

# AVALANCHE

NEWSLETTER OF THE 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION, MT. RAINIER CHAPTER  
JUNE AND JULY 2011

Dale E. Smith, Editor

3820 N. E. 145 St., Lake Forest Park, WA 98155-7820  
(206) 364-4363; Email: daleesmith@msn.com

Karl Stingl, President

10301 242nd Place SW, Edmonds, WA 98020-5779  
(206) 542-8489; Email sunnystingl@msn.com

Lynn Butzberger, Assistant Editor

8612 113th Way NE, Kirkland, WA 98033-5770  
(425) 827-0620; Email thebutz@mac.com

**BOARD MEETS TUES, JUNE 7 AND JULY 5, THE OLD SPAGHETTI FACTORY, 11:30 AM TO 2:00 PM  
CHAPTER LUNCHEONS TUES., JUNE 14 AT SEATTLE YACHT CLUB AND TUES., JULY 12 AT SEATTLE YACHT CLUB**

## HANS THOMPSON IS AGAIN SCHEDULED ON JUNE 14

Hans' presentation was unfortunately delayed by the cancellation forced by the Norwalk virus problem at the Seattle Yacht Club. For his presentation, he will show the video from his Abby Kealy oral interview for *The Last Ridge* documentary, then answer question from the audience. The focus will be the assault on Mt. Belvedere by the 85th and 87th Infantry Regiments at 11:00 PM on February 19, 1945. Hans participated in this assault and the subsequent drive to the Po River as a member of K Company of the 85th.

The assault on Belvedere followed by one day the successful nighttime assault on the adjacent Riva Ridge. At two of our recent meetings, Dave Rankine and Hal Willits have given us the story of that action. The seizure of Riva ridge and Mt. Belvedere removed a major



The Germans established a strong defensive position on Mt. Belvedere, shown in the background, and had repelled multiple assaults over an 18 month period. *Photo from Denver Public Library*

obstacle to reaching the Po River, but much heavy fighting remained before the Po was reached and crossed in late April. On May 2, all German forces in Italy surrendered. The Riva Ridge and Mt. Belvedere assaults were famous events in the history of WWII, and we are enjoying a real privilege to hear of these events from those who participated in them.

*Ed Gibson*

## JIM ERICKSON WILL PRESENT A PROGRAM ON MT. VERNON ON JULY 12

Jim has graciously agreed to give us another program, and this time he will present a CD and talk about the preservation of Mt. Vernon, George Washington's home. In the 1960's Jim was stationed at the Pentagon, and for several years, he and his family lived a few blocks from the entrance to Mt. Vernon. He developed an interest in the history of Mt. Vernon and will share it with us.

Most of us probably take Mt. Vernon for granted, but its preservation was not always assured. Following Washington's death, Mt. Vernon was mismanaged and fell into disrepair. This changed in 1859 with the purchase of Mt. Vernon by the Mt. Vernon Ladies Association, who led an impressive restoration of this historic landmark. While Mt. Vernon is open to the public, it is still owned by the Mt. Vernon Ladies Association.

This should be a very interesting and timely program, as it will be presented a few days after we celebrate the birth of our country on Independence Day, July 4.

*Ed Gibson*

## DR. BRITTANY BRAND'S APRIL PRESENTATION ON VOLCANOES WAS OUTSTANDING

Dr. Brand is a volcanologist and a Research Scientist and Lecturer at the University of Washington, Department of Earth and Space Sciences. She says her teaching and outreach philosophy is simple: connect, engage, challenge, and enthuse. Dr. Brand certainly succeeded with the members attending our meeting. She has an engaging personality, greets everyone with a smile, and patiently answers all questions. She had very interesting slides which explained how volcanoes work and why they erupt. *The Pacific Ring of Fire*, which includes the Cascade Volcanoes, is caused by tectonic plates converging on each other, which produces a lot of heat. This melts underlying rock, which forms magma. The magma can (*page 2*)

**ADVANCED REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT REQUIRED FOR JUNE 14 AND JULY 12 LUNCHEONS. COUPONS BELOW**

Karl Stingl, 10301 242nd PI SW, Edmonds, WA 98020

Please make \_\_\_\_\_ reservations for me for the Tues., June 14, 2011 Mt. Rainier Chapter **luncheon** at the Seattle Yacht Club.

