

Sierra Recreation Association

February 2006

Contact **by MAIL** at P O Box 116 Long Barn, CA. 95335 **by PHONE** for call back only 209-586-3098

e-mail sierrapark@varvavanis.com. **Web page:** www.varvavanis.com.sp

Welcome new board member, Dan Meade
 St. Patrick's CORNED BEEF DINNER
 MARCH 18TH 6 p.m. Please call or e-mail if you plan to attend so that we can purchase the correct amount of food. The park will provide Corned Beef, cabbage, carrots, bread and coffee & tea. Bring your table service and a salad or dessert to share.

Calendar: Next **Board Meeting:** March 18, 2006 8:30a.m.
 I.O.O.F. Lodge meetings: 6:00 p.m.
Change of meetings. The members of the Lodge voted to hold ONE MEETING A MONTH. 3RD Wednesday ONLY
Followed by Potluck at 6:30 p.m.
 Rebekah Lodge meetings: 1st Weds. meet 12 noon
 3rd Weds. Meet 5:30p.m. Joint Potluck
 If you have any questions for Lodge call Doris or Bill Williams 586-5580

Weather: February has been variable, but mostly lovely sunshine. We received about 11 inches of snow this month but it melted quickly or the cold days kept the roads icy and hazardous. The precipitation was about 5.25" of moisture from rain & snow. This is not official, just what we have tracked at our home. Be prepared for anything when you come to the park. Lots of cars have slid off the road.

Apology:
 Dear "Jo2517", I apologize for offending you by putting the "dumb blonde" joke in last months newsletter. It was meant to bring a smile and not point at you or anyone directly. I believe you will find that Odd Fellows are not racists and we welcome *everyone* to our park. I accept full responsibility for the content of the newsletter. Sincerely, Doris Selman

PINE NEEDLE REMOVAL

Inside you will find a recommendation from a committee established to look into disposing of pine needles for homeowners. The minutes show the approval of this recommendation but the financial and mechanics of completing the plan are still being considered. We do know you will be responsible for delivering the needles (ONLY) to the selected location, there will not be any pick up at your property or from the roads. There is absolutely no disposal of needles in the forest. That just moves fire fuel from one location to another. CONSIDER these factors as we did when you think about the value of this service to you and your neighbors: (1) If we do not complete this plan there will be burning on individual lots. This requires a burn permit from CDF. There are possible restrictions of times and days to burn. Complaints of smoke can stop you from burning. This is a big fire hazard for everyone, even the CDF fails to completely extinguish planned burns and then hundreds of acres go up in flames. (2) Rake and haul your own debris to Sonora at Cal Sierra (at this time the only location available, although there is one toward Jamestown and maybe Twain Harte will reopen a dump site.) The cost of disposal at Cal Sierra is \$5.00 a cubic yard. This would be a small pickup bed loaded level with the sides. Larger pickups would run \$10 and up. You would need to consider travel time and gas consumption when doing comparisons. An estimate for our home would be approximately \$60 dumping fee plus six 38-mile round trips. Cal Sierra is open Tuesday through Saturday. Hours are Tuesday & Friday 8 a. to 5:30 p. and Wed., Thurs. & Sat. 8 am to 4:45 p.m. Cal Sierra does take slash but that adds to volume and weight. (3). Hire a yard person to rake and dispose of your needles: We have been given costs of \$300 - \$500 per lot.

The committee was able to get two bids to remove the needles this year and they are still looking for more. The two bids were Cal Sierra \$10,344.80 and Joe Cover \$12,150.00. There are different factors in these bids that could impact the cost if Twain Harte opens a collection location and reduces the shipping distance. These bids are based on last year's volume of needles and the actual amount will change the cost. *Estimate* of shared expense based on these bids would be \$40 per lot. That is still cheaper, safer and a more convenient disposal of needles than the other options. We would appreciate comments before the March 18th meeting.

Wanted Homeowners Support—As previously requested, consider volunteering as a resource person to help in different areas of running the park, (insurance, legal, finance, construction, electrical, heating, water, etc.) Call & leave a message at 209-586-3098 or e-mail. Address above.

