

# Far West NewsFlash

May 2023

**AMERICA'S ONLY SUMMER SKI AREA TO OPEN MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND:** Heads UP! To all Skiers and snowboarders looking to get some summer turns in the Big Sky State. *Beartooth Basin* is planning to open May 26th (weather dependent). Tickets will go on sale shortly and the mountain has a daily capacity of 80 skiers, so if you have a date in mind, purchasing ASAP is recommended.

**EIGHT REASONS WHY SPRING IS THE BEST TIME OF YEAR TO SKI:** Many people like to Spring Ski. Here are the 8 best reasons: #1: Corn snow. #2: Long days equals more skiing. #3: Sunny days. #4: Pond Skimming. #5: Coverage of snow. #6: Skiing in T-shirts (or shorts, or swimsuits, or...). #7: Random powder dumps. #8: Stable snowpack – lower avalanche risk.

**INDY PASS TO METER GROWTH:** Sales of the 2023-24 Indy Pass have been suspended after the volume of renewals and purchases by new passholders exceeded expectations. The pass had only been available to new customers for 10 days. A limited number of additional passes may be available this fall after resort partners have time to evaluate. Record 2023-24 renewals, and unprecedented new passholders for the upcoming season made the sales cutoff necessary, but founder, Doug Fish, said it came about two months earlier than anticipated. "We're metering our sales based on our historical numbers in order to prevent runaway growth from overwhelming some of our most popular resorts".

**HOW WESTERN STATES ARE LOOKING AT RESOLVING SKI RESORT TRAFFIC:** State officials and ski resorts in the West are weighing solutions to eliminate some of the massive amounts of traffic up to the slopes, as population growth and a rise in outdoor recreation lure more people to the mountains. One idea in Utah's Little Cottonwood Canyon, home to *Snowbird* and *Alta* ski resorts, stands out: a proposal to build the world's longest gondola. Utah's proposed \$550 million gondola would be 8 miles long and travel from near the foot of the canyon to *Snowbird* and *Alta*. A proposed parking structure at the base would accommodate 2,500 cars. The gondola proposal was included in UDOT's *environmental impact statement* last August, which listed five potential solutions to relieve canyon traffic congestion. Of the options outlined, the gondola is UDOT's *preferred choice*. However, the idea faces pushback and criticism from local leaders and conservationists. Salt Lake County Mayor, Jenny Wilson, opposed the idea last year, saying it would push congestion into Cottonwood Heights. Both Salt Lake City Council and County Councils also rejected the idea for various reasons. While, Officials in Colorado are focused on a bus service, as the state revisits the long-running idea of a magnetically powered train. In Colorado, the congestion along *Interstate 70* led officials to expand bus service from the Denver metro to five ski areas, including smaller buses that can reach nearby mountain towns. In Lake Tahoe, some resorts have offered shuttle services in recent years, to alleviate traffic. It's an on-going discussion that will take some time to come to fruition.

## 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. A SPOT IS AVAILABLE NOW for 1 single female.** There are also a few rooms left! 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).

**FWSA 2024 SKI WEEK:** *Steamboat* has been selected as the site of next year's North American Ski Week. The dates will be **January 27 - February 3, 2024**. Online registration is open NOW. Go to [fwsa.org](http://fwsa.org) to get the Council Trip Leader contact information and request the Council's online registration link. Contact Nancy Ellis for any other information: [fwsatravelnancy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fwsatravelnancy@sbcglobal.net).

**FWSA 2024 INTERNATIONAL SKI WEEK:** 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**, departing the U.S. on February 24, 2024. The extension trip includes destinations of Milan, Lake Como, Verona, La Spezia, Cinque Terra and more. Those dates are **March 3-10, 2024**. For further information, contact: Debbie Stewart, [fwsaintltrlv@prodigy.net](mailto:fwsaintltrlv@prodigy.net).

## FAR WEST CONVENTION

**The 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Far West Ski Association Convention** is just **FIVE WEEKS AWAY!!!** **June 15-18, 2023** are the dates of this fun and exciting event to be held in Boise, Idaho. Lodging will be at The Grove Hotel, (**Room block ends MAY 22<sup>nd</sup>**) and all Convention meetings, the Silent Auction & Trade Show and Awards Banquet will be held at the beautiful *Boise Centre*.

The *Intermountain Ski Council*, and *Bogus Basin Ski Club* will be hosting this event, along with a little help from any and all who want to help out. **REGISTRATION** information can be found at: [www.fwsa.org/convention2023](http://www.fwsa.org/convention2023) to download the forms, or register online through *Far West Connect*.

Aside from the many Optional Activities planned for the 4-day weekend: dinner at *Ansots* on **Wednesday**, a *bike ride* and lunch along the Greenbelt; a *half-day raft trip* down the Payette River, followed by a BBQ, and the **26<sup>th</sup> Annual Pub Crawl on Thursday**; (visiting *Boise Brewing*, *Mother Earth Brew Company*, and finish up at the *Basque Center* for dinner). On **Friday**, we will have *Top Golf*, and a *Day on the Mountain at Bogus Basin*. **Friday night** brings us to the **37<sup>th</sup> Annual Silent Auction and Trade Show** at the Boise Centre. Bid on one of the many exciting trips or trip packages that will be up for Auction. A portion of this year's proceeds will benefit the *Idaho Youth Ranch, Kuna*. There will be a drawing for two Travel Gift Certificates provided by our North American Travel Program and International Program.

