene Fulkerson & Catherine Ohl

Alpine Meadows Ski Resort received the Far West Ski Association's Tommi Tyndall Award, presented to a ski area who has made a distinguished contribution to skiing. Accepting the Award at the 79th Annual FWSA Convention in Industry Hills on behalf of Alpine Meadows was Bradley Barth, Senior Sales Manager.

This year, Alpine Meadows hosted the Far

West Racing Championships. The Championships tend to bring to our attention how the resort is doing. Alpine Meadows is one of the Tahoe resorts that offer a great discount program for the Bay Area Snow Sports Council and Sierra Council clubs. For many years, Alpine Meadows has hosted ski races for Far West Singles, Open and Sierra Leagues. They have a race department



Randy Lew presents Tommi Tyndall Award to Alpine Meadows. Brad Barth accepts.

photo by David Cooper/Bad Boy's Photography

easy to work with, and set excellent and challenging courses for all classes. Alpine Meadows has been a participant in the FWSA's Silent Auction and Travel Expo for many years.

Alpine Meadows Ski Resort (JMA Ventures, LLC properties) believes that giving back to their North Lake Tahoe / Truckee community – where they live, play and work – is the only way to do business. Their goal in giving is to support efforts that positively affect the local community, specifically educational efforts and environmental stewardship. Alpine Meadows is proud to support the following nonprofit organizations, and many others.

■ Disabled Sports USA Far West's Program Center is located at Alpine Meadows Ski Resort. Their PSIA certified instructors and trained volunteers make skiing or snowboarding possible for anyone with physical, cognitive or developmental disabilities.

■ SOS Outreach offers skiing for at risk children and teens. This season, Alpine hosted a group of children in the SOS Outreach Learn to Ride program.

■ Alpine Meadows has partnered with the Humane Society of Truckee Tahoe (HSTT) to raise funds toward building a new shelter for homeless animals in the Truckee-Tahoe community while they wait for adoption.

The Alpine Meadows Ski Foundation provides scholarships to young athletes who need financial assistance in order to engage in ski and snowboard teams at the resort. They also offer assistance to athletic charities and organizations for disabled athletes. In addition, Alpine Meadows was ranked third in the nation for being an Eco-Friendly Ski Resort, based on habitat protection, watershed protection, addressing global climate change and environmental practices and policies.

For their outstanding support of their community, young racers, the environment and the Far West Ski Association, Alpine Meadows is truly deserving as a recipient of the Tommi Tyndall Award.

A large photograph of a man with brown hair, wearing a green button-down shirt and grey pants, sitting on a train. He is looking out a large window at a snowy mountain landscape. A white line with circular markers is overlaid on the image, connecting various text prompts. The Amtrak logo is in the bottom left corner.

POINT A

- Leave the tire chains behind
- Watch the snow without a worry
- Sip a microbrew
- Snap lots of photos
- Dream of the perfect powder

POINT BE

- Arrive at the slopes

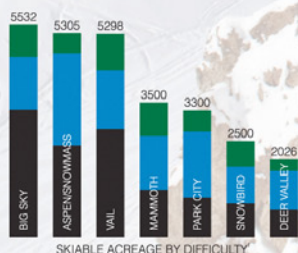
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Mary Manning from Aspen Skiing Company congratulates Gordon Cardona as the winner of the 2011 FWSA Safety Person of the Year. Scott Bowker, VP - Public Affairs and Richard Lubin, Safety Committee Chair, look on.

photo by David Cooper/Bad Boyz Photography

FWSA Safety Person of the Year - 2011

- Gordon Cardona -

*Sponsored by Aspen Skiing Company with lodging provided by
The Gant & Crestwood Resort Condominiums*

by Richard Lubin
Safety Committee Chair, FWSA

Gordon Cardona won the FWSA Safety Person of the Year Award 2011 for his wide range of safety activities including assisting with teaching new adaptive ski instructors with bi-ski safety and hand signals, publishing safety articles, presenting about ski safety at

many classes at Cal State Fullerton, emphasizing ski safety on all club ski trips, and assisting with on-mountain adaptive ski clinics while emphasizing safety. Gordon is a disabled skier who uses a sit-ski and is currently the Membership Director of The Unrecables

(Los Angeles chapter of Disabled Sports USA). More information about Gordon Cardona can be found at www.unrecables.com/board/gordon.htm.

Gordon volunteers in the community for various non-profit organizations, and has done so for many years. Gordon served on the Board of Directors at EmpowerTech (formerly Computer Access Center) in Los Angeles since October 1994. He has assisted with its fundraiser events, programs, and daily operations. EmpowerTech is a non-profit, consumer-based resource center serving the assistive technology needs for people with disabilities in our community.

During his college career, he was first a member of an active student organization; then was elected President of this organization at California State University, Los Angeles. Gordon organized activities, fund-raiser events, and functions for this organization and the student body.

Besides snow skiing, Gordon enjoys playing power soccer, water-skiing, jet-skiing, sailing, river rafting, swimming, basically anything outdoors. He also likes to travel and take cruises around the world! He is thinking about sky-diving sometime.

The purpose of the FWSA Safety Person of the Year sponsored by Aspen Skiing Company is to recognize the person who shows safety leadership by doing the most to effectively promote snowsports safety awareness.

The winner receives a 6 day vacation for two from Aspen Skiing Company including 6 days of lift tickets for all four mountains (Aspen Mountain, Aspen Highlands, Buttermilk and Snowmass), 6 days of rentals and a half day group lesson for two. Seven nights of lodging is provided by The Crestwood Condominiums and The Gant, plus round trip air.



Warren Asa, Bruce Campbell and Howard Koch participated in the Public Affairs Panel on Saturday afternoon. *photo by David Cooper/Bad Boyz Photography*

Three veterans, Bruce Campbell, Howard Koch and Warren Asa manned an historic booth on Friday and Saturday evenings with journals and DVDs. The veterans held the Saturday afternoon Public Affairs panel spellbound with their stories from the Division's Italian campaign in 1944-45. They were honored at the Saturday Honors Banquet. The Association's

History program was the beneficiary of a cache of "Mountain" hockey jerseys, sweatshirts and ball caps donated by Bruce Campbell. All were auctioned by Donn Bryant and John Watson to benefit the History Program. Mike Rogers, Arizona Council President was the big buyer along with Linda Coxen. One member bought a ball cap for her grandfather, a World War II veteran.

**Tenth
Mountain
Division
Association
and Veterans
Were in
Action at
the 2011 FWSA
Convention.**

Ski History Lives! 150 Years of Ski Clubs & Ski Racing in North America!

by John Watson
History Chair - FWSA

Ski clubs and ski racing are 150 years young in 2011, based on the historical research done by the Plumas Ski Club and the Plumas County Museum. Their research unearthed documentary evidence of this sesquicentennial of clubs and racing in North America. Racing began with longboards in the gold mining camps of the Sierra and Plumas continues this longboard tradition with races and a world championship each year. The Association commemorated this anniversary with the "Making History" theme for the 2011 FWSA Convention and commissioned a DVD of the same title. See the Far West Ski Foundation article on page 25.

Entries for the Steamboat Western Ski Heritage prize made 2011 the best in the history of the program. All of the five entries easily qualified and the final selection came down to detailed evaluation on each of the criteria for the prize. Entries: Jane Wyckoff, Judith Miller and Steve Markman, Single Ski Club of Los Angeles for its 50th Anniversary History; John James for the history of the early years of Far West Ski Week and the development of both Alpine and Nordic intramurals; Jane Jackson for her video on the early days of skiing in Arizona; and Emilio Trampuz for the history of the Mt. High Ski Club. The winner for 2011 was the historic pioneer San Diego Ski Club with its web presentation, pre World War II newsletters and history. SDSC's Past President, Erin Barber, was present to receive the prize.

In 1861, the first organized ski club races were held at Onion Valley, between Quincy and La Porte, giving birth to the sport of downhill ski racing in the western hemisphere. In the spirit of the 19th century racers, three longboard races are now held annually at the Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl at Johnsville. photo: Plumas County Museum



San Diego Ski Club was awarded the Steamboat Western Ski Heritage Prize for 2011. Shown are Lynn Kramer, co-editor of the club presentation, Billy Kidd of Steamboat, Erin Barber, San Diego Ski Club Vice-President, John Watson, FWSA History Chair, and Andy Rossbach, Steamboat Group Sales Manager. Both Kramer and Barber are expert competitors; Kramer is a world-class skateboard slalom and snowboard slalom expert. Photo: Emilio Trampuz



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Chuck Morse and Randy Lew present a Snowsports Builder Award to Martha Perez. Martha managed the Los Angeles office and the travel programs of FWSA 1968-1978 when Chuck Morse was Executive Director of FWSA. Martha was recognized for over 40 years' of travel services from Far West and in industry (1978-present). Morse remains active in many charities involving snowsports.

MARTHA PEREZ Travel Services Professional

Martha Perez has served the travel interests of skiers for more than 40 years, a career that started as a volunteer with aircraft charters using prop and Boeing 707 planes for European skiing

The Snowsports Builder Awards: 2011

by John Watson
History Committee Chair

The Far West Ski Association launched The Snowsports Builders Award Program in 2008 to recognize individuals or teams that have made an indelible and beneficial impact on the sport. This impact has made a positive difference that changed snowsports forever. Such contributions are not limited to any particular sector of industry, society or the sports. They can come from manufacturing, athletics, travel, journalism, electronic or print media, government, academia, ski teaching and safety. The award may be made annually. The Builders Award is intended for services primarily outside the Association and is independent of any other honors programs. Three Snowsports Builders were recognized in 2011.

in the 1950s. Martha has a track record of tireless service to the many programs of the FWSA and especially to traveling members, many of which are her commercial customers to this day. As a member of the Far World Ski Club in the 1950-60s, she dispatched as many as eight charters per year since 1955. Her work ethic was recognized early on by Association Presidents Dick Goetzman and Carl Grover, and she was hired in 1968 to manage the FWSA Flight Program, a responsibility she carried out for the next 10 years. This included finances and liaison with the airlines and other vendors. Charters, however, ended in 1974 with the upgrade of the airline fleets. FWSA contracted with a travel agency until 1978, when it developed its own in-house travel agency. During this decade, she managed the Los Angeles office of the Association, as well, and was

invaluable in support of the Southern Council and the recurring functions of the entire Association. Her efforts were recognized with the Hans Georg Award in 1990.

Martha continued her travel services in the industry in a joint venture with Norbert Olberz, in Sportours, a subsidiary of Sport Chalet, commencing in 1980. This arrangement continued for the next 16 years. Mr. Olberz is a parallel 2011 honoree as a Snowsports Builder. Martha has stayed in the travel industry to this day under several companies as they gained new owners. For the last 10 years with Ski.com, she has served many customers who have stayed with her for decades.

Martha is the finest example of long term support to skiing, both as a professional in industry and as a multi-talented, dedicated volunteer.

FWSA Recognizes Clubs with Over 50 Years of Service

Many clubs within the Far West Ski Association have a surprisingly long history of service to members and their community. In 2010, the FWSA launched a program to recognize clubs and councils with over 50 years of service as "Historic Ski Clubs". Startup dates appear to have been in waves: the 1930s on the West Coast, post World War II in the 1940s, and then the recreational bloom associated with the 1960 Olympics at Squaw Valley. A club desiring such designation must request it by letter accompanied by an executive summary of its history of operations and providing proof of existence prior to 1961. Incorporation is not required. The rolls are always open for further requests for designation. Historic Ski Club designations were made for eight ski clubs and certificates tendered at the FWSA Convention. The following ski clubs received Historic Ski Club, FWSA 50 Year Recognition Certificates in 2011.

■ Balboa Ski & Sports Club ■ Cheyenne Ski Club ■ Fresno Ski Club ■ Grindelwald Ski Club ■ Single Ski Club ■ Sequoia Ski Club ■ Skiylene Ski Club ■ Vand Bakke Ski Club

■ The Club and Council History Recognition was awarded to the Single Ski Club of Los Angeles for their publication, *A History of Single Ski Club of Los Angeles on its 50th Anniversary*. The editors were Jane Wyckoff and Judith Miller, with graphics by Steve Markman. Their historical memento includes a comprehensive decade by decade history, replete with ample photos, humor, personalities and record of achievements.



Sheri Penney, Single Ski Club President (middle) accepts the Club and Council History Recognition at the FWSA Convention. Joining her are Jack and Polly Miller (Co-Chairmen of the 50th Anniversary Celebration), Jane Wyckoff and Judith Miller (Editors of A History of Single Ski Club of Los Angeles on its 50th Anniversary), and Sandy Blackwell, Past SSC President.

photo: Catherine Ohl

The history was in both electronic format and hard copy and memorialized for the club's 50th Anniversary celebration on September 25, 2010.

■ The FWSA History Committee met on Friday at the convention. The committee's focus is to ensure the rich history of the development of snowsports in the western U.S. and the contributions to it by the FWSA are recognized and preserved. Discussions included a review of the FWSA Making History video, FWSA Club & Council History recognition program, and FWSA Historic Ski Club program. If you are interested in joining the committee and/or writing history articles, contact John Watson at geospace@pacbell.net as membership is open to anyone.



Randy Lew presents a Snowsports Builder Award to Norbert Olberz. His son, Eric Olberz and Craig Levra from Sports Chalet accept.
photos by David Cooper/Bad Boyz Photography

NORBERT OLBERZ Founder, Sports Chalet

Four days after the Snowsports Builders Award was tendered at the FWSA Convention, Norbert passed away at age 86 on June 15, 2011.

In 1959, a 30-something German immigrant named Norbert Olberz heard about a little ski shop for sale, located in a town called La Cañada, just north of Los Angeles, California. Norbert and his new wife, Irene, plunked down all of their savings and set up shop. During the first year, Norbert and Irene slept in the back of the ski shop, taking showers at night with a garden hose through a screen door. Its name: Sport Chalet.

From the beginning, Norbert was a pioneer. Norbert knew that customers had a lot of questions they needed answered. He knew that customers wanted top quality equipment to enhance their sport. He knew that they required a friendly place to bring their equipment to be sized and repaired, and that they wanted experts to help them.

One day, a customer ventured into his store and told him of the opportunities in SCUBA. Sport Chalet became one of the first sporting goods stores to sell SCUBA equipment. This was a big leap of faith, given that his store was at the bottom of the mountains and two hours from the Pacific Ocean. He then made the decision to be one of the first sporting goods retailers to offer a wide array of equipment for the then-obscure sports of rock climbing and backpacking - at the time only available in catalogues.

In 1974, Norbert opened a 30,000 square foot store across the street from the original location, where he built a mountain inside that included a ski ramp so skiers could hone their skills. In 1981, Norbert doubled the size of Sport Chalet by opening a store in Huntington Beach, California, and began to build a loyal following of beach customers. In 2001, Sport Chalet expanded beyond California for the first time, entering Nevada. In 2005, he opened three stores on one day in Arizona. In 2007, Sport Chalet expanded once more by opening their first store in Utah. Today


Sports Chalet has over 55 stores in four states and is still growing!

Currently, a typical Sport Chalet boasts 45,000 square feet of premium sporting goods equipment, apparel, and footwear. Each of the stores features a collection of specialty shops offering brand name apparel and equipment for beginners to experts. These shops include traditional sporting goods like golf, tennis, biking, fitness, in-line skates, baseball, and athletic footwear along with specialty sporting goods merchandise such as mountaineering, SCUBA, skiing, snowboarding, wakeboarding, and ocean kayaking.

Norbert started many businesses:

- Opening a hotel at Mammoth Mountain named Sport Chalet
- Starting a travel agency - Sportours, with Martha Perez as a principal employee
- Starting a manufacturing company making outdoor gear - Camp 7
- Opening a wholesale import boot company - Iowa
- Creating a mountaineering and sport fashion mail order catalogue
- Product design and inventor, giving his advice freely to manufacturers to improve their products

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Photo By: Pam and Steve Gibby

DAVE McCoy

Founder, Mammoth Mountain



David Krupp, Los Angeles Council Past President, tracks down Dave in his workshop in Bishop to present the 2011 Snowsports Builders Award on June 18. The Snowsports Builder Award is tendered for indelible contribution to the development of snowsports. Dave could not make it to the 2011 FWSA Convention.

photo: Cindy Krupp

Dave McCoy was born in Los Angeles on August 24, 1915 to William Thomas McCoy and Edna Rachel Metcalf. Until the age of six, Dave lived a quiet life in El Segundo, California where his father worked in an oil refinery. His next nine years were spent traveling throughout California with his parents, living in various towns along California's Highway 99 while his father worked as a highway construction contractor.

In 1928, when Dave was twelve years old, his mother took him to Independence, California, a small town south of Bishop, for a visit. He instantly fell in love with the area and decided this was the place he wanted to settle.

After graduating as valedictorian of his class in the eighth grade, Dave moved to the state of Washington to live with his grandparents. During this time, he often worked with his grandfather who was a supervisor in a coal mine. During his high school years, Dave traveled between California and Washington doing odd jobs to support himself while attending school in both locations. He worked on pig farms, grocery stores, grape vineyards and a variety of other places.

It was during his time in Washington that Dave was introduced to skiing by a group of Norwegian ski jumpers. Their motto was, "Just point 'em down the hill and ride." Dave took every opportunity to hike up White Pass Mountain and ski straight down as fast as possible. His love affair with skiing had begun.

ally marry. "I was working as a soda jerk when the Bishop Cheerleaders stopped in on their way to Lone Pine to a game. I took one look at this girl and knew she was something special. I didn't even get to ask her name."

Roma recalls telling her sister, "One day I'm going to get a date with that guy." It wasn't until two years later when Dave was living in Bishop that he was introduced to Roma. In those days, Dave and a friend would tie their skis to the back of a motorcycle and take off for the mountains. As fate would have it, Dave's friend had a sister, and when he finally introduced Dave to her, she happened to be the Bishop cheerleader he had seen two years earlier. At the time, Roma was living with her grandmother and aunt, and was working to help support them. Dave and Roma dated for four years before they were married. The couple has since raised six children.

In March of 1937, Dave was asked to go to work for the Department of Water and Power (DWP) as a hydrographer. The job required collecting and interpreting data from snow surveys to predict future water supplies for Los Angeles. Dave's extensive ski experience coupled with a strong work ethic allowed him to excel in his position at the DWP where he remained for 18 years.

Dave's passion for the sport led him to skiing pioneers Tex Cushin and Corty Hill at McGee Mountain. As a member of the Eastern Sierra Ski Club, Dave helped keep the cable-sling lift maintained and running. Dave and two friends from the DWP, Sam Griggs and Ben Boyd, built the first portable rope tow in the Eastern Sierra. They took a Model "A" Ford truck, pulled the drive wheel off, locked the brake, jacked up the rear end and ran a rope up the mountain to a pulley. This "portable" rope tow allowed the club to ski anywhere in the valley from Independence to Bridgeport searching for hidden stashes of powder.

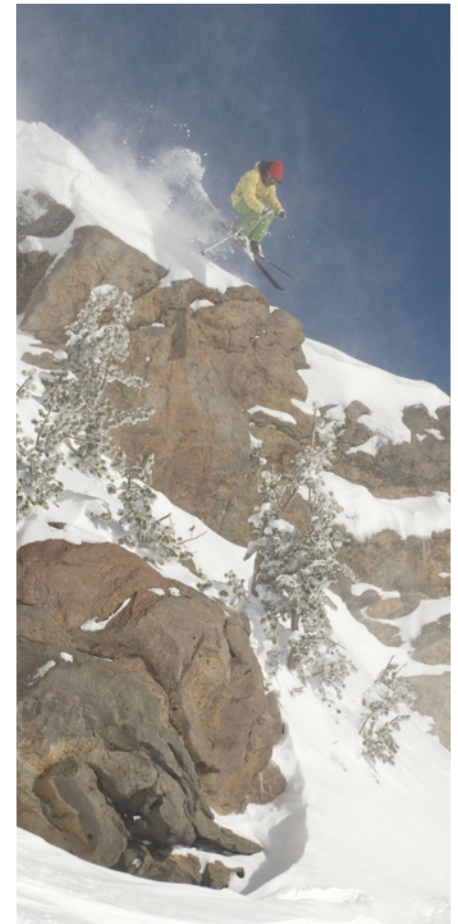
In 1941, Dave obtained a roving permit for his own portable rope tow. The Eastern Sierra Ski Club began losing interest in running their own lifts and agreed to sell their portable rope tow to Dave for \$85. To raise funds for the equipment, he tried to borrow the money against his Harley-Davidson motorcycle but the bank refused his loan. Upon leaving the bank, the secretary was able to convince them that Dave was a good risk. Little did the bank know that the kind-hearted secretary was also Dave's soon to be wife, Roma Carriere.

