

WELCOME TO THE 2015-2016 FAR WEST SKIER'S GUIDE



*photo /
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2015 • 2016

FAR WEST SKIER'S GUIDE

**Is This
Your Season
To Explore?**

**The Magical
Dolomites**

**FWSA
Ski, Board
& Adventure
Trips Offered**



**Ski Club
Ski Resort
Information**

Serving All Snowsports Enthusiasts

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FAR WEST SKI ASSOCIATION

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General circulation throughout all regions
Certified Folder, Phoenix, Arizona

Available Digitally at
www.fwsa.org

[http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/
farwestskiersguide/2015-16/](http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/farwestskiersguide/2015-16/)

www.skifederation.org.

Plus many council and club websites

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2015 - 2016



The 2016 FWSA North American Ski Week will be held in the historic town of Telluride, Colorado in the southern San Juan Mountains. The town is surrounded by the highest concentration of 13,000 and 14,000 foot peaks in North America with a wide range of terrain for all.

photo courtesy of Telluride Ski Resort / Merrich Chase photographer



The 2016 FWSA International Ski Week will be to Cortina d'Ampezzo, in the Dolomites Mountain Range in northeastern Italy.

photo / cortinapress.dolomiti.org

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The FWSA Athletic Scholarship Program has raised \$100,000 for promising junior racers.

photo / Eric Van Pelt, Van Pelt Productions, Inc.





Excitement is building as the new ski/board season is almost here. FWSA affiliated clubs have planned numerous winter adventures throughout the world including the slopes of Grand Targhee Resort in Wyoming. The resort averages over 500 inches of snowfall during the season.

photo courtesy of Grand Targhee Resort

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Steamboat Ski Resort is a premier snowsports destination known for its Champagne Powder®. The resort offers a variety of terrain for all ability levels, plus backcountry and snowcat terrain. Or, put on snowshoes. Or, enjoy a sleighride. Direct air service from Los Angeles and Seattle has been expanded this winter season. Non-stop flights are also available from San Francisco and Denver in the western US to the Steamboat / Hayden Airport. photo courtesy of Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation / Larry Pierce



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FWSA

Your Best Option for Snowsports, Travel & Much More

by **Steve Coxen**
President, FWSA



Greetings and welcome to the 28th edition of the *Far West Skier's Guide*. This magazine is the annual publication of the Far West Ski Association (FWSA). It will provide you with information to plan travel to new places and introduce you to many choices for fun adventures and help you find like-minded friends who enjoy skiing, boarding and many other recreational activities.

FWSA was founded in 1930 with the mission to develop and provide benefits for all affiliated ski clubs and members. In doing so, FWSA has benefited all skiers. We are a non-profit, volunteer organization that is one of the largest ski associations in the U.S. Our nine member councils represent skiers and boarders in 12 western states including Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. Our clubs have over 50,000 members. If your club is affiliated with one of our councils, you are a member of FWSA. We welcome all snowsport enthusiasts, young and old, and we encourage participation in all snowsports. Our member clubs have active year round social and recreational events including ski trips, recreational ski racing, water skiing, hiking, river rafting, dinners, theater, cruises, diving, biking, softball, wine tasting, camping, parties and more. Many of our activities welcome families and children. Visit our website at www.fwsa.org or follow us on our Facebook page to learn more about our organization.

Far West Ski Association is offering several exciting ski trips in North America during the 2016 calendar year. Our annual FWSA Ski Week is our kickoff event for the year. For one week, January 30 – February 6, 2016 our members will ski and have fun in Telluride, Colorado. We offer a full week of skiing, racing, parties and dinners. For those members who don't want to ski a full week we also offer a shorter "mini" ski trip to Crested Butte, Colorado, March 21-26, 2016. Information about each of these trips is available on our website under North American Travel.



FWSA is also offering several international trips in 2016. We are taking a group on a fabulous ski trip to Cortina, Italy, March 5-12, 2016. Participants can extend their stay with a post-trip to Florence and Rome, March 12-19, 2016. If you are only interested in the Florence and Rome travel you can sign up for it as a "stand alone" trip.

Plans are underway for another dive trip in September 2016, possibly in Fiji. We also have several international adventure trips to England/Ireland and Chile under consideration. You can be part of all this, and more, by joining an FWSA member club. In addition to our trips, our member clubs and councils offer their own trips and activities. You have many opportunities to visit new places with other active social people whenever you're ready. Don't wait! More information on our upcoming travel destinations can be found in this issue of the *Far West Skier's Guide* and on our website: www.fwsa.org.

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 in their class. Recreational racing is a great way to improve your skiing. The FWRA Championships are held at the end of the race season. In 2016, the FWRA Championships will be held at Alpine Meadows, March 18-20. All league racers are invited to participate.

Our Association has established important relationships with the National Ski Council Federation (NSCF), United States Ski & Snowboard Association (USSA), United States Ski Team, Women's Ski Jumping USA, National Forest Service, International Ski History Association (ISHA), North American Snowsports Journalists Association (NASJA), and Snowsport Industries Association (SIA).

We are strong supporters of the National Ski Areas Association (NSAA) Environmental Charter and have endorsed their "Sustainable Slopes" objectives. We are active participants in the informal and bipartisan Congressional Ski & Snowboard Caucus. Our goal is to effectively represent the interests of all our members and the snowsports public.

We will host our 84th Annual FWSA Snowsports Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona, June 9-12, 2016, at the beautiful Double-Tree Resort by Hilton Hotel Paradise Valley. The fun begins on Thursday evening, June 9, with a pub crawl in Scottsdale. Friday events will include the 10th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament, a Spa Day, an outing to the World's Only Global Musical Instrument Museum with lunch, a water event such as kayaking, and an afternoon pool party.



The FWSA Convention provides the opportunity for ski clubs and the ski industry to socialize and help finalize future travel plans.

Eric Van Pelt, Van Pelt Productions, Inc.

Our Convention will have special guests, a keynote speaker, and the annual Silent Auction and Travel Expo. The Silent Auction on Friday evening is always a popular event where participants can buy terrific trips, often at much less than market value. The Travel Expo on Saturday gives participants a chance to meet ski industry representatives to learn more about their ski areas so our members can plan trips for the next year. We will host another Snowsports Leadership Academy with several seminars about club leadership and management, safety and snowsport trends. Our Public Affairs panel will have guest speakers who will provide valuable information on issues affecting all skiers. Our Awards Banquet on Saturday night will have music, dancing and awards to recognize outstanding achievements in snowsports. This

FAR WEST SKI ASSOCIATION

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2015 - 2016

ANNUAL CONVENTION

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fantastic weekend of events is hosted by the Arizona Ski Council, so save the dates and make your reservations soon. All details will be posted on the FWSA website. I hope to see you there.

FWSA has a working relationship with the Far West Ski Foundation, a nonprofit, charitable organization that is tax exempt under IRS Section 501(c)(3). We work with the Foundation to support our Athletic Scholarship Program, Skier Rehabilitation Program, Snowsports History Program, and Women's Olympic Ski Jumping. The Foundation is growing and we will continue to work hard to make each year more successful than the last. We thank all of you who have made generous donations to the Foundation.

I would also like to thank the many volunteers in our clubs who contribute countless hours of time and expertise to their clubs, councils and FWSA. We have a terrific Board of Directors and Committee Chairs. They are all volunteers who have come up through the ranks as volunteers in their clubs and councils. Also, we could not maintain the outstanding level of success, year after year, without the generosity and support of our industry partners and sponsors. Thank you for all you do on behalf of FWSA!

To all of you, have a fun ski season and stay safe. I look forward to seeing you on the slopes, on some of our trips, and at our 84th Annual Far West Ski Association Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona. ▲▲

2015 - 2016 Council Information

*Please check
council websites
for dates, times & locations
of council meetings.*

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Intermountain Ski Council

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Website: www.intermountainskicouncil.org

Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs

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Website: www.sierraleague.com

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FWSA Ski
Weeks. In
2016, the
group will
travel to
Telluride,
Colorado.*



Telluride Ski Resort / Alec Jacobson

Council Services is the Link Between FWSA Councils

by Jo Simpson

Vice President - Council Services, FWSA

Council Services represents the grass roots of the FWSA - our club members. The Vice President, Council Services works with the presidents of the nine FWSA member councils to manage programs and initiatives that benefit their clubs. We have a talented and involved group of council presidents and program chairs.

Council Services oversees the following programs and committee chairs: Club and Council Communication and Outstanding Club Awards (Crissymarie King), Councils' Man and Woman of the Year Recognition (Gene Fulkerson), Charities and Our Community (Sigrid Noack), and Family and Youth Involvement (Fran Long).

The classes for the Club Newsletter and Web and Outstanding Club competition changed for the 2015 awards. Instead of classifying entries by club size, they now are classified by the number of times the club has placed in the competition in the past four years. The new classes are Novice, Expert and Masters with the entries classified by the number of previous first, second and third place awards won by the submitter.

These recognitions are a great vehicle for clubs to recognize their hard working volunteers. We believe that having submitters with similar skill levels competing will create a more level playing field and encourage more entries.

Our Club and Council Communications Awards Chair, Crissymarie King, has worked hard on this program. She has made the application and judging completely web based. We will be making further improvements to the application and judging process for 2016.

The FWSA Skin Cancer Prevention Program and its mascot Savvy Snake, chaired by Family and Youth Program Chair Fran Long is phasing out after a wildly successful run. New programs to encourage family and youth involvement are in the planning stages.

The Charity & Community Service recognition, chaired by Sigrid Noack, highlights the good work our clubs and councils do to benefit their communities. This program also changed how clubs are classified for awards competition. The two new categories are Diamond (clubs never having won) and Double Diamond (clubs who have won in the past four years). The considerable charity and community work of FWSA clubs is further detailed on pages 46 and 47.

The Councils' Man and Woman of the Year is a wonderful way for clubs and councils to honor their outstanding volunteers. Gene Fulkerson has completed his first competition as the new chair and made some enhancements to the scoring and interview processes to put more emphasis on club level work. The competition involves councils each selecting a man and woman from their member clubs to be honored at the FWSA Convention. The 2015 council candidates and the FWSA winners are highlighted on page 37.

Most of us joined a ski club to meet and socialize with active people who like to ski and to take advantage of group ski trips to interesting resorts. The mission of Council Services is to provide our hundreds of FWSA ski clubs with tools and information to enhance their success. We welcome ideas and feedback from club members and those who are reading this publication who would like to have more information about our FWSA clubs. You can contact me at jo_simpson@sbcglobal.net. I look forward to hearing from you. ▲▲

National Ski Council Federation Brings Councils & Clubs Together Nationwide

by Jo Simpson
Public Affairs Chair, NSCF
Sierra League and Council, President



ABOVE: Ski council and industry representatives gather at the 2015 NSCF Annual Meeting held in September at Lake Placid, New York. The annual meeting provides the opportunity for councils to interact and share ideas. LEFT: Lisa Beregi from Crescent Ski Council was elected to be the new president of the organization.
photos / Bob Wilbanks / National Ski Club Newsletter.

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

The Federation annual meetings are structured to provide a forum for council and ski industry representatives to discuss subjects of mutual interest. The 2015 annual meeting in September was hosted by Lake Placid, New York. This was first time the meeting has been held east of the Rocky Mountains.

The Federation provides a wide variety of benefits to ski club members. Members of ski clubs that belong to the Far West Ski Association are automatically members of the Federation. The Federation offers members a variety of attractive discounts on items such as ski rentals, lodging, car rentals, and a variety of ski gear. To access the information, club members can go to the Members Only link on the newly redesigned website and request a password.

Ski clubs can also access the Members Only section to get templates for by-laws, requests for proposal for trip bids, club officer job descriptions and other documents that clubs can adapt to meet their unique needs.

The Federation was formed in 1999 to provide councils an opportunity to exchange information and to discuss among themselves and with the ski industry important issues that impact clubs and councils throughout the United States. The Federation represents 30 councils across the United States. The councils have 640 clubs with more than 300,000 club members.

The Federation elects officers every two years. The officers elected in Lake Placid are: President, Lisa Beregi (Crescent Ski Council – Eastern U.S.); Vice President, William Shadboldt (Northwest Ski Club Council); Treasurer, Cheryl Mann (Texas Ski Council); and Secretary, Jane Gutierrez (Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs and National Brotherhood of Skiers). Like FWSA, the Federation is completely operated by volunteers.

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

2015 WESTERN REGION SKI & SNOWBOARD SHOWS

compiled by Jane Wyckoff

OCTOBER

SNOWBOMB Ski & Snowboard Festival – San Francisco
October 31 – November 1, 2015
Fort Mason Center, San Francisco, CA
www.snowbomb.com

NOVEMBER

Park City Ski and Snowboard Swap
November 6-8, 2015
Basin Recreation Field House,
Park City, UT
www.parkcityskiswap.com

Colorado Ski & Snowboard Expo
November 6-8, 2015
Colorado Convention Center, Hall F,
Denver, CO
www.bewisports.com/expos/denver/

Portland SkiFever & Snowboard Show
November 6-8, 2015
Portland Expo Center, Portland, OR
www.portlandskifever.com

Ski Dazzle Seattle Ski & Snowboard Show
November 6-8, 2015
CenturyLink Field Event Center,
Seattle, WA
www.skidazzle.com/seattle.htm

SNOWBOMB Ski & Snowboard Festival – San Jose
November 7-8, 2015
San Jose Convention Center
www.snowbomb.com

SnowJam San Diego SnowJam Ski & Snowboard Expo
November 13-15, 2015
Del Mar Fairgrounds, Del Mar, CA
www.snowjamshow.com/Shows/Sd

SNOWBOMB Ski & Snowboard Festival – Sacramento
November 14-15, 2015
Cal Expo Center, Sacramento
www.snowbomb.com

University of Nevada, Reno Ski Swap
November 20-21, 2015
Siena Hotel, Reno, NV
www.unrskiswap.com

SnowJam Las Vegas SnowJam Ski & Snowboard Expo
November 21-22, 2015
Cashman Center, Las Vegas
www.snowjamshow.com/Shows/Lv

DECEMBER

Ski Dazzle Los Angeles Ski Show & Snowboard Expo
December 4-6, 2015
Los Angeles Convention Center, South Hall
Los Angeles, CA
www.skidazzle.com/losangeles.htm ▲▲

FWSA DIRECT MEMBER APPLICATION 2015-2016

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, 2016.

DIRECT MEMBER BENEFITS

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

ANNUAL DIRECT MEMBER DUES:

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

Jane Gutierrez, VP - Membership, FWSA.
P.O. Box 5714, Inglewood, CA 90310
323-755-9158 / vpmembership@fwsa.org

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

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

The FWSG is available at no cost to members through your ski club, however, if you wish to have the magazine sent to you directly, please copy form, fill out and return with a check for US\$4.00 to cover postage and handling. Send to:

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

☐ 2015-2016 ☐ 2016-2017

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Members of western regional ski clubs and affiliated ski councils can participate in numerous planned activities throughout the year. The Far West Ski Association - the western region umbrella organization, offers even more travel opportunities. Direct membership in the FWSA is available. photo provided by Jane Gutierrez / Four Seasons West Ski Club

“I Want To Be Where You Are.”

by Jane Gutierrez

Vice-President - Membership, FWSA

While I was in the lunch room reading a copy of my ski club's newsletter, Lynne sat beside me and asked, “What's that?” Lynne was a 25 year old urbanite who just arrived from Philadelphia and was longing for “something to do”. I was mentoring her at work and decided to enlighten her to some of the fun things that I was doing. I showed her an article about an upcoming houseboat trip and when I talked about the beauty of the lake, the food, the parties, and the non stop fun, Lynne was hooked! Three months later, Lynne and two of her girlfriends embarked on a first time adventure with me that was unforgettable. The young ladies rode in a speedboat for the first time. They got thrown off of an inner tube in the water. They danced in the moonlight. When we returned home, Lynne, Ann, and Beth reserved their spots for the next year!

Since the ladies joined my ski club, they began to automatically receive our Constant Contact email blasts. Our regional ski trip to Mount Bachelor, Oregon was coming up, and Lynne had never been on skis. I showed her pictures of myself skiing in different locales. With a deep breath, Lynne said, “I'm in!” Several tutorial sessions later, Lynne was in line signing up for her first ski lesson. I introduced her to a couple of new people at the meet and greet happy hour, and the three of them clicked their happy ski boots to the school area. I met Lynne and her group at happy hour and asked how she felt. Lynne was walking slowly with new pains in her body, but was grinning from ear to ear. The instructor was so proud of her that he wanted her to take an intermediate class! Lynne was sold, and she is taking more classes so she can “be where I am”.

Lynne, Ann, and Beth are now active members of Four Seasons West Ski Club. They have met numerous friends, have learned new skills, and are traveling all over the world. They have spoken to others about us, have liked us on Facebook, and are following us on Meetup and Twitter. And, this all started with a question during my lunch break!

Why not listen to this story and check out your local ski organization in your neighborhood? Google a local club and see what they offer. Go to a meeting. Find them on Facebook and see what adventures they are having. If you like what you see, come and join for a wonderful experience. Meet new people, do something for the first time with a support group, and travel like you've never traveled before! If you can't find a club in your area, sign up for direct membership with Far West Ski Association. For a nominal fee, you will not be left out!

Looking forward to being where you are! ▲▲



Travel to major resorts on FWSA, council and club ski weeks. FWSA participants enjoyed Big Sky Resort on their ski week. Develop new friendships. Let them do the planning. You savor the fun and atmosphere. photo courtesy of Big Sky Resort / Mark Davidson, photographer

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

If you are a member of one of the clubs and a FWSA council listed in this *Far West Skier's Guide*, you are automatically a member of the Far West Ski Association. With over 165 ski and board clubs from Alaska to Arizona - Hawaii to South Dakota there are many groups from which to choose. However, as people have migrated to other areas of the country because of job transfers or other reasons, they might have left their ski club behind. Others have heard about the wonderful FWSA Travel Programs - both North American and International, as well as our many adventure trips, bicycle trips and dive trips and want to participate in these excellent travel opportunities, too.

Since not everyone has a club or council near them, a direct membership in FWSA is offered! It can be an individual membership or a family. This allows direct members to attend the Far West Ski Association ski weeks, the mini-ski weeks, participate in the Far West Racing Association program, and explore the world on our adventure cruises and trips.

As a direct member, you receive many benefits. Travel itinerary is planned for you. Just pack your suitcase, get to the airport and enjoy the flight, the destinations and the camaraderie of new friends and those you might have met on other trips.

You are also invited to the FWSA Convention held in different locations in the Far

West. Past Conventions have been held in Reno, Nevada; Squaw Valley in Lake Tahoe area; in Portland and Bend, Oregon; Palm Springs, San Diego, Los Angeles and the Bay Area in California; Ogden, Utah and in Phoenix/Scottsdale, Arizona. Most attendees take a few extra days to experience the area. It's a fantastic way to see and get to know the beautiful far west.

As a direct member, you can also receive member discounts (passes, lodging, gear, clothing) listed on the www.fwsa.org website under benefits. Fill out the membership form on the facing page and mail with payment made out to the Far West Ski Association to the address on the form. ▲▲

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A New Ski Season is Here!

by Debbi Kor
Vice-President - Marketing, FWSA



Aspen/Snowmass is on every skier and boarder's bucket list. Besides excellent terrain, the historic town offers many après ski activities, a wide variety of dining opportunities and exciting nightlife. They are also the sponsors of the new FWSA Environment Award.
photo courtesy of Aspen Skiing Company / Matt Hobbs, photographer

Ski season 2015, with the exception of a few areas, certainly left a lot to be desired. The massive amounts of snowfall came just after all the resorts began shutting down. Let's hope the Snow Gods look down on us all more favorably for the 2015-2016 season!

However much snow we get, each new season brings with it a chance to escape to a wonderful new place or to simply revisit some of our favorite ski resorts. Whether we go to an international destination such as Val D'Isère, or Cortina, or stay in one of our own favorite western ski resorts, or travel to one of the fine Canadian resorts, we have fun wherever we go! Some of those FUN areas that our clubs and councils will be heading to during the 2016 ski season will include Mammoth Mountain, Mount Bachelor, Whitefish Mountain Resort, Big White, Aspen/Snowmass, Steamboat, and Vail Resorts just to name a few. And, let's not forget about Tel-

luride, who will be our host for the annual Far West Ski Week, scheduled January 30 - February 6, 2016, and Crested Butte Mountain Resort, our hosts for the Mini Ski Week in March. It should be a great year!

For those of you who may be unfamiliar with the many opportunities that Far West provides our members with great deals, simply click onto our website at www.fwsa.org and check out the extensive list of Member Benefits for our club and council members. We have more than 20 wonderful lodging partners who offer discounted rates, including Hyatt Place and Hyatt House in the Salt Lake Area, Peppermill Resort Spa & Casino in Reno, Columbine Inn & Conference Center in Taos, DoubleTree by Hilton or Shilo Inn in Bend, as well as many others. We also have a host of ski shops and services offering reduced prices on ski rentals and transportation, such as Powder House, with several locations

throughout the Lake Tahoe area, as well as Black Tie Ski Rental and Delivery, located in many North American resorts. You can also ship your skis to the destination of your choice (or golf clubs) via Ship Skis, out of West Palm Beach, Florida. To get around in the Park City or Snowbird area, give Canyon Transportation a call to receive 20% off the shuttle service from the Salt Lake airport. If you'll be spending time in Steamboat, check out Go Alpine for all your shuttle needs to and from the airport. And, to insure that you don't get sunburned on the slopes, pick up some sunscreen from our good friends at Rocky Mountain Sunscreen. Lots and lots of goodies here, just for the taking, so check it out!

FWSA Sponsorship Program

Far West Ski Association has a wonderful Sponsorship Program for any ski resort or company to choose from, for an activity, event, or program. We are fortunate to have long-standing commitments from a number of mountain resorts, including Big White Ski Resort, sponsor of the Far West Council's Man and Woman of the Year Award since 2001 and Steamboat Ski and Resort Corporation, sponsor of the Western Ski Heritage Award since 2000. Grouse Mountain Lodge, Whitefish Mountain Resort, and Schure Sports, Inc. have sponsored the Far West Athletic Scholarship Program since 2004. Aspen/Snowmass sponsored a new FWSA program this year - The Environment Award. Telluride Ski Resort and Mountain Lodge Telluride sponsored the Safety Person of the Year Award for the first time this year. We thank each and every one of you for your continued support!

We truly enjoy hosting our members, industry partners and guests each year at our Annual FWSA Convention, and look forward to seeing you in Scottsdale, Arizona June 9-12, 2016 for an "Awesome" convention.

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

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NORTH AMERICAN TRAVEL

Experience and explore this beautiful continent with adventures to be found with the FWSA's North American Travel Program.

by Nancy Ellis

Vice-President of North America Travel, FWSA



Whistler Blackcomb was the site of the 2015 Far West Ski Association Ski Week. Noted as the largest connected ski resort in North America, trip attendees were able to ski over 200 trails connected by the record holding unsupported cable car span of the Peak to Peak Gondola between the two mountains. They participated in the FWRA races, and enjoyed the Tyrolian inspired village at the base. A great time was had by all! photo provided by Nancy Ellis

The Far West Ski Association travel program offers trips for ski club and direct members to destinations in North America, Canada, and U.S. territories. Our annual January ski week is very popular and features a week of skiing, parties with dancing, racing, and opportunities for shopping and winter activities in the area. This January, our ski week will be to Telluride, Colorado, and in 2017 our trip will be to Breckenridge, Colorado. Past ski weeks have been to: Whistler, Banff-Lake Louise, Beaver Creek, Aspen Snowmass, Jackson Hole, Sun Valley, Keystone, Big Sky, and Steamboat.

Four years ago, we added a second ski trip since the ski week was so popular. This trip is a five day late spring mini trip. It doesn't include as many planned activities to keep the trip more affordable. Participants have flexibility to explore the area on their own or participate in group activities. This March, we will be going to Crested Butte, Colorado, and

in 2017 we will be going to Nancy Greene's Cahilty Lodge at Sun Peaks Resort, Canada. Past trips have been to: Mt. Bachelor, OR; Big White, Canada; Snowbasin, UT, and Whitefish, Montana.

The North American Travel program also plans adventure trips every two years that are non-ski trips. Past trips have included summer trips to Mammoth Lakes with fishing, kayaking, and bike riding; Panama Canal Cruise; and Caribbean Cruise to the U.S. Virgin Islands, Bahamas, and St. Maarten. Our 2015 adventure trip was a Mississippi Steamboat Cruise and New Orleans trip. Our next adventure trip is planned for early March 2018. We are planning a trip to the Iditarod and related activities with a ski trip to Alyeska Ski Resort.

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

2015 Whistler Ski Week

Merchant Donors to Ski Week Mountain Rally

Far West Ski Association would like to thank all of the generous donors to the Mountain Rally held at the 2015 Whistler Ski Week January 31 - February 7.

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Telluride Ski Resort / Ben Eng

The majority of Telluride Mountain faces the town of Telluride. A free gondola is available for transport between the town and the Mountain Village. In addition, there are three bowls expanding the resorts terrain. The resort averages over 300 inches of snow each winter providing lots of fresh powder.

Photos courtesy of Telluride Ski Resort

Telluride, Colorado is the Site of the 2016 FWSA Ski Week January 30 - February 6, 2016

Telluride Ski Resort, Colorado, will be the destination for this year's Ski Week, January 30 - February 6, 2016. Telluride was exclusively a mining town until developed into a resort in 1972. This is a unique area in that the Town of Telluride sits at the bottom of the Town of Mountain Village where Telluride Ski Resort is located. A free gondola connects the two areas and once here, one can get around easily without a car. There's an abundance of restaurants and shopping both in town and on the mountain. Most of the resort lodging is ski in/out or steps to the lifts. The resort boasts no lift lines most days and plenty of cruiser runs. The number of flights into Montrose Airport have been expanded, making Telluride even more assessable than in past years.

There are plenty of activities to keep one busy during the week: dog sled adventures; glider rides; helicopter and cat skiing; horseback riding; ice climbing; sleigh rides; Nordic skiing; sledding; snowmobiling; snowshoeing; and winter fly fishing.

We have the following lodging properties this year:

- On the Mountain - Bear Creek Lodge condos; Mountain Lodge condos; Peaks Hotel
- In town—Riverside Condos; Mountainside Inn Hotel
- No matter where you stay, you'll have easy access to the ski slopes

Telluride Resort Mountain Statistics:

- 127 trails
- 18 lifts
- 2,000+ skiable acres
- Vertical: 4,425'
- Base Elevation: 8,725'
- Summit Elevation (lift accessible): 12,570'
- Terrain type - 23% beginner; 36% intermediate; 41% advanced/expert

Far West travel staff, council trip leaders, Patrick Rothe with Telluride Ski Resort, and Gloria Saiya-Woods with Ski.com has planned an exciting and enjoyable experience for Far West Ski Association members. You can sign up for this trip by contacting a council trip leader for Information about this trip and registration forms. Check out the Far West Ski Association website www.fwsa.org.

THANK YOU, FAR WEST



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**LOOKING FORWARD TO HOSTING FWSA WEEK
JANUARY 30-FEBRUARY 6, 2016**



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► **Crested Butte,
Colorado**
**is the Site of the FWSA
Mini Ski Week**
March 21 - 26, 2016

We are excited to be traveling to the historic mining town of Crested Butte, Colorado. The dates for the trip are March 21 - 26, 2016.

There are few places that have the small town charm of this Colorado ski town, and you will feel a difference immediately that sets Crested Butte apart from other mountain locations. The mountain resort offers wide open green and blue groomed trails to more advanced long cruisers. There are also areas for the adventurous such as the famous extreme limits of the North Face and Headwall. This will be the perfect location for our trip - charming town, unique mountain with uncrowded slopes, along with fantastic grooming and snow conditions.

We have two lodging properties to select from:

- The Grand Lodge Hotel - 100 yards from the ski slope
- The Plaza Condo - suitable for groups of four - prices available on request

Three trip options are available:

- Option #1: Includes 5 nights lodging at Grand Lodge Hotel; 4 day lift ticket at Crested Butte Mountain Resort
- Option #2: Includes 5 nights lodging at Grand Lodge Hotel; 3 day lift tickets at Crested Butte Mountain Resort



Crested Butte Mountain Resort / JC Leacock

Crested Butte is the perfect location for the 2016 FWSA Mini Ski Week: unique mountain, great snow conditions and a charming, historic town. photos courtesy of Crested Butte Mountain Resort / Tom Stillo

- Option #3 - Includes 5 nights lodging at Grand Lodge Hotel - no lift tickets included.

Trip Includes:

- Assistance with booking air
- Ground transfers arranged from Gunnison and Montrose to Crested Butte
- Complimentary Shuttle to town
- Welcome Party
- Farewell Party

Crested Butte Mountain Resort Statistics:

- Summit Elevation: 12,162'
- Vertical Drop: 2,775'
- Base Elevation: 9,375'
- Average Annual Snowfall: 300"
- Terrain: 1,547 skiable acres
- Marked Trails: 121
- Degree of Difficulty: 27% Beginner; 57% Intermediate; 16% Advanced

There are many activities to fill one's free time such as the Zipline Canopy Tour, Sleigh Ride dinners, snowmobile rentals, dog sled tours, and winter trail rides.

More information about this trip and pricing is available on the Far West Ski Association website: www.fwsa.org.

On-line registration and credit card payment is available.



The last great Colorado ski town welcomes Far West skiers March 21 - 26, 2016!

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MOUNTAIN RESORT



Breckenridge, Colorado

is the Site of the 2017
FWSA Ski Week
January 28 - February 4, 2017



Breckenridge Ski Resort, the site of the 2017 FWSA Ski Week, is a perennial favorite among skiers, boarders and other visitors. The resort has had major expansions and up-grades over the past several years, including more lift serviced terrain, and high-alpine and intermediate bowl skiing. Additionally, more snow making has been added this season on Peak 6 ensuring excellent snow conditions throughout the season. photo courtesy of Vail Resorts

Breckenridge Ski Resort, Colorado, will be the destination for our 2017 Ski Week, January 28 - February 4, 2017. The town of Breckenridge has a colorful history full of gold mining, saloons, booms, and busts. There are many historical tours, activities, stores of all kinds, bars, pubs, and restaurants from casual to classy to keep skiers and non-skiers busy for the week.

The ski area, located just west of the Continental Divide in Summit County, is the most visited ski resort in the Western Hemisphere. Its five peaks span 2,908 acres with something for all abilities and interests. All beginner and intermediate runs are groomed nightly. The resort also features the Gold Runner Alpine Coaster, Starlight Mountain Top Dinners, and the Spa at Breckenridge.

Ski Week activities will consist of:

- Welcome Party
- Pub Crawl
- Races
- Mountain Picnic
- Awards Banquet and Dance
- Après Party, & more

Breckenridge Resort Mountain Statistics:

- 187 trails
- 34 lifts
- 2,908 skiable acres
- Vertical: 3,398'
- Base Elevation: 9,600'
- Summit Elevation: 12,998'
- Terrain type - 11% easiest; 31% intermediate; 24% advanced; 34% expert
- Average Snowfall - greater than 25'

Ryan Dohnal, Breckenridge Ski Resort along with Sara Clemons and Mike Hibbard, Sports America Tours, have teamed up to plan a memorable ski week experience for Far West Ski Association members and their friends. Sign up information is available on the Far West website soon: www.fwsa.org.



No matter whether you are new to the slopes, an experienced expert or anything in between, the trails at Breckenridge are perfect for you. When not on the peaks, the charming town completes a wonderful snowsport experience.

photo courtesy of Vail Resort

Nancy Greene's Cahilty Lodge at Sun Peaks Resort, B.C., Canada

**will be the Site of the 2017 FWSA
Mini Ski Week**
Dates to be Determined



Sun Peaks Resort is a year around recreational destination. Its' three mountains feature excellent alpine skiing and snowboarding, as well as nordic. The charming European pedestrian styled village offers abundant restaurants, unique boutiques and endless off-piste activities. photos provided by Sun Peaks Resort / Royce Sihlis

Nancy Greene's Cahilty Lodge offers all the amenities and services you need for an enjoyable stay and relaxing time while skiing at Sun Peaks Resort. Cahilty Lodge is in the heart of the village just steps from the ski hill. It is a ski in and ski out property that offers the following amenities:

- Outdoor Hot Tub; Indoor Hot Tub; Sauna Rooms
- Fitness Room
- Slope-side secured Ski Storage
- Free Wi-Fi
- Heated Underground Parking
- Dining, spas, grocery stores, and shopping close by

Sun Peaks Resort is located in southern British Columbia, 40 minutes from Kamloops, and is serviced by airports in Kamloops, Kelowna, and Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. It has everything across all three mountains - gladed areas, bumps, steeps, long cruisers, and alpine bowls.

Sun Peaks Mountain Resort Statistics:

- Mt. Todd Summit Elevation: 7,060'
- Burfield Summit Elevation: 6,824'

- Base Village Elevation: 4,116'
- Vertical Drop: 2,894'
- Average Annual Snowfall: 237" powder
- Terrain: 4,270 skiable acres
- Marked Trails: 133
- Degree of Difficulty: 10% Beginner; 58% Intermediate; 32% Expert

Trip Includes:

- Welcome Party
- Farewell Party
- Lodging at Nancy Greene's Cahilty Lodge (dbl. occ.)
- Lift tickets for Sun Peaks Ski Resort
- Discount off ground transportation from Kamloops or Kelowna Airports

There are many activities to fill one's free time such as Snow Shoe Tours, Dog Sled Rides, Snowmobiling, Horse Drawn Sleigh Rides, Ice Skating, Tube Parks, Cat Trax Groomer Rides, and Shopping.

Trip information and pricing is available on the Far West Ski Association website: www.fwsa.org. On-line registration and credit card payment is available. ▲▲

2015 International Ski Week was held at Val d'Isere with a pre-trip to Paris and an extension to Provence and the French Riviera

We had 33 people enjoy four days in Paris for the pre-trip before the International Ski Week in Val d'Isere. Paris is a city to be discovered and rediscovered time and time again, over and over again. The Parisians feel gastronomy is a religion...so we all went to church...regularly and often!

Our half day city bus tour provided a valuable overview of the city the day after we arrived. We escorted 18 people for a train trip to Versailles where we were free to explore on our own and return back to Paris at our leisure. Paris grows, Paris evolves and Paris lives on. And, we can't wait to return!



FWSA International Ski Week participants visited Versailles prior to a week of skiing in the French Alps. Pre and post trips provide an excellent way to see and experience many other nearby landmarks and adventures.

photos provided by George Stewart

Our ski week in Val d'Isere was spectacular and both ski areas offered our travelers a unique ski experience. Using the Espace Killy ski pass, our members skied the Tignes and the Val D' Isere resort which was truly a "Skier's Paradise". Upon arrival our Welcome/ Orientation was attended by all. We were greeted by the Val d'Isere Office of Tourism and Oxygene, a local guide company who offered our members a free mountain tour! Several members hired their guides throughout the week for that special secret ski experience that only the locals know. Tuesday, we held an Apres ski party so we all could connect, share pictures, stories and of course... expound on our adventures!

Midweek, 26 people enjoyed the optional day tour to Grenoble. Our guide, Barbara, truly enhanced the experience of this incredible city. We learned that it is the fifth rated Research City in the world and has over 30,000 scientists. Over 60,000 students attend the University in this 2,000 year old city. We

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

*Enrich your life and indulge yourself
with adventures to be discovered
with the FWSA's International Travel Program.*

by Debbie Stewart

Vice - President of International Travel, FWSA

The FWSA International Travel Program has been totally revamped with the creation of new areas and new travel adventure concepts. We're arranging trips with our FWSA members in mind and with great passion! We want to experience the unexpected, in all sorts of ways. We want to taste the unpredicted, to experience the blending of many cultures, to allow for free time to explore, to indulge in the "must-see" attractions, to feel the magic of each region through unique explorations and best of all, we'll handle your trip details while you revel in the adventure!

were surprised to learn the fact that the French Revolution actually started in Grenoble and we had the opportunity to ride the 81 year old gondola up to the Bastille which actually was a fortress - not a prison. She shared many interesting facts, attractions and even pointed out the second oldest coffee house in France, "Café de la Table Ronde".

The sun gods came out to play with us on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday where many enjoyed some of the best skiing of the entire season.

