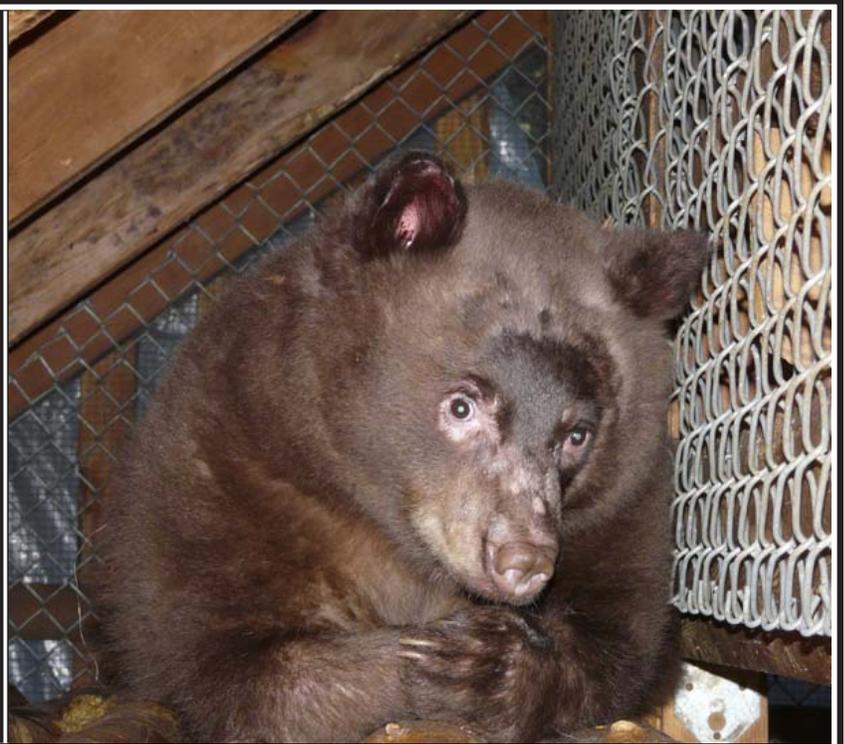




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LTWC'S Web Site: [www.ltwc.org](http://www.ltwc.org)

# Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Unless you have been OFF of the planet, you should know **Li'l Smokey** arrived at **Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care** on July 18th. The photo on the left was taken on July 24th. Smokey weighed 8 1/2 pounds and needed to have his bandages changed EVERY day. In order to do it with no harm to him, OR the volunteers (or the doctor), we needed to immobilize him with an anesthetic. He didn't like it - THAT much is for sure.

On the right, **Li'l Smokey** has grown up. On November 29th, he now weighs in excess of 80 pounds and has been declared by **Dr Willitts** as 'Ready to be Released back in the wild!'

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by Tom Millham, LTWC Secretary/Treasurer

Well, if you haven't seen yet, or haven't heard yet, OR, if 'maybe', you have been ONE of those few people who have NOT been on the 'Planet Earth', something happened last July and that something was "Li'l Smokey"!!!

Li'l Smokey has changed the complexion of Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care and more people know about this organization now than in the past 30 years. WOW!!! What an experience. You may hear some variations of the facts, but here is what really happened.

On July 17, 2008, there was a fire up in the Redding, CA area. The national forest is known as the Shasta -Trinity. The 'Moon Fire' was near the border of Trinity and Shasta counties in the upper reaches of Grass Valley Creek. California Fire Fighter, Adam Deem, saw a little bear cub and went to get his camera. After getting his camera, he noticed the cub was noticeably limping, favoring his paws, which Adam could tell were burned.

After finally getting the cub confined, he wrapped him in his jacket and proceeded to the first aid station.



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### THE QUILL

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From there, after some initial first aid, the cub was taken to Calif. Fish and Game's Wildlife Investigations Lab in Rancho Cordova. The next day, Nicole Carion, F & G statewide wildlife rehab coordinator, called LTWC and said they had a cub for us.

I went down on Friday, late morning and picked up 'Li'l Smokey'. During the 2 1/2 hours from the time we got the call until I left Rancho Cordova, no less than four different F & G people told me, "You 'might' be getting a lot of calls on this one!" As I was leaving the F & G office, I called Cheryl to tell her that I had the cub and I was on my way home. She then told me that our phone was ringing off the hook!!!

We had calls from television stations, newspapers and just people in general. The TV stations and newspapers, of course, wanted to get the first photos of "Li'l Smokey", nicknamed by Adam Deem, due to similar circumstances of the 'Original' Smokey Bear in 1944. By the next Monday, 'Li'l Smokey' would be a national household name. One of the first TV stations to carry the story was KCRA (NBC, channel 3) out of Sacramento. From there, the story hit CNN, Fox News, CBS International, KTVN (Reno), CBS Evening News (with Katie Couric) and, of course, the internet. It was something we have never witnessed before.

We were receiving e-mails like crazy, literally hundreds. Everyone wanted to know how 'Li'l Smokey' was doing. Would he live? Would his paws heal? Can he be released back into the wild? How is his eye? How was his burned ears?

With all of these people and entities wanting to know what was going on with this cub, we decided to create "Smokey's Blog Page" on our web site (www.ltwc.org). This gave 'us' a chance to let EVERYBODY know what was happening with him, plus we were able to keep everyone directed in one location and include the latest pictures. It also gave our viewers a chance to comment on the updates. At first, the updates were posted every day. Then, it was every two days.

