

Inside This Issue:

VP Communications	10
VP Intern't Travel	7
VP Marketing	3
VP Membership	5
VP No. Amr Travl	6
VP Public Affairs	4,9
Board of Directors	21-23
History Chair	13
Safety Chair	5
Scholarship Chair	12
'09 Convention	11
Council Highlights	
VP of Councils	14
Arizona	15
Bay Area	16
Central	16
Intermountain	17
Los Angeles	18
Northwest	19
San Diego	20

FWSA Directors Meet Athletic Scholarship Racer Jordan Schweitzer

By Randy Lew

Hello, another ski season is now upon us with Mother Nature finally blessing us with snow. The Pacific Northwest and most of the Sierra's have finally received enough snow for resorts to open.

The FWSA Board of Directors held its winter meetings at Sunriver Resort in Oregon. I want to thank Sunriver Resort, Mt Bachelor, Deschutes Brewery, Old Mill District, Old Mill Martini Bar, Redmond Airport Shuttle, Volkl, and Wanderlust Tours for their hospitality, excellent service, and partnership. FWSA continues to thrive through its continued partnerships with the industry. We were able to conduct 2 full days of productive meetings including committee meetings to further develop our travel and educational programs. The highlight of the weekend was meeting Jordan Schweitzer at our luncheon sponsored by Mt Bachelor. Jordan, a dynamic 14 year old J3 racer on the Mt Bachelor Ski Education Foundation team is a FWSA Athletic Scholarship recipient and ranked nationally in the top 10 in all 4 alpine disciplines.

Cindy Krupp has been appointed FWSA Treasurer. Cindy is the wife of Los Angeles Council President, David Krupp. She received her Accounting degree from Loyola Marymount University and a Master in Business Taxation from University of Southern California. She worked for Deloitte and Touche in both audit and tax and is currently the Director of Global Taxes for a major corporation. I want to thank Nancy Kelly for her many years of service to FWSA. Due to family issues, Nancy was unable to complete her term.

The success of FWSA is due to a significant number of volunteers who have contributed a tremendous amount of time and expertise. I need to inform you of the growing requirement for new volunteers. I have been informed that several current volunteers will be moving on to other endeavors, so we have a need to fill in behind them. We need you!! For those reading this article and want to get more involved, this is your opportunity. The more volunteers, the easier the work load. If you want more information on volunteering either call (503-682-1563) or email me



Randy Lew, FWSA President

(fwsa13randy@telis.org) or one of our Functional VP's. All of our Functional VP's require a working committee to be truly successful.

The new 2008-2009 Far West Skier's Guide has been distributed to each Council and ski show where we have participates. We are using Certified Folder Displays to reach over 50% of the major metro areas that we serve. A big thank you to Leigh Gieringer for the outstanding job and the tremendous effort shes put into it. It is the best one yet with great articles and information on the ski areas and clubs. Please contact your Council President if you have not received your copies to distribute to your club members. This is our major annual publication and it does a great job advertising our many accomplishments and our close relationship with our industry partners. Please make sure your councils and clubs use them in recruiting new members.

Continued on Page 2

continued from page 1

The FSWA Travel Program continues with great success under the leadership of Gloria Raminha and Norm Azevedo. Gloria led an outstanding Alaska Cruise with 25 participants enjoying the Norwegian Cruise Lines' Norwegian Pearl. Our upcoming ski week in Big Sky will consist of approximately 400 participants. I know that Gloria, the FWSA ski week staff, and the Council trip leaders have planned a great trip with many exciting things in store for us. The International ski trip in March is to Bad Gastein, Austria with an exciting post-trip to Munich & Prague. It's not too late if you act now! We will also have a summer international ski and adventure trip in August to Bariloche & Buenos Aires, Argentina with a pre-trip to Valle Nevado & Santiago, Chile and a post-trip to Iguaca Falls. The last planned trip for 2009 will be an exciting 10 day Scandinavia & Russian Cruise onboard the Princess Cruises' Emerald Princess with an exciting pre-trip to Copenhagen.

An emphasis for our Travel Program at the winter meeting was developing a prioritized wish list of travel destinations for the next 3-5 years. We have planned 2010 Ski Week in Keystone, Colorado; our 2010 international ski trip to Bulgaria; the first FWSA scuba diving trip in the spring of 2010 ; and a summer 2011 international ski and adventure trip to New Zealand.

The FWSA web site <http://www.fwsa.org/> has been updated and improved due entirely to the efforts of George Stewart our Web Master. This site includes information on our travel program, member's benefits, convention, awards, Athletic Scholarship program, and a link that you use to subscribe to the new "Hot Sheet."

I am very proud that our Athletic Scholarship Program under the leadership of Dick Shawkey has continued to grow. With the generosity of our industry partners Whitefish Mountain Resort, Grouse Mountain Lodge, and Karbon Skiwear, we were able to award \$6,000 in scholarships to deserving junior racers. FWSA contributed \$2000.

Our 77th Convention *Sierra Silver* will be hosted by Sierra Council at the Peppermill Resort Casino in Reno, Nevada; June 4th to June 7th 2009. Jo Simpson, Sierra Council President, Jane Wyckoff, and Steve Coxen, FWSA Convention Coordinator have some very exciting activities planned for us including a Lake Tahoe lunch cruise, a Virginia City tour, National Auto Museum pub crawl, and the third Michael German Classic Golf Tournament which will be held June 5th at the Wolf Run Golf Club. They have been meeting regularly to plan all this fun. Mike Sanford, Past President is diligently working on lining up an all-star cast of celebrities and Debbi Kor is working on sponsorship for this great event. Friday will include the optional activities and our usual industry show and Silent Auction. We will have our typical travel Industry Expo, professional panels, two new modules of our Snowsports Leadership Academy, along with the very successful multi-media session on Saturday.

San Diego Council of Ski Clubs will host our 2010 Convention June 9th to June 13th, at the Renaissance Esmeralda Resort in Indian Wells, California.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mt. Bachelor Board Meeting Sponsors



Bob Bourquard, Mt Bachelor Group Services; Randy Lew, FWSA President

Richard Lubin, FWSA Safety Chair; Dave Rathbun, Mt Bachelor President & GM; Randy Lew



Randy Lew; Lindsay Bennett, Sunriver Resorts Sales Manager

Mike Sanford, NSCF President; Carol Sanders, Deschutes Brewery Market Manager; Randy Lew



Mike Sanford, Matt Cottizell, Old Mill Martini Bar GM; Noelle Fredland, Old Mill District Marketing Manager; Randy Lew

Dave Nissen, Wanderlust Tours; Randy Lew



VP of Marketing

New Season, New Friends, New Fun

By Debbi Kor



*Debbi Kor
VP of Marketing and
Sponsorship*

Look out.....here comes another ski season, the 2009 ski season has landed at last. Our friends in Colorado, Montana and Utah got a jump on us all, with the Western and Northwestern resorts bringing up the rear.

Lots of pre-season happenings were going on, including the annual Ski Fever shows in Seattle and Portland, Ski Dazzle in Los Angeles, the Snow Gala in San Diego, and Northwest Ski Club Council's Ski Fair. These functions bring together old friends, as well as new, in a party atmosphere, getting everyone excited about the arrival of a new ski season. Short of the always-impressive, high-energy Warren Miller ski films, I know no better way to get geared up for winter.

Far West is all about skiing and ski travel. Some of the many places that our clubs will be traveling to in 2009 include Aspen, Vail, Keystone, Mammoth, Big White, Silver Star, Mt. Bachelor and Heavenly. Besides these terrific spots, a group of 350 or more, will be heading to Big Sky at the end of January to join all of their ski buddies for the annual Far West Ski Week, January 24th-31st. Then, in February, Norm and Mary Azevedo will be taking a group of 120 to Bad Gastein, Austria for International Ski Week, beginning February 1st, with an extra week in Munich and Prague.