We then offered an extension trip to Provence and the French Riviera - Côte d'Azur. Our extension trip was very informative, educational, extremely varied and exciting to explore on our own during our free time. We spent three nights in Aix en Provence and had guided tours of Aix, the Luberon Mountain Range punctuated with wonderful villages, visited Lourmarin and were given two winery tours with tastings. We had the opportunity to visit several highlights in the surrounding areas learning about their rich artistic and historical culture.

We, then traveled to the southern part of France - the Côte d'Azur, spending four nights in Nice, located on the Mediterranean Sea. Our guide, Frederic, was a jewel, sharing his insights to these areas. We visited beautiful Cannes, the charming medieval village of Eze, St. Paul de Vence, the principality of Monaco, the Fragonard Perfumery in Grasse, the Picasso Museum in Antibes and much more. Our extension experience certainly exceeded our expectations!

FWSA's 6th Annual Scuba Dive trip to Bonaire - September, 2015

Our scuba dive trips are becoming more popular for both the scuba diver and the non-divers who want to have an exceptional vacation experience. The Beach Plaza Resort in Bonaire had all the resort amenities and was the perfect location for the getaway one was looking for. We were excited to provide our participants two new options. We provided group air transportation from LAX to Bonaire at an unbelievable price and we now offer another payment option using our PayPal online payment program. Under the leadership of dive trip leader, Randy Lew, and our dive tour operator, Roatán Charter, 32 members enjoyed an incredible vacation experience in a beautiful all-inclusive beach resort. Our next dive trip plans are currently in progress, so mark your calendars for Fiji in 2016!



Tignes and Val d'Isère in the French Alps, hosted the 2015 International Ski Week. The two resorts are now also referred to as Espace Killy, named after Jean Claude Killy, a native of Val d'Isère. The famous Olympian is considered the best French skier in history. Some of the trip's participants pose by a gondola station and by one of the mountain lodges.
photos provided by George Stewart

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Cortina d'Ampezzo is a paradise for snowsports enthusiasts. A location unrivaled by any other in the Alps, it offers a wide variety of slopes of every level of difficulty, catering to all age groups with something to please everyone. Cortina is part of the Dolomiti Superski area that links 12 top skiing resorts. Just one ski pass gives you access to 450 lifts and 1220 kilometers (758+ miles) of pistes and trails. photo / cortinapress.dolomiti.org / Bandion

2016 International Ski Week to Cortina d' Ampezzo and Extension Trip to Florence & Rome, Italy

We will be in Cortina d'Ampezzo March 5-12, 2016 for our International Ski Week where our members can experience the unique and awesome skiing in the Dolomites. Cortina d'Ampezzo is one of Italy's most famous and extensive ski towns. The resort staged the Winter Olympics in 1956 and is a popular stop on the World Cup skiing circuit for the women's speed disciplines and is set to host the 2021 Alpine World Championships. It boasts interesting slopes for all levels of skiers and is one of the historic resorts in the "Best of the Alps". Cortina, one of the most beautiful settings in the Alps, is located in the Grand Dolomiti Superski circuit with 1,200 kilometers of skiable terrain. It offers a total of 140 kilometers of ski trails and 43 lifts along with cross country skiing, telemarking, snow shoeing, snow kiting, ice driving, ice climbing and much more. The town itself is a large resort with two cable cars from either end of the Centre accessing the main ski areas. The Centre has been pedestrianized along the Corso Italia. Among the luxury hotels, visitors can also see many high-fashion clothing and sports shops.

Our trip includes:

- All airport ground transfers. Multi-lingual guide meeting the FWSA Group Air people upon arrival
- 7 nights' accommodations with breakfast daily at your hotel and Wi-Fi
- 5 Dinners at your hotel – 2 nights FREE to experience the local Italian restaurants of your choice
- Welcome/Orientation and Farewell Party
- Gratuities to bus drivers, transfer guides and restaurant staff
- Après ski party – details to be provided
- Venice optional day tour will include St. Mark's Square and Basilica, the Clock Tower and, of course, a gondola ride, yet leaving free time to explore!

After Cortina d' Ampezzo, March 12 – 19, 2016 we'll explore our extension trip in Florence for three nights, then off to Rome. We will be staying at the beautiful 4-star Hotel Adriatico while in Florence. Each day will have an exciting activity starting with a walking tour of Florence, entry to the Uffizi Gallery, a bus trip to Sienna and San Gimignano and explore on your own to seek out the gems of the area.

We'll spend four nights in Rome at the Superior 4-Star Mediterraneo Hotel and experience historic places like the Colosseum and Roman Forum, the Vatican and Museum, St. Peter's Cathedral, the Sistine Chapel and much more. You can join us for the Florence and Rome portion as a "Stand Alone" (no Cortina) trip too!

*See The Magical Dolomites
article by Jimmy Petterson
beginning on page 58.*

2016 International Adventure trip to London, English countryside and Ireland

FWSA and Collette Vacations are planning a fantastic adventure trip to England and Ireland in 2016 followed by a bike tour along the western coast of Ireland organized by Bike Tours Direct. At the time of publication, the dates had not yet been set. Check the FWSA website: www.fwsa.org for updates.



The 2016 Adventure destination to England and Ireland includes visiting many famous London Landmarks like Buckingham Palace.

photos courtesy of Collette Vacations

Travel to some of the world's most magnificent cities and through the magical countryside of England and Ireland. This journey takes you from the cosmopolitan capital of London through the English countryside and across the Irish Sea to the Emerald Isle.

The Changing of the Guard, Westminster Abbey, Big Ben, St. Paul's Cathedral, Trafalgar Square, and the Tower of London are just some of the major attractions that we will be experiencing while in London. Not only will we be enjoying the big city, we'll be traveling to the beautiful English countryside. Marvel at the mystery of Stonehenge and walk in the footsteps of William Shakespeare at his birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon. Be mesmerized by the pastoral landscapes of the Cotswolds.



View the famous Ring of Kerry.

After England, we'll travel to Ireland to visit several unique and different destinations including a visit to the new House of Waterford Crystal. We'll journey to historic Blarney Castle. Lean back and kiss its famous stone! See beautiful Killarney from your seat on an Irish jaunting car. Experience the world-famous beauty of the Ring of Kerry. Have coffee and scones at a working farm. Live like royalty during an overnight stay on the grounds of a castle. Delight in the pleasures of vibrant and history-filled Dublin on a guided day tour. A visit to the famed Guinness Storehouse and Brewery is also included. You'll also have some free time for further exploration. This will be a very unforgettable educational and enjoyable experience. Participants will also have the opportunity to extend their holiday on a bike tour through Ireland's scenic western coast. Information is on the next page.



ABOVE: Be amazed by the secrets of Stonehenge, England. TOP: See beautiful Killarney, Ireland from your seat on an Irish jaunting car.

Join Collette and Far West Ski Association



on a custom adventure to

England & Ireland

September 2016

12 Days • 16 Meals

Cross the Irish Sea and travel through England, Ireland and Wales. This great adventure takes you to the most fashionable cities and historic places.

- Talk and laugh with a local family when you visit their working farm.
- Behold the magical scenery at the glorious Ring of Kerry.
- Step back in time as we visit William Shakespeare's birthplace.
- Tour the new House of Waterford Crystal factory.
- Ponder ancient mysteries at Stonehenge.
- Overnight in the capital cities of London, Cardiff and Dublin.
- Visit historic Blarney Castle where you can kiss the famous Blarney Stone.
- Explore the Roman Bath Museum's 2,000-year-old elaborate spas.
- Sip a pint of Guinness during a guided tour of the Guinness Storehouse.

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Call Debbie Stewart for more information 559.737.0882

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The bike trail meanders through the southwest part of Achill Island in the county of Mayo overlooking the Atlantic Ocean.

by **Richie Daigle**,
Client Service Manager, *BikeTours.com*

Ireland Bicycle Post - Tour:

This short (5 days / 4 nights) cycling tour captures the essence of this beautiful region on the west coast of Ireland. Discover the unique beauty of Killary Harbour, the stunning white sand beach of Glassilaun, Clifden (the “Capital of Connemara”), and many other attractions along the way. Connemara is considered the “western wonderland of Europe.” Rugged mountains soar above wild Atlantic beaches, and winding valleys play host to seemingly bottomless lakes. Here you will find a peace that is hard to find in a busy city. Leave behind all your cares and enjoy a slower pace of daily life.

This tour is led by a local tour guide and features accommodations in charming 3- and 4-star hotels full of local character. Route descriptions, tourist information and maps are provided.

Daily program:

DAY 1 - Meet your guide at Dublin airport and get a private transfer to Clifden town, to start your tour. Clifden is bursting with culture, traditional music, quaint streets, cozy pubs and restaurants. We will meet you at your accommodation either on the evening of arrival or the following morning (depending on your arrival time), to go through your itinerary and answer any questions you have about your tour. All bikes and equipment will be delivered to you and we will make sure that everything fits you perfectly!



The picturesque Gothic-styled Kylemore Abbey is one of Ireland’s most popular tourist attractions. It covers approximately 40,000 square feet with over 70 rooms. Several Victorian styled rooms are open to the public, while the remainder of the Abbey has been home to Irish Benedictine Nuns who purchased the Kylemore Castle and the surrounding land in 1920 - converting it to a school and Abbey. The school closed in 2010. photos / courtesy of Bike Tours Direct

DAY 2 – Clifden to Renvyle – 28 miles

The second day will bring you via the Sky Road from Clifden to the Renvyle Peninsula where you will spend your second night. The Sky Road brings you to the very edge of Connemara with soaring views over the rocky Atlantic coastline. Pausing at the vantage points you will be able to see all of Clifden Bay and its many islands stretching out before you. Further along the way, you will be passing by the Connemara National Park in the village of Letterfrack, where you can take a break from the bike and enjoy a walk in the park, climb Diamond Hill or take a look at the informative visitor center. Your arrival at your accommodation will be greeted by the friendliness and warmth for which Connemara is renowned.

DAY 3 – Renvyle to Leenane – 18 miles

Making your way from the Renvyle peninsula you will pass through the pretty village of Tullycross with its traditional thatched cottages. You will soon come to Kylemore Abbey, one of Ireland’s top visitor attractions (entrance fee included in the tour price). This

gothic-style castle was started in 1867 and boasts one of Ireland’s finest gardens. The six-acre Victorian walled garden at Kylemore was created by Mitchell Henry in tandem with the building of Kylemore Castle. Leaving Kylemore, you will experience the full majesty of the Twelve Bens mountain range as you pass beneath their brooding peaks. Dramatic Killary Harbour (Ireland’s only fjord) will appear beside you as you round a corner.

DAY 4 – Leenane to Westport – 34 miles

Today, your cycle takes you through some of the most spectacular scenery on the tour. The (longest) 56km route brings you along the shores of Killary Harbour, past Ashleigh Falls and through the Delphi and Doolough valleys with their glacial lakes and rugged sandstone hills. The peaceful silence of these valleys is often only broken by the sheep wandering along the road beside you! Continuing on, you meet the Atlantic coast again at the village of Louisburgh and follow the coastline along Clew Bay to Westport. You can stop off to visit the 14th century Murrisk Abbey for a break.

Your last evening will be spent in the colorful and charming town of Westport. This heritage town is a captivating blend of traditional and modern. From the coziest corner of an antique pub to state-of-the-art conference facilities, and from the heart-stirring beat of traditional music to a cosmopolitan approach - contrast and paradox are part of its charm! Hotel accommodations will be at the 4-Star Castlecourt Hotel.

DAY 5

Breakfast on Day 5 will be followed by a fond farewell and departure! Your private bus will take you back to the Dublin airport.

Note: Riding through the scenic rolling hills is at a leisurely pace - cycling an average of 19 - 29 miles per day. However, the last day covers 34 miles. If a cyclist becomes tired, the guide will make arrangements to get them to the next destination. The guide is also able to fix bikes should there be any issues. A van transports luggage between destinations. Groups range between 8 - 30 cyclists, but larger groups can be accommodated. What a great way to experience Ireland!

What's Ahead . . . A lot!

We are proud to announce the following trips:

- 2017 International Ski Week - St. Anton, Austria
- 2017 Summer Ski and Adventure trip - Valle Nevado, Chile
- 2018 International Ski Week - Les Trois Vallees, France

Mark your calendars now!

Travel Videos Available

After receiving raving reviews about our first FWSA Travel video which highlights and features the values and benefits of traveling with FWSA, we now have added additional travel videos also including FWSA Travel overview, South Africa, Zermatt/Spain, Val d'Isere and Provence/French Riviera, Annual Dive Trips, Whistler Ski Week and many more to come. To view the videos go to: <http://www.youtube.com/user/FarWestSkiAssoc/videos> and search the FWSA website: www.fwsa.org for our video collection.

We strive for a well-managed trip experience so you can revel in new freedoms, have the challenges answered and produce the finest trip experience of all times!

For updates on the FWSA International Travel Program contact: Debbie Stewart, FWSAIntlTrvl@prodigy.net, 559/737-0882 - (cell). Website: www.fwsa.org. ▲▲

Check out the Far West Skier's Guide Digital Edition

**The 2015 Special Digital Insert Includes:
Resorts Celebrate Milestone Anniversaries
And, Much More.**

Located between pages 66 and 67 online. www.fwsa.org

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TWO WHEELS - ONE WORLD

Why do we race? Because it is fun, exciting, competitive, individual, instructive and social. Far West provides races for any ability of skier or boarder, and then we break them down by age, sex and skill level, so all of our racers are competing with other racers of similar age, gender and skill level. On any given day, Far West racers in any class can win in their class. In our races, we do not separate our racers only by age, but also by skill level, so they are not competing with past-Olympians unless they work their way into that class. Most of us are weekend warriors that ski or race whenever we get a chance, and when we get a chance, we want to make the most of it.

When our racers go down our race courses, they are going down a run all by themselves with nobody else skiing down the hill at the same time, and our racers can go as fast or slow as they want without being cited by a Ski Patrolman for skiing too fast amongst the public.

The thrill of skiing and boarding is the challenge of the slope of the hill and the speed we get while flying down the mountain. Racing naturally makes skiers and boarders better athletes by forcing them to turn where they normally would not turn. Almost everybody I have seen racing has improved due to the extra effort required by going down a race course.

Obviously, not everybody wants to race or enjoys the competition, but where else can you be the only person on the ski run for one to two minutes without fear of being run into by another person?

When we run our races, we try to schedule them to be punctual and efficient so we can get our participants down the courses as quickly as possible, so they can go off and enjoy skiing the rest of the mountain. We understand that their time is important, especially on a bluebird ski day. We also run several courses, not one course for everybody. We set a course for beginners and novice participants so they can progress at their own speed and move up to the next harder course when they improve.

We also try to schedule the race times so participants have plenty of time to make it to the courses, and we also base the start times on the predicted snow conditions. If we believe the snow conditions are going to be very firm in the morning, we normally will schedule the upper level racers in the morning when the conditions are more challenging, and the novice racers will end up getting better snow conditions in the afternoon when they would race. Sometimes we run into de-

There are numerous opportunities to participate in the FWRA Race Program including weekends and FWSA Ski Weeks.

lays because of weather or timing, but most of the time we are on schedule.

Our goals are to put on a safe event that is punctual, fun and challenging for the participants. We want to allow them to see their times immediately, and an area where they can congregate safely afterwards and share their experiences with their friends about the race course. We are recreational racers that enjoy the courses, the challenges of the mountains, the social aspect, and also receiving the awards for good results.

The Far West Racing Program is different from any other program in the U.S. because it was smartly designed back in the 1970s to encourage participation for all abilities and ages of participants. We also put on clinics to help our racers improve and allow them to have a chance to practice.

Next year, we will be racing at Telluride during the Far West Ski Week, and the Far West Championships will be held on March 18-20 at Alpine Meadows. I encourage all of you to try racing just once to see if you enjoy it.

Whistler race photos provided by Nancy Ellis



Why Do We Race?

by Bob Ellis

Vice-President of Racing, FWSA
President, FWRA



Silent Auction Donors for the 2015 Far West Racing Association Championships

by Nancy Ellis

Financial Officer, FWRA

Far West Racing Association would like to thank all of the generous donors to the Silent Auction held at the 2015 Far West Racing Association Championships at Mammoth Mountain Resort. A portion of the proceeds helps fund the Far West Ski Association Athletic Scholarship Program.

Lauri Thompson - Sierra League
Joe Brady - Sierra League
Carson Valley Golf Course
Rick Harrington - Servicon

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Tahoe Donner Association
San Diego Alpine League
Empire Ranch Golf Course
Old Brockway
Lors Spicher - ROKKA League ▲▲



Nancy Ellis was the recipient of the 2015 Terry Smith Award. She is shown with Jo Simpson from Sierra League and Council.

***Because it's
Fun!***



Laura Priess, ROKKA League Chair, accepted the FWRA League Championships Trophy for the most points (742). FWSA Convention Awards photos / Eric Van Pelt, Van Pelt Productions, Inc.

***Major Racing Awards
Were Presented at
the FWSA Convention.***



Ken Calkins, representing ULLR League, accepted the Roma McCoy Trophy for the most points per racer start (16.83).

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2015 - 2016 FWRA Race Schedule

by Bob Ellis

President, FWRA; Vice President - Racing, FWSA

Date	Format	Location
OPEN/SIERRA/SINGLES LEAGUES		
January 23	SL	Northstar #1
January 24	GS	Northstar #2
February 13	SL	Sugar Bowl #3
February 14	GS	Sugar Bowl #4
February 20	SL	Alpine Meadows #5
February 21	GS	Alpine Meadows #6
February 27	SL	Squaw Valley #7
February 28	GS	Squaw Valley #8
March 5	Super G Clinic	Northstar #9
March 6	Super G Race	Northstar #10

PACRAT LEAGUE

January 3	NASTAR Open	Mt. Hood Skibowl
January 10	PACRAT Race #1	Mt. Hood Skibowl
January 24	PACRAT Race #2	Mt. Hood Meadows
January 31	PACRAT Race #3	Mt. Hood Meadows
February 21	PACRAT Race #4	Mt. Hood Meadows
February 28	Make Up Race, if needed	Mt. Hood Meadows
March 13	NASTAR Open	Mt. Hood Skibowl
March 20	PACRAT #5	Timberline
April 3	Make Up Race, if needed	Timberline

ROKKA/ULLR LEAGUES (SCHUSSKI & SAN DIEGO – SEE ULLR LEAGUE)

December 9 - 11	ROKKA Race Camp - GS	Mammoth
December 12	GS	Mammoth #1
January 6 - 8	ROKKA Race Camp - SL	Mammoth
January 9	SL	Mammoth #2
February 13	GS	Mammoth #3
March 5	SoCals - GS	Mammoth
March 6	SoCals - SL	Mammoth

ALL LEAGUES

January 30 - February 6	FWSA Ski Week	Telluride, CO
	GS / SL	
March 18	FWRA Championships	Alpine Meadows
	Pacesetter / Clinic	
March 19	Championships - SL	Alpine Meadows
March 20	Championships - GS	Alpine Meadows

Schedules are tentative and subject to change.

Check the website - www.fwra.com - for current schedules



photo / Bob Ellis

ROKKA League's 2015-2016 Ski, Board, & Race Camp

December 9th - 11th, 2015

AND/OR

January 6th - 8th, 2016

Mammoth Mountain, CA

**ROKKA camp is open to all racers,
skiers, and snowboarders.**

For more information:

818-800-3166 or

ROKKARACERS@aol.com



Lila Lapanja is a Far West scholarship recipient through Sierra League and Council and a member of the U.S. Ski Team since 2011. When she was selected, Lila stated, "I was so excited. I've been working so hard for it, and it's just one step closer to my dream of being an Olympic ski racer." This picture was taken in 2014 when she finished sixth in the Junior World's Slalom, earned the NorAm Title and finished seventh overall. Although Lila struggled with an injury in 2015, she is looking forward to a strong 2016 season. The FWSA Athletic Scholarship Program and the Far West Ski Foundation assist in helping young skiers fulfill their dreams.*

**From usskiteam.com*

photo provided by David Krupp

FWSA Athletic Scholarship Program Enters Its 12th Year

by David Krupp

Athletic Scholarship Committee Chair, FWSA

The Far West Ski Association Athletic Scholarship Program is entering its 12th year, growing from an initial \$1,500 in scholarships in 2004 to well over \$12,000 and 14 recipients in the 2014-2015 season. The total awarded since the program's inception is approximately \$100,000 to over 100 recipients.

The program is designed to provide financial assistance to junior ski racers throughout the western United States where FWSA has a presence. Applicants must be junior alpine ski racers affiliated with the United States Ski and Snowboard Association (USSA) and must participate in racing programs in states where FWSA has regional councils. These include California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Arizona, Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming. Scholarships are awarded based on financial need, athletic performance, academic achievement, and community service.

Skiing is an expensive sport and the costs involved in ski racing cannot be left up to the parents alone to incur. For younger athletes the costs are modest. However, for 16 through 20 year olds, where competition becomes national and even international, the costs can be significant. Without the help of outside resources, many junior racers simply cannot compete. Some examples of races the

juniors are involved in include: the U.S. Nationals in California, the NorAms in Canada and Colorado, the Wildwest Classic Elite FIS Series in Wyoming, the Alaska State Downhill Championships, 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 with the exception of the Christmas holiday.

For a top competitor, expenses can reach \$20,000 per year. This is not a seasonal sport for these racers; it includes a full year of ski-related involvement. After the winter race competition has concluded, competitors engage in Dryland training; then off to summer camps. Camps typically run about \$1,200 per week, not including transportation.

Winter training costs range from \$1,000-\$1,500 each season. Most applicants work part time to offset expenses. The demands on their time is significant. They must balance their time between training, competition, school, work, and community service. Despite these demands, the average GPA for these recipients consistently exceeds a 3.9 average. Our scholarships are modest compared to the need, but they do make a difference in the overall scope of the resources they require.

The funding of the scholarships come from a number of sources: raffles, auctions, club and council partnerships, and direct contributions from club members, clubs, and councils. The FWSA has greatly benefitted from the generous support of its sponsors including Whitefish Mountain Resort (www.skiwhitefish.com), a year round winter and summer resort; Grouse Mountain Lodge (www.grousemountainlodge.com), a premier choice in mountain resort accommodations; Schure Sports, Inc. (www.karbonmail.com), maker of the Karbon line of snowsports apparel; and the Far West Racing Association. Their contributions of vacation packages, snowsports apparel, and cash bring in approximately \$10,000 per year as raffle and auction proceeds, as well as direct cash donations.

In addition, our partnership program through clubs and councils afford us approximately one third of our scholarship funding each year. Finally, a few years ago, the Far West Ski Foundation (www.farwestskifoundation.org), a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, was established as a valuable resource for encouraging tax exempt donations. For more information on the Far West Athletic Scholarship Program, please visit www.fwsa.org. ▲

Foundation Website Now Online With New Design

by John Watson
President, FWSF

The Far West Ski Foundation is back online with a BIG, beautiful, entertaining and educational website at farwestskifoundation.org. The site is designed by FWSA's own Crissymarie King (firstsightdesign). The site, designed to show details of the four principal missions of the Foundation, provides a way to make tax deductible contributions to support these missions. In fact, one of Crissy's innovations is a system allowing designation of contributions and then sending the "cart" of funds through PayPal. She has also managed to incorporate four videos of our Alpine racers who are or were scholarship recipients. Another video from the Vail Veterans Program showing the benefits of adaptive skiing was also incorporated.

Every program – Alpine racing, adaptive skiing, women's ski jumping and legacy

preservation – has at least one gallery of images. The FWSA scholarship winners and the national jumping team members will be updated annually. All scholarship sponsors and partners are shown. All twelve of the young Fly Girls who participated in the recent WSJUSA Devo Camp at Steamboat and Park City are shown. Images were contributed by the adaptive snowsport schools at Snowbasin, Whitefish and Crested Butte. Legacy preservation featured the Mt Hood Museum and Cultural Center and the latest news on progress toward the Squaw Valley Olympic Museum and Winter Sports Heritage Center. The legacy section also contains an images gallery and four slide shows.

In other Foundation news, three new Trustees were elected at the annual meeting June 5. They are Randy Lew, Norbert Knapp, and David Krupp. Knapp was elected Corporate Secretary. John Watson and John Reinhardt were reelected President and Treasurer. Grants were authorized for Deedee Corradini Fly Girls DEVO Camp scholarships (\$1,000) and for Oregon Adaptive Sports (\$500). Anticipated grants include roughly (\$11,000) to various racing schools for scholarships and funds for adaptive programs at Vail and Crested Butte.



Harry Davis was the auctioneer at the 2015 FWSA Annual Convention Silent Auction. The event helps raise funds for FWSA and the FWSF. Harry is a Trustee of both organizations. Eric Van Pelt / Van Pelt Productions, Inc.

The Foundation has named dedicated volunteers to a new Friends of the Foundation support group. The Friends include Joe Harvis, Sandra Knapp, Karen Davis, Carol Koch, Jeanne Reinhardt, Cindy Krupp, Bob Ellis and Claudia Watson. All Friends are enlisted in various fund raising tasks.

It's time to start thinking about your annual plan for giving. Please put the Far West Ski Foundation in your plans. Just as a note: all contributions to our missions are deductible for income tax purposes. But, we and our grant recipients can make best use of your funds if made before the snow flies (they need to plan, too). ▲▲

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To Whitefish: This offer is valid for 20pct off the regular (full) adult rail fare. This offer is valid for sale 28Sep15–18May16 and valid for travel 01Oct15–21May16. Blackouts apply: 12Oct15, 24-25Nov15, 28-29Nov15, 19-23Dec15, 26-30Dec15, 02-03Jan16, 12Feb16, 15Feb16, 24-25Mar16, and 28Mar16. Advance reservations are required a minimum of three (3) days prior to travel. Up to 2 children ages 2-12 may accompany each adult at half the regular full adult rail fare. This offer is valid for travel on the Empire Builder. This offer is valid for travel to Whitefish, Essex, West Glacier, and East Glacier, MT and return only. This offer is valid for travel from the following select cities only: Seattle, WA, Portland, OR, Chicago, IL, Milwaukee, WI, Columbus, WI, Winona, MN, St. Paul, Minneapolis, MN, Fargo, ND, Grand Forks, ND, Minot, ND, Williston, ND, Pasco, WA, Vancouver, WA, Edmonds, WA, Everett, WA, and Spokane, WA. Seating is limited; seats may not be available on all days. Fares are subject to availability. Travel is not allowed to originate (first segment of travel) from Whitefish, Essex, West Glacier, or East Glacier, MT.

For Saver Fares: This offer is valid for sale between 23Feb15–31Dec15 and valid for travel between 09Mar15–31Mar16. Blackouts apply: 24–25Nov15, 28–29Nov15, 18–20Dec15, and 01Jan16–02Jan16. This offer is valid for travel on the following trains only: Southwest Chief, Empire Builder, Coast Starlight, Crescent, Cardinal, California Zephyr, City of New Orleans, Silver Star, Silver Meteor, Lake Shore Limited, Sunset Limited, Capitol Limited, and Texas Eagle. This offer features our best Saver Fares. Advance purchase is required a minimum of fourteen (14) days prior to travel. Once purchased tickets are non-refundable.

These offers are valid for coach seats only; no sleeper upgrades permitted. In addition to the discount restrictions; these offers are subject to any restrictions, blackouts, and refund rules that apply to the type of fare purchased. These offers are not combinable with any other discount offer. Fares, routes, and schedules are subject to change without notice. Once travel has begun; no changes to the itinerary are permitted. Other restrictions may apply. Amtrak, Empire Builder, and California Zephyr are registered service marks of the National Railroad Passenger Corporation.



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A fun time was had by all at a wide variety of optional events offered at the 83rd Annual Far West Ski Association Convention June 4-7, 2015, at the Town and Country Resort & Convention Center in San Diego. Optional events included kayaking at La Jolla Cove, biking at Mission Bay, a trip to the San Diego Zoo, an Old Town Trolley Tour of San Diego, Seal Tour, pool party at the Resort, the 9th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament and an historic Sunset Dine Out and tour of the USS Midway.



Above photos / Debbie Schroeder

Trolley photos / Catherine Ohl



A "Salute to San Diego" at the 83rd Annual FWSA Convention

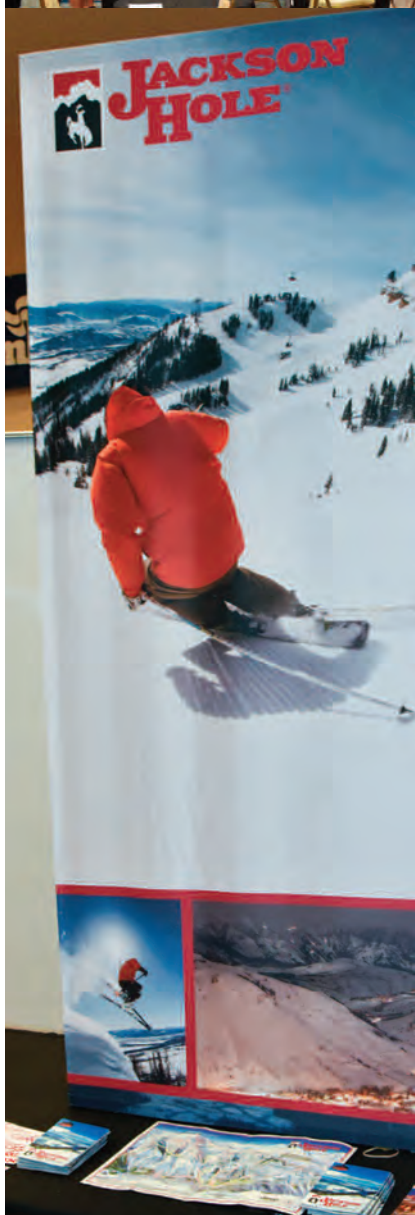
2015

TOP: The winning team of the Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament was Michael Hayes of Brundage Mountain Resort (second left), Pat Moody, Ed Moody and Will Frohlich from Grand Targhee Resort. Barbara Lee Blase and Susie Vetter, flanking them, planned this popular Annual event. The Tenth Annual will be held in 2016.

LOWER: A huge crowd attended the Silent Auction to bid on trips provided by our ski industry partners.

LEFT: Although the FWSA Convention was held in June, the resort representatives whetted everyone's appetite to return to the slopes at the Silent Auction held during the 2015 FWSA Annual Convention.

Convention photos / Eric Van Pelt, Van Pelt Productions, Inc.



Linda McGavin, Mary Alexander and Debbie Stewart visit the Hippo Pool at the San Diego Zoo. photo / George Stewart

So Much to See. So Much to Do!

by Jane Wyckoff
Convention Chair, FWSA

The 83rd Annual Far West Ski Association Convention was held at the luxurious Town and Country Resort & Convention Center, June 4-7, 2015, hosted by the San Diego Council of Ski Clubs. Located in the heart of Mission Valley, the hotel is rich in history, charm and character. The San Diego Council did an outstanding job in providing entertainment and activities throughout the greater San Diego area.

Convention events began on Thursday with an Old Town Trolley Tour of the city and a Seal Tour. Thursday evening featured a Sunset Dine Out on the deck of the USS Midway, which took the place of the traditional pub crawl. A record number of attendees toured the historic ship with restored aircraft from World War II to Operation Desert Storm. Comments about the evening included awesome, spectacular, a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Golf enthusiasts had an early start on Friday morning but only had to take a short walk across the street to the adjacent Riverwalk Golf Course for the 9th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament. The adventurous enjoyed a day of kayaking La Jolla Cove. Bikers had an outing to Mission Bay, which catered to those who just wanted a fun cruising ride to those who were more serious bikers. Others headed off to the World Famous San Diego Zoo for a fun day among a wide variety of birds and animals.



photo / Barbara Lee Blase

Welcome Aboard! Eileen Sanford, San Diego Host Council Convention Coordinator and Mike Sanford, FWSA VP - Public Affairs, welcome over 200 attendees to the Sunset Dine Out and tour aboard the USS Midway. Mike is wearing his US Navy jacket worn during his service on the USS Midway. We were privileged to hear Mike talk about the design and building of the ship, and stories during his time of service. This outstanding event was organized by Catherine and Gene Fulkerson and sponsored by Steamboat Ski and Resort Corporation.

The late afternoon Pool Party at Trellises Pool gave everyone a chance to mingle and compare notes from the day's activities. The event host, Central Council, provided a fun scavenger hunt. Friday evening's Ski Club Happy Hour was themed "Surfin' for Ski Deals" and participants all gathered together in a very large grass skirt in an attempt to enter the *Guinness Book of World Records*.

The 30th Annual Silent Auction and

Snowsports Trade Show offered ski, sport and adventure packages, plus equipment up for bid. A portion of the proceeds was donated to the United States Adaptive Recreation Center (USARC), and their volunteers served as bid runners. DJ Patrick Hill of "The Party" provided great music for dancing following the Silent Auction.

After a brief opening General Session, Saturday's Travel Expo enabled delegates to





photos / Eric Van Pelt, Van Pelt Productions, Inc.

attend “regional” presentations where they learned about an entire region of resorts, with new and exciting locations for their club’s snowsports and adventure trips. This was followed by one-on-one appointments with selected industry representatives. Saturday’s Luncheon was a South of the Border theme with colorful decorations and great food.

Saturday’s programs also featured two new modules of the Snowsports Leadership Academy, Public Affairs Panels, and a Far West Racing Association meeting. Industry partners presented bids for Far West Ski Week 2017, and judges convened to interview honorees for the Councils’ Man and Woman of the Year recognition program. Following the luncheon and special awards, Keynote Speaker Stacey Cook gave an informative, multi-media presentation showing the realities of what it is really like to be on the road with the US Ski Team, with all the challenges and successes encountered along the way. The women’s speed team opened the 2015 season with a bang, and Stacey Cook was a part of the excitement. Lindsey Vonn (1st), Stacey Cook (2nd) and Julia Mancuso (3rd) had the first-ever historic U.S. podium sweep in the Lake Louise downhill.

The San Diego Council again provided a very festive occasion with red, white and blue decorations for the theme “Salute to San Diego” at the Awards Banquet Saturday

evening. Featured were volunteer and industry service awards and recognitions. Many delegates, guests and industry representatives danced late into the evening, thanks to the return of our fabulous DJ.

Elections, ByLaws voting and FWSA business was conducted at the Sunday General Session. Steve Coxen, from the Northwest Ski Club Council, was elected President for a second time, as he served as FWSA President from 2000-2003. Clubs and councils were recognized for their outstanding community service efforts, and the Outstanding Club and Council Awards, and Club and Council Communication Awards were presented.

We extend a special thank you to our industry partners who support our Association by participating in the Silent Auction/Travel Expo and as sponsors throughout the weekend. We are also very appreciative of the team of FWSA and SDCSC volunteers involved with hosting this year’s Convention under the leadership of Eileen Sanford, Host Council Convention Coordinator. Detailed information and pictures highlighting our many programs conducted at the Annual FWSA Convention are included in this issue of the *Far West Skier’s Guide*. ▲▲

LEFT: Will Frohlich from Grand Targhee Resort meets delegates at the Silent Auction.
BELOW: Check out the next Guinness Book of World Records to see if they succeeded.



2015 FWSA Convention Sponsors

by Jeannine Davis
*Silent Auction/Travel Expo
Chairperson, FWSA*

Debbi Kor
Vice President, Marketing, FWSA

- Delegate Tote Bags / and
Safety Person of the Year
*Telluride Ski Resort
Mountain Lodge Telluride*
- Delegate Neck Wallets
Nancy Greene's Cahilty Lodge
- Sunset Dine Out / and
Western Ski Heritage Award
Steamboat Ski & Resort Corp.
- Bike Tour / Environment Award
Aspen/Snowmass
- Kayak Tour
Brian Head Resort
- San Diego Zoo Tour
Crested Butte Mountain Resort
- Michael German
Memorial Golf Tournament
*Old Town Trolley Tours
of San Diego*
- Pool Party
Ski.Com
- Silent Auction Welcome Party
Ski Dazzle Ski Shows
- Silent Auction Beverage Service
*Sports America Tours
Sun Valley Resort*
- Continental Breakfast
Mammoth Mountain Ski Area
- Saturday Luncheon
Vail Resorts
- Luncheon Beverage Sponsor
Jackson Hole Mountain Resort
- Keynote Speaker Presentation
Mt. Bachelor/Sunriver Resort
- Awards Banquet Beverage Service
*Ski Group.Net
Ski Banff-Lake Louise-Sunshine*
- Far West Councils' Man &
Woman of the Year
Big White Ski Resort
- Far West Athletic Scholarship
*Whitefish Mountain Resort
Grouse Mountain Lodge
Schure Sports, Inc.*
- Delegate Handbooks Printing
Holidaze Ski Tours
- Far West Convention Host Hotel
*Town and Country Resort &
Convention Center*

Whitefish Mountain Resort Recognized with Tommi Tyndall Award

by Randy Lew &
Gloria Raminha

Whitefish Mountain Resort received the Far West Ski Association's Tommi Tyndall Award, presented to a ski area that has made a distinguished contribution to skiing. The award was announced at the FWSA Convention in San Diego. Accepting the award was Brant Giovannetti, Marketing Director.

