

**SEPTEMBER, 2021**

**Far West Ski Association**

**FAR WEST CONVENTION – 4 WEEKS AWAY: OCTOBER 7-10, 2021.** Those dates are almost here. There is still time to register and to reserve your hotel room **NOW!** We want to see you all in San Diego. The San Diego Council of Ski Clubs has been busy with plans for the *88<sup>th</sup> Annual Far West Convention 2021*. Hotel room rates have been extended to **September 17<sup>th</sup>**, so act quickly!! Join us for all the fun, all the excitement and all that you will learn at this event. Snowsports Leadership sessions on Travel and Diversity & Inclusion; informative Public Affairs Sessions on Climate Change, and five panelists who will fill you with tales of their experiences during World War II. We'll have the 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>

**Convention Guest Speakers**

**TOM RICE:** US Army – 1943-46 101st Airborne (Staff Sergeant) Staff Sergeant Thomas M. Rice fought in several of the major battles of World War II, including Normandy, Market-Garden, and the Battle of the Bulge. He made combat jumps at Normandy and Market-Garden. As a paratrooper, Tom Rice was one of 13,000 who parachuted into France on D-Day, June 6, 1944, the night that turned the corner for the Allies in World War II. He was with the 101st Airborne Division, the “Screaming Eagles”, parachuting behind enemy lines. In Normandy Tom was wounded by shrapnel and caught a sniper's bullet in his left knee. Rice also made a fight jump in Holland during Operation Market Garden in Sept 1944 and the Battle of the Bulge from Dec 1944 to Jan 1945. His last combat experience of WWII took place in Birtchengarten, Austria. Military awards include 4 campaigns, Purple Heart with two Oak Leaf clusters, Two Invasion Arrows, Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Star with cluster, Good Conduct Medal, French Fourregue, Belgium Lanyard and Parachutist Badge. Tom continues to do tandem jumps each year on his birthday as a way to honor those who never came home from the war. Tom celebrated his 100th birthday by jumping out of the Commemorative Air Force Inland Empire Wing Day Doll on Aug 15, 2021 in Coronado.

**GIL NADEAU:** Gil served in the Navy during World War II in the Pacific from 1944-1946. He served as a visual signalman aboard an LCS, which at that time stood for Landing Craft Support, and was part of the “Mighty Midgets.” He served in the Philippines, the invasion of Borneo and in Okinawa. Gil's awards include the Pacific Asiatic Theater Medal/Ribbon with 2 stars, American Theater Medal/Ribbon, the China Theater Medal/Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal/Ribbon, Philippine Liberation Medal/Ribbon, Philippine Independence Medal/Ribbon, China War Memorial Medal/Ribbon, WWII Occupation (Japan) Medal/Ribbon, WWII Victory Medal/Ribbon, and Combat Action Ribbon and Navy Unit Commendation. Gil speaks at numerous engagements, schools and participates in many local activities to honor our WWII Veterans. He is known to many as the “shortest sailor with the tallest tales”.

**ANDRE CHAPPAZ:** Andre was born in San Francisco but was raised in France, until he returned to San Francisco with his parents at 12 years old. Andre was an art student living in San Francisco when he was called to serve in the war. When he left for the South Pacific as a member of the Army Corps of Engineers, he took his pencils, pens and drawing paper with him. Chappaz spent 4 months in Guam, eight months on Okinawa and 72 days at sea, chronicling his experience in about 100 drawings. He helped to build airfields for B-29 bombers on the Mariana Islands and Ryukus. While on Okinawa, he was part of the 10th Army that was staging for the invasion of Japan. Tech 5 Chappaz's awards include: Good Conduct Medal, American Defense

Medal, Asiatic Pacific (w/2 bronze service stars), WWII Victory Medal, Japanese Occupation Medal, Marksman Badge (M-1 Rifle) and Meritorious Service Patch. After the war, Andre returned to Art School on the GI Bill. He then worked as an advertising artist working in design and illustrations. At 95 years old, he still downhill skis every winter and belongs to a local biking club.

