

Museum Grand Re-Opening at Maloney's April 26

After more than half a decade in temporary digs across the tracks, the SHS Museum has moved back to Railroad Avenue in the historic Maloney's Store building. Everyone is invited to help us celebrate our Grand Re-Opening event April 26.

The new space is terrific but not large, thus much of what we offer is intended to be interactive. Please come on the 26th prepared to find what you want to see in our museum, not merely what has been chosen for display. We have over 100 binders of photos and other materials about all aspects of valley history to be pored over to find what you are passionate about. If you grandparents attended school in Sky or taught here, come find their photos. We have a new patron computer station to help you search for whatever tickles your fancy, be it your ancestors, logging, mining, Great Northern Railway, BNSF, Forest Service, Stevens Pass, the Wellington Slide, Railroad Avenue, mills, basketball. If it is part of Sky Valley history, we likely have materials about it.

There will also be exhibits next door in the old main store sales area along with food, drinks.

You can also learn how to share your family history and photos or any other aspect of valley history with SHS and never let your precious originals out of your sight.

Relocation to the store was made possible by an arrangement between the town and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway, which owns the building. BNSF acquired use of

the old fire hall building as a maintenance facility in exchange for the Maloney's building. SHS is sub-leasing the three rooms on the western side of the store (the old butcher shop, cold-storage lockers, and the concrete-floored store-room along side) for our museum.

Please plan to attend, for an enjoyable, informative afternoon.

SHS on Facebook

Please visit our new Facebook Page, Skykomish Historical Society, and if you like what you see, "Like" us. Or if you see ways we can improve, "Like" us anyway, then post ways we can make the page more enjoyable for you.

Museum Hours

Starting April 27th

Sat. & Sun.: 12 to 4 pm



Spring 2014 - www.dflatblues.com/SkykomishHistoricalSociety

Relocation Move Goes Smoothly

It took longer than expected to prepare Maloney's for our occupancy, and longer to get shelving installed (our order coincided with Amazon opening two giant warehouses; somehow their shelving order overshadowed ours), but when the late December moving days finally arrived, the space was ready, the shelving was installed, and all went according to plan.

The antique "Store" items SHS purchased in 2007 were returned from Baring where they had been stored courtesy of Jerry and Andrea Dinsmore in our humidity-controlled container. Among them are the old "bean counter," the long, windowed display case where customers could view the goods in the front and a clerk scooped them out the back, and the tall ladder which ran floor to ceiling on a rail in the store.

Collection manager Bob Kelly's color coding of our boxes saved hours in the move.

The next day it snowed, but the movers were able to bring everything from our temporary home at the "Ranger's House" at the old Forest Service compound. Manager Bob Kelly's planning and organization paid big dividends as the movers were able to not only move everything, but also place the color-coded storage items on the recently arrived shelves.



“Art Week” in Sky

The fourth annual “Sky Art Week” is scheduled for June 23 - 27. Already a few new names are on the sign-up list. As in previous years, priority is given to the Skykomish High school students and their families.

Day one begins with photography. There is no end to new ways of seeing old Skykomish. Each student finds his or her own angle on portraying the town. (One person did “A Dog’s Eye View of Sky” last year). Those digital photos are printed and mounted as small accordion books, and the images become the starting point for drawing, print-making and painting as the week progresses. There is an art exhibit at the end of the week, last year enhanced by live music arranged by SHS member Federico Seco De Lucena, and great food, arranged by Debbe from Toot Sweet.

The workshop is presented by Beanne Hull, SHS Board member and Cornish College of the Arts faculty member in the design department. Art Week is open to participants of all skill levels and ages, with one exception that children under the age of eleven must be accompanied by an adult.

“As a grandmother,” says Dorothy Beck, “there are few opportunities as fun as Art Week, where you can spend five full days with your grandkids with both generations happily and fully engaged in what you are doing. It is just wonderful.”

Dorothy’s granddaughter Catie, soon to be age 9, concurs. “I really enjoy the ‘community,’ the classmates,” Catie says, “and there are a variety of activities that keep me interested the entire week.”

For Beanne even better than the colorful images of Sky that emerge is how much everyone learns from one another in such a setting.

Many Thanks to Our Donors

That we have been able to move our museum to Maloney’s is due in large measure to the generosity of our membership. The hugely successful Capital Campaign raised more than \$23,000 that allowed us to effectively prepare the new space for occupancy.

Once the town, our landlord, completed their upgrades (heat, basic electrics, insulation, mold abatement, etc.) SHS was able to contract with Fred Dowdy, who rebuilt the Whistling Post, to organize floor repair, museum lighting installation, wainscoting and drywall, painting, etc. in preparation for our move,

Thanks go to everyone who contributed, but a special thanks is due Bob Walters of Portland who anonymously offered to match all donations up \$5,000. Bob’s

grandfather, Sidney Jones, was the only Sky resident who perished in the Wellington slide in 1910. Bob lived in Sky as a small boy, when his father worked at the substation, and spent his summers there into his early teens. A wonderful account of his memories may be found in the book “Upriver Voices,” available at the museum.

