2014 - 2015 FAR WEST SKIER'S GUIDE

Snowboarding: Extreme Sport to Mainstream

Memories of Val d’Isère & Tignes

FWSA Ski, Board & Adventure Trips Offered

Serving All Snowsports Enthusiasts

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FAR WEST SKI ASSOCIATION

"The Voice of the Western Skier"
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THEY’RE ALL WORLD CLASS.

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The 6th Annual FWSA Dive Trip will be to Fiji in 2015. photo / Randy Lew

REGIONAL:

Sugar Bowl - a Lake Tahoe favorite - offers endless options for families and adventure enthusiasts like this snowboarder riding through the trees. photo / Sammi Side Productions

LEFT: Plans for future ski trips are being made and finalized. Besides the large FWSA Ski Weeks, many councils and clubs organize their own. Telluride is the site of the 2016 North American Ski Week. photo courtesy of Telluride Ski Resort

RIGHT: The band “Thrillride” played. Everyone danced! A great time was had by all at the 82nd Annual FWSA Convention. photo / Emilio Trampuz
Join the Fun with the Far West Ski Association!

by Linda Scott
President, FWSA

Greetings, and welcome to the 27th Edition of the Far West Skier’s Guide! This magazine will provide you with information to find like-minded friends who ski and board, while helping you plan to explore new places and have fun adventures with members of the Far West Ski Association.

We are a non-profit, volunteer organization that is one of the country’s largest ski associations. Our member councils represent skiers and boarders in 12 western states including Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. We have over 50,000 members, so if your ski club is affiliated with one of these councils, you are a member of FWSA!

If you like snowsports, you have come to the right place! Our member clubs have active, year-round social and recreational events, including ski trips, recreational ski racing, water skiing, hiking, river rafting, dinners, theater, cruises, diving, biking, softball, wine tasting, camping parties and just about any other fun activity. FWSA and its member clubs and councils are the place to join with other active social people, and get discounted rates for your favorite events. You can visit our website www.fwsa.org, or follow us on Facebook to learn more about our growing and vibrant organization.

Far West Ski Association is offering several fabulous trips during the 2015 calendar year. We kick off the year with our FWSA Ski Week during the week of January 31 - February 7, 2015, where we ski and have fun in Whistler Blackcomb, in beautiful British Columbia, Canada. If you are looking for a shorter ski trip, we will be traveling to Whitefish, Montana, from March 30 – April 4, 2015 for our FWSA Mini Ski Week. If you are interested in international travel, from March 14 – 21, 2015, we are off to Val d’Isère, France, preceded by a four night trip to Paris, followed by an optional extension to the Provence area of France. But that’s not all! We recently returned from a fun and exciting African Safari and a visit to Victoria Falls, followed by a dive trip to Cozumel, Mexico. You can be a part of all of this, and more, by joining a FWSA member club and council. In addition, our member clubs and councils offer their own trips and activities, so you can find friends and visit new places whenever you are ready to go. So let’s go!

From June 4 – 7, 2015, we will host our 83rd Annual FWSA Convention in San Diego, California at the beautiful Town and Country Resort & Convention Center. We have something very special planned for you on the evening of Thursday, June 4. Arrive early so you don’t miss this incredible event. We are planning a wonderful, outdoor cocktail party and dinner on the deck of the USS Midway, a San Diego landmark! Make your plans to arrive a day early and sign up for this incredible, once-in-a-lifetime, opportunity.

On Friday, we will offer lots of fun events including our 9th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament, kayaking in La Jolla Cove, biking at Mission Bay, and much more. The Convention will have special guests, a keynote speaker, and a silent auction and travel expo where you can learn more about snowsports and gather information that will help you plan ski trips for next year. On Saturday night, we will have music and dancing and an Awards Banquet to recognize outstanding achievements in snowsports. In addition to all the fun, we host a Snowsports Leadership Academy where we offer seminars in ski club leadership and management, safety, and snowsports trends. We also host a Public Affairs Panel with special guest speakers that are not to be missed! So, I look forward to seeing you in San Diego. This fantastic weekend of events is hosted by San Diego Council of Ski Clubs, so save the dates and make your reservations soon.
FWSA has a working relationship with the Far West Ski Foundation. The Foundation is a public benefit corporation, a nonprofit and tax exempt organization under IRS category 501(c)(3). It is through the Foundation that we work to support our Athletic Scholarship Program, Skier Rehabilitation Program, Snowsports History Program, and Women’s Ski Jumping. The Foundation is growing, and we will continue to work hard to make each year more successful than the last. On behalf of the Foundation, I say “Thank You” to all of our generous donors who have made the Foundation strong.

Thank you to all of our volunteers who contribute countless hours of time and expertise to our organization. Also, we could not have the outstanding level of success, year after year, that we achieve without the generosity and support of our industry partners and sponsors. Thank you for all you do on behalf of FWSA!

I look forward to seeing you on the slopes, and at our 83rd Annual Far West Ski Association Convention in San Diego, California. Great things are happening at Far West Ski Association, and I look forward to seeing you soon!

The FWSA offers many programs and activities throughout the year. These are just a few! TOP LEFT TO BOTTOM RIGHT: The Annual FWSA Convention, (Doug Miller / Photo Visions); Adventure Travel, (American Queen™ Steamboat Company); Race Competitions, (Bob Ellis/Ken Calkins); Annual Ski Weeks, some with pre and post travel opportunities, (Ken Calkins). The 2015 Convention will be held in San Diego. (The Town and Country Resort)
2014 - 2015 Council Information

Please check council websites for dates, times & locations of council meetings.

Arizona Ski Council
8862 East Cholla
Scottsdale, AZ 85260
President: Arleigh Meiners (480) 391-2612
E-mail: arleighmeiners@cox.net
Website: www.arizonaskiclubs.org

Bay Area Snow Sports Council
PO. Box 6480
San Jose, CA 95150
President: Dennis Heffley (925) 998-4415
E-mail: baapresident@skibac.org
Website: www.bayskiclubs.org

Central Council of California
1635 Canyon Crest Lane
Paso Robles, CA 93446
President: Fran Long (805) 712-5781
E-mail: fancat87@gmail.com
Website: www.centralcouncilskiclubs.org

Intermountain Ski Council
PMB 131, 10400 W. Overland Road,
Boise, ID 83709
President: Paul Markowitz (208) 850-9962
E-mail: pmarkowitz@cableone.net
Website: www.intermountainskiclubs.org

Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs
PO. Box 2045
Glendale, CA 91209-2045
President: Sandra Knapp (323) 793-7946
E-mail: lacpresident@lacouncil.org
Website: www.lacouncil.org

Northwest Ski Club Council
5331 SW Macadam Avenue
Suite 258, Box 438
Portland, OR 97229
President: Steve Coxen (503) 679-9022
E-mail: president@nwskiers.org
Website: www.nwskiers.org

Orange Council of Ski Clubs
11252 Earlham
Orange, CA 92869
President: Sheila Van Gulder (714) 656-6032
E-mail: svanguil@yahoo.com
Website: www.orangecouncil.org

San Diego Council of Ski Clubs
PO. Box 17496
San Diego, CA 92177
President: Tom Boudgard (619) 884-3848
E-mail: tabundgard@hotmail.com
Website: www.skisandiego.org

Sierra League and Council
1691 Ashbury Lane
 Reno, NV 89523
President: Jo Simpson (775) 787-7556
E-mail: jo.simpson@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.sierraleague.com

There are many times during the year that FWSA councils and members interact including the Annual Convention hosted by different councils each year: Doug Miller / Photo Visions

FWSA Council Services Support Clubs

by Jo Simpson
Vice-President of Council Services, FW

Council Services represents the grass roots of the FWSA — our club members. The Vice President, Council Services works with the presidents of the nine FW

Council Services oversees the following programs and committee chairs: Club and Council Communication and Outstanding Club Awards, Councils’ Man and Woman of the Year Recognition, Charities and Our Community, and Family and Youth Involvement.

The Club and Council Outstanding Newsletter and Website competition is undergoing a change for the 2015 Award. Instead of classifying entries by club size, we will classify them by the experience of the newsletter editor or webmaster. The new classes are Novice, Expert and Masters with the entries classified by the number of previous first, second and third place awards won by the submitt

Our Club and Council Communications Awards Chair, Crissymarie King, is doing an outstanding job with this program. She has made the application and judging completely web based and is working hard to make it easy to use for all computer skill levels.

The FW

Noack, highlights the good work our clubs and councils do to benefit their communities. This program is also changing how clubs are classified for awards competition. There will be two categories for 2015, Novice and Masters, based on previously won awards. The considerable charity and community work of FW

The Charity and Community Service recognition program, chaired by Sigrid Noack, highlights the good work our clubs and councils do to benefit their communities. This program is also changing how clubs are classified for awards competition. There will be two categories for 2015, Novice and Masters, based on previously won awards. The considerable charity and community work of FWSA clubs is further detailed by Sigrid on pages 44 - 45.

The Councils’ Man and Woman of the Year is a wonderful way for clubs and councils to honor their outstanding volunteers. We are enormously grateful to Donn Bryant, for his passion in chairing the program for many years. Gene Fulkerson is the new chair. The competition involves councils each selecting a man and woman from their member clubs to be honored at the FWSA Convention. The Councils’ Man and Woman of the Year selections are based on a number of factors addressed in their submitted resumes and interviews at the convention. The 2014 council candidates and the FW

Most of us joined a ski club to meet and socialize with active people who like to ski and to take advantage of group ski trips to interesting resorts. The mission of Council Services is to provide our
discuss and finalize the Annual Convention hosted by different councils each year. As you can see, this is an important event for our councils and members. We hope you will take advantage of the many opportunities to be involved.

The 2015 Convention will be held in Reno, Nevada on April 23-25, 2015. There will be a variety of activities and events, including a Welcome Reception, a plated dinner with keynote speaker, an awards ceremony, and a charity auction. We encourage you to mark your calendars and plan to attend.

In addition to the Annual Convention, the FWSA also hosts several regional events throughout the year, including Regional Ski Show Contests, Regional Meetings, and Regional Save the Date Contests. These events provide opportunities for members to connect with others in their area and to network with other council presidents and program chairs.

One of the main goals of Council Services is to support and connect council presidents, program chairs, and their volunteers. We provide a forum for sharing ideas and best practices, as well as

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National Ski Council
Federation Brings Councils & Clubs Together Nationwide

by Jo Simpson
Public Affairs Chair, NSCF
Sierra League and Council, President

The Far West Ski Association and member councils enjoy the benefits of belonging to the National Ski Council Federation (NSCF). The Federation provides Far West Ski Association councils an opportunity to interact with ski councils in the central and eastern United States to exchange ideas and receive valuable information for our member clubs. The Federation meetings are structured to provide a forum for council and ski industry representatives to discuss subjects of mutual interest. The 2014 Annual Meeting in September was hosted by the Westgate Park City Resort in Utah.

The Federation provides a variety of benefits to ski club members. Members of ski clubs that belong to the Far West Ski Association are automatically members of the Federation. Ski clubs can access the Members Only section of the Federation website to get templates for by-laws, requests for proposal for trip bids, club officer job descriptions and other documents that clubs can adapt to meet their unique needs. The user name and password for the Members Only section are available from council presidents. The Federation also offers members a variety of attractive discounts on items such as ski rentals, lodging, car rentals, and a variety of ski gear. The discount listing also is in the Members Only section of the website. The Federation is launching a completely renovated website with expanded information and improved navigation. Check it out!

The Federation was formed in 1999 to provide councils an opportunity to exchange information and to discuss among themselves and with the ski industry important issues that impact clubs and councils throughout the United States.

The Federation elects officers every two years. The current officers are: President, Joe Harvis (New Jersey Ski Council); Vice President, Dennis Heffley (Bay Area Snow Sports Council); Treasurer, Cheryl Mann (Texas Ski Council); and Secretary, Lisa Beregi (Crescent Ski Council – Eastern U.S.). Like FWSA, the Federation is completely operated by volunteers.

For detailed information regarding the NSCF, including participating councils and member resources and benefits, visit our newly-designed website at www.skifederation.org. The digital edition of the Far West Skier’s Guide is also available on the federation website.

Ski council and industry representatives at the NSCF Annual Meeting at the Westgate Resort in Park City, Utah. Photo / Bob Wilbanks / National Ski Club Newsletter.

2014 WESTERN REGION SKI & SNOWBOARD SHOWS
compiled by Jane Wyckoff

NOVEMBER

SNOWBOMB Ski & Snowboard Festival - San Francisco
November 1-2, 2014
Fort Mason Center, San Francisco, CA www.snowbomb.com

Park City Ski Swap
November 7-9, 2014
Basin Recreation Field House, Park City, UT www.parkcityskiswap.com

Colorado Ski & Snowboard Expo
November 7-9, 2014
Colorado Convention Center, Hall F, Denver, CO www.bevisports.com/expos/denver/

SNOWBOMB Ski & Snowboard Festival - San Jose
November 8-9, 2014
San Jose Convention Center www.snowbomb.com

Portland Ski Fever & Snowboard Show
November 14-16, 2014
Portland Expo Center, Portland, OR www.portlandskifever.com

Ski Dazzle Seattle
Ski Show & Snowboard Expo
November 14-16, 2014
Century Field Event Center, Seattle, WA www.skidazzle.com/seattle.htm

SnowJam Ski & Snowboard Expo
November 14-16, 2014
Del Mar Fairgrounds, Del Mar, CA www.snowjamshow.com/Shows/Sd

University of Nevada, Reno Ski Swap
November 14-16, 2014
Grand Sierra Resort, Reno, NV www.unrskiswap.com

SNOWBOMB Ski & Snowboard Festival – Sacramento
November 15-16, 2014
Cal Expo Center, Sacramento www.snowbomb.com

DECEMBER

Ski Dazzle Los Angeles
Ski Show & Snowboard Expo
December 4-7, 2014
LA Convention Center, Los Angeles, CA www.skidazzle.com/losangeles.htm

FWSA DIRECT MEMBER APPLICATION 2014-2015

Direct membership is available for an individual or family who is NOT a member of a FWSA-affiliated snowsports club. Members of FWSA affiliated ski clubs are automatic FWSA members. Membership is effective through September 30, 2015.

DIRECT MEMBER BENEFITS

- FWSA Membership Card
- Member Benefits & Discounts
- Copy of the annual Far West Skier's Guide
- Online access to The Councilman subscription
- Invitation to the Annual FWSA Convention and Silent Auction
- Participation in FWSA Travel Program, and more.

ANNUAL DIRECT MEMBER DUES:
$30 per member; $50 per couple; $60 per family.

Please copy form and fill it out. Make checks payable to FWSA and mail to: Far West Ski Association c/o Jane Gutierrez, VP - Membership, FWSA.
P.O. Box 5714, Inglewood, CA 90310 323-755-9158 / vpmembership@fwsa.org

Name:
Address:
City, State, Zip:
Home Phone #:
Daytime Phone #:
Fax #:
E-mail:
Signature: Date:

Are you interested in information about ski or snowboard clubs in your area? Yes □ No □

The Value of Connection
by Jane Gutierrez
Vice-President of Membership, FWSA

As a child growing up in the Bronx, the only snow that I saw was what I trekked on to go to school. Money for travel was scarce, so I began to dream of where I could go. When I left the inner city to go to college, the world began to open for me. I met people who traveled on a regular basis, one who introduced me to the sport of skiing at Mammoth Mountain. Although I did not ski again for 8 more years, the adventure of this outing made me feel active and alive. After getting my college degree and establishing my career, I decided to try skiing again by joining a ski club. Through research I found one of the biggest urban clubs in the country, Four Seasons West Ski and Snowboard Club. I took many lessons. I learned to race and began competing through the Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs. Through the council, I raced in one of the largest regional organizations that exist today: the Far West Ski Association. I have skied and traveled all over the world through these organizations. The lifelong friendships that I have developed over the years are priceless!

If you have run across a snowsports organization and have been considering a membership, why not try it now? For a nominal fee, you can join your local club and allow them to open up a new world of living for you, your friends, and your family. Joining a club means training and support when you are learning snowsports. Many clubs offer hiking, biking, camping, and many other activities during the summer. There are friendly people to travel with and share the finances of gas and lodging. There are member benefits and discounts that we can provide for you. Want to travel around the world? As you peruse through this magazine, note some of the fantastic travel opportunities that we provide at great value.

How can you join? If you refer to the club section of this magazine, find the council that corresponds with your city. Club listings are under each council section. Check out their websites and Facebook pages to see if the club can fill your needs, or give the President a call! If club membership is not an option, then try direct membership. For a nominal fee, join Far West Ski Association as a direct member and receive the same benefits, especially the fabulous travel opportunities available. Once you become a member, you will receive a FWSA membership card, which you can use for discounts on ski equipment and lodging at ski resorts. There are many more benefits provided, including the FWSA travel program that you will truly enjoy!

The value of connection can provide you with lifelong opportunities, experiences, and friendships. Let us connect with you!
Recognizing Our Many Far West Partners

by Debbi Kor
Vice-President of Marketing, FWSA

A partnership is typically a relationship involving close cooperation between parties having specified and joint rights, responsibilities and benefits. In the Far West world, it is the close working relationship that we have with our many ski industry friends and family throughout the western United States and Canada.

Partnership and sponsorship is an integral part of our organization, as we experience each year at the FWSA Convention. We rely on sponsorship for the great golf tournament, the fun-filled Pub Crawl and other activities, as well as, meals, beverages and entertainment at our Awards Banquet on Saturday night. In addition, our industry partners contribute many outstanding trips and adventure packages for the Silent Auction on Friday night.

The Far West Ski Association Annual Convention is the perfect vehicle for members and industry to share productive one-on-one-time. It provides our members the opportunity to meet and greet representatives from the resorts, lodging companies, and tour operators throughout the country. What better place to roll that all into one gigantic package? The industry can showcase their resort, club decision makers can plan trips, members can purchase ski and adventure packages, and everyone has fun!

Being a partner with Far West Ski Association presents bonuses to both our members and to our partners. Check out our website www.fwsa.org to see the plethora of member benefits available, by clicking on Member Corner/Benefits. Simply by showing your FWSA membership card, our members can enjoy discounted rates on lift tickets, ski rentals, clothing and lodging at some of their favorite ski areas. You'll find your ski trip can be made more pleasurable and affordable.

We have many wonderful lodging partners who offer up discounted rates, including The Peppermill Casino Resort, in Reno, Columbine Inn in Taos, and Best Western Cotton Tree, in Sandy, Utah. We also have a host of ski shops and services offering up reduced prices on ski rentals and gear including Ski Essentials, Twisted Bindings, and Powder House, in the Lake Tahoe area. If you’re headed to Steamboat, check into Go Alpine, for 20% off shuttle service from the Denver airport into Steamboat Springs.

Far West Ski Association values the continued support of our many program sponsors within the ski industry. Aspen Skiing Company, has been a long-time sponsor of the annual Far West Safety Award, honoring the person within FWSA who demonstrates strong promotional efforts to safe skiing and safety programs at the club and/or council level throughout organized events. Big White Ski Resort sponsors the Far West Councils’ Man and Woman of the Year Award, presented to outstanding individual council representatives who have made a major contribution to skiing and to their club, council and Far West. Steamboat Ski and Resort Corporation sponsors the Western Ski Heritage Award, recognizing outstanding effort in the area of ski history by historians in the identification of resource materials through the collection, preservation and protection of appropriate articles and material. Grouse Mountain Lodge, Whitefish Mountain Resort, and Schure Sports, Inc. have been long-time sponsors of the Far West Athletic Scholarship Program, a highly deserving award to many of our junior racers throughout the Far West. We thank you all, and we look forward to seeing you in San Diego, California in June, 2015.

If you are a vendor and would like to join Far West Ski Association as a Member Benefits Partner, or get involved as a sponsor with our organization, please contact me: fwsadebbi@comcast.net, or check our website at: www.fwsa.org/sponsoropportunities.
Youth & Family Involvement
by Fran Long
Youth and Family Involvement Chair, FWSA

Slip, Slop, Slide, Slither
With Saavy Snake
Sun Safety.
Protect the Skin you’re in!

Far West Ski Association continues to support the *Slip, Slop, Slide, Slither With Saavy Snake Sun Safety Program* as part of the Youth and Family Involvement Program. In an effort to continue building awareness of the dangers of sun over-exposure, Savvy Snake materials are made available to participants of ski shows throughout the western United States. The program’s major focus is on our young snowsports enthusiasts, and the need for them to be aware of the role they play in protecting their skin from too much exposure to sun and the damage it may cause. It may be cold and it may be overcast, but the level of sun exposure on the snow is extremely high. Further information on this worthwhile program can be found on the FWSA website.

FWSA encourages and supports youth and family involvement in most sponsored ski and adventure trips. If you are interested in taking your children, or grandchildren, under 21 years of age on an FWSA sponsored ski trip or adventure trip, visit the website for all the details. Thoughtful preparations to ensure the enjoyment you, your family, and those on the trip who did not bring their families along, have been made.

Families are welcome.
Check out the www.fwsa.org website for family travel opportunities!
The Far West Ski Association travel program offers trips for ski club and direct members to destinations in North America, Canada, and U.S. territories. Participants look forward to our annual Ski Week in January which is a week of skiing, parties with dancing, racing, and opportunities for shopping and winter activities in the area. This January, our Ski Week will be to Whistler Blackcomb, Canada, and in 2016, it will be in Telluride, Colorado. Past Ski Weeks have been to Beaver Creek, Aspen / Snowmass, Jackson Hole, Sun Valley, Keystone, Big Sky, and Steamboat.

Our annual Ski Week was so popular, that we added a second ski trip that is a five day late spring trip. It doesn't include as many planned activities to keep the trip more affordable. Participants have flexibility to explore the area on their own or participate in group activities. This March, we will be going to Whitefish, Montana, and in 2016 we will be going to Crested Butte, Colorado. Past trips have been to Mt. Bachelor, Oregon; Big White, British Columbia; and Snowbasin, Utah.

The North American Travel program also plans adventure trips every two years that are non-ski trips. Past trips have included summer trips to Mammoth Lakes with fishing, kayaking, and bike riding; a Panama Canal Cruise; and a Caribbean Cruise to the U.S. Virgin Islands, Bahamas, and St. Maarten. The adventure trip this June will be a Mississippi Riverboat Cruise with two days in New Orleans after the cruise. Participants will have opportunities to explore the New Orleans French Quarter with side trips to historical areas. More information can be found on the following pages and at www.fwsa.org.

Hope you will join us on one of our North American trips!
North American Travel

by Nancy Ellis
Vice-President of North America Travel, FWSA

Whistler Blackcomb, Canada is the Site of the 2015 FWSA Ski Week
January 31 - February 7, 2015

Far West Ski Association members will be heading to Whistler Blackcomb, located in British Columbia, Canada for the annual Far West Ski Week. This resort is consistently ranked the number one resort in North America and features the Peak to Peak Gondola which moves between Whistler and Blackcomb Mountains. The Peak to Peak Gondola holds the record for the highest and longest unsupported cable car span in the world.

Ondrea Ross with Whistler Blackcomb and Gloria Saiya-Woods with Ski.com along with Nancy Ellis and her travel staff have been working together preparing for an outstanding ski week. Participants will have the opportunity to ski or ride two side by side mountains with over 200 trails, 8,171 acres of terrain, 16 alpine bowls, and 3 glaciers.

Ski Week activities will consist of:
- Welcome Party
- Pub Crawl
- Races
- Mountain Picnic
- Awards Banquet and Dance
- Après Party, & more

Whistler Blackcomb Mountain Statistics:
- Combined 200+ trails
- Combined 37 lifts
- Combined 8,171 acres of skiable terrain
- 2,214’ Whistler Village base elevation
- Combined 16 alpine bowls
- Combined 3 glaciers
- Combined 5 terrain parks, 1 super pipe, and 1 snow cross track
- Terrain type: 15 - 20% beginner; 55% intermediate; 25 - 30% advance

This premiere resort features more than 200 shops, 90 restaurants and bars, and accommodations galore. It features a variety of winter activities for all, and was the proud host mountain for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympics games.

Check the FWSA website at www.fwsa.org for the Whistler Blackcomb flyer which includes details and information to sign up for this exciting trip.

If you're looking for more from your ski club vacation, look no further. Bring together incredible and varied terrain, over 38 feet of snowfall annually, the best ski school, endless shopping and dining options within a vibrant village; add luxurious new Village Gondola cabins. What more could you want?

Call Ondrea Ross at 1.888.932.3400 ext 3006
whistlerblackcomb.com/groups
Whitefish Mountain Resort, Montana
is the Site of the FWSA Mini Ski Week
March 30 - April 4, 2015

Welcome to Whitefish, site of this year’s FWSA Mini Ski Trip. This resort overlooks Glacier National Park and is 15 minutes from the quaint town of Whitefish. We’ll be staying at Grouse Mountain Lodge which offers complimentary shuttle service to the mountain several times a day and boasts a variety of amenities to ensure a comfortable stay. Whitefish Resort is located at The Big Mountain in northwestern Montana, west of Glacier National Park in the Flathead National Forest. There are plenty of activities - snowmobile tours; Summit Nature Center; day spa; Glacier Park tours; Dogsled Adventures; and sleigh rides. Adult trip package prices range from $380 - $600 and includes:

- Airport transfers
- 3 or 4 day lift tickets
- Shuttle to ski resort
- Welcome Party
- Farewell Party

**Whitefish Mountain Resort Statistics:**
- Summit Elevation: 6,817'
- Vertical Drop: 2,353'
- Base Elevation: 4,464'
- Average Annual Snowfall: 300”
- Terrain: 3,000 acres
- Marked Trails: 98
- Degree of Difficulty:
  - 15% Beginner;
  - 35% Intermediate;
  - 40 Advanced;
  - 10% Expert

This trip will provide participants with an authentic Montana experience. An information flyer and registration forms are available on the Far West Ski Association website: www.fwsa.org.

They call it “The Big Mountain” for a reason with 3,000+ acres. The on-mountain Ambassador program offers daily tours. Let them unlock the secrets of this vast terrain.

photo courtesy of Whitefish Mountain Resort

For Group Rates & Proposals
Contact: SALES@SKIWHITEFISH.COM
SKIWHITEFISH.COM
877-SKI-FISH

there are the good old days.

There’s still a place where fresh powder lasts, locals make you feel at home and your dollar goes further.

Welcome to Whitefish.
2015 FWSA Adventure Trip
Mississippi River Cruise - New Orleans
June 19 - 25, 2015

This is the perfect journey for those looking for a brief encounter with the historic south. Experience plantations, historic sites, and southern cuisine in less than a week. The trip starts with a day in New Orleans to get you into the spirit of being in the south, followed by four days on the American Queen paddleboat where you will have stops at Oak Alley Plantation and Baton Rouge, before returning to New Orleans. Spend two more days in the French Quarter, exploring local activities, cuisine, and entertainment.

Adult package prices $2,050 - $3,150 and includes:
- 1 night New Orleans hotel (6/19 - includes transfers to ship)
- Welcome Party
- All meals while on cruise
- Shore excursions; daily lectures
- Steamboat style shows
- 2 nights New Orleans Bienville House French Quarter Hotel (includes continental breakfast)
- Farewell Party

Optional Activities:
- Premium shore excursions available
- Airboat/ Swamp Tours in New Orleans
- Ghost/Paranormal Tours

The theme of the week is “Good Old Summertime” where we will have a relaxing cruise in a casual atmosphere — no formal wear required. Daily lectures by the Riverlorian will take us back in time and the antebellum spirit. Don't miss this unique experience on the only authentic steam-powered overnight paddlewheel riverboat in America! See details and sign up forms on the Far West Ski Association website: www.fwsa.org.

The largest steamboat ever built, the grand American Queen is both gracious and elegant. Combining the best of the Victorian Era and today's modern amenities, this beautiful lady of the river epitomizes the grace and grandeur that has made River Cruising a cherished American tradition for more than two centuries. LEFT: The American Queen is powered by her signature red paddlewheel. Photos courtesy of the American Queen Steamboat Company.
Telluride Ski Resort, Colorado, will be the site of the 2016 Ski Week, January 30 - February 6, 2016. This is a unique area in that the Town of Telluride sits at the bottom of the
Town of Mountain Village where Telluride Ski Resort is located. A free gondola connects the two areas and once here, one can get around easily without a car. There’s an abundance of restaurants and shopping both in town and on the mountain. Most of the resort lodging is ski in/out or steps to the lifts. The resort boasts no lift lines most days and plenty of cruiser runs. Flying to Montrose airport has gotten easier, so traveling to this resort for Ski Week should be much improved.

There are plenty of activities to keep one busy during the week: dog sled adventures; glider rides; helicopter and cat skiing; horseback riding; ice climbing; sleigh rides; Nordic skiing; sledding; snowmobiling; snowshoeing; and winter fly fishing.

Telluride Resort Mountain Statistics:
- 127 trails
- 18 lifts
- 2,000+ skiable acres
- Vertical: 4,425’
- Base Elevation: 8,725’
- Summit Elevation (lift accessible): 12,570’

Far West travel staff, council trip leaders, Patrick Rothe with Telluride Ski Resort, and Gloria Saiya-Woods with Ski.com will soon start preparations for what will be an exciting and enjoyable experience for Far West Ski Association members. Information about this trip will be posted on the Far West Ski Association website www.fwsa.org in February or March, 2015.

Fourteen thousand foot peaks provide a surreal backdrop for the historic town of Telluride. Along its storied mainstreet can be found a wide gambit of dining and après ski choices. A gondola ascends to the Mountain Village offering slope side lodging and the gateway to over 2,000 acres of varied terrain. This world class resort also provides a multitude of other activities including helicopter, back country and cat skiing for advanced snow riders. There are also trails available for Nordic skiing and snowshoers.

Telluride Ski Resort / Kaycee Clark

Looking forward to hosting FWSA in 2016.
2016 FWSA Mini Ski Week
Crested Butte, Colorado
Dates to be determined

We are excited to be traveling to the historic mining town of Crested Butte, Colorado. The dates for the trip are still to be determined. It will be a 5 - 6 day trip between March 19 - April 10, 2016.

There are few places that have the small town charm of this Colorado ski town. And, you will feel a difference immediately that sets Crested Butte apart from other mountain locations. The mountain resort also has a distinctive character from wide open green and blue groomed trails to more advanced long cruisers. There are also areas for the adventurous such as the famous extreme limits of the North Face and Headwall. This will be the perfect location for our trip - charming town, unique mountain with uncrowded slopes, along with fantastic grooming and snow conditions.

The Mini Ski Week Includes:

- Assistance with booking air
- Ground transfers arranged from Gunnison and Montrose to Crested Butte
- 3 or 4 day lift tickets
- Complimentary Shuttle to town
- Welcome Party
- Farewell Party

Crested Butte Mountain Resort Statistics:

- Summit Elevation: 12,162'
- Vertical Drop: 2,775'
- Base Elevation: 9,375'
- Average Annual Snowfall: 300'
- Terrain: 1,547 skiable acres
- Marked Trails: 121
- Degree of Difficulty: 27% Beginner; 57% Intermediate; 16% Advanced

There are many activities to fill one's free time such as the Zipline Canopy Tour, Sleigh Ride dinners, snowmobile rentals, dog sled tours, and winter trail rides. More information about the trip and pricing will be available in spring, 2015 on the Far West Ski Association website: www.fwsa.org.

Historic Crested Butte, situated in the East River Valley, dates back to the 1860s as a coal and silver mining center. Although the mines closed, the town survived since it served as a supply town to the surrounding areas. It wasn’t until the 1960s that the ski potential was tapped. Today, it is considered a true adventure ski destination. Join us!

photos / Crested Butte Mountain Resort / Top: JC Leacock / Bottom: Nathan Bilow

We believe that travel should be easy. It should be fun. It should be worth your time and have exceptional value. It should re-energize and transform...and above all else it should be beyond the ordinary. Our international travel team and I strive to provide you the trip that you deserve.

**2014 INTERNATIONAL SKI WEEK to ZERMATT, SWITZERLAND with an extension to BARCELONA & MADRID**

In March, 2014, we had a combined total of 118 international participants. Our FWSA International Ski Week in Zermatt, Switzerland was outstanding! In Zermatt, there were 108 participants who spent seven nights at one of three lodging properties. Each hotel offered a unique quality, as well as, overwhelming hospitality and a high level of customer service which was received by all. Then, 28 members enjoyed the extension trip to Barcelona and Madrid, Spain.

“Exciting, Tremendous, Decadent, Spoiled, Fantastic, First Class, Well organized, Taken care of, Bucket List, Fabulous, Best FWSA trip”...these are some of the comments our trip participants have said to describe their travel experience. Once again, approximately 35 - 40% of our trip participants were “first timers” on a FWSA International trip which indicated that we are reaching a new travel audience, and we definitely welcome our veteran, loyal FWSA international travelers.

Zermatt experienced six weeks of non-stop storms - prior to our arrival. We enjoyed beautiful sunny blue skies with amazing scenery all week long. Many skied, hiked, enjoyed optional day tours or just relaxed to soak up the warmth of the sun. The festive atmosphere was enjoyed by many. The Matterhorn stood out to all in her majestic glory whether you were viewing her from your room, the veranda, the mountain side restaurant, the street or up close on the base of her slope. This trip will be fondly remembered by many.

Many members took advantage of our guided optional day trips. Our first excursion went to the quaint town of Brig where we toured the Stockalper Castle and enjoyed the charming city. On Day Tour #2, we traveled to Bern, known for its famous bear park. No other city in Switzerland offers such a wonderful wealth of culture, leisure and entertainment like Bern.

The Clock Tower (Zytglogge) was Bern’s first western city gate (1191 - 1256) and is now one of Bern’s most important sites. Bern is truly a charming place to visit and to revisit when the opportunity arises.

