Great potential exists for awesome trails in Teton Valley. Anyone who has ventured into the depths of the Big Holes knows that a vast trail network accesses the beauty of the range. Many miles of trails are enjoyable and sustainable for recreational use, but there are numerous sections that are in need of improvement. This is where you can help.

TVTAP Summer Trail Days are a great opportunity to get your hands dirty and really dig into the progress being made in the matter of a few hours. After a good day of working alongside friends and neighbors, each trail day culminates in a thank you party for all who participated. These parties include dinner, beer, raffle prizes and camaraderie that should not be missed!

After many years of work by TVTAP volunteers, Forest Service trail crews, the Montana Conservation Corps and others, the South Fork of Horseshoe Canyon Trail has been transformed into another aesthetic access to the upper Big Holes. It is a testament to how efforts from a dedicated group of people can produce results on the ground. It shows what a difference volunteers make during TVTAP’s Summer Trail Days.

On the heels of the success of the South Fork of Horseshoe Canyon Trail, we are shifting this summer’s focus to the Mahogany Creek Trail. On National Trails Day – Saturday, June 13 – we will kick off a new multi-year project to improve and potentially re-route portions of this trail. The end result will give us another rideable access to the upper Big Holes and a link to the new South Fork of Horseshoe Canyon Trail.

Our second Summer Trail Day is scheduled for Saturday, July 25, when teams of volunteers will be sent to two loca-
TVTAP Continues Full Steam Ahead

It’s certainly been an interesting six months for TVTAP. Last year was our biggest fundraising year ever (Thanks, Tin Cup!), enabling us to put some money away into both a rainy day fund and an equipment-maintenance/replacement fund. We were also able to hire a part-time program manager to take some of the day-to-day burden off of our executive director. This allows Tim to focus more time on writing grants and being more involved in the outreach, education and planning opportunities that are always being offered to TVTAP.

Given what some people are now calling the “Great Recession,” the challenge before us at the moment is trying to keep the organization from regressing. Along those lines, Randy, Tim and I attended an excellent workshop presented by the Community Foundation of Jackson entitled “Reality Check.” This gave us an opportunity to sit down with some of the major donors in the area and hear what their thought processes are with respect to giving money in this economic climate. It was also an opportunity for the three of us to sit down and think through what the financial implications of the downturn might be. As a result of that conversation, we threw out our old budget for the year and drafted a new one that will (we think) more closely resemble our expenses and income this year.

The good news is that we’re actually in pretty good shape! We’ve always run a lean organization (come see our office sometime) and spend the vast majority of our funding on programs rather than on administration. So we were able to rebalance the books without being forced to shrink the organization or our programs much, if at all. Of course, we’ll see how this all plays out, but for the moment we’re feeling cautiously optimistic.

Our main programs (Nordic, pathways, trails) are all doing extremely well. We just finished up another great Nordic season and are in the middle of getting all the equipment put away for the summer. We’re revving up the trails program for the summer as we speak, and looking forward to some fun and rewarding Summer Trail Days (see cover story). We’re also working with the Forest Service on trails work involving other organizations, as well as getting grants to fund additional trails work. The pathways work is ongoing, and in many ways we’ve become the go-to organization for pathways planning at the city, county and private level.

In November we held our bi-yearly board retreat. This year’s retreat was facilitated by Willy Warner and graciously hosted by Buol Heslin and Janet Conway. As always, a well-run retreat is a great opportunity to take a step back from the day-to-day minutia in order to analyze what you’re doing well and what you’re not doing so well, and to refocus and redirect the board and the organization. It was very satisfying to end the day with the realization that we’d fulfilled most of the goals from our previous retreat and that we didn’t need or want to change our direction all that much.

One main realization we came to is that in addition to the main pillars (trails, Nordic and pathways), education and outreach are becoming important areas in their own right.

We’re looking for a few new board members, so if this is the type of thing that interests you and you’ve got enthusiasm and/or knowledge in one of the areas of the organization, please get in touch with us.
TENTS DAYS continued from cover

utions. One team will head to the Red Creek Trail on Pine Creek Pass to finish our efforts from previous years. The other team will work a little closer to home on the Aspen Trail. We are doing this in hopes that families and friends young and old will be interested in coming out for the day regardless of fitness level or time available. The Aspen Trail will provide a chance for those with less time (or shorter legs) a shorter hike in and out of the project area.

