

JULY, 2021

Far West Ski Association

FAR WEST CONVENTION – 3 MONTHS AND COUNTING: **OCTOBER 7-10, 2021.** Please put these dates on your calendars **NOW!** We want to see you all in San Diego. The San Diego Council of Ski Clubs is busy, busy with plans for the 88th *Annual Far West Convention* 2021. There will be activities for everyone to participate in: Snowsports Leadership sessions on Travel and Diversity & Inclusion; informative Public Affairs Sessions on Climate Change; as well as a great Silent Auction and Trade Show, and many fun Optional Activities including: biking on Coronado, Sailing in San Diego Harbor, golfing at *Riverwalk Golf Course*, a Trolley ride in Oldtown San Diego, water activities and an Oktoberfest-themed Pub Crawl. Room reservations **ARE AVAILABLE NOW** at: <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1616103971646&key=GRP&app=resvlinko>

ARIELLE GOLD ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT: 2018 Olympic bronze medalist and five-time X Games medalist *Arielle Gold* has announced her retirement from competitive halfpipe snowboarding. The retirement comes after nine years on the U.S. Snowboard Pro Halfpipe Team and two years on the Rookie Team. Reflecting on her career, Gold noted one special memory: “A major career highlight for me was my first X Games medal, when I earned bronze in 2013,” Gold reflected. “I went into it as an alternate and was able to get into the event after one of my long-time inspirations, Gretchen Bleiler, unfortunately, had to drop out due to an injury. I went on to land one of the best runs of my life and earned my first X Games podium.”

SAYING GOODBYE TO A SKIING LEGEND: Mike Wiegele, whose passion and gritty determination both created and fulfilled the world’s heliskiing dreams for more than 50 years, has died at the age of 82. A humble farm boy from Austria, Mike emigrated to Canada in 1959 to chase his ski dreams. Arriving with no English, he first was employed as a carpenter-builder. After working as a ski instructor at Mont Tremblant and Sugar Bowl, with ski racing and “real mountains” in his DNA, he went from instructor to director of Lake Louise Ski School. In 1976, Mike and his wife, Bonnie, started the Banff Quikies, which evolved into Banff Alpine Racers, growing to 500 over the first five years. His coaching at Lake Louise Ski Club produced six National Team athletes. In 1970, Mike offered his first heli-skiing trip in Valemount, BC. He would soon establish Blue River, BC as base for Mike Wiegele Helicopter Skiing, an enterprise which, over five decades, he marshalled into an industry-leading, internationally renowned resort.

U.S. SKI AND SNOWBOARD HALL OF FAME ANNOUNCE INDUCTION SITES: The US Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame is set to run **two separate Induction Gala’s** this coming spring; one on March 5th, 2022 at the Omni Mount Washington Resort near **Bretton Woods** in New Hampshire and a second on March 26th at the **Sun Valley Inn** at the Sun Valley Resort in Idaho. In collaboration with the Hall’s friends at the International Skiing History Association (ISHA) and the North American Snowsport Journalists Association (NASJA), plan for both events to have **similar 4-day schedules** featuring on and off-snow parties, receptions, award presentations and other events. The annual Snowsport History Celebration, typically a singular event, will be spread across both venues. **Bretton Woods** will host: *Brian Fairbank, Holly Flanders, Howard Peterson, Sherman Poppen, Hank Tauber, and Seth Westscott*. And, **Sun Valley Inn** will host: *Scott Brooksbank, Bobbie Burns, Art Clay & Ben Finley, Kit Deslauriers, Jim Niehues, Allison Owen, Kirstean Porter, Johnny Spillane and Grego Stump*. And, The Hall’s annual **Women in Industry** award winner, *Cheryl Jensen* will also be honored in Sun Valley, ID on Friday March 25th at Dollar Mountain Lodge.

AMERICA’S HIDDEN MEGA SKI PASS: How does \$299 for a Ski Pass that covers 48 ski areas across North America sound? *Ski Cooper* is the pass that beats all! Ski 3 days, (almost) no black-out days, at 48 different ski areas. *Ski Cooper* is a small ski area, located in Leadville, CO. 2 chairs, 470 acres, and one of the oldest ski area in the state, with an annual snowpack of just 260”, but....their pass offers you skiing galore

across the entire country! Thirteen ski areas in the Midwest, 13 in the Northeast, and many others scattered from Alaska, to Washington, to New Mexico, to New York. Here are a few ski areas included in that pass: Powderhorn, Powder Mountain, Snow King, Sunlight, Diamond Peak, Mt. Ashland, Mont du Lac, Mt. Baldy, Bogus Basin, Black Mountain and Lost Valley. It is THE LARGEST and most straight forward reciprocal lift ticket in North America. Price goes up to \$399 on August 1st, 2021: www.skicooper.com/season-passes

FAR WEST PROGRAMS & AWARDS

FAR WEST RECOGNITION AWARDS FOR 2021: We have many deserving people in our organization and the Far West region that are ideal candidates for a Far West award. The deadline for submissions for Recognition Awards is **July 18, 2021**. If you know of someone deserving of one of the Far West “Great 8” Service Awards, please contact Steve Coxen: pastpresident@fwsa.org. See Award descriptions at www.fwsa.org/awards.