His extensive knowledge of snow pack and snowmelt gleaned from his hydrography job enabled Dave to set up his lift where the snow was the best. When the weather would allow it and the roads were clear, he took his portable rope tow to Mammoth Mountain. Dave and his

friends were skiing at Mammoth on December 7, 1941 when news of the bombing on Pearl Harbor reached Mammoth. The skiers packed up the rope tow and loaded it into the truck. Skiing essentially came to a halt in the Eastern Sierra and Dave considered joining the Navy with his friends even though his hydrographer position exempted him from service. Ultimately, a ski injury would take the decision out of his hands.

Dave's love of skiing led to an interest in competitive ski racing. During the late 30's he emerged as a top competitor and was something of a local racing hero. In April of 1942, Dave made a spur of the moment decision to drive to Sugar Bowl, California to compete in the state championships. During the race he took a nasty fall, shattering the bones in his left leg. The doctors counted over 38 fractures and wanted to amputate, but Dave would not allow it. It took almost four years for Dave to rehabilitate his leg. Although he still walks with a slight limp, he continues to lead a very active lifestyle.

Eventually Dave returned to his surveyor job and resumed operation of his roving rope tow. The majority of the time the rope tow was stationed at Mammoth Mountain. The Main Lodge's



Dave McCoy was instrumental in developing Mammoth Mountain into a world class destination ski and summer resort.

photo courtesy of Mammoth Mountain

predecessor known as "the Snake Pit," a 12' x 24' building with a dirt floor and outside toilet, served as combination first aid station and snack bar. The Forest Service decided to put the permanent permit to operate at Mammoth Mountain up for bid but no one bid on it, including Dave, because he didn't have the money. In 1953, the Forest Service awarded Dave the permit free of charge on the condition he begin developing the mountain. He already had a thriving rope tow business and soon Mammoth was entertaining more skiers than any other California operation, including those with chairlifts.

Dave went to the bank and asked for \$135,000 to build a chairlift, add on to the existing hut and pay salaries for a year. This time the bank thought it was too much of a risk and turned him down. Walter Martinoni, who built chairs for Donner Summit and Snow Summit, had built a chair for a client who decided he didn't want it. The two agreed that if Walter gave Dave the chair, Dave would install it himself and pay Walter as soon as he made money. Dave and a group of hard-core skiers built their own crane, dug the tower holes by hand, mixed the cement and installed the motor, brakes, clutches and drive system. Mammoth Mountain's first chairlift opened on Thanksgiving Day, 1955, just in time to meet his permit requirements. Since 1955, Dave and his crew have installed an average of one lift annually.

Dave soon relocated his family to the small community of Mammoth Lakes where he skied, ran the business and coached young racers. Coaching 19 of his team members to the United States Olympic Ski Team, including two of his own children, Dave has been one of the most successful racing coaches in ski history. Dave's coaching success helped put Mammoth on the map as a great ski area. Parents began sending their children from all over the country to ski at Mammoth under Dave's tutelage.

After building his first chairlift in 1955, Dave went on to build one of the largest ski resorts in the country. In 1986, Dave bought nearby June Mountain, ensuring the future of great skiing in the Eastern Sierra. Today, Mammoth Mountain has 27 lifts, four day-lodges, four hotel properties, four restaurants, a large maintenance facility and much more. Now a four-season destination resort, Mammoth Mountain is busy during the summer months as a world-class Mountain Bike Park and Adventure Center, and operates a golf course and fly fishing guide service.

Dave McCoy has been called one of the last great entrepreneurs in the skiing business. The FWSA is honored to recognize him with a Snowsports Builder Award. ▲▲



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This is the first year of the FWSA "Community Service Awareness Program". Our eleven councils were challenged to have each of their clubs involved with at least one charitable organization by the 2011 FWSA Convention. This was a very positive experience, and our councils encouraged their clubs to make community involvement a priority with their membership, a priority right after skiing, of course!

Congratulations to our two winning councils: **San Diego Council** and **Arizona Council**. Both councils received the "almost 100%" award, since more than 80% of their clubs were involved with charitable activities. FWSA's aim for this year is to reach 100% involvement with charities by Convention 2012! Keep up the great work to reach this goal!

This was our fifth year of the other very important community service program within the FWSA family: "Charity & Community Service Recognition". At the FWSA Convention in June, this annual recognition was awarded to **Monterey Ski & Social Club** of Bay Area Council. The other two finalist groups, who were also asked to present a photo display of their wonderful charity activities, were **Action Ski & Snowboard Club** of San Diego Council and the **Bay Area Snow Sports Council**. Three other clubs were also recognized for their charity and community service involvement: **Castro Valley Ski Club** of BAC, **Torrey Pines Ski Club** and **Off Your Rockers**, both of SDCSC. Monterey Ski & Social Club received a FWSA \$100 check to go to one of their many favorite charities, Alliance on Aging. With just under 100 members, MSSC seems to thrive on volunteer activities. It's easy to see why this club has received this special FWSA recognition for the second time.

This past year, MSSC has supported these very lucky organizations: the Monterey Food Bank, Alzheimer's Association, Operation Christmas Cheer, Christmas in the Adobes, the Monterey Sea Otter Classic, the Concours d'Elegance and, the Monterey Beer Classic; the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am Golf Tournament at Pebble Beach; the Pebble Beach Food & Wine



The Unrecables winners: Gordon Cardona won the Safety Award, Dianna Digiandomenico won the Jimmie Heuga Award. BACK ROW: Billy Kidd and Sigrid Noack, (both won the Jimmie Heuga Award previously). Jimmie Heuga's two children - daughter, Kelly Hammil and son - Wilder Heuga were special guests at the 2011 FWSA Convention.

photo provided by Sigrid Noack

Charities & Our Communities

by Sigrid Noack
Charities Chair, FWSA

FWSA is headed for 100% Charity Involvement

Classic, "Oscar Night" hosted by the Monterey County Film Commission, the Monterey Vintners and Growers Association's Great Wine Escape Weekend; the Moto-GT Car Races at Laguna Seca; and the Monterey Wine Classic. In many cases, the members' volunteering generated money, which then was donated to charitable organizations in the area. For example, at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am Golf Tournament, the amount of money donated to charity for each volunteer's work was more than \$2,400. That's per volunteer! Wonderful programs and there are amazingly generous and devoted people in this ski club!

Doug Weaver wrote this about Monterey Ski & Social Club's largest event of the year: "Our member efforts provided clothes, a complete turkey dinner, a festive holiday party, and Santa Claus for more than 2,000 people on Christmas Day. This event included at least 350 hours in planning, promoting, organizing, picking up, sorting, peeling, cooking, serving and cleaning up for this special dinner. The club worked together with the Shelter OutReach Plus Partnership, which provided help with logistics, office personnel, meeting space, and gave financial assistance for this huge event. The preparation and organization of finding so many donations was unbelievable! Can you imagine 125 turkeys, 25 hams, 100 pounds of potatoes, sacks of onions, veggies, stuffing, bread, desserts, utensils, forks and knives, paper plates, and napkins, five big trees to decorate, getting elementary students to decorate placemats and hanging paintings on the walls, having an all-out clothing drive, getting bags and bags of used-but-good garments from around the area, and then finding Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus to enthusiastically put the youngsters on their laps on Christmas Day, and handing out presents donated by local businesses and the Salvation Army. Local bands were asked to donate their time on Christmas Day to entertain. And, not forgot-

ten were the hundreds of home-bound locals, who got special delivery boxed dinners right at their front doors. Christmas is one day the local Meals on Wheels deliveries are absent, making the turkey and fixin's taste that much better for these shut-ins."

What a phenomenal event! Congratulations and thank you Monterey Ski & Social Club for all your wonderful charitable work.

With these special recognitions, we encourage our FWSA councils and clubs to get more involved with charities and community activities. At the Annual FWSA Convention, our industry representatives and ski club delegates consistently express their amazement at the variety and the extent of volunteerism and charity support within our FWSA family. A great big thanks to all our clubs and councils who support charitable activities. You are all winners!

Community Involvement

Although our clubs and councils are involved with a huge number of different charity organizations, some of FWSA's favorite charity groups are athletic groups for the mentally and physically challenged. Three of the most popular charities for our eleven FWSA councils and approximately 180 snowsports clubs are Disabled Sports USA, Special Olympics, and Can Do Multiple Sclerosis, formerly known as the Jimmie Heuga Center for MS.

Special Olympics relies on dedicated volunteers to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for people with mental retardation. The Special Olympics global community includes athletes, volunteers, coaches, family members and sponsors/supporters. For more information and to get involved, check out <http://www.specialolympics.org>. Special Olympics volunteer opportunities are available throughout our FWSA area.

Disabled Sports USA (DS/USA), was founded in 1967 by disabled Vietnam veterans to provide opportunities for individuals with disabilities to gain self-confidence, greater independence, dignity, and mobility through sports,

Continued on page 73

Convention 2012

How the West is ONE!

Ogden, Utah

June 7-10, 2012

by Lennia Machen
Communications - Intermountain Ski Council



Stroll along Historic 25th Street in downtown Ogden for shopping, restaurants and entertainment.

photo courtesy of Ogden Convention & Visitor's Bureau

For the first time ever, the Intermountain Ski Council will host the Annual Far West Ski Association Convention, which will take place June 7-10, 2012, in Ogden, Utah. The theme of "How the West is ONE!" will emphasize the efforts of bringing together all 11 ski councils covering 13 western states for this great event in the beautiful intermountain west. The weekend will celebrate the Far West's 80th Convention by presenting some fun activities with a western flair and hospitality.

The FWSA Convention will be held at the Ogden Eccles Conference Center (www.oecenter.com), a state-of-the-art facility with magnificent windowed walls, which create bright daylight-filled hallways, while revealing breathtaking mountain views. Convenient lodging is provided at the adjoining Hampton Inn and Suites, and the nearby Marriott, in downtown Ogden. Located between the beautiful Wasatch Mountains and the Great Salt Lake, the views are spectacular, and the city welcomes attendees with truly down-home hospitality and luxurious comfort. The Conference Center is located just 40 minutes

from Salt Lake City International Airport.

Recently renovated, the **Hampton Inn and Suites** (www.hamptoninnogden.com) will be practically ours with 124 rooms with all the amenities including a hot breakfast buffet, business center, new fitness center, and an extra large hot tub. The adjoining doors conveniently connect the Hampton Inn and Suites to the lobby of the Ogden Eccles Convention Center and Perry's Egyptian Theater. Our Convention attendees and guests will receive a special group rate. Please check www.fwsa.org for pricing. Make your reservations by calling **801.394.9400** and state you are with the Far West Ski Association.

The **Marriott Ogden** (www.marriott.com/sicog) features an indoor swimming pool and hot tub, a state-of-the-art fitness center and business center. Dining is available at the Canyon Fish Market and Grill Restaurant, and you can relax in the Rocks Lounge. The hotel has an exclusive concierge floor featuring a complimentary breakfast, evening appetizers and a luxurious lounge. Parking is also complimentary. Reservations can be made by call-

ing **801.627.1190** or **800.627.7468** and stating you are with the Far West Ski Association.

Offering a wide variety of food and beverage options within only one block in this historic heart of Ogden, you will find fine dining and cocktails, fun pub atmospheres, sports bars, and one of the best Italian Restaurants in the city of Ogden. This is all within only a few steps from the Convention Center. Also only a block away is the new Salomon Center with iFly sky diving, indoor surfing with "Flowrider", rock climbing and much more. With free parking and everything within easy walking distance, you'll have the best of Ogden at your fingertips.

The **Wolf Creek Golf Club & Resort** in Eden, Utah will host the 6th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament as one of the most popular activities of the Convention. This beautiful course is nestled in between the mountains we ski, just minutes from downtown Ogden. You can play golf in the shadows of these breathtaking peaks, as you gain extra yardage at the high altitude, and play over



The 6th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament will be held at the Wolf Creek Golf Club and Resort with its mountain vistas in nearby Eden, Utah photo courtesy of Ogden Convention and Visitor's Bureau

water and sand traps to the stunning greens. Stretching nearly 7,000 yards, it's the only golf course in the Eden valley. The front nine offers open fairways with spectacular mountain views, while the back nine is also very challenging. More information on the Wolf Creek Golf Course is located at www.wolfcreekutah.com.

Also planned are additional optional activities including a Pub Crawl to Historic 25th Street, a day hike in the beautiful mountains surrounding Ogden, Weber River rafting, a fun time at the Salomon Center, and a Pool Party.

The Silent Auction and Dance on Friday night is open to the public and welcomes one and all, where you'll find more than \$100,000

worth great deals on ski, sport and adventure packages, plus sports equipment all up for bid. Door prizes and special give-a-ways are yours for the taking. There is no admission charge and the event includes a complimentary drink. The Grand Ballroom in the Eccles Center will be filled to the walls with ski industry and resort representatives interested in talking with



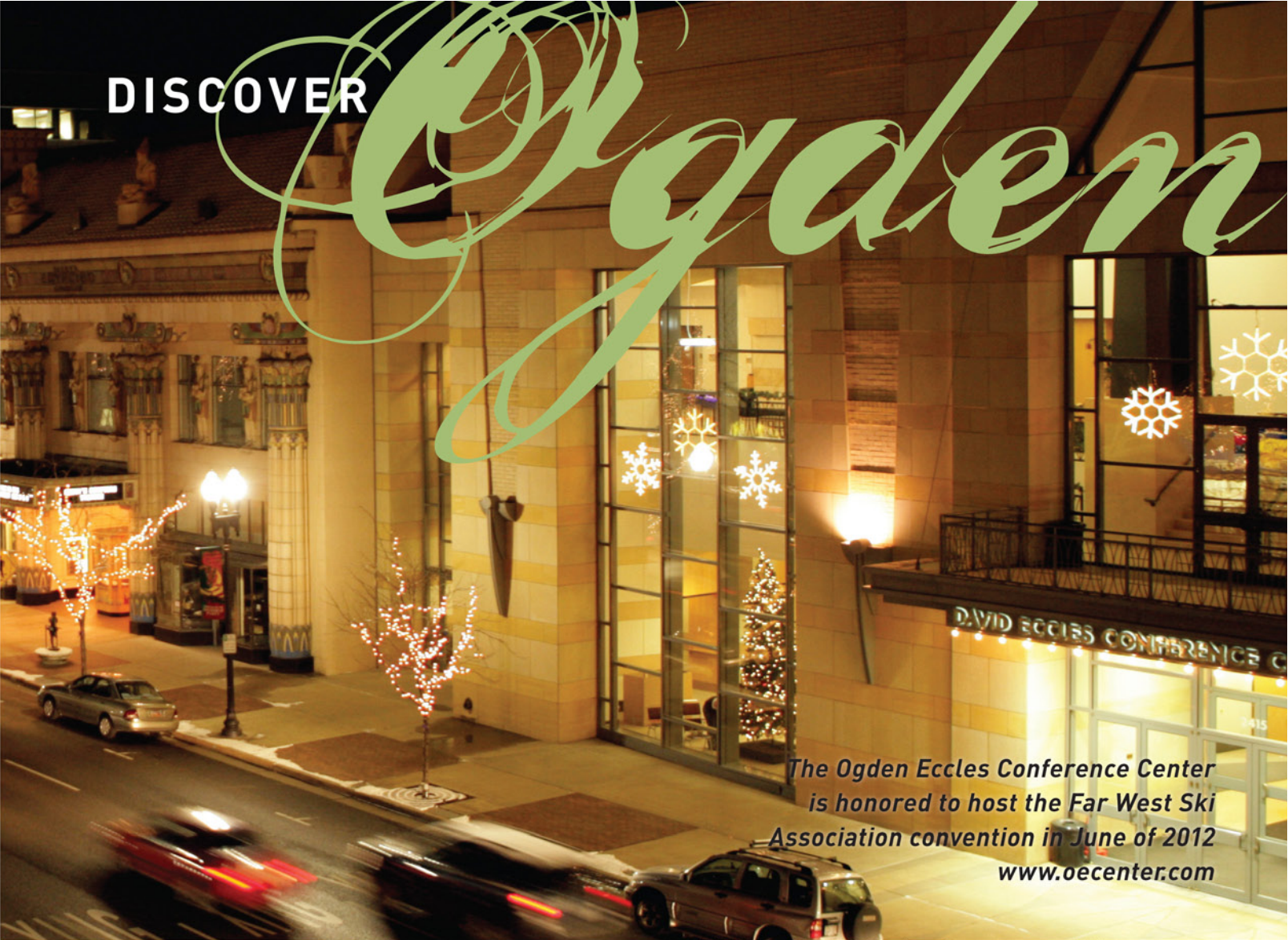
Ogden boasts three major ski resorts within 25 minutes of downtown. After a day of powder shots or groomers, you can relax and enjoy a unique dining experience or keep the energy flowing with indoor climbing walls, surf waves, and more. You'll find everything from restored historic hotels to mountain luxury getaways. Come play in Ogden, Utah

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DISCOVER

Ogden



*The Ogden Eccles Conference Center
is honored to host the Far West Ski
Association convention in June of 2012
www.oecenter.com*



We're not trying to be all things to all people, but the fact is, we're a mountain metro community. We offer the amenities of a city – fabulous cuisine and eclectic shopping, great lodging, and convention and meeting facilities served up at the base of some of the most stunning mountains you'll ever experience.

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you about your travel needs and ski interests and showing off all their new additions and resort features.

On Saturday morning, delegates are invited to a Travel Expo where close to 100 resort representatives and tour operators will be there to answer questions on how to plan your group's next trip. Snowsport celebrities will be featured at the afternoon Multi-Media Presentation.

Saturday morning and afternoon will feature two modules of the Snowsports Leadership Academy, conducted to support the learning needs of ski club members and leaders in a variety of topics specially designed to promote the operations of ski clubs and their members. Among topics to be presented this year include an interactive discussion about *The Future of Snowsports*. These presentations are designed to interest everyone from ski club board members to long time ski enthusiasts.

The Awards Banquet and Dance on Saturday night is the capstone to the weekend. So shine your boots and dust off your hats, we will be gussying up and celebrating "How the West Is ONE!" in a big way! After a full dinner and volunteer and industry recognition awards, it will be time to dance and do a little boot-scootin'.

All this fun and activity will be followed on Sunday by the business end of the Convention. Officer elections, club and council awards, and the FWSA business meeting will be planned around a wonderful Sunday Morning Brunch. If you are your ski club's delegate, or a member wishing to get involved



The Ogden Eccles Conference Center will be the site on the 2012 FWSA Convention. It will be the first time the Convention will be held in Utah. You will not want to miss it!

photo courtesy of Ogden Convention & Visitor's Bureau

in the country's largest ski association, you will want to plan to attend the business meeting and see for yourself what's involved in making sure the sport we love is promoted well and will continue for years to come.

For additional information, contact Don Anderson, Host Council Convention Coordinator at andersonbloom@gmail.com, or Jane Wyckoff, FWSA Convention Chairperson at janeWyckoff1@cox.net. Industry partners can contact Debbi Kor, VP of Marketing at fwsadebbi@comcast.net.

Registration materials will be distributed early in 2012 by the clubs and councils. They will also be made available at www.fwsa.org. We invite you to put on your cowboy hat and boots; and join us in Ogden for a great western time in historic Utah. ▲▲

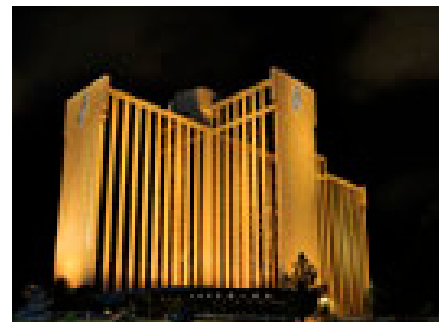
FWSA Future Conventions ...

FWSA Convention 2013 Going to the Beach in Style in Reno, Nevada

**Hosted by Bay Area
Snow Sports Council**

by Jane Wyckoff

Annual Convention Chair, FWSA



The Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, Nevada will be the site of the 2013 FWSA Convention. *photo courtesy of the Grand Sierra Resort*

The Far West Ski Association is pleased to announce the selection of the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, Nevada, as site for the 81st Annual FWSA Convention, June 6-9, 2013, hosted by the Bay Area Snow Sports Council.

Grand Sierra Resort is centrally located in the heart of the majestic Sierra Mountains, and offers a variety of outdoor adventure activities. The 7th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament will be held on one of the 40 local world-class golf courses. A "beach party" is being planned at the Grand Sierra Beach adjoining the spacious outdoor pool. Volleyball enthusiasts will enjoy some competition on the sand volleyball courts.

Among its many amenities, the resort also features a 50-lane bowling alley, Reno theater cinema multiplex, miniature golf, indoor professionally designed go-kart track, and Fun Quest, which includes over 40,000 sq. ft. of games and attractions. There's also plenty of shopping, including unique boutiques, sprinkled throughout the resort. In addition to a world-class casino, many fine dining and casual dining experiences are available, plus an exciting nightlife in the bars and lounges. With 2,000 guests rooms, Grand Sierra Resort guests experience comfort and luxury in the spacious rooms and suites. Convention attendees will have a group rate for both the Standard Rooms and Summit Tower Grand II Suites. The Grand Sierra Resort website is located at www.grandsierraresort.com. Visit the Resort on Facebook.

