

25th Annual
2012 • 2013

FAR WEST SKIER'S GUIDE

**A Visit to
Reno/Tahoe**

**Innsbruck...
Epicenter of
Austrian
Sports**

**Sensory
Overload:
Heli-skiing
in Alaska**

**FWSA Ski
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"The Voice of the Western Skier"



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by Jane Wyckoff

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General circulation throughout all regions
Certified Folder, Phoenix, Arizona
Available Digitally at

www.fwsa.org

and

[http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/
farwestskiersguide/2012-13/](http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/farwestskiersguide/2012-13/)

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TAOS



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photos by Jimmy Petterson

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ABOVE LEFT: High atop the Nordkette Ski Area in Innsbruck, free riders hike along the ridge to access the Karrinne and other off-piste routes. FWSA International Ski Week 2013 will be held in Innsbruck, Austria.

ABOVE RIGHT: Locals perform a Schuplattler, an Austrian folk dance.

LEFT TO RIGHT: Skier, Scott Knutson and snowboarder, Richard Peterson enjoy the conditions at Crested Butte. photos courtesy of Fresno Ski Club

Racing is a popular activity on Ski Weeks. Jackson Hole photo by Ken Calkins

Lifts closed? Capitol Ski and Sports Club members take advantage of the swift current. Oops. Maybe someone got wetter than anticipated! photo by John Baum

ON THE COVER:

Photo: Squaw Valley / Hank deVré, photographer



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Far West Ski Association Offers A Variety of Activities & Trips

**by Randy Lew
President, FWSA**



Welcome fellow snowsports enthusiasts to "The Voice of the Western Skier" - the FWSA's 25th Annual *Far West Skier's Guide*. The *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 boarder membership. Our publication - in addition to the printed version - is also in its third year as an interactive Digital Edition. It can be found at www.fwsa.org.

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 discounted rates for your favorite event, a ski club is the place to find it!

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 snowsports, as well as provide numerous other activities to enjoy.

FWSA is one of the country's largest ski associations. Our 11 active councils represent skiers and boarders in the 13 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 Boise, 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 11 councils, you are a member of FWSA.

The Far West Travel Program is the most visible benefits that we provide to our membership. Approximately 425 members attended our annual Ski Week in Jackson Hole last January. Those participants experienced great snow, superb weather, awesome skiing, challenging racing, and wonderful parties and dinners. In 2013, we are looking forward to taking 500 plus participants to the great snow, skiing, and ambiance of Aspen / Snowmass.

We also have a very active International travel program that included a ski trip in 2012 with approximately 130 participants to Chamonix, France, with an adventure extension to Morocco. In September, FWSA ran its third scuba dive excursion to Cayman Brac, Cayman Islands. Our 2013 International ski trip will be to Innsbruck, Austria with a post trip extension to Garmisch and Munich, Germany.

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 have fun and be competitive within their class. The 2013 FWRA Championships will be held

at Alpine Meadows, April 5-7, 2013. It should, once again, be a truly memorable event.

Annually, FWSA convenes with our industry partners to conduct a Travel Expo and the business of the Association. At our 2012 Convention held at the Ogden Eccles Conference Center in Ogden, Utah, special guests included: Deedee Corradini (President of Women's Ski Jumping USA), Lindsey Van (World Champion Ski Jumper), Sarah Hendrickson (2012 Overall World Cup Champion Ski Jumper), Julian Carr (Pro Free Skier and World Record holder for cliff jumping), Kaylin Richardson (former US Olympian and 4 time National Champion), Jen Hudak (US Free Ski Team and 2 time X-Games Gold Medalist), Luke Bodensteiner (VP of Athletics for the US Ski & Snowboard Team), Dave Ludwig (founder of Hope on the Slopes), Richard Neustetter (Jimmie Heuga Center Endowment), Harv Forsgren (US Forest Service), and Bill Christensen (10th Mountain Division veteran and Bronze Star recipient).

The first Far West Film Fest was presented at Peery's Egyptian Theater in Ogden featuring the screening of three great films: *"Ready to Fly,"* a story about Women's Ski Jumping USA featuring Lindsey Van and Deedee Corradini; *"Can Do: The Legacy of Jimmie Heuga,"* a story of how Jimmie changed the lives of those living with MS; and *"The Movement,"* a story about disabled athletes featuring Rick Finkelstein, produced by Kurt Miller, narrated by Warren Miller and Robert Redford. Proceeds were donated to the Jimmie Heuga Center Endowment, Women's Ski Jumping USA and Make a Hero Foundation.

We have another outstanding event planned for Reno, Nevada, June 6-9, 2013, as we celebrate our 81st Annual Convention. The Bay Area Snow Sports Council will be hosting this convention and is currently planning many exciting events.

We have a wonderful 2012-2013 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, 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 Reno, Nevada for our 2013 Convention. ▲▲



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(Continued on page 12)



Ski Council leaders from around the country gather at the NSCF Annual Meeting to share ideas and discuss important issues facing ski clubs and the ski industry. In 2012, it was held in Telluride, Colorado.

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

National Ski Council Federation Serves Councils & Clubs Nationwide

Offers Resource Center ♦ Member Benefits

by Jo Simpson

Public Affairs Chair - NSCF / Sierra Council, President

The Far West Ski Association and member councils benefit greatly from belonging to the National Ski Council Federation. 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 Federation provides Far West councils an opportunity to interact with ski councils in the central and eastern United States. Information from the NSCF is disseminated to our member clubs.

The 2012 annual meeting was held August 23-26 and hosted by Telluride Ski Resort. Dialog with ski industry representatives is an integral component of the annual national meeting.

The Federation provides a wide variety of benefits to members. Members of ski clubs that belong to the Far West Ski Association are also members 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 NSCF website also offers members a variety of attractive discounts on items such as ski rentals, lodging, car rentals, and a variety of ski gear. The discount listing is in the Members Only section of the website.

The Federation is launching a completely renovated website along with an updated logo seen in the photo above. The site has expanded information and improved navigation. Check it out!

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.). Like FWSA, the Federation is completely operated by volunteers.

For detailed information regarding the NSCF, including participating councils and member benefits, please visit our newly-designed website at www.skifederation.org. ▲▲



Springtime in the Cascades: ski or ride with world famous spring conditions in the morning, followed by your next favorite sport in the afternoon. Join the FUN! photo / Jesse Wittwer

SPRINGTACULAR... WHAT? You're All Invited!

by Ann Cook

What's up with the coupling of spring and spectacular? "Springtacular" coined by Becky Kinney of Mt. Bachelor's Marketing team, captures what any West Coast snow enthusiast knows about the high desert climate of the Cascade Mountain Range; unmatched spring conditions include a deep snow base and sunny blue skies mixed with surprise powder days. Want stats? In May, when Mt. Bachelor's season winds down, the average annual snowfall is 464 inches. On average, in April, you can anticipate nine powder days with an average snowfall of six inches per powder day.*

Andy Goggins, Mt. Bachelor Marketing Director explains "Springtacular is the premiere destination season as the multi-sport vacation mecca. Ski and ride the most spring terrain in the US in the morning (over 2,000 acres of terrain accessed by three high-speed lifts), followed by your next favorite sport in the afternoon; mountain biking on over 1,000 miles of singletrack, fishing the Deschutes, climbing Smith Rock, golfing one of 30 area courses, or sampling craft beers from the 15 area breweries making Bend 'Beer City USA'; and shopping is tax free!"

Northwest Ski Club Council members delight in their traditional Mt. Bachelor BLAST spring trip. Linda McGavin, board member of the NWSCC remarked, "You start with an awesome 360 degree view from the Summit, and you can ski down groomed runs; or Cow's Face leading back to the Summit Chair; or head into the amazing steeps of the Cirque Bowl; or hit the backside for incredible runs down natural valleys of spring snow that seems to go on forever!"

Last year marked the inaugural invitation for all NSCF Members to join the NWSCC's annual BLAST. Thus, the Springtacular BLAST extravaganza was born. All club members were offered discount lift tickets and lodging for Springtacular BLAST. Rates were honored a week prior to and a week after the event which enable members to customize their trip.

**Average Annual snowfall calculated over the last 10 years, April powder days and amount of snowfall per day calculated by an average over the last four years.*

Springtacular BLAST turned up the fun dial with a retro theme and guest appearances from Freestyle Ski Legends. Lynn Norbury, NWSCC member, exclaimed "I couldn't believe they were still throwing their best tricks. Amazing! I'm coming again this year and might even have some short skis to try something new. It was a blast to ski with them. We even did some zip-lining through bumps!"

Springtacular BLAST 2013 will be held April 25 - 28. Lodging will be offered at the four diamond Sunriver Resort. Get stoked. Last year's theme holds true. Practice your backscratcher and pack your onepiece. There will be a best retro outfit contest, mid-mountain group lunch, professional photographs, and live music at the

Springtacular BLAST Saturday night party. Take it from NWSCC member, Stevie Viaene, "The 2012 Bachelor Blast actually WAS a blast - here is why. We not only had the perfect weather to ski the entire mountain, including that awesome backside, but we also got to actually ski and hang out with the "legends" - those famous guys from back in the day, and you know, they still have it going on! So much fun to roll out the old neon ski wear and get crazy. Oh, and did I forget to mention the after party?"

Now, you are in the know. It's your turn to play in the NWSCC's backyard and experience world famous spring conditions at the 2013 Mt. Bachelor Springtacular BLAST in Central Oregon! ▲

2nd Annual SPRINGTACULAR BLAST

NWSCC invites all National Ski Club members to the end of the season BLAST.
Deep snow base, aMazing conditions and powder days ARE usual.

April 25th - April 28th 2013

Sunriver Resort | \$ 410 - 4 nights Lodging, 3 Days Ski/Ride*

Arrive early or stay late. Discount lift tickets, lodging, and golf rate honored April 19th - May 5th

Price includes all lodging taxes & fees plus the activity charge covering Saturday April 27th Mt. BBQ and Springtacular Blast Party Lodge Village Guest Room double occupancy. Other lodging options available

Packing List

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Prepare to visit the Central Oregon multisport mecca.
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Sign up: 800-837-0155 or Gloria@ski.com
Event details: 541-693-0957 or acook@mtbachelor.com

2012 - 2013 Council Information

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Website: www.orangecouncil.org

San Diego Council of Ski Clubs

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Councils Come Together: Identify Common Strengths & Problems, Assist to Provide Solutions

by Eileen Sanford,
Vice President - Councils, FWSA

The Annual FWSA Convention is a perfect time for Council members to interact and share ideas

photo by Bill Singleton / Shutterrific Photography.



The Far West Ski Association Board is looking forward to a fabulous year. As Vice President of Councils, I am excited about working on the FWSA leadership team. I have the responsibility and unique opportunity to work with the presidents of the 11 member councils to identify strengths that can be shared, and to identify common problems and work to support joint solutions.

The FWSA Outreach Program funds were awarded to Northwest Ski Club Council, Sierra Council and Intermountain Ski Council this year. Congratulations, and we hope all the councils will participate in the program next year.

This year, the Savvy Snake Ski Cancer Prevention Program continued to be promoted by Fran Long and her committee. Fran won the Aspen sponsored FWSA Safety Person of the Year Award for this worthwhile project. She 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 was displayed at trade shows and at the FWSA Convention brought attention to the program. The funding came from California so the program was focused on that state this year. Thanks to Fran for a job well done. We will continue to promote the program again next year.

The FWSA 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. Donn does an outstanding job of putting all the pieces together and honoring the council candidates. This year's winners were Sigrid Noack from Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs and Norm Azevedo from Bay Area Snow Sports Council. Congratulations for a job well done!

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 on page 28 for this year's winners.

This year, nine clubs and several councils entered the competition. Four clubs were asked to complete boards for the Convention: Schnee Volgeli, Fire & Ice, Balboa, and Reno Ski and Recreation Club. The winner was Fire & Ice Ski Club of Bay Area Snow Sports Council.

The Club and Council Communication Awards competitions for outstanding website, newsletter and club was refined by Lennia Machen, Communication Awards Chairperson, and Catherine Ohl. They also developed a digital award for the winning clubs to put on their website. This year, Catherine and the new Communication Awards Chair, Crissy Marie King, will review and edit the judging criteria and create a web page for the competition to allow posting of information, criteria, rules, dates, and develop training materials for judges.

The Youth and Family Program will host another Mammoth Adventure this year from July 29 - August 5. The weeklong trip will host daily activities for kids and adults. The participants can camp or stay in a hotel. Check www.fwsa.org for more details or contact Fran Long at: fancat2007@sbglobal.net.

If you belong to a local club, do not forget to regularly visit their website for ongoing activities. Also check the council website for your area. Remember to check www.fwsa.org to sign up for the monthly *Far West News Flash* on this site. We appreciate all the local club and council support of FWSA programs.

Thanks to Intermountain Ski Council for a great FWSA Convention in Ogden, Utah. It was a root-toot-tooting cowboy good time! ▲▲

The New Ski Season is Here

by **Debbi Kor,**

Vice President - Marketing, FWSA

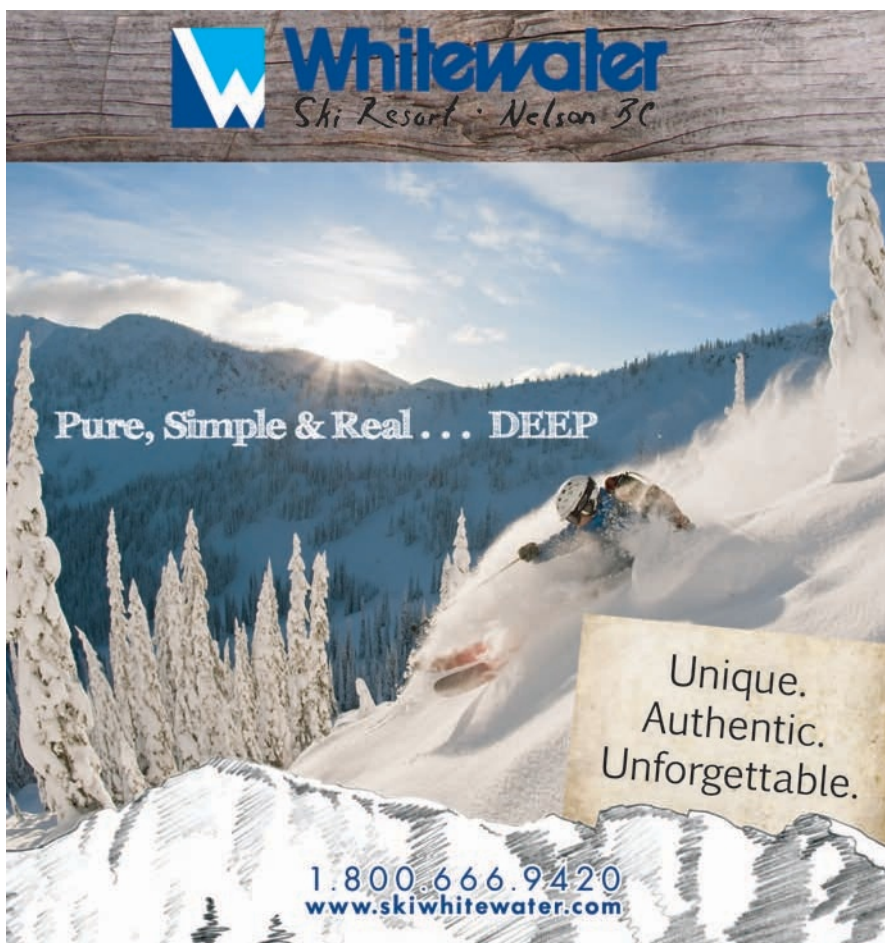
Ski season 2012 was a challenge for many ski resorts. The massive amounts of snow we saw in 2011 passed us by last year. Let's hope the theory of the weather skipping a season will account for record snowfalls and incredible snow days ahead!

Each new season brings a chance to escape to a wonderful winter wonderland. Our clubs and councils travel to many destinations. Whether we go internationally, or travel to our favorite domestic or Canadian resorts, we have fun wherever we go! Some of those FUN areas that our clubs and councils will be heading to for the 2013 ski season will include Red Mountain, Whitewater Resort, Whistler, Snowbasin and Powder Mountain, Big Sky and Taos and many, many more.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the many opportunities that FWSA provides our members to cash in on, be sure to check our website - www.fwsa.org - and check out the plethora of member benefits. We have many wonderful lodging partners who offer up discounted rates, including Aston Lakeland Resort, Cal Neva, in South Lake Tahoe; Wilderrest Vacation Rentals, in Silverthorne, Colorado; Granlibakken Resort and Conference Center in Tahoe City, and Sunriver Resort in Bend, Oregon. We also have a host of ski shops and services offering reduced prices on ski rentals and transportation, such as Ski Butlers, located in 30 North American resorts, as well as Rentskis. To get around in the Park City area, give Canyon Transportation a call, and receive 20% off the shuttle service from the Salt Lake City airport.

Far West Ski Association values the continued support of our many program sponsors within the ski industry. Aspen Skiing Company sponsors the annual Far West Safety Award; Big White Ski Resort and Silver Star Mountain Resort sponsor the Far West Councils' Man and Woman of the Year Award; Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation sponsors the Western Ski Heritage Award; and Grouse Mountain Lodge, Whitefish Mountain Resort, and Schure Sports, Inc. are sponsors of the Far West Athletic Scholarship Program. We thank you all! We enjoy hosting you each year at our Annual Convention, and look forward to seeing you in Reno, Nevada in June, 2013 for the FWSA 81st Annual Convention.

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



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COMMUNICATIONS/ PUBLICATIONS

(Continued from page 8)

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SAFETY COMMITTEE CHAIR

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Direct Membership is Available in FWSA

by Mary Azevedo

Vice - President, Membership, FWSA

FWSA has approximately 50,000 members in thirteen western states. It is the umbrella organization over 11 councils. Within the councils, there are approximately 175 ski clubs. A list of councils and clubs can be found in the back of this issue of the *Far West Skier's Guide*. You should be able to find a ski club near your town. Most ski clubs and councils have a website listed where you can obtain more information.

If you are already a member of a FWSA club, you are automatically a member of the Far West Ski Association. With your membership, you receive many benefits. A list can be found on the FWSA website: www.fwsa.org. In addition, many councils have area specific bargains for you. Discounts can include ski rentals, ski equipment, hotel discounts in snow country, and many more. All you have to do is show your FWSA Membership Card which is provided by your ski club.

Direct membership in the Far West Ski Association is available for those who have relocated, and for those nationwide who wish to participate in Far West travel and other organizational opportunities. Simply fill out the application to the left on this page and mail it to me along with the membership fee. ▲

FWSA DIRECT MEMBER APPLICATION 2012-2013

Direct membership is available for an individual or family who is NOT a member of a FWSA-affiliated snowsports club. Members of FWSA affiliated ski clubs are automatic FWSA members. Membership is effective through September 30, 2013.

DIRECT MEMBER BENEFITS

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

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 Mary Azevedo, VP - Membership, FWSA. 901 Sousa Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94597 925-944-9816.

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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 2012-2013 FWSA trips you wish to attend.

FWSA Revamps Website: www.fwsa.org

by Linda Scott

Vice President - Communications, FWSA

New and exciting things are happening in our communications program at FWSA! Let me be the first to announce that we will soon have a new website! We have recently contracted with Catherine Ohl of A Cat Meowz Graphic Designz, a long-time supporter of the Far West Ski Association, to redesign our website. The new website will be up and running by Labor Day, so check the website at www.fwsa.com, and stay tuned for great things to come!

This *Far West Skier's Guide* is our annual magazine of FWSA news and happenings published by Leigh Gieringer. This year will be our Silver Anniversary edition. That's right. This issue is the 25th Annual, and we are excited to bring you this very special edition of our fabulous publication. Also, don't forget to visit the third annual digital version of the *Far West Skier's Guide*. In addition to the information in this printed version, the DE will be expanded with more features and information of interest to our readers. You can find the link to it at www.fwsa.org, www.skifederation.org and directly at <http://www.nextbook.com/nextbooks/farwestskiersguide/2012-13/>, or visit our Facebook page. Many FWSA councils also have added a link to the *Guide* on their website home pages, so if your council hasn't done so yet, ask them to add it so you can visit often. With amazing interactive graphics and links, it's a must read! It's also updated periodically, so visit often to view the latest in the ski world.

Connie Burdette is the new editor of *The Councilman* newsletter. Have you seen the latest edition? This publication is published three times a year, and if you haven't had a chance to view her latest edition, you should definitely put it on your "to do" list. It has a new format, a new glossy cover, and is not only pleasant to look at, but informative too! You can find a link to *The Councilman* on our website or on our Facebook page.

Steve Coxen manages and updates our Facebook page. He has been very busy as lots of snowsports news can be found there. Make sure you become our "Friend", and visit often for all the latest FWSA news, and fun facts. Steve does a great job keeping the page fresh and current.

Debbi Kor keeps track of all the current events in the ski world, so don't miss any issues of her monthly *Far West News Flash*. She compiles and distributes all the latest ski news in an e-mail format, and makes it easy and enjoyable to read. To join the mailing list and receive Debbi's newsletter, just visit our website, click on membership, then publications, to add your e-mail address to the distribution list. You will be glad you did.

The past year has been exciting and fun as we have worked hard to update our communications programs to better align with current technology. I can speak for all the folks on our communications team when I say that we are excited about the coming year, and look forward to bringing you snowsports news in a fresh, interesting and vibrant way. ▲



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It's been 25 Years!

Far West Skier's Guide 25th Annual Issue

by Jane Wyckoff

The 2012-2013 edition of the *Far West Skier's Guide* is our 25th Anniversary issue. It hardly seems possible that we have been producing this publication for a quarter of a century!

It all began one day back in 1988, when I walked into Leigh Gieringer's office in Los Angeles, and we began to discuss the necessity for the newly restructured Far West Ski Association to have its own annual magazine publication. Leigh Gieringer was a graphic artist and owner of Leigh Gieringer Graphic Services and I was a Past President of FWSA, and FWSA Ski Industry Liaison / Convention Silent Auction Chairman.

The Far West Ski Association had been a division of the United States Ski Association until May of 1985 when the FWSA was reactivated into an independent all volunteer entity. The Far West Division, USSA had a full paid staff to conduct programs including publications, such as the *Skiers' Almanac*,

LEFT: Leigh Gieringer; Publisher; Editor and Advertising Manager:

RIGHT: Jane Wyckoff, Assistant Editor and Advertising Sales, Far West Skier's Guide.



an annual publication featuring stories from prominent western ski journalists, information about major destination resorts, and ski club listings. It also had a newspaper, the *Far West Ski News*. The newly formed United States Recreational Ski Association began a publication called *The Recreational Skier*, with features similar to the *Skiers' Almanac*.

Leigh and I had a number of meetings to discuss the project – our goals and budget. Our intent was to market the Association's programs, provide club information to skiers and be a ski industry news source in the western states. Leigh would be the Publisher and handle all the production, graphic de-

sign, printing and distribution, and I would be the FWSA Editor and Advertising Director for this issue. Mike Favia, President, supported the project for the new "Official Publication of the Far West Ski Association," and the FWSA Board of Directors approved it. Thus began our new venture, the *Far West Skier's Guide*, and we have worked together on the publication for the past 25 years in varying roles.

The first issue was our 1988-1989 edition, with 40 pages and 25 display ads, plus a Resort Lodging Directory. We originally had a section called Ski Resort Information, a complex chart of important ski resort statistics and a Skier's Calendar listing FWSA



The first issue of the *Far West Skier's Guide* was produced for the 1988-1989 ski season. It's the first one pictured above. The others are placed in order over these two pages including #25 - the current issue - located on the bottom right. Twenty-five years: it brings back many wonderful memories of all those who made it possible. We thank everyone who contributed and supported us for the last 25 years; and look forward to many more!

and major ski resort events, but disbanded both a number of years ago. With modern technology, all this information is easily available online and is constantly updated by the resorts. We even had a column for Recipes for the Slopes and a Glossary of Snow and Weather Terms. Leigh and I did most of the writing, with a feature article on "The Value of Ski Lessons" by Mary F. Wendt, a freelance writer, past president of the Southern California Ski Writers Association and recipient of the 1988 FWSA Bill Berry Media Award.

The *Far West Skier's Guide* was well received by the ski industry, ski community and Far West members. We continued to expand the publication, as advertising sales increased. The council coverage has expanded over the years, as well. The first issue included only 2/3rds of a page summary about the seven existing councils (in 1988) - Bay Area Council, Central Council, Inland Council, Los Angeles Council, Orange Council, San Diego Council and Sierra Council. All the ski clubs were listed in the back of the publication, in order by council. Beginning with the 1996-1997 issue, we began to devote a section to each of our councils. And, we added new councils, with the addition of the Arizona Ski Council in the 1991-1992 issue, Northwest Ski Club Council in the 1992-1993 issue, New Mexico Ski Club Council in the 2001-2002 issue and Intermountain Ski Council in the 2008-2009 issue. Each council section now includes an article by the council president, pictures and their club list.

Also included in the first edition was a one

industry updates. We still highlight all our FWSA programs in the publication, with the Vice Presidents or Chairperson of each program submitting an article. News coverage of our industry partners has grown over the years, in recognition of their high-level of participation in the FWSA industry programs, such as the annual Silent Auction/Travel Expo, Convention sponsorships and advertising support.

The millennium brought new and expanded FWSA programs, and with it a challenge to fit coverage of everything into the publication. The 2005-2006 issue was the largest ever, with 100 pages. The Far West Ski Association celebrated a milestone anniversary in 2005.

The National Ski Council Federation was founded as we entered the new millennium, bringing a dynamic dimension to council programs. The Athletic Scholarship Fund was established in 2004 for the purpose of providing financial assistance to junior alpine ski racers and the program has expanded to be one of the Far West Ski Association's most notable efforts. The Annual FWSA Convention had a relatively brief coverage in each issue of the *Far West Skier's Guide* until the 2004-2005 issue, celebrating FWSA's 75th Anniversary of its founding in 1930. This issue featured an eight-page center fold with "The History of Skiing in the Far West" by Catherine Ohl. Modern FWSA Conventions have multiple snowsports personalities and additional programs, such as the Snowsports Leadership Academy, the multi-media presentation, Snowsports Builder Award and an expanded list of Convention sponsors. Travel



page summary article highlighting the major programs of the FWSA: Public Affairs, Ski Sense & Safety, Community Service, Support of Regional and National Skisport Museums, Athletic Programs, Travel Programs, Publications, Awards Programs, Annual Convention and Membership. Selected programs also had additional coverage in the publication. A Resort and Travel News section featured ski

coverage increased due to the addition of adventure trips such as the annual Dive Trip, and beginning last year, the mini-FWSA Ski Week to Big White / Silver Star and summer adventure to Mammoth Mountain. FWSA affiliated with additional industry organizations, and expanded its public affairs programs, especially in the ski safety and history recognition. Article continues on page 65.

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Aspen/Snowmass, Colorado

February 2-9, 2013

Four amazing mountains await the presence of FWSA members for the 2013 Far West Ski Week.



Will Cardamore finds some fresh powder on one of the numerous slopes in the Aspen/Snowmass Resorts.

photo courtesy of Aspen/mass - Scott Markewitz



Snow-

Scott Markewitz

There is suitable terrain for every ability level: glades and cruisers, bumps and steeps. But also there is an amazing amount of après ski activities - both active and relaxing such as a romantic buggy ride as the new snow falls for tomorrow's adventure.

photos courtesy of Aspen/Snowmass



Mary Manning with Aspen Ski Company, Mike Hibbard and Sara Clemons with Sports America Tours along with Gloria Raminha and her travel staff have been working together preparing for another FWSA outstanding ski week. With our 5 or 6 day lift ticket package, everyone will have an opportunity to ski Snowmass Ski Area, Buttermilk Mountain, Aspen Mountain and Aspen Highlands. The four mountains await our presence.

Our ski week activities will consist of:

- Welcome Party/Super Bowl Party
- Pub crawl
- Races
- Après Party
- Mountain lunch
- Awards Banquet and Dance & More

Snowmass Ski Area consists of 3,132 acres of skiing and offers runs for all levels of skiers. From the gentle dips and drops of Elk Camp to the wide open cruising trails on the Big Burn to the aggressive, double-black-diamond runs of Hanging Valley, no wonder Snowmass is among the top rated ski areas in North America.

Buttermilk Mountain is the home of the ESPN Winter X Games for the past eleven years and again in 2013. Buttermilk also welcomes beginners and is great for families, and young children with its more gentle wide cruisers and rolling trails. Experts and the daring can also test their abilities in the new snow terrain park.

Aspen Mountain, known for its steep, bumps and incredible views serve 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.

Aspen Highlands is the locals' favorite, for its steep terrain, groomed cruisers and breathtaking views of the Maroon Bells.

If interested in this trip, please check the FWSA website at www.fwsa.org for the Aspen/Snowmass flyer which will include details and information to sign-up for this trip.

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photo / Mt. Bachelor

North American Travel

by Gloria Raminha
Vice-President -
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skies.

FWSA Second Annual Mini Ski Trip

Mt. Bachelor, Oregon

March 25-30, 2013

Mt. Bachelor Ski Resort and The Riverhouse in Bend, Oregon were chosen to host the second annual FWSA mini ski trip. This mini ski trip is planned for March 25-30, 2013. Gloria Raminha and Fran Long are looking forward to working with Bob Bourquard from Mt. Bachelor and Randy Parker from The Riverhouse in Bend to make our mini ski trip a great success.

Included in the trip package:

- Roundtrip transfers from Redmond/Bend Airport
- 5 nights lodging
- Full American breakfast daily

- 3 or 4 day lift tickets
- Welcome Party
- Last Tracks Après Ski Party
- Tubing Party
- Farewell Party

Mt. Bachelor Ski Area is located on the eastern side of Oregon's Central Cascades and is known for its light, dry snow, diverse terrain, family-friendliness and long seasons. On the volcano, you'll be able to ski terrain above the treeline. Old-growth hemlocks make it perfect for glade skiing. You can ski over 3,300 vertical feet - nonstop. With over 2,000 acres of skiable terrain accessible by lifts, Mt. Bachelor

has the highest skiable elevation in all of Oregon and Washington. The resort is approximately 22 miles west of Bend. Bend is almost as popular for their beer as they are for their scenery and recreation activities with the most craft breweries per capita in the U.S. A cold beer after a long day of skiing or snowboarding will be a great way to end your day.

This ski trip is loaded with value and tons of fun. The mini ski trip is limited to the first 100 signups. A \$50 refundable (until November 15th) deposit will guarantee your spot if space is available. The flyer, sign-up details and pricing can be found at www.fwsa.org.

FAR WEST SKI ASSOCIATION MINI-TRIP... MAXI-FUN!

Mt. Bachelor and The Riverhouse - March 25th-30th, 2013 (Monday – Saturday)

Mountain:

Last Tracks Apres + Ski Party

"Hang out at mid-mountain munching on appetizers and sipping cool beverages while the mountain closes, then make your last tracks down in perfect serenity".

Tubing Party

Mountain Lunch – Group Photo

Mountain Ambassador Guiding

Bend:

Travel the Ale Trail

"A Cele-brew-tion of Bend's 12 breweries"

Tax-free Shopping

Riverhouse:

Welcome/Farewell Parties

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Mt. Bachelor

The Riverhouse
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Contact: Gloria Raminha at fwsa.natravel@bak.rr.com

The Mammoth Adventure: A Recipe for Fun

by Fran Long



Fran, Bill, John, Kathy, and John enjoy a day at Lake Mary. Summer, 2012 was the second annual summer adventure trip. Join them in 2013! photo provided by Fran Long

Start with a week at Mammoth Lakes to mix up some fun for adventurers of all levels, interests, and ages. **Add:**

- A day at the lakes, kayaking and fishing
- A day of hiking in the beautiful Eastern Sierra
- A day of biking the numerous bike trails in and around Mammoth Lakes
- A day exploring the ghost town of Bodie, including the Stamp Mine tour
- A day relaxing, exploring town, and enjoying a BBQ with friends

Mix in:

- A potluck dinner and campfire
- An early-bird dinner at Whiskey Creek
- A free blues concert

Sprinkle with just the right number of friendly adventurers, stir it up to your liking, and, there you have it, the perfect adventure vacation. ENJOY!

Far West Ski Association hosts just such an adventure at Mammoth Lakes every summer. Children and adults of all ages are encouraged to participate. The fun at this low cost, outdoor adventure is yours to schedule as you please, from joining the group for a day, to enjoying the entire week of adventures. Look for information on the 2013 Mammoth Adventure on the FWSA website: www.fwsa.org, when you begin thinking about your summer vacation.



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2014 FWSA North American Ski Week

Not Exactly Roughing It - In Beaver Creek

January 25 - February 1, 2014

"Not exactly roughing it"! That's what FWSA members will be doing for the 2014 Ski Week, January 25 to February 1. This ski week will be the first FWSA Ski Week to be held in Beaver Creek. With Beaver Creek's outstanding groomed runs, base village escalators and cookie-time every afternoon, you'll think you're in Heaven.

The 149 trails and 25 lifts make this a resort of reasonable size to allow plenty of skiing or snowboarding. Designed for all abilities, you can relax on Strawberry Park's gentle groomers or be challenged on the famous "Birds of Prey" runs. The Birds of Prey downhill course attracts hundreds of skiers early in the season to compete on the world cup cir-



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Beaver Creek Resort / Jack Affleck

cuit. The Golden Eagle and other double black diamond runs are part of the course and although not for the faint hearted, they are definitely skiable for visitors who care to try their skills.

Beaver Creek Resort Statistics:

- 149 Trails
- 25 Lifts
- 1,815 Acres of Skiable Terrain
- 11,440' Summit Elevation
- 8,100' Base Elevation
- 3,340 Vertical Drop
- 2 Bowls (Rose & Larkspur)
- 2.75 miles - Longest Trail
- 3 Terrain Parks
- 1 Halfpipe

Beaver Creek resort is made up of three separate and distinct villages: Beaver Creek Village is the main center of the resort.

As you enter the village, all the walkways are heated and clear of snow. The focal point is an ice rink where you can practice your skills of skating or picking yourself off the ice. Around the perimeter are boutiques, art galleries, the Vilar Center of the Arts, bars and restaurants ranging from reasonable to high end prices.

Bachelor Gulch is where the world renowned Ritz Carlton Hotel is located along with many other homes and condominiums. Bachelor Gulch area offers mostly intermediate skiing.

Arrowhead Village is the westernmost entrance to the resort. It offers the Broken

Arrow restaurant and bar, with an outdoor patio. Enjoy some of the 300 days of sunshine while watching skiers and snowboarders making their way down the slopes.

Far West Travel Staff, Council Trip Lead-

ers, Todd Strickland with Vail Resorts, Stephen Hall and Sandy Gaudette with Skigroup.net will soon start preparations for what should be an exciting and enjoyable visit for Far West Ski Association members. Join us! ▲▲



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Debbie and the Dromedary:
*One never knows what experiences
 to expect on a Far West trip.*

photo provided by Debbie Stewart

2012 International Ski Week in Chamonix – A Great Success!

Last year, 131 participants traveled to Chamonix, France for one week experiencing the fabulous European charm of the city and the diversity of six nearby ski resorts. Many skiers traveled through the Mont Blanc tunnel to Verbier, the largest individual ski area in Switzerland. Some took the day off from skiing and traveled to Montreux to tour the Chillon Castle. We rode from Chamonix along Lake Geneva, passing the famous towns of Vevey and Montreux to reach the Château de Chillon, a beautiful lakeside castle that is one of Switzerland's most famous monuments. Another day, we traveled through the Mont Blanc Tunnel among the beautiful Italian mountainside in the Aosta Valley where we enjoyed a walking tour of the town of Aosta which is known for its rich history and ancient Roman Ruins.

After the one week, some members returned home. Additional members flew to Europe to join the group for the extension trips. We had 44 people who went on the one week bus tour through Morocco and 33 traveled for two weeks through Morocco...a phenomenal experience had by all.

The 2012 Was 3rd Annual Dive Trip:

The FWSA Annual Dive Trip was held September 1-8, 2012 lead by a master diver himself, our own President, Randy Lew. This was his third dive trip as the leader taking the group to Cayman Brac spending seven nights at the Brac Reef Beach Resort, daily breakfast and dinner, six days of 2 - Tank Boat Dives and so much more!



In addition to the gondola, access has been much improved by the building of a new funicular railway starting near the Imperial Palace in the center of the city. The lifts to the Hungerburg and the Nordkette (Nordpark) have now both been modernized, plus the top station has been renovated.

photo by Jimmy Petterson

What's in store for the FWSA 2013 International Ski Week?

