

MOUNT TAHOMA NEWS



December 2006

CALENDAR & SHORTS

MTTA

Winter Pre-Season

November 11 - Dec. 28

Winter Season

Dec. 29— March 30,
2007

Moonlight Dinners

January 27 (see p.12)

March 31

Winter Post Season

March 31— April 29

MTTA Board Meetings

Second Saturday of each month

September thru May,

9 :30 a.m. (Ashford)

Call 360-569-2878 for location.

Recent Good News

The Thanksgiving holiday brought 3 to 4 feet of snow to Copper Creek Hut. By the following weekend the road to the Sno-Park was plowed and the trail to the hut groomed.

The first weekend in December saw many skiers and snow shoers using the North District trail, with all trails groomed to within one mile of Puyallup Ridge Lookout.

You will see two new roller groomers working the trail system this year.

Need Information?
Try our new Web Site
www.skimtta.com

In This Issue!

By now you all have heard that the South District will not be open this year because the bridge over the Nisqually River washed out in recent flooding. With luck and the hard work of the Dept. of Natural Resources access will be restored by next fall.

This year all of MTTA's resources will be focused on the North District and Copper Creek Hut. We have opened the Upper Sno-Park for this season and there should be plenty of parking, between the middle and upper Sno-Parks.

All the trails out to Puyallup Ridge Lookout will be kept groomed. There is a new loop trail off the Overlook Trail that works its way thru the woods to a road that connects back to the main Rainier Vista Trail. Out at Puyallup Ridge there is a loop trail that will provide a different route back from Puyallup Ridge. We are also working on a cross country route to Volcano Vista.

Without our old LMC groomer none of the current trail grooming would be possible. MTTA has a one time opportunity to acquire a new grooming machine with a IAC grant. Take a look at the events page of our web page www.skimtta.com for details on doing volunteer work on the trail this winter, to help with matching grant hours. Your donations will be very much needed this year. If you know any funding sources, please contact us at mtta@skimtta.com. We have \$6800 in our snow cat account and \$68,000 left to raise.

It is very important that you vote yes or no on the proposed changes to the Articles of Incorporation. **You must vote on the Articles issue to maintain your membership.** You do not have to vote for Board Members, but if you do, vote for no more than two candidates to make your vote count. Six candidates have provided statements, one was unable to meet the deadline for this issue.

Check out our web page www.skimtta.com from time to time as we keep it updated with current information. Also send any trail pictures you take to mtta@skimtta.com. We also need articles for the newsletter.

Cover: On the way to Puyallup Ridge

MTTA Board and Officers

President
Bob Myrick
6015 Pacific Ave.
Tacoma, WA 98408
206-473-7455

Director 04-2006
Pat Gleason
937 Ash Place
Bremerton, WA 98310
360-377-0987

Vice-President
Mike Smith
9105 102th St. S.W.
Lakewood, WA 98498
253-589-1270

Director 05-2007
Gene Glasunow
12119 125th St. E
Puyallup, WA 98374
253-279-3662

Director 05-2007/Treasure
Tony Abruzzo
4554 Westway Dr.
Port Orchard, WA 98366
360-871-5754

Director 06-2008
Delbert Reed
22705 70th Ave. E
Graham, WA 98338
253-847-8647

Director 03-2006
Bob Taylor
5084 NW Terrace View
Bremerton, WA 98312
360-692-3601

Secretary
Judy Scavone
P O Box 262
Ashford, WA 98304
360-569-2878

Key Field Operations Staff

Ski Patrol Director
Vacant

Grooming Coordinator
Jim May
12201 138th Ave E
Puyallup, WA 98374
253-841-3645
wemay@comcast.net

**Copper Creek Hut
Manager**
Louis Boitano
7316 36th St. E.
Fife, Wa 98424
253-922-1168

High Hut Manager
Mary Lonebear
Bill Youngblood
Silverdale, WA 98383

Yurt Manager
Pat Gleason
937 Ash Place
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Snow Bowl Hut Manager
Mike Smith
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MTTA NEWS

