

Sierra Recreation Association

Happy
St. Patrick's
Day!




St. Patrick's Day Dinner March 19, 2005 6:00 P.M.
Please bring your own place settings
Coffee and punch provided

President's Corner

Let's see, what do you call a person who takes hot fireplace coals and places them in a cardboard box and then deposits them into a dumpster full of garbage? What words come to mind? Senseless, brainless, idiotic, irrational, mindless, ludicrous, muddled, half-witted, scatterbrained, insane, asinine, or just plain STUPID!!!!!! I sure hope that one of our own residents wasn't the one who committed such a ridiculous act of stupidity. If this incident was not the exploit of one of our own then let me remind all you homeowners that when you allow your friends to use your home that they know the do's and don'ts concerning the use of Park facilities. This is not the first time this has happened, but this time the fire almost got out of control and could have very easily burned the cover as well as the sand shed. If this would have happened then it could have spread to the trees and from there who knows what might have been destroyed. I hope all of you understand that an individual who engages in such behavior could be liable for any damages caused by such an act; in addition, the homeowner could also be held responsible for not educating the friend or relative who committed the irresponsible deed. We do not want our paradise destroyed by carelessness; be extra careful and think of others as well as yourself.

While we're on the subject of fire safety, the dead trees located around your residence should be removed as soon as possible. These trees are a hazard not only to your residence, but also to your neighbors. These trees can unexpectedly fall causing damage as well as being a fire danger. If the tree or trees are located on your property, it is your responsibility to have them removed.

One last issue that needs addressing that pertains to homeowners allowing friends or relatives to use their residence. When your friends or relatives arrive at the Park gate, it is very important that they know how to enter our Park correctly and have the proper code or equipment. Lately, the Park has experienced some difficulties concerning visitors entering through our gate. These visitors approach the gate without prior knowledge of what is required to enter the Park. As a homeowner, please instruct your visitors on the proper use of the gate card, clicker, or how to use the gate phone system. Waiting at the gate for someone else to open it and then rushing through before it closes, possibly causing damage to the gate, will not be acceptable and could result in someone paying for the damage to the gate.

Several financial issues were discussed at the last Board meeting that I feel needs further explanation. I know some of you don't read the minutes of the meeting that are included in the newsletter, but Norrine Coyle does an outstanding job and you should read them. The Board voted to require a new homeowner to compensate the

Association for the administrative costs incurred from the purchase of property in the Park. These administrative costs appear in the form of changing addresses in the computer, title and deed recording in our records, newsletter address changes, gate information update, and the sale of gate equipment. All these duties take time and are performed by Board members. The Board members make every effort to expedite these tasks. As of June 1, 2005, the Park will enforce a \$100.00 fee to new homeowners for this process. There will be no cost to the seller; only the buyer will be assessed the new fee. This cost is relatively inexpensive as compared to other homeowners' associations; for example, Cow Creek charges \$500.00 for the transfer of property. The other financial issue involves all homeowners whether a new owner or a veteran of the Park. In the past, if a homeowner was delinquent in paying their assessment, there was a 1 ½ percent charge for late fee. This rule resulted in monetary funds that consisted of pennies and odd amounts. The Board voted to change the late fee from a percent to a flat \$25.00 per month for every month that the assessment is late. The new ruling takes effect this year and your assessment will become delinquent on September 10th. **DON'T BE LATE!!!!!!!!!!**