Whitefish Mountain Resort is a popular skiing destination and offers many groomed trails for all levels of skiers. The ski resort, located at The Big Mountain in northwestern Montana, is west of Glacier National Park in the Flathead National Forest. Whitefish Mountain Ski Resort is just north of the town of Whitefish, Montana, and is one of the largest ski areas in the state. Olympic champion Tommy Moe, who won the gold medal in the Downhill and silver in Super-G at the 1994 Olympics, learned to ski and race at Whitefish Mountain. From the mountain summit, there is a 360 degree view with stunning views of Glacier National Park.

Whitefish Mountain Resort has been participating at FWSA conventions and silent auctions and has strongly supported Far West Ski Association for many years.

In 2003, Whitefish Mountain Resort (known as Big Mountain at that time) did an excellent job hosting the FWSA Ski Week. All participants enjoyed the wonderful skiing and service that Whitefish offered.

This year, 2015, the 4th Annual Mini Ski Trip (Spring Fling) was held at Whitefish. Whitefish Mountain Resort graciously hosted an Après Party, which wasn't a scheduled FWSA event, for the all the FWSA guests. The resort did this because they value the relationship that they have with the FWSA members. Whitefish Mountain Resort was the first sponsor of the FWSA Athletic Scholarship Program starting from the program's inception in 2004. Starting in 2012 they voluntarily doubled their contracted sponsorship. Since 2004 their sponsorship has amounted to more than \$16,000 which has been granted to deserving USSA junior racers and they continue to be a big contributor to FWSA to raise funds for this program. ▲



Jennifer Fisher, (left), Kandahar Lodge in Whitefish, Montana and Brant Giovannetti, Whitefish Mountain Resort, accept the Tommi Tyndall Award on behalf of Whitefish Mountain Resort from FWSA President, Linda Scott. photos / Eric Van Pelt, Van Pelt Productions, Inc.

Ann Cook, Mt. Bachelor, Receives Bill Mackey Award

by Mary Olhausen

Ann Cook, Director of Group Services for Mt. Bachelor, received the Far West Ski Association's Bill Mackey Award for outstanding service to the skiing public by a ski area employee. The award was presented to Ann at the annual FWSA Convention in San Diego.

Originally from Salt Lake City, Ann studied at Oregon State University, and was hired by Mt. Bachelor as a ski instructor in 2002. In 2011, Ann transferred her love of the mountain to her new group sales position, applied her strong interpersonal skills to the task and began attracting new ski groups immediately. She embarked on a sales mission to increase awareness with the ski clubs and councils in the Northeast U.S. region. Her efforts were overwhelmingly successful and the flow of business from this area continues to grow significantly each year. In 2013, with the retirement of former "Group Sales Guy", Bob Bourquard, Ann handily stepped into the position as Mt. Bachelor's Group Services Director.

Mt. Bachelor throws out the virtual red carpet for all visiting ski clubs, whether that be a local club, or one who has traveled across the United States, as the Blue Ridge Ski Council did in late January, 2015. Bill Schrodell,



Linda Scott, FWSA President, presents Ann Cook, Director of Group Services, Mt. Bachelor with the Bill Mackey Award.

President of BRSC said “this program was phenomenal and the best experience I have ever had at one of our Western Carnival Trips. Ann Cook worked tirelessly to organize and promote this trip and she has been the best sales representative I have worked with over my years in the ski industry”. The Chicago Metro Council visited Mt. Bachelor in early February, 2015, bringing 10 of their clubs with them.

No matter the size of the club, Ann warmly welcomes them to Central Oregon to play in her backyard. She wants every guest to experience the uniqueness that only Central Oregon can provide. The mountain puts out a personalized welcome sign at the base lodge, so everyone knows your club is on the mountain. Through Ann’s coordination, the local Bend businesses provide discounts on rental equipment and special deals at select restaurants and stores.

Ann has been a delight to work with for the past several FWSA Conventions. Her unique ideas, and her wonderful enthusiasm have made for many memorable moments at the pool parties, sponsored by Mt. Bachelor since 2009. Who can forget the crazy sun glasses in Los Angeles, the Mechanical Bull Riding in Ogden, the air guitars in Palm Springs and so many other fun things? For the past six years, Mt. Bachelor has co-sponsored the Multi Media Presentations featuring our Keynote Speaker.

In the process of spreading the Mt. Bachelor story so effectively nationwide, Ann has become a consummate ski business manager, a friend to clubs and councils, and a highly respected member of the group sales community. With Ann’s tireless work on behalf of clubs and councils and support of Far West Ski Association, she embodies the spirit of the Bill Mackey Award. ▲▲

Silent Auction & Travel Expo 2015 Participants

by Jeannine Davis
Silent Auction/Travel Expo
Chairperson, FWSA

Debbi Kor
Vice President, Marketing, FWSA

The Far West Ski Association and San Diego Council of Ski Clubs extend their appreciation and sincere gratitude to the 30th 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 2015-2016 and beyond.

Aspen/Snowmass, CO	Roatán Charters, FL
Banff Lodging Company, Canada	Schweitzer Mountain Resort, ID
Big Sky Resort, MT	Selkirk Lodge, ID
Big White Ski Resort, Canada	Silver Star Mountain Resort, Canada
Bike Tours Direct, TN	Ski.com, CO
Breckenridge Hospitality, CO	Ski Banff-Lake Louise-Sunshine, Canada
Brian Head Ski Resort, UT	Ski Dazzle, CA
Brundage Mountain Resort, ID	Ski Group.Net, CA
Collette Vacations, RI	Snakedance Condominiums, NM
Cooper Spur Mountain Resort, OR	Snowbird Lodge, Canada
Copper Mountain Resort, CO	Snowbird Ski & Summer Resort, UT
Crested Butte Mountain Resort, CO	Snowmass Ski Resort, CO
DoubleTree by Hilton, OR	Snowmass Tourism, CO
Enchanted Island Travels, OH	Sports America Tours, CA
Evolution Lodging Whistler, Canada	Steamboat Ski & Resort Corp., CO
Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel, Canada	Sunriver Resort, OR
Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise, Canada	Sunshine Village Resort, Canada
Fernie Alpine Resort, Canada	Sun Peaks Ski Resort, Canada
Girolibero Tours, Italy	Sun Valley Resort, ID
Grand Targhee Resort, WY	Taos Ski Valley Resort, NM
Grouse Mountain Lodge, MT	Teewinot Lodge, WY
Holidaze Ski Tours, NJ	Telluride Alpine Lodging, CO
Huntley Lodge, MT	Telluride Ski Resort, CO
Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, WY	The Aspens, Jackson Hole, WY
Jackson Hole Resort Lodging, WY	The Cliff Lodge, UT
Kandahar Lodge at Whitefish, MT	The Crestwood, CO
Kimberley Alpine Resort, Canada	The Evergreen Lodge, CO
Lizard Creek Lodge, Canada	The Gant Hotel, CO
Mammoth Mountain Inn, CA	The Grand Lodge at Brian Head, UT
Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, CA	The Lodge at Whitefish Lake, MT
Maya Princess Beach Resort, Roatán	The Peaks Resort & Spa, CO
Mountain Lodge Telluride, CO	The Stonebridge Inn, CO
Mt. Bachelor Ski Resort, Bend, OR	The Vintage Hotel, CO
Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort, OR	Trickle Creek Lodge, Canada
Nancy Greene’s Cahilty Lodge, Canada	Vail Resorts, CO
Pacific Coach, Canada	Val D’Isere Condos, CA
Panorama Ski Resort, Canada	Whistler/Blackcomb, Canada
Park City Peaks Hotel, UT	Whitefish Mountain Resort, MT
Red Mountain Resort, Canada	Winter Park Resort, CO
Resorts of the Canadian Rockies, Canada	Wyndham Vacation Rentals, CO
Riverhouse Hotel & Convention Center, OR	

2015 FWSA Convention Award Recipients

Snowsports Builder Award

- Art Clay & Ben Finley,
Founders National Brotherhood
of Skiers
- Charles A. Morse,
Surveyor, Patroller, Organizer
- Hensley Family, Founders
Kratka Ridge Ski Area, CA

Hans Georg Award

Linda Westlund, Past Chair,
Board of Trustees

Elizabeth "Schatzi" Wood Award

Jo Simpson, FWSA VP
of Council Services

J. Stanley Mullin Award

George Kish, Treasurer,
Orange Council of Ski Clubs

Jimmie Heuga Award

David Briery, US Adaptive
Recreation Center

Jordan-Reily Award

Jeremy Jones, Founder Protect
Our Winters

Bill Mackey Award

Ann Cook, Director of Group
Services, Mt. Bachelor, OR

Tommi Tyndall Award

Whitefish Mountain Resort

Terry Smith Award

Nancy Ellis, Far West Racing
Association

Bill Berry Award, Featured News

Chris Santella, *"Fifty Places to
Ski and Snowboard Before You Die:
Downhill Experts Share the World's
Greatest Destinations"*

Bill Berry Award, Hard News

Jane Wyckoff, Assistant Editor
& Writer, *"Far West Skier's Guide"*

Warren Miller

Modern Media Award

Red Bull Media House
"Lindsey Vonn: The Climb"

President's Award

William Shadbolt,
FWSA Treasurer

Door Prizes Convention 2015

- Bergans ♦ San Diego Tourism
Authority ♦ Euro Socks
- Chaos ♦ Holidaze Ski Tours
- Brundage Mountain Resort
- Copper Mountain
- Red Mountain Ski Resort
- Whitewater Ski Resort

2015 Program Award Recipients

Man and Woman of the Year

- David Felker, Los Angeles
Council of Ski Clubs
- Linda Westlund,
Arizona Ski Council

Western Ski Heritage Award

Mt. Hood Cultural Center
& Museum

Safety Person of the Year

Dr. Katherine Severin
Bay Area Snow Sports Council

Environment Award

- Catherine Ohl, Los Angeles /
San Diego Council of Ski Clubs
- Jennifer Nerad Sultan,
Los Angeles Council of Ski
Clubs

Charity & Community Awards

- Double Diamond 1st Club -
Skiyente, Northwest Ski Club
Council
- Diamond 1st Club - Pacific
Rim Alliance, Los Angeles /
San Diego Council of Ski Clubs
- Diamond 2nd Club -
4 Seasons West, Los Angeles
Council of Ski Clubs
- 1st Council - Bay Area Snow
Sports Council

2015 Silent Auction Participants Honorees

5 Year Award

Beaver Run Resort
Selkirk Lodge

10 Year Award

Snowmass Tourism

15 Year Award

Resorts of the Canadian Rockies

25 Year Award

Sunriver Resort

30 Year Award

Mt. Bachelor
Steamboat Ski & Resort
Corporation
Telluride Ski Resort

Hans Georg Award



Linda Westlund is presented with the Hans Georg Award by Gloria Raminha, the 2014 Hans Georg Award Recipient.
photos / Eric Van Pelt, Van Pelt Productions, Inc.

Elizabeth "Schatzi" Wood Award



Jo Simpson receives the Elizabeth "Schatzi" Wood Award from Debbie Stewart, who was the 2014 Award Winner.

Bill Berry Hard News Award



Jane Wyckoff, Assistant Editor and Writer, Far West Skier's Guide, receives the Bill Berry Hard News Award from FWSA President, Linda Scott.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Nancy Ellis, the Councils' Woman of the Year - 2014 is pictured with the 2015 Councils' Man and Woman of the Year honorees: Karyn Pfening and David Felker, Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs; Linda Westlund, Arizona Ski Council; Pete Olsten, Sierra League and Council; Jerry Stockley and Debbie Schroeder, San Diego Council of Ski Clubs; Betsy Pedley and Jess Gorman, Orange Council; Lynn Jervik from Big White Ski Resort - Sponsor of the program; Lloyd Musser and Mary Olhausen, NWSCC; and Michelle Nightengale and Mark Greenberg, Bay Area Snow Sports Council.

Councils' Man & Woman of the Year

by Gene Fulkerson
Councils' Man and Woman of the Year Chair, FWSA



photos / Eric Van Pelt, Van Pelt Productions, Inc.

Linda Westlund, Arizona Ski Council and David Felker, Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs - were named the 2015 FWSA Councils' Woman and Man of the Year:

The Far West Ski Association recognizes top volunteers from each council during the Councils' Man and Woman of the Year recognition program at the FWSA Annual Convention. Councils honor dedicated men and women who have made significant contributions to organized skiing within their club, council, community, race league and FWSA.

Since I was new at this job, I worked closely with the council presidents this past year in an effort to bring this recognition down to the grass roots level. The first thing we did was to rewrite some of the requirements before reassigning points that would stress leadership at the club and council levels. It was then agreed that the period of consideration would cover the last ten years of service. The council presidents have agreed to change this to five years of service for 2016.

Congratulations to this year's FWSA Councils' Man of the Year, David Felker of Los

Angeles Council of Ski Clubs and Councils' Woman of the Year, Linda Westlund, from Arizona Ski Council.

We appreciate Big White Ski Resort for its continuing support and sponsorship of the Councils' Man and Woman of the Year program since 2001. Our winners were awarded a 2016 ski vacation for two at Big White that includes five nights lodging, lift tickets and rentals.

Scoring and judging was handled electronically this year. Thank you, judges, for scoring the submissions prior to the Convention, spending all Saturday morning in the interview process and sharing your experiences with the new process.

Judges were Karen Bonine, Paul Vlasveld, Jennifer Deater, Linda Coxen, Penny Edlund, Rusty Etzel and George Stewart. Thank you George Kish and Arleigh Meiners for their help in tallying up the scores. ▲▲

Dave McCoy, founder of Mammoth Mountain turned 100 years young in 2015.

What was his secret of longevity?

"Life is what we make it as individuals," he said. "Everyone has a different life. But, longevity happens because you do something fun. I just wish I had a hundred more years. There's a hundred more things I want to do."

The Far West Ski Association and the Far West Skier's Guide congratulate Dave on his milestone achievement, wish him many more years to do the things he wants to do and thank him for all he has done in the development of Mammoth Mountain. Mammoth is a destination so dear to snowsport enthusiasts throughout the Far West and the world. We all can learn from his inspirational words! We, at the FWSA believe fun adds to our lives, too! Thank you! ▲▲



George Kish (center), recipient of the J. Stanley Mullin Award, with Bob Ellis (left) the 2013 Award Recipient and John James (right), the 1988 Award Recipient.
Convention photos / Eric Van Pelt, Van Pelt Productions, Inc.

Snowsports Leadership Academy Features Popular Topics

by Jane Gutierrez
 Vice President - Membership, FWSA

The Snowsports Leadership Academy, held during the 83rd Annual Convention in San Diego, was an overwhelming success! The Academy is an informational forum where experts in their field speak on a topic of interest related to the snowsports industry for convention visitors. These topics can be used in leaders' organizations or for personal enhancement. This year, the topics presented were by popular demand.



David Briery (center), was the recipient of the Jimmie Heuga Award, with Sallie Pritchard, founder of the California Handicapped Skier's Foundation and Center in Big Bear (now USARC) and Tom Pierce, Executive Director of USARC.



There's an App for that! Craig Broussard informed an enthusiastic audience about the benefits of using social media within their clubs.

We Have A Winner!

Convention delegates are encouraged to meet and speak with our industry partners. They each have a passport for the Travel Expo. A filled passport is placed into the drum for prizes. The First Prize is a trip to the Far West Ski Week for the following year. Patrick Rothe, from Telluride Mountain Resort - the site of the 2016 FWSA Ski Week - randomly selected the winning passport from the drum as FWSA President Linda Scott cheered him on. The lucky winner was Jim Patzold, San Diego Ski Club.





Jamic Hamlin shared his knowledge of Constant Contact and Meetup as they apply to clubs and increasing membership.

photo provided by Jane Gutierrez

Craig Broussard, who is a digital marketing, mobile marketing, and social media expert, spoke during the morning session “Improving Social Media Savvy”. Craig’s discussion focused on the use of Facebook, Yelp, Google, and the importance of having a mobile presence for your organization. Craig also volunteers as VP of Marketing for Four Season’s West Ski Club in Los Angeles.

Jamic Hamlin, who has become well versed in Constant Contact and Meetup, also spoke during this session. Jamic explained the basic start up process in using Constant Contact as a technological upgrade for group email and discussed the benefits of starting Meetup, a new online recruitment tool. Jamic volunteers as Vice President of Four Season’s West Ski Club in Los Angeles.



Mike Whitaker spoke about the latest ski equipment providing insight into selecting the correct gear based on individual need.

The afternoon session’s topic was “The Latest Technologies in Winter Equipment”. Mike Whitaker, a Bolle-Nordica roaming ambassador who has been involved in the ski industry for many years, gave a riveting talk on the newest curved skis on the market. Many of the skis he had on display appeared to be able to fly in space!

As Coordinator of the Academy, I truly appreciate and thank these gentlemen for the time involved in their preparation for this day and many people were quite enthused by their demonstrations! If you missed this year, be sure to be first in line for next year’s Snowsports Leadership Academy, which is not to be missed! ▲▲



The Public Affairs Panel consisted of Matthew Drake, Shawn Styles and Chuck Morse.

photos / Eric Van Pelt, Van Pelt Productions, Inc.

Climate Change & Sustainable Slope Topics Highlight Public Affairs Panels

by Steve Coxen

President, FWSA

The FWSA Public Affairs panel sessions were held Saturday morning and afternoon at the Far West Ski Association Convention in San Diego with Mike Sanford, VP of Public Affairs, as Moderator. The panels were very well attended this year due to the panel members and topics that were addressed.

Panel members were the following experts in issues related to snowsports:

■ Matthew Drake, Chairman and CEO of Mt. Hood Meadows Resort. Matthew is also a member of the National Ski Areas Association Board of Directors and the Pacific Northwest Ski Areas Association Board of Directors.

■ Shawn Styles, meteorologist and lifestyle reporter for CBS News 8 in San Diego. Shawn is a former ski racer and “extreme skier” who still loves to surf, ski, snowboard, fish, sail and play tennis, among other activities!

■ Chuck Morse, a recipient of the 2015 FWSA Snowsports Builder Award for his close to 50 years of outstanding service in the snowsports industry.

The session began with introductions and background recitals from each panel member. Lively and informative discussions were conducted on several topics important to the topic of Public Affairs.

■ Climate Change – Shawn Styles led the discussion on the effects of climate change on global weather patterns and the impact on natural snowfall at ski areas. Drought conditions exist in much of the U.S. which will impact the ski resorts that rely on snowmaking

equipment. Shawn believes the U.S. should exercise its global leadership role to influence world governments to adopt measures to reduce carbon emissions and other potential causes of global warming

■ Sustainable Slopes – Matthew Drake confirmed that unusual snow conditions pose a real challenge to many ski resorts. Matthew is a strong supporter of the “Sustainable Slopes Environmental Charter” of the National Ski Areas Association. In May, 2015 Mt. Hood Meadows was one of nine ski areas awarded the “Golden Eagle Award for Environmental Excellence”, the ski industry’s most prestigious award for recognizing ski area environmental programs and projects.

■ Ski Area Lift Ticket Waivers – Matthew led the discussion on legal issues involving the waiver on lift tickets. The Oregon Supreme Court ruled in 2014 that a skier paralyzed in a 2006 accident didn’t lose his right to sue the ski resort by signing a blanket liability waiver, required by the ski resort to obtain a season pass. The Supreme Court ruled such waivers “unconscionable”. The decision will have implications beyond Oregon’s ski resorts

■ Ski Area Employment – Concern was expressed about lift ticket prices with the movement in many areas to increase the minimum wage. Matthew explained that most, if not all, employees are paid at rates above the minimum wage.

The afternoon session adjourned early to “Charlie’s” so that panel participants could watch “American Pharoah” become the first horse since 1978 to win the Triple Crown. ▲▲



Dr. Katherine Severin of Bay Area Snow Sports Council, received the Safety Person of the Year Award. With her is Patrick Rothe, Telluride Ski Resort, Sponsor of the Award and Dr. Richard Lubin, FWSA Safety Chair.

Dr. Katherine Severin is the Winner of the Safety Person of the Year Award

by Mike Sanford

Vice President - Public Affairs, FWSA

Dr. Katherine Severin, Optometrist, designed the winning safety project. Her "NO UV" PowerPoint Presentation focused on educating skiers and snowboarders about the damage UV light can cause to the eye, and steps to take to prevent such damage. Katherine set the presentation to music and posted the video to YouTube.

She enlisted the help of a fellow racer who is a graphic artist to finalize her "NO UV" logo, which was imprinted on business cards and used on YouTube at the link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=OXNXqlH_5dc. Kat distributed the business cards to ski club members, ski area personnel (ski school instructors, lift operators), skiers, and at league races, especially to those not wearing goggles or sunglasses.

Kat created a "NO UV" banner for her education table. She painted a Styrofoam head with UV activated paint for the eyes and was able to determine if current goggles or sunglasses provided sufficient protection. Glasses were mounted on the head and the head's eyes glowed in the dark if dangerous UV light transmitted through the lenses.

She was a guest lecturer at the Bay Area Council meeting and her local Rusty Bindings Club's "Racy Affair" awards ceremony following Mammoth races. Her video link was distributed to all 200+ club members by email blast, and to FWSA board members for distribution to their clubs. The link has been posted on the National Ski Council Federation and National Ski Areas Association websites. She intends to continue to educate the public about the importance of UV protection.

The FWSA believes that safety is an important component in snowsports. We recognize that the ski resorts do an extraordinary job of minimizing hazards. Ultimately, safety is based on individual responsibility and behavior. Telluride Ski Resort and Mountain House are the new sponsors for the FWSA Safety Person of the Year Program. Dr. Severin will receive a 5-night ski package for two with lodging, and 4 days of lift tickets and rentals.

Clubs and councils are encouraged to nominate individuals who have contributed to snow safety. Details may be found on the www.fwsa.org website.

Co-Winners for the First Environment Person of the Year Award

by Mike Sanford

Vice President - Public Affairs, FWSA

In the first year for the Environment Person of the Year Award, there were co-winners, both highly worthy for their outstanding programs and work for the environment. Aspen/Snowmass is the sponsor of the Environment Person of the Year Award.

Catherine Ohl collected information and data about climate change and created a Facebook site - Catherine's Green Book - located at <https://www.facebook.com/catsgreenbook>. Catherine researched and wrote regular articles on climate change and sustainability for her club's newsletter. She posts and shares interesting news about climate change, environmental issues and what can be done about it. She created seven beautiful 11" x 17" posters for distribution at home shows, as well as to local businesses.

Catherine joined Protect Our Winters (POW), Save Our Snow (SOS), Greenpeace and other Environmental groups to keep up with environmental websites and Facebook pages. She actively wrote letters to members of her state's legislators to influence their votes on pending legislation having an impact on the environment.

In addition, she personally decreased her household personal carbon footprint by taking actions at home to reduce utility use and incorporated a more stringent recycling program. Actions included replacing a gas guzzler SUV with a more efficient 4-cylinder vehicle, removing grass from her home lawn, and reduced use of paper towels and plastic one-use bottles.

Jennifer Nerad Sultan focused her environmental advocacy on three organizational levels: municipal, city and grass roots. She spoke at the Los Angeles City Council Meeting at a critical time when the City Council was voting on whether to continue sending trash within the municipality of the San Fernando Valley Sunshine Canyon Landfill or to ship it almost 100 miles to another landfill. The more distant hauling would cost millions, the operator would increase their charges, and more pollution would result from hauling the trash further away. The City Council ultimately chose to continue with the closer landfill.



Catherine Ohl of Los Angeles & San Diego Councils and Jennifer Nehrad Sultan, Los Angeles Council, are the first recipients of the new FWSA Environment Award. With the winners is Mary Manning of Aspen/Snowmass, Sponsor of the Award.

She became a Master Recycler with the City of Burbank by taking monthly classes for a year. During the program, she was able to contribute to the City's recycling map, help develop standards, and share new recycling program outreach ideas for the city. Jennifer served on a committee to create a city-wide restaurant recycling program, and volunteered at the first-ever City Recycle Booth held in conjunction with Burbank's Earth Day celebration.

For her grass roots work, Jennifer taught

a recycling program to the Parent and Me Program at her son's preschool, brought recycling bins to the Spring Carnival and organized a tour at the Burbank Recycle Center.

Catherine and Jennifer will both receive a trip for two package to Aspen/Snowmass which includes lodging and lift tickets. The Far West Ski Association extends its appreciation to Aspen/Snowmass for supporting a recognition program raising interest and awareness of the importance of protecting our environment.



Keynote Speaker Stacey Cook gave an inspirational presentation at the FWSA Convention regarding the realities of life on the US Ski Team. The US speed team member and Olympian joined the Mammoth Mountain racing program because she wanted to try downhill. She was a member of the first-ever historic U.S. podium sweep in the Lake Louise downhill at the 2015 season opening, with Lindsey Vonn (1st), Stacey Cook (2nd) and Julia Mancuso (3rd).

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Lloyd Musser - pictured right - has been instrumental in the development of the 9,000 square foot Mt. Hood Museum and Cultural Center (MHMCC) located in Government Camp, Oregon. It contains numerous historic items, photographs and videos related to both summer and winter activities on Mt. Hood. photos provided by John Watson

Lloyd Musser Receives 2015 Western Ski Heritage Award

by John Watson
History Chair, FWSA



The FWSA Western Ski Heritage Prize by Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation was awarded to Lloyd Musser for his dedication to bringing the Mt. Hood Museum and Cultural Center (MHMCC) into being and operational. Lloyd crafted the museum collection, as well as, the care policy and practices utilized in preservation of the archives and artifacts. The Mt. Hood Museum and Cultural Center is housed in a 9,000 square foot building located in Government Camp, the highest village on Mount Hood.

Lloyd retired in 1997 from the U.S. Forest Service after a 36-year career. His retirement years have been consumed by his duties as curator of this regional museum. The museum is dedicated to preserving and sharing the history of the Mount Hood area, with a special emphasis on winter sports. The Museum collection consists of objects, archives, photographs and books, which are curated and stored according to accepted museum standards. Six major galleries house permanent and temporary exhibits.

The files of outdoor recreation clubs is a rich source of history related to Mount Hood.

The files of most clubs are usually kept by one of the club members and are often shuffled around from place to place. Often old club files get left in someone's garage or attic. These files contain items of historical interest such as membership rosters, meeting minutes, race results, promotional material and even photographs. Realizing these files were in danger of being lost, the museum offers a safe archive storage option to clubs. Much like bank safe deposit box programs, clubs rent storage space for their historic files.

During each ski race season, the museum hosts PACRAT après ski parties. PACRAT is the Northwest Ski Club Council's ski racing program. It is often the only time ski racers get to visit the museum. Mount Hood also has the largest high school race program in the nation. The program involves 30 high schools and approximately 600 students. The museum allows high school teams to hold team parties in the museum free of charge. The museum also allows the race officials to use the museum for race registration and other race related meetings, also free of charge.

The museum collection has grown rap-

idly starting with the Darr-Zacher family collection of over 4,000 items related to skiing and climbing on Mount Hood. The collection at this time contains over 250 pairs of skis dating from 1920-2000, all used on Mount Hood; 200 pairs of boots showing the evolution of materials and design; and a large collection of ski clothing, including many items made in Oregon by Jantzen, White Stag, and Columbia Sportswear and Pendleton Woolen Mills. The collection also includes uniforms and accessories used by Oregonians that participated in the Winter Olympic Games over the years.

The museum's photographic collection includes over 2,500 photographs, a large portion of which is skiing related. The Darr-Zacher family collection includes a large number of photographs taken by press photographers that visited Mount Hood. The museum collects, restores and converts 8 mm and 16 mm film to digital. The oldest movie in the collection is a 1927 film of the Oregon City Ski Club on an outing to the Village of Government Camp. The movie documents skiing as practiced before ski lifts and safety bindings. For more info, go to: www.mthoodmuseum.org/.



The Western Ski Heritage Award was presented to the Mount Hood Cultural Center and Museum. LEFT TO RIGHT: Larry Young, Steamboat Ski Resort, Sponsor; Linda Scott, FWSA President; Sheri Parshall, Skiyente Ski Club, NWSCC; Alyssa Cartmill, Steamboat Ski Resort; and Lloyd Musser, Museum Curator.
Convention photos / Eric Van Pelt, Van Pelt Productions, Inc.

This picture of Kayleigh racing was the image used on the back of the FWRA Championship TShirt. She will be continuing her race training as part of her college curriculum.



Kayleigh MacGregor is a recipient of the FWSA's Athletic Scholarship program and is sponsored by the Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs. Kayleigh was featured on the back of the Tshirts for the Far West Racing Association Championships. The TShirt picture was taken by Susan Morning, as part of the Sharpshooter Image Program at Mammoth Mountain Ski Area. Kayleigh attended the Far West Ski Association Convention in San Diego, and was a guest speaker at the Luncheon. Pictured with Kayleigh is David Krupp, Athletic Scholarship Committee Chair, FWSA.



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Above: Ray, Ed and Tom Hensley pose in front of their Piston Bully Grooming machine at Kratka Ridge in 1992.

Left: Mary Hensley - second from left - is pictured with several members of the Kratka Ridge Junior Racers.

photos provided by John Watson

THE HENSLEY FAMILY Ski Area Operators - Kratka Ridge, California

by John Watson
History Chair, FWSA

There is a history in the Southern California Mountains of the indomitable spirit, determination and hard work of a skiing family – the Hensleys – that sustained the Kratka Ridge ski area for over 33 years from 1960 onward. Kratka Ridge is one of two ski areas that lie on the Angeles Crest Highway, the other being historic Mt Waterman, that are roughly 35 miles from the greatest concentration of skiers and outdoor sports people in the USA – the Los Angeles metropolitan area. Kratka lies at 7500 feet with a vertical of 750 feet with 13 runs on 85 acres. It seemed the possibilities were enormous in 1960.

With a USFS permit in 1948, the Kratka Ridge ski area was founded in 1950 by 11 members of the San Geronio Ski Club, each of whom donated 700 hours of labor to erect a day lodge and install four rope tows. They opened in 1951 and decided in 1953 to install a chairlift, a single chair capable of 600 skiers per hour and one of only three in the USA even today (it's still there). In 1960, they hired the late Ed Hensley as mountain manager. The Hensleys moved on site. Thus began over three decades of direct participation in the ownership or management of Kratka Ridge by the Hensley family.

Kratka Ridge had a great run of success

in those early years, with Ed doing the operations work at the lifts, Ray working at night grooming, blasting, repairing and replacing equipment and Mary and children doing food service, ticket sales and whatever else. By the mid-1970s, Kratka had its unique single chair and six rope tows. Times could be good even without snow making. Those were the early days when skiers would make coffee and cocoa in the morning, prepare meals for the ski team of up to fifty racers, and then sleep – all eight – in the day lodge only to do it again the next day. For part of two seasons, this included Doug Pfeiffer as head of the ski school. Nights were spent listening to the accordion of Fred Burri, the yodeler for Disneyland's Matterhorn ride. These were the idyllic days of skiing at Kratka Ridge.

The Hensley family invested over 33 years making Kratka Ridge work. Most of those years they were successful, but they had to endure the vagaries of snowfall in Southern California (hard enough without any further difficulties), environmentalist persuasion of the USFS, wrangling over permits, changes of ownership, avalanche and fire. It is a measure of skier determination and the true grit of the Hensleys that kept Kratka Ridge alive, sometimes flourishing, for over 33 years.

CHUCK MORSE Site Surveyor - Patroller - Organizer

by Jane Wyckoff
Trustee, FWSA



Chuck Morse is an integral part of the fabric of snowsports. You won't have to dig deep to find a report or document or set of results that has Chuck's name on it. photo / Eric Van Pelt, Van Pelt Productions, Inc.

Chuck Morse is an integral part of the fabric of snowsports, with nearly 50 years experience in ski area development and management, marketing and promotion, association management, and civic action. Chuck has produced an extraordinary body of work for snowsports programs and organizations at every level from local to international.

His contributions to Public Affairs and Area Development programs in the Far West are wide ranging, historic and of lasting significance to the development and expansion of ski areas in the west. Some of the highlights include: directed the Mammoth Mountain Ski Study Group for the expansion of Mammoth Mountain; coordinated the Area Development Projects for Mineral King, Sherwin Bowl, June Mountain, and Peppermint Mountain; and he planned and directed Ski Site Survey Teams, using helicopters into the western side of the Sierra Nevada.

Chuck was the first full time Recreational Services Director hired by a division of the United States Ski Association (USSA). This was recognition of the portfolio of recreational programs conducted by FWSA, the national leader in such programs. Notable accomplishments include the first FWSA Learn to Ski and Race Week, now known as Far West

SNOWSPORTS BUILDER AWARDS 2015

Ski Week; developed the “Ski the Sierras” and “Ski America First”; co-created the “Mogul Mike Ski Sense and Safety” program for the National Ski Areas Association; and supported as local host organization, the 1975 FIS Congress in San Francisco. He co-authored the National Rules for USSA and Professional Freestyle Skiing in America; established the first United States Ski Coaches Association Certification Program in Squaw Valley, developed the U.S. Ski Explorer Winter Olympics in Squaw Valley and the First Senior Olympics of Skiing in California.

In sanctioned racing, Chuck hosted the 1970 North America Junior Alpine Championships at Mammoth Mountain. In other disciplines, he developed the Historical Donner Trail Tours for Cross Country Ski Touring for the California Historical Society, was chairman of the first International Freestyle Skiers Association, and established the BSA Biathlon Competition for Junior Olympics.

A member of the National Ski Patrol System (NSPS), Chuck served as Ski Patrol Leader at Snow Valley, California and Regional Director, Far West Ski Patrol. For his outstanding contributions to the NSPS he was named an Outstanding Ski Patrolman in the Far West Division. Certifications include: Avalanche Instructor; Blind Skier's Guide Instructor; USSCA, Class II; Professional Ski Instructors of America; FWSA/USSA Technical Delegate, Chief of Course and Race Jury; and Course Setter. His organizational memberships include: Sierra Ski Areas Association, National Ski Areas Association, Ski Writers of Southern California, and he was formerly Vice-President of the Ski Area Operators of Southern California.

In the snowsports industry, Chuck's marketing managerial experience includes Vail Associates, Tahoe Donner Ski Resort, Mountain High Ski Area, and Snowbird Ski Resort. He is the principal owner of the “Slalom on Campus Learn to Ski Program” (teaching over 20,000 high school students to ski) as well as World Event Coordinators and Global Sports Marketing.

Chuck's ethic is SERVICE BEFORE SELF. He always viewed his role as a contributor rather than a director. He never forgot, and doesn't forget to this day, the overarching objectives of the Association – service to the public, and service to snowsports.

(Editorial contributions by John Watson, History Committee Chair, FWSA).

The FWSA Snowsport Builder Awards are given to individuals 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, or technology:



Art Clay and Ben Finley, shown in a recent photograph, are the founders of NBS. They brought diversity to snowsports by introducing tens of thousands of children of color annually to snowsports. photo provided by Jane Gutierrez

ART CLAY & BEN FINLEY Founders - National Brotherhood of Skiers

by Catherine Ohl, Awards Chair, FWSA &
Jane Gutierrez, VP Membership, FWSA

At a time when African Americans on the ski slopes were a rarity and black ski clubs were an exception, Ben Finley and Art Clay nevertheless pressed onward toward their vision to create a national Black Summit. The two founders met in 1972, when Finley was the President of the Four Seasons West Ski Club of Los Angeles and Clay was Trip Director of the Sno-Gophers Ski Club of Chicago. They moved forward with a proposal to bring together 13 black ski clubs for an event that was called “A Happening,” but was later changed to “Black Summit.”

The Black Summit came together at the summit of Aspen's Ajax Mountain. The purpose was “to identify and discuss problems and subjects which were unique to the black skiing population, to ski and to socialize,” according to Finley. The historic gathering took place in 1973 and was attended by more than 350 skiers.

The National Brotherhood of Skiers was chartered in 1974 and incorporated as a non-profit organization in Illinois in 1975. It received a public benefit designation in 1978 from the IRS.

