

# Far West NewsFlash

July, 2023

**\$18 MILLION APPROVED PROJECT FOR CANNON MOUNTAIN:** *Cannon Mountain*, which is part of Franconia Notch State Park, can now move forward with major improvements to its iconic aerial tramway. Cannon general manager, John DeVivo, said that Cannon, N.H. State Parks, and the N.H. Division of Public Works have been working with engineers for quite some time in making assessments to determine the condition of the tramway's systems and infrastructure. The track cables (on which the carriage assemblies roll), towers, concrete tower bases, top and bottom receiver buildings and steel superstructure are in fine condition. Beyond that, all primary systems are within the current project scope. The project could go out to bid as early as late summer, according to DeVivo, but no definitive timeline has been set, and the bidding process will take some time, he said. It's estimated that the project will take a summer and a winter, and possibly into the following year to complete. DeVivo hopes work can begin by summer 2025.

**THE SCIENCE BEHIND PINK SNOW:** We all know the story behind "yellow" snow, but now, we find that there is **PINK** snow out there. This pink snow, often called *Watermelon Snow*, can linger on late-season snowpack and glaciers worldwide. Though it may look tempting, and make you want to take a bite, it may be a forecast to a more sinister warning about our warming environment. The unique color of the snow is actually caused by a species of green algae that thrives in the cold and wet environment of glaciers. After lying dormant during the winter, these algae release pink pigment as a protective barrier against the sun throughout the summer snowmelt similar to what humans might use sunscreen. This pink snow is less reflective than the pure white stuff, which makes it absorb more heat from the sun and melt quicker. It has been found in the Cascades of Washington or the California Sierra mountains.

**NEW STUDIES SHOW GAINS IN SNOWSPORTS & OUTDOOR RECREATION:** Two individual studies released by Snowsports Industries America (SIA) and Outdoor Industry Association (OIA) show positive gains in snowsports participation, and outdoor sports as a whole. The SIA study notes that a greater share of respondents participated in resort skiing in 2022-23 compared to the 2021-22 season, but respondents skied fewer days this season compared to last. The survey also found that snowboarding participation increased 10 percent, while downhill skiing participation increased 2.2 percent year-over-year. Cross-country skiing continued its upward trend with participation increasing 9.6 percent from the previous year; snowshoeing was up 17 percent, and snow tubing was up 4.5 percent over 2021-22. Non-alpine activities, such as winter running and hiking, Backcountry alpine touring, including skiing and split-boarding, also saw a large increase, with 30 percent of respondents participating in 2022-23 compared to 17 percent in 2021-22.

## FAR WEST TRAVEL

**FWSA 2023 DIVE TRIP:** The FWSA 2023 dive trip will be at the **Little Cayman Beach Resort** on *Little Cayman*, a beautiful and tranquil island in the *Cayman Islands*, **October 7 – 14, 2023. There is still availability for 2 rooms.** Little Cayman had been named a top dive site in the Caribbean for its iconic Bloody Bay Wall, year-round perfect diving conditions, pristine coral reefs, and spectacular marine life. Little Cayman Beach Resort brings this magnificent experience beneath the sea directly onto the sand. Bloody Bay Wall is the main attraction, but there are other sites that are equally as exciting with numerous tunnel systems and crevices, both on the shallow reefs and out over the wall. Offering some of the most beautiful reef structures to be seen in the underwater world, this is where divers in-the-know go. Many dive operations claim the late Philippe Cousteau declared Bloody Bay Wall to be one of the three best dives in the world. The information is now available on the FWSA website at [www.fwsa.org](http://www.fwsa.org). or contact Randy Lew at: [fwsa13randy@telis.net](mailto:fwsa13randy@telis.net).

**FWSA 2024 SKI WEEK:** *Steamboat Ski Resort* is the destination for the 2024 North American Ski Week. The dates are **January 27 - February 3, 2024**. This trip includes: 7 nights lodging, a Welcome Party, a Farewell Party, and lots of fun with your Far West friends and family. Racing will be available, along with Council get-togethers, and many opportunities to wine, dine and shop your way through Steamboat. Lift tickets will be: \$533-\$622 for a 5-6 day ticket; or \$472-\$561 for Seniors. Steamboat is an **IKON** Pass Resort. IKON Holders can purchase a 6<sup>th</sup> day for just \$72. Online registration is open NOW. Go to [fwsa.org](http://fwsa.org) to get all of your Council Trip Leader contact information and request the Council's online registration link. For further information, contact Nancy Ellis: [fwsatravelnancy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fwsatravelnancy@sbcglobal.net).

**FWSA 2024 INTERNATIONAL SKI WEEK: CALLING ALL ITALY ENTHUSIASTS!** The 2024 International Ski Week will be to *Madonna di Campiglio, Italy*, with an extension trip to Northern Italy. The dates for Ski Week are **February 25-March 3, 2024**. This trip will include 7 nights lodging at the 4 Star *Hotel Relais des Alpes*. The lodging package includes daily breakfast & 5 nights' dinner at the hotel providing 2 nights to dine out on your own in Madonna. *We will be offering an optional day tour during the week if one chooses to explore the local culture.* The extension trip - **March 3-10, 2024** - will be in Northern Italy, which will include Milan, Lake Como, Verona, balsamic tasting in Modena, La Specia/Cinque Terra, Portovenere...with day tours included and free time to explore on your own. Those dates are. Initial trip registration will be handled in the traditional method – you will complete the forms and send along with a check payment for your initial registration 1st payment. Subsequent payment may be made by check, cashier's check, money order OR via our online Pay Pal Credit Card process. For further information, contact: Debbie Stewart, [fwsaintltrl@prodigy.net](mailto:fwsaintltrl@prodigy.net).

## **FAR WEST PROGRAMS**

**CHARITIES AND OUR COMMUNITY:** Our Charity Recognition Program is continuing in 2023-24, and it is off and running! Thank you to all the clubs and councils that have continued their charity support and have shared their amazing activities with FWSA in past years.

Thank you for all your efforts, and we hope that you will participate in this year's Charity Recognition Program, so that we can include your club or council in showcasing all the FWSA Charity activities in our fourth Charity Video. The application process for 2024 is the same as this past year! It's very simple. In order to be included in next year's Convention video, clubs and councils need to send their original club logo, and their charity's logo, along with some original, high-density photos, showing their charitable activities. Photos are the key to making it a fun & interesting video for all to enjoy at convention. It doesn't get much easier to be a part of this fabulous video, put together by our own Paul Vlasveld. (Thank you, Paul). Please contact Sigrid with any questions and send your charity information to [charities@fwsa.org](mailto:charities@fwsa.org).

*A personal message from your NewsFlash Editor: at our recent 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Far West Ski Association Convention, in Boise, Idaho, I was presented with the Bill Berry Award for Hard News for this publication. I would like to thank Far West and all its' members, as well as our many Industry Partners for offering up such interesting topics for me to write about each month. I would especially like to thank Jo Simpson, Sierra Council President, and Editor of the NSCF News Beat. Without Jo's "heads up" on a lot of the news, it would not get out to you all. Jo and I collaborate on a lot of interesting information for these publications. I am extremely humbled and honored to accept this award.*

**Debbi**