

Far West News *Flash*

JUNE, 2020

Far West Ski Association

WHO & WHAT'S NEW FOR 2020

EUROPEAN SKI AREAS ARE OPEN ONCE MORE: Italy, France and Switzerland, and others, have announced that their ski resorts are opening up for business on June 20, 2020. The summer glacier ski areas at *Les 2 Alpes* and *Val d'Isere* in France and *Crans Montana* and *Zermatt* in Switzerland have reopened, as has the *Molltal Glacier* in Austria (where three other glaciers are already open). In Italy, *Stelvio* glacier summer ski area is set to re-open to all skiers and boarders from this weekend, along with a second glacier ski area, *Cervinia*, is due to re-open on June 20th. With two resorts open in Norway, the number of open areas in Europe is back to double figures. A survey taken by one of the *Peak Retreats* indicates 84% of this year's skiers say that they will return next year. Good news to hear!

NEW ZEALAND SKI SEASON HAS BEGUN: The 2020 ski season has gotten underway in New Zealand with *Mt Hutt* opening for winter with its traditional "Drinks" Celebration for those first on the chairlift. New Zealand announced earlier this week that it had successfully suppressed the virus pandemic so no social distancing or off-slope face mask wearing is required there.

HIGH SCHOOLS HOLD GRADUATION ON MOUNTAIN TOPS: During this time of the novel Coronavirus, a lot of changes have been made in the way we do things. We've seen virtual graduation ceremonies, drive-by graduations, but two high schools chose to take theirs' to the hills. *Kennett High School*, in North Conway, New Hampshire, held their ceremony on top of Cranmore Mountain Resort, while the 14 graduates of the *Peak School*, in Frisco, Colorado, held their ceremony at the top of Copper Mountain. Grads and families rode the chair up, and the grads pulled their diploma out of a basket at the top of the chairlift. What a great way to have a graduation ceremony. Congratulations to all the graduating seniors of the class of 2020!

KGO ANNOUNCER, JOHN HAMILTON PASSES: KGO "On the Go" weekend host, *John Hamilton*, passed away May 26, at the age of 85. John was an institution and synonymous with KGO, having hosted his weekend show, "On The Go" for 33 of his 65 years in radio. He loved coming to work and talking with his listeners about travel. John won numerous broadcasting awards during his career from professional associations including: the California Outdoor Writers, Pacific Inter-Club Yachting, the Society of American Travel Writers, the US Ski Journalists, and the North America Snowsport Journalists. "We're going to miss him. He was a true gentleman both on and off the air", said Cumulus Media Vice President and Market Manager, Doug Harvill.

FAR WEST'S 90TH 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. 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. Advertisements for your business or organization is available. Any advertisements should be made **right now**, through Leigh Gieringer, Publisher of the Far West Skiers Guide at: fwsq2@cox.net.

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: *Under Consideration!* Due to the Covid-19 virus, Far West is taking under consideration our planned Adventure trip to *Croatia*, September 3-13, 2020. Communications have been in place with the tour operator and all of the lodging partner, airlines, etc., and a decision will be made soon. For further information, contact Debbie Stewart for more information: 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. Check with Randy Lew: 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 10th. Go to: www.fwsa.org, for Trip Leader contact information or contact Nancy Ellis, fwsatravelnancy@sbcglobal.net.

FWSA 2021 SOLDEN SKI WEEK: *Information Coming Soon!* *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, 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, for more information or go to the FWSA website, 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.

stay safe! stay healthy!