

"The Voice of the Western Skier"



Far West News *Flash* February, 2014

Far West Ski Association

WHO & WHAT'S NEW FOR 2014

News from Sochi: Women's Ski Jumping made their debut at the 2014 Winter Olympics. While the US team did not medal, they made some great in-roads to getting the women noticed. Let's hope we see them in more than one event in 2016. *Bode Miller* and *Julia Mancuso* scored Bronze medals in their downhill efforts, while *Andrew Weibrecht* took a Silver. *Alex Diebold* flashed a bronze medal in Snowboard Cross, *Hannah Kearney*, a bronze in Women's Moguls Freestyle, *Jamie Anderson*, a gold in women's Slope Style, *David Wise*, a gold in Men's Skiing Half Pipe, *Kaitlyn Farrington*, a gold in Women's Halfpipe Snowboarding, and *Devin Logan*, a silver in women's Slope Style, Free Style skiing, and Ted Ligety getting the coveted gold medal in men's Giant Slalom. Lastly, how about the U.S. sweeping the podium in the men's snowboarding, Slope Style? Congratulations to all of our U.S. Olympians!

Happy Anniversary: *Mammoth Mountain* turns 60 this year. New Hampshire's *Pats Peak* is 50 years old and Quebec's *Stoneham Resort* celebrates its 50th anniversary this season. Happy birthday all.

What's happening in Colorado: Check out the fun events going on in some of your favorite ski areas in February and March. Here's the low-down: **Aspen/Snowmass**, 14th Annual Bud Light Spring Jam, March 14-23rd. *Ski Town Breakdown* in **Crested Butte** March 22nd. **Durango Mountain Resort** hosts their Annual Steamworks Brewery Clambake on March 14th. **Steamboat** will host their week-long Mardi Gras February 27-March 4. **Telluride** has their Mountain Town Get-Down March 28-30th. Or check out our **Loveland's** New Belgium Scavenger Hunt to support *The Alliance for Sustainable Colorado*, March 29th. Check the individual area's websites for further information.

FAR WEST SKI ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

A Volcanic Paradise is Waiting for You: Make your *Volcanic Paradise Convention* plans NOW!! The 82nd Annual Far West Ski Association Convention is June 12-15, 2014, in Bend, OR. Materials are on the way to industry and club members. Check the FWSA website for the latest information and forms (www.fwsa.org). If you plan to stay at the host hotel, **The Riverhouse**, make your reservations by calling 800.547.3928 or 541-389-3111. Group Name: Far West Ski Association 2014. Hotel rates honored three days pre and post Convention. If you are planning on traveling in your RV, we suggest you reserve space NOW!! The following two RV Parks are nearest to The Riverhouse. **Please note**---RV spaces will fill very early and fast due to numerous events in Central Oregon that same week. **Scandia RV Park:** 61415 S. Highway 97, Bend, OR 97702. www.scandiarv.com, and **Crown Villa RV Resort:** 60801 Brosterhouse Rd., Bend, OR 97702. www.crownvillaresort.com

Clubs and Delegates--- Take advantage of the FWSA 6-Pack Program. Clubs can increase delegate participation at the 2014 Convention - For every six (6) delegates that have paid the full registration package, the club will receive a rebate of one (1) paid registration after the convention (voting & non-voting delegates qualify). Come early – stay late – enjoy all that Central Oregon has to offer. We start the fun on Thursday, June 12th, with the *Mt. Bachelor Tour*, Lunch & Activities. That evening enjoy the infamous *Pub Crawl* at Deschutes Brewery, McMenamins, and a slew of other micro-breweries/lounges in downtown Bend. Friday is optional activity day with the 8th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament at River's Edge Golf Course; *Hike and Sight See* at the world-famous Smith Rock State Park; or *Shop-Dine-Wine* at Old Mill District. *The Pool Party* later Friday afternoon will cool you off before the annual FWSA Silent Auction on Friday night. This event is open to all FWSA delegates and guests. Bid on ski, sport and adventure packages and enjoy a *Taste of Bend*. Silent Auction is open to the general public (FREE admission!) and we encourage our Bend and Redmond communities to take part in this event. Saturday brings Travel Expo where industry and delegates meet to talk about club travel. Saturday also offers the Multi-Media Presentation with our keynote speaker, Public Affairs and Snowsports Leadership Academy sessions. Saturday night erupts to celebrate the *Volcanic Paradise*. We are excited to have confirmed Jess McMillan (professional big mountain free skier), **Billy Kidd** (Olympian skier), and **Aaron Karitis** (heli skier/avalanche specialist) as special guests.