Our third day tour was to Stresa, Italy on the day of their weekly open air market. The famous Stresa enjoys a splendid location on Lake Maggiore in the Gulf of Borromeo, where it overlooks the Eponymous Islands, the main attraction in the region. Its beautiful countryside, architectural gems and mild climate combine to make Stresa one of the most popular tourist attractions in Italy. We had a very enjoyable lunch outdoors and of course, gelato! After Zermatt, many returned to the US and others joined us to travel in Barcelona and Madrid, Spain. We spent four nights in Barcelona touring and enjoying the local culture, museums, architecture and much more. We then traveled to Madrid via the AVE high speed train where we then experienced their culinary delights including our daily gelato fix. The museums and tours were very interesting and informative. These adventure trips were fully escorted with tour guides and managers which gave us tremendous added value. Our tour guides were extremely attentive and very well experienced. We were so fortunate to have such qualified guides with us every step of the way.

**FWSA 2014 ADVENTURE TRIP to SOUTH AFRICA & VICTORIA FALLS**

The FWSA International Travel Program has embarked into a new era while offering FWSA’s first Online Trip Registration starting with our 2014 South African Adventure trip! We had 34 participants travel to South Africa touring the Garden Route from the Kariega Game Reserve to Cape Town. We participated in photographic safaris that offered the true experience of world-class game preserves while we searched to see the “Big 5” and many other animals and native birds in the wild.

Their dramatic landscape incorporated five different eco-systems and two major rivers. The Kariega Game Reserve is family owned and operated and comprises nearly 9,000 hectares of pristine wilderness. It is home to more than twenty-five species of game including leopard, lion, elephants, buffalo, rhino, giraffe, hippo, hyena, zebra, wildebeest and so much more. We also enjoyed more than 280 species of birds, including high soaring martial, crowned and fish eagles that nest on the reserve. After leaving South Africa, we flew to Victoria Falls which is one of the “Great Wonders of the World”.

We experienced a wide range of topography from plains to the mountains, to sandy beaches as well as a wide variety of history and culture. Many of us had Africa on our “Bucket Lists” as a destination that we have always wanted to experience while staying in top value 4- & 5-Star African lodges and hotels which offered us a unique African experience. This trip provided something for everyone – the adventurer, nature lover, animal lover, wine taster, historian, photographer and the shopper. While working with Alpine Adventures tour company, this trip was definitely an experience of a lifetime and one we will always remember!
2015 International Ski Week
Val d’Isère, France
March 14 - 21, 2015

Next year’s International Ski Week will be March 14 - 21, 2015 in Val d’Isère, France. We are working with Holidaze Ski Tours as our tour operator for this trip. It is truly a spectacular area which will offer our travelers a unique ski experience when one skis over the ridge to Tignes where their enormous ski area combined with Val d’Isère will be a skier’s paradise.

In conjunction with this Ski Week, we are offering an optional four nights, pre-trip in Paris - March 10-14, 2015 - and an extension trip to Provence/French Riviera - March 21-28, 2015. While in Paris, we will offer optional day tours to Normandy and Palace of Versailles. While in Provence, we will spend three nights in Aix en Provence where we will have a full day tour to Luberon and Lourmarin with wine tasting in the Provence Wine Region. We will then spend four nights in Nice, where we will have guided day tours including Eze-Village, the Principality of Monaco, Cannes, Grasse, St. Paul and more.

Espace Killy Ski Region
by Jimmy Petterson

The Espace Killy ski region, which is made up of Val d’Isère and Tignes, is, without question, one of the best ski resorts in the world. A large part of the resort is within the Vanoise National Park, a section of France with breathtaking views as well.

The stats for skiers are very impressive, with 96 lifts and more than 300 kilometers of trails. In addition, there is an abundance of variety with excellent terrain for all ability groups, from the complete novice to the most extreme freerider.

Situated high up in the Savoie section of the French Alps, Tignes and Val d’Isère are among the resorts in the Alps that invariably have the best snow cover. At 2100 meters (6,889 feet), Val Claret, the uppermost village of the Tignes area, is one of the highest ski resorts in the Alps and the skiing tops out on the Grand Motte Glacier that reaches the lofty heights of 3456 meters (11,338 feet). It is no wonder that the Espace Killy hosted the men’s downhill and some other ski competitions during the 1992 Winter Olympics in nearby Albertville.

Both ski areas were born in the 1950s, built around a nucleus of small existing villages. However, four of the five villages that
Due to its location, Val d’Isère and Tignes receive an abundant amount of snowfall from both the Atlantic depressions and the Mediterranean low pressure systems.

It is easy to ski between the two resorts, although for some people, who do not ski that fast, but nevertheless wish to explore each area fully, it might be best to start and finish the day with a 12-kilometer bus ride. In that manner, one can commute more quickly between the resorts and have more time left over to explore each area more thoroughly.

Espace Killy is truly a paradise for all ability groups. The upper slopes are most suitable for the lower ability groups and intermediates, while many of the runs that go down to the village of Val d’Isère will challenge the best skiers.

The possibilities for off-piste skiing in Espace Killy are enormous as well. There are close to 25,000 acres of off-piste terrain among the peaks that surround Espace Killy. Experts can test their skills on the challenging chutes like the Couloir du Pisteur, the Couloirs du Tufs, the Chardonnay Couloirs, the Couloir du Grande Balme and many more narrow powder passages. Meanwhile, there is also plenty of terrain as well for powder enthusiasts who wish to get off the beaten path without elevating their heart into their Adam’s apple. Nevertheless, many of the classic routes are not that easy to find. It would be advisable for powder hounds to enlist the services of a mountain guide.
FWSA's 2014 Annual Dive Trip:
The 5th FWSA scuba dive trip was held in October at the beautiful Occidental Grand Resort in Cozumel, Mexico. The participants enjoyed great diving, wonderful food, and the warm hospitality of this area. This all inclusive resort property was enjoyed by all. The divers experienced the unique reef system there which is the 2nd largest barrier reef in the world and saw dolphins, nurse sharks, reef sharks, turtles, stingrays, moray eels, lobster, crab, and large variety of fish including the invasive lionfish. The diver's package included all daily meals, non-motorized sports, 5 days of 2 tank boat dives with Pro Dive right on site, unlimited Nitrox and much more. Other activities that participants enjoyed were snorkeling, swimming, paddle boarding, kayaking, cycling, hiking and shopping. All FWSA dive trips are available for both diver and non-divers and is priced accordingly.

FWSA's 2015 Annual Dive Trip Destination: Fiji:
The 6th FWSA Dive Trip will be to Fiji! We are planning a primary week for 25 - 40 participants for both divers and non-divers alike and a post dive trip for the 2nd week limited to 16 people. This time, FWSA will be offering both a land and air package price to our participants to provide the best travel arrangements and service.

FWSA 2016 International Adventure Trip: England/Ireland
In the fall of 2016, we will be exploring the English countryside, days in London and traveling through Ireland for our bi-annual international adventure trip. Details to follow.

WHAT'S AHEAD? ...as we continue to listen to our members, we will be advancing our travel schedule much further in advance. Our 2016 International Ski Week will be to Italy and our 2017 International Ski Week destination will be to Austria. Mark your calendars now!

I have continued to work hard to rekindle travel company relationships and recruit new tour operators and agencies to join FWSA. These mutually beneficial relationships will benefit both parties as we continue to expand our travel programs and provide our members more and exciting choices as we grow. We saw several new faces attending this year's FWSA Convention including Alpine Adventures and Collette Travel.

Our International Travel Team and Travel Committee continues to reach out to our members garnering their feedback about their desires and how to meet their international travel needs for the future. Our commitment to capturing the imagination of our members, create adventuresome travel experiences with lasting friendships and memories continues to evolve.
Book with the experts!

Ski.com is the largest and most respected provider of mountain travel in North America, and our dedicated group department has a reputation that speaks for itself. Our team of experienced Group Specialists includes a roster of industry veterans who have a full understanding of the needs uniquely required by groups and decades of experience executing flawless group trips to the mountains. We have an acute understanding of which resorts and properties are most desirable for ski clubs, councils and events based on amenities, accessibility and activities. Additionally, our reputation, size and strength in the industry enable us to negotiate attractive rates with suppliers for deals on hotel and condominium properties, flights, car rentals, ground transfers, lift tickets, equipment rentals and more. All you have to do is decide where to go, and we will arrange all that is needed for your group - we can even coordinate memorable group activities and special dining functions. Planning and booking a ski vacation should be fun. We will take care of all the details, big and small.

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www.ski.com/groups
groups@ski.com

The Palace of Westminster or Houses of Parliament on the north bank of the River Thames is the meeting place of the House of Lords and the House of Commons. This tourist attraction has 1,100 rooms, 100 staircases and three miles of corridors. The Gothic styled building was erected in the 19th century, but only the Westminster Hall and the Jewel Tower remained as original structures as the rest was devastated by a fire in 1834. photo / Houses of Parliament, London / www.london-pictures.com

After receiving raving reviews about our first FWISA Travel video which highlights and features the values and benefits of traveling with FWISA, we now have three additional travel videos also including FWISA Travel overview, South Africa, Zermatt/Spain, Annual Dive Trips, Whistler Ski Week, and there will be many more to come. To view the videos go to: http://www.youtube.com/user/FarWestSkiAssoc/videos and search Far West Ski Association for our video collection. “Enrich your life and indulge yourself with adventures with FWISA’s International Travel Program.”

For updates on the FWISA International Travel Program: contact Debbie Stewart at: FWSIAntTTrvl@prodigy.net (559) 737-0882. And, visit the website at: www.fwsa.org
There’s a Racing Class for Everyone!  
Won’t You Join Us?  

by Bob Ellis  
President, FWRA / Vice-President of Racing, FWSA

League Race Chairs

BAY AREA SNOW SPORTS COUNCIL (BAC)
Open League  www.olrc.org  
Debi Phelps (530) 414-8503  
bmwrider8@yahoo.com

Singles League  www.slracing.org  
John Walsh (415) 596-7234  
johnwalsh37@sbcglobal.net

CENTRAL COUNCIL
Central League  
Jim Grady (805) 929-1334  
jjg2@pge.com

LOS ANGELES COUNCIL
ROKKA League  www.rokkaracing.org  
Laura Priess  
rokkaracers@aol.com

ULLR League  
Ken Kawahara (310) 944-0371  
ken.kawahara@verizon.net

NORTHWEST SKI CLUB COUNCIL
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Bruce Parshall  
racing@swskiers.org

ORANGE COUNCIL
Schusski League  www.orangecouncil.org  
Maxine Hanlon (714) 641-8513  
maxch@prodigy.net

SAN DIEGO COUNCIL
San Diego Alpine League  www.sdiskisandslalom.org/sdal  
Eileen Weiner (858) 454-1171  
eileenweiner45@yahoo.com

SIERRA LEAGUE AND COUNCIL  
www.sierraleague.com  
Nan Carnal (530) 550-5228  
nan.sierraleague@gmail.com

The first large Far West Racing Association event this year was at Beaver Creek in Colorado, the location of Far West Ski Week. The qualifier race and Slalom race went off perfectly, with the Slalom race being 55 Slalom gates with a wonderful variety of terrain on Bear Trap, a full FIS Slalom course. After two exhilarating runs, the winners in each class were celebrating. The next race of the week was the Giant Slalom, and after 28 inches of snow, for the first time in many years, we were forced to cancel the GS.

The next day it was still very soft, however we were able to complete the Dual Council Challenge GS Race with Sierra Council winning the Council Challenge and Bay Area Council taking 2nd and 3rd Places. In the overall points for the Slalom, Sierra Council took 1st, Bay Area Council was 2nd and Los Angeles Council was 3rd. Bay Area Council won the Costume Award, and the Joe Ross Award winners for top club were: Cabernet Ski and Race Club (Sierra Council) 1st, Modesto Ski Club (BAC Council) 2nd, and Reno Ski and Recreation Club (Sierra Council) was 3rd.

It should be noted that even though the GS was cancelled, the racers still had a great time skiing the vast terrain at Beaver Creek in the fresh powder. The Beaver Creek Race De-
2014 - 2015 FWRA Race Schedule

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<td>February 14-15</td>
<td>Clinics</td>
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PACRAT LEAGUE

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<td>April 5</td>
<td>Pacrat / Make up race, if needed</td>
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ROKKA/ULLR LEAGUES (SCHUSSKI & SAN DIEGO – SEE ULLR LEAGUE)

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ALL LEAGUES

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<td>Whistler Blackcomb, BC</td>
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Left: Awards for the Far West Racing Association Championships were presented at the FWSA Convention to: Paul Vlasveld, Race Director, Apres Ski Club, accepting the plaque for Open League - Most Points for Junior Racers; Sandy Knapp, President of Los Angeles Council accepting the plaque for ROKKA League - Most Points for Adult Racers; and Tom Bundgard, President, San Diego Council accepting the plaque and trophy for Alpine Race League - Roma McCoy Award for Most Points Per Racer. Photo Visions / Right: Racers prepare for a run down the course at the Beaver Creek Ski Week. photo / Ken Calkins

In early April, we convened at Mammoth Mountain for the Far West Championships with splendid racing weather and good snow conditions after several snowstorms. Beat Hupfer and his Race Department did a wonderful job of putting on all the races and setting the courses. This year’s Terry Smith Award winner, Brent Forsythe, was in charge of the Mammoth On-Hill Race Crew, and once again they performed with excellence all weekend long with all the courses.

In the Junior Division, Open League took 1st with 270 points. In the Overall Total Points for the Adult Division, ROKKA League took 1st with 1836 points, Open League was 2nd with 700 points, and San Diego League was 3rd with 563 points. The Roma McCoy Trophy winner was San Diego League with 18.16 points per racer, ROKKA League was 2nd with 17.78, and Open League was 3rd with 15.90.

This upcoming season should be full of fun, along with some challenging and competitive ski races for all levels of skiers or boarders. Everybody that participates has an opportunity to win their specific skill class. We have five separate age groups, 11 skill classes per age group, and classes are also broken down by men and women. Thus, we have a class for any ability skier or experience. Most of our race leagues allow for drop in racers, so they can try it out and experience how much fun it can be.

This year, we will have our first major event at Whistler Blackcomb for Far West Ski Week. We will have a Qualifier Race for new racers, a GS, a Slalom, and a Dual Council GS Challenge Team Race during Ski Week on the Blackcomb side of the mountain.

The Far West Championship Races will be held at Mammoth Mountain on March 27-29, 2015. Friday will be the Pacesetter Races and a Race Clinic, Saturday will be the Slalom, and Sunday will be the GS.

Kayleigh MacGregor was featured on the back of the T-shirts for the Far West Racing Association Championships this past April. The picture was taken by Susan Morning, as part of the Sharpshooter Image Program at Mammoth Mountain Ski Area. Kayleigh MacGregor is a recipient of the Far West Ski Association’s Athletic Scholarship program and is sponsored by the Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs. Kayleigh and her family attended the Far West Ski Association Convention in Reno in 2013, and was a guest speaker at the Luncheon. The FWRA plans to select another Junior Racer for the 2015 Finals, in promotion and support of the FWSA Athletic Scholarship program.

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Silent Auction Donors for the 2014 Far West Racing Association Championships

by Nancy Ellis
Financial Officer: FWRA

Far West Racing Association would like to thank all of the generous donors to the Silent Auction held at the 2014 Far West Racing Association Championships at Mammoth Mountain Resort. A portion of the proceeds helps fund the Far West Ski Association Athletic Scholarship Program.

Lauri Thompson – Sierra League
Maxine Hanlon – Orange Council & Schusski Race League
Mike Braun – Rossignol
Nancy Ellis – Sierra League
Rick Harrington – Servicon Systems
Garage Floor Coating
Mammoth Mountain Race Dept.
Bob Ellis – FWRA
Paul Vasivel – Open League
Ken Williams – ROKKA League
Debi Phelps – Garage Floor Coating
Mammoth Mountain Ski Area
Carson Valley Golf Course
Barbara McCabe – Singles League
Sherrie Marco – Schusski Race League
Lors Spicher – ROKKA League

ROKKA League’s 2014-2015 Ski, Board, & Race Camp
December 10th-12th, 2014 AND/OR January 7th-9th, 2015
Mammoth Mountain, CA
ROKKA camp is open to all racers, skiers, and snowboarders.
For more information:
818-800-3166 or ROKKARACERS@aol.com

Contact Laura or Michael in the Mammoth Sales Office for more information: 888.400.6867.
Fast adult California’s Premier Resort.
For passionate skiing families and adventure enthusiasts alike, Sugar Bowl-Royal Gorge offers an extraordinary mountain resort experience with four great mountains, endless cross country trails, a world-class ski team and academy, and a magical snowbound village.

Brent Forsythe, Mammoth Mountain Race Department, was honored with the Terry Smith Award

The Terry Smith Award is bestowed on an outstanding individual who has greatly contributed to the advancement of recreational ski racing. This award may only be received once. Only elected officers of Far West Racing Association, including race league chairpersons and past Terry Smith Award recipients, are allowed to nominate and vote. At the summer, 2014 FWRA Board Meeting at Mammoth Mountain, Brent Forsythe received the Terry Smith Award. Several board members gathered to do the presentation. BACK ROW (LEFT - RIGHT): Ken Kawahara, ULLR; Nan Carnal, Sierra; Bob Ellis, President; Laura Priess, ROKKA; Maxine Hanlon, Schusski; and Nancy Ellis, Treasurer. FRONT ROW (LEFT - RIGHT): Brent Forsythe, Mammoth Race Dept./recipient; Eileen Weiner, San Diego Alpine League.  photo / Bob Ellis

Who Is Terry Smith?

Terry Smith's intense love for the mountains first brought him to Mammoth in 1965 to work for Gus Weber in the Mammoth Ski School. But, an offer to become a ski instructor and race coach stole him off to Big Bear Mountain in Southern California where he became the assistant director.

Terry returned to Mammoth in 1971 to work as a ski instructor until 1974 when he was made assistant head of the Mammoth Race Department. Throughout his skiing career, Terry was very active with the Far West Ski Instructor’s Association. He was an examiner for its certification tests and served on its board of directors.

Terry handled all the public relations for the Mammoth Race Department and worked closely with the Far West Race Leagues. Terry originated and set up the teaching system for the race clinics and was responsible for putting on the village ski championships.

THE MOST SNOW IN TAHOE
SHORTEST LIFT LINES AND LEAST CROWDED SLOPES

For passionate skiing families and adventure enthusiasts alike, Sugar Bowl-Royal Gorge offers an extraordinary mountain resort experience with four great mountains, endless cross country trails, a world-class ski team and academy, and a magical snowbound village.
The Far West Ski Association Athletic Scholarship Program is entering its 11th year, growing from an initial $1,000 in scholarships in 2004 to almost $14,000 and 19 recipients in the 2013-2014 season. The total awarded since the program’s inception is approximately $76,000 to over 100 recipients.

The program is designed to provide financial assistance to junior ski racers throughout the western United States where FWSA has a presence. Applicants must be junior alpine ski racers affiliated with the United States Ski and Snowboard Association (USSA) and must participate in racing programs in states where FWSA has regional councils. These include California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Arizona, Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming. Scholarships are awarded based on financial need, athletic performance, academic achievement, and community service.

Skiing is an expensive sport and the costs involved in ski racing cannot be left up to the parents alone to incur. For younger athletes the costs are modest. However, for 16 through 20 year olds, where competition becomes national and even international, the costs can be significant. Without the help of outside resources, many junior racers simply cannot compete. Some examples of races the juniors are involved in include: the U.S. Nationals in California, the Nor-Ams in Canada and Colorado, the Wildwest Classic Elite FIS Series in Wyoming, the Alaska State Downhill Championships, and the Western Region Junior Championships in Idaho. It is not unusual for a top athlete to compete in 40-45 races during the regular winter season; virtually every weekend with the exception of the Christmas holiday.

For a top competitor, expenses can reach $20,000 per year. This is not a seasonal sport for these racers; it includes a full year of ski-related involvement. After the winter race competition has concluded, competitors engage in Dryland training; then off to summer camps. Camps typically run about $1,200 per week, not including transportation.

Winter training costs range from $1,000-$1,500 each season. Most applicants work part time between training, competition, school, work, and community service. Despite these demands, the average GPA for these recipients consistently exceeds a 3.9 average. Our scholarships are modest compared to the need, but they do make a difference in the overall scope of the resources they require.

The funding of the scholarships come from a number of sources: raffles, auctions, club and council partnerships, and direct contributions from club members, clubs, and councils. The FWSA has greatly benefitted from the generous support from its sponsors including: Whitefish Mountain Resort www.skiwhitefish.com, a year round winter and summer resort; Grouse Mountain Lodge www.grousemountainlodge.com, a premier choice in mountain resort accommodations; Schure Sports, Inc. www.karbon.com, maker of the Karbon line of snowsports apparel; and the Far West Racing Association www.fwra.com. Their contributions of vacation packages, snowsports apparel, and cash bring in approximately $10,000 per year as raffle and auction proceeds, as well as direct cash donations.

Our partnership program through clubs and councils afford us approximately one third of our scholarship funding each year. Finally, a few years ago, the Far West Ski Foundation - www.farwestskifoundation.org, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, was established as a valuable resource for encouraging tax exempt donations. For more information on the Far West Athletic Scholarship Program, please visit www.fwsa.org.
Remember These Four Passions of Snowsport

by John Watson
President, FWSF

The Far West Ski Foundation celebrates its 50th Anniversary this year. It continues to offer individuals and organizations a way to make donations with tax advantages to four principal snowsport missions. These missions range from international competition to support of aspiring junior competitors as well as the recognition of the importance of on-snow rehabilitation techniques and the preservation for educational purposes of museums devoted to snowsport history. All of the FWSF missions have a broad based, long term impact on snowsport and the Foundation provides a way for all skiers to focus their giving on these missions. Made your 2014 giving plans? See the ways to contribute at the end of these Foundation paragraphs.

1. US WOMEN’S SKI JUMPING & THE FLY GIRLS

The challenge to our national team for several years to come is to build and rebuild the team after four years of hope, disappointment and – finally – participation in the 2014 Olympics at Sochi, Russia. Several of our jumpers certainly will be back. Sarah Hendrickson, 2013 World Champion, is still rehabilitating from a knee injury last season and elected not to compete in the large hill national championship. Lindsey Van, 2009 World Champion, and Abby Hughes did not compete in the large hill national championship as both are still recovering from knee surgeries.

But, a new crew is coming up. They will be augmented by the Fly Girls. Nita Englund and Tara Geraghty-Moats placed second and third behind Jessica Jerome who won her 11th national title August 2, 2014 on the long hill at Park City, Utah.

Englund, 22, of Steamboat Springs, Colorado secured a third-place finish at the FIS Cup Ladies Normal Hill Individual Competition in Frenstat, Czech held August 30, 2014. Women’s Ski Jumping Teammate, Nina Lussi, 20, of Lake Placid, New York also had a strong showing, placing 5th in a field of 23 athletes from five countries. Englund soared 91.0 and 88.5 meters to earn 200.5 points and her podium finish. Lussi was close behind, jumping 90.5 and 85.5 meters in her two Saturday jumps, earning 187.5 points. Both Englund and Lussi also had excellent performances on Friday, placing 4th and 5th respectively out of a field of 22 women ski jumpers.

Fly Girls is a junior team program that feeds athletes into a sustainable pipeline from which the highest-caliber ski jumpers will one day be selected to join the National and Olympic teams. The Fly Girls program kicked off this summer with a five-week intensive training camp for rising stars in ski jumping ages 12-16. Keep these Fly Girls in mind when you think of supporting our women jumpers.
Gabby Armstrong, East Division; Kailey Bickner, Cara Larson, Mollie Immens and Hana Schrock of the Central Division; Samantha Macuga and Sophia Nester of the Intermountain Division; and Logan Sankey of the Rocky Mountain Division.

The FWSF has been working diligently throughout the years to help make Women’s Ski Jumping an Olympic event. Lindsey Van realizes her dream of competing at the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia. This was an historic first: The Olympic Women’s Ski Jumping competition debut.

Photo: Sarah Brunson / U.S. Ski Team

In July, 2013, the Foundation raised $2,500 for USWSJ exclusively from current and former officials of the Far West Ski Association. In a Surge to Sochi campaign with the Far West Ski Association, a further $4,000 was jointly raised and then granted to USWSJ. The skiers made their voices heard! Here is what Whitney Childers said regarding our support: “You and FWJSA have been amazing. I dare say the best organizational support we’ve received. This is a great group of people and I will miss them.” Our Far West Foundation target for 2014-2015 is $2,500. We still have a hundred beautiful WSJUSA pins for investors and a used jumpers suit (see next page) to start the process. Contact: John Watson

Before Whitney moved on to Rally Me (whitney@rallyme.com), she introduced the new USWSJ Executive Director Melissa Brooke (melissa.brooke@wsjusa.com). Whitney said, “After five terrific years working with Women’s Ski Jumping USA, I’m moving on to a new adventure. Thank you for your great coverage of this team and movement over the years. You helped put their story on the worldwide map and your work inspired and informed millions of readers and viewers.”

2. REHABILITATION & ADAPTIVE SKIING

There is a giant army of disabled skiers and boarders out there and the objective of our and others’ effort is to get them on snow.

The Snowbasin Adaptive Snowsports Education Foundation received a grant from the Far West Ski Foundation for their excellent adaptive skier’s program at the FWSA Mini Ski Week held at the resort.

Remember that the center of disabled is able and the Foundation’s second mission is to enable. On-snow techniques are now practiced, encouraged or sponsored by most centers for health services, including the medical branches of the US Department of Defense and the Veterans Administration. In addition, almost all ski areas now have an adaptive ski school on site affiliated with Disabled Sports USA. Wars and operations of our Armed Forces have produced a wave of injured people who now benefit from on-hill rehabilitation, recovery and revitalization.

Our Foundation, acting on behalf of all skiers, made its initial grants, albeit modest to wounded veterans and adaptive ski schools. Our wounded veterans program was launched in 2012 by Linda Westlund in memory of her father, the late Fred Westlund, a WWII veteran and lifelong skier; our grants for the veterans programs is from the Westlund Fund. Our grant recipient was the incredible Vail Veterans Program which offers free adult or family programs, both winter and summer. Participants are invited from the major DoD hospitals and the attendance numbers are exceptional, usually including 40+ children in the family events. Graduates of the VVP program have even gone back on deployment and have competed in the 2014 Sochi Winter Paralympic Games.

Corporal William “Kyle” Carpenter is an alumnus of the Vail Veterans Program. During a White House ceremony on June 19, 2014, Corporal Carpenter was awarded the prestigious Medal of Honor - the nation’s highest military honor - by President Barack Obama.

Our key Trustee for what we call mission 2 in the amazing Gloria Raminha and she has raised funds, together with Linda Westlund, Debbie Stewart, Bob and Nancy Ellis, Steve Coxen and Joe Harvis to support mission 2 - adaptive ski schools. Our parallel initial grant was made to the Snowbasin Adaptive Snowsports Education Foundation. Snowbasin, Utah was the site of the FWSA Mini Ski Week for 2014.

3. ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS

The Foundation annually raises funds to support the Athletic Scholarship Program of the Far West Ski Association. The Association, through its committee, is responsible for establishing qualifications, soliciting applications, gathering performance and biographical data and ranking in rough order the applicants for scholarships. Replacing Dick Shawkey this year as Committee Chairman is David Krupp. The Committee’s report is separately covered on page 28.

A long term objective of the scholarship program is to develop character that will enhance not just the world of racing but the larger community, as well, in the scholar’s fu-
Remember that ski clubs and club racing in leagues started in this region about 1860. One of the functions of this museum will be to preserve this and later snowsport history. Included in the plans is a Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame. Some of this material, including that contributed by FWSA, is in the Auburn Ski Club Museum at Boreal Ridge.

Lily Nava, Village News, Fallbrook, California displays the autographed jumper’s suit from the WSJUSA (Women's Ski Jumpers USA) team.

Molly Leavens, from Park City, Utah, is part of the USSA Elite Team. She is a recipient of FWSA and FWSF Scholarships. The Association and Foundation received a jumping suit worn by a member of the team in the spring of 2013 by virtue of contributions to Women’s Ski Jumping. Here is that suit, displayed by Lily Nava, of the Village News in Fallbrook, CA. It is autographed by all the jumpers and staff of WSJUSA and it is available for auction or purchase (especially for a museum). Contact: John Watson.

Pursue Your Passion

Ways to contribute include: using PayPal through our website http://farwestskifoundation.org or check mailed to: John Reinhardt, FWSF Treasurer, 5285 Meadows Road #380, Lake Oswego, OR 97035; or to John Watson, FWSF President, Box 861, Fallbrook, CA 92088.

The Far West Ski Foundation is a public benefit 501(c)(3) corporation. Your contributions - investments - in these passions are tax deductible.

Hope on the Slopes 2015 Fundraising Events Planned To Benefit the American Cancer Society

Confirmed Event Dates:
- Brundage, Idaho - January 24th
- Breckenridge, Colorado - February 21st
- Stevens Pass, Washington - February 28th - March 1st
- White Pass, Washington - March 14th - 15th
- Crystal Mountain, Washington - March 21st

Visit hopeontheslopes.net for event dates at: Crystal Mountain, Mt. Hood Skibowl, Mt. Spokane, Greek Peak, Wachusett, Eaglecrest, Mountain High, and Alyeska. Participants who register online and pay the required registration fee at least three weeks before the date of your event will receive a complimentary T-shirt or Jersey.

Hope on the Slopes is working with other resorts to bring an event near you. For more information, or to get your club involved, contact hopeontheslopes.net.

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The 82nd Annual Far West Ski Association Convention was held at The Riverhouse Hotel & Convention Center, June 12-15, 2014, hosted by the Northwest Ski Club Council. NWSCC did an outstanding job in offering a wide variety of both indoor and outdoor activities located throughout the Bend community.

The weekend’s events began on Thursday with a tour of Bend on the Bend Trolley and a lunch at Pine Marten Lodge, hosted by Mt. Bachelor. After lunch the participants had a choice of returning to The Riverhouse, or going mountain biking or canoeing. That evening, 115 guests participated in a Pub Crawl “Bend Style”. They traveled to five locations throughout downtown Bend, beginning at Deschutes Brewery and ending at McMenamin’s Old St. Francis School. Many participated in a special version of “The Amazing Race”, as they toured downtown seeking clues in order to win some fun prizes.

Golf enthusiasts had an early start on Friday morning for the 8th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament. The event was held at River’s Edge Golf Course with breathtaking scenery, including the majestic Deschutes River and spectacular views of Mt. Jefferson, Mt. Hood, and Smith Rock. Golf hole sponsors provided some fun, and at times, “whacky” challenges. The hikers packed their gear and headed off on the Geologic Wonderland Tour to Smith Rock State Park, complete with a geology expert providing narration. Those preferring a more leisurely day attended the outing to the Old Mill District for shopping lunch at Anthony’s Restaurant and wine tasting at Naked Winery.
The volcano-themed centerpiece was a great hit. Ondrea Ross, Whistler Blackcomb Resort, made an interesting fashion statement! The bid runners were members of the Oregon Adaptive Sports organization, while Billy Kidd, past Olympic Medal Winner now with Steamboat Ski Resort, autographed posters.

A late afternoon “River Party” at The Riverhouse deck on the Deschutes River replaced the traditional pool party, where everyone mingled and compared notes from the day's activities. The event host Central Council, provided some fun games and activities.

On Friday evening, a Ski Club Happy Hour preceded the 29th Annual Silent Auction, with close to $100,000 in ski, sport and adventure packages plus equipment up for bid. A portion of the proceeds was donated to Oregon Adaptive Sports, which provided bids runners for the event. Everyone enjoyed a new addition to this year's Silent Auction, a “Taste of Bend,” featuring wine tasting from Naked Winery and Volcano Vineyards, and samplings of Central Oregon cuisine.

After a brief opening General Session, Saturday's Travel Expo introduced a “regional” concept at this year's event. The industry partners were divided into five regions and each participant selected two regions to meet with before sitting down for one-on-one appointments. It provided a wonderful opportunity for attendees to learn more about an entire region of resorts, with new and exciting locations for their club snowsports and adventure trips.

Saturday's programs also featured two new modules of the Snowsports Leadership Academy, Public Affairs Panels, and a Far West Racing Association meeting. Industry partners presented bids for Far West Ski Week 2016, and judges convened to interview honorees for the Councils' Man and Woman of the Year recognition program. Following the luncheon and special awards, was Keynote Speaker, Jess McMillan, Free Skiing World Tour Champion. Jess spoke about personal responsibility in the mountains while sharing her experiences around the world. In May, 2012 she took the challenge to climb and ski 14 volcanoes in 15 days with friend and fellow skier, Chris Davenport. Ending the Ring of Fire tour on Washington's Mt. Baker, they climbed a total of 78,674 vertical feet and hiked more than 141 miles. Her presentation was personal, thought provoking and humorous, and the audience was enthralled by the exciting videos of her adventures.

The Awards Banquet Saturday Evening featured volunteer and industry service awards and recognitions. The theme was Black Tie/Shorts Optional, so there were variations in attendee attire. Many delegates, guests and industry representatives danced until midnight, thanks to the fabulous band “Thrillride”.

Elections, ByLaws voting and FWSA business were conducted at the Sunday General Session. Linda Scott from Cheyenne, Wyoming was re-elected to a second term as President of the Association. Clubs and councils were recognized for their outstanding community service efforts, and the Outstanding Club and Council Awards, and Club and Council Communication Awards were presented.

Detailed information and pictures highlighting our many programs conducted at the Annual FWSA Convention are included in this section of the Far West Skier's Guide. We extend a special thank you to our industry partners who support our Association by participating in the Convention industry programs. We are also very appreciative of the team of FWSA and NWSCC host council volunteers involved with conducting this year's Convention.

