

# Sawtooth Interpretive & Historical Association News

Spring, 2009

This past winter was a busy one for SIHA. Various members of the Board took on projects designed to further enrich participants' and visitors' experiences in Stanley. In this edition, we share photos of those contributing to some of these projects.



**Gary Gadwa**  
SIHA President

Greetings, Members and Friends:  
SIHA anticipates another active summer season. In 2008, the Board adopted our new Mission Statement:

***"The mission of the Sawtooth & Interpretive Historical Association is to protect and advance the natural and cultural history of Idaho's Sawtooth-Salmon River Country through preservation and education,"*** which reflects our current activity

level. We no sooner finish one project -

then we're on to the next! In June we relaunch the **Sawtooth Forum and Lecture Series**, so please mark your calendars for these Friday afternoon events. (Super activity to share with visiting friends and family.)

**The Stanley Museum**, open daily from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm, continues to be a great place to visit and spark or rekindle interest in the history of this challenging, magnificent country. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the scenery from the outdoor tables. Check out the new **Historic Walking Tour of Stanley brochure** (enclosed). The Museum is also undertaking (see following) an extensive restoration of the **Ice House** so please brush up on your skills as a Sidewalk Superintendent! Intern Lin Gray, AmeriCorps member from the McCall Outdoor School, will be working with us on several projects this summer. And local volunteers will be cataloging artifacts, greeting visitors, engaging in minor construction projects. Have a little time to spare? We encourage you to stop in and visit with Diane Willis, Museum Attendant and Volunteer Coordinator. And while you're there, don't forget to browse our ever changing natural and cultural history books, maps and posters. We try to add new items every year.

## Oral Histories

Have you ever wondered, "Who were those people who settled in Stanley sixty years ago? Who would dare to leave the comforts of their home to live in the remote town of Stanley and start a business there? How did they do it? Why did they do it?" This summer you will be able to "meet" some of those brave individuals through our collection of interviews at the Stanley Museum. Stop by the Museum, relax and watch a video and learn about the wild and crazy early days in the Valley. Hear firsthand about the Salmon River lined with fish, the feisty characters who challenged the town's first sheriff, Saturday nights at the old Ace of Diamonds dance hall, the hippie invasion in the late 1960's, and the challenges and accomplishments of the first Forest Service employees. Once you've become acquainted with these unique pioneers, head back into town and take the walking tour to see some of the places where they lived and worked...and it will become clear how Stanley has become a place with a touch of magic!

## Ice House Restoration

SIHA began an program last summer to restore, as an historical exhibit, the Ice House adjacent to the Stanley Museum. To date, fundraising efforts have generated over \$13,000 from more than 75 SIHA Members and friends with donations still coming in. We have also received grants of \$6,000 from Idaho Heritage Trust and \$5,000 from the Sawtooth Society to help with this project. However, since the project involves greater than projected environmental compliance costs, fundraising efforts must continue.

After meeting with two qualified historic restoration experts and the Forest Service to develop a construction plan which meets environmental standards, it appears the rehabilitation work should begin in 2009.

SIHA plans to continue to work on the Ice House as funding allows, and use volunteer help wherever possible. Once the restoration is complete, the building will be opened to the public. An important ongoing exhibit will be blocks of "ice" on display. These blocks, along with a plaque, will contain the names of donors who contributed to this project. We hope you will visit the Museum complex this summer to observe



**Hi McComish**  
Board Member

## Historic Walking Tour of Stanley Available

On June 24, you can take the **Historic Walking Tour of Stanley** with a guide knowledgeable about the colorful history of this quirky community nestled in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. After June 24, you can take this tour, self-guided, using the enclosed brochure. The tour brings to life some of the area's earlier citizens, as well as the rich history of trapping, mining, grazing, and outdoor recreation and tourism.

One of the "hats" SIHA wears is the Historic Preservation Commission for the City of Stanley. When the City was awarded a grant by the Idaho Humanities Council to develop a self-guiding walking tour of historic sites and structures, the City asked SIHA to develop the tour. Last summer, SIHA's interns solicited community help to determine which sites and structures (existing and previous) of special significance should be included in the tour. The enclosed brochure is keyed to signed sites and buildings throughout Stanley.



