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photo courtesy of Diamond Peak Ski Resort

2017 · 2018

FAR WEST

SKIER'S GUIDE

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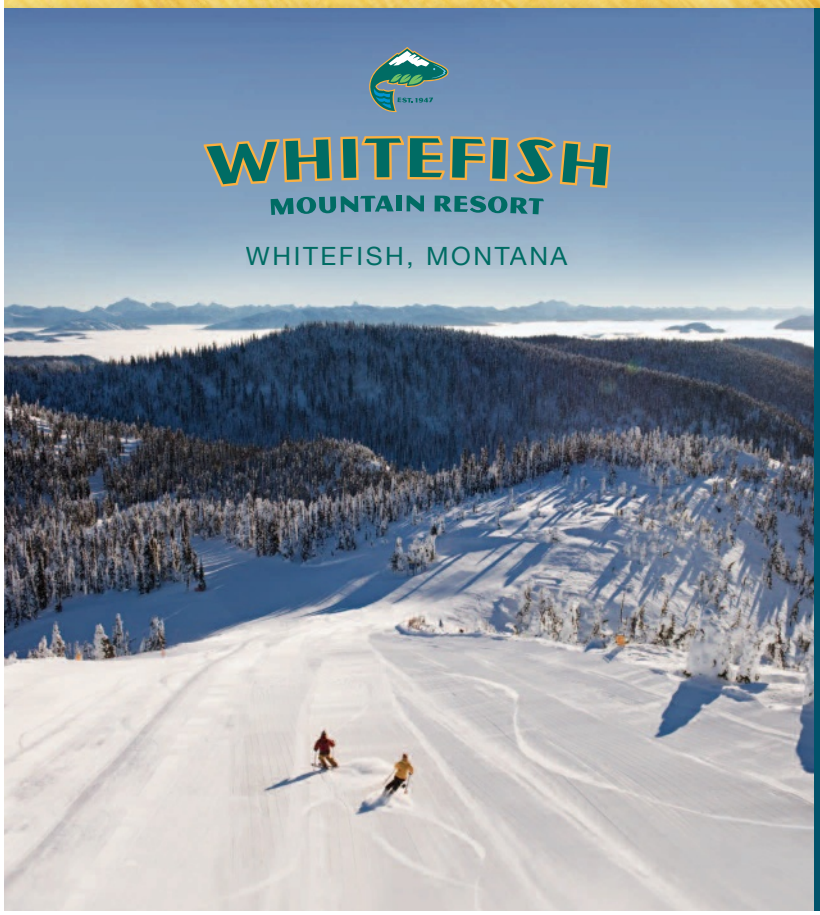

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Publisher:
Leigh Gieringer Graphic Services

Editor, Production Coordinator & Advertising Manager:
Leigh Gieringer

Assistant Editor:
Jane Wyckoff

Contributors:

Violet Anderson
Barbara Bousum
Sue Bishop
Michael Bouton
Bill Brace
Ken Calkins
Steve Coxen
Jeannine Davis
Stephanie Delgadillo
Bob Ellis
Nancy Ellis
Susanna Etrac
Gene Fulkerson
Chris Gill
Jane Gutierrez
Maxine Hanlon
Paula Hazzard
Todd Hood
Sue Jacox
Vin Keenan
Debbi Kor
David Krupp
Randy Lew
Fran Long
Richard Lubin, D.C.
Paul Markowitz
Arleigh Meiners
Lisa Miller
Sigrid Noack
Catherine Ohl
Sheri Parshall
Jimmy Petterson
Don Pribble
Gloria Raminha
Rod Robinson
Mike Sanford
Gary Seaton
Bill Silliman
Jo Simpson
Debbie Stewart
George Stewart
Rich Tonti
Emilio Trampuz
Sheila Van Guilder
Paul Vlasveld
John Watson
Amanda Wiebush
Jane Wyckoff

FWSA Convention Photographer - 2017:
Cindy Sherman Photography

Council/Club Circulation:
Arleigh Meiners - Arizona
Paul Vlasveld - Bay Area
Fran Long - Central
Michael Bouton - Intermountain
Michael Barrett - Las Vegas
David Krupp - Los Angeles
George Kish - Orange County
Barbara Bousum - Northwest
Jo Simpson - Reno
Chris Gill - San Diego
Jane Gutierrez - Direct Members

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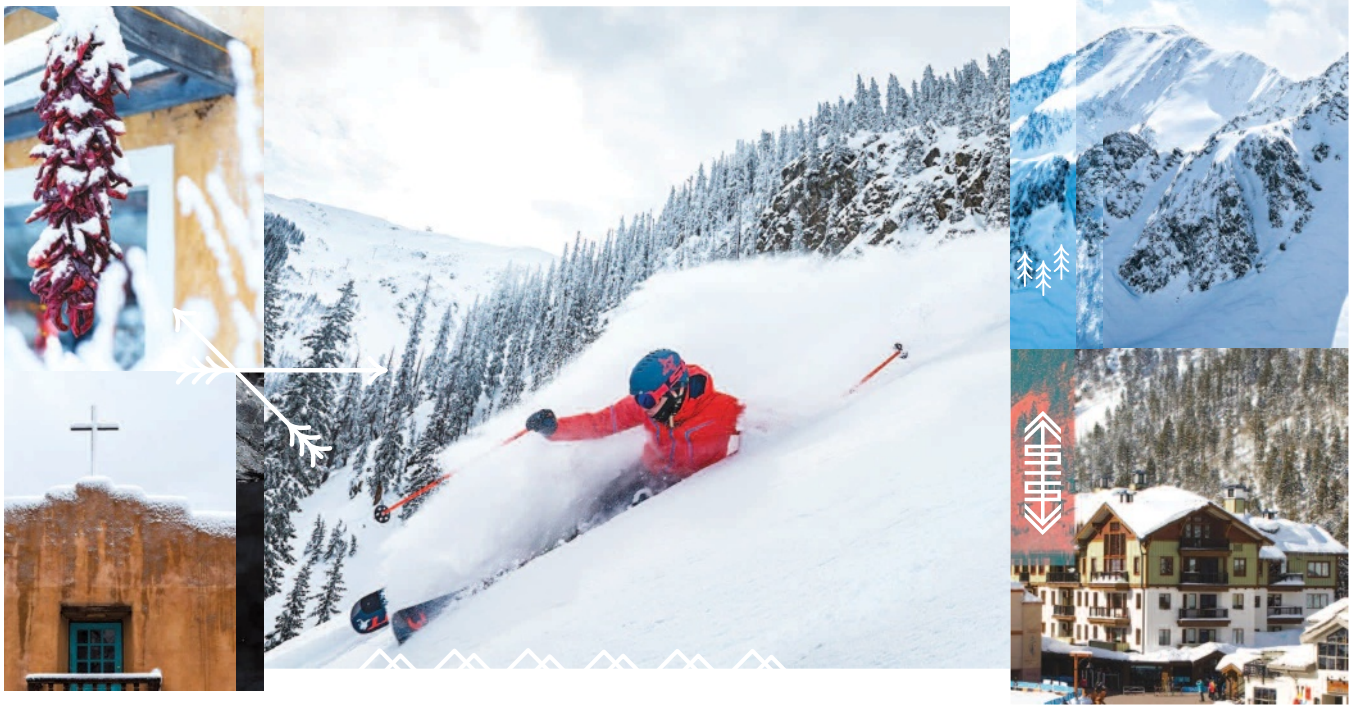

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INDEX 2017 - 2018

The FWSA has a great travel agenda planned for 2018 - 2020. Participants of the 2018 Far West Ski Association Ski Week will be traveling to Banff, Alberta, Canada to ski three great areas and visit the historic Banff Springs Hotel. Info starts on page **14.**

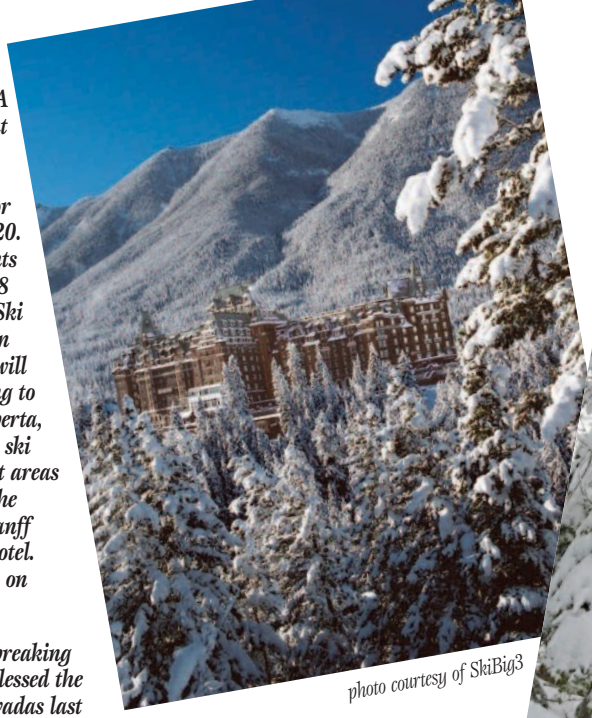

photo courtesy of SkiBig3

A record breaking snowfall blessed the Sierra Nevadas last season. Many resorts, including Squaw Valley extended their ski season well into the summer months. Far Right: Mammoth Mountain Ski Area was also blessed by the snow gods. **62**

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photo courtesy of Squaw Valley / Hank deVre, photographer

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Diamond Peak Ski Resort, located on the northeast shore of Lake Tahoe, offers miles of uncrowded runs and breath-taking views of the Lake.

photo courtesy of Diamond Peak Ski Resort / Zac Smith, photographer

Some of the Highlights of the 2017-2018 *Far West Skier's Guide* Digital Only Insert Include . . .

- *There's lots to do in the Reno/Lake Tahoe area in summer. Make your plans to come to the FWSA Convention in Reno early & stick around!*
- *Getting up the mountain can be equally adventurous as skiing down it. You won't believe some of these creative ways to get up a slope!*
- *The early days of US skiing: The sixty's were an exciting decade of real change! Let's take a walk down memory lane!*

photo / Jimmy Peterson

. . . online version available at *www.fwsa.org*

Jackson Hole Mountain Resort is known for its challenging terrain, but do you know that our visitors rate us highly for terrain variety as well? Rolling groomers, enhanced intermediate terrain and uncrowded long runs are here, too. We have prioritized improving the intermediate ski and snowboard experience over the last two years with the addition of the Teton Lift, Sweetwater Gondola and increased grooming capacity. We hope to see you in 2018!

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FAR WEST SKI ASSOCIATION
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Board of Directors
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PRESIDENT
Steve Coxen (503) 679-9022
E-mail: president@fwsa.org

SECRETARY
Sheri Parshall (503) 706-0522
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Randy Lew (530) 304-0802
E-mail: fwsa13randy@telis.org

VP COMMUNICATIONS
Cindy Krupp (310) 925-4142
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VP COUNCIL SERVICES
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E-mail: fwsadebbi@comcast.net

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VP MEMBERSHIP
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E-mail: jath10-14@hotmail.com

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E-mail: rellis9681@aol.com

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Nancy Ellis (530) 414-8261
Fax: (530) 582-0566
E-mail:
fwsatravelnancy@sbcglobal.net

VP INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL
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E-mail: fwsaintltrvl@prodigy.net

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CHAIRMAN TRUSTEES
Gloria Raminha (661) 800-8229
E-mail: garski2011@gmail.com

TRUSTEE
Tom Bundgard (619) 884-3848
E-mail: tbundgard@hotmail.com

TRUSTEE
Fran Long (805) 712-5781
E-mail: fancat87@gmail.com

TRUSTEE
Jane Wyckoff (949) 933-9607
E-mail: janewyckoff1@cox.net

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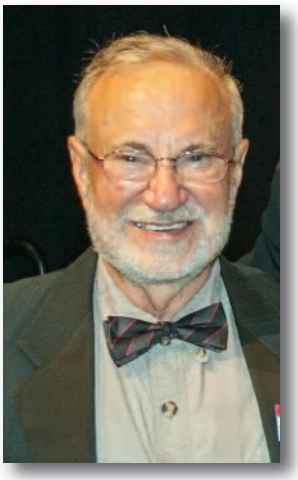

Greetings and welcome to the 30th edition of the *Far West Skier's Guide*. This magazine is the annual publication of the Far West Ski Association (FWSA). It will provide you with information to plan travel to new places, and introduce you to many choices for fun adventures, and help you find like-minded friends who enjoy skiing, boarding and many other recreational activities.

FWSA was founded in 1930. Our mission is to develop and provide benefits for all affiliated ski clubs and members. In doing so, FWSA has benefited all skiers. We are a non-profit, volunteer organization that is one of the largest ski associations in the U.S. Our nine member councils represent skiers and boarders in 12 western states including Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. Our clubs have over 50,000 members. If your club is affiliated with one of our councils, you are a member of FWSA. We welcome all snowsport enthusiasts, young and old, and we encourage participation in all snowsports. Our member clubs have active year round social and recreational events including ski trips, recreational ski racing, water skiing, hiking, river rafting, dinners, theater, cruises, diving, biking, softball, wine tasting, camping, parties and more. Many of our activities welcome families and children. Visit our website at ***www.fwsa.org*** or follow up 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 2018 calendar year. Our annual FWSA Ski Week is our kickoff event for the year. For one week, February 3 - 10, 2018 our members will ski and have fun in Banff, Alberta, Canada. We offer a full week of skiing, racing, parties and dinners.

Our second trip is a special once-in-a-lifetime trip to the Alaska Iditarod and skiing at Alyeska, February 25 - March 4, 2018. Information about each of these trips is available on our website on the North American Travel page and in the travel section on the following pages.

FWSA is also offering several international trips in 2018. We are taking a group of Far West skiers on a fabulous ski trip to Brides les Bain – Les Trois Vallées, France, March 4 - 11, 2018. Participants can extend their stay with a post trip to Lyon, Beaune and Paris, March 11 - 18, 2018. If you are only interested in the Lyon, Beaune and Paris travel, you can sign up for it as a "stand alone" trip.

Plans are underway for another dive trip in September, 2018. We have a Windjammer sailing trip in the British Virgin Islands in May, 2019 and other trips in the planning stages for 2019 and 2020. You can take part in all of this, and more, by joining a FWSA member club or joining as a FWSA direct member.

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!

Many 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. The FWRA Championships will be held at Mammoth Mountain, April 6 - 8, 2018. 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 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. Our goal is to effectively represent the interests of all our members and the snowsports public.

Our 86th Annual FWSA Snowsports Convention will be held June 7 - 10, 2018, at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, Reno, Nevada. The fun begins on Thursday, June 7, with two optional events, kayaking during the day and our annual Pub Crawl in the evening. Friday events will include the 12th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament, hiking along the shores of Lake Tahoe, a spa day, and a pool 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 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 weekend of events is co-hosted by the Bay Area Snow Sports Council and Sierra League & Council, so save the dates and make your reservations at the Atlantis soon. All details will be posted on the FWSA website. I hope to see you there.

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

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 86th Annual Far West Ski Association Convention in Reno, Nevada next June.

Far West Ski Association
Committee Chairs & Other Representatives
2017 - 2018

ANNUAL CONVENTION

ANNUAL CONVENTION CHAIR
Debbi Kor (503) 314-7078
E-mail: fwsadebbi@comcast.net

CONVENTION TREASURER
Randy Lew (530) 304-0802
E-mail: fwsa13randy@telis.org

CO-HOST COUNCIL CONVENTION COORDINATORS - 2018
Paul Vlasveld (BAC) (408) 314-4649
E-mail: pvlasveld@comcast.net
Jo Simpson (Sierra) (775) 372-6468
E-mail: jo_simpson@sbcglobal.net

SILENT AUCTION CHAIR
Jeannine Davis (415) 328-2333
E-mail: silentauction@fwsa.org

TRAVEL EXPO CHAIR
Fran Long (805) 712-5781
E-mail: fancat87@gmail.com

FWSA RECOGNITION PROGRAMS

AWARDS CHAIR/WEBMASTER
Catherine Ohl (858) 467-9469
E-mail: ohl@acatmeowz.com

ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR
David Krupp (310) 925-4143
E-mail: david.krupp@roadrunner.com

CLUB/COUNCIL COMMUNICATION AWARDS CO-CHAIRS
Cindy Krupp (310) 925-4142
E-mail: cindy.krupp@gmail.com
Paul Vlasveld (408) 314-4649
E-mail: pvlasveld@comcast.net

COUNCILS' MAN & WOMAN OF THE YEAR RECOGNITION PROGRAM CHAIR
Sheri Parshall (503) 706-0522
E-mail: cougskier@aol.com

FWSA PROCEDURES

HISTORY COMMITTEE CHAIR/ PARLIAMENTARIAN
John Watson (760) 723-6539
E-mail: fwsa.watson@gmail.com

BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIR
George Kish (714) 997-1090
E-mail: ge.kish@juno.com

COMMUNICATIONS/ PUBLICATIONS

INFORMATION SERVICES DIRECTOR
Position Open

MEDIA PRODUCER
George Stewart (559) 737-0882
E-mail: gwstewart@prodigy.net

FAR WEST SKIER'S GUIDE EDITOR & PUBLISHER
Leigh Gieringer (480) 600-6099
Fax: (480) 855-2303
E-mail: fwsg2@cox.net

THE COUNCILMAN EDITOR
Connie Burdette (408) 270-8953
E-mail: cmburdet@pacbell.net

FAR WEST NEWS FLASH EDITOR
Debbi Kor (503) 314-7078
E-mail: fwsadebbi@comcast.net

FWSA OUTREACH

CHARITIES & OUR COMMUNITY CHAIR
Sigrid Noack (310) 823-1373
E-mail: skisig@gmail.com

FAMILY & YOUTH INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR
Fran Long (805) 712-5781
E-mail: fancat87@gmail.com

SAFETY COMMITTEE CHAIR
Richard Lubin, D.C. (925) 828-7454
E-mail: botaboardr@comcast.net

TAX ADVISOR
John Reinhardt (503) 330-3838

2017 - 2018 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: *David Krupp* (310) 925-4143
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: *Barbara Bousum* (503) 577-4014
E-mail bbousum@gmail.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: chrismgill@me.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***

Far West Ski Association women with Olympian, Nancy Greene, at the National Ski Council Federation Annual Meeting at Sun Peaks, BC. Left to Right: Sheri Parshall, Sigrid Noack, Nancy Greene, Jane Gutierrez, Gloria Raminha and Jo Simpson. *photo provided by Jo Simpson*

Council Services is the Link Between FWSA Councils

by Jo Simpson
Vice President - Council Services, FWSA

The FWSA 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 & Our Community Recognition***, 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 Charity & Our Community Service Recognition, chaired by *Sigrid Noack*, highlights the good work our clubs and councils do to benefit their communities. Our councils and clubs provide an amazing amount of support to local and national charities. The considerable charity and community work of FWSA clubs is further detailed by Sigrid on pages 48 - 49. A yearly club and council charity awards program honors clubs and councils who have done outstanding charity and community service work. The top scoring clubs and councils are invited to provide displays of their good work at the Annual FWSA Convention.

The *Councils' Man and Woman of the Year* program invites councils to honor an outstanding man and woman from their member clubs by sending them to the FWSA Convention to be honored, and to compete for the *FWSA Councils' Man and Woman of the Year* recognition. *Sheri Parshall* is the new chair for this program and will be taking over the 2018 competition. We want to thank *Gene Fulkerson* and *Donn Bryant* before him, for their years of dedicated service to the program. The 2017 council candidates and the FWSA winners are highlighted on pages 38 - 39. We are grateful to Big White Ski Resort for their sponsorship of this program over many years.

The *Club and Council Communications* and *Outstanding Club Awards* saw significant changes in the application and judging process that greatly increased submissions this year. *Paul Vlasveld* and *Cindy Krupp* used their substantial technical skills to design a simplified submission and electronic judging process within a few short weeks for the 2017 submissions this spring.

The *Family and Youth Involvement 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 Council Services programs. Please contact me at *jo_simpson@sbcglobal.net.* I look forward to hearing from you.

The NSCF holds an annual meeting each year at a different ski resort. In 2017, the meeting was held at Sun Peaks Grand in Sun Peaks, B.C., Canada. Each of the member councils sends a representative to gather and share information. *photo / Bill Brace, Ohio Valley Ski Council*

National Ski Council Federation Brings Councils & Clubs Together Nationwide

by Jo Simpson

Public Affairs Chair, National Ski Council Federation
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 2017 annual meeting in September was hosted by the Sun Peaks Grand and Sun Peaks Resort in British Columbia.

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

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

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

The Federation elects officers every two years. The officers elected in 2017 are: President, *Lisa Beregi* (Crescent Ski Council – Eastern US); Vice President, *Cheryl Mann* (Texas Ski Council); Treasurer, *Greg Schmid* (Cleveland Metropolitan Ski Council); and Secretary, *Sheri Parshall* (Northwest Ski Club Council). Like FWSA, the Federation is completely operated by volunteers.

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

Samoens, French Alps

Val Thorens, French Alps

Tomamu Hokkaido, Japan

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Snowbomb Ski & Snowboard Shows

2017 WESTERN REGION SKI & SNOWBOARD SHOWS

compiled by Jane Wyckoff

OCTOBER

Snowvana
October 20 – 21, 2017
Veterans Memorial Coliseum
Portland, OR
https://snowvana.com

SnowBomb Ski & Snowboard Festival – Santa Clara
October 28 – 29, 2017
Santa Clara Convention Center,
Santa Clara, CA
www.snowbomb.com

NOVEMBER

SkiFever & Snowboard Show
November 3 - 5, 2017
Portland Expo Center, Portland, OR
www.portlandskifever.com

SnowBomb Ski & Snowboard Festival – San Francisco
November 4 - 5, 2017
Pier 35, San Francisco, CA
www.snowbomb.com

Colorado Ski & Snowboard Expo
November 10 - 12, 2017
Colorado Convention Center,
Denver, CO
www.bewisports.com/expos/denver/

SnowJam Show San Diego
November 10 - 12, 2017
Del Mar Fairgrounds, Del Mar, CA
http://10times.com/snowjam-show

Sacramento SnowBomb Ski and Board Festival
November 11 - 12, 2017
Cal Expo Center, Sacramento
www.ssnowbomb.com

54th Annual Ski Dazzle Ski Show & Snowboard Expo / Los Angeles
November 17-19, 2017
Los Angeles Convention Center,
Los Angeles, CA
www.skidazzle.com/losangeles.htm

SnowJam Show Las Vegas Ski & Snowboard Expo
November 18-19, 2017
Cashman Center, Las Vegas
http://10times.com

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

Tyrone and Betty Anderson - Pocatello Ski Association, with Billy Kidd, Olympic Medalist - currently with Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation, are intrigued by a mere part of the Glory Days Ski Museum collection featuring past ski equipment at the 2017 FWSA Annual Convention. The Museum is located in Boise, Idaho.
Cindy Sherman Photography

Recognizing Our Many Far West Partners

by Debbi Kor
Vice President - Marketing, FWSA

Far West Ski Association has an incredible relationship with our many snowsport partners. From our tour operators, to the transportation companies, to our favorite bike touring companies, to our resort partners across the country… Canada, and beyond.

Partnership and sponsorship is an extremely important 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 our many activities and events, as well as food, 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 the award recipients of our four various programs listed below. Added to that, for Convention 2017, we had three Corporate Sponsors: *Boise Convention & Visitor's Bureau* was our Gold Sponsor; *Bogus Basin Mountain Recreation Area* was our Silver Sponsor; and *Idaho Ski Area Association* came in as our Bronze Sponsor.

The Far West Ski Association's Annual Convention provides our members and partners many opportunities, throughout the weekend, to share productive one-on-one-time. For our vendors, the convention allows them to showcase their resort, and our club trip leaders and decision makers are able to plan future trips at Friday night's Silent Auction and the Travel Expo on Saturday morning. Members can visit with representatives from their favorite resorts, 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?

As a member of a ski club, council, and Far West Ski Association, a member receives some great bonuses. Not only do you have a chance to ski with good friends, in some fantastic ski areas, but you are eligible for other bonuses, as well. Check out our website - ***www.fwsa.org*** - to see the many Member Benefits available simply by clicking on *Member Corner/Benefits*. By showing your FWSA membership card, members can enjoy discounted rates on lift tickets, ski rentals and clothing, as well as 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 great benefits.

Far West Ski Association highly values the continued support of our many Program Sponsors. *Telluride Resort* and *Mountain Lodge Telluride* have been a three-year sponsor of the annual ***Far West Safety Award***. *Big White Ski Resort* has sponsored the ***Councils' Man and Woman of the Year Award*** since 2001. *Steamboat Ski and Resort Corporation* sponsors the ***Western Ski Heritage Award***, and *Aspen Skiing Company* has been sponsoring our newest program for the past three years, which is the ***Environment Award***. *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 throughout the Far West region. We thank each and every one of you for your continued support of Far West Ski Association and its programs.

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

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FWSA DIRECT MEMBER APPLICATION 2017 - 2018

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, 2018.

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
P.O. Box 5714, Inglewood, CA 90310
323-325-5534 / *vp-membership@fwsa.org*

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Home Phone #:

Daytime Phone #:

Fax #:

E-mail:

Signature: Date:

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

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

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

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

☐ 2017 - 2018 ☐ 2018 - 2019

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Phone:

E-mail:

Members of the National Brotherhood of Skiers enjoy family time at Mammoth Mountain.
photo provided by Jane Gutierrez

What Makes Your Club Attractive?

by Jane Gutierrez
Vice President - Membership, FWSA

One of the topics that I'm frequently asked about is recruiting and retaining members. Many clubs and organizations are shrinking, and there is no sure answer to fix this issue. I have spoken with clubs that seem to use some techniques that have worked for them, and I hope that these suggestions will help you.

- Coordinate Alpine skiing trips at local hills - can be day trips or weekend trips
- Have a ski swap/sale
- Fall and spring social events
- Organized outings such as wine tasting, concerts, etc.
- Ski trips with instructional training provided
- Supporting local youth race teams
- Engaging/partnering with other ski clubs during events
- Family friendly events and community outreach
- Community partnerships with high school and college ski clubs (works well with peer connections)
- Expanding membership beyond your city
- Maintain goal of affordability of events for members
- Benefits that your members like such as discount lift tickets
- Current and interactive website and social media posts (of special interest to millennials)
- Annual strategic planning to examine what is working for your organization, and what is not

Let Far West Ski Association help you with some of your efforts. We offer fantastic trips and discounts on hotels, clothing, lift tickets, rental car discounts and more for your members through our Membership Card. We can recruit a new member and direct them to your club. Individual members can also remain as a direct member with FWSA for a nominal fee and travel with your club. Through membership in your club, individuals can have access to all that FWSA has to offer: recreational racing, legislative, safety, and resort information, leadership and educational classes, and our fun filled Annual Convention!

To join as an individual member, fill out the membership form on the top left of this page and attach with payment, or contact me at vp-*membership@fwsa.org* for details. Also check out our adventures on Facebook and YouTube!

NORTH AMERICAN TRAVEL

The 2018 FWSA Ski Week will be held in Banff - in the heart of the Banff National Park. This skier is enjoying the fabulous powder at Sunshine Village Resort.

photo courtesy of SkiBig3, Reuben Krabbe, Photographer

Make Plans to Join Us!

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

by Nancy Ellis
Vice President of North American Travel, FWSA

■ Banff, Alberta, Canada ■
■ Alyeska & Anchorage, Alaska ■
■ Steamboat, Colorado ■
■ Winter Park, Colorado ■

The Far West Ski Association Travel Program offers trips for ski clubs and direct members to destinations in North America, Canada, and U.S. territories. Our annual ski week is very popular and features a week of skiing/boarding, parties with dancing, racing, and opportunities for shopping and winter activities in the area. This February, our ski week will be to Banff, Alberta, Canada, and in 2019 our trip will be to Steamboat Resort, Colorado. Past ski weeks have included Breckenridge, Telluride, Whistler, Beaver Creek, Aspen/Snowmass, Jackson Hole, Sun Valley, Keystone, and Big Sky.

We also offer a second ski trip in March which is very popular – the Mini Trip. This is typically a 5 day late spring trip. It doesn't include as many planned activities to keep the trip more affordable. Participants have flexibility to explore the area on their own or participate in group activities. This year, we will be going to Alyeska Resort and then to Anchorage, Alaska to see the ceremonial start of the Iditarod. In March 2019, we will be going to Winter Park in Colorado. Past trips have been to Mt. Bachelor, Big White, Snowbasin, Whitefish, Crested Butte, and Sun Peaks.

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

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

TOP: The town of Banff is surrounded by strikingly beautiful mountains including the Peak of Mt. Rundle. The streets of the town are lined with an excellent choice of restaurants, bars, shops, art galleries and museums. There is so much to do besides enjoying the world class ski resorts and their slopes, their setting and their variety. *photos / SkiBig3, Reuben Krabbe, photographer*
LOWER: Sunshine Village Resort is just one of these fine resorts. *Paul Zizka, photographer*

Mt. Norquay / Lake Louise / Sunshine - Ski the Big 3 - in Alberta, Canada

Banff is the Site of the 2018 FWSA Ski Week

February 3-10, 2018

Council Trip Leaders are taking sign-ups for the annual FWSA Ski Week to Banff.

Banff is the gateway to the Canadian Rockies and Banff National Park, a UNESCO 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 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 have their choice of staying in Banff at the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel or stay in town at the Ptarmigan Inn, Banff Park Lodge, or Bow View Lodge. People will leave this area feeling invigorated, inspired, and amazed at its exceptional beauty!

Steve Pampel, ***SkiBig3***, and Sandy Gaudette, ***Skigroup.net*** have teamed up to make this a memorable ski week experience for Far West Ski Association members and their friends. Come join us on this trip! Contact your Council Trip Leader, or check the FWSA website ***www.fwsa.org*** for more information.

Here is the schedule for the Week:

Saturday, Feb. 3:	Arrival Day and Registration
Sunday, Feb. 4:	Free Mountain Tours; Skiing/Boarding; Local Activities; Welcome Party, Banff Park Lodge
Monday, Feb. 5:	Free Mountain Tours; Skiing/Boarding; Local Activities; Racing at Lake Louise
Tuesday, Feb. 6:	Free Mountain Tours; Skiing/Boarding; Local Activities; Council Parties
Wednesday,, Feb. 7:	Skiing/Boarding; Local Activities; Council Challenge and Picnic at Lake Louise
Thursday, Feb. 8:	Skiing/Boarding; Local Activities; Racing at Lake Louise; Banquet & Dancing at Banff Springs Hotel; Theme – Snowball Gala
Friday, Feb. 9:	Skiing/Boarding; Local Activities; Après Party at Banff Park Lodge
Saturday, Feb. 10:	Departures

This is a perfect trip for non-skiers or boarders! So many activities abound: Sightseeing Gondola rides; Dog Sled Tours; Cross Country Skiing; Banff Hot Springs; Snowshoeing; Tubing; Johnston Canyon Icewalk; Yamnuska Wolfdog Sanctuary; Heli Sightseeing; Snowmobiling; Wildlife Tours; Banff Gondola Ride up Sulfur Mountain, and more. Join us!

photos / SkiBig3, Reuben Krabbe, photographer *Paul Zizka, photographer*

***Left:** From the slopes of Lake Louise Ski Resort, snowsport enthusiasts can view the charming village of Lake Louise and the lake of the same name. The week before the FWSA Ski Week, the resort will host the famous International Ice Carving Competition event at the Ice Magic Festival. Carvers sculpt original ice sculptures from 300 pound blocks of solid ice, but they only have 34 hours to create their masterpieces. Be certain to venture over to see it.*
***Right:** The town of Banff lies below Mount Norquay - a local favorite mountain resort.*

2017 Breckenridge Ski Week

Far West Ski Association, and all the participants of this fabulous ski week, would like to thank the generous donors to our 2017 Breckenridge Ski Week held January 30 – February 6. A great time was had by all!

- Breckenridge Brewery
- Breckenridge Recreation Department
- Burke & Riley Pub
- Downstairs at Eric's
- Escape Room Breckenridge
- Kenosha Steak House
- Mother Loaded Tavern
- Park Ave Pub
- Ready Paint Fire!
- Simply Massage
- Soothe Spa
- Traverse Bar & Restaurant

Skigroup thanks the Far West Ski Association for their business in partnering on the 2018 Ski Week to Banff, Alberta, Canada.

The Alyeska Aerial Tram is a short scenic ride from The Hotel Alyeska to the top of Mt. Alyeska. From the Tram, you can see for miles. *photo / Alyeska Ski Resort*

Alyeska Ski Resort & Attend the Ceremonial Start of the Famous Iditarod in Anchorage, Alaska

The 2018 FWSA Mini Ski Week

February 25 - March 4, 2018

February 25 – March 4, 2018 are the dates for the FWSA trip to Alyeska, Alaska's premier ski destination. One of the highlights of the trip will be a stop in Anchorage to see the ceremonial start of the Iditarod, the Fur Rondy, and other events related to the Iditarod. There's still time to sign up for this exciting, not to be missed trip!

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. After a day on the slopes you can relax in the saltwater whirlpool. From the resort you can spot wildlife, the tides of the Turnagain Arm, and seven hanging glaciers.

In the late 1890s and early 1900s, settlers came to Alaska following a gold strike. They traveled by boat to the coastal towns of Seward and Knik and from there, by land into the gold fields. The trail they used is today known as The Iditarod Trail, named after the Iditarod River. The 1,000 plus mile trail was first surveyed by the Alaska Road Commission in 1908 and is now one of the National Historic Trails designated by the U.S. Congress. In the winter, their only means of travel was by dog team. The Iditarod Trail soon became the major "thoroughfare" through Alaska. The Annual Iditarod Race follows this trail. Each team consists of 16 dogs, thus over 1,000 dogs begin this famous race. *photo / Visit Anchorage / Rebecca Coolidge, photographer*

2019 Ski Week Steamboat, Colorado

February 2 - 9, 2019

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

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

Mountain Stats:

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

Other Highlights:

- 7 nights accommodations; most properties offer FREE parking and baggage handling is included
- 5 or 6 day group lift ticket – adult group rate better than senior pricing, so we'll just sell the adult group lift ticket
- FREE public transportation throughout Steamboat, the village area, and downtown. Many properties include a free private property shuttle to/from the resort and throughout the town
- Hosted Wine Tasting/Après Party at Howelsen Hill, Olympic Hall, with local Olympic Athletes as guests
- Non-ski activities available: natural hot springs; guided snowshoe tours; tubing; sleigh ride to Ragnar's on-mountain restaurant; snowmobiling; ice-skating; cross-country ski tours; dog sledding; spa services, and much more!

Mountain Stats:

- Summit Elevation - 3,939'
- Base Elevation - 250'
- Skiable Terrain - 1,500 acres
- Total Runs - 72
- Lifts - 7

We will stay at the Hotel Captain Cook located in downtown Anchorage and within walking distance to the Iditarod opening activities and the Fur Rendezvous. FWSA and Sports America Tours are planning a fabulous trip.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Wildlife Tour
- Dog Sledding
- Glacier Walk
- Glacier Cruise
- Heli-ski/Cat Skiing
- Sleigh Rides
- Anchorage Museum

Steamboat Ski Resort - encompassing seven mountain peaks - is famous for its Champagne Powder®. Many snow enthusiasts also enjoy their gladed runs.
photos / Larry Pierce/Steamboat Ski Resort

Sara Clemons and Mike Hibbard of Sports America Tours, plus Larry Young, Steamboat Senior Sales Manager and April Bruder, Steamboat National Sales Manager, have teamed together to plan an extraordinary ski week experience for our group. Information about the Steamboat Ski Week will be available beginning in early spring 2018. Contact your Council Trip Leader, or check the FWSA website ***www.fwsa.org*** for more information.

The downtown architecture of Steamboat Springs is reminiscent of its early history as a ranching and mining town. The area has several natural geothermal hot springs. Early settlers mistakenly thought they heard a Steamboat coming down the river when they heard the gurgling. Thus, the settlement was called Steamboat Springs. Winter travel was difficult in those early years. Putting long boards on one's feet was the only method of transportation during those long, harsh mountain winters. Steamboat Springs was in the forefront of skiing as a pleasurable pastime dating back to 1913 when Carl Howelsen moved into town from Norway. He introduced ski jumping on Howelsen Hill, now part of Howelsen Ski Area. He also founded the still popular Steamboat Springs Annual Winter Carnival.

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Winter Park Resort, having recently celebrated their 75th Anniversary, is Colorado's longest continually operated ski resort. There are seven distinct world-class territories on five mountain peaks spread over 3,000 skiable acres. Their award-winning terrain includes groomers, terrain parks, deeps, steeps, trees and the world-famous moguls on Mary Jane. The resort is a favorite for groups and families.

photos courtesy of Winter Park Resort

Winter Park Resort, Colorado

Join us for the 2019 FWSA Mini Ski Week

March 24 - 29, 2019

For our 2019 Mini Ski Week, we're going to Winter Park Resort, Colorado. Five big mountains provide extensive variety for all levels. The resort offers thousands of skiable acres, including Vasquez Cirque, a lift-serviced - but essentially a backcountry experience for advanced skiers and boarders. Our group will be staying at the Vintage Resort Hotel located at the base of the resort which offers a variety of accommodations from traditional hotel rooms to suites. It's a 300 yard walk to lifts and a shuttle service is available.

The property offers the following amenities:

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

Trip Includes:

- Welcome Party
- Farewell Party
- 5 Nights Lodging at Vintage Resort Hotel (double occupancy)
- 4 day Lift Tickets
- Discounted Ground Transportation from Denver Airport to Winter Park.

Winter Park Statistics:

- 354 inches of annual snowfall
- 3,081 acres
- 22 lifts
- 8 high-speed quads plus the new Eskimo Quad
- Top Elevation 12,060 feet; base 9,000 feet
- 3% expert; 52% advanced; 37% intermediate; 8% beginner

There are many activities for non-skiers such as snowshoeing, snowcat and snowmobile tours, and mountaintop dining in the magnificent lodge at Sunsport. There are many restaurants and shopping in the nearby towns of Winter Park and Fraser.

Gloria Saiya-Woods, Ski.com and Winter Park have planned a great trip for our group. Looking forward to you joining us! Information and pricing will be available on the Far West Ski Association website, ***www.fwsa.org*** in early spring. Credit card payments available.

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

A Caribbean Experience

The 2019 FWSA Adventure Trip
Island Windjammer Tall Ship Sailing Cruise

May 19 - 26, 2019

Save the dates: May 19 – 26, 2019 for this first-of-a-kind FWSA Adventure Trip! Sail from Tortola and explore the fabulous British Virgin Islands on a 6-night, 7-day cruise on the Island Windjammers' vessel Sagitta. Visit the islands of Virgin Gorda, Norman Island, Cooper, Island Jost Van Dyke, and Tortola and enjoy all the adventures those islands have to offer.

Trip Includes:

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

Options:

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

Trip information and sign up forms are located on the FWSA website: ***www.fwsa.org***. The trip is limited to 24 passengers, so sign up soon! Credit card payments available.

