

DISCOVER MOUNTAIN LIFE

WINTER 2010

sun valley

GUIDE

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MASTERS OF THE STEEP

SKI MOUNTAINEERS SEEK OUT SERIOUSLY SHEER SLOPES

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STANLEY

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MAN

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including Brooklyn.
It's said, man once
lived in trees. When he
climbed down, life never
again was to be quite so
simple. yet, only then did the
tree get truly appreciated. For here
was food and fuel and shelter. then a
weapon, a tool, a wheel - and
transportation. And now it's floors, doors,
veneers, piers, baskets, caskets. rubber for
gaskets. It's a handle for brooms, shovels,
rakes. syrup on pancakes. It's paper and
paints. tars, spars, boxes and boxcars. storage
bins and bowling pins. It's toothpicks and
matchsticks. even plastics. material for distillation,
lamination, insulation. windows for ventilation, and a thousand
and one other we-can't-do-withouts. Yet few people look at a tree in
the same way. To the small child, it's a favorite and strategic
place. where you build a treehouse, spot a woodpecker,
cut slingshots and fishpoles. hang old tires and climb
for fun! To the naturalist, it's probing a fascinating
world of buds, blossoms, bark, needles, cones and leaves. spectacles of
color. and some 1,035 domestic species. (Yet to a baseball player, it's as simple
as a stick of second-growth ash, sized and shaped to "feel like a million") To the artist
it's inspiration. alone on a windswept hill, timberline patchwork on a mountainside, thick
and verdant in a valley. To the homeowner, it's beauty and shade and property value...also
digging, planting, pruning, edging, feeding and a lot of other weekend work. To the hobbyist and
craftsman, it's a new bookcase, picnic table, panelled den, plywood shelves. a chance to
become downright "immortal". To the timberman, it's a bustling big business, measured by
cords and board feet. But most of all, a tree remains what it was in the first place. man's
ever-lasting friend. For we'd sure be "stumped" for a mighty lot of things
in a world
without
trees!



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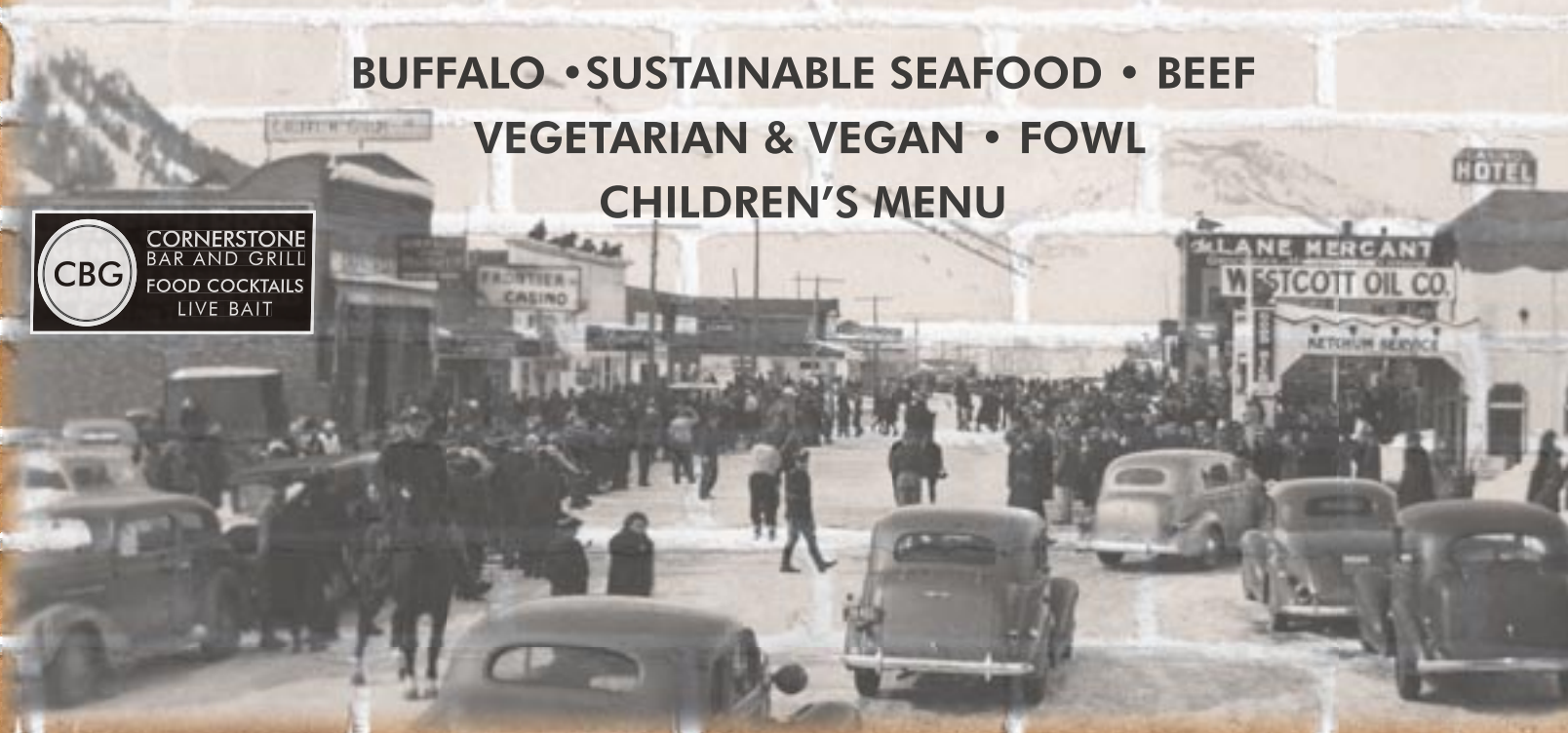
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PHOTO BY CODY DOUCETTE



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OPENING HEARTS AND MINDS AT THE CENTER



Catherine Russell

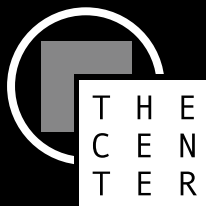
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FROM THE editor

extrême *adj.* — of a character or kind
farthest removed from the ordinary or
average.

Be it weather or sports, life in Sun Valley is
often extreme. In this issue of the *Sun Valley Guide*
we seek out those who take the extreme further.
Sometimes it is about taming it, but more often it's
about surrendering to it.

From skiers and snowmobilers doing battle
over the wildest wide-open spaces surrounding us
(*Peace in the Backcountry*, page 10), to ski-moun-
taineers taking on slopes even mountain goats
fear (*Masters of the Steep*, page 14), the people of
our valley are anything but average.

And while these adventurous spirits are tucked
up warmly in their beds by nightfall, there's a breed
apart in the valley to our north. Stanley is a town
where the pioneering spirits who have inhabited
it during the past century withstand consistent
temperatures of 35 below—sometimes without
electricity. Having briefly been a winter resident
there, I can attest to this locals' refrain: "There's no
place like Stanley, in temperatures or views or lack
of income." Discover *The Spirit of Stanley*, page 18.

Back to this valley, change is brewing at Sun
Valley Resort. Van Gordon Sauter talks to the new
general manager, Tim Silva, about his plans for the
future of our mountain (page 22).

Whatever your extreme, be inspired by these
stories of your friends and neighbors—remember,
just by being here we are fully removed from the
ordinary.

—Sincerely,



PHOTO BY DAVID N. SEELIG

DISCOVER MOUNTAIN LIFE
sun valley
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ON THE COVER: ZACH CRIST FINDS A LINE DOWN THE SAWTOOTH'S THOMPSON PEAK. BY MATT LEIDECKER

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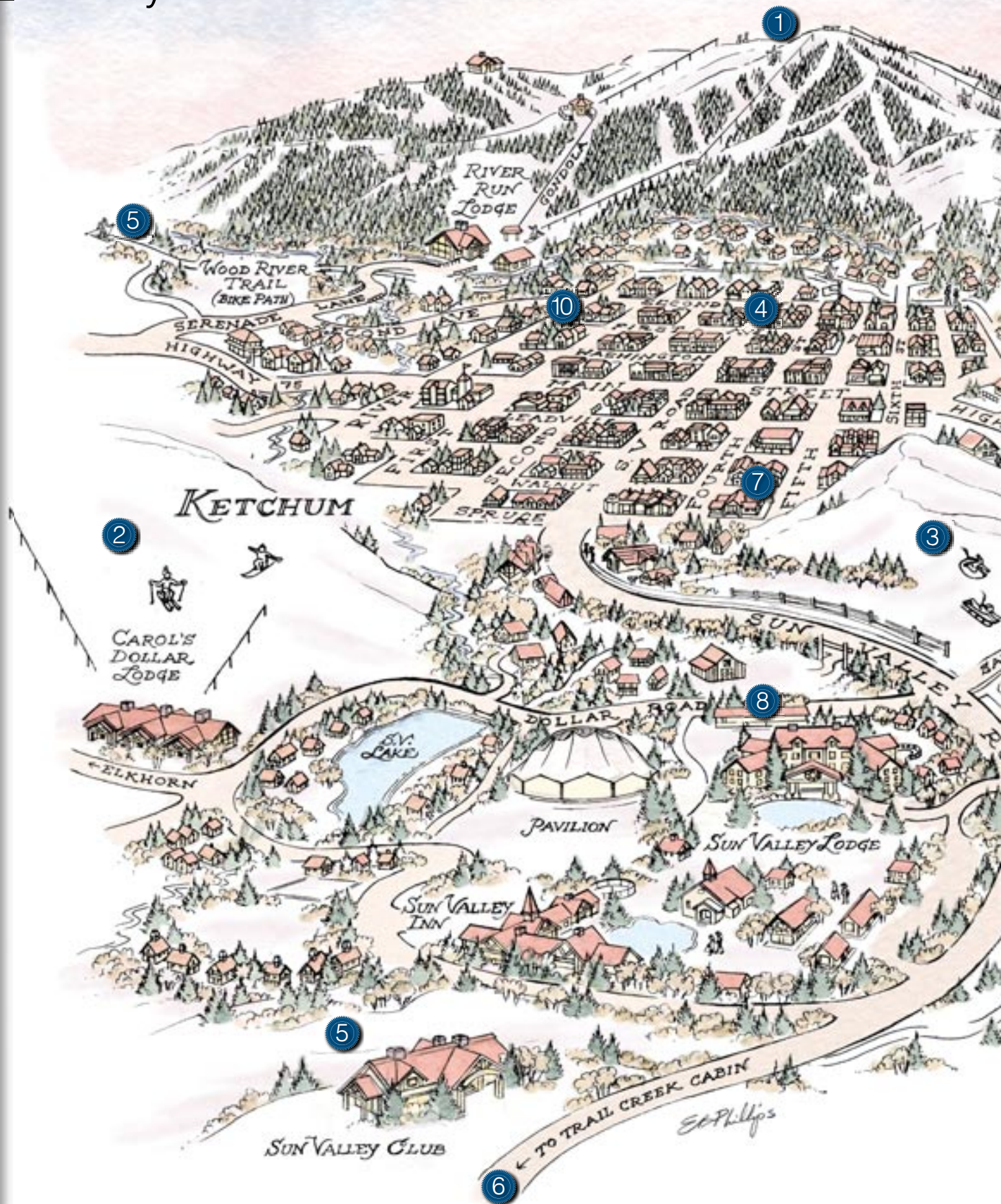
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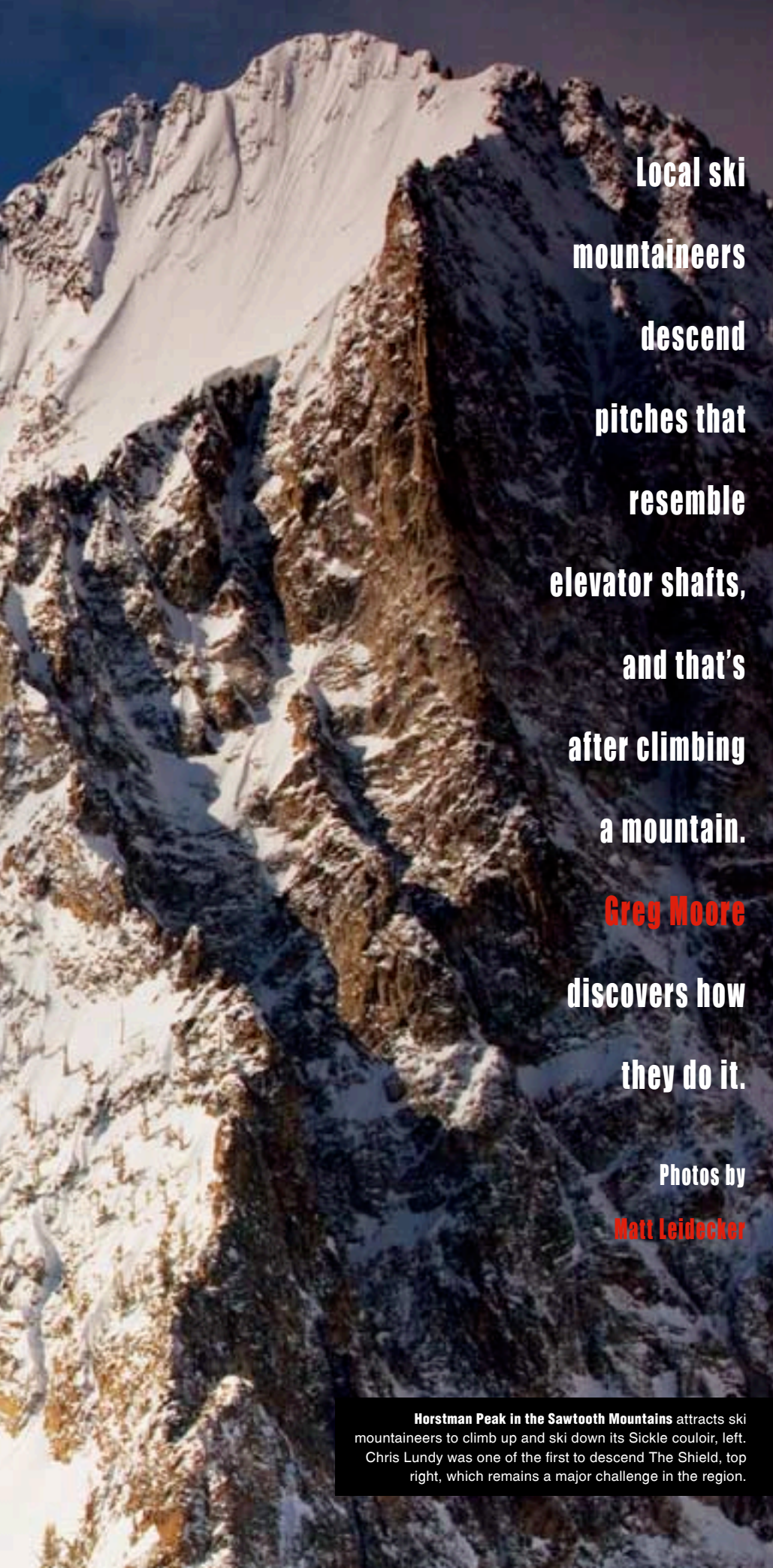
Plan the classic Sun Valley stay with our top 10 things to do in town this winter.

