

Fall 2023

THE COUNCILMAN

"The Voice of the Western Skier"

F W S A

fwsa.org

FAR WEST SKI ASSOCIATION

FOUNDED 1930

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Cover photo Jackson Hole Mountain Resort

Photo credit: Kim Williams, North Island Snowdrifters



President Linda Westlund

FWSA voting delegates who attended our 90th Annual FWSA Snowsports Convention in June elected volunteer officers to our Board of Directors and Board of Trustees. Council Presidents, the FWRA President, and our National Ski Patrol Liaison also serve on the Board of Directors. As President, I make appointments of committee leads which the Board ratifies. Take a look at our roster and you'll notice that some leaders are continuing in the same roles, others have accepted different roles, and we've added some new talent to our team. This dedicated team plans and delivers a diverse set of programs and trips to exciting resorts and destinations.

Your FWSA Board has an initiative underway referenced as "Change and Retain." We're taking a look at many of our programs and operating procedures with the intent of making changes and improvements to better serve our stakeholders and attract participation. While going through this brainstorming process, we are taking care to recognize the elements that work well, and the people who have made FWSA successful, so we can retain those aspects. In the coming months you'll be asked to participate in surveys to provide your input. We want to hear from each of our key stakeholder groups: Club Members, Direct Members, Industry Partners, and the FWSA and Council Leaders.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the 91st Annual Far West Ski Association Annual Convention in Reno, Nevada at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, June 5 - 9, 2024. Our Annual Business Meeting and Election of Officers is held on Sunday, and delegates will be voting on proposed bylaw changes that are essential for more efficient operations. Watch for notice of the proposed bylaws in early 2024.

FWSA, and our councils and clubs rely on volunteers to run our organizations. In 2023 we introduced an online, collaborative training series, *FWSA Sips & Snacks Event with the Experts*, where leaders share insights and best practices on serving in various positions while attendees enjoy sips and snacks from the comfort of their own home. Recordings of the Secretary and Treasurer's sessions are available for viewing on our YouTube channel. Consider attending "Donor and Sponsor Marketing" the evening of October 19th. To enroll, go to www.fwsa.org and scroll down to select the Event Calendar. Information shared at *Sips & Snacks* training will help members who are serving in these roles and may inspire club members and direct members to step forward to take on a new position in their club, council, or region.

Visit www.fwsa.org often to see what is happening in FWSA. Our website offers information on our travel programs, conventions, memberships, and more. *The Far West Skier's Guide* and *The Councilman* are on the website. Encourage your club members and guests to view the online edition of the 2023-2024 *Far West Skier's Guide* when it is published this Fall.

QR code for the *Far West Skier's Guide*





Paul Vlasveld and Jo Simpson 2024 Reno Host Council Con- vention Coordinators



“Altitude with Attitude”

Far West Ski Association’s 91st Annual Convention is set for June 6-9, 2024, in Reno, Nevada. It will be, once again, co-hosted by the Bay Area Snow Sports Council and Sierra League & Council. The fabulous Atlantis Casino Resort Spa will be the host hotel for our glorious stay while in Reno. Located just 10 minutes from the airport, the AAA Four Diamond Resort boasts free hotel shuttles, both indoor and outdoor pools, a Forbes Travel Guide Four-Star Spa, loads of entertainment, restaurants and bars.

The City of Reno itself, known as the “Biggest Little City,” will roll out the red carpet for us upon our arrival. We’ll begin the weekend early, with a relaxing Happy Hour at one of the local spots on Wednesday evening. This will give the “early birds” a chance to meet and greet their friends, enjoy some food and have a nice adult beverage or two while we play catch-up with what’s been happening since we were all together in Boise in June, 2023.

We are looking at possibly doing a repeat of our 2007 Pub Crawl, at the National Auto Museum, in downtown Reno. This would be a catered affair, with food and beverages, as well as a tour of the museum. There may be a Raft Trip on the Truckee River during the day on Thursday, to get everyone wound up for even more excitement that evening.

On Friday, we will hold the 17th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tour-

nament. This will take place at one of the lovely local golf courses, where we’ve played before. We will have an opportunity to team up, and have some fun competition for prizes, as well as network with our industry partners, and finish off with a great lunch and awards. You will also have the option of going on a bike ride on Friday. This too, will be along the scenic Truckee River, beginning at Palisades. We will be done with all this in plenty of time to get to the Pool Party later on Friday afternoon, followed by the Club Happy Hour, prior to the 38th Annual Silent Auction and Trade Show on Friday evening.

Network with your favorite ski resorts, meet with Tour Operators to plan future trips for your club and council, get trip details and pricing, and participate in a fantastic Silent Auction that can bring you a variety of hardware or adventures for the coming season. A drawing will take place during the auction for two Trip Gift Certificates, valid for \$250 towards one of Far West’s many skiing or adventure trips the following season.

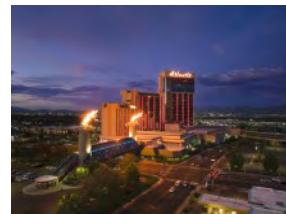
On Saturday, you will have the opportunity to sit in on some fascinating Snowsport Leadership sessions. We plan to have a hands-on session with a Ski Mechanic from one of the local area ski shops, where we’ll learn about boot fitting, ski tuning, and the latest in gear. Another session may be geared toward Succession Planning... searching for leaders for your organization. A Public Affairs panel session, in the afternoon, could include representatives

from the new Snow Sports Museum currently located in Tahoe City, Bill Clark from the Western Ski-Sport Museum, and possibly Ingrid Wicken, ski historian and founder of the California Ski Library. Bill is the head of Nordic ski training and a member of the Board of Directors for the Auburn Museum. Jon Lundin, award-winning author, who spoke on writing the history of his ski club, in Boise, has been invited to participate again. John is the author of four books and numerous articles about ski jumping, ski resorts and Sun Valley Ski Club. Invited guests and speakers will include: Tom Kelly, former Vice President of Communications of U.S. Ski and Snowboard and 2018 inductee into the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame; Wayne Wong, World Freestyle Champion and inductee into the Canadian Ski Hall of Fame and U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame; and Daron Rahlves, World Champion and Olympic ski racer.

“Save the Date” announcements will be sent out sometime this fall. Convention registration materials will follow in mid-February. Come play with us and find a little Altitude with Attitude! See you in Reno!

Atlantis Casino Resort Spa Reno, NV

Photo Credit: Atlantis Casino Resort Spa.



"The Voice of the Western Skier"



91st Annual Far West Ski Association Convention

June 6 - 9, 2024

at the

Atlantis

CASINO RESORT SPA • RENO



FWRA & FWSA



Hosted by *Bay Area Snow Sports Council*
and *Sierra League & Council*



Atlantis Casino Resort Spa

3800 S. Virginia Street, Reno, NV 89502

Reservations <https://reservations.travelclick.com/98418?groupID=2016540>

or call 800-723-6500, Group Name: **Far West Ski Association**

Room Rates per night plus tax single or double occupancy —
\$119 (Wed - Thurs) **\$179** (Fri & Sat) + \$17.50 daily resort fee

Room Registration Deadline May 16, 2024

Hotel Features

- World Class Casino
- Forbes 4-Star Spa Atlantis
- Indoor & Outdoor Pools & Outdoor Whirlpool Spa
- 8 Award Winning Restaurants; 10 Bars & Lounges
- Atlantis Family Entertainment Fun Center
- NO Resort fees, FREE Wi-Fi in guest rooms, FREE Parking
- Rates are available 3 days pre and post Convention

Transportation

- Air transportation is via Reno-Tahoe International Airport, located just 15 minutes from the Atlantis
- The Atlantis offers free airport shuttle service (4:30 am - 12:15 am)

Convention Highlights

- Silent Auction & Trade Show
- Snowsports Leadership Academy
- Celebrity Speakers
- Public Affairs Panels
- Saturday Awards Luncheon
- Saturday Awards Banquet
- FWSA General Meeting & Elections

Optional Activities

- **Thursday**
 - ° Rafting
 - ° 27th Annual Pub Crawl
- **Friday**
 - ° 17th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament
 - ° Pool Party
 - ° Club Happy Hour

Debbi Kor

FWSA Convention Chairperson
fwsadebbi@comcast.net
or 503.314.7078

Barbara Razo

Silent Auction Chairperson
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or 714-401-7341

Paul Vlasveld

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Jo Simpson

Sierra Host Council
Convention Coordinator
jo_simpson@sbcglobal.net
or 775.722.6468

A portion of the Silent Auction proceeds will benefit ... TBA.

www.fwsa.org



Debbi Kor Convention Chair

What an Adventure Awaited Us in Boise

Beautiful weather, good friends, great fun... what more could a person want? This is what we found waiting for us in Boise for this year's 90th Annual Far West Ski Association Convention.

The Intermountain Ski Council, and Bogus Basin Ski Club did an amazing job hosting this year's event! So many great optional activities, including dinner at Ansots on Wednesday evening for a wonderful, authentic Basque dinner awaited us. Thursday was an adventure-packed day with rafting on the Payette River, led by Jenn Coutts. Following the raft trip, Michael Bouton prepared a fantastic lunch on his "Big Bertha" barbeque grill for 20+ people. We also had a fun bike ride along the Greenbelt, led by Kim DeWit and Paul Markowitz. A brief stop for lunch was made at Kirsten Armstrong Municipal Park, and everyone arrived back at the hotel in the early afternoon. This left plenty of time to get ready for the 26th Annual Pub Crawl. Sherri Lechten did an outstanding job, taking us to 3 lively places: Boise Brewing, Mother Earth Brew Co., finally finishing up at the Basque Center for dinner. We sampled a variety of adult beverages, along with some wonderful appetizers at the first two stops. We even had time to play a little Jenga at Mother Earth, before ending up at the Basque Center. There was a great patio area for people to gather, have a cool beverage, some wonderful food, and time to visit with friends.

On Friday, a group of 32 golfers set out to try something new....Top Golf. Held at the local Top Golf venue, this was a new version of the Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament. While the original plan for the day was to play 9 holes, with a few starts and stops, learning all the nuances of the sport...they were only able to get in 6, but everyone still had a great time! Bill Coutts was the Activity Leader, Sheri Parshall was in charge of the hole sponsors, and Barbara Blasé, as well as Mike and Eileen Sanford were there to cheer the teams on. A light brunch was served mid-morning, so that people could take time to eat and mingle with fellow golfers. The second activity of the day was led by Lynda Clark. Lynda planned an adventurous "Day on the Mountain" at Bogus Basin Mountain Recreation Area, which included a nice drive up the mountain, a short hike, and a wonderful Italian lunch in the lodge for the 20 people who attended. Thank you to all our terrific activity leaders!

Friday night was the time for the 37th Annual Silent Auction and Snowsports Trade Show at the Boise Centre. Another exciting, fun-filled night, meeting and greeting our resort representatives and tour operators, to bid on ski and stay packages, which also included a couple goody baskets from Bogus Basin Mountain Recreation Area. There was a trip to Peru from One Seed Expeditions, and a Tournament of Roses Parade Event, from Mayflower Tours on New Year's Day. A portion of this

year's proceeds benefitted the Idaho Youth Ranch, Kuna. We also had a drawing for two Travel Gift Certificates provided by our North American Travel Program and International Program. The winners were: George Kish, for the North American trip, and John Walsh, for the International trip.

The Snowsports Leadership sessions on Saturday were phenomenal! Thank you, Debbie Stewart, for your Group Travel Secrets – "Details...Determine...Destiny". This was a very well-attended session, that was so interesting, so informative! Debbie spoke on how to plan your event, work out all the details that you want, and then come up with a destination that everyone will be so anxious to go to, they can't wait to sign up for it!

In the later Leadership Session, Tony Baker and John W. Lundin talked about "Preserving Club History - the Ease in Preparing a Digital Book." This was a wonderful presentation on how to research and write the history of your club or council. Lastly, our afternoon Public Affairs Panel, with Brad Wilson, General Manager of Bogus Basin Mountain Recreation Area and Tony Harrison, Publicist for Ski Idaho, speaking on Climate Change, resort insurance, and other hot topics, drew a lot of attention from those who wanted to know more about how to care for our favorite ski area.

Our Keynote Speaker was Genia Fuller-Crews, a legend of freestyle ski-

(Continued on page 34)

Event Sponsors

90th Annual FWSA Convention

by Debbi Kor, VP of Marketing & Sponsorship

We extend our appreciation to the following sponsors of Far West Ski Association's 90th Annual Convention. Their generous support was a significant contribution to the financial success of this year's convention. By offsetting convention costs through the sponsorship program, we are able to offer a more affordable delegate registration fee. Please include these industry partners in your travel plans for 2023-2024.

Program Sponsors



Western Ski Heritage Award

Since 2000, **Steamboat** has donated a 5-night ski package for two with lodging, lift tickets, rentals, a tour and a half day lesson.



Councils' Volunteer of the Year

Since 2001, **Big White Ski Resort** has donated a 5-night ski package for two with lodging and lift tickets to the Councils' Volunteer of the Year winner.



Athletic Scholarships

Since 2004, funds for the scholarships are provided through contributions from **Whitefish Mountain Resort**, **Grouse Mountain Lodge** and **Karbon** (Shure Sports USA)



Richard Lubin Safety Person of the Year

Holidaze Ski Tours joins Mammoth this year to sponsor the Richard Lubin Safety Person of the Year. They are providing 4 nights lodging and 3 of 4 day lift passes for two to Mammoth Mountain.



Environment Award

Aspen/Snowmass and **The Crestwood** donate a 5-night ski package for two with lodging, lift tickets, rentals and a lesson to the winner of the Environment Award.

2023 Convention Sponsors



Delegate Totes
Convention



Delegate Neck Wallets
Convention



Pub Crawl
Thursday evening



Golf Tournament
Friday Morning



Wine Service
Friday evening



Beer Donation
Fri evening & Sat Lunch



Silent Auction Welcome Party
Friday Evening



Luncheon Sponsor
Saturday Lunch



Wine Service
Saturday Lunch



Banquet Sponsor
Saturday Evening



Eye Opener Host
Sunday Morning



Eye Opener Host
Sunday Morning

Silent Auction 2023 Participants

by Sandy Blackwell and Debbi Kor

The Far West Ski Association and the Intermountain Council extend their appreciation and sincere gratitude to the 37th Annual Silent Auction Travel participants. The success of this event is made possible by the continued support from our industry partners.

Please include these industry partners in your travel plans for 2023-2024.

