

SNOWLANDS

Bulletin

*Promoting opportunities for quality, human-powered
winter recreation and protecting winter wildlands*

Supreme Court Rejects Challenge of Sequoia NM

A Win For Human-Powered Recreation and the Environment

Change Needed in OHV Grant Process

Winter Enforcement Gets Short End

The October 2, 2003 meeting of the California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Commission left the public working on winter issues dumbfounded. The meeting, where grants for 2003-04 summer and winter OHV recreation were approved, was a huge change from past meetings with nearly all grants on the consent calendar. One could request that a grant be removed from the consent calendar, but that made little difference because there was no provision in the process or budget for shifting allocations.

Marcus Libkind of Snowlands Network attended the meeting and was shocked at what had gone on behind closed doors. "On the summer side, one [OHMVR] Commissioner met with two members of the OHV community and one from the environmental community. They divided the money between winter and summer grants, and then allocated the summer funds to specific grants. The allocation of the money for winter grants was solely determined by the [OHMVR Division] staff." But Marcus says, "What ticked me off most was that this whole process was made public the morning of the Commission meeting. We had no time to prepare."

Although many of the winter grants were taken off the consent calendar and discussed by the Commission with the public given opportunity to comment, the process was fruitless. It was impossible to increase funding in any area because all the money had already been allocated. Because each grant was considered individually it could not be increased because there was no process to simultaneously consider decreasing a different grant.

Libkind spoke repeatedly about the lack of funds for enforcement with little effect. OHMVR Division staff said that some carry-over from the previous year could be made

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The Supreme Court refused to hear a challenge to the creation of national monuments in five Western states in the waning days of the Clinton administration. Sequoia National Monument was one of these.

As a result, snowmobile use within Sequoia National Monument will be limited to existing roads. Snowlands Network knows that continued vigilance will be necessary to ensure that this requirement is followed.

The Antiquities Act gives presidents the power to protect land threatened by development. It was first used by Theodore Roosevelt to establish Devil's Tower National Monument in Wyoming. Since then, every president except Reagan and the two Bushes have used the Act to create or

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Is This Your Last Issue of the *Snowlands Bulletin*?

If the mailing label on this issue is marked "complimentary," this is your last regularly mailed copy of the *Snowlands Bulletin*.

The cost of printing and mailing the *Bulletin* does not permit us to indefinitely mail copies to nonmembers of Snowlands Network. Therefore, this is the last complimentary issue nonmembers will receive.

We urge you to become a member and support the critical work we are doing. Snowlands is the voice of the human-powered winter recreation community. Membership gives you:

- Peace-of-mind that someone is representing your interests
- Benefits of an organization networking with state and national environmental organizations
- Regular updates on issues through the *Snowlands Bulletin* and e-mail alerts

Please fill out and return the membership form on page 11 or become a member on-line at www.snowlands.org.

Lake Tahoe Community College Offers Great Opportunities

Classes Open to Everyone

Wilderness Studies Department

Wilderness Studies at Lake Tahoe Community College (LTCC) blends outdoor adventure with the disciplines of college education. The philosophy of the program is that academic training is far more effective when combined with experiences which help you grow physically and personally.

Wilderness Studies classes at LTCC teach you how to enjoy the wilderness, adapt to different conditions and at the same time care for the fragile environment. Classes are offered in fall, winter, spring, and summer. Each session offers detailed in-depth study of wilderness skills and techniques, leadership skills, wilderness first aid, environmental awareness, and recreation opportunities.

The winter 2004 class schedule will be available on November 24, 2003 and class registration begins December 8, 2003. You do not have to be a resident to take advantage of these classes. Like all community college courses, the cost for these courses is a bargain. The hitch is that some require midweek attendance and some are multi-week courses. But some are limited to a Friday class lecture and weekend of outdoor training. For those with flexibility in their schedule, these courses are a great deal. Read on for more information including a list of classes.

The mission of Snowlands Network is to promote opportunities for quality human-powered winter recreation and to protect winter wildlands. We will educate the public and government agencies about winter recreation and environmental issues.

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The website for the Wilderness Studies Program is www.ltcc.cc.ca.us/special_programs/wilderness/index.htm.

Tahoe Adventure Club

The Tahoe Adventure Club (TAC) has its home base in the Wilderness Studies Department of LTCC. The Club is dedicated to the pursuit of wilderness activities for the benefit of all people. It has a special interest in and focus on backpacking, rock climbing, whitewater rafting and kayaking, backcountry skiing and snowboarding, and mountaineering. TAC seeks to promote these areas of interest, to encourage students to expand their education with outdoor adventures, and to unite those adventuring spirits.