The mission of the National Brotherhood

of Skiers is to “identify, develop and support athletes of color who will WIN International and Olympic winter sports competition representing the United States and to increase participation in winter sports.” It is through the local chapters, that the NBS provides education and opportunities to increase participation in the sport.

Today, the organization has grown to 60 clubs representing 43 cities and a membership of 3,000. The NBS is recognized by the ski industry as one of the largest ski organizations and its Summit as the largest gathering of skiers and riders, more than any other ski convention in the United States.

The 50-year existence of the NBS is in itself sufficient to merit the designation of Snowsport Builder for the men who made it happen. Ben Finley and Art Clay created the momentum through the Black Summits for organization of a grass roots club network aimed not only at Olympian aspirations but also to introduce tens of thousands of children of color annually to snowsports. Ben Finley and Art Clay brought diversity to snowsports and they continue to bring a passion of the sport to black skiers and youth across the USA. ▲▲



LEFT: J Davis, Glenn Green, PJ Sallaway, Steve Lefkowitz, and Kenny Chan assist bi-skier, Rose Mercer (center) through the Adaptive Ski Program at Mammoth Mountain. RIGHT: Amanda Arsenault and student Gordon Cardona in bi-ski with PJ Sallaway and Erin Hayden stop for a moment during a lesson at Mammoth Mountain. Both Rose and Gordon are members of Unrecables Ski Club - Los Angeles, California.
photos provided by Sigrid Noack unless indicated otherwise

FWSA Ski Clubs & Councils Continue Generous Donations

by Sigrid Noack

Charities & Our Community Chair, FWSA

The Far West Ski Association and its nine participating ski councils are committed to supporting charitable giving and volunteerism. Through donations and volunteer services of our individual members in clubs and councils, we hope to enhance the quality of life within our communities. Most of our clubs and councils are involved with charitable activities, doing some amazing work for those who are less fortunate. FWSA is working towards having every club in each council be involved with at least one charity. This is quite an ambitious effort, since there are more than 150 ski clubs within the FWSA family.

At the FWSA Convention this year, Skiyente Ski Club of Northwest Ski Club Council was again recognized for their most outstanding Charity & Community Service in the new Masters category of ski clubs. The Masters category is for those clubs who have won this recognition in previous years. The club received the "FWSA Charity & Community Service Recognition Award", which is a \$200 FWSA check, that they donated to the Far West Ski Foundation.

Skiyente is an all-women's group with only about 75 members. The ladies focus mainly on supporting local women related issues and on their mountain community. They seem to be into charity work and community support as much as they are into skiing! What a wonderful group of generous and selfless ladies! The club supports many causes, such as the

Oregon Cancer Ski Out, Ski to Defeat ALS, the Mt. Hood Cultural Museum and US Women's Ski Jumping. Congratulations Skiyente Ski Club! Keep up the wonderful charity work!

The winning ski club in the new Novice category this year was Pacific Rim Alliance of Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs and San Diego Council of Ski Clubs. This club has been actively supporting Can Do MS for many years. Members participated in the Vertical Express for MS in Squaw Valley, which consisted of a two hour poker run on the mountain followed by a dual slalom race. Participants collected pledges to support this wonderful cause. This was the fourteenth year for Pac Rim's Wine Maker Dinner for MS. The club has raised a total of \$35,000 for Can Do MS, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of people with multiple sclerosis through educational and wellness programs and ongoing research. The Wine Maker Dinner, prepared by an executive chef, consisted of seven courses with seven different wines. This is a phenomenal annual event. Members also participated in this year's new Ski & Ride for a Cure "Vertical Tracking Challenge" for Hope on the Slopes. This is a nationwide season-long vertical tracking competition, where a Trace Snow app tracks your vertical feet at Ski & Ride resorts around the world. Funds raised support the research, education, and services funded

by the American Cancer Society. President Catherine Ohl this year also led Pac Rim at Oceanside's Beach Cleanup. It's hard to believe that over 350 pounds of trash was collected. It was four hours of back breaking work since mostly cigarette butts were picked up. Ocean trash is a serious pollution problem that affects the health of people, wildlife and local economies. Pac Rim joined the world's largest volunteer effort for our ocean and waterways by participating in this International Coastal Cleanup. Congratulations Pac Rim Alliance for all the wonderful work you do!

The 4 Seasons West Ski Club of Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs was also recognized for their devotion to supporting charitable organizations. Selected as this year's runner-up in the Novice ski club division, they organized some very worthwhile charitable events: The Revlon Run/Walk for Breast Cancer, the Relay for Life for the American Cancer Society, the summer night jazz series, sponsored by the Parkside Economic Development Corporation, the Toiletry Gift wrapping for the Jenesse Center, which is a domestic violence intervention program for women and their families, the UCLA Black Alumni event at Mammoth for scholarships to assist African American youth for college, and the A-man, Inc. to promote science, technology, engineering and math by tutoring young minority males from pre-Kindergarten through high school. The



TOP: Charities & Our Community chair Sigrid Noack presents first place Masters ski club division recognition to Skiyente Ski Club member Sheri Parshall. **MID:** The winner of the new Novice category was Pacific Rim Alliance Ski Club. Catherine and Gene Fulkerson accepted the check. The runner-up in this category was 4 Seasons West Ski Club of Los Angeles. Jane Gutierrez, President, stands by their entry. **LOWER:** Bay Area Snow Sports Council was this year's winner in the Ski Club Council FWSA Charity & Community Service Recognition Program. **PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT:** Dennis Heffley, Past President of BAC; Sigrid Noack, Committee Chair; and Paul Vlasveld, current BAC President.

club has also been partnering with businesses, working with the National Brotherhood of Skiers, to support their annual Winter Carnival raising funds to identify and train African American youth to become Olympic caliber snowsports athletes. What an amazing group, supporting so many wonderful charities under the guidance of President Jane Gutierrez. The club donated their \$50 FWSA check to their favorite charity, Jenesse Center, Inc.

Congratulations to Bay Area Snow Sports Council, this year's winner in the Ski Club Council "FWSA Charity & Community Service Recognition". As the winning Council, BAC received a \$100 FWSA check, which they donated to their favorite charitable organization, Disabled Sports USA-Far West. Long-time president, Dennis Heffley, has been the force behind this council's devotion to support DSUSA-Far West.

This year, BAC organized their 9th Annual BAC Tailgate BBQ/Oakland A's Baseball Game Fireworks Show supported by Vail Resorts. The work begins by first reviewing the event immediately after it was completed the year before. As soon as the Oakland A's contact the council with group ticket information for the next year, they make their game reservation. BAC reserves discounted game tickets, then adds \$2.00 to the cost for DSUSA-FW and club members still get a discount below face value for the game tickets. In January, BAC sends out save the date fliers to all clubs, ticket sales for both the game and tailgate BBQ begin in March, and a large event poster is made. Clubs are encouraged to reserve a "block of seats" for their members so everyone can sit together. The council provides two complimentary tickets to both the game and tailgate BBQ for DSUSA representatives for their corporate supporter, Vail Resorts. Vail provides raffle prizes, which encourages more participation in this fun event. Combined between the ticket sales for the baseball game, tailgate BBQ and raffle, BAC raised \$1,200 for Disabled Sports USA Far West Division. The council had 200 people at the event and all had an amazing experience! Congratulations to all those devoted members in BAC! What an amazing ski council! Keep up that wonderful charity work!

At the FWSA Convention in San Diego, these winning clubs and council displayed very impressive picture boards, showing their involvement with charitable community activities. Industry representatives and ski club delegates expressed their amazement at the variety and the extent of volunteerism and charity support within our FWSA family. A great big THANK YOU and CONGRATULA-

TIONS to all of these wonderful caring members of FWSA!

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

Another FWSA favorite organization is Disabled Sports USA, whose mission is to provide national leadership and opportunities for individuals with disabilities to develop independence, confidence, and fitness through participation in community sports, recreation and educational programs. The program offers over 40 different sports including alpine and nordic skiing, snowboarding, biathlon, kayaking, water skiing, sailing, scuba, surfing, rafting, outrigger canoeing, fishing, hiking, golf, athletics, archery, cycling, running/wheeling, rock climbing, equestrian and others. To become involved and learn much more about DS/USA go to <http://dsusa.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. To help the most people, Can Do MS takes its programs to cities around the country, taking participants on a profound exploration of their unique condition and empowering them with a whole person, whole health and whole community approach to living fully with MS. Check out the wonderful Can Do MS programs at <http://www.msccando.org>.

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

Arizona Is Awesome!

FWSA Convention In Scottsdale, Arizona

June 9 - 12, 2016

by Linda Westlund
Host Council Convention Coordinator, FWSA



Relax and rejuvenate in one of two crystalline pools at the DoubleTree Resort by Hilton. Have a poolside beverage and enjoy the Arizona sun.

photos courtesy of the DoubleTree Resort by Hilton Paradise Valley-Scottsdale



The Resort offers the Palm Café for sandwiches, snacks, plus Starbucks coffee and En Fuego for award-winning dining on contemporary regional cuisine. Both offer indoor and patio seating.

The place to be in June of 2016 is Scottsdale, Arizona, for Far West Ski Association's Annual Convention at the beautiful DoubleTree Resort by Hilton Paradise Valley - Scottsdale. The resort is an AAA Four Diamond property located only minutes from downtown Scottsdale and 12 miles from the Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX). Arizona Ski Council and its members are excited to be hosting FWSA's 84th Annual Convention, June 9-12, 2016.

The DoubleTree Resort, a beautifully landscaped property, with lavish courtyards, cactus and tropical palm trees, offers a wide range of amenities. Each spacious guest room at this Paradise Valley resort offers impressive views from your private balcony or patio. Swim laps in one of the outdoor pools, work out in the health club or enjoy a game of tennis. The complimentary shuttle provides easy access to Old Town Scottsdale for great dining, nightlife and shopping. Onsite dining venues include the casual Palm Café, and the flagship En Fuego Restaurant, combining excellent service with contemporary regional cuisine.

Phoenix Airport is serviced by all major airlines. Rental cars and shuttle services are available at the airport. For room reservations call **1-800-498-7396** and be sure to reference our group name - Far West Ski Association. You can also book on-line at the FWSA room reservation site <http://bit.ly/FWSA-2016-Lodging>. The Group Code is FWS. For rates and complete details on room accommodations, visit www.fwsa.org and select Conventions. The website for the DoubleTree Resort is www.paradisivalley.doubletree.com.

The FWSA Convention offers fun with ski club friends and our supportive ski industry partners, along with opportunities to inves-

tigate and plan trips for next season, hear from special guest speakers from the snowsports world, and participate in leadership sessions. For those who are ready for a full weekend full of fun, you are invited to join us as a convention delegate. Lodging at the DoubleTree is offered at an attractive rate, and the delegate registration fee includes the Silent Auction and Trade Show and social events on Friday, all the educational panels and sessions, meals and events on Saturday, and a Sunday program with an enjoyable brunch.

On Friday, June 10, the DoubleTree Resort Convention Center will be the location for the wonderful FWSA Silent Auction. This event is open to the public. Ski industry and resort representatives from North America as well as international destinations, and local Arizona attractions and sporting goods companies, will be present to share information about their snowsports and other outdoor activities, properties and products. The Silent Auction offers delegates and guests the opportunity to bid on ski, sport and adventure packages, and sports equipment. Great deals can be found! There is no admission fee, and a complimentary beverage is offered to attendees. Plan to join us, and bring your friends!



The 10th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament will be held on the Palm Course at the beautiful McCormick Ranch Golf Club. The greens, sand traps and bridges on the Palm Course have recently been renovated.

photo courtesy of the McCormick Ranch Golf Course

An Old Town Scottsdale tour via Segway is being planned on Thursday morning for early arrivers. The always popular Pub Crawl is planned for Thursday evening, and we will travel in air conditioned motor coaches to stay cool as we visit historic watering holes and trendy venues.

The 10th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, June 10, at McCormick Ranch Golf Club. Known for hosting the Arizona Amateur Stroke Play Championship, the Golf for Women National Club Championship, the Arizona Open Professional Golf Tournament, and the National Junior College Golf Championship, its courses were designed by renowned golf course architect Desmond Muirhead. We'll beat the heat with a 7am shot gun start on the Palm Course. As its name suggests, the Palm Course showcases many large palm trees, and the ninth hole was chosen by *Golf Illustrated* as "One of the USA's top 18 water holes". The very popular Palm has recently been renovated with outstanding new greens, sand traps and bridges. Each hole will be sponsored by ski clubs and supporting businesses, and the FWSA "fun patrol" will be on hand to entertain golfers.

Other activities will be offered on Friday for those that don't plan to hit the links. We'll be visiting the Musical Instrument Museum, with a private guided tour offering an overview of the world's music, focusing on cultures in each geographical region. You will also have time to visit the galleries more extensively at your own pace after the tour. Guideposts (wireless headsets) and high-resolution video screens allow guests to see, hear, and observe the instruments, with every country in the world represented. Also look for an on water activity, perhaps kayaking the Upper Salt River, the perfect way to cool off while exploring Arizona's desert. Spend a relaxing morning paddling along lush green riverbanks

and towering red cliffs, while keeping alert for sightings of wild horses and bald eagles. Known as the "Valley of the Sun", the Phoenix metropolitan area is home to several world class spas, and we will be offering a Spa Day for pampering and relaxation.

A Friday afternoon pool party will be held at one of the resort's pools, surrounded by lavish courtyards, cactus and tropical palm trees. Hosted by Central Council of California, this get together is always a great opportunity to relax and compare notes about the day's events, while visiting with ski club delegates and industry representatives. This will be followed by a Ski Club Happy Hour preceding the Silent Auction.

After a Friday evening of fun, and potentially acquiring a great value ski package at the Silent Auction, Saturday morning starts with a continental breakfast and a brief opening session. Next on the agenda is the Travel Expo, where approximately 100 resort representatives and tour operators will be available

for personal meetings to discuss planning your group's next ski or adventure trip. Public Affairs panels will be offered in the morning and afternoon, and Snowsports Leadership Academy sessions will feature leadership and club educational topics. Following the luncheon will be a snowsports celebrity as our keynote speaker.

Saturday evening will be an amazing evening, enjoying dinner and dancing with FWSA friends and industry partners. A brief service awards and recognition program will honor volunteers and industry partners. Sunday's agenda is FWSA's annual business meeting with election of officers, by-laws and resolutions. The Outstanding Club & Council Awards, Club and Council Communication Awards, Charities Awards and Club History Award will be presented during the brunch.

General information is available immediately at www.fwsa.org, and detailed information and registration materials will be posted in early 2016. All skiers, snowboarders and snowsports enthusiasts are invited to join us in Scottsdale, Arizona to celebrate our passion.

For additional information, contact *Linda Westlund*, Host Council Convention Coordinator, at hostconvention2016@fwsa.org. For information regarding room reservations or registration, contact *Jane Wyckoff*, FWSA Convention Chair at conventionchair@fwsa.org. For opportunities to promote their properties, services and products to our club members in 12 western states, ski industry representatives, tour operators, all season resorts, and Arizona businesses are encouraged to contact *Debbi Kor*, FWSA VP of Marketing and Sponsorships at fwsadebhi@comcast.net, or *Jeannine Davis*, Silent Auction Chair at silentauction@fwsa.org. ▲▲



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The FWSA 85th Annual Convention will be held at The Grove Hotel and the adjacent Boise Centre. The hotel is in the process of a major renovation which will be completed soon. photos courtesy of The Grove Hotel

Boise Is... *Active. Exciting. Relaxing. Cultural.* **June 8 - 11, 2017**

by Michael Bouton

Host Council Convention Coordinator, FWSA

History will be made at the 85th Annual FWSA Convention. This will be the first time the Association will hold its Convention in Idaho! Be a part of it!



Come early. Stay later. Participate in the numerous activities that are offered in the Boise area. Raft on calm waters or challenge yourself on a faster river. Bike or hike. There are plenty of trails. Bring your clubs to hit some balls on our scenic golf courses. Experience the outdoors the Idaho way! Mark you calendars now! You will not want to miss this one!

photos courtesy of the Boise Convention & Visitors Bureau

The Far West Ski Association will be conducting its Annual Convention in Boise, Idaho for the first time in the history of the Association. The 85th Convention will be held June 8-11, 2017. The Bogus Basin Ski Club, which will be celebrating its 80th Anniversary, along with the Intermountain Ski Council, will be your hosts.

The theme of the convention: Boise Is. . . Boise is active, exciting, relaxing and cultural. Planning has been ongoing for almost two years, already. Bogus Basin Ski Club and ISC are working closely with the Boise Convention & Visitors Bureau and local community groups to provide free and low-cost events and activities.

Accommodations will be at the landmark Grove Hotel, located just 10 minutes from Boise International Airport (BOI) in the heart of dynamic downtown Boise. All meetings and events will be conducted at the state-of-the-art Boise Centre adjacent to the hotel. With a front-row view of the Boise National Forest and the pristine Boise River, it is only a two block walk to the Boise Greenbelt walking path that follows the river through the city, and within walking distance of restaurants, coffee bars, cinemas, museums and shopping.

We will have plenty of activities that will keep all delegates, industry partners and guests busy and having fun, such as bicycle riding along the Boise River with a tour of Albertson Stadium and a "Walk on the Blue Turf". The ride will include eagle watching and stop at the MK Nature Center with a guided tour.

The traditional pool party will be replaced with a "Fountain Party" with beer and wine tasting. This will take place on the Grove Plaza right in front of the Boise Center on the Grove before the Friday night's Silent Auction. The community is invited to this event, so it will be a grand time with food and music.

We have plans to get you to Boise early and keep you late into the week with outward bound excursions to McCall and Stanley. The Payette River will be running full so many will want to experience it, or the famous Salmon River (River of No Return.)

This will be the convention not to be missed. Fun and excitement will be available from the time you are greeted at the Boise Airport until you leave with the biggest smiles you've ever had. Many surprises await as you discover what Idaho is all about. Additional information can be found at www.grovehotel-boise.com and www.boisecentre.com. ▲▲



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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 baggage rules, discounts for season passes, news about ski country direct airline routes and tendencies of areas to develop along the lines of European ski village environment are of interest to our membership and to *Far West Skier's Guide* readership and online viewers. We also better educate our members in areas such as the impact of changing demographics and the need for increased diversity, snowsports industry efforts like ski area growth, regulatory efforts to modernize state ski laws, expanding snowmaking capabilities, development of e-commerce in the industry, resort developments, consumer tendencies, the Forest Service's involvement in area development and the need to meet visitors' various needs based on demographics such as age, capabilities, interests and other needs.

The width and breath of the FWSA's Public Affairs program is significant and FWSA is committed to doing all we can in communicating issues, educating our membership and reaching out to the general public on a huge range of issues and interests that might be included under the large umbrella of topics that could be considered "public affairs". Some of the issues we focus on are area development, consumer advocacy, safety, transportation, history and equipment and clothing manufacturing.

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 with membership and partners and educating membership on the wide and interesting variety of Public Affairs topics.

We strongly encourage all skiers and boarders to get involved in issues that might affect them either directly or even indirectly by keeping abreast of industry news, government activities, area developments, legislation, public meetings, consumer advocacy and trends, safety issues and product developments and introductions. To keep abreast of issues and stay informed about relevant news, visit www.fwsa.org.



August to December 2014 snowsports sales have reached \$2.3 billion. Some segments of the market have increased, while others have decreased. photo / Ken Callkins

2014-15 SnowSports Mid-Season Market Intelligence Report

SnowSports Industries America (SIA) released the 2014/2015 *SnowSports Mid-Season Market Intelligence Report* recently, exploring sales and trends in the snowsports market ending last December. This report is designed to serve as a tool during the season while participants still have skiing and riding on their minds. The *Mid-Season Intelligence Report* offers detailed data and statistics on equipment, apparel and accessory sales, updates on this season's weather patterns and today's participation trends with a look back at how things have changed and remained the same, over the past twenty years.



Sample Report Highlights Include:

- August - December 2014 snowsports sales have reached \$2.3 billion.
- Alpine equipment sold \$334 million, down 4% in dollars and 5% in units.
- Snowboard equipment sold \$165 million, down 3% in dollars and 5% in units.
- Skiers and riders have spent \$36 million on insulated bottoms (up 12% dollars/up 8% units), \$39 million on shell tops (up 13% dollars/up 20% units) and \$90 million on base layer (up 3% dollars/up 1% units).
- Backcountry participation is up 25%, with 6.3 million skiers and riders claiming they have explored backcountry terrain.
- The top three reasons people say they haven't tried skiing or riding are: "no resorts nearby," "too expensive" and "not sure how to start."

The 2014/2015 *Mid-Season Intelligence Report* covers a variety of retail channels including snowsports specialty, chain and the Internet. The easy-to-follow analysis also features sections for alpine, snowboard, cross country, backcountry, apparel and accessories.

The 2014/2015 *Mid-Season SIA SnowSports Market Intelligence Report* is available at no cost to SIA Members, \$425 to non-members and \$50 to students. The full *SnowSports Market Intelligence Report* covering the entire 2014/2015 season will be available in September. Stay tuned.

2015 SIA SnowSports Fact Sheet

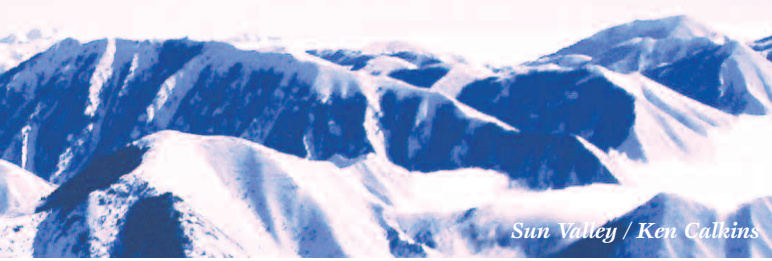
These are statistics from SnowSports Industries America (SIA) and other sources. If you need more information than is provided in this basic version, the *SIA SnowSports Market Intelligence Report* is the source. The *SnowSports Market Intelligence Report* is a more detailed report that paints a great overall picture of the snowsports industry with facts on participation, retail sales and resorts. The 2015 *SnowSports Participant Study* will be released this fall. If you are looking for more information, please contact Emily Rees at ERees@snowsports.org.

Source: Physical Activity Council - 2013/2014 SIA SnowSports Participation Report. These figures represent participants who are 6+ years old and participated in a sport at least once during the given season.

Season	Alpine	Snowboarding	Cross Country
2013/2014	9,004,000	7,339,000	4,291,000
2012/2013	8,243,000	7,351,000	3,307,000
2011/2012	10,201,000	7,579,000	4,318,000
2010/2011	11,504,000	8,196,000	4,530,000
2009/2010	10,919,000	7,421,000	4,157,000

Source: Physical Activity Council - 2013/2014 SIA SnowSports Participation Report. These figures represent participants who are 6+ years old and participated in a sport at least once during the given season.

Source: SIA SnowSports RetailTRAK - August 1 to March 31 - 2004-05 to 2013-14



Sun Valley / Ken Calkins

PUBLIC AFFAIRS 2015

by Mike Sanford

Vice President of Public Affairs, FWSA

Selected Product Sales Trends at All SnowSports Retail

■ Alpine Touring/Randonee equipment sales increased 8 percent in dollars sold and 8 percent in units sold. Lack of snow in the Sierras likely stalled backcountry equipment sales in California, which houses many of the popular areas for backcountry skiing and snowboarding.

■ Sales of Alpine/AT boots, defined as alpine DIN boots that can be converted to an AT/Touring sole for Backcountry use, may be one of the hottest items in the alpine market. Sales of alpine/AT boots are up 27 percent in units sold to 93,000 units sold, and up 21 percent in dollars sold to \$37 million. Alpine/AT boots make up nearly 16 percent of dollars sold and 12 percent of units sold in the alpine boot market so far this season.

■ Women are getting prepped to hit the trails. Sales of women's specific cross country equipment increased 32 percent in units sold and 28 percent in dollars sold to over \$6 million. Overall, Nordic equipment sales bounced back this season and finished up 15 percent in units sold and up 14 percent in dollars sold to \$41 million.

■ More girls bought snowboard equipment this year; junior girls snowboarding equipment sales grew 37 percent in units sold and 36 percent in dollars sold. Overall, snowboard equipment sales are flat in dollars sold to \$256 million.

■ Backcountry accessories sales including beacons, probes and shovels increased 12 percent in units and dollars sold.

■ Sales of protective gear including pads, wrist guards and general impact gear increased 16 percent in units sold and 24 percent in dollars sold. Higher demand means sales at higher prices and higher margins. In fact, margins on protective gear increased 28 percent from 42.6 percent in 2012/2013 to 54.5 percent in 2013/2014.

■ Action cameras continue to be the single most popular accessory in the snowsports market right now. Sales of action cameras were up 10 percent in units sold to 121,000 cameras and up 20 percent in dollars sold to \$41 million. Over 30 percent of action camera sales in snowsports channels were made in specialty shops.

■ Alpine insulated tops sales were up 13 percent in dollars sold to \$529 million and up 8 percent in units to more than 3 million units sold.

■ Apparel accessories including gloves, baselayer, headwear, neck gaiters, etc. increased 7 percent in units sold and 11 percent in dollars sold to \$664 million. *Source: SIA SnowSports RetailTRAK*

NSAA Model for Growth

The National Ski Areas Association (NSAA) has provided a Model for Growth for their member ski areas. The model grew out of NSAA's efforts to develop a method for critically analyzing the future of the ski/snowboard industry. A significant part of the analysis was to identify the obstacles that need to be overcome in order to grow the sport over the next 15 years. The Model quantifies the impact on skier visits of factors such as unfavorable demographic trends, increasing "time poverty" among a major portion of our population, and ongoing climate change. Also documented is the explosion of alternative leisure-time activities that range from golf, cruise ships and gaming to various types of international and domestic travel, amusement parks, sporting events, movies, and school-related activities that hinder the ability of families to travel during the winter. The initial value of the Model was its ability to both identify and quantify the impacts of these factors with respect to the ski industry, and to project what would happen over time were the industry to continue to operate as it has over the past 30 years.

At the risk of oversimplification, if individual resorts can focus attention on providing the best overall experience for guests new to the sport or, for that matter, those new to the resort, over time skier/snowboarder visits will grow substantially. As an industry, we convert only about 15 percent of first-timers into long-term participants. Individual areas should continue to improve the quality of their ski area operations, product improvements and marketing incentives. If they can add to these efforts, a renewed focused commitment to growing their first-time skiers and snowboarders by 6 percent annually and gradually improving the conversion rate from 15 percent to 25 percent, the industry can accomplish the overall turnaround that is badly needed.

Resorts have responded by developing a variety of "hardware" methods to combat these issues:

- state-of-the-art learning centers
- ticket, lesson and equipment deals
- increased attention to beginner equipment
- employee incentives

In return, more first timers are trying snowsports. In fact, trial has actually maxed at a number of resorts near urban centers, especially during peak times. While these tangible efforts are encouraging conversion ("software issues") has emerged as the predominant roadblock in the industry's ultimate goal of growing the sport by 10 percent. The intangible "psychology of conversion" and the "golden hour" between trial and conversion must be more effectively addressed.

Recognizing this, the next stage of the growth model study was developed. The program is designed to sustain the momentum created by the Model and to build upon its points to maximize resorts' ability to attract and, more importantly, convert new participants.

This stage will provide blueprints for resorts to dramatically improve their learn-to-ski/ride program quality and penetration by tapping into the industry's best ideas. These insights will be integrated with those of a consumer panel to test the effectiveness of both best practices and ideas. A monitoring process measuring the successes of these ideas will be developed and instituted in a manner by which all resorts may benefit.

A panel of key ski school managers and directors, who have focused their efforts on creating innovative beginner programs, both alpine and snowboard, was created. Approximately 15 such individuals representing all regions were included. This panel met in July, 2002 to probe learning programs and experiences to understand specifically what techniques and procedures worked best from a teaching and a conversion standpoint. Each major component of the lesson process and structure of the learning process was evaluated.

Additionally, a panel of recent consumers was separately convened. These consumer panels from various regions of the country were comprised of individuals that have recently completed a beginner lesson or package of lessons. This group had definite ideas of what worked for them and what did not, from a consumer point of view. Also, this group offered different perspectives on the new ideas and concepts developed by the first panel of professionals. The objective of this second panel was to systematically diagnose their recent learning experiences and test specific recommendations for improvement (generated by the professional panel).

A summary report at the conclusion of the season will evaluate the performance of these programs and offer suggestions for additional refinements.

Relative successes among programs will continue to be monitored and resorts will be encouraged to customize and integrate new ideas into existing programs.

This will be an ongoing process. As more areas adopt the recommendations of the new learn-to-ski/ride programs, the monitoring and refinement process will be expanded accordingly. Ski school managers and instructors will again be brought into the evaluation process to provide organized feedback into how particular innovations have worked for students and what suggestions they might make to improve conversion. Similarly, program participants (new skiers/riders) will be contacted through surveys to provide specific feedback about best practices and their commitment to continue participating in snowsports.

NSAA is calling on all member ski areas to convert, convert, convert! What is conversion? Conversion is simply the process of turning beginner skiers and riders into repeat customers, and ultimately lifelong enthusiasts of the sport. With this, NSAA has developed the Conversion Cup Challenge, a friendly competition among member ski areas that closely aligns with the industry's overall goals to grow the sport.

As NSAA's Growth Model outlines, conversion is not a short-term process but rather a long-term transformation. Yet the current demographics make it clear: Time is not on the industry's side. The Baby Boom generation continues to age and will ultimately hang up their ski and snowboard gear for good. Research shows that if we do not improve our efforts to introduce new participants to the sport - and convert them to lifelong enthusiasts - overall ski and snowboard visitation figures could decrease by 2.5 percent per season. NSAA's Conversion Cup Challenge is designed as a fun way to pique competition among member ski areas and recognize those who make significant efforts to boost skier and snowboarder conversion rates.

As part of the competition, applicants must provide a detailed overview of their program designed specifically to increase skier and rider conversion rates.

Here are some parameters judges look for when making their selections.

Increase in Level 1 lesson volumes

- Level 1 lesson volumes in relation to total skier and snowboarder visits
- Quantifiable success of multi-lesson packages
- Season-to-date sales data on specific learn-to packages designed to drive repeat visitation
- Overall data collection capabilities and sophistication
- Marketing ingenuity, creativity, use of new media, etc.

The Conversion Cup is a traveling award given to a resort each year. The winning resort will claim the Cup for a period of one year, until the next Conversion Cup winner is again crowned at the NSAA National Convention. Winners will receive a Conversion Cup plaque to keep on display at their ski area.

The Beginner Conversion Study was launched during the 2014 - 15 season with fascinating results. In its first year, the research provides information about the behaviors of first timers and beginners at participating areas. After the first season, the study is already helping to identify trends and patterns of their intention to continue participating in skiing and snowboarding as lifelong sports, how often they intend to ski or snowboard, demographic details, and their desire to return to the area where they first learned to ski or ride.

NSAA developed Your Responsibility Code to help skiers and boarders.

The 2013/14 Conversion Cup winner - Camelback Mountain Resort in Tannersville, Pennsylvania.

Camelback's win is largely due to a straightforward combination of simple messaging and great offers that have led to consistent growth in snowsports lessons at the area over the past four seasons. Camelback has witnessed an impressive increase in learn-to lessons, from 25,082 in 2010/11 to 37,536 as of the recent application deadline.

The main reason for the increase is the success of the Explorer Card, a package that offers three 90-minute lessons, three lift tickets, and three rentals for \$129, according to Brian Czarnecki, Vice President of Sales and Marketing. The program has grown from 650 cards sold in 2010/11 to 4,742 cards sold during the 2013/14 season.

But it's not just about lessons sold, said Czarnecki. "Camelback's focus is on converting the 37,536 skiers and riders taught this year to life-long enthusiasts."

Past Conversion Cup winners are:

2014	Camelback Mountain Resort, Pennsylvania
2013	Mountain Creek, New Jersey
2012	Mt. Bachelor, Oregon
2011	Snow Time, Inc.

Your Responsibility Code

Common Sense is one of the most important things to keep in mind and practice when on the slopes. The National Ski Areas Association (NSAA) believes education, helmet use, respect and common sense are very important when cruising down the mountain. NSAA developed ***Your Responsibility Code*** to help skiers and boarders be aware that there are elements of risk in snowsports that common sense and personal awareness can help reduce.

Here are the Seven Points to "Your Responsibility Code"

1. Always stay in control, and be able to stop or avoid other people or objects.
2. People ahead of you have the right of way. It is your responsibility to avoid them.
3. You must not stop where you obstruct a trail, or are not visible from above.
4. Whenever starting downhill or merging into a trail, look uphill and yield to others.
5. Always use devices to help prevent runaway equipment.
6. Observe all posted signs and warnings. Keep off closed trails and out of closed areas.
7. Prior to using any lift, you must have the knowledge and ability to load, ride and unload safely.

Sun Protection

To ensure you have a safe and fun day on the slopes, remember these tips to protect you from the sun and its radiation.

- Wear pants, long sleeves, and gloves even on warm days.
- Put on a hat or helmet that covers your ears.
- Wear 100% UV protection goggles or sunglasses.
- Apply generous amounts of SPF 30+ sunscreen on exposed skin every two hours.
- It's not the heat of the sun that causes skin damage but radiation from the sun.

What to look for in sunblock:

- SPF 30 or higher
- Broad Spectrum
- Zinc Oxide, titanium dioxide or both

Outreach and Education

- Schedule a skin cancer screening at your council or club
- Healthy Habits Activity Book - For Kids!
- Fitzpatrick Skin Type Quiz
- What is UVA and UVB?
- Downloadable Resources
- Sunscreen for your resort

Eye Protection

Eye health is important for everyone. Skiers and snowboarders spend long hours on the snow which can increase your risk of eye health issues. Fortunately, wearing good quality sunglasses and goggles that offer UV-protection are a great way to significantly reduce these risks. Below are several resources you can check out to learn more about the importance of wearing eye protection when you're enjoying the slopes.

Resources

- <http://www.skincancer.org/prevention/sun-protection/for-your-eyes/protect-your-eyes>
- <http://www.geteyesmart.org/eyesmart/living/sun.cfm>
- <http://www.geteyesmart.org/eyesmart/living/snow-blindness.cfm>

Kids Skiing - Your Responsibilities

Have your child memorize the "Your Responsibility Code". It's the seven rules of the slopes and many accidents can be avoided by adhering to the Code.

Helmets: Snowsport helmets are a good idea. If your child wears a ski helmet, remember you may have to raise your voice more to get their attention because a helmet may impede their hearing. Make sure the helmet fits correctly. A ski helmet is not an item you buy for your child to grow into. Educate your child about the benefits and limitations of the helmet. Wearing a helmet doesn't give permission to ski or snowboard faster or recklessly.

Dress Properly: Dress in layers. Layering allows you to accommodate your body's constantly changing temperature. For example, dress your kids in polypropylene underwear (top and bottoms) which feels good next to the skin, dries quickly, absorbs sweat and keeps you warm. Your kids should also wear a turtleneck, sweater and waterproof jacket.

When buying skiwear, look for fabric that is water and wind-resistant. Look for wind flaps to shield zippers, snug cuffs at wrists and ankles, collars that can be snuggled up to the chin and deep pockets. Be sure to buy your children quality clothing products.

Mother Nature has a mind of her own. Kids should wear a hat or headband, 80 percent of heat-loss is through the head. Kids should also wear gloves or mittens (mittens are usually better for kids who are susceptible to cold hands).

More Sun Protection: Be sure they wear sun protection, even on cloudy days. The sun reflects off the snow and is stronger than you think! A ski vacation with a sun burn is no fun! Kids should have sunglasses and goggles with them. Skiing is a lot more fun when you can see. Always wear eye protection.

Be Prepared: Be sure your child has the name and phone number of your hotel written down on a piece of paper and it's in a secure pocket. If you carry a cell phone, include this number, too. Although it is very unlikely that your child would get separated from the instructor, be sure your child has a trail map and is able to remember the instructor's name.

Make sure your child knows when to stop skiing. For example, if the clothing layer next to their skin stays wet and they're chilled, if they're injured, have a problem with equipment or even if they're simply worn out. Educate them that it's alright to stop before the end of the day and breaks are fun.

Make a meeting place if you get separated, for example, at the bottom of chairlift #2. The walkie talkies now available are convenient and a big hit on the slopes.