Additional critical support for our opening came from a 4Culture Equipment Grant which paid for new shelving storage, professional museum furnishings, an additional fireproof cabinet, and a patron “computer work station” dedicated for use by museum visitors.



Beanne Hull on Board

New SHS board member Beanne (be-ann) Hull lives in Seattle and teaches at Cornish College of the Arts. She studied graphic design at U. of Cape Town in her native South Africa and has a BFA from Cornish. Beanne annually conducts the popular Art Week in Sky, and along with her late husband Bob, she has become a very active member of SHS.

Skykomish Calendar of Events

- Hist. Society Meeting.....21 June
- Art Week..... 23-27 June
- Old Timers’ Picnic..... 19 July
- Music in the Park.....16 Aug
- Dinsmore’s Benefit Picnic and Car Show in Baring...16 Aug
- Great Northern Day.....13 Sep
- Historical Society General Meeting.....27 Sep
- Historical Society Planning Meeting.....16 Nov
- Christmas Tree Lighting.....6 Dec

Open Air Markets:

- May 10
- June 14
- July 12
- August 9
- Sept 13

Music in the Park

A full schedule of events is slated for Music in the Park, Aug 16, sponsored by the Sky Chamber of Commerce.

The day will begin with a King Co. Library program at 2 p.m. at the library. Live music will begin at the Ballpark at 3 p.m. and go until 11. Bring a picnic or buy food from Sky PTOO cook shack.

The event is free but donations are encouraged, as they are what keep the music coming.

If you plan to camp, be sure to reserve a spot in advance through Skykomish Town Hall.

GNCR Begins Season May 3 & 4

The Great Northern & Cascade Railway season opens May 3 & 4 and will be hauling smiling passengers weekends from 10 to 4 the rest of the summer.

The most significant improvement from



Sky Depot Rehab

Patrons of the Great Northern & Cascade Railway will have a new, permanent, running-water bathroom this summer, as Skykomish Depot rehabilitation continues to progress.

The port-a-potty era at the GNCR is history. The American Disabilities Act requires bathrooms for public use be handicapped accessible, thus the depot's two original, tiny, unisex bathrooms have been upgraded into a single ADA compliant facility. Great care and effort were taken to maintain the style and feel of the '20s era, by re-using original tongue and groove interior siding.

Other completed work since last year are the exterior reconstruction and painting, an all new electrical system, and new lights, all of which have been approved by building inspectors.

last year will be three "steaming bays" on tracks 30 inches above the ground available to steam engine owners so they can work at waist level as they fire up their engines and build steam before running onto the mainline track. For visitors it means there will be more genuine steam engines, steam whistles, and charming little puffs of smoke all summer long.

There will continue to be improvements to the landscaping, tunnel, depot and even refreshments throughout the summer as quickly as GNCR godfather Kevin Wiederstrom and dozens volunteers can make them happen.

The GNCR provided more than 12,000 rides last summer, although nearly no one rode the line only once, and received more than \$500 in donations per weekend of operation.

As part of the Skykomish Town Center revitalization 100% of all donated funds were channeled back into improvements in the town center, depot, and GNCR.

Skykomish Environmental Institute

Along with hummingbirds and skunk cabbage, SEI is emerging from winter into springtime activities. Beginning its third year of incorporation, SEI continues its focus on environmental issues central to Skykomish and the area around it.

With trail design and permitting for Maloney Creek Trail completed in the fall, trail improvement construction will begin this spring. The Town is finalizing a contract with Northwest Trail Inc. for this work, with support from a WA Dept. of Ecology grant and matching Town funds.

The .2-mile interpretive trail will provide disability access and run along Maloney Creek adjacent to the Town boundary. The plans include construction of a viewing platform overlooking the creek at the east end trail terminus.

SEI volunteers and Skykomish school students will participate in invasive plant

Great Northern Day

GN Day in Sky will be Sept. 13 at the Masonic Hall from 9:30 to 4.

There will be short presentations and GN displays by SHS and by people attending including a unique story of a chapel rail car and a tour of Glacier Park using lantern slides. Plenty of time will be set aside for informal discussions, as well. There will be a Saturday Market along Railroad Avenue, the new SHS Museum will be open, and the Great Northern & Cascade Railway will be operating. Lunch will be available for purchase from the Sky Deli or bring your own. The event is free and open to the public.

Tables will be provided for people to display GN items that they bring. For information please contact Bob Kelly at 425-432-3884 or mvmvm@comcast.net.

removal and riparian planting in the fall.

For the second season, the SEI website (skykomishenvironmentalinstitute.org) hosted an interactive Maloney Creek salmon watch blog.