NO FEE



NOT FREE

Mt. Tahoma Trails Publication

December 2006 Volume 15 Number 6

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Membership Application Short Form – Mail to MTTA Office



LAST NAME	FIRST NAME
ADDRESS	CITY, STATE & ZIP
HOME PHONE	WORK PHONE
E-MAIL ADDRESS	DATE

- I would (check box) like to receive my news via e-mail
- \$35 Regular Family (All Members of a Family Annual)
- \$25 Regular (Annual Individual Member)

To Help even more I am enclosing an additional donation: \$_____

GROOMING PLEDGE: If you like groomed trails, check one or both boxes below. You will be billed at the end of the season. \$0.01/mile for actual snowmobile mileage, \$0.10/hour actual snow cat hours, or both. Your max. bill will not exceed \$25 for each box you check. Pays for fuel, maintenance and equipment

Snowmobile Miles Snow Cat Hrs

Newsletter materials/articles should be sent to News Editor: Bob Brown at P O BOX 2 Elbe, WA 98330. Phone (360) 569-2878 OR E-Mail material to mttamashell.com. Material must be typed, e-mail (or attachment file), 3.5" disk (MS Word). In order for articles to be included in the next Newsletter they must be received by the 20th day of the month prior to publication. Short announcements may be received as late as the last day of the month, prior to publication. Mount Tahoma News is published and distributed to members four time each year! Business advertising space is limited to eight 2" x 3.5". \$25 for one issue or \$20 for more than one issue purchased at the same time.

For MTTA Information try our Web Page at: www.skimtta.com



A Word From Our President Bob Myrick

Don't forget to vote. Your membership depends on it. Last newsletter, we indicated the present Board decided you must vote or your membership will expire. You will receive a proposal to change our Articles of Incorporation in order to conform with our present organizational structure. Our incorporation rules require 75 percent of existing members to vote. Failure to vote simply means you would have to re-join the MTTA. Ballots will be mailed to you this month and should be postmarked by January 8 in order to be counted in time for the January 13 Board meeting. We also are having a General Membership meeting on Saturday, January 13 as required by our rules. You can attend the meeting in person and cast your ballot, appoint a proxy, if you choose not to mail your ballot. The General Membership meeting will be at 10:00AM at the Department of Natural Resources office located five miles south of Elbe on SR7, east side of highway.

I have been informed that a Family membership will receive two ballots. By now, the Articles of Incorporation should be on our web-site for your review. We are proposing to change our name to Mount Tahoma Trails Association from Mount Tahoma Scenic Ski Trails Association. We are proposing to have just one class of membership. Finally, we are proposing to have five members on the Board (elected from the membership) with the possible expansion to nine members. Your ballot will allow you to vote yes or no on the entire package. You are required to vote on the changes to the Articles. **You do not have to vote for Board Members.**

We are also voting to elect two new Board members. Candidates were invited to provide statements regarding their backgrounds and any platform issues in this newsletter. Many thanks to the candidates and present Board members as they make the crucial decisions needed to run MTTA and guide our group into the future. At this writing, seven people have been nominated for the Board: Ed Book, Mike Dunn, Hugh Ewing, Jennifer Lyne, Mike Curley, Kim May and Judy Scavone. You can vote for up to two candidates or none at all. **If you vote for more than two candidates your vote will not count.**

By now, you may have heard that the bridge over the Nisqually River in our South District was heavily damaged by the massive flooding in early November. Several hundred feet of roadway was washed away and the river has moved to the north. At this writing, it appears that Snow Bowl, High Hut and the Yurt will be closed until next year. The road to Longmire in Mt. Rainier Park was also washed away with Sunshine Point campground also disappearing. The Park appears to be closed until sometime next year. This disaster means that Copper Creek Hut will be extremely busy this winter with a lot of Friday and Sunday night use. I will be spending time near our old Sno-Park on the USFS 59 Road and exploring our old route as well as trying to mark a route to the Volcano Vista area.