Your marketing department has been busy updating all of the great membership benefits that Far West members have available to them through the website. I'm happy to say that all of our shops and service vendors have returned for another year, so don't be shy about checking them out if you need new gear or ski rentals. Check out the Powder House in Lake Tahoe or Tahoe Dave's when you're in the area.

We have many fantastic lodging properties offering our members some great deals on lodging again

this year, including The Shilo Inn in Salt Lake City, Cal Neva Resort in North Lake Tahoe, and our convention host hotel, The Peppermill Casino and Resort Spa, in Reno. We have also added to that list for the 2009 season: The Chase Inn in Salt Lake City; John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks; Granlibakken Resort and Tahoma Lodge in the Tahoe area. Surely you'll find one of these wonderful properties to fill your needs when making plans for your ski vacations this year.

I'm looking forward to my annual trek to Las Vegas for the SIA show in late January. This is such a wonderful trade show, with both soft goods and hardware that any skier or snowboarder would love to get their hands on. This will be the last year that SIA will be in Las Vegas, moving on to Denver for 2010. I'll be looking for some fun things to have on hand at convention for door prizes in June.

I'm happy to say that we have renewed agreements with Big White and Silver Star to continue as the sponsors of our Council's Man and Woman of the Year program at convention, as well as Steamboat coming back to sponsor our Western Ski Heritage Award for the next three years. Snowbasin has graciously agreed to continue their sponsorship of the Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament through 2011, and I will be working over the coming months to garner additional event and activity sponsors for the 77th Annual Far West Ski Association convention from our many Industry partners.

I look forward to a new season, greeting old friends, meeting new ones, and continuing to help make this outstanding organization one in which we are all very proud to say that we are members.

Have a great season!



VP of Public Affairs

Area Development

By Scott Bowker



Scott Bowker
VP of Public Affairs

Arizona Snowbowl. On 8/8/08 an 11 member en banc 9th U.S. Circuit Court panel in an 118 page decision ruled (8-3) in favor of Arizona Snowbowl based on a December 2007 rehearing of oral arguments for the Arizona Snowbowl snowmaking case. Judge Carlos Bea, writing for the majority said "A government action that decreases the spirituality, the fervor, or the satisfaction with which a believer practices his religion is not what Congress has labeled a substantial burden . . . on the free exercise of religious freedom. Were it otherwise, any action the federal government were to take, including action on its own land, would be subject to the personalized oversight of millions of citizens. Each citizen would hold an individual veto to prohibit the government action solely because it offends his religious beliefs, sensibilities, or tastes, or fails to satisfy his religious desires. Further, giving one religious sect a veto over the use of public park land would deprive others of the right to use what is, by definition, land that belongs to everyone. . . . Respecting religious credos is one thing; requiring the government to change its conduct to avoid any perceived slight to them is quite another." This latest decision overturned the previous 3/12/07 9th U.S. Circuit Court three judge panel decision where Judge William Fletcher reversed U.S. District Court Judge Paul Rosenblatt's decision that Forest Service met all procedural requirements for approval of facility upgrades at Arizona Snowbowl and use of

reclaimed wastewater to make artificial snow. District Court Judge Rosenblatt had concluded that the goal of providing a reliable ski season was consistent with the Forest Service's multiple-use mandate. This case is one of the first legal challenges to the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 using the sacred site argument. This case sets an important precedent which extends American Indians the right to practice their religion in a way and to an extent the federal government deems appropriate and adequate on public lands (not Indian reservations) instead of protecting American Indians' religious rights as they themselves define those rights and the necessary circumstances for practicing their religions. This precedent could have a far-reaching negative impact on the current statutory multiple use doctrine (Federal Land Policy & Management Act) on federal lands with snowsports as a compelling use and potentially affect activity in a wide variety of locations including recreational areas such as ski resorts since about 60% of annual U.S. skier/snowboarder visits occur at ski areas on National Forest System lands. Ultimately in 2009 the Supreme Court is expected to decide to hear the case or let the Circuit Court ruling stand. See www.reclaimthepeaks.com for more info.

- **Big Sky Resort, MT** received \$68 million loan in September 2008 from CNL Lifestyle Properties with an option to purchase Big Sky from Boyne Resorts for \$74 million within the next

two years. With this triple net lease CNL will enter into a long term lease in September 2010

for Boyne Resorts to operate Big Sky Resort and provide Boyne with a buy back option. Boyne Resorts operates 7 other properties for CNL Lifestyle (Brighton Ski Resort, UT; Cypress Mountain, BC, CAN; The Summit at Snoqualmie, WA; Loon Mountain Resort, NH; Sugarloaf, ME; Sunday River Resort, ME; Gatlinburg Sky Lift, TN)

- **Liberty Mountain Snowflex Center** scheduled to open March 2009 in Lynchburg, VA. This 110 vertical foot artificial year round snowsports incline will be the first in the U.S. surfaced with Snowflex, a synthetic material designed to simulate snow. Liberty Mountain with 40,537 square feet of skiable area will include a main ski slope, a beginner slope for ski and snowboard instruction, jumps, a tabletop, a big kicker, an 11-foot high quarter pipe, two grind rails and a tube chute.

- **Stevens Pass, WA.** Master development plan. Scoping letter June 2008, Environmental analysis decision Phase 1 Projects (water treatment system upgrade, five bike trails) expected May 2009, implementation August 2009. Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Team Leader Sean Wetterberg swetterberg@fs.fed.us 801-733-2685

2009 Poses New Challenges

By Richard Lubin, Safety
Committee Chairperson

SAFETY REPORT

The Safety Chair has produced an amusing 5 minute Safety video which can be seen on our newly redesigned FWSA Website at <http://98.130.75.33/689585.htm>.

Have you tried snowboarding? Many resorts have learn to ski or board specials for a fraction of their usual cost. Check out slidingonthecheap.com for these and other specials. The cost does not cover your insurance deductible.

Please read my article in the Far West Skiers Guide, *Is Snowboarding Dangerous*.

The NSAA Safety week, dedicated to promoting safe skiing, is celebrating it's 10th year. National Safety Awareness Week; this season is January 17-23, 2009



The NSAA has introduced a new slogan *Objects are closer than they appear*. This new program utilized the

old heads up slogan with a target. The goal is to make folks aware of people and objects long before they get close to them.

Do you have a great contact at a ski resort? The Safety Chair has a few safety thermometers left. If you can place them at a prominent area at a ski resort, please contact me.

It's time to ski or ride. Get out there and have a great and safe season.

VP of Membership Benefits of Belonging to Far West Ski Association

By Barbara Bryant



Barbara Bryant
VP of Membership

As a member of a snowsports club affiliated with one of our councils, you automatically belong to Far West Ski Association and derive many of its benefits. One is the FWSA membership card. The card identifies the cardholder as a member of not only their own club, but FWSA. If you haven't received your card, then urge your club/council presidents to distribute the cards so that you can use them for the terrific discounts available.

A complete list of benefits is on the web site, www.fwsa.org. To mention a few of the benefits, you can save at Dominator Ski Wax; the Canyons, Park City; Cal Neva Lodge, North Lake Tahoe; Arapahoe Inn, Keystone; Black Tie Skis; rentskis.com; Alpine Meadows Ski Resort; Terry Sports, Taos and Steamboat; and many more.

As a member of FWSA, you also belong to the National Ski Council Federation, an organization of councils and clubs throughout the United States. On the web site, www.skifederation.org, you will find great resources to tap for communication, education, and benefits. For example, one of the web pages contains forms for ski club/council trip budgets, fam trip evaluations and more. You'll also find substantial savings on the benefits page. To use them you'll need the ID: ski-club and Password: member.