Ski & Snowboard Lessons: Put your kids in ski school to get them on the right track. Children's instructors know how to teach kids. It's their business. Then you'll enjoy skiing with your kids and they will be proud to show you their skiing abilities.

When you've decided what area to take your ski trip, call the ski resorts in the area and research how each area's children ski school programs are structured. Ask about the number of kids in the class? What if your child gets cold? What if your child wants to stop skiing after one hour? Does the ski school offer pagers?

An observance from a long-time skier is that when his daughter skied with him, she regressed, as opposed to skiing with her peers in a lesson. "She wanted to ski in-between my legs and fell down more often. We had fun with her being silly, but a lesson allowed her to focus on her skiing and she really excelled."

Starting your kids early, opens a world of adventure, fun, laughter and unsurpassed beautiful scenery and removes it from many other sports and interests. It's a tremendous feeling to learn that your kids' fondest childhood memories were of your family ski vacations and now skiing has become an important element in their lives. Your kids will be forever grateful to you when they become adults!

Safety Update

The FWSA believes that safety is an important component in snowsports. We recognize that the ski resorts do an extraordinary job of minimizing hazards. FWSA supports an annual Safety Person of the Year Award, recognizing a club or council member who has contributed most to promoting on mountain safety through club or council efforts. Ultimately however, safety is based on individual responsibility and behavior.

As a reminder, National Safety Week has now become National Safety Month! The month of January is dedicated to an entire month of safety. Many resorts across the country participate every year to educate skiers and snowboarders about being safe, and to use common sense on the slopes. Aspen/Snowmass has partnered with the FWSA for over a decade in recognizing the individual who has done the most to improve safety-consciousness.

We encourage all skiers and ski clubs to promote on slope activities, presentations, articles, etc. Further details on our Safety Award may be found at www.fwsa.org.

Skiing and snowboarding off the groomed runs and in deep powder is one of the most exciting and appealing parts of our sport. However, by leaving the groomed trails you are accepting the risk of a deep snow immersion accident. This happens when a skier or rider falls into an area of deep unconsolidated snow or tree well and becomes immobilized and suffocates. Deaths resulting from these kinds of accidents are referred to as a Snow Immersion Suffocation.

Become educated on how to reduce the risk of SIS hazards through your own action and awareness. Always ski or ride with a partner within viewing distance. The website www.deepsnowsafety.org is an excellent resource designed to assist all skiers and riders in educating themselves about the risks and prevention of deep snow and tree well immersion accidents. ▲

Ski season 2015-2016 is upon us. So many resorts. So little time! Is this your season to get out the skis or snowboards and partake in all that the mountains have to offer?

Because of convenience, most winter enthusiasts select mountain resorts near where they reside. The Lake Tahoe area is a favorite for those living in northern California and Nevada. Active skiers and boarders from Southern California return time and again to the SoCal resorts and Mammoth Mountain. The close proximity enables them to return often. The time to get to nearby resorts is reduced. The reduced cost to drive allows for more frequent visits. If they are truly passionate about the mountain atmosphere, and they are comfortable in knowing the slopes and peaks like a local, this resort becomes their "home" resort. Being able to get to their preferred mountain with some regularity, they have the desire to get a season pass. That saves time at the ticket window and money when they use the pass regularly. However, as a season pass holder, the incentive is to use it instead of venturing out to different locations, experience new resorts and create new memories.

In recent years, many resorts have come under the same ownership. One of the advantages of ski resorts merging or being bought out is that most multi-day lift tickets and season passes are valid between corporate resorts providing the opportunity for snowsport enthusiasts to ski several resorts on a single pass. Ski one day at one resort, ski the next at a partner resort, and the third day at still another related resort - all on the same three day pass. It's a great way to experience several ski areas in a short time.

The independent resorts have responded. A top priority is to create value for their guests; thus, many top resorts have developed their own reciprocal lift ticket programs by joining together with like minded resorts. Here are just a few.

The Vail Resorts Epic Pass:

Multi-resort lift ticket programs have been around for numerous years between neighboring resorts, but with the growing Vail Resorts family of world class ski resorts, the concept was expanded across state lines. Acquiring an Epic Pass allows snowsports enthusiasts many benefits. The pass provides unrestricted skiing and snowboarding at Breckenridge, Keystone, Afton Alps, Mt. Brighton and Arapahoe Basin. It also includes Park City, Heavenly, Northstar and Kirkwood - with some restrictions. In addition, the bearer can also ski/board at Vail and Beaver Creek for 10 days. Holiday restrictions do



Sun Valley Ski Resort, opened in the winter of 1936, is the country's oldest ski destination. The historic resort will be celebrating their 80th Anniversary in 2016. Mountain Collective Pass holders can experience two days of skiing or boarding in Sun Valley, Idaho as well as several other prestigious resorts. And, since two days is not enough, additional days on the mountain are available at a discount with this pass. photos courtesy of Sun Valley Ski Resort

apply at these premiere resorts. Discounted tickets are available if 10 days is not enough at these popular resorts. As an extra bonus, six "Ski With A Friend" discounted tickets are automatically loaded into the pass. They are redeemable at the resort ticket windows.

There are several alternatives such as the Tahoe Local Pass, the Tahoe Value Pass, and the Epic Australia Pass as well as a five consecutive day pass at Verbier, Switzerland. For more information, link to www.snow.com/epic-pass.

The Mountain Collective Pass

Hop in your winterized car, van, or truck to take advantage of another spectacular union of ski resorts under the Mountain Collective designation. Having one will get you twenty-two days on the trails, bowls and backcountry at some of North America's most well known resorts. That is two days each at Mammoth Mountain, Squaw Valley/Alpine Meadows, Alta/Snowbird, Sun Valley, Jackson Hole, Aspen/Snowmass and Taos Ski Valley in the western USA. Go north of the border to experience Whistler/Blackcomb in British Columbia and Lake Louise/Sunshine in Alberta. You may want to fly to ski an eastern gem: Stowe, Vermont. And, if the ski bug bites in the northern hemisphere's summer months, fly to Thredbo - one of Australia's favorite ski areas, or Valle Nevado in Chile. There are no black out dates.



If two days are not enough at your new favorite resort, additional days are available at a discount. Check with www.mountaincollective.com. They also offer lodging deals.

The Powder Alliance Pass

Buy a season's pass to any one of these 14 Powder Alliance resorts and receive three days of mountain access to the other 13. All are in the western US and Canada. Gas up your vehicle and have some fun! The group includes: Angel Fire Resort, NM; Arizona Snowbowl, AZ; Bridger Bowl, MT; China Peak, CA; Crested Butte, CO; Mountain High, CA; Mt. Hood Ski Bowl, OR; Schweitzer Mountain Resort, ID; Sierra-at-Tahoe, CA; Snowbasin, UT; Stevens Pass, WA; and Timberline, OR. In Canada, the participating resorts for 2015-2016 are Silver Star, BC and Whittewater, both in British Columbia. Between them, there are over a thousand trails to explore. These passes are not transferable. Call the Season Pass Office of the resort closest to you for more information on their Multi-Resort Season Pass Program. www.powderalliance.com

The Cali4nia Pass

Southern and central California snowsports enthusiasts, this one is for you! Pass holders will have access to over 6,000 acres of lift served terrain, and 240 runs on four of SoCal skiers and boarders favorite mountains:

Is This Your Season to Explore?

by Leigh Gieringer



Steamboat Ski Resort participates in both the Rocky Mountain Super Pass and the M.A.X. Pass Programs. The resort has recently received approval from the U.S. Forest Service for on-mountain improvement projects including new high-speed lifts, expanded terrain and new facilities. Check with the resort for details.

photo courtesy of Steamboat Ski Resort / Larry Pierce

Mammoth, June, Bear and Snow Summit. There are several other benefits as well. Bring a friend on a non-holiday outing. Five half priced tickets for their usage are included. In addition, there are discounts available at Tamarack Cross Country Center, on rental equipment, at the resort retail stores, and at the Mammoth Lodging Collection Properties. What value! But, if that is not enough, the pass will also provide discounts at many of the Mountain Collective resorts. Wait. There's more! Summer benefits include discounts on mountain lifts for hiking, biking and getting out of the heat, plus golfing at Sierra Star Golf Course. For further information, go to www.cali4nia.com.

Other Multi-Resort Passes

There are 14 resorts in Utah that are participating in ski pass programs on a limited bases and they sell out quickly. The **Silver Pass** allows one to ski and board (where allowed) for 30 days at each resort except Park City Mountain Resort. Enjoy this favorite for up to 60 days. This pass is non-transferable. However, upgrade to the **Gold Pass**, and it can be shared. The number of days of use is also extended to 50 days - at each resort. And, you can spend 100 days at Park City!

If that many days are not possible, obtain a **Yeti Pass**. This pass allows for one day on each of the Utah mountains: Alta, Beaver Mountain, Brian Head, Brighton, Cherry Peak, Deer Valley, Eagle Point, Nordic Valley, Park City, Powder Mountain, Snowbasin, Snowbird, Solitude and Sundance. What a fabulous opportunity to ski the "Greatest Snow on Earth". www.skiutah.com

If you are headed to Colorado, consider the **Rocky Mountain Super Pass**. This allows unlimited access to Winter Park, Copper Mountain, and Eldora Alpine Pass, with restricted access to Steamboat and Crested Butte. It also provides seven days at both Mt. Ruapehu and Cardrona Alpine Resort in New Zealand and three days at Alyeska, Alaska, along with other discounts on rentals, lodging and more.

If these are too restrictive, consider the **M.A.X. Pass**. This gives the holder 110 days of skiing during the 2015-2016 ski season. That is five days at 22 different mountains with no black out dates. Fuel that private jet and go. In the western region, you can experience Big Sky, MT; Boreal, CA; Brighton, UT; Copper Mountain, CO; Cypress, BC; Crystal Mountain, WA; Las Vegas, NV; Mt. Bachelor OR; Steamboat, CO; Summit at Snoqualmie, WA; and Winter Park, CO. Those desiring to ski in the eastern mountains can visit Blue Mountain, ON; Boyne Highlands and Boyne Mountain, MI; Killington, Piloand Stratton in VT; Loon, NH; Showshoe, WV; Sugar Loaf and Sunday River in ME; as well as Tremblant, ON. www.themaxpass.com

If time or money is no object, you will want the **USSA Gold Pass**. This will lead to the ultimate in skiing adventures. It allows you access to over 250 resorts across the country. No time is wasted at the lift ticket window. This exclusive Gold Pass embeds UHF technology, HF technology and barcode scanning all in one. Just present the pass and board the lifts, cable cars and gondolas. It is pricey, but ski aficionados who desire to chal-

lenge themselves to win the "most ski resorts visited in one season award", this pass is for you. The best part is, the pass is partially tax deductible since some of the cost goes directly to fund the athletes of the U.S. Ski Team, U.S. Snowboarding and U.S. Freeskiing programs. www.ussagoldpass.com

Some of these programs have limited enrollment. Past users will have first priority. Others may have deadlines in which to sign-up, but knowing multi-resort programs exist will provide good information to plan for future ski seasons. Since these programs are fluid, resort participation may change in coming years. For pricing and other information, check out the respective links provided.

There are numerous multi-resort programs offered if you have the time and money to take advantage of them, but what if you don't? If you are fortunate to live near a resort, or several, and are able to frequent it or them, buy a season pass. Contact those resorts for further information on which program fits your needs best.

One of the benefits of being a member of a club or ski organization is being able to participate in their group travel programs for weekend, three or four day extended weekend, week or multi-week trips. Group travel provides group discounts. Ski clubs, councils and the FWSA offer exciting mountain ski weeks and mini ski weeks each year to various destinations. It may take several years to visit all the resorts on your bucket list, instead of just one season, but it gives you something to look forward to and it doesn't break your travel budget.

Other ways to save a little money on lift tickets is to buy a multi-day ticket at the resort you are visiting. Many resorts offer further discounts for active or retired military. If you qualify, bring your credentials for verification. Those over the age of 65 can qualify for a senior discount. Some resorts even offer free skiing over a certain age like 72, 75 or 80 depending on the resort. Do a little research before you go, or ask at the ticket window if any discounts are available at your desired destination.

If you are traveling with younger children, they could receive a price break especially when they are signed up for lessons and rental equipment packages. A current student ID card may also make a day on the slopes a little less expensive. Check your destination resort's website for any deals combining air, lodging and/or lift ticket packages. ▲



*LEFT PHOTO: Klaus Arpia skiing high up amidst the cliffs of the Sella Group.
SMALL PHOTO: Canazei is one of many picturesque villages in the Dolomites.
CENTER: Klaus Arpia makes his way down the Val di Mezdi.
RIGHT: Erik Petterson Sjöqvist enjoys the stunning views while skiing the Val di Mezdi.
photos / Jimmy Petterson*





THE MAGICAL DOLOMITES

by Jimmy Petterson

The late Patrick Vallençent, the legendary French extreme skier, had a favorite refuge, away from his native Chamonix, for skiing radical couloirs. Ever since Patrick first told me of his partiality for steep skiing amidst the craggy pinnacles and towers of the Dolomites of Northern Italy, I had longed to explore them myself. My desire finally came to fruition.

My Danish friend, Caspar Möller, and I cruised over the Brenner Pass and began to wind our way into Val Gardena, close to midnight on Easter Saturday. A full moon illuminated the jagged Langkofel group of peaks, and it looked a bit like the floodlights on Notre Dame Cathedral. I could hear the hunchback and a thousand other Gothic gremlins and banshees lurking around amongst the rocks. We grabbed a quick pizza, (of course, what else? This is Italy after all.) and nestled in under warm quilts in the village of Selva.

Selva dates back to the 13th century, and as the morning sun brought some of the other peaks of the Dolomites into a clearer perspective, they, too, conjured up visions of medieval times. Their limestone spires and steeples filled the skyline around us like a community of feudal castles and churches.

The light calcium rock that makes up this range, gives the sheer faces distinct shadings of yellow and orange, and the soft stone is formed into thousands of pinnacles and gargoyles, certainly God's tribute to Gothic architecture. Much of the ski area which we could see was made up of excellent, wide, open, intermediate terrain, dropping eventually into forested trails back to the many villages surrounding the Dolomites, and all with a backdrop directly out of Camelot.

It became immediately clear that we would need a guide to find our way into the skiable couloirs, amidst the maze of ornate obelisks. For that purpose, we enlisted the services of Hermann Comploj, a sturdy, compact, confident man, who, it turned out, was not too far descended from a chamois. Hermann was born and raised in Val Gardena, and therefore, spoke the local language of Ladino, a bastardization of Latin native to four mountain villages deep in the Dolomites and vaguely related to Reto Romano, the equally obscure tongue of the Engadine Valley of Switzerland. He also spoke Italian, German, and English, and seemed, as many mountain men, to part with words in any of the languages with equal reluctance.

Hermann's taciturn nature was of no great concern. We told him that we wished to be guided into some steep, narrow, and rarely skied chutes, and he assured us that he could fulfill that task.

We began our first day skiing half the famous tourist circuit known as the Sella Ronda, until we arrived at Passo Pordoi. Here, in the least likely spot on earth to build a lift of any kind, a cable car took us over 700 vertical meters up a perpendicular rock wall. As we emerged at the top, Hermann explained that here we would begin a run down the famous Val di Mezdi (Midday Valley). This descent is a spectacular run meant to be done at midday, when the sun manages to reach a few rays of light in between the vertical walls on either side.

The tour began with a flat 45-minute walk to the Refugio Boe. There, we entered the relatively steep throat of the valley. Officially, this route is off-piste, but it is very well known and not extreme. Hence, the gully was a field of moguls. We bounced through the bumps in the narrow entry, and eventually the valley widened out.

Standing in the shadows of the cliffs that rose toward the heavens, I felt like John Wayne on a solo ride through Arizona's Monument Valley in mid-winter. I expected at any moment that the entire Apache nation would appear along the cliff top in full headdress. Will they suddenly send tons of boulders crashing down to the valley floor, blocking off our exit? The rock faces seemed to be more than 90 degrees and loomed overhead like specters of doom. In fact, Hermann



The run down the famous Val di Mezdi is meant to be taken at mid-day when the sun provides a bit of light between these steep, vertical walls. photos / Jimmy Petterson

warned us not to stand too close to the walls, where a spring avalanche could easily bring my Apache nightmare to life.

We skied out of the Val di Mezdi before any Apaches or avalanches could block our retreat. The tour had been visually stunning albeit not the kind of difficult couloir we had imagined skiing during our stay here. I mentioned to Hermann, that I hoped he trusted our skiing ability enough to guide us into some more formidable gorges and canyons.

"We cannot do everything in one day," he retorted, without a trace of a smile, and I wondered what tomorrow would bring.

Hermann picked us up early the following morning, and drove us to the Marmolada Glacier. We arrived before the lift opened, and the citadels of calcium that guard the glacier still kept these northern faces shrouded in dark shadow. Hermann had told us to bring our touring skis, so we knew we had a bit of work awaiting us this morning. We began with a few bunches of powder turns, and then, without a word, Hermann altered his bindings into the walking mode. He pointed to a narrow corridor in the distance, and we began to ascend.

About two hours later, we packed our skis on our shoulders and



The Dolomites are noted for their exquisite rock formations and scenic beauty. Made it through the narrows of the Val di Mezdi!

began to kick small toeholds into the snow of a 40-degree couloir. It was clear that we were to ski down the other side. As I approached the top, I expected a small ledge or flat shelf where we could sit and rest, and leisurely step into our skis for the descent. No such luck! I swallowed hard and my heart lurched into my throat as I reached the notch between the rocks. No ledge, no shelf, no place to rest, no comfortable spot to put on the skis, and about 50 degrees and even narrower down the opposite side. Hermann was already unpacking his rope, and as he saw the fear in my eyes, a wide smile crossed his face.

"This is real skiing, guys!" he grinned, and I realized, with mixed emotions, that, at least, he had not underestimated our abilities.

Caspar, who has some climbing experience, nonchalantly roped himself in and climbed down the back door of the Forcella dela Marmolada. With much trepidation, I took the rope around my waist for security, put my skis and poles in my right hand, and slowly worked my way downward. Hermann hollered encouragement from above, and Caspar laughed from below, as if I were the court jester.

Once I was safely beside Caspar, Hermann threw down the rope and shouted, "Okay, I ski it down."

With that, our Merlin the magician of the mountains hopped into the couloir, which was hardly wide enough for his skis at the top. One cannot really side slip wind crust, but Hermann side-hopped the first twenty meters, jabbing his poles into the snow on his way down as a sort of braking system. Then, he made three or four double pole plant jump turns, and he was at our side.

The difficult part of the day's tour accomplished, we had broad

fields of virgin corn snow stretching out below us, which ended in the wide Contrin Valley. The valley was a picture of springtime, far removed from the ominous castle ramparts and parapets above, and we finished our tour cross-country skiing along a stream and winding our way down a forest trail to the village of Alba.

A couple of beers and a short hitchhike later, we were back on the Marmolada. One of the great joys of skiing in spring is a day when one can ski corn snow in the morning and powder in the afternoon. This was just such a day. A twenty-minute hike from the top of the lift took us to fields of January gelati . . . in April, no less!

This day had everything - corn snow, powder, pristine skies, adventure - and Hermann had begun to loosen up and enjoy his assignment of guiding a couple of foreigners from the 21st Century through his medieval domain of dungeons and dragons. The only question that remained was - what did Merlin have in store for us tomorrow to top this?

The following morning, our host again picked us up early and told us to bring our touring skis. We were soon marching the same 45-minute route that we walked the first day toward the Val di Mezdi. This time, we took a left turn at the Rifugio Boe and continued our hike.

Caspar, who much prefers skiing downhill to walking uphill on skis, was grumbling. "I can't believe this. They 'comp' us with a free Super Dolomiti lift pass with 460 lifts at our disposal, and we spend our whole vacation walking."

"Shhh, Caspar," I whispered, "Don't antagonize Hermann. His humor may change, and he could leave us at the mercy of the Gothic beasts that

rule this domain.” Sure enough, we were fast approaching an area that was certainly swarming with spirits, specters, and phantoms from the Dark Ages. It was a scene directly from a Spielberg film. Obelisks and minarets surrounded us on all sides. Certainly, the area had been booby-trapped to stop Indiana Jones or any other would-be intruders of this sacred cathedral. One false move and, to be sure, the flying buttresses that held up the walls of this temple would fold up, and the towers of stone would come tumbling down upon us. Only one escape route was apparent - a sheer face of wind packed powder between the turrets. We followed our intrepid leader exactly, so as not to unleash any booby-traps.

As the slope began to plane out into a valley, Hermann began to traverse to the left, rather than following the obvious path down the valley to the right. *“Of course,”* I said to myself. *“They want us to go right. It looks like a clear path, but it’s certainly blocked by a fire breathing serpent.”* I whispered to Caspar, *“I think Hermann’s on our side, after all!”*

“I’m not so sure,” retorted Caspar, as Hermann placed his skis on his shoulder, and began to zigzag up another perilous looking corridor between the cliffs. I normally would have suspected the sun drenched soft snow of this south exposed slope to be an avalanche trap, but I was becoming ever more confident that Herrmann represented the forces of good.

This time, there was a comfortable ledge at the top, which overlooked our path back to civilization - a precipitous powder filled gorge, which narrowed into an eight meter wide elevator shaft. We could see the serpentine road about 900 meters directly below us. We tried not to let the view disturb our lunch. I unwrapped a couple of sandwiches, and Hermann offered us some dried fruit, and opened his thermos. *“Have some tea, guys. This is called ‘magical rhum’. It’s a home made blend from my teahouse down in town.”*

“You’re kidding, right? I mean, I can picture you owning a bar in some dungeon-like local cellar, or even running a small alpine and climbing shop - but a teahouse? Come on!” I said.

“Really, guys. You’ll have to stop by this afternoon, and have some of my wife’s carrot cake.”

One sip of his tea assured me of Hermann’s earnestness. It was an enchanted blend of rose pedals, wild mountain berries, and some 14th Century aphrodisiac that only King Arthur’s court wizard could have concocted. One swallow brought incandescent visions of young nubile nymphs frolicking half-naked in lush carpets of Mayflowers. All horrible visions of forked tongued creatures who lived among the gargoyles here in the belfry of the Dolomites were purged from my mind, and I now felt certain that this magic potion would keep us safe from all evil.

After lunch, Hermann took out his shovel and excavated a small hole to check for avalanche booby-traps. *“All clear!”* He finally called. Powder turns in the initial corridor were followed by jump turns to fight off the crust in the elevator shaft. Nothing could thwart our efforts after our magic elixir. We definitely felt that we had earned a reward after negotiating what Hermann called the Forcella Piz da Lec to completion.

That afternoon we took our guide up on his invitation, and we made a visit to the court wizard’s den of alchemy. We watched with wonder as Hermann plucked ingredients from a dozen bags to create another batch of *“magical rhum”* tea. We each devoured a moist slice of carrot cake as well, and felt well fortified against any potential evil that might await us on the morrow.

Wednesday morning, we drove to Cortina d’Ampezzo. In Val Gardena, one sees some fur on the local ladies, but in Cortina, the foxes

wear mink, the bunnies wear ermine, and the wolves abound. This is Italy’s winter answer to Monte Carlo. Of course, the dressing habits of the local gentry are all beside the point, which, in our case, was to ski the Bus de la Tofana.

We began with a ride up the cable car at the Tofana de Mezzo, and then hiked twenty minutes further. (No touring skis were necessary, and Caspar was ecstatic.) “Bus” is Italian for hole, and we now found ourselves standing in front of a window in the rocks, prepared to climb through and ski whatever we found on the other side. We stepped through the portal, and looked down.

The back side was steep, (as usual) and apparently, a recent invasion of Huns had been thwarted by hurling huge white cannon balls at the intruders. The Huns seemed to have abandoned the site, but the siege had left its scars. We skied the first section very carefully, trying to avoid the frozen trenches and snowballs of this long forgotten struggle. Finally, we emerged from the battlefield and could dance blithely over wide expanses of ripe corn snow the rest of the way down.

The weather was changing, and these S-shaped imprints in the corn snow, which we left shimmering like snail tracks in the sun,



The modern Lagazuoi cable car at the Falzarego Pass, takes only three minutes to travel a length of 1,100 meters, but ascends an altitude of 2,800 metres up the steep face of the mountain. From the top there is an excellent view of the surrounding mountains and a small ski area on the opposite side. photos / Jimmy Petterson



The Falzarego area is known as one of the most scenic areas of the Dolomites. The frozen waterfalls add to its beauty.

photo / Jimmy Peterson

proved to be our last glimpse of spring in the Dolomites. By the following day, low clouds shrouded the peaks, and we were confined to the lower slopes, where there was some visibility. We spent the morning skiing about 50 centimeters of “April powder”, a euphemism for slogging through sticky gobs of overcooked cannelloni.

We were skiing in the Falzarego area, scenically one of the most beautiful parts of the Dolomites. The Armentarola descent from the top of the Lagazuoi cable car winds for 8.5 kilometers through the most magnificent scenery that the Dolomites can throw at you. Half way down the run is the Rifugio Scotona. Rifugio is the Italian word for refuge, and conjures up an image of a primitive shack where one can warm up, and, perhaps, purchase a plate of frankfurters and baked beans.

Italy's rifugios are different. Here, two cooks sweated over a large, indoor, open grill in the middle of the dining room of this rustic restaurant. We ordered a mixed grill, and received an oversized wooden plate covered by ribs, a pork chop, a cut of beef, bacon, a garlicky Italian sausage, grilled vegetables, and a baked potato. A bottle of vino tinto, a few grappas, and two hours later, we rolled out the door, and back onto our skis.

Below the hut, we skied past a stunning cliff where a host of frozen waterfalls emerged from the porous limestone. Ultimately, we arrived in the flats, where horse-drawn sleds await, with long ropes attached so that dozens of skiers can be pulled simultaneously for a few kilometers to the next ski lift.

By this time, it was snowing even harder, and Hermann soon suggested another rifugio. Here, the wizard introduced us to a new magic potion called grolla. Grolla is a concoction of Valdostana coffee

generally mixed with grappa, G  n  py, and a generous portion of 100% alcohol. It is drenched with sugar and a dash of lemon, so as to disguise its potency, and served in a large flat hand-carved, turned wood jug. Oh, I almost forgot...it is also set on fire at the table, prior to being served. The jug usually has four to eight small drinking spouts, as this is meant to be a group event - sort of a communal Long Island ice tea, but with coffee, of course. The remainder of Thursday is, to this day, totally blacked out of my mind.

Friday morning looked even gloomier than the day before. It was not just the grolla. The mist and fog was not only in my brain, but had settled lower on the spires and towers of our medieval playground. Caspar and I decided that this was as good a time as any to return home. We stopped off at the wizard's tea house, purchased a two year supply of “magical rhum”, “strawberry-kiwi”, “peach-apricot”, and “forest fruit” teas to ward off modern-day evil spirits, and bade Hermann and his wife, Daniela, a fond farewell.

In our short stay, we had only scraped the surface of the hundreds of skiable chasms and ravines in the Dolomites, and we promised Hermann that we would be back. We hopped in our time machine, which looked remarkably similar to a rusty 1996 Volvo station wagon, and headed north, out of the 1300s and back over the Brenner Pass into the 21st Century. All looked normal again . . . no Gothic spires or medieval castles towering overhead - no wizards, witches, or dragons - just twenty-first century cows grazing. Had it all been a dream? I wrenched my right arm backward into my rucksack and pulled out a tin of “magical rhum” tea. No, it had, indeed, been real. On the bottom of the tea tin was a sticker with Hermann's telephone number, our time machine's code back to the land of Camelot. ▲

CORTINA D'AMPEZZO

Cortina in a nutshell: Cortina hosted the 1956 Olympics, and it has been a romping grounds for the Italian Rolex and Ferrari crowd ever since. The resort is a town rather than a village, and both the town and the ski area is very spread out, making a car a very helpful asset on a trip here. While one can get around to the various starting points of the lift system by bus, Cortina is part of the gargantuan 450 lifts and 1220 kilometers of pistes included in the Super Dolomiti lift system. Throw in the thousands of acres of off-piste terrain that is situated between the pistes and you can spend a lifetime exploring this playground. Many portions of this lift system are too far afield to reach by skis. Hop in your car in the morning and drive for 30-40 minutes and you will be able to explore an entirely different section of the Dolomites.

In Cortina itself, on one side of the valley are the ski areas of Faloria and the Cristallo, while the opposite side houses the interconnected lift systems of the Tofana, Pocol, and Socrepes. Further away, but still belonging to the greater Cortina ski system are the smaller Cinque Torre and Lagazuoi areas. They are also well worth a visit. Although there is suitable terrain for all abilities, most of the pistes here cater to high intermediate skiers. But as in most parts of the Dolomites, there are some amazing couloirs that can be found with the help of a guide. The Forcella Staunies in the Cristallo section is not for the faint of heart.

- Altitude: 1,224 meters ■ Maximum Vertical Drop: 1,715 meters
- Number of lifts: 54 ■ Number of pistes: 66
- Kilometers of Pistes: 115 kilometers
- Complete Super Dolomiti Ski Region: 450 lifts and 1220 kilometers of pistes.

Bike & Barge Through Historic Northern Italy

An Easy Cycling Adventure From Mantova to Venezia

Don't Forget Your Camera!

by Leigh Gieringer

FAR LEFT/TOP: - Ancient well-preserved city walls surround much of the cities of Ferrara and Mantua.
BELOW: The Palazzo Ducale di Mantova (Ducal Palace) was built between the 14th and 17th centuries mostly by the Gonzaga family. Restoration began in the 20th Century.



Ferrara



Mantua



San Giorgio Maggiore/Venice



Returning to the Boat



On the Road

The journey between Mantua and Venice takes cyclists through several historic towns which have been proclaimed UNESCO's World Heritage Sites.
photos courtesy of Girolibero

The route travels through stone streets and paved paths as well as on open roads. Much of the trip wanders along the banks of the Po River - the longest river in Italy. At the end of the day, the bikes are taken on board the modern Ave Maria Barge. This highly appointed river barge was originally launched in 2011. Dinner is served on board, and the group retires to their comfortable cabins. The week long adventure ends in Venice - one of the world's best preserved ancient cities.

In March of 2016, the Far West Ski Association is running a trip to Cortina d'Ampezzo - also known as *The Queen of the Dolomites*. This world class ski and summer resort is just part of the Italian Alps. It is also included in the Veneto Region of Northeast Italy, named after the original inhabitants - the Veneti - who were eventually assimilated into Roman culture. FWSA Italian trips have always been favorites with members. The pre and post trips have typically filled quickly. Non-ski adventure trips amongst the Far West

Ski Associations and its councils and clubs are consistently being requested. One of the adventures that are increasing being planned are cycling excursions to scenic and interesting areas. These trips provide the opportunity to really commune with their surroundings. Cycling through Northern Italy truly combines picture postcard beauty with elements of historic and artistic significance.

In addition to the craggy Dolomites, the Veneto Region also includes the lower eleva-

tions in the basins and marshy deltas of the Po River, as well as other tributaries, rivers, channels and canals. The major city is Venezia or Venice in English - an ancient city built on numerous islands still vibrant today.

The entire Veneto Region is extremely fascinating. One way to get the most out of a week in the region is taking an easy cycling holiday through its treasures. The excursion either starts in Mantova (Mantua) and ends in Venice, or it can be done in reverse over a span of eight days and seven nights.



Venice



Embarking on a New Day's Adventure

LEFT: The Ave Maria enters the waters surrounding Venice getting ready to dock at the marina. Behind the boat, to the left, is the Basilica of St. Marks and St. Mark's Square. The cyclists will have the chance to "walk" around this unique city.



Chioggia

LEFT: Enthusiasm abounds as the group embarks on a new day of riding, sightseeing and exploring.

ABOVE: Venice, in the past, controlled much of the Mediterranean - for centuries. It's unique character, storied history and photographic charm currently makes it a favorite destination to visit. On the way to Venice, the boat will stop at "Little Venice" - a much smaller - less known - island community which looks very similar to its famous neighbor. The main canal runs through the island connecting each side with bridges. It also has a main street which runs parallel to the canal where most of the activity and landmarks can be found.

The cycling tour runs from Saturday to Saturday. The daylight hours are spent riding, and site-seeing. At the end of the day, bikes are brought on-board, dinner is served on the sun-deck or in the spacious restaurant on the main deck. Relax with the others, then retire - to rest up for the next exciting adventure.

Day 1: The cabins are ready for boarding from 4:30 in the afternoon giving plenty of time to settle in and meet the crew, plus mingle with the rest of the group before dinner.

Day 2: Mantua Tour (40km)

Mantua is surrounded by artificial lakes on three sides created in the 12th Century as a defense barrier: Lago Superiore, Lago di Mezzo and Lago Inferiore (Upper, Middle and Lower). The water originates from Lake Garda - north of the city, by way of the Mincio River. A fourth lake, making an island of the area dried up in the 18th Century.

In 2007, the old town of Mantua and nearby Sabbioneta were declared to be a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. The powerful Gonzaga family, and their influence in the area made Mantua one of the main artistic and cultural centers in what is now Northern Italy. It was especially dominant as a musical



Sunset Dining on the Boat



Bergantino

TOP: Participants enjoy relaxing meals onboard the Ave Maria.

LOWER: Bergantino is noted for its charming carousel and Street Entertainment Museum.

hub, having a significant role in the development of opera. The city is also known for its architectural treasures like the Ducal Palace pictured on page 64.

Day 3: Mantua - Governolo - Bergantino (bike portion - 50km)

The group leaves Mantua by a cruise along the shores of the Mincio River to Governolo where it flows into the Po River. After seeing the highlights, the tour heads to Bergantino known for its charming Carousel and Street Entertainment Museum. Toward the end of the day, the group will reach Zelo - a sleepy little town on the Canal Bianco which runs parallel to the Po.

Day 4: Zelo - Ferrara - Adria (50km by bike)

From Zelo, the group heads to the ancient city of Ferrara which is surrounded by over nine kilometers (six miles) of original city walls. They are among the best preserved walls in Italy dating back to Renaissance times. Many of its numerous and exquisite palaces were built by the ruling d'Este family in the 15th and 16th Centuries. This city has also been designated as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.



Northern Italy Bike and Barge Tours travel between Mantua and Venice in the Adriatic Sea - an eight day /seven night journey. The Ave Maria - a floating hotel - is one of their newest boats. It holds up to 40 guests in 18 comfortable cabins. It also has two sundecks for viewing. www.avemariaboat.com

Resting the leg muscles a bit, the group will take a bus to Adria - an ancient Greek port. Ancient hardly describes it. Archeological findings have estimated this area to have been first settled by the Venetic tribes during the 12th to 9th Century B.C. That's a while ago! At that time, it is surmised, that the main branch of the Po River flowed into the sea through the Adria channel. Thus, came the name: Adriatic Sea. It is also speculated that the town of Adria was much closer to the sea than it is now. After all, it had over three thousand years to extend the delta with sand, rocks and other debris.

Through the ages, the city was populated by the Veneti, Etruscans, Greeks and finally the Celts from the north. Don't miss the Archeological Museum detailing the heritage of this area.

Day 5: Adria - Porto Viro - Chioggia (40km)

As the tour departs Adria, the group remains on the Ave Maria to cruise to Porto Viro located in the Po Delta Wildlife Reserve. This provides the opportunity to cycle through Europe's major reserve for heron and flamingos. At the mouth of the River Adige which is flow from the Dolomites and chilly from the melted snow much of the year, the boat will follow the Po-Brondolo Waterway to reach the Venetian Lagoon. This provides the opportunity to visit the bustling fishing port of Chioggia. This charming town, known as "Little Venice" is located on a small island with a wide north-south central street and a picturesque canal running parallel to it. Enchanting narrow streets run perpendicular to the main corridor.



TOP: Near Venice, the boat will be in open water, while at other times, the waterways are narrow. **LOWER:** The cabins are roomy and comfortable.

Day 6: Chioggia - Venice (30km)

Chioggia has a couple of museums and several interesting churches, but it's claim to fame is the world's oldest millennial clock tower. The views are said to be unbelievable from the top of this tower. Many tourists find the fish market of interest, too.

Back on the boat, it's time to do some island hopping in the Venice Lagoon starting with Pellestrina to visit the Ca' Roman Nature Reserve. A public ferry will be accessed to sail to the Lido. "The Lido" is a world famous island of sand separating the Venice Lagoon from the Adriatic Sea. Much of the side facing the Adriatic consists of sandy beaches owned by various hotels. The strand is known for its film festivals and is a delight for summer, as well as, year around visitors. There are some public beaches for day users. This tour will culminate at the marina in Venice.