A Unique Look at Mt. Bachelor by Linda McGavin
Mountain High Snowsport Club

This year's FWSA Convention featured a very special and unique event, hosted by Mt. Bachelor. Participants gathered on Thursday morning at the lobby of The Riverhouse, where we were met by the Bend Trolley. The beautifully restored, historic 1800's red trolley took us on a guided history tour of downtown Bend and the Old Mill District. We then transferred to a charter bus, which drove us up to Mt. Bachelor in comfort. A brief stop was made at the Sunrise base area to view the east side of the mountain, an area where some major expansion will be taking place within the next few years, followed by a visit to the Gravity Sports Retail Shop and the rental center. We learned that groups can experience personalized attention and have access to the latest snowsports equipment to rent, as well as overnight ski storage.

It was so different to see the area in early summer, with no snow around the lodge, and lots of stairs showing just how deep the snow is in winter! We went into the West Village Lodge, where we learned from the Mountain and Communications Manager, Drew Jackson, more about the unique features of Mt. Bachelor and what it can offer to groups, including not only excellent skiing, but parties and coordination of an absolutely amazing variety of things to do in the Bend area! Junior racers were skiing and training that day, so the lift had to be stopped to accommodate us foot passengers for the ride up the Pine Marten Quad Chair to the Pine Marten Lodge. While the lift would normally only be open July 4 through September 1, when the summer tourists and mountain bike riders were present, Mt. Bachelor opened the lodge especially for the FWSA group and hosted a delicious gourmet buffet luncheon in The Cirque restaurant. We were joined by Dave Rathbun, Mt. Bachelor's General Manager, as well as Ann Cook, National Sales Manager, Terese Jarvis, Group Sales Director, and other staff members. We had wonderful weather, and the views were spectacular!

As someone who lives in the Portland area and has skied Mt. Bachelor for over 35 years, I thought I knew the ski area, but on this tour, I learned more about Mt. Bachelor and Bend than I ever knew before – and why so many clubs from all over the country are coming to our “backyard” for a really good time!
Event Sponsors for the 82nd Annual FWSA Convention
by Debbi Kor

We extend our appreciation to the following sponsors of Far West Ski Association’s 82nd Annual Convention. Their generous support was significant to the financial success of this year’s convention. By offsetting Convention costs, through the sponsorship program, we are able to offer a more affordable delegate registration fee. Please include these industry partners in your travel plans for 2014-2015 and beyond.

Delegate Neck Wallets: Ski Dazzle
Delegate Tote Bags: Nancy Greene’s Cahilty Lodge
Pub Crawl: Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation
Shop - Dine - Wine: Aspen/Snowmass
Snowmass Tourism
River Party: Copper Mountain
The Riverhouse Hotel & Convention Center

Silent Auction Welcome Party: Sun Valley
GoodLife Brewing Company
Silent Auction Taste of Bend: Whistler Group: Whistler Blackcomb,
Crystal Lodge, Lodging Ovations,
Tourism Whistler & Tantulus Lodge
Jackson Hole Mountain Resort
Mt. Hood Meadows
Winter Park Ski Resort
Portland Ski Fever & Snowboard Show
Executive Efforts

Saturday Continental Breakfast: Mammoth Mountain Ski Area
Saturday Luncheon Beverage: Grouse Mountain Lodge
Saturday Luncheon: Vail Resorts (Vail, Beaver Creek,
Breckenridge, Keystone, Kirkwood,
Heavenly, Northstar and The Canyons)

Multi-Media Presentation: Mt. Bachelor Ski Resort
Awards Banquet Beverage: Sunriver Resort
Ski Group.Net
SkিCom

Awards Banquet Beverage Host: Volcano Vineyard
Awards Banquet Entertainment: Telluride Ski Resort
Mountain Lodge
Sunday Morning Brunch: Taos Ski Valley Resort
Delegate Handbooks – Printing: Ski Oregon
Far West Convention Host Hotel: The Riverhouse Hotel & Convention Center

Mt. Hood Meadows President and CEO,
Matthew Drake, received the Tommi Tyndall Award honoring the resort at the 2014 FWSA Convention.

Mt. Hood Recognized with Tommi Tyndall Award
by Gene Fulkerson

Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort received the Far West Ski Association’s Tommi Tyndall Award, presented to a ski area that has made a distinguished contribution to skiing. The award was announced at the FWSA Convention in Bend.

The Resort fully embraces the principles of sustainable operations and development and continuously strives to take steps to become more sustainable. There is a myriad of innovative ways they are minimizing their energy consumption, including installation of energy efficient and motion-sensor activated lighting, Energy Star rated appliances and an energy management system throughout the Resort. It has taken several steps to reduce their water footprint, restore area wetlands, control erosion via storm water and snowmelt runoff management systems, and through native seed collection and re-vegetation.

They have worked toward minimizing their water footprint as well as energy/water efficient appliances, which alone save a minimum of 285,000 gallons annually. They have a “Know Idling” policy instead of “NO!” idling to encourage responsible and appropriate idling that varies by vehicle and equipment. They promote public transportation options, provide free bus transportation for seasonal staff and are proud to share that their guests have a rate of public transit usage double that of most ski resorts in the United States.
since the 1990’s. One of the largest ski resorts in the west, Whitefish encompasses 3,000 acres, with 102 marked runs. The longest run, being 3.3 miles long is “Hellfire”, and if you’ve ever skied it, you know why it is so named.

When Jason Forrest and his wife visited Whitefish on their honeymoon in 2005, they instantly fell in love with the mountain town. They were enamored with its laid-back attitude and the abundance of outdoor activities. They enjoyed it so much, they never wanted to leave, and now call Whitefish their home. He’s still as fired up about the small mountain town as he was when he first arrived. He says “I work on the mountain full-time in the sales and marketing office, so I can go out and get first chair on most days.”

Jason is a very strong supporter and promoter of the Junior Racing Program. That is clearly evidenced by the enthusiasm that we see in him on the podium at our annual convention each year, getting folks involved in a raucous live auction for ski packages to Whitefish that benefit our Athletic Scholarship Program. Whitefish Mountain Resort has been a long-time supporter, and is one of the two original sponsors of the Athletic Scholarship that began in 2005. Beginning in 2012, Jason generously doubled the Whitefish Mountain Resort Scholarship sponsorship.

The 2015 Far West Mini Ski Week will be in Whitefish, with lodging at Grouse Mountain Lodge. You can be sure that Jason and the Whitefish Mountain Resort staff will have all kinds of “Hellroaring” surprises in store for us. The 2014 FWSA Convention marked Whitefish’s 25th year of participation in our Silent Auction.

Because of Jason’s tireless work on behalf of our clubs and councils, and his outstanding support of the snowsports public and Far West Ski Association, he embodies the spirit of the Bill Mackey Award. ▲

Mt. Hood Meadows is a founding partner with SkiGreen, Bonneville Environmental Foundation’s program to offset carbon emissions from vehicle travel. The program offers a simple, affordable way for guests to offset the carbon footprint of their travel to and from the mountain.

Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort has taken many steps to minimize the environmental impact of food service facilities and restaurants, including sourcing many items from vendors who offer locally produced, natural products. They are working hard to reduce the use of disposable food service products in favor of china/flatware/linens, minimizing the impact of deliveries with bulk purchases. And where ever disposables are, biodegradable and compostable cups and tableware from rapidly renewable resources are offered.

Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort has two LEED certified buildings including the Emergency Services (Gold) and the Ski Patrol Headquarters (Silver). This investment demonstrates their continued commitment to minimize their impact on the mountain.

For its outstanding support of the snowsports public and Far West Ski Association’s sustainability objectives, Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort embodies the spirit of the Tommi Tyndall Award and is highly deserving of recognition as this year’s recipient. ▲

Jason Forrest, Sales Representative - Western Region for Whitefish Mountain Resort, received the Far West Ski Association’s Bill Mackey Award for outstanding service to the skiing public by a ski area employee. The award was presented to Jason at the annual FWSA Convention in Bend.

Big Mountain Resort, renamed Whitefish Mountain Resort in 2007, is the name of the resort that encompasses the ski area, summer activities and services. The name was chosen to associate with the town and community. The slogan, “Ski the Fish” has been around ever skiers who have ever skied it, you know why it is so named.

When Jason Forrest and his wife visited Whitefish on their honeymoon in 2005, they instantly fell in love with the mountain town. They were enamored with its laid-back attitude and the abundance of outdoor activities. They enjoyed it so much, they never wanted to leave, and now call Whitefish their home. He’s still as fired up about the small mountain town as he was when he first arrived. He says “I work on the mountain full-time in the sales and marketing office, so I can go out and get first chair on most days.”

Jason is a very strong supporter and promoter of the Junior Racing Program. That is clearly evidenced by the enthusiasm that we see in him on the podium at our annual convention each year, getting folks involved in a raucous live auction for ski packages to Whitefish that benefit our Athletic Scholarship Program. Whitefish Mountain Resort has been a long-time supporter, and is one of the two original sponsors of the Athletic Scholarship that began in 2005. Beginning in 2012, Jason generously doubled the Whitefish Mountain Resort Scholarship sponsorship.

The 2015 Far West Mini Ski Week will be in Whitefish, with lodging at Grouse Mountain Lodge. You can be sure that Jason and the Whitefish Mountain Resort staff will have all kinds of “Hellroaring” surprises in store for us. The 2014 FWSA Convention marked Whitefish’s 25th year of participation in our Silent Auction.

Because of Jason’s tireless work on behalf of our clubs and councils, and his outstanding support of the snowsports public and Far West Ski Association, he embodies the spirit of the Bill Mackey Award. ▲

Mt. Hood Meadows is a founding partner with SkiGreen, Bonneville Environmental Foundation’s program to offset carbon emissions from vehicle travel. The program offers a simple, affordable way for guests to offset the carbon footprint of their travel to and from the mountain.

Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort has taken many steps to minimize the environmental impact of food service facilities and restaurants, including sourcing many items from vendors who offer locally produced, natural products. They are working hard to reduce the use of disposable food service products in favor of china/flatware/linens, minimizing the impact of deliveries with bulk purchases. And where ever disposables are, biodegradable and compostable cups and tableware from rapidly renewable resources are offered.

Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort has two LEED certified buildings including the Emergency Services (Gold) and the Ski Patrol Headquarters (Silver). This investment demonstrates their continued commitment to minimize their impact on the mountain.

For its outstanding support of the snowsports public and Far West Ski Association’s sustainability objectives, Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort embodies the spirit of the Tommi Tyndall Award and is highly deserving of recognition as this year’s recipient. ▲

Jason Forrest, Whitefish Mountain Resort, Receives Bill Mackey Award by Randy Lew and Debbi Kor

The 2014 winner of the Bill Mackey Award is presented to Jason Forrest from Whitefish Mountain Resort by Linda Scott, President of FWSA. The Award recognizes outstanding service to the skiing public by a ski area representative. Doug Miller / Photo Visions

Door Prize Donors: Convention 2014

Big White Ski Resort
Boneyard Brewing
Brian Head Ski Resort
Central Oregon Visitors Association
Chaos
Cog Wild
Derma Spa
Eurosocks
FastStrap
Fernie/Kimberly
Goggle Graffiti
GoodLife Brewing
H2O Guides
Mt. Bachelor
Oregon Adaptive Sports
Rat Hole Brewing
Riverbend Brewing Company
Skida
Skiyente & Schnee Vogeli Ski Clubs
Snowbird Ski Resort
Wanderlust Tours

Milestones: Silent Auction Participants - 2014 -

5 Year Award
Mountain Lodge, Telluride, CO
The Gant, Aspen, CO

10 Year Award
Trickle Creek Lodge
Kimberley, British Columbia

15 Year Award
Schweitzer Mountain Resort, ID
Ski Group.Net (Formerly Moguls Mountain Travel), CO

20 Year Award
Ski.Com, CO

25 Year Award
Vail Resort, CO
Whitefish Mountain Resort, MT
Winter Park Ski Resort, CO
Volunteers Recognized in Councils’ Man and Woman of the Year Program

by Donn Bryant
MWOY Program Chair, FWSA

The Far West Ski Association recognizes top volunteers from each council during the Councils’ Man and Woman of the Year recognition program at the FWSA Annual Convention. Councils honor dedicated men and women who have made significant contributions to organized skiing within their council over a multi-year skiing and ski organization career. These honorees have volunteered their time to support club, council, community service, race league and FWSA efforts to enhance the skiing experience for our members. Congratulations to this year’s FWSA Councils’ Man of the Year, Gene Fulkerson of Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs and Councils’ Woman of the Year, Nancy Ellis, from Sierra League and Council.

We appreciate Big White Ski Resort for its continuing support and sponsorship of the Councils’ Man and Woman of the Year program since 2001. Our winners were awarded a five-day ski vacation for two at Big White. Thank you judges for scoring the interview forms prior to the Convention and spending all Saturday morning in the interview process. Judges were: Linda Westlund, Paul Vlasveld, Kim Hovren, Bob Wildman, Amanda Moran, Joe Culver, Jim Patzoid, and Walt Johnson.

Silent Auction & Travel Expo - 2014 Participants

by Mary Olhausen and Debbi Kor

Alpine Adventures, FL
Anthony’s Restaurant, Bend, OR
Aspen/Snowmass, CO
Banff Lodging Company, Canada
Beaver Creek Resort, CO
Beaver Run Resort, CO
Betty Donellan
Big Sky Resort, MT
Big White Ski Resort, Canada
Bike Tours Direct, TN
Boneyard Brewing, Bend, OR
Breckenridge Hospitality, CO
Breckenridge Ski Resort, CO
Brian Head Ski Resort, UT
Brundage Mountain Resort, ID
Cedar Breaks Lodge, UT
Central Oregon Visitors Assoc, Bend, OR
Cog Wild Bicycle Tours, Bend, OR
Collette Vacations, RI
Cooper Spur Mountain Resort, OR
Copper Mountain Resort, CO
Crested Butte Mountain Resort, CO
Crystal Lodge, Canada
Deer Valley Ski Resort, UT
Destination Hotels & Resorts, CO
Discover Sunriver Vacation Rentals, OR
DoubleTree by Hilton, Bend, OR
Drury Hotels, Various Locations
Eldorado Resort, Mexico
Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel, Canada
Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise, Canada
Fairmont Chateau Whistler, Canada
Fernie Alpine Resort, Canada
Forest Suites Resort at Heavenly, CA
Frias Properties
Glacier Park, MT
GoodLife Brewing, Bend, OR
Grand Lodge Hotel & Suites, CO
Grand Targhee Resort, WY
Great Western Lodging, CO
Grouse Mountain Lodge, MT
Heavenly Mountain Ski Resort, CA
Hertz Rental Cars, Bend, OR
Holidaze Ski Tours, NJ
Homewood Mountain Resort, CA
Huntley Lodge, MT
Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, WY
Jackson Hole Resort Lodging, WY
Kandahar Lodge at Whitefish, MT
Keystone Ski Resort, CO
Kimberley Alpine Resort, Canada
Lodging Ovations, Canada
Mammoth Mountain Inn, CA
Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, CA
McMenamins Pub, Bend, OR
Miracle Springs Resort-Spa, CA
Mountain Lodge Telluride, CO
Mt. Bachelor Ski Resort, Bend, OR
Mt. Bachelor Village Resort, OR
Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort, OR

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Karl Smith, Bay Area Snow Sports Council; James Nachbar, Arizona Ski Council; Mary Azevedo, Bay Area Snow Sports Council; George Kish, Orange Council of Ski Clubs; Susan Corum, Orange Council of Ski Clubs; Gene Fulkerson, Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs; Nancy Ellis, Sierra League and Council; Tom Bundgard, San Diego Council of Ski Clubs; Cindy Krupp, Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs; Erin Barber, San Diego Council of Ski Clubs; Michael Bouton, Intermountain Ski Council; George Stewart, Sierra League and Council; Sandi Shaub, Northwest Ski Club Council; John Reinhardt, Northwest Ski Club Council. The program is sponsored by Big White Ski Resort. Doug Miller / Photo Visions
The Far West Ski Association and Northwest Ski Club Council extend their appreciation and sincere gratitude to the 28th Annual Silent Auction and Travel Expo participants. The success of this event is made possible by the continued support from our industry partners. Please include these industry partners in your travel plans for 2014-2015 and beyond.

MS Dixie/Tahoe Queen, CA
Naked Winery, Bend, OR
Nancy Greene’s Cahilty Lodge, Canada
Northstar Ski Resort, CA
Old Mill District, Bend, OR
Panorama Ski Resort, Canada
Pine Mountain Sports, Bend, OR
Red Mountain Resort, Canada
Resorts Canadian Rockies, Canada
River’s Edge Golf Course, Bend, OR
Riverbend Brewing, Bend, OR
Schweitzer Mountain Resort, ID
Selkirk Lodge, ID
Sierra At Tahoe Ski Resort, CA
Silver Star Mountain Resort, Canada
SKL.com, CO
Ski Banff-Lake Louise-Sunshine, Canada
Ski Dazzle, CA
Ski Group.Net, CA
Ski Oregon, OR
Skibowl Resort, OR
SkiFever & Snowboard Show, OR
Snakedance Condominiums, NM
Snowbird Lodge, Canada
Snowbird Ski & Summer Resort, UT
Snowmass Ski Resort, CO
Snowmass Tourist, CO
Sports America Tours, CA
Steamboat Ski & Resort Corp., CO
Subaru of Bend, OR
Sunriver Resort, OR
Sunshine Mountain Lodge, Canada
Sunshine Village Resort, Canada
Sun Peaks Ski Resort, Canada
Sun Valley Resort, ID
Tantalus Lodge, Canada
Taos Ski Valley Resort, NM
Teewinot Lodge, WY
Telluride Alpine Lodging, CO
Telluride Ski Resort, CO
The Bend Trolley, Bend, OR
The Cliff Lodge, UT
The Crestwood, CO
The Gant Hotel, CO
The Hunt Lodge, ID
The Lodge at Whitefish Lake, MT
The Riverhouse Hotel & Convention Center, Bend, OR
The Tantalus Lodge, Canada
The Vintage Hotel, CO
Timberline Lodge, OR
Tourism Whistler, Canada
Trickle Creek Lodge, Canada
Vail Resorts, CO
Val D’isere Condos, CA
Visit Bend, OR
Wanderlust Tours, Bend, OR
Whistler/Blackcomb, Canada
Whitefish Mountain Resort, MT
Winter Park Resort, CO

Jess McMillan, Freeskiing World Tour Champion, was the Keynote Speaker at the 2014 FWSA Convention Saturday Luncheon. Jess has won more Freeskiing competitions than any other competitor to date. She has been featured in the last four Warren Miller films. Born and raised in Jackson Hole, she has been coined a true mountain girl. Jess spoke on Personal Responsibility in the Mountains while sharing her experiences around the world. Her speech was very informative - highlighted by her delightful sense of humor. We were able to really experience skiing through her eyes. Check out the digital insert for a spectacular shot of her descending a steep mountain slope.

Gene Fulkerson was named the 2014 Man of the Year, while Nancy Ellis received the Woman of the Year honor. Katie Bakkwell from the MWOT Program’s Sponsor, Big White Ski Resort, presents the Awards to them. Doug Miller / Photo Visions

photo provided by Jess McMillan

Doug Miller / Photo Visions
Public Affairs Panel Sessions
Featured Snowsports Experts

by Mike Sanford
Vice-President of Public Affairs, FWSA

Public Affairs Panels were conducted on Saturday morning and afternoon at the Far West Ski Association Convention in Bend, with Mike Sanford, VP of Public Affairs, as Moderator.

Panel members were leading experts in snowsports, and included: Matthew Drake, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Mt. Hood Meadows and a member of the National Ski Areas Association Board of Directors and Pacific Northwest Ski Areas Board of Directors, John Allen, USFS, Forest Supervisor on the Deschutes National Forest in Bend, Oregon; John Gifford, President, Pacific Northwest Ski Areas Association; and Dave Ludwig, Founder, Hope on the Slopes.

The session began with introductions and background recitals from each panel member. Lively and informative discussions were conducted on a wide variety of topics included in the Public Affairs arena, with a great deal of attention given to area development, permitting, water conservation, trail management, signage and safety management. The session then moved on to discussions on adaptive sports and event planning, along with information on how clubs and councils can participate, or even organize a Hope on the Slopes event. Great information was provided on the respective approaches to developing challenged skier events.

Snowsports Builder Award - 2014
Cliff Blann
Mt. Bachelor

by John Watson
History Committee Chair, FWSA

The FWSA Snowsports Builder Awards are given to individuals who have made an indelible positive impact on snowsports. The builder honored may be for achievements in athletics, the press, publishers, historians, industry, humanitarian work, area development, or technology.

Several themes come through upon reading the history of the development of Mt. Bachelor. The ski area was community funded and built on a pay as you go basis by a bunch of central Oregon folks who volunteered, worked for no pay, or for little pay.

The founders and most of the early workers were experienced in the timber and lumber business. They were developing a ski area from scratch with limited experience in area development.

However, they had seen ski areas and almost all were skiers. In the beginning Bachelor was home-built by home town folks from Bend. Today, the fame and reputation of Mt. Bachelor is global. Cliff Blann (1918-1996) was one of these central Oregon skiers and we honor them all in his name, from founder Bill Healey onward. They all made it happen.

Cliff Blann had adventurous beginnings. Always an outdoorsman, he was an original member of the Bend Skyliners and part of its rescue squad in 1938 when it became a part of the National Ski Patrol System. He won the Underdahl Trophy as the Oregon outstanding junior skier for the 1937-38 season. In 1940 he took second in class in an 8 minute (!) downhill race from the 7,000 foot level on Mt. Hood.

In World War II, he saw action as an 82nd Airborne Division paratrooper in the South Pacific. After the war, he was hired for a year (1951) to operate a rope tow at Moore Park near Crater Lake, but he had to support his family.

He entered the lumber business in Bend, but kept his eyes on the mountains, continuing to ski and explore the Cascades with the Skyliners. When the Bachelor Butte opportunity came along in 1959 he was a natural to be part of it.
Cliff Blann joined founder Bill Healy’s ski enterprise at Bachelor Butte in the 1958-59 season, first to maintain machines and assure smooth road and hill operations and two years later became the mountain manager.

He came aboard in time to install the first chair. The yearling operation consisted of a Poma lift, two rope tows and a 30x50 foot day lodge and served 29,000 skier visits.

When Blann retired 24 years later from the now renamed Mt. Bachelor, it had over 500,000 skier visits and served skiers with multiple double and triple chairs and base and summit lodges.

Not only was he directly responsible for the care of the mountain and the equipment and personnel required to do that, but in the beginning his wife Louise worked the office and ticket counters.

“The man that made the place pay for itself season after season by being the best operation in the Northwest was Cliff Blann,” said Kurt Schmidt, who worked for Blann at Bachelor.

Bachelor was Cliff’s life and that of his children: twins Jerry and Sherry, Dave and Casey. In the early days it was a family business with Louise overseeing all the ticketing and inside operation and Cliff the outside.

In those days, season passes were sold out of the Blann house in Bend where Louise took and filed photos of the pass holders. She developed passes that could be used all season and attached to the skiers’ clothing. She did radio reports on snow conditions.

There were summers when three Blanns alone were manning the operation. Working outside alongside Bill Healy as operations manager, Cliff’s reputation was legendary as a hard-core tough guy who could fix anything, deal with all weather conditions, and intimidate his staff and admonish skiers, often with an abundance of “cuss words.”

He was committed to providing the best possible mountain experience for the guests. In his words, his job description had three tasks: keeping the roads to the mountain open, maintaining all equipment and lifts in perfect condition and finally “anything else.” “He had a gruff exterior; kind heart and an undying commitment to work, friends and family,” said Cliff’s son Jerry, President, Jackson Hole Mountain Resort.

FWSA extends its respects to the Blann family and to all the pioneers who made Mt. Bachelor happen. Cliff Blann skied the north-west for over 50 years and was a builder of the snowsport. We are pleased to recognize Cliff Blann as our Snowsports Builder for 2014.
The FWSA History Program Focuses on Clubs and the FWSA Western Ski Heritage Award

by John Watson

History Committee Chair, FWSA

The History Program consists of a set of annual club and council history awards and developing the Steamboat Western Ski History prize nominees. Another mission is to develop and expand the registry of Historic Ski Clubs. The History Program does research for the biographies on which the Snowsports Builder Award is made. Awards are made based on the judgment of experienced volunteers who render their evaluation to the sponsor and the Chair. The record of these efforts for the current and prior years is recorded on [www.fwsa.org](http://www.fwsa.org). These webpages also provide guidance on the submission of materials for the history awards and the procedure for designation by FWSA as an historic ski club. For further information, contact John Watson at FWSA.Watson@gmail.com.

The FWSA Western Ski Heritage Award is sponsored by Steamboat Ski and Resort Corporation. In 2014, Emilio Trampuz is honored!

This year saw a very competitive set of history products submitted for this exciting prize. The FWSA Western Ski Heritage prize annually recognizes the best effort in the prior two years that preserves snowsports history and the contributions of snowsports to the community at large. The WSH has been sponsored by Steamboat Ski and Resort Corporation since 2000. Steamboat Springs itself is an area rich in the history and personalities involved in the development of snowsports in the west. The prize consists of five nights lodging, lifts and rentals.

Olympian, Billy Kidd, presents the Steamboat Western Ski History Prize to Emilio Trampuz for his continuing research on the history of skiing on Mt. Hood. Doug Miller / Photo Visions

The 2014 winner of the Steamboat WSH is Emilio Trampuz of Mountain High Ski Club for a digital catalog and record of his continuing historical research on the development of snowsports on Mt. Hood. He accomplishes much of this through his leadership of tours, both winter and summer, of historic sites and trails on the mountain. These tours included the Barlow Road, the last segment of the Oregon Trail and the old road used in the construction of Timberline Lodge; both roads are no longer in use but accessible by bicycle.

Other submissions included a unique set of portraits and short biographies of all 59 King Winters to date, compiled by Julie Rasmussen of Skiyente Ski Club. King Winter is a program conducted by Skiyente Ski Club to recognize people who support skiing on the slopes on and around Mt. Hood. The portraits are displayed at Government Camp. It is hoped that this recording of history is continued.

Program Award Recipients:

Western Ski Heritage Award -
Emilio Trampuz, Author, “History of Mt. Hood”

Safety Person of the Year - Dennis Heffley
Bay Area Snow Sports Council

Charity & Community Service Recognition -
Club: SLO Skiers of Central Council of California
Council: Northwest Ski Club Council

Olympian, Billy Kidd, presents the Steamboat Western Ski History Prize to Emilio Trampuz for his continuing research on the history of skiing on Mt. Hood. Doug Miller / Photo Visions

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The History Program focuses on clubs and the FWSA Western Ski Heritage Award by John Watson, History Committee Chair, FWSA.

The 2014 Convention - Award Recipients -

Snowsports Builder Award -
Cliff Blann - A Founder of Mt. Bachelor, Oregon

Hans Georg Award - Gloria Raminha
Trustee, Far West Ski Foundation

Elizabeth ‘Schatzi’ Wood Award -
Debbie Stewart
FWSA VP International Travel Program

J. Stanley Mullin Award - Emilio Trampuz
Northwest Ski Club Council

Jimmie Heuga Award - Lee Perry, Jr.
Mt. Hood Adaptive Ski School

Jordan-Reily Award - Kayla Walker
Bonneville Environment Foundation

Bill Mackey Award - Jason Forrest
Director of Sales & Marketing, Whitefish Mountain Resort

Tommi Tyndall Award - Mt. Hood Meadows, Oregon

Terry Smith Award - Brent Forsythe
Director of Sales & Marketing, Whitefish Mountain Resort

Bill Berry Hard News Award -
Ben Jacklet
Co-Founder and Writer “Shred Hood”

David Miller Featured News Award -
Christopher Van Tilburg, MD
“The Adrenaline Junkie’s Bucket List”

President’s Award Recipients:
Jo Simpson, Sierra League and Council
Jane Wyckoff, FWSA Trustee & FWSA Convention Chairperson
Catherine Ohl, FWSA Webmaster & FWSA Awards Chair
Julia Mancuso, U.S. Olympian

Man & Woman of the Year:
Nancy Ellis, Sierra League and Council
Gene Fulkerson, Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs

Charity & Community Service Recognition -
Club: SLO Skiers of Central Council of California
Council: Northwest Ski Club Council
**FWSA Historic Ski Clubs**

The FWSA provides the opportunity for ski clubs who have operated for 50 years or more to receive the designation as a FWSA Historic Ski Club. The club has to request designation and then provide some form of proof of operation from 1964 or earlier. These are the organizations that have proven their value to skiers over the years and, not surprisingly, they all have made contributions to the communities in which they live.

This year, Mary Olhausen found three clubs that have proven their historic operations requirement and have requested designation as a FWSA Historic Ski Club. We may have to rename this award ski and snowboard club even though snowboards didn’t popularly emerge until the mid-1980s.

In 2014, we added three newly designated Historic Ski Clubs. In founding order, they are the Cascade Ski Club, Portland, OR (1928), Desert Ski Club, Richland, WA (1953) and Hawaii Ski Club, Aiea, Hawaii (1953). These clubs are added to the current roster of historic ski clubs. The three are all in the Northwest Ski Club Council.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLUB</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>COUNCIL</th>
<th>FOUNDED</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cascade</td>
<td>Portland, OR</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>1928</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desert</td>
<td>Richland, WA</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawaii</td>
<td>Aiea, HI</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balboa</td>
<td>Newport Beach, CA</td>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>1955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheyenne</td>
<td>Cheyenne, WY</td>
<td>Intermountain</td>
<td>1959</td>
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<td>Fresno</td>
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<td>Central</td>
<td>1934</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Los Angeles, CA</td>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idaho Falls</td>
<td>Idaho Falls, ID</td>
<td>Intermountain</td>
<td>1947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longview</td>
<td>Longview WA</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>1935</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mt. Hood Ski Patrol</td>
<td>Mt. Hood, OR</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>1937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Diego</td>
<td>San Diego, CA</td>
<td>San Diego</td>
<td>1935</td>
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<td>Schnee Vogeli</td>
<td>Portland, OR</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>1937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sequoia</td>
<td>Visalia, CA</td>
<td>Sierra</td>
<td>1935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>Los Angeles, CA</td>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skyente</td>
<td>Portland, OR</td>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>1955</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Who Is Hans Georg?

Hans Georg came from the St. Moritz Ski School in Switzerland to the US in 1936 to become a pioneer ski tracker, rope tow operator and ski instructor. Hans eventually made his way to Soda Springs to teach skiing. In 1939, Hans became the head of the Eastern Sierra Ski Club School at the “Ski Ranch” near the McGee Creek Lodge.

In 1940, Lloyd Nicoll built a tow at Observation Point, on the east side of Mammoth along the road to Twin Lakes. The next year, he sold it to Nyle Smith who then sold it to Hans in 1946 after Hans returned from serving in the 10th Mountain Division during WWII as a ski instructor and leader in the Italian campaign.

In 1945, Dave McCoy installed two 600’ tows at McGee Creek that Hans used for his ski school. By 1946, Hans and Dave were the only tow operators in the Mammoth area. In 1948, Hans installed three tows in Mammoth - in the vicinity of where Chair 15 is today. Although the tows remained until 1957, when the lifts began to experience mechanical problems, Hans abandoned them and taught skiing at Dave's lifts.

Hans taught thousands to ski, using the best of the Reverse Shoulder, Arlberg and French techniques. In 1940 and 1946, Hans attempted to develop a summer ski school at the 12,500-foot level eastern side of Mt. Whitney. Often, Hans was called to Hollywood to direct ski sequences. He wrote many books on skiing, including “Modern Ski Systems,” “Reverse Shoulder Technique,” and “Simplified Skiing.”
The 2014 Safety Person of the Year winner is Dennis Heffley of the Rusty Bindings Ski Club and an Honorary Member of Monterey Ski and Social Club of the Bay Area Snow Sports Council.

As BAC President, Dennis ensures that the member clubs keep current with safety issues including avalanche/safety awareness, safety equipment (helmets, traction devices for boots, etc.) by sharing safety articles and other information through the council's newsletter and website. He created a PowerPoint presentation for the BAC “Get to & from the Slopes Safety - Be Prepared for Winter Driving!” He plans to make it available to the Far West Ski Association and National Ski Council Federation websites. During his tenure as BAC president, Dennis has invited various speakers to talk about safety issues at council meetings.

The FWSA believes that safety is an important component in snowsports. We recognize that the ski resorts do an extraordinary job of minimizing hazards. Ultimately, safety is based on individual responsibility and behavior. The FWSA Safety Person of the Year Program is sponsored by Aspen Skiing Company with lodging provided by Crestwood Condominiums and The Gant.

Aspen/Snowmass has partnered with the FWSA for over a decade in recognizing the individual who has done the most to improve safety-consciousness. This award is indicative of the Aspen/Snowmass commitment to promoting safety, and we thank Mary Manning for supporting and running this program for all these years.

Dennis receives a six-day vacation for two from Aspen Skiing Company, including lift tickets for all four mountains (Aspen Mountain, Aspen Highlands, Buttermilk and Snowmass), six days of rentals and a half-day group lesson for two, round trip air and seven nights lodging provided by The Crestwood Condominiums and The Gant. Clubs and councils are encouraged to nominate individuals who have contributed to snow safety. Details may be found on the www.fwsa.org website.
The Far West Ski Association and its councils are committed to supporting charitable giving and volunteerism. Through donations and volunteer services of our individual members in clubs and councils, we hope to enhance the quality of life within our communities. We are very proud to have so many caring members in our FWSA family. Our members get involved with a huge variety of charitable organizations.

At this year’s FWSA Convention, we again recognized our clubs and councils for their generous charity support with the eighth annual “Charity and Community Service Recognition” program. By openly recognizing so many groups annually at the Convention, we hope to encourage others to become more involved with charity activities and donations.