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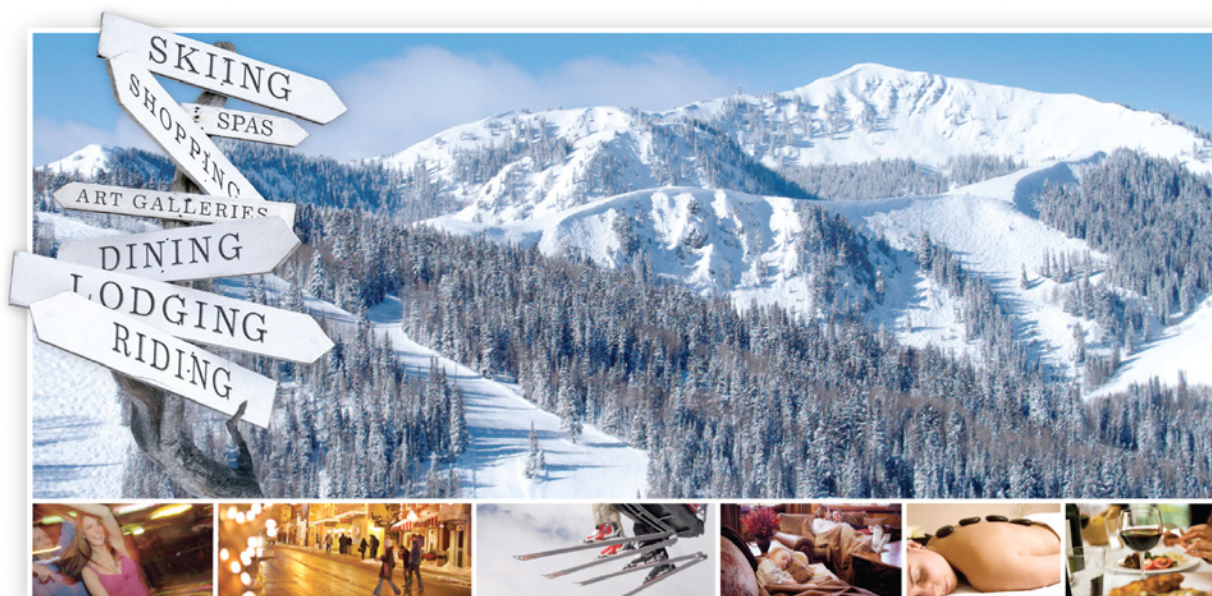
A beach party is being planned adjacent to the large pool. In addition to the casino, there are theaters, a bowling alley and other amenities on site at this fabulous property. photo courtesy of the Grand Sierra Resort

2014 And Beyond!

The FWSA Convention Committee continues to plan early for its Conventions to provide locations best suited to our Convention programs and events. Mark your calendars for future FWSA Conventions:

- **June 12-15, 2014,**
Host: Northwest Ski Club Council
- **June 11-14, 2015,**
Host: San Diego Council of Ski Clubs

Throughout the FWSA Convention weekend, a wealth of information is provided for Convention delegates to take back to their clubs and councils. Join us in Ogden, Utah, June 7-10, 2012 for our 80th Annual Convention and future Conventions, as well. For additional information, contact FWSA Convention Chair Jane Wyckoff at janewyckoff1@cox.net. Detailed information about our Convention programs can be found on www.fwsa.org. ▲



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photo courtesy of Taos Ski Valley

The Far West Ski Association (FWSA) www.fwsa.org is a non-profit, volunteer organization with a wide range of programs. Many people are familiar with our programs such as travel, membership and councils. An area of interest that is becoming much more well known is the Public Affairs area. FWSA, as the Association for organized recreational skiers in the 13 western states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming represents approximately 11 regional councils, 180 ski clubs, with over 51,000 recreational skiers and snowboarders representing countless visits to ski areas in the United States. Additionally, FWSA has about 150 supplier donor partners who provide equipment, goods, and services for the advancement of organized recreational skiing/snowboarding and competition. FWSA is also a member of the National Ski Council Federation (NSCF) www.skifederation.org, an organization with 29 regional councils and about 330,000 recreational snowsports enthusiasts nationwide. As the "Voice of the Western Skier", FWSA has been very active in a whole host of areas that affect ski area development, safety, volunteer liability, transportation, taxation, ski history, and consumer advocacy.

The Public Affairs portfolio of programs is designed to present to the outside world the positions of the FWSA. A wide variety of subjects interest the membership. Topics such as airline luggage rules, reduced prices for season passes, news about ski country direct flights and the ever-increasing tendency of areas to develop along the lines of the European ski village environment are of interest to membership. Also, we attempt to better educate our membership in areas such as the impact of changing demographics and the need for increased diversity, snowsports industry efforts like the Model for Growth to address trial and retention, regulatory efforts to modernize state ski laws similar to the Colorado model, expanding snowmaking capabilities, the development of e-commerce in the snowsports industry, resort developments focused on consumer tendencies, the analysis paralysis forced on the Forest Service in resort development, and the need to meet a visiting family's variation in ages and interests.

In summary, the width and breath of the

FWSA Public Affairs program is significant and the FWSA is committed to do its part in communicating issues and educating membership on the wide and interesting variety of Public Affairs topics. Of most significant importance over the last year has been our involvement in area development, consumer advocacy, safety, transportation and history.

We strongly encourage you to get involved now in the issues that affect you by writing letters/emails to appropriate government officials, newspaper editors, and other key influencers; to attend public meetings; and share your views with others in a wide variety of situations including on the chairlift. To stay informed about relevant issues visit www.fwsa.org and subscribe to the no-cost FWSA News (monthly electronic newsletter).

Area Development

The most prominent topic in Public Affairs is area development, which covers ski area expansion and enhancement, proposed new areas, and the preservation of potential areas for future skiing or recreational use. Action in this arena affects all snowsports enthusiasts; has long-term implications; requires unified regional action; involves the ski industry with us; and can be exasperatingly tedious and drawn-out, as well as very costly. Generally, the Association must deal with county, city and even state governments, the US Forest Service, community organizations, area operators or permittees, and an ever-changing spectrum of organizations interested in protection of the environment.

The Council on Environmental Quality has been working to modify the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as appropriate to reduce process gridlock. To further improve the expensive and time consuming NEPA, the National Ski Areas Association (NSAA) has suggested categorical exclusions for certain on-mountain activities such as lift replacements following the same alignment, additional snowmaking on trails that are already treated with man-made snow and use of existing service roads and trails for new uses like mountain biking.

We maintain an active network of "issue watchers" in strategic areas of the western states. There are currently several expansion issues we are keeping close watch on such as the *Arizona*

Snowbowl; *Eldora Mountain*, CO; *Homewood Mountain*, CA; *Las Vegas Ski & Snowboard Resort*, NV; *Mt Spokane*, WA; *Snowbird*, UT as well as logging issues such as *Forests with a Future*. We have been aggressively involved in letter writing campaigns to ensure "The Voice of the Western Skier" is heard as an even handed proponent for rational development.

In addition to specific expansion issues, we are strong supporters of responsible resort management and have endorsed the NSAA "Environmental Charter" and the "Sustainable Slopes" initiative.

■ Keep Winter Cool, a joint effort of NRDC (Natural Resources Defense Council) and NSAA (National Ski Areas Association) launched in 2003, continued its 9th season as part of NSAA Sustainable Slopes initiative. Examples of this initiative are that 88% have some sort of conservation initiative in place, 38% purchase green power for their operations, 33% are using some sort of renewable energy on-site, and 12% offer guests renewable energy offsets.

www.keepwintercool.org
www.nsaa.org/nsaa/environment/sustainable_slopes/ssar-10.pdf

■ NSAA Environmental Charter is currently endorsed by more than 190 U.S. resorts representing over 75% of skier visits plus partnering organizations and participating organizations. 2011 marks the 11th Anniversary of the Sustainable Slopes initiative launched in 2001.

www.nsaa.org/nsaa/environment/sustainable_slopes/

Area Development Update

■ Western planned chairlift installations 2011. **California:** *Dodge Ridge* – T643 t-bar; *Mammoth Mountain* – Chair 5 high speed quad; *Northstar at Tahoe* – high speed quad on the Backside area. **Colorado:** *Aspen* – Tiehack Express high speed quad on *Buttermilk*; *Beaver Creek* – Rose Bowl Express high speed quad; *Copper Mountain* – High Point high speed quad; *Loveland* – Chair 4 triple. **Idaho:** *Bogus Basin* – Chair 3/Superior high speed quad. **Montana:** *Whitefish Mountain* – triple in Bad Rock area. **Oregon:** *Mt Hood Meadows* – Stadium Express high speed quad. **Utah:** *Beaver Mountain* – Little Beaver

PUBLIC AFFAIRS: 2011 UPDATE

By Scott Bowker
Vice President - Public Affairs, FWSA

triple; *Park City* - Three Kings triple. **Washington:** *Crystal Mountain* - High Campbell triple. **Wyoming:** *Jackson Hole* - Marmot double. **Alberta, Canada:** *Marmot Basin* - Paradise Express high speed quad, *School House* triple; *Vista Ridge* - Syncrude Bison quad.



The snowmaking supply line is being installed along Snowbowl Road this past summer. The installation is projected to be completed next summer for snowmaking to be functional for the 2012-13 season. The photo looks down on Upper Volcano. The run starts directly below the top of the Agassiz Lift. This will be the steepest groomed run in the Southwest.

photo courtesy of the Arizona Snowbowl

■ **Arizona Snowbowl:** Save the Peaks Coalition filed an injunction in January 2011 and the opening brief in April 2011 in the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals to appeal the December 2010 ruling by U.S. District Judge, Mary Murguia in Phoenix that Save the Peaks Coalition which opposes snowmaking waited too long to file their new lawsuit (Save the Peaks Coalition v. U.S. Forest Service filed September 2009) and that the U.S. Forest Service adequately considered the risks of using reclaimed water to make snow. A separate March 2011 emergency injunction to stop tree cutting and construction in furtherance of snowmaking pending the outcome of the appeal was denied in April 2011 by the U.S. 9th Cir-

cuit Court. In May 2011, after review of construction plans and site designs, Coconino National Forest Supervisor, M. Earl Stewart, authorized the implementation of the Arizona Snowbowl water pipeline construction project for snowmaking and the building of new ski runs. Construction began in May 2011 on an initial \$1.3 million underground segment of the 12-inch-diameter 6.5 mile pipeline from Highway 180 - along the Snowbowl Road corridor to the Snowbowl - of the total 14 mile long pipeline project from Flagstaff. Phase 1 is expected to provide snowmaking for 134 acres of the approved 205 acres starting in the 2012-2013 season. In June 2011, six protestors were arrested after locking themselves for a few hours to construction equipment and to each other in the pipeline trench. Arizona Snowbowl had won approval of its snowmaking plan when in June 2009, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear the previous case - Navajo Nation et. al. v. U.S. Forest Service (originally filed June 2005) - that had been decided in Arizona Snowbowl's favor at the U.S. 9th Circuit Court level.

■ Land Management Planning Rule:

Provides an overall framework of assess, revise/amend and monitor for forest plan developments, revisions and amendments which includes recreation and multiple use among the priorities. National roundtables were held in April, May, and July 2010, and a science forum was held in March 2010. DEIS (Draft Environmental Impact Statement) NOA (Notice of Availability) in Federal Register February 2011, FEIS (Final Environmental Impact Statement) NOA expected in November, 2011, with the decision and implementation expected in December, 2011. Larry Hayden lhayden@fs.fed.us 202-205-1559 www.fs.usda.gov/planningrule

■ **The Proposed Ski Area Recreational Opportunity Enhancement Act** will allow seasonal or year-round natural resource-based recreational activities that encourage outdoor recreation and enjoyment of nature while harmonizing with the natural environment provided that such activities are located within the developed portion of the ski resort. Activities expressly permitted include zip lines, mountain bike terrain parks and trails, frisbee golf courses and ropes



photo courtesy of Schweitzer Mountain

courses. Excluded activities are tennis courts, water slides and water parks, swimming pools, golf courses, and amusement parks. Bill S. 382 was sent to the full Senate in July 2011 and bill H.R. 765 was sent to the House of Representatives in June 2011.

■ **American Dream Meadowlands** (formerly Meadowlands Xanadu) is a \$2.7 billion megamall project in East Rutherford, NJ. It includes a 700 foot indoor ski slope which was approved in May 2011 for \$200 million in state tax breaks for its new developer. Triple Five of Canada owns the 4.2 million square foot Mall of America in MN and the 5.3 million square foot West Edmonton Mall in Alberta, Canada. This three million square foot development is expected to open Phase 1 in fall 2013; and Phase 2 in spring 2014. It is predicted to serve 55 million visitors annually. Plans includes shops, restaurants, nightclubs, a 26-screen movie theater, a 3,000-seat performing arts theater, indoor glass-domed amusement and water parks; and a skating rink in addition to the indoor ski slope.

■ **Antelope Butte, WY.** Nonprofit **Antelope Butte Foundation** (Mark Weitz, Chairman) plans to reopen the ski area which has been closed since 2004 between Shell and Dayton, WY for the 2012-2013 season. The 250 acre ski area has an annual snowfall of 200 inches, a summit elevation of 9,400 feet with a vertical drop of 1,000 feet, two double chairlifts and a rope tow. www.facebook.com/AntelopeButteFoundation

■ **Battle Mountain, CO.** Planned ski area near Minturn, CO with 4-5 fixed lifts, plus 3-4 snowcats to take skiers to the top of lifts, about 170,000 square feet of commercial space (coffee shop, ski shop, chili shacks). In April 2011, the Colorado Supreme Court had agreed to hear a case, *Town of Minturn v. Sensible Housing, Inc.*, Case No. 10SC670, involving an annexation dispute between the Town of Minturn and a company claiming an ownership interest in the parcels to be annexed. Minturn has an agreement with Crave Real Estate to annex 4,300 acres into the town for the project. In December 2010, the developer Crave Real Estate won key water rights for its proposed 1, 210 acre-foot reservoir at Bolts Lake, south of Minturn which would

▶ provide water for up to 1,700 housing units. In 2009, Crave Real Estate (part of Lubert-Adler investment company of Philadelphia, PA) took over the project from Florida developer Bobby Ginn which started this project in 2005.

■ Bear Valley, CA. **Bear Valley Mountain Resort Expansion EA**. Implement portions of 1994 Resort Expansion EIS to improve skier/boarder circulation and access to Bear Valley plus improve guest services. 215 comment period legal notice 6/29/11, decision/implementation expected December 2011/August 2012 Patti Clarey pclarey@fs.fed.us 209-795-1381 www.fs.fed.us/nepa/project_content.php?project=7910

■ Beaver Creek, CO. **Women's Downhill EIS** (Environmental Impact Statement). New race course and snowmaking. NOI (Notice of Intent) 12/14/10, estimated draft EIS NOA (Notice of Availability) September 2011, with decision/implementation expected January 2012/ April 2012. Don Dressler drdressler@fs.fed.us 970-827-5715 www.fs.fed.us/nepa/project_content.php?project=33695

■ Big Sky, MT. Five new gladed tree trails on 20 acres at **Big Sky Resort** on Andesite Mountain off Ramcharger high speed quad for 2011-12 season. www.bigskyskiresort.com

■ Breckenridge, CO. **Ski Resort Peak 6 Development Project EIS**. New terrain and high speed 6-pack chairlift. Draft EIS NOA 6/10/11, estimated FEIS NOA January 2012, decision/implementation expected January/April 2012. Joe Foreman jgforeman@fs.fed.us 970-262-3443 www.fs.fed.us/nepa/project_content.php?project=23387

■ Coconino National Forest, AZ. Forest plan revision (recreation use included in revision topics) EIS. Notice of Adjustment May 2010. Phase 1 public input and feedback July/August 2010. Draft EIS expected January 2012 with decision and implementation expected September and November 2012. Coconino National Forest Planner Yewah Lau yylau@fs.fed.us 928-527-3411 www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino/plan-revision.shtml

■ Cooper Spur, OR. **Cooper Spur-Government Camp Land Exchange EIS**. Forest Service would convey 120 acres of property at Government Camp and acquire 770 acres of private land at Cooper Spur. Notice of Intent published in Federal Register October 2010, estimated DEIS NOA January 2012, with decision and implementation expected June and July 2012.

Kristy Boscheinen, Forest Planner kboscheinen@fs.fed.us 503-668-1645 www.fs.fed.us/nepa/project_content.php?project=33072

■ Crystal Mountain, WA. **Crystal Mountain Master Development Plan Amendment #1 EA** – replace High Campbell Basin Chairlift. Environmental assessment released September 2010, decision 1/5/11, implementation June 2011. Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Team Leader Sean Wetterberg swetterberg@fs.fed.us 425-783-6022 www.fs.fed.us/nepa/project_content.php?project=29956

■ Dodge Ridge, CA. Access to second summit via new Doppelmayr T-bar named T643 to be installed summer 2011 as part of **Dodge Ridge Master Development Plan**. T643 will be to the skier's right of chairlift 8 while offering access to backcountry areas and doubling the length of three expert runs above Granite Bowl. T643 is named after the record setting snowfall total of 643" this past 60th Anniversary season at Dodge Ridge. A new chairlift 1 and a high speed detachable are also planned for the future.

■ Eldora Mountain, CO. U.S. Forest Service approved **Eldora Mountain Master Plan** in March 2011 which includes two new high speed 6-pack chairlifts near the existing Indian Peaks and Corona lifts and two new high speed quad chairlifts; addition of 88 acres to existing 188 acres of lift serviced trails; plus an expanded and upgraded Eldora base lodge among the improvements to existing trails, buildings and lifts. www.eldora.com/uploads/pdf/Eldora%20Mountain%20Resort%202011%20Master%20Plan.pdf

■ Homewood Mountain, CA. **Homewood Mountain Resort's** major expansion plans to become an upscale boutique resort continued with a draft environmental impact report (EIR) filed January 2011 with Tahoe Regional Planning Agency. Public comment period ended April 21, 2011 (email comments to Homewooddeiscomments@trpa.org, Jeff Cowen, TRPA Community Liaison jcowen@trpa.org 775-589-5278) and final action is possibly expected by the end of 2011. Some highlights from the EIR (preferred alternative 1) include 8-passenger high speed gondola, high speed quad and new beginner mid mountain ski lift; resort lodge/5 star boutique style hotel with 75 rooms and 70 condo units at North Base area; mid mountain day lodge and outdoor swimming pool; village center/ice skating rink at North Base area; total of 17 new buildings at North and South Base areas (155 tourist accommodation units, 181 residential units and 13 workforce/em-

ployee housing units) to be built on 23 acre development using LEED gold standard. Homewood needs to increase non-holiday midweek skier visits/day from 300 (past historical average) to 700 to generate sustainable revenues. www.trpa.org/default.aspx?tabindex=2&tabid=338

■ Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, CA. Forest plan revision (recreation use included in revision topics) EIS. Notice of Intent March 2010. Draft EIS NOA expected October 2010 with public comment on Draft EIS October-December 2010. Decision/implementation expected July/October 2011. Bob King bking@fs.fed.us 530-543-2619 <http://fs.usda.gov/libmu>

■ Las Vegas Ski & Snowboard Resort, NV. Master Development Plan approved by U.S. Forest Service in July 2011. Over the next 10-12 years, the resort plans to expand from 70 acres to 500 acres including hike to terrain; add 10 lifts, 50 trails, two new base lodges, a new skier/boarder cross course and increase snowmaking capability. 75% of the resort's visitors are snowboarders. www.skilasvegas.com/masterplan

■ Manitoba Mountain, AK. Sustainable ski area redevelopment project planned by Mountain Rider's Alliance for **Manitoba Mountain** near Cooper Landing in Kenai Mountains of Chugach National Forest which last operated from 1941-1960. Three surface lifts to provide access to 1,000 acres of inbounds terrain and 10,000 acres of backcountry (descents up to 4,400 feet) and hike to terrain with estimated annual snowfall of 300-550 inches. Lift served vertical drop 2,596 feet with base elevation of 1,106 feet and top of highest surface lift at 3,702 feet. Formal application expected to be filed in October 2011 by Mountain Rider's Alliance project manager Dave Scanlan who also conducted seven community outreach presentations. www.SkiManitobaMountain.com

■ Monarch Mountain, CO. **Draft Master Development Plan** (MDP) released in June 2011 proposes adding a 344 acre No Name Basin on the west side of the Continental Divide with 62 acres of cleared trails, 68 acres of gladed terrain, a fixed grip double chairlift, and a warming hut that would increase total skiable acreage to 1,144 acres. This draft MDP also includes previously approved projects such as upgrading the Breezeway lift to a fixed grip triple chairlift, various surface lifts, glading 48 acres of current terrain, mountain top lodge, mid-mountain lodge, and snowmaking capacity on 33 acres. Final approval is expected in fall 2011. www.skimonarch.com

■ **Mt. Ashland Ski Area Expansion Supplement EIS**, OR. Two new chairlifts, two surface lifts, 71 acres new terrain. DEIS NOA March 2010, FEIS NOA April 2011, implementation August 2011. Steven Johnson sjohnson@fs.fed.us 541-552-2908 www.fs.fed.us/nepa/project_content.php?project=33403

■ **Mt Hood Meadows, OR. Ski Area Enhancements EA CE**. Replace and upgrade Stadium chair lift. Scoping started October 2010, decision 3/2/11 and implementation expected May 2011. Jennie O'Connor Card jennieoconnor-card@fs.fed.us 541-352-1255

■ **Mt Spokane, WA**. Ski area expansion onto mountain's northwest face with new chair lift and seven new ski runs on 279 acres was approved by Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission in May 2011. This decision on the expansion proposal MS2000 (launched in 2003) yielded a blended land classification for the 850 acre section known as Potential Alpine Ski Area Expansion (PASEA) with 80 acres classified as Recreation for formal ski trails, 199 acres classified as Resource Recreation for backcountry skiing, and 571 acres classified as Natural Forest Area for wildlife habitat and forest protection. Lands Council environmental group filed a law-

suit in June 2011 challenging the approval process on the basis that an EIS should have been required. The ski resort only occupies about 10 percent of Mount Spokane's 14,000 acres. Permits and additional environmental reviews are not expected to be completed until at least the summer of 2012. www.mtspokane.com/107/backside-expansion/

■ **Northstar-at-Tahoe, CA**. Vail Resorts purchased Northstar from Booth Creek for \$63 million in October 2010. The Northstar management and operating contract was purchased since CNL Lifestyle Properties owns the land and all improvements such as buildings, ski lifts and snowmaking infrastructure. Northstar had over 700,000 skier/snowboarder visits for the 2009-2010 season. Sierra-at-Tahoe was not part of the acquisition.

