

WHO & WHAT'S NEW FOR 2016

New President For Women's Ski Jumping: Women's Ski Jumping USA (WSJ-USA) is pleased to welcome *Julie Hickam* as board president. *Julie* brings many years of volunteer and board service, sitting on several non-profit committees and boards in her previous community and most recently, working with the Park City Nordic Ski Club, where she was named the 2014 Volunteer of the Year and was recognized for her volunteer work by the U.S. Olympic Committee. She brings a solid business and marketing acumen with several years of experience in the title and real estate industry. On her outlook for the organization, *Julie* states, "I am fortunate to assume the leadership role in an organization where the inaugural team passionately set a high standard of excellence both on and off the hill. My vision is to carry on this legacy, empowering the next generation of female ski jumpers to achieve the same level of greatness while applying those standards to our program and sport". Her daughter is a young promising jumper, an amazing accomplishment considering the family only recently moved to Park City from Louisiana .

Women's Ski Jumping USA Expands Relationship with the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association: Women's Ski Jumping USA (WSJ-USA) has announced an expanded relationship with the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association (USSA). Beginning on October 1, 2015, USSA assumed responsibility for coaching and other operations affecting the women's ski jumping program. USSA will be taking responsibility for the national women's ski jumping program including the employment and contracting of the two national team coaches, and the partnership with Utah Olympic Park for development coach, *Lindsey Van*. WSJ-USA will focus their organizational efforts on cultivating and supporting development programs and athletes – with an emphasis on the successful Fly Girls development program.

Squaw Valley/Alpine Meadows Voted #1 Ski Resort: USA Today readers have voted Squaw Valley/Alpine Meadows as the #1 Ski Resort in North America . "This is a tremendous testament to our mountains and our community", said *Andy Wirth*, President and CEO of ***Squaw and Alpine Meadows***. "While we get to celebrate this achievement at mountain level, it really belongs to our entire community of businesses, and all the people of Truckee, Tahoe City , and all of North Lake Tahoe, including all the great folks at the Reno Tahoe Airport ". *Andy* said he was most appreciative of the loyalty, resiliency, and dedication of Squaw Valley/Alpine customers to hang in there over the past couple years, while they've worked to accomplish the experience one gets when visiting this phenomenal resort. Congratulations ***Squaw Valley / Alpine Meadows*** on an achievement well deserved.

U.S. Adaptive Recreation Center Plans Event: *Bear Mountain*, home of the [U.S. Adaptive Recreation Center](#) where dreams come true for children (and children at heart) with disabilities, is planning a fun event in March. Skiers and snowboarders are invited to be an important part of our success on Saturday, March 5, by joining the [2016 Ski-A-Thon](#), presented by Anthem Blue Cross Foundation. This annual winter FUNdraising event enables the USARC to provide adaptive equipment and 1:1 instruction for thousands of lessons every year, all of which include at least a partial scholarship!

Round up 3 of your friends or family members and register online at our [Ski-A-Thon Firstgiving page](#). Ski-A-Thon participation includes a lift ticket to Bear Mountain (with line-cutting privileges), a t-

shirt, goody bag, lunch, adaptive equipment demo tent, raffle, apres-ski party with refreshments, snacks and entertainment. Fabulous incentive prizes await top fundraisers too! Refer to the [Ski-A-Thon flyer](#) for more details.

Skiing Singles Can Become LuvByrds: Tired of taking the lift line alone? Now you can sign up for online/on-lift dating. A new service, introduced in Colorado, was launched in 2014. By signing up, and loading up your photo, your name, age and location, you could find yourself with your Perfect Match. Just tick off a few boxes telling a bit about yourself: what is your favorite place to ski, what kind of runs you like to be on, what other activities you enjoy, you could meet your future ski mate. LuvByrd hosted their first on-chair speed dating event on February 6th at Loveland Ski Area. Check them out at: www.luvbyrd.com.

For Sale: One Tahoe-Area Ski Resort: Are you in the market for a ski playground? *Mt. Rose* is for sale, after their major owner of the past 45 years has decided to retire. *Mt. Rose* includes approximately 1,200 skiable acres, with a mix of private property and land leased from the U.S. Forest Service. Future projects are still in the works including the goal of expanding the resort into terrain across Highway 431.

