



JANUARY / FEBRUARY, 2021

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Race Message

"Dear Fellow Racers:

From Nan, Debi and John, race directors for Sierra/Open/Singles Leagues

First we want you to know that we, your race directors, have worked diligently to try to mount a racing season for 2021. After much work, resorts where we had tentative race dates have canceled our Jan and Feb races, and other resorts have nothing to offer us. Thus, we reluctantly must cancel the Sierra-Open-Singles race season for 2020-21. This certainly saddens us all. Rest assured we WILL put together a great season next year (2021-2022) and hope to add some perks and partying to celebrate being back together and competing in the gates.

At present the FWRA Championships, April 10-11 at Mammoth, are still on. If the COVID situation improves and resorts decide they can host racing by then, we'll see if we can schedule a race before the Championships.

We hope this finds you all healthy and that you are able to get out and ski in a safe and distanced way.

We promise to reassemble next year and have a terrific season when the pandemic has come to an end.

Your race directors, Nan, Debi, John"



LEAGUE RACE RESOURCES:

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nan.sierraleague@gmail.com;

530-550-5228 (h); 510-520-7338 (cell)

John Walsh; Singles League Race Chair:

johnwalsh37@sbcglobal.net; 416-596-7234

Debi Phelps; Open League Director of Racing



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President's Message

*By Jo Simpson,
Sierra League & Sierra Council
President*



Hello everyone.

It appears that there is light at the end of the COVID-19 tunnel with the vaccines beginning to appear. Hope you are willing/able to get your vaccine as the roll-out continues. Availability and when you may receive the vaccine is subject to update. So, stay informed.

While this ski season is not what we would have hoped for, at least we are able to ski and enjoy other outdoor recreational activities even though our indoor socializing is severely curtailed.

We had 27 Sierra members go to the Far West Ski Week in Sun Valley, Idaho last week. From all reports, participants enjoyed themselves.

The 2022 FWSA Ski Week will be held at Aspen Snowmass, January 29 to February 5, 2022. Lodging will be at Snowmass Village. We can look forward to a fun time with amazing skiing. So, be sure to mark your calendars NOW!

Further information is available in this newsletter from our VP of Travel, Carlene Boutacoff.

Meanwhile, stay safe and stay well!

See you on the slopes! Jo

Member Clubs and Contacts

Alpine Ski and Snowboard Club

Las Vegas, NV
www.alpineskiandsnowboardclub.com
Craig Cables, President
alpineskiclub@embarqmail.com

Las Vegas Ski Snowboard & Sports Club

Las Vegas, NV
www.lasvegasskiclub.com
Mark McNeil; President
info@lasvegasskiclub.com; mark42750@cox.net

Reno Ski & Recreation Club

Reno, NV
www.renoskiandrec.com
Dianne Hilliard, President
renoskiandrecreationclub@gmail.com

RU SKI Club

Campbell, CA
Pavel Bosin, President
pavel@bosin.net

Sequoia Ski Club

Visalia, CA
www.sequoiaskiclub.com
Mike Bowers, Membership
bowersm02@comcast.net

Sugar Bowl Ski Club

Norden, CA
www.sugarbowlskiclub.com
Dan Gross, President
president@sugarbowlskiclub.com

Tahoe Donner Senior Alpine Ski Club

Truckee, CA
www.tdski.com
Bill Wang, President
president@tdski.com

Top Gun Ski Club

Greg Peairs, President
shifty@aol.com

Ski Area Websites:

Alpine Meadows/Squaw Vly: <http://squawalpine.com>
Badger Pass: www.yosemitepark.com/BadgerPass.aspx
Bear Valley Ski: www.bearvalley.com
Boreal: www.rideboreal.com
Ski China Peak: www.skichinapeak.com
Diamond Peak: www.diamondpeak.com
Dodge Ridge: www.dodgeridge.com
Donner Ski Ranch: www.donnerskiranch.com
Granlibakken: www.granlibakken.com
Heavenly Valley: www.skiheavenly.com
Homewood: www.skihomewood.com
June Mountain: www.junemountain.com
Kirkwood: www.kirkwood.com
Las Vegas Ski & Snowboard resort: www.skilasvegas.com
Mammoth Mtn: www.mammothmountain.com
Mountain High Ski: www.mthigh.com
Mt. Baldy: www.skibaldy.com
Mt. Rose: www.skirose.com
Mt. Shasta Ski Park: www.skipark.com
Northstar: www.northstarcalifornia.com
Sierra At Tahoe: www.sierratahoe.com
Snow Summit: www.snowsummit.com
Snow Valley: www.snow-valley.com
Soda Springs: www.skisodasprings.com

Thank you to our sponsors (s):



www.habervision.com



RACING NEWS, w/Nan Carnal, Sierra League Race Director

As all Sierra League racers know, the 2020-2021 racing season has been canceled.

Resorts are not willing to run races for our leagues this year, given the COVID-19 restrictions that are in place.

But, the good news: we will be back next year and promise to put together a great 2021-22 season.

Until then, stay safe and PLEASE follow guidelines on and off the slopes to reduce the probability of contracting the virus causing COVID-19.

Wishing you all continued good health and all the best in the coming year.

Hope to see you on the slopes, Nan



FRANK APP SCHOLARSHIP



A J (Amelia Josephine) Hurt returns as the Sierra League & Council recipient of the Frank App Scholarship.

AJ is on the US Alpine C Team and currently competing in the 2020-2021 World Cup (WC) racing circuit in multiple disciplines. She has finished in the 30 in several races and accumulating WC points.

