

Far West News *Flash*

MARCH 2021

Far West Ski Association

Happy St. Paddy's Day!

FAR WEST CONVENTION – DATES CHANGED TO OCTOBER 7-10, 2021: The San Diego Council of Ski Clubs is busy, busy with plans for the *88th Annual Far West Convention*. Please change your calendars to these **new dates!** We want to see you all in San Diego October 7-10, 2021 for some outstanding Snowsports Leadership sessions, informative Public Affairs Sessions, a great Silent Auction and Trade Show, as well as some fun outside activities including: biking on Coronado, Sailing in San Diego Harbor, golfing, kayaking and paddle boarding and an Oktoberfest-themed Pub Crawl. Room reservations will be available soon.

RESORTS ROLL OUT 2021-2022 SKI & SNOWBOARD PASSES: Alterra's **Ikon Pass** products available now. The price of the top tier Ikon Pass is the same as last year at \$999, while the Ikon Base Pass went from \$699 to \$729. Renewing passholders will get a \$100 discount on a full pass or a \$70 discount on the base pass. All products are available with payment plans, and Ikon is still offering its Adventure Assurance, which allows purchasers to defer the full value of an unused pass to 2022-23 by Dec. 9.

Vail Resorts has not yet unveiled the particulars about its **Epic Pass** product suite, though details appear to be imminent. Epic Pass marketing, which promises "This Changes Everything," suggests some alterations to the offerings, rolling out March 23.

The **Indy Pass** also has not shared its 2021-22 lineup yet. At the end of February, the group dropped its 2020-21 Spring Pass, a \$149 product, offering two days at each of Indy's 63 independent partner resorts, valid from March 1 to the end of the season. Spring Pass holders can get a third day at any of the resorts for 25 percent off the ticket rate.

The Mountain Collective Pass 2021-2022 can now be purchased for \$499. Passholders will receive two days at 23 world-class destinations with half off additional days, zero blackout dates and for a limited time, a free 3rd bonus day at the resort of your choice. They are also bringing back their "No Questions Asked" guarantee which allows you to receive a full refund on your pass purchase any time prior to August 1, 2021.

A NEW "EARLY BIRD" SPECIAL: "*Have Vaccine, Will Travel*". People over the age of 65 have been among the first in line to receive Covid-19 vaccinations. And they are leading a wave in new travel bookings. Across the United States, older people have been among the first in line to receive their Covid-19 vaccinations. And among hotels, cruise lines and tour operators, the data is clear: Older travelers are leading a wave in new travel bookings. Americans over 65, who have had priority access to inoculations, are now ready to go! Older people are more eager to travel in 2021 than other age groups, and also more likely to link the timing of their travel to when they receive their vaccinations, according to a January survey conducted by the travel agency network *Virtuoso*. While some older adults are focusing on short distances and Covid-19 precautions at their destinations when it comes to post-pandemic travel, others are enthusiastically planning to just go big. The 65-plus demographic is losing out on their golden years and they're understandably eager to get back out there. Most of them say they've been vaccinated, and they're comfortable now traveling to a destination. The vaccination gives them the confidence to travel to a remote spot. So....go for it. Go big or go home!!

TAMARACK RESORT “SKY PASS”: *Tamarack Resort* has unveiled a new community-focused lift pass to reward local students for their commitment to school and to support increased access to outdoor recreation. The SKY (Students-Kids-Youth) Pass will provide free, year-round Tamarack lift access to local K-12 students in the Valley County and New Meadows schools, as well as homeschool students with primary residence in these districts. The [SKY Pass](#) is set for Memorial Day weekend and will be an ongoing program. “The students in our valley represent the future of this community and Idaho,” said Tamarack president Scott Turlington. “As they dream and work toward what they want to be when they grow up, we hope the experiences and memories made on our mountain help shape who they become. This is an opportunity of a lifetime that could lead to a lifetime of opportunities.” In developing the program, Tamarack coordinated with area non-profits, the superintendents of the Cascade, McCall-Donnelly and Meadows Valley school districts, private schools, and local home school families. “This is the type of opportunity we’ve wanted to provide our kids for a long time—a chance to learn and love lifetime sports like skiing, snowboarding, and mountain biking,” Cascade superintendent Jeff Blaser said. “We’re thrilled with how this will strengthen our community, and look forward to working with Tamarack to get our kids to the mountain.”