LEFT: The Run of Fame is a spectacular Ski Arlberg circuit for visitors to try. This group was about to experience this famous run! It's a 65 kilometer round trip with a combined total of 18,000 vertical meters and is dedicated to the stars from sport and film who have glided down the snowy slopes on skis in the past. RIGHT: Buda Castle District is the historical castle and palace complex of the Hungarian kings in Budapest. It was first completed in 1265, but the massive Baroque palace today occupying most of the site was built between 1749 and 1769. Buda Castle sits on the south tip of Castle Hill, bounded on the north by what is known as the Castle District which is famous for medieval, Baroque and 19th-century houses, churches and public buildings. The castle is a part of the Budapest World Heritage Site, declared in 1987. photos / George Stewart

If International travel is the best form of education…let's join in on the Master Class! When you lose yourself, do you also find yourself? It is when we are the furthest from home that we become ourselves. This is where we discover new things, grow and learn from our fellow travelers while exploring destinations. There's always more to see, do and many reasons why sharing the experience with a group enhances your perspective, experience and the journey.

FWSA offers various types of travel opportunities including an Annual International Ski Week and extension trip, an Adventure trip every two years, an Annual Scuba Dive trip and other special travel opportunities.

2017 International Ski Week to St. Anton am Arlberg Region with an extension to Vienna & Budapest

Oh… the Ahhh… in Austria! What is it that makes Austria unique and special? It is the scenery, the gracious people, the culinary delights, the arts and culture or all of the above and more! There's just something special while traveling in Austria and 43 FWSA members experienced this while skiing in St. Anton am Arlberg March 11-19, 2017.

Our members enjoyed the beautiful country of Austria, offering an amazing array of sights, sounds and tastes that pleased both skiers and non-skiers alike. St. Anton am Arlberg is considered one of the world's top ski resorts and après-ski destinations. We stayed at the beautiful 4 Star Schwarzer Adler Hotel which offered a full-service luxury property complete with Jacuzzis, pool and spa services. It is in the charming pedestrian zone and offered convenient ski storage at the base of the gondola. Our ski pass provided skiing at multiple resorts including: St. Anton, St. Christoph and Stuben, Lech, Zurs and others. This area is considered one of the ***"Best of the Alps"*** ski resorts and was appreciated by all.

We invited another ski group from Michigan, who also was working with Holidaze Ski Tours, to meet us for an Après Social at the Hotel Schwarzer Adler and to join us on our day tour to Vaduz, Liechtenstein. This was great fun to get to connect with fellow skiers, share stories and tell tales.

We were excited to take 26 people to Vaduz, Liechtenstein since that was a new destination for FWSA. Liechtenstein is the fourth smallest country in Europe, yet the Prince is the richest monarch in Europe. We learned from our guide, Meli, that Vaduz is the capital with a population of 5,600 and the entire country has only 37,000 inhabitants. Vaduz has its own parliament in which the Prince is the head and has the power to sanction all new laws. They are not a part of the European Union. The country borders the Swiss mountains, and 18 miles are along the Rhine River. They have a good relationship with Switzerland and still use the Swiss Franc today.

It is a small country with enormous wealth, primarily from the financial business world, which means the way of life has changed from the simple life of farming as in years past. It was fascinating to learn that the Prince is self-supporting. He has farm land in the US, an enormous art collection and does not get money from the government. The most interesting fact is that women finally got the right to vote in 1984!

Wednesday evening, we enjoyed a free ski and fireworks show put on by St. Anton. The show was very impressive and attended by hundreds of snowsports enthusiasts.

Our farewell party was held at the Murrmel, just across the street from our hotel. We enjoyed wonderful appetizers, refreshing beverages and we were forced to get everyone on their feet to dance to celebrate an exceptional ski week in St. Anton am Arlberg!

Our extension and stand-alone trip was to Vienna and Budapest. Twenty-nine participants enjoyed these two interesting cities. Vienna is considered *"The Paris of Eastern Europe"* with extensive art, music and culture. Our half-day city walking and bus tour gave us an overview of the city, a tour of the Hapsburg's summer palace known as the Schunbrunn Palace and then many were off to explore the many museums, enjoy the Vienna Philharmonic performance in the Musikverein Golden Hall, attend the ballet and much more. Vienna is such an interesting city, we found incredible beauty in its architecture, sculptures, interestingly painted buildings and even watched the famous Lipizzaner horse training session before touring the Schunbrunn Palace. Nighttime was just as stunning as seeing everything in the daylight.

One afternoon, we met our guide, Helga, who was full of energy, great humor and had excellent English, which added to our wine tasting/tour experience in Baden.

We said our goodbyes to Vienna, promising to return, and off to Budapest we went. The city tour was delightful providing us blues skies and temperatures in the 60s. Budapest is often referred to as *"The Pearl of the Danube"* with its rich history, the second largest parliament buildings in the world, a city with incredible diversity, all which awards them as being a world Enesco city. The Jewish town has the second largest temple/synagogue and the Heroes Square included the tomb of the unknown soldier from WWI. Budapest is divided by the Danube, where you have the Buda and the Pest sides. We stayed in the Pest side, which is where the blue-collar workers live and the Buda side is a more affluent white-collar living. There are 155 thermal baths which offers therapeutic healing waters for those who enjoy them. Twenty-five percent of their economy comes from tourism. We could see why this is such a unique and popular travel destination.

On Friday evening, we had a delightful dinner cruise down the Danube. We had the entire boat to ourselves with a delicious spread of food. We had to stop and pinch ourselves from time to time, realizing that we were there, taking in the spectacular views of the building lit up at night. We all agreed, our farewell dinner cruise was the highlight of our trip experience in Budapest!

On a past dive trip, a FWSA group stayed at the enchanting Beqa Lagoon Resort in the Fiji Islands. Plans are being made for the 2018 dive adventure. Check website for info!

FWSA's 8th Annual Scuba Dive Trip to Roatán

Our scuba dive trips are becoming more popular for both scuba divers and non-divers. Thirty-four participants had an outstanding vacation experience. We were excited to offer an incredible price at the Mayan Princess Beach Resort in Roatán, Honduras - September 23 - 30, 2017. This all-inclusive resort included seven nights lodging, all meals, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, five days of three tank dives plus 1-night dive, PADI 5 Star Instructor Development Dive operation, and much more. Non-divers also joined us at this beautiful resort for a special getaway vacation.

Les Trois Vallées covers 600 kilometers (over 370 miles) of interconnected ski runs - from novice to vertical couloirs. There is terrain for everyone. These eight distinct resorts are accessed by a single lift pass. If nature doesn't cooperate, there are over 2,100 artificial snow making machines. Les Trois Vallées includes the internationally renowned resorts of Courchevel, Val Thorens, Méribel, Les Menuires, Saint Martin de Belleville, La Tania, Orelle and Brides-les-Bains. Our group will be staying in Brides-les-Bains. (pictured). Also, check out Jimmy Petterson's article starting on page 58.

INTERNATIONAL

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

by Debbie Stewart
Vice President - International Travel, FWSA

Les Trois Vallées is the world's largest ski area linking eight unique resorts together.

Les Trois Vallées / Brides-les-Bains will be the Destination for the 2018 FWSA International Ski Week

March 4 - 11, 2018
with an extension to Lyon, Beaune & Paris, France

Joignez-vous à nous pour un fabuleux voyage de ski à l'Alpes françaises et l'expérience de plusieurs belles et excitantes villes!

The Far West Ski Association Travel Committee is delighted to be offering such an exciting trip with an incredible price and exceptional value!

Les Trois Vallées is the largest ski area in the WORLD, yet it's easy to navigate! Skiing on the largest skiable terrain in the World is an experience over 90 people will enjoy, March 4 - 11, 2018! Everyone will be staying at The Mercure Grand Hotel des Thermes in Brides-les-Bains with easy access on the 18-minute tram to Meribel.

Les Trois Vallées (French pronunciation: [le tʀwɑ vale]; The Three Valleys) is a ski region in the Tarentaise Valley, Savoie département of France. It lies to the south of the town of Moûtiers, which is partly in the Vanoise National Park. Since 1973, it has been possible to ski the interlinked valleys using a single ski pass. Thus, it is the largest ski area in the world, which is connected solely by ski lifts and slopes. It claims to have over 370 miles of ski slopes. Les Trois Vallées has 183 ski lifts, which can transport 260,000 skiers per hour.

photos / pexels.com

See the highlights of Paris on the Ski Week Extension Trip or as a stand alone adventure with visits to Lyon and Beaune.

The Taj Mahal, created from ivory colored marble is located in Agra, India. This beautiful mausoleum was originally commissioned in 1632 by the emperor, Shah Jahan to house the tomb of his favorite wife, Mumtaz Mahal. It took more than 20 years to construct, using over 20,000 craftsmen. It was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983.

Experience A Magical Journey to India

The 2018 FWSA Adventure Trip

October - 2018

A Visit to Delhi, Jaupur & Agra

Cars, people, rickshaws, tuk-tuks, pedicabs, mopeds, motorcycles, cows and camels pulling carts, all go along the same narrow roads.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

Their ski area includes 424 ski patrollers and 1,500 ski instructors. Les Trois Vallées are home to eight ski resorts that are linked together by a unique network of ski lifts and ski runs. Brides-les-Bains is a spa resort community with a focus on health and wellness.

Our land package includes seven nights lodging, breakfast daily and five dinners at the hotel with two nights – on your own to enjoy the local French cuisine. We will have a *"Night on the town in Meribel"* where one can enjoy their restaurants and local activities.

We also are offering an optional extension and stand-alone trip to Lyon, Beaune and Paris. We'll be staying in 4-star hotels spending two nights in Lyon and Beaune, then three nights in Paris. During the day, we'll explore each city by walking and bus tours. We'll enjoy wine tasting in the wonderful areas of Beaune, known as the Burgundy capital of the world!

Lastly, we'll adventure around Paris. In this storied and historic metropolis, we'll have a guided tour, cruise the Seine River, visit the Notre Dame Cathedral, and so much more. Paris is such a charming city! One can't possibly see it all in one visit. It's time to come back! The FWSA Travel Committee and Holidaze Ski Tours are busy planning this memorable adventure. Come join us for this incredible French Ski Week to *The Three Valleys* and the extension to *Three Beautiful Cities*!

Adventure travel can provide a journey beyond the familiar, one that takes you into the very heart of a destination and meet people where they work and live. It can peak your curiosity. It can encourage you to breathe deeply, absorb new sensations, make new connections with your fellow travel mates and new friends you meet along the way. You can savor the world through new experiences and enjoy making memories for a lifetime. We will whisk you from your normal everyday activities to the Magical Journey of India. If you've dreamed of being immersed in enchanting Indian culture…we can make your dreams come true.

India is spiritual and colorful, noisy and serene, mystical and majestic, and mesmerizing at every turn. It is a very special and fascinating country where the cultural diversity and rich history dates to prehistoric times. India has had many rulers including the Portuguese who ruled for over 450 years. And, the British ruled for over 250. There are 33 UNESCO monuments in India which makes it very intriguing.

Geographically, India has 28 states and five of them have more Himalayan Mountains than Nepal. We will travel *The Golden Triangle* – Delhi, Jaipur and Agra. We will visit old and new Delhi which has a population over 32 million. And, yes there are cars, people, rickshaws, tuk-tuks, pedicabs, mopeds, motorcycles, cows and camels pulling carts all go along the same narrow roads. A sight to be seen, not just imagined.

The Ganges River flows from west to east beginning from the glacier to create the largest delta in the world. India has a large technological community, yet fifty percent of the people work in agriculture. The satellite city of Gurgaon has 150 of the top Fortune 500 companies. Many are outsourcing business from English speaking countries such as the UK and US.

India is a very spiritual country where Hinduism is a way of life rather than just a religion. There are many holy and spiritual cities in India including the Varanasi cities which are at the gates of the Holy Ganges River. The people believe that every living thing has a "Soul" and should be treated as such.

We will travel to Jaipur – referred to as The Pink City due to its pink architecture… well, actually terra cotta. Here they also consider animals to be precious. The elephant represents wealth, health, prosperity and good luck, therefore they treat them like gods. The monkeys are also sacred and considered to be good luck. Cows are sacred animals because they are very practical animals – milk, hides, dung, but NOT for meat. No beef burgers at their McDonalds!

Having experienced the fascinating country of India, Debbie Stewart, VP of International Travel, wanted others to love it like she does. Where else could you pet a cobra, or commune with sacred elephants which are treated like gods? Join her on this unique adventure!
India photos by George Stewart

We will visit the city of Agra to visit the dazzling Taj Mahal, a magnificent and moving testament to a Mughal emperor's love for his wife. The translucent white marble structure will be a feast for the eyes, embedded with semi-precious stones throughout this enormous totally symmetrical monument.

Staying in luxurious 4-5 Star hotels, while offering our FWSA trip participants a well-rounded travel experience to include not only the big cities, but adventure out to more rural areas, to have a uniquely balanced and educational experience. We will accomplish this by traveling to the Kerala region. Kerala is undoubtedly blessed with a distinctive feature called the Backwaters. The Backwaters are formed by the accumulation of sea water at the beach. As the waves moved to and fro, they made their way tearing the ground forming backwaters. The best way will be for us to take a cruise on these inland lakes connected by a network of canals. We will be entertained by the locals, have the opportunity to see the fishermen casting their nets, and watch the barges pass by carrying coconuts, rice and other prominent food in the Kerala district. We will enjoy the scenery and the wildlife alike where peace and tranquility permeate this stunning region.

Just think of how envious your friends will be! You'll return home having visited the world's sacred places – temples, churches, hallowed ground – is a way of connecting with different cultures and with yourself. There are many spiritual places to experience, plus some destinations that will reinvigorate your sense of being.

It is my pleasure to invite you to join FWSA on an adventure trip of a lifetime… to India in 2018!

What's Ahead… A Lot!

- ***2018 The 9th Annual Scuba Dive trip - September – Philippines or Caribbean / destination currently under consideration***
- ***2018 Adventure trip to India - October Dates TBD (see website)***
- ***2019 Ski Japan and extension - TBD***
- ***2020 Ski Davos, Switzerland and extension - TBD***
- ***2020 Adventure trip to Croatia - TBD***

Mark your calendars now!

As FWSA VP of International Travel, I realize that your vacation days are precious. The best ones are those that leave you feeling recharged, feeling inspired and feeling that your explorations are worthwhile. Ones that your most cherished souvenirs are those that can bring you the grandest memories.

We've expanded our FWSA international team with some wonderfully talented and passionate folks, and we'll be able to serve you better than ever! Our goal is to challenge you to live, chase your wildest dreams and see the world for yourself. What's your next Dream Destination?

For updates on the FWSA International Travel Program:
Debbie Stewart, FWSA VP of International Travel: *FWSAIntlTrvl@prodigy.net*
Cell: ***559/737-0882***

FWSA travel videos go to: ***http://www.YouTube.com/user/FarWestSkiAssoc/videos***

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As the last several pages have outlined, the Far West Ski Association has a fabulous travel program. It provides many destinations domestically and internationally for its members to experience. Many of the participants sign up as soon as these trips are announced. They have met wonderful travel companions on these ski weeks, adventure trips and/or cruises and look forward to seeing these new found friends on their next trips. It is a wonderful way to see the world and explore many different resorts, cultures and have memorable experiences with friends and colleagues.

In addition to the excellent FWSA Travel destinations, most of the member councils and larger clubs also plan ski weeks, midweek, extended weekend and weekend trips. Some have regular bus trips to local resorts. Check out the Council and Club section beginning on page 65 of this issue. Most of the council trips are mentioned. Often club trips are also cited. These trips are open to all their members, but occasionally there is space available allowing members of other clubs to sign up. If you see a trip you are interested in, contact the council or club to see if you can be included. There may be a price difference due to leaving from a different location or airport, but if their destination is on your bucket list, check it out!

photo courtesy of Amtrak

Other Opportunities for Consideration to Include in Your Travel Plans

by Leigh Gieringer

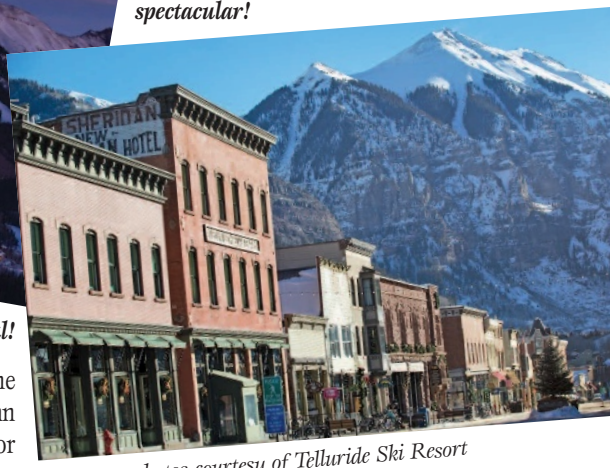
Here are also some other ideas you might want to consider as you or your club are developing your future travel plans.

■ *The ski train is back!* Although a popular mode of transportation to get to the slopes for over 70 years, the program was temporarily halted in 2009. It was reinstated in January of 2017. When going to ski or board in Winter Park, there is a rail link from the Denver Airport (DIA) to Denver Union Station. Pick up the ***Winter Park Express Amtrak Superliner*** train at this station and take the 62-mile scenic ride through the mountains. The ski train culminates at the recently constructed platform just west of the Moffat Tunnel - just yards from Winter Park's Gemini Lift. Your entire group can bond together on the way. Winter Park, one of Colorado's oldest resorts, was opened for the 1939 - 1940 winter season. Winter Park is the site of the 2019 Far West Ski Association Mini Ski Week.

photo courtesy of Sun Valley

FAR LEFT: For a unique experience, plan on taking the ski train through the scenic Rocky Mountains on your way to Winter Park Ski Resort. LEFT: Join the ISC for a great ski week at historic Sun Valley. RIGHT: The Holidays are a wonderful time to visit your favorite resorts. It's so festive, colorful and full of fun things to do. Telluride is a perfect place to visit anytime during the year, but the Torchlight Parade is special!

BELOW: The old mining town of Telluride is truly charming to visit. The mountains are spectacular!



photos courtesy of Telluride Ski Resort

■ *Join Intermountain Ski Council!* ISC is sponsoring a Rendezvous Ski Trip to historic ***Sun Valley***. This famed resort was *the* first destination resort in the country, with its humble beginning in 1936. All FWSA members and guests are invited to join them. January 2 - 7, 2018. If you are interested in attending, call Sun Valley Ski Resort directly to make reservations. Mention ***"Intermountain Ski Council"*** to get the group rates for this event. You can come to enjoy some excellent snowsports terrain all week or just for the weekend. The council is sponsoring a reception with food and beverage Saturday night. According to those that attended last year, it was a blast!

■ *Spend the Holidays on the slopes!* The Holidays are special for many of us. Clubs can organize a trip, or go with a small group or family. Towns are lit up in a festive way. Most resorts have very special activities planned for Christmas with visits from Santa Claus. Children of all ages just love this jolly ol' fella! Maybe even ski with him? Check your favorite resort's websites for their planned Holiday events. Or, come a week later to bring in the New Year. There are numerous unique activities sponsored by ski towns or resorts for a memorable experience.

One of the most popular events is the Torchlight Parade held on both of these occasions. Ski Patrol members, ski instructors and others affiliated with the resort gather for the traditional, and impressive, descent down the slope. Each member - usually a hundred, plus torch holders - snake down the trail. Impressive! Fireworks, emitting beautiful colors and shapes, light up the darkened skies. Ski the slopes during the day. Watch the parade and fireworks at night! Can you think of a better way to bring in the New Year? Make your plans now as lodging facilities fill up.

SKI TELLURIDE FOR $99 NEXT DECEMBER!

Members and friends of Far West Ski Association qualify for a $99 3-Day lift ticket between opening day and 12/15/2017.*

MULTIPLE DAILY FLIGHTS

Prior to December 15, fly into Montrose/Telluride Airport (MTJ), Grand Junction (GJT), or Durango (DRO), with one easy connection.**

Questions? Call Ryan Dohnal-Group Sales Manager at 970.728.7430 or rdohnal@telski.com

* Must have voucher to redeem at ticket window. Non-transferable and non-refundable. Expires 12/15/17. Not to be combined with other offers or pass products.

** After December 15, fly direct into Montrose/Telluride Airport (MTJ) from Phoenix, Los Angeles, and San Francisco all winter.

Club racers vying for top club and council awards at last year's Breckenridge Ski Week.
photos / Ken Calkins

The Far West Racing Association finds value in race camp training offered at numerous resorts and supports the scheduled camps at Mammoth Mountain, Squaw Valley, Northstar, Mt. Hood and other resorts. Check out the race programs at your favorite resorts on their websites.

Join The FWRA Ski Racing Program

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

This year, we had record snow on the west coast, which resulted in it being very difficult to get our scheduled ski races completed. Between the power outages and the deep powder, we were able to complete most of our local races. PACRATS had fun racing up in Oregon. Singles, Open and Sierra Leagues had fun racing at North Lake Tahoe. And, Ullr, Schusski, San Diego, and ROKKA leagues raced in Southern California.

At Far West Ski Week at Breckenridge, the *Cabernet Ski Club* won the ***Joe Ross Award*** for the most overall points for a ski club. The ***Lake Louise Award*** for the councils was won by the *Bay Area Snow Sports Council* with the most overall points.

At the Far West Championships at Mammoth Mountain in April, *Open League* (BAC) won the ***Overall Points Trophy*** and the ***Roma McCoy Trophy*** for most points per racer.

At the Far West Ski Association Convention in Boise, Idaho in June, *Laura Priess* was the recipient of the ***Terry Smith Award*** for exceptional service in ski racing.

In 2018, the Far West Ski Week Races will be at Lake Louise in Alberta, Canada in February. The Far West Championships will be held at Mammoth Mountain - April 6 - 8, 2018.

We look forward to having any new racers join us at any of our races throughout the west coast. Our races are set up to allow anybody at any level of skiing or snowboarding to participate in racing. We have classes for people separated by age, gender and ability, and you get the chance to meet some really fun people. Check out our race schedule on page 28 in this publication and each race league's schedule will also be posted on our website: ***www.fwra.com***. Won't you join us?

LEFT: Debi Phelps, Open League Race Chair, accepts the Roma McCoy Trophy from Maxine Hanlon, Schusski League Race Chair. The Roma McCoy Trophy, named for the wife of Mammoth Mountain's founder, Dave McCoy, is presented each year for the team that has the most points per racer start at the Far West Racing Association (FWRA) Championships.
RIGHT: Open League (BAC) won the Most League Points for both the Adult Race Division and the Junior Race Division at the 2017 FWRA Championships. John Walsh, Singles League Race Chair, presented the plaques to Debi Phelps, Open League Race Chair.
Cindy Sherman Photography

photo provided by Nancy Ellis

Excellent coaching is provided at race camps to guarantee top-notch training. Many skiers return year after year to improve their skills.

Race Camps Improve One's Abilities & Are Fun, Too!

by Nancy Ellis

One way for recreational ski and board racers to get ready for the upcoming season is to attend a race camp. Race camps offer daily and weekly sessions with small group instruction geared to the individual racer's needs. Training focuses on progressive skill drills and gate training. Some include video analysis and timed training runs.

Racers can select camps that focus on either Slalom or Giant Slalom training or select a camp that offers both trainings. The training day is usually 3-5 hours in length and includes dry land training exercises, on the snow drills, and gate training. The coaching staff consists of coaches from the resort's Master's Team or Ski Team so you can be guaranteed that you're getting top-notch training and the latest racing techniques. You get one-on-one feedback on how you're doing and special drills to do if you need extra practice.

One of the benefits of attending race camp is that you get an opportunity to have a coach watch you and give you feedback on what you need to do to get better. Even the best racers have a chance for a coach to fine tune what they're doing and take them to the next competitive level. You gain confidence in your racing as you feel yourself improve and get faster over the day or week.

It's so fun, after an exhausting day of training, to get together with others in your camp at an après ski event or dinner. You get to meet new people or connect with old friends who share your passion to race.

Jump start your race season with one of the race camps available this season. Mammoth Mountain's Race Department starts off the season with their own ***Masters Race Camp*** Monday through Friday, November 27 – December 1. Information and registration can be found on their website ***www.mammothmountain.com*** in the section on Masters Race Camp. ***ROKKA Race Camp*** and ***Ski & Ride Camp*** also take place at Mammoth Mountain this winter. Information can be found through a search of those camps on the website.

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PRESIDENT
Bob Ellis (530) 414-4270
rellis9681@aol.com

SECRETARY
Debi Phelps (530) 414-8503
bmw.rider8@yahoo.com

FINANCIAL OFFICER
Nancy Ellis (530) 582-0566
nancyellis2@sbcglobal.net

RULES CHAIR
Bob Warzynski (775) 266-3976
bwarz@linkline.com

FWRA COMMITTEE CHAIRS
Webmaster
Debi Phelps (530) 414-8503
bmw.rider8@yahoo.com

FWRA Championships 2018
George Eachus (949) 874-4739
geachus@cox.net

League Race Chairs

BAY AREA SNOW SPORTS COUNCIL (BAC)

Open League
www.olrc.org
Debi Phelps (530) 414-8503
bmw.rider8@yahoo.com

Singles League
www.slracing.org
John Walsh (415) 596-7234
johnwalsh37@sbcglobal.net

LOS ANGELES COUNCIL
ROKKA League
www.rokkaracing.org
Laura Priess
rokkaracers@aol.com

ULLR League
Ken Kawahara (310) 944-0371
ken.kawahara@verizon.net

NORTHWEST SKI CLUB COUNCIL
PACRAT League
www.pacrats.org
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andyhobart@yahoo.com

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www.orangecouncil.org
Maxine Hanlon (714) 641-8513
maxch@prodigy.net

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2017 - 2018 FWRA Race Schedule

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

Date	Format	Location
OPEN/SIERRA/SINGLES LEAGUES		
January 13	GS	Sugar Bowl #1
January 14	SL	Sugar Bowl #2
February 24	GS	Alpine Meadows #3
February 25	SL	Alpine Meadows #4
March 10	GS	Squaw Valley #5
March 11	GS	Squaw Valley #6
March 24	SL	Sugar Bowl #7
March 25	SL	Sugar Bowl #8
PACRAT LEAGUE		
January 7	NASTAR Open #1	Mt. Hood Ski Bowl
January 21	PACRAT Race #1	Mt. Hood Ski Bowl
January 28	PACRAT Race #2	Mt. Hood Meadows
February 11	PACRAT Race #3	Mt. Hood Ski Bowl
February 25	NASTAR Open #2	Mt. Hood Ski Bowl
March 11	PACRAT Race #4	Mt. Hood Meadows
March 18	PACRAT Race #5	Timberline
March 25	NASTAR Championships	Squaw Valley
April 8	Make-Up Race Date	Timberline
April 13	RAT ATTACK	*Tentative Date*
ROKKA/ULLR LEAGUES (SCHUSSKI & SAN DIEGO – SEE ULLR LEAGUE)		
December 16	GS	Mammoth #1
January 20	SL	Mammoth #2
March 10	SoCals - GS/SL	Mammoth
ALL LEAGUES		
November 27 - December 1	Mammoth Masters Race Camp	Mammoth
December 13 - 15	ROKKA Race Camp	Mammoth
February 3 - 10	FWSA Ski Week - GS / SL	Banff, Canada
April 6 - 8	FWRA Championships	Mammoth
April 6	Pacesetters / Clinic	Mammoth
April 7	Championships - SL	Mammoth
April 8	Championships - GS	Mammoth

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

Awards & Silent Auction Donors for the 2017 FWRA Championships

by Nancy Ellis, *Financial Officer, FWRA*

Far West Racing Association would like to thank all of the generous donors to the Silent Auction held at the 2017 Far West Racing Association Championships at Mammoth Mountain. A portion of the proceeds helps fund the FWSA Athletic Scholarship Program.

Mammoth Mountain Resort ♦ Mammoth Race Department, Mammoth
Sierra League and Council ♦ Jo Simpson, Sierra League ♦ Dennis Corcoran, Sierra League
Olympic Ski Club, Open League ♦ Maartin Vandermeer, Open League
Mary Redfern & Mike Dudasko, Open League ♦ John Walsh, Singles League
Scott Peer, ROKKA League ♦ Granite Chief, Truckee ♦ Start Haus, Truckee
Tahoe Donner Golf Course, Truckee ♦ Silver Oak Golf Club
Dayton Valley Golf Club ♦ Genoa Lakes Golf Club
Eagle Valley Golf Course

The 2018 FWRA Championships will be held at Mammoth Mountain Ski Resort - April 6-8.

FWSA Athletic Scholarship Program

Dalton Swallow, Far West Scholarship recipient, is from Donnelly, Idaho and skis for the McCall Winter Sports Club. *photo provided by Dalton Swallow*

by David Krupp
Athletic Scholarship Committee Chair, FWSA

The Far West Ski Association Athletic Scholarship Program is entering its 14th year, growing from an initial $1,500 in scholarships in 2004 to over $13,000 and 14 recipients in the 2016-2017 season. The total awarded since the program's inception is now well over $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 US Ski and Snowboard and must participate in racing programs in states where FWSA has regional councils. These include California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Arizona, Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming. Scholarships are awarded based on financial need, athletic performance, academic achievement, and community service.

Skiing is an expensive sport and the costs involved in ski racing cannot be left up to the parents alone to incur. For younger athletes the costs are modest. However, for 16 through 20 year olds, where competition becomes national and even international, the costs can be significant. Without the help of outside resources, many junior racers simply cannot compete. For a top competitor, expenses can reach $20,000 per year. This is not a seasonal sport for these racers; it includes a full year of ski-related involvement. After the winter race competition has concluded, competitors engage in dryland training; then off to summer camps. Camps typically run about $1,200 per week, not including transportation.

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

The funding of the scholarships come from a number of sources: raffles, auctions, club and council partnerships, and direct contributions from club members, clubs, and councils. The FWSA has greatly benefitted from the generous support from its sponsors including ***Whitefish Mountain Resort*** *(www.skiwhitefish.com)*, a year round winter and summer resort; **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 (***www.fwra.com)*. Their contributions of vacation packages, snowsports apparel, and cash bring in approximately $10,000 per year as raffle and auction proceeds, as well as, direct cash donations.

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

Far West Ski Foundation:

A Key Year for Snowsport

by John Watson
President,
Far West Ski Foundation (FWSF)

The Women's Ski Jumping USA team is busy training for the PyeongChang, South Korea, Winter Olympics. Member Sarah Hendrickson was granted the historic honor of being the first female to ever jump in a ski jumping event at the Olympics in 2014, with women having been allowed to participate in Olympic ski jumping for the first time in history.
photo courtesy of Women's Ski Jumping USA / Ben Pieper / Point Productions

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Volunteers assist on the slopes of Mammoth Mountain in their Disabled Skier Program. *photo provided by Sigrid Noack*

Every fourth year is a key year for snowsport. This is the final training year for USA athletes to prepare for the Winter Olympics in PyeongChang, South Korea. They, and the organizations who support them, deserve your especial attention. This is the start of a final push to help Women's Ski Jumping USA, train the team, send them to preliminary meets, and ready them for their jumps in February, 2018. This is in the highest tradition set by the sport's greatest advocate, the late *Deedee Corradini*. The Foundation made a $750 grant to WSJUSA at the June FWSA Annual Meeting from our Corradini Fund. But, the target is much higher; the cost estimated to get four jumpers selected for the Olympics is roughly $150,000.

However, let's not stop with international competition. We have recurring domestic business to tend to: namely, to support our under - 20 ski racers. We will make scholarship grants for the training of a dozen skiers enrolled in racing schools across Far West. These are the young people who will go on to become community leaders, as well as, great ski racers. Check with Trustee, *David Krupp*, for the 2017 scholarships list and how to apply in 2018.

While the ski racers are the abled, we will continue to do our part in another Foundation mission - enabling the disabled. Among the broad spectrum of disabilities among both young and old, there is a dream of outdoor participation in sports and recreation. Included in this population is a remarkable set of heroic persons injured in war. All would benefit from rehabilitation leading to the ability to do adaptive skiing. We make grants to both a disabled ski school and a "wounded warrior" activity. Through our annual wine auction, led by Trustee *Gloria Raminha* and *Joe Harvis*, we raise money to grant to a disabled ski school. In 2018, we will grant $500 to the disabled ski school at Mt. Alyeska, site of our 2018 Mini Ski Week. We will also continue our support to the ***Vail Veterans Program*** with a $500 grant from our *Fred Westlund Fund.*

Three New Historic Ski Clubs Registered in 2017

FWSA registered three clubs designated as historic ski clubs, bringing the total to 21 clubs and one council (Bay Area Snow Sports Council), and spanning the formative years of US skiing in the four decades from the late 1920s. Newly registered are: ***Bogus Basin Ski Club,*** founded in 1937 as Boise Ski Club; ***Bergfreunde***, founded in 1967 in Portland; and the ***Four Seasons West Ski & Snowboard Club*** of Los Angeles, also founded in 1967. Designated clubs receive a commemorative certificate and are entitled to use the historic skier medallion on their communications. Designation requires that the organization must be active and have operated for a minimum of 50 years. They represent the long-standing presence of skiing in local communities. For a list of the other ***Historic Ski Clubs and Council***, please see page 39.

Photo: Benjamin Powell

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After five years of planning, the 85th Annual Far West Ski Association Convention is a wrap. It started with a question mark on the weather and ended with bright sunshine and nice temperatures. Guests enjoyed The Grove Hotel, and Convention events held at the newly expanded state-of-the-art Boise Centre. Located in downtown Boise, attendees had easy access to many restaurants, shopping, museums, the capitol building, and much more.

This year's Convention was hosted by *Bogus Basin Ski Club* and *Intermountain Ski Council*. The city of Boise rolled out the red carpet, with the Mayor issuing an official Proclamation proclaiming June 7 - 11, 2017 ***"Far West Ski Association Days"***.

The Convention kicked off a little earlier this year on Wednesday, with a group participating in A Taste of Idaho, touring Boise and the surrounding area, with a stop for a dip in the famous Springs in Idaho City. The day culminated in a fabulous Dutch Oven Dinner in the Penthouse of the CW Moore building, offering spectacular views of the city of Boise. Thursday featured an exciting rafting trip on the Payette River. Cascade Raft and Kayak gave the participants a trip experience of a lifetime!

Friday morning started early for golfers, with the 11th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament at the Quail Hollow Golf Course, nestled in the Boise Foothills. A group of adventurous bikers had a fun ride to the MK Nature Center, which included lunch and a stop at Coiled Winery. It was unfortunate that the greenbelt was flooded, so riders could not get the full effect of the area. Other outdoor enthusiasts headed for Bogus Basin Mountain Recreation Area for A Day on the Mountain - riding the lift, enjoying lunch, an afternoon hike and learning what makes a ski resort run. The large group of participants attended the Wine Wobble & Pub Crawl that evening, visiting four local hot spots in downtown Boise.

The FWSA's first ever Fountain Party took the place of the traditional pool party, on the newly refurbished Grove Plaza on Friday afternoon. The Oinkari Basque Dancers were a unique introduction to their culture, and some Convention attendees joined in the dancing!

Local club members and snowsports enthusiasts were out in force to bid on great packages at the 32nd Annual Silent Auction and Snowsports Trade Show on Friday evening. Ski industry and resort representatives from North American and international destinations, were present to share information about their resorts, outdoor activities, properties and products. A portion of the proceeds from the Silent Auction was donated to ***The College of Idaho Ski Team***, who served as bid runners.

Saturday started off with a continental breakfast and a brief opening session. Next was the Travel Expo, where club members personally met with resort representatives and tour operators to discuss and plan future snowsports and adventure trips.

The Keynote Speaker following the Luncheon was *Charlie Linville*, a Boise native,

TOP: Michael Hayes, Sales Manager at Brundage Mountain, holds the First Place Team Trophy for the 11th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament, a snowboard with a special plaque. It will be displayed at Brundage Mountain. Other members of the winning team included: Scott Burum - Proletariat Wines, Dave Kopet - Bogus Basin Ski Club, and Michael Bouton - Host Council Convention Coordinator.
LOWER: Michael Bouton - Host Council Convention Coordinator, presented Jane Wyckoff - FWSA Convention Chair, with a painting of the Boise River, in appreciation for her efforts in working with Bogus Basin Ski Club and Intermountain Ski Council in conducting the Convention.

boISe Is Excited... ...to have hosted the 2017 FWSA Convention

by Michael Bouton
Host Council Convention Coordinator

who became the first military amputee to summit Mount Everest. He spoke about how he worked with ***"The Hero's Project"*** on his mission. He was very poignant with his message, that success in anything in life is possible with enough determination. After two failed attempts in 2014 (avalanche), and 2015 (earthquake), he conquered the summit in 2016.

Other highlights of the Convention include the Public Affairs panels and ***Snowsports Leadership Academy*** sessions. This year's panels and sessions featured a wide array of snowsports leaders, experts and celebrities. Three Snowsports Leadership Academy sessions were offered this year: ***"How to Build a Successful Ski Club"***, ***"Making Love to your Members – Building and Bridging Relationships for the Long Term"***, and ***"How to Keep your Skis in Tip Top Shape and What Goes into a Great Boot Fitting"***. Industry partners presented bids for the 2019 FWSA North American Ski Week, and ski council honorees met with judges for the selection of this year's Councils' Man and Woman of the Year.

Saturday evening's theme was ***"boISe Magic"*** and it was *"truly magic"* with a terrific dinner, awards, and dancing. The band, Winewood, played some magical music and kept people dancing up to closing time.

Congratulations to all of the award recipients at this convention, especially to our local winners: *Chadd Cripe*, writer for the *"Idaho Statesman"*, ***Bill Berry Award, Hard News***; *Bob Greenwood*, ***Snowsports Builder Award***; and *Mark Barnard*, ***Councils' Man of the Year***.

Sunday's program consisted of FWSA's Annual Business Meeting, including election of officers and resolutions. Clubs and councils and their dedicated volunteers were recognized for outstanding Community Service and Communication activities. A delicious brunch was served to the Convention delegates.

A special "Thank You" is extended to all the FWSA, Bogus Basin Ski Club and Intermountain Ski Council volunteers for their hard work and enthusiasm in hosting such a successful Convention. We also extend our appreciation to our industry partners, who support FWSA by participating in the ***Silent Auction*** and ***Travel Expo***, and supporting our Convention events and programs with sponsorships.

This year's FSWA Convention was very special to me. My goal was to ensure that all delegates, guests, and industry representatives had a memorable and enjoyable time in Boise. All 75 of our local volunteers did an amazing job and made sure that our guests enjoyed themselves while here in our beautiful city.

Read more about FWSA Convention programs and honorees on the following pages of this issue of the *Far West Skier's Guide*.

To the left of Jane are Doug Baker - Rafting on the Payette River Leader, Vickie Kuebler - Decorations, and Kim Hovren - Silent Auction Volunteer Coordinator. To the Right of Michael are Carol Peterson - Council Volunteer Coordinator, Paul Markowitz - ISC President, Mark Barnard - A Day on the Mountain Leader, and Suzette Newsom - Greeter and Ticket Taker.
Cindy Sherman Photography

2017

The Keynote Speaker presentation and the Snowsports Leadership Academy sessions were recorded by Videographer, Tony Okun, of Oh Show! Productions. Please log into www.fwsa.org to watch these outstanding educational videos.