Mark your calendar and allocate your travel dollars for the next 2013 International Ski Week from March 2-10, 2013 in Innsbruck, Austria named the "Capital and Heart of the Alps". You'll spend 7 nights at the 4-Star Hotel Grauer Bar with daily breakfast and dinner included. Innsbruck, the Tyrolean capital, hosted the Winter Olympics in 1964 and 1976. It has over 320 miles of trails easily accessible in 25 surrounding village resorts. There are nine major ski areas that provide varied terrain for all levels of skiers. The post extension trip from March 10-17 will offer five nights in Garmisch for skiing and adventure, then two nights in Munich, Germany. Both weeks will offer optional tours for both skiers and non-skiers alike. Keep checking the FWSA website, www.fwsa.org for details on this trip. This is one you won't want to miss!

Note: Please see article beginning on page 58 by Bill Berry Award winner, Jimmy Petterson, about skiing in the Innsbruck area.



Innsbruck is the capitol of the Tyrol and a gateway to much of the best skiing in Austria. The area is dotted with local ski areas, while other world class ski resorts can be accessed on day trips. As an historic city, there is also plenty for a non-skier to experience. Courtesy of the Innsbruck Tourist Office

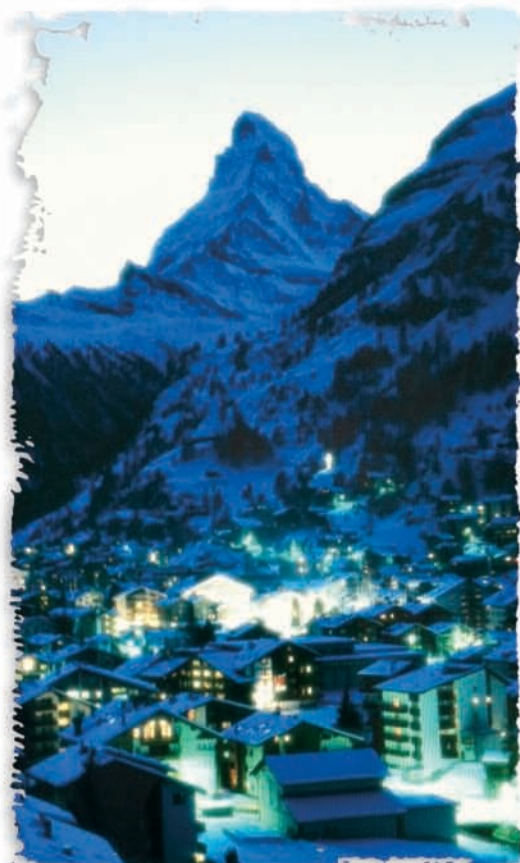
International Travel

by Debbie Stewart
Vice-President -
International Travel, FWSA

As the newly elected VP of International Travel, it is my pleasure to be working with FWSA and I look forward to taking our international travelers on new and exciting adventures.

Here are some reasons to travel with FWSA:

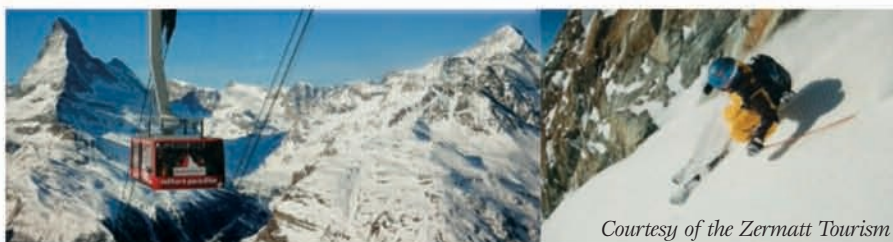
- Adventuresome destinations for both skiers and non-skiers alike
- Experience skiing in unique areas such as the Jungfrau Region which is known as "The Top of Europe" or ski on the famous Aiguilles du Midi glacier 12,600' above sea level in France
- Take advantage of optional day tours, from magical castles such as Neuschwanstein which the Disneyland castle was designed after, to ancient Roman ruins, extraordinary museums including the Louvre and D'Orsay in Paris and much more
- Learn and experience the rich local culture in a variety of countries and regions
- Explore the undersea world during one of our annual FWSA Dive trips
- Enjoy a once in a lifetime ride on a dromedary [one humped camel] in the Sahara Desert
- Create memorable experiences with new and old friends with like interests
- Travel with confidence with an experienced travel team and reputable tour operators to provide our participants outstanding service



The town of Garmisch is actually two towns. Garmisch (west) and Partenkirchen (east) were separate entities until 1935 when they came together for the 1936 Olympics. They each still have their own identities. The former has a more modern feel, while the latter with its frescoed walls, offers more of a glimpse into the past. photo courtesy of the Garmisch Tourist Office

Here's what's next for FWSA International Travel:

In 2014, FWSA will be offering a ski week in Zermatt, Switzerland with a post trip to Spain and/or Portugal. Zermatt, Switzerland's best-known ski resort, has a storybook village with its quaint Swiss chalet style buildings and a babbling stream running through the middle of town. It is best known for the incredible views of the spectacular Matterhorn everywhere you go. The ski resort offers more than 155 miles of marked ski trails with a large diversity of terrain for any level skier. After leaving Zermatt, we will travel to the beautiful areas of Spain and/or Portugal to tour and experience the local culture of the region. Details will be available on the FWSA website.



Courtesy of the Zermatt Tourism

Planning for the Future:

I will work to take the FWSA International Travel Program to the next level. In order to do this, I have created a core international travel team to provide our members added value, offering seamless ease of travel, and exciting experiences that our members have come to expect from us in an even more inviting and sophisticated way. We are excited to see families and youth join our FWSA family. Most trips, activities and events are family friendly and families are encouraged to attend.

We will be forecasting and publishing future travel, trips and events further in advance so one can save and dedicate their FWSA travel dollars...you write the check, we'll do the rest!

"I hope to see you all on the plane, train, bus and the slopes having an exceptional travel experience. Let's embrace the world with FWSA's International Travel Program and adventures to be discovered".

For updates on FWSA International Travel Program, visit www.fwsa.org or e-mail Debbie Stewart, FWSA VP of International Travel at: FWSAIntlTrvl@prodigy.net. ▲

Far West Ski Association Travel Vision

Far West Ski Association's travel programs, North American and International, are designed for those who prefer group travel. FWSA trips provide an opportunity to meet with old friends and make new ones. Our travel participants, drawn from our many ski clubs west of the Rockies and our direct members, are friendly, a pleasure to travel with; fun, intelligent, and exciting.

We travel for sport, adventure and culture to exciting world renowned locations via air and/or cruise to explore, ski, enjoy different experiences with proven, experienced, and reliable tour operators. Group camaraderie makes it easy for all to meet each other, party and keep abreast of all activities. Far West Travel and Council Trip Leaders work together throughout the year to organize and ensure that all participants receive the best possible value for their travel dollar. It's imperative that our participants go home with lasting memories, many pictures and new friends. We strive to provide continuous opportunities for people to reconnect on each of our trips

Silent Auction Donors for the 2012 Far West Racing 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 2012 Far West Racing Association Championships at Mammoth Mountain Resort. A portion of the proceeds helps fund the Far West Ski Association Athletic Scholarship Program.

Brockway Golf Course
Carson Valley Golf Course
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Dayton Valley Golf Course
Empire Ranch Golf Course
Maxine Hanlon
Rick Harrington—Servicon Systems
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Snowcreek Golf Course
Sorensen's Resort
Tahoe Donner Association
Laurie Thompson
Vail Resorts
Paul Vlasveld



2012 FWRA Mammoth Championships. Winners in the S3 Men's Division:
LEFT TO RIGHT:
David Colleen;
Randy Lew;
Curtis Hedlund;
Ken Williams; and
Mitch McPeck



2012 FWRA Mammoth Championships. Winners in the S5 Women's Division:
LEFT TO RIGHT: Michelle Nightengale;
Debbi Warzynski; Robin Colleen;
Mae Lon Ding; and Debi Phelps.
photos provided by Nancy Ellis

**Los Angeles Council Ski,
Ride & Race Camp
will be held
December 10 - 14, 2012
at Mammoth Mountain**

Mae Lon Ding takes a run down the course at the FWRA Championships held at Mammoth Mountain in April, 2012. photo by Ken Calkins



Racing is Fun & Helps Improve Technique!

by Bob Ellis
President - FWRA

Every so often when you are at ski areas, you will see skiers or boarders on race courses. There is an avenue for you to try racing, through ski clubs that participate in League ski races in Oregon, Northern California, Southern California and Nevada. Anybody with any skiing or boarding ability, can participate in these races.

We separate racers by their age, ability and gender, so everybody has an opportunity to be competitive in their own little group of peers. Juniors and seniors can all have fun on a controlled, well groomed race course and a safe environment. We stress safety at our events and also try to move people through the courses quickly, so there is plenty of time to free ski or ride on the hill and very little time waiting to run on the race course.

There is no special equipment needed to participate, only a helmet, however, you will perform better with all-mountain or race skis or a race snowboard. Our program is very economical as most season racing fees are under \$120 per year, or you can drop in for only \$20 to try it out. Some clubs have first time racer programs so you may be able to try it at no cost, your first time around. As a club member, you may also receive lift ticket discounts on race days at most ski areas where we race.

At most events, you can sign up in the morning before the race and normally there will be a sign-up location somewhere visible in the ski lodge of the ski area. Be sure to ask any of the organizers of the event, and they will gladly help you out and get you signed up for some real fun. When you sign up, you will probably receive a race bib, which you will wear on the race course, so we know who is on the course.

Let the organizers know that you are new to this, and they can set you up with an experienced racer that can help you out with some tips throughout the day. Racing itself is a lot of fun, and it will help you improve your technique, plus, it is a great way to meet new friends that you can ski and board with later.

We are always looking for new racers that want to learn or have fun, so come join us and have a great time with our racing group! ▲▲

2013 FWRA Championships to be held at Alpine Meadows April 5 - 7

The 2013 FWRA Championships will be held at Alpine Meadows Resort April 5-7. Racers from Open League (BAC); Singles League (BAC); Sierra League (Sierra Council); PACRAT League (Northwest Council); Schuski League (Orange Council); ROKKA & ULLR Leagues (LAC) and San Diego League (San Diego Council) will participate in this end of season race event. Individual awards will be awarded to top finishers in each age group. Special recognition awards will be presented at the FWSA Convention in Reno to the race league with the most points, the league with the most points per racer, and the league with the most points in the Junior Racer Division.



*Another opportunity to race will
be at the FWSA Ski Week in Aspen.
Jackson Hole racer photo by Ken Calkins*

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- 2012 / 2013 -

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The FWSA Athletic Scholarship Program

by Dick Shawkey

Athletic Scholarship Committee Chairman, FWSA

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 must participate in racing programs in the states represented by the councils of the FWSA: Alaska, Arizona, Cal-

ifornia, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. Scholarships are awarded based on financial need, academic performance, athletic achievement and community service. Additional information is available at the FWSA website: www.fwsa.org.

Why provide assistance to junior racers?

2012- 2013 FWRA Race Schedule

Date	Format	Location
OPEN/SIERRA/SINGLES Leagues		
January 5	GS	Alpine (Open Only)
January 6	SL	Alpine (Open Only)
January 12	GS	Squaw (Singles/Sierra Only)
January 13	SL	Squaw (Singles/Sierra Only)
January 26	SL	Northstar (All leagues)
January 27	GS	Northstar (All leagues)
February 16-17	Clinics	Boreal (All leagues invited)
February 23	Super G Clinic	Northstar
February 24	Super G	Northstar Sierra/Singles (Open invited)
March 9	SL	Alpine (All leagues)
March 10	GS	Alpine (All leagues)
March 16-17	Clinics	TBD
March 23	GS	Northstar (All leagues)
March 24	TBD	Possible Make-up Race

ROKKA/ULLR Leagues (Schusski & San Diego-See ULLR League)

December 15	GS	Mammoth
January 7-11	ROKKA Race Camp	Mammoth
January 12	SL	Mammoth
February 23	GS	Mammoth
March 23	SoCals GS	Mammoth
March 24	SoCals SL	Mammoth

PACRAT League

January 13	Race #1	Mt. Hood Meadows
January 27	Race #2	Mt. Hood Skibowl
February 10	Race #3	Mt. Hood Skibowl
March 2	NASTAR OPEN	Mt. Hood Skibowl (open to all interested adults and children)
March 17	Race #4	Mt. Hood Meadows
March 31	Race #5	Timberline
April 7	Makeup Race (if needed), Location TBD	
April 19	"Rat Attack" End of Season Party, Location TBD	

ALL LEAGUES

February 2-9	FWSA Ski Week	Aspen/Snowmass, CO
April 5	FWSA Finals	Alpine Meadows
	Pacesetter/Clinic	
April 6	Finals-SL	Alpine Meadows
April 7	Finals-GS	Alpine Meadows

Contact the race chairman in your local area, or visit www.fwsa.org website or one of the league sites for more information. Schedule subject to change.



Three-time FWSA scholarship recipient, Lila Lipanja is currently a U.S. Ski Team member.

photo provided by Dick Shawkey

After all, skiing is an expensive sport. Shouldn't parents foot the bill? Well, for the most part they do. For the younger athletes, the costs are modest. Most competition is at the local or regional level. However, for 15 through 19 year olds, the competition becomes national and even international. Some examples follow: the J-2 Nationals in Maine, the U.S. Nationals in Colorado, the downhill qualifier in Montana, the NorAms in Canada, the Wildwest Classic Elite FIS Series in Wyoming, the Elite Northwest Cup in Washington, and the Western Region Junior Championships in Idaho.

It is not unusual for a top athlete to compete in 40-45 races during the regular winter season; virtually every weekend except during the Christmas holiday. For a top competitor, expenses can reach \$20,000 per season. These athletes don't begin their training when the snow flies at their local resort. Dryland training begins shortly after the winter yields to spring. Summer camps, both in the U.S. and abroad, help bridge the gap between seasons. These camps typically run about \$1,200 per week, not including transportation. Winter training is in the area of \$1,000 - \$1,500 per season. Travel expenses compound the costs. One parent reported that she put over 7,000 miles on her car in a single season in order to insure her child competed in prerequisite or high visibility races. Add on the cost of lodging, meals, and entry fees, and the expenses mount. Most applicants work part time jobs to help out. These athletes have to balance the demands of training, competition, and work with their academic responsibilities. Despite all these demands, the average GPA for our scholarship recipients has been consistently over 3.9. While our scholarships are modest in relation to the need, they do provide assistance that may make a difference for an athlete on a tight budget.

Funding for the scholarships is derived from a number of sources: raffles, auctions, club/coun-

cil sponsorships, and direct contributions. 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. Their contributions of vacation packages, winter sportswear, and cash brought in over \$7,000 in this year's fund raisers.

We encourage clubs and councils to participate in our Partnership Program. Our partnership program affords councils and clubs the opportunity for direct sponsorship of athletes. It accounted for one third of last year's scholarship funds. Finally, the Far West Ski Foundation (www.farwestskifoundation.org), a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, established to support and enhance snowsports in the Western U.S., is becoming a valuable resource for encouraging tax exempt donations. Altogether, we anticipate that there will be a minimum of \$12,500 available for the 2012 scholarships. ▲▲



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How many weeks is it until the winter Olympics in Sochi in 2014? This is the final full season before that key date for lady jumpers and our Alpine scholarship athletes. Investments in training need to be made now to fully impact the results for the next season and season start. So urgent money is needed. Read on for ways to make YOUR investment. Impresarios are needed to conduct benefit events!

Dick Shawkey, Trustee, displayed his accustomed prowess at raising funds for scholarships at the FWSA Convention in June. His team raised nearly \$1,500 from raffles of desirable prizes and much more from auctions of generously donated travel packages from Grouse Mountain Lodge and Whitefish Mountain. These have become an annual commitment by these long time industry partners. And, we must also note the continuing commitment of the Skiyente Ski Club of Portland for the Nicole Erin Award. Clubs and councils may sponsor a scholarship "slot" with selections made exclusively by the scholarship committee. Check www.fwsa.org for 2011 scholarship winners. The 2012 scholarships are announced October 1.

Randy Lew, FWSA President, exercised on-the-spot leadership to raise funds for Women's Ski Jumping by challenging Film Fest viewers to match his kickoff \$100. This resulted in an immediate \$400 with additional pledges to come. We need to build the jumpers' fund in order to make an impact from organized skiing with an FWSF grant. We need much more to make a meaningful grant to support the preparedness for the coming jumping season.



She's the best! Sarah Hendrickson secured the overall FIS World Cup title in Zao, Japan in March 2012, the first ever Women's World Cup. Sarah received a President's Award at the 2012 FWSA Convention. Photo courtesy of WSJUSA



Skiing with friends: Waltraud Cardona (Gordon's mother), Darryl Coit, Robert Allen, Dianna Digiandomenico, Sigrid Noack, and Gordon Cardona with Bert Witsil, his Sun Valley Adaptive Ski School Instructor, pause to check their downhill routes at the Far West Ski Week in Sun Valley, 2011. The new Foundation Objective Two Program is being formed to assist a physically challenged skier to attend a Far West Ski Association Ski Week. photo courtesy Dianna Digiandomenico and The Unrecables Ski Club, Los Angeles



Remember, the coming season is the last season before the Sochi 2014 Olympic season. Support over the next 18 months is needed to ensure a great showing by our jumpers. Lindsey Van (World Champion in 2009) and Sarah Hendrickson have already shown us the possibilities. Sarah secured the overall FIS World Cup title in Zao, Japan in March 2012, the first ever women's World Cup. Check out the new jumping film entitled "Ready to Fly" or get the DVD from www.wsjusa.com.

To build up our capability, we are naming several Associate Trustees to provide focused leadership to support our objectives and serve as points of contact for collaboration with Association counterparts. For Objective Two (rehab): Gloria Raminha and Linda Westlund; for Outreach Expansion and Media Utilization: George Stewart.

Far West Ski Foundation Expands Program

by John Watson
President, FWSF

Foundation Objective Two Program

We have highly motivated volunteers to launch support functions for our rehab function. Friends of Linda Westlund, Fred's daughter, have created the **Fred Westlund Fund** for support of the rehabilitation objective. Fred was a World War II veteran of the Ardennes and Bastogne and a long time skier, commencing with membership in the Windy City Ski Club of Chicago. Gloria Raminha, one of the fund's charter donors, has arranged an innovative additional way to increase this fund with Mary Manning of Aspen Ski Corporation. Aspen is the continuing sponsor of the Association's annual Safety contest, as well.

The initial idea for the Foundation's objective was to provide support for a challenged skier to attend Ski Week. Our new Associate Trustees will discuss this and develop alternative plans to support the objective. We will also contact the Wounded Warrior programs to see if there is a role for us there, as well. In addition, we expect further additions to the fund in October from an event in Arizona in honor of Fred Westlund.

Legacy/Ski History Program

As far as legacy/history is concerned, Far West people are in extremis. Materials, people and histories, oral as well as durable, are rapidly



Deedee Corradini, President of the Women's Ski Jumping USA, was the keynote speaker at the FWSA Convention. Through her efforts, Women's Ski Jumping will be included in the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi. With Deedee is Lindsey Van, World Ski Jumping Champion - 2009, who also spoke, and both answered questions from the audience.

photo by Bill Singleton / Shutterrific Photography

disappearing and lost forever. To mitigate some part of this, we will promote a special collections program along the lines of the Marriott Library's Special Collections activity at the University of Utah. This system was described by our 2012 Snowsports Builder honoree, Dr. Gregory Thompson, Associate Dean at the Library. The Far West region is so large and its ski areas so distributed over this area, that a single central library/university/museum could not serve the entire Far West (at least, as far as visit convenience is concerned.) We need to have distributed collections points, probably at the council level, to

take in, catalog and protect materials donated. It won't all be paper, so there is a volume issue. Each council should seriously consider naming an archivist to take care of this. The education panels in FWSA 2013 should include a special collections initiative and a legacy program. We will produce a handbook on special collections and the conduct of oral histories in support of the ski history objective of the Foundation to accompany the special collections activity.

"**Making History**" DVDs are available for \$25 postpaid. This is a home production done in 2011 celebrating the 150 year anniversary of ski

clubs and ski racing. The DVD is compiled in eight chapters, each of which could be used as a brief 12 minute presentation before a ski club or community group. Revenue will be used for the legacy/ski history objective. (See page 31.)

We must continue to note that we have a larger, unsatisfied mission objective - but not the resources - to support Nordic and snowboarding competitors. Every ski team that has Alpine competitors also maintains Nordic and snowboarding programs. They go to the Olympics, too.

Contributions may be made from the **FarWestSkiFoundation.org** web pages using PayPal or can be mailed to:

John Reinhardt, Treasurer
c/o RF Associates, LLC
5285 SW Meadows Rd., # 380
Lake Oswego, OR 97035

Unrestricted contributions will be allocated at the discretion of the Trustees. Checks should be made out to FWSF, with intended purpose, if any, and sent to the Treasurer or to John Watson, FWSF President: Box 861, Fallbrook, California 92088. In the case of contributions made electronically, any restriction in purpose should be followed by email instruction sent to FWSFPresident@gmail.com. ▲▲

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The Far West Ski Association and its 11 participating ski councils are committed to supporting charitable giving and volunteerism. Through donations and volunteer services of our individual members in clubs and councils, we hope to enhance the quality of life within our communities. Most of our clubs and councils are involved with charitable activities and they are doing some amazing work for those who are less fortunate.

FWSA is in its second year working towards

FWSA Ski Clubs Continue Generous Donations in Time & Fundraising

by Sigrid Noack
Charities & Our Community Chair, FWSA

having every club in each council be involved with at least one charity. This year, we recognized four councils for their great efforts in our "Community Service Awareness Program". Congratulations to the councils with the highest per-

cent of their clubs involved with charitable activities: 100% is our goal!

San Diego Ski Club Council with 91%

Central Council with 86%

Intermountain Ski Council with 78%

Arizona Ski Council with 71%.

POINT A

- Leave the tire chains behind
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- Snap lots of photos
- Dream of the perfect powder

POINT BE

- Arrive at the slopes

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Story boards like this one are prepared for others to view at the FWSA Annual Convention providing insight into a club's charity accomplishments. photo by Emilio Trampuz

At this year's FWSA Convention, Fire & Ice Ski Club was recognized for their most outstanding Charity and Community Service. The club received the "FWSA Charity & Community Service Recognition," - a \$100 check, which the club is donating to one of their favorite charities, "Building Peaceful Families". Under the leadership of president Marcelle Nichols, they make charity work a serious priority.

This past year, Fire & Ice club members were involved with a wide variety of community programs. Members volunteered at the Community Health Fair, collecting school supplies for the Santa Clara County Foster Children's Program. They distributed items to underprivileged students through the Work-2Future program. The club also hosted a Senior Christmas Luncheon for the African-American Community Service Agency, free to local senior citizens. A sock drive was held for Santa Clara County Shelters with members donating warm socks to those in homeless shelters and women's shelters. The club organized yet another charitable drive, collecting toys for the African-American Community Services Agency, distributing toys to children, who would otherwise receive no Christmas gifts. Congratulations, and do keep up the great work that you have been doing!

We would also like to recognize the following ski clubs and councils who submitted entries for the Charity and Community Service Recognition program, for their outstanding contribution of volunteer hours and finances to a wide variety of events and projects:

*Reno Ski & Recreation
SchneeVögel
Balboa Ski & Sports Club
Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs
Bay Area Snow Sports Council
Cheyenne Ski Club.*



Reno Ski & Recreation of Club in Sierra Council loves working with disadvantaged kids, through the SkiDUCK (Skiing and snowboarding for Disabled and Underprivileged Children and older Kids) Program. This outing was to Kirkwood Ski Resort.

Many FWSA ski clubs enjoy being involved with Special Olympics, whose mission is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community. For more information and to get involved, check out www.specialolympics.org.

Another FWSA favorite organization is Disabled Sports USA, whose mission is to provide national leadership and opportunities for individ-

uals with disabilities to develop independence, confidence, and fitness through participation in community sports, recreation and educational programs. One of the great programs of DS/USA is Warfighter Sports which offers sports rehabilitation programs in military hospitals and communities across the U.S. The program offers more than 30 winter and summer adaptive sports including skiing, snowboarding, cycling, wheelchair basketball, track and field, water sports and many more. To become involved and learn much more about DS/USA go to www.dsusa.org or www.warfightersports.org.

Can Do MS is another wonderful charity and close to FWSA's heart. One of FWSA's major

awards is named after its founder, Jimmie Heuga. Can Do MS leads the way with empowering people and families living with MS to transform and improve their quality of life. Everything done at Can Do MS is driven by one simple belief: you are more than your MS. With a vision, a mission and core values rooted in the legacy and belief of Can Do MS founder Jimmie Heuga, that everyone living with MS has the power to live full lives, Can Do MS is the start of a whole new way of thinking about and living with multiple sclerosis. Check out the wonderful Can Do MS programs at www.mscando.org.

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



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FWSA Leadership Information Panel Sessions Delight & Inform Attendees

by Scott Bowker
Vice-President - Public Affairs, FWSA

On behalf of Scott Bowker (FWSA VP Public Affairs), Mike Sanford (FWSA Past President) and John Watson (FWSA History Chair), led the public affairs panel sessions conducted at the Far West Ski Association's Annual Convention in Ogden. Guest speakers included Bill Christensen (10th Mountain Division, Utah Chapter), Harv Forsgren (U.S. Forest Service Intermountain Region Regional Forester, Jock Gliddon (10th Mountain Division, Utah Chapter), Dave Ludwig (founder of Hope On the Slopes program), Richard Neustetter (Jimmie Heuga Center Endowment), Emmet Parker (10th Mountain Division, Utah Chapter), and Greg Thompson (co-founder Marriott Library's Ski Archives program).

The wide ranging discussions covered the Arizona Snowbowl snowmaking case (U.S. Forest Service approval of the use of reclaimed wastewater by Arizona Snowbowl to make artificial snow and subsequent chal-

lenges by the Navajo Nation, the first major legal challenge to the 1993 Religious Freedom Restoration Act, and later by Save the Peaks coalition); new changes in water rights clauses (Clause D-30 from 2011, visit www.fws.fed.us/specialuses/ for more information) for ski area permits on USFS lands (NSAA v. U.S. Forest Service January, 2012 lawsuit about taking of private water rights); seasonal or year-round natural resource-based recreational activities at ski resorts on USFS lands (Ski Area Recreational Opportunity Enhancement Act S. 382/H.R. 765 from 2011, www.fws.fed.us/news/2011/releases/11/skicomm.shtml); environmental impact of resort development; activities of WWII 10th Mountain Division veterans during their active service in Southern Italy, including clothing and equipment plus their dramatic impact on the development of ski areas and ski industry; the importance of how charities like Hope on the Slopes have greatly enhanced the ability of challenged individuals to enjoy the great experiences of snow skiing; how our respective clubs and councils can participate or even organize fund raising activities; enlightening history of the development of skiing and ski industry in Utah; and origins/sustaining activity of the Ski Archives program of the Marriott Library at University of UT (www.lib.utah.edu/collections/ski-archives/).

Snowsports Leadership Academy - 2012

by David Krupp
Trustee, FWSA

USSA on Fast Track

One reason the U.S. Snowsports Teams have risen to the top in the Olympics in recent years is due to the development programs in place at the United States Ski and Snowboard Association. The Snowsports Leadership Academy, one of the highlights of the Far West Ski Association's annual convention, shifted into overdrive this year with an impressive presentation from the folks at the USSA. Leading the presentation was Vice President of Athletics for USSA, Luke Bodensteiner. As a two-time Olympian in Cross Country, Luke knew the challenges the U.S. Team faced after the 2006 Games in Torino. After winning 11 medals in 2006, Vancouver 2010 launched the United States Team into the premier spotlight as the team to beat with 21 overall medals. Luke expanded on this by saying the mission over the past several years for the U.S. Team was to become "Best in the World." Luke went on further to give examples on how snowsports has expanded to include disciplines such as skier and boarder cross, and slopestyle skiing.

Next on the agenda was Troy Flanagan, the Director of High Performance who presented details of sports psychology, training, nutrition, and gear. He went on to explain how to get the best performance mentally from each athlete (which is different for each individual), to the U.S. state-of-the-art training facilities (specifically, slopeside for the Olympics), the meal regimen for the athletes, to the technology that goes into the fibers of a speed suit each ski racer wears.

Director of Development, Walt Evans then talked about junior racers at the club level nationally (approximately 425 clubs in all) that make up the ranks of the USSA and the various programs in place to promote development.

With eyes on the 2014 Sochi Games, the U.S. is geared for an even greater performance than the last outing which amounts to always raising the bar. With the USSA on the fast track, Luke and his team are poised to do just that.

Marketing, Mentoring, and Media

Creating a "toolbox" of ideas for the



The Silent Auction is a favorite activity at each FWSA Convention. It not only provides the opportunity to bid on fabulous ski trips, but delegates can meet the wonderful resort and other ski industry representatives to help plan future trips. photo by Bill Singleton / Shutterstock Photography



photos by Bill Singleton /
Shutterrific Photography

2012 Convention

HELD IN OGDEN, UTAH



above topics as they apply to ski club dynamics was the mission of the attendees in the afternoon session of the Snowsports Leadership Academy. The attendees split into three groups where each brainstormed on ways to be more effective in their marketing efforts, mentoring successors for club board positions, and the use of various mediums to convey the club message. In the final stages of the session, each group presented their findings to the entire audience.

To begin, each group had a facilitator to assist in getting the ideas flowing. Marketing was the task taken on by Jo Simpson, President of Sierra Council, to help foster ideas on building club membership. They focused on defining the club demographic, creating interest, and how to convey the message.

San Diego Council President Eileen Sanford was charged with the duty of helping her group come up with creative ways of cultivating successors for club board positions. The theme centered on developing an action plan, utilizing resources in the club, and how to monitor the results of your efforts.

Sheri Parshall, President of Northwest Council, led her group through the process of discussing media and effective outreach communications. Emphasis was placed particularly on websites, social media, and networking as the standard today.

Next...

The Snowsports Leadership Academy sessions have provided a high degree of enthusiasm and have been well attended each year. Next year at the 2013 convention in Reno will bring something new to the program. Don't miss out.

Convention attendees enjoyed a variety of optional events including a pool party with a mechanical bull at the Marriott Ogden, and the 6th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament at the Wolf Creek Resort Golf Course in Eden, Utah.

Greg Thomson Shows Way to Preservation of Ski History

by John Watson
Historian, FWSA

The legacy of ski history is rapidly fading to forgotten. Firsthand experience older than about 1965 now resides only in octogenarians. Memorabilia, photographs, journals, banners, medals are vulnerable to disposition by people who don't understand their value as history. Even well meaning descendents and friends puzzle over what to do with these collections. Dr. Greg Thompson, our 2012 Snowsports Builder honoree, showed us the way in his presentation at the Ogden convention. He has for 22 years conducted acquisitions for the Ski Archives (he is a cofounder with the late Sue Raemer) in the University of Utah's J. W. Marriott Library. He is the Associate Dean for Special Collections, which includes ski materials. This has entailed a tenacious long term effort to capture personal materials from skiers piece by piece before the material vanishes or goes into the dumpster. Thompson has conducted the Ski Affair for 20 years, raising hundreds of thousands of dollars to maintain the special collections activity. Special collections is an initiative all regions, councils and clubs need to take up as well, naming an archivist who can serve as a collection point, cataloging and securing material for ultimate educational purposes in a suitable library, university or museum. Save your paper products, memorabilia, paraphernalia and records of skiing's legacy and let's get local special collections archives started.



The Making History DVD provides a history of Ski Clubs and Racing over the last 150 years. See page 27.

Event Sponsors

80th 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 80th Annual Convention. Their generous support was a significant contribution to the financial success of this year's Convention. By offsetting Convention costs through the sponsorship program, we are able to offer a more affordable delegate registration fee. Please include these industry partners in your travel plans for 2012-13.

Golf Tournament	Snowbasin - A Sun Valley Resort
Pub Crawl	Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors's Authority
Salomon Center Activities	Crested Butte Mountain Resort
	Copper Mountain Ski Resort
Pool Party	Mt. Bachelor Ski Resort
FWSA Safety Person of the Year	Aspen/Snowmass
Silent Auction Happy Hour	Ski Dazzle
Silent Auction DJ.	Telluride Ski Resort
Delegate Tote Bags	Ogden Weber Convention & Visitors Bureau
Delegate Neck Wallets	Nancy Greene's Cahilty Lodge
Saturday Continental Breakfast	Jackson Hole Mountain Resort
	Jackson Hole Lodging
Saturday Luncheon	Vail Resorts (Vail, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge, Keystone, Kirkwood, Heavenly and Northstar California)
Saturday Luncheon Beverage	Ski Group.Net
Multi-Media Presentation	Mt. Bachelor Ski Resort, Sunriver Resort
Awards Banquet	Ski Big 3: Ski Banff - Lake Louise - Sunshine
Awards Banquet Band	Steamboat Ski and Resort Corporation
FWSA Western Ski Heritage Prize	Steamboat Ski and Resort Corporation
Awards Banquet Beverage	Country Inns & Suites, Sports America Tours
Sunday Morning Brunch	Taos Ski Valley Resort
Councils' Man & Woman of the Year	Big White Ski Resort
	Silver Star Mountain Resort
FWSA Athletic Scholarship Program	Schure Sports USA
	Whitefish Mountain Resort
	Grouse Mountain Lodge
Grand Prize Travel Expo	Far West Ski Association Travel Program
Eye Opener	Intermountain Ski Council
Far West Film Fest	Ogden Eccles Conference Center
Delegate Handbooks - Printing	Wyle

Door Prize Donors, FWSA Convention 2012

Aspen/Snowmass	Marriott Ogden	Ski.Com
Bear Paw	Ortovox	Ski Utah
Beaver Run Resort	Quik Poles	Squaw Valley
Grand Sierra Resort	Reno-Sparks	Ski Resort
& Casino	Convention &	Swany
Hampton Inn &	Visitors Authority	Whitewater Ski
Suites, Ogden	Screamer	Resort

Bob Bourquard Receives Bill Mackey Award

by **Steve Coxen & Debbi Kor**



Bob Bourquard accepts the FWSA Bill Mackey Award for outstanding service to the skiing public from FWSA President, Randy Lew. photo by Bill Singleton / Shutterrific Photography

Bob Bourquard, Sales Executive of Mt. Bachelor Ski Resort, Oregon, 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 Ogden.

Mt. Bachelor is one of the largest ski resorts in the Pacific Northwest. Bob Bourquard, well known to many of us as "group sales guy," brings together the Mt. Bachelor staff and resort lodging partners to ensure that ski clubs and councils have truly great and memorable ski trips! In 2008-2009, Bob was the first recipient of the Mt. Bachelor Progressive Award – an award given to an individual or team at Mt. Bachelor who has provided the "best group experience".

Here are some direct quotes from people who have been on a few of those trips:

"The secret to Mt. Bachelor is in the people! For five days, we had the full attention of the Mountain Hosts all day long. Mt. Bachelor's attention to detail with our club was beyond anything we had previously experienced. Signs welcomed us all over the mountain. Mt. Bachelor is really BIG when it comes to making a club feel welcome and special." (Fran L. SLO Skiers Club, CA).

"The Texas Ski Council Winter Shootout Week was a complete blast! Mountain Ambassadors skied with us all week. All the details from arrival, mountain picnic, race day, hospitality night, day of sight-seeing, awards dinner, Super Bowl party and club party night were planned with great detail by Bob Bourquard, Mt. Bachelor and Sunriver Resort." (Texas Ski Council Newsletter, TX).

"Mt. Bachelor provides a mountain large enough to keep skiers busy for six days. Bob Bourquard went out of his way to orient us to the mountain, rode the bus with us and coordinated fun activities during the week. The trip for our Ski Week was definitely worth it. We should go again!" (Ernie B. Pentagon Ski Club, DC).

"Mt. Bachelor provided over-the-top service for Northwest Council's "Bachelor Blitz" trips (which ran 21 years straight) where early season would see the likes of nearly a thousand skiers descending on the resort and its lodging partners. Chaos was handled in an orderly fashion by Bob Bourquard and his staff." (Mary O. NW Ski Club Council, OR).



Randy Lew, FWSA President, presents the Tommi Tyndall Award to Big White / Silver Star Resorts. Michael J. Ballingall accepts the award.

photo by Bill Singleton, Shutterrific Photography

Big White / Silver Star Recognized with Tommi Tyndall Award

by Gloria Raminha and Randy Lew

Big White Ski Resort and Silver Star Mountain 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 80th Annual FWSA Convention in Ogden on behalf of the resorts was Michael J. Ballingall, Senior Vice-President of Sales & Marketing. Big White and Silver Star, sister resorts in British Columbia, are known for their amazing light and dry champagne powder. As two of Canada's favorite family resorts, they offer something for everyone with spectacular skiing and snowboarding. Both resorts are located high above B.C.'s Okanagan Valley with Silver Star northeast and Big White southeast of Kelowna.

