

# 2014 Annual Report



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## DSAA Mission

### *Our Mission:*

Representing the people of the historic Donner Summit community for the preservation of the area's rugged mountain character and natural resources by providing active coordination for community development issues.

### *Vision Statement:*

The Donner Summit Area Association members desire to maintain the unique natural beauty and special character of the area for the public benefit, and to assure that the area remains a special place to live, work, and visit.

To this end the Association will proactively develop a long-range conceptual development plan for the Area. This plan will incorporate various elements of land usage, zoning, facilities and enhancements, types of growth, maintenance of natural areas, and any other appropriate desires. The goal of the plan is to provide the greatest possible benefit to the general public.

The Association will function as a conduit for communication between the area residents, owners and visitors and Nevada and Placer County and other appropriate agencies which influence the growth and development of the Donner Summit Area. The long range plan developed by the Association will guide the Association's response to proposals for development and growth through regular contact with County Supervisors and attendance at County Supervisor Board meetings the Association will maintain current knowledge of proposals which affect the Donner Summit Area and be able to comment upon these proposals in a timely manner. The Association will also be able to bring proposals and suggestions to the appropriate authorities for consideration.

The Association recognizes that further growth and development is inevitable and desires to influence that growth to assure the highest overall quality of life possible. In particular the Association desires to enhance the attractiveness of Soda Springs and the surrounding area for visitors, residents and businesses. Ensuring a safe, orderly flow of traffic, pedestrians, and bicyclists is a high priority.

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## 2014 Board of Directors

Fran Sandwith, President  
Ron Kolbe, Vice President  
John Kirrene, Secretary  
Jeanne Appelbaum  
Tom Appelbaum  
Denise Hann  
Jim Hoelter  
Charles Houtz  
Pat Malberg  
Jim Wiggins

## 2014 Advisory Board

Steve Dahl  
Mark Himelstein  
Alisha Lee  
Tamara Lieberman  
Don Malberg  
Maria Montano  
Dan Wexler

## DSAA Members

DSAA has approximately 115 dues-paying **members**. Members can be anyone who lives, works or owns property on Donner Summit. Members are added to DSAA's email list and receive news and invitations throughout the year. Membership dues and donations help pay for DSAA's overhead expenses.

DSAA's members have helped develop **partnerships** with other organizations, like the Donner Summit Historical Society, Mountain Area Preservation (MAP), Sierra Business Council and the Truckee Donner Land Trust.

The **Board of Directors** are members elected by other members. The Board works to divide its work into **Committees**, allowing a wide range of volunteer opportunities for DSAA members and the community.

In 2013, under the leadership of Pat Malberg, DSAA formed an **Advisory Board** to better retain the knowledge of former Directors. DSAA's Directors seek the counsel of its Advisory Board on issues of policy and procedure and overall vision.

## Committees

### Executive Committee

*Fran Sandwith, Ron Kolbe, John Kirrene, Jim Hoelter,  
Pat Malberg, Sara Schrichte*

Among the most active committees, the Executive Committee is comprised of DSAA's officers and its Administrator. They meet monthly to handle the general business of the organization and to set meeting agendas. In 2014 the Executive Committee worked with Cliff Drop Design to build a brand new logo and website. They continue to refine the site in an effort to keep you up to date on your opportunities to be heard in your community.



### Trails Committee

*Don Malberg, Dick Simpson*

The Trails Committee has been keeping up with their skill training and trail maintenance. In partnership with the Truckee Donner Land Trust, DSAA hosted a summer time toilet facility at the Lake Mary trailhead. Don & Pat Malberg have been longtime caretakers of that trailhead and are now moving forward with the Pacific Crest Trail Association to help DSAA formally adopt a section of the Trail from Peter Grubb Hut to the Benson Hut. DSAA volunteers will conduct light maintenance and report any major trail problems to PCTA's professional maintenance crew.



### Cleanup Committee

*Tom Appelbaum, Jeanne Appelbaum, Nancy Latimer*

The Cleanup Committee organizes the first Saturday in June, our **Annual Summit Cleanup**. This is a decades-long tradition of cleaning up all that appears when the snow melts and kicking off the summer season. The 2014 Cleanup was another success, with dozens of volunteers collecting hundreds of pounds of trash along Old Highway 40 and the South Yuba River. Our thanks to Donner Ski Ranch for hosting us for lunch and thanks to Apple Trucking for bringing a truck to haul away trash.