Last newsletter, you read that MTTA was awarded a \$75,000 grant to purchase a new snow cat and operate our system. At least 50 percent of all donations this year go into a snow cat fund as we need to raise at least \$75,000. Please be as generous as you can. The Board and Officers are actively seeking outside matching funding so this purchase can be made. We welcome any ideas or help you might provide. This new machine would come with a service contract to assure years of reliable service. We also need 7,000 volunteer hours to make this happen, so please come out to work on our system and record your hours.

The new Board of Directors will be seeking applicants for Ski Patrol Director. If you are an interested, experienced Patroller, please think about applying for this important position. Since only the Copper Creek area is open for use, most of the Director's work would occur next season.

Finally, if you are looking to supplement your retirement and provide a steady income for yourself, you might investigate creating an annuity at the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation. You can call Randy Balogh at the Foundation at 253 383-5622 or me at 253 473-7455. I have created two charitable gift annuities at the Foundation. These annuities are best funded by appreciated securities as you can avoid capital gain taxes. You also receive an income tax deduction each year. These annuities provide me with some steady income and I have designated the MTTA Fund at the Foundation to receive proceeds of my annuity upon my passing to the great ski area in the sky. The MTTA Fund is a perma-



Mike Dunn

Candidate for the Board

I was honored to be nominated for the position on the Board of Directors of MTTA. My first experience with the system was a work party where we put the outer wall and the dome on the Yurt in its present location in 2000. I found a wonderful group of people and an amazing trails system. I have been active in the ski patrol ever since.

I have been amazed to see the system grow with many improvements and increased usage by the members. The MTTA board has to balance three real groups to make the system work well. The land owners must not have any detrimental results from our use of their land. We are totally run by a dedicated group of volunteers and we need to make the entire experience enjoyable and fun for them. Above all, we have the trail users! Without them we do not have a reason to exist. The entire experience for the users needs to be safe, healthy, and fun. My philosophy is that our trail exists to provide a rewarding opportunity for our volunteers and a safe/enjoyable experience for our trail users.

Tony Abruzzo was ski patrol director, when I joined, and is a board member. His leadership style and ability is amazing. I have known him for many years and we both worked for the Bremerton Shipyard together. Gene Glasunow has brought in over \$400K in grant money and very dedicated to the organization. Mike Smith nominated me and works tirelessly for the system. In the time I've been active with MTTA, we've seen a large growth in users on the system, and considerable improvements in the trails, facilities, and equipment. We need a board that can work together, toward common goals, not promoting individual agendas. I can do that. We need to introduce more young people to the outdoors and pass on our concerns for its future. We have an amazing trails system that needs to be cherished and protected. We are not a wilderness, but a trails system with plowed roads, parking lots, restrooms, groomed trails, and warm huts with lights. It needs to stay a safe and fun adventure for all of our users and volunteers. I have the time and motivation to make that happen.

I am retired from the Federal Government where I worked at the Bremerton Shipyard in Nuclear Engineering teaching our new engineers. I first joined the National Ski Patrol in 1966 and was on the Sacramento Ski Patrol. I later served on Kelly's Canyon Ski Patrol in Idaho and Mt. Whittier Ski Patrol in New Hampshire. I have been an American Red Cross First Aid Instructor, American Heart Assn, CPR Instructor, certified as an Emergency Medical Technician in CA and WA. I'm a past president of the Tacoma Teachers Ski Club and the Skihawks Ski Club in Tacoma. I also teach ham radio classes in Kitsap County.

I have worked on many major projects for MTTA including, relocation of the Yurt after the collapse, installation of radio antennas on the huts and Yurt, upgrade of the electrical systems, rebuilding of the floor at Snow Bowl hut, installation of the water collection system at Snow Bowl. I have organized work parties to do trails maintenance. I have many hours grooming and patrolling the system. I have recruited many of the former and current volunteers on the ski patrol.

Thank you so much for your membership and contributions to MTTA. I am asking that you vote for Mike Dunn for Board of Directors to promote the future of MTTA. I'm convinced every hour spent hiking or skiing in the mountains simply adds on to your life expectancy!

