

Sierra Recreation Association

**IMPORTANT NEWS**

Please collect and deposit your pine needles in the large field located past the lake on Jordan Way West. Drop off only pine needles, no green slash or other wood products. We will NOT pick up anymore needles that have been placed along side the road.

**President's Corner**

The Board is very sorry for any inconvenience that might occur resulting from last month's newsletter indicating that we would pick up pine needles throughout the Park and the notice at the top of this page indicating we will not pick up your needles. The manpower needed to collect all the pine needles from the side of the road will be a task that we cannot fulfill. The caretaker and several volunteers collected pine needles from several residences, transported them to the burn area, and burned them. The time required to complete this job took seven hours. It would take us six months to complete the needle collection and burn them. Unfortunately, our burn permit is only good until May 1st or weather permits, we might be able to obtain a variance permit that would allow an extension of the burn permit. The Board understands that transporting your own pine needles to the burn area prior to May 1st is going to require some immediate response on your part but it is necessary and will be cost effective if you complete your cleaning before May 1st. If you wait until after May 1st to do your pine needle clean up, it is going to be an expensive endeavor. The cost to drop off your pine needles in Twain Harte will be twenty-five dollars per load. I have a break down on the costs to grind the pine needles and the end result would be an increase in assessment for each homeowner next year. The final figure would be almost an eleven thousand dollar debt that we, the homeowners, would have to incur in next year's assessment. The cost to burn the needles is free and with your assistance; we feel we can complete this project before May 1st with no additional costs to you the homeowner. We ask that you clean your lot as soon as possible and transport the needles to the specified area in order that we can burn them immediately. I know the weather has not cooperated with us lately, but it should start warming up and make it possible for you to clean your lot. **DON'T WAIT - CLEAN YOUR LOT NOW !!!!!!!!!!!**

On a more pleasant note, for those of you who could not join us for the St. Patrick's Dinner, you missed a wonderful time and some excellent corn beef and cabbage. There was an enormous amount of food and many thanks to Chuck Aston and Tom Clark for their outstanding cooking and delightful evening. Even though it snowed on us, we had between sixty and seventy homeowners at the dinner. Again, thanks to Tom Clark and Chuck Aston for a terrific job.

The Board was considering dredging the lake this year in order to increase the depth as well as improve the cleanliness of the lake. Unfortunately, when the Board was finally able to contact a contractor who could dredge the lake; it was learned that a Fish and Game permit is required before any work could be initiated. If a contractor starts any work on our lake without the permit, it would result in a ten thousand dollar fine and imprisonment. I have secured the application for the permit and the required information needed to complete this permit is being obtained. In the mean time, I have contacted Will Dorrell, our forest consultant, and he will provide us with a crew of workers that will clean the banks and remove all the vegetation. This will begin as soon as the lake starts to dry out. Once the clean up is complete, we will then refill the lake and start planning for the Father's Day fishing derby. We are still looking for anyone who wants to match Mike Ford's and my donation to the fishing derby. We are each donating \$100.00, anyone want to match one of our donations? FOR A GOOD CAUSE!!!

The Board was presented with a letter of resignation from Robert Snell indicating that he would not be running for re-election once his term expires this year. This was unexpected; however, Mr. Snell had some very good reasons and his plans for the future are going to keep him very busy. We wish him the best and want to thank him for his dedication and support to the Park and Board of Directors. Mr. Snell performed his duties in a very professional manner and was an individual who could always be counted on when a task needed to be completed. Robert, good luck and we hope to see you around the park once in awhile. The Board was also notified that Sean Casper would be resigning due to an increase in his personal business. The Board regrets hearing that Sean will be resigning; however, an increase in business is always a good sign for a contractor. We wish him the best and thank him for his performance while serving on the Board of Directors. With these two Board members leaving, there will be four openings on the Board this year. Three of the positions will be three year terms and the fourth position will be the position held by Sean Casper that expires at the end of May 06. Mr. Mike Rainey who has been filling Greg Brown's position for the last six months indicated that he would not be seeking re-election to the Board either. Tom Clark's term expires this year; however, he has expressed a desire to run for re-election. If you are interested in running for one of the positions on the Board, please contact any of the Board members and inform them that you would like to be placed on the ballot. Nominations will be accepted at the annual meeting also.

The annual meeting will be held on Sunday, May 29th, 2005. The agenda will be mailed out with next month's newsletter. Until next month, clean those lots and bring us your old, tired, ugly pine needles.