Bob Bourquard has made sure that Mt. Bachelor's continued support of the Far West Ski Association has remained solid. The resort ranks high among our industry partners for their financial support of our Association's programs. The 2012 FWSA Convention will mark Mt. Bachelor's 27th year of participation in our Silent Auction. Mt. Bachelor sponsored the beverage for the 2008 Convention Awards Banquet and has sponsored the Convention Pool Party every year since 2009. Bob comes up with many ways to make a pool party fun. Mt. Bachelor and Sunriver co-sponsored the Sunday Brunch at the 2009 Convention and the Multi-Media Presentations at the 2010, 2011 and 2012 Conventions.

Because of Bob's involvement, Mt. Bachelor

hosted the FWRA Race Championships in 2007. In December 2008, Mt. Bachelor and Sunriver Resort hosted the Far West Ski Association Board of Director's meeting, organized by Bob Bourquard. Bob is actively engaged year after year in submitting bids for FWSA Ski Week and individual council ski weeks.

Don't forget the 2014 FWSA Convention will be in Bend, Oregon. You can be sure that Bob Bourquard and the Mt. Bachelor staff will have all kinds of fun surprises in store for us.

Because of Bob Bourquard's tireless work on behalf of our clubs and councils, and his outstanding support of the snowsport public and Far West Ski Association, he is truly deserving of the Bill Mackey Award. ▲▲

Silver Star's quaint and very colorful village was built in the 1960's with an early 1900s mining town feel. There are 115 runs spread over three mountain faces, offering long groomed cruisers, steep powder filled chutes, and a terrain park. Big White Ski Resort, which also has ski terrain for everyone, opened in 1963 with two T-bars. Now with 16 lifts, Big White is the second largest resort in British Columbia.

Big White / Silver Star have both received top ratings and awards from *Ski Canada Magazine*, *The Telegraph*, *Sunday Times*, *Conde Nast's Traveler*, *SBC Ski & Snowboard Resort Guide*, *Daily Telegraph*, *Ski Canada Awards* and *Far West Ski Association*. The Tommi Tyndall award has been received by both of these individual resorts in the past. Silver Star Mountain Resort received the award in 2001 and Big White Ski Resort in 2006.

Big White / Silver Star Resorts have had a long term commitment to Far West Ski Association as significant sponsors at our conventions. Not only do they donate a trip for two for the silent auction each year, but over the past 11 years, the Resorts have also sponsored the Councils' Man and Woman of the Year recognition program. The winners receive a week-long, dual mountain ski package for two, including lift tickets. For each Council Man and Woman nominee, they also offer a 2-day trip for two and host a reception for the nominees.

Big White Ski Resort will now be known for hosting the 1st FWSA Mini Ski Trip this past winter. Big White personnel provided outstanding service, fantastic spring ski conditions, great après parties and a wine festival not to be forgotten. Over the years, Big White has also been successful with hosting FWSA club and council trips.

For their outstanding and long term support of the skiing public, local community, Far

West Ski Association and it's councils and clubs, Big White Ski Resort and Silver Star Mountain Resort embody the spirit of the Tommi Tyndall Award, and are truly deserving of recognition as this year's recipients. ▲▲

Milestones Convention 2012

5 Year Award

Comfort Suites-Ogden
Grand Sierra Resort and Casino

10 Year Award

Alyeska Resort
Beaver Creek Resort
Brian Head Ski Resort
Mountain Resorts, Steamboat
Reno-Sparks Convention and
Visitors Authority

15 Year Award

Banff Lodging Company
Holidaze Ski Tours
Ogden / Weber Convention
& Visitors Bureau
Solitude Mountain Resort
Sports America Tours

20 Year Award

Big Sky Ski Resort

25 Year Award

Heavenly Ski Resort
Jackson Hole Mountain Resort
Snowbird Ski & Summer Resort

COUNCILS' MAN AND WOMAN OF THE YEAR HONOREES. BACK ROW: Aaron Algazy, *Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs*; Jim Loyd, *Big White / Silver Star*; Bruce Ellison, *Northwest Ski Club Council*; Donn Bryant, *Chair, MWOY Program*; Michael Ballingal, *Big White / Silver Star*;
SECOND ROW: Scott Knutson, *Central Council of California*; Wanda Ross, *Bay Area Snow Sports Council*; Crissymarie King, *Central Ski Council*; Debbi Kor, *Northwest Ski Club Council*; Brad Davis, *San Diego Council*; Sherrie Rose, *Sierra Council*;
FIRST ROW: Winners: Councils' Woman of the Year - Sigrid Noack, *Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs*; **and Councils' Man of the Year -** Norm Azevedo, *Bay Area Snow Sports Council*.



photos on these pages by
 Bill Singleton / Shutterrrific
 Photography



Active Adventures-New Zealand
 Alta Ski Resort, UT
 AppleCore Sports, UT
 Aspen/Snowmass, CO
 Aspen Highlands, CO
 Aston Lakeland Village Resort, CA
 Atlantis Casino & Spa, NV
 Alyeska Resort, AK
 Banff-Lake Louise-Sunshine, Canada
 Banff Lodging Company, Canada
 Beaver Creek Resort, CO
 Beaver Run Resort, CO
 Best Western Plus, Canada
 Betty Donellan, CA
 Ben Lomond Suites, UT
 Big Bear Mountain Cabins, CA
 Big Sky Resort, MT
 Big White Ski Resort, Canada
 Bogus Basin Ski Resort, ID
 Boise Centre, ID
 Boise Convention and Visitors Bureau, ID
 Breckenridge Hospitality, CO
 Breckenridge Ski Resort, CO
 Brighton Ski Resort, UT
 Brian Head Ski Resort, UT
 Brundage Mountain Resort, ID
 Buttermilk Ski Resort, CO

Canyon Transportation, UT
 Canyons Ski Resort, UT
 Cascade Raft Company, ID
 Coast Blackcomb Suites, Canada
 Cottonwood Canyon Resort, UT
 Copper Mountain Resort, CO
 Cottonwood Canyon Ski Resort, UT
 Country Inn & Suites, UT
 Courtyard Marriott, UT
 Crested Butte Mountain Resort, CO
 Davis Area Convention
 and Visitors Bureau, UT
 Deer Valley Ski Resort, UT
 Destination Hotels & Resorts, CO
 Eagle Point Ski Resort, UT
 East West Resorts, CO
 Eldorado Resort, Mexico
 Elevation Hotel & Spa, CO
 El Monte Sagrado Resort & Spa, NM
 Enterprise Car Rental, ID
 Fairfield Inn Courtyard Marriott, UT
 Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel, Canada
 Fairmont Hotels & Resorts, Canada
 Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise, Canada
 Fairmont Chateau Whistler, Canada
 Fernie Alpine Resort, Canada
 Forest Suites, CA

Frias Properties, CO
 Grand Sierra Resort & Casino, NV
 Grand Targhee Resort, WY
 Grouse Mountain Lodge, MT
 Heavenly Mountain Ski Resort, CA
 Holidaze Ski Tours, NJ
 Hotel Alyeska, AK
 Hotel Madeline, CO
 Huntley Lodge, MT
 Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, WY
 Jackson Hole Resort Lodging, WY
 Kandahar Lodge at Whitefish, MT
 Keystone Ski Resort, CO
 Kicking Horse Resort, Canada
 Kirkwood Ski Resort, CA
 Mammoth Mountain Inn, CA
 Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, CA
 Marriott Ogden, UT
 Miracle Springs Resort, CA
 Moonlight Basin, MT
 Mountain Lodge Telluride, CO
 Mountain Resorts, CO
 Mt. Bachelor Ski Resort, OR
 Mt. Bachelor Village Resort, OR
 Nancy Green's Cahilly Lodge, Canada
 Northstar Lodging, CA
 Northstar Ski Resort, CA

Councils' Man & Woman of the Year Recognizes Volunteers!

by **Donn Bryant,**
MWOY Program Chair, FWSA

Congratulations to the Councils' Man of the year, Norm Azevedo of the Bay Area Snow Sports Council and Councils' Woman of the Year, Sigrid Noack of the Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs. 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, FWSA, race league, community service and other snow-sports efforts to enhance the skiing experience

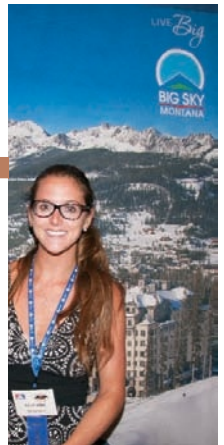
for our members.

A big "thank you" to Big White Ski Resort and Silver Star Mountain Resort for their continuing support and sponsorship of the Councils' Man and Woman of the Year program. Our winners were awarded a five-day ski vacation at Big White / Silver Star. Each of the other council honorees received a three-day ski vacation to Big White or Silver Star!

Chairman Donn Bryant announced the winners and Michael J. Ballingall, Senior Vice President and Jim Loyd, Director of Sales of Big White/Silver Star presented the winners with their certificates. ▲▲



Meet ski industry representatives at the FWSA Annual Convention's Silent Auction and Travel Expo for future trip planning.



Silent Auction & Travel Expo - 2012 Participants

by **Mary Olhausen & Debbi Kor**

The Far West Ski Association and Intermountain Ski Council extend their appreciation and sincere gratitude to the 27th Annual Silent Auction and Travel Expo participants. The success of this event is made possible by the continued support from our industry partners. Please include these industry partners in your travel plans for 2012-2013.

Ogden Comfort Suites, UT
Ogden Hampton Inn & Suites, UT
Ogden/Weber Convention & Visitor Bureau, UT
Panorama Ski Resort, Canada
Park City Mountain Resort, UT
Park City Peaks Hotel, UT
Peppermill Resort Spa & Casino, NV
Powder Mountain Ski Resort, UT
Prestige Hotel, Canada
Red Lion Hotel, UT
Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority, NV
Resorts of the Canadian Rockies, Canada
Rocky Mountain Tours, CO
Salomon Skis, UT
Schweitzer Mountain Resort, ID

Selkirk Lodge, ID
Shore Lodge, ID
Silver Star Resort, Canada
SKLCOM, CO
Ski Dazzle, CA
Ski Group.Net, CA
Ski 'N See Rentals, UT
Ski Salt Lake, UT
SkiSync, CA
Snakedance Condominiums, NM
Snow Tours, NJ
Snowbasin Ski Resort, UT
Snowbird Ski & Summer Resort, UT
Snowmass Ski Resort, CO
Snowmass Tourism, CO
Snowmass Village Lodging, CO
Solitude Mountain Resort, UT

Solitude Resort Lodging, UT
South Lake Tahoe Lodging, CA
Sports America Tours, CA
Steamboat Ski & Resort Corp., CO
Sundance Ski Resort - UT
Sundance Film Festival Screening, UT
Sunriver Resort, OR
Sun Peaks Ski Resort, Canada
Sun Valley Resort, ID
Taos Ski Valley, NM
Teewinot Lodge, WY
Telluride Ski Resort, CO
Teton Village, WY
The Crestwood, CO
The Gant Hotel, CO
The Grand Lodge Brian Head, UT
The Grove Hotel, ID
The Hume Hotel, Canada
The Inn, UT
The Lodge at Whitefish Lake, MT
The Peaks Resort/Spa, CO
The Riverhouse, OR
Vail Resorts, CO
Val D'Isere Condos, CA
Whistler/Blackcomb, Canada
Whitefish Mountain Resort, MT
Whitewater Ski Resort, Canada

FWSA SAFETY PERSON OF THE YEAR - 2012

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

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

Fran Long of Paso Robles, California is a member of SLO Skiers and president of Central Council of California. She developed a wide range of safety activities, including the program "Slip, Slop, Slide, Slither with Savvy Snake". The program was funded by a grant from the State of California given to the

Far West Ski Association to promote sun safety on the slopes while targeting children involved in snowsports. This ongoing sun safety program consisted of an informational brochure, online quiz, a decal suitable for snowsports equipment, a sun-screen sample and banners. The program was pro-



Fran Long, FWSA Safety Person of the Year, accepts her Award from Mary Manning of Aspen Skiing Company. photo by Bill Singleton, Shutterrific Photography

moted to thousands of people at a wide variety of venues including: ski shows in Santa Clara, San Diego, Los Angeles, and Sacramento; ski areas in the Tahoe/Mammoth region; club and council events; and articles/press releases. Fran also made presentations about altitude sickness and preventive measures plus introduced two different programs for purchasing and wearing helmets.

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

FWSA WESTERN SKI HERITAGE AWARD - 2012

**Sponsored by Steamboat Ski
& Resort Corporation**

by John Watson
History Committee Chair, FWSA



John James accepts the FWSA Western Ski Heritage Award. On his left is Andy Rossbach from Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation and on the right is John Watson, FWSA History Committee Chair.

photo by Bill Singleton, Shutterrific Photography

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—Powder Magazine



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John James of Glendale, California is the recipient of the 2012 Far West Ski Association's Western Ski Heritage Award. John is a member of the Edelweiss Ski Club. He founded and conducted the High Sierra Nordic Race Series 1976-1978, co-founded Far West Ski Week in 1973 with Chuck Morse and John Rosenkranz, obtained sponsorships for league racing and the Nordic Series, instituted cross country league racing, launched league race camps, and provided service to Rokka League from 1971-1978.

John assembled many binders on the High Sierra Nordic Race Series, history of Far West Ski Week 1973-1987, and early history of Rokka League from inception in 1964 to race results for 1977, including the role of Rokka in the council ski swap and the introduction of cross country racing into Rokka in 1973 and extending to 1975. He also served as FWSA VP Recreation 1976-1977, was a member of the Far West Board of Governors 1982-1984 and Chairman 1983-1984, and member of the USSA Sports Board of Directors 1983-1985.

The winner receives a five-day vacation for two from Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation, including five-day lift tickets to Steamboat, five days of rentals, half-day lesson for two, and five nights lodging. ▲▲

Congratulations to our Recipients!

Mountain Collective Pass Available: Teaming with **Jackson Hole, Alta and Squaw Valley-Alpine Meadows, Aspen Skiing Company** is offering, what they call, a groundbreaking ski pass, for the 2012-2013 season. The Mountain Collective Pass offers two free days at each of the four destination resorts plus a 50 percent discount on an unlimited number of lift tickets at each destination after the complimentary days are used. The pass also entitles buyers to exclusive lodging deals throughout the ski season. ▲▲



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Convention 2012 Award Recipients

Snowsports Builder Award - Bill Marolt,
President / CEO of USSA;
Greg Thompson, Ski Archivist,
University of Utah,
J. Willard Marriott Library

Hans Georg Award - Catherine Ohl, FWSA
Webmaster, Graphic Artist

Elizabeth 'Schatzi' Wood Award -
Eileen Sanford, President - San Diego
Council of Ski Clubs

J. Stanley Mullin Award - David Krupp,
FWSA Trustee

Jimmie Heuga Award - Chris Waddell,
Paralympian

Jordan-Reily Award - Robert Redford,
Actor / Conservationist and
Environmentalist

Bill Mackey Award - Bob Bourquard,
Sales Executive, Mt. Bachelor

Tommi Tyndall Award - Big White Ski
Resort / Silver Star Mountain Resort

Bill Berry Hard News Award -
Bob Wilbanks, Publisher,
"The National Ski Club Newsletter"

Bill Berry Featured News Award -
Jon Tullis, Book
"Timberline Lodge: A Love Story, Diamond
Jubilee Edition"

Warren Miller Modern Media Award -
Steve Bellamy, Movie "Winter"
(The Ski Channel)

President's Award Recipients:
Mary Azevedo, FWSA VP of
Membership;
Norm Azevedo, Past FWSA
VP of International Travel
Sarah Hendrickson,
World Cup Champion Ski Jumper

Program Award Recipients:

Western Ski Heritage Award - John James,
Edelweiss Ski Club, Los Angeles
Council of Ski Clubs

Safety Person of the Year - Fran Long,
President of Central Council of
California

Charity & Community Service

Recognition - Fire & Ice Ski Club of Bay Area
Snow Sports Council

The Association's Snowsports Builder Award is awarded to a person or persons who have made an indelible positive impact on snowsports. The builder honored may be for achievements in athletics, the press, publishers, historians, industry, humanitarian work, area development, technology; in short, for any indelible contribution to snowsports.

SNOWSPORTS BUILDER AWARD FOR 2012



**Randy Lew, FWSA President,
presents a Snowsports Builder Award
to Dr. Gregory Thompson.**

photo by Bill Singleton, Shutterrific Photography

GREGORY C. THOMPSON SNOWSPORTS HISTORIAN

by John Watson and Barbara Yamada

Greg Thompson continues his leadership in the Ski Archives, a priceless history resource and ski database in the University of Utah's J. W. Marriott Library. The Marriott Library contains collections related to skiing comparable to any similar library worldwide. In the 1980s Greg and the late Sue Raemer founded the Marriott Library's Ski Archives Program. Dr. Thompson has been the driving force for the Ski Archives over the four decades since its founding and this effort has made the Ski Archives a world class repository of the history and development of winter

sports and skiing in the Intermountain region and beyond. He has helped build the archives contact-by-contact, collection-by-collection.

Dr. Thompson continues to stimulate the development of resources to sustain the Ski Archives. In 1991, the first Ski Affair was held as a fundraising tool for the Ski Archives and this has successfully earned hundreds of thousand of dollars for the archives over the years. Not only is the Ski Archives one of the biggest collections of its kind, the Ski Archives membership is one of the largest and most successful library "friends" organizations associated with a specialized collection in the nation.

Thompson grew up in Durango, Colorado and as a youngster skied and competed in Colorado and New Mexico. A charter member of the Alf Engen Ski Museum Foundation's Board of Trustees, Greg has been involved with skiing since the early 1950s as a participant and historian. He has lectured widely and published numerous articles on the history of skiing in the Intermountain area. His latest publication with Alan K. Engen, *First Tracks: A Century of Skiing* (2001), focuses on the history of skiing in Utah. Greg is also the general editor of the *Tanner Trust Publication Series*.

Gregory C. Thompson is the Associate Dean for Special Collections of the University of Utah J. Willard Marriott Library and an Adjunct Assistant Professor of History. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Colorado State University (1965), Bachelor of Arts degree from Fort Lewis College (1967), and his Master of Science (1971) and Doctoral (1981) degrees from the University of Utah. See: <http://www.lib.utah.edu/collections/ski-archives/> ▲▲

Note: John Watson is History Committee Chair, FWSA; and Barbara Yamada is Chairman of the Ski Archives Advisory Board at the Marriott Library.

FWSA HISTORY COMMITTEE: 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 potential legacy history seminar for the upcoming 2013 convention either as a Public Affairs panel or Snowsports Leadership Academy panel. Potential history projects may be: creating an online history resource guide with effective history interview questions; resources for digitizing 8mm/16mm film reels and VHS tapes; poster display guidelines; developing regional repositories for historical snowsports materials; and increasing participation in the FWSA Club and Council History recognition program and FWSA Western Ski Heritage Award program. If you are interested in joining the committee and/or helping out with any project/starting a new history project, please contact John Watson at geo-space@pacbell.net, as membership is open to anyone.

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**SNOWSPORTS BUILDER
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**WILLIAM "BILL"
MAROLT**

**COACH,
PROGRAM
DIRECTOR & TEAM
BUILDER**

**President/Chief
Executive Officer,
U.S. Ski & Snowboard
Association**

by Jane Wyckoff and John Watson



photo by Agence Zoom

Bill Marolt, was a recipient of the Snowsports Builder Award, in recognition of his contributions that have made an indelible impact on snowsports.

Bill Marolt, Olympic skier, has coached skiing at the university and national team level for over 20 years. He was Athletic Director at the University of Colorado for 12 years. He built winning national teams over several Winter Olympiads, with five medals in 1984 at Sarajevo and 21 medals in Vancouver 2010. An athlete from a legendary Colorado ski family, he was on the 1964 Olympic team with Billy Kidd, Jimmie Heuga, Buddy Werner and Jean Saubert (he placed 12th in GS).

A University of Colorado engineering alumnus, he was skiing coach there for ten years com-

mencing in 1968. Marolt guided Colorado to seven consecutive NCAA team championships, 1971 through 1978, and produced 30 All-Americans in 10 years. After taking leave for six years to guide the U. S. Team through the 1984 Winter Olympics, he returned to Colorado as Athletic Director. He put together one of the strongest Division 1 collegiate sports programs in the USA, including a national football title (1990) and several more NCAA ski championships. Under his direction, the University of Colorado added three women's sports, in volleyball, golf and soccer.

Marolt is the President and Chief Executive

Officer of the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association. In 1996, he took control of Team USSA and raised the bar publicly with an oath to develop an organization that would be the "best in the world". He developed state-of-the-art facilities that would propel competitors to historic heights. In 2010, 17 American skiers and snowboarders combined to win 21 Olympic medals at the Vancouver Olympic Games.

A Colorado native raised in Aspen, he continually pushed himself to out-ski his brother (and former Olympian) Max and rose quickly through the junior ranks. He lettered in both football and skiing in high school and entered the University of Colorado in 1961. He won NCAA Championships in the downhill in 1965, the Slalom and the Alpine combined in 1966. He also won three national titles: the downhill in 1963, the slalom in 1964, and the giant slalom in 1965. Marolt skied on the national teams that competed in the 1961 and 1966 world championships and the 1964 Olympics.

He was inducted into the Colorado Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame in 1986, and the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame in 1993.

Bill Marolt has two daughters, Katy and Shannon. He and his wife, Connie, live in Park City, Utah. ▲▲

Note: Jane Wyckoff is a Trustee, FWSA and John Watson is History Committee Chair, FWSA.

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Harry Leonard, Jerry Simon, and Dick Barrymore in a 1970s promotional photograph. photo provided by John Watson

Harry Leonard Inducted into U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame

Capping a week of skiing at historic Pacific Northwest ski areas, the 2012 class of honorees into the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame were formally inducted April 14 with ceremonies in Seattle. On April 13 Crystal Mountain hosted a 10th Mountain Division display in its upper terminal. Included in this year's class was Harry Leonard, who is the first recipient of the Far West Ski Association's Snowsports Builder Award (2008). Attending the ceremony were Barbara Alley Simon, wife of the late Jerry Simon, also a 2008 Snowsports Builder honoree, and several FWSA officials and members, including Steve Coxen, Sheri Parshall, John Watson, Mary Olhausen and Judy Wade Bell. Harry's analysis of the success of the consumer ski shows was that it benefited from the explosive emergence of skiing from a niche sport in the 1960s to a national mass recreation of the 1980s.

Campaign Launched to Nominate Simon for Hall of Fame

Friends and associates of Jerrold Stanton Simon have rallied around his nomination for the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame. Barbara Alley Simon, Jerry's widow, kicked off the campaign after the induction in Seattle of his partner, Harry Leonard. The next induction ceremony will be in Vail. Simon worked with Harry for 25 years on the consumer ski shows, inaugurated the film festival now in his name and initiated the Mountain Travel Seminars as well as workshops for ski shop workers, the latter two lasting well after the ski shows. Jerry Simon is shown center above with Harry Leonard and on the right the late Dick Barrymore, famous ski film producer in a 1970s tongue in cheek promotional photo. It's unclear whether this is a robbery or the bag of money is to be deposited into the Bank of Vail. ▲▲

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Convention 2013: Mountain Magic Moments

by Dennis Heffley
President, Bay Area Snow Sports Council



The Biggest Little City in the World - Reno, Nevada has really grown up. There is plenty to do at the convention hotel, within the city, as well as around it!

You're invited to experience the magic which will take place June 6-9, 2013 during the 81st Annual Far West Ski Association Convention! The Convention is being hosted by the Bay Area Snow Sports Council, and our theme is Mountain Magic Moments!

The Convention is being held at the spectacular Grand Sierra Resort and Casino in Reno, Nevada. This has to be one of the easiest locations to get to for a FWSA Convention. You can fly into the Reno International Airport, which is minutes away and arrive at the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino via the free airport shuttle. If you are driving, the resort is about a mile south of the Highway 80 & 395 interchange. Parking is complimentary! To make your reservations, call 800.648.5080 or 775-789-2129. Mention our Group Name for our special rate: ***Far West Ski Association 2013***. You can also book online at: <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/FarWestSki>. There is no password required. The Grand Sierra Resort's website is www.grandsierraresort.com. Our FWSA room block includes a choice of a Grand Sierra Standard Room or Summit Grand II Upgrade luxury suite (book early for this upgrade at an exceptional price!).

If you arrive early or stay after the Convention, you might want to try out the Laketop Golf Driving Range or the Bunker Indoor Golf Simulator. Other options are a 50 lane bowling alley, go carts, cinema, health club, spa, the beach and outdoor pool, hot tub, shopping, night life entertainment and gaming. There are 11 fine and casual dining restaurants at the Resort. This is naming only a few of the things you can do on property at the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino!

The Far West Convention starts off on Thursday evening with an incredible Pub Crawl, once again being led by Catherine Ohl and Gene Fulkerson. If you took part in the 2012 Pub Crawl during the Ogden Convention, you already know what Catherine and Gene bring to an event such as this. You definitely want to register early for the Convention and sign up for the Pub Crawl.

The Grand Sierra Resort is centrally located in the heart of the majestic Sierra Moun-



The newly renovated Grand Sierra Resort and Casino in Reno will be the site of the 81st Annual FWSA Convention in June, 2013. photo courtesy of the Grand Sierra Resort

*photo / Reno-Sparks
Convention and
Visitors Authority*

tains, and offers a variety of outdoor adventure activities. The 7th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament will be held at the LakeRidge Golf

Course with breathtaking views of Reno and the surrounding mountains. The course was designed by golf architect Robert Trent Jones, Sr. The play is nothing too serious and everyone will have fun . . . even if you've never golfed before! Volleyball enthusiasts can enjoy some competition on the sand volleyball courts. Additional Mountain Magic Moments will be experienced on Friday if you choose to participate on a kayak adventure, hiking or other outdoor activity. Additional optional events are planned for cultural activities and a spa day. A late afternoon "beach party" is being planned at the Grand Sierra beach adjoining the spacious outdoor pool.

On Friday evening, the Reno Ballroom will open to all of the FWSA delegates, guests and general public to experience the very pop-

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THE MOST SNOW IN TAHOE

continued from page 42

- ▶ ular FWSA Silent Auction. North American and international ski industry and resort representatives will be present to answer questions and share information about the splendors of their resorts and products. You'll also have an opportunity to place bids on more than \$100,000 worth of great deals on ski, sport and adventure packages, plus sports equipment! There is no admission charge for the FWSA Silent Auction and it includes a complimentary drink!

On Saturday morning, there is a Travel Expo where approximately 100 resort representatives and tour operators will be available for one-on-one meetings to discuss planning your group's next ski or adventure trip. Snowsport celebrities will be featured at the afternoon Multi-Media Presentation. Public Affairs and other FWSA programs will have informational panels both in the morning and afternoon.

A very important element to the FWSA Conventions is the Snowsports Leadership Academy. These sessions take place on Saturday and give your delegates and the public knowledge that they can take back to their clubs. We are all volunteers. How do we learn to be leaders? This is accomplished by taking part in the FWSA Snowsports Leadership Academy. Admission to the FWSA Leadership Academy Sessions is included as part of the package for all Full Package Delegates to the FWSA Convention and is available in a Saturday Only package to the general public.

Saturday night is a black tie optional evening of Mountain Magic Moments. This will include the FWSA Awards Banquet and Dance. Service awards and recognitions will be given to many of our most honored volunteers and industry partners. After the dinner is complete, and the presentations are done, is when the party and dancing really gets started.

All this fun and activity will be followed on Sunday morning with the business end of



The Silent Auction is THE place to be to gather information on your next ski trip. Jason Forrest from Whitefish Mountain Resort in Montana speaks to several delegates at the 80th Annual FWSA Convention in Ogden, Utah. photo by Emilio Trampuz

the Convention. This is when officers are elected, by-laws and resolutions are voted on, and all other FWSA business is addressed. The morning's General Session is all planned around a sumptuous Sunday Brunch.

Yes, attending a FWSA Convention is a fun experience, plus you'll return with important knowledge on how to make your clubs stronger and hopefully increase the numbers of your volunteers and members.

If you'd like to assist the Bay Area Snow Sports Council as a volunteer for the 2013 FWSA Convention, please contact Host Council Convention Coordinator, Linda Indreboe at bac.publicaffairs@skibac.org. For additional information regarding registration or convention activities contact Jane Wyckoff, FWSA Convention Chairperson at janeWyckoff1@cox.net. Our FWSA Industry Partners can contact Debbie Kor, FWSA V P of Marketing at fwsadebbie@comcast.net.

Detailed information and a registration form will be posted on the FWSA website, www.fwsa.org in early 2013. Registration materials will also be distributed to the clubs and councils. We invite you to join us and look forward to seeing you at the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino where we will all share in the Mountain Magic Moments. ▲▲



The Saturday luncheon brings everyone together to dine, to meet celebrity guests and hear motivational speakers. Bill Singleton / Shutterrific Photography

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The 81st Annual FWSA Convention will be held in Reno - June 6-9, 2013. This is an ideal time to come early and/or stay longer. Or, to grab some quality time in the Lake Tahoe area during the rest of the year.

Reno has a reputation as a top year around outdoor destination. It is a gateway to unlimited adventures both within the city and the nearby Virginia City and Lake Tahoe areas.

The FWSA Convention hotel - the Grand Sierra Resort alone provides everything you could want or need with its numerous and varied restaurants; its extensive spa, massage and body treatments; the on-site sandy beach; miniature and indoor golf, casino and much more. But, if you venture out, there are numerous other activities available.

The city of Reno/Sparks was founded along the Truckee River back in the late 1800s near the first bridge that crossed it. The city has subsequently grown along the river banks.

Back in the 1990s, a revitalization program was created to accent the river front.

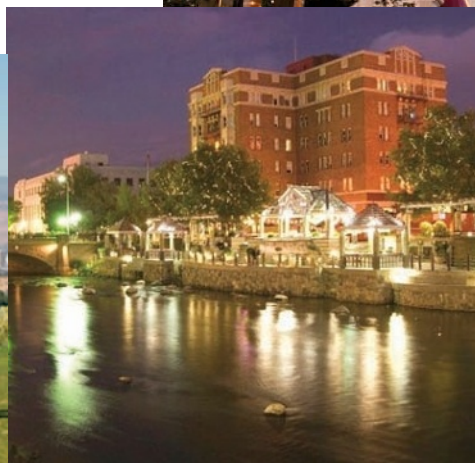
photos / VisitRenoTahoe.com



Bring your clubs! There are over 50 golf courses in the Reno/Lake Tahoe/Carson City area. The higher elevations allow the balls to travel further!

Merchants opened boutiques, shops and galleries along the River Walk. It became a hub for dining, a center for artistic events and musical entertainment. When the sun goes down, there are plenty of options for some evening relaxation.

Many feel it was the development of the Truckee River Whitewater Kayak Park that was the impetus for the downtown area's revival. Eleven drop pools over a half mile stretch provide kayakers the opportunity to learn and improve their skills. After all, there are numerous additional rivers, lakes and streams to practice the techniques.



TOP AND LEFT: Reno has been famous for gaming and nightlife for decades, but in the 1990s, a scenic riverwalk was developed to revitalize the downtown area along the Truckee River. Dining and entertainment, shopping and cultural events, as well as a whitewater park, provide a fun atmosphere for the locals and visitors alike. RIGHT: Approximately 25 miles from Reno is Historic Virginia City. It was declared a National Historic Landmark in the early 1960s, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. photos / VisitRenoTahoe.com



The National Automobile Museum houses a collection of over 200 restored antique cars, most of which were once owned by Bill Harrah, the founder of Harrah's Casinos. Viewing these well-preserved vehicles is like stepping back into a very different place and time. Some of the surroundings where they are showcased have been replicated to represent the eras in which the cars were built. One now only hears about certain manufacturers that have lasted throughout the years, but there were many more who built beautiful automobiles, then faded into history. Even if you are not a car buff, it is well worth seeing.

It's also fun to visit Virginia City, approximately a forty-five minute drive away. Virginia City became a silver-mining boom town in 1859 as a result of the Comstock Lode Silver Strike. Within the next 20 years, it was known as the "Richest City in America" as \$400 million worth of silver was taken out of the mines. About 40 years after its founding, the mine was exhausted. Inhabitants left. It became a Ghost Town. The town is very charming as it's filled with history of a by-gone era. Some may even say it could be called "America's Liveliest Ghost Town", as it now draws over two million tourists each year.

Virginia City is like a museum with most of its buildings and many artifacts dating back to the late 1800s. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. While there, visitors may want to take a ride on the Virginia & Truckee Railroad. Originally built to haul ore and timber in 1869, it closed down in 1950. The revitalization project began in 1977 to rebuild the V&T Railroad. It's only partially completed, but tourists can take a ride on this narrow gauge train pulled by an historic steam engine locomotive between Virginia City and Gold Hill - the site where gold was first found before they realized the extent of the silver lode.

An arts district can be found along the River Walk. *Artouring* is a great way to meet local artists; or visit pictographs and petroglyphs - painted or engraved rock art dating back through time.



The River Whitewater Park, located in the heart of Reno, consists of 11 drop pools for a large variety of activities for different skill levels. It is open year around with a constant flow of fresh, clean water.

The many casinos in Reno offer live entertainment and shows. In July, Reno comes alive with *Artown* - a month long festival of fering over 400 musical, theater, film and dance events.

Looking for sports and adventure? There's plenty! Reno is an outdoor adventure mecca.

Golf anyone? You're almost guaranteed to have a good day! Higher elevation equals thinner air. The ball will go further as it goes down the fairway. Just hit it straight! With over 50 courses within an hour and a half of the Reno area, you can find convenient tee times, with extremely scenic vistas.

Southwest of Reno, about an hour up the road is Lake Tahoe. It has been called the "*Jewel of the Sierra*", not only for its scenic beauty as it's surrounded by mountain peaks, but also for its attractiveness as a sports playground.

Most snowsport enthusiasts relate to the numerous ski resorts like Heavenly, Kirkwood and Sierra-at-Tahoe to the south; and Alpine Meadows, Diamond Peak, Homewood, Mt. Rose-Ski Tahoe, Northstar California, Squaw Valley, Sugar Bowl and several smaller resorts along the north edges. Yet, the winter is not considered the busiest season. It's the summer!

Summer activities abound. Sailing, cruising, boating, jet skis, water skiing, kayaking, canoeing, just touch the surface - literally. As the second deepest lake in the country at 1,645 feet*, Lake Tahoe is fed by 63 tributaries and two hot springs, but has only one outlet - the Truckee River - the same river that flows through Reno.

Large paddlewheeled river boats are a familiar sight on the lake. Cruises are planned daily in the summer months. Some also run

photos / VisitRenoTahoe.com



"Dao w a ga"* was what the Washoe tribe of Native Americans called the large body of water encircled by tall mountains. Pioneers who arrived later mispronounced it as "Da ow," which eventually evolved into Tahoe.**

during the winter season - weather permitting. Narrated shoreline cruises provide some history and point out areas of interest. Relax on a lunch, dinner, happy hour or sunset tour. The Tahoe Gal sails out of North Lake Tahoe, while the M.S. Dixie II docks at the Zephyr Cove Marina. The Tahoe Queen can be found at the Ski Run Marina in South Lake Tahoe. Several boat rental facilities around the lake provide yacht charters for special occasions, jetski rentals, and everything in between. ▶

*The deepest lake in the US is Crater Lake, OR.

***"Dao w a ga" originally meant Edge of Lake. From VisitRenoTahoe.com

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photo / VisitRenoTahoe.com

There are several Lake Tahoe cruising choices around the lake. The Tahoe Gal sails from Tahoe City. They offer a wide variety of daily cruises, charters and specialty cruises such as a full moon and a 4th of July Fireworks Spectacular:

► Creative sports aficionados are continuing to devise new adventures such as stand-up paddle boarding which is becoming quite popular on the lake. The sport has caught on. Other favorites include:

- Canoeing and kayaking on the lake and along the Truckee River
- Bicycling along the lake's edge and the Truckee River
- Slopeside mountain biking and hiking, golf, beach volleyball, parasailing and more!

