



Bogus Basin Ski Club

A Recreational & Social Organization Since 1938

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June 2025

Bogus Basin Road Cleanup

On a bright and breezy Saturday, 17 spirited volunteers from the Bogus Basin Ski Club rolled up their sleeves and took on the top 7 miles of Bogus Basin Road—and the main parking lot—for our summer cleanup. No grabbers, just grit, good vibes, and a whole lot of roadside treasure hunting.

We were overwhelmed—in the best way possible—with 36 people offering to help! While we would have loved to include everyone, each person walked a full mile of cleanup, and we simply had a limited stretch of road to cover. (Your enthusiasm didn't go unnoticed—we're keeping that energy for next time!)



Liz Loomis

Liz

Liz Loomis took the reins on organizing this year's cleanup, bringing her energy, warmth, and sense of fun—setting the tone for the whole day. Her enthusiasm for bringing people together was contagious, and she reminded us all why this stretch of road means so much to our club. Equal parts trail boss and party planner, Liz made the day feel like a celebration of community and care for the mountain road that takes us to our happy place—Bogus Basin.

The Contest

To kick things off and keep the energy high, Liz announced a contest at the start of the day, adding an extra layer of fun with five quirky prize categories. Volunteers eagerly snapped photos of their most outrageous or impressive finds, knowing they'd get their moment of fame—and a

chance at glory—when we gathered over lunch for the lively judging.

Adopt a Highway

Our cleanup is part of Idaho's Adopt a Highway program, which began in 1990 during the state's centennial celebration. The initiative was launched under then-Governor Cecil Andrus as part of the "Idaho is Too Great to Litter" campaign. As reported by Don Day of BoiseDev, the program now includes around 1,000 volunteer groups, helping to save the state about \$750,000 a year in cleanup



Meg & Jim

costs. Between volunteers and inmate labor, more than 3.3 million pounds of trash have been removed from Idaho roadsides. About half of Idaho’s highways are now maintained by these dedicated “adoptive” groups—we’re proud to count ourselves among them!

Crews split up and tackled different sections of the road, picking up everything from beer cans to hubcaps, and even a digital camera. The camaraderie was contagious, and by mid-morning, the roadside was looking significantly cleaner—and our phones were full of very questionable photos of very questionable items.

After all the roadside adventures, we headed down to Lulu’s Pizza to relax, award prizes, and refuel with some well-earned pizza and drinks. The patio was filled with friendly conversation, plenty of laughs, and the sweet feeling of a job well done.



Here’s how the (sometimes bizarre) bounty broke down

Basin Booty – Best Ski-Related Item

Sandra Cashen took the win with an actual 2024–25 Bogus Basin season pass.

Shindig Shenanigans – Most Ridiculous Find

Liz Vavricka won this gem for a beer can that had been shot full of BBs and was mysteriously lodged to a tree. Idaho vibes, 100%.

Stump Bowl Sludge – Grossest Find

Plenty of contenders in this category (including a rogue diaper), but Carey Bell clinched it with not one, but two condoms. Yikes. And... ew.

Bogus Behemoth – Largest Item



Liz Vavricka and Carey Bell unearthed a full-blown fallen road sign, but the t-shirt was awarded to Andy Mork, who found a car bumper—because hey, when someone finds a bumper, you give them a prize.

War Eagle Wonders – Most Fun or Unique

Jim Kuhn earned this one with a mysterious box of joints. (No comment... but definitely a “wonder.”)

An extra big thank-you goes out to Paul Markowitz, Ted Vavricka, and Steve Strickland, who played an essential role throughout the day. They shuttled volunteers up and down the road and hauled away

full bags and bulky debris to the Boise National Forest sign for ACHD to collect during the work week. The day simply wouldn’t have run as smoothly without their efforts.



Thank you again to everyone who came out and made this cleanup not just productive, but downright legendary. This is the spirit of the Bogus Basin Ski Club—scrappy, spirited, and sometimes just a little weird (in the best way).



