

POB 755, Lafayette, CA 94549

**The UPSKI, Newsletter of the Oakland Ski Club, February 2010**

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**Send change of address or phone to Leslie Blaney**

**The Grudge Race  
Is Set for  
March 13<sup>th</sup>!**



Did you borrow a sleeping bag and forget to return it?  
See page 6.

It's time to start thinking about filling board positions for next year. Volunteer, or send nominations to Leslie Blaney.

# OAKLAND SKI CLUB

## February 2010 Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Time	Details/Contact
February 19	Race Clinic, Bear Valley		Contact Debbi Phelps gofastdebbi@yahoo.com
February 20	Race #4, SL Bear Valley		
March 1	<i>Upski</i> deadline	5 p.m.	maryjean@maryjeanhaley.com
March 13	<b>Grudge Race</b>		Thom@ Hearne.net or 415-9999-1009.
March 19	The Wounded Warriors Ability Race		Alpine Meadows
March 27	The BAC annual <b>Ski For All</b>		Squaw Valley



### The Grudge Race Is on for March 13<sup>th</sup>!

The Grudge Race will be held at Donner Ski Ranch again this year on Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. The Viking and Peninsula ski clubs are talking about racing this year. We will stick with the modified dual slalom format. The Grudge Award Party will be at the Alpiners' Lodge after the Intra-Club awards that will be given out after dinner at our Lodge.

If you want to help at the race or have suggestions or questions, please contact Thom@Hearne.net or 415-9999-1009.

# The Oakland Ski Club

## UPSKI

February 2010

### *President's Message*

## We Have Snow!

By Dorian Parkinson

**T**he OSC lodge was fully booked this past weekend, Sugar Bowl has a base of 86" with 138" at the summit, and more snow is expected! Almost everyone has paid their snow plow fees, if you haven't, please do so because the season is just beginning.

### **Your Room Reservations**

There has been some confusion with the reservation system. You are not confirmed until you receive an email from our **Winter Vice President Ewa Sobilo** stating that it is confirmed. The system generates an automated response that your reservation was received, but that doesn't mean you are confirmed. Also, when you get to the lodge, please respect the room assignments. If you haven't been assigned a room, be patient and wait until the house mother assigns it. Never move another member's items from a room or take over a room that might be assigned to someone who has not arrived.

### **Board Positions to Fill**

The committee to nominate new Board Members will be forming this month. Please consider serving on this committee or even better, the OSC Board. The job descriptions are posted in the *Downski* for each position, and it is a chance for you to make a difference. Please feel free to contact



*The lodge in snow over the MLK weekend.*

Photo: Stephen Van den Eeeden



*Todd clearing the deck. Again.*

Photo: Robert Eagan

anyone on the board if you have questions, and think about which position you'd like to volunteer for to contribute to the OSC. If there is a position you are interested in serving, please e-mail **Leslie Blaney**. Thank you Ewa for putting your name in for Winter VP again!



*We got a LOT of snow in January. Robert Eagan took this picture on the 26<sup>th</sup>.*

## Snow Plowing

By Robert Eagan

I stayed at the OSC lodge during two recent stormy mid weeks. The plow was there in the early morning each day it snowed to open up the road and to clear the parking areas. The dates of my trips were January 11 to 14 and 24 to 26. I did miss the best week in between my visits. It is most helpful to go out and move your vehicle while the plow is there, however one must listen for the loader as it does not make much noise. It seems to me that the contractor is doing a fine job indeed. He was unable to come early on my last day because a vehicle was stuck at our entrance and he was unable to enter. It was easy enough to walk up to the gondola as the path had been rolled all the way to the garage. My understanding is that the resort is rolling the paths so there is no reason to miss skiing if the plow is late.

I want to add what a grand job **Todd** does for our club. First thing each morning after or during a storm he clears the deck and our path in from parking, and it's not just a path, he makes a driveway in to the stairs. He says he loves it at the lodge, and it is surely evident by all that he does.



## Winter VP's Report

# Review of Lodge Rules

By Ewa Sobilo

**A**ttention prospective members and sponsors: Please be aware that OSC Guidelines specify that Applicants for membership must have a regular member as a sponsor while staying at the lodge. No coming up alone. This is reserved for members only. The process is designed to speed up getting the prospective members to fill out all the forms, fulfill the necessary obligations, pay the required fees, and make the big commitment - mailing the membership check.

### Road Conditions by the Lodge

The emergency fire that occurred on our road in December brought the big, heavy red fire truck down, and it made some lasting ruts in the road by the lodge. Consequently, the road has been uneven in spite of diligent plowing by Norm Sayre, our snow plow driver. Please be aware that this road can be very treacherous. Drive very slowly, pay attention to ice slicks, and stay in the middle as much as possible. Watch out for the snow banks, they can dent your bumper in no time—just ask **Brian Burns**, our treasurer, who experienced bumper damage last month. If there is oncoming traffic it is better to have one party back up to a wider spot instead of trying to pass each other on a narrow stretch. Do not attempt to navigate this road without 4-wheel drive or snow chains. It can ruin your weekend and cost a lot of extra money that could have been spent on skiing.