Girolibero has a fleet of over 1,500 city and hybrid bikes. Each is especially fitted to make a several day excursion a comfortable experience. In addition to men's and unisex bikes, racing bikes and electric bikes are available for a quicker pace, or for the ease of letting the cycle do much of the work - especially for longer distances. On the bike and barge trips, you can use unisex city or e-bikes. And, if you want to take a day of rest, just remain on the boat to enjoy the gorgeous scenery along the route.

photos / Girolibero

Day 7: Venice

In the morning hours, a tour guide will lead the group to discover the highlights of this unique city. Situated on over 100 small islands in the marshy Venetian Lagoon, they are separated by canals, but linked with bridges. The city has many nicknames including "The Queen of the Adriatic", "The City of Water", "The City of Bridges", "The Floating City" and more. They are all accurate!

This beautiful city is renowned for its history, it's architecture and its irreplaceable art. The setting within the lagoon also adds to its photographic beauty and charm. Having spent a month in Venice studying Venetian art history under the foremost authority on the subject at that time, and walking through the back canals locating the original pieces of art, I can truly attest that one day is not enough to experience all this city has to offer.

That said, a tour guide will be able to point out the major tourist attractions including the Grand Canal, the Rialto Bridge, the Doges Palace, the Basilica of St. Mark and more. The afternoon is open for further discoveries: and, perhaps ride in a gondola?

Day 8: This memorable week is ended, but to really see the city, it is advisable to add an extension to investigate this intriguing city.

Most of this trip follows flat lands, meandering along the rivers. For more information, go to www.girolibero.com. ▲▲



*Ski Resorts
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Mere Moments in the Evolution of Skiing

by Leigh Gieringer

photo courtesy of Sun Valley Ski Resort

The word “ski” comes from the Old Norse word “skiö”, which meant split piece of firewood. Putting long, skinny planks of wood on one’s feet has been around for a very long time, but certainly not as we experience it in today’s world. Early evidence dating back thousands of years has been found in petroglyph cave drawings, while well preserved artifacts have also been recovered. Indigenous tribes near the arctic were hunters. By necessity, they needed to negotiate the snowy tundra in search of food when the ground was blanketed in deep snow. In northern Europe, the Sami are the original people living in Sápmi, also known as Lapland, a name they don’t like, which stretches across the northern parts of Norway, Sweden, Finland, as well as the Kola Peninsula in Russia. Many believe that this is the region where skis were invented.

Further evidence was traced throughout the ages through artifacts found in bogs and the debris of melting glaciers. During the Viking Age (circa 8th - 11th centuries A.D.) special boards additionally aided in exploration and defense of their lands. In the 1700s, armies were trained on skis. Recruits held competitions in traversing down the slopes, around trees and across level snowfields - while shooting. These competitions lead to the first racing tournaments.

It is speculated that in addition to being a necessary mode of transport over snowy terrain, traversing the winter’s snow also became a form of entertainment to make the season more palatable when these people were not struggling to survive.

Snow travel took another turn around

the mid 1800s as a farmer, Sondre Norheim, from Telemark, Norway created a way to attach a heel strap made from tree roots to connect the board to his leather boots, providing more control. The attached board was also narrowed below the foot. The contouring allowed the wearer to access and navigate steeper terrain, as well as, jump off hills. This resulted in the building of wooden structures for jumping. The activity gained more interest and became more accessible to everyone throughout all socio-economic groups in Norway. Special events were organized to showcase these skills. As the word spread, others couldn’t wait to participate in this new “sport”.

Wealthy Britains traditionally would travel to the European Alps for summer hiking through the mountains and around surrounding valleys. They were instrumental in the development of Alpine skiing.

In 1864, Johannes Badrutt, the owner of the Engadiner Kulm Hotel in St. Moritz, Switzerland, offered free lodging to his summer guests during the winter months if they would come back. Several families came over Christmas and thoroughly enjoyed the beauty, the winter snows and the different activities. It wasn’t long before winter month tourism exceeded summer visits. Interest in winter snow sports - from alpine skiing, ice skating, curling, tobogganing and many more grew exponentially. By 1893, skiers were organizing into ski clubs for group involvement, a ski factory was formed in Glarus, Switzerland and several other summer resort areas made the transition to opening their doors in winter, too!

Many skiers, especially the British, enthusiastically challenged each other to see who could go the fastest - down the slopes. Thus, the first downhill ski races were organized. One of the first official downhill races was called the Roberts of Kandahar Challenge Cup in 1911. (See box on page 66 - 12.) This race - now known as “The Kandahar” - continues today on the World Cup Circuit.

To the northeast is St. Anton, Austria. This alpine village was connected to the rest of the world with the completion of the Arlberg Pass Road in 1824, but it was the Arlberg Railway Tunnel which was finished in 1884, that brought more accessibility to this famed area. Johannes “Hannes” Schneider was born here. At an early age, he was mentored by one of the best skiers of the late 1890s. Viktor Sohm was quite proficient at Telemark skiing. Schneider, added his own techniques - now known as the stem christie. In 1907, in his mid teens, he became the first ski instructor at the Hotel Post in St. Anton. Soon, other hotels would hire ski instructors to entice their guests to come during the winter months by offering free ski lessons.

As the political climate changed, Schneider helped train the Austrian army in WWI to navigate mountainous terrain on skis. Hannes, as he later became known, was also a featured skier in the 1920 movie by Arnold Franck entitled *Das Wunder des Schneeschuhs* - “Miracle of the Snow Shoe”. This instructional film created many more participants to the sport. The hotel disagreed with Schneider’s desire to make ski movies, thus a year later, during the winter season of 1921/1922, Schneider founded the Ski School Arlberg. Austrian ski instructors using the Arlberg techniques proved to be instrumental in the growth of the sport throughout the world.

During the 1920’s, the sport of alpine skiing saw tremendous growth, but was primarily for the continent’s rich and its royalty. It made a fortune for ski manufacturers, mountain inns and hotels fared well, as did the railroads. However, the majority of the population could not afford to spend the time or had the funds to travel. WWI had ended. Celebrations were in order. This decade is remembered as a time of carefree opulence for many. However, most ski mountains did not really participate in the profits. This was before ski lifts were invented. Participants basically had to hike up the mountain to ski down. But, the seeds had been planted. Interest was evident. And, there was still so much more to come!

Back in 1910, the First International Ski



Soldiers on skis fought wars such as the Great Northern War between the Russians, Swedish and Norwegians in the eighteenth century. photo / freethepowder.com/pages/history-of-skiing

Congress was formed in Christiania (now Oslo), Norway which eventually became the Federation Internationale de Ski (FIS). This led to the 1924 Olympic Winter Games held in Chamonix, France. The events included only Nordic skiing and ski jumping. Similarly, the 1928 Winter Olympics (St. Moritz, Switzerland) and the 1932 Winter Olympics (Lake Placid, New York) were also limited to only

these two forms of skiing. After many heated discussions, the FIS finally allowed Alpine skiing to be included in the 1936 Olympics, held in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany. The extensive interest of these Olympic events added to further growth of the sport.

Visiting the famed ski resort towns in the European Alps became the thing to do for the wealthy - the perfect atmosphere for mingling

and creating business contacts. Additionally, the well-to-do on both sides of the Atlantic took advantage of larger and more luxurious Ocean Liners connecting the major ports of Europe with the east coast of North America. The elite on both sides of the ocean communicated this new past time bringing many new ideas to summer resort owners in New England and throughout the Laurentian Mountain Range in eastern Canada. Additionally, immigration from Scandinavia brought Telemark and Nordic skiing to areas they settled, while other immigrants brought their downhill skills to the new world. By this time, rail transportation had connected major population centers within North America.

- 6300 BC: *The world's oldest skis were discovered in Russia, near Lake Sindor.*
- 4000 BC: *Rock carvings of a skier from this period were discovered in Norway.*
- 3300 BC: *Skis from this time period were discovered in Finland. They were 180 centimeters long and 15 centimeters wide. These skis had five grooves.*
- 2700 BC: *Two skis and a pole were dug out of a bog in Sweden.*
- 2500 BC: *Archaeologists discovered rock drawings that depict a man on skis holding a stick. The drawings were discovered on a Norwegian island.*

freethepowder.com/pages/history-of-skiing

- Ski Timeline -

Source: National Geographic

8000 BC Altay, China

Altay skis are long by modern standards. Skiers use a single pole to aid balance. Some Chinese academics say the earliest Altay skis date back to 8000 B.C., but other scholars say skiing came to the region much later.



6000 BC Vis, Russia

The oldest ski found to date has an elk head carved on one end that may have functioned as a brake.

3200 BC Kalvträsk, Sweden

A long pole with a scoop carved into one end likely served several purposes: steering downhill, shoveling, and as a club for hunting.



1600 AD Norway
Skiers glided on one long smooth board coated with tar and pushed forward on a shorter, fur-bottomed one.



750 AD Kinnula, Finland

Shorter and wider, this intricately carved ski worked well on soft snow in forest terrain.



1800 Telemark, Norway

Foreshadowing modern designs, the shape of these skis, wider at the ends and narrow in the middle, improved control and turning.



1890s Europe and U.S.

Skiing evolves as a leisure activity and sport. Hickory and ash skis are the primary equipment.



Today



1860s Sierra Nevada, USA

Initially American miners used 10-foot skis to travel in the mountains, and over time they began using longer skis to race each other.

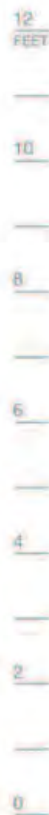


photo / freethepowder.com/pages/history-of-skiing

Major American population hubs in the 1800s were mostly on relatively flat land because it was difficult to live in the mountains. Lack of quality roads to come and go, no snow removal created isolation, and stores to buy everyday necessities were almost non-existent in many areas. As in Europe, the earliest mountaineers needed to find some form of transport during the winter months.

Sondre Norheim's invention had made skiing better in North America, too! In the early days, when the first skis were introduced to city folks, and snowy terrain was available, day skiers could ski along roads or other flat areas, or walk up a nearby slope to ski down. In the latter situation, most of the day's adventure was the exhausting uphill climb with skis and backpack in tow. Later, automobiles made it easier to drive to outlying hills further from the cities and towns. Many of these areas were located along existing roads.



Granlibakken translated into English means, "a hillside sheltered by fir trees". It's no wonder that for many years, Olympic Hill was one of the most popular winter playgrounds on the west coast during the 1920s and early 1930s. It was the site of a double toboggan slide and jump hills. The name was eventually changed to Granlibakken Ski Area. photo / Granlibakken Conference Center & Lodge

Rail Transportation. Better Equipment. Ski Jumping. Ski Clubs.

Ski jumping and ski clubs of enthusiastic participants had become popular in the first decades of the 20th Century. In 1904, the premiere US Ski Jumping National Championship was held. A year later, five midwest ski clubs formed the National Ski Association, continuing interclub ski jumping competitions. More ski clubs were organized in other parts of the country as the sport became more recognized and accessible. The organization of the Dartmouth Outing Club in 1910 was an important event for skiing on the east coast.

SKI JUMP AREAS WERE THE FIRST SKI RESORTS

The popularity of ski jumping was the impetus for setting aside special terrain for participants. **Howelson Hill Ski Area** in Steamboat Springs, Colorado is recognized as the first purposed ski area in the United States. Construction of the initial ski jump began in the summer of 1914 in time for the Second Annual Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Carnival held in 1915. At that time, the area was known as Elk Park, but the name was changed in 1917 in honor of Carl Howelson, a Norwegian immigrant who founded it. Celebrating its 100th Anniversary in 2015, it is Colorado's oldest continuously operated ski area. Because of its natural ski jumping terrain, the resort has been and continues to be a training area for numerous Olympians. Alpine and Nordic trails were added later.

The Lake Tahoe area also has a long ski history. In 1896, the Steamer Tahoe was com-

pleted, providing transport between the south side of the lake to Tahoe City on the northwest side. The Southern Pacific Railroad ran between San Francisco and Truckee, but the addition of a spur line from Truckee to Tahoe City was a boon to Lake Tahoe becoming a desired summer resort area. It was finished in 1900. Later, it was nick-named the "Snow Ball Special". At the same time, the "rustically elegant" Tahoe Tavern, with its numerous guest rooms, was being built to accommodate their many visitors. However, they were not open year around - until 1928.

At this time, the tavern garage was turned into an ice rink, and a double toboggan slide was constructed nearby. The hotel owners soon discovered that another site, one which was called Olympic Hill, would be much better for it was "a hillside sheltered by fir trees". Translated into Norwegian, it later became known as **Granlibakken Ski Area**. Guests would ski over or board horse drawn sleighs to reach the hill for fun in the snow.

A group of Norwegian skiers were touring the area, giving jumping exhibitions. One of them was seven-time national jumping champion, Lars Haugen. The hotel directors hired him to design a jump hill - the Olympic Hill Ski Jump. The Lake Tahoe Ski Club, formed in 1929, assisted in procuring events such as the 1931 National Jumping and Cross-Country Races to the Lake Tahoe area.

Mt. Hood Skibowl was also founded in 1928 as two separate resorts. The jump hill was developed by Everett Sickler on Multor-

por Mountain. Cascade Ski Club began holding competitions in 1929. In the same year, the first U.S. ski school was founded in Sugar Hill, New Hampshire.

THE CALIFORNIA SKI ASSOCIATION FOUNDED, LATER BECAME THE FAR WEST SKI ASSOCIATION

California Ski Association was formed in 1930. The originating ski clubs were the Lake Tahoe Ski Club, the Auburn Ski Club, the Yosemite Winter Club and the Viking Ski Club - Los Angeles plus a few other clubs from Truckee, Nevada City and Reno. Wendell Robie of the Auburn Ski Club was elected president. The California clubs had hoped to earn the bid for the 1932 Olympics which was awarded to Lake Placid, New York. The Organization was admitted into the National Ski Association on December 14, 1930.

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

The 1929 stock market crash, followed by the Great Depression slowed ski resort development, yet it can also be credited with much of its growth. That sounds like an oxymoron, but since about a third of the population under 25 years old were unemployed, one of the first things Franklin D. Roosevelt did after he was inaugurated as the US President was to create the CCC - otherwise known as the Civilian Conservation Corps. The conservation projects were to help restore the forests, build access roads to state lands and develop parks, as well as, provide jobs for many men.

The reported salary was \$30.00 - a month! The projects were under state supervision.

Perry H. Merrill's background included study in Sweden during the early 1920s where he received first hand knowledge of the burgeoning Scandinavian ski industry. When he returned to Vermont, he became an assistant state forester, followed by becoming *the* state forester several years later. Because of his experiences in Europe, he surmised that developing ski areas could help fund other state parks and forests. He successfully negotiated the use of state lands to those developers desiring to establish ski areas. He maintained that this development not only would bring in revenue to the state, but also create much needed jobs. These projects would also be beneficial to provide recreational sites for residents to enjoy. And, bring in tourist dollars!

Merrill was appointed as director of Vermont's CCC projects. One of the projects cen-

saws and axes, the team trekked up the slope to clear a trail from the "base lodge" at Ranch Camp to Toll Road - an old 1850s horse trail - making this one of the first purposed built ski trails in the country.

Three months later, the trail was finished. On February 1, 1934. One of the CCC team members, Paul Barquin, who had carried a pair of skis to the top, was the first one to ski down the newly opened trail. He was the only skier on this CCC team. Thus, he was the only team member to actually be able to enjoy the fruits of their labor!

Eventually, similar groups cleared several more trails in this area of the resort now known as **Stowe Mountain Resort**, however, in later years, the actual resort moved up the road. The first trails are now part of their Nordic system.

A new fangled invention to connect a circling rope to an automobile engine and spin-

and running by January, 1934. The concept spread quickly. Within five years, there were over 100 rope tows up and running throughout North America. There was, of course, a fee for using them: 5 cents a ride or \$1.00 for all day usage. For those who did not enjoy walking up a slope, it was a blessing! The design and implementation of the rope tow was another important element in the development of skiing's popularity! The appeal increased!

Several days prior to finishing the first trail, the Mount Mansfield Ski Club was formally structured. As part of the incorporation was the formation of the Mount Mansfield Ski Patrol, which is said to be the oldest ski patrol in the country. Two years later, in 1936, a rope tow was added at the Toll House. Austrian, Sepp Ruschp, was hired as the new ski school director to teach the Arlberg technique to new students. At the beginning of that season, everything was in place, except Mother Na-

Ski Schools. Rope Tows. All Added to the Early Popularity of Skiing!

tered on Mount Mansfield. At its base was an old logging camp. Back in November, 1933, a crew of CCC men, lead by Charlie Lord, were instructed to reside at Ranch Camp while cutting a ski trail through the trees. With hand

ning wheels existed at Strawbridge in the Laurentians near Montréal, Canada. It was created by Alec Foster who was summoned for advise on constructing the Gilbert Hill tow, in Woodstock Vermont. The Gilbert Hill tow was up

ture did not comply. There was no snow until the following February. There were many challenges in the development of this new sport, but it appears that everyone was determined to make it successful.



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▶ The CCC projects also included the construction of hill structures such as the The Stone Hut in Stowe which remains today.

Stowe wasn't the only resort which benefited from the CCC programs. However, the majority of the resorts that did were located in New England. With the addition of rope tows, more people were interested to try skiing. Promoters held exhibitions in the larger cities. Ski trains left stations with enthusiastic crowds. The sport had taken hold in the eastern part of the country.

Alpine skiing in the west had not really been developed yet, but that was about to change!

THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUN VALLEY - AMERICA'S FIRST DESTINATION SKI RESORT

Prior to his position as Chairman of the Board of the Union Pacific Railroad, W. Averell Harriman was an international banker. As such, he had the opportunity to mingle with European aristocrats and others in high society. As an avid skier even then, he had visited many ski resorts in Switzerland such as St. Moritz and Davos. On a European trip, he met Austrian Count Felix Schaffgotsch.

In the 1930s, much of the United States was affected by the Great Depression. Harriman, by this time, had become the Chairman. One of his main responsibilities was to grow the railroad. Instead of being a liability, Harriman's dream was to convert the abundant snowfall along the mountainous northwestern routes into an asset. *"How could this be done?"*

The concept of building a ski resort based on those in the Swiss Alps came to mind. In the fall of 1935, Harriman contacted Count Schaffgotsch, brought him to the States and gave him instructions: *Search the American West and find an area where the powder is dry, the sun shines all day, and the harsh winds of winter don't penetrate. There was one stipulation: the resort must be on or close to the Union Pacific Railroad line.*

For months, the Count traveled throughout many western states and almost gave up when an acquaintance asked him if he ever went to Ketchum, Idaho. Schaffgotsch spent several days exploring this once prosperous mining town and wired Harriman saying, *"It contains more delightful features, than any other place I have seen in the U.S., in Switzerland or Austria, for a winter sports center,"* according to Sun Valley – A Biography. Harriman was in Ketchum in days, purchased a ranch at the mountains base and began construction on the lodge that spring.

Dollar and Procter Mountains, within walking distance of the lodge, were developed for skiing. The question of how to get skiers up the mountains was tackled next. The engineering department of the Union Pacific Railroad came up with a solution.

James Curran had designed equipment to lift bananas onto boats. He used a modification of the banana lift to develop the first chair lift to carry skiers up Dollar and Procter Mountains. The first lift ticket price at Sun Valley in 1936 on these mountains cost only 25 cents. Bald Mountain was opened three years later.

Steve Hannigan, a publicist from a New York PR firm who was instrumental in promoting the Miami Beach area as a great tourist destination, was credited with naming and promoting this new destination resort. Since the sun shines the majority of the time, the name Sun Valley was chosen. The lodge and ski area opened for business in December, 1936. It was a hit from the start!

Word traveled quickly. Celebrities and other skiers came by the train load. Passengers were dropped off at the Ketchum Train Station and bused to the lodge. The ease of using this new lift transport up the mountain was not only a curiosity, but a boon to the sport, bringing more and more people to this famed destination resort. It certainly didn't hurt that so many celebrities graced the slopes in these early years. Sun Valley was *the* place to be seen.

As part of the Sun Valley Lodge and the nearby Sun Valley Inn which opened in early 1937, Hannigan, the PR guy, insisted on having circular swimming pools designed and constructed at both properties. Due to their unusual shapes in a winter climate, these



Horse drawn sleigh rides remain a favorite Sun Valley activity.



The world's first chairlift, installed on Dollar Mountain, was based on banana hoisting equipment used on cargo ships of this era.

photo / Sun Valley Regional History - Community Library

heated pools were photographed frequently, providing free publicity for the resort. Who would have ever thought that swimming pools would fit into a winter climate - back then?

Several movies were shot in Sun Valley, even in its earliest days. More publicity created more visitors. Everything was falling into place!

SKIING IN 1936

Skiing had advanced tremendously in the previous twenty years or so, but the economy was still depressed. Most people had enough problems putting food on the table and could not afford to ski. Five cents for a tow ride or 25 cents for the chairlift was even hard to come by. The average working class wage was a mere \$1,713 per year. Therefore, the masses could not or did not participate. The sport was mainly for the upper middle class and the wealthy. It wasn't until after WWII that skiing became a sport for the masses to enjoy.

Compared to today's equipment, skis were archaic. They were made of wood, so they splintered easily and often broke. It was

Within a week of arriving in Ketchum, Idaho, in January of 1936, Count Schaffgotsch wired Averill Harriman that he found the perfect spot. In December, 1936, Sun Valley Resort - America's first destination ski resort - was opened to international acclaim. The construction of the Sun Valley Lodge took seven months. It has recently been renovated without altering its historic charm.

also necessary to wax them often so they would slide easier. Bindings were fastened by hand and operated with buckles. Chances were good that they might not release if needed. Safety straps could windmill if the skier fell. Many times, the strap would break, causing the ski to roll uncontrollably down the slope, sometimes causing great damage to anything or anyone below.

W. Averell Harriman brought Austrian Count Felix Schaffgotsch to the United States in the fall of 1935 and gave him a simple set of instructions — search the American West and find an area where the powder is dry, the sun shines all day, and the harsh winds of winter don't penetrate. There was one stipulation: Harriman wanted the resort on or close to the Union Pacific Railroad line.

[U-S-history.com/Sun Valley](http://U-S-history.com/SunValley)



A skier stops to look over the Sun Valley Ski Resort during one of its earlier days as depicted on one of the Resort's historic posters. photos courtesy of Sun Valley Ski Resort



▶ The concept of layering was important when dressing for the cold. Before skiing really became fashionable, any warm clothing would do. Wool hunting or hiking clothing were common. Wool long johns, sweaters and knit caps were the norm. Many early pictures and drawings show women skiers wearing long skirts over their wool leggings. That long pole must have really gotten tangled, because later pictures and posters show women skiing in pants like the men.

Skiers in the early decades always worn some type of scarf or ascot around the neck similar to what “gentlemen” on the continent of Europe wore. Pants were baggy, possibly due to the bottoms tucked into tall leather boots. Some type of windbreaker or canvas jacket was added if it was really cold, but many pictures show patterned hand knit sweaters popular. But, when wool gets wet, it is not very comfortable. Designated ski clothing came later.

Lift lines at resorts could be as long as one to two hours on a busy weekend especially when rope tows, drag tows, J-bars or T-bars were in their early development and a resort only had a few installed. These early skiers were definitely a hardly lot!

In 2016, Sun Valley will be celebrating its 80th Anniversary. They were pioneers in many aspects of the development of skiing that most of us take for granted. In the whole scheme of things, those eight decades were just a mere moment in the evolution of skiing. But, just look how far we have come during those last 80 years!

According to the National Ski Areas Association (NSAA), there were several other ski resorts that opened in 1936 including Brighten and Beaver Mountain in Utah, Showdown in Montana, and Sleeping Giant in Wyoming, plus several in the east. Soda Springs Ski Area near Lake Tahoe had opened its doors the previous year, and is the longest running ski resort in California. ▶▶▶

LEFT: Although begun in 1958 under the name of the Ward Peak Ski Resort, Alpine Meadows opened for the 1961-1962 ski season. The resort will be celebrating its 55th Anniversary beginning in late 2016. In 2011, Alpine Meadows and Squaw Valley Ski Resorts merged. The two resorts span over 6,000 skiable acres, with 42 lifts and 279 trails. In May of 2015, Squaw Valley Ski Holdings, LLC and the owner of private land between the two resorts known as White Wolf, reached an agreement to create a base to base gondola to connect them without the use of a vehicle. See the press release on page 66 - 16.

photo courtesy of Squaw Valley / Alpine Meadows

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TOP: Off piste skiers and boarders of today might have the same pioneering spirit as skiers in the earliest decades of the sport. Carrying their gear and backpack up non-lift served terrain, through deep snow can be a challenge. Jackson Hole Mountain Resort is considered by many to have some of the most challenging terrain in North America, plus there is even more Off-piste terrain to be explored. JHMR is celebrating their 50th Anniversary in 2016. LEFT: Snowboarding is very popular today, but they've only been around for about 50 years. The original snowboards were called snurfers (snow-surfers). They were sold in toy stores. A few years later, Dimitrije Milovich designed a different board and started to mass produce his product manufactured by "wintertide". In 1977, Jake Burton Carpenter modified the concept again, but it was a while before snowboards were allowed at ski resorts. Finally, snowboarding flourished. photos / Jackson Hole Mountain Resort



The development of ski equipment has advanced tremendously throughout the centuries. It is hard to imagine the skier's of yester-year enjoying the sport this much!

▶ WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

The 1936 Olympics was held in Germany, but the political environment in Europe was changing quickly as the beginnings of World War II was eminent.

The U.S. not really affected by the winds of war - yet, a few more ski areas opened in 1937 as the sport was receiving such accolades. They included Timberline Lodge and Ski Area, OR; The Summit at Snoqualmie, and Stevens Pass in WA; Snow Valley Mountain Resort, CA; Loveland Ski Area, CO; Sandia Peak Ski Area, NM; and Mountain High Resort, CA, plus several in the midwest and east. The growth continued in 1938. Hoodoo Ski Area and Spout Springs Ski Area in OR; Alta Ski Area, UT; Arizona Snowbowl, AZ; Lost Trail Ski Area, MT; and White Pine Ski Area, WY; along with more in the upper midwest and New England began to operate.

The sport of skiing really was on a roll! The western states opened more terrain to skiers the following year - 1939. Mt. Spokane Ski Resort, WA; Sugar Bowl, CA; Monarch Mountain and Wolf Creek in CO; and Snow King Resort, WY opened. By this time, the country had entered WWII resulting in a pull back in ski resort development. There was only one commencing in 1940 - Winter Park, CO. During the remaining war years there was some growth. The Great Divide, MT; Snowbasin, UT; and Willamette Pass Resort, OR were the only resorts to open in 1941 -

each celebrating 75 years of operation in 2016. The interest was still there in 1942 with Bogus Basin Mountain Recreation Area, ID; Ski Cooper, CO; and Mt. Waterman, CA. During the following year, 1943, there were no new resorts formed in the entire country, but Pajarito Mountain Ski Area, NM and Snowhaven, ID thought the timing was right in 1944. With that encouragement, Mt. Lemmon Ski Valley, AZ, Anthony Lakes, OR, Sunrise, CA were western additions in 1945.

Because of the war, many previously opened resorts like Sun Valley suspended operation until the war ended. The 1940 and 1944 Olympics were also cancelled. Many who were familiar with skiing were recruited to join the 10th Light Division (Alpine), to train at Camp Hale in Colorado and other mountainous areas to assist in winning the war. The name was subsequently changed to the 10th Mountain Division. These new recruits already had skiing skills to navigate the slopes. Therefore the group's training mainly encompassed how to fight and survive in brutal mountain conditions.

After the war was over, members of this division, plus all the veterans who were taught to ski as part of their duties, were an important element in the future growth of ski resort development and growth which took off exponentially beginning in 1945 - 1946. Skiing, as we know it, would not be the same without its historic past. ▲▲

Other Resort Milestone Anniversaries in the Western United States

Opened 1946 - 70 years

Arapahoe Basin, CO
Aspen Mountain, CO
Bear Mountain, CA

Opened 1961 - 55 years

Alpine Meadows Ski Resort, CA
Breckenridge Ski Resort, CO
Brundage Mountain Resort, ID
Crested Butte Mountain Resort, CO
Hogadon Ski Area, WY
Montana Snowbowl, MT
Ski Apache Resort, NM

Opened 1966 - 50 years

Angel Fire Resort, NM
Diamond Peak Ski Resort, NV
Jackson Hole, Mountain Resort, WY
Mission Ridge Ski & Board Resort, WA
Powderhorn Resort, CO
Sunlight Mountain Resort, CO

Opened 1971 - 45 years

Royal Gorge Cross Country Ski Resort, CA
Snowbird Ski & Summer Resort, UT
49 Degrees North Mountain Resort, WA

Opened 1981 - 35 years

Deer Valley Resort, UT

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www.stantonamariberg.com/en/the-region/history-museum
www.skiinghistory.org/history/glance-switzerlands
<http://skiinghistory.org/gallery/1930s-unexpected-blossoming-alpine-skiing>
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<http://snowbrains.com/the-origins-of-skiing-7000-years-ago/>
www.s-history.com/pages/h4083.html
www.thepeoplehistory.com/1936.html
www.saa.org/
www.granlibakken.com/about.php
www.skibowl.com
www.skisodasprings.com
www.stowe.com/about/history/
www.sunvalley.com
www.svguide.com/w12/count.php

Skinning:

Hot Wintertime Fitness Trend!

Prior to the development of the rope tow, drag tows, T-bars, J-bars, platter (Pomak) lifts, chair lifts, magic carpets and gondolas, and other methods to allow mountain enthusiasts to ascend slopes easier, hardy souls were required to walk up the mountain in order to ski down it. With the advancement of these conveyance systems, skiing participation grew exponentially all over the world. Collectively, resorts have spent billions to replace tow systems with chair lifts. Single chair lifts eventually were replaced with double chair lifts. Soon, the double chairs were removed, superseded by high speed quads. Many gondolas were built, sometimes where chairlifts once were running. Instead of a long ride on the older models, users were blessed with a much quicker ascent. Early skiers would be totally amazed at the progress made to the ease, comfort and convenience of ski sports.

In the early days, most of the day's adventure was the actual climb up the mountain. With luck and endurance, skiers were able to make more than one or two good runs - unless they were only interested in skiing what today would be considered a short bunny slope. Then, perhaps more runs were possible.

Backcountry skiing and boarding has become one of the most popular forms of snow riding in today's world. To accommodate these adventuring types, many resorts have opened more area, as well as added lifts to access the mostly advanced bowls and terrain. Nearby terrain may not be lift serviced. To access this terrain to achieve the ultimate thrills and exhilarations, enthusiasts must use their own power to climb that extra distance - just like the early participants in the sport. However, starting elevations are much higher!

As an off shoot of backcountry skiing, many skiers and boarders have taken it a step further. Climbing up a mountain, or skinning, provides a good work-out to keep in shape. And, the latest mountaineering equipment available makes it much easier to accomplish. Skis are shorter and lighter. Boots are more flexible, attaching at the toe when uphill; and special bindings allow for more foot movement in the walk up the mountain. Couple these with removeable "skins" that affix to the bottom of the skis, make the climb less arduous.

Climbing skins used to be made from seal skin, thus providing the name. They are now mostly either made out of nylon which provides the best uphill grip. These are also the most durable and requires the least amount of maintenance. They can also be made of mohair from angora goats. The latter provides a better glide, but wears out quicker. There is also a combination of the two. Some prefer these since there is a better glide than nylon combined with a better grip than mohair. If uncertain which is best for you, choosing the grip option is suggested, particularly when just starting.

The climbing skin attaches to the front and back of the skis with hardware. An adhesive on the skin sticks to the ski bottom for the ascent. They have tiny fibers pointing to the rear to prevent the skier from rolling backward. Ski/rental shops can provide more information to determine which equipment is best for personal usage.

Once the skins are in place, and a basic knowledge of the technique is learned and applied, the user can walk up hill at a steady pace under most conditions. Before descending down the hill, the skins are removed, and the back of the boots are secured to the ski.

- History of the Kandahar Ski Races -

To skiers and non-skiers alike, the name Kandahar generally is a puzzle and rightfully deserves an explanation. First of all, Kandahar (which is a corruption of Alexandria) is the name of a town in Afghanistan actually founded by Alexander the Great during his monumental march eastward to India and beyond.

Now, the tenuous link between the town of Kandahar and skiing is provided centuries later by British General Frederick Sleight Roberts who, in August, 1880, marched 10,000 men from Kabul to Kandahar, a distance of 313 miles, in 22 days to relieve the siege of a British Garrison stationed there. A grateful British government chose to knight him for this effort in 1882, and, in keeping with custom, he

chose the name of one of his campaigns. Thus, the general became the first Lord Roberts of Kandahar.

Lord Roberts became vice-president of the Public Schools Alpine Sports Club in 1903 and eight years later, on January 11, 1911, a group of Englishmen held the world's very first downhill ski race in Montana-sur-Sierre, Switzerland, and Lord Roberts lent his name to the ski trophy awarded to the winner. This trophy was known as the Roberts of Kandahar Challenge Cup and is used to this day for the premier of world downhill racing.

Finally, in January, 1924, a group of British alpine ski pioneers decided to form a ski club at Mürren, Switzerland, and for want of a better name decided to simply take the name Kandahar and use a block 'K' for a patch, thus starting what is undoubtedly the most famous ski club in the world. The Kandahar Ski Club was then instrumental in organizing the first international ski meet ever to be decided on the combined result of both downhill and slalom races. From that day forward a ski race meet was known simply as a Kandahar!

The driving force behind the Kandahar Ski Club was Sir Arnold Lunn, the man who invented and named the slalom ski race. Strangely enough, Sir Arnold always regretted his attaching the old Norwegian name *slalom* to his invention, recognizing that the German word *torlauf* (gate race) would have been far more appropriate.

On March 3 and 4, 1928, Sir Arnold and his friend, Hannes Schneider, inaugurated and supervised the first Arlberg-Kandahar race in St. Anton, Austria, a full two years before the FIS recognized downhill and slalom racing and three years before the first World Championships in the Alpine Combined.

(Source: kandaharlodge.com) *Time LIFE Magazine* / April 3, 1950 <http://www.chamonixweekends.com/kandahar.htm>



Squaw Valley / Jason Abraham



Alpine Meadows

ABOVE: First tracks are one of the reasons skiers and boarders trek up a slope to ski down before the lifts open in the morning. Exercise is another! LEFT: In order to get to most of the “out of bounds” terrain, one may have to hike in order to reach it. The pioneering spirit is still alive and well! photos courtesy of Squaw Valley / Alpine Meadows

One of the latest trends at mountain resorts is to “skin” up mountain sides for exercise. The trend was mainly begun by local resort residents who would climb a slope, ski down the slope and go to work after getting an exhilarating workout to start their day instead of spending time in a gym. In order to be to work on time, skimmers needed to get an early start, before the lifts opened. Another favorite time is after the lifts close for the day. As visitors to resorts learned of this activity, they, too, wanted to participate. Equipment purchasing has seen an upsurge in popularity, therefore resorts are in the midst of developing their policies on skinning.

Some resorts - especially some of the smaller ones - may have set aside certain trails where skinning is allowed. The center parts of the runs typically are not accessible to those walking up a slope since they would get in the way of snow grooming equipment and downhillers. Many resorts simply are not allowing it at this time. Safety is a big concern as skiers and boarders travel down the slopes at a much greater speed. Insurance coverage, or lack thereof, needs to be determined. If this activity is of interest, do research to see if uphill climbing is allowed at the selected resort. If it is, the equipment will probably be available in their rental shop to try it out.

If walking up the hill under your own power just to ski down a trail near the base lodge, you may or may not need a special lift ticket for use of the resorts designated trails. If available, these passes will probably cost much less than a full day lift pass.





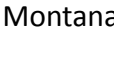
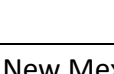

However, many skiers and boarders desire to use the resort lifts to access the upper elevations and reach the non-lift serviced backcountry. Upon entering the out-of-bounds areas, there is a very good chance that they will want or need to walk up to higher levels either before descending the mountainside, or at some point in their journey, to return to the resorts borders and lifts.

Every time one goes off piste, they should have a good knowledge of backcountry, terrain and avalanche preparedness, plus carry safety equipment including an avalanche beacon. The joys of an exhilarated descent shouldn't be spoiled by the unexpected. Never ski alone in the backcountry. Backcountry courses and camps are available. Check out AIARE (American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education - https://aiare.info/course_list.php) for a class list.