FAR WEST CONVENTION

Far West Annual Convention FOUR Months And Counting: HEY, EVERYONE! **Arizona Ski Council** will be hosts to the Far West Ski Association's 84th Annual Convention, June 9-12, 2016, in Scottsdale, Arizona, at the beautiful *DoubleTree Resort by Hilton Paradise Valley-Scottsdale*. The resort is located minutes from downtown Scottsdale and 12 miles from the Phoenix International Airport. Rental cars and shuttle services are available at the airport. For room reservations, call **1-800-498-7396**. Reference our group name - **Far West Ski Association**. You can also book on-line at the FWSA room reservation site <http://bit.ly/FWSA-2016-Lodging>. The Group Code is **FWS**. Room rates are just \$99 per night. Visit www.fwsa.org and select Conventions. Your friends from *Arizona Ski Council* have planned lots of fun activities for us, including a *Segway Tour of Old Town Scottsdale* and a *Journey to the West*, on Thursday, before we all head out for the annual *Pub Crawl*, which will be held in Scottsdale's Entertainment District. Friday brings the *10th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament*, a *Spa Day*, a *Musical Experience of the World*, followed by a wet and wild *Pool Party* prior to the *Silent Auction*. Come early, and stay late to take in all that's available in this beautiful city.

FAR WEST RECOGNITION AWARDS

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CHARITIES AND COMMUNITY SERVICE: DEADLINE: March 20, 2016

The intent of The Charities and Community Service Recognition program is to encourage charity and community service involvement in all of our FWSA councils and clubs, and to recognize those groups for their outstanding financial and/or volunteer support to one or more charitable organizations. The program has been recognizing clubs for their charitable work at each convention for the past 8 years.

There are 2 classes for clubs: *The Double Diamond Class* – for clubs who have won this recognition in a prior year, and the *Diamond Class*, for all other participants. The top 3 clubs will be invited to display a picture board at Convention. From these three, the winning club will receive \$300, and the two runner-up clubs will receive \$100 each, to be donated to the charity of their choice. In addition, \$100 will be awarded to the top ski club council, which will also display a picture board of their charitable activities. All groups applying will be recognized at Convention. FWSA also has the "Honor Roll of Clubs and Councils Supporting Charities" program, listing all groups who are involved with any kind of Charity & Community programs. For more information regarding this wonderful programs, and how easy it is to apply for this recognition, check the Far West website (www.fwsa.org).

CONTACT: Sigird Noack, FWSA Charities & Our Community Chair; sig4ski@earthlink.

SAFETY PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD: DEADLINE: *March 20, 2016*

RECOGNITION: *Telluride Ski Resort and Mountain Lodge, Telluride* have donated a 5-night ski package for two with lodging, 4-day lift tickets, and 4-day rentals.

DESCRIPTION: The FWSA is a proponent of safety in skiing and snowboarding. Every year we hear about tragic deaths and injuries that happen during our favorite winter activities that remind us of the great importance of safety. We have a number of ways in which we promote safety and one of our more viable ways is through the Safety Award. The award is for the individual, within the association, that has done the most to promote safety through a number of criteria. These include articles on slope safety, and other ways to raise safety consciousness. The link to detailed information and entry form is: <http://fwsa.org/MemberCorner/Programs/program-safety.html>

CONTACT: Richard Lubin DC, FWSA Safety Chair, 925-828-7454, botaboardr@comcast.net; and Mike Sanford, VP of Public Affairs, 858-761-6191, bubasanfrd@aol.com

WESTERN SKI HERITAGE AWARD: DEADLINE: *March 20, 2016*

RECOGNITION: Since 2000, *Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation* has donated a 5-night ski package for two with lodging, lift tickets, rentals, on-mountain tour, half-day lessons and a lunch at Ragnar's Restaurant.

DESCRIPTION: The Far West Western Ski Heritage program annually recognizes the best effort in the prior year that communicates the contributions of snowsports to the community at large. The purpose of the Far West Western Ski Heritage program is to raise the awareness of snowsports participants and non-participants alike of the contributions made by individuals, groups and companies to all aspects of snowsports – competitive as well as that of outdoor winter recreation and fitness. A parallel purpose is to convey the positive role snowsports has had in its contributions to the communities in the West. It recognizes outstanding effort in the area of snowsports history to find, preserve, document and share the history of snowsports in the West. The Award is open to an individual or a group leader (it is not restricted to Far West membership) and can be self-nominated or nominated by a club or club member. Materials and history programs will be evaluated against the objectives of the program by individuals selected for their knowledge of the history of Western snowsports and that of the Association. The link to detailed information and entry form is: <http://fwsa.org/MemberCorner/Programs/program-wsh.html>

CONTACT: John Watson, FWSA History Committee Chair, 760-723-6539, geospace@pacbell.net

ENVIRONMENT AWARD: DEADLINE: *March 20, 2016*

RECOGNITION: Sponsors, *Aspen Skiing Company* and *Snowmass Tourism, The Gant* and *Crestwood Condominiums* have donated a 5-night ski package for two with lodging, lift tickets, rentals, and a full-day group lesson.

