Slow food movement dinner in Truckee

Dragonfly Restaurant and Sushi Bar is partnering with Slow Food Lake Tahoe to host a twist on the community supported agriculture box. It’s slated for March 2 at 6pm in downtown Truckee.

Attendees will get to solve the mysteries contained in CSA veggie boxes by visiting food demo stations, trying their hand at rolling rice paper spring rolls and sampling food and wine pairings.

Representatives from Mountain Bounty Farms in Nevada City and Sobon Winery in Plymouth will be on hand to talk about what it’s like to be a local producer. Meats provided by Thompson Valley Ranch in Quincy will round out the evening’s menu options.

Slow Food is a global grassroots movement that links the pleasures of food with a commitment to community and the environment.

Dinner for the Slow Food CSA Box event will cost $42 for Slow Food members and $47 for non-members. Call (530) 587.0557 to make reservations.

Dragonfly Restaurant and Sushi Bar is located upstairs at 10118 Donner Pass Road. Dinner is served from 5-9:30pm.

Trek to top of Angora Ridge provides stunning views

By Kathryn Reed

What a difference a week makes. Last Sunday the trek to Angora Ridge was all about the claws on our snowshoes. Today it would likely be about making first tracks or hoping a snowmobiler got there first.

It's a climb, no doubt about that. But the views – oh, they are worth it.

The 1.8 miles feel a bit longer than that, but I'm blaming it on the ridge being a thousand feet higher than lake level.



The Angora burn area from the ridge. Photos/Kathryn Reed

It's five of us and a dog on this particular day going to the lookout at an elevation of 7,256 feet.

The start is deceiving because of how flat it is – meadow-like, really. With this being a road, it's wide enough to walk side-by-side.

My mom indulges me as I take pictures. It's been a few years since I've been up here in winter. I wonder why because the

views are spectacular, not to mention it being a good workout.

The others are in front of us chattering away. Their loss because mom and I are sure it’s an eagle that is flying overhead with its distinctive wingspan and white markings. Bald eagles are common in this part of Tahoe.

Up we go in almost a straight path. No switchbacks to contend with.

Gradually some charred trees come into sight to our left – remnants of the 2007 Angora Fire that burned about 3,100 acres – mostly U.S. Forest Service land. And it’s this federal property that we are on.

Mount Tallac is visible to our right through the looming conifers.

Onward.

Finally, we are on Angora Ridge. The old fire lookout remains. A Forest Service forester built it in 1924. It was converted into a residence for Civilian Conservation Corps members who in 1935 built a larger lookout nearby. No longer is this an active fire lookout. However, the buildings are eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

From the ridge, the Angora burn area is unmistakable. New houses prove the resilience of the 254 homeowners who lost their houses in the 2007 fire. But many of the matchstick-like trees remain. Now that environmentalists have sued the Forest Service, they may be there for years.

Looking in the opposite direction is Fallen Leaf Lake, with the base of Mount Tallac seeming to touch the far shore. A small part of Lake Tahoe is also visible from here.

Up another mile is the parking lot for the resort and its two lakes. During the summer the eight cabins are available for rent. Dogs must be leashed and are not allowed in the lakes.

Angora Lakes Resort, which opened in the 1920s, is so popular that it’s booked for the 2011 season.

Getting there:

From South Lake Tahoe, go through the Y on Lake Tahoe Boulevard. Turn right on Tahoe Mountain Road. Go to the top turn right and follow the signs toward Angora.

Parking is horrendous. If you get there early enough, the gate in front of the trail is your best bet to avoid being towed.

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Competing car auctions tied to Hot August Nights

By Frank X. Mullen Jr., Reno Gazette-Journal

There are now two separate classic car auctions scheduled in August in conjunction with the Hot August Nights event.

Silver Auctions, which has handled the event’s auction for 21 years, will hold an auction the first week of August in the Truckee Meadows, when Hot August Nights is scheduled to open in Long Beach, Calif. It is no longer the event’s official auction and the venue hasn’t been announced.

