

# Sierra Recreation Association

January 2007

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## The Freeze

California periodically experiences extremely cold weather. Recently it has been in 1990, 1997, and now 2007. Temperatures in the park dropped into the single digits for a few days and remained below freezing for greater than a week.

As a result of this cold weather, more than a dozen cabins in the park experienced broken pipes and/or water lines, causing significant water damage to the interiors of some of these cabins. In one case, water flooded the circuit breaker box causing PG&E to disconnect the power to the cabin. In this case County permits and inspections are required before PG&E will reconnect the power.

The park's water system experienced no damage as a result of the freeze. The park's water system includes among other things all distribution piping up to and including the cabin shut-off valves located near the property line of each cabin. **All connections and piping after the cabin shut-off valves are the property and responsibility of the homeowner.**

Many of the cabins with broken pipes had good quality insulation installed. Pipe insulation slows down how fast a pipe freezes, but does not prevent it. If it remains below freezing long enough, insulated pipe will freeze.

Some cabins had above ground shut-off valves installed by the homeowner for convenience. These valves and pipes froze and broke. If you wish to have a convenient shut-off, install the valve under ground and extend the valve handle above ground. Tuolumne County requires a depth of not less than 18" below the surface of the ground.

**Hidden damage and danger may exist:** Pipes that froze but did not break may have bulged, expanded, or otherwise deformed. These pipes may burst when summer arrives. If any of your pipes were not drained and may have frozen, but did not break, you should inspect for and replace any deformed pipes before they burst. Often this type of damage is hidden by insulation.

## Newsletter & Website

**Newsletter** – Available via e-mail. E-mail us to sign up.

**Website** – Protected documents password: **Contact Us.**

## Park Calendar

Board meetings are generally held on the third Saturday of each month beginning at 8:30 AM.

Board Meetings: February 17<sup>th</sup>, March 17<sup>th</sup>, April 21<sup>st</sup>, May 19<sup>th</sup>, June 16<sup>th</sup>, July 21<sup>st</sup>

St. Patrick's Dinner: March 17<sup>th</sup>

Annual Meeting: May 27<sup>th</sup>

Fish Derby: June 17<sup>th</sup>  
(Father's Day)



## Water Consumption

Each year the park losses hundreds of thousands of gallons of water due to homeowner negligence (broken pipes due to freeze damage) and wasteful practices (running water to prevent frozen pipes). As a result the Board of Directors is considering amending the "Odd Fellows - Rules and Regulations" to include a fee for excessive water consumption as determined by the Board of Directors. Please exercise care with this precious resource.

## Odd Fellows Lodge 376

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, our lodge has fallen into a state of distress. Specifically, attendance at the Wednesday evening meeting has fallen to level insufficient to form a quorum. Without a quorum we can not conduct business.

On Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup> 2007 at 5:00 P.M. (one hour prior to the St. Patrick's Corn Beef Dinner) there will be a special meeting to discuss the direction of our lodge. Please consider attending this meeting even if you infrequently or never attend regular meetings. It may be a simple as changing our meeting day to Saturday or as grim as closing the lodge. Your opinions and guidance would be greatly appreciated.

Additional information will be posted on the website at: [www.varvayanis.com/sp/lodge376/announcements.htm](http://www.varvayanis.com/sp/lodge376/announcements.htm).

If you have any questions or comments please contact Charles Varvayanis at [charles@varvayanis.com](mailto:charles@varvayanis.com) or (209) 586-3782.



## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes January 20, 2007

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 8:31 A.M. by President Charles Varvayanis. The invocation was offered by Al Orth. Those present were President Charles Varvayanis, Vice President Mike Ford, Secretary Mike Rainwater, Treasurer Doris Selman, Members, Alan Orth, Clark Kellogg, and Tom Clark. Absent was Steve Wallace, excused.

**Members before the board:** Pat Monahan, Sue Collie, Mike Rainey, and later during the meeting the owners of Cedarbrook Camp, Adam and Terri Wilson and Denise and John Clow.

**Minutes:** A discussion by the Board concerning the minutes of the December 16th meeting resulting in the Board deciding a condensed form of the minutes should be published and all future minutes of the Board would need Board approval before distribution to the home owners in the newsletter. Motion by Kellogg and seconded by Tom Clark to revise the December 16th minutes and all future minutes will need Board approval before being published. Motioned passed.

**Correspondence:** 1) Christmas cards from Twain Harte Lumber, 2) Letter from Caldwell Insurance re: auto insurance and equipment insurance, 3) Papers and notification regarding water system classes and updates, 4) Letter from State Board of Equalization re: timber harvest, 5) Statements from El Dorado Savings and World Savings re: interest for tax purposes, 6) Statement from Gatewood Heating, 7) Letter from Delores DiAndrea re: newsletter [does not want it sent via e-mail] and 8) Letter from the Tuolumne County Child Care Council.

### Committee Reports

**Water – Rainwater:** Water usage was 1.2 million gals. Discussion concerning marking all water boxes in the Park was held with a motion by Kellogg and seconded by Selman that we provide markers to designate the location of all water boxes, install those markers, and paint those markers a blue color. Cost not to exceed \$250.00. Motion passed. Another discussion concerning the broken water lines that had occurred during the extreme cold period and resulting in many homes having broken water lines. These lines that broke were due to the fact that homeowners had not drained their lines resulting in damage to their homes and wasted Park water. One situation required several of our homeowners to assist the Park in locating the water box that had been buried by the next door neighbor in order to turn off the water. PGE had to be called and the electrical meter was removed because water was running out of the electrical box. A motion was made by Clark and seconded by Kellogg to fine the two homeowners for the water maintenance. Motioned passed.

