

September, 2017

*Far West Ski Association*

## WHO & WHAT'S NEW FOR 2017-2018

**Amtrak Adds Winter Park Experience:** Beginning Friday, January 5, 2018, Amtrak will once again offer rides to *Winter Park* for the ski season. It will also run Saturday and Sunday through March 25, 2018. Each train can carry 500+ riders through the historic *Moffat Tunnel*, which exits in Grand County at the base of the ski area. The cost will be \$29 each way for adults, less for children 2-12. Round Trip fares may also be purchased. Check with Amtrak for reservations.

**Class of 2017 Inductees to U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame:** The announcement of the eight members of the incoming class of 2017 was made on Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup> in Ishpeming, MI. They are: *Ed Ferguson, Herman Gollner, Mary Hall, Mike and Steve Marolt, Steve McKinney, Shaun Palmer and Thom Weisel*. The new inductees will bring the total to 435 Honored Members in the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame. Squaw Valley Alpine Meadows has been selected as the resort site of the 2018 induction ceremony of the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame and the Snowsport History Celebration. The induction will take place at The Resort at Squaw Creek in the Grand Sierra Ballroom on Saturday, April 14, 2018, topping off the culmination of four days of activities at the Village at Squaw Valley during the April 12-15 Snowsport History Celebration which attracts hundreds of skiing history enthusiasts and recreational skiers.

**NOW Is The Time To Buy Your Ski Pass:** The first snowflakes are coming to the mountains in Colorado, so it's time to get serious about that ski pass. The time is NOW to commit and buy. Resort operators don't sell season passes once the lifts start turning. With the rapid consolidation of the resort industry into now two major players this summer — *Vail Resorts* and the yet unnamed partnership between *Aspen Skiing Co.*'s owner and *KSL Capital* — the diversity of pass options will fade a bit in 2018-19, so this is the last chance to find a truly tailored pass that fits precise needs. Between now and mid-October, you can purchase: a Winter Park Pass, a Route 40 Pass, a Copper Pass, Arapahoe Pass, Eldora Pass and a Monarch Pass. NOT to mention...the EPIC Pass (until October 8<sup>th</sup>), Rocky Mountain Super Pass, and this doesn't even count your own local mountain pass. Get it done today!  
**Pro tip: Go ahead and spend the \$20 on pass insurance. It is the \*only\* way to get refund.**

## FAR WEST TRAVEL

**Far West Annual Ski Week 2018:** February 3-10, 2018 are the dates set for the next Far West Ski Week, which will be held in *Banff*. Known for its exceptional natural beauty, wildlife, and incredible landforms, Banff is an awesome place to ski. Whether you ski at Sunshine, Lake Louise, or Mount Norquay, you will get an event-packed week of skiing, apres parties, a Welcome Party, Awards Dinner and much, much more. Contact Nancy Ellis @ [fwsatravelnancy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fwsatravelnancy@sbcglobal.net), or your own council Trip Leader.

**Far West International Trip 2018:** There is *still room* on the 2018 International Trip to *Les Trois Vallees*. The dates are March 3<sup>rd</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018 for the main part of the Ski Week. The optional extension, to *Lyon, Beaune, and Paris*, will begin March 11, and end March 18, 2018. Contact Debbie Stewart @ [fwsaintlrvl@prodigy.net](mailto:fwsaintlrvl@prodigy.net), or go online [www.fwsa.org](http://www.fwsa.org) for more information.

Debbie is also looking into an Adventure trip for October, 2018 to India, and working on RFP's for a 2019 ski trip to Japan, and a 2020 trip to Davos. Stay tuned.

**Far West Annual Mini Ski & Adventure Week:** February 25-March 4, 2018 are the dates set for the next Mini Ski Week at *Alyeska Resort*, and in Anchorage, at the *Captain Cook Hotel*. Located 40 miles north of Anchorage, Alyeska is set in the Chugach Mountain wilderness. A fun place to ski, and the hotel Alyeska, a wonderful ski in/ski out place to stay.

