



THE SENTINEL

The Newsletter of the Sahalie Ski Club

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Serendipity and the Schwabe Award

By Dave Galvin

WHEN I WAS AT MISSION RIDGE a few weekends ago, I happened to notice some trophies on the fireplace mantle at the lodge. Ever curious for historical artifacts, I pulled each one down for a closer look. Bingo when I grabbed the one pictured here: the **Schwabe Award** trophy for the years 1972 through 2006.

The Schwabe Award is given out each year by the Pacific Northwest Ski Association for the “**Outstanding Alpine Competitor During the Past Year.**” I have read about this award in my historical journeys around PNSA racing results, and it was a treat to see the actual trophy.



Sure enough, the details were telling: Phil Mahre, 1973. Steve Mahre, 1974. Phil and Steve, 1975. ... **Tom Atwood, 1980.** Debbie Armstrong, 1981.

Tommy won the overall standings for the 1980 Northwest Cup as well as the slalom and giant slalom events.

In an interesting parallel a few years earlier, **Bobby Gue** was the 1974 giant slalom champion but came in second in overall points for the Northwest Cup. He had stiff competition, too, in the likes of the Mahre twins. Too bad his name isn't also etched onto this award. He was ever-so-close.

So the next time you happen to be at Mission Ridge, put your hands on a piece of Northwest skiing history that includes a connection to Sahalie Ski Club. And if Tommy happens to be with you, make sure he buys the round.

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“Let the Games Begin!”

Carnival 2012

Register By **March 19th**

Registration Form and Team Assignments can be found at www.sahalie.org



Penguin Uprising At McMurdo!!

Sahalie Man Captured By Penguin Seal Team



This is the last known picture of Hans Bley, the Sentinel's foreign correspondent, before he was captured by a crack team of Penguin special forces at the start of the recent uprising. As he was being carried off he could be heard to yell "make sure Rob gets my skis". Hans will be missed by all.

Entertainment Committee Flies in Libations for Carnival

THE ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE, led by the always astute Marci Cooper, has arranged for an air drop of 29,952 cans of Coors Light to mark the official opening of the 2012 Carnival Weekend.

When asked about this unusual quantity of beer, Marci had this to say, "There is only so much room available on a C-130. Don't worry, the remaining 125 kegs will be delivered by a Clydesdale caravan on Saturday".



The Elephant In The Room

By Rob Jones

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME researchers conducted a series of what must have been excruciating experiments to show that it's pretty normal for people to forget why they got up to leave one room when they enter another. You've had this experience. You get off of the couch, walk into the kitchen and ask "What did I come into the kitchen for"? Apparently information, particularly the stuff we keep in our heads from moment to moment, comes with its own expiration date. And that's whatever date it happens to be when you get up and walk through the nearest doorway.



Gratefully, this study provides cover for some of the behaviors that we occasionally witness in the lodge - we have to walk through three doors just to get inside. The first door leads in to a paneled hallway, the second to the wood pile. The third door finally gets you into the livable part of the building. By this time it's surprising that we remember our own names.

The fourth door, as you come into the club, brings you into the Sr. Room. There are those among us who will occasionally spend long hours in this room, fearful of leaving because that would make it a five door trip and who knows what you're not going to remember when you get to the other side. Some forget their general propriety ("Has the floor always been this close to my nose?") while for others it's more focused ("Is it the first door on the left or the second?")

Tonya Fuqua can vouch for the validity of this research. Have you seen how big the Lost & Found pile has grown? It's the length of the bench on the street side of the Day Room and a Harper Gangnes-and-a-half deep. By the time we reach the second floor our brains are functioning like a teenager on ... well, just like a teenager. When you have to keep starting over with a new train of thought, everything becomes more interesting than whatever it was you were planning to do.

Here's a link to the Scientific American article on this doorway effect : <http://tinyurl.com/doorwayeffect>. This one is a much easier read than the original source material found in The Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology: <http://tinyurl.com/booooooring>.

After you've studied the report you'll agree with me that we now have the reason for why we don't remember being in the womb. This conclusion is obvious from the graph you see above which correlates encoding specificity in primates with their threshold cognition intervals.

If you see an elephant, consider limiting yourself to the first three doors.

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Membership: Cindy Clark
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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 20th of the month. Please direct all submissions (articles, notices, photos) to the editor, Rob Jones, at 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.