Requests for Gate cards, remotes or names in gate: Call message phone or e-mail and I will make arrangements with you to get them. Remotes are \$40 and cards \$30. Doris.

Present: President Roger Townsend, Treasurer Doris Selman

Members: Mike Van Gundy, Ed Smith and Dan Meade (newly appointed in Executive Session)

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

Members before the board: Del Wallis, Daryl Clark and Larry Vaughn. Presentation of recommendation to provide needle hauling for homeowners. This recommendation is based on the Safety issue of burning needles on individual lots, the difficulties involved to meet the time requirements placed by CDF and Health issues of smoke in the park. It would involve homeowners placing the needles in a central location and the Board hiring a contractor for removal from the Park.

Minutes of the January meeting were approved as mailed. (Motion Smith/Van Gundy)

Correspondence: (1) USDA letter asking to use Wheeler Road for access to a timber harvest adjacent to Hwy 108. This is planned fuel reduction & removal of trees under power lines. (2) Dept. of Health re: surface water algae. (3) Roger Brown, atty. re: money owed from Ins. Co. (4) Notice of timber harvest on Boy Scout property.

Committee Reports:

WATER – Roger—Water usage was 493,500 gals. Mike VanGundy reported on a class he attended for water. He felt it was beneficial and provided more knowledge for board members.

ROADS – Mike has been plowing and sanding as needed. Roger reported that the foot bridge between the lake and East Jordan requires some support reinforcement due to erosion.

BUILDINGS – Motion approved to purchase new refrigerator for rec hall. (VanGundy/Meade) unan. Cost to be under \$700. The old refrigerator has frozen everything in it and is extremely noisy and wasting energy. Ed will purchase.

TIMBER – Townsend- Explained Hwy 108 timber/ fuel reduction harvest and request from USDA for access on Wheeler Rd. Their alternative is to cut roads from the Hwy into the forest and make accessibility for trucks (and other vehicles) to bypass our gate. The notice of timber harvest at the Boy Scout property should not impact us other than some noise & dust near the property. Roger will get current information from our Forester, Will Dorrell regarding any timbering in the Park.

HEALTH & SAFETY- Roger reported that Mike has almost finished speed signs and will be installing them.

Children in some areas of the Park have been using the roads for snow play. Do NOT allow them to do so. Cars can not control braking and turning when the roads are covered with snow and ice. Sledding down the roads compacts the snow and it becomes ice and can not be removed with the snowplow, this leaves our roads dangerous for a longer time.

EQUIPMENT – Van Gundy- The maintenance record keeping is improving.

RECREATION – Dan Meade accepted the position of Recreation Director. He will work with volunteer, Tom Clark to prepare the March 18th St. Patrick's Day dinner.

FINANCE – Selman – Motion to pay the bills (Smith/VanGundy, unan) approved. Announced all assessments are paid. Having some problems collecting the transfer fee and getting deeds that give proof of change of ownership.

OLD BUSINESS – (1) Someone is still putting rugs & materials other than regular household garbage into the dumpster. Do we need to limit dumping times or designated days of the week? Let's look for a way to stop the abuse of this service. (2) The gate off of Isaac to the water tower goes to the Nat'l Forest. We need to close it off to traffic during the winter between November and April to coincide with the Dept. of Forestry. (3) Mike VanGundy is still working to get more bids and information to dredge the Lake. (4) Doris reported on the rules committee. They met and reviewed the changes. Due to the possible changes of needle removal they will not be completed until those decisions are made.

