

Far West News *Flash*

March, 2020

Far West Ski Association

WHO & WHAT'S NEW FOR 2020

FAR WEST CONVENTION

COVID-19 TAKES OUT CONVENTION 2020: Far West Ski Association's 88th Annual Convention, scheduled to take place May 28-31, 2020, in beautiful Portland Oregon, will **NO LONGER HAPPEN**. After several phone calls between our Board of Trustees, Travel V.P.s, and Convention Chair, it was clear that no matter what procedures we would put in place, we could not guarantee the safety of our members, partners and guests, while adhering to the mandatory "stay home, stay safe" order from our governor. It was agreed that our 88th Annual Convention could not take place on the dates we had set. We were unable to find a suitable date in 2020 that would work, and still keep our members and member partners safe, but we were able to work with the Red Lion Hotel on the River – Jantzen Beach in getting our event set over to June, 2022. *Northwest Ski Club Council* had planned a terrific five-day-event for you all. So, in 2 years, we'll just do it all over again.

FAR WEST ELECTIONS

2020 FWSA OFFICER ELECTIONS: With the Far West Ski Association Annual Meeting & Convention planned for May 28-31, 2020, in Portland, Oregon being postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, voting for FWSA Officers and Trustees planned for Sunday, May 31 will also be postponed. **The incumbents holding the positions of President, Secretary, Treasurer, VP of Communications, VP of International Travel, VP of Marketing, VP of Membership and two Trustees who were up for election in 2020 have agreed to continue in their positions until elections at the 2021 Convention.** Elections for these positions will be for a *one-year term*. This way we can maintain the alternating years of officer elections. The incumbents continuing for one-year terms are listed below:

- President: Gloria Raminha
- Treasurer: Randy Lew
- Secretary: Sheri Parshall
- Trustee 1: Linda Westlund
- Trustee 2: Tucker Hoffmann
- VP of Communications: Joe Harvis
- VP of International Travel: Debbie Stewart
- VP of Marketing: Debbi Kor
- VP of Membership: Michael Bouton

Positions that are normally up for election in 2021 will also be on the ballot. President, Treasurer and Secretary will be elected to one-year terms. Two Trustees and three functional VP's listed below will be elected to two-year terms.

- Trustee 1: Jo Simpson (current office holder)
- Trustee 2: Tom Bundgard (current office holder)

- VP of Council Services: Chris Gill (current office holder)
- VP of North America Travel: Nancy Ellis (current office holder)
- VP of Public Affairs: Fran Long (current office holder)

If you have an interest in serving as an Officer or Trustee please contact Steve Coxen: sacoxen2000@gmail.com, or 503-679-9022

FAR WEST RECOGNITION AWARDS

Even though we will not be having our annual Convention this year, Far West Ski Association would still like to recognize our clubs and councils for their outstanding work within their own organizations, and our Charities and Communities Program by singling out those who give from the bottom of their hearts.

FWSA Club & Council Recognition Awards Nominations Due April 15, 2020:

These awards are great ways to have your club or council recognized for your good work--and to honor hardworking volunteers. Applications and instructions for all the awards are on the FWSA website. The award nominations due March 15 are: Charities & Community Service, Communications, and History Recognition Awards.

CHARITIES & COMMUNITY SERVICE RECOGNITION PROGRAM:

DEADLINE: April 15, 2020.

FWSA encourages all clubs and councils to get involved with charities and community service. The top two Clubs and the winning Council will be invited to display a picture board at Convention. All groups that apply will be recognized at Convention. Please note: This year there will be no monetary awards. The winners will get electronic medallions to post on their club/council websites and put in their newsletters. Information and applications can be obtained on the Far West website: www.fwsa.org. **CONTACT:** For any Charity & Community Service questions, contact Sigrid Noack at skisig@gmail.com.

COMMUNICATIONS AWARDS:

DEADLINE: April 15, 2020.

Club and Council Newsletter and Website and Outstanding Club. The newsletter and website nominations are simple this year. Just send a copy of your newsletter and a link to your newsletter and website to Bill King at: willie2K@comcast.net. Also, you don't have to name a judge. Please consider entering.

MORE NEWS

FAR WEST HAS A NEW WEBSITE: Welcome to the new FWSA website. We hope you will find it easier to navigate. It is still a work-in-progress as we will be adding more content in the coming months. Please take some time to familiarize yourself with the site and the membership area. Direct members have been loaded to the membership module as per our records from the 2019 season. Direct membership will expire on April 30th, 2020, and you will be able to renew online. You can even set your profile to auto renew in future years. An email notification has been sent to Direct members in advance of expiring membership as a reminder to renew.

Affiliate council club members who have participated in one of the FWSA travel programs over the past few years have also been pre-loaded as have our industry partners. Your membership is at no cost to you, as you are a member of an affiliated club, and renews automatically from year to year. But, please go into the membership area and get acquainted with the information available. All member types should review and update your record where necessary so we have an accurate record. If you don't find your name, feel free to add it.

HAPPY GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY : *Holidaze Ski Tours* turns 50 this year. Congratulations to the McErlean's! I'm sure we have all taken at least 1 tour with them. Here's wishing them another happy 50 years.

SKI WORLD SAYS GOOD-BYE TO DAVE MCCOY: Dave McCoy, a towering pioneer of the California ski industry, who transformed a remote Sierra peak into the glorious Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, has died. He was 104. Rusty Gregory, former chief executive at Mammoth Mountain, said McCoy died February 8th, peacefully in his sleep at his home in the eastern Sierra Nevada community of Bishop, Calif.