Summer Trail Days will wrap up on Saturday, August 15. We will work again on the Mahogany Creek Trail, continuing our new long-term project.

OTHER SUMMER ACTIVITY ON THE TRAILS
In addition to the three scheduled trail days, several generous local businesses and organizations have stepped up to add additional trail days to the schedule. Both Grand Targhee Resort and Silverstar Communications have pledged volunteers for additional days on trails. Several other organizations have expressed interest as well. We have also received a grant from the National Forest Foundation, and with help from the National Outdoor Leadership School, improvements will be made to single-track trails in the Horseshoe Canyon area. (Thanks to our esteemed program manager, Liz Sisson, for chasing down this grant.) Improvements will be made to several bridges, and a boardwalk will be installed over a boggy area. The Teton Basin Ranger District has also acquired stimulus funds for trail work within the district.

TRAIL-MAPPING PROJECT
TVTAP continues to pursue our valley-wide trail-mapping project. We are seeking input from our members for trail improvements. We will be available throughout the summer at valley events to receive your suggestions and ideas. We intend to compile these ideas into a master plan for Teton Valley trails. This map will be used to guide our trail-improvement efforts. We will also be reviewing and commenting on the new Forest Service Travel Plan for the east side of the valley and looking into potential trail possibilities in the Jackpine Loop area. To contact us directly regarding any suggestions and/or questions, contact Liz Sisson at 208-419-6722 or tvtapliz@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEERS RULE!
I continue to be amazed at the generosity of the people in this community. Special thanks to those who return for each trail day, year after year. You are the core of the program and your efforts do not go unnoticed. There are always new faces that add to the momentum. We appreciate each and every one of you! I encourage anyone who leaves tracks on our trails with tires, shoes, or hooves to get involved. I look forward to seeing you out on the trails!
—Randy Blough, Trails Committee

Mark Hanson Joins TVTAP Board
TVTAP is excited to welcome our newest board member, Mark Hanson. Mark and his family are long-time supporters of TVTAP. Mark’s passion for all things outdoors will enhance the TVTAP Board of Directors. Mark currently serves on the TVTAP Nordic Committee.

Mark is married to Nell, a realtor, and they have two daughters, Lydia and Tait. Mark has worked at Grand Targhee for 17 years, and has been Targhee’s ski and snowboard school director for the past 10 years. He is a certified instructor in alpine, Nordic track and snowboard.

A native of St Paul, Minnesota, Mark graduated from the University of Minnesota and spent 11 years in corporate life. Upon “enlightenment,” he founded and ran a kids’ adventure company, Highlands Youth Adventures, in Highlands, NC. A former team sports jock, Mark now enjoys spending time with his family, travel, most music, cool hats and all things outdoors – especially Nordic and alpine skiing, road and mountain biking, kayaking and canoeing, hiking, backpacking and fly fishing.

Mark is passionate about the mission of Teton Valley Trails and Pathways and is interested in helping people live more healthy, active and happy lives.

Tin Cup Challenge Set for July 18
The 2nd Annual Tin Cup Challenge will be held this summer on Saturday, July 18. Exceeding expectations, the 1st Annual Tin Cup Challenge raised $900,592 for area nonprofits. Through the donations of our members, TVTAP raised $57,341.58! Along with an outstanding 50% match from the Teton Valley Community Foundation and $281 from Tin Cup race winners, the total amount raised was $50,114.13.

We look forward to another successful Tin Cup Challenge this year. For more information on giving opportunities, go to www.tincupchallenge.org.
I grew up in suburban Los Angeles. I think the first time I rode a bike on a trail rather than on cement was when I moved to Arcata, California, in the late ’80s. I was 22 and my biking adventures were just beginning.

When Finnegan, my eldest son, was born I could not wait for the day he would begin his own biking adventures. I knew the timing had to be just right to suggest removing the training wheels and to get him excited about this whole new world of biking on two wheels. As it turned out, it was Finnegan who approached me on a recent Saturday morning, the first true spring day in Teton Valley, and declared that “it was time.” With a rush of fatherly adrenalin, I sprinted out to the garage, grabbed a wrench off the work bench, and within 3 minutes the wheels were off and we were standing at the precipice of a new era for the Adams family.

Finnegan – with his helmet slightly askew and pedals set just so to assist in gaining speed – put butt to saddle, pushed off and immediately crashed. Yes, his first road rash, and I could not have been prouder! Within 30 minutes and after a few more scrapes, we were off on our first true bike ride together.

