



BRIDGER BOWL ASSOCIATION

Minutes Fall Meeting

November 23, 2004

7:00 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS

Present- Randy Elliot (Manager), Chris Bulger, Ray Center, Andy Epple, Carolyn Hartsog, Scott Hoag, Teresa Larson, Mike Riley, Steve Schnee

Absent- Kent Kasting

MINUTES

Last spring's Association Meeting minutes were circulated and reviewed. A motion was made from the floor for approval of the minutes. The motion was seconded from the floor. Vote taken. All in favor, none opposed. The minutes were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Copies of the Statement of Activities were distributed to the association members. Dave Ballinger reviewed the audited budget report. He also distributed and reviewed year to year statistics for years 1991-2004. A motion was made from the floor to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was seconded from the floor. Vote taken. All in favor, none opposed. The treasurer's report was approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Miké Riley reported that Bridger is entering its 50th year, with many exciting changes including the first new General Manager in 24 years (Randy Elliot), continued base area expansion including the completion of Saddle Peak Lodge, and the long awaited release of the EIS.

Association member Ken Wharton presented information on his quest to induct Terry Abelin into a Ski Hall of Fame, honoring his many years of dedication to the sport. He requested help or input from any interested association member in establishing a non-profit Montana Ski Hall of Fame.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Randy Elliot reported that December 10th is the designated opening day, dependent upon ample snow.

He introduced and thanked the staff managers for their dedication and years of service to Bridger Bowl:

Jeff Abelin- 5 years-Ticket Office/ Computer Services

Bob Allen- 21 years-Facilities and Risk Management

Dave Ballinger- 18 years-Accounting and Administration
Paul Bockus- 11 years-Food Services
Dan Boehmer- 12 years-Lift Operations
Mark Cowett- 17 years-Rental and Retail Shop
Dan Doering- 12 years- Vehicle Shop
Bonnie Hickey- 14 years-Snowsports (ski school) and Playcare
Fay Johnson- 21 years-Ski Patrol

(Fay is a Professional Patrol representative to the National Ski Patrol this year.
Doug Richmond, also on the patrol at Bridger, is the new Vice
President of the National Avalanche Association.)

Don Roberts- 30 years-Lift Maintenance
John VanHouten- 26 years- Grooming
Doug Wales- 14 years-Marketing
Terry Abelin- Consultation

Randy reported that financials are on track with the budget. Delayed completion of the Saddle Peak Lodge allowed Bridger to slow borrowing \$2.7 million. The money has not been borrowed so far, and it may be possible to borrow less than the full \$2.7 million if Bridger has a strong year.

Carpooling will be encouraged this year with the incentive of reserving Lot A for carpool-only parking (2 or more per vehicle). There will also be a new carpool lot in Bozeman at the Fairgrounds, accessible to all Bridger skiers. The bus system has been modified as more of an express bus service this year, with stops at McDonald's (Main St.), the Fairgrounds, and Bridger.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building- Mike Riley reported on the base area expansion, including Saddle Peak Lodge, which is complete aside from a few minor issues. The expansion was planned in three phases:

- Phase I- Ski Patrol Building
- Phase II- Saddle Peak Lodge
- Phase III- Jim Bridger Lodge upgrades

He reviewed the budgeting process. Currently, the board has committed \$5.95 million, which includes \$185,000 in contingency funds not yet used.

Mike recognized those instrumental in the construction of Saddle Peak Lodge including:

Rotherham Construction- Grant White, supervisor
Gary Zimmer- architect job captain
Bob Allen- Bridger- oversaw daily construction
Laura Fedro- interior designer
Randy Elliot
Paul Bockus
Mark Headly
Terry Abelin

The board will meet to consider upgrades to the Jim Bridger Lodge in January.

Foundation- Chris Bulger presented information on the Bridger Bowl Foundation, announced at the spring meeting. The foundation is official, as of last week. Contributions totaling \$1,200 have already been received, with more promised. The foundation was designed as a Montana Corporation 501C-3. Thus, any gifts to the foundation are federal and state tax deductible. It was created as a vehicle for those wishing to contribute to Bridger to do so in a tax deductible manner. Funds donated can be designated for specific purposes, and will support Bridger Bowl programs. It will be overseen and managed by a separate board of directors. A fund-raising project is in place, literature was available to interested association members.

