

Friends of Snowshoe Thompson Newsletter

September 2014

Message from the President – Bill Bowersock

Top of the year Friends of Snowshoe Thompson:

The snow will soon be flying again in the Sierra after the beautiful colors of the Aspen fall away in the Hope Valley'

This will bring to mind the courageous exploits of our hero - Snowshoe.

Every time the opportunity to docent at the Genoa Courthouse Museum occurs I find another guest who knows of Snowshoe - either through the grade school history or they are familiar with the lore of the Sierra.

Our efforts through the annual first Saturday of March celebration at the yurt in Hope Valley, chautauqua presentations, maintenance of his statue, the web site, the newsletter, the exhibits at the museums, all continue to keep the memory of Snowshoe alive and well.

Thank you all for your continuing support as we look forward to another great year honoring our special hero - Snowshoe Thompson!!

News from Norway – Nina MacLeod, Norwegian Liaison

I want to give everybody a little information about what goes on in Norway concerning Snowshoe Thompson in his birth area.

Next year, 2015, on Palm Sunday they will have their 27th tour in memory of Snowshoe Thompson. The tour goes over a mountain range for 20 KM. Last year, due to bad weather, the trail had to be at a lower elevation, but still 450 people participated.

In 2013 there were 780 participants - all ages from 5 to 90 years old.

In the valley of Tinn, the Historic Society work hard with projects to keep history alive.

For example, information about the mass emigration that took place in early to mid 1800. This history will be added and taught to the elementary school children. An exchange student program is also of interest. This will be discussed with our committee here.

We are lucky to have a good connection with Snowshoe Thompson Committee in Norway so that together we can help each other keep this legendary hero alive.

Snowshoe's Latest Travels

John "Snowshoe" Thompson (aka Chautauqua impersonator Steve Hale) continues to be active and is out meeting his fellow neighbors both near and afar. The Sierra Mailman has visited Plumas-Eureka State Park in California. While he was visiting with the residents of Johnsville and Blairsden he was interrupted by one of those pompous Plumas Longboardmen. The gentleman came primed to dispute Thompson's recollection of their 1869 Longboard Challenge Race sponsored by the Alturas Snow Shoe Club. At the end of the friendly verbal tussle over scientific snow shoeing and using "dope", both men came away smiling and respectful.

Snowshoe also visited Lake Valley (aka South Lake Tahoe) this summer at the US Forest Service's Lake of the Sky Amphitheater. He was surprised that people actually want to hear his story and patiently related his life's story to a crowd of visitors from out of the area. He was invited to the Truckee Meadows (aka Reno) to recount his travels carrying the mail through the Sierra to a group of young people, their families, and neighbors from the area. They filled a tent to hear him talk and peppered him with questions from what he carried with him on his mail treks to begging to hear his firsthand account of his encounter with a pack of wolves in Hope Valley.

Look for Snowshoe appearing in Death Valley National Park at the weeklong 49'ers Encampment on November 5, 6 and 7, 2014. Apparently the miners down South want him to tell more about his rumored gold strike in Konigsberg (aka Silver Mountain City, Alpine County). And of course we hope to see him appear this winter at Van Sickle State Park as well as return to Friends of Snowshoe Thompson's *Snowshoe Thompson Day* the first Saturday in March 2015.

Submitted by Steve Hale

Comstock Characters

9/11/14

Here and there It's delightful to welcome visitors to Genoa who are in some way connected or distantly related to Snowshoe. Recently Dave Thompson from Pennsylvania stopped to see the statue. Be sure to check the "visitors" to our blog at www.snowshoethompson.org.

Books . . .

Mary Jackson recently bestowed a gift of books, entitled "Snowshoe Thompson – A Norwegian Hero on Skis", to the Friends of Snowshoe Thompson. This delightful book is illustrated by Mary's late mother, Elsie Hotvedt Thorson, and is written by Evelyn Ostraat Wierenga. Thank you Mary. We will enjoy sharing them.

Frank Tortorich, after many years of research, has completed his book about Snowshoe and hopes to have it published soon.

Linda Rasmussen, a teacher in Fallon, Nevada, has just written and published a delightful children's book to celebrate Nevada's Sesquicentennial. "The State That Made a Nation Great" features Snowshoe and his discovery of SILVER, after taking Comstock sludge to be assayed in California! The children's illustrations are beautiful. Congratulations Linda! www.thestatethatmadeanationgreat.com

Documentaries . . .

The story of Snowshoe and his statue in Genoa is soon to be featured on the Travel Channel.

Todd Huffman is Southern California is contemplating a documentary on the life of Snowshoe.

Save the Date . . .

The 16th Annual Snowshoe and Cross Country Ski Event, honoring Snowshoe Thompson, will take place in Hope Valley, California, on Saturday, March 7, 2015.

The next Snowshoe Celebration to commemorate the dedication of the statue in the Mormon Station State Park will be planned in June 2016.

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