She will compete in the 2021 FIS World Alpine Skiing championships to be held February 8–21, in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy.

Sierra League and Council Membership Options

Club Membership

There are 8 ski clubs affiliated with Sierra League and Council. Please contact a club near you for membership information. Their contact information is listed at <https://www.sierraleague.com/contact.html>. Several of them have websites updated with activities and member benefits. Contact information is also available on page 3 of this newsletter.

Direct Membership

If you do not belong to an affiliated ski club, you may join Sierra League and Council as a direct member. To coincide with the [Far West Ski Association](#) our annual membership year begins May 1 and ends April 30.

The annual fee is only \$10 for each individual. This allows you all member privileges including:

- Sierra Council [Travel Program](#)
- Sierra League [Race Program](#)
- [Far West Ski Association Member Benefits](#), Services & Discounts
- The [Sierra League and Council Newsletter](#)
- Other events that might be temporarily suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic. These include the annual Winter Holiday Party and summer barbecue.

Application, Dues and Information

[Application Forms](#) for individuals:

Fill in, print and sign the application form (and associated waiver) for each individual joining. The form and waiver are available at the league website under "about". The form and waiver are included in this newsletter on the following two pages.

How to submit by mail:

- Write check for \$10 made out to Sierra Ski Council
- Mail both completed form including waiver and check to:

Corey Doolin, membership
PO Box 394
Tahoe City, CA 96145

How to submit online:

- Pay Sierra Direct [Online Membership Dues through PayPal](#)
- Scan completed application and waiver form, attach as a .pdf file and email to: alpinesnow@att.net

Corey Doolin
FWSA Sierra League and Council VP Membership
alpinesnow@att.net

**Sierra League & Council
2020-2021 Membership
Application**

New Member

Renewing Member

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (home) _____
(cell) _____

Email: _____

Mark all that you are interested in:

Racing

Travel Program

List Trips: _____

Emergency Contact Information:

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone: (home) _____ (cell) _____
:

I have read and signed the Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risk Agreement.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Dues: \$10

Completed Application can be emailed to alpinesnow@att.net, and payment through PayPal on the Sierra League and Council website, or:

Mail completed application and waiver, along with personal check, cashier's check, or money order payable to "Sierra League & Council" to:

**Corey Doolin, Membership
P.O. Box 394
Tahoe City, CA 96145**

9/17/2020

**Sierra League & Council Waiver
2020-2021 Membership Year**

**SPORT PARTICIPANT RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WAIVER OF CLAIMS, EXPRESS ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT.
Please read and be certain you understand the implications of signing.**

Express Assumption of Risk Associated with Sport, Venue Use and Related Activities.

I, _____ do hereby affirm and acknowledge that I have been fully informed of the inherent hazards and risks associated with all activities of Sierra League & Council including but not limited to alpine skiing, snowboarding, tubing, and tobogganing, and certain additional risks, dangers and hazards including, but not limited to boarding, riding, and disembarking ski lifts, transportation of equipment related to the activities, and traveling to and from activity sites in which I am about to engage. **Inherent hazards and risks include but are not limited to:**

1. Risk of injury from the activity and equipment utilized is significant including the potential for broken bones, severe injuries to the head, neck, and back or other bodily injuries that may result in permanent disability and death.
2. Possible equipment failure and/or malfunction or misuse of my own or others' equipment.
3. **I AGREE THAT I WILL WEAR APPROVED PROTECTIVE GEAR AS DECREED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE SPORT I AM PARTICIPATING IN.** However, protective gear cannot guarantee the participant's safety. I further agree that no helmet can protect the wearer against all potential head injuries or prevent injury to the wearer's face, neck or spinal cord.
4. Variation and/or steepness of terrain, variation or changes in surfaces including but not limited to snow surfaces, ice, bare spots, rocks, stumps, debris, cliffs, trees, fences, posts, trees, light poles, signs, buildings, roads, walkways, ramps, rails, stairs, pyramids, manual pads, bowls, half-pipes, jumps, padded and non-padded barriers, other persons, and other natural and man-made hazards.
5. My own negligence and/or the negligence of others, including but not limited to operator error and guide decision making including misjudging terrain, weather, riding surfaces or other obstacles.
6. Exposure to the elements and temperature extremes may result in frost nip, frost bite, heat exhaustion, heat stroke, sunburn, hypothermia and dehydration.
7. Dangers associated with exposure to natural elements include but are not limited to avalanche, rock fall, inclement weather, thunder and lightning, severe and or varied wind, temperature and other weather conditions.
8. Accidents or illness occurring in remote places where there are no available medical facilities.
9. Fatigue, exhaustion, chill, and/or dizziness, which may diminish my/our reaction time and increase the risk of accident.
10. Impact or collision with other athletes, spectators, facility employees, pedestrians, motor vehicles, and cyclists.

***I understand the description of these risks is not complete and unknown or unanticipated risks may result in injury, illness, or death.**

Release of Liability, Waiver of Claims and Indemnity Agreement

In consideration for being permitted to participate in the above described activity(ies) and related activities, I hereby agree, acknowledge and appreciate that:

1. **I HEREBY RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS WITH RESPECT TO ANY AND ALL INJURY, DISABILITY, DEATH,** or loss or damage to person or property, **WHETHER CAUSED BY NEGLIGENCE OR OTHERWISE,** the following named persons or entities, herein referred to as releasees: **Sierra League & Council and their directors and officers, and their successors and assigns.**
2. To release the releasees, their officers, directors, employees, representatives, agents, and volunteers from liability and responsibility whatsoever and for any claims or causes of action that I, my estate, heirs, survivors, executors, or assigns may have for personal injury, property damage, or wrongful death arising from the above activities whether caused by active or passive negligence of the releasees or otherwise. By executing this document, I agree to hold the releasees harmless and indemnify them in conjunction with any injury, disability, death, or loss or damage to person or property that may occur as a result of my engaging in the above activities.
3. By entering into this Agreement, I am not relying on any oral or written representation or statements made by the releasees, other than what is set forth in this Agreement.
4. This agreement shall apply to any and all injury, disability, death, or loss or damage to person or property occurring at any time after the execution of this agreement.

