



# THE SENTINEL

The Newsletter of the Sahalie Ski Club

Vol 2012

Issue 1

January 2012

## Insurance Company Caves to Sahalie

By Randall Karstetter

**WILLIS OF NEW** Hampshire, our insurance company, who also insures Snoqualmie Summit, at long last succumbed to the constant derision and embarrassment of being told they were ripping off small, non-profit, family-centered ski clubs who have a low use (weekend only) and restricted (members only) rope tow.

**ACTUARIALS AT WILLIS**, who may possibly be skiers, pulled out their calculators and did the math. After that, they found the derision and embarrassment had some basis of truth. Since ripping off small clubs is not good company PR, they decided it was time to make a new classification of low-use, restricted rope tow operations. The new classification comes with a lower liability premium. The existing minimum liability premium which Sahalie has been paying is \$7,500. The new classification premium will be \$2,500 for a savings to Sahalie of \$5,000 per year. Ka-ching!

**THE NEW PREMIUM** will start next year. Sahalie was told several other of Willis's clients were in the same boat so all will benefit. Whether or not the other organizations were complaining as loudly as Sahalie was not disclosed.

## La Niña Enjoys Her Little Joke

By Rob Jones

**LA NIÑA IS** standing there in front of you with that coy little smile common to girls her age. It starts small then spreads as she realizes that you are still walking around with that "Will Ski For Food" bumper sticker that she slapped on your back when you hugged good bye after Carnival. We will probably never be one of her BFF's\* but she clearly likes hanging out with us. Just take a look at the chart over there if you don't think this is true.

**WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING at** is the reported snowpack (in inches at the base/summit) from around the Northwest (Colorado was included so that we can all feel smug). The out-of-state ski areas that are listed here are those sites with the greatest snowpack for their entire state. I could have included Whistler / Blackcomb (65-118) or Cordova, Alaska (120 in the post office parking lot) but that would be missing the point – we're the envy of the lower 48.

**WHAT WE SEE** on the ground around the club looks like a typical January. We may have had hopes for more but given La Niña's fickle sense of humor, typical is looking pretty good.

\*Best Friend Forever

Baker	117	145
Alpentel	75	105
Central	68	105
White Pass	60	100
Stevens	73	86
Crystal	47	73
Schweitzer (ID)	39	71
West	33	70
Timberline (OR)	69	69
Wolf Creek (CO)	61	66
Whitefish (MT)	25	60
Hyak	50	50
Alta (UT)	37	37
Mission Ridge	18	26

Source: (1/17/12) <http://www.snocountry.com/>

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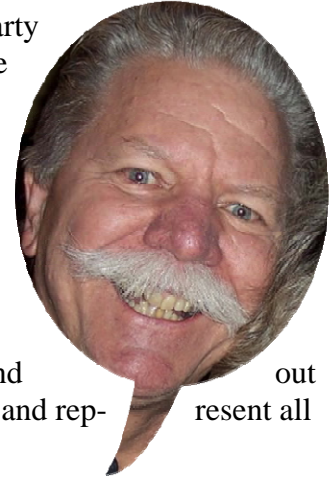
Work Parties  
Hill & Lift



## *The President Speaks*

By Vern Hasz

**AS MANY OF** you know, we started off the ski season with a great New Year's Eve party put on by the Entertainment committee. For those not able to attend, sorry, we had the most excellent time. Marci Cooper and the Entertainment committee need to be acknowledged for putting on this Sahalie Night Fever extravaganza. An often forgotten part of organizing a great weekend like this is the pure task of generating announcements, prodding for us to sign-up, collect the payments, assign and help us find our bunk assignments. This is balanced with getting the weekend planned and making it happen. It must be pure magic, as I don't believe it is done with just hard work.



It is not always fair to pick out some of the Sahalie members that made this event stand out to the exclusion of everyone else, but a few do need mention, as they are focal points and represent all those who provided help and aid.

Ingrid Clancy. I know she had many full days (and nights) painting that backdrop. It was a work of art.