Wilderness Studies Coordinator

Rosie Werner is the Wilderness Studies Coordinator at LTCC. She is responsible for the Wilderness Studies Department and is working to create an AA degree in wilderness studies. Her contact information is:

Rosie Werner
Wilderness Studies Coordinator
werner@ltcc.edu
(530) 541-4660 ext. 463

Winter 2003-04 Classes

The following classes will be offered this winter. Look for them in the Physical Education Department.

- Cross-Country Skiing
- Backcountry Skiing
- Telemark Skiing
- Snowshoeing
- Winter Survival
- Avalanche Avoidance and Rescue
- Avalanche Forecasting Symposium
- Level II Avalanche
- Land Navigation
- Map and Compass
- Mountaineering

Lake Tahoe Community College

One College Drive
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
530-541-4660
Website: www.ltcc.cc.ca.us

Switzerland Faces Same Issues

Whoever imagines Switzerland as a quiet country with peaceful alpine valleys where backcountry skiing and snowboarding is undisturbed is only partly right. If you know where to go, you will find a splendid untracked landscape with powder or corn all winter long. Steep peaks as high as 15,000 feet and wide open valleys are perfect terrain for snowsport enthusiasts. In Switzerland all the huts owned by the Swiss Alpine Club (SAC) have small winter rooms that are open for everybody and make perfect base camps for backcountry trips. But skiers and snowboarders better choose their targets well if they want to find a peaceful and quiet surrounding.

Heli-skiing: an old conflict

The Alps are a relatively small mountain range, 600 miles long and 120 miles wide. Fifteen percent of the alpine territory is in Switzerland. With more than seven million inhabitants Switzerland is densely populated. A short look at the statistics shows its potential for tourism – more than 1700 lifts and cable cars and 52 million overnight stays per year. Because of global warming, many ski areas below 5000 feet don't receive enough snowfall any more and are building new chairlifts and cable cars to reach higher altitudes.

But the backcountry of the Swiss Alps is not only endangered by ski areas, urbanization, traffic and hydroelectric power stations. Despite the limited space, heli-skiing is allowed in Switzerland, while it is prohibited in most of the other alpine countries including France, Austria, Germany and parts of Italy. In the Swiss Alps there are 42 officially permitted alpine landing sites above 3300 feet, 22 of them in or close to protected areas. Three of them are even within the borders of the United Nations world heritage region Jungfrau-Aletsch-Bietschhorn in Bernese Oberland. "Swiss government officials and regional tourism organizations made a cheap deal to achieve the world heritage label – the area only deserves the status if certain restrictions are made. Top priority is the prohibition of heli-tourism in the area," says Mountain Wilderness (MW) Switzerland winter sports expert Rolf Meier.

Helicopters fly an average of 20,000 passengers a year into the Swiss Alps, but only a part of the alpine landing sites are regularly used for heli-skiing. Jürg Meyer, responsible for nature and environment at the SAC, says: "Heli-skiing is negative mostly because of the noise in the last wilderness areas. It is fun for a few at the expense of many others and nature. That is where the freedom must end!" And Rudolf Strahm, member of the Swiss Parliament, adds, "Heli-skiing, which is not for search and rescue, is pure egoism."

Snowmobiling: a new trend-sport

Snowmobiling for leisure and sport use is a relatively new phenomenon in the Alps. In the seventies and eighties only hut wardens used snowmobiles to transport equipment and food. For the most part, snowmobiling began in Switzerland in the nineties, when it became popular in France and splashed

over to Switzerland. Snowmobiling is permitted for leisure use in France and Italy, but not so in Switzerland, Austria and Germany.

Austria and Germany are very strict about enforcing their bans on snowmobiling, so they avoid conflicts between snowmobiling and non-motorized backcountry uses. Not so in some of the Swiss cantons. The Ticino region is the snowmobile mecca of Switzerland with regular use for fun and leisure. Simone Sprunck, MW board member explains: "In the 2002-03 winter we watched the practice of snowmobiles high-marking steep slopes in the premier ski touring area west of Lucomagno Pass for the first time. It was amazing how half a dozen snowmobiles tracked the valley in only a few minutes. The slopes would have had enough potential for fresh ski and snowboard tracks for many weeks. After the snowmobiles had passed, all the good slopes were groomed." Stephan Harvey, mountain and ski touring guide from the Swiss Federal Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research (SLF) in Davos, is aware of the forthcoming problems with snowmobiles and avalanche hazard. Up to now there have been no deadly avalanche accidents with snowmobiles reported in Switzerland.