This release shall be binding to the fullest extent permitted by law. If any provision of this release is found to be unenforceable, the remaining terms shall be enforceable.

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT, I FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, I UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP LEGAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND I SIGN IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT.

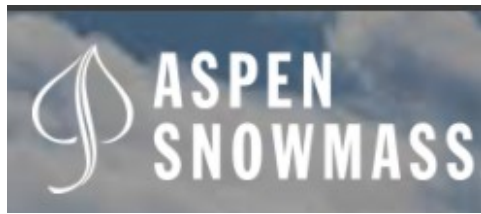
<u>S/</u> _____	_____	_____
Signature of Adult Participant	Name of Adult Participant (Please Print)	Date

FOR PARTICIPANTS OF MINORITY AGE: *This is to certify that I, as Parent, Guardian, Temporary Guardian with legal responsibility for this participant, do consent and agree not only to his/her release of all Releasees, but also to release and indemnify the Releasees from any and all liabilities incident to his/her involvement in these programs for myself, my heirs, assigns, and next of kin.*

<u>S/</u> _____	_____	_____
Signature of Parent or Adult Legal Guardian if Participant is a Minor	Name of Parent or Adult Legal Guardian (Print Clearly)	Date

SKI & SOCIAL EVENTS WAIVER (does not include racing)

Travel Updates from Carlene Boutacoff , VP of Travel



FWSA SKI WEEK 2022

JANUARY 29-FEBRUARY 5

Save The Date

Sierra skiers, travelers, families and friends, save the date for FWSA Ski Week 2022. We will be adventuring into Aspen Snowmass. One lift pass gives you access to 4 incredible mountains, 41 lifts, and over 5000 acres of skiing. Our group will be staying in Snowmass Village. Register early since space will be limited. Lodging choices, pricing and other details will be available soon.

Snowmass -Just nine miles west of Aspen, Snowmass Village has something to offer to both skiers and nonskiing travelers. The Village with its charming shops and restaurants and wonderful ski-in/ski-out accommodations is built on the mountain. In fact, Snowmass invented "ski-in/ski-out". The skiable terrain offers a wide range of options from expert runs on Burnt Mountain Glades, tree runs on Gunner's View and the long blue groomers, including Long Shot (which is the longest run in North America). Intermediate runs make up 48% of the skiable terrain. Your skiing is not confined to Snowmass. You also have the option of visiting Buttermilk, Aspen and Aspen Highlands.

IKON - Ikon Base and Ikon Pass are accepted in Aspen Snowmass. The Base Pass has an additional upcharge, 5 days with blackout dates. The Ikon Pass has 7 days with no blackout dates. Plan your purchases soon.

Resort Amenities-Aspen/Snowmass will be offering the following to FWSA travelers:

- Daily Mountain Orientation Tours daily at 10:30am and 1:30pm on each mountain
- Free First Tracks (Wednesday & Friday at Snowmass)
- Free Shuttles around Town and to all Four Mountains: Aspen, Aspen Highlands, Buttermilk and Snowmass Mountain.
- Concierge Services.
- Equipment Storage and Transfer (FREE if renting through Four-Mountain Sports)
- Ice Skating in the Case Village.
- S'mores DAILY in the Base Village at the S'mores Cart.

Travelers, plan youy trip now for 2022. Watch for further announcements and details on the Sierra League and Council website.

Carlene Boutacoff, VP of Travel

Sierra League and Council

cboutacoff@gmail.com



SAFETY - Skiing in a COVID-19 World

The following article is from the "Business Insider" website, titled :
" Skiing safe right now? Here are the risk factors to weigh and precautions to take, according to an infectious disease doctor and ski resort representative."

(<https://www.businessinsider.com/is-skiing-safe-covid>)

"The COVID-19 pandemic has upended the entire travel industry in 2020, and the ski industry is no exception. Early in the year, when the far-reaching impact of the virus became apparent, ski resorts shut down completely, curtailing their late spring ski season. But they've taken advantage of the extra time provided by the unexpected closure to plan extensive changes before the winter launch of the 2020-2021 season. Above all, ski resorts want to keep their guests safe and healthy.

We spoke with a ski resort representative, an infectious disease doctor, and researched the new safety measures to expect at most mountains this season. We break down how skiing and snowboarding will look different this year, what necessary precautions you should take before hitting the slopes, what risk factors are vital to consider, and whether or not it's ultimately a safe activity right now.

How have ski resorts responded to the COVID-19 pandemic?

Ski resorts have implemented extensive new rules and guidelines relating to COVID-19, so it's best to check each resort's website for details before you plan a trip. In addition, states and counties have regulations you should know and follow, and ski resorts are including links to that information on their websites as well. For example, [Aspen Snowmass](#) is located in Colorado's Pitkin County, which recently introduced a [Travel Affidavit Requirement](#) — including a recent negative COVID-19 test or quarantine upon arrival — for visitors spending one or more nights in the area.