Another benefit of belonging to FWSA is access to the Leadership/Membership CD which all council

presidents have. Some of the topics on the CD include Job Descriptions, Letter Templates, FWSA programs, NSCF programs, Brochure Templates, Trip Leader and Treasurer Guidelines. Please contact your council president for a copy of the CD or email Barbara Bryant at membership@fwsa.org. FWSA sends an email *FWSA News* once a month with short bulleted points of information about FWSA and snowsports related topics with links to web sites for more information. The bullet points include the latest information on FWSA Travel, public affairs, ski and board tuning, fitness, safety tips, history tidbits and much more. You can unsubscribe any time. Your email address will not be used by any other group or sold to anyone. You can join by 1. Going to: <http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/FWSAnews/> or 2. Contacting membership@fwsa.org and the FWSA VP of Membership.

If you do not belong to an affiliated ski club, you may join FWSA as a direct member. The annual \$20 fee gives you access to FWSA trips and periodic publications. For an application please go to www.fwsa.org and click on Membership to download your application.

VP of North American Travel

FWSA North American Travel Plans

By Gloria Raminha



Gloria Raminha,
VP of N American Travel

The 2009 Far West Ski Week is just around the corner. January 24th to 31st FWSA members will be heading to Big Sky for a week full of skiing and fun. The theme for the ski week and Farewell Banquet/Dance is *Circus Under the Big Sky*. Will anyone be brave enough to bring their clown costume? You'll just have to come to Big Sky to find out.

Even though concerns about the economy have caused our reduction in numbers, Council Trip Leaders have been doing a great job at working with Travel Staff to provide everyone with a wonderful ski week. FWSA members are looking forward to a week of skiing and the planned activities that FWSA will be providing during the ski week. Activities include a welcome reception; pub crawl; mountain picnic; après party; racing, and a farewell banquet/dance. Additionally, Big Sky Resort will have their FWSA exclusive, *Snow Bar* finished and set up during our Far West Ski Week. Participants will be able to upgrade their Big Sky lift ticket to ski Moonlight Basin or take a day off from the slopes. They can take a tour of Yellowstone National Park either by snowmobile or snow coach. Several of the Council's are organizing this trip for their group. There are also highly rated cross-country ski trails, snowshoeing, dog sledding, fly-fishing, sleigh ride dinners and snow cat dinners.

If you're interested in going, please contact a Council Trip Leader. There may be available space due to last minute cancellations.

Keystone – FWSA Ski Week – January 30th to February 6th, 2010

Rocky Mountain Tours and Vail Resorts are hosting the 2010 FWSA

Ski Week in Keystone, Colorado. Trip Leaders will soon be choosing the Council lodging. Travel Staff will be organizing the ski week activities early in 2009. You can check out the FWSA website at www.fwsa.org for more detailed information about this ski week.

Keystone Site Inspection

January 8th to 11th, 2009, Council Trip Leaders and FWSA Travel Staff will attend the site inspection at Keystone to start making preparations for the 2010 ski week. Lori Adis with Rocky Mountain Tours and Brian Flickenger with Vail Resort have put together an itinerary which will include touring a variety of lodging and facilities where we will hold the ski week activities. I would like to thank Lori and Brian for putting together a great itinerary so we can plan a great ski week that will live up the FWSA's expectations. The FWSA revised *Trip Leader Guidelines* will be available for Trip Leaders at the site inspection.

Northeastern US/ Canadian Cruise

FWSA is in the early stages of organizing a cruise for the fall of 2010. The Cruise Company is putting together a cruise package beginning in Boston aboard the Royal Caribbean's *Jewel of the Seas*. The ports of call will be Portland and Bar Harbor, Maine; St. John, New Brunswick; and Halifax Nova Scotia. Prior to the cruise, FWSA will offer an opportunity for cruise participants to take in the scenic sights of fall foliage changes in New England around Boston. The flyer which will include information for sign-ups and will be on the FWSA website in the near future.

Future Travel Plan

This Spring I will start organizing an extended weekend trip for the summer of 2010 at a ski resort that offers summer activities. Activities may include hiking, biking, golfing, fishing, etc. A decision for the location will be mid 2009. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions for a location, please contact me.

A Little About Me

The theme for this newsletter was to tell a story about something funny that happened during a FWSA trip or activity. Instead, I'm going to give you a short summary of my experiences with FWSA. Here is my story: I've been going on North American Ski Weeks since 1983. I think I may have missed three ski weeks since then. In 2000, I experienced my first International trip and have participated in three others since then. I have had wonderful experiences and have met some great people on all of the FWSA trips that I have attended. When I was transferred to Houston in 1995, even though I was no longer living in the FWSA region, I knew that I wanted to stay active with Far West because of friendships through FWSA; and because of all the great times and memories that I have had through the Far West activities. I always planned on returning to California someday and living back in the Far West region. My dreams are finally coming true. The company (Chevron) that transferred me to Houston is transferring me back to California. YIPEE!

VP of International Travel

Exciting International Trips Coming Up

By Norm Azevedo



Norm Azevedo
VP of International Travel

Mary and I just returned from reviewing the Chile and Argentina sites for our August 2009 ski adventure. We were very impressed with the Chilean ski resorts. They are smaller than we are accustomed in the US, but they are still exciting. So now back home we are working like crazy preparing for Christmas, New Years and getting our far West international trips up-to-date. We think we have things back in order so here is our update.

On our October 2008 Greece Isles/Turkey trip, we sold out with 66 participants on the Greece portion and 41 going on to Turkey. Gloria Raminha was our assistant trip leader. She was of considerable help. The trip went as planned, except wind conditions prevented our ferry from Santorini going on to Miykonos. We spent an extra day on Santorini and an extra day in Athens. Everyone's favorite city was Istanbul and they all want to go back. The city has so much to see and the Turks are very hospitable.

We are now getting ready to leave for our FWSA Bad Gastein, Austria ski week with its Munich/Prague extension. Bad Gastein is a traditional health spa resort with a huge ski and snowboard area. We will fly into Munich and motor bus to Bad Gastein for the ski week. We will stay in Bad Gastein's ElizabethPark four star hotel, which is in the middle of town. For the second week extension, we will spend three nights in Munich and four nights in Prague. Debbie Stewart is our assistant trip leader. We are closed to new participants; however, we always seem to have last minute cancellations and will take matching replacements. We leave on February 27, 2009.

Our next ski trip will be this summer to Argentina/Chile. This *Ski & See* trip (Aug 10 to 29, 2009) will start with a pre-trip extension to Valle Nevado, Chile. Valle Nevado is the newest Chilean winter resort; and is also the largest and most modern. Located 37 miles from Santiago; Valle Nevado boasts a skiable area of 21,600 acres and a 2,656-ft. drop. Together with La Parva and El Colorado-Farellones, these three ski centers form the largest skiing area in South America. After three nights and four days of skiing; we bus to Chile's capital city of Santiago with a three night stay at the Santiago Sheraton. Santiago is the centre of Chile's political, economic and cultural life. Its distinctive characteristics are the beautiful valleys, where the well-known Chilean wines originate. Santiago is nestled between high peaks with their winter sports centers and their coastline. Day trips to Portillo which is home to world

ski championship races and lies in a treeless amphitheater on the edge of a glacial moraine and Laguna del Inca. Located in the Andes, it reaches 19,000 feet and is located two and a half-hours drive from Santiago.

After Chile, those on the pre-trip will meet main trip participants in Bariloche, Argentina's oldest and most famous ski area. The town has Alpine architecture and is known as the *Little Switzerland of South America*. The ski area consists of three side-by-side mountains located eight miles from Bariloche. There are forty miles of trails served by thirty-three lifts including a cable car. After 5 nights in Bariloche we fly to Buenos Aires, charming port city home of the Tango. It stretches south-to-north along the Rio de la Plata gateway to Argentina. You will see the Avenida de Corrientes (the nucleus of the Theater and nightclub district) which is the Broadway of Argentina. After Buenos Aires, it's home or off to an optional extension to Iguazu Falls, a massive array of over 200 separate waterfalls, a World Heritage Site. It forms a border between Argentina and Brazil. We hope you can join us on the exciting summer trip.