■ **Okanogon-Wenatchee & Colville National Forests, WA**. Forest Plan Revision (recreation use included in revision topics) EIS. Estimated DEIS Notice of Adjustment (NOA) expected January 2012. Decision/implementation expected June 2012/December 2013. Plan Revision Public Information Specialist Deborah Kelly dkelly@fs.fed.us 509-826-3396 www.fs.fed.us/r6/wenatchee/forest-plan

■ **Powderhorn Ski Resort, CO**. Powderhorn located in Mesa, CO near Grand Junction sold in August 2011 for \$1.4 million to Powderhorn Partners LLC formed by former Vail Resorts president Andy Daly and Gart brothers (Ken and Tom). Powderhorn has 1,600 skiable acres, 44 trails, a vertical drop of 1,650 feet, a summit elevation of 9,850 feet. The resort averages 75,000 skier visits annually (including about 3,000 season passholders) with a 250 inch average annual snowfall. The sale included 700 acres of development land, four ski lifts, a base lodge plus maintenance and operations buildings. www.powderhorn.com

■ **Snowbird, UT. Snowbird Ski Resort Gad Valley Improvements EA**. Eleven proposed projects to be completed over the next five years within Snowbird's permitted boundary include Gad 2 upgrade to a high speed quad, adding beginner skiing terrain adjacent to the Baby Thunder area, providing night skiing from the Gadzoom chairlift and an expansion of Creekside Lodge Adaptive Sports facilities. Scoping started 6/27/11, estimated 215 comment period legal notice 4/12, decision/implementation June/ July 2012. Pollyanna Popola ppopola@fs.fed.us 801-733-2687 www.fs.fed.us/nepa/project_content.php?project=36527 Other pro-

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posals in Snowbird's amendment to its master plan filed in May 2010 includes expansion into the 780 acre, above treeline Mary Ellen Gulch (west of Mineral Basin) along with a second tram from Hidden Peak to West Twin Peak (11,489 foot) of American Fork Twin Peaks, a lengthening of Mineral Basin Express by 50%, and a third lift from the bottom of Mary Ellen Gulch to Sinners Pass Ridge for descent back into Mineral Basin will be addressed separately at a later date. See expansion maps at www.utahoutside.com/2011/04/national-forest-service-accepts-snowbird-expansion-proposal/

■ Squaw Valley, CA. KSL Partners purchased **Squaw Valley** ski operation, base village and real estate in November 2010 for an undisclosed sum. KSL Partners is a Colorado equity fund Led by former Vail Associates executives Mike Shannon and Eric Resnick. KSL plans to invest \$50 million in improvements over the next 3-5 years. From 1985 to 1992, Shannon was President of Vail Associates, a predecessor company to Vail Resorts. Resnick held a variety of positions at Vail, including Vice President of Strategic Planning and Treasurer from 1996



NEW: Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows/Homewood to merge. The owners plan to invest millions in resort improvements over the next three to five years in the three resorts.

photo Squaw Valley / Chris Beck, photographer

through 2000. Both Shannon and Resnick also serve as board members for the United States Ski & Snowboard Team Foundation and the Vail Valley Foundation. Resnick is on the Organizing Committee of the 2015 World Alpine Ski Championships.

■ Summit at Snoqualmie, WA. **Snoqualmie Pass Master Development Plan Amendment #1 CE** - replace existing Silver Fir Output with a new lodge. Scoping started December 2010, decision expected April 2011, implementation June 2011. Cecilia Reed creed@fs.fed.us 425-888-8769

■ Vail, CO. **West Lionshead Chairlift Realignment EA**. Realign and extend previously approved West Lionshead Chairlift to replace the Pride Express (Chair 26). Canceled as of July 2011 SOPA. Don Dressler drdressler@fs.fed.us 970-827-5715

■ Wasatch Canyons, UT. Update of 1989 **Salt Lake County Wasatch Canyons Master Plan** covers Little Cottonwood (Alta, Snowbird), Big Cottonwood (Brighton, Solitude), City Creek, Emigration, Red Butte, Parley's and Millcreek Canyons. The master plan governs recreation, land use and development, transportation, watershed protection and water quality, natural resource management and public safety. Wasatch Canyon's Tomorrow final report with input from nearly 16,000 people was issued September 2010 available at: www.envisionutah.org/eu_projects_regionalvisioning.html

Consumer Advocacy

Advocacy on behalf of all recreational skiers consumes a large part of the effort made during FWSA member's visits to all ski areas. But not only is it important to express the consumer's opinion while "on the mountain", it must also be expressed back home, in the communities that only think of snow skiing in the winter. As the "Voice of the Western Skier", the Far West Ski Association takes its duties very seriously. The association continues to keep close tabs on a variety of consumer advocacy issues ranging from safety, helmet usage, avalanche awareness, women's ski jumping, Congressional Ski and Snowboard Caucus, injury liability initiatives, youth snowsports development programs, and luggage regulations.

Snowsports Trends & News Update

■ Snowsports market sales for August to March versus year ago were up 12% in dollars to \$3.3 billion and +8% in units. Alpine skis (flat skis sold without bindings) in the 80mm-110mm waist width category are up 74% in dollars on more than 74,000 units vs. 47,000 units for the

same period last year. Reverse/Mixed camber ski sales are up 134% in units and +129% in dollars to 54,000 units. Reverse camber snowboard sales are up 42% in units (accounting for 45% of all snowboards sold) and +46% in dollars. AT/Randonee equipment sales increased 90% in dollars sold and +87% in units sold.

www.snowsports.org/SuppliersServiceProviders/Resources/PressReleases/SIAPressReleases/PressReleaseDetail/contentid/1548/

■ Skier visits increase +0.6% (Northeast +4.0%, Rocky Mountain +1.7%, Midwest +1.0%, Pacific Northwest +0.3%, Southeast -3.6%, Pacific Southwest -5.0%) from 59.8 million to 60.1 million visits (second best season ever only just below record of 60.5 million visits in 2007/08) for the 2010-11 season based on preliminary estimates from the National Ski Areas Association released May 2011.* This still represents a +4.1% increase over the 10 year season average annual skier visits (Pacific Northwest +7.0%, Northeast +5.3%, Southeast +4.8%, Rocky Mountain +4.0%, Midwest +2.2%, Pacific Southwest +2.0%). Overall snowfall was up 27% and was the highest recorded in 20 years of Kottke research (Pacific Southwest +43%, Northeast +37%, Rocky Mountain +31%, Midwest +26%, Pacific Northwest +9%, Southeast -42%). www.nsaa.org/nsaa-press/1011/kottke-2011-prelim.asp

*Note: Nearly a dozen ski areas were open on July 4th and had more than 50,000 visits on that one day alone. The late season resulted in a record breaking skier visit totals for the 2010-2011 season according to NSAA.

■ Women's ski jumping was finally approved by International Olympic Committee (IOC) Executive Board in April 2011 for the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi which will be the first gender-equal Winter Games in Olympic history after a seven year battle. IOC Sports Director, Christophe Dubi, said the increase in quality and depth in women's ski jumping from the 2009 World Championships to the 2011 Worlds was the main reason for approval of a women's event now. Forty-three athletes from 15 nations competed in Oslo in February at the 2011 World Championships in front of nearly 10,000 spectators compared to 36 athletes from 13 nations in Liberec, Czech Republic in 2009. Participation in women's ski jumping on the FIS Continental Cup increased to 182 women from 18 nations in 2010 from 83 women from 14 nations in 2006. The IOC also approved in April 2011, five other new events for Sochi 2014: freestyle ski halfpipe (men and ladies), biathlon mixed relay, figure skating team event, and luge team relay. Dubi said consideration of Olympic events inclusion "is driven

by remaining appealing and remaining relevant to what people do every weekend, especially the youth." www.wsjusa.com

■ International Olympic Committee (IOC) Executive Board approved slopestyle skiing, slopestyle snowboarding, and snowboarding parallel special slalom disciplines in July 2011 for 2014 Winter Games. IOC President Jacques Rogge said *"Such events provide great entertainment for the spectators and add further youthful appeal to our already action-packed lineup of Olympic winter sports."*



Yongpyong Resort was selected to host the 2018 Olympic Games. photo: Yongpyong Resort

■ Pyeong Chang, South Korea was selected by the International Olympic Committee in July 2011 to host the 2018 Olympic Winter Games. Locations include Yongpyong Resort (alpine skiing: slalom and giant slalom), Jungbong (alpine skiing: downhill, Super G and combined), Bokwang Phoenix Park (freestyle skiing and snowboard), and Alpensia Resort (ski jumping, nordic). Sochi, Russia is hosting the 2014 Olympic Winter Games.

■ Lindsey Vonn won Best Female Athlete ESPY (Excellence in Sport Performance Yearly) in July 2011 for the second straight year becoming the second ever back-to-back winner of Best Female Athlete ESPY (Annika Sorenstam won in 2005/2006). In 2010, Lindsey was first skier, male or female, to ever win the top ESPY Award which began in 1993 and to ever win the top AP Athlete of the Year Award which began in 1931. This is Vonn's 4th major 2011 recognition outside of alpine skiing. She also won the 2011 Laureus World Sport Award, 2011 Nickelodeon Kids Choice Award for Favorite Female Athlete, and 2011 Preis Herbert Award (public figure who has promoted the Alps region through their work in the media). These awards cap the 2011 season where Lindsey captured the following FIS Alpine World Cup season long titles: 4th downhill title, 3rd Super G title, 2nd super combined title, and was only three points (1725) from winning her

4th overall title from Maria Riesch of Germany (1728). She added eight FIS World Cup wins this season to reach a career total of 41 which ranks 5th all time among women and 1st all time for the U.S. list ahead of Bode Miller (32) and Phil Mahre (27). Vonn was also nominated for the 2011 Teen Choice Award for Best Female Athlete. Shaun White won the 2011 Best Male Action Sport Athlete ESPY. In January 2011 Lindsey Vonn was named U.S. Olympic Committee's SportsWoman of the Year for 2010 - the second consecutive year Vonn has earned this honor. The last female alpine skier to achieve this USOC SportsWoman of the Year honor was Vonn's childhood hero, Picabo Street, in 1998. Vonn is the first woman since track and field legend, Jackie Joyner Kersee, (1986-87) to win the award back-to-back.

■ Lindsey Vonn was named by the International Olympic Committee as the first ever Winter Youth Olympic Games Ambassador for the 2012 Winter Youth Olympic Games in Innsbruck, Austria to be held January 13-22, 2012. Vonn said *"I know the importance of strong role models. When I first met my hero, Picabo Street, it was a huge thrill and an unforgettable moment for me. She inspired me to become what I am today. If I can have even half that effect on some of the young athletes I come into contact with, it will be worth it. I'm really looking forward to it."*

Innsbruck 2012 is expected to attract over 1,000 top athletes aged 15-18 from about 70 countries competing in alpine (slalom and GS), cross country, freestyle (skicross and halfpipe) nordic combined, ski jumping and snowboarding (halfpipe and slopestyle). Athletes will also participate in a Culture and Education Programme (CEP) with activities providing guidance on topics such as Olympic values, the benefits of leading a healthy lifestyle, and the prevention of sports injuries. www.innsbruck2012.com.

■ Ted Ligety, USA won a gold medal in giant slalom at the World Championships at Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany in February 2011. This is the 4th World Championship GS gold medal ever for the U.S. and 2nd career World Championship medal for Ted Ligety (bronze medal in GS at Val d'Isere, France in 2009). He becomes the 6th American to win both Olympic and Worlds gold, joining Barbara-Ann Cochran, Phil Mahre, Picabo Street, Bode Miller and Lindsey Vonn. Ted also won his 3rd FIS World Cup giant slalom season long title in four years becoming the first American to win three World Cup GS titles and beating Phil Mahre's record (1983 & 1982 GS titles).

www.fis-ski.com/uk/604/613.html?type=biog&competitorid=35276§or=AL

■ Nolan Kasper, USA earned a slalom podium in a tie for 2nd place at Kranjska Gora, Slovenia in March 2011 and his first podium ever in five completed FIS World Cup races. Bode Miller in 2008 was the last U.S. male slalom podium and aside from Bode Miller and Ted Ligety, the last U.S. male to win a slalom podium was Felix McGrath in 1988. Nolan joins other American male slalom podium winners including Tyler Palmer, Bob Cochran, Rick Chaffee, Billy Kidd, Spider Sabich and Jimmie Heuga (1967-1972) plus Phil Mahre and Steve Mahre (late '70s and early 80s).

www.fis-ski.com/uk/604/613.html?type=biog&competitorid=105945§or=AL

■ Learn to Ski and Snowboard Month in January 2011 had extreme skier and snowsports ambassador, Glen Plake (three time World Hot Dog Ski Champion, Down Home Tour ambassador) plus Bode Miller (five Olympic medals, two overall World Cup titles, four discipline titles) as the national ambassadors who communicated the excitement and lifestyle benefits of snowsports participation and why it helps to take a lesson from a pro when starting out or trying to improve. Over 60,000 lessons were provided to adults and children as part of this initiative which also generated over \$4 million in general media coverage for snow sports. The theme was "Humans were never meant to hibernate" with the message "Bring a friend".

www.SkiAndSnowboardMonth.org

■ Volcom (snowboard, surf and skate apparel brands) of Costa Mesa, CA was purchased by PPR SA (French parent of Gucci and Puma brands) for \$607.5 million in May 2011 to be integrated into its Sport & Lifestyle Group. This price is a 7.5x multiple of Volcom's EBITDA (earnings before interest, depreciation and amortization).

■ U.S. Alpine Ski Team nominations for the 2011/2012 season were received in June 2011 by two of the 2010 FWSA Athletic Scholarship recipients - Keith Moffat of Berkeley, CA (C Team) and Lila Lapanja of Incline Village, NV (D Team).

■ Former all-state ski racer, Keegan Bradley, age 25, wins golf major (PGA Championship) on his first try in August 2011. Only two other golfers, Ben Curtis (2003) and Frances Ouimet (1913), have ever won a major on their first try. Keegan raced in Vermont as a young USSA racer in VARA and finished 3rd in GS as a high school junior at the 2003 Vermont alpine state championships when he attended Woodstock High School.

Safety Update

■ Helmet use increased to 60% of all skiers and riders (up 4 points from 56% in prior season) according to National Ski Areas Association National Demographic Study 2010/11 preliminary results released May 2011. In comparison, in the 2002/03 season, only 25% of all skiers and riders wore helmets and only 18% of young adults 18-24 wore helmets. Helmet usage by age group with point change vs. year ago: 91% (+5 points) of children under 10, 77% (+2 points) children 10-14, 74% (+3 points) adults +65, 48% (+5 points) young adults 18-24. www.nsaa.org/nsaa/press/1011/helmet-usage.pdf

■ Uvex Funride ski helmets were recalled in July 2011 due to insufficient shock absorption and resistance to penetration. The interior label on affected helmets has the code "S-58B" or "S-58C". For more info, contact Uvex at Swix Sport USA at (800) 343-8335 or visit www.uvex-sports.de/en/recall.

■ New Jersey became the first state in April 2011 to require helmets for children at ski resorts starting with the 2011-2012 season. Parents or supervising adults can be fined \$25 for the first offense and up to \$100 for subsequent offenses if the child under the age of 18 is not wearing a securely fitted protective helmet. The police are responsible for enforcement; not ski resort operators who are also protected from liability in connection with this new law. Geraldine Link (Director of Public Policy for the National Ski Areas Association) said *"It is the individual's responsibility to improve core safety. Go ahead and wear a helmet, but don't ski and ride differently. Act as if you're not wearing a helmet."*

■ CA Senate Bill 880 which requires helmets for children under 18, resorts to post informational signage, and fines up to \$25 on parents was approved by CA Senate in June 2010 and moved to CA State Assembly. CA Assembly Bill 1652 which requires helmets for children under 18, enforcement of the law by ski resorts, filing of annual safety plans and monthly reports about injuries and deaths was approved by CA State Assembly in June 2010 and moved to CA Senate. California Governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger, vetoed CA Assembly Bill 1652 and signed CA Senate Bill 880 in September 2010 which effectively killed the helmet initiative.

■ FIS approved major changes for alpine ski specifications (turn radius m / ski length cm) in July 2011 for the 2012/2013 season with men's world cup GS turn radius jumping from 27m to 40m and GS ski length (185 to 195cm) and women's world cup GS (23 to 35m / 180 to

188cm). Men's SG (33 to 45m / 205 to 210cm) and women's SG (33 to 40m / 200 to 205cm). Men's DH (45 to 50m / 215 to 218cm) and women's DH (45 to 50m / 210 to 215cm). No change for SL. www.fis-ski.com/data/document/specifications-ski-length-radius-profile-width-standing-height-final.pdf

■ Two Canadian snowboarders (25 year old Kyle William Veith of Banff, Alberta and Colin Mathew Mansell of London, Ontario) were fined C\$297 each by the RCMP for crossing a closure rope into Sunshine Village's Wild West area where they triggered an avalanche in 2/11.

■ FIS signed a memorandum of understanding in January 2011 with body protection manufacturer Dianese to investigate the potential of air bag technology for skiing.

■ FIS safety research project managed by University of Salzburg in Austria focuses on three of five main injury risk factors for alpine ski racing - snow conditions, course setting/speed, and equipment (combination of ski, binding, plate and boot) as part of FIS Injury Surveillance System (launched in 2006). Forerunners at ten world cup events as of February 2011 were equipped with GPS devices and sensors to evaluate impact of course setting and snow conditions. Also a FIS equipment safety project is developing special ski prototypes with testing underway of downhill and giant slalom skis.

Taxation/Insurance/Risk Management Update

■ All tax exempt organizations are required to file an annual return 990; or for those that qualify, an electronic notice 990-N, to avoid the automatic revocation of tax exempt status for organizations that fail to file for three consecutive years. May 17, 2010 deadline imposed by Pension Protection Act of 2006 which effectively required filing by almost all tax exempt organizations through the elimination of the old minimum annual revenue requirement for filing of \$25,000. IRS Commissioner, Doug Shulman, said that the IRS will be providing additional guidance on how it will help these organizations maintain their important tax-exempt status – even if they missed the May 17 deadline. IRS Commissioner Shulman urged these organizations to go ahead and file – even though the May 17 deadline has passed.

Check with your club treasurer about club's filing status or look up your club in the form 990 online databases such as guidestar.org or <http://nccsdataweb.urban.org/PubApps/990search.php/990search.php>. Please note that it may take many months or longer for the 990 forms to

show up in these databases and the databases are not always comprehensive.

www.irs.ustreas.gov/charities/index.html

Transportation Update

Consult Checked Baggage Policy sections of airline websites for further details and Airline Baggage Rules article in Travel Section of the www.fwsa.org website.

