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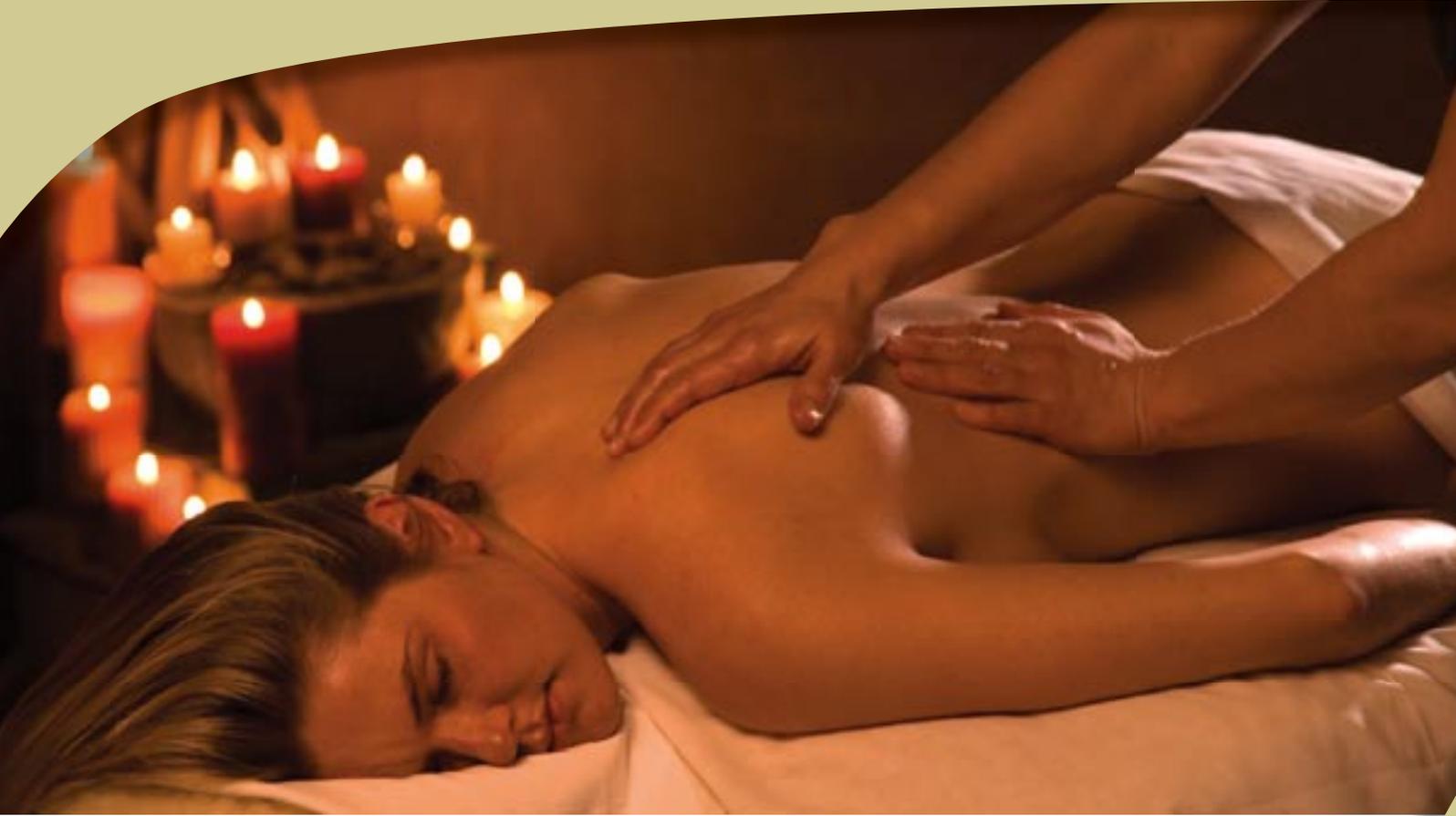


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PHOTO BY KARI GREER

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PHOTO BY PAULETTE PHILIPOT

With every issue of the *Sun Valley Guide*, we strive to celebrate this community.

The chill air now blowing through the valley brings with it the promise of snow. As winter settles in, a transformation comes over our valley's towns. Brilliant fall foliage and serene autumn days give way to a crystal clear, whitened landscape and a tangible buzz of excitement: It's time to ski.

This winter in particular, we have much to be excited about and thankful for. After all, we still have a town to call home and a ski mountain to enjoy. Mere months ago neither of those things were certain.

In *20 Days of Fire*, our exclusive photo essay on the August wildfire that threatened Ketchum, we commemorate the valley's close brush with a fiery fate named Castle Rock. Go behind the fire lines with the BLM and National Interagency Fire Center's official photographer Kari Greer, and relive the fast-paced events through the words of the *Idaho Mountain Express* newspaper's chief fire reporter, Jason Kauffman.

With the fire behind us, we can rejoice in Baldy's perseverance and future. In *Moving a Mountain*, we investigate the implications of Sun Valley Company's ambitious Bald Mountain Master Plan. Now that Baldy is safe (not a single ski run or structure on the mountain was damaged by the fire) discover what new ski runs, chairlifts and gondolas will be available for your continued skiing pleasure in the coming seasons.

Of course, it's not just skiers who enjoy Bald Mountain's many offerings. In *The Other Cold War*, Michael Ames explores the genesis of snowboarding in Sun Valley. From the early days of their strict containment to the success of today's Sun Valley Snowboard Team, boarding is no longer Baldy's redheaded stepchild.

With every issue of the *Sun Valley Guide*, we strive to celebrate this community. For me, it is the people of this valley that make it worth celebrating. Within the following pages you'll meet the Corrock, Uhrig and Pearson families, Eric Boyer, Nancy Harakay, Scott Mason and Tom Hickey. You may already know them, you may pass them on the street or see them in the supermarket. They are your friends and your neighbors. They are the people who make this valley the vibrant, extraordinary place that it is.

Jennifer Tuohy
editor@sunvalleyguide.com

contributors

Michael Ames is an avid trout eater, who prefers smoked over poached fishes. He was knocked unconscious in western Maine by an out of control snowboarder in 1996. After regaining consciousness, Ames moved on and became an advocate for equal-opportunity snow enjoyment. His work has appeared in *SkyWest Magazine*, *The Believer*, *LIFE Magazine*, *The Seattle Times* and *The Huffington Post*.



Kari Greer photographs wildland fires across the U.S. for the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise. Assigned to the Castle Rock Fire from August 22, she photographed some of the incident's extraordinary events from right on the fire line. Greer currently lives in the Denver area. She divides her time between Colorado and Idaho, which is her native home.

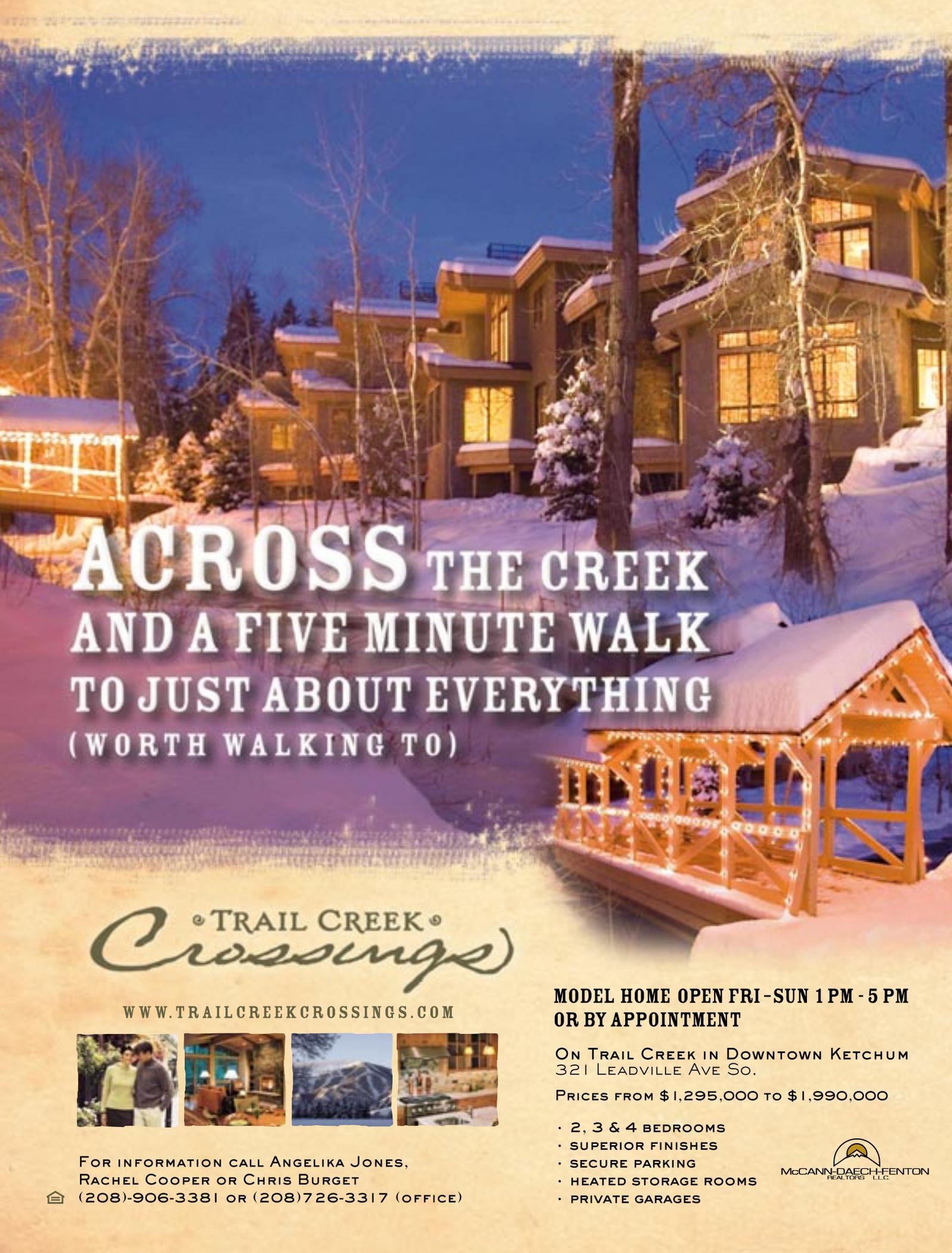


Deb Gelet has spent the last 25 years writing about the fascinating people, intriguing corners, and quirky habits found throughout her beloved Idaho. She has accompanied a shepherd and his band of 2,500 sheep over high ridges, flown in small aircraft to remote backcountry airstrips, floated, hiked and driven over most of this state in search of good stories. In addition to *Sun Valley Guide*, Gelet's work has appeared in *Big Sky Journal*, *Western Art & Architecture* and Twin Falls' *Times-News*.



Jason Kauffman, a reporter for the *Idaho Mountain Express* newspaper, covered the Castle Rock Fire incident from beginning to end. A native Oregonian, he moved to Idaho in 1995 to be closer to the state's magnificent mountains, rivers and deserts. His life-long love of the outdoors led him to work for Idaho's Nez Perce National Forest as a wildland firefighter, an experience he draws upon for his fire coverage. Kauffman's work has appeared in *Backpacker Magazine*, *Idaho Statesman* and Twin Falls' *Times-News*.





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**Cover: Bald Mountain
by Kevin Syms**

upstairs JANES

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When The Ski Tour arrived for a long weekend in January 2007, the event took Sun Valley by storm, infusing youth and energy back into the somewhat sleepy ski town. The first on The Ski Tour's four-stop musical and snow-sport extravaganza, Sun Valley lured big-name athletes such as Candide Thovex and Daron Rahlves, alongside bands Three Days Grace, Hinder and The Wailers.

Despite the weekend's consistent below-zero temperatures, crowds climbed Dollar Mountain to watch the skiercross competition, trekked up Warm Springs to witness death-defying freestyle skiing in the halfpipe, and filled the streets to enjoy live music into the wee hours of the morning.

The Ski Tour brought both young and old out to play, recalling past times of street parties and skier competitions. Television cameras rolled over bundled-up spectators, who watched in awe as the world's top skiercross competitors screamed down Dollar Mountain and free-style skiers twirled to heights 20 feet above them at the Warm Springs halfpipe, built for the tour.

The tour's founder, Kipp Nelson, was pleased with his first time out of the gate. So much so that Sun Valley will be the last stop on the 2008 tour, giving fans spring skiing conditions instead of sub-arctic agony.

Coming to town March 14-16, the tour will feature all the events, parties and big-name concerts of 2007, alongside the debut of snowboard cross and snowboard halfpipe events, as well as women's competitions.

*Text by Sabina Dana Plasse
Photos by Keith Carlsen/MSI*



Sun Valley comes alive



(1) Peter Olenick whirls through the air for the final evening of the halfpipe ski competition at Warm Springs. **(2)** World-class skier and Sun Valley resident Zach Crist hangs with *Lost* star Michele Rodriguez. **(3)** Coping well in subzero temperatures, The Wailers from Jamaica play to an excited crowd during The Ski Tour's BaseCamp Music Experience. **(4)** Skiercross competitors await the start at the top of Dollar Mountain. **(5)** The Ski Tour girls show off the latest in skiwear by Spyder. **(6)** Soaring through the air, a halfpipe competitor shoots for a high score. **(7)** Ski Tour founder and Sun Valley resident Kipp Nelson poses with Tommy Lee, formerly of Motley Crew, who performed at a private concert during the weekend. **(8)** Despite freezing temperatures, a large crowd gathered at Carol's Dollar Mountain Lodge to watch the first ever skiercross competition in Sun Valley. **(9)** Austin Winkle, lead singer of Hinder, woos the Saturday night crowd at the Basecamp. **(10)** The concert crowd rages at the Basecamp where a street party took over downtown Ketchum. **(11)** The winner of the skier halfpipe competition, Simon Dumont celebrates his success.



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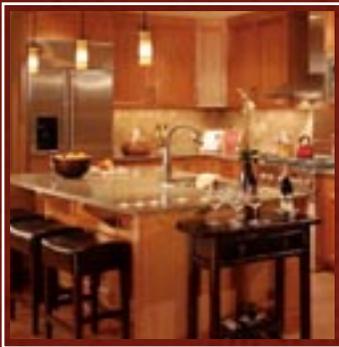
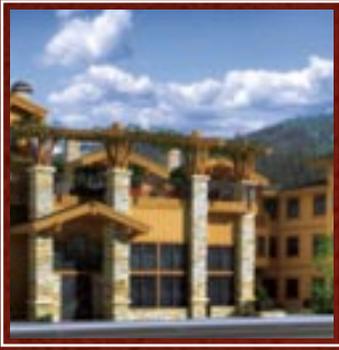