Finnegan will grow up in a place that I hope will spawn a lifetime love of biking. While I was constrained to riding the “Cement Jungle,” I did get pretty good at jumping curbs. Finnegan, on the other hand, will be able to experience a variety of terrain and trails that I could never have imagined at his age.

Whether biking becomes a casual pastime, a mode to travel to school or friends’ houses, or a passion for steeper trail riding, I know he’ll always love biking. Let the adventures begin!

I share this story because I know that the more involvement I have with Finn and his younger brother Ben – getting them outside to enjoy the riches of biking, hiking, walking, skiing, etc – the more they will appreciate those opportunities as they get older. As TVTAP Executive Director, I am in a unique position to help assure that resources, infrastructure and legislation will maintain and increase those opportunities for future generations.

I feel lucky to live in a community that shares that philosophy. Unfortunately, I only need to look at what the current Governor of Idaho is doing to take money away from bike and pedestrian infrastructure to know that I have a lot of work ahead of me to make sure that infrastructure grows and is not lost.

TVTAP is working hard with the local Teton Valley government agencies to put ordinances, planning maps, review guidelines, and construction criteria into place for future projects in our community. We are lucky to have supportive and sympathetic representatives on the local level. That said, we still need you to get involved.

TVTAP represents its members when we are out in the community and at local and state meetings. However, a powerful message is sent when members are actively involved in the process by participating in meetings and workshops. In the months to come you will receive notices of public hearings and issues that support increased bike and pedestrian infrastructure. Whether it is a transportation plan in the city of Victor that needs your input, a regional transit plan that needs some insight on specific routes, or a call to the Governor on why more funding needs to be allocated for sidewalks, bike lanes and pathways, we need your help.

I am confident that TVTAP, along with the local support we already have and a President who has placed a high value on alternative modes of transportation, can and will influence change at the state level. My personal drive comes from my desire to see my sons grow up with great resources all around them, and my professional intent is to assure that we have a great community for everyone to enjoy.
Fiscal year 2008 was financially sound for Teton Valley Trails and Pathways, Inc. We exceeded our income projections by some $40,000! This windfall was well timed, given the nation's current financial situation. Part of our good fortune was due to the fact that we switched from the Old Bills Fun Run in September to the Tin Cup Challenge which runs in July. That meant that we had two large fundraisers fall within the same fiscal year. This will not happen in fiscal year 2009, so we have projected a decrease in income. That said, the productive year meant that we could meet two long-term goals. We hired a part-time program manager. The position, held by Liz Sisson, increased our capacity to meet the demands of our Nordic and summer trails programs. We were able to take this opportunity to spend more time on researching and acquiring funding for both local initiatives and TVTAP. We were also able to cover some necessary repairs to the PistenBully snowcat this winter without drawing down our reserves.

Teton Valley Trails and Pathways, Inc. continues to be a fiscally sound and responsible organization. We welcome any and all questions regarding our financial practices.

New TVTAP Web Site

Many of you who visit our Web site often will be excited to see some new additions. In an effort to provide our members and the general public with helpful information and resources, we have spent the last eight months building a site that we are very proud of. One of the best additions is the new blogging area that will allow users to update everyone on trail conditions throughout the year. Of course we will continue to have our Grooming Reports, but will add more timely update features and skier-friendly update buttons. The site redesign also includes photo albums, project updates, volunteer opportunities and a race calendar, as well as links to other related sites and information. Be sure to visit our new site at our same address: www.tvtap.org

Tim Adams recently journeyed to Washington, D.C., to participate in the National Bike Summit for the second year in a row. The annual summit’s sole mission is to educate legislators about the value and need for funding for bicycling and pedestrian infrastructure throughout the United States. Summit participants urge their state representatives to support critical legislation that will assure that bicycling and pedestrian needs remain a priority for future funding.

After two days of advocacy training and meetings to update summit participants on current and future legislation, nearly 600 attendees descended on Capitol Hill to speak with their state representatives. Along with Scott Fitzgerald (Victor Mayor), Jannine Fitzgerald, Scott Montgomery (President of Scott Bikes), and Mike Gridley (Coeur d’Alene City Attorney), Tim met with Senator Mike Crapo, Senator Jim Risch, Congressman Walt Minnick, Malisah Small (legislative director for Congressman Mike Simpson) and Senator Mike Enzi from Wyoming.

