

2015, 2017 FAR WEST SILLS GUIDE

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"The Voice of the Western Skier"



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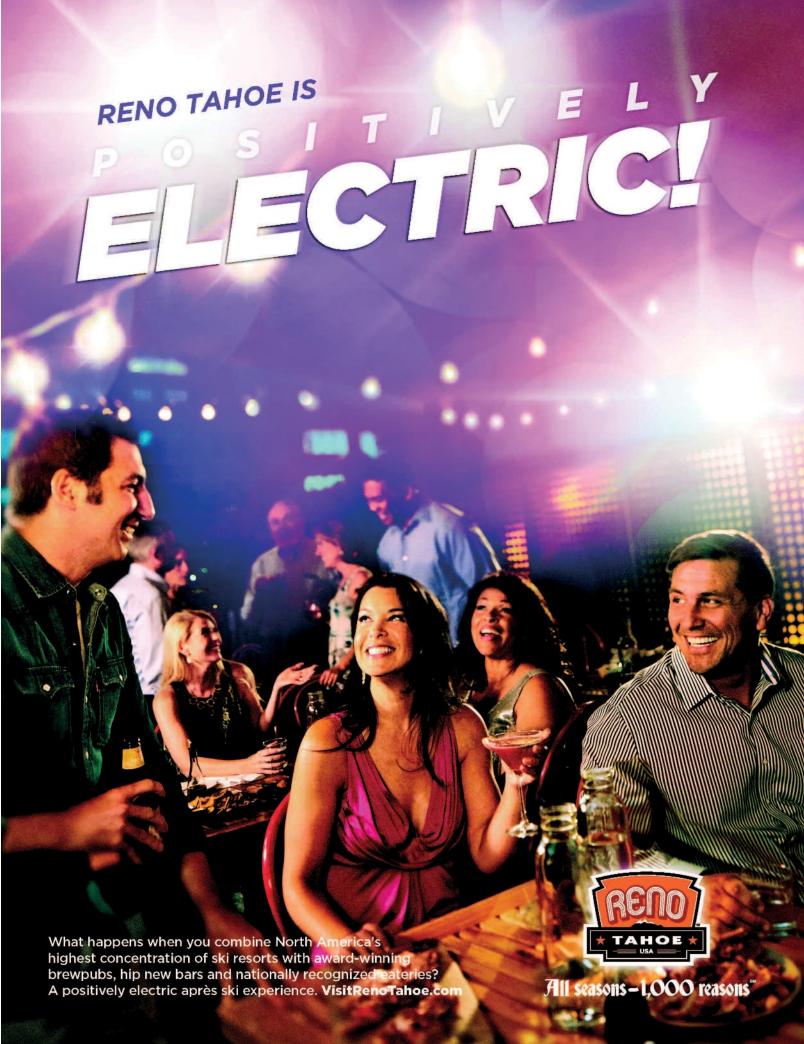
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www.skifederation.org.

Plus many council and club websites

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WANTED! Skiers and boarders to join western regional snowsports clubs for thrills on the slopes, adventures on the trails, evenings of fine dining and more. Of course, we want them alive so they can enjoy a variety of activities, travel and fun, fun, fun! Joyce, Jan, Tara and Nancy, from Central Ski Council, pose in front of these posters on the Telluride Ski Resort Ski Week. photo provided by Fran Long



Jordan Romero was the Keynote speaker at the 2016 Convention. Mesmerized by the picture of the world's seven highest peaks and their respective elevations, Jordan, age 9 pictured above, went home after school and told his parents that he would like to climb each of these mountains. By the tender age of 16, he had accomplished his goal. Page 39 photo provided by Barbara Razo

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FAR LEFT: John, Gunther and Al, members of Don Diego Ski Club, attack the Climax Run at Mammoth Mountain. photo provided by Chris Gill LEFT: Sherrie Marco, Orange Council, enjoys a day on the slopes at Mammoth. photo provided by Maxine Hanlon

Every December, Marines are invited to the Torrey Pines Ski Club meeting to speak about their "Toys for Tots" charity and to pick up the new toys and a check, donated by club members. Page 42 photo provided by Sigrid Noack

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The 2018 North American Ski Week will be to Banff-Lake Louise-Sunshine: over 8,000 acres of terrain between them. photo / SkiBig3 Bike and barge trips are a great way to see the world. Provence in France is a popular destination. Page 62 photo / Girolibero.it



ABOVE: The Annual FWSA Convention brings members and the industry together to share in the fun at the Saturday Awards Banquet. LEFT TO RIGHT: Danielle O'Grady - Breckenridge Ski Resort, Todd Hood - Awards Banquet MC, Olympian Billy Kidd, Jane Wyckoff - FWSA Convention Chair, Mary Manning - Aspen / Snowmass, and Andrew Kwang - Vail Resorts. Convention pages begin on page 30 photo / Mary Manning Below: Kayaking along the Orange County coast is a popular summer activity for members of Orange Council. photo provided by Maxine Hanlon



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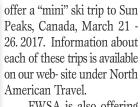
by Steve Coxen President, FWSA

reetings and welcome to the 29th 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 likeminded friends who enjoy skiing, boarding and many other recreational activities.

FWSA was founded in

1930 with the mission to develop and provide If you are only interested in the Vienna and benefits for all affiliated ski clubs and members. In doing so, FWSA's impact has benefitted many skiers beyond its membership? 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 Wy-oming. 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 2017 calendar year. Our annual FWSA Ski Week is our kickoff event for the year. For one week, January 28 - February 4, 2017, our members will ski and have fun in Breckenridge, Colorado. We offer a full week of skiing, racing, parties and dinners. For those members who would like a shorter trip we also

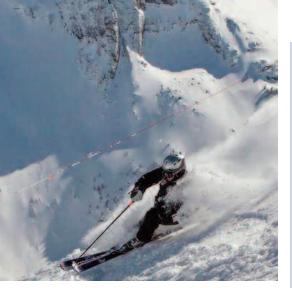


FWSA is also offering several international trips in 2017. We are taking a group on a fabulous ski trip to St. Anton, Austria, March 12 -19, 2017. Participants can extend their stay with a post-trip to Vienna and Budapest, March 19 - 26, 2017.

Budapest travel you can sign up for it as a "stand alone" trip. Plans are underway for a summer trip to Valle Nevado, Chile and another dive trip in September 2017. 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!

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 2017, the FWRA Championships will be held at Mammoth Mountain, March 31 - April 2. Everyone from FWSA is invited to come and have fun. All Far West members can take advantage of the discounted lift tickets and lodging specials that weekend, plus the Silent Auction on Saturday afternoon.

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



The FWSA Travel Programs are an important aspect of the organization.

photo of Telluride Ski Resort - site of the 2016 Ski Week provided by Nancy Ellis, VP of North American Travel

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 85th Annual FWSA Snowsports Convention in Boise, Idaho, June 7 - 11, 2017, at The Grove Hotel and Boise Centre. The fun begins on Wednesday June 7, with the "Taste of Idaho". Thursday activities include whitewater rafting, and our annual Pub Crawl in Boise. Friday events will include the 11th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament, a Day on the Mountain event at Bogus Basin Ski Resort, a Boise Green Belt and Nature Center Tour, and a "Fountain Party".

Our Convention will have special guests, a keynote speaker, 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 four 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 fantastic

FAR WEST SKI ASSOCIATION Committee Chairs & Other Representatives 2016 - 2017

ANNUAL CONVENTION

ANNUAL CONVENTION CHAIR

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FWSA PROCEDURES

HISTORY COMMITTEE CHAIR/ PARLIAMENTARIAN

John Watson (760) 723-6539 E-mail: president@fwsf.net

weekend of events is co-hosted by the Bogus Basin Ski Club and Intermountain 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 Code 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

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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 85th Annual Far West Ski Association Convention in Boise, Idaho.

generous donations to the Foundation.

2016 - 2017 **Council Information**

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

Arizona Ski Council

8862 East Cholla Street Scottsdale, AZ 85260 President: Arleigh Meiners (602) 538-2947 E-mail: arleigh.meiners@cox.net Website: www.arizonaskicouncil.org

Bay Area Snow Sports Council

789 Daffodil Way San Jose, CA 95117 President: Paul Vlasveld (408) 314-4649 E-mail: pvlasveld@comcast.net Website: www.skibac.org

Central Council of California

1729 Ponderosa Lane

Paso Robles, CA 93446 President: Fran Long (805) 712-5781 E-mail: fancat87@gmail.com Website: www.centralcouncilskiclubs.org

Intermountain Ski Council PMB 131, 10400 W. Overland Road.,

Boise, ID 83709 President: Paul Markowitz (208) 850-9962

E-mail: pmarkowitz@cableone.net Website: www.intermountainskicouncil.org

Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs

P.O. Box 10266

Glendale, CA 91209-3266 President: Kathleen M. Byrnes (213) 247-1601 E-mail: lacpresident@lacouncil.org Website: www.lacouncil.org

Northwest Ski Club Council

5331 SW Macadam Avenue Suite 258, Box 438 Portland, OR 97239 President: Sylvia Kearns (360) 931-6373 E-mail sylviakearns@outlook.com Website: www.nwskiers.org

Orange Council of Ski Clubs

11252 Earlham Orange, CA 92689 President: Sheila Van Guilder (714) 656-6032 E-mail: svanguil@yahoo.com Website: www.orangecouncil.org

San Diego Council of Ski Clubs

P.O. Box 17496 San Diego, CA 92177 President: Christine Gill (858) 382-1427 E-mail: cmg@san.rr.com Website: www.skisandiego.org

Sierra League and Council

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



Ski council presidents and representatives, National Ski Council Federation officers and industry representatives gather at the 2016 NSCF Annual Meeting hosted by Vail Resorts at Heavenly Ski Resort in South Lake Tahoe in August, 2016. The meeting provides the

Council Services is the Link Between FWSA Councils

by Jo Simpson

Vice President - Council Services, FWSA

The Vice President, Council Services, together with the presidents of the nine FWSA member councils, manages programs and initiatives that benefit our clubs - the grassroots of FWSA. We have a talented and involved group of council presidents and program chairs.

Council Services oversees the following programs and committee chairs: Club and Council Communication and Outstanding Club Awards, Councils' Man and Woman of the Year Recognition, Charities and Our Community, and Family and Youth Involvement.

The recognition that the club and council awards provide are a great vehicle for clubs to recognize their hard working volunteers. Our committee chairs strive to provide quality competitions that will stimulate clubs to enter.

The Councils' Man and Woman of the Year allows councils to honor an outstanding man and woman volunteer from their clubs by sending them to the FWSA Convention to be honored and to compete for the FWSA Councils' Man and Woman of the Year Award. Gene Fulkerson continues to improve the interview process that takes place at the Convention to make it enjoyable for candidates and judges alike. The 2016 council candidates and the FWSA winners are highlighted on page 37.

The Charity & Community Service recognition, chaired by Sigrid Noack, highlights the good work our clubs and councils do to benefit their communities. Our councils and clubs provide an amazing amount of support to local and national charities. Signid does a great job of showcasing the work at our annual FWSA Convention. The considerable charity and community work of FWSA clubs is further detailed by Sigrid on pages 42-43.

The Club and Council Communications and Outstanding Club Awards will be undergoing changes in the application and judging process this year. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to Crissymarie King for her years of dedication to this program.

The Family and Youth Program is seeking a new focus after closing out the successful skin cancer prevention program.

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.



opportunity for councils across the country - including FWSA council presidents - to interact and share ideas. Formed in 1999, the NSCF meets annually at different resorts to discuss important issues that impact councils, clubs and the industry. photo provided by Jo Simpson

National Ski Council Federation Brings Councils & Clubs Together Nationwide

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

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

The Federation annual meetings are structured to provide a forum for council and ski industry representatives to discuss subjects of mutual interest. The 2016 annual meeting in August was hosted by Vail Resorts in South Lake Tahoe.

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 Federation website *www.skifederation.org* and request a password.

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

The Federation was formed in 1999 to provide councils an opportunity to exchange information and to discuss among themselves, and with the ski industry, important issues that impact clubs and councils throughout the United States. The Federation represents 29 councils across the United States. The councils have 640 clubs with more than 300,000 club members.

The Federation elects officers every two years. The officers elected in 2015 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). The next election will be held at the 2017 meeting to be held at Sun Peaks, British Columbia, Canada from September 6 - 10. 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*.

2016 WESTERN REGION SKI & SNOWBOARD SHOWS

compiled by Jane Wyckoff

OCTOBER

SnowBomb Ski & Snowboard
Festival – San Jose
October 29 – 30, 2016
San Jose Convention Center, San Jose, CA
www.snowbomb.com

NOVEMBER

Colorado Ski & Snowboard Expo November 4 - 6, 2016 Colorado Convention Center, Denver, CO www.bewisports.com/expos/denver/

SkiFever & Snowboard Show November 4 - 6, 2016 Portland Expo Center, Portland, OR www.portlandskifever.com

SnowBomb Ski & Snowboard Festival – San Francisco November 5 - 6, 2016 Fort Mason Center, San Francisco, CA www.snowbomb.com

The 44th Annual Park City Ski and Snowboard Swap November 4 - 6, 2016 Basin Recreation Fieldhouse,

Park City, UT
www.parkcityskiswap.com

University of Nevada, Reno Ski Swap November 11 - 12, 2016 Grand Sierra Resort, Reno, NV www.unrskiswap.com

SnowJam Ski & Snowboard Expo November 11 - 13, 2016 Del Mar Fairgrounds, Del Mar, CA www.snowjamshow.com/Shows/Sd

SnowBomb Ski & Snowboard Festival – Sacramento November 12 - 13, 2016 Cal Expo Center, Sacramento www.snowbomb.com

SnowJam Las Vegas Ski & Snowboard Expo November 19 - 20, 2016 Cashman Center, Las Vegas www.snowjamshow.com/Shows/Lv

DECEMBER

Ski Dazzle Los Angeles Ski Show & Snowboard Expo December 2 - 4, 2016 Los Angeles Convention Center, Los Angeles, CA www.skidazzle.com/losangeles.htm

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

FWSA DIRECT MEMBER APPLICATION 2016 - 2017

Direct membership is available for an individual or family who are NOT members of a FWSA-affiliated snowsports club. Members of FWSA affiliated ski clubs are automatic FWSA members. Membership is effective through April 30, 2017.

DIRECT MEMBER BENEFITS

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

ANNUAL DIRECT MEMBER DUES:

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

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

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| Fax #: | |
| E-mail: | |
| Signature: | Date: |

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Meet new friends in your club, council or the Far West Ski Association organization. There are numerous social and travel opportunities at each level. A group takes a break on the 2016 FWSA Ski Week to Telluride Ski Resort. photo provided by Nancy Ellis

What's In It For Me?

by Jane Gutierrez Vice President - Membership, FWSA

In today's world of living with the Internet and carrying the world in your hand via a cell phone, many of us in society have become insular. There is also a feeling of self-sufficiency with so much information at our fingertips. One social group who identifies with this feeling is college students and young professionals who aspire to receive benefits from any endeavor that they are involved in. How do we attempt to reach out to this group?

There are many ways to solicit engagement. Inform them that clubs and organizations offer a lot of knowledge and experience in any field of study or subject that one is passionate about.

Here are some great reasons to get involved.

- **Extra-Curricular:** Clubs/Organizations look great on applications/resumes
- Networking: An individual will have the opportunity to meet and network with people who have similar interests
- **Promote Awareness:** They help promote education and awareness about the field/subject
- **Volunteer:** For philanthropic reasons
- **Brotherhood:** Being a member automatically gives you a feeling of closeness to other members, and you share something that other people are not a part of
- **Enrichment:** Being a part of an organization is a fulfilling experience
- **Assistance:** Everyone is willing to help you learn, and in turn, you will be able to help others
- **Exposure:** They expose you to real life experiences that you may not have done alone
- **Growth:** Members will be encouraging and supportive of your personal growth
- **Social:** Clubs are a great way to network, meet new friends and have lots of fun

These reasons are also a wonderful way to recruit any age group!

Far West Ski Association can also assist clubs in their recruiting efforts. We can direct any recruit to a club in their area. Far West has many affiliated clubs in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming with many interests, and we can help find the perfect fit. If an individual moves out of the area, that is not an issue. Become a Direct Member with FWSA for a nominal fee, and there are a range of opportunities available. The travel that we offer is phenomenal! We also offer recreational racing, access to legislative, safety, and resort information, leadership and educational classes, and our annual convention hosted by one of our councils.

FWSA members also receive a useful tool with our Membership Card. This card offers discounted lift tickets, retail discounts, lodging and rental car discounts, travel bargains, etc. Check out our website at *www.fwsa.org* for the detailed list of benefits that are constantly being updated.

To join as an individual member, feel free to fill out the membership form in the left hand column and send payment in care of Jane Gutierrez. You can also contact me at *membership@fwsa.org* if you have any questions. Don't forget to like us on Facebook, and explore our activities on YouTube!



Leave the crowds behind on endless terrain, lapping over 5,800 contiguous acres with hardly a wait. Big Sky Resort's Lone Peak Tram flies to 11,166 feet for expansive views and a 4,350 foot vertical drop for the brave of heart. Boasting two acres per skier, consistent snowfall year after year, and bigskyresort.com/skiclub | 800-548-4487 two new lifts this season.

Skier Amie Engerbretson | Photo by Jeff Engerbretson



Working With Our Outstanding Far West Partners by Debbi Kor

Vice President - Marketing, FWSA

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

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

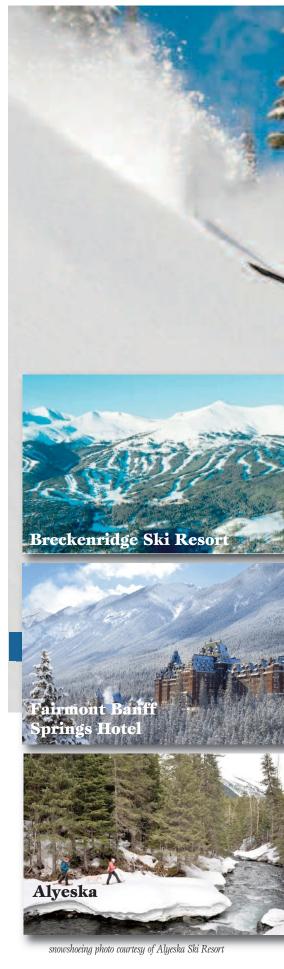
The Far West Ski Association Annual Convention is the perfect vehicle for members and industry to share productive one-on-one-time. It provides our members the opportunity to meet and greet representatives from the resorts, lodging companies, and tour operators throughout the world. It provides our partners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

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

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

Far West Ski Association values the continued support of our many program sponsors within the ski industry. Telluride Resort and Mountain Lodge Telluride, has been a three-year sponsor of the annual Far West Safety Award, honoring the person within FWSA who demonstrates strong promotional efforts to safe skiing and safety programs at the club and/or council level throughout organized events. Big White Ski Resort sponsors the Far West Councils' Man and Woman of the Year Award, presented to outstanding individual council representatives who have made a major contribution to skiing and to their club, council and Far West. Steamboat Ski and Resort Corporation sponsors the Western Ski Heritage Award, recognizing outstanding effort in the area of ski history by historians in the identification of resource materials through the collection, preservation and protection of appropriate articles and material. Aspen Skiing Company has been sponsoring our newest program which is the Environment Award, honoring an individual who demonstrates good stewardship and takes a creative effort to conserve and protect our environment. Grouse Mountain Lodge, Whitefish Mountain Resort, and Schure Sports, Inc. have been long-time sponsors of the Far West Athletic Scholarship Program, a highly deserving award to many of our junior racers through the Far West area. We thank you all, and we look forward to seeing you in Boise, Idaho in June, 2017.

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



Far West Skier's Guide 2016 - 2017 / See the Digital Edition of the Far West Skier's Guide at www.fwsa.org.



LARGE PHOTO ABOVE: Protected from mild, coastal weather by the Coast Mountains, Sun Peaks receives an abundant amount of Interior BC's famous light, dry, 'easy-to-ski' powder. photo provided by The Cahilty Lodge Top LEFT: The 2017 Far West Ski Association North American Ski Week will be to Breckenridge, CO. The town is nestled near several 14ers - peaks that rise 14,000 feet or higher. In addition to their scenic beauty, they have a huge influence on the snow conditions in the area. photo / Vail Resorts MIDDLE LEFT: The 2018 FWSA Ski Week will be to the stunning Banff National Park. Participants will have the option to ski three resorts and visit two authentic ski towns - Banff and Lake Louise. photo / SkiBig3 BOTTOM LEFT: In addition to skiing, there are many other unique activities in which to partake: wildlife tours, dog sledding, glacier walks, heli/cat skiing, heli rides, snowshoeing and sleigh rides on the Alaskan trip in 2018.

The FWSA's North American Travel Program Has Many Exciting Destinations Planned

> by Nancy Ellis Vice President of North American Travel, FWSA

- Breckenridge, Colorado
- Sun Peaks/Cahilty Lodge British Columbia, Canada
- Banff-Lake Louise-Sunshine Alberta, Canada
- Alyeska/Anchorage, Alaska



Breckenridge photos courtesy of Vail Resorts / provided by Nancy Ellis



Breckenridge Ski Resort, Colorado

is the Site of the 2017 FWSA Ski Week

January 28 - February 4, 2017

The town of Breckenridge has a colorful history full of gold mining, saloons, booms and busts. Many historical tours, activities, stores of all kinds, bars, pubs, and restaurants from casual to classy 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.

All of our lodging is close to the ski hill and a short walk or shuttle to town. Councils are offering both hotel and condo lodgings: Beaver Run Hotel and two bedroom condos; Double Tree Hotel; The Village at Breckenridge Hotel and two bedroom condos; and Thunder Mountain Condos and Townhouses. There is something for everyone!



Breckenridge is the largest historic district in Colorado. Its past is rich and colorful. Combine that with the exciting ambiance of the present. The town offers excellent skiing and numerous après ski activities.

Schedule for the Week:

Sat., Jan. 28: Arrival Day and Registration
Sun., Jan. 29: Epic Mix Mountain Tours;
Skiing/Boarding; Local Activities; Welcome Party
Mon., Jan. 30: Skiing/Boarding; Local Activities;
Racing; Pub Crawl; Town Scavenger Hunt
Tues., Jan. 31: Optional Vail Day; Skiing/
Boarding; Local Activities; Council Parties
Wed., Feb. 1: Skiing/Boarding; Local Activities;
Racing; Picnic

Thurs., Feb. 2: Skiing/Boarding; Local Activities; Banquet/Dancing Fri., Feb. 3: Skiing/Boarding; Local Activities; Council Challenge; Farewell Après Party Sat., Feb. 4: Departure

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'
- 600 acres of snowmaking

Andrew Kwang, National Group Sales Manager, Vail Resorts, and Breckenridge Ski Resort, along with Mike Hibbard, Sara Clemons, and Catarina Correia of Sports America Tours, have teamed up to plan a memorable ski week experience for Far West Ski Association members and their friends. Check out the FWSA website, www.fwsa.org, for trip information and how to sign up for this trip.

Nancy Greene's Cahilty Hotel & Suites at Sun Peaks Resort, British Columbia, Canada

is the Site of the 2017 FWSA Mini-Ski Trip

March 21 - 26, 2017

Nancy Greene's Cahilty Hotel & Suites is the site for this year's Mini Ski Trip - March 21 - 26, 2017. This property offers all the amenities and services you need for an enjoyable stay and relaxing time while skiing at Sun Peaks Resort. It's located 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



Discover the perfect blend of amenities, beauty and function in the town of Sun Peaks. photo courtesy of The Cahilty Lodge

mountains - gladed areas, bumps, steeps, long cruisers, and alpine bowls.

This Trip Includes:

- Welcome Party
- Farewell Party
- Lodging at Nancy Greene's Cahilty Hotel
 & Suites (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. Online registration and credit card payments are available.





- Located in southern British Columbia, Canada, Sun Peaks Resort is spread across three
- mountains. It is the third largest ski area in Canada. The resort offers 125 trails of uncrowded skier and rider accessible terrain. The varied terrain at Sun Peaks Resort accommodates all levels
- and abilities: featuring 10% beginner terrain, 58% intermediate and 32% expert. Varying levels of skiers and boarders can ride up the same lift, take different trails down, and meet up at the same lift again. A charming alpine village lays at its base. photo courtesy of The Cahilty Lodge

tion of the 2018 Ski Week, February 3 - 10, 2018. Banff is the gateway to the Canadian Rockies and Banff National Park, and a UN-ESCO World Heritage Site. The area is known for its exceptional natural beauty, wildlife, and abundant landforms. The town has 130 bars and restaurants, museums, art galleries, shopping, and a world famous hot springs. It services the ski areas of Lake Louise, Sunshine Village and Mt. Norquay which is as good as it gets for skiers, snowboarders, and outdoor enthusiasts seeking winter adventures. One lift pass will give access to the three ski areas and a shuttle to get to them. People will have their choice of staying in Banff at the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel or stay in town at the Ptarmigan Inn, Caribou Lodge, Banff Park Lodge, or Bow View Lodge. People will leave this area feeling invigorated, inspired, and amazed at its phenomenal beauty!

Banff, Alberta, Canada will be the loca-

Tri Area Mountain Statistics:

- 7,748 acres
- 274 runs
- 26 lifts
- 2 gondolas
- Night skiing

Alyeska Ski Resort

Photo / Alyeska Ski Resort, Hage Photo

Ski Alyeska, Alaska's premier ski destination, then travel to Anchorage to see the ceremonial start of the Iditarod and enjoy the festivities surrounding this event. It's not to be missed!



Photo / Visit Anchorage, Cathryn Posey, photographer

ALYESKA RESORT is located 40 miles southeast of Anchorage. The Hotel Alyeska is a luxury ski in/ski out hotel set within the Chugach Mountain wilderness. Relax after a day on the slopes in the saltwater whirlpool. From the resort you can spot wildlife, the tides of the Turnagain Arm, and seven hanging glaciers.

Mountain Stats:

- Summit Elevation 3,939'
- Base Elevation 250'
- Skiable Terrain 1.500
- Total Runs 72 Lifts 7

ANCHORAGE is the site for the ceremonial start of the Iditarod dog sled races. We will stay at the Hotel Captain Cook located in downtown Anchorage and within walking distance to the Opening activities and the Fur Rendezvous.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Wildlife Tour
- Dog Sledding
- Glacier Walk
- Glacier Cruise
- Heli-ski/Cat Skiing
- Sleigh Rides
- Anchorage Museum
- Flightseeing Tours
- And more....

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

Top: There's terrain for everyone! Tree-lined groomers, wide open bowls, steep and deep and North America's longest continuous black run! LOWER: The historic Iditarod is known as "The Last Great Race". Experience the excitement!

Anchorage

Banff, Alberta, Canada

is the Site of the 2018 FWSA Ski Week

February 3 - 10, 2018





LEFT: The panorama from atop the Lake Louise Ski Resort is amongst the most photographed scenery in the world. Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise can be seen along the banks of the lake with the same name. ABOVE: Skiing is fantastic! Lake Louise Ski Resort photos courtesy of SkiBig3 (left by Reuben Krabb / right by Paul Zizka)

This will be an exciting and enjoyable experience for Far West Ski Association members. Information about this trip will be posted on the Far West Ski Association website www.fwsa.org in February/March 2017.



rience of all times!



as, Après Ski activities. top and bottom photos / George Stewart

International travel is among the most exciting and rewarding experiences in life. It opens minds and changes lives. The FWSA International Travel Team strives to inspire those who travel the world seeking a well-managed trip experience so you can revel in new freedoms, have the challenges answered, and produce the finest trip expe-

tree-lined runs. There was plenty of terrain for all to enjoy, as well

People travel for a variety of reasons and some of those include: adventure travel on land and water, cultural enrichment, new culinary experiences, "biking" is the new golf, experiential travel, spiritual travel, philanthropic travel, nature-based experiences...essentially travel is educational and transformative.

FWSA offers various types of travel opportunities including our Annual International Ski Week with an extension trip, a unique Adventure trip every two years and special travel opportunities such as skiing in South America during our summer.

In 2016, Far West travelers headed to Italy for their International Ski Week. Seventy-six participants enjoyed fantastic skiing as they were blessed with Cortina and the southeastern Dolomites biggest storm dump in 20 years. Many in the group took the opportunity to enjoy a side trip to the unique city of Venice. A post trip extension provided the opportunity to visit the cultural, historic and beautiful cities and towns of Florence, Siena, Rome and more.

In September, 2016, a group of FWSA adventurers traveled to England and Ireland visiting London's famous landmarks and charming countryside, as well as, seeing much of Ireland and biking along the gorgeous Irish coast.

Later in the month, another group of FWSA travelers ventured to the South Pacific for the 7th Annual Scuba Dive adventure. The dive program has become a very popular addition to the Far West Ski Association Travel Program.

For a full review of these exciting trips, visit the digital edition of this *Far West Skier's Guide* available on the *www.fwsa.org* website.



MIDDLE: Several International Ski Week participants on the Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy ski trip spent a day exploring the canals of Venice. photo / John Lauba Lower: After skiing for a week in the Southern Dolomitic Alps, many in the group extended their adventures to historic Italian cities and towns including a visit to the Roman Colosseum - a structure dating back to the First Century A.D.

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



photos courtesy of Tourist Board / St. Anton

St. Anton am Arlberg Region, Austria

is the Site of the 2017 FWSA International Ski Week

> March 11 - 19, 2017 with an extension to Vienna & Budapest

We will be in St. Anton am Arlberg Region March 11 - 19, 2017 for our international ski trip where our members can enjoy the beautiful country of Austria, offering an amazing array of sights, sounds and tastes that are sure to please a wide variety of skiers and non-skiers alike. St. Anton am Arlberg is considered one of the world's top ski resorts

and après-ski destinations. We will all be staying at the 4-Star Schwarzer Adler Hotel which offers a full service luxury property complete with Jacuzzi, pool and spa services. It is located in the charming pedestrian zone and offers convenient ski storage at the base of the gondola. You may use your ski pass at multiple resorts including: St. Anton, St. Christoph and Stuben. It boasts interesting slopes for all levels of skiers and is considered one of the top quality ski resorts of the "Best of the Alps".

After St. Anton am Arlberg, we'll extend our trip to explore Vienna and Budapest. Vienna is considered "The Paris of Eastern Europe" with its extensive art, music and culture. We are also offering Vienna and Budapest as a Stand Alone trip, so we'll fly you from the US to join the group for the extension trip. This will be a treat for everyone!

St. Anton am Arlberg is a village and ski area in the Tyrolean Alps of Austria. It is often listed as one of the world's top ski areas both for skiing and après ski activities. For more about this fabulous area, read about Jimmy Petterson's experiences beginning on page 57.



The 2017 FWSA International Ski Week will be to St. Anton am Arlberg in the Tyrolean Alps of Austria. The post trip option for this trip is scheduled for two of Europe's premiere cities - Vienna, Austria and Budapest, Hungary. Both of these historic cities are along the Danube River, and offer the opportunity to see some of the world's greatest architectural landmarks. The Schoenbrunn Palace, pictured, is a former Habsburg imperial summer residence. The palace and it's vast beautiful gardens has over 300 years of historic importance. Since the mid-1950s Schlöss Schönbrunn has been a major tourist attraction. copyright Schoenbrunn Kultur und BetriebsGesmbH, used with permission



Extend your ski season in 2017! Visit Valle Nevado this summer...because it's winter in the beautiful Andes Mountains of South America. Located just 90 minutes fron Santiago, the resort - one of Chile's premiere ski destinations - offers extensive and varied terrain, with long cruisers, and excellent off-piste opportunities. Its heli-skiing is world class. The base area is full service. A relatively new resort complex, Valle Nevado was inspired by top European resorts, especially Les Arcs in France. photo courtesy of Valle Nevado Ski Resort, Chile



The second leg of the 2017 International Ski Week post trip is to Budapest. It's the largest city and capital of Hungary with a storied past, situated along the banks of the majestic Danube River. Pictured is the landmark Parliment Building. Cited as one of Europe's most beautiful cities, it has been designated as an extensive World Heritage Site. photo /Eurobuilding.info

For those who will be extending their St. Anton am Arlberg Ski Week or just doing the post trip to Vienna and Budapest, you'll have a very memorable experience. Some of the most popular attractions in Vienna include the Historic City Center, the Schoenbrunn Palace (Schlöss Schönbrunn) and Gardens, the Kunsthistorisches Museum, the Vienna Zoo - the oldest in the world, the Imperial Palace, the State Opera House, the Belvedere Palace Museum, St. Stephen's Cathedral and the Natural History Museum.

Budapest is about two and a half hours away from Vienna via train. It is said to be one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. In November, 1873, the cities of Buda and Óbuda on the west bank of the Danube, united with Pest on the east bank to become Budapest. The Chain Bridge was the first bridge to connect the two cities. During WWII, all of Budapest's bridges were destroyed.

While there, take a Danube Cruise for gorgeous views of the area, including the Neo-Gothic Parliament Building. With aspects of

Renaissance and Baroque features, the world's third largest Parliment Building is only a mere 100 plus years old. It was inaugurated in 1896 for Hungary's 1,000th Anniversary. It consists of 691 rooms and 12.5 miles of stairways.

During our summer, Far West traveler's will have the opportunity to travel to the Valle Nevado Ski Resort in Chile. Valle Nevado is part of the Très Valles of the Andes along with El Colorado and La Parva. The summit is nearly 10,000 feet with acres of varied lift served, off-piste and helicopter only accessed terrain. The 44 runs are classified as 10% beginner / 36% intermediate / 33% advanced and 21% expert. The longest run is a mile long. They also have a terrain park. The full service base area is influenced by some of the best known resorts in the French Alps.

Later in the year will be the Annual Dive trip. Many non-divers enjoy these trips, too!

Information on all International Travel trips will be posted on the FWSA website as it becomes available. Make your reservations early since these trips will fill quickly!

What's Ahead...A lot!

We are proud to announce the following trips:

2017 International Ski Week - St. Anton am Arlberg, Vienna and Budapest

2017 Summer Ski and Adventure Trip - Valle Nevado, Chile

2017 Fall Dive Trip - destination to be announced

2018 International Ski Week - Les Trois Vallees/Brides les Bains, France with an extension to Lyon. Beaune & Paris

2018 Adventure trip to India

Details will be posted at www.fwsa.org as they become available.

Mark your calendars now!

As FWSA VP of International Travel, I feel extraordinarily grateful for having been able to organize travel to so many places. Every so often, life provides you a moment of pure exhilaration and we would like you to experience that while traveling with us - the FWSA International Travel Team. Our goal is to challenge you to live, chase your wildest dreams and see the world for yourself. Let us know what's your next Dream Destination? We just might go there next!