*Dave's Mountain Safety Corner****Avalanche***

By Dave Galvin

Read the full article at <http://www.sahalie.org/chair2/History.aspx>

AN AVALANCHE is “a sudden, drastic flow of snow down a slope, occurring when either natural triggers, such as loading from new snow or rain, or artificial triggers, such as snowmobilers, explosives or backcountry skiers, overload the snow-pack.” Here in the Northwest, we typically have what are

called “slab avalanches,” which react to a stress point and result in a whole section of snow (a slab) to break free and start to move downhill. Cornices (a type of slab) are also common here – accumulations of wind-blown snow that hang over the top of ridge-lines, waiting for the right conditions to break free. Avalanches, once initiated, follow drainage patterns downhill. They often go all the way to the valley floor and even wash part way up the other side carrying debris (trees and rocks) along.

How does this issue affect Sahalie skiers, snowboarders and snowshoers? In-bounds, on the open slope of Sahalie’s rope-tow hill, snow movement is a minimal problem, not to worry. On the edges of Sahalie’s hill, such as skiers’ left at the top of rope two (what my snowshoe friends call “Dave’s delight”), there are some steep pitches off the side down toward Commonwealth Creek that could slide, although not very far. Caution is advised. Tree wells are a related concern there. Above our rope tows, for those (mostly snowshoers) who go up into Commonwealth Creek Basin, we should keep a wary eye out for the steep rocks on the south-facing slopes of Guye Peak (snowshoers’ left going in) – snow has been known to avalanche down through the open trees that we typically traverse, although rarely. Stay low (no higher than the top of the road to the avalanche fences) until one enters the trees in the Forest Service wilderness area boundary. Enjoy the Commonwealth Basin floor, but don’t venture too far up-hill or up-basin if conditions are extreme – avalanches have been known to come down Red Mountain and Kendall Peak all the way to the basin floor). Enjoy the Commonwealth Creek falls, then return safely to the lodge.

At nearby ski areas, you can rely on the pros. Stay in-bounds. If you do desire to go into the Alpentel backcountry, consult the Ski Patrol first at the top of Chair 2, and know where you are going. Do not venture out there if the area is closed or if you don’t know where you are going, even poaching a little bit past the “forever” ropes in the near backcountry. Play it safe. The recent fatality at Alpentel involved a group who went east from the top of Chair 1/Armstrong Express (skiers’ right) and ended up on cliffs on the northeast corner of the Alpentel area on WAC bluff, out-of-bounds. This is a very dangerous area with three feet of new snow and not a wise place to be.

We live and recreate in the corner of the globe which holds the title for the largest snowfall on record (Mt. Baker Ski Area 95 feet in 1998-‘99). This much snow accumulation, especially in big dumps such as happened over the weekend of February 17-19, 2012, can lead to snow sliding downhill unexpectedly - often with deadly results.

Excerpts from Sahalie History

The Milwaukee Road

By Dave Galvin

Read the Full Article at

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

“Opening Soon For A New Season of Thrills...”

In 1937 the Milwaukee Road decided to open a ski area at Hyak. It was first called the Snoqualmie Ski Bowl, and opened officially on January 8, 1938 to much fanfare.16 (After WWII, the name changed to Milwaukee Ski Bowl to differentiate it from the new Snoqualmie Summit ski area.)

The ski trains offered by Milwaukee Road from Union Station on weekends were an immediate success in that winter of 1938 – the railroad had to continuously increase service to accommodate the huge demand. A Friday night train was added in the second week of operations, since the railroad offered some lights at the Ski Bowl; this was touted as the first night ski train in America. The *Seattle Daily Times* offered an eight-page section completely devoted to the Ski Bowl at its launch.

\$1.70 Round Trip
from Seattle to
SNOQUALMIE SKI BOWL
On Special Ski Trains
Every Saturday and Sunday at 7:15 A. M. and 9:30 A. M.



Margaret Odell

John Lundin, a former Sahalie member, recalled that his mom, Margaret Odell, had served as an advisor for the Queen Anne High School ski club on the Milwaukee Road trains before she was married.



John Lundin's mother, Margaret Odell, at the Snoqualmie

Sure enough, we found not only numerous mentions of her name in print, but her photo and quote about how wonderful it all was, back in the day (1938-1940). “We’re glad to see skiing taught to them [the high school students] so sanely and effectively,” said Miss [Margaret] O’Dell [school advisor of Queen Anne High School]. “Another thing: The presence of the Milwaukee’s special agents on the train as supervisors is an excellent idea. That is a remarkably well-controlled ski special.”

The high school special trains also had an open car for dancing to 78s. “At the electric phonograph in the dancing car was Alex Carlson, Queen Anne senior,” reports the *Times* in January, 1940. “I can’t keep up with ‘em,” he declared. “Too many requests, not enough “hot” records. They love to ski and they love to dance in ski clothes. I’ll bet I’ve played, “Oh, Johnny, Oh, Johnny!” fifty times. That’s the best thing about this trip to the Bowl: you not only have fun learning to ski, but you have fun on the train, too.”