The National Ski Areas Association (NSAA) offers a [state-by-state listing](#) of links to COVID-related restrictions and rules, and the NSAA's ["Ski Well, Be Well" campaign](#) outlines best practices for ski areas, skiers, and riders to stay safe and healthy on the slopes this season. Their recommendations include daily employee wellness checks, social distancing, face coverings, and increased cleaning and disinfection.

[Vail Resorts](#) is an industry giant, overseeing 34 ski areas throughout North America, including Park City, Breckenridge, Whistler Blackcomb, Heavenly, and Stowe. "To help protect our guests, employees and communities, we've reimagined our mountain experience for this unique season," says Sara Olson, Vice President of Communications at Vail Resorts. "We're fortunate that the core experience of skiing and riding takes place outdoors, with fresh air and wide-open spaces. Though things may look a bit different this year with these new safety protocols in place, the joy of the sport and getting back to the mountains remains the same."

What are the risk factors for skiing or snowboarding this year?

While outdoor winter recreation may seem relatively safe, skiing and snowboarding still involve riding lifts, standing in lines, and congregating in shelters to grab a hot cocoa and warm up. What are the risks involved, and what precautions would be wise for winter athletes to consider?

To help break down the answers, we looked at the safety measures ski resorts are introducing this year, and we asked an infectious disease expert to help evaluate the risks involved.

SAFETY - Skiing in a COVID-19 World (cont.)

Traveling to and from the ski resort:

Consider the relative safety of [air travel](#) versus driving or [renting a car](#) to reach your destination. Dr. Thomas A Russo, [Professor and Chief of the division of Infectious Disease](#) at the University of Buffalo's Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, advises, "The safest way to get anywhere nowadays is to drive in your car just with people within your own household or social bubble." If you opt to fly, Dr. Russo points out that shorter, direct flights are safer than longer flights or those that require connections, and he stresses the importance of always wearing a face mask in the airport and on the plane.

Dr. Russo advises guests to skip the shuttle bus in favor of driving directly to the mountain's parking area in your own vehicle. "Getting to the ski lodge, I would suggest [renting a car](#)," Dr. Russo says. "I know in a lot of places you can take the hotel transportation or shuttle buses, but then you're going to see different people in a more fixed air space, so I don't recommend that; you increase your risk if you use shared transportation options."

Mindful of the increased risk, ski resorts are still operating ski shuttle systems this year, but they're taking safety precautions. For example, [Jackson Hole](#) is running their shuttles at reduced capacity, and guests are required to wear masks. They've instituted enhanced cleaning protocols and will keep bus windows open. [Squaw Valley Alpine Meadows](#) has made similar changes to their shuttle system, adding frequent disinfection with electrostatic sprayers, reducing rider capacity by 50%, requiring face masks, and also keeping windows open.

Check ahead with the resort to see if they have any special parking procedures. To avoid overcrowding, Copper Mountain resort now requires guests to [reserve their parking spot online](#) before they arrive.

Staying at resort lodging:

Since it doesn't usually require physically interacting with people outside of your bubble, Dr. Russo recommends [renting an Airbnb](#) as the safest lodging choice. If you decide to stay in a hotel, be aware of [the risks involved](#), and be sure to book a hotel that's devised a strong health and safety strategy. Start here with our guide to the [best vacation rentals for skiing in the US](#). If you still prefer a hotel, check out our list of the [best ski hotels](#).

Interacting with other people on the mountain:

"The major risk of getting the new coronavirus infection is interacting with people, particularly without masks, in close quarters, for a long period of time. And indoors is much worse, particularly in poorly ventilated spaces," Dr. Russo reminds us. Buying a lift ticket, renting gear, standing in a lift line, riding a lift up the mountain, taking a lesson, grabbing a mid-day snack — all of those routine ski-day procedures usually require gathering close to other people. But all of that is changing this season.

What COVID-19 Precautions are Ski Resorts Taking?

With safety top of mind, most ski resorts are implementing new protocols and procedures that include:

Covid-19 training for employees: Many resorts, including Wyoming's [Jackson Hole](#), are requiring all employees to undergo training on COVID-19 safety and sanitation protocols and submit to daily health monitoring.

SAFETY - Skiing in a COVID-19 World (cont.)

Reducing daily capacity. Ski areas have come up with an innovative series of changes to alleviate crowding at key points. Many have placed new daily limits on the number of skiers or snowboarders allowed on the mountain. "In addition to strictly enforced face covering and physical distancing requirements, we've implemented a new reservation system for the season across all of our 34 North American resorts," says Vail's Olson. "This system, which prioritizes our pass holders, helps us manage how many people are on our mountains on any given day, allowing us to provide guests the space they need to physically distance."

Requiring the advance purchase of lift tickets. This isn't a good year to stand in long lines, even outdoor ones, waiting to buy lift tickets. That's why many ski resorts, like Vail, have discontinued walk-up ticket sales and are requiring the advance purchase of lift tickets, with preference given to pass-holders. [Steamboat](#) is not only asking guests to buy lift tickets in advance, but they've also installed touch-free pickup boxes in their base area that print tickets.

Making face masks mandatory. Face coverings are required equipment at ski resorts this year. At Vail Resorts, guests age three and older must wear masks to access the mountain, in all indoor spaces, in any line, on lifts, and whenever they are unable to physically distance. "I think one could probably wear a mask without any effect on their activity," says Dr. Russo. "And one of the nice things about skiing is most people wear goggles, so you've got built-in eye protection."

