Quest to name peak after South Tahoe's Ryan Shreve

By Kathryn Reed

Peak 9441 is listed on maps just like that, with no other name.

Mike Shreve is on a mission to name the Desolation Wilderness peak Mount Ryan after his son who died in 2003.

In 1992, when the South Lake Tahoe father and son were on a Boy Scout backpacking trip, Ryan asked what the name of the peak was. 9441, its elevation, is what U.S. Geological Survey maps call it.



Mike Shreve, holding an SIS brochure, at the top of what he would like to be Mount Ryan. Photos/Provided

Eleven years later, the day before Ryan's memorial, Shreve and his son's best friend Mitch Underhill hiked to Echo Peak.

"It was snowing lightly. Mitch looks to the west. He said,

‘What is the name of the peak to the right with no clouds and in the sun?’”

It was Peak 9441.

“Let’s call it Mount Ryan,” Underhill said.

It’s an arduous process to get peaks named something other than what they are labeled, especially with the 1999 Wilderness Act as a deterrent. But that is not slowing Shreve. He has the endorsement of the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors. In July he will take his cause to the USGS meeting.

In the mean time, Shreve is collecting signatures on petitions from people who support his idea. He will be asking all those who participate and watch the annual Ryan Shreve Memorial Firefighters Race at Sierra-at-Tahoe on March 15 to endorse his idea.

Education about SIS

Most of Shreve’s focus since his 24-year-old son died after a wakeboarding accident on Folsom Lake has been to educate whoever will listen about Second Impact Syndrome.

“That second impact the brain expands again and has nowhere to expand in the cranial cavity,” Shreve explained. “There is only one option and it goes south into the lower portion, the brain stem region.”

This often leads to strokes because the blood flow into the brain has been limited.

The Ryan Shreve Head Injury Awareness Foundation was created in the 1997 South Tahoe High School graduate’s name in hopes of limiting the number of deaths like his. The biggest fundraiser is the ski event at Sierra.

Money goes mostly to the printing costs of the SIS brochure.

Last August the California Interscholastic Federation requested brochures for the 1,650 high schools in the state.

The brochures were first created in 2004. It was a collaborative effort with El Dorado Hills Fire Department, where Ryan Shreve was a firefighter and paramedic, the county's Emergency Medical Services, and Dr. Terry Murphy who at the time was president of the EMS Medical Directors of California Association.

At last year's ski race, enough money was raised to print 20,000 brochures.

Shreve says the awareness of SIS has grown substantially since Ryan's death. He said it was a one on a scale of 1 to 10 in 2002 and is at a 10 today. He attributes this in part to high profile deaths like Sonny Bono and Natasha Richardson, as well as the numerous concussions Steve Young sustained during his career with the San Francisco 49ers.



Ryan Shreve

The SIS brochure says about 50 percent of reported SIS cases end in death. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention estimates there are a minimum of 300,000 sports related concussions annually.

The ski event

The fundraiser is at Sierra because this is where Ryan grew up skiing. He was on the Buddy Werner team in the mid-1980s and skied at Sierra while on the STHS ski team all four years.

The categories include skiing, snowboarding and the 3-inch hose relay. It’s open to firefighters, paramedics and their families. And the racers must be wearing their firefighter turnouts.

“Those things are bulky. That is what makes it all the more fun,” Shreve said.

Competitors come from as far away as Santa Cruz.

For the relay, teams of three race against another team carrying a fire hose.

“When you get two good teams coming down the course, it looks like Chinese serpents coming down,” Shreve said.

The race is March 15 at 10:30am next to the halfpipe at Sierra.

For more information about naming Peak 9441 to Mount Ryan, email mshreve@edhfire.com.

Ski report: Bluebird day



Storms erase “Sierra cement” phrase from people’s vocabulary.

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

Mancuso ends World Championships with 2 silvers

By U.S. Ski Team

GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN, Germany -– Frenchman Jean-Baptiste Grange ignored rapidly deteriorating course conditions Sunday to convert a first run lead into the FIS Alpine World Ski Championships slalom gold medal.

World Champs rookie Nolan Kasper of Warren, Vt., was 15th and giant slalom gold medalist Ted Ligety of Park City 19th as the U.S. Ski Team closed the World Championships with three medals including a pair of silvers from Julia Mancuso of Squaw Valley and Lindsey Vonn of Vail.

Official results, 2011 FIS Alpine World Ski Championships, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, Slalom

Gold: Jean-Baptiste, Grange, 1:41.72

Silver: Jens Byggmark, Sweden, 1:42.15

Bronze: Manfred Moelgg, Italy, 1:42.33

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15. Nolan Kasper, Warren, VT, 1:43.83

19. Ted Ligety, Park City, UT, 1:44.17

Did not finish second run:

David Chodounsky, Crested Butte, CO

Did not finish first run:

Will Brandenburg, Spokane, WA

Nevada Division of Wildlife may take donations for specific programs

By Guy Clifton, Reno Gazette-Journal

The Nevada Department of Wildlife, looking for ways to help fund programs and match federal grants, is proposing the establishment of a “gift account” that would let people and organizations donate directly to the department rather than have the money funnel through the state’s general fund.

The program would also allow conservation organizations or individuals to donate money for a specific project, said NDOW Director Ken Mayer.

“The neat part of it is if a person donates and says they want their funds donated to project X, we can earmark it for that purpose,” Mayer said.

The state Department of Cultural Affairs has a similar program that allows for donations directly to museums.

State funding for NDOW has declined annually from $1.74 million in 2006 to $721,000 in 2011 and will drop to about $495,000 in 2012 and 2013 if Gov. Brian Sandoval’s proposed budget is approved.

The department’s budget is largely funded by the sale of hunting and fishing licenses, trout stamps, boat registrations and with federal dollars that often require a match.

Read the whole story

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.

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

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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

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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