**Roads – Wallace:** President Varvayanis indicated that the gate opener malfunctioned on the exit gate and was probably due to ice adhesion on the magnetic locks. Also the power failure safe device has failed on the entry gate and the gate only partially opened. President Varvayanis purchased new batteries for the fail safe device.

**Buildings – Kellogg:** Heater was installed in the Lodge and is 100% complete.

**Timber – Ford:** Dead trees at the front gate are being dropped by the PGE contractor. The trees are not for cutting as they belong to the forest service and no trees can be cut until after April 1st that are located on forest service land.

**Recreation – Clark:** Christmas Party was a success and the Board thanked Tom for a wonderful job. Next dinner is the St. Patrick's Beef Dinner in March.

**Health & Safety – Varvayanis:** No business.

**Equipment – Orth:** Will attempt to set up training for the generator in Feb. We have not had a chance to use the new snow chains to see if they are better than the past ones due to lack of snow.

**Finance – Selman:** Motion by Kellogg and seconded by Orth to pay the bills as presented and the amount of \$5,472.13. A previous bill from Roger Brown, park attorney, for the amount of \$1,742.00 was approved for payment.

**Old Business:** 1) Fishing derby badges will be provided by Mike Ford, 2) Discussion concerning the 2007 pine needle, 3) A review and discussion of the 2006/2007 budget was moved until next month.



**New Business:** 1) Board agreed to make it official policy that minutes of Board meetings need approval prior to publishing, 2) Discussion with the new owners of Cedarbrook Camp concerning some mutual interests. The Board presented their concerns and the owners of Cedarbrook expressed their concerns. Both parties agreed to discuss these issues and would respond back to one another in the very near future. The Cedarbrook owners did receive their allotted key cards for the front gate and in addition purchased two remote clickers.

**Other Business:** No other business.

Next meeting is on February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at 8:30 A.M.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Rainwater, Secretary

**Checks Disbursed 12/22/2006 - 1/23/2007**

Date	Number	Payee	Memo	Amount
1/5/2007	248	EDD	Payroll deduction	\$103.03
1/5/2007	249	Oak Valley Bank	Payroll taxes	\$1,038.18
1/5/2007	250	Michael Caropreso	Payroll 12/18/06 - 12/31/06	\$1,060.95
1/5/2007	251	State Farm Bank	Payroll deduction	\$50.00
1/19/2007	252	Michael Caropreso	Payroll 1/1/07 - 1/14/07	\$1,060.95
1/19/2007	253	Robert Cloak	Payroll	\$91.75
1/19/2007	254	State Farm Bank	Payroll deduction	\$50.00
1/17/2007	255	State Water Resource Board	(2) Water rights licenses	\$200.52
1/23/2007	256	A & A Portables	Health & Safety	\$76.68
1/23/2007	257	AT&T	Utilities / Phones	\$72.34
1/23/2007	258	Calif. Rural Water Assoc	Membership dues	\$300.00
1/23/2007	259	Tom Clark	Recreation expense	\$436.72
1/23/2007	260	Eric Carlson	Accounting	\$410.00
1/23/2007	261	Gatewood Heating & Plumbing	Equipment / Capital expense furnace	\$2,751.35
1/23/2007	262	George Reed Inc	Maintain Roads / Sand	\$343.01
1/23/2007	263	J S West	Utilities / Propane	\$364.22
1/23/2007	264	Midstate Rentals	Maintain equipment	\$63.29
1/23/2007	265	PG&E	Utilities / Electricity	\$824.55
1/23/2007	266	Michael Caropreso	Petty Cash / Toyota service	\$89.95
1/23/2007	267	Roger A Brown	Professional services	\$1,777.34
1/23/2007	268	Doris Selman	Office supplies	\$110.37
1/23/2007	269	Twain Harte Lumber	Maintain buildings	\$40.15
1/23/2007	270	Charles Varvayanis	Member comm. / Bldg. Maintenance	\$410.40
1/23/2007	271	Waste Management	Garbage	\$889.22
1/23/2007	272	Zenith Insurance Co.	Insurance / Workman's comp	\$593.00
1/23/2007	273	EDD	State payroll tax	\$35.34
1/23/2007	274	U.S. Treasury	Federal payroll taxes	\$69.73
Total Disbursements				\$13,313.04



Sierra Park Odd Fellows Lodge No. 376  
 Post Office Box 214, Long Barn, California 95335  
 For information contact: Bill Williams (209) 586-5580

Lodge meetings are held at the lodge in Sierra Park on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. followed by a potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m.



Dogwood Rebekah Lodge No. 200  
 Post Office Box 205, Long Barn, California 95335  
 For information contact: Doris Williams (209) 586-5580

Lodge meetings are held at the lodge in Sierra Park on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 12:00 Noon, and social meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. followed by a potluck dinner.



Odd Fellows Sierra Recreation Association  
 P.O. 116  
 Long Barn, CA 95335-0116

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