

Views from Sahalie Valley – 83 years apart

Dave Galvin

I came into possession of a wonderful photograph recently, which shows what I believe to be the first installment of the Commonwealth Ski Club's original lodge in 1931. This image came from the collection of Carl Mahnken, the club's first president in the 1931/'32 season, via his daughter-in-law, Sandy Mahnken from Bend, Oregon. (More on that collection in a separate article.)

Take a deep look at this photo and tell me if you can place it in the Sahalie locale.



Photo of the partially-built Commonwealth Ski Club lodge in December, 1931, or early winter, 1932.

(Photo from the Carl Mahnken family collection.)

No clue? Well, that's where I started, too. But I recognized the shape of the roof of the partially-built Commonwealth Ski Club lodge as well as the ridgeline above.

First, here is another photo from the Carl Mahnken archives that shows this small lodge as of the winter of 1931/'32.



The original/partially-built lodge in late 1931 or early 1932. The major portion of the original lodge was added on to the left in the summer of 1932. (Photo from the Carl Mahnken family collection.)

It seems to me that this partial structure is the same A-frame as appears in the early photo from the page previous. The photo above is a close-up looking NE, while the terrain shot on the previous page is looking SE from slightly farther up the valley and slightly to the west.

Now, fast forward to today and a shot I took last January in what I think is the same general aspect as the 1931 photo (see next page). The ridge to Sahalie's southeast looks the same, where the Pacific Crest Trail rises on the north side of Snoqualmie Pass. I think the foreground telephone lines and open area of the old photo show the location of the original railroad that looped between where Commonwealth/Sahalie and the Washington Alpine Club built their lodges in 1931 and 1932. I am not standing in the exact same location as the 1931 photographer, but I think I'm close.

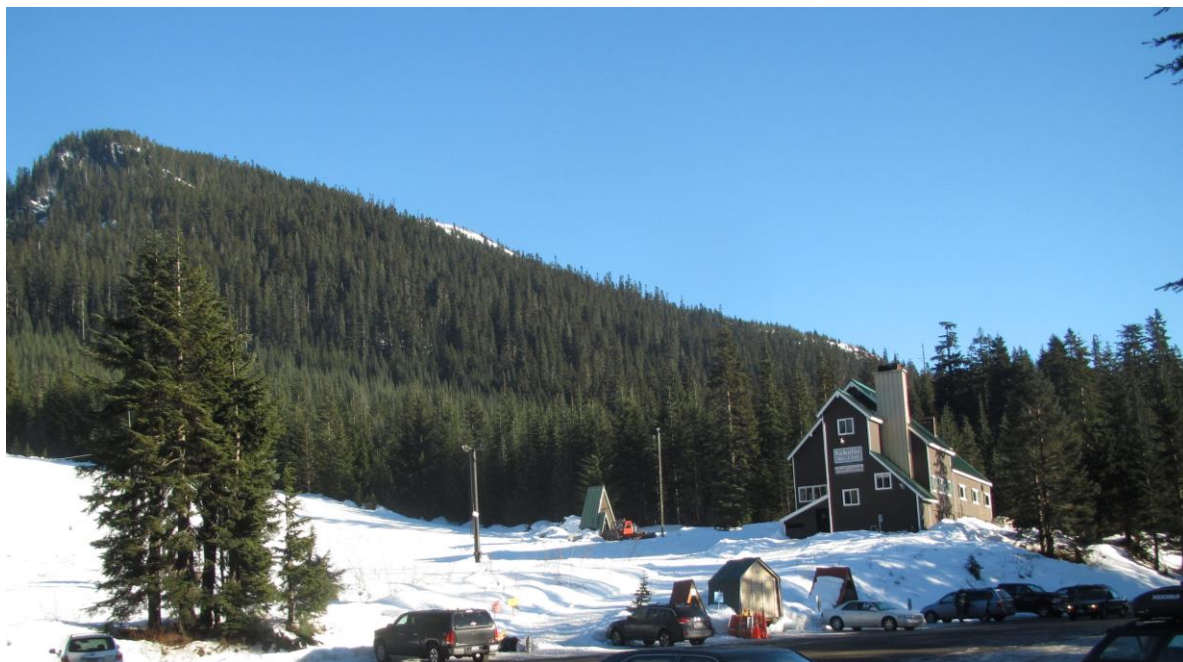


Photo taken from WAC's parking lot across the street and slightly to the north of Sahalie Lodge. What do you think – does it approximate the shot from 83 years ago? (Photo by Dave Galvin)

- Dave Galvin, Sahalie Ski Club (© Copyright 2014, Dave Galvin, galvind53@gmail.com) (Updated 7/25/2014)