Mountain Wilderness: the attorney of the alpine backcountry

Since 1994 MW Switzerland, a group of backcountry skiers, snowboarders and climbers, have fought for the preservation of the mountain environment. MW Switzerland is part of the network of MW International with eight national divisions. The most active ones are located in France, Italy, Germany, Switzerland and Spain. MW is organized as an environmental non-governmental organization (NGO) and financed by members' fees and donations. Heli-skiing, snowmobiling and mountain resorts are the focus of their intense lobbying. But MW is also active in other fields. They publish a complete series of backcountry guidebooks for skiers and snowboarders that promote access to the trailheads by public transport and encourages the backcountry enthusiasts to enjoy and respect nature.

*Jan Guerke
Coordinator "Keepwild!"
Mountain Wilderness Switzerland*

Sequoia National Monument

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expand a monument.

In rejecting the challenge, the court reinforced the president's power to protect federal lands under the Antiquities Act. This puts to rest claims by the Mountain States Legal Foundation of Denver, a conservative public interest law firm, which claimed that Clinton overstepped his authority in designating or expanding some 2000 areas.

Former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt praised the Supreme Court for its decision.

November Events A Great Success!

A little cold weather did not chill the spirits of Snowlands Network's supporters who attended social events featuring wine, cheese and dessert; slide shows; and silent auctions at venues in Palo Alto, South Lake Tahoe and Reno. These November events were a huge success in many respects.

- Supporters had an opportunity to mingle with others who enjoy backcountry skiing and snowshoeing as well as support the efforts by Snowlands Network to represent their needs and preserve winter wildlands.
- The directors of Snowlands had the opportunity to meet the people they represent. In some cases, relationships with other organizations were formed as a result of the events.
- There was lots of great food and wine.
- The silent auction resulted in some great bargains.
- The slide show, "Skiing in the Shadow of the Great One," by Marcus Libkind was filled with spectacular images of skiing in Denali National Park and humorous stories.
- Funds were raised that will allow Snowlands Network to continue their efforts on behalf of the backcountry ski and snowshoe community.

Snowlands Network is truly indebted to the following individuals who gave their time and energy to make the events a huge success.

- **Ron Hunter** – Our host at the Patagonia Outlet in Reno where he went all out to make the event a success.
- **Kevin Schroder** – Our wine expert.
- **Herta Erdoes** – The "cookie lady" who supplied dozens of delicious home-baked delights.
- **Jeff Erdoes** – A major volunteer on whom we depended at the South Lake Tahoe and Reno events.
- **Charlotte Cox** – Donated a gourmet picnic for four, including wine, for the silent auction, and donated food the Reno event.
- **Gail Ferrell** – Donated copies of the beautiful coffee table book *Silence and Solitude: Yellowstone's Winter Wilderness* and more.
- **Mike Wilkin** – A major volunteer at the Reno event.

Generous donations by businesses contributed to the financial success of the events. We urge you to patronize them.

Resorts and Instruction

- **Rock Creek Winter Lodge**, Rt. 1 Box 12, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546 (877-935-4170) – An isolated backcountry ski resort with groomed track, surrounded by premier telemark terrain, and located at the gateway to Little Lake Valley and some of the Sierra's most spectacular Wilderness.
- **Sorensen's Resort**, Hope Valley, CA (800-423-9949) – A year-around resort located in the heart of beautiful Hope Valley offering lodging, meals and special programs. An ideal base for backcountry skiing and snowshoeing.
- **Mountain Adventure Seminars**, P.O. Box 5450, Bear

Valley, CA 95223 (209) 753-6556 Ext. 1 – Exceptional mountaineering instruction and finely crafted adventures in rock climbing, mountaineering, telemark and backcountry skiing, snowboarding and snowshoeing, and avalanche education, plus wilderness medicine and team building.

Artists and Publishers

- **Erik Holland**, 17 South Virginia #506, Reno, NV 89501 (775-322-3582) – Local artist. Donated painting of Mono Lake for the Reno silent auction.
- **Howard Weamer**, 3812 F, Happy Valley Road, Lafayette, CA 94549 (925-284-4470) – Ostrander Hut keeper, renowned photographer and author of *The Perfect Art: the Ostrander Hut & ski touring in Yosemite*.
- **Wilderness Press**, 1200 Fifth Street, Berkeley, CA 94710 (800-443-7227) – Sets the mark for comprehensive, accurate, and readable outdoor books. From sea kayaking to snowshoeing, and leisurely rambles through the woods to challenging climbs on glacial mountains, they publish the highest quality books and maps in the industry.
- **Bittersweet Publishing Company**, P. O. Box 1211, Livermore, CA 94551 (925-455-4826) – Publisher of backcountry ski guidebooks.
- **Backcountry Magazine**, P.O. Box 190, Jeffersonville, VT 05464 (802-644-6606) – A magazine dedicated to the art and joys of backcountry skiing.
- **Couloir**, PO Box 2349, Truckee, CA 96160 (530-582-1884) – The mission of *Couloir* magazine is to inform and inspire skiers and snowboarders who "earn their turns™" in the backcountry.