Michael Rainwater
President

Caretaker's Corner

Well the month of February was an interesting one for Mike Caropreso, our caretaker. He started with plowing snow, then picking up pine needles, then back to plowing snow. He's probably wondering what's next! In between those two time consuming jobs, Mike was able to design, manufacture, and attach a new part onto the backhoe that enables him to clear away the snow berms along side our roadways. After several test runs, Mike made a few modifications and is now ready for use. Fantastic job, Mike! When the weather did cooperate, Mike was able to flush the fire hydrants and begin work on redesigning our Park sign and directory. Mike called for the dumpster to be picked up and made contact with several of the homeowners regarding vehicles parked illegally or driven in areas that are prohibited by the Park rules. There was also another vehicle that Mike was unable to locate that had been tearing up portions of our beach and meadow area. We would like to contact the owner of this vehicle, license number 3UUU739, a Chevy Suburban and express to him or her that we will not tolerate such behavior. If anyone knows the identity of this owner, please contact Mike Caropreso or a Board member. The garbage cans in the park were dumped and picnic tables relocated. The drain valve at the lake has become a potential dangerous hazard and Mike designed and is building a small enclosure that will prevent anyone from being injured. Collected pine needles with Mike Rainey and Arlan Santos and after collecting the needles, transported them to the burn area and burned them. Mike cleaned the street in front of Zolbal's residence. It has been a busy month for our caretaker but as usual, the Park looks terrific with improvements being made everyday. In addition, Mike had to take care of Jo Jo for several days due to the fact that she had to have surgery. Thank goodness, everything turned out ok and JoJo is home and doing fine. Not only does Mike do a fantastic job for us taking care of the Park, but I understand he does a great job being a house husband also. Keep up the great work Mike and thanks for all your hard work.

Dogwood Rebekah Lodge

The Dogwood Rebekah's will hold their next meeting on April 20th, 2005 at 5:30 P.M.

Sierra Park Lodge #376

Lodge meetings held the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:00 P.M.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Payment</u>
2/28/05	409	Employment Develop	Taxes/Payroll	\$ 88.36
2/28/05	410	US Bank - Taxes	Payroll	\$893.60
3/04/05	407	Michael Caropreso	Payroll	\$937.26
3/04/05	408	State Farm Bank	Payroll Deduction	\$ 50.00
3/14/05	11352	Barry Dugan Electric	Maintain	\$547.14
3/18/05	411	Michael Caropreso	Payroll	\$937.26
3/18/05	412	State Farm Bank	Payroll Deduction	\$ 50.00
3/19/05	11353	J.S. West Propane	Propane	\$693.45
3/19/05	11354	SBC	Phone	\$ 54.96
3/19/05	11355	W. H. Breshears	Fuel	\$692.74
3/19/05	11356	MidState Rentals	Maintain Bldg.	\$ 83.52
3/19/05	11357	Eric Carlson	Accounting	\$480.00
3/19/05	11358	Waste Management	Garbage	\$691.77
3/19/05	11359	Zenith Insurance	Insurance	\$908.00
3/19/05	11360	PG & E	Utilities	\$542.26
3/19/05	11361	Twain Harte Lumber	Maintain	\$122.63
3/19/05	11362	Zaks	Maintain	\$ 34.57
3/19/05	11363	Frank Hodges	Taxes – Property	\$1,126.54
3/19/05	11364	A & A Portables	Health/Safety	\$ 73.63
3/19/05	11365	Modesto Welding	Supplies/Shop	\$220.19
3/19/05	11366	Mike Caropreso	Office Supplies	\$ 13.80
3/19/05	11367	Mike Caropreso	Medical Benefits	\$362.00
3/19/05	11368	Mike Rainwater	Needles Assess.	\$ 48.18
3/19/05	11369	Steve Lavagnino	Maintain Bldg.	\$218.21
3/19/05	11370	Kellogg's Supply	Needles Assess.	\$123.32
3/19/05	11371	Tom Clark	Recreation	\$211.40
3/19/05	11372	Aqua Lab	Maintain	\$546.00
3/19/05	11373	Roger Townsend	Office/Mileage	\$114.80

ODD FELLOWS SIERRA RECREATION ASSOCIATION

Board of Director's Meeting

March 19, 2005

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

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

Members before the Board: Bryan Hofmann with a letter and insurance certificate requesting use of the park and hall for a family reunion on June 24 to 26, (this had previously been approved); De Wayne Lien asked if he could rake his pine needles to the construction yard. He was told we would be burning this year and everybody needs to haul the needles to the burn area; and Mike VanGundy.

Correspondence: Test results from Aqua Lab stating that the nitrate level on all wells is O.K.; letter from James Schulke, Ph.D., with a mailing address correction and a question about how to arrange to get his driveway paved when road work is being done in the park. We don't know yet who we will be able to get to do the road work, but when we do, information will be included in the newsletter.

Committee Reports:

Water - Cloak: Water used during the past month was 440,000 gallons. There were no breaks in any water lines.

Roads - Snell: No report at this time.

Buildings - Clark: All buildings in good condition. Numbers have been assigned to the buildings so that we and the insurance agent will know which building we're talking about. The insurance agent recommends that the fire insurance be increased on all of the buildings. The current premium is \$2,807 and would go to \$4,740 for the increased value of the buildings. Personal property should be at least \$25,000. Personal property consists of such things as computers, tables and chairs in the hall, equipment in each of the other buildings. The agent's recommendation is that the limits be doubled on the contents of the lodge hall and the caretaker's cabin. By motion (Clark/Townsend, unan.), it was agreed that the limits should be increased to \$240,000, for the hall, \$167,000 for the caretaker's cabin, \$40,000 for the fire house, and increase contents to \$30,000. All other buildings will remain at current levels. Tom Clark will check on whether the main gate is included in our insurance. An inventory of all personal property needs to be taken. By motion (Clark/Rainey, unan.) it was agreed to remove the west footbridge because it has become dangerous. The pipe sticking up in the lake has been taken care of. We will have PG&E remove 2 meter boxes which are not needed.

