



# Caldera Chronicles



Year 28 Volume 1

Spring 2011

## Dear Patrol Members and Friends

From the Park's perceptive, the data on page two reflects your many days of service, the mind numbling hours of training, (for those of you that slept through that long winded avalanche presentation) the scores of visitor contact made and your multipliable miles of skiing in one of the most assume places on plant earth.

This year was a saga of two different winters. It was either snowing a few feet at a time or not at all. So far we have received over 660 inches (55 FEET) in the park and its still snowing. Is it ever going to quit? As of today, there is still over 10 feet at HQ and over 14 feet on the rim. Even with all that snow, we had a dry spell that lasted 1/2 of our winter. The dry spell lasted six & 1/2 weeks when we only

received 17" in total.

It seems at times that volunteer work can be a thankless job, although I'm here to tell you that's your hard work has not gone unnoticed. It's through your many hours of training, and the steadiness of our patrol to maintain the rims rope line to keep folks from falling into the Caldera.



The persistence of keeping our trail marking orange poles from getting buried in the deep snow storms and your weekly maintenance of all our ski trailhead signs to show folks where to ski and snowshoes. The many miles of breaking trail during any time of day or night in the deep powder, so overnights

can make it home safely. Your responding at a moments notice to actively go out on a Search and Recue that has both the Public, National Park Service and your fellow patroller breathing a deep sigh of gratitude.

Thank you for all your many hours of hard work and your selfless dedication to the patrol. I'm looking forward to seeing you all next year. During the meantime, please bring your patrol ID with you when you visit the Park and show it at either Entrance Station to get free admission to the park. Please do not abuse this privilege. Your ID only applies to the folks that are in your vertical. I will have a few dates for you on our summer activities once Pete finalizes those dates.

Some of those activities are: a summer BQ and council meeting. The annual ropes

### *In This Issue*

Ski Care & Protection	2
March 4 & 5	3
Patrol Uniform Project	4
Did you know?	5

class in late July that will feature the Corrivals Rescue Team coming down again and repelling into the Rim around the North Entrance to retrieve some of the junk from the car that fell into the Caldera last year. Possible some trail marking on a few of the Avalanche bypasses.

1241	Visitor Contacts
1515	Total Miles Skied
2234	Training Hours
232	PSAR
2022.5	Patrol Hours
4256.5	Total Hours
354.6	Total Days of Service

Sincerely;

Niel Barrett

## Ski Care and Protection

Here are several things skiers can do to protect your skis:

**Don't ski through the parking lot.** Even if there is fresh snow on the pavement there will be gravel or cinders mixed in with the fresh snow. The gravel will scratch or gouge your ski bases. The scratches/gouges will slow your ski and are a great place for snow to start sticking to your bases.

**Don't ski over debris in the trail if possible.** Sticks, rocks, cones, etc. can scratch your ski bases. If possible stop and throw the debris off the trail to improve the experience of other skiers.

**Carry your skis inside your car or in a car top box if possible.** This keeps the road cinder dust off your ski bases. Contaminating the base will reduce glide.

**When you get your skis home wipe the water from the bases.** If you have metal edges this will keep them from rusting. It will also prevent mineral deposits from forming on your bases. It's a good idea to apply a coat of paste

or liquid "wax" after the skis are dry and before you put them away to protect the base and let the compound soak into the base.

**Hot Wax the glide area of your skis** or apply a base prep such as Maxi-Glide, Swix F4, or other paste wax. There are several sprays that can also be used. The paste waxes and sprays are also applied to the pattern of "no-wax" ski bases. These waxes should be applied when the skis are dry and warm (i.e. at home). The wax will make the skis glide better; however, the greatest benefit will be that your skies will not "ice up" as easily. Note: If you use adhesive backed climbing skins on your skis, the paste waxes and sprays can degrade the glue.

**If you use adjustable poles** separate the sections when you get home and let them dry. This will keep the metal from oxidizing.

# Crater Lake March

## 4-6, 2011

I've thought about our aborted trip around "The Lake" for days afterward and as I suspected the actual feelings have become less real and more just "story". The real part that I can't get out of my mind and heart are all the people who came to our rescue. They dropped whatever they had planned, without knowing exactly what they were facing, donned their packs and adventurous spirit and all their skills and drove hours to help out friends in need.

What had just transpired wasn't real until we arrived at the road and were faced with 15+ faces waiting for us to emerge. Everyone was kind, caring, concerned, and happy that we were doing well. Seeing these friends coming to our rescue brought tears to my eyes and showed me that these people and I know there were others that would have been there if they could, are what I want my world to be made up of.

I believe this was a real time PSAR. Yes, we needed these people to help us out of an unfortunate predicament, but we asked for help before we had a much more serious situation. The timing couldn't have been better. It was a Sunday and there was Ski Patrol in the Park and so many were available to come

and help. Ken Coen's brother and a friend were at Diamond Lake with a powder sled to break trail and then the groomer showed up to give us a groomed trail home.

Also a huge part of this was the folks that looked at the maps and found us an alternate route out. We had the good fortune to have camped in a spot that allowed us to take advantage of this short-cut and the fact that Andy had a GPS and knew how to use it to facilitate our exit. This has brought about discussion regarding emergency exit routes for other areas of the Rim that might be useful for this exact purpose.

A huge thanks to the Park Service, Rangers, Ken Coen's brother and friend, the grader operator and all the ski patrollers who spent their time, energy and resources to help.

*Barb Hansen*

## 2011 Questionnaire

In the next few weeks the end of the season questionnaire will be sent out to you electronically. Please take the time to fill it out. By doing so you will help us plan the path for next season.

