

# Far West News *Flash*

August 2014

*Far West Ski Association*

## WHO & WHAT'S NEW FOR 2014

"The Voice of the Western Skier"



**Women's Ski Jumping Summer News:** *Jessica Jerome* picked up her 11th National title at this summer's U.S. Ski Jumping Competition in Park City, Utah on August 2nd with a win in the large hill competition. *Nita Englund* and *Tara Geraghty-Moats* took 2nd and 3rd place, respectively. The 16th Annual Springer Tournee, held the same weekend, netted *Jessica* a first place on the 90-meter course, with teammates *Sarah Hendrickson* and *Nita Englund* placing 2nd and 3rd. The Fly Girls are off to a great start for the coming season. The normal hill Championships will be held in October, during the Flaming Leaves Tournament in Lake Placid, New York.

**Bear Valley Mountain Resort Has Proposed New Owner:** Skyline International Development Inc. signed an exclusive purchase agreement with the current *Bear Valley* ownership group. It hopes to partner with the Bear Valley Mountain Cooperative in future resort development. Skyline CEO Michael Sneyd sees a partnership between the co-op and Skyline as a key element in ensuring *Bear Valley's* future as a viable and productive resort operation. To make the operation profitable, they must continue to improve the brand in the Bay Area and bring back the ski-area visits that *Bear Valley* used to enjoy. Richard Lubin, Far West's Safety Chair, stated "If you've not ever been there, Bear Valley has an interesting attribute...the steepest part of the mountain (single and double black diamonds) is the bottom half, below the main lodge. It has the tendency to be regarded as a beginner and intermediate resort. There is some very steep and challenging terrain. One can drive there from the bay area without going over any summit, thus making it accessible even during storms. Hooray for Bear!"

**Park City Mountain Resort:** In the on-going eviction battle of *Park City Mountain Resort*, Talisker Corp., through their attorneys for the Canyons and Vail Resorts say that they will not dispute a halt of the eviction process if PCMR posts a bond that will cover the lease, interest and legal expenses for 2014-15. That exact amount remains in question. With *Park City's* ski trails leading right into the town, the City of Park City is on edge, not knowing the certainty of the resort's future. Fearing a dramatic decline in the local economy, business owners and public officials have urged a compromise after PCMR announced that if Talisker prevailed, it would deny access through the base area it owns and they would remove chairlifts from the leased land. Powdr Corp spokesperson, Krista Perry says "We hope that Vail and Talisker will work with us in proposing a reasonable bond to the Court so the 2014-15 season will proceed without interruption." The next court hearing is set for August 27th, 2014.

## FAR WEST SKI FOUNDATION

**Far West Ski Foundation Plans for Giving:** Everyone gives to their favorite cause or charity in some way or another each year. For organizations, a plan of action for raising funds for a favorite cause has to be laid out well in advance in order to mobilize necessary resources and execute the plan. The Far West Ski Foundation is both a destination and a channel for worthwhile snowsport programs, worthwhile in that they have a long term effect. The Foundation focuses on four principal target areas. First are the athletic programs for young people, including scholarships for scholar-athletes, and support USA Women's Jumping. Support here in the \$10,000-15,000 range is needed annually. Second is support to programs advancing the use of on snow rehabilitation for wounded servicemen and the broader public. Finally, the Foundation supports learning about the contributions of snowsports to the world through museums. Contributions may be made online at: [www.farwestskifoundation.org](http://www.farwestskifoundation.org) or by mail to FWSF, Box 861, Fallbrook, CA 92088.

## FAR WEST TRAVEL

**Far West Dive Trip:** The FWSA 5<sup>th</sup> annual scuba dive trip will be October 11-18, 2014 to *Occidental Grand Cozumel Resort* on the great island of *Cozumel, Mexico*. The price is \$1,138 for divers and \$758 for non-divers. Price includes 7 nights at the Occidental Grand Cozumel (2 persons in a deluxe room), all meals and drinks including alcohol!. The dive price includes 5 days of 2 tank boat dives and unlimited Nitrox. Contact Randy Lew at 530-304-0802 or [fwsa13randy@telis.org](mailto:fwsa13randy@telis.org).

**Far West Ski Week 2015:** Reservations are being taken now for the North American Ski Week to *Whistler Blackcomb*, January 31 - 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 are taking payments now for this incredible once-a-year trip. See all of the information on our website ([www.fwsa.org](http://www.fwsa.org)) or check with your own council trip leader to get all the scoop.