### Guest Chores

It has come to my attention that not all guests willingly jump in to help out with the chores. It is the sponsoring members' duty to make sure their guests are briefed on how to do the chores and do them quickly and efficiently without the housemother's reminder.

## Kids Playing Outside Need Supervision

The hours just before dinner or after dinner, especially in the dark, can present challenges to parental duties. While you may want to sit with a glass of wine and relax by the fire, your kid(s) are digging in the snow, sledding off the fuel tanks, jumping off rooftops, falling into the freezing creek—you get the picture. There are many dangers silently lurking outside waiting for the young, energetic, and creative minds to get into trouble. Beware. Make sure one parent is out with the kids, don't count on another parent to watch your kids. Other members are not the community babysitting service while you surf the web or read a book.

## Reservation Confirmations

There has been some confusion about what constitutes a confirmation from the Winter VP. When you request room reservations through the OSC website, first you will receive an automated e-mail response that states that "your request for reservation" has been received.

**Be aware: you are *not* confirmed when you receive the automated response,** which comes almost immediately after you have put in your request. All this means is that I have your request. Then, by Wednesday prior to the weekend, I sort all the reservations and begin to respond to the e-mailed requests. When you receive the second e-mail, it comes from me with either "Confirmed. Ewa" or "You are on a waitlist. Ewa", etc., etc. When you see my name at the bottom of the message then you know I have personally checked your request.

Remember that for holiday weekends reservations are taken two weeks prior. I am already processing rooms for President's Weekend of February 13-15. You can also put in reservations for the "Ski & Skate" week following that weekend, February 16 to 21. Todd will be cooking throughout that whole week, so mid-weekers take advantage of this fabulous offer. It's your last chance this season to taste some of Todd's delicious fare.



*The train had to wait for the plow too.*

Photo: Robert Eagan

Please note that if you have an outstanding balance you will not be confirmed until you make the necessary payments.

## Cancellation Penalties

I have been sending out the following notice with all room confirmations:

**Cancellations & No-Shows:** Cancel at least 48 hours prior to arrival - no fee.

Cancel 48 to 24 hours prior to arrival - pay for booked meals (\$6 breakfast, \$12 dinner / per person).

Cancel less than 24 hours prior to arrival - pay for one-night stay for entire group.

No-shows/no-calls will be charged for the whole stay.

**Best way to cancel:** More than 48 hours prior to arrival – e-mail through website [www.oaklandskiclub.com](http://www.oaklandskiclub.com) reservations. Within 48 hours - email through website to advise winter VP and call lodge at 530-426-1023 to advise the caretaker.

Members must ascertain that the cancellation was received by winter VP and caretaker. Members are responsible for cancellations of their guests.

*(cont. on p. 4)*

**Cancellations due to weather:** If the caretaker has gone food shopping due to an incoming storm, you are staying at the lodge and have not canceled but later decide to leave, you will be charged for booked meals.

The amount of the cancellation fee will be determined by the Winter Vice President based on the food bill and occupancy of the lodge, and must be paid prior to new reservations.

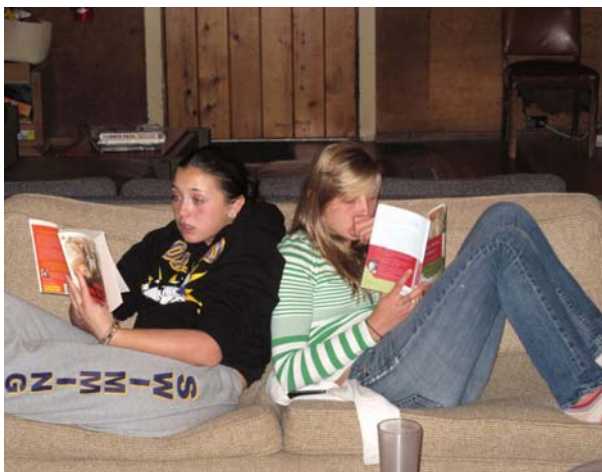
### Payments

Paying for your room: if you do not leave a check for your stay then you need to pay by PayPal.

All outstanding fees must be paid before you can make another reservation.