NEW BUSINESS: (1) Motion made & approved (Smith/VanGundy) to allow USDA to use Wheeler Rd. at the gate for access for timber removal during fuel reduction cutting. (2) A request from the Rebekahs to have a bake sale at the St. Patrick's dinner was okayed, but would not stop diners from bringing desserts to share at the dinner for free. (3) A discussion of the needle removal plan was held. We will work to cover costs and/or requirement of payment for this service as it is felt the Health & Safety of the Park is of utmost importance. There is no help from any governmental agencies for this, they have just passed the laws and requirements for needle removal and left the implementation up to the homeowners. Motion passed to further develop the needle removal and financial impact for the park. (VanGundy/Selman)

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m. Next meeting is on 3/18/2006 at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Doris Selman, Acting secretary

Date	Chk. #	Payee	Memo	Amount
2/3/06	11641	Michael Caropreso	Payroll 1/16/06 to 1/29/06	\$ 971.02
2/3/06	11642	State Farm Bank	Payroll deduction	50.00
2/6/06	11643	EDD	Payroll expense	86.20
2/6/06	11644	U.S. Bank	Payroll expense	898.78
2/9/06	11645	Franchise Tax Board	Tax expense	178.00
2/17/06	11646	State Farm Bank	Payroll deduction	50.00
2/17/06	11647	Michael Caropreso	Payroll 1/30/06 to 2/12/06	982.15
2/17/06	11648	Robert Cloak	Payroll for water support	91.55
2/22/06	11649	Doris Selman (CRWA dues)	Maintenance water system	322.35
2/22/06	11650	Joanne Caropreso	Employee spouse health benef.	181.00
2/22/06	11651	Department of Motor Vehicles	Taxes & License	217.00
2/22/06	11652	Postmaster	Member comm./ 3 mo postage	275.00
2/22/06	11653	Mike VanGundy (class)	Maintenance water system	88.11
2/22/06	11654	Waste Management	garbage	1467.76
2/22/06	11655	J. S. West	Utilities/ propane	453.19
2/22/06	11656	Village Mail & Printing	Member comm. Print newsletter	72.93
2/22/06	11657	A & A Portables	Health & Safety	76.68
2/22/06	11658	SBC	Utilities/telephone	60.89
2/22/06	11659	AquaLab / 2 months	Water testing/reg +special tests	1719.00
2/22/06	11660	Zenith Insurance	Workman's comp	577.00
2/22/06	11661	P G & E	Utilities/ electricity	502.65
2/22/06	11662	Eric A Carlson Acctg.	Accounting Service	790.00
2/23/06	11663	Algeo's Appliance	New refrigerator/ equip.	634.15
			TOTAL	\$10,745.41

PINE NEEDLE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Board is urged to follow the recommendations listed below concerning the removal of pine needles for 2006 and future years:

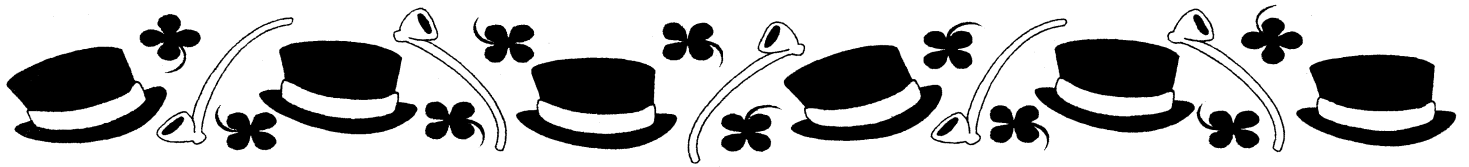
1. Provide a common area for Park residents to dump their pine needles
2. The common area should be the old burn area – this area will require preparation prior to dumping
3. Lot owners discouraged from burning on their property due to the danger of a fire in the Park
4. Estimated cost for removal \$10,500 – based on the removal of 800 cubic yards which is about 10% more than the amount removed in 2005
5. See attached for various estimates on cost
6. The committee strongly recommends that the Board make a decision and notify all property owners no later than the middle of March.

Respectfully submitted,

Del Wallis
Daryl Clark
Mike Van Gundy
Larry Vaughn
Fred Coleman

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

Odd Fellows Sierra Recreation Association
P O Box 116
Long Barn, CA. 95355
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



May you always have Love to share, Health to spare and Friends that care.

St. Patrick's Dinner

March 18th. 6 p.m.

Call if you can attend, see inside

Pine Needle Disposal

READ IMPORTANT

proposals inside!