

May 2020

*Far West Ski Association*

## WHO & WHAT'S NEW FOR 2020

**BECK INTERNATIONAL AWARD – A TIE:** The Beck International Trophy is the highest athlete honor from U.S. Ski & Snowboard, recognizing the top athletes in international competition for the year. It is also the organization's oldest, dating back to 1931. For only the second time in history, two skiers tied for the honor. The 2019-2020 award goes to **Mikaela Shiffrin** – *Alpine Athlete of the Year*, and **Gus Schumacher** – *Cross Country Skier of the Year*. Mikaela said "It's an incredible honor to share the award with three-time World Junior Champion cross country skier Gus Schumacher". And Gus expressed his excitement by saying "Wow, I didn't know how big it, was until I realized Mikaela was the other recipient". Mikaela skis with Ski & Snowboard Club Vail, and Gus, with Alaska Winter Stars.

These two are joined by five other incredible Sport Athletes of the Year: *Freeskiing Athlete of the Year*, **Maggie Voisin**, Whitefish Mountain Resort Freestyle Team; *Freestyle Athlete of the Year*, **Jaelin Kauf**, Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club; *Nordic Combined Athlete of the Year*, **Tara Geraghty-Moats**, New York Ski Education Foundation; *Ski Jumping Athlete of the Year*, **Andrew Urlaub**, Flying Eagles Ski Club, WI; *Snowboard Athlete of the Year*, **Dusty Henricksen**, Mammoth Mountain Snowboard Team.

**NEWS FROM TAOS:** While the mountain is still closed, Taos is working on putting the finishing touches on new bike trails, a via ferrata course, and adding a new ice skating rink. Since closure, they initiated: their own Goggles for Docs program, co-founded the *Enchanted Circle COAD* (Communities Organized in Active Disaster), and with the help of the entire valley community, raised more than \$100,000 to help support The *Fund for Taos*, a specialized fund for Coronavirus relief fund created by *Taos Community Foundation*.

**ALTERRA MOUNTAIN COMPANY:** Alterra is discounting renewals for Ikon Pass Holders whose seasons were cut short. On May 12<sup>th</sup>, Alterra offered renewal discounts of as much as \$200 on its Ikon passes following this year's coronavirus-abbreviated season.

**VAIL GRANTS REFUNDS FOR 2020 PASSES:** *Vail Resorts* is offering refunds for 2020, and holds 2021 guarantees. Vail Resorts (VR) is granting its 2019-20 season pass holders credits of at least 20 percent, and up to 80 percent if they weren't able to use their passes at all. It is also offering free "Epic Coverage" for the 2020-21 season, which will provide cash refunds to passholders for certain resort closures, including for events like COVID-19, as well as refunds for job loss, illness, and other eligible personal events. Vail is also extending spring sales deadlines until Labor Day, giving people more time to buy at the best price.

**OUTDOOR BUSINESS CLIMATE PARTNERSHIP "CALL TO CLIMATE ACTION":** On May 14, 2020, the *Outdoor Business Climate Partnership (OBCP)*, an alliance between SIA, the Outdoor Industry Association (OIA) and the National Ski Areas Association (NSAA) joined "**LEAD On Climate 2020.**" OBCP represents the outdoor business sector, which helps to support the \$887 billion outdoor recreation economy and its 7.6 million jobs. Alongside 330 other business leaders, all calling in from home offices and remote locations across the country, they had meetings with a bipartisan group of Congresspeople, calling on them to build back a better economy by infusing long-term climate solutions into future economic recovery plans, while working towards long-term climate solutions that include investing in a net-zero emissions economy and placing a price on carbon.