Alterra Mountain Company	Mammoth Mountain Ski Area
Alpine Adventures	Marco Vincent Dive Resort, Philippines
Aspen Snowmass	Mayflower Cruises and Tours
Bald Mountain, Sun Valley	Mt. Bachelor
Big Sky Resort	OneSeed Expeditions
Big White Ski Resort	Overseas Adventure Travel
Bogus Basin Ski Resort	Premier World Discovery
Brundage Mountain	Rachael Scdoris & the Oregon Trail of Dreams, Bend
Campfire Hotel, Bend	Residence Inn, Breckenridge
Wanderlust Tours, Bend	Riverhouse on the Deschutes, Bend
Crystal Inn Hotel, Midvalley, Utah	Roatan Charters
Crystal Inn Hotel, Downtown Salt Lake City	Sierra Nevada Resort, Mammoth
East West Hospitality, Northstar	SkiBig3, Canada
Foot Dynamics, Boise	Ski.Com
Group Travel Simplicity (Winter Ski & Sports)	SkiGroup.net
Grouse Mountain Lodge, Whitefish	Snowmass Tourism
Holidaze Ski Tours	Sports America
Intermountain Ski Council	Steamboat Ski & Resort Corp.
Kandahar Lodge, Whitefish	Sun Valley Inn
Limelight Hotel, Ketchum	Sun Valley Resort
Lodge at Osprey Meadows, Tamarack	Tamarack Resort
Mammoth Mountain Inn	Telluride Ski Resort
	Val D'Isere Condos, Mammoth

Convention Volunteer VIPs

Far West Ski Association President	Linda Westlund
FWSA Convention Chairperson	Debbi Kor
Host Council Convention Coordinator	Jenn Coutts
Convention Sponsorship Chairperson	Debbi Kor
Silent Auction & Snowsports Trade Show	
Silent Auction Chairperson	Sandy Blackwell
Silent Auction Accounting	Jane Wyckoff/Bill King
Silent Auction Bid Runners Coordinator	Nancy Moore
Host Council Silent Auction Volunteer Coordinator	Jenn Coutts
Auctioneer	Austin Von Johnson
FWSA Awards	
Service Awards Chairperson	Eileen Sanford
Club and Council Communications Awards Chairperson	Bill King
Councils' Volunteer of the Year Recognition	
Chairperson	Sheri Parshall
Reception Hostess	Jenn Coutts
Graphics and Design, Pins	Jenn Coutts
Convention Shirts	Jenn Coutts
Council Volunteer Coordinator	Jenn Coutts
Registration	
Convention Delegate Registrar	Jean McCasey
Registration Tote Bags	Debbi Kor
Delegate Registration Volunteer Coordinator	Jean McCasey
Celebrity Guests and VIP Registration	Jean McCasey
Celebrity Guests and VIP Hostess	Barbara Blase
FWSA Convention Treasurer	Randy Lew
Snowsports Leadership Academy, Credentials Chairperson	Jean McCasey
Optional Events	
Ansot's Restaurant	Michael Bouton
Rafting on the Payette River	Jenn Coutts
Downtown Boise Pub Crawl	Sherri Lechten
16 th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament @ Top Golf	Bill Coutts
A Day on the Mountain	Lynda Clark
Boise Greenbelt Bike Tour	Kim DeWit
Anne Frank Memorial & Downtown Boise Walking Tour	Sussette Newsom
Door Prize Donations	Debbi Kor
Publicity	Michael Bouton/Jane Wyckoff
Convention Video	George Stewart
Decorations	Carol Peterson
Greeters and Ticket Takers	Jenn Coutts/Michael Bouton
Greeter and Information Coordinator	Debbi Kor
Hospitality Room Coordinator	Debbi Kor
FWSA Event Signage Coordinator	Debbi Kor
Convention Website - Webmaster	Joe Harvis
Delegate Book Editor	Jo Simpson
Nominations & Elections	Gloria Raminha
Parliamentarian	Randy Lew
Resolutions	Randy Lew
Convention Photographer – <i>Strictly Photography</i>	Steve Strickland
Convention Cinematographer	George Stewart
Awards Banquet Band – <i>Smooth Avenue</i>	JT Tyler
Signage	Emilio Trampuz

Our thanks and appreciation to all the volunteers from the Intermountain Ski Council, Bogus Basin Ski Club and Far West Ski Association for their assistance in making the 2023 FWSA Convention a success.

2023 Club and Councils Communication and Outstanding Club Awards

Wentworth Outstanding Publication Newsletter Club	First	Ed/Webmaster/ Pres	Second	Ed/Webmaster/ Pres	Third	Ed/Webmaster/ Pres
Masters	Mountain High Snowsport Club - NWSCC	Emilio Trampuz	Castro Valley Ski Club BAC	Dennie Warren		
Advanced						
Novice	Modesto Ski Club BAC	Murray Breeze	Bogus Basin Ski Club Intermountain	Carol Peterson	Skiyenti Ski Club Northwest	Sandi Shaub
Website Club	First	Ed/Webmaster/ Pres	Second	Ed/Webmaster/ Pres	Third	Ed/Webmaster/ Pres
Masters	Mountain High Snowsport Club - NWSCC	Emilio Trampuz	Inskiers Ski & Snowboard Club - BAC	Bob Burke		
Advanced						
Novice	Balboa Ski & Sports Club Orange	Dan Moritz	North Island Snowdrifters San Diego	Jeff Meyerson	Skiyenti Ski Club Northwest	Sandi Shaub & Elie Jacobsen
Council Newsletter	First	Ed/Webmaster/ Pres	Second	Ed/Webmaster/ Pres	Third	Ed/Webmaster/ Pres
	Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs	Gordon Cardona	Bay Area Snow Sports Council	Dennie Warren	Northwest Ski Club Council	Linda McGavin
Council Website	First	Ed/Webmaster/ Pres	Second	Ed/Webmaster/ Pres	Third	Ed/Webmaster/ Pres
	Bay Area Snow Sports Council	Cathy Wilson & Jenn Wilson	Northwest Ski Club Council	Linda McGavin	Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs	Sandy Blackwell
Tollakson Outstanding Club	First	President	Second	President	Third	President
Masters	No nominations received		No nominations received		No nominations received	
Advanced	No nominations received		No nominations received		No nominations received	
Novice	No nominations received		No nominations received		No nominations received	
Outstanding Social Media Club/Council	First	Administrator	Second	Administrator	Third	Administrator
	Century City Ski Club Facebook Group Los Angeles	Aaron Algazy	Get off Your Rockers Ski Club Facebook Group San Diego	Linda Hoffmann	RU Ski Club Facebook Group Sierra	Pavel Bosin

Right: Hans Georg Award

Debbie Stewart, Sierra League & Council, was presented with the Hans Georg Award by Sheri Parshall, the 2022 recipient. This award is the FWSA's highest recognition, for long term service to the Association.

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography



Above: J. Stanley Mullin Award

Joe Harvis, the 2019 recipient of the J. Stanley Mullin Award, presented Paul Vlasveld, Bay Area Snow Sports Council, with this year's award, with Linda Westlund, FWSA President. The award recognizes a man who has made significant contributions to skiing over the past two years.

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography



Left: Elizabeth "Schatzi" Wood Award

Linda Westlund, FWSA President with Kim Hovren, Intermountain Ski Council, recipient of the Elizabeth "Schatzi" Wood Award, which recognizes a woman who has made significant contributions to skiing during the past two years.

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography



Above right: Jordan-Reily Award

Ron Abramovich, Intermountain Ski Council, received the Jordan-Reily Award, presented by Linda Westlund, FWSA President. This award recognizes outstanding achievements in Public Affairs programs.

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography



Left: Jimmie Heuga Award
Becki Walters, Director of Boise Adaptive Snowsport Education (BASE) was honored with the Jimmie Heuga Award, presented by Linda Westlund, FWSA President. The award recognizes significant contributions to rehabilitative and adaptive snowsports programs.

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography



Right: Terry Smith Award
Laura Preiss, ROKKA League Race Chair, accepted the Terry Smith Award on behalf of Jerry Stokely, for his outstanding contributions to recreational racing.

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography

Bottom Left: Bill Mackey Award

Omar Fricke, Bogus Basin National Ski Patrol, received a posthumous Bill Mackey Award for outstanding service to the skiing public by a ski area employee. Accepting on his behalf was his daughter, Tamara Ansotegui."

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography



Bottom right Tommi Tyndall Award

Brad Wilson, General Manager, accepted the Tommi Tyndall Award on behalf of Bogus Basin Mountain Recreation Area from Linda Westlund, FWSA President. The award recognizes a ski area that has made a distinguished contribution to skiing.

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography





Left: Snowsports Builder Award

Genia Fuller-Crews, World Freestyle Champion and Honored Member of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame, was presented with a Snowsports Builder Award by Jane Wyckoff, FWSA Past President.

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography

Below: Genia Fuller Crews and her freestyle family and FWSA friends. Left to Right: Jim Garrison-PSIA National Academy Freestyle Coach, U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame; Scott Brooksbank-5 World Freestyle Titles, U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame; Drew Wahlin-Freestyle Competitor, U.S. Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame; Jane Wyckoff- FWSA Past President; Steve Coxen-FWSA Past President; Bob Young-Pro Freestyle Tour, World Cup Freestyle Judge; and Daniel Fromer-Pro Freestyle Tour, PSIA Instructor.

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography



Left: Linda Westlund, FWSA President, presented Brad Wilson with a Snowsports Builder Award. He is the General Manager of Bogus Basin Mountain Recreation Area, with a lifetime of contributions to snowsports starting in his college years.

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography



Right: Sean McErlean, Vice President of Holiday Ski Tours, was a recipient of the Bill Mackey Award, for outstanding service to the skiing public by a ski area employee, presented by Linda Westlund, FWSA President.

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography





Left: President's Award

Nick Cowell, Editor of *The Councilman* for FWSA, received a President's Award for his perseverance and dedication to producing a quality publication, presented at a North Island Snowdrifters meeting post-Convention.

Photo credit: Barbara Blasé.

Right: President's Award

Linda Westlund, FWSA President, presented Todd Hood, National Brotherhood of Snowsports-Western Region, with a President's Award, for his program contributions and outstanding support during the past year.

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography



Left: President's Award

Jessie Diggins received a President's Award in recognition for her cross-country athletic achievements, including the FIS Cross-Country World Championship Gold Medal.

Photo credit: U.S. Ski & Snowboard

Right: President's Award

Mikaela Shiffrin was a recipient of a President's Award for her outstanding achievement this year as FIS World Cup Alpine Record Holder, a record that many thought would never be broken.

Photo credit: U.S. Ski & Snowboard





Left: Richard Lubin Safety Person of the Year

Barbara Razo, National Ski Patrol-Bear Mountain Ski Patrol, was named the Richard Lubin Safety Person of the Year. Presenting the award were program sponsors Sean McErlean, Vice President of Holiday Ski Tours, and Stacy Stern, Group Sales, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area.

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography

Right: Western Ski Heritage

Renowned award-winning author and historian, John W. Lundin was the recipient of the Western Ski Heritage Award. Presenting the award was the program sponsor, Larry Young, Senior Sales Manager for Steamboat Ski and Resort Corporation, with Jane Wyckoff, FWSA History Chair.

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography



Left: History Recognition Award

Historian and Editor Tony Baker with his publication, "*Rusty Bindings 50: 1971-2021*," which earned Rusty Bindings Ski Club the History Recognition Award. Presenting the award were Jane Wyckoff, FWSA History Chair (Left) and Linda Westlund, FWSA President (Right).

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography



Left: Historic Ski Club

FWSA History Chair Jane Wyckoff presented Historic Ski Club Recognition Certificates to John W. Lundin, Sun Valley Ski Club (Left) and David Felker, Century City Sport Club (Right) at the FWSA Annual Convention.

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography

Right: Bill Berry – Hard News

Debbi Kor, Editor of the *"Far West News-Flash,"* FWSA's official E-Publication, was the recipient of the Bill Berry – Hard News Award. Presenting the award were Eileen Sanford, FWSA Service Awards Chair (Left) and Linda Westlund, FWSA President (Right).

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography



Left: Bill Berry – Featured Article

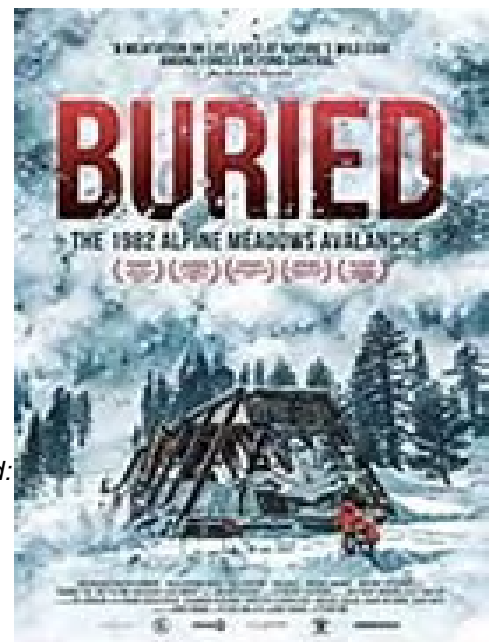
The Bill Berry – Featured Article Award was awarded to Jesse Diggins, author of the book *"Brave Enough."*

Photo credit: US Ski & Snowboard

Right: Warren Miller Modern Media Award

The Warren Miller Modern Media Award was awarded to Realization Films – Film Producer, for their documentary, *"Buried: The 1982 Alpine Meadows Avalanche."*

Photo credit: US Ski & Snowboard





Left Councils' Volunteer of the Year

Tony Baker, the 2023 Councils' Volunteer of the Year, is a member of the Rusty Bindings Ski Club, Bay Area Snow Sports Council. With Tony are Big White Ski Resort's "Loose Moose" and Joel Mawson, Sales & Promotion Coordinator. Big White Ski Resort has sponsored the recognition program since 2001.

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography

Right: Council honorees for the 2023 Councils' Volunteer of the Year recognition program. Left to right: Joel Mawson, Big White; Chris Gill, FWSA VP Council Services; Gloria Raminha, Central Council; Linda McGavin, Northwest Council; Martin Wascher, San Diego Council; Pete Smith, Los Angeles Council; Sheri Parshall, FWSA Volunteer of the Year Program Chair; Tony Baker, Bay Area Council; Brenda Holden, NBS Western Region; Steve Strickand, Intermountain Council; Carlene Boutacoff, Sierra Council and Liam Craig, Big White

Photo credit: Joe Harvis



Left: Club & Council Communications Awards

The 2023 Club & Council Communications Awards winners. Left to Right: Claudia Fernandez, Castro Valley Ski Club; Christine Hill, Bogus Basin Ski Club; Linda McGavin, Northwest Ski Club Council; Sandy Blackwell, Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs; Paul Vlasveld, Bay Area Snow Sports Council, Castro Valley Ski Club & Inskiers Ski and Snowboard Club; Emilio Trampuz, Mountain High Snowsport Club; Randy Lew, Modesto Ski Club; Bill King, FWSA Club & Council Communications Awards Chair; Chris Gill, FWSA VP of Council Services; Sheila Van Guilder, Balboa Ski & Sports Club; and Cary Strand, North Island Snowdrifters.

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography





Left: Club & Council Social Media Awards

Todd Hood, FWSA Social Media Awards Chair; David Krupp, Monica Lee & David Felker, Century City Sport Club; Martin Wascher, Get Off Your Rockers; and Jo Simpson, RU Ski Club.

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography

Right upper: The 2023 recipients of the Charities & Our Community recognition awards. Standing Left to Right: Sandra Knapp, Grindelwald Ski Club; Laurie Steinbruck, Altair Ski & Sports Club; Cindy Luchetti, Action Ski & Snowboard Club; Lynda Clark, Bogus Basin Ski Club; Todd Hood, Four Seasons West Ski & Snowboard Club; Randy Lew, Modesto Ski Club; Sandy Blackwell, Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs & Long Beach Ski Club; Sheila Van Guilder, Orange Council of Ski Clubs & Balboa Ski & Sports Club; Bill King, Mountain High Snowsport Club; Sheri Parshall, Skiyente Ski Club; Chris Gill, FWSA Vice President – Council Services; Sigrid Noack, Charities & Our Community Chair. Kneeling Left to Right: Jessica Han, The Unrecables; Fran Long, SLO Skiers; Jo Simpson, Reno Ski & Recreation Club; Kristy Welsh, Arizona Ski Council & Phoenix Ski Club; Martin Wascher, Get Off Your Rockers; and Paul Vlasveld, Monterey Ski & Social Club.