Please consider becoming a council member or shadow to a fellow board member. Your help would be welcomed.



## Special Thanks

I want to give a special thanks to all the Ski Patrollers that helped clean the patrol house and perform all the end of the year chores. It takes lots of hands to do all that hard work.

Thank you : Tom Ford, Kathleen and John Salinas, Cindy Weaver, Brent Kell, Miko Smilenski, and Ann Spillane.

## 2010/11 Patrol Uniform Project

This year the Patrol purchased new uniforms with the help of the Friends of Crater Lake and the staff of Crater Lake National Park. Last year the Park was able to acquire grant monies from the Volunteer-In-the-Parks program (VIP) with the aid of Eric Anderson the parks VIP Coordinator. With that money, (Order #1) (\$3,000 from a 5,000 dollar grant) the Patrol was able to purchase 13 new hard-shell jackets from Patagonia. Although, these hard-shell jackets are a great addition to the patrol's arsenal of uniform equipment, the Patrol did seek further funding from the Friends of Crater Lake (FOCL) to purchase (Order #2) 14-soft-shell jackets 18-pants and 14-vests. During the Friends annual meeting a motion to purchase \$4,300.00 worth of uniforms was passed by the council.



In Addition, the patrol offered pro deals to their members to purchase their own patrol uniforms. From that offer, around 25 members purchased uniform items ranging from soft-shell jackets, pants, vests and a few mid layer shirts. In all, the patrol collected around (Order #3) \$5400.00 from its membership.

Several years back, the patrol voted to use their \$1,200 yearly stipend monies to purchase new equipment for the patrol each year. This year the patrol with the help of the Park Service, purchase around 65 new

Gore-Tex OR ball park patrol hats. With the purchase of the new hats the patrol uniform attire was complete.

Although, we now had new informs, several new issue developed. The new uniforms had to have patches that identified the CLSP sewed on to them. The park

then had to purchase new patches. A couple of seasons back, the patrol again voted to replace the old patrol logo with a blue patch with a white cross. We did have around 10 of the old patches left. So the park had to purchase 50 new 3-1/2 inch blue and white crossed patches costing around 250.00. Also, the park had to purchase around 75 new 1-1/2 inch blue with white crossed patches for the new hats,

costing around 300 dollars. Additionally, the Jackets and Vest had a set of two VIP patches sewed on to them as well. His patches were furnished by the VIP program coordinator.. In all, each jacket and Vest had three patches sewed on to them. The new pants had one patch. In all, 102 patches were sewed onto the new uniforms, costing the patrol an additional \$557 in sewing costs with was paid by the donation from the FOCL.

Out of that monies, the 13 hard-shell jackets had to be sent to a company in Montana that specialized in seam-sealing (costing around 250 + shipping). The rest of the items where sewed by a local tailor in Klamath Falls, costing \$307.00.

In all, the project took around 4 months to complete. There where a few different players and several organizations involved in this process. The patrol accrued around \$15,000 to complete this project.

I want to thank the FOCL for their generous donations of \$4300.00 and their president George Buckingham for his help

in coordinating the process. I want to thank Eric Anderson the parks VIP coordinator for acquiring the grant of 5,000 from the VIP program to get this project rolling. I want to thank Craig Ackerman for helping with the funding requests needed in securing funding for this project. I really want to thank Peter Reinhardt our new Chief Ranger and the patrols best advocate. Without Pete's mastery, this project just would not have happened. I want to thank Kris Fishers efforts in selecting the vendor and the best hard-shell that would work for our needs. I really want to thank the Patagonia Company for working with us and get us such a great deal on our new uniforms. Lastly, I want to thank our patrol membership in stepping up to the plate and buying there own uniforms.



## Rim Plowing Up date

As of the 30th of May, plowing operations in the park have reached the North Entrance Junction.

## Spring Skiing

It amazing to see the amount of snow up at Crater for this time of the year. With the deep snowpack and unusual cool weather patterns that has persisted for the last month or so. Ski conditions have been excellent for spring like skiing.

Last weekend it was some of the best spring conditions I have see this year. I hope that you take advantage of the extended spring skiing conditions and get up to the lake and ski a few miles.

Don't forget to pick up a radio and let park dispatcher know you are in the park.

## Friendly Reminder

To familiarize yourself with Crater Lake's Backcountry Ski Trails, hike them in the summer time. Note, Red Blanket Falls is extremely beautiful this time of year, and is located approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile down from Red Blanket Falls. It is on the West side of the park in the Sky Lakes Wilderness Area. You can get to Red Blanket Falls on the Steward Falls Trail, or on the Red Blanket Trail out of Prospect.

## Did you know?

Given that it is still snowing, we thought we would give you a little update on our weather and how it compares to other years. Like most of the North-Western United States, air temperature at Crater lake has been colder than average over the last few months and precipitation has been high. This pattern is associated with strong "La Nina" conditions, which refers to the periodic cooling of ocean surface temperatures in the central and east-central equatorial Pacific that occurs every 3 to 5 years or so.

This year at Crater Lake has the most snow on the ground at the end of May (118 inches) since 1983 and the 3rd highest on record (1931-2011). The only years with more snow at the end of May were 1983 (123") and 1974 (133"). The total amount of snow received in May this year was the 9th highest on record.

Air temperature during the month of May was the 4th coldest on record.

## Upcoming Events

- 2010-11 Questionnaire

- June 10
- Please take the time to fill it out : -)

### SUMMER ROPES CLASS

- JULY 22 -24

### BBQ & COUNCIL MEETING

- TBD



# Happy Ski Trails

