

Far West NewsFlash

January, 2023

Far West Ski Association

TAHOE MEGARESORT OPENS IN TIME FOR SNOWMAGEDDON: Palisades Tahoe (formerly Squaw Valley) and Alpine Meadows are now one GIANT MegaResort, thanks to the recent opening of the base-to-base gondola between the two resorts. The resorts, owned by Alterra Mountain Company have become the 2nd largest single skiing destination in the country. Enjoy the beautiful views of the landscape and Tahoe area while on the 16-minute ride up the mountain. The 2.4-mile lift will take you to the top of over 6,000 acres of a true winter wonderland.

FAR WEST SKI ASSOCIATION'S 90TH ANNUAL CONVENTION: Far West will be holding their 90th annual Convention June 15-18, 2023 in Boise, Idaho. We were last in Boise in 2017. We will be at The Grove Hotel, and Boise Centre. Intermountain Ski Council, and Bogus Basin Ski Club will be our hosts, along with a little help from Arizona Ski Council. Stay tuned for more information in the coming months. Below is a description of the many club, council, and individual awards that FWSA members can apply for. Be mindful that the deadline date on ALL of the awards is **March 27, 2023**. Additional info can be found on: www.fwsa.org.

WORLD PRO SKIER TOUR COMING TO BEAR VALLEY: For the first time in decades, Bear Valley is hosting an international ski race. The **World Pro Tour** is a dual action, head-to-head competition, bringing in world class, World Cup and Olympic athletes from across the globe. By placing two athletes, side-by-side, spectators will experience the most exciting format in alpine ski racing. Bear Valley is the only World ProTour race venue on the West Coast. The three-day event begins on Friday, 10 February, with qualifying runs, followed by GS on Saturday (11 February) and SL on Sunday (12 February). If you ever wanted to watch the likes of Olympic Champion Ted Ligety ski, this is your chance. Don't miss it!

TOP 9 SKI RESORTS FOR U.S. SENIORS: According to the NSAA, the median age of snowsport participants has been gradually increasing, with over 16% of them now being "seniors". This proves that there is no age limit to having winter fun, and the name "snowbird" has a new meaning! Four of the top 9 resorts are within the Far West Region: Powder Mountain, UT, Purgatory, CO, Pomerelle Mountain Resort, ID, and Pajarito Mountain Ski Area in NM. The other five are: Smugglers Notch, VT, Waterville Valley, NH, Shawnee Mountain, PA, Gunstock, NH and Swain Resort, NY. What's the old saying: "You don't stop skiing because you grow old. You grow old because you stop skiing! GO SENIORS!!!!

MIKAELA SHIFFRIN TIES LINDSAY VONN'S 82 WORLD CUP VICTORIES: On December 20, 2012 Mikaela Shiffrin won her first World Cup Slalom in Are, Sweden at the age of 17. On February 14, 2014, she became the youngest athlete in history to win an Olympic Gold Medal in Slalom. Fast forward 10 years, on January 8, 2023, at age 27, Mikaela won her 82nd World Cup race, a GS at Kranjska Gora tying her with Lindsey Vonn for 2nd place for the most World Cup wins. She is now within striking distance of the all-time record of 86 held by Ingemar Stenmark.

WORLD CHAMPION SPEED SKIER PASSES: Jeff Hamilton, a world champion speed skier, Olympic Bronze Medalist and 1992 FWSA President's Award recipient, died on January 10, 2023 of pancreatic cancer. Jeff was America's fastest skier from 1992 to 2002, 4-time Speed Skiing World Champion, first person to ski 150 mph, and set an official World Record in 1995. Jeff was a member of the Auburn Ski Club, the US Ski Team and an Ambassador of the SNOW Sports Museum. A celebration of Jeff Hamilton's life is scheduled on

Sunday, January 22 at Olympic Village Inn event center at 4:00pm. The Jeff Hamilton Legacy Fund (jeffhamiltonlegacyfund.com) has been founded to celebrate limitlessness and the potential in everyone.

FAR WEST MEMBER BENEFITS CORRECTION: The 2023 Member Benefits were listed in the December NewsFlash. An error was made in regards to the location of *YotelPad*. It was listed as being in Deer Valley. It is actually located in Park City, Utah. We hope that our members will reach out to them when making any plans to visit Park City this ski season.

FAR WEST TRAVEL

FWSA MINI SKI WEEK: *Taos, New Mexico* is the destination for the 2023 Mini Ski Week. This trip is currently FULL, however, **A WAIT-LIST** is available if you are still interested in going and want to add your name to it. Dates for this trip are **February 25 - March 2, 2023**. Go to <https://fwsamini.sat.tours> to preview and sign up for the trip or contact Nancy Ellis @ fwsatravelnancy@sbcglobal.net. ASAP!

