



**BLUE RIDGE SKI COUNCIL SPRING 2009 MEETING**

BLUE RIDGE SKI COUNCIL SPRING 2009 MEETING					
Treasurers Report					
				<b>Balance</b>	<b>9,066.17</b>
		<b>INCOME</b>			
09/24/08		Membership Dues	Fagowees		35.00
09/24/08		Sanction	Crabtowne	Park City, Jackson Hole	20.00
09/24/08		Sanction	Frederick Ski Club	Mammoth	10.00
09/24/08		Sanction	PVS	Taos	10.00
10/03/08		Meetings			592.50
10/03/08		Sanction	Richmond Ski Club	Big Sky	10.00
10/07/08		Sanction	Richmond Ski Club	Breckenridge	10.00
10/16/08		Membership Dues	Harford		19.65
10/23/08		Sanction	Fredericksburg Ski Club	Telluride	10.00
11/04/08		Sanction	2 PSAC 7 SCWDC		90.00
04/09/09		BRSC Trip Fee	GTU	\$1435 Carnival \$405 Eurofest	1,840.00
				<b>Total Income</b>	<b>2,647.15</b>
		<b>EXPENSES</b>			
09/27/08	1073	Meeting	Maggiano's Richmond	Final Payment	-\$237.94
10/15/08	1070	Meeting	Best Western Fairfax	Deposit	-\$100.00
02/16/09	1075	Western Carnival Racing	Dave Olsen		-\$656.97
				<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>-994.91</b>
				<b>BRSC Checking</b>	<b>10,718.41</b>
				<b>BRSC Savings</b>	<b>8,977.57</b>



<b>BLUE RIDGE SKI COUNCIL SPRING 2009 MEETING</b>			
<b>Webmaster Report</b>			
<b>Sanctioned Ski Trips:</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>Sanctioned Non-Ski Trips:</b>	<b>8</b>
SCWDC	19	Baltimore	2
Pentagon	12	Columbia	1
Baltimore	8	Fagowees	1
Fund & Bank	6	Pentagon	1
Columbia	4	Potomac Valley	1
Crabtowne	2	Richmond	1
PSAC	2	Sun, Snow, Surf	1
Potomac Valley	2		
Richmond	2		
Capital Golden	1		
Frederick	1		
Fredericksburg	1		
Moguls	1		
Salisbury	1		
<b>Participants in BRSC Sponsored Trips</b>			
<b>Western Carnival:</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Eurofest:</b>	<b>4</b>
Baltimore		Columbia	
Capital Golden		Pentagon	
Columbia		SCWDC	
Fagowees		SSS	
Fredericksburg			
Goddard			
Pentagon			
Richmond			
SCWDC			
SSS			

## Tour operator's bankruptcy leaves travelers lost

By Jayne Clark, USA TODAY

The phone rang in Jane Humphrey's Denver home on Monday, and her heart sank. The bad news: her 15-day tour of France, set to depart Thursday, was canceled. The tour operator had gone bust.

Humphrey and her husband, Ray, were among thousands of would-be travelers affected by the Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing Sept. 24 of Miami-based Far & Wide, parent company of 16 tour operators. The company's collapse probably will be the largest tour-operator failure ever.

Nine of Far & Wide's subsidiaries continue to operate, and a spokeswoman said former owners of those companies intend to buy them back, pending court approval. But among those that abruptly ceased operation last week were the consortium's two largest entities, Grand European Tours and Central Holidays, leaving vacationing clients without hotels, tour guides and tour buses. About 5,700 were either on tours or had paid for upcoming trips with companies that have shut down. (On Thursday, Go Ahead Vacations announced plans to buy Grand European.)

More than two dozen competing tour operators are accommodating Far & Wide customers. Littleton, Colo.-based Globus and Cosmos, for example, has assisted about 1,000, either by putting those who were stranded mid-tour on comparable trips free of charge, or by discounting upcoming trips. As of midweek, 35 U.S.-based tour operators were offering aid to Far & Wide clients. (Details: [ustoa.com](http://ustoa.com).)

But the default left people like the Humphreys, who by July already had paid more than \$3,000 in cash to Grand European Tours, wondering whether they could have better protected themselves. Some strategies to consider:

- Always pay with a credit card. Under provisions of the Fair Credit Billing Act, if a company doesn't deliver the goods, you have 60 days to dispute the charge from the time it appears on your statement. Even if you're past the 60-day cutoff, it's worth appealing your case to the bank or credit card company.
- Purchase travel insurance from a third party — not the tour operator. If the operator goes belly-up, so does its insurance plan. Most standard trip-cancellation policies issued by third-party insurers cover supplier default. But there are caveats, so read the fine print. The Web site [InsureMyTrip.com](http://InsureMyTrip.com) compares rates from 13 insurers.
- Check to see whether a financial safety net exists in case of operator default. The United States Travel Operators Association's 57 member companies post a \$1 million bond to reimburse customers who paid cash or whose credit card companies refuse chargebacks. Still, that fund won't cover all consumer losses in the Far & Wide case. After the last major member failure in 2000, the fund paid out 45 cents on the dollar, says USTOA president Bob Whitley. Some large tour operators, including Tauck World Discovery, Globus and Cosmos, Maupintour and Pleasant Holidays maintain their own multimillion-dollar bonds.
- Book through a travel agent. In case of calamity, at least you'll have someone to call. Four clients of Joyce Uslander, an agent with Crofoot Travel in Palm Desert, Calif., did just that last week when they arrived in Rome and learned their Far & Wide Tour was canceled. Uslander rebooked them gratis on a Globus tour.

