

Far West News *Flash*

OCTOBER 2021

Far West Ski Association

STEAMBOAT EXPANSION GETS GO-AHEAD FROM U.S. FOREST SERVICE: *Steamboat Resort Corp.* has plans for a multi-year expansion of the resort to make it the 2nd largest resort in Colorado. The first expansion in 20 years, they will be adding a new 10-person gondola...the *Wild Blue Gondola*, which will load at the base area and finish at the summit of Sunshine Peak for a 3.16-mile-long ride. Mid-station would be at the Bashor Bowl. The *Wild Blue Gondola* will allow the resort to remove the Priest Creek lift and replace the old Sundown Express 4-person with a more efficient and higher capacity 6-person chairlift. Steamboat currently has 2,965 skiable acres, but, with the expansion, would jump to the state's second largest with 3,616-acres. Along with this, there are plans for an après ski plaza, new restaurants and bars, new lodging, a ski beach, and an ice rink. All this will be happening by 2022-2023 season in Steamboat.

VAIL ANNOUNCES \$315 MILLION DOLLARS IN LIFT UPGRADES: Cited as a "monster project", *Vail Resorts* will drop 19 new lifts on 14 mountains by the start of the 2022-23 ski season. There's a six-pack of six-packs, the company's first eight-pack chairlift, a new gondola. There are fixed-grip quads replacing antique double-tower side-by-sides, new fast lifts replacing old fast lifts, and new lifts where there were none before. There are terrain expansions. There are projects everyone was asking for and projects no one was asking for but just about everyone will love. This huge investment comes on top of the \$120 million that will plant six new lifts at five mountains (Okemo, Beaver Creek, Crested Butte, Keystone, and Breckenridge), and relocate another ahead of this coming ski season. Vail CEO, Rob Katz, confirmed that all lifts slated to be replaced are scheduled to operate for the 2021-22 ski season, which means they will have one enormous construction summer on the horizon.

SQUAW VALLEY BECOMES PALISADES TAHOE: The famed *Squaw Valley* ski resort near Lake Tahoe is changing its name, after a long debate and input from Native American tribes. The California resort made the decision to change the name last summer, as many U.S. institutions and communities contemplated the legacy of centuries of racism. In recent decades, several other locations, in states from Minnesota to Oregon, have dropped the term from place names. The change is being praised by the Washoe Tribe, whose ancestral lands include the valley where the resort is located.

FREE AVALANCHE SAFETY WEBINARS: Beginning October 26, a series of free 75-minute online avalanche safety webinars are open to anyone interested. Simply register today to reserve your spot. Each webinar is presented by a knowledgeable avalanche safety educator. Register at [Brass Avalanche.org/brass101](https://www.brass101.org).

FAR WEST ANNUAL CONVENTION

FAR WEST 2021 CONVENTION A SUCCESS: The 88th Annual Far West Convention was held last weekend, October 7-10, in San Diego, with San Diego Council of Ski Clubs hosting. Special guests included: *Chris Anthony*, Keynote Speaker; World War II 10th Mountain Division Veterans: *Bruce Campbell* and *Howard Koch*, along with two other World War II Veterans, *Tom Rice* and *Gil Nadeau*. These gentlemen held a lively Public Affairs Panel Session on Saturday afternoon, leaving attendees truly enlightened about their experiences during the war. On Friday evening, we held our 35th Annual Silent Auction, raising close to \$20,000 to support FWSA programs.

