

Second Annual Upper Sky Valley History Event 26 May

SHS has an impressive collection of Skykomish Valley history and nearly all of it will be available to be enjoyed May 26th at our second annual Sky Valley History Day.

We have dozens of binders with school photos going back to the early 1900s, binders with pictures of students, staff, sports teams, buildings, and events. We have dozens of binders of valley activity: railroad, logging, mining, Forest Service, skiing, etc. We have binders devoted to Grotto, Baring, Scenic, Miller River, and all those one-time "towns" that existed along the tracks in the early days of the establishment of Great Northern Railway.

There will be a Help Desk ready to help you find whatever it is about valley history you want know, or search our online archives on our computer.

RR Equipment Display at Museum

When the SHS Museum opens 5 May vintage railroad equipment and artifacts will be on display in the "West Room."

As SHS grew into our new space at Maloney's Store, other than displaying the Bob Norton bottle collection, the west room served mostly as a repository for large items that didn't logically go anywhere else. Over the winter exhibit designer Louis Read created interesting, informative displays there, while also building valuable, appropriate storage areas.

Everything visitors will see in the display was utilized in the operation of Great Northern Railway at various times in history.

There are train order hoops and forks. Early on the hoop containing the train order was held by the telegraph operator along side the moving train so the hoop could be spared by the engineer or conductor with their arm. Once the order was removed, the hoop was dropped at trackside for the telegrapher operator to retrieve. Because of the difficulty of retrieving the hoop, especially in bad weather, the fork was introduced. The fork allowed the train order to be picked up without taking the fork. To alleviate the danger of a telegraph operator

standing near a moving train, a stand was eventually introduced to hold the fork. There's a two-man rail lifter. With six of them, 12 experienced men could move a rail into place to be spiked to cross-ties. There's a hand operated drill used to make holes in the end of a rail so it could be bolted to another rail using a joint bar, also on display. The piece of rail on display is stamped 1898. There are long-nosed oil cans used to apply oil to hard to reach recesses of locomotives. Early on oil was applied every time a train stopped. There are flags that were carried on cabooses. When a train stopped, a conductor/brakeman walked back a predetermined number of telegraph poles to place a red flag so no following train would run into the stopped one. Maintenance crews also used flags to stop trains when they worked a section of track.



Spring 2018, www.skyhistory.org



There are spike malls, number boards, rail anchors, lanterns, rail tongs, and a pole jack among other items.

The single exception to the items used in the operation of Great Northern Railway is the toy display: toys kids in railroad towns routinely played with that represented things they saw every day in their communities.

Museum Hours
Sat. & Sun.: 12 to 4 pm

Metamorphosis:

One mess becomes Onemish Lodge

After half a century of visible decline on the outside, what most Sky old timers think of as the “Theater” has become Onemish Lodge, presented as “the perfect base camp for all your mountain adventures in the PNW.”

The building began as John Maloney’s ice house alongside Great Northern Railway well over a century ago. Having served as a warehouse, then moved across RR Ave to become Skykomish Theater, it stood as an empty eyesore on RR Ave for decades before being bought and rehabilitated into an upscale extended stay Air BnB Lodge.

New owners Frank Martin and Jason Russo are “pretty happy” with how things are going at Onemish. Having made sizable investments in time and money, return on their investment has begun. With additional expenditures on outreach and advertising, they are particularly pleased at the positive feedback from their guests. One can Google “Onemishlodge” to see photos and read reviews, all of which have been 5-star, so far.

As a resident and now a town council member, Frank is committed to Skykomish and it’s future. Asked if he’d be interested in doing something similar at the historic McEvoy house that sits on RR Ave between the Whistling Post and Cascadia Inn he mused, “We are always interested in helping to revitalize this amazing place. Should the McEvoy property come up for sale, we’d love to give it a look.”



“Skykomish Theater” as it appeared a few years back and how it graces RR Ave today. The entrance has been returned to how it looked during some of its years as a theater, while inside the original warehouse door reminds guests of the building’s history in what is otherwise a very upscale common space and modern kitchen shared by all.

