

Sawtooth Interpretive & Historical Association News

Fall, 2007

To date, 2007 has been a very active year for SIHA. At the Annual Board Meeting in May, the new Board was completed, with Gary Gadwa as President, Vicki Lawson as Vice President, Ann Legg as Secretary and Paul Hill as Treasurer. Board membership was increased to 11 in order to support the growing roster of SIHA's activities.

One of the initial actions of the new Board was to recognize outgoing President Ruth Niece for her many years of service to SIHA and the community. Jack Stevens was also thanked for his successful Membership Campaign which added 55 new memberships, netting, with donations, \$7,000.00. The Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws were also amended to reflect updates in SIHA's expanded efforts.

MUSEUM COMPLEX

The apartment at the Museum was refurbished and painted in anticipation of the arrival of SIHA's first summer intern, Colette Thomas, an Archaeology major at Boise State. SIHA hopes to continue the Intern Program in future years.

Inside the Museum, displays and interpretive signs were updated and rearranged. The result is a much better experience in understanding area history for Museum visitors.

On Museum grounds, new picnic tables were added, and the derelict fence behind the Museum complex was torn down by visiting Landmark Volunteers. A new log worm fence will be built next summer by the retired smokejumpers.



Ice House

Plans are underway to renovate the historic Ice House adjacent to the Museum. Used as an ice storage location in the first half of the Twentieth Century, this structure offers a unique glimpse into one of the ways early residents coped with the challenges of living in Stanley. Renovations are hoped to be completed during 2008. (over)

IVAN "DOC" DAY CABIN

The story below, by SIHA Intern, Colette Thomas, was but one of many activities she engaged in during her summer in Stanley. She helped inventory and organize Museum displays, preserve an oral history of the area in conjunction with the Ketchum Museum, develop a policy manual for the Museum, as well as begin an inventory of historic buildings and sites throughout the SNRA.

Former Smokejumpers Help Preserve Pioneer Homestead



By Colette Thomas

On June 11, a new preservation phase of the Doc Day Cabin, located in the historic Stanley Basin mining district, began with the construction of a 1500 foot log-worm fence. The Custer County Soil and Water Conservation District funded the project.

The cabin, built in 1935, is on the National Register of Historic Places. The former residence of Ivan 'Doc' Day, among other colorful characters, "was practically a mansion for that period in Stanley" says Director of the Sawtooth Interpretive and Historical Association (SIHA), Gary Gadwa. In cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, SIHA is renovating the property to establish it as an interpretive site for visitors and educators. The fence, designed to help protect the cabin and the Doc Day Spring from livestock, vandals and ATV abuses, was completed in three days by an all-volunteer crew of retired smokejumpers from the National Smoke-jumpers Association Trail Crew.

True to their motto (Will Work for Food), the team of 13 former smokejumpers and their phenomenal efforts were met nightly with a Dutch oven cookout. Surrounded by his fellow smokejumpers, "Wild Bill" Yensen confessed, "I'm having the time of my life!" Among the retired smokejumpers was Tom Kovalicky, the last ranger stationed at the Valley Creek Ranger Station (now the Stanley Museum). The crew, which calculated their average age to be 70.9, made this important step towards preserving Doc Day Cabin a huge success.

Additional renovations are planned. "We don't want the Doc Day to see the same fate as other homesteads due to neglect and the lack of funding," said Gadwa. The SIHA relies on volunteers and donations to preserve Stanley's remaining historic structures, which allows the public a unique opportunity to explore Stanley's extraordinary past. (over)

SIHA IN THE COMMUNITY

Corner Booth Scores

SIHA was fortunate in securing a strategically located corner booth at the Mountain Mamas Arts and Crafts Fair in July. Many, many scoops of ice cream were sold, SIHA was introduced to many new folks, and more than \$1200.00 was added to the coffers. SIHA plans to be back next year!

Supporting Salmon Recovery

In August, SIHA volunteers manned a booth at the annual Salmon Festival in Stanley, which again expanded awareness of SIHA's activities, raised several hundred dollars in donations and memberships, plus helped support salmon recovery efforts throughout the Salmon River Corridor.

Ice Cream Social

An additional "Friend Raising" event occurred on a very windy day in August at the Stanley Museum. Several enthusiastic volunteers served ice cream and delectable toppings to many residents and visitors who attended.



New Road Signs

Brand new road signs pinpointing the Museum location have been placed on Highway 75 for the first time by the Idaho Department of Transportation. They are hinged so they can be folded down when the Museum is closed for the season. These should certainly have a positive impact on the awareness as well as the attendance at the Stanley Museum.

OUTLET SALES

Sales of books, maps and interpretive materials are ongoing in the 9 outlets served by SIHA. Outlet Manager Laurii Gadwa visited every outlet and restocked inventory, adding diverse new materials in each one. She plans to add more items, particularly for children, each year. These outlet sales provide a major revenue source for SIHA, but more importantly, they provide visitors with educational, historical and environmental information about Central Idaho.

Museum Activity Rises

The Museum, operated from May 26 through September by SIHA volunteers, experienced a record attendance in 2007 with more than 2000 viewing the new layout and additional displays. Under visiting Volunteer Jack Sullivan's lively tutelage, visitors were held in thrall as he told of life in historic times in the Sawtooth Valley, while describing use of historic implements and noting that early pioneers of the area had to be of hardy stock. Jack has been an extraordinary ambassador for the Museum; an excellent complement to the existing Museum volunteers. His presence and enthusiasm will be missed next year.

Retired Smokejumpers with Sawtooths in Background



We Need Your Help

In order to be more cost effective, we request those of you with email addresses to please share them with us, so SIHA news and updates can be sent via the Internet rather than via snailmail.

Please send your email address to

Gary Gadwa at:
ggadwa@ruralnetwork.net

Thank you!

...stay tuned...

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