FWSA North American and International Travel have contracted with *The Cruise Company* for a Scandinavia & Russia Cruise, September 13 to 23, 2009. It's a 10 day Baltic Sea voyage aboard the *Emerald Princess*. It includes an overnight stay in St. Petersburg and port stops in Copenhagen, Stockholm, Helsinki, Tallinn, Gdansk, and Oslo. A pre-cruise 3 night stay in Copenhagen is also available.

We are currently looking for a site for the FWSA's traditional international ski week for 2010. We will be requesting proposals from the industry shortly. If we don't contact a travel provider, that doesn't mean we are not interested in a proposal from them. We will be happy to consider any proposals they would like to present to us. Look for announcements on current and future trips on the Far West website www.fwsa.org.

On all our International trips, we accept all placements based on the order deposits are received by FWSA International Travel. It's very important to us that trips announced to Council presidents be sent to their clubs. Please distribute the information and fliers as-soon-as-possible so all our members have a fair opportunity to join us on any trip.



Ski & See Argentina & Chile

Basic Bariloche & Buenos Aires Argentina, Aug 16-25, 2009

Bariloche is Argentina's oldest famous ski area. The town has Alpine architecture and is known as the *Little Switzerland of South America*. The ski area consists of three side-by-side mountains located eight miles from Bariloche. There are forty miles of trails served by thirty-three lifts including a cable car.

Buenos Aires: After Bariloche we fly to Buenos Aires, charming port city home of the Tango, which stretches south-to-north along the Rio de la Plata gateway to Argentina. See the Avenida de Corrientes; the nucleus of the Theater & nightclub district, the Broadway of Argentina

Post-trip Iguacu Falls, Aug 25-28, 2009

Iguazu Falls: For those wanting more after Buenos Aires, we offer an optional extension to Iguazu Falls, a massive array of over 200 separate waterfalls, a World Heritage Site, which forms a border between Argentina and Brazil.

Pre-trip Valle Nevado & Santiago, Chile, Aug 10-17, 2009

Valle Nevado & Santiago, Chile offers an optional pre-trip extension. Valle Nevado is the newest Chilean winter resort; it is also the largest and most modern. It boasts a skiable area of 21,600 acres and a 2,656-ft. drop. Together with La Parva and El Colorado-Farellones, these 3 ski centers form the largest skiing area in South America.

Santiago: after Valle Nevado, Santiago is the centre of Chile political, economic and cultural life. Its distinctive characteristics are the beautiful valleys, where the well-known Chilean wines originated. Santiago is nestled between high peaks with their winter sports centers and coastline. Day trips to Portillo, home of world ski championships, lies in a treeless amphitheater on the edge of a glacial moraine and reaches 19,000 feet. Optional Portillo skiing is available from Santiago.

Basic Argentina, Aug. 16 (Arrives Argentina Aug. 17) to 25 (Arrives LAX Aug. 26), 2009, **\$2,280 pp***

Included: 5 nights at 4 star Hotel Edelweiss, Bariloche, + arrival drink, orientation & dinner with wine

3 nights at 5 star Melia Hotel, Buenos Aires, + half day city tour & Tango dinner show w. drinks

Optional Post Iguacu Falls, Aug. 25 to 28 (Arrives LAX Aug. 29), 2009, **\$690 pp***

Included: 3 nights at 5 star Hotel Cataratas, Iguacu Falls, + full day falls tour

Optional Chile, Pre-Argentina, Aug. 10 (Arrives Chile Aug. 11) to 17, 2009, **\$1,450 pp***

Included: 3 nights at 4 star Puerta Del Sol Hotel in Valle Nevado, Chile, + all dinners & ski snacks

4-day Valle Nevado lift pass

3 nights at 5 star Hotel Sheraton in Providencia, Santiago, + half day Santiago tour. Optional ski days to Portillo available. Optional tours to Vina Del Mar and Valparaiso.

Basic & extensions include:

Air transportation from LAX to & between Chile / Argentina via LAN Airlines

Flights depart LAX early PM & arrive the next day. Argentina flights to LAX arrive home early AM the next day.

All ground transfers, with English speaking assistants

Daily breakfast at all hotels

Optional day trips to be announced later (costs not included in rates)

Single, triple rooms; also upgraded rooms are available at Bariloche & Valle Nevado

*Rates do not include:

Connecting flights to LAX

All US air taxes & surcharge, \$102 pp estimated

All flight Fuel surcharges, \$330 pp estimated

Argentina departure tax of \$25, must pay when departing Argentina

Chile arrival tax of \$130, must pay when entering Chile

Gratuities



\$200 per participant deposit required to hold a place on the Basic Ski Week, \$200 for the Pre-Extension and \$100 for the Post- Extension. A \$25.00 fee will be charged for all cancellations. Deposits are refundable until April 1, 2009. Make checks out to Far West Ski Association (FWSA). Please include the following with your check: (1) your legal name and address, (2) phone number, and (3) email address. Send to: FWSA International Travel, 901 Sousa Dr., Walnut Creek, CA 94597-2922.

Consumer Advocacy/Trends

- 2007/2008 season was up 9.1% to 60.5 million skier/snowboarder visits (a 7.0% increase from the past 10 year average of 56.16 million visits) due to strong increases in snowfall in most areas (Pacific West +61%, Rocky Mountain +45%, Midwest +34%, Northeast +28%, Southeast -6%) according to the annual Kottke National End of Season Survey final report from NSAA.

- Rossignol Group wintersports (Rossignol, Dynastar, Lange, Look & Kerma brands of ski equipment & apparel) was sold by parent company Quicksilver Inc. which had purchased the group in March 2005. Sale to Chartreuse & Mont Blanc (headed by former Rossignol CEO Bruno Cercley closed November 2008 for 40 million euros/about \$51 million which was down from the 100 million euros/\$127 million offer in August 2008.

- FIS World Cup races available live and as VOD (video on demand) at www.universalsports.com.

- The Ski Channel cable television network to launch on 12/25/08 with Warren Miller films & tv shows to 15 million households plus DirectTV & Verizon FiOS TV. It will become the only cable television network devoted to the wide variety of year round mountain activities such as skiing, snowboarding, hiking, biking, backpacking, climbing, etc, along with many offslope activities through magazine shows, reality shows, movies, events, news, weather and programs that focus on destination travel, equipment, instruction and real estate.

Transportation

Airlines initiated 2nd checked bag fees of \$25 in May 2008 with American initiating 1st checked bag fee of \$15 in June 2008 but there may be exceptions for certain frequent flyer levels, international flights, etc. Consult Checked Baggage policy sections of airline websites for further details and Airline Baggage Rules article in Travel section of fwsa.org website.

Recent Changes

Delta first bag will no longer be free. As of 12/5 Delta first bag \$15, Delta 2nd bag \$25.

Ski History

U.S. National Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame 2008 inductees. Bill Briggs (American ski mountaineering pioneer first ski descent Grand Teton 1971, Mount Rainier 1961, Middle & South Teton 1967, Mount Moran 1968; founder Great American Ski School). Liz McIntyre (1994 Olympic silver medal moguls, 3x U.S. Olympic Team 1992, 1994 & 1998; won 4 World Cup moguls events, U.S. Ski Team freestyle moguls 1986-1998 & U.S. Ski Team moguls technical coach 1999-2006). Nelson Carmichael (1992 Olympic bronze medal freestyle, won World Cup Mogul championship 1988 & 1989 plus 12 World Cup Events & 6 U.S. Championships). Cary Adgate (2x U.S. Olympic team 1976 & 1980, 6 U.S. Alpine Championship titles in slalom or combined, 25 professional victories & 1984 U.S. Pro Championships, won 3 U.S. Masters Championship events in 2005).

Contributed by Scott Bowker, VP Public Affairs

SAVE THE DATE! SKI HISTORY ALERT!