**100+ SKI AREAS TO RE-OPEN IN JUNE:** The easing of lockdowns in countries around the world means that ski areas, in a growing number of countries, expect to be open in June. All will operate with measures in place to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Of the over 100 ski areas in 14 countries expecting to re-open in June, operations will be very different from before. Most ski areas will operate entirely for skiers living in the countries where the ski lifts are. In most cases, borders remain closed and travel remains difficult, unsafe and sometimes impossible. In total, all being well, 80+ ski areas will open in 6 countries in the southern hemisphere. Nearly 20 areas will be open in 8 or 9 countries in the northern hemisphere. Those countries with areas opening include: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Chile, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland (Zermatt and Saas). Others who are hoping to open include: France, Italy, and Japan. In the U.S: **Timberline** in Oregon will re-open beginning Friday, May 15, the **Beartooth Basin** summer ski area from May 30. **Arapahoe Basin**, Colorado looks like it will also re-open in late May if given permission. In addition, there still appears to be a chance that skiing and boarding on the Horstman Glacier at Blackcomb Mountain at Whistler in BC, Canada, may happen in some form if restrictions are lifted, but that remains uncertain at present.

**MOUNT ST. HELEN'S 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY:** 40 years ago, on May 18, 1980, Mount St. Helen's erupted in Washington State. If you lived anywhere near it, you will remember where and what you were doing. It was the largest eruption of any volcano world-wide. The plume of smoke and ash shot 60,000 feet up, with ash being carried as far west as Montana, and reducing the 9,677 foot mountain to an elevation of 8,635, leaving it as a flat-topped mountain. It was a spectacular sight for anyone able to see it first-hand!

**FAR WEST'S 90<sup>TH</sup> CELEBRATION:** *Still happening!* Far West Ski Association is turning 90 on October 7, 2020. A celebration of **some kind**, is still in the works, but remains to be seen in what form. *The Palace Hotel*, in San Francisco, is where it all got started in 1930. Far West has grown from 4 Councils in 3 states, to 10 Councils in 12 states, along with approximately 140 ski clubs during our history. We are preparing a "*Celebration Book*", a compilation of the history of FWSA in its current form, and plan to have that available at that time. Any advertisements should be made **right now** through Leigh Gieringer, Publisher of the Far West Skiers Guide at: [fwsq2@cox.net](mailto:fwsq2@cox.net).

**FAR WEST HAS A NEW WEBSITE:** *Another reminder!* We have a new website. If you haven't already, please check it out. We will be adding "NEW" News to it, updates on trips and other happenings, and soon...a flyer on next year's Convention, at the Mission Bay Marriott, in San Diego, hosted by San Diego Ski Club Council.

**AMAZON SMILES WITH FAR WEST SKI FOUNDATION:** Far West Ski Foundation 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 FWSF, with no added cost to you.

## FAR WEST TRAVEL

**FAR WEST 2020 ADVENTURE TRIP:** *Still happening!* Far West is offering an Adventure trip to *Croatia*, September 3-13, 2020. 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: UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including Diocletian's Palace, Trogir, the highest peak of Croatia – Vidova Gora, and Korcula, the birthplace of Marco Polo, and much, much more! Contact Debbie Stewart for more information: [fwsaintltrlv@prodigy.net](mailto:fwsaintltrlv@prodigy.net).

**FAR WEST 2020 DIVE TRIP:** *Still happening! We are going!!* The 2020 Far West Dive Trip will be to the Iberostar Cozumel Resort October 3-10, 2020. 5 days of diving including 2 cenotes dives on the mainland. While we anticipate some changes in air travel, resort, and dive procedures mandated by governments to protect your health, we are looking forward to some amazing diving. Flyers and registration forms are available on the FWSA web site [www.fwsa.org](http://www.fwsa.org). Check with Randy Lew: [fwsa13randy@telis.org](mailto:fwsa13randy@telis.org) for more information.

**FWSA SUN VALLEY SKI WEEK 2021:** *Spots Still Available!* FWSA Councils are selling the 2021 Sun Valley Ski Week January 30—February 6th. Contact your Council Trip Leader to reserve your lodging. We are selling hotel rooms at Sun Valley Inn and Sun Valley Lodge, as well as 2 & 3-bedroom Lodge Apartments. Trip package includes lodging and FWSA and Council parties. Additional costs for lift tickets, group air/ground, and Council Challenge races. Free shuttle to town, ski hill, and activities for non-skiers/boarders! Space is limited so sign up now. NO FWSA fees to cancel prior to October 10<sup>th</sup>. Go to: [www.fwsa.org](http://www.fwsa.org), for Trip Leader contact information or contact Nancy Ellis, [fwsatravelnancy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fwsatravelnancy@sbcglobal.net).