Spacing out lift lines. To allow ample space for physical distancing, ski areas will be expanding lift lines and mazes so that guests can stay at least six feet apart.

Limiting chair lift and gondola capacity. "Gondolas and trams make me nervous because I can imagine that it's a poorly ventilated space with people close together—it is really an indoor environment," Dr. Russo says. He suggests that resorts consider installing portable HEPA filtration devices in gondolas, if possible. It may be worth opting for a ski resort with outdoor chairlifts only or calling ahead of time to ask if they've taken any new filtration measures on gondolas. "And even though chairlifts are much safer — being outdoors — if the person next to you, or you, are infected, you are going to be in close proximity, which raises a little bit of concern," he says. "And therefore, using masks would be a great idea."

Ski resorts are responding to this risk by strictly limiting the capacity of chairlifts, gondolas, and trams. For example, [Sun Valley](#) is following an "[arrive together, ride together](#)" policy allowing guests to ride lifts only with members of their own group. Otherwise, they are limiting double chairlifts to a single rider, allowing two separate riders on a triple or quad chair, and limiting gondolas to a single group, or one single rider, or two single riders seated on opposite sides.

Likewise, Vail Resorts are enhancing the cleaning and disinfection of their lifts while also limiting their capacity. Guests in groups may ride together, but unrelated parties will be spaced apart—two singles on a four-person chairlift; two singles or two doubles on a six-person chairlift; two singles on opposite sides of a gondola cabin.

Streamlining the gear rental process. Many ski resorts are changing their approach to ski and snowboard equipment rental this year to allow greater physical distancing. Many outlets are requiring online booking of gear in advance, so check to be sure. Vail Resorts is limiting the capacity of customers in its rental shops and requiring employees to wear eye protection and gloves in addition to face coverings. Rental equipment will be fully sanitized between customers.

"Transmissions from inanimate objects is theoretical but extraordinarily low," says Dr. Russo. "But, if you rent goggles maybe bring some wipes to wipe them down just to be sure." If you want to avoid contact even further, take advantage of one of the new rental delivery services like [Ski Butlers](#) and [Black Tie](#) that bring the gear directly to you.

SAFETY - Skiing in a COVID-19 World (cont.)

Limiting the size of group lessons: Physical distancing during group ski lessons can be a challenge. "Often the ski instructor when someone is struggling and a beginner is falling will be involved in helping them up, and those are the sort of close-quarter activities that we'd really like to avoid," says Dr. Russo. "Just make sure people are well spaced." Indeed, ski areas are reducing the size of group lessons this year, and some programs, including the [Alf Engen Ski School](#) at Alta, are currently only offering private lessons.

Check the details before you go. If you're planning to take a lesson at any resort this year advance reservations may be required since walk-up registration has been discontinued at many mountains. Vail's Ski & Ride School is also asking students to take an online self-health screening before arriving for their lesson.

Changing the food and drink scene on the mountain and throughout the resort: "I think the real danger zone is in the indoor dining and drinking areas," Dr. Russo says. "Maybe going indoors and distancing and warming up your toes is fine, but if you're going to be eating and drinking with your mask down, you're definitely going to increase your risk—and in a lot of these old ski chalets and lodges I'm sure the ventilation isn't great either, the concept is to try to keep the heat in."

One answer to that problem is grab-and-go dining, and most resorts have increased their offerings. [Aspen Snowmass](#) has also added a new system of [online ordering](#) for skiers to schedule a contact-free, mid-mountain meal pick-up from a variety of resort restaurants.

Vail has limited capacity in [their restaurants](#) to ensure physical distancing, added ready-to-go meals, streamlined cafeteria-style lines, and introduced a resort-wide cashless purchase process. A "Time to Dine" mealtime reservation service, offered at some of their mountain restaurants, is intended to discourage overcrowding during peak eating times. Fortunately, most ski areas offer plenty of outdoor seating for rest and dining. Innovative solutions like Steamboat's roving [Taco Beast and Pizza Ranger](#) deliver hot food right to the slopes by snowcat. And this year resorts are also encouraging visitors to bring their own water, snacks, and meals from home.

Is skiing safe during COVID-19?

So, do all of these new changes actually mean that skiing is safe? Dr. Russo estimates that skiing would fall into the lowest risk category if guests physically distance, wear face masks, and avoid enclosed gondolas/trams or going indoors. "I perceive those two venues as the greatest risk," he says. "What makes me nervous about downhill skiing is the temptation to go inside and warm up and eat and drink is going to be high."

Because of its solitary nature, Dr. Russo points to the relative safety of cross-country skiing for people who might like to try that physically distanced alternative this year. He also notes that cross-country skiers also generate a lot of heat while they're moving, so the need to warm up indoors is less urgent.

For those who venture to the top of the mountains wearing a mask, what's the risk of COVID-19 exposure during the actual act of downhill skiing or snowboarding? "It seems to me that actually on the slopes themselves that's got to be close to zero," Dr. Russo says. So, in the end, the safest part of the day may be the part we all love the most anyway: Gliding down a run, alone in the fresh mountain air."

TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

The Far West Ski Association (FWSA) is one of the largest associations of snowsport enthusiasts in the U.S. FWSA covers 12 states with 10 regional Councils with more than 150 Clubs and a combined membership of over 50,000 skiers and snowboarders. As a member of a club that belongs to the SIERRA Council, you are automatically a member of FWSA and entitled to all benefits. You may also join Far West as a Direct Member.