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So Much To Do!

Attendees at the 2017 FWSA Convention had the opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors prior to the meetings. Participants got to experience the Oinkari Basque Dancers, hiking at the Bogus Basin Mountain Recreation Area, rafting on the Payette River, enjoying A Taste of Idaho, biking along the MK Nature Center, golfing at the Quail Hollow Golf Course and meeting other Convention attendees at the Boise Downtown Wine Wobble & Pub Crawl. A great time was had by all!

photos courtesy of Don Pribble, Bogus Basin Ski Club

Sports America Tours Recognized with Tommi Tyndall Award

by Nancy Ellis and Gloria Raminha

Mike Hibbard, Owner of Sports America Tours, is presented with the Tommi Tyndall Award by Steve Coxen, FWSA President.

Sports America Tours received the Far West Ski Association's ***Tommi Tyndall Award***, presented to a ski area or tour operator that has made a distinguished contribution to skiing. The award was announced at the FWSA Convention in Boise. Accepting the award was *Mike Hibbard*, Owner.

Sports America Tours was founded by Mike Hibbard in 1976, and has grown over the last 41 years to be one of the largest ski tour companies in the United States. Mike started the company on a bet from one of his employers, who told him he didn't have what it takes to run a business. He was determined to not only start his own company, but was determined to be successful with the business, that became Sports America Tours.

Sports America Tours has been heavily involved with the ski market and airlines since the opening. The group coordinators from Sports America go above and beyond supplying just a ski trip. Their objective is to assist groups improve their marketing capabilities to help increase their trip size. The company employees have a great understanding of how airlines affect the ski industry, since they have a background of working with them for 41 years.

Sports America Tours has provided a guest speaker for the National Ski Council Federation, Mountain Travel Symposium, and for many councils and ski clubs across the country on the subject of group travel.

Sports America Tours was the tour operator for the 2012 FWSA Ski Week to Jackson Hole, 2013 FWSA Ski Week to Aspen/Snowmass, 2016 Crested Butte Mini Trip, 2017 Ski Week to Breckenridge, and will be the tour operator for the 2018 Alyeska/Iditarod Mini Trip. They partnered with Kenwood Vineyards and Korbel to sponsor the Jackson Hole Ski Week banquet; a wine and cheese tasting event at Aspen/Snowmass Ski Week; and were the wine sponsor for the Breckenridge banquet.

Sports America Tours has been a Silent Auction participant at the Far West Convention since 2000. In addition, they have sponsored banquet wine service and Friday night wine for several years, as well as beer service at last year's Saturday luncheon.

We recognize Sports America Tours for their continued long-term support of the skiing public, ski industry, and Far West Ski Association and its councils and cubs. Sports America Tours embodies the spirit of the Tommi Tyndall Award, and is deserving of recognition as this year's recipient.

2017 FWSA Convention Sponsors

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

- Gold Sponsor
  Boise Convention & Visitor's Bureau
- Silver Sponsor
  Bogus Basin Mountain Recreation Area
- Bronze Sponsor
  Ski Idaho / Idaho Ski Area Association
- Delegate Tote Bags
  Nancy Greene's Cahilty Hotel & Suites
- Neck Wallets
  Ski Dazzle
- Delegate Book Printing
  Holidaze Ski Tours
- Wine Wobble & Pub Crawl
  Steamboat Ski & Resort Corp.
- A Taste of Idaho
  Crystal Inn Hotel & Suites
- Rafting on the Payette River
  Brian Head Resort
- Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament
  Dennis Dillon Auto Group
- A Day on the Mountain
  Bogus Basin Mountain Recreation Area
- Boise Green Belt & Nature Center Bike Tour
  Limelight Hotel, Ketchum
- Fountain Party
  Bogus Basin Mountain Recreation Area
  Jackson Hole Mountain Resort
  Commercial Tire
- Beverage Donors
  Payette Brewery
  Proletariat Wine
- Silent Auction Welcome Party
  Aspen Skiing Company
  Snowmass Tourism
- Silent Auction Welcome Party Beverage Hosts
  Sun Valley Ski Resort
  Telluride Ski Resort
- Silent Auction Musical Entertainment
  Bogus Basin Ski Club
- Continental Breakfast
  Mammoth Mountain Ski Resort
- Saturday Luncheon
  Vail Resorts
- Luncheon Beverage Hosts
  Big Sky Resort
  Sports America Tours
  Ski.Com
  Copper Mountain Ski Resort
- Keynote Speaker Presentation
  BikeTours.com
- Awards Banquet Beverage Hosts
  Ski Banff-Lake Louise-Sunshine
  Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel
  SkiGroup.net
- Awards Banquet & Musical Entertainment
  Ski Idaho / Idaho Ski Area Association
- Sunday Brunch
  Brundage Mountain Resort
- Far West Councils' Man & Woman of the Year
  Big White Ski Resort
- Far West Athletic Scholarship Program
  Whitefish Mountain Resort
  Grouse Mountain Lodge
  Schure Sports, Inc.
- Western Ski Heritage Award
  Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation
- Safety Person of the Year
  Telluride Ski Resort
  Mountain Lodge Telluride
- Environment Award
  Aspen / Snowmass
- Far West Convention Host Hotel & Convention Center
  The Grove Hotel, Boise
  Boise Centre

Dennis Heffley, Sales Representative for Sun Peaks Resort, accepted the Bill Mackey Award on behalf of John Douglas, General Manager of Nancy Greene's Hotel & Suites.

John Douglas, Nancy Greene's Cahilty Hotel & Suites Receives Bill Mackey Award

by Debbi Kor & Randy Lew

John Douglas, General Manager for Nancy Greene's Cahilty Hotel & Suites, received the Far West Ski Association's ***Bill Mackey Award*** for outstanding service to the skiing public by a ski area employee.

John began his career, however, as a policeman in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He soon realized that he had a passion for a more creative profession, and decided on something in the area of hospitality. John began scouting out various hotel properties, and soon accepted a position with Al Raine and Nancy Greene in Whistler, British Columbia, as controller for the hotel they ran, in 1989. As Whistler grew and became a four-season resort, John grew with it and was promoted to General Manager of hotel operations and the restaurants within.

After several years in Whistler, John decided to expand his education in the hotel business and went to work for Intrawest, at Panorama, from 2001 to 2004. He then moved to a couple other properties, gaining both winter and summer experience, and decided that it was time to own his own company. He purchased the management company operating Nancy Green's Cahilty Lodge in Sun Peaks, thus winding up back with Al and Nancy. He was elected to the Boards of the BC Hotel Association, Lower North Thompson Tourism Association and Tourism Sun Peaks. John is a very strong advocate for tourism in Sun Peaks.

Silent Auction & Travel Expo 2017 Participants

by Jeannine Davis
Silent Auction Chair, FWSA
Fran Long
Travel Expo Chair, FWSA

The Far West Ski Association, Bogus Basin Ski Club and Intermountain Ski Council extend their appreciation and sincere gratitude to the 32th Annual Silent Auction and the 16th 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 2017 - 2018 and beyond.

Alpine Lodging & Condo Rentals, UT
Aspen/Snowmass, CO
Aspen Skiing Company, CO
Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, NV
Bahia Principe, Mexico
Betty Donellan, TX
Big Sky Resort, MT
Big White Ski Resort, Canada
BikeTours.com, TN
Bogus Basin Mountain Recreation Area, ID
Boise Centre, ID
Boise Convention & Visitors Bureau, ID
Brian Head Ski Resort, UT
Brundage Mountain Resort, ID
Club Med, FL
Copper Mountain Resort, CO
Cowboy Adventures, ID
Crested Butte Mountain Resort, CO
Crystal Inn, UT
Deer Valley Resorts, UT
Destination Residences Snowmass, CO
Drury Hotels, Various Locations
Eddie Bauer, ID
Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel, Canada
Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise, Canada
Foot Dynamics, ID
Four Mountain Sports, ID
Grouse Mountain Lodge, MT
Holidaze Ski Tours, NJ
Huntley Lodge, MT
Hyatt Regency Indian Wells Resort & Spa, CA
Idaho Ski Area Association
Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, WY
Jackson Hole Resort Lodging, WY
Kandahar Lodge at Whitefish, MT
Limelight Hotel, ID
Mammoth Mountain Inn, CA
Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, CA
Mayan Princess Resort, Roatán
Miracle Springs Resort and Spa, CA
Mountain Lodge, CO
Mt. Norquay, Canada
Nancy Greene's Cahilty Hotel & Suites at Sun Peaks Resort, Canada
Outdoor Exchange, ID
Payette Brewing Company, ID
Powder Mountain, UT
Premier Skis, ID
Proletariat Wine Company, ID
Revelstoke Mountain Resort, Canada
Roatán Charters, FL
Schweitzer Mountain Resort, ID
Silver Mountain Resort, ID
SilverStar Mountain Resort, Canada
Ski.Com, CO
Ski Banff-Lake Louise-Sunshine, Canada
SkiGroup.net, CA
Snakedance Condominiums, NM
Snowmass Ski Resort, CO
Snowmass Tourism, CO
Solitude Mountain Resort, UT
Sports America Tours, CA
Steamboat Ski & Resort Corp., CO
Stonebridge Inn, CO
Sunshine Village Resort, Canada
Sun Peaks Ski Resort, Canada
Sun Valley Resort, ID
Taos Ski Valley Resort, NM
Telluride Ski Resort, CO
The Crestwood Hotel, CO
The Lake Louise Ski Resort, Canada
The Lodge at Whitefish Lake, MT
Vail Resorts, CO
Val D'Isere Condos, CA
Visit Salt Lake, UT
Westin Snowmass, CO
Whistler/Blackcomb, Canada
Whitefish Mountain Resort, MT
Wyndham Vacation Rentals, CO
Zermatt Resort, UT

To participate in the 2018 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***.

The FWSA thanks the industry for your support!

Cahilty Hotel & Suites lays out the red carpet for all visiting ski clubs and councils. Their Guest Services staff welcomes their visitors by providing extraordinary service. The Far West Mini Ski Week was held at Cahilty Hotel & Suites and Sun Peaks this past March. Nancy Ellis, FWSA VP of North American Travel, reported on their group stay: *"John Douglas makes sure that everyone staying at the hotel has a wonderful experience. He made our Mini Trip group feel welcome at the resort, gave us lots of helpful information about things we could do during our stay, and assisted us with our Welcome Party. It was a treat to see him wearing an apron serving his famous chili dogs at the weekly complimentary Thursday lunch for hotel guests and filling the popcorn bowl on movie night".*

No matter the size of the club, John warmly welcomes everyone to Cahilty Hotel & Suites, to enjoy the town of Sun Peaks, and play in his backyard. He wants every guest to experience the uniqueness that only Sun Peaks can provide. John and his wife Joanne live in Sun Peaks, along with just under 700 other year-round residents, including Mayor, Al Raine and his wife, Nancy Greene.

Nancy Greene's Cahilty Hotel & Suites has been a participant in the Far West Silent Auction and Travel Expo for the past nine years, and a sponsor of either the Delegate Neck Wallets or Tote Bags for the past seven, providing Far West with $12,000 in cash sponsorship.

John's continued work on behalf of clubs and councils and the support of Far West Ski Association fully embodies the spirit of the Bill Mackey Award. He is most deserving of the 2017 Bill Mackey Award.

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

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

Mark Barnard, Intermountain Ski Council, and ***Jane Gutierrez***, Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs, were named the ***FWSA Councils' Man and Woman of the Year*** at the Annual Convention in Boise, Idaho on Saturday, June 10, 2017. There were nine outstanding honorees.

We appreciate Big White Ski Resort for their continuing support and sponsorship of the FWSA Councils' Man and Woman of the Year program since 2001. Our winners were awarded a 2018 ski vacation for two at Big White's ski-in/ski-out resort, which includes five nights lodging, lift tickets and equipment rentals.

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: *Paul Vlasveld*, *Lisa Hunter*, *Carlene Boutacoff*, *Dave Felker*, *Colleen Stroeder* and *Barbara Blase*. Thanks also goes to my tabulation partner, *George Kish*, and my personal secretary, *Catherine Ohl*.

We are pleased to introduce the following outstanding 2017 Councils' Men and Women of the Year Honorees. The following excerpts from their resumes, covering five years of contributions to skiing, will give insight to their exceptional contributions to snowsports.

Bay Area Snow Sports Council

David Baird has been skiing for over 50 years and has been a member of *Inskiers* for the past 15 years. David served as his club's president for three years and loves to cook meals for his fellow skiers at their club cabin.

Kat Severin has been skiing for 20 years and has been a member of *Rusty Bindings* for the past seven years. Kat was the 2015 FWSA Safety Person of the Year recipient. She developed a YouTube video to educate skiers and riders about protecting their eyes from the sun's UV rays.

Intermountain Ski Council

Mark Barnard is rather new to skiing and is a member of *Bogus Basin Ski Club*. In a very short time, Mark has had a considerable positive impact on his club's fund raising revenue. In addition, Mark was the event leader for *"A Day on the Mountain"* at Bogus Basin Mountain Recreation Area for the Convention..

Carol Peterson has been skiing for 20 years and has been a member of *Bogus Basin Ski Club* for the past five years. Carol has been her club's Communications Director since 2014. In that time, she has completely reformatted and edited her club's newsletter. She also maintains her club's website, sends email blasts and designs point-of-sale material for her club.

Brad Wilson, General Manager of the Bogus Basin Mountain Recreation Area, a Silver Sponsor of the 2017 FWSA Convention, welcomed everyone to Boise, Idaho, at the Fountain Party. Brad is a Past Recipient of the FWSA Bill Mackey Award (1994). With Brad is Susan Saad, Director of Community and Customer Relations at Bogus Basin.

Attendees at Friday's Fountain Party were entertained by the Oinkari Basque Dancers of Boise. The dance group retains a traditional repertory of social, performance, and ritual dances from Bizkaia, Gipuzkoa, and other provinces in Europe. After their dance program, they invited party-goers to join them. And, so we did!

Candidates Are Chosen By Their Peers.

Councils' Man and Woman of the Year Honorees at the Awards Banquet. The candidates are chosen by their peers based on their contributions to club, council, race league, FWSA and nationally. L TO R: Sandi Shaub - Northwest Ski Club Council, Alan Bean - Northwest Ski Club Council, Mark Barnard - Intermountain Ski Council, Kat Severin - Bay Area Snow Sports Council, Jane Gutierrez - Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs, Aaron Algazy - Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs, Carol Peterson - Intermountain Ski Council, Nick Cowell - San Diego Council of Ski Clubs, David Baird - Bay Area Snow Sports Council. The award has been sponsored by Big White Ski Resort since 2001. *photos / Cindy Sherman Photography*

Mark Barnard, Intermountain Ski Council and Jane Gutierrez, Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs, were named this year's Councils' Man and Woman of the Year.

Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs

Aaron Algazy has been skiing and a member of *Century City Ski Club* for the past 16 years. Aaron served as president of his club for the past two years. He has been instrumental in bringing social media for his club to the forefront. His postings in MeetUp, where he maintains multiple accounts, has brought in a significant number of new members.

Jane Gutierrez has been skiing with *Four Seasons West Ski and Snowboard Club* the past 28 years. Besides serving as her club's president since 2012, Jane is also the FWSA VP of Membership, the National Ski Council Federation (NSCF) Secretary and a Board member of the National Brotherhood of Skiers (NBS).

Northwest Ski Club Council

Alan Bean has been skiing for 42 years and a member of *Mt. High Snowsports Club* for the past eight years. Alan has been his club's Director of Racing for the past two years. Alan volunteers at club recruiting events like the first annual Portland *"Snowvana"* this past fall.

Sandi Shaub has been skiing for 56 years and a member of *Skiyente Ski Club* for the past 28 years. Sandi has held the office of President and Vice-President of her club. She is also involved in her club's many fund raising and community events including Adopt-A-Highway, Holiday Baskets, Plant Sales and Bottle Drop Organizer.

San Diego Council of Ski Clubs

Nick Cowell has been skiing and a member of the *North Island Snowdrifters Ski Club* for 26 years. Nick has served as his club's President, Vice-President, Webmaster and Newsletter Editor. He is an advocate of safety and volunteers at the Lakeside River Park Conservancy in San Diego..

Door Prizes
Convention 2017

Chaos ◆ Transpak
Krimson & Klover
Shred & Slytech
Newton Screen Prints
Stage Ideas ◆ US Ski Team
Brian Head ◆ Ski Big 3

Historic Ski Clubs & Council

Historic Club	Location	Council	Founded
Cascade	Portland, OR	Northwest	1928
Fresno	Fresno, CA	Central	1934
Longview	Longview, WA	Northwest	1935
San Diego	San Diego, CA	San Diego	1935
Sequoia	Visalia, CA	Sierra	1935
Mt. Hood Ski Patrol	Mt. Hood, OR	Northwest	1937
Bogus Basin	Boise, ID	Intermountain	1937
Bay Area Council	San Francisco, CA	Bay Area	1940
Schnee Vogeli	Portland, OR	Northwest	1942
Idaho Falls	Idaho Falls, ID	Intmtn	1947
Phoenix	Phoenix, AZ	Arizona	1948
Grindelwald	Los Angeles, CA	Los Angeles	1949
Vand Bakke	West Covina, CA	Orange	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	Intmtn	1959
Single	Los Angeles, CA	Los Angeles	1961
Snowbounders	Anaheim, CA	Orange	1962
Bergfreunde	Portland, OR	Northwest	1967
4 Seasons West	Los Angeles, CA	Los Angeles	1967

Hans Georg Award

Elizabeth "Schatzi" Wood Award

J. Stanley Mullin Award

LEFT: Debbi Kor, the 2016 Hans Georg Award recipient, presented the 2017 Award to Arleigh Meiners. This is the FWSA's most prestigious recognition for an individual who has made significant contributions to skiing over many years. CENTER: Karen James, the 2016 Elizabeth "Schatzi" Wood Award recipient, presented the 2017 Award to Cindy Krupp, with Steve Coxen, FWSA President. 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. RIGHT: George Stewart (left), received the 2017 J. Stanley Mullin Award, presented by George Kish, the 2016 recipient. The 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.

2017 FWSA Convention Award Recipients

Hans Georg Award
Arleigh Meiners,
Arizona Ski Council

Elizabeth "Schatzi" Wood Award
Cindy Krupp,
Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs

J. Stanley Mullin Award
George Stewart,
Sierra League & Council

Jimmie Heuga Award
Kate Togneri, Can Do MS

Jordan-Reily Award
Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra

Bill Mackey Award
John Douglas,
Nancy Greene's Cahilty
Hotel & Suites

Tommi Tyndall Award
Sports America Tours

Terry Smith Award
Laura Priess,
ROKKA League Chair

Bill Berry Award, Featured News
Lindsey Vonn, author
"Strong is the New Beautiful: Embrace Your Natural Beauty, Eat Clean, and Harness Yoiur Power" - book released October, 2016

Bill Berry Award, Hard News
Chadd Cripe, writer for the
"Idaho Statesman" - Outdoor and Urban Recreation

Warren Miller Modern Media Award
Travis Rice, Brain Farm Digital Cinema,
"The Fourth Phase" movie released October, 2016

President's Awards
- Todd Hood,
Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs
- Mike Sanford,
San Diego Council of Ski Clubs

Councils' Man and Woman of the Year
- Mark Barnard,
Intermountain Ski Council
- Jane Gutierrez,
Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs

Program Award Recipients

Snowsports Builder Award
- Bob Greenwood, Skiing is a Lifetime of Fulfilling Activity, Boise Ski Pioneer
- Nancy Ingalsbee, Skier's Voice in Washington, D.C.

Western Ski Heritage Award
- Eve Chandler
Author - *"Building Bogus Basin"*

Safety Person of the Year
- Emilio Trampuz
Northwest Ski Club Council

Charity & Community Awards
- Double Diamond 1st Club
Pacific Rim Alliance
San Diego & Los Angeles Councils
- Diamond 1st Club
4 Season's West Ski & Snowboard Club
Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs
- Diamond 2nd Club -
Bogus Basin Ski Club
Intermountain Ski Council

Communication Award Recipients

- ***Tollakson - Club of the Year***

1st: ***Reno Ski & Recreation***
President: Dianne Hilliard
2nd: ***Pacific Rim Alliance***
President: Catherine Ohl
3rd: ***Skiyente***
President: Amanda Moran

- ***Wentworth - Outstanding Publications/Masters***

1st: ***Pacific Rim Alliance***
Editor: Catherine Ohl
2nd: ***Mountain High***
Editor: Emilio Trampuz
3rd: ***Reno Ski & Recreation***
Editor: Lynn Wilbur

Outstanding Publications/Novice
1st: ***Don Diego Ski Club***
Editor: Karl Cikste
2nd: ***Skiyente***
Editor: Karen Frost
3rd: ***Altair Ski Club***
Editor: Janice Warden

- ***Outstanding Websites***

Website - Masters
1st: ***The Unrecables***
Webmaster: Dee Armstrong
2nd: ***Pacific Rim Alliance***
Webmaster: Catherine Ohl

Website - Advanced
1st: ***Reno Ski & Recreation***
Webmaster: Sandy Stocks

Website - Novice
1st: ***Mountain High***
Webmaster: Emilio Trampuz

Jordan-Reily Award

Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra was the recipient of the Jordan-Reily Award. Mark Spieler, Director of Operations, accepted the award from Steve Coxen, FWSA President, The award is given to an individual or organization that has made a significant contribution to disabled skiing.

2nd: ***Idaho Falls***
Webmaster: Bev Novak
3rd: ***Altair Ski Club***
Webmaster, Janice Wardan
Website - Council
1st: ***Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs***
Webmaster: Bonnie West
2nd: ***San Diego Council of Ski Clubs***
Webmaster: Laura Meldrum

We Wish to Thank the 2017 Silent Auction Milestone Participants

5 Year Award
Bike Tours
Wyndham Vacation Rentals - Steamboat

10 Year Award
Huntley Lodge
Ski Dazzle
The Crestwood

15 Year Award
Betty Donellan

20 Year Award
Holidaze Ski Tours
Silver Star Mountain Resort
Sports America

25 Year Award
Big Sky Resort
Deer Valley Resort

30 Year Award
Jackson Hole Mountain Resort

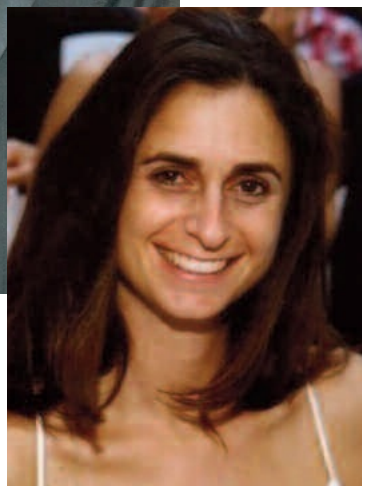
President's Award

Todd Hood, MC for the Awards Banquet and Snowsports Leadership Academy presenter for several years, received a President's Award from FWSA President, Steve Coxen.

President's Award

Mike Sanford, a FWSA Past President, VP of Public Affairs and a long time volunteer, received a President's Award from FWSA President, Steve Coxen.

Jimmie Heuga Award



Kate Togneri, the 2017 Vertical Express Event Director in Squaw Valley for Can Do MS, received the Jimmie Heuga Award, presented to an individual who, like Jimmie, has made a significant contribution to disabled skiing and/or has overcome a physical disability and has been an inspiration to others.

Terry Smith Award

Bob Ellis, president of the Far West Racing Association, presented the 2017 Terry Smith Award to Laura Priess, the Race Chair of ROKKA League. The Award is given to an outstanding individual who has greatly contributed to the advancement of intramural skiing.
photo / Nancy Ellis

Unless otherwise stated, Convention photos were taken by Cindy Sherman Photography

Todd Hood, VP of Membership, Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs, presented an entertaining and interactive Snowsports Leadership Academy Session. His topic was "Making Love to your Members - Building and Bridging Relationships for the Long Term".

Bev Novak

Donald Rasch

Delisa Rogers

Not Pictured:
Brian Edgerton
Peggy Hinman
Alex Chapman

"How to Build and Maintain a Successful Ski Club"

was the topic presented by members of the Idaho Falls Ski Club.

Dave Hall, from Race Works, and Kyle Woolstenhulme, the owner of Sun Valley Ski Tools, informed attendees at their Snowsports Leadership Academy seminar entitled "How to Keep your Skis in Tip Top Shape" about maintaining, tuning and the correct way to store your skis.

Chuck Cramer from McU Sports, pictured below, shared his expertise in his seminar, "What Goes into a Great Boot Fitting". Attendees appreciated the depth of his knowledge, and stayed around to ask numerous questions even after the session ended.

The Snowsports Leadership Academy Has Exciting Topics For All

by Jane Gutierrez
Vice President - Membership, FWSA

The Snowsports Leadership Academy, held on Saturday during the 85th Annual Convention in Boise, Idaho had a new and exciting twist! Sessions were held all day, and it was hard to find a seat! Experts in their field were present to speak on specific topics related to the snowsports industry. Topics can be taken back to be used by organizations or kept for personal use. This year, all the topics were professionally videotaped to be stored for future viewing. Link into the FWSA YouTube Channel at ***www.fwsa.org***.

Six members from Idaho Falls Ski Club did a detailed presentation on ***"How to Build and Maintain a Successful Ski Club"***. The team of Bev Novak, Don Rasch, Brian Edgerton, Delisa Rogers, Peggy Hinman, and Alex Chapman organized an informative group of topics. Idaho Falls members discussed their club's history, how they raise funds, website development, recruitment, and their challenges. The room was filled with club members asking questions!

Todd Hood, who graciously returned from last year's academy, once again presented another exciting topic on ***"Making Love to your Members. Building and Bridging Relationships for the Long Term"***. Todd is currently VP of Membership of Los Angeles Council and Treasurer of the National Brotherhood of Skiers Western Region. He discussed techniques to increase an organization's value to members. The more valuable you are, the more your members love, protect, and promote you. There was much to present, but so little time, and the guests wanted more.

The afternoon sessions were provided by Dave Hall, Kyle Woolstenhulme and Chuck Cremer. Dave and Kyle presented ***"How to Keep your Skis in Tip Top Shape"*** with a hands-on demonstration on how to tune and store your skis. Chuck presented ***"What Goes into a Great Boot Fitting"*** and his expertise on the topic made me want to go to his store immediately! People were in the hallway asking questions after the session.

It was a pleasure to meet and work with these talented experts in their field. Don't forget to watch the YouTube video if you were not present, missed a topic, or want the information for your organization.

Public Affairs Panels Convention - 2017

by Paula Hazzard
VP - Public Affairs, FWSA

The morning Public Affairs Panel at the Convention featured an impressive panel of snowsports experts. Shown left to right are: Ron Abramovich - U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service, Natalie Hurst - News Anchor KBOI-TV (CBS), Amanda Wiebush - Interim Executive Director of the Squaw Valley Ski Museum Foundation, Mike Sanford - VP of Public Affairs, Eve Chandler - Historian and Author of "Building Bogus Basin", and Bob Looper - President of the Idaho Ski Area Association. *Cindy Sherman Photography*

It's a new shotski-to-be, with the ladies of Skiyente Ski Club, along with Women's Ski Jumping USA guests. (L to R): Linda Coxen, Sandi Schaub, Jackie Smith, Sheri Parshall, Sarah Hendrickson - the 2013 World Champion and first woman to ever jump at an Olympics, Coleen Stroeder and Laura Sankey - President of Women's Ski Jumping USA.

Lively and informative Public Affairs Panel sessions were conducted on Saturday during the Far West Ski Association Convention, held in Boise, Idaho. The Impressive group of panelists consisted of a number of local snowsports experts. Mike Sanford, VP of Public Affairs, served as Moderator.

The morning Public Affairs Panel featured topics that included: media coverage of snowsport organizations and activities, snowsports history, the United States Forest Service, and climate change.

Natalie Hurst, veteran News Anchor, KBOI-TV, CBS Affiliate, informed attendees about the correct avenues for submitting press releases. Her enthusiasm encouraged all to have their clubs submit activities information to their local news, whether in print or on the air. *Eve Chandler*, Historian, reviewed the true story of Bogus Basin, which was constructed during the great depression by volunteers. A Boise native, Eve is the author of *"Building Bogus Basin"*.

Amanda Wiebush, Interim Executive Director of the Squaw Valley Ski Museum Foundation, provided an updated inside report of the museum's progress and all that it has to offer. The Squaw Valley Ski Museum Foundation collects, preserves, exhibits, and interprets western skiing heritage and the legacy of the 1960 Olympic Winter games.

Stephaney Kerley, Mountain Home District Ranger for the Boise National Forest, informed the attendees how policies of the USDA Forest Service impact ski area development and expansion. Bogus Basin Mountain Recreation Area is located partially in the Boise National Forest.

Bob Looper, President of Idaho Ski Area Association and *Ron Abramovich*, a water supply specialist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service, each have decades of expertise in their respective fields. They led a poignant discussion regarding climate change and how it currently is impacting ski resorts, and how it could impact the future of snowsports. Ron offered an insider's view of this year's current snow pack, moisture content, and touched on the runoff from the remaining snow pack entering our streams and reserves.

The afternoon Public Affairs Panel featured topics related to the United States Ski Team and Women's Ski Jumping USA, as they prepare for the 2018 Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang. The panel included: *Laura Sankey*, President of Women's Ski Jumping USA; *Alan Alborn*, an American former Ski Jumper and Women's Ski Jumping USA Head Coach; and, *Sarah Hendrickson*, the 2013 World Ski Jumping Champion who in 2014, was the first woman ever to jump at the Olympics. Panelists reviewed the history of Women's Ski Jumping USA, the fight and eventual victory to add Women's Ski Jumping as an Olympic sport, and what the future holds for the sport.

photo / The Heroes Project

photo / Don Pribble

USMC Staff Sergeant, Charlie Linville, the first combat wounded amputee to reach the top of Mt. Everest is shown at the Summit and as Keynote Speaker at the 2017 FWSA Convention.

Keynote Speaker, Charlie Linville Inspires Convention Attendees

by Jane Wyckoff
Convention Chair, FWSA

Convention Keynote Speaker, *Charlie Linville,* was born in Boise, Idaho on August 22, 1985. As the first combat wounded amputee to summit Mt. Everest, he gave a profound and moving presentation about his life's journey, the climb to the summit of Mt. Everest, and the evolution from being not sure what to do with the rest of his life, to doing what few people have done.

Staff Sergeant Linville was an Explosive Ordinance Disposal Technician in the Marine Corp, stationed in Afghanistan in 2011, where he had disarmed a multitude of IEDs. He estimated they disarmed about 1,800 IEDs a month, because they had a mission to save lives and stop the maiming. He explained, *"You believed that if you do it long enough, you will get hurt, so you keep a positive attitude and believe nothing can hurt you".*

On January 20, when responding to an IED detonation, conducting a sweep of the surrounding area, he was struck by a tertiary device. The explosion inflicted multiple injuries on Staff Sergeant Linville, including his back, a hand and right foot. He underwent 14 surgeries in 18 months. He made every effort to save his foot, before he lost it to a below the knee amputation in the summer of 2013.

Staff Sergeant Linville explained that he kept being told in the hospital what he couldn't do. He learned from this experience that he will never say the words, *"I Can't."* He explained that when we say *"I Can't",* we put ourselves in a small box. You can say *"I Don't Want",* but not *"I Can't".* The other thing he learned in the hospital was that *"Happiness is a Choice".* He urged that you should make it a conscious choice every day, no matter how bad it gets, that with a strong community around you, you can change.

In the spring of 2014, he agreed to come on board with ***The Heroes Project***, a non-profit organization that works with injured military veterans to inspire them to find purpose, both physically and mentally, and ignites others to do the same. The organization teaches Veterans that there are no boundaries, no limits you can't reach. The ***Expeditions for Heroes*** mission, allows them to explore the farthest reaches of themselves and the world they live in, by climbing the world's highest peaks. According to Tim Medvitz, founder of The Heroes Project, he selected Charlie as the first to climb the highest peak in the world, because of what the Staff Sergeant had in his head and his heart.

Charlie noted he was a skier, but never a mountain climber. So, he became dedicated to a strict and extremely difficult exercise and strength training program, and started to climb. He decided to set goals, and one was to climb to the top of the world. The climb was halted in April 2014, after 16 Sherpas lost their lives in an avalanche, and again on their second attempt in April 2015, after the earthquake in Nepal. Charlie and Tim remained in Nepal, assisting in the process of digging out the rubble, and were determined to return for a third try to reach the summit of Mt. Everest.

Charlie's Father, Tom Linville, was able to join him at the luncheon to hear his son's Keynote Speaker presentation, and is proud of his determination and courage. He admitted he was a little concerned about his son's #1 Item on his Bucket List – to make it into space! His service dog, Devon, stayed at his Father's feet under the table during the luncheon, and when called, to the delight of the audience, jumped up on the stage.

"In life we all come against something that is impossible. Rise up. Figure out what you want to do and how to do it. Quitting lasts forever."

He then told the story of his climb, with its difficulties and challenges, faced by all climbers, and those special to an amputee. He was in such good physical shape, that he reached the last 10' of the summit 45 minutes before his team, where he waited for them to join him, before climbing to the top. *"I left everything bugging me on the mountain,"* he said. On May 19, 2016, Charlie completed the last of The Seven Summits for The Heroes Project, and became the first combat wounded amputee to reach the top of Mt. Everest. Staff Sergeant Linville emphasized, *"In life we all come against something that is impossible. Rise up. Figure out what you want to do and how to do it. Quitting lasts forever."*

At the conclusion of his presentation, Staff Sergeant Linville told the audience, he wanted everyone to remember just two things - choose to be happy, and never tell yourself you can't do something.

The Far West Ski Association presented Staff Sergeant Linville with a donation to his selected charity, The Heroes Project.

To watch the complete Keynote Speaker address, go to ***www.fwsa.org*** and link into YouTube. The direct link is:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o_tY2zS5orc .

Eve Chandler received the Western Ski Heritage Award at the 2017 FWSA Convention held in Boise, Idaho, recognizing interest in Far West history through the collection, preservation and protection of appropriate articles and materials.

Eve Chandler Recognized With the 2017 Western Ski Heritage Award

Author of the historical account of the Development of Bogus Basin

by John Watson
Historian, FWSA

Historian and journalist, *Eve Chandler,* was the recipient of the 2017 ***Western Ski Heritage Award*** sponsored by Steamboat Resort. Chandler is the author of *Building Bogus Basin,* a hard cover, 224 page coffee table style book featuring more than 120 interviews with founding members, legendary skiers and others who have helped establish the Bogus Basin Mountain Recreation Area. The book includes hundreds of photos visually capturing the history of this beautiful ski area. She has also written for local, regional and national publications.

Eve Chandler spent several years interviewing people from all over the country who played key roles in making Bogus Basin what it is today. The result is *"Building Bogus Basin"*, a three-year history project filled with hundreds of colorful photos and stories. Chandler dug deep into archives, documents, letters and photographs to tell the ski area's story. The book starts with the current master plans for the ski area and delves into its beginnings during the Great Depression. She writes about how the ski area overcame a history of challenges to become a focal point of winter recreation, and a well of fond memories. Photographs provide a visual history, from wooden skis and military surplus clothes to skier styles through the decades.

A native Idahoan, she began her career as a health science writer for a major Chicago medical center. She received a BA from the University of Denver and later studied at the Art Institute of Chicago School of Art. Currently she is a board member of Idaho Public Television and Bogus Basin Recreational Association, Inc.

Emilio Trampuz, holding the award, was named Safety Person of the Year. Ryan Dohnal (left), Group Sales Manager for Telluride Ski Resort, program sponsor with Mountain Lodge Telluride, presented the Award with Steve Coxen (right), FWSA President. This honor is awarded for the person within FWSA who does the most to promote safe skiing and safety programs.
photos / Cindy Sherman Photography

Emilio Trampuz Wins the Safety Person of the Year Award

by Paula Hazzard
Vice President - Public Affairs, FWSA

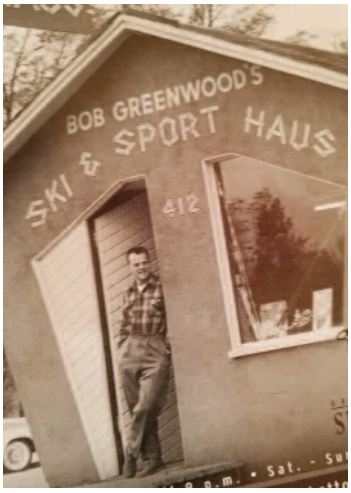
The ***Safety Person of the Year Award*** is given to the person within FWSA who does the most to promote safe skiing and safety programs at the club and/or council level. The recipient of this year's Safety Award is *Emilio Trampuz*, Mountain High Ski Club, Northwest Ski Club Council.

Among his many contributions, Emilio wrote an extensive article about skiing on Mt. Hood, Oregon. This unique area has National Forest trails, which can also be accessed from the ski resorts, notably Timberline. Some of these trails can be quite rewarding, but also present special safety issues.

Emilio developed a presentation that includes many photographs and maps. He points out the trails and marks them as part of his presentation on safety. He set up a detailed display of his work to share during the Convention, and answered questions from the attendees. He has also taken people on the slopes to show them this area.

Telluride Ski Resort and Mountain Lodge are the sponsors for the FWSA Safety Person of the Year program. For his efforts to increase safety consciousness, Emilio is awarded a 5-night ski package for two with lodging at Mountain Lodge, 4 days lift tickets and 4 days rentals. For further information, read the accompanying article on page 53.

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



Members of Bob Greenwood's family attended the Convention Awards Banquet to accept the Snowsports Builder Award on behalf of Bob. Unfortunately, he was unable to attend. Shown are: FRONT ROW – L TO R: Eric Straubhar, Jim Greenwood, Dottie Greenwood, Gail Greenwood, Micah Sandusky. BACK ROW – L TO R: Jana Straubhar, Jennifer DeWitt, Annie Greenwood, Carrie Gochnour. Bob opened the original Greenwood's Ski Haus in 1957 and ran it until 1985. *Top photo by Cindy Sherman Photography, others provided by John Watson*

Bob Greenwood

Dedicated to Sport & Community

by John Watson
History Committee Chair, FWSA

Bob Greenwood arrived in Boise in 1950 with his degree in Physical Education from WSC (WSU from 1959) earned on the GI Bill for his Navy service in World War II. This was the start of the Bob Greenwood of Boise. Bob's passion and drive over the next four decades have made an indelible impact on the development of recreational skiing at Bogus Basin and regionally.

Bob had some experience in the university ski shop and recreational racing. So when he arrived in Boise, he took jobs in several ski shops in the 1950s until he opened his own tiny store in 1957 – Greenwood's Ski Haus. And it continues today, albeit after several changes of ownership and location. Bob operated the Ski Haus through 1985 and it and his relationships had a regional influence in equipment sales. What started in tough times became good times as skiing became a mass recreation.