Enclosed is \_\_\_\_\_ (\$20.00 per person. Make the check out to Mt. Rainier Chapter, 10th Mountain Division)

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

Karl Stingl, 10301 242nd PI SW, Edmonds, WA 98020

Please make \_\_\_\_\_ reservations for me for the Tues., July 12, 2011 Mt. Rainier Chapter **luncheon** at Seattle Yacht Club.

Enclosed is \_\_\_\_\_ (\$20.00 per person. Make the check out to Mt. Rainier Chapter, 10th Mountain Division)

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

burst through thin areas in the earth's crust, and with multiple eruptions a peak is formed. Over the years, a conduit or pipe forms through the peak leading to a vent on the surface. An eruption occurs when pressure from the heat and accumulated gases causes an eruption.

There are several types of eruption, but the Mt. St. Helens eruption was a very explosive one, and occurred through a side vent, which blew out the side of the mountain. Mt. St. Helens has erupted more times in the past 4000 years than any of the Cascade peaks, as can be seen in the chart below, and is the most likely one to erupt again.



Because of her infectious smile and outgoing manner, Dr. Brittany Brand received a warm reception.

### MAY MEETING PRESENTED BY DEE MOLENAAR

The meeting was at The Inn at Gig Harbor, where we had a good turn out from the Mount Rainier Chapter and from the Northwest Chapter in Oregon. We were served a wonderful lunch of salmon, rice pilaf, steamed vegetables with cheesecake for dessert.

Jim Bray, President of the NW Chapter, updated us on his group. Several members have recently sustained injuries but all are keeping up their senses of humor about it. As for Heritage Grove, the memorial trees planted to honor Oregon's late members of the 10th, three new trees have been planted. The species of all three were requested by friends because of special significance for those memorialized by each tree. Ann Elmer, Warren Elmer's daughter, is instrumental in the care and maintenance of the trees. Jim also stated that John Duffy has written a book of his entire service history, a copy of which is to be sent to all chapters.



Everyone enjoyed seeing Northwest Chapter President Jim Bray & friend Lorraine Youngs

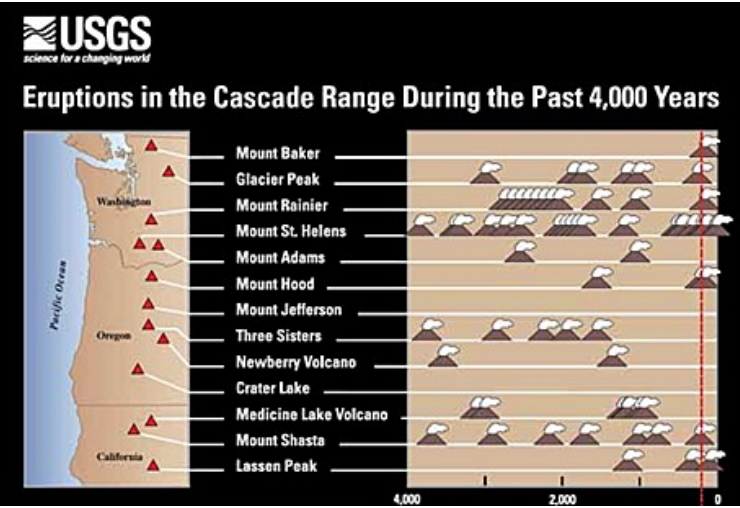
Next, Ed Gibson introduced Dee Molenaar, stating that we owe a debt of gratitude to Dee for so willingly and delightfully telling us



about his adventures. Ed also mentioned how Dee is a man of many talents, being a legendary mountaineer, author, instructor, artist and self-taught cartographer. This presentation was on his 1980 trip to the South Pole.