North American Travel

FWSA Ski Week 2022: Aspen/Snowmass, January 29-February 5, 2022

FWSA Mini Ski & Snowboard Week 2022, Zermatt Resort & Spot, UT; March 20-25

FWSA Convention:

FWSA Convention 2021; San Diego, CA: October 7-10, 2021

FWSA International Travel:

FWSA International Ski Adventure 2022: Solden, AT w/southern Spain extension

FWSA International Ski Adventure 2023: Madonna di Campiglio, TBA

FWSA International Ski Adventure 2023: Chili, summer, TBA

FWSA International Ski Adventure 2024: Zermatt, Switzerland, TBA

Dive/Adventure/Cruises

NOTE: Due to COVID-19 the 2020 trip to Croatia is rescheduled to September 10-19, 2021.

This trip is SOLD OUT at this time. Contact Debbie Stewart regarding the Wait List

Alaska Cruise & Denali Tour 2021: June 19-30

2021 Roaton/Honduras Scuba Dive Trip 2021: October 9-16

2022 Cozumel, Mexico Scuba Dive Trip: TBA, tentatively October

Central/West Africa; 2024 TBA

Please contact the trip leader and/or check the FWSA website for further information regarding travel/housing/schedules, registration forms, waivers, payment schedules, etc.

FWSA travel website: <http://www.fwsa.org/Travel/travel.html>

FWSA VP North American Travel:

Nancy Ellis, vpnorthamericantravel@fwsa.org

FWSA VP International Travel:

Debbie Stewart: vpinternationaltravel@fwsa.org

2021 FWSA Convention

"The Voice of the Western Skier"



88th Annual Far West Ski Association Convention

October 7 - 10, 2021

at the
San Diego Marriott Mission Valley

Hosted by the *San Diego Council of Ski Clubs*



San Diego Marriott Mission Valley

8757 Rio San Diego Dr, San Diego, CA 92108

Reservations www.marriott.com/sanmv or
call 800-228-9290, Group Name: **Far West Ski Association.**

Room Rates per night plus tax single or double occupancy —
\$159 per night

Room Registration Deadline September 10, 2021

Hotel Features

- Located a block from the San Diego River, near I-8 and I-805
- Stunning views and private balconies
- Heated outdoor Pool and whirlpool spa
- Private pool cabanas, a full bar and restaurant
- Restaurant & Lounge • Extensive concierge services
- Full-service business center, and notary public
- Fitness Center and jogging trail

Transportation

- Fly into San Diego International Airport (SAN)
- 8 miles to Hotel by taxi, bus, or Express Shuttle Service
- The hotel doesn't provide a shuttle service.

Convention Highlights

- Silent Auction & Trade Show
- Travel Expo
- Snowsports Leadership Academy
- Public Affairs Panels
- Celebrity Speakers
- Saturday Awards Banquet
- FWSA General Meeting & Elections

Optional Activities

- **Thursday**
 - Sail around the San Diego Harbor
 - Taste of San Diego Pub Crawl
 - Aqua Adventures
- **Friday**
 - 14th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament at Riverwalk Golf Course
 - Trolley tour La Jolla /Mt. Soledad Memorial
 - Bike Ride by the Beach

www.fwsa.org

Debbi Kor
FWSA Convention Chairperson
fwsadebbi@comcast.net
503-314-7078

For Silent Auction information:
silentauction@fwsa.org
503-314-7078

Chris Gill & Barbara Blasé
Host Council Coordinators
hostconventionchair@fwsa.org
858-382-1457

A portion of the Silent Auction proceeds will benefit the US Adaptive Recreation Center Big Bear Co.

"The Voice of the Western Skier"



FOUNDED 1930



FAR WEST SKI ASSOCIATION

ALASKA CRUISE—CORAL PRINCESS

June 23—30, 2021 ANCHORAGE/WHITTIER PORT TO VANCOUVER, BC

Per Person Rates:

\$1,274.00 INSIDE ROOM (2)	Category IB (Decks 5, 10, 11, 12)	\$799 3rd or 4th Person
\$1,819.00 WINDOW ROOM (2)	Category OC (Decks 5, 6)	\$799 3rd or 4th Person
\$2,329.00 BALCONY ROOM (2)	Category BB (Decks 11, 12)	\$999 3rd or 4th Person
\$2,599.00 MINI SUITE (2)	Category MB (Decks 9, 12)	\$999 3rd or 4th Person

\$260.00 PORT FEES & TAXES PER PERSON

INCLUDES:

- Welcome Cocktail Party
- \$25 per cabin credit (\$12.50/person)

www.princess.com to view staterooms

SPECIAL

Sign up and book room before Feb. 28, 2020 and get the following

FREE (approximate value up to \$900.00)

- >Premium Beverage Package
- >Wi-Fi
- >Gratuities

SHIP DEPOSITS: \$250 PER PERSON TO BOOK ROOM NUMBER

Check payable to "FWSA"

Send check to: Nancy Ellis, P.O. Box 9681, Truckee, CA 96162

NO PENALTY TO CANCEL PRIOR TO MARCH 1, 2021

CANCELTION PENALTIES BEGINNING MARCH 2, 2021

Trip information: Contact Nancy Ellis, VP North American Travel, fwsatravelnancy@sbcglobal.net

FWSA CST #2036983-40

ALASKA CRUISE CONTINUED

PORTS:

Day 1: Hubbard Glacier (scenic cruising)

Day 2: Glacier Bay National Park
(scenic cruising)

Day 3: Skagway 7:00 am—8:30 pm

Day 4: Juneau 6:30 am—4 pm

Day 5: Ketchikan 10:00 am—6:00 pm

Day 6: Fun Day at Sea

Day 7: Vancouver Docks 7:30 am

Additional Costs:

- Air to Anchorage (Cruise only people)
- Ship airport transfers to Whittier: \$88 (Cruise only people)
- Ship Transfers to Vancouver Airport after Cruise: \$ 34
- Air from Vancouver, BC end of cruise
- Capt. Cook Anchorage Hotel & 2 bus transfers \$285/person (2) Cruise only if you stay in Anchorage prior to boarding ship. Can fly in same day you board.