■ American Eagle Airlines added daily, nonstop seasonal service to Aspen, CO from both Dallas, TX and Los Angeles, CA during the ski season 12/15/11-4/2/12; and summer season 6/14-8/20/12. In the fall of 2010, United Airlines announced a second daily nonstop flight from San Francisco, CA.

■ Continental Airlines added new winter service to Gunnison-Crested Butte, CO from Houston, TX for the 2010-2011 season.

History Update

■ The U.S. Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame Class of 2010 inductees named in November 2010 with induction ceremony held in April 2011 at Sun Valley, ID. Daron Rahlves (world champion ski racer with nine downhill victories, the most decorated U.S. downhiller), Glen Plake (skiing legend with three World Hot Dog Ski Championships), Shane McConkey (Big Mountain freeskiier, inventor of Spatula and Pontoon skis), Muffy Davis (paralympic medalist and world champion), Bobby Cochran (Olympian from Vermont, 1st male U.S. skier to win a World Cup GS), and Earl Holding (resort builder – Sun Valley, ID and Snowbasin, UT).

■ The 150th Anniversary of the first organized ski races and ski club in America (Plumas Ski Club) was celebrated in March 2011 with the Historic Longboard Revival Series races held at Eureka Bowl at Plumas Eureka State Park in Johnsville, CA. Video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=TLxCTv7igz4. Photos at www.plumasskiclub.org.

■ The 8th Annual Vermont Antique Ski Race benefit was held at Suicide Six Resort in Woodstock, VT on 2/13/11. It's a benefit for the Vermont Ski Museum where past celebrities have included over 35 Olympians and U.S. Ski Team members competing with the general public in Strictly Vintage, Woodies, and Metal/Fiberglass divisions. All skis were from 1975 or before. <http://rutlandherald.mycapture.com/mycapture/folder.asp?event=1173022&CategoryID=45374> <http://retro-skiing.com/2011/02/8th-annual-antique-ski-race/> ▲▲



Hi, this is Steve Bellamy, the CEO of The Ski Channel television network. We have been on the air for 3 years and are in approximately 45 million US households. You can find us in the on demand section of every major television provider including Comcast, DirecTV, Time Warner, Charter, Cox, Cablevision, Verizon FiOS and AT&T U-Verse.

We have a very simple mission - to get more people skiing and riding! We do that by broadcasting incredible films, shows, events and programming on television. Through the most sophisticated website in the industry - www.theskichannel.com - we report the most up to the minute news, information, resort, weather data, and content about the mountain sports we all love.

We also promote the mission through our Ski Channel Film Tour that starts in the fall and goes across the country and all over the world. Last year's film "The Story" starred Bode Miller, Lindsey Vonn, Chris Davenport, Mike Douglas, Bobby Brown, Stephani Victor and numerous other stars of skiing and mountain sports. We are proud to announce that film has now won 12 film festivals including Canada, Mexico, Amsterdam and most recently the Las Vegas Film Festival.

This year's film "Winter" again features a who's who of mountain sport icons and characters including Ted Ligety, Simon Dumont, the Mahre family, Sean Pettit and Sarah Burke. The film's music is from the legendary rock band Bush. Much like "The Story" last year, "Winter" will be an unbelievable thrill ride that will have you in disbelief, in awe, and invigorated to hit the slopes!

The Ski Channel is more of a cause than a business. It is a 24-hour a day infomercial for the sports we all love. Keep it on all day! Keep the website open all day! Please check out the latest film when it comes to your town! And tell all your friends to do the same! Thanks and hope to see you on the slopes!

Sincerely,

Steve Bellamy
CEO & Founder
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BERND RITSCHER & THE BAVARIAN ALPS

by Jimmy Petterson



***Bernd Ritschal
is one of the top
-mountain photo-
graphers in the
world.***

I pulled off the Garmisch-Partenkirchen Autobahn, and pointed my Jeep toward the little Bavarian village of Kochel am See, the home of Bernd Ritschel. Bernd is a colleague of mine—a fellow photographer—and he had promised to show me around on skis in his little corner of the world.

To have Bernd Ritschel as a guide in the Bavarian Alps is like having Winston Churchill show you around 10 Downing Street or Beethoven give you music lessons.

Bernd's early connection with the mountains of his native Germany, and many other ranges, came from his climbing. Climbing is still his first love, but he has also spent the last fifteen years or so photographing most of the mountains of the world. He and his camera have visited 65 different nations, almost always with the purpose of photographing the most prodigious peaks of those lands. But, there is no part of the world with which he is more familiar than the Alps around his hometown. Who can photograph them from more different, unusual and odd angles than a climber? Nobody! So, it was with no small amount of anticipation that I pulled up to the home of Bernd and his wife, Ela.

***Garmisch-Partenkirchen Ski Area
is the crème de la crème of German
ski resorts. Pictured is the Zugspitze,
Germany's highest point. Most of the
ski area is above treeline. Its open
bowls and faces make it a favorite
for freeriders, including Bernd as
he locates some fresh powder.***

photos by Jimmy Petterson



Bernd enjoys the panoramic view over the Bavarian peaks.

A quick tour around Bernd's home left no doubt about his vocation and his avocation. His cellar served as his mountain equipment warehouse. One wall was home to a dozen pairs of downhill skis, one pair of telemark skis, two pairs of cross-country boards and an odd set of 130-centimeter-long skis used for winter mountaineering. This gear was complemented by fifteen pairs of ski poles, twelve backpacks of various shapes and sizes, 25 pairs of ski boots, eight pairs of snowshoes, four sets of crampons and five ice axes.

Whereas his large cellar was adequate for all of Bernd's mountain equipment, it took two full rooms of his house to accommodate his photography gear. Bernd's family includes thirteen different cameras, 29 lenses, and nineteen camera bags and rucksacks. By the time you read this article, it will certainly have grown beyond that. Alongside all his equipment are 140,000 slides—neat and well-ordered.

Ela is not left out of the loop. She keeps very busy working on layouts for much of Bernd's work, which so far has included 23 books composed solely of his own photos and 50 additional books to which he has contributed photos. Keeping track of the number of magazines, newspapers, advertising brochures and other publications in which Bernd's work has appeared is beyond his com-

puting skills. Suffice it to say that there are few photographers in the world who have been more industrious and productive in the field of mountain photography than my host, and I felt honored to be his guest.

When I first contacted Bernd, asking him for advice about skiing in Germany, he merely said, "*Come down to me—I will show you the best skiing my country has to offer.*"

Our first day, Bernd drove us to nearby Garmisch-Partenkirchen, his favorite German ski resort. Garmisch is the German equivalent of Chamonix in France, St. Anton in Austria or Cortina in Italy. It is the grandfather of German skiing, a ski location treated with reverence by even the most atheistic of the New Age snowsports culture. Besides having hosted the Winter Olympic Games in Hitler's day, Garmisch is the annual venue for the famous January 1 ski-jumping competition, still held on the same jumping hill that was built for those Olympic games.

The ski areas that make up the Garmisch region include the Hausberg, Kreuzneck, Eckbauer, Wank and Zugspitze, Germany's highest mountain. While all five of these lift systems provide reasonably good skiing, the Zugspitze rises head and shoulders above its neighbors in altitude, as well as stature. It was not surprising, then, that Bernd chose to show me this spectacular peak.



The charming village of Mittenwald is located approximately 16 kilometers to the southeast of Garmisch-Partenkirchen. It is situated in the Valley of the River Isar; on the northern foothills of the Alps. It is famous for the manufacturing of violins, violas and cellos. The newly renovated Violin Museum has a priceless collection. The most significant landmark is the church of Saints Peter and Paul towering over the landscape. Surrounding buildings, decorated with elaborate fresco paintings on the exterior walls makes this historic upper Bavarian village a tourist's treasure.

It is hard to avoid all the historical aspects of the Zugspitze. One can access the mountain by three different means, and two of the three are also quite old. The Tiroler Zugspitzbahn, which ascends from the Austrian side, was the first method of reaching the Zugspitze, having been originally constructed in 1926.

Shortly thereafter, in 1930, a cog wheel train up the mountain from Germany was completed, and in 1963, the 46-passenger Eibsee Seilbahn gave a third option for ascending Germany's highest peak.

Garmisch, however, has not attempted to rest on its laurels and be satisfied to serve as a ski-history museum. It has definitely kept up with the times, offering one of the best halfpipes and terrain parks in the Alps. With the help of one of Germany's three glaciers, the Schneeferner, the season here ordinarily lasts until the end of June, and the end of the season is nowadays well known for its large snowboard camps.

We rode up the spectacular Eibsee Cable Car, which rises 1950 meters up the ominous looking north face of the mountain. From the top, I took a few minutes to admire the scenery from the large lookout platform. Directly below, the Eibsee lay frozen in the morning shade. Beyond the lake to the south, the Alps peter out into flat farmland, while the Zugspitze rises dramatically above its pastoral surroundings.

Bernd and I turned toward the ski area and scouted the slopes with our eyes. Most of the region is comprised of blue and red pistes that are perfectly suited to high-speed cruising, but we also noticed a nice slope of powder with plenty of virgin lines still available. This was surprising to me because there had been no new snow for the past five days.

We traversed high from the Weisses Tal Lift. If one dared to peer over the cliffs on the back side of the mountain, one was afforded a view straight down onto the Seefeld ski region of Austria. We skied the old powder and cruised some runs on the well-prepared pistes to warm up.

Riding on the lift in between runs, Bernd told me more about his life as a photographer. He shoots between 1000 and 1500 rolls of film in an average year, and keeps only 25–30 percent of the images. His photos cover the gamut of mountain activities including skiing, touring, snowshoeing, mountain biking, ice climbing, rock climbing and mountaineering. Although the mountaineering photos have the lowest marketability, it is that endeavor that Bernd prefers over all others.

"I could earn twice as much money shooting

golf and keep my fingers warm to boot, but that is not where my heart is," explained Bernd. *"As a fashion photographer, I could earn three times the money, but the mountains are my world."*

Despite the fact that he could earn even more money in other branches of photography, he has received as much as 4000 Euros for a photo—not too bad for doing what one enjoys.

As we arrived at the top of the lift, the mountain goat emerged in Bernd. He had seen a few tracks snaked into the snow high above us. He led me over to a staircase of boot notches etched into the snow and began to ascend. There was nothing for me to do but follow.

The hike was no more than a few hundred meters long, but most of it was very steep. It was more of a ladder than a staircase. While the snow we were heading toward for our descent was soft and powdery, the route up had a somewhat different exposure, and was rather firm. A misstep here would be equivalent to an ignominious and potentially painful tumble back to our starting point. To make matters worse, whoever had created this stepladder had a much larger leg span than I, so the steps were spaced too far apart for me. I found myself having to kick a fair number of new toeholds into the snow pack.

While I struggled around the halfway mark, my companion had almost reached the top. For Bernd, of course, this was a walk in the park, while it looked like the last leg of Everest to my unfit body.

Finally, we both arrived at the top, traversed into the sun and were ready to match the nice pair of tracks that had lured us onto this slope. Here too, on the way down, I was no match for Bernd. He laid a set of turns into the snow that one could look back at and admire. I, on the other hand, was doing my first real skiing of the winter, and had not yet found my 'ski legs'. I would have liked to have an eraser to delete my tracks from the landscape, but that would have to wait for the next dump of snow.

Bernd pointed out the start of the Gatterl descent, a south-facing route that finishes in the village of Ehrwald, over 1800 vertical meters of skiing. He also spoke of the Fenster Riffelriss, a seldom-skied run from the middle station of the cog wheeled train back to the village.

"Oh, and over there is where one begins the Neue Welt (New World) descent," Bernd added, pointing to the west. *"Now that run is really interesting,"* he said with a twinkle in his eye. *"It includes a mandatory rappel and has numerous sections of 45 degrees or more, but it is too danger-*



This interesting structure can be found high up on the Zugspitze.

ous at this time of year. Normally, one only skis Neue Welt during the spring, in corn snow."

Such excursions and endeavors would have to wait for another time, and considering my current condition, I was relieved. Bernd, however, still had an ace up his sleeve for the following day. On tap was a visit to the village of Mittenwald and the Dammkar run, where Bernd and I were joined by one of his buddies, mountain guide Christof Schellhammer.

Both Mittenwald and the Dammkar are strange places that exist in a bizarre time warp. They are anachronisms, but although they co-exist side by side, they are rooted in different centuries from each other.

Mittenwald is a Hansel and Gretel village pulled right out of a 17th century fairy tale. Narrow, cobblestone streets wind their way among ancient houses, most of which have murals depicting medieval life painted on their walls. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Germany's most prolific writer, referred to Mittenwald as a "living picture book" way back in 1786, and the village has not lost any of its charm since then.



Don't be intimidated. Although most of the terrain shown in this article is steep, Garmisch offers other areas for all ski / snowboard abilities.

The town is home to a lovely baroque church, and it has been famous for its violins ever since Matthias Klotz started a violin-building tradition way back in the 1600s. In the following century, Klotz's nephew is said to have made Mozarts concert violin here. Still today, one can see the craftsmen in their little workshops and at Mittenwald's 140-year-old violin-builders school, turning out beautiful string instruments of all sizes.

The Dammkar is also a relic of a bygone era, but its ski history goes back only as far as the last century. After World War II, it became extremely popular among the Bavarians to hike up to the top of the Dammkar and ski back down. It is hard to imagine why this particular mountain became the goal of the local skiers, as it is extremely steep and does not lend itself very well to touring. A Sunday outing on the Dammkar was definitely no stroll in the park.

Be that as it may, skiing the Dammkar became so popular that on given days as many as 500 skiers hiked up the 1300 vertical meters to the top. The long snake of people known as the Dammkar Wurm (Dammkar worm) zig-

zagged back and forth up the mountain on a regular basis every winter for about twenty years. Then, in 1966, the worm died a merciful death, as the Karwendelbahn was completed, rendering the hike no longer necessary.

For the rest of the century, the Dammkar attempted to compete head-to-head with the growing number of ski resorts in the Alps, without much success. After all, a mountain offering one steep and difficult descent is no match for the many larger resorts that abound in the Alps. What had flourished as a unique mountaineers' peak had transformed itself into a lift-accessed mountain with very little to offer ordinary skiers.

At the outset of the new century, however, the Dammkar took a step backward to move into the future. It trashed its winch-drawn piste machine that had attempted, with great difficulty, to keep a vague semblance of a piste prepared on this rather extreme mountain, and turned the area into a freeride mountain. Similar to La Grave in France and Alagna in Italy, the Dammkar would henceforth offer a skiing experience imported from a previous era.

It was early in the season, and the rocky mountain had not accumulated enough of a base on the lower regions to open for the season, but my local friends had the connections to get us up the mountain in spite of the minimum snow cover. As we emerged from the cable car at the top, we proceeded for a ways through a long tunnel. This feature had been added to the top station in 1977, after numerous people had plummeted to their death on the initial traverse during the first years of the cable car's operation.

The current entry and beginning of the descent was also no piece of cake, but at least it avoided the treacherous traverse above exposed cliffs that had sealed the fate of a number of skiers in the '60s and '70s. There was no shortage of snow at 2244 meters, where we began trying to negotiate some difficult wind crust.

Soon, we dropped below the wind-exposed section of mountain and were greeted by fresh powder. Our bodies shifted into a smooth, rhythmic, bouncing motion. The scenery was stunning. The mountain was reminiscent of the Dolomites, as dramatic, sheer rock faces stretched upward from the rather narrow valley in which we skied. I could understand what had drawn enthusiasts from all over Bavaria to make this arduous ascent so many winters ago.

I came away from my Bavarian weekend having experienced two new mountains and having made one new friend. Bernd and I had found much common ground in our few days together—skiing, mountains and photography. Bernd had shared his favorite slice of the Bavarian Alps with me, and I came away with a clear comprehension of why my new friend photographs mountain activities and leaves the more profitable golf photography to someone else.

That someone else would not be me. I may never earn anything close to 4000 Euros for one of my ski photos, but there is no higher salary than the mere opportunity to work with something you love. ▲▲

NOTE: The 2013 International Ski Week will offer a pre-trip to Garmisch, Germany.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Jimmy Petterson is an American, educated at USC, graduated cum laude with a Bachelor's degree in history, a Teaching Credential, and a Master's degree in Instruction and Curriculum. Instead of teaching, he has spent most of the last 37 years as a ski bum, during which time he has skied more than 450 ski resorts. As a ski writer and photographer, he has produced 37 magazine front covers and more than 400 published ski features.

Jimmy has skied in 58 countries during his search for ski nirvana, and his work has been published in seventeen of those nations. In late 2005, he finished a mammoth project combining his ski adventures into a 440-page, 600-photo, coffee-table book called *Skiing Around the World*. This book has earned him both the 2006 Bill Berry Award for "outstanding contributions to skiing by the media"

given out by the Far West Ski Association, and the 2006 Harold S. Hirsch Award for excellence in snowsports journalism, awarded by the North American Snowsports Journalists Association (NASJA).

Shortly thereafter, Jimmy combined efforts with Finnish adventure-sports cinematographer and producer Ari Heinilä to create a 6-part TV series called *Raider of the Lost Snow*. The series was presented on Finland's MTV3 in 2007-2008, on Norway's TV2 in 2008, and is currently being shown in more than 75 countries on The Travel Channel (www.travelchannel.co.uk/seriesinfo.asp?series=Raider+Of+The+Lost+Snow&ID=1324). The series also received the Hirsch Award, as well as the Far West Ski Association Warren Miller Modern Media Award, given for outstanding service to skiing by the film, television, radio, and electronic media.

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FWSA Has a Facebook Page

If you are a member of Facebook you can receive up-to-date information on all Far West trips; publications like *The Councilman*, *Far West Skier's Guide*, monthly newsletters; Far West racing, Far West member benefits, the Annual FWSA Convention, and much more. Check out all the recently updated Far West 2012 travel flyers to Jackson Hole, Big White, Chamonix/Mont-Blanc, Morocco and the Panama Canal cruise.

Members of Facebook can type in "Far West Ski Association" in their Facebook search bar. Then click "Like". Don't miss out. Do it today!



TOP: Ski clubs are active throughout the year. Phoenix Ski Club members rafted down the nearby Salt River. **LOWER:** Arizona Council members participated in spring skiing at the festive Surf the Rockies event at Telluride Ski Resort.

Arizona Ski Council

by Mike Rogers, President

Networking to Maximize Fun

The expansion of social networking has reached new heights within the Arizona Ski Council. Development of a variety of activities during the non-skiing months has drawn numerous people together from all the clubs. The program provided numerous happy hours throughout the greater Phoenix area, the Flagstaff Beer and Wine Festival, Wine Tours and dinners.

The workup to this year's ski season was lead by the Sailing Adventures Club with two sailing trips. September had members from various clubs sailing from Newport to Nantucket and back over seven days. November had a group of members sailing around the Grenadines in the Caribbean. In addition, the Arizona Outdoor and Travel Club offers hikes almost every day of the week to help build the leg strength. The networking between the clubs is reflecting in major gains and experiences for club members.

Ski trips this year include Telluride, Taos, South Lake Tahoe, Snowmass, Alta, Snowbird, Brighton, Solitude, and Winter Park. For those who can't get vacation days, weekend get aways to Mt. Bachelor, Brain Head, Taos, or Snowbasin/Powder Mountain are also being planned.

Summer events are being planned to cover a number of cultural and relaxing venues, mostly on weekends. For the 2011-12 season, the Arizona Council presents a comprehensive ski trip calendar and other social events open to all members.



photos provided by Mike Rogers

The annual Welcome in the Snow Kick-Off Party will be at North Mountain Park, November 5 from 3 PM to 6 PM. It is a BBQ event bringing all clubs together to greet in the 2011-12 season. Additional pre-ski activities include three Warren Miller showings in late fall, with the ski clubs present to hand out the *Far West Skier's Guide*.

The Arizona Ski Council clubs demonstrate their philanthropy talents in supporting numerous non-profit events. The Phoenix Ski Club each year provides several donations to the Shoe Box Ministry which helps the homeless. Both the Phoenix and Scottsdale Ski Clubs sponsor Adopt-a-Highway. All the clubs are active in Toys for Tots, the Arizona Food Bank, and Children's Hospital, to name just a few.

We're looking forward to seeing you on the slopes or at any of our other events!

Ski Week participants went helicopter skiing on the slopes above Sun Valley.