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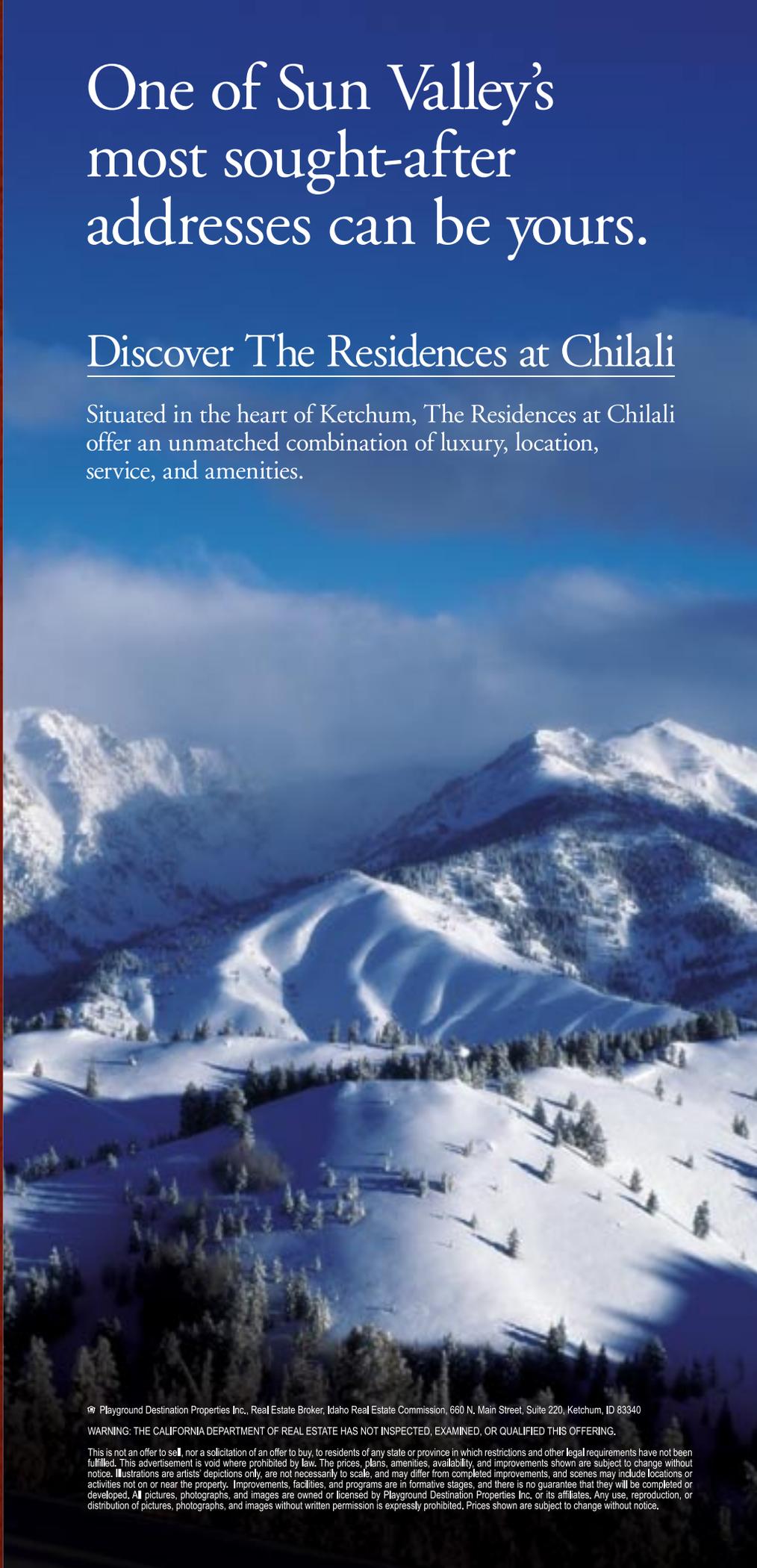
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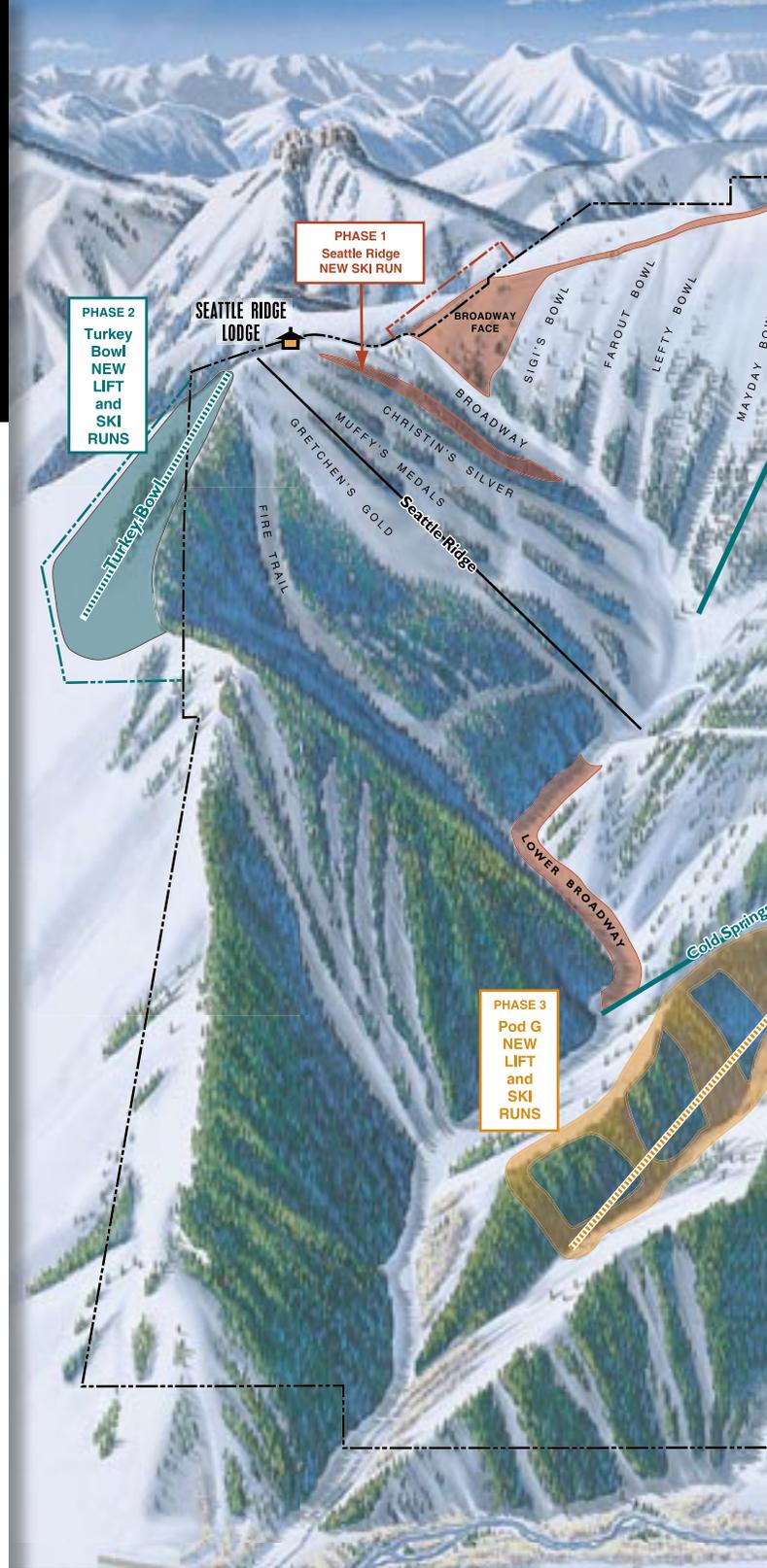
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MOVING A MOUNTAIN



Sun Valley, America's oldest destination ski resort, is guiding its magnificent centerpiece, Bald Mountain, firmly into the future.

Following the approval of Phase 1 of the ambitious Bald Mountain Master Plan, Trevor Schubert and Greg Stahl investigate the pending changes—a gondola, terrain park and new glade skiing—as well as those we may see in the future.



Phase 1 (approved)

- Thin trees by 40 percent on Guyer Ridge with no grading or snowmaking for a new expert tree-skiing run.
- Add snowmaking on Frenchman's Gulch terrain—the pipes are already in the ground, and Sun Valley Company has been waiting for approval to attach snowmaking guns.
- Remodel Roundhouse Lodge and expand the operating season to include summer.
- Add snowmaking on Olympic Lane, Olympic Ridge, Lower Olympic, Lower Broadway, Broadway Face, Christmas Bowl, Upper Cozy, Upper Hemingway and Brick's Island.
- Install a terrain park to skier's left of Janss Pass, along the bare side of the south-facing slope.
- Re-align and grade Olympic Lane.
- Build a new Seattle Ridge ski trail.
- Install River Run gondola.
- Remove Exhibition chairlift.

CHANGE IS IN THE AIR

Abruptly jutting 3,400 vertical feet out of the quaint neighborhood of West Ketchum to a summit 9,150 feet above sea level, Bald Mountain is the centerpiece of Central Idaho recreation. Baldy, as the mountain is affectionately known, is the primary reason Ketchum, Sun Valley, and for all practical purposes, Blaine County, have risen out of the economic plains to the peak of affluence and mountain-town grandeur.

In the modern era of alpine recreation pursuits, Bald Mountain—once the premier destination ski resort in the nation—faces multiple challenges. The ski business is highly competitive, yet “the ski industry is a no-growth market,” said Wally Huffman, Sun Valley Company general manager. “And we have known this since the 1970s.”

Fierce competition combined with extremely limited growth potential makes the task of bringing the mountain, along with its 14 ski lifts, 65 ski runs and five restaurants, into the 21st century no small one.

So, what direction is Sun Valley Company, the resort owner, taking to keep the area competitive? Will skiing in Sun Valley live on only as a snapshot of a bygone era, of tradition and Old World mystique? Sun Valley Resort’s first marketing campaign in the 1930s coined the phrase “The Alps of America,” and 70 years later, the quaint retro-styles still influence its public image.

A peek into Bald Mountain’s future was revealed in August 2005, when Sun Valley Company unveiled a proposal to the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management—the managers of Bald Mountain’s public lands, on which all skiing occurs—to update the existing Bald Mountain Master Development Plan. The company also requested a 40-year extension to its ski area-operating permit, which expires in December 2007.

The process of issuing and renewing development plans and permits for ski areas on public lands is common throughout the United States. “Ski areas are a part of the national forest developed recreation program,” said Sawtooth National Forest Ketchum District Ranger Kurt Nelson. “National forests have the terrain but don’t have the capability to develop ski areas without a private partner.”

Sun Valley Company’s master development plan contains three phases, to be implemented over the next 10 years. Phase 1 focuses on enhancing skiing and snowboarding facilities, installing a gondola from the River Run base area to Roundhouse Lodge, adjusting ski-area boundaries and adding considerable amounts of new snowmaking equipment, as well as implementing forest health projects. Sun Valley Company officials say the improvements will bolster the resort’s level of service and help boost skier numbers, which have stagnated at around 400,000 per year.



Sun Valley Company’s first marketing campaign in the 1930s coined the phrase “The Alps of America.”

Both the Forest Service and the BLM undertook environmental impact studies of Phase 1 before bestowing their required approval. On November 7, 2007 they said yes to a modified version of Phase 1, along with renewing the 40-year ski area-operating permit. Phases 2 and 3 of the plan will be similarly evaluated over the next 10 years.

The federal review process was followed by two separate 45-day appeal periods. The period ends in mid-December for the Forest Service and in early February for the BLM. If no public appeals halt the process, Sun Valley Company can move forward with their changes—possibly implementing snowmaking in the Frenchman’s Gulch area as early as this winter and beginning installation of a terrain park, additional snowmaking and the River Run gondola as early as summer 2008.

If all changes in all three phases of the master development plan are eventually approved, the mountain would receive up to \$20 million in improvements. That is a cause for concern for some residents. Ski-pass prices are already near the summit of North American ski resorts. “I would encourage Forest Service officials to at least express concern over price escalation,” wrote Bellevue resident Jay Coleman in March 2007, during the official public comment period for the plan. “Baldy is not a country club.”

While it is difficult to predict the effect capital improvements may have on pass prices, many believe change is needed. “Sun Valley is falling behind,” wrote Sun Valley residents Bill and Jeanne Wright. “As other North American ski resorts expand capacity and add amenities, Sun Valley Resort is struggling to maintain its historic pre-eminent status. The proposals now under consideration, though modest, are important building blocks for the future.”

TERRAIN: CARVING UP BALDY

Guyer Ridge

The Guyer Ridge trail project was possibly the most contentious issue in the master development plan. Guyer Ridge lies to the immediate northwest of the existing ski area boundary, above the neighborhood of Lower Board Ranch, on the western edge of the Warm Springs area of Ketchum.

Sun Valley Company's proposed action called for a 100- to 200-foot-wide intermediate trail, extending north of the International ski run, traveling roughly 6,000 feet along the natural fall line of the ridge, eventually tying into Upper and Lower Cozy runs. It would have required 100 percent tree removal within the proposed trail and extensive rock and earth excavation to level the steep, serrated ridge. Snowmaking was proposed along the entire 29-acre run.

"To mow down this ridgeline and add snowmaking to create a 'super highway' for skiing would be a travesty to the natural characteristics of this area," Ketchum resident Roger Crist said of Sun Valley Company's plan. Crist favored tree-thinning, saying, "What Baldy really needs is more glade skiing."

The environmental impact study conducted by the Forest Service also came to a similar conclusion, resulting in a sound rejection of the proposal.

The final decision for Guyer Ridge rested with one of Sun Valley Company's proposed alternatives: the creation of an expert glade-skiing run along the ridge where the trail was proposed. The decision eliminated snowmaking, but allowed for thinning roughly 40 percent of the trees to create an off-piste feel within the ski area boundary.

New trails for novices

A comprehensive study of Sun Valley Company's resort assets conducted in 2005 by Ecosign Mountain Resort Planners, a Canada-based consultant, found that more intermediate and novice runs are needed at the resort. Even including the primarily novice runs on Dollar Mountain, Sun Valley still falls short of the optimal percentages of beginner and intermediate runs a ski resort should aim for, Ecosign found.

Going some way to address this deficit, the proposed low-intermediate ski trail at Seattle Ridge was approved under Phase 1. The trail will run in the southern section of the bowls, between Broadway and Christin's Silver. The purpose of the run is to alleviate congestion in the popular area.

Phase 3 proposes additional novice ski runs on the south-east-facing, gently sloping hillside behind Seattle Ridge Lodge, known as Turkey Bowl. The area would be serviced by a detachable quad chairlift rising 483 vertical feet. Two novice runs would stretch 3,000 feet and be fitted with snowmaking. That addition would not include the steeper terrain that is part of Turkey Bowl proper, which stretches along the east side of Baldy to the valley floor near state Highway 75.



"To mow down this ridgeline and add snowmaking to create a 'super highway' for skiing would be a travesty to the natural characteristics of this area."

Roger Crist

TIME FOR A TERRAIN PARK

An approximately 5.2-acre terrain park has been approved as part of Phase 1 and will be installed in the gully to the skier's right of Janss Pass in Frenchman's Gulch. The site was chosen over a roughly 5-acre area on the lower portion of Greyhawk. The terrain park will include installation of snowmaking, and construction could begin as early as summer 2008, Nelson said.

While Guyer Ridge was among the most contentious facets of Phase 1, "the terrain park has been the most commented-on issue," said Joe Miczulski, master plan project leader for the Forest Service.

Terrain parks are a relatively recent addition to a ski mountain's repertoire, and Sun Valley Resort is five to seven years behind its competitors in providing such play-oriented features. Most terrain parks run down slopes with a 30- to 34-percent grade and feature a series of jumps and rails for skiers and snowboarders.

Parks are geared toward the new school of skiing and snowboarding, and the approved park will complement the Lower Warm Springs superpipe, which has already become a popular feature.

To some, the lack of a terrain park has been a drawback for the community at large. "Without a terrain park, tourist dollars are spent elsewhere due to individuals and families choosing to spend their vacations at resorts offering such facilities," wrote Dana Monson, an attorney in Ketchum.

Sun Valley Company concurred that a terrain park is essential to address "changing market demands." The company went on to note, however: "Bald Mountain offers limited opportunities for a terrain park that are not overly steep or already utilized and valued for traditional skiing."

STEP UP THE SNOWMAKING

Baldy boasts arguably the finest snowmaking system in the world, and for good reason. Sun Valley averages 217 inches of snow a year, substantially less than some competitors.

Snowmaking guns mix compressed air with water sprayed in a manner that, when conditions are cold enough, becomes snow on its way to the ground. Sun Valley already has more than 400 acres of snowmaking in place. Phase 1 will add an additional 99 acres of manmade cover, for a total of 507 acres.

Runs that will now get snowmaking as part of Phase 1 include: Olympic Lane, Olympic Ridge and Lower Olympic; Broadway Face, the entire rim along the top of



"Without a terrain park, tourist dollars are spent elsewhere due to individuals and families choosing to spend their vacations at resorts offering such facilities."

Dana Monson

PHOTO BY MARK OLIVER

Baldy's famous bowls, the newly approved Seattle Ridge trail, Christmas Bowl and Lower Broadway; Upper Cozy, Upper Hemingway and Brick's Island; Can-Can, French Dip and Undergraduate.

Snowmaking in the Frenchman's area was initially one of the biggest concerns about the master development plan. Frenchman's has predominantly been an alpine skiing area of choice for those seeking natural snow. "For some people that's an added bonus, and for others—they'd rather ski on man-made snow," Nelson said. "But if you look at that lift, it is one of the most under-used lifts, in part because it's not available at certain times because of lack of snow."

GONDOLAS GALORE

Sun Valley is the nation's oldest ski resort, but it has been without one of the high-end amenities of the ski industry's standards: a gondola. That is soon to change.

The River Run gondola proposed as part of Phase 1 has been approved. The gondola cables will travel up the slope between Olympic and Exhibition ski runs, replacing the antiquated Exhibition chairlift.

The proposal to add two gondolas to Bald Mountain—in Phase 1 (the now approved River Run gondola) and Phase 3 (on the Warm Springs side, which will be examined at a later date)—was somewhat controversial. For some, the very notion of gondolas is synonymous with Bald Mountain's leap into the upper echelon of North American ski resorts. Others viewed the proposals as just another audacious and unnecessary amenity.

Gondolas, enclosed cabins with a sliding door, are considered easier to enter and exit for non-skiers. Skis and snowboards are removed before entering, but "the speed and comfort of the gondola will very quickly become the standard," Huffman said. "I have heard a lot of people say, 'We don't need no stinking gondola.' And from a skiing perspective, it's questionable."

But, the gondola is not only for skiing. "The weather is usually not that bad up here," said Jack Sibbach, Sun Valley Company's director of public relations. "But it will be a public benefit. Dining (on the mountain) in the evenings—be it winter or summer—will be beautiful."

The new gondola will whisk skiers and non-skiers from the River Run base to Roundhouse Lodge, where they will be able to enjoy lunch and dinner at the

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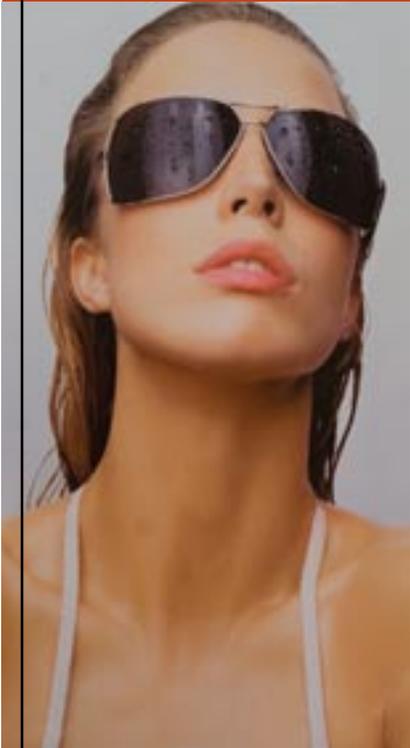
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The proposed gondola will provide year-round access to the historic Roundhouse Lodge. Photo by Chris Pilaro



**“I have heard a lot of people say,
‘We don’t need no stinking gondola.’
And from a skiing perspective,
it’s questionable.”**

Wally Huffman

historic restaurant during winter and summer seasons. Currently it is only open during the ski season for lunch. Alongside gondola access, the approval by the Forest Service of extensive renovations (as long as the building’s character is maintained and is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act) will make Roundhouse Lodge accessible to all.

Phase 3 calls for a gondola on the Warm Springs side of the mountain, running from the base to the summit, replacing the Challenger chairlift. Written public support for this project has been scant at best, and it is fighting an uphill battle.

Also, outside of U.S. Forest Service and BLM purview, Sun Valley Company’s long-range plans include running a gondola from Sun Valley Village to the River Run base. The company has studied two potential routes.

The first route runs the gondola along the edge of Dollar Road, stopping near Carol’s Dollar Mountain Lodge in Sun Valley. From there, it would travel up Hidden Valley on Dollar Mountain to the saddle at the top, where skiers could exit and ski Elkhorn’s Hidden Valley. The gondola would then continue carrying skiers and non-skiers down the back side of Dollar, over state Highway 75, the Reinheimer Ranch and southern Ketchum to the base of River Run at Baldy, offering another exit point before heading up Baldy to Roundhouse Lodge.