Once at McMurdo he saw Mt. Erebus, a continuously steaming, erupting volcano, and much wildlife, including penguins and the Skua gulls which would attack, aiming for the eyes. He showed a photo of some of the rocks he brought home, which are actually musical when struck. On his way home one of the plane's engines flamed out, giving Dee the time to visit the home of Sir Edmund Hilary, and meet his daughter. She showed Dee the home and took him to the Hilary museum in Auckland, where he saw a photo (Page 3)

As always Dee impressed us all with his great knowledge.



Our main course was a flavorful pork tenderloin, accompanied by mashed potatoes and sautéed vegetables. Sunny Stingl passed around a selection of cookies for dessert. The attendance of 29 was diminished by a number of members who were ill, having fallen victim to the stomach virus that was common at the time. Those who missed this meeting missed a fine presentation and lunch.



Lloyd Back and Greg Potts listen to Brittany Brand answer a question. Photo by Rick Butzberger



Dave Rankin was his usual self. He was accompanied by his daughter, Arriba Stature, her son-in-law Bill Muir and daughter Barbara. Photo by Rick Butzberger



Chuck Butzberger's granddaughter, Julie Roe, and friend Mathew Pidgeon were enjoying the meeting. Photo by Rick Butzberger.

Those attending the April 10 meeting at the Seattle Yacht Club were: Speaker Dr. Brittany Brand; Margaret and Lloyd Black; Rick Butzberger, daughter Julie Roe and guest Mathew Pidgeon; Gordon and Irene Dick; Ed Gibson; Sandy Huntley; Lynn Phillips and Warren Bakken, Sue and Greg Potts; Dave Rankine, daughter Arriba Stature and daughter Barbara and Bill Muir; Gloria Senner; Dale Smith, daughter Laurie; Karl and Sunny Stingl and daughter Sandy Christie; Dick and Sally Strand; Royce Ward, daughter Ann Bray .

of the famous explorer from which Dee later reproduced as a wonderful portrait. The end product of the trip was a map of McMurdo Sound and its surroundings. Dee created this map by projecting aerial photos onto Mylar—a feat that may be impossible to imagine by the tech generation. On the back of this map are the history of Antarctica, details about the wildlife, the geology, and the meteorology that all go into the make-up of this fascinating place. He very generously brought enough copies of the map so that all attendees could have one.

This was a very interesting, well-produced presentation given with humor and enjoyment from someone we are very fortunate to know. We extend our appreciation and gratitude to Dee. (*Lynn Butzberger*)



This one of Dee's oblique view maps of Mt. Erebus and McMurdo Base taken from the map he provided to us.

## THE GREAT MT. MANGART SKI RACE OF 1945 TO BE COMMEMORATED

To many 10th soldiers, the great ski race at Mt. Mangart in Slovenia held on June 3, 1945 was a highlight of their service. Among those is President Karl Stingl, who set up the slalom course and found most of the skis and equipment for the participants. Walter Prager (87-HQ-3) won that first race, easily defeating Steve Knowlton (86-HQ) and Sig Engel (87-G). Karl was in the competition, but unfortunately had a wipeout.



This is the site of the 1945 Great Ski Race at Mt. Mangart (*Denver Public Library*).

Janez visited the site and reported the snow condition were OK, but not great. We wish all teams well, and we are looking forward to their stories about their experiences.

