

Sawtooth Interpretive and Historical Association

Executive Director's Update

June 25, 2022

It's been a bumpy few weeks to start the season and we continue to hear about new C-19 cases in Stanley. At this time, we have a healthy crew and we were able to keep the one case within the crew from spreading. I am grateful for your flexibility to focus on summer operations. Stewart and I will be meeting after the 4th of July holiday to discuss whether or not we need to reschedule our June meeting for July, or if we should simply wait until our regularly scheduled August meeting. If you have a preference, please let me know.

THANK YOU – SO MANY PEOPLE TO THANK for your help over the last few weeks and months!

- Thanks to Terry for opening his home to house a crew member as we are shuffling housing around
- Thanks to Terry, Liesl, Gary, Laurii, and Erica for their help covering the Museum on weekends in May and early June
- Thanks to Gary for de-winterizing the Museum, mowing the lawn, troubleshooting heating and lawn mower issues and taking Liesl and Michael around to learn the process for turning the water back on
- Thanks to everyone who was able to participate on our Redfish work day!
- Thanks to Becky, Liesl, and Debra LaMorte for helping plan and implement the June roadside clean up
- Thanks to Hannah for her help with the website and to everyone who has provided comments! We are still working on adding content and I have made note of your comments and hope to start to work down the list now that training is over.
- Thanks to Erica for all her hard work learning the ropes of SIHA's bookstore operations and getting our Museum and Redfish outlets up and running as well as troubleshooting credit card machines, creating a new register/sales procedures manual and her ever bright and positive attitude!
- Thanks to Stewart for donating at-home testing supplies for the crew, in case we need them later in the season
- Thanks to Michael and Liesl for building and stocking our new little Free Library at the Visitor Center, and to Laurii for the vision and more books! If you have books you want to donate, please send them along and we'll add them to the library throughout the summer
- Thanks to Becky and Doug for volunteering to drive the crew in the 4th of July parade

UPDATES

- The wedding that was scheduled for June 4th canceled their use of the Museum grounds two days before the event due to the weather and changes to group size. In the future I will only schedule onsite private events for September. June is too busy to juggle private events. SIHA retained their grounds use fee as a donation.
- 500 SIHA brochures were printed (of the wordy version of the brochure). We'll see how long they last. If you would like a few to have on hand to give out, let me know!

- We have been unsuccessful in getting a 2023 raft trip donated for our raffle this year. However, I will continue to work on this with a goal of getting a 2024 raft trip donated for our 2023 raffle. I will be working on putting together a 2022 raffle in the next two weeks but it will not be at the level of a raft trip. With the increase in National Forest Foundation grant funds we'll make up the difference.
- The Redfish Phase III road project has been stalled due to excessively high bids (I suspect costs will only get worse in the near term so I'm unsure the future for the project as a whole). However, this means visitor center will not have to close Sept. 12th this year. The project has been pushed back at least a year so we may have to close down early in Fall 2023.

Storage at the Stanley Museum:

- As you may know, since turning the tool shed at the Museum into an exhibit space, storage has become an issue. While we do have use of the barn, it's distance from the museum makes it a challenge to lug items back and forth for our weekly events.

I met with Bobbi onsite at the end of May to discuss SIHA's needs. The SNRA's stance is that they would prefer for SIHA to exhaust all other options before they will consider allowing us to add an impermanent structure to the site. She wanted to know if we could convert some other space (exhibit or otherwise) into storage so as not to impact the historic fabric of the site.

I understand the need to be thoughtful about impacting the site. Unless we spend time and money developing a new interpretive and site use plan, with a goal to change all the exhibits around to find storage space, I think a storage shed, sitting on blocks, is our best option.

The Mountain Mamas have voted to gift SIHA their storage shed and its contents. The shed is 10' x 15' and currently sits in the City parking lot. It has large 8' tables, and all the supplies they used to hold the Arts and Crafts Fair (a tent, extension cords, coffee pot, garbage cans, etc). Their only stipulation is that they want use of the tables/tent/etc if they were to hold an event. The sheds current location does not make it very useable for SIHA. If we choose to accept the donation, I will put together an agreement with the Mamas that includes their request to use the items, and we'll need to figure out how to move it and where to put it.

If we want to place it at the Museum, I'll need to continue conversations with the SNRA and submit a Special Use Permit when the process opens this fall.

Redfish and Museum Updates:

- Bryce and Megan wrote board reports for our canceled June meeting. While they only cover our first couple weeks of training, I am attaching them to this email for more details.
- Here are records for operations in 2019, 2021 and 2022 for comparison.