The second alternative, and the one resort owner Earl Holding appears to favor, would send the gondola down Sun Valley Road with a turn station near the historic Red Barn and a stop near Atkinsons’ Market in Ketchum. From there, passengers would head over the heart of Ketchum with a stop at the Simplot lot adjacent to the Ketchum Post Office and then on to River Run, with a stop at the base and finally up to Roundhouse Lodge.

A ROSY FUTURE?

The decisions by the Forest Service and the BLM to allow Sun Valley Resort to move forward with most elements of Phase 1 of its 10-year master plan should have a positive impact on Sun Valley Resort's image, enhancing its ability to compete in a very competitive market.

What's more, change is not limited to Bald Mountain. Sun Valley Company has also embarked on a multi-year improvement plan for Dollar Mountain, which it owns entirely. Changes already in evidence include the impressive Carol's Dollar Mountain Lodge, as well as the snow-making and new lifts that have been installed for the 2007/2008 ski season.

"Even though this decision is limited to Bald Mountain, concurrently as an overall ski resort, they are making major improvements on Dollar, which is enhancing beginning skiing opportunities for people coming to the Sun Valley area," Nelson said.

How much farther down this new path the company travels, however, rests with the powerbrokers within the resort and with those who hold it dear. Phase 2 and Phase 3 are still coming and will require completely new environmental impact studies by federal agencies "in order to keep the decision fresh," Nelson said.

But one thing is certain: Whatever direction Baldy leans, the communities upon which its shadows are cast will ultimately lean with it. ❧



photo: Fred Lindholm

architect: Scott Laidlaw

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SUN VALLEY GUIDES

A common misperception about the Wood River Valley is that it is inhabited only by the extravagantly wealthy. In reality, the area is a mélange of hard-working, hard-playing people, including ranchers, athletes, artists, writers and, yes, some rich and famous. But, the real soul of this place is best observed in the families who have been here for generations, some since Ketchum was a rowdy town of sheep ranchers and miners. In the fourth installment of the *Sun Valley Guides* series, **Deb Gelet** coaxes three local families into sharing their stories and observations on life in this ever-changing and ever constant place we call home. Photos by **Paulette Philipot**.



Childhood sweethearts Maxine Bolliger and Ted Uhrig first met in 1949 at Hailey High School: Even then their families were regarded as longtime residents. Ted's grandfather, Henry Uhrig, was a stagecoach driver on the route from Boise to Gannett. On his many trips across the Camas Prairie, he fell in love with land near Stanton Crossing and homesteaded there (the land west of the crossroads

Maxine & Ted Uhrig

of highways 75 and 20.) Ted's parents, Bill and Alta Uhrig, later made their home out on Highway 20, just east of the now landmark "blinking light."

The eldest member of the Uhrig clan, Chrystal Uhrig, is 101 years old. "Aunt Olie" grew up on the Stanton Crossing homestead, but has lived "in a little old cabin on Main Street in Bellevue forever," says Ted of his father's sister. "Everyone knows her, she walks to the post office with her dog everyday."

Maxine's family lived in Triumph where the Bolliger girls started grade school. They moved to Hailey when Maxine started second grade, and never left. Maxine's sisters, Marian Nelson and Martha Bolliger, still live in downtown Hailey. Marian lives just across the street from their childhood home.

Ted attended his first four grades at the Bellevue School. But when his father signed on with the Navy Seabees in WWII, Ted went to live with relatives. Upon his father's return, the ranch at Stanton Crossing was sold, and Ted started high school in Hailey. He graduated in 1951 with his sweetheart just a few years behind him. Maxine admits with a spirited laugh, "Ted was a few years older, so we didn't really socialize. He actually dated my sister, Marian. But, I got him!" They married in Hailey's St. Charles Catholic Church in 1953.

Ted spent many years as Blaine County Assessor while he and Maxine raised six strapping young boys. "Oh, Maxine wanted to be the only girl, and she always gets her way," explains Ted with obvious affection. "Number one for us is that we're family," says Maxine. "We've stuck by one another through thick and thin. And, believe me, there's been a lot of that! I often say my knees have given out from praying so hard and so many times."

The Uhrig clan is well known for their love of sports and a serious love of Idaho's great outdoors. It's hard to miss them at a rodeo. To say they are robust is weakly understated. And, just try finding them during the early autumn months. "Oh well, you know, they'll be hard to track down for a couple of months. It's hunting season," Maxine laughs. "They're all up Federal now, past Triumph Mine.

It's been their favorite hunting area forever."

When Ted emerges briefly from hunting camp, he expounds, "Federal is a canyon that takes you on over into the Little Wood. We're right on top of the world there, looking down into the Carey Valley. We've been hunting in there, oh, about 40 years now." It is deeply satisfying that there is no indication of any change of plan for the Uhrigs.

Even the career paths of Ted and Maxine's six sons speak of a rugged predilection for working outdoors and with their hands. Running down the list, Curtis owns Uhrig Construction; Ed owns Uhrig Fencing with brother Phillip (aka "Wheat"—no one seems to remember why) and James Nelson (Marian Nelson's son); John trains horses; Scott works for the BLM and Ken works with Rocky Mountain Hardware.

Ted is now a brand inspector for the area. In this classic western role, he checks the brands on horses and cattle being taken over state lines to verify they are being transported by their rightful owners. He's a well-known face at the Shoshone stock sale yard. Ted's taken his horse to work that yard for more years than anyone can accurately remember.

"We've been around a long time," says Maxine. "We just happened to have lived in Hailey forever, and we're darn proud of it! We know a lot of people here from all walks of life. Sometimes, people who live outside the valley think everyone here is rich, but you know, that's just not true. This valley is full of really wonderful people and many of them are hard-working regular people." ■



The Uhrigs: Front from left, Kennedy, Miranda, Lisa, Mia, Maxine, Ted, Chris, Morgan and Ken. Back from left: Ed, Maddie, Curtis, John, Lenny, Scott, Jennifer, Jacob and Phillip. Grandchildren not pictured, Chase, Brandon, Monica, Josh, Jake, Jayme, Julie, Jackson and great granddaughter Ashley.



The trail map of Bald Mountain offers many hints about the history and characters that have intersected on the top of our favorite hill, with one exception. That can be found on a street map of Ketchum.

Three generations of Corrocks have skied Baldy, and most of them still do. Lila and Jack “Corky” Corrock have skied here since the late 1940s and still live at the base of their beloved mountain. Early on, they tutored their three children in the methods of sliding down a hill. *Fast*. Son Kenny commanded undisputed respect as one of the top pro racers on the world circuit. Now, he heads up the ski school at Soldier Mountain near Fairfield. Daughter Susie snapped up the bronze medal for downhill in the 1972 Olympic Games. Corrock Drive in Ketchum is named after her accomplishment.

But skiing is not the only mark the Corrocks have made on local history. They are also known for their participation in Ketchum politics. Corky served 11 years on the City Council, and daughter Anne, now Corrock-Wrobel, serves on the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Lila & Jack Corrock

Eschewing politics, Lila jumped headlong into the community by serving on countless boards, committees and teams of volunteers. She was also a popular knitting instructor at the Craft Guild during the '70s and '80s, and still teaches when the opportunity arises. She recently shared her knowledge with



women in the small fishing village of La Ventana in Baja California. “I don’t speak Spanish well enough and they speak no English, but sign language and smiles do wonders! When I drive up, all the kids call out, ‘¡Lila’s aquí!’ and run right over to carry the bags of yarn into the school.” Lila has a rollicking good laugh, and it bubbles out of her as she relates her experiences there.

The Wood River Valley attracts people with a serious sense of adventure, and the Corrocks are a quintessential example of this. In the early ’60s the family lived in Kitzbuhel, Austria for five months, then spent another five touring Europe “in a Volkswagen bus with no pop-top,” laughs Lila. Still possessing a vagabond nature, Lila and Corky drive south to Baja every year. While Lila’s teaching knitting, Corky windsurfs.

As the Corrocks traveled, they always held Ketchum as home in their hearts. Finally, in 1970, it seemed prudent to settle in one place. Corky had worked in the construction industry in Seattle, so he picked up his tools and went to work here, building the family’s first home near the base of River Run. In 1973, he and Lila built their current home out Warm Springs. “We went over Galena Summit to harvest those logs,” she says, pointing to their quaint log sauna hut. “And, I nailed every single one of those shingles. This house is such a part of who we are.”

How has it been to raise children and grandchildren here? Lila speaks with her typical forthright directness. “Well, you know, it’s always been challenging to make a real living here. So, as long as they have 12-month-a-year jobs, I’m happy as a clam. Underneath it all, this is a real town, not just a resort. And, we just love living here. Still!” ■



PHOTO COURTESY MAGIC PHOTOGRAPHY

Three generations of Corrocks have skied Baldy, and most of them still do on any given winter’s day. Front row from left, Whit Harbaugh, Mackenzie Harbaugh, Anne, Mary, Suzie Luby and Christy Luby. Back row from left, Tyler, Lily, Mike Wrobel, Kenny, Lila, Jack, Bob Luby and Kevin Luby.



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Betsy and Bob Pearson first arrived in Idaho, as so many have, simply visiting family. Their son, Brad, moved to the Big Lost River Valley in the 1970s pursuing a dream to operate a horse ranch and maybe grow some organic crops. His parents soon came for a visit, fell in love with the “drop-dead gorgeous views” and ended up buying 240 acres nearby. Bob remembers that land was \$39 an acre.

A few years later, when Brad thought his son would benefit from living near a good school—there weren’t many educational options in Moore, Idaho, in the mid-’70s—the young family moved to Hailey. Bob and Betsy pondered the idea of staying on at the base of King Mountain, but there was the irresistible lure of following Brad’s young family (with requisite beloved grandchild) to the Wood River Valley.

Just as with all good things that seem to happen here, what started out as a good-natured joke in answer to a friendly query, ended up as a very lucky real estate deal in 1978—one sealed by Betsy with a handshake in the Silver Dollar Saloon on Bellevue’s Main Street.

“The essence of Idaho is the same as it was 30 years ago when I moved here.

That’s what keeps me here and still thrills my heart.”

Bob Pearson



Betsy Pearson, left, embraces her children, Dave, Wendy (Daverman) and Ridley. The third generation of Idaho Pearsons also spend much of their time in the Wood River Valley.

COURTESY PHOTO

Soon after, she and Bob started construction on the cozy log house they still call home just west of Bellevue and surrounded by aspens, willows, glistening water and hundreds of birds. In a comforting and charming circle of life, Brad built his (and wife, Premi's) home just behind Bob's and Betsy's in 2005. The cozy little compound has

The couple raised two more successful writers and a devoted teacher. Brad is recently retired from his lengthy editorship at *Heartland USA* magazine. Son Ridley came to the Wood River Valley straight out of college to play in a band at night and write fiction during the day. He now works from St. Louis, Missouri, and is widely known for his crime-thriller novels and his young adult books, including the *Starcatchers* trilogy written with Dave Barry.

(Ridley's recent bestseller, *Killer Weekend*, is set in Sun Valley and features local characters.) Daughter Wendy (now Daverman) taught elementary school for years before leaving her career to travel more often with her husband and children. They split their time between homes in Gimlet and Glencoe, Illinois.

"Oh my, yes, we are a gathering family," exclaims Betsy. "Everyone comes back here whenever they can. My niece was married in Coeur

d'Alene and everyone came. My sister is turning 93, and we're all going to Kansas to celebrate."

The Pearson family now finds their most recent three generations firmly anchored in the Wood River Valley even though they may have homes in other places. Among the 10 grandchildren, Dhwani Pearson works as a masseuse and Pilates instructor at Zenergy in Ketchum. The others are scattered about in pursuit of their own dreams, but it is not unusual to find them sitting around the big table in the Pearson yard.

"Of course, it isn't hard to convince any of them to come back here," says Betsy. "You know, it's just so beautiful here, and we have so many good memories set in this place."

Brad adds, "The things I liked about Idaho back in the '70s haven't changed at all. We can still go out East Fork, Greenhorn, any canyon, and be in the wilderness or at least the wilds, in minutes. The essence of Idaho is the same as it was 30 years ago when I moved here. That's what keeps me here and still thrills my heart." ❧

Betsy & Bob Pearson

become the whole Pearson family's gathering grounds.

"We had 60 people here for a family reunion in 2006," Betsy laughs. "We have such a good time together—always have—we eat at big tables in the yard, we play volleyball, we work crossword puzzles together. It was sheer fun!"

Bob and Betsy are prolific writers in their own rights with decades of syndicated columns, books, and countless articles streaming off their desks.



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LEAD PHOTO: PHOTOGRAPHER PAULETTE PHILIPOT TOOK THIS SHOT AT 9:51 P.M., ON AUGUST 24, FROM ABOVE SUN VALLEY CITY HALL. SUN VALLEY IS IN THE FOREGROUND, ADAMS GULCH AND GRIFFIN BUTTE ARE ON FIRE IN THE DISTANCE.

When Bill Murphy, the fire management officer for the Sawtooth National Forest, arrived at a one-tenth-acre wildfire north of Galena Summit in early June, he sensed he was in the presence of something extraordinary.

It wasn't that the forest floor had ignited so early in the season—he'd witnessed wildfires as early as mid-May. It wasn't that the small blaze was surrounded by lush growth, that was still a common sight this early in the summer. Rather, Murphy was startled to see the fire spotting 150 feet ahead of itself into dead and downed woody material. "I was thinking, our dead stuff is really dry." A bad sign so early in the year.

Nineteen days later, on the warm and gusty afternoon of June 22, a small, human-caused blaze ignited south of Trail Creek Cabin. Within an hour it had transformed into a meadow- and forest-consuming inferno, racing across the north-facing slopes of Morgan Ridge. By the time the Trail Creek Fire was contained, 288 acres had burned.

Once again, Murphy was struck by the severity of the blaze and how rapidly it had moved so early in the fire season. He recalled an interagency meeting with the National Weather Service the previous month. A member of the group had pointed to a red-colored anomaly on a map of Idaho and asked what it was. On the detailed map of statewide water conditions, the color red signified extremely dry conditions. "It was the Wood River drainages," Murphy said.

The Wood River Valley, home to the communities of Sun Valley, Ketchum, Hailey and Bellevue, whose vast outdoor recreation offerings attract thousands of visitors each season, was officially the driest region in the state.

Spring snowpacks in the Big Wood River basin had been only about 30 percent of normal. The months of April and May were among the driest since record-taking began and the 2007 summer was shaping up as one of the hottest on record. The situation provided the perfect recipe for a major wildfire, and the week of August 12 brought with it the perfect storm.

On Tuesday, August 14, a large weather system trailing dry thunderstorms passed over the high desert south of the Wood River Valley. By Thursday, August 16, it had made its way here. The day combined dry thunderstorms with warm temperatures, gusting winds and critically dry fuels. Around noon, fire crews were sent scrambling to six lightning starts in the Stanley area, another out Muldoon Canyon east of the south valley city of Bellevue and, finally, to a small blaze in the Warm Springs Creek drainage, 10 miles southwest of Ketchum.

With so many starts, Murphy and other fire managers were left prioritizing where to send firefighters. Crews were able to go after and douse seven of the fires, said Murphy. But apparently Mother Nature had other ideas for that small blaze in Warm Springs Creek canyon.



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THE BATTLE BEGINS



The Crews: At its peak, over 1,700 men and women battled the Castle Rock Fire. Crews and equipment arrived from 27 different states. Fighting the fire were 16 Type 1 hand crews, or Hotshots, (elite, highly-skilled firefighters who work as a team of 20 moving from wildfire to wildfire all season long) and 21 Type 2 hand crews (similar to Hotshots but with less experience). These teams hand cut a large portion of the 97.5 miles of fire line that finally encompassed the blaze. Seventy-seven engine crews (comprised of 3-5 people) also worked the fire in vehicles ranging from Type 1 structure protection rigs to smaller, more mobile Type 6 engines (Ford F550s or similar). Type 6 engines are equipped to drive over rugged terrain where they work to extinguish hotspots within the fire's perimeter and douse any accessible active fire line. A large scale air attack, made up of helicopters and air tankers, fought the flames from above, spreading both fire retardant and dropping gallons of water on the conflagration. Overseeing the crews was a Type 1 Incident Command Team, California Team 3. Such teams manage the most complex incidents, from wildland fires and hurricanes to terrorist strikes. California Team 3 had previously worked on the 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina disasters.



Its nose pointed parallel to the smooth ribbon of concrete ahead, the Twin Otter turbo-prop airplane leapt to life and raced down the runway at the Magic Valley Regional Airport in southern Idaho. Reaching critical velocity, the front end of the plane lifted. Moments later, the dual-engine aircraft took to the air over Twin Falls and the surrounding farmland. The pilot banked hard and headed north.

It was 2:54 p.m., Thursday, August 16.

In the belly of the fixed-wing aircraft, four Bureau of Land Management smokejumpers sat patiently. Perhaps they fidgeted with their firefighting gear, making last-minute preparations for their upcoming jump.

Jarring turbulence marked the less-than-one-hour flight north, over 75 miles of rolling sagebrush and lava rock-dotted plains and then over the foothills that quickly become South Central Idaho's vast Smoky Mountains.

Ahead of the mid-sized Twin Otter, thunderclouds covered large portions of the bright blue sky. The turbulent conditions spawned by the violent weather system rocked the aircraft and the men inside it.

Circling over the Warm Springs Creek drainage, the men spotted what they had come to find, a small column of smoke, rising into the air just south of Warm Springs Creek.

Within hours, the blaze beneath them would come to be called the Castle Rock Fire, a name Wood River Valley residents will remember for years to come.

With gear on and parachutes prepared, three of the jumpers leapt from the safety of the plane and floated 3,000 feet down to the partially forested valley floor. Remaining behind was the fourth

member of their team, who had succumbed to motion sickness after the turbulent flight.

It was 3:39 p.m.

On most other days, more jumpers would have accompanied the trio. The standard number for a call is eight. But this was the record-setting wildfire season of 2007, and the hot and dry month of August at that. The other 83 members of Boise Smokejumpers were jumping on dozens of wildfires that had exploded in the region during several days of lightning storms.