The festivities for the current race will begin on June 3, 2011, and were organized by BG (ret) Janez Kovar of Slovenia. Competition is open to teams from international organizations of mountain soldiers, including the members of the 10th (Light). It has also been opened to a three person teams of 10th Mountain Division Descendants. Lynn and Dennis Phillips, daughter and son of Dan Phillips (86-F), and Deborah Knowlton Coombe (86-HQ) have formed a team. The Stingls' daughter Sandy Christie, husband Bob and daughter Anna will also enter as Team Stingl. On May 2,

Those attending the May 10 meeting at The Inn at Gig Harbor were: Liz Bagshaw; Lorraine Youngs and Jim Bray; Lynn and Rick Butzberger, daughter Julie Roe; Evelyn and Tom Campbell, daughter Carol Michelle, husband Charlie; Betty Church and Kathy Peck; Warren Elmer; Jim Erickson; Olivia Galles; Ed Gibson; Maryann Hendron; Ellie Johnson; Coleen and Dee Molenaar; Gloria Senner; Dale Smith and William Fenton; Karl Stingl; Rick Stingle; Dick Strand; Adele and Hans Thompson, son, David; Royce Ward, daughter Ann Bray; Betty Anderson and Harvey Wieprecht; Beverly and Ben Yett.

## ARMED FORCES APPRECIATION DAY

On March 19, 2011, Warren Elmer, Dick Strand and Ed Gibson drove to Snoqualmie Pass to participate in Armed Forces Participation Day. This event was organized and administered by our member, Art Farash. This event honored all veterans, but there was special emphasis on veterans associated with the ski area, and a list of their names was read by the Snoqualmie Central Staff. There was a brief but impressive ceremony, with the playing of the National Anthem and the presentation of the colors. Warren, Dick and Ed joined in the presentation of the colors, with Warren presenting the 10th Mountain Colors. A number of people expressed their gratitude for the veterans' services. We owe Art our thanks for his efforts for this fine, patriotic event. (*Ed Gibson*)



Art Farash, Dick strand, Ed Gibson and Warren Elmer art Snoqualmie Pass

and Ed joined in the presentation of the colors, with Warren presenting the 10th Mountain Colors. A number of people expressed their gratitude for the veterans' services. We owe Art our thanks for his efforts for this fine, patriotic event. (*Ed Gibson*)

presenting the 10th Mountain Colors. A number of people expressed their gratitude for the veterans' services. We owe Art our thanks for his efforts for this fine, patriotic event. (*Ed Gibson*)

## HANS THOMPSON STORY "50 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH" AVAILABLE

This story was written in 1994 by Hans with personal recollections by Tom Bacher, and it was presented to the Mt. Rainer Chapter in December 1944. It consists of Hans' month-by-month recollections of the 10th Mountain Division campaign in Italy from December 1944 to the end of the war.

Rick Butzberger has Hans' permission to distribute the 17 page story. To obtain it by email, contact Rick at [kraehe@frontier.com](mailto:kraehe@frontier.com), and he will send you a PDF copy. For a mailed printed copy, send an email request to the above email address, telephone 206-395-5153, or mail your request to 8612 - 113th Way NE, Kirkland, WA 98033.

## RAINIER CHAPTER 1989 SNOQUALMIE SKI-IN VIDEO ON YOU TUBE

With help from my son Jerry, we have edited the 1989 TV tape recording by Jim Nussbaum down to 14 minutes so it could be posted to You Tube. To access it enter *10th Mountain Snoqualmie Ski-In* in your Google Search page, and it should top the resulting search list. This video was shown at a previous meeting, and shows many of our old, much loved members having a great time. It is not and exhibition of excellent skiing, but combined with Jim's tongue in cheek commentary, it is very entertaining. (*Dale*)

\* \* \* \* \*

Betsy Devin Smith sent a thank you card for our support for her Methow Valley Biathlon Team. The note was sent from the site of the Biathlon US Nationals in March at Mt Itasca, Coleraine, MN. It was signed by members of the team. They received a 10th Mt. Division Foundation grant and a number of individual contribution from our group.

\* \* \* \* \*

Sunny Stingl recently fractured her leg taking a lesson to learn to use a Segway scooter. It was the fibula bone (small bone of the lower leg), and was not displaced. It apparently was broken in more than one place, and she can't put weight on it for eight weeks.

