

Far West NewsFlash

March, 2024

A SKI WEEK IN TAOS SKI VALLEY: An all-time winter skiing or snowboarding getaway is waiting for you in Taos, New Mexico. The set-up behind a Ski Week at Taos is all about convenience. Taos' ski weeks span Sundays thru Fridays. And Taos Ski Valley has aligned with their regional airway, *JSX*, which provides direct flights from major hubs in California and Texas. JSX flight packages are basically "hassle-free" and include complimentary demo rentals from Taos Sports, meaning you benefit by the same gear, with the same instructor, for same epic Ski Week experience; day-in day-out for the whole of the session. Season Pass holders to Taos Ski Valley point to Ski Week as a great program at an outstanding value. There's just under three hours of instruction each morning, followed by an afternoon of free-skiing fun. The 2024 annual National Ski Council Federation meeting will be in Taos, New Mexico, August 21-25.

MONTAGE MOUNTAIN, PENNSYLVANIA: The 2nd steepest slope in the East, Montage Mountain was first opened in 1984 with just 7 trails, and then expanded in 1987 to add its North Face Complex for an expert-only ski/board area. It now has 27 trails and claims to have the second steepest vertical slope in the east with its signature trail, "White Lightning." Located in the Pocono Mountains, right off of Interstate 81, Montage is just outside of Scranton, PA. It is on the Indy Pass, so if you're into using yours, mark this spot as one to include on your tour of more than 180 areas to ski.

FAR WEST TRAVEL

FWSA 2024 AFRICA ADVENTURE TRIP: **TANZANIA & ZANZIBAR!** September 27 – October 7, 2024, are the dates set for the next Far West Adventure Trip. We will fly into Kilimanjaro Airport, then head off to our lodge in Arusha. From there, we will travel to Lake Manyara National Park, to see the famous tree-climbing lions. Ngorongoro Crater, considered to be the 8th Wonder of the World, is the next stop. We will have a 2-night stay in Ngorongoro, where we hope to see a spectacular concentration of wildlife and the "big five", and then it's off to Serengeti National Park, where we will see herds of buffalo, elephants, giraffes, gazelles, and many other animals and birds. The golden-maned lions, cheetahs, and leopards will be on the prowl. We will stay 2 nights at the Serengeti Serena Lodge. An optional Hot Air Balloon safari will be available for an early morning flight over the beautiful landscape, followed by a bush breakfast, for a real "Out of Africa" experience. Then, just a flight away, is the island of Zanzibar, where we will be taking a tour to see and experience the highlights of the area. We will have a 1-night stay in the 5-star Hotel Zanzibar Stone Town, followed by 2 nights at the Star Neptune Pwani Beach Resort. For more information on this trip, contact **Debbie Stewart:** fwsaintltrl@prodigy.net.

FWSA 2024 DIVE TRIP TO THE PHILIPPINES: We are going back to the **PHILIPPINES!** The 2024 FWSA dive trip will be **October 19 – November 2, 2024** to Marco Vincent Dive Resort in Puerto Galera and Buceo Anilao Beach & Dive Resort in Anilao! **There are a limited number of rooms remaining** and there is currently a single female looking for a roommate. A 3-hour drive away from Manila, Anilao is one of the world's best macro photography destinations. It is literally heaven-on-earth for muck diving, blackwater diving, and macro photography. It is considered the Capital of Nudibranchs...colorful mollusks without shells. The Puerto Galera diving area stretches from White Beach right around to Coral Cove. It is part of the Verde Island Passage and named by some scientists as the center of the world's marine biodiversity. There are more than fifty dive sites that are an interesting mix of sloping reefs, coral gardens deep pinnacles, shipwrecks, channel dives, muck diving, drift dives and sea grass beds. The divers who joined us on the 2019 Philippines dive trip not only called it "the best dive trip ever", but many said, "my best trip ever". For more information, contact **Randy Lew** at: fwsa13randy@telis.net.

FWSA 2025 NORTH AMERICAN SKI WEEK: The 2025 North American Ski Week will be to **BANFF, ALBERTA, CANADA** from January 25-February 1st. Steve Pampel and Ski Big 3 will be our hosts, with Sandy Gaudette, Ski Group.Net as the tour operator. Go to the Far West website for further information: www.fwsa.org/natravel.