One only needs a long board, a paddle and good balance to enjoy stand up paddleboarding.



photo / Tahoe Eco Sports, Kings Beach



The Lake Tahoe region is home to numerous ski resorts. One of the best known is Squaw Valley. In summer, the resort offers a cornucopia of activities including, the tram to High Camp. Enjoy the pool and hot tub, mountaintop roller skating, disc golf, tennis, ziplines, paintball and hiking, or just relax, dine and relish the panoramic views. At base level, there's more: golf, miniature golf, a rope course, bungee jumping, rock climbing, bike rentals and shopping.

photo: Tom O'Neill / Squaw Valley



Lake Tahoe is 22 miles long and 12 miles wide. The circumference of the lake's shoreline is 72 miles. Add trails along rivers and nearby lakes, plus those on the numerous ski resort slopes. That allows ample opportunity for mountain bikers and hikers of all skills to find appropriate routes. photo / VisitRenoTahoe.com

A Visit to Lake Tahoe - Part II: Winter Adventures -

can be found in the digital edition of the 2012-13 Far West Skier's Guide.

<http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/farwestskiersguide/2012-13/>



photo: Jeff Engerbretson / Alpine Meadows

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The lake area also has a lot of history dating back through the years. Just one glimpse from the past: The Cal Neva Hotel - straddling the state line between California and Nevada - in Crystal Bay along the north shore, was once owned by Frank Sinatra. He would often invite famous guests like Marilyn Monroe, the Rat Pack, the Kennedys and others. to stay in a special area of his resort. The Cal Neva offers a "Secret Tunnels Tour" providing a fascinating look into this era at their historic hotel overlooking the lake.

Although most of the snow has melted, summers are a wonderful time to visit Lake Tahoe. Either before or after the FWSA Convention, plan to explore the Reno/Tahoe area.

"Come Early - Stay Longer". ▲▲

FUTURE CONVENTIONS

FWSA Convention 2014 in Ski Country: Bend, Oregon at The Riverhouse

by Jane Wyckoff
Annual Convention Chair, FWSA

The Far West Ski Association is pleased to announce the selection of The Riverhouse Resort, Hotel & Convention Center in Bend, Oregon as the site for the 82nd Annual FWSA Convention, June 12-15, 2014, hosted by the Northwest Ski Club Council. Located just minutes from downtown Bend and Mt. Bachelor Ski Resort, our Northwest industry partners are actively participating in the Convention planning to make this a fabulous Convention.

The Riverhouse is nestled along the



The Riverhouse lobby welcomes guests with a warm and friendly atmosphere. The Resort offers 220 spacious guest rooms, and is located on the Deschutes River in the heart of Bend, Oregon. photo / The Riverhouse

banks of the beautiful Deschutes River, and offers some of the finest lodging amenities in Central Oregon. Guests enjoy spacious rooms, indoor and outdoor heated pools, spas, saunas and an exercise room. The Crossings restaurant at The Riverhouse offers the best views in Central Oregon accompanied by award winning cuisine. Lighter dining is also available at the Poolside Café, located just off the outdoor pool deck.

For the outdoor enthusiasts, there are many choices, including tennis courts, fishing,

river rafting and hiking/jogging trails. Within walking distance are the Bend River Promenade with a wide variety of boutiques and shops, a Family Fun Center and restaurants.

The 8th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament will be held at River's Edge Golf Course, conveniently located behind the The Riverhouse Resort. Designed by Robert Muir Graves, Golf Digest named it one of the "Best Places to Play." The par-72 course abounds with spectacular scenery from the Deschutes River to stunning views of Mt. Hood and Mt. Jefferson. The River's Edge offers many amenities, including a full service restaurant and bar, a grass tee driving range and large putting surface for ample space.

Air transportation is via Redmond Municipal Airport (RDM), located just 12-15 minutes from The Riverhouse. Rental cars are available at the airport and shuttle service is also available. The Riverhouse website is located at www.riverhouse.com. For additional information, contact Mary Olhausen, NWSCC President and Host Council Convention Coordinator at omary52@comcast.net. ▲

The 83rd Annual FWSA Convention will be held June 4-7, 2015 at the Town and Country Resort & Convention Center, San Diego, hosted by the San Diego Council of Ski Clubs.

THANKS FWSA!

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It is the only television network devoted to the wide variety of year round mountain activities such as skiing, snowboarding, hiking, biking, backpacking, and climbing, along with many other off-slope activities.

The Ski Channel's content will inspire and inform audiences with magazine shows, movies, events, news, weather and programs that focus on destination travel, equipment, instruction and real estate.



The Public Affairs portfolio of programs is designed to present the positions of the FWSA to the outside world. 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. 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 our membership. Also, we attempt to better educate our members 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, 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/e-mails to appropriate government officials, newspaper editors, and other key influencers, attending public meetings, and sharing 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 *Far West News Flash* (monthly electronic newsletter).

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



A proposal has been made to connect The Canyons Resort in Park City, UT to Solitude Mountain Resort in Big Cottonwood Canyon. Snowsports enthusiasts relax at the Ski Beach Area.

photo courtesy of
The Canyons Resort /
Justin Olsen,
photographer

Public Affairs: 2012 Update

by Scott Bowker

Vice President - Public Affairs, FWSA

tion (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 10th season as part of the 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

■ The 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. The

Sustainable Slopes initiative was launched in 2001, thus 2012 marks its 12th anniversary.

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

Area Development

■ Western planned chairlift installations 2012. **Alaska:** *Alyeska Resort* - New #4 Express high speed quad. **California:** *Squaw Valley* - Big Blue Express high speed six, Links triple. **Colorado:** *Vail* - Vista Bahn Gondola. **South Dakota:** *Terry Peak* - Gold Corp Express high speed quad. **Utah:** *Deer Valley* - Mountaineer Express high speed quad; *Snowbird* - Little Cloud high speed quad; *Sundance* - quad near Maverick ski run. **Washington:** 49 Degrees North - Angel Peak double. **Wyoming:** *Jackson Hole* - Casper high speed quad. **CANADA Alberta:** *Vista Ridge* - Blue Chair quad. **British Columbia:** *Bear Mountain Ski Hill* - t-bar; *Mt Seymour* - Mystery Peak Express high speed quad.

■ *Ski Area Recreational Opportunity Enhancement Act:* The Act was signed into law in November 2011, to 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 courses. Excluded activities are tennis courts, water slides and water parks, swimming pools, golf courses, and amusement parks. The Forest Service master development plan process and federal environmental review of project impacts are still required.

■ **Arizona Snowbowl:** The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, San Francisco, California 3 member panel unanimously imposed sanctions for costs

except attorneys fees against Save the Peaks Coalition attorney Howard Shanker personally in June 2012, for the Save the Peaks Coalition v. U.S. Forest Service lawsuit. Reasons stated were because Shanker “grossly abused the judicial process in bringing this case solely to ensure further delay and forest development” and “acted in bad faith and for oppressive reasons”. This panel had ruled in favor of Arizona Snowbowl in February 2012 agreeing that the U.S. Forest Service adequately considered the risks of using reclaimed water to make snow by Arizona Snowbowl. In July 2012 Save the Peaks Coalition filed for a rehearing en banc claiming that panel decision conflicts with a decision of the U.S. Supreme Court and with decisions of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. Construction began in May 2011 and continued on in 2012 on the total 14 mile long pipeline project from Flagstaff, which in phase 1 is expected to provide snowmaking for 134 acres of the approved 205 acres starting in the 2012-2013 season. 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. The final planning rule decision was 3/29/12, with implementation expected August 2012. Brenda Halter-Glenn bhalterglenn@fs.fed.us 202-260-9400 www.fs.usda.gov/planning_rule

■ **Bear Valley, CA:** Bear Valley Mountain Resort Expansion EA. Implement portions of the 1994 Resort Expansion EIS to improve skier/boarder circulation and access to Bear Valley plus improve guest services. The 215 comment period legal notice 6/29/11, decision/implementation expected September 2012/June 2013. 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, draft EIS NOA (Notice of Availability) 11/25/11, with decision 5/3/12 and implementation planned for July 2012. Don Dressler drdressler@fs.fed.us 970-827-5715 www.fs.fed.us/nepa/project_content.php?project=33695

■ **Breckenridge, CO:** Ski Resort Peak 6 Development Project EIS. New terrain and high speed 6 pack chairlift. Draft EIS NOA 6/10/11, estimated

*California Legislature
Curt Hagman,
Assembly District 60
Press Release: July 11, 2012*

**CHUCK MORSE
HONORED BY
CALIFORNIA
LEGISLATURE**



**Active in
FWSA
Programs**

State Assemblyman Curt Hagman was proud to introduce to the California State Assembly Mr. Chuck Morse as his 60th District Veteran of the Year. Each year the Assembly selects a veteran that resides in the district that has had a distinguished military career or has significantly contributed to the community. Mr. Morse currently resides in La Habra.

Chuck Morse, left, was honored by State Assemblyman, Curt Hagman as the District 60 Veteran of the Year: photo provided by Chuck Morse

Mr. Charles Morse served in the US Army (Sp-2) from July, 1954 through September of 1956. He received the European Occupation, Good Conduct and Sharpshooter medals. Chuck was a member of the 7888 Special Troops, G-2 Intelligence stationed in Heidelberg, Germany.

Since being discharged, Chuck moved from his hometown of San Bernardino to the City of La Habra some fifty years ago. He is the former Executive Director of the La Habra Community Foundation and very active in the LH Host Lions Club, the La Habra Business Connection, and several North County Chambers of Commerce. Presently he is organizing a committee to bring the traveling Vietnam Wall to La Habra in 2013. He is a member of the American Legion Post 267, La Habra. Chuck also stepped up to serve Orange County as a member of the 2006-07 Grand Jury. Professionally, he worked as a project engineer for North American Rockwell on Apollo's 9, 10 and 11. His passion for the snow led him to Vail, CO and Utah's Snowbird Ski Resort as Marketing VP; a former Executive Director of the Far West Ski Association, a Division of the United States Ski Association/US Ski Team and the Winter Olympics. Chuck is a co-founder of the Mountain High Ski Resort in Wrightwood, CA.

The Morse family tree has established deep roots (four children, six grandchildren) in La Habra. He has been married for 59 years to his wife Elaine.

One of his proudest accomplishments is the news coverage and viewers he receives each Memorial and Veterans Day at his La Habra home with his display of the “Gathering of the Crosses” honoring the men/women from Orange County who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan. This year, there were 70 crosses on his front lawn, each containing a short bio and photo of the deceased. Chuck states, “I really hope I don't have to make any more.”

Assemblyman Hagman stated “Veterans like Chuck have made the sacrifice for each American family. This award is given to him this year; but the honor symbolizes all those that have served, and continue to serve, our great nation.”

Editor's Note: Chuck Morse is the former Executive Director, Far West Division, USSA. He served the FWSA as a professional staff member and volunteer and achieved many “firsts” in these capacities, including being its first Recreation Services Director. He has over 40 years experience in ski area development and management, marketing and promotion, association management and direction, and civic action, principally in Orange County, California. A few highlights of his skiing related experiences include: member of the NSPS and certified avalanche instructor; PSIA member and certified blind skiers guide instructor; Chief of Race for the North American Junior Alpine Championships in 1971 at Mammoth Mountain; US Ski Coaches Association, certified alpine ski racing coach, class 2; Chairman FIS (Federation International du Ski) Congress, San Francisco, California in 1981; led the Trans-Sierra mail carry (with special postage stamp) with 100 cross country skiers from Placerville, California to Genoa, Nevada in 1976 as a Bicentennial event; co-founder of the Mineral King Ski Club and led a ski tour into Mineral King; and was a member of the FWSA's Public Lands Advisory Board. His outstanding service to the Far West Ski Association and snowsports earned him the FWSA Hans Georg Award (1979), J. Stanley Mullin Award (1989), and Bill Mackey Award (1977, 1978 and 1983). He was also Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs' Outstanding Skier of the Year (1970).

► FEIS NOA July 2012, decision/implementation expected July 2012/June 2013. Joe Foreman jgforeman@fs.fed.us 970-262-3443 www.fs.fed.us/nepa/project_content.php?project=23387

► ■ **Canyons Resort in Park City, UT:** Proposed linking near its Daybreak Lift to **Solitude Mountain Resort** base in Big Cottonwood Canyon, UT in September 2011. Further details were released in November 2011 including the SkiLink name; 8 passenger tram size; 1,000 people/hour capacity and 11 minute connection time. The two resorts are about 5 miles apart but a 45 minute drive through Salt Lake City is currently required.

■ **Heavenly Mountain, CA:** 2012 Capital Improvement Projects EA. Lift & trail improvements, guest activities and facility improvements at top of Gondola. 215 Comment Period 5/16/12, decision and implementation expected July and August 2012. Jonathan Fisher jfisher@fs.fed.us 909-382-2771

■ **Himalayan Ski Village, Manali, India.** June 2012 ruling by Himachal Pradesh High Court Justice Rajiv Sharma invalidated the 2010 order blocking the \$2.77 billion luxury resort project backed by Alfred Ford (great grandson of Henry Ford) in the north end of the Kullu Valley. The project on elevations up to 14,000 feet includes 8 lifts, including a 3 staged gondola and tram and skiable terrain to service approximately 4,500 visitors, multiple village areas with 700 hotel rooms, a 20,000 square foot convention facility and spa, performing arts center, restaurants, and shopping. In July 2012 the Himachal Pradesh chief minister Prem Kumar Dhumal said that the state government would appeal the June 2012 single bench decision to the Himachal Pradesh High Court's "double bench".

■ **Homewood Mountain Resort, CA:** Phase 1 of the resort's Master Plan approved by Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) Governing Board in December 2011. Construction of the \$500 million project is expected to begin in 2014. In January 2012 Earthjustice, on behalf of The Sierra Club and Friends of the West Shore, filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court of Eastern California against TRPA and Placer County seeking a new Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for this Homewood Master Plan that "properly mitigates the effects of development near Lake Tahoe's shores, as required by the Tahoe Regional Plan." Some highlights from the EIR (preferred alternative 1A) include an 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 39 new buildings at

North and South Base areas (155 tourist accommodation units, 177 residential units and 13 workforce/employee housing units) to be built on 23 acre development using LEED gold standard. <http://www.trpa.org/default.aspx?tabindex=0&tabid=407>

■ **Jumbo Glacier Resort, B.C., Canada:** New B.C. ski resort development agreement valued at C\$1 billion was approved by Steve Thomson, B.C. Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource operation in March 2012 after 9 years of review. Resort will be on Farnham Glacier in the Kootenay region west of Invermere with up to 23 ski lifts and 1,400 residential units. Initial gondola and t-bar could be completed by fall 2013.

■ **June Mountain, CA:** Closed immediately in June 2012 for this summer and next winter season after 25 years of losses by owner Mammoth Mountain. June Mountain has 7 lifts on its 500 acre ski area with an average annual snowfall of 240 inches and a vertical of 2,590 feet. Mammoth's original intent with the 1986 purchase of June Mountain was to increase the resort size with new terrain along San Joaquin Ridge (ultimately connecting the two areas), new runs to June Lake Village, plus new facilities.

■ **Kicking Horse Mountain Resort, Golden, British Columbia:** The resort was sold to Resorts of Canadian Rockies Inc (Calgary, Alberta) by Ballast Nedam NV (construction and infrastructure firm in Nieuwegin, Netherlands) for an undisclosed amount in December 2011. However, Ballast Nedam announced that as a result of the transaction, the value of its assets will decline by 21 million euros (\$27 million US) and its long term loans will decrease by 6 million euros. Kicking Horse has more than 120 trails on 2,800 acres; 4,133 foot vertical drop; 5 lifts (8-person gondola, 2 quad chairs, 1 double chair, 1 surface lift) and has operated for 11 years. Resorts of the Canadian Rockies owns 5 other Canadian ski resorts (Fernie & Kimberley Alpine Resort in British Columbia, Mont-Sainte Anne & Stoneham Mountain Resort in Quebec, Nakiska Ski Area in Alberta) plus a number of accommodation properties, golf courses, and a central reservation agency.

■ **Kirkwood Mountain Resort, CA:** Resort purchased, along with undeveloped sites at the base area by Vail Resorts for \$18 million in February 2012 with closing subject to U.S. Forest Service approval. Kirkwood has 2,300 skiable acres, top elevation of 9,800 feet with a vertical drop of 2,000 feet, 14 lifts and more than 72 trails. Kirkwood's Master Development Plan expected to be reviewed by Vail Resorts for potential capital improvements. <http://www.kirkwood.com/site/mountain/land-use-approvals>

■ **Mammoth Mountain, CA:** Mammoth Mountain Base Land Exchange EA. Exchange 21 acres of National Forest land located near the Main Lodge for 1,779 acres. Scoping start 9/13/11. Estimated 215 Comment Period October 2012, decision/implementation expected January/April 2013. Sheila Irons sirons@fs.fed.us 760-924-5534 www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=30428

■ **Manitoba Mountain, AK:** Sustainable ski area redevelopment project planned by Mountain Rider's Alliance (MRA) for Manitoba Mountain near Cooper Landing in Kenai Mountains of Chugach National Forest, which last operated from 1941-1960. Includes 3 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. Results from 7 community outreach presentations compiled in October 2011 by Mountain Rider's Alliance project manager Dave Scanlan. MRA partnered up with University of Alaska Anchorage's (UAA) Geomatics program in October 2011 to do preliminary survey work. www.SkiManitobaMountain.com

■ **Mt Ashland, OR:** Based on new environmental studies, the U.S. Forest Service asked the U.S. District Court in Medford, OR in February 2012 to lift the U.S. Circuit Court injunction. The injunction based on Pacific fisher habitat stopped the 71 acre expansion which will include 2 new lifts, new trails, 3 new buildings and a snow tubing area.

■ **Mt. Bachelor, OR:** Mt Bachelor Ski Area Developments EIS. On-mountain improvements: new chairlift Eastside Express and associated trails, shortening and/or replacement of existing lifts (Rainbow Lift, Sunrise Express, Red Chair), expanding snow-making coverage, construction of a lift-served, downhill mountain bike park, and additions to Nordic trail. Draft EIS NOA in Federal Register 6/1/12, estimated Final EIS NOA February 2013, implementation April 2013. Amy Tinderholt, Recreation, Special Uses and Trails atinderholt@fs.fed.us 541-383-4708 www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=35863

■ **Mt Spokane, WA:** Ski area expansion onto the mountain's northwest face with a new chairlift and 7 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. A Thurston County Superior Court hearing was held in January 2012 on Lands Council environmental group June 2011 lawsuit, which challenged the approval process on the basis that an EIS should have been required. Draft Supplemental EIS 4/26/12. 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. Randy Kline, Environmental Program Manager *Mt-spokane.ski.area.proposal@parks.wa.gov* 360-902-8632

www.parks.wa.gov/plans/mtspokane2/
www.mtspokane.com/107/backside-expansion/

■ **Okanogon-Wenatchee & Colville National Forests, WA:** Forest plan revision (recreation use included in revision topics) EIS. Estimated DEIS Notice of Adjustment (NOA) expected January 2013. Decision/implementation expected April 2014. Plan Revision Public Information Specialist Deborah Kelly *dlkelly@fs.fed.us* 509-826-3396 www.fs.fed.us/r6/wenatchee/forest-plan

■ **Snowbird, UT:** The Salt Lake County Planning Commission approved new location for a mountain coaster on lower slopes of Peruvian Gulch in May 2012. Vertical drop is about 160 feet with average downhill grade of 11.5% with a maximum slope of 39% on a downhill track of 2,120 feet and an uphill track of 1,000 feet. Final design phase will begin now and installation is expected fall 2012 or spring 2013.

■ **Snowbird, UT:** Snowbird Ski Resort Gad Valley Improvements EA. 11 proposed projects are to be completed over the next 5 years within Snowbird's permitted boundary and 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 start 6/27/11, 215 comment period legal notice 5/10/12, decision/implementation expected December 2012/June 2013. Pollyanna Popola *ppopola@fs.fed.us* 801-733-2687 www.fs.fed.us/nepa/project_content.php?project=36527

Other proposals in Snowbird's amendment to its master plan filed in May 2010 including expansion into the 780 acre, above treeline Mary Ellen Gulch (west of Mineral Basin) along with a 2nd tram from Hidden Peak to West Twin Peak (11,489 feet) of American Fork Twin Peaks, a lengthening of Mineral Basin Express by 50%, and a 3rd 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/

■ **Soldier Mountain Ski Area, Idaho:** Actor Bruce Willis to give the ski area for free to a local nonprofit Soldier Mountain Recreation Area in nearby Fairfield. 1,150 acre areas with 1,425 vertical foot drop. Public meeting about ski area future held in April 2012.

■ **Sol Vista Ski Basin, CO:** Renamed as Ski Granby Ranch in March 2012. Prior names included Val Moritz and Silver Creek.

■ **Squaw Valley USA, CA:** (owned by KSL Capital Partners) and Alpine Meadows, CA (owned by JMA Ventures) announced its merger in September 2011 which closed in November 2011 after approval by the US Forest Service and the California Tahoe Conservancy. KSL is the majority shareholder & JMA is the minority shareholder in the new Squaw Valley Ski Holdings LLC with access to more than 6,000 acres, 8 mountain peaks, 44 lifts, more than 270 trails, and a common shared ridgeline. The planned \$50 million Squaw Renaissance capital improvements over the next 3-5 years will continue. A substantial investment in a guest experience at Alpine Meadows is expected. New dual mountain options - Tahoe Super Pass (7 day) adult \$439-\$799 depending upon blackout dates purchased by 11/30/11, Tahoe Super Six (6 day unrestricted card) adult \$399.

■ **Vail Mountain, CO:** Vista Bahn Lift Replacement CE. Remove and replace the existing Vista Bahn chairlift with a gondola. Analysis completed. Decision 2/24/12. Implementation expected April 2012. Don Dressler *ddressler@fs.fed.us* 970-827-5715

■ **Wolf Creek Resort, UT:** Ski resort and golf course failed to sell at a June 2012 bankruptcy auction when the high bid of \$7 million was rejected by the creditors. The 3,000 acre parcel includes a 110-acre ski resort with three chairlifts and a lodge; an 18-hole championship golf course designed by Mark Ballif; and about 900 undeveloped lots. Wolf Creek is appraised at \$28-34 million and has been in bankruptcy since 2010.

More Updates in Digital Edition

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 du-

ties 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:

■ "Growing the Snowsports Industry" - an open letter from the National Ski and Snowboard Retailers Association (NSSRA) Chairman Brad Nelson in June 2012. He advocated that you own the fight strategy in your own space and in your own community by taking personal responsibility to introduce skiing or snowboarding to at least one new family of four. Nelson also talks about the Bring a Friend program that has prizes including trips to Sun Valley and to Utah, as well as the Learn to Ski and Snowboard Month.

www.bringafriend.org

www.skiandsnowboardmonth.org

<http://skiingbusiness.com/13711/newswire/one-mans-view-on-growing-the-snowsports-industry/>

■ Skier visits decrease -15% from 60.54 million to 51 million visits for the 2011-12 season based on preliminary estimates from the National Ski Areas Association released May 2012. Low snowfall drove these results with snowfall down in the Southeast -13.9%, Northeast -13%, Pacific Southwest -11.7%, Midwest -10.6%, Rocky Mountain -0.8%, and Pacific Northwest -0.8%. This challenging season had the 2nd lowest snowfall in 21 years and lowest national average resort snowfall since 1991/92, which had 50.8 million visits. A total of 50% of the ski areas opened late and 48% closed early.

■ Snowsports market sales for August to March 2012 versus a year ago declined -3.8% (\$135 million) to \$3.4 billion and -12% in units according to SnowSports Industries America and Leisure Trends Group. For units sold by sales channel: online/internet stores up +10%, specialty shops down -14%, chain stores down -17%.

■ PyeongChang 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 wins 4th overall FIS Alpine World Cup title in March 2012, passing U.S. Phil

- ▶ Mahre, Austrian Petra Kronberger, Swiss Vreni Schneider and Croatian Janica Kostelic, who each had 3 overall titles. Only Marc Girardelli of Luxembourg (5) and Annemarie Moser-Proell of Austria (6) have more overall titles. Also, for the season ending in 2012, Lindsey captured the following FIS World Cup season long discipline titles: 5th downhill title, 4th Super G title, and 3rd super combined title plus set the all-time women's point total record with 1,980. She added 12 FIS World Cup wins (American record) this season to reach a career total of 53 which ranks 3rd all time among women behind Annemarie Moser-Proell of Austria (62) and Vreni Schneider of Switzerland (55) and 1st all time for the U.S. list ahead of Bode Miller (33) and Phil Mahre (27).

■ Sixteen year old Mikaela Shiffrin (Vail, CO) earned her first FIS Alpine World Cup podium with a 3rd place at women's slalom in Lienz, Austria in December 2011. She is the youngest female skier to podium in World Cup slalom since American Tamara McKinney (1978). It has been more than two years since an American woman won a World Cup slalom podium (Lindsey Vonn in Levi, Finland).

■ Utah & Vermont legislators make skiing and snowboarding an official state sport in February 2012 following the lead of Colorado in 2008.

■ Canadian paralympian and X Games Mono Skier X double medalist (2011 gold, 2012 bronze), Josh Dueck, completed the first back flip on a sit ski in February 2012 at Whistler, B.C.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=4xjUUF_sK84

■ Squaw Valley, CA opened world's first ski-through Starbucks on the mountain at 8,000 feet in Gold Coast mid-mountain complex in February 2012.
www.flickr.com/photos/squawmedia/sets/72157629261178105/

Safety Update

■ Learn to Ski and Snowboard Month in January 2012 had Glen Plake (3 time World Hot Dog Ski Champion, Down Home Tour ambassador), Bode Miller (5 Olympic medals, 2 overall World Cup titles, 4 discipline titles), and Daron Rahlves (12 World Cup wins, 28 World Cup podiums, 7 U.S. National Titles) as the national ambassadors who communicated the excitement and lifestyle benefits of snowsports participation and why it helps to take lessons from a pro when starting out or trying to improve. The theme was "Humans were never meant to hibernate" with the message "Bring a friend". The 2012 estimated number of participants was 100,000, up from 75,000 in 2011. www.SkiAndSnowboardMonth.org

■ 1st Annual FIS World Snow Day - January 22,

2012. The FIS World Snow Day goal was to encourage children with their families to enjoy and explore snow while learning about the environment, health benefits of snow activities and safety on and off the snow. The 225 events in 39 countries had over 200,000 participants.

The final report was released in June 2012 at:
http://world-snow-day.com/en/WSD/Final_Report_2012.

Photo summary video at:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=YWP_ciwYDGo.
 2012.

Video playlist from multiple Snow Day events:
www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL24DB714462BCA58C.

The 2nd Annual World Snow Day will be 1/20/13 with a goal of 500,000 participants.

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. The May 17, 2010 deadline was imposed by the 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.

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

Check with your club treasurer about your club's filing status or look up your club in the form 990 online databases such as:

www.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.

Transportation Update

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

■ United Airlines added daily, nonstop service to Kelowna, British Columbia from Los Angeles, CA starting this season 12/19/12.

History Update

■ U.S. Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame Class of 2011 inductees were named in November 2011, with the induction ceremony held April 14, 2012 at Seattle's Bell Harbor Center. Inductees were: Joe Pack (2002 Olympic silver medalist, 3 World Cup wins, 12 World Cup podiums, 2 World Championship bronze medals), Eva Twardokens (1985 World Championship bronze medalist, 3 World Cup podiums), Nick Badami (resort builder - Alpine Meadows, CA; Park City, UT; Powder Corp), Phil Gravink (resort builder - Peak N Peek, NY; Gore Mountain, NY; Loon Mountain, NH); Mason Beekley (ski historian, International Skiing History Association founder), Dick Dorworth (speed skier and author), Harry Leonard (ski show pioneer), Tyler Palmer (2 World Cup wins, 4 World Cup podiums and pro ski racer).

www.skihall.com/index.php?_a=document&doc_id=15 ▲▲

Please see expanded article about Harry Leonard on page 41.

New Additions to the FWSA Roster of Historic Ski Clubs

- Balboa Ski and Sports Club (1955) Newport Beach, California
- Idaho Falls Ski Club (1947) Idaho Falls, Idaho
- Longview Ski Club (1935) Longview, Washington
- Schnee Vogeli Ski Club (1942) Portland, Oregon
- Mt. Hood Ski Patrol (1937) Portland, Oregon

The new designations are added to the current list of clubs designated as Historic Ski Clubs.

- Cheyenne Ski Club (1949/59) Wyoming
- Fresno Ski Club (1934)
- Grindelwald Ski Club (1949) Los Angeles
- Sequoia Ski Club (1935) Visalia
- Single Ski Club of Los Angeles (1960)
- Skiyente Ski Club (1955) Portland

Los Angeles (1942) and Bay Area (1942/45) Councils are eligible as Historic Ski Councils.

Skiing on Grass

by Richard Lubin, D.C.

*"The Snowboarding
Chiropractor"*

Safety Committee Chair, FWSA

Skiing on grass. Am I referring to a new summer sport? No, what I mean is people skiing while under the influence of marijuana. Does this present substantial risks? There is a shortage of research on this topic. The issue is conspicuous in its absence in this industry. So many participants and ski employees use cannabis regularly, that it is practically treated with a wink and a nod. I'm not suggesting that intoxicated, aberrant, or poor behavior is tolerated at ski resorts by their employees or patrons. Marijuana use alone usually does not lead to boisterous 'drunken' type actions.

California, the largest state by far, passed medical marijuana laws in 1996 (Prop 215). The medical requirements are very lax. There are 17 states and the District of Columbia that now have medical marijuana laws. Within the FWSA, that also includes Washington, Oregon, Nevada and Arizona. The illegal purchase of the substance has been, and continues to be very popular and easy to obtain. In 2009, the Breckenridge, Colorado voters passed a law allowing one ounce and paraphernalia by individuals over 21. Breckenridge Ski Resort (Vail Resorts) did not have this same policy. Smoking weed among locals is so commonplace that it is implied. Media portrayal commonly shows skiers and snowboarders getting high. The word Gondola has been replaced by some with "Gangola".

Snowboarders are often characterized as smokers. The first time snowboarding was allowed at the Olympics, an incident occurred. Canadian snowboarder, Ross Rebagliati, won gold in men's giant slalom at the 1998 Games in Nagano, Japan. He tested positive for marijuana, was stripped of his medal, and then, it was given back. Since the inception of snowboarding, the "half pipe" has a double meaning. The widespread assertion that more snowboarders smoke marijuana than skiers may be true. The population of snowboarders, on average, is younger than the skiing population. The younger population, skiers or boarders, are more likely to be users and chronic daily users, at that. In general, higher usage among the younger adult participants in both of these sports is prevalent.



Many states have legalized the use of medical marijuana. Thus, it has become an ever increasing sight on the slopes. Few studies have been conducted on the safety factors of smoking it while participating in snowsports, however, the general opinion is that using cannabis increases the risk of injury. If not in place already, ski resort policies will be reviewed to deal with this increasing trend. photo by Richard Lubin

SO, IS IT DANGEROUS?

Maybe! Among the scant safety data available was an abstract published in the *British Journal of Sports Medicine* in 2009 based on a study of trauma centers in Bern, Switzerland. Their findings investigated a number of safety issues. It was their opinion that many factors including cannabis use increases the risk of injury.

A consideration in studying cannabis is that there is a great degree of diversity in how it affects people. Generalizations as to its consequences are more varied compared to other drugs. When people enjoy cannabis, they may note the euphoric effects, or they may become paranoid and dislike the whole experience. It affects many parts of the brain including the hippocampus, which is important for short term memory and attentiveness. This distractibility may be an important safety risk. We do know that anything that affects your attention and is a safety issue, just like texting and driving, is dangerous. It has also been shown in some individuals, to affect reaction time, coordination, and increase risk seeking behavior. The heart rate may also increase dramatically. Those with cardiac issues need be aware, notably since skiing takes place in rarefied air, already a risk factor.

CONCLUSION

People will continue to use cannabis,

since it has become easier to obtain, and there are more powerful strains available. Among the population of skiers and snowboarders there's a substantial, but unknown, percentage that use cannabis.

Many of the locals in ski towns are particularly avid users. They may be using on a very regular basis meaning daily or even multiple times daily. This population may be least affected because of their proficiency level and familiarity with the intoxicating effects (habituation). At a high skill level with regular cannabis use, the risk may be no more than walking and chewing gum.

Individuals at the lower skill levels like beginners and intermediates, may be at the highest risk. The occasional smoker may be overwhelmed by the powerful effects. Commonplace ski skills may suddenly be a challenge and present peril.

I am not making a judgment on whether adults should or should not use cannabis. My assessment is that it adds risk and requires extensive investigation. Ignoring this topic is neglectful. An increasing populous will continue to smoke grass, will participate in snowsports, and this may lead to more injuries. If you do engage in this behavior, be especially vigilant and attentive. Each individual creates their own risk management. Remember, safety is thinking first! ▲▲



Innsbruck...

...The Epicenter of Austrian Sports **...The Epicenter of Austrian Sports** *...The Epicenter of Austrian Sports* *by Jimmy Petterson*

Innsbruck is one of only three locations that have hosted the Winter Olympics more than once. This is no mere coincidence. Innsbruck is not just a tiny ski village, but rather a full-bodied city that happens to be situated close to some of the best skiing in the Alps. Full of charm, atmosphere and the kind of infrastructure necessary for hosting a world event, Innsbruck was the site of the illustrious Winter Games in both 1964 and 1976. It was here at the '76 Games that Franz Klammer made his legendary run for the Olympic gold medal, careening down the icy course at breakneck speed to barely eke out Bernhard Russi to earn top honors.

The city is crammed tightly into the narrow Inn Valley, and the river bearing the same name snakes its way picturesquely through town. South of town, the mountains rise gradually skyward. The famous Axamer Lizum Ski Resort is visible to the southwest. In the opposite direction, the dramatic peaks of the Nordkette seem to jut virtually straight up above the rooftops and church steeples, looking almost artificial, like a canvas backdrop at some old theater. The view of the old town with the snow decked Nordkette looming behind, was so oft photographed during the two Olympic years, that Innsbruck became a cliché of the archetypical ski town.

Innsbruck, however, is much more than a mere ski resort. As the capital of Tyrol, it is a regional government center, and it is a major university town, as well. The 26,000 students at the historic institution of learning that dates back to 1669 make up more than 20% of the total population, insuring that there is a bundle of nightlife here beyond just the winter season.

Sports dominate the city's lifestyle both winter and summer. While nearby Salzburg is a cultural hub, attracting locals and tourists alike to its many museums, theater events, and the famous Festspiele, Innsbruck is truly the epicenter of Austrian sports. Situated on the main east-

west road between Vienna and Zurich and at the gateway to the Brenner Pass through the Alps into Italy, Innsbruck is situated perfectly to access a variety of active mountain sports.

Even before the snow disappears from the pistes that surround Innsbruck, the locals have inaugurated the biking, hiking and climbing season. The local venues for these sports are varied and spread out in all directions from Innsbruck. Many climbers spend their weekends challenging themselves on a variety of the 150 routes to be found on the Martinswand, about 10 kilometers west of the city. Hikers find the Axamer Lizum, southeast of town, to be a very good location to pursue their passion, while the newest hit among local mountain bikers is the Bikepark Tirol at the Bergeralm ski area, just south of the city.

I was heading west through the city a few years ago, on my way to ski in France, when the conditions persuaded me that a stop here was mandatory. It was a postcard day. Snow had been dumping from the heavens for a number of days, the rooftops and trees were all clad in their heaviest coat of winter white, and the sun finally emerged that morning.

The various Olympic venues are all at Axamer Lizum, 18 kilometers outside of town. This is a smallish ski resort, with 10 lifts and 38 kilometers of pistes, that rises from 1580 meters up to 2340 meters atop the Hoadl. But, I was more interested in visiting the Nordkette ski area that rises skyward from close to the center of town, and which is home to one of the steepest official pistes in the world. This seemed like a brilliant

day to check out the infamous Karrinne.

Driving through town to the base of the ski lift, I couldn't resist taking a short wander around the narrow streets and picturesque houses of the old town before heading to the slopes. Innsbruck is steeped in Austrian history as well as ski history. Remnants of yesteryear drip off the rooftops like snow melt in a spring thaw, and one can almost expect to meet Maria Theresa and her entourage as one passes through this charming quarter.

In the city center is the famous Goldenes Dachl, a court box for Emperor Maximilian I (1494-96), that is covered by a roof made up of over 2600 tiles gilded with gold. Around each corner of the cobblestone streets of the Old City awaited another chapter of Renaissance Europe. Not far from the Golden Roof is the world's largest Swarovski Crystal shop. Leave your credit card in the car, lest you be tempted to make a purchase, but don't miss viewing some of the amazing crystal on display here, where the bottom floor houses an exhibition of fascinating art created in crystal.

