

MT Editorial

Letters

The Second of July and the Declaration of Independence

It's one our most hallowed days and one of the most cherished documents in the history of the United States. The holiday is (arguably) our most fun, too.

We've got a couple of gripes about the Fourth and the Declaration, though.

The first is that we'd probably celebrate it on July 2 if we were going to be accurate about it. July 2, 1776 is the day that the Continental Congress actually voted for independence. On July 4 the document was printed and distributed to the public.

Still, John Adams went so far as to say, in his writings, that July 2 would be remembered in the annals of American history and would be marked with fireworks and celebrations.

Furthermore, the written Declaration of Independence wasn't actually signed until August 2. Fifty-six delegates eventually signed the document, although all were not present on that day in August.

The next little quibble has to do with the most quoted line in the document.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident," widely believed to have been written by Thomas Jefferson, was actually written by both Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin – together.

Author Walter Isaacson's superb biography of Franklin recounted the scene: "On June 21, after he had finished a draft and incorporated some changes from Adams, Jefferson had a copy delivered to Franklin, with a cover note far more polite than editors generally receive today. "Will Doctor Franklin be so good as to peruse it," he wrote, "and suggest such alterations as his more enlarged view of the subject will dictate?"

Franklin made only a few small changes, but one of them was resounding. Using heavy backslashes, he crossed out the last three words of Jefferson's phrase, "We hold these truths to be sacred and undeniable" and changed it to read, "We hold these truths to be self-evident."

It doesn't change a lot whether we celebrate on the Fourth or the Second, and the editing change doesn't change our separation from England.

We're just sayin', is all; may as well get it right.

Nordic Paradise

Last week in What's up, Up here, the Mammoth Times reported on Mammoth Nordic Foundation and their plans to resume grooming operations next winter. The Community Nordic Trail System is a non-profit organization that has developed and provided on behalf of our community an extremely needed amenity that makes so much sense. The best way to make our community a better place to visit is to make it a better place to live. Providing a well maintained Community Nordic Trail System, every day of the winter, accomplishes this in a very direct way.

If you are unfamiliar with their work, please take a few moments to visit www.mammothnordic.com and view their 2010 Season Report. Those of us that appreciate the commitment and pas-

sion it takes to deliver this free recreation opportunity encourage you to learn about their work as well as their ambition to make Mammoth Lakes the best winter resort town for locals and visitors alike.

Sincerely,
Greg Newbry, MUSD Board member
Dr. Craig Schragger, DDS
Larry Johnston, Mono County Supervisor
Rich McAteer, Mono County Schools Superintendent, retired
Brent Harper, Chief, Mammoth Lakes Fire Department
Jeanne Oakeshott, teacher, Mammoth Elementary School
Todd Hensley, PE teacher, Mammoth Middle School
Ruth Hensley, teacher, Mammoth Elementary School

Stacy Corless, Friends of the Inyo
Sam Mudie, Sierra Cycling Foundation
Steve Searles, Wildlife Officer
Paul & Kathleen Rudder
Dr. Mark Robinson, Orthopedic Surgeon
Dr. Susan Robinson, MD
Sandra Pearce, Public Health Nurse
Lynda Salcido, Public Health Nurse
Diane Williams & Bob Stilwell, 101 Great Escapes
Julie & Gary Thompson, Mammoth Sierra Properties
Joe Joerger and Tom Cage, Kittredge Sports
Brian Ellison, Brian's Bikes and XC Skis
Ian T.N. Algeroen, Restaurant SKADI

****Printed in the July 1st 2011 Issue****

No to Motocross

I have lived in Mammoth for 13 years and have increasingly thought the Motocross event be out of place here. With the vast wilderness and pristine beauty around us, Mammoth is a truly unique place. The Motocross event should be held elsewhere.

The condo project where I have lived for 11 years last allowed Motocross guests for the last time in 2001 when the homeowners association voted overwhelmingly to pro-

hibit Motocross guests from staying here. The following years have been a lot quieter and much more pleasant. On this block, there are 4 large condo projects and 3 have banned Motocross.

I have heard the argument that the event brings in enough for the locals to put up with the negatives. That's not true at my condo development – our condos are actually busier! With the fisherman, snowboarders, skiers,

hikers, mountain bikers etc. Families want peace and quiet and there is a lot less wear and tear on the facilities.

I am thankful that our condos do not allow Motocross guests and I hope it continues. If the majority of condo projects in our area have banned Motocross guests; it may be something for the rest of Mammoth to consider.

Danny Miller

Wounded Warriors

Through the cooperation of Wounded Warrior Battalion-West, the Disabled Sports Wounded Warrior Project, Anthem Blue Cross Foundation, Boeing Community Fund and generous donations from the Mammoth Lakes community, Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra hosted the annual Operation High Altitude. From June 6-10th, 40 Wounded Warriors and their families traveled to Mammoth Lakes to learn exciting, new ways to enjoy the outdoors in their newly altered bodies.

The Warriors joined us in a welcome dinner hosted by the Mammoth Lakes Fire Department to kick off this tremendous week of outdoor adventures. Wounded Warriors and their families including kids joined us in camping and cooking out at the beautiful McGee Creek RV Park & Campground. Hiking, rock climbing, cycling, fishing and kayaking were among the activities enjoyed by participants ranging in age from 3 to 52. The week

ended with our infamous Thursday night Hootenanny by the creek, with great food and great music!

We'd like to thank our generous donors including, Angel's Restaurant, Convict Lake Resort and Restaurant, Sue Ebersold and The Breakfast Club, Tom Jackson and McGee Creek Lodge, McGee Creek RV park and Trout Ponds, Mammoth Mountaineering Supply, MMSA and ESTA for ground transportation, Mammoth Disposal, Steve Colwell, Crowley Lake Store, Crowley Lake Fish Camp, all the fishing guides, Mammoth Kayaks, Footloose Sports, Sierra Mountain Guides, Silver Lake Resort, MLFD, Sunrise Rotary Club, Base Camp Café, VONS, Fiddlin' Pete, Rocky Scholl, Disabled Sports-USA, Anthem Blue Cross Foundation, Town of Mammoth Lakes Recreation Staff and all the volunteers who so generously gave their time and energy by helping our Wounded Warriors experience the sports

we love!

With 37 years of experience, the Wounded Warrior Project has proven that early intervention with active sports results in successful rehabilitation, leading to renewed self-confidence and employment. The Wounded Warriors and their family members are provided this fantastic Mammoth opportunity free of charge, including transportation, lodging, adaptive equipment and individualized instruction through the generosity of MANY! Our hats go off to the community of Mammoth for the continued generous support of this worthy program by Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra.

Kathy Copeland
Executive Director
Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra

OUR POLICY ON LETTERS AND EDITORIALS

Be concise, preferably under 300 words. Letters of general interest may be edited for brevity, space, clarity. They must be signed. Include address and phone. Mail letters to: Mammoth Times, P.O. Box 3929, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546, or e-mail to: Editor@mammothtimes.com. Deadline: 5 p.m. preceding Tuesday.

Unsigned editorials reflect the opinion of the Mammoth Times Editorial Board. Signed editorials reflect the opinion of the writer.