Our Master Fireworks presenter, Tom Gobeille. Was that not the best show ever. Our Sahalie kids skiing down the mountain with road flares blazing. A flash of light, torch to fuse, and duck for cover. I looked around at all of Sahalie with their heads up mouthing Oooos and Aaas. The road to Alpental was a flood of cars stopping to watch.

B52. Some things are better left to memory than print. Our memory thankfully fades, and since there's no "in print" evidence, no witnesses to the crime. But let us remember Rich and his crew reloading the Shotski help pay for the entertainment and club enhancements that don't necessarily get a line item in the budget. They certainly help liven up the evening.

Andy Campbell for being Sahalie's wine merchant. His knowledge and connections insure our dinner and evening is well rounded with healthful spirits

Our weekend house managers. OK, these special weekends do have a lot of support from our members, but the house managers actually have to take charge, and track time to insure everything happens, and somehow, next week, our Sahalie club is ready and clean.

How about mister (or miss) snowman? Let's hope that new powdery snow becomes a New Year's tradition. Remember- Ski Club is in our name, even if we seem to be such a "Fun Club".

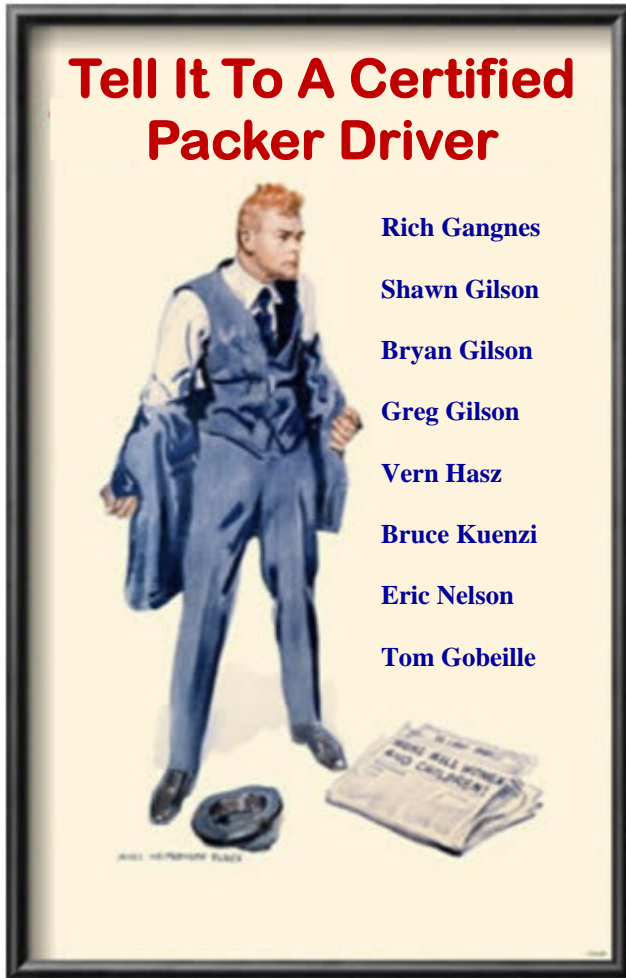
Finally, how about our membership? Do we not have the best friends ever? The individual contributions that everyone selflessly provides are what make the club work. Each one of you makes greatness in your own way. Success is often hard to repeat. Sahalie repeats it every weekend, year after year.

**AS I GET** this far into the President's message, I seem to have some of my New Year's resolutions sweep in front of me. Let us remember that our country and the world are having a difficult time with commerce. This spreads into some of our Sahalie members having a difficult time keeping ends together. Our kids are growing up, hoping to go to college. Somehow we have to house, feed and clothe ourselves, our families and our friends. The #1 priority of the Sahalie board was to not raise our membership dues. We are only ever able to do this by having our members support Sahalie with their individual work contributions to keep our club in great order. Let's insure we reach out and help our extended family. It is our diversity of members that make our club so special. Let us use our resources of work and connections to help our members and family find the commerce they need for continued success.