Stanley Museum			
YEAR	2019	2021	2022
Days Open	26	23	23
Total Sales	\$1753	\$2451	\$2282
Donations/Dips/Round-up	\$879	\$873	\$879
Visitation	895	779	923

Redfish Visitor Center and Gallery			
YEAR	2019	2021	2022
Days Open	22	18	19
Total Sales	\$9650	\$8754	\$7840
Gallery Sales	\$2497	\$2499	\$2432
Donations/Round-up	\$356	\$282	\$96
Visitation	2813	2403	2291

FLS:

- FLS posters have been printed and posted around town. If you are local and heading somewhere (Wood River/Challis) come grab a poster or two to put up along the way.
FLS will be held at **6pm** in 2022 to give working folks a better chance of attending. Please help spread the word about the time change. This is our current schedule:
 - July 8 – Shoshone-Bannock history – Diana Yupe – Lodging at Mt. Village
 - July 15 – climbing history – Kirk Bachman – no housing needed
 - July 22 – writer/environmental historian - Betsy Quammen – Lodging at Mt. Village
 - July 29 – bats/dark skies – Jesse Barber – Lodging at Lower Stanley Motel
 - August 5 – pika - Erik Beever (confirmed as long as USGS does not put travel restrictions in place like they did last year) – Lodging hosted by the MacNichols
 - August 12 – Women Wilderness Leaders – Michelle Reilly – Lodging at Mt. Village
 - August 19 – SNRA 50th – Jim Hansen, Boyd Norton, Monica Church, Jerry Jayne and Bert Boller and Tracy Andrus if their health allows, lodging for one speaker hosted by the Oblatz's if needed + 2 rooms at Mt. Village. Update: Boyd Norton had a surgery his is recovering from and is concerned he may not be able to travel in August.
 - August 26 – Salmon topic – Pat Ford, citizen advocate who can speak both to salmon recovery and the establishment of the SNRA – Lodging at Mt. Village

GRANTS:

Submitted:

- License Plate Fund for AEDs for the Museum/Redfish for Q3 for \$2100. We have received \$1000 matching funds from the new Stanley Winterfest grant. Total project cost is \$3100.
- Idaho Community Foundation, Forever Idaho, eastern region fund. \$7500 requested for general education/operation expense. We will hear back from them in September.
- Val A. Browning Grant submitted June 1. \$25000 requested for Naturalist stipends for 2023.
- Steele-Reese Foundation, submitted April 1, should hear by August. \$7500 requested for Shoshone-Bannock interpretive signage/exhibits in both the visitor center and museum

Awarded/Active Grants:

- Mountain Mamas, \$500 awarded for expenses related to the SNRA 50th Anniversary on Aug 20th and 22nd
- Q1 License Plate Fund, \$6500 awarded for Shoshone Bannock Interpretive project
- Bigwood Roofing continues to push back to re-shingle the roof of the Museum. I had hoped it would happen before FLS beings but at this point that is not possible. I'll keep you updated for when we have a firm date. Once we have a date, I'll contact our grantors to let them know. This will be a big upfront expense for SIHA because both the grants are reimbursable.

- Shirley Studebaker with 5B Technologies helped make our new website live in mid-June. As I mentioned before, we are still updating information/layouts and creating new pages/content but the bulk of the site is working. I'll submit a final report to the License Plate Fund by the end of the month.
- National Forest Foundation, \$15,000 awarded for Trailhead Stewardship and Educational Programs in the SNRA including general operational support. This grant was \$5000 last year and luckily the extra \$10,000 will offset the \$10k we had hoped to raise with our raft trip raffle.

2022 Summer Schedule:

Fri. Jul 8	FLS beings
Sat. Jul 9	History Day
Sat. Aug 6	Smokey Bear's Birthday
Thu. Aug. 18	Board meeting
Aug. TBD (maybe the 18th too) End-of-Season Potluck (host needed!)	
Sat. Aug 20	SNRA 50th Celebration at Pioneer Park
Mon. Aug 22	SNRA 50th Anniversary event at Redfish
Sat. Aug 27	Sawtooth Salmon Festival
Mon. Sep 5	Museum Closes Daily Ops*
Sun. Sept 11	Redfish Closes Daily Ops*
Sept 11-24	SNRA Clean-up Event
Sept TBD	Museum Work Day

*Open weekends through September, volunteers may be needed to help staff

IMPORTANT DATES

- Our next scheduled board meeting is August 18th. We may need to plan our End-of-Season Potluck for the 18th because we have some crew leaving the following week.

Submitted by Lin Gray, Executive Director – June 30, 2022

Museum Docent Board Report

June 10, 2022

Megan Nelson

Introduction

I am so excited to be back with SIHA for a fourth season. Lin continues to amaze me with her dedication to SIHA and I have been equally impressed with how Bryce has gracefully adapted to the role and responsibilities of Lead Naturalist. I had the best preseason with those two. Bryce helped me clean out the museum and the three of us tackled the initial cleaning of the Visitor Center. During the preseason, the museum was open May 28-30 and June 4-5. I would like to extend thanks to **Erica Cole, Gary and Laurii Gadwa, and Terry Clark** for volunteering for those shifts! Volunteers are vital to SIHA's operations, and we wouldn't be able to operate without their help! Thank you to our amazing volunteer base!

