

Far West News *Flash*

January, 2018

Far West Ski Association

HAPPY NEW YEAR, 2018 !

National Ski Safety Month: January is *National Safety Month* at ski resorts across America, and Colorado Ski Country USA (CSCUSA) member resorts are hosting safety-related programs across the state. Every year, Colorado's ski resorts hold safety demonstrations and programming to educate guests about best safety practices and remind skiers and riders, whether they are new to the sport or long-time veterans, that each skier or rider is responsible for ensuring they stay safe on the slopes. January events include ski patrol demonstrations, avalanche safety training, visits with resorts' highly trained avalanche dogs, and helmet and safety giveaways. After years of raising awareness about the importance of helmet use, 83 percent of skiers in Colorado wore a helmet during the 2016-17 season.

Another key aspect of National Safety Month at Colorado ski resorts is raising awareness about the importance of skiers and snowboarders following the **Your Responsibility Code:**

- Always stay in control, and be able to stop or avoid other people or objects.
- People ahead of you have the right of way. It is your responsibility to avoid them.
- You must not stop where you obstruct a trail, or are not visible from above.
- Whenever starting downhill or merging into a trail, look uphill and yield to others.
- Always use devices to help prevent runaway equipment.
- Observe all posted signs and warnings. Keep off closed trails and out of closed areas
- Prior to using any lift, you must have the knowledge and ability to load, ride and unload safely.

Big Air (Bags): *Progression Airbags*, great big, pillow-soft, inflatable air bags as big as 200 feet long, are being used by athletes for training purposes, allowing them to attempt tricks in a realistic setting with decreased risk of injury. These creations are in fact, ultra-durable; they resist sharp ski edges and ski poles and they've also been used by professional snowmobilers, motocross riders, BMX and mountain bikers, all with heavy-duty equipment. The bags come in a variety of shapes and sizes, but, only three of the 200-foot variety have been produced. Two of those three bags are currently in use at "dry-slope" facilities—one outside of *Montreal, Quebec*, the other in *Park City, Utah*—and only one has been integrated into a true snow park.

Inflating and setting-up these bags on snow is extremely difficult. The terrain park-building experts at *Mammoth Mountain* are credited with achieving the feat, and no one is surprised; it's the sort of park-building prowess that attracted the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Teams to Mammoth many years ago and kept 'em coming back each year since.

Being the official training grounds for the U.S Ski and Snowboard Teams is something Mammoth takes great pride in. *Mammoth Mountain* has supported free-skiing formally since it introduced the *Mammoth FreeSki Team* back in 2000. Since then, Mammoth has hosted ten-plus years of Grand Prix Olympic qualifying events. Mammoth has also served as the naming site for both the 1998 and 2014 Olympic snowboarding teams, and will serve as the naming site of the *Pyeongchang*-bound free-ski and snowboard squadrons in the **2018 Winter Olympics**.

Meet Alterra Mountain Company: *Alterra Mountain Company*, headquartered in Denver, was created when affiliates of KSL Capital Partners, owners of Squaw Valley Alpine Meadows in California, and Henry Crown and Company, owners of Aspen Skiing Company, purchased Intrawest, Mammoth Resorts, and Deer Valley Resort in 2017.

The destinations that make up *Alterra Mountain Company* are spread throughout five states and three Canadian provinces: Steamboat and Winter Park in Colorado; Squaw Valley Alpine Meadows, Mammoth Mountain, June Mountain and Big Bear Mountain Resort in California; Stratton in Vermont; Snowshoe in West Virginia; Tremblant in Quebec, Blue Mountain in Ontario; Deer Valley in Utah; and CMH Heli-Skiing & Summer Adventures in British Columbia. In the coming months they will announce new season pass products that will provide access to all of its existing mountains, plus many additional benefits.

FAR WEST TRAVEL

Far West Annual Ski Week 2018: *Hope you will be joining us!* February 3rd, a group of about 250 Far West skiers will be headed to *Banff* for this year's annual Ski Week. 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, or your own council Trip Leader if you a last-minute-planner and still want to go.