When Smokey first came in, the concerns were multiple. We were concerned for his life, which didn't last very long, because, overall, he was in good physical condition. Then, his severely burned (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degree) paws - - ALL four of them. Plus, he had a small problem around his eye and his ears. He came weighing in at only 8 1/2 pounds. This is a little light for a cub over 6 months old. This 'may' have been due to the fact that Smokey may be a twin, or even a triplet. We did notice

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# SNOWSPORTS WEEK at SIERRA AT TAHOE

by Tom Millham, LTWC Secretary/Treasurer

SnowSports Week is a wonderful opportunity to have fun and help out five non-profit organizations at the same time. The 2009 SnowSports Week, held each year at Sierra at Tahoe, will be February 9<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup>. (See flier on page 6.)

The price of an All Day Lift Pass is just \$35! That is less than ½ of the regular daily ticket. You can buy any number of tickets you like and use any of the tickets on any one of the four days offered. A family of four can ski for just \$140, where the 'normal' price would be \$288. WHAT A DEAL!!!

In addition to Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care receiving the financial benefits of the event, you will be assisting; Lake Tahoe Educational Foundation, Barton Memorial Hospital Foundation, Lake Tahoe Community College Foundation and Sierra at Tahoe Educations Foundation. Last year, with 'fair' ski conditions, each organization received almost \$8,000 each.

There are a number of locations in South Lake Tahoe AND off of the hill which offer the discounted tickets. If you are interested in purchasing your tickets with a credit card, you need to go through the Barton Foundation office by calling 530-543-5614, or go on line to '[www.bartonhealth.org/events](http://www.bartonhealth.org/events)'.

Your support of this event would be very much appreciated by all five organizations, AND Sierra at Tahoe, who is so generous with this offer. I, would like to extend my personal thanks to John Rice, the General Manager at Sierra at Tahoe for his continued support of Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care and many other very worthwhile non-profit organizations in the South Lake Tahoe community.

Now – we need 'your' help in spreading the word for this GREAT opportunity. Thanks.



This is Li'l Smokey. Have you heard of him?? He arrived at LTWC on July 18th and was an immediate world-wide star. The biggest concern for him was whether or not his paws and pads on his paws would heal sufficiently enough for him to be released back into the wild.

# KEVIN'S KORNER

by Dr. Kevin Willitts, President, LTWC

What a year! Has anybody heard of a little burned bear cub named 'Lil Smokey'? As you can see from other articles in this edition of the quill, this little bear cub has created quite a stir. Many of my East Coast friends have teased me about my 15 minutes of fame. The 'Lil Smokey' experience has affected LTWC in many ways.

Tom and I have seemingly met every media person from Chico to LA trying to master the fine art of thinking how words may be taken out of context before you say them. I still remember the very first TV interview where one of my comments was taken out of a later interview and dubbed in over a film clip of 'Lil Smokey' waking up from sedation.

Treating LI'L SMOKEY has been a rewarding and gratifying experience. We were provided with a unique situation and gained valuable information for the future. We never lacked for resources or supplies to treat the little bear cub. Outside expertise was always available when we needed it.

LI'L SMOKEY presence at LTWC brought us global attention. In addition to showing the world what we do, this exposure helped us to increase our donation levels. Increased funding allowed us to better care for the other ill and injured and orphaned animals entrusted into our care including the other 6 orphaned cubs we cared for this summer. They are all doing well and will be released this winter at the same time (but not in the same place) as LI'L SMOKEY. We've been able to enhance our website to provide an LI'L SMOKEY Blog and Webcam.

We owe a special thanks to board members Karen Johnson (webmaster) for keeping you informed on the web and Sue Novasel for all her work on the webcam. Hopefully we can expand the webcam system to multiple cameras and better streaming next year, if funding allows, to show viewers a wider variety of the animals we care for.

As the Holiday season approaches, we at LTWC go into hibernation like the bears til spring. We wish you all the best for the coming year.

## Just what “Is It” about Little Smokey???

by Denise Upton, LTWC Vice President

I was trying to think just what it was that made Little Smokey so special? The fact he was injured and not expected to make it, yet beat all odds and thrived beyond everyone’s hopes? You bet! All the time and energy everyone put into him to achieve that goal? A definite yes! Or was it just the fact that he was such a “stinker” with a ton of personality? I’d say “all of the above”!

Yet we’ve had lots of cubs before and they were all special in their own way-what was it? Then it hit me-this was the first bear cub we shared with the public! As rehabbers we see something special in every animal each season. We never cease to be amazed at their strength and resilience. Yet usually it is just a small circle of people following these stories.

With the introduction of our first “Smokey” web cam and his own blog we got feedback from all of his loyal followers! People watched him at work, after dinner, with their grandchildren, and anytime they needed a little “lift” of the spirit! Total strangers had a common bond as “friends of Smokey” and conversed back and forth via the blog! They learned about the “life” of bears by asking questions and receiving actual answers to these questions! School children had debates about Smokey and wrote him letters. These people were brought into Smokey’s and “our” world for just a short time and it changed a lot of people’s lives because of that. The fact that he brought a smile to the face or a tear to the eye of these people is what made this little bear so special!

In these days and times that’s a huge accomplishment! I know that everyone is going to miss him when he ventures out on his own soon but what a great ending to a wonderful story! Our hope is that in the future we can continue to invite everyone in to be “touched” again by more of these amazing animals! Thanks for watching!