**Vicki Lawson**  
SIHA V.P.

## 2009 Sawtooth Forum and Lecture Series

Yes! **The Sawtooth Forum & Lecture Series** is back this summer! (See enclosed schedule.) The nearly 800 attendees at last summer's Series told us they would like us to host it again, and gave us some great ideas for topics. We think you will find this summer's schedule responsive and exciting. The presentations, beginning July 3 and continuing every Friday through late August, will provide context for understanding the rich human and natural history of our stunning landscape. SIHA will be hosting the Series with generous support from the Sawtooth Society, City of Stanley, U.S. Forest Service, and Idaho Humanities Council, the state-based affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

## SIHA Partnering and Basin Butte Lookout

### Basin Butte Lookout Restoration

SIHA is working with the Salmon-Challis National Forest to highlight an on-going restoration project at the historic Basin Butte Lookout. Once restoration work is completed, the lookout will be available to the public through the cabin rental program. Located 10 miles north of Stanley, Basin Butte Lookout and provided summer fire detection for the Stanley Basin, the Sawtooths, and the Salmon River Mountains. The lookout was staffed for nearly 70 years before being closed. Basin Butte offers beautiful views of the surrounding mountains, forests, and high meadows. The gorgeous setting and good road access makes the lookout an ideal rental location. Proceeds from the rental will maintain the lookout and stabilize other historic buildings on the Forest.



**Basin Butte Lookout**  
Room with View

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Many volunteers Forest Service lookout. Denis-Stanley, initially Forest Service concern over declining condition a local chapter Fire Lookout



**Basin Butte Lookout**  
Work in Progress

have helped the restore the Norton, of contacted the expressing the lookout's tion. He started of the Forest Association to help support work at Basin Butte and the region's other historic lookouts. Stanley residents Dave and Karen Lesser, Truman Dennis, and Dave Kimpton graciously provided their labor and material support. Last summer Steve Axon of Challis supervised a dozen Passport in Time (PIT) volunteers who replaced the catwalk, shutters, and door. He will head up a crew this summer to paint the lookout, install steps, and work on the building's interior. When all work is finished, Basin Butte Lookout will be an attractive destination for people wanting to spend some time enjoying the area's history and natural beauty.

## Museum Outlet Program



**Laurii Gadwa**  
Outlet Mgr.

SIHA has acquired an assortment of new items for sale in the Museum shop and outlets. As Outlet Manager Laurii Gadwa writes: Every year I have the pleasure of researching new and different books for the SIHA Sales Outlets. Items are chosen for their relevance to our environment and the history and recreational opportunities that abound within the Sawtooth Valley. This year we are adding several

of the Lone Pine Guides: *Rocky Mt. Nature Guide*, *Birds of the Rocky Mts.*, *Mammals of Rocky Mts.*, and *Plants of the Rocky Mts.* These are highly recommended publications for both beginning and advanced nature lovers. For kids, we are offering the book, *Salmon Stream*, which depicts the life cycle of salmon in easy to understand words and pictures. It also provides a more in depth section for parents or teachers. Kids will love *Nature's Yucky!* This book tells of 'gross' behaviors some animals have and explains why they do what they do. We also have new coloring books this year.

Retired Forest Ranger Dan Pence has written *Horses, Mules, Men & Mountains* about his time in the Lost River, Salmon and Challis areas. This along with the continuing offering of *Stanley Sawtooth Country*, *Southern Idaho Ghost Towns*, *Traplins* and many other historical publications give people an appreciation for the history of the Salmon River country.

Remember, we also carry great hiking, rafting and general sightseeing books. These can all be found at many Forest Service Offices, Redfish Lake Visitors Center and the Stanley Museum. Come browse our book store selections.

### New Website!

SIHA's new website is running this summer at [www.discoversawtooth.org](http://www.discoversawtooth.org).

If you love the Sawtooth-Salmon River Country as much as we do, you'll want to check it often!

And, we would be derelict if we neglected to invite you to become a member of SIHA, or, if you are already a member, to please renew your membership, or consider a donation. Thank you!

### SIHA MEMBERSHIP

- 1 Year Individual Membership: \$25.00 (Member Card & 10% purchase discount)
- 1 Year Family Membership: \$100.00 (Members Cards & 10% purchase discount)
- Lifetime Membership: \$250.00 (Name on Plaque, Members Card & 20% discount)
- 1 Year Sponsoring Membership: \$500.00 (Display Certificate & Museum Plaque)
- Other Donation: \$\_\_\_\_\_ (ALL DONATIONS TAX DEDUCTABLE)



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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