For updates on the FWSA International Travel Program, go to www.fwsa.org, or contact

Debbie Stewart, FWSA VP of Int'l Travel: FWSAIntlTrvl@prodigunet ◆ Cell: (559) 737-0882

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There are numerous ski clubs within the Far West Ski Association and the National Ski Council Federation. The majority of them welcome all snowsport enthusiasts. Most clubs also offer year around social and other sports activities which attract nonsnow participants to their groups, as well.

Some of the clubs are adult only. Some clubs limit their memberships exclusively to singles, or couples, while other clubs encourage family participation and offer destination trips where the entire family can "play together". As they say, "A family that plays together, stays together". Many clubs see the value in including generational involvement. More are getting on the band wagon. After all, the youngsters of today will become the lifeblood of tomorrow's ski industry. Families are welcome on Far West Ski Association trips. A listing of FWSA affiliated clubs starts on page 65. Search out a club that fits your requirements.

Many families, especially those not involved with organized skiing, plan their own family ski trips. It is important for the youngest snowsport enthusiasts to truly enjoy the sports as older generations

What should families be looking for when they select a ski destination? Most ski resorts have been developing family programs, so just about any resort will be an excellent choice. However, there are many things that assist in catering to families with small children, or teens.

Traveling to a resort should be easy, Those skiers/boarders near a ski center will undoubtedly seek out a nearby favorite. Less travel time is important. Too many times, the familiar "Are we there yet" can get very annoying. It kind of negates some of the enjoyment.

Ski-In/Ski-Out properties are ideal for families. Everything is in close proximity. Easy walks to the base lodge and other needed amenities is very desireable. Once at the resort, the quality and convenience of the ski school is very important. Many times, vounger kids don't want to walk a long distance from the hotel or drop-off point to the ski school check in location, particularly when they have to carry skis, poles, backpacks, and necessary apparel. Dad and/or Mom, may also end up carrying the child, and their equipment, in addition to their own. Don't get exhausted before the day begins! And, many of these facilities also offer après ski activities for older children and babysitters for the very young.

Check if there is an area near the base lodge and ski school that is suitable for a young child's first ventures into the ski world - magic carpets, easy chairlifts for learning and developing confidence while ascending the slope, as well as gentle terrain for the kids to practice their descent and technique. Many ski schools have resort mascots to assist in the training, and to also make the experience exciting and fun for youngsters. Also, check to see if the class brackets overlap. Some children are more advanced

GET THEM INVOLVED AT Ā **YOUNG AGE!**

It's a sport they can enjoy their entire life!

by Leigh Gieringer



they can easily advance to the next bracket.

Some ski schools will assign the same instructor to the student for the duration of their stay at the resort, especially if requested. That builds more confidence and familiarity, plus a quicker learning curve and stronger advancement. It is also important that the program allows the drop-off to be early - for those parents who want to hit the lifts for first tracks, especially after a fresh snow dump!

Here are some helpful hints from Aaron Johnson, the Snowsports Director at Bear Valley Resort. Each child is different, thus so much is dependent on a child's motivation, athleticism and previous exposure to outdoor sports. That said, there are definitely things a family can do to prepare for a successful learning experience on the snow.

Plan ahead and book lesson(s) in advance.. Choose a lesson appropriate to the child. For example, if mornings are difficult for the child, schedule an afternoon lesson. Consider your travel plans. What impact will that have on the child's normal sleep and eating schedules.

Prior to your adventure on the slopes, talk to them about the thrills of learning to ski or snowboard. Show them pictures or videos of other children sliding and having fun. If possible arrive the day before and plan to simply play outside in the snow. Practice wearing goggles, sunglasses, gloves than others in their age bracket. As they get better, and snow boots. Have fun making snowballs and

a priority number that guarantees

your copies of the limited supply.



Kids enjoy the chairlift. photo / Alyeska Ski Resort, Alaska

FAR LEFT & RIGHT: Ski School instructors make learning to ski fun and productive. photo / Bear Valley Skyline Resort

snowmen. It is important to only stay outside for as long as everybody is having fun, especially if the child is not used to cooler weather. Once inside, start teaching children how to take off their gear, including drying gloves and hanging up jackets. If possible, visit the ski school the day before to orient yourself and the child. Introduce yourself and explain that you'll be back tomorrow for lessons.

Make sure the night before the lesson is relatively mellow, incorporating good food and plenty of sleep. Too often kids are woken up early, handed a quick breakfast and rushed to ski school. This is not a recipe for success.

Regarding how many lessons and duration is dependent on the child. Parents should think seriously on what's best for that child to succeed. Some kids can handle a full day lesson - others can't. There isn't a right answer, and when in doubt go conservative. It's important not to overwhelm the beginner. If they want more in the end - that's a success!

As a child progresses, they might enjoy ski racing. According to Bob Ellis, President of FWRA, Far West Racing does have a program for children. Many people are not aware of it. There are several families within the organization where the parents or grandparents and the kids do race together. FWRA has age classes and skill classes for everybody. Kids race as juniors in their appropriate skill classes, so they are racing with other children of similar rac-

ing skills. The program encourages junior racers and makes it very affordable for families to allow their kids to race. At the FWRA Championships held every year, the race fee for juniors is reduced to a rate much lower than that for adults, so it is economical for families to participate. They also can receive discounted lift tickets at FWRA races.

Ellis

Racing with families allows the parents or grandparents and the kids to participate at the same venue at the same time. There is no prerequisite to qualify for the races, and it allows the kids the ability to have fun with friends and their family on the ski hill. There have been junior racers as young as three years old, and there is no upper age limit to the racers that participate in the FWRA race program They even have a special race class for those over 75 years old. See www.fwra.org for more information.

Many smaller resorts do cater to families. Not only do they offer value, many are noted for their excellent off snow activities. Ski-In / Ski Out resort villages provide easy access to numerous planned activities, in addition to several dining and après ski activities. There is something for everyone: horse drawn sleigh rides, dog sledding, snowmobile rentals, tubing hills, terrain parks, snow bikes, rock climbing walls - just playing in the snow - and more can be available for your enjoyment and entertainment to make your stay in a mountain environment truly memorable. Make your own memories!



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Please email groups@bearvalley.com for more information!





Far West Racing Association holds several race clinics and competitions each year. At the Annual Ski Week, the Association runs GS and SL races for racer participation. RIGHT: Racers are lining up to wait their turn navigating the course at the Telluride Ski Resort Ski Week. photos provided by Nancy Ellis

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Join The FWRA Ski Racing Program

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

Maybe ski racing is not as popular as 30 years ago, but it is still a lot of fun. I guess one of the problems with ski racing now is that you cannot text on your phone while you are racing. Maybe it would be more popular if you could! Seriously, ski racing today can be a lot of fun for participants. If you have never tried racing, you should try it at least once in your life and check it off your bucket list! Our racing program is geared for those who have never raced, and for those who want to have fun racing and even for those that enjoy fierce competition with their friends.



In some local race leagues, you can sign up for the race on the same day - for free - on your first attempt. Where else can you ski on a run closed to the public, all by yourself for about a minute on a preset race course for free? Of course, there is a good possibility you may enjoy it and want to come back for more! If that is the case, you can, for a very nominal fee, join a club and race league and start meeting new friends and participate in races at ski areas you probably ski or board at all the time.

Believe it or not, ski racing is as difficult, or as easy as you want it to be. You can train and take race lessons at many ski resorts that still offer race training for masters, or for children, or you can just show up for the races and go down the course to have fun like I did for many years in the past.

So what are the advantages of participating with Far West Racing? There are quite a few advantages. *First*, you can receive discounted lift tickets on race weekends, which helps if you do not have a season pass at that





Aspen Snowmass To Host World Cup Finals

Aspen Snowmass is excited to be selected by the International Ski Federation to host the prestigious World Cup Finals - March 15-19, 2017. Audi FIS Ski World Cup refers to a season-long slate of races at the highest level of international competition that runs from late October through March. The top 30 finishers in each race receive points based on how well they place. At the end of the season, World Cup titles are awarded at the World Cup Finals to the male and female skiers who have racked up the most points in each of four disciplines: Downhill, Super G, Giant Slalom and Slalom. Overall World Cup titles are also given out. The 2017 Finals will be the first outside Europe since 1997. "This is likely the biggest ski racing event ever held in Aspen," says John Rigney, V.P. of Sales & Events/Aspen Skiing Company. For event information and updates, visit www.aspensnowmass.com.



particular ski resort. *Second*, you have the opportunity to meet new people in a friendly social atmosphere with very similar interests. *Third*, you get the opportunity to ski or board down a race course set by professional race coaches on a closed ski run to the general public all by yourself - just you against the mountain... and the clock... or your friends. *Fourth*, racing will help you improve your technique or form, and probably give you more confidence and the ability to venture out to more difficult terrain if you so desire.

What about the time commitment? You might be thinking, I don't want to stand around all day waiting to race! We have several courses for different skier/boarder ability levels. They do not all start at the same time. No waiting around forever! Normally, we try to only allow a maximum of 50-75 people on each course. We tell everybody what time the courses will start so you can go off and ski or board, then show up at the pre-designated time, complete your run and go off and have additional fun with your friends for the rest of the day. Typically, it could take between 30-60 minutes out of your day to have the time of your life on a course!

Thus, don't be a stranger. Stop by and ask questions. Just try it! Enjoy racing with a group that likes to have fun! Our websites: www.FWRA.com and www.FWSA.org.



The Terry Smith Award is bestowed on an outstanding individual who greatly contributed to the advancement of intramural skiing. At the 2016 FWSA Convention, Dale Parshall, (center) Northwest Ski Club Council, was the recipient of this honor. The Award was presented by Bob and Nancy Ellis, FWRA. photo/Azy's Photography



FAR WEST RACING ASSOCIATION

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- 2016 / 2017 www.fwra.com

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Nan Carnal (530) 550-5228 nan.sierraleague@gmail.com

2016 - 2017 FWRA Race Schedule

by Bob Ellis

President, FWRA; Vice President - Racing, FWSA

| 1,000,000,000,000 | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|--------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Date | Format | Location | | | | | |
| OPEN/SIERRA/SINGLES LEAGUES | | | | | | | |
| January 21 | GS | Northstar #1 | | | | | |
| January 22 | GS | Northstar #2 | | | | | |
| February 18 | SL | Sugar Bowl #3 | | | | | |
| February 19 | SL | Sugar Bowl #4 | | | | | |
| February 25 | SL | Squaw Valley #5 | | | | | |
| February 26 | GS | Squaw Valley #6 | | | | | |
| March 18 | SL | Heavenly Valley #7 | | | | | |
| March 19 | GS | Heavenly Valley #8 | | | | | |
| | | J J | | | | | |
| PACRAT LEAGUE | | | | | | | |
| January 22 | PACRAT Race #1 | Mt. Hood Skibowl | | | | | |
| January 29 | PACRAT Race #2 | Mt. Hood Meadows | | | | | |
| February 19 | PACRAT Race #3 | Mt. Hood Skibowl | | | | | |
| March 19 | PACRAT Race #4 | Mt. Hood Meadows | | | | | |
| March 26 | PACRAT Race #5 | Timberline | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| ROKKA/ULLR LEAGUES (SCHUSSKI & SAN DIEGO – SEE ULLR LEAGUE) | | | | | | | |
| December 11 | SL | Mammoth | | | | | |
| December 12 | GS | Mammoth | | | | | |
| January 6 - 8 | ROKKA Race Camp - SL | Mammoth | | | | | |
| January 7 | SL | Mammoth #1, #2 | | | | | |
| February 18 | GS | Mammoth #3, #4 | | | | | |
| March 19 | SoCals - GS/SL | Mammoth | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| ALL LEAGUES | | | | | | | |
| January 28 - February 4 | FWSA Ski Week | Breckenridge, CO | | | | | |
| | GS / SL | 0 / | | | | | |
| March 31 | FWRA Championships | Mammoth | | | | | |
| | Pacesetting / Clinic | | | | | | |
| April 1 | Championships - SL | Mammoth | | | | | |
| April 2 | Championships - GS | Mammoth | | | | | |
| * | 1 1 | | | | | | |
| Schedules are tentative and subject to change. | | | | | | | |

Schedules are tentative and subject to change.

Check league websites or www.fwra.com - for current schedules

Awards & Silent Auction Donors for the 2016 FWRA Championships

by Nancy Ellis, Financial Officer, FWRA

Most Points at 2016 Alpine Meadows Championships:

AAA Division - Open League, BAC AA Division - Singles Race League, BAC A Division - ULLR, LAC Most Points per Racer Award -Open League, BAC Terry Smith Award: Dale Parsh

Terry Smith Award: Dale Parshall, PACRAT Race League, NWSCC

Far West Racing Association would like to thank all of the generous donors to the Silent Auction held at the 2016 Far West Racing Association Championships at Alpine Meadows.

A portion of the proceeds helps fund the FWSA Athletic Scholarship Program.

The Lodge at Tahoe Donner, Truckee ◆ Tahoe Donner Golf Course, Truckee

Mammoth Race Department ◆ Olympic Ski Club ◆ Kent McCue, Alpineer Ski Club

Bob & Nancy Ellis, Sierra League ◆ Snowdrifters Ski Club

Dave Cunningham, Open League ◆ Mark Reiss, Rusty Bindings

Anet Spencer, Rusty Bindings • Paul Vlasveld, BAC

The 2017 FWRA Championships will be held at Mammoth Mountain - March 31- April 2.



The Far West Ski Association Athletic Scholarship Program is entering its 13th year, growing from an initial \$1,500 in scholarships in 2004 to over \$12,000 and 13 recipients in the 2015-2016 season. The total awarded since the program's inception has exceeded \$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 na-

tional and even international, the costs can be significant. Without the help of outside resources, many junior racers simply cannot compete. For a top competitor, expenses can reach \$20,000 per year. This is not a seasonal sport for these racers; it includes a full year of ski-related involvement. After the winter race competition has concluded, competitors engage in dryland training; then off to summer camps. Camps typically run about \$1,200 per week, not including transportation.

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

The funding of the scholarships come from a number of sources: raffles, auctions, club and council partnerships, and direct contributions from club members, clubs, and councils. The FWSA has greatly benefitted from the generous support from its sponsors including: Whitefish Mountain Resort (www.skiwhitefish.com), a year round winter and summer resort; 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* (wwwfarwestskifoundationorg), 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.



The 2016 Fly Girls development camp at the Utah Olympic Park featured seven return athletes: (from left to right) Sam Macuga, Kailey Bickner, Cara Larson, Mollie Immens, Annika Belshaw, Sophia Nester and Paige Jones. photo provided by Laura Sankey, WSIUSA

Training Continues Year Around

by Laura Sankey President, Women's Ski Jumping USA

The overall mission of Women's Ski Jumping USA is to support a successful and sustainable team and to grow participation in the U.S. women's ski jumping program by facilitating national development efforts that produce the best women ski jumpers in the world, with an emphasis on Character, Confidence and Courage. WSJUSA organization supports the team's elite athletes, development program coaching, travel, training, equipment, and the Fly Girls junior development program.

With four potential Olympic spots up for grabs in 2018, US team members have been busy training with an eye towards Pyeong-Chang. Nita Englund and Tara Geraghty-Moats spent the summer of 2016 training in Slovenia and competing in Europe. Former World Champion, Sarah Hendrickson, has been rehabbing from knee surgery and is planning to begin competition in December 2016. Olympian Jessica Jerome and Abby Hughes have been training in the US home training base of Park City at Utah Olympic Park.

In addition, the 2016 Fly Girls development camp featured seven return athletes: Sam Macuga, Kailey Bickner, Cara Larson, Mollie Immens, Annika Belshaw, Sophia Nester and Paige Jones. (They are pictured left to right in the Fly Girls photo above.)

Applications for the 2017 Fly Girls camp will open in the spring - keep your eyes on www.wsjusa.com for more information.

The Far West Ski Foundation & Scholarships

& Scholarships
Ski with friends and enjoy
the bounty given us!

by John Watson President, FWSF

The Far West Ski Foundation (FWSF) supports through grants four principal missions: Alpine ski racers in the Far West, the use of adaptive skiing as a rehabilitation technique, women's ski jumping and especially the development of young jumpers, and snowsport educational programs. The Foundation was founded in 1964, passed through a long era of modest activity and was reformed in 2009 as the development arm and sister organization to the Far West Ski Association. FWSF is a 501(c)(3) public benefit corporation that provides a tax-deductible avenue for contributions to the above four missions. The ability of the Foundation to make grants is directly related to the generosity of dedicated individuals and organizations within the larger snowsport community.

On all our missions, we strive to make grants before the snow flies. Your help is needed now, and we have a special no-fee arrangement provided by PayPal; just send your contribution to the Far West Ski Foundation. Checks may be sent to our Treasurer, John O Reinhardt, 6105 SW Sheridan St., Portland, OR 97225, or you can use our beautiful website at *www.farwest-skifoundation.org*.

Let's review those four missions, starting with the most historic one – international competition. Founded originally for the sole purpose of supporting the training of ski racers for the Winter Olympics, this mission has long since been assumed by the US Ski Team. But, starting in 2010, women's ski jumping made a valiant but unsuccessful attempt to get one Olympic demonstration event. They succeeded in 2014 at Sochi with major jumping events. All this was due to the true grit of the jumpers and the dedication of the late Deedee Corradini. She started the development program FlyGirls which FWSF now supports through development camp grants in her name. We have made over \$6,000 in grants to WSJ since 2010 and anticipate more funding requirement for both annual development camp scholarships and competition in the PyeongChang Olympics in 2018. Check out the www.WSJUSA.com website

The Association's Alpine Athletic Scholarship program started in 2004 with two young racers. Since that time, 132 scholarships have been awarded, 108 of which were aided by the efforts of the Foundation since 2009. The U-20 racers are selected on the basis of four criteria including: academics, community service, and need, in addition to athletic performance. The intent of the program is character building in the next leaders of the ski community and the larger civic community. Our recent grants have been over \$11,000 per year. The lead FWSF Trustee is David Krupp. The Athletic Scholarship Program is especially grateful for the continuing support from Whitefish Mountain Resort, Grouse Mountain Lodge, KARBON and the US Ski Team.

The Foundation has a strong interest in the disabled, as well as the enabled skier. We focus on the practitioners of the on-snow rehabilitative processes, which usually result in adaptive skiing (or boarding). We attempt to support both injured armed services personnel, as well as the public community. For the past three years, we have been able to make grants in both categories: the Vail Veterans Program for injured servicepersons' and veterans' ski weeks, scholarship money to ski schools for the disabled at Snowbasin (SASEF), Whitefish DREAM, Oregon Adaptive Sports (Bend) and the Adaptive Sports Center at Crested Butte. All these recipients have helped the Foundation by providing imagery and videos in support of the Adaptive mission. Joe Harvis and Trustee, Gloria Raminha, lead this program for the Foundation.

We continue to track the progress of the proposed Squaw Valley Olympic Museum and Winter Sports Heritage Center to be located in Olympic Valley. This concept will get further pushed forward when the World Cup comes to Tahoe in 2017. It is certain that we will be raising funds for the National Women's Ski Jumping Team in 2017 during the buildup to PyeongChang February 9 - 25, 2018 Winter Olympics in South Korea.

Check out the *www.farwestskifoundation.org* website for further information on all the Foundation's efforts.



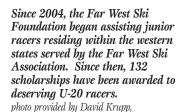






Scholarship Chair, FWSA





Assisting disabled skiers and boarders, as well as resort adaptive ski schools has become an important mission for the FWSF. Disabled Ski Programs

photo provided by John Watson, Vail Veteran Program

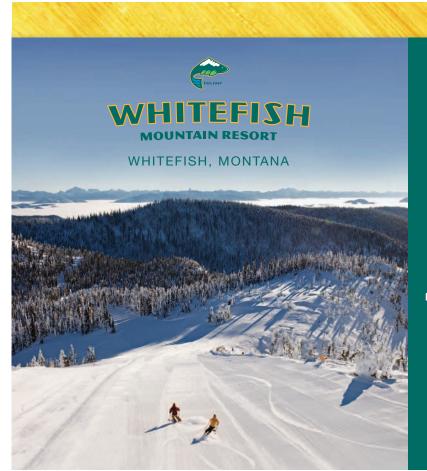
The Far West Ski
Foundation's first mission
was to support international competition and the
US Ski Team which trains
year around. In the
summer of 2015, the team
trained at Ohau, New
Zealand.

photo / USSA Photo Archives

TOP: Being a member of the Fly Girls is a full time commitment. Over the summer, the team practiced at Utah Olympic Park in Park City. Samantha Macuga awaits her turn to jump.

photo / Tyler Tate - T Squared Action Sports, USSA LOWER: Olympian, Jessica Jerome takes flight in the L.L. Bean U.S. Ski Jumping Championships.

photo / U.S. Ski Team



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Partially Located on National Forest Lands
Photo © GravityShots



The winners of the 10th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament were: Bert Witsil, Limelight Hotel, Sun Valley; Nancy Ellis, Vice-President of North American Travel, FWSA; Mike Hibbard, Sports America Tours; and Andrew Kwang, Vail Resorts. Standing between Mike and Andrew is Conner Hourihan of the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa - the Tournament's Sponsor in 2016. The Memorial Golf Tournament was held on the Palm Course at the McCormick Ranch Golf Club (pictured) in Scottsdale, with its dynamic view of iconic Camelback Mountain - a major Scottdale landmark. The tournament was named after Michael German, a former President of San Diego Council of Ski Clubs, a past VP of Council Services, FWSA and a former VP of the National Ski Council Federation. The Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament has been a favorite convention event throughout the past 10 years.

OPPOSITE PAGE: The Annual Pool Party has always been a great way to begin the FWSA Convention festivities with its swimming, water volleyball, innertubes and noodles. A great time was had by all at the DoubleTree Resort by Hilton Hotel Paradise Valley-Scottsdale pool.



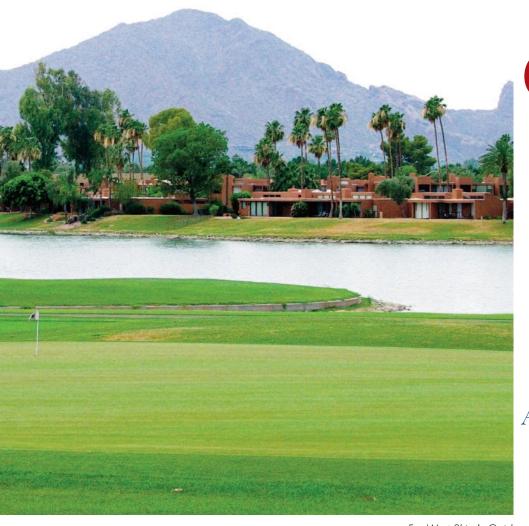


photos / Azy's Photography

Arizona Was Awesome! The 84th Annual **FWSA** Convention

2016

The Theme Was Arizona Is Awesome! It's Now in the History Books.





Marge Fons, Brigitte Schneider, and Wanda Himler from Arizona Ski Council enjoyed the Thursday evening Pub Crawl featuring several Old Town Scottsdale "favorites".

photo / Sheri Parshall

The 84th Annual Far West Ski Association Convention was held at the beautiful DoubleTree Resort by Hilton Hotel Paradise Valley-Scottsdale, June 9 - 12, 2016, hosted by Arizona Ski Council. The resort is an AAA Four Diamond property located only minutes from downtown Scottsdale, in the Phoenix Metropolitan area. Guests enjoyed cooling off in the outdoor pools, and visiting nearby attractions for great dining, nightlife and shopping.

The convention fun started on Thursday morning with an Old Town Scottsdale tour via Segway, providing a glimpse into the town's western history, modern infrastructure and upscale venues. Others chose another Western Journey, a visit to the Museum of the West, with a private guided tour of the Lewis and Clark exhibit, followed by a Mexican Buffet Luncheon at Los Olivos. The always popular Pub Crawl, held on Thursday evening, featured hot spots in Scottsdale's entertainment district.

Our golf enthusiasts beat the heat with a 7am shotgun start on Friday for the 10th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament at McCormick Ranch Golf Club. Others enjoyed a visit to the Musical Instrument Museum (MIM) with a private guided tour offering an overview of the world's music, focusing on cultures in each geographical region. The Spa Day was also popular with pampering and relaxation and a champagne toast at the luxurious Spa Lamar located next to the DoubleTree Resort.

The Pool Party on Friday afternoon at the Resort's South Pool, surrounded by lavish courtyards, cactus and tropical palm trees, provided an opportunity to cool off and connect with ski club and industry friends. Central Council once again hosted this event, and offered fun and games. Phoenix Ski Club and

The 2016 FWSA Convention in Scottsdale Was Enjoyed by All

ARIZONA IS ... ah... WAS AWESOME!

by Linda Westlund Host Council Convention Coordinator



TOP: On Thursday, a small group of convention attendees took a Segway Tour of Old Town Scottsdale, while several others visited the historical Museum of the West. Lower: Friday's Silent Auction is always a popular event meeting industry reps and planning next year's travel program.

ohoto / Azy's Photography



LEFT: At Friday's Silent Auction, ski industry representatives each have a booth. Brant Giovannetti, from Whitefish Mountain Resort, spoke to attendees about their 3,000 acres of varied topography, daily mountain tours, weekend night skiing, their five terrain parks and more. RIGHT: It is an excellent way for clubs to learn about different ski resorts, cruise opportunities and other travel options for the following year: photo / Azy/s Photography

out in force for the early evening Ski Club Happy Hour, ready to bid on great packages at the 31st Annual Silent Auction and Snowsports Trade Show. Ski industry and resort representatives from North America, as well as international destinations, were present to share information about snowsports and other outdoor activities, their properties and products. A portion of the proceeds from the Silent Auction were donated to the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy, whose volunteers served as bid runners. The McDowell Sonoran Conservancy champions the sustainability of Scottsdale's McDowell Sonoran Preserve for the benefit of this and future generations. Following the Silent Auction, there was dancing to great music provided by DJ Mikey Pro.

Saturday kicked off with a continental breakfast and a brief opening General Session. Next was the Travel Expo, where club members met personally with resort representatives and tour operators to discuss planning their group's next ski and adventure trips. During our luncheon, Jordan Romero, an American mountain climber and the youngest person to summit Mount Everest, spoke to us about his preparation and adventures. Jordan was just 13 at the time he reached the summit of Mount Everest, and since then, he has became the youngest person to complete the Seven Summits - at the age of 15 in 2011. Jordan is the co-author of: No Summit Out of Sight: The True Story of the Youngest Person to Climb the Seven Summits.

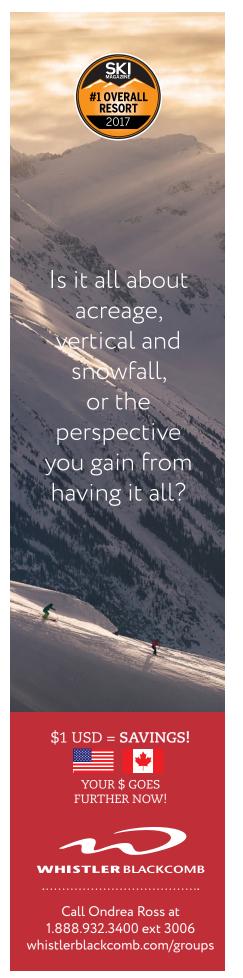
Other highlights of all FWSA Convention include Public Affairs panels and Snowsports Leadership Academy sessions, which provide our members with training and tools to enhance

Scottsdale Sea and Ski Club members were out in force for the early evening Ski Club were: Who Are You, and Who Cares: Building Happy Hour, ready to bid on great packages at the 31st Annual Silent Auction and Snowsports Trade Show. Ski industry and resort for the 2018 FWSA North American Ski representatives from North America, as well as international destinations, were present to share information about snowsports and

Saturday evening was amazing! It was a night of dinner and dancing with FWSA friends and industry partners. Arizona Ski Council planned a "Denim and Diamonds" theme, and guests dressed in their finest attire or their favorite western wear. Volunteers and industry partners were honored with well-deserved awards. The music provided by DJ Mikey Pro got a lot of attendees out on the dance floor and lasted late into the night. Arizona wines, from Pillsbury Wine Company and Arizona Stronghold Vineyards, were served throughout the weekend.

Sunday's program consisted of Election of Officers and FWSA's Annual Business Meeting. Clubs and councils and their dedicated volunteers were recognized for outstanding Community Service and Communication activities. A delicious brunch was served to convention delegates.

A BIG "Thank You" goes out to the FWSA and Arizona Ski Council volunteers who worked and played hard to make the 84th Annual Far West Ski Association Convention fun and successful! We also extend our appreciation to our industry partners who support FWSA by participating in the Silent Auction and Travel Expo, and act as sponsors of Convention events and programs. Read more about FWSA Convention programs and FWSA leaders and honorees in this issue of the Far West Skier's Guide.



2016 FWSA Convention **Sponsors**

by Jeannine Davis Silent Auction Chairperson, FWSA

Debbi Kor Vice President - Marketing, FWSA

- Delegate Tote Bags / Neck Wallets Nancy Greene's Cahilty Hotel & Suites
- Oldtown Pub Crawl / Western Ski Heritage Award

Steamboat Ski & Resort Corp.

- Spa Day / Environment Award Aspen / Snowmass
- Segway Tour

Brian Head Resort

- Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament
- Atlantis Casino Resort Spa

Pool Party

Jackson Hole Mountain Resort Central Council of Ski Clubs

Silent Auction Welcome Party / Safety Award

> Telluride Ski Resort Mountain Lodge Telluride

Silent Auction Welcome Party / Beverage Sponsors

Ski.Com

Taos Ski Valley

■ Continental Breakfast

Mammoth Mountain Ski Resort

Saturday Luncheon

Vail Resorts

- Luncheon Beverage Sponsors Big Sky Resort Sports America Tours
- Luncheon Beverage Host Pillsbury Wine Company
- Keynote Speaker Presentation Mt. Bachelor DoubleTree by Hilton - Bend Riverhouse on the Deschutes
- Awards Banquet Beverage Service Boise Convention & Visitor's Bureau / Boise Centre
- Awards Banquet Beverage Aspen Skiing Company Breckenridge Ski Resort
- Awards Banquet Musical Entertainment

Cowboy Adventures

Telluride Ski Resort Recognized with Tommi Tyndall Award

by Nancy Ellis and Gloria Raminha



Kyle Lusk (left) and Patrick Rothe of Telluride Ski Resort, accepted the Tommi Tyndall Award on behalf of the resort. photo / Azy's Photography

Telluride Ski 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 Scottsdale. Accepting the award was Patrick Rothe, Director of Sales.

The award was presented in recognition of Telluride's outstanding support of the skiing public, local community, the environment, the Far West Ski Association and its clubs and councils.

Colorado's San Juan Mountains boast some of ski country's most incredible terrain. Telluride is stashed amongst the highest concentration of 13,000 ft. and 14,000 ft. peaks in North America. The stunning scenery is undeniably some of the most beautiful in the Rockies. Living up to its reputation for legendary terrain, Telluride Ski Resort has something for everyone, no matter what level of skiing or boarding proficiency.

The Telluride Ski Resort spans between the historic town of Telluride, Colorado and the modern community of Mountain Village, Colorado. What was once an eight-mile drive between the two towns, the Gondola provides a more direct 3-mile route over the mountains. Over 2.5 million people ride the Gondola each

Katie Balkwill, from Big White Ski Resort, Receives **Bill Mackey Award**

by Gene and Catherine Fulkerson

Katie Balkwill, Regional Sales Manager, Big White Ski Resort, 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 Katie at the annual FWSA Convention in Scottsdale.

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 DoubleTree Resort by Hilton Hotel Paradise Valley-Scottsdale



Katie Balkwill is presented with the Bill Mackey Award by Steve Coxen, FWSA President. photo / Azy's Photography

Katie Balkwill is a highly innovative and motivated sales and marketing manager, who gets to fly all over the world promoting Big White skiing in beautiful British Columbia, Canada. Her passion is building a strong brand through strategic planning and market research. She encompasses the skill set and has proven the ability to develop and manage efficient strategic marketing plans and cultivate business relationships built on respect, loyalty and trust.

year, which reduces environmental impacts caused by vehicles. Eco Adventures provides day camps for kids ages 5-12. The program was designed to connect kids with their environment and develop a deeper appreciation for the world around them.

Telluride Ski Resort hosted this year's Far West Ski Week January 30 - February 6, 2016. The generosity of the Telluride Lodging properties, the many resort amenities, the fantastic snow, and the excellent service were appreciated by ski week participants.

Telluride's continued support of the Far West Ski Association, councils, and clubs has remained solid for many decades. The Resort has been a participant in the Annual Convention Silent Auction since the inception of the program in 1986. It has been a Convention sponsor for many years, and most recently sponsored: Banquet Entertainment for the 2014 Convention; Delegate Bags for the 2015 Convention; and, co-sponsored with Mountain Lodge Telluride the 2015 and 2016 Safety Person of the Year Award.

For their outstanding support of their community, the environment, and the Far West Ski Association, Telluride Ski Resort is a very deserving recipient of this year's Tommi Tyndall Award.

Her dynamic, disciplined leadership style and easy-going sense of humor have been a defining management strategy that instills pride and inspires a team to achieve excellence. Katie goes above and beyond when working with Big White clients. Her enthusiasm and humor are infectious. She is hands on and always finds a way to make the customer (we skiers and boarders) happy and wanting to come back.

When you sign up your group with Katie, she helps set up the trip so everyone's expectations are met. While she can't do anything about the weather, she makes sure your stay at Big White is all that it can be.

Katie has recently been reappointed as Director for Tourism Kelowna, which represents a broad spectrum of Kelowna's tourism industry. Katie volunteers her time and contributes extensive knowledge and experience to ensure that the organization is accountable and performance-driven.

Katie is an outstanding ski area employee and one that anyone would want on their team. She is more than deserving of the Bill Mackey Award.

The FWSA thanks the industry for your support!

Silent Auction & Travel Expo 2016 Participants

by Jeannine Davis Silent Auction Chairperson, FWSA Debbi Kor Vice President - Marketing, FWSA

The Far West Ski Association and Arizona Council of Ski Clubs extend their appreciation and sincere gratitude to the 31th Annual Silent Auction and the 15th Annual Travel Expo participants. The success of this event is made possible by the continued support from our industry partners. Please include these industry partners in your travel plans for 2016-2017 and beyond.

