



SIERRA RECREATION ASSOCIATION

ODD FELLOWS —LONG BARN, CALIFORNIA, USA

MAY 2008

2007-2008

◀ Outgoing Directors ▶

- President ➤ Mike Rainwater
- Vice Pres. ➤ Steve Wallace
- Secretary ➤ Sue Collie
- Treasurer ➤ Mike Rainwater
- Hlth/Safety ➤ Dorris Selman
- Recreation ➤ Jesse Worshan
- Water ➤ Charles Varvayanis
- Timber ➤ Charles Varvayanis
- Gate ➤ Charles Varvayanis
- Roads ➤ Steve Wallace
- Equipment ➤ Alan Orth
- Bldgs/Rec. ➤ Mike Ford
- Member ➤ Clark Kellog

2008-2009

◀ Incoming Directors ▶

- President ➤ Jesse Worshan
- Vice Pres. ➤ Steve Wallace
- Secretary ➤ Andrea Miller
- Treasurer ➤ Paul Emery
- Gate ➤ Charles Varvayanis
- Safety ➤ Mike Rainwater
- Recreation ➤ Sue Collie
- Water ➤ Charles Varvayanis
- Timber ➤ Charles Varvayanis
- Timber ➤ Jesse Worshan
- Roads ➤ Steve Wallace
- Equipment ➤ Alan Orth
- Buildings ➤ Mike Ford
- Member ➤ Mike Rainwater

◀ Coming Events ▶

- **Fishing Derby**
Registration—June 13 evening
June 14 @ 7:00 a.m.
Derby—June 14 8:00 a.m.
- **Assessment Vote**
September 1, 2008

Park Information

- Phone: (209) 586-3098
- Email: sierrapark@sierrapark.org
- Website: www.varvayanis.com/sp

Notes From The Board

SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT VOTE

September 1, 2008

9:00 a.m.

During discussion of snow removal equipment at the 2008 Annual Meeting, the need to discontinue operation and dispose of our existing equipment, due to safety and maintenance issues, and to replace it with appropriate new, or at least newer, equipment was thoroughly discussed and generally agreed to. During the first half of the meeting the decision was made to the purchase through loans. In the second half of the meeting, however, concerns arose about depleting the Timber Fund, from which loans would have to be made, and thereby decreasing our reserves for emergencies.

The discussion moved on to whether it might not make more sense to fund the purchase through a Special Assessment rather than to use funds from the Timber Reserve Fund in order to retain the reserve funds for emergency purposes. Such a Special Assessment would be a one time payment, estimated at \$200.00 per lot.

Although there was a quorum of voting members present at the time this issue arose and the discussion moved toward the Special Assessment concept, it was also recognized that many people left after the first half of the meeting. The remaining group therefore decided rather than rely on the fact of a quorum, they would not vote on the issue, but would, instead, take some time to research the nature and cost of replacement equipment, and present the findings to a Special Meeting of Homeowners, at which everyone would have a chance to vote on both the purchase and the use of Special Assessment funds to accomplish it, rather than taking a Timber Reserve Fund loan to finance it.

We will, therefore, have a Special General Meeting of Homeowners on **Sunday, September 1**, which is the Labor Day weekend. This meeting will be held in the Lodge beginning at 9:00 a.m. and will be devoted solely to the issue of the Special Assessment proposal.



Did You Know?

California State law regarding cell phone usage while driving is changing effective July 1, 2008. We will no longer be able to drive while using a cell phone unless we are using a hands-free device such as an earpiece, headset, or blue tooth speaker set for the car stereo—so start planning your purchase now if you don't already own the necessary technology. Wouldn't want to see any of you get a ticket!

***** For those of you who would like to receive your Newsletters more promptly and directly, and to save the money we are now spending on postage, please provide an e-mail address to the Sierra Park email address listed to the left. Remember, every Newsletter that we have to mail costs the Association \$.42, and with over 250 lot owners who do not receive it by e-mail we spend \$102.00 each month to be sure you are kept informed. Your help in reducing this cost would be greatly appreciated.**

BOARD MINUTES FOR MAY 17, 2008

Board of Directors Meeting ~ May 17, 2008

The regular meeting was called to order at 8:45 a.m. by President Rainwater. The invocation was given by Al Orth. Roll Call was taken and all members were in attendance. Pres. Rainwater, VP. Wallace, Secretary, Collie, Members, Ford, Kellogg, Selman, Orth, Varvayanis, & Worsham.

Homeowners present: Andrea Miller & Paul Emery

Correspondence: 1. Fishing derby donation from Danny & Donna Vierra. 2. Notification of Timber Harvest for the Williams family property next to Sierra Park. 3. Note for change of address from D. M. McRitchie. 4. E-mail from Paul Emery regarding executive sessions. 5. Letter from Dept. of Forestry & Fire Protection re: timber operations (given to Charles) 6. Notice of class action re: Flahaven vs. State Compensation Insurance Fund.

Approval of minutes from previous meeting. Motion to approve by Varvayanis/Kellogg (unan)
Secretary Sue Collie was excused from the meeting at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Water: Varvayanis reported 1,099,300 gals used for the month. A small leak in well 5 will be repaired by Mike Caropresso.

Roads: Wallace reported some trees are being removed and stumps ground for improved road width to facilitate snow plowing. Plans are still on-going for road work this summer.

Buildings: Ford reported no action on buildings this month.