To a great 2012. And beyond,  
Vern

## Ask A Packer Driver

By Tom Gobeille



Dear Tom,

Can you give me a hand moving these kegs up from my truck?

**If you need something moved up or down from the parking lot it is better to let someone know in advance so plans can be made to support your needs.**

Dear Tom,

On what basis are packer drivers available?

**Related to packing or grooming the Hill, drivers will be available on an as available basis. One of us will always do our best to keep up with new snow or changing conditions.**

Dear Tom,

Are house managers good for anything at all?

**House Managers are responsible for the opening and closing of the Hill for skiing each weekend.**

## Name that Packer Contest

By Tom Gobeille

**I have decided** that the Sahalie packer needs a name and that everyone is eligible to submit a name. With that said, here is how it will work. All names and suggestions can be sent to me in e-mail, handed to me on a piece of paper with your suggestion, and your name (in case you win), or carved on a piece of wood that can be mounted on the packer (if you win).

**The other rule** is that I am not accepting the name "Jenny" from anyone since we have a rabbit named Jenny and that might cause some confusion in my family and we have enough of that already. Other names not acceptable to the Board at Sahalie are "Money Pit", "Ol Sluggy" or "Unreliable".

**I will gather** all names and make the winning announcement at Carnival where you will be recognized and win some Coors Light. If the name comes from someone who doesn't drink or is under 21, you will get a 6 pack of Barg's Root Beer, because it comes in a silver can and looks like Coors Light. Then this Summer I will personally stencil the winning name on both sides of the packer with really good paint.

**This is a** once in a lifetime opportunity to be super proud every time it drives by you with your winning name on the side and a chance to tell the person standing next to you that you named the packer. Great conversation starter. In case no one submits a name I will start with my submission; "Rusty". I want a chance at the prize. That is it for now. Keep your tips up and most of all, have fun!

## HighLights of the January Membership Meeting

Read the Official Minutes by Following the Link at

<http://www.sahalie.org/chair2/Notices.aspx>

### TREASURER/FINANCIAL - Tom Allan

**PRESENTLY THERE IS** 53K in the bank.

**WE MAY HAVE** to use some of these funds for packer maintenance.

**NO UPDATE ON** outstanding membership dues.

### WOOD/FUEL/SAFETY - Hans Bley

**HANS SENT AN EMAIL** to the general membership with safety reminders. Please remember to inform your guests of the safety guidelines and rules.

**THERE WILL BE A** planned fire drill in January, possibly the weekend of the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**WE ARE BURNING** propane faster than we have in past seasons. Two tanks are below 50% right now. They were at 80% in September when they were filled. It's very possible that we are running the furnaces too high. Vern and Hans will talk with Dev to make sure the system is functioning properly and about possibly reducing the temperature.

**HANS ALSO SUGGESTED** doing a new analysis of the costs to open and close the club as it pertains to power and heating costs.

### HILL AND LIFT - Tom Gobeille

**THE UPPER TOW**, or Tow 2 has been repaired and all of the required maintenance has been completed. Only one project remains and that is welding the cowlings, or doors, back on as they were in disrepair. As a temporary fix, we have tied them on with some additional support to protect everything from the weather. That has opened up the entire Hill for skiing and allows access to the Gunga Din. Remember the rule that children 12 years or younger can't ski the Gunga Din alone. The decision on whether or not kids under 12 are allowed to ski Tow 2 or the Gunga Din will be entirely up to the parent, or at the discretion of the Tow 2 operator. With that said, it is a good idea for anyone, of any age to ski that with a "buddy" in case you run into a problem with an injury or equipment. Please use caution at all times as the light snow so far this year is not optimal. When we get an appropriate amount of snow, we will decide if we can run the packer down safely to pack it at least once. Until then, it would be great if the folks on snowshoes would help along with anyone that is willing to side step the trail. Just like the good old days. Tommy Attwood is interested in getting a large group together to teach them the side step. See Tommy if you are interested.