Aspen/Snowmass, CO Aspen Skiing Company, CO Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, NV Banff Lodging Company, Canada Bega Lagoon Resort, Fiji Big Sky Resort, MT Big White Ski Resort, Canada Bike Tours.Com, TN Boise Centre, ID Boise Convention & Visitors Bureau, ID Breckenridge Ski Resort, CO Brian Head Ski Resort, UT Brundage Mountain Resort, ID Collette Vacations, RI Copper Mountain Resort, CO Cowboy Adventures, ID Crested Butte Mountain Resort, CO Deer Valley Resorts, UT Destination Snowmass, CO DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Paradise Valley-Scottsdale, AZ Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel, Canada Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise, Canada Girolibero Tours, Italy Grouse Mountain Lodge, MT Holidaze Ski Tours, NJ Huntley Lodge, MT Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, WY Jackson Hole Resort Lodging, WY Kandahar Lodge at Whitefish, MT Limelight Hotel, ID Lizard Creek Lodge, Canada Mammoth Mountain Inn. CA Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, CA Mayflower Tours, IL

at Sun Peaks, Canada

Pacific Coach, Canada Pillsbury Wine Company Resort Quest Whistler, Canada Riverhouse on the Deschutes, OR Roatán Charters, FL Schweitzer Mountain Resort, ID Silver Mountain, ID SilverStar Mountain Resort, Canada Ski Alpine Xperience, VA SKI.COM. CO Ski Banff-Lake Louise-Sunshine, Canada Ski Group.Net, CA Snakedance Condominiums, NM Snowbird Ski & Summer Resort, UT Snowmass Destination Residences, CO Snowmass Ski Resort, CO Snowmass Tourism, CO Sports America Tours, CA Steamboat Ski & Resort Corp., CO Sunrise Park Resort, AZ Sunshine Village Resort, Canada Sun Peaks Ski Resort, Canada Sun Valley Resort, ID Taos Ski Valley Resort, NM Telluride Ski Resort, CO The Listel Hotel, Whistler, Canada The Lodge at Whitefish Lake, MT The Transportation Network, UT Turquiose Bay Dive & Beach Resort, Honduras Vail Resorts, CO Val D'Isere Condos, CA Whistler/Blackcomb, Canada Whitefish Mountain Resort, MT Winter Park Resort, CO Wyndham Vacation Rentals, CO

Mt. Bachelor Ski Resort, Bend, OR Nancy Greene's Cahilty Hotel & Suites

To participate in the 2017 Silent Auction and Travel Expo, please contact: Debbi Kor, FWSA VP of Marketing and Sponsorships at fwsadebbi@comcast.net or Jeannine Davis, Silent Auction Chair at silentauction@fwsa.org.

2016 FWSA Convention Award Recipients

Snowsports Builder Award

■ Iimmie Nunn,

Architect of City & Slopes

■ Ronnie Lupe,

Tribal Leader & Visionary

■ Bob Wilbanks

National Ski Club Newsletter

Hans Georg Award

Debbi Kor,

Northwest Ski Club Council

Elizabeth "Schatzi" Wood Award

Karen Janes,

Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs

J. Stanley Mullin Award

Norbert Knapp

Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs

Jimmie Heuga Award

Dave Ludwig, Hope on the Slopes

Jordan-Reily Award

Io Simpson,

Sierra League & Council

Bill Mackey Award

Katie Balkwill,

Big White Ski Resort

Tommi Tyndall Award

Telluride Ski Resort

Terry Smith Award

Dale Parshall,

Northwest Ski Club Council

Bill Berry Award, Featured News

Jordan Romero & Linda LeBlanc Co-Authors,

"No Summit Out of Sight"

Bill Berry Award, Hard News

Linda McGavin, editor

"Northwest Snowsports Guide"

Warren Miller

Modern Media Award

High Fives Foundation B.A.S.I.C.s 5 "Choice"

We Wish to Thank the **2016 Silent Auction Milestone Participants**

15 Year Award

Brian Head Resort

20 Year Award

Big White Ski Resort Whistler/Blackcomb

25 Year Award

Grouse Mountain Lodge

30 Year Award

Crested Butte Mountain Resort Mammoth Mountain Ski Area

President's Award

■ Jeannine Davis,

Bay Area Snow Sports Council

■ Steve Nyman, US Ski Team

2016 Program Award Recipients

Man and Woman of the Year

■ Mike Ferketich.

Bay Area Snow Sports Council

Colleen Stroeder.

Northwest Ski Club Council

Western Ski Heritage Award

■ Jane Jackson

Author - "Echoes of the Peaks"

Safety Person of the Year

■ Sue Rimkeit

Northwest Ski Club Council

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 -

Castro Valley -

Bay Area Snow Sports Council

■ 1st Council -

Torrey Pines Ski Club -

San Diego Council of Ski Clubs

Snowsports History Recognition Award

Jimmie Heuga Award

■ Bay Area Snow Sports Council



shoto / provided by Catherine Ohl

Dave Ludwig was the winner of the Jimmie Heuga Award. Hope on the Slopes, Ski & Ride for a Cure founded by Dave, has partnered with the American Cancer Society raising funds to help eliminate cancer. The Jimmie Heuga Award is given to an individual who has demonstrated courage and skill in three areas: the ski slope, the human body and the courageous heart. Jimmie was a medaled Olympian in the 1964 Innsbruck, Austria competition. His health began to deteriorate a few years later and was diagnosed with MS, then founded the "Jimmie Heuga Foundation" - currently known as "Can Do MS". To get involved, visit wwwhopeontheslopes.org.

Hans Georg Award



Debbi Kor, left, is presented with the 2016 Hans Georg Award by Linda Westlund, the 2015 Hans Georg Award recipient. This is the FWSA's most prestigeous recognition for an individual who has significantly contributed to skiing over many years.

Elizabeth "Schatzi" Wood Award



Jo Simpson, left, the 2015 Elizabeth "Schatzi" Wood Award winner, presented the 2016 Award to Karen James. This award is given to a Far West woman who has made a decisive contribution to skiing during the past two years or in a prior year.



George Kish, left, the 2015 J. Stanley Mullin Award winner, presented the 2016 Award to Norbert Knapp. This award is given to a Far West man who has made a decisive contribution to skiing during the past two

years or in a prior year.



Mike Ferketich (left), Bay Area Snow Sports Council and Colleen Stroeder; (right) Northwest Ski Club Council, were named this year's FWSA Councils' Man and Woman of the Year. The program is sponsored by Big White Ski Resort. Regional Sales Manager; Katie Balkwill (center), presented the awards. photo / Azy's Photography

The FWSA Recognizes Top Volunteers: Councils' Man & Woman of the Year

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

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, FWSA and nationally.

In my second year as chair, I continued to work closely with the council presidents in an effort to bring this recognition down to the grassroots level. In 2016, the council presidents agreed to reduce the window of service to the past five years. There was more grassroot participation this year, as was the intention.

Participation remained at the same level as last year. The notable difference is that there were only four men while we had eight women. Only one council did not have a nominee.

We appreciate Big White Ski Resort for their continuing support and sponsorship of the Councils' Man and Woman of the Year program since 2001. Our winners were awarded a 2017 ski vacation for two at Big White that includes five nights lodging, lift tickets and rentals.

Congratulations to this year's FWSA Councils' Man of the Year - *Mike Ferketich*, Bay Area Snow Sports Council and *Colleen Stroeder*, Northwest Ski Club Council.

Scoring and judging was handled electronically again 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 process. Judges were Marge Fons, Karen Bonine, Wanda Ross, George Stewart, Rosie Rosco, Norbert Knapp, Barbara Pressentin, Colleen Sterner and Barbara Blase. Thanks also to my tabulation partner, George Kish, and my personal secretary, Catherine Ohl.

Jordan Reilly Award

Steve Coxen, President of FWSA presented the 2016

Jordan Reilly
Award to
Jo Simpson.
This award
recognizes a
one or two
year achievement in the
Association's

Public Affairs

Programs.

Jeannine Davis
received a
President's
Award for her
efforts
throughout
the year.
Steve Nyman,
a US Ski Team
member; not
pictured, was
also honored
with a 2016
President's

Award.





Convention photos by Azy's Photography

Councils' Men and Women of the Year

| Councils' | Men and Wom | en of the Year |
|---------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Arizona | Wanda Himler | |
| | Scottsdale Ski Clul | b |
| Bay Area | Mike Ferketich | Mary Azevedo |
| | Rusty Bindings | Snowchasers |
| Central | Kim Riehl | |
| | Fresno | |
| Intermountain | Paul Markowitz | Vicki Kuebler |
| | Bogus Basin | Bogus Basin |
| Los Angeles | John Gray | Kathleen Byrnes |
| | The Unrecables | Wailers |
| Northwest | Colleen Stroeder | |
| | Skiyente | |
| Orange | Terry S. King | |
| | Balboa | |
| San Diego | Rick Bonnett | Eileen Weiner |
| | North Island | San Diego |

Door Prizes Convention 2016

Buff Headware I Inventure Foods I Kiss My Face Skin Care Park City Ski Resort I Roatàn Charters I Screamer Ski Wear Sunrise Park Resort I Transpack Ski Bags
Whistler/Blackcomb



LEFT: Linda McGavin was the winner of the Bill Berry Hard News Award, presented by Steve Coxen, FWSA President. Linda is the Editor of "The Northwest Snow Sports Directory". Above: Steve Coxen presented the Bill Barry Featured News Award to Linda LeBlanc and Jordan Romero for their book, "No Summit Out of Sight: The True Story of the Youngest Person to Climb the Seven Summits".

The Snowsports Leadership Academy, held on Saturday during the 84th Annual Convention in Arizona, was exciting and a great experience for the attendees! The Academy is an informational forum where experts in their field speak on a specific topic related to the snowsports industry for registrants of the convention. The topic information can be taken back for use by organizations or for personal enrichment. This year, the panel was exciting, interactive and informative!

Todd Hood, who has an MBA in International Finance from USC, was the first exciting speaker presenting "Who Are You and Who Cares: Building and Supporting Your Brand." His exchange informed ski club and council leaders on how to manage the brand of their organization with the myriad of stakeholders that are watching. There was group interaction and discussion and many didn't want the seminar to end! It was truly informative! Todd has been a member of Snowbusters Ski Club of Pasadena, is the Vice President of Membership for the Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs, and the current treasurer of the National Brotherhood of Skiers Western Region.

Barbara Razo, National Ski Patroller, dedicated the last 16 snow seasons as a highly respected volunteer member of the Big Valley National Ski Patrol for Snow Summit and Bear Mountain in Big Bear, California. The af-

The Snowsports Leadership Academy Is A Great Learning Opportunity!

by Jane Gutierrez Vice President - Membership, FWSA



presented an excellent and very informative seminar on "Building and Supporting Your Brand", which discussed numerous ways to

Slopes," and Barbara focused on altitude sickness, first aid tips, and general physical preparation for the ski season. Barbara happens to be a certified EMT, and was recently awarded the NSP Patroller of the Year Award for not only her Division, but the nation, as well.

Richard Lubin, D.C. who is FWSA's Safety Chair, finished up the "Safe Travels" topic with a discussion of different types of internoon session began with "Safe Travels on the juries that can happen on the slopes and what

can be done to help prevent them. He fielded a wide variety of questions. Dr. Lubin has authored many safety articles and his knowledge was quite stimulating for the group!

new members to

your club.

Once again, it was a pleasure to coordinate the Academy topics with this group of talented people! I'm looking forward to presenting more exciting topics at next year's convention in Boise, Idaho.

Keynote Speaker Jordan Romero **Inspires Convention Attendees**

by Barbara Razo, NSP

Brave, strong, dedicated, smart, driven, focused, patient, compassionate, a son, a brother, a leader, a speaker, a climber, and a skier: these words only begin to describe the Keynote Speaker of the 2016 Far West Ski Association Annual Convention. Jordan Romero is hailed as one of the most admired climbers, not only in America, but in the world. Jordan is the youngest climber to summit Mt. Everest and the youngest person to successfully climb to the summit of the seven tallest mountains on earth's seven continents, all accomplished before the age of 16!

Jordan's inspiration for this goal came from seeing a mural in the outdoor halls of Lucerne Valley Elementary, a school in a neighboring district he attended through 4th grade, while going to work with his mother. He was 9 years old. Mesmerized by the picture of the seven highest peaks and their respective elevations, he went home after school and told his parents that he would like to climb each of the mountains. After his first successful climb of the tallest peak in Africa, Mount Kilimaniaro at age 10, he was hooked and so began his quest and preparation to summit the remaining highest peaks.

At the age of 13 in May 2010, Jordan, his Father, Stepmother and three Sherpas entering from Tibet, China, summited Mt. Everest, the tallest mountain on the planet, grabbing worldwide headlines. The first thing he did from the summit was call his Mom and little sister via satellite phone, "Hi Mom! This is your son, calling you from the top of the world." He was highly acclaimed in the mountaineering community along with sparking debates over how young is too young to climb the biggest mountains in the world. There was controversy regarding whether he had the maturity and skills to make crucial decisions at a time of what could easily be life threatening to him personally and potentially his team. Jordan earned the respect of country officials and other mountain climbers that he was prepared and more than capable to accomplish these great feats.

Jordan has co-authored two books. The first, a children's book, "The Boy who Conquered Everest - The Jordan Romero Story," was co-authored with Katherine Blanc. The second book, was co-authored with Linda LeBlanc -



LEFT: On Friday evening, Convention participants had the honor of meeting Jordan Romero and Linda LeBlanc - co-authors of "No Summit Out of Sight". Billy Kidd had many questions about Jordan's accomplishments. RIGHT: Jordan was Saturday's Keynote Speaker.

"No Summit Out of Sight - The True Story of the Youngest Person to Climb the Seven Summits". Both are great reads and sold on Amazon, as well as in bookstores internationally. He and his co-author, Linda LeBlanc, signed books at the FWSA 31st Annual Silent Auction. They were well received by guests and even legendary Olympian, Billy Kidd. It was hard to tell who was more excited to meet the other -Jordan or Billy.

Jordan is currently working on an Environmental Studies degree, minoring in Business at Westminster University in Salt Lake City, Utah. He is also an Ambassador, #IOR-DANFORNEPAL, supporting the non-profit organization Water Missions International. The organization is striving to bring clean

water to the people of Nepal after the devastating earthquake. Jordan has a personal goal to raise \$100,000 for this mission in an effort to give back to the people who gave him so much love and support on his Mt. Everest Journey.

In addition to attending college, Jordan has a deep passion for extreme and backcountry skiing. He travels the world for speaking engagements presenting a range of topics with a special emphasis on encouraging young people to set goals and achieve them through commitment, focus and preparation. It was truly an honor and pleasure to hear this young man share his experiences, his journey and his love of humanity. He is and will always be a great Global Citizen.



Sue Rimkeit Wins the Safety Person of the Year Award

by Mike Sanford Vice President - Public Affairs, FWSA



ABOVE: Sue Rimkeit, flanked by Richard Lubin - FWSA, Safety Committee Chair - and Patrick Rothe representing Telluride Ski Resort, was the winner of the Far West Ski Association Safety Award. RIGHT: Jane Jackson received the FWSA Western Ski Heritage Award for her book on the history of the Arizona Snowbowl. Jane is pictured with Olympian, Billy Kidd of Steamboat Ski Resort and John Watson, FWSA History Committee Chair: photos / Azy's Photography

Sue Rimkeit created an award winning safety project for her Northwest Ski Club Council, and was named the FWSA Safety Person of the Year.

Sue is Vice President and Director of Community Service and Safety for the NWSCC. In addition to writing monthly safety articles for the council's newsletter and making monthly presentations at council meetings, Sue introduced a Whistle Program. At her request the council purchased whistles embossed with the NWSCC website address. Club members are urged to carry the whistles on the slopes or while participating in other outdoor sports and in their cars. The whistles were also handed out from the council's table at ski shows.

The idea is that the sound of a whistle carries better than the sound of your voice if you are in trouble and need assistance, particularly when you are out of sight. Having the whistle within reach in the car is helpful if your car goes over an embankment. The council plans to order a new supply of whistles for the upcoming season.

Sue encouraged clubs to participate in the Oregon Adopt a Highway program, reminding them that a clean highway is a safer highway. She also wrote a two page article on safety for the council's annual *Northwest Snowsports Guide* that is distributed at ski shows and ski shops.

Telluride Ski Resort and Mountain Lodge are the sponsors for the FWSA Safety Person of the Year Program. Sue received a 5-night ski package for two with lodging at Mountain Lodge, 4 days lift tickets and 4 days 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.



Jane Jackson Receives Western Ski Heritage Award

Educator, Vocational Historian with an ardent interest in Flagstaff History

by John Watson President, FWSF

The FWSA Western Ski Heritage Award, sponsored by the Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation, was presented to Jane Jackson, NPS at the Annual FWSA Convention in Scottsdale.

Volunteerism is a key word in the history of Arizona Snowbowl. Volunteers from Flagstaff and Phoenix Ski Club built Agassiz Lodge and installed the first 2-seater Riblet chair lift. Volunteers used to foot pack trails in the morning to earn lift tickets. The Forest Service has also played a major role in Snowbowl's development beginning with forester Ed Grosbeck, who supervised Civilian Conservation Corps projects and set some of the first ski runs.

In the summer of 2005, Jackson began volunteering in Flagstaff with the USFS/NSP Interpretive Partnership, which she still continues to do. Volunteer duties include talking to visitors at the top of the Arizona Snowbowl summer scenic lift ride.

After meeting Jimmie Nunn and visiting his Arizona Ski Museum, she prepared a program on the beginnings of Snowbowl looking at the involvement of the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s. The CCC constructed the road up to Snowbowl and built the original Hart Prairie Lodge.

Next came interviews with Jimmie and many other early skiers which eventually led to the production of "Echoes of the Peaks: An Early History of Skiing in Northern Arizona."

Once again keeping it local and almost totally volunteer, businesses had fundraisers and the newspaper had an article about the research leading other locals to call with stories and pictures. Northern Arizona University student, Gavin Boughner, was director and editor and an original music score was written and performed by NAU student, Jessie Bouvier.

Jackson started learning to ski in Virginia in 1974 but didn't do anything more until the 1990s at Flagstaff, and then Sunrise. In 2002, she started on the Courtesy Patrol, was an Auxiliary Patroller from 2002-2009, was named the Auxiliary Patroller of the Year 2004-2005, and was the Region 9 Awards Advisor - 2005-2008. She also served as a seasonal park ranger, at the Walnut Canyon National Monument from 2008-2011. Jackson continues to volunteer at Arizona Snowbowl in the summer and to enjoy skiing in the winter.

Jane recalls, "In 2002, I joined Sunrise Courtesy Patrol. Dispatch at that time was usually done on the top of Apache Mt. by old-timer Willie Lump who had been in the Phoenix Ski Club and skied Flagstaff from the 1950s. On slow dispatch days, he would sometimes entertain us with stories of the old days, always including mention of Jimmie Nunn."





"TOP TEN"

APRÈS-SKI • CHARACTER GROOMING . LODGING SERVICE . OFF-HILL ACTIVITIES ON-MOUNTAIN FOOD **OVERALL RESORT** OVERALL SATISFACTION TERRAIN CHALLENGE TERRAIN VARIETY



-SKI Magazine





A group of Skiyenti Ski Club members gather after a wonderful day on the slopes. The club received the top Charity and Community Service Recognition Double Diamond Award for their efforts in supporting numerous charities. The club donated their award prize to the Far West Ski Foundation. photos provided by Sigrid Noack

FWSA is very proud to have so many clubs and councils actively supporting a huge variety of charities. Ten years ago, the Far West Ski Association established the "Charity and Community Service Recognition" program to recognize our ski club and council efforts. By openly recognizing so many groups within our FWSA family at the annual FWSA Convention, we hope to encourage others to become more involved with charity activities and donations.

FWSA and its nine participating ski councils have always been committed to supporting charitable giving and volunteerism. Through the generous donations and volunteer services of our individual members in clubs and councils, we hope to enhance the quality of life within our communities. Congratulations to the members of our clubs and councils, their presidents, and their charity program organizers. These are wonderful groups, who selflessly support so many charities.

At the FWSA Convention last June, the top winners of the Charity Recognition prepared a photo display board showing our delegates and industry partners just how much FWSA members care, and how much we do for others! The charity displays at this year's FWSA Convention again were very impressive! A big thank you to our clubs and councils for all their involvement with charitable organizations.

Skivente Ski Club, founded in 1955, was the first all-women's ski club in the continental United States. Skiyente is based in Portland, Oregon and is active within the Northwest Ski Club Council. With over 60 active members, this club has a rich history of giving, and takes great pride in putting philanthropy at the top of their mission statement. The Far West Ski Association has recognized Skiyente with the top award for charitable contribution and participation for the past two years, and previously in 2007 and 2010. The club was honored to be recognized this year for the Charities & Community Service Recognition: Double Diamond Award for the hard work Skivente does in supporting many causes in Oregon.

Skiyente Ski Club's active contributions to favorite charities include:

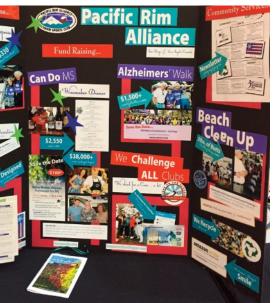
- Mt. Hood Museum and Cultural Center - Government Camp, OR
- Oregon Food Bank Portland, OR
- Making Strides Against Breast Cancer (American Cancer Society) - Portland, OR
- Northwest Cancer Resource, Oregon Ski Out - Mt. Hood, OR
- Erin Nicole Scholarship -FWSA Athletic Scholarship Program
- Mt Hood Learning Center -Welches, OR
- Parkinson's Resources of Oregon -Lake Oswego, OR

ALS Association/Oregon & SW Washington, Ski to Defeat ALS -Mt. Hood, OR

Not all giving can be planned in advance, so the club frequently pivots attention to assist in unexpected times of loss or tragedy. When an incident happens that hits close to the heart of the club, these women are compelled to help and have done so time and time again. The club has rallied to provide monetary assistance to families who have lost children or parents in ski and wind-surfing accidents. They even helped with medical bills for a high school coach who was seriously injured on a race course. Fundraising events include holiday raffles and a sale of goods and donations gathered during meetings.

Skivente is well known for annual functions the club hosts, such as The King Winter Coronation & Dance - a 60 year tradition in Government Camp. This key event is a primary fundraiser for the Erin Nicole Scholarship, which is granted to a Northwest up-and-coming female racer. Members also participate in local ski charity events such as Ski to Defeat ALS (\$25,000) and Oregon Cancer Ski Out (\$20,000). Hundreds of hours have been volunteered by Skiyente in supporting Mt. Hood Museum fundraising events such as ski fashion shows, wine tastings, "Ski the Glade" from Timberline Lodge to Government Camp and the now popular Historic Steiner Log Cabins tour.

Skiyente members are proud to be highly involved in the competitive ski culture and support the local ski resorts by co-hosting a sanctioned Masters Race "Masters Mania" every year working with PNSA and USSA. Skiyente has a reputation of giving back, racing fast and encouraging women to have fun, but safe times on the slopes. This club operates with compassion that is proven through the focus, effort and energy to be a significant contributor to the community from which they draw so much joy. Skiyente donated their \$200 to the Far West Ski Foundation.



Display boards, similar to this one prepared by Pacific Rim Alliance for the 2016 FWSA Annual Convention, show various club charity involvement.

Pacific Rim Alliance has always been a great supporter of Can Do MS. For 15 years they have hosted a festive Wine Maker Dinner for MS, which raised \$2,550 this year. Club members supported Can Do MS by skiing in the Annual Vertical Express for MS, held in Squaw Valley this year. Pac Rim also raised funds for the American Cancer Society by participating in Hope on the Slopes' Ride the Net for the Cure "Vertical Tracking Challenge" by tracking vertical feet at ski resorts around the world. The 5-k Walk to End Alzheimer's in San Diego was another charitable activity for Pac Rim and included members of the Radar River Rats. A total of \$1,000 was raised by club members for the Alzheimer's Association in honor of a member's mother. Pac Rim members also supported the Ocean Conservancy by participating in a beach clean-up at Oceanside's Annual International Coastal Cleanup. Amazingly, over 350 pounds of trash was collected in that one day. Ocean trash is a serious pollution problem that affects the health of people, wildlife and local economies. Pac Rim was awarded second place in the Charity & Community Service Recognition: Double Diamond Class and donated their \$50 check to Can Do MS.

Castro Valley Ski Club of Bay Area Snow Sports Council is the 2016 winner in the Diamond Class of the Charity & Community Service Recognition. The club works all year to raise funds to buy adaptive equipment for Achieve Tahoe, a chapter of DS/USA. At monthly general meetings they hold a raffle, and their annual auction also contributes to this fund. Recently an Achieve Tahoe representative brought a bi-ski to a club meeting so members could see what they were buying this year and how the bi-ski operates. Castro Valley also supports April Showers, which provides showers at the Boys and Girls Club in San Leandro. Club members collect items such as shavers, soap, towels, wash cloths, combs, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, and other items needed by the organizations. Club members also support the Alameda County Community Food Bank by helping to distribute food needed by various organizations. Volunteers are a vital part of the food bank's effort to help the 1 in 5 Alameda County residents they serve. It is a hunger relief activity and help is needed more than ever to sort and package the thousands of pounds of produce donated to the community each week. Castro Valley Ski Club donated their \$200 award check to Achieve Tahoe.

Torrey Pines Ski Club in San Diego Ski Council, enjoys supporting two charities. In November, they collect items for families in their local military community via MOMS -Military Outreach Ministries. The items range from food to diapers to any kind of household needs. The Organization shows great appreciation for the donations they receive from this active, very caring ski club. Torrey Pines' other charity is Toys for Tots, which is very popular throughout the country. Every December, Marines are invited to the club meeting to speak about their charity and to pick up the new toys and a check, donated by members. This meeting is a festive pre-holiday highlight for ski club members. Torrey Pines Ski Club is thankful that FWSA supports this important aspect of ski clubs and is very proud to have won second place in the Charity & Community Service Recognition: Diamond Class this year at the FWSA Convention. The club has recently delivered the \$50 prize to the MOMS organization. Members feel that charitable work is a very important part of their club and for everyone.

Many FWSA ski clubs continually support the following organizations:

Disabled Sports USA: Their mission is to provide national leadership and opportunities for individuals with disabilities to develop independence, confidence, and fitness through participation in community sports, recreation and educational programs. DS/USA offers more than 30 winter and summer adaptive sports including skiing, snowboarding, cycling, wheelchair basketball, track and field, watersports and many more. To become involved and learn much more about DS/USA go to http://dsusa.org.

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

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

The **Special Olympics'** 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. To learn more and get involved, check out http://specialolympics.org.

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

Jimmie Nunn Architect of

City and Slopes
by John Watson & Jane Jackson

Jimmie Nunn's footprint is on each of Arizona's ski areas. From his first days on skis in 1934, Nunn has been involved in the development of skiing throughout the state – Arizona Snowbowl, Sunrise Ski Park, Mt. Lemmon and Williams.

Receiving his first pair of skis at Christmas of 1934, Jimmie taught himself to ski on unplowed city streets in Flagstaff and on any nearby hills. By 1938, locals were skiing on the San Francisco Peaks, and soon Arizona Snowbowl was opened. Jimmie was on the Flagstaff High School Ski Team, took Red Cross classes from high school teacher and ski coach, Ralph Wheeler (future Flagstaff mayor) and joined the Ski Patrol in 1940. After serving in the Navy in 1946, he attended Arizona State Teachers College (now Northern Arizona University) and was on the college ski team. He transferred to the University of Colorado-Boulder, receiving a degree in Architectural Engineering. In 1952, he returned to Arizona and began his architectural career with Haver, Nunn & Associates in Phoenix. In his 33 year career, he designed - to strict standards - tracts of homes, industrial buildings, schools and public buildings, and even part of Luke Air Force Base housing. But skiing was always a big part of Jimmie's life. He spent all the time he could in Flagstaff, a fact well noted by his colleagues in the Phoenix office.

The Phoenix Ski Club (PSC) was formed in 1948. Jimmie joined the club in 1952. During the summer months, he and other PSC members cut and groomed new ski trails with other club members. The original Hart Prairie Lodge, built in the 1930s by the CCC, burned down in 1952. Agassiz Lodge was then built by volunteers from PSC and Jimmie was called on to draw up "as built" plans after enthusiastic owner, Al Grasmoen, had neglected to get plans and approval from the Forest Service before its construction.

In the early days of Snowbowl, much work was done by volunteers in return for lift privileges, but that had to change. However, Snowbowl's first two-seater Riblet chair lift, installed in 1962, was another volunteer project. Jimmie surveyed and determined the location of the lift and, with other PSC members, spent the summer putting it in.



Since the 1930s, Jimmie Nunn has been involved in the development of skiing in the state of Arizona. For his years of dedication to grow the sport, Jimmie Nunn was awarded a FWSA Snowsports Builder Award. His family was present as he received this award at the 2016 FWSA Convention. Pictured Left to Right - Back Row: Kathie Nunn (daughter-in-law), Terri Myers (daughter-in-law), Eric Nunn (grandson), Ryan Sloyan (Aly's husband), Aly Myers (grand-daughter). FRONT Row - SEATED: Stephen Nunn, (son) and Jimmie Nunn. photo / Azy's Photography

Jimmie was a first class downhill racer and participated in the annual Thunderbird races at Snowbowl. As a PSC member, he was on Ski Patrol and received a National Appointment (#1599) in 1954. Jimmie also helped a new generation of skiers by transporting PSC junior race team members to races on weekends as far away as California, driving all night so the racers could be on the slopes by 9 am Saturday.

In 1960, Jimmie was on ski patrol at the Olympics in Squaw Valley, the first time the games were covered by a volunteer patrol. It was also here that he met his wife, and ski patroller Jerry, who was a member of the National Ski Hall of Fame for her achievement as the first female Forest Service Snow Ranger (National NSPS #121) and promoter of the Avalauncher. The Avalauncher uses air to launch explosive charges into avalanche-prone slopes.

In 1962, Tucson's Mt. Lemmon ski area was developed by Snowbowl's previous owner, Al Grasmoen. Jimmie went down several times to discuss runs and rope tows with Al.

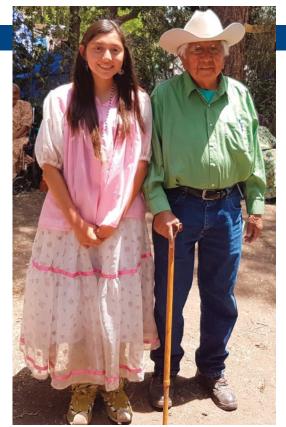
The beginning of Sunrise Ski Park was Jimmie's next major ski project. Together with White Mountain Apache Tribal Chairman Ronnie Lupe, Jimmie was involved in the earliest planning and construction of Arizona's last ski area. He and Lupe met with council members and elders, and helped convince

them that a ski area was in the best interest of the tribe, and that their sacred grounds would not be violated. He remembered, "A few buddies and I walked that entire Sunrise area. We rented an airplane, took pictures, and laid out the ski trails from those aerial pictures. Then, I went to the EDA and got the money - \$29 million from two different grants. I also had to build a road to the ski area, which is about 12 miles long."

Jimmie also designed the master plan for the Sunrise Ski Lodge on Sunrise Mountain – and then did it again a year later after the original lodge burned down. He also designed the nearby overnight Sunrise Lodge.

Jimmie still lives in the house he built at the base of the San Francisco Peaks. Here also, is the Arizona Ski Museum, one of only a few in the United States. It is a collection of ski memorabilia including hundreds of skis, boots and bindings, from wooden planks used early in the last century to current days' modern equipment; photographs, posters and newspaper articles; trophies; even an early model of the avalauncher. Jimmie has preserved the history of skiing in Arizona for all to see in his museum.

Jimmie Nunn's years of dedication to snowsport in Arizona has made an impact to benefit all who ski here. His heart still patrols the runs at Arizona Snowbowl. Jimmie Nunn is a Snowsports Builder for Arizona and the nation.



Ronnie Lupe is pictured with his granddaughter, Shania Lupe. The photo was taken a few days before the actual Sunrise Dance Ceremony. photo / Azy's Photography

Ronnie Lupe Tribal Leader & Visionary

by John Watson & Jerry Gloshay

Sunrise Ski Park, the last of Arizona's ski areas to be developed, is the product of several visionaries. Owned and operated by the White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT), it sits on sacred Tribal Land in Eastern Arizona. Without the vision and political astuteness of Ronnie Lupe, skiing in Arizona would be much different. Early on, these lands were recognized as rich in recreational opportunity, but were open only by invitation from the tribe. The first lifts started running in 1970, but the story behind this development is one of respect for heritage and the patient perseverance of one man - Ronald "Ronnie" Lupe. He is singularly responsible for the founding of Sunrise Ski Park.

Returning to his home as a young Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War, Lupe was elected to the Tribal Council in 1964 at the youthful age of 34. In the following election of 1966, he was elected to the position of Tribal Chairman. He was the youngest ever elected to that post. Ronnie was a Councilman for a total of 10 years. For 52 years of his adult life, Chairman Lupe has served the people of the White Mountain Apache Tribe

SNOWSPORTS BUILDER AWARD 2016

by John Watson

History Committee Chair, FWSA

The FWSA Snowsports 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:



John Watson presented a Snowsports Builder Award to Ronnie Lupe, developer of Sunrise Ski Park in Arizona. Chairman Lupe was unable to attend the FWSA Annual Convention held in June, 2016. Jerry Gloshay (center) Executive Assistant to Chairman Lupe, and Jerold Altaha (right) tribal council member, accepted the Award for him. photo / Azy's Photography

as a member of the Governing Body. These were years of great activity as the Tribe expanded on its tribal identity, defining its place in a changing society. The tribe needed to protect its sacred lands, assert its tribal rights, and protect and promote its heritage while fostering economic development to provide for the well being and prosperity of all tribal members. Born in a wickiup, Ronnie Lupe has guided the tribe's interests for over 50 years. He is also the man most responsible for the establishment of the unique new tribal asset – Sunrise Ski Park.

The WMAT had received many requests from sportsmen and outdoorsmen, including skiers, to come onto the lands, but the tribal elders were wary of these strangers coming onto their sacred lands in great numbers. Chairman Lupe envisioned a recreational ski area and led elders on visits to the proposed sites for lifts, runs and lodge. Ultimately, the objections were overcome and the council agreed to the desirability and feasibility of a ski resort. Shortly thereafter, Chairman Lupe flew to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to finalize initial financing for

equipment and infrastructure that would enable work to start. The result is an operating ski area that provides revenue to the Tribe, employment to Tribal members and economic benefit to the communities of Springerville-Eager, Pinetop-Lakeside and ShowLow.

Named after the most important religious ceremony of the Apache, the first Sunrise lift began running in 1970. Architect Jimmie Nunn, another Arizona visionary, worked with Chairman Lupe to design the facility, the first lodge, runs and lift locations. Since those early days, Sunrise has grown into a three mountain area with 65 runs, eight chair lifts, two surface tows, three day lodges, a hotel and numerous summer recreational opportunities all within about a 4½ hour drive from three major metropolitan areas: Phoenix, Tucson and Albuquerque.

Without the vision, patience and perseverance of Chairman Lupe, Sunrise Park Resort would not exist and eastern Arizona would not be what it is today. Chairman Lupe, may you stand forever in the rays of the sunrise.





Bob Wilbanks is a 2016 recipient of a Snowsports Builder Award - presented by Randy Lew.