**Saturday** is filled with educational sessions and an afternoon Public Affairs Panels. **Debbie Stewart** will be leading a morning discussion on trip planning: "*Group Travel Secrets...Details..Determines..Destiny*". Following Debbie's session, meet **Tony Baker** and **Jon Lundin**, who will teach you all you need to know about "*Preserving Club History – The Ease of Preparing a Digital Book*". Our Keynote Speaker will be **Genia Fuller-Crews**, a legend of freestyle skiing and Honored Member of the US Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame, as well as a member of their board of directors. Saturday afternoon's *Public Affairs Session* will include: **Brad Wilson**, General Manager of Bogus Basin Mountain Recreation Area, along with **Tony Harrison**, Publicist for Ski Idaho, and invited guest, **Tim Silva**, President and General Manager of Sun Valley Resort. Saturday evening's Awards Banquet is the time set aside to recognize our many long-time volunteers, Industry Partners, Award-Winning authors, Snowsport Builder Award winners, and other special guests for their long-time contributions to the ski world. I look forward to seeing you all in Boise next month.

## 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](mailto: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 and Boise Centre 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:

**Officers (1-year term)**

- President Linda Westlund – Incumbent
- Treasurer Randy Lew - Incumbent
- Secretary\*

**Trustees – 2 positions (2-year term)**

- Trustee (1)
- Trustee (2) Sheri Parshall – Incumbent

**VP Positions (2-year term)**

- VP Council Services Chris Gill – Incumbent
- VP North American Travel Nancy Ellis – Incumbent
- VP Public Affairs Steve Coxen – Declared

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.

FWSA Qualifications for Positions as approved by the Board of Directors are:

**President:**

1. Held a voting position on the FWSA Board for a minimum of four (4) years.
2. Attended at least three (3) FWSA conventions within the five (5) years prior to the current convention.
3. Attended at least one (1) North American Ski Week within the five (5) years prior to the current convention.

**Treasurer:**

1. Understanding of cost center accounting and GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles).
2. Working knowledge of MS Excel and QuickBooks or the current FWSA accounting software.
3. Held the Treasurer position in a FWSA ski club or council or has demonstrated equivalent job experience as an accountant who has done financial preparation and analysis.

**Trustee:**

1. Held a voting position on the FWSA Board a minimum of three (3) years.
2. Strong business, financial, and leadership skills.
3. Attended at least three (3) FWSA Conventions within the five (5) years prior to the current convention.

**VP of North America Travel:**

1. Must meet either a or b below:
  - a. Held the position of club or council "Trip Leader" and led a minimum of 2 trips of 25 or more people.
  - b. Served as an FWSA Trip Leader, assistant Trip Leader, or FWSA Ski Week staff member for a minimum of two (2) trips.
2. Assisted as a volunteer on at least one trip related to this position.

Desirable experience with the following:

  - Standard accounting procedures
  - California Seller of Travel Program
  - Travel Budgeting generating an organizational profit

- Writing Requests for Proposals (RFP's), conducting a bid process, and writing and negotiating trip contracts.
- May substitute other similar experience for any of the above

If elected to either VP of Travel position, the VP:

- May not receive personal financial or other benefits as a result of being a club, council, or FWSA Trip Leader for an FWSA sponsored trip. For example— a trip leader who works as a tour operator or for a travel agency may not receive compensation or other benefit for their business or company. They may not use FWSA participant contact information as a source for their personal or business marketing.
- Will oversee all FWSA trips assigned to their Travel position and attend those trips unless an FWSA Trip Leader has been assigned to coordinate/run that trip.

FWSA By-Laws, job descriptions and the Operations Manual are available on the FWSA website at [www.fwsa.org](http://www.fwsa.org). To find the link, click on the "About" tab, then click on the "Governance" tab.

All candidates will have access to space for flyers and election materials at the registration area and on the tables on Sunday. 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.

The Nominating Committee Chairman will oversee elections. Members for an elections committee will be recruited 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.

## FAR WEST SKI COUNCILS

**LOS ANGELES COUNCIL OF SKI CLUBS:** LA Council is pleased to announce that they have installed their new Board of Directors for 2023-2024, and with that, they now have two new officers: *Gena Lighthouse* (Long Beach Ski Club) as the new VP of Membership, and *Hans Daerendinger* (Grindelwald Ski Club) as the new VP of Communications. The Council is pleased to have new board members, as new members always bring **new** and **fresh** ideas to the Board. The officers were installed by acclamation at our May 8, 2023 meeting. The new LAC board is *Sandra Blackwell* – President; *Sandra Knapp* – Secretary; *Norbert Knapp* – Treasurer; *Hans Daerendinger* – VP Communications; *Iris Williams* – VP Programs; *Gena Lighthouse* – VP Membership; and *Laura Priess* – VP Travel.

*Stay Safe! Stay Healthy!*