Outdoor Retailers

- **Patagonia**, 8550 White Fir, Reno, NV 89523 (775-747-1887) – Manufacturer of quality garments designed to be strong and last long in the great outdoors, and a major supporter of environmental programs.
- **Wilderness Exchange**, 1407 San Pablo, Berkeley, CA – A factory outlet for over 60 manufacturers of climbing, hiking, adventure travel, Nordic skiing, mountaineering, backpacking and camping equipment.
- **REI**, 2225 Harvard Way, Reno, NV 89502 (775-828-9090) – Coop featuring high quality outdoor equipment for hiking, backpacking, skiing, bicycling, water sports and more.
- **The Sporting Rage**, 4338 South Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701 (775-885-7773) – Northern Nevada's premiere sporting goods store serving the Carson City area for more than 15 years.
- **Bicycle Bananas**, 2005 Sierra Highlands Drive, Reno, NV 89523 (775-747-1413) – They keep the fun in bike riding with quality sales and repairs. Also rental skis and snowshoes.
- **Bicycle Warehouse**, 3450 Lakeside Drive, Reno, NV 89509 (775-827-3277) – High performance bicycles for road and dirt, plus expert repairs.

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Conflict Tracking Project

The Forest Service assumes that there are no conflicts between recreation uses unless they receive complaints to that affect. Efforts by Snowlands Network to represent the human-powered winter recreation community on issues of conflict are thwarted when the Forest Service claims that they have received no complaints. It is for this reason that Snowlands sponsors the California/Nevada User Conflict Tracking Project.

Through this project the public is provided with an easy method for contacting the Forest Service concerning what they believe to be conflicts between motor and non-motor vehicle uses. Snowlands supplies the forms and transmits the completed forms to the appropriate agency.

Snowlands Network urges you to participate in this project. This is your opportunity to take a step beyond being frustrated by a lack of quality winter recreation opportunities and voice your concerns to the Forest Service.

Complete the form on page 6 and return it to us if you have had a negative experience in the backcountry. Make copies of it for future use. The form is also available on the internet at www.snowlands.org.

November Events

Continued from page 4

- **Mt. Rose Ski Resort**, 22222 Mt. Rose Highway, Reno, Nevada 89511 (775-849-0704) – Lake Tahoe's highest base ski resort conveniently located just 25 minutes from downtown Reno.

Message Therapy

- **Victoria Wallington**, LMT, NCTMB, 505 S. Arlington, Suite 212, Reno, NV, 89509 (775-250-5018) – Therapeutic and Reiki massage, aromatherapy and injury treatment.

Restaurants and More

- **Silver Peak Restaurant and Brewery**, 124 Wonder, Reno, NV (775-324-1864) – A delightful place to enjoy meals prepared by expert chefs from fresh, seasonal ingredients, and enjoy quality brewed beers.
- **Toscana-Sonoma**, 1195 Westside Road, Healdsburg, CA 95448 (707-431-8000) – Producer and distributor for the DaVero line of fine Italian wines and olive oils.
- **Deux Gros Nex**, 249 California Avenue, Reno, NV (775-786-9400) – A fine restaurant with upbeat, lively atmosphere.
- **Winecentives**, 6040 Dougherty Road, Dublin, CA (925-829-3222) – A purveyor of fine wines.
- **Newman's Deli**, 20 California Avenue, Reno, NV (775-348-8884) – Fine deli products for all occasions.
- **Quiznos' Sub**, 75 Damonte Ranch Parkway, Reno, NV (775-851-9494) – Specializing in "toasty" sub sandwiches.
- **Laughing Cat Coffee Rosters**, 3545 Airway Drive, Suite 110, Reno, NV (775-851-8887) – Roasts and sells quality coffees, and carries an assortment of lovely gifts.
- **Starbucks Coffee Company**, 18250 Wedge Parkway,

Will Sky Tavern Close? Snowlands Says No!

Last winter, signs were posted closing Sky Tavern ski area to the public during the ski season. Sky Tavern, located on the Mt. Rose Highway west of Reno, Nevada in the beautiful Sierra Nevada, is owned by the City of Reno and managed by their Parks and Recreation department. The area has long been used by cross-country skiers when not used as a downhill ski area for school-age children. This use is in jeopardy and Snowlands Network is working to keep the area open.