Bob Wilbanks Founding Publisher of the National Ski Club Newsletter

by Randy Lew Past President, FWSA

In 1986, the Oklahoma City Ski Club sent a letter to all the ski clubs in neighboring states that their ski club was being sued by the IRS, who wanted to declare the club a forprofit tour operator. They were asking for legal defense funds because, if they were found guilty, all ski clubs could all be declared for-profit operations. At that time, Bob was the editor of Space City Ski Club's Sitzmarke, and when their board discussed the letter, he volunteered to find a list of ski club mailing addresses and mail merge a letter to all the clubs they could find - although no one knew how many clubs were out there, who they were or where they were located.

It turned out that Ski Group (an annual traveling trade show for clubs) had a list of 1,000 clubs - but would not share the list for competitive reasons. NASTAR had a list of 1,000 clubs - but would not share it for competitive reasons - and Steamboat had a mailing list of about 1,000 clubs - but would not share the list for competitive reasons. So it was assumed that there were 1,000 clubs out there - but who and where were they?

Bob could find no other ski resorts that maintained a reasonable current ski club officers list because of the time and expense required to maintain that list of ski club officers due to annual elections and constantly changing addresses. The industry assumed that there were then 1,000 ski clubs in the U.S that purchased 6% to 8% of the U.S. ski market but most resorts, tour operators and lodges didn't know who or where they were until they walked into the 30± spring Ski Group shows each year.

What the ski industry saw as a difficult

SNOWSPORTS BUILDER AWARDS 2016

FWSA Snowsports Builder Awards were added to the Far West Ski Association's list of awards in 2008. They are intended to honor exceptional individuals outside of Far West's traditional service awards who have greatly contributed to snowsports.

market, Bob saw as an opportunity to do something fun and to escape a boring job that he had been doing for 20 years.

He began to compile a list of ski clubs and their officers through ski councils, etc. and soon had a listing of the officers of 560 clubs. He then began publishing The National Ski Club Newsletter in 1987, claiming that it was sent to 56% of the ski club market - because it was assumed that there were 1,000 clubs in the U.S. A few years later, he was mailing The National Ski Club Newsletter to the officers of almost 2,500 ski clubs and the assumptions about the U.S. ski club market size had been changed dramatically upward to well over one million members.

When it was discovered that there was no way for America's ski clubs to communicate with each other on a national basis nor for the ski and travel industries to communicate with the clubs - except for 1,000 clubs at the spring ski shows, it was obvious that there was a communication gap in this market. If a ski club in Georgia came up with an idea that helped ski clubs, why should it take three years for clubs in Oregon to figure out the same idea - if ever? Initially, the magazine was an idea exchange system among America's ski clubs. If a concept worked in Texas, it should work in Alabama. So, if a concept worked somewhere, the other clubs were told about it and an idea could flourish quickly within this audience.

At this time, he published a bi-monthly black and white magazine of 12 to 16 pages that basically told America's ski club officers and the ski industry what the ski clubs in America were doing. The magazine also told those officers what some resorts were willing to do for the clubs on a national basis.

About 1998, Ski Europe's Richard Davidson, organized the inaugural meeting in Houston, Texas, of what was to become the National Ski Council Federation. The attendees were: Richard Davidson of Ski Europe; Bob Wilbanks, NSCN; featured speaker, David Ingemie, president of USIA - then the umbrella organization of the ski industry; and representatives from the New Jersey Ski Council, Texas

Ski Council, Chicago Metropolitan Ski Council, Far West Ski Association and the National Brotherhood of Skiers. Bob was present as an observer and, although he has never been a member of the National Ski Council Federation, he is the only person that has attended all of their annual meetings.

Bob has attended many Far West Ski Association Conventions, as well as, several conventions of the Texas Ski Council, was the speaker at one convention of the Ohio Valley Ski Council, and a couple of The Chicago Metro Ski Council seminars.

He also set up the invitation lists for the first few Mountain Travel Symposium's Group Exchanges after the initial Group Exchange attendees in Keystone turned out to be less than adequate with most of them (invited by the host resort) from clubs with less than 20 members each.

The monthly email Newsflash was begun in March 2008 and allowed ski clubs to receive information about the ski industry and other ski clubs in a more timely manner -- and during the summer as the print issue was published in November, January, March and May only.

More recently, the National Ski Club Newsletter has been reduced to four issues (November, January, March, and May) with about 32 full-color pages in each issue - plus a monthly emailed Newsflash as part of his efforts to become "a little more retired" while still keeping the magazine alive. In January 2016, he announced his retirement once he had completed the May 2016 issue. In the March 2016 issue, he announced that the magazine was for sale and is now discussing its sale with a half-dozen or so prospective purchasers. The National Ski Club Newsletter is now being sent to the officers of some 1,500

For thirty years, Bob Wilbanks has been filling a need and in the process, has shared best practices and ski industry information with 2,500 ski clubs in the US. This led to the growth of ski club membership in the 1980's and 1990's.

Bob is truly a Snowsports Builder!



Boise Is...

The Site of the 85th
Annual FWSA
Convention
Co-Hosted by
Bogus Basin
Ski Club &
Intermountain
Ski Council
June 7 - 11, 2017
Come Early
Stay Later!

by Michael Bouton Host Council Convention Coordinator, FWSA

"I can finally see 2017 from here." Those are the words I'm hearing from people all over the state of Idaho. I have been telling the story of this FWSA Convention since the summer of 2010. It has been my dream and passion to host this convention in Boise.

The 85th Annual Far West Ski Association Convention will be conducted June 7 - 11, 2017. The theme of the convention is, BOisE or Boise IS.... created by our Boise Convention & Visitors Bureau, and with their permission, we have taken it to be "What Ever You Want"-Boise IS. From a thriving metropolitan city with the down home small town feel to the beautiful Boise River and foothills that rise up to 7,682 feet, we are a recreational community. We love our laid back culture and very social environment. We are anxious to have you to visit and see for yourself.

From the time you arrive at our very convenient Boise International Airport (BOI) and are met by our volunteer committee, you will feel welcome. You will be taken to our AAA Four Diamond hotel, The Grove Hotel, for an easy check in. The property is located just 10 minutes from the airport, 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



You'll not want to miss the "Fountain Party" on the Grove Plaza. There will be music, food, wine and beer tasting, games, and our famous Basque Dancers. photos / Boise Convention & Visitor's Bureau



17



.Rafting, Biking, Hiking, Walking Paths, Golfing, Culture

the Boise Greenbelt walking path that follows the river through the city, and within walking distance of restaurants, coffee bars, cinemas, museums and shopping.

The optional activities start Wednesday afternoon with "A Taste of Idaho"- a hot springs soak in the mountains and a Dutch oven dinner at the Penthouse. We want to start off easy because Thursday you will be rafting on the world famous Payette River for either a full day with lunch or a half day with snacks, running class 3 and 4 white water rapids. I recommend you bring your adventurous spirit and smiles. The wine and brewery tour "Pub Crawls" will follow when you get your land legs back.

It will be hard to choose which option to select, among three optional activities on Friday. The *first* option is a leisure bike ride along the Boise River visiting wine tasting rooms, walking on the famous "Blue Turf" at Albertson Stadium, and visiting a nature center that will open your eyes to our wildlife. The second option is to have a "Day on the Mountain" where you can ride down a flow trail on a mountain bike, take the high speed quad to Deer Point for a spectacular view of Southwest Idaho, hike down or ride the chair. We'll have music and a lunch to remember your visit to Bogus Basin. You can even try your hand at disc golf. I think you will enjoy the cool mountain air and RELAXING time. The third option will be the 11th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament at one of our beautiful golf courses, Quail Hollow, nestled in the foothills. Plans are being made for lots of prizes, even a hole in one prize that you may need to drive home.

We will get everyone back downtown by 3:00 PM so you can get ready for the "Fountain Party" on the Grove Plaza. There will be music, food, wine and beer tasting, games, and our famous Basque Dancers. Everything will culminate when we all go inside the Boise Centre for the 32nd Annual Silent Auction and Snowsports Trade Show. This event is open to the community, there is no admission cost and includes a hosted Welcome Party at 6:30 pm with a complimentary beverage. You will have the opportunity to network with the ski industry, resort representatives and tour operators from North America, as well as international destinations. Local Boise companies will be participating, to share information about their snowsports and other outdoor activities, properties and products. Fantastic deals can be found! Afterwards, it's party time, dancing to a live band!

Saturday morning begins with a continental breakfast and a brief opening General Session. Throughout the day, attendees will have the opportunity to select attending: Travel Expo for trip planners and decision makers; four Snowsports



Leadership Academy sessions featuring snowsport, leadership and club educational topics; and Public Affairs Panels with Forest Service personnel and celebrity guests. The Luncheon will be followed with a keynote speaker presentation.

Saturday evening will be amazing; 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 Awards will be presented during brunch.

We have many new sponsors for this convention that will surprise you. This will not be the typical convention. This one will provide you with memories of adventure and style. You will not want to leave Idaho when the convention is over. There will be several tour packages from which you can take advantage. These include a three-day FAM trip to central Idaho, rafting on the Salmon River, mountain biking or hiking in the Sawtooth Mountains and seeing a part of Idaho that is spectacular. You will need to sign up early for this one. Plan to come to Boise early and stay after to explore the Craters of the Moon National Monument, Sun Valley, McCall, and Stanley Basin. Tours will be set up with lodging reservations for you.

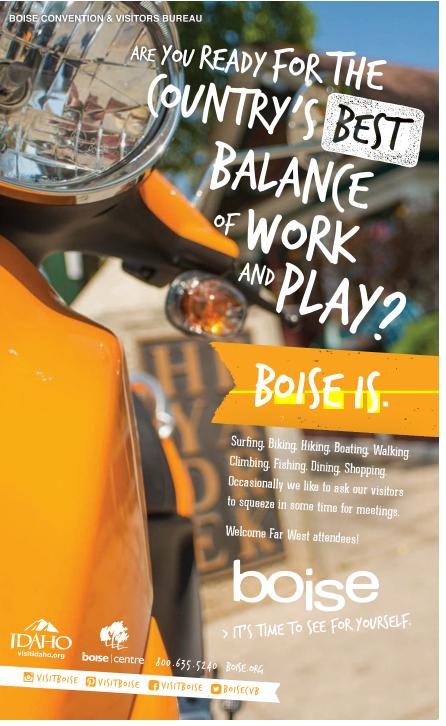
After 84 years of Far West Ski Association Conventions, it's time to visit Idaho, The Gem State. This will be one not to be missed. Come and join the fun!

To make reservations at The Grove Hotel, call 888-961-5000, or the local number 208-489-2222 Option 1, and be sure to mention our group name "Far West Ski Association". You can also register on-line at the FWSA room reservation site located at: http://bit.ly/FWSA 2017-lodging.

For additional information, visit the Far West Ski Association website: www.fwsa.org Further detailed information will be posted as it becomes available. Registration material will be posted in early 2017. For information regarding room reservations or registration, contact Jane Wyckoff, FWSA Convention Chair at conventionchair@fwsa.org. For opportunities to promote properties, services and products to our club members; the ski industry representatives, tour operators, all season resorts and Boise businesses are encouraged to contact Debbi Kor, FWSA VP of Marketing and Sponsorships at fwsadebbi@comcast.net or Jeannine Davis, Silent Auction Chair at silentauction@fwsa.org. For detailed information regarding optional events and local programs, contact Mike Bouton at *mbouton0559@msn.com*.



ABOVE: Boise's Capitol Avenue leads to the Idaho State Capitol Building beneath this beautiful mountainous backdrop. LEFT PAGE: There are numerous activities awaiting attendees to the FWSA Annual Convention to be held in Boise, Idaho next June. The Convention activities officially begin on Wednesday, June 7, but make your plans to come early and stay longer to really enjoy everything the area has to offer. photos courtesy of the Boise Convention & Visitors Bureau





The 86th Annual Far West Ski Association Convention will be held at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa which is located in "The Biggest Little City in the World" aka Reno, Nevada. With its close

Pack to The Biggest Little City in the World by Jane Wyckoff The Sign of the State of the Stat

The Far West Ski Association is returning to Reno, the site of a number of highly successful and fun FWSA Conventions, June 7 - 10, 2018. But, we will be staying for the first time at the fabulous Atlantis Casino Resort Spa.

Located just five minutes from Reno-Tahoe International Airport, and approximately 36 miles from Lake Tahoe, Reno is known as "The Biggest Little City in the World". Reno is the largest city in Northern Nevada, located in the southern part of Washoe County, nestled on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountains in an area called the Truckee Meadows. Biking, camping, hunting, fishing and mountain climbing are all activities Reno residents and visitors enjoy.

In addition to all the outdoor activities available, Reno features many places to visit, including the West Street Market, National Automobile Museum, Nevada Museum of Art, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, the Reno Philharmonic and additional historic venues. We will be working with the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority to plan a variety of optional events for Convention attendees.

Surrounded by breathtaking views of the Sierras, the Atlantis is Reno's premier AAA Four Diamond resort. This is a distinction held by only the most exceptional hotels in the world. The Atlantis features distinctive décor, contemporary furnishings, and seamless in-room technology. You will be able to enjoy the spectacular scene of the city through floor-to-ceiling windows; and let the comfort of the Resort's oversized beds put you at ease. The stunningly designed rooms, award-winning restaurants, Forbes Four-Star luxury spa and casino entertainment are truly second to none.

Luxuriously designed, Spa Atlantis is the only spa in northern Nevada to receive a highly-coveted Forbes Travel Guide Four-Star designation. With 30,000 square feet of lavish space, the Spa offers exquisite treatments from around the world. It also offers a wide range of spa amenities including an exceptionally-equipped Cardio Fitness Center, yearround indoor whirlpools and atrium pool. You'll not want to miss the outdoor pool and whirlpool. This Atlantis casino offers the best in gaming excitement, and exceptional restaurants with cuisine from a tasty buffet to elegant gourmet selections to satisfy any appetite. The choices will satisfy everyone from casual all-you-care-to-eat to fine dining, all prepared by award-winning chefs.

Plan to come early and stay late, to take advantage of all that Reno, Lake Tahoe and the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa have to offer. Additional information can be found at www.visitrenotahoe.com and www.atlantiscasino.com.

As the FWSA Safety Committee, we are concerned about staying healthy in our favorite sport. Unless you are lucky enough to live near the mountains, most of us have a three to six hour drive to the ski slopes, and that's in good weather. As you know, the weather best for riding or skiing is often inclement. When you get near the ski resort, it often involves small mountain roads, with snow, ice, or mud, and that makes driving all the more dangerous.

Of course, your car needs to be winterized and in good working order with good tires. This article is not simply about winterizing your car. We assume you already know about that.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation "On average, there are over 5,748,000 vehicle crashes each year. Approximately 22% of these are in adverse weather (i.e., rain, sleet, snow, fog, severe crosswinds, or blowing snow/sand/debris) or on slick pavement. The vast majority of most weather-related crashes happen on wet pavement and during rainfall: 73% on wet pavement and 46% during rainfall. A smaller percentage of weather-related crashes occur during winter conditions: 17% during snow or sleet, 13% occur on icy pavement and 14% of weather-related crashes take place on snowy or slushy pavement." Driving to and from ski resorts can involve these adverse conditions at a variety of elevations and temperature zones.

After a day - or a few days - of skiing this journey home can turn into a long, arduous and sometimes hazardous affair. According to the National Ski Area Association (NSAA) "ski lifts are safer than driving". At 30 to 40 deaths per year in 50-60 million skier days, skiing is not very dangerous. At 92 deaths per day, driving can be quite hazardous. Until driverless cars are perfected, we have to rely on the skill level of the driver. Is that really improved? We now have a lot more distractions, and that is the scary part.

Most of us flatlanders are not accustomed to driving in snowy or hazardous conditions. Like skiing, safety is not only about your behavior, but the behavior of others sharing the slopes, or in this case, the lanes. You could stay home when the weather gets nasty, but bad weather often translates into the best powder conditions.

According to snowsportsinjury.org, "The comparative accident, fatality and injury rates per million hours of risk exposure are 5 to 15 times higher for skiing vs driving an automobile." These statistics are relating to driving in general, not driving to and from ski resorts which often involves small mountain roads under very sub-optimal driving conditions.

Survive the Slopes. Then, Survive the Ride Home!

When driving, 1/6th of vehicle deaths and 1/5th of the injuries are related to inclement weather. Were it not for snow, we would not have skiing. Driving - like snowsports - requires attentiveness, skill, and the use of good equipment.

by Richard Lubin, D.C.

The Snowboarding Chiropractor, Safety Chair, FWSA

As a Chiropractor, I have treated hundreds of people who have been in accidents and have problems, often for the rest of their life. Most of the time, they occur when traffic is slowed and an inattentive person distracted by something (phone, texting, etc.) runs into the car in front, I refer to it as "braking bad".

If you ski plenty, you may have encountered conditions where your journey home (or to the resort) can take two to three times longer than normal. Driving is well studied and driving while tired tremendously increases the risk of getting in an accident. According to the CDC, drowsy driving slows a driver's reaction time and the ability to make good decisions. Bad driving conditions and drowsiness can conspire into high risk driving. One of the signs is not being able to remember the past few miles.

Melting snow on the roadways tends to get vehicles filthy. Unless you check, often your headlights, tail lights, windows and mirrors may be obstructed and affect your visibility. Get the best wipers you can. Melting snow on the road will have a lot of dirt. Do not forget plenty of wiper fluid.

If you had an injury on the slope, that can be all the more dangerous. Pain is a distraction and physically can impair your comfort and driving ability. Snowboarders have a disproportionate number of upper extremity injuries involving the hand, wrist, forearm and shoulder. Pain holding the wheel can certainly be problematic.

One would think the increased use of a helmet in skiing, now at 60%, would decrease mortality on the slopes, but experts say it has not. The good news is that there are many changes in automotive design to make new vehicles driving much safer. There has been a decrease over the past two decades in motor vehicle mortality. This is presumably due to better road and vehicle design.

These advancements are trickling down from luxury vehicles notably Mercedes. They have been the leader in automotive design with regard to safety. Eventually, these advancements become the standard of manufacturing in all vehicles as we have seen throughout the history of vehicle design.

These include:

Airbags. For years, all vehicles have airbags and more recently side or curtain airbags. In some vehicles, there's even inflating seatbelts or additional airbags - like under the steering wheel - to protect you in many different positions based on collision scenarios.

ABS and ESC antilock braking systems have been installed on all vehicles. The ESC or electronic stability control uses this ABS. According to insurance.com, it checks 25 times per second. All new vehicles since 2012 have this feature. If you slam on your brakes, it corrects the path of your car allowing it to keep from sliding sideways. With good driving you should not have to rely on this. You should anticipate stopping way in advance

Adaptive headlights. These advanced headlights can track the road. All headlights are better now. Technology is pushing headlights to be even better, going laser and improved lighting.

Adaptive cruise control will automatically slow down your car if the vehicle in front of you slows down.

AWD or **4-wheel-drive** once available only on Jeeps, then SUVs, is now available on many other types of vehicles.

Backup cameras are becoming increasingly common. By 2018, they will be required on all new vehicles.

Blind-spot warning and rear-cross traffic collision warning, also called forward collision warning, can be a feature with braking, too. This feature calculates your speed in the distance between you and the car in front of you. Some vehicles will even slow you down. Most of the accident patients I treated in my office over 27 years, were from accidents involving inattentiveness - vehicles not slowing down properly and a collision ensued.

Crosswind assistance. With tall vehicles and or a cartop carrier, this can compensate for wind instability.

Fog lights are nothing new, but can help your vision under poor visibility conditions.

Parking assistance or automatic parking. Wow! What a benefit that will be!

Lane monitoring, also called Lane departure monitoring, tells you if you're sliding out of your lane.

Self or Auto dimming mirror. According to Gentex, the Troxler Effect, postpones driver reaction time by up to 1.4 seconds. At 60 mph, a car will travel over 123 feet in this amount of time. These mirrors make driving safer by detecting glare and automatically dim.

Tire pressure monitoring. Optimum pressure gives you the best performance and the best gas mileage. Check your tire pressure often.

Recommendations

- If you buy a new vehicle, try to get upgrades or vehicles that already have these advanced systems. They may decrease your risk of being in an accident.
- Stay alert. If you have to pull over, get coffee, take a short walk, or let someone else drive. Tired driving is like buzzed driving greatly increases your risk.
- Improve your skills driving in the snow. If you're up in snow country, find a side road where there is no traffic. You can safely practice braking, speeding up, testing the traction, and turning on an icy or snowy road. You will be getting experience in situations that are not stressful to train yourself so you can respond when there is an emergency driving scenario.
- If you don't have some of these fabulous new safety features on your car, you can add them from aftermarket companies like Coach Automotive in Union City, California *mycoachleather.com*. You will have to pay some money, but what is your safety worth? It will certainly be cheaper than a new car or being in an accident.

CONCLUSION

To summarize, 1/6th of vehicle deaths and 1/5th of the injuries are related to inclement weather. Were it not for bad weather we would not have skiing at all. Getting there and back safely helps us enjoy the sport. We all know that driving, skiing and snowboarding can be risky, but that can be minimized. Driving - like snowsports - requires attentiveness, skill, and the use of good equipment.

Watch all sides: SAFETY IS THINKING AHEAD!

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

The width and 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, equipment and clothing manufacturing.

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, product developments and introductions. To keep abreast of issues and stay informed about relevant news visit www.fwsa.org.

Season Stats & Comparison

The Ski Industry Association (SIA) announced recently that U.S. ski areas tallied an estimated 53.6 million skier and snowboarder visits during the 2014-15 season - a figure fairly shy of the 10-year industry average of 57.3 million, and down 3 percent from last season's 56.5 million skier visits. Following represents skier participants:

| Season | Alpine | Snowboarding | Freeski | Cross Country | Total |
|-----------|------------|--------------|-----------|----------------------|------------|
| 2014/2015 | 9,378,000 | 7,676,000 | 4,464,000 | 4,146,000 | 25,664,000 |
| 2013/2014 | 9,004,000 | 7,339,000 | 4,361,000 | 4,291,000 | 24,995,000 |
| 2012/2013 | 8,243,000 | 7,351,000 | 5,357,000 | 3,307,000 | 24,258,000 |
| 2011/2012 | 10,201,000 | 7,579,000 | 3,641,000 | 4,318,000 | 25,739,000 |
| 2010/2011 | 11,504,000 | 8,196,000 | 3,647,000 | 4,530,000 | 27,877,000 |
| 2009/2010 | 10,919,000 | 7,421,000 | 2,950,000 | 4,157,000 | 25,447,000 |

Source: Physical Activity Council – 2014/2015 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. Figures for 2015/2016 not available yet.

The results, released at NSAA's recent Convention and Tradeshow, are encouraging given the increases in 3 of the 4 covered disciplines. We continue to experience complicated weather patterns over the course of one season but these modest gains are encouraging. All categories moved forward save the cross country and the dip there was very small.



Gender of Skiers and Snowboarders - 2014/15 Season

| Gender | Alpine | Snowboard | Freeski | Cross Country |
|--------|--------|-----------|---------|---------------|
| Male | 58.8% | 61.5% | 59.1% | 53.5% |
| Female | 41.5% | 38.4% | 40.9% | 46.5% |

Most of the country had a positive season again this year, with the four resort regions from the Rockies to the Atlantic posting gains relative to last season and 10 - season averages. Good snowfall contributed to increased visits in several of the major regions (Southeast, Rocky Mountains, Midwest, and Northeast. Collectively, there was a 5.3 percent increase over last season and it was one of the better seasons in recent years).

The age demographic also presents an interesting analysis:

Age of Skiers and Snowboarders - 2014/15 Season

| 1290 0 200000 00000000000000000000000000 | | | | | |
|--|--------|-----------|----------------------|--|--|
| Age | Alpine | Snowboard | Cross Country | | |
| 6-12 | 14.6% | 14.7% | 8.9% | | |
| 13-17 | 10.1% | 13.8% | 8.8% | | |
| 18-24 | 12.5% | 18.8% | 12.8% | | |
| 25-34 | 28.2% | 24.6% | 29.4% | | |
| 35-44 | 15.6% | 18.9% | 18.6% | | |
| 45-54 | 6.8% | 12.1% | 19.2% | | |
| 55-64 | 1.8% | 4.9% | 9.0% | | |
| 65+ | 2.3% | .3% | 3.4% | | |
| | | | | | |

Environment/Consumer Advocacy

Again this year, probably the most prominent and written about topic in Public Affairs concerns the environment, the effects of global warming and programs developed to learn more about it and enlighten the skiing public and the public at large on environmental issues. This would include ski area programs adopted with environmental protection in mind and efforts to limit environmental pollution and enhance environmental protection.

Over the past five years, Aspen Skiing Company has invested approximately \$68 million to both on-mountain capital improvements, and hospitality upgrades including new terrain, restaurants, children's centers and more. And, it's easy to get to Aspen with up to 6 daily flights from LAX on United and American and 3 daily flights from SFO on United. photo / Aspen Skiing Company





Tellluride Ski Resort panorama photo taken on the FWSA Ski Week provided by Nancy Ellis

The National Ski Areas Association (NSAA) has released its 15th Sustainable Slopes Annual Report detailing the ski industry's progress in implementing the principles of its Environmental Charter

during the recent season. The report highlights results of the industry's Climate Challenge Program, a voluntary program for resorts to inventory, target, and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs).

"These ski areas are leading the ski industry by addressing climate change head on and making changes in their operations that will reduce their impacts," said NSAA's president, Michael Berry. The Climate Challenge program provides technical support and recognition to ski areas that are developing carbon inventories, setting goals for carbon reduction, and measuring success in reducing their overall carbon footprint.

Participating resorts are: Alpine Meadows Ski Resort (CA), Alta Ski Area (UT), Arapahoe Basin (CO), Aspen Highlands (CO), Aspen Mountain (CO), Beaver Valley Ski Club (ON, Canada), Boreal Mountain Resort (CA), Buttermilk (CO), Canyons Resort (UT), Copper Mountain Resort (CO), Crystal Mountain (MI), Deer Valley Resort (UT), Giants Ridge Golf & Ski Resort (MN), Gorgoza Park (UT), Grand Targhee Resort (WY), Hunter Mountain (NY), Jackson Hole Mountain Resort (WY), Jiminy Peak Mountain Resort (MA), June Mountain (CA), Killington Resort (VT), Las Vegas Ski & Snowboard Resort (NV), Mammoth Mountain (CA), Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort (OR), Mt. Bachelor (OR), Park City Mountain Resort (UT), Pico Mountain (VT), Soda Springs (CA), Snowbird Ski & Summer Resort (UT), Snowmass (CO), Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation (CO), Stratton (VT), Squaw Valley Resort (CA), Sugarbush Resort (VT), Taos Ski Valley (NM), and Telluride Ski & Golf Resort (CO).

Also highlighted in the 2015 report is the Sustainable Slopes Grant Program, now in its sixth year of providing seed money and inkind donations to support important ski area sustainability projects. In total, the grant program has directed more than \$400,000 to 36 resort sustainability projects in 13 states with more to come.

NSAA has concluded these grants are a great vehicle for implementing sustainability projects at U.S. ski areas and in particular those projects that reduce ski area carbon emissions and address climate change. Past winners of the Sustainable Slopes grants include: Alta Ski Area (UT); Arapahoe Basin (CO); Beaver Valley Ski Club, Ontario (CANADA); Canyons (UT); Burke Mountain (VT); Copper Mountain (CO); Crested Butte (CO) Giants Ridge (MN); Grand Targhee (WY); Greek Peak (NY); Mt. Abram (ME); Mt. Ashland (OR); Mt. Hood Meadows (OR); Oak Mountain (NY); Spirit Mountain (MN); Stevens Pass (WA); Stratton (VT); Sugarbush Resort (VT); and Telluride Ski & Golf Resort (CO).

Each of the winning programs is highlighted in the 2015 Sustainable Slopes Annual Report, published in September, 2015. For more information on NSAA's Sustainable Slopes Grant program or to learn more about environment initiatives and projects, visit the Environmental section of *www.nsaa.org*.

Also from NSAA comes an informative article called "The Dollars & Sense of Sustainability". It is a look at sustainability's impact on ski

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

by Mike Sanford Vice President of Public Affairs, FWSA

area financial performance. Since NSAA launched its Sustainable Slopes program well over a decade ago, the practice of sustainability in ski area operations has become widespread across the industry. In fact, from an independent third party assessment by Brendle Group, a Colorado-based consulting firm that has supported ski industry sustainability for more than a decade, more than 75 percent of resorts now have some kind of sustainability effort under their belt. And, from NSAA's Climate Challenge to its annual Golden Eagle Awards, it's evident that many areas continue to push into new frontiers of sustainability in their operations.

There is also plenty of evidence that individual capital projects are reaping financial benefits for ski areas, from lighting retrofits to efficiencies in lift operations and snowmaking. What are the aggregated benefits of comprehensive sustainability programs to the financial balance sheet of ski areas, and what are the takeaway lessons for the industry as a whole?

Until recently, no one has asked these questions, but in 2013 two longtime consultants to the ski industry teamed up to uncover the answers. They found that there is a positive correlation between sustainability and profit, and a message of lost opportunity for the shrinking pool of ski areas without sustainability programs.

Is there a return on investment for sustainability efforts undertaken by resorts? USAA points out there is longstanding research and data pointing to the beneficial impacts of sustainability on a company's financial performance. Business leaders have taken notice. In 2008, the UK-based organization Business in the Community's report *The Value of Corporate Governance*, which presents five years of research, found that the Dow Jones Sustainability Index, a family of indexes evaluating the sustainability performance of the largest 2,500 companies listed on the Index, financially outperformed traditional Dow Jones companies by an average of 36.1 percent. The report also found that sustainability strategies had significant beneficial impacts on the cost of external financing, return on invested capital, sales growth, and the fade-rate of a firm's competitive advantage.

Ski areas have been practicing aspects of sustainability in their operations for many years, with NSAA serving in a leadership role by providing grants, technical resources and recognition to advance these efforts. From energy efficiency projects to waste reduction, and from snowmaking to fleet efficiency, there's little doubt that ski areas have benefitted from such projects in terms of cutting their bottom-line costs. Areas have led the way and inspired other ski areas with their efforts to inventory, target and reduce their carbon footprints.

There are 11 major ski area Sustainability Program types:

- Renewable Energy Generation
- Energy Efficiency in Existing Buildings
- New Construction-Green Building
- Snowmaking Efficiency
- Utility Energy Management
- Fleets and Grooming
- Food and Beverage: Green Purchasing, Waste Reduction and Recycling
- Lift Operations

- Greenhouse Gas Reporting and Triple Bottom Line Accounting
- Sustainability Marketing and Communications
- Human Resources

Becoming more apparent also are reminders of sustainability and climate control efforts seen throughout most resorts, even at the food check-out counters in many resort lodges and eateries.

Some types have long term implications and have required regional activity. Still others have involved multiple partners, have taken a long time to be brought to fruition and have been tedious, requiring long term activities, devotion and patience. This process can also be very costly. Generally the process involves county, city and even state governments, the US Forest Service, community organizations, area operators or permittees and an ever-changing spectrum of organizations interested in protection of the environment. Visiting the Council on Environmental Quality web page at http://ceq.hss.doe.gov/can lead to further information on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

NSAA Marketing Awards

The National Ski Areas Association (NSAA) has given seven ski areas top honors for their 2015-16 marketing programs. NSAA announced the winners at its National Convention and Tradeshow in Nashville, TN. The awards are sponsored by Ryan Solutions, a strategic marketing and database technology firm based in Ohio.

NSAA presents the awards to member resorts with successful marketing programs that ultimately help grow the sports of skiing and snowboarding. Here are the 2016 winners:

- Best Use of Mobile Technology
 - Cannon Mountain Aerial Tramway & Ski Area, NH
- Best Social Media Campaign / Peek 'n Peak Resort, NY
- Best Direct Marketing Program / Stowe Mountain Resort, VT
- Best Use of Video Marketing / Pats Peak Ski Area, NH
- Best Family Campaign / Ski Apache Resort, NM
- Best "Bring a Friend" Campaign Sunlight Mountain Resort, CO
- Best Overall Marketing Campaign

Taos Ski Valley, NM

Judging for the awards were: Mike Bisner, vice president of Sales/East for AXESS NORTH AMERICA; Kristen Lummis, a snowsports and travel writer and two-time winner of NASJA's Harold S. Hirsch Award for her popular Brave Ski Mom blog; and Sarah Plaskitt, founder and CEO of scoutski.com, and former brand strategist for world leading brands.

Consumer Stats

(These stats are based on products purchased through all channels (Specialty Stores, Chain and Online Channels Combined). The consumer stats show an upward trend in nearly every category for the 2014/15 season:

Equipment \$ 817,944,598 Outerwear \$1,758,550,608 Apparel/Accessories \$ 726,929,009 Equipment/Accessories \$ 507,888,815 \$4,505,686,719

Overall, with an increase of \$81m, outwear and accessories carried most of the load for the upward trend. The 2016 stats will be released shortly (after this publication – look for them).

Area Development

Generally, FWSA maintains an active network of "issue watchers" in strategic areas of the western states. We watch closely the expansion issues and efforts that affect the areas we cover with our clubs and councils. But that doesn't mean we don't watch developments in all the US areas and we also keep a close eye on ski areas throughout the world. Our club members are well informed on developments no matter where they are occurring.

Skiing History

The International Skiing History Association (ISHA) is a U.S. based organization working to preserve and build awareness of the sport's heritage through its skills and long experience in editing, research and publishing. ISHA publishes a magazine enthusiastically read six times a year by lovers of skiing, researchers, hall-of-fame members and skiers around the world. It makes ski history accessible to thousands of enthusiasts on the Internet. With an awards program, it annually honors ski history writers, website creators, filmmakers and broadcasters who document the sport's history. ISHA's administrative office is located in the National Ski Museum of the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame, Ishpeming, Michigan. You can visit their webpage at www.skihistroy.org where you can find more information.

The 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) is a division in the United States Army based at Fort Drum, New York. The division is a subordinate unit of the XVIII Airborne Corps. Why is 10th Mountain important to skiers you ask? Originally constituted as a unique mountain warfare unit activated as the 10th Light Division (Alpine) in 1943, the division was the only unit of its size in the U.S. Army to specialize in fighting in mountainous and arctic conditions, thus earning the division the "MOUNTAIN" tab. Today, the division retains its "mountain" designation for historical purposes and is organized as a light infantry division.

Reactivated in 1985, it was designated the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry). Since its reactivation the division has deployed numerous times to both Iraq and Afghanistan in support of Operation Iragi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, respectively.