John Watson - History Chair, and Robin Morning - Mammoth Lakes Foundation

The first-ever combined meeting of the International Skiing History Association (ISHA) and the International Ski History Congress will be held March 29-April 3 at Mammoth Mountain. The Congress has issued a call for papers on "From Skiing to Snowsport: Cultures, Images, and Adventures." Abstracts should be 200-250 words in length for a 25 minute paper. Electronic files should be sub-

mitted to E. John B. Allen (jallen@mail.plymouth.edu) and to Robin Morning (rdmorning@hotmail.com). The event will be packed with fun events as well as interesting insights into the history of skiing and snowsports. More information can be obtained from Robin at the above email address or postal service to Box 1390, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546.

VP of Communications

Skiers Still Flock to Tahoe Despite Economy

By Mary Azevedo



Mary Azevedo
VP of Communication

The responsibility of the VP of Communications has changed drastically because of organizational changes. All Communication Awards (newsletter, website and Outstanding Club awards) are now under the VP of Councils. I am sorry I did not make the last FWSA board meeting, but Norm and I were scouting South American for next summer's Ski trip. The suggestion that I wanted to make is as follows: *I think award winners (newsletter, website and Outstanding Club awards) should be announced a month before the convention so that they can make arrangements to attend the convention. They should have a chance to receive FWSA recognition for their talents and hard work. I would also like to see some of the award winning submissions displayed at the convention.* What do you think?

At this time, my job includes making news releases for our organization. I am asking each Council President to please let me know who does news releases for each ski club and council.

In this vein, I would also like to know what local newspapers might be interested in carrying news about activities done by ski club members. Since most local papers are not doing all that well financially, we need to focus on local residents who have received recognition for their activities in ski clubs, councils and the FWSA. I will be contacting all Council Presidents and asking for their help.

I want to thank George Stewart and Leigh Gieringer for their continuing work in our behalf. The website is looking great because of all of George's efforts. Lee has published a wonderful extremely professional Skiers Guide which is critical in promoting FWSA throughout the industry and ski/snowboard world.

What part of communications would you like addressed at the convention.? It can include tips on producing newsletters, website design for ski organizations, or how to go after the Tollakson (Outstanding club) Award. Other areas can include how to write successful publicity for newspapers, or how to write articles for newsletters that grab your readers.

I couldn't resist an article in the Economist in

their December 20th edition titled, Cheap Skiing, Slippery Slopes. "America's 481 ski resorts did very well last year. At least 10% more visitors came than in 2006.

Record snowfalls attracted snow bunnies (novice skiers), buttdraggers (novice snowboarders), shredders (accomplished snowboarders) and rippers (accomplished skiers). This year, though, is not looking

anything like as good, at least for the fancy resorts out West. Snow levels are down in the Rockies, but the big problem is the economic storm."

"Vail Resorts, which owns four resorts in Colorado and one on the California-Nevada border, recently announced losses of \$34.5m. Its advanced bookings are down 23% from a year ago." "The Westerners are not about to give up. Lake Tahoe in California.... which relies less on airborne customers is in better shape to weather the frigid economic conditions. Some resorts are giving away free lift-passes, and others are offering a third or fourth night of lodging free. Regardless of the state of the economy skiers still enjoy the slopes. Just not as lavishly as they used to."





FAR WEST SKI ASSOCIATION
Presents
The FWSA 77th Annual Convention
Hosted by Sierra Council



At The Peppermill Resort Casino in Reno, Nevada
June 4-7, 2009



Convention Highlights:

Silent Auction
Travel Expo
Celebrity Speakers
Saturday Awards Luncheon
Celebrity Multi-Media Reception
Saturday Awards Banquet & Dance
FWSA General Meeting and Elections
Educational Breakout Sessions

Fun Optional Activities:

Cruise on Lake Tahoe
Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament
Pool Party, Outdoor Adventure

Information

Steve Coxen, FWSA Convention Chairman
Email: sacoxen@aol.com Phone: 503-679-9022
Jo Simpson, Host Council President
Email: jo_simpson@sbcglobal.net Phone: 775-722-6468

Hotel Amenities:

New Convention Center and Tuscany Suites
Two Pools, Fitness Center, Salon and Spa
Casino, Entertainment, 10 Restaurants
Wireless Internet Service

Hotel Reservations:

The Peppermill Resort Casino Reno
2707 S. Virginia Street, Reno, NV 89502
\$125 (Montego Bay Wing), \$135 (Peppermill Tower)
per night plus tax, double occupancy
Tuscany Suites available at FWSA discounted rates
Call 1.800.282.2444
Internet: www.peppermillreno.com
Group Code: AFWSA09

Athletic Scholarship

2009 Poses New Challenges

By Dick Shawkey

2008 is in its waning days. The 2008 scholarship program is fast becoming history. We can view the assistance provided to seven very promising young athletes with a sense of pride and satisfaction.

The Far West Board of Directors had the pleasure of meeting Jordan Schweitzer, one of our

2008 scholarship recipients. She attended a luncheon sponsored by Mt. Bachelor during FWSA's board of directors meeting in Bend, OR.

Jordan, who ranked top ten in all four disciplines during her first J-3 year, thanked the association for the scholarship and laid out her goals for the 2008-2009 competitive season. Her coach, Nils Ericksson, has praised her for her positive attitude and dedication, qualities that were very apparent in her speech.

Jordan very much typifies the special qualities we look for in a scholarship recipient.

As we look to 2009, we face some new challenges, but we know these challenges are surmountable and that the Far West spirit will prevail. Because of the addition of the Intermountain Council, the

scholarship program will be open to approximately 600 additional J-1 through J-3 racers (ages 13-18) competing in the USSA's Intermountain Division.

The FWSA scholarship program proposes to increase its annual awards from this year's seven to ten to twelve. The increase in awards will

require only a modest increase over last year's funding. However, there are only about 350 people attending ski week in Big Sky compared to last year's 800 at Whistler. The reduced numbers will require a more intense

effort just to meet last year's record.

The FWSA is looking forward to the continued support of its sponsors Whitefish Mountain Resort in Montana, Grouse Mountain Lodge at Whitefish, the Far West Racing Association, and Schure Sports, Inc.

In the past, a Karbon brand ski suit donated by Schure Sports, Inc., has been raffled during each of the last four ski weeks. Those of us who own Karbon ski apparel can attest to the superior quality, comfort and warmth of Karbon products. Our hope is that everyone at ski week will be generous in supporting the raffle and the FWSA Scholarship Program.



*Dick Shawkey
Athletic Scholarship Chairman*



Jordan Schweitzer, Ski Scholarship recipient



*Dick Shawkey ,
FWSA Athletic Scholarship Chair;
Jordan Schweitzer;
Randy Lew , FWSA President*

History Chairman

FWSA Western Ski Heritage Prize 2009 by Steamboat **5 day vacation prize for two at Steamboat**

By John Watson

The Western Ski Heritage prize recognizes the best effort in the prior year to recording snowsports history and especially the contributions to the community at large. The prize is sponsored by Steamboat Springs Ski and Resort Corporation and is awarded at the annual Convention in June.

Steamboat Springs is itself an area rich in the history and personalities involved in the development of skiing in the West. Steamboat Springs, home of champagne powder, will offer a skiing vacation to the top historian contender for the Western Ski Heritage Award.

The purpose of the Association's Western Ski Heritage program is to raise the awareness of skiers and non-skiers alike of the contributions made by individuals, groups and companies to all aspects of skiing - competitive as well as that of outdoor winter recreation and fitness.

A parallel purpose is to convey the positive role skiing has had in its contributions to the com-

munities in the West. It recognizes outstanding effort in the area of ski history to find, preserve, document and share the history of skiing in the West.

The award is open to an individual or a group leader (it is not restricted to Association membership) and can be self-nominated or nominated by a club or club member.

Materials and history programs will be evaluated against the objectives of the program by individuals selected for their knowledge of

the history of Western skiing and that of the Association.