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography



Right bottom: The 2023 Convention Sponsors included: Sara Hopkins, Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation; Lisa Jennings, Snowmass Tourism; Stacy Stern, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area; Larry Young, Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation; Sean McErlean, Holidaze Ski Tours; Barbara Moran, Grouse Mountain Lodge; Joel Mawson, Big White Ski Resort; Mary Manning, Aspen/Snowmass, with Debbie Kor, FWSA Vice President – Marketing & Sponsorship.

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography



Left:

The Far West Ski Foundation presented a grant to the Boise Adaptive Snowsports Education (BASE) at the Convention. Becki Walters, Director of the BASE program (Left) was the recipient of the FWSA's Jimmie Heuga Award. With her are members of the Foundation Board: Gloria Raminha, Adaptive Programs; Joe Harvis, Technology; and Jane Wyckoff, Vice President.

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography

Right:

The Boise Centre welcomed the Far West Ski Association with a huge sign in the entrance door. Well done Boise Centre!

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography



Above:

A very popular outdoor activity whenever visiting Boise is River Rafting on the Payette River. The river was running high due to the spring run-off from all the winter's snow, which provided for an exciting trip down the river. Our industry partners joined in on the adventure.

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography

Right:

Bikers enjoyed a Greenbelt Bike Tour along the Boise River, and a hearty lunch.

Photo credit: Nancy Moore





Left:

A small group of hikers enjoyed a day of hiking and sight-seeing at Bogus Basin Mountain Recreation Area. Bogus Basin provided a fabulous lunch.

Photo credit: Ken Snider

Right:

Agnes Johnson and George Kish of the Orange Council enjoying the Club Happy Hour prior to the Silent Auction and Trade Show. George won a \$250 Gift Certificate for Travel with FWSA, at the event. Congratulations George!

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography



Left:

David Krupp, FWSA Athletic Scholarship Chair, was busy selling raffle tickets and conducting a silent auction to benefit the Athletic Scholarship Program. Genia Fuller-Crews, World Freestyle Champion, brought signed posters from freestyle champions and freestyle T-shirts to help generate funds. Harry Davis, FWSA Past President, signs up!

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography



Above:

Bid Runners for this year's Silent Auction were provided by the Vertigals, from Bogus Basin Ski Club. Standing Left to Right: Nancy Moore, Margie Ridgeway, Elizabeth Graham, Karen Holine, Anne Blanchette. Kneeling Left to Right: Cathy Cryder-Wilson and Amy O'Neill.

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography



Left:

Vertigals Karen Holine and Elizabeth Graham enjoying the experience of volunteering at the Silent Auction. In the background is Austin Von Johnson, Auctioneer.

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography



Right:

Brie McKee, a representative from the Idaho Youth Ranch, Kuna, thanked the Far West Ski Association and the Vertigals of the Bogus Basin Ski Club for their generous donation to their local charity, raised by their volunteer work with the event.

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography



Left:

Debbi Stewart, FWSA Vice President – International Travel, presented a very informative Snowsports Leadership Academy session on group travel secrets.

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography



Above:

John W. Lundin, historian and award winning author of ski jumping, ski resorts and Sun Valley Ski Club, and Tony Baker, historian and editor of a history of the Rusty Bindings Ski Club, were co-presenters of a highly educational Snowsports Leadership Academy which explained how a club or council could easily research and write their history for publication.

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography



Left:

Genia Fuller-Crews, World Free-style Champion and Honored Member of the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame, was the Keynote Speaker at the Saturday Awards Luncheon.

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography

Below:

Assisted by Tom Bundgard (Left) and Michael Bouton (Right), Keynote Speaker Genia Fuller-Crews auctioned autographed posters donated by Freestyle Champions, raising funds for the FWSA's Athletic Scholarship Program for junior racers.

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography



Right:

The FWSA "Village People" made a surprise visit to the Awards Banquet. Leading the attendees in YMCA were: Tom Bundgard, Michael Bouton, Martin Wascher, Mike "Bubba" Sanford, and Donnie Gill.

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography



Left:

Volunteers with the Intermountain Ski Council enjoying the evening. Left to Right: Randy and Cindy Bright with Jenn Coutts, Host Council Coordinator and her husband Bill, Top Golf Event Leader.

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography

Convention Picture Captions Provided by Jane Wyckoff, Editor, *Far West Skier's Guide*.



Sheri Parshall

Councils' Volunteer of the Year

When you join a ski club, or any social organization, you become part of a vast community of like-minded enthusiasts, all working to share experiences centered on the activities you all love. Those activities are almost always organized by the people in your club who have taken their own time to work to make those activities successful and enjoyable. Our clubs and councils can't exist without those volunteers. In time, whether you're bringing a potato salad to a potluck, or organizing a ski trip for 150 people, you're a volunteer yourself!

The Far West Ski Association Councils' Volunteer of the Year program was developed decades ago, to recognize those individuals, in our ski clubs and councils, who continuously provide outstanding volunteer service to their clubs and councils. The 2023 honorees are no exception. All have been honored by their individual clubs and councils, and I take great pleasure in introducing them all to you.

We also thank Big White Ski Resort, our partner and program sponsor since 2001, for their incredible support, awarding a five-day ski trip to our Councils' Volunteer of the Year recipient. A truly fabulous ski-in, ski-out resort located in central British Columbia, Big White is the perfect location for our winner to celebrate their hard work!

This year's Councils' Volunteer of the Year is Tony Baker, representing Bay Area Snow Sports Council. Tony, a 14-year member of the Rusty Bindings

Ski Club, has held multiple positions within the club, including Media Director, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, BAC/Singles League/FWSA Representative, and Historian (just in the past 5 years)! Tony organizes monthly golf outings, annual Super Bowl parties and End of Summer barbecues. In September of 2022, Tony researched and published a 50-year history of the Rusty Bindings Ski Club, for which he has won the 2023 FWSA History Recognition Award.

Our congratulations to Tony, and please join me in also recognizing and congratulating the rest of our 2023 honorees:

Central Council: Gloria Raminha

Gloria is the Immediate Past President of FWSA, after serving four terms. In prior years, she also served FWSA in other positions and is currently a Trustee for the Far West Ski Foundation. Gloria held positions in the Avalanche Ski & Sports Club, Central Council and is a past Western Region Representative for the National Ski Council Federation. She enjoys family, friends, skiing, golfing, traveling and volunteering within the different snowsports organizations and other unrelated organizations.

Intermountain Ski Council: Steve Strickland

Steve has been involved with the Bogus Basin Ski Club since 2018. He has served as Vice President for three years. Being in charge of the club's

main fundraiser, he raised over \$6,000 in the last two years, and identified new charities to benefit from his efforts. Steve is a professional photographer and donates his time to his club and council providing pictures of their activities.

Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs: Pete Smith

Pete is a member of Wailers Ski, Snowboard & Social Club, and has held several offices including President, Vice President, Membership and Trip Director positions. He's a member of the National Ski Patrol and has organized fundraisers for outside organizations like Wounded Warriors and Habitat for Humanity. Pete was honored as FWSA's 2019 Safety Person of the Year

National Brotherhood of Snowsports – Western Region: Brenda Gale Holden

Brenda is a director of the National Brotherhood of Snowsports – Western Region. She's been skiing for the last 20 years. She has been serving on the board for the last seven years. She believes in serving with the organization to accomplish their mission.

Northwest Ski Club Council: Linda McGavin

Linda has been involved in organized club skiing since 1975. She is a founding member of Plaza Ski Club (now Mountain High Snowsport Club), as well as of the Portland Area Ski Club Council (now Northwest Ski Club

(Continued on page 30)



Joe Harvis

VP Communications

What an exciting time we had in Boise catching up with friends and enjoying the activities and events of the entire weekend. We tried something new this year having our convention accessible via a mobile app called "Whova." It appeared to be a big hit with many folks posting photos and interacting with each other via the app. We will be using it again next year, rolling out additional features. All of the convention photos are now available on the website in the photo gallery and albums, including those that were posted to Whova. If you would like to contribute any of your own photos from any FWSA event, it's easy to do. Just contact me to get access and we'll send you step-by-step instructions to upload them.

Our team has been hard at work providing FWSA Members with the NewsFlash, The Councilman, and the Far West Skiers Guide, as well as our Social Media presence on Facebook and we're eagerly awaiting our new Marketing Media slide shows and videos. Our Social Media team is currently setting up a FWSA Instagram page so we can all share photos on that platform. Stay tuned.

Did you know that all clubs and councils can add their functions and trips to our events calendar? That's correct, your club or council can add your events and trips to the FWSA calendar. It's easy to use, you can even link it back to your website. Consider this to possibly increase your participation.

We are still slowly moving our revenue

generating activities to the ClubExpress payment processing. Currently we process Direct membership dues and Dive Trip payments within this system. The goal is to migrate other trips and the convention to the process and retire FWSA Connect. It's taking time but we will get there. We are making progress.

Currently it isn't necessary to log into the site but soon if you register to attend an event, travel program or convention, you will need to register via the website. At that time, you will need to login to make those reservations. Members who have registered should sign in and review their member profile to update any missing or incorrect information. We encourage members to verify your information is correct.

Others can click on "Member Signup" and create and complete the registration form. One can even signup to receive the Far West NewsFlash simply by checking the "NewsFlash subscription" box under the "Interests" section of the Member Profile.

We hope everyone enjoys reading this edition of The Councilman. Nick Cowell, our editor, has agreed to continue until we find a successor. I also want to congratulate him on receiving the President's Award at the convention. Way to go Nick. So, we are looking for a new editor. Please contact me if you or anyone you know might be interested. Please send any comments or suggestions to us at councilman@fwsa.org. A big thank you also goes to our ever-ready proofreaders,

Debbi Kor, Jane Wyckoff, Jeannine Davis, Todd Hood and Jo Simpson.

Leigh Gieringer and Jane Wyckoff have just finished the 36th annual edition of the Far West Skier's Guide. Many hours are put in to make each edition better than the last. This one was no exception. This issue will again be digital only. Both Leigh & Jane put numerous hours proofreading all the articles and formatting each issue. Please send comments to us at skiersguide@fwsa.org. If you are available to proofread either publication, please let me know. Also, if you know of a possible advertiser, please get us their contact information, or put them in touch with us at skiersguide@fwsa.org. Every little bit helps. Contact us for rates.

Are you on the mailing list for the monthly Far West NewsFlash. You can find current and past issues on the website under Publications. All clubs and councils are encouraged to submit appropriate articles of interest for their activities, events, and travel programs for publication in the News Flash simply by sending the information to our editor and publisher, Debbi Kor at newsflash@fwsa.org. Congratulations to Debbi, recipient of the 2023 Bill Berry - Hard News Award.

All our publications are in digital format and are accessible from the Far West website at FWSA Publications.

Our website also contains many photo albums of our varied activities through

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Todd Hood

VP Council Services

At the 90th Annual Far West Ski Association Convention in Boise, Idaho in June 2023, Todd Hood was elected as the new Vice President of Council Services. Council Services works with the presidents of the 10 FWSA member councils to manage programs and initiatives for the benefit of our member clubs. Since the FWSA succeeds when our member clubs succeed, it only makes sense that the success of our clubs continues to be a primary goal of the FWSA organization.

We have several ideas to ensure that member club leaders are familiar with how to extract value from the FWSA to help their club be more successful. We are considering ways to fulfill membership credentials that individuals can appreciate to reflect their club, council and the FWSA. As a member of an FWSA club, you are eligible to receive a [FREE membership](#) in your club's council, the [FWSA](#) and the [National Ski Council Federation \(NSCF\)](#). Each of these memberships come with benefits from sponsors, donors and supporters.

Most snowsports clubs have as a priority the recruitment and retention of members. The FWSA is a great resource for promoting the value of each organization. The FWSA has already invested in multiple channels of communication internally and externally to the snowsports industry. This *Far West Skier's Guide* is one of those channels. Readers that come across the Skier's Guide are directed to con-

nect with clubs and councils within their geographic location, area of interest, or level of activity.

Without exception, snowsports clubs are a source for fun, and relationships. Some may wonder, with the internet, travel agencies, and social media, do you really need a snowsports club. While all those entities can help increase your individual level of entertainment, a club gives you the chance to meet several people at a time, get in where you fit in, and even link into new social circles.

Snowsports clubs have brought people together for business, social, and intimacy opportunities. What better "pond" to cast your net than one with a group of adventurous, fun-loving people. In the least, you may find lifelong travel buddies with similar interests and lifestyles.

So, who should join an FWSA snowsports club?

You are already busy enough with work and making a living for you and your family. Let someone else come up with ideas for adventure and join in on the fun.

You will learn about activities and events that you may have never known about, right in your local area.

You will meet people that are wealthy in mind, body, and spirit...as well as money!

If you are new to town and wondering where the fun people play...outside of

the bars.

If your family and current friends are a little slow to travel and adventure...meet new friends!

If you yearn for new people to meet, places to go, and things to see.

If you have ideas for adventure and want to share them with other adventurous souls, you are sure to find someone that will join you.

For snowsports organization leaders that like to share their excitement, the FWSA Club and Council Award programs provide an opportunity to recognize and reward operational excellence and hard-working volunteers. We have talented and engaged volunteers that work very hard to administer the programs we oversee, such as:

- Club and Council Communications Awards
- Tollakson Outstanding Club Awards
- Councils' Volunteer of the Year
- Charities & Our Community

The **Club & Council Communications** and **Tollakson Outstanding Club Awards** programs are chaired by Bill King. This award allows clubs and councils to be recognized for their website, newsletter and overall programs. In 2021, the FWSA launched the **Outstanding Social Media Award** founded and coordinated by Todd

(Continued on page 32)



Debbie Stewart

VP International Travel

FWSA 2023 12th Annual Scuba Trip to Little Cayman was another success.

This year's annual scuba dive trip was to Little Cayman Beach Resort, October 7-14, 2023. It is named a top dive site in the Caribbean for its perfect diving conditions, iconic Bloody Bay Wall, pristine coral reefs, and spectacular marine life. This wonderful resort is a secluded oceanfront oasis with a relaxed island ambiance and Caribbean-inspired cuisine.

Our group of 31 thoroughly enjoyed 6 days of 2-tank boat dives and afternoon boat dives. Some also enjoyed other water sports and activities. Our Welcome Event and Farewell Dinner provided fun partying as is the Far West tradition.

FWSA 2024 International Ski Week – Madonna di Campiglio, Italy

At the turn of the nineteenth century, European aristocrats discovered a wonderful place in the heart of the Dolomites, and Madonna di Campiglio became a sophisticated and elegant destination, whilst preserving its majestic and fascinating landscape of the Dolomites.

We are currently taking registrations to go back to the amazing Dolomites in late February 25 – March 3, 2024. Madonna di Campiglio is the main point of access to the Dolomites mountain range. The resort is located in a valley between the scenic Dolomites

and the Italian Alps with the ability to ski both. This vibrant Italian ski area links four small sectors known both for excellent grooming and steep runs. The slopes spread out widely. The ski area has 57 lifts, and 93 miles of ski runs with a capacity of more than 31,000 people per hour. A spectacular 16-minute gondola ride connects to the neighboring resort of Pinzolo.

Madonna di Campiglio is one of the world's classic ski centers and one of Italy's most famous, ranking with Cortina, Courmayeur and San Martino. Considering its long history in winter sports, it has the benefit of an extensive and hugely enjoyable ski area with lifts coming right down into the town, unusual assets compared to many other famous ski resorts. The resort's altitude gives it more dependable conditions than many traditional winter sports centers.

