

Far West News *Flash*

March 2023

FAR WEST SKI ASSOCIATION'S CONVENTION 3 MONTHS AWAY! Far West will be holding their 90th annual Convention **June 15-18, 2023** in Boise, Idaho. Lodging will be at The *Grove Hotel*, and all Convention meetings, the Silent Auction and Awards Banquet will be held at the beautiful *Boise Centre*. Intermountain Ski Council, and Bogus Basin Ski Club will be hosting this event, along with a little help from Arizona Ski Council. **REGISTRATION** materials have all been sent out. If you haven't received it yet, you can go onto www.fwsa.org/conventions to download the forms or register online through *Far West Connect*. 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**. More info can be found on: www.fwsa.org. **NEW THIS YEAR...** a planned group activity will be happening *post-convention*. It is an adventure/fishing trip, planned for Monday June 19th. There is room for three more guests, with the cost of \$600.00. It includes 2-nights lodging in McCall, ID. For further information, contact Michael Bouton: mbouton0559@msn.com.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GOAT!: Congrats to *Mikaela Shiffrin* who had an amazing weekend, March 11-12, in Are, Sweden, where she won her first World Cup Slalom in December, 2012; to tie Ingemar Stenmark's record 86 World Cup wins with a great Giant Slalom race and **THEN...** break that record with a dominating Slalom win #87! According to Mikaela, it was never about 87 and she just reset the record skiing a few good turns!!

JESSIE DIGGINS REIGNS SUPREME: Jessie Diggins won the 10km skate to win the first individual cross country World Championships Gold for the USA! On another historic day, Jessie took a 3rd in the first-ever women's 50k on the World Cup!

CONGRATS AND THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES: *Steven Nyman* skied his farewell run at the recent Aspen WC Downhill race. He has completed his 20-year career on the US Ski Team with 11 podiums and 3 wins (all at Val Gardena). A true team player, he helped and encouraged all those on the US team. *Travis Ganong* has announced his retirement after the World Cup Finals this weekend after 17 years and almost 200 starts years on the US Ski Team. Travis leaves with 6 podiums (including a 3rd on the famed Hahnenkamm at Kitzbuehel) and 2 wins (Santa Caterina & Garmisch).

VAIL RESORTS TO LAUNCH HANDS-FREE 'MY EPIC' APP for 2023-24: New technology, coming in the Fall, 2023, will allow guests to buy their pass or lift ticket online, activate and store it on their phone in the new *My Epic* app. Put your phone in your pocket, and get scanned, hands-free, via Bluetooth® technology. With Mobile Pass & Mobile Lift Ticket on the new *My Epic* app, your phone becomes your ticket to the slopes, improving your experience, and making it easier to get you on the mountain faster. This reduces the need to visit the ticket window or wait to receive a pass or lift ticket in the mail. *Vail Resorts* will continue to have plastic cards available to any guests who cannot or do not want to use their phone as their pass or lift ticket. The company will also activate the plastic cards of renewing pass holders and mail plastic cards to all new guests for the 2023/24 season, as part of the transition to *Mobile Pass & Mobile Lift Ticket*. Interactive trail maps with GPS location tracking, real-time and predictive lift line wait times, personalized stats, including vertical feet, number of lift rides, and other data will be available through all this new technology. *Vail Resorts* is planning \$200 million plus in capital investments for 2023. Projects include lift installations, this new technology rollout, integration activities, and the first phase in a multi-year project at *Andermatt-Sedrun*.

“SOUL ON THE SNOW” NBS 50TH ANNIVERSARY: Representation matters. And when it comes to people of color participating in and sharing predominately white spaces, there are few examples better than the 2023 *National Brotherhood of Skiers’* summit, in which thousands of Black ski and snowboard enthusiasts, including professionals, ventured to the mountains of Vail to celebrate their love for winter sports. “It’s only when we are able to see people who look like us doing these sports, that we get somewhere in the back of our mind, ‘Maybe I’d like to try that’, and that’s why it’s important for organizations like this to exist.” said Ben Finley. Ben, and his friend Art Clay founded NBS in 1972. Ben is in his 80s now. Finley said he and Clay did not have a clue of what they were getting into. In 1973, NBS held its first summit. What started out as a gathering of just over 300 participants has now, half a century later, turned into an annual event that attracts over 2,000 skiers each year. Sondra Scott, a long-time member, said one of the many reasons why NBS is so important, is because the organization helps people of color overcome financial barriers through discounts, and that it works on outreach to young people of color. “We’re uniting and making it feasible and it’s so exciting to get the younger kids out there skiing.”

RACE FOR FREE AT IKON PASS RESORTS: Alterra is opening up the NASTAR courses at select resorts, for the rest of this season, so you can take as many runs as you like (for free!). Race now at Deer Valley Resort, Palisades Tahoe, Solitude Mountain Resort, and Sugarbush Resort. *Mikaela Shiffrin* partners with Alterra Mountain Company and NASTAR to bring ski racing to more people this winter.