HighLights of the March Membership Meeting

Read the Official Minutes by Following the Link at

<http://www.sahalie.org/Chair2/Notices.aspx>

SECRETARY - Megan Campbell (for Meredith Atwood)

TREASURER - Tom Allan (not present)

The club is solvent

WOOD/FUEL/SAFETY - Hans Bley (not present)

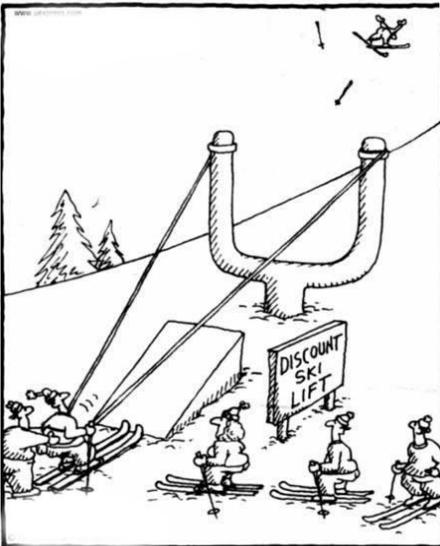


Sentinel Exclusive:

Hans is looking for volunteers with pick up trucks to aid in bringing an enormous pile of wood (pictured) up to the club. Be prepared for a long day as this pile sits on a lot in Christchurch, New Zealand

This weekend there will be digging out snow to find the fuel valves for the propane tanks, please help if at the club

HILL AND LIFT - Tom Gobeille



Packer is now working, a big thank you to Greg Gilson!

Another big thank you to Tommy Atwood for getting the Summit crew to come up and pack the hill last week!

Upper tow is now working, we just need volunteers to actually run it. Also discussed was the need for a second pole to tie up the upper lift rope when not in use. Tom is working on that. Also making sure the ropes are dug out before they get buried and break.

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE - Mike McGuane

Sentinel Exclusive:

Parents - Please remind Kids that they may be punished and trained if caught playing on sprinkler pipes.

The outlets in the ladies restroom are working again, thank you Rich and Wayne. Please remember to not plug in too many hair dryers, hair straighteners and such and then turn them all on at the same time

There was talk about a possible work party later to re-label all the electrical panels, more to come on this later.

The bathroom in the kids playroom will be finished once a countertop piece comes in.

HighLights of the March Membership Meeting (Continued)

MEMBERSHIP-Cindy Clark

No changes/membership is still closed. There was discussion again about figuring out if we have room and what type of prospective we could accept i.e. if there are open bunks in the family dorm in the crows nest, then we could accept new members who would use those areas..

ENTERTAINMENT– Tonya Fuqua (for Marci Cooper)

Sahalie Carnival 2012: Let the Games Begin!

Marci has sent out an email with all the information on the countries, teams, etc. Registration is now open, please fill out the form and have it back to Anne Allan no later than March 19th.

LODGE MANAGEMENT/Rentals - Lisa Lange

Sentinel Exclusive:

We need a discussion on keeping the club open through the second weekend of April

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS - Vern Hasz

We all need to be conscience of work that needs to be done at the club on the weekends including shoveling snow, getting ropes dug out, etc. If someone needs help with a project please help them out.

Kids have been seen hanging from pipes in the south boot room. Please make sure your children know the rules and make sure they are following them. Hanging from pipes is dangerous and could do permanent damage to the kid and the club.

Sahalie Board Nominations for the 2012-2013 year.

At our meeting on the 5th of March these members were nominated, 2ndd and approved!

President – Vern Hasz

Vice President – Lin Cooper

Secretary - Megan Campbell

Treasurer – Tom Allan

Finance – Hans Bley

Membership – Mandy Miller

Entertainment – Tonya Fuqua

Wood, Fuel & Safety – Randy Petgrave

Returning Board Members:

Hill & Lift – Tom Gobeille

Lodge Manager – Lisa Lange

Building Maintenance – Mike McGuane

Gary O has volunteered to head up a team to help beautify the club from the outside. He will be getting together a crew to work on making the outside look better to perspective renters. Keep an eye information from Gary on this project and let him know if you are interested in helping out.

In Other News....

Schedule of Upcoming Lodge Usage

Apr. 20-22 - The Commons Church
Apr. 27-29 - Sigma Kappa Retreat
May 4 -6 - Bogue Retreat
July 6 -8 - Machmiller Family Reunion

The Big Dig

February—82”

The most for a February since 1999 (164”)

(source: <http://hyak.net/snowfallhist.html>)



Kent Austin



Lynn Boyle

The Distribution of Labor



GREG GILSON WORKING UNDERNEATH THE PACKER...



...AND THE 3 BOARD MEMBERS ASSIGNED TO KEEP HIM THERE (l2r: Tom Allan, Mandy Miller, Tom Gobeille)