While walking the streets of the old town is like a stroll through a virtual museum, the Hofburg Palace, the home of the local royalty in the 15th century, is a true museum well worth a visit. The Gump House, the Ambras Castle, the Stadtturm, the Helblinghaus, and the Triumph Arch are some of the other historic sites that keep a visitor immersed in the atmosphere of that by-

Snow enthusiasts have access to over 310 miles of trails in 25 surrounding resorts connected by a free ski bus.

LEFT: Florian Schuchter skis high up in the Karrinne above Innsbruck.

BELOW: Innsbruck blends an 800 year history with a 21st Century presence - narrow streets, world-class museums, and active nightlife. photos by Jimmy Petterson





High atop the Nordkette ski area, free riders hike along the ridge to access the Karrinne and other off-piste routes. photo by Jimmy Petterson

gone era, when Austria reigned over much of central Europe. Sightseeing is quite easy in Innsbruck, as the old town is small and compact and much of the worthwhile spots to visit are close to the Maria-Theresienstrasse. This main street is also very picturesque and a good location to drink in the atmosphere over a cup of Viennese café and a Sachertorte, but shopping is probably cheaper away from the tourist area.

Ski historians might also enjoy a visit to the Bergisel ski jump. There, one can ride up an elevator to get a view of what the Olympic jumpers saw before hurling themselves down the ramp into outer space.

Ultimately, I did make it out to the Nordkette ski area and a couple of cable cars, which take skiers from the city up into the crags and pinnacles of the Hafelekar. This range is a stunning array of steep, precipitous peaks, the picture perfect setting for a ski town, but hardly a likely place to actually ski. It is too raw, too steep, too unfriendly, and too difficult. Perhaps only a town with such a tough ski reputation as Innsbruck would dare to build ski lifts in the Nordkette, but that is exactly what they have done.

The lifts bring riders almost 1800 vertical meters above Innsbruck, from where one can enjoy some breathtaking views of the Olympic city. One can only enjoy them for a short time before one realizes that there is no easy way back down from here unless one is willing to go through the humiliation of taking the cable car in the wrong direction.

From the top, the possibilities are extremely steep or even steeper. The various descents include the Karrinne, Direttissima, and two variations of the Seilbahnrinne, which are all between

40 and 50 degrees. The official route, the Karrinne is, arguably, the steepest bona fide piste in the world. With sections of the piste that are between 40 and 45 degrees, this predator has taken the lives of numerous skiers who were not up to the challenge, according to a local kamikaze skier named Florian Schuchter, who joined me to ski this balls-to-the-wall chute.

"How did they die?" I asked Florian, gazing up at the ominous looking elevator shaft. "Avalanches or hitting their head against rocks?"

"No, no," he answered quickly, "just skiing...and falling, of course! Often, the Karrinne is hard and rather icy, with very big moguls. A skier, who falls at the top, cannot arrest his fall. He slides down very quickly bouncing from mogul to mogul..."

"...And by the time he gets to the bottom, he has had a ride like a Ping-Pong ball in a washing machine, and his internal organs are minced meat," I finished.

"Yes, something like that," Florian concluded.

Fortunately, this was not such a day. The fresh snow was soft, the moguls were still manageable, and we rode to the top along with his friends, Martin and Gary.

To get to the Karrinne requires a few minutes of walking around the back of the lift station. To the right, the mountain falls away steeply, and as I am not as sure-footed as a chamois, I was glad that there was no ice along the promenade. The run is flanked on the skier's left by a wind-blown ridge, and below, Innsbruck looks close enough to spit on...or crash into, whichever the case may be.

I looked around. Outside the periphery of

the two marked routes were hundreds of tracks, descending down every off-piste route imaginable. Ordinarily, I would have been happy to try one of these alternatives, but not on the first day after a storm with a level-four avalanche warning. Even my three local friends agreed that it was too dangerous.

The ski world is changing. Snowboards and freeride skis are making it ever easier to ski difficult off-piste terrain. Unfortunately, however, it is not possible for snow sports enthusiasts to acquire the mountain knowledge necessary to assess avalanche danger in the short time that it now takes to attain the ability to learn to descend off-piste.

The soft powder made the run seem less steep than it really was. With this kind of snow condition, a fall would result in a soft landing and there was really no danger of long unstoppable slides. There was no danger of adding our names to the list of victims that the Karrinne had claimed. Florian led the charge back down, choosing a line close to the cornice and following the ridgeline as much as possible, where there was still plenty of fresh powder.

Below the middle station, my local buddies skied off-piste among dwarf larch trees. I tried to follow, but with no success. There was close to two meters of new snow, and near the larches were tree wells—holes lurking out of sight ready to trap an unwary skier. Some of the larches were still visible, so one could try to pick one's way through the "mine field", but many of the miniature trees were completely buried, just inches below the snow.

"Just ski fast," called Florian.

I had a different idea. Cut back to the piste.

The lowest section of the mountain is a narrow road, with a long series of switchbacks.

"Here, we usually play our own version of boarder-cross," called Martin, but again, I was reluctant. This was their home mountain, and it was my first time skiing here. They took off on a bump-and-run race, while I cruised down at my own speed. I guess I wasn't too far off the pace, because my pals had not yet ordered their first beer by the time I made it to the bottom.

In Innsbruck, one can even sleep in historic surroundings. Around the corner from the Goldenes Dachl lies the 600-year-old Goldener Adler Hotel. Here, you might well lay your head down in the same quarters that gave shelter to Wolfgang Mozart, Chancellor Metternich, Wolfgang Goethe, or Heinrich Heine in centuries gone by. I am not sure whether Franz Klammer ever slept in one of their beds after a tough downhill, but I was happy to rest my weary legs here for a night after challenging the Karrinne, even on a soft and easy day. ▲▲

Sensory Overload:

Helicopter Skiing in the Chugach Mountains, Alaska *by Bill Silliman*



Inset: Bill Silliman has completed over 700 heli runs in the past nine years.

National Geographic had a special collector's edition in April-May 2009 on the 50 best American Adventures. Heli-skiing the Chugach Mountains was #11 on the list.
photos unless otherwise indicated by Bill Silliman

Bill Silliman making a run on a monoski with Prince William Sound in the distance.
photo by Andrew Eisenstark, Chugach Mountains, Alaska



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Since the first World Skiing Championships in Valdez, Alaska in 1991, and numerous Warren Miller movies, steep and deep terrain has been a draw to thousands of hard core skiers. Since then, most ski resorts master plans are including lift served double black diamond shoots, off piste trails and backcountry terrain for advanced skiers and boarders. When the adventure skier/boarder desires deeper powder and more thrills to make first tracks in fresh powder, they may elect to have the ultimate adrenalin exhilaration. Heli-skiing is not only for the young, but also for the young-at-heart.

As a member of the Balboa Ski and Sports Club, my first heli trip was with FWSA in 2000 which was organized by Ron Anderson. We went with CMH in Canada and skied The Cariboos. Several years later, I met Kevin Quinn who runs Points North Heli Adventures (PNH) at a ski show in Del Mar, California. I was a vender at the show selling Snowshark Monoskis. A few weeks passed when I met Kevin again at Ski Dazzle in Los Angeles. I asked him more about PNH. I've been skiing there every year since.

My booth was in the same row as Kevin's and Warren Miller. I mentioned to Warren that I was interested in heli skiing with Kevin at PNH. He replied, "You could not find nicer people to ski with than Kevin and Jessica". After all, Warren should know since PNH had been in many of Warren's movies. Jessica Sobolowski, an extreme heli skier, is Kevin's wife. Heli runs are usually named by the person who made the first descent. The biggest one is called Pontoon which has been featured in many Warren Miller movies. Most runs are on the interactive zone map.

The number one item PNH is concerned about is SAFETY. Nothing surpasses this. The PNH pilots are amazing. They have been flying over the Chugach for many years and know how to land a heli in small places. However, there have been times when a landing is not possible due to a wind change or other conditions. The landing will then be aborted and another location will be found. Pilots always have the last word on safety.

PNH has over 1,000 square miles of amazing terrain and 99% of it is above treeline. People often ask me about the terrain. I have been going there for four weeks a year for the last nine years and I am still amazed at the beauty and grandeur of the mountains and glaciers. Having your lunch on a glacier or on top of a mountain while looking at a huge glacier is something most people will never experience. The terrain is expansive! The beauty is exquisite! This past year, I skied over thirty new runs.

Warren Miller talked about the snowflakes in Alaska in one of his movies. He stated, that the cold air from the north and the warm air from the gulf creates a snowflake with more cohesiveness. This allows one to ski steeper terrain than you can in soft dry powder. However, even though you know you can still safely ski 10 degrees steeper, in your mind, *it is still 10 degrees steeper.*

On a typical heli week, one arrives on a Saturday. Most heli operations are only running for a short eight week season, automatically limiting availability each year. Spots fill up quickly and are usually booked well in advance. During each spring week, only 30 or so skiers can be accommodated. They fly into the Cordova Airport (CDV) where three vans and guides greet guests and load the gear.

Once you arrive at the Orca Adventure Lodge, you will be greeted by the rest of the staff to enjoy some cheese and salami while you fill out your paper work, get weighed, photographed and assigned to a group. Sunday morning is your group beacon and heli training. You will learn how to enter

the helicopter, and obtain the order for the day.

Your first day out is intense. I would call it "sensory overload" for a first time heli skier. Your guide will come to you at breakfast and tell you when you need to be in the staging room with your gear on. No matter how many heli days you ski, there is something exciting and magical to stand there and watch two or three helicopters take off in a row about 30 yards from you, knowing in twenty minutes it will be your turn. That is exactly why Kevin calls it, "The Magic Carpet Ride".

When skiers get out of the heli for the first time, you can see the excitement on their faces. As many days as I've heli skied, I am still amazed at the awesome scenery and beauty of the terrain. After the first few runs, the guides are aware of your ability and to what terrain they can safely take you. If you decide to heli-ski, LISTEN TO YOUR GUIDE! It is so easy to be looking at the sights when your guide is giving you information about your next run. Listening to him or her is the most important thing since your safety is a major concern.



Bye, bye Heli. See you at the bottom!

The first time I skied PNH was in April 2004. I still remember my first run - on a slope named Guilt Trip. I have probably skied this run over twenty times since. It is still one of my favorites. It usually has great snow and you can float down this run making nice deep powder turns. As I skied down, I couldn't help but look to my right and see Donkey Kong. I eventually got the nerve to ski it! Now I look at it and I think, wow, I skied that run a few years ago. What a rush it was!

That first year, I also skied a run called, "Full Support". This is a 3,000 vertical foot run which is 48 to 45 degrees top to bottom all above treeline. Needless to say, it is an amazing run. The PNH ski zone is so huge that I never skied Full Support again until six years later. Remember: I was skiing four weeks a year here during each season of those six years. That is 24 weeks of exploring new trails in the first six years.

On that premiere run down Guilt Trip, I was the second skier down. It was going to be the biggest run I had ever skied. I could look 3,000 vertical feet straight down to the bottom and see the heli that was sitting there waiting for us. It looked like an ant.

I took a deep breath and dropped in. This was going to be a total concentration run as there was a glacier on skiers left. There had been new snow and I had to keep my head on a swivel. As I was floating down the run, I saw some sluff* over my right shoulder a couple of times and had to pull over to the left and stop to allow my sluff to go by. They call it, "Sluff Management 101". If there is sluff, your guide will talk to you on your radio and say, "Watch your sluff".

My ability to ski steeper slopes in Alaska keeps improving as I spend more and more time in these mountains. Three of the steepest slopes I have skied there are Coogan's Run, 2,500 vertical at 45 degrees, Donkey Kong,

* A sluff is a small, loose snow avalanche.

◀ ***This group is heading down Filmland where many Warren Miller movies have been made. Just look at the angle of that slope! Before each run, the guide explains the best way to negotiate it, points out obstacles and gives encouragement to get down safely. No matter how long one cries at the top, the helicopter does not come to pick you up!***

1,800 vertical at 55 degrees and Full Support, 3,000 vertical at 45-48 degrees.

The only time I skied Coogan's Run was on 3/27/2006. I was skiing with three guys. When we landed, we all looked over the side and I remember we exclaimed "Geez", - in unison. Our guide, C.J. Ware, dropped in and skied to a safe zone under a rock on skiers right. He had us ski to him - one skier at a time.

The first six turns had to be jump turns as the entrance was so narrow. We only had a few feet of width at the entrance because the skier's right was not an option. After we dropped in, we had to ski on the skiers right, as the skiers left had been baked in the sun. This run starts out around 12 feet wide and gets to about 30 feet wide at the bottom of the 2,500 vertical feet. But, we were only able to ski the right half of the run reducing the turning area. After we all gathered at the safe zone, we all skied out - one at a time - to the bottom of the glacier. I have seen this run in a couple of Warren Miller movies. Currently living in Park City, I met the guide who named this run after her mother. She was in the Warren Miller movie and was helping to promote it in Park City.

When your heli approaches your run, the pilot will fly up the run and the guide will point out any huge rocks, crevasses or bergschrunds**. Once you land, your guide will remind you about the run and will then ski to a safe zone and guide you down the mountain via your two way radio. The guide and skiers always have, "eyes on" every skier. It is mandatory to have a two way radio to communicate with each other. I have mine plugged into my helmet as this eliminates any wind noise.

Last April, we skied over a bergschrund which I have on my Go Pro. I had first powder run. The "bergie" was about five feet wide and ran from 2 to 5 feet high and who knows how deep. The run, called Country Corner, was so much fun that our heli group voted to ski it again.

A few years ago, we actually got to ski on a Saturday - transition day! My group had five fantastic runs of 2,000 vertical in the best untouched powder you can imagine. It was one of those early mornings with the sun shining on the snow at just the right angle. It looked and felt like you were floating on diamonds. Every snowflake glistened. Our guide did a great job navigating us through five runs before we had to head back to base and catch our return flight to the lower 48.

This past April (2012) was my best month at PNH. I was there for 28 days. Four were turn over days. Of the remaining 24 days, I had 14 days of skiing with 119 amazing heli runs: approximately 300,000 vertical.

The first week, almost every run had one to two feet of fresh Chugach powder. I have heli-skied with people from all over the world which makes this experience even more interesting and rewarding. Most skiers or boarders will spend a week, then a new group arrives. In the third week, I skied with four Finnish skiers and boarders in their thirties. They only wanted to ski steep terrain, so most of the runs were 45 to 50 degrees. Many Warren Miller runs were photographed from this run.

Over the nine years, I have averaged about 3.5 days a week during the month's stay. They only heli on blue bird days or days with scattered clouds. Overcast days are down days as flat lighting makes it too difficult for pilots to see definition when landing, and for guides and skiers to see crevasses.

One of the nice things about skiing with PNH out of Cordova is being less than two miles from a town of 2,500 people. There are down day activities including: skiing Mt. Eyak, the local ski resort which has the original single chair from Sun Valley and amazing Chugach powder, ice climbing, swimming at the local pool, going to the gym for some basketball or dodge ball and hiking the Sheridan Glacier. Another possibility is going to the local bars for pool or shuffle board. Or, you may just want to relax at the lodge.

**A Bergschrund, from the German word for mountain cleft, is a crevasse that forms where the moving glacier ice separates from the stagnant ice or firn above. - Wikipedia

The food at the lodge is fantastic. The staff does an excellent job. They serve a huge buffet for breakfast with everything you can imagine and all you want. After breakfast, they make a sandwich for your lunch which you carry in your back pack while skiing. Suppers are also huge and delicious. The seafood is especially delectable.

I have been to PNH three times when they were filming the Warren Miller movies. Each time you get to eat with and talk to the athletes and if you are lucky enough, you might see them filming a shot. I am so impressed with Tom Day, the cinematographer. He skis with an 80 pound pack to get to the exact location he needs for that shot.

PNH has been in about 13 Warren Miller movies. Of course, you only see Kevin, Jessica, or the pro skiers or boarders like Seth Westcott, Olympic Gold Medal winner or a few of the top skiing guests skiing 60 degree slopes, but they also have very nice 35 to 45 degree runs that are fantastic. I've never felt guilty skiing a 2,500 to 3,000 vertical foot run on a 40 degree slope in untouched powder. Remember, if you decide to heli-ski Alaska, make sure you can board or ski steep deep powder, as this is no place to learn.

I have a workout routine for Alaska. I am a member of the Park City Mountain Sports Club and I try to ski as much powder as I can in Utah. There is no shortage of black and double blacks with good snow nearby. I also go to the gym and work out the upper body and the legs, especially the quads. The last thing I want is to get too tired on a steep deep run and get hurt. I figure I currently have around 700 or so heli runs at PNH.

Think this is an activity only for Gen Xers? I celebrated my 70th birthday heli-skiing this last April. What a way to bring in a new decade! Cordova, Alaska received approximately 18 feet of new snow in two weeks while I was there.

PNH offers an annual Alaskan Ladies Week. Guided backcountry touring is also becoming very popular. Participants spend the week skiing or boarding and stay in yurts scattered around the area.

Heli-skiing has also allowed me to get some great photographs of Prince William Sound, which can be viewed from the lodge. There is an abundance of wildlife in the area. Amazing shots of eagles, sea otters, glaciers, the Iditarod, sunsets, the aurora borealis and more are everywhere. I have over 600 photos of eagles alone.



alone.

The easiest way to get to Cordova is to fly into Anchorage. Before or after your heli week, you might want to visit Alyeska, Alaska's largest and most luxurious ski area also in the Chugach Mountains approximately 40 miles from the airport. Although it has skiing for all abilities, Mount Alyeska is known for its steep terrain and deep snowpack. It also has a Nordic trail system, snowshoeing and dog sledding, as well as both heli-skiing and cat-skiing, flightseeing adventures and guided ice climbing nearby. *Is this your year to go North to Alaska?* ▲▲

NOTE: If you have any questions you can contact Bill at: www.monoskiusa.com. Additional Alaska photos can be found at: www.BillSillimanPhotography.com.

25th Annual FWSG Article continued from page 15. programs. The Far West Ski Foundation was reactivated under John Watson as a fundraising arm to the Association for specified charitable programs.

Each year, Leigh and I would brainstorm potential feature articles. Leigh was traveling more internationally and taking photographs for future articles. We reviewed current trends in the snowsports industry and possible ski resorts we had not yet featured. Our early editions had feature articles, such as "Skiing in Japan", "Yellowstone: A Nordic Skier's Paradise", "Turn on the Snowmaking Machines", and "Skiing is a Life Long Sport". And, as a sign of the times, recent issues have included "Capital Improvements Continue Despite Economically Challenging Times", "After the Lifts Close" - featuring summer programs at ski resorts, and "Use Social Media to Communicate & Increase Club Membership". In recognition of her outstanding efforts in the production of the *Far West Skier's Guide*, Leigh was the recipient of the Bill Berry Featured News Award in 2000 and 2004. She is also a member of NASJA, the North American Snowsports Journalists' Association.

Getting colorful action pictures was always a fun part of working on the publication. The majority of pictures are submitted by our volunteers, and professional pictures submitted by the snowsports industry, as well as the FWSA Annual Convention photographer. Ken Calkins, from Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs, and Emilio Trampuz, NWSCC, have done a superb job of recording FWSA Ski Weeks and other FWSA activities for the past several years.

Selecting a cover for the annual issue was never an easy task. The picture had to be exciting, and eye-catching, and have enough of a clear background to support the publication masthead and a list of feature articles and sections. There was always lots of snow flying, trees and sky, and perhaps a gorgeous lake in the background.

For the cover of our 2nd Annual edition for 1989-1990, we ran a fabulous picture of an upside down acrobatic skier at the Santa Fe Ski Area in New Mexico. The photographer who took the cover photo entered that issue of the *Far West Skier's Guide* into a New Mexico photo competition. The cover won! For our 12th Annual publication for 1999-2000, we studied a picture of a snowboarder, submitted by the Delaney Snowboard Camp. Was the Association ready for a picture of a boarder only - with no skiers on the cover? There was a growing popularity of snowboarding among the younger crowd. Monoskis and other innovative snowsports equipment could be found in the stores. It was such an awesome picture. We thought it was time. The feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive.

With e-publishing becoming more popular, we felt that an electronic version was an important extension to our communication outreach. The premiere digital edition of the *Far West Skier's Guide* was

the 2010-2011 issue. The digital edition can be accessed from the www.fwsa.org website, council websites, and most of the FWSA club websites. It is also linked from the National Ski Council Federation website, and more. The direct link for this issue can be found at <http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/farwestskiersguide/2012-13/>. The dates at the end represent the year, thus put in 2010-12/, 2011-12/, or 2012-13/ to view each year's issue. We were thrilled that in addition to the 13 western states served by the *Far West Skier's Guide*, readers viewed the digital edition in over 30 additional states throughout the country, plus numerous Canadian provinces. The publication was also accessed in Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia and New Zealand. We are definitely expanding our reach globally. The majority of views came from conventional computers, but the publication has also been accessed on smartphones, iPads and tablets. We have a QR Code you can scan to enter directly into our website at www.fwsa.org and link into the Digital Edition.

In the beginning, the publication was distributed solely by volunteers to ski clubs, ski shows, ski resorts, ski shops. . . wherever they would be picked up by interested readers. We still distribute through the councils to clubs and events, but for numerous years, the publication has also been distributed through Certified Folder for a wider distribution to the ski shops throughout the west.

We have covered a wide variety of programs and events over the past quarter century and had numerous contributing writers helping to inform the western skiing public. We deeply appreciate their time and effort in their contributions to the *Far West Skier's Guide*. We also extend our appreciation to the snowsports industry, for their articles, pictures and advertising support to make the publication possible. We are looking forward to what lies ahead for the next 25 years for the *Far West Skier's Guide*. ▲

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\$3.50 to cover postage and handling. Send to:



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Planning Your Next Ski Trip by Leigh Gieringer

Aspen/
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CHECK OUT THESE ARTICLES AND MORE IN OUR DIGITAL EDITION



Disabled Sports USA

WARFIGHTER SPORTS DENALI CHALLENGE

Five Wounded Warriors with four "good" legs, from three wars, representing two generations attempting to climb one extremely cold mountain... by Sigrid Noack



Phil Mahre, White Pass, and a Matter of Luck!

by Jimmy Petterson

White Pass, Washington



A Visit to Lake Tahoe: Part II - A Winter Paradise!

by Leigh Gieringer

Mt. Rose, Nevada / John Baum

<http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/farwestskiersguide/2012-13/>



photo by Ken Calkins / Jackson Hole

Planning Your Next Ski Trip

Where to go ♦ What to take



With so much of the earth covered with water, coastal beaches have always been a huge draw for those able to reside at water's edge; and those seeking worldwide adventures at top coastal resorts - or uncrowded, out of the way paradises. Spending hours poolside, walking along a pristine beach, listening to the rhythmic waves provide a relaxing atmosphere which is good for the soul. Add all the attractions, the unique atmosphere so prevalent in many beach communities, and it's no wonder that the beach lifestyle - permanent or temporary - is high on everyone's bucket list. However, much of the world's surface was created by rocky geologic upheavals, too. Their formations give character to many coastal regions as vertical rock meets an azure sea. Inland mountain ranges can be just as impressive. They inspire their own beauty; provide their own attractions. Mountain destinations are quickly rising to the top of everyone's favorite places to live and visit. Just like beach communities, mountain villages and towns offer their own unique personalities. You can find just what you are looking for in a mountain environment.

Most mountain resorts are enjoyable year around. For many resorts, summer is actually their busiest times. Visitors rush to where temperatures are cooler and the air is fresh and clean to enjoy nature at its finest, plus resort attractions and programs. Autumn is a transitional time. Too late for the summer crowd - children are back in school. Too early for the snow lovers - ski lifts are not yet running. But, cooler temperatures result in the leaves transforming from summer green to autumn golds, oranges and reds depending on whether the area is dominated by mostly Aspens, Maples or other native deciduous trees.

Steeps, Glades & Cruisers

Mountain Destinations Offer Great Skiing & Much More

by Leigh Gieringer

This is a fantastic time of the year to experience the beauty of the mountains with its striking hues. When you combine nature's palette with an early snow storm, it's a sight to behold as the fresh white powder rests onto the still brilliant autumn foliage under a beautiful cyan sky.

Early storms are a prelude to winter. They help develop a base. By Thanksgiving weekend, most ski resorts plan to be open for snowsport enthusiasts to get back on their boards. Traditionally, resorts can depend on enough snowpack to get the lifts moving. Snowmaking equipment is installed at the majority of them as a back-up to ensure their guests will be able to traverse much of the mountain during the early season. Off season improvement projects often include the installation of additional snowmaking guns to open more trails providing skiers and boarders more terrain during the early season and lean snow years.

The early season does have its advantages, however. The slopes - and lift lines - are less crowded and the costs are typically discounted. And, when the snow gods are co-operating, what more could you ask?

During the high season (Christmas/New Year's; Martin Luther King Day Weekend - 1/19-21/13; President's Weekend - 2/16-18/13; Easter Weekend - 3/29-31/13); and the months

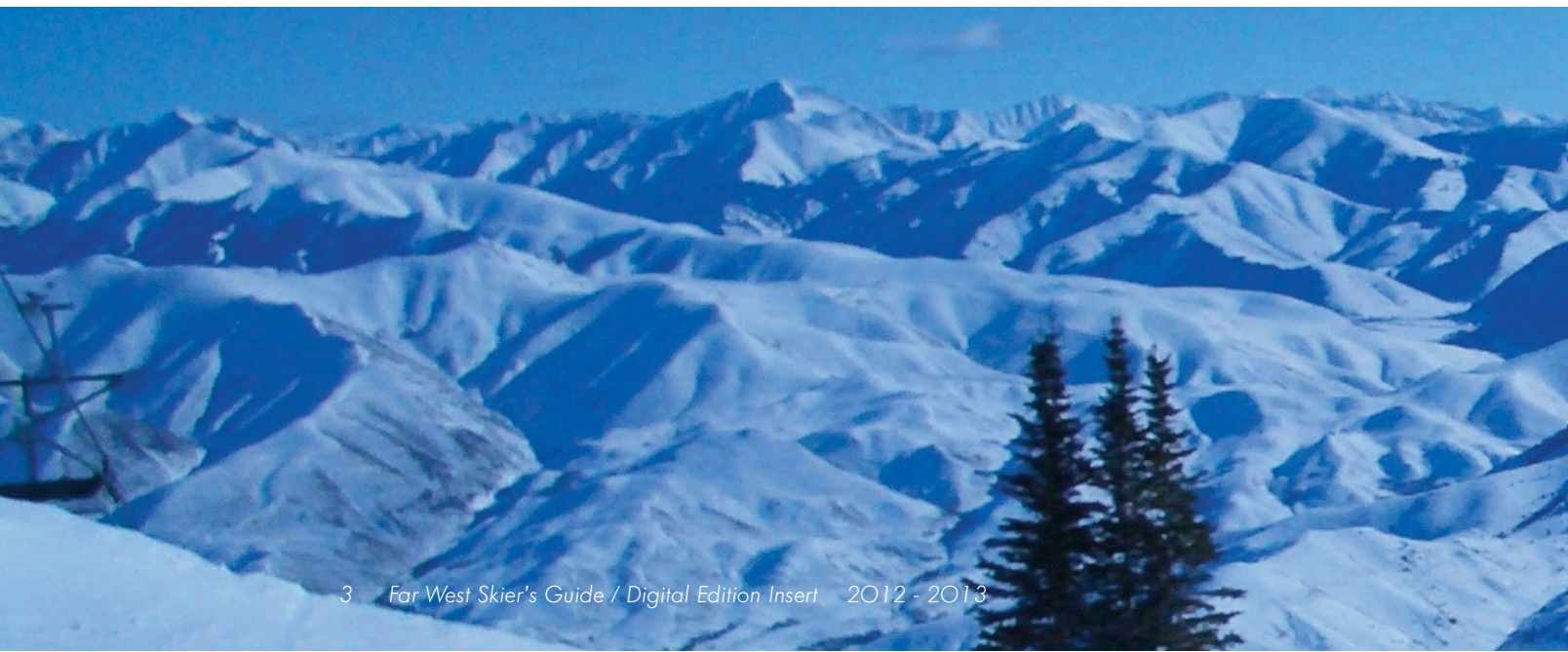


Pond skinning is a popular end of season ritual at many resorts. A crowd gathers to watch skiers attempt to cross the icy water. Oops! This lucky soul didn't make it!

photo courtesy of Squaw Valley

of February and March) there will be more activity, more crowds and accommodations are in demand; thus higher prices. For many skiers and boarders, this is *THE* time to hit the slopes! Great snowpack, comfortable temperatures and numerous resort planned activities to enjoy. Then, add the very good possibility of several days of abundant fresh powder for a "First Tracks" experience. *What more could you ask?*

As the season progresses, warm April temperatures can result in soft-slushy snow,





Areas like Park City, Utah offer several resorts in close proximity, with multi-area lift passes and local transportation between them resulting in the ability to experience multiple resorts on a single trip. *photo courtesy of Deer Valley*

especially at the lower elevations. Although there are exceptions, most Northern Hemisphere ski resorts will close in early to mid April depending on snowpack and weather. Although late in the season, closing weekends are extremely popular, filled with fun, frolic and festive activities. Resort websites will have more information for their respective areas. Remember, next season is months away. You have to take advantage of days on the slopes before the lifts close for the season.

Now comes the hard part. So many fine ski resorts. So little time to enjoy them. How does one choose a destination, especially if skiing is a new adventure, or if for some reason, only the most well known resorts like Aspen, Vail and Sun Valley, plus a handful more are familiar names. The aforementioned resorts are on every avid snowsport enthusiast's list, but there are numerous other resorts that should also be on that list.

Ski resort towns each have a personality. Many times, that factors into the selection decision. Some towns have maintained an historic flavor. Aspen, Breckenridge, Crested Butte, Durango, Park City and Telluride were all mining towns dating back over a century. Many of their main streets are all listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It's not uncommon to walk along narrow streets, see "dudes" dressed with cowboy hats and hear a honkytonk piano in a popular saloon.

Sun Valley, Whitefish, Whitewater and Banff/Lake Louise/Sunshine owe their heritage to developing railroad lines crossing North America - some with the expressed purpose to provide more revenue to the railroads as they brought visitors to the mountains and national parks. The town's development was influenced by the architecture of the day. The luxurious Banff Springs Hotel styled after a Scottish Castle is a classic example and still

one of the most beautiful hotels anywhere. As the resorts were developed into ski destinations, the nearby communities preserved the past for the future generations to enjoy.

Jackson Hole and Steamboat also have a long history, retaining the western influence today. Visiting these resorts provides a glimpse into life as it was a hundred plus years ago. In addition to the wonderful skiing, the historic aspect is a draw for those who appreciate these special ambiances. Yet, modern amenities have been incorporated such as a full range of dining choices, world class spas and the gamut of interesting après ski activities. They are an excellent blend of yesterday and today - all done in style.

Other resorts were built as skiing became a popular sport in the early 1960s. Surrounding mountains were chosen because of their excellent and varied ski terrain, and accessibility for its future guests, as well as room to grow. Resorts such as Deer Valley and The Canyons in Utah; Vail and Keystone in Colorado; Mt. Tremblant in Quebec and Whistler and Big White in British Columbia, Canada are fine examples of a more modern flair having spent millions, even billions of dollars to create the ultimate ski resorts. Architecture, although not really glass and steel modern, is definitely different than the historic buildings in older ski towns. From their inception, these towns were planned as resorts. The buildings are large with much of the architecture influenced by villages found in the European Alps.

Then, there are small boutique resorts offering wonderful ski vacations, and much more. Resorts such as Taos Ski Valley in New Mexico; Solitude and Sundance in Utah; Silver Star in British Columbia; and the future revitalized Homewood Resort in California are



photo by Ken Calkins / Sun Valley



One of the newer ski resorts, Beaver Creek, Colorado has become one of the world's most highly rated ski destinations by its past visitors. Plus, the lift passes can be interchangeable with other Vail resorts for an extra bonus! Beaver Creek / Jack Affleck

only some of the examples. Although they are quite small by comparison to many well-known ski resorts, they offer convenience: ski-in/ski out accommodations at the resort, fine dining, excellent spas and many other activities just steps away - right at the resort.

For many resorts, *la raison d'être* does not have to solely be for traversing a slope on one or two boards. Non-skiers and generations of family members can find numerous activities to capture their attention while their partners are enjoying the steep and deep, bumping in a mogul field or cruising along a gentle pristine run. One doesn't have to ski to enjoy their new mountain surroundings.

Many seniors are still avid skiers. Most resorts offer senior discounted lift passes. There are even ski clubs designated for this age demographic if you want to seek others in your age bracket to enjoy some quality snow time. Even if you're not into alpine skiing, there is still plenty to do at a mountain resort. Nordic skiing, snowshoeing, ice skating, rock or frozen waterfall climbing are available at many resorts. Go dog sledding, take a horse drawn sleigh ride, or spend the day shopping. Or, relax at an exclusive spa to sooth those aching muscles - or just be pampered! Take a swim or sit in the hot tub. Tubing, ziplining: there is something for everyone! Many resorts have day care for the very small child, and offer lessons for pre-schoolers and older children allowing mom and dad to enjoy the slopes without worry. After a day on the mountain, most resort towns have ample dining and night-life opportunities, but not all.

Thus, with so many choices, how do you select the site of your next ski destination?

Determine what is most important. Do you want the convenience of staying near the mountain? Are you a hardcore skier/boarder looking to stretch your endurance, grab a bite to eat, go to bed early so you can get first tracks again the next morning? Are the night-life opportunities important? Is this trip designed for a family, is it multi-generational, a romantic get-away or for a group of friends? Time constraints? What is the budget?

Helpful hints when on a budget:

- Travel with a larger group such as a ski club/council or FWSA. Their buying power can bring down the costs for lodging, airfare and multi-day lift tickets. Plus, they have researched resorts prior to the selection process. And, they handle the booking details.

- Buy a season ticket for your favorite resort. If purchased before a certain date, you can ski very reasonably per visit assuming you are able to be at the resort often. Many season passes offered are valid at multiple resorts. More information can be found on resort websites. Check them out!

- Resorts offer lodging at different price points. Select a property that fits into your budget. Sometimes the price of a condo divided by the number of people staying in the unit can offer a substantial savings per person. Condos have kitchens. Preparing meals instead of dining out each day can be a savings.

- Instead of a week long ski trip, reduce it to three to five days.



Stay at Taos Ski Valley for ski-in/ski-out convenience to the slopes or in the historic town and art center of Taos about 20 miles northeast of the mountain. Taos offers great skiing and a lot more on and off the slopes!

photo courtesy of Taos Ski Valley

- Travel early or late in the season, or plan your trip for midweek to get discounts.

- Seek out package deals offered by resorts that can include lodging, lift passes, lessons or equipment rentals. Sometimes children can stay and ski at no additional cost when accompanied by their paying parents.

- Go to resorts closer to home to which you can drive. Even with gas at almost record levels, it still may be cheaper than flying.

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■ Smaller resorts are typically less expensive and offer rates to attract families and just learning skiers and boarders. Since they cater to beginners, they have excellent ski schools for children - of all ages. Much of the terrain is appropriate for newer participants.

■ For novice skiers and boarders, it's advisable to rent equipment in the beginning. In the long run, it may be cheaper.

Renting vs. Buying

For children, unless you spend a lot of time at a resort(s), or you have a large family and can pass the equipment down to the next child, they out-grow the equipment so quickly. Thus, you can rent the equipment for a lot of skier days for the cost of the purchase - particularly if there are several children needing equipment.

Be weary of borrowing equipment unless it can be taken to the ski shop to be analyzed or adjusted to the new user's height, weight and skill level. When equipment is rented, the ski shop handles those adjustments for your specific needs.

It's also not advisable to pick up equipments such as skis, boots, helmets, etc. off of Craigslist, eBay, or at a garage sale since you do not know the history behind this equipment. Is it old and will the plastic crack with the cold. Was it damaged at some point? Do the bindings release properly? Does it fit? Can it be adjusted? If the equipment is inferior, your day on the slopes may not be as enjoyable as it should be. It's simple to rent the equipment before a trip and much of the paperwork can be done over the internet, so it's ready for pick-up and the adjustments can be tweaked or items turned in for a different pair if desired during the course of the stay.

Additionally, the extra cost and inconvenience of shipping equipment on an airplane for a destination ski trip these days can also be a deciding factor to rent equipment on your next ski trip. See the next article in this insert on page 9.

Another good reason to rent is to test the equipment to see if you want to buy similar equipment later. Rental shops have a variety of basic to high performance equipment from numerous manufacturers and they can tell you what is best for you based on your individual needs.