Mike Dunn #18
360-876-5253



Hugh Ewing

Candidate for the Board

My Vision: Stay focused on our current mission statement, which really works, while continuing to expand public knowledge of the MTTA. The MTTA continues to be a hidden gem in Puget Sound. By continuing our efforts to get the word out, not only will our base of support expand, but also we will be providing a positive outdoor experience for a diverse group of users.

This is the experience I bring to the MTTA:

Sales and Marketing:

- 16 years as an owner and senior manager of businesses in the outdoor industry
- Extensive experience with developing and implementing sales and marketing plans
- A thorough understanding of financial management tools and needs

Non Profit knowledge

- Learned through my wife, who works in development, the needs of a 501 C3 organization.

Personal Traits

- Team player
- Love the outdoors
- Like to share the love I have of the outdoors with others
- Like to teach and share information

Outdoor Experience:

- Skier and climber since grade school
- Winter climbing experience in North America and Europe
- Expedition climbing experience in Alaska and the Yukon

I am very excited about this opportunity to lend my skills and efforts to such a great organization. Your vote would be appreciated.



Ed Book

Candidate for the Board

Howdy, I'm Ed Book. If I look familiar it's probably because we've met somewhere along the trails or at one of the huts or at a summer work partying the past five years. I'm active with the ski patrol, trail grooming, and as the assistant hut manager helping Pat Gleason at the Yurt. As a Trail Operations Committee member, I've been able to give input into more of MTTA's functioning but would like to do more.

I've attended many board meetings and have acted as proxy for a board member not being able to attend, and have made proposals that I thought would be beneficial to MTTA.

I would like to lend my efforts and ideas to help our progressive organization to be even more effective. I'm impressed by all the changes in the past five years more grooming equipment, expanding trail operations to the summer, more trails, many hut improvements, and a Trail Operations Committee to mention just a few. I'm proud to have been able to help with these improvements but would like to step up and have more of a voice.

From my observations of MTTA workings and what I've heard from trail system users, too much of what has been accomplished has been because of the efforts of a very few members—very dedicated members. I believe that more member participation is key to continuing this success. An active membership requires an informed membership as well as feedback and suggestions from all trail system users—a feeling of ownership.

Our members have untapped talents that I hope they would share if they knew they could be used. As a board member, I would like to put efforts to setting up a better interchange of ideas and use of member talents and to give you a stronger feeling of ownership in your trail system. Peace, Ed Book



Jennifer Lyne

Candidate for the Board

Please vote for Jennifer Lyne:

My 34 years of teaching orchestra and 20 years of hiking hundreds of miles in the Grand Canyon and the NW compels me to bring a focus to the MTTA Board inclusive of all who love the outdoors, who understand the importance of preservation and conservation, and who work hard to have FUN in it. Volunteers are all-important and essential to success of the MTTA that I envision.

I hope that you will vote for me, with the goal of beginning a cycle of positive, inclusive renewal in the MTTA System!

In my 9 years as an MTTA Ski Patroller, I served four as Assistant Ski Patrol Director and then as Ski Patrol Director. During my tenure, I oversaw the transfer of the office from the Overland to the Ashford Fire Hall, and finally to the new office building. Now I'm helping organize the re-building of the Anderson Lake Trail. I have become acquainted with all aspects of the MTTA. I would like to share the knowledge learned from all of my MTTA and other experience by asking you to vote for me so that I can clearly represent you while protecting the wilderness and develop MTTA System into a greater future.

I believe that the wilderness and outdoors are critical to saneness and the development of full human potential. The MTTA System can provide opportunity for wilderness options. I'd like to build on characteristic. This reflects the kinds of priorities I have not only for the wilderness, but also throughout my entire life.

I bring the focus of environmental responsibility as care-takers of the wilderness to the MTTA.

I believe that many folks are ready and waiting to be stellar volunteers with a great depth and variety of knowledge and skills. These people must be welcomed, thanked, and recognized by Board Members and MTTA leaders.