FWSA 2023 INTERNATIONAL TRIP: **THIS TRIP IS SOLD OUT, WITH A WAIT LIST IN PLACE!** The Far West 2023 International Ski Week will be to *Zermatt, Switzerland* from **February 25 – March 12, 2023**, with an extension to *Costa del Sol, Southern Spain and Mallorca*. For further information, contact Debbie Stewart, VP of International Travel: fwsaintltravel@prodigy.net

FWSA 2023 DIVE TRIP: The FWSA 2023 dive trip will now be at the *Little Cayman Beach Resort* on *Little Cayman*, a beautiful and tranquil island in the *Cayman Islands*, **October 7 – 14, 2023**. 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.

FAR WEST SKI COUNCILS

SIERRA LEAGUE AND COUNCIL: Sierra League & Council is gearing up for racing in February and March. We will have races Feb. 11 at Alpine Meadows/Palispades Tahoe, Feb. 12 at Northstar, and Mar. 17 & 18 at Alpine/Palispades. Sierra and the Bay Area Council Open and Singles Leagues share the race hill. All skiers who would like to try racing are welcome. Registration information is at www.sierraleague.com.

NATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF SKIERS – WESTERN REGION: The NBS Western Region will join thousands of attendees from approximately 50 NBS member clubs representing the African diaspora from around the globe for the National Brotherhood of Skiers 50th Anniversary Black Summit <http://www.nbs.org> in Vail, CO from February 4th through 11th, 2023.

LOS ANGELES COUNCIL OF SKI CLUBS: Century City Ski Club, founded in 1972, celebrated their Golden Anniversary with a sunset cruise of Marina del Rey on the yacht Tiki Too, which included dinner, dancing, a beautiful sunset and later a gorgeous moon and stars. Scrapbooks and pictures from the past several decades were in abundance. Many of the attendees expressed how happy they were to be able to visit with friends that they had not seen in years. It is a great achievement for any organization to survive 50 years. It is a greater achievement when that organization is still going strong. Here's to another 50 years!

FAR WEST RECOGNITION AWARDS

The 90th Annual FWSA Convention is coming up June 15-18, in Boise, Idaho. Far West Ski Association has numerous recognition awards which members can apply for. The DEADLINE is coming up soon. Please take the time, if you, or someone you know, qualifies for one of the many awards shown below. For the Environment, Safety, and Western Ski Heritage Awards, the honoree will receive a trip for two to the Sponsor Resort. These awards are great ways to have your club and/or council recognized for your good work--and to honor hardworking volunteers. Applications and instructions for all the awards are on the FWSA website and listed below. Please contact the person in charge of each award for further information.

CHARITIES & OUR COMMUNITY SERVICE RECOGNITION PROGRAM:

DEADLINE: *March 27, 2023*

FWSA encourages all clubs and councils to get involved with charities and community service. Clubs are encouraged to take photos and videos of their Charity activities all year. This makes it easy to put together their club charity presentation for the 2023 CHARITIES VIDEO. Action photos, with club members and short videos are great, but any photos and logos are acceptable and very welcome. **CONTACT:** Sigrid Noack at charities@fwsa.org.

COMMUNICATIONS AWARDS:

DEADLINE: *March 27, 2023.*

Club and Council Newsletter, Website, Social Media and Outstanding Club. The newsletter and website nominations are simple this year. Just send a copy of your newsletter and a link to your newsletter and website to Bill King at: willie2K@comcast.net.

HISTORY RECOGNITION AWARDS:

DEADLINE: *March 27, 2023*

In 2008, FWSA launched this program to develop club, league and council histories with the objective to capture important information about skiing from the skier's perspective, especially the club skier. Far West also has a program to recognize our Historic Ski Clubs, Councils, Ski Patrol & Ski Schools, that have been in operation for 50 years or more.

CONTACT: Jane Wyckoff, FWSA History Chair, history@fwsa.org

SAFETY PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD:

DEADLINE: *March 27, 2023*

RECOGNITION: Sponsored by *Mammoth Mountain Ski Area*, donating a 5-night ski package for two with lodging, lift tickets, and a full-day group lesson.