- 1 **Ski Baldy:** It's why most of us are here. No winter in Sun Valley is complete without carving your way down the magnificent Bald Mountain.
- 2 **Tube Dollar:** For those not inclined to ski the state-of-the-art-yet-simple Dollar Mountain, there's also the option of sliding down in some style on a rubber tube. Just take the Wunder Carpet to the top of the hill and follow the signs to the tubing area.
- 3 **Sled Penny Hill:** A Sun Valley tradition, sledding with the kids on Penny Hill provides hours of entertainment (and the bonus of exhausted little ones) for free.
- 4 **Walk the galleries:** Stroll down First Avenue and surrounds while gazing at great art and fabulous people during Ketchum's Gallery Walks (see page 31).
- 5 **Slide around town:** Nordic skiers will find no shortage of groomed trails right in town. Soak up the sounds of the Big Wood River as you ski the Wood River Trail or revel in the luxury of Sun Valley's new Nordic Center in the 58,000-square-foot Sun Valley Club before tackling 25 miles of trails.
- 6 **Savor a sleigh ride:** Get those festive bells jingling with a sleigh ride through the snow to rustic Trail Creek Cabin, where a hearty winter dinner awaits.
- 7 **Hang with Hemingway:** Trace Ernest's history in Ketchum. Immerse yourself in his words at the Community Library. Visit his memorial at Trail Creek and pay your respects (through the snow) at his grave in the Ketchum Cemetery.
- 8 **Holler at hockey players:** Go Suns! Catch the local boys on the ice at Sun Valley Resort. Games start at 7 p.m. most Fridays and Saturdays from December through early March.
- 9 **Warm up at the YMCA:** Ooh baby, it's too cold outside for those babies. Head indoors and warm up in Ketchum's YMCA swimming pool—it's heated.
- 10 **Lose yourself in history:** Lap up all the local skiing lore and much more at the Ketchum-Sun Valley Heritage & Ski Museum.

W O N D E R L A N D

MASTERS OF THE

STEEP



Local ski
mountaineers
descend
pitches that
resemble
elevator shafts,
and that's
after climbing
a mountain.

Greg Moore
discovers how
they do it.

Photos by

Matt Leidecker

Horstman Peak in the Sawtooth Mountains attracts ski mountaineers to climb up and ski down its Sickie couloir, left. Chris Lundy was one of the first to descend The Shield, top right, which remains a major challenge in the region.

Chris Lundy had fantasies about skiing The Shield, a 50-degree slope that dominates the northeast face of Horstman Peak in the Sawtooth Mountains, every time it came into view as he skied into the Williams Peak yurt. But like others with the same idea, Lundy had been put off by the unskiable cliff band that stretches across the middle of the slope. "It's just hanging out there above this stuff that you're not sure how you're going to get through," he says. "But the more I started to see it on good snow years, the more it looked like there was a possible line."

Lundy, a soft-spoken 34-year-old, works as lead avalanche forecaster at the Sawtooth National Forest Avalanche Center in Ketchum. In April 2008, he persuaded two friends from his former home of Bozeman, Montana, to join him in an attempt on The Shield. After an exhausting, eight-hour climb up the backside of the mountain, the team reached the summit. Lundy was the first to drop into the pitch. On his initial turn, he broke a pole. Clinging to the snowfield with the edges of his skis, he pulled a splint from his pack and repaired the pole. One by one, the three carefully skied the 1,000 or so vertical feet to the cliff. They gingerly side-stepped through the rock bands, rappelled 20 feet to a point where they were back on snow, and finished the run.

The route was one of the few remaining unplucked plums of local ski mountaineering. "That was a pretty big deal," says Eric Leidecker, co-owner with Kirk Bachman of Stanley-based Sawtooth Mountain Guides. "People had been looking at it for years."

Ski mountaineering—distinguished from basic backcountry skiing by the use of technical climbing gear—has increased in popularity since the sport's local pioneers began setting tracks on steep chutes in the late 1970s. Viewed from the top of Bald Mountain, the prominent peaks in the Boulder and Pioneer mountains look like impossible-to-ski jumbles of cliffs and nearly vertical snow faces. But local practitioners say every one of them has been skied.

The lines most sought after by these addicts of the steep are in the Sawtooths, a range out of sight from Baldy to the north. Drew Pogge, editor of *Backcountry* magazine, calls the Sawtooths "an ideal ski mountaineering range ... infamous for their wealth of tight, steep couloirs and extremely exposed faces."

Unlike mid-winter backcountry skiers, ski mountaineers aren't searching for

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fresh powder. On a great powder day, the runs they ski are too avalanche prone. As such, ski mountaineering is primarily a spring sport. However, most couloirs in the Sawtooths face north, and rarely develop the spring corn snow that southern exposures do. In any case, Leidecker says, skiing a steep run on corn snow is dangerous—a fall can easily turn into an out-of-control slide. For him, perfect conditions are “chalky, settled powder.” In that kind of snow, he says, “you can do a hip check, you can get in the back seat a little bit and be able to recover.” Leidecker says a technique adaptation for skiing steep chutes is the pedal-hop turn, initiating the turn off the uphill ski. “It allows you to cross the fall line without falling down the slope too far.”

Equipment used for ski mountaineering can include an ice axe for safety while climbing, a rope, a climbing harness to attach it to, crampons and a helmet. The rope is used for rappelling unskiable sections or for belaying a skier into the top of a potentially avalanche-prone chute.

As the sport has become more popular, descents such as Lundy's are more widely talked about. But in the early days, most ski mountaineers just went out and quietly did their thing. Though no one kept a record of first descents, one name that often pops up in discussions of early extreme-ski runs is that of Hailey resident Kim Anderson. An amiable, energetic 53-year-old with a direct, no-nonsense gaze, Anderson says he's skied at least 30 steep routes in local mountain ranges, most of them solo.

Growing up in Idaho's capital city of Boise, Anderson honed his skiing skills at Bogus Basin, and spent some time on the professional freestyle circuit in the mid-1970s. He knew little about traveling in the mountains. “I met this gal at a party, and she asked me if I wanted to go backpacking. I had never been backpacking before. We went to Alice Lake [in the Sawtooths]. I started looking around and thought, ‘What a great place to bring your skis!’”

Two years later, in spring 1977, he did just that, and with two friends skied the north couloir of Mt. Heyburn. “It was this wild idea to just go do it,” he says with a laugh. “I didn't know enough to know any better.” After about 20 descents of that same couloir, he now knows a lot. Anderson has skied all nine 12,000-foot peaks in Idaho, twice descended Grand Teton in Wyoming and, in 1984, skied the 19,700-foot Artesanraju in the Cordillera Blanca of Peru—a pyramid-shaped peak reputed to be the model for the Paramount Pictures logo. More recently, he's turned his sights to the sparsely skied Lost River Range, east of the Wood River Valley.

Anderson, wary of avalanches, says he won't ski some of the bowls he sees backcountry skiers filling with tracks in mid winter. He waits for spring. Even then, he says, he'd rather rely on his skiing ability to get him down hard morning snow than risk an avalanche by waiting for the snow to soften. Having to earn a living during the week, he was forced to ski in whatever conditions existed on weekends.

On the third day of a traverse of the Boulder Front range, ski mountaineer Ben Brock makes some belayed hop-turns into the east couloir of Silver Peak.



**The route was
one of the few
remaining
unplucked plums
of local ski
mountaineering.**

"Usually it was gnarly conditions, but I'd ski it anyway. If it was a cool, cloudy day, it would be bulletproof. Sometimes it would be perfect corn, but that's very unusual."

In May, he'd ski the southern and western exposures; in June and July, he'd turn to the northern and eastern faces. Ski mountaineering, he admits, is a lot of work for just one run—"but that one run is very thrilling!"


When Lundy is asked what motivated him to ski The Shield, he thinks for a moment, then replies with a perfectly straight face, "My wife asked me that." He then adds, "I'm definitely not an adrenaline junkie—I hate being scared. I'm driven by the adventure and the wildness of it all. If only a few people have skied something, it feels more wild."



Local ski mountaineers emphasize that not all the steep chutes in the mountains surrounding Sun Valley are of the if-you-fall-you-die variety. They say there are plenty of exhilarating descents suitable for the typical good Baldy skier. Those include the south face of Williams Peak in the Sawtooths, the west face of Lorenzo Peak and the south face of Boulder Peak in the Boulders, and Hyndman Peak and Devil's Bedstead in the Pioneers.