Olympics

With the Olympics still a couple of years away it is interesting how that all started. Here is a little history lesson. The generation of men and women who took to recreational skiing on the continent prior to World War I looked to Scandinavia as the fount of all things skiing. The continent's military noted the effectiveness of Norwegian ski troops and eventually emulated the notion. Russian, German, Austrian, Swiss and Italian regiments were experimenting with ski troops in the 1890s. The English were contemplating training ski soldiers to guard India's Himalayan frontier. The French soon followed.

After numerous machinations and permutations and with the support of several nations who began to view skiing and the mountain experience as a boon to healthy living, more serious thought was given to major international competitions. Enter the Olympic presence: Winter Olympics had been contemplated since 1899. Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympic Games and then president of the International Olympic Committee, was not especially noted for his keen interest in skiing. He had been impressed with previous, smaller and unofficial games (particularly the military skijoring races) run every four years. Not much thought had been given to trying to incorporate skiing into the Olympic program. He believed, in 1908, that skiing had a "hygienic value of the highest order" and called it "the best medicine for tuberculosis and neurasthenia."

After WWI, Chamonix was also growing quickly in the twin categories of health center and ski station, particularly the latter. It developed the best lifts and the most expert terrain and was, in that sense, the country's most prestigious ski village. Chamonix in particular, and the French in general, had acquired an infrastructure and the experience needed to host ever larger winter competitions, both accumulated beginning in the prewar governmental programs concerned with health, war and tourism. The climax of all this effort came in 1924 when Chamonix was chosen as the site of what became, in retrospect, authorized as the First Winter Olympic Games.

Why is that important to skiers? Members of the division returning from World War II started and built nearly every major and many of the smaller ski areas in the US during the 50's, 60's and 70's. More recently 10th Mountain has deployed to both Afghanistan and Iraq and as skiers, we owe the 10th Mountain Division a huge debt of gratitude, both then and now. FWSA is proud to be able to bring 10th Mountain vets to its annual conventions in order to allow the honoring of both past vets and current members of 10th Mountain.

The *Outdoor Industries Women's Coalition (OIWC)*, the only organization focused on the inclusion of women in the outdoors from participant to CEO, has announced eight finalists for its second annual Pitchfest held in Salt Lake City.

Each female-led business was selected through an open application process that began in March and selected based on company traction and industry focus. This year's finalists include:

■ ENERGYBits is the first company to sell algae as a sports nutrition product. ENERGYBits gives athletes and active consumers energy and focus without caffeine, chemicals or sugar. Headquartered in Boston, Massachusetts.

Presenting Founder: Catharine Arnston / www.energybits.com

■ *Hipcamp* is the most comprehensive resource for people to find places to camp on private or public land. Headquartered in San Francisco, California.

Presenting Founder: Alyssa Ravasio / www.hipcamp.com

■ *Intrepid Entrepreneur* helps entrepreneurs in the outdoor active lifestyle markets build remarkable brands and profitable businesses. Headquartered in Durango, Colorado.

Presenting Founder: Kristin Carpenter-Ogden

www.intrepidentrepreneur.net

MyMayu makes innovative, parent-designed gear for families wanting to get the most out of their outdoor adventures. Headquartered in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Presenting Founder: Suzanne Solsona / www.mymayu.com

OutdoorFest encourages healthy, active and adventurous lifestyles among urbanites through information, innovation and experience. Headquartered in Brooklyn, New York.

Presenting Founder: Sarah Knapp / www.outdoorfest.com

■ **Po Campo** makes bike bags and travel bags with weatherproof fabric and many pockets to fit electronic devices. Headquartered in Brooklyn, New York.

Presenting Founder: Maria Boustead / www.pocampo.com

■ The Renewal Workshop cleans and repairs end-of-use apparel deemed unsellable, and converts it into Renewed Apparel that can be sold to conscientious consumers. Headquartered in Hood River, Oregon.

Presenting Founder: Nicole Bassett www.therenewalworkshop.com

■ The Ski Lab provides high-quality ski and snowboard building materials and supplies to meet the needs of hobby and professional ski and snowboard manufacturers. Headquartered in Park City,

Presenting Founder: Allyson Leang / www.skilab.com

For more info about these companies and founders you can visit www.oiwc.org/page/PitchfestFinalists.

Here is the interesting part; according to *Inc. Magazine*, almost half of female entrepreneurs cite a lack of available mentors or advisers as holding them back. "Pitchfest was designed to address this gap to foster entrepreneurship and innovation in the active outdoor industries," said Deanne Buck, Executive Director of OIWC. "These finalists represent a wide cross-section of unique companies and leaders that truly represent the creative spirit and passion important to the growth of the outdoor, snow, bike, and run industries." I hadn't given much thought to this, but I think the more inclusive we are the better the industry will thrive. GO girls!

The Ski Lab website is interesting for your club do-it-yourselfers. Go to *http://www.skilab.com/* for all the info you might need to get custom made "own" skis. This is a mom and pop operation that claims to provide all you'd ever want to know about making custom order skis and can fit your particular needs.

The U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame

Justin Koski is the new Executive Director of the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame. Here is the website to "BECOME A PATRON" and to join online if you like; http://www.skihall.com/index.php?_a=document&doc_id=7&PHPSESSID=dca6608ff35763941c2d2fce2b358a5a

By joining the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame, you get a subscription to the International Skiing History Association's bimonthly journal, *Skiing History Magazine*. Also, you will have access to heavy discounts on hundreds of brands and quarterly give aways. Join and become a patron and you will be entered in annual drawings for great prizes.

An annual subscription to *International Skiing History Association's Skiing History Magazine* is \$49.

Justin@SkiHall.com / Office: 906.485.6323 / Cell: 906.235.1670

The Downhill Consumer Intelligence Project

Washington, DC (July 9, 2014) -- SnowSports Industries America (SIA), the snowsports industry's member-owned trade association, has spearheaded the Downhill Consumer Intelligence Project (DCIP) in collaboration with more than 20 research and non-profit organizations. DCIP is the first research effort in a decade focused on developing a comprehensive and current understanding of alpine and snowboard consumers that will guide strategies and tactics to grow snowsports participation.

"The purpose of DCIP is to get an accurate, in-depth understanding of our current and former customers, as well as, the best prospects for future customers and what would attract them," said Kelly Davis, SIA's Director of Research. DCIP will draw from past and upcoming research collected by SIA and more than 20 other organizations including the National Ski Areas Association (NSAA). "Whether you're a resort or a supplier, what we get from DCIP will inform your efforts to target your fair share of future market growth," said Nate Fristoe, Managing Director at RRC Associates, the group that manages NSAA's research. "Throughout this process, we have found and will continue to find meaningful insights into how best to craft future product offerings so as to be maximally aligned with future demand."

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Phase One has been completed; summarizing the industry's current understanding of alpine and snowboard markets and consumers using quantitative datasets like retail sales data, participant and participation data and past studies on the snowsports consumer base, as well as qualitative data mid-1970's to present. A report on the discovery phase follows:

The Downhill Consumer Intelligence Project

Summary of the Discovery Phase – Phase 1 of the Project Executive Summary

"A thorough examination of the past three decades of snowsports data uncovered a remarkably static snowsports market. This historic data showed no steep declines in either sales or the participant base that could not be explained primarily by weather. The data also illustrated the expected growth curve of the snowboard category with modest declines over the past four seasons that may be explained by normal maturation of the sport. However, along with the absence of any steep declines in sales or in the participant base, we found no significant growth, with one exception that occurred in the market when shaped skis were introduced. No program or marketing campaign designed to grow the participant base moved the needle enough to show up in the data. Additionally, we found past snowsports research efforts, and the findings and recommendations stemming from those efforts, to be remarkably, but appropriately similar over the past 35 years. Based on this review of long term trends in the snowsports market, it's clear that future efforts to grow snowsports must break old paradigms in order to have significant impacts".

"The work we have done to date indicates that we have many opportunities to grow snowboarding and downhill skiing participant bases, but many barriers to growth exists. Thirty percent of alpine and snowboard participants weren't born the last time a study of this magnitude was conducted, so we have a lot to learn." They are working on that particular topic.

The next phases of the Downhill Consumer Intelligence Project [DCIP] will examine the attitudes, preferences and behaviors of current and aspirational snowsports consumers, explore why past efforts apparently failed and explore different methods to grow the participant base and sales based on the consumer trends we uncover.

The barriers to participating in snowsports haven't changed much over the years, and changes in the industry's approach to breaking those barriers may lead to growth. Past and recent qualitative studies indicate that major barriers to growth include lack of access to snowsports due to expense, proximity to resorts, lack of knowledge about how to get started, nobody to ski or snowboard with and opportunity costs (so many things to do, so little time). While most of these barriers have been addressed one way or another by traditional programs that do bring some new participants into the market and have brought some lapsed participants back, they have not brought them in droves. The traditional approaches have not had impacts sufficient to show growth in the aggregate participant or sales data. Compared to other leisure activities including golf, cycling, backpacking and even soccer, lack of significant decline is a very positive sign. Many other activities are looking at non-traditional approaches like foot golf, pickleball and obstacle course racing, that are helping tennis, golf and running grow their participant bases. Opportunities to grow snowsports may include a variety of non-traditional activities that address the principal barriers of expense, proximity, need for a snowsports companion, and intimidation in the face of a steep learning curve for beginners. The remaining phases of this research project will include some testing of non-traditional snowsports activities like local or mobile terrain parks and learning centers, efforts to take the growth campaign viral, and solicitation of ideas to grow snowsports across the industry and the consumer base. www.snowsports.org/dcip.

YOUCAN GO HOME AGAIN! RETURN TO THE ARLBERG

by Jimmy Petterson

Thomas Wolfe's posthumous novel,
You Can't Go Home Again,
had a strong enough effect
on the English language
to have turned that title
into a clearly defined phrase
in our language.
It basically means that
any nostalgic attempt to revisit
our youth is doomed to failure.

I am old enough and experienced enough, as well, to understand that this conventional wisdom is often the case. Nevertheless, I sometimes cannot resist the temptation to revisit one of the spots that gave me great pleasure when I was young. One must do so with an open mind and an acceptance that not everything will be exactly as one remembered it. Some aspects will invariably have changed for the worse, while other characteristics might well be better than in the past.



Far West Skier's Guide 2016 - 2017



I recently returned for the first time in many years to one of those wonderful haunts from my past - St. Anton and the Arlberg. It was already the second week past Easter when I began to drive along the Innstal. It was spring, but the weather was at least temporarily already in summer mode. The sky was bluebird, the meadows that line the valley were deep green, the mercury in the thermometer got up to 23 degrees Celsius, and I passed numerous people on my drive who were enjoying their day on their bicycles. Their skis had certainly already been put into storage for the off-season.

I felt good. I rolled down the windows and let the spring air blow through the car. Spring is a time of love. It is a time of year when new love sprouts around us no less than the flower buds that begin to peek out of their winter hibernation. It is also a season when it is not unusual for our minds to meander back nostalgically to reminisce about long-ago infatuations. So it was with me on this spring afternoon, because I was going to renew a long love affair with St. Anton and the Arlberg.

I reminisced back to my first visit to St. Anton. It was January 1970 and during that week, I skied the renowned Valluga, spent a day in the famous St. Anton Ski School, ate a lunch on the lovely terrace of the Arlberghöhe in St. Christoph and danced with a bevy of beautiful Swedish girls at die Klause discotheque in the cellar of the Schwarze Adler Hotel. I was a tourist - a first timer.

Like many visitors to St. Anton, I returned ... not just once ... not twice ... but forever. A second time visitor becomes a return guest. Later, returning skiers graduate to the rank of "regulars" ... and ultimately, a handful of the most devoted become St. Anton ski bums. By the mid-1970s, when I began picking up singing work around town, I had reached that status.

As I drove, it was hard to fathom that the love affair had begun a full 45 years earlier, and for about fifteen years, from when I was 20 until I was 35, almost every spring, I returned faithfully to her bedside, wooing and courting her favor. I was not alone. St. Anton had always been a favorite among ski bums and powder hounds, and she flirted with all of us on equal terms.

We all were enthralled with her pure virginal qualities, and often she satisfied us, leaving us in the euphoria of the belief that we were her one and only. But other times, like in Simon and Garfunkel's ode to Cecilia, which laments, "When I come back to bed, someone's taken my



LEFT: Peter Starup carves his signature onto the slopes of the Arlberg. Peter is also shown on the previous page spraying up some Arlberg powder. ABOVE: Karsten Hillmann enjoys the off-piste terrain high above Zürs. photos by Jimmy Petterson

place,"I found myself sharing her favors with all too many other lovers. I would arrive atop one of my favorite powder descents and find the telltale tracks of her other suitors. Still, they were wonderful years, and now, after a long hiatus, I was excited with anticipation to meet my long-ago lover once more.

My first day back on the Arlberg involved more of the new than the old. The tourist office had arranged my stay at the lovely, centrally located Hotel Rundeck. This four-star accommodation was only seven years old and had not been here the last time I had visited St. Anton. Still, the Regal Hotel Post still held its ground in the center of the village, and the dignified Schwarze Adler, where my mother had paid my room on my very first visit to St. Anton, had not changed much over the years. Die Klause Disco was no more, but that was okay, as I suspect the crowd at whichever locality had replaced it might be a tad young for me anyway. Nostalgia nevertheless pulled me like a magnet to the elegant restaurant of the Schwarze Adler, where I indulged in an excellent venison steak to celebrate my return.

While nostalgia lurks around every corner on the Arlberg, if one has spent time here in the past, the region has constantly modernized - updating its lifts, adding new facilities, and undergoing repeated facelifts through the years. It has not stood still, resting on its laurels.

My first day of skiing, I also focused on the new. For the 2013-14 season, a lift connection was built to connect Lech with the existing ski villages of Warth and Schröcken. I crossed from Tirol into the province of Vorarlberg to explore this group of lifts that had recently been added to the Arlberg menu. I rode up the Schlosskopf Lift on the far end of Lech and made my way across to explore these newly added outer reaches of the Arlberg lift system.

One can hardly call either Warth or Schröcken a village. Hamlet would be a more appropriate term. They are each little more than a handful of buildings in close proximity to one another, and together, they have a population of about 400 people, a figure that has hardly grown since the 1870s. What they do have, however, is fourteen ski lifts, ranging from small beginner's tows to modern six-seat chairlifts. These little-know hamlets are not far from Lech during the summer, when less than seven kilometers separate Lech from Warth along the Lechtalstrasse. In winter, however, this road is snowbound, and one has to add 100 kilometers to the distance between the two, as well as close to two hours driving time. This difference between summer and winter becomes rather moot, of course, by virtue of the new ski lift connection.

The terrain around Lech is much easier than that in her sister resort of Zürs, and the pistes of Warth and Schröcken seem quite compatible with the rest of the fare in Lech. The black pistes resemble red runs in most resorts, and the red pistes are more like blues.

The new connection is definitely a win-win situation. As a result of the consolidation of the resorts, Warth has suddenly expanded from a small family resort to a world-class ski center. Meanwhile, for the Lech regulars, the new connection has added quite a lot of north-facing terrain, a portion of the Lech repertoire that has been heretofore glaringly absent.

Day two was one of reminiscing, and I headed up the Valluga. It was on St. Anton's Valluga that I developed as a skier, and I added a vast amount to my mountain knowledge back in my early years. I learned how to follow the sun to find the best corn snow. In spring, we began in the early morning with runs down the south-facing slopes of Mattun and Schindlerkar between 9:30 and 11:00. Then we moved over to the steep gullies and southwest slopes that face St. Christoph around noon, and after lunch, we skied down the steep west-facing ridges and chutes of the Rendl in the early afternoon.

Of course, here too, some things had changed. When I first skied St. Anton, the Valluga cable car would take 50 skiers up the mountain at a time. The Schindlerkar descent was one of the most difficult and never got very much traffic. Nowadays, the much higher capacity of the Schindlerkar Lift along with the ever increasing ability of skiers and boarders has turned the slope into an entirely different proposition than that which I experienced in the 1970s.

I began now to pick my way between the bunker-sized moguls that filled Schindlerkar from one side to the other. It was a real test of my lactic acid endurance. I thought for a moment about the pluses and minuses of "progress" but had to quickly return my attention to my skiing so as not to be eaten up by the monster bumps.

My next stop was for lunch, and sure enough, the sun terrace of the Arlberghöhe in St. Christoph was still the place to be.

Shortly after I had put away a Wiener Schnitzel, I rushed off to the Rendl for the afternoon. A blue eight-seat gondola had replaced the smaller yellow one that was originally built in 1974 and the valley-station was now right in town - an improvement that made access more convenient.



Jimmy Petterson bouncing down one of his favorite off-piste descents from the Albonagrad in Stuben in 1980.

As I rode up the new gondola, I again reminisced. My strongest memories of skiing in St. Anton were of some of the epic powder days on the north face of the Rendl, including perhaps the best ski day of my life: March 10, 1980. On that occasion, after a multi-day snowstorm, the valley fog misled most of the ski bums and kept the majority of skiers in their beds. Meanwhile a few friends and I rode up above the fog and pumped more than 10,000 vertical meters in about 90 centimeters of ultra-light powder on the Rendl.

While riding the lift, I could see that my long-ago experience could no longer take place today. In the ensuing years, a number of avalanches from this mountain had devastated the village. As a result, a multitude of avalanche barriers had been erected, filling virtually the entire mountainside where we once upon a time bounced through endless fields of deep powder snow.

This day was, in any case, a day where powder was not part of the equation. The mountain was rife with corn snow and I cruised all the different pistes of the Rendl. Most of the infrastructure had changed since my early days here. The old T-bars were long gone and the two Riffel chairlifts were now situated where we had long ago traversed to reach some wonderful west-facing couloirs. There, we had skied virgin corn down into the depths of the Mosstal. In essence,

much of the area that had formerly been part of the off-piste domain was now covered with lifts and pistes.

I could have looked at this fact in a negative way, but I didn't. Ironically, the reality of corn snow skiing had also changed so as to almost make this a positive feature. Forty years ago, before grooming was an integral part of the ski world, spring would see the pistes covered with moguls that grew with every day until a heavy snowfall would eventually eliminate them again. In spring, these moguls would be an icy hell early in the morning, eventually soften enough to be skiable and end up as a Slurpy by day's end, when one would try desperately to cajole one's tired muscles to trudge through the heavy snow one more time down to the après-ski.

In those days, we would look off-piste to find some virgin corn. It was on the off-piste routes, at the right time of day, that we could carve our edges into a face that was as smooth as a polished dance floor.

Forty years later, the reality has changed entirely. Today, by the time the powder has developed into corn, the off-piste areas have been deeply scarred by all the freeriders who have laid tracks in the powder. It no longer has any semblance of virgin corn. Meanwhile, the pistes are smoothed every night into a heavenly path of perfect corduroy. Hence, at least for spring skiing, it is nowadays the pistes rather than the off-piste terrain that provide skiers with the pristine experience of skiing perfect corn snow. So, it was on the Rendl that afternoon, as I sliced up the corduroy, spraying corn kernels helter-skelter down toward the valley.

The après-ski in St. Anton had also changed somewhat. In my day, the Krazy Kanguruh was without question the location to end the ski day. While the Krazy is still going strong, its thunder has been to some degree stolen by the neighboring MooserWirt, which nowadays boasts one of the wildest after-ski parties in the Alps. I wasn't about to miss anything on my return to my old stomping grounds. There was plenty of time for a pint at both locations.

I was certainly in a good mood by the time I arrived at the base of the Galzig, where I discovered another page from my past was still going strong in a new incarnation. When I first arrived in St. Anton, idiosyncratic Australian Joan had recently established the Underground bar and restaurant seven kilometers down the valley in the village of Pettneu. The place was a staple of our ski-bum diet, with its all-you-can-eat ribs and chicken wings, and I must admit that we often smuggled enough food back to our rooms for an additional dinner the next day.

The new location is in a lovely old house dripping with atmosphere, and fortunately, Joan was sitting comfortably at a table close to the bar and immediately invited this old ski bum for an après-ski of wine and tapas. She reported that a fair number of old ski bums still show up for a week's holiday now and then, and indulge in a similar nostalgia session to the one that was now accompanying our tapas and wine.

I still had a number of stops remaining before my Arlberg visit would be complete. Next on my agenda was Stuben. The Albonagrat, which rises 1000 meters above the tiny village, has some of the choicest skiing anywhere in the Alps. With only 100 permanent residents, 630 tourist beds, and three ski lifts, Stuben probably does not sound too impressive, but do not be fooled. Some relevant information is still missing.

Stuben is a powder hole, where the storms, which invariably blow in from the West, get stuck as they attempt to cross the Arlberg Pass. Here, each storm is compelled to drop the mother lode to lighten its burden enough so that it can rise above the pass and escape eastward. Hence, this little snow magnet pulls down an average of 12 meters of

snowfall per year. In addition, most of the skiing on the Albona is on an open north-facing wall of snow a few kilometers wide, which seems to always have space for just one more set of powder tracks.

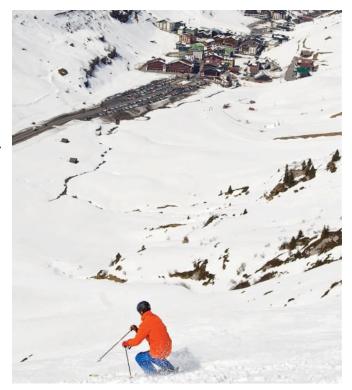
I began my day by skiing down the Rauz run from the Valluga to Stuben. As I rode up the double chair lift on this warm spring morning, my thoughts once again meandered back in time. They took me to the years when Stuben had only the old single chair in two stages up to the Albonagrat. It took about 30 minutes to negotiate both lifts and it was always brutally cold. The lift attendants doled out blankets to help warm up the patrons, but there were not many takers.

For those of us willing to brave the elements, the powder rewards were always great. One of my favorite runs - still an Arlberg classic - began with a 30-minute hike up the Maroikopf behind the Albona. From there, we skied a powder run down to the neighboring village of Langen.

I was again startled back to the present by the top station. As the previous day, it was again a warm, spring day. But Stuben also has a great off-piste corn-snow decent into the Maroi Valley. The morning sun had prepared the spring snow to perfection, and I glided almost effortlessly into the valley below.

Soon I was on a forest road that ultimately transported me to the isolated Rasthaus Ferwall, a cozy little restaurant in the middle of nowhere, seemingly placed in this location by God just to suit the offpiste skiers of the Maroi Valley. A tasty Kaiserschmarrn, a taxi ride back to St. Anton, one more afternoon on the Rendl, and another day on the Arlberg had passed into my personal history.

I had one day remaining on my nostalgia voyage and I had set my sights on Zürs for my final day on the Arlberg. A few friends and I embarked on one more classic Arlberg ski tour. From the top of the Valluga cable car, there is actually one more tiny cabin that can take skiers to the real peak. However, this lift is only for people accompanied by an official mountain guide. Even long-time ski-bum status would be of no help. My friends and I hiked for 30 minutes to reach access to the Pazieltal - a long, meandering valley that ends up in Zürs.



It's a long way down to the village of Zürs below, and Peter Starup has the privilege of making first tracks in the virgin corn snow.



St. Anton is the main village on the Arlberg. From the St. Anton lifts, one can ski directly to St. Christoph and Stuben. The 2016-2017 season will see the inauguration of a link that allows skiers to connect by lift and on skis from St. Anton to Zürs, Lech, Zug, Warth, and Schröcken, as well. photo courtesy of St. Anton am

Association

Unless one skis down right after a snowfall, this route can, and usually does, include the whole gamut of snow conditions, from old powder to wind pack, crud, crust and even corn snow. The snow was pretty tracked out, but we enjoyed ourselves. This run was for old time's sake, and I had enough memories from here to imagine I was thrashing through light powder.

Once in Zürs, we began doing laps on the Trittkopf. The cable car gives access to a vast expanse of steep west-facing ridges and valleys. Most of the mountain is off-piste. Here were no moguls like those I had found on the Schindlerkar. This mountain is too wide and has too much terrain for that to happen. Like on the Albona in Stuben, we could continually traverse a bit further than the previous run so that we never ran out of virgin corn. This was a spring corn extravaganza like in days of old.

Yet there was something that nevertheless set this ski experience apart from the "good old days". We were almost completely alone on the mountain. Not only were there no other skiers sharing the primo corn with us, but also there was nobody on the entire mountain. The cable car ascended each time with no more than about fifteen passengers. There were more people on the sundeck in the village than on the slopes.

Back in the day, mid-April in Zürs was still the prime of the season. There would have been a queue to get up the mountain and we would have had to battle many skiers for first tracks. Not today. As I noticed when I observed the bikers already in full summer mode on my drive to St. Anton, people's interest in skiing wanes earlier nowadays than previously, and mid-April today is very low season.

The ski industry probably looks at such a fact with worry and consternation. They certainly find it upsetting that biking, golf, kitesurfing and various other sports have in recent years made huge inroads into a time of year that was heretofore the rather exclusive domain of the ski season.

I, on the other hand, found the late-season empty slopes to be very positive. The snow was pristine. We could choose the steepest of lines, and our skis achieved a perfect grip in the smooth corn. Thousands of icy ball bearings were turned loose by each turn, cascading down the slope along with us. And, as in the days long before skiing was an industry - the time when Hannes Schneider was first displaying his revolutionary stem turn to his Arlberg colleagues - a small handful of us skiers enjoyed an intimate communion with Mother Nature. Yes, one *can* go home again!

Jimmy Petterson is an American, educated at the University of Southern California, with a BA in History and an MA in Instruction and Curriculum. To his dad's great disappointment, he has spent most of the last 44 winters as a ski bum, during which time he has skied on all seven continents, 72 countries, and more than 600 ski resorts. He has produced close to 600 feature articles and has been published in 20 countries. In addition, Jimmy has also hosted a 6-part documentary series for television called "Raider of the Lost Snow" and a documentary called Putin's Olympics.

In 2005, Jimmy finished a mammoth project combining his ski adventures into a 440-page, 600-photo, coffee-table book called "Skiing Around the World". Since that time, he has been working on Volume II of his ski odyssey. For more information, see "www.skiingaround theworldbook.com". Jimmy has also received FWSA Bill Berry Awards for his excellent book and his TV documentary.

When he is not in pursuit of the perfect powder dump or the ultimate ski descent, Jimmy keeps busy playing rock 'n' roll in a band with his son. See https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KETf1X72t_o.



The Far West Ski Association Travel Program is known for its ski weeks to major winter resorts around the world. Pre and post trips have allowed attendees to also venture to nearby destinations to experience different cultures, historic venues, bustling cities and more. They have sponsored sea cruises, river cruises and dive trips. For the history buff, they have visited Eygpt, Peru, Rome and many more captivating locales. These adventure trips have become as popular as the ski weeks. Past participants are requesting more destinations to satisfy their bucket lists of places and things to experience.

Adventures that are really becoming popular are long bike tours. Add a well appointed barge - a moving hotel - and scenic river vistas, plus the company of friends; some old - some new It's truly a winning combination! Several clubs have already organized bike and barge trips through *Girolibero*, a tour operator specializing in European bike and barge trips. They visit areas usually missed while traveling by plane, train and even a car or bus. They see local sights, experience the culture, mingle with residents, and learn about these places. Enjoy what most tourists will miss.

Provence in Southeastern France is a perfect bike/barge destination. Following the Rhône River, there is plenty to see and to do.

Provence is filled with charming villages, historic architectual ruins and pictureque vistas: Top: Pont du Gard. MID: The Palais-des-Papes and Pont d'Avignon.

Southern France is noted for its exceptional beauty which has inspired many well known artists like Cézanne, Van Gogh and Picasso. Travel along meandering roads flanked with colorful flower fields, and hillside vineyards. Examine stone ruins from architectural treasures: castles, bridges and viaducts that are centuries old. Tour small, charming and unique villages along the way.

This exciting journey begins in Avignon which can be accessed by several nearby airports - Avignon, Nimes, or Marseilles to name a few. Train transportation is available, too.

The majority of the roads are paved and mostly flat with some short climbs and easy descents. Cycling through Provence is suitable for most people, but a support van and the barge are available if a day off is desired. Tour leaders are carefully selected, well trained, and are very familiar with the area, and are multilingual. Barges are available for charter for 20-40 guests. The planned itinerary follows.

The Camargue is the large delta between the Grand Rhône (east arm) and the Petit Rhône (west arm). The southern edge is bordered by the Mediterranean Sea. The area is a protected regional park. Approximately a third of it consists of lakes or marshlands, and is home to more than 400 species of birds. The white Camarguais breed of horses roam the park. photos courtesy of Girolibero.it



Pope Clement V, a Frenchman, was elected Pope of the Catholic Church in 1309. Refusing to move to Rome, he began construction on the Palais-des-Papes. The Avignon Papacy lasted until 1377 during the reign of seven successive Popes. There is a brief planned tour included. Arrange to come earlier to really see the area.

Day by Day Schedule Day 1: Avignon.

Boarding on the barge is scheduled after 6 p.m. in Avignon from the Quai de la Ligne next to the famous Pont St. Bénezet - also known as Pont d'Avignon. This medieval bridge over the Rhône River was originally built in the twelfth century, connecting Avignon to the Benedictine Abbey of Saint-André built on Mount Andaon located on the west side of the river. The Abbey was founded near the end of the 10th century. As a protective measure, the Abbey was later walled in. The prominent fortress - Fort Saint-André, dates back to the first half of the 14th century. The adjacent town became Villeneuve lès Avignon.

Throughout the centuries, the connecting bridge has been subject to raging river currents, sometimes causing major flood damage. This legendary bridge has been rebuilt many times, however, only four arches remain today. Much of Avignon is designated as UNESCO World Heritage sites. It is suggested that you plan to arrive a couple days earlier to explore Avignon's historic, well preserved landmarks. The Palais-des-Papes, the Avignon home of the seven French Popes is a must see!

Day 2: Avignon, round tour (45 km).

Cycle northeast to Châteauneuf-des-Papes. The town is about three kilometers east of the river and twelve kilometers north of Avignon. From a long distance, one can see a large castle ruin which overlooks the village. It was built in the 14th century for Pope John XXII the 2nd Avignon Pope. (See the Digital Insert.)



The route following low-traffic roads is surrounded by vineyards. This area is known world-wide for its red Grenache wines. Annual wine production here tops 13 million .75 litres bottles: 95% of those bottles contain red wines. While in Châteauneuf-des-Papes, relax and enjoy some famous Provençal wine.

Heading west, the tour crosses the Rhône to Roquemaure. On a large limestone outcrop, within the river, one can see the remains of the Roquemaure Castle, circa 1200, including the remnants of a toll house for collecting river usage fees. The group will follow the river road back through Villeneuve-lès-Avignon, to get a great view of Fort Saint-André and the village below it.

3. Avignon – Aramon (40 km).

In the morning, the barge will navigate along the river to the town of Aramon. The group will then cycle west to see an architectural wonder: the best preserved Roman aqueduct in Europe. Pont du Gard, is a spectacular sight. Returning to the barge in Aramon, there is a gorgeous view of Mont Ventoux. Geologically part of the French Alps, the white limestone peak has no vegetation, thus it appears to be snow covered year around.

4. Aramon – Vallabrègues (35 km).

The fourth day begins by traveling to Vallabrègues - a pretty Provençal village on the left bank of the Rhône. Traveling along country roads, cyclists will soon arrive in Barbentane with its 17th century castle at the confluence of the Rhône and Durance Rivers.



The Pont du Gard aquaduct is an engineering marvel, as it was built in the 1st century A.D. And, it still stands 20 centuries later. The three tiered stone channel stretches across the gorge of the Gardon River. This is the highest elevated Roman built aquaduct and one of the most well preserved. Like many other medieval structures in Provence, it is on the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites.

The magnificent Abbey of Saint Michel de Frigolet, surrounded by pines and olive trees, is an old 10th century monastery which has been beautifully restored. The journey, then, leads to the medieval village of Boulbon. The barge will dock in Vallabrègues for the night.





Although the construction of this well preserved castle in Tarascon began in 1401 by Louis II of Anjou, it is referred to as "le Château du Roi René" (King René's Castle), after Louis' second son who completed it in 1449.

5. Vallabrègues - Arles (60 km).

On the way to Saint Remy de Provence - the birthplace of Nostradamus - is the ancient for tified town of Tarascon. The 15th century King René's Castle is the most visible landmark. And, nearby is the storied Collegiate Church of Saint Martha with its striking spires. This charming village was the inspiration for many of Vincent Van Gogh's paintings.

Back on the road, Alpilles Natural Regional Park is the next destination. In the heart of the park is Les-Baux-de-Provence, which has won many awards such as "one of the most Beautiful Villages in France". It is set on top of a rocky limestone bluff within the Alpilles Mountains. Above the town are the ruins of an old castle. Several "gaudres", ie. streams, are mostly dry during the summer with a slow flow during the rest of the year.

ABOVE: L' Estello, pictured, is one of two barges used for the Provence tour. The other one is the Soleo. RIGHT: The common areas consists of a spacious restaurant and a comfortable lounge with an open bar. Part of the sundeck is sheltered. The entire barge is air conditioned and has WiFi in the common areas.

6. Arles – Aigues-Mortes (25 km).

The morning of the sixth day is dedicated to visiting Arles, the ancient capital of Gaul with its beautiful Roman ruins. The Roman and Romanesque monuments of Arles are also listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites. A professional guide explains the jewels of this historic town. After lunch, the barge heads toward the locks at Saint Gilles to reach Aigues-Mortes, known for its well preserved city walls...

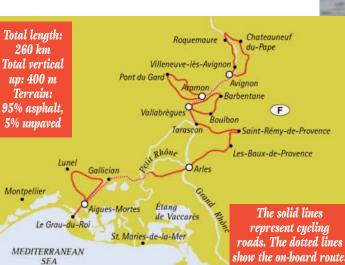
7. Aigues-Mortes, round tour (55 km).

The barge will sail through small country lanes between canals, lagoons and small villages in the Camargue to reach the photogenic fishermen's village of Le Grau-du-Roi, known for its sandy Mediterranean beaches.

8. Aigues-Mortes.

The tour ends after breakfast. However, there is plenty to see and do in the area, thus plans can be made to book extra nights. For more information, go to: www.girolibero.com.





This Itinerary is subject to change. The programme has been planned to feature navigation along the Rhône River and Canal Rhône-Sète. Due to organisational reasons, weather conditions or provisions issued by local authorities, the itinerary may be subject to some changes before and/or during the holiday. Issues with high and low water, as well as logistic obstacles such as officially ordered - previously not announced - repair work on locks or bridges can modify some of the daily stretches or overnight stays and may even request a transfer by bus. These decisions are only taken by the boat's captain. The reverse Aigues-Mortes to Avignon itineray is also available.

For more Provence images, see the Digital Edition!

and other wildlife,

paths to view them

as well as, bike

in their natural

habitat.





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exciting, educational and different experience!



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The DeBooter makes the process of taking off your ski boots easy & painless!

