

Far West News *Flash*

FEBRUARY 2021

Far West Ski Association

FAR WEST CONVENTION – DATES CHANGED TO OCTOBER 7-10, 2021: Over the past couple weeks, Far West Ski Association has explored various options to avoid postponing our 2021 convention at the *San Diego Marriott Mission Valley* in San Diego, California. After some discussion of possibly holding a Virtual Event, we decided to give ourselves, our members, and ski partners more time to get through the pandemic, get their vaccinations, and move further down the road, to a better level of comfort. The result of that... we have come to an agreement with the *San Diego Marriott Mission Valley* to now hold a **Fall Event**. We can still do all the same activities that we had planned for June. The weather will be nice, and we'll be able to enjoy the sunshine and blue skies of beautiful San Diego. Please change your calendars to these **new dates!** We want to see you all in San Diego October 7-10, 2021.

DANGER IN THE BACKCOUNTRY: Last week 15 people in the US died in avalanches. The highest weekly total ever recorded! Are you prepared? Are you educated? Have you been trained? Just recently, North American Snowsports Journalists Association (NASJA) hosted a webinar, entitled "*Danger in the Backcountry*" along with The Bryce and Ronnie Athletic Snow Safety Foundation (BRASS) that was extremely thought provoking. With backcountry equipment sales up over 137% in the last 3 years, many more snow sport enthusiasts are venturing out of bounds. Side Country is Back Country... **it is not controlled and not patrolled!** At the end of last ski season, when COVID shut down the lifts, there were more than 50 human triggered avalanches in Utah. One lucky victim (he survived) was recording his run on Strava, which showed he tumbled down the mountain at 77 mph! Last month I spoke on the inherent risks of so many more skiers, boarders, and snow-shoers heading out of bounds, and not knowing **what they are doing!** Please, please be safe out there. Check with your local areas. Have there been any avalanche warnings? If so, stay home!! Be safe, not sorry!

MR. "GS"- TED LIGETY ANNOUNCES HIS RETIREMENT: Two-time Olympic champion, *Ted Ligety* has announced his retirement, capping a storied 17-year career. Ligety announced on Tuesday that he will be retiring. An Olympic gold at the 2006 Torino Olympic Games in the alpine combined and a gold in giant slalom at Sochi in 2014, Ted has podiumed in all major FIS Ski World Cup events throughout his career, including slalom, giant slalom, alpine combined, super-G and downhill. He made history at the 2013 World Championships in Schladming, Austria, winning three gold medals. In doing so, he became the first, since Jean Claude Killy, 45 years prior... in 1968, to win three or more golds in one World Championships. His achievements include 5-time World Champion, 3-time World GS Champion, 5-time GS titleholder, 336 World Cup starts, 25 World Cup victories, 52 World Cup podiums, and the only American male to win 2 Olympic gold medals in alpine skiing.

LAST SKIER STANDING: *Black Mountain, New Hampshire*, on the heels of the ultra-marathon, cross-country bike rides, and other such events, has the "Last Skier Standing" event. Set at exactly 1,000 vertical feet elevation, a herd of 80-plus skiers clamored up the slope last weekend. Each skier had one hour to complete a lap by skinning to the top and skiing back down before the next lap starts on the hour every hour until there is only ONE—the *Last Skier Standing*. By hour #42, *Ben Eck*, and runner-up, *Jerimy Arnold*, a 40-year-old father of three, were the only two left competing. The pair continued the race for another 18 hours until Arnold completed 60 laps, leaving Eck to complete the ever-important victory lap, his 61st, to win the race. Fueled by frozen gas station pizza and hot Tang, the 28-year-old Ph.D. candidate from Northeastern University, completed the feat on telemark skis. I saw a lot of cars parked beside the side of the trail that weren't really there. I saw a pirate ship and a pink panther, all kinds of crazy things. 61 laps, 61,000 feet. Whew!

U.S. SKI AND SNOWBOARD HALL OF FAME: In mid-January, the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame hosted an evening with Art Clay and Ben Finley from the National Brotherhood of Skiers in a Zoom meeting. It was an enjoyable and enlightening time, listening to the stories that both Art and Ben had to tell of how the NBS got its start, and how they've grown since that day in 1973. They were to be inducted into the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame in 2020, but due to the COVID Pandemic, the induction ceremony had to be postponed. Once that can happen, they will be duly inducted. In 2015, at the Far West Convention in San Diego, Art Clay and Ben Finley received the *Far West Snowsports Builder Awards*. Please take some time to watch this wonderful YouTube presentation: <https://youtu.be/lxINtOnp3Uc>.

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE "INDY" PASS: Soldier Mountain and Pomerelle Mountain Resort, Idaho, have joined the Indy Pass. Each resort will provide Indy Pass holders two days of access through the end of the 2020-21 season. The pass now includes access to 16 ski areas in the Pacific Northwest, and 61 North American ski areas in all.

FAR WEST TRAVEL

FWSA ZERMATT MINI SKI WEEK: *Postponed to 2022.* The Zermatt Utah Resort Mini Trip has been postponed until March 20--25, 2022. Participants will have the option to ski/ride *Deer Valley, Park City, and Sundance Resorts*. Contact Gloria Raminha, Trip Leader: garski2011@gmail.com; 661-800-8229. Stay tuned for further information.

FWSA 2021 INSIDE PASSAGE CRUISE TO ALASKA: *Still Happening!* There's still 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; (530) 414-8261.