**Far West Mini Ski Week 2015:** This trip to *Whitefish Mountain Resort*, March 30 - April 4, 2015, includes 3-4 days of skiing, lodging at Grouse Mountain Lodge, both Welcome and Farewell Parties, and optional activities such as snowmobile tours, day spa, Glacier Park tours, dogsled adventures, sleigh rides, and more. Check out the Travel Section on the Far West website.

**Far West Mississippi River Trip:** June 19 - 23, 2015 with an additional two days June 23-24, 2015 in *New Orleans*. This trip will be a 3-night roundtrip paddleboat cruise aboard the American Queen from New Orleans. It will be a "Southern Culture Cruise" with stops at Oak Alley Plantation and Baton Rouge, LA. Trip includes all meals, wine/beer with dinner, soft drinks, water, and coffee. Also included is 1 night at a local hotel before the cruise. It includes transfers to the ship, steamboat-style entertainment, daily lectures, and a Welcome Party. June 23-24th will be at the New Orleans Hotel Bienville House. New Orleans tour options include airboat/swamp tours and ghost/paranormal tours. See the Far West website for further information.

**Far West International Trip 2015:** *Val d'Isere* will be the destination of the 2015 International Ski Trip with a pre-trip to Paris, March 10-14, and a post-trip to Provence and the French Riviera March 21-28, 2015. More information will be coming.

**Far West Ski Week 2016:** *Telluride Ski Resort* has been selected as the location for the Far West Ski Week trip in 2016. Telluride presented their bid at the recent Far West Convention, held in Bend, Oregon. Congratulations to Telluride and tour operator, Ski.Com for their successful bid. The council trip leaders will be planning a site inspection to Telluride in January of 2015.

**Far West Mini Ski Week 2016:** *Crested Butte Mountain Resort* will be the destination for the Far West Mini Ski Week trip in the early spring of 2016. Stay tuned for more information to come.

## **FAR WEST COUNCIL NEWS**

**BAC Annual Tailgate BBQ/Oakland A's Game Coming Up:** On Saturday, August 23, 2014 the Bay Area Snowsports Council will hold their 9th Annual Tailgate BBQ/Oakland A's Baseball Game & Fireworks Show. **This event benefits *Disabled Sports USA, Far West Division, located at Alpine Meadows.*** This event will again be supported by *Vail Resorts*, as they have supported it in previous years. An expected 150 or more people will be attending the event.

**Sierra League Racing:** The Sierra League and Bay Area Council's Open and Singles Leagues are close to having their 2015 race schedule set. They will be racing at *Alpine Meadows, Squaw Valley, Northstar* and possibly *Sugar Bowl* this year. The Far West Racing Association NorCal and SoCal leagues will compete at the annual championships March 28-29, 2015 at *Mammoth Mountain Ski Area*.. All the league race directors will meet in *Mammoth* on August 23rd for their annual summer meeting.

**Orange Council Annual Picnic:** Orange Council is planning their annual picnic on Saturday, October 11th from Noon to 4 pm at Newport Beach Park. They will provide the hotdogs, hamburgers and dessert, and a whole lot of fun! Come check out the tennis courts, basketball courts, or just hang out with all your favorite ski buddies for the day! RSVP to your club rep by October 6th.

## **SNOW MISSING FROM NEW ZEALAND SLOPES**

Ski operators throughout New Zealand are feeling the effects of the country's warmest start to the Southern Hemisphere winter since record-keeping began in 1909. Traditionally, a group of small ski areas that rely entirely on natural snow, many are facing steep financial losses this year. The areas are typically run as nonprofits. They are kept open not only by tourist dollars but also from the work of enthusiastic volunteers. The country's largest ski areas have managed to open only because they've invested in equipment to make their own snow, which they've been doing this year in unprecedented quantities. For now, at least, that's helped protect the nation's reputation as a winter play land, one that each year attracts more than 60,000 skiers and snowboarders from Australia alone from June to August when it is winter south of the equator. While one bad season doesn't prove a trend, it comes at a time when scientists say the country's snow pack and glaciers are melting at an alarming rate due to climate change. The *Craigieburn Valley Ski Area* is one of several areas that haven't opened for a single day this season, and some fear there may not be enough snow to open at all this year, something that hasn't been done in more than 30 years.