Art Week in Sky

Transformations will be the theme for this year’s week of free art workshops in Sky 25-29 June. We will be exploring how much has changed in Skykomish since the first such week of free art classes in 2011. Once again, there is a line-up of great teachers for photography, drawing, painting and sculpture, with one full day devoted to each discipline. An art show and party will be held in Maloney’s Store at 6 p.m. on Friday June 29th to which the whole town is invited

Information on how to sign up can be found at Skyartweek.com, for all ages and skill levels. Participants are encouraged to come for the entire week, but if that’s not possible, people are welcome to attend one or more days. Children under ten are warmly invited, but must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is limited to twenty-five artists per day. Artweek presented by SHS board member Beanne Hull, a retired art instructor from Cornish College in Seattle.

Electric Sky

The fourth annual Electric Sky art and tech weekend will bring together artists, makers, technologists, designers and friends to the Ballpark where they will collaboratively engage with the environment in new and exciting ways 2-5 Aug. A cross between an artists’ retreat and a hackathon, where techies et. al. take part in an outdoor creativity lab, making exciting stuff.

Saturday night 4 Aug. there will be a light show with everyone invited to come see what has been created on the theme “The Digital Frontier” where participants may be able to walk among images of historical figures and events from Skykomish’s colorful past.

(<http://electricskyartcamp.com>)

Sky Valley Citizen of the Year

Since the opening of Great Northern & Cascade Railway, annual visitor numbers to our SHS Museum have more than doubled,

so when SHS was invited by Skykomish Valley Chamber of Commerce to nominate a Sky citizen for the 20th Annual Community Awards & Random Acts of Kindness Award Ceremony, the board was in agreement SHS should nominate GNCR Godfather Kevin Wiederstrom.

Sky Valley Chamber asked us to identify "people who make the Sky Valley a special place to live." In our recommendation we mentioned that while this is an annual award, Kevin's dedication to creating GNCR and rehabbing the depot made him more like the volunteer of the decade. Rain or shine, whether the railroad is running or it is the off-season, a significant group of volunteers can be found upgrading Depot Park and all the activities there.

And it turned out Sky Valley Chamber's panel of judges agreed Kevin was a most worthy nominee and named him Sky Valley Citizen of the Year.



Kevin Wiederstrom is presented a plaque in appreciation of his many contributions to SHS & the town by former board member Bob Boggs.

Below: After another busy off-season, Sky's ride-on railway opens for the summer season 5 May with a new truss bridge (pictured), a new safety fence, new railing on the south side of the Depot, and a snow shed, plus 1000 ft. of new track completed last August. All by volunteers.



Thank You 4Culture

On behalf of SHS and all citizens of the upper Skykomish Valley, we wish to thank 4Culture for their generous and consistent support for our community. Per their website 4Culture "provides funding and support for the cultural work that makes King County vibrant." SHS, Sky Hotel, the Depot, Depot Park, GNCR, Maloney's Store, Artweek, Onemish Lodge, and others have been supported by 4Culture. Sky would not be the place it is today without this support



Great Northern Day

GN Day in Skykomish will be September 8, 2018. The event is free and open to the public. The Masonic Hall will open at 8:30 am for people who want to set up a display and the program starts at 9:30 am. In the morning there will be short presentations on Great Northern related topics and plenty of time to visit. Traditionally a long lunch period is provided for visiting the museum, the town market or the GN&C operating at the Depot. People attending can bring their own lunch or a lunch will be arranged. During the afternoon an additional presentation concludes the event.

If there are any questions about the event please contact Bob Kelly at 425-432-3884.

Music in the Park

The 8th annual family friendly Music in the Park celebration of Skykomish and our community will be Sat. Aug 18th, at the Ballpark, hosted in conjunction with Sky Chamber of Commerce and the Town, and sponsored by local businesses, non-profits, and attendees.

The Music is expected to begin about 2:30 with a children's show called Geology Rocks done by *Mike Gervais* and sponsored by King County Library System.

The Facebook page **Skykomish Music in the Park** will have specific times and updates as to which bands are performing and at what time. Festivities will last until midnight.

The event is free and donations are encouraged, as they are what make future events possible. Anyone or group interested in sponsoring/donating is encouraged to do so via the Facebook page.

Bring a blanket and/or chairs, yard games or not, friends, family, neighbors, and a picnic. Or buy food at the PTSO cook shack.

Those planning to camp at the Ballpark want to be sure to reserve a spot in advance through Skykomish Town Hall.

Sky Deli Closing

After 15 years Skykomish Deli is closing its doors.

Owners Nancy & Rich Yarges have been seeking a buyer for some months, and have decided it is time to embrace the next phase of their lives.

