

# Far West News *Flash*

August 2023

**11 SKI AREAS PASS ON SKI COOPER PASS:** When *Ski Cooper's* season pass for the upcoming season went on sale July 1<sup>st</sup>, it was going for just \$379, and offered three lift tickets each, at 73 various ski areas. Reciprocal agreements are common among ski areas. The majority of *Indy Pass* partners have established at least a handful of agreements as a benefit to their season pass holders. These two passes have existed side-by-side since *Indy's* 2019 debut and have shared several partners. *Ski Cooper* and *Indy Pass* had been set to share up to 39 partners for the coming ski season. Now, it appears that *Ski Cooper* will have their pass holders and ski areas, as will the *Indy Pass*. "*Indy Pass* does not have a problem with reciprocals," said *Indy Pass* founder and President Doug Fish. "We have a problem with *Ski Cooper* manipulating the reciprocal system that was originally created to help small resorts compete. Their brand represents not a small resort, but rather a national, multi-mountain pass that is a direct competitor to *Indy Pass*." Fish commented that as the *Indy Pass* matures and the entire Pass Market evolves, they will continue to work hard for their independent resort partners and passholders. It's always wise to read the fine print of whichever pass you wind up purchasing this coming season.

**LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON GONDOLA:** The Utah Department of Transportation has given it's okay to move forward with the construction of a controversial eight-mile-long gondola in Little Cottonwood Canyon. This will include a phased approach to easing transportation issues in the canyon. UDOT expects the first two phases—which include expanded bus service, tolling in the canyon, widening Wasatch Boulevard, and building snow sheds—to be completed by fall 2025. Nathan Rafferty, president of Ski Utah, told Ski Area Management. "Today marks an important milestone towards a day when safe, reliable, efficient, and clean transportation is available to a wide variety of canyon users." When complete, the gondola will feature a central station at the base of the canyon along with a new 2,500-stall parking lot. It will have the capacity to transport 1,050 passengers per hour at 35 people per cabin.

**COLORADO SKI TRAFFIC LOOKING UP:** I-70 traffic in Colorado is a MESS! We all know that, even without driving it on a regular basis. However, there is a rainbow at the end of all this, and it begins this summer. One of the main arterials, Floyd Hill, is one of the worst spots on I-70. Plans are being made to expand that area with an Express Lane, and take away the current tight curves, flattening that area out, so that traffic will flow more easily, with less braking on the curves. The added lanes will improve trip-time reliability. For the summer work, CDOT and its contractors are committed to keeping traffic moving during peak travel times. They will be implementing innovative approaches as they work to construct the new I-70 alignment that will eliminate these major obstacles. Rock scaling and blasting will be done during days when traffic is historically lighter and won't cause extreme impacts. This project should eventually ease the bottleneck that motorists currently experience and decrease travel time for everyone.

## 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**. **There is still ONE room available.** *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). or contact Randy Lew at: [fwsa13randy@telis.net](mailto:fwsa13randy@telis.net).

**FWSA 2024 SKI WEEK:** **STEAMBOAT SKI WEEK HAS AVAILABILITY!** The North American Ski Week 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 6<sup>th</sup> day for just \$72. Online registration is open **NOW**. Go to [fwsa.org](http://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](mailto: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 Spacia/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](mailto:fwsaintltrl@prodigy.net).

## FAR WEST HISTORY

**SKI MUSEUM DEVELOPMENT:** There is exciting news in the development of ski museums in the Far West. You are able to see where remarkable ski history and the epic saga of the 1960 Winter Olympics come alive in a captivating museum experience at *The Boatworks Museum* in Tahoe City. The Boatworks Museum is a cooperative venture with the Batiste Family, The Boatworks owners, and the SNOW Sports Museum Foundation. The SNOW Sports Museum Foundation is pursuing the construction of a modern ski history and Winter Olympics museum at the entrance to Olympic Valley. Meanwhile, The Boatworks offers rare artifacts from private collections and the Auburn Ski Club. It was the brainchild of Granite Bay surgeon Stan Batiste and his wife Maryann because Batiste wanted the public to see his extensive collection of 1960 Winter Olympics artifacts and memorabilia. Others quickly added their contributions, including memorabilia from World Cup skiers. For additional information see [www.thesnowmuseum.org](http://www.thesnowmuseum.org).

## FAR WEST COUNCILS

**LOS ANGELES COUNCIL OF SKI CLUBS:** LA Council has their priorities straight for the upcoming year, and that is to TRAVEL. Lots of trips planned for 2023-2024 for this active council. Century City Ski Club has 5 *Mammoth* trips starting in December, and 3 week-long trips which includes a trip to *Sun Valley*, Feb 10-17, 2024, and one to *Niseko, Japan*, Jan 20-27, 2024. Long Beach Ski Club has 5 *Mammoth* trips set, starting in December, and a week-long trip to *Sun Valley*, Jan 21-28, 2024. Wailers Ski Club has 5 *Mammoth* trips, starting in January, and Beach Cities Ski Club has a week-long trip to *Snowmass*, set for March 2- 9. The Unrecables Ski Club has a whopping 8 trips to *Mammoth* planned!! Whew...busy, busy!