SLO Skiers, in Central Council of California, was the grand winner of this year’s ski club recognition. What a tough competition it was again this year! The two other winning clubs were Monterey Ski Club in Bay Area Snow Sports Council and Fresno Ski & Social Club in Central Council of California. The three finalist clubs displayed their very impressive charity activities on picture boards for all to view. Industry representatives, delegates and guests expressed their amazement at the variety and the extent of volunteerism and charity support within our FWSA family.

SLO Skiers, in Central Council of California, was the grand winner of this year’s Ski Club Charity and Community Service Recognition Program. By openly recognizing so many groups annually at the Convention, we hope to encourage others to become more involved with charity activities and donations.

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This year’s council “Charity and Community Service Recognition” was awarded to the very active Northwest Ski Club Council. This was a very tough competition, as the Bay Area Snow Sports Council is also very much involved with charitable organizations. A great big thank you and congratulations to these winning groups for their fantastic support of charitable organizations. The task of picking the best of the best is always a challenge for our judges.

The annual FWSA recognition award for the winning club is $300, and for the winning council and runner-up clubs, each $100 is to be donated to their favorite charity. This year, the groups donated their winning funds to Central California Adaptive Sports, the Monterey Annual Holiday Dinner, The Parkinson Alliance and the FWSA Athletic Scholarship Program.

Our winning ski club, SLO Skiers, is located in the San Luis Obispo area. Members this year worked selflessly supporting many different charitable organizations. They “adopted” a village in the Philippines after a super typhoon, sending $9,000 which helped to feed 1,300 people and to rebuild a preschool and chapel. Members also donated 127 pounds of food, plus cash and other needed products to the San Luis Obispo Food Bank. They collected 125 pounds of Hotel Sample Toiletries for the San Luis Obispo Homeless Shelter. Members also assisted Disabled Vets to learn to surf at Pismo Beach in the “AmpSurf” Surfing Clinic, donated clothing and books to hospitalized Veterans, contributed “Toys for Tots” via the Elks Lodge, and donated gifts to needy families for Christmas through the Angles Foundation, and Ski D.U.C.K. The council also hosted events benefitting these other charities: Ski to Defeat ALS (Lou Gehrig’s Disease), the FWSA Athletic Scholarship Program, and the NWSCC Scholarship, plus they held a movie night “Ready to Fly” raising funds for Women’s Ski Jumping. Congratulations to our Northwest Ski Club Council for being the 2014 FWSA council “Charity and Community Service Recognition” winner!
Many FWSA ski clubs enjoy being involved with Special Olympics, whose mission is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community. www.specialolympics.org.

Another FWSA favorite organization is Disabled Sports USA, whose mission is to provide national leadership and opportunities for individuals with disabilities to develop independence, confidence, and fitness through participation in community sports, recreation and educational programs. Can Do MS is another wonderful charity and close to FWSA’s heart. One of FWSA’s major awards is named after its founder, Jimmie Heuga. Can Do MS leads the way to empowering people and families living with MS to transform and improve their quality of life. Everything done at Can Do MS is driven by one simple belief: you are more than your MS. With a vision, a mission and core values rooted in the legacy and belief of Can Do MS founder Jimmie Heuga, that everyone living with MS has the power to live full lives. Can Do MS is the start of a whole new way of thinking about and living with multiple sclerosis. www.mscaondo.org.

Ski clubs and their members have many involvement opportunities within their own communities. Adaptive ski schools depend on volunteers to assist with programs to help children and adults with disabilities. Fund raising events like USARC’s Annual Ski-A-Thon held at Bear Mountain, California help offset the expense of purchasing adaptive ski equipment. Get involved! Volunteer!

Cherry Reitz & Kim Riehl are proud of their Fresno Ski Club’s winning Charity display board at the 2014 FWSA Convention. All clubs and councils are encouraged to enter next year’s competition.

IT’S LIKE SEEING THE PYRAMIDS OR THE GREAT WALL, BUT WITH SNOW.

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Far West Skier’s Guide 2014 - 2015 45
San Diego Council of Ski Clubs is delighted to host 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. The Town and Country Resort has been family-owned since 1953. The hotel is rich in history, charm and character, with a tradition of hospitality and service. The rose gardens contain over 3,000 blooming rose bushes and the 2,500 palm trees located on the 32 lushly-landscaped acres in the heart of Mission Valley are incredible. The hotel offers 1,000 spacious guest rooms and suites.

The Town and Country Resort features five restaurants from casual to fine dining, lounges, three swimming pools and an oversized whirlpool. Indulge yourself at the Bella Tosca European Day Spa, Salon and Fitness Center. Bella Tosca is a luxurious 14,000 square foot Mediterranean-style spa, complete with a yoga room, meditation room and state of the art fitness equipment.

Make plans to arrive early and stay late! The hotel rates are honored three days pre and post convention. Take advantage of all that San Diego has to offer. This beautiful city by the bay offers swimming in the Pacific Ocean, sailing on the bay, hiking the bluffs of Torrey Pines, visiting the world famous San Diego Zoo or Sea World, snorking at Wildlife Preserve at La Jolla Cove and much more. The Light Trolley system stops on the property for easy travel to many popular San Diego sites. For those that enjoy shopping, the Town and Country Resort is adjacent to San Diego’s largest shopping plaza.

The Light Trolley system stops on the property for easy travel to many popular San Diego sites. For those that enjoy shopping, the Town and Country Resort is adjacent to San Diego’s largest shopping plaza.

The Town and Country Resort is located just seven miles from the San Diego International Airport (SAN), serviced by all major airlines. Rental cars and shuttle services are available at the airport. The Cloud 9 Super Shuttle services the Resort at a very reasonable rate - www.cloud9shuttle.com. For room reservations 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 rates and complete details on room accommodations, visit www.fwsa.org.

The website for the Town and Country Resort & Convention Center is located at www.towncountry.com.

The Far West Convention activities start on Thursday with an Historic Trolley Tour of San Diego and a Seal Tour on San Diego Bay. Late afternoon, we will take the trolley to downtown San Diego and enjoy the “Sunset Dine Out”, an evening on the USS Midway.

June 4 - 7, 2015

by Eileen Sanford
Host Council Convention Coordinator, FWSA
The Midway is a decommissioned Navy ship that sits at the foot of the bay near the Gas Lamp area. It is one of America’s longest-serving aircraft carriers. We will enjoy a beautiful sunset, dinner and drinks. The flight deck will be open to all participants to view a collection of military planes. It will be a very special unforgettable experience. After the Midway event, participants can stay downtown and continue to visit pubs in the area or head back on the trolley at their leisure. The trolley ticket is good for 24 hours and is included in the price of the event.

The 9th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament will be held on Friday at Riverwalk Golf Course, sponsored by Old Town Trolley Tours of San Diego. The 27-hole championship Riverwalk Golf Club is adjacent to the Resort. The course was designed by the iconic golf course architectural team of Ted Robinson, Sr. and Jr., and is surrounded by hills, palm trees and graced with cool breezes from the ocean. This is a course for golfers of all skill levels. The “fun patrol” will be there with treats and surprises for the golfers at a special hole. Each hole will be sold to clubs and others who want to help sponsor the event this year.

There will be two bike rides available on Friday for participants to join. One will be an easy ride around Mission Bay along the beach with a stop for lunch at the water’s edge. The second ride will be more difficult and start at Fiesta Island and go to lunch at Old Town and then return to Fiesta Island. For those who prefer kayaking there will be a tour of La Jolla Cove by kayak. Plans also include a trip to the San Diego Zoo. Founded in 1916, this world-famous attraction is home to more than 4,000 animals. A late afternoon Pool Party will be held back at the Town and Country, hosted by Central Council. It is an opportunity to compare notes about the day’s events, while mingling with delegates and industry partners and enjoying some beverages and snacks.

On Friday evening, the Town and Country Convention Center will be the location for the wonderful Annual FWSA Silent Auction. North American and international ski industry and resort representatives will be present to answer questions and share information about their resorts and products. The Silent Auction features an opportunity to bid on more than $100,000 worth of great deals on ski, sport and adventure packages, plus sports equipment. There is no admission fee and it includes a complimentary drink. The Silent Auction is open to the general public and we encourage especially the San Diego clubs to bring out their members and friends.

Saturday morning starts with a continental breakfast and brief opening General Session. This is followed by the Travel Expo, where approximately 100 resort representatives and tour operators will be available for one-on-one meetings to discuss planning your group’s next ski or adventure trip. A snowsport celebrity Keynote Speaker will give a presentation following the Luncheon. Public Affairs and other FWSA programs will have informational panels both in the morning and afternoon.

Convention means delegates come to learn about snowsports! You can do this by attending Saturday’s Snowsports Leadership Academy sessions. Admission to the FWSA Leadership Academy sessions is included as part of the full package for all delegates and is available in a Saturday Only package to the general public. Come and share your ideas and learn some new ones. It’s fun and educational!

Saturday night is black tie optional, with the theme Salute to San Diego celebrated with the traditional red, white and blue colors decorating the ballroom. Service awards and recognitions will be given to our honored volunteers and industry partners. After the dinner and our short presentation of awards, you can enjoy an evening of dancing with your many FWSA friends and industry partners.

Sunday morning is the annual business meeting for FWSA. Delegates participate in the election of officers, by-laws and resolutions are presented and voted upon, plus all other business is addressed. The Outstanding Club & Council Awards, Club and Council Communication Awards, Charities Awards and Club History Award will be presented during the brunch.

For additional information, contact Eileen Sanford, Host Council Convention Coordinator at eileensanford12@gmail.com. For information regarding registration or convention activities, contact Jane Wyckoff, FWSA Convention Chair at janewyckoff1@cox.net. FWSA industry partners can contact Debbi Kor, FWSA VP of Marketing and Sponsorships at fwsadebbi@comcast.net or Jeannine Davis, Silent Auction Chair at silentauction@fwsa.org.

Detailed information and registration materials will be posted on the FWSA website, www.fwsa.org in early 2015. Registration materials will be distributed to clubs and councils at that time. We invite you to join us for this 83rd Annual FWSA Convention in San Diego, California. Salute to San Diego will be a FWSA Convention to remember! ▲▲

We’re excited...

...to welcome back the Far West Ski Association to Town and Country Resort, centrally located minutes from San Diego’s major attractions, the Gaslamp Quarter and Old Town.

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Happy Trails Lead to Scottsdale, AZ - 2016

by Linda Westlund
Host Council Convention Coordinator; FWSA

Located in the heart of Scottsdale, Arizona, the DoubleTree Resort - a Hilton property - is an exquisite Four Diamond Resort. There is plenty to see and do nearby. Come early. Stay later. Or, just relax in this tranquil western setting. Photo courtesy of the DoubleTree Resort by Hilton Paradise Valley - Scottsdale.

Envision yourself in beautiful Scottsdale, Arizona, for the 84th Annual Far West Ski Association Convention, June 9-12, 2016. Arizona Ski Council and its members are excited to be hosting the Convention at the DoubleTree Resort by Hilton Paradise Valley - Scottsdale. The Resort is an AAA Four Diamond Resort located in the heart of Scottsdale. From your warm chocolate cookie at check-in to check-out, the DoubleTree Resort by Hilton offers a warm welcome and a comfortable stay. The Resort has tranquil surroundings with a beautifully landscaped property, surrounded by lavish courtyards, cactus and tropical palm trees.

The DoubleTree Resort by Hilton is located only minutes from downtown Scottsdale and 12 miles from Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX). Spacious guest rooms at this Paradise Valley Resort offers impressive views from your private balcony or patio. Pack your swimsuit and sunscreen and enjoy an abundance of sunshine, with very low humidity. Swim laps in one of the outdoor pools, work out in the health club, relax in the spa or enjoy a game of tennis. The Resort offers three tempting dining venues, including the flagship enFuego Restaurant which offers a fine dining experience, with contemporary regional cuisine. For additional information about this fine Resort has to offer, visit www.doubletree3.hilton.com.

Scottsdale and the surrounding area offer a variety of attractions, including activities for sports enthusiasts and those that are looking to experience art and culture. Expect to enjoy a variety of outings and events offered as part of the FWSA Convention, and consider extending your stay to experience even more of Scottsdale and the Grand Canyon State.

Old Town Scottsdale is known for its western charm, renowned art walk, and modern venues. Take in a competitive round of golf or an early morning hike in the Sonoran Desert, or stay cool at an evening event. Favorite places to visit include the Musical Instrument Museum (MIM), Frank Lloyd Wright’s Taliesin West or the nearby Scottsdale Fashion Square for premier shopping. Butterfly Wonderland . . . there are so many exciting options in the area!

Watch the FWSA website www.fwsa.org for updates on the 2016 FWSA Annual Convention in Scottsdale, Arizona. Plan to join us for a fun and worthwhile event, and stay a few extra days for a wonderful vacation experience. Consider a visit to the Grand Canyon, Sedona's red rock country, or take in a major league baseball game at Chase Field, home of the Arizona Diamondbacks. See you in June 2016!

For additional information contact Linda Westlund at skierwesty@aol.com.

2017 AND BEYOND:

The Grove Hotel is attached to the state-of-the-art Boise Centre and 5,000-seat CenturyLink Arena. The Boise Centre is where all the 2017 FWSA Convention meetings and events will be held. The Boise Centre is currently undergoing an expansion, which will be completed well before the Convention. The complex puts you just steps away from the city’s best shopping and restaurants. Photo / The Grove Hotel, Boise, Idaho

2017 in Boise, Idaho

As we continue our advanced planning, we are pleased to announce that the 85th Annual FWSA Convention will be held in Boise, Idaho, June 8-11, 2017, hosted by Bogus Basin Ski Club and the Intermountain Ski Council. Accommodations will be at the landmark Grove Hotel, located just 10 minutes from Boise International Airport (BOI) in the heart of dynamic downtown Boise.

All meeting and events will be conducted at the state-of-the-art Boise Centre adjacent to the hotel. With a front-row view of the Boise National Forest and the pristine Boise River, it is only a two block walk to the Boise Greenbelt walking path that follows the river through the city, and within walking distance of restaurants, coffee bars, cinemas, museums and shopping. We will be working closely with the Boise Convention and Visitor’s Bureau to include the local community in our event. Additional information can be found at www.grovehotelloboise.com and www.boisecentre.com.

Orange County, California in 2018

The Orange Council of Ski Clubs expressed an interest this year to host the 86th Annual FWSA Convention, planned for June 7-10, 2018. Past President, Judy Thurman is leading a local Site Selection Committee to locate a property in one of the beautiful communities in Orange County, California.

For information regarding the FWSA Annual Conventions, contact Jane Wyckoff, FWSA Convention Chair, at janewyckoff1@cox.net.
Public Affairs: 2014
by Mike Sanford
Vice-President of Public Affairs, FWSA

The Public Affairs portfolio of programs is designed to present the positions of the FWSA to the outside world. As “The Voice of the Western Skier”, FWSA has been very active in a whole host of areas that affect ski area development, safety, volunteer liability, transportation, taxation, ski history and consumer advocacy. Topics such as airline baggage rules, discounts for season passes, news about ski country direct airline routes and tendencies of areas to develop along the lines of European ski village environment are of interest to our membership and to the Far West Skier’s Guide readership. We also better educate our members in areas such as the impact of changing demographics and the need for increased diversity, snowsports industry efforts like ski area growth, regulatory efforts to modernize state ski laws, expanding snowmaking capabilities, development of e-commerce in the industry, resort developments, consumer tendencies, the Forest Service's involvement in area development and the need to meet visitor's various needs based on demographics such as age, capabilities, interests and other needs.

The width and breath of the FWSA’s Public Affairs program is significant and FWSA is committed to doing all we can in communicating issues, educating our membership and reaching out to the general public on a huge range of issues and interests that might be included under the large umbrella of topics that could be considered “public affairs”. Some of the issues we focus on are area development, consumer advocacy, safety, transportation, history and equipment and clothing manufacturing.

In summary, the width and breadth of the FWSA Public Affairs program is significant and the FWSA is committed to doing its part in communicating with membership and partners and educating membership on the wide and interesting variety of Public Affairs topics.

We strongly encourage all skiers and boarders to get involved in issues that might affect them either directly or even indirectly by keeping abreast of industry news, government activities, area developments, legislation, public meetings, consumer advocacy and trends, safety issues and product developments and introductions. To keep abreast of issues and stay informed about relevant news visit www.fwsa.org.

▲ Season Stats
The National Ski Areas Association (NSAA) announced recently that U.S. ski areas tallied an estimated 56.2 million skier and snowboarder visits during the 2013-14 season — a figure just shy of the 10-year industry average of 57.3 million, and down only 1.3 percent from last season’s 56.9 million skier visits.

The results, released at NSAA’s Convention and Tradeshow in Savannah, GA, are encouraging given the weather challenges of 2013-14. “With the drought and a rough start to the season in the Far West, an abundance of cold and snow in the East and Midwest, and near-perfect conditions in many parts of the Rocky Mountains, it’s hard to imagine a more complicated weather pattern over the course of one season,” said Michael Berry, NSAA president.

Most of the country had a positive season, with the four resort regions from the Rockies to the Atlantic posting gains relative to last season and 10-season averages. Good snowfall contributed to increased visits in the Southeast (15%), Rocky Mountains (6.4%), Midwest (4.1%), and Northeast (0.6%), collectively a 5.3% increase over last season and their third-best season in 36 years of available estimates. By contrast, the Pacific Northwest and Pacific Southwest had very low snowfall well into the season, enough to drive a 27.7% decline in visits: a 27.5% drop for the Pacific Northwest and a 27.8% drop for the Pacific Southwest, reducing visitation to the second lowest level in 36 years.

It’s important to note that if the West Coast had experienced an average amount of skier visits, nationally the ski industry would have been close to another record season. In longer perspective, visits nationally were up 10.2% in 2013-14 from a recent low of 51 million visits in 2011-12, and down 7.2% from the record high of 60.5 million in 2010-11.

▲ Environment/Consumer Advocacy
Probably the most prominent and written about topic in Public Affairs recently concerns the environment, the effects of global warming, and programs developed to learn more about it and enlighten the skiing public and the public at large on environmental issues. This would include ski area programs adopted with environmental protection in mind and efforts to limit environmental pollution and enhance environmental protection.

The National Ski Areas Association (NSAA) recently named four member ski areas as the recipients of its annual Sustainable Slopes Grant program. Grant recipients include: Ober Gatlinburg, Tennessee; Stevens Pass, Washington; Stratton, Vermont; and Tamarack Mountain Resort, Idaho. “These grants are a great vehicle for implementing sustainability projects at U.S. ski areas and in particular those projects that reduce ski area carbon emissions and address climate change,” says NSAA President Michael Berry. Past winners of the Sustainable Slopes grants include: Alta Ski Area, Utah; Arapahoe Basin, Colorado; Beaver Valley Ski Club, Ontario; Canyons, Utah; Burke Mountain, Vermont; Copper Mountain, Colorado; Crested Butte, Colorado; Giants Ridge, Minnesota; Grand Targhee, Wyoming; Greek Peak, New York; Mt. Abram, Maine; Mt. Ashland, Oregon; Mt. Hood Meadows, Oregon; Oak Mountain, New York; Spirit Mountain, Minnesota; Stevens Pass, Washington; Stratton, Vermont; Sugarbush Resort, Vermont; and Telluride Ski & Golf, Colorado.

Each of the winning programs is highlighted in the 2014 Sustainable Slopes Annual Report, published in September, 2014. For more information on NSAA’s Sustainable Slopes Grant program or to learn more about environment initiatives and projects, visit the Environmental section of www.nsaa.org.

Also from NSAA comes an informative article called “The Dollars & Sense of Sustainability.” It is a look at sustainability’s impact on ski area financial performance. Since NSAA launched its Sustainable Slopes program well over a decade ago, the practice of sustainability in ski area operations has become widespread across the industry. In fact, from an independent third party assessment by Brendle Group — a Colorado-based consulting firm that has supported ski industry sustainability for more than a decade — more than 75% of resorts now have some kind of sustainability effort under their belt. And, from NSAA’s Climate Challenge to its annual Golden Eagle Awards, it’s evident that many areas continue to push into new frontiers of sustainability in their operations.

There is also evidence that individual capital projects are reaping financial benefits for ski areas, from lighting retrofits to efficiencies in lift operations and snowmaking. But, what are the aggregated benefits of comprehensive sustainability programs to the financial balance sheet of ski areas? And, what are the takeaway lessons for the industry as a whole?
Until recently, no one has asked these questions, but in 2013, two longtime consultants to the ski industry teamed up to uncover the answers. They find that there is a positive correlation between sustainability and profit, and a message of lost opportunity for the shrinking pool of ski areas without sustainability programs.

Is there a return on investment for sustainability efforts undertaken by resorts? NSAA points out there is longstanding research and data pointing to the beneficial impacts of sustainability on a company’s financial performance. Business leaders have taken notice. In 2008, the UK-based organization Business in the Community’s report *The Value of Corporate Governance*, which presents five years of research, found that the Dow Jones Sustainability Index – a family of indexes evaluating the sustainability performance of the largest 2,500 companies listed on the Index – financially outperformed traditional Dow Jones companies by an average of 36.1%. The report also found that sustainability strategies had significant beneficial impacts on the cost of external financing, return on invested capital, sales growth, and the fade-rate of a firm’s competitive advantage.

Ski areas have been practicing aspects of sustainability in their operations for many years, with NSAA serving in a leadership role by providing grants, technical resources and recognition to advance these efforts. From energy efficiency projects to waste reduction, and from snowmaking to fleet efficiency, there’s little doubt that ski areas have benefited from such projects in terms of cutting their bottom-line costs. Areas have led the way and inspired other ski areas with their efforts to inventory, target and reduce their carbon footprints.

Participating ski areas continue to make progress through the Climate Challenge. The Climate Challenge program is designed to give technical support and recognition to ski areas that are developing carbon inventories, setting goals for carbon reduction, and measuring success in reducing their overall carbon footprint. NSAA has recognized the resorts participating in the Climate Challenge: Alta Ski Area, Arapahoe Basin, Beaver Valley Ski Club, Boreal Mountain Resort, Canyons Resort, Copper, Giants Ridge Ski & Golf, Gorgoza Park, Grand Targhee, Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, Killington Resort, Jiminy Peak (Past Participant), Las Vegas Ski & Snowboard Resort, Mount Hood Meadows Ski Resort, Mt. Bachelor, Park City Mountain Resort, Pico Mountain, Soda Springs, Sugarbush Resort, and Telluride Ski & Golf Resort.

There are 12 major ski area Sustainability Program types:
- Renewable Energy Generation
- Energy Efficiency in Existing Buildings
- New Construction-Green Building
- Snowmaking Efficiency
- Utility Energy Management
- Fleets and Grooming
- Food and Beverage: Green Purchasing
- Waste
- Reduction and Recycling
- Lift Operations
- Greenhouse Gas Reporting and Triple Bottom Line Accounting
- Sustainability Marketing and Communications
- Human Resources

Becoming more apparent also are reminders of sustainability and climate control efforts seen throughout most resorts, even at the food check-out counters in many resort lodges and eateries.

Some types have long term implications and can require regional activity. Still others can involve multiple partners, can take a long time to be brought to fruition and can be tedious, requiring long term activities, devotion and patience. This process can also be very costly. Generally, the process involves county, city and even state governments, the US Forest Service, community organizations, area operators or permittees and an ever-changing spectrum of organizations interested in protection of the environment. Visiting the Council on Environmental Quality website at [http://ceq.eop.gov/](http://ceq.eop.gov/) can lead to further information on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

In addition to the myriad expansion issues, we are strong supporters of responsible resort management and endorse the NSAA Environmental Charter, Sustainable Slopes, Keep Winter Cool and the Environmental Charter initiatives.

The Personal Health Investment Today Act (PHIT) will allow Americans to use pretax medical accounts for physical activity expenses. PHIT America has endorsed the commitment being made by SnowSports Industries America to support ongoing efforts to educate Americans about the power of activity, the importance of daily PE in schools and the need for Congress to pass pro-physical activity legislation. Winter sports activities are an integral part of an active lifestyle.

“SIA has endorsed the mission of PHIT America and supports its efforts to raise the awareness of an active lifestyle” says SIA President David Ingemie. “Just as companies in the sports and fitness industry are supportive of PHIT America, SIA highly encourages its membership to support PHIT America as well. As the number of ‘inactive’ Americans continues to rise, that’s not good for the quality of life in the U.S. It’s also not good for business in the snow sports industry. ‘Active’ Americans are more likely to be engaged in winter sports.”

In early January, there was the 15th Annual National Health Through Fitness Day lobby day in Washington, D.C., organized by the Sports & Fitness Industry Association and sponsored by PHIT America.

There are over 140 organizations currently involved in PHIT America to help turn around the ‘inactive pandemic’ in the U.S. according to SIA. Last year, snowsports participants burned more than 411 billion calories. A 10% increase in the number of participants involved would raise the number of calories burned to more than 452 billion calories, enough to offset consumption of more than 1.3 billion servings of French fries.

The SIA’s sponsorship of PHIT America is considered a big endorsement from the snowsports sector. Obviously, after the recent Olympics and because we are winter enthusiasts, we know that athletic activities which take place on the snow and ice are fun, competitive and are great exercise. They are an important part of a year-round exercise program.

Area Development

Generally, FWSA maintains an active network of “issue watchers” in strategic areas of the western states. We watch closely the expansion issues and efforts that affect the areas we cover with our clubs and councils. But, that doesn’t mean we don’t watch developments in all the US areas and we also keep a close eye on ski areas throughout the world. Our club members are well informed on developments no matter where they are occurring.

Skiing History

The International Skiing History Association (ISHA) is a U.S.-based organization working to preserve and build awareness of the sport’s heritage through its skills and long experience in editing, research and publishing. ISHA publishes a magazine enthusiastically read six times a year by lovers of skiing, researchers, hall-of-fame members and skiers around the world. It makes ski history accessible to thousands of enthusiasts on the Internet. With an awards program, it annually honors ski history writers, website creators, and
filmakers and broadcasters who document the sport’s history. ISHA’s administrative office is located in the National Ski Museum of the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame, Ishpeming, Michigan. You can visit their webpage at www.skihistory.org where you can find more information.

The 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) is a light infantry division in the United States Army based at Fort Drum, New York. The division is a subordinate unit of the XVIII Airborne Corps. Why is 10th Mountain important to skiers you ask? Originally constituted as a unique mountain warfare unit activated as the 10th Light Division (Alpine) in 1943, the division was the only unit of its size in the U.S. Army to specialize in fighting in mountainous and arctic conditions, thus earning the division the “MOUNTAIN” tab. Today, the division retains its “mountain” designation for historical purposes and is organized as a light infantry division.

Reactivated in 1985, it was designated the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry). Since its reactivation, the division deployed numerous times to both Iraq and Afghanistan in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, respectively. Why is that important to skiers? Members of the division returning from World War II started and built nearly every major and many of the smaller ski areas in the US during the 50’s, 60’s and 70’s. More recently, 10th Mountain have deployed to both Afghanistan and Iraq: and as skiers, we owe the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) a huge debt of gratitude, and Iraq; and as skiers, we owe the 10th

Chronologically:

1917-1919-10th Mountain Division is formed during World War I.

1943-10th Mountain Division is formed during World War II.

1950-1951-10th Mountain Division is deployed to Korea.

1967-1969-10th Mountain Division is deployed to Vietnam.

1980-1989-10th Mountain Division is reactivated.

1990-1991-10th Mountain Division is deployed to Operation Desert Storm.

2003-2012-10th Mountain Division is deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

2012-10th Mountain Division is deployed to Operation Enduring Freedom.

After numerous machinations and permutations and with the support of several nations who began to view skiing and the mountain experience as a boon to healthy living, more serious thought was given to major international competitions. Enter the Olympic presence: Winter Olympics had been contemplated since 1899. Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympic Games and then president of the International Olympic Committee, was not especially noted for his keen interest in skiing. He had been impressed with previous, smaller and unofficial games (particularly the military skijoring races) run every four years. Not much thought had been given to trying to incorporate skiing into the Olympic program. He believed, in 1908, that skiing had a “hygienic value of the highest order” and called it “the best medicine for tuberculosis and neurasthenia.”

After WWI, Chamonix was also growing apace in the twin categories of health center and ski station, particularly the latter. It developed the best lifts and the most expert terrain and was, in that sense, the country’s most prestigious ski village. Chamonix in particular, and the French in general, had acquired an infrastructure and the experience needed to host ever larger winter competitions, both accumulated beginning in the prewar governmental programs concerned with health, war and tourism. The climax of all this effort came in 1924 when Chamonix was chosen as the site of what became, in retrospect, authorized as the First Winter Olympic Games. After its third attempt, in August 1924, Chamonix was finally successful in hosting the First Winter Olympic Games. Since the Olympics took place in late winter, the organizing committee decided to leave the Olympic Village open. This decision was based on the belief that the village would provide a comfortable and convenient place for tourists to enjoy skiing and other winter sports.

The Olympic Village in Chamonix was designed to accommodate up to 4,000 athletes and spectators. It consisted of a central Olympic Village, which included the Olympic Stadium, the Olympic Hall, and the Olympic Village facilities, and several smaller villages located in different parts of the town. The Olympic Village was designed by architect Edouard Poinsot and was completed in time for the opening ceremony of the Games.

The Olympic Village was located on the outskirts of Chamonix, near the town center. It was connected to the rest of the city by a network of roads and public transportation. The Olympic Village was designed to accommodate athletes from all over the world, and it included a variety of facilities, such as dormitories, restaurants, and medical centers.

The Olympic Village was a showcase of modern architecture and engineering. It was designed to be environmentally sustainable, and it included features such as solar panels, rainwater harvesting systems, and energy-efficient lighting.

The Olympic Village was a success, and it helped to establish Chamonix as a major tourist destination. The village was dismantled after the Games, but it inspired the design of future Olympic Villages.

The 2010 Winter Olympics were held in Whistler, Canada, and it included the Olympic Village. The Olympic Village was located in the heart of Whistler, and it included a variety of facilities, such as dormitories, restaurants, and medical centers. The Olympic Village was designed to accommodate athletes from all over the world, and it included features such as solar panels, rainwater harvesting systems, and energy-efficient lighting.

The Olympic Village was a success, and it helped to establish Whistler as a major tourist destination. The village was dismantled after the Games, but it inspired the design of future Olympic Villages.
ucts including retail, wholesale, consumer, participation and special reports, as well as state of the industry videos, contact SIA’s Director of Research, Kelly Davis at KDavis@snowsports.org or go to Snowsports.org/research. Get the latest updates from SIA research by following #SIA data on Facebook and Twitter.

The SKI NATION® mobile app

After three years in development, The SKI NATION® mobile app will officially launch November 13, 2014.

By collaborating with the National Ski Areas Association, state/regional groups, and Canadian associations, more than 900 operating ski areas have been verified. Major resorts, regional ski areas, local hills, and municipal facilities are all included. Cross country ski areas and Nordic jumps are there, too. Any missed ski areas will be added as their information is provided. (No ski area must pay to participate and skiers can download it FREE).

SKI NATION is the first and only mobile application that allows skiers to track their ski days, number of seasons, and collect “Ski Pins” for every place visited in the USA and Canada (including past history). Ski Pins and skiers’ accomplishments can be shared by email, Facebook, and Twitter with links to the ski area(s) where earned. It’s an opportunity for independent, mid-size, and local operators to participate in a North American social network and mobile app. Ski Nation is not intended to replace or conflict with major resort applications, in fact Ski Nation can be used as a way for skiers to download resort apps.

State / Regional Associations will also have the opportunity to set up “Reward Pins” that are earned for collecting pins from a group of ski areas. For example, a “Colorado 28” pin could be set up for anyone that collects a pin from all 28 Colorado alpine ski areas.

Many alpine ski areas have already been uploaded with name, location, and GPS coordinates. A generic photo and ski pin have been assigned to each one until a custom version is received.

Safety Update

The FWSA believes that safety is an important component in snowsports. We recognize that the ski resorts do an extraordinary job of minimizing hazards. FWSA supports an Annual Safety Person of the Year Award, recognizing a club or council member who has contributed most to promoting on mountain safety through club or council efforts. Ultimately however, safety is based on individual responsibility and behavior.

As a reminder, National Safety Week has now become National Safety Month! The month of January is dedicated to an entire month of safety. Many resorts across the country participate every year to educate skiers and snowboarders about being safe, and to use common sense on the slopes. Aspen / Snowmass has partnered with the FWSA for over a decade in recognizing the individual who has done the most to improve safety-consciousness.

We encourage all skiers and ski clubs to promote on slope activities, presentations, articles, etc. Further details on our Safety Award may be found on the www.fwsa.org website.

Skiing and snowboarding off the groomed runs and in deep powder is one of the most exciting and appealing parts of our sport. However, by leaving the groomed trails you are accepting the risk of a deep snow immersion accident. This happens when a skier or rider falls into an area of deep unconsolidated snow or tree well and becomes immobilized and suffocates. Deaths resulting from these kinds of accidents are referred to as Snow Immersion Suffocation.

The NSAA has made available for distribution Tree Well and Deep Snow caution signs and brochures for resorts to use in their efforts to educate skiers and snowboarders about the hazards of tree wells during deep snow conditions. Ski areas are able to download the artwork and have signs made to fit the conditions at their resorts, either for on-mountain signage, printed in trail maps, posted on websites, or utilized in other mountain media.

Become educated on how to reduce the risk of SIS hazards through your own action and awareness. ALWAYS ski or ride with a partner within viewing distance. The website www.deepsnowsafety.org is an excellent resource designed to assist all skiers and riders in educating themselves about the risks and prevention of deep snow and tree well immersion accidents.

What if you go down?