After Madonna di Campiglio Ski - Northern Italy Extension Adventure Tour

Many of the Madonna di Campiglio ski week participants will be enjoying the extension trip in Northern Italy. We will be staying 2 nights in Milan and visiting the "must see" attractions, such as the Duomo Cathedral, the Sforza Castle, Teatro La Scala exterior, the amazing Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II and much more.

The next day we'll drive to Lake Como for a walking tour which includes visit-

ing the Dome, then we'll take a boat tour on the lake.

After Milan, we'll transfer to Verona for 2 nights, where we'll have a guided walking tour. The next day will be a free day to explore on your own.

After Verona we'll transfer to La Spezia where we'll spend 3 nights. On our way, we will stop for a balsamic vinegar "acetaia" tasting in Modena, where the authentic balsamic vinegar comes from. Then we will proceed to Parma for an authentic ham and cheese tasting, arriving in La Spezia later that day.

Off with the guide for a for day tour on the train and by boat to Cinque Terre. Cinque Terre is famous for their series of Italian villages that are perched high along the rugged cliffs of the Italian Riviera. These five villages along the Ligurian coastline and the surrounding hilly areas form a part of the Cinque Terre National Park that was designated as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1997.

Our last day adventure day will take us on a boat touring Portovenere. The scenic views will be amazing and this little medieval town in Liguria is just a stone's throw away from Cinque Terre. It too is a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the most picturesque towns in Italy.

Lastly we will transfer to Genova for our final half day guided walking tour.

(Continued on page 28)

I'm sure we will be experiencing a different side of Italy...one that will be remembered for a lifetime.

FWSA Africa Adventure Trip – 2024

We toured South Africa in 2014 and now it is time to experience another amazing area of Africa. We will be exploring locations in East Africa September 27 – October 7, 2024. We hope to see the “Big 5” during this photographic safari trip and explore areas that FWSA has not been to in a very long time. Let's join together and experience the local culture, as well as seeing the many magnificent animals in their natural habitat.

We will depart the U.S. and fly into Kilimanjaro Airport then off to our lodge in Arusha. The next day we will travel to Lake Manyara National Park, which is famous for its tree-climbing lions. We will engage with several photographic safaris/game drives throughout the trip.

We will then visit the Ngorongoro Crater which is 2000 ft. deep and is considered to be the 8th Wonder of the World with its largest intact caldera and abundance of wildlife permanently living on the crater floor. We hope to see spectacular concentration of wildlife and the big five!

Then it's off to Serengeti National Park with its famed animal migration and offers arguably the most scintillating game-viewing in Africa: great herds of buffalo, elephants, giraffes, thousands of elands, topi, kongoni, impala, and Grant's gazelle. Golden-maned lion prides feast on the plain grazers. Solitary leopards and high-density cheetahs prowl the southern plains, yet there are over 500 species of birds in these areas. This will be a feast for your eyes. An optional hot air balloon safari will be taken by some to experience an early morning flight with a bush breakfast...a true “Out of Africa” experience and much more to experience.

FWSA 2024 13th Annual Scuba Trip to the Philippines

In 2019 FWSA divers and non-divers had the time of their life and we're going back in 2024! Many participants stated that this was their best trip and are eager to return. We will be staying 5 nights at the Buceo Anilao Beach & Dive Resort, then staying at the new Oceanside Marco Vincent Resort for 9 nights. They pride themselves on outstanding customer service, “World Class Diving”, chef prepared meals on the dive boat, and their dive operation is “Over the Top.” You won't want to miss this one!

FWSA 2025 Ski Week – Val d'Isere, France

Our last ski week to Val d'Isere was in 2015 and we had a fantastic time. The skiing was incredible, hotels were great, people were friendly, and the town is charming with many shops and restaurants. We look forward to returning there.

FWSA Greece Adventure Trip – 2025

An adventure trip to Greece has been added to the FWSA International Travel calendar. We anticipate this to be a combination of land and boat adventure tour. Stay tuned for more information.

FWSA 2026 Ski Week – Chamonix, France

Probably the most famous downhill ski resort in the world, Chamonix in France, is revered by the world's best big-mountain skiers and snowboarders who come here to tackle the area's huge vertical descents and extreme off-piste. This report also has plenty of good runs for intermediate skiers; there are more conventional ski areas in the Chamonix Valley, five in total, although only the linked Le Brevent and La Flégère areas are directly accessible by ski lift from Chamonix itself; the others are separate and situated some distance away from the town but served by bus and/or train

links. Getting to Chamonix is easy: it's just over an hour from Geneva airport. All snowsports enthusiasts should plan a pilgrimage to Chamonix to experience the magic of the Mont Blanc massif at least once. The town also has a well-deserved reputation for lively nightlife.

FWSA Galapagos Adventure Trip – 2026

Research is underway for the 2026 Adventure Trip to the Galapagos, which is part of Ecuador, and possibly Machu Picchu, which is in Peru, or to another destination. Stay tuned for the announcement of this trip.

FWSA 2027 International Ski Week – Val Gardena, Italy

The Dolomites always are a popular ski area for their wonderful scenic beauty, good skiing, and popular Italian food, so we will return there in 2027 but to a different resort: Val Gardena. This trip will provide the opportunity to ski the popular Sella Ronda circuit that goes through Selva di Val Gardena and to ski La Longia, the longest ski run in South Tyrol that is more than 6 miles long and stretches from Mount Seceda to Ortiol. We plan way ahead; more information will come later.

FWSA New Croatia Adventure Trip – 2027

The 2022 land and yacht trip were sold out, had a waiting list and was such a success, we will be going back in 2027! You will not want to miss this experience.

FWSA New Zealand Adventure Trip – 2028

We will be adventuring to the southern hemisphere in 2028 to explore New Zealand and bordering areas. Stay tuned for additional information.

FWSA Rhine River Cruise & Biking Adventure Trip – 2029

(Continued on page 30)



Debbi Kor

VP Marketing and Sponsorship

Wow! What a snowy year! People were digging out from the white stuff for months! Winter 2023 will certainly go down in history as a year for the record books! Some ski areas had so much snow that there were days when they couldn't even open. When the snow covers the cars, the houses, and the lodges - I say enough is enough. Several resorts were able to extend their season into early summer, with Mammoth Mountain closing in early August. For the many resorts that have summer activities, however, they really had to hustle to get everything up and running for those guests coming for the mountain biking, zip-lining and coaster riding.

Ski Clubs and councils planned group trips to their favorite ski area or did simple day trips to their local mountains to enjoy their favorite outdoor sport. Our clubs and councils had trips to Mammoth Mountain, Whitefish Mountain Resort, Steamboat, and Sun Valley to name a few destinations. The Far West annual Ski Week was at Jackson Hole this year. The week included racing on the hill, a mountain picnic held at Snow King Mountain, with the Welcome Party and Awards Banquet being held at Snow King Resort. Schure Sports donated a full Karbon outfit again this year, for the 18th year. Laura Priess, from Los Angeles Council took over for David Krupp, FWSA Athletic Scholarship Chair this year, doing her best to sell as many raffle tickets as possible. She was

successful in raising \$1,340 in sales. So, thank you to all who purchased tickets. The winner this year was Bill Sowle, from Arizona Council.

Far West provides many discounts on lodging, ski and snowboard rentals, outdoor gear, and shuttle rides from the airport to Steamboat, Park City, and the Reno/Tahoe area. All you need to do is click onto our website (www.fwsa.org) and check out the extensive list of Member Benefits (under Member Corner) that our club and council members have available to them. We added two new lodging partners this year, The Lodge at Whitefish Lake and Firebrand Hotel in Whitefish, both Averill Hospitality properties. We also have East West Hospitality in Lake Tahoe, and YotelPad in Canyons Village, Park City. Ship Skis returned this year, shipping your skis for you, to your favorite vacation destination (as well as your golf clubs), and Paradise Skis, in Calgary, provided a 15% discount off gear and rentals. Keep checking that site for updates for your own personal list of places to visit to take advantage of the discounts available to Far West members.

If you are a resort, or ski-related business, Far West Ski Association has a number of sponsorship opportunities available, including Program, Corporate, and Convention Sponsors. We are fortunate to have long-standing commitments from a number of mountain resorts, including Big White Ski

Resort, who has sponsored the Far West Councils' Volunteer of the Year Award since 2001 (formerly the Councils' Man & Woman of the Year); Steamboat Ski and Resort Corporation has been our sponsor of the Western Ski Heritage Award since 2000; and Aspen/Snowmass sponsors The Environment Award, which was implemented in 2014. Holiday Ski Tours and Mammoth Mountain Ski Area are new joint sponsors of the Richard Lubin Safety Person of the Year, while Whitefish Mountain Resort, Grouse Mountain Lodge, and Schure Sports, Inc. (makers of Karbon ski wear) have been longtime sponsors of the Far West Athletic Scholarship Program, which began in 2004. Whitefish Mountain Resort and Grouse Mountain Lodge were our original sponsors. We thank each and every one of you for your continued support!

If you are a vendor or new business, and would like to join Far West as a Member Benefits Partner, or become a Sponsor with our organization, please contact me: fwsadebbi@comcast.net, or check our website at: www.fwsa.org/membership/benefits for further information.

Next year's Convention will be in Reno, Nevada, at the beautiful Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, hosted by Bay Area Snow Sports Council and Sierra League and Council. The dates will be June 6-9, 2024. I look forward to see-

(Continued on page 32)



Jean McCasey

VP Membership

What do I explain, emphasize on, offer or tell you that you haven't heard before? Are you reading *The Councilman* for the first time or have you been bored with the same information over and over? I will try to take a fresh approach with this article.

As a member of a club or a direct member of FWSA we endeavor to offer you a good time, an informative time and an opportunity to meet likeminded enthusiasts of this wonderful world of snowsports and travel. We really endeavor to offer travel opportunities;

discounts on lodging, equipment and services at resorts; recreational racing/boarding, publications; social opportunities; Annual Convention, and so much more.

We need you! Without you we would not exist so as a person that is on the FWSA Board, my council board and my club board we would like to invite you to become a leader in your club, your council and/or the FWSA board. We would like you to spread the word to friends and/or strangers on the benefits of joining in. We need to grow

our clubs and councils and we need you to help. Take the time to read the Skier's Guide that is written for you every year. We have also started to provide educational sessions on how to be/do secretary, travel director and treasurer positions with more to come. Ask your club members if they read the *Far West Skier's Guide* magazine or *The Councilman* and if they don't, explain the benefits of the plethora of information provided.

(Continued from page 24 Councils' Volunteer of the Year)

Council) in 1979. Still an avid skier, Linda continues to contribute to her club, council and FWSA in many different ways.

San Diego Council of Ski Clubs: Martin Wascher

Martin started skiing at age 45. He's

skied in Japan, Europe and 76 ski areas in the US. He started racing in 1989 and has been involved with Far West races ever since. In addition to actively supporting his ski clubs and the San Diego racing program, he rode his bicycle across the U.S. when he was 66 years old.

Sierra League & Council Carlene Rae Tonini Boutacoff

Ten years ago, Carlene was introduced to FWSA activities. Currently she is the Vice President of Travel and Social for Sierra League & Council and has enjoyed bringing over 200 participants to Ski Week. FWSA is more than skiing: it is a community that she looks forward to being a part of now and in the future.

(Continued from page 28 International Travel)

We will be researching details for a land, cruise, and biking through the tulip fields adventure trip for Spring 2029.

As FWSA Vice President of International Travel, I realize that vacation

days are precious. The best ones are those that leave people feeling recharged, inspired with the feeling that the explorations were worthwhile, ones where the most cherished souvenirs bring the grandest memories.

For updates or information on the FWSA International Travel Program:

Debbie Stewart at:
FWSAIntlTrvl@prodigy.net

Mobile – 559/737-0882

FWSA Travel Videos: <http://www.youtube.com/user/FarWestSkiAssoc/videos>



Nancy Ellis

VP North American Travel

2024 STEAMBOAT SKI WEEK— JANUARY 27—FEBRUARY 3, 2024

Excitement is building for our ski week to Steamboat, CO. The resort completed its third and final phase of improvements and expansions last summer and our group will be able to experience a new base center, expanded terrain on Pioneer Ridge and Sunshine Peak. The Wild Blue Gondola has a mid-station to access the Greenhorn Ranch Learning Center and then continues up to Sunshine Peak. This area has new and efficient snowmaking which will give earlier access to the area.

Our councils will be staying at The Bronze Tree, Chateau Chamonix, Eagle Ridge Lodge, Gravity Haus Hotel, Trappeur's Crossing, and The Lodge. The new base area boasts The Range Food & Drink Hall and accessible bars on the bottom and top level. There are firepits, warmed benches, and ice rink. A variety of activities are available for skiers, riders, and non-snowsports enthusiasts. There are Champagne Powder Donut & Hot Cocoa Happy Hours, ice activities, Old Town Hot Springs, Guided Ski Nature Tours, Guided Snowshoe Tours, Sleigh Ride Dinners, Dog Sledding, and Steamboat Grand Spa.

Sara Clemons with Sports America Tours and Larry Young with Steamboat Resort have teamed up to give us memorable experiences at this year's North American Ski Week. There are still openings on the trip. Contact

Nancy Ellis, VP North American Travel, fwsatravel-nancy@sbcglobal.net, for information.

2024 MINI TRIP--COPPER MOUNTAIN, COLORADO, MARCH 17—22, 2024

Copper Mountain, Colorado is the destination for the 2024 Mini Trip. This resort offers diverse terrain for all ability levels from groomed slopes, to challenging bowls, to backcountry adventures. There are many fun activities for everyone such as ice skating, snowshoeing, tubing, sleigh rides, Rocky Mountain Coaster, Free Mountain Tours, Snow Maze, and NASTAR racing to name a few.

Participants have the option to stay at the Cambria Hotel (King or 2-Queen beds) or a Gold Rated 2-bedroom condo (King/Queen beds only). Our lodging is in Center Village and within walking distance of a variety of restaurants, shops, and entertainment.

The 3-day lift tickets are \$273 and 4-day lift tickets are \$346. Those with the IKON Pass, IKON Base Pass Plus, and IKON Base Pass have unlimited access to skiing and riding without any blackout dates.

Check the www.fwsa.org website North American Travel section for trip information and to get the link to register for the trip.

Mountain Stats
25% Beginner Runs
24% Intermediate Runs
34% Advanced Runs

17% Expert Runs
2,527 Acres of Terrain
364 Acres of Snow Making

2025 NORTH AMERICAN SKI WEEK—BANFF, CANADA, JANUARY 25—FEBRUARY 1, 2025

The destination for the 2025 North American Ski Week will be Banff, Canada. We will stay in town at the following lodgings: Banff Park Lodge, Caribou Lodge, Moose Lodge, and Ptarmigan Inn. The Welcome Party will be at Melissa's Missteak, and the Farewell Dinner and Dance will be at Banff Park Lodge. Both are short walks from our lodging.

Skiers and riders will be able to take shuttles to three ski areas, Mt. Norquay, Lake Louise, and Sunshine Village. Shuttles run regularly from several bus stops in town and are free to those with an All Area Lift Ticket or IKON pass. We will have a picnic at Whiskey Jack day lodge at the base of Lake Louise Resort. Non-skiers will be given complimentary shuttle passes to the resort and can purchase sightseeing passes to ride the gondola to sightsee the area from the top of the resort.

Mt. Norquay is located minutes from the town of Banff and offers night skiing. It has 4,200 acres of skiable terrain and has a history as an Olympic and World Cup training ground.

Sunshine Village is in Banff National Park and 15 minutes from the town of

(Continued on page 32)

(Continued from page 31 North American Travel)

Banff. Sunshine is higher in elevation than the other two resorts and often gets the most and fluffiest snow of the three. It has nearly 75 percent of its terrain designated as beginner and intermediate and has some of the area's best expert and extreme terrain, with two off-piste zones off the Continental Divide chairlift.