Training

I am excited to introduce Cameron Dickie as the Historic Specialist! Cameron just graduated from Boise State University and is planning to stay in Boise to complete his master's degree. Cameron is a bright individual with a keen talent for researching. Throughout training Cameron asked thoughtful questions and absorbed a copious amount of information about Stanley and its history! The Stanley Museum is fortunate to have him.

The first week of training had a strong historical focus. We took the crew on a tour of the museum, the Stanley Basin, and the Yankee Fork. We had a few Forest Service volunteers and staff join us on the auto tour. I love when we get visitors from outside the organization! It's good to be reminded of our mutually beneficial relationship with the Forest Service.

This season taught me the value of flexibility. On June 4th, after a week of training with the new crew, I tested positive for Covid-19. I had to skip the rest of training to safely quarantine back home in Pocatello. Luckily, the rest of the crew tested negative. It was hard to leave Stanley so early in the season, but it was safer to quarantine as far away as possible. As I write this board report, I am still quarantined awaiting a negative Covid test. I'd like to extend a special thanks to Lin who adapted on the spot to all the problems that my Covid diagnosis brought.

Projects

We are hitting the ground running this season! I have created a new exhibit that showcases winter in Stanley. The exhibit is in its rough draft stage, and I want to improve it once the season starts. We are also going to be working on updating some of the permanent exhibits and creating a new and improved exhibit on Marie Osborne. Finally, to celebrate the 50th anniversary, I plan to update the big exhibit case on the SNRA. The museum will probably look like a construction zone for most of the summer, so please bear with us!

Cameron and I will be presenting evening programs at the Redfish Amphitheater. My topic is on the history of medical care in the Sawtooth Valley. Cameron's evening program is on the history of mining and settlement in the Sawtooths. Evening programs are every Friday and Saturday in the month of June starting June 17th. Cameron and I would love to see you there!

History Day is July 9th, and we need volunteers! I know July is the height of travel so many of you will be out of town, so I am appealing to the rest of the Board. History Day is a relatively new event, and its success depends on the attendance and variety of attractions. We need

volunteers to run games, work the refreshment booth, and help set up and take down. If this interests anyone, please feel free to reach out by email or text! I can be reached at (262) 443-2984 and stanleymuseum@discoversawtooth.org

June Board Report

Redfish Visitor Center
Lead Naturalist - Bryce Johnston

I am very excited to return to SIHA as the Lead Naturalist after a season away from the Sawtooths. The night I arrived, I found the lake to still be frozen to the shore and snow blanketing the Redfish cabin, the perfect welcome back. The first month has been very busy, with getting ready for the season and training all of the naturalists. Along with all this, rediscovering all the quirks and lesser-known parts of the Stanley area has been exciting.

For the month of May, I spent my weekdays at the Museum planning training and doing other prep work. On each Friday, I went to the Stanley Ranger Station and helped run the front desk with Megan. While there I was able to meet much of the Ranger Station crew and inform them on some of the different programs and events we hold throughout the summer. I'm hoping that I'll continue to grow those connections and keep a good channel of communication open with all the Forest Service crews.

For the majority of May, I spent my time sending emails and planning out training for the crew. A variety of activities were planned, ranging from gold dredge tours to salmon talks to interpretive exercises. Along with this, I spent time in the Visitor Center cleaning up, organizing materials, and helping plan out the space.

We had all of our summer crew arrive the weekend of May 28th and 29th, to a nice late season Stanley snowpack. Everyone arrived safely and quickly got into the warm bunkhouse. Summer crew training started the following Monday morning and we quickly jumped into introductions - to each other, to the Sawtooths, to interpretation, to SIHA, and every new thing along the way. Unfortunately we had a COVID concern part way through training and had to modify the schedule, but we were still able to do most of our scheduled activities successfully. Many thanks to all of the board members that either led, helped with, or joined our training activities. We were able to also make connections with the Forest Service, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe, and other organizations around Stanley throughout the two weeks.

The Redfish Visitor Center opened on June 10th, and we had almost a hundred people come for our opening day! Many of the naturalists were nervous but by the end of the day everyone felt comfortable answering questions. We are all excited to get into the full swing of regular programming, our daily schedule as follows:

11:00-11:30: Junior Ranger

12:00: Patio Talk (except Sundays and Wednesdays)

1:00 - 1:30: Ranger Talk

2:00-3:00: Guided Walk

7:00-8:00: Evening Program (twice a week)

Excited to start the season fully, we hope you will join us for some of our programming!