

October 2019

*Far West Ski Association*

## WHO & WHAT'S NEW FOR 2019

**First to Open the 2019-2020 Season:** Arapahoe Basin did it again! They were the firsts ski resort to open for the new season. They fired up the chairlift at 3:30 on Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. Which allowed a mere 99 days to go by while they were closed. The shortest off-season they have ever experienced. They were followed by Keystone Ski Resort opening the next morning. We are off and running for the new year.

**Amazon Smile and Far West Ski Foundation:** Did you know that FWSF is a participating charitable organization with Amazon. Please consider signing up for the Amazon Smile Charitable program and the select the Far West Ski Foundation as your charity. Amazon will then donate a percentage of each purchase to FSWF. There is no added cost to you. Amazon makes the donation from their proceeds.

**Happy Anniversary:** Northwest Ski Club Council is celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year, along with their local race league – PACRAT, who is celebrating their 35<sup>th</sup> year. Congratulations to you both.

## FAR WEST TRAVEL

**2020 NORTH AMERICAN SKI WEEK:** *Big Sky, Montana* is the site for the 2020 North American Ski Week. Big Sky is BIG... with four mountains, giving access to more skiing than anywhere else in the United States. The Big Sky lift ticket, or IKON pass, gives skiers/boarders access to 5,800 skiable acres. Ski runs up to six miles long, and glades and bowls covered in 400+ inches of annual snowfall, give every age and level of skier and boarder something different. Check with your council trip leader or the FWSA.org website for more details.

**2020 MINI SKI WEEK:** *Big White* is the destination for the 2020 Mini Ski Trip. Big White is home to the best snow in British Columbia and the longest season in the Okanagan Valley. Big White is Canada's largest totally ski-in, ski-out village. It has 18 on-mountain restaurants cafes delis, pubs, and night clubs. Stay tuned for further information.

**FWSA DAVOS, SWITZERLAND SKI TRIP:** This trip will include an extension to *Portugal*. Working with Holidaze Ski Tours, the dates for the Davos Basic Ski Week is February 28-March 7, 2020. The Portugal Extension Trip will be from March 7-13, 2020. For any questions, contact Debbie Stewart, VP of International Travel: [FWSAIntTrvl@prodigy.net](mailto:FWSAIntTrvl@prodigy.net), or 559-737-0882

**FAR WEST 2020 ADVENTURE TRIP:** Far West will be offering an Adventure trip to *Croatia*, September 3-13, 2020. We will be working with *Alpine Adventures* on this particular trip. This will be a land and boat/yacht trip, limited to a minimum of 30, and maximum of 40 participants. Group air is not available until October, 2019. Once that happens, marketing materials will be put out to FWSA clubs and councils.

**FWSA 2021 SOLDEN SKI WEEK:** This trip will have an extension to *Southern Spain*. Three bids have been submitted, and bid comparison analysis is currently being worked on.

**FWSA SUMMER 2021 CHILE SKI/ADVENTURE TRIP:** *Valle Nevado, Chile* ski trip with extension to *Atacama Desert* currently being researched for details of Atacama Desert conditions. Possible dates would be late July or August, 2021.

**OTHER FWSA INTERNATIONAL TRIPS UNDER CONSIDERATION:** FWSA International Ski Week, 2022 to *Madonna Di Campiglio, Italy* was voted on at April, 2019 Board meeting. An *Africa Adventure Trip* has been approved for 2022, going to central and east Africa. And, a *Galapagos Adventure Trip* has been approved by the FWSA Board for 2024.

## FAR WEST COUNCILS

**San Diego Council of Ski Clubs: Iceland – Land of Fire & Ice:** A Mayflower Tour Cruise, Aug 5-11, 2020. Your 7-day trip includes: adventures of volcanoes, waterfalls, Blue Lagoon entrance, whale watching, a full-day Golden Circle tour, Reykjanes Peninsula. Price is \$2,349 without air.

