

# BRIDGER BOWL

STELLAR COMMUNITY    STELLAR MOUNTAIN    STELLAR DENDRITES



**Bridger Bowl Association  
Fall 2016 Meeting  
November 15, 2016, 7:00 p.m.  
Jim Bridger Lodge – Bridger Bowl**

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Present: Julie Bennett, Kelly Wiseman, Robb Larson, Mark Manseau, Diane Allen, Martha Collins, Pat Hoffman, Todd Goertzen, Dave Weaver; Randy Elliott, General Manager; Dave Ballinger, Treasurer; Bob Pettit, Management

## CALL TO ORDER

Julie introduced herself as the President of the Bridger Bowl Board of Directors, along with the Executive Committee: Kelly Wiseman, Robb Larson and Mark Manseau. She introduced the remaining board members: Diane Allen, Martha Collins, Pat Hoffman, Todd Goertzen and Dave Weaver; along with Randy Elliott, Executive Vice President of Operations, David Ballinger, Treasurer, and Lindsay Korth, Recording Secretary.

## MINUTES

Julie presented the minutes from the Spring 2016 Association meeting and requested a motion to approve the minutes. Gary Andrews moved to approve the minutes from the May 25 meeting; Marshall Bennett seconded the motion. Julie asked for additional discussion and the requested a vote. Vote taken, all in favor; minutes approved.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Copies of Bridger Bowl's Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Activities were distributed. Dave detailed income and expenses for 2015-16 season in comparison to the 2014-15 season. Snowsports continues to see significant increase in program growth. Dave welcomed questions from Association members. Gary Andrews asked who participated in Bridger's profit sharing plan; Dave explained there are about 44 employees that are eligible. Eligibility requirements state that employees work a minimum of 1,000 per year. Matt Stash inquired as to the reason workers' compensation premiums increased. Dave explained that, typically, it's because either there are more employees and hours, or there are more injuries. Dave presented a slideshow, prepared by Amatics CPA Group that displayed a bar graph of each retail departments' revenues for the previous 10 years. He also distributed year-to-year statistics with data ranging from 1958-2016.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Julie reported that early-rate season pass sales ended at over 20% increase from last year. A lot of this is due to the growth in the Gallatin Valley, which is a topic that the board is constantly discussing and brainstorming ideas for how to handle. Julie reminded members to carpool and encourage their friends to consider their means of travel to Bridger. Bus ridership took a big jump last season with the added stops at MSU; Bridger plans to add even more this year to accommodate the public as well as staff. Snowsports taught 3200 more lessons in 2015-16 than in 2014-15; the addition to the Saddle Peak Lodge will help in handling the increase. The addition will also make room for at least an additional 200



seasonal lockers. Bridger built a new website over the summer; Julie encouraged members to browse around on it. The Marketing staff and web programmers did an excellent job, allowing for the early season pass sale to operate smoothly.

#### MANAGER'S REPORT

Randy Elliott introduced himself and commented on the "summer"-like weather. He reported that snowmaking is getting off to a slow start, but he hopes to begin on Wednesday when the temperatures are lower. Bridger's scheduled opening date is December 9; even if the entire mountain isn't open, staff hopes to offer limited skiing. Randy commended the staff and their importance to the operation of Bridger Bowl. He introduced the following staff members that were present at the meeting. Jeff Abelin: Jeff is in charge of the Season Pass & Ticket Office; he is also Bridger's IT Manager, assisting with on-mountain computers and phones. Jeff was an integral part in installing the new POS system for Food Service this summer. Bob Allen and Bob Pettitt: They're known as "The Bob's" and both have multiple job responsibilities; this summer, they have focused on the SPL addition. Dave Ballinger, Lindsay Korth and Dawn Denecke: They work to run the office very smoothly. Dan Boehmer and Erik Brewster are the Lift Ops Supervisor and Assistant, respectively. The Lift Ops building had a small addition put on this summer; the project was completed mostly by Bridger staff. David Rosengren: David is the "new guy" of the Vehicle Maintenance Shop; he has been here for nearly seven years. He will be in charge of the shop until Dan Doebling returns from Antarctica at the beginning of February. Doug Richmond and Pete Maleski: Doug and Pete are the Ski Patrol Director and Assistant (respectively). There will be two additional patrollers on the mountain, each day, this winter; they hope that this will help handle the crowds. This fall, at the International Snow Safety Workshop, Doug received the AAA Bernie Kingery award, which is a big credit to his avalanche work over a long career. Jim Walker and Andy Van: Jim is the Food Service Director; Andy is the supervisor at the Deer Park Chalet and helps with weddings during the summer. Bonnie Hickey: Bonnie does a great job managing the Snowsports and Playcare departments. She hired a new assistant this year, Shannon Griffin. Travis Kirkpatrick: Travis is back at the Rental & Retail Shop with the help of his assistant, Kyle Cremers; stop in and see them. Marketing Department: Georgie Kirschner is the front-end web programmer; Erin O'Connor is the Events Coordinator and Assistant Marketing Manager; Emily Lind is the Reservations Coordinator. Joe O'Brien: Joe is the Lift Maintenance Supervisor; they have done a good job over the summer to ensure the lifts will be running well. He has an outstanding crew that takes pride in their work. John VanHouten and Jason Prasek: John and Jason ensure the slopes look great and ski well with both their summer and winter work. Scott Bohr: Scott is the ski patroller primarily responsible for the installation of Bridger's webcams and weather stations.