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that he was NOT dehydrated and his tummy seemed plump enough to tell us that he had eaten, fairly recently. He definitely was not emaciated.

Dr Kevin Willitts, LTWC’s Board President and veterinarian, examined Smokey and decided that he was going to use four different medical treatments to see ‘which’ one worked best. Well, after about 4 – 5 weeks of treatment, they all worked equally as well. All the while, we were getting suggestions from lots of people recommending a cure for the paws. Kevin decided against trying many different remedies on the paws so he could see just how the four we started with worked out.

Then there was the problem with the bandages. He wouldn’t leave them on. Kept taking them off! We tried more tape - didn’t work. We tried more vet wrap WITH the tape. Nope. Then, one of our volunteers brought in some ‘Dog Booties’. We had something here. But, after a week or so, Smokey found out how to get them off as well. Then, finally, we found the trick that worked. Put on the ointment then a gauze pad. Lightly wrap with a gauze wrap. Then with vet wrap. THEN, put on the booties, followed by more vet wrap and then a more sturdy tape. We found that IF he got through the first two layers, it would give us a chance to see what he was up to and re-apply. And, yes. He did manage to get the booties off a few times, but, only ONCE did he

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## ONE MORE THING!!

With all of the articles written on Li’l Smokey in this issue, we failed to inform you that ALL of Smokey’s injuries have healed. When he came in to LTWC, the claws on the back paws were gone and the ones on the front paws were falling off.

At this point, we didn’t know if ANY of the claws would ever grow back. And grow back they did. All 20! At one point, we thought that Smokey had lost most of his outside toes. But, after much care, all of them came back as well. He also had a problem with both ears and both of them are doing well, as is his one left eye, which was also singed. Later on, he did contract a viral fungus, but with some medication, that cleared up. Dr Willitts feels there will be NO problem once exposed to natural sunlight.

# Stem Cell Therapy

by Cheryl Millham, LTWC Exec Dir

It has been a challenge for me personally this past summer. It all started on the night of July 4<sup>th</sup>. I sat down in a low, lawn chair down on the beach near Timber Cove pier, to watch the fireworks over Lake Tahoe. I felt a tearing, searing pain in my left leg. Walking to the car that night, I was in excruciating pain. The next morning, I was unable to walk.

An appointment was made to have an MRI on my left knee area, which the pain was most severe, so we could understand just what damage was done and how we should proceed.

On July 16<sup>th</sup>, the report came back - - - not good!

1. *Complete tear of the anterior cruciate ligament*
2. *Mild strain of the posterior cruciate ligament*
3. *Intrasubstance degeneration of the posterior horn of the medial meniscus.*
4. *Linear horizontal tear of the anterior horn of the lateral meniscus and*
5. *Severe tricompartmental degenerative chondropathy.*

An appointment was made with Dr Terry Orr of Tahoe Fracture. After looking at the DVD, Dr Orr didn't feel that the anterior cruciate ligament was a 'complete' tear, but arthroscopic repair was not an option, due to the severe degenerative arthritis. We talked about having a knee replacement on 'both' knees.

Because of my responsibilities at the wildlife center, everything would have to be done after our wildlife season.

My brother, Dr Robert Bender, had spoken to us, in the past, about Stem Cell Replacement using cord blood stem cell implantation and ozone regenerative therapy. This appealed to me more than

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manage to get everything off to the bare paw, but, by then, he was mostly healed.

We had to move him about every 2 – 3 weeks, because he kept outgrowing the container he was in. First, he was upstairs in the clinic in a large Airline Pet Carrier. Then, he was in the mew, which was closed off to a much smaller section (8' x 5'). This is when we had the first surveillance camera on him. That was on the Open House weekend (August 2<sup>nd</sup>). Then we moved him to the Fawn Isolation cage (5' x 9'), where he had an opportunity to climb for the first time. He was there for about 10 days before we moved him over to the Raccoon Cage (10' x 14'). He didn't seem to want to climb in there - - - that is until he saw me coming. You see, during all this time, when we needed to change his dressings (bandages), I was usually the one who had the 'pleasure' of catching him and holding him until his anesthesia had been administered. Yes. From the time he was 8½ pounds until he was 56 pounds in the Raccoon cage. He did NOT like to see me coming. Mainly, because, that was the only time I went out there. And - - - the bigger he got, the more difficult it became. Finally, I told Dr Willitts (after the 56 pound weigh in) that it was time we used a 'Jab Stick' on him. 'Graciously', he agreed. Thanks, Doc.

His last move came on October 30<sup>th</sup>. We weighed him in at 66 pounds and moved him over to the Bobcat cage that same day. The bobcat cage has been used – over the years – as a 'second' bear rehab cage, so this worked out well. It would be the largest cage he would be in (14' x 20') AND had the tallest ceiling (14' at the top), which gave Smokey the most room to move around. At first, he didn't climb the log we put in for him to get up to the 'second' level (7'), but, that didn't last long. Soon, he was up to the second level AND the third level (9'), snorting and looking DOWN on us. He finally got his self satisfaction.

