

Far West NewsFlash

October 2023

FIFTH ANNUAL WOMEN IN SNOWSPORTS INDUSTRY AWARD WINNER: The U.S. National Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame and Museum, Inc. has announced their 5th Annual Women in Snowsports Industry Award recipient: *Judy Gray*. Judy will be honored in Park City, Utah at the Snowsports History Celebration during a special presentation prior to the Gorsuch Preview Fashion Show on Friday, March 22nd, 2024. Judy founded her own ski travel agency – *The Bookie* – which catered to planning ski trips for singles and families. One of the few women ever to head major Snow Sports Shows, Judy co-founded and co-produced Ski Dazzle® ski and snowboard events to the public for over 45 years introducing the benefits of winter sports to millions of people. Judy was also an Executive Producer on the two-season, nationally broadcast travelogue television series “Ski Dazzle® presents Ski Scene” viewed by audiences in the millions of snow enthusiasts. Ski Dazzle has been a long-time partner and convention sponsor of Far West Ski Association. We extend our sincerest congratulations to Judy Gray on being named the recipient of this prestigious award.

PEAK LIFT TICKETS TO HIT \$299 AT SOME U.S. SKI AREAS: Only three years ago, we were sharing news of resorts breaking through the \$200 mark which seemed absurd; now that appears to be the norm. Three Vail-owned resorts (Park City, Vail, and Beaver Creek) will sell lift tickets at a peak price of \$299 this season, a 25% increase from last year. In *Breckenridge*, a peak lift ticket will cost you \$279 this year, an increase of over 30% from last season. **However, not every resort is about big money!** Many ski areas are still selling day lift tickets for well under \$100, with one Colorado ski area striving to serve the public by offering a day ticket for only \$9 this season during its peak *lowest* lift ticket prices this season. So, there's still hope in finding “that deal”.

THE END OF CASH IS ON THE MOVE: More and more resorts, spurred by the unique needs of the pandemic, are moving toward making cash payments a thing of the past. And while a small percentage of skiers and riders are pushing back, most are finding the transition to cashless systems not just semi-seamless, but beneficial in many ways. *Snowbird* had made the move to only credit cards and a few reverse ATMs last August, after the idea had sprung up several times in discussions with on-mountain point-of-sale teams, says Ian Russell, *Snowbird's* Director of Finance. So many businesses are now handling transactions this way, and it is working out to be a very smooth process all around.

NSCF VIRTUAL SILENT AUCTION: National Ski Council Federation's Annual Silent Auction is happening **NOW!** It is open to ALL ski club member ski councils across the USA and skiing public. Spread the word to all your friends to check it out. You have until **5 p.m. EDT, November 1st** to bid on packages. Among the items is a pair of Icelandic skis, a pair of Nexus skis, a Gilson Snowboard, lift tickets, an IKON Pass, and Indy Pass, lodging packages, a trip to Mt. Bachelor, and many accessories. To participate in this auction, click on <https://www.32auctions.com/NSCFauction2023>.

SAVE THE DATE: **Thursday June 6, through Sunday June 9th, 2024.** These are the dates of the 91st Annual Far West Ski Association Convention. Convention will be held at the beautiful *Atlantis Casino Resort Spa*, In Reno, Nevada....co-hosted by *Bay Area Snow Sport Council* and *Sierra League & Council*. Watch for registration documentation to come your way in late January, 2024. We hope to see you there!

FAR WEST TRAVEL

FWSA 2024 NORTH AMERICAN SKI WEEK: *Steamboat Ski Resort* is the location of the next North American Ski Week. The dates are **January 27 - February 3, 2024**. The 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 6th day for just \$72. Go to 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.

FWSA 2024 INTERNATIONAL SKI WEEK: **DOUBLE OCCUPANCIES STILL AVAILABLE!** 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 **FULL EPIC Pass (7 consecutive days)** is also valid on this trip. **Skirama Dolomiti** can be used at: *Madonna di Campiglio, Pinzolo, Folgarida-Marilleva, Pejo, Ponte di Legno-Tonale, Andalo-Fai della Paganella, Monte Bondone, Folgaria-Lavarone* for. 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. 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.

FWSA 2024 NORTH AMERICAN MINI SKI WEEK: **COPPER MOUNTAIN** will be the destination for the 2024 Mini Ski Week. The dates of the trip are **March 17-22, 2024**. Noni Love, of Copper Mountain will be our representative host, while Sara Clemons, President of Sports America Tours will be the tour operator for this particular trip. For further information, contact Nancy Ellis: fwsatravelnancy@sbcglobal.net

FWSA 2025 NORTH AMERICAN SKI WEEK: The North American Ski Week, 2025 will be to **BANFF, CANADA**. Dates for this trip will be **January 25 – February 1, 2025**. Steve Pampel, of *Ski Big 3* will be our Banff representative, and Sandy Gaudette, of *SkiGroup.Net* will be the tour operator. For further information, contact Nancy Ellis: fwsatravelnancy@sbcglobal.net.