DENALI TOUR ONLY OR ADD DENALI TOUR TO CRUISE

June 19—23, 2021 FAIRBANKS TO DENALI TO ANCHORAGE (TOUR ONLY)

June 19—30, 2021 FAIRBANKS TO DENALI TO WHITTIER PORT TO VANCOUVER, BC (DENALI & CRUISE)

Special Denali Tour arranged by Sandy Gaudette, Skigroup.net Tour Operator

Per Person Double Occupancy: \$1,660

Includes:

- Saturday & Sunday: Fairbanks River's Edge Resort 2 nights with Breakfast
- Sunday: Riverboat Ferry Discovery Cruise Fairbanks
- Monday: Alaska Railroad DOME train Fairbanks to Denali with full Breakfast & Drinks
- Monday & Tuesday: Denali Park Village Hotel River View Rooms
- Tuesday: Kantishna Wilderness Trail Tour (full day park tour)
- Wednesday: Private bus Denali to Anchorage (Denali Tour Only) or to Whittier to cruise ship (Denali/Alaska Cruise). Departs Whittier Wednesday June 23, 2021
- No host lunch stop in Anchorage

Not included: Air to Fairbanks, Air/Transfers Anchorage home (Denali Only Tour), bus driver and tour guide tips

**CONTACT: Nancy Ellis, VP North American Travel, for more information:
fwsatravelnancy@sbcglobal.net; (530) 414-8261. SIGN UP BEFORE FEB. 28,
2020 FOR CRUISE SPECIAL. \$250 DEPOSIT TO BOOK ROOM**

FWSA 11th Annual Scuba Dive Trip – Roatan, Honduras



October 9-16, 2021



Anthony's Key Resort

Diver Land Package = \$1534.00pp Key Deluxe Room - Double Occupancy *
Snorkel Land Package = \$1419.00 Key Deluxe Room – Double Occupancy **
Non-Diver Land Package = \$1304.00pp Key Deluxe Room - Double Occupancy
Single Supplement Add = \$257.00 Key Deluxe Room
(air transportation not included in above pricing)

Price Includes:

- 7 nights at Anthony's Key Resort – Dbl. Occupancy with 3 meals daily
- Use of paddle boards, kayaks, and snorkeling
- Day excursion to Maya Key and admission to Roatan Museum
- Airport transfers from Roatan Airport to resort
- Complimentary Wi-Fi
- Resort taxes (gratuities not included)

* In Addition, the Dive Package includes:

- 6 days of 3 tank boat dives & 2 single tank night dives
- Buoyancy control workshop
- Shore diving during shop hours

** In Addition, the Snorkel Package includes:

- 2 snorkels daily by boat with guide and 1-night boat snorkel
- Underwater fish ID card
- Slide show and 1 Dolphin Encounter



*Experience Honduran
Culture & Entertainment*



Create New Memories
with Friends,
Old and New!



Dive, Kayak, snorkel, spa
services and more...



Enjoy a Beautiful Resort



Contact: Randy Lew
FWSA Dive Trip Leader
829 SE 11th Place
Battle Ground, WA 98604
Cell: 530/304-0802
E-mail: FWSA13Randy@telis.org

*You must be a Member of a Far West Ski Assn.
affiliated club or a FWSA Direct Member!*

(photo credits: AKR Photo Shop & FWSA)

CST # 2036983-40

"The Voice of the Western Skier"



Far West Ski Association's 2022 Mini Ski Trip March 20—25, 2022

Zermatt Utah Resort & Spa



TRIP PACKAGE PRICE STARTING AT

\$550

Price does NOT include air or ground transportation

\$25 discount if you book by September 30, 2021

4-STAR HOTEL AND VILLA PROPERTY WITH A FULL-SERVICE SPA AND WELLNESS CENTER, INDOOR/OUTDOOR POOL, HOT TUBS, 2 RESTAURANTS, A BAR, AND BAKERY, ALL ON SITE. RESORT IS 45 MINUTES FROM SALT LAKE INT'L AIRPORT; 11 MINUTES FROM DEER VALLEY SKI RESORT, AND 18 MINUTES FROM PARK CITY MOUNTAIN. SUNDANCE RESORT SKIING IS JUST 20 MINUTES AWAY.

ENJOY A SOAK IN A 10,000- YEAR OLD CRATER HOT SPRINGS!

