

Sierra Recreation Association

December 2003

Thanks to Mike & JoJo

For the great Christmas lights and Decorations, inside and out of the recreation hall.

Thanks to Mike & Gary for the efforts being made to keep up with the snow and ice this year. The job is easier if cars are off the road when it snows.

Calendar of Meetings

BOARD MEETING: 8:30 a.m. Sat. Jan. 17, 2004

Sierra Park Lodge #376

Lodge meetings held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 6:00 P.M.
2nd meeting of month includes spouses at potluck 6:30 p.m.

The January 21st Potluck will feature

Winter Soups and Salads

(Of course desserts)

Call: 586-0551 or 586-6664 if planning to attend

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING Dec. 13, 2003

Attendance:

President, Fred Coleman Present Vice-President, Robert Snell Present Secretary, Norrine Coyle Present
Treasurer, Richard Bonner Present Members, Neil Selman & Roger Townsend Present
Member, Ed Smith, Sean Kasper and Greg Brown Excused

President Fred Coleman called the Board of Directors meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Invocation by Richard Bonner

By motion (Selman/Bonner, majority, Townsend, no) the minutes of November 15, 2003, were approved as mailed.

Members before the Board: Mike Van Gundy said the C.D.F. would pay for making the lake conducive for use by helicopters when fighting fires. He and Pat Monahan will talk to C.D.F. people about this.

Correspondence: Holiday cards were received from County Bank, General Plumbing Supply, and Eric Carlson Accounting Firm; a letter from Eric Carlson pointed out that Christmas bonuses are considered wages and payroll taxes must be deducted; letter from Gordon Bettencourt about the "prompt and courteous service" he received from Mike and Gary when there was a faulty valve connected to the water line to his cabin; letter from the County concerning a meeting about the Williamson Act; letters from the California Rural Water Association about a meeting on Dec. 20th and a Drinking Water Workshop in January. Grant deeds from Carolyn Hutton to Rodney & Gayle Johnson and from Carolyn Hutton to Larry & Marilyn Cabral.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Water – Selman: Used 390,700 gallons since the last report. This is the least amount used in a month since 1998. A break on Abraham was repaired and all black pipe leading to 3 homes was replaced during the repairs.

Roads – Snell: No report.

Buildings – Smith: The upstairs office is progressing nicely. Roger finished the cabinet doors in the kitchen.

Timber – Coleman: No report.

Health & Safety – Kasper: Richard said Sean had filled out the forms for the State regarding the lake and stream that allows us to use them for recreation.

Equipment – Brown: The Board was advised that new tires have been put on the backhoe for \$1,067. This should reduce repair bills.

Recreation – Townsend: The holiday dinner will be held tonight. He thanked everyone who donated raffle prizes and the big volunteer crew. Raffle prize donors are Mr. & Mrs. Knapp, Mr. & Mrs. Valentine, Doris Selman, Ann Coleman, Ruth Townsend and others mentioned previously. Special thanks to Mike & Jo Jo for the decorations.

Finance – Bonner: Bills were \$15,034.61. The audit is finished. All assessments have been paid without having to go to court and is very much appreciated. By motion (Selman/Townsend, unan.) the bills were approved for payment.

Old Business: 1. Survey regarding trying the needle grinding process have so far totaled 38 in favor and 10 against. It might be possible to get a grant to help with the program. This will be pursued. 2. Gary Scarborough has officially taken over managing the gate and issuing cards. 3. The homeowners responsible have cleaned up the lumber and trash that had been dumped near the Boy Scout Camp.

New Business:

There have been complaints about someone driving a vehicle that is not licensed for the State highways. The Rules and Regulations of the Park will be changed to say: "All vehicles must be licensed for use and approved by the D.M.V. for use on all roads, highways and freeways in the State." Subsection F will be added to Section 2, Licensed Motor Vehicles, effective January 17, 2004. By motion (Bonner/Selman, unan) approved the addition of this wording.

Greg Brown has been out of state and has had to miss several meetings. He said, if the Board wishes, he would resign from the Board. It was decided to wait until February to discuss this when he plans to attend.

An Insurance Committee is needed. Robert Snell and Greg Brown were appointed to serve and "shop" for various policies and agents.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m. The next meeting will be on January 17, 2004, at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Norrine Coyle

The following is excerpted from the Twain Harte Times November 14, 2003. It has important facts for us to consider.

The writer was Mike Ashland Permission to share this information was granted by the paper.

"We're every bit as ready as San Bernadino". John Hardin, President of the Hwy 108 Fire Safe Council, was referring to the terrible fires down south that destroyed 19 lives and thousands of homes. He was speaking to the THCS D Fire Board, encouraging them to establish a slash disposal program to clear forest lands around structures. Mr. Hardin isn't just a proselytizer. In his role at U of C Berkeley's Lair of the Bear, he sees his facility sitting at the top of a chimney formed by the South Fork of the Stanislaus River. "The nature of fire, after ignition, is to use a canyon or ravine like a chimney." He went on to describe flames 200 feet high moving at 45 miles per hour. "It wouldn't take long to get from Sonora to Pinecrest." The prime factor for fire is fuel. "You couldn't put a fire hydrant on every tree and it wouldn't help you one bit," he said as Twain Harte Fire Chief Bob Kempvancee nodded his head.