The Volunteer Crew

Elizabeth Loomis, Steve Strickland, Larry Crockett, Ted Vavricka, Liz Vavricka, Carey Bell, Robin Charlesworth, Kevin Hennessy, Dan Balbach, Tracy Carlson, Steve Carlson, Meg Kuhn, Jim Kuhn, Sandra Cashen, Andy Mork, Paul Markowitz, Rich Kunz

Story by Liz Loomis, Photos by Steve Strickland and Carey Bell.

Greenbelt Bike Brewery Tour Spring Ride

The Greenbelt Bike Brewery Tour Spring Ride was well attended by over forty riders.



We had no problem finishing the four growlers from Boise Brewing for our tastings. Thanks again to Paul Markowitz for his donation of beer from Boise Brewing. We had lots of lucky winners for free beer, Yeti cups, a dry bag and BBSC T-shirts.



The weather was perfect for our leisurely ride down the Greenbelt to our first stop at Belmont Brewhouse, a brand new brewery in Garden City with 47 taps to choose from.



Then on to Clairvoyant Brewing a local neighborhood brewery. Our group quickly filled up the place with lots of cheers of great tasting beer.



Our final stop at Green Acres was a hit. Everyone had the choice of many food trucks and find the perfect drink for pairing your meal. Plus live music for lots of dancing. We might have to come back. Thanks to all that came out to enjoy a great bike ride and the camaraderie we get to share.





Story and Photos by Steve Strickland

Far West Ski Association Convention, June 12-15, 2025

Report by Kim Hovren

Jim and I were honored to represent the Bogus Basin Ski Club at 92nd annual FWSA convention in Palm Springs, CA. The convention was an A+



and with 197 attendees, not counting industry representatives, made for a worthwhile time. Given a modified version of open educational seminars held one day, and candidate nominee introductions held in a short one-hour presentation; I appreciated the attention to timely topics and getting to know the FWSA nominees who will uphold the new operational year in their elected positions.



FWSA Delegate Highlights for me and Jim

Guest speaker: Samantha DeBoer

Director of Communications for the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame & Museum

1. FWSA Snowsports Leadership Academy

I attended all meetings offered and received a certificate of participation from Todd Hood, Trustee. Craig Caples, FWSA VP membership as facilitator, the premise: an opportunity to learn from FWSA member clubs regarding best practices and areas of concern. I had the microphone a good share of the time, mostly because of our club's good work is a shining example to follow for any club's consideration. Our club in many ways is unique. First, we have a very engaged Treasure Valley community, a non-profit mountain, active board of directors, leaders and membership. It was a privilege to share all the years of trips, events and social

opportunities that BBSC has produced over the years. This is in sharp contrast to some clubs in the FWSA where garnering new members is a challenge for many reasons.

2. Environmental Panel of Experts

Fabulous!!!! I learned so much about California's wind turbine program; Snow Trends in our area of the Northwest; and a special visit by the owner of Well Done, a petroleum capping service company. Kind of like 'wild-catters,' but only in the sense they seek closing down and capping the open, non-producing wells in our country, approximately two million known today. Releasing methane and/or poisonous gas into our environment is now being recognized.

3. FWSA Athletic Scholarship Program

David Krupp. A silent auction at the convention raised \$1,000 with raffle items. Myself, being on the committee for the past two years, I've grown to appreciate the role FWSA has with young competitors in the USSA racing program. Applications are administered and then reviewed by a small committee representing FWSA councils. The quality and depth of the student athletes seeking scholarship revives

my confidence in our youth's determination, dedication and level of skill to fill the boots of the new generation of World Cup and USSA Olympians. A good thing!

4. **FWSA Board of Director and Events**

A callout to volunteers. A wonderful opportunity for all of us to participate as leaders with FWSA, an organization recognized by industry partners, USSA athletes and 50,000 members in 12 western states.

5. **Introducing the FWSA Digital Membership Benefits Card**

Discounts and Offerings. Savings on your next adventure.

6. **A Call to BBSC.**

Needing a participant in the Northwest Ski Club Council. I was asked to communicate with our board of directors that we provide one representative to join the council. Zoom meetings. Portland, Oregon is the organization's point of reference and covers the NW states, including Alaska. Sheri Parshall, President.

7. **Travel Ski Event**

Jim and I sat next to a delegate from Nashville, TN and he offered his club's itinerary for a travel event. His club annually does a trip that includes ski school, race camp and social events. I really liked the structure and would like BBSC to consider this in the future as a possible travel or local event.

