

It's Official: SHS Has a Lease at Maloney's Store

The SHS Museum is moving back to Railroad Avenue, where it always wanted to be. A sub-lease has been signed between the town and SHS giving the three western rooms (old butchershop, cold storage locker, and the lower room alongside on the west) in a long-term arrangement. The building is owned by BNSF and has been leased to the town in exchange for the old fire hall that had been serving as the town maintenance building that will now serve as the BNSF maintenance facility. The town is hopeful of finding a commercial client for the large central room and the rooms along 5th St. that served for years as Sky's Post Office. Until such time as a com-

mercial client is found, the main room will be used by the town for meetings and events, and by SHS for temporary, portable museum displays. Before SHS can move the town will upgrade the heating and install an ADA compliant bathroom. This will be followed by pre-move preparation and upgrading by SHS to adapt our leased space. See **Capital Campaign** article at right.

Capital Campaign: Successful & Ongoing

Thanks to an anonymous donor who matched all donations up to \$5,000 and other generous gifts from SHS membership more than \$13,000 has been received to facilitate our move to the store building.

Donations may be sent to: Skykomish Historical Society, Attn: Capital Campaign, P.O. Box 247, Skykomish, WA 98288



Summer 2012 - www.dflatblues.com/SkykomishHistoricalSociety

Arson Destroys Whistling Post

After more than a century of operation, and by far the oldest business in Sky, the historic Whistling Post was destroyed by arson early a.m. on 10 April. Set by a thief after stealing \$3,300 from its ATM, the fire consumed most of the building in just a few hours. Skykomish Fire Department was able to contain the fire to just that building, but there was never a hope of saving it.

It began life as the Olympia Tavern in 1904, after an earlier fire had destroyed its predecessor, and remained open during Prohibition as the Maple Leaf Confectionary.

Owners Teddy Jo Ryder Brown and Charlie Brown have already let a contract to rebuild the Whistling Post.

Teddy Jo Ryder-Brown holds the charred GNR sign that used to adorn the front of the Whistling Post as the remaining shell of the Skykomish institution is being torn down.



Upriver Echoes: More Tales of Skykomish New Oral History Book

After a two-year hiatus Nancy Cleveland and Anne Sekor have completed their second book dedicated to sharing memories of Skykomish. Published by SHS *Upriver Echoes – More Tales of Skykomish* will provide the reader an opportunity to “hear” twenty-five new

stories of Skykomish from the people who lived them. The book may be ordered (shipping incl.) for \$15 for members or \$17 for non-members from: Dorothy Beck, Attn: Skykomish Historical Society P. O. Box 66, Baring, WA 98288

Bob Kelly Wins AKCHO Award

SHS collection manager, diligent, dedicated Bob Kelly, has received the William Jue Award for Volunteers from AKCHO, the Association of King County Heritage Organizations.

The award was accepted in Kelly's name by Bob Boggs, SHS board member, since diligent Kelly was in St. Paul researching Great Northern Railway records when the AKCHO ceremony was held at the Museum of History and Industry in Seattle in May.

Traveling Sky Depot Delivered to New (Old) Location

Having started out life in 1898 on the south side of the railroad tracks as a 24 by 60 standard depot building, Sky's depot has been around. In the early 1920s it was moved across the tracks and a bit east where a 24 by 46 "freight and baggage room" extension was added. It served both passengers and freight until 1970, when passenger service to Sky was discontinued, and it became a maintenance and storage facility for Burlington Northern Sante Fe Railway. During the great

Skykomish clean-up, it was again lifted and moved, this time to a spot 100 yards east, where it sat on blocks while the soil in the center of Sky was removed and cleaned or replaced.

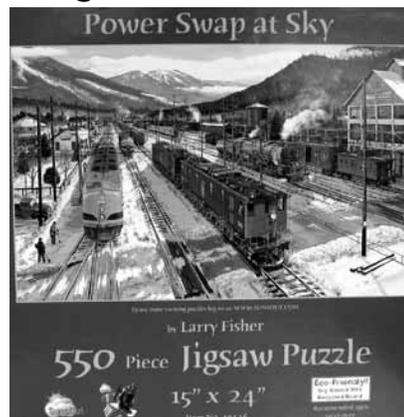
As part of the clean-up settlement, the depot is now owned by the town and has been returned to the south side of the tracks near where it began more than a century ago. It has been placed on a new foundation and is in the process of being rehabilitated to serve as the Visitor's Center in the being built "Town Center" area.