As a native Texan, David Johnson began skiing around the age of 30. His ski adventure destinations were mostly to Red River, New Mexico and Crested Butte, Colorado - to fulfill his downhill fix. As is so often the case, life got in the way. With constant traveling for work, day-to-day responsibilities, and a residence in Texas, 30 years went by. He hadn't stepped into a single ski boot during those years.

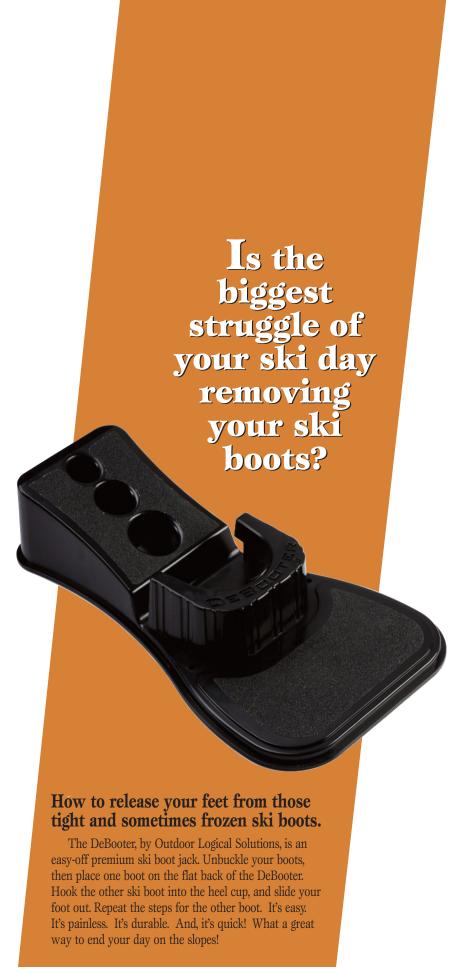
When it was time to retire in 2014, David and his wife headed to Bend, Oregon. Bend is an active community and a hub for outdoor adventures which fit his retirement dreams. Thus, after a lengthy hiatus from the sport, David hit the slopes once again exploring the terrain, and getting his groove back at Mt. Bachelor.

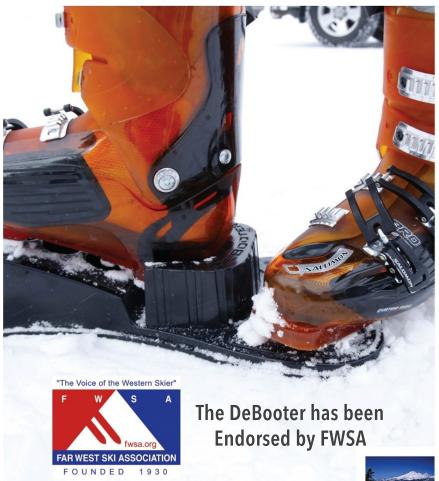
Toward the end of his first day back on the slopes, he made his way into the lodge to unwind. After removing gloves, hat and jacket, he was faced with what he remembers as the greatest struggle of the day - taking off his ski boots! He realized that he could no longer comfortably or gracefully contort his body to remove his boots comfortably. From that experience, he remembered the jacks on his cowboy boots and investigated the physics behind the motion. In just a few weeks, retirement had come to an end.

In conversations with fellow Bendites David found that removing tight ski boots was a common struggle. His prototype "DeBooter" was constructed out of wood in his garage. Soon a plastic model was made in Bend, followed by a sleeker design created by CAD specialist, Brian Keast, owner of *I Draw Dreams for Inventors* in Sisters, OR.

The result has been well received from those who have tried it. Every minute of your day on the ski slopes can be enjoyable, from the time you slip your feet into your boots, until the moment you take them off. The De-Booter was created because removing those tight and sometimes icy ski boots can be a real pain. It's already being enjoyed worldwide.

More information on the DeBooter can be found at *www.DeBooter.com*. If taking off your ski boots is a chore, try the DeBooter this season. Save 20% on your order by entering code: *FWSA*.







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2016 International Ski Week to Cortina d' Ampezzo with an extension trip to Florence & Rome, Italy: Wonderful!

by Debbie Stewart VP of International Travel, FWSA

Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy was blessed with fresh snow as we arrived and we were informed that this was their biggest storm in 20 years. The 76 FWSA participants enjoyed fantastic skiing. Cortina has three primary ski areas: Socrepes with wide open trails, Faloria with more challenging terrain, and Tofana with more narrow, tree-lined runs. Trams to the top of Faloria and Tofana provided good skiing, amazing views and excellent restaurants. Some of the participants also skied the Cinque Torri (Five Towers) Super 8 ski tour, a self-guided tour. The scenery was outstanding.

There were several side trips. Midweek we enjoyed our Après Ski Party at Janbo which provided all members a chance to connect, share pictures, stories and of course...tell lies!

On Wednesday, 43 members of the group took a day trip to Venice. Returning with smiles on their faces, they told of an excellent tour that included the Doges Palace, St. Mark's Cathedral, St. Mark's Square and gondola rides around the old city. Venice is perhaps the most favorite canal city in the world. Not only is it extremely picturesque, it is a world heritage site, uniquely designed and constructed on over 100 small islands on their marshy lagoon. There are over 170 canals and over 400 bridges and in the 13th century it was once the trading capital of Europe. This tour was just a teaser since you can spend many days in Venice and not experience it all. We all agreed that we need to return!

On Thursday, the sun came out in full force while 50 FWSA members participated in the guided Sella Ronda ski tour, skiing 40km through four mountain villages including Val Gardena. The scenery was impressive, not surprising as the Dolomites are considered to be the most scenic mountains in Europe. They also have a strong history from WWI as they were the border between Italy and Austria. Today they are a UNESCO World Heritage site.

The many culinary delights included the local special of beet-filled ravioli with butter, risotto with seafood and mushrooms, polenta, veal with a delicious wine sauce, lamb chops, and various grilled fish dishes. Each day, we enjoyed freshly baked pastries and decadent desserts including tiramisu and apple strudel. To cap off the end of a fabulous ski week, we all took the Faloria tram to the lodge restaurant at the top of the mountain for our private farewell party which included delicious food and beverages, our own DJ for dancing and incredible views of the night lights of the city of Cortina. What a way to end a fabulous ski week in Cortina d'Ampezzo!

Off to our next adventure...Florence. Sixty-two people, including 10 who flew from the US to join the group, participated in the extension trip. During our guided walking tour, we enjoyed the beautiful architecture of Florence and a tour of the Uffizi Gallery built in 1516, one of the most revered art museums in the world. In the 13th century, the Medici family first gained their wealth and political power in Florence through its success in commerce and banking. They commissioned many artists including Botticelli, Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo creating statues, tapestries and ceiling frescos which were inspired by the Romans to be included in their collection. The family's support of the arts and humanities made Florence an instrumental part of the Renaissance. They produced four popes and their genes have been mixed into many of Europe's royal families, yet the last Medici ruler died without a male heir in 1737, ending the family dynasty after almost three centuries. After our tour ended, several of us went to the Academia Museum to see the majestic - vet impressive - statue of David by Michelangelo. What a treat to see it in person and be amazed by its beauty and grace. We experienced just a small part of what Florence has to offer while realizing art is the closest thing to a time capsule. Of course, we stopped to savor the hand-made pasta dishes and many



A group of skiers on the FWSA Cortina Ski Week spent a day on the 40 kilometer Sellaronda Ski Tour - taking a mid-day lunch break

flavors of gelato at every chance.

On another day, we went to the medieval town of Siena with its large plaza, the Grand Cathedral built in the 1200s and a web of narrow, hilly streets. Siena was a tiny gothic village during the time that Florence was very powerful and prosperous. Then, it became strong in the 9th and 10th century while connecting Rome with the northern Italian cities. Their main business was the banking industry and we learned how the city transformed over the many centuries.

Later, we went to the smaller, yet very charming walled medieval town of San



at the Grill dei Talmon. This famous skitour of the four Dolomite Passes around the Sella Massif is known as one of the most spectacular in the world. The tour passes through the four Ladin valleys: Val Gardena, Alta Badia, Val di Fassa and Arabba. Of the 40 km route, 26 are downhill ski slopes. The Sellaronda tour is rated at an intermediate level, photo provided by George Stewart

Gimignano overlooking the green hills of Tuscany. This medieval city is known for both art and cooking. Saffron was the gold of the city. The bishop from Modena came here to Christianize the area and it is a UNESCO site.

We left Florence and traveled to Rome, which is the 4th most populous city in the European Union, yet a remarkably attractive city with over 900 churches. We started our city tour with the Colosseum, imagining what it must have been like with a full crowd of Romans enjoying an event in the largest amphitheater ever built. With its 75,000 seats it took eight years to build and is still considered

one of the greatest works of architecture. Then, we admired the nearby Roman Forum and surrounding ancient Roman buildings.

The Vatican Museum is one of the largest art museums in the world in the smallest country in the world. The Vatican has its own postage stamps and governmental structure. An immense collection of art built up by popes beginning in the 16th century, the museum has 54 galleries including the Sistine Chapel ceiling painted by Michelangelo. Pope Francis was there but unfortunately we did not get to see him. Not surprisingly, that requires a comprehensive security clearance.

Far West Skier's Guide / Digital Insert

Trevi Fountain provided us with the opportunity to see the historic fountain and to toss a coin for good luck. Lots of good luck abounded on this trip. After a visit to the Pantheon, we had time for dinner and shopping in the quaint Trastevere area. After all this sightseeing, we had two days on our own. Some ventured as far as Pompeii; others visited nearby sites including the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore, reputed to be a favorite of Pope Francis, and the Spanish Steps, currently under restoration. More gelato and wonderful food punctuated our time in Rome and left us yearning to return.

Highlights from the 2016 FWSA International Travel Program, Continued

In England, we hit all the must-see attractions including Big Ben, Tower of London, the London Bridge was just outside our hotel, Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace (the Queen was on "holiday" and so were we!). While visiting the English countryside, we toured Shakespeare's home, Stonehenge and the ancient Roman Baths, plus other National Parks, Castles, a visit to a family-owned dairy and much more. Then, we rode the ferry "across the pond" including the bus and driver to Ire-

land. In Ireland, we toured a beautiful Abbey, traveled along the famous Ring of Kerry which had amazing scenery and the Blarney Castle. We also had the opportunity to tour the Waterford Crystal Factory, the Guinness Brewery, Saint Patrick's Cathedral and that was just the tip of the iceberg. As one might imagine, the scenery was spectacular while the Irish people continuously entertained us with their stories and laughter. *Collette*, our travel provider, did an excellent job in organizing our

England/Ireland adventure trip. The entire experience certainly met and exceeded the expectations of all 23 participants.

After the main tour concluded, some members traveled back to the US but 14 of us continued in Ireland for our optional bicycling extension tour organized by *BikeTours.com* As you might imagine, we experienced the typical weather in Ireland - cloudy, wet, windy and sporadic episodes of sunshine while cycling through this beautiful countryside. We were



64 - 12 Far West Skier's Guide 2016 - 2017 / Digital Edition Insert

The FWSA Adventure Tour to England & Ireland: Fabulous!

And, the Cycle Excursion was Very Memorable!

met by Conor Bulger from *Connemara Adventure Tours* who took incredible care of our group. On our first day, we cycled 26 miles and thoroughly enjoyed the challenge and the opportunity to see Ireland from two wheels. The next day it was recommended that we go

to plan B due to bad weather and safety concerns for our group. This gave us the opportunity to tour the gorgeous Kylemore Abbey Estate, their chapel and incredible Victorian walled gardens. We then traveled to Leenane where we boarded a Catamaran which took

us on a beautiful cruise on the one and only Fjord in Ireland, where it meets up with the Atlantic Ocean. This was an unexpected pleasure. The next day, we geared up for our final 40-mile ride. We rode through beautiful rolling hills, across bridges and streams, along-side lakes and rivers and quaint farmhouses, elegant countryside homes and herds of cattle, sheep, goats, birds and various wildlife. This was an experience of a lifetime. More exciting experiences are being planned!



farmhouses and elegant countryside homes.

1920s. The approximately 40,000 square foot castle - with over 70 rooms - and the surrounding gardens, is now one of Ireland's most popular visitor attractions. Above: The group rode through beautiful rolling hills, across bridges and streams, alongside lakes and rivers, as well as quaint



Numerous adventurers traveled to the South Pacific for the FWSA 2016 Dive Trip. A network of brilliant coral reefs surrounds the 333 islands and atolls making up the Fiji Islands. With around 1,000 species of fish and several hundred types of coral and sponges, Fiji offers a unique diving adventure Participants on the dive trip were able to experience the uniqueness of this underwater paradise and more! Join us for the 2017 trip!

photo courtesy of Beqa Lagoon Resort, Fiji and Roatán Charter

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

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. As word gets around, the dive trips have become more popular, 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.

The 2016 FWSA Dive Trip - organized by Roatán Charters - was to Beqa Lagoon Resort in Fiji! With over 4,000 square miles of coral reef, the Fiji Islands offer divers unparalleled marine biodiversity. What a wonderful experience we had!

The 2017 FWSA Dive Trip is still being planned. As more information becomes available, it will be posted on *www.fwsa.org*.



US and Canada toll free; 1-800-282-8932 • International: 352-588-4131 info@roatancharter.com | www.roatancharter.com



Crested Butte is located in the West Elk Mountain Range of the Rocky Mountains. The surrounding terrain provides some of the best backcountry skiing in Colorado. photo courtesy of Crested Butte Mountain Resort / Tom Stillo, photographer

Although Crested Butte Mountain Resort, located in Southwest Colorado, is noted for its extreme terrain, the mountain is also a favorite for beginners: kids, families, and first-timers, as well as intermediate skiers and riders. Having only one base area ensures easy accessibility and problem-free meet ups after each run or at the end of the ski day. The mountain is an ideal destination for those looking for ease, variety and enjoyment.

With a reputation for its black diamond trails, CBMR actually caters to kids. Children ages 3 and under can take part in Camp CB—the resort's signature kids' nursery located right in the base area, visit the Trailhead Children's Museum, and take home a photo with beloved CBMR mascots Bubba and Betty

Bear. It is an excellent way to introduce children to the sport. Kids ages 4-7 have their own cool Camp CB programs, plus the Kids Night Out program and the Adventure Park.

Kids ages 8-12 will find skiing and riding solo offers a great sense of freedom (while mom and dad can rest assured they'll find their way around with no problem). They also can test-drive the Crested Butte Zipline Tour - a year around activity. The guided zip tour at CBMR includes five ziplines ranging in length from 120 to 400 feet - connected by suspended wooden bridges and towering platforms. CBMR Zipline Tours are one-and-a-half to two hours long. The minimum weight is 70 lbs.; while the maximum weight is 250 lbs. They can also enjoy the base area Adventure

Park which is also open all year. The entire family can enjoy miniature golf, bungee trampolines, a climbing wall and the tubing park. A short distance away is the historic town of Crested Butte. Its Nordic Center provides miles of groomed cross country trails and is the site of the area's ice rink.

Teens and tweens will appreciate the small town of Crested Butte – more for its quirkiness than its history. There are plenty of unique places to pose for photos, including artisan benches in town and the Peak in the background. And, anyone over the age of 18 can take a Prinoth Snowcat for a spin with a valid driver's license. That is an experience you will not get just anywhere!

One's pocketbook can also benefit! All

Experience Colorado's last great ski town.



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#OnlyInCrestedButte

crested butte







kids ages 12 and under visiting Crested Butte Mountain Resort between Nov. 24 – Dec. 16, 2016 and Apr. 1 – 9, 2017 will ski or ride for free. No strings attached. No parent ticket required. No minimum lodging stay needed. No advance reservations required. Parents can ski or board knowing their children are also having a great time!

Whereas most kids do not appreciate the historic importance, the town of Crested Butte can trace its roots back centuries. Located in the East River Valley, this area was originally the summer home to the Utes. In the early 1800s, the first beaver traders entered the val-

ley, followed by explorers and surveyors. Among them was Captain John Gunnison, after whom a nearby city and the county were named.

Like much of Colorado, Crested Butte became a coal and silver mining center in the 1860s and 1870s. Later in the late 19th century - early 20th century, the mines closed, but Crested Butte fared better than many of Colorado's mining towns since it was also a supply town for its neighboring communities. And, ranching also helped support its few remaining citizens. Many of Crested Butte's original buildings still exist and are included

LARGE PHOTO: Although Crested Butte Mountain Resort is known for its expert terrain, there are many open green and blue groomed trails and long cruisers. INSET: The historic mining town is unique and charming. photo courtesy of Crested Butte Mountain Resort / JC Leacock, photographer

on the National Register of Historic Places which adds to the towns unique atmosphere. However, it wasn't until the 1960s that the ski industry was introduced and developed on Mountain Crested Butte. This ski season, Crested Butte Mountain Resort will be celebrating its 55th Anniversary.

The summit of Mount Crested Butte reaches over 12,000 feet with a base elevation at 9,375 feet. Fourteen lifts serve 1,000 plus acres with almost half of them rated as double black runs. The longest cruiser measures 2.6 miles. Surrounded by the West Elk Mountain Range of the Rocky Mountains, the Crested Butte area offers some of the best backcountry skiing in Colorado. This includes the Elk Mountain Grand Traverse Race - for the truly dedicated and fit. This is a 40 mile winter endurance race between Crested Butte and Aspen, Colorado through the peaks. The next scheduled event is March 30 - April 1, 2017.

Thus, what ever your age, ability, skill level, terrain preferences, or even a desire to improve those skills with the assistance of top notch ski or ride instruction, it is available at Crested Butte Mountain Resort. And, now it is even more assessable with several non-stop, direct commercial flights into nearby Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional Airport (GUC). The newest direct flight connections are from Los Angeles (LAX). As an added bonus, the resort is including a free lift ticket valid the day of the return. Therefore, snow enthusiasts can ski in the earlier hours, then fly home later the same day. Service from LAX is provided by Alaska Airlines. The four other nonstop flight hubs are: Chicago (ORD on United Airlines), Dallas/Fort Worth (DFW on American Airlines); Denver (DEN on United Airlines) and Houston (IAH on United Airlines).

Crested Butte Mountain Resort has been added to The M.A.X. Pass family

The M.A.X. Pass, originally created by Intrawest, Powdr and Boyne Resorts has 17 new partner resorts joining them for the 2016-2017 ski and snowboard season. The M.A.X. Pass allows the holder to ski or ride for five days each at any of their participating resorts with no black out dates. Currently, there are 39 resorts including CBMR throughout North America. Other new additions in the west include: Alveska, Solitude, Stevens Pass and Mountain High, plus the gems of the Resorts of the Canadian Rockies. Skiers who have purchased a qualifying season pass at Crested Butte, like the Peak Pass and Peak Pass Plus, are eligible to purchase the M.A.X. Pass at a discounted price. For more information, visit www.skicb.com and www.theMAXpass.com.

What else is new for this ski season?

Some highlights from the National Ski Council Federation Newsbeat prepared by Jo Simpson, Public Affairs Chair and President, Sierra Council, FWSA

NEW BLACKFOOT LIFT AT GRAND TARGHEE

Alta, WY – This summer, Grand Targhee Resort replaced its old Blackfoot double chairlift with a new Doppelmayr fixed grip quad.

This lone double chair remaining at Grand Targhee was due for retirement. The Blackfoot chairlift has been an iconic piece of Grand Targhee Resort's history since it was installed in 1974, accessing over 500 acres and 1,200 vertical feet of terrain.

The old Blackfoot chair, manufactured by Riblet, had an uphill capacity of 960 passengers per hour, with a ride time of 12 minutes. The new lift, which will include a safety bar with foot rests, can haul 1,800 guests per hour, and the total ride time will decrease to seven minutes. In the event of a power outage the new lift will be able to run off of a backup diesel engine.

"The entire resort team is excited to replace and upgrade the Blackfoot chairlift," says Targhee's marketing and sales director, Ken Rider. "The resort ownership and entire team is committed to the guest experience and reinvesting in the resort with ongoing improvements. This is the largest and most visible of many recent capital investments the resort has made."

Construction of the new Blackfoot lift is now largely complete, and officials expect to have it ready for Targhee's opening day of the 2016-17 winter season. From: First Tracks!! Online Media (10/5/2016)

To get to Grand Targhee, fly into Jackson Hole Airport (JAC)

■ Airline carriers include:

American Airlines, Delta Airlines, Frontier Airlines, Skywest Airlines, and United Airlines seasonally.

■ Direct flights into Jackson Hole are available from the following markets. Atlanta (ATL), Chicago (ORD), Dallas/Fort Worth (DFW), Denver (DEN), Houston (HOU), Los Angeles (LAX), Minneapolis (MSP), New York (JFK), San Francisco (SFO), Salt Lake City (SLC), Seattle (SEA), Washington-Dulles (IAD)

Shuttle and Taxi Services and Rental Car Services available from the Jackson Hole Airport. Reservations required.

NEW HIGH-SPEED SIX RISES AT ARIZONA SNOWBOWL

Flagstaff, AZ – High above Flagstaff, Arizona Snowbowl is installing its first high-speed lift, and the first six-seater in the state: the Grand Canyon Express.

The annual monsoonal rains of August slowed daily construction progress, but crews have been working long days and weekends to make up for any lost productivity and keep construction on schedule. The lift line corridor was completed in late July. By the end of August and early September, crews were completing tower footings and constructing the foundation at the lifts top terminal with the help of concrete flown in by helicopter, before that helicopter will be used to lift towers into place. Crews grade the area around the bottom terminal of the new Grand Canyon Express lift at Arizona Snowbowl.

The new base-to-summit lift line replaces a fixed-grip triple and rises from Snow-bowl's Hart Prairie Lodge, crossing the resort's Agassiz, Blackjack, and Tiger runs, providing many new ways to ski the Ridge side of the mountain. The lift line itself will be skiable with a significant double fall line.

This is the second new lift in as many years at Arizona Snowbowl, after last year's installation of the Humphreys Peak chair. Other projects currently taking place include remodeling of Snowbowl's rental equipment facility, widening Ridge trail to the left to accommodate the upper unload terminal of Grand Canyon Express, and many other routine maintenance projects on lifts, vehicles, and facilities.

Snowbowl's scenic chairlift rides continue on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through mid-October when the Aspen leaves finish turning, and the Agassiz Deck remains open for lunch or cocktails. Opening day for the 2016-17 ski season is scheduled for Nov. 10, conditions permitting. From: First Tracks!! Online Media (9/23/2016)

Arizona Snowbowl offers Power Card, Power Pack and Power Pack PLUS—multi-day, multi-resort cards that give discounted lift tickets at Snowbowl, Purgatory, Hesperus Ski Area, Pajarito Mountain Ski Area and Sipapu Ski and Summer Resort. Long range forecasts are calling for a strong El Nino and above-average precipitation in Arizona, New Mexico and southern Colorado this winter. www.arizonasnowbowl.com/

SKI TRAIN FROM DENVER TO WINTER PARK RETURNS

Denver, CO - No regularly scheduled trains have carried skiers from Denver to Winter Park since 2009, but that's about to change.

The Ski Train was popular with Denverites for nearly 70 years, but negotiations over track use halted the service seven years ago, aside from two weekends of sold-out trips in 2015. That's apparently built some pent-up demand, for more than 3,300 tickets were sold in the first day that they went on sale this month (September, 2016).

The 500-passenger Winter Park Express Amtrak double-decker Superliner trains will leave Denver beginning at 7 a.m. on weekends between January 7 and March 26, heading for a 62-mile, two-hour trip to a new \$3.5 million, 950-foot heated cement rail platform built outside the west portal of the Moffat Tunnel only 30 yards from Winter Park's Gemini lift. Tired and satisfied passengers will leave Winter Park at 4:30 p.m. to return to Denver by 6:40 p.m. The new service is thanks to 18 months of negotiations, a \$1.5 million grant from the Colorado Department of Transportation, \$100,000 from the city of Denver, \$100,000 from the Town of Winter Park, \$1,000 from the Colorado Rail Passengers Association and the remainder from Intrawest, the operator of Winter Park, which is owned by the city of Denver.

One-way fares range from \$39 - \$59, which is really a small price to pay to avoid weekend traffic on I-70. Advance purchasers will get the best discounts. And thanks to a rail link to Denver International Airport, visitors can now reach Winter Park without ever setting foot in an automobile.

From First Tracks!! Online Media (9/19/2016)

Additional information from a Winter Park Press Release: "Amtrak and the resort worked together with Union Pacific to test this service in 2015, successfully demonstrating interest when tickets for both days operated sold out in minutes," said Matt Hardison, Amtrak Executive Vice President, Sales and Marketing. "We are excited to be part of the team to bring comfort, reliability and accessibility to the trip to Winter Park – and give thousands of our customers an opportunity to experience one of the many exceptionally scenic routes on the Amtrak national network."

"This is the culmination of a long but rewarding process and we couldn't be more excited to have passenger rail service return to the doorstep of Winter Park Resort," said Gary De-Frange, Winter Park Resort President. "We



Weekend passenger train service from Denver Union Station to Winter Park Resort will resume after a seven year hiatus from January 7 through March 17, 2017. Additional ski trains will be running on Martin Luther King Day and President's Day - allowing for an extended weekend - or make arrangements for a longer stay. photo courtesy of Winter Park Resort

know there's incredible demand for a viable transportation alternative to I-70 and we're deeply appreciative to Amtrak, Union Pacific, CDOT, City of Denver, and the Town of Winter Park for helping to make this long-standing dream a reality."

doorstep of Winter Park Resort," said Gary De-Frange, Winter Park Resort President. "We possible thanks to the addition of a permanent,

fully ADA-compliant train platform at the resort. Construction of this platform has already begun and it is expected to be completed in early December. Adult tickets are as low as \$39 each way and go on sale on at 8:00 a.m. Mountain Time on Tuesday, August 30 exclusively through the Amtrak.com/WinterParkExpress website.



Located just 67 miles from Denver, Winter Park Resort is Colorado's longest continually-operated ski area featuring award-winning terrain that include miles of cruising groomers, terrain parks, bumps, steeps, trees, and most definitely deeps. The Winter Park Mountain Lodge - seen in the background - is conveniently located to the train platform and lifts for extended stays. For more information, please visit www.winterparkresort.com.

INSET: Relax and enjoy some very scenic scenery along the route, as well as the company of other snowsport enthusiasts. photo courtesy of Amtrak®

The 500+ passenger Winter Park Express trains will depart Union Station at 7:00 a.m. and arrive at the resort at approximately 9:00 a.m., where customers can quickly collect their ski and snowboard equipment and be on the slopes in minutes. Winter Park Express trains will depart the resort at 4:30 p.m., enabling customers to enjoy the

après ski experience with family and friends on their return trip, arriving in Denver at 6:40 p.m. All times Mountain.

Customers will have the flexibility for a daytrip, or make lodging arrangements for longer stays. Reservations must be made and tickets purchased by 11:59 p.m. Mountain Time the day before departure. Two children ages 2-12 can ride for half-fare with each ticketed adult. Group travel can be arranged by calling 800-USA-1GRP. Amtrak operates more than 300 trains daily – connecting more than 500 destinations in 46 states, the District of Columbia and three Canadian Provinces.



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PLANS DRAWN TO RECONFIGURE CANYONS VILLAGE AT PARK CITY

Park City, UT – Developers have proposed reconfiguring the resort village at the base of what once was Canyons Resort, now part of Park City Mountain Resort in Utah, and they're receiving very little resistance from the community over their efforts.

The plans were unveiled by land owner TCFC Finance Co. and Canyons Village master developer Replay Resorts at a public open house held at the Grand Summit Hotel in early September, where no significant opposition was voiced. The new Canyons Village Master Plan calls for a reconfiguration of roughly 2.3 million square feet of development in the upper and lower villages, as well as a new hotel and residential space and a new lift connecting a new skier plaza at the north end of the village with the ski mountain in the direction of the new Quicksilver Gondola that connects the former Canyons Resort terrain to that of the former Park City Mountain. A new pedestrian walkway would link the Village with the Canyons golf course opened by TCFC in 2014. Some 340 employee housing units consisting of studio and two-bedroom apartments are also proposed for the lower village.

Overcoming one acknowledged weakness of the current Canyons Village layout, some 250 short-term parking spaces are earmarked for the upper village. At the moment, most visitors not staying at Canyons Village overnight park at the lower village and ride the resort's Cabriolet lift to the upper village.

A parking garage and transit hub, indoor aquatic center, conference center near the Orange Bubble lift, and a village walk lined by stores, cafés and bars are also all on the drawing board. Work on the 63-unit Apex Residences, a mix of ski-in/ski-out homes sited on 10 acres near the angle station of the Red Pine Gondola, has already begun, with the first unit scheduled for completion by winter 2017-18. Twenty-six units were already under contract in July, with prices starting at \$1,675,000.

Developers indicate that the changes will create a much more "walkable" layout at Canyons Village for year-round enjoyment. Build-out is expected to take seven to 10 years.

"Additional excitement is mounting as the Canyons Village master plan moves forward with upcoming shops, restaurants and amenities that are set to transform the already vibrant Canyons Village into the center of year-round leisure and recreation in Park City," says Tony Tyler, Senior Project Director and Partner for Apex Residences.

From First Tracks!! Online Media (10/1/2016)





EPIC PASS ADDS SKI RESORTS IN FRANCE, ITALY, SWITZERLAND AND AUSTRIA

Broomfield, CO - Vail Resorts has added Les 3 Vallées, Paradiski and Tignes-Val d'Isere in France, Skirama Dolomiti Adamello Brenta in Italy, 4 Vallees in Switzerland, and Arlberg in Austria to the 2016-2017 lineup of the Epic Pass, which offers unlimited, unrestricted skiing access at the company's 13 ski resorts in the U.S. and Australia.

Europe is the birthplace of skiing. That tradition, along with its above-tree line terrain, its cuttingedge après-ski experience, and abundant culture and heritage found in the surrounding mountain towns makes Europe the ultimate dream for any skier or snowboarder.

The 2016-17 Epic Pass offers unlimited access to Vail, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge, Keystone and Arapahoe Basin in Colorado; Park City in Utah; Heavenly, Northstar and Kirkwood at Lake Tahoe; Wilmot Mountain in Wisconsin; Afton Alps in Minnesota; Mt. Brighton in Michigan; and Perisher in Australia. The Epic Pass allows pass holders to visit resorts as they choose, each with its own personality and distinct experience.

While the best deal on the Epic Pass has already passed, it's still for sale at a marginal premium at Epic-Pass.com.

"There is nothing in the ski industry today that can compare to the value of the Epic Pass," said Kirsten Lynch, chief marketing officer of Vail Resorts. "The value of the Epic Pass is giving skiers and snowboarders the flexibility to ski when they want and the choice to ski where they want, and the variety of experiences our resorts offer, whether it's the iconic slopes of Vail or Park City, or the grandeur and tradition of Europe, which should be on the bucket list of every skier or snowboarder. Whether you ski five days or 100, no pass is tailored to the way skiers and snowboarders actually want to access

The Arlberg area in Austria has been added to the Epic Pass family of resorts along with several more in France, Switzerland and Italy. photo by Jimmy Petterson

the best mountains in the world like the Epic Pass."

That access now includes four of Europe's most iconic destinations. France's largest ski areas — Les 3 Vallées, Paradiski and Tignes-Val d'Isere — offer a unique playground to skiers and snowboarders from all over the world, accessing five glaciers, 391 ski lifts and over 800 miles of marked runs for all ability levels within a 30-mile radius. The three areas combine high-altitude skiing for dependable quality snow from November to May with stunning views of Mont Blanc and a 360-degree panorama of the French, Swiss and Italian Alps.

"This partnership with Vail Resorts gives skiers and snowboarders access to some of the most iconic winter destinations the world has to offer," said Vincent Lalanne, General Manager of Association Les 3 Vallées. "We couldn't be more excited to provide this type of value to our dedicated guests who want to experience the best skiing in Europe and the U.S."

South of the Alps, nestled amongst some of the most beautiful mountain peaks in the world such as the Brenta Dolomites and Adamello (11,666 feet), is some of the best skiing in Italy. Skirama Dolomiti Adamello Brenta is home to 150 lifts and 236 miles of ski slopes that make up acclaimed resorts such as Madonna di Campiglio and Pinzolo in Val Rendena; Folgarida-Marilleva, Peio and Tonale in Val di Sole; Ponte di Legno, Andalo-Fai della Paganella, Monte Bondone and Folgaria-Lavarone. The winter offering is enriched by the high-quality cuisine and the exclusive "Italian style."

Verbier, part of the 4 Vallées Ski Area, is the largest resort in the Swiss Alps, is acknowledged as one of the premier "off piste" resorts in the world, and is home to a number of professional freeride competitions. Above and beyond this reputation, Verbier is well-known internationally for its electrifying, cosmopolitan nightlife, and the resort is proud of its legendary après-ski and its lively clubs. While skiers and snowboarders from all over the world rave about this off-piste paradise and fun evenings, families also appreciate the

resort's social atmosphere and family-friendly offerings.

For decades, the mountain range between Tyrol and Vorarlberg, which is home to Arlberg, has been a highly sought-after metropolis for international ski and snowboard enthusiasts. Arlberg is widely considered the cradle of modern skiing and in December 2016, thanks to the opening of four new cable cars, it will be Austria's largest linked ski area. Also the birthplace of champions, athletes from Ski Club Arlberg have garnered an incredible 83 medals at various Olympic Games and World Championships.

"For value, for ease of use, for access to world-class destinations, for constant improvements in the guest experience, and now for being the only pass to offer significant access to Europe, the Epic Pass is in a class by itself," Lynch said.

The Epic Pass benefits at each European resort vary. Consult *epic-pass.com* for full details. *From: First Tracks!! Online Media* (9/24/2016) ■



Blackcomb photo from FWSA Whistler Ski Week

VAIL RESORT BUYS WHISTLER BLACKCOMB

BROOMFIELD, CO and WHISTLER, British Columbia, Oct. 17, 2016: - Vail Resorts, Inc. (NYSE: MTN) and Whistler Blackcomb Holdings Inc. ("Whistler Blackcomb") announced the completion of a strategic combination joining Whistler Blackcomb with Vail Resorts by way of plan of arrangement ("the Arrangement"). Under the terms of the transaction, Vail Resorts acquired 100 percent of the stock of Whistler Blackcomb, whose shareholders received C\$17.50 in cash and 0.097294 shares of Vail Resorts common stock (or for some holders, securities convertible into common stock) for each Whistler Blackcomb share held. Whistler Blackcomb is now wholly owned by Vail Resorts. From: Vail Web-

SNOWMASS BASE VILLAGE SOLD

Snowmass, CO – East West Partners (East West), an affiliate of KSL Capital Partners, LLC (KSL) and Aspen Skiing Company (ASC), announced today that they have formed a joint venture to acquire the Snowmass Base Village project from Snowmass Acquisition Company, an affiliate of the Related Companies (Related). The acquisition includes all remaining development parcels, all commercial spaces in Base Village, the Snowmass Hospitality property management company and the Viceroy Hotel, including the unsold condominium units within the hotel.

