

# Sawtooth Interpretive & Historical Association News

Message from Gary Gadwa, SIHA President and Volunteer

Fall 2009

Greetings, Members and Friends:

WOW... what a summer for the SIHA! If 2009 is any indicator, the sky's the limit for our accomplishments. Volunteerism was a highlight, with a whopping 2500 volunteer hours logged.

With unprecedented cooperation and coordination among SIHA, the Sawtooth National Forest, SNRA and our expert restoration contractor, Sawtooth Valley Builders, the Ice House Restoration Project has become a reality. We believe this project opened eyes to what we can accomplish and hopefully will open doors to many more restoration or renovation projects in the future.

In May we launched our Stanley Historic Walking Tour with a guided two hour walk and talk attended by over 50 folks interested in Stanley history. With more than 2000 Walking Tour brochures distributed, we're now in a second printing.

The Sawtooth Forum & Lecture Series had nearly 800 enthusiastic attendees - who enjoyed topics ranging from 'Plants of the SNRA' to 'Wolves of the Past, Present and Future.' The Series has proven a popular activity for visitors and locals. We are grateful to Idaho Humanities Council, the Sawtooth Society and our members and donors for helping make this Series possible.

The Stanley Museum, open daily from 11:00 to 5:00 Memorial Day to Labor Day, continues to be a great place to visit, spark or rekindle appreciation for the human history of this challenging yet magnificent country. There are lots of stories to share and we are always enthralled by the folks that come in and share their family history in the Sawtooth Country.

Don't forget, if you have a little time to spare, please stop in and visit with Diane Willis, the Museum Attendant and Volunteer Coordinator, as we always have projects for volunteers. While you're there don't forget to browse our ever-changing natural history and cultural history books, maps and posters.

Our long awaited web site, [www.discoversawtooth.org](http://www.discoversawtooth.org) is being readied go live soon. We hope you all will log on to our informational and educational site and revisit often.

Keep an eye on SIHA as we work to protect and advance the natural and cultural history of Idaho's Sawtooth-Salmon River country through preservation and education.

## Ice House Restoration Began in Earnest in September!

To provide visitors a glimpse of historic Sawtooth Valley life, SIHA is restoring the Ice House next to the Museum. With Forest Service funding, all environmental remediation was done prior to restoration. Among initial steps, the original sawdust insulation (nearly 9 tons!) was removed from interior walls. This will be replaced with material replicating the sawdust insulating qualities. SIHA then stepped in to finance the log repair and replacement, as well as foundation replacement. (See photos below.)

1) Logs were marked for replacement or repair on the south wall of the Ice House, then subsequently removed. (below)



3) The next stages required the entire building to be stabilized while crumbling foundations were removed and replaced. This stage was completed in mid-October. In a most generous, community minded move, Sawtooth Valley Builders donated much of the reconstruction costs. Once the building's structural integrity is restored, attention will turn to interior restoration of the ice House and attached tool shed. Public viewing access is a high priority with completion anticipated by summer 2010.



2) To rebuild the wall, new logs or repaired ones were stacked from from top down in a gravity defying act! The initial stabilization effort on the repaired south wall is visible in the photo at left.



## Ice Cream Social



What could be better than eating ice cream on a summer day? Just add toppings, interesting people, a Museum and you have everything needed for a great afternoon. Our 3rd annual **Ice Cream Social** was held on August 9 at the Stanley Museum. Many SIHA Board members and volunteers helped scoop. It was a great occasion for locals and visitors to savor ice cream and good conversation on the front lawn. After enjoying ice cream, many guests visited the Museum, either for the first time, or to check out the many new improvements. Based on smiles and conversations, a good time was had by everyone. Please join us in 2010 for our 4th annual **Ice Cream Social**.



## Oral Histories

Okay.....we get it. We spent many weeks over the summer wondering why people aren't just flocking in to view our **oral history** interviews on DVDs. The interviews are interesting, funny, bizarre, unique and very Stanley. You get to see the characters and legends who made this Valley the place you chose to come to. And we even have a fine theater in which to view them. Well, actually it's a small room with a bunch of chairs and a TV with a DVD player; but it does have old timey atmosphere. So here's what we've done to make it easier to enjoy the history of the people of the Stanley Basin:

1. Next time you visit the Museum you'll find an extensive list of the interviews we have recorded so you can choose to view all or part of an interview that is of particular interest to you.

2. This summer our intern, Lin Gray, created two books based on interviews with two Stanley legends, Tom Kovalicky and Joe Leonard. The books are full of pictures dating back more than 30 years which show us why these two men are so famous. They are fun to browse and easier to handle for those who can't sit still long enough to watch a video. We welcome any suggestions or ideas you have regarding people you would like to learn more about. And if you are interested in getting involved in the Oral History Project, please contact the Museum at (208) 774-3517 and leave a message. We've made it easier to learn about Stanley's past; and we hope you enjoy it!

## Volunteers

SIHA was fortunate to have a committed cadre of dedicated volunteers who tackled a wide range of projects. Pictured here are two of our many outstanding workers!



## Sales Scuttlebutt

Considering the economy, SIHA had a very good sales year. We worked to keep prices reasonable, often selling below list prices to provide educational materials to more visitors. Our booth at the Salmon Festival had record sales. Special Christmas sales are planned at various outlets for late November and December - in time for Christmas shopping. Be sure to check out our new Weasel Finger Puppet - it's the cutest! We've also added 2 terrific books: **Backcountry Roads** is a great Idaho guide. It includes road descriptions, conditions, suggested time of year for travel and GPS locations. Beautiful pictures too. New this year is Scott Marchant's **Day Hiking Guide to Stanley**. It is getting rave reviews from local hikers and is a *must have* companion to the Margaret Fuller series.

## 2009 Sawtooth Forum & Lecture Series



Barb Forderhase, above, with 'Little Hawk' (a red-tail hawk) spoke at this summer's **Forum & Lecture Series**. This Series, with topics covering plant life, animal life, history, and adventure, attracted nearly 800 visitors to Stanley and the Museum Complex on Friday afternoons. In 2010 we will continue to invite lecturers to share their knowledge of the natural and cultural history of this complex area.

## Historic Walking Tour



SIHA, acting as Stanley's Historic Preservation Commission, launched the first self-guided **Walking Tour of Stanley and Lower Stanley**. Grants from the Idaho Humanities Council, Mountain Mamas, and the Sawtooth Society funded costs of creating informative brochures with keyed signs posted at 16 individual sites. This tour helps visitors understand the lives of earlier citizens and the rich history of mining, trapping, ranching and outdoor recreation. Brochures are available at the Community Center, local businesses, and the Tour is available on line at the SIHA website: [www.discoversawtooth.org](http://www.discoversawtooth.org).