Far & Wide began acquiring well-established tour operators in 1999 with the intent of eventually integrating them into a single brand. But the Sept. 11 attacks, a soft economy and other factors that have plagued the travel industry as a whole contributed to its demise, a spokeswoman said.

As for the Humphreys, they were rebooked on a Globus tour at a 35% discount and departed Thursday as scheduled.

-----  
[http://www.ustoa.com/Far&Wide\\_update\\_Aug08.htm](http://www.ustoa.com/Far&Wide_update_Aug08.htm)



**August 28, 2008**

**An Update from Robert E. Whitley, President of USTOA on the Far & Wide Bankruptcy**

Dear Consumers and Travel Agents:

After almost five years of litigation, USTOA's efforts to recover deposits lost by consumers in the Far & Wide bankruptcy suffered a serious setback last month when a Federal court in Florida dismissed all the creditors' claims. The creditors will appeal the decision but, unless this decision is overruled, there will be no further recovery by consumers of their lost deposits.

We will continue to keep our website updated with any new developments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert E. Whitley".

President  
USTOA

<http://www.totaltravelinsurance.com/bankruptcy-insurance.asp>

Insurance Companies will not insure the following due to financial conditions or other malady

<b>Tour Operators</b>	
4 South America Travel	Landmark Tours
4th Dimension Tours	Legend Tours
Accent Travel & Tours	Marco Polo Vacations
Adventure Center	Midwest Charter Tours
Aero Canadian Tours & Travel Inc.	Mile Hi Tours
Ambiance Vacations	Mlt Vacations
Buynetfares.com	Northwest Airlines World Vacations
By Land and By Sea	Optimum Travel
Central Holidays	Ozark Mountain
Christian Pilgrim Tours	Pacific Bestour, Inc.
CIT Tours	Peter Voll Associates
Council Travel Services	Pleasant Vacations
Dialysis at Sea Cruises	Premier Selections
Downunder Direct	Prism Holidays
ETM Travel Group	Regina Tours
Exotique Expeditions	Royal Travel Service
Fantasy Holidays	RT Tours
Far & Wide Travel Corp.	Sabena Tours
Farequest Holdings, Inc.	SNV Tours
Festival of Asia, California	Society Expeditions
First Class Travel	Suntrips
Fitzgerald Cruises & Tours	The French Experience
Flightserv, Inc.	TourLink
FS Tours, Inc.	Tradewind Tours
Great American Journeys	Travac
High Country Passage	Traveland.com
Intercontinental Travel Co.	Vacations By Sun Country
IST Cultural Tours	VARIG Travel Vacations
Italiatour S.P.A.	VEC Tours
Jet Vacations	World Travel Vignettes Inc.
Jet-A-Way	Worry-free Vacations
Journeys Unlimited	<b>Now JTM Tours</b>
<b>Cruise Lines</b>	<b>Rental Car Companies</b>
American Classic Voyages	Alamo Car Rental
American Hawaii Cruises	Budget Car Rental
BB Acquisition	National Car Rental
Festival Cruises	
First European Cruises	
GB Vessel Acquisition	
Glacier Bay Cruise Line	
Great American River Journeys	
Olympic World Cruises	
Regal Cruise Line	



Independence Air	FLYi Inc. subsidiaries - including Atlantic Coast Academy, WaKeeney and Independence Air filed for bankruptcy protection.
JetsGo Corporation	Jets Go suspended all operations.
MAXJet Airways	MAXjet Airways ceases operations on 12/24/07.
Mesaba Airlines	Mesaba Airlines filed for bankruptcy protection Following Northwest Airlines.
Midway Airlines	Midway Airlines suspended operations.
Oasis Hong Kong Airlines	Oasis Hong Kong halts flights amid surging fuel costs.
Olympic Airlines	Olympic Airlines takes over for Olympic Airways.
Royal Tongan Airlines	Royal Tongan Airlines suspended operations.
Skybus Airline	Skybus Airlines ceases all operations effective Saturday, April 5, 2008.
Skyway Airline	Skyway Airlines ceases operations.
Sobelair	Sobelair declared bankruptcy and suspended all operations.
Sosoliso Airlines	Following the crash of Sosoliso Airlines flight 1145, President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria grounded Sosoliso Airlines.
Southeast Airlines	Southeast Airlines suspended all operations.
Southern Winds	Southern Winds - Argentinean airline - was absorbed by LAN Airlines of Chile.
TransBrasil Airlines	Out of business.
TransMeridian Airlines	TransMeridian Airlines announced the shut down of all flight operations effective immediately.
United Airlines	UAL filed for bankruptcy protection (Chapter 11).
Vanguard Airlines	Vanguard Airlines filed chapter 11 and ceased all operations.
Varig	Varig - Brazil's largest airline - filed for bankruptcy.



