

MT. HOOD CULTURAL CENTER & MUSEUM
Government Camp, Oregon

News Release

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For Immediate Release

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Ski Glade Trail Day 2014

Government Camp, OR – The **Mt. Hood Cultural Center and Museum** will hold this annual event on March 1, 2014. Once a year, under permit from the US Forest Service, the historic Glade Ski Trail is opened and groomed for this participatory living history event. This once popular downhill ski trail starts at Timberline Lodge and ends in Government Camp, a distance of three miles. Before the advent of high speed ski lifts, highly groomed slopes and extreme snowboard acrobatics, skiing long trails was popular. According to Lloyd Musser, Museum Curator, "this event helps fulfill our mission of preserving and interpreting the history of Mt. Hood". This is a chance for Grandparents to ski with their grandchildren and share the memories of skiing the Glade Trail, when it was the biggest ski adventure on Mt. Hood." "This will be the eleventh year of this event and it is always a fun event".

Participants are treated to a red carpet day of skiing. Skiers are shuttled to Timberline in comfortable airport shuttle vans, escorted by local guides and senior members of the Mt. Hood Ski Patrol, and served a hearty lunch. Shuttles will run from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM allowing ticket holders to make several trail runs. The events of the day are recounted at the Après ski party, where prizes are awarded. Wearing vintage ski clothing is encouraged.

Participation is limited to 75 skiers. Event tickets are \$100.00 per person, a portion of which is deductible as a donation to the MHCC&M, a non-profit organization. Members of Mt. Hood Cultural Center & Museum receive 10% discount. Tickets may be purchased at the museum, or by calling 503-272-3301. Visa is accepted.

Background information on Mt. Hood trail skiing is available on our webpage in an article entitled [Trail Skiing on Mount Hood a Long Standing Tradition.](#) www.mthoodmuseum.org Photographs from past years events are available on the website or upon request.

Suggested human interest storyline.

The Guest of Honor at this year's event will be John Wilberding. John is also this year's King Winter. Skiyente Ski Club selects a King Winter every year as a way of honoring an individual who has made significant contributions to Mount Hood Skiing or snow sports. The coronation will take place at Charlie's on February 8th at Charlie's Mountain View at 8:00 p.m..

Mt. Hood and skiing have been a center of John's life since 1967. He has served that community for 38 years as a volunteer ski patroller and for the last 19 years as an official reverend marrying and burying those whose only church is The Mountain.

His contributions valued most were those that allowed greater participation by women in the ski patrol and made the patrol a more welcoming place to women.

- As a leader in the patrol in the early 70's he advocated for allowing greater participation by women as traditional, sled-pulling, patrollers. When he became Patrol Chief he responded to the tendency of some candidate examiners to reject woman candidates

out-of-hand for being too weak by establishing an objective strength test. He came up with a minimum strength requirement and tested with several woman ski instructors and skiers. He made the test fair by requiring all candidates, male and female, to take the test. The result was a significant increase in the number of women joining MHSP.

- A few years later there were more women on the patrol but some of the old-guard of trainers still embraced the ski and sled-handling techniques they had learned, ones that often relied on physical size and power to perform. As Training Director John consulted with ski instructors at Sun Valley and other resorts to develop a ski test and training that focused more on ski technique and finesse. And he followed this up with training and monitoring of the coaches to be sure it was implemented. Following these changes, MHSP graduated one of its largest classes of new woman patrollers.

John has held a number of positions in the Mt. Hood Ski Patrol and is still active with the alumni group.

MHSP Hill Captain (ski area manager of the day) 1970-2005

MHSP Area Patrol Chief (liaison between patrol and ski area) for Timberline 1970's

MHSP Area Patrol Chief for Mt. Hood Meadows 1970's

MHSP Patrol Chief (chief operating officer) 1973-74, 1974-75

MHSP Training director 1983-84, 1984-85

John has been a supporter of the Mt. Hood Cultural Center and Museum since it opened in 2001. He recently helped gather artifacts for the permanent Mt Hood Ski Patrol exhibit that was installed last fall in honor of the Patrols 75 years of service to the skiers of Mount Hood.

You may contact John at 503-407-9223. John has a talent for telling good stories and would be worthy of an interview for a good human interest story, with a bit of real history sprinkled in.

Photographs of past events available upon request.