Leidecker points out that it's not lack of skiing ability that keeps most people from attempting those runs, but lack of mountaineering experience. "If you're comfortable in the mountains, and you're comfortable with the climbing and you're comfortable with ropes, then these runs don't seem as radical as they do to someone who's just a skier. From a climber's point of view, these runs are easy."

One way to learn the skills needed is through a ski mountaineering course. Ketchum resident Erik Boe, a 39-year-old financial advisor, took a four-day course with Sawtooth Mountain Guides last April. He had done quite a bit of backcountry skiing but wanted to step it up. "It was the best time I've ever had skiing. A little push from these guys was what I needed to realize my potential. It opened a lot of windows into what's possible."

Leidecker acknowledges that a lot of outdoors-oriented people in the resort area are reluctant to hire a guide, but points out that ski mountaineering is a sport to treat with caution. Anderson says it took a terrifying, 150-foot-long slide down a couloir on Grand Teton to convince him that he was mortal. Since then, he says, he's backed off. "If you push the edge for long enough, your time will be up. It's just a numbers game. I decided a long time ago that I want to live."





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PEACE IN THE

A DECADE INTO
EXISTENCE, A
COLLABORATIVE
AGREEMENT
BETWEEN SKIERS
AND SNOWMOBILERS
IN THE WOOD RIVER
VALLEY STANDS THE
TEST OF TIME AND
INSPIRES OTHERS.

BY JASON D.B. KAUFFMAN
PHOTO BY MARK OLIVER

For 15 years the Boulder Yurts had beckoned countless backcountry skiers into the magnificent mountains north of Ketchum. On April 2, 2000, the yurts burned to the ground. Gone were the Mongolian-style refuges from wild and bitter winter weather. In their place were two charred circles in the snow, filled with fragments of smoldering wood and unrecognizable blackened lumps.

What was recognizable were two snowmobile tracks leading to the site. Conspiracy theories linking the destruction to the tracks and the people who laid them immediately began making the rounds among backcountry skiers. Investigations by the Blaine County Sheriff's Office determined that the fire was caused by arson. However, because no footprints were found between the snowmobile tracks and yurts, they discounted the theory that the arsonists rode in on snowmobiles.

To this day, no one has discovered who ignited the fire.

The timing of the blaze couldn't have been worse. Since 1995, a group of local skiers and snowmobilers known as

BACKCOUNTRY

the Winter Recreation Coalition had been trying to work together to find a solution to dispel rising tensions between skiers and snowmobilers recreating in the northern half of the Wood River Valley. Bob Jonas of Sun Valley Trekking, then-owner of the yurts, told the *Idaho Mountain Express* newspaper that before the blaze, tensions had been a 3 or 4 out of 10. "Now it's a 10," he said.

Rebuilding the yurts was relatively easy. The strained motorized-vs.-non-motorized relationship was more difficult to repair.

For skiers, perhaps no other spot was more sacred or worth fighting over than the series of high, secluded bowls in the rugged Boulder Mountains above Galena Lodge. Guarded by jagged peaks, this rugged patch of high-country-powder-lover's paradise had always been the exclusive playground of skiers, and they weren't about to let that change.

"It's just a very quiet, very peaceful, very wild feeling," said Andy Munter, owner of Backwoods Mountain Sports in Ketchum, of skiing the area.

At least it was until snowmobilers, on increasingly powerful machines, began gaining entry to the bowls. Until then, only a gentlemen's agreement had kept the motorized snow-seekers from punching routes into the area.

Munter, a member of the Winter Recreation Coalition, said the sight of a group of daring snowmobilers riding almost to the summit of rugged Gladiator Peak was a wake-up call for the local back-country ski crowd.

With tensions running high, the coalition did not have an easy task.

"WE ALL LIVE HERE,
WE'RE ALL NEIGHBORS,
AND WE SHOULD
ALL GET ALONG."

Owen Downard
Hailey snowmobiler



Its biggest obstacle was trust. Skiers didn't trust or like snowmobilers, and vice-versa. Ed Cannady, the Forest Service representative during the talks, recalls that both sides were guilty of poor behavior. Snowmobilers reported being cursed at and having ski poles swung at them as they rode by. Likewise, skiers complained that snowmobilers made a point of cutting across popular powder runs loved by skiers.

Munter told the *Idaho Mountain Express* in April 2000 that the coalition (comprised of snowmobilers Bill DeMun, Chris Klick, Kim Nilsen, Owen Downard and Nancy Monk, and skiers Jack Haase, Andy Munter, Kathie Rivers, Jim McClatchy and John Craig) was having communication problems and that relentless bickering had prevented any real work from being accomplished. "We're not even close," he said, adding that the group had barely passed the handshake stage.

Adding urgency to the coalition's task was a stark message from Sawtooth National Forest Supervisor Bill LeVere. He had given them until October 1, 2000, to come up with a solution to segregate motorized and

DIVIDING LINES

Displaying the designated play areas for snowmobilers and skiers in the SNRA, this map shows the results of the now decade-old agreement between the two parties. The agreement has done a remarkable job of keeping the peace in the winter backcountry of the Wood River Valley.

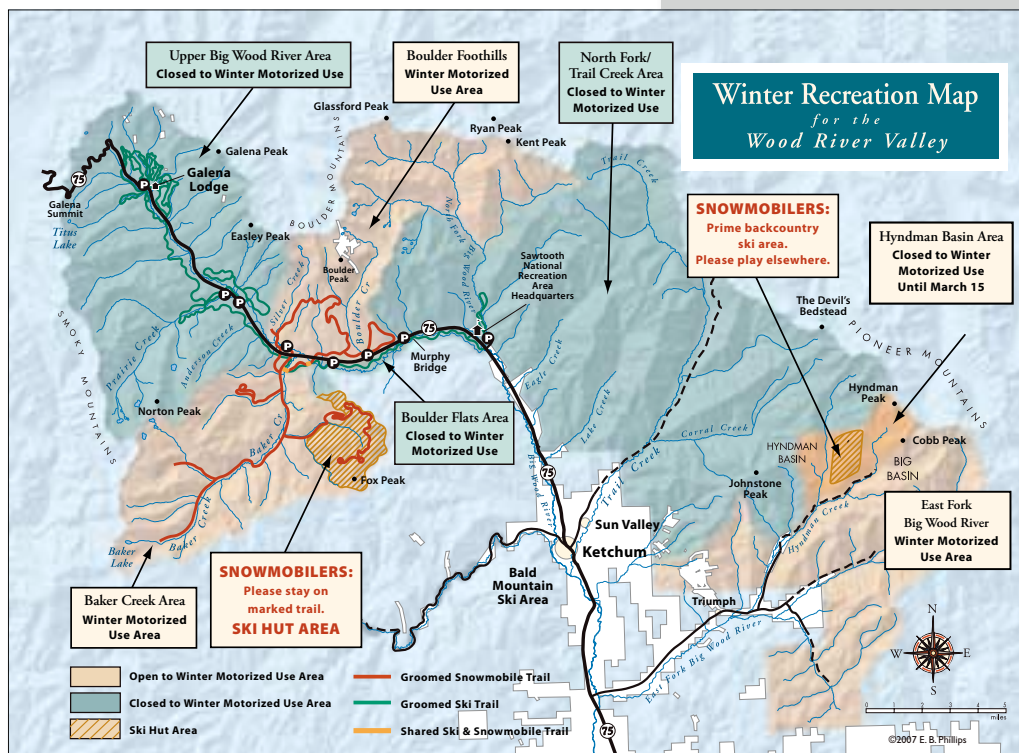
In mid-September, 10 months after it began working in earnest, the coalition presented a first-of-its-kind plan. It divided a 35-mile-long area, stretching from Galena Summit south past Hyndman Peak in the Pioneer Mountains, into a series of designated ski and snowmobile areas. LeVere promptly signed the agreement.

Places that had traditionally been the playground of skiers—including the upper Big Wood drainage to Galena Summit and the foothills of the Boulder Mountains from the lower North Fork of the Big Wood all the way to the Trail Creek drainage—became non-motorized-only areas. Spots that had long attracted snowmobilers looking for steep, remote and challenging terrain—the vast Baker Creek drainage in the westward Smoky Mountains and the Silver, Easley and Boulder creek areas—became designated snowmobile areas.

Today, both skiers and snowmobilers agree that the winter-use agreement, approaching its 10-year anniversary, has been remarkably successful. Simply driving by the parking lots for each sport provides a glimpse into this truth. Near Baker Creek, rows of large pickup trucks attached to snowmobile-carrying trailers pervade. Farther up toward Galena Lodge and Galena Summit, it's mainly the all-wheel-drive Subarus and light Toyota trucks that skiers favor.

Cannady, who is responsible for placing signs each fall advising users of the restrictions as well as enforcing those rules, believes snowmobilers deserve a lot of thanks and recognition for their adherence to the agreement. "We have better compliance than any place I'm aware of in the western United States," he said.

The agreement even spawned a conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of quiet in the wintertime backcountry: Winter Wildlands Alliance, based in Boise. Staff at the organization has expanded to support similar efforts around the West. "The Wood River Valley agreement is something



non-motorized zones or he would be forced to make a decision himself.

Both sides had come to the table for a variety of reasons. On one side were the snowmobilers who realized that some area closures were imminent and were worried that they would lose their favorite play spots. On the other side, skiers sought some kind of assurance that they could enjoy their time in the hills without encountering the sights or sounds of snowmobiles.

With a metaphorical fire lighted under them, the members of the coalition started to look past their differences (a group excursion to try out the other's sport was cited as a turning point), spending the next six months hammering out area designations that would cordon off the two uses.

"THE WOOD RIVER VALLEY AGREEMENT IS REALLY SOMETHING WE HOLD UP AS THE GOLD STANDARD."

Mark Menlove
Executive Director,
Winter Wildlands Alliance

we hold up as the gold standard,” said Mark Menlove, executive director of the alliance.

Only time will tell if similar winter-use planning efforts being developed in other popular winter sports areas, including Utah and Colorado, end up as successful. Not all have. Menlove points to a collaborative effort his group was involved with three years ago in Franklin Basin in northern Utah’s Logan Canyon. After the two sides agreed to a similar separation of skiers and snowmobilers, the snowmobilers changed their minds, seeking help from their congressman. The resulting political pressure produced a last-minute decision in favor of snowmobile use that reduced by half the skiers’ 9,500-acre designated quiet area. This on a forest where snowmobilers already had access to 550,000 designated acres of winter terrain.

One thing most areas outside the Wood River Valley don’t have going for them is a long and storied history of backcountry skiing. Backcountry skiers were skiing lines on Durrance and other hills north of Ketchum back in the 1930s. The long tradition meant skiers came to the table in a stronger position. That’s just not the case in most other resorts around the West, where snowmobilers often have the political upper hand because of their greater numbers.

According to Wood River Valley snowmobilers, perhaps the greatest success of the local agreement was the dissolving of the hard battle lines that had been drawn in the snow for years. Gone are the venomous back-and-forth letters to the editor in the local newspaper. “It got rid of a lot of the fighting and screaming and cursing,” said Hailey snowmobiler Owen Downard.

Although he does admit to some residual bitterness among snowmobilers—who feel they made many concessions without gaining anything similar from skiers—Downard said at the end of the day the fact that everyone can enjoy the mountains in peace is the mark of success. “We all live here, we’re all neighbors, and we should all get along,” he said.

Violations of the agreement are nearly nonexistent. Both sides have kept talking in the decade since to make sure small-scale conflicts don’t become full-blown battles. More and more, however, it’s snowmobilers and skiers policing themselves. “We’re finding we have less and less to talk about,” Munter said.