Lake Louise is known for the "biggest" Banff skiing. It has 25% beginner terrain and a green run accessible from every chairlift, 45% intermediate terrain, and 30% expert terrain. It has terrain for every level and is great for large groups and families.

Banff National Park is a UNESCO World Heritage site which shouldn't be missed. It has some of the world's most beautiful sites such as Lake Louise Lake, breathtaking mountain peaks, and all kinds of wildlife. It is a unique and special destination.

Information about this North American Ski Week will be posted on the fwsa.org website beginning Spring

2024.

Looking forward to seeing you on one of the Far West North American trips! Contact Nancy Ellis at fwsatravel-nancy@sbcglobal.net or www.fwsa.org for updates on the FWSA North American Travel Program.

Photo below: Steamboat site trip.

Front Row, L-R: Laura Priess; Anneli Ford; Lynnell Calkins; Carlene Boutacoff; Mary Alexander. Back Row, L-R: Gloria Raminha; Nancy Ellis; Ken Calkins; Mike Terrey; Karen Albrecht; Sara Clemons; Steve Coxen; Catherine Kornegay.

Photo credit: Nancy Ellis



(Continued from page 26 VP Council Services)

Hood recognizing club and council Facebook groups for outstanding member activity, growth, and engagement.

The **Councils' Volunteer of the Year** recognition program, chaired by Sheri Parshall, offers councils the opportunity to send an outstanding volunteer from their member clubs to the FWSA Annual Convention. Candidates are honored at the FWSA Luncheon and

Awards Banquet and have the chance to receive a prize of a ski trip for two to **Big White Ski Resort** as the overall FWSA Councils' Volunteer of the Year.

The **Charities & Our Community Service** recognition program chaired by Sigrid Noack highlights the impact our clubs and councils make to benefit their communities. Club and council charity and community service activities are awarded a certificate and are featured in a video slide show at the

FWSA Annual Convention.

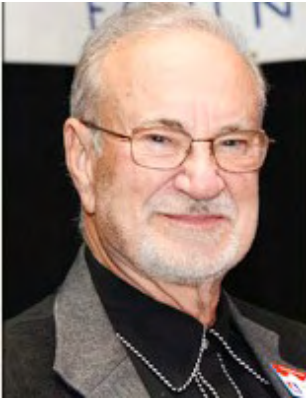
Council Services strives to provide our 10 councils and over a hundred FWSA ski clubs with tools and information to successfully achieve their goals and serve their members. We welcome ideas and feedback from club members and anyone reading this publication. Please contact vpCouncilservices@fwsa.org with your ideas or requests for information.

(Continued from page 29 Marketing and Sponsorship)

ing you all in Reno, where we will cele-

brate our 91st Annual Far West Ski Association Convention. Come try a little "Altitude with Attitude" with all of

our Far West friends and family.



Steve Coxen Public Affairs

SKI AREA DEVELOPMENT Independent Ski Resorts

Aspen Snowmass, CO

Beginning in the 2023-24 season, the area, which has been skied for years by a small number of people, will now be accessed via a high-speed quad and will include 1,220 vertical feet of groomed trails and glades ranging from intermediate to advanced terrain (plus an extension of favorite expert runs such as Walsh's, Kristi, Hyrup's). This will be Aspen Mountain's first significant addition since the opening of the Silver Queen Gondola in December of 1985.

Mt. Hood Meadows, OR

Mt. Hood Meadows is replacing the Mt. Hood Express, a high-speed quad with a detachable six-pack chairlift. Although the new Leitner-Poma chairlift will not increase speed, it is expected to increase capacity by 1,000 people per hour, from 2,600 to 3,600.

Bogus Basin, ID

Bogus Basin just completed its 80th season. The resort has allocated \$5 million to a variety of projects including additional snowmaking equipment, new runs, expanded beginner terrain, RFID technology, and increased lighting for night skiing. Some of that was accomplished prior to 2022-23 ski season. During the 2023 off season, Bogus Basin has installed a new pump on the "back side" to add more snowmaking capacity.

Brundage Mountain, ID

Brundage Mountain is the 4th largest

ski area in Idaho. Located in McCall it has 1,920 skiable acres and averages 320 inches of snow per winter. In 2023 the U.S. Forest Service approved Brundage Mountain's master development plan, which includes proposals for up to seven new lifts, including two more high-speed quads, which could eventually serve substantial terrain expansions. Brundage is replacing the Centennial triple chair installed in 1990 with a Doppelmayr high-speed quad in the summer of 2023. The new quad will cut the ride time from 16 minutes to six minutes. The new lift will be in operation for the 2023-24 ski season.

Big White Ski Resort, BC

For 2023-24 Big White will open a new luxurious and relaxing spa at Stonebridge Lodge, where guest can relax and rejuvenate after an exhilarating day on the slopes. Big White has also purchased a new groomer with advanced technology adding to a fleet of 12 groomers. This new groomer will enhance skiing conditions for guests and increase efficiency in snow grooming operations. Last year replaced 16 cabins on Lara's Gondola. This year the gondola controls have been upgraded for safety, reliability, and efficiency. The River Day Lodge will reopen this winter with many improvements. Big White will be adding two new electric vehicle charging stations.

Jackson Hole, WY

After 31 years of ownership, the Kemmerer family announced in August its intent to sell Jackson Hole Mountain Resort. The Kemmerer family bought

the Resort in 1992, and their passion, dedication and commitment turned the Resort into a world-class destination. As the family watched the consolidation of the ski industry, their highest priority was maintaining the Resort's status as an independent, family-owned ski area. The Kemmerer family found the perfect buyers: Teton County residents, close Kemmerer family friends and Jackson Hole Mountain Resort Board Members Eric Macy, Mike Corbat, their families and a small, select group of co-investors.

Alterra Mountain Company Resorts Steamboat Springs, CO

Steamboat is moving ahead with a \$220 million improvement package which will make it the second largest ski resort in Colorado. The big items that are part of the upgrade include the new Wild Blue Gondola, which Steamboat describes as "the longest and fastest 10-person gondola in North America. With the lower leg opening in 2022-23, and upper leg opening in 2023-24, the state-of-the-art gondola will feed skiers/riders through a newly created mid-station adjacent to Bashor bowl with the final destination at the top of Sunshine Peak." The gondola will be 3.16 miles long with a total riding time of 13 minutes. The Mahogany Ridge expansion will add 650 acres to the north side of the resort. The additional terrain will move Steamboat from the fifth largest resort in Colorado to second place. In addition, improved snowmaking will ensure that the runs

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Bob Ellis VP Racing

Racing during the pandemic was a huge challenge, and we hope to get the racers out this year to enjoy this great sport now that COVID appears to be mostly behind us! Last year at Jackson Hole we had some very fun races. We had the Council Challenge Dual GS at Jackson Hole, which was a lot of fun, as teams were trying to match their times for both runs on the course. In that race it doesn't matter how fast you are. It only matters how consistent you can be on two runs. The camaraderie amongst the teams was tremendous.

The other race we had was at Snow King Mountain, and that was a GS on a steep pitch that was very rhythmic

with the gates set 20 meters apart for most of the course. The course held up well and the temperature was very comfortable that day. Many of the racers commented on how much fun they had on their runs down the hill. Afterwards, we had a picnic lunch in the Snow King lodge, and everybody had a good time socializing.

Believe it or not, ski racing is a very social sport. Racers get to know other racers in their groups, and friendships materialize over time. You end up free skiing with skiers you otherwise would not know. Racing also helps you improve your skiing technique so you will be more comfortable on various types of terrain, and of course it is also fun to

compete with your friends, win or lose! Ski racing can also help skiers with their confidence, which is very important when coming down the mountain.

For 2024, we have tentatively scheduled the Far West Championship races for April 3rd & 4th at Mammoth Mountain. The race clinic will be on Wednesday April 3rd at 10:00 AM, and the GS Race will be at 10:00 AM on Thursday April 4th, with the Slalom at 1:00 PM on the 4th. We will be experimenting this year with mid-week races and see if it is successful.

If you want to improve your technique, or you want to have fun, come on out and give ski racing a shot!

(Continued from page 6 Convention Chair)

ing and Honored Member of the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame, as well as a member of their board of directors. With accompanying videos, Genia took us on a tour of her life, from ice skating at the early age of 2, to learning to freestyle ski in her teens, to putting on ski exhibitions with the likes of Susie Chafee, Bob Salerno, and Scott Brooksbank. Her presentation was followed by a very enthusiastic Live Auction, with Genia auctioning off several autographed "freestyle" posters, with proceeds going toward the Far West Athletic Scholarship Program.

Saturday evening was the time for the Awards Banquet, which was sponsored by Grouse Mountain Lodge.

Barbara Moran welcomed everyone and spoke about her resort, while a short video played. Throughout the banquet, several outstanding awards including, but not limited to: the Far West Council's Volunteer of the Year, the Western Ski Heritage Award, Safety Person of the Year, two Snowsport Builder Awards, the Elizabeth "Schatzi" Wood, the Hans Georg, J. Stanley Mullen, Jimmie Heuga, and Jordan-Reilly Awards, as well as the Bill Mackey and Tommi Tyndall awards for outstanding industry partners were presented. Photos of the winners are shown throughout this magazine.

Elections were held Sunday morning, resulting in the re-election of Linda Westlund – President, Nancy Ellis – V.P. of North American Travel, and Sheri Parshall – Trustee. Newly elected

were Todd Hood – V.P. of Council Services, Chris Gill – Trustee, and Steve Coxen – V.P. of Public Affairs.

As VP of Marketing & Sponsorship, and Convention Chair, I would like to extend a very big "Thank You" to all who attended, including all of our Industry Partners, and our Sponsors: Steamboat Ski & Resort Corp., for the Western Ski Heritage Award and Pub Crawl; Sun Valley, donor of the Delegate Tote Bags; Sports America Tours, sponsor of the Neck Wallets; Aspen/Snowmass & Snowmass Tourism, Golf Tournament sponsors; Visit Boise, sponsor of the Silent Auction Welcome Party; Payette Brewing Company, donor of the beer for Friday and Saturday; Snowvana, sponsor of the beer

(Continued on page 35)



David Krupp

Athletic Scholarship Chair

The Far West Ski Association Athletic Scholarship Program is in its 19th year, growing from an initial \$1,500 in scholarships in 2004 to \$9,050 and 14 recipients in the 2022-2023 season. The total awarded since the program's inception is \$193,000 to 139 recipients. The program is designed to provide financial assistance to junior ski racers throughout the western United States where FWSA has a presence. Applicants must be junior alpine ski racers affiliated with U.S. Ski and Snowboard (USSS) and must participate in racing programs in states where FWSA has regional councils. These include California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Arizona, Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming. Scholarships are awarded based on financial need, athletic performance, academic achievement, and community service.

Skiing is an expensive sport and the costs involved in ski racing cannot be left up to the parents alone to incur. For younger athletes the costs are modest. However, for 15 through 20 year olds, where competition becomes national and even international, the costs can be significant. Without the

help of outside resources, many junior racers simply cannot compete. For a top competitor, expenses can reach \$20,000 per year. This is not a seasonal sport for these racers; it includes a full year of ski-related involvement. After the winter race competition has concluded, competitors engage in dry-land training; then off to summer camps. Camps typically run about \$1,200 per week, not including transportation.

Winter training costs range from \$1,000-\$1,500 each season. Most applicants work part time to offset expenses. The demands on their time is significant. They must balance their time between training, competition, school, work, and community service. Despite these demands, the average GPA for these recipients consistently exceeds a 3.9 average. Our scholarships are modest compared to the need, but they do make a difference in the overall scope of the resources they require.

The funding of the scholarships come from a number of sources: raffles, auctions, club and council partnerships, and direct contributions from club

members, clubs, and councils. The FWSA has greatly benefitted from the generous support from its sponsors including **Whitefish Mountain Resort** (www.skiwhitefish.com), a year round winter and summer resort; and **Grouse Mountain Lodge** in Whitefish, Montana; **Schure Sports, Inc.** (www.karbonmail.com), maker of the Karbon line of snowsports apparel; **US Ski & Snowboard**, and the **Far West Racing Association**. Their contributions of vacation packages, snowsports apparel, and cash bring in approximately \$10,000 per year as raffle and auction proceeds, as well as direct cash donations.

In addition, our partnership program through clubs and councils afford us approximately one third of our scholarship funding each year. Finally, the **Far West Ski Foundation** (www.farwestskifoundation.org), 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, is a valuable resource for encouraging tax exempt donations. For more information on the Far West Athletic Scholarship Program, please visit www.fwsa.org.

(Continued from page 34 Convention Chair)

on Friday night; Mammoth Mountain, wine sponsor on Friday; Big White Ski Resort, sponsor of the Far West Councils' Volunteer of the Year; Telluride Ski & Golf, sponsor of Saturday lunch;

Group Travel Simplicity, sponsor of the luncheon wine; Grouse Mountain Lodge, sponsor of the Awards Banquet on Saturday night, as well as the Athletic Scholarship Program, along with Whitefish Mountain Resort; and finally.. the Boise Centre for hosting our event,

and the Grove Hotel, our host hotel. See you all next June 6-9, in Reno, NV, at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, for the 91st Annual FWSA Convention.



Sigrid Noack

Charities and Our Community Chair

FWSA is proud of the phenomenal charity work our members do to help others. A huge thank you to all our FWSA clubs and councils for being involved with charitable activities. It's amazing how many charities, and what a wonderful variety of organizations, have been impacted by our FWSA members' generosity.

The 17th annual Charity Recognition program was a huge success. Our video expert Paul Vlasveld, BAC president, had agreed to produce our third charities video. A great big thanks for this excellent presentation of what our FWSA family members are all about. They love to help out charitable organizations.

And a special thanks to the 17 ski clubs and 3 councils for supporting our FWSA Charities & Our Community recognition program. These groups took time out of their busy schedules to share their charitable activities in photos with the FWSA.

The following groups were recognized in this year's charities video:

- ARIZONA SKI COUNCIL
- ORANGE COUNCIL OF SKI CLUBS
- LOS ANGELES COUNCIL OF SKI CLUBS
- ACTION SKI & SNOWBOARD CLUB - SDSCC
- ALTAIR SKI & SPORTS CLUB - NWSCC

- BALBOA SKI CLUB - ORANGE COUNCIL
- BOGUS BASIN SKI CLUB - IMSC
- 4 SEASONS WEST SKI & SNOWBOARD CLUB - LAC & NBS-WR
- GET OFF YOUR ROCKERS - SDCSC
- GRINDELWALD SKI CLUB - LAC
- LONG BEACH SKI CLUB - LAC
- MODESTO SKI CLUB - BAC
- MONTEREY SKI & SOCIAL CLUB - BAC
- MOUNTAIN HIGH SNOWSPORT CLUB - NWSCC
- NORTHERN WASATCH SKI & SOCIAL CLUB - IMSC
- PHOENIX SKI CLUB - ASC
- RENO SKI & RECREATION CLUB - SIERRA LEAGUE & COUNCIL
- SKIYENTE SKI CLUB - NWSCC

The FWSA's Silent Auction & Snowsports Trade Show had a display of charity and community service contributions by councils and clubs, and showed a Charities Video featuring these contributions.