SKI AREAS SEEK CONGRESSIONAL RELIEF: Shuttered U.S. ski areas that are economic engines for many Western and New England states are pressing Congress for economic relief—though they'll likely need to wait for the next Covid-19 economic stimulus bill to get it. The relief will surely help, as losses approach \$5 billion for 2020 following nationwide closures. Along with ski resorts all over the country, Vail Resorts and Alterra Mountain Company closed 49 resorts. The company stated that while they are closed, the plan will be to conduct some limited on-mountain maintenance to potentially have a limited late-season opening if circumstances allow.

SKIING AROUND THE WORLD: Our friend, and frequent convention attendee, Jimmie Petterson, now has two coffee table books, "*Skiing Around the World, Volume 1* and *Skiing Around the World, Volume 2*". In these two books, Jimmy takes the reader on adventures through seven continents to visit over 500 ski resorts in 70+ countries. Experience world famous resorts, heli-ski destinations, glacier skiing, unique hidden gems, and much more! Be inspired by the variety of Jimmy's experiences as he shares his journeys. Jackson Hogan, ski writer, said "I can't imagine that there exists a compendium of one skier's travels around the world that is as complete, authoritative and personal as Jimmy Pettersen's two-tome odyssey, the aptly titled *Skiing Around the World*. It reminds me of how one might compose a detailed letter to a friend about one's travels, a long-lost art that gives Pettersen's travelogue a sense of place that goes beyond trite "resort reviews". As a bonus, his observations happen to ring true, at least to this local's ears". To get a copy, contact Leigh Gieringer, 480-600-6099, or lgieringer2@cox.net

FAR WEST TRAVEL

2020 MINI SKI WEEK: *Has Been Cancelled!* As of Monday, March 16, 2020, *Big White* has suspended their ski season, due to the Covid-19 Virus. V.P. of Travel, Nancy Ellis, will be working with Big White for full refunds for those who have paid their trip in full. This will happen once Far West receives their refund from Big White. For those of you who booked air, you will need to contact the airlines for any changes or refunds.

FAR WEST 2020 ADVENTURE TRIP: *Still happening!* Far West is offering an Adventure trip to *Croatia*, September 3-13, 2020. We will be working with *Alpine Adventures* on this particular trip. This will be a land and boat/yacht trip, limited to a minimum of 30, and maximum of 40 participants. Group air will be based out of **LAX**. Ground transportation will be by air-conditioned motor coach. Trip includes: Welcome reception, dinner and Farewell Dinner. Daily breakfast is included, along with 6 lunches, and 4 dinners. Explore Plitvice National Park, the most famous park in *Croatia*. Guided walking tours, visiting several UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including Diocletian's Palace, Trogir, the highest peak of Croatia – Vidova Gora, with beautiful views of the Adriatic, Korcula, the birthplace of Marco Polo, and much, much more!

2020 DIVE TRIP: *Still happening!* Cozumel will be the location for the 2020 Far West Dive Trip. The dates will be October 3-10, 2020. Lodging will be at the *Iberostar Cozumel Resort*, and will include 2 cenotes dives on the mainland. Flyers and registration forms are currently being drafted. Check with Randy Lew: fwsa13randy@telis.org for more information.

2021 INSIDE PASSAGE CRUISE TO ALASKA: North American Travel has planned an *Alaska Inside Passage Cruise* with an optional *Denali Tour*, mid--to late June, 2021. Those on the Denali Tour, will fly into Fairbanks, take a Riverboat ferry cruise in the area, visit the home and kennels of the late four-time Iditarod

winner *Susan Butcher*, and see her champion sled dogs in action. From there, we will take an *Alaska Railroad DOME* ride to *Denali National Park*. Spend a full day traveling to the heart of the park viewing wildlife, the historic town of *Kantishna*, and join in a short hike, dog sled, and gold panning demonstrations. The Denali Tour ends with a bus trip along the scenic Alaska tundra of Denali to the cruise ship in *Whittier*. Once on board, travelers will cruise southerly, seeing the *Hubbard Glacier* and *Glacier Bay National Park*, with stops at the ports of *Skagway*, *Juneau*, and *Ketchikan*. The cruise ends in *Vancouver, BC*. Sandy Gaudette with *Skigroup.net*, will be our Tour Operator for this fun trip! Watch for more information on the *FWSA.org* website.

FWSA 2021 SOLDEN SKI WEEK: *Holidaze Ski Tours* has been granted the contract on this trip. Dates are February 19 – February 27, 2021. The trip will have an extension to *Southern Spain*, from February 27 – March 7, 2021. Stay tuned for more information.

FWSA SUMMER 2021 CHILE SKI/ADVENTURE TRIP: *Valle Nevado, Chile* ski trip with extension to *Atacama Desert* is currently being researched for details of Atacama Desert conditions. Possible dates would be late July or August, 2021.

OTHER FWSA INTERNATIONAL TRIPS UNDER CONSIDERATION: FWSA International Ski Week, 2022 to *Madonna Di Campiglio, Italy* was voted on at April, 2019 Board meeting. An *Africa Adventure Trip* has been approved for 2022, going to central and east Africa. And, a *Galapagos Adventure Trip* has been approved by the FWSA Board for 2024.

FAR WEST SKI FOUNDATION

AMAZON SMILES WITH FAR WEST FOUNDATION: Did you know that FWSF is a participating charitable organization with Amazon. Please consider signing up for the Amazon Smile Charitable program and select the Far West Ski Foundation as your charity. Amazon will then donate a percentage of each purchase to FSWF. There is no added cost to you. Amazon makes the donation from their proceeds.

Stay safe, stay healthy, and we'll see you on the other side!