



J'ville Journal

A publication of the Plumas Ski Club

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FREE

A TRIBUTE TO PHIL INTORF

All of us from the Plumas Ski Club will miss Phil Intorf. Phil has always been synonymous with the ski hill to me. I can't remember when he wasn't working there, and I am sure that most of the readers think the same. He knew the business from front to back, and had a mind for all the small details. He's the one who could remember where it was, how it worked and how to fix it. Phil was the backbone of the ski hill.

Phil's first big project was to help move the ski hill to its present location. The rope tow was moved, a road was cut, and a tiny warming hut was erected. Phil was devoted to the ski hill for the rest of his life. The present ski lodge has now been named the Phil Intorf Lodge. The image of Phil on his skis with a tool in his hands is permanently etched in my mind. One day Phil took me out to break trail on the back trails. Of course, true to the character of Phil he brought along some signs to hang. There we were making the first tracks of the year laden with signs and wire. My legs were a little shaky by the time we finished, but Phil obviously did that kind of thing almost every day.

We had Ski hill meetings the second Thursday of every month at the Forest Service. Eventually the meeting place was moved. That didn't seem to bother Phil; but when we changed the meeting date to the 3rd Thursday of the month, Phil complained that the meeting date has always been on the 2nd Thursday of the month (the 2nd Thursday date was



good for 40 years). Phil's main concern was the Ski hill so he put aside his feelings about the date change and continued to attend the meetings. Phil rarely missed a meeting, and when he was there it was obvious to all new comers that Phil knew how to run the ski hill. Phil retired from the ski hill in 1994. His retirement was in word only. We continued to call him with questions on how to fix things, what insurance to use, whom to call to work on this or that etc.

Workdays at the ski hill were necessary to make it possible to open the ski hill. Phil organized the workdays for years. Sue Jackson once said, "I first met Phil in 1975 when I was the only one besides Phil and another man to show up for a work day. It was raining really hard, but Phil still put me to work digging a ditch." Phil worked all day too. No one has put in as many hours at that hill as Phil and I don't believe anyone else will ever match his hours.

It almost seems like Phil couldn't leave this world while he was still needed at Johnsville. When Gold Mountain took over running the ski hill Phil was relieved of his responsibilities. Volunteers no longer run Johnsville; and the spirit Phil is now free to go. The community is truly indebted to you. At least 4 generations of local skiers have reaped the rewards of your hard work. Thank you Phil Intorf for providing so many happy hours of skiing for so many people. Here's to Phil Intorf, the icon of skiing at Johnsville.

LONGBOARDS

Yes, Longboard fans, the historic longboard revival races are on again this year so get out your old pioneer attire and get ready for the festivities. As usual, the Plumas Ski Club is coordinating the event with the spirited cooperation of the Gold Mountain folks. Races will take place on Sunday January 23, February 20, and the grand finale World Championship race on March 19. We're talking about a dinner dance party at the hill March 18 before the big race but we'll see how this idea develops. Current champ Phil Gallagher is working on a millennium longboard shirt and Pete "splintered" Bartels is running another longboard building class at FRC. It's a great thing to see all the new hand crafted skis arrive at the hill come race day! . Thanks to John C. Gallagher, ECV clammers will be officiating and watchin' out for cheaters.

As always, public participation is the deal whether just for racing, helping with event organization, or working with ol' Scott Lawson on race wax ("dope") preparation. We'll be giving away prizes and/or some cash for best historic outfits, best crashes, and fastest racers as always so be prepared. Watch for posters and media announcements for further information. Burning questions that just can't wait can be directed to Rob ex-champ Russell at 283-3381. Thanks to the Gold Mountain Garners and manager John Jackson for their support of this unique event! Long Live Longboards!



FAREWELL TO PHIL

As most of you have probably heard Phil Intorf passed away in late September. Phil was the manager of the ski hill from the mid fifties to the mid eighties. To really put it into perspective Phil is the reason there is still an operating ski area in Johnsville.

I worked for Phil on the hill for numerous years and got to know him quite well. Phil had a passion to help make the operation sustainable. For Phil, the most important aspect of the ski hill operation was the junior ski programs. I know he felt it was important that the local kids had a place to ski.

Speaking from experience I can say that trying to keep the operation going year after year takes a tremendous effort, more than most are willing to give, considering the compensation. I find it truly amazing that Phil managed the Ski Club and the hill operation for over thirty years. Even after he retired he was still right there willing to give his time when needed for another fifteen years. He continued to go to board meetings and was always concerned about the hills future.

Phil was one of those individuals that makes a community like ours so great. He was a very generous man with a remarkable level of integrity. He was also a friend and a mentor to me for the last twenty five years. We will all miss him.

Mark Houston
President
Plumas Ski Club

1999-2000 TICKET RATES

	<u>FULL DAY</u>	<u>HALF DAY</u>	<u>SEASON</u>
ADULTS	\$24 (\$21)	\$16 (\$14)	\$220 (\$198)
19-65 yrs			
YOUTH	\$16 (\$14)	\$12 (\$10)	\$150 (\$135)
13-18 yrs			
CHILD	\$12 (\$10)	\$10 (\$9)	\$120 (\$100)
6-12 yrs			
SENIOR	\$16 (\$14)	\$12 (\$10)	\$165 (\$149)
65+ yrs			
CHILDREN 6 and under	FREE when accompanied by ticketed adult .		