Schedule — Thursday—Registration and Legends Home Tour

Our first meet and greet with old and new FWSA membership. Sussette Newsom and Sandy Blackwell from BBSC were there as well. Debbi Kor, Co-event chair and long time FWSA member, let me know that she would be retiring from coordinating future events. However, she will remain actively writing the FWSA newsflash, a monthly ski sports update to FWSA membership. Afternoon activity found us having lunch with club members from California, Arizona and industry representative Jody Blaney, Sr. Sales Manager with Crystal Inn Hotel & Suites, Salt Lake City. Jody was very eager to provide information to BBSC if ever we were thinking of hosting a trip to SLC.

Evening was scheduled with the Pub Crawl in downtown Palm Springs, which Jim and I chose not to participate. Triple digit temps and walking is not in the cards, as a double hip replacement is on Jim's agenda. We spoke with Pub Crawl attendees the next day and they split up the group and two destination spots were filled with FWSA members. A very fun event for all who attended were the comments.

Friday — Michael Germain Golf Tournament

Jim and I participated in the Michael Germain golf tournament, sponsored by Copper Mountain. A very fun event! Outdoors, mini golf and we all melted at the end as the temps zoomed up to almost record. Each team received an industry representative, and ours was from Crystal Inn Hotel & Suites, Byron McIntosh who works with Jody. Purely coincidence and he was a good coach to us putt-putt beginners.

Saturday — Programs and Awards Banquet & Dance

I accepted the Charities & Our Community Award on behalf of Bogus Basin Ski Club.

Previous years' recipients of the 'Schatzi Wood' award were recognized with a group photo and including me, there were approximately 20 women in attendance.

Sunday — Bylaw Reviews

Sandy Blackwell presented. Motions were made on the floor for elections and year-end order of business. Laudatory and Substantive resolutions were presented to the FWSA board of directors from the delegates. Questions rose from the floor regarding one substantive resolution.

Jim Hovren intervened briefly with Randy Lew regarding the resolution prior to the delegation's vote. As a result, it provided the information regarding the resolution's impact to FWSA and allowed for a decision to table the resolution by the Board of Director, Randy Lew. Issue: Possible business complexities it posed on FWSA had the resolution been accepted by the delegates. Resolution will be put into a committee for direction and comments.



Report by Sandra Blackwell



The convention, as always, has many events, informative lectures and fun things to do, plus some actual meeting work.

BBSC did really well at awards on Sunday morning

Outstanding Website First Place Novice, Carol Peterson, Webmaster.

Wentworth **Outstanding Publication**: First Place Advanced, Carol Peterson, Editor.

Charities & Our Community Award winner, Lynda Clark, President.

Kim Hovren joined the group photo for the **Elizabeth "Schatzi" Wood** Award.

Councils' Volunteer of the Year Judging

As usual, I spent part of my Saturday judging the Volunteer of the Year candidates, and this year was tough competition, which made it really interesting. There were a few questions asked about adding members to your club, and three of the eight candidates suggested adding family trips for skiing to our clubs' trips. Another was for every current member who brings in a new member who joins, the member gets some money off their annual membership dues. Another idea that has been brought up in prior years for gaining or keeping your membership is having ambassadors in your club. That person who is open and friendly, works at engaging new people who come, or if you notice someone is not attending events lately, a bit of an outreach to see why they are not attending.

Environmental Meeting

Orphan wells are all over and very dangerous. (Orphan well is one that was opened, possibly used if oil was available, then when the oil stops, they remove the piping and just cover up the hole.) One of the problems is that – you buy a property and find a small well hole in the property, potentially if you report it, it is yours to close up and that can be very costly, in many instances, in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Hence most, if found, do not get reported.

Club Marketing

Some of the suggestions were: groups that do more family gatherings, trips, are showing the younger generations the fun and camaraderie of group travel. Opening up your club to more public venues--happy hours that are attended by members, so ask someone who inquires what is going on to join and buy them a drink. Meetup has been explored by clubs, but someone has to meet whoever says they will meet up and take some time and many report that it just does not work that well. Pick a target age market – are you looking for 20s age group, or 40s age group?

