

Sierra Recreation Association

December 2005

Contact **by MAIL** at P O Box 116 Long Barn, CA. 95335 **by PHONE** for call back only 209-586-3098
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Thank goodness, no more resignations. Ed Smith was appointed to fill one of the empty board positions until the next annual meeting. Thank you Ed for continuing to support and contribute to the success of the park. We believe 2 more volunteers will fill board positions at the January meeting. We need one more volunteer.

Weather: Many homeowners and visitors were disappointed over the holidays by the lack of **snow**. In fact, no snow until January 2nd when about an inch and a half fell. But like most everyone in California lots of **rain** was dumped for several days. We had a little over 10 inches of rain over the New Years weekend. The streams and bar ditches were flowing fast and brown and the lake was refilled. It is getting better now with some break in the heavy downpours. We expect more storms soon. Check your property if you get a chance and we hope all your full time homes are safe and dry. **Good news**—the new **generator** is here to provide water in case of power outages

PARKING: This is to clarify where to park if & when we get lots of snow or you have too many cars to fit on your property. Use the Lake parking lot only, as the lot at the rec hall needs to be kept clear for moving equipment in and out. Think snow & safe driving.

Love the Park and all its beauty. It has been wonderful to see many families at the playground and hiking along the roadways. *Remember*, this is forest area and some big cats and bears also call this home, so just be cautious. Protect your dogs as you would your children. Reminder-- You don't have to keep your child on a leash but please keep your doggy on one and carry "doggy do" bags to clean up after them. All of us who hike & walk do not want to step in what is deposited on the road or in our yards. Thanks!

Calendar: Next **Board Meeting:** January 21, 2006 8:30a.m.

I.O.O.F. Lodge meetings: January 18, 2006 6:00 p.m.

Rebekah Lodge meetings: January 18, 5:30 p.m.

. Potluck to follow at 6:30 p.m.

Lodge meetings on 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month, if you have any questions for Lodge. call 586-5580, Doris or Bill Williams

Holiday Dinner: If you did not attend, you missed an excellent meal and a great chance to win raffle prizes. I should mention, it did snow (slushy kind) some the night of the dinner. Everyone really enjoyed the BBQ turkey, dressing & homemade cranberry sauce that Tom Clark prepared. (with the help of Linda) I also saw Roger & Ruth Townsend, daughter Cheryl, Ed Smith, Charles Aston, Bill Kalfakis & Kim Wach in the kitchen and cleaning after the dinner. Unfortunately Santa was not well and could not attend. His assistant JoJo distributed the gifts he had sent for the kids. I can't say "Thanks" enough this month for the help and contributions of raffle prizes to make this dinner a success. We raised approximately \$393.00 for the Derby.

MIKE & JOJO, GREAT DECORATIONS AGAIN!

Homeowners Support Needed

Thank you to those who responded to this request! We would like to hear from more of you.

Your Board of Directors is looking for homeowners with background and experience in fields that will help the board make decisions. Small committees to be used as a resource in areas of *insurance, legal, finance, construction, electrical, heating, water, etc.* would be of benefit to everyone to help keep assessments as low as possible. The committees might need to meet once or twice a year or just be asked questions by phone or e-mail. If you can donate a little time to help in your area of expertise,

Call and leave message at **209-586-3098** or e-mail

Sierrapark@varvayanis.com

CULVERTS in BAR DITCHES: As stated above 10 +/- inches of rain fell over the holiday and the bar ditches were filled to capacity. We cleaned the ditches and blew out culverts this fall in anticipation of winter rains. Over the years the culverts on some driveways have come under disrepair. They have clogged, are failing from rust or improper installation or are crushed. Any of these problems impede the flow of water through the bar ditches. The other problem is that where driveways were paved meeting the park road, there was not a swale following the crown of road, so that water would not cross the road.

Property owners have installed the culverts over several years in the bar ditches to gain access to their property. The agreement was that they could be installed as long as they didn't impede the bar ditch flows. The property owner was to maintain his culvert and be responsible to any damage it might cause due to its failure. Each property owner should be aware of how his property access affects the water flow and correct any problems.

Present: President Roger Townsend, Treasurer Doris Selman

Members: Mike Van Gundy, Charles Varvayanis, Charles Aston & Ed Smith (Ed was appointed to fill a vacancy at an executive session prior to the start of this meeting.)

The meeting was called to order by President Roger Townsend at 8:30 a.m.

Members before the board: Maynard Wallin to observe and Bob Hintz. Bob brought a proposal before the board to change the O.F.S.R.A. by-laws to open the board to all homeowners. He suggested we send a letter out for a vote on the matter to all A & B share members prior to the annual meeting. His concern is for the absence of available members.

Minutes of the November meeting were approved as mailed. (Motion Smith/Aston)

Correspondence: (1) Letter from Roger Brown advising that the judge who had erred in the final judgement amount corrected the settlement charge. (2) Tom Clark asked to reserve the lodge hall July 15 and August 19th 2006 for personal parties. (3) Dick Gustin was concerned about a trench across park property. It crossed his drive, which he had recently paved, and was only refilled with gravel. (4) Several Christmas cards from vendors.

Committee Reports:

WATER – Roger—Water usage was 795,300 gals. Bob Cloak has answered concerns of the Dept. of Health Services and submitted the required water testing plans for our system. The system is in good condition.

ROADS – A crossover culvert across Rebekah appears to be plugged off on the downside. We are working to correct the problem.

BUILDINGS _ The sand shed door has been repaired so Mike can get the road sand. A drainpipe under the kitchen sink came loose some time ago. A stench from mold & soiled water in buckets under the sink brought the problem to our attention. It was repaired and cleaned.