DESCRIPTION: FWSA is a proponent of safety in skiing and snowboarding. Every year we hear about tragic deaths and injuries that happen during our favorite winter activities that remind us of the great importance of safety. We have a number of ways in which we promote safety and one of our more viable ways is through the Safety Award. The award is for the individual, within the association, that has done the most to promote safety through a number of criteria. These include articles on slope safety, and other ways to raise safety consciousness. The link to detailed information and entry form is:

https://fwsa.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=623165&module_id=334813

CONTACT: Monica Palmer, FWSA Safety Chair, safety@fwsa.org.

WESTERN SKI HERITAGE AWARD:

DEADLINE: *March 27, 2023*

RECOGNITION: Since 2000, *Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation* has donated a 5-night ski package for two with lodging, lift tickets, rentals, on-mountain tour, half-day lessons and a lunch at Ragnar's Restaurant.

DESCRIPTION: The Far West Western Ski Heritage program annually recognizes the best effort in the prior year that communicates the contributions of snowsports to the community at large. The purpose of the Far West Western Ski Heritage program is to raise the awareness of snowsports participants and non-participants alike of the contributions made by individuals, groups and companies to all aspects of snowsports –

competitive as well as that of outdoor winter recreation and fitness. A parallel purpose is to convey the positive role snowsports has had in its contributions to the communities in the West. It recognizes outstanding effort in the area of snowsports history to find, preserve, document and share the history of snowsports in the West. The Award is open to an individual or a group leader (it is not restricted to Far West membership) and can be self-nominated or nominated by a club or club member. Materials and history programs will be evaluated against the objectives of the program by individuals selected for their knowledge of the history of Western snowsports and that of the Association. The link to detailed information and entry form is:

https://fwsa.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=623165&module_id=334814

CONTACT: Jane Wyckoff, FWSA History Chair, history@fwsa.org

ENVIRONMENT AWARD:

DEADLINE: *March 27, 2023*

DESCRIPTION: The Environment Award is designed to encourage stewardship of our environment. Far West Ski Association wants to reward the top applicant SKI Club Member who is taking an active role to conserve and protect our environment. This award should recognize a special action that the applicant took, or something he or she put in place that made a difference in your community or in the mountains where we all head to play - winter or summer. Ideas are: zero-waste initiatives (stop single-use dishes & condiments), conservation of slopes, trail building, or any other good environmental protection initiatives. The link to detailed information and entry form is: https://fwsa.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=623165&module_id=379792.

RECOGNITION: Sponsors, *Aspen Skiing Company and Snowmass Tourism, The Gant and Crestwood Condominiums* have donated a 5-night ski package for two with lodging, lift tickets, rentals, and a full-day group lesson.

CONTACT: Janine Rands, FWSA Environment Chair, FWSA Environment Chair, environment@fwsa.org.

FAR WEST MEDIA AWARD:

DEADLINE: *March 27, 2023*

The Far West Ski Association Media Awards are divided into the following categories:

Bill Berry Award for Featured Article – This award is for outstanding Print Coverage of Skiing. This award is given for outstanding service to skiing and is presented to writers for a featured article.

Bill Berry Award for Hard News – This award is for outstanding Print Coverage of Skiing. This award is given for outstanding service to skiing and is presented to writers for hard news.

Warren Miller Modern Media Award – This award is for outstanding Multi-Media Coverage of Skiing. This award is given for outstanding service to skiing by cinematographers, photographers, radio or television broadcasters.

For more information follow the link to:

https://fwsa.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=623165&module_id=334807

CONTACT: Eileen Sanford, FWSA Awards Chair, awards@fwsa.org

FAR WEST PHOTO ALBUMS

Far West Photo Albums: Our online photo albums have recently been updated to include photos from the 2021 Roatan Dive Trip, the 2022 Portland Convention and the recently completed 2022 Cozumel Dive Trip. They all can be viewed online at www.fwsa.org. We welcome your photos of any of our events to add to our albums. We know many of you take photos at our events, be it on ski weeks, convention, adventure trips to name a few, so why not share your memories with your fellow members. Send your photos with captions identifying the activity/event, location, names of people in the photos and the person who took the photos (if not you) so we can give proper credit. Email to Joe Harvis at vpcommunications@fwsa.org or Dropbox them to me at jaharvis@optonline.net. Thank you.

FAR WEST SKIER'S GUIDE

2022-2023 Far West Skier's Guide: We are pleased to announce that the **2022-2023 Far West Skier's Guide**, an official publication of the Far West Ski Association, has been posted on our website at www.fwsa.org. The direct link is:
https://fwsa.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=623165&module_id=351581.

If you are a snowsports writer, and have ideas or an interest in contributing to the publication, either through submitting an article, or purchasing an advertisement, please contact the Skier's Guide staff at:
skiersguide@fwsa.org.

Stay Safe! Stay Healthy!