### 2009-2010 Snow Plowing Fee

The road plowing assessment is \$80 **per active OSC family**. If you do have at least one active member, the fee must be paid before any of your reservations will be confirmed. Please use the link below to pay the fee via PayPal from the OSC website <http://oaklandskiclub.com/payment/>



*The Levinson sisters: Robyn and Michelle support each other in their studies*



*Gigi Sobilo and friend on dish duty*

Photos: Stephen Van Den Eeden

### Financial Report

## Great Snow, Full Lodge for MLK Weekend

By Daniela Leitner

I just came home from a wonderful skiing weekend at the club. Actually, it didn't start out that great. My son, who was looking forward to going up, felt too sick on Saturday to go and we started with tears. So this time it was only Katharina and me for the weekend. It was the first time we went up this year, and we were delighted by the wonderful snow. The slopes are perfectly groomed, and Katharina and I had a great time.

The lodge was fully booked this weekend. We counted 42 people! We all shared rooms, and the Polar Club was filled up with teenage friends of Rose Stoloff who celebrated her birthday at the lodge with a yummy chocolate cake. We even decided to eat in two shifts since we didn't have enough space to seat all, but we were all content and happy to have such a great place to share. So come up to the snow and enjoy great skiing and good company!



*Maya Sobilo making coleslaw*

### **Club Finances in Good Shape**

Now, let me quickly give you an update on our finances. The club is in good shape. The winter season is developing nicely, and if the lodge utilization continues to be strong, we will have a good year. In that case, we might be able to look into possible improvements for the lodge. Replacing some of the mattresses or furnishing some of the rooms with longer beds for our taller members could be potential projects to discuss.

January is tax month. Brian is working on the tax returns and forms for Todd. We have also renewed our D&O (Director and Officers) insurance, which protects the members of the board in case of a lawsuit. I have paid the workers compensation insurance bill online, which insures Todd in case of an accident during work. In addition, the usual bills utility (\$1621) and power (\$453) came. We are making good progress with the collection of the snow plowing fee, and Brian received a note from the Alpineers saying that they will send a check for the first half of their snowplowing fee contribution in the next week.

### **Board Members Needed**

Just a reminder: the board is looking for members to step up and contribute to the governance of the club. As I said in my last report, I will not be able to repeat as Financial Officer next year. Being a board member is a great experience and offers unique insights into the club. If you are interested please send an e-mail to Dorian or any of the board members.



## **Bay Area Snow Sports Council**

By Robert Eagan, BAC Rep.

**D**ennis Heffley has been elected to serve his 7<sup>th</sup> term as BAC president, and my hat is off to him as well as all of the many hard-working directors and volunteers.

The Wounded Warriors Ability Race is on Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at Alpine Meadows.

The BAC will conduct its annual **Ski For All** on March 27 at Squaw Valley. All funds generated will be donated to Disabled Sports USA Far West (DSUSAFW) to support their adaptive snow sports program. You do not have to be a Nor Cal racer to participate in the **Ski For All**.

### **Things to Come**

Cortina Italy. This trip is has a limit of 130, so do not dally.

February 27 to March 7, 2010 with optional side trips before to Venice and one after to Vienna-Budapest. This appears to be a grand trip. See the extended description at [www.skibac.org](http://www.skibac.org).

FWSA cruise to Antarctica with New Years in Buenos Aires. December 29, 2010 to January 12, 2011 See all the details at [www.skibac.org](http://www.skibac.org).

In fact, if you are not familiar with BAC, check out the website. There are a lot of resources, trips, and activities for skiers.

# Missing Sleeping Bag

**D**id you or someone in your party borrow a sleeping bag and forget to return it?

We arrived at the Lodge for a weekend and found, much to our dismay, that a sleeping bag had been taken out of our locker and not returned. The locker is assigned to the Prentice family. It is a grey, cotton batting bag with plaid flannel on the inside. It has black straps. We had two identical. Please return it to our locker and let me know by e-mail that it's back. Many thanks Kristin, Rowan, and Alexander  
 sphinxgraphics@comcast.net



*We've all seen it. Stephen Van Den Eeden caught this picture of snow sliding off the roof and rolling the icicles under until they go sideways.*

## Winter Reservations Calendar: Make Your Reservations at [www.oaklandskiclub.com](http://www.oaklandskiclub.com)

February 2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
					Reservations open Jan 30	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
					Reservations open Jan 30	
14	15 President's Day	16	17	18	19	20
Reservations for this week open January 30 Holiday Rates Apply						
21	22	23	24	26	26	27
28					Reservations open Feb 20	

<b>March 2010</b>						
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
	1	2	3	4	5	6
						Reservations open Feb 27
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
						Reservations open Mar 6
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
						Reservations open Mar 13
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
						Reservations open Mar 20
28	29	30	31			

**Make Your Reservations at [www.oaklandskiclub.com](http://www.oaklandskiclub.com)**

<b>April 2010</b>						
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
				1	2	3
						Reservations open Mar 27
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
						Reservations open April 3
11	12	13	14	15 End of Winter Season	16	17