

Far West NewsFlash

April, 2024

INDY PASS TO GROW IN 2024-2025: The Indy Pass went on sale March 8, 2024 at \$279 to current and past passholders. Those on last year's waitlist can buy it for \$329. Indy Pass currently has 185 independent resort partners, and the company is offering a money-back guarantee that it will grow to at least 200 partners for 2024-25. Seven new alpine resorts have been added to the Indy Pass for the 2024-25 season, including: *Big Moose Mountain*, ME, *Mt. Eyak*, AK, *Mt. Washington Alpine Resort*, B.C. *Powderhorn Mountain Resort*, CO., *Steeplechase*, MN., *Wintergreen Resort*, VA and *Wisp Resort*, MD. New discounted cat skiing operations include: *Big Red Cats*, BC, *Selkirk Powder*, ID, *Brundage Mountain Snowcat Adventures*, ID, *Soldier Mountain Cat Skiing*, ID, and *Cascade Powder Guides*, WA. Pass holders can get 10 percent off when they book day seats or packaged visits at 5 resorts. Indy recontracts with its pass partners each season and has not yet released a list of participating resorts for next season. "This process takes time," said Indy Pass founder Doug Fish, "but we are confident our total roster will increase significantly by next season." Last April, after just 10 days of sales to the general public because of the high volume of renewals and new purchases, so the company plans to limit sales of the pass again this year.

SANDIA PEAK SKI AREA, NEW MEXICO: New Mexico's oldest ski resort is just outside Albuquerque. Sandia Peak Ski Area has been out of operation since 2022. They struggled to remain open due to staff shortages and weather challenges. Sandia hosts three double chairlifts, one surface lift, and 300 skiable acres of terrain. When the Instagram announcement was made that it was opening for 2024, comments came in from all over. Most of those were positive, from things like "'The little (O.G.) mountain that could!" and "Thank you for reviving our special corner of the ski world!" Welcome back!

TAOS SKI AREA FIRST TO USE ELECTRIC SNOWCAT: Taos Ski Valley is the world's first and only certified B Corporation ski resort and has been a certified carbon-neutral company since 2021. Taos is also a four-time *Golden Eagle Award Winner* from National Ski Areas Association which honors ski resorts' environmental initiatives. "Our goal is to reduce our carbon emissions to the greatest extent possible, which requires measurable, achievable investments - one of which is electrifying our fleet," said Dawn Boulware, Taos Ski Valley's Vice President of Social and Environmental Responsibility.

CREDIT CARD FRAUD HITS SKI AREAS: An extensive effort to sell fraudulently purchased lift tickets on Craigslist at a discounted price, with dozens of ski areas across North America being targeted, has come to the forefront. Officials at *Red Lodge Mountain*, MT recently caught on to the scam, and confronted guests who had purchased tickets from a Craigslist user for 50 percent off. Like so many people lured by the prospect of a good deal on lift tickets, the guests were unaware that it was a scam. Red Lodge got law enforcement involved to help investigate. Thank you Red Lodge for getting involved!

FAR WEST TRAVEL

FWSA 2024 AFRICA ADVENTURE TRIP: **SPOTS STILL AVAILABLE!! to TANZANIA & ZANZIBAR! September 27 – October 7, 2024.** Bring your friends on this amazing trip that Debbie Stewart is putting together for the next Far West Adventure Trip. We will fly into Kilimanjaro Airport, then head off to our lodge in Arusha. From there, we will travel to Lake Manyara National Park, to see the famous tree-climbing lions. Ngorongoro Crater, considered to be the 8th Wonder of the World, is the next stop. We will have a 2-night stay in Ngorongoro, where we hope to see a spectacular concentration of wildlife and the "big five", and then it's off to Serengeti National Park, where we will see herds of buffalo, elephants, giraffes,

gazelles, and many other animals and birds. The golden-maned lions, cheetahs, and leopards will be on the prowl. We will stay 2 nights at the Serengeti Serena Lodge. An *optional* Hot Air Balloon safari will be available for an early morning flight over the beautiful landscape, followed by a bush breakfast, for a real “Out of Africa” experience. Then, just a flight away, is the island of Zanzibar, where we will be taking a tour to see and experience the highlights of the area. We will have a 1-night stay in the 5-star Hotel Zanzibar Stone Town, followed by 2 nights at the Star Neptune Pwani Beach Resort. For more information on this trip, contact **Debbie Stewart:** fwsaintltrlv@prodigy.net.