DESCRIPTION: The Environment Award is designed to encourage good stewardship of our environment. We want to inspire and reward creative efforts to conserve and protect our environment. This award should recognize a special action that the applicant took, or something he or she put in place that made a difference. Some areas to consider are: Volunteering at the community level, particularly in a leadership role; conducting or arranging for an environmental event (s) for the club, council, or public; writing a series of columns regarding environmental conservation, education or protection in your ski club or ski club council newsletter; or being pro-active in environmental protection.

CONTACT: Mike Sanford, VP of Public Affairs, 858-761-6191, bubasanfrd@aol.com

FAR WEST HISTORICAL RECOGNITION PROGRAM: DEADLINE: *March 20, 2016*

RECOGNITION: Certificate suitable for framing.

DESCRIPTION: The FWSA launched the Historical Recognition Program in 2008 to develop club, league and council histories. The objective of the annual program is to capture important information about skiing from the skier's perspective and especially that of the club skier. Selection for the award is based on digital (preferable) or mailed presentation of club or council history according to a set of weighted criteria and judged by knowledgeable ski historians. The History Recognition is not for outstanding club or council, although it is anticipated that material may be common to both types of presentations. Think of these histories as museum or library reference resources. The link to detailed information and entry form is: <http://fwsa.org/MemberCorner/Programs/program-historical.html>

CONTACT: John Watson, FWSA History Committee Chair, 760-723-6539, geospace@pacbell.net

FAR WEST ELECTIONS

Election of FWSA Officers: Election of officers will occur at the FWSA Annual Meeting and Convention

June 9-12, 2016 at the Double Tree Resort by Hilton, Paradise Valley – Scottsdale AZ. Delegates will elect their President, Secretary, and Treasurer to one-year terms and two (2) Trustee positions for two-year terms. In addition, the following functional Vice Presidents will be elected for two-year terms:

VP Communications
VP International Travel
VP Marketing
VP Membership

If you are interested in running for any of above positions, please contact Sylvia Kearns, Nominating Committee Chairman, at Sylviakearns@outlook.com.

FAR WEST TRAVEL

Awesome Time Had By All in Telluride: We had a fantastic week at **Telluride Ski Week** Jan. 30--Feb. 6th. 24 inches of fresh snow in 24 hours after our arrival, followed by sunshine and cold, crisp days, made for one of the best weeks of skiing for our ski week! We enjoyed a Welcome Party and Dance; Council Challenge and Racing; Mountain Picnic; Banquet and Dancing; and Friday Après party. Thank you to **Patrick Rothe** and **Kyle Lusk**, **Telluride Ski Resort**, **Gloria Saiya-Woods**, **Ski.com**, and local merchants for their generous donations and support to make Telluride Ski Week memorable for our participants (*Spa at the Peaks, Aroma Spa & Salon, Himmel Pool & Spa, Boot Doctors, Brown Dog Pizza, Esparanza's, Florodora Saloon, La Piazza del Villaggio, New Sheridan Chop House, O'Banon's Irish Pub, and Last Dollar Saloon*). Thanks, also, to our council trip leaders for coordinating the trip for their councils: *Don & Veronica Shaver*, BAC; *Fran Long*, Central; *Barbara Bousum & Chris Ciardi*, Northwest; *Jess Gorman*, Orange; *Wayne Stolfus*, Sitzmarkers; *Alan Godwin*, San Diego; and *Debbie Stewart*, Sierra. The *Far West Athletic Scholarship Program* benefitted by Ski Week as well, thanks to the week-long raffle that *David Krupp*, program chair, and his team implemented. The grand prize, won by *Barbara Launspach*, of San Diego Council, was a **Karbon** ski outfit. The raffle raised \$2,400 for the Scholarship Program. **Karbon** has been a sponsor of the program for the past 11 years.

