

# Sawtooth Interpretive & Historical Association News

## Fall, 2008

Once again, SIHA experienced very active and productive summer months. Among other accomplishments, a new SIHA logo (check it out on the return address!) was created and initial steps were taken toward construction of a web site with help from Sawtooth Society grants. We fine tuned our mission statement, "to protect and advance the natural and cultural history of Idaho's Sawtooth - Salmon River Country through preservation and education." And developed a tag line - "Preserving the Past, Protecting the Future." With these in place, we hope to expand recognition and communications with members and friends plus attract new visitors to the area.



Former F.S. Ranger, Tom Kovalicky, at a Sawtooth Lecture, describing Stanley's early wild, woolley days and nights.

## Education Programs

In 2008, SIHA pursued an expanded approach to Education. Kudos to V. P. Vicki Lawson for conceiving of and implementing the ambitious, educational **Sawtooth Forum and Lecture Series**. These eleven well attended (nearly 800 visitors from across the country) lectures were presented on successive Fridays and Friday nights during the summer. Wide ranging programs focused on the many different facets defining this unique area. Speakers from different western states discussed mining, wilderness management, early Native American culture, indigenous raptors, historic songs and local histories of Stanley, among other topics. This program received such great reviews that SIHA plans to continue the series next summer.

## Oral Histories

SIHA acquired up to date digital recording equipment to expand the Museum's ongoing collection of Oral Histories. Board Members Gary Gadwa and Terry Carstensen, along with former Stanley resident Kathy Cole, conducted personal interviews with many of the area's earlier residents who were able to provide first hand recollections of life as it used to be in this area. These recordings will be transcribed and converted to DVDs which will be made available for visitors' viewing at the Museum.

## Museum Attendance & Membership Grows

Stanley Museum attendance hit an all time high! Diane Willis, Museum Attendant, was on hand to greet and answer questions for over 3,300 visitors! This reflects an increase of 31% over 2007 numbers. (Diane not only saw to visitors, she spent much of her time off glazing windows and painting window trim at the Museum.) Truly an invaluable addition to the Museum staff. We all look forward to her return next year!

**SIHA Membership** continued the upward trends for the year, increasing by almost 100 in 2008, and we hope for another increase in the 2009 membership.

## Intern Program

We again thank Vicki, Terry Carstensen, Ann Legg, and both Laurii and Gary Gadwa for helping mentor our two Ameri-Corps Interns who played such important roles in our summer activities. The F.S. provided housing and funds for the Intern Program, then the Interns, Claire Foster and Leah Roach, both with impressive Environmental Studies backgrounds, took part in Forest Service education programs and helped keep the F.S. Visitors' Center open on more days. They also designed flyers for the **Lecture Series**, and participated in a key community project requested by the City of Stanley. This project, aided by a grant from the Idaho Humanities Council, was to develop a *Historic Walking Tour* for Stanley and Lower Stanley. The Tour Brochure is keyed to historically significant sites and buildings throughout the area, and includes quirky local anecdotes, historic photos as well as accounts of the rich history of mining, trapping and ranching as well as the more current tourism and outdoor recreation. The Walking Tour Program begins in June, 2009.

## Mountain Mamas Arts and Crafts Fair

On a beautiful weekend in July, SIHA Board Members, Family, and Friends built ice cream cones at Mountain Mamas Arts and Crafts Fair. We were able to raise over \$1,300. The occasion also was the public launch of our new logo, which graced a banner in the booth. In addition to raising dollars, we were able to increase awareness of SIHA and its activities in the community. Thanks to Leah Roach, Board Member Helen Pardoe and her great family for efforts on this occasion.

## Ice Cream Social

In August, we enjoyed our 2nd Annual "Friend Raising" **Ice Cream Social** at the Museum. Twice as many visitors as last year, from several states shared ice cream, toppings and stories about the the Museum Complex and history of the area.

## Museum Complex

Museum visitors were treated, among other things, to a new log worm fence enclosing the Museum grounds. In July, the Retired Smokejumpers returned - this time to build a beautiful new log worm fence which gives a spruced up look to the entire Complex. As was the case last year, these energetic volunteers entertained us with their funny, exciting, and often hair-raising stories.

In addition to internal museum improvements, attention focused on renovations needed for the Historic **Ice House** adjacent to the Museum. SIHA has received a grant from the **Idaho Heritage Trust** toward this major preservation project. Board Members Hi McComish and Marilyn Marquis spearheaded an effort to raise additional funds by selling glass "Ice" Blocks to be displayed once the Ice House is renovated. We've been gratified by a very positive response from Members and Friends in purchasing Ice Blocks and Ice Cubes. Donors will have names etched on Glass Blocks of varying sizes, and ice cube donors' names will be listed on a plaque. These items will be displayed as "Ice" Blocks replicating the interior of the old Ice House.



Landmark Volunteers Work Party at Doc Day Cabin

Another SIHA preservation project, The **Doc Day Cabin**, received a much needed boost when 16 Landmark Volunteers and Board President Gary Gadwa spent a long day in July digging out and hauling away many years (between 20 and 30 inches!) of silt which accumulated on the floor of the cabin. This will help in the process of further study on renovation of the historic residence.

## Supporting Salmon Recovery

At the **2008 Salmon Festival** in Stanley, SIHA shared a booth with the **Sawtooth Society** and **Friends of the Library**, raising several hundred dollars in sales, donations, and new members. This much anticipated Festival is devoted to Salmon Recovery efforts. Salmon, and the enormous role they have played in Stanley's history, were also one of the featured topics in SIHA's **Sawtooth Forum and Lecture Series**.

## OUTLET SALES

Despite fewer open days at some key sales outlets, (a reflection of F. S. budget cuts) SIHA met 2008 sales goals. Outlet Manager Laurii Gadwa kept a close eye on inventory and expenses, and by introducing exciting, innovative new books, games, toys and other items, she was able to keep sales volumes steady. Nine sales outlets, which operate in partnership with the Sawtooth National and the Salmon-Challis National Forests, generate the bulk of SIHA revenues. These outlets also provide key information to expand visitor understanding and enjoyment of the SNRA. Check them out next time you're in the vicinity!

## *Gone Fishin'...*



*A group tries Salmon Fishing  
in Stanley in 1910*

## **We Still 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 e-mail address to

Gary Gadwa at:

ggadwa@ruralnetwork.net

Thank you!

...stay tuned...



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