The meetings successfully conveyed information that will assist our representatives in making informed decisions about regional bike and pedestrian needs. Of particular value was the opportunity to express the need to increase funding in the Federal Transportation Bill that will begin its reauthorization process later this year.

Tim Storms DC for Bicycle & Pedestrian Rights!

INCOME

$161,560

EXPENSES

$141,590

NET INCOME

$ 19,970

Fiscal Year 2008 Financial Statement

October 1, 2007 to September 30, 2008

INCOME

$161,560

EXPENSES

$141,590

NET INCOME

$ 19,970

INCOME

$161,560

EXPENSES

$141,590

NET INCOME

$ 19,970
Yet another Nordic season has come and gone! This last winter certainly had its ups and downs, but for the most part we were able to set good Nordic tracks all winter. I hope you enjoyed the season. Watch for the end of the season survey; it's a big help for us to hear what you feel we do well and what areas need improvement.

One of the cooler things that happened this winter was the opening of the new Nordic venue at Pioneer Park. The project was spearheaded by Scott Fitzgerald (congrats, Mayor) and Dave Bergart. They did an excellent job of putting together a grooming team and a schedule that provided a fun new venue in Victor. The night skiing under the lights was a huge hit!

One of our biggest challenges this year was the PistenBully snowcat that we use to groom Teton Canyon. It started the year with a major engine malfunction that took a long time to get fixed, due to a unique and odd Italian engine that's comprised of many hard-to-find parts. We determined early in the season that our old 2-stroke snowmobile wouldn't make it through the winter (or even the month) if we needed to use it extensively, so we took the huge step of buying a new 4-stroke Yamaha snowmobile and the associated grooming equipment for Teton Canyon.

What a wise move that turned out to be. We did get the P-B fixed, but only used it a dozen times or so. The silver lining is that we now have a reliable and environmentally friendly means of grooming Teton Canyon regardless of the state of the snowcat. And since it's pretty straightforward to train someone to groom using a snowmobile, we'll have the opportunity to expand the grooming schedule.

Speaking of the PistenBully, a big shout-out to Pete Linville for all his work getting that piece of machinery up and running. And a huge apology to the stalwart group of P-B drivers who didn’t get to drive it much, if at all (Nick Beatty, Andy Olerud, Mike Kitchen). Our new program manager, Liz Sisson, now knows more about snowcats than she had ever hoped!

The other venues, Alta and Teton Springs, went off pretty much like clockwork. Randy Blough, Dave Monroe, Billy Nixon and Liz Sisson kept the Alta track in tip-top shape. The newly laid out track at Teton Springs (no more road crossings!) was groomed by myself and Ty “the new guy” Mack. Ted Wells made a couple of guest appearances just to show he’s still “the man,” and our hard working ED, Tim, was even seen grooming a couple of times. Thanks to everyone for all their hard work.

On the event front, we had another highly successful Teton Ridge Classic. This scenic and well-run race has become a regional classic, drawing skiers from all over the Intermountain West. Dan Struebel once again kept us organized, and the race went off without a hitch. Over 130 racers attended, raced hard and had a hearty lunch supplied by the Nordic Club kids. With rumors of Teton Ridge Ranch closing to the public, Dan, Tim Adams, and the Nordic Committee are working hard to try to keep the race at Teton Ridge Ranch next year.

The Spud Chase, hosted and run by Peaked Sports, was another fun and successful race in which we were involved. Even though the conditions were a challenge from both a skiing and grooming perspective, around 60 people showed up to race, along with a large kids contingent. A big thank you to Dick Weinbrandt of Peaked Sports for graciously donating $574 to TVTAP from race proceeds. We also want to recognize Peaked Sports for raising $1,037 for TVTAP through a proceeds day at the shop in December. Thank you to Dick and Peaked Sports for your many years of support for our Nordic program and TVTAP.

Alta had its first race this year! The Fun-Jor was a costume wearing, dog-driven ski-joring race that I believe set a new standard for ski-racing fun! I think we can safely say that a really good time was had by all. Thanks Jane (the other half of the hard working Linville-Weins clan) for putting it together and raising money for an animal emergency fund as well as a spay and neuter fund for those in need.

Last but not least, I’d like to thank Liz Sisson for keeping the Nordic program running smoothly. She learned to wrestle sleds on and off trailers, groom good Nordic trail, get stuck, get unstuck, find volunteers and generally learn how complicated a good Nordic program is. Thanks Liz!