Let's make it clear that all volunteers are critical to the maintenance and development of the MTTA System. Let's find a dynamic Volunteer Coordinator, as described in the Action Plan from 2005, as a beginning toward this end.

I believe that you MTTA members deserve to know what is being planned by the Board in a timely manner. When I was Ski Patrol Director, I wrote a weekly e-mail to Patrollers. More communication via the MTTA website is a goal of mine, such as creating a link to the Board Meeting Agendas and Minutes.

Let's keep the membership informed by creatively utilizing the internet and the MTTA website.

I believe that there are many ways to enhance the infrastructure of the buildings and equipment of the MTTA without asking for unlimited government grants, paid for by taxpayers. All expenditures must be absolutely necessary.

I bring a focus to the MTTA Board to build a new approach to funding, looking for direction from the 40 – page Action Plan developed by consultant, Jean McCord and Associates in August, 2005.

Please consider voting for me. Thanks. See you out there on the trail!



Mike Curley

Candidate for the Board

Hello everyone, my name is Mike Curley and I am running for one of the current, open, board positions. I am very familiar with the inner workings of a volunteer organization and I feel that I bring with me an open, easy going approach to leadership, representing all of you as the voting body. I came to MTTA after using this great trail system for a few years and I wanted to give back to the trails and the organization that supports it. I began my volunteer relationship with MTTA the season of 03-04 as a ski patroller. I have done like most of you, ski patroller, groomer, and I have also put my past mechanical skills to use repairing equipment.

Prior to my MTTA involvement I started a recreational Mountain Biking organization with four friends (stmcc.org). We rolled out the organization starting in 1994's Seattle Bike Expo, and it is still going to this day. Through this organization I have filled almost every position in the organization, but my true passion was in maintained of trails. With the many contacts that I made over the years through STMCC I became a trail maintenance instructor for (VOW) Volunteers for Outdoor Washington. This as well as volunteer time with the US. Forest Services brought the USFS to invite me to participate in their annual, Trail Skills College as a volunteer instructor. For this I taught basic trail maintenance to a class of new hires and volunteers. I was also asked to be a grant reviewer for the (IAC) Inter Agency for Outdoor Recreation grant process. This is the same grant process that this organization utilizes for some of its funding. I have also been the event coordinator for approximately 16 fundraising events including a three-day advocacy conference for the International Mountain Biking Association. Over the years due to life changes I have limited some of my participation in STMCC and other volunteer activities. As my life eases up, I am finding more time to return to volunteering. Currently I am on the Executive Board for Local 31, which is the representing body for the Tacoma Fire Department with whom I am employed. I hope to get back into trail maintenance during the summer and with your vote I hope to play a vital roll with MTTA.

Michael N. Curley SP#86
253-370-2360



Judy Scavone

Candidate for the Board

December 2, 2006: A classic MTTA work party, with friends new and old.... sorry you missed it! The day started out at the MTTA Office, where Phil Hertzog, Dave Hogan, John Hager and I went over equipment and mundane tasks in preparation for the season. Leyton Jump and Henry Romer skied up to Copper Creek Hut to begin flagging a new loop trail towards Volcano Vista. The Office crew was soon joined by Jennifer Lyne and Cathe Linn, and went on to perform maintenance on the grooming equipment. Louis Boitano, Bob Brown and Rod Henderson spent the day grooming the North District, finishing up the trail punched in by Ed Book the day before, while Delbert Reed completed flagging the Overlook Loop trail. Later in the day we all met at Copper Creek hut for dinner, and enjoyed a most spectacular moonlight ski back down to the cars, while Victoria Fuhrman and Seth Book took over the evening grooming. The skiing conditions were perfect, ... and why am I sharing this with you?

Because the MTTA rocks, and I am running for the Board of Directors to ensure that it continues to do so!

We have a fantastic base of dedicated volunteers, and we provide quality outdoor experiences to thousands of people every year. If elected, I will work to build on the great accomplishments of the present Board, and focus on a positive, synergistic approach to achieve our goals.