Lot 2 (where the Limelight Hotel will be built), is also part of the purchase and will now be developed by the joint venture. ASC will purchase the Limelight Hotel and 4 Mountain Sports space from the joint venture when they are complete, and continues to be committed to operating both. The joint venture will move swiftly to commence construction in Base Village next spring, the partners say, with East West responsible for all day to day operations. The transaction is expected to close by the end of 2016.

The road to completion of the Snowmass Base Village has been slow and filled with potholes. New York-based Related acquired the Snowmass project in 2007 from Intrawest, the developer first chosen by Aspen Skiing Co. in 2001. At that time, East West was reportedly competing with Intrawest to purchase the Snowmass development rights. Related defaulted on its construction loan and the properties went into foreclosure in 2010. Lenders took possession in 2011, before Related bought the properties back from its creditors in 2012.

The prospective partnership between ASC, KSL and East West to purchase the base village was first announced nearly a year ago. That transaction is now coming to fruition.

While the sale will not close until later this year, work will continue to move forward with pre-construction efforts on the Limelight Hotel and with design for the Community building and Buildings 7 and 8. The joint venture's plan is to begin construction on the Limelight Hotel, Building 4 and the events plaza/ice rink in the spring of 2017, with construction of the Community building and Buildings 7 and 8 projected to begin in the latter part of 2017.

"East West Partners is very excited to be a part of the joint venture with ASC and KSL. We believe the completion of Base Village will be a great addition to Snowmass, and we could not imagine a better group of dedicated and experienced partners to join forces with to make this happen," said Craig Ferraro, managing partner, East West. "We thank Related for its diligent efforts to complete the Town Agreements and look forward to working with the Town of Snowmass Village in the future."

"Aspen Skiing Company has long been committed to ensuring that Snowmass is and remains one of the best ski areas in the world, including providing over \$100 million worth of on-mountain improvements over the last 10 years and ongoing efforts to develop the Limelight Snowmass. While we were working towards starting construction on the Limelight Hotel, it became apparent that by working in a partnership with KSL and East West, both leaders in the ski industry, the Base Village could become the truly special entrance to Snowmass that we have envisioned for years," said Mike Kaplan, president and CEO, Aspen Skiing Company.

Andy Gunion from East West will be appointed to lead the joint venture. Ferraro said, "Andy has been with East West for over 12 years and has led the acquisition work on Base Village for us. He has a broad range of relevant experience from project management of our Westin resort in Avon to his most recent role as CFO for the company. Andy and his wife look forward to moving to the Roaring Fork Valley and enjoying the uncrowded ski slopes and world class mountain biking." From: First Tracks!! Online Media (9/20/2016)

MINNESOTA SKI AREA INTRODUCES YEAR-ROUND SKIING

Burnsville, MN – Making turns all year is typically the wheelhouse of high-altitude mountain ranges with semi-permanent snow-fields or glaciers, not a diminutive hillside on the side of an Interstate highway in suburban Minneapolis.

But the new owners of Buck Hill, who acquired the Minnesota ski area a year ago, have other ideas. They've now opened the first phase of a new dry slope experience for ski racers, "snow" tubers, terrain park jibbers, and the general skiing public.

In July, workers at Buck Hill began installing Neveplast®, an Italian manufacturer's silicon-based matting that's intended to provide the same gliding sensation as snow, without the need to add water. Buck Hill is now the world's largest installation of the product.

"Novices can easily snow plow, enthusiasts can practice their favorite discipline at any time of the day, and competitive athletes can train exactly like they do on snow," Buck Hill officials indicate.

Ski area officials indicate that they'll begin selling a year-long pass this spring, and it is expected that Neveplast® will be expanded to additional terrain at Buck Hill in coming years. As an alternative, a fall season

pass covers the 10-week dry slope season before snow covers Buck Hill's trails. Rentals are available. Day passes are also available. The resort cautions to use skis or a snowboard with a sintered base on Neveplast®, as irreparable damage to extruded bases may result on your personal skis or boards.

From First Tracks!! Online Media (10/1/2016)

Editorial comment: Buck Hill, just south of the Twin Cities, was developed by the Stone family in 1954. This 300-foot ski hill over 100 acres has helped develop ski legends like Lindsey Vonn and Kristina Koznick according to an October, 2015 article in First Tracks!! Online Media. The resort was purchased at that time by longtime manager, Don McClure, and investors, David and Corrine Solner. If you are in the area, here is an opportunity to hone your skills throughout the year.

In addition to outdoor dry ski slopes, many indoor snow centers have been developed or in the planning stages throughout the world. The most famous Snow Ski Park has been built in Mall of Emirates in Dubai. Indoor ski slopes are constructed in huge buildings, kept at near freezing temperatures and employ sophisticated snowmaking technology to produce a real snow surface. Many also try to provide lodge-like environments to replicate a true resort ambiance. In the USA, plans to create indoor snow centers are being developed in Nevada, North Carolina and New Jersey.



The above picture is the conceptual rendering of the Buck Hill Ski Area near Minneapolis, Minnesota. Construction began in July, 2016. The first phase opened in September. The use of Neveplast® to create an artifical snow-like surface will allow ski and board enthusisats to learn, hone their skills, train and merely enjoy their sport throughout the year. Materials like Neveplast®, Dendix®, Snowflex® and Perma-Snow® have been used to develop dry ski slopes throughout many countries world-wide. photo / Buck Hill Ski Area

Most U.S. Resorts Have A No Drone Policy

by Leigh Gieringer

Ask most winter enthusiasts what they enjoy about a mountain visit and one of the answers they give is the beauty surrounding them. Picturesque snow covered peaks. Beautiful bluebird skies. Fresh, clean air. And, the quiet serenity except a few swooshing noises as other skiers and riders pass by. It is a pleasant change from honking horns, screeching tires, blaring radios and other noises so prevalent in many large cities. One can commune with nature as they glide down their favorite cruisers or shoot down an expert run.

Technology in the form of advanced mountain transport has been welcomed. The develop-

ment of new and better equipment throughout the decades has been a boon to the industry. The ease of procuring lift passes has saved time. Even the helmet-mounted GoPro® camera has become a common sight on the slopes. With these cameras, one can relive the thrills they experienced many times over. But, these films are from the same perspective as the skier or boarder who took it unless a companion or resort videographer was shooting it from another angle.

Enter the drone - an unmanned aerial vehicle or UAV. The prices are dropping. There is a greater effort to market them. And many of the manufacturers of drones often use snowsport action films in their advertising campaigns. The federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is predicting that a drone will be on many (predictions are that it could be 6 or 7 digit number) wish lists over the coming holiday season.

How does the ski industry feel about this? There are some very good usages for drones in a mountain resort setting. Looking for potential avalanches is one. As a drone flies by, it can locate problem areas that might be affected providing some reactionary procedures to protect their guests. This could save lives. Another use would be to inspect the lifts to spot potential problems before anything bad happens. A third advantage would be to conduct search and rescue missions - especially after dark. During fire season, they could also spot outbreaks before they get out of control and do extensive damage to the forests.

These commercial benefits conducted by resort staff or licensed vendors are important. However, with thousands, even tens of thousands of individuals purchasing drones or aerial quadcopters, things will get out of control. Imagine going down the slope and hearing a drone - or several - buzzing above you. Not only would it break that desired silence, but the chances of someone becoming startled, causing collisons with other snowsport enthusiasts or even running into a tree or off a steep edge could be possible. With the potential of numerous objects flying around the otherwise tranquil setting has many ski resorts worried. The noise factor is only a small part. Safety is a real concern! Additionally, since drone technology is relatively new, it is not clears what the effect of the higher altitudes and colder tempera-



NO DRONES HERE: The majority of ski resort do not allow personal drones within their boundaries due to safety concerns for guests, employees and property. Since the technology is so new, policies will be subject to review and them may adjust as more data becomes available. Most resorts at this time have banned their use to the public.

tures will have on the battery life. The UAV could fall, crashing into chairlifts, lift towers, mountain lodges, or people as it descends. Just imagine how the resort's liability insurance would sky rocket! And what would that do to the price of lift tickets! Most resorts don't want personal drones buzzing around. Most resorts have banned them..

The National Ski Areas Association (NSAA) the trade organization for 330+ ski areas in the United States and Canada has released a preliminary drone policy which most resorts have implemented. The policy bans drones without prior authorization. "Using drones without prior permission from these resorts is now banned. Those caught breaking the rules may have their drone confiscated, their skiing privileges suspended or could even be fined. Penalties will vary depending on the resort."

NSAA is also currently working with the Federal Aviation Administration, as well as the U.S. Forest Service which oversees the land used by 120+ ski areas in the U.S. to develop more specific drone policies. As of January 1, 2016, the FAA passed a ruling stating that all drone users must register their UAVs. Thus, if you're thinking of purchasing a drone or requesting one from Santa Claus, note that your drone needs to be licenced through the Federal Aviation Administration and that it will have limited or no usage at your favorite ski area.

Be the star in your very own video!

On the other hand, if you really must have a video of you zipping down the steep and deep, check out Cape Productions, Inc. (www.cape.com) in Redwood City, CA. Their trained pilots who control the drone flights; and experienced engineers who have developed a proprietory software preventing their devices from hitting obstacles; solenity have obtained an FAA permit that allows them to operate a commercial drone videography service. Currently there are some western U.S. and Canadian resorts with whom they have contract agreements to video resort guests or special resort events. The action is videotaped, then developed into a short video of the event. You can be the star in your very own video to share with all your fans. And, because prior permission has been granted through the proper channels, you will be able to relive those videographed memories any time you



During the upcoming 2016-17 winter season, Diamond Peak Ski Resort will celebrate its golden anniversary – 50 years of skiing and snowboarding in one of the most beautiful settings on earth – along the eastern shore of Lake Tahoe.

photo courtesy of RenoTahoe USA

Important Milestones for Western Resorts During the 2016-2017 Ski Season*

Opened in 1936 / 80 Years
Beaver Mountain Ski Area, UT
Brighton Ski Resort, UT
Marshall Mountain, MT
Showdown Montana, MT

Showdown Montana, MT Sleeping Giant Ski Area, WY Sun Valley Resort, ID

Opened in 1937

Timberline Lodge & Ski Area, OR The Summit At Snoqualmie, WA Snow Valley Mountain Resort, CA Loveland Ski Area, CO Sandia Peak Ski Area, NM Stevens Pass, WA

Mountain High Resort, CA

Opened in 1941 / 75 Years

Great Divide, MT Snowbasin Resort, UT Willamette Pass Resort, OR

Opened in 1942

Bogus Basin, ID Ski Cooper, CO Mt. Waterman Ski Lift, CA

Opened in 1947 / 70 Years

Aspen Mountain, CO Ski Santa Fe, NM Whitefish Mountain Resort, MT

Opened in 1952 / 65 Years Snow Summit Mountain Resort, CA Sipapu Ski & Summit Mountain

Resort, NM Mt. Baldy Ski Lifts, Inc., CA

Opened in 1957 / 60 Years
Solitude Mountain Resort, UT

Opened in 1961 / 55 *Years*

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

Opened in 1962

Crested Butte Mtn. Resort, CO Vail Mountain, CO Crystal Mountain, Inc., WA Homewood Mountain Resort, CA

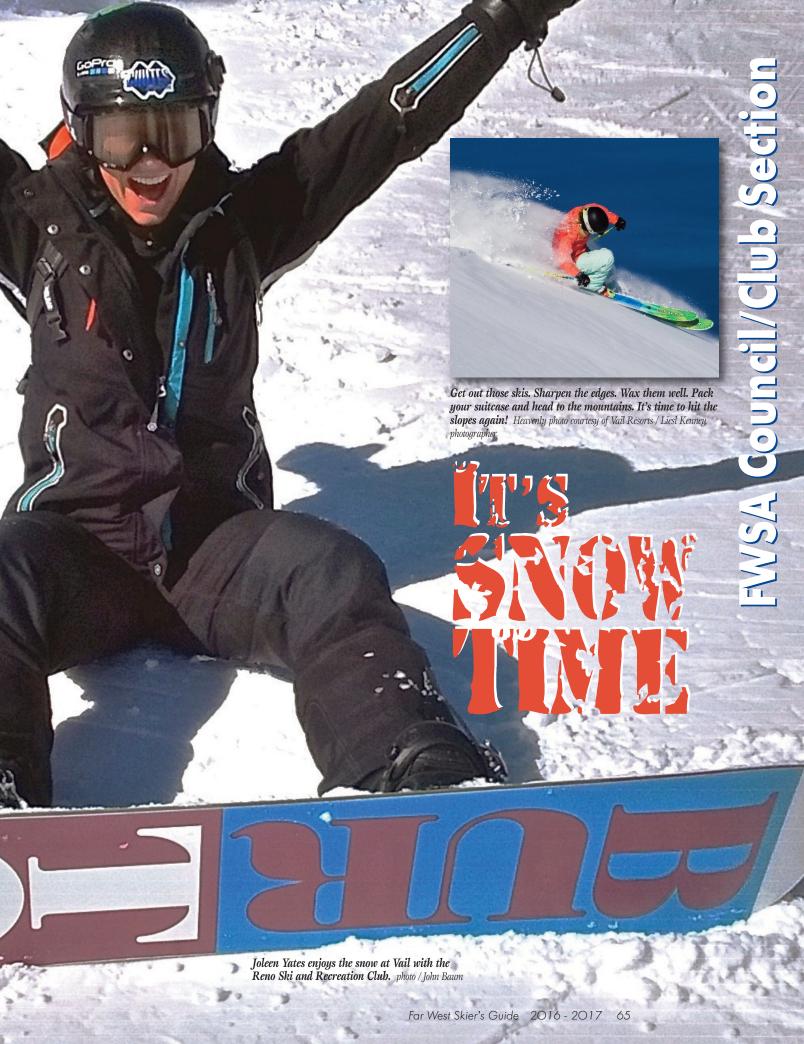
Opened in 1966 / 50 Years

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

Opened in 1967

Snowmasss, CO Bear Valley Mountain, CA

^{*} National Ski Areas Association



Arizona Ski Council

by Arleigh Meiners, ASC President

The Arizona Ski Council (ASC) represents six clubs with 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 Arizona Ski Counil hosted the 84th Annual FWSA Convention this year, which was held at the DoubleTree Resort by Hilton Hotel Paradise Valley, in Scottsdale, Arizona from June 9 -12. The Arizona Ski Council Convention Committee, chaired by Linda Westlund, worked diligently on a monthly basis for over a year to make this convention a big success. Thirteen members from the Arizona Ski Council attended the FWSA Convention as delegates. Wanda Himler from the Scottsdale Ski Club represented the Arizona Ski Council as their Woman of The Year. The Pub Crawl that was held on Thursday evening in the Scottsdale Entertainment area was one of the optional events that many attendees said "was one of the best Pub Crawls ever!"

ASC had its election of officers at the April Board Meeting. Results of that election are: President Arleigh Meiners; Vice President, Wanda Himler; Secretary, Marge Fons; Treasurer, Dodi Bailey; Race Coordinator, Bill Behnke and Past President, Judy Upton. Club representatives are: Tim Avedovech - PSC, Scott Peterson -SS&SC, Bud Tasch - AzOTC, Glenn Pule - Boeing Employee Adventure Club, Gary Giertz - Partytime Sports, and Mike Rogers -Sailing Adventure Club. The ASC hosts weekly Happy Hours during the hot summer months in which all the clubs can participate. Arizona Ski Council is looking at hosting a Golf Tournament on Saturday, November 12.

The *Phoenix Ski Club*, (PSC), has posted their 2016-2017 ski trip schedule on their website.



PSC is going to Park City, Utah in December 2016, a ski college package. PSC will be going to Telluride, Colorado two times this year, in January and March of 2017, at the close of the ski season. Other trips include: Purgatory, Colorado during the 2017 New Year's Holiday; Snow Basin and Powder Mountain in January; Winter Park and Wolf Creek, Colorado in February; and Panorama, British Columbia, Canada in March. In October of 2016, the PSC cruised through the Panama Canal and next year, again in October, will be doing a cruise to Casablanca. Also, in May of 2017, the PSC is doing an adventure trip to Costa Rica. The 2016-2017 ski schedule for the Phoenix Ski Club (PSC) is posted on their website. Check it out for more

The Scottsdale Sea & Ski Club, (SS&SC), is an adult ski and social club. SS&SC kicked off the summer with happy hours every Friday evening. SS&SC had a wonderful bicycle and barge trip on the Danube River in Germany, in September. They celebrated Oktoberfest in Munich after the bike/barge trip. A sailing trip to Catalina Island was held in October, 2016; and an adventure trip to Ireland is planned for May, 2017. Some of the other activities planned are campouts, pub crawls, and many more events. The SS&SC will be joining the PSC on the Telluride, Colorado Ski Trips. The 2016-2017 ski schedule for the Scottsdale Ski Club (SS&SC) is posted on

details: www.phxskiclub.org.

their website: www.scottsdale-ski-club.com.

Arizona Outdoor Travel *Club*, (AzOTC), which is mostly a hiking club, continues to have hikes all year long, with an exercise hike every Wednesday. AzOTC generally has a local hike every weekend. Some are day hikes and others are 2 or 3 day hikes. During the summer, AzOTC has at least one hike that will be a week in length some place, and this year they hiked in northern Oregon for a couple of weeks in August and September. 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 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 conducted a 10 day Canal Boat Trip in France in September. SAC is no longer charging dues, so anyone can join via MeetUp.

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

Several members of the Phoenix Ski Club journeyed to Machu Picchu in Peru. The Incas built this citadel around 1450... believed to be the estate for the Inca Emperor Pachacuti.

The ruins, located at almost 8,000' above sea level, can be seen behind Brigitte Schneider. Machu Picchu is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

photo / Inge Terpening

Arizona Ski Council

www.arizonaskicouncil.org.

President: Arleigh Meiners (602) 538-2947 president@arizonaskicouncilorg

Arizona Ski & Social Clubs
Member Clubs & Contact Information

ARIZONA OUTDOOR TRAVEL CLUB

www.azotc.com

President: Dan Rothman 480-773-5197 dwrr1@yahoo.com

BOEING ADVENTURE CLUB www.boeing.com

Representative: Glenn Pyle glenn.t.pyle@boeing.com

PARTY TIME SPORTS

President: Gary Gertz ggg44@q.com

PHOENIX SKI CLUB

www.phxskiclub.org President: Ellen Odart 602-284-1075 ellen@odart.com

SAILING ADVENTURE CLUB www.sailingadventureclub.org

Commodore: Ralph Morgan rhmorgan@oco.net

SCOTTSDALE SEA AND SKI CLUB

www.scottsdale-skiclub.com

President: Ed Carmines 804-502-9275 president@scottsdaleski-club.com



Paul Vlasveld

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. Our focus is Having Fun. One might ask, "Who should join a BAC club?" A very simple answer is YOU.

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

The BAC has 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 mem-

Nordic skiers enjoy a bluebird day at scenic Lake Tahoe. photo / Reno Tahoe USA

bers who have been on all seven continents of the world - 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 2016, we had members skiing in: Telluride, CO; Sun Peaks, Canada; Park City, Utah; and a number of additional locations. During 2017, already scheduled are trips to: Breckenridge, Colorado; Innsbruck, Austria; Park City, Utah; and many other locations.

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

On August 13, 2016, we held our 11th Annual BAC/ DSUSA Oakland A's Baseball Game, Tailgate BBO and Fireworks event. Members of the BAC, their friends and families had a great night. There were almost 75 of us enjoying the in-

the Blues" (blue ski runs) and they used that as their theme. They raced in their costumes in the Council Challenge races. Yes, we do have fun! photo provided by Nancy Ellis credible experience at the Oakland Coliseum. Thank you to the Oakland A's Baseball Organiza-

tion and Vail Resorts for support-

creativeness and theme. The winning team in the Costume Division was from BAC. They called themselves "Cruise the Blues" and dressed as

Elvis. There was an activity on the first day of Ski Week called "Cruise

ing 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 the Far West Ski Association as the Bay Area Council (BAC) Ski Clubs in 1961. To embrace all snow sports activities, the current name of the BAC is "Bay Area Snow Sports Council". During all four seasons our BAC clubs are very active!

The Singles League portion of the BAC holds an Annual Snow Ball in November to celebrate the coming winter sports season. This year, we are having our 41th 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!

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 and snowboard is a true gift.

Our Recreational Race Schedules for 2016 - 2017 will be featuring Alpine Meadows, North Star at California and Squaw Vallev (venues subject to change). In addition, there are the Far West Championships at Mammoth Mountain. Become one of our "racers". Come out and have a great time! Even if you don't race, please join us at the slopes during any of our on mountain events. Cow bells are encouraged!

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

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

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

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

Bay Area Snow **Sports Council**

www.skibac.org

President: Paul Vlasveld (408) 314-4649

pvlasveld@comcast.net

Bay Area Snow Sports Council Ski and Social Clubs Member Clubs & **Contact Information**

ALPINEER http://alpineerclub.blogspot.com/

APRES SKI CLUB

www.apres.org Bernadette Fife

Bernadette@morefun productions.com

BERKELEY SKI CLUB

www.berkeleyskiclub.org Tatiana Stooman recruiting@berkeleyskiclub.org

BLADERUNNERS SKI & SPORT CLUB

(Lockheed Martin Employee's Club) bladerunnersskiclub@yahoo.com

CAMBER SKI CLUB

Jerry Crawford jcrawford@redshift.com

CASTRO VALLEY SKI CLUB www.cvskiclub.org

Claudia Fernandes claudia.fernandes4108@ gmail.com

FIRE AND ICE SKI CLUB www.fireandiceskiclub.net

SanJoseFireandIce@gmail.com

GOLDEN GATE TOP OF THE HILL GANG

www.ggtohg.org Roger Avery info@ggtothg.org

INSKIERS SKI AND SNOWBOARD CLUB

www.inskiers.com Cathy Baird

catmb@comcast.net

KALEVA SKI CLUB

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MARIN SKI CLUB

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MODESTO SKI CLUB

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SNO*FLAKES SKI CLUB

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(Employees of Google)

Yao Cheng

yaocheng@google.com

SNOW MORE SKI & BOARD CLUB

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boardclub.com

snowmoreclub@gmail.com

SOUTHBAY SKI CLUB

www.southbayclub.org Judy Molland

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SUNBURST SKI CLUB

Sue Kane

matissesue@yahoo.com

THE OLYMPIC CLUB

(Private - Member Sponsored) Steve Bard

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Mary Azevedo

Bay Area Council Wins History Recognition / Three More Historic Club Designations

by John Watson

Bay Area Council is the first Far West Historic Ski Council! Mary Azevedo's research paid off with winning the History Recognition. She was able to trace the founding date for the Council to 1940. This makes Bay Area Council the Association's oldest in the FWSA.

Owing to the efforts of Maxine Hanlon and George Kish, we were able to verify two more Historic Ski Clubs - Vand Bakke (1950) and Snowbounders (1962). Vand Bakke has even restarted their newsletter "Vertical Descent" after decades of silence! The Phoenix Ski Club (1948 incorporation) was also designated. They recently celebrated their 65th birthday with a special logo for that purpose. Four Season's West Ski and Snowboard Club had a 50th Anniversary celebration on September 24. Research has begun in the Intermountain Council for dates and evidence of early ski clubs and snowsport builder histories. Send any such evidence to the council or to the FWSA History Chairman. We now have 19 Historic Ski Cubs in addition to the Bay Area Historic Ski Council.

Historic Clubs - 2016

| Historic Club | Location | Council | Founded |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|---------|
| Cascade | Portland, OR | Northwest | 1928 |
| Fresno | Fresno, CA | Central | 1934 |
| Longview | Longview, WA | Northwest | 1935 |
| San Diego | San Diego, CA | San Diego | 1935 |
| Sequoia | Visalia, CA | Sierra | 1935 |
| Mt. Hood Ski Patrol | Mt. Hood, OR | Northwest | 1937 |
| Bay Area Council | San Francisco-Oakland | Bay Area | 1940 |
| Schnee Vogeli | Portland, OR | Northwest | 1942 |
| Idaho Falls | Idaho Falls, ID | Intermountain | 1947 |
| Phoenix | Phoenix, AZ | Arizona | 1948 |
| Grindelwald | Los Angeles, CA | Los Angeles | 1949 |
| Vand Bakke | West Covina, CA | Orange (Inland) | 1950 |
| Desert | Richland, WA | Northwest | 1953 |
| Hawaii | Aiea, Hawaii | Northwest | 1953 |
| Balboa | Newport Beach, CA | Orange | 1955 |
| Skiyente | Portland, OR | Northwest | 1955 |
| Cheyenne | Cheyenne, WY | Intermountain | 1959 |
| Single | Los Angeles, CA | Los Angeles | 1961 |
| Snowbounders | Anaheim, CA | Orange | 1962 |
| Four Season's West | Los Angeles, CA | Los Angeles | 1966 |
| Ski & Snowboard Club | | | |

Central Council of California

by Fran Long, President

The rugged Sierra Mountains, the pristine Central California Coast beaches, and the fertile Salinas and San Joaquin valleys comprise the Central Council Ski Clubs geographical area. Between our seven clubs, we certainly have something to offer any and all outdoor enthusiasts.

Our four largest clubs each have comprehensive winter and summer adventure programs. Traditionally, each club offers one or two week-long ski trips to a variety of destinations all over the western United States, with an occasional trip out of the country. Summer programs include camping, hiking, bike riding, and water sports. Pretty much, if it can be done outdoors (and it is fun to do), at least one of our clubs will offer that activity!

While our three smaller clubs don't run week-long trips, they do offer some short ski trips to our local resorts, as well as, summer fun within their geographical area.

Central Council does not currently offer any ski trips or activities directly. Rather, we support our clubs in their endeavors to provide exciting trips for their members. We also encourage all our member clubs to support one another, offering all our snowsports enthusiasts more options and opportunities for fun. Many of our members seek out a club going to the destination of their choice, contact that club, and enjoy traveling with them and making new friends.

As an active member of the Far West Ski Association and the National Ski Council Federation, Central Council distributes information to all member clubs regarding member benefits, travel options, and current trends in snowsports. These travel options include: FWSA North American Ski Week, FWSA International Ski Week and adventure trips like the FWSA

dive trip. Club leadership, in turn, offers this information to members, furthering all members' options for outdoor fun. If you are a club member, and you are not getting this information, inquire at your next meeting, contact your club president, or contact your council president. Council president, as well as, club presidents' contact information is available in this publication.

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.

Central Council of California

http://www.meetup.com/ Central-Council-Ski-Clubs/

President: Fran Long (805) 712-5781 francat87@gmail.com

Central Council of California Member Clubs & Contact Information

AVALANCHE SKI AND SPORTS CLUB

Serving Bakersfield, Kern County http://www.meetup.com/Central-Council-Ski-Clubs/

President: *Donna Barnes* dblazekwebb@gmail.com

CAMBER SKI CLUB

Serving the Salinas Valley and parts of Monterey County http://www.meetup.com/Central-Council-Ski-Clubs/

Activities: Jayne Camic camicski@aol.com

FRESNO SKI CLUB

Serving Fresno County www.fresnoskiclub.com President: Kim Riehl president@fresnoskiclub.com

OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL ENTHUSIASTS

Serving Fresno County Facilitator: Bob Strickland Bstrick60@att.net

SANTA BARBARA SKI AND SPORTS CLUB

Serving Santa Barbara County www.sbski.org

President: Dennis Forster president@sbski.org





The clubs in Central Council are active year around. Top: A group of skiers gather for a lunch break at Northstar California Resort.

MID: Central's race team - Fran, Gloria, Rick, Nancy, Ken, Mary and Michael await their turn to descend through the flags at the Telluride Council Challenge. Lower: Biking along the Central California coast keeps the club members in shape for winter visits to the slopes. And, it's fun, too! photos provided by Fran Long

SLO SKIERS, INC., A SKI SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

Serving San Luis Obispo, Southern Monterey and Northern Santa Barbara Counties www.sloskiers.org

President: Barbara Collins president@sloskiers.org

SNOW TRACKERS

Serving Exeter, California http://www.meetup.com/Central-Council-Ski-Clubs/

President: Helen Salsbury Jacobson helenzz@aol.com



Intermountain Ski Council

by Paul Markowitz, President

The Intermountain Ski Council (ISC) has over 3,000 members, belonging to 11 clubs that cover the Rocky Mountain states of Idaho, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming They've been busy planning this year to offer the best domestic and international trips for the value. With such a wide variety of local events made available to their membership and communities, it's easy to find fun with friends in the ISC.

ISC continues to bring clubs together through monthly phone conferencing. On the agenda is a trip proposed for Spring 2017. For updates, click onto any one of our club websites, peruse the event calendars and pick your next trip or activity. It's the best way to guarantee a great time.

Please join us in welcoming the FWSA 85th Annual Convention, June 7-11, 2017 in Boise, Idaho. We look forward to having you come take a look and experience what the Boise, "City of Trees", has to offer. Our ISC Convention Committee is working hard to ensure everyone has a great time at the Convention. Key Committee members include:

The 2017 Host Council Convention Committee invites Far West club members to the 85th Annual FWSA Convention to be held in Boise, Idaho. They are planning a fabulous convention with many fun activities like white water river rafting, mountain biking or hiking and a lot more. This is the first time the FWSA Convention will be held in Boise, and the convention will be co-hosted by Bogus Basin Ski Club and Intermountain Ski Council. So don't miss it! Mark your calendars now! photo / Don Pribble

Doug and Sue Baker, Mark Barnard, Kim Hovern, Vicki Kuebler, Paul Markowitz, Don and Mary Pribble and Rosie Rosco.

Black Hills Ski Club: With 60-70 members, skiing, taking part in year around activities and travel are the best aspects of the Black Hills Ski Club (BHSC). In the opinion of Steve Jones, Past President, "it is the social, outdoors connection that is the core to what we do". The event that stands up to the fun-meter is the Annual Holiday Party held in Deadwood, where it proclaims to be entertaining guests since 1876. It is known to be the "wildest town in the west".

From the beautiful, outdoor recreational Badlands National Park to bringing like souls together for ski, travel and good times, this club is rocking! In their surrounding area is Deer Mountain Ski Resort. This year, the club has a trip planned to Copper Mountain, Colorado. Facebook continues to be their main source of connection, so please visit with the Black Hills Ski Club soon and share a hello! www.facebook.com/groups/bhskiclub/

Bogus Basin Ski Club: The best skiing and boarding film event west of the Rockies happens every November when the Bogus Basin Ski Club (BBSC) collaborates with Warren Miller Entertainment (WME) to present the latest edition of their movie. The BBSC Warren Miller Film Festival, with a draw of over 2,000, is considered by WME to be its toprated annual venue.

This multi-day event connects the community with club members and provides a financial and promotional benefit to local non-profit service and education groups. Benefactors include the Bogus Basin Ski Education Foundation, Recreation Unlimited, the Bogus Basin Ski Patrol, and the nationally recognized College of Idaho Ski Team.

The BBSC offers year round adventures that encourage members, families and friends of all ages to join the fun. Hike, bike, ride, boat, ski, camp and enjoy the latest Warren Miller Movie release - you'll find it all with BBSC!

Cheyenne Ski Club: Experience something completely different.

Your best winter ever! Affordable downhill, x-country and backcountry ski trips for snow-sliders of all levels has proven true for its members and friends. Although changes are inevitable, last year the Cheyenne Ski Club (CSC) lost a very significant member and club pioneer *Ernie Mumpower*. Ernie came to the Cheyenne area in 1947. He left his legacy as a founder of the club.

The CSC continues to foster participation year around. Its website reviews continue to receive "high praise" for events, like the bi-annual Outdoor Gear Swap which remains one of the most popular events. Highlights this year include alpine skiing at Steamboat Springs Ski Resort and a "sold out" Eiseman Hut trip with backcountry trails and scenery at its best. Next up. . . England and Ireland! Come and join us!

Idaho Falls Ski Club: Offering over 11 trips a year to its members, the Idaho Falls Ski Club is active! Past President, Don Rasch commented, "The best program that we currently offer annually is the Grand Targhee Resort and Pom-





merelle Mountain Resort Instructional' trips." These trips are designed to encourage all ages and skill levels to further their learning of alpine, nordic and snowboarding. The success is helped by the special feature of the program that the club subsidizes the individual's "Instructional" lesson. Participation is always enthusiastic, with an approximate combined total of 350 signing up each year. As the Idaho Falls Ski Club sees it, the Instructional Trip is a great experience, at a great value for everyone.

Park City Mountain Sports Club: As the Park City Mountain Sports Club (PCMSC) membership approaches 700, the growth and its effects provide the best opportunity for club activities to continue at a high level of participation. For all seasons, according to Sheree Anshel, President, "Our fun filled days are due to the behind the scenes work of our Summer Coordinators. The Coordinators have scheduled leaders for the multitude of events. Our calendars would have huge blank spaces if it were not for these amazing volunteers." Ski, snow shoe, in-line skate, golf,

Peaks on the FWSA Mini Ski Week next year. This past year, clubs from the NWSCC really enjoyed their visit to this B.C. favorite. LEFT: Members of the Bogus Basin Ski Club gather for their Annual Bike and Wine Tasting Ride. photo provided by Paul Markowitz hike, tennis, aquatics, pot-luck socials and travel... there is every reason to be an active member of

PCMSC.

photo provided by Emilio Trampuz

Above: Members of the ISC are

looking forward to visiting Sun

Pocatello Ski and Snowboard Association: The "Town Challenge" races continue to be one of the best community events that the Pocatello Ski and Snowboard Association (PSSA) offers annually. Through a generous donation made to PSSA in 2000, the funds have been used to promote skiing and snowboarding for youth in the Pocatello, Idaho community. It's through the Stacy Smith Memorial Gift that races and transportation costs are subsidized for PSSA's annual youth trips, allowing the club to support local children that would like to participate in racing events at a very reduced cost. Dual slalom teams race once in each course and consist of parents, sib-

lings and friends. Intermountain Ski Council

www.intermountainski council.org

President: Paul Markowitz (208) 850-9962 pmarkowitz@cableone.net



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: Kim Hovern president@bogusbasinskiclub.org

CHEYENNE SKI CLUB

www.cheyenneskiclub.com

Serving the Cheyenne, Wyoming area President: Jodee Pring chevenneskiclub@hotmail.com

HILL SKI CLUB

Serving the Hill Air Force Base, Clearfield, UT President: Norm Bates waterski1layton@comcast.net

IDAHO FALLS SKI CLUB www.ifskiclub.com

Serving the Idaho Falls, Idaho area President: Don Rasch skibiz@ida.net

PARK CITY MOUNTAIN **SPORTS CLUB**

www.pcmsc.org

Serving the Park City, Utah area President: Kathy Kelleher kathykel2@aol.com

POCATELLO SKI ASSOCIATION

www.pocatelloskiand snowboardassociation.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



What better way to bring in the New Year than to visit a ski area for the festivities such as the fireworks over Park City Ski Area. photo / Vail Resorts / Jessica Miller, photographer

Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs

by Kathleen Byrnes, President

The Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs is geographically comprised of 28 snowsport clubs spread across a large area from Santa Barbara in the northwest to the Inland Empire in the east and Long Beach to the south. 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, as well as, a large group which enthusiastically participates in the varied social events provided by the clubs throughout the year.