Evaluations of history efforts will be conducted each spring in preparation for the annual convention. A variety of methods may be used to achieve the objectives of the program. This can include any of the following: original documentation of facets of snowsports (in the tradition of the legendary Bill Berry); organization histories (club, council, league, company, etc); videos; photos; books; field trips; speaker programs; or descriptions of past major events.



*John Watson,
History Chairman*

The deadline for submission of entries is April 27, 2009. Entries should be made electronically to John Watson (FWSA History Chairperson) at geospace@pacbell.net with a copy to Scott Bowker (FWSA VP Public Affairs) at sbowker.fwsa@gmail.com with FWSA Western Ski Heritage in the email subject line.

Hard copy addendums, documentation, articles or other media entry substantiation should be identified to John who will provide further instruction. John Watson's mailing address is: Box 2768, Fallbrook, CA 92088. Entry form available at www.fwsa.org, go to Awards section.



VP of Council Services

By Mary Olhausen

FWSA's eleven Councils continue to grow and never cease to amaze me!! They now serve eleven western states!! They all have energetic leaders who assist their clubs, as well as put on many trips and events themselves. Many Councils have summer events in addition to their *signature* ski trips. All year long they help their member clubs with issues such as charities, club leadership and public affairs – to name a few.

Our Councils have been busy garnering new clubs (who've heard about all the great benefits of ski club membership and FWSA). They work with clubs on history documentation; support disabled sports; hold silent auctions and gala events; and hold ski kick-off events.

Four of our Councils produce an annual *Directory* publication. We can't thank the industry enough for their support of these endeavors. Councils do a variety of outreach efforts to educate

the public about FWSA and ski club membership. I applaud each Council who helps spread the word about skiing, club membership and FWSA!!

Outreach events have been ski days at local resorts, setting up a display table at local retailers and having a Council booth at major ski shows. Many Councils are involved with annual local ski swaps, also. Our Council's Man & Woman of The Year program continues – much thanks to Donn Bryant for doing a phenomenal job managing this program and many thanks to Big White/Silver Star for their continued support for this endeavor.

Our Communications Competition will kick off in January, with plenty of time for all Councils and Clubs to partake. Thanks to Catherine Ohl for revamping this program and taking us into the electronic age. Sigrid Noack continues her efforts with Charities.



Mary Olhausen
VP of Councils

The annual Council/Club Recognition program is in process – Don't forget to send your entries. FWSA's Scholarship program is a very worthwhile program for our junior racers – Councils are pleased to commit to the "Council Donation" for the annual fundraising efforts held at Convention.

Speaking of which - We look forward to the next FWSA Convention in 2009 in Reno, NV – hosted by Sierra Council. I hope to see Councils and clubs from all eleven states!!!

Check out a Council or Club in your area – get involved – have fun – go skiing!!

Family & Youth Involvement in FWSA

by Linda Westlund, Committee Chairperson

Family & Youth Involvement is growing within FWSA! A few families with teens will be attending the Big Sky Ski Week in January, as well as the Austrian Ski Week in March. FWSA has introduced a new Code of Conduct and Waiver Form to cover issues relating to youth involvement. The document provides for signatures of participants and their guardians for those who are under age 18, and makes all participants aware that families may be attending the trip.

Skieyente Ski Club of NWSCC is running their 4th annual family ski trip, and once again has opened it up for all members of FWSA. This year they are going to Mt Bachelor, in Bend, Oregon, on Easter Weekend, April 10th – 12th. FWSA will support a family event during the weekend ski trip.

FWRA Championship Races has always welcomed Junior Races to compete and to attend the evening banquet. This season's championship is being held at Northstar-at-Tahoe, April 3rd-5th. A reduced fee of \$20 has been set for Junior Racers.

Arizona Ski Council

By Arleigh Meiners

The Phoenix Ski Club (PSC) celebrated their 60th anniversary this year, with a year full of fun activities. In September, they visited San Diego for their annual Bike Trip on Coronado Island. In August, they traveled to Prescott, Arizona to bet on the ponies at Prescott Downs! There were many special activities set up for the 60th anniversary. The club entered a float in the annual Scottsdale horse drawn *Parada Del Sol* and received the *Best Non-Civic Award*. About 50 members from the Phoenix Ski Club took part in this parade. Then, PSC did a Mexican Baja cruise from Los Angeles to Cabo San Lucas and back. A wonderful time was had by 40 members of PSC.

The 60th Anniversary BARN BASH was at Jan and Mort Copenhaver's home. What a nice surprise it was to see and meet 22 of the Past-Presidents of the club.....and to see the past members out there *cuttin' a rug* with the rest of us. Some past members traveled many miles to join us for the evening. Many PSC members worked hard to make this a party run smoothly for everyone, old and new.....and a party that would be remembered for quite awhile.

The Phoenix Ski Club 60th anniversary activities ended with a trip to Las Vegas on November 7th through 9th, 2008. For more details about the Phoenix Ski Club see www.phxski.org !

Arizona Ski Council other clubs activities

Scottsdale Sea & Ski Club, (SS&SC) started their summer schedule with golfing in Sedona. Even the worst golfer has to enjoy a day with the breathtaking views of Sedona! A Pub Crawl on the famous Whiskey Row in Prescott was a popular favorite getaway

weekend in August. A Las Vegas weekend, mountain campouts, water skiing, and boating were other highlights for this summer. Check out the SS&SC activities, trips and more at www.scottsdale-skiclub.com.

Arizona Outdoor Travel Club, (AOTC) had many activities planned throughout Arizona and the northwest. In June, they celebrated their 25th Anniversary with a picnic at South Mountain Park. In July, AOTC ventured out of state to hike in the Canadian Rockies! In August, they hiked the Cascades in Washington. Go to www.arizonaoutdoortravelclub.com for more information on these and other exciting trips.

The Boeing Employee Adventure Club continued their hiking schedule as well as pool parties and family events around town. Employees may contact www.boeing.com for more information about recreation activities that are planned!

The East Valley Ski Club, (EVSC) beat the heat with campouts in the mountains, at the lakes and rivers and they attended several Diamondback's baseball games! To join them, check out their website at www.evskiclub.org!

Partytime Sports, (PTS) spent a lot of the summer doing monthly boating trips to Lake Pleasant, as well as playing in Laughlin and Las Vegas, Nevada. For more information, contact them at ggg44@q.com.



Arleigh Meiners, Arizona
Ski Council President



Central Council of California

By Fran Long

Everyone knows most ski club/council members go on ski trips to ski. A growing number of ski club members; however, are complete non-skiers; they don't even cross country ski. So what is the attraction to a long weekend or week long ski trip? After talking to a few of these folks, and serving my ski club as trip director, I think I get it!

Non-skiers are looking for all the same things skiers are looking for in a ski trip, except the skiing. We are all looking for a chance to spend time with our friends doing the multiple things we love. On a great ego snow or powder day, our fondest memories may be of the slopes. On a so-so snow day, our memories turn to the other social

activities provided. As I think back to the many Central Council ski trips I have experienced, skiing all the runs together, was such fun.

Apré ski and hot tub parties are a big part of Central Council ski trips, and one such party really stands out for me. The trip was to Mammoth a couple of years back. In an effort to jazz up our hot tub parties, we decided to have jello shots in the hot tub. Picture 30 skiers (and non-skiers) in the hot tub barking like seals to get the attention of three (very loved at the moment) jello shot tossers. The energy level was sky-high, everyone had a blast, and the memory will last a lifetime.

Providing a special event on a week-long ski trip is always impor-

tant and attracts skiers and non-skiers alike.

This year Central Council is planning a trip to Davis County, Utah. The skiing will be spectacular, but the *buzzing*' event is a beach party on Antelope Island, in Salt Lake! This will be a first, but is guaranteed to produce some lasting memories.

Yes, we ski, but we try to keep our trips well rounded as well. Got any great ideas???