- Yell or use whistle to get your partner’s attention.
- Do whatever you can to keep your head above the surface of the snow including rolling, grabbing tree branches or the tree trunk. If possible, keep your feet below level of your head.
- If you become immersed, make a space around your face and protect your airway – resist the urge to struggle, it could compromise your airspace and entrap you further.
- Stay calm to conserve air.
- Trust your partner is on their way.
- If possible, use your cell phone to call ski patrol or the resort’s emergency number.
- Keep your partner in sight at all times!

What if your partner goes down.

More than half of all SIS victims were with partners that did not see them go down. Lose sight of your partner and you could lose your friend.

If you lose contact with your partner, assume they need help. Many SIS victims have died while their partners were waiting at the bottom of a lift.

Tip: In dense tree areas or in poor visibility, ski or ride short pitches and stop to regroup often - stay within sight of your partner.

1. Don’t leave to get help – Stay with your partner!
2. Call for additional resources. Use a whistle or yell for assistance. If possible, call ski patrol or the resort’s emergency phone number.
3. Evaluate scene safety for yourself.
4. IMMEDIATELY begin snow immersion rescue efforts. Go directly for the airway, and keep it clear; be careful not to knock more snow into the hole. Clear any snow from the airway and continue necessary first aid or ex-trication efforts.
5. Do not try to pull victim out the way they fell in. Instead, determine where the head is and tunnel in from the side. When tunneling directly for the airway, be careful not to knock more snow into the hole.

Continue expanding the tunnel to the airway until you can extricate the body. Efficient “strategic shoveling techniques” with multiple rescuers is very useful.

NSAA fact sheet facts about skiing and snowboarding safety

As reported by NSAA, skiing and snowboarding enjoy an excellent safety record and are less dangerous than other high-energy participation sports. Still, skiing and snowboarding are challenging activities and they require physical skills that are learned over time, with practice and personal responsibility (don’t we know that!).

Snowsports involve a certain level of inherent risk, but in some measure, it is the thrill that entices most skiers and riders to pursue them. Even with these attendant risks, the health and fitness benefits of skiing and snowboarding are enjoyed by people of all ages across the slopes each season. Know your limits and do not take extraordinary chances.
Using Alternative Energy on the Slopes!

The 12th Annual Ski Area Scorecard shows that the top Five Environmental Resorts of the year all generate alternative energy on their own slopes, a growing trend that reduces greenhouse gases and air pollution. Ski Area Citizens’ Coalition research shows an increase in the number of resorts generating or planning to generate their own energy on-site, with the Rockies leading the way.

Rank
1. Stevens Pass Ski Area, WA 93.3
   New Project: installing a solar panel array to power lift station lights, heaters and backup batteries
2. Park City Mountain Resort, UT 92.4
   Have a solar array, vertical wind turbine and solar thermal panels.
3. Aspen Highlands Ski Resort, CO 92.2

Statistics on Skiing/Snowboarding
For purposes of compiling accurate data on fatalities and serious injuries, the National Ski Areas Association (NSAA) collects information from all ski areas in the United States annually, either directly or through one of the three main insurance companies that provide coverage to ski areas.

Fatalities – During the past 10 years, an average of 39.6 people per season have died while skiing or snowboarding at a ski area. During the 2012/13 season, 25 fatalities occurred at U.S. ski areas, out of the 56.9 million skier/snowboarder days reported for the year – a decline of nearly 50 percent from the previous year, in which there were 46 fatalities.

The rate of fatality for the 2012/13 season converts to 0.44 per million skier/snowboarder visits, which is the second lowest fatality rate in the last 10 years. While skier visits were very close to the 10-year industry average of 57.3 million, the 25 fatalities were significantly lower than the 10-year industry fatality average of 40 per season.

Of the 25 fatalities, 23 were skiers and 2 were snowboarders, 20 were male and 5 were female. Regarding helmet use, 14 of the fatalities were wearing helmets at the time of the incident and 11 of the fatalities were not wearing helmets.

Remember: Safety is Having Fun Consciously!

Snowsports Trends & News - Updates
SnowSports Industries America (SIA), located in McLean, VA, is the national not-for-profit, North American member-owned trade association representing suppliers of consumer snowsports with constituents in the retailer and resort communities. SIA annually produces the SIA Snow Show, the largest snowsports industry trade show and networking environment globally. SIA also provides data research, marketing products, government affairs representation, services and programs.

SIA works collectively with all components of the snowsports industry including alpine, snowboard, telemark, cross country, snowshoe, apparel and accessories companies, retailers, resorts, regional and national associations and buying groups. The SIA goal is promoting the growth and development of snowsports. They provide the annual SIA Snow Show and provide consumer outreach programs in order to get more people on snow more often and making sure they are properly equipped and dressed to give them the best experience of snowsports. They also assist in managing and operating trade shows, business improvements, developing the snowsports industry and promoting snowsports awareness and participation. Their subsidiaries include Snowlink, Winter Trails, Winter Feels Good, Snow Sports Insiders and Ship Your Gear.

The 12th Annual Ski Area Scorecard

Summary of important websites:

- http://www.cskiandsnowboardmonth.org – Ski and Snowboard Month
- http://www.ushall.com – National Ski Hall of Fame
- http://eqhess.doe.gov/ National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- http://www.irs.fed.us – Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
- http://www.bringafriend.org – Bring A Friend to Ski
- http://www.keepwintercool.org – Keep Winter Cool
- http://www.tyra.org – Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
- http://www.snowlink.com – Snowlink
- http://www.10thmountaindivision.org/ – 10th Mountain Division Association

Sources for the information contained in the preceding report: Mountain Travel Research Program (MTRIP), National Ski Area Association (NSAA), Ski Area Management (SAM), SnowSports Industries Association (SIA), Mountain News, and SnoCountry.
I had the opportunity to attend the SnowSports Industries America (SIA) manufacturers show last February at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver. The SIA show is the North American and Pacific Rim buying show for all ski retailers and features virtually every manufacturer and/or importer of ski and snowboard hard and soft goods in the world. 

With significant growth in Alpine Touring (AT) equipment, the line between backcountry and resort gear continues to blur with major manufacturers developing light-yet-strong equipment and building ascent friendly gear that doesn’t sacrifice descending power. You now hear terms like side-country and lift-assisted access in many resorts that offer gate controlled access to out of bounds terrain.

**BOOTS**

Boots with hike-ski modes will be the hot ticket for this season. According to SIAs market research, AT boot sales increased 58% last year. This coming season, manufacturers are offering comfortable all-mountain boots with walk mode convenience getting to and from the parking lot coupled with frontside performance.

Many manufacturers are now offering custom moldable shell technology (Fisher and Atomic) and/or memory fit technology (K2, Full Tilt, Rossignol and Apex) and wider lasts. These changes make the starting point for custom boot fitting easier and more comfortable for out-of-the-box fit.

**BINDINGS**

Bindings with new innovative designs with a focus on lighter weight, safer release, better control of wider skis, and enhanced touring modes and sole compatibility will be available this fall.

AT style bindings with touring modes are increasingly popular and continue to drive sales. All major binding manufacturers have a version which is trending to have the capability to accommodate both DIN and Touring norm boot soles.

Safety continues to be a top priority in bindings. KneeBinding is the only binding made in the USA that is proven to mitigate knee injuries with a patented PureLateral heel release. Some ski resorts are now using Knee-Binding for their on-hill staff to reduce the costs of on-the-job knee injuries.

**SKIS**

It has been a long time since your ski choice was slalom, giant slalom, or recreational. Along came shaped skis and then very wide powder skis. Now there are race skis (Slalom, Giant slalom, Super G and Downhill), frontside carving skis, all mountain mid-fat skis, freeskier big mountain fat skis, twin-tip park and free skis, really wide powder skis, and alpine touring (AT) skis.

It can be very difficult for the average recreational skier to pick the best ski for his/her style of skiing. The best bet is to demo or rent different skis that best suit the type of terrain that they most enjoy in order to actually feel the differences in the ski. Another great source of information is the Ski or Skiing magazines ski tests and buyers guides. When talking to your local ski shop about skis, be truthful in describing your abilities and the terrain that you most enjoy skiing so that they can recommend skis that match your needs.

The trend this year is toward modern versatile shapes with lightweight constructions that don’t compromise performance. Manufacturers are now using materials and manufacturing techniques that offer performance and reliability with lighter weights. Narrower waist widths will also be seen this season with versatility in a ski that goes any-
What Are You Doing This Season?

by Richard Lubin, D.C.
“The Snowboarding Chiropractor”
Safety Chair, FWSA

Is this going to be just an “average year”?

Do more and make it something special! Why change anything?
Will you continue to enhance, like a finely tuned ski?
Augment your skill set. I’m challenging you to improve!

Try something new this year! Experience several ski areas that you have not been to before. New terrain. New challenges. New adventures. New memories. Powderhorn Mountain Resort, with its dry powder, is located on the side of one of the world’s largest flattop mountains, which allows for views extending more than 20 miles across the high desert below. Make this year really special! photo / Powderhorn Mountain Resort / Tom Stillo, photographer

How can that be done?

Safety starts with fitness. Do something extra this preseason to increase fitness, both aerobically and strength-wise. Visualize the rhythmic cadence of carving in your off-snow activities. For example, when walking down stairs, keep your legs balanced, zigging and zagging every few steps. Land the landing. When you dance, do it with fluidity and grace. Improve safety - learn how to scan for visual perception looking side to side. Use that gym membership you bought way back in January. Here are some ideas for this special season’s wish list.

- Skiing off piste: This can be defined as skiing away from the prepared, groomed ski runs. If you are not familiar with doing this, try it safely for a short distance off of a trail that you are well capable of navigating. Work your way up and you’ll find terrain that is challenging and special. This year, demo some different types of skis. You might find they can really complement your abilities or successfully adapt to different snow conditions. Many ski areas do free demo days. Or, you can go to the rental shop to ask for demos. You will be able to try several in the same day.
- Who needs lessons? World Cup skiers do! Maybe you should try lessons, too! Skilled and perceptive instructors may be able to analyze your biomechanics and improve your technique. Or, try something different!
- Telemark Skiing: Perhaps you’ve seen people skiing downhill with boots attached only at the toe. This requires that your knees are in good shape and that you are fit to safely participate. I am told this is both challenging, and rewarding. Additionally, Cross Country Skiing is a great workout and easy to learn, as well!

Pick the ski/board that best suits the terrain and ability level of the user!
The Pipe: Try dropping in on your skis or board. Ride up one side then down the other. Have fun with gravity. If it looks scary, go slow until you build confidence.

Terrain Parks: You can safely participate in some of these odd but fun feature areas. Just start slow and don’t go out of your comfort zone.

Gear: What are you waiting for? If you love to ski or snowboard, get some newer stuff. It will help to optimize your abilities. There are really gigantic leaps in technology. Take advantage of them. Make the most of your days on the slopes.

Clothes: This is way more than just fashion. The right ski clothes can keep you safer and warmer - or cooler - depending on the weather! Anatomically designed clothes help you to move better. I hear so often, “I get cold skiing”. That means you didn’t dress properly.

Racing: If you have not participated in racing programs, you are missing out. It only takes a few minutes out of your day, but you can test your character and skills against others. You are matched with other people of your approximate same skill. You get big hugs and accolades from your ski club members. (See the racing section starting on page 24 to get involved. Racing also improves your general skiing/boarding skills.)

Snowboarding: From a safety perspective, it can be a risky business if you are new to it. If you’re not sure because of any physical conditions or fears, perhaps you should not try it. But, taking lessons can build technique and confidence. As you learn and gain proficiency, it can be one of the most profound, satisfying, and empowering experiences in your life. It is super fun and rewarding.

Try something new this year! Don’t be intimidated by a big snow dump. Rent some powder skis. They are available at major resort rental shops. Take a lesson on powder skiing techniques. Resorts offer them! Take advantage of what is available at your chosen resorts. Take the challenge to improve your skills!  

Here are a few quick safety suggestions:

- Wear a helmet.
- Wrap or tape your wrists. You may want to use wrist support similar to inline skate wrist braces.
- You will fall. Learn how to do it safely.
- Wrap, tape, or otherwise support problem areas in your body.
- If you are older (I’ll leave that definition up to you) just do it for a couple of hours or less, NOT all day. You’ll be so sore or injured and may never try it again.
- Consider taking lessons.
- Give yourself time, and evolve into it.
- If you are already a snowboarder, try different angles. Try new bindings and a different board. Buy or demo a powder board for some hefty snowpacks.
- Try riding an alpine set up with hard boots and a carving board.

Variety is the spice of life. Experience resorts you’ve never been to before. Try new equipment. Push yourself into becoming a better skier/boarder than you already are. Do something special this year and make this YOUR SEASON! 

Safety is no accident. Safety is having fun consciously!

With An Average of Over 500” of Snowfall Annually, Grand Targhee Resort is a Favorite for the Powder Experience!

One of the fastest growing segments of skiing is “backcountry” or “off-piste”, which refers to going outside the official resort’s boundaries. For a number of years, many resort expansions have involved the development of nearby terrain for advanced and expert skiers to experience new challenges, fresh powder conditions and to get away from crowds for the ultimate ski experience! Grand Targhee Resort, located on the western slopes of the Teton Mountain Range in the Caribou-Targhee National Forest in Alta, Wyoming, is just one of the resorts providing excellent conditions and terrain for both in-bound and backcountry skiers and snowboarders. Fred’s Mountain and Peaked Mountain are serviced by five lifts, offering over 2,500 acres of skiable terrain, but there are also over 600+ acres reserved exclusively for Snowcat skiing in open bowls, gladed runs and steeps; and a hike only in-bounds area between the peaks. In addition, Grand Targhee is noted for it’s abundant snowfall. The resort averages over 500 inches annually due to its high altitude (13,700’ summit), its western slope location and the moisture channel from the Pacific Ocean flowing through the Rocky Mountains following the Snake River Plain placing it among the top resorts in North America for abundant and dependable snowcover.
Snowboarding: Extreme Sport to Mainstream

by Jane Wyckoff
Assistant Editor, Far West Skier’s Guide
A Bit of History

Snowboarding is not a new concept, just invented in the last few decades. The first snowboards can be traced back to the late 1920’s, when men and older boys would take plywood or boards from the sides of barrels tied together with clothesline as their base. They would use horse reigns or more clothesline to try to keep their feet tied into place on the boards. Snowsport historians note that the first snowboard-like-invention was developed in 1929 by M.J. “Jack” Burchett. These snowboarding pioneers then slid down some snow covered hills standing up on their board. It is much like the early history of the development of skis, when “snowshoes,” or long planks of wood were used in the mining camps to travel over snow.

There were quite a few snowboard inventors, creating a colorful history of inventions in garages and woodshops. In 1965, Sherman Poppen invented something called “The Snurfer”. He was a chemical engineer in Muskegon, Michigan, and made this contraption for his daughter as a toy. He tied two skis together and put a rope at the front to make it easier to steer. His wife named it the “Snurfer” because it was a Snow Surfboard. Incredibly successful, he sold over half a million in one year and organized competitions for people to “Snurf”.

In 1970, Dimitrije Milovich, an east coast surfer, got an idea after sliding on cafeteria trays. He started developing snowboards...
based on the feel of surfing and the mechanics of skiing. He got together with a surfboard maker, Wayne Stovekin, and they started making a type of snowboard based on a surfboard design with metal edges. He patented the design in 1971, and even had a write-up in Newsweek Magazine. In 1974, Milovich started making snowboards for his buddies and people who contacted him, and in 1976, founded Winterstick brand boards.

Tom Sims built a snowboard in his junior high woodshop class. Sims was a skater who wanted to make a skateboard, without wheels, for the snow. Sims, along with his friend and employee, Chuck Barfoot, started making snowboards in Sims’ garage in 1977. Barfoot came up with “The Flying Yellow Banana” sold under the Sims name as “Skiboard”. Sims got a big deal with a mainstream company making snowboards in Sims’ garage in 1977. Barfoot came up with “The Flying Yellow Banana” sold under the Sims name as “Skiboard”. Sims got a big deal with a mainstream company for his skateboards and snowboards in 1980.

Jake Burton Carpenter was an avid skier, but he always wanted to surf. He had seen one of the Surfers as a child and was inspired by Milovich. He moved to Londonderry, Vermont, after obtaining a degree from New York University in economics, and started making snowboards with stern bent wood and fiberglass. The first real ski technology for snowboards was introduced by Burton and Winterstick in 1980. However, some dispute this claim, believing that Milovich used the technology back in 1974. The new prototype had a P-Tex base. Burton dreamed up special designs and new mechanisms that lead to the development of new tricks and techniques, because it was much easier to ride.

Snowboards began appearing with increasing regularity on U.S. slopes in the early 1980’s. In 1985, the first snowboarding magazine came out, titled Absolute Radical, which was later changed into International Snowboarding Magazine. In 1986, Regis Rolland, a French snowboarder, starred in “Apocalypse Snow” which launched a European snowboard generation.

Snowboarding at Resorts

By the early 1980’s, resorts weren’t quite sure how to deal with the new sport, as snowboards began to appear with increased regularity on the ski slopes across the country. Some instituted outright bans on snowboards, and eventually there were very few ski resorts and parks that allowed them. Snowboarding was considered dangerous to the skiers and others claimed their insurance didn’t cover them.

Not all skiers easily accepted the new culture of snowboarding on the slopes. Most snowboarders felt the real reason was the way they looked. Mainly younger, they wore baggy skateboarder clothing, and had some bold hair styles and colors. They spoke and acted differently. The surfing and skateboarding culture had moved onto snow.

Some resorts segregated skiers and snowboarders, by limiting snowboards to specific areas of the hill. Vermont was the first state to open a Snowboarding Park, and by 1990, most of the big resorts offered separate slopes for snowboarders. As the sport grew in popularity, the bans fell by the wayside. By the late 2000’s, there were only a few resorts that continued to ban snowboarding. As the sport continued to grow, resorts could no longer ignore the revenue coming into the snowsports business through snowboarding, especially through large crowds drawn to competitions. Also, a lot of skiers were ending the season by the time April rolled around, but the riders were still arriving at resorts for spring boarding.

Snowboarding Safety

When snowboarders first began to hit the slopes, they were largely self-taught. Resort ski schools had few, if any, snowboard instructors. Resorts had a valid argument that the ban on snowboards was a policy based on safety. However, with the advent of organized snowboard instruction and the creation of the American Association of Snowboard Instructors, the arguments no longer applied. In addition to on the hill instruction, there are now instructional snowboarding videos by the pros, and books full of tips for beginner or advanced snowboarders. You can also get clothing and gear recommended for the ultimate performance in snowboarding.

According to skiing & snowboarding safety study conducted by the National Ski Areas Association (NSAA), gender plays a notable role in skiing and snowboarding injury comparisons, and is more pronounced within snowboarding injuries. According to the 2010 study, injuries by skiers were almost evenly split among the genders with 51% male and 49% female. For snowboarding injuries, 70% of snowboarding incidents were male and 30% were female.
Also, according to this study, the types of injury were notably different between skiers and snowboarders. According to the statistics, skiers were more likely to suffer a strain or sprain injury than snowboarders. However, snowboarders were nearly twice as likely to suffer a bone fracture as skiers, and twice as likely to suffer a concussion compared to skiers. The predominant injury in skiing incidents was the knee, with 33% for skiers and only 17% of snowboarding injuries. For the snowboarders, the predominant injury was the wrist, with 20% of snowboarding injuries and 4% for skiers.

Head injuries in snowboarding can occur both as a consequence of a collision or when failing to carry out a heel-side turn, slamming the back of the head onto the ground. In another study by NSAA, helmet usage by skiers and snowboarders at U.S. ski areas increased again during the 2012-13 season. Overall, 70% of all skiers and snowboarders wore helmets during the ski season, setting a new record for helmet usage in the industry. This study did not delineate percentages of skiers or boarders regarding helmet usage.

**Olympic Recognition**

As with all types of sports, competition was sure to follow with its development. During the “Surfer” age, Paul Graves was reported to have gone “insane” at the Annual Surfer contest in Michigan in 1979. He did flips, bent down on the board halfway through, and did four sliding 360s. In 1981, the first snowboarding contest was held, a small one, in Leadville, Colorado.

The first international snowboard race was held in Suicide Six Ski Area, outside of Woodstock, Vermont in 1982. From all accounts, the race consisted of a steep icy kamikaze downhill run, called “The Face” and the goal of the race seemed to be survival. Sports Illustrated, Good Morning America and The Today Show all covered some aspect of the contest. Contestants, including Jake Burton and Tom Sims, competed on Snurfers, Burton boards, and Sims boards. Doug Bouton, on the Burton team, won first overall on a Burton board. Burton held the National Snowboarder Championship in Vermont in 1983. Sims organized the first World Snowboarding Championship in the Lake Tahoe area that same year, and included a halfpipe event.

In 1988, Chuck Allen, a surf coach, founded the United States Amateur Snowboarder Association (USASA), and a national championship is conducted each year. The International Snowboarding Association was founded in 1989 and it became the International Snowboarding Federation in 1990. In 1998, snowboarding finally “made it big” when it became an Olympic Sport. Snowboarding had its first Olympic competition with the Halfpipe events (freestyle snowboarding), and the Giant Slalom events (traditional snowboarding). By the 2014 Olympics in Sochi, there were 10 snowboarding events – Halfpipe, Parallel Giant Slalom, Parallel Slalom, Slopestyle and Snowboard Cross (Men’s and Women’s competitions). Snowboarding made its Paralympic Winter Games debut in Sochi, as well, after years of petitioning, with men and women events in the Snowboard Cross discipline.

At the 2014 ESPY Awards, Sage Kotsenburg (Park City, Utah), who opened the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi winning gold in Slopestyle snowboarding’s debut, won Best Male U.S. Olympian. Jamie Anderson (South Lake Tahoe, California), who won the gold medal in the inaugural Women’s Slopestyle event at the Olympics, won Best Female Action Sports Athlete and Best Female U.S. Olympian. The USSA has played a key role in advancing new events like Slopestyle into the Winter Olympics.

**Snowboarding Demographics**

According to the Physical Activity Council – 2012/2013 SnowSports Industries America (SIA) Snow Sports Participation Report, males outnumber females in alpine skiing, snowboarding and cross country: skiing (60% male, 40% female), snowboarding (67% male, 33% female), and cross country (60% male, 40% female).

In keeping with its youthful image, snowboarding skews toward the youngest of the three disciplines. A total of 79.8% of snowboarders are ages 6 to 34, with only 20.2% age 35 and up. Alpine skiers ages 6 to 34 account for 60.9% with 39.1% age 35 and up. In cross country, only 48.2% are ages 6 to 34, with 41.8% 35 years and older.

Alpine skiers still outnumber boarders on the slope, but last year, the gap narrowed (see chart on the next page).

**Why Choose Snowboarding?**

Skiers, snowboarders and other snow-sport enthusiasts are on the mountains for many of the same reasons – enjoyment of healthy outdoor activities, the thrill of the sport, competition, and just having fun with friends and family. In snowboarding, freeriders will look for excellent powder and the potential for backcountry exploration, while freestylers want a great terrain park with lots of jumps, rails, and pipes to play on. A good resort destination will offer both opportunities.

Anthony Razo from Orange County, California (under 34 age group), learned how to ski at a young age. His mother is on the National Ski Patrol and the family skied together. He transitioned from skiing to snowboarding when he was 15 years old. According to Anthony: “It seemed to be the new cool look on the slopes and it seemed easy to learn. It’s kind of like skateboarding and surfing. I didn’t have to worry about my legs splitting apart. I like the clothes and comfortable boots, a sense of drifting while carving turns, and it was easy to navigate all levels of runs. When on a snowboard, I feel like I am floating. Everything is quiet and soft – it is surreal!” When asked what advice he would give to people who are just learning how to snowboard, he said “Wear padded shorts for rear protection, as well as wrist guards and a helmet is a must!”
A snowboarder and skiers sharing the slopes at Winter Park Ski Resort. The Resort has six terrain parks, including a Super Pipe. There were 13 new terrain park rails/jibs added for the 2012-13 season.  

Thecla Chomicz in the Phoenix Ski Club, Arizona Ski Council (over 34 age group), was also a skier first, and then switched to Snowboarding. Thecla felt she never got great at skiing and was permanently stuck at the beginning/intermediate level. She said “I struggled on anything that wasn’t perfectly groomed. After my first week of boarding lessons I was doing advanced runs and now average riding over 100 miles of all kinds of terrain during Far West Ski Week. It’s so easy! No poles, no struggle. I’m never sore. No more ski boots! Never cold. It’s just ride, ride, ride. It makes me happy!” Thecla enjoys racing in the Women’s Snowboard division in the Far West Ski Week racing program.

**Nomenclature**

Ski organizations were founded before the advent of snowboarding. As the popularity of snowboarding grew, the question became whether to add snowboarding to their titles. The United States Ski Association became the United States Ski and Snowboarding Association (USSA), and is the national governing body of Olympic skiing and snowboarding. FWSSA has club members that are snowboarders that participate on club and council trips, Far West Ski Week, and in racing programs. Some Far West Ski Association clubs now include snowboard in the club name, such as the Inskiers Ski and Snowboard Club in Bay Area Council and the Four Seasons West Ski and Snowboard Club in Los Angeles Council. The full name of the Bay Area Council is the Bay Area Snow Sports Council, to be all-inclusive of all disciplines.

Snowboarding has become a mainstream sport, and is no longer considered an “Extreme Sport”. However, there is no doubt that the future will bring the creation of new and exciting snowsport activities, with inventions still coming out of garages and woodshops. As snowboarding grew into millions of participants, skiers and snowboarders became more used to each other, showing more respect to one another on the mountain. Our most important endeavor is to respect all snowsport enthusiasts and their right to enjoy the mountain experience, and to follow the rules and responsibilities created to keep us all safe while enjoying our selected snowsport.

The best snowboarders in the world will be competing at the Burton US Open Snowboarding Championships at the Vail Resorts Golden Peak Terrain Park/Vail Mountain, March 2-7, 2015. It will be the 33rd year of the Burton US Open.  

- **Sugar Bowl**, one of Lake Tahoe’s original ski areas (open since 1939), has significant advanced terrain and a high annual snowfall - the perfect combination for expert skiers and snowboarders. Gorgeous setting! photo courtesy of Sugar Bowl Ski Resort

Area Council is the Bay Area Snow Sports Council, to be all-inclusive of all disciplines.  

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Alpine Skiing</th>
<th>Snowboarding</th>
<th>Cross Country</th>
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<td>2009/10</td>
<td>10,919,000</td>
<td>7,421,000</td>
<td>4,157,000</td>
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Source: Physical Activity Council – 2012/2013 SIA SnowSports Participation Report. These figures represent participants who are 6+ years old and participated in a sport at least once during the given season.

(Resources for this article included: The History of Snowboarding - From Garages to the Olympics by Shannon Schwartz, Snowboarding History by Jared Pelletier, How Snowboarding Works by Stephanie Watson, TheSkiChannel.com, NSAA Fact Sheets, and SIA SnowSports Studies).  

Jane Wyckoff, Assistant Editor of the Far West Skier’s Guide, is a Past President of the Far West Ski Association and currently a member of the FWSSA Board of Trustees and Convention Chairperson.
Time waits for no man. It marches on relentlessly and mercilessly, despite any and all of our efforts to slow it down. All we can really do is try to live every day to the fullest, so that when the last page is turned and our race has been run, we can look back and feel that we wasted little of that most precious commodity.

I have lived that way for the most part. When my book of life passed into chapter 60 a while back, I really could look back with few regrets. And, while I felt completely satisfied with the road I had traveled, it is only natural that I was not yet prepared to throw in the towel - to settle into a rocking chair and make a little more space at the top for the younger generation.

At 60, I think and feel no differently than at 20. I still love active travel, seeing new places and meeting new people and cultures, pretty young girls in the short dresses that appear on the avenue every spring, and 50 centimeters of cold virgin powder in a widely spaced forest on a crisp January morning. For almost 40 years, I have lived the youthful and wonderful life of a ski bum. Each winter since that long ago time when I graduated from university, I have packed my ski equipment and migrated to the Alps for the winter. It has been as consistent as a Swiss watch.

Some people glide gracefully into old age. They negotiate the transition to a new stage of life with apparent ease, trading arduous mountain hikes and backpacking treks for Sunday strolls in the park. Their backpack gathers dust in the attic or is handed down to the grandchildren, while they begin browsing through the cruise ship catalogues. The night table next to their bed is equipped with a novel and a crossword puzzle instead of a pack of condoms. They sell their skis at a garage sale and take up golf.

Not me. I will go out kicking and screaming. The ski patrol will probably have to haul me off the slopes one day with my boots on like a warrior being carried out on his shield. Or, I might die of a heart attack trying one more time to indulge in carnal pleasures and to prove to myself that I am still able to satisfy the nighttime needs of a woman. It is even possible that I will pass away of a broken heart, falling in love one more time with somebody who is too many years my junior to want to end up as a geriatric nurse. But, one thing is certain, I will not wither away from inactivity and my brain and heart will not cease to function as a result of boredom.

It is true that while my heart and soul are still 20, the shell that houses them has aged. My back often creaks in the morning and gives me fits until I have moved around for a while. And, my poor knees that have skied more than 4,000 days have more wear and tear than my car. Many ski days begin with a Voltaren and a prayer, but that still beats trading in my ski boots for a croquet mallet. It is with that obstinate attitude in mind that when the winter snow began to fly last winter, I once again packed my car and pointed it in the direction of the Alps.

The road trip is more or less a right of passage for ski bums. It is a critical part of the almost 40 years I have lived the youthful and wonderful life of a ski bum. Between Tignes and its neighbor, Val d’Isere, there are 300 kilometers (185+ miles) of pistes and 10,000 hectares (approximately 24,700+ acres) of off-piste territory to discover. Although the resort is closed for several weeks during the summer months, the Grand Motte Glacier extends the season past the average length of most resorts, making it a favorite for late season fun. He has passed the point of no return in one of Tignes’s many couloirs. photos in this article by Jimmy Petterson

Tignes is one of the most dependable winter sports destinations in France due to a combination of its high altitude, reliable snowpack and a wide variety of impressive terrain. Between Tignes and its neighbor, Val d’Isere, there are 300 kilometers (185+ miles) of pistes and 10,000 hectares (approximately 24,700+ acres) of off-piste territory to discover. Although the resort is closed for several weeks during the summer months, the Grand Motte Glacier extends the season past the average length of most resorts, making it a favorite for late season fun.

TWO VOLTAREN & A BOX OF VIAGRA

by Jimmy Petterson
program - just as important as sneaking on lifts without paying, dining on spaghetti with ketchup on consecutive nights, and piling six to eight friends into a double room. And, if it is to be done right, it should be done in an aging vehicle, where part of the adventure is whether the car will really make it back home at the end of the journey or end up as scrap metal somewhere in the Alps while the owner and his buddies return home by train. The vehicle in question will be packed to the gills with skis, boards, boots, backpacks and other snowsports equipment that has a value that is an exponential multiple of the car’s value. That is the way I traveled to the Alps on so many occasions in my younger years.

True to my description, some of my vehicles did die in action. One year, my old Volvo 240 blew a head gasket outside of Rostock, Germany, but fortunately, it was on the way home from the Alps at the end of the season. I also had a Jeep that breathed its last gasp halfway through Denmark on my spring return from the Alps and I had to finish the journey by train.

Ski bums don’t travel like this just because they love adventure. Let’s face it - the nomadic and seasonal nature of the ski-bum existence is not really conducive to saving enough money for a reliable automobile.

All of the above is past history. Nowadays, I am able to afford a better car. Financial hardship no longer forces me to do my winter road trips in an ancient auto. Yet some habits die hard. Perhaps, it is the fact that the ski-bum lifestyle makes me feel young. If I were die hard. Perhaps, it is the fact that the ski-bum existence is not really conducive to saving enough money for a reliable automobile.

As we drove, I shared some of my memories with Carl and Klaus. “It was crazy.” I related. “Imagine six ski bums and all their gear coexisting in about 35 square meters. It was like living in our car… for the whole ski season. Imagine when they all got back to the flat after a snowy day and wanted to dry six sets of ski gloves, hats, sweaters, jackets, socks and boots on the three small heaters. What a joke! And, speaking of socks and boots, that was really what those quarters smelled like for the entire season.”

We checked into a two-room apartment that almost jumped right out of my own memory and I became almost giddy with nostalgia. Fortunately, we were only three sharing the unit, so it was quite manageable, but it did not take long before it, too, was permeated with an air of eau de sock.

Who cares? We were here to ski and not to hang out in our room, and the air was fresh and clean on the mountain. I had so many memories from my many visits here and I wanted to share as much as possible with Klaus and Carl. I began by taking them down the men’s downhill run from the 1992 Albertville Olympics - La Face - from the top of Bellevarde in Val d’Isère. That is much more than a warm-up - a true leg burner.

Then, we went back up and I guided them through one of the resort’s most interesting and unique descents - the Piste Perdue or Lost Valley. This is actually a canyon rather than a valley and it is a very narrow canyon at that. It is not particularly steep, but the serpentine path gets so narrow at places that even the best of skiers must use his entire repertoire of braking techniques to negotiate its full length. The snowplow, the sideslip and the side step are all part of the fun, and depending on the amount of snow, you may even have to remove your skis at some points. This run is more of a nature experience than a ski run. It winds through beautiful stalagmite shaped rock formations and it is even necessary to ski through a snow-filled cave.

If we were not tired enough after these two landmark runs, we then skied the infa-
mous mogul fields under the Solaise lift. Everybody’s legs were now begging for lunch. After replenishing our muscles with some carbs, we decided on a less ambitious itinerary for the afternoon. The upper slopes of Espace Killy are generally much gentler with many well-groomed runs, while the lower slopes are steeper and offer the biggest challenge. We stayed in the upper reaches for the afternoon, allowing our legs the luxury of some high-speed cruising, finishing the day high up on the Grand Motte Glacier (3456 m), the highest point in the lift system.