Enjoy your summer, and if I don’t see you on the trails this summer, I’ll see you next winter!

—Chris Larson, Nordic Committee
Pioneer Park: A Place to Ski Home To

Pioneer Park once again became a center of family Nordic skiing this winter, thanks to a dedicated group of volunteer groomers who revitalized the park’s former track using equipment loaned from TVTAP. Many Victor residents commented to TVTAP staff and board members about how great it was to just walk out their front door, clip into their skis and take a quick ski for recreation and exercise. One TVTAP member noted that the course was laid out in such a way that, “I could be getting my workout in while my kids were having a blast skiing around the ball fields, and the whole time I could see them.” An additional benefit was the night lights that allowed many individuals to get in a ski after work.

TVTAP started the grooming program with the idea of having Nordic skiing trails accessible to everyone. This occurs in Alta and Teton Springs, and now TVTAP is excited to bring this opportunity back to the residents of Victor. Dave Bergart and Scott Fitzgerald spearheaded this endeavor along with Troy Barry, Dave Byers and others. The city of Victor was very supportive as well. TVTAP is excited to announce that the Pioneer Park Nordic Trails will become a permanent fixture next year with grooming reports on our Web site, along with a map in our brochure and posted online at www.tvtap.org.

left: Hunter Karnady, new Teton Nordic Club coach, follows his canine buddy for a round of fresh corduroy on Victor’s Pioneer Park Nordic track this winter.

below: Over 130 skiers took to the track for the Teton Ridge Classic this January.

Teton Nordic Club—Improving technique while having a great time!

Once again, TVTAP was happy to support the Teton Nordic Club (TNC) by grooming to accommodate their training schedule this winter. It seems that everyone had a great winter out on the track. The kids finished the season with new ski techniques, and more importantly, they had fun and made new friends. Jan Borstelmann, TNC winter coordinator, said it was a great season and seeing all the smiles out on the track seems a true testament to this fact. Hunter Karnady, the new coach, had a tremendous influence on improving the skill levels of all participants.

We look forward to another great season next year. Thanks to all the families and community members that support this valuable program.

TVTAP Teton Ridge Classic 2009

Over 130 skiers participated in the 2009 Teton Ridge Classic 28K, 14K and 5K races. Excellent snow and weather conditions provided for a fast and beautifully groomed course this year, and Nordic skiers from all over the West once again enjoyed a great race at the Teton Ridge Ranch. Thanks to all the TVTAP volunteers who have made this event a great success over the past six years.

The Teton Ridge Classic will continue next year. With the closing of Teton Ridge Ranch to the public, TVTAP has submitted a proposal to the owners to allow the race to continue there, but the venue has not yet been determined.
**Shifting Seasons**

First and foremost I must thank all the groomers who worked so hard this winter – rising early or going to bed late so that the rest of the valley could have fresh corduroy regardless of weather or snow conditions. The grooming team went above and beyond the scheduled grooming at each of the three venues. So many times I called upon them to help move equipment, pick up equipment, fix equipment, pick up shifts, train other groomers, etc. These are a hard-working crew of guys who deserve a round of applause and a couple of cold ones!

The support from the community has been outstanding, making me feel welcome and appreciated in my position. I’ve gotten terrific feedback all season regarding the grooming, the grooming report and the various events that we put on this winter. Thanks to all the volunteers who make these events possible. I would especially like to thank Dan Streubel and Bob Stevenson for their tireless efforts with the Teton Ridge Classic. Thank you both so very much!

I am gearing up for summer activities, planning trail days and races, coordinating trail crews and parties. Admittedly, it’s exciting to think about the change in the seasons and my corresponding change in duties. There will be three more fun-filled, productive volunteer trail days this summer. Please join us for a day out on the trails or, better yet, come to all three. I assure you, you won’t be disappointed, and you’ll probably make new friends while improving a trail.

TVTAP is enthusiastic about the prospect of working with Teton Valley organizations and businesses to get out on the trails during the week – improving employee relations while improving our trails. Please feel free to contact me if your organization is interested in this idea. We’d love to keep this idea alive and growing!