When completed the Town Center will have a large parking lot, display railroad tracks and equipment (engines and rail cars) and a 1/8 scale narrow gauge passenger railroad encircling the grounds.

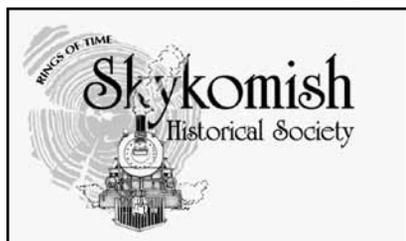
Historic Sky Depot, left, on its new foundation being rehabilitated. The west wall is being totally replaced by the three-window configuration of the early 1920s, and the interior "operator's office" and separate men's and women's waiting rooms are being restored.

Jigsaw Puzzle



SHS happily announces we have a supply of "Power Swap at Sky," a jigsaw puzzle made from the Larry Fisher color painting of the same name. The realistic view looks east from the 5th st. crossing in the mid 1950s. Seen are the Cascadia, depot, steam, diesel, & electric locomotives and the Sub-Station. The 550-piece puzzle is 15 by 24 when completed. It is available from SHS at \$17 for members and \$20 for non-members, shipping included. Dorothy Beck, Attn: SHS, P. O. Box 66, Baring, WA 98224.

New SHS Logo



After months of discussion how the SHS logo ought to reflect Sky's railroad heritage and the "Rings of Time" theme, Skykomish resident and graphic designer Federico Seco De Lucena produced the above, which was adopted at our May meeting.

There will be several formats, such as the new newsletter logo as seen on page one, but the steam engine, old growth log, and type selection "are" the new logo.

Federico works out of his home beyond the end of Reginald St. along Maloney Creek. SHS is indeed grateful to him for his many hours of work to create the logo.

Skykomish Calendar of Events

- Old Timers' Picnic..... 21 July
- Music in the Park.....4 Aug
- Dinsmore's Benefit Picnic
and Car Show.....18 Aug
- Great Northern Day.....8 Sep
- Historical Society
General Meeting.....29 Sep
- Historical Society
Planning Meeting.....17 Nov
- Christmas Tree Lighting.....1 Dec

Open Air Markets:

August 11
Sept 8

Sky Railroad Buildings Documented

One of the efforts in the “Skykomish Project” is to document Great Northern Railway buildings that once served the town. In the past few months two new publications have been completed. Don Pavia has published the historical monographs through the Great Northern Railway Historical Society about these Skykomish buildings.

GNRHS calls these scholarly works “Reference Sheets,” and the new editions join over 350 publications in the series. First published in March was “The Skykomish Fuel Oil Facility.” This sixteen page history documents the construction and use of the fuel oil facility between 1911 and 1957.

The second publication titled “Skykomish Depots” was published in June. This depot history traces the evolution of the GN depots in Sky starting in 1894 when an old boxcar was used and follows the various changes up to today.

Both these publications include extensive photos, illustrations and blueprints. Additional publications are planned on the development of the railroad yard and the history of the sub-station building. Copies of these Reference Sheets or any of the other 350+ may be purchased from the GNRHS store found at www.gnrhs.org. -- Bob Kelly

Car Show in Baring

AUGUST 18 NOON TO...??



BENEFIT CAR SHOW FOR THE BARING BOOSTERS
ANDREA@DINSMORESHIKERHAVEN.COM
360.677.1237 253.973.3495

All donations go to Baring Boosters (a 501 c 3, thus tax deductible), for up-keep and taxes on their local park dedicated to children in the Baring Area.

Great Northern Day

GN Day in Sky will be September 8, at the Masonic Hall from 9:30 am until about 4:00 pm. Admission is FREE. There will be informal presentations, tables will be available for people attending to have displays, and there will be a silent auction. Attendees are encouraged to bring display items, photo collections and models to show.

A long lunch is planned with plenty of time to visit. A reasonably priced lunch from a local establishment will be available.

The newest Skykomish Historical Society HO model kit, a GN 3-Room Section House, will be on display along with the Sky Signal Maintenance Shed, and the GN 12 x 34 Portable Depot kits. All kits will be available at discounts for people attending.

An informal contest called “Date that Photo” is planned, where several photos of Sky will be displayed and people will try and establish the date. Prizes will be awarded in several categories. Those with photos of Sky are encouraged bring them to see if others can date them.

There will be time to check progress on the rebuilding of the Whistling Post Tavern along Railroad Ave. A Saturday Open Air market is being held on the 8th as well.