That night it snowed. The following day, I really had the opportunity to share with my buddies the Espace Killy that I had fallen in love with in the 1970s. We began with some powder descents down the north-facing Couloirs du Chardonnet, 35 - 40 degrees of heaven accessible with only about a 15-minute hike. These chutes are quite avalanche-prone, but fortunately, the snow was relatively stable.

We did three laps in the Chardonnet terrain that is available in this corner of the Alps.

A spectacular natural landmark in Tignes is the Aiguille Percee - the eye of the needle - a hole in the rocks high above the village.

It is a time for contemplation when your skis are 195 cm and the couloir’s width is 185 cm.

We did three laps in the Chardonnet Couloirs and we could have done more, but I was on a trip down memory lane. There was so much more I wanted to revisit. A spectacular natural landmark in Tignes is the Aiguille Percee - the eye of the needle - a hole in the rocks high above the village.

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grudgingly learning how to act without cartilage. On this day, at least, we could all chat like young bucks. My knees felt so good that I began eying some of the pretty young girls around me at the bar. After all, Voltaren is not the only miracle drug in my pack.

We had arranged for a guide for our first day in Les Arcs as well. About 90 minutes of skiing and lift riding brought us from Plagne Bellecôte to Arc 2000. There, we met Jean Marie Picard Deyme, a 64-year-old mountain man who revealed to me that he, too, always kept some Voltaren in his backpack. One could not tell from his skiing that he ever needed it. He too knew every square inch of the mountains of Les Arcs.

The Les Arcs classic that is comparable to some of the long runs in Alp d’Huez is the north face of Aiguille Rouge - yet another 2000-vertical-meter plunge to the village of Villaroger. This can incidentally also be done by way of an equally epic piste run. Whether one skis it in the pow or on the piste, the finish line should be the same - the quaint La Ferme bistro. Unfortunately, the Aiguille Rouge was also still closed in the aftermath of the recent storm. Jean Marie made the best of the situation, and led us into the lower half of the off-piste terrain by way of the Combe des Lanchettes, a run that begins with a very steep entry and also finishes way down in Villaroger.

The atmosphere in the purpose-built resorts of La Plagne and Les Arcs is clearly lacking, but fortunately, there are ample opportunities to ski down to charming hamlets of old stone houses. There, a tartiflette, a fondue Savoyarde, or a raclette lunch in the right surroundings invariably lifts the lunch experience to a niveau that is on a par with the skiing.

Our dessert after a big lunch was more powder. With the Aguille Rouge cable car closed, the highest point we could get to was atop the Grand Col chairlift (2832 m). From there, Klaus and I followed Jean Marie through the virgin fields of a long lovely valley that wound its way down to Nancroix. It was another day where the snow was soft enough so that neither Jean Marie nor I needed to look for our reserve supply of Voltaren. From the La Plagne side of the valley, the north face of Bellecôte stared down at us, almost taunting us to come transgress her virgin slopes. Closed for days, we could only hope that the lift would be operational the next day. It was.

Bellecôte’s north face is not just a run - it is a legendary descent - about 1700 vertical meters of the wildest terrain that the French Alps can throw at you. And, it is not just one
descent - there are dozens of routes. While even the easiest of the options is more challenging than the toughest skiing we had so far done with our guides, we decided to take on this challenge on our own. I had skied the north face a few times prior, and by now, a few days had passed since the last snowfall, diminishing the avalanche danger. I chose one of the standard options - la Petite Face Nord Classique.

The first section of the descent is relatively simple with quite a number of tracks before one drops over the ridge and enters a long, steep couloir. The snow was perfect - still untouched, but somewhat settled and stable. To our left, the Mt. Blanc smiled benignly down on us as we took turns setting fresh lines into Bellecôte.

The most amazing thing about Bellecôte is that at this time of year, January, you can pretty much ski this long descent from top to bottom without much variance in snow quality. You have to be lucky of course. It is not always so. But today, the stars and the moon were aligned just right - no wind pack on top, and no crust on the bottom. What there is at the bottom, of course, is the obligatory little restaurant, in my case, complete with a salade de fromage de chèvre and a celebratory génépi.

I felt great. We cruised the rest of the day, resting on our laurels. I felt half my age. That evening, before we headed out to sample the nightlife, I noticed my extra Voltaren tablet was still in my jacket pocket. I traded it for one of the little blue pills in my pack. There is a big difference between the two. I put the Voltaren in my pocket in the morning, hoping I wouldn't need it, but I took a Viagra with me in the evening, praying I would. It is not fun turning 60, but it certainly beats the alternative.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Jimmy Petterson is an American, educated at the University of Southern California, and graduated cum laude with a Bachelor's degree in history, a Teaching Credential, and a Master's degree in Instruction and Curriculum. He could have spent his life as a teacher, molding young minds and preparing the next generation to take over our world. Instead, to his father's great disappointment, he has spent most of the last 40 winters as a ski bum, during which time he has skied more than 550 ski resorts.

Jimmy's obsessive pursuit of the ultimate ski run and the perfect powder dump has led him to take jobs including ski instructor, off-piste guide, travel guide, slope side singer-entertainer, bar owner, hotelkeeper, ski travel arranger, and most recently ski writer and photographer. His work in that field has produced 37 magazine front covers and more than 500 published ski features.

Jimmy has skied on all seven continents and in 71 countries during his search for ski nirvana, and his work has been published in 20 of those nations. In late 2005, he finished a mammoth project combining his ski adventures into a 440-page, 600-photo, coffee table book called Skiing Around the World. This book includes information about skiing in such farflung destinations as Bolivia, Iceland, Turkey, Greece, Lebanon, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, China, Soviet Georgia, Morocco, Greenland, India, Slovakia and Poland, as well as, all of the more conventional ski countries. He has received numerous awards for it including the FWSA Bill Berry Award - 2006.

Since completing his seminal work, Jimmy has continued his ski travels, hosting a 6-part TV series called Raider of the Lost Snow (Bill Berry Award - 2009) and a documentary called Putin's Olympics, and he is working diligently on Skiing Around the World: Volume II. That has not always come easy, as all physical activity had to be halted temporarily in April 2012, when he broke his neck while skiing in White Pass, Washington.

By the following October, Jimmy was again on his skis, and he has recently skied on his seventh continent - Antarctica. In his leisure time, Jimmy relaxes by playing rock 'n' roll music along with his son in the band Father & Son + 1 (see http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dVS7yPz2c).

CHECK OUT the Far West Skier’s Guide DIGITAL EDITION

When the snow has melted, there’s still plenty of reasons to visit your favorite ski resorts.

plus more www.fwsa.org
After enjoying the view, Carl Mårtensson begins his descent from high above Lac de Tignes. The lake is on the other side of these intriguing rock formations.
There’s An App For That!

by Leigh Gieringer

Everyone, it seems, has a smart phone these days. Instead of only making and receiving calls, it does a whole lot more. One of the selling points is that “There’s an App for that.” Thousands of them are available and new ones are coming out all the time. There are several created for snow enthusiasts. They can add numerous apps to their personal phones to make their slope experience even better. However, there are some important things that should be considered.

Unless it is a bluebird ski day, with warmer temperatures, chances are a skier or snowboarder will be wearing sports gloves. Trying to access the phone from its safe pocket or backpack location with those heavy gloves may be difficult. Phones are not waterproof. Moisture and extra chilly temperatures could negatively affect them. Altitude and location on a mountain slope could provide reception problems. They can be dropped into the snow, or from the lift and be damaged or lost forever. Therefore, one might not want to use them unless they are in the lodge or safely in a protected gondola. Many resorts offer free wi-fi at their mountain lodges, therefore, snowsport enthusiasts can tweet, post and add their favorite action shots to their Facebook page almost as soon as they are taken.

Many apps can be used to plan your trip such as getting discounts on lift tickets or ski rentals. Purchasing your passes and renting equipment - if desired - prior to getting to the resort are not only a cost benefit, but also saves time once you get there. That means more time on the slopes. Look on your desired destination resort(s) website(s) for special incentives, or download the free Liftopia App. The app offers discounts and rentals at over 150 ski resorts including major favorites from the Lake Tahoe area, and other North American resorts, but also in South America and Europe.

The EpicMix App is offered by Vail Resorts who owns Vail, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge and Keystone in Colorado, plus Heavenly, Northstar and Kirkwood in California. Vail Resorts recently acquired The Canyons and Park City Mountain Resort, in Utah, plus several others. The app integrates with the radio frequency identification (RFID) technology in their lift tickets. Each time a lift ticket is scanned, it tracks the number of trails and vertical feet a skier or boarder has covered. The EpicMix Racing App allows racers to track their times, as well as compete with other racers who have downloaded the same app.

Individual resorts like Squaw Valley, California and Telluride, Colorado and others have their own apps showing detailed trail maps and road conditions to reach the resorts, as well as other pertinent resort information. An app called Ski and Snow Report offers this information for over 2,000 ski areas around the world. It can be customized to track conditions at your favorite resorts. For instance, if a large dump of snow is dropped on Mammoth Mountain, you will be notified so you can gather your bags, skis, board or both and head up to the mountain for all that new, fresh powder for first tracks.

To get the latest road conditions, let Waze help to get you to the mountain without the hassle of traffic jams and road closures. This mapping app alerts users to traffic, accidents, and areas where black ice might become a hazard.

REI Snow Report App will help you figure out the best place to spend your time up at the mountain. Add resorts from all over the world to your favorites list and see temperatures and snowfall amounts. Get push notifications when there is new snow and when vital conditions are updated.

Do your ski buddies have different ability levels, or just want to ski/board terrain on different parts of the mountain? Keep track of them! There is an app for that, too! Probably more than one. The Find My Friends App needs to be downloaded to all phones within the group wanting to be connected, but when it is, you can locate them - which trail, what lift or if it’s break time and what lodge they are in so you can all meet up for lunch.

There are numerous camera apps applicable to enhance the slope experience. Realski gathers data from the phone’s camera, compass and GPS. Point the camera at a run, and it will inform you of the degree of difficulty of that slope. It informs you if it’s green, a blue or a black. Focus the lens at a lift or restaurant, and it will identify it by name. It’s very handy when you don’t know the mountain very well, or if the weather has changed and you have lost your bearings. And, it can also be a benefit in locating the spot in the parking lot where your vehicle is parked. Carrying all that gear can be burdensome when you can’t find your mode of transportation.

Another identifying app is called Peaks or PeakAR. Many peaks around a ski resort are named, but most people will not know them. If you are the curious type, aim the camera lens at a peak and voila! The peak will be identified. What a great way to get to know your favorite resorts and impress your friends!

Most of the above apps are free. Pano is interesting for anyone with a passion for photography. It does have a nominal charge to acquire it. Aim the camera along an area you want to capture. The app will merge the photos into a beautiful panoramic shot. No heavy professional camera or extra lenses to carry in that pack!

Back country skiing and boarding has gotten extremely popular for many snow enthusiasts. If you have done it, you know there is a lot of preparation and equipment to keep you safe. The SnoWhere App is intended for off-piste, backcountry skiers and boarders. It converts the phone’s GPS into a beacon to assist in locating someone who has become separated from his pary or injured. Or, in the case of an avalanche, it can help find someone buried by the moving snow.

There are numerous apps available for both iPhone and Android platforms. These mentioned seem to be the most popular. Determine what is important to you, ie. resort maps, weather, road conditions, photography, etc. Then research which apps you want to download. And, when you are not on the slopes, pretend you are snowboarding by adding Touch Ski 3D by Nautilus. It offers 42 courses in seven game modes, distance jumping and freestyle courses, and more. Everyday can be a snow day!

Sources: New York Times, Ski Magazine, skinet.com
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2014 - A Year of Changes at Western Ski Resorts

by Leigh Gieringer

In mid August, 2014, Skyline International Development Inc. announced their purchase of Bear Valley Mountain Resort, California. Skyline is a Toronto, Canada based hospitality and real estate development/management company. Look for many improvements to Bear Valley in the years to come. (See page 53 in this publication.)

But, Bear Valley was far from being the only resort which changed ownership during this transitional year. The past year - 2014 - has been filled with numerous ski resort ownership changes, beginning with the unexpected purchase of Taos Ski Valley by a New York and London based hedge-fund manager, Louis Bacon. Ernie Blake founded this charming, European styled northern New Mexico resort in 1954. It has been family run until the purchase last January. Plans are underway to add a chairlift on Kachina Peak replacing a 45-minute hike to the top. There will still be plenty of terrain for those desiring to ascend on foot, as well as the opening of a new gladed area. Many more improvements are planned. Check their website at: www.taosskivalley.com.

Snowbird, Utah

The majority interest in Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort was sold to the Ian Cumings family who had an interest in the Park City Mountain Resort in May of 2014 by Dick Bass who helped found the Little Cottonwood Canyon resort in 1971. He will remain Chairman of the Board. The partnership will provide the opportunity for a more rapid growth and benefits to Snowbird’s guests. www.snowbird.com

Park City Mountain Resort, Utah

So many questions were unanswered about what was going to happen to Park City Mountain Resort, one of Park City, Utah's premier ski areas. The answers finally came in mid September with the announcement that the PCMR would be purchased by Vail Resorts. The purchase involves about 687,000 square feet of residentially and commercially owned property previously owned by Powdr Corp. at the resort base. It does not include Gorgoza, a tubing hill just below Parleys Summit.

Vail Resorts had purchased Canyons Resort - another Park City ski resort in 2013. Vail officials said they hope to connect PCMR and Canyons for the 2015-2016 ski season to create the largest single ski resort in the US with over 7,000 skiable acres.

Both resorts will participate in the Epic-Day Lift Tickets program, an online and mobile platform to purchase daily or multi-day lift tickets, allowing users the convenience of bypassing the ticket window. Tickets purchased more than seven days in advance, may receive a discount. Tickets will be shipped directly to the purchaser so they don’t miss any slope time waiting at the ticket window. Or, if desired, they can be picked up at the window with an order confirmation, or the credit card used in the transaction and a photo ID.

www.vail.com/epicday

In addition to the two Utah ski resorts, Vail Resorts also own Vail, Beaver Creek, Keystone and Breckenridge in Colorado, as well as Heavenly, Northstar, and Kirkwood in California, plus Afton Alps (MN) and Mt. Brighton (MI), as well as the RockResorts chain of luxury hotels.

Solitude, Utah

So many changes! And, there are more! Another Utah resort will be changing hands soon. An Agreement to Purchase Solitude Mountain Resort was signed on October 3, 2014. Beginning in May, 2015, Deer Valley will begin operating this charming European-styled village resort currently owned by the DeSeelhorst family. The operation of the Big Cottonwood Canyon ski area will be status quo, with the exception of reciprocal lift pass benefits for the 2014-2015 ski season. The current association with its neighbor - Brighton Ski Resort will remain unchanged.

A unique resort for both locals, as well as, destination skiers and boarders, Solitude Mountain Resort offers a family friendly atmosphere with a variety of terrain for all abilities. Will Solitude become a mini Deer Valley? According to the press release: “Although Deer Valley will bring some of our service oriented and operational philosophies to the resort, we do not plan to rebrand Solitude as another Deer Valley.” During the course of this ski season, the two resorts will work together for future plans. www.skisolitude.com / www.deervalley.com

Mammoth Mountain Acquires Bear Mountain and Snow Summit in Southern California

Changes are coming to southern and central California, too! Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, the owner of Mammoth Mountain and June Mountain announced on September 24, 2014 that they have entered into a purchase agreement to acquire the Big Bear Mountain Resorts in Bear Mountain, California. This includes Bear Mountain and Snow Summit, which are the largest and most popular southern California ski and snowboard resorts. Together, they host an average of around 800,000 winter visitors per year.

All four of these resorts are active year around, offering plenty of unique experiences for day trips, weekend getaways, extended weekends and long vacations for all. Bear Mountain and Snow Summit are an easy drive from anywhere in southern California, which will compliment the Mammoth experience. In the coming months, announcements will be made about new developments and expansion plans for each resort intending to attract visitors from local areas, across the country and world-wide. The new season pass will include unrestricted access to all four resorts. Called the California Pass, it will be available for a limited amount of time. www.CaliforniaPass.com

New ownerships usually means more improvements to the ski area. They bring new ideas, further expansions, open more trails, upgrade lifts, add advanced technology, build new attractions and increase skier/boarder satisfaction. In most cases, the new owners have deeper pockets to implement them. Some projects have already begun. Some will be breaking ground beginning in the summer months of 2015. Some are long term - created in phases over several years. Other resorts are still in the analysis stage to determine what is most needed and desired, and will create the best experiences for their loyal guests and to attract new ones.

These new resort improvements provided by these recent acquisitions potentially bring in investments from other sources, too. New hotels, a wider selection of restaurants, other activities; these - in turn - provide more growth and value for snow enthusiasts and summer visitors. There are undoubtedly limits to how much is good growth, but in each of these cases, it appears that the improvements will be well researched and are intended to benefit not only visitors, but also the local communities.
Southwest Ski Area Operator Purchases
Purgatory at Durango Resort & Arizona Snowbowl

New Mountain Collective Make History as the Largest in the Region

October 30, 2014 – In a landmark announcement yesterday, Colorado’s Purgatory at Durango Mountain Resort and Arizona Snowbowl announced they have entered into an agreement to sell 100% of their respective ski areas to James Coleman, managing partner at Sipapu Ski and Summer Resort and Pajarito Mountain Ski Area of New Mexico, to form the largest mountain collective in the Southwest. Together, the four mountains make up 3,088 acres, 26 lifts, over 200 trails and 13 terrain parks, all within a convenient drive of each other – and the new owner is pledging to make them the best in the region.

“I have spent most of my life skiing, working and living in this region, and I couldn’t be more thrilled to continue the visionary leadership of Arizona Snowbowl’s General Partner, Eric Borowsky, Purgatory’s Chairman Chuck Cobb and the Duncan family to bring these mountains together and usher in a new era while delivering the best skiing and snowboarding in the Southwest,” Coleman said.

Today’s announcement places Coleman at the helm as the largest ski area operator in the Southwest. After nearly 15 years as the managing partner at Sipapu (located near Taos, New Mexico), Coleman understands how to successfully operate ski resorts. Since his arrival at Sipapu, he has doubled the ski area terrain and quadrupled skier visits to launch this modest mountain to the fastest growing resort in New Mexico. His commitment to snowmaking has also helped Sipapu to earn a distinct reputation for being the first ski area open in New Mexico (Sipapu is scheduled to open November 15, which will mark the 12th consecutive time the New Mexico ski area opens before any other in the state) as well as having the state’s longest ski season. Last week, resort officials announced Coleman and his team will begin managing operations at Pajarito Mountain Ski Area in Los Alamos, New Mexico.

With a career rooted in real estate development and private equity investment (Coleman’s investment group has offices in Durango, Phoenix and Austin), in addition to ski area management, Coleman is eager to put his knowledge to work at the Durango and Flagstaff resorts. Coleman’s reputation for opening his slopes before any other ski area in New Mexico is renowned, and it comes as no surprise one of his first orders of business is to extend the seasons at the other resorts as soon as possible. Snowbowl has historically had the longest ski season in Arizona and Coleman is committed to making this happen every year.

“Skiing is my first priority and, like many of our guests, I’m always eager to get the winter season started,” Coleman said. “I’m committed not only to opening these mountains early but also creating an exceptional experience for skiers and snowboarders – be it local or destination resort guests – while making each of these ski areas the most family-friendly, family-fun resorts in the Southwest and the best value in the nation.”
This summer, Sipapu and Pajarito unveiled the New Mexico Power Pass, New Mexico’s only season pass with unrestricted access to two ski areas plus free skiing at more than 25 partner mountains in New Mexico, Colorado, Utah and throughout the country. Coleman said that Purgatory and Snowbowl will maintain their existing pass partnerships, which offer free or discounted lift tickets to select season pass holders.

Coleman has committed to retaining the current management teams at both ski areas, including Snowbowl’s General Manager, JR Murray and Purgatory’s Chief Executive Officer, Gary Derck.

The ski industry was abuzz earlier this year when Purgatory chairman, Chuck Cobb, announced he – together with the resort shareholders, including the mountain’s founding family – was looking for an outside investor to take over majority ownership of the 1,360-acre ski area. Cobb was the majority owner since 2000 and secured the approvals for Purgatory’s master development plan that will allow for extensive improvements through the end of the decade. Prior to his involvement, Vincent Duncan was the principal owner in 1986. Duncan took over from his brother, Ray Duncan, who had been the principal owner since the ski area’s founding in 1965.

General Partner, Eric Borowsky’s investment group acquired Arizona Snowbowl 22 years ago. During his tenure, he successfully planned, executed and installed one of the nation’s most progressive snowmaking systems, which utilizes reclaimed water from the City of Flagstaff, thereby ensuring not only Snowbowl’s survival, but its ability to become one of the most successful operations in the country.

◆ Purgatory at Durango Mountain Resort

Named as the best value ski spot by Trip Advisor in both 2013 and 2014, Purgatory at Durango Mountain Resort is recognized as the top family-friendly resort in the Southwest. Purgatory features 88 trails, five terrain parks, 10 lifts, 1,360 skiable acres and multiple restaurants, shops and lodge facilities. Located in the rugged, majestically beautiful San Juan Mountains, the resort is 25 miles north of the town of Durango. Other winter activities include tubing, dog sledding, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, horse-drawn sleigh rides, ice climbing, snow-biking, backcountry skiing, snowmobiling and more. The resort offers a variety of lodging from luxurious condos, vacation homes, and convenient slope-side units, to value-priced lodge rooms. www.DurangoMountainResort.com

◆ Arizona Snowbowl

Founded in 1938 and known for offering the best beginner terrain in the Southwest, Arizona Snowbowl is one of the oldest continuously operating ski areas in the country. Located 14 miles north of Flagstaff, Arizona, on the San Francisco Peaks and on the highest mountain in Arizona, Arizona Snowbowl offers 32 trails and 2,300 vertical feet on 777 acres with five lifts, two terrain parks and two mountain lodges. With exceptional backcountry access and tree skiing in the winter, Arizona Snowbowl also offers a world-renowned scenic chairlift that provides stunning views of the red rocks in Sedona, the cinder cone volcanic field, and the rim of the Grand Canyon. For more information, visit www.ArizonaSnowbowl.com.

◆ Pajarito Mountain Ski Area

Located in Los Alamos, New Mexico, and 30 minutes northwest of Santa Fe, Pajarito Mountain Ski Area offers 40 trails, 6 lifts and two terrain parks, all located on 751 acres on the eastern edge of the Jemez Mountains.

Known for its spectacular views of the Rio Grande Valley and the Valles Caldera National Preserve, the ski area was founded and developed in the late 1950s by the Los Alamos Ski Club. The fall line and bump runs are heralded as some of the best in the state, and the mountain offers a ski school, restaurant, and ski rental facility. During the summer season, Pajarito Mountain is home to an extensive mountain biking trail system with lift served access and hosts several New Mexico Brewers Festivals throughout the summer. For more information, visit www.SkiPajarito.com.

◆ Sipapu Ski and Summer Resort

Sipapu Ski and Summer Resort is New Mexico’s fastest growing ski resort. Located just 20 miles southeast of Taos and two hours north of Albuquerque, Sipapu offers family-friendly, family fun to all levels of skiers and snowboarders. Family-owned and operated since 1952, Sipapu is home to New Mexico’s longest ski season and the best deals in the Rockies. The resort is surrounded by the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and Carson National Forest, and features over 40 trails, five lifts and four terrain parks. On-site amenities include slope-side lodging, a full-service ski shop, ski school and New Mexico’s best riverside dining experience at the Riverside Cafe. For more information, visit www.SipapuNM.com.

Make plans now to visit these boutique resorts.
Sugar Bowl Resort Celebrates 75 Years of Operation

The Resort Plans Many Special Events. Join Them!

DONNER SUMMIT, Calif. (October 2, 2014) — Sugar Bowl Resort will mark 75 years of operation this winter with a season-long schedule of events and celebrations. The Sugar Bowl Corporation was formed on Oct. 13, 1938 and the ski resort officially opened for skiing on Dec. 15, 1939. Led by Hannes Schroll, an Austrian yodeler and champion skier, Sugar Bowl Resort built the first chairlift in California in the summer of 1939 on Mt. Disney, a peak named after early investor Walt Disney. Sugar Bowl quickly became a destination for Hollywood stars and avid skiers who would load onto the “Snowball Special” trains for skiing at Mt. Disney and socializing in the newly built Bavarian lodge at its base.

Sugar Bowl's early years were interrupted by World War II as many ski instructors left to join the 87th Infantry Division and subsequently the 10th Mountain Division. The railroad was busy with military transports. During the war, Sugar Bowl Resort closed for three years before reopening in 1945.

In 1953, the resort pioneered another ski industry milestone by building the first gondola on the West Coast. Since then, Sugar Bowl Resort has continued to upgrade and update its ski resort offerings while maintaining the history of the Sugar Bowl Lodge and the original gondola. Sugar Bowl added the Summit chairlift in 2009 and opened the brand new Crow’s Peak chairlift last year, adding intermediate and advanced terrain, and extensive backcountry access to the resort.

In 2012, Sugar Bowl Resort took over management of Royal Gorge, North America's largest cross-country ski resort, and began updating the resort's lodge, grooming equipment and operations. The Royal Gorge deal was made possible through a conservation purchase spearheaded by the Truckee Donner Land Trust that protected the property from large-scale real estate development.

Last year, Sugar Bowl Resort unveiled $20 million in improvements to the mountain, including a new ski-in, ski-out Sugar Bowl Academy campus, and a fitness spa and ski training facility called the Sporthaus.

To celebrate 75 years of operation, the resort will be holding a series of events. Check out their website: www.sugarbowl.com.

Sugar Bowl - a favorite Lake Tahoe ski area, offers four peaks, 103 trails, 1650 skiable acres and averages 500” of annual snowfall, plus endless backcountry terrain. Celebrate with them during this milestone year.

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Jess McMillan, Freeskiing World Tour Champion, was the Keynote Speaker at the 2014 FWSA Convention Saturday Luncheon. Jess has won more Freeskiing competitions than any other competitor to date. She has been featured in the last four Warren Miller films. Born and raised in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, her summers were spent climbing in the Grand Teton, swimming in mountain lakes and kayaking on the Snake River. Jess spent her winters playing in the snow, skiing, jumping off cliffs and exploring the backcountry. Every day brought a new adventure.

“For me, freeskiing is the greatest adventure of all. Whether I am skiing my favorite runs on Sublette or exploring a new zone in the backcountry, I love the experience of intoxicating risk and opportunity. Competing on the Freeride World Tour has taken me around the world: traveling to Russia, Japan, Europe, and South America.”

Jess McMillan

Attendees at the 2014 FWSA Convention totally enjoyed listening to her exciting adventures.
There’s Always Some Skiing - Somewhere!

by Leigh Gieringer

You just might have to travel some distance to reach it!

A typical season in the Northern Hemisphere begins in November. Depending on the weather, some resorts can open in October for the enthusiastic snowrider who can’t wait to get back to his or her favorite sport. There is usually a race to see which resort(s) can open first! Weather is a factor at the end of the season, too. Many resorts pick a day to close and it’s cut in stone. Others are more flexible. If there are late season storms, a resort may elect to remain open longer than scheduled, or they may reopen only on weekends as long as they can. It is not unheard of to be skiing or boarding over the 4th of July at some of the higher elevation resorts, even in western US resorts.

But, that is a rarity. It is very costly to remain open when there are only a few participants on the slopes. And, the resorts have to prepare for their summer activities. Thus, in late spring or early summer, the lifts will reopen for the hiker and mountain biker crowd.

Thus, where does one go for that summer ski adventure? The only place where the snow doesn’t melt - high in the mountains where it’s too cold for the snow or ice to thaw. Yearly snowpack has been compressed into ice throughout the ages forming alpine glaciers that move very slowly at the higher elevations. The result is that some of these glaciers open for skiing during the summer months allowing many to extend their time on the slopes and ski longer than the typical ski season.

There are only a few opportunities for glacier skiing in North America. Weather permitting, skiing is available on the Blackcomb Glacier (Whistler Blackcomb, BC, Canada) between early June to August. Best suited for intermediate and advanced skiers and boarders, it offers groomed trails, moguls, and even a terrain park.

In the United States, Timberline Lodge, located on Mount Hood, Oregon offers year round skiing on the Palmer Snowfield, with the summer season running from May until September. It is not unusual to see ski teams from many countries train here and the resort often runs ski improvement camps. Everyone’s invited to participate - or - ski on your own. Montana’s Glacier National Park offers crosscountry skiing for those who know how to survive in the backcountry. They must be prepared to face backcountry hazards such as possible avalanches and hypothermia. The weather can change abruptly.

Europe has many more choices for glacier skiing. Some are open only during the winter season, but most resorts located near glaciated terrain provide year-round opportunities. Terrain for beginners, intermediates, and experts can be found. Resorts in Austria, France, Italy and Switzerland all have glacier skiing during the summer. Search summer glacier skiing for a list of resorts offering summer skiing.

Summer glacier skiing can be compared to spring skiing. Morning conditions will be hard packed, but during the afternoon, conditions can become very slushy. It’s important to wear a good sunscreen with a high SPF factor and stay hydrated. On the glacier, the sun can be very strong when it reflects over the white snow and ice.

Dress for spring ski conditions with lightweight jackets. However, in case a sudden storm comes without warning, make certain that you pack an extra insulating layer if the temperature drops. Wearing gloves and helmet is recommended, but using ski goggles or sunglass is mandatory to protect your eyes from the UV rays from the sun.

With opposite seasons, the Southern Hemisphere has wonderful skiing especially in Australia, New Zealand, Argentina and Chile. There are numerous fine resorts in each of these countries.
VIVA VALLE
NEVADO
A South American Giant

by Leigh Gieringer
Located high in the Andes at almost 10,000’, Valle Nevado is surrounded by acres of skiable terrain with world-class facilities and amenities. There are plenty of lodging choices, easy access to the slopes, a variety of restaurants, a spa and fitness center, plus so much more. The resort has a southern orientation, plenty of dry powder and 80 percent of the days are sunny with bright, azure skies. 

Does it make you sad when the North American lifts close for the season at most resorts each year? Need a ski fix during those long, hot summer months? No worries. Pack your bags. Grab your skis or board. Don’t forget your passport and head south - way south - to the Southern Hemisphere. Santiago International Airport to be exact, where you can take a shuttle to Valle Nevado, Chile - a little more than 35 miles to the east in the Andes Mountains. You will not need a car since the modern pedestrian village area is self contained, with ski-in/ski-out convenience. They have excellent snowriding from June until October.

Valle Nevado was developed by a French company which began construction in 1987. The following year, the resort opened with great acclaim. Valle Nevado was inspired by Les Arcs Ski Resort in France, thus it has an European ambiance. The architecture is very modern, likewise the technology and amenities. Everything needed is just steps away: a variety of restaurants, several bars and pubs for apres ski enjoyment, a spa for a relaxing massage, a sauna, outdoor heated pool, and a kid’s center just to list a few important offerings. There is also an ever increasing selection of lodging alternatives.

The Andes are the world’s longest mountain chain and one of the highest. The base of the village at Valle Nevado sits at 9,924’ while the surrounding summits are over 12,000’, creating a vertical drop of 2,657’. Several nearby peaks reach over 19,000’, thus the majestic beauty of the area is incredibly awesome. But, more than that, the Valle Nevado area offers almost 7,000 acres of skiable terrain - 2,200 acres are in-bound - the largest skiable terrain in South America. With it’s high elevation, the snow is not only abundant, but the area is known for its wonderful dry powder.

There is a variety of terrain for all skill levels. Approximately 10% is suitable for beginners. Another 33% is groomed for intermediate. Advanced and expert skiers will love this destination. There is a huge amount of lift served black diamond terrain: challenging steeps and chutes, mogul fields and wide open bowls. The bowls are protected by south facing slopes ensuring superior powder. The resort offers first class transport with its high speed quad. In 2013 - for its 25th Anniversary - a new gondola was installed near the resort parking lot to help assist with any uphill traffic congestion.

Valle Nevado is linked to two other Chilean resorts - El Colorado and La Parva. The trio is known as the “Three Valleys of the Andes”. Between them, they encompass the largest skiable terrain in South America. There is also abundant backcountry skiing but it is advisable to go with a local guide. The area is vast, and safety is of utmost importance. The resort has a highly trained ski patrol, plus a top-notch ski school with multi-lingual instructors.

Renting equipment is advisable if you do not want the hassle of bringing your own skis/board and boots with you. The rental shops carry the latest technology - top of the line brands which are available in a variety of sizes and ability levels. Helmets are also available.

Experience still more memorable thrills by heli-skiing in the Andes. The ride over the peaks will provide a much different perspective. You’ll discover spectacular views of rock formations, glaciers and volcanos in this immense territory. Then, ski down some fresh untracked powder for the ultimate high! The helicopters in service are late generation models, designed to fly in high altitudes.

Snowboarders have their own terrain park half pipe and boarder cross areas. The FIS Snowboard World Cups events have been held here. Or, organize a Ski Safari adventure.

If a relaxing day is desired, check with the staff to see what else is available. Thursday afternoons are set aside for their Chilean Wine Fest sampling day. Guests to this resort will not be bored!

There are over twenty domestic and international airlines that fly into Santiago. Currently, there are direct flights from several US cities. From other locations such as New York, Los Angeles or San Francisco, expect a stop along the way. Shuttles are available for the drive to the resort. Summers are for skiing, too! You just have to know where to look!
YOUR SKI CLUB’S NEXT INTERNATIONAL DESTINATION

VALLE NEVADO, CHILE

Valle Nevado is South America’s premiere ski resort, offering access up to a staggering 7,000 acres of terrain and the continent’s most modern lift system. Easy-to-book packages, discounts for groups, an EST time zone and a location just 90 minutes from Santiago make Valle Nevado the ideal destination for your ski club’s next international adventure.