On Wednesday, Bruce Walter, chief executive officer of Hot August Nights announced “the official and exclusive 2011 Hot August Nights Classic Car Auction” will be produced and conducted by B & T Custom Rod & Restoration and Specialty Auto Auction and Sales. That auction is scheduled for Aug. 11-14, the week of the Reno event, at the Reno-Sparks Convention

Center.

The Hot August Nights auction is a major part of the 25-year-old event, participants have said, with the hammer often dropping on cars worth $100,000 or more.

Walter said having two auctions scheduled so close together isn't a problem. "We had two auctions in the same month last year, one at South Lake Tahoe and one in Reno," he said. "The South Lake Tahoe (auction) immediately preceded the Reno auction."

Read the whole story

Weather Service releases snow totals for Tahoe area

The National Weather Service in Reno released snow totals at 11:30am Saturday for the latest storm.

Here are some of those numbers for the past 24 hours:

• Alpine Meadows – 20 inches

• Carson City – 5 inches



Josh and his buddies James

and Darren from Melbourne, Australia, create a snowboard jump in the basketball area in the Tahoe Keys on Feb. 19. Photo/Kathryn Reed

• Donner Summit – 20 inches

• Gardnerville – 13 inches

• Heavenly Valley – 30 inches

• Homewood – 24 inches

• Incline Village – 24 inches

• Reno Airport – 5.4 inches

• Squaw Valley – 14 inches

• Virginia City – 4 inches.

Even though a clearing trend is on the horizon, cold temps are forecast for the next few days. Saturday night the low in South Lake Tahoe is expected to be 6 degrees. The highs will be in the 20s through Tuesday.

Trash update: STR not able to service all routes



South Tahoe Refuse has pulled some of its trucks from routes because the roads were not plowed and the garbage trucks were getting stuck.

The South Shore trash officials say to pull cans back inside and put them back out on the regular trash day next week.

No injuries in train collision on Donner Summit

By News 10

DONNER SUMMIT – Two trains crashed at Donner Summit Friday aboout 3:30pm because of bad weather.

An Amtrak train from Chicago, headed to Emeryville, was hit from behind by a Union Pacific train, said Amtrak's Vernae Graham.

Read the whole story

Bahrke 24th in aerials in Belarus

By Freddy Perryman, U.S. Ski Team

MINSK, Belarus -– Last season's Rookie of the Year Ashley Caldwell of Charleston, S.C., rebounded from her injury last week to finish second in the aerials World Cup Saturday in Minsk. It was the second podium of her young career.

Hometown hero Anton Kushnir of Belarus won the men's event, with China's World Champion Shuang Cheng the women's winner. It was an especially important victory for Kushnir, the World Championship bronze medalist, taking the first World Cup ever in his country of Belarus at an amazing new aerials facility near Minsk.

Caldwell, who did not compete last week in Moscow, Russia after a crash in training, came back strong for the final event of the season. She threw a full-full, followed by a full double full-full in the finals to score her second career World Cup podium having earned her first with a win in Lake Placid. Her jumps were clean and performed with technical precision, but her degree of difficulty was just below that of Cheng, allowing the Chinese aerialist to edge Caldwell for the win.

Emily Cook of Belmont, Mass., coming off her second career World Cup victory in Moscow, jumped well in training. But in her qualification run she came off the jump a little bit forward, losing points and failing to make finals by one spot.

Dylan Ferguson of Amesbury, Mass., ended 11th after a tough landing to a very clean final jump. Ferguson jumped well, but with slower takeoff speeds was unable to get the amplitude needed and he was forced to drag his hands on the landing. He was the only American man to qualify for Saturday's finals.

Scotty Bahrke of Tahoe City was 24th.

Official results, World Cup, Minsk, Belarus, Aerials

Men

1. Anton Kushnir, Belarus, 256.31

2. Stanislav Kravchuk, Ukraine, 244.49

3. Denis Osipau, Belarus, 237.42

—

11. Dylan Ferguson, Amesbury, MA, 193.57

24. Scotty Bahrke, Tahoe City, CA, 82.08

Women

1. Shuang Cheng, China, 187.87

2. Ashley Caldwell, Charleston, SC, 183.96

3. Fanyu Kong, China, 178.28

—

13. Emily Cook, Belmont, MA, 72.96

Ski report: Another foot and then some



All this epic snow and so many locals will be turned away because of blackout dates on season passes.