If you are fortunate enough to be able to fit numerous ski trips into the winter months, equipment can be leased for the entire season. That way, you don't have to go through the rental process or to get used to different equipment each time you go to the slopes. At the

end of the season, the equipment can be returned, or if desired, many shops can offer a buy-out of the lease.

Once you've determined what equipment you want to purchase, you are probably looking north of \$500, perhaps into the thousands.

Yes. There are ski packages available. Packages can include coordinated skis, bindings, boots and poles, however, it is not always advisable to make this purchase based on price alone.

Questions to ask are:

- What kind of skier/boarder are you? Level of ability.
- How often will you be going to use this equipment?
- Will this equipment be out-grown?

A child grows taller and heavier. An adult's weight can change. Both a child and adult's level of skiing can improve or become more timid. Don't forget technology changes. Will there be something you like better if you wait?

- Will this equipment fit my needs?

Will I desire different equipment for skiing powder, glade skiing, cruising or different snow conditions?

Many skiers have several pairs of skis depending on conditions, but skiing can be a life long sport. Thus, purchasing a good set - or sets - of equipment may be the best choice.

Before You Go

If you do have your own gear, get it tuned up at your local ski shop before you travel to your mountain destination. You don't want to waste your first morning in the ski shop having your equipment adjusted. Get those boards tuned up. An expert wax, plus edge sharpening, provides more control for turning and stopping. If your poles are bent, they may need replacement and try on last

year's boots to see if they are still comfortable.

Look at your closet. Do the jackets and pants still fit? This is particularly important for growing children. If not, replace them. It is important to have quality outerware to stay warm and dry. Keep in mind that during a long weekend or week of snow riding, you will run into stormy days, warmer days and just plain cold days. You have to be prepared for all conditions. That means, there may be a necessity for different weight jackets and layering for warmth and comfort.

Locate your goggles, your backpack(s) of choice - a larger one that carries extra clothing, gear, snacks while on the slopes or a small fanny pack for the essentials. Below is a list recommended by Ski Industries America.



Brundage gets over 300 inches of snow a year and has 17,000+ acres of back-country Cat Skiing.

photo courtesy of Brundage Mountain

Snow Sports Packing List Equipment

■ Skis/snowboard, boots, bindings, poles, and helmet **TIP:** Keep a ski/board tool on hand for adjustments.

Apparel

■ Vacuum sealed travel space saver bags to conserve space in the suitcase.

■ Jacket, pants, base layer, (*not cotton!*) thin layers - fleece, thermals. You need to stay dry so you don't get chilled on the lift or on the hill. Many manufacturers offer "Base Layers"

A Guide to Layering - Don't bulk up

The temperature and your activity can change as the day goes on, and wearing layers not only keep your insulation level flexible, they keep you comfortable.

- Base Layer
- First Layer - A light shirt or first layer to wear over the base layer (you can skip this layer)
- Mid Layer - Turtleneck, thin sweater or wool shirt
- Fleece/Soft-Shell Layer - In spring months you can even end the layering here!
- Outer Layer - Jacket and pants. The outer layer comes with breathability, waterproof and windproof layers of different levels. Choose what will best protect you from weather and temps where you are headed.

courtesy of SnowSports Industries America / SIA and Snowlink.com

made of polypropylene or other synthetic fibers – that wick away perspiration. Don't wear cotton next to your skin. When it absorbs perspiration, it stays wet.

■ Ski/snowboard socks - a couple pairs of ski/snowboard socks, or at least some outdoor socks – preferably wool. These socks are engineered not only to keep your feet dry, but to maintain proper circulation, keep your feet and ankles comfortable in your boots and keep your feet warm! *TIP: A couple of thin layers allow you to make easy adjustments based on temperature changes.*

■ Accessories: Gloves/mittens and liners; ski/snowboard socks & liners; hand and toe warmers; hats, neck gaiter, face mask; goggles, and extra goggle lenses; hydration pack; sunscreen; lip balm; and moisturizing lotion *TIP: Double your apparel and accessories for any trip 5+ days.*

■ Post-ski and ride accessories: Backpack, sunglasses, after-ski/ "street" gloves/ hat/scarf; and after-ski boots.

Don't forget the regular vacation items: camera, bathing suit (hot tub!), favorite jeans, cozy sweaters for sitting in front of the fire, and an off-the slopes jacket. Add toiletries, plus other standard travel items. Any forgotten items can be purchased at the resort.

What's Hot In the Cold

Are you itching to abandon the poofy apparel you've used since the beginning of your ski life? The 2012 fashion trend is sleek - less bulky and clean, simple lines. Black is still in, with accent colors like lime green, aqua or cerise. But, if you want to go bold, try a bright colored pant to go with your more subtle jacket. Many jackets have a special pocket for goggles, etc. and to allow for ear phone connections to mobile devices. Or, try the goggles with a built-in video camera to record your exhilarating ride down that double black piste.

Resort websites are filled with an abundant amount of information about their specific mountain(s), ski/ride schools, child care, lodging choices, other activities offered at the resort, and a calendar of special events in which you can participate to assist with making your decision to visit them. They also have driving and flight information on how to get to their resort, other helpful tips specific to their resort and reservation departments to finalize your plans. Periodically, they also have special packages to entice you. Check them often, then book your fabulous mountain adventure! ▲

3 EASY WAYS TO SUPPORT THE USARC...

VOLUNTEER to teach people with disabilities how to ski and snowboard. Their smiles and thanks are a reward unlike any other your heart will ever experience. **Give a little** of your time, and create a lifelong love of winter for somebody else.

PARTICIPATE in the Annual **Ski-A-Thon**, a day-long event of fun, frivolity, food, festivity and "feel-good" as you help raise important funding for the USARC's amazing programs. Get your friends together and join us on Saturday, March 2, 2013.

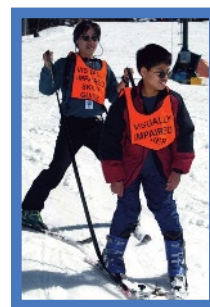
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Traveling with Snow Sports Gear on Airlines*

Airlines continue to change their fees and restrictions for baggage so be sure to check before you get to the airport. Some airlines treat your ski/snowboard/boot bags as a special piece of luggage, but without additional fees; Skis and poles, or a snowboard, count as one of two checked bags passengers can transport without an additional charge or what they would charge for a regular piece of luggage. Most airlines allow for a “set of ski or snowboard equipment,” meaning, skis, poles, bindings and boots count as one item of luggage, even if the boots are in a separate bag. More recently, airline mileage credit cards are offering perks for free baggage fees so be sure to check your card.

From time to time, you might get some push-back from an un-informed airline employee, so printing out the rules to bring with you isn't a bad idea! As long as you follow these guidelines, you should have no problem.

Exception to the airlines' rules

Usually, a checked bag is considered oversized if it is over 50 pounds or has a total outside measurement (height + width + depth) of more than 62 inches. Virtually all skis and snowboards bagged for travel exceed the 62-inch rule, but airlines realize that sports travel is an important component of the tourism industry, which is why they make exceptions for certain kinds of sports gear.

Watch your bag's weight

While they'll excuse the dimensions, the heavyweight rule will apply. A ski or snowboard bag will be charged extra if the bag weighs more than 50 pounds. Bags with one set of skis or a snowboard plus some gear should not exceed that limit.

Try to pack one set of gear per person

Airline policies do not specifically address double bags, but they often will say a ski



photo by Ken Calkins

bag should only have one set of equipment. However, if two people traveling together use a double bag, check-in clerks will probably allow it, according to a corporate communications spokesperson for Delta. But, if the double bag belongs to one person, it could be subject to excess baggage charges.

The boot bag

Written policies say that skis, poles, bindings and boots count as one item. If your boot bag is your third checked bag, it should count with the ski bag as one item (the 50 pound weight limit will apply to both weighed together). Airline snowboard policies usually state that snowboards are exempt from the oversized rules, but say nothing about boots. If you explain that snowboard boots are part of the equipment, you should be able to check them as a unit, just like with skis. Best bet, get a gear bag that fits everything in it. Just watch the weight!

Liability release

Though it's rare, some airlines require that you sign a damage waiver for gear packed in a soft bag. Most soft bags for skis and snowboards are rugged, lined and have protective features. Some companies make hard-shell travel containers for equipment if you want the extra protection.

Don't lock your ski or snowboard bags

If the metal in your ski and snowboard gear sets off a “false positive” during luggage screening, baggage handlers screening checked bags for explosives may need to open your luggage for a visual check. Like with regular luggage, laws allow for locks to be broken off to check contents.

International travel

If you're vacationing outside the U.S. and Canada, check with your airline regarding its baggage policy.

Save the hassle and Ship Your Gear

Many people don't realize they can ship skis/snowboards to their destination via FedEx® or other shippers. Pack up your ski/snowboard with clothes or ship your gear in a tube. Some specialty shops have shipping programs. Travel worry-free and meet your gear at the mountain.

Navigating the airport with all your luggage can be a nightmare. And, with the new airline baggage charges, it's now more expensive to fly with your gear. So save money and time-ship your gear.

ShipYourGear - Snowlink: NEW this year is the first-ever FedEx Discount Program for skiers and snowboarders.

SnowSports Industries America (SIA) has negotiated a consumer discount on shipping of up to 16% off select FedEx Express® services, up to 8% off select FedEx Ground® services and up to 15% FedEx Ground service to Canada processed through FedEx Ship Manager® at fedex.com or FedEx Ship Manager® Software. This program is open to consumers eligible for a U.S. based FedEx account. To enroll, visit fedex.com/shipyourgear.

Choosing the Right Helmet

There are a lot of cool ski and snowboard helmets on the market, but before you buy it's important to know how to find the right one for you. Many companies make high-quality, great-looking helmets. New injection-molded foams and plastics create helmets that weight less than some woolen hats, but which provide impact-protection at speeds usually reached only by downhill racers. Easy-to-operate venting systems allow skiers to adjust the “warmth” of their helmets by tweaking the air flow to different parts of their heads, ensuring they stay warm without overheating. Beyond safety and comfort, though, helmets also match skiers' lifestyle needs. Many helmets now come equipped with high quality headphones, and even Bluetooth connections for cell phones and music players.

Helmets have their own accessories to help encourage helmet use. Goggle designers craft eyewear that not only fits around helmets generically, but which also can be integrated with specific helmets. For instance, Smith offers goggle and helmet pairings that create improved venting from the goggles, through the helmet, to significantly reduce the risks of fogging.

Prices start at about \$60 for children's helmets and can often reach \$160 or more for one with all the bells and whistles. But before you drop a dollar on fashion, make sure you've investigated its protective function, and make sure you've got one that fits you perfectly.

Try Before You Buy

Do your best to try on a variety of helmets before deciding which one is for you. The same goes for buying one for your significant other, your children, or anyone else. Everyone's head is shaped differently, and some brands and models will fit your melon better than others! If you don't live near a mountain, it might be worth waiting until you get there to buy your newest headgear. Unlike hats, they don't get wet or icy and you'll be surprised by how warm and comfortable the right helmet can be.

Like your boots, a helmet should fit as if it were customized for you. You can start by measuring the circumference of your head to find your standard helmet size in centimeters. If you're in between sizes, there are adjusters in most helmets to tweak it to perfection. Make sure that the one you purchase fits snugly – but isn't so tight that it's going to give you a headache. It should sit just over your eyebrows to protect your forehead – it shouldn't ride too high up on your head. Also try it on with your goggles to ensure the ensemble works well together. A gap between your goggles and helmet could leave you with a frozen forehead on the mountain.

Protection, Not Invincibility

While a helmet decreases the risk of head injury, it can't save you from all of them. In fact, some researchers believe that helmets may cause more harm than good because they offer a false sense of security. When it comes down to it, both research and common sense say that you're much better off with one than without one. You've heard both good and bad stories of winter athletes who have survived injuries because their helmet was on, or those who might have survived had they been wearing one.

To ensure that the helmet has been tested to provide adequate protection, look for the SNELL RS-98 or ASTM F2040 sticker on the inside of the helmet.

Content courtesy of SnowSports Industries America | SIA, National Ski Patrolters and Snowlink.com. ▲



Steamboat Celebrates 50 Years in 2013

Steamboat Ski Area will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary this season. Steamboat is a mountain that is truly legendary in its terrain, glades, powder and history. Events, promotions and specials will be held all season long. Make certain to be in Ski Town USA during Steamboat's Birthday Blowout celebration taking place from January 11 through 21. Steamboat will be going all out for its 50th Anniversary with fireworks, torchlight parade, free concerts and special events culminating the anniversary period with the Bud Light Cowboy Downhill on Monday, January 21, 2013. Larry Pierce/Steamboat

Lake Tahoe: World Class Ski Resorts & much more...

by Leigh Gieringer



Lake Tahoe is home to numerous World-Class Ski Resorts including Squaw Valley. Take the gondola to High Camp, Elevation, 8,200', providing access to numerous trails. Or, relax in the pool surrounded by majestic peaks of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. photos courtesy of Squaw Valley



...Right in Our Own Backyard

The Far West Ski Association has been serving snowsport enthusiasts in the western United States since 1930. The majority of its 11 councils are located in California, extending into Nevada. The border dividing these two states runs right through Lake Tahoe, in the heart of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range. The natural beauty of the numerous mountain peaks is enhanced by 72 miles of lake frontage. Together, they form a playground which would be extremely difficult to surpass.

Just in the Lake Tahoe area, there are seven world-class ski resorts. But, there are several smaller ones within the area, as well, that are perfect for those desiring to learn to ski or snowboard, families wishing to experience fun in the snow, uncrowded slopes, pleasant atmospheres and smaller budgets. Among them, one can find the perfect resort for any desire or pocketbook, but most snowriders find it difficult to choose, so they visit many of them throughout the season.

Lake Tahoe is serviced by Reno International Airport. The closest resort, within 30 minutes of the city is Mt. Rose-Ski Tahoe - in Nevada. At 8,260', it has the highest base. Coupling the elevation with north facing slopes, equals a season that can last into late spring. Mt. Rose offers some of the steepest and longest inbounds slopes in North America. For convenience, both morning and afternoon only lift tickets are available in case you have limited time. During the season, a shuttle runs from Reno to the resort seven days a week. There are no accommodations by the slopes, but Reno has thousands of pillows in varying price ranges, and casinos, too!

The other Lake Tahoe resort located only in Nevada is Diamond Peak Ski Resort, on the northeast side of the lake near Incline Village. Although it's one of the smaller resorts with just 655 acres, 75% of the terrain is covered with snowmaking guns. There are lots of groomed trails, and plenty of glade skiing/riding,

with few lift lines. But, the views of the lake from just about every run, are awesome. Stop at the recently remodeled mid-mountain lodge for some of the best views anywhere around the lake! Lodging is available at Incline Village and Crystal Bay on the state line. The historic Cal Neva Resort, with its spectacular views of the lake, is centrally located to access many of the resorts on the north shore.

Traveling west along the north shore is Northstar California. Recently acquired by Vail Resorts, Northstar has developed into one of the finest year 'round resorts in the country. The base area village has expanded with several new restaurants, boutiques and a 9,000 square foot skating rink. With 93 trails on 3,000 acres, there is plenty of skiing for everyone: alpine, telemark, nordic, and snowshoeing as well as terrain and tubing parks. Northstar is a great family destination with plenty to do, and offers fabulous accommodations. Everything you need is here, but let's move on!

Awesome vistas of Lake Tahoe can be seen from several surrounding ski resorts. Northstar California / Jack Affleck



Going west, we'll run into Sugar Bowl Resort. Sugar Bowl is one of the oldest ski resorts in the country having opened in 1939 and continuously operated since then. Located atop Donner Summit, the resort averages more than 500" of snowfall per season. Its 13 lifts service 1,500 acres of terrain suitable for beginners, but some is challenging for experts, plus plenty for the intermediate. There are also three terrain parks. It's the closest ski resort to the San Francisco/Sacramento area.

In early October, 2012, Sugar Bowl acquired the nearby Royal Gorge Cross-Country Ski Area, the largest Nordic area in North America with 65 trails covering about 195km. There are accommodations at both resorts.

Cloistered together nearby are the smaller resorts of Donner Ski Ranch, established in 1937, Tahoe Donner and Soda Springs, established in 1931. With their gentle terrain and value pricing, they offer wonderful learning areas for the beginner skier/boarder and families. Tahoe Donner has a Snowplay area open for sledding for children to enjoy a day in the snow.

Conveniently located along I-80 is Tahoe's only all mountain terrain park. Boreal Mountain Resort has more than 100 features for snowboarders and skiers, as well as a snowplay area for tubing and sledding.

Squaw Valley is probably one of the best known ski resorts in the area, if not the nation. It was the site of the 1960 Winter Olympics and was instrumental in the development of the ski industry. Situated at end of a gorgeous valley, Squaw's playground covers six peaks, providing plenty of varied terrain for every



The village at Kirkwood provides ski-in/ski-out convenience and many other family oriented activities such as a tubing hill, nordic ski trails and snow-shoeing. Kirkwood photos /VisitRenoTahoe.com



photo / Diamond Peak





type of snowsport enthusiast. High Camp at 8,200' is accessible by the gondola. It houses the Squaw Valley Olympic Museum, a giant pool and hot tub, ice rink, and of course, restaurants and more. At the base is a European styled village complete with shops, restaurants, lodging facilities, numerous après ski activities and entertainment.

Squaw Valley recently merged with neighboring Alpine Meadows. Between them, skiers/riders have a choice of 270+ runs over 6,000+ acres, serviced by 43 lifts. The resorts are in the process of a multi-million dollar renaissance.

The "hillside sheltered by fir trees*" is an apt name for the Granlibakken Ski Area. (*translation from Norwegian). This could be the premier site of winter activities in the Lake Tahoe area as far back as 1928 with the construction of a double toboggan slide near the Tahoe Tavern Hotel. Horse drawn sleighs would bring guests to the hotel which became known as Olympic Hill. The slide became a favorite of the surrounding residents. Then came the 60-meter ski jump. Years later, in the 1940s, a small ski hill was built. And, later a lodge was built nearby. The ski hill still exists - having an extensive historic significance. And, the building that became the Granlibakken Conference Center and Lodge was updated with a wide variety of lodging



ABOVE: *Sugar Bowl Resort has signed an agreement to operate Royal Gorge Cross Country Resort, America's largest cross-country operation, which is being purchased by the Truckee Donner Land Trust, the Trust for Public Land and the Northern Sierra Partnership.* photo / Royal Gorge

LEFT: *Northstar California has recently completed its \$30 million improvement project which included the installation of a new high-speed chairlift, the opening of a new glade ski area - Promised Land, an on mountain restaurant, a new Superpipe and more just in time to celebrate their 40th Anniversary.* photo / VisitRenoTahoe.com

options.

The abundant fir trees protect the area from wind and excessive sun, allowing for good snow conditions. In addition to the ski hill suitable for beginner and intermediate snowriders, the area also offers ungroomed nordic and snowshoe terrain. But, the real excitement is the recent opening of the Treetop Adventure Park which is scheduled to be open year around. It's the first Aerial Adventure Park in California. and is comprised of a series of courses linking tree platforms with numerous bridges and zip lines. From the first tree platform, one can travel through the for-

est on an aerial trek anywhere from 15 to 50 feet high! In addition to the 50+ platforms and bridges comprising the adult courses, a brand-new Flying Squirrel zone caters to young adventurers ages 4+. It consists of three different courses and a variety of bridges and zip lines.

Down the road, just south of Tahoe City is Homewood Mountain Resort. Homewood is synonymous with exquisite views from its

100 runs as it is very close to the lake's edge. Basically a day resort, the owners have developed a gorgeous development plan to revitalize

2,000 acres, there is plenty of terrain for making turns. And, 75% of it is suitable for the novice or intermediately making it family

the resort to evolve into a beautiful boutique destination. However, the process has been slowed by groups desiring to stop the project, or at least reduce its size. Time will tell what the outcome will be. In the meantime, enjoy the incredibly scenic surrounding. The skiing is fabulous, as well!

Sierra-at-Tahoe is approximately 12 miles south of South Lake Tahoe in the El-dorado National Forest. With



Treetop Adventure Park, in North Lake Tahoe, is open year 'round! The adult course has over 50 platforms and bridges, and there is an area for kids.
photo / North Tahoe Adventures



LEFT AND BOTTOM: The number of tubing parks at ski resorts has grown in the past several years including the one at Heavenly. It becomes another draw for family activities. RIGHT: View the peaks from another perspective. Winter Kayaking is another unique adventure to be experienced on a bluebird day.
photo / Enviro-Rents





Heavenly Ski Resort is known for its scenic beauty, and expansive terrain - so huge that it extends across two states. It's the only bi-state resort in the United States. There are 17 lifts in California and 12 in Nevada. The views are picture postcard perfect as they look over the lake. Heavenly photos / VisitRenoTahoe.com

friendly. Snowboarders love the six terrain parks!

Kirkwood was recently added to the Vail Resort's family of great ski resorts. Vast bowls, steeps, chutes and miles of ridgeline for those who wish to jump off the cornice, are only a small part of the 2,300 acre resort about 33 miles south of Lake Tahoe. It is known for its abundant snowfall. Several years ago, it had over 800", but the average is closer to 500". A self-contained village at the mountain's base, it's a year round recreation destination for the entire family. Groomed cross-country track, a tubing hill, snowmobiling and tobogganing will keep everyone busy.

Skiing or riding on Heavenly Mountain Resort is on everyone's wish list. It's a very unique destination by itself, having the largest skiable acreage in a single Lake Tahoe resort, extending into Nevada. It also has the highest elevation in the region, and the longest vertical drop. Heavenly was the first Vail Resort acquisition in the Lake Tahoe area. Tri-resort lift passes are available for Heavenly, Northstar and Kirkwood.

From the 2.4 mile long gondola ride rising from the Stateline base, one can ascend the mountain, and be in awe of the magnificent beauty of "the Jewel of the Sierras". Even if you are not a snowrider, take the journey up to the

viewing station, or all the way to the top for lunch. The views are unforgettable.

Two areas in Lake Tahoe offer night skiing: Squaw Valley and Boreal, however, Heavenly has installed a lighted terrain park at the California base for night riding. Heavenly also offers the full gamut of other activities, but the ski resort is across the street from several top Lake Tahoe casinos providing a wide choice of entertainment: celebrity shows, a great selection of dining options and, of course gambling, in case you feel lucky!

There are 72 miles of coastline around the lake surrounded by numerous ski areas - each with a different personality. But, if you want to take a day off from the slopes, how about spending it on the lake. Even in winter, the larger river boats can be found cruising - weather permitting.

You may not want to be clad in a bikini, but winter kayaking has become very popular. Air may be chilly compared to a summer temps, yet the warm sun, blue skies, calm waters and snow covered peaks beckon. Make your way down to Kings Beach for an exciting adventure on the lake. Enviro-Rents has everything you need to get you started.

The Lake Tahoe area definitely has a lot to offer. So many choices, but if you need more details, visit websites of the respective

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Mt. Norquay, Lake Louise Ski Area & Sunshine Village: **The Jewels of Canadian Skiing**

As a top contender on the bucket list of countless visitors, many have flocked to the big three ski resorts of the Canadian Rockies for decades. Mt. Norquay, The Lake Louise Ski Area and Sunshine Village are located on the doorstep of the towns of Banff and Lake Louise and offer a world-class ski experience in a world-class National Park. They offer something for everyone, all within Canada's Protected Playground.

The iconic Canadian Rocky Mountain top vistas are reason alone to visit this area, not to mention the unforgettable steepes, renowned snow and welcoming hospitality.

Direct flights from 17 US airports to Calgary International Airport and the quick 90 minute transfer to the town of Banff make for a short journey to Canada's big three ski resorts. Once here, you can experience the much coveted dry, light Canadian snow firsthand, as it blankets all three ski resorts throughout one of the longest ski seasons in North America. Almost 8,000 acres of skiable terrain, 274 runs and some of the most extreme in-bound skiing in North America, available on one tri-area ticket, means a once in a lifetime ski experience for your group. All you have to do is choose which day you want to spend at which resort.



photos / SkiBig3

The majestic Banff Springs Hotel, styled after a Scottish Baronial Castle opened in 1888. It marked the birthplace of tourism in the Canadian Rockies

Mt. Norquay is located just minutes from the town of Banff. Offering outstanding conditions for skiers of all abilities, it has been a training ground for Olympic and World Cup athletes for decades and a favorite of beginner skiers for years. With a new loading conveyor for the 2012/13 season aimed at opening up the mountain to all levels and abilities, this small yet dynamic resort keeps everyone happy; all in Banff's backyard.

Travel 20 minutes west of Banff and you will arrive at the next jewel in Banff's ski resort crown, Sunshine Village. Canada's highest elevated resort at a body-friendly altitude of 5,000', Sunshine village straddles two provinces where you have the novelty of skiing on the Continental Divide. Plus, Sunshine Village features the only ski-in/ski-out accommodation in the Banff-Lake Louise area, with the

boutique Sunshine Mountain Lodge. The 2012/13 season will see the addition of a smoke house in Mad Trappers Saloon, a European creperie station and a Vietnamese Café for a hot and healthy lunch alternative.

The Lake Louise Ski Area wraps up the Banff National Park ski resort trifecta, and what a finish! Described as a giant among Canadian ski resorts, The Lake Louise Ski Area offers up exceptional terrain and iconic views that you will be boasting about on your return home. Located just a 5-minute drive from the town of Lake Louise, the 4,200 acres of terrain offers uncrowded runs across four mountain faces, all served by high-speed lifts. This upcoming season will see the full-time instalment of a bag jump and two new magic carpets for beginners. The Lake Louise Ski Area also features beginner, intermediate and

expert runs from every chair, which means even as a group with a range of abilities, it's easy for you to ski together.

Worthy of a bucket list of its own, Banff-Lake Louise-Sunshine serves up a unique ski experience, whether it's when you view the incredible, frozen Lake Louise below the astounding Victoria Glacier, or see the breathtaking Matterhorn of the Rockies, Mt. Assiniboine, as you streak down South Divide run at Sunshine Village on a bright, bluebird day. The feeling and awe inspiring views that go hand-in-hand with Banff-Lake Louise-Sunshine's phenomenal skiing is something that every skier should experience at least once in their lifetime.

For more information, snow reports and live web-cam feeds from all three resorts, visit www.SkiBig3.com.

Tri Resort Mountain Facts:

- Almost 8,000 Acres
- 274 Runs
- 26 lifts
- Over 30ft of annual snow

*Christopher Schermuly
contributed to this article.*

Whitewater Ski Resort is a 15 minute drive from Nelson in the southern interior of British Columbia, Canada. This smaller ski resort is situated in the Ymir Bowl on Ymir Mountain, in the Selkirk Mountains. The Selkirks receive an abundant amount of dry snow. This location in a high alpine bowl provides an annual snowfall average of approximately 40 feet. Lifts ascend the shoulders of the bowl and provide easy traversing routes along ridges to the top of Ymir Peak. In addition to its plentiful snow, the resort is renowned for its tree skiing and steep runs: 56% are advanced or expert, while 32% rated as intermediate. The remaining 12% of the trails are classified as easiest.

A Master Plan expansion announced about a decade ago, along with a change in ownership, is showing results with the addition of the Glory Ridge Chair in 2010. Several more chairs are planned to increase its lift capacity to 5,000 skier/riders - more than tripling its carrying capacity. The addition of new lifts has also resulted in the creation of new open trails and gladed areas. Backcountry skiing and riding is popular among the more advanced snowsport enthusiasts.

Whitewater Ski Resort expands.

photo / Whitewater Ski Resort.

For a change of pace, get out the cross-country skis or snowshoes. There are 13 groomed and trackset Nordic trails over 15km. Or, get your camera, a pair of snowshoes and walk along the 10km of terrain designated for snowshoeing. Rental shops can be found at the mountain's day lodge.

There is no lodging at the ski area, but a variety of unique inns, hotels, motels and hostels are available in Nelson. The old gold and silver mining town has received a face lift restoring the historic downtown and Baker Street to its original glory.

Due to the natural beauty of surrounding mountains and lakes, the city has become a mecca for artists, galleries and culture.


If you want to relax those tired muscles, there's relaxation and revitalization at one of the three nearby thermal pools, spas and hot springs.

The easiest way to get to the resort is to fly to Spokane, Washington, and reserve a spot on the Queen City (Nelson) Spokane Shuttle. Visitors can also fly into the smaller Castlegar Airport, southwest of the city.

www.skiwhitewater.com

Whitewater Mountain Facts:

- Almost 1,184 Acres
- 78 Runs
- 3 lifts
- Over 40ft of annual snow



**Whitewater, B.C.
Surrounded
by the
Natural
Beauty of the
Selkirks**

Visitors flock to Whistler each winter to experience world-famous skiing and boarding. With 37 lifts and all types of terrain on Whistler Blackcomb - including steep, alpine bowls, easy cruisers and terrain parks - the two mountains have developed a reputation as a premier skiing and snowboarding destination. In addition to the 8,171 acres of skiable terrain, the two mountains have an immense backcountry, giving skiers and riders access to powder-filled bowls. The land mass makes it the largest ski resort in North America. Whistler/Blackcomb is also the only resort in North America where you can ski or ride on a glacier, extending the season well into summer months for experienced snowsport enthusiasts.

Whistler and Blackcomb mountains are united by the PEAK 2 PEAK Gondola, which sets world records for length and height while providing an unmatched experience for skiers and snowboarders. The gondola transports guests from Roundhouse Lodge on Whistler Mountain to the Rendezvous Lodge on Blackcomb Mountain in just 11 minutes, traveling a distance of 2.7 miles. Other engineering feats include the fact that the unsupported cable span between its two middle towers is the world's longest at 1.88 miles.

Other winter activities to experience while in the area are extensive. A partial list follows.

Heli-Skiing and Heli-Boarding

The Coast Mountain range is the alpine setting for the great heli-skiing and boarding around Whistler. Suitable for those with intermediate to advanced abilities, heli-skiing and snowboarding trips allow skiers and boarders to descend through endless untouched powder accessible only by helicopter.

Cat Skiing and Boarding

Quickly becoming recognized as a quality alternative to heli-skiing, cat skiing and boarding are a great option because the snow cats run every day regardless of weather conditions while still providing untouched powder runs in the backcountry.

Cross-Country skiing

Nordic skiing is one of Whistler's most invigorating activities. The area offers more than 130 kilometers of trails at crosscountry skiing venues, including the official Nordic venue for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. Located at Whistler Olympic Park, it has earned accolades for its superb trails that target both classic and skate skiing.



Whistler/Blackcomb A Premier Mountain Destination

Whistler / Paul Morrison

Whistler and Blackcomb Mountains are known for their challenging terrain which includes 12 bowls, three glaciers and more than 200 marked trails. But, many are also attracted to the lively pedestrian-only Whistler Village.

Backcountry Tours

Skiing and riding in Whistler doesn't end when you move out-of-bounds. Guided winter adventures in Whistler include backcountry skiing and snowboarding tours, ski mountaineering, ice climbing and snowshoeing and offer bowls, glaciers and gladed runs. Conditions are almost always favorable with lots of powder, although an expert knowledge of avalanche dangers is required.

Other activities include tubing parks, zip-lines, tree top adventures, snowshoeing, dog sledding, sleigh riding, snowmobiles, ice skating - the list goes on, or just relax. There's plenty of après ski action in the lively pedestrian village of Whistler, including shopping, dining and entertainment.

The closest international airport is located in Vancouver, BC where frequent bus shuttles offer direct door-to-door service into Whistler accommodations. The trip is approximately two and a half hours depending on weather conditions along the scenic Sea to Sky Highway. www.whistlerblackcomb.com

Whistler/Blackcomb Mountain Facts:

- 8,171 Acres
- 200+ Runs
- 37 lifts
- Averages over 39' of annual snow
- Glacier Skiing

Big White Ski Resort, located in the southern interior of British Columbia near Kelowna, is named after the mountain of the same name. It is the second largest ski area in BC after Whistler-Blackcomb. With abundant acreage, fresh champagne powder, and mild temperatures, this family friendly resort has terrain suitable for all. The majority of the lifts and activity is on the east side of the mountain. However, the locals seem to prefer the Gem Lake or western side. Snowhosts are available for guided mountain ski tours. Snowboarders relish TELUS Park - a terrain park extraordinaire offering a snowcross course and rail park. The resort also features 25km of scenic crosscountry trails to challenge the novice to advanced nordic skier.

Other activities in which to participate include ice climbing, snowshoeing, snow biking, snowmobiling, skating, sleigh rides, and dog sledding. Non-skiers can actually join your group or enjoy the scenic beauty with your personal Sno-Limo. And, kids of all ages will enjoy the Mega Snow Coaster Tubing Park.

Since a variety of convenient accommodations are found at the ski-in/ski-out village at the mountain base, the resort offers acres of night skiing - more than any other resort in western Canada for those who have not gotten their fill earlier. Bullet, Plaza and TELUS lifts can serve 5,000 skiers/riders per hour.

Champagne powder, abundant terrain, family entertainment: there's plenty of fun for all at both resorts.

Silver Star Mountain Resort is a small brightly colored ski-in/ski-out village with a Victorian architectural flair; and, plenty of mountain trails covering two mountains. The south facing Vance Creek has predominantly beginner and intermediate runs, while Putnam Creek is the north face. Its narrow, exhilarating chutes provide some vary challenging terrain for experts. Three hundred acres are devoted to open bowl and gladed terrain. Whatever your expertise, you can always improve. Silver Star is known for its highly rated ski school and a perfect spot for the entire family year around.

Big White Ski Resort and Silver Star Mountain Resort are sister properties. Both



Silver Star / Don Weixl



Big White/Silver Star Ski-In/Ski-Out Convenience

Big White Ski Resort

are serviced from the Kelowna International Airport. International flights no longer have to connect through Calgary or Vancouver to reach Kelowna. Direct flights are available from many major cities. An airport shuttle can take you to your accommodations. ▲▲

www.bigwhite.com
www.skisilverstar.com

Big White Mountain Facts:

- 2,765 Acres
- 118 Runs + several unnamed runs
- 16 lifts
- Averages 24.5ft of annual snow

Silver Star

- 3,065 Acres
- 115 Runs
- 12 lifts
- Averages 23ft of annual snow

Passport Requirements

According to the Tourism Whistler website, the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) requires all travelers to carry a valid passport or other appropriate secure document, or combination of documents that establish citizenship and identity when traveling to the United States from within the Western Hemisphere. Since January 23, 2007, anyone travelling by air between the United States and Canada is required to present a valid passport to enter or re-enter the United States. As of June 1, 2009, a valid passport or one of the following documents is mandatory for any person over the age of 16 travelling between the United States and Canada by LAND or SEA/WATER (including cruises and ferries):

- U.S. Passport Card (not valid for international air travel)
- A NEXUS or FAST/EXPRES Card
- State or Province-issued Enhanced Driver's License (not valid for international air travel)

As of June 1, 2009, U.S. and Canadian citizens under the age of 16, or under the age of 19 if travelling with a school, religious, or other youth group, may present a birth certificate, Consular Report of Birth Abroad, Canadian Citizenship Card or a naturalization certificate. Birth certificates can be an original, photocopy, or certified copy.

During the early 1980s, when Phil and Steve Mahre stood atop the ski world, I was working the winters in Austria amidst a plethora of Swedish ski bums. We often watched races together on TV, the Swedes rooting for the immortal Ingemar Stenmark and I cheering for either of the Mahre twins. It is only natural that the Mahre brothers were heroes for me, and to this day, Phil Mahre is still the most prodigious skier in American racing history. He is the proud owner of two Olympic gold medals, one silver medal and three consecutive World Cup titles from 1981 through 1983.

It was therefore a great pleasure and honor that I had the opportunity to ski with Phil last spring on his home mountain of White Pass, Washington. Phil and Steve had grown up skiing this little resort from the age of nine, when their father took over the position of mountain manager.

I was working on a sequel to my book *Skiing Around the World* for which I would include a chapter about Phil and White Pass. I met Phil at breakfast on the morning of April 21, 2012. He looked little different from his racing days. A few weeks shy of his 55th birthday, he had a bit less hair than in his heyday and he was now on Head skis instead of his trademark K2s, but his body was still fit and his skiing pace was fast.

PHIL MAHRE, WHITE PASS, AND A MATTER OF LUCK

by Jimmy Petterson



ABOVE: Phil Mahre and Jimmy Petterson begin their ski day on White Pass in Washington. LOWER: Phil still in masterful form. photos / Jimmy Petterson



For the next four hours, Phil guided me around his childhood playground. First, we cruised around Paradise Basin, a territory opened two seasons earlier that doubled White Pass's terrain. Phil had appeared before the U.S. Congress way back in 1985 to speak on behalf of this project, and now, after many years in limbo as a result of pressure from environmentalist groups, Paradise Basin had become a reality.