Far West Mini Ski Week 2016: The 2016 “*Spring Fling Mini Ski Week*” to **Crested Butte** March 21—26, 2016 is just around the corner. You’ll enjoy this true Colorado ski town, with wide open green and blue groomed trails, along with advanced long cruisers and the famous extreme limits of the *North Face* and *Headwall*. There will be FWSA activities and optional local activities available. Signups can be made on-line with your payment through PayPal or, if you prefer, you may sign up for this trip using the previous method by completing the attached forms and mailing them to me with your payment. If the dates don’t fit into your schedule, we can arrange for an earlier or later arrival or departure. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding the trip or online registration. Pass this information to ski club members, friends or anyone who may be interested in the trip Also check out this YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V7Cox-i3BNc>. Your Trip Leader is Gloria Raminha, at 661.800.8229 or Garski2011@gmail.com. Don’t miss the fun!

Far West International Trip 2016: There’s still room on the 2016 Int’l Ski Week trip to **Cortina d’Ampezzo** and extension trip to **Florence and Rome, Italy**. The optional extension trip will be to the *Tuscany* region – 3 nights in Florence with day tours to Sienna & San Gimignano and 4 nights in

Rome . If one chooses to not go to Cortina, we will fly you from the US to join us for the extension trip – we call this the “Stand Alone” trip. Contact Debbie Stewart for more information:

FWSAintltrlv@prodigy.net.

Far West Adventure Trip 2016: The 2016 Far West Adventure Trip will be to **England and Ireland** September 12-22, 2016, with an extended bike tour in *Ireland* from September 22-26. If you haven't put this on your calendar yet, now is the time to do that. Your trip leaders, Debbie and George Stewart have a phenomenal trip planned for you. For further information, contact Debbie at:

FWSAintltrlv@prodigy.net.

Far West Dive Trip 2016: Get ready for the trip of your life! Plans are for the group to go to **Fiji** in September, 2016. Official details are being finalized now, so stay tuned to your Far West News Flash for the latest updates. For other information, contact Randy Lew, your Dive Trip Leader at:

fwsa13randy@telis.org.

FAR WEST COUNCILS

Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs: The February LA Council meeting was held on Monday, February 1st. They were honored to have, on hand, *Tina Choi*, **National Ski Patrol of Southern California**; *Sara Rosell*, **Operations/Outreach Coordinator for USARC**, and *Erin Hayden*, from the **Unrecables Ski Club**. Each gave a talk in their particular area of expertise. *Tina Choi* talked about National Ski Patrol being both Nordic and Alpine patrollers, who range in age from their teens to 80+. Skiing at an Intermediate level generally is sufficient to qualify as an on-hill Patroller. The ability to ski “in control” is more important than any other ability. Required classes are offered at several Southern California locations as well as online. Perks that may be available to volunteers, which vary from hill to hill, may include passes for yourself and family/friends, discounts on food, and possibly clothing, equipment. More information can be found at: www.socalnsp.org. *Sara Rosell* spoke on the many ways that **United States Adaptive Recreation Center (USARC)** supports athletes with physical and mental disabilities. The winter Volunteer program runs December 1 through March 31, and the Summer program runs in July and August. The summer program includes water skiing, paddle boarding and kayaking. Both the winter and summer programs are held at *Big Bear*. **USARC** has approximately 150 volunteers. They become volunteers by completing a 4-day training program, and must commit to at least 6 days for the Winter program and a little less during the summer months. Volunteers ski free at *Big Bear*. Contact Sara at sara@usarc.com for more information. *Erin Hayden*, from the Unrecables, spoke on volunteering with their club, which is a chapter of Disabled Sports USA. They provide “stand-up” lessons for those visionally impaired, sliding and snowboarding. They also provide “sit-down” lessons on mono-skis and bi-skis, all done at *Mammoth Mountain*. The volunteers need to be intermediate level skiers, and will assist students get into their equipment, on the chair, and down the hill. To learn more about becoming a volunteer, go to www.unrecables.com.

FAR WEST SKIER'S GUIDE

Far West Skier's Guide On Line: The 2016 issue of the *Far West Skier's Guide* is now available through your council or club, or at your local ski area or ski shop through Certified Folder. It can also be found online at: <http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/farwestskiersguide/2015-16>. In addition to the content of the current printed version, there is an additional insert in the on-line version, located between the general FWSA information and the Council/Club sections. (*Pages 66 and 67*).

Posted by: fwsadebbi@comcast.net

Far West Ski Association "The Voice of the Western Skier" www.fwsa.org