Names and email addresses are provided below to send your nominee and info, for each of our *Program Awards*:

- Council’s Man & Woman of the Year ([Sheri Parshall, cougskier@aol.com](mailto:Sheri.Parshall@cougskier.com))
 - Sponsored by Big White Ski Resort, Canada (2020 Nominees to be honored this year)
- Western Ski Heritage Prize ([Fran Long, vppublicaffairs@fwsa.org](mailto:Fran.Long@vppublicaffairs@fwsa.org))
 - Sponsored by Steamboat Ski & Resort Corp., Colorado
- Richard Lubin Safety Person of the Year ([Fran Long](mailto:Fran.Long@vppublicaffairs@fwsa.org)) & ([Kat Severin](mailto:Kat.Severin@fwsa.org)), safety@fwsa.org
 - Sponsored by Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, California
- Environment ([Fran Long, vppublicaffairs@fwsa.org](mailto:Fran.Long@vppublicaffairs@fwsa.org))
 - Sponsored by Aspen/Snowmass, The Gant, Crestwood Condominiums
- Charity & Community Service ([Sigrid Noack, charities@fwsa.org](mailto:Sigrid.Noack@fwsa.org))
- Club/Council History Recognition ([John Watson, history@fwsa.org](mailto:John.Watson@fwsa.org))
- Historic Ski Club ([John Watson, history@fwsa.org](mailto:John.Watson@fwsa.org))

FAR WEST RICHARD LUBIN SAFETY PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD: Sponsored by Mammoth Mountain, this annual award honors the person who has done the most to promote safety consciousness within the association. This can be done in a variety of ways including safety articles, on mountain activities, presentations, public speaking, working ski patrol, creating posters or banners, and many other activities. The winner receives a 5-day ski/board package to Mammoth Mountain for two that includes: 5 nights lodging, 4 day lift ticket, and 4 days of rentals.

FAR WEST WESTERN SKI HERITAGE AWARD: Sponsored by Steamboat Ski & Resort Corp., the aim of this award is to raise the awareness of the contributions made by individuals or groups to all aspects of snowsports – competitive as well as recreational. It is also to convey the positive role snowsports has had in its contributions to the communities in the West. It recognizes outstanding effort in the area of snowsports history to find, preserve, document and share the history of snowsports in the West. The winner receives a 5-day ski/board package to Steamboat for two: 5 nights lodging, 5 days skiing, 5-day rentals, a lesson, a tour, and lunch.

FAR WEST ENVIRONMENT AWARD: Sponsored by Aspen Snowmass, this award is designed to encourage good stewardship of our environment, to inspire and reward creative efforts to conserve and protect our environment. This award should recognize actions that made a difference. For example: Volunteering at the community level, particularly in some leadership role; Organizing environmentally oriented events for the club or council; Writing a series of columns regarding environmental conservation, education or protection in

your club newsletter. The winner receives a 5-day ski/board package to Aspen/Snowmass for two: 5 nights lodging split between Aspen & Snowmass, 5 day lift ticket, and 5 days of rentals, a day group lesson.

FAR WEST CHARITIES PROGRAM: The 2021 Charity Recognition Program is off and running! Thank you for your efforts, and we hope that you will participate in this year's Charity Recognition Program, so that we can include your club or council in showcasing all the FWSA Charity activities. At Convention this October, in San Diego, we are combining the 2020 & 2021 years of charitable work into a video presentation.

****WHAT TO DO TO PARTICIPATE: Please send 1-2 pages of basic club info, some high quality/original photos, including your logo and maybe logos of your charitable organizations. Please contact Sigrid with any questions and send your charity information on or hopefully before July 18th to Sigrid at charities@fwsa.org.

FAR WEST ELECTIONS

FAR WEST OFFICER ELECTIONS 2021: The Far West Ski Association Annual Meeting & Convention will be held October 7-10, 2021, in San Diego, CA. Voting for FWSA Officer and Trustees will occur on Sunday, October 10. ALL Board positions are up for election. Listed below are names of those who have committed to run at this time. We will continue to add names as they come in.