"When I was in training on the team, I used to run up to this mountain from the main area every day," Phil reminisced as we rode back up the new Couloir Express, one of the two new lifts.

Mt. Rainer (4392 m) provided a picturesque backdrop as I tried to keep pace with Phil amidst an array of blue cruisers that wound their way through the glades of the new section of the ski resort. Then, we moved over to the older part of the resort. Phil led the way under the old Chair 2, the same lift that has hung there since 1958. *"This is the lift that I grew up riding. I'll take you down Execution. It's one of our few double diamond runs, and I was in a bad avalanche here when I was young."*

It had rained the night before, and the snow was sloppy. We skied through a mix of tough terrain. First, we descended a steep east face that had already received much too much sun and was like heavy porridge. That was followed by some steep moguls which were a mix of hard and soft snow and impossible to predict what kind of landing to expect at the underside of each bump. Phil treated it all like a corduroy groomer.

We skied another double diamond called Hourglass and then chatted for a short while on the steps of Phil's childhood home, the only house on the mountain. Phil had been a slalom specialist, same as Ingemar, but he also skied the more dangerous downhill courses, something that Stenmark refused to do. That fact, along with the rules change governing World Cup points, is what allowed Phil to win his three consecutive championships.

"It really wasn't fair to him (Stenmark) when they changed the rules after the '78 World Cup season. If they hadn't changed the rules, I would have only won one title instead of three and Ingemar would have taken the other two," explained Phil.

"The Hanhenkamm was the toughest downhill I ever skied," continued Phil. *"Wengen was also difficult, but most of the downhills are really just a case of gutting it out. There is not as much skill involved in a downhill."*

Soon, we were skiing our last run together, as Phil had promised to ski with his

granddaughter at one o'clock. He headed down quickly on a blue cruiser called Cascade with me in pursuit. We were skiing in the shade of the trees, where the snow was still fast, cruising along at about 40 mph. Then, I followed Phil back out of the shade, where the sun had been cooking the snow all morning. The snow was like wet cement, and it grabbed my skis and yanked them to a complete standstill. Both heels released and I went flying.

In ski racing, one becomes accustomed to dealing with luck—both good and bad. You have to take it in stride. While the races are determined largely on skill, a sport that can see the difference between a podium finish and a ho-hum also-ran finish decided by 1/10th of a second has to also have some luck involved. One day, you have completed your second run out of the money and sit back and watch as the leaders fall on their second run, putting you on the podium. The next day, the weather changes and the light turns flat for your second run, and that is more than enough to take you out of the top three.

My luck in life has generally been good, and my luck in skiing has been the same. I have skied for 60 years—more than 4,000 days—and never sustained a major injury. But now my luck had apparently run out.

I remained conscious during my fall, but I couldn't move my neck very well after I came to a halt, and thought it better to have the ski patrol take me down in a toboggan. It was my first such ride.

In the patrol room, a broad smile gazed down on me and wished me a quick recovery. "I've already been skiing with my granddaughter for the past hour," said Phil. "Really sorry about this. Hope you're back on your feet real soon and that we can make some turns again sometime."

I didn't have a lot of pain, but merely had difficulty moving my neck, and I surmised that I had pulled some muscles or something of that ilk. It came as quite a shock some time later at the hospital when I was told that I had a C2 fracture of my neck—sometimes known as a hangman's fracture and a T6 fracture of my back.

"You are very lucky," the doctor told me, "That you are not paralyzed or dead."

Somehow, I didn't really feel that lucky, but that is another story.

Soon, a team of orthotists introduced me to an apparatus called a halo brace. This is sort of a torture instrument from the Spanish Inquisition that is used to totally immobilize the neck. It is fixed to the head by four screws that are screwed through the skin and firmly



After over 4,000 days of skiing in 60 plus years, this was the first time Jimmy ever experienced a ski patrol ride in a toboggan. His luck apparently ran out! Or, did it?

against the skull, and it is intended to protect your spinal cord from damage until your neck heals. At the same time, the halo brace also insures that you cannot get a wink of sleep for the duration of your assigned torture time, and that you almost topple over from being top heavy, each time you try to stand up, sit down, or move in any direction.

I was in shock. One moment, I had been cruising down an easy piste in spring sunshine with Phil Mahre, and the next moment, I am lying prostrate with a broken neck and back. Still, I was hardly ready for the next hit. The doctors make their rounds at 6 a.m., a time of day when even under ordinary circumstances, most people are not super alert. In my case, I was still in a drug-induced haze when a doctor woke me up with the words, "Has anybody told you that your full-body scan yesterday uncovered that you have a cancerous tumor in your kidney?"

Later in the day, a specialist visited me to explain that again I was very lucky. The tumor was quite small, as my scan had revealed it long before it had become large enough to give me troublesome symptoms. "It should be possible," said the doctor, "to remove it and move on."

I now know the definition of a lucky break—a broken neck that saves you from can-

cer. Still there is a lesson to be learned from all this. Don't try to keep pace on the slopes with an Olympic gold medalist, especially on his home mountain.

Almost four months have now passed since my accident. After five weeks, the halo brace was replaced by a less intrusive apparatus and after another five weeks, I could walk around with a mere neck brace. Another three weeks after that, I was again functioning without any artificial aids. On July 3, the tumor was removed from my kidney and a week later, I was released from the hospital and immediately began going on short hikes around my home in Sweden. On July 16, I headed down to my summerhouse in Austria with my son and some of our friends. There, I convalesced during the next three weeks by hiking, biking, swimming, and playing music in the Father & Son + 1 band that my son and I have had together with our friend Elie Sandberg for the past four years.

My neck still has limited lateral mobility but that should improve with physical therapy and I still have a few months left until the snow flies to get into optimal shape. Bring on the powder! ▲▲

About the author: Jimmy Petterson has spent most of the last 38 years as a ski writer and photographer - having skied over 450 ski resorts, with over 400 published ski features. That includes many articles in the *Far West Skier's Guide* throughout the last several years. He is also the author of *Skiing Around the World* - a coffee table book comprised of 440 pages, with over 600 photo images. A reprint is currently planned along with a sequel containing many new resorts not included in the first book. Jimmy has been the recipient of the 2006 FWSA Bill Berry Featured News Award; the 2006 Harold S. Hirsch Award (a top North American Snowsports Journalists Association award) for this book; and the 2008 Warren Miller Modern Media Award and the Hirsch Award for a film co-produced for a Finnish 6-part series for TV.



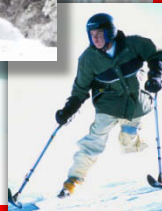
***Higher elevations are steeper, icier,
windier and colder.***

photo / Disabled Sports USA

For over two decades the United States Adaptive Recreation Center (USARC) has been making a difference in the lives of children, and children at heart, with disabilities. You can make a difference too.



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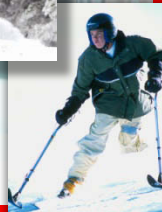


Please see the opportunities on page 8, and contact the USARC at 909.584.0269, or mail@usarc.org.

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Please see the opportunities on page 8, and contact the USARC at 909.584.0269, or mail@usarc.org.



An Amazing Challenge... to Summit Denali

by Sigrid Noack

Five Wounded Warriors with four "good" legs, from three wars, representing two generations attempting to climb one extremely cold mountain! Mt. McKinley, or Denali, is known to be one of the coldest mountains on earth; plus, measured base to peak, is actually the tallest mountain on land!



It's no easy task to lug all the necessary gear along the trek to the summit. It's no wonder the training program is so extensive!

Team Warfighter Sports attempted to climb Denali in Alaska. At 20,320 feet, it's the highest mountain in North America. Being so far north, it's also one of the coldest. Temperatures can reach 40° F below zero.

Team Warfighter Sports' disappointment was great. But, soon they reminded themselves of the other reason for attempting this "Denali Challenge", which was to inspire others about what is possible. Now they were proud of their accomplishment, they had tested their limits! They hoped to raise awareness of the abilities of our nation's wounded warriors and to inspire others with disabilities to keep going, even after disappointments.

Kirk Bauer spoke for the whole team when he stated, "I am very proud of what Team Warfighter Sports accomplished. Although we didn't reach the summit, if the weather had cooperated, we would have prevailed. Every wounded warrior and person with disability faces setbacks, often out of their control, and each one must make a choice to either let setbacks defeat them or drive them forward. This experience will drive us forward and we hope our decision to climb will inspire other wounded and disabled to do so as well".

In 2010, Kirk Bauer led a team of all amputee veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars on a successful summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro. NOTE: More information at: <http://dsusa.org/> and www.warfightersports.org/#!denali

Disabled Sports USA executive director Kirk Bauer, a Vietnam Veteran and above-knee amputee, organized a "Warfighter Sports" team committed to this phenomenal challenge. Kirk's courageous teammates were Neil Duncan and Steve Martin, both double-leg amputees injured in Afghanistan, David Borden, above-knee amputee injured in Iraq, but with his prostheses in place, returned to combat in Afghanistan, and Jesse Acosta with permanent damage to his back, hip and leg from serving in Iraq.

With much generous outside support and after six months of treacherous training, the team planned their "Denali Challenge" starting and ending on special American holidays: They aimed to begin on Memorial Day with a planned return about the Fourth of July.

The Warfighter Sports team, physically

and mentally prepared and strong, was ready to give it their all. Throughout their climb, the Vets encountered enormous challenges, the biggest being the unpredictable weather with 70 mph wind gusts, severe snowstorms, avalanches, deep crevasses and ice, along with the blistering sun. Prostheses malfunctions often impeded their progress with knees, ankles and feet freezing up. They all were tested to extremes, as never before. Extreme conditions and temperatures took their toll. After 18 days, at 14,200 feet, the team was forced to take a rest to make repairs and wait for weather improvement. After nine days at this camp, the team decided to make one final attempt to reach the summit. But, it wasn't meant to be, the weather worsened, and at 15,500 feet, the team was forced to turn back... 4,820 feet before reaching the summit!



*The group remained at Camp 3 for more than a week waiting for the weather to change. It did not cooperate for the Denali 2012 climb.
RIGHT: Solar blankets help for warmth. photos / Disabled Sports USA*

GLEN PLAKE SURVIVES HIMALAYAN AVALANCHE WITH 11 DEAD & MORE CLIMBERS MISSING FROM EXPEDITION



Glen Plake (right) has survived a deadly avalanche in the Himalayas during a climbing expedition Sunday.
Photos: The Ski Channel/Shannon Quirk



An injured victim is rescued after the avalanche at Mount Manaslu in northern Nepal.

A deadly avalanche has taken the lives of 11 people with more climbers missing in the Himalayas in Northern Nepal. Shortly before 5 a.m. on Sunday, September 23rd, the Manaslu peak of 26,758 ft (8,156 meters) came rushing down over a climbing expedition gone-wrong. Many of the dead are German and French, with a detailed report out shortly by authorities in the region.

Glen Plake, world renowned freestyle skier and pioneer, was a survivor of the avalanche. Plake was swept nearly a thousand feet in his

tent, with an eye injury, minor wounds and missing teeth as a result. The freeskiing pioneer and ski mountaineers Rémy Lécuse and Greg Costa, have been attempting to become the first team to ski the world's eighth highest peak without oxygen. While Plake is confirmed alive, Lécuse and Costa are still missing.

The Manaslu peak is a treacherous climb. In 2008 alone, there were 297 summits and 52 deaths on this dangerous mountain, reported *Adventure Journal*.

Revelstoke's Greg Hill survived the tragedy and reported on his Facebook page, "A huge avalanche swept through Camp 3 at 4:45am on Manaslu, catching lots of people in their sleeping bags, many dead, and injured. Luckily our team is fine, and helped with the rescue. Glen Plake is also fine but my heart goes out to all the others..."

"There are up to 14 people missing. There were 25 tents at Camp 3 (6,800 meters) and all of them were destroyed," said Glen Plake. "Twelve tents at Camp 2 (6300m) were banged

up and moved around. Greg (Costa) and I were in a tent together; Rémy was in another," Plake told the press. "I was swept 300 meters over a serac and down the mountain and came to a stop still in my sleeping bag, still inside the tent... I punched my way out of the tent and started searching".

"I found everything that was in my tent ... but there was no sign of Greg. Rémy and his tent are nowhere to be found.... The Dynafit crew (Canadian skier Greg Hill's team) were sleeping at a high Camp 2 and were immediately on site to rescue people.... We've done three searches but when the fog rolled in we had to call it off. It was a massive serac fall, probably 600 to 700 meters across. It's a war zone up here."

Plake said he went looking for the rest of the people in the camp, all of whom were supposed to be wearing avalanche transceivers – electronic devices that can signal other similar receivers – as he was.

"We are really happy to announce that our athlete Glen Plake survived the avalanche in Manaslu," posted Glen Plake's official Facebook page. "Our condolences to the friends and family of the lost skiers." ▲▲

Posted By: Shannon Marie Quirk
The Ski Channel/September 23, 2012

Glen Plake is a three-time World Hot Dog Champion and probably one of the most recognizable skiers in the world. He was born in California, growing up in Lake Tahoe and was one of the pioneers of extreme skiing in America. Glen has appeared in many ski movies, including Warren Miller films.

Glen was a Snowsports Celebrity Guest at the 73rd Annual Far West Ski Association Convention held at the Westin in Long Beach, California in 2005. This Convention was the 75th Anniversary Celebration of the founding of the Far West Ski Association. Glen mingled with the delegates and industry representatives attending the Convention, and many took home pictures with Glen, sporting his signature Mohawk. He participated in a variety of Convention events, including the Sharing of History Panel "World of Free Skiing."

Members of the FWSA are thankful that Glen survived this tragic event and our condolences are extended to the friends and families of those who perished.



Arapahoe Basin First in the Nation to Open for the 2012/2013 Season

Denver, Colo. – Oct. 17, 2012 – Colorado Ski Country USA (CSCUSA) member resort Arapahoe Basin launched Colorado's ski season at 9 a.m. this morning amidst blowing snow and energetic whooping and hollering. The resort opened with lift served skiing and snowboarding, making it the first ski resort in the United States and Colorado to officially open for the 2012/13 season. photo / Colorado Ski Country

The News from Nepal is Tragic

by Richard Lubin, DC

The Snowboarding Chiropractor, FWSA Safety Chair

Even people with lots of experience are in harms way, especially when it comes to being outside of the ski area boundaries. The resorts make sure the dangers are minimized. In the last few years, there have been a proliferation of thrill seeking skiers and snowboarders who do skiing outside of ski resorts into the backcountry for bigger adventures. The statistics are pretty compelling that the danger increases logarithmically even with expert skills, good funding, and seemingly painstaking preparations. Whether it's the 'Roof of the World' or the backcountry in the Cascades, Sierras, or the Wasatch, danger is prevalent when it comes to huge amounts of snowfall and extreme weather conditions. We are so pleased that Glen Plake made it out safely when so many others with him were not as fortunate.

Entertaining films like Warren Miller or Teton Gravity Research wow us with heli-skiing and fabulous ski feats. This has sparked a great deal of interest among non-professional advanced skiers and boarders to venture further into potentially hazardous scenarios. The disturbing trend of even amateurs going into the backcountry will likely continue and there will be increasing number of injuries and deaths as a result. Safety never goes out of style. Safety is thinking first. ▲▲

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Continued from page 56/Public Affairs

■ **Cherry Peak Ski Area, UT:** Lawsuit filed by local residents in June 2012 in UT First District Court to stop construction, claiming the Cache County Planning Commission used flawed evidence to support its approval of the resort's conditional use permit. This new appeal expected to be heard in court in April 2013. The UT Cache County Board of Adjustment had denied a previous appeal in March 2012 based on water contamination, tax issues and other issues against conditional use permit granted by UT Cache County Planning Commission to the new ski area Cherry Peak (Logan Checketts developer), located near Richmond, UT. Plans call for a peak of 1,000 skiers per day on 203 acres of property with four ski lifts, a 10,000-square-foot lodge, a terrain park, zip line, cable tow for a tubing hill, maintenance facilities and a warming hut. incompatible with the adjacent Richmond Wild-life Management Area.

www.cachecounty.org/devservices/current/projects/projcherrypeak.php

■ **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 November 2012 with decision and implementation expected July and August 2013. Coconino National Forest Planner - Yewah Lau.

ylau@fs.fed.us 928-527-3411

www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino/planrevision.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 October 2012, with decision and implementation expected April and June 2013.

Kristy Boscheinen, Forest Planner

kboscheinen@fs.fed.us 503-668-1645

www.fs.fed.us/nepa/project_content.php?project=33072

■ **Echo Mountain, CO:** Ski resort on 226 acres of 100% private land in Idaho Springs, CO (35 miles west of Denver) with 32,000 skier visits last year, to be sold in August 2012 via sealed bid auction. Current vertical drop 660 feet with possible expansion to more than 1,500 feet. The average annual snowfall is 220 inches with 16 named trails plus 3 lifts includ-



The Arizona Snowbowl snowmaking project, started in 2011, is expected to provide approximately 134 acres of extra snow coverage beginning in the 2012-2013 season. photo courtesy of Arizona Snowbowl

ing a 2,000-foot fixed grip triple chair, a handle tow for the events area, and a magic carpet surface lift for the learning center. Permitted slope lighting for night skiing, snowmaking and helipad are also included.

www.echomtnauction.com

■ **Eclipse Snowboard Park, CO.** CE for a short term special use permit for use of removable surface rope tows and grooming of 7 acres of fragmented NFS parcels for ski race training. Scoping started April 2012, decision-implementation expected September 2012 /April 2013.

Deb Ekstrand dekstrand@fs.fed.us

303-567-3024

■ **Eldora Mountain, CO:** 2011 Master Plan Selected Projects EIS. Add 70 acres of traditional terrain and 70 acres of gladed terrain, new 6 person Placer Express lift, new 4-6 person Jolly Jug lift, replace 4 person Corona lift with 6 person lift, replace Challenger and Cannonball lifts with one realigned 6 person lift, new guest facility, new snowmaking for 70 acres, and trail improvements. NOI 6/6/12, DEIS June 2013, FEIS April 2014. Travis Beck, Eldora EIS NEPA Contractor info@eldoraeis.com 970-668-3398 x103

www.eldoraeis.com

■ **Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, CA:** Forest plan revision (recreation use included in revision topics) EIS. Draft EIS NOA 6/1/12. Decision/implementation expected January/March 2013.

Denise Downie dedownie@fs.fed.us

530-543-2683 <http://fs.usda.gov/libmu>

■ **Loveland Ski Area, CO:** Loveland Ski Area Lift 2 Project CE to add an unload mid-

way station. Scoping start August 2011, decision 9/27/11, and implementation expected September 2012. Deb Ekstrand dekstrand@fs.fed.us 303-567-3024

■ **Mt Hood Meadows, OR:** Buttercup Chairlift Replacement & Realignment CE. Scoping start 12/5/11 with decision and implementation expected March and May 2012. Michelle Lombardo mlombardo@fs.fed.us 503-668-1796

■ **Stevens Pass Mountain Resort, WA:** Was sold to CNL Lifestyle Properties for \$20.5 million in cash by New Stevens, LLC (a division of Harbor Properties Trust) in November 2011. Stevens Pass Mountain Resort LLC, which is an affiliate of Mountain High Resort Associates, LLC, CA will operate the resort under a long term triple net lease agreement. Stevens Pass has 1,125 skiable acres; 10 chairlifts with a total uphill capacity of 15,800 skiers per hour; 1,800 foot vertical drop; and 37 primary runs. Stevens Pass also offers night skiing, 17 miles of Nordic ski trails and a base village with three day lodges. CNL Lifestyle Properties' ski and mountain lifestyle portfolio now has 23 properties in the U.S. and Canada, including properties in Crested Butte, Sugarloaf, Cypress, Northstar-at-Tahoe and more.

■ **Stevens Pass Mountain Resort, WA:** Stevens Pass Base Area and Jupiter Chairlift Projects CE. Upgrade Jupiter chairlift from fixed grip quad to high speed quad. Scoping start 5/16/12. Decision/implementation expected January/June 2013.

Tom Davis tdavis@fs.fed.us 425-677-2242

www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=37414 ▲▲



Ski clubs sponsor weekend, extended weekend and week long trips to numerous ski resorts throughout North America. Many of the international trips offer pre and post trips, in addition to world-class ski destinations.

Sierra Ski Council members enjoy a day at Mt. Rose Ski Tahoe. photo by John Baum

FWSA is quite a unique organization. They have approximately 50,000 members in the western United States. Within the FWSA structure are 11 councils, and in turn, there are about 175 local ski clubs under the umbrella of the councils. When you look at the next section of this *Far West Skier's Guide*, you should be able to find a FWSA ski club near your town. Membership dues for these clubs are much lower than some of the clubs advertised on the net. If you are already a member of a FWSA club, check out the www.fwsa.org website to see all the benefits you have as a member. In addition, many councils have area specific bargains for you, too! These bargains include ski rentals, ski equipment, hotel discounts in snow country, and so many others. It would take me this whole page to list them. All you have to do is show your FWSA Membership Card to the merchant.

Many of our local clubs offer members activities throughout the year. Since major ski resorts now have summer programs that include hiking, mountain biking, river rafting, concerts, and many other great activities, our clubs are now taking advantage of these programs. They take their members on treks on weekends; and also plan longer trips for those who can take the time off in the summer. In addition to mountain destinations, cruises, house boating, diving trips and other adventures can be found on many club, council and the FWSA calendars.

In winter, many clubs, councils, and FWSA plan short and long trips to ski areas. Not only do they go to areas such as Lake Tahoe and other North American resorts, they take annual trips to overseas resorts. By tak-

ing a trip with one of our groups, you get group trip savings, discounted lift tickets, numerous fun parties, and you can meet new buddies to ski with you. Many of our trips include single individuals because they know they will find other people of their skill level. Additionally, if there are openings available on another club's scheduled trip, other council club members can fill those spots.

For international trips, if you don't speak a foreign language, a bi-lingual guide is always included. Worried that you don't have the latest clothes or skis, don't worry, some of our members take their ski attire out of mothballs every year; and a few still ski with wooden skis (I'm kidding - sort of). The camaraderie of skiers is legend in our groups.

There are clubs for singles, for married couples, for families, for racers, for nordic skiers, for yachting enthusiasts and for seniors. Some clubs even have their own cabin in snow country for members. Their rates are very reasonable.

Look at the next several pages to find a group near you. More information can be found on their websites. If you live or have moved to another part of the country, a direct membership into the Far West Ski Association is available. An application form appears on page 12 of the printed issue, or it can be found on the Organization's website: www.fwsa.org. There's a group for everyone. Won't you join us? ▲▲

Each year, the FWSA offers a weeklong North American Ski Week destination for hundreds of participants. In 2012, the trip was to Jackson Hole. photo by Ken Calkins



Why Should I Join a Ski Club

by Mary Azevedo
Vice-President,
Membership, FWSA



Arizona Ski Council

by Arleigh Meiners, President

Kayaking and rafting down the Salt River is a popular summer activity for members of Arizona Ski Council clubs.
photos provided by Arleigh Meiners

The Arizona Ski Council will kick off their annual ski season with a picnic at North Mountain Park on Saturday, November 3. About 85 to 100 people will attend this event, representing all member clubs. The heat doesn't slow down the activities of the Arizona Ski Council and member clubs during the summer. We just move out of the desert! In addition to the happy hours, parties, and dinners, the seven ski and social clubs had a lot of activities planned to beat the heat! Check out their websites for more information on their active calendars of events.

◆ Arizona Outdoor Travel Club, (AOTC) hiked throughout Arizona this passed summer. Exercise hikes were planned every Tuesday in the Phoenix Mountain Preserve. They had a 4x4 outing in Colorado and a hiking trip in California.

◆ The Sailing Adventure Club (SAC) is a new member of the Arizona Ski Council. The Sailing Adventure Club is a social club based in Phoenix, Arizona with activities ranging from local sailing, and non-sailing events, to out of country sailing adventures. Singles, couples and families are welcome to join this club.

◆ The Boeing Employee Adventure Club continues their hiking schedule, as well as, biking, camping, kayaking, pool parties and family events around town. Boeing employees may contact www.boeing.com for more information about recreation activities that are planned!

◆ The East Valley Ski Club, (EVSC) beat the heat with campouts in the mountains, at the lakes and rivers and they attend several Diamondbacks' baseball games! To join them, check out their website at www.evskiclub.org.

◆ Partytime Sports, (PTS) spent a lot of the summer doing monthly boating trips to Lake Pleasant, as well as playing in Laughlin and Las Vegas, Nevada. For more information, contact them at ggg44@q.com.

◆ The Phoenix Ski Club (PSC) is getting ready for a fantastic 2012-2013 ski season. Seven ski trips are being planned and the ski trip over New Years is to Park City, Utah. Other trips include Big Sky, Taos, Wolf Creek and Telluride. PSC also had many activities planned for the summer which included many Happy Hours, Dinner of the Month, kayaking, and hiking. Trips to St.

John in the Virgin Islands, San Diego, and a houseboat trip to Lake Powell were also planned. The Phoenix Ski Club will be celebrating their 65th Anniversary next year. Planning events have started. Details can be found on their website: www.phxski.org.

◆ Scottsdale Sea & Ski Club, (SS&SC) (www.scottsdale-skiclub.com) started their summer schedule with a Wine and Cheese party, and a Luau. A Pub Crawl on the famous Whiskey Row in Prescott is a popular favorite getaway weekend in August. Mountain campouts, water skiing, and boating were some other highlights for this past summer.

The 2012-2013 ski schedules for the member clubs, are posted on each club's individual website. Clubs will be skiing Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, and Montana. To keep track of these and other exciting Arizona Ski Council events, please go to: www.arizonaskicouncil.org.

ASC has elected their new officers for 2012-2013. They are: President - Arleigh Meiners; vice-president - Sue Birmingham; secretary - Jim Nachbar; treasurer - Carla Kramer; and race coordinator - Linda Johnston.



To beat the heat of the desert, members head to areas where the cool breezes blow. This sailing trip was to St. John, Virgin Islands.



Arizona Ski Council

www.arizonacouncil.org

President: Arleigh Meiners

480-391-1442

president@arizonaskicouncil.org

Arizona Ski & Social Clubs

Member Clubs &

Contact Information

ARIZONA OUTDOOR TRAVEL CLUB

www.azotc.com

President: Dan Rothman

480-991-1647

Dwr1@yahoo.com

BOEING ADVENTURE CLUB

www.boeing.com

Representative: Janice Roedel

Janice.c.roedel@boeing.com

EAST VALLEY SKI CLUB

President: George Kinnaman

gmkinnaman@yahoo.com

PARTY TIME SPORTS

President: Gary Gertz

ggg44@q.com

PHOENIX SKI CLUB

www.phxski.org

President: William Behnke

602-828-0050

wbehnke1@earthlink.net

SAILING ADVENTURE CLUB

www.sailingadventureclub.org

Commodore: Ralph Morgan

rhmorgan@oco.net

SCOTTSDALE SEA AND SKI CLUB

www.scottsdale-skiclub.com

President: Wanda Himler

president@scottsdale-skiclub.com

Attendees of the 2012 FWSA Ski Week enjoyed burgers and billiards at the popular Jackson Hole Town Square Tavern.

photo courtesy of Ken Calkins



Bay Area Snow Sports Council

by Dennis Heffley, President

The Bay Area Snow Sports Council (BAC) 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. Our focus is Having Fun! One might ask, "who should join a BAC club?" The very simple answer is **YOU!**

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 Open League has 25 clubs and welcomes individuals, couples, families and their children. Our Singles League is made up of five clubs with their full members being over 21 years of age and must be single to initially join one of their clubs.

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

The variety of trips available through the BAC to go skiing, snowboarding, snow shoeing, cross country skiing and including non-skiing activities, can be found within our various club trips, council trips and Far West Ski Association trips. The locations include many Tahoe venues, domestic locations, adventures to Europe and just about all points on a compass. You can find members of the BAC going to the slopes just about anytime during the winter!

Another wonderful part of the BAC clubs and our members is how we volunteer our time and energy through community out-



At this year's Convention, Fire & Ice Ski Club in the BAC received the FWSA Charity & Community Service Recognition Award. Dennis Heffley gladly accepts the honor.

photo courtesy of Emilio Trampuz

reach and fund raising. Our main benefactor is Disabled Sports, USA Far West Division (DSUSA) www.dsusafw.net. Over the years we have raised over \$375,000 for their program! On September 14, 2012, we held our 7th Annual 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 and Vail Resorts for supporting this event!

The history of the Bay Area Snow Sports Council is just as amazing as what is taking place today. In mid-1941, 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) 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 38th Anniversary of this gala event! The evening consists of a wonderful black tie optional dinner / 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, in the leadership of the BAC, are very lucky to have our clubs and their members associated with us along with having the Lake Tahoe area in our "backyard". Our members are amazing

and the amount of history and diversity of places to ski / snowboard is a true gift.

Our Recreational Race Schedules for 2012 - 2013 will be featuring Alpine Meadows, North-Star California Resort and Squaw Valley! The Far West Championships will be held at Alpine Meadows Resort! Become one of our "racers" and come out to have a great time. Even if you don't race, please join us at the slopes during any of our on-mountain events. Cowbells 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!

As the host of the 81st Annual Far West Ski Association's Annual Convention, we invite everyone to The Grand Sierra Resort and Casino in Reno, Nevada, June 6-9, 2013. The BAC and FWSA volunteers are putting together an amazing event just for you!

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!"

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 &

Contact Information

ALPINEER SKI CLUB

President: Kent McCue 510-234-0730

phytomanca@yahoo.com

APRES AKI CLUB

www.apres.org

President: Rich Fisher 925-945-8036

rich.fisher34@yahoo.com

BERKELEY SKI CLUB

www.berkeleyskiclub.org

President: Michael Malachowski

510-549-2520

president@berkeleyskiclub.org

BLADERUNNERS SKI & SPORT CLUB

Lockheed Martin Employee's

President: Monique Huygen

408-946-4676

monique.guygen@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 Pinter

831-601-3227

splinter@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: Joe Sanchez

joesanch@cisco.com

FIRE & ICE SKI CLUB

www.fireandiceskiclub.net

President: Marcelle Nicols

408-263-5467

mrrichols215@sbcglobal.net

FREESTYLERS SKI CLUB

www.freestylersskiclub.com

President: Wally Baumgartner

916-744-1231

kcoffee1@frontiernet.net



After a week of skiing in Chamonix, many participants took advantage of an adventure extension to Morocco.

photo provided by Mary Azevedo

INSKIERS SKI AND SNOWBORAD CLUB

www.inskiers.com

President: Brian Burgess

650-598-0591

Snowcat7@sbcglobal.net

MARIN SKI CLUB

www.marinskiclub.com

President: Mark Alkenberg

510-301-5000

marl@alkenberg.com

MODESTO SKI CLUB

www.modestoskiclub.com

President: Jack McDermott

209-629-1465

uconnjack69@hotmail.com

MONTEREY SKI & SOCIAL CLUB

www.montereyskiclub.org

President: Greg Robinson

831-384-3964

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NISEI SKI CLUB

www.niseiskiclub.org

President: Armand Gutierrez

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NORTH BAY SNOWONDERS

President: Mary Redfern

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OAKLAND SKI CLUB

www.oaklandskiclub.com

President: Vicki Luibrand

510-482-5805

vicki.luibrand@gmail.com

PENINSULA SKI CLUB

www.peninsulaskiclub.org

President: Steve Heidger

408-893-8035

sheidgere@sbcglobal.net

RUSTY BINDINGS

www.rustybindings.com

President: Travis Brophy

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SAN FRANCISCO SKI CLUB

www.sfskiclub.org

President: Igor Goulaevsky

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SAN FRANCISCO VIKING SKI CLUB

www.sfvikingskiclub.org

President: Mike Masek 510-538-7617

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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

president@snowdrifters.org

SNOWCHASERS SKI CLUB

www.snowchasers.org

President: Mary Azevedo

925-944-9816

maryliz4@sbcglobal.net



Mary Azevedo and Joanie Shawkey stopped to admire the view on the FWSA International Ski Week to Chamonix. Looks like they better go left. photo provided by Mary Azevedo

SNOW MORE SKI & BOARD CLUB

www.snowmore.org

President: Alan Norton

925-787-5303

alannorton@comcast.net

SOUTHBAY SKI CLUB

www.southbayclub.org

President: John Vanek 408-927-7370

jjvanek@hotmail.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: Steve Bard

sbard@bardfamily.org

TOP OF THE HILL GANG

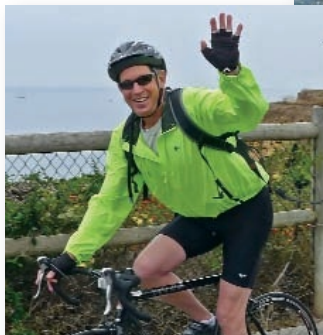
www.ggtothg.org

President: Norman Glickman

530-906-4328

normanggtothg@yahoo.com

**See you in Reno for the
2013 FWSA Convention!**



Bicycling along the central coast: what more could you want - unless it is with your ski club friends! OK! The slopes, maybe!

photos provided by Fran Long



Photo / Mammoth Mountain

Powder + Sunshine = A great time!

CAMBER SKI CLUB

Serving the Salinas Valley and parts of Monterey County

www.centralcouncilskiclubs.org

Activities: Jayne Camic
camicski@aol.com

FRESNO SKI CLUB

Serving Fresno County

www.fresnoskiclub.com

President: Brian Haskins
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SANTA BARBARA SKI AND SPORTS CLUB

Serving Santa Barbara County

www.sbski.org

President: Tara Brown
president@sbski.org

SLO SKIERS, INC., A SKI SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

Serving San Luis Obispo, Southern Monterey, and Northern Santa Barbara Counties

www.sloski.org

President: John Smith
president@sloski.org

SNOW TRACKERS

Serving Exeter, CA

www.centralcouncilskiclubs.org

President: Helen Salisbury
helenzz@aol.com

Council of California website: www.centralcouncilskiclubs.org, or by contacting the club directly by e-mail. That information is also located in this publication.

In addition to supporting the Far West Ski Association travel program, Central Council of California sponsors several events throughout the year. Three or four extended weekend snowsports trips to Mammoth Mountain top the list of council activities. In addition, we generally offer a summer campout and river float trip, and enjoy the Salinas Air Show in late September while we work to earn operating funds for the council. Specific details on trips and other activities can be found on the website.

Lifelong friendships are made through doing the things you love with like-minded people. Join one of our clubs, participate in a council activity or two, and make new friends throughout the central coast and central valley of California. We will all look forward to getting to know you!

Central Council of California

www.centralcouncilskiclubs.org

President: Fran Long
805-238-1375
francat2007@sbcglobal.net

Central Council of California Member Clubs & Contact Information

AVALANCHE SKI AND SPORTS CLUB

Serving Bakersfield, Kern County

www.centralcouncilskiclubs.org

President: Donna Barnes
dbarnes@bakersfieldcityus

Kathy Durham is certainly having fun in Crested Butte!

photo by Irwin Center, Crested Butte, courtesy of Fresno Ski Club

Central Council of California

by Fran Long, President

Central Council of California is made up of six ski/sport clubs stretching from the coast to the Sierra and from Santa Barbara to Salinas. Some of our clubs are quite large, with very active ski and activity calendars, while others are quite small, relying heavily on the council and Far West Ski Association for ski trips and other activities. If you reside in the Fresno, Santa Barbara, or San Luis Obispo area, there is a ski/sports club with a comprehensive snowsports, activity, and social calendar just waiting to welcome you as a member. You will see their websites and contact information in this publication. Bakersfield, Salinas, and Exeter are in the process of 'growing their clubs'. The clubs are small at this time, offer some local activities, and participating heavily in council and FWSA programs. Contact can be made through the Central

When a Club Fails: What One Club Did

*by Laveda Wren,
Bakersfield Ski Club*

Several years ago the Bakersfield Ski Club ceased to exist due to lack of membership and leadership. At that time, there was a significant amount of money left in the club treasury. Last year, some of Bakersfield Ski Club members gathered to discuss what to do with the money left in the treasury. Ten previous club members were located and participated in the ensuing vote.

It was decided to donate \$1,465.75 to *Small Miracles*, a foundation that helps fill the needs of cancer stricken children and the needs of their families. An additional check in the amount of \$1,465.76 was donated to *Eastern Sierra Disabled Sports*. Volunteers teach disabled people of all ages to ski and board at Mammoth Mountain. Two great organizations doing a world of good were able to benefit from the generosity of these few remaining club members.