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography

- SLO SKIERS, INC. - CENTRAL COUNCIL

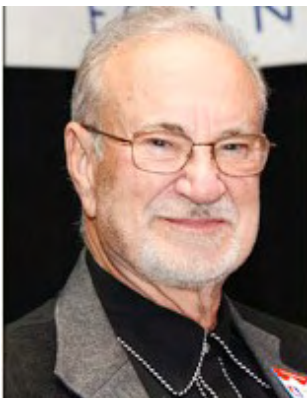
- THE UNRECABLES - LAC

At this year's convention in Boise, these outstanding groups received a FWSA Charity Recognition Certificate of Appreciation and an electronic FWSA Medallion to post on their website and to use in their newsletters.

Our industry friends, our FWSA family, our delegates and guests at this convention, enjoyed stopping by and taking a look at our beautifully interesting charities video, which was played all weekend. It continues to amaze folks, just how really caring our FWSA club members are.

Looking forward to showing another Charity Recognition video in Reno at our 2024 Convention. Let's get ready, and hopefully we will be seeing even more of our ski clubs and ski councils showcasing their charity activities in our fourth charity video.





Steve Coxen Environment

FWSA has partnered with several major snowsport organizations that make a huge impact on the environment and the issues involving climate change. The National Ski Areas Association has been a leader for many years, awarding ski areas and individuals with awards for their efforts to achieve environmental excellence. Protect Our Winters, founded by Jeremy Jones, has been very active in reaching out to our political leaders to solve the issues of climate change. FWSA should be a leader in environmental issues to preserve our snowsports opportunities. FWSA will be reviewing the criteria for our annual Environment Award and with a new sponsor we hope to make this an award that our councils and members will aspire to achieve.

National Ski Areas Association

The NSAA Golden Eagle Awards for Environmental Excellence have celebrated the best North American ski area sustainability programs and the people who make them happen for over 30 years. Award finalists were recognized and the winners announced at NSAA's 2023 National Convention & Tradeshow in Savannah, GA on May 10, 2023. Established in 1993, these awards are the highest honors bestowed on a resort for environmental performance.

- **Overall Environmental Excellence – Wild Mountain, MN**
- **Community and Partnerships – Arapahoe Basin, CO and Big Sky Resort, MT**

- **Climate Change Impact – Vail Resorts, CO**
- **Hero of Sustainability – Jeff Grasser, Copper Mountain, CO**

Far West Ski Association has endorsed the NSAA's Sustainable Slopes Program. The most recent annual report can be found at this link: 2022 Annual Report.

Protect Our Winters

POW has been lobbying at both the State and Federal levels since 2013, giving the organization the opportunity to build relationships with lawmakers and staff on both sides of the aisle. Bipartisan work can be a challenge, but this approach is critical to advocating on behalf of POW's constituents. Over the last three years POW has been lobbying for many of the policies that were included in the "Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)" and the "Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)," marking a huge win for the POW advocates. On June 20 and 21, POW held its first Lobby trip of 2023 in Washington D.C. with 14 Athlete, Science, Creative Alliance members and five Brand Alliance partners to meet with the Biden Administration's agency officials.

POW's key talking points included:

In order to reach our clean energy goals and address climate change, we need to responsibly develop and deploy renewable energy. Renewable energy needs to reach communities, so we also need to rapidly build transmission lines to deploy affordable energy across the country. Communities

that host transmission and other energy infrastructure need real incentives to come to the table and work with developers and other key stakeholders to build and operate this energy infrastructure. Responsible deployment of renewable energy and transmission development must tangibly support local communities. Community participation will help alleviate the growing backlog of permit applications and ensure projects can move forward. POW's proposal would build a fund to support communities, which requires no additional government spending. More information regarding POW's activities can be found at their website: www.protectourwinters.org.

Lisa Jennings, Group Sales Specialist for Snowmass Tourism, at the FWSA's Silent Auction at the Annual Convention. Aspen Snowmass is the sponsor of the FWSA's Environment Award, and Aspen Snowmass and Snowmass Tourism sponsored the Top Golf event.

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography



(Continued from page 33 Public Affairs)

on Sunshine Peak are “consistently covered and can open early.”

Mammoth Mountain, CA

Mammoth Mountain is replacing the Canyon Express chairlift with a new Doppelmayr D-Line 6-Pack detachable high-speed chairlift featuring an enclosed top and bottom terminal. The ride time will remain the same but the lift is expected to transport an additional 800 skiers per hour.

Palisades Tahoe, CA

The new 2.4 mile gondola at Palisades Tahoe opened last winter and made Palisades Tahoe and Alpine Meadows the largest ski resort in California (6,000 acres) and third largest in North America behind Whistler Blackcomb, BC and Park City, UT. The connection is a 16 minute ride from Palisades to K-22 to Alpine. The gondola has 96 cabins that can carry 8 passengers each. The resort offers 41 lifts and 279 ski runs.

Vail Resorts

Attitash, NH

The much anticipated Mountaineer is a

high-speed 4-passenger chairlift that will reduce ride time to 6-minutes, increase uphill capacity and improve the flow of the Attitash base area.

Breckenridge, CO

The Peak 8 base area will be upgraded to enhance the beginner and children’s experience and increase uphill capacity. A new high-speed 4-person chairlift will replace the existing 2-person fixed grip 5-Chair. The new investments at Breckenridge will provide a clear path to progression on Peak 8, with Rip’s Ride servicing learning and beginner terrain, 5-Chair servicing beginner and intermediate terrain, and the Colorado and Rocky Mountain Super Chairs servicing intermediate and advanced terrain.

Keystone, CO

The Bergman Bowl replacement is expected to be completed in 2023. The high-speed, six passenger Bergman Bowl Express Lift will add 555 acres of lift-served, intermediate-and-above level high alpine terrain with 16 new trails in Bergman and Erickson Bowls.

Stevens Pass, WA

The Kehr’s 2-person chair will be re-

placed with a new fixed grip 4-person lift to improve out-of-base capacity and the guest experience.

Whistler Blackcomb, BC

Vail Resorts plans to replace the Fitzsimmons high-speed quad lift with a new eight person high-speed chairlift in 2023. The Jersey Cream high-speed quad will be replaced by a new six-person high-speed lift in 2024.

Boyne Resorts

Big Sky Resort, MT

Big Sky Resort expects to open the new Lone Peak Tram during the 2023-24 season. The resort announced on August 8th that the lift’s sole tower was finished and crews would begin installing the haul rope. Unlike other lifts that use a series of towers to ascend a mountain, the Lone Peak Tram will use just one tower to bring skiers to Lone Peak’s 11,166 ft summit. The lift will have two tram cabins, each cabin capable of transporting 75 passengers. Travelling at 22 miles per hour the ride time will be under 4 minutes. The cost to ride the new Tram will change from a daily rate to a per ride fee.

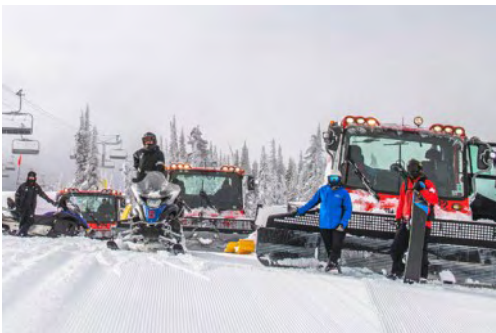
(Continued from page 25 Communications)

the years. This year alone, we have added video of our two Snowsports Leadership Academy sessions and the Public Affairs session from the convention. They are also available on our YouTube channel. Additionally, we have several videos on our YouTube page. George Stewart continues to produce our videos and slide shows. As our multimedia chair, he produced

marketing videos in the past and our upcoming trips. They can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/user/FarWestSkiAssoc>.

Our Social Media chair, Jane Gutierrez has stepped down and for the time being I will be overseeing our social media presence with an assist from Gloria Raminha. We are actively recruiting someone to take over as chair. If you know someone that is qualified,

please reach out and let us know. We have recently enlisted help from one of the International Travel Staff to help us get our Instagram page up and running. If you are a social media guru and would like to help or contribute, please reach out to us at socialmedia@fwsa.org.



Left: Love corduroy? Big White Ski Resort added two, brand-new grooming machines to their already impressive fleet, bringing the total to 12.

Photo credit: Big White Ski Resort



Jane Wyckoff

History Committee Chair

The Far West Ski Association's history program was founded in the early 2000's, and the primary reasons were to: expose or educate members to the dynamic history of their sport; provide educational material for public use; promote the establishment, growth, and continuance of preservation in learning centers and museums; and provide opportunities for research into snowsports history.

The program started with an award for a club or council that produced a body of work that educated members about their history. The amount of work required discouraged participation, so another recognition program was created giving Historic Recognition for Clubs, Councils, Ski Patrols and Ski Schools with over 50 years in existence. The Western Ski Heritage Award, sponsored by the Steamboat Resort since 2000, was designed to recognize recent work which shows the role of snowsports in the larger community. We have recognized many authors and research projects over the years.

2023 History Award/Recognition Recipients

Submissions were received for all three programs this year, and congratulations to the winners, who were recognized at the 90th Annual Far West Ski Association Convention. They were as follows:

- **Western Ski Heritage Award** – John W. Lundin, for his work to preserve ski jumping history, ex-

pressing Norwegian identity, and its role in the development of skiing in America.

- **History Recognition Award** – Rusty Bindings Ski Club for their book, "Rusty Bindings 50: 1971-2021," Tony Baker, Historian and Editor.
- **Historic Ski Clubs** – Sun Valley Ski Club, Founded in 1936 and Century City Ski Club, Founded in 1972.

Tony Baker volunteered to conduct one of the Snowsports Leadership Academy Sessions to explain how easy it is to prepare and publish a history for a club or council. John W. Lundin offered to join him, since he recently published a history of the Sun Valley Ski Club. Together they presented a highly informative session, entitled, "Preserving Ski Club History – The Ease of Preparing a Digital History Book." Please visit the Far West Ski Association's YouTube Channel to view their presentation, located at www.youtube.com/user/farwestskiassoc/videos.

Snowsports Museum & Library News

There is exciting news in the development of ski libraries and 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 ven-

ture with the Batiste Family, The Boatworks owners, and the SNOW Sports Museum Foundation. The SNOW Sports Museum Foundation is pursuing constructing 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 rare 1960 Winter Olympics artifacts and memorabilia. Others quickly added their contributions, including memorabilia from World Cup skiers. For additional information see

www.thesnowmuseum.org.

The Professional Ski Instructors of America (PSIA) and American Association of Snowboard Instructors (AASI) - Western Region recently announced a partnership with the California Ski Library making it the official PSIA-W archive/repository. An extensive trove of artifacts and records dating back to the 1930's, outlining the growth of the ski industry in California, will be added to the library. PSIA-W celebrated its 75th Anniversary this year. Located in Norco, California, the Ski Library has a unique collection of books, magazines, photographs, and ephemera related to all facets and disciplines of skiing. Ingrid Wicken, Founder and Curator, is in the process of expanding the size to double what it

(Continued on page 40)



Alan Christian Far West Ski Foundation Chair



Far West Ski Foundation is a non-profit organization that facilitates tax deductible donations for the Far West Ski Association. We are completing our 6th decade of philanthropic endeavors. Our volunteers and contributors mostly hail from clubs and councils within the Far West. Industry partners play a key roll by offering ski packages and other items of value which we auction off at our annual convention. Proceeds are then granted to individuals or organizations that fall into four broad categories.

- Scholarships for junior racers (Building for the Future)
- Support for adaptive programs (Rehabilitation and Renewal)
- Grants to museums and historical archives (Preserving the Legacy)
- Grants to developing snowsports activities (Sustaining Snowsports)

We also receive significant donations from individuals who are motivated to support our missions and who just

want to “give back” to the sport that has meant so much to all of us. In the past year, ‘in memoriam’ donations have been received to honor departed skiers. We archive such donations and I encourage you to spread the word among your clubs and councils that FWSF is a respected conduit that directs funds to a broad range of snowsports activities. For more information I can be contacted at alanchristian87@gmail.com or 925-451-9314. Checks or transfers are facilitated by our Treasurer, John Reinhardt, johnreinhardt@hotmail.com 503-954-1941.

Another fund raising initiative is our See’s Candy Yum-Raising which supported two scholarships for junior racers last fall. Spearheaded by Jane Wyckoff, past See’s executive, we encourage everyone to order some candy for the winter holidays or Easter in springtime. Look for ordering information in November and February and treat your sweet tooth while supporting our western junior racers.

I’m visiting most of the ski museums in the west and will have toured the US Ski Hall of Fame by the publication of this fall Councilman. I hope that these in person visits will better inform our support of the western historical archives. Expansions have recently been undertaken at the Sun Valley Museum of History and the Colorado Snowsports Museum and Hall of Fame in Vail. I was heartened to see two of my classmates from the University of Colorado included...both very deserving. In California, major expansions are in progress at the California Ski Library and the developing SNOW Sports Museum where I hope to see all our major award recipients displayed as they have been in the Western SkiSport Museum.

For more information on your Foundation, visit the website <https://farwestskifoundation.org>. Interested in joining our board or offering ideas? Give me a call.

(Continued from page 39) History

is now. Additional information can be found at: www.skilibrary.com.

If you have any snowsports memorabilia, artifacts, pictures, stories you would like to share, or donate your volunteer time and/or finances in support of the preservation of snowsports history, please contact the SNOW Sports Museum or California Ski Library directly. They would welcome and ap-

preciate your support.

The Far West Ski Association Turns 90 Book

“The Far West Ski Association Turns 90” book was produced digitally with a limited print run and is now available online. Published in 2020, it celebrates the history of the Far West Ski Association and contains historic articles by renowned award-winning authors. We still have a limited number of printed copies available for sale.

You simply need to link into the FWSA Store on our website at www.fwsa.org and can pay online.

FWSA to Celebrate 100 Years in 2030

It is not too early to start thinking about the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Far West Ski Association in 2030. If you like to contribute to this project as a researcher or writer, please contact me at history@fwsa.org.



Barbara Razo

National Ski Patrol Liaison

First and foremost, I want to extend my great appreciation to the FWSA Board of Directors, the FWSA Service Awards Committee, the FWSA Safety Committee, and Jane Wyckoff for nominating and awarding me the esteemed honor of being named the 2023 FWSA Richard Lubin Safety Person of the Year. I am truly thrilled and humbled. I am so happy to be reengaged with the Far West Ski Association as the National Ski Patrol Liaison and look forward to being a part of the preservation, growth and continued success of our membership and programs.

Our 2022-2023 winter season was definitely one for the history books. I don't know that I will ever experience such winter wonderlands in the Far West ever again in my lifetime but I sure hope I do! The Southern Sierra snowpack reached 219% of its normal levels. Early numbers from the National Ski Areas Association (NSAA) show U.S. ski areas had record levels of visitation for the 2022-2023 season with a total of 64.7 million skier/rider visits- a 6.6% increase over the previous season. With more people on the slopes, the services our NSP members provide are evermore invaluable, depended upon, and necessary. There were more than 24,000 people enrolled in and took part in the coveted NSP Education Programs.

We are through most of the summer months and many of the local Far West Resorts have had a couple months with their summer Bike Parks

in full operation. Many of these resorts are utilizing well-trained and seasoned volunteers from the National Ski Patrol. The NSP has been busy developing several courses of a series to assist bike patrol training and develop skills in bike patrollers and bike host members. The first course is "Intro in Patrolling: Bike Fundamentals." This online course is available in the NSP Center for Learning. Additional planned trainings include a Bicycling Enhancement Seminar which will be hands-on riding skills to progress the biker patrollers to becoming safer and more efficient riders. Entertaining our local communities and guests in our bike parks bring a heightened awareness of the potential blunt force traumas to the abdomen which is a common occurrence due to the terrain, speed and force of riding accidents. These injuries can cause moderate to severe damages to the liver, spleen and kidney organs. These types of injuries can be life-changing and life-threatening, hence the focus on ensuring our summer patrollers are well educated and trained and as always ready to respond and save lives.