I look forward to improving my biking skills this summer so I can fully appreciate the work that has been put into all those trails. I am excited to get out and explore the beautiful wilderness that surrounds our valley, to survey trail conditions and find projects for our trail crew to tackle later this summer. I’d like to get to know more of our members, so track me down, stop me in Broulim’s, tell me what you think and what you’d like to see us working on in the future. You are the basis of this organization; we are your voice. Happy trails!

**Dan Streubel: A Man with a Passion for Skiing**

Many of you know Dan Streubel as the guy who hands out the awards at the TVTAP Teton Ridge Classic race every January. Or you might be one of those racers gasping for air trying to keep up with him during the race. Maybe you’ve seen him in the early fall, roller skiing up Ski Hill Road to Targhee getting in shape for the season. Or maybe you’ve been fortunate enough to be his patient while recovering from an injury or just getting your body moving right. Whatever the occasion when meeting Dan, you’ve likely walked away saying, “That is the nicest person I have ever met,” or “Damn, that guy can ski fast; does he ever break a sweat?” At TVTAP we always walk away saying, “We are so lucky to have Dan running the TRC and supporting our mission.”

For six years Dan has orchestrated the Teton Ridge Classic. The success of the race has everything to do with the passion Dan has for classic Nordic racing and his commitment to see the race become the best classic-style race in the Intermountain West. Although Dan would likely say that the success should be distributed among many, without his hand on the wheel and leading the team, we would not see the race we have now. Even in light of Teton Ridge Ranch closing its track to the public, Dan has submitted a proposal to Vulcan Industries, Paul Allen’s company, to pursue facilitating the race occurring there for many years to come.

Thank you Dan, not only for your efforts with the Teton Ridge Classic, but for your continual support of TVTAP and our mission throughout the year. You are truly an inspiration to the Board of Directors, staff, TVTAP members and our community.
Thank You Chris Erickson

If you’ve been a TVTAP member for any length of time, you certainly know Chris Erickson’s name. And if you drink any of the beer produced by Snake River Brewing, then you certainly appreciate what he does for a living.

Chris was one of the original TVTAP board members in 1999. Following a short absence, he served on the Board again from 2004 through 2008. After a recent move to Jackson, Chris was no longer able to commit himself to the TVTAP Board and stepped down at the beginning of the year.

Chris has limitless passion for biking and skiing and his energy rubbed off on the rest of the board members and especially me. I will never forget my first ride with Chris. It was my first ride after some back surgery, and Chris and Lori took me on the Red Creek Loop. Chris had adopted this trail through the Forest Service program, and to say he has an attachment to it is an understatement. He took care of that trail as if it was his most valuable possession.

Chris leaves an indelible mark on TVTAP. His passion and care regarding bicycling and skiing have set a benchmark for other board members. Although he no longer serves on the board, his presence is felt at every meeting, especially when we crack our first beers. Yes, poured into Snake River Brewing glasses! Thank you Chris for all your service to TVTAP and our community. —Tim Adams

New Road Improvements Will Meet Most of our Needs...

This summer, we’ll see work on two significant roads in Teton Valley: Packsaddle Road and Ski Hill Road. Both roads are valuable corridors for bicycling. TVTAP and the Pathways Advisory Committee have worked hard with Teton County Engineer Louis Simonet and the Teton County Commissioners throughout the process of planning for this road work. We are very encouraged by the county’s support and consistent communication, and we applaud them for looking at TVTAP as an asset rather than a thorn in their side. We have come a long way since 1999.

The question with Ski Hill Road/Little Avenue, from Main Street to Stateline Road, has been what type and quality of surface to use for paving. Chipsealing, a method of paving roads with large chips that add traction in rain and snow conditions, is an economical and effective means of road resurfacing. However, large chips make the road less smooth. After much discussion, it has been decided to utilize a significantly smaller chip. This will assure a smoother surface for bikers, skaters and runners.

The county will also add an additional seal over the bike lane areas on Ski Hill Road to make that pathway even smoother. The county road crew has been very responsive to our desire to keep bike lanes and the pathway swept, and we have no reason to believe that will change.

Unfortunately, Packsaddle Road will not see the modifications TVTAP requested. As many of you know, we conducted a letter writing campaign in the summer of 2006 to request a bike lane on Packsaddle Road during the comment period for the Idaho Transportation Department’s Highway State Transportation Improvement Program for 2009 funding. Although over 100 comments were recorded, the draft plans came out without a bike lane, and they were approved that way by the county. The current county commissioners were not in office at that time, and the money and plans moved forward following approval.