This is where he is now and will remain there until his release in late January or early February. At our November Board Meeting, Dr Willitts declared Smokey ready to be released at that time. And, that was the very 'first' time that Dr Willitts made that claim. Up until then, he was 'cautiously optimistic', but never

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# Snowsports Week



**\$35 Lift Tickets**  
(\$72 Regular Day Rate)



**Monday - Thursday**  
**February 9 - February 12**

## Proceeds Benefit:

**Barton Memorial Hospital Foundation**  
**Lake Tahoe Community College Foundation**  
**Lake Tahoe Educational Foundation**  
**Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care**  
**Sierra-at-Tahoe Education Foundation**

## **Ski for a Cause!** **Snowsports Week** **benefits local agencies**

Each ticket is valid one of the following days: Feb. 9, 10, 11, & 12, 2009

**These specially priced tickets must be purchased in advance at one of the locations listed below. They will not be available at Sierra-at-Tahoe. Sorry, no "Will Call" available.**

### Checks payable to:

Lake Tahoe Educational Foundation (LTEF)

### Credit card sales:

Barton Foundation: (530) 543-5614, or  
[www.bartonhealth.org/events](http://www.bartonhealth.org/events)

### General information:

Barton Foundation: (530) 543-5614, or  
[www.bartonhealth.org/events](http://www.bartonhealth.org/events)

### Tickets available at these locations:

7/11 on Kingsbury Grade  
Barton Hospital Foundation  
Best Western Station House Inn  
Coldstone Creamery  
Fresh Pond Trading Post  
Lakeland Village  
Lira's Market  
CVS/Long's at Bijou  
CVS/Long's at the Y  
Tahoe Paradise Chevron  
PLA, Placerville  
Powder House - Heavenly Gondola  
Powder House - Pioneer Trail  
Rainbow Mountain  
Ski Doc in Sacramento  
Sports LTD in the Village Center  
Sunrise Ski & Snowboard  
Super 8 Motel



# Did You Know . . . ???

by Bob Dietz, LTWC Board Member Emeritus

A couple of readers/critics of my column suggested I could mention wildlife facts about creatures “NOT” necessarily found in the Tahoe area. Fine with me! Wildlife is wildlife. I enjoy learning about all of Mother Nature’s creatures. So, I may occasionally digress! And now - - welcome to Did you know . . . .

that **Eagles** mate while somersaulting in the air with their talons locked?? (There must be a better way!)

that the species of ‘**Little Penguins**’ which abound on the sunny beaches of Sidney, Australia have blue and white feathers??? All other penguin species, which inhabit the cold gray waters closer to Antarctica, have ‘black’ and white feathers. The “Little Penguins” have adapted to the warmer, blue waters to protect themselves from their many predators.

that a **Bat**, as it flies, squeals constantly, to produce many high frequency sounds??? The sounds move ‘away’ from the bat. If there is something ahead of the bat, the sound strikes it and bounces back. When the bat hears the sound coming back, it knows there is something ahead. This is called, “Echo-Location”!

that special defenses are sometimes needed to combat special hunting skills? For example, many **Moths** have a good defense against the echo-location used by bats. Moths have sensitive ears. When they ‘hear’ a bats high-pitched sound, they dive for the ground.

that **Porcupines** have upwards of 30,000 quills covering every part of their body, except the under parts, the muzzle and the ears?? Porcupine quills are not hollow. The tips of the quills carry microscopic barbs that make removal difficult, once embedded in the flesh. Quill bases are loosely attached so only a small pull or encounter will cause detachment. Porcupines do not ‘throw’ their quills. Most predators who attack ‘porky’s’, embed themselves on the quills when they attempt to kill the porcupine. In more serious cases, a mouthful of quills may prevent feeding and cause the animal to starve to death. Lost quills start to grow back immediately for replacements. Baby porcupines quills are soft when they are born and ‘harden’ and begin to grow within ‘hours’ of birth.

that the **Wolverine**, which has been rumored to be on the verge of extinction in areas other than Canada and Alaska are apparently UN-true??? Recently, in an area northwest of Lake Tahoe, a photo was taken and definitely identified as a wolverine. Wolverines are courageous fighters and will not hesitate to attack any animal larger than itself when food is concerned. There are records of it driving a grown bear and cougar away from food it wants. (We probably don’t want too many in the Tahoe area!)

that another rarely seen predator visited Lake Tahoe Recently? There had been rumors of a **Mountain Lion** (cougar, puma, panther, and catamount) sighting on the west shore of Lake Tahoe. Then, early one morning in November 2007, a mountain lion was sighted in the Tahoe Keys area. The ‘Keys’ is a highly developed, residential area. Far from the ordinary, remote, woodsy normal habitat, we located a 90 pound Mountain Lion. They grow to 160 pounds at maturity and in good hunting areas. How or why this cat made his way to the ‘Keys’ is a mystery. With the help of the El Dorado County Sheriff’s Department, he was sedated with a tranquilizer gun and treated by Dr Kevin Willitts of Alpine Animal Hospital for porcupine quills, then released in an area where deer abound.



# LTWC's



**Above Left - Cheryl is shown with Corky Quirk underneath Interstate 80 at the Yolo Causeway releasing the Mexican Freetail Bats LTWC volunteers raised in 2007. When our bats were ready to go, the other bats had already migrated for the winter, so Corky kept them until May.**

**Above Right - A successful 'surrogate' release. Our web master, Karen Johnson, who is also a volunteer, assisted in this release, by getting a baby Merganser out by the Truckee Marsh where we found a female Merganser which accepted the little kid as her own.**

**Below Right - Feeding time for baby raccoons. After nursing on a bottle, it takes a little 'practice' to get the hang of eating out of dish - - - with OUT getting on yourself!**

**Below Left - The cub we received from Penn Valley (Grass Valley area ) is shown just 'hanging out' on one of the platforms. This cub was the SECOND out of SEVEN we received to rehabilitate this year, which, of course, included Li'l Smokey!**



# PHOTO PAGE



These are the six cubs ('other' than Smokey) which LTWC has been caring for since April. As you can see, they all are in excellent shape and will all be released back within 50 miles from where they were found, orphaned, this past summer. We fully expect ALL cubs to enjoy a very success life in the wild.