Arizona Ski Council

www.arizonaskicouncil.org

President: Mike Rogers

925-360-4052

President@arizonaskicouncil.org

Arizona Ski and Social Clubs

Member Clubs and Contact Information

ARIZONA OUTDOOR & TRAVEL CLUB

www.azoutdoortravelclub.com

President: Dan Rothman

(480) 991-1647

dwrr1@yahoo.com

BOEING EMPLOYEES ADVENTURE CLUB

www.boeing.com/companyoffices/aboutus/recreation/mesa.html

Club Representative: Janice Roedel

janice.c.roedel@Boeing.com

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www.evskiclub.org

President: Greg Shaffer

480-940-4876

602-568-1663

gregsphx@cox.net

PARTY TIME SPORTS

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602-799-3062

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PHOENIX SKI CLUB

www.phxski.org

President: Bill Behnke

pjc2002@cox.net

SAILING ADVENTURES

<http://sailingadventureclub.org/home.asp>

Commodore: Ralph Morgan

rhmorgan@oco.net

SCOTTSDALE SKI & SOCIAL CLUB

www.scottsdale-skiclub.com

President: Beverly Giardino

president@scottsdale-skiclub.com

Bay Area Snow Sports Council

by Dennis Heffley President

The Bay Area Snow Sports Council (www.skibac.org) is a very active part of the Far West Ski Association (www.fwsa.org) and the National Ski Council Federation (www.skifederation.org). This past year, both of our Race Leagues in the BAC were Champions at the Far West level.

While our Racing Leagues - skiers and snowboarders - are an active part of the Bay Area Snow Sports Council (BAC), it is NOT our entire focus. Our focus is "Having Fun!" One might ask, "who should join a BAC club?" A very simple answer - YOU!

The variety of trips available through the BAC to go skiing, snowboarding, snow shoeing, cross country skiing, as well as, non skiing activities can be found within our various club trips, council trips and Far West trips. The locations include many Tahoe venues, other 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 anytime during the winter!

The BAC has 30 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 Singles League is made up of five clubs with their full members being over 21 years of age. Our Open League has twenty-five clubs and welcomes individuals, couples, families and their children! Both of our leagues have a very active recreational racing program, and we bring everyone together for the annual NorCal Championships and Far West Championships.

Then, there is the social aspect of all of our 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 - including Antarctica!

Another wonderful part of the BAC clubs and our members is how we volunteer our time and energy through community outreach and fund raising. Our main benefactor is Disabled Sports USA (DSUSA). We have many annual events with our largest fundraiser being the BAC - DSUSA Ski-For-All benefiting the Adaptive Ski School at Alpine Meadows Ski Resort. Over the years, we have raised over \$350,000 for the program!

On August 20, 2011, we held our 6th An-



Some of the participants on the 2011 FWSA International Ski Week to Switzerland gathered to enjoy a mountain-top lunch. photo provided by Mary Azevedo

nual BAC / DSUSA Oakland A's Baseball Game, Tailgate BBQ and Fireworks event. Members of the BAC, their friends and family had a great night. Thank you to the Oakland A's Baseball organization for supporting our efforts!

The history of the Bay Area Snow Sports Council is just as amazing as what is taking place today. In late 1940, the Bay Area Ski Federation was organized "For the Welfare of Bay Area Skiers" and voted to join Far West Ski Association as the Bay Area Council (BAC) of 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!

The Singles League portion of the BAC holds an Annual Snow Ball in November to celebrate the coming winter sports season. This year, we are having our 37th Anniversary of this gala event! The evening consists of a wonderful black tie optional dinner and dance along with a silent auction and an amazing raffle. Our auction and raffle would not be possible without the tremendous support that we receive from the ski industry and resorts!

We, 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 places to ski and snowboard is a true gift.

Our Recreational Race Schedules for 2011 - 2012 will be featuring Alpine Meadows, Sugar Bowl, Northstar-at-Tahoe and Squaw Valley! The Far West Championships will be held at Mammoth Mountain Ski Resort! Become one of our "racers" and 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!*

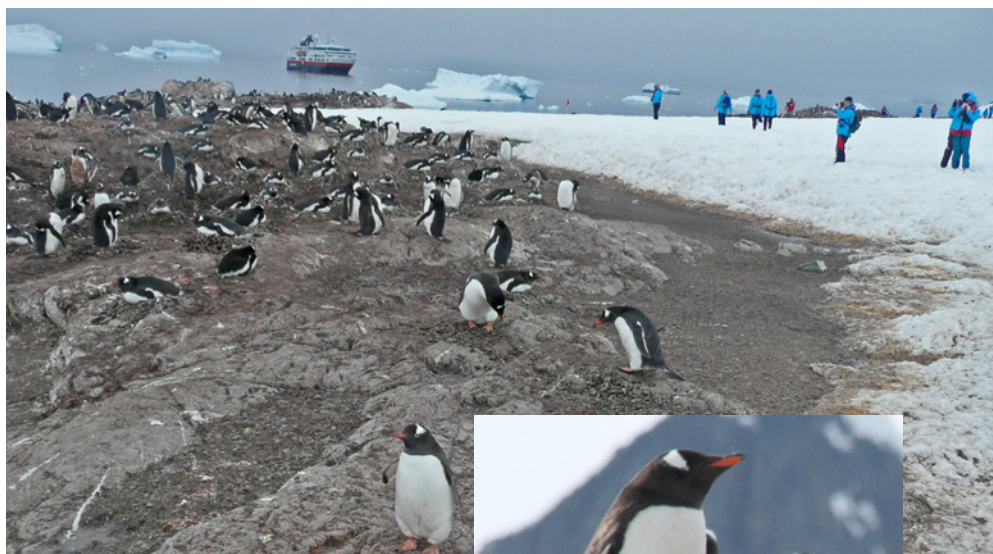
In our continued efforts to share information with our BAC members, we have a monthly BAC general meeting where we welcome and look forward to having guest speakers who talk about their resorts, products and/or travel opportunities. This year, we are also putting a great deal of energy into sharing information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

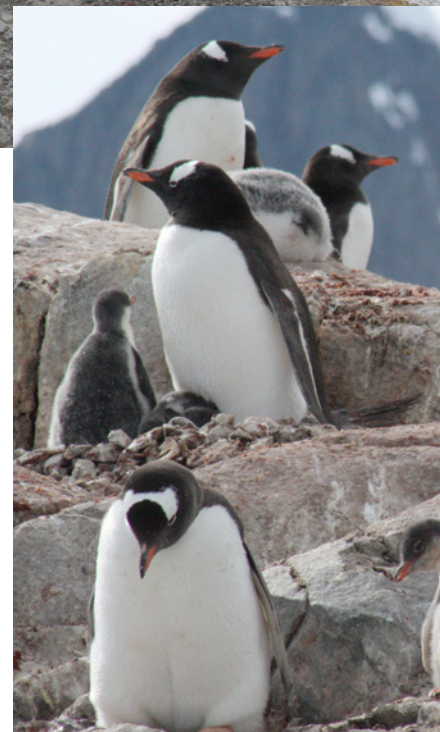
To our members, clubs and those who donate and support our efforts, I always like to say . . . "Thank You For Being The One Who Makes The Difference!"



Squaw Valley / Keoki-Flagg



LEFT: Take a plunge after a day of skiing at Squaw Valley, or just relax at High Camp. ABOVE: The penguins were an attraction for those on the FWSA adventure trip to the Antarctic. photos provided by Mary Azevedo



► **Bay Area Snow Sports Council**
www.askibac.org
 President: Dennis Heffley
 925-825-3262
bac.president@skibac.org

► **Bay Area Snow Sport Council**
Ski and Social Clubs
Member Clubs and Contact Information

ALL SEASONS SKI CLUB

www.asscskiclub.org
 President: Gary Garrett
 209-477-0521
Slim2700@hotmail.com

ALPINEER SKI CLUB

President: Lisa Wong
 510-868-6355
alpineerclub@comcast.net

APRES AKI CLUB

www.apres.org
 President: Ed Martin
 408-245-3024
edatsunnyvale@yahoo.com

BERKELEY SKI CLUB

www.berkeleyskiclub.org
 President: Rosemary Johnson
 510-245-9735
president@berkeleyskiclub.org

BLADERUNNERS SKI & SPORT CLUB

Lockheed Martin Employee's
 President: Monique Huygen
 408-946-4676
monique.g.huygen@lmco.com

BOTA BAGGERS SKI CLUB

www.jaws.com/botabaggers
 President: Bob Ellis
 530-414-4270
rellis9681@aol.com

CARMEL SKI CLUB

www.carmelski.org
 President: Stephanie Pintar
 831-601-3227
splintar@mindspring.com

CASTRO VALLEY SKI CLUB

www.cvskiclub.org
 President: Karen Wehrman
 510-538-2872
kwehrman@comcast.net

CISCO SKI CLUB

Cisco Employee's
 President: Dana Gauthier
 408-527-4862
dagauthie@cisco.com

FIRE & ICE SKI CLUB

www.fireandiceskiclub.net
 President: Marcelle Nichols
 408-263-8613
mrnichols215@sbcglobal.net

FREESTYLERS SKI CLUB

www.freestylersskiclub.com
 President: Wally Baumgartner
 916-744-1231
kcoffee1@frontiernet.net

INSKIERS SKI AND SNOWBORAD CLUB

www.inskiers.com
 President: Ed Pease
Eddel4329@aol.com

MARIN SKI CLUB

www.marinskiclub.com
 President: John Mouraille
 707-645-1915
johnmori2001@yahoo.com

MODESTO SKI CLUB

www.modestoskiclub.com
 President: Debra Clover
 209-613-3410
dlbrace@aol.com

MONTEREY SKI & SOCIAL CLUB

www.montereyskiclub.org
 President: Greg Robinson
 831-384-3964
gregrobi@ix.netcom.com



There is no age limit on boarding and skiing. Ron White, boarder, 75 years young, Castro Valley Ski Club and John Woodward, skier, 96 years young from the 90+ Ski Club, wait for the shuttle in Sun Valley at the 2011 Far West Ski Week. photo: Jane Wyckoff



Plans are underway to transform Homewood Mountain Resort from a local day ski gem with dynamic vistas to a year around boutique destination resort which will help revitalize the west shore of Lake Tahoe.

photo courtesy of Homewood Resort / Rachel Woods, photographer

NISEI SKI CLUB

www.niseiskiclub.org

President: *Morgan Hua*

408-242-6981

president@niseiskiclub.org

NORTH BAY SNOWONDERS

President: *Mary Redfern*

415-507-1510

themnmns@earthlink.net

OAKLAND SKI CLUB

www.oaklandskiclub.com

President: *Leslie Blaney*

510-530-8452

leslieblaney@yahoo.com

PENINSULA SKI CLUB

www.peninsulaskiclub.org

President: *Steve Heidger*

408-893-8035

sheidgere@sbcglobal.net

RUSTY BINDINGS

www.rustybindings.com

President: *Bob Campbell*

925-819-0848

bobbelfixit@gmail.com

SAN FRANCISCO SKI CLUB

www.sfskiclub.org

President: *Judy Shulman*

415-731-1670

judyshulman@hotmail.com

SAN FRANCISCO VIKING SKI CLUB

www.sfvikingskiclub.org

President: *Paul Thompson*

510-759-5896

paul@pthompson.com

SNO*FLAKES SKI CLUB

www.skisnowflakes.org

President: *Roy Braley*

925-516-7815

rebraley@earthlink.net

SNOW DRIFTERS SKI CLUB

www.snowdrifter.org

President: *Pamela Stewart*

719-331-2214

pilottsa@mac.com

SNOWCHASERS SKI CLUB

www.snowchasers.org

President: *Mary Azevedo*

maryliz4@sbcglobal.net

SNOW MORE SKI & BOARD CLUB

www.snowmore.org

President: *Cheryl Lawson*

925-998-0609

cheryllawson@comcast.net

SOUTHBAY SKI CLUB

www.southbayclub.org

President: *Terry Stoker*

650-283-0365

tstok20@yahoo.com

SUNBURST SKI CLUB

www.sunburstskiclub.org

President: *Sue Kane*

650-921-7223

matissesue@yahoo.com

SUNDANCER SKI CLUB

www.sundancerskiclub.com

President: *Dan Elliot, Jr*

408-559-7589

danjr27@comcast.net

THE OLYMPIC CLUB

Private - Member Sponsored

President: *Garry Lion*

415-383-1338

Garry@LionAssociates.com

TOP OF THE HILL GANG

www.ggtothg.org

President: *Norman Glickman*

530-906-4328

normangtothg@yahoo.com



Heavenly photo courtesy of Vail Resorts

Central Council of California

by Fran Long, President

Councils serve different purposes for different clubs. Large clubs often have their own travel programs, insurance, etc. and feel they really don't need councils. Smaller clubs rely on their councils more heavily for travel options, weekend ski trips, etc. For all clubs, councils offer information and options. The individual clubs choose how much of the information filters down to their members, and how many of those options they want made available to the membership. At a minimum, most clubs offer their members the benefits made available by the council, Far West Ski Association, and the National Ski Council Federation. If you are a club member, and you haven't heard about the benefits and options available to you, inquire at your next meeting, or contact your council president or membership person directly.

Central Council is typical of many councils throughout the western United States. The council serves both large and small clubs throughout the central California area. The larger clubs in Santa Barbara, Fresno, and San Luis Obispo have excellent ski travel programs and a variety of summer options available to their members. For those clubs, Central Council is a broker of information, with a few members from each of those areas opting for a council or FWSA trip in addition to what their club is offering. The smaller clubs in Bakersfield, Exeter, and Salinas rely on council and FWSA organized ski and travel programs more heavily.

Central Council sponsors four main events every year. An early weekend of skiing at Mammoth Mountain kicks off the ski season each year. The council also sponsors the FWSA North American Ski Week held the end of January or first of February each year. In addition, there are two council-sponsored summer events: a camping weekend and leisurely float trip, and a fun-filled, fund raising weekend at the Salinas Air Show.

With only six clubs, we are a small council where it is easy to get to know everyone. Check us out as a stranger and plan to leave with many life-long friends. Basic information is located on the website: www.centralcouncilskiclubs.org, and more detailed information can be received by contacting those in charge of the events you will find on the website.



Rest and relax in the warm Utah sun.

photo courtesy of the Park City Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau

Central Council of California

www.centralcouncilskiclubs.org

President: Fran Long

805-238-1375

fancat2007@sbcglobal.net

Central Council of California

Member Clubs and Contact Information

AVALANCHE SKI AND SPORTS CLUB

Serving Bakersfield, Kern County

Website: www.centralcouncilskiclubs.org

Contact: Donna Barnes, President

dbarnes@bakersfieldcityus

Club Hotline: N/A

CAMBER SKI CLUB

Serving the Salinas Valley, Monterey County

Website: www.centralcouncilskiclubs.org

Contact: Jayne Camic, Ski Trips/

Activities Director

camicski@aol.com

Club Hotline: 831-443-8435

FRESNO SKI CLUB

Serving Fresno County

Website: www.fresnoskiclub.com

Contact: Scott Knutson, President

president@fresnoskiclub.com

Club Hotline: info@fresnoskiclub.com

Nordic skiing is available at Mammoth's Tamarack Cross Country Resort

photo courtesy of Mammoth Mountain

SANTA BARBARA SKI AND SPORTS CLUB

Serving Santa Barbara County

Website: www.sbski.org

Contact: Dennis Forster, President

president@sbski.org

Club Hotline: 805-895-9697

SLO SKIERS

A Ski Sport and Social Club

Serving San Luis Obispo, Southern Monterey,

and Northern Santa Barbara Counties

Website: www.sloskiers.org

Contact: Hal Rosewall, President

president@sloskiers.org



Banff National Park is home to Mt. Norquay, Sunshine Village and Lake Louise, which combined offer almost 8,000 skiable acres. photo: Sunshine Village / Dave Duncan, photographer



The First Annual Summer Adventure Trip to Mammoth Mountain was enjoyed by all who attended. Camp or condos: there is plenty to do for the entire family. Next summer, the trip will be extended to a full week, since there is so much to do in the summer at the resorts. If you can't make it for the entire week, come during the days you can. photos provided by Fran Long

Inland Council

by Wayne Stolfus, V. P. - Travel

Inland Council was formed in 1971. The council currently represents three ski clubs from the Inland Empire region of Southern California. Its affiliated clubs actively promote a variety of recreational opportunities for non-skiers, skiers, and snowboarders. Clubs schedule trips to Mammoth Mountain and Lake Tahoe during the ski season, plus outings throughout the year including water ski trips, kayaking, bike rides, social gatherings, barbecues, and more. We welcome volunteers to help organize and run our club and council programs. If you have any interest, please contact Wayne Stolfus.

The racers from Inland Council will participate this year by attending the race weekends and events at Mammoth Mountain sponsored by Rokka and Schuski leagues. Some of our racers will also participate in the races offered by Sierra and Open Leagues in the Lake Tahoe area. In addition, racers will be part of the SoCal Championships in March and the Far West Racing Championships in April at Mammoth Mountain.

This last year, Sitzmarkers Ski & Social Club attended the great FWSA 2011 Ski Week at Sun Valley with a group of their associate members from the Milwaukee Sitzmarker Ski Club, and they plan to participate at the 2012 FWSA Ski Week in Jackson Hole. We look forward to another exciting week with lots of activities, parties, racing, and exceptional skiing. Club members have also attended and enjoyed many FWSA International trips.



Inland Council Racing League

www.fwsa.org

VP Travel: Wayne Stolfus

909-799-3118

spiderRx@aol.com

Inland Council Racing League

Member Clubs and Contact Information

CANYON LAKE

ALPINE CLUB

President: Betsy Weil

betsy@inland.net

FLATLANDS SKI CLUB

President: Dan Crawford

Cell: 816-805-0384

macrci@aol.com

SITZMARKERS SKI & SOCIAL CLUB

Website: www.sitzmarkers.com

Info Number: 951-780-0188

SNO CATS SKI CLUB

President: Chuck Rue

909-985-8856

c.rue@prodigy.net

Clubs, Councils & Families Come Together

By Fran Long

Youth & Family Involvement Chair,
FWSA

Far West Ski Association is not just about snow sports! The First Annual Mammoth Mountain Summer Adventure was held July 21-24, 2011, and what an adventure it was! The trip was small this year, with sixteen participants from the central valley and coast of California. The adventure kicked off with a welcome pizza party Thursday evening and was non-stop for the next three days. Activities included a just-for-fun fishing derby, BBQ picnic by Lake Mary, evening social and evening pot luck dinner with campfire, bike riding (both mountain and road rides), kayaking, hiking, sight seeing, and a little time to relax by the pool.

All sixteen participants agreed that there are just too many adventures to be had at Mammoth in the summer for a three day trip, so next year's adventure will be extended to a full week, a different adventure each day. Planning is already in the works, and dates and details will be posted on the FWSA website as soon as they are available. If you can't spare a full week, consider a partial adventure instead. Pick your adventures and come for a day or two, or....

FWSA encourages youth and family involvement in both its winter and summer travel and activity plans. Each year, a few families take their children on the FWSA North American Ski Week and on the International Ski Week trips. This is sometimes difficult for families because children are in school during ski season. The summer adventure is intended to offer families another venue for involvement during a time when children are not in school. We look forward to seeing many of our families on next year's adventure.

**Experience Mammoth
Mountain in the summer.
Join other FWSA
members on the
Second Annual Summer
Adventure in July, 2012.**



The Intermountain Ski Council had an excellent time on their trip to Telluride. . . .



Intermountain Council members group at Telluride.

photos provided by Linda Scott

Intermountain Ski Council

by Linda Scott, Vice President - Trips

Telluride Resort was the chosen destination for our 2011 Intermountain Ski Council trip, and all 42 members on the trip received a warm welcome from the famous Colorado resort. We chose to stay in the Mountain Village, which gave us great access to skiing, as well as a short gondola ride to town. The snow was perfect, and the parties were tons of fun.

"Crazy sunglasses" was the theme of our wine and cheese party, and lots of creativity was on display. Folks also stepped up to the "shot ski," to enjoy lots of different libations. We also had an incredible silent auction. Items available for bids included a day of heli-skiing, a week of lift tickets, and a weekend at a luxury resort, all for unbelievable prices. Another evening, we had a fun pub crawl and dinner, and on Saturday we had a barbecue lunch that was enjoyed by all.

We were joined by folks from the Arizona Ski Council, which made the trip doubly fun! The two groups shared NASTAR racing and celebration cocktails at a Mountain Village pub. Congratulations to Cheyenne Ski Club member Dan Baxter who won first place in the NASTAR competition!

Our destination for our 2012 trip has



OMG! Is that snow sculpture really going to hatch? It looks so real!

been chosen! Snowmass Resort will be our next destination. Save the date, February 3-6, 2012. Everyone is invited, and you can sign up on line, and pay with a credit card, at www.trips.skigroup.net/intermountain-snowmass. We'll have all our usual party amenities such as our wine and cheese party with silent auction, pub crawl, NASTAR and barbecue. Don't miss out on the fun. Sign up now!

The Intermountain Ski Council is excited to host the Far West Ski Association Convention, to be held in Ogden, Utah, June 7-10, 2012. We have many wonderful events planned, and hope to see you there! For more information on either the ski trip or the FWSA 2012 Convention, contact Linda Scott at louandlt@hotmail.com for more details.