Can you gather a small group of whatever age group and get them to bring in their friends, to start to develop a younger upcoming group for the club's future? Try movie gatherings with something after people can talk.

There was also a bit of conversation about: check or credit. Who pays for the credit card cost? If all credit cards being used, build that 3% cost directly into the trip. Try not to have participants mix check payments and credit cards payments as sometimes the credit card reporting is not as easy to work with.

Ski History Museums

I had no idea there were so many of them. At least 9 or 10 that I know of. The luncheon speaker was very good and the museums tend to be specific to that region, and emphasize local celebrity skiers over the years. Sadly, for me, it seems that so many museums are vying for a certain amount of donation dollars, and currently, donations for many things are slowing

Report by Sussette Newsom



I was very fortunate to attend FWSA Ski Convention this year in Palm Springs, CA. Clear blue skies and hot, hot temps greeted me. 116 degrees was the highest and all felt the heat. Palm Springs has lots of things to do! An arial tram was just one of them, though people got wilted at those temps and some didn't make it to the end of the mini-golf tournament due to the heat.

In the air conditioned convention center, we all opened our minds to hear interactive lectures and presentations on climate change from experts from four disciplines on and the future of the ski industry with regards to our world changing climate and global warming. The presentation was illustrated by many photos of glaciers melting years past compared to the rate of glaciers melting now.

How does that pertain to us here at Bogus Basin Ski Club?

The first for me that stood out was the climate change panelist who gave a well-documented presentation that demonstrated how many glaciers all over the world are melting and the temperature of the earth is rising. So far, it has only affected the ski industry and our great powder here in Idaho in small ways; but more is to come, unless we find more ways to work to prevent it. The best part of the info was hearing just how important doing our part to save the planet really does matter.

Other Learning Opportunities

Building ski club membership, snowsports leadership, club marketing and club community outreach were all

part of the discussion. Building membership and attracting young people to the club was an often-mentioned topic. Trips and year-round activities seemed to be the start and focusing on what having club membership gives to the individual who joins was a big selling point for new members. What value do we give? And how do we market ourselves to gain new members? Almost all clubs there required membership of varying amounts to enable a person to go on trips, along with typical waivers needing to be signed. The amounts varied from \$25.00 to ~\$75.00. The presenters and attendees varied in age from 25 to ancient. All were articulate, active, and interesting.

Samantha DeBoer, Director of Communications

The next presentation of note was done by Samantha DeBoer, Director of Communications, US Ski and Snowboard History Museum. She shared varying ways of communication with all members, whether younger (as she was) and all ages interested in snowsports. The ski museum has a number of Hall of Fame winners and would be great to visit if you are ever in Ishpeming in Northern Michigan.

The rest of the conference had organizational meetings and award presentations. Our own president, Lynda Clark, won a Diamond award for our work with Charities & Our Community. Our talented and exceptional webmaster won two awards! Way to go Lynda and Carol!

The BBSC Awards



Wentworth Outstanding Publication: 1st Place Advanced, Carol Peterson, Editor. The Wentworth Award is given to the club whose newsletters are judged best based on layout, content and club size. Advanced because last year Carol won the Novice Award.

The awards are Master, Advanced and Novice. If you win in your class, you are bumped up a class. If you have not won in four years, you are bumped down. The window of consideration is over a four-year period.

Outstanding Website 1st Place Novice, Carol

Peterson, Webmaster. The Outstanding Club Web Site Award is given to the club whose website is judged best based on layout, content, usefulness, navigation and club size. Novice Class is for those who are new or have not placed in the past four years. Craig Olsen won the award in 2019.



Charities & Our Community Award, Lynda Clark, President. Far West is committed to enhancing the quality of life within our communities by supporting charitable giving and volunteerism.



Kim Hovren accepted the award for Lynda Clark

Click [HERE](#) to see the FWSA Charities Award video.



Kim Hovren joined the group photo for the **Elizabeth "Schatzi" Wood Award**.

Click [HERE](#) to read the after-convention press release.

Reports and Photos by Kim Hovren, Sandra Blackwell and Sussette Newsom.