For many years, the Washoe County School District has operated a wonderful program at Sky Tavern for school district families. Students learn to ski while parents teach and patrol the slopes. This program leases the Sky Tavern ski area for eight weekends per ski season.

On weekends and weekdays, when the school district ski program is not operating, the public has used the Sky Tavern area for cross country skiing. Skiers use the slopes for practice and this location is a perfect place to enter or exit the backcountry for tours of the Galena Drainage. Sky Tavern as well as the Galena Drainage are closed to snowmobile use and are adjacent to the Mt. Rose Wilderness.

The proponents of this closure are concerned about the liability created by the public using this groomed ski area when it was not in operation. Snowlands Network and local residents oppose this closure of public property and are concerned about the issue of backcountry access.

The Sky Tavern closure was put before the City of Reno Parks and Recreation Commission at a public hearing in October 2003. The Commission agreed to hear this issue in greater detail at the December 2, 2003 meeting.

So far the Commission seems amenable to keeping Sky Tavern open to the public year around based on initial comments. The points brought forth focused on the fact that all city parks, including Sky Tavern, are covered under the City of Reno for liability. Sky Tavern does not pose any more liability for the City of Reno than any other public park and should not be closed to the public for issues of liability.

Representatives of Snowlands Network and Friends of Sky Tavern Park will speak at the upcoming Parks and Recreation hearing on December 2. If you would like to get involved, or to find out more, contact Gail Ferrell, Snowlands Director, in Reno, Nevada (gail@snowlands.org or 775-853-1054).

And please join Gail Ferrell for a tour of the Galena Drainage with an exit at Sky Tavern on April 4. For additional information see "More Ski and Snowshoe Trips" on page 10.

Reno, NV – Roasts and sells high-quality whole bean coffees along with Italian style espresso beverages and a variety of pastries and confections.

Retailers

- **Trader Joe's**, 5035 McCarran Blvd., Reno, NV
- **Raley's**, 18144 Wedge Parkway, Reno, NV
- **Wal-Mart**, 2700 Las Positas, Livermore, CA
- **Longs Drugs**, 1500 First Street, Livermore, CA

Incident Reporting Form

Winter Motor Vehicle Tracking Project

**Help Promote Opportunities
For Quality Human-Powered
Winter Recreation**

Please report conflicts and other observations you encounter while skiing, snowshoeing or snowboarding. Report incidents of excessive noise, impacts to wildlife, damage to public property, safety concerns or occurrences of motorized trespass into areas designated as Wilderness or otherwise closed to vehicles.

Make Observations

Gather as much information as you can, fill out the incident report and mail it to Snowlands Network. We will see that your report is forwarded to the appropriate law enforcement authority.

Avoid Confrontation

Under no circumstances should you confront violators or take the law into your own hands.

Take Photos or Videos

Please provide us with photo or video evidence if available.

Ask Friends to Help

Pass copies of this form to your friends and ask them to help in this important effort to provide documentation of motorized impacts on human-powered winter recreation and wildlands.

INCIDENT REPORT

Date and Time:

Location:

Type of Incident:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> User Conflict (incompatible uses) | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> User Displacement (resulted in leaving area) | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Damage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Motorized Trespass | <input type="checkbox"/> Resource Damage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wilderness Violation | <input type="checkbox"/> Other ... |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Excessive Noise | |

Detailed Description:

(Continue on another sheet
if necessary)

Vehicle Descriptions:

(Type, license plates, other
distinguishing features)

Person Reporting:

Name:

_____ Phone: (____) _____

Address:

_____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mail completed report to: Snowlands Network, User Conflict Tracking Project, P.O. Box 230, Livermore, CA 94551

Lost Trail Lodge

Tucked into Coldstream Canyon, 4.5 miles southwest of Donner Memorial State Park, is the latest addition to back-country lodges in the Sierra Nevada. With an annual average snowfall of 12 feet, the range of nearby ski and snowshoe destinations is limitless. From beginner to advanced, rolling terrain to steep chutes, there is something for everyone. Exploring the upper reaches of Coldstream Canyon, Emigrant Canyon or climbing nearby Schallenberger Ridge will take you away from the main road that is sometimes used by snowmobiles.

The main road to the lodge is also packed by their SnoCat. A stay entitles you to a ride in and out of the lodge, or you can ski or snowshoe. The ride in makes this an ideal destination for a group that includes a nonskier who wants to curl up with a book.

At the lodge you will find a beautiful facility. Although off-the-grid, they produce their own power to make your stay comfortable. Most of the power comes from solar energy. There is an emergency phone and a 24-hour caretaker on site. The lodge is a nonsmoking facility.