The Deli will remain open through ski season, and a short time thereafter while they liquidate the remaining inventory. During this time food service will cease, but expresso and coffee will be available.

An Open House was held 21 April so members of the community could enjoy tasty appetizers and other treats as they said their goodbyes.

The Deli remains for sale or lease. Anyone interested is requested to contact Stephen at 425 405 8827.

Collections & Donations News

Darlene (Holdridge) Waite has donated what may from a research standpoint be the most valuable reference material we've ever received:

an entire carton of three-ring binders with cataloged and organized lists of upper Sky valley census data from the early to mid 1900s. Anyone who has tried to locate people using the original hand-written census forms will appreciate the scholarship and dedication required to organize and transpose them into readable text. She also donated a set of school yearbooks.

Fred Black provided a number of Skykomish related objects in a donation. The largest is the SKYKOMISH station sign from the depot. Also, two benches, "hoops" for handing up orders to engineers, a Railway Express sign, a signal flag kit, and trainman's lights.

The estate of Pearl Bowen donated 14 Lee Pickett glass negatives. Notes indicate they were found at the dump and given to Pearl by the children who found them. Subjects range from homes, to people posed or on the street.

Chuck Strawn has donated a large number of his original railroad photographs. The collection is organized by railroad and housed in 3-ring binders. Many photos have captions describing the views. Also included is an interesting group of railroad advertisements taken from magazines,

Pacific Northwest Railroad Archive in Burien has shared duplicate railroad employee timetables and Burlington Northern era newsletters with SHS to help build our collection.

2017 SHS Activities

March 25: SHS Meeting where Todd Brunner updated us on Sky Hotel renovation, and gave us a look inside the building. Also plans were finalized for our 13 May "Upper Valley History Day."

May 6: Museum opened for season.

May 13: "History Day" where we had tables and information dedicated to all valley towns from years past.

May: Published spring newsletter.

May – Nov: Presence at five Skykomish "Open Air Markets."

June 26-30: "Art Week in Skykomish" at Maloney's, ending with an opening/party displaying the art amid refreshments and music.

July 15: SHS Booth at annual *Old Timers' Picnic*.

Aug 12: Booth at J. J. Hill Day at GNCR & Depot Park.

Aug 19: SHS presence at *Music in the Park* at the Ballpark.

Sep 9: *Great Northern Day* in Sky attended by 50+ rail fans.

Sep 23: *SHS Annual General Meeting* at museum.

Nov 18: *SHS Annual Planning Meeting* at the museum.

Dec: Published *2018 Calendar* on theme of Skykomish Ranger Station and US Forest Service.

Membership Information

Membership is at an all time high, and the January to January dues year is working well. Anyone in arrears on dues may send them at any time to treasurer Dorothy Beck, 815 124th St. SW, #54, Everett WA 98201. 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, and presenting it to the world.

**Skykomish Historical Society
P.O. Box 247
Skykomish, WA 98288
Email: shs@skyhistory.org**

SEI Update

With spring snow gone wildflowers again brighten Maloney Creek Trail, Skykomish Environmental Institute reports, making a stroll particularly delightful right now. It's an easy, short (.2 mi) walk on disability access trail along a lovely, rushing, tumbling mountain stream. The trail is located at the south end of Thelma St. in Sky.

The platform outlook at the upper trail terminus has been relocated and is again accessible. Having been nearly washed away in the major winter storm two years ago, last fall the Forest Service repositioned it to a safe location along the trail.

Planning and production continues for the installation of a trailhead kiosk and interpretive trail signage. Finalization is anticipated for this summer. The US Forest Service and Sound Salmon Solutions are contributing grantors for the sign project.

May 19 volunteers are invited to join SEI in a Spring Clean-up to remove fallen branches and overgrowth to make the trail easy for anyone to enjoy.

2018 Events Calendar

Museum & GNCR Open 5 May
Sky Valley History Day.. 26 May
Art Week..... 25-29 June
Old Timers' Picnic.....21 July
Electric Sky.....2-5 Aug
J. J. Hill Train Festival.....11 Aug
Music in the Park.....18 Aug
Great Northern Day..9 Sep
SHS General Meeting.....23 Sep
SHS Planning Meeting....18 Nov
Christmas Tree Lighting.....3 Dec

Open Air Markets:

May 19
June 16
July 21
August 18
Sept 15