

# Fireside event to feature lost ski areas

By Sue Stafford  
Correspondent

Early Oregon skiers didn't have any of the luxuries afforded today's boarders and skiers, but ski they did, at a number of ski hills.

Discover those hills and their histories on Tuesday, February 18, when lifelong Bend resident and former mayor Steve Stenkamp shares his photos and history at the Three Sisters Historical Society Fireside Stories Evening, "Lost Oregon Ski Areas."

Stenkamp grew up on the east side of Bend during the 1960s and graduated from Bend High in 1975. A retired career firefighter, Stenkamp has researched and documented forgotten ski areas around Oregon, some that had to be hiked up in order to ski down; others offering rope tows and poma lifts.

In the early 1920s, Lava Butte south of Bend was the favorite ski hill due to its steep slope, good snow, and fairly easy access. The north side of the butte held snow later into the year. In the beginning, skiers had to hike up and later a rope tow was added. There was also a small ski jump. Night skiing was made possible by placing burn barrels along the side of the butte.

Attendees at the historical society event will hear stories about the ski jump built on Pilot Butte in 1965 for competitions. Skyliners Ski Club was founded in 1935 by four Scandinavian log mill workers. The club established a ski hill along Tumalo Creek west of Bend, including two rope tows, one long and one short, and a warming hut. Over the years, a ski jump was added as well as a lodge and ice skating. The community and local businesses were very supportive of the ski hill, even purchasing a bus to take kids to the hill from downtown.

A number of other organized ski areas dotted the map of Oregon, some lost to the annals of time, others enlarged and now operating under different names. Many of the early ski areas in the 1920s-1940s were established by parks departments, the U.S. Forest Service, or local ski clubs. A number of those were nothing more than runs cut through the trees, with the later addition of tows, ski jumps, and eventually lodges.

Some of the early Oregon areas included: McKenzie near McKenzie Pass; Idlewild, 16 miles north of Burns; Tilly Jane on the north slope of Mt. Hood on Highway 35; Windy Hill, near Government Camp;



PHOTO PROVIDED

The old-fashioned way of getting up a ski slope...

Mary's Peak, 24 miles from Corvallis; Crescent Lake; and Sky Trail Ski Area, 12 miles south of Ashland.

Doors will open at 6 p.m. at the FivePine Conference Center, with Stenkamp's presentation starting at 7 p.m. General admission is \$10, with current TSHS members admitted for free as part of their member benefits. Those wishing to join may do so prior to the presentation. Fees are \$25 for individuals and \$40 for a couple or family. There are three more Fireside Stories Evenings scheduled for 2020 in March, April, and October.

## SPRD offers cultural enrichment

Sisters Park & Recreation District (SPRD) is offering a glimpse into another culture in a new event. Night at the Orient combines authentic cuisine with a performance from Oregon Tai Chi Wushu.

"Part of SPRD's mission is to provide cultural enrichment experiences," said Shannon Rackowski, event coordinator for SPRD. "We were thrilled to be able to work hand in hand with Master Jian Feng Chen from Oregon Tai Chi Wushu as we created and designed this event. Our hope is to offer an annual event that will choose a new culture for Sisters to experience each year."

Night at the Orient is a family-friendly event that will be held at The Belfry on Sunday, February 23. Tickets are on sale now. SPRD recommends that you purchase your tickets soon as there is limited space.

For more information about the Night at the Orient, visit [www.sistersrecreation.com](http://www.sistersrecreation.com) or call SPRD at 541-549-2091.



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*The Belfry*

**Sun., Feb. 23, 4:30-6 p.m.**  
**Night at the Orient**  
SPRD presents an Oriental meal with show by Oregon Tai Chi Wushu. Register at [sistersrecreation.com](http://sistersrecreation.com).

**Tues., Feb. 25, 6-9 p.m.**  
**Sisters Science Club**  
Dr. Larry Price: "Dark Matter"

**Thurs., Feb. 27 • 7 p.m.**  
**Tommy Castro & The Pain Killers**  
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# SISTERS-AREA Entertainment & Events

**FEB 12 WED** **Sisters Saloon Poker Night** 7 p.m. Every Wednesday! \$20. For information call 541-549-7427 or go to [sisterssaloon.net](http://sisterssaloon.net). 


