

# Far West NewsFlash

APRIL, 2022

## Far West Ski Association

**FAR WEST 89<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION – 2 MONTHS AWAY:** The 2022 Convention is just 2 short months away! Northwest Ski Club Council's Convention Committee will be hosting this year's event at the *Holiday Inn – Portland, Columbia Riverfront*. YES, it is the same venue that was selected for 2020, but they now have a new name. We have some great activities planned for all our attendees, including the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pub Crawl, a Mount Hood Adventure, a Southwest Washington Wine Tour, and the "Not-Your-Daddy's" Golf Tournament. There will be your usual Pool Party and Club Happy Hour on Friday, followed by the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Trade Show & Silent Auction on Friday night. The Travel Expo will be incorporated into the Trade Show, so be prepared to present your Club Profiles, and take some extra time to chat with your favorite resorts to plan those future club and council trips. Saturday will be filled with panel sessions, Public Affairs Panels, and the annual Bid Presentations for all club and council trip leaders. *Phil Mahre* will be our Keynote Speaker following lunch, on Saturday. Be prepared to be *Rockin' & Rollin on the River* on Saturday night. The Awards Banquet will be followed by dancing and listening to the great sounds of "*Thrillride*". The General Meeting and Elections are set for Sunday morning, with a great Brunch mid-way in. Come early, stay late, and enjoy hiking, biking, and wine tasting in the beautiful Pacific Northwest. Check out <https://www.fwsa.org/conventions> for information. ALL Delegate info has been posted on the website.

**VAIL NEWS:** Vail Resorts is extending their ski and ride season at several of their resorts - - weather and snow permitting. Those areas staying open just a bit later include: *Vail*, *Kirkwood*, and *Stevens Pass* until May 1<sup>st</sup>, and *Heavenly* and *Corinthia* (Mount Snow) until April 24th. Vail Resorts also announced their roll-out of a new incremental annual \$175 million investment in its employees that includes a \$20 per hour starting wage, a commitment to "aggressively" expand affordable employee housing, and the hiring of more centralized HR staff. The shifts include the \$20 per hour starting rate for employees across all of its 37 North American properties and corporate, effective winter 2022-23. There will also be increases for hourly employees with compression adjustments based on "career stage and leadership differentials." On top of all this, Vail Resorts plans to add to the roughly 7,000 affordable housing beds it provides across its mountain resorts. GREAT news for those wanting to work at Vail Resorts!

**HOMEWOOD SWITCHES GEARS:** Struggling to remain a viable ski resort, *Homewood* will become a semi-private resort. With passholders and skier visits declining over the past 10 years, JMA Ventures is having to pivot to a new, more sustainable financial and development model. The company came up with a hybrid, semi-private model that will restrict access to season passes to people who buy new Homewood residences as well as full-time residents of several West Shore homeowners associations. This model will be phased in over a number of years as Homewood transitions away from being a public ski area in the hopes that it will eliminate a key problem for Homewood — commuter skiers not being able to get to the resort in the heavy weekend traffic that occurs on the highways leading into the Basin. With all the Ikon passes, if you go to Highway 89 on a Saturday afternoon you will see traffic backed up all the way from Squaw and Alpine into Truckee. You can't even get to Homewood! Because of the traffic and a younger generation that is more attracted to the steeper and bigger terrain of Palisades Tahoe and Northstar, JMA President, Art Chapman said *Homewood* can no longer compete with the large resorts. "If we are going to keep the ski area open, we can no longer do it as a public ski area".