FAR WEST TRAVEL

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.

FWSA 2024 SKI WEEK: *Steamboat* will be the site of next year’s North American Ski Week. The dates will be **January 27 to February 3, 2024**. A Flyer is posted on the Far West website with all the particulars. Sign-ups will begin in March. Contact Nancy Ellis for any other information: fwsatravelnancy@sbcglobal.net.

FAR WEST SKI COUNCILS

INTERMOUNTAIN SKI COUNCIL: *Bogus Basin Ski Club* ran 2 very successful ski trips in 2023 so far. In January, they made their annual trek to Sun Valley, Idaho, with 40 club members to enjoy the steep and beautiful slopes that Sun Valley is famous for. Then, in February, they took another group of 36, by bus, to Mt. Bachelor in Bend, Oregon for a fun 5 days of skiing on a volcano. They will be running a THIRD ski trip from March 11-18 to Canada to ski the Big 3: Banff, Lake Louise and Norquay. One thing is for sure, there’s no dust collecting on the skis of BBSC! The *Northern Wasatch Ski & Social Club* in Utah has been enjoying the MANY inches of new snow that seems to be falling nonstop! Members of the group meet, mostly at *Snowbasin*, during the week to ski. Recently, though, they had a group ski day at *Powder Mountain*. And, as the name would suggest, there was lots of powder to be had! For the Nordic skiers in the group, they held a group cross-country ski day at Ogden Nordic ski resort in Liberty, Utah in February. And on March 4th, five members volunteered their time to help the *Ogden Valley Adaptive Sports (OVAS) Program* during their annual Demo Day fundraiser at Snowbasin.

NORTHWEST SKI CLUB COUNCIL: *Skiyente Ski Club* is delighted to announce the selection (and crowning!) of *John Orefice* as our 68th **King Winter**. John was recognized at the King Winter Celebration, where Skiyente raised several thousand dollars to support their charities, including their Far West Ski Foundation *Erin Nicole Scholarship*. John has been a member of *Schnee Vogeli Ski Club* for over 30 years, and during that time has volunteered not only for his club, holding several offices, but also Skiyente Ski Club activities, the PACRAT race league (racer, equipment storage and Rat Patrol), the Mt. Hood Museum, and other organizations on Mt. Hood. King Winter is an annual award given to an individual/individuals who have provided long-term volunteer service to the winter sports community on Mt. Hood. The award has been given annually since 1955. FWSA board members *Steve Coxen* and *Sheri Parshall* are past winners.

FAR WEST FOUNDATION

FAR WEST SKI FOUNDATION'S SPRING "YUM-RAISING": What could be sweeter than chocolate for a good cause? Buy delicious *See's Candies* to show your support for **Far West Ski Foundation**. The deadline to make a purchase is: **March 24, 2023**. The overarching objective of the **Far West Ski Foundation** is to sustain snowsports to ensure that the inspirational experiences of snowsports will remain for future generations. **Visit our shop to pick and choose your favorites and buy and ship your candy online. It's that easy!** Ship to your family and friends! Our storefront is located at the following link: https://www.yumraising.com/secure/farwsf_far_west_ski_foundation91/JanWyc9529/

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: commawards@fwsa.org.

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*

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*

RECOGNITION: Sponsors are *Aspen/Snowmass, and Crestwood Condominiums*.

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**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, svcawards@fwsa.org

FAR WEST ELECTIONS

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 please contact Gloria Raminha at pastpresident@fwsa.org or phone (661) 800-8229.

Elections for officers will occur at the Far West Ski Association Annual Meeting & Convention June 15-18, 2023, to be held at The Grove Hotel in Boise, Idaho. Voting will be held on Sunday, June 18. There are no By-Laws amendments currently proposed. Delegates attending the convention will elect people to the following positions:

One year term:

- President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Two-year term:

- Trustee (2 positions)
- VP Council Services
- VP N. American Travel
- VP Public Affairs

For a copy of FWSA Qualifications for the positions of President, Treasurer, Trustee, VP of International Travel, and VP of North American Travel, please contact Gloria Raminha. All candidates must be members in good standing of clubs affiliated with FWSA or a direct member of FWSA. Qualified nominees for any of the open positions will be accepted up to the date and time of the elections.

FWSA By-Laws, Job Descriptions and the Operations Manual are available on the FWSA website at www.fwsa.org. Click on the "About" tab, then click on the "Governance" tab. 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.

We would like for you to consider joining our leadership team of the Far West Ski Association. Of course, we would like you to consider any of the roles coming open in the election in June, but we are also open to hearing anything else you would like to do. Feel free to reach out to Gloria Raminha at pastpresident@fwsa.org with your interest or thoughts.

Stay safe! Stay Healthy!