*Fran Long
Central Council of
California President*

Bay Area Snow Sports Council

By Dennis Heffley

While I did not do an *official* ski trip in 2008 ~ I did my share of traveling!

It's pretty amazing the places I get to visit, people I meet and experiences that are had being the President of the Bay Area Snow Sports Council. It is with pride that I get to represent one of the strongest and best councils in the nation!

During the ski season, it seemed like almost every other weekend there were the drives to the Lake Tahoe region for the "recreational" races put on by our Singles League of the BAC. Sometimes the drive took three hours ~ sometimes the same drive took eight hours! It just depended on what Mother Nature offered to us traveling on the roads at that particular time. Having a travel companion sure did make it nice! Even if at times the person next to me was sleeping ~ just having her

there was comfort enough to have a smile on my face!

Then there are the various meetings that took me to places such as Winter Park, CO with the National Ski Council Federation; Mt. Bachelor, OR; Reno, NV. I also went to Bellevue, WA; with the FarWest Ski Association (www.fwsa.org) and Vail, CO, with the Mountain Travel Symposium.

These "meetings" are not just meetings ~ they are connecting with some amazing people from around the nation who have the same care that we do about working with our councils to make things as good as we can for our members.

Yes, there are the "social" times, but there are work schedules that would make your head spin!

Thankfully, it has been a pleasure to attend these meetings because the organizers, hosts, facilities and every-

one involved with the organizations understand that while it is important to get our work done ~ we are but mere volunteers and need our fun time, too!

What travels are in front of me in 2009? This is a nice start with going to Switzerland and Reno, NV with the National Ski Council Federation.

Then on to Mammoth, CA and again to Reno, NV with the FarWest Ski Association!

Will there be a ski trip to another location other than the recreational racing in the Tahoe Region? Like many of us ~ I too wait to see what 2009 brings.



*Dennis Heffley
BAC President*

Intermountain Council

By Don Anderson



*Don Anderson
Intermountain Council President*

The Intermountain Ski Council (ISC) is just completing its first full year since being accepted into the FWSA last December. It has been an eventful year for us, including the addition of several new clubs, bringing the total to nine, with the addition of Black Hills Ski Club. Member clubs now are:

Pocatello Ski Association, Weber State Ski Club, Idaho Falls Ski Club, Hill Ski Club, Park City Mountain Sports Club, Up the Creek Ski and Rec Club, Cheyenne Ski Club, Bogus Basin Ski Club and Black Hills Ski Club.

These clubs cover a wide range of people, including families, college students, retirees, members of the Air Force and young adults. The ISC covers clubs in Idaho, Utah, Colorado, Wyoming and South Dakota.

In February, ISC had its first ski weekend. Everyone had a great time, in spite of one fairly serious—but not fatal—accident (see account, below).

Plans have been made for a great trip to Steamboat Springs for a long weekend the end of February, and 24 people from the various clubs have signed up.

Don Anderson is president of Intermountain Ski Council. Peggy Stuart, director of communications for ISC contributed to this article.

SURVIVING A REALLY BAD SKI DAY!

By Charlie Stuart

My wife, Peggy, and I went to Snowbasin on Saturday, February 23rd with other Park City Mountain Sports Club (PCMSC) members. We were participating in a joint ISC and FWSA ski day. I joined the skiers, and my Peggy went snowshoeing with Barbara Maben.

It was a foggy day, but with brief periods of brighter light it wasn't all bad. That was the good part. We crawled our way down on the first run barely able to see the sides of each trail, but everyone made it successfully. We went up the John Paul Lift for the second run, starting down the bowl off to the left side of the lift. It had brightened up, so the surface of the snow could actually be seen.

About a fourth of the way down, we were skiing through some scattered trees; the snow was good and we had no problems. This was the end of the good part. As I skied around trees aiming for an open spot, I spied a sinkhole about 100 feet wide and 30 feet deep off to the left. The sides were steep and I didn't want any part of it, so I tried turning to the right to evade it. It didn't work. I slid on some ice, veered left and buried my ski tips in the rim surrounding the depression.

At this point, I came out of my skis and was catapulted into the sinkhole. Upon impact, my right arm jammed my shoulder and I could feel the joint separate. I slid most of the way down the hole and stopped with my arm sticking out at right angles to my body. I couldn't move it.

Fortunately, Norman Bates and others in our group, including Joe Coles, Don Anderson, and Randy Lew determined all was not well and summoned the ski patrol. Eventually they arrived, managed to brace my arm, and prepared to extricate me from a very difficult position in the hole. The ISC skiers I was with prepared a trail to higher, flatter ground, and then helped six ski patrollers get the sled out without dumping me. They did a great job. Next was the ride down the mountain to the clinic. This was rather scary because my bad arm was sticking out and I could just imagine hooking a tree, skier. All went well, and we arrived at the clinic about an hour after the disaster began. The next hour was not to be remembered. The staff doctor and an assistant spent the hour trying to get my shoulder put back together without anesthesia. You can imagine how much fun it was. I was ready to call it quits and go to Ogden to be drugged up when Peggy said a brief prayer and miraculously the shoulder slid into place. The pain was gone.

What lessons were to be learned here: (1) Don't ski in dense fog or even thinner fog, especially on a mountain that has not been skied by many others. (2) Appreciate the ski patrol. The guys at Snowbasin were incredible from start to finish. (3) Ski with great people who will stick around even when told to go ski other mountains. This includes the ISC group I skied with this day and all the PCMSC groups I've skied with in the past. (4) Don't ski into a big sinkhole and dislocate your shoulder.

Los Angeles Council

By David Krupp

Les Trois Vallees, France 2008

In writing an article about a ski week or trip for our group, I thought it might be fitting to reach back into a not-so-very-distant-past trip made by Far West to France last season. When I say reach back, that is to convey that there are so many great trips at the club level, council level and those with FWSA. At times, it's hard to keep track of them all. So, as I write this, many memories come back that I haven't thought about since the trip.

Frommers says Les Trois Vallees (with 198... oh heck let's just round it off...200 chairlifts), the world's largest complex, is *One vast ski circus*. And, it certainly did not disappoint.

Our home base was La Tania, which was perfect for our group in that it is a quaint village and gave all a feeling of exclusivity for our group (about 164).

To start, some of the amenity highlights:

First morning: Every skier needs a good hearty breakfast. While it is Europe, most people opted for prosciutto, fruit, and various breads, I decided on hot dogs (hey, they knew we were Americans, kinda like going to a ballgame).

Lunch in Courchevel. A sprawling lawn of tables with waiters in tuxedos served us as we sat in our ski gear. What's not to like? In addition, most all of the on-mountain dining is owned and operated by individual proprietors with excellent food; a real mid-day dining experience.

The dinners were absolutely fabulous, with a gourmet menu available every night. And, beverages of all varieties are served everywhere.

Nightlife was best spent at the English Pub across the way from our hotel. They served various vodka shooter-type drinks (the carmel vodka was a hit). We even got to put a dollar bill with our club name written on it over the bar. A Belgian guy I was talking to was so in love with the thought of coming to America that he gave me 5 Euros for a couple dollar bills I had, so he could show them to his friends. This was backed-up by an Englishman who said the USA is one of the greatest places to be.

And now for the real-deal ski experience:

First day: About 4-6 inches of fresh powder. The terrain is so vast; we were at a loss as to how we would cover everything in 6 days. Imagine that.

Enter our hotel French bartender Alex. "If you come with me on Thursday, I will take you, how you say, off-piste?" Okay...he's a snowboarder with a Red Bull jacket (Red Bull is banned in France so his rebel nature was starting to show) and he knew the mountain well. Unbelievable terrain. Steeps of powder that gradually morphed into powder meadows became the highlight of the trip.

Last day, we were off to a distant part of the mountain from our base. By this point we had already done Courchevel and parts of Les Menuires and Meribel, so we went to the bowls of Val Thorens (about a 2 hour jaunt).