The trio directed their chutes to a landing site near Castle Rock, a locally known landmark, and Incident Commander-in-training Dale Springer quickly led his team toward the haze of smoke coming from the small wildfire now spreading out from near Rough Canyon, a drainage south of Warm Springs Road. There, they found the fire's origin, a lightning-struck tree. Things looked promising when they first arrived. "I thought we could get it," Springer said.

His optimism turned to concern as high winds fanned the flames, pushing them into north-facing timber. "It was a half-acre fire and it ran away," he said. "It got in the timber and there was not much we could do."

From less than five acres on that first day, the blaze increased to 150 by the following evening, spreading over an area packed with campers, hikers and bikers during this peak recreation season. And while local U.S. Forest Service officials threw every available resource at the fire, fierce winds whipped it into a fury over the weekend, sending it north over Warm Springs Road. From there, the blaze made a startling run up the length of Rooks Creek, eight miles west of Ketchum.



“WHAT WE HOPED WOULD NOT HAPPEN DID HAPPEN.”

The fight for Baldy: The communities of the Wood River Valley held their collective breath as the fire raged on three sides of Bald Mountain, the centerpiece of Sun Valley Resort and the economic lifeline of the area. Had the lifts on Baldy been damaged, effectively closing the mountain for the 2007-2008 ski season, much of the economy of the Wood River Valley could have dried up. Instead, fire crews worked in perfect concert with Sun Valley Company's mountain management team to keep the fire away from the periphery of the ski area. And while the west side of the mountain burned, outside the ski area boundary, no structures, lifts or ski runs suffered damage. Fire-fighting efforts entailed as much brain as brawn. Sun Valley Company “tricked” its snow-gun computers into believing it was freezing outside, turning the most sophisticated snowmaking system in the industry into an invaluable fire-fighting tool. Spraying water into the air raised humidity levels on the mountain, inhibiting the spread of spot fires. “We created such a stinking fog up there,” said Peter Stearns, Assistant Mountain Manager for Sun Valley Co. (right). In total, four crews of roughly 80 people, 14 engines, and a number of helicopters successfully held the advancing flames at bay, saving the ski area.



The fire's astonishing jump over Warm Springs Road and up the length of Rooks Creek sounded the alarm for local government officials, who watched with increasing trepidation as the fire bore down on residential areas of the county and the western edge of Ketchum.

What began as a voluntary evacuation order for some on Saturday, August 18, became, by 4 p.m. on Sunday, a mandatory evacuation order for all homes west of the Ketchum city limits in the Warm Springs Creek area, including those living in the Frenchman's Bend and Board Ranch neighborhoods, an area comprised of numerous homes ranging from mobile to multi-million-dollar structures.

At daybreak on Monday, August 20, a Type 1 incident management team from California took over running the stubborn, now 10,726-acre blaze. Firmly entrenched in upper Adams Gulch and Eye Gulch, as well as in Fox Creek, the fire was now encroaching on three more neighborhoods north of Ketchum.

Fearing the worst, the fast-growing ranks of firefighters began fighting fire with fire, using the technique of back-burning to clear burnable materials from



A heavy helicopter douses a spot fire that ignited on Rock Garden, yards away from the historic Roundhouse Lodge (bottom right).

forest areas around Adams Gulch residences, the Hulen Meadows development and Griffin Butte.

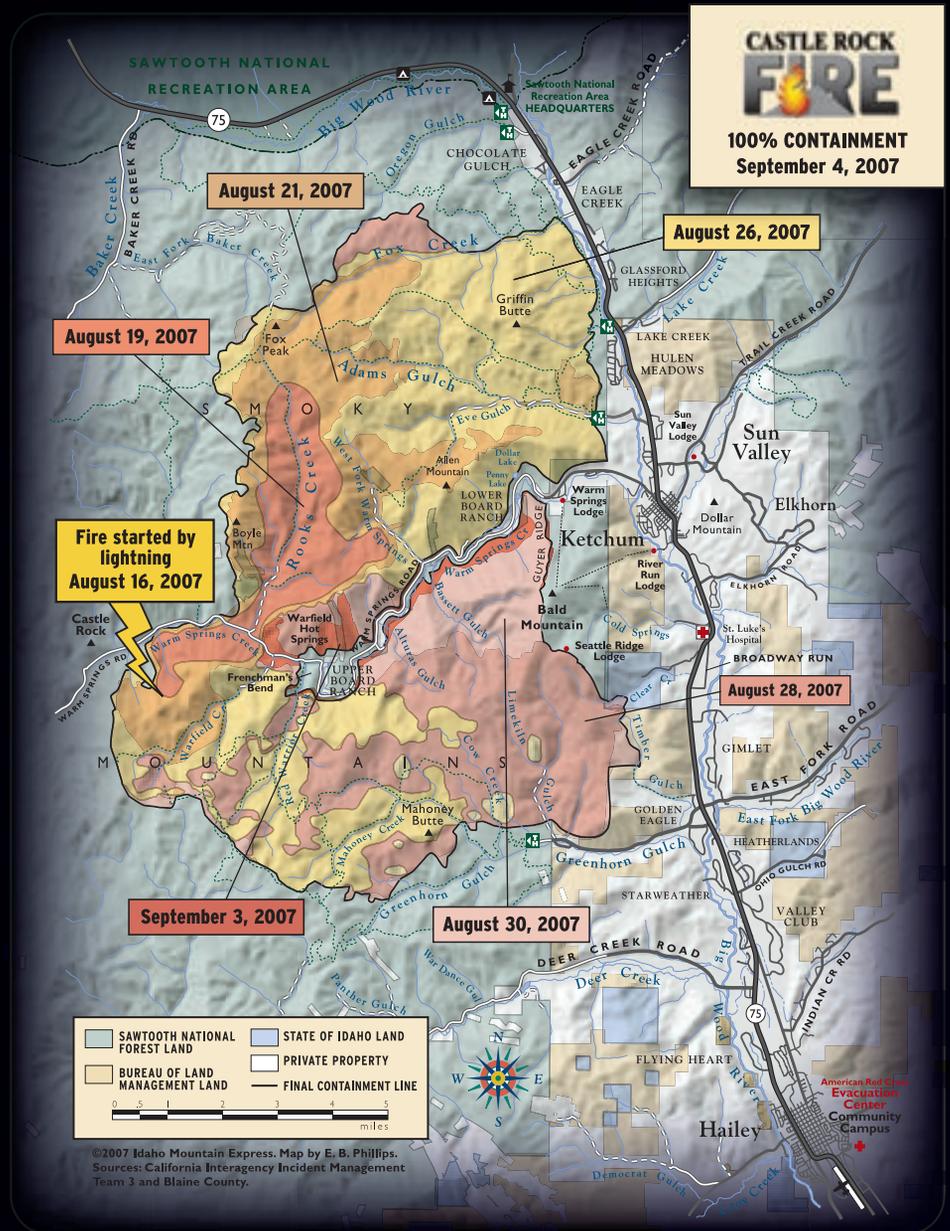
Despite the fire's increasingly close proximity to the renowned Sun Valley ski area, Incident Commander Jeanne Pincha-Tully insisted that constructing fire line between Ketchum and the fire remained her top priority.

Wood River Valley residents responded to the threat to their neighbors with offers of shelter, food and much-needed encouragement for the displaced, as well as for the firefighters struggling to save their cherished mountain valley. Out of the fire, the community's grace under pressure and unwavering sense of generosity became a story in itself.

However, the weekend of August 25 was a dark time, as residents watched the fire steadily advance over the Smoky Mountains. What had been a lesser concern during the previous week, several small spot fires in the Red Warrior Creek drainage west of Ketchum, quickly became alarming. With flames cresting the ridge separating the Warm Springs Creek and Greenhorn Gulch drainages to the south, numerous residents from Hailey, 12 miles south of Ketchum, reported seeing a glowing wall of red advancing on them from the north. At an estimated 18,015 acres on Friday, August 24, the blaze had exploded to 41,100 acres by day's end Sunday. Fueled by fierce winds that blew a wall of flames down Greenhorn Gulch and up to the fence lines of several homes, the rapid growth represented a remarkable 56 percent expansion in two days. The grim situation led county officials to place 1,000 homes between Hailey and Ketchum under mandatory evacuation orders.

The fire's extreme run also sent it racing north up the southwest side of Bald Mountain to within 50 yards of Sun Valley Resort's Seattle Ridge Lodge. There, more than 40 firefighters fought a successful battle to stop the advancing flames from consuming the lodge.

Then, what many had referred to as the worst-case scenario came



Too close to call: Structure protection became one of the highest priorities as flames threatened homes across the county, as well as to the perimeter of Bald Mountain's ski area (below). 37 municipal fire departments from across Idaho came to the aid of Blaine County, sending 368 firefighters equipped with 45 structure engines. 136 of those were volunteer firefighters from Sun Valley, Ketchum, Hailey, Bellevue, Friedman Memorial Airport and Wood River fire departments. As a result of their efforts, no structures or ski runs were lost.



THE AFTERMATH



true on Tuesday, August 28. Buffeted by gusting winds, a small boiling cauldron of fire near the bottom of Bassett Gulch, 1.5 miles west of Bald Mountain, proceeded to race east to the top of the 9,151-foot summit. “What we hoped would not happen did happen,” fire information officer David Olson said.

100 percent containment of the Castle Rock Fire was achieved on September 4. A combination of fighting fire with fire (backburning towards the advancing flame front to deprive it of fuel) and a heavy aerial attack (including dropping fire retardant in front of the fire to prevent the flames from spreading), both pictured above, worked alongside constructing fire line (an area removed of burnable fuels) around the 48,500 acres to finally contain the fire. And just in time. As fire scars reveal (below), the flames had come perilously close to destroying not only homes but treasured valley landmarks such as Bald Mountain’s Seattle Ridge Lodge.

A column of black smoke sent embers showering down on Bald Mountain’s north- and east-facing slopes, which hold the majority of developed runs, chairlifts and base accesses. It appeared that Sun Valley’s ski area might go up in flames.

But a fast response from firefighters and from helicopters dropping retardant and water quickly doused the spot fires that had been ignited by the falling embers.

Considering the immediate threat if the fire continued over the summit and towards the city of Ketchum, officials again issued mandatory evacuation orders, this time for 1,400 homes in Ketchum’s Warm Springs neighborhood.

In the six days following, fire crews working night and day ignited backburns, beginning along the northwest boundary of the ski area next to International and Cozy ski runs. The crews raced to complete the burnouts in preparation for another anticipated wind event. From one sub-ridge below Guyer Ridge to the next, crews worked west toward their objective; burning the north-facing slopes behind Board Ranch to Frenchman’s Bend, which once completed would fully contain the Castle Rock Fire.

Misting rain fell over the Ketchum area early on September 4 as firefighters achieved what they and the entire community had waited for with



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bated breath for two and a half long weeks. Around 6 a.m., crews put the final touches on the last stretch of fire line, and in doing so brought the large blaze to 100 percent containment.

At last count, lands falling within the Castle Rock Fire perimeter stood at 48,520 acres. Amazingly, no homes, no ski lodges or ski lifts were lost.

North to south, the fire's containment came as a great relief to the community. While most residents were able to go about their daily lives during the fire, the nearly three weeks of choking smoke, road closures, lost business and evacuations left them in a weary state. But throughout the ordeal, they had never been more as one.

Perhaps the most positive feedback about the community's response to the Castle Rock Fire came from the firefighters. Considering the almost endless lines of volunteers, offers of food and shelter, constant waves of encouragement and the homemade thank you signs scattered throughout the valley, the fire crews expressed amazement. Not all communities in the West welcome firefighters with such open arms, fire information officer Dick Birger said in the days after containment. "We really do appreciate working with this community."

In the weeks after the fire, Bill Murphy began considering the significance of the Castle Rock Fire. On the more than one million acres he oversees as fire management officer, Murphy has seen a significant increase in large fires during the past three summers.

In 2005, it was the White Cloud Mountains' 40,483-acre Valley Road Fire. Next came the 4,252-acre Trailhead Fire in the Sawtooth Mountains. And then, Castle Rock. Altogether 94,983 acres have burned in three years, compared to 5,343 acres in the preceding nine years. That should be a wakeup call for the region, Murphy said. The Wood River and Sawtooth Valleys have not seen their last large fires. "I never say never. I would expect big fires to continue," said Murphy.

Continued dry conditions could further exacerbate an already perilous situation. However, above average snowfalls are forecasted for this winter and that could put the Wood River Valley region on the path to recovery. ❄️

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inside the artist's studio

In a new series, the *Sun Valley Guide* takes you inside the creative spaces of valley artists. This issue: The wire mesh world of sculptor Eric Boyer. Text by Jennifer Tuohy. Photos by David N. Seelig.

Sculptor Eric Boyer combines practical uses with creative juices in this 300-square-foot studio he converted from a garage.



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Boyer creates his wire mesh figures (pictured below) with minimal tools. One, the bottom tool, is a concoction of a brass fireplace ornament and a piece of railroad track, devised to coax the rounded shapes of the human figure from the metal.



Eric Boyer



Two blocks from Hailey's Main Street, in an old, purple garage, Eric Boyer creates life from metal. A sculptor, Boyer manipulates steel wire mesh into sensuous, wholly organic human forms, which cling effortlessly to walls or float on hand-crafted bases.

Stepping into an artist's studio is a compelling experience. A single glance reveals as much about the artist as any serious study of his work. Boyer is a family man. During the renovation of his 600-square-foot garage into a studio, he split the space equally to afford his girlfriend, Laura Higdon, a place to create her colorful, hand-painted children's furniture.

Boyer's 300 square feet is in stark contrast to the bright organization of Higdon's. Crammed with boys' toys, such as drills, hammers and assorted other tools, the industrial nature of the studio actually has more to do with Boyer's ongoing project of remodeling their historic

home (one of the oldest in Hailey) than his work as a metal artist. Despite the distractions of family life (two children, three cats and two dogs), the stamp of an artist is unmistakable on the cramped, eclectic quarters.

A large picture window affords streaming natural light year-round, along with soothing views of sparrows and finches exploring the maple trees in the front yard. Various misshapen objects decorate the walls, ranging from the tools of his trades to half-finished creations by the artist, intermingled with favorite objets d'art. One of the most treasured is a small watercolor landscape, painted by his grandfather, from whom Boyer believes he inherited his artistic leanings.

The 47-year-old artist experimented in many artistic mediums during his youth, but it wasn't until 1985 that Boyer discovered wire mesh. He was working at a blacksmith shop making fireplace screens.

"We'd have these little scraps of mesh in the shop, and I'd play with it during my lunch break. I'd wrap it around and pinch it, and I discovered that it starts to become a figure or an arm," he explains, while deftly manipulating one of the many scraps littering his workbench. "I became fascinated by it. It was a synthesis of all the other materials I'd worked with before. The way it works with light, you can mold it like clay, but it's really a fabric, but it's a metal. It was so direct and tactile."

By 1989 Boyer had mounted his first exhibition, and over the next two decades he developed into a highly successful mesh artist. Originally based in Vermont, he now shows his work across the country. A little over five years ago, Boyer picked up his tools—"a roll of mesh, the shears to cut it, the torches to burn the edges and then the rest is just my hands and a couple tools"—and moved to Hailey to be with Higdon.

As notes from the Beatles waft through the studio, Boyer bends over his small worktable massaging human shapes out of the stiff metal mesh.

"This studio is one of the most comfortable spaces I've ever had, because I built it myself to correspond to my own needs." He pauses, laughing as he glances into Higdon's comparatively pristine workspace, and corrects himself. "To our needs." 🐾

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CASTing spells



Nancy Harakay, center, casts her magic over students Alyssa Corrao-Bal, left, Tillie David and Maddie Cordovano. Harakay is the founder and director of CAST, the valley's only children's after-school theater program.

onstage

Delve into the magical world of Nancy Harakay, founder and director of CAST, the premier children's theater program in the Wood River Valley. Text by **Betsy Andrews Etchart**. Photos by **David N. Seelig**.

Nancy Harakay's cappuccino is gone and the blue mug rests securely in its saucer on top of her head. She looks out from under it through candy-apple-red glasses. "My mother used to make us balance books, for posture," says the founder and director of Children's After School Theater, or CAST.

Without the cup, she is not much over five feet tall, with a plump, expressive face. It's easy to tumble back into the '60s when an imaginative 9-year-old staged elaborate neighborhood productions with her friends in Madison, Wisconsin. "Midori played the harpsichord," recalls Harakay. "She wrote the music and did choreography. Cassapple designed and sewed incredible Renaissance costumes." Harakay wrote the scripts and directed. "We all sang, danced and acted into the hearts of our neighbors."

Today, Harakay works in the wings, and CAST is celebrating its 10th season with performances of four musicals, including Rogers' and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* and an original musical, *URatz*. Public elementary and middle schools in the Wood River Valley don't offer drama classes, so the CAST program gives

students an opportunity they wouldn't otherwise have. More than 50 students a year between the ages of 7 and 15 sing, dance and act their way into the hearts of valley residents under Harakay's creative eye, skilled hand and patient tutelage.

For Harakay, CAST is a lot like being back in Madison. She coaches students in improvisation, voice and movement.

Standing suddenly, she cups and flattens her palms across a vertical plane; magically, she's built an invisible wall. Learning such "set illusions" helps develop focus and attention span. "It's also cool at show and tell," Harakay says with a laugh.

In the early years of CAST, Harakay wrote the scripts and Mary Poppen, a leader in local children's musical theater, composed the music for the biannual musical performances. Each child would read through the script and audition for their chosen part. If the right part didn't exist, Harakay created one. Lisa Brown, whose daughters Barrett and Waverly were CAST members for many years, marvels at Harakay's custom tailoring.

"You're teaching them, but you're always learning from them, too. The places their minds take you are so wonderful."

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“She’ll pick a play that she thinks is strongest for the group,” says Brown. “She’s so good at identifying a part for their special personalities.”

For Harakay, working with children is a joy. “Children act,” she says simply. “A lot of them do it instinctively. They imitate. I love it more than anything.”

A 23-year resident of Hailey, the vivacious Philadelphia, Pennsylvania native came to the Wood River Valley from Madison by way of Key West, Florida. She characterizes her career as “serendipitous. It just kind of pursued me.”