John Hardin from the Fire Safety Council spoke to the Board and gave us an update on the costs for grinding our pine needles this year. A short version is this: \$3,000 for the transportation of the grinder, \$600 per hour to grind, \$80.00 per load transported to Twain Harte, \$350.00 per hour for screening, and the final result is that only 40% of our total material will make it to the energy plant. The Board feels that this process will be too expensive for us to participate in this year. Vice-President Bob Cloak and I contacted the Air Pollution Board of Tuolumne County and we were able to obtain a burn permit for the association. The permit is good until May 1st and we can only burn on designated burn days. The Board decided that burning the pine needles was the best solution this year. However, there are some stipulations that are involved in this decision. Homeowners, you will collect your pine needles and place them in front of your residence, on the street, in a long narrow pile. Do not put them in the bar ditch. The caretaker will collect the pine needles and slash from in front of your residence and transport the material to our designate burn area. We will not be accepting any material from outside the Park, nor will we take any other material from your site other than pine needles and slash. We have until May 1st to collect and burn the pine needles; after May 1st, the permit expires and any extension of the burn permit then falls into the hands of CDF and the weather. If the weather remains cool, CDF indicated that they could provide us with a variance permit for possibly another two weeks. In the past, Memorial Day weekend was the weekend that most of you used to clean your lot of pine needles. Don't wait, we might not have a permit to burn at that time, and then you will have to take your pine needles down to Twain Harte yourself at a cost of approximately \$10.00 per load. After investigating every possible means concerning the disposal of the pine needles, the Board, representing the association, felt this was the best way possible. You, as a homeowner, can take advantage of this decision or simply clear your lot at a later time and subject yourself to additional work as well as the possibility of being fined by CDF. The Board is attempting to make it as easy as possible for you; but it is your responsibility as a homeowner to clear your lot. Please take advantage of what the Board is offering and clean your lot early this year. One last issue, please pay attention to the weather, if it looks like it is going to snow, don't put those needles in the road. We will make every attempt to pick up needles as soon as possible.

Well, I think I've rambled on long enough; hopefully, all you homeowners have read this newsletter and now know what to do. We'll see how many of you have read this newsletter by the number of pine needle piles in the road. Hope to see you at the St. Patrick's Day dinner.

Respectfully,
President Michael Rainwater

Sympathy Notice

The Board and the Association would like to express our sincere regrets to Ann and Fred Coleman in the passing of their daughter, Libby. Our thoughts and prayers are with them during this difficult time.

Caretaker's Corner

The month of February was a busy month as the shop truck needed some maintenance and as usual, the plowing of snow and sanding of the roads. Large amounts of snow had to be pushed off the roads in preparation for the next snow fall, and some of the snow poles had to be straightened. All the Christmas lights were removed from the Lodge and final clean up of the Lodge was completed. Mike installed no parking signs at the Lodge and finished the wiring of

the sand shed in order that we have a light near the garbage dumpster. A fire had to be put out in the dumpster after someone put hot ashes in with their trash. Mike cleaned up the old campground and stacked wood in the campground area for residents to cut firewood. Garbage pick up was completed and materials were ordered and received such as diesel, gas, and building materials. Mike designed and built an attachment for the backhoe that makes it more efficient for moving snow berms and picking up pine needles. The road to the water tank had to be cleaned up and the bar ditches along the same road had to be cleaned out. Mike did a terrific job completing all these jobs and staying on top of any new problems that arose. Great job, Mike.