On the way, Lloyd Huff (last year's LA Council Man of the Year) and I became separated from the rest of our group. Well, we figured we were on our own as neither of us had international calling on our cell phones. Oh well, another day of skiing to-die-for terrain.

But then...wouldn't you know it? About 2:30 we caught up with our group of about 10 and it's back to La Tania for drinks and great conversation about the days' happenings.

BTW...Norm and Mary did a great job, and I want to thank them again. Being a trip leader is all about the details and most of the time is spent making arrangements. I want it to be known that because of them we had a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Except, being Far West, we'll do it again.

And I didn't even mention Provence or Paris.

That's a whole different story. Maybe we'll get to talk about that some other time.



David Krupp
Los Angeles Council President

Northwest Ski Club Council

By Sheri Parshall

Happy New Ski Season, everyone and hope you all enjoyed a wonderful Holiday Season!

And yes, it's been snowing a lot here in the Northwest! I'm sure the lads from Schnee Vogeli will take all the credit, thanks to their November *Pray for Snow*. Your intrepid leader Randy Lew helping to lead the *congratation* at Charlie's Mountain View in Government Camp. See Steve Coxen getting to work as Skiyente's 2008 King Winter.

We've had a busy fall, here in the Northwest. NWSCC participated in two major ski shows this fall in Portland and Seattle. We also hosted an incredibly successful Ski Fair this year, held in partnership with our commercial members at the Monarch Hotel in Clackamas. Now it's time for our PACRAT race league to fire up for the season. Our race league is growing for the third consecutive year, so kudos to PACRAT president Barb Parshall and her board for continuing to grow excitement and enthusiasm for recreational racing on Mt. Hood.

On the travel front, we're sending council members on Far West trips to Big Sky and Europe. Our premier trip, the Bachelor Blitz, has been rescheduled to Spring 2009, and we're excited to announce we'll be partnering with Skiyente Ski Club, and making this the very first Northwest Ski Club Council Family Trip. All FWSA councils are invited to participate in this Spring Fling at Mt. Bachelor. Super lodging and lift prices will be available, and pricing will also include dinner and Easter Tailgater. Contact Debbi Kor at ijustwannarun1@comcast.com or myself at cougskier@aol.com for more information or sign-ups. We're also planning another spring trip at Crystal Mountain, Washington; to be held in conjunction with trips being held by S'No Jokes and Mountain High. Crystal is offering a great lift ticket deal to



NWSCC snowriders, so contact William Shadbolt at wmshad@msn.com or Linda McGavin at mcgavinski@gmail.com for more info.

We've very pleased to announce the addition of a new club, the Clark College Snowsports Club from Vancouver, Washington. Welcome Penguins (is that a great mascot for a winter sports club or what?!). We're looking forward to working with this local community college.

We're also excited to be starting up our 2008-2009 *Northwest Ski Challenge* and we've changed a few rules this season. All you have to do is ski five areas in any one of the states of Oregon, Washington or Idaho to be eligible for prizes. The more ski areas you ride, the bigger the prizes you can win! We're so lucky, here in Northwest, that we have lots of ski areas located in close proximity to one another. And hey, you don't have to be a member of an NWSCC council club to qualify...just ski in our ski resorts! Go to the council's web site, www.nwskiers.org, for rules and more information. If you have questions, please contact David Schor (our council treasurer) at davidschor@davidschor.net.

Last, but not least, plans are in the making for our 30th Anniversary. Our first anniversary activity is to host a *Second Saturday Apres Ski* at the Mt. Hood Museum. We invite all clubs to participate in this Saturday afternoon event in Government Camp on Mt. Hood on January 10th. A local winery will be pouring and yummy appies will be available. All clubs are invited to bring history displays (and membership info).

If you or your councils and clubs are heading to the Northwest (or WANT to head to the Northwest), give us a call! Here's to warm friendships and cold slopes!



Sheri Parshall
NorthWest Council President

San Diego Council

By Eileen Sanford



*Eileen Sanford
San Diego Council President*

SDCSC took over one-hundred happy skiers to FWSA Ski Week at Whistler-Blackcomb Mountains for 2008. We started out by being challenged by Cheryl Reiss, our president, to have a stuffed toy in as many pictures as possible during our ski week. It was amazing to see the creativity of our members with their little stuffed guy. At the post-party we even saw pictures of him skiing, in the hot tub, at the parties, on the airplane and the rest I leave to your imagination!

Our next big surprise came when a well-known member, John Dobos, decided to go with another council because we had sold out. John kept it a secret from everyone that he was on the trip. Then on Sunday, during the Chargers game, he showed up where a San Diego group was watching TV and partying. John was wearing a fake beard, a hat with a long fake hair and dark glasses. His good buddy Ken Zuorro didn't even recognize him. In fact, Ken got a little miffed when Susan Shaffer offered John some of his beer. Rick Bonnett and several others sat by John and introduced themselves not knowing who he was. Finally John stood up (he is over 6'5) and everyone guessed who it was. Everyone had a good laugh even Ken who thought he had shared his beer with a stranger.

Our impromptu martini party brought many laughs and sharing of skiing stories. We held it at the Marriott breakfast room. The hotel let us use the spot and provided the glassware. Our NIS race director, Aaron Kamerling and our 30th Anniversary chairperson, Jean Mc Casey were the bartenders, extraordinaire. They mixed and shook more than their martinis. Everyone laughed at their performances and drank all the martinis' in less than an hour. It was a bit embarrassing when our invited Whistler hosts arrived



and we were out of martinis. SDCSC has a reputation for getting parties rolling but this was a record setter.

The annual Council night dinner at the Dublin Gate was another party to remember. We took over the entire restaurant. The evening was coordinated by Susan Shaffer who met every guest at the door and knew them all by name. I was impressed! Susan arranged a wonderful dinner and entertainment with a few Irish tunes to get the group jigging. Mike Sanford was in especially rare form with his version of the Irish jig. It was a real donnybrook!

The really best laugh of the week for us was when the SD team appeared dressed as Superheroes for the Council Challenge Race. It was a bit tricky to get everyone dressed in tights and capes, wigs and masks and then ski down to the race course without freezing their booties off. Eileen Sanford and Terri Dickenson looked like indomitable snowmen skiing the coats and backpacks down to the finish line. The FWSA racers, judges and pacesetters all had a good laugh when they saw Batman, Robin, Wonder Woman, Superman, Superwoman and others flying down the hill. What a funky group. They even enjoyed the rest of the day skiing in part of the costumes. Children in the lodge asked them to pose for pictures with the Superheroes. We have always taken top prizes for costumes but this year was the best. Thanks to Cheryl Reiss for bringing all the costumes. What can we do at Big Sky to keep up our reputation? You'll have to wait and see.



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Did You Change?

FWSA keeps a database on members, clubs, and councils. It's important that information in this database is current so that communications are received in a timely manner. Let me know if there are changes in club or council officers, changes in membership addresses and phone numbers, changes in members' club affiliations, or if your club or council has changed its meeting location.

Requests for information from the database must be sent to the FWSA President (Randy Lew) for approval before it will be dispersed.

The Far West Ski Association website (FWSA.org) has a *Ski Club Officer Update Form* that can be downloaded, completed, and mailed to me at:

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**The Voice of the
Western Skier**



The Councilman

WORDS FROM THE EDITOR:

This issue spotlights clubs and the places they visit to ski. The trips are so varied that if you see a trip you want to join, call the council or club that has mentioned the destination you have in mind. Ask if they have an opening.

Even if trips you wanted have advertised that they are full, sometimes cancellations occur, and you may be able to go after all. Most group trips are much less expensive than if you book a trip on your own. There are advantages to traveling with a group, including finding new people that you will enjoy skiing with, having people to accompany you for meals, and having fond memories of shared experiences.

For Complete Information on FWSA, visit our website:
www.fwsa.org

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