**FEB 13 THUR** **Cork Cellars Tasty Thursday Hosted Wine Tasting** 5 to 7 p.m. For additional information call 541-549-2675 or go online to [corkcellarswinebistro.com](http://corkcellarswinebistro.com).   
**Sisters Saloon Karaoke Night** 9 p.m. to midnight. Every Thursday, no cover! For additional information call 541-549-7427 or go to [sisterssaloon.net](http://sisterssaloon.net). 

**FEB 14 FRI** **Hoodoo Ski Lodge Live Music with The Jess Ryan Band** 5 to 8 p.m. Part of the Friday Night Lights Music Series. Call 541-822-3337 or go to [www.skihoodoo.com](http://www.skihoodoo.com) for more info.   
**Downtown Bend and Old Mill District Oregon WinterFest** 5 to 10 p.m. Live music, wine walk, ice carving, marketplace, family play zone and more! For additional information go to [oregonwinterfest.com](http://oregonwinterfest.com) or call 541-323-0964.   
**Fika Sisters Coffeehouse Game Night** until 8 p.m. Bring your own games & friends or find them there! Call 541-588-0311 for more information.   
**Hardtails Bar & Grill KJ Annie Rawkstar Karaoke Night!** 9 p.m. Every Friday, no cover! For additional information call 541-549-6114 or go to [hardtailsoregon.com](http://hardtailsoregon.com). 

**FEB 15 SAT** **Cork Cellars Live Music with Jazz Folks** 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. No cover! For information call 541-549-2675 or go online to [corkcellarswinebistro.com](http://corkcellarswinebistro.com).   
**Downtown Bend and Old Mill District Oregon WinterFest** 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Live music, dog show, ice carving, family play zone, marketplace and more! For additional information go to [oregonwinterfest.com](http://oregonwinterfest.com) or call 541-323-0964.   
**Hardtails Bar & Grill KJ Annie Rawkstar Karaoke Night!** 9 p.m. Every Saturday, no cover! For additional information call 541-549-6114 or go to [hardtailsoregon.com](http://hardtailsoregon.com). 

**FEB 16 SUN** **Downtown Bend and Old Mill District Oregon WinterFest** 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fire pits, dog show, ice carving, family play zone, marketplace and more! For additional information go to [oregonwinterfest.com](http://oregonwinterfest.com) or call 541-323-0964. 

**FEB 18 TUES** **Sisters Saloon Trivia Night** 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Sign-up is at 6:15. Free, every Tuesday! For additional information call 541-549-7427 or go to [sisterssaloon.net](http://sisterssaloon.net). 

**FEB 19 WED** **Sisters Saloon Poker Night** 7 p.m. Every Wednesday! \$20. For information call 541-549-7427 or go to [sisterssaloon.net](http://sisterssaloon.net). 

**FEB 20 THUR** **The Suttle Lodge Live Music with Julianna Barwick & Hanna Haas** 6 to 8 p.m. Fireside Show series. Doors open at 5. Tickets at [TheSuttleLodge.com/Happenings](http://TheSuttleLodge.com/Happenings).   
**Paulina Springs Books Author Presentation with Marcy Cottrell Houle & Jack McGowan** 6:30 p.m. The author will present from her book, "A Generous Nature." For more info call 541-549-0866 or go to [paulinasprings.com](http://paulinasprings.com).   
**Cork Cellars Tasty Thursday Hosted Wine Tasting** 5 to 7 p.m. For additional information call 541-549-2675 or go online to [corkcellarswinebistro.com](http://corkcellarswinebistro.com).   
**Sisters Saloon Karaoke Night** 9 p.m. to midnight. Every Thursday, no cover! For additional information call 541-549-7427 or go to [sisterssaloon.net](http://sisterssaloon.net). 

**FEB 21 FRI** **Sisters High School Live Music with Dustbowl Revival** 7 p.m. Sisters Folk Festival Winter Concert Series. Tickets and information: 541-549-4979 or [SistersFolkFestival.org](http://SistersFolkFestival.org).   
**Hoodoo Ski Lodge Live Music with The Tortilla Chips** 5 to 8 p.m. Part of the Friday Night Lights Music Series. Call 541-822-3337 or go to [www.skihoodoo.com](http://www.skihoodoo.com) for more info.   
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Events Calendar listings are free to advertisers. Submit items by 5 p.m. Fridays to [lisa@nuggetnews.com](mailto:lisa@nuggetnews.com)