Signed into law in 1961, Ca. Resource Code 4291 requires safe clearing around structures. "Clean 30', sweep the roof, trim overhanging limbs away from roof and 10 ft. from chimneys, covering chimney openings with grills no wider than 1/2 inch. "A normal structure, if they do annual maintenance, will generate about a half a ton of debris and 80% of it will be pine needles. The biggest problem with compliance has been disposal" Contractors who provide this service can charge anywhere from \$250 - \$800 for disposal. When SPI accepted slash at no charge, disposal meant that at least it was being properly handled. Since SPI instituted its "nuisance fee" and subsequently stopped accepting slash altogether, debris has often been moved to an empty lot or dumped somewhere off the road. Mr. Hardin referred to this as "moving fuels." He put together a plan for compliance and disposal in Pinecrest. They disposed of 1700 tons in 2003 and were a couple of houses short of 100% compliance. Programs in Strawberry, Jenness Park and Peter Pam Development brought their communities to near 50% compliance. In 2003, the towns of MiWuk, Sierra Village and Sugar Pine were added. 400 tons were disposed of, but not before Mr. Hardin ran out of his \$40,000 grant. The communities donated tens of thousands more dollars to complete the process. Evidently the residents of these communities were eager to clear their lots and realized the bargain Hardin's program offered. No matter how difficult the process of applying for grants, organizing schedules, transportation and disposal appeared, Mr. Hardin reminded the group that this was about removing fuels that can save lives and property. "These fuels have been accumulating for 100 years. There is an average of 400 trees per acre up here and as much as 800 to 1000 trees in some areas. Drought and hot weather have left trees weakened and dead. But no matter how much rain you had, there are just too many straws in the ground. They suck up whatever moisture there is and send it out into the air. It'll be easy to ignite." About starting a program he said, "You can and it's not that hard"

Twain Harte has started advancing the project. (We in Odd Fellows Sierra Park need to do the same.)

AS OF JANUARY 1, 2004, THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA HAS BANNED "BURN BARRELS"

The state Air Resources Board recently approved the Airborne Toxic Control Measure to reduce air emissions from outdoor residential waste burning. The measure, which restricts the use of burn barrels and trash burning, was approved because their fires are said to produce cancer-causing toxins. Clean, dry brush or slash can be burned in piles (with the proper permits) but burn barrels will no longer be allowed in our area.

Fire Safety is still of a major concern if the individual burns are not attended and controlled at all times.

CHECKS DISBURSED Thru 12/15 2003				
DATE	NUMBER	NAME	MEMO/ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
11/19/2003	10970 *	George Reed, Inc.	Maintain Roads	49,800.00
11/28/2003	310	Michael W. Caropreso	payroll	683.38
11/28/2003	311	Gary A. Scarborough	Payroll	871.62
11/28/2003	10972	Orchard Supply	Maintain Buildings	257.38
12/3/2003	10971	void		-
12/3/2003	10973	Sears	Supplies Shop	193.04
12/3/2003	10974	Wray Plumbing	Maintain Buildings	1,547.00
12/8/2003	10975	State Compensation	Insurance	903.17
12/8/2003	10976	USBank - Taxes	payroll taxes	1,166.17
12/8/2003	10977	Employment Develop	Taxes - payroll	112.10
12/8/2003	10978	Twain Harte Lumber	Maintain Buildings	429.25
12/12/2003	312	Michael W. Caropreso	Payroll	683.40
12/12/2003	313	Gary A. Scarborough	Payroll	871.63
12/15/2003	10979	Gary A. Scarborough	Petty cash	373.06
12/15/2003	10980	Michael W. Caropreso	Petty cash	88.39
12/15/2003	10981	Richard Bonner	Auto mileage expense	58.40
12/15/2003	10982	SBC	Telephone	69.09
12/15/2003	10983	Cedar Ridge Elec	Maintain Buildings	182.38
12/15/2003	10984	Doherty Tire of Sonora	Maintain Equipment	1,058.70
12/15/2003	10985	Waste Management	Garbage	756.42
12/15/2003	10986	W H Breshears	fuel	807.47
12/15/2003	10987	Eric A Carlson	Accounting	1,260.00
12/15/2003	10988	Zak's	Maintain Equipment	206.26
12/15/2003	10989	PG&E	utilities / caretaker	72.21
12/15/2003	10990	J.S. West Propane	Propane	255.47
12/15/2003	10991	Roger A Brown	Prof. Services	1,385.60
12/15/2003	10992	Village Mail & Printing	Member Communications	148.65
12/15/2003	10993	State Farm Bank	Payroll Deductions	100.00
12/15/2003	10994	A & A Portables	Health & Safety	71.68
12/15/2003	10995	Robert Snell	Auto mileage expense	54.75
12/15/2003	10996	Norrine Coyle	Auto mileage exp/ & food	118.43
12/15/2003	10997	Roger Townsend	mileage & dinner expense	183.42
12/15/2003	10998	Fred Coleman	Prof. Services/ faxing	5.00
12/15/2003	10999	Michael W. Caropreso	Empl. Benefits - medical	24.17
12/15/2003	11000	Postmaster	Member Communications	37.00
12/15/2003	11001 **	George Reed, Inc.	Maintain Roads	30.00
			TOTAL	15,034.69
		*	From Road Reserve. Not included in total	
		**	Bal due from Road reserve, not in total	



HAPPY
NEW
YEAR

Use 4x4's with snow tires or chains in the Park it can be very icy.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

U.S. Postage Paid
Bulk Mail
Permit #2
Long Barn, CA 95335