National Ski Patrol Celebrates 85th Anniversary

1938 - 2023

National Ski Patrol started in 1938 in Stowe, VT to address the need for national ski rescue by Charles Minot "Minnie" Dole (grew to over 4,000 members and 300 patrols by 1950). In 1941, National Ski Patrol was ap-

pointed by the United States Army to recruit and vet soldiers for the 87th Mountain Infantry Regiment and 10th Mountain Division. National Ski Patrol became a congressionally chartered non-profit organization under Title 36 of the United States Code in 1980 (officially sanctioned by the US Government). National Ski Patrol is now the largest winter education organization in the world with over 31,000 members across 650+ patrols. Join us in celebrating over eight decades of history.

Our recruiting efforts are one of our top never-ending initiatives. Just like many other volunteer organizations, our younger generations are not joining these very historical organizations like the Far West Ski Association and the National Ski Patrol. If you know of anyone interested in joining NSP, please feel free to share my email brazo@bigbearskipatrol.com.

Here is list of the many perks!

National Ski Patrol Benefits

- World-class first responder education and training - Outdoor Emergency Care
- Educational and cultural exchange opportunities - NSP J1 Visa Program
- Knowledge and experience sharing - Ski Patrol Magazine
- Connection to a supportive community of over 32,000 members

(Continued on page 44)



Monica Palmer Safety Chair

Skiing and snowboarding in deep powder is awesome. However, tree wells, areas of loose, unconsolidated snow at the base of trees, can be extremely hazardous, and can even cause death from Snow Immersion Suffocation (SIS). When skiing in areas where tree wells and deep snow are a potential hazard, always ski with a buddy.

What is a Tree Well and Snow Immersion Suffocation (SIS) Accident?

A tree well/snow immersion suffocation accident can happen when a skier or snowboarder falls - usually headfirst - into a tree well or deep loose snow and becomes immobilized and trapped under the snow and suffocates. In an inverted position you can become trapped under the snow. Breathing becomes difficult as the loose snow packs in around you. Without immediate help from your partner, you may suffocate.

Prevention of falling into a tree well, or areas of deep snow, is all-important because the odds of surviving deep snow immersion are low. **A total of 90% of people involved in Tree Well/SIS hazard research experiments could NOT rescue themselves.** If a partner is not there for immediate rescue, the skier or rider may die very quickly from suffocation - in many cases, he or she can die as quickly as someone can drown in water.

What is a Tree Well?

A tree well is a void or depression that forms around the base of a tree. It can contain a mix of low hanging branches, loose snow and air. These voids can be hidden from view by the tree's low hang-

ing branches. There is no easy way to identify if a particular tree has a dangerous tree well by sight therefore, treat all tree wells as dangerous. Most all Tree Well/SIS accidents happen in ungroomed terrain. You can easily identify and avoid these areas.

The picture from the site of a fatal Tree Well/SIS accident demonstrates that even very small trees with just their tops visible can be lethal.

TIP: In dense tree areas or in poor visibility, ski or ride short pitches and stop to regroup often - stay within sight of your partner! More than half of all SIS victims were with partners that did not see them go down. Lose sight of your partner and you could lose your friend.

What if you go down?

- Yell or use a whistle to get your partner's attention.
- Do whatever you can to keep your head above the surface of the snow including rolling, grabbing tree branches or the tree trunk. If possible, keep your feet below the level of your head.
- If you become immersed, make a space around your face and protect your airway - resist the urge to struggle, it could compromise your airspace and entrap you further.
- Stay calm to conserve air.
- Trust your partner is on their way.
- If possible, use your cell phone to call the ski patrol or the resort's

emergency number.

Keep your partner in site at all times.

- Don't leave to get help. Stay with your partner.
- Call for additional resources. Use a whistle or yell for assistance. If possible, call ski patrol or the resort's emergency phone number.
- Evaluate scene safety for yourself.

Immediately begin snow immersion rescue efforts. Go directly for the airway, and keep it Clear, being careful not to knock more snow into the hole. Clear any snow from the airway and continue necessary first aid or extrication efforts.

Do not try to pull the victim out the way they fell in. Instead, determine where the head is and tunnel in from the side.

When tunneling directly to the airway be careful not to knock more snow into the hole. Continue expanding the tunnel to the airway until you can extricate the body. Efficient "strategic shoveling techniques" with multiple rescuers is very useful.

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This article is provided with permission from: Paul Baugher, Director of Northwest Avalanche Institute@mountainguides.com, (253) 508-1898 cell and Gwyn Howat, Operations Manager Mt. Baker Ski Area, Inc., 1420 Iowa Street, Bellingham, WA 98229, gwyn@mtbaker.us, 360-734-6771



Jane Wyckoff

Editor, Far West Skier's Guide

The 2023-2024 *Far West Skier's Guide* Digital Edition is scheduled for publication in October. This 36th Annual edition will be another large issue of 100 pages, jam-packed with information regarding Far West Ski Association programs and a council section featuring each of our 10 councils with club lists. We also include industry news with updated initiatives, and feature articles you will enjoy reading. We encourage you to link into the Skier's Guide at www.fwsg.org and download the digital copy.

The site is interactive, so you will be able to link into club and council websites, the FWSA YouTube Channel, and advertiser slide shows and videos. Please remember that it is important to support our advertisers, by including them in our club or council future travel plans!

Subscription Available: Due to requests by individuals and councils for printed copies, they are now available, but by subscription only, if ordered prior to October 20. The cost for one or two copies going to the same ad-

dress is \$20.00, and for three or more copies going to the same address, the cost is discounted to \$15.00 each, and sold in increments of three. These prices are inclusive of mailing fees. You can purchase your subscription online by going into www.fwsa.org and click on the FWSA Store, and follow the directions. If you do not want to purchase online, please contact Randy Lew at treasurer@fwsa.org to make arrangements to purchase a copy.

Post a Link on your Council and Club Websites: Clubs are welcome and encouraged to post the link on their website, so their members can link directly into the publication, and see all their benefits as a FWSA member. A notification will be sent to the council and club presidents in October with the Live Link site for a direct link, and a Curl Icon link for your webmaster to post.

Two Volume FWSG Collection Donated to the California Ski Library: Leigh Gieringer and I started the *Far West Skier's Guide* publication back in 1988. This year we donated a two vol-

ume collection of the 35 Editions of the *Far West Skier's Guide* to the California Ski Library in Norco, California. We have copies of almost all the past issues for 3-4 additional libraries, including the SNOW Sports Museum In Northern California. The one issue we need is 1998-1999. If someone has a copy of this issue and is willing to donate for a library or museum collection, please contact us.

We truly appreciate any and all assistance provided over the years to continue to produce a high quality publication for our members, industry partners, and snowsports enthusiasts throughout the west, in addition to readers throughout the United States and abroad. If you have a topic of special interest to you, and would like to contribute an article, we would be more than happy to discuss it with you for next year's edition! To contact us, please send an E-mail to skiers-guide@fwsa.org, and it will reach both Leigh Gieringer, Publisher at Leigh Gieringer Graphic Services, and myself, as Editor.



Left: Mary Alexander, a member of Avalanche Ski & Sports Club, visits with Chris McCarthy and Art Rivers, Regional Group Sales Managers from Overseas Adventure Travel at the Silent Auction & Snowsports Trade Show at the FWSA Annual Convention.

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography



Todd Hood

Succession Planning Committee

Looking For Leaders? Do You POP with POWER?

All our organizations need a pipeline of leaders. These are people that are hyper-loyal to your organization. Loyalists have enjoyed enough experiences through your organization that they feel indebted. They recognize their need to "pay it forward." They want your organization to not just survive, but to thrive. And they want to share your organization with others.

Don't solely look "around the table" for your leaders. Many leaders may not currently hold an elected or leadership position. Leaders rise to the top, as long as you do not suppress them. Leaders spend their free time thinking about and discussing ways to improve their organization. They contact others about your organization. They come up with new ideas. They share your organization with others. They post on your social media sites. They identify with your organization. They care about your organization.

In order to prime your pipeline of leaders, your snowsports organization

needs three things: participation, opportunity, and purpose.

Participation

Snowsports organizations need to be active in order to thrive. Members need to have something to do, something to remember, and something to share with others. Activities give members the opportunity to meet and bond with others of similar interests. Memories of these experiences build loyalty for your organization. Does your organization host activities that members cannot get on their own?

Opportunity

Leaders want to see an opportunity to make a difference right where they are. The less effort they have to make outside their comfort zone, the more aligned they are personally to the activity and the organization. Does your organization offer members and volunteers an opportunity to bring their own POWER to make a difference?

Perspective - what they think

Outlook - what they see for the future

Wisdom - what they have learned

Experience - what they have done

Resources - what they can share

Purpose

Members need to feel that they belong to an organization with value. Volunteers want to know they are making a difference. They want to share a burning "why" that excites them. The purpose is what keeps them engaged and involved, even through trials and hardships. What is your organization's purpose(s)?

If your snowsports organization does not POP, there are changes to make, so go ahead and make them quickly. Host activities. There are active clubs that are attracting new members each month. Members turn into volunteers, and they turn into leaders, who fuel your leadership pipeline. Your local snowsports council, and the Far West Ski Association have resources to help your organization be one of these organizations that survive and thrive.

Contact: SuccessionPlanning@fwsa.org to join the discussion on how your organization can POP with POWER.

(Continued from page 41 National Ski Patrol)

- Epic Pro Deals from industry leading brands for members
- Discounted member pricing on partner and exclusive NSP product

The leaders of the National Ski Patrol are working collaboratively on faster

decision-making, governance and accountability. The NSP Board of Directors and Executive Committees are focusing on continuing to be a world leader of Communication, Culture and Curriculum. As new generations and populations discover the joy of snowsports, we must ensure that everyone we care for, everyone we train, and

everyone who joins the NSP feels welcome and safe.

I am looking forward to the coming days, months and years to refine and share my skills, education, mentoring, training, and experiences doing what I am so passionate about. That includes my volunteer efforts with the Far West Ski Association.



Kristy Welsh Arizona Ski Council



The Arizona Ski Council (ASC) was formed in 1991 and represents two active ski/activity clubs, totaling around 500 members, serving skiers, snowboarders, hikers, bikers, social members and all types of adventurers. The clubs are not limited to activities in the United States but all over the world. Our clubs share reciprocity between each other, so one only needs membership in one of the clubs, to enjoy the benefits of both.

The council and our clubs typically plan activities throughout the year and COVID-19 seems like it's finally in the rear view mirror. A full roster of trips are planned, from ski trips (of course), to sailing, to scuba adventures for 2023-24. The social and activity calendar is going full steam ahead, with many weekend activities like hiking, biking and camping planned and enjoyed throughout the year.

Clubs that participate in ASC are the Phoenix Ski Club and the Scottsdale Sea & Ski Club.

The Phoenix Ski Club (PSC) - is much more than just skiing. PSC is an active adult social club, whose focus is on going full speed ahead with year-round activities. PSC is always open to new suggestions for events, activities and adventures. They pride themselves in offering a variety of activities designed to appeal to everybody. Traveling out of the country or down the road to bike, hike, sail or ski, this group focuses on connecting with new friends and experiences. PSC is also involved in a number of charities, such

as Adopt-a-Highway, Showbox Ministry, Sojourner Center, Toys for Tots, the Phoenix Rescue Mission and distributing bottles of water for the Salvation Army.

The Phoenix Ski Club's ongoing initiative is offering family events to engage kids in winter activities. The hope is to engage more parents to get their kids involved in skiing. Check out their activities and trips and social gatherings, on their website. Watch out for their upcoming schedule. There are some very fun adventures, such as a Tanzania Safari.

The Scottsdale Sea & Ski Club (SSSC) - is oriented towards active adults 21 years or older. SSSC provides year-round activities including snow skiing and snowboarding for all levels, hiking, biking, rollerblading, tubing, theme parties, camping, road trips, day and weekend outings, out of town trips, art walks, wine tasting, boating, water and jet skiing, scuba diving, kayaking, paddle-boarding, as well as weekly happy hours and monthly dinners at local restaurants. They are a club on the move. Watch out for the SSSC events. Look for exciting trips like the Rhine River Trip, coming up. Don't just dream of having an exciting life - join the Scottsdale Sea & Ski Club and make it happen.

The Scottsdale Sea & Ski Club has a cell phone app for your convenience. Go download it. Their website also has downloading instructions.

Follow the individual links, connected to each club, to see some of the amaz-

ing trips planned for 2023-24.

Be sure to check out their Facebook pages.

Arizona Ski Council

www.arizona-ski-council.org

President: Kristy Welsh

president@arizona-ski-club.org

Arizona Ski & Social Clubs

Member Clubs & Contact Information

Phoenix Ski Club

Website: www.phxskiclub.org

President: Linda Johnston

president@phxskiclub.org

Scottsdale Sea and Ski Club

Website: www.scottski.org

President: **Joe Iagulli**

president@scottski.org

Jon Kunkler and Rachel Heim display trail maps and additional information about Mt. Bachelor at the Silent Auction & Snowsports Trade Show at the Annual FWSA Convention in Boise.

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography





Paul Vlasveld Bay Area Snow Sports Council



You will always hear how proud we are of the volunteers within the Bay Area Snow Sports Council (BAC)!

In April the BAC board was elected. Congratulations to all.

We are already planning for next year's Ski Week to Steamboat Springs and a mini trip to Whitefish.

At the Convention in Boise BAC won several awards including the following:

Charity – Diamond Recognition -- Monterey Ski and Social club

Club Newsletter – Dennie Warren – Castro Valley Ski Club

Club Outstanding Website – Bob Burke – Inskiers Ski and Snowboard Club

Council Newsletter – Dennie Warren

Council Website – Cathy and Jenn Wilson

Stanley J Mullin Award – Paul Vlasveld

Congratulations to Tony Baker for winning the FWSA Councils' Volunteer of

the Year award. Tony also presented at the Snowsports Leader Academy session about preserving a club's history.

Rusty Bindings Ski Club won the FWSA History Recognition Award for their 50 Year history book, "Rusty Bindings 50: 1971-2021," by Tony Baker, Historian and Editor.

For racing, we are investigating some different formats including having the races on a Friday and Saturday. We are hoping this will increase the number of racers.

The 2024 Far West Ski Association Convention will be held June 2024, Reno, NV. It will be co-hosted by BAC and Sierra Council. Planning is in progress. The Theme is "Altitude With Attitude".

Here is what some of our clubs are planning:

Club events

Monterey Ski and Social Club –Friday

Night Club-Monarch Pub/PG Rotary Concours Rally

Snow Chasers Ski Club -- BBQ Meeting

Rusty Bindings Ski club – Camping/ Glamping – Nevada City

Santa Rosa Ski Club – 3rd Summer Club Meeting Wine Tasting & Bocce Ball

Nisei Ski Club -- Nisei Ski Club's 65th Anniversary

Modesto Ski Club -- Aug 19 -- Kayaking on Pinecrest Lake and Lunch

In closing . . . I have had the honor and privilege of representing The Greatest Council in FWSA. The dynamic and diverse people who have been and currently are members of the Bay Area Snow Sports Council and Far West Ski Association Board of Directors that continue to make BAC a thriving and successful Council.

Right: BAC delegates to the FWSA Annual Convention in Boise with Genia Fuller-Crews, Snowsports Builder Award recipient (2nd from Left). Left to Right: Armand Gutierrez, Sandy Gaudette, Phil Gaudette, Paul Vlasveld, Tony Baker, Beth Brookhouse, Harry and Karen Davis.