I have been an active volunteer of the MTTA since 1998, serving as secretary to the Board since 1999. I have a good knowledge of the history of the organization, and I can contribute to the forward momentum. Our volunteers are the most important resource of the MTTA, and I will do my best as your Director to insure a quality, rewarding volunteer experience.

I support the drive for a new snow cat, for the sake of our volunteers, (read Jim May and Mike Curley), who spend countless hours keeping the old machines running. I am also very much interested in capital improvements to the huts, and will focus on securing funds for new and bigger windows, new flooring, doors and furniture. I am equally committed to funding improvements to the MTTA web site, in recognition of the huge contribution of our web master, Rick Burleigh.

I would appreciate your vote, and I will be proud to help lead the MTTA into this era of growth and improvement!

Judy Scavone #72
360-569-2878

Ballot Sheet

For individual members use the ballots below to cast your votes. You can go to www.skimtta.com to read the current Articles of Incorporation and the proposed changes. You must vote yes or no on the Articles of Incorporation Ballot to retain your membership. Cut out each of your ballots (Board & Articles Ballots). After voting, place ballot or ballots in the small security envelope, then place the security envelope in the self addressed stamped envelope. Mail ballot or ballots prior to January 8, 2007. You can also attend the general membership meeting to be held at the DNR office five miles south of the town of Elbe on Hwy. 7 on January 13, 2007, starting at 10 am. For directions, call 360-569-2878 evenings. You can also send a proxy to vote for you, the correct proxy form is available at www.skimtta.com. If you are a family membership you will receive a second Ballot Sheet: use the same security envelope and self addressed envelope to return your ballots.

Board Ballot

Vote for not more than two of the candidates listed! Place an **X** in the box to indicate your choices. **You are not required to vote for Board Members!** If you vote for more than two candidates your vote will not be counted. Family members get two votes, and an extra page has been included. Cut out your ballot, place your ballot in the small security envelope and place the security envelope in the self addressed stamped envelope.

Ed Book

Mike Curley

Mike Dunn

Hugh Ewing

Jennifer Lyne

Judy Scavone

Kim May

Vote to Change Articles of Incorporation Ballot

To maintain your membership you are required to vote Yes or No on the changes to the Articles of Incorporation. Vote yes or no, cut out this ballot, place in the small security envelope, then place the security envelope in the self addressed stamped envelope. If you voted for board members you will place both ballots in the security envelope. Place an **X** in the box to indicate your choice.

I vote Yes to change the current Articles of Incorporation to: Rename to Mount Tahoma Trails Association, allow for one classification of membership, and have the MTTA board consist of five to nine MTTA members elected by the membership

Yes

I vote No to retain the current Articles as written and on file.

No



Mt. Tahoma Trails Association
 P O Box 206
 Ashford, WA 98304

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**Moon Light Ski & Prime Rib Dinner
 Copper Creek – January 27, 2007**

On January 14th we will hold the first moonlight ski trip to Copper Creek Hut this year. This dinner will include a complete prime rib dinner. The cost is \$30 per person and the dinner coupon below must be filled out and mailed to the MTTA office (post marked no later than January 18th). Attach your check for the people in your party (\$30 per person).

Dinner will be served from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Dinner will be a complete Prime Rib Dinner, served with a beverage, appetizers, salad and dessert. Arrive early and enjoy the fireplace and the Hut.

We will make a sweep of the trail around 8:30 p.m. to make sure everybody gets safely back to their vehicle.

**Moonlight Ski & Prime Rib Dinner
 Copper Creek Hut (6:30 to 7:30 p.m.)
 January 27, 2007**

Mail to: MTTA, P O BOX 206, Ashford, WA 98304
Post-marked no later than January 18, 2007.

Your Name: _____

Total number of people _____ (**\$30 per person**)

(\$30 x Number of people) Amount enclosed
 \$_____

Make Checks Payable to MTTA!

**Remember to Mail Your Ballots Prior to
 January 8th**

MTTA OFFICE PHONE (360) 569-2451 >Approximately December 29, 2006– April 2, 2007 Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. until 5

For Information Contact Our MTTA Web Page: www.skimtta.com