The valley’s skiers and snowmobilers, it seems, would rather let their tracks do the talking. ❧

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LIFE IN ONE OF THE COLDEST TOWNS IN AMERICA IS HARD, BUT FOR STANLEY'S HANDFUL OF BONA-FIDE LOCALS, IT'S PARADISE. KAREN DAY, WHO LIVES THERE FROM THE FIRST THAW OF MAY UNTIL OCTOBER THREATENS TO FREEZE THE PIPES IN HER CENTURY-OLD LODGE, SHOWS US THE FACES AND SPIRIT OF HER NEIGHBORS. PHOTOS BY KAREN DAY.

"Last winter, it was 35 below for 39 hours," says Hannah Stauts, the 26-year-old mayor of the tiny Sawtooth Valley town of Stanley, Idaho. "Those without a wood stove or propane heater watched their toilets freeze and crack."

Mayor Stauts holds down five jobs, from waitressing to city duties, the latter of which pays \$250 a month. "I'm the only mayor to ever finish the four-year term," she says, a wry, wide smile on her lips. "Survive is a better word, but the sense of accomplishment is huge. I was 22, the youngest mayor in America, when I got elected. I knew nothing about politics, and less about Stanley. I remember trying to introduce myself to someone in town and he said, 'Never mind—don't tell me your name until you're still here next spring.'"

Frequently noted as one of the coldest towns in the lower 48 states, Stanley's winters routinely span more than six months. Those who can't tough it out till spring are deemed tourists by the 100 or so year-round locals (even half a lifetime of summer-only residency will not bestow that title).

Life in this remote but often frigid slice of paradise has always been susceptible to the vagaries of nature. But today, something more sinister threatens. The Mountain Village Resort, a motel, restaurant, grocery store and gas station that makes up a quarter of the town's acreage and tax base, is teetering toward new ownership. The resort is being sold off along with the Bill Harrah Trust's other Stanley holdings for \$12.5 million. As one of the few businesses open year-round, Mountain Village is the town's lifeblood. Some wonder if its sale will irrevocably alter the civic landscape and force out those who have withstood 35 below zero without electricity. Not likely. They breed them hardy in Stanley.

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HARPER CRABTREE, THE AUTHOR'S SON, AT HOME ON HIS OWN WIDE-OPEN SPACE AT THE SALMON RIVER LODGE, STANLEY.

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Virginia Finkelburg



Long before the potential sale threatened their existence, Stanley's townsfolk had to overcome the dramatic topography and weather. Walled between three rugged mountain ranges—the Salmon River Range on the north, the White Clouds on the east, and the Sawtooths on the south—Stanley has one of the most dramatic mountain backdrops in the West. Geologists say the valley was created by the Idaho Batholithic intrusion in Cretaceous times—some present-day locals described it more graphically as "the place where Hell freezes over."

In pre-settlement times, Sheepster Indians frequented the land, wisely only during the summers. In 1824, Alexander Ross, a Scottish schoolteacher, came in search of game for the Pacific Fur Co. According to his journals, more impressive than the plentiful elk, deer, salmon and beaver were the dozens of grizzly bears digging for camas lily bulbs near the headwaters of the Salmon River. "Rooting like a bunch of pigs, there were nine in one place. We shot seven at once." Lucky for the bears, winter howled in and shoved the trappers toward Challis.

This quick exodus in the face of fierce forecasts became a pattern. Gold lured a second wave of dreamers shortly after Idaho became a territory in 1863. Trouble with hostile Indians, lack of supplies and the unbearable cold convinced them to move out quickly, but not before naming the area in honor of Capt. John Stanley, the oldest member of the party.

By 1917, cattlemen had noted that summer grass could be digested into dollar signs. Ranchers with surnames that still thrive in the region drove herds up and down the river with the seasons. Chivers, Thompsen, Ginis, McGown and Piva are names known by Stanley's first postmaster and by today's UPS driver. Tom Chivers, now living in Challis, remembers the winter of 1931, riding a sleigh from Clayton to Stanley in 60-below weather. "We'd stop at Robinson Bar Ranch and get hot stones to keep our feet from freezing." The ranch, now the private retreat of singer-songwriter-environmentalist Carole King, is for sale for \$19 million.

The advent of cars and a road over Galena Pass in the 1920s brought the

largest population influx, both transient and permanent, into the Sawtooth Valley. It also gave birth to a bustling summer scene at Redfish Lake, which was no more than a sagging dock with row-boat rental until a sharp-shooting showman named Robert Limbert envisioned the lodge as it stands today.

Virginia Finkelburg, a strikingly attractive octogenarian, was a well-known early Idaho aviatrix and raconteur of ruggedly won wisdom. She and her husband, Fink, raised their children on Loon Creek in the Yankee Fork during the late 1930s without electricity or running water. "I never saw a fist that could settle anything, so I tried to keep out of the swingin'," she says in one of the oral history tapes at the Stanley Museum. "I always carried a rock hammer, good for killing rattlesnakes and chipping off a rock sample that wasn't so big it would pull your pants down." Virginia spent every summer in a cabin up the gold-dusty Yankee Fork road until she died last August. She agreed to have phone service put in two years ago when her health began to fail, but insisted on living her life the way it began, by the light of kerosene lamps. She is one of many who forged a life from the rock and the water.

A recent issue of the *Stanley Insider* proved her dated wisdom is worth following when it boasted that the town is "one of last places you can get in a fist-fight ... for fun!" You can also buy a pack of Marlboros in a local bar, light up and blow smoke rings toward a ceiling decorated with women's lace panties without getting a sideways glance. Such political incorrectness does not come without a rowdy history to back it up. Every resident over 70 remembers by lore or memory when Main Street offered gambling, fighting and dancing every night of the week in three clubs within 200 stumbling feet of each other.



PHOTO COURTESY SAWTOOTH INTERPRETIVE & HISTORICAL ASSOC.



"I remember trying to introduce myself to someone in town and he said, 'Never mind, don't tell me your name until you're still here next spring.'"

Hannah Staubs, mayor of Stanley

Jake White, 31, a whitewater rafting and fly-fishing guide, says he stays here year-round for the opposite reason. "If I were in Ketchum, I'd just spend my money in a lot more bars. I stay here because I love the solitude and lack of useless distractions." His opinion is shared by most of the 20- and 30-somethings who eke out a living by plowing the eternal snows or educating the handful of children during the four-day school week. In their words, "There's no place like Stanley, in temperatures or views or lack of income."

No one knows better the lawlessness, excitement and characters of Stanley's hippie-haven days than the only "badge" in town at that time—forest ranger Tom Kovalicky. "Thirty-nine people wintered here in 1972," says Kovalicky from behind the counter at his day job, tending to hopeful fishermen at McCoy's Bait and Tackle Shop. "Tall Mary, at 6-foot-4, ran the Rod and Gun Club with Casanova Jack, and a French woman served whiskey and great hot sandwiches all night long at the Kasino Club. The town was famous and we earned it every night with no cop, no fire department and my station wagon as the only ambulance." One of the community's biggest complaints today is the preponderance of law enforcement cars corraling partiers along Highway 75. "The flashing blue lights have chased away the good times," one local laments.

Dia Danner chose to stay year-round after her husband, Bob, a local flying legend and founder of Stanley Air Taxi, was killed in a flying accident several years ago. Her cabin sits atop the city's runway in the shadow of the Sawtooths and is frequented by rogue cows and private planes ferrying millionaires from Los Angeles to summer homes. The ridges are dotted with their log fortresses, which blaze brightly but empty for eight months of the year. Dia savors "the gift of time" that she has discovered living among the peaks. Like most

in the small community, she lives her life purposefully, volunteering at church and playing Debussy on her grand piano to friends by candlelight and the crackle of the wood stove. "Life is harder, especially for a single woman," she says. "But the rewards are greater. If I can make it here, I can make it anywhere."

Becky and Tim Cron, owners of Stanley Baking Co., agree. Pancake-hungry customers swallow their in-demand stacks as fast as the pair can flip them. However, this young husband and wife see a future for Stanley that few business owners bother to pursue past Labor Day. Partnering with Becky's sister, Kelli Kerns, they bought and self-renovated the downtown Sawtooth Hotel through three long winters. The beer and wine bar are now in full swing, promising old-fashioned boarding-house hospitality and inviting cross-country skiers to try the path less taken "over the hill." Aligned with the chamber of commerce and other local merchants' good intentions, the first annual Sawtooth Winter Fest is being planned to lure people up and over Galena Pass this January.

Jack and Ruth Niece, the most venerated of the old-timers, shake their heads at the news of the Sawtooth's grand reopening. Jack's great-uncle Tink Niece settled the valley in 1906, built a thriving mercantile business and became the postmaster. Ruth and Jack still live on Niece Street, with Jack's childhood home and icehouse 20 yards from their current log house. The north side once served as the state liquor store where Ruth sold spirits until Bill Harrah moved it to the Mountain Village grocery in 1991. "Bill was a wonderful man," says Ruth, who worked as his right-hand woman for over 25 years. "He loved Stanley and cared about the people who lived here. His two sons, Tony and John, don't come here anymore. Who knows what will happen when the Mountain Village sells."

Clichés become such only because they are true. "The more things change, the more they stay the same," the Nieces might be thinking as private planes roar in overhead and the next generation of hardy residents bang hammers, count salmon and brave wicked winters, preserving the unique, hard-won treasures of Stanley. ❧



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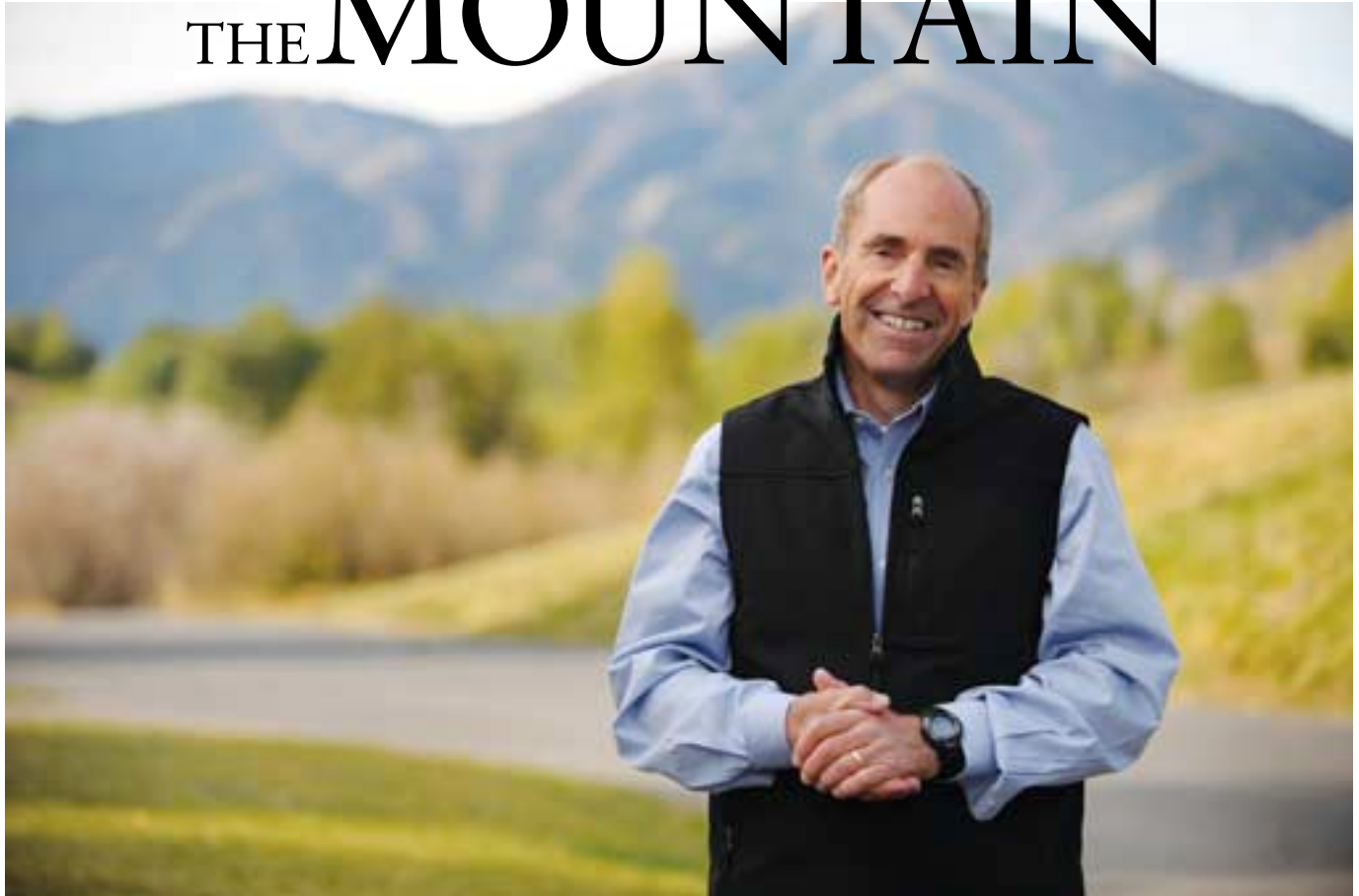
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THE MAN BEHIND THE MOUNTAIN



THE PRODIGAL SON RETURNS TO SHAKE UP THE DOWAGER RESORT.