Here is the ski report from Curtis Fong, the Guy from Tahoe.

Storm in Lake Tahoe breaking up

It’s going to be over this morning. The winter storm warning, that is, not the snow falling from the sky.

With the National Weather Service in Reno lifting the warning as of 9am, it means the brunt of the storm has passed.



The center lane along Highway 50 in South Tahoe is going to take time to clear. Photo/Kathryn Reed

Still, though, meteorologists are saying there is an 80 percent chance of snow Saturday, tapering off to 30 percent tonight. A 20 percent chance of the white stuff covering the Lake Tahoe Basin remains through Monday. Tuesday is when that yellow ball is likely to appear again in the sky.

Roads throughout the Lake Tahoe Basin are likely to come with restrictions as crews work to clear them. Check the state icons on the home page of *Lake Tahoe News* to know road conditions.

– Kathryn Reed

Riding in a plow demonstrates the difficulty of not berming

By Kathryn Reed

I'm a complainer. And I admitted this trait to a plow driver. And then to his boss.

They are used to my type.

I hate the berm. I don't see why they have to happen. Must be a lazy plow driver is my thinking.



Bobby Maxwell

convinces one South Tahoe resident berms are part of life. Photo/Kathryn Reed

That was my philosophy before spending a couple hours in the cramped cockpit of one of those monsters.

Still hate berms, but I understand why they happen. You couldn't be lazy and have this job.

In fact, I'm guessing most people could never do this job. I know I'm going to stick with a keyboard to show off my dexterity and a computer to show how good I am with heavy equipment.

Stepping into the big blue rig belonging to South Lake Tahoe on the night of Feb. 17 I didn't know what I was in for. Public Works Director John Greenhut invited me for a ride-along after I complained in late December about all the side streets along Tahoe Keys Boulevard being bermed. (In years past I've whined about berms at the foot of my driveway. My excuse for complaining is some storms I get berms, some I don't.)

Bobby Maxwell took me under his wing, almost literally based on how cramped the snowplow is, to educate me a bit. At 26, he has been plowing the streets of South Lake Tahoe for six years.

He, and later his boss Azril Kalik, explained the berms on Keys Boulevard had to do with a sander helping clear the road. It only has a front plow, no gate. Without a gate, a berm is definitely going to happen.

I honestly thought being a snowplow driver was no big deal.

Oh, how wrong I was.

Now I want to leave them beer or cookies like I do the mail carrier and garbage guys at the holidays.

Maxwell says they aren't allowed to take any kind of gratuity. I don't want to get anyone in trouble, but I think I'm going to see if that's just the company line. Good, hard work deserves something extra.

This isn't to say I'm not going to have a potty mouth (under my breath) when a berm full of chunks of ice requiring someone of Arnold Schwarzenegger's stature to clear them is left at the foot of my driveway.

I'm not that easily convinced it's all about the snow conditions and quantity of it. Yes, I understand those are legitimate reasons, but I know some of the guys are just better than others.

But Maxwell repeatedly demonstrated the gate can only do so much. It's there to reduce a berm, not eliminate it.

It's a thankless job. It's long hours of staring out a window for 12 hours with blinding snow.

No breaks. No bathroom. No one to shoot the breeze with.

Maxwell might spend five minutes eating something he brought with him. Even cops take dinner breaks. And those guys are often chattering on their cell phones. Plow drivers don't have these perks, so to speak.

This South Tahoe High grad is happy to have the job and likes it on most nights. But he admits it can be a drain. But he knows he is providing a vital service and takes pride in what he is doing.

Meticulous snowplowing might be possible to define based on industry standards, but the public is not apt to buy into it.

They want cleared streets no matter the condition. They don’t want berms. They want to turn left even when the left turn lane is gone.

But this is snow country. It’s about dealing with forces that are beyond all of our control.

One thing I can control, though, is patience. I need to learn to have more of it.

I have a respect for these guys in their blue contraptions that I never had before. Now I’ll wave to them with all of my fingers.