Awards were presented to many outstanding Far West members and special guests on Saturday evening, including: The Hans Georg Award to *Nancy Ellis (Sierra Council)*; the J. Stanley Mullin award to *Jim Nachbar (Arizona Council)*; Elizabeth "Schatzi" Wood award to *Chris Gill (San Diego Council)*, the Terry Smith Award to *Debi Phelps (Bay Area Council)*; the President's Award to *Debbie Stewart (Sierra Council)*; the Bill Mackey Award, to *Kevin Bracken of Winter Park Resort*; the Tommi Tyndall Award to *Holidaze Ski Tours*; the Western Ski Heritage Award to *John Lundin*, author of "*Skiing Sun Valley*", the Far West Environment Award, *posthumously*, to *Richard Lubin*; the Bill Berry Hard News Award to *Shawn Styles*, Television Meteorologist and Lifestyle Reporter from San Diego; the Bill Berry Featured Article Award to *Jimmy Petterson*, author of "*Skiing Around the World, Volume II*"; the Warren Miller Modern Media Award, to *Chris Anthony*, producer of the movie "*Mission Mt. Mangart*", and two Snowsports Builder Awards to *Shone Malliet*, founder and CEO of Winter4Kids, and *Candace Cable*, 9-time Paralympian, and winner of 12 medals, including 8 gold medals. Congratulations to you all!

Elections were held on Sunday morning, for Far West Board of Directors and Trustees. Those selected officers include: President, *Gloria Raminha (Central Council)*; Secretary, *Tan Nguyen (Los Angeles Council)*; Treasurer, *Randy Lew (Northwest Council)*; Trustees, *Linda Westlund (Arizona Council)*; *Tucker Hoffman*, (*Bay Area Council*); *Tom Bundgard (San Diego Council)*; and *Sheri Parshall (Northwest Council)*; VP Communications, *Joe Harvis (Northwest Council)*; VP Int'l Travel, *Debbie Stewart (Sierra Council)*; VP Marketing, *Debbi Kor (Northwest Council)*; VP Membership, *Jean McCasey (San Diego Council)*; VP Council Services, *Chris Gill (San Diego Council)*; VP No. American Travel, *Nancy Ellis (Sierra Council)*; and VP Public Affairs, *Lina Arnold (San Diego Council)*. Congratulations everyone!

The 89th Annual Far West Ski Association Convention will be held June 9-12, 2022, in Portland Oregon, at the Jantzen Beach Red Lion on the River Hotel.

FAR WEST TRAVEL

FWSA SKI WEEK 2022: *Aspen/Snowmass Resort* is the destination for the 2022 annual Far West Ski Week. Dates are **January 29 – February 5, 2022**. 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 this trip on your calendar, and contact your Council Trip Leader now for more information.

FWSA INTERNATIONAL SKI WEEK: ***Space Still Available – Unsold rooms to be returned soon!*** *Solden, Austria* is the destination for the 2022 International Ski Week. Dates are **February 26 - March 5th** and will include 7 nights lodging at the 4-Star *Tyrolerhof Hotel*, including daily breakfast & dinner at the hotel. We'll be offering an optional day tour during the week if one chooses to explore the local culture. There will be an extension to the *Black Forest, Germany*, **March 5-11, 2022**. If one chooses to not go to *Solden*, but wants to do the *Black Forest extension*, we will fly you from the US to join us for the extension trip – we call this the "Stand Alone" trip. For more information, contact Debbie Stewart, VP of International Travel: fwsaintltravel@prodigy.net.

FWSA MINI SKI WEEK: The *Zermatt Utah Resort* Mini Trip Is set for **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. This is a flexible trip. Stay all 5 nights, or less, as it fits your needs.

FWSA INSIDE PASSAGE CRUISE 2022: There's still plenty of time to sign up for the *Denali Tour and Alaska Cruise*. Participants can sign up for the *Denali Tour*, **June 21 – 25, 2022** or *Alaska Inside Passage Cruise*, **June 25 - July 2, 2022**, 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.

FWSA INTERNATIONAL “ADVENTURE TRIP”: Far Wests’ Trip to Croatia will be **September 2 to September 11, 2022**. Departure date from the U.S. will be September 1st. For further information, contact Debbie Stewart, VP of International Travel: fwsaintltravel@prodigy.net.

FAR WEST COUNCILS

INTERMOUNTAIN COUNCIL: Northern Wasatch Ski & Social Club (Utah) participated in a community service event called PLIKING on Oct 3rd in the foothills of Ogden. What is PLIKING? It is Picking up Litter while Hiking! They hiked 2.7 miles while picking up trash and were treated to a beautiful sunset from one of the overlooks of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail. Keep it up Northern Wasatch Ski & Social Club!

stay safe! stay healthy!