FAR WEST 2021 DIVE TRIP: *Coming Up!* The 2021 Dive Trip 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 or contacting Randy Lew at divetrips@fwsa.org

FWSA SKI WEEEEK 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 COUNCILS

NORTHWEST SKI CLUB COUNCIL: NWSCC will hold their February Council Zoom Meeting, on Wednesday, February 17th. Two guest speakers have been invited to join in the meeting, Alex Vidal from the *U.S. Outdoor Store* and Mike Quinn, from *Mt. Hood Ski Bowl*. The 33rd Annual *Oregon Cancer Ski Out* will be held the first week of March. Participants will choose 1 day between March 1st to March 6th to track their vertical feet through Mt. Hood Meadows. Results will be shared during the Virtual Fund Raiser on Sunday, March 7th. Proceeds will benefit *Candlelighters, OHSU Knight Cancer Institute, and Breast Friends*. *Skiyente Ski Club* of Portland, Oregon, will be celebrating its 65th Anniversary with the crowning of King Winter on Saturday, March 13th, at 4 p.m., live, via a Zoom virtual event. Skiyentes and their guests (anyone!!) can participate in a virtual wine tasting, with tasting kits provided by Stoller Family Estates. All participants in the wine tasting, and past Kings, will receive the Skiyente 65th Anniversary Wine Glass. The club has selected a King Winter (and yes, there have been women, but we're still "kings!!) every year since 1955. The honor is given to those who have been outstanding in support of the sport of skiing on Mt. Hood. Anyone interested in an invitation to the event, which is open to all, can contact Sheri Parshall at cougskier@aol.com.

INTERMOUNTAIN SKI COUNCIL: The ISC has been meeting each month, via *Zoom*, and has found new momentum with the board of directors that was voted in last October. The council is now a registered entity in the state of Utah. A council-wide avalanche safety and awareness presentation will take place (via *Zoom* and courtesy of the *Utah Avalanche Center*) on Feb 18th. The *Northern Wasatch Ski & Social Club* (Utah) is finding their footing after its' formation in Nov. 2019. This month, the board of directors took some time to visit local sporting goods stores to introduce themselves and pass out copies of the *Skiers Guide*. A full moon snowshoeing excursion is planned for the night of Feb 27th. *Cheyenne Ski Club* (Wyoming) is attending a 2-hour backcountry avalanche workshop hosted by the *Colorado Mountain School* on Feb 18th. And, on Feb 26, they will be enjoying the full moon with a Nordic ski outing. This Council is *busy!*

NBS 2021 VIRTUAL BLACK SUMMIT: No, we won't take you to the snow, but we will bring the party to you! The *NBS* introduces the *NBS 2021 Virtual Black Summit!* As well as being a first-ever event of its type, the *NBS 2021 Virtual Black Summit* is an opportunity for people that have always "wanted to go to the *NBS Black Summit*", but never went. They can finally "go" without having to pack, buy airfare, pay for lodging, go through airport security, or sit on a lift chair all for less than the cost of a one-day lift ticket. Go online and register for this one-time special event at: <http://www.nbs.org> and experience the experience! In addition to the souvenir shirt, mask, and other swag, the *NBS 2021 Virtual Black Summit* being held the weekend of February 26-28, 2021 includes:

- Opening Ceremony and Virtual Happy Hours with DJ B Sharp and DJ Ike'T
- Comedian "Simply Shannell" Farris
- Pajama Movie Night with Popcorn
- US Ski Team Presentation featuring Tiger Shaw
- PSIA certified ski instructor continuing education workshop
- Health and Safety Panel Discussion
- Snowsports Show with Prizes
- Black Lives Matter Natural Look Happy Hour & Greek Step Show
- Game Night and Mask Up Competition
- NBS Gospelfest
- Sunday Brunch with Chef Etchane "Etch and Mar'ket" (Optional)
- Virtual Wine Tasting (Optional)
- NBS General Meeting announcing 2022 NBS Black Summit and Prizes
- Online Auction at <http://auction.NBS.org>

FAR WEST COMMUNICATIONS

2020-2021 FAR WEST SKIER'S' GUIDE: The *Far West Skier's Guide - 33rd Annual Edition* - is available on the *FWSA* website - www.fwsa.org. An outstanding publication that helps puts *Far West Ski Association* on the map. The 90th Anniversary booklet (80 pages) is located between pages 40 and 41 of the **2020-2021 *Far West Skier's Guide*** issue. Alternate link: <https://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/farwestskiersguide/2020-21>

FWSA 90th ANNIVERSARY HISTORY BOOK: *FWSA* has published its history on the 90th anniversary of its birth in San Francisco as the *California Ski Association*, a division of the *National Ski Association*. The book is 80 pages in magazine format and includes invited articles from noted historians on *California*, *Arizona*, *Washington*, *Utah*, *Idaho* and *Oregon* ski history, notably *Ingrid Wicken* of the *California Ski Library*, *John Lundin*, *Seattle*, *Jane Jackson*, *Flagstaff*, *Mike Korologos*, *Salt Lake City*, *Eve Chandler*, *Boise*, and *Emilio Trampuz*, *Salem*. Association scholars include *Barbara Razo*, *NSPS*, *Orange*, *Jane Wyckoff*, *Irvine*, *George Eachus*, *Costa Mesa*, *Steve Reneker*, *NSPS*, *Riverside*, and *Chuck Morse*, *La Habra*. The book benefited by help from *Robin Morning*, *Mammoth Lakes* and *Randy Lew*, *Battle Ground*, *Washington*. Limited quantities of this outstanding publication will be available for purchase on www.fwsa.org, in the *FWSA Store*. **\$20 for members and \$25 for non-members.**

stay safe! stay healthy!