All three pictures highlight this year's Yosemite cub. She was the first cub received this year and she often shows her dominance to the other five cubs while in the bear rehab cage. She is 'easy' - - - - to distinguish. She is the ONLY cub with a yellow ear tag. But, even without the ear tag, we would be able to tell her from the other cubs. You know how some people (and animals) kind of 'strut' their stuff when they feel they are better??? Well, that is her!! She struts her stuff to the other cubs ALL the time. She will be released back to Yosemite in late January. In the picture to the right, the other cub is from Penn Valley.

# Smokey and Our New Online Community

by Karen Johnson, LTWC Web Master and Board Member

As LTWC's webmaster, I give a report on our website, LTWC.org, at each board meeting. I usually let everyone know how many people visited the site since the last report, which pages were most popular and how long an average visitor stayed on the website. These statistics, or "webstats", help us understand how visitors are using the site, and let us know how many people we're reaching online each month.

We usually have between 600 and 700 unique visitors to the site each month in summer. This past June, we had a few less than usual, about 575.

And then, on July 18, Li'l Smokey showed up.

Smokey, as everyone knows, became a media sensation this year when he was rescued from the Shasta fires by firefighter Adam Deem, and brought to LTWC to recover. His story touched thousands of viewers and readers who heard about his story from local, regional and national news sources. At the end of most of these new stories, came the call to action "For more information, or to make a donation, go to [www.ltwc.org](http://www.ltwc.org)."

And go to [www.ltwc.org](http://www.ltwc.org) they did. We received over 12,000 visitors to the website over the next four weeks, with many people coming back repeatedly to check in on how Smokey was faring. In order to keep everyone updated, we published updates and new photos every couple of days, sometimes every day, whenever new information was available.

In mid-August, we decided to give Smokey his own blog, at [www.ltwc.typepad.org](http://www.ltwc.typepad.org). Unlike traditional websites, where new content usually replaces old content, blogs act more like online journals, allowing for everyone to read then, Smokey's fans have been able to watch his rehabilitation for themselves. The webcam has been a wonderful addition—over 21,000 people have visited the blog since we set it up, many who check in on Smokey every day—or several times a day—without Smokey being any wiser about his celebrity status.

Smokey has literally grown in front of our eyes—he is about 25-lbs larger now than when we first introduced the webcam. I'm sure that doesn't surprise any of his fans, who have taken great pleasure watching him plow through his food, while making a complete mess of his enclosure.

The webcam would not have been possible without the generous donations from many of Smokey's fans. Thanks to everyone who helped support Smokey's rehabilitation, the webcam, and LTWC this year.



Now that Smokey has begun his denning process, he'll be slowing down and the webcam will likely be a little less entertaining to watch. And in just a few weeks, Smokey will be released back to the wild. Although we're thrilled that his rehabilitation process at LTWC has had such a happy conclusion, I know that many of us will miss watching Smokey every day.

The good news is that the webcam will be back in action next spring, when we begin receiving new wildlife for rehabilitation. We are currently compiling an email distribution list, which we'll use to inform everyone about LTWC updates and news, including an announcement about when to start watching the webcam again. If you would like to join the LTWC email list, please send your name and email address to me, at "[karen@firsttracksservices.com](mailto:karen@firsttracksservices.com)".

It has been a heartwarming experience for those of us at LTWC to read the hundreds of supportive comments Smokey's fans have posted on the blog this year. Those who have shared their thoughts about Smokey and described what antics he was up to while they watched, helped create a fun and welcoming atmosphere on the blog. I hope you'll join us online again next spring.

# Comparing the Past 25 Years!

by Lynn Herman, LTWC Volunteer

Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care has made amazing strides over the last 25 years. I started working with them that long ago, moved away, returned and have volunteered for the last year. I am so happy to see the amazing growth!

Did you know 25 years ago, volunteers all took baby birds home and fed them a baby food mixture with chopsticks? I first saw Cheryl doing that when we worked together at the PBX switchboard in what was then known as Caesars Tahoe. She would be sitting, answering calls, and then all of a sudden duck down under the desk for a few minutes, then back up answering calls. I investigated what was going on and she had

## LTWC's NEW Logo

We now have these in a lapel pin. This design is also available in our new T-shirts and Sweatshirts.

Order from our Web site. Go to:  
[www.ltwc.org/store](http://www.ltwc.org/store)



3 sets of baby birds, nestled down in casino coin buckets.

I didn't realize that it wouldn't be long and I would be doing the exact same thing! Those little birds needed feeding every 20-30 minutes during the day, so I took my plastic buckets with me to the grocery store, to work at Caesars, even to the bathroom when I went to the movies! Then there came time to wean them from mush and teach the fledglings to eat meal worms. I remember spending hours pushing mealworms with my chopsticks, trying to get my little Steller's Jays to take notice.

Then came the small mammals. I fed baby chipmunks with syringes every 4 hours, even during the night. I remember worrying about keeping them warm enough when the power went out at the house. I had a sick gull that swam around in my bathtub for days. I couldn't get him to eat anything, even buying expensive raw fish at the store. Finally in desperation I dressed incognito and went through the drive thru at McDonalds. I was a strict vegetarian at the time, so hunched down behind the wheel and mumbled "Gimme a Big Mac - quick!" I took it home to him and he ate like he was at the Ritz!