For Tim Silva, the new vice president and general manager of Sun Valley Resort and all its fabled domains, numbers count. In particular, 9s and 10s. Departing resort guests are asked to rate their stay at the resort on a scale of 1 to 10. It is not a frivolous exercise. For the guest, it is a blunt appraisal of performance. For the resort, it is a tool that measures effectiveness and foreshadows the future. A critical box score.

The 6s and below are lost souls, guests who didn't bond with Sun Valley. The 7s and 8s enjoyed their stay, and may return, but most likely will not be recommending Sun Valley. They will not generate new visitors. But the 9s and 10s? Ah, the rapture of a 9 or 10. The nectar of the innkeeper. These visitors become missionaries, troubadours of the Sun Valley experience, spurring their friends and family to book

into the resort. These people, with their 9s and 10s, are the evangelistic multipliers of new business.

It was a quiet morning in Gretchen's restaurant at the Sun Valley Lodge, just after the Labor Day holiday. The tranquility was a welcome contrast to the prior morning when families, their vacations concluded, deadlines beckoning, energy frayed, flailed through breakfast before setting off to Friedman Memorial Airport in Hailey or the long grind over Highway 20 to the Boise airport. The only tangible sensitivity for the restaurant staff this morning was a man sitting at a table near the back of the room, talking with a visitor, a reporter. The man, balding, gracious, informally dressed, wearing a black North Face jacket over a spiffy, button-down blue dress shirt that conveyed an understated authority, is the resort's general manager.

VAN GORDON SAUTER SITS DOWN WITH TIM SILVA, SUN VALLEY'S NEW GENERAL MANAGER.

PHOTOS BY KIRSTEN SHULTZ

Tim Silva is a professional, seasoned resort executive with a sobering range of responsibilities. He takes over the day-to-day operation of Sun Valley Resort from his predecessor Wally Huffman at a crucial point in its history. Earl Holding, the resort's owner, has made remarkable investments, financially and conceptually, in the property, seemingly far out of proportion to any short-term return. And everything is top of the line. From the pavilion to the new golf course to the enormous clubhouse to the mountain gondola, Sun Valley is poised to achieve a new identity.

The 57-year-old Silva is adroit at answering questions, and smooth in rejecting assumptions he finds baseless, such as this reporter's flip query, "Why does the food at Sun Valley suck?" (See page 30 for the answer). His iPhone is never far from sight, though his attention to the conversation never wanes. Silva, a man comfortable with his job and his environment, has an MBA's unrelenting passion for quality and focus on product and performance.

In spite of a frumpy uniform, the waitress serving us is cute and poised, unflustered by the presence of her boss. She picks up a half-empty Diet Coke with extra ice to get a refill. But then, as she pivots to make her way to the soda machine, she loses her grip. The glass, nearly a quarter full, slips from her hand. It doesn't drop, but arcs out, ahead of her, descending at an angle toward a wall next to the table.

One senses a sudden awareness in Silva's face. He is witnessing an accident impossible to interdict. All the metrics and accountabilities and proof of performance skills are incapable of mitigating a possibly nasty event. The crash produces the nerve-rattling sound of smashing glass, of ice and shards of glass scattering across the floor. Silva is rising from his chair, his hand reaching out for the employee.

"Are you all OK?" he asks with quick sincerity, afraid the shrapnel sliced a leg or foot. She is fine. A cleanup person is quickly at the scene. Our conversation continues with no mention of the incident. His response to her vulnerability was a quick, instinctive one, a gentleman's response.

Silva was raised in Redwood City, California, where his father commuted to the financial district in San Francisco. Neither parent skied, but as a youth Silva

signed up for ski trips to Lake Tahoe, on the California-Nevada border, offered by St. Matthias Church and his local school. He learned to ski on the \$1.50-a-day rope tows and never again thought of himself as a flatlander. "By the time I was in high school, I knew I would someday be in the ski business," he recalls.

There has been an incredibly straight trajectory to his career. He took an undergraduate degree in environmental planning/management at UC Davis and a master's degree in recreation management at Utah State. By 1975, he fulfilled his high school aspiration by becoming a lift operator at Sun Valley, rising over 17 years to become mountain manager. It was during this first period in Sun Valley that Earl Holding, the self-made multibillionaire from Utah, added the resort to his portfolio of oil, recreation and hotel properties. The executive style that emerged

was lean, collegial and characterized by boundary-less management. The executive who ran the lift operations on the mountain would be pitching in to resolve an ice show problem or a renovation roadblock. But in 1995, Silva was hired away to Northstar at Lake Tahoe, a large ski resort where he broadened his managerial skills, getting deeply immersed in all aspects of the business and rising

to vice president. It was a Ph.D. in resort management.

And then Wally Huffman and the Holdings decided to bring him home.

"The decision to leave Northstar at Tahoe was very difficult on many levels," Silva says. "But Sun Valley has played a central role in the life of our family. My wife and I met in Sun Valley, married here (at Our Lady of the Snows Catholic church). Our two children were born here. We never sold our house in Warm Springs. It was our special place to vacation and reconnect each summer. I love the backcountry here. The trails, the hiking, biking and running are as good as it gets."

Huffman, whose new role involves the oversight of resort development at the company, is again Silva's colleague, mentor, friend, and in some respects, *consigliere*. "We know each other very well," Silva says. "The good news is that there is so much to do on both fronts that there is plenty to keep us both busy. We have clearly defined roles. But we are collegial."

"Sun Valley has played a central role in the life of our family. My wife and I met here. Married here. Our two children were born here."

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The business Silva addresses every day is increasingly complex and competitive. “Winter and summer seasons are very important to the financial success of the resort. But the winter business has not grown over the long term. It’s clearly an issue for (us), particularly as other resorts refine their products and brand.”

Besides, in an incredibly competitive market, skiing itself is in danger of becoming an ailing sport. The once-robust baby boomers, who thronged to skiing in their 30s and 40s and 50s, today know more orthopedic specialists than skiing guides. Their hips and knees are more congenial to the beaches of Maui than the slopes of Baldy or Aspen. Increasingly, they are not on the hill, they are over the hill. And they are not being replicated. Discretionary, recreational time in America is contracting. And resort skiing can be financially challenging: expensive to reach, expensive to stay, expensive to gear up, and always vulnerable to the cold-weather-adverse family member, who advocates a less expensive journey to a sun-drenched beach.

“The overall ski industry in America has an annual growth rate of only 1.2 percent over the last 10 years,” Silva says. “Sun Valley itself has been relatively flat. Skier visits have averaged a little under 400,000 over the last five years. Those baby boomers maintained a high participation rate in the sport. The challenge for our industry now is to attract more ‘trials’—people giving skiing a try—and then getting a better rate of conversion, which is now about 15 percent.”

Alongside a dwindling skiing population, Silva is faced with increasing Sun Valley’s share of the people who still do resort skiing. And a major factor in that is attracting young people to the mountain. Today, mothers play a critical role in determining where the family vacations. And they in turn are greatly influenced by where their children feel comfortable. A classic, “heritage ski resort” where many guests can rattle off the cast credits of *Sun Valley Serenade* is not inherently a dynamic scene for teenagers and college students.



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“Sun Valley is a family resort,” Silva underscores. “To be successful, we need compelling products for all members of the family. Marketing to youth includes well-designed, built and maintained terrain parks, superpipes and other amenities. Young people want to go where other young people think it’s cool. The youth market can’t be an afterthought.” A measure of Silva’s performance will be his ability to attract this critical demographic without alienating those who know the name Sonja Henie.

That requires a calibration of services to each family element—parents, young people, children—gets what it wants. For some older skiers, that conjures up unnerving and frequently unfounded images of peril and horror, of snowboarders hurtling down the hill with minimal regard for civilization as we know it. “The challenge (for management),” Silva says in his thoughtful fashion, “is to design and locate the facilities that speak to each market segment in a way that complements rather than conflicts, and to create an atmosphere of respect for park etiquette and skier responsibility code. It is primarily a process of education, and secondarily, enforcement.”

And there is another asset for attracting young people to the mountain. “One advantage that Sun Valley has as a resort community is that many world-class winter athletes live and train here. There are a lot of very, very great athletes in this town. Their presence, their opinions, enhance the community’s reputation as a destination, particularly for young people.”

A few years ago there was a scathing piece about the Sun Valley Lodge in *The Wall Street Journal*, in effect accusing the facility of being over the hill, a fusty, worn dowager in a world where youth was the currency of the day. A lot of people in the valley, themselves a tad fusty and worn, cheered that the dowager stood unbowed in the face of tawdry modernism. It would be a mistake today to call the Lodge worn, but it is a place where you can sense history.

Continued on page 30



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recreation

the **KNEE** the **SKI** and **THEE**

by Dick Dorworth

Even the best skiers in the best possible physical shape incur knee injuries. There are no magic formulas or foolproof methods for immunity from the risk of damaging that most essential of joints. However, educating yourself on the risks and preparing yourself for the rigors of the skiing season can help reduce the chance of injury.

Endurance, strength and flexibility are three essential ingredients to reducing risk, says Ketchum-based personal trainer Connie Aronson. "Over-reliance on one form of exercise at the expense of a well-rounded ski conditioning program is a mistake."

A good fitness program considers age, weight, past injuries, current level of fitness, number of days skied each season, time available for pre-conditioning and skill level.

Physical fitness is a year-round endeavor. Don't begin a program in October and expect to be fit for skiing in December, cautions Aronson. And, contrary to some beliefs, one does not ski oneself into shape. A skier who starts the season in good shape and relies only on skiing to maintain fitness loses degrees of fitness as winter progresses and is at greater risk of injury than one who has an exercise program outside skiing.

"All major leg muscles, as well as the erector and spine muscles, work to maintain a good stance on skis, and they all need to be functionally fit to avoid fatigue and the risk of injury," says Aronson, who is a certified American College of Sports Medicine health and fitness specialist.

The largest joint in the human body, the knee is versatile and complicated enough to support most of the body's weight through all the things people do to and with their bodies. It is also highly prone to serious injury, particularly among skiers.

Below the hip, only the knee and ankle joints absorb, adapt to and control forces from a pair of skis moving down a snow-covered hill at 2, 20 or 60 miles an hour.

Modern ski boots essentially enclose the ankle in a cast, so any error in balancing the

dynamic forces of skiing places immense stress on the knee—in particular, the ligaments that hold the joint in place.