Isn't it a real curiosity that so many improvements have been made in mountain lift development, yet so many are opting to once again walk up the slopes. Things definitely have come full circle!

40 Western Resorts Where Seniors Ski Free*

For list of 98 U.S. Resorts Where Seniors Ski Free, visit SeniorsSkiing.com and register for your free subscription.

State	Company	Website	Ski Free Age
Arizona 	Arizona Snowbowl	www.arizonasnowbowl.com	70
	Elk Ridge Ski & Outdoor Recreation Area	www.elkridgeski.com	75
	Mt. Lemmon Ski Valley	www.skithelemmon.com	70
California 	Alta Sierra Ski Resort & Terrain Park	www.altasierra.com	90
	Dodge Ridge Ski Area	www.dodgeridge.com	82
	June Mountain	www.junemountain.com	80
	Mammoth	www.mammothmountain.com	80
	Mountain High Resort	www.mthigh.com	70
	Royal Gorge Cross Country Ski Resort	www.royalgorge.com	75
	Snow Valley Mountain Resort	www.snow-valley.com	70
	Tahoe Donner Ski Area	www.skitahoedonner.com	70
Colorado 	Monarch Mountain	www.skimonarch.com	69
	Sunlight Mountain Resort	www.sunlightmtn.com	80
	Wolf Creek Ski Area	www.wolfcreekski.com	80
Idaho 	Lookout Pass Ski Area	www.skilookout.com	80
	Rotarun Ski Club, Inc.	www.rotarunskiarea.org	65
	Schweitzer Mountain Resort	www.schweitzer.com	80
	Soldier Mountain Ski Area	www.soldiermountain.com	70
	Tamarack Resort	www.tamarackidaho.com	70
Montana 	Bridger Bowl Ski Area	www.bridgerbowl.com	80
	Whitefish Mountain Resort	www.skiwhitefish.com	70
Nevada 	Diamond Peak Ski Resort	www.diamondpeak.com	80
	Mt. Rose - Ski Tahoe	www.skirose.com	75
New Mexico 	Angel Fire Resort	www.angelfireresort.com	70
	Pajarito Mountain Ski Area	www.skipajarito.com	75
	Red River Ski & Summer Area	www.redriverskiarea.com	70
	Sipapu Ski & Summer Resort	www.sipapunm.com	70
	Ski Apache Resort	www.skiapache.com	70
	Ski Santa Fe	www.skisantafe.com	72
	Taos Ski Valley, Inc.	www.skitaos.org	80



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State	Company	Website	Ski Free Age
Oregon 	Mt. Ashland	www.mtashland.com	70
	Mt. Hood Skibowl	www.skibowl.com	71
	Timberline Lodge & Ski Area	www.timberlinelodge.com	72
Utah 	Alta Ski Area	www.alta.com	80
	Nordic Valley	www.nordicvalley.com	70
	Powder Mountain	www.powdermountain.com	80
	Snowbasin Resort Co.	www.snowbasin.com	75
Washington	Ski Bluewood	www.bluewood.com	70
	White Pass Ski Area	www.skiwhitepass.com	73
Wyoming	Snowy Range Ski & Recreation Area	www.snowyrangeski.com	70



photo courtesy of Ski Utah / John Collinson, photographer

*Information provided by National Ski Areas Association for '15-'16 season.
Changes in data may have occurred. Please check **with individual areas**.
Free tickets may require presentation of photo ID. Check individual websites for other discounts and offers.

- Ski Areas Covered by this Two-book Set -

NORTH AMERICA UNITED STATES

Alta
Aspen
Canyons
Crested Butte
Deer Valley
Grand Targhee
Lake Tahoe Region
Loveland Basin
Mammoth Mountain
Mauna Kea, Hawaii
Monarch
Mt. Alyeska
Mt. Bachelor
Mt. Baker
Park City
Powder Mountain
San Gabriel Mts.
Silverton
Snowbird
Taos
Telluride
Timberline
Valdez Heliskiing
White Pass
Wolf Creek

CANADA

Castle Mountain
Fernie
Kicking Horse
Lake Louise
Mt. Norquay
Mustang Powder
Cat Skiing
Revelstoke
Sunshine Village
Bobby Burns Heli-ski
Whistler Blackcomb

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Bad Gastein
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Fendels
Innsbruck Nordpark
Ischgl and the
Paznauntal
Kaunertal
Kitzbühel
Krippenstein
Montafon Valley
Nauders
Obergurgl
Pitztal
Saalbach/
Hintertglen
Schröcken
St. Anton & the
Arlberg
Sölden
Mayrhofen and
the Zillertal
Tauplitz
Warth

FRANCE

Alp d'Huez
Avoriaz & Portes du
Soleil
Auron
Cauterets
Chamonix
Ghisoni
Grand Tourmalet
Isola 2000
La Grave
La Plagne-
Les Arcs
Luz-Ardiden
Piau-Engaly
Pra Loup
Sainte Foy
Serre Chevalier
St. Lary
Tignes-Val d'Isère
Trois Vallées
Val Cenise
Val d'Ese
Vars

GERMANY

Garmisch-
Partenkirchen
Mittenwald

ITALY

Adamello Ski
Alagna
Bormio
Campo Felice
Campo Imperatore
Champorcher
Courmayeur
Dolomites
Gressoney
Limone
Livigno
Madesimo
Milky Way Region
Ovindoli
Rivisondoli
Roccaraso
Mt. Etna Nord
Mt. Etna Sud
Pila
Santa Caterina
Valdidentro

LIECHTENSTEIN

Malbun

SWITZERLAND

Andermatt
Davos/Klosters
Disentis/Sedrun
Engelberg
Fiesch
Flims/Laax
Haldigrat
Haslital
Jungfrau Region
Lenzerheide

Les Marecottes
Lötschental
St. Moritz
Verbier
Val d'Anniviers
Zermatt

EUROPE – THE MEDITERRANEAN ANDORRA

Arcalis
Grandvalira
Pal/Arisal

CYPRUS

Troodos

GREECE

Parnassos
Seli
Tria-pente Pigadia
Mt. Vasilitsa
Voras

PORTUGAL

Serra da Estrela

SPAIN

Astún
Baqueira/Beret
Cerler
Boi Taull
Candanchú
El Formigal
La Molina/Masella
Port Ainé
Sierra Nevada

EUROPE – THE NORTH DENMARK

Hedeland Ski Center

NORWAY

Folgefonn
Galdhøppigen
Gaustatoppen/
Gaustablikk
Geilo
Myrkdalen
Narvik
Oppdal
Røldal
Sogn Ski Center
Strandafjellet
Strynfjellet
Voss

SCOTLAND

Cairngorm
Glencoe
Nevis Range

SWEDEN

Borgafjäll
Kittelfjäll
Klimpfjäll
Riksgränsen
Åre

FINLAND

Pyhä/Luosto
Ruka
Ylläs

ICELAND

Hlidarfjall
Bláfjöll
Böggvisstadafjall
Tungudal

GREENLAND

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Cerro Castor
Cerro Catedral
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Las Araucarias
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ECUADOR

Ski Tour on Mt. Cotopaxi

PERU

Huacachina

VENEZUELA

Ski trekking Pico Humboldt
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Mt. Kékes

KOSOVO

Brezovica

LATVIA

Sigulda

LITHUANIA

Ingalina
Snow Arena

MACEDONIA

Popova Sapka
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MOLDOVA MONTENEGRO

Bjelasica
Durmitor

POLAND

Butorowy Wierch
Gubałówka
Kasprowy Wierch
Kotelnica
Szymoszkowa

RUMANIA

Poiana Brasov
Sinaia

RUSSIA

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Krasnaya Sopka
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Mt. Tcheget

SERBIA

Kopaonik

SLOVAKIA

Jasná
Strbské Pleso
Tatranská Lomnica

SLOVENIA

Kanin Kobla
Kranjska Gora
Vogel
Krvavec

UKRAINE

Bukovel
Dragobrat
Slavsko Politekh
Slavsko Mt. Pohar
Slavsko Mt. Trostian
Slavsko Velykyy Verkh

ANTARCTICA

OCEANIA

AUSTRALIA

Falls Creek
Mt. Buller
Mt. Hotham
Perisher Blue
Threadbo

NEW ZEALAND

Broken River
Cardrona
Coronet Peak
Craigieburn
Mt. Hutt
Turoa
Whakapapa
Mt. Olympus
Ohau
Porter Heights
The Remarkables
The Tasman Glacier
Treble Cone

AFRICA AND THE

MIDDLE EAST

IRAN

Dizin
Shemshak
Tocha

ISRAEL

Mt. Hermon

LEBANON

Cedars
Faraya

LESOTHO

Afriski

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Oukaïmeden

OMAN

Nomadic Desert Camp

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SOUTH AFRICA

Tiffendell

TURKEY

Heliski Turkey
Mt. Erciyes
Palandöken
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Uludag

UGANDA

Ski trekking Rwenzori
Mountains

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Ski Dubai

ASIA

CHINA

Beidahu
Changbai Shan
Huaibei Resort
Jade Dragon Mt.
Yabuli

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Gulmarg
Kashmir Heliski

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Furano
Hakuba
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KAZAKHSTAN

Chimbulak
Kan Tengri Heliski

KOREA

Alps
Muju
Yong Pyong

KYRGYZSTAN

Kashka-Suu
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MONGOLIA

Sky Resort
Ski touring in
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UZBEKISTAN

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Readers who already own Volume I can complete their collection with a purchase of Volume II, or both volumes will be available as a set for a special discounted price. Naturally, one can also purchase the original Volume I by itself. More information and a list of all resorts covered in the books can be found at: www.skiingaroundtheworldbook.com.

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The anticipated publishing date will be fall of 2016. There will only be a limited number of books printed. Please fill out the Request Form on the website to receive a priority number that guarantees one of the limited supply. Don’t miss out on getting your copies of this coveted set!

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www.skiingaroundtheworldbook.com

Jimmy Petterson is a frequent contributor to the FWSA’s *Far West Skier’s Guide*, and, a multiple FWSA Bill Berry Award winner.



Many changes have affected the ski worked throughout the last several thousand years, especially since the end of World War II when the sport really advanced. It is definitely not a stagnant environment. Changes, additions, and improvements will continue to make it better for participants. One of them is nearby to many FWSA members. The first step in connecting two of Lake Tahoe's great resorts has been realized. A base-to-base gondola is on the drawing board. Riders will be able to ski both resorts without traveling by car between them. And, the views are exceptional along the way! photo courtesy of Squaw Valley / Alpine Meadows / Jason Abraham, photographer

Squaw Valley Ski Holdings, LLC. Reaches Agreement Allowing Base-To-Base Gondola Connection Between Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows

Planning Process to Design Gondola Connection Now Underway

[Olympic Valley and Alpine Meadows, Calif.] April 13, 2015 – Squaw Valley Ski Holdings, LLC today announced it has reached an agreement with the owner of private land located between Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows to create a base-to-base gondola connection between the two iconic mountains. The gondola would make it easy for skiers and riders to explore both mountains with a single lift ticket or season pass, without needing to travel between the two by car.

"For decades, skiers and riders have talked about connecting these two world-class resorts," said Andy Wirth, president and CEO of Squaw Valley Ski Holdings, LLC. "Over the last four years, we've made significant improvements to enhance the skier experience at both Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows. The base-to-base gondola will offer our guests the ability to easily explore and experience the unique attributes of these two mountains via a brand new aerial connection, while simultaneously reducing vehicle traffic between them."

The planned gondola connection between the two mountains is due to a partnership between Squaw Valley Ski Holdings and Troy Caldwell, the owner of the private land dubbed "White Wolf," located between Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows. The estimated completion date of the project will be subject to Placer County and US Forest Service approvals once applications are submitted.

"Connecting Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows through White Wolf is literally bringing my long-time dream to fruition," said Troy Caldwell. "I've waited years for this to happen, and am pleased to have reached an agreement with Squaw Valley Ski Holdings to allow skiers and riders to easily move between these two incredible mountains."

Plans to connect the two mountains have commenced, and include the possibility of the lift to be constructed as a high-speed, detachable gondola that would operate between the base of Squaw Valley and the base of Alpine Meadows, traveling over the KT-22 Peak. There are no plans currently being contemplated to allow skiing or other non-skiing activities along the lift route or on the White Wolf terrain.

"We are pleased to have reached an agreement with Troy, and to have the opportunity to connect these two iconic mountains via gondola," said

Wirth. *"This connection represents a huge opportunity to give skiers and snowboarders a way to easily travel between Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows and seamlessly experience the distinct terrain and unique culture of both mountains."*

Squaw Valley Ski Holdings and Troy Caldwell will work with mountain planners at SE Group to design and construct the gondola connection to ensure good stewardship of the high alpine environment whose natural beauty is integral to the overall Squaw Valley | Alpine Meadows experience. The planned base-to-base gondola will be carefully designed to minimize the overall footprint and potential visual impacts to the adjacent Granite Chief Wilderness, as well as maintain the scenic beauty of the area.

To accomplish this, design elements include minimizing the number of lift towers and eliminating the need to construct access roads. The result of these efforts would significantly reduce necessary timber removal and vegetation clearing for construction, and would minimize impacts on watershed, soils and natural resources throughout the planned lift corridor. Recognizing the visual sensitivity of the surrounding area – particularly the adjacent Granite Chief Wilderness, measures will be implemented to minimize the potential for adverse visual impacts from the perspective of design, materials and equipment selection, and operational practices. In addition, it is anticipated that the operation of the gondola will substantially reduce both resort shuttle service and guest vehicular traffic between the two resorts, leading to a reduction in overall vehicular emissions.

"The plan itself will be executed with incredible care and concern for our environment, and with the intention of taking cars off the road, effectively reducing vehicle travel between the two mountains," said Michael Gross, director of environmental initiatives for Squaw Valley | Alpine Meadows. "Our guests will no longer have to drive from one mountain to the other to choose where they would like to ski. They will have the ability to simply ride a gondola to experience these two iconic, diverse mountains."

For more information about the Squaw Valley | Alpine Meadows connection, visit squawalpine.com/gondola. ▲▲

FWSA SCUBA DIVING TRIPS POPULAR

by Randy Lew

Far West Ski Association (FWSA) started offering scuba diving trips in the fall of 2010. Based on a large survey of our ski club members in 2009, we found out that 21% of our membership were also scuba divers. Randy Lew, FWSA President at the time, proposed a dive trip that the FWSA Board of Directors approved. Randy then led the first FWSA dive trip in September, 2010 to the Wyndham Reef Club in Cozumel, Mexico with 16 enthusiastic participants.

Since that first trip, participants have enjoyed the diving, activities and sightseeing at the Turquoise Bay Dive & Beach Resort in Roatan, Honduras; the Brac Reef Beach Resort in Cayman Brac; the SunBreeze Hotel in Ambergris Caye, Belize; the Occidental Grand Cozumel Resort in Cozumel, Mexico, and the Plaza Beach Resort in Bonaire. The trips have grown from 16 participants to 36 this last September in Bonaire, with a great combination of divers and non-divers, singles and couples. We also have had all levels of divers on these trips, from newly certified (a couple got their certifications on the Bonaire trip) to very advanced (one lady that has attended all our trips has over 800 dives!) These trips have been led by FWSA Past President, Randy Lew, who has a PADI Master Diver certification.

These trips are very relaxing with activities such as snorkeling, kayaking, paddle boarding, cycling, hiking and shopping available. The increased number of non-diver participants is a great indicator of the variety of activities that are offered. All trips have been to beautiful all-inclusive resorts with PADI 5-Star dive operators.

Bula! The 2016 FWSA dive trip will be to Beqa Lagoon Resort in Fiji! We are finalizing the dates and contract now and all info will be available shortly. We will be flying from Los Angeles directly to Nadi International Airport on the island of Viti Levu then, transferring to the island of Beqa.

Fiji is known as the "Soft Coral Capital of the World" and is also home to the "Great Astrolabe Reef". A network of brilliant coral reefs surrounds the 333 islands and atolls. With around 1000 species of fish and several hundred types of coral and sponges, Fiji offers a unique diving experience. With over 4,000 square miles of coral reef, Fiji Islands offer divers unparalleled marine biodiversity.

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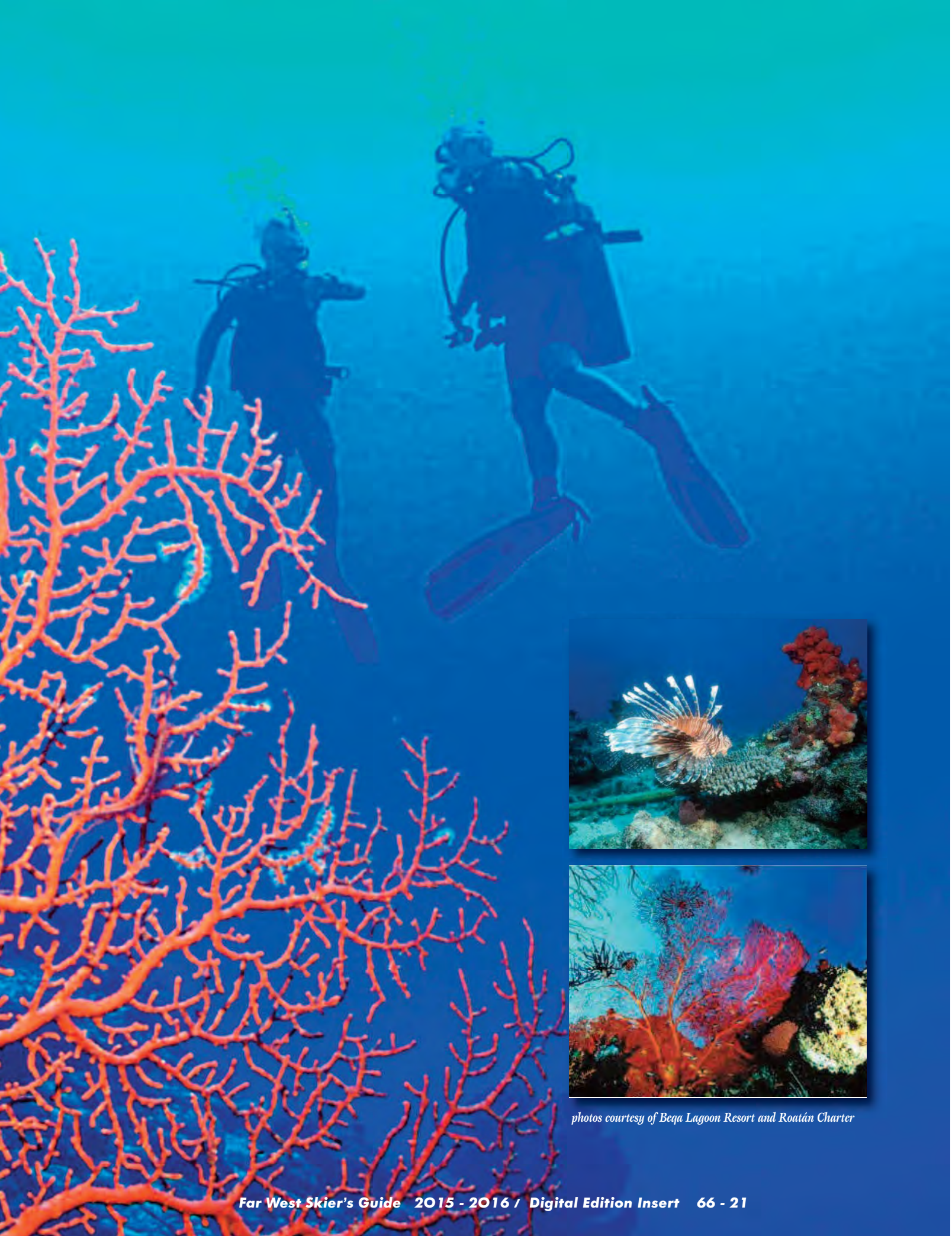
e-mail: **info@roatan.com**

<http://www.roatan.com>



An underwater photograph featuring a large, branching piece of orange coral in the foreground. In the background, a black fish is visible swimming near some green coral. The water is a deep blue color.

Discover the mysteries & magical underwater world with FWSA's Dive/ Adventure Program.



photos courtesy of Beqa Lagoon Resort and Roatán Charter

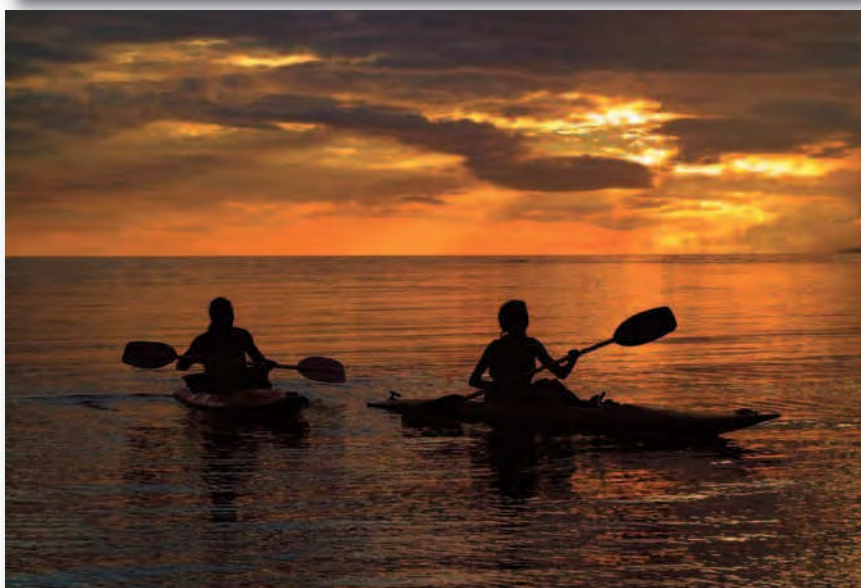


The destination for the 2016 FWSA dive trip will be to the charming Beqa Lagoon Resort in Fiji! In addition to scuba diving, participants can also snorkel, kayak, paddle board, cycle, and hike along the gorgeous shores, as well as just relax, shop and enjoy the island atmosphere.
photos courtesy of Beqa Lagoon Resort and Roatan Charter

Dive, Kayak, or Just Relax!

***Include this dream
vacation in your
2016 adventures.***

For details on this fabulous South Pacific experience, contact Debbie Stewart, VP - International Travel at fwsaintltrl@prodigy.net or (559) 737-0882; or Randy Lew, Trip Leader, at fwsa13Randy@telis.org or (530) 304-0802. Updates will also be available at www.fwsa.org. ▲





Clubs Are Active On & Off the Slopes



FWSA Council/Club Section



LARGE PHOTO: Westwood Ski Club (LAC) offers summer waterskiing outings. (photo of Randy provided by Kathleen Byrnes) **TOP LEFT:** The Phoenix Ski Club members keep cool on the Verde River in Arizona over the summer. (photo / Arleigh Meiners) **MID:** A group on the Intermountain Council Ski Week trip relax for lunch at a mountain lodge on Red Mountain, BC. (photo / Michael Bouton) **LOWER:** Fountain Valley Ski Club (Orange Council) members have a wonderful time at Jackson Hole Mountain Resort. On this trip, a group spent a day exploring Yellowstone National Park. **TOP RIGHT:** Debbie found a new friend - one of the dogs from the dogsled team. (photos provided by Jim Wisenbaker)



Members of the Phoenix Ski Club float on the Verde River. . . photos provided by Arleigh Meiners

Arizona Ski Council by Arleigh Meiners, ASC Past President

The Arizona Ski Council (ASC) represents six clubs and between 450-550 members, primarily in the Phoenix metro-area, with membership open to non-profit ski clubs in the state of Arizona. Our clubs serve skiers, snowboarders and social members. The Snowbowl in Flagstaff, Arizona was able to stay open all winter this year. This was due to the fact that the Snowbowl now has snow making equipment. They are installing a new quad lift which is the first new lift installed at the Snowbowl in 30 years.

Seven members from the Arizona Ski Council attended the FWSA Convention that was held in San Diego, California from June 4-7, 2015. Linda Westlund from the Scottsdale Ski Club, represented the Arizona Ski Council as their Woman of The Year and was named the FWSA Councils' Woman of The Year! Congratulations Linda! We are very proud of you!

The Arizona Ski Council is hosting the 2016 FWSA Convention, which will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Resort in Scottsdale, Arizona from June 9-12, 2016. Linda Westlund is serving as Host Council Convention Coordinator, and her committee is diligently meeting on a monthly basis.

The Scottsdale Ski Club and the Phoenix Ski Club each had their election of officers during

Boeing Employee Adventure Club is a corporate club of the Arizona Ski Council and continues their social schedule and family events around town. Employees may contact www.boeing.com for more information about recreation activities that are planned.



. . . and, enjoy the views from the Verde Canyon Railway.

the month of April, 2015. Ed Carmines was re-elected as the President of the SS&SC. Larry Reineck was re-elected as the President of the PSC.

The Arizona Ski Council had their election of officers at their April Board Meeting. Results of that election are: President Judy Upton, Vice President Arleigh Meiners, Treasurer Dodi Bailey, Race Coordinator Bill Behnke and Past President is Arleigh Meiners. Tim Avedovech represents the PSC. Linda Westlund represents the SS&SC. Bud Tasch represents AzOTC. Glenn Pyle represents Boeing Employee Adventure Club. Gary Gertz represents Partytime Sports and Melita Hillman represents the Sailing Adventure Club. The ASC hosts weekly Happy Hours during the hot summer months for all the clubs to participate in.

Arizona Outdoor Travel Club, (AzOTC) which is mostly a hiking club, continues to have hikes all year long. They have an exercise hike every Tuesday. In the summertime, AzOTC has at least one hike that lasts a week in the cool mountains of Arizona. AzOTC sends out a weekly e-mail to their members telling them about the hikes and other activities happening during the week. Go to www.azotc.com for more information on these and other exciting trips.

The Phoenix Ski Club, (PSC), has their 2015-2016 ski trip schedule on their website. PSC is doing a family ski trip to Purgatory, Colorado during the 2016 New Year's Holiday. In January, the PSC is planning a ski trip to Zermatt, Switzerland. PSC will be going to Aspen/Snowmass, Colorado during February and to Park City, Utah during March. In September 2015, the PSC conducted a wine tour in the Eldorado County in central California. For more details about the Phoenix Ski Club see www.phxskiclub.org.

The Sailing Adventure Club (SAC), is a social club based in Phoenix, Arizona. Due to challenges finding someone to maintain the website and newsletter, SAC moved toward becoming a Meetup group. In doing so, they have attracted about 40 new members. The SAC has put together a sailing trip starting at Key West, and sailing west to the Dry Tortugas, where a major fort was built in the past. This sailing trip will be in October 2015. In 2016 there is a possibility that the SAC will do a sailing trip in Tahiti. SAC is no longer charging dues, so anyone can join via Meetup.

The Scottsdale Sea & Ski Club, (SS&SC), is an adult ski and social club. SS&SC traveled to London and Paris in Septem-

ber and also had a sailing trip to Catalina Island. Some of the other activities planned are, campouts, pub crawls, and many more events. The SS&SC will be joining the PSC on two Telluride, Colorado ski trips. SS&SC will also be doing a ski trip to Park City, Utah in January 2016. The SS&SC will be holding a 30 year Anniversary celebration on November 7. For more information go to www.scottsdale-skiclub.com.

The 2015-2016 ski schedules for the member clubs are posted on the Arizona Ski Council website. To keep track of these and other exciting Arizona Ski Council events, please check www.arizonaskicouncil.org often.

Arizona Ski Council www.arizonaskicouncil.org

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SCOTTSDALE SEA AND SKI CLUB

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Bay Area Snow Sports Council

by Paul Vlasveld, President

The Bay Area Snow Sports Council (BAC) is a very active part of the Far West Ski Association and the National Ski Council Federation (www.skifederation.org). BAC is celebrating its 75th Anniversary in 2015. Our focus is Having Fun. One might ask, "Who should join a BAC club?" A very simple answer is: YOU! We welcome snowboarders, skiers, cross country, people who enjoy snow shoeing and those who prefer non-snow social activities.

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. You'll find fun things to do all year long with our clubs.

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

You'll be amazed by the variety of trips available through the BAC, our various clubs, and the Far West Ski Association. The locations include many Tahoe venues, domestic locations, adventures to Europe and just about all points on a compass. You can find members of the BAC going to the slopes just about any time during the winter! As an example, in 2015, we had members skiing in Whistler Blackcomb, British Columbia;



Bay Area Snow Sports Council has fun doing a variety of club and council activities on and off the snow. This was the BAC group on the aircraft carrier USS Midway at the FWSA Convention in San Diego.

photo / Dennis Heffley, Rusty Bindings Ski Club

Whitefish, Montana; Jackson Hole, Wyoming; Steamboat Springs, Colorado; Sun Valley, Idaho and a number of additional locations. During 2016, already scheduled are trips to Telluride and Crested Butte, in Colorado; Park City, Utah; Sun Peaks, B.C., Canada and many other locations.

Another wonderful part of the BAC clubs and our members is how we volunteer our time and energy through community outreach and fund raising programs. Our main benefactor is Disabled Sports USA Far West Division (DSUSA) (www.dsusa.org). Over the years, we have raised over \$395,000 for their program! On August 22, 2015, we held our 10th 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. There were almost 200 of us enjoying the incredible experience at the Oakland Coliseum. Thank you to the Oakland A's Baseball Organization and Vail Resorts for supporting this spectacular evening!

The history of the Bay Area Snow Sports Council is just as amazing as what is taking

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

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 40th 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 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 local places to ski / snowboard is a true gift.

Our Recreational Race Schedules for 2015 - 2016 will be featuring Alpine Meadows, North-

Star at California and Squaw Valley (venues subject to change). In addition, there are the Far West Championships at Alpine Meadows! Become one of our "racers". Come out and have a great time! Even if you don't race, please join us at the slopes during any of our on mountain events. Cow bells are encouraged!

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

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

To our members, clubs and those who donate and support our efforts, I always like to say - "Thank You for Being the One Who Makes the Difference!" Please check out one of our clubs, come to the slopes with us and have fun with our Volunteer Non-Profit Organization!

Bay Area Snow Sports Council

www.skibac.org

President: Paul Vlasveld

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Bay Area Snow Sport Council Ski and Social Clubs

Member Clubs &

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INSKIERS SKI AND SNOWBOARD CLUB

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Bay Area club members are fortunate to have the Lake Tahoe area with its fabulous ski resorts so close. They can drive, or take the train, for weekend or midweek get-a-ways as well as longer stays. Predictions are that with a strong El Nino forecasted, the Tahoe resorts should get a close to normal snowfall, which would be much better than the last couple of seasons. One thing is for certain, the views are absolutely stunning as seen in this photo of Diamond Peak. photo courtesy of Diamond Peak Ski Resort

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THE OLYMPIC CLUB

Private - Member Sponsored

Steve Bard

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Historic Milestone:

**On August 1, 2016
Switzerland will
celebrate its 725th
Anniversary.**

*(Pack your bags! Many
festivities are being planned
throughout the country.)*



ABOVE: Skiers enjoy the snowflakes on their visit to Big White Ski Resort. **RIGHT:** SLO Skiers take a snowshoe nature hike at Crater Lake on their trip to Mt. Bachelor, Oregon.

photos provided by Fran Long

Central Council of California

by Fran Long, President

Ski/Snowboard councils and clubs are mostly about having fun on the snow, but many also offer a variety of non-snow activities and adventures. Central Council, and its member clubs, offer more fun than one person could possibly handle!

For all our member clubs, Central Council offers information and options. Clubs generally like to offer the benefits made available by the council, Far West Ski Association, and the National Ski Council Federation, including travel options, discount lodging, and discounts at various ski-related venues, to their members. If you are a club member, and you aren't getting information about the many benefits and options available to you, inquire at your next meeting, or contact your council president or membership person directly. Council president contact information is listed, along with all our club presidents' contact information, in this publication.

As a council, we offer several weekend and mid-week ski trips to Mammoth Mountain and a summer adventure trip that



might include camping, biking, kayaking, and/or golf. The council also supports the FWSA North American ski week held the end of January or first of February each year, the mini ski week usually held in the spring, the international ski week, as well as the many adventure trips FWSA has to offer.

Additionally, our clubs all have active winter and summer programs and trips available to their members. Two very different Central Council clubs will be highlighted here. Avalanche Ski Club, located in Bakersfield, CA, enjoys short trips to Mammoth Mountain and gathers for a social dinner and quick meeting every month. As a small club always looking for someplace new to ski, they can't run their own weeklong ski trips, so they participate through FWSA and through a reciprocal agreement with other Central Council clubs. For more information, contact



Avalanche Ski Club friends stop for lunch on one of their trips to Mammoth Mountain.

Central Council of California

www.centralcouncilskiclubs.org

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Central Council of California Member Clubs & Contact Information

AVALANCHE SKI AND SPORTS CLUB

Serving Bakersfield, Kern County

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President: Donna Barnes

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CAMBER SKI CLUB

Serving the Salinas Valley and

parts of Monterey County

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FRESNO SKI CLUB

Serving Fresno County

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OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL ENTHUSIASTS

Serving Fresno County

Facilitator: Bob Strickland

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SANTA BARBARA SKI AND SPORTS CLUB

Serving Santa Barbara County

www.sbski.org

President: Marianne Mahn

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SLO SKIERS, INC., A SKI SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

Serving San Luis Obispo, Southern

Monterey and Northern Santa

Barbara Counties

www.sloskiers.org

President: Fran Long

president@sloskiers.org

SNOW TRACKERS

Serving Exeter, California

www.centralcouncilskiclubs.org

President: Helen Salisbury Jacobson

helenzz@aol.com

Club president, Donna Webb, dblazekwebb@gmail.com, 661-873-8656.

SLO Skiers, located in San Luis Obispo, is a much larger club. SLO Skiers offers two weeklong ski trips each year, supports the FWSA ski weeks and adventure trips, and offers a comprehensive summer program that includes campouts, bike rides, hikes, a monthly BBQ, and a monthly wine down. With over 150 members, SLO Skiers often takes 50-65 members on a week-long ski trip. For more information see our Meetup site: <http://www.meetup.com/SLO-Skiers-Inc-A-Ski-Sports-and-Social-Club/>.

Central Council currently has seven clubs located in the central valley and central coast areas of California. Check us out. If you live in the Central California area, chances are we have a club near you. Look around, join as a stranger, and plan to leave with many life-long friends.



photos / Michael Bouton

Intermountain Ski Council

by Paul Markowitz, President

The Intermountain Ski Council covers the states of Idaho, Wyoming, South Dakota, and Utah. The council is doing well, with many new and exciting activities planned in 2015-2016. Because of the distance between clubs, we meet by phone conference call once a month. As our member club reps are very busy helping with their own ski clubs, we decided to incentivize them a bit and have held "door prize" drawings to help encourage attendance... sometimes it pays to just show up!

The Intermountain Ski Council held a winter trip to beautiful Red Mountain, British Columbia. The trip was well attended and lots of fun, with a special highlight of attending the Winter Carnival in nearby Rossland. With snow sculptures, contests, parades, and all sorts of fun activities... our trip participants were thoroughly entertained by the great ski resort by day, and by the festival by night.

The council is planning a terrific trip this coming winter to Utah to ski Snowbasin and Powder Mountain, while staying in nearby Ogden. Our trip is a joint venture with the Bogus Basin Ski Club and travel reservations are well underway. It is scheduled for February 17-20, 2016. We're looking forward to having all our council clubs join us in Utah for a great weekend.

The council website won a FWSA Communications award for the "Outstanding Council Web-



site". Thank you and congratulations to Lennia Machen for the outstanding job. Lennia will be retiring from our board this fall, completing a long term of volunteerism that began when the council began eight years ago.

Plans are well underway for the FWSA Convention planned in Boise, Idaho in 2017. We hope to see many of our distant council friends joining us as we meet in beautiful Boise.

Member Club News:

Bogus Basin Ski Club hosted Bergfreunde from Portland, Oregon last season for a fun outdoor barbecue social. It was great fun getting to know new ski and boarding people.

Idaho Falls Ski Club had wonderful success in the communications awards at the FWSA Convention in San Diego by receiving awards for the *Outstanding Club*, *Outstanding Newsletter*, and *Outstanding Website*. The IFSC is an exceptional club, with many inventive programs like their discount ski pass program and subsidized ski lessons at Grand Targhee Resort. They enjoy a very large membership every year and are looking forward to another active year with new programs and trips.