RIGHT: Many resorts are offering special cost saving programs again this season. Check out their websites for more information. Moonlight Basin has the 2011-2012 Value Card to be purchased before mid December, but good for the entire season.

. . . .With an average of more than 300 inches of snow and 300 days of sunshine each year, there is an excellent chance that there will be fantastic conditions on Telluride's 2000 plus skiable acres of varied terrain. The trails are never packed, and there is rarely a lift line. Over the summer, the resort added more snow guns, and remodeled and expanded village offerings.

Intermountain Ski Council

www.intermountainskicouncil.org

President: Don Anderson

941-375-8724

andersonbloom@gmail.com

Intermountain Ski Council

Member Clubs and Contact Information

BLACK HILLS SKI CLUB

Serving the Rapid City, South Dakota Area

www.bhskiclub.com

President: Laurie Montgomery

lauriebobmo@q.com

BOGUS BASIN SKI CLUB, BOISE, ID

Serving Boise and the greater

Treasure Valley Area

www.bogusbasinskiclubtemp.com

President: Rosie Rosco

rosie.rosco@yahoo.com

CHEYENNE SKI CLUB, CHEYENNE, WY

www.cheyenneskiclub.com

Club e-mail: cheyenneskiclub@gmail.com

President: Pat Lauber

pat@cheyennehomes.com

**HILL SKI CLUB, HILL AIR FORCE
BASE, CLEARFIELD, UT**

www.hillskiclub.com

President: Norm Bates
tmatthews@xmission.com

**IDAHO FALLS SKI CLUB,
IDAHO FALLS, ID**

Serving Northeastern Idaho

www.ifsiklub.com

President: Karen Brown
brownid@cableone.net

**PARK CITY MOUNTAIN SPORTS CLUB,
PARK CITY, UT**

www.pcmsc.org

Hotline: 435-645-5350

President: Brenda Wood
brenwd@aol.com

**POCATELLO SKI ASSOCIATION,
POCATELLO, ID**

www.pocatelloSKI.com

President: Liz Benson
benslizb@isu.edu

**UP THE CREEK SKI & REC CLUB,
DENVER, CO**

www.upthecreek.org

President: Curtis Cloutier
salestrainingdvr@aim.com

**WEBER STATE SKI CLUB, WEBER
STATE UNIVERSITY, OGDEN, UT**
clubs.weber.edu/ski

President: Ryan Davies
ryandavies@mail.weber.edu

*Membership in Weber State Ski Club is open to
students at Weber State University only.*

photo courtesy of Moonlight Basin



*The Steamboat PURE Pass offers 15 days of unrestricted all-mountain
skiing and riding throughout the season. Don't miss out on this great snow!*

photo: © Larry Pierce/Steamboat

2011 WESTERN REGION SKI SHOWS

**Seattle SkiFever &
Snowboard Show**

October 28-30
Washington State Convention
Center, Seattle, WA

Boise Basin Ski and Board Swap

November 4-6
Expo Idaho, Boise, ID

Colorado Ski & Snowboard Expo

November 4-6
Colorado Convention Center,
Denver, CO

Park City Ski Swap

November 4-6
Basin Recreation Field House,
Park City, UT

**Portland SkiFever &
Snowboard Show**

November 4-6
Portland Expo Center, Portland, OR

**SnowBomb San Francisco Ski &
Snowboard Festival**

November 5-6
Fort Mason Center,
San Francisco, CA

San Diego Snow Jam

November 11-13
Del Mar Fairgrounds, Del Mar, CA

UNR Ski Swap

November 11-13
Reno Sparks Convention Center,
Reno, NV

**SnowBomb Silicon Valley Ski &
Snowboard Festival**

November 12-13
Santa Clara Convention Center,
Santa Clara, CA

Las Vegas Snow Jam

November 18-20
Cashman Field Center,
Las Vegas, NV

Ski Pro Avalanche Ski Sale

November 18-20
Phoenix Convention Center,
Phoenix, AZ

**Ski Dazzle Sacramento Ski
Show & Snowboard Expo**

November 19-20
Cal Expo, Sacramento, CA

**Ski Dazzle Los Angeles Ski
Show & Snowboard Expo**

December 1-4
LA Convention Center,
Los Angeles, CA



Schweitzer Mountain offers 2900 lift serviced skiable acres, plus thousands more of Ski-Cat supported runs. Check it out on the LAC Ski Week - 2012.

photo courtesy of Schweitzer Mountain Resort

Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs

by Norbert Knapp, President

The Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs, with 29 member clubs, is one of the oldest and largest councils in Far West Ski Association. Together, with our sister councils in Southern California, we enjoy a diverse and wide-ranging home stretching from Mammoth and June Mountains in the Inyo Forest to Mount Waterman and Mount San Jacinto in Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties.

Our 5,000 plus members, from Santa Barbara to Long Beach, enjoy sports of ALL kinds, winter and summer – snow skiing and boarding, water skiing and wind surfing, hiking, river-rafting, softball, volleyball, golf, and tennis. And, we love to participate in the time-honored sport of fine dining, as well!

But, to focus on winter sports, many of our larger clubs have several weekend or mid-week trips to Mammoth Mountain, as well as trips scheduled out of state and/or internationally. L.A. Council runs one or more week-long trips to North American and/or International destinations. For the 2011-12 season, our annual trip is scheduled to Schweitzer Mountain and Silver Mountain, Idaho in January.

The highlight of our year will be our Annual Snow Gala at The Castaway Restaurant overlooking Burbank and the San Fernando Valley on November 5. More than just a wonderful party, this event is designed to recognize outstanding members of each L.A. Council club. Each club chooses their outstanding man and woman to represent them at the Snow Gala. It provides everyone a chance to learn about each club and about the achievements and contributions of at least two of its members. At the Gala, the council selects a Council Man and Woman of the Year who go on to compete against other council representatives at the Annual FWSA Convention every June.



photo by David Cooper / Bad Boyz Photography

We start each new ski season with our annual "Learn to Ski, Race and Board Week" in December at Mammoth Mountain in conjunction with the instructors at Mammoth. For a modest fee, individuals receive lodging, lift tickets and group or individual training as conditions dictate. It is THE BEST way to introduce new or novice sports enthusiasts to the wonderful world of winter sports – or to improve skills at any level.

The Los Angeles Council has two race leagues: ULLR and Rokka. (To find out what these mean, contact a local club!) Each league has four races at Mammoth plus the SoCal Championships. Far West Racing also holds Championships at the end of the season.

Ski clubs are not-for-profit organizations, as is the Los Angeles Council. Members recognize the importance of social net-working and community involvement. Every club and individual members are encouraged to support local community organizations; and of particular interest, is the U.S. Adaptive Recreational Program serving snow-sport lovers with special needs. The Unrecables Ski Club, comprised primarily of adaptive skiers, is one of our busiest clubs all year long. We also proudly claim as member clubs TWO chapters of the Over The Hill Gang Ski Club.

Los Angeles Council hosted the 2011 Far West Ski Association Convention June 9-12 at the Pacific Palms Hotel & Conference Center. We want to thank ALL – skiers, guests and industry representatives – who participated and helped make this year's convention one of the most successful in recent years.

Information on all of our events is available on our website: www.lacouncil.org, along with links to all of our member clubs. Check it out!

And – always THINK SNOW!

Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs

www.lacouncil.org

President: Norbert Knapp

323-793-4250

lacpresident@lacouncil.org

Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs Member Clubs and Contact Information

AEA (AEROSPACE) SKI CLUB

L. A. South Bay

www.aeacclubs.org/ski

President: Douglas Martoccia

djmartoccia@verizon.net

ASIAN SKIING & BOARDING CLUB OF L. A.

Los Angeles area

www.asbcla.org

President: Warren Tanaka

310-529-2721

AUSLICH SKI & RECREATION CLUB

Belmont Shore/Long Beach

www.auslichskiclub.org

President: Bill Holtz

BEACH CITIES SKI CLUB

L. A. South Bay

www.bcskiclub.org

President: Nick Gillett

president@bcskiclub.org

BUCKHORN SKI CLUB

Los Angeles, Riverside and

San Bernardino Counties

www.orgsites.com/ca/buckhorn

President: Rod Rice

949-360-3757



ABOVE: The Los Angeles Council, host council for the 2011 Far West Ski Association Convention at the Pacific Palms Hotel & Conference Center; Industry Hills, gather at the Sunday General Session.

RIGHT: The LAC Host Council Committee for the 2011 FWSA Convention celebrated completion of a highly successful event at Maggiano's Little Italy, Los Angeles this summer. Todd Strickland, National Sales Manager for Vail Resorts Management Company (seated, 4th from left) hosted the festivities. photos: Catherine Ohl



CCSC SPORTS

L. A. County (Santa Clarita, San Fernando Valley, West L.A.)

www.ccscsports.org

President: Larry Zeller

818-489-4454, zlarryz@aol.com

CONEJO SKI & SPORTS CLUB

San Fernando Valley / Ventura County

www.conejoskiclub.org

President: Jim Robertson

805-368-7964

robertson546@gmail.com



Randy Lew, FWSA President and officers and committee chairmen of the Association joined the Los Angeles Council for their Annual Gala on the Queen Mary. photo by David Cooper / Bad Boyz Photography

EDELWEISS SKI & SPORT CLUB

Los Angeles & San Fernando Valley

www.edelweisskiclub.org

President: Chuck Cattanaach

818-802-9933

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Greater Los Angeles

President: Keith Green

323-691-1918

GRINDELWALD SKI CLUB

Glendale, San Gabriel Valley, Pomona / Walnut

www.grindelwaldskiclub.org

President: Bob Wildman

323-663-4618

HUGHES SKI CLUB

L. A. South Bay

President: Dick Barch

KRONENSTADT SKI CLUB

Pasadena and San Gabriel Valley

www.kronenstadtskiclub.com

President: Bruce Bailey

323-938-4422

bbailey@gwa-architects.com

LONG BEACH SKI CLUB

Long Beach, Orange County

www.longbeachskiclub.org

President: Don Crawford

714-962-0524

cdon2000@sbcglobal.net

LOS PADRES SKI CLUB

Ventura County

www.lospadresskiclub.net

President: Jeff Heath

805-647-1600

LPSCPres@lospadresskiclub.net

OVER THE HILL GANG LOS ANGELES

Greater Los Angeles

www.overthehillganglosangeles.org

President: Doris Lion

bendyb@earthlink.net

OVER THE HILL GANG VENTURA

Ventura County

www.vcothg.org

President: Hal Ross

805-373-7522

lawking@earthlink.net

FACING PAGE - RIGHT: SnowBusters Annual Youth Learn to Ski/Snowboard Trip to Mountain High is a fun way to give the youngsters a great ski experience. They all had a wonderful time!



Breckenridge. photo: Liam Doran/Vail Resorts

Breckenridge. photo: Carl Scofield, Vail Resorts

The 2010/11 Breckenridge Ski Resort ski season had record snowfall. New, luxury-lodging and amenities debuted, but the 2011/12 ski season promises to reach new heights. The resort prepares to celebrate its 50th birthday. Breckenridge opened for the first time ever on December 16, 1961. The resort will be celebrating all season long during the 2011/2012 winter season with special events, great deals and attractions that are perfect for the entire family. Although formal skiing has only been around for fifty years, Breckenridge has a much longer history dating back to the gold mining days of the late 1850s. Today, the town features the largest historic district in Colorado.

PACIFIC RIM ALLIANCE

Southern California & Nevada
www.pacificrimalliance.org
 President: Catherine Ohl
 858-467-9469
 ohl@acatmeowz.com

RADAR RIVER RATS (HEASB WATER SKI CLUB)

Southern California
www.radarriverrats.org
 President: Catherine Ohl
 858-467-9469; ohl@acatmeowz.com

SAGA SKI CLUB

Hollywood, Long Beach
www.Sagala.org
 President: Logan Meyer
 310-429-4677

SANTA BARBARA SKI & SPORTS CLUB

Santa Barbara County
www.sbski.org
 President: Dennis Forster
 805-698-3902, president@sbski.org

SINGLE SKI CLUB OF LOS ANGELES

L. A. South Bay, West Side,
 San Fernando Valley
www.singleskiclub.org
 President: Sheri Penney
 sscpressheri@gmail.com

SLOPE SURFERS SKI CLUB

L. A. South Bay
www.slopesurfers.org
 President: Chris Kishida
 president@slopesurfers.org

SNOWBUSTERS

President: Barney Reid
 barneyr@snowbusters.com

SPACE PARK SKI CLUB (formerly TRW)

Southern California
www.spaceparkskiandsnowboardclub.org
 President: Phil Weisgerber
 310-921-9341
 philw599@gmail.com

TRI VALLEY SKI CLUB

Eastern LA County and Western San Bernardino County
www.trivalleyskiclub.com
 President: Sharon Stein
 sharlynst@aol.com

UNRECABLES

Southern California
www.unrecables.org
 President: Amade Nyirak
 president@unrecables.org

WAILERS SKI CLUB

L.A., Orange, Ventura Counties
www.wailersskiclub.org
 President: Sandra Gale
 818-429-2292

WESTWOOD SKI & SPORTS CLUB

Greater Los Angeles
www.westwoodskiclub.org
 President: Kathy Faris
 213-248-7092
 kkskier@aol.com

Osceola Refetoff shreds the Paranoid Flats off the top of Mammoth.

Photo: Robbie Warner





photo provided by Diane Stearley

New Mexico Ski Club Council by Diane Stearley, President

The New Mexico Ski Club Council was formed in 1999 and is still the smallest council in the Far West Ski Association. We serve mostly the Northern and Central area of New Mexico with all clubs located in the Albuquerque area. Even though our clubs all have skiing in common, they each are friendly, vibrant clubs with their own diverse character and size of membership.

This year, our clubs enjoyed several ski trips mostly in New Mexico and Colorado. Taos, Red River, Santa Fe, Telluride, Crested Butte, and Pagosa Springs, were all club organized trips with many sub-groups within the clubs tripping out to destinations far and wide.

The New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club and the Sitzmarkers Ski Club are year round clubs and enjoy water skiing, boating, camping, softball leagues, back yard parties, and just hanging out together.

Being a member of a FWSA ski club has many great benefits, including: group travel, the opportunity to race, receiving the *Far West Skier's Guide* magazine, FWSA support to local clubs on local issues regarding insurance and legislation, and networking with other similar minded ski enthusiasts.

If you have not yet found a ski club in the New Mexico area, please check out one of

In addition to skiing one of the great New Mexico ski areas, club members are also active throughout the year. Michelle and Christa participated on a Century (100 mile) bike ride this past spring with numerous other long distance cyclers.

Ski Apache opened under the name of "Sierra Blanca Ski Resort" during Christmas of 1961. Thus, the resort is also celebrating its 50th Anniversary. The ski season ends in a splash!
photo courtesy of Ski Apache Ski Resort



these great clubs and join us on the slopes this winter, or at one of our other great outdoor adventures.

New Mexico Ski Club Council

www.skinewmexico.org

President: Diane Stearley

505-281-3755

dmstear@att.net

New Mexico Ski Club Council

Member Clubs and Contact Information

ALBUQUERQUE SKI CLUB

Virtual Club

www.abqskiclub.com

President: Bill Folke

NEW MEXICO CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLUB

www.naturediscovery.org/skiclub.org

President: Janie Gilmore-Daniels

SITZMARKERS SKI CLUB

www.nmsitzmarkers.org

President Paul Adkin

Continued from page 40

recreation and educational programs. The organization is the nation's largest multi-sport, multi-disability organization serving more than 60,000 people nationwide. **The Wounded Warrior Disabled Sports Project** is in a partnership with Disabled Sports USA and its chapters, providing year round sports programs for severely wounded service members from the Iraq and Afghanistan conflict and the Global War on Terrorism. Programs take place at sites throughout the US, offering Wounded Warriors the opportunity to integrate as participants and mentors in their home communities. There are 30 DSUSA Chapters within our FWSA area, many of them already receiving support from our ski clubs. Huge numbers of Wounded Warriors have been returning home to our FWSA communities. These disabled vets, who lost so much, can definitely use our help. We take them skiing. *What a delight to see those great big smiles!*

FWSA councils have a long term relationship with several California Chapters of Disabled Sports USA: *The Tahoe Adaptive Ski School (TASS)* at Alpine Meadows, the *US Adaptive Recreation Center* at Big Bear (USARC), *The Unrecables Ski Club* in Los Angeles, and *Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra* at Mammoth Lakes. For more information to get involved, check out <http://www.dsusa.org>, and www.woundedwarriorproject.org.

Can Do Multiple Sclerosis helps people with multiple sclerosis gain health and hope. One in 750 people has multiple sclerosis, a devastating, neurological disease in which a person's immune system attacks the brain and spinal cord. There is no known cause or cure for MS. The Can Do Multiple Sclerosis Center is dedicated to improving the lives of people and families living with MS through its interactive, educational programs unique to any in the world. All of the Center's programs are based on the philosophy that you can have a chronic condition AND have your health. By drawing on a wide range of medical professionals and focusing on all aspects of health - exercise, nutrition, social support and disease management - The Center helps people with MS learn how to live healthier, happier, more active lives. A wonderful way to help raise funds for the Can Do Multiple Sclerosis Center is participation with the *Vertical Express*. Times and locations are posted on their website. For more information and to get involved, check out <http://mscando.org>.

Please refer to the FWSA Community Service site for updated information at www.fwsa.org. ▲



SKIBACS members bond with a new buddy from the Modesto Ski Club in BAC. photos provided by Sheri Parshall

RIGHT: Schnee Vogeli racers, at an event at Mt. Hood Skibowl, remind us that racing is a winter sport.



Northwest Ski Club Council

by Sheri Parshall, President

Greetings Snowriders!

Welcome to the pages of the Northwest Ski Club Council, home to snowriders who love to slide and shred the volcanoes of the Pacific Northwest. And, as you can see by the list, we have lots of clubs—thirty-six of ‘em!

If you belong to a snowsports club, you have an even more passionate relationship with your sport than your average snowrider. For so many of us in NWSCC, our club life becomes integrated with so many other aspects of our lives, and indeed, our clubs reflect our personalities, and visa versa!

Let’s face it: you joined a ski club to have fun. And, we have lots of fun in NWSCC. Heck, some of our clubs’ names are perfect examples! How can you NOT have fun with a club called “S’No Joke” or “WIHSKI”?

Even if the club names are staid and traditional, their activities are anything but. Skiyente Ski Club, the oldest all-woman ski club in the United States, has a newsletter called the “Maidenforum”.

Bruce Johnson, of Matsu Ski and Snowsport Club in Alaska tells us about the “Bode Miller”: “In Alaska we have a thing called a ‘Bode

Miller,’ named after skiing legend Bode Miller. If you fall, which we do often, and are able to get up before you stop sliding, then you have just completed a ‘Bode Miller! Not any fall will do. The fall must be followed by at least one roll!”

Want more fun? Check out PACRAT Racing. Our recreational race league, racing on a live volcano called Mt. Hood, is now enhanced with its very own NASTAR franchise—the only race league within Far West Ski Association to do so! Check out these team names. We have “Racy Brats”, “Shushing Shysters” and “Tasmanian Ski Devils” (complete with tails), “Psychothermia”, and “Mixed Nuts”, “Avalanche Express” and “Ruttin’ Rats”. *These are the ones we can print!*

So yes, we join a ski club for fun, but we also meet friends for life, and our husbands and wives. We help each other raise our children with love of our sport and our mountains. We give back to our communities, and help each other when trouble finds us.

When you talk about how important a ski club can be in your everyday life, I found no better example than this great story from

Skihawks (Seattle) member Sharon Arneson:

“This story is a while back and I can’t even remember who was involved, so perhaps someone else can fill in the blanks. Once, when we were on a ski trip, someone got hurt and hit their head. The ski patrol were going through their usual questioning trying to evaluate if the person was thinking correctly with questions such as ‘What’s your name?’ ‘What day is it?’ Then they asked ‘Who is President?’, the injured person immediately responded ‘Al Morris’ who happened to be President of the Skihawks at that time. We all knew he was okay, because the most important thing to us was skiing, not who was running the country.”

That says it all, doesn’t it?

We have clubs that sail, clubs that ride, clubs that golf and clubs that slide.

Our organizations provide valuable support to their communities, and organizations that make and preserve our mountain heritage. So come on. Join up.

We ride volcanoes. And you, my friend, are welcome to join us.

Northwest Ski Club Council

www.nwskiers.org

President: Sheri Parshall

503-912-0064

cougskier@aol.com

Northwest Ski Club Council

Member Clubs and Contact Information

Alaska

MATSU SKI & SNOWBOARD CLUB

Location: Wasila, Alaska

www.matsusnow.org

matsusnow@mtaonline.net

Hawaii

HAWAII SKI CLUB

Location: Aiea, Hawaii

www.hawaiiisnowskiclub.com

pres@hawaiiisnowskiclub.com

Oregon

ALTAIR SKI & SPORTS CLUB

Location: Eugene, Oregon

www.altairsports.org

SkiAltair@yahoo.com

BEND SKI CLUB

Location: Bend, Oregon

www.bendskiclub.org

bendssc@aol.com

BERGFREUNDE SKI CLUB

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

CASCADE SKI CLUB, INC.