Ligaments are tight bands of tissue connecting bone to bone and crossing a joint, providing stability against biologically illicit movement. Ligaments do not stretch, contract or move; they tear, either partially or completely. The four ligaments of the knee are the MCL, LCL, ACL and the PCL (medial collateral, lateral collateral, anterior cruciate and posterior cruciate ligaments).

The most common skiing knee injury is to the MCL. This usually heals naturally

with good rehabilitation and bracing. Injuring the ACL is more serious and can require surgery. Once the ACL is torn, the knee is just as loose one or five or 10 years later.

About 20,000 skiers in America tear their ACLs each year. Once it happens, there are three options: modify activity; don't modify activity and recognize the increased risk of serious knee injury; surgery.

A study of professional skiers by the Steadman Hawkins Clinic in Vail, Colorado, concluded that "ACL deficient athletes had more than a 20x increased risk of sustaining a knee injury requiring surgery."

According to the study, sewing the ACL works about 65 percent of the time. Replacing the ACL with either a cadaver graft or with a portion of the patient's own hamstring or patellar tendon has a success rate of 98 percent.

Ketchum-based orthopedic surgeon Del Pletcher does not entirely agree with the theory of a 20 times risk factor. "About 25 percent of people without an ACL will function well," he says, noting that this includes some top racers. Pletcher does not always recommend surgery for torn ACLs, and in his experience close to 10 percent will suffer some post-operative complication such as pain, stiffness or other discomfort.

Either way, the lesson is this: Seeking professional help to develop a year-round fitness program may take time and money, but dealing with an injured knee takes more. **M**

Between three and 10 skiers per 1,000 skier days will incur an injury. Approximately 25 percent of those injuries are to the knee.



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SWISS BALL WALL SITS

Stand with feet shoulder-width apart. Place the ball at waist level, against a wall. Keep your feet under your knees. Squat, as if sitting into a chair, keeping knees in line with the toes, and navel pulled in. Keep the chest up, put pressure into heels and try not to lean into the ball. Hold for two seconds. Come back up until hips and legs are fully extended, keeping the gluts contracted. 12-15 reps. Progress to squats without the ball.



SINGLE-LEG KNEE BEND

Step onto the center of the BOSU (both sides up) ball, foot pointing straight ahead. Keep chest lifted, retract shoulders and draw navel in. Lift one leg out to the side of the body as you lower into a 3/4 squat. Hold for two seconds, and slowly return to starting position. Keep hips level. Keep the bend coming from ankle and knee, not your back. 12 reps.



TFL/IT BAND ROLLER

The foam roller helps release knots in the tensor fasciae latae and iliotibial band, the fascia that run alongside the thigh. The pressure heats up the soft tissue to allow the muscle to release and stretch. Lie on your side, the foam roller in front of your hip. Cross the top leg over, touch the floor, and keep the bottom leg off the floor. Using hands for support, take your time rolling down your hip an inch at a time, until you feel a tight spot. Stay there for 30 seconds, relaxing, until the pain starts to diminish, then continue rolling down until you hit another tight spot. Stop just above the knee.



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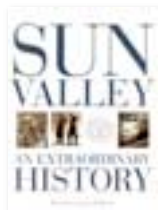
Van Gordon Sauter delves into this rich bibliography.

Sun Valley: An Extraordinary History

By Wendolyn Holland, The Idaho Press, 1998

The single most important book for any bookshelf in the Wood River Valley, home to the famous Sun Valley, is Wendolyn

Holland's *Sun Valley: An Extraordinary History*.



This smashing coffee table book tells the history of Sun Valley through both text and more than 700 historical photos. A

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indispensable book, *Sun*

Valley is the ideal Christmas gift for anyone who loves photography,

history or this valley.

Big Trouble: A murder in a small Western town sets off a struggle for the soul of America

By J. Anthony Lukas, Simon & Schuster, 1997

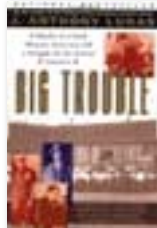
In 1905 a large, burly man—a former governor of Idaho and president of a family-owned Caldwell bank—walked after work through a fresh snow to his grand home on the outskirts of town. He opened the front gate and triggered a hidden bomb.

The explosion nearly tore off both legs and left his body horribly mangled. He later died, the victim of revenge by union extremists for his official role in subduing labor unrest in the mining communities of Idaho.

The murder became emblematic of a class conflict across America that in retrospect seems far more intense than the

struggles today between pitchfork populists and the capitalist establishment.

The story of Frank Steunenberg (and the trial of four union officials charged with killing him) stars attorney Clarence Darrow for the defense, Pinkerton private detective James McParland (who rooted the murderous Molly McGuires out of the anthracite



mines of Pennsylvania) and radical William D. Haywood (founder of the notorious and incendiary unionists known as the Wobblies).

Big Trouble is overly long, but judicious speed-reading keeps the focus on the dramatic core story, and the feeling of a nation under great tension. At its core is a breathtaking portrayal of Idaho a century ago.

We Sagebrush Folks

By Annie Pike Greenwood,
D. Appleton-Century Co., Inc., 1934

Ninety minutes south of here, speeding down the windswept two-lane highways of Idaho's sagebrush country, drivers occasionally pass the desolate remains of a homesteader's cabin—bleached, splayed wood, collapsed roofs, the skeletal remains of a farm vehicle, its purpose now unfathomable. One instinctively presumes anguish

and failure, and not inaccurately.



Homestead farming—as portrayed in the remarkable memoir *We Sagebrush Folk*—was not for the faint of heart. Annie Pike Greenwood was the well-educated-for-the-time daughter of a distinguished psychiatrist. Her husband was

the son of a successful German family. They fought the elements and the earth for years without success. With four children, unending chores, no money, limited water and dispiriting weather, she waged a battle for success, and recorded it—initially in articles for *The Nation* and *Atlantic Monthly*.

Greenwood had great humor and penetrating insight. She was even frank enough to include a chapter titled *Sex*, a chilling portrayal of intimate life in a rural, masculine dominated world. There is no Hollywood ending to this book. She and most of her children survived with relative grace. But they were scarred. And the reader will be in awe of the people who first came to this land and prepared a way for the rest.

RED WATER, and others

Judith Freeman, Anchor, 2003

The graceful old Fairfield train station, long decommissioned, currently serves as the town's colorful and engaging museum. Attending on the correct day pays off with a greeting by an attractive, thoughtful woman who loves the anecdotes of history. She should.



Judith Freeman, who lives part of the year in an old Fairfield homesteader's cabin with her husband, photographer Anthony Hernandez, is one of the nation's finest, most versatile writers.

Her novel *Red Water* tells the stories of three of the 19 wives of an extremist Mormon who engineered the 1857 massacre of more than 100 pioneers in a wagon train heading for California. It is a gripping story, a can't-put-down read.

Freeman's most recent book, *The Long Embrace: Raymond Chandler and the Woman He Loved* (Pantheon, 2007), is the story of author Raymond Chandler and his much older wife (she lied about her age). It is a remarkable portrait of a couple and Los Angeles, in their time and ours. *The New York Times* said, "Ms. Freeman knows the territory as well as (Chandler's iconic private detective character, Philip) Marlow himself. She feels the language and captures the mood."

Set For Life (W. W. Norton & Co., Inc., 1980) is an engrossing picture of people—the good and the ugly—in a small, remote Idaho town.

Trapplines:


Coming home to Sawtooth Valley

By John Rember, Pantheon, 2003

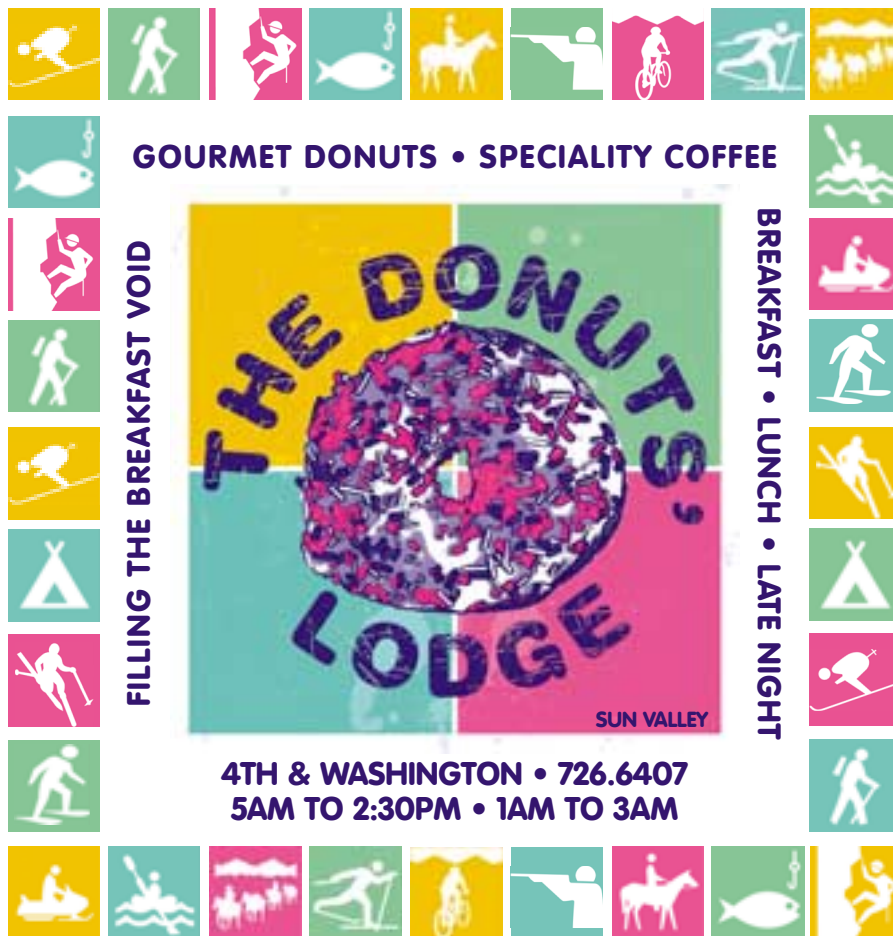
With deep roots in Stanley and the Sawtooths, John Rember has written one of the best books—arguably, the best book—about life in this part of Idaho.

It is a marvelous memoir of a boy growing up in a then distant, isolated and hardscrabble Stanley, learning to hunt, trap and fish, and to find his own identity. The relationship between Rember and his parents—the trapper father, the self-reliant mother—is exhilarating. His is a voyage of self discovery and Rember's elegant writing makes it a joy for all of us. Harvard



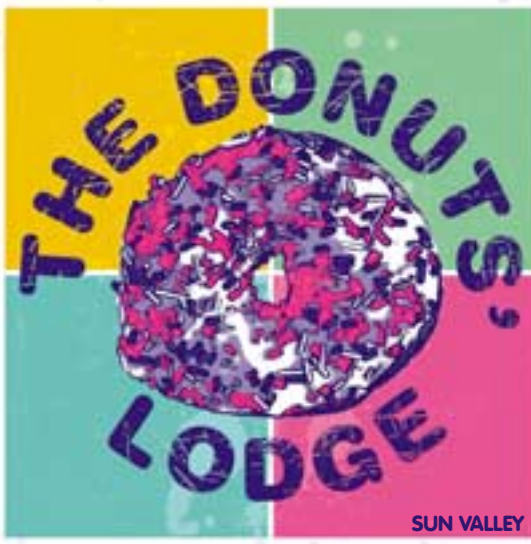
educated and writer-at-large of The College of Idaho, Rember still lives and writes in the Stanley Basin. 