#### SPL ADDITION UPDATE

Bob Pettitt reported on the progress of the addition to the Saddle Peak Lodge (SPL). After soliciting and interviewing various companies around the Gallatin Valley, Bridger chose Rotherham Construction as the contractor of the project and Bechtel Architects as the architect. Throughout the summer and fall of 2016, Phase I was started and completed; this included excavation and the installation of the helical piers, concrete foundation and pan decks, as well as steel erection. During the 2016-17 ski season, the construction site will be blocked off, limiting use of some of the Lot A parking spaces. The existing Saddle Peak Lodge will remain fully open and functioning as usual. Work on the addition will resume in the spring of 2017 with Phase II. The project should be completed by the start of the 2017-18 ski season. The building will likely cost about \$225 per square foot.



### LONG RANGE PLANNING

Robb Larson introduced himself and commented on a few long-range planning activities. There are many projects planned for Bridger. The cell phone tower should be built next summer (2017); the SPL addition will be completed by the fall of 2017; the new Beginner Area will likely be built next summer, along with the movement of the Snowflake lift and replacement of the Virginia City (VC) lift. The Long Range Planning Committee is focusing on the growth in the Gallatin Valley and its effect on Bridger Bowl; skier visits roughly parallel with the growth in population. There were some questions from the floor. The new VC lift will be relatively in the same spot as the existing lift; it will be slightly shifted but the top and bottom of the lift will be within 50 feet of where they are now. Most likely, it will be a triple-chair with lift capacity similar to that of the Sunnyside quad lift. Last year, there was interest in moving Bridger's Park-and-Ride lot to the Story Mill area; interest in that faded and the lot will stay in its existing location at the Gallatin County Fairgrounds. Randy reported that Eric Love is still making diligent efforts to raise the necessary money that the Bridger Biathlon Club needs to purchase the Bohart Ranch and Crosscut Ranch.

### BRIDGER BOWL FOUNDATION

Chris Bulger introduced himself as the President of the Bridger Bowl Foundation, a non-profit that has been in existence for twelve years. In that time, there have been over 500 donors; the Foundation has awarded more than 3000 scholarships to underprivileged children, as well as underwritten programs such as the Raptor Fest and educational programs by the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center. To date, the Foundation has received 269 donations in 2016; 140 of these came over the last four weeks, with help from the early-rate season pass sales. There were also some very generous memorial gifts this year, in honor of some long-time Bridger skiers. More than 180 people donated to the Alpine Cabin. That project is complete and fully funded; however, the Foundation is still accepting donations for tiles until the walls are full. Another great revenue source this year was the BSF Ski Swap. Each September, Bridger donates the items that are left and unclaimed in their Lost & Found. This year, Foundation members tagged 232 items and made over \$1800. Chris thanked the members for their long-time support; it has made a significant difference for, literally, thousands of people in the community.

### NEW MEMBERS

Mark presented the following membership applications for ratification: Michal Antonczyk, Kathryn Coyle, Chad Cremers, Kyle Cremers, Cheryl Eiholzer, Anne Goertzen, Christopher Heffner, Lucas Rice, Karen Riggs, David Rosengren and Jon Wingo. Dick Dowdell moved to ratify the new members; Chris Bulger seconded the motion. Vote taken, all in favor; motion carried and memberships approved.

### NEW BUSINESS

Julie requested members to address any new business. Greg Beardslee would like to propose an ad-hoc committee to address mountain bike usage in the summer; Julie noted his request. Another member asked Randy if grooming could be increased, specifically on the 8% Road. Randy assured him that there would be a groomed trail from Bitterroot to the bottom of Pierre's Knob this season.

### OLD BUSINESS

Bob Kolezar asked how many members belong to the Bridger Bowl Association. Currently, there are about 540 members; each year, we lose about 10-20 due to relocation or lack of payment on their dues. Over the last couple of years, membership has increased, in part, due to Bridger's website. Dick Dowdell requested more information on the decision not to park at in the Story Mill area. Kelly reported that the board got involved with the Story Mill project early in the planning process; however, there was no interest from the project's planning committee to have Bridger use the area as a parking lot. One

member commented on the raise in senior season pass rates. Year-to-date, Bridger has sold more senior passes than last year despite the increase in price. Theresa Larson wondered the effect of the Powder Alliance program. Bridger has quite a few skiers coming from participating resorts who utilize the program, we have also received reports that many Bridger passholders utilize the program, too. Another member asked about the various mediums used to get the carpooling message out. Bridger posts two highway signs on/near Rouse to inform skiers/riders when the parking lots are filling up. The Marketing department uses the snow phone, website and other forms of social media to get the word out to skiers/riders. Julie reminded everyone who hasn't picked up his or her passes, to do so before opening day.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Julie welcomed a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jim Walker moved that the meeting be adjourned; Gary Andrews seconded the motion. Vote taken, all in favor; Julie adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.



JULIE BENNETT, PRESIDENT



MARK MANSEAU, SECRETARY