There are four cabins, attached to the main living area by a hallway, that sleep a total of 12 people. Two of the rooms have Jacuzzis. The lodge rents as a whole so you will need to get a group of people together. Linen, blankets and towels are supplied; you bring your own food.

For additional information contact:

Tahoe West Company, Inc.

8600 Coldstream Trail

Truckee, California 96161

(530) 320-9268

E-mail: info@losttrailodge.com

Website: www.lostrailodge.com

Editors note: This article was written based on information obtained from the Lost Trail Lodge website and from conversations with the owner. An update based on firsthand experience will be in the next issue of the *Snowlands Bulletin*.

Help Monitor Tahoe Meadows

Help Snowlands Network monitor snowmobile violations at Tahoe Meadows this winter. Although the majority of Tahoe Meadows is now closed to snowmobiles, snowmobiles are allowed in some areas. Unfortunately snowmobiles are driving into closed areas such as the Mt. Rose Wilderness and the Galena Drainage. These violations need to be monitored and documented for the Forest Service so they can determine if the closure in Tahoe Meadows is working.

Can you ski or snowshoe to the beautiful Galena Drainage and look for snowmobile tracks and resource damage? Volunteers are needed for weekend days – Saturday or Sunday from now until mid-April. Contact Gail Ferrell at gail@snowlands.org or 775-853-1054 for more information.

Banff Film Festival

Cosponsored by Snowlands Network

February 23, College of Marin

Snowlands Network is proud to be cosponsoring with REI the world famous Banff Film Festival World Tour at the College of Marin on February 23, 2004 from 7:00 to 9:45 PM. The festival is an international competition featuring the world's best films and videos on mountain subjects. It is held annually at the beginning of November in Banff, Alberta.

BANFF
MOUNTAIN
FILM FESTIVAL
World Tour

Every year, the best films from the festival go on tour. Beginning in early November, the tour begins its journey in North America and then continues overseas. On the 2002/2003 Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour, over 150,000 people in 210 locations attended over 335 screenings throughout 21 countries.

Come see why the event is a sellout around the world. Tickets to the event are only available at REI stores in the greater San Francisco Bay - Santa Rosa area, and at the door. Tickets are \$15 for non-REI members and at the door. Advanced ticket purchase by REI members is \$12.

Snowlands Network is seeking 12 volunteers to perform a variety of tasks at the event. Those interested should contact Mike Dooley at mjdooley@yahoo.com or 408-737-7646.

Alpine Ski Resorts Cut Prices Good News for Tele-Skiers

A sign of bad times continuing can be seen in huge price cuts at Alpine Meadows and Sugar Bowl ski resorts. These two areas, both with normal prices in the \$50 plus range, have cut their lift ticket prices for adults to \$39. Here's the deal.

Alpine Meadows Ski Resort's basic price for non-holidays is \$39 with children 7-12 years \$10. It's that simple.

At Sugar Bowl Ski Resort the basic price is \$56 for weekends and holidays, and \$40 midweek. But Safeway stores in the Bay Area, Sacramento, Tahoe/Truckee, Reno and along I-80 are selling Sugar Bowl lift tickets as gift cards for just \$39. They're good for any age, any day during the 2003/2004 season and there are no blackout dates.

Sugar Bowl also has a deal for kids beginning January 4, 2004. Simply bring your restaurant receipt from any participating McDonalds to a Sugar Bowl Ticket window and exchange it for a free kids lift ticket (ages 12 & under) for that day. Kids must be accompanied by a paying adult in their immediate family. You save \$15 per kid and Sugar Bowl donates \$2 per ticket to Ronald McDonald charities. Visit Sugar Bowl's website (www.sugarbowl.com) for a list of participating restaurants.

Members

The Board of Directors would like to express its sincere thanks to all of you who have become members of Snowlands Network over the past year. Your membership contributions are a vital link in making our work possible.

In 2004, three national forests will begin revision of their Land and Resource Management Plans and a total of 13 forests will begin this process over the next seven years. These plans will determine how the forests are managed for

the following 15 to 20 years and will affect the future of backcountry skiing and snowshoeing.

We are depending on generous membership contributions from all of you, both past and prospective members, in order to effectively represent our community in these management plans. Please be as generous as you can. Past members, give a little more. Prospective members, join us in this important work. With your support we will make a difference!

Life Members (\$750)

Gail Ferrell

Benefactors (\$250)

Loma Prieta Snow Camping Seminar
Mike Wilkin
Stephen and Melissa Reller
Catherine Schoen and Lauri Kemper
Terri and Bill Michel
Nordic Skiers of Nevada County
Jeffrey Erdoes
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OHV Grant Process

Continued from page 1

available. But Marcus says, "What about next year? There will be no carry-over then."