Next installment: *Reviews of Diane Peavey, Charles Brandt, Denis Johnson, Marilyn Robinson and Peggy Goldwyn.*



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The Man Behind the Mountain from page 25

"We've got to revisit the brand here," Silva says, hoping not to alarm the Lodge patri- cians. "You know the old saying, 'Your greatest strength is your greatest weakness'? Clearly, the heritage here, the endowment, certainly is among the great strengths of Sun Valley. It is what it is—a historic facility. Where that history becomes an imped- iment is where we need to revisit the brand. I think most people would say the winter business here is skewed to the older skier. We are looking, from a marketing stand- point, to insure that we are speaking to all markets. The wonderful history here should be cherished, but it shouldn't overwhelm everything else.

"The grandparents may like Sun Valley just the way it is, but they also want their grandkids around." For Silva, who rel- ishes the world of psychographic variables (the study of the interactive influences of personality, interests, age, values, etc.), it is the challenge of finding the intercon- necting themes that draw people—be they 80 or 8—to Sun Valley.

Silva took the helm of the resort in early spring 2009, when Wally Huffman was assigned by the Holdings to usher into reality the expansive and expensive River

Run development south of Ketchum, while also having oversight of all the company's resorts. Although not directly involved in the new project, Silva grasps its impact upon the identity of Sun Valley and its market competitiveness. He was at North- star when a Ritz Carlton was introduced to the mountain, adding a new tier of ameni- ties and upscale identity. It has not been announced whether the River Run project will be an addition to the core business, an upscale market diversification or a partner- ship with a five-star chain.

Silva observes that "a five-star, well- appointed slope-side facility with other resort amenities (would) certainly help the area cater to a market that is currently not served." In other words, it could lend a more contemporary presence, providing an alter- native to the heritage resort for those who seek a cosmopolitan resort hotel. Having these two strong assets, the historic lodge and a modern exclusive hotel, in place when the new airport arrives, would be a power- ful tool for attracting skiers responding to direct flights to the valley from Midwest, Intermountain and West Coast cities.

To Silva, the existing airport is another barrier to realizing the potential of the resort and the Wood River Valley. "The diversion rate [to Twin Falls] during the

winter months," he says, "is an incredible negative for visitors who are time-poor."

He is not entering the growing local debate about whether the communities should seek to dramatically escalate their effort to expand tourism, or to seek a more broadly based employment founda- tion for future development. Or if either is really feasible. He is also not engaged in the conversation about how a new airport would affect tourism. He just says the cur- rent system is untenable and undermines the economic potential of the valley.

For now, Silva is focused on dealing with the business directly before him. Huffman, the Holding family, partners and their consultants deal with the cosmic issues. Which brings one back to the ques- tion "Why does the food suck?"

"It doesn't," he says with subtle empha- sis, noting that *Ski* magazine readers just voted Sun Valley No. 3 in on-mountain dining and overall dining and No. 2 in service. "We need more consistency of quality in some places. But try the Club or the Ram: Consistent quality, attractive menus, good service. Stay with us."

If you were filling out one of those 1-to- 10 performance evaluations for Tim Silva, the 9s would beckon. He is a true troura- bour for Sun Valley and its future. ■

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Katie Holten, *Excavated Tree* (Missouri Native: Flowering Dogwood), cardboard, newspaper, PVC, steel, wire, and duct tape; 16' 4.75" x 14' 9" x 14' 9"

■ FRIESEN GALLERY (1)

Sun Valley Road at First Avenue, Ketchum • 726-4174
friesen@friesengallery.com • www.friesengallery.com
 Seattle location: 1200 Second Ave

Friesen Gallery celebrates this season with an exhibition titled "Speak For The Trees" in tandem with a book launch of the same title. Featured artists include Broomberg and Chanarin, Christopher Brown, Christo and Jeanne-Claude, April Gornik, Stephen Hannock, Julie Heffernan, David Hockney, Katie Holten, Richard Jolley, Kim Keever, Myoung Ho Lee, Robert Longo, Tanya Marcuse, Shelley Niro, Yoko Ono, Rona Pondick, Lucas Reiner, Mark Ryden, and Starn Brothers, Doug + Mike, among others. Additionally, Friesen Gallery will showcase the works of Gregory Grenon opening February 13.



Sheila Gardner *Season of Yellow II* 14" x 20"

■ GAIL SEVERN GALLERY (2)

400 First Avenue North, Ketchum 726-5079
www.gailseverngallery.com

Celebrating 33 years featuring contemporary painting, sculpture and photography: Victoria Adams, Nicolas Africano, Jan Aronson, Bo Bartlett, Bruce Beasley, Tony Berlant, Morgan Brig, Squeak Carnwath, James Cook, Kris Cox, Woods Davy, David deVillier, Betsy Eby, Bean Finneran, Tony Foster, Sheila Gardner, Raphaëlle Goethals, Morris Graves, Michael Gregory, Michelle Haglund, Andrew Harper, Valerie Hammond, Jonathon Hexner, Jun Kaneko, Gary Komarin, Judith Kindler, James Lavadour, Hung Liu, Lynda Lowe, Laura McPhee, Robert McCauley, Cole Morgan, Kenna Moser, Gwynn Murrill, Ed Musante, Marcia Myers, Deborah Oropallo, Luis González Palma, Christopher Reilly, Mario Reis, Rene Rickabaugh, Rana Rochat, Jane Rosen, Brad Rude, David Secrest, Julie Speidel, Jack Spencer, Mark Stasz, Therman Statom, Allison Stewart, William Robinson, Delos Van Earl and Theodore Waddell. Custom framing and art installation services.



Mountain Writer's Desk, Aspen, Alder, Juniper, 42H" x 48L" x 30" Deep, R.C. Hink

TONERI HINK GALLERY (3)

400 Sun Valley Road, Ketchum, 726-5639
www.lynntoneri-watercolors.com
www.rchink.com
tonerihink@sunvalley.net

Celebrating 30 years, the Toneri Hink Gallery features the dynamic mountain furniture and western sculpture of R.C. Hink. Lynn Toneri's vibrant watercolors electrify the walls with bold landscapes, florals and wildlife paintings. Visit and view the flamboyant artwork of Lynn and R.C. plus 30 guest artists.



Gay Bawa Odmark, *Lotus Roots*, 2004

A part of the exhibition, *Outside In: Indian Art Abroad*

■ SUN VALLEY CENTER FOR THE ARTS (4)

191 Fifth St. E, Ketchum, 314 2nd Avenue S, Hailey
 P.O. Box 656, Sun Valley, ID 83353
 Tel: 208.726.9491, www.sunvalleycenter.org

The Center is committed to enhancing the quality of life in our community through diverse arts programming. All year round, The Center's projects feature gallery exhibitions with nationally known artists, dance, film, evenings with authors and cultural experts and art classes for families, kids and adults. This winter The Center presents *Outside In: Indian Art Abroad* and *I Spy: Modern Surveillance*. In addition, The Center presents outstanding lectures and performances featuring Salman Rushdie, Ragamala Dance Theatre and more. Visit the website for more information.



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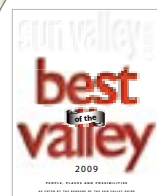
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DECEMBER

Ketchum Community Tree Lighting & Caroling Party,

Dec. 2. Music, hot drinks and Santa Claus. Ketchum Town Plaza, 5:30 p.m. Free. Details: 725-2105.

Festival of Trees Open House Viewing,

Dec. 3. Benefit for Blaine County Seniors. Valley Club, Hailey. 1-8:30 p.m. Details: 788-3468.

Reinventing Indian Traditions,

Dec. 4. Wood River Valley artist Gay Bawa Odmak. Sun Valley Center for the Arts, Hailey. 5:30-7 p.m. Details: 726-9491.

Festival of Trees Lunch & Fashion Show,

Dec. 4. Benefit for Blaine County Seniors. Valley Club, Hailey. 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Details: 788-3468.

Alice in Wonderland,

Dec. 4-6. Sun Valley Ballet School performs at nexStage Theatre, Ketchum. Details: 726-9876.

Festival of Trees breakfast with Santa,

Dec. 5. Benefit for Blaine County Seniors. Valley Club, Hailey. 9-11 a.m. Details: 788-3468.

YMCA Multi-Cultural Holiday Party,

Dec. 5. Games, crafts and snacks. Ketchum. 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Details: 928-6712.

Festival of Trees Gala Dinner & Tree Auction,

Dec. 5. Benefit for Blaine County Seniors. Valley Club, Hailey. 5:30-10:30 p.m. Details: 788-3468.

Papoose Club Holiday Bazaar,

Dec. 5-6. Hemingway Elementary, Ketchum.

nexStage Charity Auction,

Dec. 9. Community artists create chairs for auction. Bidding through Dec. 19, nexStage Theatre, Ketchum. 6 p.m. Details: 726-9124.

Boulder Mountain Clayworks Holiday Fundraiser Show & Sale,

Dec. 11-12. Ketchum. Details: 726-4484.

St. Luke's Winter Ball,

Dec. 12. Dinner, dance and raffle. 6 p.m. Sun Valley Inn Lime-light Room. Details: 727-8406.

The Campbell Brothers,

Dec. 12. Sun Valley Opera House. 7:30 p.m. \$20 for Sun Valley Center for the Arts members and \$30 non-members. Details: 726-9491.

Eugene Ballet presents Nutcracker,

Dec. 15. Featuring local dancers. Community Campus, Hailey. 7 p.m. Details: 788-2033.

A Year with Frog and Toad,

Dec. 17-Jan. 3. Company of Fools performs at Liberty Theatre, Hailey. Details: 578-9122.

Outside In: Indian Art Abroad,

Dec. 18-Feb. 20. Multidisciplinary project exploring the arts of India through the lens of Indian artists. Sun Valley Center for the Arts, Ketchum. Details: 726-9491.

Santa Claus at Galena Lodge,

Dec. 19. All ages welcome. Galena Lodge, Hwy 75 north of Ketchum. 12-2 p.m. Details: 726-4010.

Sun Valley Tree Lighting Festival,

Dec. 19. Sun Valley Carolers sing, free hot chocolate, cookies and Santa Claus. 5 p.m. Sun Valley Resort.

Free Learn to Ski Clinic,

Dec. 20. Skate 1 p.m. and Classic 2:30 p.m. Galena Lodge, Hwy 75 north of Ketchum. Details: 726-4010.

BCRD Ski Free Day on North Valley Trails,

Dec. 20. North Valley Trails. All Day. Details: 788-2117.

Sun Valley Classical Christmas Concert,

Dec. 23. Sun Valley Opera House, 7 p.m., \$35. Details: 622-2135.

Sun Valley Christmas Eve Festival,

Dec. 24. Sun Valley Carolers, Nutcracker on Ice, Torchlight Parade, fireworks. Sun Valley. 5 p.m. Free.

Galena Lodge Holiday Dinner,

Dec. 24-27. Hwy 75 north of Ketchum. 6:30 p.m. Details: 726-4010.

Lodge Dining Room,

Dec. 24 & 25. Christmas Eve dinner with Sun Valley Trio. Sun Valley. Details: 622-2135.

Sun Valley Fun for Youths,

Dec. 26-30. Arcade games, fast track auto racing. Sun Valley Inn Continental Room. 6-10 p.m. \$25. Details: 622-2135.

Ketchum Winter Holidays Antiques Show,

Dec. 28-30. nexStage Theatre, Ketchum. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Galena Lodge Holiday Dinner,

Dec. 29-31. Hwy 75 north of Ketchum. 6:30 p.m. Details: 726-4010.

Gallery Walk,

Dec. 30. Enjoy a walk-about town as galleries open their doors, host artists and serve wine. Ketchum. 5-8 p.m. Details: 726-4950.

Sun Valley Winter Artist Series,

Dec. 30. An Evening of Chamber Music, Presbyterian Church of the Big Wood, Ketchum. 8 p.m. \$35, \$15 students. Details: 725-5807.