Concurrent with his employment in ski shops, Bob started with the Bogus Basin Ski School as an instructor. He taught skiing for a quarter century through 1976 and for much of this time, he was part of a traveling team of PNSIA examiners. His territory went from Sun Valley to all the big Washington and Oregon hills nearer the west coast.

In 1985, Bob started what he called the Prime Timers, a group he invited to Bogus Basin to make some tension-relaxing afternoon runs. The only qualification was that the skier had to be at least aged 50. In those days, he often greeted medical personnel on their Wednesday afternoons. Bob still skis with the Prime Timers at 91 years young, although he has passed the lead of the program.

Both Bob and his wife Dottie, whom he married in 1958, are life members of the Bogus Basin Ski Club and emeritus members of the Bogus Basin Recreation Association.

Nancy Ingalsbee

From Volunteer to Skiing's Voice in Washington

by John Watson
History Committee Chair, FWSA

Skiing and skiers were under great pressures in the 1965 - 1985 era due not only to the immense increase in popularity of skiing, but also from political action. Environmental activism created a long, bruising battle that mobilized FWSA members, clubs and councils to a level not experienced since. The skiers' battle became focused on the Disney proposal for development of Mineral King, the poster child in the battle for skiing, but the issue expanded quickly to a broader issue - the use of the public lands for skiing.

In an extraordinary set of actions, she took the initiative to do something about a significant threat to the future of skiing. She started her campaign in her own ski club, Balboa, and then in 1977 the Southern Council and San Francisco Ski Shows. She produced the world's "longest letter" to the Forest Service - and whoever else would listen - to proceed with the development of Mineral King. She had no expense money, so Balboa members raised $632 to send her to Washington with her letter. That was September, 1977. Later, thanks to a generous donation from Disney to fund Nancy full time, she commenced flying into Washington regularly. She had evolved from club activist to Association committeeperson, and then to full time as Director of Public Affairs in October 1977.

Nancy opened a Washington office for FWSA in May 1978 and a new USSA/Sports Government Relations office on Pennsylvania Avenue in June, 1981. Except for Inaugural duties for incoming President Ronald Reagan, she served as the principal Washington voice for skiers' interests for nearly ten frenzied years. She became a go-to expert in Washington on skiing matters for many agencies and political figures.

The Sierra Club sued the Forest Service over its environmental impact assessment for Mineral King. The suit ultimately reached the Supreme Court. FWSA and others had filed an amicus curiae brief in favor of skiing. The Sierra Club suit failed. But, then came legislation to put Mineral King into Sequoia National Park. This would kill Mineral King for skiing,

SNOWSPORTS BUILDER AWARD 2017

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

because the Park Service does not allow lift-served skiing on park lands. But we started too late; Mineral King went into Sequoia National Park October 16, 1978. It is considered by many skiers to be the mortal blow that ended further expansion of skiing in California.

But, there remained a further significant threat to terrain identified as suitable for skiing and the RARE II (Roadless Area Review and Evaluation) by the USFS was that threat. Nancy and the California Public Lands Coalition (Nancy was the organizer) systematically identified ALL potential ski terrain in roadless areas in California as identified by the Forest Service itself. Provisions were then drafted to exclude ski terrain from unfavorable land use decisions that would be made on the basis of the RARE evaluations. And, this systematic approach became a template for other regions.

We hope there will never again be another battle with our fellow environmentalists nor the mobilization of our own members. We are unlikely to see the likes of Nancy Ingalsbee again. Her efforts benefited both the future for grass roots skiers, as well as, that for ski area development. She was a major force in preserving the possibilities for future skiing on public lands. And, she made skiers a force to be reckoned with.

LEFT: Nancy Ingalsbee was an early proponent of skiing and skier issues. She opened a FWSA office in Washington, DC. Nancy testified at a Department of Agriculture hearing with the United States Ski Association (now US Ski and Snowboard) Attorney and the Mahre Brothers.

photoss provided by John Watson

ABOVE: Nancy developed campaigns and gathered signatures on ski issues.

LEFT: A member of the Balboa Ski Club, Nancy visited a club meeting on September 20, 2016, when she was traveling in California. She is shown with Jane Wyckoff, FWSA Trustee, in front of a special display prepared by BSC with Nancy's past accomplishments. *photo provided by Jane Wyckoff*

Outstanding FWSA Ski Clubs & Councils Give From the Heart!

by Sigrid Noack
Charities & Our Community Chair, FWSA

At the Annual FWSA Convention, President, Kim Hovren with her Bogus Basin Ski Club accepted a $50 FWSA check donated to the Bogus Basin Ski Patrol.
photos provided by Sigrid Noack

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

At this year's Convention in beautiful Boise, we again recognized our clubs and councils for their generous charity support with the eleventh annual ***"Charity and Community Service Recognition".*** By openly recognizing so many groups annually at the Convention, we hope to encourage others to become more involved with charity activities and donations.

Intermountain Ski Council's *Bogus Basin Ski Club* applied for this Charity Recognition for the first time, in the Diamond Class. Congratulations to President, *Kim Hovren* and her group for being so involved with charitable giving, and for taking the time to apply for this recognition. The ski club donated the winning $50 check to *Bogus Basin Ski Patrol.* Other charitable organizations supported by BBSC are the *Bogus Basin Ski Education Foundation*, the *College of Idaho Ski and Snowboard Team*, and *Recreation Unlimited*, an adaptive ski program at Bogus Basin for children and adults with physical and/or developmental disabilities. The club raises the funds with their Warren Miller Premiere Film Festival Party & Movie event. Members are now celebrating 52 Years of presenting this annual fundraiser to begin the winter season. This is a huge community event with 1,700 people in attendance this year, and the club raised $3,249.05 for their four favorite charities. Great job Bogus Basin Ski Club!

Four Seasons West Ski & Snowboard Club of Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs took first place in the Diamond Class, which is for clubs that have never won this recognition. President, *Jane Gutierrez*, happily accepted the $200 check from FWSA. The club donated their winnings to the *Jenesse Center*, a domestic violence prevention and intervention organization. This Center's programs and services include emergency shelter, counseling, legal services, education and health services, among others. The overall goal of the Jenesse Center is to change the pattern of abuse in the lives of women and children. Four Seasons West has a year-long activity for the Jenesse Center that begins every January - their *4SW Christmas Toiletry Wrap.* Members collect toiletries, makeup, towels, toothbrushes, etc. all year. In December, members celebrate each other at a potluck by wrapping gift boxes, which are then personally delivered to the *Jenesse Center.* This is a favorite community effort for club members. Club members also support the *American Cancer Society Relay For Life* by taking part in their *Annual Walk-A-Thon.* This is a 12 hour event and members can attend any time to give their support. Especially meaningful for participants is the luminaria ceremony in the evening to grieve and celebrate those who have passed on, as well as, those who are cancer survivors. Four Seasons West is aligned with the *Western Region of the National Brotherhood of Skiers*, a charitable organization, whose mission is to support youth of color for ski competition and to increase participation in the winter sport. Club members enjoy participating in their local and national ski weeks and especially the annual NBS Winter Carnival, where they raised $1,200 this year.

Pacific Rim Alliance of Los Angeles Council and San Diego Council was the winner in the Double Diamond Class, which is for clubs that have won the Diamond Class in previous years. President, Catherine Ohl, accepted the $200 FWSA check, and the club donated the funds to *Can Do MS*, formerly known as the Jimmie Heuga Center for Multiple Sclerosis, founded by FWSA's good friend Jimmie Heuga. Pac Rim is an amazing organization, involved with many charitable organizations, for whom members raise funds. This year, the group raised $2,350 with their 16th Annual *Wine Maker Dinner for MS.* To date, they have raised $29,000 with these very special and elaborate dinners, and more than $40,000 in their total fundraising efforts for Can Do MS. Another charitable activity was their *Ride and Ski for MS* at Squaw Valley, which included a scavenger hunt, a NASTAR race and a chance to ski with skiers, who had benefitted from the Can Do MS program. Club members felt it was a great experience seeing the joy that a day of skiing brought them. The club also participated in the *International Coastal Cleanup at Oceanside Beach*, joining the world's largest volunteer effort for our ocean and waterways, as well as, our canyons, creeks and parks, removing over 150,000 lbs of debris! Another fundraising activity for Pacific Rim members was the *Walk to End Alzheimer's.* Members walked as team *"Pat's Pride"* in honor of a member's sister. Together, with the *Radar River Rats*, they raised more than $5,000 at this event. President, *Catherine Ohl*, supports the *USARC Peak-to-Peak* and *Ski-A-Thon* by donating the time needed to create graphic packages for their two major fundraisers. The Peak-to-Peak is a 5-day bike ride from Big Bear to Mammoth Mountain held every October. Club members also assisted with the *World Cup Womans' Races* in Squaw Valley, California. Pac Rim members are very conscientious about recycling, setting up a bin at every meeting and donating the cash to one of their charities. Pac Rim chooses a charity to support

Clubs are active in many community outreach programs.

Unrecables of LAC, held a holiday event for AbilityFirst, with a toy drive and delivered them to their new friends.

Pacific Rim Alliance was the winner in the Double Diamond Class. Gene Fulkerson, is pictured with Sigrid Noack, FWSA Chair of the Charities & Our Community Program.

Jane Gutierrez, president of 4 Seasons West Ski Club, accepts a $200 FWSA check from Sigrid Noack, which they donated to their favorite charity.

each quarter. This past year, they donated to the *Wounded Warrior Project*, *USARC's Peak to Peak*, *ALS* and *St. Jude's*.

The Unrecables of Los Angeles Council is the Los Angeles Chapter of *Disabled Sports USA*. This ski club was a surprise applicant this year for the FWSA Charities Recognition. It was unique in that DSUSA is a charitable organization, and yet, The Unrecables decided to "give back" to another charitable organization! This is really an amazing and wonderful concept. Club members held a holiday event for *AbilityFirst*, an organization that provides a variety of programs to help people with disabilities. The Unrecables members could well identify with and appreciate this group's motto, ***"Looking beyond disabilities, Focusing on capabilities, Expanding possibilities"***!

The club first held a Holiday Party Movie Night pot luck in conjunction with a Toy Drive for their own members. About 30 members attended - bringing many toys to donate to their favorite new charity. The club bought some additional toys, and a week later several Unrecables members, wearing happy Santa hats, delivered the toys to AbilityFirst in Inglewood. Many smiles on beautiful faces, as club members presented the gifts to kids, who don't really have much to celebrate during the holiday season. The Unrecables felt the warm holiday spirit, being able to share with others. The club is very thankful to *Sempra Energy* and *Melody McCullough*, who financially and in person, assisted them with this wonderful holiday giving event. During the ski season, the Unrecables offer scholarships to all members. The purpose of this program is to assist students, as well as, instructors financially on trips and other activities. The Scholarship Program gets funded by individual donations, ski club donations, the Ralphs Community Contribution Program, and AmazonSmile. The club skis at Mammoth Mountain one weekend a month during the winter months and provides all the necessary equipment. Mammoth sponsors these weekends by giving The Unrecables free lift tickets, but instructors and students still have the expense of trip lodging, transportation and meals. Many members were approved for scholarships this ski season, enabling them to participate in our trips and enjoy skiing!

The winning clubs of this *"Charity and Community Service Recognition"* program displayed very impressive picture boards, showing their involvement with charitable community activities. Industry representatives and ski club delegates expressed their amazement at the variety and the extent of volunteerism and charity support within the FWSA family. CONGRATULATIONS and thank you to all of these wonderful, caring club members of FWSA!

Several Sports Related Charities are Favorite FWSA Beneficiaries:

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 of museums and historical snowsports. To learn more, please check out ***http://www.farwestskifoundation.org***.

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

Another FWSA favorite organization is ***Disabled Sports USA,*** whose mission is to provide national leadership and opportunities for individuals with disabilities to develop independence, confidence, and fitness through participation in community sports, recreation and educational programs. ***http://dsusa.org or http://www.warfightersports.org***.

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

The 86th Annual Far West Ski Association Convention will be held at the exquisite Atlantis Casino Resort Spa in Reno, Nevada. Although FWSA has conducted quite a few Conventions in Reno, this will be the first Convention at the Atlantis, Reno's premier AAA Four Diamond resort.
photo courtesy of the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa

A High Sierra Stampede is Headed for Reno!

June 7 - 10, 2018

by Jo Simpson
Host Council Convention Coordinator, FWSA

The Far West Ski Association is headed back to Reno, Nevada for the 86th Annual Far West Ski Association Convention, June 7 - 10, 2018. Co-hosted by the *Bay Area Snow Sports Council* and the *Sierra League & Council* at the beautiful Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, this will be one not to be missed.

Reno is the largest city in Northern Nevada, 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 & Visitor's Authority to plan some exciting events, so be sure to extend your stay to take advantage of all that Reno and Nevada have to offer.

Located just minutes from the Reno-Tahoe International Airport, the Atlantis provides guests with free shuttle service right to their door. It is Reno's premier AAA Four Diamond resort, and features distinctive décor, contemporary furnishings and seamless in-room technology. The beautifully designed rooms, award-winning restaurants, Forbes Four-Star luxury spa and casino entertainment are second to none.

Spa Atlantis is a space and place for personal comfort and relaxation, a get-away from the everyday world. Surrounded by calm soothing colors, natural stone and the gentle flow of water, you are free to surrender to its healing wonders. The Spa offers a variety of treatments from around the world, as well as year-round indoor whirlpools, an atrium pool, and an exceptionally-equipped Cardio-Fitness Center. For additional information about the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, go to ***www.atlantiscasino.com***.

All of the Optional Events planned by our Host Councils are outstanding, and fit our group to a "T". Thursday is set aside for a day of Kayaking the Truckee River. A bus will pick you up at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, and take you up river, where you will hop in your kayak, and begin your trek into downtown Reno. Once you return to your room, take a bit of time to fluff and buff, and prepare for an awesome Pub Crawl throughout the downtown area.

Friday's activities include the 12th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament, at the beautiful Lakeridge Golf Course, just two short miles from the hotel. The course offers breath-taking views of Reno and the surrounding mountains. A light breakfast and shotgun start will send you off for your round of 18 holes. Be prepared for a surprise along the way and swing your way back to the clubhouse for a wonderfully prepared lunch and tournament awards. A very do-able hike at Lake Tahoe with its magnificent views, is followed by lunch at a local café. If you are looking for a day of relaxation, a special Spa Day is planned at the luxurious Spa Atlantis. Then, it's back to the hotel for the Pool Party with fun activities, hosted by the Central Council of California.

Friday evening is when things really start happening. Beginning at 5:30 pm, enjoy hors d'oeuvres and mingling at the Club Happy

Hour. Then, at 6:30 pm, the doors to the beautiful Atlantis Grand Ballroom will be thrown open, and it's time to enjoy a Welcome Party like no other. Everyone entering into the party will receive a coupon for a complimentary beverage until 8:00 pm. The event is free and open to the public. You will have the opportunity to network with ski industry representatives, tour operators, lodging partners, hard goods retailers and many more. You may even see a ski celebrity or two among the crowd. Meet and greet your favorite ski resort representative to discuss possible trips and see what they have up for auction during the Silent Auction and Snowsports Trade Show part of the evening. Bid on an adventure package or two, and mingle with friends. Then, follow the night up with music from our DJ until the end of the evening.

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

Saturday evening is when the Stampede takes place in the ballroom. Everyone will dress up for the Awards Banquet to honor all those who have worked so hard over the past year(s), and who will be recognized by their peers for their outstanding contributions to Far West Ski Association. All of this will be followed up by more music and dancing, putting a wonderful end to an even more wonderful event.

Reno is known as *"The Biggest Little City in the World."* Just ask anyone. Come enjoy the town, and our beautiful host hotel. Enjoy the luxurious rooms in the Atlantis Tower at our very attractive group rate, with no resort fees, FREE parking and free Wi-Fi. You can reserve a room reservation online at ***https://reservations.travelclick.com/98418?groupID=2016540*** or by calling ***800-723-6500***. The group name for the Convention room rate is ***"Far West Ski Association"***.

For additional information, visit the Far West Ski Association website: ***www.fwsa.org***. Detailed information will be posted as it becomes available. Registration material will be posted in early 2018. For detailed information regarding optional events and local programs, contact ***Jo Simpson*** at *jo.simpson@sbcglobal.net* or ***Paul Vlasveld*** at *pvlasveld@comcast.net*, Host Council Convention Coordinators. For opportunities to promote services and products to our club members, snowsports representatives, tour operators, resorts and Reno businesses are encouraged to contact ***Debbi Kor***, FWSA VP of Marketing & Sponsorships and FWSA Convention Chair at *fwsadebbi@comcast.net* or ***Jeannine Davis,*** Silent Auction Chair, at *silentauction@fwsa.org*.

The Sierra and Bay Area Councils are excited to welcome you to Reno to have fun, get valuable information, and to network with our industry partners and fellow ski club members. ***See you in Reno!***

There's plenty to do and see year around in the Lake Tahoe / Reno Area. Check out the digital insert at www.fwsa.org.

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The 87th Annual Far West Ski Association's Convention will be held at the luxurious Hyatt Regency Indian Wells Resort & Spa, Indian Wells, California.

It's a California Adventure for Convention 2019

June 13 - 16, 2019

by Debbi Kor
Convention Chair, FWSA

Far West Ski Association's 87th Annual Convention will be held June 13 - 16, 2019 in beautiful Indian Wells, California, where the days are warm, and the evenings are cool, quiet and relaxing. Our host for this event will be the *Orange Council of Ski Clubs*, with assistance from the *Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs*.

We will be staying at the luxurious Hyatt Regency Indian Wells Resort & Spa, which provides the quintessential Palm Springs experience. Located in the exclusive community of Indian Wells, the resort's outstanding hospitality and service allows for successful meetings and unforgettable leisure activities. Guests can enjoy championship golf, tennis, pools and award-winning spa facilities to relax, play and indulge.

Located 20 minutes from downtown Palm Springs, and the Palm Springs International Airport, the Hyatt Regency offers a variety of beautiful indoor and outdoor event venues that will motivate and inspire every guest.

Spacious guest rooms (530 non-smoking rooms) offer king and double queen rooms, plus more than 70 suites and villa options. Dining at Lantana, the Roadrunner Café, or in the Agave Sunset Tequila Bar will provide you with all the dining options you will need. The two PGA-caliber golf courses and soothing pools are part of the luxury getaway for guests at the Hyatt Regency Indian Wells Resort & Spa. Let all your stress melt away at the spa and show off your bikini by one of the seven pools, some adult-only. A private Pool Party is planned for the convention at one of the pools. The 13th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament will be held at the Indian Wells Golf Resort. This is the only 36-hole public golf facility that holds the distinction of both courses being on *Golfweek*'s Top 20 *"Best Courses You Can Play"* in California.

Free Wi-Fi is available in guest rooms and social spaces, lobbies and restaurants, and complimentary on-site parking is offered as well. For those that enjoy outdoor exercise, the Resort provides complimentary bicycle rentals. Additional information can be found at ***www.indianwells.regency.hyatt.com***.

In the heart of prestigious Palm Desert, Hyatt Regency Indian Wells Resort & Spa is just four miles from shopping and dining on El Paseo Drive. Enjoy nature at the Living Desert Zoo and Gardens, three miles west. Get a new perspective from Palm Springs Aerial Tramway or spend a day at Knott"s Soak City Water Park, both about a half-hour away. Come early and stay late. It will be an event you'll be talking about for a long time.

What's Next?

by Richard Lubin
The Snowboarding Chiropractor,
Safety Chair, FWSA

Age may wrinkle the face, but lack
of enthusiasm wrinkles the soul.
– a Danish proverb

This season ask yourself ***"What's Next?"*** Last year, maybe you got to go to some great resorts that you have never been to before. Perhaps, you had some great powder days, or met lots of new friends. Perhaps, you recently got new equipment and you're looking forward to taking the next step forward by challenging yourself to ride the steep, go off piste, or conquer a perfect mogul field. Or, maybe your plan is to improve your ski technique, to race, to try snowboarding, nordic skiing, telemarking, snowshoeing, or developing other skills? Or, maybe your goal is to expand your horizons and visit more resorts. After all, the world has hundreds of beautiful ski venues - all unique and worthy of creating new memories.

According to the National Ski Areas Association (NSAA) the average age of skiers is 38.5 years old and skis (or snowboards) less than six days a year. We would like to think that Far West Ski Association members are way above average for days on the slopes.

NSAA conducts studies on many facets of snowsports. According to long time and recently past president of NSAA, Michael Berry, *"The person who skis the most in a given year is 65 and older."* He is referring to averages for all skiers at all of the resorts who participated in a survey which included over 300 ski areas. FWSA is a member of this Colorado based organization. Friends of mine who are seniors, and retired, are skiing dozens of days. Let's investigate why there is more skiing in this older, pardon me, more mature, category.

It is a combination of factors. Individuals in this group often have more free time and have more resources. In the past, health may have interfered with folks in this age group, notably problems with knees and hips. Advances in medicine have given new life for older skiers with joint replacements along with other advances. Improvements in ski technology makes skis, boots and poles lighter and better than ever. Whereas 180+cm skis were common in the past, composite materials utilized in modern shaped skis makes them much shorter, lighter and more responsive.

Other factors may include discounts from ski operators on both day and season

passes. Once people are retired, they can - and maybe even prefer - to ski midweek where there are fewer crowds on the slopes. Additionally, ski resorts have better snowmaking and grooming than ever, making skiing easier and more enjoyable - even in lean snow years.

It's never easy to recognize - or admit to one's self - that you were not the skier that you once were. For 15 years, I was progressively ramping up my days on the hill. By the end of the 2008 season, I had my most prolific year at 65 days. Suddenly on day 64 and 65, my left ankle was very sore limiting my riding. That summer, I stayed off my ankle with no improvement. I finally went to the podiatrist and found out that my ankle joint was destroyed and I would never have my maximum skills again. It was a real ***"What's Next"*** moment.

Was the desire still there? Yes, I made changes to continue. For me, it was taping my ankle, wearing a brace, and using a unique expensive custom fitted orthotic. It was a lot of trouble, but in my firm snowboarding boots, it felt more secure than usual. Indeed snowboarding was more comfortable than walking.

So that brings us to where you are right now. Do you have the desire, and/or the means? If so, continue with your chosen passion. Just because you've hit a milestone birthday doesn't mean you have to put away your skis or your snowboard. There are still runs and trails to enjoy! What could be better than a long cruiser on a bluebird day? You've met many new friends along the way. Keep in touch with them and enjoy their company.

If you have to change, consider making accommodations. Go to the proper healthcare professionals to help optimize your condition. Having a great sports oriented Chiropractor is a real plus. Slow down or ski the easier trails. Consider the beauty and grace of nice and easy "ballroom" skiing. Stay in the game as long as you can. I know you want to retain the benefits of skiing. Just think of all you would be missing. Tune those skis. Wax that board. Sign up for the many trips available with your ski club, council and the Far West Ski Association. At some point, you may reach a terminus. Health issues, finances, or other problems. No matter what your circumstances are, your attitude can always stay great, just like mine. Enjoy the memories and ask yourself ***"What's Next?"***

Shortly after the 2009 ski season began, Richard Lubin was paralyzed from a non-snowboard and non-traumatic condition. Due to his condition, he has not been able to board again, but his heart is on the slopes with you. Enjoy them while you can!

Marking the Safety Boundaries

photos provided by Emiilio Trampuz

Emilio Trampuz and other members of the Mountain High Snowsport Club researched, developed signage and posted them to assist skiers for a safe return to lifts and the base area.

On Mt. Hood - West of Timberline

The winner of this year's Safety Person of the Year Award, Emilio Trampuz, a member of the Mountain High Snowsport Club in Portland, Oregon, has significantly improved the safety of skiers and snowboarders on Mt. Hood, Oregon, by preventing them from getting lost.

Skiers have gotten lost in the forests and canyons west of Timberline for decades. A Forest Service map from 1941 identifies both Little Zig Zag Canyon and Sand Canyon as areas where skiers get lost. They continue to get lost to this day, partly because the fall line west of Timberline doesn't take you back to the ski area. In all these decades, only a single sign placed in Sand Canyon warns people to exit the canyon there and start traversing, and even this sign is so badly deteriorated that it is almost impossible to read what it says.

Emilio has been scouting the forest for the past seven or eight years, hiking it in the summer and skiing it in the winter, identifying and marking the safety boundaries with ribbons. However, during this past year, Emilio, working with the Forest Service, obtained permission to set up more permanent signs marking the two safety boundaries:

1. ***YELLOW boundary*** - Last chance to return to the lifts.
2. ***RED boundary*** - Last chance to return to the town of Government Camp.

Anyone going beyond the red boundary will have to deal with several hours of slogging though deep snow and having to cross a large stream (or small river) more than once. They will, most likely have to spend a cold and wet night in the dark forest. Fortunately, if you just keep going down the hill, after several hours, you will eventually get to Kiwanis Camp Road (Road 39), which is part of the old Mt. Hood highway. This road may be partially snowed in, but if you follow it down for another two miles, you will eventually hit highway 26.

The new safety signs will hopefully help save a lot of people from this ordeal. The signs are the size of car license plates, colored bright yellow and bright red, with text explaining that this marks the safety boundary, and an arrow pointing toward to the lifts and the town.

Emilio received further help from several other members of the Mountain High Snowsport Club - including *Kay Kinyon*, *Walt Blomberg*, *Kurt Krueger*, *Bill King*, *Tom Rodrigues*, *Jon Waldum*, and *Janis Allen*. Together, they spent hours cutting and assembling the signs, pasting reflective arrows on them, and posting the signs on trees.

The signs were posted under the supervision of *Mark Engler*, the Forest Service West Zone Recreation Program Manager.

This is an ongoing, long-term project, requiring a serious commitment. But in the end, it's all worth it. Some skiers and riders, seeing us posting the signs have already thanked us for doing this, and many more will be happy to come across these signs when they are about to get lost in the forest.

Unique and distinctive jagged granite peaks, called Minarets, are located near Mammoth Mountain Ski Area.

photo courtesy of Mammoth Mountain Ski Area

The Public Affairs portfolio of programs is designed to present the positions of the FWSA to the outside world. As *"The Voice of the Western Skier"*, FWSA has been very active in a whole host of areas that affect ski area development, safety, volunteer liability, transportation, taxation, ski history and consumer advocacy. Topics such as airline baggage rules, discounts for season passes, news about ski country direct airline routes and ski area development 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 breadth of the FWSA's Public Affairs program is significant and FWSA is committed to doing all we can in communicating issues, educating our membership and reaching out to the general public on a huge range of issues and interests that might be included under the large umbrella of topics that could be considered "public affairs". We strongly encourage all skiers and boarders to get involved in issues that might affect them either directly or even indirectly 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 informed about relevant news and other issues, please visit ***www.fwsa.org***. Here are some topics of current interest.

MAJOR MERGER UNITES NUMEROUS AMERICAN & CANADIAN RESORTS

Intrawest was seeking buyers for its stable of resorts. More than 170 potential bidders lined up to buy the famed ski resorts under the Intrawest umbrella. Some were resort operators, but most were financial firms and individual billionaires. Destination resorts are currently a coveted asset.

The winning bid was a combination. Affiliates of KSL Capital Partners, LLC - a Denver private equity firm, and Henry Crown and Company – a privately held operating company which includes Aspen Skiing Company, LLC, formed a new joint venture. The completion of their previously announced acquisition of Intrawest Resorts Holdings, Inc. was announced on July 31, 2017. Through these transactions, ***Squaw Valley Ski Holdings***, ***Intrawest Resort Holdings, Inc.*** and ***Mammoth Resorts*** combined as one company. On August 21, 2017, it was announced that this new venture will also be purchasing ***Deer Valley Resort*** in Utah. Solitude Mountain Resort, which Deer Valley bought in 2015, is not part of the deal and will remain under the current Deer Valley ownership.

This new entity - as yet un-named as of press time, will merge 12 four-season mountain resorts with approximately six million skier visits, and 20,000 skiable acres. The twelve ski areas include: Squaw Valley, CA; Alpine Meadows, CA; Mammoth Mountain, CA; Snow Summit, CA; Bear Mountain, CA; June Mountain, CA; Steamboat, CO; Winter Park, CO; Stratton Mountain, VT; Snowshoe Mountain, WV; Blue Mountain, Ontario, Canada; and Mont Tremblant, Quebec, Canada, plus the four Aspen Skiing Company resorts of Aspen Mountain, Snowmass, Highlands and Buttermilk, and Deer Valley Resort. For the full 2017-18 winter season, the new company will continue to honor the existing pass products that are currently on sale, including the Rocky Mountain Super Pass +, the M.A.X. Pass, and the Mountain Collective. In future years, look for them to be offering a multi-resort ticket to compete with Vail's Epic Pass.

NATIONAL / INTERNATIONAL NEWS IN SNOWSPORTS

United States Ski and Snowboard Association: The US Ski and Snowboard Association has rebranded its name. The governing body will now simply be known as ***US Ski & Snowboard***. According to the organization, the changes will unite athletes, members and fans as one team with a vision to be the best in the world in Olympic skiing and snowboarding. The new logo features elements of the American flag, the letters "US" and a mountain, in a shield design. *"With the continuous evolution of our sports, it was important for us to have a common brand that truly represented who we are as an organization and what we aim to achieve across all of our different sport programs and teams together,"* said Tiger Shaw, US Ski & Snowboard's President and Chief Executive.

FIS World Snow Day – the goal is to encourage children with their families to enjoy and explore snow while learning about the environment, health benefits of snow activities and safety on and off the snow. There were 225 events in 39 countries this past year, that had over 200,000 participants.

SKI AREA DEVELOPMENT, CONSUMER ADVOCACY & TRENDS

Winter Park Resort (CO) and ***Wachusett Mountain Ski Area*** (MA) - **Digital Screen on a Chair Lift?** Yep! This winter, you could be staring at a screen while on a chairlift. This process is *Lift Digital*, and is similar to those screens seen at gas station pumps, in elevators and in taxis. Contracts have been signed with two ski areas. For this coming winter season, the screens will include information like GPS, trail maps, safety tips, weather updates, social media and trail conditions. Each seat on the chairlift will receive a screen, and the goal is to install 180 screens on Mary Jane's 6-person Super Gauge chairlift at Winter Park and up to 120 screens at Wachusett.

Mammoth Mountain (CA) - has brought together work and play by offering *"The Fort"*. With the need to work remotely, The Fort is

PUBLIC AFFAIRS 2017

by Paula Hazzard
Vice President - Public Affairs, FWSA

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

a co-working space where you can plug in, post up, collaborate and tap into a creative community. This "Fort" brings a convenient, modern co-working space offering lightning-fast internet, and everything needed to get your work done while still enjoying the High Sierras.

SKI AREA SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS & PROGRAM

Many of our resorts have instituted "Green" and "Sustainable Projects". Here are just a few, and what they have already put into motion:

Squaw Valley /Alpine Meadow (CA) - has discontinued selling single-use water bottles, and as a result, will remove at least 28,000 bottles from our waste stream and landfills each season. You will be encouraged to carry a reusable water bottle and stay hydrated for free. There are 20+ refill stations to Drink Mountain Tap.

Mt. Bachelor (OR) - received a cash grant to install an infrared motion sensor control system for lighting in the Pine Marten Lodge. The upgraded automated lighting system will replace the current system of manual on and off switches and allow for off-site monitoring, helping to reduce electricity use and the ski area's carbon footprint by 120 MTCO2e or 2 percent. Mt. Bachelor is a participant in the ski industry's Climate Challenge.

Arapahoe Basin (CO) - will receive the benefits of an in-kind Sustainability Staffing consulting services grant valued at $5,000. Brendle Group, the sustainability engineering and planning firm that manages the Climate Challenge, will help A-Basin assess the important intersection of HR and sustainability. Arapahoe Basin is also a participant in the Climate Challenge, and has pledged to reduce emissions by three percent under 2008-09 levels by 2019-20.

Copper Mountain Resort (CO) - also a participant in the Climate Challenge, has been awarded a high-efficiency snowmaking grant. Copper will use this grant to kick start a deeper investment into more efficient snowmaking equipment across the mountain. Low-energy snowmaking equipment will decrease compressed air consumption, save power, and reduce the ski area's carbon footprint. The existing snow guns use 232 CFM compressed air to produce 27 GPM of snow, while the replacement guns will use only 29 CFM compressed air to produce the same 27 GPM of snow, representing an 87 percent savings in compressed air.

Jackson Hole Mountain Resort (WY) - a founding member of the Climate Challenge, has completely jumped right in and has committed to follow the applicable environmental laws and regulations along with the principles of the *National Ski Area Association's* (NSAA) *Sustainable Slopes Charter*. The resort will establish targets for pollution prevention and continually review and improve their environmental program, while communicating these environmental policies to employees and the public.

Please refer to ***www.fwsa.org*** for public affair updates.

Woman's Ski Jumping was finally approved as a medal event in the 2014 Winter Olympics held in Sochi, Russia. Sarah Hendrickson's 13 individual World Cup victories places her second all-time behind Sara Takanashi, as of March 2017. *photo courtesy of Women's Ski Jumping USA / Ben Pieper / Point Productions*

Excitement Builds for the XXIII Winter Olympics in PyeongChang

by Jane Wyckoff

Along with the thrill and excitement from the announcement that the 2028 Summer Olympics will be held in Los Angeles, USA, we will now turn our attention to the upcoming 2018 Winter Olympic Games and Paralympic Winter Games, to be held in PyeongChang, South Korea. The Winter Olympics will feature 17 days of Olympic competition from February 9 - 25, with more than 2,800 athletes from 95 nations expected to participate.

The Far West Ski Association has supported junior racers and Olympic hopefuls since the founding of the organization. The Athletic Scholarship Program has awarded over $100,000 to over 100 recipients since the inception of the program 14 years ago. Over the years, we have been honored to have had Olympians as Keynote Speakers and special guests to our annual Convention. ***Billy Kidd*** - Silver Medalist in Slalom, 1964 Olympics in Innsbruck, attended this year's Convention in Boise, and has attended many Conventions in the past. Also attending this year was ***Sarah Hendrickson*** - 2014 Olympian in Women's Ski Jumping, ***Laura Sankey*** – President of Women's Ski Jumping USA, and ***Alan Alborn*** – Head Coach of Women's Ski Jumping USA. They provided valuable information about the Olympics, and also generated much enthusiasm among Convention attendees about the upcoming XXIII Olympic Winter Games.

Location: After waiting for more than 15 years, the cauldron will be lit at the South Korean ski resort in the Taebeck Mountains. It took South Korea three tries to win the IOC votes to host its first Winter Olympics, after losing the bid to Vancouver in 2010 and to Sochi in 2014. This will be the second time South Korea will be welcoming the world's greatest athletes, having previously hosted the Olympic Summer Games in 1988 (Seoul). The only Asian country to have hosted the Olympic Winter Games twice is Japan, in 1972 (Sapporo) and 1998 (Nagano).

The "c" in "PyeongChang" was capitalized, to help avoid confusion with the North Korean capital of Pyongyang. The North Korean border (DMZ), is actually in the province in which PyeongChang County is located. The Olympic site is about 60 miles south of the border and 80 miles east of Seoul.

USSA photo / Cody Downard, photographer

New Events: There will be more than 100 medal events for the first time in PyeongChang, with an increase from 98 in 2014 to 102. New to the program are Men's and Women's Big Air Snowboarding, Mass Start Speed Skating, an Alpine Skiing Team Event and Mixed Doubles Curling. The Alpine Skiing Team Event, where racers from each country go head-to-head in parallel slaloms, is already a world championships event.

There are a total of 15 disciplines: Alpine Skiing, Biathlon, Bobsled, Cross-Country Skiing, Curling, Figure Skating, Freestyle Skiing, Ice Hockey, Long Track Speedskating, Luge, Nordic Combine, Short Track Speedskating, Skeleton, Ski Jumping, and Snowboarding.

The Olympic Qualifying Process

The selection procedures for each sport are developed by the National Governing Bodies in concert with the USOC, following parameters set forth by each International Federation. Each sport will have a maximum number of participants, based on the Olympic Quota Allocation List released by the International Ski Federation (FIS), which will be published on January 22, 2018.

In collaboration between the US Olympic Committee and its National Governing Bodies, U.S. Olympic Team Trials are held in multiple sports prior to the upcoming Olympic Games, and allows athletes to vie for the honoring of representing Team USA. Often, the Trials are the last stop in an athlete's journey to the Olympics, and also offer fans an up-close experience with America's sports heroes before leaving for the Olympics.

US Ski and Snowboard announced that the U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Ski Jumping and Nordic Combined will be held December 30 - 31 at the Utah Olympic Park. Nordic Combined will be featured on December 30 and Ski Jumping for both men and women will be on December 31. The winner of each event will receive a spot on the U.S. Olympic Team, with the remainder of the ski and snowboard teams named later in January. Up to a maximum of four Nordic Combined athletes and eight Ski Jumpers could be sent to PyeongChang.

Tiger Shaw, President and CEO, US Ski & Snowboard stated, *"Our sport is fortunate to continue to take advantage of legacy opportunities nearly 16 years after the 2002 Olympics in Utah. The Utah Olympic Park will be an amazing backdrop for our athletes in an event that will showcase our sport nationwide on NBC."*

Alpine Skiing could send a maximum of 22 Alpine skiers, with up to two athletes in each event qualifying, Snowboarding could send a maximum of 26 athletes, and Freestyle Skiing could send a maximum of 30 athletes. Remaining quota spots will be filled based on an objective criteria used for these disciplines, and then at the discretion of the coaching staff.

A maximum of 20 athletes could represent the U.S. in Cross-Country Skiing. Selecting the athletes for the U.S. cross-country team will be based on Final World Cup standings and FIS point lists at the end of the 2016 -17 season.

photo / Deer Valley Ski Resort

U.S. Olympic Hopefuls

Experts are predicting that the US might, for the first time, be able to top the medal standings at a Winter Olympics held outside North America. According to NBC Sports Writer, Nick Zaccardi, there are three primary reasons. First, the Winter Games are being held far away from traditional European powers Germany and Norway. Second, rival Russia is dealing with a doping scandal that could limit (or eliminate) the participation of some of its stars. Third, there is a continued American stronghold on new freestyle events on the Olympic program.

Here are Just Some of Them!

- ***Mikaela Shiffrin***: Alpine Skiing – the youngest Olympic slalom champion in Sochi. In 2017, Shiffrin had an impressive season, grabbing six slalom victories, three giant slalom victories and one alpine combined victory. Add to that her third straight World Championship slalom title and a silver medal in the giant slalom in St. Moritz, Switzerland, along with her fourth career World Cup slalom title and her first-ever Overall title, and it's quite clear that Shiffrin's dominance is expected in PyeongChang. Mikaela was a recipient of the FWSA President's Award in 2013.

Sarah Hendrickson: Ski Jumping – the 2013 World Champion and in 2014 became the first woman ever to jump at the Olympics. Sarah's 2011 World Cup victory in Lillehammer made her the first woman ever to win a World Cup ski jumping competition. Sarah was a recipient of the FWSA President's Award in 2012.