FAR WEST SKI ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONVENTION

2024 CONVENTION IS JUST 3 MONTHS AWAY: **Thursday June 6, through Sunday June 9th, 2024.** The convention will be held at the beautiful *Atlantis Casino Resort Spa*, In Reno, Nevada....co-hosted by *Bay Area Snow Sport Council* and *Sierra League & Council*. Registration materials were sent out February 9th and are now posted on the FWSA website. Please make a note **NOW** that hotel registration will close **MAY 13, 2024.** We have a number of activities planned for you: A *Tahoe Adventure* on Thursday, followed by the *27th Annual Pub Crawl*. On Friday, we will have our *17th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament*. Something fun and different this year. We will also have a tour of the *National Auto Museum*, so if you are interested in old cars, hot-rods, classics, this is the one for you! We are also planning a number of interesting and worthwhile Educational Sessions and Public Affairs sessions on ski history, wellness on the mountain, a rousing session with former U.S. Ski & Snowboard Hall-of-Famers, and a hands-on tech session about ski gear. Come see what it's all about. On-line registration will be coming soon. For further information, contact your regional council president, or go to www.fwsa.org/conventions. All convention forms can be downloaded from the website.

2023-2024 FAR WEST RECOGNITION PROGRAM

ALL OF THE AWARDS LISTED BELOW HAVE A DEADLINE OF MARCH 18. YOU MUST HAVE YOUR INFORMATION SUBMITTED TO THE CHAIRPERSON OF EACH AWARD BY THAT DATE. IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY DONE SO, DO IT NOW!!!

RICHARD LUBIN SAFETY PERSON OF THE YEAR: **CONTACT** Monica Palmer: safety@fwsa.org.

FAR WEST COUNCILS' VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: **CONTACT** Sheri Parshall: voty@fwsa.org.

WESTERN SKI HERITAGE AWARD: **CONTACT** Jane Wyckoff: history@fwsa.org.

ENVIRONMENT AWARD: **CONTACT** Janine Rands: environment@fwsa.org.

CHARITIES & OUR COMMUNITY SERVICE RECOGNITION: **CONTACT** Sigrid Noack: charities@fwsa.org

HISTORIC SKI CLUB, COUNCIL, SKI SCHOOL OR SKI PATROL DESIGNATION: **CONTACT** Jane Wyckoff: history@fwsa.org.

CLUB AND COUNCIL HISTORY AWARD: **CONTACT** Jane Wyckoff: history@fwsa.org.

COMMUNICATIONS & OUTSTANDING CLUB AWARDS: **CONTACT** Bill King: commawards@fwsa.org.

OUTSTANDING CLUB OR COUNCIL SOCIAL MEDIA AWARD: **CONTACT** Todd Hood: socialmedia@fwsa.org.

FAR WEST SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM 2024

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: We have many deserving people in our organization and the Far West region that are ideal candidates for a Far West Service award. We encourage each of you to take the time and think about nominating as many candidates as you feel are qualified. See the FWSA web pages for more information on the [Far West Ski Association 2024 Convention](#).

PLEASE NOTE: CANDIDATES CAN ONLY BE NOMINATED BY PAST RECIPIENTS OF THE AWARD OR A CURRENT FAR WEST BOARD MEMBER. If you know someone who meets the criteria for a particular award, contact one of our many Board members and ask that they help you with that nomination.

Nominations are due to Eileen Sanford by Sunday, March 30, 2024. The preferred method of nominating is to email a fillable PDF or WORD document. If that is not possible, contact Eileen for an alternative option. Voting will open April 12, 2024 and close April 26 2024.

Winners will be announced at the Far West Convention on Saturday, June 8, 2024 at the Atlantis Casino Spa Resort, Reno, NV.

FAR WEST SKI COUNCILS

LOS ANGELES COUNCIL OF SKI CLUBS: *The Wailer's Ski & Snowboard Club* participated in their first-ever Vertical Challenge Ski-A-Thon earlier this month. They raised almost \$11,000 for the Mammoth Lakes Foundation. Numerous participants skied in this event, raising funds individually, and by team, while chalking up vertical miles. Their newest *Wailer*, Douglas Sciortino, skied a whopping 24,134 miles. Way to go, Douglas, and kudos to all the Wailers who participated in this outstanding challenge.

Stay healthy! Stay Safe!