## DEAN GREGG CARMICHAEL (110 SIG)

Born in Spokane on July 22, 1925 and died April 26, 2011. Dean attended Roosevelt Elementary, Lewis and Clark HS, and graduated from WSU, where he was affiliated with the ATO Fraternity. He served with the 10th Mountain Division during WWII in Italy and trained with this elite group of skiers. In his youth, Dean was a member of the Mt. Spokane Ski Patrol, and in later years he frequently grumbled that he was no longer skiing. Dean lived for many years in Portland, retiring from Mutual of Omaha as an account executive. He returned to Spokane for his 50th high school reunion where he became reacquainted with Jean Murray. They married on their shared 70th birthday.

Dean was a member of St. Augustine Catholic Church. He served as National President of the 10th Mountain Division Association and was a member of the Northwest and Mt. Rainier Chapters. An avid outdoorsman, he loved fishing, bird hunting and cycling, and Jean introduced him to golf. In recent years he volunteered for Habitat for Humanity. Dean had a deep and abiding love for his family and a keen sense of humor.

Married to Jean Carmichael, survived by his son Gregg (Natasha) Carmichael, daughter Jean (Gregg) Burnham and their mother Kay Carmichael; step-children Stephen (Melissa) Alfstad, Michael (Mary Jo) Alfstad, and William Alfstad; grandchildren Colin, Liam, Justin, Blake, Emily and Erik and great-grandson, Aleister. Preceded in death by his parents, John and Mildred Angle, and his son John.

Mass of Christian Burial was held on Monday May 2, at St. Augustine Catholic Church in Spokane. Private urn placement at Riverside Memorial Park. *(From Spokane Spokesman Review)*



## FRANCIS PETER GALLES (87-L)

Francis Galles was born on December 7, 1925 in Mankato, Minnesota, to Nicholas and Lucille Galles. He passed away on April 2, 2011, in Silverdale, WA, of congestive heart failure.



He was a World War II veteran with the U.S. Army and served in the 10th Mountain Division in Italy. He retired from Keyport Naval Undersea Weapons Engineering Station, after serving 40 years as the Occupational Safety and Health Manager. Fran was an avid flyer for over 60 years and started the Kitsap Aviation Squadron in 1957, which is still active today. He loved being a docent at the Naval Undersea Museum for 20 years and was also a lifetime member of the Elks Lodge BPOE No. 1181 and the Disabled American Veterans. Additionally, Fran was a founding member of Holy Trinity Catholic Parish and served the church as an usher.

Survivors are his wife Olivia of 50 years, son LTC David Galles and wife, Gamze, and grandson Nicholas. He is also survived by another son, Colin Barnes, of Bremerton, WA. He had several nieces, nephews, and cousins living in Minnesota as well.

Funeral service was held at Holy Trinity Parish on April 6th, 2011 in Bremerton, WA. Committal service and burial will be in Mankato, MN. *(From the Kitsap Sun)*

\* \* \* \* \*

The stolen plaques at Tahoma National Cemetery have not been recovered, and new plaques have been ordered. Attempts to get government funding have failed, so private funds are needed. The Support group has raised \$14,171 of \$19,600 required to replace the plaques. Included in this issue is a cover letter you can use to make a contribution. We need to do our part, as we always have!!!

## AVALANCHE

Newsletter of the Mount Rainier Chapter  
10th Mountain Division Association

DALE E. SMITH, EDITOR  
3820 N. E. 145 ST.

LAKE FOREST PARK, WA 98155-7820



## MT. RAINIER

First training site of the 10th Mountain  
Division WWII Ski Troops





**MT. RAINIER CHAPTER  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE  
10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION, INC.**



Date \_\_\_\_\_

Tahoma National Cemetery Support Group  
18600 SE 240th St.  
Kent, WA 98042

RE: Plaque Replacement Fund

Dear Sir or Madame:

I am enclosing a donation to the fund to replace the stolen plaques on the Frances W. Agnew Memorial Walkway. Please credit my donation as being from the Mt. Rainier Chapter of the 10th Mountain Division Association. I am including my address below, so that you can send an acknowledgment to document my contribution for tax purposes.

Sincerely yours,

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_