# AGENDA

## Blue Ridge Ski Council Meeting

### May 2nd 2009

Best Western, Fairfax, Virginia  
Host – Potomac Valley Skiers

- 8:00** Register for Meeting & Payment to Treasurer [30]
- Enjoy a continental breakfast
  - Kitty Imdahl has stated that she will NOT be able to attend this meeting and has resigned as BRSC Secretary. President Wayne Homens will appoint a Secretary to replace Kitty although there is an election for the position to occur at 9am..
- 8:30** Call to Order [15]
- Opening remarks
  - Introduction of club representatives
  - Select host, date, and site of fall meeting **<please check your calendars for dates>**
- 8:45** Executive Committee Reports [15]
- Minutes — Kitty Imdahl, BRSC Secretary will not be present President Wayne Homens will present the minutes with comments
    - approve minutes of Fall 2008 meeting **<please bring a copy with you>**
  - Treasurer's Report — Steve Peirce, BRSC Treasurer
- 9:00** Elections – BRSC President for 2008-210 Term [20]
- Introduction of candidates & elections — Molly Hochman, Chair
  - Results announced immediately following the Lunch Break.
- 9:20** Post Trip Reports for 2009 [30]
- **2009 Trips** — Coordinator Reports [10]
    - **Eurofest at Davos**, Judy Miller (GTU)
    - **Western Carnival at Keystone**, Christopher Pukalski [10]  
& vendor report, Judy Miller
    - **Racing at Keystone**, Dave Olsen [10]
- 9:50** Discussion on 2011 Destinations and Contracts [60]
- **2011 Western Carnival Trip** — Destination comment, Wayne Homens, President BRSC [5]
  - **Vendor Comments on Possible locations for 2011 & 2012** – Vendors [10]
  - **Recent Vendor Default (JTM Tours)** – SCWDC [10]
  - **Tour Operator presentation on default avoidance** – Tour Operators [15]
  - **Discussion break-out** – Things needed to protect our clubs and club members from future Tour Operator, Airline, Vendor default – This will also be our **mid-morning break** [45]
  - **Presentation from Break-out group** [10]
  - **Re-selection of 2011 Western Carnival destination** [10]



<b>10:50</b>	<b><u>Standing Committee Reports</u></b>	<b>[20]</b>
	▪ Trip Sanctioning Policies and Procedures – Wayne Homens	[5]
	▪ Trip Sanctioning Status — Frank Peñaranda – BRSC Webmaster	[5]
	▪ Website Plans – Frank Peñaranda and Wayne Homens	[10]
<b>11:10</b>	<b><u>Standing Committee Reports continued</u></b>	<b>[20]</b>
	▪ Trips Committee — Where we go from here, Peter Porton and Wayne Homens	[20]
<b>11:30</b>	<b><u>Old Business</u></b>	
	▪ <b>2010 Trips</b> — Coordinator Reports	<b>[30]</b>
	▪ <b>Eurofest at Bormio</b> , Peter Porton & vendor report, Judy Miller	
	▪ <b>Western Carnival at Lake Tahoe</b> , Pat Crowley & vendor report, Judy Miller - GTU (break-out session in afternoon)	
	▪ <b>Selection of the EuroFest and Western Carnival Coordinators for 2011.</b>	
<b>12:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>[60]</b>
<b>1:00</b>	<b><u>New Business</u></b>	
	▪ <b>Election Results</b>	[5]
	▪ <b>2011 Trips</b>	[25]
	▪ <b>Western Carnival</b> — selection of resort	
	▪ <b>Eurofest</b> — selection of resort	
<b>1:30</b>	<b><u>Open Discussion of Issues</u></b>	<b>[45]</b>
	▪ Sanction fee for summer trips	
	▪ Tour operator selection process	
	▪ Standardized RFP needed	
	▪ Standardized reporting form for vendor selection	
	▪ Western Carnival race, awards, and banquet	
	▪ Any additional comments and suggestions on Financial Safety.	
<b>2:15</b>	<b><u>Break</u></b> - coffee, tea and light snack	<b>[15]</b>
<b>2:30</b>	<b><u>2010 Trips Breakout</u></b> — Judy Miller, GTU, & trip coordinators	<b>[75]</b>
	▪ <b>Eurofest at Bormio</b> , Peter Porton	
	▪ <b>Western Carnival at Lake Tahoe</b> , Pat Crowley	
<b>3:45</b>	<b><u>President’s Summation and Adjournment</u></b>	<b>[15]</b>
<b>4:00</b>	<b><u>Drive Safely — See you again in the Fall</u></b>	