Tahoe athletes depicted in Oregon photo exhibit

By Colin Whyte, ESPN

Bud Fawcett’s images are such an integral part of snowboarding’s history that we couldn’t believe the photos currently hanging on the walls of the White Rabbit Bakery in Aurora, Ore., are part of his first solo photography show. Seeing such legendary photos in an intimate setting, espresso and doughnut in hand, is the shred equivalent of seeing the Rolling Stones at a smoky bar.

If you’re anywhere within driving distance of the White Rabbit bakery/gallery (about 20 minutes south of Portland), you owe it to yourself to check out this gold in person. The show runs until Jan. 30. To call Fawcett’s best images “classics” might be the biggest understatement possible. Seriously.

Read the whole story

Warning – Electrical cords may pose danger

To the community,

We tend to take our electrical appliances for granted, but with age and extended use, they do wear out. Check the cords on your electric blanket.

Damage to cords under the bed is caused by objects crammed in for storage or by pets chewing on cords. This not only can

cause a fire but can harm your pet.

Use of portable electric and gas heaters should be done with extreme caution. Be sure that distances from combustibles are sufficient and allow for adequate ventilation to prevent suffocation.

Sallie Ross-Filgo, South Lake Tahoe Fire Department

Skiing through Olympic history on Tahoe's West Shore

By Kathryn Reed

TAHOMA – People with guns on cross country skis. That certainly set the tone for a unique day in the woods.

Fortunately, they were shooting at electronic targets with laser rifles.

A sign saying "Olympic Heritage Event" made us wonder if we should turn around because we are nowhere near Olympic caliber cross country skiers. (Later I questioned going on the intermediate loop – that's how unsure I am free heeling it.)



Nathan Hoffman learns how to

shoot the rifle for biathlon. Photos/Kathryn Reed

Unbeknownst to us until our arrival Saturday morning at Sugar Pine Point Campground the second annual Olympic Heritage Celebration Biathlon competition was going on. It was open to anyone – all ages, with the youngest being about 9 years old.

The first event a year ago at this course used for the 1960 Olympics was the same weekend of the Nordic Legends Dinner.

On Jan. 15 Bill Lindemann, who emceed the dinner in 2010, was on hand to make sure the nearly 20 participants were having a good time, and getting a bit of instruction as they raced against the clock and each other.

Competitors could do a 1K or 3K loop, shooting twice – once standing, once laying on their stomach. Miss your target and the penalty is to ski a short loop.

At the shooting range, Holly Beatie was dispensing a wealth of information. Nathan Hoffman looked at her quizzically when she said to place his thumb in a certain manner. This was his first time on a biathlon course, and to handle this type of gun that has the look and feel of a regular rifle.

But the state park, he said, is pretty much in his back yard so the terrain was familiar.

Beatie is well versed in the world of biathlon – which is the sport of cross country skiing and shooting. She moved to the North Shore in the 1970s, but no women's biathlon teams existed so she competed with the men. It wasn't until 1980 that the U.S. developed a women's team.

In 1984, Beatie was on the inaugural U.S. biathlon team at the

Women’s World Championships in Chamonix, which won the bronze.

We left the competitors behind to strike out on the myriad trails in this state park along Lake Tahoe’s West Shore. Steeped in history, interpretive signs along the way point out facts about the Olympics hosted by Squaw Valley 51 years ago this month.

We didn’t set any speed records. Instead, we glided through the groomed tracks at a fairly leisurely pace – all the better to stop for photos and admire the wonders of nature.

Fluorescent green lichen leaps off several trees.

A few charred trees along the way are a reminder of the August 2007 Washoe Fire that destroyed five houses and burned about 15 acres.

General Creek meanders between most of the trails, though it’s not visible most of the time. However, at a few junctures we crossed it via bridge. A couple who own a second home in the area regularly treks to this tranquil oasis. With sandwiches from the General Store in Tahoma and a waterproof blanket of sorts, they staked out a spot near the creek for lunch. We wished they had invited us to join them.