As with most councils, travel is a favored activity for LA Council members throughout each year. Whether they go by car, bus or plane, almost all LA Council clubs traveled frequently to Mammoth Mountain for weekend and midweek outings. And, many still have the time and energy to plan longer trips to outof-state resorts. Sandy Blackwell, VP of Travel, will be leading an enthusiastic group of snowsport enthusiasts to Breckenridge, Colorado, for the Annual Far West Ski Week this coming winter.

The clubs don't limit their travel to skiing only, because there are plenty of non-ski season activities throughout the year, such as happy hours, concerts in the park, BBQ's, potlucks and sporting events!

Los Angeles Council sent one of the largest council delegations to the Far West Ski Association's 84th Annual Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona. *Todd Hood*, LAC VP of Membership, conducted a Snowsports Leadership Academy session this year, "Who Are You, and Who Cares: Building and Supporting Your Brand!"

Congratulations are extended to LAC award recipients: *Karen James* of Edelweiss - Elizabeth "Schatzi" Wood Award; *Norbert Knapp* of Grindelwald – J.



The Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs was well represented at the FWSA 84th Annual Convention held in Scottsdale, Arizona - June, 2016. photo / Azy's Photography

Stanley Mullin Award; Bonnie West, Webmaster - Outstanding Council Website, Catherine Ohl, Newsletter Editor/Webmaster of Pacific Rim Alliance - Wentworth Outstanding Publication Award and Outstanding Website (1st Place Masters); Gordon Cardona, Newsletter Editor of The Unrecables - Wentworth Outstanding Publication Award (2nd Place Masters); Dee Armstrong, Webmaster of The Unrecables -Outstanding Website (2nd Place Masters); and Pacific Rim Alliance - Charities and Our Community Double Diamond Award (2nd place) and Tollakson Club of the Year (1st Place Masters).

Jane Gutierrez, Four Seasons West Ski & Snowboard Club, was elected to a second term as FWSA VP of Membership, and Cindy Krupp, Century City Ski Club, was elected VP of Communications. Other FWSA officers and committee chairs include: Jane Wuckoff, Pacific Rim Alliance - Trustee; Catherine Ohl, Pacific Rim Alliance - Awards Chair and Webmaster; David Krupp, Century City Ski Club - Athletic Scholarship Program Chair; and, Sigrid Noack, The Unrecables - Charities & Our Community Chair.

LA Council has access to two very active, well-run race leagues, ULLR and ROKKA. These two race leagues provide club members an exciting schedule each season, from ROKKA Camp beginning in November and the Ski, Ride & Race Week in mid-December, then SoCal Championships in early March, and ending with Far West Finals in Mammoth.

The council also counts within its membership The Unrecables Ski Club, which promotes adaptive sports. Each month during ski season, The Unrecables provide those with disabilities a memorable weekend of skiing with support from Mammoth Mountain and many volunteers from within and outside LA Council. In addition, The Unrecables have partnered with Ralph's Grocery Stores to provide the Ralph's Rewards Community Contribution Program. This fund raising effort makes it extremely easy using a one-time bar code which identifies the program and links with Customer's Ralph's Reward Card. Everyone wins, since we all have to shop for food, and Ralph's donates from each customer's shopping experience!

The Presidents Luncheon was held on August 13. This annual event provided club presidents, council officers and club representatives the opportunity to come together to share challenges and ideas over a catered luncheon. *Todd Hood* led an excellent interactive leadership seminar, "Making Love to Your Members".

At the council level, two additional activities will mark the coming year.

- The Annual Snow Gala is being held October 22 at the Embassy Suites LAX South. The theme is "Movie Memories," and members will be welcomed to the event on a red carpet, just like the Golden Globe or Academy Awards. As in past years, the event will include a silent auction benefiting the Unrecables Ski Club's adaptive sports program and a raffle for exciting prizes including a Mammoth Mountain weekend. Raffle ticket sales are a fund raiser for the ski clubs, with the ticket sales split between the council and selling clubs. Members enjoy a fabulous dinner followed by dancing into late hours of the night!
- The LA Council participates in the Annual Ski Dazzle, the Los Angeles Ski Show and Snowboard Expo, to be held December 2-4 at the Los Angeles Convention Center, with the goal of attracting new club members. Last year, the nature of the LA Council's participation was restructured and as a result, participation was met by clubs sending volunteers to man the booth. Volunteers greeted guests who stopped at the booth, and distributed copies of the Far West Skier's Guide. Ski Dazzle is a great event for recruiting new club members.

For details regarding all club and council trips and activities, visit **www.lacouncil.org**. Join us on a future trip or activity!

Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs

www.lacouncil.org

President: Kathleen Byrnes (213) 247-1601 lacpresident@lacouncil.org

Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs Member Clubs & **Contact Information**

AEA (AEROSPACE) SKI CLUB

South Bay

www.aeaclubs.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: Kay Collins 310-850.9448 president@ccscsports.org

CONEJO SKI & SPORTS CLUB

Thousand Oaks www.conejoskiclub.org

President: Richard Murray 805-551-8869 rwmurray3@gmail.com

EDELWEISS SKI & SPORT CLUB

San Fernando Valley www.edelweissskiclub.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



TOP: Snowbusters Ski Club holds their annual YOUTH Snow Day LEARN to Ski event to introduce the love of skiing to the younger generations. Every one has a great time! Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs President's Luncheon provides the opportunity for club leaders to share ideas. photos / Todd Hood

FOUR SEASONS WEST SKI AND SNOWBOARD CLUB

Los Angeles

www.4sw.com

President: Jane Gutierrez 323-325-5534 itgutie10@4sw.com

GRINDELWALD SKI CLUB

Los Angeles

www.grindelwaldskiclub.org

President: Philip Grant 626-676-5830 pggrant@charter.net

HUGHES SKI CLUB

South Bay President: Steve Klinger 310-802-8190

INLAND EMPIRE SKI AND **SPORTS CLUB**

Riverside

www.iessc.com

President: Teri Allard 909-234-2267 flowersteri@hotmail.com

KRONENSTADT SKI CLUB

Pasadena

www.kronenstadtskiclub.com

President: Bruce Bailey 626-792-3460 bab_architects@yahoo.com bruce@kronenstadtskiclub.com

LONG BEACH SKI CLUB

Long Beach/South Bay www.longbeachskiclub.org

President: Kris Flaig 562-818-2874 flaigrant@yahoo.com

LOS PADRES SKI CLUB

Simi Valley/Ventura County www.lospadresskiclub.net

Co-President: Tom Reed 805-236-6543 tom_reed@acm.org

OVER THE HILL GANG -LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles www.ohgla.org President: Al Mizrahi alpatti2@gmail.com

PACIFIC RIM ALLIANCE

Southern California www.pacificrimalliance.org President: Catherine Ohl 858-405-0637 ohl@acatmeowz.com

RADAR RIVER RATS WATERSKI CLUB

Southern California www.radarriverrats.org President: Catherine Ohl 858-405-0637 ohl@acatmeowz.com

SAGA SKI CLUB

Los Angeles www.sagala.org President: Jim Corbett III 714-292-1561 president@sagala.org

SANTA BARBARA SKI & SPORTS CLUB

Santa Barbara County www.sbski.org President: Dennis Forester president@sbski.org

SNOWBUSTERS SKI CLUB

Pasadena

www.snowbusters.com

President: Eric Sykes erics@snowbusters.com

SPACE PARK SKI & SNOW-**BOARD CLUB (formerly TRW)**

Redondo Beach

www.spaceparkskiandsnowboard club.org

President: Phil Weisgerber 310-940-6429 philw599@gmail.com

THE UNRECABLES

Los Angeles www.unrecables.org President: Michelle McCarthy 310-795-5517 president@unrecables.org

WAILERS SKI, SNOWBOARD & SOCIAL CLUB

San Fernando Valley/Los Angeles www.wailersskiclub.org President: Lydia Kemper 818-632-1041 president@wailersskiclub.org

WESTWOOD SKI CLUB

West Los Angeles www.westwoodskiclub.org President: Scott Peer scottpeer@aol.com

WINTER FOX SKI & SNOWBOARD ASSOCIATION

Los Angeles www.winterfox.org President: Ida Cochrane

Northwest Ski Club Council

by Sylvia Kearns, President

As the returning President of the Northwest Ski Club Council, I am pleased to announce that NWSCC is thriving with a board of directors that is excited to be more progressive in today's social media world. We have a new board with a history of long time skiing/racing and club leadership. This is enabling NWSCC to provide the highest level of communication and events that we have had in a long time.

This year, we have taken a financial plunge by hiring Cascade Web Development to create a website. Business owner, Ben McKinley, is an avid skier, his children race, and he himself was a PACRAT racer with the Multnomah Athletic Club. The site will also provide easy addition of industry members throughout the year, and the clubs will have the ability to modify the calendar as needed. Active people use their mobile devices daily. NWSCC believes that the most current information is important to provide to keep our membership informed.

Our members will be able to go to *nwskiers.org* for snow conditions, travel problems, and the industry partner that is closest to them. The call to action buttons on the home page will be used to inform viewers of the latest activities. In the fall, it will be the *Portland SkiFever & Snowboard Show* and in the spring it will be the FWSA Convention in Boise, Idaho, to name a few examples.

Speaking of conventions, the FWSA Convention in Phoenix, Arizona was incredible. The Arizona Ski Council is to be commended on the hard work that they did to host a successful convention. A number of awards were given to NWSCC members. Debbi Kor (President of Mountain High Snowsport Club) was the winner of Hans Georg Award, FWSA's highest award for long time achievements and contribution to skiing. Linda McGavin



Congratulations! Skiyente Ski Club was founded 60 years ago. Members gathered to celebrate this special milestone.

photo provided by Sylvia Kearns

(Mountain High Snowsport Club) received the Bill Berry Hard News Award, for outstanding service to skiing by writers for the printed media, for her many years of editing and publishing the Northwest Skiers' Directory and Northwest Snowsports Guide. Sue Rimkeit (Cascade Prime Timers) was named the Safety Person of the Year, for the person within FWSA who does the most to promote safe skiing and safety programs. Colleen Stroeder (Skiyente Ski Club) won the FWSA Councils' Woman of the Year Award. This award is based upon recognition by their peers for their contribution to club, council, Race League, FWSA, and nationally. Dave Ludwig (Hope on the Slopes/ Ski and Ride for A Cure) received the Jimmie Heuga Award, given to an individual who has made a signifi- cant contribution to disabled skiing and/or has overcome a physical disability and has been an inspiration to others. Dale Parshall (Schnee Vogeli Ski Club) received the Terry Smith Award as an individual who has greatly contributed to the advancement of recreational ski racing.

Pacific Northwest Area Clubs Recreational Alpine Teams (PA-CRAT) is our downhill race league. As a subsidiary of NWSCC, we are joining forces this year to increase our race league numbers and increase our general meeting attendance. Last year was a phenomenal race season - a great relief from the Pineapple Express that blew through the previous season. As the weather forecasters predict yet another banner snow year, we as a council are working to provide the best that is available. Andy Hobart, President of PACRAT, and myself as president of NWSCC are working as a team - a previously unprecedented relationship. For up-todate information go to Pacrats.org.

NWSCC looks forward to supporting the FWSA Ski Week, FWSA Mini Ski Week, and the 2017 FWSA Convention in Boise, Idaho. For more information, go to *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.net bendssc@aol.com

BERGFREUNDE

Location: Portland, Oregon www.bergfreunde.org skiclub@bergfreunde.org

CABERNET SKI & SAIL CLUB

Location: Portland, Oregon www.nwskiers.org johnoreinhardt@hotmail.com

CASCADE PRIME TIMERS SKI CLUB

Location: Portland, Oregon www.cascadeprimetimers.org president@cascadeprime timers.org

CASCADE SKI CLUB, INC

Location: Government Camp, Oregon www.cascadeskiclub.org lodge@cascadeskiclub.org

MT. HOOD SKIKATS

Location: Portland, Oregon www.nwskiers.org Jeannie@jeanniecoyle.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

PORTLAND SKI & SNOW-**BOARD MEETUP**

Location: Portland, Oregon www.meetup.com/Portland-Ski-Snowboard

clintlunde@hotmail.com

SCHNEE VOGELI SKI CLUB

Location: Portland, Oregon www.schneevogeli.com svsc_info@schneevogeli.com

SKIYENTE SKI CLUB

Location: Portland, Oregon www.skiyente.com skivente@gmail

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/longview skiclub

janerosi@wildblue.net

S'NO JOKE SKI CLUB

Location: Seattle, Washington www.snojoke.org info@snojoke.org

SEATTLE EASTSIDE SKI AND SNOWBOARD MEETUP GROUP

Location: Kirkland, Washington http://www.meetup.com/Seattle EastsideSkiers/

clintlunde@hotmail.com



AND SNOWBOARD MEETUP GROUP

Location: Seattle, WA www.meetup.com/SkiSeattle/

SKIBACS SKI & SNOWBOARD CLUB

Location: Seattle, Washington www.skibacs.org info@skibacs.org

SKIHAWKS SKI CLUB

Location: Seattle, Washington www.skihawks.org artarneson@comcast.net

VANCOUVER SNOW & SPORTS CLUB

Location: Vancouver, Washington www.nwskiers.org sandyschill33@gmail.com

WIHSKI CLUB

Location: Seattle, Washington www.wihski.com duchschererj@yahoo.com

Charitable Associate Members

CHILL PORTLAND

Location: Portland, OR www.chill.org michaelw@chill.org

HOPE ON THE SLOPES / SKI & RIDE FOR A CURE

Location: Tacoma, WA www.hopeontheslopes.net Lori.Harmer@cancer.org

With Mt. Hood in the background, Kurt, Lisa, George and Kay, led by guide, Emilio Trampuz (front skier) will enter Little Zig Zag Canyon. They skied another five miles to the town of Government Camp. According to Emilio, it is very important to know where to exit the canyon. If one goes too far, people can easily get lost in the forest with no easy way back to civilization. If one does get lost, the only way out is to keep walking and/or skiing down the hill. The thick vegetation and a couple of small rivers (large streams) make this into a trip lasting six or seven hours, with a high likelihood that darkness will come first. It's very important to either have a guide or follow the safety ribbons.

The slopes west of Timberline are very appealing. Since they are comparatively easy to ski, they draw a lot of people off piste. As a ski host and a part-time ski instructor at Timberline for years, Emilio has seen the necessity to help make those excursions safer. Thus, over the past five or six years, he has been actively working to increase safety on the mountain. He has drawn maps - published on www.ShredHood.org indicating the safety zones, plus set yellow tape boundaries to indicate the route back to the ski lift and a red tape boundary to show the way to ski to Government Camp. photo / Linda McGavin



A group of bikers stopped to view the waterfall on the Idaho side of the St. Paul Pass Tunnel (aka / Taft Tunnel) along the 15 mile Route of the Hiawatha Mountain Bike Trail. Known as the "Crown Jewel" of the Rail-to-Trail Adventures, it features 10 tunnels and 7 sky high trestles. photo provided by Mountain High Snowsport Club

MEADOWS RACE TEAM

Location: Hood River, Oregon www.meadowsraceteam.org meadowsraceteam@gmail.com

MT. BACHELOR SPORTS **EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

Location: Bend, Oregon www.mbsef.org mbsef@mbsef.org

MT. HOOD CULTURAL CENTER & MUSEUM

Location: Government Camp, Oregon

www.mthoodmuseum.org info@mthoodmuseum.org

MT. HOOD SKI **EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

Location: Government Camp, Oregon www.mthoodacademy.org bgunesch@centurytel.net

MT. HOOD SKI PATROL

Location: Mt. Hood, Oregon www.mthoodskipatrol.org mhsp@onebox.com

NORTHWEST TRAIL ALLIANCE

Location: Portland, Oregon www.nw-trail.org info@nw-trail.org

OREGON ADAPTIVE SPORTS

Location: Bend, Oregon www.oregonadaptivesports.org info@oregonadaptive sports.org

OREGON CANCER SKI OUT

Location: Wilsonville, Oregon www.cancerskiout.org cancerskiout@gmail.com

OUTDOORS FOR ALL **FOUNDATION**

Location: Seattle, Washington www.outdoorsforall.org info@outdoorsforall.org

SKI TO DEFEAT ALS

Location: Portland, Oregon www.SkiToDefeatALS.org ski@alsa-or.org

SkiDUCK

Location: Redmond, Washington www.skiduck.org

The Digital Insert can be found between pages 64 and 65 online.



photo / Joyce Rodela

RIGHT: Ski Week provides the chance to partake in ski activities as well as après ski choices like dog sled riding, snowmobiling, snowshoeing and numerous dining opportunities. However, the FWSA plans a fun themed dinner the last evening. Dave, Mae and Larry relax at the western themed dinner at the Telluride Ski Week. They even brought their cute ponies. photo by Sherrie Marco

Orange Council of Ski Clubs

by Sheila Van Guilder, President

Orange Council clubs existed before Orange Council was organized in 1972, as benefits to our community and the surrounding communities. Our council continued with the standards established as far back as Vand Bakke's beginnings in 1950. Our goals have been to establish a quality environment for friends, new, old and reestablished to connect through action trips, skiing, beach volleyball, water sports, hiking, biking, charity events, tennis and social activities, like club meetings, bridge, dinner and dancing. Over the years we have succeeded.

Our clubs have journeyed to join us on the present path we share - the joy of snowsports, the joy of friends with similar interests and ways to reach these goals at reasonable costs.

Most of our clubs have the pleasure of enjoying beach sports, such as sailing, kayaking, paddle boarding, beach volleyball and

swimming. While looking at the ocean, our members can turn and look over their shoulders toward the mountains. While looking at those mountains, they also prepare to go and share some adventures on the slopes. Weekly hiking, and/or biking is just part of the preparation needed to share the adventure of ski sports these days. Most newsletters report on problems and solutions to snowsport related interests while planning for the upcoming

At the top of most of our clubs' lists of activities are long distance national and international ski trips, outings to Mammoth Mountain and day adventures to the local mountains. With the new Mammoth passes, a number of our people do a warm up on either Bear or Summit at no additional costs. Whitefish, Big Sky, Steamboat Springs, Lake Tahoe area and, of course, the FWSA Trip to Breckenridge,

CO, January 28 - February 4, 2017 are just a few of the great places you will find Orange Council members in the coming season. Planning is in the works for joining the FWSA Adventure Trip to Alaska for the Iditarod, in early March, 2018.

Other club activities include support for charities such as Disabled Sports, Eastern Sierra, USARC, and Komen Race for the Cure. Our clubs and our members step up for many activities and local causes.

Orange Council has supported a race program from the early days. Schusski Race League races with ROKKA Race League to join forces on costs and race dates. The Race Dates for 2016-2017 are January 7, February 18, March 19, 2017 and of course, joining FWSA for the Far West Racing Association Championships, March 31 - April 2, 2017. All of these dates are for Mammoth Mountain Resort. Check



Olympic legend, Billy Kidd, posed with Ruth and Jim Nathan of Huntington Beach Ski Club in front of the Steamboat Resort table during the Silent Auction at the 2016 FWSA Convention.

photo provided by Maxine Hanlon

TOP RIGHT: Vand Bakke Ski Club traveled to Big White Ski Resort, Canada. Celebrating their 65th Anniversary, Vand Bakke is a FWSA Historic Ski Club. photo / Stephanie Delgadillo

the website for additional information.

Orange Council again will host a Council Picnic on October 22, and in February, 2017, a President's Dinner for all the club presidents and club/council leaders is planned.

Orange Council is also a member of the Far West Ski Association, and National Ski Council Federation. Our council is proud of our members who over the years have served FWSA and been awarded FWSA honors. Sheila Van Guilder is the current President. George Kish, Council Treasurer is also the FWSA Bylaws Chair.

Jess Gorman has continued to serve as Orange Council Trip Leader and Coordinator for the FWSA Annual Trip, which is to Breckenridge this year. We wish to honor Terry King who represented Orange Council in the Councils' Man and Woman of the Year recognition program, at the

annual FWSA Convention held this year in Arizona. Thank you for the hard work, Arizona Council – great Convention! Quite a few of our members made the journey and enjoyed the long weekend.

We do not have all of the clubs from the early days, but we have new energized clubs for the present and future. Check out our website, www.orangecouncil. org for Facebook and MeetUp connections to gain more information on what our clubs can offer - friends, adventure, activity and of course, snowsports.

Many members of SoCal councils and clubs are purchasing the Cali4nia Pass - a season pass that offers unlimited skiing and riding with no blackout dates at four great California mountain resorts: Mammoth Mountain, June Mountain, Bear Mountain and Snow Summit. Pass holders enjoy the local skiing for a quick get-a-way and travel to Mammoth and June for longer trips - many times during the ski season. Having the season pass allows for more days on the slopes. No ticket lines to wait in. There are also other benefits while enjoying a fun day on the slopes. Check it out at mammothmountain.com Mammoth / Bernie Rosow, skier / Peter Morning, photo

Orange Council of Ski Clubs

www.orangecouncil.org President: Sheila Van Guilder

(714) 656-6032 svanguil@yahoo.com

Orange Council of Ski Clubs Member Clubs & Contact Information

AUSLICH SKI CLUB

Belmont Shore/Long Beach President: Joe Vanderhoof ivanderhoof@netscape.net

BALBOA SKI & SPORTS CLUB www.balboaskiandsportsclub.com President: Connie Peacock

949-636-2062

FLATLANDS SKI CLUB

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

FOUNTAIN VALLEY SKI CLUB

www.fountainvalleyskiclub.org President: Gary Hoover 562-594-0841

HUNTINGTON BEACH SKI CLUB

www.hbskiclub.com President: Debi Rogers 714-960-2776

ORANGE COUNTY SKI CLUB www.ocskiclub.org

President: Anne Barneson pres@ocskiclub.com

SHOOTERS SKI CLUB www.shootersskiclub.org

President: Violet Chiapparbi Info@shootersskiclub.org

SNOWBOUNDERS SKI CLUB

www.snowbounders.org Membership: Mike Reed 714-639-9249

SNOWFLIERS SKI CLUB

President: *Jim Hughes*James.hughes@boeing.com

VAND BAKKE SKI CLUB

President: Gloria Madrid 626-917-6132 casamadrid@earthlink.net

For a list of regional ski shows, refer to page 9.

San Diego Council of Ski Clubs

by Chris Gill, President

The mission of San Diego Council of Ski Clubs (SDCSC) is to support and promote the sport of recreational skiing, racing and snowboarding in Southern California. Along with skiing, the council also promotes international travel and adventure trips to bring all club members together throughout the year. We believe diversity of year-round activities helps promote continuity and growth.

We currently have nine active clubs, with hundreds of members belonging to one or more. Each club enjoys setting up their own ski trips for the year. Some clubs are now joining together in ski trips to provide better value to club members. A lot of the clubs are doing day trips, hiking, biking, outdoor BBQ,'s, wine tasting, Summer Pops, tennis, water skiing and more.

Our ski clubs had many great ski trips last season. Action went to Red Mountain and White Fish, Pacific Rim went to Big White, North Island went to Copper Mountain, and Qualcomm went to Steamboat Springs. Our other clubs did many midweek and weekend trips to Mammoth. The SDCSC had their annual Aspen trip where Trip Leader, Mike Sanford, took 65 people: the largest group to date. This year's annual trip will be the 18th year for Bubba. As of August, we already have 50 people signed up.

The SDCSC had our appreciation dinner in June. The following officers were introduced for the 2016-2017 year: Christine Gill, President; Tom Sekreta, Vice President; Tom Bundgard, Past President; Debbie Schroeder, Secretary; Ron Hausch and Don Gill; Treasurer; and Alan Godwin, Travel Director. The council also thanked two council members, Rusty Etzel for her seven years of



The Qualcomm Ski and Snowboard Club had a great time on their trip to Steamboat Ski Resort in Colorado. photos provided by Chris Gill

service and *Stew Smith* for his three years as Treasurer.

The council had our annual Summer Happy Hour at Eddie V's, with Joan Thornton from Mayflower Travel as our guest on August 10. Our Gala will be held November 4. We have our Man & Women of the Year and the Joe Harris Awards that night. Last year, Eileen Weiner of Don Diego was Woman of the Year and Rick Bonnett of North Island was Man of the Year. The Joe Harris Award went to Debbie Schroeder of Torrey Pines.

SDCSC and its nine clubs will once again volunteer three days at Snow Jam Ski Show in November. The clubs will be doing bag check along with representing our council and clubs at a booth. Starting off the ski and holiday season the SDCSC will hold our annual Happy Holiday Hour at the famous Hotel Del Coronado in December. The beautiful lights and huge Christmas tree in the lobby make for some great photos and Christmas Carols.

The ski season starts with club sign-ups starting in October for trips running from December to April. Racing runs from December through March. Our plans for 2016-2017 include the annual

council trip to Aspen/Snowmass/Highlands. Additionally, several club trips are planned. Qualcomm is going to Banff; Action to Crested Butte and Big Sky; San Diego has three trips to Mammoth; Get Off Your Rockers, three 5-day trips to Mammoth; and North Island and Torrey Pines, are going to Big White in March.

Alan Godwin, our Travel Director, will once again serve as our Trip Leader for the Far West Ski Week to Breckenridge, Colorado. This trip is seven days and six nights from January 28 to February 4, 2017. For more information, contact alan@skiclubs.us. This is a great way to meet new people and mingle with other clubs.

The SDCSC international trips are getting ready to start. In the fall of 2016, we went to Ireland and Scotland, culminating in Munich Germany for Oktoberfest. We are already booked for 2017 with a Bike and Barge trip to Provence, France, followed by a post trip to the Loire Valley. Space is currently available on the bike trip. Contact information: esanford1@san.r.com.

Get off your Rockers did a bike trip to Canada in September, ending at the Calgary Stampede. Action and a few other

Jimmy Wehsener was the 2016 Recipient of the Jeff Wattenmaker/ Far West Masters Scholarship.

clubs are going to do wine tasting in the Guadalupe Valley in Baja, Mexico this fall.

SDCSC is very proud to announce that Jimmy Weshsener, who lived in San Diego and is pursuing his FIS ski racing career, was the recipient of the Jeff Wattenmaker / Far West Masters Scholarship Program. The Council has been sponsoring Jimmy for the past few years, first starting with his sister, Alexa. Jimmy has been a member of the Far West Masters scholarship program for five years. During that time, he was sponsored financially, as well as, participated in the master's fall race camps and most importantly established relationships with the many Far West Masters that served as advisors, role models and mentors. Jimmy will be attending the University of California, Berkeley in the fall.



With 17 different alpine and cross-country ski areas, there's terrain for every winter snow-sport enthusiast. And, you can't beat the views. photo / RenoTahoeUSA

SDCSC's Alpine Race League had a good, but challenging year. The good part was more snow, but the challenge was getting races cancelled. We are proud of the strong participation of our members who raced in both our local mountains and at the FWSA Ski Week. The league had their annual awards banquet and silent auction in May. A heartfelt *Thank You* is extended to *Eileen Weiner*, President, and all the committee members who help keep this race league going.

Moving forward, the council is looking to improve membership through continued expansion of our year-round activities, initiating the use of MeetUp group postings, and joining other councils in our Southern California region, plus proactively working with the FWSA organization. We are always excited to explore new places, people and ideas.

The SDCSC team looks forward to seeing you all on the ski slopes this 2016/17 ski season and being with fellow skiers and fun-loving folks at FWSA Ski Week, as well as, attending the Annual Convention in Boise, Idaho next June.

San Diego Council of Ski Clubs

www.skisandiego.org

President: Chris Gill (858) 382-1427 cmg@san.rr.com

San Diego Council of Ski Clubs Member Clubs & Contact Information

ACTION SKI AND SNOWBOARD CLUB

wwwactionski.org President: Anna Marie Sorriso 619-787-9124

DON DIEGO SKI CLUB www.skidondiego.org

President: Ed Offstein EdOffstein@gmail.com

GET OFF YOUR ROCKERS SKI CLUB www.getoffyourrockers.org

President: Shirl Troxel 858-602-7417 president@GetOffYour Rockers.org

NORTH ISLAND SNOWDRIFTERS www.nisnowdrifter.com

President: Dave Arnold 619-733-9266 president@nisnowdrifter.com

PACIFIC RIM ALLIANCE SNOW SPORTS CLUB

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

QUALCOMM SKI AND SNOWBOARD CLUB

President: *Katie Wiest* 858-263-9224 kwiestr@qualcomm.com

SAN DIEGO SKI CLUB www.sdskiclub.org

President: Art Grigg 858-453-8650 sd_art@hotmail.com

TORREY PINES SKI CLUB www.tpscsd.org

President: Hobe Schrodeder 858-334-8876 hobeschr@aol.com

Check out the Digital Edition at www.fwsa.org



Kris Buttenberg demonstrates the Ski Biste revolving carpet for off mountain training at the Sierra Council Annual Picnic. photo / Jo Simpson

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.

There are two Sierra Council ski clubs in Las Vegas - the Las Vegas Alpine Ski and Snowboard Club and the Las Vegas Ski, Snowboard and Sports Club. They offer winter ski trips, hiking and yearround social activities. The Las Vegas Ski, Snowboard and Sports Club went on a Fall Foliage Cruise to Canada and New York in October.

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 indicates, the club's primary focus is racing.

The Snow More Ski and Board Club is based in South Lake Tahoe and draws members from the Bay Area. Their primary focus is group travel.

The Capital Ski and Sports Club, based in Sacramento, offers skiing and social activities. The Sequoia Ski Club is in Visalia, California. The RU Ski Club draws primarily from the Bay Area. Many of the members are Russian.

In northern Nevada, the Reno Ski and Recreation Club offers a full schedule of social ac-





Located on the south shore, Heavenly Mountain Resort is Lake Tahoe's largest ski area, featuring the highest elevation - over 10,000' - and the longest vertical drop - 3,500'. Few ski resorts can match Heavenly's scenic beauty or its expansive network of lifts, terrain, trails and snowmaking. Heavenly Photo courtesy of Vail Resorts / Liesl Kenney, photographer

tivities throughout the year, as well as summer camping trips and group ski days at Lake Tahoe resorts. They are taking a club trip to Aspen 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.

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.

Our annual council holiday party in early December provides a festive start to the new ski season.

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.

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.sier-raleague.com* for links to the member clubs, racing information and Sierra Council activities.

Sierra League and Council

www.sierraleague.com

President: Jo Simpson (775) 787-7556 jo_simpson@sbcglobal.net

Sierra League and Council Member Clubs & Contact Information

ALPINE SKI and SNOWBOARD CLUB

Las Vegas, Nevada www.alpineskiandsnowboard club.com

President: Mark Zellner alpineskiclub@embarqmail.com

BOTA BAGGERS SKI CLUB

Truckee, California www.jaws.com/botabaggers President: Bob Ellis rellis9681@aol.com

CABERNET SKI AND RACE CLUB

Truckee, California President: *Nancy Ellis* nancyellis2@sbcglobal.net

CAPITAL SKI & SPORTS CLUB

Sacramento, California www.capitalski.org
President: Walt Johnson
president@capitalski.com

LAS VEGAS SKI, SNOWBOARD AND SPORTS CLUB

Las Vegas, Nevada www.lasvegasskiclub.com President: Barbara Gottlieb info@lasvegasskiclub.com

RENO SKI AND RECREATION CLUB

Reno, Nevada www.renoskiandrec.com President: Dianne Hilliard prez@renoskiandrec.com

RU SKI CLUB

Campbell, California www.bosin.net/ruski President: Pavel Bosin pavel@bosin.net

SEQUOIA SKI CLUB

Visalia, California www.sequoiaskiclub.com President: Woody Hogan wwhiii@hotmail.com

SUGAR BOWL SKI CLUB www.sugarbowlskiclub.com

Norden, California President: Adrianna Sullivan president@sugarbowlski club.com

TAHOE-DONNER SENIOR ALPINE SKI CLUB

www.tdski.com

President: Michael Eyton-Lloyd infotdski@gmail.com

TOP GUN SKI CLUB

President: *Greg Peairs* shiftyp@aol.com





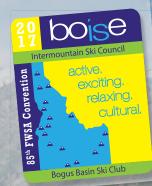
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Bogus Basin Ski Club & Intermountain Ski Council



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Reservations Online at http://bit.ly/FWSA2017-lodging

Room Rates per night plus tax single or double occupancy — \$134
Room Registration Deadline May 16, 2017

HOTEL FEATURES

- The Grove Fitness Center and Spa
- · Emilio's Restaurant
- The Bar
- NO resort fees, FREE Wi-Fi in guest rooms
- Self-Parking \$10 / Valet \$16
- Rates are available 3 days pre and post Convention
- · Walking distance to shops, restaurants, museums, theaters & more

TRANSPORTATION

- Air Transportation is via Boise Airport (BOI), located 10 minutes from Boise Centre.
- Rental cars and shuttle services are available at the airport.

Convention Highlights

- Silent Auction
- Travel Expo
- Snowsports Leadership Academy
- Celebrity Speakers
- Public Affairs Panels
- Saturday Awards Luncheon
- · Saturday Awards Dinner
- Far West General Meeting & Elections

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Wednesday
 - "A Taste of Idaho" (Hot Springs & Dutch Oven Dinner)
- Thursday
 - White Water Rafting Payette River
 - Downtown Boise Pub Crawls
- Friday
 - 11th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament
 - Day on the Mountain, Bogus Basin Ski Resort
 - Boise Green Belt, Nature Center Tour & Albertson Stadium
 - Fountain Party (Grove Plaza)

Jane Wyckoff

FWSA Convention Chairperson janewyckoff1@cox.net or 949-933-9607

Jeannine Davis

Silent Auction Chairperson
SilentAuction@fwsa.org or 415-328-2333

Mike Bouton

Intermountain Host Council Convention Coordinator mbouton0559@msn.com or 208-703-0444



THE FAR WEST SKI ASSOCIATION'S NEWEST INTERNATIONAL DESTINATION VALLE NEVADO, CHILE

Come join the FWSA's trip to Valle Nevado, Chile, in 2017! Valle Nevado is South America's premiere Ski Resort, offering access to 7,000 acres of terrain and the continent's most modern lift system. No lift lines, a laid-back, entertaining ambiance, comfortable lodging and gourmet dining are the hallmark of a Valle Nevado vacation. Just 90 minutes from Santiago, Valle's rugged Andean views, warm service and varied terrain will provide you with memories of a lifetime.