Being able to go to the Center now is like being a grandmother. I get to enjoy the critters for a few hours a week and help out; keep the raccoons from climbing my legs; play tug with the squeegee with a baby bear; help an eagle exercise her wings; clean up the poop and spoil them with scrambled eggs and watermelon, then go home and leave it all to someone else tomorrow!



Included with this issue of the Quill - and ALL issues - is a self-addressed envelope. This is provided for YOU, should you wish to make a donation to LTWC! Thanks.

(Stem Cell Therapy - Continued from page 5)

knee surgery. Dr Orr had said they would not do 'both' knees at once, so he would do one, then, in six months, do the other. That would take a year out of my life.

As Tom and I were guided by my brother, Tom looked up – on the internet – Stem Cell Mexico, the web site of Dr Alfredo Estrada. The Stem Cell treatment would be three (3) days and NO SURGERY! I was told that I would immediately be OUT OF PAIN, but we would have to go to Dr Estrada's hospital, which is in Monterrey, Mexico for the treatment. Once home, it would be another 30 – 35 days of 'down' time starting with 5 – 10 minutes of walking, twice a day, increasing gradually.

Well, after some more research AND a three way conference call with Dr Estrada, Dr Bender (my brother, Bob) along with Tom and I, had all of our questions answered and it was looking better and better to have the Stem Cell Treatment. Also, when we heard that Dr Estrada was a Christian, I 'felt' better about the whole process.

Again, because of my responsibility, even this would have to wait until after our wildlife season and all of our fund raisers, since I do all the buying and prep work. Our last event, the Kokanee Festival was the first weekend of October, followed the next week by our volunteer recognition luncheon. All of the wildlife, except the bear cubs had been released. I wanted to wait until February, when even the bears would be gone, but many of the volunteers, seeing me in so much pain for so long, encouraged us to go right away.

Denise Upton and Sally Sjolín said they would 'split' the time and come every day to do the morning and afternoon cleaning and feeding while we were gone. My sister in law, Robin Bender, and her husband (my brother, Bob) said they would take the phones.

Then - - - after we returned and I was still in my convalescence mode, we received help from other volunteers with the feeding and cleaning. They were; Helen Tanner, Joan Wilson, Steve and Gina Cress, Dave Lawrence, Lyn Herman, Shari Mann, Sue Novasel, Tita Whitaker, Jen Healy, as well as Denise and Sally. They ALL were a great help. Cindy Anderson told me she would come and winterize the wildlife garden. I don't know what I would have done without you all.

**THANK YOU SO MUCH!**

Our eldest daughter, Debi, said she would come to our house and help with the cooking. I was doing so

## SMOKEY COLLECTIBLE PLATES

Here is an offer through Ken McCoy's Collectible Investments Guild which will benefit Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care.

On July 17, 2008, a 6 month old bear cub was rescued by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Firefighter, Adam Deem, during the "Moon Fire" in the Lake Shasta area of Northern California. "Li'l Smokey" has received treatment for severely burned paws at Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care. To view updates and Smokey's Blog, go to 'www.ltwc.org'

Ken has two souvenir plates from the Original 'Smokey Bear', which was found much the same as 'Li'l Smokey', only in New Mexico. He is sharing this last opportunity to acquire a pair of these excellent limited editions (under 1900 personally created and produces sets) incorporating the art work of the late Rudolph Wendelin (the father of Smokey Bear).

These full color plates are sold only in sets with matching serial numbers, 23 carat gold serial numbers, lettering and trim grace plate number one, "Smokey's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Smokey Bear, August 9, 1944 – 1994". The second imported fine porcelain plate, "Clean Water" is in 23kt Gold serial numbers, silver

(Continued on Page 13)

well, that in four days, we told her we really didn't need her and some of the volunteers brought in food (Tom 'really' isn't a cook). A special thank to Robin Bender, Cindy Anderson, Denise Upton and Melodie Ulman for their delicious dishes.

Well, as most of you know, we flew to Monterrey on October 19<sup>th</sup> and everything went as we expected. I was out of "ALL" pain within 15 minutes after the first treatment. I now have 30 million new stem cell repairing and multiplying in my body. What a fantastic experience and I thank the Lord for this blessing.

Collectible Plates (Continued from Page 12)

lettering and hand applied silver trim with a picture of Smokey Bear holding a sign saying, "Prevent Forest Fires". (See a picture of the plates in this issue of 'The Quill'.)

The selling price of the plates is \$125.00 per set and they are 8 ¼ inches in diameter. He only has 246 matched sets left and they will be First Come-First Serve basis. For every set sold, LTWC will receive a donation from Mr. McCoy of \$25. . (See a colored photo on LTWC's web site).

You can order these plates through LTWC from our 'Store' on our web site, or, you can contact Mr. McCoy directly at 2300 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Vancouver, WA 98661. For questions call him at 877-373-3251.



These two beautiful hand painted collector's plates will benefit LTWC and ALL of the wildlife we care for. \$125 per set of two with the 'original' Smokey Bear asking for YOU to Help Prevent Forest Fires!

## A Slow Start

by Cheryl Millham, LTWC Exec Dir

It was the first part of June. LTWC had a new incubator ready for baby birds. Heating Pads were set up and ready to turn on and heat. Food was bought for the baby bird diets. Freezers were full of rabbits and fish. The wire cages with heating pads were set up for chipmunks and squirrels. The Training Class was over and volunteers were ready. We were waiting for the first arrivals.

