

19 Jan 16

# *SCHNEE VOGELI SKI CLUB*

## *The Green Buzzard*

[WWW.SCHNEEVOGEL.COM](http://WWW.SCHNEEVOGEL.COM)

**Presidents Corner:** Hey Fellas, the snowfall this season has been terrific, what a difference from last season. Keep it coming! At the last meeting we shared several stories about "Sure Fit" Charlie Kies. I hope some of you shared those stories at his memorial as well. Also, at the last meeting I mentioned that we have re-established a registered Oregon trademark for Pray For Snow™. This trademark protects a key part of Schnee heritage for the next five years. Eddie Rogers had five racers show up last week for the first Schnee Vogeli Friday night training. It sounds like a great night of training, but Ed would like to have better turnout for the rest of the season. There are eight more training nights throughout the season – try to take advantage of these training opportunities. I spoke with Jerry Eichertopf last week and he is looking forward to serving up some of his fabulous corned beef to the Schnee brothers again this year. The event will be on Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at Otto's Sausages on SE 42<sup>nd</sup> and Woodstock starting at 6pm. Do not come early as he is still serving customers. However, do buy lot's of products. This is a great club event and we thank Jerry and his wife Gretchen for hosting this event for so many years. I'll be skiing in Austria, so Scott Morrison will preside over the meeting – it's his first time, so go easy with him. **The next meeting is at The Gap, Jan. 26th, doors open at 615p and the meeting starts at 7p.** Pete

**Phlox Point Cabin at Timberline:** You can now stop at the newly remodeled former Boy Scouts hut that now offers tacos, beer, wine, hot chocolate, a knotty pine interior, a big fireplace and a gas fire pit outside. The last time I was there they had a couple of porta-potties; after all they do serve beer. It will be open 10 am - 3 pm, and until 7 pm on Fridays and Saturdays for night skiing. The Phlox Point cabin is in the Woods, but with easy groomed trail access. From West Leg road turn left onto Walt's Baby and then left again toward the cabin. It is at the top of Wingle's Wiggle run.

**PACRAT Racing:** We had our first race Jan 10<sup>th</sup>. Even without a full team, Chix & Dix scored some good points and are tied for 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ruttin' Rats are just 2 points back and tied for 9<sup>th</sup>. Plenty of time to move up the leader board. The next race is scheduled for Meadows on Jan 24<sup>th</sup>. The remaining PACRAT schedule is: Feb 21<sup>st</sup> Ski Bowl, Feb 28<sup>th</sup> Meadows, March 20<sup>th</sup> Timberline, Make-up (if needed) April 3<sup>rd</sup> Timberline, April 15<sup>th</sup> Rat Attack.

**Racing:** Condor Cup Race #2 – Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at Ski bowl (Valentine's Day) is cancelled. Ed is trying to schedule another date, a possible Fri. Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> 8pm; stay tuned. Condor Cup Race #3 – Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at Skibowl (Easter Sunday). We will use Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> as a make-up date if needed. Club Championships will remain on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> as originally scheduled. The Masters race is scheduled for Mar. 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> at Skibowl. Need help putting up fences that Fri and volunteers to help setup and run the races; contact Ed or Terry.

**75 Anniversary:** Hey guys, I still need help in finding a live musician to play background music at the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. I need a guitar player that preferably can sing to play before and during dinner. The Club will pick up the tab for a room for two and dinner for two. \$200 has been budgeted for this which I can "play" with if needed. Please contact me at: [brightonjc@comcast.net](mailto:brightonjc@comcast.net), or phone [971-235-5812](tel:971-235-5812). John Brighton.

\*P.O. Box 42383, Portland, Ore. 97242

**Race Training:** Nine days of race training with Ed Rogers for only \$75, \$50 if you bought a gate. This will occur on Dog Leg, 5p-8p. You will need to fill out a release form. Contact Ed.

**The Sun Valley Trip:** This will begin the last Sat in Feb. the 27<sup>th</sup>. Contact Terry Jondahl for further info.

**4 FEET 8.5 INCHES IS VERY IMPORTANT:** Do you know where this dimension came from? Railroad tracks. The U.S. Standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number. Why was that gauge used? Because that's the way they built them in England and English expatriates designed the U.S. Railroads. Why did the English build them like that? Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways and that's the gauge they used. Why did 'they' use that gauge then? Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they had used for building wagons, which used that wheel spacing. Why did the wagons have that particular Odd wheel spacing? Well, if they tried to use any other spacing, the wagon wheels would break on some of the old, long distance roads in England, because that's the spacing of the wheel ruts. So, who built those old rutted roads? Imperial Rome built the first long distance roads in Europe (including England) for their legions. Those roads have been used ever since and the ruts in the roads? Roman war chariots formed the initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagon wheels. Since the chariots were made for Imperial Rome, they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing. Therefore, the United States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches is derived from the original specifications for an Imperial Roman war chariot. In other words, bureaucracies live forever. So the next time you are handed a specification, procedure, or process, and wonder, 'What horse's ass came up with this? You may be exactly right. Imperial Roman army chariots were made just wide enough to accommodate the rear ends of two war horses. Now, the twist to the story; When you saw a Space Shuttle sitting on its launch pad, you will notice that there are two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These are solid rocket boosters, or SRBs. The SRBs are made by Thiokol at their factory in Utah. The engineers who designed the SRBs would have preferred to make them a bit larger, but the SRBs had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site. The railroad line from the factory happens to run through a tunnel in the mountains and the SRBs had to fit through that tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than the railroad track, and the railroad track, as you now know, is about as wide as two horses' behinds. So, a major Space Shuttle design feature of what is arguably the world's most advanced transportation system was determined over two thousand years ago by the width of a horse's ass. And you thought being a horse's ass wasn't important! Now you know, Horses' Asses control almost everything. Explains a whole lot of stuff, doesn't it?

#### **Calendar Of Upcoming Events:**

- 📅 26 Jan. **SVSC** Meeting at The Gap doors open 615p meeting begins at 7p
- 📅 09 Feb. **SVSC** Meeting at The Gap doors open 615p meeting begins at 7p
- 🍷 20 Feb. King Winter
- 📅 23 Feb. **SVSC** Meeting at The Gap doors open 615p meeting begins at 7p
- 📅 08 Mar. **SVSC** Meeting at The Gap doors open 615p meeting begins at 7p
- 🍷 15 Mar. Corned Beef Dinner at Otto's
- 📅 22 Mar. **SVSC** Meeting at The Gap doors open 615p meeting begins at 7p
- 🍷 23 Apr. Season Ender Bender at The Rat