As this situation came to light this winter, the county, although very sympathetic to our needs, was faced with either moving forward or losing the project money altogether. Over the course of many conversations with the county, TVTAP did not want to stand in the way of getting the much needed upgrades for Packsaddle Road and decided to stop forcing the issue.

Packsaddle Road will now be paved with a two-foot shoulder. Although this is disappointing, TVTAP continues to work closely with the county to adopt road-paving standards for the future that will ensure that bike lanes are considered in every paving project. As our voices as non-motorized travel advocates become stronger, we’re more likely to see the changes we want in the valley!

—Bridget Lyons, Pathways Committee

8th Annual Nordic Dinner

Our annual Nordic Dinner, held last December, was a resounding success. As attendees dined on the sumptuous culinary delights of Chef Bill Boney and listened to the musical talents of Loose Ties’ Ben Winship, Ted Wells, John Lowell and Phil Round, auction items were bid on at a feverous pitch. As the clock ticked down people stood next to the sheets on the silent auction tables, waiting to bid again should someone else attempt to win “their” item. The live auction, with talented and humorous Kenny Chambers at the mic, was thoroughly enjoyed by TVTAP supporters.

Be sure to watch for next year’s Nordic Dinner, date and place to be announced.
TETON VALLEY CYCLING MAP
Get the most accurate map available for road and mountain bike routes in Teton Valley! Printed on durable Polyart paper to last for years. A dozen classic mountain bike rides are featured with detailed, GPS pin-pointed trails, elevation profiles, and concise descriptions. Available at local outdoor retailers or from TVTAP. **$9.95**

TVTAP HAT
Great for that cold winter morning ski on the trails, long hikes in the spring and fall, or a casual walk through town looking attractive and cozy. Crafted locally in Victor by Teton Toppers, this classic must-have hat features gold ski- ers and the Tetons with a red band on a field of bright cobalt. **$30**

TVTAP BIKE JERSEY
Here’s a custom-sublimated bike jersey that’s as stylish as it is functional. This one-of-a-kind garment, designed by Chi Melville (who also created our superb cycling map, featured below), is bright yellow and orange. This DriFit jersey features a trim athletic cut, so order a full-size larger than usual if you prefer a loose fit. **$70**
TVTAP was fortunate to bring Jenessa Thomas onto the Board of Directors in the fall of 2006, soon after her arrival to Teton Valley. A dedicated outdoorsperson, she brought a new perspective that was influenced by her experiences outside of the valley. It was clear early on that Jenessa is a straight shooter, and she did well keeping the Board on task. Her leadership style was so appreciated that in her second year on the Board she was named vice president. She brought intent and vigor to the position and helped refine our goals in 2008.

2008 also saw the arrival of Jenessa and Doug’s first child, and spending time with the baby became her number one priority. Although Jenessa balanced the two for a while, her responsibilities at TVTAP eventually had to take a backseat. The Board of Directors supported her decision wholeheartedly and welcome her continued support of TVTAP.

We are grateful for everything that Jenessa did to improve and support TVTAP during her tenure. We know that she will continue to be involved in TVTAP in a variety of ways. }

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Teton Valley Trails and Pathways

We need you: JOIN TODAY!

I support the mission of Teton Valley Trails and Pathways to promote a trails-and-pathways-connected community. Enclosed is my gift to help build and maintain walking, biking and Nordic skiing trails.

☐ $25 Ambler ☐ $50 Rambler* ☐ $100 Strider ☐ $250 Pathfinder ☐ $500 Trailblazer ☐ $1,000+ Explorer ☐ Other $_______

* Suggested minimum for Nordic skiers

Name____________________________________Phone____________________Email____________________________

Mailing Address___________________________________City______________________State_____Zip____________

I would like to see Trails and Pathways in Teton Valley built to connect:

____________________________________________________________________________________________________

☐ I would be willing to volunteer. Please let me know what opportunities are available.

Please make check payable to TVTAP and return with this coupon to P.O. Box 373, Driggs, ID 83422.

Thank you for your support. Please review the benefits below to make sure you receive them.