Also at issue is, by law, a minimum percentage of the grant funds must be spent on conservation, enforcement and rehabilitation. For this grant cycle that was 51 percent. Although that figure may have been attained overall for summer and winter grants, the percentage was much lower for winter grants. Libkind says, "If they are going to promote snowmobiling to the tune of a couple of million dollars in grants, then they should provide a commensurate level of enforcement dollars."

Marcus has long been critical of how funds get spent on enforcement. In previous years law enforcement officers spent much of their time "making contacts" with snowmobilers. The purpose was to make snowmobiles aware of regulations. But Marcus believes that law-abiding snowmobilers only need a sign, and a "contact" isn't going to

keep one of the rogue snowmobilers out of a Wilderness or other closed area. All the money should go to putting enforcement officers on the ground or in the air where they are needed most to apprehend the trespassers.

The situation has also led the California Winter Recreation Committee to send a letter to Tony Perez, Acting Deputy Director of the OHMVR Division, requesting that the Committee or at least a cross-section of representatives from the winter recreation community have an opportunity to be a part of the process that determines the allocation of funds. Perez replied, "So noted, lets work to improve the future process."

On the positive side, the Commission for the second year in a row denied snowmobile trail grooming grants to Eldorado NF for the Silver Bear Snowmobile Trail, Humboldt-Toiyabe NF for the Blue Lakes Snowmobile Trail, and the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit for the Brockway to Tahoe trail system. Snowlands has opposed these grants because the management agencies have failed to address the need for non-motorized areas in addition to snowmobile opportunities.

Two Easy Ways To Help Snowlands

We all desire to make each and every one of our hard-earned dollars go as far as it can. With that in mind, here are two easy ways to maximize your return while shopping at Amazon.Com and making donations to Snowlands Network.

Amazon.Com Offers Cash

Snowlands Network is participating in a program whereby Amazon.Com gives Snowlands a 5 percent donation on any purchase you make from them if it originates at the Snowlands' website. Go to www.snowlands.org (that's our website), and click on the Amazon.Com logo or click on any book in the book list. You will be transferred to the Amazon.Com website. Now shop as you would normally. Any purchase you make on that visit will benefit Snowlands to the tune of 5 percent. You can do this as many times as you wish.

Corporations Match Donations

Snowlands Network survives on membership donations. You can double or even triple your donation by taking part in your company's matching donor program if they have one. For example Sun Microsystems matches employee contributions and The David and Lucile Packard Foundation matches every one dollar donated with two dollars. Please take advantage of your company's program when donating to Snowlands.

More Ski and Snowshoe Trips

Snowlands Network is again sponsoring ski and snowshoe trips. This is a repeat of last year's successful program.

Individual members of Snowlands' Board of Directors will be leading tours ranging in difficulty from beginner to intermediate in areas related to current issues. So far we have plans for:

Tahoe Meadows Snowshoe Tour

January 11 (meeting 10:30 AM)

This trip, two miles round trip, takes you up a ridge that overlooks both Tahoe Meadows and Washoe Valley.

Leader: Gail Ferrell.

Anderson Ridge Ski Tour

February 28 (meeting at 10:00 AM)

This is an intermediate, 6 to 8-mile ski tour, near the Iron Mountain Sno-Park, where efforts are ongoing to create a non-motorized area in the midst of the Silver Bear Snowmobile Trail. Come learn about a trailhead away from the sounds and smells of snowmobiles. Leader: Marcus Libkind.

Martis Peak Ski Tour

March 27 (meeting 9:30 AM)

An 8-mile intermediate ski trip that climbs 1750 feet to the summit of Martis Peak. Leader: Marcus Libkind.

Tahoe Meadows Snowshoe Tour

March 28 (meeting 10:30 AM)

This trip, 2 miles round trip, takes you through woods to a

Volunteer Corner

Desperately Seeking ...

Graphics Designer

Business Membership Coordinator

Corporate Donations Coordinator

It's truly amazing what a single volunteer can do. Consider Mike Dooley who wrote Snowlands Network indicating that he finally had some time to donate to the organization.

We asked Mike to find entertainment for the November events that we hosted this past month. In the process he made contact with the promoters of the Banff Film Festival and REI. As a result Snowlands Network is cosponsoring the festival in Marin (see article on page 7) and Mike is continuing to coordinate on behalf of Snowlands.

In order to continue to expand or effectiveness Snowlands Network is seeking individuals to fill three volunteer positions.

