



## WHO & WHAT'S NEW FOR 2015-2016

**Happy Birthday to Our Favorite Centinarian:** *Dave McCoy* celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 24<sup>th</sup> with his wife, Roma, and almost their entire family. They made a full weekend of it, August 25 through August 27 in Bishop, CA. The town of Mammoth Lakes placed a giant birthday card in the middle of town for everyone to sign, and then presented it to Dave. Congratulations, Dave. Here's to many more!

**More Resorts for Mountain Collective:** *The Mountain Collective* has widened their geographic reach with the addition of two more destinations. *Stowe* joins the Mountain Collective as their first resort on the East Coast, while *Taos* extends pass-holder access into New Mexico. The resorts join *Sun Valley*, *Alta*, *Snowbird*, *Aspen/Snowmass*, *Ski Banff-Lake Louise-Sunshine Village*, *Jackson Hole*, *Mammoth Mountain*, *Squaw Valley/Alpine Meadows*, in the U.S. plus Australia's *Thredbo*, and Canada's *Whistler Blackcomb*. The Mountain Collective Pass includes access to 21 mountains with more than 43,400 acres of terrain and 271 lifts, with two days of skiing or riding at each of the eleven destinations.

**Whistler Blackcomb Gets Personal:** *Whistler Blackcomb* will be introducing **WB+** this winter season, a new online interactive connection to the ski resort's RFID technology which they introduced last year. **WB+** will give guests the option to create a personal profile in order to collect stats and data about their days on the mountain. By having their lift passes automatically scanned as they pass RFID chairlift access gates, skiers and boarders will be able to keep track of personal stats including their number of days on the slopes and total vertical feet ridden. Users will be able to make their **WB+** profiles accessible to others, allowing groups to create goals and fun challenges throughout the winter.

**Mt. Norquay-The Oldest Resort in North America:** North America's oldest ski area, and the oldest in the Canadian Rockies, Banff's local *Mt Norquay* celebrates 90 years of operations this winter. The first ski cabin was built there in 1927 and the first rope tow installed in 1941. The "Big Chair" has been providing riders with views of Bow Valley since 1948. To mark their 90th anniversary, *Mt. Norquay* will be celebrating with many special events throughout the season.

**Ski Towns Dominate:** It just may be that the "ski bum" is on the path to extinction. Reports indicating that ski towns attract wealth is a pretty obvious reality. When looking at a list of the richest small towns in America, as compiled by *Bloomberg Business*, it is notable just how much of the list is occupied by areas associated with skiing. All of Bloomberg's Top 10 are travel destinations, but only three have no ties to skiing. Leading the pack was Summit Park, Utah, home of *Park City*. Other resorts making the list include: *Jackson Hole Mountain Resort*, *Little Cottonwood and Big Cottonwood Canyon*, *Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation*, *Breckenridge*, and *Pargatory*.

**Women's Ski Jumping News:** *Women's Ski Jumping USA* (WSJ-USA) is pleased to announce an expanded relationship with the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association (USSA). Beginning on October 1, 2015, USSA will assume responsibility for coaching and other operations affecting the women's ski jumping program. "The best direction for WSJ-USA is one that best serves the athletes," said Peter Jerome, interim President. "I am pleased that USSA will be taking responsibility for the national women's ski jumping program, and our partnership with UOP for our development coach, Lindsey Van. WSJ-USA will focus our organizational efforts on cultivating and supporting development programs and athletes - with an emphasis on the successful Fly Girls development program. The expanded partnership is a win for both organizations and will increase operational efficiency, while simultaneously addressing the specific needs of a wider range of athletes and athletic abilities." Women's Ski Jumping USA's Fly Girls program recently concluded its second summer development program and will continue to operate and be funded directly by WSJ-USA. Members have done a remarkable job in raising awareness for the sport across the US and in providing a foundation for the women athletes leading up to their Olympic debut in Sochi," said USSA Executive Vice President, Luke Bodensteiner. The top U.S. ski jumping athletes will next be in Lake Placid, NY on October 10-11, 2015 for the Flaming Leaves Festival, which features the normal hill event of the U.S. Ski Jumping Championship.