**BRUCE CAMPBELL:** Born and raised in Los Angeles, Bruce was attending UCLA when there was an interruption by World War II. He joined the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division, with intense mountain warfare training at Camp Hale, Colorado. The training consisted of skiing, rock climbing, and working with mules at altitudes over 13,000 feet. These activities took place during all seasons, in deep snow, and on skis and snowshoes. In December, 1944, he boarded the SS Argentina, headed for Naples, Italy. He journeyed north to engage the German mountain troops in the Northern Appennines, where the famous Riva Ridge battle took place. The next major event was across the Po Valley and Po River, where the city of Verona was liberated. Their final objective was Lake Garda in the Italian Alps. Bruce's Battalion led their forces through a series of cliff-side tunnels, ultimately overtaking the towns of Torbole and Riva, where the war ended for them in Italy on May 2, 1945. Upon returning from the war, Bruce continued his studies at UCLA, becoming an insurance broker. He is a very active member of Grindelwald Ski Club, and is busy with the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Foundation. He is also awaiting the start of Barbershop Harmony and doing voice-over auditions in his home studio. Bruce turns 97 on Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>.

**HOWARD KOCH:** Born in 1925, Howard grew up in Oakland, California. At age 13, he learned to ski at the Donner Summit Sugar Bowl Ski Resort. A friend of his belonged to the Sierra Club, and talked Howard into joining. They had a facility at Norden, where he stayed, and skied and learned rock climbing. Howard graduated high school at the age of 16, and attended UC Berkley, majoring in Geology/Mining Engineering. He knew he would be drafted in World War II. The military was advertising for volunteers who could ski and rock climb and join the Ski Troops (later to become the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division). He was accepted in, and sent to Camp Hale, Colorado. Here, they were taught how to fight on skis, rock climb, survive in snow and do so in high altitudes. He entered into Officers Candidate School, and graduated as a second lieutenant and then volunteered to return to the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division and head to Italy. He left on the USS West Point, arriving in Naples the first of January, 1945. Approaching his 20<sup>th</sup> birthday, he was directed to San Marcello, assigned to C Company of the 86th as the Weapons Platoon Leader. They were headed for action to dislodge the Germans defending Mount Belvedere (Riva Ridge). This area was heavily fortified and defended, and built in the mountainous regions stretching east to west across Northern Italy above Florence. On February 17, 1945, Howard and his platoon of 160 men began to make their way up the 2,000-foot canyon. They climbed in the dark to stay under cover. The ascent was slippery with snow and ice, but they made it up, single file, in 10 hours. They reached the top of the ridge in a dense fog. As the sun came up, they were still unnoticed by the Germans, who were hiding in a dugout, sleeping. Howard's group opened the dugout door and Howard ordered them to come out with their hands up. There were about 60 Germans who surrendered that day, without a shot being fired. Howard has kept in touch with his 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division buddies and has attended several reunions. On the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the attack on Riva Ridge, he and several others returned to the same spot where the assault began and climbed up the same route.

**CHRIS ANTHONY:** Colorado Native and Snow Sports Hall of Fame Inductee, Chris Anthony, is a professional skier who has been on skis since he was eighteen months old and competed in almost every discipline of the sport. During college, Chris was recruited by Warren Miller Films to ski in one of the annual films. The opportunity inspired Chris to write a screenplay and eventually study film and writing while interning for Michael Douglas at Paramount Studios and attending USC in Los Angeles for a period of time. During the winter months, for more than 28 years, Chris continued to travel as an athlete, host and emcee for Warren Miller Films (Now Warren Miller Entertainment), building his brand. He is known for outlandish ski film assignments in strange locations. Chris has been booked for hundreds of speaking engagements, and formed a consulting and guide business. Philanthropy; Chris has volunteered thousands of hours for several charitable organizations, raising over a million dollars on their behalf prior to building his own youth outreach program called the Chris Anthony Youth Initiative Project. <https://www.chrisanthony.com/youth-initiative-project>. His most powerful resource came from his position as a professional skier, through which he has engaged with more than 85,000 students over 20-plus years through school programs and other educational outlets. Since the creation of his Youth Project as a

fiscal partner of the Colorado Nonprofit Development Center in 2013, Chris has expanded his programming and now offers financial aid in select situations to ensure a broad spectrum of students can participate in his educational offerings. More recently Chris expanded his Youth Project by underwriting snow science and avalanche education for youth and is currently working on an educational documentary.

## **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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:pastpresident@fwsa.org)
- Todd Hood, Succession Planning Committee Chair, [successionplanning@fwsa.org](mailto:successionplanning@fwsa.org)

## **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.

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](http://www.farwestskifoundation.org). Contact John Reinhardt, [treasurer@farwestskifoundation.org](mailto: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](mailto:president@farwestskifoundation.org) soonest.

*stay safe! stay healthy!*