Contact: Gloria Raminha 661-800-8229 or 661-829-5996

Garski2011@gmail.com

Nancy Ellis – 530-582-0566 or 530-414-8261

Fwsatravelnancy@sbcglobal.net

FWSA CST #2036983-40

Included:

Five night's lodging

- 2 Queen Alpine Room or
 - 2 Queen Deluxe Alpine Room or
 - 2-bedroom Villa
- Welcome Reception
Farewell Party
Happy Hours

Optional for Purchase:

- 1 or 2- day lift tickets Deer Valley & Park City Ski Resorts
- 1-day lift ticket Sundance Resort
- IKON Pass

Optional Activities:

- Crater Hot Springs
- Spa Services
- Hot Tubs
- Sleigh Rides
- Ice Skating
- Tubing



SKI INDUSTRY NEWS

Ski industry news from the National Ski Club News, National Ski Council

Robert Redford Sells Sundance Mountain Resort. Robert Redford is selling Sundance Mountain Resort in Utah to Broadreach Capital Partners and Cedar Capital Partners, which are both real estate investment firms specializing in the hospitality industry. SAM (Ski Area Management)

Skitude Acquires Liftoptia. Liftoptia Inc. entered an “assignment for the benefit of creditors,” or ABC, to liquidate its assets, through which Norwegian-Spanish holding company Skitude has acquired the assets of Liftoptia Inc., according to a source with knowledge of the situation. SAM

Ski resorts expect a busy season. Can they find enough workers? Even in a pandemic, people want to get outdoors. That dynamic may help ski resorts survive, but they are having to look closer to home for their staff. *Christian Science Monitor* via Google Alerts

Epic vs. Ikon ski pass war reshapes U.S. ski industry. The ski pass war between Vail Resorts’ Epic Pass and Alterra Mountain Company’s Ikon Pass reshaped the industry last season. For the first time ever, skier and snowboard rider visits generated by season passes exceeded those from multi- and single-day lift tickets, according to an annual study performed for the National Ski Areas Association. *Aspen Times* via Google Alerts

U.S. Ski Resorts Look To La Niña For Plentiful Snow This Ski Season. As this year’s ski season gets underway, resorts are working hard to ensure that guests can stay safe, while closely watching forecasts to see how much snow the winter will bring. *Forbes* via Inntopia

Holiday Openings Shift Under New COVID Measures. While holiday openings were still plentiful this Thanksgiving, the model for opening seems to have shifted in parts of the country, with many resorts opting to slow roll their winter operations with post-holiday, midweek first-day targets. SAM

With COVID Limiting Some Resort Skiing, Alpine Rescue Team Prepares for More Backcountry Emergencies. COVID-19 is driving people to seek the outdoors and Alpine Rescue knows it. CBS Denver via Inntopia

From the lodge to the lift, this year’s ski season will look and feel very different. Ski masks are set to take on a new responsibility this winter as resorts, skiers and snowboarders across the country gear up for their first full season since the pandemic cut last year’s short. NBC News via Inntopia

Changes Abound for Ski Areas—as Expected. The recent changes and challenges many resorts have encountered—and the possibility of further changes—weren’t entirely unexpected. SAM

Las Vegas, NV’s Lee Canyon Ski Area Approved For Expansion. An environmental impact statement has been reviewed and approved, finalizing Lee Canyon’s plans to add two new lifts, 23 ski runs, mountain bike trails, a mountain coaster, additional parking, a zipline, and other amenities. SnowBrains

To Wear Their Masks, the Beards (and a Tradition) Had to Go. Members of ski patrols nationwide are known for their beards, but many have shaved them to wear masks in the pandemic, causing good-natured angst. *New York Times*

SKI INDUSTRY NEWS (Cont.)

Heated Seats to Become a Hot Commodity at Ski Areas this Season. For ski resort operators, this winter season will present a new array of challenges that require forward-thinking and unique solutions. With indoor capacity limited at mountains across the country, ski areas have been forced to come up with a better way to expand outdoor accommodations. FREESKIER

An Oral History of the National Brotherhood of Skiers. Since 1973, a groundbreaking organization has gathered thousands of Black snow-sports enthusiasts for a week of on-mountain revelry. But the event has always had a more serious mission, too: changing perceptions about who belongs on the slopes. *Outside Online* Ed. *The Brotherhood is a member council of NSCF. Congratulations to them for this great work and the exposure it has received in a number of venues.*

An Uphill Battle: Lauren Samuels Profile. Lauren Samuels is one of only a handful of Black ski racers to make it to the U.S. Ski Team. Now she's helping the team address issues of diversity. SIA

Challenging Christmas Provides Litmus Test for Season. This holiday period didn't break any visitation records, but demand across the country was solid, even as conditions varied wildly from region to region. For many North American resorts, this was also the first major test of their Covid-related policies, with mask compliance overall pretty good, though some areas have had to crackdown. SAM

Cross-country Skiing is Booming. The Cross-Country Ski Areas Association (CCSAA) has been conducting online sessions with members since last spring, focused on sharing information about how X-C operations should respond to the Covid-19 pandemic. SAM

Saddleback (ME) Opens Slopes after 5-year Closure. New owners of embattled mountain in Sandy River Plantation, near Rangeley, envision profitable future. *Portland Press-Herald*

European Ski Season in Doubt as Resorts Stay Closed. With the Covid-19 situation in various countries in Europe failing to improve, and the popular skiing period of Christmas and the New Year already lost to the pandemic, there is a real chance that this year's ski season may pass without millions able to take to the slopes. Travel Off Path via Inntopia | Destimetrics

This Guy Has Skied Every Month for 32-Years. VIDEO: Turns All Year. Carl is not your average skier. Unlike the typical powder-chaser, his ski turns are not limited by the seasons. In fact, they're not limited by much at all. He skis every month of the year and he's been doing that for 32 years, straight. SnowBrains

New Lodging Partner for FWSA Skiers: The *Tahoe Biltmore*, in Crystal Bay, Nevada is their newest lodging partner. Information about this and many other lodging partners is available in the Member Benefits Page on the Far West website: [www,FWSA.org](http://www.FWSA.org). There are a lot of great deals to be had this season.



www.sierraleague.com