For more information, please contact Host Council Convention Coordinator Mary Olhausen at omary52@comcast.net.

FAR WEST RECOGNITION AWARDS

CHARITY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE RECOGNITION: DEADLINE: *March 20, 2014*

RECOGNITION: *The 1st Place Club will receive a \$300 donation and the 2nd and 3rd Place Clubs a \$100 donation for the charity of their choice.*

CONTACT: Sigrid Noack, FWSA Charities & Our Community Chair, 310-823-1373, sig4ski@earthlink.net

DESCRIPTION: The intent of this recognition program is to encourage charity and community service involvement in all our FWSA councils and clubs and to recognize a club or council for its outstanding financial and/or volunteer support to one or more charitable organizations. All clubs and councils that apply will be recognized at the FWSA Convention. Three clubs and one council will be selected and notified by April 15. They will then prepare a picture display board to be presented at Convention.

SAFETY PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD: DEADLINE: *March 20, 2014*

RECOGNITION: Since 1998 Aspen/Snowmass, The Gant and Crestwood have donated a 6-night ski package for two with lodging, lift tickets, rentals, half-day group lessons, on-mountain tour, transfers, air transportation and TV Interview with Plum TV.

CONTACT: Richard Lubin DC, FWSA Safety Chair, 925-828-7454, botaboardr@comcast.net

DESCRIPTION: The FWSA is a proponent of safety in skiing and snowboarding. Every year we hear about tragic deaths and injuries that happen during our favorite winter activities that remind us of the great importance of safety. We have a number of ways in which we promote safety and one of our more viable ways is through the Safety Award. The award is for the individual, within the association, that has done the most to promote safety through a number of criteria. These include articles on slope safety, and other ways to raise safety consciousness. The link to detailed information and entry form is: <http://fwsa.org/MemberCorner/Programs/program-safety.html>

WESTERN SKI HERITAGE AWARD: DEADLINE: *March 20, 2014*

RECOGNITION: Since 2000, Steamboat has donated a 5-night ski package for two with lodging, lift tickets, rentals, on-mountain tour, half-day lessons and a lunch at Ragnar's Restaurant.

CONTACT: John Watson, FWSA History Committee Chair, 760-723-6539, geospace@pacbell.net

DESCRIPTION: The Far West Western Ski Heritage program annually recognizes the best effort in the prior year that communicates the contributions of snowsports to the community at large. The purpose of the Far West Western Ski Heritage program is to raise the awareness of snowsports participants and non-participants alike of the contributions made by individuals, groups and companies to all aspects of snowsports – competitive as well as that of outdoor winter recreation and fitness. A parallel purpose is 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 Award is open to an individual or a group leader (it is not restricted to Far West membership) and can be self-nominated or nominated by a club or club member. Materials and history programs will be evaluated against the objectives of the program by individuals selected for their knowledge of the history of Western snowsports and that of the Association. The link to detailed information and entry form is: <http://fwsa.org/MemberCorner/Programs/program-wsh.html>

FAR WEST HISTORICAL RECOGNITION PROGRAM: DEADLINE: *March 20, 2014*

RECOGNITION: Certificate suitable for framing.

CONTACT: John Watson, FWSA History Committee Chair, 760-723-6539, geospace@pacbell.net

DESCRIPTION: The FWSA launched the Historical Recognition Program in 2008 to develop club, league and council histories. The objective of the annual program is to capture important information about skiing from the skier's perspective and especially that of the club skier. Selection for the award is based on digital (preferable) or mailed presentation of club or council history according to a set of weighted criteria and judged by knowledgeable ski historians. The History Recognition is not for outstanding club or council, although it is anticipated that material may be common to both types of presentations. Think of these histories as museum or library reference resources. The link to detailed information and entry form is: <http://fwsa.org/MemberCorner/Programs/program-historical.html>

FAR WEST CLUB & COUNCIL COMPETITION: DEADLINE: *March 20, 2014*

RECOGNITION: Certificate suitable for framing and a digital award to place on club or council website.