TIMBER – Townsend, nothing to report.

HEALTH & SAFETY- Chuck Aston - Installation of speed limit signs to show only “20mph” in the Park will be completed after the snow season. He will also get a street sign for Isaac Rd. that goes off of Abraham so that homeowners know where to go to enter the forest when they trailer their ATV’s to the access area.

Once again, dogs are still a problem, off leash, failing to clean up after pets and having loud & long barking “attacks”. Dogs may be quite content to stay at their regular home waiting for your return, but in an unfamiliar place the dogs bark excessively. Pet owners need to work with neighbors to resolve these problems.

EQUIPMENT – Van Gundy- The generator has been delivered and wiring for pumps #5 & 6 has been completed. We will add this piece of equipment to our insurance.

RECREATION – Holiday Dinner- Tom Clark volunteered to BBQ the turkey and be the Chief Cook for the dinner again this year. Roger also recruited some additional help.

FINANCE – Selman –The last of the assessments are still being billed and charged a monthly late fee of \$25.00 as stated in the rules. It appears we will have to take stronger action on 4 homeowners. Motion to pay the bills presented was passed unanimously. (Varvayanis/Smith) The bills appear on the ledger total \$

OLD BUSINESS - Progress & completion of the Boy Scout matter is being delayed by the Scouts. Any action regarding the 3 Links Park is tabled.

NEW BUSINESS – It is felt that a more complete review of the Park rules and regulations are in order. This will be discussed at the next meeting after all board members have an opportunity to carefully read them.

Any action on the proposal by Bob Hintz will be after we have a full board and all ramifications are considered.

Roger will respond to the letter from Dick Gustin. The dates for Tom Clark to rent the recreation hall have been reserved.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m. Next meeting is on 1/21/2006 at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Doris Selman, acting secretary

Have a little smile: FROM BRITISH NEWSPAPERS: 1. Commenting on a complaint from a Mr. Purdey about a large gas bill, a spokesman for NW Gas said, “We agree it was rather high for the time of year. It’s possible Mr. Purdey has been charged for the gas used up during the explosion that destroyed his house. 2. Irish police are being handicapped in a search for a stolen van, because they cannot issue a description. It’s a Special Branch vehicle and they don’t want the public to know what it looks like.

Date	Chk. #	Payee	Memo	Amount
	11553	Joanne Caropreso	Payroll 11/07 - 11/20-05	237.31
	11554	Michael Caropreso	Payroll 11/07 - 11/20-05	975.52
	11555	VOID	chk written in error	0
	11556	State Farm Bank	Payroll deduction	50.00
	11583	EDD	Payroll expense	111.02
	11584	U.S. Bank	Payroll expense	1051.64
	11585	State Farm Bank	Payroll deduction	50.00
	11586	Joanne Caropreso	Payroll 11/21 - 12/04/05	63.89
	11587	Michael Caropreso	Payroll 11/21 - 12/04/05	932.16
	11589	State Farm Bank	Payroll deduction	50.00
	11590	Michael Caropreso	Payroll / Christmas bonus	300.00
	11591	Joanne Caropreso	Payroll 12/5 - 12/18/05	9.12
	11592	Michael Caropreso	Payroll 12/5 - 12/18/05	932.17
	11593	VOID	chk written in error	0.00
	11594	Eric A Carlson Acctg	Accounting	880.00
	11595	Doris Selman	member comm/copy newsletter	68.58
	11596	Ruth Townsend	Recreation/ Christmas dinner	259.90
	11597	Joanne Caropreso	Employee health benefits	181.00
	11598	PG & E	Utilities/electricity	457.29
	11599	Midstate Rental	Maintain Equip/ equip rpr	217.08
	11600	J. S. West	Utilities/propane	331.48
	11601	A & A. Portables	Health & Safety	76.68
	11602	Zenith Insurance Co	Workmans comp	577.00
	11603	Waste Management	garbage	841.74
	11604	Barton Overhead Door	Maintain Buildings/ sand shed	222.88
	11605	VOID	chk written in error	0
	11606	Los Banos Flower Shop	Memorial flowers	80.82
	11607	VOID	chk written in error	0.00
	11608	AquaLab	Health & Safety	885.00
	11609	Twain Harte Lumber	Maintain Water	45.58
	11610	Barry Dugan Electric	* Equipment/ generator	26,830.00
	11611	Robert Cloak	Consulting/ water	182.54
	11612	Joanne Caropreso	Recreation/ Christmas dinner	87.95
	11613	SBC	Utilities/ telephone	61.86
			Total	35787.38
			* funds from Timber fund per annual meeting vote.	
		Our regular accounting person was on vacation & their sub was hospitalized. The office has been struggling through the holidays. Hope everyone & everything goes better now.		

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: An elder Cherokee Native American was teaching his grandchildren about life. He said to them, "A fight is going on inside me—It is a terrible fight, and it is between two wolves. One wolf represents fear, anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, pride and superiority. The other wolf stands for joy, peace, love, hope, sharing, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, friendship, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith. This same fight is going on inside of you and every other person too". They thought about it for a minute and then one child asked his grandfather, "Which wolf will win?" The old Cherokee simply replied...."The one I feed."

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Thanks for the response to the new e-mail address and web site. We are trying to set up a simple method to send the newsletter by e-mail. At this time, the process for sorting labels to mail and e-mail is too time consuming for those of us handling it. Don't give up, we are working on it.

THINK SNOW, at least until we get a nice beautiful blanket of white.

Odd Fellows Sierra Recreation Association
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