FEIS- Scott Hoag reported on the status of the FEIS. The Forest Service and Bridger Bowl's contractor are responding to over 400 comments received on the Supplemental Draft EIS. Responses are nearly finished, with expected completion by mid-December. Upon completion, a Final EIS and Record of Decision, signed by Rebecca Heath, Forest Supervisor, will be distributed according to the mailing list. It will include a response to each of the comments, and the rationale for plan selection. Following the release, there will be a 45 day review period. Copies will be available on CD and on the Forest Service website.

Questions from the floor were raised regarding insight into Forest Service opinion, and the process after the 45 day review. Mr. Hoag relayed that he cannot speak to Forest Service opinion, and that the 45 day review ends the EIS process.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

New Members- Carolyn presented the new member applicants for consideration. They are: Chere LeClair, Richard Griffen, Robert Jensen, Tom Carls, Herb Rosengren, Lynn Bueltel, Jennifer Bueltel, Suzanne Berget, Jim Jarrett, Walter "Gator" River, Michael Hickey, Travis Kirkpatrick, Peter Meleski, Gary Andrews, Susan Andrews.

A motion was made from the floor to accept the new members. Motion was seconded from the floor. Vote taken, all in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

A question was raised from the floor regarding pressure from other ski areas and Bridger's marketing approach, especially concerning season pass holders. Mike Riley responded that there has been a slight decline in pass sales over the last several years amidst very active marketing campaigns by Big Sky and Moonlight Basin. The board is discussing skier base at Bridger, and considering all factors.

An issue was raised from the floor by a member of the Bridger Bowl Ski Foundation regarding the loss of youth to areas with terrain parks. Mike Riley responded that the board is concerned about, and actively discussing this issue. The board must weigh expenses and liabilities of adding terrain park features versus expenses of expanding and adding new lifts. He added that the board is working to increase marketing by including local ski shops in marketing/ selling of Bridger season passes next year.

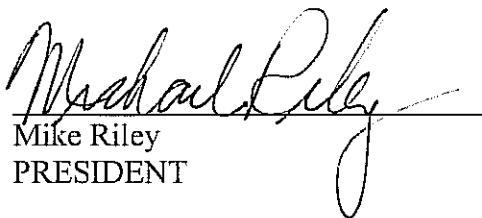
An issue was raised from the floor regarding cabins near Deer Park Chalet. The issue revolved around a 1995 lawsuit between Bridger Bowl and cabin owners. The cabins are currently being used as employee housing. It was suggested that Bridger Bowl formally offer the property back to the original owners. Mike Riley responded that none of the current board members were active on the board during this time, and therefore they are not familiar with the situation.

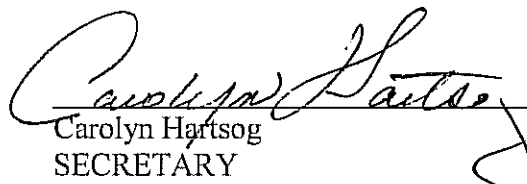
A question was raised from the floor regarding the visibility and effectiveness of the Ski Patrol in controlling skier speeds. Randy Elliot and Fay Johnson responded that this is a long-standing and very real concern for all Bridger management and patrol. Bridger does have a program in place, but efforts are hampered by limited budget and large area to patrol. As skier numbers increase, more patrol is requested. The patrol is involved in on-going education including highlighting the real consequences of skiing too fast. Doug Richmond added that older skiers are being encouraged to educate younger skiers on the responsibility of staying in control. Association members were reminded that they can also help by reporting unsafe skiers.

The issues of an association membership drive, and procedure to obtain minutes, were raised from the floor. Mike Riley responded that there have not been membership drives in the past, and there are no current plans for increasing membership. The association membership has remained fairly steady at between 500-600 members with no formal recruiting. Minutes from association meetings are available in the administrative office, and circulated at each meeting.

Motion to Adjourn- The President requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made from the floor to adjourn. The motion was seconded from the floor. Vote taken, all in favor, none opposed.

The meeting was adjourned.


Mike Riley
PRESIDENT


Carolyn Hartsog
SECRETARY