FWSA 2024 DIVE TRIP TO THE PHILIPPINES: *There is ONE room remaining!* We are going back to the **PHILIPPINES October 19 – November 2, 2024** to Marco Vincent Dive Resort in Puerto Galera and Buceo Anilao Beach & Dive Resort in Anilao! A 3-hour drive away from Manila, Anilao is one of the world's best macro photography destinations. It is literally heaven-on-earth for muck diving, blackwater diving, and macro photography. It is considered the Capital of Nudibranchs...colorful mollusks without shells. The Puerto Galera diving area stretches from White Beach right around to Coral Cove. It is part of the Verde Island Passage and named by some scientists as the center of the world's marine biodiversity. There are more than fifty dive sites that are an interesting mix of sloping reefs, coral gardens deep pinnacles, shipwrecks, channel dives, muck diving, drift dives and sea grass beds. The divers who joined us on the 2019 Philippines dive trip not only called it “*the best dive trip ever*”, but many said, “*my best trip ever*”. For more information, contact Randy Lew at: fwsa13randy@telis.net.

FWSA 2025 NORTH AMERICAN SKI WEEK: The 2025 North American Ski Week will be to **BANFF, ALBERTA, CANADA** from **January 25-February 1st**. Steve Pampel and Ski Big 3 will be our hosts, with Sandy Gaudette, Ski Group.Net as the tour operator. Go to the Far West website for further information: www.fwsa.org/natravel.

FAR WEST SKI ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONVENTION

2024 CONVENTION IS JUST 2 MONTHS AWAY: **Thursday June 6, through Sunday June 9th, 2024.** Held at the beautiful *Atlantis Casino Resort Spa*, In Reno, Nevada, this event will be co-hosted by *Bay Area Snow Sport Council* and *Sierra League & Council*. All registration information can be found on the FWSA website. Hotel registration will close **MAY 13, 2024**. We have a number of activities planned for you: A *Tahoe Adventure* on Thursday, followed by the *27th Annual Pub Crawl*. On Friday, we will have our *17th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament*. Something fun and different this year...Mini Golf at Magic Carpet Golf. We will also have a tour of the *National Auto Museum*, so if you are interested in old cars, hot-rods, classics, this is the one for you! Registration for **ALL** Optional Activities is due **MAY 10, 2024**. We will have a morning Snowsports Leadership Academy session, conducted by Phil & Tricia Pugliese, of SkiTalk, followed by a very informative Public Affairs session, “*Bringing Calm to the Chaos*”, presented by Barbara Razo, Wayne Wong, and Tony Margulies, of the National Ski Patrol. Eric LeMarque, also of the National Ski Patrol will be our Keynote Speaker. Following lunch, we will have two concurrent sessions: The Snowsport Leadership Academy, with Wayne Wong and Curtis Fong, US Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame inductees, along with 2 invited former FWSA Athletic Scholarship recipients, AJ Hurt and Lila Lapanja. Our afternoon Public Affairs session will be “*Preserving our Heritage – Western Snowsports Museums and Libraries*”, featuring: Ingrid P. Wicken, Bill Clark, Alan K. Engen and John W. Lundin. For further information, contact your regional council president, or go to www.fwsa.org/conventions. All convention forms can be downloaded from the website. On-line registration is also up and running.