SEI Director JoAnne Menard visited Skykomish School science teacher Kim McCullough's class to present the students with the connection between physical observation of salmon spawning in Maloney Creek and recording those observations onto the SEI website using their personal school laptops. It was a positive experience for both SEI and the students

Following completion of the Maloney Creek trail improvements, SEI will work with the Town of Skykomish to design and develop a "naturescape" for children on open space adjacent to the trail and town boundary.

Volunteer are always welcome. Email: skykomishei@gmail.com.

Collections and Donations

Arlene (Farnham) and son Ron Fleming have donated a set of photos about life at Alpine. Collection Manager Bob Kelly calls them wonderful “daily life” snapshots with over 50 photos. The most unique shows the 1913 fire at the Alpine mill (the mill was promptly rebuilt and produced major quantities of lumber for the WWI war effort and into the 1920s). Included in the collection is the “Alpine Song” with original words and music. The photos have all been scanned and the originals are being returned to Arlene and Ron.

Several photos of Eastern Star activities as well as number of Skykomish School class photos have been donated by Kelly Canyock.

“Skykomish” in Scotland

For whatever their reasons, the British like to name their homes, thus there is a “Skykomish” at Garth, Forthingall in the county of Perthshire, Scotland.

It is the nearly completed home of David and Christine Proctor. David is the only member of SHS who lives in the other hemisphere.

During a visit to the US in 2001 David spent some time in Sky and the rich history inspired him. He and Christine’s personal “Skykomish” incorporates a “train room” above the garage, about which David writes, “Is just large enough for me to model the whole of Skykomish in 1913 including the GN yard, and hopefully the sawmill to the west in HO scale.” He intends to begin building his model in the coming winter.

In the summer of 2015 he and Christine plan to visit the US beginning in Denver then traveling north & west ultimately visiting Sky before flying home from Seattle.

Larry Johnson has donated a portable “convention booth” which became surplus to his company when it was replaced by a new one. It came in half a dozen wheeled luggage cases and when erected becomes an eight by 10 display “booth” for photos and other materials. At present it may be seen in the front window of the Maloney Store building covered with SHS historical photos.

Charlotte Mackner

A key player in SHS from the beginning, Charlotte “Skip” Mackner passed away in January at age 79. Born and raised in Sky, Skip’s commitment to the town ran deep. When SHS was mostly a dream of a few people, Skip and her husband Bob were part of that team. In addition to being a charter member of SHS she served as secretary, maintained our roster for two decades, was our registered agent when we incorporated in 2003, and served on our board for two terms. She also served Sky as mayor, 2002 – 2010, and bravely kept the town focused through the chaos and disruption of the seemingly endless oil clean-up.

Robert E. Hull

While traveling with his wife in her native South Africa, Bob Hull suffered a stroke and passed away in early April at age 68. During the years Bob was a member of SHS, he was a whirlwind. An award winning architect, Bob contributed his expertise to numerous successful grant applications for the Maloney’s Store rehabilitation and SHS’s subsequent move there. After the Whistling Post fire, Bob quickly donated his professionalism in designing the replacement building. Several excellent tributes may be found by plugging “Robert Hull, Miller Hull” into any search engine.

Membership News

SHS members have done well at transitioning to our January to January dues cycle. Dues not paid in January should be sent to treasurer Dorothy Beck, P.O. Box 66, Baring, WA 98224. Dues are \$20 (\$15 for seniors & students) or \$35 for a family.

Membership is easy and rewarding. You get newsletters, the historical calendar, and the satisfaction of supporting our valuable work preserving the history of the upper Skykomish valley.

New Members: Barbara Weber Bly, Everett; Brenda Clement, Sky; Lydia Folden, Peshastin; Steve & Debbe Koch, Sky; Gavin Murray, Langley; Jeanine Russell, Nikiski, AK; Colleen Wall, Snohomish; Dean & Dorothy Willard; Sammamish.

Skykomish Historical Society
P.O. Box 247, Skykomish, WA 98288
skykomishhistoricalsociety@yahoo.com

AUGUST 16th 10AM TO 6PM



BENEFIT CAR SHOW FOR THE BARING BOOSTERS
ANDREA@DINSMORESHIKERHAVEN.COM
360.677.1237

3RD ANNUAL DINSMORE'S PICNIC

ALL DONATIONS WILL GO TO THE BARING BOOSTER'S TO HELP PAY MAINTENANCE, TAXES, AND INSURANCE ON OUR LOCAL CHILDREN'S PARK. THIS PROPERTY WAS DONATED TO THE BARING BOOSTERS YEARS AGO FOR THE KIDS AND HAS SINCE BEEN CARED FOR BY THE LOCAL OLD GUYS. US OLD GUYS ARE NOW THE BARING BOOSTERS.

EMAIL:
andrea@dinsmoreshikerhaven.com

DIRECTIONS: TO DINSMORE'S

41 MILES EAST OF MONROE ON HWY 2
GO TO THE BARING STORE
THEN NORTH OVER RR TRACKS
AT 635TH ST. LEFT ON 197TH PLACE