



SLO Skiers
P.O.Box 1047
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

The Newsletter of
The SLO Skiers, Inc.
A Ski, Sport and Social Club
May 2014

www.sloskiers.org
Annual dues \$40/person

Meetings are held first Wednesday of the month
Social- 6:30PM General Meeting- 7:30PM
Board Meeting- 5:30PM

San Luis Obispo Elks Lodge
222 Elks Lane

*Thom and Sharon Page
Are Hosting
a*

SLO Skiers Planning Party

Thursday, May 15, 2014
6:00 PM

Location:
1146 11th Street
Los Osos

- Bring your ideas to be discussed by all.
- Think about how you can help out with your club...in a big or small way.

*In addition to your creative thoughts, please bring:
A heavy appetizer to share
A beverage of your choice
SLO Skiers will supply margarita fixin's*

Message from the President



Hello fellow skiers,

We have ended another very successful SLO Skiers ski season with fond memories galore. Both the Tahoe and the Breckenridge trips were well attended, and rumored to be an absolute blast by those in attendance. If you didn't/couldn't join us this year, consider your options early for next year. The club will be going to Mt. Bachelor (probably February) and Big White, Canada in March. You will be hearing lots more about both of these spectacular trips, plus some extended weekend trips to Mammoth, as the planning moves forward.

Your new board is now in place, with many new and eager faces. (We're all listed towards the back of the newsletter). We are excited to be your leaders for the coming year, but even more, we look forward to tailoring your club to your interests and desires. We certainly can't do that without your input, so...we are planning a planning party of course! **The planning party will be at Thom and Sharon Page's home in Los Osos on Thursday, May 15th.** See details elsewhere in this newsletter, and plan to come with your ideas in hand.

And, your outgoing board's grand finale, a wonderful end of the year party and awards gala, is scheduled for Sunday, May 18th, at French Park in San Luis Obispo. Look for the details inside. Hope to see you all there.

Your ski council, Central Council, has a couple of fun summer activities lined up for your enjoyment. Look for flyers on those in this newsletter as well.

Congratulations to our SLO Skier of the Month for April - Teresa Rice. Teresa quietly assists with a multitude of tasks to make our ski trips run smoothly for all of you. She was key, along with Hal Rosewall, in getting our members to and from LAX-Denver-Breckenridge, as well as being one of the "creative heads" putting together your package of fun.

Thank you, **Pete Sarafian**, our hiking poet, for another great hike at Santa Margarita Lake.

Thank you, **all the members of the outgoing SLO Skiers board**, for your wonderful leadership this past year.

A special thank you to John Smith for 2 years of organizational and social leadership as our president. We all appreciate you stepping up to the plate with a smile.

Fran Long

SLO Skiers Calendar of Events



MAY

May 18, 2014 SLO Skiers "End-of-Year" Party

Where: French Park, 1040 Fuller Road, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

When: 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM (**Look for evite in your email.**)

JUNE

June 12 thru 15 Far West Volcanic Paradise Convention

Where: Bend Oregon (see flyer page 6)

June 27 thru 29 Backpacking and Hiking

Where: Chickenfoot Lake (see flyer page 10)

AUGUST

August 1 and 2 Bike Ride

Where: Monterey County Fairgrounds

SEPTEMBER

September 5 thru 16 Far West South Africa Trip (see flyer page 6)

September 9, 2014 SLO Skiers Annual Auction

Where: Clubhouse of the Vines Resort, 88 Wellsona Rd, Paso Robles, CA

OCTOBER

October 11 thru 18 Cozomel Scuba Trip (see flyer page 6)

DECEMBER

December 13, 2014 SLO Skiers Annual Christmas Party

Where: Clubhouse of the Vines Resort, 88 Wellsona Rd, Paso Robles, CA

SLO SKIERS PHILANTHROPY REPORT FOR MAY 2014

KUDOS TO ALL SLO SKIERS FOR LAST YEAR'S EFFORTS:

YOU WON !!!! Your exemplary community service this past year has earned SLO Skiers the distinction of being one of three finalists in the Far West Ski Association (FWSA) Charity Recognition competition. Regardless of whether we place 1st, 2nd or 3rd, our Club has earned the recognition and will receive a check that we will give to local Parkinson's research. Your generosity contributed to the Philippines relief effort, the Food Bank, the Homeless Shelter, clothes and books for hospitalized veterans, gifts to needy families and toys for children at Christmas, Parkinson's research, medical care for a severely injured Club member, support of fellow members through the "Sunshine" function, initiation of our memorial forest for deceased members, and joy to amputee veterans through AmpSurf's surfing clinics.