Sun Valley Limelight New Year's Eve Party,

Dec. 31. Live music by High Street Band. Sun Valley. 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. Details: 622-2135.

Lodge Dining Room,

Dec. 31. New Year's Eve dinner with Sun Valley Trio. Sun Valley. Details: 622-2135.

JANUARY

Outside In: Indian Art Abroad,

through Feb. 20. Multidisciplinary project exploring the arts of India. Sun Valley Center for the Arts, Ketchum. Details: 726-9491.

A Special Evening with Ian McCammon,

Jan. 6. nexStage Theatre, Ketchum. 7-8:30 p.m. \$5. Details: 622-0095.

Sun Valley Center for the Arts Lecture with Roxana Saberi,

Jan. 7. Presbyterian Church of the Big Wood, Ketchum. 7 p.m. \$20 member, \$30 non-member. Details: 726-9491.

BCRD Ski Free Day on North Valley Trails,

Jan. 9. North Valley Trails. All Day. Details: 788-2117.

Ski the Boulder Clinic,

Jan. 10. Galena to Baker Creek. Galena Lodge, Hwy 75 north of Ketchum. 9 a.m. \$30. Details: 726-4010.

The Second City,

Jan. 14-15. Liberty Theatre, Hailey. Details: 578-9122.

Ragamala Dance,

Jan. 15. Community Campus, Hailey. 7:30 p.m. \$25 Sun Valley Center for the Arts members, \$35 non-members. Details: 726-9491.

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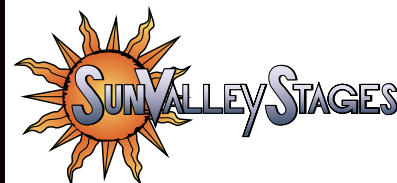
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14th annual Galena Winter Benefit and Dinner, Jan. 16. Sun Valley Limelight Room, 5:30-10 p.m. Details: 788-2117, ext. 214.

Sun Valley Winter Artist Series, Jan. 16. Classical guitar recital, Presbyterian Church of the Big Wood, Ketchum. 8 p.m. \$35 and \$15 students. Details: 725-5807.

Women's Ski Clinic, Jan. 23. Galena Lodge, Hwy 75 north of Ketchum. 10:30 a.m. Details: 726-4010.

Ski the Boulder Clinic, Jan. 24. Galena Lodge, Hwy 75 north of Ketchum, 9:30 a.m. \$30. Details: 726-4010.

Indian Cooking with Gay Bawa Odmark, Jan. 24. Sun Valley Center for the Arts, Ketchum. Details: 726-9491.

Bollywood Film Night, Jan. 28. Sun Valley Center for the Arts, Ketchum. Details: 726-9491.

Casino Royale Fund Raiser for Company of Fools, Jan. 29. Liberty Theatre, Hailey. 6:30-10:30 p.m. Details: 788-6520.

Alyson Cambridge The Voice of a Diva, Jan. 29. Opening night and Diva Party. Sun Valley Club. 6:30 p.m. \$125. Details: 726-0991.

The Center Family Day, Jan. 30. The Center, Hailey. 3-5 p.m. Free. Details: 726-9491.

Alyson Cambridge The Voice of a Diva, Jan. 30, 7:15 p.m. Carol's Dollar Mountain Lodge. \$35 and \$75. Details: 622-2135.

Ski the Rails, Jan. 30. Wood River Trail. All Day. Details: 788-2117.

Sun Valley Nordic Festival, Jan. 30-Feb. 8. Activities, clinics, races, special trail pass rates and demos, Sun Valley Resort.

Ski the Boulder Day, Jan. 31. Galena Lodge, Hwy 75 north of Ketchum. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. \$30. Details: 726-4010.

FEBRUARY

Outside In: Indian Art Abroad, to Feb. 20. Multidisciplinary project exploring the arts of India. Sun Valley Center for the Arts, Ketchum. Details: 726-9491.

Sun Valley Nordic Festival, through Feb. 8. Activities, clinics, races, special trail pass rates and demos, Sun Valley Resort.

4th Annual Avalanche Awareness Week, through Feb. 8. Wood River Valley. All Day. Details: 622-0095.

Best of Banff Film Festival Fundraiser and Raffle, Feb. 4-6. Sponsored by Friends of Sawtooth National Forest Avalanche Center. nexStage Theatre, Ketchum. 6 p.m. Details: 622-0095.

Boutonnieres Valentine's Day Ball, Feb. 6. Carol's Dollar Mountain Lodge.

Footlight Dance Company presents Earth Day Dancing, Feb. 6. Community Campus, Hailey. 7 p.m. \$10 adults and \$5 students. Details: 788-3481, ext. 6.

Wells Fargo Boulder Mountain Tour, Feb. 6. Galena Lodge, Hwy 75 north of Ketchum.

Sun Valley Center for the Arts Lecture Series with Sir Salman Rushdie, Feb. 11. Sun Valley Inn Limelight Room. 7 p.m. \$20 member, \$30 non-member. Details: 726-9491.

Gallery Walk, Feb. 12. Enjoy a walk-about town as galleries open their doors, host artists and serve wine. Ketchum. 5-8 p.m. Details: 726-4950.

Galena Lodge Winter Dinner, Feb. 13. Galena Lodge, Hwy 75 north of Ketchum. 6:30 p.m. Details: 726-4010.

Galena Lodge Valentine's Day Dinner, Feb. 14. Galena Lodge, Hwy 75 north of Ketchum. 6:30 p.m. Details: 726-4010.

Divas and Desserts nexStage Valentine's Day Benefit, Feb. 14. Champagne and dessert reception followed by concert. nexStage Theatre, Ketchum. 7 p.m. Details: 726-9124.

Mid-Winter Cabaret with Catherine Russell, Feb. 20. Table for two \$75, Table for four \$150, single tickets \$38. nexStage Theatre, Ketchum. 7:30 p.m. Details: 726-9491.

Share Your Heart Ball, Feb. 20. Benefit Camp Rainbow Gold. Music by Grooveline. Sun Valley Limelight Room. Details: (208) 422-0176.

The Glass Menagerie, Feb. 24 through March 14. Liberty Theatre, Hailey. Details: 578-9122.

The Family of Women Film Festival, Feb. 26-27, 7 p.m. and Feb. 28, 4 p.m. nexStage Theatre, Ketchum. \$15 per film. Details: 622-1554.

Marley in the Mountains, Feb. 26-28. Live music, lectures and races. Ketchum.

Sun Valley Winter Artist Series, Feb. 27. Evening of Russian music, Presbyterian Church of the Big Wood, Ketchum. 8 p.m. \$35. Details: 725-5807.

MARCH

The Glass Menagerie, through March 14. Liberty Theatre, Hailey. Details: 578-9122.

Sun Valley Ski Education Foundation Janss Pro-Am Classic, March 4-6. Bald Mountain, Ketchum. Details: 726-4129.

Gallery Walk, March 5. Enjoy a walk-about town as galleries open their doors, host artists and serve wine. Ketchum. 5-8 p.m. Details: 726-4950, svgalleries.org.

Wood River Arts Alliance Children's Arts Festival, March 6. Kids ages K-5. Classes, performances, crafts, musical petting zoo, exhibitions and more. Community Campus, Hailey. 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Free. Details: 578-7720.

Animal Shelter of the Wood River Valley Fur Ball Benefit, March 6. Raffle, live music and costume contest. Whiskey Jacques', Ketchum. 8 p.m. \$25. Details: 481-0450.

25th 'Silver Anniversary' Paw 'n' Pole, March 7. Sun Valley. All Day. Details: 788-4351.

The Community Library Moveable Feast, March 7. Fund raiser. Ketchum. Details: 726-3493.

Sun Valley Winter Artist Series, March 10. A Gershwin Celebration, Presbyterian Church of the Big Wood, Ketchum. 8 p.m. \$35 and \$15 students. Details: 725-5807.

Boulder Mountain Classic Tour, March 13. Harriman Trail. Galena Lodge, Hwy 75 north of Ketchum. All Day. Details: 726-4010.

5th Annual Expedition Inspiration Twilight Snowshoe Event, March 19. Breast cancer research fund raiser. Valley Club, Hailey. 5:30 p.m. Details: 726-6456.

Baldy Snowshoe and Ski Challenge, March 20. Bald Mountain. Details: 726-3497.

Sweet Plantain, March 26. String quartet fusion of Latin, classic and jazz music. Presbyterian Church of the Big Wood, Ketchum. 7:30 p.m. \$20 Sun Valley Center members, \$30 non-members. Details: 726-9491.

Spring Loppett, March 28. Fun ski tour. Galena Lodge, Hwy 75 north of Ketchum. 9 a.m. Details: 726-4010.

2010 USSA Masters Alpine Nationals, March 29-April 2. Sun Valley. All Day. Details: 726-3442.

Fools Day, April 1. Company of Fools 15th season celebration. Liberty Theatre, Hailey. 6:30-8 p.m. Details: 788-6520.

Galena Ride, Stride and Glide, April 3. Winter triathlon. Galena Lodge, Hwy 75 north of Ketchum. Details: 726-4010.

Galena Lodge Closing Day, April 14, Easter brunch and egg hunt. Galena Lodge, Hwy 75 north of Ketchum. Details: 726-4010.

ONGOING

Duchin Lounge, Apres ski with live music, Sun Valley, daily 5-12 p.m.

Lunchtime Ski Clinics at SNRA, Tuesdays and Fridays, north of Ketchum. 12-1 p.m. \$15. Details: 726-4010.

Wednesdays Winter Wildlife Snowshoe Walks, Galena Lodge/SNRA. Hwy 75 north of Ketchum. 11 a.m. Details: 726-4010.

Webb Winter Concert Series, Thursdays. Ketchum Town Plaza.


Thursdays Snowshoe with a Ranger, Galena Lodge/SNRA. Hwy 75 north of Ketchum. 11 a.m. Details: 726-4010.

Boiler Room, comedy series and live music Fridays and Saturdays, Sun Valley.

Lodge Dining Room music by Leana Leach, Sundays, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Sun Valley.

Galena Lodge Full Moon Dinners, Dec. 2-3, Jan. 29-31, Feb. 26-28 and March 27-29. Hwy 75 north of Ketchum. 6:30 p.m. Details: 726-4010.

Avalanche Basics Programs, Dec. 1, Hemingway Elementary School, Ketchum. Jan. 5, CSI Community Campus, Hailey. Jan. 16, Woodside Motorsports, Hailey. Feb. 2, CSI Community Campus, Hailey. Feb. 6, Beacon Clinic, Avalanche Rescue Training Park, Sun Valley Rd., Ketchum. Details: 622-0095.

 **View the weekly calendar on the Web at mtexpress.com**

Send submissions for the summer 2010 calendar to Sabina Dana Plasse at calendar@mtexpress.com

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CELEBRATING THE VALLEY'S FAVORITE RESIDENTS

DeVito's darlings

While other dog owners use traditional vocabularies to chat with their pets, Rae DeVito speaks nary a word. She “talks” to hers with hands. All three—Frances, 9, a Dalmatian; Tommy, 7, and Jeremiah, 6, Australian sheep dogs—are deaf. Tommy also is blind. Using pats and pets to guide Tommy, and gyrating hand signals for the others, the petite DeVito, a physician’s widow, and her trio hike valley trails as vigorously as dogs without disabilities. So unique are DeVito and her pets, a Virginia author is working on a book about them. A woman of nimble wit, DeVito cites one distinct advantage of deaf dogs. When they misbehave, she says, “They can’t hear and I can vent.”

—*Pat Murphy*

—*Photo by Paulette Phlipot*

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IDAHO

A snowboarder wearing a light-colored jacket and dark pants is captured mid-air, performing a jump. The background is a clear blue sky with some wispy clouds. The snowboarder is positioned in the upper left quadrant of the frame.

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