At 20 she attended The Valley Studio, founded by E. Reed Gilbert, who had studied with the father of classical mime, Etienne DeCroux. “In this little country town in Wisconsin,” muses Harakay, “he’d bring in Chinese shadow puppet troupes, Mamako (a famous Japanese female mime), actors from New York.” Visiting artists from Yale University taught workshops on Kabuki. When the eager student proposed a summer apprentice program for herself, she ended up “doing acting and theater and movement pretty much 24/7.” The training informed and inflamed her passion for teaching.

She was offered a position as a mime instructor in Florida, and moved to Key West. There, she founded a street mime troupe, and when Tennessee Williams’ Green Street Theatre, a Key West landmark, needed coaching in movement for a production of *Animal Farm*, they called her.

“Tennessee Williams would come down about three times a year,” recalls Harakay. “I’d sit beside him in the theater, and he would smile and nod, and then we’d go out to lunch. He was

always very polite with me.”

At 23, Harakay took time out to visit her parents, who had relocated to Ketchum. “I tried to leave twice, never did,” she says, but jobs came her way even in the Gem State. The Antique Theater in Gooding had just received a large grant to do mime, “but nobody knew how to do it,” Harakay says with a chuckle. “They had to learn, because they were supposed to be teaching it!”

She taught them mime techniques, and they got their grant.

The new Idahoan married and started a family. She opened The Toy Store in Ketchum with Carol Knight, and taught first- through fifth-grade drama at The Community School for the next 18 years, while raising daughter Julia, now 26, and son Jay, 24.

In 1998, her business partner asked her to give her 7-year-old son C. Gordon acting lessons. Harakay agreed to hold classes if Knight could round up eight kids. Knight delivered, and CAST was born. Three years later, 58 kids were meeting once a week in what is now the reference room of the Hailey Public Library.

In 2001, Harakay’s cast for *Peter Pan* was so large that she rented Ketchum’s nexStage Theater, and nexStage invited her to use its facility permanently. It was an invitation she accepted with some

reluctance, knowing that not all her students could make the commute.

Harakay attributes much of CAST’s growing momentum to her music director of five years, Janis Walton. The daughter of a documentary film producer, Walton has sung on stage and recorded music since the age of 3; she has suffered firsthand the tyranny of directors who don’t



respect children's needs. Walton does not wear saucers for hats but, after knee surgery last winter, she choreographed *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* on crutches. ("Step, shuffle, fall," intones Harakay.) A former children's theater director herself, Walton came upon Harakay's ad in the classifieds a week after moving to Bellevue with her husband, a minister, and their five children. Today, the women interact like sisters, one picking up a thought where the other leaves off.

"What we're offering kids is an experience of performance that feels as comfortable as them doing it in their own living room," explains Harakay.

"I like the ones who don't think they can do anything," adds Walton. "The surprise on their faces when they do..."

"It's all about giving them confidence," continues Harakay. "Their peers admire them, they build up their self-esteem."

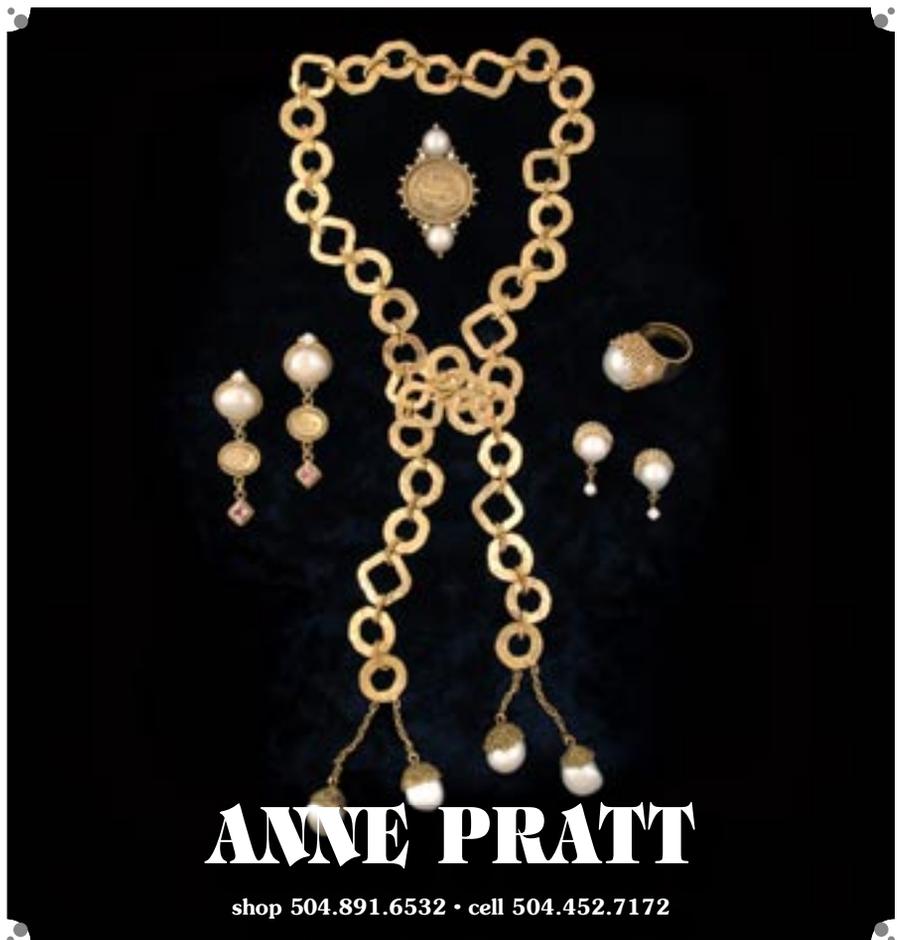
"They may not ever do the arts again," finishes Walton. "But they'll always appreciate it."

The students who participated in CAST's first season returned for seven years, and many members pursue high school theater or attend the prestigious Idyllwild Arts Academy in California. Whether they head for Broadway, though, is not the point. "It's so good for the public speaking and confidence," says Lisa Brown. "My girls were up there singing, dancing, acting, and they loved it."

Harakay and Walton also work with Sun Valley Adaptive Sports, adding an artistic dimension to the athletics-based program for the disabled. A production of *The Grinch* last winter played to an audience of 70 parents and friends.

In her spare time, Harakay snowshoes and tootles around on her bicycle. But her passion remains teaching drama to children. "You're teaching them, but you're always learning from them, too," she explains. "The places their minds take you are so wonderful." She pauses, and then adds, "for an old person. *Don't put that in!*"

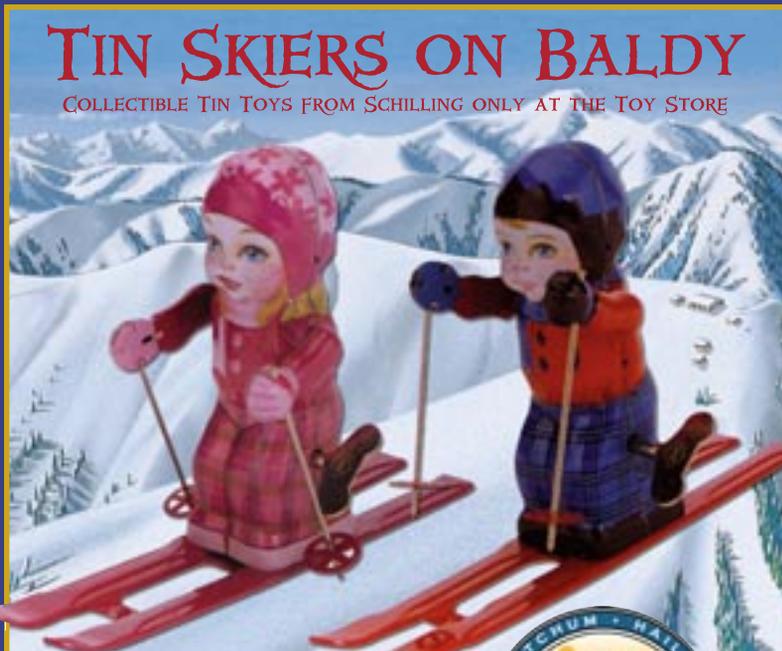
Tonight, Harakay is off to a tango lesson. And where is CAST headed? "A lot of kids who have grown up in CAST want to come back and work for us," says Harakay. "We want to grow big enough to be able to hire them." ❧



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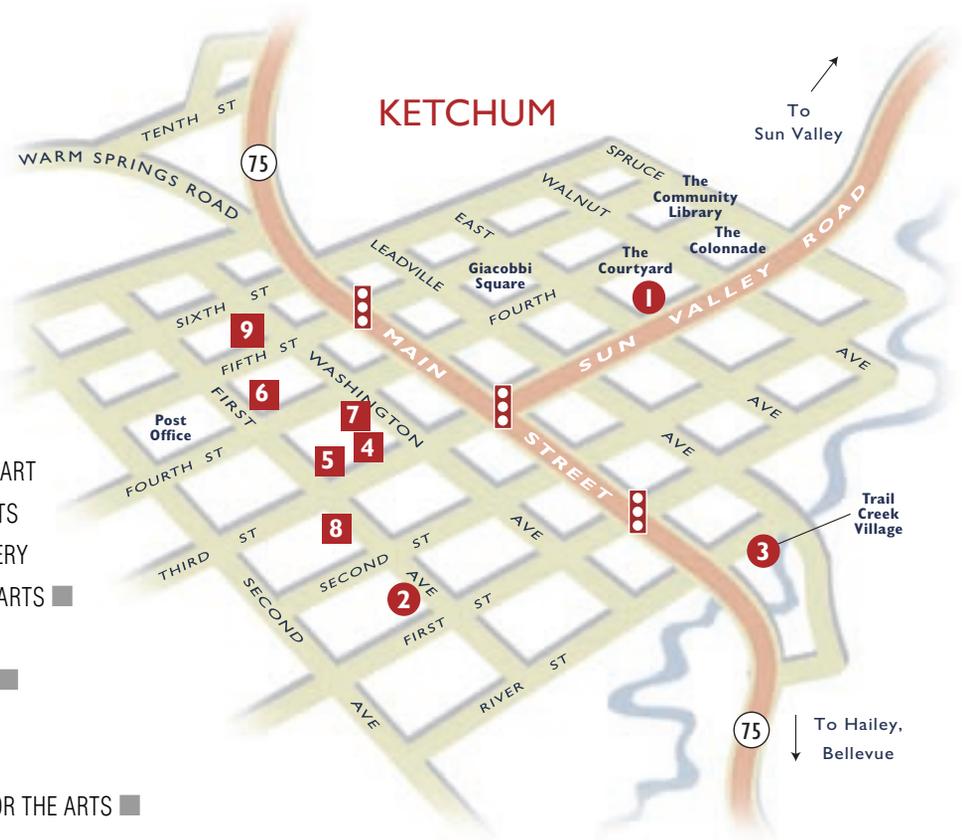
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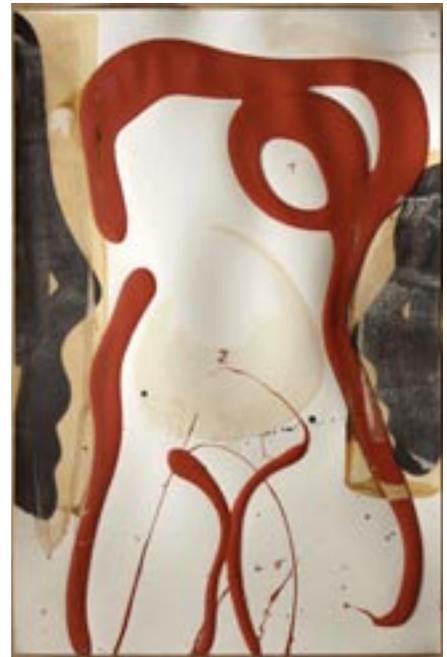
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Ana Teresa Fernández, *Untitled 1 (Performance Documentation)*, 2007 Courtesy the artist and Braunstein/Quay Gallery, San Francisco

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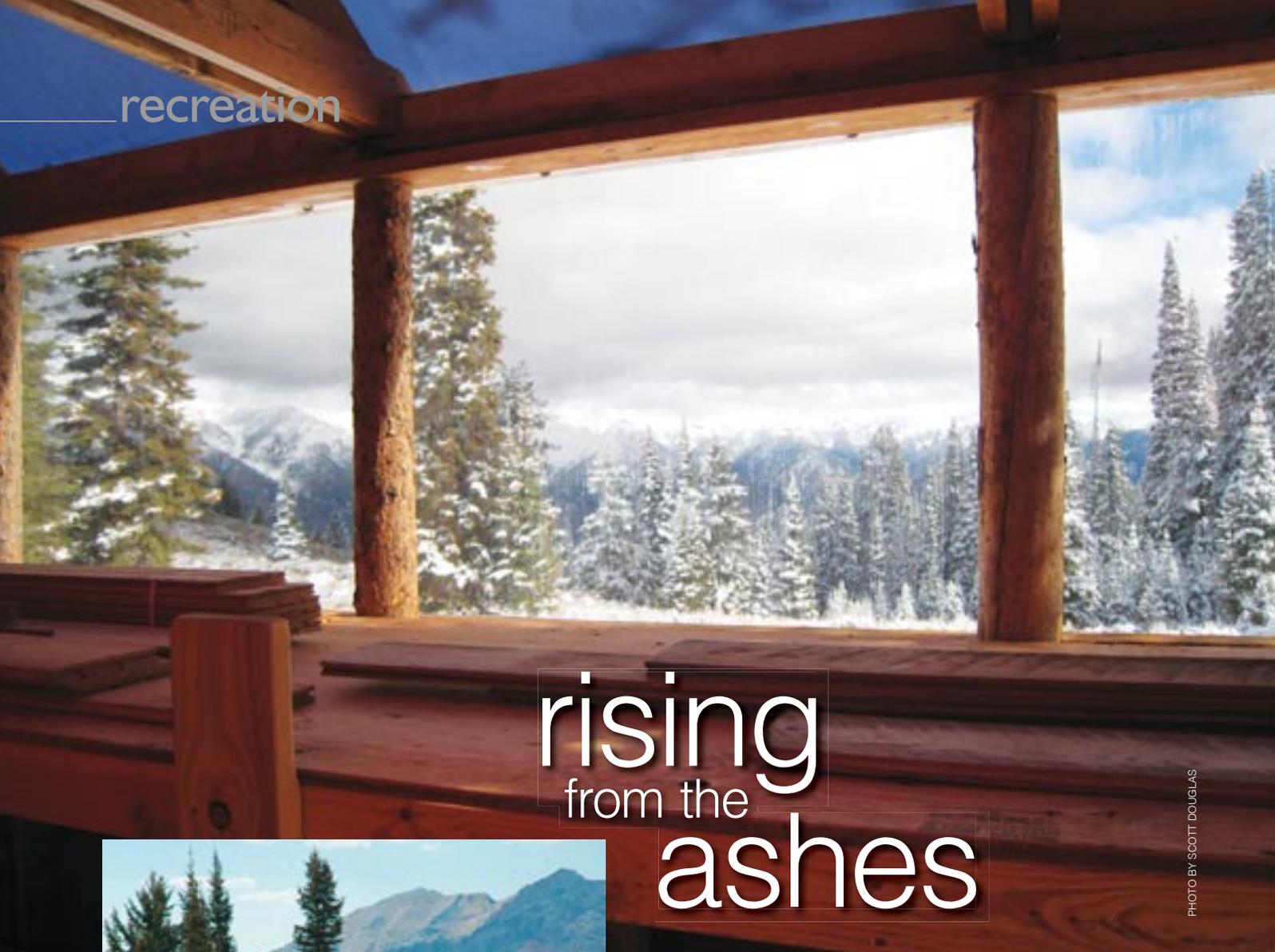
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rising from the ashes

PHOTO BY SCOTT DOUGLAS

The rebuilding of Tornak Hut to be disabled accessible, creating the perfect backcountry escape for all, faced more than its fair share of challenges. Text by **Scott Douglas**.

Last year, acupuncturist Joan Scheingraber had the idea to make one of Sun Valley's popular backcountry huts wheelchair accessible. Scheingraber, who has worked with adaptive athletes for 12 years, took her idea to Joe St. Onge of Sun Valley Trekking, owner of six of the area's backcountry ski huts.

Soon, the proposal for mere modifications turned into a plan to completely rebuild one of the huts north of Ketchum known as Tornak Hut. In collaboration with Sun Valley Adaptive Sports, Erik Schultz, executive director of the Arthur B. Schultz Foundation (an organization dedicated to supporting outdoor adventure opportunities for the disabled), cut a check to cover material costs for the rebuild.

Of the six huts, Tornak proved ideally situated for the undertaking. With summer road access, winter snow

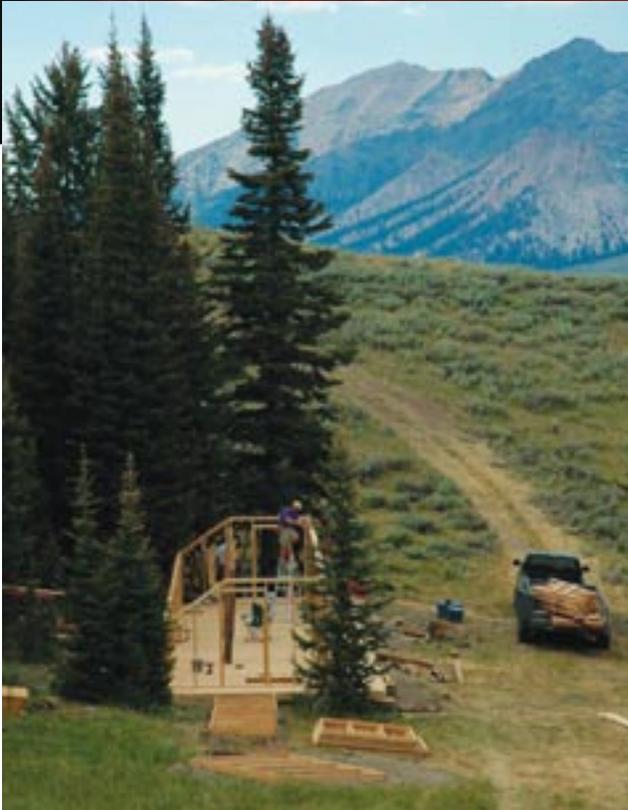


PHOTO BY JASON KAUFFMAN

A troope of volunteers and donors helped turn Tornak Hut into a disabled-accessible backcountry destination. It included Matt Furber, Jim McClatchy, Gary Boyer, Dean Hernandez, Webb Landscaping, Ben Young, Nate Galpin, Houston Lumber, Building Materials Thrift Store, Nigel Whittington and family, Laura Higdon, Eric Boyer and Wendy Pabich.

machine and snow cat access and a wealth of user-friendly terrain suitable for adaptive sports, it's the perfect backcountry escape.