Timber - Townsend: No report.

Health & Safety - Rainey: No report.

Equipment - Rainwater: Everything is working.

Recreation - Aston: We will have our St. Patrick's Day dinner this evening. We need to check with the Dept. of Fish and Game about the permit to get fish for the June fishing derby. Robert Snell will take care of it.

Finance - Townsend: Total bills were \$10,865.59. We received \$80.00 for an assessment paid in advance for 2005-06. We received \$110 for gate cards. We paid \$68.91 for propane. By motion (Snell/Clark, unan) it was agreed to pay the bills.

Old Business: Robert Snell said he had checked with Cal Traffic and can get signs for the lake and the gate for \$24.00 each. Reflectorized street name signs are \$18.50, \$8.50 additional for two signs at intersections and \$8.25 for caps. He could also get 3 of the triangular signs for the back of our equipment. By motion (Clark/Rainey, unan), the sign purchase was approved.

Mike Rainwater said he had found 2 companies that do dredging. Only Simunacci returned his call and said that he couldn't dredge the lake until we have a permit from the State Dept. of Fish and Game. The fine for doing the work without the permit is ten thousand dollars. The application for the permit is about 19 pages, and takes 2-3 months to get approved. So, we will not be able to dredge the lake this year.

We have learned that we can burn in the area where the needle grinder was last year, but May 1 is the last day we can burn unless it continues to rain, snow, etc., and the deadline is extended. So, property owners are asked not to place your needles at the edge of the road, but to haul them to the burn area by April 20.

A video recorder has been installed at the gate and is working very well. It just needs to be checked once in a while. If someone hits the gate, a VCR is hooked to the recorder and a video tape made of the picture on the hard drive of the recorder, which will plainly show the car and license plate. The video tape is then taken to the insurance agent or to a law enforcement agency.

New Business: Fred and Ann Coleman's daughter died recently. They have asked that, if anyone wishes to make a donation in her memory, a fund in the name of Elizabeth Ann (Libbie) Coleman has been set up at U. C. Davis, Health Science Advancement for Breast Cancer Research, 2315 Stockton Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95817.

There are 3 terms expiring the end of May and one incumbent is planning to run for another term. Anyone wishing to run for a position on the Board should let the President or a Board member know so that your name can be included in the proxy statement that is a part of the notice of the annual meeting. Nominations can be made at the meeting. Board members must be property owners and a member of a lodge.

There was a discussion about whether or not to allow driveways and leach lines on park property. It was decided that each situation would be looked at, when a property owner wishes to use park property, and a determination made on a case by case basis.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m. The next meeting will be April 16, 2005, at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Norraine Coyle, Secretary

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the Tomb of the Unknowns and why?
21 steps. It alludes to the twenty-one gun salute, which is the highest honor given any military or foreign dignitary.

How long does he hesitate after his about face to begin his return walk and why?
21 seconds for the same reason as answer number 1.

Why are his gloves wet?
His gloves are moistened to prevent his losing his grip on the rifle.

Does he carry his rifle on the same shoulder all the time and if not, why not?
He carries the rifle on the shoulder away from the tomb. After his march across the path, he executes an about face and moves the rifle to the outside shoulder.

How often are the guards changed?
Guards are changed every thirty minutes, twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year.

What are the physical traits of the guard limited to?
For a person to apply for guard duty at the tomb, he must be between 5'10" and 6'2" tall and his waist size cannot exceed 30". You must commit 2 years of life to guard the tomb, live in a barracks under the tomb, and cannot drink any alcohol on or off duty for the rest of their lives. They cannot swear in public for the rest of their lives and cannot disgrace the uniform (fighting) or the tomb in any way. After two years, the guard is given a wreath pin that is worn on their lapel signifying they served as guard of the tomb. There are only 400 presently worn. The guard must obey these rules for the rest of their lives or give up the wreath pin. Shoes are specially made with very thick soles and include metal heel plates that extend to the top of the shoe in order to make the loud click as they come to a halt. there are no wrinkles, folds or lint on the uniform. First six months of duty a guard cannot talk to anyone, nor watch TV. All off duty time is spent studying the 175 notable people laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. A guard must memorize who they are and where they are interred. Every guard spends five hours a day getting his uniforms ready for guard duty.

In 2003 as Hurricane Isabelle was approaching Washington, DC., our U.S. Senate/House took two days off with anticipation of the storm. On the ABC evening news, it was reported that because of the dangers from the hurricane, the military members assigned the duty of guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier were given permission to suspend the assignment. They respectfully declined the offer, "No way, Sir!" Soaked to the skin, marching in the pelting rain of a tropical storm, they said that guarding the Tomb was not just an assignment, it was the highest honor that can be afforded to a serviceperson. The tomb has been patrolled continuously, 24/7, since 1930.

Odd Fellows Sierra Recreation Association
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