NEW YEAR'S EFFORTS:

On April 5th ten SLO Skiers and their guests attended a fundraiser for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates.) organized by June Ward.



By the time you read this, you hopefully will have attended the memorial tree planting for Steven Seybold on April 26th followed by the overnight campout at Rancho El Chorro Park.

May 3rd will be the next AmpSurf surfing clinic at Pismo Beach for disabled veterans who are mostly amputees. Details are in last month's newsletter. Advance registration is required.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen O'Neill

First Friday Bike Rides are Back

First Friday bike rides happen on the first Friday following our monthly general meeting. Our first ride of the season will be on Friday, May 9th. We will meet at the head of the Bob Jones Trail at 10:00 AM, ride into Avila Beach, stop for coffee and one of our favorite locations, then ride back. South county folks often ride from Pismo, San Luis and North County folks often ride from the Food 4 Less parking lot in San Luis Obispo. We can all talk to our friends and figure that one out.

The way these rides work is...someone has to volunteer to be the ride captain. That person's responsibilities are to answer questions, wait a reasonable time for everyone to show up, and, most importantly, decide where to have coffee or breakfast.

Here's the schedule. You decide which ride you would like to captain and let me (Fran) know at fancat@me.com. I'll send the reminders and post your email address and/or phone number for RSVP's.

May 9th Captain: Fran (fancat@me.com)

June 6th Captain:

July 4th Captain:

This will be a very light ride

August 8th Captain:

September 5th Captain:

October 3rd Captain:

Other bike rides will be scheduled at the planning party on May 15th. Come share your bike riding thoughts.

*Happy Birthday to all born in
May*



FAR WEST SKI ASSOCIATION EVENTS

Have You Made Plans To Attend The Volcanic Paradise Convention??? The 82nd Annual Far West Ski Association Convention, June 12-15, 2014, in Bend, OR, is drawing closer than you think!! FIRST—make your lodging reservations. Simply call The **Riverhouse** at **800.547.3928 or 541-389-3111**. Group Name: Far West Ski Association 2014. Hotel rates honored three days pre and post-Convention.

Traveling in your RV? Reserve space now as spots fill fast! Scandia RV Park www.scandiarv.com.

Crown Villa RV Resort www.crownvillaresort.com

Sign Up Now For Convention Optional Activities!!! Friday is Optional Activity Day with the 8th Annual Michael German Memorial Golf Tournament at River's Edge Golf Course; Hike and sight-see at the world-famous Smith Rock State Park; or Shop-Dine-Wine at the Old Mill District. The Pool Party on Friday afternoon will cool you off before the annual FWSA Silent Auction on Friday night.

Get Ready For Silent Auction And Travel Expo!!! The Silent Auction is open to all FWSA delegates and guests. Bid on ski, sport and adventure packages and enjoy a Taste of Bend. Silent Auction is open to the general public (FREE admission!) and we encourage our Bend and Redmond communities to take part in this event. Saturday brings Travel Expo where industry and delegates meet to talk about club travel. Saturday afternoon is set aside for our Multi-Media Presentation with our keynote speaker, Jess McMillan, as well as Public Affairs and Snowsports Leadership Academy sessions.

Saturday Night Dancing To Thrillride!!! Saturday night erupts for the real *Volcanic Paradise*. We'll have a live band this year and NWSCC guarantees you'll dance your flip-flops off to the sounds of *Thrillride*. Did we say flip-flops? Yes, break out those flip-flops---the attire for Saturday night is black tie & shorts.

Come Meet Featured Guests!!! We are excited to have *Jess McMillan* (professional big mountain free skier), and *Billy Kidd* (former Olympic medalist) as special guests.

Still Need More Information??? We're here to help - for more information, please contact Host Council Convention Coordinator Mary Olhausen at omary52@comcast.net.

South Africa is Calling: There is still room to sign up for the South Africa Trip, September 5-16, 2014, with an extension to *Victoria Falls* September 16-20, 2014. Just go to FWSA's new interactive website at: <https://fwsa-connect.herokuapp.com>, click the "sign up" link to create a new account; click on the "confirm" link in the email you receive and then use your new account to "log in". Look in the Trips menu to sign up for our trip to Africa. You can make online payments using your PayPal account on your credit card. Contact Debbie Stewart for more details at: fwsaintltrlv@prodigy.net.