Located near the headwaters of the East Fork of Baker Creek, the old Tornak (an Inuit word meaning spirit of the north) has stood proudly on the edge of a meadow through 25 severe winters, a testament to under-engineering. But it didn't take much to bring the structure down. A couple of hours of demolition, a few runs to the dump, and the old hut was history.

The project got off to a good start with plenty of volunteers willing and able to lend a hand and by mid-August the new hut was two-thirds built. New adaptive athlete-friendly features included a layout that provided sufficient flow for wheelchairs to get around in the hut, a ramp to the latrine, and architecture reminiscent of a Viking longhouse.

However, the timetable to complete the work was a tight one, and St. Onge was concerned. The East Fork road closes at the end of August, regardless of weather. Without a hitch, reconstruction could be completed by that time, but there were plenty of unknowns.

Enter the Castle Rock Fire.

When the wildfire blew up just west of Ketchum in mid-August, the first place it went was up Rooks Creek toward the headwaters of the East Fork of Baker Creek. In just one afternoon it burned to the flanks of Fox Peak, just a few miles from Tornak.

For over two weeks the fate of Tornak was in the hands of the shifting winds driving the Castle Rock Fire. But while the northern edge of the fire continued to burn, thankfully it never crossed the East Fork road. By the time the volunteers got back to the construction site to finish the job, it was mid-September.

A week later it snowed.

It was a cruel Indian summer that returned in late September, and snow lingered on the shady slopes. But the smoke was gone and the air was clear. A few more days was enough to complete the project.

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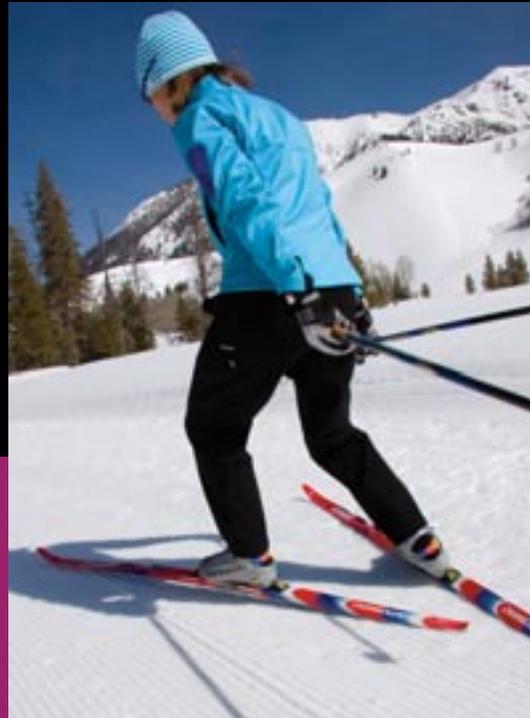


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COOLD WAR

A photograph of a snowy mountain slope. The snow is bright white and appears to be blowing or falling, creating a misty atmosphere. In the background, there are dark evergreen trees. The sky is a clear, pale blue. Overlaid on the image is the text 'the other' in a dark blue, sans-serif font at the top left. Below it, the words 'COOLD' and 'WAR' are written in a large, semi-transparent, light blue, sans-serif font, stacked vertically and centered horizontally.



PHOTO BY KARL WEATHERLY

Twenty years ago, some Sun Valley skiers feared a snowboarder invasion. Today, the old snow foes live in relative harmony. **Michael Ames** investigates how the Sun Valley Snowboard Team helped the sport hold an edge in America's oldest skiing community.

The whole skiing versus snowboarding debate is more or less played out. The dust has settled at the nation's mountain resorts. Long gone are the days when skiers wore "Snowboarders Suck" T-shirts and scuffles broke out in Summit County, Colorado lift lines.

Today's snowboarding is mainstream, an Olympic event that draws larger American audiences than ski racing. Shawn White lands promotional deals on par with Tiger Woods. At most mountain resorts, boarder shops are bigger than their two-planked retail brethren. Peruse any sports magazine rack and it's clear: the former foes have joined together as one force, known as The Industry, and each side of the old divide now supports the other.

Along the way, snowboarders viewed their sport as a movement, nothing short of a revolution. And as with any revolution, even ones fought within the measured confines of an expensive recreational pursuit for suburban kids, there was a period of struggle.

It took a while for Sun Valley skiers to warm up to snowboarding, and the Sun Valley Snowboard Team—a fertile proving ground for many of the area's top winter athletes—has fought what team veterans see as a constant uphill battle against a conservative ski community, fiercely resistant to change. "It's really been slow here," said Cally Galpin of Hailey. Galpin crossed over from skiing early on, in the late 1980s, and her snowboarding story is illustrative of the sport's Sun Valley evolution.

A boarder's tale

Christmas, 1984: 8-year-old Nate Galpin—who in 20 years would go on to win gold at international snowboarder-cross races in Chile and Zermatt, Switzerland—asked his mother, Cally, for a snowboard. She did some research and found the only thing available, a Burton Performer. Part surfboard, part stand-up toboggan, the swallow-tailed board had wooden edges, skegs to rudder it in the snow and a leash to grip, white-knuckled, as the rider negotiated with gravity. Cally was not optimistic: “I saw them on Dollar (Mountain) and thought, ‘That is going nowhere.’”

Not long after that first purchase, Cally stumbled upon something strange in her garage. Leaning up against the wall was a Hooger Booger: a 164-centimeter board with metal edges and a plate on which her son had mounted ski bindings. Nate had been working on the thing in secret and like any good mother, Cally decided to test it out herself. “I took it to Dollar and damn near died.” Nate was less than pleased. “I was all excited for my first day on my new board, and when I came home, it was gone. My mom stole it.”

Despite the battering her body took, Cally was hooked. “I was like a dog getting into a porcupine,” she said. So she went out and bought herself a Hooger. A European company, who had just been acquired by Ketchum’s Scott USA, manufactured the snowboard. Dave Robrahn, who was working at Scott at the time, recalls that his company shortened the board’s name from its original “Hooger Booger” to something which they “felt was a bit more appropriate,” he said.

Cally soon became one of the few snowboarders to ride Bald Mountain, or at least most of it. For a few years, the Sun Valley Resort treated snowboarding much like Eisenhower treated Communism: with a strict policy of containment. Some rogue elements had ridden in Elkhorn to the east, and on Galena Summit to the north. But when the boards first descended on the resort, veterans recall that they were restricted to Dollar. Soon, Baldy fell, but at the behest of some longtime guests—holdouts from an earlier regime—the resort guarded Seattle Ridge as a boarder-free zone into the early 1990s.

Cally managed to bypass this rule. “I was on a chair with Wally Huffman, and he gave me personal permission to go on Seattle Ridge. He said, ‘If anyone gives you a hard time, just have ’em call me.’”

Going mainstream

Unlike most mountains where snowboarding was a youth movement, Bald Mountain’s consistent pitches drew a lot of adult skier crossovers looking for the deep curves of alpine boarding.

Cally had joined up with a phalanx of local riders including Dave Daluiso and Jim Slanetz. They were an experienced bunch: Daluiso was an alpine racer in Oregon; Slanetz was the first and only snowboard instructor at Vermont’s Bolton Valley and the owner of Ketchum’s first snowboard shop, the Board Bin. The boarders soon sought official sanction from the venerated Sun Valley Ski Education Foundation. In the fall of 1991, Lane Monroe, the director of the foundation, gave snowboarding a cautious green light.

To Cally, it was a method of self-preservation; the foundation was watching some of its brightest lights slip away. Wyatt Caldwell and Graham Watanabe were young ski racers with high potential, but once they got boards under their feet they crossed over to the other side. “They could see them out there, and didn’t have a way to bring them back,” she said.

Watanabe and Caldwell have gone on to stellar post-foundation careers. Both are X-Games athletes. Caldwell was featured on the cover of *Transworld Snowboarding*, a major industry publication, and was a national halfpipe champion when he was just 17. Watanabe, a Jeep King of the Mountain Champion and boardercross World Cup gold medalist, made headlines when he rode for the U.S. Olympic Team in Bardonecchia, Italy, in the 2006 Winter Games.

Jack Sibbach, Sun Valley Company’s straight-shooting director of public relations, is firm that the resort “embraced snowboarding from the start.” He looks back on the early containment policies as palliatives meant to calm the frazzled nerves of “some older longtime guests who did complain.”

Though she says it took far too long to build a halfpipe, Cally sees logic in the delays. “The adult skier population was their bread and butter. To maintain a pipe and park just didn’t seem attractive financially to them.” Cally, along with Sibbach, also cites Sun Valley’s geographic isolation as a crucial factor in its slow snowboard evolution.



Then and now: Nate Galpin shows off his skills in snowboarding's early days. Today, Scott Pike, a Sun Valley Snowboard team member, demonstrates the new heights the sport has reached.



PHOTO BY MARK OLIVER

Board wars

Ask them about it now and Sun Valley's early snowboarders are unanimous about their early persecution. "There was a lot of animosity. You would get on a chairlift and the person with you would scoot to the other end of the chair and sulk," Cally recalled.

On empty days, Dave Robrahn, both a snowboarder and part-time ski patroller, would poach the skier-only runs, drawing verbal assaults from the Seattle Ridge lift. "They would call you all sorts of horrible names," he said. Nate Galpin agreed: "Of all the places I've been all over the world, I've never seen a more hostile place to snowboarding."

The fact that riders like the Galpins and Robrahn and Slanetz were skiing cross-overs, and therefore attuned to codes-of-mountain conduct, did not deter some skiers from confronting them. To make matters worse, there were rumors from California, Colorado and New England of roving gangs of unskilled teenage snowboarders slamming into innocent people, causing mayhem and basically ruining skiing in America.

As those tales spread, they were soon matched by an equal folklore in the snowboarding counter culture. The tales took on the cartoonish dimensions of fables. There's the one about the older skier in a shimmering one-piece outfit, snarling in a lift line at rosy-cheeked children out for a day of fun on their snowboards. Or the one about Sun Valley Company's crazy rules. Such as when it said all snowboards had to be off the mountain by one o'clock (true, but only briefly). Or the notorious Dollar certification test: For years (it was actually just a couple

of months), the Sun Valley Ski School brought in a bunch of Austrians (it was actually just one woman from Salt Lake City) to administer a test to every boarder wanting to ride on Baldy.

Most older snowboarders now concede that the cold war was understandable from both sides. With no instructional infrastructure, thousands of unskilled and unaware riders flocked to crowded mountains and did cause problems. Likewise, with no knowledge of the sport beyond the jaw-clenching fear of the sound a snowboard makes when it hits a sheet of ice, skiers were quick to judge their new neighbors.



Twelve-year-old standouts Ryan Roemer (top) and Chase Josey (bottom) are "bright spots on the horizon" in the deep and talented roster of riders that comprise the current Sun Valley Snowboard Team (center). Photos by Mark Oliver.

Homegrown success

Andy Gilbert, who has been at the helm of the Sun Valley Snowboard Team (part of the Sun Valley Ski Education Foundation) for five years, sees a "night and day" contrast between the current situation and earlier "adversarial times."

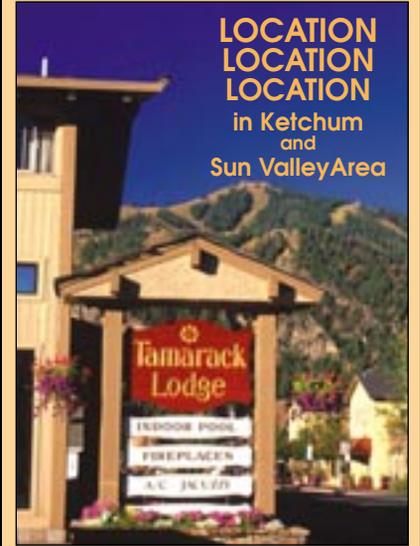
Gilbert could, but doesn't, claim responsibility for a lot of those changes. In 1993, he landed his first job coaching the program's youngest riders on the Development Team. Fifteen years later, the one-time heavy metal freak has become the leading figure, organizer and rapid-fire mouthpiece

for snowboarding and skateboarding in the valley. Slanetz, a prophetic figure in his own right, talks about Gilbert as some sort of visionary: "He sees the big snowboard picture."

"He's simultaneously stubborn and charismatic," Nate Galpin said, adding that Gilbert's success as a negotiator with the resort cannot be overestimated; in 2003 he helped secure the resort's first competition-worthy half-pipe. "It seemed like nobody had any

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luck making any progress before Andy got in there,” Galpin said. “It’s a bit of a mystery. But whatever he does, he definitely gets it done.”

The Sun Valley Snowboard Team’s 2006/2007 season was highlighted by Kaitlyn Farrington, one of Gilbert’s top riders and a Wood River High School junior, being named to the U.S. Snowboarding Team. Meanwhile, a deep and talented roster of riders is winning medals in all disciplines and at all ages.

Chatham Baker, former C-Team head coach, points to 12-year-old stand-outs Chase Josey and Ryan Roemer as “bright spots on the horizon.” At the 2007 nationals in Northstar at Tahoe, Josey finished second overall for his age group and both performed tricks normally seen from athletes with twice their experience, not to mention body mass. In a long season of traveling to regional competitions, Josey and Roemer sit atop Utah, Idaho and Wyoming podiums week in and week out. “They just love to snowboard, which is something you can’t teach,” Baker said.

The team has earned its stripes, but holds on to its outsider status. In addition to turns and jumps, coaches initiate young riders into a brotherhood of the dispossessed: *You are unwanted, you will be assumed guilty.* Gilbert “still subscribes to that feeling: we have every right to be here, so let’s prove it.” The 21st century may have brought an end to Baldy’s cold war, but there are still, astoundingly, some older skiers who refuse to ride on chairlifts with snowboarders. “We tell kids this every winter ... when you have a snowboard on your feet at Sun Valley you have to act with more respect ... you have to be more polite,” said Baker. Combined with camaraderie and talent, this kill-’em-with-kindness ethos has created one of the foundation’s most successful teams.

Up in the Sun Valley Company offices, Jack Sibbach is not just doing his job when he says he supports the snowboarders. His son, 12-year-old Riley Sibbach, is a team rider and his dad is an enthusiastic supporter. Sibbach thinks that a great mountain with few crowds has spoiled people in Sun Valley. “They have it pretty good. A lot of locals think it’s their mountain, but it’s everyone’s mountain.”



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Trout: the secret of their success

From humble basement beginnings, Tom and Lucy Hickey's Sun Valley Smoked Trout has grown into a locally prized and nationally recognized brand.

Michael Ames takes a behind-the-scenes look at their success story. Photos by **Chris Pilaro**.

The Idaho state flag does not sport any fish. There is a miner wielding a pickaxe and shovel and, in the background, tending to his fields under some snowcapped mountains, is a farmer. Fish, trout in particular, are nowhere to be seen. A future governor would be well-served to update the state banner to include some of Idaho's scalier inhabitants.

Never mind the unending row over Idaho's diminishing salmon populations; Idaho has fish aplenty. They just live, like chickens and pigs, on farms.

Idaho fish farms are a major source of revenue and, like the potato, an increasing source of fame. Roughly three-quarters of the nation's farmed rainbow trout are raised in Idaho and 80 percent of those can be found in farms in the Snake River Canyon, south of the Wood River Valley. The "Idaho Trout" label appears regularly on restaurant menus and fish counters across the nation. And while a supermarket shopper in St. Louis may hold dear to visions of clear running mountain streams teeming with wild trout, the Idaho Trout aura has developed in a tamer scenario.

More than any other single factor, it is a preponderance of proximal fish farms that has buoyed the Hailey-based business Sun Valley Smoked Trout. From humble beginnings smoking fillets in their basement, Tom and Lucy Hickey capitalized on this local food source to create a nationally recognized product.

After moving to Idaho from San Francisco in 1969, Tom Hickey worked a number of wholesale wine and food jobs, sampling the business. Still, he never foresaw a smoked-fish future. "I'm not a seer. I just took things as they went," he said. His come-what-may attitude was an easy fit in the valley, so, after visiting a friend here in 1968, Hickey fled his corporate career and decamped to Ketchum. Looking back, he says he "dropped out," but Hickey's is the classic Ketchum story of success achieved by alternative methods.

In the late 1980s, he launched



Tom Hickey's hot-smoking process begins with fresh farmed Idaho trout from Filer.



The smoked fillets are packaged and shipped to locales as varied as San Francisco and New York.



Hickey's Wood Roast restaurant in Ketchum, his first solo venture. When the restaurant didn't work out, he was left with a smoker and a knack for fish. He stashed the smoker—a refrigerator sized box with vaguely robotic features—in his basement and continued to produce locally raised smoked trout. Atkinsons' Market became a consistent buyer and after a few years, Hickey's subterranean operation couldn't keep up with the orders.

A believer in local foods, or a "localvore" as current lingo has it, Hickey was well ahead of his time. "Trout is indigenous to Idaho, so it became a natural thing—the raw material was close," he said. Instead of shipping in ribs from Arkansas, as he had been for his restaurant, Hickey was suddenly free to concentrate on a local product. Today, he buys Idaho farmed rainbow trout from SeaPac of Idaho in Filer.

In addition to the eponymous trout, Hickey also smokes salmon and steelhead trout (the rainbow's ocean-going brethren), which he buys from farms in Canada and Washington State, respectively. "We try to source as environmentally friendly as we can," he said. In the debate over farmed versus wild fish, he is a pro-farm realist. "I don't buy wild steelhead; I don't want to contribute to the demise of an unsustainable resource." He does however, buy wild and farmed salmon depending on market conditions.