Graphic Designer

Snowlands Network has an ongoing need for an amateur or professional, experienced graphics designer to help with an assortment of small projects including map creation for the *Bulletin*, poster display, and bumper sticker. If you have knowledge of and access to computer graphics software, an eye for composition and are attentive to detail, consider volunteering for this position.

Business Membership Coordinator

This person will solicit memberships from small and medium size businesses, which will include mountain shops, resorts and other establishments. Good written and language skills are required.

Corporate Donations Coordinator

This person will solicit contributions from corporations, which benefit from Snowlands Network's work. You will be contacting companies such as Fischer Skis, Black Diamond, Patagonia and Life Link. Good written and language skills are required. Some related experience would be helpful.

A desire to be a volunteer in our community is the most important requirement for any volunteer position. Please contact Marcus Libkind at marcus@snowlands.org or 925-455-5816 to talk more about the possibilities.

ridge that overlooks both majestic Lake Tahoe and Tahoe Meadows. This is the location where Snowlands desires to mark a winter route. Leader: Marcus Libkind.

Galena Drainage Ski Tour

April 4 (meeting 10:30 AM)

This intermediate one-way trip from Tahoe Meadows to Sky Tavern Park through the Galena drainage is six miles long. Leader: Gail Ferrell.

Contact leaders for additional information and sign-up.

Gail Ferrell, 775-853-1054, gail@snowlands.org
Marcus Libkind, 925-455-5816, marcus@snowlands.org

Important Message About Our Mailing List

Are you receiving your issue of the *Snowlands Bulletin* the way you would like? If this copy of the *Snowlands Bulletin* was not addressed as you would like it, please let us know. Just send an e-mail to mailings@snowland.org (or a note to Snowlands Network, P. O. Box 230, Livermore, CA 94551) with corrections.

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Snowlands Network is very proud to have the following organizations as our affiliates. Through communication and collaboration we all become more informed and more effective.

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Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation
Friends of Hope Valley
High Sierra Hikers Association
Natural Trails and Waters Coalition
Planning and Conservation League
Sierra Nevada Alliance
Winter Wildlands Alliance

Join Snowlands Network Today ... together we will make a difference!

Our success depends on generous individuals like you who care about the future of the winter environment and backcountry winter sports. Through your support Snowlands Network will be effective in representing human-powered winter recreation enthusiasts who seek a wilderness-like experience on our public lands.

Your membership in Snowlands Network will give you:

- The peace-of-mind that someone is representing your interests on winter environmental and recreation issues.
- The benefits of an organization networking with state and national environmental and recreation organizations on winter issues.
- Regular updates on current issues, both through e-mail alerts and a subscription to the *Snowlands Bulletin*.

Please be as generous as you can. Your membership contribution is tax-deductible.* Checks should be made payable to Snowlands Network or pay by credit card.

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President's Corner

On October 2, 2003 I attended the California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Commission meeting in Folsom where the Commission voted on the approval of grants including those for snowmobile trail grooming and winter enforcement (see Change Needed in OHV Grant Process on page 1). This year, in addition to speaking on specific grants, I took the opportunity during the “public comment period” to address the Commission on more general issues.

My speech was directed as much, if not more, toward the staff of the OHMVR Division and Forest Service attendees. The staff works directly with the Forest Service in the planning processes that involve State funded facilities on Forest Service lands. In all too many cases it is the lack of cooperation between these two agencies that results in decisions that increase the conflict between uses – backcountry skiing/snowshoeing and snowmobiling.

I present the text of my speech here because it gives a perspective as to what can be done to improve the status quo.

“Commissioners, thank you for this opportunity to address you. I am the President of Snowlands Network, an organization representing backcountry skiers and snowshoers. I am also a member of the California State Winter Recreation Committee within the Department of Parks and Recreation. At

these meeting we work on ways to increase opportunities for both motorized and non-motorized winter recreation. Most of this effort revolves around creating more parking access. This focuses on potential new Sno-Parks.

“The problem I see is that establishing more access in general results in more conflict on adjacent Forest Service lands between motorized and non-motorized uses. This results because there are no restrictions on who may use the Sno-Parks and [in general] no restrictions on uses on adjacent Forest Service lands. The result is that there is little if any consensus on locations for new Sno-Parks.

“Access and opportunities for everyone could be increased dramatically if the State and Forest Service were working together – the State providing access and the Forest Service motorized and non-motorized areas adjacent to the access.

“I urge the State and the Forest Service to enter into a dialog on how to better work together. The goal should be aimed at more access and opportunities, on a timely basis and at less cost.

“Thank you for the opportunity to make these comments.”

Marcus Libkind
President, Snowlands Network