**I KNOW THAT** many of you have been wondering why we unburied and dug out that sexy 1962 snow mobile and brought it to the front of the lodge. Well Brian Bogue is hopeful that he can get it running again and that we will be able to use it for those that are running the Upper Tow. The good news is that he got one cylinder running; the bad news is that it is a two cylinder engine. Our thoughts a prayers are with Brian regarding the dead cylinder in the hope that the Reverend Bogue can bring it back to life for all concerned.

### BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE - Mike McGuane

**WE NEED TO** be sure we are turning on/off the water heater under the sanitizer in the kitchen. If the heater is not on and not producing hot water, the dishes are not really being sanitized. *Mike is going to add this to the opening / closing list.*

**GREG AND MEREDITH** will work on replacing the cartridges in the faucets in the women's bathroom. Thanks to Wayne for his work on the upstairs bathroom. No time frame on when the countertop and sink will be installed.

**VERN IS GOING TO** check with the committee he assigned to working on a plan for the foundation in summer/fall of 2012 and see if they have made any progress.

## HighLights of the January Membership Meeting

### MEMBERSHIP-Cindy Clark

**MEMBERSHIP IS PRETTY** full. Vern asked for the membership's opinion on whether he should post something on the website stating that the membership is full. He has been fielding numerous calls and emails from people requesting information about the club.

**A DISCUSSION ENSUED** about how to handle membership going forward now that we don't have an immediate need for new members.

Tom Atwood suggested we analyze the membership demographics to determine when large numbers of people will request to be lifetime members. At that point the income will drop dramatically and we will need new, full paying members.

Marci suggested that we consider new members in regards to which dorms have room. For example, if there is room in the Crow's Nest we should consider applicants who would sleep in that particular dorm.

**THESE NOTES WILL** be considered by Cindy and Vern and they will decide what action can be taken in regards to membership capacity going forward.

### ENTERTAINMENT-Marci Cooper

**THE MEMBERSHIP OFFERED** a special thanks to Marci and the Entertainment Committee for the wonderful New Year's party.

**MARCI REPORTED** there were 142 people in attendance for New Year's including 23 guests which brought in \$600 in guest fees. Overall there was \$5,015 in revenue and there was a \$580 surplus. And the fog machine, disco lights and cocktail tables that Tom Allan built are ours to keep.

**MANY THANKS** were extended to Anne Allan for registration, Tom Allan for building tables, Andy for the wine and champagne, Megan for the midnight buffet, Lee for dinner, Tom Gobeille, Eric Nelson, Mary Blaker for the flowers and last, but not least, the house managers.

**MARCI HOPES THAT** you liked the DJ we had for New Years because she booked the same DJ for Carnival.

### LODGE MANAGEMENT/Rentals - Lisa Lange

**THE COMMISSARY IS** okay for now. Please notify Lisa if there is something missing. *We are also going to add this to the open/close list.*

**PRESENTLY WE HAVE** the following upcoming rentals scheduled; 6 Robbles (now), Billings Middle school in February, a church group in April and Austin Bogue's birthday in April.

### Sahalie Ski Club Executive Board

**President:** Vern Hasz  
president@sahalie.org  
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**Lodge Manager:** Lisa Lange  
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**Wood/Fuel/Safety:** Hans Bley  
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**Entertainment:** Marci Cooper  
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The Sahalie Sentinel is a periodic publication of the Sahalie Ski Club, Inc., a non-profit organization with its own ski lodge located at Snoqualmie Pass, Washington. Deadline for news items for the next issue is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. Please direct all submissions (articles, notices, photos) to the editor, Rob Jones, at [sentinel@sahalie.org](mailto:sentinel@sahalie.org).  
The mission of Sahalie Ski Club is to encourage skiing and enjoyment of the outdoors by all its members, and to promote good fellowship.