February Financial Report

| <u>Date:</u> | <u>Check #:</u> | <u>Payee:</u> | <u>Account:</u> | <u>Payment:</u> |
|---------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1/16/05 | 11332 | Caldwell Ins. | Insurance | \$2,708.00 |
| 1/16/05 | 11333 | Duane St. Clair | Maintain Roads | \$ 168.75 |
| 1/17/05 | 394 | Employment Develop | Taxes | \$ 104.47 |
| 1/17/05 | 395 | U. S. Bank | Taxes | \$1,001.39 |
| 1/21/05 | 398 | Michael Caropreso | Payroll | \$1,892.47 |
| 1/21/05 | 399 | Joanne Caropreso | Payroll | \$ 205.36 |
| 1/21/05 | 400 | State Farm Bank | Payroll Deduction | \$ 50.00 |
| 2/04/05 | 401 | Michael Caropreso | Payroll | \$ 937.26 |
| 2/04/05 | 402 | State Farm Bank | Payroll | \$ 50.00 |
| 2/04/05 | 403 | Employment Develop | Taxes | \$ 183.84 |
| 2/04/05 | 404 | U.S. Bank | Taxes | \$1,371.32 |
| 2/18/05 | 405 | Michael Caropreso | Payroll | \$1,023.98 |
| 2/18/05 | 406 | State Farm Bank | Payroll Deduction | \$ 50.00 |
| 2/22/05 | 11335 | Dept. Motor Vehicles | Taxes/Licenses | \$ 218.00 |
| 2/22/05 | 11336 | Twain Harte Lumber | Materials | \$ 81.21 |
| 2/22/05 | 11337 | W.H. Breshears | Maintain | \$ 996.66 |
| 2/22/05 | 11338 | PG&E | Utilities | \$ 502.91 |
| 2/22/05 | 11339 | Zaks | Maintain | \$ 130.64 |
| 2/22/05 | 11340 | J.S. West Propane | Propane | \$ 453.96 |
| 2/22/05 | 11341 | Phillip Rainey | Gate Income | \$ 25.00 |
| 2/22/05 | 11342 | Tom Clark | General Maintain | \$ 9.00 |
| 2/22/05 | 11343 | Roger Townsend | Auto Mileage | \$ 100.00 |
| 2/22/05 | 11344 | Phillip Rainey | Health/Safety | \$ 96.88 |
| 2/22/05 | 11345 | Calif. Reforestation | Timber Expense | \$ 650.00 |
| 2/22/05 | 11346 | SBC | Telephone | \$ 19.18 |
| 2/22/05 | 11347 | SBC | Telephone | \$ 35.92 |
| 2/22/05 | 11348 | Eric Carlson | Accounting | \$ 570.00 |
| 2/22/05 | 11349 | A & A Portables | Health/Safety | \$ 73.63 |
| 2/22/05 | 11350 | Waste Management | Garbage | \$1,013.43 |
| 2/22/05 | 11351 | George Reed, Inc. | Maintain Roads | \$ 279.25 |
| Total: | | | | \$15,002.51 |

ODD FELLOWS SIERRA RECREATION ASSOCIATION
Board of Director's Meeting
February 19, 2005

Present were: President Mike Rainwater, Vice President Bob Cloak, Secretary Norrine Coyle, Treasurer Roger Townsend, Members Charles Aston, Tom Clark, Mike Rainey; excused Robert Snell; unexcused Sean Kasper

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Rainwater at 8:30 a.m.

Members before the Board: Pat Monahan and Mike VanGundy.

Correspondence: Letter from Oak Valley Community Bank thanking us for our business; notice of expiration of Randy Tolbert's water distribution certificate; California Drinking Water Program Newsletter; a letter from Tom Clark asking to use the recreation hall and facilities on Sat. and Sun., July 23 and 24. When he gives the necessary insurance, deposit, and rental fee, the request will be considered.

Committee Reports:

Water - Cloak: Water used during the past month was 559,000 gallons. There were no water leaks. By motion (Clark/Rainey, unan) it was agreed to install a fire hydrant near the garbage bin. Bob Cloak has finished the classes and will take the water distribution certification test on April 16.

Roads - Snell: President Rainwater said we need to decide which roads need paving most this summer.

Buildings - Clark: The light on the sand shed has been installed. They will be putting a light by the garbage bin. The heater in the fire house quit working but has been repaired.

Timber - Townsend: There is more Federal money for thinning out and cleaning the forest for fire prevention. He will ask Will Dorrell, our forester, to figure what areas need to be taken care of and how much it will cost us, if anything. We've just had over 1,000 new trees planted in the burn area and on the back side of David. The meadow and lake are the only areas covered by the Williamson Act. A new law, effective January 1, 2005, says that if you have any property covered by the Williamson Act, you have to refile this year, which has been done.

Health & Safety - Rainey: He has noticed several dead trees on private lots in the park. It is the property owners responsibility to get rid of dead trees, and for the protection of the whole park, dead trees should be cut down as soon as possible. Someone recently put ashes in a cardboard box and put them in the garbage bin where they started burning. Mike Rainey will look into getting signs for the lake that remind people that there is no lifeguard on duty. Something needs to be done to improve the area where the gate that lets water into or out of the lake is located. People need to be sure there is nothing blocking the culverts and bar ditches in front of their property.