TOP TEN CHAIRLIFTS OF THE WEST: *Mt. Baker* – is the snowiest. *Chair 8* has the “best gravity train” in the nation. *Whistler Blackcomb* – the largest resort in North America. Their *Peak Express* opens to 5,000 acres of terrain, and the *Glacier Express*, the highest chair on Blackcomb Mountain, accesses extensive terrain covering thousands of acres. *Crystal Mountain* - the biggest ski resort in Washington state, with *Chair 6*, being the best. *Mammoth Mountain Ski Area – Chair 23* – gives you access to “beast mode” terrain. *Mt. Bachelor – Northwest Express* – 400+ acres of the best ungroomed powder, chutes, and “good-time” terrain. *Alpine Meadows – Summit Six* – Keyhole run is a 55 degree drop of pure exhilaration! *Squaw – KT22 Express* – gateway to “experts nirvana” on the Fingers and McConkeys. *Mt. Hood – Timberline* – the Palmer Lift provides the longest ski season in North America. (The U.S. Ski Team does summer training there). *Kirkwood – Cornice Express* – the last run to get skied out.

ADDITIONAL ADD-ONS TO THE “INDY” PASS: *Waterville Valley*, New Hampshire and *Saddleback*, Maine have now joined the Indy Pass. Both resorts will provide two days of skiing and riding to all Indy Pass holders during the remainder of the 2020-2021 and the 2021-2022 seasons.

FAR WEST TRAVEL

FAR WEST 2021 DIVE TRIP: *Coming Up. Spots still available!* 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 WEEEEK 2022: *Aspen/Snowmass Resort* will be the destination, *January 29 – February 5, 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 this trip on your calendar and watch for sign up information to be available in the near future.

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: *Postponed to 2022!* There's still plenty of time to sign up for the *Denali Tour and Alaska Cruise*. Participants can sign up for the *Denali Tour*, June 21-25 or *Alaska Inside Passage Cruise*, June 25-July 2, 2022, 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

FAR WEST COUNCILS

NORTHWEST SKI CLUB COUNCIL: NWSCC held their March Council Zoom Meeting, on Wednesday, March 17th. Two guest speakers were invited to join in the meeting, **Glen Anderson**, from the *Mt. Hood Ski Patrol*, and **Harlan Sheppard**, of the *Washington State Department of Transportation*. Harlan is an avalanche forecaster and control tech for the North Central Region, who discussed avalanches in the “highway context”, since so many of the Washington ski passes are shut down each winter, due to those events.

Skiyente Ski Club of Portland, Oregon, celebrated its 65th Anniversary with the crowning of *King Winter* on Saturday, March 13th, via a Zoom virtual event. Skiyentes and their guests participated in a virtual wine tasting, with tasting kits provided by Stoller Family Estates. There was also a live “tailgate party” at the Parshall Condo at Government Camp, followed by the crowning of King Winter, *Ed Rogers*, operator of the family-owned Huckelberry Inn, in Government camp. Congratulations to Ed, and to Skiyente for another successful event.

Northwest Council will also be participating in the *Ski to Defeat ALS*, during the weekends of March 21-22, and 27-28, as well as April 3-4 and 10-11 to help raise funds and awareness for the ALS community. Sign up now at: www.skitodefeats.org. and choose which day(s) you’d like to ski or board.

INTERMOUNTAIN SKI COUNCIL: *Sublette County Ski & Snowboard Club* (Wyoming) held two races last month at White Pine Ski Resort: Flamingo Cup and Sunny Korfanta GS. Both were a great success!

The *Northern Wasatch Ski & Social Club* (Utah) organized a “*Learn To Curl*” class with the Ogden Curling Club in Ogden, UT. They had 20 participants on the ice and learned how to “throw stones” and sweep the ice in front of the stone. The club also had a great turnout for the Feb 27 Moonlight snowshoe event, with a snowstorm that brought several inches early in the day but yielded to a clear sky and a bright full moon to light the way!

FAR WEST HISTORY

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.** You can also mail a check, payable to FWSA, to Randy Lew, FWSA Treasurer, 829 SE 11th Place, Battle Ground, WA 98604

Stay safe! Stay healthy!