Lindsey Vonn: Alpine Skiing – the 2010 Olympic downhill champion and the female Alpine skier with the most wins in history. Lindsey missed the Sochi Winter Olympic Games due to a knee surgery. However, she returned to the top of the podium again this past season after more knee and arm fractures. Lindsey was the recipient of the 2017 Bill Berry Award for her book *"Strong is the New Beautiful: Embrace Your Natural Beauty, Eat Clean, and Harness Your Power"*.

Maddie Bowman: Freestyle Skiing – the Sochi ski halfpipe champion. She has earned medals in all eight of her X Games appearances in Aspen and Europe, dating back to 2012, despite knee surgeries in 2014 and 2015.

Jamie Anderson: Snowboarding – the Sochi slopestyle gold medalist. Jamie could go for two medals in PyeongChang, with the addition of Big Air to the Olympic program. There are two potential U.S. Olympic rookies that could provide some strong competition – ***Hailey Langland*** and ***Julia Marino***.

photo / Wallfoy.com

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: ♦ Mikaela Shiffen races down the GS 2017 Audi FIS Ski World Cup Finals in Aspen. ♦ With all her accomplishments, USSA named Mikaela as one of eight athletes in its annual awards. ♦ Athletes train for aerial events at Deer Valley. ♦ Shaun White, winner at the US Grand Prix held at Mammoth Mountain, is focusing on halfpipe events.

Chloe Kim: Snowboarding – was too young for Sochi at the age of 13. She has since won two X Games titles and became the first woman to score a perfect, 100-point run and land back-to-back 1080s. Chloe is the daughter of South Korean immigrants.

Shaun White: Showboarding – has changed coaches and dropped the slopestyle event since finishing fourth in Sochi. Shaun is now focused solely on halfpipe, and won the last US Grand Prix at Mammoth Mountain, California, after finishing 11th at the Winter X Games.

Link into the US Ski and Snowboard site at ***http://ussa.org/*** for all the latest news regarding the Team USA selections, athletes, schedules and the medal count for all the disciplines.

The Far West Ski Association appreciates the dedication and hard work of all the athletes and coaches, and wishes them great success in their Olympic endeavors.

Different cities host different sports. Some of them are:

Archery, Men's Basketball, Women's Basketball, Billiards, Bocce Ball, Bowling, Golf, Handball, Horseshoes, Paddleball, Pickleball, Race Walk and Run, Racquetball, Shuffleboard, Women's Soccer, Men's Softball, Women's Softball, Swimming, Tennis, Table Tennis, Track and Field, Men's Volleyball and Women's Volleyball.

Do you know that YOU can be in the OLYMPICS?

by Gary Seaton

. . . the Senior Olympics - that is - for people 50+. You would play against people of your own age bracket. There is a wide range of sports for participation. *"Fit After Fifty"* isn't just a goal for us, it's our mission and our passion.

Some sports are team oriented (you bring your own team) and some sports are individual. This is about the fun and competition. The comradery is great! And, it gives you a fabulous excuse to stay in shape.

I play Men's Senior Olympic Volleyball in San Diego, Pasadena, Las Vegas/Henderson (Nevada), and Phoenix, Tucson and Prescott (Arizona). Each city hosts their own games once a year. Some of the cities even have tennis.

For more information, contact Gary at (714) 745-0661 or garybseaton@gmail.com.

Winter Sports Legacy Center & 1960 Olympics Ski Museum

by Amanda Wiebush
Interim Executive Director

1960 USA Nordic Ski Team poses in front of the McKinney Creek cross-country venue scoreboard. *photo by Bill Briner*

The Squaw Valley Ski Museum Foundation was established in May of 2008. The Foundation is dedicated to the establishment of the proposed Squaw Valley Olympic Museum and Winter Sports Heritage Center.

Mission: The Squaw Valley Ski Museum Foundation (SVSMF) collects, preserves, exhibits and interprets western skiing heritage and celebrates the legacy of the 1960 Olympic Winter Games.

Vision: As a center for western winter sports history and culture, the museum researches, educates and enhances awareness of the evolution of skiing in the Sierra Nevada for present and future generations.

Our Goal: To operate a year round, world-class museum that celebrates the 1960 Winter Olympic Games and the rich cultural legacy of skiing and winter sports heritage in the Sierra Nevada. It will be a community-based venue featuring interpretive tours, interactive displays, educational programs, traveling exhibitions, collection management, research, and special events - including a Ski Hall of Fame.

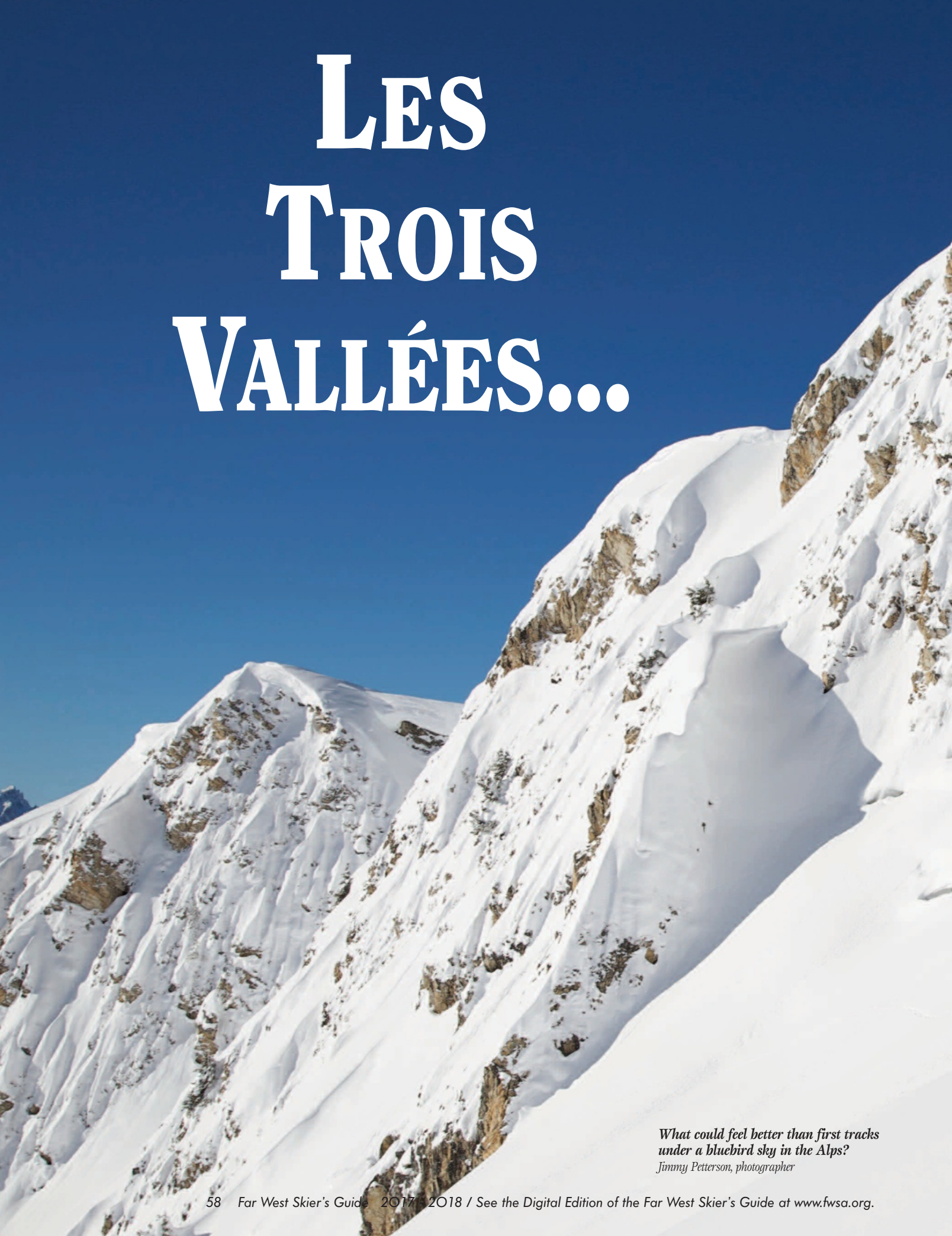
With one of the highest concentrations of Olympic and World Cup athletes anywhere in the world and an Olympic Games, both athletes, spectators and the world will never forget; the Sierra Nevada deserves a world class museum in a location easily accessible to all who visit North Lake Tahoe.

Current Status: The SVSMF is working through the site application process with Placer County for the proposed permanent location at Squaw Valley Park, at the entrance to Squaw Valley from Highway 89.

If you would like to support the museum by writing your congressman or county supervisor, to speak at an event, to donate or to learn more, please visit our website at:

www.olympicskimuseum.com

Les Trois Vallées...



What could feel better than first tracks under a bluebird sky in the Alps?
Jimmy Petterson, photographer

...600 KILOMETERS OF PISTES

by Jimmy Petterson

Les Trois Vallées was one of the first ski regions to understand the benefit of linking their lift systems together in an effort to offer their guests more variety, having done so way back in the early 1970s. Today, the original three valleys have added a fourth by linking up with Orelle a few years ago. While Val Thorens, Meribel, and Courchevel are the most famous stations, the resorts of Les Menuires, Saint Martin de Belleville, La Tania and Brides-les-Bains are also connected in what is one of the two largest lift-linked ski areas in the world.

This is a resort with unending superlatives – more than 180 lifts, 600 kilometers of pistes, 1900 snow cannons and a lift capacity that can move 260,000 people per hour. The list of impressive statistics goes on and on.

The various villages have quite different atmospheres. Courchevel is the most up-market of the resorts. While there are some rather challenging black routes from atop the Saulire, most of the terrain is not so difficult.

Méribel and Les Menuires benefit from being in the center of the lift system, but Les Menuires is an eyesore of cement and steel, while Meribel, with many chalets in addition to its hotels, is more in harmony with the surroundings. Val Thorens, at 2300 meters, is the highest ski resort in Europe and usually attracts the hard-core off-piste skiers.

Meanwhile, Brides-les-Bains and Saint Martin de Belleville offer yet a different sort of alternative. They are small, traditional villages, in marked contrast to the larger areas, which are all purpose-built resorts. While they both share with Méribel and Les Menuires the advantage of being central in the lift system, here the traditional elements of slate, stone, and wood give the village an ambiance that one cannot find in the large ski centers of Les Trois Vallées. This is provincial France, with small houses clustered around a Baroque church.

Brides-les-Bains's fame as a spa town predated its more recent incarnation as a ski village by about 400 years, so it is also characterized by a number of classic old-world spa hotels.

Saint Martin is the largest of a few hamlets that are all situated down the valley from Les Menuires, and best of all, one can ski off-piste to any of them. The west-facing slopes of the Belleville Valley are made up of gentle, open terrain, where off-piste enthusiasts can ski to St. Marcel, Praranger, and St. Martin. St. Marcel makes a particularly nice destination for such an endeavor, as one can relax and reenergize with a gourmet lunch at the well-known La Bouitte, a lovely restaurant with three Guide Michelin stars.

The Saulire cable car in Courcheval takes 160 passengers up to 2738 meters (approximately 8,983').

For freeriders with a palate for more challenging terrain, there are also some interesting possibilities from the La Masse side of the valley that end up close to these same hamlets. The Col de la Fenêtre and the Vallée des Encombres descents finish near the tiny hamlet of Le Châtelard, while the Les Crêtes route comes down near St. Marcel.

My friend Carl and I visited the Trois Vallées in March and were met by spring weather. Whether we stayed on the trails or opted for off-piste terrain, corn snow was the "plat du jour". We decided to spend our first day primarily in the Méribel region, where the east-west orientation of the slopes is well suited to spring conditions.

We spent the morning on the east-facing slopes of Roc de Fer, Roc des Trois Marches and Mt. de la Challe. By eleven o'clock, these areas were getting too soft, but the sun had not yet softened the crust on the west faces. We kept active in the meantime in the steep mogul fields under the Saulire cable car from Courchevel. By early afternoon, the west faces of Saulire and Mont du Vallon had softened to perfection, providing a nice dessert to the day's menu.

La Masse has some of the best skiing of any single mountain in Les Trois Vallées and versatility to boot. It was the target of our second day's activities. Again we spent the early hours playing in some off-piste spring snow on the east faces. Later, we descended one of Les Trois Vallées classics – the Lac de Lou descent from La Masse.

With lifts that ascend up to 3230 meters, spring can turn back into winter at any time, and Carl and I were in luck. That afternoon, a storm blew in, and by the next morning, it was time for powder.

Val Thorens and Orelle are home to the highest lifts in the region and most of the terrain is north facing. That is where we aimed our skis on a bluebird morning that followed the snowfall. We got some of the first tracks down in the Orelle section of the ski area and also on the Glacier de Péclet. In the afternoon, we cruised the 12-kilometer long Cime de Caron – the longest descent in Les Trois Vallées. We finished the day with a Lac du Lou run from the Boismint Lift and worked our way back to Saint Martin. Spring is a wonderful time of year when one moment one can be skiing corn snow in shirtsleeves and the next day one needs one's winter woolies to keep warm in the powder.

Carl and I sat on a verandah and reminisced together over an après-ski Kronenbourg. Carl had spent two ski-bum seasons in Val Thorens and told me about some great runs in the St. Pères Couloirs high up on the Aiguille de Péclet. I, too, had skied one of those couloirs, and that run was just a small part of one of my favorite ski-bum experiences. It was April 1982, and I was finishing a long season of ski bumming with my first ever visit to Les Trois Vallées. This was, of course, long before the Russians had discovered Courchevel and more than a decade prior to Orelle being added to the lift system. I dragged my gear off the train in Bourg St. Maurice and asked a young man where I could find a bus

to Val Thorens. *"Zere are no more buses at zis time of zee evening,"* he replied, *"but if you wait a few minutes, I can give you a lift. I am just picking up my girlfriend on zees train."*

Patrick Berthon not only gave me a lift, he also put me up in his apartment in Val Thorens, where he and his brother Eric were both ski instructing. Eric had a couple of days free from the ski school, and within a few hours of my arrival in Les Trois Vallées, I had a free bed and guide. This, of course, was long before one could print *"Couloir St. Pères"* onto the Google website and have a few thousand entries pop up on the screen. It was a time when only the locals knew the special runs in Les Trois Vallées.

Eric led me on a 40-minute hike over the Glacier de Chavière and down this beautiful ravine on my second day in Val Thorens. It was apparently a test of my abilities–and fortunately I passed.

The next day, I was again behind Eric and a couple of his friends, as we followed a similar route but hiked even higher up the mountain. After about 90 minutes, I found myself staring down one of the steepest and most nefarious slopes I have ever, to this very day, skied. It is simply called North Face.

Carl Mårtensson ponders and plans his route before entering a couloir high up in Les Trois Vallées. *Jimmy Petterson, photographer*

The descent is about 50 degrees steep at the top and the snow was very firm, wind-packed powder. Worst of all, the convex nature of North Face made it impossible to see all the way down, but Eric was quick to inform us that a crevasse at the bottom of the slope swallows skiers who make mistakes. Only after one had successfully negotiated the steep upper section could one traverse out to the side and continue the run beyond the grasp of the crevasse.

Eric tied a 50-meter-long rope around my waist and looped the other end around his skis, which he pushed firmly into the snow. This allowed me to make my first few turns without danger, but soon I was on my own. It was the first time I had ever used a climbing rope.

Carl Mårtensson enjoys a spring dump of fresh powder.

I survived the North Face intact, and for the next few days, Eric continued to show me his favorite off-piste runs interspersed with some mogul bashing. If Eric was fearless in the face of off-piste dangers, he was a maniac of the moguls. In the bumps, I had not the slightest chance of following him.

Eric's considerate guiding was one of my early experiences with the ski-bum code of sharing. Whereas surfers, for example, are extremely territorial and would rather kill a stranger than share a wave, real skiers are very magnanimous.

Little did I know that Eric was practicing for his future profession. Some years after, in 1986, I read a name in a ski magazine that I recognized very well. Eric Berthon had become the world champion of mogul skiing. In 2002, I again came across his name. He was the freestyle coach of the French Olympic team at the Salt Lake City Winter Games.

Carl and I finished our beers and our nostalgia session. This was the end of our short stay, but reacquainting myself with Les Trois Vallées had reopened a door that had been closed for too long. When I got home and had a bit more time, I tried to find Eric on the Internet, and it did not take long to locate his website.

Moments later, I was involved in another nostalgic conversation – this one on the telephone. Eric was now raising a family, teaching his two young children to ski, instructing at a few freestyle camps and guiding people off-piste in Val d'Isère. As I had seen his name now and then through the years because of his exploits in the ski world, he had also seen mine.

"I have thought on many occasions about those few days we spent together," said Eric. *"I would be reminded of that time whenever I came across one of your articles in 'Ski Français' or one of the other ski magazines."*

Ski bumming is a youthful pastime. Of the many avid skiers who spend a season or two devoted to their love of the sport, most of them are ultimately swallowed up by the mainstream. In the words of songwriter George Thoroughgood, they *"get a haircut and get a real job."* It was a reassuring moment to get on the phone with Eric Berthon over 30 years later and realize that he, like I, was a chronic ski bum.

Jimmy Petterson is an author, photographer, musician, entertainer, travel arranger, ski bum, Lebenskünstler, Renaissance man, and philosopher. He has skied in more than 600 ski resorts in 74 countries and his ski articles have been published in 20 countries. His accumulated work includes more than 600 published articles, more than 30 cover photos, the TV series - Raider of the Lost Snow, the film documentary, Putin's Olympics, and his seminal work on skiing,* Skiing Around the World. *Jimmy is currently working on a documentary series called Skiplomacy, a novel called Coming of Age, and on* Skiing Around the World: Volume 2. *When he is not skiing, he is performing together with his son, Erik, in their Father & Son Band.

Record Breaking Snows in the Sierras Led to a Memorable Ski Season!

by Leigh Gieringer

A PICTURE IS WORTH 10,000 WORDS!

The historic snowfall in the Sierra Nevada Mountains provided many powder days, including this one at Alpine Meadows. With all that snow, many resorts extended their ski season well into the summer months.

photo courtesy of Squaw Valley / Alpine Meadows

photo provided by Jo Simpson

For years, the Lake Tahoe Area was concerned about the lack of snow. The winter of 2016 - 2017 put an end to that! The first photo was taken at the top of Mt. Rose Highway at 9,100 feet. The ski rack in this photo measures just over seven feet. This accumulation was only through January 30, 2017. Mt. Rose Ski Tahoe resort received over 460 inches of snow, through the month of January. Its average snowfall is about 350 inches for the entire ski season. And, there were several more months left in the season for more snow to fall!

The second photo was taken on January 17, 2017. For those familiar with the Nevada side of Heavenly Ski Area, you'll recognize the information hut and trail signs at the upper station of the Dipper Lift. The tops of trees are very visible. The posts stand out for skiers and boarders to locate the hut, if desired. Many ski areas in the Lake Tahoe region, including Heavenly, were covered in over 23 feet of snow in January alone. The barrage of storms to the area resulted in the snowiest January on record in the Tahoe area.

The bottom photo is shot from the same location as the middle photo. The real information hut is buried, along with the fencing and signs. Most of the trees are also buried. But, the hut is not lost. On February 14, someone drew an outline of the building in the snow where the building actually sits. photos / Vin Keenan

Be Careful What You Wish For.

You Might Just Get It!

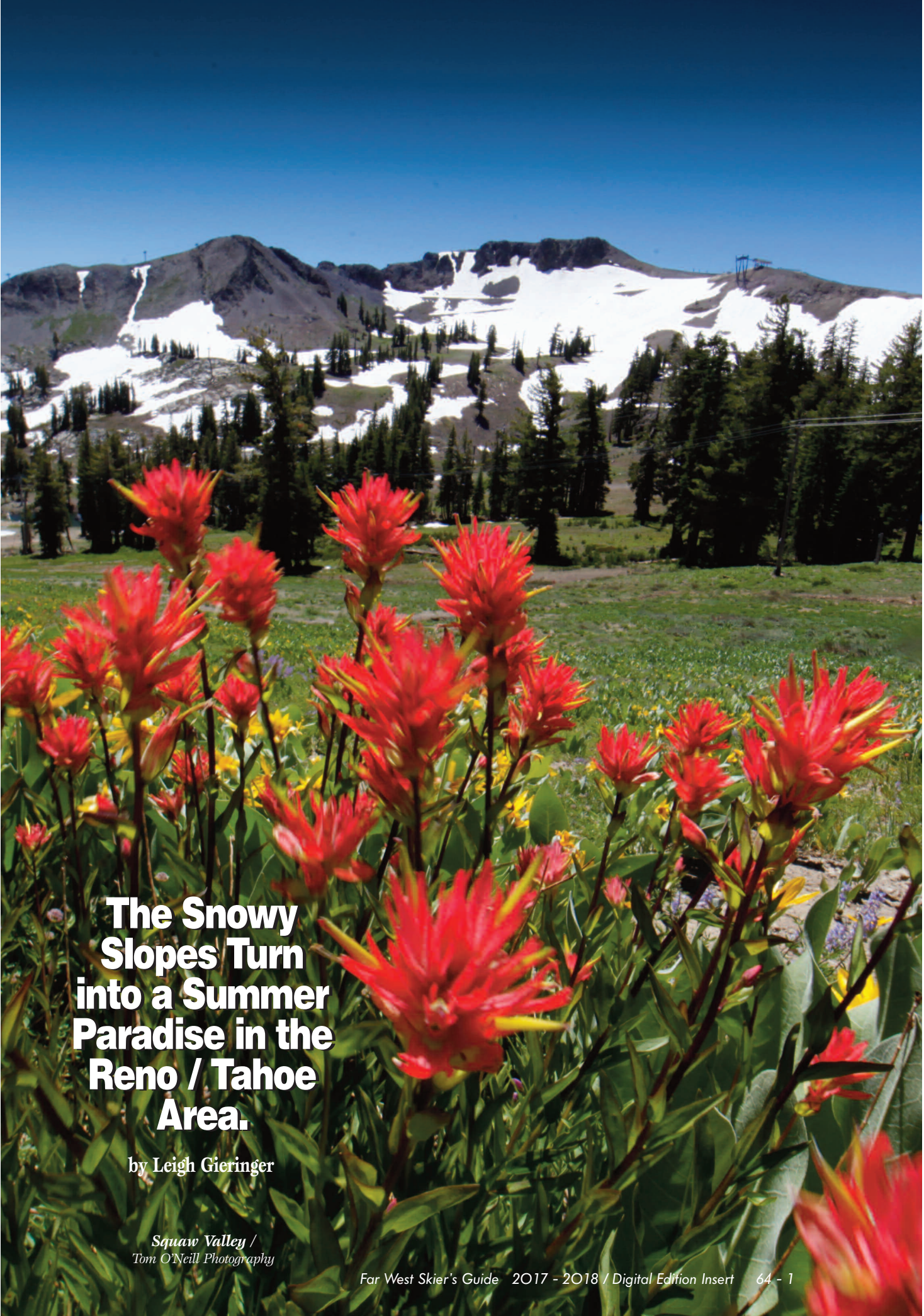
First it was measured in inches, then in feet, and finally, in stories!!!

After years of scant snowfall and spotty coverage on many slopes, skiers and boarders had an historic season at California ski resorts. From the Sierra Nevada to the mountain ranges of SoCal, the state was bombarded with numerous storms dropping over 600 inches at several resorts during this epic season. That's over 50 feet! The tremendous dumps were beneficial in many respects. Between storms, there were unbelievable powder days. Unfortunately, there were also days when the resorts had to stop operations because the lifts were buried, visibility was impaired and the roads to the resorts were impassable.

But, we were blessed in the 2016 - 2017 ski season by the snow gods. Since conditions were so fabulous, many resorts extended their season well into late spring, and beyond. It's a rarity to be skiing over the Fourth of July in the Northern Hemisphere. But, it was even more unique to be skiing into August!

A very rare opportunity indeed: Vin Keenan skied about 25,000 vertical on August 3, 2017 at Mammoth Mountain. The more vertical rocks were bare, but there was still runs to ski.
photo provided by Vin Keenan

So, what can we look forward to for the 2017 - 2018 ski season? Weather is very hard to predict, but historically, it is not normal for seasonal conditions to repeat. According to the 2018 edition of *The Farmer's Almanac*, winter in the west will be colder and not as wet as last year - thus returning to more normal conditions. However, since the higher elevations in the Tahoe region have had their first snowfall in early September of this year, who knows? *Just prepare!* Tune up those skis, wax those boards and make plans to go to the slopes.



The Snowy Slopes Turn into a Summer Paradise in the Reno / Tahoe Area.

by Leigh Gieringer

Squaw Valley /
Tom O'Neill Photography

The 2018 Far West Ski Association's Annual Convention will be held in Reno June 7 - 10.

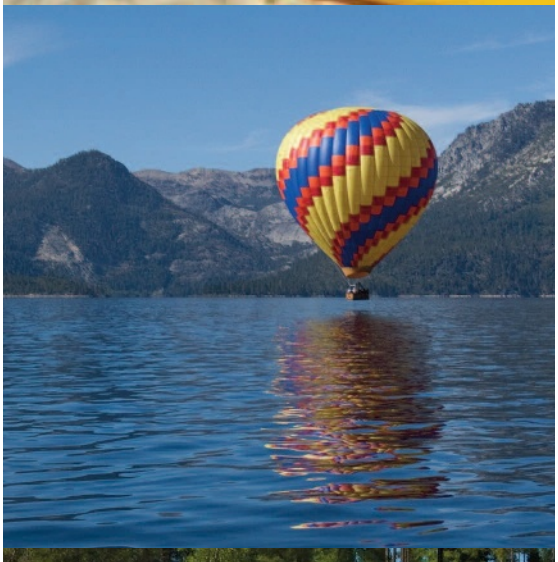
Extend your stay & explore!

The 2018 FWSA Convention will be held at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa. The Convention Committee is planning many exciting activities in conjunction with the 86th Annual FWSA Convention. Thursday's adventures includes kayaking on the Truckee River, while Friday's Golf Tournament will be at the beautiful Lakeridge Golf Course. Others may also want to hike with the FWSA group on an easy trail along the shores of scenic Lake Tahoe - the largest alpine lake in North America. Lake Tahoe is also the second deepest in the US at 1,645 feet. If the Empire State Building was built in this lake, the top of the building would still be covered by water. Only Crater Lake in Oregon at 1,945 feet is deeper in the US. This picturesque alpine lake is surrounded by numerous peaks of the Sierra Nevada Mountains on the west and the Carson Range on the east.

Crossing the Sierra Mountain Range had always been a major obstacle. However, motivation increased in 1849 with the California Gold Rush. During the next decade, the population of San Francisco grew significantly. A decade later, the Comstock Lode near what is now Virginia City, Nevada, was discovered. Thus, an East-West connect called the "Bonanza Road" was carved out of the mountains to accommodate the large traffic flow of gold and silver prospectors. Much later, Highway 50 followed this route.

The western section of the transcontinental railroad was completed in 1868, pass-

Top: Lake Tahoe is approximately 22 miles long by 12 miles wide, with 72 miles of diverse shoreline. Paddle boards can be rented to explore the shores in greater detail. Middle: The M.S. Dixie II paddle wheeler is a Lake Tahoe favorite. It can hold up to 500 passengers on its daytime cruises. Or, take a sunset dinner cruise. It is also available for private charters. Gather your group and head to Zephyr Cove to board for a memorable cruise of the lake. *photo / Bridges Media Group* ***Lower: Take the Heavenly Mountain Gondola for a 2.4 mile ride to the summit. Do stop at the Observation Deck. The views are absolutely awesome.*** *photos courtesy of Reno/Tahoe USA unless otherwise indicated*



***Top:** The Tahoe Rim Trail is just one of many paths that are available for mountain biking and hiking. The 165 mile loop is divided in several segments. Not all are open to biking and be prepared for some climbing areas. There are also many hiking areas. Bring your cameras, as the views are breathtaking! **Middle:** There are also numerous opportunities to rise above the lake. For some unique experiences, try ballooning and/or parasailing. **Lower:** If you prefer to be on the water, there are several places to rent kayaks, paddle boards, jet skis and other boats.* *photos courtesy of Reno/Tahoe USA unless otherwise indicated*

ing through Donner Pass to Truckee. Years later, the Lake Tahoe Railway took passengers to Tahoe City. By the waning years of the 19th Century, the Lake Tahoe area became a very popular vacation area for wealthy San Francisco residents.

Most FWSA members have the numerous ski resorts surrounding the lake on their favorites list and return year after year to visit these fabulous resorts for snow fun. Between them, there are more than 180 lifts, 500 trails and 20,000 acres - many runs having absolutely stunning views of the lake - making this area one of the most dynamic natural settings in the world. However, for many visitors, summer is the season to visit. And rightly so, since there is so much to do around the lake and Reno, Nevada just a short distance away, during the warmer months.

Since the 2018 FWSA Convention will be held in Reno, and there are so many activities for one to enjoy in the area, why not plan to spend several extra days before and/or after the Far West Ski Association Convention. The first question to ask is, what type of activities would you like to participate? Do you want to be near the water, on the water, in the water or over the water?

Does white water rafting give you a thrill? What about standing on a paddleboard? Or, kayaking along the shore? Is hiking more to your liking? Perhaps rock climbing is something you want to do? Or, is biking along one of the trails on your bucket list? Another alternative is a more passive approach - enjoy the scenery. Lake Tahoe is known to be one of nature's most blessed areas in the world!

Start in South Lake Tahoe for awesome views. The Heavenly Gondola - a favorite for skiers and boarders in the winter - also runs during the summer months. Ride it up to the Observation Deck near the mid point of the ride. Don't forget your camera! This spot offers some of the best overall views of this gorgeous lake. Board the Gondola again to complete the ride to the top. While there, hike along some mountain trails, participate in one of the adventurous activities offered like the ziplines or rope courses, or relax and enjoy some refreshments before heading back down.

Another favorite Lake Tahoe activity is to take a cruise on the lake. There are many options to enjoy the cool breezes on the water. One of the most popular cruises is on board the M.S. Dixie II - a Paddle Wheeler departing from Zephor Cove Resort & Marina, on the Nevada side with its year around excursions. Daytime scenic tours cruise to Emerald Island on the northwest side, and return to Zephor Cove. These two and a half hour cruises are narrated so the passengers can learn about the geology, as well as, the fascinating history of the area. Both are extremely interesting and educational.

The original M.S. Dixie was a private pleasure boat dating back to 1949 which was remodelled and opened to the public in 1972. Number I was replaced by Number II in 1994, combining the charm of its predecessor with modern technology and comfort. This paddlewheeler can accommodate 500 plus passengers on its three decks. The two lower decks - a dining room and entertainment area respectively - are climate controlled. The top deck is open to catch the breezes and have 360 degree views. Sunset or dinner cruises are also available. It is best to call for reservations as these cruises are very popular.

Other options are chartering a fancy yacht, a party boat or a sailboat; or go smaller. Rent a kayak, a jet ski, or a paddleboard. There are numerous spots around the lake to rent boats, boards and bikes. These rental shops have nearby areas they can recommend to match your level of participation.

If you are an early riser, you may want to view the lake from above - high above! The adventure begins at the Tahoe Keys Marina where riders meet the crew onboard the Tahoe Flyer. This vessel cruises to a launch site, where the balloon is inflated, passengers climb into the basket and the journey begins. As you are floating over the water, the pilot will indicate points of interest around the lake. *"On a clear day,"* they say *"you can see forever"*. Well, maybe not forever, but it's possible to view Yosemite National Park and beyond. Allow four hours for this adventure.

If you don't want to go that high, try parasailing - if weather permits. There are several spots around the lake that offer parasailing. You determine how high you want to go which can vary between 200 - 500 feet.

Do you feel more comfortable on the water? Lots of choices here, too! Stand Up

Stand-up paddle boarding has become a very popular sport. Lake Tahoe has been very instrumental in growing it. There are many areas around the lake to rent paddle boards and picturesque spots to explore, especially on the eastern side of the lake. Throughout most of the year, the peaks around the lake are covered with snow. So beautiful!

Paddleboarding (SUP) has become very popular. An offshoot of surfing originating in Hawaii, stand up paddleboarders stand on their boards and use a paddle to move through the water. Since the water temperature of Lake Tahoe is typically very cool or cold, it might be advised to wear a wet suit. As an alternative, a participant may want to kneel on their board and paddle with their arms. Looks like fun!

Kayaking has also been a popular activity along the shores of Lake Tahoe. If you've never done it (or stand up paddleboarding) before, there are rental companies who can teach you how to do one or the other, offer day long tour opportunities to paddle along the shores with a guide or instructor. There are even sunset tours for a truly unique experience!

If you prefer to remain on solid ground, there are many activities for you, as well. Bring your mountain bike or rent one. There are miles and miles of trails to follow. Some are paved. Others are not. Some are very steep, and at higher elevations. These are the

4 seasons at Granlibakken

lodging, meetings, sledding, skiing, and more!

ones with the best views of the lake, but know your limitations. It is even possible to circle the entire lake, or search out trail maps for a better understanding of length, degree of difficulty and other important facts about the trails.

Hiking is also very popular with many options either near the lake or in the nearby mountains. For instance: while at Squaw Valley, take the tram up to High Camp. Walk around this area for a little exercise or hike down to the village for a workout.

Squaw Valley is also home to the Squaw Valley Treetop Adventure Park, which includes a 50 foot climbing tower; and a lot more. There are also two other Aerial Adventure Parks near the north side of Lake Tahoe: Tahoe City Treetop - behind the Granlibakken Resort and Tahoe Vista Treetop within the Tahoe Regional Park. Each uniquely different, they consist of a variety of courses situated in the towering pines, cedars or cottonwood trees. Numerous platforms are connected by bridges and/or zip lines. Some are easy for the youngsters while others are more advanced.

Select the activities you are most interested in experiencing. Do some research on the internet to get more detailed information: locations, hours and pricing. Many of the rental shops can recommend areas for your particular needs or desires. And, while you are on the Nevada side of the lake, you may want to take in a show or two; or try your luck at the gambling tables or slots. You have many choices. Also remember, that Reno - the site of the 2018 FWSA Convention - also offers plenty of similar entertainment, so save some time and money to experience Reno - The Biggest Little City in the World, too!

Lake Tahoe has a unique shoreline. Paddle around submerged rocks very visible in the clear aqua waters framed by a rocky perimeter. The temperatures of the water are typically cool, but that doesn't prevent people from enjoying the many water activities.

The Truckee River is Lake Tahoe's only outlet and drains part of the high Sierra Nevada Mountains resulting in an abundant flow of water, especially in the spring, due to melting snow. It begins at the dam near Tahoe City, flows through Truckee, then eastward through the Reno/Sparks area on its way to Pyramid Lake. There is a lot of

activity along this river, including white water rafting and tubing beginning near Tahoe City. But, there are many other favorite activities to experience in the Reno area, too.

One of the most popular is the National Automobile Museum. The majority of the automobiles were once owned by William F, Harrah, thus, it is sometimes referred to as the Harrah Collection. At its peak, Harrah owned approximately 1,450 automobiles before he died. Most of the collection was sold however, 175 of them were obtained by a non profit group who constructed a museum to house these classic and historic 19th Century and later vehicles. It was opened in 1989. More vehicles have since been added.

The Nevada Museum of Art is the oldest cultural institution in Nevada, as well as, the only nationally accredited art museum in the state. Its permanent collections are divided into four main themes: Art of the Greater West, a Contemporary Art Collection, a Work Ethics in American Art Collection, and The Altered Landscape Photography Collection. There are also traveling exhibitions by national and international artists, as well as, numerous other special conferences and programs offered.

Additionally, Artown - one of the most comprehensive festivals in the country held in the month of July - brings in more than 500 events to the area, including musical performances, interactive workshops and art exhibits. Couple that with Art Spot Reno, the city is heavily involved as a cultural community.

Numerous other special events fill the local calendar. The Reno River Festival, Reno Rodeo, Hot August Nights, The Great Reno Balloon Race, and *"Hog Heaven"* - Street Vibrations Fall Rally - combining music, metal and motorcycles. There is lots to do throughout the year, but also relive its history!

Top: Reno - The Biggest Little City in the World is the site of the 2018 FWSA Annual Convention. Take advantage of the many activities that are conveniently nearby. The National Automobile Museum has many excellent examples of classic cars. Visit the Nevada Museum of Art to see its many exhibits. And, of course, there are the casinos for gambling and shows. Middle: Truckee River originates from the melting snows of Lake Tahoe, passes through Reno, Sparks and subsequently feeds Pyramid Lake about 40 miles northeast of the two adjoining cities. It is enjoyed by locals and visitors alike. There are areas for all: fishing, kayaking, rafting, tubing, stand-up paddleboarding, jet skiing or merely walking along its shores. Lower: The Truckee River Whitewater Park hosts a nationally acclaimed kayak competition during the Reno River Festival.
photos courtesy of Reno/Tahoe USA

Take a Ride Back Into History!

A lot has changed since the mid 1800s. But, history does leave its mark and shape the present. There's another way to look at it. It is interesting to learn about the past, and to image yourself as being part of an historic era. What was life like before all the modern conveniences? How did the word so quickly spread that there was a discovery of silver that turned a quite little town into the most important industrial center between Denver and San Francisco, virtually overnight?

It started in 1848 when an employee of John Sutter, James Marshall, found two gold nuggets as he was helping to build Sutter's Mill. Word traveled fast! Within months, the California Gold Rush began bringing in over 300,000 new immigrants to the state in search of gold.

The 12th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament will be held at the beautiful Lakeridge Golf Course in Reno. *photo courtesy of Reno/Tahoe USA*

Top: Go back in time to the 19th Century. Visit the Old West via the Wild West Tour from South Lake Tahoe to Virginia City, Nevada. Take a minibus along the old Pony Express Trail to Virginia City and board the historic Virginia & Truckee Railroad. The train is powered by an old steam locomotive. This scenic adventure is narrated so passengers can learn about this towns's unique past when the Comstock Mine was flourishing. Lower: Virginia City is an old mining town built during the 19th Century. The old victorian buildings still exist; many turned into historic museums. *photos courtesy of Reno/Tahoe USA*

Many of these immigrants came by boat from China and South America, but there were also numerous prospectors who traveled from the eastern states, crossing parts of Nevada in search of wealth. Ten years after the 1849 Gold Rush began, the Comstock Lode was discovered. Another influx of prospectors resulted. James Fennimore was one of the first miners to the area. One of the stories about how the town was named is that he tripped and broke a bottle of whiskey. His nickname was Old Finney. Perhaps he was from Virginny - ah Virginia? "Old Virginny Finney". Sometime after he "christened" the town with that broken bottle, the growing town became Virginia City.

The discovery of silver created the "Big Bonanza" which brought out at least $300 million worth of mineral ore. Mine shafts and tunnels were dug throughout the surrounding hillsides. Virginia City was the richest city in America at this time. The value of silver and gold were considered equal, and bought by the US government for coinage. By 1873, silver was demonetized because there was so much of it coming out of the mines of Nevada. Perhaps it was because of the demonetization, and silver losing some of its value, but by 1879, mines were closing and the population dropped by more than 50% to about 11,000.