Plumas Ski Club member prices in ()

SNOW TUBING - \$10.00

For more info and snow conditions please call:

800-446-5368 or 530 -836-2317

A YEAR OF CHANGE AT PLUMAS EUREKA SKI BOWL... "SKI GOLD MOUNTAIN"

Well friends of Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl, it is a year of change and excitement up at our beloved community ski area. All you skiers, boarders and even you tubers will be pleased to learn that downhill skiing and big fun will once again be a happening thing up at "J'Ville". Skiing on the slopes of Eureka Peak, or as the old longboard miners used to call her, "Gold Mountain", shall continue. However, for the first time ever, the Plumas Ski Club will no longer be responsible for hill operation. The community based ski club developed and has operated the historic Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl since its opening way back in the 1950's. As most local ski buffs have no doubt heard by now, the non-profit Plumas Ski Club has passed the management and concession ownership of Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl to the "Gold Mountain Ranch", a private corporation known for their golf and home development near Graeagle.

Though this is a nostalgically sad time in a way as the ski club ceases its primary mission of keeping the ski area operating, it is also a very exciting time too! The Gold Mountain folks with John Jackson's management guidance have already completed many exciting improvements, which will keep our historic ski area alive. (See John's articles on the back page.) So, how did all this come to pass that the ski club decided to let go of the ski bowl operation after all these years... here's a brief overview of what happened and what the future holds in store for the Plumas Ski Club.

Just for the record, our dear now deceased friend and ski hill patriot Phil Intorf supported this privatization effort. Like all of us, Phil of course wanted skiing to somehow survive at our (...his) small rustic ski area. He understood how difficult this was proving to be for a volunteer oriented organization as business operating costs and management responsibilities continued to increase. It's a long story but despite the best efforts of many, many people, operating costs often managed to exceed ski ticket and special promotion revenues.

During the past three years, a comprehensive business plan was prepared by the ski club. It focused upon installing a used chair lift and completing a number of additional improvements at a projected cost exceeding \$500,000. A serious effort was made by the club and our friends to acquire these funds. As funds to fully implement the club business plan were proving to be

unattainable, Gold Mountain approached the club about taking over the ski area operation. Following serious consideration and assurances to the club that the essence of skiing at Johnsville would be preserved as best possible, an agreement was reached for the Plumas Ski Club to release its state park concession contract to Gold Mountain. Judging by all the great things that have already happened for this coming "millennium ski season" in addition to all the things that are proposed for the near future, we should all be excited that our unique historic ski bowl is getting the much needed attention and serious reinvestment it deserves.

As for the role and future of the Plumas Ski Club, we are trying to figure out what to do next. The club will of course live on to help promote community skiing activities. Our promotions will continue including long board racing, the Snow Ball, and whatever else club members are interested in working on. We still have a board of directors and as always we enthusiastically welcome new faces and new energy. The Plumas Ski Club urges everyone to support our historic ski area. As the old pioneers of the Lost Sierra used to say, "Ski Gold Mountain".

Thanks to Bob Burney and Cookie McClard for creating yet another J'Ville Journal

To contribute articles email to cookies@thegrid.net



Rumor has it that a snowboarding and ski club is forming at Feather River College

IMPROVEMENTS

Since being acquired by Gold Mountain this summer, many improvements to the ski area at Johnsville, recently renamed Ski Gold Mountain, have been completed. Some of the more exciting improvements include:

1. Removal of brush from all the ski runs on the front and backside of the ski area.
2. Installation of a snowtubing lift for sledders.
3. Remodeled day lodge, kitchen, and restrooms.
4. Newly painted lifts and building.
5. Purchase of two additional snowcats and grooming equipment to improve slope manicuring.
6. Widening of ski runs in the backtrails area and improved skier/snow boarder return access from the back side.
7. Plans to groom three runs on the back trails area and the return trail from the Sun Bowl.
8. Snowcat drawn sleigh to provide transportation from the parking area to the day lodge.

AMBITIOUS PLANS

Ski Gold Mountain still has many improvements planned for next season.

The most exciting new improvement planned is the installation of a chair lift. There are also plans for more new ski runs, groomed cross country ski trails, an outdoor ice skating rink.

For the lodge there is talk of expansion.. The expanded facilities will house a ski rental shop and a gourmet café.

A new maintenance garage is another thing on the list of ambitious plans.

Last but not least a shuttle bus service to and from the ski area is being discussed.

PLUMAS SKI CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Mark Houston
Vice President – Jim Webster
Secretary – Alice Parlier
Web Page – Bob Burney
Ski Patrol – Ron Logan
Longboard– Rob Rusell
- Steve Rahmeyer

If you would like to be on the board of directors please contact Mark Houston at 283-4531

WHO ARE OUR SKI PATROLLERS?

The Ski patrol is made up of local people who volunteer their time to take care of you. The training the patrollers receive is similar to the training of an EMT.

This year we are fortunate enough to have 12 volunteer patrollers and a paid patrol director.

The patrol director is Dale Sidener. Gold Mountain is lucky to have a director that is dedicated, professional and experienced. The job of patrol director is time consuming and stressful. Thank you Dale for taking on the job.

The volunteer returning patrollers are: Ron Logan, Cookie McClard, Chris Murray, Robert Murray, Sierra Murray, Jim Swan, Louisa Swann Dan Turner, and Jack Webster.

We now have 3 new ski patrol members. They are: Debbie Hart, Joseph McCarthy, and Jacob Olson. The new patrollers are all currently EMTs that challenged the National Ski Patrol test and passed. We are pleased to have Debbie, Joe and Jacob as part of our crew. Their experience will add a lot to the expert care that is given at Ski Gold Mountain.



*Hay guys,
Think snow. Cause
That's all we're
Waiting for to
Open the hill.
I can't wait to strap
On my boards and
Head on down the
Hill.*

See ya there!