The Sun Valley Smoked Trout factory, where Hickey and his staff of three cure, smoke and package hundreds of pounds of fillets each week, is in an incongruously quaint cluster of green-shuttered, white clapboard buildings on Hailey's Main Street, once home to the U.S. Forest Service.

Hickey is happy with this historical habitat. "It's a business campus and not a strip mall. It's a real comfortable place to be." He leases a quarter of his space to the Hailey Coffee Company, which roasts its beans on the property. "I trade trout for coffee beans," he says with a smile.

In the one-room factory, the smoking process starts with an overnight brining. Hickey guards the proportions of his salty solution as a trade secret, but doesn't hide the stacks of kosher salt and unrefined cane sugar, or "turbinado," that cure the raw fillets.

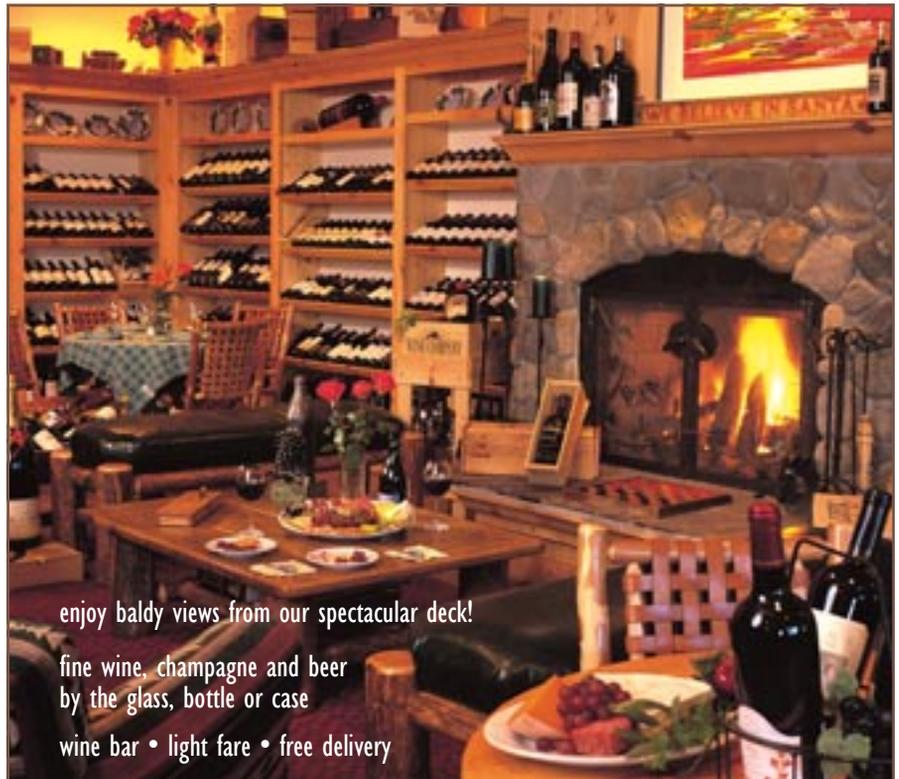
Once brined and rinsed, the fish is arranged on tall racks that, when full, look a bit like a trout high rise. Racked and stacked, in batches of 250 pounds, the fish is rolled into the futuristically named Vortron smokehouse. A small nearby furnace burns applewood chips while the smokehouse, now roaring with the whirring sounds of fans and heating elements, is fired up. The Vortron, as the name suggests, is no simple backyard pine box. Roughly the size of a freight elevator, it is outfitted with a variety of dials and gauges that apply and record temperature and humidity changes.

Sun Valley Smoked Trout fillets are hot-smoked, a fine, but significant detail. Unlike the translucent, cold-smoked salmon familiar to Scots and delicatessen-goers, this Northwest-style is slow-cooked, a process that gives the fish a meatier, more toothsome flesh. The consistency is poached, but the taste is smoked.

Hickey sells six varieties: rainbow trout done three ways (plain, cracked pepper, Cajun), salmon (plain and with cracked pepper) and steelhead. All are delectable, but the steelhead is the most distinctive, combining the depth and heft of salmon with the flakier aspects of trout.

For his efforts, including his eye-catching packaging, Hickey has done well. His fish is available nationwide in high-end grocery stores such as Whole Foods Markets and regional favorites including Andronico's in the Bay Area and Dean & DeLuca in Manhattan. A quarter of his sales stay here in the valley, much of it winding up in menu staples at local establishments such as the Pioneer Saloon and the Sun Valley Wine Company in Ketchum and CK's Real Food in Hailey.

Hickey is modest to the end: just a guy who found a niche. ☞



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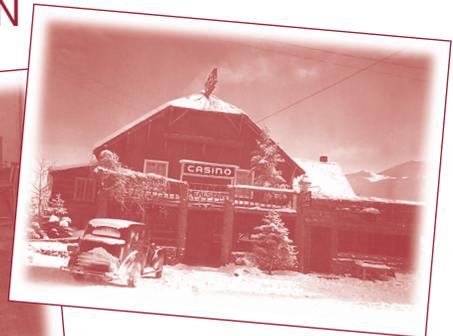


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chef's specialty

a winter warmer

Scott Mason of the Ketchum Grill cooks up local lamb with a surprisingly tasty twist: beans. Text by **Chad Walsh**. Photos by **Paulette Phlipot**.

In the past decade, there has been a significant cultural shift in the way Americans view food. No longer the stuff of simple sustenance, in the 21st Century, food is hot. "I love that Americans, as a whole, are getting the good food thing," said Scott Mason, owner and head chef of the Ketchum Grill. "We have become a nation of foodies."

On his days off from his restaurant, Mason likes to put on some good music (usually soul or classical), pour himself a glass of wine and experiment in the kitchen with his wife, Anne, and their two teenage daughters. When one understands the timing and the rhythm of preparing food, said Mason, one is free to explore dishes a little deeper. "I love to take the time to create something new," he said, and "many things that I make on my days off end up in some form on the restaurant special board."

One such creation is his dish of Lava Lake Lamb with Flageolet. Comprised of fork-tender lamb accompanied by white French beans and accented with a crimson pear and mint chutney, the dish requires a little patience from a chef; preparation takes at least a day. The beans need 24 hours to soak before the cooking begins, after which they simmer for an hour before being finished over medium heat with the lamb. But Mason feels that taking time over a dish is a bonus, not a drawback. "Our lives have sped up so much we often don't take the time to enjoy what we eat."

Mason developed his love for food at his parents' table in Eugene, Oregon. That early exposure led to a varied career at kitchens throughout the Northwest. After meeting Anne, a pastry chef and fellow Oregonian, the couple settled in Idaho, where Mason was hired by Alfred Fehlmann, chef and owner of Freddy's Taverne d'Alsace in Ketchum. His work with Fehlmann led to four apprenticeships at highly regarded restaurants in France. Then, 16 years ago Fehlmann sold his restaurant to Mason, which he transformed into the Ketchum Grill.

While his kitchen offers what Mason describes as traditional American cuisine with Italian and French roots, he tries hard to keep what he serves as regional and local as possible. "I love to buy from local meat producers for example, because I can speak with the growers and examine the process personally," Mason said. Consequently, he



Chef Scott Mason revels in sourcing local foodstuffs throughout the year, be it from his kitchen garden or from the broad expanses of Idaho's land.

buys a lot of produce from Shoshone and Gooding, and the organic, grass-fed lamb served at his restaurant is from the Lava Lake farm, based east of Carey. "I look to the grower to provide me with information with respect to raising practices, slaughter and medications. If the grower is conscious of the need for naturally [raised livestock], then usually the quality of the product follows."

In keeping with his "localvore" principles, Mason's lamb with flageolet dish incorporates a not-so-famous Idaho vegetable: beans. Mason points out that the farmers of the Gem State prolifically harvest beans, which are a perfect accompaniment to red meat. And for those who want to eat locally year-round, beans are a great dish in the wintertime. "Beans are hearty, they fill you up, they're usually served hot and they're a great source of protein," said Mason of the legume that he feels can make any good dish better. "They can be dried and they store well; and they can last all winter long."

And yet, while beans have a notorious reputation (they're easy to both over- and under-cook, which can make them difficult to digest), Mason claims they can be easy to work with. "It is important not to cook them to the point where they lose their texture, nor should they be undercooked to where they're crispy and brittle. Cooking them right allows them to be creamy," said Mason, "and that's the quality I like in a bean." ❧

Lamb with Flageolet

Lava Lake lamb leg with white French beans (flageolet) and crimson pear and mint chutney

Serves 6 – 8

(prep time 24 hours; cooking time 2 hours)

Beans

1 qt. flageolet (soaked overnight in 1 gallon cold water)
1 qt. homemade chicken stock
1/3 cup olive oil
5 peeled garlic cloves
1 peeled, diced yellow onion
1 sprig rosemary
3 bay leaves
1/4 tsp. ground white pepper
1 Tbsp. kosher salt

Crimson Pear & Mint Chutney

2 crimson pears (ripe, julienned)
1 shallot (peeled, julienned)
1/4 cup sherry vinegar
1/4 cup honey
15 pink peppercorns
1 pinch kosher salt
1 Tbsp. virgin olive oil

Lava Lake Lamb Leg

3 lbs Lava Lake lamb legs (top round)
kosher salt & fresh ground black pepper
1/4 cup olive oil
4 Roma tomatoes (quartered, seeded)
2 cups dry sherry
1 cup chicken stock

Directions

Cook beans at a medium boil for 1 hour. Strain and set aside. In a large pot, lightly brown garlic cloves in olive oil. Add diced onion, sauté until translucent. Add seasonings, cooked beans and stock. Simmer for 45 minutes or until tender. While the beans cook, rub outside of lamb with salt, pepper. Heat oil and brown lamb on all sides in large skillet. Remove excess oil and add tomatoes, brown slightly. Deglaze pan with sherry, add stock and roast in oven at 400 degrees for 35-40 minutes. Remove from oven, add 4 cups cooked beans to pan. Evaporate excess liquid to desired consistency over medium heat. Serve lamb over beans on platter, with pear and mint chutney (simply toss all ingredients in a small mixing bowl), serve atop lamb.



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dining guide

RESTAURANT	CUISINE	LOCATION
GOURMET & FINE DINING		
Chandler's Restaurant	World class dining served in a warm, rustic atmosphere	200 S. Main St., Trail Cr. Village, Ketchum
Ciro Restaurant & Wine Bar	Good food for all. #1 simple seasonal food, family friendly	Walnut Avenue Mall, Ketchum
CK's Real Food	Eclectic, organic cuisine. Book online at cksrealfood.com	Corner of Pine & Main Street, Hailey
East Avenue Bistro	Creative Mediterranean fare with a vibrant wine selection	220 East Avenue, Ketchum
Globus	Casually elegant gourmet Asian fare with an eclectic wine list	291 6th St. and Main Street, Ketchum
Il Naso	Fresh, all natural Italian Cuisine, Wine bar	5th & Washington, Ketchum
Ketchum Grill	Contemporary American cuisine with Idaho flavors	520 East Avenue, Ketchum
Knob Hill Inn Restaurant	Alpine cuisine and French country specialties	960 N. Main St., Ketchum
Michel's Christiania	Traditional French cuisine with a full-service Olympic Bar	Sun Valley Rd. & Walnut Ave., Ketchum
Riccabona's	Mediterranean cuisine. Fish, veal, steak & great wines	380 1st Avenue N., Ketchum
The Sawtooth Club	Mesquite grilled meats, seafood, pastas & salads	231 N. Main Street, Ketchum
STEAK & SEAFOOD		
Pioneer Saloon	If you haven't been to the Pio, you haven't been to Ketchum	308 N. Main Street, Ketchum
The Roosevelt Tavern	Grilled meats & seafood plus interpretations of comfort foods	Main Street & Sun Valley Road, Ketchum
The Sawtooth Club	Mesquite grilled meats, seafood, pastas & salads	231 N. Main Street, Ketchum
ITALIAN & PIZZA		
Baci Italian Cafe	Italian café & wine bar. Casual fine dining at its best!	200 S. Main St., Trail Cr. Village, Ketchum
daVinci's	Classic Italian American cuisine, daily pasta specials	17 W. Bullion Street, Hailey
Il Naso	Fresh, all natural Italian Cuisine, Wine bar	5th & Washington, Ketchum
MEXICAN		
Desperado's	Classic Mexican cuisine, fresh fish specials daily	211 4th Street, Ketchum
ASIAN		
Osaka Sushi	Japanese sushi cuisine, daily specials	The Courtyard, East Avenue, Ketchum
Sushi on Second	The best restaurant for fresh seafood & sushi. Nightly specials	260 Second Street, Ketchum
ORGANIC & SPECIALTY		
Akasha Organics	Organic juices, food, produce and supplements	Chapter One Bookstore, Main St., Ketchum
Ketchum Grill	Contemporary American cuisine with Idaho flavors	520 East Avenue, Ketchum
CAFÉ & DELI & BAKERY		
Cristina's Restaurant & Bakery	Simple...good...organic...civilized food	520 2nd Street, Ketchum
Perry's	Great breakfasts, soup, sandwiches & grill selections. All to go!	4th Street and First Avenue, Ketchum
BURGERS		
Lefty's Bar & Grill	Killer burgers, hot sandwiches, salads and cold beer.	231 6th Street E., Ketchum

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726-7776	\$\$, \$\$\$	●			●		●		●	●	●	●
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calendar

DECEMBER

Book Reading and Signing—Dick Dorworth, author of *Night Driving*, 6 p.m., Nov. 29 at the Community Library, Ketchum, 415 Spruce St. Details: 726-3493.

Wood River Festival of Trees Gala—Sun Valley Inn Lighthouse Room, Nov. 29. Details: 788-3468.

Lines in the Earth: Maps, Power and the Imagination—Sun Valley Center for the Arts, Ketchum, multidisciplinary show through Dec. 7. Details: 726-9491 or sunvalleycenter.org.

Lines in the Earth: Journals by Bruce Kremer—Sun Valley Center for the Arts presents artist Bruce Kremer's journals at the Center, Hailey, through Dec. 14. Details: 726-9491 or sunvalleycenter.org.

Cross-Country Track Demo Day—Sun Valley Nordic Center, Dec. 1. Details: The Elephant's Perch, 726-3497.

Snake River Alliance Concert and Benefit—nexStage Theatre, Ketchum, Dec. 1. Details: 726-7081.

Papoose Club Holiday Bazaar—Shop for gifts Dec. 1-2 at Hemingway Elementary School in Ketchum. Details: 726-6642.

Meet the Press with Britt Udesen—Sun Valley Center for the Arts, Hailey, \$20 members and \$25 non-members 5:30-7:30 p.m. Dec. 3. Details: 726-9491.

Avalanche Basics—Classroom session with field session the following Saturday, from 6-9 p.m., Dec. 4, Hailey Community Campus. Avalanche Report: 622-0087. Details: 622-0095 / sawtoothavalanche.com.

Barkin' Basement Bow-Wow Holiday Bazaar—Barkin' Basement, 111 S. Main St., Hailey, 7-9 p.m., Dec. 6. Details: 788-3854.

Ketchum Christmas Tree Lighting & Caroling Party—5:30 p.m., Dec. 6, Forest Service Park, Ketchum. Details: 726-8118.

The Little Mermaid—Presented by The Sun Valley Ballet School, Dec. 6-9, nexStage Theatre, Ketchum. Details: 726-4TKS.

Boulder Mountain Clayworks Holiday Sale—5:30-7:30 p.m., Dec. 7, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Dec. 8. Details: 726-4484.

Cross-Country Race—Winter Start Cross-Country Race at the Galena Lodge, Dec. 8. Details: Elephant's Perch: 726-3497.

The Wood River Animal Shelter presents Santa Paws—Canine pals get their picture with Santa Paws from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., the Dirty Beagle, Hailey, Dec. 8. Details: 788-3854.

Ballet Idaho's Nutcracker—Community Campus, Hailey, 7 p.m., Dec. 11. Details: 788-2033.

Trabajo Mexicano/Mexican Work—Sun Valley Center for the Arts, Ketchum, new show opens Dec. 14. As part of the show the center will host a series of events including Perla Batalla in concert on Dec. 15 and a Docent Tour, Dec. 18. Details: 726-9491 or sunvalleycenter.org.

Retablos: Reinterpreting a Tradition—Sun Valley Center for the Arts, Hailey, new show opens Dec. 19. Details: 726-9491 or sunvalleycenter.org.

Ski Free Day—Ski the North Valley Trails with a free day pass, Dec. 15 at the SNRA, eight

miles north of Ketchum. Details: 788-2117.

Ski Free—Learn to ski clinic at the Galena Lodge with a Skating Clinic at 1 p.m. and Classic Clinic at 2:30 p.m., Dec. 15. Reservations: 726-4010.

A Christmas Carol: The Musical!—nexStage Theatre and Laughing Stock Theatre Production, at the nexStage Theatre in Ketchum, Dec. 15-24. Details: 726-4TKS.

The Promise—Enjoy this musical Christmas tradition at the Presbyterian Church of the Big Wood, Ketchum, 7 p.m., Dec. 21-22. Details: 720-2891.

Snowflake—Company of Fools presents a play by Gale Lajoie, Dec. 19-30, Liberty Theatre, Hailey. Tickets: 788-6520 or companyoffools.org.

Small Works—The Gilman Contemporary gallery exhibition, Sun Valley Road, Dec. 20. Details: 726-7585.

Holiday Pursuit Races—take place at Lake Creek, presented by Sun Valley Ski Education Foundation, Dec. 22. Details: 726-4129.

Christmas Eve in Sun Valley—Celebrations include a mini ice skating exhibition, torchlight skiing parade, visit from Santa and fireworks, Dec. 24. Details: 622-2097.

Artist's Reception—Spanish painter Agusti Puig shows his work at Chilali Lodge, Ketchum, 4 p.m., continuing at Gallery DeNovo, Ketchum, at 5:30 p.m., Dec. 27. Details: 726-8180.

Wood River Land Trust's Heart of the Valley Contest—Photography entries displayed 6-9 p.m., Dec. 28, at Images of Nature Gallery, Main Street, Ketchum. Details: 788-3947.