To plan your group’s Valle Nevado vacation, call our toll-free number at 800-669-0554 or email our reservations department at reservas@vallenevado.com. For more information, visit us at www.vallenevado.com
Valle Nevado is the largest ski area in South America with over 7,000 acres of skiable terrain filled with groomers, long powder runs, off-piste chutes and wide open bowls. There is also an abundant amount of back-country skiing for advanced and expert snowsport enthusiasts. Heli-skiing adventures are also available. Its base elevation is listed as 9,924’ above sea level, while it is lift served to 12,040’. Surrounding the resort are peaks as tall as 19,000’ plus. If that isn’t enough terrain to explore during your visit, Valle Nevado is linked to two other nearby resorts: El Colorado and La Parva. Together, they are known as the “Three Valleys of the Andes”. Valle Nevado also has a Master Plan for further expansion and resort development adding another 800 more acres of skiable terrain.
Once the temperatures rise, the snow melts. Da! That's an obvious observation! But, that doesn't mean they are closed for long. They temporarily shut their doors for a few months for maintenance and in preparation for the busy summer rush when a new crowd heads to mountain resort towns. That is because mountain resorts offer more than just skiing. There are different attractions waiting to be enjoyed.

Ice disappearing from lakes provides boating and sailing opportunities. A swift river's flow from mountain run-off brings out rafters and kayakers. Snow melting off the meadows result in the openings of award winning golf courses; and zip lining has become a favorite thrill sport. Many visitors enjoy the opportunity to ride horses in this scenic world.

Moisture seeps into the hillside resulting in the growth of numerous wildflowers. The vegetation filled slopes become an attraction for hikers. Mountain bikers head to the slopes. And, don’t forget the music festivals. Most resorts sponsor several during the warm summer months. As the saying goes, “The hills are alive with the sound of music”, as bluegrass, jazz, and other music festivals and concert series’ echo off the peaks. Pools are open to splash, swim and relax to gather some “rays”. Top restaurants and spas don’t leave during the summer months. Shopping. Shopping. And more shopping is also available. There is truly something for everyone at ski resorts during the summer months.

That’s not by accident. Decades ago, it was determined that resort towns would increase their bottom lines if they were open year around. Combined, billions of dollars have been spent and larger parts of their budgets have been allocated to create year around resort attractions. After all, the cool mountain atmosphere is a great attraction, especially for those trying to escape high summer temperatures in large, crowded cities. Leave that hot, congested city behind for a while. Breath some fresh air. Enjoy the stunning scenery. Participate in new adventures, or just relax.

In addition to playing award winning golf courses, one of the other most popular attractions at resort towns is mountain biking. What do the Northwestern resorts of Grand Targhee, Alyeska, Whitefish, Silver Mountain and Steven Pass (WA) have in common?
What do the Rocky Mountain resorts of Winter Park (Trestle), Deer Valley, Keystone, Canyons and Crested Butte (Evolution); or the southwestern resorts of Angel Fire, Mammoth Mountain, Northstar, Snow Summit and Pal jarito (NM) share? They are all ski resorts. But, more than that, they all have won kudos for their development of top-rated summer lift-served mountain bike parks.

In 2013, MTBParks.com* ran a survey of active mountain bikers to help analyze which bike parks received the highest accolades throughout North America by the riders who actually use them. Who would know them better?

The continent is divided into eight regions: Western Canada, Eastern Canada, Northeast, Mid-Atlantic/Southeast, Midwest, Rocky Mountain, Northwest and Southwest. The vast majority of the Rider Choice Award winning bike parks in all regions were located at ski resorts. The surveys reflected what was most important to the users providing insight to park developers to determine how they can best serve participants and where they should be making improvements. The lists above represent the top five winners in each US western region in order. The Western Canada Region is lead by Whistler, followed by Silver Star, Sun Peaks, Fernie and Panorama - all in British Columbia. The list for the other four regions can be found at www.mtbparks.com. The 2014 results had not yet been tabulated when this was written. Not all these regions are created equal, but each is unique, and it provides a list of top-rated parks in each area for those residing in each region, as well as creates a bucket-list guide for mountain bikers.

Although the participants vary, great efforts have been made to create the summer mountain bike experiences to be as memorable and exciting as the winter ski experience. There are several similarities. The mountain slopes are the main component to both sports. Most of these paths are designed by award winning bike park developers with safety as a top priority. Trail maintenance crews are on sight to check out the trails, retain proper signage, clear them of any obstacles or hazards, and watch for any environmental impact issues. Like ski terrain, bike trails are coded by ability level - from gentle green cruisers to steep, gnarly rugged, rooty bumps with drop offs for catching air blucks. Everyone can enjoy the ride at their own comfort level.

Most bike parks have rental equipment for just about anything needed, except helmets. Participants will need to bring their own for health and comfort reasons. Lessons are available to become familiar with the sport for first timers, or for advancements to the next level. Some parks even have indoor training facilities to build up technique and confidence. Guides are also available, especially for newbies to a park. They willingly share their knowledge, favorite runs and provide tips for improvement if asked. Like winter usage, all these parks are lift-served, thus the actual biking is mostly flat or in a downhill direction. Each day begins with an ascent up in the mountain on a lift, and ends at the resort where the day's adventures are shared with companions and new resort friends over one's choice of evening dining and/or entertainment. Tomorrow starts a new day to find other trails and exhilaration, or to participate in another resort activity.

The vast expanses of the United States were originally traveled with horses and wagons, then rail lines were constructed, making it possible for adventurous people to settle the wild west. They provided jobs for thousands, handled the freight, moved people, and helped develop the country. This Golden Age of Railroading occurred after the Civil War until the 1920s. Important to the WWII war effort, by the 1970s, the railroad business dropped, being replaced by even faster solutions. Many rail lines were no longer used or needed. Some railroads went bankrupt, sections of track were abandoned, tracks rusted and became over grown with foliage. Were all those historic years of leveling the landscape, laying the foundations, and placing track for naught? If they were not being used to transport cargo and people from point A to point B, perhaps there can be another way to utilize them?

There is a movement throughout the country to revitalize the old rail routes that criss-cross the land and repurpose them for pedestrian walking, bicycle trails, rollerblading, equestrian paths, and even cross country skiing and snowshoeing in the winter months.

*North America's Mountain Bike Parks

Although many gravity bikers prefer the exhilaration of a speedy decent, there are others who appreciate the awesome scenery, cool mountain air and the feeling of being on the top of the world. The Grand Targhee Loop has been designated as an IMBA Epic Ride by the International Mountain Bicycling Association - a very prestigious honor. courtesy of Grand Targhee Bike Park

**The Rails to Trails Movement**

Lift-serviced gravity trails at mountain resorts are just one type of biking experience. Destination cycling tours provide a different type that many find as an attractive alternative. At a resort, cyclists can also follow the roads, meander along streams or choose one of many set trails. There are no limits to the possibilities. And, there are other options, too!

Old routes are located throughout the country. The group's purpose is to preserve these historic corridors and provide safe places for outdoor activities. The concept began in the midwest when rusty old track was removed. Residents in the areas, began using them for walking lanes and exploration areas, long before distance bicycling became popular. Some are urban tracks less than a mile long now used primarily for commuting and short exercise jaunts, while others can be miles long - especially those in rural areas.

The routes were naturally graded from their track development origins. A locomotive needed to carry heavy loads and wasn't able to navigate steep climbs. That meant that tunnels and bridges were necessary to hold a suitable grade through the mountains. Once the track was removed, the tunnels and bridges
The Route of the Hiawatha is one of the most scenic “Rails to Trails” bicycle trails in the country located near Lookout Pass Ski Area, Idaho.

were checked for safety and revamped for bicycle or other non-motorized passage.

One of the most picturesque Rails to Trails conversions is located in Idaho, crossing into Montana. The land was part of the old Milwaukee Road system through the Bitterroot Mountains. The train was called the Olympian-Hiawatha as it sped between Chicago and Seattle. The last passenger train passed through in 1961, while freight was still carried until 1980 at which point the railroad declared bankruptcy and the track was abandoned.

The “Route of the Hiawatha” is located seven miles from Lookout Pass Ski Area, in Idaho. Trail and shuttle tickets and bike rentals are available at their base lodge. Park at the East Portal Trailhead of the Taft Tunnel - also known as the St. Paul Pass - off I-90 on the Montana side. It is the highest point of the western section. Over the next 15 miles, which includes the 1.66 mile long tunnel, the elevation has a mild decline making it very family friendly. The ride takes about 2.5 hours at a leisurely pace.

When one considers the engineering feats accomplished in the construction of all the tunnels and trestles created through mountain routes, it is truly amazing. One can just imagine the locomotive appearing through the trees. The trains are history on this and many other rail lines, but cyclists can now enjoy thousands of miles of completed trail conversions, plus many more are being planned or are under construction. They can be found nationwide. Check out www.traillink.com to find Rail-to-Trail locations.
Since the Taft Tunnel is relatively long from the East Portal to the West Portal, a bike light is a requirement to go through it. Helmets are also mandatory. The ride travels through eight additional tunnels and passes over seven trestles making it one of the most scenic, as well as interesting rides available.

Once the Pearson destination is reached, there is a shuttle for those who do not want to bike the incline back to the West Portal. Participants will have to go through the Taft Tunnel again to get back to their vehicles.

Another section heading east will add an additional 31 miles to the route. It will be available to bikers, hikers, and parts of it to all terrain vehicles, horses and autos. The eastern section will travel through another tunnel and two more trestles.

Although there are several quite long Rail to Trail journeys - over 100 miles - most of their paths are generally short day trips or less taken at a comfortable pace. Most are done basically on your own or in a small group of family or friends. Many follow an historic rail line which can add interest to the ride. Scenery can be spectacular or not. But, if the mountain excitement and beautiful scenery, or seeing the country from an historical perspective of our forefathers doesn’t intrigue or appeal to you, there are still more choices for you and your love of venturing on a bicycle. Bicycle touring is a different way to see the world! After all, what better way to really get to know an area than to pedal along country roads, stop in small towns along the way, meet the residents and see the areas through their eyes.

**Bicycle Touring**

Whatever your interests are, you’ll be able to find a bicycle tour to satisfy it. With over 400 destinations in 70 plus countries: there are so many options. Bike alongside a river such as the Danube, cycle a coastal area like the Cinque Terre along the Italian Riviera, or roll through the charming villages in Provence, France. However, hiking tours are not just confined to Europe. Pick your destination throughout the world. There is probably a bike tour available for that area. Whether you want to learn more about a certain country, visit famous museums, taste native wines, or just enjoy the scenery, you’re sure to have a memorable experience.

Bike tour companies generally specialize in particular areas that they know well so
There is approximately 133 miles between Astoria and Newport, Oregon along beautiful coastal Highway 101. By car it would average about 3 hours. However, traveling by car, one would miss so much. If you really want to appreciate the drive, take a bicycle.

there can assist in all aspects of the trips they are leading. They have guides who specialize in specific areas - the highlights along the route, the best lodging and restaurants, etc. Their guides are fluent in several languages if your tour is in a foreign land. They provide support vehicles to carry your luggage, and maybe you if you need a rest. It's your vacation. They want you to have a fabulous experience.

Some trips are cycling only. Some combine peddling with barges or riverboats. The number of days depends on the destination. One can figure the average number of miles traveled per day to be between 30 - 40. However, there will be designated days to visit popular places along the way depending on the selected destination and options.

**Pick A Locale. Pick A Theme!**

Many bike tour opportunities exist in North America. With close to 10,000,000 square miles in just the United States to cover, it would take several lifetimes to see it all, thus you and your group of cyclists would have to make a determination of what you want to see or do. National Parks: there are over 50 - all unique. Scenic mountain roads can be found in the east and western parts of the country. Rolling hills in many other parts. Rural towns, fishing villages and large cities have their fans. Almost everyone enjoys beaches and rocky coastlines. The destination could be a difficult decision. It might be easier to select a theme, then the destination will become more defined.

A wine growing area could be the impetus for a vineyard tour. What a great way to find a new favorite Chablis. Experience a historic trail such as the route of Lewis and Clark, Civil War battlefields, or the Old South. Learn some American history firsthand. Spend time watching waves slab against the rocks, and feel a cool ocean breeze against your cheeks as you follow the roads along one of the coastlines. Sometimes there is a combination of things that determines the choice.

**The Oregon Lighthouse Tour**

One of the most popular bike routes is along the Oregon Coast. This classic tour has it all! The scenery is spectacular. The history is intriguing!

The tour starts by biking through the Jewell Elk Refuge to Astoria - the oldest American settlement in the west where the Columbia River meets the Pacific Ocean. Ride south along miles of beautiful coastline, country roads, view the shimmering waters as hits the rugged rocky coast, or swells onto sandy beaches.

Along the route are numerous restored historic lighthouses ready to be viewed from afar or explored. Learn about their construction, hardships and other facts about them.

Travel back roads, through forests, into valleys. The six day tour ends at Newport - a quaint fishing village. Don’t forget your camera for all those postcard shots. The scenery and your guides will truly make this a memorable experience. To find other interesting biking tours in the west, check out bicycleadventures.com.

Now that you’ve kept in shape over the summer months, it is just about time to wax your skis, dust off your helmet, try on your ski outfits and make plans for next season’s ski/board adventures. Many resorts have made improvements over the summer. Check out their websites for details.

**Here are some suggestions to help prepare for a multi-day bike tour**

It is very important to prepare for a multi-day bike trip. Take plenty of long rides in the months leading up to your planned tour. Practice riding long distances at least two days in a row to condition your muscles and allow you to recognize any problem concerns. If you are traveling with a bike tour company, ask them for their general, as well as specific guidelines, for your selected trip. They will be able to make excellent recommendations on how to prepare for it.

Get an explanation of the terrain. Is it
Along this beautiful route, visit or view several of Oregon’s eleven historic lighthouses including Heceta Head Lighthouse, above, and Cape Blanco Lighthouse pictured to the right. Construction started on the Heceta Head Lighthouse in 1892, which opened in 1894. It is reported to have the strongest light along the Oregon Coast. Closed decades ago, it was renovated, and reopened in 1996. The Cape Blanco Lighthouse - one of the earliest lighthouses built along the coast, dates back to 1870. It is the oldest lighthouse still standing. Nine of the Oregon lighthouses have been restored and are on the National Register of Historic Places. If history doesn’t intrigue you, try another tour with a different theme or scenic nature tours. There are over 400 routes in 70 plus countries worldwide, depending on interests, abilities, time available and one’s pocketbook. Check them out for a different travel experience.

photos courtesy of Bicycle Adventures, http://bicycleadventures.com

When traveling in a car, one misses much of the beauty of the area. There are miles of craggy rocks jutting into glittering water. Let your toes caress the sandy beaches. Watch the sun set in the west! The Oregon Coast Bike Tour provides six days of biking, hiking and exploring one of Oregon Seven Wonders. It’s a great way to keep in shape for next winter’s ski adventures!
Hendrickson and Jerome take top spots at National Championships:

Fly Girl Larson finishes first at Flaming Leaves Festival Women’s Junior competition.

LAKE PLACID, New York – Sarah Hendrickson showed why she is the world champion in women’s ski jumping by soaring to a first place finish in the US Ski Jumping Championships on Sunday, October 12, 2014. Hendrickson executed jumps of 92.0 and 97.5 meters, followed closely by U.S. Visa Women’s Ski Jumping team members Jessica Jerome, who jumped 92.5 and 96.0 meters, and Tara Geraghty-Moats, who jumped 89.5 and 96.5 meters. Nina Lussi placed fourth, while Nita Englund, who executed only the first jump, placed fifth.

Sarah Hendrickson commented on the competition, saying, “This was a really good competition. Not only was it a beautiful day, but also we demonstrated a high level of competition, which is really good for women’s ski jumping. After training in Europe for three weeks, I feel somewhat mentally exhausted, but was happy to execute two satisfactory jumps and end up in first place.”

Team-mate Jessica Jerome echoed this enthusiasm, saying, “The conditions for this competition were fair and the five of us were very close in our jumps. Anyone could have won this competition, although I am happy for Sarah. We are really pushing one another to become prepared for upcoming competitions.”

In the Women's Junior K90 competition on Saturday, Cara Larson of the Norge Ski Club soared to first place with jumps of 94.0 and 68.5 meters. Logan Sankey of Steamboat Springs, came second with jumps of 65 and 76.5 meters. Both competitors were participants in the inaugural Fly Girls Camp this past summer, as were fellow competitors Sophia Nester, Gabby Armstrong, and Hana Schrock. On Sunday, while competing in the Women's K90 competition on Sunday, Sankey secured a sixth place finish, with Larson following close behind with a seventh place finish.

Women’s Ski Jumping and Fly Girls program coach, Alan Alborn, was pleased with the recent week of training that culminated in the Flaming Leaves event. “Having both the US. Visa Women’s Ski Jumping Team and the Fly Girls train together and then jump together from the same start gave both me and the competitors a snapshot of where they are,” said Alborn. “After a tough few weeks in Europe, Sarah tightened her focus to execute her jumps, but the other team members were pushing hard, as well. I am really happy to see Tara and Nina jumping so well — these were some of their best jumps in competition. We have developed strong team dynamics and are looking forward to a solid winter competition season.”

The U.S. Visa Women’s Ski Jumping Team will be returning to Park City, Utah to continue training, while the Fly Girls will return to their local jumping clubs. Coach Alan Alborn plans to name the 2014/2015 U.S. Visa Women’s Ski Jumping Team in early November. Please refer to www.wsjusa.com for the criteria athletes must achieve to attain this status, and the results of upcoming competitions.
ISHPEMING, MI (October 30, 2014) – The U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame announced ten athletes and sport builders as inductees elected to the Hall of Fame who will make up the Class of 2014. Among the inductees are Olympic champion snowboarder Ross Powers, World Alpine Championship medalist Erik Schlopy, noted big mountain skier Chris Davenport, ski instruction pioneer Curt Chase, and goggle innovator Bob Smith. Others include resort designer Joe Cushing, World Cup race winner Kristina Koznick, alpine development leader John McMurtry, women’s innovator Jeannie Thoren and Ralph Miller, one of the great American ski racers from the 1950’s.

The induction of the Class of 2014 will take place on April 11, 2015 in Steamboat Springs, Colorado at the conclusion of Skiing History Week. The class will also be enshrined in the Hall of Fame on September 18, 2015 in Ishpeming, Michigan which is the home of the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame. Ishpeming is the birthplace of organized skiing in America, the site of the founding of the National Ski Association of America (now the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association) in 1905.

The new inductees will bring the total to 404 Honored Members in the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame. This is the largest class of inductees to enter the Hall of Fame since 1984, a year when 32 were also selected. In 1976, 19 people were selected to the Hall of Fame. Nominees are screened by a Hall of Fame Selection Committee before going on a ballot where around 200 members of the Hall of Fame National Voting Panel elect the newest Honored Members. The nomination process is open to all, with detailed information available at www.skihall.com.

CLASS OF 2014 INDUCTIONES

**Curt Chase** (Colorado) was an innovator and motivating force in the field of ski instruction for over 40 years. He served as a survival training instructor of the U.S. Army’s 10th Mountain Division and later held the same position for the Strategic Air Command. He contributed to what is now known as the American Ski Technique and was one of the eight founders of the Professional Ski Instructors of America. He passed away in June of this year.

**Joe Cushing** (New Hampshire) was a pioneer in ski area planning and design. Working with the legendary Sel Hannah he designed over 400 ski areas in North America and the world. Among those areas where his impact can be seen are Loon Mountain and Bretton Woods in New Hampshire, Sugarbush and Stratton in Vermont, Copper Mountain and Keystone in Colorado and Deer Valley in Utah.

**Chris Davenport** (Colorado) is widely regarded as one of the world’s premier big mountain skiers. In 1996 he was recognized as the World Extreme Skiing Champion and four years later was the International Freeski Association’s World Freeskiing champion. In 2007 he became the first person to ski all 54 of Colorado’s 14,000 foot peaks in one year. He has been featured in 30 ski films.

**Kristina Koznick** (Colorado) was an outstanding slalom racer from the mid-west who began her career under the coaching direction of Eric Sailer (Hall of Fame Class of 2005). With six national titles and six World Cup victories she finished second twice in the season-long fis World Cup. She was named to three Olympic teams and competed at six World Championships.

**John McMurtry** (Colorado) was a U.S. Ski Team coach during the 1980’s, which saw several of its members win World Cup titles, Olympic medals and the only Nation’s Cup Award for the U.S. Alpine Team. In 1987 he became the U.S. team’s development and later alpine director establishing a regional development program that continues to bring thousands of young athletes into the sport including Picabo Street, Bode Miller, Lindsey Vonn and Julia Mancuso.

**Ralph Miller** (Kentucky) was one of America’s top skiers in the 1950’s where he excelled in four event competitions (downhill, slalom, jumping, cross country). He won or placed in the top three of many of the top competitions held during this time and frequently was able to beat Olympians like Stein Eriksen and Othmar Schneider. In 1955 he set a world speed record of 109 mph which stood for 15 years.

**Ross Powers** (Vermont) is the fourth person from snowboarding to be elected to the Hall of Fame. He won the first U.S Olympic medal in snowboarding, a bronze, at the 1998 Nagano Games and was the Olympic halfpipe champion in 2002, leading an American podium sweep. Two years earlier he had won a World Championship. During his career he held every title in halfpipe snowboarding.

**Erik Schlopy** (Utah) was a three time Olympian and seven time national champion who had one of the longest and most successful careers in U.S. ski racing history. He was a World Pro super G champion and a bronze medal winner in the giant slalom at the World Championships in 2003. Throughout his career he demonstrated not only his great ability but also his perseverance and tenacity coming back from many serious injuries to compete with the best in this sport.

**Dr. Robert Smith** (Idaho) was a dentist turned goggle inventor who changed skiing which was his passion, when he founded his eyewear company in the 1960’s. Smith Optics was founded literally from his kitchen table where he developed a thermal lens goggle that did not fog up when it was being used on the ski slopes. It was an invention that was enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of skiers initially and continues to have an impact on the experience of skiers and snowboarders today. He passed away in 2012.

**Jeannie Thoren** (Minnesota) is regarded by many as the “Johnny Appleseed” of women’s skiing. She was a pioneer in developing women’s specific ski equipment, which helped women ski better because they were using equipment better suited to their physique. For nearly 20 years, beginning in 1988, she conducted an estimated 70 women’s ski equipment seminars annually around the country in her effort to improve the sport for all women.
First SeniorsSkiing.com Ski Area Survey Results

October 20, 2014

See who is offering free skiing and deep discounts for senior skiers & more

Which areas are truly trying to accommodate 50-plus skiers? To find out, SeniorSkiing.com surveyed 85 North American resorts. Several resorts stand out for giving senior skiers/boarders special attention and deals. They received the new SeniorsSkiing Skier Friendly Award. Those with the deepest discounts and best amenities received Gold awards. Those with better than average discounts received Silver Awards.

The survey had a 34 percent response and will be conducted annually. It is hoped that by asking the right questions for their readers, SeniorsSkiing.com will help drive greater recognition, discounts and amenities for senior snow sports enthusiasts.

SeniorsSkiing “Senior Friendly” Gold Awards

Of all respondents, six stand out with the best discounts and amenities.

Whitefish Mountain Resort, MT – Free skiing for 70-plus skiers
Hood Ski Bowl, OR – Free skiing for 71-plus skiers
Ski Whitewater, BC – Free skiing for 75-plus skiers
Alta, UT – Free skiing for 80-plus skiers
Lake Louise, AB – $20 season pass for 80-plus skiers
Waterville Valley, NH – Hosts Silver Streaks, the country’s longest running senior ski program.

The percentage of all midweek senior skiers at resorts which offer free lift tickets for seniors is estimated to be about 50 percent. Mt. Hood Ski Bowl’s Hans Wipper explains the value of providing free skiing to the older customer, “We want to reward loyal skiers, and we want them to bring their extended families.”

SeniorsSkiing “Senior Friendly” Silver Awards

Sutton, QUE – 55 percent off tickets Tuesdays, January – mid February.
Okemo, VT – pre-December season pass purchase (includes Mt. Sunapee, Pico Peak, Killington, Crested Butte): 45 percent off for 65-plus; 70 percent off for 70-plus.
Ski Butternut, MA – pre-December season pass purchase: $125 for 65-plus
Sugarbush, VT – $199 for Mid-Week Boomer Pass for 65+ (was $99 before Sept 9).

Other Silver Awards went to:

Alpine Meadows, CA
Copper Mountain, CO
Vail, CO
Hunter Mountain, NY
Windham Mountain, NY
Deer Valley, UT
Snow Basin, UT
Snowbird, UT
Red Mountain Resort, BC
Whistler Blackcomb, BC
Mont Tremblant, QC

SeniorsSkiing is an online magazine for the 50+ snow sports enthusiast. Beginning with alpine skiing, their plan will add cross-country, snowboarding and snowshoeing. Their focus is to bring ski news, advice on destinations, equipment, and health; as well as provide a nostalgic look at snow sports history and heroes. Look to SeniorSkiing.com for special offers, discount information and updates on what others in the growing 50+ crowd are doing to optimize their skiing and riding experiences.
Welcome to the Far West Skier’s Guide Club Section, where we feature our member clubs, located in the 9 regional councils of the Far West Ski Association, in 12 western states. Whether a skier or snowboarder, young or mature, single or family, there is a club for you!

Membership in a club provides many benefits including snowsports trips, adventure travel, discounts, racing and a wide variety of social events for every season of the year. As a club member, you are also a member of a regional council, the Far West Ski Association and the National Ski Council Federation. This provides even more benefits, and an opportunity for a wealth of information sharing and networking with others who enjoy the healthy, outdoor recreational activities offered through snowsport programs.

We are community service oriented, with just about every club offering opportunities to get involved in community outreach and fund raising programs to benefit very worthwhile causes. Our clubs also actively support the FWSA Athletic Scholarship Program to support Junior Racers, and we watch with pride the achievements of these scholar athletes.

Find a ski club located near you. We invite you to join us and to get involved!

We have fun!

The 2015 FWSA North American Ski Week will be held at Whistler Blackcomb, BC.

Joleen Yates and Kats Cannel enjoy the snow in Vail.

This year’s Melodrama performed by the Phoenix Ski Club was called “ILLINOIS JANE AND THE PYRAMID OF PERIL”. From Left to Right: Paul Longtin, Julie Church and Henry Schubel. Actors in the second photo include Robert Johnson, Carla Kramer, Gayle Allen and Roger Lundstrum. All loved it!

Sailing Adventure Club, (SAC), which is a member of the Arizona Ski Council, is a social club based in Phoenix, Arizona with activities ranging from local sailing, and non-sailing events, to out of country sailing adventures.

The club is planning a trip to Tahiti in 2015. Other areas of interest include the Rhone and Danube Rivers. With 80% of the world covered with water, Sailing Adventures has a lot of places to explore. Singles, couples and families are welcome to join this club. Check out their website at www.sailingadventureclub.org.

The Boeing Employee Adventure Club is a Corporate Club which continues their hiking schedule as well as biking, camping, kayaking, pool parties and family events around town. Employees may contact www.boeing.com for more information about recreation activities that are planned!

Scottsdale Sea & Ski Club, (SS&SC), is an adult ski and social club. SS&SC have happy hours every Friday evening. SS&SC will be doing its annual Pub Crawl on the famous Whiskey Row in Prescott, Arizona. This is a popular getaway weekend in August.

Scottsdale Sea & Ski Club see www.phxski.org.

Scottsdale Sea & Ski Club has an active program, including sailing weekends in San Diego, houseboating on Lake Powell and several ski opportunities. One of the destinations this year will be to Big Sky, Montana.

**Arizona Ski Council**

Arizona Ski Council (ASC) represents six clubs and between 500-600 members, primarily in the Phoenix metro-area, with membership open to non-profit ski clubs in the state of Arizona. Our clubs serve skiers, snowboarders and social members. The Snowbowl in Flagstaff, Arizona was able to stay open all winter this year. This was the first time in many years that has happened. This was due to the fact that the Snowbowl now has snow making equipment.

Five members from the Arizona Ski Council attended the FWSA Convention that was held in Bend, Oregon from June 12th through June 15th. Jim Nachbar from the Scottsdale Ski Club represented the Arizona Ski Council as their Council Man of The Year and was re-elected to the Far West Board as Vice President of Communications. ASC is very proud of Jim.

Arizona Outdoor Travel Club, (AZOTC) which is mostly a hiking club, continues to have hikes all year long. They have exercise hikes planned every Tuesday in the Phoenix Mountain Preserve. AZOTC members went to Crested Butte, Colorado in August to watch the CO/USA Pro Cycling Challenge. Some members of AZOTC will be spending 14 days in October hiking the Big Island (Hawaii), Maui and Kauai. A few members of AZOTC did a June Full Moon Hike in the Grand Canyon. Go to www.azotc.com for more information on these and other exciting trips.

The Phoenix Ski Club, (PSC), is busy putting their 2014-2015 ski trip schedule together. They are going to Wolf Creek, Colorado in December. PSC will be going to Telluride, Colorado two times this year, once in January and again in April at the close of the ski season. The Phoenix Ski Club will also be attending the Far West Ski Week at Whistler. Two more ski trips have been planned for this ski season. One is to Whitefish, Montana and the other one is to Schweitzer, in Idaho. The Phoenix Ski Club is doing an adventure trip to Ireland in September. PSC also will be going to Rocky Point, in Mexico during the month of September. For more details about the Phoenix Ski Club see www.phxski.org.

The Phoenix Ski Club see www.phxski.org.

The Scottsdale Sea and Ski Club, (SS&SC), is an adult ski and social club. SS&SC have happy hours every Friday evening. SS&SC will be doing its annual Pub Crawl on the famous Whiskey Row in Prescott, Arizona. This is a popular getaway weekend in August.

BOEING ADVENTURE CLUB

Representative: Glenn Pyle

glenn.pyle@boeing.com

PARTY TIME SPORTS

President: Larry Reineck

lareineck@gmail.com

SAILING ADVENTURE CLUB

Commodore: Ralph Morgan

rhmorgan@co.net

SCOTTSDALE SEA AND SKI CLUB

President: Eld Carnivires

504-512-9275

president@scottsdale-skiclub.com

The Scottsdale Sea and Ski Club has an active program, including sailing weekends in San Diego, houseboating on Lake Powell and several ski opportunities. One of the destinations this year will be to Big Sky, Montana.

photo courtesy of Big Sky Resort / Lonnie Bell, photographer

**Arizona Ski Council**

www.azotc.com

President: Arleigh Meiners

(480) 391-2612

president@azotc.com

**Arizona Ski & Social Clubs**

**Member Clubs & Contact Information**

ARIZONA OUTDOOR TRAVEL CLUB

www.azotc.com

President: Bud Tasch

303-502-9275

arizbunzer@msn.com

BOEING ADVENTURE CLUB

www.boeing.com

Representative: Glenn Pyle

glenn.pyle@boeing.com

PHOENIX SKI CLUB

www.phxski.org

President: Larry Reineck

602-909-0216

lareineck@gmail.com

SAILING ADVENTURE CLUB

www.sailingadventureclub.org

Commodore: Ralph Morgan

rhmorgan@co.net

SCOTTSDALE SEA AND SKI CLUB

www.scottsdale-skiclub.com

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photo courtesy of Big Sky Resort / Lonnie Bell, photographer
Bay Area Snow Sports Council
by Dennis Heffley, President

The Bay Area Snow Sports Council (BAC) is a very active part of the Far West Ski Association and the National Ski Council Federation (www.skifederation.org). Our focus is Having Fun. One might ask, “Who should join a BAC club?” A very simple answer is YOU!

We welcome snowboarders, skiers, cross country, people who enjoy snow shoeing and those who prefer non-snow social activities.

The BAC has 30 active member clubs based in the greater San Francisco Bay area which extends as far north as the Napa Valley, south to Monterey/Carmel and east to Modesto. We feature two separate leagues within the BAC. Our Open League has 25 clubs and welcomes individuals, couples, families and their children. Our Singles League is made up of five clubs with their full members being over 21 years of age and must be single to initially join one of their clubs. You’ll find fun things to do all year long with our clubs.

There is the social aspect to the BAC clubs! Non-skiers and non-snowboarders find their way to our member clubs for activities such as dancing, hiking, camping, bike riding, tennis, golf, adventure travel, etc. In fact, we have members who have been on all seven continents of the world. Yes, that includes Antarctica!

You’ll be amazed by the variety of trips available through the BAC, our various clubs, and the Far West Ski Association. The locations include many Tahoe venues, domestic locations, adventures to Europe and just about all points on a compass. You can find members of the BAC going to the slopes just about any time during the winter! As an example, in 2015, we have members going to Whistler Blackcomb, British Columbia; Whitefish, Montana; Jackson Hole, Wyoming; Steamboat Springs, Colorado; Sun Valley, Idaho and a number of additional locations. During 2016, already scheduled are trips to Telluride, Colorado and Crested Butte, Colorado.

Another wonderful part of the BAC clubs and our members is how we volunteer our time and energy through community outreach and fund raising programs. Our main benefactor is Disabled Sports USA Far West Division (DSUSA) (www.dsusa.org). Over the years, we have raised over $395,000 for their program! On August 23, 2014, we held our 9th Annual BAC/DSUSA Oakland A’s Baseball Game, Tailgate BBQ and Fireworks event. Members of the BAC, their friends and family had a great night. There were almost 200 of us enjoying the incredible experience at the Oakland Coliseum. Thank you to the Oakland A’s Baseball Organization & Vail Resorts for supporting this spectacular evening!

The history of the Bay Area Snow Sports Council is just as amazing as what is taking place today. In mid-1940, the Bay Area Ski Federation was organized “For the welfare of Bay Area Skiers” and voted to join Far West as the Bay Area Council (BAC) Ski Clubs in 1961. To embrace all snow sports activities, the current name of the BAC is “Bay Area Snow Sports Council”. During all four seasons our BAC clubs are very active!

