

OCTOBER, 2020

*Far West Ski Association*

## WHO & WHAT'S NEW FOR 2020-2021

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY FAR WEST:** Far West Ski Association turned 90 years old on October 7, 2020. The life and times of Far West has been put together in a beautiful commemorative publication, which will soon be available to those interested in reading how it all began. Many people have crossed the threshold of Far West Ski Association in these past 90 years, from snowsports partners, Olympians, mountain-climbers, Tenth Mountain Division members, adaptive skiers and climbers, Forest Service Representatives, educational and leadership mentors, and many more. The organization provides a chance for the members to get together for travel opportunities, both domestically, and through our wonderful International travel program. Ski trips, dive trips, and adventure trips abound. The annual Convention allows friends to gather for that once-a-year reunion to catch up with each other. The clubs and councils of FWSA contribute to the communities which they serve through charitable giving and community events. They look toward the future with racing scholarships awarded each year to promising young athletes, and recognize those who are involved in ski history, environmental safety and skier safety, both on and off the mountain. Congratulations to an organization that is well respected, and well revered across the country by our fellow ski chapters.

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:** The *Unrecables*, a member club of Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs, just turned 40. Founder, Ron Bass, who now resides on the Island of Maui, and leads drum circles at local beaches, got started with the Unrecables, with his mother's help and connections to *Daniel Freeman Hospital*. The hospital became sponsors of this new club that offered snow skiing to persons of all abilities. Ron went to *Sandy's Ski and Sport* in Marina Del Rey, and asked them if they would loan the club some rental skis for our trips. They said yes!! He began gathering instructors and people with disabilities who were interested, and the rest is history. The *Unrecables* is and has been an outstanding participating club with Far West for many years.

**FIS WORLD CUP KICKS OFF:** The 2021 World Cup Race is set for Saturday, October 17, in Sölden, Austria, where the world's best technical racers will pick up where they left off last March. One notable exception, will be *Mikaela Shiffrin*, who will be sitting this race out, due to tweaking her back in practice runs recently. She will rest this race, so better to be ready for the many races ahead.

**U.S. SKI AND BOARD HALL OF FAME ANNOUNCEMENT:** Eight ski and snow board athletes and sport builders were recently named to the 2020 US Ski and Board Hall of Fame. The eight include: the late *Howard Peterson*, leader and visionary of the U.S. Ski Team; *Holly Flanders*, Olympic downhill racer; ski area mastermind, *Brian Frank*; two-time Olympic Champion snowboarder *Seth Wescott*; long-time international ski federation and U.S. Ski Team leader, *Hank Tauber*; FIS Cross Country World Cup winner, *Alison Owen*; inventor of the THE ski, *Bobby Burns*; and U.S. Ski Team Freestyle Aerialist, *Kristean Porter*.

**NEWS! FROM U.S. AIRLINE COMPANIES:** A number of U.S. Airlines have waived their "change fees", which will result in a sizeable savings for those having to change their reserved flight in the U.S., Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands. Effective immediately, for most Standard Economy, Economy and Premium fares on *United* and *Delta*, there will no longer be a "change fee". The downside...*United Airlines* will not give that partial refund, should your new flight be less than the original one. *Delta* states "if the new flight is cheaper, you will receive CREDIT for the price difference". Beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, they will offer FREE (change) Same-Day Standby flights. *Alaska* and *American* are offering no change fees on some of their classes of fares. Check with your preferred airline for the most up-to-date information.

**NEWS! SKI RESORTS STRUGGLE TO FILL ON-MOUNTAIN POSITIONS** : Mountain and rural resorts for years, have relied on a steady stream of J-1 exchange visa workers from South America, Australia and New Zealand to staff ski schools, hotels and mountain operations. However, with President Trump's June 22 executive order, that paused all foreign-worker visas to expand opportunities for American workers, the challenge of landing seasonal workers has grown for ski areas that have long struggled to fill positions in remote — and pricey — mountain communities. Hiring enough temporary workers to fill crucial jobs, has become a real challenge. Currently, college kids are filling a critical gap for resort companies that need hundreds or even thousands of seasonal workers. "Our applications from college kids are up pretty significantly over prior years. We are targeting college-age applicants, but they seem to be targeting us as well. That's a bright light in this mess", said Jim Laing, head of human resources of *Aspen Skiing Company*. *Vail Resorts*, which owns 33 ski areas in the U.S. and has historically relied on foreign workers, is recruiting more aggressively in local communities. The college students, who have more flexibility, because they are learning remotely or are taking a gap year because of the pandemic, could be the answer to a lot of prayers from the ski resorts this season.