On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6 baby rabbits arrived when some bushes were removed behind a house and some Oregon Junco nestlings came in.

THEN - - - no more baby birds came in for TEN days!!

Was it West Nile?? Was it the toxins they spray around our state for the Med Flies? We weren't sure. We 'do' know that the bird influenza that we had been told about - that would be in the USA and cause a pandemic - has not arrived.

In talking to some of the other rehab centers around the state, they were also down with their intake of baby songbirds. So, that's still a puzzle. Raptors count was also down, as was Western Gray Squirrels and chipmunks.

Every year is different. We sure made up for it in baby raccoons and, of course - Bear Cubs!!! SEVEN (7) bear cubs is a record for us.

## LTWC's WISH LIST

We often get calls asking if we have a 'Wish List'. We do our best to have something ready to tell people, but, other than money, which is needed for 'special' diets, equipment and medicine, we gave it some thought over the winter and actually came up with a list. Ready or not - - here it is!

- STAND UP FREEZER - (Obviously in good condition)**
- CARNIVORE CARE BY OXBOW LAUNDRY SOAP**
- T-50 STAPLES (3/8" AND 1/2" - FOR STAPLE GUN)**
- CABLE/MULTI-PURPOSE TIES (ALL SIZES) - LOT'S OF THEM**
- HEATING PADS - 3-SETTINGS (With-OUT Automatic Turn-Off)**
- PAPER TOWELS**
- GREEN 45 GALLON TRASH CAN LINERS (Rolls of 80 from Smart n Final)**
- GIFT CERTIFICATES - Feed Stores, Grocery Stores, etc.**

# 2008 Training Seminar

by Cheryl Millham, LTWC Exec Dir

The 2008 Training Seminar was a very good learning experience for all of the attendees. We had 59 people take the class this year. The 'maximum' number we had set was 56. As we got down to the final days, we decided to let those last three in.

I would like to say the percentage of students that signed up and came out to the center – and work with the birds and animals - AFTER taking the class, was the highest we have ever had.

And, I am looking forward to having each and every person who volunteered THIS year, to come back and work with us NEXT year.

We will have more information on 'next' year's class in the Spring Quill. In the meantime, if you are interested in next year's class, keep an eye on our web site, [www.ltwc.org](http://www.ltwc.org).

(Secretary - Continued from Page 5)

stated Smokey 'would' be released. Just that our 'goal' was to prepare him for release.

The web cams and surveillance cameras. Wow!! I always thought these would be a piece of cake. Easy! Simple!! Right??? Wrong!!!

It took 'some' doin, but we finally got it up and running. And, as you will see in Karen Johnson's article (she is our web master), we had a LOT of people watching Li'l Smokey. Over 56,000 hits in just over one month. Yep. LTWC is now known by a LOT of people who didn't know us before.

And finally. We owe so much thanks to so many people, it is hard to know where to begin. But, first and foremost, we want to acknowledge Dr Kevin Willitts. Not only is he our Board President and 'our' veterinarian, but he also is the owner of Alpine Animal Hospital here in South Lake Tahoe. With very few exceptions, Dr Willitts was here examining, changing bandages, suggesting and overseeing the medical care

# Lifetime Bald Eagle Members

*As we mentioned in previous issues, beginning in 2000, we initiated new membership 'clubs'. However, those supporters who were members of the Bald Eagle (Life Member) club, will remain Life Members and we appreciate their support. Listed below are those people who contributed \$1,000 or more in a 12-month period of time. Thank You. You will always be in our Bald Eagle Club!*

Jim and Ethelmae Haldan	Michelle and Perry O'Dell
Willette Strong	Suzanne McDowell
Don Henley	Robert I. Wishnick Foundation
Jane Kenyon	Sierra Pacific Power Co.
Josette Denton	Tahoe Mountain Milers
Bob and Sue Rutherford	Robert M. Lee Foundation
Mickey Dugdale	Rob and Chris St. James
Calif. Sierra State Parks Assn.	Tony and Beth Sears
City of South Lake Tahoe	Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Lane
Caesars Tahoe Dealers	Larry and Julie Moore
Jack and Mary Lou Cassingham	Pete and Diana Mountanos
Lake Tahoe Kiwanis Sunrisers	Gloria Bourke
Mandy Davis and Rodney Volkmar	Doni and Jim Glassmaker
Jarrold and Brennan Davis	Harrah's Tahoe
BankAmerica Foundation	Estate of Alice Valla
Tilton Family Foundation	

Randy's Locksmith - Greg Cattoni

Kirk and Lynda Gillaspay

(Secretary - Continued)

of Smokey during this whole process. And, for those of us who helped out, it definitely was a learning experience.

All of the volunteers who helped with the bandages, feeding, cleaning and making sure Smokey had what he needed so he could heal and eventually be released back into the wild, were a magnificent help. As we have said many times before. This organization is not for one or two people. It takes a TEAM to make everything work. We are very grateful for everyone's assistance – especially for Smokey's care – but for ALL of the birds and animals we care for this year.

2008 was especially different, because, not only did we have Smokey, which, by himself was a handful, but we also had SIX OTHER CUBS to contend with. It was indeed a new ordeal for us all.