During the boom, the charming city was built around the architecture of the day. The main street and other areas have been carefully preserved to retain its historic character. In 1961, Virginia City was declared a National Historic Landmark.

Make it a point to spend several hours visiting Virginia City while you are in the area for the FWSA Convention. The Wild West Tour departs from South Lake Tahoe. An old steam engine locomotive similar to those used in the late 1800s and early 1900s complements a visit to this very charming and historic town. Or, take the scenic route from Reno which climbs over a small mountain range for excellent views of Reno, the Washoe Valley and the Sierras.

For further information on any of the activites listed, subject search the internet or contact Reno/Tahoe USA.

Love It In Summer, But Come Back In Winter!

There's plenty to do in the warmer months, but with an average of over 400" of fine powder per season, plus numerous sun-filled winter skies, we all look forward to returning to the slopes around Lake Tahoe during the ski season. Over a dozen ski resorts, and other winter related activities, are spread around the lake. From intimate and casual to huge world class ski resorts - Lake Tahoe has something for every age, skill level and budget. Make your plans to return to this winter - or spring - paradise!

photo / Reno-Sparks Convention & Visitors Authority

Alpine skiing, nordic skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, dog-sledding or just enjoying the views: whatever winter activities fits your style, there is something for you during the winter months, too! The cerulean blue lake and azure skies contrast beautifully with the snow covered peaks. What more could one ask for? Perhaps a camera to capture it all!
photos courtesy Reno/Tahoe USA

There Is So Much To Do Around Lake Tahoe When The Snow Flies!

There are fifteen downhill ski resorts located around Lake Tahoe. Plus, there are also four groomed cross-country resorts. No matter what your proficiency level is, or where you feel most comfortable, there is a resort or several that that will fit your desires. Spend some extra time here and experience several other fun activities while you're in the area. Alpine and nordic skiing are not the only activities available for family fun. Kids of all ages will enjoy sledding or tubing over the snow. Take a sleigh ride along the old Pony Express Trail. Ride up the aerial tram to High Camp for iceskating, or the Heavenly Gondola for a picnic. if you are brave, compete in the polar bear swim during Snowfest. Or, take the M.S. Dixie II cruise to Emerald Island.

Have you ever skied at night? Extend you day. Squaw Valley and Boreal Mountain Resort give you the chance to watch the sun go down. Night time lighting illuminates several runs. And, don't forget the night life!

Mere Moments in the Evolution of Skiing: Part II*

The 1950s & 60s Saw Tremendous Growth!

by Leigh Gieringer and Larry Nicholson

In order to understand the tremendous progress that was made in the ski world during the mid 20th Century, one must have an understanding of its very long history. Cave drawings suggesting the use of some type of ski has been found in the Xinjiang Region of China, which have been carbon-dated to approximately 10,000 years ago. Actual remnants of skis have been found in Russia from around 6,000 BC. However, modern skiing is believed to have originated in Scandinavia. Briefly, the word "ski" originates from the Old Norse word "skio", which meant split piece of firewood. The long skinny planks of wood were put on one's feet to walk on the snow instead of sinking into it. During the long winter months, settlers to this region followed their food source - elk and deer - further north. Walking on the snow was a necessity for survival as it was basically the only form of transportation they had to hunt for food and travel within and between their villages. Numerous millennia later, in the 1700s AD, these wooden skis were also used for exploration and defense of their communities.

It wasn't until the mid 1800s, however, that using these boards developed into recreational entertainment. A farmer from Telemark, Norway - Sondre Norheim - developed a way to attach a heel strap made from tree roots to connect the boards to leather boots. This development added more control and allowed the wearers to climb higher onto the hills or mountain slopes. Participants began challenging each other in speed contests which lead to organized racing, ski jumping, ski clubs and expanded recreational usage.

In the coming decades, skiing became more of a sport, however, it was mostly the nobility and wealthy who participated. Because of the cooler temperatures and the cleaner air in the mountains, the well-to-do had been attracted to higher elevations during the warmer seasons. Eventually, they were enticed to return to the mountain resorts during the winter months - for new experiences. It wasn't long before winter travel to the mountains became very fashionable.

Normal equipment in the early 1950s consisted of wooden skis with adjustable steel toeplates and leather heel straps, leather tie boots plus a pair of short bamboo poles with large baskets.

In the early days of the 20th Century, one of the ways to get winter visitors to the mountains was to offer ski lessons. Hannes Schneider, a ski instructor at the Hotel Post in St. Anton, Austria, devised several modifications to the then current methods of instruction. His system was called the Arlberg Technique which became a very popular system for teaching new skiers. His system was also used to train Austrian soldiers during World War I. After that war ended, he returned to the Hotel Post to fine tune the Arlberg Technique. It was featured in several films of the era getting wide spread attention and was picked up by many other ski schools. Because of his teaching system, Hannes Schneider is known as the father of modern skiing. In the late 1930s, he immigrated to New Hampshire to continue his instruction. The fashion of the day included high wool socks, baggy pants, and patterned sweaters - in drab, muted colors.

As oceanliners became popular for intercontinental travel, members of the upper classes from North America intermingled with the European elite, introducing them to the slopes and this magnificent pastime. These individuals were instrumental in introducing the sport to the mountains around New England initially including Stowe Mountain Resort in Vermont, Wildcat Mountain in New Hampshire, and several others. In the 1920s and 30s, several areas were set aside for these outdoor adventure seekers.

Skiing was becoming very popular among the well-to-do on the west side of the Atlantic Ocean, too! It helped that there was not that much else to do at the time. The auto industry was in its infancy. Television was not yet invented. Of course, there was no internet. This new ski sport activity was glamorous. It exhibited its own fashion. Movie stars were attracted to the sport. Many outdoor, snowshoe and ski groups or clubs were forming at prestigious colleges and universities. If you were a member of the upper classes, it became ***the*** thing to do, and many wanted to be connected to the prestigious ***in crowd***.

During this time, the political conditions in Europe were headed for change. Many European ski instructors left the continent to find work in North America where they were welcomed. A few new ski areas were popping up especially in the New England states, although some ski jumping areas were also opened in the upper midwest and western regions of this country, too!

As the railroad freight business was dropping off due to a weakening economy, railroad owners and marketers looked for new ways to utilize their services. One of them was the development of special weekend excursions offered to members of the outdoor and ski clubs that had formed. Thus, the birth of ski trains was literally set in motion. According to *skihistory.org*, the first ski train premiered on January 11, 1931. The Boston and Maine Railroad

***Note:** **Mere Moments in the Evolution of Skiing: Part I** can be found in the digital edition of the 2015-2016 Far West Skier's Guide. Part I covers in more detail, the humble beginnings dating back thousands of years through the mid 1940s. Although the sport of skiing had some major milestone events beginning in the mid 1800s, the real growth in the ski industry happened after the end of World War II.*

carried almost 200 club members on this inaugural ride, and almost 8,000 passengers traveled this route during that first winter. Innkeepers relished the idea of expanding their businesses into the colder months. However, many of these vacationers were more interested in the party atmosphere; and to be associated with these trendsetters than riding on top of the snow.

Since the economy had faltered by this time due to the Great Depression, special Civilian Conservations Corps (CCC) programs were implemented under President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Some of these programs opened state lands for public usage, and crews were sent in to cut trails through forests to ascend and descend the mountains, mostly at ski areas and potential ski sites in New England.

W. Averill Harriman, an avid skier on the European continent and Chairman of the Board of the Union Pacific Railroad, took note of the success of the Boston and Maine ski train. On one of his European visits, he was introduced to Austrian Count Felix Schaffgotsch and employed him to seek out the perfect location for a ski resort in the western United States. There was one requirement. This location needed to be near the Union Pacific rail line. After a long and intensive search, he summoned Mr. Harriman to Ketchum, Idaho. In late 1936, Sun Valley opened as the first American ski destination. The North American ski industry advanced further with this milestone. Ski trains brought thousands of skiers, including well known celebrities to this area. Many who could afford it did travel to be part of the North American ski scene!

At the same time, the country was in the midst of an economic disaster. It was difficult for most people to put food on their tables much less have five extra pennies to ride the rope tow or have the 25 cent fee for ascending the slopes in style via a new contraption known as a chairlift. The masses just couldn't participate. The sport remained as an activity that mostly the wealthy could enjoy.

Several other resorts were founded in the late 1930s, and early 1940s, including Mountain High Resort, California and Timberline in Oregon in 1937; Arizona Snowbowl (1938); Sugar Bowl, California (1939); and Snowbasin, Utah and Winter Park, Colorado in 1940. Bogus Basin Mountain Recreation Area, Idaho and Ski Cooper, Colorado opened in 1942. But, since the world was at war, most openings and developments were put on hold, and many that had opened in the prior years were suspended. After the war, it took some time to jump start the industry, but efforts were made to do just that.

As part of the World War II effort, the 10th Light Division (Alpine) was formed in 1942 at Camp Hale (elevation 9,200') near Leadville, Colorado, at Cooper Hill *(Ski Cooper)* and other high elevation locations. Months later, the division was redesignated as the 10th Mountain Division. Many of the ski instructors who left Europe helped train and were part of this combat unit. Many ski club members also volunteered since they did have ski experience. Their training created a regiment of soldiers that were considered some of the best in the American Army at the time. They were taught how to rock climb, navigate the snow on skis, and simply survive under harsh conditions. In late 1944, the unit was shipped to the Apennine Mountains in northern Italy where they saw 114 days of combat against the enemy. This group was very instrumental in their defeat bringing a long overdue closure to this chapter in world history.

When the Veterans of the 10th Mountain Division came back home, they continued their love of the mountains and skiing. They were very instrumental in the development and growth of the US post war ski industry. At least 62 ski areas throughout the country were started by these ex-soldiers beginning almost immediately after the war ended. In addition to developing ski areas such as Aspen (1947); Sugarbush and Whiteface (Lake Placid), both in 1958; and Vail (1962); they helped manage the resorts and headed ski schools across the country. By this time, the Arlberg Technique method of teaching had almost disappeared, being replaced by the Austrian or French techniques depending on the ski school and who was instructing.

The war years had provided jobs not only to members of the armed services, but on the homefront, too. Those who were not fighting abroad worked in factories to provide the necessary items needed in the war effort. Many people were able to save a little money that they were able to use to begin to actually enjoy their lives. Many small, local ski areas were opening, thus it was convenient to spend a day skiing. There was also an abundant amount of war surplus ski equipment that became available very inexpensively. More and more people in the middle class actually could afford cars to get to the local resorts which were a boon to the growth of the ski populations in the cooler climates and higher elevation locales. Many of these areas only had rope tows. And, it wasn't a big expense to use them. Taking a ski vacation became a lot more affordable to many. And, the desire was there. They were also able to take ski instruction to learn how to ski correctly, buy the new ski fashions of the day and purchase newly re-designed ski equipment.

Heavy, wooden skis had been replaced by aluminum skis and shortly thereafter with fiberglass skis. Lighter, metal ski poles made the bamboo poles obsolete. Buckles replaced laces on the typical boot. Bindings improved. The first cableless heel-and-toe release came to market in 1951. The technology developed from the war years made skiing easier and safer. A growing number of new ski areas near population centers introduced more people to the sport. In the 1950's, 54 new ski areas opened. The old rope tows were being replaced by T Bars, J Bars and Pomas Tows. Chairlifts, by this time, were mass-produced and being installed throughout the country. Even snow became better in the 1950s as the first generation snowmaking machines and groomers were introduced. And, the 1952 Olympics held in Oslo, Norway was garnering a lot of attention. Although racing for the Norwegian Ski Team, the name Stein Erikson became a household name as he was the first male Olympic Gold Medal winner who was not from the European Alps. He later immigrated to the US, where he became an instructor and ski school director at several different resorts over the span of his career. The fact that a non Alps team member was able to medal showed that Americans could also actually compete and win, too! Ordinary skiers became interested in participating in ski racing, as well as recreational skiing. There was tremendous growth during the 1950s because the middle class was beginning to be able to participate. However, the 1960s would be the golden era in the growth of skiing.

The next decade opened with the 1960 Olympics in Squaw Valley, California. This North Lake Tahoe resort originally opened in 1949 with a goal of becoming a world class ski area. The Squaw Valley Olympics were the first Games held in the Western United States. Technology had advanced so that computer software could report the results almost instantaneously. In addition, the games were televised, so much of the country's - and world's - population was able to watch these exciting events in their very own living rooms. The images showed the international community that the United States ski resorts were on a par with their European counterparts. The US won three Silver Medals in this competition - in women's alpine events.

Four years later at the 1964 Winter Games held in Innsbruck, Austria, two racers were

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the first American men to win Olympic Medals in Alpine Slalom events.. Billy Kidd (Silver) and Jimmie Heuga (Bronze) added even more interest in skiing throughout the country.

With a goal of establishing and promoting standards for how skiing was taught in the United States, the Professional Ski Instructors Association was formed in the fall of 1961 by seven committed instructors: Bill Lash, Jimmy Johnston, Paul Valar, Doug Pfeiffer, Don Rhinehart, Max Dercum, and Curt Chase. One of their projects was to simplify the teaching process and create standardization. At this time, many resorts were teaching the Austrian method and others were teaching the French version. It became confusing for both instructors and their students. By the mid 1960s, a truly American ski technique had emerged, described in PSIA's first manual, *The Official American Ski Technique*. The American Ski Technique evolved into the American Teaching Method and finally to what is currently called the American Teaching System.

There was also another revision in teaching methods. The Graduated Length Method or GLM started new skiers with shorter skis and gradually increased the length as the skier progressed. Skiing became much easier to learn with the new teaching system. Numerous resorts adopted it.

Several other events broadened interest even more. Winter ski and sport shows were organized and brought to major population centers. These shows introduced new equipment, new resorts, new clothing designs and brought ski hills to the masses with their traveling ski decks - portable structures that represented a short ski hill for the public to try. These ski shows created even more interest. Skiing became a status symbol fueled by celebrities being seen on the slopes. TV shows were filmed at ski resorts and aired in major cities to create further interest. Airports were developed near the larger destination ski areas for better accessibility and convenience. And by this time, the economy was flourishing. Thus, the rising prices of lift tickets didn't seem to bother most participants.

Of course, the price of a lift ticket in the 1960s pales to current prices! And, the resorts of the 1960s were much different than the resorts of today, as well. The average price at the beginning of the seventh decade of the 20th Century was less than $6.00. However, many improvements to mountain lodges, advanced lifts and the use of gondolas, better snowmaking and grooming later in the decade and beyond, are reflected in the rise in the price of lift tickets.

Although this is a more recent picture of the village at Snowmass which opened in 1967, it shows the concept of building an all-inclusive destination with ski-in / ski-out convenience. Every need is met. The village has lodging, restaurants, shopping and is ski lift accessible for guests to be pampered. The concept was popular as many resorts throughout the country followed this all inclusive concept. *photo courtesy of Aspen / Snowmass*

Business was good. Timing was right. There was a construction boom in the development of ski areas - not only at the ski resorts themselves, but throughout the nearby towns as they needed accommodations, and other services for new residents and visitors. Declining mining towns were revamped with a new purpose. Instead of letting charming historic towns disintegrate with vanishing populations, the development of a nearby ski resort revitalized them.

A new concept was also introduced. Design a brand new resort in the image of a traditional Swiss Village. Vail Resort was one of the first to follow this very successful plan. This well planned resort opened in 1962 and grew shortly thereafter into one of the greats. Crested Butte Mountain Resort also opened in 1962 near the old mining town of the same name. Skiers could enjoy the modern ski village during the day, while being transported to another era later in that same day. What a wonderful combination! More and more people were becoming involved. More and more resorts were being planned! The boom continued - not only in the development and usage of these winter resorts, but also in the construction of nearby facilities.

A lot of effort went into finding locations for these new resorts. After site inspections were performed it was not uncommon for small groups to board a helicopter which would land on a designated peak and it's occupants would ski down fresh powder. Popular now, helicopter skiing actually began in the mid 1960s for adventurous and accomplished skiers - opening more non-lift serviced terrain without a major expense. Another way to accend a slope was to crawl up the mountain on a snow cat or grooming machine, then ski down through fresh powder. This is how many future resort sites were tested before contracts were signed, lifts were constructed and resorts opened. Many resorts today still offer snow cat serviced terrain.

Snowmass Ski Resort followed five years after Vail opened - in 1967. With five brand new lodges, numerous condos and private homes, a conference center, numerous pools, shops and restaurants forming a community below the mountain peaks, the Village at Snowmass became an instant hit. The concept of creating an all inclusive ski-in / ski-out village was another winner. The first year Snowmass was open, they attracted over 100,000 guests - a record for that time. They are celebrating their fiftieth Anniversary in December, 2017.

Several other events and happenings also put skiing on the fast track. NASTAR, an acronym for NAtional STAndard Race, was created in 1968. It was patterned after a similar French program started in the 1950s. Ski instructors were rated by a percentage that they lagged behind a top national team slalom racer. The American program allowed everyone who desired to race through a handicap system. Their times were compared to other racers at several associated resorts. Today there are over 100 ski resorts in North America where NASTAR courses can be utilized. Many U.S. Ski Team members have gotten their starts through the NASTAR program.

NSAA, the National Ski Areas Association, was formed in 1962. It was originally headquartered in New York City. Its purpose was to assist ski area owners and operators to promote the growth of the industry and create some standardization. It appears that they were quite successful. as it is estimated that over half of the world's 5,500 ski resorts in existence today were actually opened in the 1960s and the skiing public doubled every 5 - 6 years. In the US, alone, 98 new ski resorts opened their doors during the 1960s.

As members of the Far West Ski Association - an organization which was founded in 1930 as the California Ski Association - many of us started skiing during the 1950s and 1960s. We were part of this movement and have seen major changes since that time. For most of us, skiing was a highly enjoyed recreational activity which complemented our professional lives. Many weekends and vacations were spent on the slopes. For others, it became a huge part of their lives, and shaped their destiny. One of those individuals was Larry Nicholson. He directly participated in much of this growth. Here is his story.

Reminiscence & Reflections

by Larry Nicholson

I wished for a pair of skis for Christmas in 1954, which would have made me eight years old. Skiing was encouraged by a friend of my aunt who was a member of a local ski club and offered lessons. We were living in a suburb of Milwaukee which had a county park called Curry Park near by. In the winter months, they installed a rope tow lift on one of the golf fairways. The slope was lighted at night. *It was definitely not Mt. Everest!* I believe the cost to ride the tow was 25 cents back in those days.

My Christmas wish come true! Under the Christmas Tree was a brand new pair of wooden skis; and a pair of bamboo poles. Santa forgot the ski boots, but I had some what we called galoshes that sufficed. The skis did not have metal edges. Bear trap bindings secured my feet to them. That was the start of my addiction to the sport. The local areas of Little Switzerland, Wilmot and Alpine Valley offered night skiing with lighted slopes. Young and old could enjoy skiing at night, which I certainly took advantage of on a regular basis. For a more advanced slope, we needed to drive to Wausau, Wisconsin, to ski Granite Peak at Rib Mountain State Park.

In 1959, my grandmother and an aunt took my brother and me to Aspen for Christmas. By then, we had graduated to better skis with metal edges, leather ski boots, better bear trap bindings with "long thong" leather straps to stabilize the boot. Aspen ran a single chair lift from the base, and you could protect yourself from the elements with a tan canvas tarp. *It was so much fun!* The slopes were not groomed, and there were big moguls carved out from the long skis. This was one of the reasons why the Arlberg system became outdated. The low crouch leaning in severe rotation of the Arlberg technique did not work with large moguls.

Most of the other skiers appeared to be wealthy as they wore expensive clothing and told fascinating stories about the ski resorts in Europe. I remember one evening, we had to share a table at a pizza place with fashion designer, Oleg Cassini and his daughter. I only became more addicted to the sport.

Aspen was a small town then. In those days, few expected skiing to take off the way it did. This new sport totally changed this old mining town. The block in downtown Aspen that is now a park used for rugby and soccer was offered for sale to a friend of mine in the early 1950's for $800. They passed and the town bought it for a park.

The Aspen Skiing Company was started by wealthy industrialist, Walter Paepcke in the mid 1940s. With his cultural inclinations, he also started the Aspen Music Festival and School in 1949. Today, Aspen is well known for its summer music and cultural events, as well as great skiing during the winter and spring.

Walter built the first ski lift in Aspen in 1947. This began the process of taking Aspen from a dead silver mining town to a glamorous ski town. Up until this time in the western US, the only other areas that had major lifts were Sun Valley in 1936 and Alta in 1939. Winter Park Ski Area, an actual Denver City Park, installed a J Bar lift around 1939. With the old T Bar and J Bar lifts, a person hooked the bar around their lower backside and it would haul them up the slope with skis on the ground. A-Basin had a couple single T Bars, one from the base up the mountain, another on the beginner slope. As I remember, sometimes the Bar from the base would jerk you a couple feet in the air when the lift attendant pulled the "go" lever. Better than a chiropractor? Or, one was needed afterwards! In Gunnison, Colorado, their ski club also fashioned a primitive lift about the same time.

My brother, Ron, was also addicted to snow skiing. During high school vacations, we talked our parents into letting us take the train to Glenwood Springs where we would catch a bus to Aspen. We found a very inexpensive place to stay called Ed's Beds which were bunk rooms shared by several others. It definitely sufficed as no one was ever in the rooms except to sleep. As I remember, the cost was $2 per night.

The next obstacle was getting ski tickets. The Aspen Skiing Company had trail crews to stabilize the snow on steep slopes. This preceded snow grooming equipment. Aspen hired ambitious people like my brother and me to join others to sidestep up, then down, steep slopes. If you see old photos and wonder why you might see horizontal lines packing the new powder on slopes, this is how it was done. If my memory serves me right, we received two lift tickets for a half-day of packing. It was hard work, but we looked at it as improving our thigh muscles - so important for good skiing. One must remember that before there were rope tows or ski lifts, side stepping was how a person went up the slopes. It took a long time to go up. Yet, it took only minutes to ski down!

Although the evolution in quality of skis went right along with the growing public's enthusiasm in the sport little changed until Howard Head made his aluminum laminate skis available to the masses in 1959. These skis had a laminate wooden core with aluminum exterior and a plastic bottom with inset metal edges. To this point, wood skis were conventional with minimal improvement from all wood and edges that would round down with wear to wood skis with interlocking metal edges held on by screws. The bottom of the skis were wood. To make the skis run decently on varying snow conditions and temperatures there were two basic methods of waxing.

With one method you selected and purchased a wax for a given temperature, then melted it in a pot and applied the wax with a paintbrush. After a couple of coats a person

The four of us, the helicopter pilot and a photographer began the day on top of Ajax Mountain in Aspen and flew to the summit of Snowmass Ski Area a few days before Snowmass opened in 1967 as a promotion for the Grand Opening. Before lifts were installed, helicopters and snowcats took adventurous skiers on site inspections and possibly merely for the thrill - if they could afford the rental fees. *Associated Press International / December, 1967*

took a straight piece of metal, perhaps a knife and ran it perpendicular to the length of the ski to make the surface even from edge to edge. We used this not only for being able to ski faster and prevent the build up of snow on the bottom of our skis, but also to fill in gouges after skiing over a rock or two.

The second way for waxing skis was to buy a package of hard ski wax that came in wedges for varying temperatures. A person would rub the hard wax on the bottom of the skis from tip to tail. Then, a cork block was also purchased to melt the wax by rubbing. The friction from rubbing did the job.

In the 1960s, ski shops were buying machines that would wax skis with heated wax and prep the bottoms for a fee. Much easier!

Let's fast forward. I was accepted to the University of Denver and attended D.U. from 1964 - 1969. The university ski coach during this time was Willy Schaeffler. His teams won most of the NCAA Championships during his tenure. At that time, I thought I was a very good skier and went out for the team in the fall of 1964. I didn't make the team, but I did train with them. There was a lot of competition for earning a position. However, Willy Schaeffler and I got to know each other quite well because of the daily training. He was also the ski school director at A-Basin Ski Area then owned by Larry Jump. Willy asked me, like many D.U. students, to join the ski school. I was Stage 1 Certified in 1965, my number was 367. This was under the Rocky Mountain Division (RMSIA) of Professional Ski Instructors of America (PSIA). Today, there are thousands of certified instructors. We taught weekends and all school vacations.

Several well-known skiers had their roots at A-Basin. One ski instructor I taught with in the mid 1960's was Ed Lukes. The country was in the midst of the Vietnam War, and many soldiers were returning as amputees. Ed started devoting his teaching to instructing amputees and taught them a new world on snow. As I remember, Ed eventually took these teachings over to Winter Park. A-Basin was noted for its challenging slopes and Winter Park was more accommodating to Ed's and the veteran's needs.

Jerry Muth, another instructor I worked with, took over as ski school director at A-Basin. Around 1966, he was asked to assist Roger Staub as director at Vail, which had opened four years earlier. Three or four members of the 10th Mountain Division from WWII were working in Aspen after the war. Pete Seibert - being one of them - would drive past the mountain that is now Vail on his way over to Denver. He noticed the area's potential, put together very wealthy families who he knew from skiing and hired a talented architect, Fitzhugh "Fitz" Scott from Milwaukee. They wanted a conforming pleasant architecture they found in Switzerland and Austria. Their dream became a reality with Vail Resort opening!

When Jerry Muth moved to Vail he asked if I would be interested in teaching only private lessons during the long vacation breaks from college. Subsequently, I started working for Vail Associates. I was then fully certified with RMSIA. After my graduation from college in 1969, I moved to Vail. I already had a solid base of wealthy clients wanting ski lessons, and I took an interest in real estate. Skiing was my occupation. Real estate became my avocation!

Working in Vail in its early years, I heard of the history connected to one of its famous runs, Riva Ridge. Riva Ridge is a black diamond run, and was used in the early days as the downhill course for some of the international races. Pete Seibert and many other 10th Mountain men fought at Riva Ridge in the Apennines Mountains in Italy in 1945 against the Germans. The battle was one of the toughest fights in the mountainous areas of Europe. Three years earlier, in 1942, the US Government started a training camp for elite soldiers to fight in Europe. The training camp was called Camp Hale and remains a historical site today. The location is just south of Vail between Red Cliff and Leadville on Colorado State Highway 24. The soldiers were outfitted in all white uniforms, as well as, white skis, poles, etc. to blend in with the white snow. Most of these soldiers were good skiers before they trained at Camp Hale, because a lot of them were recruited from university ski clubs.

In December 1967, while a student and part time instructor at Vail, I was asked if I would participate in being the first to ski the runs, not yet open, at a new resort called Snowmass. I really don't know why they chose me when they had many instructors to pick from at Aspen. They wanted a public relations news article with photos about this new resort. I was to include a few students who were excellent skiers, able to ski virgin powder conditions. I selected a couple from New York City, Mr. and Mrs. Alan Slifka. I also

included my then girlfriend and instructor, Jain Davis. The *Aspen Times* newspaper sent a photographer with us. We took off by helicopter from the top of Ajax Mountain in Aspen and landed on the top of Snowmass for an excellent day of powder skiing. Snowmass Ski Area opened a few days later. During this time, helicopter skiing became very popular in both the Rockies and western Canada.

Copper Mountain, Colorado opened in 1972. A year prior, before any lifts were installed, one of the original founders of Vail, John and Mary Hobart, asked if I would like to join them and their family to ski the original runs in untracked powder. They rented a snow cat from Copper Mountain for the day to take us up the slopes for a wonderful day of skiing. *How could I resist such an adventure?*

The National Ski Association, formed in 1926, became the United States Ski Association in 1962. The organization had separate regional divisions. All skiers were encouraged to join the USSA and its divisions.

In 1990, Professional Ski Instructors of America awarded me with a nice plaque for 25 years of dedication to the sport and industry.
photo provided by Larry Nicholson

About the same time in 1961, a group was formed called the Professional Ski Instructors of America (PSIA). These instructors decided that the country should have a unified and standardized teaching system throughout the country. Prior to that, ski instructors would teach others in the manner that they themselves were taught. It was confusing. A student might take lessons at one resort which focused on the Austrian Technique - the most popular at this time; then go to another area where the instructor might teach the French Technique.

Both the Austrian and French Techniques were based on the original Arlberg Technique, which was successful in the early decades of the 20th Century, partly due to the primitive type of equipment that was available prior to the 1950s. It worked well in powder conditions, but with more skiers on a slope with these long skis, moguls formed. The existing technique needed to be modified. PSIA wanted to develop a more simplified, uniform method of teaching to bring a novice skier along more quickly. The faster the progress for a skier, the more enjoyment they received from the sport.

PSIA started to unite the ski instructors of America and established an exam that in the early days required a written test, then actual on hill training and testing. Instructors became professionals. Ski schools that were certified received a designation and could display the PSIA LOGO so students entering the ski school knew they were learning from a qualified instructor. PSIA's goal was to have all ski resorts adopt the same teaching standards that they were developing. They did develop a written manual, but it wasn't until 1971-1972 that a complete re-do of the initial standards manual was done. It simplified the American Technique making it more functional, and easier for students to learn. The revised manual became the US standard.

I was Stage 1 Certified in 1965. As an instructor, I was part of the Rocky Mountain Division (RMSIA) of PSIA. In those days, this region extended from Vail, Aspen, Steamboat Springs and Winter Park in the north down to Taos and Santa Fe Ski Basin in the south. I also became an examiner. As examiners, we would travel between each of these resorts to help train and make certain that the required high standards were maintained throughout our division.

At Vail, we observed long skis impeded the progress in teaching beginners. Therefore, we adopted a progressive length of skis approach for students called the Graduated Length Method or GLM. Vail's ski shop at the bottom of the slopes at Golden Peak contracted with K-2 Skis in this endeavor.

In the early days, skis were quite long for stability. Prior to the mid 1960s, a person determined the length of skis they should be using by holding their arm straight up. The tip of the ski would normally come to the wrist or even the palm of the hand. The desired length of a ski was 200 to 210 centimeters for slalom racing and most teaching activities, 215 centimeters for giant slalom and 220 - 223 centimeters for downhill.

As one can imagine, this was a handful for new skiers. With the GLM method, a beginner would rent a shorter pair of skis, perhaps 100 centimeters, or about 39 inches. These skis were easy to maneuver, allowed for quickly learning the basics, and they were much safer for the student, resulting in fewer accidents involving the knee or lower leg. Of course, at this length one sacrificed stability. As the student progressed and needed more stability for speed, he/she simply returned the shorter skis to the rental shop and got longer ones. By the end of a week-long class, the teacher and students would go to the top of the mountain taking both beginner and intermediate runs. Most students would have graduated from a ski length of 100 centimeters to 160 or 175 centimeter skis showing considerable progress. Good progress typically meant that the student would return to the slopes again and hopefully often.

By the end of the decade it became apparent that more modifications were needed to the original PSIA Manual. I was one of about seven or eight ski instructors selected to evaluate skiing and various aspects of the sport to come up with this new "American Ski Technique", serving to upgrade what we were using and to develop further standardization. We approached the challenge quite seriously looking at visualization, kinesthetics, audio, emotional, biometrics and more. We wanted a final resolve so that skiing would be more natural and comfortable for all. As an example, a man's physique is different from a woman's. Most likely a woman has a wider hip structure, thus her angulation won't be enough when needed on a very steep slope. A woman will need to counter rotate more to get the same result and keep weight over the skis or slightly downhill. We also moved the ski position a bit - to shoulder width, away from the severity of keeping the skis tightly together, as was the discipline of the Austrian Technique. When I was a kid learning skiing from the Austrians, I would wrap my long thongs around both boots as a training exercise to perfect my technique and balance. We moved the pivotal point for a turn back from the shovel of the ski with the Austrian Technique to over the ball of the foot or the toe piece of the binding. With the improvement of skis and edges, we started using more weight on the uphill ski not just the downhill ski, perhaps a 60/40 relationship.

We all read the book *Psycho-Cybernetics* by Maxwell Maltz - circa 1960. In this book, Maltz proves the mind can accomplish almost as much through visualization as one can

when actually doing the physical event. *For example:* a person can overcome fears such as speed and navigating steep slopes.

After the national manual was completed*, we had a judged competition to select six top skiers to represent the US to show off our talents. I was one of the six on the US Interski Team (Demo Team), however, I did not make the top four that would travel internationally. We had one of our first exhibitions at Vail. It included some of the top ski countries like Germany and France. The international four went on to Japan as their first stop.

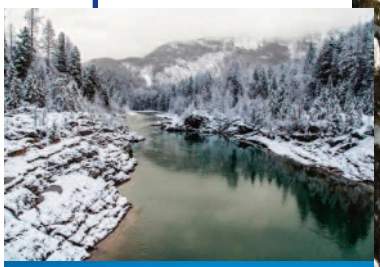
One of the more unique things I was asked to do involves a TV series. A Houston television station wanted to do a series on skiing. They sent a crew to film and document the teaching process over about a ten day period to one of the fastest growing ski areas, Vail. They brought a television personality who had never skied with them. Vail selected me to be the instructor. I essentially lived with the crew and student for this time. It was filmed, then cut for time and content, and shown as a daily series in Houston and surrounding areas. We would start from breakfast through the day and have evening discussions in front of a fireplace in a beautiful condominium they had rented. As the programs were aired, my private ski instruction calendar really filled up quickly. Interest from the Texas ski market really accelerated because of this series.

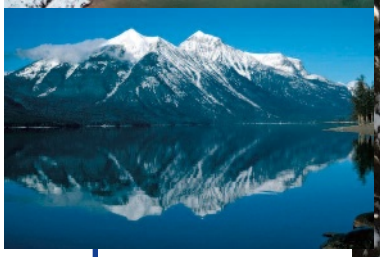
I was also often asked to test new products. During the 1960's ski equipment changed considerably - for the better. Howard Head's metal ski was just a start! Boot maker Henke put plastic over a leather boot shell for rigidity, and to be waterproof. They even came in colors. You had a choice of either blue or red. I was friends with Bob Lange with Lange Boots. I tested proto-type boots not yet on the market for Bob, as well as other products for other ski manufacturers.

As an examiner for the Rocky Mountain Ski Instructor's Association from 1972 until 1976, I came in contact with so many great people who continued with their dedication to improving skiing. However, I was also a realist. I knew that everyone also needed to earn a living. The ski industry associates and the contacts I developed while teaching others to ski, provided a successful career both in the real estate industry and in the oil and gas industry. Skiing gave me those very special contacts! Along with obtaining a Colorado Real Estate Broker's License, I also earned several Security Exchange Licenses which enabled me to raise money and create partnerships between my contacts for the development of large construction projects. These projects were in high demand as the ski industry was in a dynamic growth spurt. I was in the right place at the right time. I could never have planned a life that I experienced. But, without that first pair of skis when I was eight years old, my life would most certainly have taken a different path. I owe it all to my skiing addiction and my love of the mountains. There were numerous changes during the 1950s and 1960s. I was so fortunate to have experienced them first hand!

**I give my highest regards to the writer of the 1970s American Ski Technique Manual, Horst Abraham, a good friend totally dedicated to the ski industry.*

Sources include: *www.nationalguard.mil, www.nsaa.org, skiinghistory.org, www.skimusuem.net, www.snowbrains.com, www.snowpros.org, and http://en.wikipedia.org*





Top: Hike, snowshoe or crosscountry ski along the Flathead River. Lower: Or, visit Lake McDonald. There is plenty to do at Glacier National Park during the winter months and in the summer. *photos / nps.gov*

photo / Kandahar Lodge

The Kandahar - a Cozy Lodge close to Whitefish Mountain Resort Ski & Summer Resort & Glacier National Park

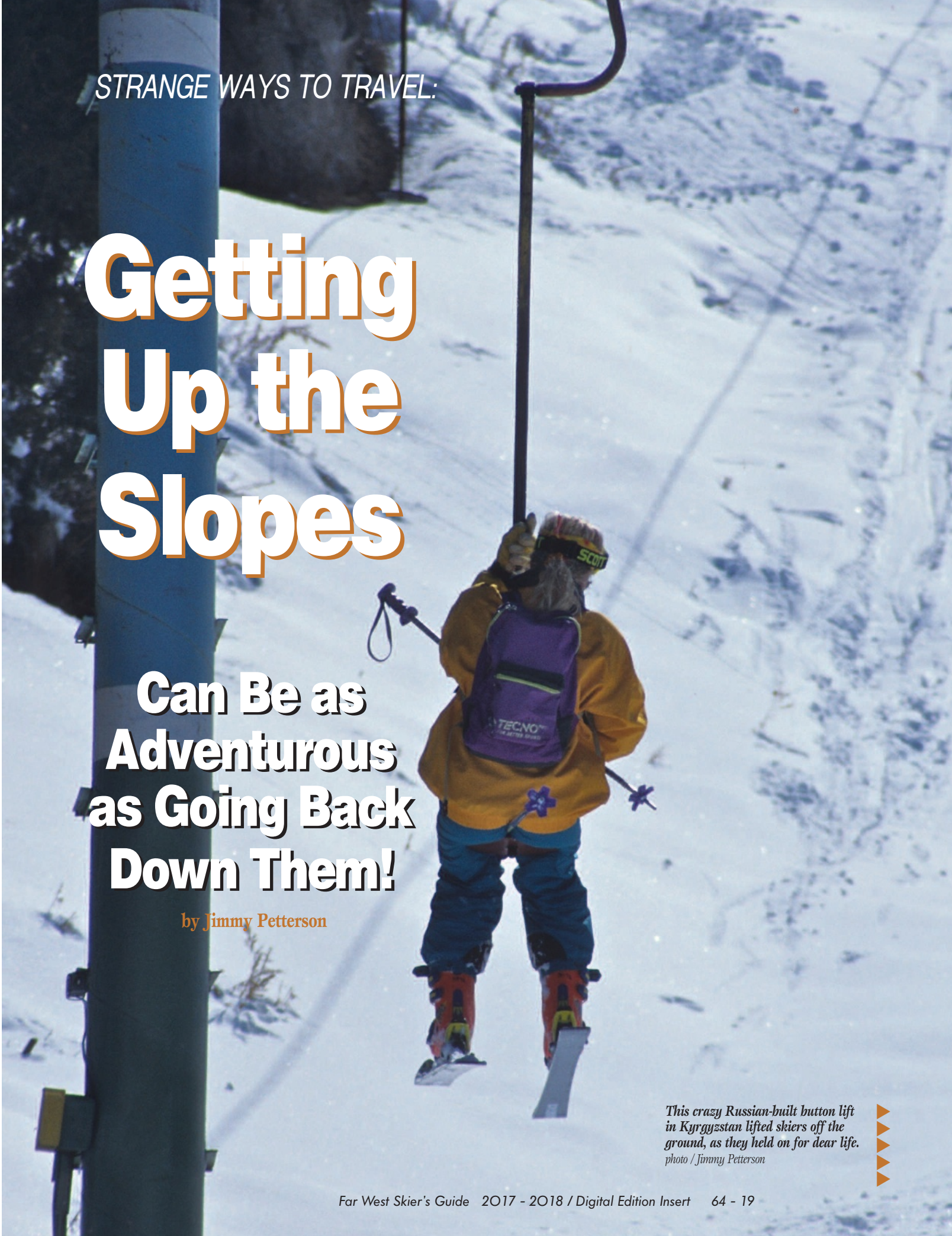
The Kandahar Lodge is located seven miles from the town of Whitefish and about 30 miles from the west entrance of Glacier National Park. Its ski-in location on Whitefish Mountain provides the perfect access to over 3,000 acres of excellent ski or board terrain. The resort's average annual snowfall is 300 inches. Great powder. Scarce lift lines. Come back in summer to enjoy the numerous miles of rivers and streams, hundreds of hiking trails, a great selection of mountain biking trails, zip lines, an alpine slide or a walk in the trees. Or, tee off at one of the ten Championship golf courses. Don't forget the many concerts, festivals, live theater events and more! Come visit us!

