

Far West News *Flash*

JANUARY 2021

Far West Ski Association

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

AVAILANCE SAFETY, A COMMUNITY ENDEAVOR: Historic numbers of people heading into the backcountry this year, will risk the increase of avalanche deaths. On December 20th, the Colorado Avalanche Information Center sent an email blast to its' partners urging people headed into the mountains to take "extra care" and to "pay special attention to the avalanche forecast". In a matter of just **one week's time**, 3 Colorado residents lost their lives, and 132 avalanches were reported. More people die in avalanches in Colorado than any other state. Avalanche experts say that there are more skiers, boarders and snowshoes going into backcountry than ever before, due to easy access from resorts. The terrain can be sketchy, snow conditions questionable, and inexperienced people (families) are out, just to have a day of fun, that could turn deadly. Check with your local areas, not just about how much snow is there, but IF there are any avalanche warnings. If so, stay home!! Be safe, not sorry!

THE SIX LONGEST SKI LIFTS IN THE WORLD: Have you ever wondered where the longest ski lift is, or if you are ON one of the longest? Here's a list, according to "*Trip Trivia*": *Peak2Peak Chair* – Whistler B.C. This lift runs 2.7 miles. *Zlatibor Gold Gondola* – Zlatibor, Serbia is 5.6 miles. *Slide Brook Express* – Sugarbush, VT, is 2.1 miles long. *Sunshine Express* – Telluride, takes 10 minutes (no designated distance). *Coulouvrier Chair* – Grand Massif, France is 1.7 miles, and *Titlis Rotair Gondola* – Engleberg-Titlis, Switzerland. No distance mentioned for this rotating gondola, offering riders a 360 degree view all around.

FWSA 90th ANNIVERSARY HISTORY BOOK: FWSA has published its history on the 90th 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 articles 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*, Salem. 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, in the *FWSA Store*. **\$20 for members and \$25 for non-members.**

FAR WEST CONVENTION – 5 MONTHS! AND COUNTING: The San Diego Council of Ski Clubs has been busy making plans for the *88th 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 the events planned, is the *Old Town Trolley Tour*. Those who were with us in 2015, will remember the fun time we had. Susie Vetter, former FWSA VP of Travel, will be our guide on Friday, June 11th. Debbie Schroeder will be the Trip Leader.

HAPPY 99th BIRTHDAY BETTY WHITE!: Whether you watched the "Mary Tyler Moore Show", the "Golden Girls", or "Hot in Cleveland", you have to be familiar with Betty White. Betty is celebrating her 99th birthday, January 17th. We probably all remember her role as *Sue Ann Nivens*, in the Newsroom of WJM, or her antics as *Rose* on the GG's. Betty is doing well, looking great, staying Covid safe, and is ready to kick 2021 into the future! Happy Birthday, Betty!

FAR WEST TRAVEL

FWSA SUN VALLEY SKI WEEK 2021: *2 Weeks Away!* 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 for Trip Leader contact information or contact Nancy Ellis, 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; 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; (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

FWSA SKI WEEEK 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: The Intermountain Ski Council held its' annual Ski Week in *Sun Valley*, January 4-10th. We had 25 members come and enjoy the new covering of snow and the wonderful sunshine on the slopes. Off-trail good snow could be found, for those skiers and boarders that went looking for it. We all enjoyed the geothermal pools after a full day on Mt. Baldy. All the lodges were open with full food and beverage service. Overall, it was a fun time with our friends that could attend. We held a small outdoor gathering for our raffle drawings while we enjoyed some adult beverages. Hopefully next year, we have more people attending this very affordable skiing and boarding adventure. It's always a great time.

NORTHWEST SKI CLUB COUNCIL: NWSCC held the December Council Zoom Meeting, on Wednesday, December 16th. Marc Galt was introduced as the new Washington Representative for the Council. Marc lives in Seattle. Two guest speakers were invited to join in the meeting, including *Tiana Anderson*, from *Crystal Mountain*, and *John Kunkler*, from *Mt. Bachelor*. Tiana gave everyone a great run-down of all that is happening at Crystal this year, how they are handling Covid-19, and keeping everyone safe on the mountain. *Crystal Mountain* is the closest ski resort to Mt. Rainier in Washington state. John is new to Mt. Bachelor, and new to the ski industry. A retired school teacher, John is learning all the ins and outs of managing groups on the mountain. Mt. Bachelor is open to non-passholders. Just call to make your reservation at least 7 days ahead of time.

FAR WEST COMMUNICATIONS

2020-2021 FAR WEST SKIER'S' GUIDE: The Far West Skier's Guide - *33rd Annual Edition* - is available on the FWSA website - www.fwsa.org. From the home page...click on **Publications**, and then **Far West Skier's Guide**, from the picture of the 2020-2021 cover on the right side of the page. An outstanding publication that helps puts Far West Ski Association on the map. The 90th Anniversary booklet (80 pages) is located between pages 40 and 41 of the **2020-2021 Far West Skier's Guide** issue. Alternate link: <https://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/farwestskiersguide/2020-21>

stay safe! stay healthy!