DESCRIPTION: The Club and Council Communications Awards website is up and can be found at:

<http://fwsaca.org/educomm>. These competitions are designed to promote excellence and outstanding performance and are open to all clubs and councils within Far West Ski Association. The information you will find on this site concerns entries for the following five competitions: Tollakson Outstanding Club of the Year; Wentworth Outstanding Club Newsletter of the Year; Wentworth Outstanding Council Newsletter of the Year; Outstanding Club Website Award; and Outstanding Council Website Award. The deadline for all categories is ***March 20, 2014***. Clubs and Councils may access the 2014 updated criteria, judging information and submit 2014 entry forms. Online registration and an "invite code" is required to gain access. The Invite code: **FwsaEdu2014**.

FAR WEST COUNCIL'S MAN & WOMAN OF THE YEAR PROGRAM: The Councils' Man & Woman of the Year program recognizes top volunteers from each council at the FWSA Annual Convention. Since 2001, Big White Ski Resort has donated a 5-night ski package for two with lodging, lift tickets and transfers for the Councils' Man and Woman of the Year.

FAR WEST ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Far West Athletes' Winning Ways: Our athletes are keeping busy this season with races from *Sun Valley* to *Stevens Pass* and have been burning up the hill. *Kayleigh MacGregor, Kye Moffat, Alexandria Oseland, Cai Yamamoto, Lila Lapanja, Riley Plant, Molly Leavens, Hannah Hunsaker* and *Samantha Busby* have all won podium time over the past month with their impressive races. These kids are all great examples of future Olympians. We'll be seeing their names in the IOC records one day soon.

FAR WEST SKI FOUNDATION

Far West Donates Money to Women's Ski Jumping Team: The Far West Ski Association (FWSA) and the Far West Ski Foundation in their Surge for Sochi campaign jointly donated \$5,000 to Women's Ski Jumping USA. FWSA has actively supported women's ski jumping since 2009 sending letters of support to the US Olympic Committee, Federation International Skiing, and the International Olympic Committee. In 2009, *Deedee Corradini*, President of Women's Ski Jumping USA was the recipient of the FWSA Snowsports Builder Award. World Champion ski jumper *Sarah Hendrickson* was the 2012 recipient of the FWSA President's Award.

Vern Sprock Scholarship: *Verne Sprock*, developer and operator of Sierra Ski Ranch for 40 years, died February 10 in a nursing home in Montana aged 93. Verne and his late wife Bobbie were honored as Snowsports Builders in the 2013 FWSA convention. His daughter Kathy and son Peter are creating a multi-year scholarship in their father's name through the Foundation for the ***FWSA Athletic Scholarship Program***.

Rehab and Adaptive Grants: Acknowledgments of Foundation grants have been received from the Vail Veterans Program and the Snowbasin Adaptive Sports Education Foundation (SASEF). *"During the January 2014 Family Program, January 26 - 30, 2014, the Vail Veterans Program hosted 24 wounded United States military service members, their spouses and family, which included 43 children."* VVP has scheduled a ski week Mar 2-6 for adult service members plus one guest.

FAR WEST CHARITIES & OUR COMMUNITIES

Charities and Community Service Recognition: FWSA encourages all clubs and councils to get involved with charities and community service. The Charities and Community Service Recognition Program has been recognizing clubs for their charitable work at each convention for the past eight years. Information regarding this wonderful program, and how easy it is to apply for this recognition, can be obtained on the Far West website: www.fwsa.org. The top 3 clubs will be invited to display a picture board at Convention. From these three, the winning club will receive \$300, and the two runner-ups will each receive \$100 to be donated to the charity of their choice. In addition, we now award \$100 to the top ski club council, which will also display a picture board of their charity activities at Convention. All groups that apply will be recognized at Convention. FWSA also has the "Honor Roll of Clubs and Councils Supporting Charities" program, listing all groups who are involved with any kind of Charity & Community programs. For more info, contact SigridNoack atsig4ski@earthlink.net.