STRANGE WAYS TO TRAVEL:

Getting Up the Slopes

Can Be as Adventurous as Going Back Down Them!

by Jimmy Petterson



This crazy Russian-built button lift in Kyrgyzstan lifted skiers off the ground, as they held on for dear life.
photo / Jimmy Petterson

In the process of passing through more than seventy countries for the purpose of skiing, it has come to my attention that while the downhill process is quite similar in each and every land, the manner of getting uphill can differ rather radically. In a day and age of high-speed, detachable six-seat chair lifts, comfortable gondolas to serve eight seated passengers, and large cable cars that transport 150 people at a time, the uphill ride has become, for the most part, comfortable and convenient. But all the fun and excitement has been deleted! The Doppelmayr Company and a few of their colleagues have turned this genre into an effective, but bland, industry.

If you are somebody who longs for the good old days, when getting up the mountain was equally adventurous as skiing down, here are a few tips about where you might still enjoy some of those thrills. There are still locations where you can access ski runs on animal back and others where the motorized uphill transportation offers all the thrills and spills of an amusement-park attraction.

Morocco is an excellent place to begin, if one is fond of animals. At the base of Morocco's largest ski area, Oukmeïden, various men with mules await visitors who would like to access the mountain aboard their sure-footed steeds. While the double chair lift, which is also operational at Oukmeïden, might be more practical, the mule-back ride is certainly more interesting. In addition, the nearby Toubkal Massif, Morocco's highest mountain has no lifts. There, mule back is the ordinary method of climbing from 1700 to 2900 meters, from where one begins ski touring.

South of the Atlas Mountains, the skiing takes on a sandy aspect in the dunes of the Sahara. Here, it is also quite helpful, if not necessary, to use dromedary to carry one's equipment and oneself to the best ski area. The steep part of the climb up to the peak of the dune to be skied must be done on foot, as camels are not good climbers. Nevertheless, the drudgery of walking for hours to get to the highest sand dune is best performed by an experienced desert traveler with a hump.

Above: A pack mule is being prepared to carry skis and boots toward the Toubkal Massif in Morocco. Isn't this a more interesting way to travel than a high-speed quad? Left: Jimmy Petterson is riding toward Mt. Toubkal. The mule-back ride began in Imlil (1800 m) and continued all the way to the snow line at about 2900 meters. Lower Left: Jimmy Petterson's skis, boots, and guitar are being transported across a swath of sand in the Sahara toward a waiting sand dune.
photos / Jimmy Petterson

In Canada, one of the old methods, oft used in the 1940s, of getting up mountains is coming back into vogue. The so called "weasel" carried passengers up the mountain in the days of skiing's infancy in North America, and now, the modern day "weasel" – the snow cat – is really catching on among off-piste skiers as a way of reaching virgin terrain. Entire ski areas are popping up in the Rockies based on this principle.

While the snow cats in the North American operations are generally machines that can carry a good number of seated passengers, there are also locations where one can be dragged behind a snow cat holding a rope. Mt. Elbrus in Russia and Oppdal in Norway use this method to add some extra territory to their lift accessed area. In addition, there is also a connection between the Montafon Valley and the Paznaun Valley of Austria that can be made with the assistance of such a snow cat and rope system.

In Italy, there is a more old-fashioned version of this method. On one of the descents from atop the Lagazuoi Cable Car near Cortina, one eventually comes to the point where the ski piste flattens out entirely. There, a sleigh pulled by horses and with ropes attached awaits skiers to pull them a few kilometers to where they can board the Armentarola lift.

More exclusive than the snow cat or the horse-drawn sleigh, and of course, more ex-

ABOVE: This snow cat is strong enough to pull a large contingent of skiers close to Galtür, Austria. LOWER: In Greenland, where there are few roads and fewer ski lifts, snowmobile is the best way of transporting skiers across the heavily glaciated terrain.

pensive, is the snowmobile. The ratio of one driver for one skier is bound to add a few dollars to the bill, but it is a much speedier way to travel and is used in the large, remote glacial areas of Iceland and Greenland to get skiers into position for some stunning descents. Iceland's Vatnajökull is not only the largest glacier in Europe, it is larger than all the glaciers of mainland Europe combined! It is also so large, that the only practical way of getting around on Vatnajökull is by snowmobile.

Greenland is not considered to be part of Europe, but it possesses glaciers that make Vatnajökull look like an ice cube. Some years back, I visited the Apussuit Mountain Camp, near Maniitsoq, in western Greenland. There are no ski lifts at the camp, which houses a maximum of 24 people, but skiers can either go touring or take advantage of the four snowmobiles with drivers that are available there.

There are also many places in the world where skiers can still ride up the mountain by motorized contraptions that defy the imagination. Some are mere relics from a bygone era of skiing, while others were ill-conceived inventions from the very start.

The skiing hinterlands of New Zealand offer a wide selection of lifts from the early days of skiing. The rope tow was one of the first ways that man used for moving skiers uphill. It was simple and inexpensive. While many types of rope tows are still in use for beginners, people soon realized that this method was much too strenuous for bringing people up long distances of mountain. That is . . . people everywhere outside New Zealand realized this fact.

New Zealand's ski areas are divided into so-called commercial fields and club fields. While the commercial fields are often not very commercial at all, the club fields are much more primitive. These small ski areas, operated by local ski clubs, are the last major bastion in the world for the endangered species – the rope tow with a so-called nutcracker.

Upon paying one's lift ticket, one is given a nutcracker – a piece of equipment used to assist in riding the local rope tows. One end of the nutcracker is attached to a rope or chain, which, in turn, connects with a wide belt placed around one's waist. The other end is then clamped tightly around the moving rope tow, and one holds on for dear life as one is hauled up the mountainside by this means.

You can imagine how you feel at the end of the vacation after trying to survive this up-

LEFT: The nutcracker rope tow assists snow-sport enthusiasts ascend the slopes at Broken River, New Zealand. RIGHT: The frightening single chair "stool lift" in Furano, Japan is an adventure in itself!

hill apparatus for a week or so! Nevertheless, these rope tows are the linchpins of the ski areas in Craigie Burn, Temple Basin, Mount Olympus, Broken River, and Mt. Egmont, among others. I also experienced such a rope tow in Kashka-Suu, 30 kilometers outside Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on a visit some years back, and I would guess that a few more such torture instruments still exist in a number of other locations around the world.

Close to Kashka-Suu are the equally obscure ski centers of Kizil-Beles and Oru-Suy. We laughed until we almost cried at some of the primitive lift arrangements. Some places had a kind of rope tow, and when one paid the daily fare ($2-5), instead of a lift ticket, one received a 10-inch stick attached to a nylon cord with a hook at the end. The stick was to be placed between one's legs, the hook was meant to hang over the wire cable of the lift, and with a lot of practice, one can learn how to reach the top without the hook falling off.

Even more amusing than the rope tow was the Russian built draglift in Oru-Suy. The disc that one placed between one's legs was somewhat larger than that of a French Poma lift, and the springs were a bit older. Otherwise, the contraption seemed quite like the Western product . . . until one's skis left the ground! All of a sudden, the skier was dangling three or four meters in the air, as if he were riding on some strange Asian amusement-park attraction. For added fun and adventure, it was even possible to swing around and face downhill while riding up this bizarre lift.

Japan has the most chair lifts of any country in the world. Being a very modern country, many of these lifts are state of the art,

The infamous Roca Jack lift in Portillo, Chile. The "Va et Vient" is a strange invention which has five Poma lifts all connected together - without any lift towers.

and yet, here and there, all over Japan, one still can find old single chair lifts. This is not so strange, for a fair number of single chair lifts are still in operation in various countries. It is just that the Japanese single chair is unlike any others in the world.

Furano's top lift was such a relic. It had no bar to pull in front of you and no side rail on either side. Even the backrest is no more than about ten centimeters high. Basically, they look like small flat stools and nothing more, and are horrifying at first glance. I think that Neil Armstrong, John Glenn, and many other brave space travelers would think twice about mounting one of these primitive contraptions.

All the locals were lining up for the lift without trepidation. I reluctantly slid in front of my first "stool lift". Once airborne, it was really no problem, but I was glad the wind was not blowing!

Sadly, slowly but surely, many of these antiquated lifts are being replaced. The modernization and development in Eastern Europe in the past 25 years has seen a number of wonderful old contraptions become relegated to the junkyard.

When I visited Mt. Chopok in Slovakia in the nineties, they had some chair lifts that were quite unique. One was a double chair on which one sat sideways while going up the

Upper Left: To maximize the capacity of the chairlift in Haldigrat, which has an uphill capacity of only 55 people per hour, the eccentric owner, Kurt Mathis, even puts the cargo lift into service for passengers.
Upper Right: The unique engineering of the infamous Roca Jack lift in Portillo, Chile was necessitated by numerous avalanches that continually demolished the lift towers of previous lifts. The Roca Jack exists without the benefit of a lift tower.
Lower: The "garbage-can" lift on the Marmolada in Italy is a dying breed. I have experienced similar lifts in the past in Cortina, Alagna, and Åre in Sweden, but I fear they have all disappeared by now, including this one.

LEFT AND RIGHT: ***Both of these chairlifts were an integral part of the Mt. Chopok lift system in the 1990s, but are no longer in service.***

mountain. That lift was not frightening or difficult like some of the other more unusual lifts, but one wonders what the designers could have been thinking about. Imagine how slow it is to load and unload skiers who are sitting sideways, compared with skiers who are facing forwards and just ski on and off the lift. It is, perhaps, understandable that the communist system in Eastern Europe ultimately failed.

In the realm of lifts that are poorly designed with regard to smooth and easy loading and unloading, one cannot omit the "garbage-can" lifts, which are also slowly becoming extinct. I still used such lifts on the Marmolada Glacier, in Alagna, and in Cortina in the nineties, but I fear that these inconvenient, but fun contraptions are also on their way out.

These lifts resemble implements of torture from the Spanish Inquisition, but I was assured at the Marmolada lift that it was specifically built for transporting skiers, as recently as 1974. What I refer to as a garbage-can lift was a narrow basket for two passengers, who had to enter the garbage-can-shaped apparatus while it moved quickly past. The lift attendant then lunged after the lift, depositing the skis, hopefully without knocking out any of the passenger's teeth in the process.

With a little luck, two skiers and two pairs of skis would then stand tightly pressed together until they reached the top station, where the entire procedure was reversed. This would be an opportune lift line to search out a partner with the endowments of Pamela Anderson, I mused upon first observing it, but I ended up pressed chest to chest with my friend, Caspar. He must have eaten a garlic-pasta for breakfast, and my thoughts returned to strange methods of torture.

In the tiny ski resort of Haldigrat, in Switzerland, a new variation of the traditional chair lift has recently developed. After a number of years of idleness due to bankruptcy, the ski lift was bought in 2001 by an eccentric Swiss man – Kurt Mathis. Swiss law mandates that a ski lift requires a high-salaried head of ski lift operations. So to save costs, Kurt dismounted all but a few chairs and a cargo carrier. Nowadays, the 707-vertical-meter lift only can carry 55 passengers an hour, even with the cargo carrier in use to transport skiers. The good news is that there can never be very many people on the mountain to track up the powder.

When it comes to torturous lifts, perhaps nothing can top the "Va et Vient" lift which keeps participants flailing and falling and the spectators well entertained in Portillo, Chile. Portillo actually has two such lifts, the Roca Jack and the Condor lifts.

The "Va et Vient" is a strange invention which has five Poma lifts all connected together. Five skiers, therefore, are pulled up the 740 vertical meters on the Roca Jack side by side . . . if all goes well. The whole system functions without benefit of a lift tower, a design necessary because frequent avalanches on the steep slope would otherwise constantly destroy the towers.

Riding up the precarious Roca Jack, which is over 30 degrees steep, with your well-being dependent on the ability of yourself and four others to maintain balance is an experience every bit as exciting and adventurous as skiing the steep slope back down.

For added thrills, the lift track rises over numerous moguls and inconsistencies in the terrain. During the ascent a multi-lingual conversation is usually necessary to organize the order of disembarking from this contraption. The preferred method of releasing the Poma on such a steep slope is to slide off backwards into a reverse snowplow, but if all five perform this maneuver simultaneously, the invariable result is a tangle of skis, poles, and bodies gliding en masse back toward the original point of departure.

One of the more recently added attractions at the Liseberg amusement park close to my home in Gothenburg, Sweden is an old-style wooden roller coaster. It has been met with accolades from all sides. There is something to be said for old-fashioned ways of having fun. If you are the type of person who enjoys a time-machine trip back to the early days of skiing, start visiting a few of the spots in this article. Many of them are a bit off the beaten path, but well worth a visit. In the meantime, I will send a copy of this article to the Doppelmayr Company and see if they can't come up with an interesting anachronism to entertain us all in the Rockies or the Alps in the near future.

Jimmy Petterson had traveled to all of these locations among the 600-plus resorts that he has skied. Some of these contraptions may have been replaced with more advanced lifts since his visit. His adventures in 74 countries will all be available in Volumes I and II of ***Skiing Around the World****, expected on bookshelves in 2018 or 2019. See* ***www.skiingaroundtheworldbook.com*** *for more information.*

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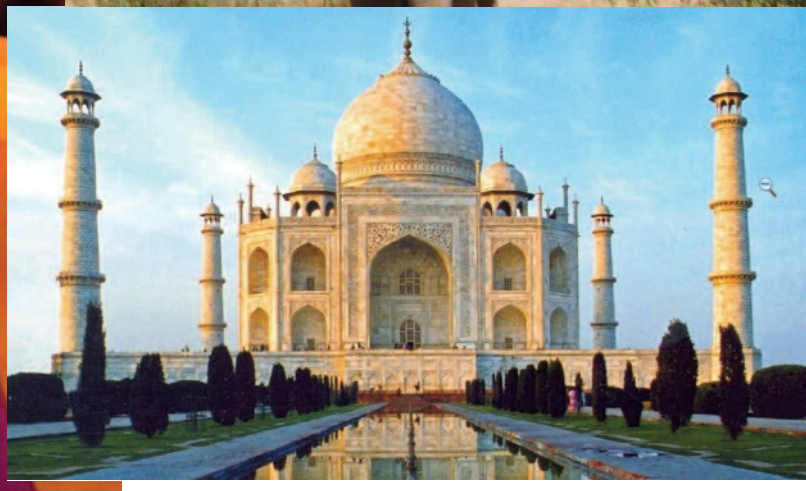

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See pages 22 and 23 of this issue for more information.

photos courtesy of SkiJapan.com

HAKUBA VALLEY SKI RESORTS

JAPAN: *The 2019 FWSA International Ski Week*

Hakuba Valley, Japan is the destination for the 2019 Far West Ski Association International Ski Week. The trip is still being organized, thus details will be announced as they become available. In the meantime, pencil in March of 2019 for this exciting destination.

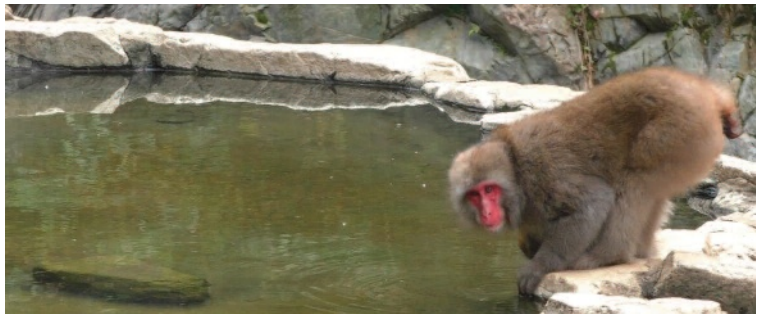
The group will fly into Tokyo. The Hakuba Valley - approximately three hours from downtown Tokyo - is Japan's largest ski area. It is located in the heart of the Japanese Alps. The valley consists of 10 ski resorts, offering almost 2,400 acres of skiable terrain. This beautiful area receives an average of nearly 400 inches annually. The resorts also offer access to off piste and backcountry skiing and boarding, thus there's an almost unlimited number of trails that one can ski or board. You could be here all season and never ride the same run twice. Because there's so many resorts in the one area, the crowds easily disperse, with no one resort being busy or overcrowded, even in peak season.

The resort bases are not all particularly centralized, with many accommodations spread throughout the valley. However, there are free shuttle buses which go past the major areas serving all of them. The buses also run into the evening, so it's easy to hop on one after a day on the slopes, get some dinner at one of the many restaurants in the area and return to your lodge for the evening. If you desire to stay out late, don't worry. There are plenty of taxis around to get you back to your lodge after a few sakes.

Getting to Hakuba is relatively easy from either of the airports in Tokyo. There are the famous bullet trains, but our group will be taking a charter bus to and from our destination. Shinkansen, (or Bullet Train) is one of the more popular ways to travel, not just for the novelty, but it's also quite direct. Once you get to the train station there are buses and taxis available to take you to your accommodations. No matter which accommodation you choose, there's likely to be a free shuttle stop nearby to take you to the ski resorts.

The snow quality in Hakuba definitely lives up to the hype. Japanese powder (JAPOW) is well known for its quality and its abundance. Because Hakuba is higher up than many other Japanese resorts, the powder stays dryer longer. If it hasn't snowed in a while, head into the back or side country, as the snow will still be there, and will probably feel as good as the fresh powder.

As the Hakuba area is quite large, a guide is recommended if you're heading off piste. If you're looking for the full powder experience, going into the backcountry is highly recommended. There are quite a few guiding operations in the area, and you'll have no trouble finding a suitable guide.



The Japanese macaque, also known as a snow monkey, is native to Japan. They get their name "snow monkey" because they live in areas where snow covers the ground for months. They love to romp in hot springs and roll snowballs. They are so entertaining! They have brown-grey fur, red faces, and short tails. *photo / George Stewart*

The famous snow monkeys are nearby, which is a highly recommended "day off" activity. The monkeys are very relaxed, and it's one of the best photo opportunities around. We are also planning a fantastic post trip. We'll be traveling to multiple cities and rural communities to experience the local cultures. We'll be able to take the bullet train to several Temples, Shrines and various cultural activities.

For more information and to reserve your spot on this exciting destination, contact Debbie Stewart, FWSA VP of International Travel: 559.737.0882 / FWSAIntlTrvl@prodigy.net. Also check the ***www.fwsa.org*** website for updates.

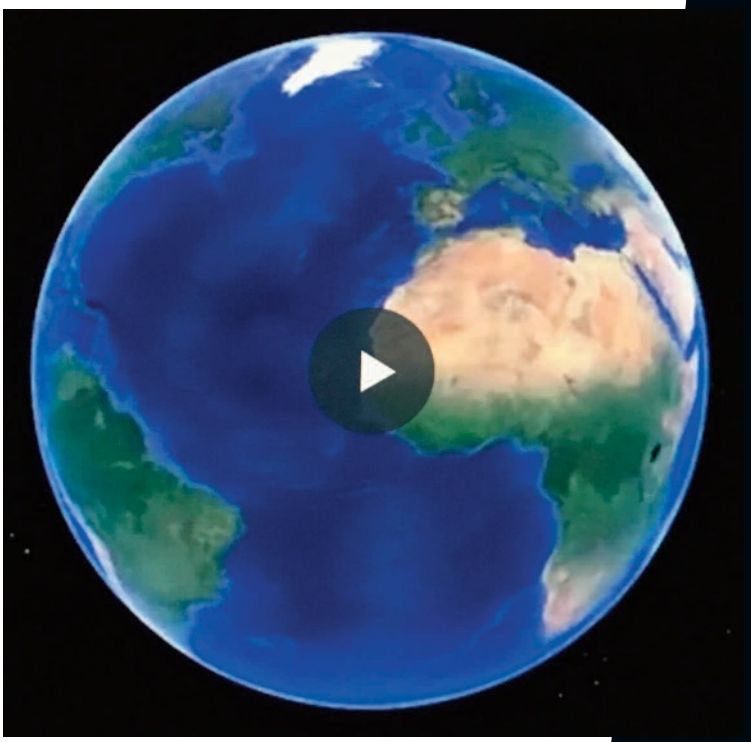
Note: Alister Buckingham from SkiJapan contributed to this article.

photo courtesy of Steamboat Ski Resort

Fall storm brings up to 18 inches of snow to Colorado peaks!

10/3/17 Coloradoan: DENVER (AP) – The National Weather Service says an early autumn storm is dropping heavy snow in the northern Colorado mountains. The resort town of Steamboat Springs reported 18 inches (46 centimeters) Monday. Red Cliff, south of Vail, reported 14 inches (36 centimeters). Winter Park reported nearly 10 inches (25 centimeters). Snow was also falling in the mountains and foothills just west of Denver.

Snow early! Snow often! Perhaps this is a great sign of what we can expect during the 2017-2018 ski season?



video by George Stewart

See The World With The Far West Ski Association Travel Program.

www.fwsa.org/travel/

Another Great Season is Approaching?

Early autumn snowfalls are a good sign that it will be another great year!

Diamond Peak Ski Resort is one of the smaller Lake Tahoe resorts, but still offers 655 acres of trails, open glades and tree skiing at a great value.
photo courtesy of Diamond Peak Ski Resort

Arizona Ski Council

by Arleigh Meiners, ASC President

Arizona Ski Council Clubs are very Active!!!

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.

Seven members from the Arizona Ski Council attended the FWSA Convention in Boise, ID. *Arleigh Meiners* of the Phoenix Ski Club received the ***Hans Georg Award*** at the Convention.

The Arizona Ski Council had their election of Officers at their April Board Meeting. Results of that election are: President - *Arleigh Meiners*; Vice President - *Wanda Himler*; Treasurer - *Dodi Bailey*; Race Coordinator - *Bill Behnke;* and Past President - *Judy Upton*. *Linda Westlund* represents the SS&SC. *Mike Miller* represents AHTC. *Glenn Pyle* represents Boeing Employee Adventure Club. *Gary Giertz* represents Partytime Sports and *Mike Rogers* represents the Sailing Adventure Club. The ASC hosts weekly Happy Hours during the hot summer months for all the clubs to participate in.

The ***Phoenix Ski Club***, (PSC), has their 2017-2018 ski trip schedule on their website. PSC is going to Park City, Utah in December, 2017. This is a ski college package that the club does on an annual basis. They're also planning a ski trip to Purgatory, Colorado during the 2018 New Year's Holiday, then off to Telluride, Colorado in January for ARIZONA DAYS. In February, a trip to Sunrise Ski Resort (in Arizona) on President's Day Weekend for a family ski trip is planned. In March, the club is organizing an exciting trip to Mt. Bachelor, Oregon for a week of skiing. The season will wrap-up with a four day ski trip to Copper Mountain, Colorado in April.

Left: Phoenix Ski Club members on a bicycle tour, rest in front of the Posada de San Millan Hotel in Sepulveda, Spain. *photo provided by Arleigh Meiners* ***Right: Six delegates and a guest represented Arizona Council at the 2017 FWSA Convention. Standing: Bill Behnke, guest Cindy Dugan, and Tom Dugan. Seated: Karen Bonine, Arleigh Meiners, Wanda Ross, and Linda Johnston.*** *Cindy Sherman Photography*

They also offer adventure trips. In October of 2017 PSC went on a Casablanca Cruise. PSC is going to Egypt and Jordan in March of 2018 and in October of 2018 the club is taking a Rhine River Cruise. Other summer activities for the PSC include a casino day, a Lake Powell House Boat weekend, hikes, swim parties, happy hours and many other activities. Please go to ***www.phxskiclub.org*** for more information about the PSC.

Scottsdale Sea & Ski Club, (SS&SC), is an adult ski and social club. SS&SC has happy hours every Friday evening. Their 2017-2018 ski trip schedule is on their website. SS&SC is going to Salt Lake City over the 2018 New Year's holiday for their first ski trip of the season. In January, 2018 they will also be joining the PSC on their Annual ARIZONA DAYS ski trip. SS&SC will wrap-up the ski season with a ski trip to Taos, New Mexico in March of 2018. In July of 2017 SS&SC went to Curacao Beach for a dive vacation, followed by a September cruise to Alaska. SS&SC is joining PSC on the Casablanca Cruise in October of 2017. In May of 2018 SS&SC is planning a trip to Machu Picchu and in September, SS&SC is planning a Boat and Adventure trip to Croatia. For more information about all the other SS&SC activities go to ***www.scottsdale-skiclub.com.***

Arizona Outdoor Travel Club, (AzOTC), has changed their name to ***Arizona Hiking and Travel Club***. AHTC is mostly a hiking club, and they continue to have hikes all year long. In the fall of 2017, AHTC will be doing a Bike and Barge trip on the Danube River. AHTC has about two hikes every week of the year. They 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.

Sailing Adventure Club, (SAC), which is a member of the Arizona Ski Council, is a social club based in Phoenix, Arizona with activities ranging from local sailing, and non-sailing events, to international sailing adventures. Due to challenges finding someone to maintain the website and newsletter, SAC moved towards being a MeetUp group only. In doing so, they have attracted about 125 new members. SAC is in the process of planning a sailing trip in the Bahamas. The club is no longer charging dues, so anyone can join via MeetUp.

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

Arizona Ski Council

www.arizonaskicouncil.org.
President: *Arleigh Meiners*
(602) 538-2947
president@arizonaskicouncil.org

Arizona Ski & Social Clubs Member Clubs & Contact Information

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

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

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

PHOENIX SKI CLUB
www.phxskiclub.org
President: *Ellen Odart*
602-284-1075
ellen@odart.net

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

SCOTTSDALE SEA AND SKI CLUB
www.scottsdale-skiclub.com
President: *Cindi Campbell*
602-622-6467
president@scottsdale-skiclub.com

Bay Area Snow Sports Council

by Paul Vlasveld, President

Club members of the Bay Area Snow Sports Council are fortunate to be so conveniently located near the fabulous resorts around Lake Tahoe. Squaw Valley is typically on their favorite's list. *Squaw Valley / Jason Abraham*

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 26 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 22 clubs and welcomes individuals, couples, families and their children. Our Singles League is made up of four clubs with their full members being over 21 years of age and must be single to initially join one of their clubs. You'll find fun things to do all year long with our clubs.

There is the social aspect to the BAC clubs! Non-skiers and non-snowboarders find their way to our member clubs for activities such as dancing, hiking, camping, bike riding, tennis, golf, adventure travel, etc. In fact, we have members who have been on all seven continents of the world - including 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 about any time during the winter! As an example, in 2017, we had members skiing in Breckenridge, Colorado and Park City, Utah, and a number of additional locations. During 2018, already scheduled are trips to Banff, Canada and Park City, Utah, plus 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 program! On August 12, 2017, we held our 12th Annual BAC / DSUSA Oakland A's Baseball Game, Tailgate BBQ and Fireworks event. Members of the BAC, their friends and families, had a great night. There were almost 40 of us enjoying the incredible experience at the Oakland Coliseum. Thank you to the Oakland A's Baseball Organization and Vail Resorts for supporting this spectacular evening!

The history of the Bay Area Snow Sports Council is just as amazing as what is taking place today. In mid-1940, the Bay Area Ski Federation was organized *"For the welfare of Bay Area Skiers"* and voted to join Far West Ski Association as the Bay Area Council (BAC) of Ski Clubs in 1961.

To embrace all snow sports activities, the current name of the BAC is ***"Bay Area Snow Sports Council"***. During all four seasons our BAC clubs are very active!

The Singles League holds an Annual Snow Ball in November to celebrate the coming winter sports season. This year, we are having our 41st 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 is very lucky to have our clubs and their members associated with us along with having the Lake Tahoe area in our "backyard". Our members are amazing, and the amount of history and diversity of local places to ski / snowboard is a true gift.

Our Recreational Race Schedules for 2017 - 2018 will be featuring Alpine Meadows, Sugar Bowl and Squaw Valley (venues subject to change). In addition, there are the Far West Championships at Mammoth Mountain. You're invited to 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! In addition, along with Sierra Race League & Council, we are co-hosting the 86th Annual Far West Ski Association Convention, June 7 - 10, 2018 in Reno, and are looking for volunteers to help make this a fun and educational event!

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!

The Bay Area Snow Sports Council, dating back to 1940, is the oldest council in the Far West Ski Association. Thus, it is the first Historic Council in the FWSA. Member clubs sent representatives to the 85th Annual FWSA Convention held in Boise last June. The BAC will be co-sponsoring the 86th Annual Convention in Reno next June.
Cindy Sherman Photography

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
www.alpineerclub.com
Jeff English
alpineerclubmembership@gmail.com

APRES SKI CLUB
www.apres.org
Mark Hochendoner
president@apres.org

BERKELEY SKI CLUB
www.berkeleyskiclub.org
Tatiana Stollman
recruiting@berkeleyskiclub.org

BLADERUNNERS SKI & SPORTS CLUB
(Lockheed Martin Employee's Club)
Monique Huygen
mhuygen@comcast.net

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.ggtothg.org
Roger Avery
info@ggtothg.org

INSKIERS SKI & SNOWBOARD CLUB
www.inskiers.com
Cathy Baird
catmb@comcast.net

MARIN SKI CLUB
www.marinskiclub.com
Corbin Hogaboom
corbin.hogaboom@gmail.com

MODESTO SKI CLUB
www.modestoskiclub.com
Bill Silveira
billou@gmail.com

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

NISEI SKI CLUB
www.niseiskiclub.org
Armand Gutierrez
president@niseiskiclub.org

NORTH BAY SNOWONDERS
Jeannine Davis
testpuppytoo@gmail.com

OAKLAND SKI CLUB
www.oaklandskiclub.com
Vicki Luibrand
vicki.luibrand@gmail.com

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

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

RUSTY BINDINGS SKI CLUB
www.rustybindings.com
Toni Derion
toniderion@comcast.net

SAN FRANCISCO SKI CLUB
www.sfskiclub.org
Risa Meyer
sfrisa@aol.com

SAN FRANCISCO VIKING SKI CLUB
www.sfvikingskiclub.org
Paul Thompsom

SANTA CRUZ SNOW SPORTS CLUB
www.santacruzsnowsports.com
Melissa Cline
melissa.s.cline@gmail.com

SNOWCHASERS SKI CLUB
www.snowchasers.org
snowchasers@yahoo.com

SNOW DRIFTERS SKI CLUB
www.snowdrifters.org
Maurice Hoory
membership@snowdrifters.org

SNO*FLAKES SKI & SOCIAL CLUB
Mary Sites
richmary2@comcast.net

SNOWGLERS
(Employees of Google)
Yao Cheng
yaocheng@google.com

SOUTHBAY SKI CLUB
www.southbayskiclub.org
Judy Molland
judy@judymolland.com

SUNBURST SKI CLUB
Sue Kane
matissesue@yahoo.com

Make the FWSA Convention
June 7 - 10, 2018
in Reno, Nevada
your best convention by getting involved as a volunteer. Contact:
Paul Vlasveld
bac.president@skibac.org

Central photos provided by Fran Long

Central Council of California

by Fran Long, President

Central Council offers a variety of services to its member clubs. Our three smaller clubs rely on Central Council more heavily for travel options, weekend ski trips, etc. than our four larger clubs. For all our member clubs, Central Council offers information and options. The individual clubs choose how much of the information filters down to their members, and how many of those options they want made available to their membership. Clubs generally like to offer the benefits made available by the council, Far West Ski Association, and the National Ski Council Federation, including travel options, discount lodging, and discounts at various ski related venues. If you are a club member, and you haven't heard about the benefits and options available to you, inquire at your next meeting, or contact your council president or membership person direct.

Central Council sponsors and/or co-sponsors several events each year. Occasional weekend and mid-week trips to Mammoth Mountain or the Lake Tahoe area may be in the mix. The council also supports the FWSA North American Ski Week held the end of January or first part of February each year, the mini ski week usually held in the spring, the international ski week, the annual dive trip, or any other adventure trips FWSA has to offer.

Clubs in Central Council of California plan and participate in fun and exciting activities, including (Top Left:) SLO Skiers engage in a Scavenger Hunt at Whitefish Mountain Resort, Montana and (Top Right:) hike along Avila Beach, California. Lower Left: Santa Barbara Ski Club members enjoyed a trip to Aspen/Snowmass, Colorado. Bottom Right: Members of Fresno Ski Club hiked at Shaver Lake, California.

Central Council currently has seven clubs serving a variety of locations throughout the region. All of the clubs have very active winter travel programs, as well as, a variety of summer activities that are bound to attract the attention of anyone interested in getting to know people, having fun, and staying active. Contact information on all our clubs can be found adjacent to this article. 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.*

Basic information is located on our meetup site: ***meetup.com***, then search for Central Council, and more detailed information can be received by contacting those in charge of the events you will find on that site.

Central Council of California

www.centralcouncilskiclubs.org

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

Central Council of California *Member Clubs & Contact Information*

AVALANCHE SKI AND SPORTS CLUB
Serving Bakersfield, Kern County
www.centralcouncilskiclubs.org
President: *Donna Barnes*
dblazekwebb@gmail.com

CAMBER SKI CLUB
Serving the Salinas Valley and parts of Monterey County
www.centralcouncilskiclubs.org
Activities: *Jayne Camic*
camicski@aol.com

FRESNO SKI CLUB
Serving Fresno County
www.fresnoskiclub.com
President: *Mark Vester*
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: *Robert Palmer*
president@sbski.org

SLO SKIERS, INC., A SKI SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB
Serving San Luis Obispo, Southern Monterey and Northern Santa Barbara Counties
www.sloskiers.org
President: *Vince Kirkhuff*
president@sloskiers.org

While on their trip to Whitefish, several SLO Skiers Ski Week participants took a snowshoe tour through Glacier National Park.

SNOW TRACKERS
Serving Exeter, California
http://www.meetup.com/Central-Council-Ski-Clubs/
President: *Helen Salsbury Jacobsen*
helenzz@aol.com

Bogus Basin Ski Club and Intermountain Ski Council welcomed FWSA Convention guests to The Grove Hotel with a balloon arch and a special welcome sign. photo / Don Pribble

Top Right of the Facing Page: A group of skiers from Intermountain Ski Council enjoyed the bluebird skies over Sun Valley at last year's Rendezvous Ski Week. They will be going there again in January of 2018 and invite you to join them. *Middle Left: A mixture of club members from many councils, guests and industry partners are ready to start the FWSA Convention Wine Wobble & Pub Crawl.* photos / Don Pribble *Middle Right: Bill Silliman (Park City Mountain Sports Club) is pictured with Laura Sankey, President of WSJUSA (Woman's Ski Jumping USA) and Sarah Hendrickson, one of America's top ranked ski jumpers, at the FWSA Convention. You can help with their Olympic expenses. Donate to FWSF or www.wsjusa.com.* photo / Mike Sanford

The Intermountain Ski Council and the Bogus Basin Ski Club co-sponsored the FWSA Convention held in Boise in June. These BBSC members helped make this Convention so successful. Cindy Sherman Photography

Intermountain Ski Council

by Paul Markowitz, President

All of our clubs in the Intermountain Ski Council are gearing up for their local area events and ski trips. Many of the clubs sponsor ski swaps and sales. These are exciting times with all the ski gear that is changing with improved technology. We all want the latest and greatest, don't we? Not all can afford new skis or boards from the retail shops, so these swaps are very useful for most of us. Please bring in your lightly used gear and put a favorable price on it so someone new can get more skiing or boarding days.

The Bogus Basin Ski Club will be sponsoring the Warren Miller Film Festival for the 62nd continuous year, at the historic Egyptian Theater in Boise. It is scheduled for November 16-18, 2017, and is the largest fund raiser of the year. The club shares revenues with the volunteer ski patrol, Recreation Unlimited, and the Ski Education Foundation.

We are pleased to announce that we have a new club in our council, The McCall Winter Sports Club. This is a group that supports youth racing and instruction. It is a very active group of parents that want to have some options for their activities, as well. Check them out when you visit Brundage Mountain.

The council will sponsor a Rendezvous Ski Trip to Sun Valley this winter. It is open for all FWSA members and guests. It is scheduled for January 2 - 7, 2018. If you are interested in attending, please call Sun Valley and make your own reservations. The rates are very attractive with half price lift tickets, so just mention *"Intermountain Ski Council"* to get the best rates. You can come to enjoy the best skiing terrain in the country all week or just for the weekend. The council will sponsor a reception with food and beverage Saturday night. I can only say that it was a blast last year and encourage other clubs to join us.

Intermountain Ski Council

www.intermountainskicouncil.org

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

Intermountain Ski Council *Member Clubs & Contact Information*

AGGIE SKI CLUB
Serving the Logan, Utah area
President: *William Hamann*
aggieskiclub@gmail.com

BLACK HILLS SKI CLUB
www.bhskiclub.com
Serving the Rapid City, South Dakota area
President: *Rich Emerson*
bhskiclub@gmail.com

BOGUS BASIN SKI CLUB
http://bogusbasinskiclub.org/
Serving the Boise, Idaho area

President: *Darrayl Kuhrt*
president@bogusbasinskiclub.org

CHEYENNE SKI CLUB
www.cheyenneskiclub.com
Serving the Cheyenne, Wyoming area
President: *Jodee Pring*
cheyenneskiclub@hotmail.com

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

IDAHO FALLS SKI CLUB
www.ifskiclub.com
Serving the Idaho Falls, Idaho area
President: *Don Rasch*
skibiz@ida.net

McCALL WINTER SPORTS CLUB.
Creating World Class Kids Through Winter Sports
Executive Director: *Katie Morgan*
(208)918-0234
@mccallwintersportsclub

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 snowboard-association.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

Numerous ISC members traveled to Provence in Southern France for a bike and barge adventure that followed the Rhone River. The bikers traveled along mostly paved roads from Avignon south to the sandy beaches of the Mediterranean. After a day on the road and sight-seeing, the bikers return to the barge for the evening. *photo provided by Don Pribble*

One of the benefits of attending the FWSA Convention is to reconnect with other council leaders on an annual basis. Pictured are those individuals who represented the Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs this past June. *Cindy Sherman Photography*

Los Angeles Council Officers and Club Presidents gather to share ideas at the annual Presidents Luncheon held each August. *photo / Catherine Ohl*

Mammoth Mountain invites members of The Unrecables - the LA Chapter of Disabled Sports USA - to ski the mountain one weekend every month during the ski season. This is the group that participated in the March, 2017 trip. *photo provided by Sigrid Noack*

Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs

by David Krupp, President

The Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs currently consists of 26 snowsports clubs that cover a large area from Santa Barbara to the north, the Inland Empire to the east and Long Beach to the south. There is much diversity in terms of the club makeup in the council and the activities that result.