For several years, Donner Summit volunteers have also participated in the South Yuba River Citizens League **Annual Yuba River Cleanup and Restoration Day** in September, paying special attention to trash and debris from the headwaters of the South Yuba down to Cisco. In 2015 we will expand our Cleanup efforts as we formally adopt the section of Donner Pass Road from Donner Trail School to the Tri-Lodge area. We will be organizing several trash pickup days -stay tuned for even more volunteer opportunities!

## Events Committee

*Jim Wiggins, Pat Malberg*



The Events Committee works to support the local economy and re-capture some of the festivity that has always enhanced a visit to Donner Summit.

The **Donner Party** took place March 1<sup>st</sup> at the Western SkiSport Museum at Boreal. We were delighted to host former **Olympian Starr Walton Hurley**, along with some current ski team contenders like young **Cheyenne Brown**.

Our Events Committee also worked with the Downtown Truckee Merchants Association as part of **Truckee Thursday** and with organizers of Reno's **Street Vibrations** to promote visiting Donner Summit during the summer months.

The 2015 **Donner Party** will be on March 21<sup>st</sup> this year and will support the Sugar Bowl ski teams. Join us and learn a little more about our community's history in snow sports and meet our local athletes at the Western SkiSport Museum.

## Book Exchange

*John Kirrene*

The DSAA Book Exchange is similar to free libraries across the world. Donated books are collected and displayed at **The Summit Restaurant & Bar** in Soda Springs. Anyone is free to pick up or leave a book.

In 2014, movies were added to the collection. In 2015, we expect to see more movies, an expanded reference book section, new titles and more children's books. *Special thanks to The Summit Restaurant for donating space for the Book Exchange.*





## Picnic Committee

*Denise Dietrich, Fran Sandwith*

Most of us remember the old Fire Department 4<sup>th</sup> of July Picnics as a fun day. When the Fire Department was annexed by Truckee Fire, DSAA took over the annual picnic and turned into a fundraiser for keeping DSAA present and working in our community. The **4<sup>th</sup> of July Picnic** is still a really fun day and it raises the majority of DSAA's operating expenses for the year.

In 2014 we had a fantastic event and raised a lot of money thanks to Denise's leadership, our committed volunteers and the generosity of our friends and neighbors. We realize we need more volunteers and a few tweaks to keep pulling it off in 2015 and beyond. Our first Picnic meeting is scheduled for **February 26th at 5:30 P.M.** and we welcome any and all volunteers. Look for our volunteer signup sheets at the Cleanup and other events.

## Summit Advocacy Committee

*Pat Malberg, Denise Hann*

The Summit Advocacy Committee works with local businesses and government to advocate for the needs of our residents, property owners, visitors and businesses. In 2014, many years of work culminated in Soda Springs being selected by the Nevada County Board of Supervisors as the recipient of county planning. The Soda Springs Area Plan will become an amendment to the Nevada County General Plan and will contain specialized zoning, design standards that reflect our community's vision of its own future. The Plan will inform future permitting and land use from the Soda Springs freeway exit to Norden along Donner Pass Road.

In 2014, the Advocacy Committee worked with Nevada County to host the first Area Plan community input sessions, focused on the topics of Land Use and our Recreational, Cultural and Historic resources. The Advocacy Committee planned two **Walk & Talk** events to support these planning sessions.

DSAA is working to help with outreach and communication about the plan as well as advocating for things we've been discussing for years, like a community center, park, and non-motorized path to connect residential and commercial pockets.

# Soda Springs Area Plan

Many community members and businesses have been attending Community Planning sessions, each session focused on a specific “chapter” of the Area Plan. To date, we’ve talked about Land Use and our Recreational, Cultural and Historic resources.

Each of DSAA’s committees is working on the Area Plan process and advocating for many of the community’s unmet needs:

[Trails Committee](#) will be advocating for adequate parking and trash facilities at local trailheads.

[Cleanup Committee](#) will advocate for strategies that keep the Yuba River and all of our public areas clean and inviting.

[Book Exchange](#) at the Summit Restaurant will have some Area Plan information on display and will use the Area Plan process to promote literacy and community on Donner Summit.

Even the [Picnic Committee](#) will use the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event for some community input supporting the Plan. Look for an Area Plan themed activity at the event.

The [Summit Advocacy Committee](#) will lead the charge. They have been coordinating closely with Nevada County and Placer County planning staff and local stakeholders in an effort to develop a plan that truly reflects the unique needs of our Summit community.