The Far West Ski Association *Tollakson Outstanding Club Award* recognizes outstanding clubs based on club activity, member participation in racing, membership growth, communication frequency, contributions to the community, volunteerism and leadership, delegate attendance at FWSA Convention, and member participation in FWSA travel. We have received submissions from 8 out of the 10 FWSA Councils that were active in 2023. If your club meets these criteria, please check out the required application on our website. One club from each FWSA Member Council will be selected as a finalist and announced in the next few weeks. The overall winner will be announced on Sunday, June 9, 2024, at our General Session.

2024-2025 FAR WEST ELECTIONS

A highly successful organization since 1930, Far West Ski Association's footprint has continually grown and evolved. Of course, our members enjoy getting together on and off the slopes. In addition to the fun on and off the slopes, we get things done. We are often requested to provide input and insight on industry topics, so our impact has expanded from regional to national through our membership with the National Ski Council Federation and other industry organizations.

Anyone having an interest in serving as an Officer or Trustee of our organization, please contact Gloria Raminha, Nomination Committee Chair by email at pastpresident@fwsa.org or phone (661) 800-8229.

Elections for officers will occur at the Far West Ski Association Annual Meeting & Convention June 6-9, 2024, to be held at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, in Reno, Nevada. Voting will be held on Sunday, June 9. *There are two By-Laws amendments currently proposed*, as well. Delegates at this year's convention will elect candidates to the following positions:

Officers (1-year term)

- President Linda Westlund – Incumbent
- Treasurer Randy Lew – Incumbent (not declared)
- Secretary*

Trustees – 2 positions (2-year term)

- Trustee (1)*
- Trustee (2) Fran Long – Incumbent (not declared)

VP Positions (2-year term)

- VP Marketing & Sponsorship*
- VP International Travel Gloria Raminha
- VP Membership Jean McCasey – incumbent
- VP Communications Joe Harvis - incumbent

Qualified nominees for any of the open positions will be accepted up to the date and time of elections. All candidates must be members in good standing of FWSA.

The Nominating Committee Chairman will oversee elections. Members for an elections committee will be solicited at the Convention. All elections will be by secret ballot. Vote totals are confidential to the elections committee and records will be destroyed after verification by the committee and certified by a Trustee exercising oversight. For information or advice on running for any FWSA office contact a member of the FWSA Nominating Committee: *Gloria Raminha*, Nominations Committee Chair, pastpresident@fwsa.org • *Todd Hood*, Succession Planning Committee Chair, successionplanning@fwsa.org.

All candidates will have access to space for flyers and election materials at the registration area and on the tables on Sunday morning. In addition, each will have the opportunity to speak to delegates (see the Convention Schedule of Events for time and location). The elections will be held during the general assembly on Sunday.

***FWSA By-Laws, job descriptions and the Operations Manual are available on the FWSA website at www.fwsa.org. To find the link, click on the “About” tab, then click on the “Governance” tab.**

FAR WEST SKI COUNCILS

LOS ANGELES COUNCIL OF SKI CLUBS: This is one busy ski council! Just look at what they have planned over the next few months: *Kayaking and Happy Hour, April 28, 2024*. Meet at the dock behind El Torito – 13715 Fiji Way Marna Del Ray at 2:30 p.m. Kayak rental is \$26 for 90 minutes. Happy Hour to follow. NEXT: *LAST Mammoth Trip, May 3-5*. Includes transportation, 2 nights lodging slopeside, dinner and drinks on Saturday, and a light dinner on Sunday before returning home. *“Ski Prom”* – Installation Dinner, *May 11*, at

the Clipper Club Bar at the Air Tel Plaza Hotel. Contact Chris Winner. ***Napa Valley Bike Tour – September 15-22, 2024.*** Discover the natural wonders of Armstrong Redwood Forest, Petrified Forest, and other scenic spots. Pedal through miles of breathtaking routes over the course of the week. Indulge in wine tastings and tours at renowned wineries. Price includes 7 nights of lodging in hotels located in Healdsburg, Calistoga, Napa, and Sonoma.

Stay healthy! Stay Safe!