## **FAR WEST TRAVEL**

**Far West Annual Ski Week 2016:** January 30th-February 6, 2016 are the dates set for next year's Ski Week to **Telluride Ski Resort**. Ski Week staff and the folks at Telluride have some exciting events planned for everyone, including a Mountain Picnic, 5-6 day lift tickets, lots of racing, and something new..."*Cruise the Blues*". Join us to get in on all the fun. Check with your council's Trip Leader to make your reservations for this fantastic week. More details to come.

**Far West Mini Ski Week 2016:** Signups are now being taken for the 2016 Crested Butte trip which will be March 21—26, 2016. You can enjoy this true Colorado ski town, with wide open green and blue groomed trails to more advanced long cruisers and the famous extreme limits of the North Face and Headwall. There will also be FWSA activities and optional local activities available. Signups are now available on-line and payments can be made through PayPal. Go to [www.fwsa.org](http://www.fwsa.org) and click on the travel tab. Scroll down until you see "Crested Butte" and click on "more" to bring up the trip information. Then click on the PayPal icon to register and make a payment. For more information, contact Gloria Raminha, Trip Leader, at [Garski2011@gmail.com](mailto:Garski2011@gmail.com) or (661)800-8229 (cell).

**Far West International Trip 2016:** 2016 Int'l Ski Week trip to **Cortina d'Ampezzo** and extension trip to *Florence and Rome, Italy*. The optional extension trip will be to the *Tuscany* region – 3 nights in Florence with day tours to Sienna & San Gimignano and 4 nights in Rome. If one chooses to not go to Cortina, we will fly you from the US to join us for the extension trip – we call this the "Stand Alone" trip. Contact Debbie Stewart for more information: [FWSAintltrvl@prodigy.net](mailto:FWSAintltrvl@prodigy.net).

**Far West Annual Ski Week 2017:** Ski Week 2017 has been set, and will be in beautiful **Breckenridge, Colorado**, January 28-February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The town of Breckenridge has a colorful history full of gold mining, saloons, booms, and busts. There is much to do to keep skiers and non-skiers busy for the week. There are historical tours, shopping, spas, pubs, and plenty of restaurants....Gold Runner Alpine Coaster and Starlight Mountain Top Dinners included. We have lots of slope-side lodging with many close to town. Council trip leaders will begin promoting this trip in Spring, 2016.

**Far West Mini Ski Week 2017:** **Nancy Greene's Cahilty Lodge at Sun Peaks Resort** is our destination for the 2017 Mini Ski Week. Sun Peaks Resort is located in Southern British Columbia, 40

minutes from Kamloops, and serviced by airports in Kamloops, Kelowna and Vancouver, British Columbia. Cahilty Lodge is located in the heart of the village, just steps from the ski hill. Watch for more information on this fun trip on the FWSA website.

## FAR WEST COUNCILS

**Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs:** L.A. Council President, Kathleen Byrnes has announced that through the generosity of the *California Ski Industry Association*, LA Council is once again honored to make a California Gold Pass available for purchase. This pass offers great benefits to anyone who skis resorts in California or Nevada including: The ability to ski **27** California and Nevada resorts, **NO** blackout dates, **fully transferable** to family & friends, 1 ski pass – 1 ski area per day, and can be used up to **50** days at each resort. This year, however, to give everyone an equal chance to acquire this Pass, it will be available for purchase via an *eBay Auction*! The auction will be open for bidding October 11 - November 1. We're getting the word out now to allow you time to pass information about this great value on to your clubs and their members. Any questions about the Pass or auction can be directed to me at [lacpresident@lacouncil.org](mailto:lacpresident@lacouncil.org)