The home base for most of the council clubs is Mammoth Mountain Ski Resort, a five hour drive from central Los Angeles. Mammoth offers a myriad of outdoor activities all year for the club members. Los Angeles Council also participates in the FWSA Ski Week each year with VP of Travel, *Sandy Blackwell* at the helm for the LA contingent. Banff is on the schedule for next season. In addition, LAC takes advantage of FWSA's international trips which have expanded to a year-round schedule. Lastly, out-of-state and international trips are taking place at the individual club level.

LA Council is also involved in a well organized race season within Far West Racing Association. Los Angeles is comprised of two race leagues: ROKKA and ULLR, chaired by *Laura Preiss* and *Ken Kawahara*, respectively. Included on the schedule are: ROKKA Race Camp; the Ski, Ride & Race Week; three race weekends, the SoCal Championships, and the Far West Racing Association Championships.

The council has two main events it hosts during the year on an annual basis organized by VP of Programs, *Leslie Eastham*: The Presidents Luncheon held in August and the Snow Gala held in November. Both are excellent opportunities for the clubs to get together and share in the ski lifestyle we all enjoy. VP of Membership, *Todd Hood*, gave a presentation on succession planning this year at the President's Luncheon on August 12, 2017, and our Man and Woman of the Year will be selected at the Gala on November 4, 2017.

The 85th FWSA Convention in Boise, Idaho in June this past year was one not to be missed. The council had 18 members in attendance. In addition to the many activities offered, one of the highlights is the Awards Banquet held on Saturday evening. Congratulations go out to the following LAC recipients: Elizabeth "Schatzi" Wood Award - *Cindy Krupp*; Terry Smith Award - *Laura Priess*; President's Award - *Todd Hood*; FWSA Councils' Woman of the Year - *Jane Gutierrez*; Charity and Community Service Recognition - Four Seasons West Ski and Snowboard Club (*Jane Gutierrez*, President) and Pacific Rim Alliance (*Catherine Ohl*, President); Wentworth Award for Outstanding Publication - Pacific Rim Alliance (*Catherine Ohl*, Editor); Outstanding Website Award - The Unrecables (*Lee Armstrong*, Webmaster), and Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs (*Bonnie West*, Webmaster).

Los Angeles Council is well represented at the Far West Ski Association level as members of the Board of Directors, Board of Trustees, and its various committees. There are nine members currently who have been part of the group in the past (some for many years). FWSA officers elected at the June Convention, or subsequently appointed Committee Chairs are: *Jane Wyckoff* (Pacific Rim Alliance), Trustee; *Paula Hazzard* (Edelweiss Ski Club,) VP of Public Affairs, *Catherine Ohl* (Pacific Rim Alliance), Awards Chair and Webmaster; *Sigrid Noack* (Unrecables), Charities and Our Community Chair; *Cindy Krupp* (Century City Ski Club), VP of Communications and Clubs and Councils Communication Awards Co-Chair; and *David Krupp* (Century City Ski Club), Athletic Scholarship Program Chair.

In addition to those I have already mentioned, I want to thank the following LAC Board members for their diligent efforts in making the council a great team to work with: VP of Communications, *Cynthia Carter*; Treasurer, *Karen James*, Secretary, *Sandra Knapp*, and Past President, *Kathleen Byrnes*.

For details regarding all of the Los Angeles clubs and activities, please visit us at: ***www.lacouncil.org***.

photo provided by Sigrid Noack

***Left:** Disabled Sports USA offers more than 30 winter and summer adaptive sports including skiing and snowboarding. They are looking for volunteers to assist with their programs. **Right:** Wailers Ski, Snowboard & Social Club members took advantage of the extended ski season. Woolly was there at Mammoth Mountain Ski Resort to greet them!*

Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs

www.lacouncil.org
President: *David Krupp*
(310) 925-4143
lacpresident@lacouncil.org

Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs
Member Clubs & Contact Information

AEA (AEROSPACE) SKI CLUB
South Bay
www.aeaclubs.org/ski
President: *Christine Haight*
AEA@LACouncil.org

ASIAN SKI & BOARD CLUB OF LOS ANGELES
Los Angeles
www.asbcla.org
Contact: *Warren Tanaka*
Asian@LACouncil.org

AUSLICH SKI CLUB
Belmont Shore/Long Beach
President: *Joe Vanderhoof*
Auslich@LACouncil.org

BEACH CITIES SKI CLUB
Beach Cities
www.bcskiclub.org
President: *Bruce Lee*
BCskiClub@LACouncil.org

BUCKHORN SKI AND SNOWBOARD CLUB
Angeles National Forest
buckhornlodge.org
President: *Rodney Rice*
Buckhorn@LACouncil.org

CCSC SPORTS
West Side Los Angeles
www.ccscsports.org
President: *Kay Collins*
CCSC@LACouncil.org

CONEJO SKI & SPORTS CLUB
Thousand Oaks
www.conejoskiclub.org
President: *Richard Murray*
Conejo@LACouncil.org

EDELWEISS SKI & SPORT CLUB
San Fernando Valley
www.edelweissskiclub.org
President: *Wendy Goldzband*
Edelweiss@LACouncil.org

EXECUTIVE BOARD SNOWBOARD ASSOCIATION
Los Angeles
President: *Cheyenne Aldridge*
EBSA@LACouncil.org

FOUR SEASONS WEST SKI AND SNOWBOARD CLUB
Los Angeles
www.4sw.com
President: *Jane Gutierrez*
4SW@LACouncil.org

GRINDELWALD SKI CLUB
Los Angeles
www.grindelwaldskiclub.org
President: *Philip Grant*
Grindelwald@LACouncil.org

HUGHES SKI CLUB
South Bay
President: *Steve Klinger*
310-802-8190
Hughes@LACouncil.org

INLAND EMPIRE SKI AND SPORTS CLUB
Riverside
www.iessc.com
President: *Teri Allard*
IESSC@LACouncil.org

KRONENSTADT SKI CLUB
Pasadena
www.kronenstadtskiclub.com
President: *Bruce Bailey*
Kronenstadt@LACouncil.org

LONG BEACH SKI CLUB
Long Beach/South Bay
www.longbeachskiclub.org
President: *Kris Flaig*
LBSC@LACouncil.org

LOS PADRES SKI CLUB
Simi Valley/Ventura County
www.lospadresskiclub.net
Co-President: *Tom Reed*
LosPadres@LACouncil.org

ON THE HILL GANG - LOS ANGELES
Los Angeles
www.ohgla.org
President: *Annette Mann*
OHGLA@LACouncil.org

PACIFIC RIM ALLIANCE
Southern California
www.pacificrimalliance.org
President: *Catherine Ohl*
PacificRim@LACouncil.org

RADAR RIVER RATS WATERSKI CLUB
Southern California
www.radarriverrats.org
President: *Catherine Ohl*
PacificRim@LACouncil.org

SAGA SKI CLUB
Los Angeles
www.sagala.org
President: *Sal Veas*
SAGA@LACouncil.org

SANTA BARBARA SKI & SPORTS CLUB
Santa Barbara County
www.sbski.org
President: *Robert Palmer*
SantaBarbara@LACouncil.org

SNOWBUSTERS SKI CLUB
Pasadena
www.snowbusters.com
President: *Eric Sykes*
Snowbusters@LACouncil.org

THE UNRECABLES
Los Angeles
www.unrecables.org
President: *Michelle McCarthy*
Unrecables@LACouncil.org

WAILERS SKI, SNOWBOARD & SOCIAL CLUB
San Fernando Valley/Los Angeles
www.wailersskiclub.org
President: *Regina Reilly*
Wailer@LACouncil.org

WESTWOOD SKI CLUB
West Los Angeles
www.westwoodskiclub.org
President: *Scott Peer*
Westwood@LACouncil.org

WINTER FOX SKI & SNOWBOARD ASSOCIATION
Los Angeles
www.winterfox.org
President: *Ida Cochrane*
WinterFox@LACouncil.org

The Digital Only Insert can be found between pages 64 and 65 online. www.fwsa.org

Mountain High's Violet Anderson, led a group to the summit of Mt. Hood. Victory!
photo / Violet Anderson

photo / Lisa Miller

The Cascade Ski Club, with an 80 year history, has a unique lodge in Government Camp that welcomes members and their families.
photo / Sue Bishop

Top: Skiers enjoy a bluebird day on the slopes of Mt. Hood. Lower: NWSCC club representatives have fun at the 2017 FWSA Convention. *Cindy Sherman Photography*

NORTHWEST SKI CLUB COUNCIL

Northwest Ski Club Council

by Barbara Bousum, President

With more than 40 snowsport clubs and organizations in Oregon, Washington, and Hawaii, NWSCC represents thousands of Alpine and Nordic skiers, snowboarders, and other snow enthusiasts. We don't just ski; we enjoy year-round activities! Living in such beautiful parts of the country, we like to enjoy nature in all seasons. Club members can be found hiking, bicycling, canoeing, camping, backpacking, wind-surfing, sailing, and enjoying a seemingly endless list of activities. Thanks to our clubs, members can add camaraderie to the pleasures of enjoying the outdoors.

NWSCC clubs enjoy these activities in many different ways. Please check our website and individual clubs for a taste of the opportunities. Clubs vary in size, but each is inviting. There is a club for members age 50+, one for women only, and another that's men only. But, most are for adults and families. A unique club is the Cascade Ski Club, one of the oldest in Oregon, with a deep history dating back more than 80 years. Their rustically beautiful lodge in Government Camp welcomes skiers and families of all ages and experience. The unique lodge offers bunk-style accommodations and in-house dining. And, SKIBACS in the Seattle area has enjoyed their own lodge at Crystal Mountain since 1966. Whether in the Pacific NW or Hawaii, our near-home mountains primarily are volcanoes, promising unique experiences.

NWSCC invites every member club to appoint a representative who attends council meetings and acts as liaison between the club and the council. NWSCC Council meetings are open to everyone, and are held at least four times a year in the Portland Metropolitan area. Those interested can always check our website to confirm meeting dates and locations, as we like to visit our local ski shops and other venues. NWSCC meetings feature guest speakers from the ski and snowboard industry, regional ski areas, media, and resort properties, plus speakers discussing health, fitness, and safety issues. Council meetings begin with an informal social time, followed by presentations. Everyone is invited to attend and encouraged to get involved.

Meetings are only one means of spreading the word about Council activities. Look at the Events Calendar on our website at ***http://nwskiers.org/*** to discover what's planned. We support and attend FWSA-organized trips, enjoyed Ski Week at Breckenridge this year, and eagerly anticipate a week in beautiful Banff in 2018.

Annually, NWSCC offers a ski challenge for members of all clubs to experience many ski areas in the Northwest, primarily our Industry Members. The winner is the one who skis the most resorts in the season.

PACRAT recreational ski racing organization is a part of NWSCC and hosts races on Mt. Hood every winter. They are all about having fun on the mountain with both old and new friends. For more than 30 years, PACRAT league has provided the exciting opportunity to participate in recreational alpine racing on Mt. Hood. Even novices can learn to compete at their own skill level and see improvement through the season. In a typical year, over two hundred racers participate on teams, then celebrate the season at their annual Rat Attack party and awards ceremony in the spring. This year's party was enjoyed at the World of Speed in Wilsonville, Oregon, an appropriate venue for racers.

Clubs are busy fine-tuning their trip schedules for the 2017-2018 ski season. Members should check the trips section of our website frequently for new opportunities. We wish everyone a wonderful and safe season!

Northwest Ski Club Council

www.nwskiers.org
President: *Barbara Bousum*
(503) 577-4014
president@nwskiers.org

Northwest Ski Club Council
Member Clubs & Contact Information

Hawaii

HAWAII SNOW SKI CLUB
Location: Aiea, Hawaii
http://www.hawaiiskiclub.com/fmain.htm
pres@hawaiisnowskiclub.com

Oregon

ALTAIR SKI & SPORTS CLUB
Location: Eugene, Oregon
www.altairsports.org
skialtair@yahoo.com

BEND SKI CLUB
Location: Bend, Oregon
www.bendskiclub.net
bendssc@aol.com

BERGFREUNDE
Location: Portland, Oregon
www.bergfreunde.org
skiclub@bergfreunde.org

CABERNET SKI & SAIL CLUB
Location: Portland, Oregon
www.nwskiers.org
johnoreinhardt@hotmail.com

CASCADE PRIME TIMERS SKI CLUB
Location: Portland, Oregon
www.cascadeprimetimers.org
president@cascadeprime timers.org

CASCADE SKI CLUB, INC
Location: Government Camp, Oregon
www.cascadeskiclub.org
lodge@cascadeskiclub.org

INTERLACHEN SKI CLUB
contact: cougskier@aol.com

MOUNTAIN HIGH SNOWSPORT CLUB
Location: Portland, Oregon
www.mthigh.org
info@mthigh.org

MT. HOOD SKIKATS
Location: Portland, Oregon
www.nwskiers.org
Jeannie@jeanniecoyle.com

MULTNOMAH ATHLETIC CLUB
https://themac.com/

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
skiyente@gmail.com

Washington

1 WORLD OUTING CLUB
http://www.outingclub.org/

ALP DU LAKEMONT SKI CLUB
http://adlskiclub.com/

BURIEN BACKSLIDERS
Location: Edmonds, Washington
www.nwskiers.org
bbgeneralinfo@gmail.com

DESERT SKI CLUB
Location: Tri-Cities, Washington
www.desertskiclub.org
info@desertskiclub.org

LONGVIEW SKI CLUB
Location: Longview, Washington
https://www.facebook.com/longviewskiclub
janerosi@wildblue.net

S'NO JOKE SKI CLUB
Location: Seattle, Washington
www.snojoke.org
info@snojoke.org

SEATTLE EASTSIDE SKI & SNOWBOARD MEETUP GROUP
Location: Kirkland, Washington
http://www.meetup.com/SeattleEastsideSkiers/
clintlunde@hotmail.com

SEATTLE SKI AND SNOWBOARD MEETUP GROUP
Location: Seattle, Washington
www.meetup.com/SkiSeattle/

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

SNOWHOMISH SKI CLUB
tnelsonnnn@gmail.com

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, Oregon
www.chill.org
michaelw@chill.org

HOPE ON THE SLOPES / SKI & RIDE FOR A CURE
Location: Tacoma, Washington
www.hopeontheslopes.net
Lori.Harmer@cancer.org

MEADOWS RACE TEAM
Location: Hood River, Oregon
www.meadowsraceteam.org
meadowsraceteam@gmail.com

MT. BACHELOR SPORTS EDUCATION FOUNDATION
Location: Bend, Oregon
www.mbsef.org
mbsef@mbsef.org

MT. HOOD CULTURAL CENTER & MUSEUM
Location: Government Camp, Oregon
www.mthoodmuseum.org
info@mthoodmuseum.org

MT. HOOD SKI EDUCATION FOUNDATION
Location: Government Camp, Oregon
www.mthoodacademy.org
seth@mhsef.org

MT. HOOD SKI PATROL
Location: Mt. Hood, Oregon
www.mthoodskipatrol.org
mhsp@onebox.com

NORTHWEST TRAIL ALLIANCE
Location: Portland, Oregon
www.nw-trail.org
info@nw-trail.org

OREGON ADAPTIVE SPORTS
Location: Bend, Oregon
www.oregonadaptivesports.org
info@oregonadaptive sports.org

OREGON CANCER SKI OUT
Location: Wilsonville, Oregon
www.cancerskiout.org
cancerskiout@gmail.com

OUTDOORS FOR ALL FOUNDATION
Location: Seattle, Washington
www.outdoorsforall.org
info@outdoorsforall.org

SKI TO DEFEAT ALS
Location: Portland, Oregon
www.SkiToDefeatALS.org
ski@alsa-or.org

SkiDUCK
Location: Redmond, Washington
www.skiduck.org
clintlunde@hotmail.com

Several members of the Bend Ski Club enjoy a sunny day at Mt. Bachelor with great skiing from the summit 360.
photo / Rod Robinson

Balboa Ski and Sports Club has a year round Sunday morning tennis challenge. They also have a monthly tournament held either in Newport or Costa Mesa depending on which courts are available.

Vand Bakke Ski Club traveled to Whitefish Mountain Resort, Montana for their annual Ski Week. Originally called Big Mountain, the area offers 3,000+ acres of accessible terrain with spectacular views of Glacer National Park. Some participants stopped to admire the views. Stephanie Delgadillo

Orange Council of Ski Clubs

by Sheila Van Guilder, President

Since May 5, 1971, Orange Council of Ski Clubs has been addressing the issues impacting skiers in and around the Orange County and Southern California. Originating from the Southern Council (which before 1971 was LA, Orange and Riverside clubs) to better serve the high concentration of skiers and snowboarders in this area, Orange Council was established. But, our scope is much wider. Our clubs and members extend into LA, north and to the Midwest. Our council is and has always been an active member of the Far West Ski Association and is also a member of the National Ski Council Federation. Each year, our council shares the information and the opportunities that flow from these organizations with our clubs and club members.

Over the years and into the future, our members also serve these organizations. *Sheila Van Guilder* as Council President is on the Far West Ski Association Board of Directors. *George Kish*, our Council Treasurer, is the FWSA ByLaws Chair. George also serves as Orange Council webmaster. *Jess Gorman* is the Orange Council Trip Coordinator for the Far West Ski Association's trip to Banff, as VP of Travel. *Maxine Hanlon* is VP of Racing and as Schusski Race League Chair, represents the league and council on the Far West Racing Association Board and with ROKKA Race League. We also want to thank *Anne Barneson*, who serves as Council secretary.

Orange Council club members attended a very well organized, fun and educational Far West Ski Association Convention in Boise in June. Well done! Orange Council is proud of Balboa Ski and Sports Club member Nancy Ingalsbee, who was awarded a Snowsports Builder Award at the FWSA Convention. We look forward to the Reno Convention in 2018, which we know will be a great experience. We also look ahead to Orange Council hosting the 87th Annual Far West Ski Association Convention, to be held at the Hyatt Regency Indian Wells Resort & Spa, June 13 - 16, 2019. *Judy Thurman* has accepted the position of Host Council Convention Coordinator. Join us at one or both upcoming events. See the link to FWSA on the ***www.orangecouncil.org*** website.

Our volunteer based organization encourages our members to: get in shape for skiing, boarding and sliding; find great travel adventures; support disabled skier programs and other charities; be informed on public affairs issues; participate in social events; and, oh yes-ski and embrace the opportunities on the recreational race course with our very own Schusski Race League.

Spring and summer offers beach volleyball, mountain biking, golf, hiking, not to mention water related sports and summer concerts – the varieties are endless. This year, a number of our clubs have scheduled weekly Bay events such as kayaking and paddle boarding. Wet Wednesday is a big event for Fountain Valley Ski Club. Biking events are also great summer adventures for Snowbounders Ski Club. Check out the YouTube video of Huntington Beach Ski Club on the water inspiration. Tennis is the mainstay of Balboa Ski and Sports Club for summer activities. *Gary Seaton*, a Balboa Ski and Sports Club member, starred on a winning senior Olympic Volleyball team this year. We find a number of crossover adventurers who join other clubs for summer events.

Being so close to the ocean *(at least most of our clubs are)*, seaside events are high on our list of summer attractions. Summer outdoor picnics, BBQs, and so much more can be found on our club schedules. Our local weather provides us the opportunity to play tennis, to bike, and to inline skate, as well as participate in snowsports. Thus, our council is truly blessed. Add to that, the friends that we have found in our ski clubs through sharing our good times, and those blessings are boundless.

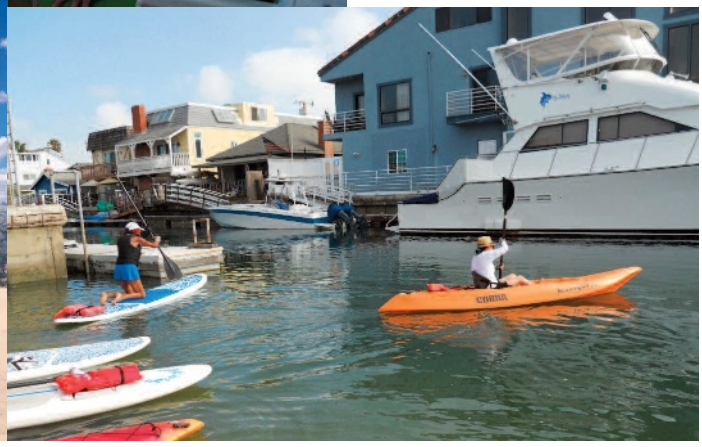
Each year, we conduct a trip to the Far West Ski Association Ski Week. In the past, we have joined FWSA for Aspen, Breckenridge, Beaver Creek, Steamboat Springs, Jackson Hole, Lake Louise, Whistler/Blackcomb, and Sun Valley (to name just a few). February 3 - 10, 2018, we plan to attend FWSA Ski Week in Banff, Alberta, Canada. A number of our members also join FWSA on other adventure and international trips. Our council also plans to join Far West in 2019 for the Ski Week in Steamboat Springs, CO.

Most of our clubs concentrate on trips to Mammoth Mountain during the winter season, and this year into spring and summer! Some of our members took pride in skiing through the 4th of July and into August, with a wonderful, extra long season this year. Our clubs are all looking forward to a great experience on the slopes again this coming season. Other club trips are being considered for Whitefish, Park City and other designations. Check our website for more up-to-date information.

Although many of our races were snowed out last year, we look forward to a great season for racing this year. Our race dates begin December 16, 2017 with a GS. Then, we continue, January 20, 2018 (S), February 10 (GS), March 10 (S,GS) and joining the Far West Racing Association (FWRA) at Mammoth Mountain

LEFT: Balboa Ski and Sports Club hold their summer dinner meetings by the Newport Bay. photo / Rich Tonti
ABOVE: That friendly Woolly sure gets around! He's welcoming skiers from an Orange Council bus trip to Mammoth Mountain!

While some brought their skis to Mammoth over the 4th of July to enjoy the remaining snow on the slopes, others spent their time hiking. photo / Susanna Etrac



A typical midweek activity for Fountain Valley Ski Club members is to head for the surrounding ocean, bays and waterways for "Wet Wednesdays" - one of the benefits of living so near the Pacific Ocean. Kayaking is a favorite pastime. Unless otherwise indicated, Orange Council photos provided by Maxine Hanlon

Ski Resort for finals on April 6 - 8, 2018. Some of our FWSA Trip participants will also race at Banff. Our council has raced as Schusski Race League since 1978. Our council encourages participation by financial support. You are invited to join us on the race course and on our trips. There are also two mini race clinics with ROKKA Race League before the December and January race dates. Contact *Maxine Hanlon* for updated information.

Our clubs also have other interests. This year, Huntington Beach Ski Club also participated in the Bike MS - Bay to Bay event held on October 20 and 21, 2017. Their support is very personal, since one of their members has MS. Vand Bakke Ski Club ran in an event supporting organ donations at Cal State Fullerton. Balboa Ski and Sports Club members have for years supported the Komen Race for the Cure in Fashion Island, Newport Beach, CA. Others support the United States Adaptive Recreation Center (USARC), Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra, and Packages of Gratitude for military persons overseas.

Orange Council welcomes all club members to the annual Orange Council Picnic on October 21, 2017 in Newport Beach. It is an Orange Council sponsored event, free to members. Our annual Presidents' Dinner is scheduled for February 19, 2018. In 2017, we had Jane Wyckoff, FWSA Convention Chairperson, and Graeme Landenslager, Club Med Representative.

Whether it's on Alpine, Nordic, Mono, or Shaped Skis, snowboards, snowshoes, dog or horse drawn sleds or snowmobiles, our people plan to have fun in the snow! A number of our clubs can be found on Facebook, Meet-Up, YouTube and the Orange Council website. Look for them on future information sites, just trying to reach out to people who love the things that they do!

Some of the current clubs were part of the historic inception in 1971, and others are just making history – skiing – enjoying snowsports, making and being friends – all of the things associated with ski clubs with all seasons activities. Each of our clubs is unique – therefore, it is easy to say – there is a club especially for you. Please see the list in the next column to find a club near you.

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 & SPORTS CLUB
Belmont Shore/Long Beach
President: *Joe Vanderhoof*
jvanderhoof@netscape.net

BALBOA SKI & SPORTS CLUB
www.balboaskiandsportsclub.com
President: *Connie Peacock*
949-636-2062
sailingpeacock@yahoo.com

FLATLANDS SKI CLUB
President: *Dan Crawford*
816-805-0384
macrci@aol.com

FOUNTAIN VALLEY SKI CLUB
www.fountainvalleyskiclub.org
President: *Sonny Smith*
714-423-1130

HUNTINGTON BEACH SKI CLUB
www.hbskiclub.com
President: *Debi Rogers*
714-960-2776

ORANGE COUNTY SKI AND SNOWBOARD CLUB
www.ocskiclub.org
President: *Anne Barneson*
pres@ocskiclub.com

SNOWBOUNDERS SKI CLUB
www.snowbounders.org
President: *Roger Philips*
949-258-3491

SNOWFLIERS SKI CLUB
President: *Jim Hughes*
James.hughes@boeing.com

VAND BAKKE SKI CLUB
Membership: *Gloria Madrid*
626-917-6132
casamadrid@earthlink.net

Orange Council will be hosting the 87th Annual Far West Ski Association Convention, to be held at the Hyatt Regency Indian Wells Resort & Spa, June 13 - 16, 2019.

San Diego Council of Ski Clubs ran a Bike & Barge Trip to Provence, France in April.
photo provided by Chris Gill

One cannot but notice the fun-loving members of the San Diego Council of Ski Club's delegation to the FWSA Convention held in Boise, Idaho last June. Perhaps their black and white outfits helped to identify them? Love those matching boas! Striking!
Cindy Sherman Photography

San Diego Council of Ski Clubs

by Chris Gill, President

The mission of the San Diego Council of Ski Clubs (SDCSC) is to support and promote the sport of recreational skiing, racing and snowboarding through our local clubs and the Far West Ski Association. The San Diego Council is also very active in providing international travel and adventure trips to bring its club members together throughout the year.

We currently have nine active clubs, with hundreds of members belonging to one or more clubs. Each club enjoys year around activities and are now doing joint club ski trips during the ski year. Clubs enjoy doing day trips down to Baja for wine tasting, bus trips to the Getty Museums or heading up to Laguna Beach for the famous Pageant of the Masters. During the summer our clubs hold their meetings outdoors and enjoy BBQs and outdoor recreational activities.

The San Diego Council has started to hold a Council President and Club Presidents meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to improve communications between both organizations. The first meeting was held last October, and was very successful in addressing issues of club growth and better information on FWSA. The council is now in the process of holding these meetings twice a year. Our next big step is to update our current website. We have been looking at several options and we hope to have a new website by 2018.

Our ski season started off with the annual December Aspen Ski Council Trip. We took 68 people and brought a large group of new skiers from the Action Ski Club. The SDCSC is, once again, going to Aspen. This will be our 19th year. We had a pre-trip party sign up in June for the December 2018 ski trip. So far, we have 50 people signed up.

Don Diego and Torrey Pines clubs combined a trip to Mammoth Mountain. While Mammoth was blessed with record snowfall this past season, there were times when it was a challenge to get in and out of the area. All that powder was welcome. One benefit to all that snow was that we were still able to ski well into the summer months. Action, North Island, and Pacific Rim Alliance went to Crested Butte, Big White, Squaw Valley and Steamboat.

The San Diego Council started off their international trips this year in April. The council took 41 people to Provence, France. The pre-trip was to Marseille, followed by seven days on a barge in Provence. The group had two boats. We biked from Aigues Mortes to Avignon. We biked along the rivers, vineyards and an awesome aqueduct at Pond Du Guard. We then headed to the Loire Valley via Epernay for Champagne tasting. The group then stayed in an exquisite Chateau in Amboise. We toured several other Chateaus, blended our own wines and canoed down the river in the pouring rain. Our next trip was in August, 2017 - with a pre-trip to Mestre and Dubrovnik, and then we went to Croatia to experience a Dalmatian Coast Cruise.

The Alpine Race League had their annual banquet, and the induction of SDCSC 2017-2018 officers. They were: *Christine Gill*, President; *Tom Sekreta*, Vice President; *Tom Bundgard*, Past President; *Debbie Schroeder*, Secretary; *Ron Hausch* and *Don Gill*, Co-Treasurers; *Eileen Sanford*, International Travel; and Alan *Godwin*, Travel Director. The council is also very proud of the several Alpine League racers who placed in the Championships this year. Some of the racers took the blue ribbon.

SDCSC club members attend the Far West Ski Convention in Boise, Idaho. Our Man of the Year, *Nick Cowell* from North Island Snowdrifters attended the event representing the San Diego Council. *Sabine Alberti* won Council Woman of the Year representing Don Diego Ski Club. The ***Joe Harris Award*** went to *Eileen Weiner* of Don Diego. *Helen Harris* was in attendance to honor Eileen with the award, which was named after her late husband, *Joe Harris*.

Mike Sanford received the ***President's Award*** at the FWSA Convention for his 23 years of service in the organization. Mike is a true example of leadership, team building, vision, inclusion, hospitality towards new mem-

LEFT & TOP: San Diego Council of Ski Clubs traditionally begins their season with their annual ski trip to Aspen. Always a favorite destination, the December, 2017 Council Trip marks the 19th year the council has traveled to this world-class, popular resort.
photos courtesy of Aspen / Snowmass

bers and a great spokesman for the ski industry. Pacific Rim Alliance, *Catherine Ohl*, President, received the ***Charity and Our Community Service Recognition*** and the ***Tollackson Outstanding Ski Club Award***. Pacific Rim Alliance also took a 2nd place for ***Outstanding Club Website***. Don Diego Ski Club, *Karl Cikste*, Editor, won the ***Wentworth Outstanding Publication Award***. San Diego Council of Ski Clubs', *Laura Meldrum*, Webmaster, took 2nd place for ***Outstanding Council Website***.

The clubs will be ending their summer outdoor meetings and will be organizing their local bus trips to Mammoth. Action Ski Club will be going to Telluride and Jackson Hole in 2018 and North Island Snowdrifters will be going to Steamboat.

The SDCSC will be finalizing the annual Man and Woman of the Year Gala. This year, the theme will be Casino Royale, to be held at the Mission Bay Sail and Ski Club. The SDCSC will close out the year by hosting the Christmas Holiday Happy Hour in mid December.

The SDCSC team looks forward to promoting club growth, year around activities, Alpine League Racing, FWSA Ski Week, FWSA Reno Convention, and of course, great snow for skiing.

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: *Roger Hiltpold*
prez@actionski.org
760-707-8296

DON DIEGO SKI CLUB
www.skidondiego.org
President: *Ed Offstein*
offstein@gmail.com
760-781-8821

GET OFF YOUR ROCKERS SKI CLUB
www.getoffyourrockers.org
President: *Nan Myers*
nansreal@aol.com
619-871-0450

NORTH ISLAND SNOWDRIFTERS
www.nisnowdrifter.com
President: *Nick Cowell*
president@nisnowdrifterscom
619-390-6659

PACIFIC RIM ALLIANCE
www.pacificrimalliance.org
President: *Catherine Ohl*
ohl@acatmeowz.com
858-467-9469

QUALCOMM SKI AND SNOWBOARD CLUB
President: *Katie Wiest*
kwiestr@qualcomm.com
858-263-9224

SAN DIEGO SKI CLUB
www.sdskiclub.org
President: *Art Grigg*
sd_art@hotmail.com
858-453-8650

TORREY PINES SKI CLUB
www.tpscsd.org
President: *Hobe Schroeder*
858-336-0539
hobeschr@aol.com

ABOVE: Reno Ski and Recreation Club members enjoy Food Truck Friday in Reno on a summer evening. RIGHT: Several members end their bike ride along the Truckee River at the River Ranch restaurant. The bikers clockwise from left are Sally Coullahan, John Schweitzer, John Himmel, John Anderson, Dave Miner, and Amy Simonds.
photos / Sue Jacox

So much to do all year around in the Reno and Lake Tahoe area. Check out the digital insert for more activities to do before and after the FWSA Convention next summer to be held in Reno.

Sierra League and Council
by Jo Simpson, President

SIERRA LEAGUE AND COUNCIL

The members of the 11 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 year-round social activities.

There are three clubs based in Truckee. The Tahoe Donner Senior Alpine Ski Club members mostly live in Tahoe Donner. They enjoy group ski days at Lake Tahoe ski resorts throughout the winter, as well as social activities. The Bota Baggers Ski Club has a strong racing focus.

Although the Cabernet Ski and Race Club is based in Truckee, the members live in a variety of locations. As its name indicates, the club's primary focus is racing.

The Capital Ski and Sports Club, based in Sacramento, offers skiing and social activities. The Sequoia Ski Club is in Visalia, California. The RU Ski Club draws primarily from the Bay Area. Many of the members are of Russian heritage.

The Reno Ski and Recreation Club offers a full schedule of social activities throughout the year, plus summer camping trips and group ski days at Lake Tahoe resorts.

The Top Gun Club members include mostly active and retired military members and airline em-

***Top Left:** Several members of the Sierra League and Council took special interest in this year's FWSA Convention because they - along with the Bay Area Council - will be co-hosting the 2018 FWSA Convention to be held in Reno. Mark it on your calendars now, so you will not miss it.* *Cindy Sherman Photography*

***Top Right:** Reno Ski and Recreation Club members, Ken and Kate Rose, celebrated St. Patrick's Day in Reno with the club.* *photo / Sue Jacox*

***Bottom Left:** What a season we had! On August 3, 2017, there was still activity near the Cornice at Mammoth Mountain. A little patchy in places, but that did not hamper the enthusiasts that grabbed their boards and skis, headed up the mountain and made their way down.* *photo / Vin Keenan*

ployees 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 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.sierraleague.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.alpineskiandsnowboardclub.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: *Mark McNeil*
mark42750@cox.net

RENO SKI AND RECREATION CLUB
Reno, Nevada
www.renoskiandrec.com
President: *Steve Kelly*
6tahoe10@sbcglobal.net

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@sugarbowlskiclub.com

TAHOE-DONNER SENIOR ALPINE SKI CLUB
www.tdski.com
President: *Terry Heylinger*
infotdski@gmail.com

TOP GUN SKI CLUB
President: *Greg Peairs*
shiftyp@aol.com

Rafting on the Payette River with Cascade Raft and Kayak was enjoyed by many at the 2017 FWSA Convention.

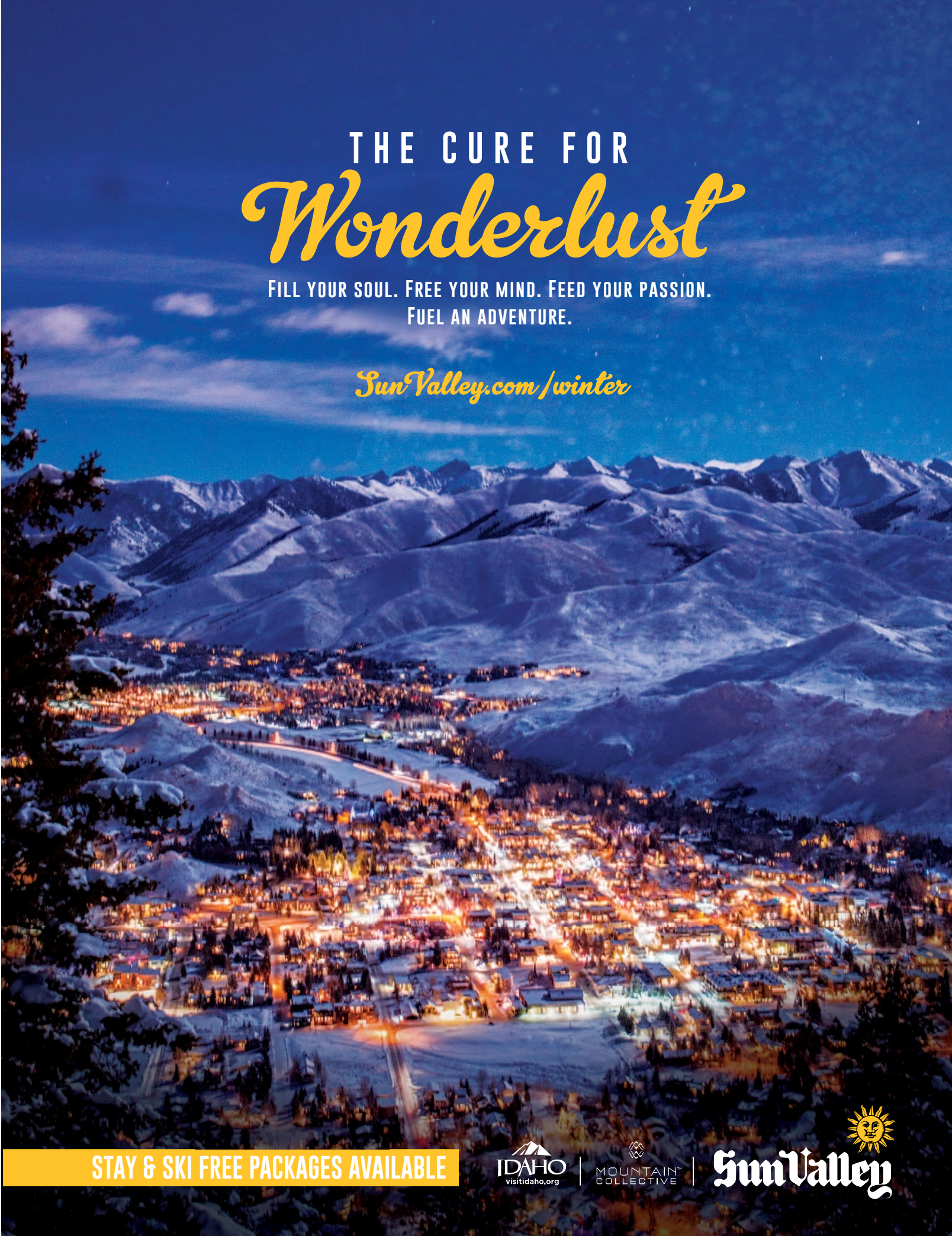
FAR WEST SKIER'S GUIDE

SUMMER SUPPLEMENT

COMING SOON!

The Fun Doesn't End When The Snow Melts & The Lifts Close!

The lifts re-open at many ski resorts during the summer months. Biking or hiking on mountain trails or along paved roads; scenic golf courses surrounded by snow capped peaks; sailing, rafting, canoeing, kayaking, fishing - so many possibilities in nearby lakes, rivers and streams; and ziplines or treetop adventure parks are just a few activities available during the off season at or near ski resorts in summer. And, don't forget the concerts and festivals held at your favorite resorts. Ski resorts are perfect destinations for your clubs. Make summer adventures part of your group's travel plans. Look for the ***Far West Skier's Guide Summer Supplement*** - an online publication. More information will be posted on the ***www.fwsa.org*** when it becomes available.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