# Excerpts from Sahalie History

## The 1940's

By Dave Galvin

Read the Full Article at <http://www.sahalie.org/chair2/History.aspx>

### The Roaring Forties

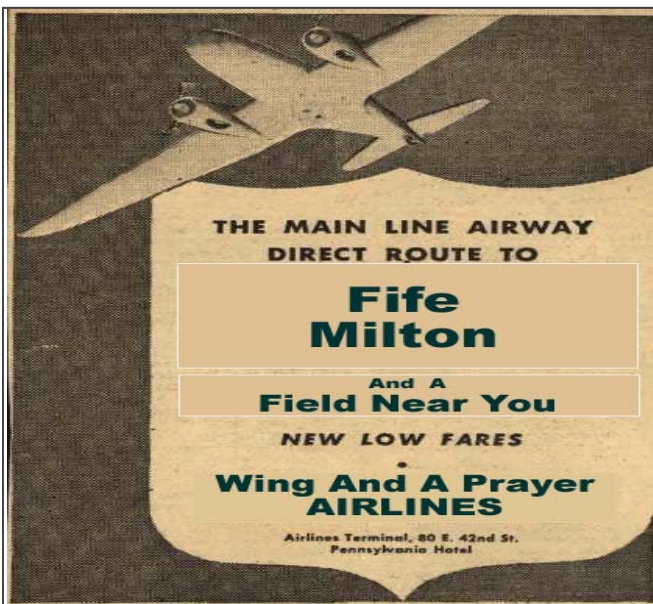
**Skiing at the Pass** was cut short by the tragic fire of April 16, 1943, when Sahalie's lodge burned to the ground. Luckily no one was inside the building at the time. In publicity related to that event, it was noted that Leonard Hamilton was the caretaker (although at the time the fire was discovered he was "working on the building's water supply system a short distance way.") The "youths" who discovered the blaze as they hiked in from the road early on that Friday evening were Hugh Brown (age 17), Larry Brown (age 10), Bruce MacDonald and Don MacDonald (twins age 14). Herbert Lonseth, past president, and Elwyn Weide, current president, were quoted in the newspapers lamenting the event.

**A year later**, a brief note appeared in the newspaper indicating that Sahalie Ski Club was still alive, "...carrying on social activities in spite of the fact so many members have joined the armed forces ..." and despite losing their lodge. They were "making plans for a beautiful new ski lodge to replace the one lost by fire... [to] be constructed as soon as materials are available."

**News of Sahalie** quickly disappeared after the fire. I can find no mention of further activities, no articles regarding rebuilding of the lodge after the war, no further focus on ski clubs to the extent found in the newspapers' sports pages in the '30s and up to the middle of the war in the early '40s. It seems that both Sahalie and focus on skiing in general slipped to the background;



Photo from the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, April 18, 1943.



## Army Calling Skiers For Mountain Troops

**Hey, Skier!**  
 What's your draft status? If you're due to be inducted into the Army within the next few weeks, or if you come under the 18-20 age group, you may qualify for the Mountain Troops.  
 The National Ski Association of America again has been asked by the Army to submit names of skiers who wish to apply for the Mountain Troops. The selection of personnel for service, suspended on July 8, has been resumed.  
 Men who have lived and worked in the mountains, such as rock climbers, trappers, packers, guides, prospectors and timber cruisers are preferred. If they ski, so much the better. Applications of new men who can show evidence of exceptional fitness will be considered, even though applicants have had no broad mountain experience. The emphasis is on toughness and the ability to take it.  
 Information concerning enlistment in the Mountain Troops can be obtained from Herb Lonseth, secretary of the Pacific Northwestern Ski Association. Lonseth's telephone number is Elliott 1712.

*Seattle Daily Times*, October 22, 1942, p. 30.

## ***Work Parties*** **Hill & Lift - Tom Gobeille**

**Master Craftman Brian Gilson Holds a clinic on the proper way to grip a three pound sledge hammer**



**An early Winter attempt to weld the hinges on the control box for the upper tow.**