While they miss their ski club, these remaining members feel honored to be able to donate their club money to such worthwhile organizations. Both organizations have websites for more information.



Participants on the 2102 FWSA Ski Week were blessed with plenty of new powder!

Jackson Hole photo by Ken Calkins

Intermountain Ski Council

*by Michael Bouton
President*

The Intermountain Ski Council had its first opportunity to host a FWSA Convention (80th Annual) in Ogden, Utah this past June. I believe it came off very well. Linda Scott, Host Council Convention Coordinator, organized all of the volunteers and kept the schedule running smoothly. The FWSA hospitality room was very busy and a couple of late nights and early mornings kept things interesting. Our lodging at the Hampton Inn & Suites and Marriott Ogden was great. The Ogden Eccles Conference Center was a fabulous venue and the staff worked diligently the entire time to make sure our Convention ran as planned. A special thanks goes to Caren Parry and Rich Koski of the Ogden/Weber Convention & Visitors Bureau, for all their assistance.

The Pub Crawl on Historic 25th Street, hosted by Catherine Ohl and Gene Fulkerson, was a huge success, serving to kick off the convention on a high point. There were many choices for optional events. The 6th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament was held at Wolf Creek Golf Resort, with spectacular mountain views. Rich helped guide a group of 19 to enjoy a beautiful day in Wheeler's Canyon, just below Snowbasin, for an invigorating 4-mile hike. The adventurous braved rafting the white waters of the Weber River. Over at the Salomon Center, some enjoyed a game of bowling and Glow Golf, while several ventured into the indoor skydiving center to earn their wings. We all returned for the pool party at the Marriott for some wild bull riding. Ogden has some awesome historical places to visit. I think all attendees were impressed with the gracious hospitality and wide array of things to do.

The Intermountain Ski Council

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 Schusski 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 Alpine Meadows.

This last year, Sitzmarkers Ski & Social Club attended the great FWSA 2012 Ski Week at Jackson Hole with a group of their associate members from the Milwaukee Sitzmarker Ski Club, and they plan to participate at the 2013 FWSA Ski Week at Aspen/

Snowmass. 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 & 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

www.sitzmarkers.com
Info Number: 951-780-0188

SNO CATS SKI CLUB

President: *Chuck Rue*
909-985-8856
c.rue@prodigy.net



Don't miss the Night of Lights scheduled for December 22, 2012 at Mammoth Mountain.

photo courtesy of Mammoth Mountain

INLAND SKI COUNCIL

INTERMOUNTAIN SKI COUNCIL



Bogus Basin Ski Club members visit Brundage Mountain Resort in Idaho. Brundage is known for its powder filled glades, and wide groomed trails, with terrain suited for all ability levels. The resort also offers guided Snow Cat adventure tours - some overnight experiences. photo provided by Michael Bouton



cil is moving forward with new leadership this year. As president, I am learning and growing in my position. Paul Markowitz has stepped up to serve as Treasurer and Roger Nayden as Secretary. Joe Coles will serve as VP of Travel and Lennia Machen will continue as VP of Communications. Don Anderson, Past President, will serve in an advisor role to the Board.

The ISC snowsports trip will be to Grand Targhee Resort February 21-24, 2013. There should be plenty of snow and good times. Check in with Joe Coles, joe@on-hillevents.com for details. Other plans are being made for multi-club gatherings during the season.

I am looking forward to the growth of the council by adding three new clubs. The addition of the Snowrider's Club of Boise, Boise State University Ski Club, and Snow Sports Club of Utah will bring our council to 12 clubs. We are excited to involve new people in our activities.

The ISC is still new and grow-

ing in size and experience. We'll be doing more and bringing value to our members in the coming years. We exist to make our members' snowsports an exciting and affordable experience. "Clubs joining together to make skiing fun!" is our motto.

Intermountain Ski Council
www.intermountainski-council.org

President: Michael Bouton
208-352-0278
powderdays@reagan.com

Intermountain Ski Council Member Clubs & Contact Information

BLACK HILLS SKI CLUB
www.bhskiclub.com
Serving the Rapid City, South Dakota Area
President: Tim Brumbaugh
datrotatim@yahoo.com

BOGUS BASIN SKI CLUB
www.bogusbasinskiclub.org
Serving Boise, ID the Treasure Valley area
President: Rosie Rosco
rosie.rosco@yahoo.com

CHEYENNE SKI CLUB
www.cheyenneskiclub.com
Serving Cheyenne, WY
President: Pat Lauber
patlauber@ngos.org

HILL SKI CLUB
Hill Air Force Base, Clearfield, UT
www.hillskiclub.com
President: Norm Bates
waterskillayton@comcast.net

IDAHO FALLS SKI CLUB
Serving Idaho Falls, ID
www.ifskiclub.com
Serving Northeastern Idaho
President: Karen Brown
brownid@cableone.net

PARK CITY MOUNTAIN SPORTS CLUB
www.pcmsc.org
Serving Park City, UT
Hotline: 435-645-5350
President: Jeri Brooke
jbrooke@tribalexpressions.com

POCATELLO SKI ASSOCIATION
www.pocatellooski.com
Serving Pocatello, ID
President: Maria Hancock
MariaL12203@yahoo.com

UP THE CREEK SKI & REC CLUB
www.upthecreek.org
Serving Denver, CO
President: Curtis Cloutier
salestraining.dvr@aol.com

WEBER STATE SKI CLUB
www.clubs.weber.edu/ski
Serving Weber State University, Ogden, UT
President: Emily Davis
emily.w.davies@hotmail.com



Linda and Jack Scott enjoying some time skiing and snowboarding in Snowmass, Colorado. Linda was the Host Council Convention Coordinator for the highly successful 80th Annual FWSA Convention in Ogden, Utah, hosted by Intermountain Ski Council. Jack served on the Steering Committee as the Volunteer Coordinator. photo provided by Linda Scott

◀ **Grand Targhee Resort, a year round mountain resort, is continually recognized for its variety of activities, genuine western hospitality, scenic beauty and excellent value. It's one of ISC's favorites.** photo courtesy of Grand Targhee Resort

Intermountain Ski Council wishes to thank you for attending the FWSA's 80th Annual Convention in Ogden, Utah this past June.



David Felker and Diran Donigan in Schweitzer.

(See caption below.)

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, tennis – not to mention the time-honored sport of fine dining!

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 each season.

For the 2012-13 season, our annual trip is scheduled for February 23 - March 2, 2013 to Mt. Bachelor.

The highlight of our year is the annual Snow Gala at the Odyssey Restaurant overlooking Granada Hills and the San Fernando Valley on October 27. More than just a wonderful party, this event is de-



Congratulations to David Krupp, Century City Ski Club, recipient of the 2012 FWSA J. Stanley Mullin Award (Man of the Year). The award was presented by Randy Lew, President of the FWSA. Bill Singleton / Shutterrific Photography

signed 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 Far West Ski Association Convention every June. Congratulations to our 2011-12 Los Angeles Councils' Man and Woman of the Year, Aaron Algazy, Century City Ski Club, and Sigrid Noack, Unrecables. Sigrid was recognized as the FWSA Councils' Woman of the Year. Congratulations also to: Catherine Ohl, Pacific Rim Alliance, recipient of the FWSA Hans Georg Award; David Krupp, Century City Ski Club, recipient of the FWSA J. Stanley Mullin Award; and John James, Edelweiss Ski Club, recipient of the FWSA Western Ski Heritage Award at the Annual Far West Ski Association Convention in Ogden, Utah.

The Los Angeles Council has two race leagues, ULLR and Rokka. See page 24 for contact information. Each league has four races at Mammoth, plus the SoCal Championships. The **Los Angeles Council Ski, Ride & Race Camp**



Congratulations to Rokka League of Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs, winner of the Far West Racing Association Championships at Mammoth Mountain. Members of the winning Rokka Team are: Back Row - Marie LaFayette, Single Ski Club; Salliebett Tomei, Single Ski Club; Susan Cook, Westwood; Debbie Warzynski, Westwood; Bob Warzynski, Westwood; Al Tomei, Single Ski Club. Front Row - Kathy Lewis, Single Ski Club; Dennis Frieborn, Single Ski Club; Laura Priess, Single Ski Club; Scott Peer, Westwood; Judith Miller, Single Ski Club; Richard Orosco, Westwood; Dave Olson, Westwood. Rokka League also won the Roma McCoy Trophy for the most points per racer.

photo provided by Bonnie West



TOP LEFT: David Felker, Trip Leader for the LAC Annual Trip 2012 to Schweitzer and Silver Mountain in Idaho, and Diran Donigan, enjoy the spectacular mountain views at Schweitzer. Diran, at 82 years young, earned a Nastar medal the next day.

ABOVE: A large group of skiers and boarders attended the LAC Annual Trip February 4-11, 2012. Participants were very pleased with their mountain snowsports experiences and the high quality service provided by the staff at both resorts. photos provided by David Felker

will be December 10-14, 2012 at Mammoth Mountain.

Far West Racing Association also conducts its Championships at the end of the season. Rokka League had a highly successful season, winning both the Far West Racing Association's Roma McCoy trophy for the most points per racer, and the League Championships. It was a great weekend, and we look forward to a repeat at Alpine Meadows in 2013.

Ski clubs are not-for-profit organizations, as is the council. Members recognize the importance of social networking and community involvement. Every club and individual members are encouraged to support local community organizations; and of particular interest is the U.S. Adaptive Recreation 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.

On April 12, 2012, L.A. Council presented a showing of The Ski Channel's film "Winter" at Burger Continental Restaurant in Pasadena. The film highlights those who devote their lives to the mountains with a cast of modern day mountain sport athletes filmed all over the world. It also includes a segment celebrating the 10th Mountain Division's impact on the ski industry in the United States after World War II. The funds raised were donated to the 10th Mountain Division Scholarship Fund and Wounded Warriors.

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

lapresident@lacouncil.org

Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs

Member Clubs &

Contact Information

AEA (AEROSPACE) SKI CLUB

L. A. South Bay

www.aeacclubs.org/ski

President: Doug Martoccia

310-937-1131

djmartoccia@verizon.net

ASIAN SKIING & BOARDING CLUB OF LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles area

www.asbcla.org

President: Warren Tanaka

310-529-2721

warren.asbcla@gmail.com

AUSLICH SKI & RECREATION CLUB

Belmont Shore/Long Beach

President: Ken Kern

562-423-7249

kenkern@charternet

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

CCSC SPORTS

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

www.ccscsports.org

President: Lisa Felker

310-215-9999

president@ccscsports.org

CONEJO SKI & SPORTS CLUB

San Fernando Valley /

Ventura County

www.conejoskiclub.org

President: Richard Murray

805-551-8869

rwmurray3@gmail.com

EDELWEISS SKI & SPORT CLUB

Los Angeles & San Fernando Valley

www.edelweisskiclub.org

President: Charles Cattanach

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EXECUTIVE BOARD

Greater Los Angeles

President: Keith Green

323-691-1918

GRINDELWALD SKI CLUB

Glendale, San Gabriel Valley,

Pomona / Walnut

www.grindelwaldskiclub.org

President: Alicia McVikers

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HUGHES SKI CLUB

L. A. South Bay

President: Dick Barch

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KRONENSTADT SKI CLUB

Pasadena and San Gabriel Valley

www.kronenstadtskiclub.com

President: Bruce Bailey

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bbailey@gwa-architects.com

LONG BEACH SKI CLUB

Long Beach, Orange County

www.longbeachskiclub.org

President: Chris Flaig

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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

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818-360-0027

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OVER THE HILL GANG VENTURA

Ventura County

www.vcothg.org

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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

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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: Michael Mead

805-895-9697

president@sbski.org

SINGLE SKI CLUB OF LOS ANGELES

L. A. South Bay, West Side,

San Fernando Valley

www.singleskiclub.org

President: Steve Elkins

818-841-4192

sje@dslextreame.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.spaceparkskiand

snowboardclub.org

President: Phil Weisgerber

310-921-9341

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TRI VALLEY SKI CLUB

Eastern LA County and

Western San Bernardino County

President: Bruce Freeburn

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UNRECABLES

Southern California

www.unrecables.org

President: J. Davis

949-378-7895

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WAILERS SKI CLUB

L.A., Orange, Ventura Counties

www.wailersskiclub.org

President: Pete Smith

818-367-3686

president@wailersskiclub.org

WESTWOOD SKI & SPORTS CLUB

Greater Los Angeles

www.westwoodskiclub.org

President: Scott Peer

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scott.g.peer@jpl.nasa.gov



In addition to local day trips, the New Mexico Cross Country Ski Club offers multi-day ski touring trips. Often, they reserve huts within the 10th Mountain Division hut system like this one near Leadville, Colorado. A skier must be capable of carrying a full pack and have at least a Class II ability level. photo by Bill Heitz

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, backyard 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 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 & Contact Information

ALBUQUERQUE SKI CLUB

Virtual Club

www.abqskiclub.com

President: Ray Towne

NEW MEXICO CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLUB

www.nmccskiclub.org

President: Wayne Kirkby

SITZMARKERS SKI CLUB

www.nmsitzmarkers.org

President: Paul Adkin



Taos, New Mexico's largest ski resort, has a variety of terrain attracting snowsport enthusiasts of all abilities. It also has a top rated ski school. photo courtesy of Taos Ski Valley

2012 WESTERN REGION SKI SHOWS

compiled by Scott Bowker

Seattle SkiFever & Snowboard Show

October 26-28

Washington State Convention Center, Seattle, WA

Boise Basin Ski and Board Swap

November 2-4

Expo Idaho, Boise, ID

Colorado Ski & Snowboard Expo

November 2-4

Colorado Convention Center, Denver, CO

Park City Ski Swap

November 2-4

Basin Recreation Field House, Park City, UT

Portland SkiFever & Snowboard Show

November 2-4

Portland Expo Center, Portland, OR

SnowBomb San Francisco Ski & Snowboard Festival

November 2-4

Fort Mason Center, San Francisco, CA

San Diego Snow Jam

November 9-11

Del Mar Fairgrounds, Del Mar, CA

UNR Ski Swap

November 9-11

Reno Sparks Convention Center, Reno, NV

SnowBomb Sacramento Ski & Snowboard Festival

November 10-11

Cal Expo, Sacramento, CA

Ski Dazzle Los Angeles Ski Show & Snowboard Expo

November 15-18

LA Convention Center, Los Angeles, CA

Las Vegas Snow Jam

November 16-18

Cashman Field Center, Las Vegas, NV

SnowBomb Silicon Valley Ski & Snowboard Festival

November 16-18

Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, San Jose, CA

Ski Pro Avalanche Ski Sale

December 7-9

Phoenix Convention Center, Phoenix, AZ



photo by Emilio Trampus

Northwest Ski Club Council

by Mary Olhausen, President

Northwest Ski Club Council, organized in 1979, represents 35 ski and snowboard clubs in Oregon, Washington, Alaska and Hawaii. That's roughly about 10,000 snowriders! Our clubs offer many snowsport activities in the winter months, as well as, a full slate of summer activities. There's something for everyone! We have a variety of clubs that offer both alpine and nordic skiing and a variety of snowsports activities for members. Activities come in all shapes and sizes with clubs offering biking, cycling, hiking, golfing, sailing, and really fun social activities like specialty trips, wine tours, chocolate parties, seafood parties, and club picnics.

NWSCC meets every other month at Portland area venues for a lively meeting with varying themes and guest speakers. Topics include travel, safety, outreach and charities, ski resort news, and club activities. When you join a NWSCC club, you are automatically a member of Far West Ski Association. FWSA offers a member benefits program whereby you can receive discounts on lodging, rentals, and ski gear. Each year, they hold their Annual Convention - complete with optional activities, educational sessions, silent auction and travel expo, awards banquet, business meeting and greater than great skiing athletes and legends.

NWSCC is affiliated with Pacific Northwest Ski Areas Association (PNSAA), the National Ski Areas Association (NSAA), and

Several members of the Mt. High Snowsport Club gathered atop Snowbasin, in Utah. A luxurious resort, it is best known for its wide-open bowls, gladed runs, manicured groomers, powder stashes and that gorgeous lodge!

the National Ski Council Federation (NSCF). The NSCF also brings you lots of member benefits for your ski world. Visit them at www.skifederation.org. We are also associated with Ski Oregon.

Our kick off event for ski season is our annual Ski Fair on November 5, 2012 at Holiday Inn Airport, in Portland. This event is open to the public and member clubs have an opportunity to showcase their clubs. In addition, at this one-night trade show, we offer ski industry booth displays, discounted ski passes, a silent auction and door prizes. NWSCC will also participate in industry ski shows - Seattle's Washington Ski Fever and Snowboard Show (Oct. 26-28) and Portland Ski Fever and Snowboard Show (Nov. 2-4). All of these shows provide our council and clubs an opportunity to provide information to the public about the benefits of ski club membership and our various activities.

Our publication, *Northwest Skier's Directory*, is published each fall, in conjunction with our commercial membership program. The Directory provides club profiles, ski resort stats and interesting ski-related stories. Look for a copy in your favorite NW outdoor store! The Ski Challenge program provides encouragement for skier visits to our supporting resorts in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Alberta and British Columbia. Collect lift tickets and win prizes! Each year we hold our annual council golf tournament, Clubs 4 Play, in July.

Our advocacy group, Northwest Snowsports Advocates, is developed to partner with our ski industry friends when our opinions can make a difference with public affairs and ski area development.

One of the greatest benefits of membership in NWSCC and FWSA are the ski trip opportunities, with exceptional offerings of location, lodging and lift tickets. And, don't forget the FUN you will have skiing new places, with new friends! NWSCC will participate in the FWSA Ski Week to Aspen. We expect to have about 50 in attendance. We will be supporting and encouraging attendance at the upcoming Mt. Bachelor Springtacular BLAST, April 20-28, 2013. This is a trip for fabulous spring skiing combined with adventure activities like hiking, biking, golf, climbing, kayaking or shopping (shopping is an adventure!). The Annual FWSA mini-ski week will be at Mt. Bachelor, Oregon (March 25-30, 2013). FWSA also holds an annual dive trip and adventure trip, as well as an international ski week.

Racing is a big part of NW skiing. Our recreational race league, PACRAT, will hold five races on Mt. Hood this year. This race league is open to skiers and snowboarders of all abilities. First time racers are especially encouraged to participate in this fun activity by signing up through their clubs. The end of season race party, fondly known as the Rat Attack, is held in April. For more in-

formation on racing with PACRATS, please visit their website at www.pacrats.org.

When our clubs are not skiing and having fun in the sun, they can be found doing charitable and community outreach - often very ski related! A few of the organizations we support are, Hope On The Slopes/Ski & Ride For A Cure, Mt. Bachelor Ski Education Foundation, Mt. Hood Cultural Center & Museum, Mt. Hood Ski Education Foundation, Mt. Hood Ski Patrol, Outdoors For All Foundation, Northwest Trail Alliance, Oregon Adaptive Sports, and Oregon Cancer Ski Out. Some of the great events/programs we support are, Adopt A Highway, Ski to Defeat ALS, Adaptive Skier Programs, Hope On The Slopes/Ski & Ride For A Cure, Susan G. Komen, Oregon Food Bank, and Special Olympics. In addition, three of our member clubs support the FWSA Athletic Scholarship Program: Skiyente Ski Club, Mountain High Snowsport Club, and Bergfreunde Ski Club. Each of these clubs raises funds to support young junior racers.

A big congratulations to our member clubs and NW ski resorts for their wins in the recent 2012 FWSA Awards program. Schnee Vogeli Ski Club was a finalist for the 2012 Charity and Community Service Recognition. Mountain High Snowsport Club won 1st place (AAA), Tollakson Outstanding Club, and 1st place in the Wentworth Outstanding Club Publication. Skiyente won 2nd place in Outstanding Club Website. Jon Tullis from Timberline Lodge won the Bill Berry Featured News Award. Bob Bourquard from Mt. Bachelor won the Bill Mackey Award. Debbi Kor and Bruce Ellison, both of Mountain High Snowsport Club were Man and Woman of the Year from NWSCC.

For more information on our council or any of our clubs, trips and activities, and a link to Snowsports Advocates, please link to www.nwskiers.org.

Northwest Ski Club Council

www.nwskiers.org

President: Mary Olhausen

503-880-7383

president@nwskiers.org

Northwest Ski Club Council Member Clubs & Contact Information

Alaska

MATSU SKI & SNOWBOARD CLUB

Location: Wasila, Alaska

www.matusnow.org

matusnow@mtaonline.net

Hawaii

HAWAII SNOW SKI CLUB

Location: Aiea, Hawaii

www.hawaiisnowskiclub.com

pres@hawaiisnowskiclub.com

Oregon

ALTAIR SKI & SPORTS CLUB

Location: Eugene, Oregon

www.altairsports.org

skialtair@yahoo.com

BEND SKI CLUB

Location: Bend, Oregon

www.bendskiclub.info

bendsc@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

president@cascadeprimetimers.org

CASCADE SKI CLUB, INC.

Location: Government Camp, Oregon

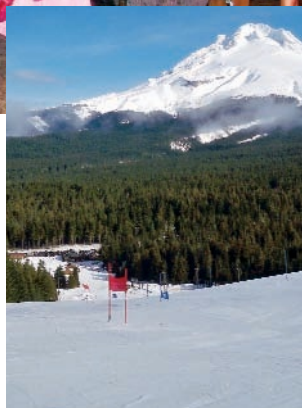
www.cascadeskiclub.org

lodge@cascadeskiclub.org



Northwest Ski Club Council attendees gather at the 2012 FWSA Convention in Odgen, Utah. They will be hosting the FWSA Convention in Bend, Oregon in June of 2014.

Bill Singleton /
Shutterrific Photography



Ski Bowl Race Course at Mt. Hood is a favorite venue for PACRATS.

photo by Emilio Trampuz

MEADOWS RACE TEAM

Location: Hood River, Oregon

www.meadowsraceteam.org

meadowsraceteam@gmail.com

MT. BACHELOR SPORTS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Location: Bend, Oregon

www.mbsef.org

mbsef@mbsef.org

MT. HOOD CULTURAL CENTER & MUSEUM

Location: Government Camp, Oregon

www.mthoodmuseum.org

info@mthoodmuseum.org

MT. HOOD SKI EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Location: Government Camp, Oregon

www.mthoodacademy.org

bgunesch@centurytel.net

MT. HOOD SKI PATROL

Location: Mt. Hood, Oregon

www.mthoodskipatrol.org

mhsp@onebox.com

MT. HOOD SKIKATS

Location: Portland, Oregon

www.nwskiers.org

friendhenry@gmail.com

MOUNTAIN HIGH SNOWSPORT CLUB

Location: Portland, Oregon

www.mthigh.org

info@mthigh.org

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@desertskiclub.org

HOPE ON THE SLOPES / SKI & RIDE FOR A CURE

Location: Tacoma, WA

www.hopeontheslopes.net

piercycm@aol.com

LONGVIEW SKI CLUB

Location: Longview, Washington

www.nwskiers.org

janerosi@wildblue.net

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@snojoke.org

SEATTLE SINGLES YACHT CLUB

Location: Seattle, Washington

www.ssync.com

info@ssync.com

SKIBACS SKI & SNOWBOARD CLUB

Location: Seattle, Washington

www.skibacs.org

info@skibacs.org

STARBUCKS ALPINE SKI CLUB

Location: Seattle, Washington

www.nwskiers.org

gmarney@starbucks.com

dguerin@starbucks.com

VANCOUVER SNOW & SPORTS CLUB

Location: Vancouver, Washington

www.nwskiers.org

sylviakearns@hotmail.com

WHSKI CLUB

Location: Seattle, Washington

www.wihski.com

duchscherej@yahoo.com



Orange Council of Ski Clubs

by Judy Thurman, President

Orange Council of Ski Clubs has been addressing the issues of skiers in and around Orange County and the Southern California area since 1971. 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 and its ski clubs offer great adventures in skiing and traveling. Our ski clubs schedule weekend ski trips to Mammoth Mountain, from December to March. Sometimes in July, if the snow is still good, we have a few hearty souls still skiing Mammoth Mountain. Because we have so many ski clubs located within the "OC", there are a variety of different trips offered throughout the ski season.

This year's Far West Ski Week will be held in Aspen/Snowmass, Colorado, February 2-9, 2013. If you have never been to Aspen/Snowmass or if you've been there many times, this is the time to join us for a wonderful week. Far West Ski Week is always filled with lots of skiing, racing, après parties, dinner and camaraderie. Also, for those who would like to venture into the town of Aspen, there is plenty to do, with shopping, nightlife and great people watching. You never know who you might spot walking on the sidewalk next to you. If you would like to join us on the trip, please contact Sheila Van Guilder VP - Travel at svan-guil@yahoo.com.

Maxine Hanlon, Orange Council Vice President of Racing, was the recipient of the FWSA Terry Smith Award at the Annual FWSA Convention. Shown with Maxine are Nancy Ellis, Financial Officer for the Far West Racing Association and Jo Simpson, President of Sierra League and the 2011 Terry Smith Award recipient.

Bill Singleton / Shutterrific Photography

Orange Council is proud to have a very strong race program. We are members of the Rokka (Schuski) Race League. Our first race will be in Mammoth on December 15, 2012. The 2013 schedule is January 12, February 23 and March 23. In January there will also be a "Learn to Ski and Race Week". The Far West Championships will be held at Alpine Meadows April 4-7, 2013. We welcome anyone who is interested in racing, learning to race, and those who love a downhill course. Please contact Maxine Hanlon, VP - Racing for additional information, at maxch@prodigy.net.

Congratulations to Maxine Hanlon, who was the recipient of the Terry Smith Award at the Far West Ski Association's Annual Convention. The Terry Smith Award is given to an outstanding volunteer who has greatly contributed to the advancement of racing programs.



We also support very important community service programs, such as the disabled skiers program (USARC), special charities, Wounded Warriors program, and continues to be updated and informed about public affairs issues. Congratulations to Balboa Ski and Sports Club, one of the four finalists in the FWSA Charity and Community Service Recognition program. Balboa was also recognized as an FWSA Historic Ski Club, for 50 years of service to snowsports and the local community.

Orange Council of Ski Clubs is located in different communities within the Orange County boundaries. All of our clubs have been working closely with the council since its founding. Each club is unique, offering different types of activities, ranging from ski and snowboarding, to summer sports, tennis, beach volleyball tournaments, kayaking, biking, wine tasting, and summertime outdoor concerts.

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 out 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 & 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
816-805-0384

FOUNTAIN VALLEY SKI CLUB
www.fountainvalleyskiclub.org
President: Lucille Rhodes
lucillerhodes@sbcglobal.net

HUNTINGTON BEACH SKI CLUB
www.hbskiclub.com
President: Andy Snodgrass
hbskiclub@yahoo.com

ORANGE COUNTY SKI & SNOWBOARD CLUB
www.ocskiclub.com
info@shooterskiclub.com

SNOWBOUNDERS SKI CLUB
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
Eastern LA County and Western San Bernardino County
President: Bruce Freeburn
909-624-7089
brucefree4@sbcglobal.net

VAN BAKKE SKI CLUB
casamadrid@earthlink.net

Orange Council members attend the FWSA Ski Week at Jackson Hole.
photo provided by Jess Gorman

Participants on the SDCSC Bikers Trip 2012 enjoy a snack in Budapest, Hungary. Next summer's destination is the Loire Valley. photo provided by Eileen Sanford



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 Southern California Race Championships this year at Mammoth Mountain. Our clubs enjoy a variety of ski trips each year from Big Bear Mountain to Mammoth to fly away out of state trips. We had ski trips 2011-2012 to Aspen, Vail, Whistler, Park City, Jackson Hole, Mammoth and Big Bear. In 2012-13 SDCSC will be going to Aspen and Vail. SDCSC will also host a biking trip of the Loire Valley from September 18 - 24 and a River Cruise through Burgundy and Provence to Cote d'Azur September 23 - October 5, 2013. Contact: Eileen Sanford at esanford1@san.rrc.com for details.

Our clubs are bustling with outdoor activities during summer. Many of the clubs move their meetings to the parks and beaches 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



SDCSC ladies enjoyed the western theme at the FWSA Convention 2012 in Ogden, Utah. Bill Singleton / Shutterrific Photography

Ski Clubs has always supported many charities, such as the Can Do MS (formerly 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 for charity involvement from each club. North Island Snowdrifters sponsored five golfers to play in the Wyle Corporation Wounded Warrior Golf Tournament. Wounded Warriors Veterans: we thank you for your service and sacrifice for our country.

At the FWSA Convention, Pacific Rim Alliance won all three competitions in the following club categories: Outstanding Club, Website and Newsletter. North Island Snowdrifters won first place in Newsletter and Outstanding Club and second place in Website. Thanks to all the clubs for their hard work in keeping up with the social media.

The official start of the ski season begins with our Gala Fest on November 3 organized by Barbara Blasé German and Chris Gill. It will have a German theme with beer, food and German

music. The event will be held at Rock Bottom Restaurant and Brewery. 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 2011 winners, Brad Davis and Janet Chenier, will host the contest for the 2012 winners. We would like to thank Vail Resorts, Aspen/Snowmass and Telluride for sponsoring the beverage service at this event. A special thanks to Catherine Ohl who designs and produces the program each year.

The SDCSC will volunteer to work at Snow Jam, which will be held at the Del Mar Fairgrounds, November 10-12. 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 40 members to Vail from December 7 -13, 2012. This is the 16th Annual council trip in December. The tour operator is Ski.Com. SDCSC will also send 35 members to FWSA Ski Week to Aspen from February 2-9, 2013.

We are excited to have our second SDCSC European bike trip to the Loire Valley visiting chateaus and wineries along the beautiful Loire River Valley. Then off to three nights in Paris at a first class hotel and a private

motor coach transfer to the Lyon area to board the Grand Circle river boat Provence for a seven day cruise down the Rhone ending with one night in Nice, plus a visit to Monaco. Contact: Eileen Sanford at esanford1@san.rrc.com or skisandiego.org for details.

We have been honored to sponsor a Jr. 2 Racer for the FWSA Athletic Scholarship Foundation. Her name is Alexa Wehsener from San Diego and part of the Mammoth Mountain Ski Team. Alexa and her family attended our Summer Happy Hour at the Barefoot Bar. The council was proud to present her with \$550 toward her race fees for next year. She will also be receiving \$500 from the council for three years to help with her race fees at our Gala Fest on November 3.

We were excited to fly to Ogden, Utah for the 1st Intermountain Council FWSA Convention! It was quite the party, from riding the bull to dancing with saloon girls at the Awards Banquet. The FWSA 80th Convention was a great success for FWSA, the ski industry and Intermountain Ski Council volunteers. Thanks everyone for a job well done. SDCSC looks forward to hosting the FWSA Convention in 2015.

For more information about the SDCSC visit our website and join us for a great year.



San Diego Council of Ski Clubs

www.skisandiego.org

President: Eileen Sanford

858-695-1442

esanford@san.rr.com

San Diego Council of Ski Clubs

Member Clubs & Contact Information

ACTION SKI AND SNOWBOARD CLUB

www.actionski.org

President: Tom Walters

619-940-6220

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: Diane Blazik

858-400-3765

NORTH ISLAND SNOWDRIFTERS

www.nisnowdrifter.com

President: Barry Cole

760-749-9416

PACIFIC RIM ALLIANCE SNOW SPORTS CLUB

www.pacificrimalliance.org

President: Catherine Ohl

858-467-9469

SDCSC is planning a Ski Week to Vail in 2012. It's the largest single mountain ski resort in the country. Only Whistler, in British Columbia, is larger in North America. Much of the terrain is wide open trails of varying difficulties. It offers cruisers, back bowls, glades, chutes and moguls, thus something for every snowsport enthusiast, plus numerous non-ski and après ski activities to enjoy.

Jack Affleck / Vail Resorts

SAN DIEGO SKI CLUB

<http://san-diego-ski-club.org>

President: Tom Bundgard

619-883-3848

SOLAR SKI CLUB

President: Bob Morton

858-292-4136

coolbrees@earthlink.net

TORREY PINES SKI CLUB

tpscsd.org

President: Joe Gold Hammer

619-286-0624

SAN DIEGO ALPINE LEAGUE

<http://www.skisandiego.org/sdal>

President: Eileen Weiner

858-674-5666

QUALCOMM SKI AND SNOWBOARD CLUB

bmccabe@qualcomm.com

Representative: Brian McCabe

619-226-2211

Sierra Council & Race League

by Jo Simpson, President

There are many reasons to become involved in a Sierra Council ski club:

- Skiing and boarding fun with new friends
- Group discounts on trips and lift tickets
- Year-round outdoor sport and social activities
- Recreational ski and 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.

Each council club offers a different experience. They all enthusiastically welcome active adults who enjoy skiing, boarding and other outdoor activities and socializing with others who have similar interests.

The Las Vegas Ski, Snowboard and Sports Club is offering

trips to Salt Lake, Mammoth and Park City. Their sister club is the Las Vegas Alpine Ski and Snowboard Club.

The Tahoe-Donner Senior Alpine Ski Club is based in Truckee, as is the Cabernet Ski Club. The greater Sacramento area has the Capital 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 Club members are primarily active and retired military members in northern Nevada and the Lake Tahoe areas. The Rat Pack is based on the Lake Tahoe south shore, and the Sugar Bowl Ski Club operates out of that resort.

Our club members enthusiastically participate in Far West Ski Association trips. The larger clubs offer group ski days to nearby resorts and week long and weekend trips. Recreational ski racing is a key activity of the

ABOVE: Capital Ski and Sports members go whitewater rafting on the American River near Placerville, California.

photo / Crissymarie King

LEFT: A group pf Reno Ski and Recreation Club gather before taking the lift at Squaw Valley.

photo / John Baum

SIERRA COUNCIL & RACE LEAGUE



photo provided by Crissymarie King



photo / Crissymarie King

- ▶ council. Clubs and individuals compete for medals and end of season awards. The race league schedules eight regular season
- ▶ races, 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. Sierra League shares the race hill with the Bay Area Council Singles and Open Leagues for our regular season races. This collaboration holds down participation costs and enhances the racing experience.

Sierra League 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.

Try racing. It's a fun way expand your skiing experience and improve your ability while making new friends. Junior racers are welcome if accompanied by a racing parent or guardian and 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.

Check out our clubs. Sign up for a trip or activity. Our clubs are a great way to meet active adults who enjoy outdoor recreation and a full range of social activities. Visit our website for links to the member clubs, racing information and Sierra Council activities.

Sierra Council & Race League

www.sierraleague.com

President: Jo Simpson

775-787-7556

jo_simpson@sbcglobal.net

Sierra Council & Race League Member Clubs & Contact Information

ALPINE SKI AND SNOWBOARD CLUB

Las Vegas

www.alpineskiandsnowboardclub.com

President: Michael Phillips
mpesq8@cox.net

CAPITAL SKI & SPORTS CLUB

Sacramento

www.capitalski.org

President: Walt Johnson
president@capitalski.org

CABERNET SKI CLUB

Truckee

President: Donn Bryant
gsracer@suddenlink.net

CODE 3

Reno

(Inactive)

President: Jim Sommer
Sommerskier@aol.com

LAS VEGAS SKI, SNOWBOARD AND SPORTS CLUB

www.lasvegasskiclub.com

President: Mark McNeil
info@lasvegasskiclub.com

RENO SKI AND RECREATION CLUB

www.renoskiandrec.com

President: Dianne Hilliard
prez@renoskiandrec.com

RU SKI CLUB

www.bosin.net/ruski/home
Campbell, California

President: Pavel Bosin
pavel@bosin.net



TOP LEFT: An active group year around, Capital Ski and Sports members go kayaking on Lake Natomas.

TOP RIGHT: Chris Bowers, Capital Ski and Sports Club, enjoys the powder at Crested Butte.

SACRAMENTO FAGOWEES

www.sacramentofagoweers.org

President: Norman Benedict
Norman_1943@att.net

SEQUOIA SKI CLUB

Visalia, California

www.sequoiaskiclub.com

President: Woody Hogan
wwhiii@hotmail.com

SUGAR BOWL SKI CLUB

Norden, California

www.sugarbowlskiclub.com

President: Carson Levit
president@sugarbowlskiclub.com

TAHOE-DONNER SENIOR ALPINE SKI CLUB

www.tdski.com

President: Michael Sullivan
infotdski@gmail.com

Truckee Donner Senior Alpine Ski Club members entered the FWSA Ski Week council challenge contest as the Kung Fu Fighting Pandas.

photo submitted by Nan Carnal

TAHOE RAT PACK

President: Kris Bittenberg
tafari1@earthlink.net

TOP GUN SKI CLUB

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shiftyp@aol.com

Reno Ski and Recreation Club members enjoy a snowshoe hike.

photo / John Baum



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