## FAR WEST TRAVEL

**FWSA SUN VALLEY SKI WEEK 2021:** *Still Happening!* 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 ZERMATT MINI SKI WEEK:** *Registration Open.* Sign-ups are now being taken for the *Zermatt Utah Resort* Mini Trip March 21--27, 2021. This resort is located in Midway, Utah. Participants have the option to ski/ride *Deer Valley, Park City, and Sundance Resorts*. There's a lot do for non-skiers such as art classes at Sundance Resort, shopping, tubing, ice skating, snowmobiling, sleigh rides, or soaking in a 10,000-year-old Crater Hot Springs. Contact Gloria Raminha, Trip Leader: [garski2011@gmail.com](mailto:garski2011@gmail.com); 661-800-8229. For further Information, click onto: [www.fwsa.org](http://www.fwsa.org).

**FWSA 2021 INSIDE PASSAGE CRUISE TO ALASKA:** *Still Happening!* There's plenty of time to sign up for the *Denali Tour and Alaska Cruise* June 19--30, 2021. Participants can sign up for the Denali Tour or Alaska Cruise or for the combined two trips. The Denali Trip starts with two days in Fairbanks, AK, followed by two days in Denali, and ends in Anchorage for those doing this portion only. The Inside passage Alaska Cruise starts in Whittier and travels southward with stops in Skagway, Juneau, and Ketchikan before docking in Vancouver, BC. Trip information and registration available on the FWSA.org website or contact Nancy Ellis, VP North American Travel, [fwsatravelnancy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fwsatravelnancy@sbcglobal.net); (530) 414-8261.

**FAR WEST 2021 DIVE TRIP:** *Coming Up!* The 2021 Dive Trip has been contracted and will be October 9-16, 2021 to the wonderful *Anthony's Key Resort* in *Roatan, Honduras*. We have great pricing for their top of the line Key Deluxe lodging, meals, and 6 days of 3 tank boat dives. The registration forms and additional information are available on the website.

**"NEW" FWSA SKI WEEK 2022:** *Aspen/Snowmass Resort* will be the destination January 22—29, 2022 for the annual Far West Ski Week. We will be staying in Snowmass Resort and participants have a choice of ski in/ski out lodging or units a short walk to the ski hill. The Snowmass base area has many new restaurants, lodging, and activities such as a climbing wall and ice rink. The *Alpine "Breath-taker" Mountain Coaster* now traverses the mountain slopes. Put the dates of the trip on your calendar and watch for sign up information to be available in March 2021.

## FAR WEST MEMBER BENEFITS

**“NEW” FWSA BENEFITS PAGE:** The 2020-2021 Member Benefits pages have all been updated. The majority of our on-going partners for ski rentals, transportation, lodging and ski gear have renewed their agreement with Far West for the coming year. PLEASE take the time to look at ALL of our partners, as there have been some changes, and a couple *NEW* partners to point out to you: Besides *Meier Skis*, which was mentioned in last month’s issue, we now have *Crystal Inn & Suites*, in Salt Lake City. *Rossland Red Mountain Inn & Suites*, in Rossland, BC, is now *Sure Stay by Best Western*. Check out these pages, when you are planning a ski trip. You can find some very good deals on lodging, rentals and services. Give the *Transportation Network*, in Park City, or *Go Alpine*, a call when you go to Park City or Steamboat. They will get you to your destination quickly and safely, and at a reduced rate. To keep that tan going, try some sunscreen from *Peak 10*. They are happy to give our members 25% off sunscreen and skin care products.

## FAR WEST COUNCILS

**ORANGE COUNCIL:** *Snowbounders Ski Club* has been holding their Board of Directors meetings via *Zoom*, which has worked out well for “us older skiers”, according to George Kish. Besides covering the usual business and future trip planning, they have waived membership dues for renewing members for the 2020/21 season.

**NORTHWEST SKI CLUB COUNCIL:** *Northwest Ski Club Council* is planning a Council-wide *Zoom* meeting Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. *Dave Tragethon*, from *Mt. Hood Meadows*, will be giving us all the latest scoop of what is happening at Meadows this coming year, and *Tiana Anderson*, from *Crystal Mountain* has been invited to join us as well. Many of NWSCC’s clubs have been having monthly virtual meetings to keep up with their membership, and TRY to plan for some fun things in the upcoming year.

**SIERRA LEAGUE AND COUNCIL:** Sierra Council will be having a virtual board meeting Oct. 27 to plan for the coming ski and race season. We have four races scheduled although execution during the pandemic will depend on what the hosting resorts are willing to do. Like so many things, the annual holiday party won't be taking place this year. We have 22 going to FWSA Ski Week at Sun Valley after a number of dropouts because of virus concerns.

*stay safe! stay healthy!*