Anchorage is the site for the ceremonial start of the Iditarod dog sled races. We will stay at the Hotel Captain Cook, in downtown Anchorage. Many optional events will be made available, such as a wildlife tour, dog sledding, glacier walk, glacier cruise, heli-skiing/cat skiing, sleigh rides and much, much more. Contact Gloria Raminha @ [garski2011@gmail.com](mailto:garski2011@gmail.com).

## FAR WEST COUNCILS

**Los Angeles Ski Council of Ski Clubs:** October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017, LA Council is doing a fun event at Dockweiler State Beach. A representative from *Trikke* will be out to demonstrate their product. The *Trikke* is an electric stand-up tricycle designed for street use, and can also be outfitted with skis. Come check it out. The Annual Snow Gala is set for Saturday, November 4, 2017 at the Sportsman's Lodge in Studio City.

LA Council is going to be very Busy ... with a Capital "B".... during the month of February. It seems that the week of February 3-10, 2018, will definitely be the busiest week in the entire season for the group. The Buckhorn Ski Club will be travelling to *Big Sky, Montana*, for a week of skiing. The Council is taking a group to *Banff* for the Far West Ski Week, while LBSC is doing a trip to *Steamboat* at the same time. Wow, how do you choose which trip to go on?

## FAR WEST CONVENTION

**Nine Months And Counting:** Wow! This sounds like we're having a baby. And, I guess we are. At least, a happy event is being planned nine months down the road, in lovely Reno, Nevada. The 2018 Convention, being co-hosted by Sierra League and Council along with Bay Area Council of Ski Clubs, will be held June 7-10, 2018 at the Atlantis Resort and Casino Spa. A lot of fun things are being planned, along with our usual Silent Auction, Travel Expo, Educational Seminars, Panel Discussions with local experts on forestry, ski areas, and other issues, a great Keynote Speaker, and just a good time for everyone. Make your reservations now:  
<https://reservations.travelclick.com/98418?groupID=2016540>.

## FAR WEST SKI FOUNDATION

**FAR WEST SKI FOUNDATION:** Far West Ski Foundation is the skiers' way to support important investments in the future of snowsports. Those programs that our Foundation supports are the *U.S. Women's Ski Jumping*. Women ski jumpers are training now for the 2018 Winter Olympics in *Peongchang* next February. *The Far West Athletic Scholarship Program*, which helps many young athletes with a leg up to further their race training. Several Alpine ski racers, under the age of 20, are selected yearly on merit by the expert FWSA committee. Lastly, is the *Vail Veterans Program*. Grants help take care of today, as well as tomorrow, by enabling the disabled through on-snow rehabilitation techniques with the objective of adaptive skiers and boarders always being with us, and by bringing the story of winter sports and their immense effects on our society and economy in the 150-plus years since the origin of organized skiing in North America in the mining camps of California. You can use *PayPal* to direct your fee contributions to the Far West Ski Foundation. Or use our website [farwestskifoundation.org](http://farwestskifoundation.org). Funds are needed to make grants before the snow flies! And remember, your contributions are tax deductible.

**Reasons For Shipping Skis vs Travelling With Them:** The more we travel to ski resorts, whether it be throughout the U.S. or internationally, all of us, at some point, have considered whether it makes more sense to travel with your skis as part of your luggage, or take an easier route, and ship them. Here are just a few reasons that it would be easier to ship them: Flying to a lot of ski areas, means flying on small planes. Small planes mean your luggage (i.e. SKIS) won't necessarily get to the resort the same time you do. Think of the hassles of luggage check-in...having to take them to the "over-sized" area, and picking them up the same way. Flying internationally...lots of delays or changes mean you may have to decide.."do I grab my skis or do I run for my flight"? Not having a suitable bag to carry your skis in. Your destination is outside the 'delivery area' that your arrival airport is willing to deliver to. So.....SHIP THEM! And, ship them with one of our own Member Benefits Partners....

**Ship Skis Has Increased Their Discount to FWSA Members:** *Ship Skis* has been a Member Benefits Partner for Far West for a year now. As we head into our 2<sup>nd</sup> year with them, they have generously upped their discount to us. Now, all FWSA members will receive 10% off any skis or golf clubs shipped through them. Please check them out at: <http://www.shipskis.com/fwsa>.