**(SDSCC) - Romantic Villages of Alpine Europe-Grand Circle Tour:** This trip is OCTOBER 3-18, 2020. Visit Italy, Switzerland, Austria-Germany, 15 days. \$3495 without air. 24 meals, 9 guided tours, 8 Discovery events, with local Grand Circle Program Director. Pre-trip *Lake Como*; Post-Trip: *Salzburg* - priced separately.

**(SDSCC) Annual Gala:** San Diego Ski Council will be holding their annual *Gala* on November 16, 2019. The theme is "*Pirates and Wenches*". We will be honoring our Man & Woman of the Year and presenting the *Joe Harris Award*. Everyone is asked to come in costume. There will be a photo booth, best costume contest and Pirate sing-alongs. ARRRGGGGHHHH!

The Alpine League will be volunteering at *Snow Jam* November 8-10, 2019.

**Intermountain Ski Club Council:** The Intermountain Ski Council will be hosting the annual rendezvous trip at *Sun Valley*, January 5-12<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Lodging and lift tickets are half price, or use your Epic pass, to ski the best mountain in North America. Call Sun Valley and book your own reservations, just mention ISC for the best rates. Call Michael Bouton for further information. 208-703-0444.

## FAR WEST CONVENTION

**Far West's 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention:** **MAY 28-31, 2020.** Put those dates on your calendar **NOW!** *Northwest Ski Club Council* is planning a terrific four-day-event for you all next May. The theme will be "*Rollin' on the River*", with a Riverboat Gambler idea in mind. We will have a *Mt. Hood Adventure Day* on Thursday, as well as the Annual Far West *Pub Crawl* on Thursday evening. Friday will bring the "Not Your Daddy's" Golf Tournament on Friday morning at *McMennamins, Edgefield*. We are also planning a *Wine Tour* and a *Bike Ride* on Friday (no, not together! That would be 'Not Your Daddy's Bike Ride'). Along with our typical Awards Banquet on Saturday evening, we plan to have both musical entertainment, and Casino tables set up for your enjoyment.

Portland, the "*Rose City*", due to its' many gorgeous rose gardens, is a beautiful place to visit! You really must plan to come early and stay late. You'll not get tired of the many things to do and see in our fabulous city! We will also be celebrating Far West Ski Association's **90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** during this event. Lots of history, lots of stories, and hopefully a few Very "Special" Guests from the Pacific Northwest. This event will be held at the beautiful *Red Lion on the River, Jantzen Beach* in Portland, Oregon. See you all there!

## FAR WEST HISTORY

**Far West to Celebrate 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday in San Francisco:** Our Association was founded in a lunchtime meeting in the Palace Hotel on October 7, 1930. We're going back on October 10, 2020. In coordination with the staff at the Palace, we're planning a luncheon for 50 stalwart skiers to commemorate our origins. The historic evolution of the Association from the birth of skiing as sport in the gold camps to today's multistate organization with ten councils will be recounted by expert witnesses to its accomplishments. To stay informed of the plans for the birthday commemoration, send an email with *BIRTHDAY* in the subject line to [fwsa.watson@gmail.com](mailto:fwsa.watson@gmail.com). Invitations will be sent out in the summer of 2020 to persons on this list. Seating will be limited.

In the earliest days of the gold rush, Wells Fargo was founded and the miners in Plumas County entertained themselves in winters with match races on longboards made locally. The first "formal" race was in 1861 and longboard racing continues to this day, including a world championship. The legacy of this early organization of skiing is a basis for the Association. That legacy includes the creation of ski clubs, league racing (organized by the historic Alturas Snowshoe Club), and the advance from necessities for mobility and transportation to skiing as a sport, all of which were "firsts" in North America.

**Far West Skier's Guide:** The *Far West Skier's Guide* is currently at the printers. Look for it shortly. The digital version is currently being produced. Send any late breaking news to Leigh Gieringer, before 10/25/19 at: [fwsg2@cox.net](mailto:fwsg2@cox.net).