At the end of the day we are arranging for a tour of the Skykomish Depot that is now back on the south side of the tracks, again 60 feet long and under restoration.

If anyone has questions please contact Bob Kelly at 425-432-3884 or by email at mvmvmv@comcast.net.

HO Scale Models

In addition to the wonderful large scale model Bonnie Hollingsworth created of the 1902 Skykomish School, small scale model kits of various GN buildings from Sky are being produced through a partnership with a local manufacturer. These historically accurate kits are designed for use in a HO scale model railroad. Three kits have been produced to date; a 12 x 34 foot portable depot, the Sky Signal Maintenance Shed (pictured below) and a 3-Room Section House like the one located near the Masonic Hall in the 1920's.

SHS provides the drawings, photos and historical information to Sound & Northwestern who produce the kit. Inside with the instructions, is information about the history of Sky and how to join SHS. The kits are popular with model builders and are marketed through the Great Northern Railway Historical Society. SHS also has kits available for sale at special events and our museum store. -- Bob Kelly

The HO scale model below depicts the Sky Signal Maintenance Shed that was located along the north side of the tracks, just east of the depot for many years, approximately across Railroad Ave. from the Cascadia.



Valuable Collections Received

George Fischer has donated an extensive Great Northern Railway collection containing many unique GN items relating to the Cascades. In addition to photographs, there are approximately 150 blueprints, over fifty original employee time tables between 1901 and 1930, several large photo murals of GN equipment, a desk plaque with a portion of a drill bit used in the Cascade Tunnel, as well as documents signed by James J. Hill and John F. Stevens. The collection is being inventoried and organized prior to starting of cataloging

Marion and Joanne Calhoun have donated some unique items relating to the community of Alpine from the Kirschbaum family. In addition to photos, the collection includes programs for the Alpine Lumber

Company annual dinner's in the 1920's, school records and a unique hand drawn map of the town with the resident of every home identified. Also in the group are photos of Great Northern Railway Signal Department vehicles from the 1950's,

Dale and Lily Lathrop allowed the society to copy several family photo albums from the estate of Charles R. Lathrop who worked for the Great Northern and Burlington Railway's. Charles operated heavy construction equipment and moved to various locations with his own outfit car and flat car to accomplish the work. The collection consists of photographs and newspaper clippings. In addition, Lily donated several original paintings depicting scenes in Skykomish and views taken from Charles's photos.

-- Bob Kelly

Skykomish Environmental Institute

First envisioned in 2005, the concept of a Skykomish Environmental Institute (SEI) survived half a decade of oil remediation and the torn up town that came with it and is now emerging as a reality with the mission to "pursue and disseminate environmental knowledge, promote recreational access, terrestrial restoration, and environmental education, and provide stewardship of local aquatic resources." Initial projects are:

- **Monitoring Maloney Creek Restoration**
- **Building Maloney Creek Trail**
- **Designing/Building Day-use/Nature-escape for Kids**
- **Finding SEI a home**
- **Exploring Other Nature/Recreation Project Options**
- **Developing Education/Organization/Marketing/Funding Plans**

SEI volunteers include Sky residents, community service groups, UW Environmental Studies students and Skykomish School students. Board of Directors members are Jason Luker, JoAnne Menard, Clint Stanovsky, Gary West, and Rich Yargas.

SEI welcomes all volunteers. Email contact: skykomishei@gmail.com.

"Art Week" in Sky

In late June Cornish School Art Instructor and SHS member BeAnne Hull put on a 2nd annual "Art Week." Sky School art room was made available Mon. through Fri. The week was highlighted by a well attended "exhibition" at Maloney's Store Friday afternoon.

Each day began with instruction; the rest of the day was spent applying the principles taught: Mon: photography, Tue: pencil drawing, Wed: charcoal drawing, Thu: water color. Friday the group completed unfinished work and painted large posters on canvas for the exhibition.

Saturday a Northwest Native Basketmaking Workshop was held at Maloney's.

Membership News

SHS membership continues to grow and taking family memberships into account now numbers well over 300 individuals, including what is believed to be our first overseas member.

David Proctor from Sedbergh, UK, a visitor to Sky in 2001, wants to build an HO scale model of Sky GNR facilities ca 1911-1912 after the conversion from coal to oil, and has joined SHS to aid in his research.

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

New Members: David Gowey, James & Susan Haydock, Virginia Horton, Bob & Pat Lindstrom, Dee Malchow, David Proctor, Duane Sebelius, Sandra Warren, and Karen Weis

Skykomish Historical Society
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Capital Campaign Halfway There