Instead, after we worked up an appetite doing the 2.1 mile beginner Blue Trail and 3.3 mile intermediate Red Trail, we headed north a short ways to Tahoma to grab a bite at the Old Tahoe Café. A pint of their pale ale is just $3.95, while the veggie sandwich with fries ($8.79) is big enough to split.

Getting there:

From South Lake Tahoe, go north on Highway 89, around Emerald Bay and past Meeks Bay.

Before hitting Tahoma, on the right will be a sign for the Ehrman Mansion.

In less than one mile make the left turn into the Sugar Pine Point Campground. We didn’t see a sign for the turn, so we ended up making a U-turn.

There’s plenty of free parking even though it’s a state park.

Dogs are not allowed.

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Parenting lecture

Parenting expert Tyler Durman will speak at South Tahoe Middle School on Feb. 8 from 7-8:15pm.

The talk is entitled “Bite-Sized Wisdom for Parent of Teenagers.”

The event is free.

Hudson family fundraiser

A fundraiser for the Hudson family will be Jan. 31 fro 5-8pm in the multipurpose room at South Tahoe Middle School.

Scott Hudson was a teacher at the school who died earlier this month.

Dinner will from 5-7pm, with silent auction from 7-8pm.

Advance tickets are $10 adults, $5 children under 8 and

seniors, $25 for a family; at the door the cost goes up $5. Tickets are available at the district office at 1021 Al Tahoe Blvd. Make checks payable to Marsha Hudson. An account has been set up at U.S. Bank.

For more information, call (530) 541.6404.

‘Amazing Facts About Lake Tahoe’

Explore Tahoe Winter Speaker Series continues on Jan. 20 at 6pm. Local author and speaker David Antonucci presents “Amazing Facts About Lake Tahoe.”

The presentation highlights the unique natural wonders of geology, lake depth, and natural history of Lake Tahoe that set it apart from other lakes. Explore Tahoe is located in the Heavenly Village next to North Face at 4114 Lake Tahoe Blvd.

A $5 donation is requested. Refreshments will be provided. A special flat rate of $5 is offered in the parking garage after 4pm. For more information call (530) 542.4637.

Congresswoman taken off ventilator

By Thomas H. Maugh II, Los Angeles Times

Surgeons at Tucson's University Medical Center removed Rep. Gabrielle Giffords from a ventilator Saturday and inserted a tracheotomy tube into her neck to assist her breathing, according to the center.

Removing her from the ventilator, which means she is now breathing on her own, allows the medical team to assess her ability to speak and is another step toward stabilizing her condition so she can leave the intensive care unit and be moved to a regular hospital room.

The tracheotomy tube in her throat provides a passageway for free movement of air and, if she begins to have trouble breathing, allows a simple way for doctors to insert a tube into her lungs to assist her breathing.

Read the whole story

Kashima 8th in World Cup freestyle competition

By Freddy Perryman, U.S. Ski Team

MONT GABRIEL, Quebec City – Jeremy Cota of Maine led the U.S. Freestyle Ski Team with a career best fourth place finish in Saturday's dual moguls World Cup at Mont Gabriel. Olympic champion Hannah Kearney of Vermont remains on top of the women's overall World Cup standings.

Cota, who qualified in fifth, won his first round before having to go head-to-head with teammate and reigning world champion Patrick Deneen of Washington in the quarterfinals.

Olympic bronze medalist Bryon Wilson ofButte, Mont., placed

seventh and Sho Kashima of Stateline finished eighth.

World Cup freestyle skiing is heading stateside Jan. 22-23, where Lake Placid, N.Y., will play host the Nature Valley Freestyle Cup which includes two men’s and women’s moguls events.

Thin Air Distance Festival

Thin Air Distance Festival will hold their four-day marathon in South Shore for the second year; dates are Aug. 11-14. For info, go their website.

Mild quake rattles Douglas County

By Reno Gazette-Journal

A magnitude 3.2 earthquake struck this morning in southern Douglas County about 15 miles southeast of Gardnerville, the Nevada Seismological Laboratory reported.

The quake came at 8:35 a.m. and was about 4.5 miles deep. The reading has been reviewed by a seismologist.

The Douglas County Sheriff’s Office said it has no reports of damage.

Read the whole story