Far West Dive Trip: The FWSA 5th annual scuba dive trip will be October 11-18, 2014 to Occidental Grand Cozumel Resort on the great island of Cozumel, Mexico. The price is \$1,138 for divers and \$758 for non-divers. Price includes 7 nights at the Occidental Grand Cozumel (2 persons in a deluxe room), all meals and drinks including alcohol!. The dive price includes 5 days of 2 tank boat dives and unlimited Nitrox. Contact Randy Lew at 530-304-0802 or fwsa13randy@telis.org

Far West International Trip 2015: Our 2015 International Ski Trip will be to Val D' Isere, France with additional days in Paris and Provence. Stay tuned for further details.

UTAH PROPOSES THE WORLDS SECOND LARGEST LIFT-CONNECTED RESORT

On March 19, 2014, Nathan Rafferty, CEO of Ski Utah, a marketing and trade organization of the state's ski resorts, and representatives from Alta, Brighton, Canyons, Deer Valley, Park City Mountain Resort, Snowbird, and Solitude held a joint news conference to announce their support for a connection between all seven of the resorts via chairlift and ski runs, forming a European-style mega resort to be called ONE Wasatch.

The resorts in the Wasatch Mountains that are close proximity to each other and connecting these resorts via chairlift and ski runs would allow access by intermediate level and above skiers to more than 18,000 skiable acres (7,284 hectares) and more than 750 runs, serviced by 100 lifts, and accessed on a single lift ticket. The proposed plan calls for connecting Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons, connecting Big Cottonwood to Park City Resort, connecting Park City Resort and Canyons -- all of which could be done on private property but would still require government approval due to watershed issues that must be addressed. Dropping the rope line that currently divides Deer Valley and Park City Resort would instantly connect those resorts and Alta and Snowbird have been connected for years.

At the news conference, Nathan Rafferty of Ski Utah pointed out that, at this point, ONE Wasatch is a concept, not a plan, and it's certainly not a reality. Right now, the idea is to establish a vision for a one-of-a-kind mountain experience by providing information, defining the process, encouraging dialog, and listening to feedback. But once a consensus is made, the resorts say that the connecting lifts could be installed in a single summer's construction cycle.

There are a few obstacles to the idea. How will they devise a revenue-sharing plan between the resorts? (It's done in Europe all the time.) Two of the resorts, Deer Valley and Alta, don't allow snowboarding. (That would probably have to change.) Park City's and Canyons' owners, Vail Resorts and Powder Corporation, are currently in court deciding whether or not to dissolve Park City's long held land lease. (Both resorts are behind the idea of ONE Wasatch, and say that the idea should go forward regardless of who wins or loses the lawsuit.) And local environmentalists and backcountry skiers have yet to be sold on the idea. Nonetheless, all the affected resorts seem optimistic that this idea can and will work. If successful, the connection would create North America's largest ski resort and it would be the world's second largest, after France's Les Trois Vallées with 24,711 acres. Clearly, if accomplished, this concept could be a game changer in the North American -- and the world's -- ski market!

NEW SKI RESORT IN UTAH

Next ski season, there will be a new ski resort in Richmond, Utah (near Logan), bringing the state's total to 15 ski resorts. Cherry Peak Ski Resort, a 200-acre resort will be a teaching mountain with three lifts on private land with its base at 5,800 feet and which receives 322 inches of snow annually.

NEW INTRAWEST PASSPORT

Intrawest Resorts Holdings, Inc., the parent company and/or manager of Steamboat, Winter Park, Blue Mountain in Ontario, Mont Tremblant in Quebec, Vermont's Stratton, and Snowshoe Mountain in West Virginia, is introducing its new Intrawest Passport for the 2014-2015 season tomorrow, March 7. The pass will include six days of skiing at each of their six resorts and offers kids under the age of 12 free skiing. Prices for adults are \$549 for the first pass within a family and \$399 each for up to additional adult passes. Passes for kids ages 13-20 are just \$199 each with a limit of five passes per family. What makes this different is that family can be described as just a collection of good friends.

NEW WORLD RECORD SET FOR SPEED ON SNOW

An Italian speed skier has broken his own eight-year old speed record by a little under one mile per hour to set a new speed skiing record -- the fastest speed man has travelled on land without mechanized propulsion.

Racing on the intimidating Chabrières speed run at the French resort of Vars as part of the Speed Masters event, Simone Origone reached 156.87 miles per hour.