FAR WEST TRAVEL

Far West Ski Week 2015: Reservations can soon be made for the North American Ski Week to **Whistler Blackcomb**, January 31 to February 7, 2015. A fun week is being planned by our travel staff, along with Ski.Com and all the folks at **Whistler**. The council trip leaders and travel staff returned last month from their Site Inspection and will have full details to us soon. Watch for further updates in the News Flash, or contact your own council's trip leader for more information.

Register on Line for South Africa: To sign up for the South Africa Trip, which is set for September 5-16, 2014, with an extension to **Victoria Falls** September 16-20, 2014, go to FWSA's new interactive website at: <https://fwsa-connect.herokuapp.com>, click the "sign up" link to create a new account; click on the "confirm" link in the email you receive and then use your new account or "login". Look in the Trips menu to sign up for our trip to Africa. You can also view the trips you have signed up for and make online payments using your PayPal account on your credit card. Space is limited, so register NOW. Click on the link to view the Safari video on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/SzDrEr7Llhg>. Contact Debbie Stewart for more details at: fwsaintltrlv@prodigy.net.

FAR WEST SKI WEEK 2014

What a great week we had at *Beaver Creek*! We had 483 people including our FWSA travel staff and representation from nine of our councils. Top representations were from BAC with 132, Orange Council, with 73 people, and Sierra with 67. We also had 17 FWSA BOD and FWSF members at ski week. Great parties, great picnics and thanks to a lot of local businesses in Beaver Creek and Avon, we had some great prizes given away at Sunday's Welcome Party.

Thanks to the number of Far West racers who showed up for the Monday's Beaver Creek GoPro Race series, the race department boasted their largest race numbers at a recent Ski Week. Congratulations to Sierra Council for sweeping the race awards: Cabernet Ski & Race of Truckee received the Joe Ross (Top Club) award and Sierra Council received the Lake Louise (Top Council) Award.

The Far West Athletic Scholarship raffle was another success, raising a total of \$2,400 for the program. *Jack Scott*, of Intermountain Council was the lucky winner of a **Karbon** ski suit made specifically for him for next year. Congratulations, Jack!

A shout out to Far West's incredible Travel Staff, all of the Council's Trip Leaders, and our host, *Tommy Geary* of Vail Resorts, as well as *Stephen Hall* and *Sandy Gaudette* of SkiGroup.Net. Thank you for showing us a wonderful time!

PROTECT OUR WINTERS LAUNCHES THE POW RIDER'S ALLIANCE

Protect Our Winters announces the launch of the *POW Riders Alliance*, a group of 53 of the world's top alpine, nordic and freeskiers, snowboarders, mountaineers and polar explorers, all committed to fighting climate change. "Professional athletes are the core of Protect Our Winters – arguably, no other group has better first-hand experience with the progression of climate change and its impacts on global snowpack and mountainous regions, and certainly no other group has a greater cultural influence on the global winter sports community," says Chris Steinkamp, POW executive director.

The group is comprised of global athletes including Olympians Gretchen Bleiler, Kikkan Randall, Nate Holland, Callan Chythlook-Sifsof, Andrew Newell and Steven Nyman, pro snowboarders Nicolas Muller, Danny Davis, Arielle Gold and Jamie Anderson, freeskiers Chris Davenport, Ingrid Backstrom and Kit Deslauriers and mountaineers/explorers Emily Harrington and Eric Larsen. Also joining the group is Wang Lei, a professional snowboarder from Beijing, China. See the entire list: <http://protectourwinters.org/riders-alliance>. "As a group, we're touching every remote corner of the world at any given time, seeing climate change impacts in various ways," states World Cup skier and US Olympian, Steven Nyman. "Climate change is affecting our lives and careers and it's in our best interest to use our passion to mobilize the community and bring a new perspective to the policy discussion." The POW Riders Alliance was developed as a central platform for athletes to speak out and create a social movement against climate change. For example, POW recently led a group of 17 athletes and brand representatives to Washington, D.C. for meetings with US Senators and has reached over 20,000 young students with a message of climate action delivered by pro athletes. POW believes that by combining the athletes' passion with their influence, first-hand experience and immense media reach, it represents a new, powerful approach to environmental advocacy. The Riders Alliance have launched an initiative to call attention to climate change on the world's largest sports stage in Sochi, Russia in partnership with a group of graduate students from the Yale School of Forestry.