The Singles League portion of the BAC holds an Annual Snow Ball in November to celebrate the coming winter sports season. This year, we are having our 40th Anniversary of this gala event! The evening consists of a wonderful black tie optional dinner/dance along with a silent auction and an amazing raffle. Our auction and raffle would not be possible without the tremendous support we receive from the ski industry and resorts!

We, in the leadership of the BAC, are very lucky to have our clubs and their members associated with us along with having the Lake Tahoe area in our “backyard”. Our members are amazing and the amount of history and diversity of local places to ski/snowboard is a true gift.

Our Recreational Race Schedules for 2014 - 2015 will be featuring Alpine Meadows, NorthStar at California and Squaw Valley (venues subject to change). In addition, there are the Far West Championships at Mammoth Mountain Resort! Become one of our “racers”. Come out and have a great time! Even if you don’t race, please join us at the slopes during any of our on mountain events. Cow bells are encouraged!

In our continued efforts to share information with our BAC members, we have a monthly BAC General Meeting where we welcome and look forward to having guest speakers who talk about their resorts, products and/or travel opportunities. This year, we are also putting a great deal of energy into sharing information on how to improve our various clubs through informative and interactive conversations!

If you have any questions or need more information about the BAC, please contact me at bac.president@skibac.org or look at our website at www.skibac.org.

To our members, clubs and those who donate and support our efforts, I always like to say - “Thank You For Being The One Who Makes The Difference!”

Please check out one of our clubs, come to the slopes with us and have fun with our Volunteer Non-Profit Organization!
September 8, 2014: The Banff Region in Alberta, Canada, saw the first dump of snow leading into the 2014/15 ski season. Over the next several days, the weather gods generously dumped eight inches of the fantastic white powder. Lake Louise photo courtesy of SkiBig3 / Chris Mooney, photographer

September 9, 2014: The crew at Sunshine Village takes advantage of the September blessing. Will this early season storm be a predictor for the upcoming season? Let’s hope! photo courtesy of SkiBig3, (Lake Louise Ski Resort, Sunshine Village and Mt. Norquay)
Councils are all about providing information, and sometimes additional activities, for the clubs located within their boundaries. Most, but not all, Central Council clubs have very strong and active travel programs and numerous non-snowsport activities available to their members. In addition to what the club’s provide, Central Council offers another layer of activities and services.

For all our member clubs, Central Council offers information and options. Clubs generally like to offer the benefits made available by the council, Far West Ski Association, and the National Ski Council Federation, including travel options, discount lodging, and discounts at various ski-related venues. If you are a club member, and you aren’t getting information about the many benefits and options available to you, inquire at your next meeting, or contact your club or council president or membership person directly. Council president contact information is listed along with all our club presidents’ contact information.

In 2014, Central Council put a major emphasis on offering non-snowsports summer activities. This summer’s kick-off event was a gentle kayak weekend on the Owens River in and around Bishop, California. That was followed by a backpacking/hiking adventure in the Little Lakes Valley in the Eastern Sierra. Additionally, a musical adventure was scheduled to the Nevada County Celtic Festival, and a fun golf tournament was organized in conjunction with Fresno Ski Club.

A variety of weekend and midweek trips to Mammoth Mountain will be in the mix this winter, as well. The council also supports the FWSA North American Ski Week held the end of January or first of February each year, the mini ski week and the international ski week held in the spring, as well as, the many adventure trips FWSA has to offer.

Central Council currently has eight clubs, one of which is an online family adventure club. Check us out! If you live in the Central California area, chances are we have a club near you. Look around, join as a stranger, and plan to leave with many lifelong friends.

Check out our website at www.centralcouncilskiclubs.org for information and contacts for our many adventures.

Central Council of California
www.centralcouncilskiclubs.org
President: Fran Long
805-712-5781
francat87@gmail.com

AVALANCHE SKI AND SPORTS CLUB
Serving Bakersfield, Kern County
www.centralcouncilskiclubs.org
President: Donna Barnes
dblazekwebb@gmail.com

CAMBER SKI CLUB
Serving the Salinas Valley and parts of Monterey County
www.centralcouncilskiclubs.org
Activities: Jayne Conic
camicski@aol.com

CENTRAL COAST OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CLUB
Serving families in the central California area
www.centralcouncilskiclubs.org
Facilitator: Fran Long
fancat87@gmail.com

FRESNO SKI CLUB
Serving Fresno County
www.fresnoskiclub.com
President: Vicki Erickson
president@fresnoskiclub.com

OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL ENTHUSIASTS
Serving Fresno County
Facilitator: Bob Strickland
Bstrick60@att.net

SANTA BARBARA SKI AND SPORTS CLUB
Serving Santa Barbara County
www.sbski.org
President: MariannenMahn
president@sbski.org

SLO SKIERS, INC., A SKI SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB
Serving San Luis Obispo, Southern Monterey and Northern Santa Barbara Counties
www.sloskiers.org
President: Fran Long
president@sloskiers.org

SNOW TRACKERS
Serving Exeter, California
www.centralcouncilskiclubs.org
President: Helen Salisbury Jacobson
helenzz@aol.com
The Intermountain Ski Council is gaining in enthusiasm as we inch closer to June 2017, when we will be hosting the FWSA Annual Convention in Boise, Idaho, at the Grove Hotel and Boise Centre. The plans are already in progress to host an epic event with pre and post Convention excursions to all points of spectacular scenic southwestern Idaho. Whitewater rafting, fly fishing, biking, hiking, and some relaxing time in natural hot springs, are some of the experiences we have planned for Convention attendees.

For the upcoming 2014-15 ski season, the council is planning another exciting ski trip to beautiful Red Mountain Resort in Rossland, B.C, one of Canada’s top ranking resorts for powder, expansive terrain, and best overall ski town. Our trip will coincide with Canada’s longest running winter carnival; the Rossland Winter Carnival, January 28 - February 1, 2015. We’ll enjoy four nights slope side accommodations at the Slalom Creek Condos, while skiing three days on Grey, Granite and Red Mountains, with free shuttles to Rossland, and all the amenities that come with condo stays. The trip begins in Spokane, Washington where we take a three hour bus/party tour to the resort to get things started. The base trip cost is only $650 per person. Contact Michael Bouton with questions at mboaton0559@msn.com or 208-703-0444.

Our young council has already grown to twelve clubs in four states. With so much distance between our clubs, we rely on our monthly conference call/meetings to get together with all our representatives and plan for future council events. Our executive committee likes their jobs so much, they are staying on for another year with leadership from: President - Paul Markowitz (Boise Primetimers), VP. of Membership - Kim Havron (Boise Vertigals), VP. of Travel - Kitty Imdahl (Park City Mountain Sports Club), Treasurer - Michael Bouton (Bogus Basin), Secretary - Luci Snowoski (Hill Ski Club) and Communications - Lennia Machen.

Our council sent 12 delegates to this year’s FWSA Convention in Bend, Oregon, where all had a wonderful experience. Five were “first timers” that had their eyes opened with all the information and learning experiences. And, we were proud to receive a gold medal for our own website, along with Idaho Falls Ski Club's Outstanding Club gold medal, plus silver and bronze medals in website and newsletters. Our council contributed to the Convention by making suggestions for future Convention business meetings. Much fun, and we are already looking forward to San Diego in 2015.
Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs
by Sandra Knapp, President

As I enter my second year as president of Los Angeles Council, I look forward to growing our council with the help of the newly elected Far West Ski Association’s VP of Membership, Jane Gutierrez, who is president of one of our largest clubs, Four Seasons West. She has already brought back into the council another large club, Winter Fox. Diversity is a key for both LA Council and Far West this year.

LA Council members may not have had the largest council attendance at the Far West Ski Association’s 82nd Annual Convention in beautiful Bend, Oregon this past June, but we were important in their success! We could be found at the registration desk every day and assisted with the accounting at the Friday night Silent Auction. Karen James of Edelweiss Ski Club was the FWSA Convention Registrar.

Congratulations to the LA clubs that received club recognitions at the FWSA Convention: Wentworth Outstanding Club, Class A - The Unrecables, Class AA - Pacific Rim; Outstanding Club Website, Class A - The Unrecables, Class AA - Pacific Rim. Catherine Ohl of Pacific Rim and Jane Wyckoff of Single Ski Club were presented with an FWSA President’s Award. Congratulations to David Krupp, Century City Ski Club, the new FWSA Athletic Scholarship Chair. Jane Wyckoff remains on the FWSA Board of Trustees.

LA Council continues to support the FWSA Athletic Scholarship Fund for junior racers, in particular Kayleigh MacGregor, and annually contributes to the Fund. We were proud to have Grindelwald Ski Club also present a $1,000 check to the Fund in memory of Louis Buhler, a co-founder of Grindelwald Ski Club and a key participant in the early organization of California skiing.

I can’t resist again thanking the Northwest Ski Club Council for providing some of the greatest extra-curricular events and interesting speakers we’ve ever had. We also thank the City of Bend for their welcoming attitude and generous support.

We honored our club presidents with the President’s Luncheon at El Cholo, a fine Mexican restaurant. We talked about common goals and problems - meeting places, declining membership and the costs of skiing. Everyone came away with information and ideas, and the agreement that cooperative brainstroming sessions like this are very helpful. We look forward to more of them. Volunteers such as these deserve all the help and recognition they can get!

We also celebrated past successes. ROKKA League won the Far West Racing Association’s Championships trophy for Most Points for Adult Racers, and Norbert Knapp presented the trophy and a permanent plaque to Laura Preiss, President of the ROKKA Race League.

Looking ahead, this year’s season-starting Snow Gala will be held at the elegant Hilton Hotel in Woodland Hills on Saturday evening, November 1. We look forward to choosing our Council Man and Woman of the Year to compete in the 2015 FWSA Councils’ Man and Woman of the Year recognition program. Congratulations to our 2014 LAC Man of the Year, Gene Fulkerson, and LAC Woman of the Year, Cindy Krupp, who represented our council at the FWSA Convention. Gene was named FWSA Councils’ Man of the Year.

And, we plan to have a great time at this year’s Ski Dazzle December 4-7 at the LA Convention Center. Check our website calendar for this and more exciting activities at www.lacouncil.org.

Sandra Blackwell, V.P. of Travel ran our council ski trip to Beaver Creek. LA Council skiers had a great time, as always. Laura Preiss will lead the LA group attending the FWSA 2015 trip to Whistler Blackcomb.

LA Council runs an annual Learn to Ski and Race Camp at Mammoth Mountain, California, and ROKKA League also runs a race camp. Various clubs run their own week-long ski trips during ski season which will be posted on our website as information is available, together with the various weekend bus trips to Mammoth Mountain.
The August 9th President’s Luncheon was held at El Cholo Restaurant in downtown Los Angeles. Many of our club presidents were in attendance. From LEFT TO RIGHT, BACK TO FRONT: Norbert Knapp, Past President - LAC; J. Davis, Unrecables; Jane Gutierrez, 4 Seasons West; Pam Worden, LAC Secretary; Paula Hazzard, LAC VP Programs; Karen James, LAC Treasurer; Richard Murray, Conejo; Wendy Goldzband, Representative for Edelweiss; Alicia McVicher; Grindlewald; Pete Smith, Wailers; Kathleen Byrnes, LAC VP Membership; Jim Caleca, Saga; and Frank Robertson, Winter Fox. SEATED: Sigrid Noach, FWSA Charities Chair; Sandra Knapp, LAC President; Laura Preiss, ROKKA League President.

photo provided by Sandra Knapp

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www.lacouncil.org
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Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs
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South Bay
www.aseacubs.org/ski
President: Andrew Davidy
AEASkiPres@gmail.com

Asian Ski & Board Club of Los Angeles
Los Angeles
www.asbela.org
Contact: Warren Tanaka
warren.asbela@gmail.com

Aushich Ski Club
www.aushichclub.org
Belmont Shore/Long Beach
President: Joe Vanderhoof
jvanderhoof@netscape.net

Beach Cities Ski Club
Beach Cities
www.bcskiclub.org
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Ccssc Sports
West Side Los Angeles
www.ccsscSports.org
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Coneo Ski & Sports Club
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Edelweiss Ski & Sports Club
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Four Seasons West Ski and Snowboard Club
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Grindlewald Ski Club
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Hughes Ski Club
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Kronenstadt Ski Club
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Long Beach Ski Club
Long Beach/South Bay
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President: Chris Flajay
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Los Padres Ski Club
Simi Valley/Ventura County
www.lospadresskiubc.net
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Over the Hill Gang - Los Angeles
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Over the Hill Gang - Ventura
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Pacific Rim Alliance
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www.pacificrimalliance.org
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ohl@acatmeowz.com

Radar River Rats (aka Hears Water Ski Club)
Southern California
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President: Catherine Ohi
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Saga Ski Club
Los Angeles
www.sagaLa.org
President: Jim Caleca
president@sagala.org

Santa Barbara Ski & Sports Club
Santa Barbara County/Los Angeles
www.sbski.org
President: Marianne Mahn
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Singleski Club of Los Angeles
Los Angeles
www.singleskiclub.org
President: Kay Collins
kaycat17@version.net

Space Park Ski Club
(formerly TRW)
Los Angeles
www.spaceparkskiandsnowboardclub.org
President: Phil Weigheber
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The Unrecables
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Tri Valley Ski Club
San Gabriel Valley
President: Bruce Freeman
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Wailers Ski Club
San Fernando Valley/Los Angeles
www.wailersskiubc.org
President: Pete Smith
626-676-8203
president@wailersskiubc.org

Westwood Ski & Sports Club
West Los Angeles
www.westwoodskiubc.org
President: Scott Peer
818-900-0488
scottpeer@aol.com

Winter Fox Ski Association
Los Angeles
www.winterfox.org
President: Frank Robertson
frnk@winterfox.org
Northwest Ski Council
by Steve Coxen, President

Northwest Ski Club Council, organized in 1979, represents 32 ski and snowboard organizations in Oregon, Washington, Alaska and Hawaii. Our clubs offer winter activities with club trips to many western ski resorts. Summer months bring lots of outdoor activities including cycling, hiking, golfing, sailing, and specialty trips and events like wine tours, seafood parties, theater, festivals and club picnics.

NWSCC meets every other month at Portland area venues for a lively meeting with varying themes and guest speakers. Topics include travel, safety, outreach and charities, ski resort news, and club activities. When you join a NWSCC club, you are automatically a member of Far West Ski Association. FWSA offers a member benefits program whereby you can receive discounts on lodging, rentals, and ski gear. Club members attend the annual FWSA Convention - complete with fun optional activities, educational sessions, silent auction and travel expo, awards banquet, business meeting and legendary skiing athletes.

NWSCC is affiliated with Pacific Northwest Ski Areas Association (PNSAA), the National Ski Areas Association (NSAA), and the National Ski Council Federation (NSCF). The NSCF brings you lots of member benefits for your skiing and travel needs. We are also a member of Oregon Snowsport Industries Association, dba Ski Oregon.

Our kickoff event for ski season is our annual Ski Fair on November 17, 2014 at Holiday Inn Airport, in Portland. This event is open to the public and member clubs have the opportunity to showcase their clubs. In addition, at this one-night trade show, we offer ski industry booth displays, discounted ski passes, a silent auction and door prizes. NWSCC will also participate in two regional ski shows – Seattle Ski Dazzle (November 14-16) and Portland Ski Fever and Snowboard Show (November 14-16). These shows give our council and clubs an opportunity to provide information to the public about the benefits of ski club membership and our various activities. Our NW Ski Challenge program provides encouragement for skier visits to our supporting resorts in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Alaska, British Columbia and Alberta. Collect lift tickets and win prizes!

Through the ski season we promote several “Ski Days” at our local resorts, encouraging club participation. Our annual publication, Northwest Skiers’ Directory, is published each fall, in conjunction with our commercial membership program. The Directory provides club profiles, ski resort stats and interesting ski-related stories. Look for a copy in your favorite NW outdoor store! Our advocacy group, Northwest Snowsports Advocates, partners with our ski industry friends and clubs an opportunity to provide information to the public about the benefits of ski club membership and clubs to our ski industry friends when our opinions can make a difference on issues related to public affairs and ski area development.

Racing is very popular with our NW skiers. Our recreational race league, PACRAT, is open to skiers and snowboarders of all abilities. First time racers are especially encouraged to participate. The end of season race party, fondly known as the Rat Attack, is held in April. For more information on racing with PACRAT, please visit their website at www.pacrats.org.

NWSCC clubs are known for their charitable and community outreach efforts!! A few of the organizations we support are: Hope On The Slopes/Ski & Ride For A Cure, Mt. Bachelor Ski Education Foundation, Mt. Hood Cultural Center & Museum, Mt. Hood Ski Education Foundation, Mt. Hood Ski Patrol, Outdoors For All Foundation, Northwest Trail Alliance, Oregon Adaptive Sports, Oregon Cancer Ski Out, Ski to Defeat ALS, Adaptive Skier Programs, Susan G. Komen, Oregon Food Bank, and Special Olympics. In addition, NWSCC and three of our member clubs support the FWSA Athletic Scholarship Program with contributions to assist junior racers. The clubs are Skiyente Ski Club, Mountain High Snowsport Club, and Bergfreunde. NWSCC was a proud contributor to the U.S. Women’s Ski Jumping to assist them to get to Sochi in 2014.

NWSCC, member clubs, and local ski resorts took home awards presented at the 2014 FWSA Convention. They were: J. Stanley Mullin Award - Emilio Trampus; Jordan-Reily Award - Kayla Walker; Jimmie Heuga Award - Cliff Blann; Western Ski Heritage Award - Emilio Trampus and Bill Berry Awards - Ben Millers / Photo Visions

Northwest Ski Club Council members at the Awards Banquet at the 82nd Annual FWSA Convention in June, hosted by the Council. Hard-working NWSCC volunteers made sure everyone had great fun! Also in the picture are Bob Bouquard, retired “Group Sales Guy” for Mt. Bachelor, and his wife Nancy (left front row), and Billy Kidd, Olympic Medalist (center). Doug Miller / Photo Visions

Mike Barnach, Wendy Rust, and Jan Moore ski some back-country terrain west of Timberline. The cliff in the background is Mississippi Head, and the canyon below is Zig Zag Canyon.

photo / Emilio Trampus

For West Skier’s Guide 2014 - 2015 75
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Northwest Ski Club Council
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matsusnow@mtaonline.net

Hawaii
HAWAII SNOW SKI CLUB
Location: Aiea, Hawaii
www.hawaiisnowskiclub.com
pres@hawaiisnowskiclub.com

Oregon
ALTAIR SKI & SPORTS CLUB
Location: Eugene, Oregon
www.altairsports.org
skialtair@yahoo.com

BEND SKI CLUB
Location: Bend, Oregon
www.bendskiclub.info
bendssc@aol.com

BERGFREUNDE
Location: Portland, Oregon
www.bergfreunde.org
skiclub@bergfreunde.org

CABERNET SKI & SAIL CLUB
Location: Portland, Oregon
www.nwskiers.org
johnoreinhardt@hotmail.com

CASCADE PRIME TIMERS SKI CLUB
Location: Portland, Oregon
www.cascadeprimetimers.org
president@cascadeprimestimers.org

CASCADE SKI CLUB, INC
Location: Government Camp, Oregon
www.cascadeskiclub.org
lodge@cascadeskiclub.org

MEADOWS RACE TEAM
Location: Hood River, Oregon
www.meadowsraceteam.org
meadowsraceteam@gmail.com

MT. HOOD SKI EDUCATION FOUNDATION
Location: Government Camp, Oregon
www.mthoodacademy.org
bgumesch@centurytel.net

MT. HOOD SKI PATROL
Location: Mt. Hood, Oregon
www.mthoodskipatrol.org
mhsp@onebox.com

MT. HOOD SKIKATS
Location: Portland, Oregon
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MOUNTAIN HIGH SNOWSPORT CLUB
Location: Portland, Oregon
www.mthigh.org
info@mthigh.org

NORTHWEST TRAIL ALLIANCE
Location: Portland, Oregon
www.nw-trail.org
info@nw-trail.org

OREGON ADAPTIVE SPORTS
Location: Bend, Oregon
www.oregonadaptivesports.org
oasbend@gmail.com

Jacklet and Christopher Van Tilburg, MD. John Reinhardt and Sandi Shaub represented NWSCC as Council Man and Woman of The Year. Club and Council Communication Awards included: Outstanding Club of the Year - Mountain High Snowsport Club; Outstanding Publication - Mountain High Snowsport Club; Outstanding Website - Mountain High Snowsport Club and Cascade Prime Timers; and Outstanding Council Newsletter - NWSCC. Club Historic Recognition Awards were presented to Cascade Ski Club, Desert Ski and Snowboard Club, and Hawaii Ski Club. NWSCC received the Charities and Our Community Award.

One of the greatest benefits of membership in NWSCC and FWSA are the ski trip opportunities, with exceptional offerings of location, lodging and lift tickets. And don’t forget the FUN you will have skiing new places, with new friends! NWSCC will participate in the FWSA Ski Week in January at Whistler Blackcomb, BC with about 60 club members. NWSCC is also planning an all club trip to Utah in January.

For more information on our council or any of our clubs, trips and activities, and links to PACRAT and Northwest Snowports Advocates, please check out our website at www.nwskiers.org.

A group of about 24 Mountain High club members pose near a peak during a weekend bus trip to Stevens Pass Ski Area in Washington State. photo / Emilio Trampuz

Top Right: Emilio Trampuz skis some tight trees during the “Ski the Glade Trail Day” – an annual event on Mt. Hood organized by the Mt. Hood Museum. photo / Lisa Miller

Lower: A group of Mountain High club members above the clouds, at the top of the Palmer chairlift at Timberline, Mt. Hood, Oregon. photo / Kurt Wilke
The Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament is a popular event for both the industry and delegates to the FWSA Convention.

Doug Miller / Photo Visions

Winter: Beaver Creek was the site of the 2014 FWSA North American Ski Week. Doug and Susan Siemer stop to admire the view of the village below.

Orange Council of Ski Clubs
by Sheila Van Guilder, President

Orange Council clubs were active in Far West Ski Association before Orange Council was founded in 1971. As part of the Southern Council, and South East Race League, the Orange County ski clubs skied, raced, played volleyball, and socialized with other FWSA clubs. In fact, they even hosted several of the early FWSA Conventions. Today, a few of those clubs are still around and very active.

Most Orange Council clubs have tried the social media route through Facebook, MeetUp and travel events to cement their memberships. All have active websites where a visitor can get a flavor of the wonderful activities their club's events.

Each of the clubs located in Orange County offers a variety of athletic and social events throughout the year. Most clubs have scheduled weekend, or mid-week trips to Mammoth Mountain, and out-of-area destination ski week trips. It is hard to know which shines the brightest, the sports or the social events!

Auslich Ski Club conducts social meetings and is very committed to its involvement in community and charity events. Auslich also has a very active golf program.

Balboa Ski and Sports Club has monthly summer BBQ meetings at a Back Bay location, which are very popular. Their regular meeting location is a local “Tee Room” of a Newport Beach golf course. Besides running three day bus “vaca” trips to Mammoth Mountain, the club also helps members coordinate local daily getaways to Big Bear destinations. In 2015, the celebrating starts for its 60th year as an active ski club. The tennis program, started as a way to keep in shape for skiing, is an important part of Balboa’s history and current programs. The club’s busy schedule of weekly/monthly events includes kayaking, biking, bridge, concerts and wine events and is highlighted each year with a bang up Newport Beach Boat Parade Party.

Huntington Beach Ski Club (same name as 1970’s, but reincarnated several times) is one of our newer, yet very active clubs.
Their Annual End of Summer Beach party is just part of their many traditions. Four members of their Board attended the FWSA Convention in Bend this year. The club has drive up trips to Mammoth Mountain, and is partnering with Orange Council to go on the 2014 FWSA Ski Week to Whistler Blackcomb along with Snowbounders, Snowfliers and Balboa.

Fountain Valley Ski Club has recently moved their meeting to a great place where the social happy hour is a high point. As with most of the Orange Council clubs, FVSC has Mammoth Mountain Trips with a twist, ie. mid-week drive-ups. They have an active summer kayaking program. FVSC also runs an annual major trip, which in 2015 will be to Jackson Hole, Wyoming. The ski area covers parts of both Apres Vous Mountain and Rendezvous Mountain. The later is known for its more advanced terrain including bowls, glades and chutes.

Orange County Ski Club members enjoy skiing at Northstar in Lake Tahoe. Northstar offers incredible tree skiing, terrain parks and enough variety to challenge every level of skier or rider. photo submitted by Anne Barneson

Orange County Ski Club has also decided that they will pick their 2016 destination on the bus from Snowmass, their 2015 trip. The Orange County Ski Club was very active in the early 70’s. Today, its membership consists of people living across the country, in Canada, and of course, in all parts of Orange County. When not skiing, OCSC gets together several times a year for parties. A highlight of their summer was a trip to the Temecula Valley for a brunch, wine tasting, and concert. The Orange County Ski Club is an active participant in the Schusski Racing League.

Orange Council of Ski Clubs
The mission of San Diego Council of Ski Clubs is to support and promote the sport of recreational skiing and snowboarding in the southern California area. At the present time, we have eight very active clubs. Hundreds of members belong to one or more of these clubs. They enjoy skiing and snowboarding nationally and internationally each year. Our clubs also enjoy outdoor activities during the summer. Many of the clubs move their meetings to the parks and beaches for the summer. Members enjoy getting together for Padre Games, museum tours, biking, hiking, tennis, horse races at Del Mar, Bunco parties and the Summer Pops concerts.

SDCSC officers for the 2014-15 year will be: Tom Bundgard, President; Chris Gill, Vice-President; Eileen Sanford, Past President; Debbie Schroeder, Secretary; Stew Smith, Treasurer; and Alan Godwin, Travel Director.

I am pleased to announce that the 83rd Annual FWSA Convention will be at the Town and Country Resort & Convention Center in Mission Valley, the heart of San Diego. We will be there June 4-7, 2015. The theme is “Salute to San Diego”. We will have a USS Midway event, golf, ocean kayaking, and a host of other outdoor activities. Plus, we will have the silent auction, travel expo, education sessions, VIP athletes and much more!

The ski season starts with sign-ups in October, racing from December through March and ski trips from December through April. The novelty of enjoying warm beautiful beaches all year long and being able to jump on a bus or plane and enjoy the winter sport of skiing or snowboarding is a drawing card for our strong support from club members.

Plans for the 2014-15 ski trips include, Aspen, Mammoth, Salt Lake, Keystone, Jackson Hole, Big White, Winter Park, Big Bear and New Zealand. Many clubs do three day bus trips to Mammoth during the ski season on race weekends to support the Alpine Race League.

Our official start of the ski season will begin with our Gala. This wonderful event is organized by Barbara Blasé, Chris Gill and Jean McCahey. The Gala will be held at the Town and Country Resort on November 8, 2014, and includes dinner and dancing. Contact Barbara Blasé to make a reservation. (bblas@sanx.com)

The clubs select an outstanding man and a woman as a way of honoring their most valuable and active members, club winners compete at the council level and the SDCSC winners are announced at the Gala. Our award winners last season were Erin Barber and Tom Bundgard of San Diego Ski Club.

The 2014-15 season opens with December trips to Aspen and Mammoth. The Mammoth trip will host our first Alpine League race of the season on December 11, 2014. The San Diego Alpine Race League is also continuing to promote recreational skiing and snowboarding amongst the skiers in the San Diego area. SDCSC won the Southern California Race Championships this year. Earlier this year, I gladly accepted the Roma McCoy Award on behalf of the San Diego Alpine League, the 2014 recipient. This coveted trophy is awarded for most points per racer during the Far West Championships. We are proud of our strong participation and many individual winners. San Diego Ski Club won the Alpine League trophy this year for the most club points of the season.

Congratulations to Jerry Stokely, Race Director. A special thanks goes the Alpine League Board: Eileen Weiner, President; Laura Meldrum, Race Statistics; Bob Brower, Vice President; Martin Washer, Lina Arnold, Jerry Stokely, and Carl Cobb, Club Race Directors.

The council will host the 18th Annual Aspen Ski Trip from December 11-17, 2014 led by Mike Sanford (inbasanfrd@aol.com). Those that have been on one of these annual trips can tell you that you are up for an incredible trip. This trip sells out early so get your spot now.

Alan Godvin (alan@skiclub.us), our new Travel Director, will once again serve as trip leader for the FWSA Ski Week to Whistler Blackcomb, Canada from January 31 - February 7, 2015. The trip includes air and seven night lodging options, a five day lift ticket, a welcome party, pub crawl, races, mountain picnic, Ski Week Banquet, Awards Après Party, and Council Night Event.

Eileen Sanford (eileensanford12@gmail.com) will be leading a Bike and Barge Trip from Mantova to Venice, Italy on April 4, 2015 for eight days and seven nights. The trip is full, with a
Sierra League and Council
by Jo Simpson, President

The members of the 11 Sierra Council clubs and race teams enthusiastically welcome new members to join in their snowsports and other activities. Our larger member clubs offer a variety of year-round activities, including golf, tennis, campouts, hiking, trips to summer festivals, and additional opportunities for social interaction at meetings, parties and happy hours. Our annual council holiday party in early December provides a festive start to the new ski season.

There are two Sierra Council ski clubs in Las Vegas - the Las Vegas Ski, Snowboard and Sports Club and the Las Vegas Alpine Ski and Snowboard Club. They offer winter ski trips, hiking and year round social activities. The Las Vegas Ski, Snowboard and Sports Club is taking a Panama Canal cruise in January.

The Tahoe Donner Senior Alpine Ski Club is based in Truckee and enjoys group ski days to Lake Tahoe ski resorts throughout the winter. The Cabernet Ski and Race Club also is based in Truckee, although the members live in a variety of locations. As its name indicates, the club’s primarily focus is racing.

The Bota Baggers Ski Club also is based in Truckee and is also focused on racing. They recently moved to Sierra Council from the Bay Area Council since most of their members now live in Truckee.

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San Diego Council of Ski Clubs
Member Clubs & Contact Information

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www.actionski.org
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DON DIEGO SKI CLUB
www.ski-dondiego.org
President: Pete Michael 858-560-8520

GET OFF YOUR ROCKERS SKI CLUB
www.getoffyourrockers.org
President: Shirley Troxel 858-602-7417

NORTH ISLAND SNOWDRIFTERS
www.nisnowdrifters.com
President: Dave Arnold 619-733-9266

PACIFIC RIM ALLIANCE SNOW SPORTS CLUB
www.pacificrimalliance.org
President: Catherine Ohl 858-467-9469

QUALCOMM SKI AND SNOWBOARD CLUB
Representative: Adrienne Loder aloder@qualcomm.com

SIERRA LEAGUE AND COUNCIL

San Diego Council of Ski Clubs cordially invites you to attend the 83rd Annual FWSA Convention in San Diego.
- June 4-7, 2015 -

Sierra League and Council cordially invites you to attend the 83rd Annual FWSA Convention in San Diego.
- June 4-7, 2015 -
The Capital Ski and Sports Club, based in Sacramento, offers skiing, social activities, and camping and rafting trips in the summer. The Sequoia Ski Club is in Visalia, California. The RU Ski Club draws primarily from their home resort. Many of the members live in the San Francisco Bay Area. Many of the members are Russian.

In northern Nevada, the Reno Ski and Recreation Club offers a full schedule of social activities throughout the year, as well as summer camping trips and group ski days at Lake Tahoe resorts. They are taking a club trip to Steamboat this winter.

The Top Gun Club members include active and retired military members and airline employees in northern Nevada and the Lake Tahoe area who enjoy racing. The Sugar Bowl Ski Club’s members live in the San Francisco Bay area and call Sugar Bowl their home resort.

Each club offers a different experience. They all enthusiastically welcome active adults who enjoy skiing, boarding, and other outdoor activities who want to socialize with others with similar interests.

Our club members enthusiastically participate in Far West Ski Association trips. The larger clubs offer group ski days at nearby resorts and week long and weekend trips.

Recreational ski racing is a key activity of the council. Clubs and individuals compete for medals and end of season awards. The race league typically schedules eight regular season races, including a very popular Super G race.

We share the race course with the Bay Area Snow Sports Council’s Singles and Open Leagues. This collaboration keeps participation costs affordable and enhances the racing experience.

Sierra racers span all ability levels. Any skier who can make linked turns can have a fun time on the race course competing with skiers of similar ability. It’s fun to meet and engage in friendly competition with members of other clubs.

Snow conditions permitting, Sierra League offers two race clinics over Presidents’ Day weekend to get new racers started and to help experienced racers improve. Because our top league racers volunteer their time to coach at these clinics, racers receive excellent coaching at a minimal cost.

Try racing. It’s a fun way to expand your skiing experience and improve your ability while making new friends. Junior racers are welcome if accompanied by a racing parent or guardian and they race for free. Our racers are generous with their time to introduce new racers to the world of friendly competition.

Check out our clubs. Sign up for a trip or activity. Ski clubs are a great way to meet active adults who enjoy outdoor recreation and a wide range of social activities.

Visit our website www.sierraleague.com for links to the member clubs, racing information and Sierra Council activities.

Sierra League and Council
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Sierra League and Council Member Clubs & Contact Information

ALPINE SKI and SNOWBOARD CLUB
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BOTABAGGERS SKI CLUB
Truckee, California
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President: Bob Ellis
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CAPITAL SKI & SPORTS CLUB
Sacramento, California
www.capitalski.org
President: Walt Johnson
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CARIBBEAN SKI AND RACE CLUB
Truckee, California
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LAS VEGAS SKI, SNOWBOARD AND SPORTS CLUB
www.lasvegasskiiclub.com
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RENO SKI AND RECREATION CLUB
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RU SKI CLUB
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TAHOE-DONNER SENIOR ALPINE SKI CLUB
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