



WHO & WHAT'S NEW FOR 2014-2015

Far West Board Meets: The Far West Ski Association (FWSA) conducted its winter Board of Directors meeting December 5-7, 2014 at *The Cliffs Lodge* located in *Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort*, Utah. Far West is appreciative of the sponsorship of The Cliffs Lodge and Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort who provided a big part of the success of the FWSA winter meeting. We also wish to thank *Alta Ski Area, AJ Motion Sports, Canyon Transportation, Ski City and Visit Salt Lake, Hyatt Place Cottonwood, Hyatt Place Sandy, and Crystal Inn Hotel and Suites* for their hospitality and support for our highly successful meeting.

Learn to Ski Month: January is learn to ski and snowboard month and western resorts, both large and small, are preparing to greet newcomers who want to enroll in beginner lessons. A variety of learning programs in Washington, Oregon, California, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, New Mexico, Colorado and Utah are being offered at special prices during January. Details on all programs and more are available on the **Learn to Ski and Snowboard Month** web site. Many of the resorts are offering up prizes of trips and product for anyone who helps newcomers sign up for beginner lessons from professional instructors. The "Bring a Friend" challenge began December 1st, and runs through February 28, 2015.

Vail Resorts Details Plan in Utah: *Vail Resorts* has announced details of the company's planned upgrades to Park City Mountain Resort for the 2015-16 ski season that will create the nation's largest single ski resort in Utah. The plan is one of the largest capital development programs in U.S. ski industry history. The key component of the plan will, for the first time, connect *Park City* with nearby *Canyons Resort*, creating the largest single ski area in the country with more than 7,300 acres of skiable terrain.

Deer Valley Proposes Gondola: Once Vail Resorts completes its planned connection of Park City Mountain Resort (PCMR) and Canyons Resort this summer, Park City will become a two-resort ski town. PCMR already has the Town Lift to carry skiers to the slopes from Park City's historic downtown district. Now, *Deer Valley Resort* is proposing to move forward on a ski lift link of its own to bring its guests to the heart of the Utah

FAR WEST SKI FOUNDATIONS

Far West Ski Foundation Supports Vail Veteran's Program: Far West has been a supporter of the Vail Veteran's Program for some time. In paying tribute to so many veterans this past Veteran's Day, we heard from Brigadier General Pete Dawkins (U.S. Army, retired) and his wife Judy: "Of all the wounded warrior-type undertakings, the Vail Veterans Program is unique. Begun 11 years ago, it concentrates on two specific features. First, to show the individuals that, despite the limitations of their injuries, they can still lead active, energetic lives. Many arrive discouraged and despondent, but find to their astonishment that new avenues of activity they never dreamed of are available to them. Second, the Vail Veterans Program approach makes a special effort to include and involve husbands, wives, kids, parents, and

caregivers. What is sometimes missed is the understanding of just how much families benefit from being a part of it all, and how powerful the reassurance and encouragement is that comes from the collective spirit of family."

We have made grants this month to the Vail Veterans Program and the DREAM Adaptive Recreation. We need to continue our support of on-snow rehabilitation using adaptive techniques and our support to women's ski jumping. (WSJ has inaugurated its Fly Girls program to bring young girls up in the program, following their presence at Sochi). We have not made a grant for jumping yet this year. This is our most immediate campaign challenge. We have only two weeks left in this calendar year. If you wish to add your support to the Foundation's four missions - scholarships, rehab, women's jumping and snowsport legacy - please send your contribution to John Reinhardt, [6105 SW Sheridan, Portland OR 97225](mailto:6105_SW_Sheridan_Portland_OR_97225) or if you are a paypal user, send your contribution to FWSFPresident@gmail.com.

FAR WEST CONVENTION NEWS

Save the Date: *The San Diego Council of Ski Clubs* will be hosting the 83rd Annual Far West Ski Association Convention at the luxurious **Town and Country Resort & Convention Center, San Diego, California** from June 4-7, 2015. Make plans to arrive early and stay late to take advantage of all that San Diego has to offer.

Optional events on Thursday will feature a Historic Trolley Tour of San Diego, the Seal Tour on San Diego Bay and a very special evening Sunset Dine Out on the USS Midway. Friday events include a golf tournament, kayaking, biking, and a trip to the San Diego Zoo.

Make your room reservations now!! Call 1-800-772-8527 or book online at our FWSA room reservation site at <http://bit.ly/FWSA-lodging>. When calling for a room reservation, be sure to reference our group name - Far West Ski Association. Our special group rate offers a choice of accommodations in one of the high-rise towers, or a charming garden bungalow. Free Wi-Fi in guest rooms is included. For complete details about all the *Salute to San Diego* - Convention meetings, educational seminars and events, visit www.fwsa.org. The website for the Town and Country Resort & Convention Center is located at www.towncountry.com. For additional information, contact Eileen Sanford, Host Council Convention Coordinator at esanford1@san.rr.com. FWSA industry partners can contact Debbi Kor, FWSA VP of Marketing and Sponsorships at fwsadebbi@comcast.net.