**TIMBERLINE (OR) PURSUES NEW EFFORTS TO INTEGRATE SUMMIT PASS:** A new master plan from Timberline owners R.L.K. and Company outlines details to further integrate Summit Pass (formerly Summit Ski Area) with Timberline Ski Area. This plan includes a two-stage gondola that would provide direct, aerial access from the Summit Pass base area to Timberline, upgraded Summit Pass facilities and parking, and a

new mid-station. The plan is part of a strategy to address transportation issues such as a lack of parking on the mountain, access challenges, and traffic congestion. Summit Pass sits directly below Timberline on the south slopes of Mt. Hood. Acquired by R.L.K and Company in 2018, it merged with the upper mountain in July 2021 to offer a combined 4,540 vertical feet, the longest in the United States. There is currently no lift connection between the two ski areas, though. The proposed 10-passenger gondola, with an hourly capacity of 1,800 people per hour, would include a mid-station with access to an area of beginner terrain with surface lifts as well as a potential tubing area. The plan would remove some parking from the Timberline Lodge and add 500 to 600 parking spaces at Summit Pass. A new 20,000-square-foot lodge at Summit Pass would include restaurant service and seating, ticketing, ski school, retail, restrooms, a daycare center for guests and employees, and a deck with additional seating and direct access to the planned gondola and the Summit Pass chairlift.

**INDY PASS OFFERS SOMETHING NEW:** the Indy pass announces a major expansion into cross-country skiing that gives passholders two trail passes to some of the best XC resorts in North America. In addition, the new Indy XC Pass is on sale now for **\$69** for adults and **\$29** for kids 12-and-under providing two trail passes at each resort. 10% of the sale price will be donated to the Cross Country Ski Areas Association (CCSAA). Most of these locations are in the Eastern part of the United States. However, CCSAA said that they expect more than 30 areas to commit to the pass for the 2022-23 season. Check your local Indy Pass area for more information.

## **FAR WEST ELECTIONS**

**FAR WEST ELECTIONS 2022:** The Far West Ski Association Annual Meeting & Convention will be held June 9-12, 2022, in Portland, OR. Voting for FWSA Officer and Trustees will occur Sunday morning, June 12. Board positions up for election and announced candidates are listed below.

### **Officers – 1-year terms:**

- President – Linda Westlund
- Secretary – Tan Nguyen (incumbent)
- Treasurer –

### **Board Positions open in 2022 – 2-year terms:**

- Trustees (2 positions) –
- VP Communications – Joe Harvis (incumbent)
- VP International Travel –
- VP Marketing –
- VP Membership – Jean McCassey (incumbent)

### **Board Positions open in 2023 and current incumbents – 2-year terms:**

- Trustees (2 positions) – Tom Bundgard, Sheri Parshall
- VP Council Services – Chris Gill
- VP North American Travel – Nancy Ellis
- 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 TRAVEL

**FWSA INSIDE PASSAGE CRUISE 2022:** There's still 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](mailto:fwsatravelnancy@sbcglobal.net); (530) 414-8261.

**FWSA INTERNATIONAL “ADVENTURE TRIP”:** The Far West Trip to *Croatia* is currently planned for **September 2 to September 11, 2022**. Departure date from the U.S. will be September 1<sup>st</sup>. Right now, we suggest people get onto the **waiting list**. For further information, contact Debbie Stewart, VP of International Travel: [fwsaintltravel@prodigy.net](mailto:fwsaintltravel@prodigy.net).

**FWSA 2022 DIVE TRIP:** The FWSA 2022 dive trip to *Cozumel* is now open for registration! We will be staying at Iberostar Cozumel Resort in their standard bungalow style rooms from **October 8 – 15, 2022**. All meals, alcoholic & non-alcoholic beverages, 5 days of 2 tank dives including 2 Cenote dives, and a night dive. Iberostar Cozumel is located on the Southwest side of the island, and is close to the best dive sites. Dressel Divers, a PADI 5-Star Instructor Development Center dive operation is located on the property. The information is now available on the FWSA website at [Dive 2022 Cozumel - Far West Ski Association \(fwsa.org\)](https://www.fwsa.org/Dive-2022-Cozumel-Far-West-Ski-Association)

*Happy Easter!*

*stay safe! stay Healthy!*