FAR WEST MEMBER BENEFITS

FWSA MEMBER BENEFITS PROGRAM: Check out some of the latest Member Benefits on our website. We've had renewals from many of our Lodging Partners, as well as one NEW one: *Outbound Mammoth (formerly Sierra Nevada Resort)*. Receive 15% to 20% off lodging with your FWSA ID. *East West Hospitality* is back with discounted lodging in the Lake Tahoe, Northstar and Truckee area. *Peak 10 Skin Products* is offering a 25% discount on all product, including a **FREE** 15 Consultation to determine which products are right for you. Try their "Save My Soles" foot cream after skiing for those sore feet. *Ship Skis* is back, as well as *The Transportation Network* in Park City and the Reno/Tahoe Area. *The Powder House* in the Tahoe area offers 25% off on ski and board rentals and FREE boot fitting. Visit www.fwsa.org/membercorner and click on "benefits" to see what all we have listed there.

FAR WEST COUNCILS

LOS ANGELES COUNCIL OF SKI CLUBS: Let's Link Up Club is a ski and snowboard club for those who are in their 20s and 30s. We do a lot of snow trips over the winter and do a lot of other activities (hiking, camping, golfing, mountain biking, happy hours, socials) in the off-season. We started this group in 2023 because we wanted to connect young, outdoor adventurers, and help those who are new to SoCal or looking for friends in SoCal find a community. Please feel free to share our group with those who are looking for a community like this, in SoCal. We can be found on Instagram ([letslinkupclub](https://www.instagram.com/letslinkupclub)), Facebook

(groups/letslinkupclub) and our website (letslinkup.club). Let's Link Up has many trips planned for the coming year:

Mammoth trips: Nov. 10-12, 2023, Nov. 17-18, Dec. 1-3; and Dec. 15-17, 2023. Jan. 5-7, 2024, Jan. 19-21, March 1-3, April 12-14, May 10-12 and May 24-26; **Weeklong trips:** Feb. 8-11, 2024 to Snowbird, Utah, March 16-24, 2024 to Zermatt, Switzerland with options for Tomorrowland (in France), and April 4-7 to Winter Park, CO.

Beach Cities Ski Club: March 2–9, 2024 to Snowmass, Co

Century City Ski Club: Mammoth trips (bus): Dec. 8-10, 2023, Jan. 5-7, 2024, Feb. 2-4, March 1-3, and April 12-14; **Weeklong trips:** Jan. 20–27, 2024 to Niseko, Japan (sold out); Feb. 10–7 to Sun Valley, Id.; and March 5–12 to Jackson Hole (sold out).

Conejo Ski Club: Mammoth trips: (Bus): Jan. 18-21, 2024 (Thurs to Sun.), Feb. 22-25 (Thurs to Sun.), and March 17-20 (Sun to Wed); **Weeklong Trips:** Feb. 3-10, 2024 to Sun Valley, Id.; March 2-9 to Big Sky, Mt.

Adventure Trips: Oct. 22-Nov 5, 2023 to Morocco; May 3-11, 2024 to Turks & Caicos; July 9-20 to Scotland; Sept. 26–Oct. 10 to Dalmatian Coast, and July 23-31 on Bordeaux River Cruise.

Long Beach Ski Club: Mammoth trips: Dec 9–15, 2023, Jan 7–11, 2024, Feb 8–11, March 14–17, and April 7–11; **Weeklong trip:** Jan 21-28, 2024 to Sun Valley, Id.

On The Hill Gang Ski Club: Mammoth trips: Jan. 7-12, 2024; Feb. 4-9, March 3-8, April 7-12; **Learn To Ski Week:** Dec. 8 – 15, 2023.

Santa Barbara Ski & Sports Club: Mammoth trips (drive up): Jan. 7–10, 2024, Feb. 11–14, and March 21–24; **Weeklong Trips:** Jan. 20–27, 2024 to Steamboat, Co; and March 9–16 to Banff, Canada

Unrecables: Mammoth trips: Nov 17-19, 2023, Dec 15-17, 2023, Jan 18-20, 2024, Feb 23-25, March 22-24, April 19-21, May 10-12, and May 31-June 2.

Wailers Ski Club: Mammoth Trips: (Bus): Jan. 5-7, 2024, Jan 26–28, Feb. 23– 25, March 8–10, and March 22–24.

Stay Safe! Stay Healthy!