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography





Fran Long Central Council



The Central Council of California is made up of ski, sport, and social clubs in Fresno, Clovis, Bakersfield, Salinas, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Barbara. These clubs are open to any type of snowsports enthusiast, and even to those who just like to socialize with snowsports people in their geographic area.

Our clubs range in size from about 15 members in one of our smaller clubs, to well over 200 members in our larger clubs. The smaller clubs - Camber Ski Club in Salinas, Clovis Ski and Travel Club in Clovis, and Avalanche Ski Club in Bakersfield tend to offer activities such as dinners, hikes, and short trips to our local resorts. They generally do not offer weeklong trips or events. For a longer trip, members of those clubs will tag onto trips being offered by our larger clubs.

The larger clubs - Fresno Ski Club, Santa Barbara Ski and Sports Club, and SLO Skiers in San Luis Obispo offer a plethora of trips and activities on and off the snow. You will find each of these clubs offering one or two

weeklong snowsports trips plus a few local area weekend trips each year. In addition to snowsports trips, the larger clubs offer adventure trips, camp trips, hikes, dine around opportunities, happy hours, and local social gatherings. There is truly something for everyone.

Our club members are looking forward to another fantastic ski season and are currently signing up for their clubs' snowsports events for 2024. Santa Barbara Ski and Sports Club is all set to go to Steamboat, Colorado and Banff, Alberta, Canada for their two weeklong trips. Additionally, they have three long weekend trips to Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, California. Fresno Ski Club is excited to be offering a ten-day trip to Zermatt, Switzerland, and a five-day trip to Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, California. Fresno also includes day trips to their local mountain, China Peak. SLO Skiers, in San Luis Obispo, has a full weeklong trip to Big Sky, Montana and a five-day trip to Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, California. As you can see, there is a busy

ski season coming up!

Most snowsports enthusiasts have a group of friends or family members that get together to ski or ride throughout the winter season. So, what do ski clubs offer beyond what you are already doing with your family and/or friends? In a word, more opportunities. More opportunities to meet, and develop friendships with, like-minded individuals; more opportunities to get on the snow in new and different locations; more access to good lodging and lift ticket/pass deals; many more opportunities to socialize back in your hometown area.

Central Council of California ski clubs are not just about having fun. In addition to the fun, all Central Council clubs are involved in doing some sort of charitable or philanthropic activities within their geographic communities. From picking up trash on the beach, to supporting the local food bank or homeless shelter, our clubs believe in giving back to the community.

The Public Affairs Panel, with Steve Coxen, FWSA Past President as Moderator (Left), featured snowsports experts Tony Harrison-Publicist, Ski Idaho (Middle) and Brad Wilson -General Manager of Bogus Basin Mountain Recreation Area (Right). A wide range of topics were covered including climate change and the effects of the SHRED Act.

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography





Sandy Blackwell

Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs



LAC had a great time over the summer months with a few additional trips to Mammoth through end of July as they still had snow. A few clubs did trips to the Sacramento Delta for water skiing, and kayaking, and a happy hour or two or three was enjoyed. There is always much going on in the Los Angeles area.

FWSA Convention – Boise, Idaho (June 14 to 18, 2023) was a great time for all. The LAC Volunteer of the Year, Pete Smith (Wailers), was a great candidate in this honorary competition, and we thank him for being

such a volunteer to have been so honored. Many of our clubs won awards for communication – newsletter, website, and Century City Ski Club was honored with its Historic Club Award for 50 years.

As we enter into winter, we already have 5 clubs doing Mammoth trips and/or week-long trips. Beach Cities – Snowmass; Century City – 5 Mammoth trips starting in December through April, and 3 week-long trips, with one of those to Niseko, Japan. Long Beach has 5 Mammoth trips planned, and a week-long trip to Sun

Valley, Idaho. Wailers has 5 trips to Mammoth planned, and The Unrecables beats them all with 8 Mammoth trips planned to start in mid-November. So, there will be no lack of options for skiing this coming winter.

Lastly, LAC is looking forward to the FWSA 2024 Steamboat, Colorado trip at the end of January, it should be a great trip.

The LAC website has some wonderful updates, please check it out: www.losangelescouncil.org

Below: Jane Wyckoff, David Krupp, Sandy Blackwell, and Tood Hood representing Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs S/B Jane Wyckoff, David Krupp, and Sandy Blackwell representing Los Angeles Council and Todd Hood, formerly with LAC and representing the National Brotherhood of Snowsports-Western Region at the FWSA Convention.

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography



Above: Sara Clemons, Sports America Tours, speaks with Jessica Han, from The Unrecables, about future Los Angeles Council club trips at the FWSA's Silent Auction & Snowsports Trade Show conducted at the Annual Convention.

Photo credit: Steve Strickland/Strictly Photography



David Geiger

National Brotherhood of Snowsports, Western Region



The National Brotherhood of Skiers is now The National Brotherhood of Snowsports!

The name change is a monumental decision to be more inclusive of all Snowsports disciplines. We still maintain our acronym, The NBS!

The National Brotherhood of Skiers (NBS), now known as the National Brotherhood of Snowsports, was founded in 1973. It comprises over 50 clubs throughout the United States, with approximately 3,800 members throughout its member clubs. The NBS hosts its Annual Summit, one of the nation's largest gatherings of skiers and snowboarders.

The NBS recently concluded its 50th Anniversary Summit in Vail, Colorado, this past February 2023, where over 2000 registered members and additional snow enthusiasts gathered for the weeklong celebration. The Annual Summit is a fundraiser that supports the NBS Olympic Scholarship Fund

and its mission to identify, develop, and support athletes of color who will compete in Olympic and international winter sports competitions, representing the United States and increasing participation in winter sports. The NBS national team currently has 23 athletes that compete nationally. There are four regions within the NBS: the western, rocky mountain, mid-west, and eastern regions. Each region has a Vice President and Board of Directors and reports to the current NBS President, Henry Rivers.

The National Brotherhood of Snowsports Western Region (NBSWR) covers California, Nevada, Arizona, Oregon, and Washington, comprising 14 active member clubs serving their area communities. We are happy to announce the rejuvenation of a 15th club, Four Seasons Northwest, in Seattle, Washington, that has re-applied for membership. Many of our member clubs have year-round adult and family activities, including skiing (Alpine and

Nordic), snowmobiling, bicycling, hiking, camping, river rafting, houseboating, and jazz festivals. "We are focused on the growth and prosperity of our clubs, supporting the mission of the NBS to diversity in Snowsports with passion, unity, and harmony through fun and education" - David Geiger, Vice President NBSWR.

The NBSWR has partnered with the Far West Ski Association to increase cultural awareness in Snowsports and create opportunities to educate and expose member clubs and councils to diversity, equity, and inclusion concepts. Members of the NBSWR actively participate in the Far West Ski Association (FWSA) Annual Convention, and our member clubs are encouraged to attend.

The National Brotherhood of Snowsports Western Region is open to working with other Snowsports organizations in pursuing initiatives and promoting diversity and inclusion in winter sports. We are proud of our work thus far and look forward to greater opportunities.



Left: SnowBusters Ski Club of Pasadena members attended the National Brotherhood of Snowsports' 50th Golden Anniversary Black Summit, held at Vail, Colorado, February 4-11, 2023

Photo credit: Vail Resorts Photography



Sheri Parshall Northwest Ski Club Council



Greetings, Far West Ski Association members and friends!

We here in the Great Northwest hope your summers have been fun-filled and relaxing. We all enjoyed our time in Boise (thank you, Intermountain Ski Council!!!). But it's getting to be that time of year when we're all looking to the upper elevations, and starting to plan a new season of frozen adventures.

NWSCC, along with our PACRAT Race League, have both recently held elections, and I'm pleased to introduce you to the 2023-2024 boards for both organizations:

NWSCC

President – Sheri Parshall; Vice President – Sue Rimkeit; Secretary – Laurie

Steinbruck; Treasurer – Bill King; Director of Communications/Webmaster/Newsletter Editor – Linda McGavin; Director of Membership – Chris Ciardi; Director of Public Affairs – Steve Coxen; Director of Travel – Barbara McLean; Director of Social Media – Marc Galt; Regional Reps Tom Arnold and Norvin Peer

PACRAT

President – Ulla Brunette; Vice President – Mark Stanford; Secretary – Dan Lane; Treasurer – Brian Bogatin; Party Director – Sheri Parshall; Sponsorship Director – Mark Crawford; Director of Results – Dale Parshall; Director of Racing – Greg Dilger; Director of Membership – Dan Mancuso; Director of Rat Patrol – Christian Bennett; Directors at Large – Bob Lawrence and Pe-

ter Dodd; Director of Communications – Marina Nimmo; Scheduling – Andy Hobart

I'd like to thank all of these great volunteers who are continuing to give of their time and energy to make our organizations growing and successful.

Our goals for NWSCC this coming year will include getting together in person again, strengthening our ties within our organization with group travel, educating and communicating needed information to our member clubs, and growing and enhancing our relationships with our industry members.

We're looking forward to our first meeting of the year, on September 20th- "Back to Ski Night." Please do join us!



PACRAT Racers at Mt Hood

Photo credit: Northwest Website



Sheila Van Guilder Orange Council of Ski Clubs



Orange Council of Ski Clubs is looking forward to another great ski season. The forecast looks very good for our local mountains and for our Mammoth Mountain Resort events. We hope in that forecast are some race dates at Mammoth for our Schusski team.

It would be difficult to measure the runs made by our Orange Council skiers this year. It would be almost as difficult to measure the fun summer activities of our group. Fountain Valley has for the past few years had Wednesday on Waters, a kayaking

event in Huntington Beach. Snow-bonders gets together once or twice a month for dinner or lunch and other activities. Huntington Beach Ski Club has a full summer schedule of beach parties, prayers for snow, and summer barbecues. Balboa Ski Sports Club has kept its traditional themed monthly summer dinners on the Back Bay.

In the works for October 14th is the annual Orange Council picnic. You are invited to attend and share some hot dogs and hamburgers with our orange Council clubs. Check on our web-

site, orangeCouncil.org for more information.

We look forward to the Far West ski trip to Steamboat Springs Colorado and are planning on the 2025 Banff, Canada event. In 2025, there is some preliminary planning for a Far West Ski Association Convention in Palm Springs at the Margaritaville Resort. Fingers crossed that goes through!

We look forward to seeing you in Reno for the 2024 FWSA Annual Convention.



Left: Curise into the Party, Linda Morningstar and Terry King, Cruise Director and Cruise Coordinator

Photo credit: Balboa Ski Club Website



Right: OCSC member shows the banner at a summer event

Photo credit: Orange Council of Ski Clubs Website



Tom Bundgard

San Diego Council of Ski Clubs



The San Diego Council of Ski Clubs offered some amazing trips this past year. We alternated between in person and monthly Zoom Board Meetings. Our goal as a council is to keep our local skiers interested and aware of industry changes and news. We share all information that affects their snow adventures with safety, equipment, and resort information with individual club representatives at our monthly meetings.

We have multiple Council and FWSA trips scheduled over the next few years, with several listed below. Anyone interested in traveling with our group, please contact Annelie Ford at traveldir@skisandiego.org.

We are very thankful for the clubs we have in the San Diego Council of Ski Clubs. Our clubs have offered many destinations for skiing and snowboard-

ing, both domestically and internationally. Some clubs consistently have strong race teams each winter. Other clubs specialize in their athletic choices here in San Diego. Another club has many retired folks that no longer ski but want to maintain their friendships of several decades by joining in social activities. One very distinctive club owns their own chalet at Mammoth Mountain and offers it to members only using a reservation system. We truly have clubs for every age group and interest level in our beautiful city.

Upcoming scheduled trips:

SDCSC Portugal – Douro River – River Cruise 10/4-10/14, 2023

2024 FWSA Ski Week Steamboat Springs, CO 1/27-2/04 2024

2024 International FWSA Madonna

Di Campiglio, IT 2/25-3/3 2024

Post Trip to Cinque Terre 3/3-3/10 2024

2024 FWSA Mini Ski Week Copper Mountain, CO 3/17-3/21 2024

Tentative Trips:

1 or 2 SDCSC Bike and Barge Trips in April/May and/or Sep 2024

SDCSC Tuscany Trip Sep 2024

Additionally, many of our clubs have trips to Mammoth Mountain and other flyaway destinations throughout the season that are listed on the council website and/or relevant club website. We all look forward to an exciting upcoming ski season.

www.sdcsc.clubexpress.com.

Stay safe and see you on the mountain!

Right: Showing awesome snow level at Deer Valley: Tish Tamowski, Scott Douglas, and Clint Williams. Tish and Scott are founders of "HealingALS.com" and Park City ski instructors.

Photo credit: Kim Williams, North Island Snowdrifters



Left: A Light Show at the base of Snowbird

Photo credit: Kim Williams, North Island Snowdrifters





Jo Simpson
Sierra Council



Sierra Council Prepares for the Coming Season

Sierra Council's annual barbeque and general meeting is where we reconnect with fellow skiers who we haven't seen during the summer. In addition to sharing food and friendship, we provide information about plans for winter activities and elect officers for the coming year.

Our race schedule is a work in pro-

gress as hill space at the Lake Tahoe resorts is increasingly hard to acquire.

The Las Vegas Ski and Sports Club has a number of trips planned with the Phoenix Ski Club. They hold monthly combined meetings and happy hours.

The Reno Ski and Recreation Club has been holding their summer monthly meetings with a barbeque in a local park. They will resume indoor meetings in October. They have enjoyed

campouts, hikes and bike rides during the summer.

The Tahoe Donner Senior Alpine Ski Club will resume meetings in the fall.

Our allocations for the North American Ski Week at Steamboat are filled and we are looking forward to a fun trip and seeing the new improvements made at the resort.



Left: Reno Ski & Recreation Club members enjoy a Friday evening at a local pizza restaurant.

Photo credit: Sue Jacox

Right: Reno Ski & Recreation Club members volunteering at the local food bank.

Photo credit: Dianne Hilliard





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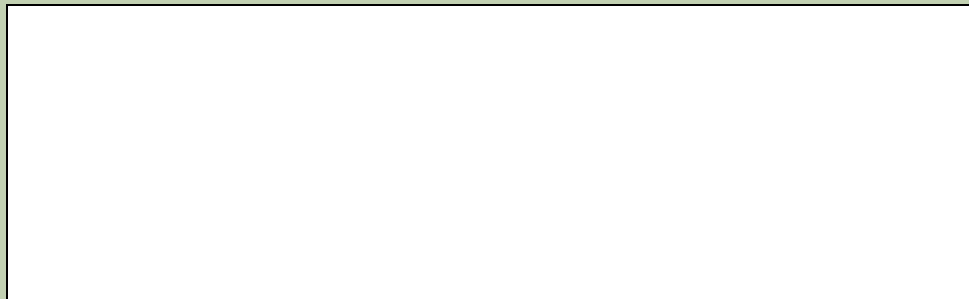


**Nick Cowell, Editor
The Councilman**

FWSA keeps a database on members, clubs and councils. It is important that information in this database be current so that communications are received in a timely manner. Changes in club or council officers; membership addresses and phone numbers; members' club affiliations; club or council meeting location; or, requests for information from the database must be sent to the FWSA President, Linda Westlund, at president@fwsa.org. The Far West Ski Association website at www.fwsa.org has a Ski Club Officer Update Form. Clubs can upload the [Officer Update Form for 2023-2024](#).

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION ABOUT FWSA.

www.fwsa.org.



The Voice of the Western Skier