Far West International Trip 2018: There is a *wait list* for the 2018 International Trip will be to *Les Trois Vallees*. The dates are March 3rd to 11th, 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 @ fwsaintltrvl@prodigy.net, to be placed on the. She has been able to place some of the folks on the existing list, so if you're even **remotely** thinking about it, give her a shout.

Far West Annual Mini Ski & Adventure Week: *Last Chance*...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*. **Sign-ups after January 24, 2018 will be based on room availability.** 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 and the Fur Rendezvous. Many optional events will be made available, such as a wildlife tour, dog sledding, glacier walk, glacier cruise, heli-skiing/cat skiing, sleigh rides. Contact Gloria Raminha @ garski2011@gmail.com.

Far West International Adventure Trip, 2018: Far West has executed a contract for an adventure trip to India. The dates are set for October 5-21, 2018. We will be visiting all the must-see places while in Delhi, Jaipur, and Agra. Of course, we'll be visiting the UNESCO world heritage site of the Taj Mahal. We'll also be traveling by air, motor coach and by train to get the true experience of India. Included will be Ranthambore National Park where we'll be on 2 animal safaris. Contact Debbie Stewart: fwsaintltrvl@prodigy.net.

This trip is limited to 35 participants, so mark your calendars now as the marketing materials are currently being prepared.

FAR WEST CONVENTION

FIVE Months And Counting: *The Bay Area Snow Sports Council and Sierra League and Council* have been busy planning the 2018 Convention, to be held June 7-10, 2018 at the Atlantis Casino and Resort Spa. We'll have rafting on the Truckee River, our Annual Michael German Golf Tournament, a day hike in South Lake Tahoe, a Spa Day, and other fun things 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>.

We asked -- and we are getting results, but we still need our FWSA family to help us. We now have a BAC Volunteer Coordinator, Maarten Vandemeer, of Modesto Ski Club, but it **really does take a village to host a convention!!** If we can get a lot of **helper-bees** for the myriad of tasks, it will spread out the work and make the convention fun for all of us. Get **YOUR club** to help out with registration and pub crawl sign-in on Thursday afternoon, get optional event participants onto busses Friday morning and registration on Friday afternoon. Helping hands are needed throughout the convention to take meal tickets, staff hospitality suite events and many small tasks that will take only a short amount of time and help to lighten the host councils' load. Contact the convention host coordinators: Jo Simpson, jo_simpson@sbcglobal.net and Paul Vlasveld, pvasveld@comcast.net.

SOMETHING NEW.... For any current members of this *Yahoo Group*, or any **NEW** members who sign up between now and **March 1st**, your names will be entered into a drawing. The winner will be awarded a **PAID Convention Registration (\$159)** to the 2018 Far West Ski Association Convention in Reno, Nevada, June 7-10, 2018. All you have to do is email me, at fwsadebbi@comcast.net and let me know that you are interested in coming to convention, or want to join as a new member to receive

the monthly *Far West News Flash*.

FAR WEST SKI FOUNDATION

We're less than two weeks away from *PyeongChang* and we may get 3 or 4 ski jumpers on the Olympic quota for USA. Sarah Hendricksen is in, with two other possibilities and one additional jumper on the cusp. Thank you for your support to the missions of the Far West Ski Foundation. We have helped US Women's Ski Jumping to get this far with great possibilities.

Now is the time to think of Alpine scholarships, Adaptive and museum support. We want to make our grants before the snow flies.

Ingrid Wicken of the Cal Ski Library has been selected to receive the *Skade* award from ISHA for her book on the 50 years of jumping in California. She has also contracted to write a new book on the Lost Ski Areas of Northern California. She will need help with some names of vanished areas.

FAR WEST SKIERS GUIDE

Skier's Guide Now Available: The 2017-2018 Far West Skier's Guide has been printed and distributed to affiliated FWSA Councils. Check with you Council for copies. The Digital Edition is available online for everyone to view. In addition to the content in the printed edition, the digital edition also contains a digital only 28-page insert - with several videos. Access the *2017-2018 Far West Skier's Guide Digital Edition* from the Far West website (www.fwsa.org), directly at: www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/farwestskiersguide/2017-2018 or the skifederation.org/ website under the western council membership section. Contact Leigh Gieringer at fwsg2@cox.net to be included in the *2018-2019 Far West Skier's Guide*.