Location: Lodge at Government Camp, OR

www.cascadeskiclub.org

FREE RIDERS CLUB

Location: Portland, OR

botabob@yahoo.com



Olympic skier A. J. Kitt with some PACRAT racers on "Family NAS-TAR Day" at Mt. Hood Meadows.

MT. BACHELOR SKI EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Location: Bend, Oregon

mbsef@mbsef.org

MT. HOOD MEADOWS RACE TEAM

Location: Hood River, Oregon

www.meadowsraceteam.org

meadowsraceteam@gmail.com

MT. HOOD CULTURAL CENTER & MUSEUM

Location: Government Camp, Oregon

www.mthoodmuseum.org

mthoodmuseum@centurytel.net

MT. HOOD SKI EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Location: Government Camp, Oregon

www.mthoodacademy.com

bounesch@centurytel.net

MT. HOOD SKI PATROL

Location: Mt. Hood, Oregon

www.mthoodskipatrol.org

mhsp@onebox.com

MT. HOOD SKIKATS

Location: Portland, Oregon

friendhenry@cnwnet

MOUNTAIN HIGH SNOWSPORT CLUB

Location: Portland, Oregon

www.mthigh.org

info@mthigh.org

MULTNOMAH ATHLETIC CLUB SKI COMMITTEE

Location: Portland, Oregon

cfaila@themac.com

NORTHWEST TRAIL ALLIANCE

Location: Portland, Oregon

www.nw-trail.org

info@nw_trail.org

OREGON ADAPTIVE SPORTS

Location: Bend, Oregon

www.oregonadaptivesports.org

oasbend@gmail.com

OREGON CANCER SKI OUT

Location: Wilsonville, Oregon

www.cancerskiout.org

nancy@cancerskiout.com

OREGON NORDIC CLUB - PORTLAND CHAPTER

Location: Portland, Oregon

www.onc.org/pdx.onc

membership@onc.org

PDX SKI CLUB

Location: Portland, Oregon

www.nwskiers.org

donsiddall@msn.com

SCHNEE VOGELI SKI CLUB

Location: Portland, Oregon

Contact: Dale Parshall (503) 912-0064

dale.parshall@bankofthewest.com

SKIYENTE SKI CLUB

Location: Portland, Oregon

www.skiyente.com

skiyente@yahoo.com



Can't wait for the snow! Can't wait to get back on the slopes!
photo courtesy of the Park City Chamber of Commerce & Visitor's Bureau

Washington

COWLITZ COUNTY SKI CLUB

Location: Longview, Washington

www.nwskiers.org

Contact: Norvin Peer 360-423-5422

DESERT SKI CLUB

Location: Tri-Cities, Washington

www.desertskiclub.org

Info Number: 509-946-4386

info@desertskiclub.org

EXOTIC SNOW AND SUN SPORTING CLUB

Location: Kent, Washington

BrianR@exoticmetals.com

LONGVIEW SKI CLUB

Location: Longview, Washington

www.nwskiers.org

Contact: Jane Rosi 360-636-2846

janerosi@wildblue.net

NORTHWEST SKI AND RECREATION CLUB

Location: Bellevue, Washington

www.nwskiclub.org

Contact: Steve Griffith

nwsrcl_bellingham@yahoo.com

OUTDOORS FOR ALL FOUNDATION

Location: Seattle, Washington

www.outdoorsforall.org

info@outdoorsforall.org

SKIHAWKS SKI CLUB

Location: Seattle, Washington

www.skihawks.org

Skihawks@earthlink.net

S'NO JOKE SKI CLUB

Location: Seattle, Washington

www.snojoke.org

Info Number: 206-938-5999

info@snojoke.org

SEATTLE SINGLES YACHT CLUB

Location: Seattle, Washington

www.ssysc.com

Info number: 206-998-5555

bridge@ssyc.com

SKIBACS SKI & SNOWBOARD CLUB

Location: Tacoma, Washington

www.skibacs.org

SKIHAWKS SKI CLUB

Location: Seattle, Washington

www.skihawks.org

skihawks@earthlink.net

STARBUCKS ALPINE SKI CLUB

Location: Seattle, Washington

Contact: Gail Sarro

gmarney@starbucks.com

VANCOUVER SNOW & SPORTS CLUB

Location: Vancouver, Washington

www.nwskiers.org

Contact: Sylvia Orefice 360-887-0329

sylviakearns@hotmail.com

WIHSKI CLUB

Location: Seattle, Washington

www.afts.com/wihski

Contact: J. D. Duchscherer

duchschererj@yahoo.com

Orange Council of Ski Clubs

by Judy Thurman, President

Since May 5, 1971, Orange Council of Ski Clubs has been addressing the issues of skiers in and around Orange County and the Southern California area. Originating from the Southern Council to better serve the high concentration of skiers and snowboarders in the "OC", this motto was established - "Toward Better Skiing". We are and always have been an active member of the Far West Ski Association and we are also a member of the National Ski Council Federation.

Orange Council offers great travel adventures, supports disabled skiers programs, including USARC, charities, and continue to be informed on public affairs issues. Some of the other charity and community programs that our ski clubs support are the Mammoth Mountain Resort Patrol Memorial Fund, Troops Overseas, Free Wheelchair Mission and many other programs.

Orange Council and its ski clubs travel programs offer a variety of different ski trips. Our ski clubs schedule weekend ski trips to Mammoth Mountain, from December to March, and if the snow is really good many of our members might be see skiing Mammoth on July 4. If weekend ski trips are not enough for you, we also have many of our clubs running week long trips to places like Telluride, Aspen, Vail, and international trips. We offer something for everyone who loves to ski.

And, for those who love to race, Orange Council has a very strong race team, and is a member of the Schusski Race League, with four races held at Mammoth Mountain between December, 2011 - April, 2012. With the Far West Racing Championships in April. If you are interested in racing for Orange Council, please contact, Maxine Hanlon - VP Racing at maxch@prodigy.net.

Each year, the council members participate in the Far West Ski Association Ski Week. This year, we will be traveling to beautiful Jackson Hole, January 28 - February 4, 2012. This is an annual event that brings together all the ski councils: approximately 500-600 people. This is opportunity for our clubs within the council to go on these trips and meet other skiers within the eleven ski councils. The week is filled with lots of skiing, après parties, racing dinners and camaraderie. The FWSA Week has always been a fantastic event and not to be missed! For information on any of our ski trips please contact Sheila Van Guilder, VP. of TRAVEL, svanguil@yahoo.com.

Currently, Orange Council has eleven ski



Snowsport enthusiasts stop to gaze at the awesome vistas at June Mountain. There is a free shuttle between Mammoth and June. The ambiance is totally different than its sister resort. Check it out! *photo courtesy of June Mountain*



ABOVE: Members of Balboa Ski and Sports Club gather for a club meeting. TOP RIGHT: Their September tennis meeting and social is a favorite event. *photo provided by Maxine Hanlon*

clubs located in Southern California's Orange County Area. We have approximately 800 members. The clubs are located in different communities located within the county. The clubs in Orange Council have been working together since 1972 and each club is unique, offering different types of activities ranging from ski and snowboarding, to summer sports, tennis, beach volleyball tournaments, kayaking, biking, hiking, wine tasting and outdoor concerts.

Mammoth Mountain is a favorite trip destination for all of our clubs. They offer weekend drive-ups and bus trips starting in December thru April. With such a great snow season this year, we had members skiing on Mammoth Mountain over the 4th of July.

Whether you live in north, central, east or west Orange County, or in one of our beach communities, there is a club especially for you. For more information about our organization and ski clubs, please check our website.

Orange Council of Ski Clubs

www.orangecouncil.org

President: *Judy Thurman*
(714) 779-8534
ylskicat@aol.com

Orange Council of Ski Clubs

Member Clubs and Contact Information

AUSLICH SKI & RECREATION CLUB

www.auslichskiclub.org

BALBOA SKI & SPORTS CLUB

www.balboaskiandsportsclub.com

President: *Jess E. Gorman* 714-491-2234
ejessgorman@gmail.com

FLATLANDS SKI CLUB

President: *Dan Crawford*
Cell: 816-805-0384
macrci@aol.com

FOUNTAIN VALLEY SKI CLUB

www.fountainvalleyskiclub.org

President: *Kristin Sanderson* 951-533-1818
skeebooty@aol.com

HUNTINGTON BEACH SKI CLUB

www.hbskiclub.com

President: *Andy Snodgrass*
hbskiclub@yahoo.com

ORANGE COUNTY SKI & SNOWBOARD CLUB

www.ocskiclub.com

President: *Stella Plunkett*
pres@ocskiclub.com

SHOOTERS SKI CLUB

www.shootersskiclub.com

President: *Violet Chiappardi*
info@shootersskiclub.com

SNOWBOUNDERS SKI CLUB

www.snowbounders.org

President: *Lowell (Jake) Jacobson*
714-596-5962
sljacob@verizon.net

SNOWFLIERS SKI CLUB

President: *Jim Hughes* 562-593-9905
jamesb.hughes@boeing.com

TRI VALLEY SKI CLUB

www.trivalleyskiclub.com

President: *Sharon Stein* 909-987-1885
Beshore75300@roadrunner.com

VAND BAKKE SKI CLUB

Membership: *Gloria Madrid*
casamadrid@earthlink.net



If you're into deep snow, steep tree lines, and access to fantastic lift assisted back-country skiing, check out Whitewater Ski Resort. It averages over 45 feet a year of white fluffy powder:
photo courtesy of Whitewater Ski Resort



San Diego Council of Ski Clubs by Eileen Sanford, President

San Diego Council of Ski Clubs consists of ten ski/snowboard clubs representing the varied skiers and snowboarders of San Diego County. The San Diego Alpine Race League is also continuing to promote recreational skiing and snowboard racing amongst the people in the San Diego area. The SDCSC won the SoCal Championships this year at Mammoth Mountain. Our clubs enjoy a variety of ski trips each year from Big Bear Mountain to Mammoth to trips to destination resorts. In 2010-11, we had ski trips to Aspen, Vail, Breckenridge, Sun Valley, Mammoth and Big Bear. In 2011-12, we will be returning to Aspen and going to Jackson Hole and Austria/Germany/Prague for two bike and boat trips coordinated by Holidaze Ski Tours.

Summertime around the clubs is always busy. Many of the clubs move their meetings outdoors for the season. Members enjoy getting together for Padre games, museum tours, biking, hiking, tennis, horse races at Del Mar, bunco parties, and the Summer Pops concerts.

The San Diego Council of Ski Clubs has always supported many charities, such as the Jimmie Heuga Center for MS, the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, Special Olympics, United States Adaptive Recreation Center, Youth Sports Mentoring Organization and Toys for Tots. This year, SDCSC was recognized at the FWSA Convention as one of two councils that had "almost 100%" participation from each club. Three SDCSC clubs were recognized as having outstanding Charity Programs: Torrey Pines Ski Club, Action Ski and Snowsports Club and Get Off Your Rockers Ski Club.

LEFT: The Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament, named after a very special San Diego Council member, is a huge part of the FWSA Annual Convention. photo by David Cooper / Bad Boy's Photography ABOVE: Ah, for the Good Ol' Days! SDCSC Ski Week participants have a little fifties fun.

At the FWSA Convention, Pacific Rim Alliance won all three events in their category. The events were: Outstanding Club, Website and Newsletter. NIS won second place in Website, Newsletter and Outstanding Club. Action won third place in the website competition. San Diego Ski Club won the History Award. Their entry was submitted by Erin Barber. Thanks to all the clubs for their hard work this past year.

The official start of the ski season begins with our Gala on November 5, organized by Barbara Blasé German, Jean McCasey and Judy Schultheis. The event will be held at 94th Aero Squadron Restaurant. The evening will honor our SDCSC Man and Woman of the Year, and the Joe Harris Award winner for longtime service to skiing and snowsports. The 2010 winners - Laura Meldrum and Joe Goldhammer - will host the contest for the 2011 winners. We would like to thank Vail Resorts for sponsoring the band for us this year. We would also like to thank Aspen/Snowmass and Telluride Ski Resorts for becoming Gold Members of our council and sponsoring our Gala Program. A special thanks to Catherine Ohl who designed and produced the program.

The SDCSC will volunteer to work at Snow Jam which will be held at the Del Mar Fairgrounds, November 11-13. This is a great opportunity to earn money to support our race team. The SD Alpine League will have a busy race schedule this year.

We are planning to send 36 members to FWSA Ski Week in Jackson Hole from January 28-February 4, 2012. We are also planning



photos provided by Eileen Sanford

San Diego Council ran two European bike and boat trips in the fall of 2011. Eileen and Mike fit in well with their spankin' new Lederhosen.

to send 42 members to the SDCSC Aspen trip from December 7-13, 2011. This is the 15th Annual council trip to Aspen organized by Ski.Com tour operators.

We were excited to participate in our first SDCSC European bike and boat trip down the Danube River thru Germany, Austria, Slovakia and Hungary. It was held in September, and included three days in Munich for Oktoberfest and visiting castles. This trip was led by Hobe Schroeder. The second hike and boat trip, lead by Eileen Sanford and coordinated by Holidaze Ski Tours, was held in October. See our website for details.

We have been honored to sponsor a Jr. 2 Racer for the FWSA Athletic Scholarship Foundation. Her name is Alexa Wehsener. She is from San Diego and trains at Mammoth. Alexa and her family attended our Annual Appreciation Dinner on May 4. The council was proud to present her with a check for \$350 to be applied toward her race fees. She will also be receiving \$500 from the council for the next three years.

We were delighted to attend the 79th Annual FWSA Convention at the Pacific Palms Hotel & Conference Center. It was a great success. Thanks for a job well done. For more information about the SDCSC visit our website at: www.skisandiego.org and join us for a great year.

San Diego Council of Ski Clubs

Website: www.skisandiego.org

President: Eileen Sanford

858-695-1442

E-mail: esanford@san.rr.com

San Diego Council of Ski Clubs
Member Clubs and Contact Information

**ACTION SKI &
SNOWBOARD CLUB**
www.actionski.org
President: *Carmen Jalms*

**BAE SYSTEMS SKI &
SNOWBOARD CLUB**
President: *Ed Langmaid*
858-625-5995
2hvgfun@san.rr.com

DON DIEGO SKI CLUB
<http://www.ski-dondiego.org>
President: *Larry Pickering*
858-755-6580

**GET OFF YOUR ROCKERS
SKI CLUB**
<http://www.getoffyourrockers.org>
President: *Linda Sterger*
858-748-7356

NORTH ISLAND SNOWDRIFTERS
www.nisnowdrifter.com
President: *Barry Cole*
760-749-9416

QUALCOMM SKI CLUB
President: *Katie Weist*
619-741-1499

**PACIFIC RIM ALLIANCE
SNOW SPORTS CLUB**
www.pacificrimalliance.org
President: *Catherine Ohl*
858-467-9469

SAN DIEGO SKI CLUB
<http://san-diego-ski-club.org>
President: *Dave Moody*
619-463-8698

SOLAR SKI CLUB
coolbrees@earthlink.net
President: *Bob Morton*
858-292-4136

TORREY PINES SKI CLUB
www.tpscsd.org
President: *Hobe Schroeder*
858-551-9651

SAN DIEGO ALPINE LEAGUE
<http://www.skisandiego.org/sdal>
President: *Eileen Weiner*
858-674-5666



Northstar Training: Sierra and Open League racers and their coaches pause for a photo op while training at Northstar-at-Tahoe. photo provided by Jo Simpson

Sierra Council & Race League
by Jo Simpson, President

- ◆ *Skiing and boarding fun with new friends*
- ◆ *Group discounts on trips & lift tickets*
- ◆ *Year-round outdoor sport & social activities*
- ◆ *Recreational ski & snowboard racing*

The members of the lucky 13 Sierra Council clubs enthusiastically welcome new members to join in their snowsports and other activities. Our larger member clubs offer a variety of year-round activities, including golf, tennis, campouts, hiking, trips to summer festivals, and opportunities for social interaction at meetings, parties and happy hours. Our annual council holiday party in early December provides a festive start to the new ski season.

Sierra Council is excited to welcome a new ski club, the Alpine Ski and Snowboard Club in Las Vegas, into our council. They have trips planned to Salt Lake City, Utah; Jackson Hole, Wyoming; and Steamboat, Colorado. Their sister club, the Las Vegas Ski, Snowboard and Sports Club offers trips to Eagle Point, Brian Head, Ogden (Snowbasin and Powder Mountain), Utah; Whitefish, Montana; and Mammoth, California.

The Tahoe-Donner Senior Alpine Ski Club is based in Truckee, as is the Cabernet Ski Club. The Rat Pack Club is based on the Lake Tahoe south shore, and the Sugar Bowl Ski Club operates out of Sugar Bowl Resort. The greater Sacramento area has the Capitol Ski and Sport Club and the Sacramento

Fagowees. The Sequoia Ski Club is in Visalia, California.

The RU Ski Club draws primarily from the Bay Area. In northern Nevada, the Reno Ski and Recreation Club offers a full schedule of social activities throughout the year, camping trips, and ski days at Lake Tahoe resorts. The Top Gun Ski Club members are primarily active and retired military members in northern Nevada and the Lake Tahoe areas.

Each club offers a different experience. All enthusiastically welcome active adults who enjoy skiing and socializing with others who enjoy skiing and other outdoor activities. Our members enthusiastically participate in Far West Ski Association trips, club ski days and weekend trips.

Sierra Council proudly salutes Debbie Stewart of the Sequoia Ski Club who was named 2011 FWSA Woman of the Year. We are so proud to have one of our members receive this high honor. The Las Vegas Ski, Snowboard and Sports Club won second place in the 2011 FWSA club competitions for outstanding club, newsletter and website in class AA. The Reno Ski and Recreation Club won third place in the Class AAA Outstanding Club Competition for their newsletter.

Recreational ski racing is a key activity of the council. Clubs and individuals compete for medals and end of season awards. The race league schedules eight races each season, including a very popular Super G race that attracts racers from other northern California leagues. Sierra racers span all ability levels. Any skier who can make linked turns can have a fun time on the race course and meet members of other clubs.



Roma McCoy
Winners: Sierra Race League members celebrate winning the Roma McCoy trophy for the highest points per racer at the 2011 Far West Racing Championships.



Reno Ski and Recreation Club members enjoy the hot tub on a trip to Mt. Bachelor.
photos provided by Jo Simpson



LEFT: Sierra Council is fortunate to have so many World-Class ski resorts conveniently located in their backyard.
Squaw Valley / Keoki-Flagg

Sierra League shares the race hill with the Bay Area Council Singles League for our regular season races. This collaboration holds down costs for both leagues and enhances the racing experience.

Sierra offers two race clinics over Presidents' Day weekend to get new racers started and to help experienced racers improve. Because our top league racers volunteer their time as coaches at these clinics, the clinic costs are minimal for excellent coaching.

Check out our clubs. Try racing. Sign up for a trip or activity. It's a fun way expand your skiing experience and improve your ability while making new friends with members of other clubs in the Leagues. Junior racers are welcome if accompanied by a racing parent or guardian, and race free. Our racers are generous with their time to introduce new racers to the world of friendly competition, and to help new racers improve.

Visit our website www.sierraleague.com for links to the member clubs, racing information and Sierra Council activities.

Sierra Council & Race League

Website: www.sierraleague.com

President: Jo Simpson

775-787-7556

jo_simpson@sbcglobal.net

Sierra Council & Race League Member Clubs and Contact Information

ALPINE SKI AND SNOWBOARD CLUB

Las Vegas

www.alpineskiandsnowboardclub.com

President: Michael Phillips

E-mail: mpesq8@cox.net

CAPITAL SKI & SPORTS CLUB

Sacramento

www.capitalski.org

President: Crissy Marie King

E-mail: president@capitalski.org

CABERNET SKI CLUB

Truckee

President: Donn Bryant

530-550-9452

E-mail: gsrcacer@cebridge.net

CODE 3

Reno

(Inactive)

President: Jim Sommer

775-322-5805

E-mail: Sommerskier@aol.com

LAS VEGAS SKI, SNOWBOARD & SPORTS CLUB

www.lasvegasskiclub.com

President: Michael Barrett

Hotline: 702-458-0469

E-mail: info@lasvegasskiclub.com

RENO SKI AND RECREATION CLUB

www.renoskiandrec.com

President: Monica Palmer

775-856-1616

E-mail: prez@renoskiandrec.com

Hotline: (775) 747-0233

RU SKI CLUB

Campbell, California

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