Officers – 1-year terms:

- President - Gloria Raminha (incumbent)
- Secretary - **no declared candidate**
- Treasurer – Randy Lew (incumbent)

Carryovers from 2020 –

1-year term remaining:

- Trustee (2 positions) - Linda Westlund (incumbent), Tucker Hoffman
- VP Communications - Joe Harvis (incumbent)
- VP International Travel – Debbie Stewart (incumbent)
- VP Marketing - Debbi Kor (incumbent)
- VP Membership - **no declared candidate**

Positions open for 2-year terms:

- Trustee (2 positions) - Tom Bundgard (incumbent), Sheri Parshall
- VP Council Services - Chris Gill (incumbent)
- VP North American Travel – Nancy Ellis (incumbent)
- VP Public Affairs – Lina Arnold

If you have an interest in serving as an Officer or Trustee, please contact Steve Coxen at pastpresident@fwsa.org or phone (503) 679-9022. For a copy of FWSA Qualifications for the positions of President, Treasurer, Trustee, VP of International Travel, and VP of North American Travel, please contact Steve Coxen. All candidates must be members in good standing of clubs affiliated with FWSA or a direct member of FWSA. Qualified nominees for any of the open positions will be accepted up to the date and time of the elections.

FWSA By-Laws, Job Descriptions and the Operations Manual are available on the FWSA website at www.fwsa.org. Click on the “About” tab, then click on the “Governance” tab. For information or advice on running for any FWSA office contact a member of the FWSA Nominating Committee:

- Steve Coxen, Nominations Committee Chair, pastpresident@fwsa.org
- Todd Hood, Succession Planning Committee Chair, successionplanning@fwsa.org

FAR WEST TRAVEL

FAR WEST 2021 DIVE TRIP: *3 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. *We currently have a single man looking for a roommate.* Only 1 room left!! The registration forms and additional information are available on the website or contacting Randy Lew at divetrips@fwsa.org

FWSA SKI WEEK 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 contact your Council Trip Leader for more information.

FWSA INTERNATIONAL SKI WEEK: *Save the Date* - *Solden, Austria* will be the setting for the 2022 International Ski Week. Dates are *February 26 - March 5th*, and will include 7 nights lodging at the 4-Star *Tyrolerhof Hotel*, including daily breakfast & dinner at the hotel. We'll be offering an optional day tour during the week if one chooses to explore the local culture. There will be an extension to the *Black Forest*, Germany, *March 5-11, 2022*. If one chooses to not go to *Solden*, but wants to do the *Black Forest extension*, we will fly you from the US to join us for the extension trip – we call this the "Stand Alone" trip. For more information, contact Debbie Stewart, VP of International Travel: fwsaintltravel@prodigy.net.

FWSA MINI SKI WEEK: The *Zermatt Utah Resort* Mini Trip has now been set for *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 INSIDE PASSAGE CRUISE 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, 2022* 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 FWSA.org website or contact Nancy Ellis, VP North American Travel, fwsatravelnancy@sbcglobal.net; (530) 414-8261.

FWSA INTERNATIONAL "ADVENTURE TRIP": The Trip to Croatia has now been set for *September 2 – September 11, 2022*. Departure date from the U.S. will be September 1st. For further information, contact Debbie Stewart, VP of International Travel: fwsaintltravel@prodigy.net.

FAR WEST FOUNDATION

FAR WEST FOUNDATION SEEKS DONATIONS: The overarching objective of the Far West Ski Foundation (FWSF) is to sustain snowsport to ensure that the inspirational experiences of snowsport will remain for future generations. The snowsport umbrella includes training and competition in alpine disciplines, cross country skiing, jumping, and snowboarding. Snowsport also includes enabling the disabled as well as research and educational programs.

The Foundation makes long term investments to meet its objective and mission areas by raising funds from individuals and organizations. It then grants funds to those recipient organizations that conduct programs in the Foundation's several mission areas. This is where we need YOUR help to continue our mission of giving to these worthwhile causes. We sustain snowsports, including support to the training of athletes in national and international competitions, and may include support to safety programs, and support to under-recognized snowsports. This may include recognition programs for services that support the snowsport community.

Please consider supporting our efforts by donating whatever you can. We appreciate the support received from our many friends throughout the Far West Ski Association, its member councils, clubs and yes, its individual members like you. Donations can be made via check or credit card using PayPal directly through our website, www.farwestskifoundation.org. Contact John Reinhardt, treasurer@farwestskifoundation.org to donate or for more information.

In addition to that: The Far West Ski Foundation needs an experienced grant writer to volunteer to help the foundation search out and apply for any and all grants available to aid our efforts to continue to our support snowsport mission. If you are someone with this background or know of someone who is, please contact FWSF president, John Watson, president@farwestskifoundation.org soonest.

stay safe! stay healthy!