Equipment - It appears that it would not be a good idea to purchase an old grader for parts. The Caretaker has designed a part for the front of the backhoe that will help in snow removal and picking up pine needles. When we are ready to buy tires for the snow plow, we will look into buying retreads.

Recreation - Aston: We need about 50 pounds of corned beef for the St. Patrick's dinner and he wondered if anyone knew of a place to get it at a good price. The dinner will be on March 19, at 6:00 p.m. at the Lodge Hall.

Finance - Townsend: Total bills were \$15,002.51.. We received \$226.76 including \$16.36 late fees. All assessments and late fees have now been paid. We received \$80 paid in advance toward the 2005-06 assessment. \$130 was paid for gate remotes. Two World Savings C.D.'s came due. We were able to get 2.98%, an annual percentage rate of 3.01%, for a 10 month C.D. By motion (Clark/Rainey, unan) it was agreed to pay the bills.

Old Business: Street signs and other signs need to be coordinated by Mike Rainey and Robert Snell. The 6 two-way radios have been purchased and are ready to use. The CNA insurance premium which was approved for payment at the last meeting has been paid. We will need to talk to Sean Kasper about dredging the lake.

New Business: Glenn Caldwell of Caldwell Insurance Services, the Park's insurance agent, attended the meeting to review the various insurance policies the Park has. He said our Worker's Comp covers employees including part-time temporary employees. The Park has liability insurance on all of its equipment including "non-owned" vehicles (if someone uses a personal vehicle to purchase something needed in the park or conduct some park business), all buildings, and the members of the Board are insured for liability. He would like to know the square footage of and a definition for each of the buildings which Tom Clark will provide. He is going to check on the amount of insurance on the Board. He recommended putting signs at the lake and at the toboggan hill that people use these areas at their own risk. He said the members are supposed to be notified once a year as to what insurance we have.

John Hardin representing the Fire Safety Council reviewed the pine needle and slash grinding operation of last year. He said the new State rules say the needles need to be raked 100 feet away from your cabin or to your lot line. The grinding process will be a lot more expensive this year. We broke even last year.

A new procedure for collecting the assessments was suggested. Effective May 31, 2005, there will be a \$25.00 penalty for any outstanding balance on assessment fees. Fees that are set at the annual meeting each year are due and payable by July 1 of that year. Any amount of outstanding fee that has not been paid by September 10 will be assessed a \$25.00 penalty each month on the 10th of the month until the entire balance due is zero. By motion (Cloak/Clark, unan.) the Rules and Regulations were amended to include this procedure.

A car crashed into the gate. The video tape of the crash got tangled. When the equipment was taken apart, it was found that it hadn't been working at all for several months. The VHS equipment is no longer available, and the digital recorder recommended to fill our needs would cost at least \$650. For about \$1,200, a second camera could be connected to it if we felt the need in the future. By motion (Aston/Townsend, unan.) it was agreed to purchase the digital equipment not to exceed \$1,000.

By motion (Aston/Clark, unan), it was agreed that real estate sales people and title companies need to be informed that as of June 1, there will be a \$100 fee for the transfer or sale of property due to the large amount of work the sales cause the Treasurer. Some groups charge a \$500 transfer fee.

The California Division of Forestry has said we may be able to burn the needles this year up to May 1 without a permit from them. But, they said we needed to contact the County Air Pollution Control Board to see what requirements they have. We have to get a permit from them, and they want small piles that will burn quickly. More information will be obtained.

A question has been raised about who can use the 3 Links camp. By motion (Clark/Aston, unan.) Tom was authorized to have a title search done, not to exceed \$400.00

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m. The next meeting will be March 19, 2005, at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Norrine Coyle, Secretary

Odd Fellows Sierra Recreation Association
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