To all the people who sent in donations, offered suggestions, let us know that the web cam wasn't working, and everything else included with snail mail, e-mail and phone calls, "Thank You"! We are truly blessed to have so many supporters.

# LTWC's 2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS!

- January 20th LTWC Monthly Board Meeting @ LTWC @ 7pm.  
**ALL Board Meetings are now the 3rd Tuesday of each month @ LTWC.**
- February 16th thru 19th SnowSports Week at Sierra at Tahoe
- March 10th thru 14th NWRA Annual Symposium - Bloomingdale, IL
- April LTWC is 31 years old!

Check out our web site for ALL upcoming event. [www.ltwc.org](http://www.ltwc.org), then click on 'Events'!

Do you have a car, boat or other vehicle, in good working condition, you are considering trading in on a new one? Instead of trading in your old(er) vehicle, why don't you donate it to **Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care** and receive a tax deduction.

If this is something you are considering, then just call **LTWC** at **530-577-2273** and ask for help in your contribution.

In the past, **LTWC** has received over \$40,000 for vehicles and boats which have been received by contributors.

Other ways you can help **LTWC** in the future is to consider leaving a bequest. We recently received a donation because we were named in a will and several others have told us we are mentioned in their wills as well. This is one way to assure our long range financial success.

We have been working with the orphaned and injured wild birds and animals in and around the Lake Tahoe Basin since 1978. Our success is due to assistance from our volunteers in the form of financial support, hours served and just spreading the word.

For those of you who have been working 'with' us in the past, we thank you. For those of you who have thought of working with us, why not make 2009 the year to make a commitment.

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION!

**Active** (ONLY those who have taken the training class.)      **Honorary** (Those who wish to help out financially)

### Our "Club" Program

Select your choice of either your favorite wild bird or animal, or the amount of your contribution.

<b>Black Bear</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
<b>Bobcat</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<b>Bald Eagle</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>
<b>Golden Eagle</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Great-Horned Owl</b>	<b>\$500</b>

<b>Beaver</b>	<b>\$300</b>
<b>Merganser</b>	<b>\$150</b>
<b>Red-Tailed Hawk</b>	<b>\$100</b>
<b>Raccoon</b>	<b>\$65</b>
<b>Fawn</b>	<b>\$35</b>
<b>Steller's Jay</b>	<b>\$20</b>

Your selection is:

Club Name

\$

Amount of Contribution

Are you an Active or Honorary member?      Active      Honorary

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form with your Tax-Deductible donation to:

**Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care, Inc.**  
 1485 Cherry Hills Circle  
 South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150-4921  
 530-577-CARE

## *LTWC 'Club Members'*

Listed below are those supporters of LAKE TAHOE WILDLIFE CARE who have contributed (during a 12 month period of time) in an Extra Special Way. You will notice, in the 'Membership Information Form' (page 11), the various 'Clubs' which individuals or families can contribute. Would you like to see your name added to these lists? We sure would! Please help us to

***"Give Mother Nature a Helping Hand!"***

### **Black Bear**

(\$10,000 Donation)

Pete and Diana Mountanos  
Wells Fargo Foundation  
Hallador Legacy Fund  
Anonymous  
Judy Grutter  
Big George Ventures

### **Bobcat**

(\$5,000 Donation)

Estate of Alice Valla  
John and Cari Simonsen  
Sierra at Tahoe  
Sharlee L Cotter  
Carol Auslen  
IFAW  
Parasol Comm. Foundation

### **Bald Eagle**

(\$2,500 Donation)

Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Lane  
Harveys/Harrahs Lake Tahoe  
Drew and Carol Rutter  
McLane and Adelle Tilton  
Edward Scripps

### **Golden Eagle**

(\$1,000 Donation)

Robert M. Lee Foundation	Marcia Hopkins
Rob and Chris St. James	Larry and Julie Moore
Kirk and Lynda Gillaspey	Barbara Harootunian
Greg Cattoni - Randy's Locksmith	Betsy Cohen
Jennifer Randall - Youth Develop. Fdn.	Bob Dietz
China & Don Niemann	Caesars Tahoe Dealer's
Tahoe League for Charity	Suey Smallwood
Bill and Jonna Hutt	Tammy and Harley Hoy
James Leva	B T Rocca Jr Foundation
Curtis Fong - TGFT - Bike the West	Willette Strong
Yosemite Foundation	Christina Robinson
Brenda Knox	Kiwanis Club of Tahoe Sierra
BEAR League	

### **Great-Horned Owl**

(\$500 Donation)

Kevin & Kathryn Schaller	Christensen Automotive
Mike, Lesley & Staci Furtado	Don and Kay Edwards
George and Jan Smith	Cliff Hansen
Mike and Charmaine Pape	Pat Fagen
Carla Yant	Howard and Linda Lewis-Perry
Richard and Dana Smith-Miller	Howell Johnson
Pat Banner	Bill and Carol Frye
Jim and Linda Mueller	Lake Valley Firefighters
Ron and Jan Cook	Alpine Co. Chamber of Commerce
Barbara Kucala	Dawn Holley
Dr. Mireya Ortega & Ron Cline	Rick Ahlswede
Evie Viera & Dave Isenberg	Cliff and Holly Hansen
Bob Eldon	Mark Ockerman - WINESOX
Soroptimist Int'l of SLT	Christina Robinson
	Peter Gauthier

Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care, Inc.  
(530) 577-CARE  
1485 Cherry Hills Circle  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150-4921

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22.1  
Christmas 2008

***"Giving Mother Nature a Helping Hand!"***