Artists' Reception—Kneeland Gallery presents Lori McNee Watson, Lona Hymas-Smith, Seth Winegar and Robert Moore in Ketchum, 6-9 p.m., Dec. 28. Details: 726-5512.

Bill Summers Winter Holidays Antique Show—nexStage Theatre, Ketchum, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Dec. 28-30. Details: 720-5547.

JANUARY

Galena Lodge Kids Programs—Ages 6-10, Jan. 2-4. Details: 726-4010.

Telemark Series—All terrain race on Bald Mountain, Jan. 5. Details: 720-5431.

Prairie Creek Classic Snowmaker Race—Prairie Creek, Jan 5. Details: Elephant's Perch: 726-3497.

"Get Ready for the Boulder" Clinic—Galena Lodge, 9 a.m. Jan. 6. Details: 726-4010.

Avalanche Basics—Classroom session (with an optional field session the following Saturday) from 6-9 p.m., Jan. 8, at the Hailey Community Campus, Room 301. Avalanche Report: 622-0087. Details: 622-0095 / sawtoothavalanche.com.

Cheech Marin on Chicano Art—At the nexStage Theatre, Ketchum, \$10 members and \$15 non-members, 7 p.m., Jan. 10. Details: 726-9491 or sunvalleycenter.org.

Exhibition Celebration for Retablos: Reinterpreting a Tradition—Sun Valley Center for the Arts, Hailey, 5:30-7 p.m., Jan. 11. Details: 726-9491 or sunvalleycenter.org.

Telluride Mountain Film on Tour—ERC presents the tradition of mountaineering and adventuring through provocative documentaries by cutting-edge filmmakers. nexStage Theatre, Ketchum, Jan. 12. Details: 726-4333.

"Get Ready for the Boulder" Clinic—Galena Lodge, 9 a.m., Jan. 13. Details: 726-4010.

Made in Mexico—Sun Valley Center for the Arts Family Day, Hailey, 3-5 p.m., Jan. 13. Details: 726-9491 or sunvalleycenter.org.

The Second City—Company of Fools presents Chicago's legendary comedy theater company, 7 p.m., Jan. 18-19, at the Liberty Theatre, Hailey. Details: 788-6520 or companyoffools.org.

Ski Free Day—Ski the North Valley Trails with a free day pass, Jan. 19 at the SNRA, eight miles north of Ketchum. Details: 788-2117.

Ski Free—Learn to ski clinic at Galena Lodge with a Skating Clinic at 1 p.m. and Classic Clinic at 2:30 p.m., Jan. 19. Reservations: 726-4010.

12th Annual Galena Lodge and North Valley Trails Fundraiser—Sun Valley Inn's Limelight Room, Jan. 19. Details: 788-2117.

The Second City Workshop—Company of Fools hosts this comedy workshop, 2-4 p.m., Jan. 19, at the Liberty Theatre in Hailey. Details: 788-6520 or companyoffools.org.

Galena Day—Free ski tours, discounted lunches and fun, Jan. 20. Details: 726-4010.

"Get Ready for the Boulder" Clinic—Galena Lodge, 9 a.m., Jan. 20. Details: 726-4010.

Come Play with Us—Free children's arts festival presented by Wood River Arts Alliance. For ages 5-12, Community Campus, Hailey, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Jan. 26. Details: 578-7720.

Ski the Rails—A cross-country ski tour along the Wood River Trails from Ketchum to Hailey. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Jan. 26. Details: 788-2117 or bcrd.org.

Billy Goat Loppett—Jan. 26. Details Elephant Perch: 726-3497.

"Get Ready for the Boulder" Clinic—Galena Lodge, 9 a.m., Jan. 27. Details: 726-4010.

CAST—Children's After School Theatre Showcase, nexStage Theatre, Ketchum, Jan. 29. Details: 726-4TKS.

Avalanche Awareness—7-8 p.m., Jan. 30, at the Community Campus, Room 301, in Hailey. Avalanche Report: 622-0087. Details: 622-0095 / sawtoothavalanche.com.



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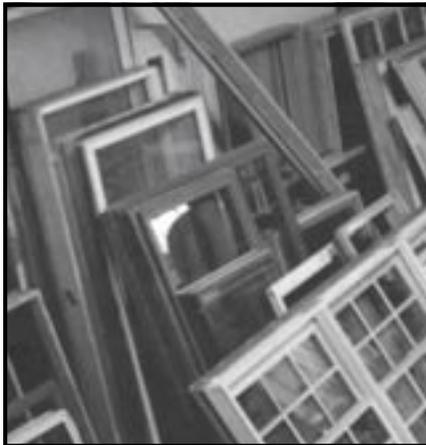
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2008 Banff Mountain Film—Film festival benefit for Friends of the Sawtooth National Forest Avalanche Center, nexStage Theatre, Ketchum, 7 p.m., Jan. 31-Feb. 2. Details: 726-8818.

FEBRUARY

Family Concert: José-Luis Orozco

\$5 members, \$10 non-members at the Liberty Theatre, Hailey, 6:30 p.m. Details: 726-9491 or sunvalleycenter.org.

Wells Fargo Boulder Mountain Tour

33rd Annual Boulder Mountain Tour. Begins at Galena Lodge and winds south for 18 miles, finishing at the Sawtooth National Recreation Area headquarters, Feb. 2. Details: 726-3497, bouldermountaintour.com.

Sun Valley Telemark Series

Bob Marley all-terrain, big air and powder 8's, Bald Mountain, Feb. 2. Details: 720-5431.

Dances at an Exhibition

Footlight Dance Company, Community Campus Theater, Hailey, 7 p.m., Feb. 2. Tickets \$10 adults and \$5 students. Details: 788-3481.

Galena Lodge Cross-Country Ski Festival

Galena Lodge from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Feb. 3. Details: 726-4010.

Ian Tyson and Bruce Innes in Concert

nexStage Theatre, Ketchum, Feb. 4. Details: 726-4TKS.

Children's Series

Presented by Sun Valley Ballet School at nexStage Theatre, Ketchum, Feb. 4-7. Details: 726-4TKS.

2nd Annual Galena Lodge Snowshoe Race

Open to all ages and abilities with a race for children, at Galena Lodge, Feb. 9. Details: 726-4010.

Artist's Reception

Debut of Spanish artist Quim Bove at Gallery DeNovo, Ketchum, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Feb. 14. Details: 726-8180.

Raku Workshop

Artist Jim Romberg presents a weekend of hands-on experience with raku firing and glazing techniques at Boulder Mountain Clayworks, Ketchum, Feb. 15-17. Details: 726-4484.

Artists' Reception

Kneeland Gallery with Scott Blaser, Linda Lillegraven and Shanna Kunz in Ketchum, 6-9 p.m., Feb. 15. Details: 726-5512.

Boulder Mountain Classic Tour

Ski from SNRA Headquarters to Galena Lodge on the Harriman Trail, Feb. 16. Details: 726-3497.

United Nations' Women's Fund Film Festival

Presented at nexStage Theatre, Ketchum, Feb. 15-16. Details: 726-4TKS.

Sun Valley Opera Presidents' Weekend Stars

Met to Broadway Show, headliner Morgan Smith presents selections from across the musical genres, Feb. 16-17 at the Presbyterian Church of the Big Wood, Ketchum. Diva Patrons Party on Feb. 15. Details: 720-0991 or sunvalleyopera.com.

Fools Exposed

26 theatrical experiences over three-weeks, Liberty Theatre, Hailey, Feb. 10-March 9. Details: 788-6520.

Rabbit Hole—Company of Fools presents the 2007 Pulitzer-prize winning play by David Lindsay-Abaire, Feb. 20-March 9, Liberty Theatre, Hailey.
Tickets: 788-6520 or companyoffools.org.

6th Annual Snowbox Derby—Rotarun Ski Area, Hailey, Feb. 24. Details: 788-2117.

Imani Winds Quintet—Sun Valley Center for the Arts presents the five unabashedly adventurous musicians of Imani Winds, Presbyterian Church of the Big Wood, Ketchum, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 24.
Details: 726-9491 or sunvalleycenter.org.

Crazy For You—St. Thomas Playhouse Production, nexStage Theatre, Ketchum, Feb. 28-March 9. Details: 726-5349.

MARCH

6th Annual Share Your Heart Ball—Sun Valley Inn's Limelight Room, 6 p.m., March 1. Dinner, dance and live auction.
Details: (877) 405-9474.

Western Youth XC Ski Festival—At Lake Creek, March 1-2. Details: 726-3497.

Telemark Series—Dollar Mountain, Sun Valley, March 2. Details: 720-5431.

Youth Triathlon—At Lake Creek, March 8. Details: Elephant's Perch: 726-3497.

BodyVox Dance—Community Campus Auditorium, Hailey, 7:30 p.m., March 8. Details: 726-9491.

Our Moveable Feast—Fundraiser for The Community Library, Ketchum, March 9. Details: 726-3493.

Artist's Reception—Debut of glass sculptor Marlene Rose at Gallery DeNovo, Ketchum, 5:30-7:30 p.m., March 13. Details: 726-8180.

Artists' Reception—Tie One On group fly-fishing theme show with Lori Mcnee, Gene Costanza, Steven Adams, Thom Ross, David Koch, John Horejs, Jineen Griffith, Robert Moore and Louisa McElwain, Kneeland Gallery, Ketchum. March 14. Details: 726-5512.

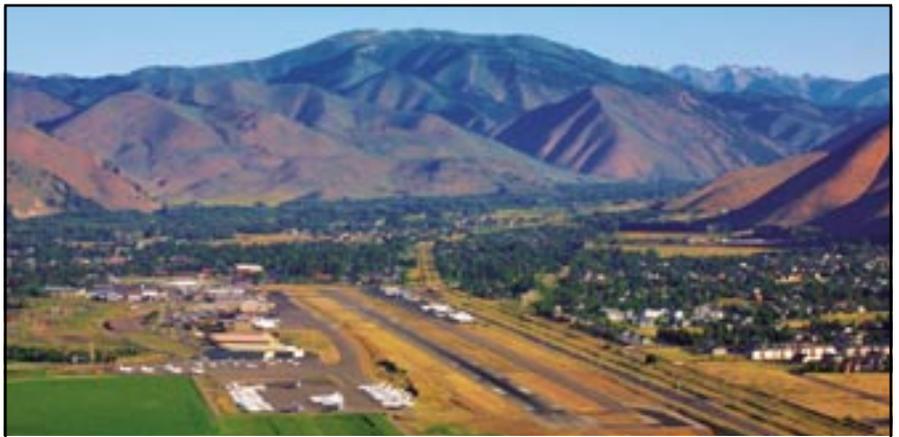
Bill Janss Memorial Pro Am Classic—The weekend includes snowboarding and freestyle exhibitions, a Generation Gap snowboard race pitting adults against youngsters, an opening-night cocktail party, auction and a gala dinner. March 6-8. Details: 726-4129.

The Ski Tour—The musical and snow-sport extravaganza returns to dominate the scene March 14-16. Skiercross and halfpipe competitions will be joined this year by snowboarding and women's events, Ketchum. Details: theskitour.com.

Kids' Programs for Spring Break—Galena Lodge, for ages 6-10 years, March 17-18 & March 19-20. Details: 726-4010.

nexStage Play Reading Series—nexStage Theatre, Ketchum, March 20. Details: 726-4TKS.

Spring Loppet—Costumed lope around Galena Lodge's Nordic Trails, 9 a.m., March 29. Details: 726-4010.



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23rd Annual Paw & Pole—Nordic and snowshoe race categories for children, adults and pets. Location TBA. \$15 adult, \$10 child or \$25 family; benefits Animal Shelter. Free to spectators. March 2. Details: 788-6444.

APRIL

Telemark Series—Hawaiian Nationals: Duel GS and Tandem Telemark Challenge, Bald Mountain, April 5. Details: 720-5431.

Ride, Stride and Glide Race—Winter triathlon of biking, running and skiing on Galena Lodge Trails with festivities to follow for the closing day of the lodge, April 6. Details: 726-4010.

Lura—Concert of French Afro-pop, Brazilian rhythms and earthy, traditional African music, Liberty Theatre, Hailey, 7:30 p.m., April 10. Details: 788-6520.

Remix Fashion Show—Benefit for Advocates for Survivors of Domestic Violence at the nexStage Theatre, Ketchum, April 12. Details: 726-4TKS.

Bug Zoo Festival—Games, crafts and exotic insects, Sawtooth Botanical Garden on the corner of Hwy. 75 and Gimlet Road, April 26. Details: 726-9358.

MAY

Leland Faulkner—Storytelling, magic and shadow puppets at the Liberty Theatre, Hailey, 4 p.m., May 3. Details: 788-6520.

Sun Valley Figure Skating Club's Spring Show on Ice—May 3-4. Details: 622-8020.

James & The Giant Peach—nexStage Theatre, Ketchum, May 9. Details: 726-4TKS.

The Toy Shoppe—Footlight Dance Centre's annual spring performance, May 10-11: Saturday, 7 p.m., and Sunday, 2 p.m., Community Campus Theater, Hailey. Details: 788-3481.

Sun Valley Wellness Festival—Featuring more than 65 free wellness-related programs and activities, plus guest speakers. May 23-26. Details: (866) 379-2938 or sunvalleywellness.org.

U.S. Half-marathon & 12 K Sun Valley—13.1 mile USATF-certified scenic course starts and finishes in Sun Valley Village. 8 a.m., May 27. Details: (800) 634-3347 or ushalf.com/sv.htm

ONGOING

Gallery Walks—Stroll through town as galleries open late, host artists and serve wine from 6-9 p.m., Friday Dec. 28, Friday Feb. 15, Friday March 14, and Saturday May 24. Sponsored by the Sun Valley Gallery Association. Check Gallery Listings on Page 50 for locations. Details: 726-4950.

Galena Winter Dinners—Enjoy skiing and snowshoeing prior to a festive four-course meal at the rustic Galena Lodge, north of Ketchum. All dinners at 6:30 p.m. Full Moon Dinners Dec. 22-23, Jan. 18-21, Feb. 21-23, March 20-22. Holiday Dinners Dec. 24-25 & Dec. 28-31. Stargazing Dinners Jan. 4-5. Wine Dinners Feb. 8 & March 8. Valentine's Day Dinner, Feb. 14. Jazz Dinners, Feb. 16-17. Reservations required. Details: 726-4010.

Winter Wildlife Snowshoe Walks—Free snowshoe walks at Galena Lodge, 11 a.m., Jan. 9, 16, 23 & 30; Feb. 6, 13, 20 & 27; March 5, 12, 19 & 26. Details: 726-4010.

Snowshoe with a Ranger—Free snowshoeing with a ranger guide at Galena Lodge, 11 a.m., Jan. 10, 17, 24 & 31; Feb. 7, 14, 21 & 28; March 6, 13, 20 & 27. Details: 726-4010.

Avalanche Transceiver Clinics—Learn avalanche skills with the Sawtooth National Forest Avalanche Center 3 p.m., Nov. 29; Dec. 6, 13, 20 & 27; Jan. 3, 17, 24 & 31; Feb. 1, 7 & 14 at the Avalanche Rescue Training Park, Festival Meadows, Sun Valley Road. Avalanche Report: 622-0087. Details: 726-8818 or sawtoothavalanche.com.

Wednesday Workouts—Intermediate to advanced skiers can improve their skills at Galena Lodge, 3:30-5 p.m., every Wednesday from Dec. 5 to Feb. 13. Details: 726-4010.

Sawtooth Botanical Gardens—Adult and youth educational programs available monthly. Details: sbgarden.org or 726-9358.

ERC—Featuring programs and workshops throughout the winter promoting environmental awareness. Details: ercsv.org or 726-4333.

View the calendar online at svguide.com

All submissions for the Summer 2008 calendar should be sent to calendar@mtexpress.com

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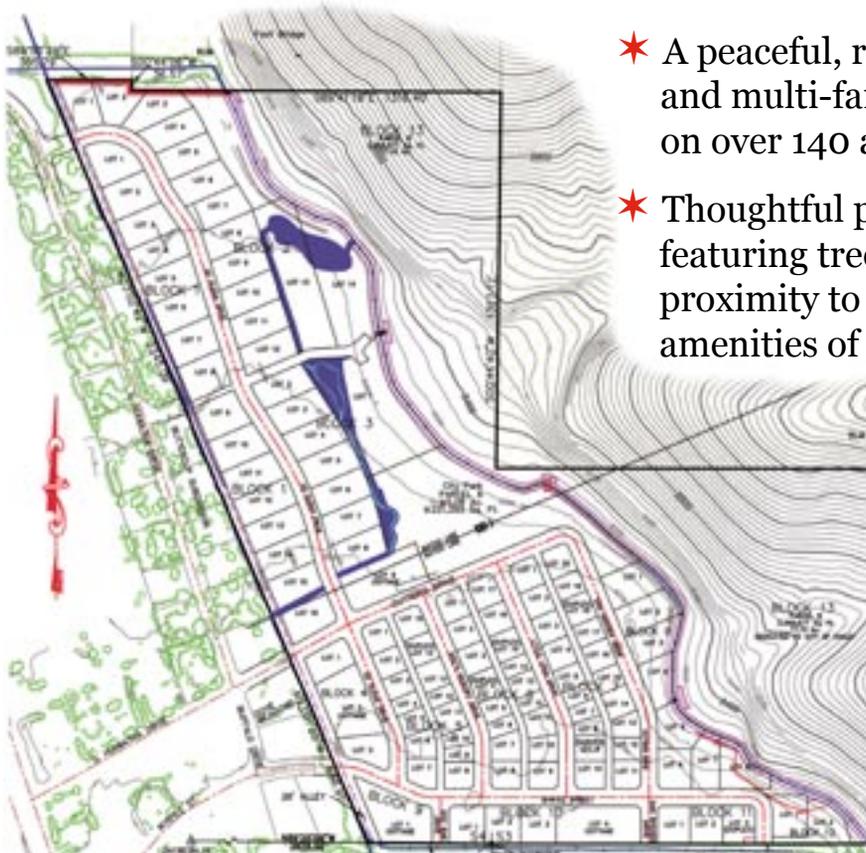
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