

**DECEMBER 2020**

**Far West Ski Association**

**WHO & WHAT'S NEW FOR 2020-2021**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!** Happy 101st birthday to ski legend, and Aspen local - **Klaus Obermeyer!** Klaus still attends the SIA Show each year, and skis his run, "*Klaus' Way*" on Buttermilk Mountain. He has inspired many by his positivity, innovation in skiing and athleticism.

**A BIG WIN FOR MIKAELA:** On December 14<sup>th</sup>, a beautiful day in Courchevel, France, *Mikaela Shiffrin* made her triumphant and emotional return to the top step on the podium in a FIS World Cup. Heavy snow fell on Saturday, and then Sunday's scheduled giant slalom was postponed, leaving a hard and fast track for the women on Monday under blazing sunlight. However, it was worth the wait to see Mikaela take her first World Cup win in almost a year. It was a beautiful moment when she crossed the finish line ahead of the field, taking her first win after her father's sudden passing earlier this year. Emotions ran even higher when she stepped off the podium and into her mom's arms, as she cried through her post-race interview. Congratulations, Mikaela, and to AJ Hurt, who took home her first World Cup giant slalom points, and top-20, in 18th place.

**SNOW SPORTS MUSEUM:** Tahoe-Truckee Skiers Nominated to the 2020-21 U.S. Ski & Snowboard Teams include: Squaw Valley skiers - Bryce Bennett and Travis Ganong, both nominated to the men's Alpine "A" team, while Squaw Valley's Keely Cashman, joins the women's "B" team and Squaw Valley's AJ Hurt competes on the women's "C" team. Sugar Bowl's Ainsley Proffitt, a Missouri native, and Squaw Valley's Alix Wilkinson, who hails from Mammoth Lakes, CA, will be training and competing on the Alpine Development Team. **DID YOU KNOW** -- Tamara McKinney, a member of the SNOW Sports Museum Advisory Board, was the first U.S. woman skier to win the World Cup Overall Championship. In addition to that landmark triumph in 1983, McKinney won 18 World Cup races during her stellar career.

**LAS VEGAS HAS MORE THAN GAMING:** The Las Vegas ski area's *Lee Canyon* has been given the green light by the U.S. Forest Service to move forward with expansion plans to add two new lifts, 23 ski runs, mountain bike trails, a mountain coaster, additional parking, a zipline, and other amenities. Located only an hour north of Las Vegas, this expansion is highly anticipated as Las Vegas's area of interest in outdoor recreation has increased. Las Vegas tourism has always been centered around gaming and luxury, but this expansion appeals to a new market in Southern Nevada tourism. While Lee Canyon has occupied its 785-acre area since 1964, this expansion will allow them to accommodate the growing interest in Winter activities and the growing population in Clark County.

**FAR WEST CONVENTION – 6 MONTHS! AND COUNTING:** The San Diego Council of Ski Clubs has been busy making plans for the 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Far West Convention. The dates are set for June 10-13, 2021, at the *San Diego Marriott Mission Valley*. There will be some interesting Educational Seminars, and we are currently seeking Public Affairs speakers and a Keynote speaker. One of our favorite events, the Golf tournament, which is now the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Michael German Memorial, will be at the Riverwalk Golf Club, on Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. Barbara Blasé is set to head this event up, with assistance from Mike and Eileen Sanford, and a few other North Islanders. Michael was a long-time Board member of Far West, and a past recipient of the J. Stanley Mullen award in 2004. Michael left us in 2006.

## FAR WEST TRAVEL

**FWSA SUN VALLEY SKI WEEK 2021:** *Still Happening!* FWSA Councils are still selling the 2021 Sun Valley Ski Week January 30—February 6th. Contact your Council Trip Leader to reserve your lodging. We are selling hotel rooms at Sun Valley Inn and Sun Valley Lodge, as well as 2 & 3-bedroom Lodge Apartments. Trip package includes lodging and FWSA and Council parties. Additional costs for lift tickets, group air/ground, and Council Challenge races are up to the individual. Free shuttle to town, ski hill, and activities for non-skiers/boarders! Go to: [www.fwsa.org](http://www.fwsa.org) for Trip Leader contact information or contact Nancy Ellis, [fwsatravelnancy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fwsatravelnancy@sbcglobal.net).

**FWSA ZERMATT MINI SKI WEEK:** *Postponed to 2022.* The Zermatt Utah Resort Mini Trip has been postponed until March 20--25, 2022. Participants will have the option to ski/ride *Deer Valley, Park City, and Sundance Resorts*. Contact Gloria Raminha, Trip Leader: [garski2011@gmail.com](mailto:garski2011@gmail.com); 661-800-8229. Stay tuned for further Information.

**FWSA 2021 INSIDE PASSAGE CRUISE TO ALASKA:** *Still Happening!* There's still plenty of time to sign up for the *Denali Tour and Alaska Cruise* June 19--30, 2021. Participants can sign up for the Denali Tour or Alaska Cruise or for the combined two trips. The Denali Trip starts with two days in Fairbanks, AK, followed by two days in Denali, and ends in Anchorage for those doing this portion only. The Inside passage Alaska Cruise starts in Whittier and travels southward with stops in Skagway, Juneau, and Ketchikan before docking in Vancouver, BC. Trip information and registration available on the FWSA.org website or contact Nancy Ellis, VP North American Travel, [fwsatravelnancy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fwsatravelnancy@sbcglobal.net); (530) 414-8261.