Pocatello Ski and Snowboard Association is the new name for our member club formerly known as the Pocatello Ski Association. Their new website being launched with the name change is sort of like a Grand Re-

The Intermountain Ski Council winter trip was to Red Mountain, British Columbia during their Winter Festival.



Intermountain Ski Council members have numerous resorts in their backyard including Grand Targhee in Wyoming.

photo courtesy of Grand Targhee

Opening for this long lasting club. The new site is beautiful, great new logo, and we all wish you a successful new year under your new title.

Cheyenne Ski Club is getting more involved with the council and may be sending a few members to the FWSA Ski Week at Telluride, Colorado this upcoming season.

Please join us in Utah, February, 2016. And, make plans to come to Boise in 2017 for the FWSA 85th Annual Convention.

Intermountain Ski Council

www.intermountainski.org
council.org

President: Paul Markowitz
(208) 850-9962
pmarkowitz@cableone.net

Intermountain Ski Council Member Clubs & Contact Information

AGGIE SKI CLUB

Serving the Logan, Utah area
President: William Hamann
aggieskiclub@gmail.com

BLACK HILLS SKI CLUB

www.bhskiclub.com
Serving the Rapid City, South Dakota area
President: Rich Emerson
bhskiclub@gmail.com

BOGUS BASIN SKI CLUB

<http://bogusbasinskiclub.org/>
Serving the Boise, Idaho area
President: Darryl Kuhrt
president@bogusbasinskiclub.org

CHEYENNE SKI CLUB

www.cheyenneskiclub.com
Serving the Cheyenne, Wyoming area
President: Jodee Pring
cheyenneskiclub@hotmail.com

HILL SKI CLUB

Serving the Hill Air Force Base, Clearfield, UT
President: Norm Bates
waterskillayton@comcast.net

IDAHO FALLS SKI CLUB

www.ifskiclub.com
Serving the Idaho Falls, Idaho area
President: Don Rasch
skibiz@ida.net

PARK CITY MOUNTAIN SPORTS CLUB

www.pcmsc.org
Serving the Park City, Utah area
President: Kathy Kelleher
kathykel2@aol.com

POCATELLO SKI ASSOCIATION

www.pocatelloskiandsnowboard.com
Serving the Pocatello, Idaho area
President: Richard Antill
rantill2000@msn.com

PRIMETIMERS SKI CLUB

Serving male skiers at the Bogus Basin Ski Resort
President: Ben Doty
bdoty80826@aol.com

SNOWBER SKI & SNOWBOARD CLUB

www.snowber.org
Serving the Cottonwood Heights, Utah area
President: Matt Dominesey
info@snowber.org

Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs

by Kathleen Byrnes, President

This is my first year as president of Los Angeles Council, and I am happy to report that our council, while not growing, remains generally the same size, both in number of clubs and overall club members. There is much diversity across the council in the makeup of club membership and the interests and activities promoted by the clubs. There are many skiers, a respectable contingent of boarders and water skiers, and a large group which enthusiastically participates in the varied social events provided by the clubs throughout the year. Geographically, the 28 clubs comprising the council are spread across a large area from Santa Barbara in the northwest to Pasadena in the east and Long Beach to the south.

As with most councils, travel was a favored activity for LA Council members throughout this past year. Whether they go by car, bus or even plane, almost all LA Council clubs traveled frequently to Mammoth Mountain for weekend and midweek outings. And yet, many still had the time and energy to plan longer trips to out-of-state resorts; Aspen, Mt Bachelor, Whistler, Alta, Steamboat Springs, Telluride, Taos, Snowmass, Banff, Park City, Whitefish and Snowbird were all visited by at least one LA Council club this past year.

Nor did the clubs limit their travel to ski trips. Trips were taken to Norway, Washington DC, Italy, Belize, and Ireland. And, three clubs provided water skiing trips to the Colorado River and Sacramento Delta throughout the non-snow months.

This year, LA Council was well represented at the FWSA Convention by over 30 club members. This was a significant increase over recent years, in part due to the Convention's proximity in San Diego. One of the



The Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs was well represented at the FWSA 83rd Annual Convention held in San Diego - June, 2015.

photos / Eric Van Pelt, Van Pelt Productions, Inc.

highlights of the Convention was meeting Kayleigh MacGregor, who LA Council continues to support through the FWSA Athletic Scholarship Fund. And, it was especially gratifying to see LA Council clubs and club members recognized at the Convention. (See box below.)

LA Council has access to two very active, well-run race leagues, ULLR and ROKKA, which provided club members an exciting schedule of events this past season at locations throughout the west. In addition, ROKKA sponsored a 3-day camp in both December and January, and the Ski, Ride & Race Camp provided a 5-day camp in January; all camps were hosted by Mammoth Mountain. ROKKA League won the Far West Racing Association League Championships and Laura Priess, ROKKA League Chairperson, accepted the trophy at the FWSA Convention.

The Council also counts

within its membership The Unrecables Ski Club, which promotes adaptive sports. Each month during this past ski season Unrecables provided those with disabilities a memorable weekend of skiing with support from Mammoth Mountain and many volunteers from within and outside LA Council.

On August 22, the Presidents Luncheon provided club presidents the opportunity to come together to share challenges and ideas, and included a leadership training session. It was followed by a luncheon at a local restaurant.

At the council level, two additional activities will mark the coming year.

■ The annual Snow Gala will be held the evening of October 24 at Pickwick Gardens in Burbank. The theme for this evening of dinner and dancing is Masquerade Snow Ball. As in past years,



LAC supports junior racers like Kayleigh MacGregor through their Athletic Scholarship Fund.

the event includes a silent auction benefiting the Unrecables Ski Club's adaptive sports program and a raffle for exciting prizes including a Mammoth Mountain weekend and custom-made skis.

■ Once again, LA Council will participate in Ski Dazzle, the Los Angeles Ski Show and Snowboard Expo on December 4-6 at the Los Angeles Convention Center with the goal of attracting new club members.

With the strong potential for an El Niño weather pattern this winter, LA Council members join the rest of the Far West family and its industry partners in a fervent 'prayer for snow!'

The Los Angeles Council Clubs and Members Recognized at Annual Convention

Tollakson Outstanding Club, Masters Division, FIRST Place
Wentworth Outstanding Club Publication, Masters Division, FIRST Place
Wentworth Outstanding Club Publication, Masters Division, SECOND Place
Website Outstanding Club, Masters Division, FIRST Place
Website Outstanding Club, Masters Division, SECOND Place
Website Outstanding Club, Advanced Division, THIRD Place
Website Outstanding Club, Novice Division, SECOND Place
Website Outstanding Council, THIRD Place
Charity and Our Community, DIAMOND Winner
Charity and Our Community, DIAMOND RUNNERUP Winner
Bill Berry Hard News Award
Councils' Man of the Year Award
Environment Award
Environment Award

Pacific Rim Alliance
Pacific Rim Alliance
Unrecables
Pacific Rim Alliance
Unrecables
Single Ski Club
Conejo Ski Club
Los Angeles Council
Pacific Rim Alliance
4 Seasons West
Jane Wyckoff, Single Ski Club
Dave Felker, Century City Ski Club
Catherine Ohl, Pacific Rim Alliance
Jennifer Nerad Sultan, Unrecables



TOP: Snowbusters Ski Club trip participants gather for a group photo. RIGHT: LAC racer vies for points - and has fun - on the Whistler Ski Week. FAR RIGHT: The Wooley Mammoth Mascot greets several ski guides on the mountain. photos provided by Kathleen Byrnes and Sigrid Noack



**SANTA BARBARA
SKI & SPORTS CLUB**
Santa Barbara County
www.sbski.org
President: Marianne Mahn
president@sbski.org

**SINGLE SKI CLUB
OF LOS ANGELES**
Marina Del Rey
www.singleskiclub.org
President: Linda Mero
lmero@aol.com

SLOPE SURFERS SKI CLUB
South Bay
www.slopesurfers.com
President: Chris Kishida
president@slopesurfers.org

SNOWBUSTERS SKI CLUB
Pasadena
www.snowbusters.com
President: Jerry McGhee
jerry@snowbusters.com

**SPACE PARK SKI & SNOW-
BOARD CLUB (formerly TRW)**
Redondo Beach
www.spaceparkskiandsnowboardclub.org
President: Phil Weisgerber
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THE UNRECABLES
Los Angeles
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310-795-5517
president@unrecables.org

**WAILERS SKI, SNOWBOARD &
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San Fernando Valley/Los Angeles
www.wailersskiclub.org
President: Pete Smith
626-676-8203
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WESTWOOD SKI CLUB
West Los Angeles
www.westwoodskiclub.org
President: Scott Peer
818-500-0488
scottpeer@aol.com

**WINTER FOX SKI &
SNOWBOARD ASSOCIATION**
Los Angeles
www.winterfox.org
President: Frank Robertson
310-722-0934
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LONG BEACH SKI CLUB
Long Beach/South Bay
www.longbeachskiclub.org
President: Kris Flaig
562-818-2874
flaig@yahoocom

LOS PADRES SKI CLUB
Simi Valley/Ventura County
www.lospadreskiclub.net
Co-President: Tom Reed
805-236-6543
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**OVER THE HILL GANG -
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Los Angeles
www.ohgla.org
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**OVER THE HILL GANG -
VENTURA**
Ventura County
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President: Bonnie Amrein
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PACIFIC RIM ALLIANCE
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President: Catherine Ohl
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**RADAR RIVER RATS
WATERSKI CLUB**
Southern California
www.radarriverrats.org
President: Catherine Ohl
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ohl@acatmeowz.com

SAGA SKI CLUB
Los Angeles
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president@sagala.org

CONEJO SKI & SPORTS CLUB
Thousand Oaks
www.conejoskiclub.org
President: Sharon Schnell
818-421-7762
sharon_schnell@yahoo.com

**EDELWEISS SKI &
SPORT CLUB**
San Fernando Valley
www.edelweisskiclub.org
President: Wendy Goldzband
818-462-1938
wendygoldzband@gmail.com

**EXECUTIVE BOARD
SNOWBOARD ASSOCIATION**
Los Angeles
President: K'wan Green
323-691-1918
keithexboard@yahoo.com

**FOUR SEASONS WEST SKI
AND SNOWBOARD CLUB**
Los Angeles
www.4sw.com
President: Jane Gutierrez
323-325-5534
jtgut10@4sw.com

GRINDELWALD SKI CLUB
Los Angeles
www.grindelwaldskiclub.org
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818-249-9791
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HUGHES SKI CLUB
South Bay
President: Steve Klinger
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KRONENSTADT SKI CLUB
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► **Los Angeles Council
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**Los Angeles Council
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**Member Clubs &
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AEA (AEROSPACE) SKI CLUB
South Bay
www.aeacclubs.org/ski
President: Andrew Maxwell
aeaskipres@gmail.com

**ASIAN SKI & BOARD CLUB
OF LOS ANGELES**
Los Angeles
www.asbcla.org
Contact: Warren Tanaka
warren.asbcla@gmail.com

AUSLICH SKI CLUB
Belmont Shore/Long Beach
President: Joe Vanderhoof
jvanderhoof@netscape.net

BEACH CITIES SKI CLUB
Beach Cities
www.bcskiclub.org
President: Bruce Lee
president@bcskiclub.org

CCSC SPORTS
West Side Los Angeles
www.ccscsports.org
President: Aaron Algazy
818-980-5777
president@ccscsports.org



Northwest Ski Club Council

by Sylvia Kearns, President

ABOVE: Mountain High Snowsport Club members stop at the top of the Timberline to Town Trail. RIGHT: Long Season. Bikes and boards do peacefully coexist on Mt. Hood.

photos provided by Mountain High Snowsport Club



As the new President of the Northwest Ski Club Council, I am pleased that I already have a group of capable officers who are continuing in their respective roles. In addition, I am grateful to have our Past President as the new FWSA President. Together we can continue what began in 1979 in Portland, Oregon. Currently our club membership ranges from Alaska to Hawaii. Seattle clubs continue to be our support in the Northwest Region of Washington.

I am hopeful that our recurrent activities of skiing, snowboarding and racing will be better this year. Perhaps the forecasted El Niño will bring lots of snow. Spring and summer outdoor activities have had challenges with unseasonable warm weather - but a preponderance of sunny beautiful days has created more opportunities to be outdoors. Wine tours, seafood parties, theatre and water sports keep us busy year round. The many rivers, lakes and the ocean are only a few of the ways to cool off and be outside.

NWSCC Club Membership brings many options to its members for fun, volunteer work and leadership. We raise money for shelters, food bank and upcoming junior racers, to name a few. Highway cleanup is a favorite to many clubs.

Pacific Northwest Ski Areas Association (PNSAA), the National Ski Areas Association (NSAA), and the National Ski Council Federation (NSCF) are a few of our affiliates. The NSCF brings lots of member benefits for our skiing and travel needs. We are also a member of the Oregon Snowsport Industries Association, *dba* Ski Oregon.

The Holiday Inn Airport, Portland is the home of our annual kickoff event, the Ski Fair to be held November 9, 2015. This event is open to the public and member clubs have the opportunity to showcase their clubs. There is also a one-night trade show for ski industry booth displays, discounted ski passes and door prizes. There is also a silent auction that creates a great deal of fun competition over select items up for bid. NWSCC also supports Ski Dazzle, the Seattle area kick-off event held at Century Link Field; home of the Seattle Seahawks. This is a three day event held November 6-8, 2015 and provides an opportunity for the NWSCC and Seattle clubs to raise awareness of our organizations and affiliations, including FWSA.

Our annual publication, previously known as the *Northwest Skier's Directory*, has been renamed to the *Northwest Snowsports Guide*. Our Guide is pub-

lished each fall in conjunction with our commercial membership program. It also provides club profiles, ski resort stats and interesting ski-related stories. Look for a copy in your favorite NW outdoor store! Our advocacy, Northwest Snowsports Advocates, partners with our ski industry friends when our opinions can make a difference on issues related to public affairs and ski area development.

Pacific Northwest Area Club Recreational Alpine Teams (PACRAT) is our downhill race league. It is open exclusively to all club members for participation in the sport of ski racing. We use a 10 member team model to enhance the competition and camaraderie of the season. An après party is held following four of five race days. An end of year awards party known as the Rat Attack is held annually. Each race is also NASTAR rated so racers are competing locally as well as on a national level. For more information about PACRAT go to their website. www.pacrats.org.

NWSCC is grateful to San Diego Council for hosting the 2015 Far West Ski Convention at the Town and Country Resort & Convention Center in San Diego. Our FWSA Awards and Recognition recipients were: *Presidents Award*, William Shadbolt; *Tollak-Far West Skier's Guide* 2015 - 2016 75

son Outstanding Club, 3rd Place Mountain High Snowsport Club; *Wentworth Outstanding Club Publication*, 3rd Place Mountain High Snowsport Club Editor, Emilio Trampuz; *Website Outstanding Club Award*, 3rd Place Mountain High Snowsport,, Emilio Trampuz; and *Charity and our Community Double Diamond Winner*, Skiyente Ski Club. We look forward to supporting the Arizona Ski Council and thank them for hosting the 2016 Far West Ski Association Convention at DoubleTree Resort by Hilton Paradise Valley - Scottsdale.

Ski trip opportunities provide an important role in the benefits that NWSCC club members have both within NWSCC and FWSA. The FWSA trip to Telluride, Colorado is going to be big for those that have wanted to go there for many years and were waiting for the right opportunity.

The NW Ski Challenge program provides individual opportunity for trips, as well as, a competition to see who can visit the most places. Resorts in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Alaska, British Columbia and Alberta are among those listed in the challenge.

For more information on our council or any of our clubs, trips and activities and links please check out our website at www.nwskiers.org.



Northwest Ski Club Council

www.nwskiers.org

President: *Sylvia Kearns*

(360) 260-7169

president@nwskiers.org

Northwest Ski Club Council

Member Clubs & Contact Information

Alaska

MATSU SKI & SNOWBOARD CLUB

Location: Wasila, Alaska

www.matsusnow.org

matsusnow@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

bendssc@aol.com

BERGFREUNDE

Location: Portland, Oregon

www.bergfreunde.org

skiclub@bergfreunde.org

CABERNET SKI & SAIL CLUB

Location: Portland, Oregon

www.nwskiers.org

johnreinhardt@hotmail.com

CASCADE PRIME TIMERS SKI CLUB

Location: Portland, Oregon

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president@cascadeprimetimers.org

CASCADE SKI CLUB, INC

Location: Government Camp, Oregon

www.cascadeskiclub.org

lodge@cascadeskiclub.org

MT. HOOD SKIKATS

Location: Portland, Oregon

www.nwskiers.org

friendhenryb@gmail.com

MOUNTAIN HIGH SNOWSPORT CLUB

Location: Portland, Oregon

www.mthigh.org

info@mthigh.org

OREGON NORDIC CLUB- PORTLAND CHAPTER

Location: Portland, Oregon

www.onc.org/pdx-onc

membership@onc.org

SCHNEE VOGELI SKI CLUB

Location: Portland, Oregon

www.nwskiers.org

SVSC_info@schneevogeli.com

SKIYENTE SKI CLUB

Location: Portland, Oregon

www.skiyente.com

skiyente@gmail.com

Washington

BURIEN BACKSLIDERS

Location: Edmonds Washington

www.nwskiers.org

bbgeneralinfo@gmail.com

DESERT SKI CLUB

Location: Tri-Cities, Washington

www.desertskiclub.org

info@desertskiclub.org

LONGVIEW SKI CLUB

Location: Longview, Washington

<https://www.facebook.com/longviewskiclub>

janerosi@wildblue.net

S'NO JOKE SKI CLUB

Location: Seattle, Washington

www.snojoke.org

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SEATTLE EASTSIDE SKI AND SNOWBOARD MEETUP GROUP

Location: Kirkland, Washington

<http://www.meetup.com/SeattleEastsideSkiers/>

clintlunde@hotmail.com

SEATTLE SKI AND SNOWBOARD MEETUP GROUP

Location: Seattle, WA

www.meetup.com/SkiSeattle/

SILVER STAR OUTDOOR ADVENTURE MEETUP GROUP

Location: Ridgefield, Washington

www.meetup.com/Silver-Stat-Outdoor-Adventure/

cofferproperties@gmail.com

SKIBACS SKI & SNOWBOARD CLUB

Location: Seattle, Washington

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SKIHAWKS SKI CLUB

Location: Seattle, Washington

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VANCOUVER SNOW & SPORTS CLUB

Location: Vancouver, Washington

www.nwskiers.org

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WHSKI CLUB

Location: Seattle, Washington

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Charitable Associate Members

HOPE ON THE SLOPES / SKI & RIDE FOR A CURE

Location: Tacoma, WA

www.hopeontheslopes.net

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MEADOWS RACE TEAM

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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

hgunesch@centurytel.net

MT. HOOD SKI PATROL

Location: Mt. Hood, Oregon

www.mthoodskipatrol.org

mhsp@onebox.com



Top: Hawaii Ski Club Ski Week was enjoyed at Big Sky, Montana. Lower: Skiyente's Racy Brats Team compete locally and on a National level through the NASTAR Program. photos provided by Hawaii Ski Club and Skiyente Ski Club

NORTHWEST TRAIL ALLIANCE

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info@nw-trail.org

OREGON ADAPTIVE SPORTS

Location: Bend, Oregon

www.oregonadaptivesports.org

oasbend@gmail.com

OREGON CANCER SKI OUT

Location: Wilsonville, Oregon

www.cancerskiout.org

cancerskiout@gmail.com

OUTDOORS FOR ALL FOUNDATION

Location: Seattle, Washington

www.outdoorsforall.org

info@outdoorsforall.org

SKI TO DEFEAT ALS

Location: Portland, Oregon

www.SkiToDefeatALS.org

ski@alsa-or.org

SkidUCK

Location: Redmond, Washington

www.skiduck.org

clintlunde@hotmail.com



Orange County Ski Club members had a excellent time skiing on their Aspen/Snowmass ski trip.

photo / Anne Barenson

Orange Council of Ski Clubs by Sheila Van Guilder, President

In Orange County, parts of Long Beach and a bit east, Orange Council has active clubs who reach out to skiers and active people. Vand Bakke Ski Club is just 65 years young this year and is celebrating with a grand dinner. They have a long distance trip planned for Big White, BC in 2016. When a number of their members attended the San Diego FWSA Convention, they discovered lots of choices for trips and finally picked Big White.

Check the orangecouncil.org club page for travel contact information if you are interested. Snowfliers Ski Club, a Boeing Industry Club has been skiing and traveling with our council since the 1980's. A few Snowbounder Ski Club members had such a good time at the FWSA Convention in San Diego, that they have already set their calendars for the 2016 event in Scottsdale, AZ. This club has arranged their meetings to meet the needs of a majority of their members, and often meet for lunch. Don't miss the biking and ice cream social that this group always finds time to schedule.

Shooters Ski Club has some amazing European trips. Flatlands Ski Club is going to Telluride, CO in 2016, but may miss



The mild weather and proximity to the ocean make tennis, kayaking and sailing popular activities for Southern California club members when they are not enjoying the slopes. *photo provided by Maxine Hanlon*

us at Far West Ski Week by a few days. Orange County Ski Club has planned a ski trip to Park City, Deer Valley and The Canyons for 2016. They are working hard on their annual "Pray for SNOW Party", to ensure that this one works well. Bike rides, and swim parties fill out their summer program. Fountain Valley Ski Club continues to meet during the year at a great location for a few Margaritas. They plan on going to Big Sky, Montana and paddle board on a weekly basis.

Huntington Beach Ski Club has been active on instagram and let everyone know of their ongoing busy schedule from Yosemite camping, a trip to see the "Endeavor", sunset kayaking and they are "known" at the Beach Cities Clam Bake.

Balboa Ski and Sports Club is hitting its diamond "60" this year. Summer meetings at the American Legion on Newport Bay are one of the summer highlights. Dancing, sipping wine and watching the sunset over the Back Bay - priceless. Biking, bridge, kayaking, wine events and don't forget the tennis program, are all very popular. The Port Heuneme tennis trip was another hit this summer.

Mammoth Mountain plays



photo provided by Maxine Hanlon

Orange Council of Ski Clubs Member Clubs & Contact Information

AUSLICH SKI CLUB
Belmont Shore/Long Beach
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jvanderhoof@netscape.net

BALBOA SKI & SPORTS CLUB
www.balboaskiandsportsclub.com
President: Connie Peacock
949-636-2062

FLATLANDS SKI CLUB
President: Dan Crawford
816-805-0384
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FOUNTAIN VALLEY SKI CLUB
www.fountainvalleyskiclub.org
President: Jim Wisenbaker
714-841-7814

HUNTINGTON BEACH SKI CLUB
www.hbskiclub.com
President: Dick Thiel
714-760-3212

ORANGE COUNTY SKI CLUB
www.ocskiclub.org
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SHOOTERS SKI CLUB
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SNOWBOUNDERS SKI CLUB
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SNOWFLIERS SKI CLUB
President: Jim Hughes
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VAND BAKKE SKI CLUB
President: Gloria Madrid
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a special part in each of the club's programs. Some run drive up trips, Sunday - Wednesday, while others do two or three day drive ups on the Schusski Race League race weekends. Some run buses to Mammoth for three day events. Most offer access to the Far West North American Trip to Telluride, chaired by Jess Gorman. Another special trip is being offered through Orange Council, a non-skiing trip to Italy, April 26, 2016 run by Council President, Sheila Van Guilder.

All information can be found on our website staffed by George Kish, the 2015 FWSA J. Stanley Mullin Honoree. Orange-council.org is the place and our clubs are waiting to welcome you.

All of the clubs reach out to newcomers and each offers a friendly word/hand for someone new or someone returning to skiing or just looking for a "new" family of friends.

Orange Council of Ski Clubs
www.orangecouncil.org
President: Sheila Van Guilder
(714) 656-6032
svanguil@yahoo.com



photo / Aspen Skiing Company / Dan Bayer, photographer

San Diego Council of Ski Clubs

by Tom Bundgard, President

The mission of San Diego Council of Ski Clubs is to support and promote the sport of recreational skiing and snowboarding in the Southern California area. We currently have 10 active clubs. Hundreds of members belong to one or more of these clubs. They enjoy skiing and snowboarding both nationally and internationally each year. Our clubs also enjoy outdoor activities during the summer. Many of the clubs move their meetings to the parks and beaches for the summer. Members enjoy getting together for Padre Games, museum tours, biking, hiking, tennis, horse races at Del Mar, Bunco parties and the Summer Pops concerts.

SDCSC officers for the 2015-16 year will be: Tom Bundgard, President; Chris Gill, Vice-President; Eileen Sanford, Past President; Debbie Schroeder, Secretary; Stew Smith, Treasurer; and Alan Godwin, Travel Director.

Our Ski Clubs had many great ski trips last season. Action went to Jackson Hole. Torrey Pines and North Island Snowdrifters went to Keystone with Ski.com. Action, Don Diego, North Island Snowdrifters, San



ABOVE: SDCSC runs an annual trip to Aspen. The Cliffhouse, on top of Buttermilk with its dynamic views, is a favorite spot to rest. LEFT: A group of SDCSC members stopped for lunch on their Bike and Barge trip in northern Italy. Helmet Witt, in the blue jacket, was the guide. The San Diego cyclists are in red. There were 31 people on the trip who biked from Mantova (Mantua) to Venezia (Venice) in March of 2015 led by Eileen Sanford, International Travel Director for the council. photo provided by Eileen Sanford

Diego, and Torrey Pines visited Mammoth this year

Our Italy Bike and Barge Trip with Girolibero in April was another wonderful experience for all participants. I would also like to thank all of the volunteers that made the 83rd Annual Far West Ski Association Convention here in sunny San Diego last June a huge success. The Annual Council Summer Happy Hour was held at 57 Degrees on August 5, 2015 in lieu of our regular council meeting. Members from many of the clubs enjoyed this social gathering. The Viking Rhine River Cruise Holiday Ski Tours in August led by Eileen Sanford was another enjoyable trip.

The ski season starts with sign-ups in October, racing from December through March and ski trips from December through April. The novelty of enjoying warm beautiful beaches all year long and being able to jump on a bus or plane and enjoy the winter sport of skiing or snowboarding is a drawing card for our strong support from San Diego club members.

Our clubs' plans for the 2015-16 ski trips include, Aspen/Snowmass, Mammoth, Salt Lake,

Keystone, Jackson Hole, Big White, Winter Park, Big Bear and New Zealand. Many clubs do three day bus trips to Mammoth during the ski season on race weekends to support the Alpine Race League. Many of our racers also practice in Big Bear when not racing in Mammoth.

Our official start of the ski season begins with our Gala. The Gala will be at The Holiday Inn San Diego Bayside in Point Loma on November 7, 2015. This event brings all the clubs together to open the ski season with a BANG! Men and Women of the Year from each club will be honored and San Diego Council of Ski Club's (SDCSC) Man and Woman of the Year will be announced. Our award winners last season were Debbie Schroeder of Torrey Pines Ski Club and Jerry Stokely of San Diego Ski Club. The Joe Harris Award winner was Laura Meldrum.

The following weekend, November 13-15, SDCSC members will volunteer at the annual Snow Jam event at the famous Del Mar Fairgrounds. Get Off Your Rockers ran a "once in a lifetime" Egypt and the Eternal Nile trip - November 9-23, 2015.

The 2015-16 ski season opens with December trips to Aspen and Mammoth. The Mammoth trip will host our first Alpine League race of the season on December 12, 2015. The San Diego Alpine Race League is also continuing to promote recreational skiing and snowboard racing amongst the skiers in the San Diego area. SDCSC won the Southern California Race Championships again this year. We are proud of our strong participation and many individual winners. A special thanks goes the Alpine League Board: Eileen Weiner, President; Laura Meldrum, Race Statistics; Bob Brower, Vice President; Martin Washer, Lina Arnold, Jerry Stokely, and Carl Cobb, Club Race Directors.

The council will host the 19th Annual Aspen Ski Trip from December 10-16, 2015 led by Mike Sanford. Those that have been on one of these annual trips can tell you that you are up for an incredible trip. This trip sells out early so get your spot now. Contact bubasanfrd@aol.com for more information.

Alan Godwin, our Travel Director, will once again serve as trip leader for the FWSA Ski



A brass band in traditional dress plays in the Munich Oktoberfest parade. photo / Deutsche Zentrale für Tourismus e. V.

Week to Telluride, Colorado from January 31 - February 7, 2016. This trip varied in cost, depending on lodging options, plus air and ground, for 7 nights lodging and 6 day lift ticket and includes a welcome party, pub crawl, races, mountain picnic, Ski Week Banquet, Awards Après Party, and Council Night Event. Contact alan@skiclub.us for more information.

I am happy to announce the 2016 SDCSC trip to Ireland and Scotland September 1-15, 2016 with an extension to Oktoberfest in Munich, Germany, September 16-18. There are options for separate trips to Ireland September 1-9 or Scotland September 9-15. Come join Eileen Sanford on this exciting trip. Contact esanford1@san.xx.com.

Other planned council trips include: Empires of the Mediterranean - Croatia - Venice to Istanbul on a Viking Cruise, April 1-10, 2017; Provence and Carmague Bike Trip September 2017; and Australia, New Zealand - August 2018. Information and flyers for all trips can be found at www.skisandiego.org.

SDCSC supports various charities, such as Can Do MS, the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, Special Olympics, United States Adaptive Recreation Center (USARC), Habitat for Humanity, San Diego Community Youth Sports Mentoring, Toys for Tots and Becky's House. One of our clubs maintains an active account at the San Diego Blood Bank in case a member needs blood. We believe in supporting our community.

We have a very busy ski season ahead and I look forward to seeing you on the hill, at the races or at the events we have planned.

San Diego Council of Ski Clubs

www.skisandiego.org

President: Tom Bundgard

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San Diego Council of Ski Clubs

Member Clubs & Contact Information

ACTION SKI AND SNOWBOARD CLUB

www.actionski.org

President: Anna Marie Sorriso

619-616-8646

BAE SKI & SNOWBOARD CLUB

Employee Club of BEA Systems

President: Ed Langmaid

858-675-5995

DON DIEGO SKI CLUB

www.ski-dondiego.org

President: Pete Michael

858-560-8520

GET OFF YOUR ROCKERS SKI CLUB

www.getoffyourrockers.org

President: Shirley Troxel

858-602-7417

NORTH ISLAND SNOWDRIFTERS

www.nisnowdrifter.com

President: Dave Arnold

619-733-9266

PACIFIC RIM ALLIANCE SNOW SPORTS CLUB

www.pacificrimalliance.org

President: Catherine Ohl

858-467-9469

QUALCOMM SKI AND SNOWBOARD CLUB

Representative: Adrienne Loder

aloder@qualcomm.com

SAN DIEGO SKI CLUB

www.san-diego-ski-club.org

President: Art Grigg

858-453-8650

SOLAR TURBINES

President: Bob Morton

858-602-7417

TORREY PINES SKI CLUB

www.tpsscd.org

President: Joe Goldhammer

619-286-0624



LEFT TO RIGHT: Nan Carnal, Jo Simpson and Pat Ostroff prepare to ski down Dave's Run - one of Mammoth Mountain's more difficult challenges.

photo / Ken Simpson

Sierra League and Council

by Jo Simpson, President

The members of the 12 Sierra Council clubs and race teams 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 additional opportunities for social interaction at meetings, parties and happy hours. We welcome the Snow More Ski and Board Club in South Lake Tahoe to our council.

There are two Sierra Council ski clubs in Las Vegas - the Las Vegas Ski, Snowboard and Sports Club and the Las Vegas Alpine Ski and Snowboard Club. They offer winter ski trips, hiking and year round social activities.

There are three clubs based in Truckee. The Tahoe Donner Senior Alpine Ski Club members mostly live in Tahoe Donner. They enjoy group ski days at Lake Tahoe ski resorts throughout the winter, as well as social activities. The Bota Baggers Ski Club has a strong racing focus.

Although the Cabernet Ski and Race Club is based in Truckee, the members live in a variety of locations. As its name indi-

Beautiful alpine vistas, open bowls, steep grooming, high base elevation to capture the snow: what else do you need?

Kirkwood photo courtesy of Vail Resorts

cates, the club's primarily focus is racing.

The Capital Ski and Sports Club, based in Sacramento, offers skiing, social activities, and camping and rafting trips in the summer. The Sequoia Ski Club is in Visalia, Calif. The RU Ski Club draws primarily from the Bay Area. Many of the members are Russian.

In northern Nevada, the Reno Ski and Recreation Club offers a full schedule of social activities throughout the year, as well as summer camping trips and group ski days at Lake Tahoe resorts. They are taking a club trip to Vail this winter.

The Top Gun Club members include active and retired military members and airline employees in northern Nevada and the Lake Tahoe area who enjoy racing. The Sugar Bowl Ski Club's members live in the San Francisco Bay area and call Sugar Bowl their home resort.

Each club offers a different experience. They all enthusiastically welcome active adults who enjoy skiing, boarding and other outdoor activities who want to socialize with others with similar interests.

SIERRA LEAGUE AND COUNCIL



TOP LEFT: Capital Ski and Sports Club members, Terry Kamalan, Ruthanne Peterson and Nancy Griffith dress in costume at the Sacramento Dickens Festival. *photo / Capital Ski & Sports Club* **ABOVE:** Jim Sommer gives ski tuning clinic to Reno Ski and Recreation Club members. *photo / Ken Simpson*

Our club members enthusiastically participate in Far West Ski Association trips. The larger clubs offer group ski days at nearby resorts and week long and weekend trips.

Recreational ski racing is a key activity of the council. Clubs and individuals compete for medals and end of season awards. The race league typically schedules eight regular season races.

We share the race course with the Bay Area Snow Sports Council's Singles and Open Leagues. This collaboration keeps participation costs affordable and enhances the racing experience.

Sierra racers span all ability levels. Any skier who can make linked turns can have a fun time on the race course competing with skiers of similar ability. It's fun to meet and engage in friendly competition with members of other clubs.

Snow conditions permitting,

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 to coach at these clinics, racers receive excellent coaching at a minimal cost.

Try racing. It's a fun way to expand your skiing experience and improve your ability while making new friends. Junior racers are welcome if accompanied by a racing parent or guardian and they race for free. Our racers are generous with their time to introduce new racers to the world of friendly competition.

Check out our clubs. Sign up for a trip or activity. Ski clubs are a great way to meet active adults who enjoy outdoor recreation and a wide range of social activities.

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



ABOVE: Capital Ski & Sports Club members, Bill Tharrat and Patricia Azzellani clown around on a hike at Lake Tahoe. *photo / Capital Ski & Sports Club*

CAPITAL SKI & SPORTS CLUB
Sacramento, California
www.capitalski.org
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LAS VEGAS SKI, SNOWBOARD AND SPORTS CLUB
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President: Diane Askwyth
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RENO SKI AND RECREATION CLUB
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SNOW MORE SKI & BOARD CLUB
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cheryllawson@comcast.net

SUGAR BOWL SKI CLUB
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TAHOE-DONNER SENIOR ALPINE SKI CLUB
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TOP GUN SKI CLUB
President: Greg Peairs
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Sierra League and Council
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Sierra League and Council
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BOTA BAGGERS SKI CLUB
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President: Bob Ellis
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CABERNET SKI AND RACE CLUB
Truckee, California
President: Donn Bryant
gsrcracer@suddenlink.net



84th Annual Far West Ski Association Convention

June 9-12, 2016

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- NO resort fees, NO parking fee, FREE Wi-Fi in guest rooms
- Rates are available 3 days pre and post Convention

TRANSPORTATION

- Air transportation is via Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX), located 12 miles from the DoubleTree Resort by Hilton.
- Rental cars and shuttle services are available at the airport.

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

- Silent Auction
- Travel Expo
- Snowsports Leadership Academy
- Celebrity Speakers
- Public Affairs Panel
- Saturday Awards Luncheon
- Celebrity Multi-Media Presentation
- Saturday Awards Dinner
- Far West General Meeting & Elections

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Thursday Activities
 - Pub Crawl
- Friday Activities
 - Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament
 - Early Morning Hike
 - Tennis Tournament
 - Historical Tour
 - Pool Party

Jane Wyckoff

FWSA Convention Chairperson

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Jeannine Davis

Silent Auction / Travel Expo Chairperson

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Linda Westlund

Arizona Host Council Convention Coordinator

HostConvention2016@fwsa.org or 480-216-2010

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