March Showers Bring April Hike Flowers

Oh for goodness sake,
You missed Santa Margarita Lake!
The day was sunny bright,
The lake and flowers, such a sight.

The entire morning heard,
A chirping choir of wild bird.
With sky of blue and grass of green,
It really was quite a scene.

Then we adjourned to lunch,
To sip and talk and munch.
The perfect way to bring,
End to a morn'in spring.

-Pete Sarafian



*Joining Pete from left to right are Chuck Elekes, Diane Mandala,
Carolayne Holley and Carla Friddle. (Photo by Pete Serafian)*



Announcing the First, if Not Annual Central Council Backpacking Adventure! June 27—28 Friday & Saturday Nights Camping at Chickenfoot Lake

THE PLAN -

If you have never backpacked in the Sierras you really have missed one of the most enjoyable ways to view the Mammoth area. And if you have done some backpacking you know exactly what I mean!

This trip will be geared for the novice as well as the experienced hiker that hasn't done a trip like this for a long time. The plan is to hike in on Friday morning to Chickenfoot Lake, right at 3 miles of easy to moderate terrain. Saturday is your own day to spend as you see fit. Fish, explore, photograph, or simply rest, relax and enjoy. Sunday we pack up and do a leisurely hike out for the trip home. My only suggestion would be to arrive in the area Thursday and spend the night somewhere in the Mammoth vicinity getting acclimated and well rested for the hike on Friday morning.

Contact:

John Long at jlong50@yahoo.com or

Bill Ellis at billellis0535@sbcglobal.net

for more information and assistance on preparing for this fun trip!! **RSVP for this trip by email to: jlong50@yahoo.com or call 805-712-5780**



THE DETAILS -

Everyone will be responsible for their own gear on this trip. Dinner will be provided Friday night of spaghetti and all the fixings with at least one glass of red wine each. You just need to provide your own eating utensils. All the other meals are up to you. That's Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner and Sunday breakfast and lunch. Drinking and cooking water will be from local streams but should be filtered or treated to be considered safe to consume. Campfires are prohibited in most back country areas, including Little Lakes Valley, so a backpackers camp stove should be used for cooking meals.

Tentative price \$24.00 per person

For info on this area simply Google "Chickenfoot Lake" in the Eastern Sierra. Tentative meeting place is the extended stay parking lot near the Rock Creek Pack Station.



THE AREA -

The Little Lakes Valley Trail is an easy trail, according to experienced hikers in California's High Sierras. However, these beautiful lakes are located at a high altitude. The trailhead starts at 10,300 feet, which is the highest trailhead in the Sierra Nevada's. From there, it's only another 650 feet up to the highest point on the trail. The trail is less than seven miles along 8 spectacular small lakes in Little Lakes Valley. The string of lakes in the glacier-gouged canyon are all set amid outstanding scenic vistas and are breathtaking.

This interesting trail along Rock Creek levels out somewhat after the first initial climb to a series of low hills which hide a string of beautiful and unspoiled alpine lakes. This is the John Muir Wilderness, filled with breathtaking views, inspiring peaks, and unspoiled wilderness. The first lake to come into view is Mack Lake, followed by Marsh Lake over a low hill. A bit larger, Heart Lake is next and is somewhat heart-shaped. Next comes Box Lake, followed by Long Lake. In order to see Chickenfoot Lake (shaped somewhat like a chicken track), hikers take a short loop off the main trail. It's just 3 miles total to this lake.

The Little Lakes Valley Trail is extremely popular because of the spectacular scenery and ease of access. The trailhead parking area is located 13 miles off US 395, where hikers may camp for a single night to become acclimated to the elevation. Several 13,000-foot peaks tower above the little valley, including Mt. Mills, Dade, Abbot and Bear Creek Spire. Cameras are almost standard equipment for the Little Lakes Trail, and many photography buffs make sure to take the hike in different seasons. In spring, wildflowers blaze along the creek and in the high meadows, while aspens shade parts of the path and shelter native wildlife and birds.





SLO Skiers
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2014–2015

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(805) 962-0049

14 State Street

Santa Barbara, CA

(805) 543-1676

667 Marsh St.

San Luis Obispo, CA

MIKE'S
 Copy &
 Graphics

Mike Buckels
 Owner

805.544.3625

Fax 805.543.2963

179 Granada Dr., Ste. 2
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

mike@mikescg.net