FAR WEST CHARITIES

Charities and Community Service Recognition Program: FWSA encourages all clubs and councils to get involved with charities and community service. Changes were implemented for the 2014/15 Charity Recognition Program by creating two different levels of application for Clubs: There will be the Novice and the Masters award. Any Club that has won first place in this wonderful Recognition Program in a past year will apply in the Masters category. All other Clubs will be in the Novice category. The 2 separate levels will hopefully give all groups an added incentive to apply, and then to apply again. The first prize in each Club category will be \$200 and for second place \$50. The Council award remains the same, with one category and with a \$100 recognition for first place. All prizes will be donated to the charity of the Clubs and Council's choice. The top 2 Clubs in each category and the winning Council will be invited to display a picture board at Convention. All groups that apply will be recognized at Convention.

Information and applications can be obtained on the Far West website: www.fwsa.org regarding this wonderful program, and how easy it is to apply for this recognition. For any Charity & Community Service questions, contact Sigrid Noack at sig4ski@earthlink.net.

FAR WEST TRAVEL

Far West Ski Week 2015: Any last minute takers for our annual North American Ski Week, which will be held in **Whistler Blackcomb**, in 2015? The dates are right around the corner...January 31 - February 7, 2015. A fun week of activities is being planned by our travel staff, along with Ski.Com and all the folks at *Whistler*. There will be plenty of skiing, a Welcome Party on Sunday, February 1st, a Pub Crawl, a picnic on the mountain, a Mountain Rally, and the Awards Apres Party on Friday, February 6th. The council trip leaders are taking payments now for this incredible once-a-year trip. Check out the YouTube video that George Stewart has prepared for this trip at <http://youtu.be/wtafu4AQE0U>

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 International Trip 2015: We are still looking for people for our **Val d'Isere** trip in 2015. This International Ski Trip comes with a pre-trip to Paris, March 10-14, the main trip March 14-21, and a post-trip to Provence and the French Riviera March 21-28, 2015. There are actually 5 options for this trip: a) Paris & Val d'Isere; b) Val d'Isere Ski Week; c) Paris, Val d'Isere and Provence/French Riviera; d) Val d'Isere and Provence/French Riviera. Paris will NOT be sold alone, but you can do a Stand Alone trip to Provence and the French Riviera. (FWSA can assist you with transportation on a case by case basis). Contact Debbie Stewart for part or all of this incredible trip: fwsaintltravel@prodigy.net.

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 SKI COUNCILS

Los Angeles Council's Snow Gala: Eighty-four members attended LA Council's Annual Snow Gala on November 1st at the Woodland Hills Hilton Hotel. Fun, food, dancing and prizes were all part of the event, along with a silent auction put on by the Unrecables. They raised more than \$800 to help with this season's disabled athlete's ski events. A California Gold Pass was one of the items auctioned off, with one-half of the \$775 proceeds donated back to the Unrecables. *Margaret Zlotinicki*, treasurer of Coneo Ski Club, won the Grand Prize for the evening...a trip to Far West's Ski Week in Whistler. Way to go, Margaret! The evening culminated in the crowning of the council's Man and Woman of the Year. *David Felker*, Century

City Ski Club took the honor of LA Council's Man of the Year, while *Karyn Phening*, Wailers Ski Club was crowned Woman of the Year. Congratulations to you both!

Ski Club Council: Sierra Council held their annual Holiday Party on Saturday, December 13th. They've used this particular occasion, for the past several years, to announce their Man and Woman of the Year who will represent them at the convention. They only had a Man of the Year nominee for 2015, and that man is *Peter Olsten*, from Reno Ski and Recreation Club. Jo Simpson, President of Sierra Ski Club Council wanted to pay a special tribute to *Donn Bryant* before she presented the plaque to Peter....

"Before presenting the Sierra Council Man of the Year award for 2014, I would like to recognize *Donn Bryant* for his many years of service as Man and Woman of the Year Chair for the Far West Ski Association. Donn brought a number of changes into the program to make it better and to allow all our council honorees at the convention to feel special. Donn, we thank you for your leadership, your service and your dedication to the program."

FAR WEST SKIER'S GUIDE

Far West Skier's Guide Digital Edition: Have you checked out the digital edition of the 2014-2015 *Far West Skier's Guide*? It can be accessed from the Far West Ski Association's website at www.fwsa.org or through the following link:

<http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/farwestskiersguide/2014-15/>. In addition to the entire printed issue, the digital edition also has a 24 page digital only insert featuring more information and articles of interest to skiers, boarders and active adults for year around activities. Please pass the link on, place it on your websites and also put it on your Facebook pages. Past DE issues have been viewed by snow enthusiasts around the world. Enjoy!

**** Happy Holidays ****

from all your friends at Far West Ski Association