**FAR WEST 2021 DIVE TRIP:** *Coming Up!* The 2021 Dive Trip will be October 9-16, 2021 to the wonderful *Anthony's Key Resort* in *Roatan, Honduras*. We have great pricing for their top-of-the-line Key Deluxe lodging, meals, and 6 days of 3 tank boat dives. The registration forms and additional information are available on the website or contacting Randy Lew at [divetrips@fwsa.org](mailto:divetrips@fwsa.org)

**FWSA SKI WEEEEK 2022:** *Aspen/Snowmass Resort* will be the destination January 22—29, 2022 for the annual Far West Ski Week. We will be staying in Snowmass Resort and participants have a choice of ski in/ski out lodging or units a short walk to the ski hill. The Snowmass base area has many new restaurants, lodging, and activities such as a climbing wall and ice rink. The *Alpine "Breath-taker" Mountain Coaster* now traverses the mountain slopes. Put the dates of the trip on your calendar and watch for sign up information to be available in March 2021.

## FAR WEST COUNCILS

**INTERMOUNTAIN SKI COUNCIL:** Intermountain Ski Council's trip to Sun Valley, is still planned for Jan 3-13, 2021. The Council is holding a Silent Auction for the rest of the month. **Feeling lucky?** This is the best year EVER to buy raffle tickets from Bogus Basin Ski Club! They have these marvelous items up for auction, and because we can't sell the tickets in person, there's fewer tickets being sold. THAT increases your chances to win!!! Here are a few items being auctioned:

- ✓ A Bogus Basin Ski Pass -- a \$499 value you can use this year or next!
- ✓ A Ski Package at Schweitzer in Northern Idaho -- \*Three nights lodging for two at the Hotel Ruby in Sandpoint/Ponderay, AND \*Two days skiing at Schweitzer Mountain Resort and a \$30 meal voucher.
- ✓ An All-inclusive 7-day Package to Club Med (1 of 4 resorts--Ixtapa, Cancun, Punta Cana, Sandpiper Bay)

Proceeds from this raffle prize will go toward the *Bob Greenwood Athletic Scholarship*, to help deserving young ski racers. Purchase \$1 raffle tickets in the 2021 BBSC Raffle Registration below in allotments of \$5, \$10, \$15 or \$20 by entering the registration on the link provided and then designate them to any or all of the prizes above. The drawing for these prizes will be on **January 9, 2021**, and winners will be notified. You do not need to be present to win! [https://www.bogusbasinskiclub.org/news\\_article/show/1132762](https://www.bogusbasinskiclub.org/news_article/show/1132762).

## FAR WEST SKI FOUNDATION

**FWSA 90<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY HISTORY BOOK:** FWSA has published its history on the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its birth in San Francisco as the California Ski Association, a division of the National Ski Association. The book is 80 pages in magazine format and includes invited papers from noted historians on California, Arizona, Washington, Utah, Idaho and Oregon ski history, notably *Ingrid Wicken* of the California Ski Library, *John Lundin*, Seattle, *Jane Jackson*, Flagstaff, *Mike Korologos*, Salt Lake City, *Eve Chandler*, Boise, and *Emilio Trampuz*, Portland. Association scholars include *Barbara Razo*, NSPS, Orange, *Jane Wyckoff*, Irvine, *George Eachus*, Costa Mesa, *Steve Reneker* NSPS, Riverside, and *Chuck Morse*, La Habra. The book benefited by help from Robin Morning, Mammoth Lakes and Randy Lew, Battle Ground, Washington. Limited quantities of this outstanding publication will be available for purchase on [www.fwsa.org](http://www.fwsa.org) for \$20.

## FAR WEST MEMBER BENEFITS

**NEW! LODGING PARTNER:** The *Tahoe Biltmore*, in Crystal Bay, Nevada is our newest lodging partner. Check them out, along with the many other lodging partners shown on our Member Benefits Page on the Far West website. There are a lot of great deals to be had this season.

## TIPS FOR SKIING & BOARDING IN 2021

**NEW YORK TIMES TIPS FOR SKIING IN THE NEW YEAR:** For those of us wanting to ski this season, the *New York Times* offered some helpful hints in their Nov. 25th issue. A number of our industry partners are mentioned in these articles. Here's a summary, some of which you may already know.

*"8 Rules for Skiing This Season"* by Elisabeth Vincentelli:

1. Think ahead. Many resorts aren't offering walk-up ticket sales. Food may be available on a limited basis or you may have to bring your own. Access to such amenities as parking, rentals, and locker rooms may also be limited or require reservations.
2. Make the most of newly flexible policies. Many airlines and lodging properties are altering or eliminating their change and cancellation fees. Being a member of a ski club helps since they work closely with
3. Check the state's restrictions. Check the state's official website since restrictions have been changing over time.
4. Think small. *Brad Wilson*, **Bogus Basin's** General Manager, was quoted as saying, "nationally, there is a sense that small resorts will get a bump in business this year. It's the soul of skiing."
5. Bring your own. This includes gear, lunch, sunscreen, water, etc., as you may have no or limited access to a resort's food and shops.
6. Plan for lunch al fresco. Expect to eat outside or in your vehicle whether you bring your own or take advantage of food trucks on the mountain.
7. Book a lesson. This could help secure access during busy times. Check with the resort to find out what kind of lessons are available.
8. If all else fails . . . Book an entire resort. Utah's Eagle Point can be rented for \$15,000 per day for those days it's not "open to the public". This includes lift tickets, rentals and staff for up to 200 people.

Check out some of the "under-the-radar resorts" who offer plenty of room to turn, and plenty of challenge amid a winter of social distancing. Some of these include: *Sugar Bowl*, California; *Monarch Mountain*, Colorado; *Schweitzer Mountain Resort*, Idaho; *Whitefish Mountain Resort*, Montana, and *Brian Head Resort*, Utah.

*Stay safe! Stay healthy!*