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<thead>
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<th>Membership Level</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Benefits</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ambler</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>NEWSLETTER, STICKER, E-MAIL UPDATES</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rambler*</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>TVTAP NORDIC PIN, NEWSLETTER, STICKER, E-MAIL UPDATES</td>
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<td>Strider</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>TVTAP BIKE MAP, PIN, NEWSLETTER, STICKER, E-MAIL UPDATES</td>
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<td>Pathfinder</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>TVTAP BIKE MAP, NORDIC HAT, PIN, NEWSLETTER, STICKER, E-MAIL UPDATES</td>
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<td>Trailblazer</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>TVTAP FLEECE VEST, MAP, PIN, NEWSLETTER, STICKER, E-MAIL UPDATES</td>
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<td>Explorer</td>
<td>$1000+ or more</td>
<td>ANNUAL EXPLORERS’ RECEPTION, TVTAP HAT, FLEECE VEST, MAP, PIN, NEWSLETTER, STICKER, E-MAIL UPDATES</td>
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* Suggested minimum donation for Nordic skiers

Please circle items under your Membership Level that you would like to receive.

☐ Please keep all of my benefits and update me on TVTAP through the newsletter and e-mail.
Teton Valley Trails and Pathways promotes a trails-and-pathways-connected community.

Calendar of Events

**Saturday, June 13**
**National Trails Day**
**TVTAP Summer Trail Days I**
Mahogany Creek Trail

Please help us maintain our great trail systems in Teton Valley. Meet at the Driggs Forest Service office at 9am sharp. Bring gloves, water, lunch, rain jacket, sunscreen and a strong desire to work hard. There will be an appreciation party with free dinner, beer, drinks and raffle prizes for all volunteers.

**Saturday, July 18**
**2nd Annual Tin Cup Challenge**
Driggs City Park

The Tin Cup Challenge is the primary fundraising vehicle for Teton Valley nonprofits. It provides an annual opportunity to have your gift to TVTAP matched through the Teton Valley Community Foundation. 9am Fun Run/Walk will be preceded by Marathon at 6:30am, Half Marathon at 8:00am and 10K at 9:00am.

**Saturday, July 25**
**TVTAP Summer Trail Days II**
Red Creek Trail and Aspen Trail

Please help us maintain our great trail systems in Teton Valley. Meet at the Driggs Forest Service office at 9am sharp. Bring gloves, water, lunch, rain jacket, sunscreen and a strong desire to work hard. There will be an appreciation party with free dinner, beer, drinks and raffle prizes for all volunteers.

**Saturday, August 15**
**TVTAP Summer Trail Days III**
Mahogany Creek Trail

Please help us maintain our great trail systems in Teton Valley. Meet at the Driggs Forest Service office at 9am sharp. Bring gloves, water, lunch, rain jacket, sunscreen and a strong desire to work hard. There will be an appreciation party with free dinner, beer, drinks and raffle prizes for all volunteers.

**Saturday, September 19**
**5th Annual Horseshoe Challenge Race**
Horseshoe Canyon

This great race winds through the beautiful Horseshoe Canyon of the Big Holes on the west side of Teton Valley. There is both a 10K and 20K; all skills and ages are welcome. This trail-running race is the crowning event of the summer. Our permit for this race is granted through a partnership with the Teton Basin Ranger District.

Jay Pence Receives TVTAP Stewardship Award

Jay Pence was born in Salmon, Idaho, the son of a career Forest Service ranger. His father’s work took the family to Nevada, where young Jay’s early jobs included several seasons as a ranch hand. In the summer of 1986, Jay began his own career with the Forest Service as a forestry aide and firefighter. He earned a B.S. in Rangeland Management and in 1990 landed a Range Conservationist position with the Humboldt National Forest in Ely, Nevada. He served in that role until 1999, when he came to Teton Basin Ranger District as a Natural Resource Specialist. He took over as District Ranger two years later. Since then, Jay, his wife Susan and their sons Thomas and Ryan have made Teton Valley their home.

Jay has been lauded by his Forest Service superiors for his “truthfulness, frankness, and tact with the public, groups and individuals.” We couldn’t agree more. These qualities have served him well in a region where forestry, agriculture and recreational demands frequently collide on public lands. Jay’s district encompasses high-altitude wilderness, heavily logged and grazed forests and an increasingly urban interface with private lands. Jay also oversees nearly 400 miles of trails serving motorized users, equestrians, hikers, mountain bikers and skiers. Sometimes facing intense pressure from all sides, Jay has proven to be a consistently honest and fair broker of compromise between various forest-user groups, while never losing sight of resource and environmental concerns. He has been instrumental in TVTAP’s efforts to forge a positive partnership with the Forest Service.