**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 2021 ZERMATT MINI SKI WEEK:** *Registration Open Soon* for the Far West Mini Ski Week. March 21-26, 2021 are the dates set for the event, at the beautiful *Zermatt Utah Resort & Spa*. Contact Gloria Raminha, trip leader for this trip: [garski2011@gmail.com](mailto:garski2011@gmail.com), or 661-800-8229. Watch the FWSA website for sign-up details.

**2021 INSIDE PASSAGE CRUISE TO ALASKA:** *Spots Still Available!* on the FWSA 2021 *Alaska Cruise* and *Denali Tour* scheduled for June 19—30. Sign up soon, and you may still qualify for the *Special Deal*—Free Premium Beverage Package; Free Gratuities; and Free Wi-Fi. There are three trip options available: Denali Tour Only June 19—23; Alaska Inside Passage Cruise Only June 23—30; or full trip Denali Tour/Alaska Inside Passage Cruise June 19—30. Contact Nancy Ellis, [fwsatravelnancy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fwsatravelnancy@sbcglobal.net), for more information or go to the FWSA website, [www.fwsa.org](http://www.fwsa.org) for information and registration forms.

**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 COUNCIL NEWS

**INTERMOUNTAIN SKI CLUB COUNCIL:** The Bogus Basin Ski Club of Boise had a wonderful trip to *St. Moritz, Switzerland*, staying in a Club Med property, and skiing powder for six days before going to *London* for 5 days. The whole trip was fantastic and everyone returned home Friday march 13<sup>th</sup>. just in time to hunker down for the past two months. Only four people tested positive for Covid-19 virus and have fully recovered. Who knows for sure where or how they contracted it. Thank you, to Paul Markowitz, for planning and leading this terrific trip. Many memories were made.

## FAR WEST CONVENTION

**A PERSONAL NOTE FROM YOUR NEWSFLASH EDITOR & CONVENTION CHAIR:** *As you are all aware, due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, there will be no 2020 Far West Convention this year. No Pub Crawl, Golf Tournament, or Silent Auction. No Travel Expo, Snowsport Leadership Academy, Public Affairs Panel sessions, or Keynote Speaker. There will be no VIP's, Awards' Banquet or Presentations, or elections of new officers. There will be no socializing with our industry partners and the friends that we consider "family", that we only see once a year.*

*It's been a year beyond ALL of our wildest imaginations, truly one we won't soon forget! I will miss seeing you all May 28-31. However, I look forward to greeting each and every one of you in San Diego, next June 10-13.*

*Debbi*



# **GOGGLES FOR DOCS**

**IN SUPPORT OF HEALTH CARE WORKERS – COVID-19**

**Still happening!** The medical profession can use whatever assistance it can get. *Ed Ariniello, U.S. Outdoor Store, in Portland, Oregon*, recently registered his sporting goods store, as a drop-off point for **Goggles for Docs**, a national effort to collect new and used ski goggles for hospitals in desperate need of protective eyewear. They repurpose the eyewear for use by medical professionals at hospitals across the country. *"We all need something to do," he says, "something we can contribute."* The image of doctors looking as if they just came straight from shredding Mt. Hood might seem slightly ridiculous, but the idea came from a physician in New York, whose aunt coaches downhill racers. Hospitals from across the country make requests through the **Goggles for Docs** website, with donors committing to supply a certain number. So far, the group has donated nearly 13,000 pair of goggles. If you are a Northwest person, check out US Outdoor Store in Downtown Portland. **Otherwise**, please visit the website: [www.gogglesfordocs.com](http://www.gogglesfordocs.com) for other locations across the country to donate.

*stay safe! stay healthy!*