Equipment: Orth reported maintenance work is continuing on the snowplow. He suggested changing the type of sand used for roads next winter as the currently used product caused problems during the wet weather. Research will be done to identify the best type of sand for the roads and to get a better value for the Park.

Timber: Varvayanis reported our timber operation was completed. Ace Tree Service did miscellaneous tree work in the park. The timber harvest was more successful than expected as the price of timber was up slightly and more downed or dying trees were cut. We may receive up to \$57,000 for the harvest. The 100% grant for timber clean-up was not received for this year but Will Dorrell will file for a 75% grant if we request that he do so.

Health & Safety: Selman requested that downed street signs be replaced for safety and to aid emergency vehicles. She also discussed the recent nearby fires and the use of our lake for water by helicopters filling water buckets. Everyone should stay back from the lake when the helicopters are scooping the water. The pilot must concentrate on his job and not sightseers. We also discussed the fire safety regulations of 30ft and 100ft. Motion made by Selman to give permission to property owners to do normal pine needle/slash fire suppression clean-up on adjacent OFSRA property to meet their 100 ft CDF requirements. (MSP).

Recreation: Worsham advised the board that the permits for the Fishing Derby have been paid for and the trout farm has been notified of need for fish. They will determine how many fish can be planted based on the size of our lake. He needs volunteers to help at the lake, the lunch, registration Friday night & Saturday morning and also for the raffle and prizes. Mike Ford will be in charge of the lake activities. Selman recommended reviewing the prizes currently available for the "kids" and to give a \$500 check from the derby donations for purchase of additional prizes to Mike Ford so that he does not have to pay out of pocket and all receipts can be submitted to substantiate the expense.

Finance: Rainwater advised the bills for this month are \$26,931.58 plus payroll expenses. Motion to approve payments by Wallace, second by Worsham. Motion was unanimously passed. Rainwater deposited \$193.39 from gate income and Fishing Derby donations. We have some funds that have not been distributed to reserves as yet but we are still in a good financial position to begin the new calendar year, although we did overspend our current budget by about \$400.00.

Old Business:

1. Four assessments have not paid; three are late and one is in escrow. The one in escrow is to be paid from that escrow when it closes.

2. The issue of the gate house, camera and recorder was tabled to be purchased in new budget, but the need for it is strong since we have people coming into the park and dumping needles illegally. Proof of this on camera would be strong evidence. Mike Ford made a motion to have Charles get the necessary camera and equipment to establish security at the gate, not to exceed \$2000, as soon as possible. Selman seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. The closing date for the pine needle dump was determined to be June 16th. This is the Monday after the fishing derby.

BOARD MINUTES FOR MAY 17, 2008

4. There was a follow-up discussion regarding the county visit regarding and discussion was had as to What it is asking us to do with regarding to the Williamson Act status of the meadow, pond, and recreation area. Andrea Miller offered to have an attorney in her office review the papers and provide an opinion. If need be, Charles said he would ask Will Dorrell to review the situation from his area of experience.

5. Stump removal on Jonathan was discussed under roads. These trees were on Park property and removed for snow plowing safety.

6. Fire extinguishers. Wallace reported that 9 existing extinguishers were removed from service in the Park as they were either not up to standard or too old. Motion by Selman and second by Worsham to replace and clearly identify locations as soon as possible was passed unanimously.

New Business:

1. A property owner ask for a dead tree at Miriam/Esther to be removed. It was on their private property so they will be advised to have it removed at their expense or through contact with P. G. & E to see if their lines are threatened in which case they may remove it.

2. General meeting ballots: Doris advised we have enough. She will ask Clare and Ed Smith to help register attendees and she will help until the meeting begins.

3. Charles advised we are having intermittent problems with the exit gate. He will work with the gate company to locate the trouble. He also discussed replacing gate remotes for free and the board concurred that the property owner is responsible for protecting the remotes from damage and they pay for replacement.

4. Mike Rainwater gave more information on the abuse of some contractors hired for cleaning lots in the Park bringing needles and slash from outside the Park to dump here. He and others have observed several pick-ups and trailers bringing the refuse into the Park. He spoke to one contractor, Gary Maris, and advised him not to dump the needles, but it appeared the contractor did so anyway. Motion by Kellogg to send a bill for \$500.00 and remove the use of the offending contractor's entry card at the gate until the bill is paid. The motion was seconded by Worsham and passed unanimously. Charles will make Gary Maris' card inactive and a bill will be sent.

Having no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted, *Doris Selman* (for Sue Collie, Secretary)

10:43 AM

ODD FELLOWS SIERRA RECREATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

05/21/08

Account QuickReport

Accrual Basis

As of May 21, 2008

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Split	Amount	Balance	
134 - Oak Valley Bank Checking							7,136.89	
Paycheck	4/18/2008	671	Caropreso, Michael W.		-SPLIT-	-856.35	6,280.54	
Paycheck	4/18/2008	672	Cloak, Robert B.		-SPLIT-	-91.55	6,188.99	
Liability Check	4/28/2008	686	EDD	074-1658-9	-SPLIT-	-21.00	6,167.99	
Liability Check	4/30/2008	688	State- Farm Bank		185 · Payroll De...	-50.00	6,117.99	
Paycheck	5/2/2008	687	Caropreso, Michael W.		-SPLIT-	-856.36	5,261.63	
Liability Check	5/6/2008	689	EDD	074-1658-9	-SPLIT-	-69.18	5,192.45	
Liability Check	5/6/2008	690	Oak Valley Bank	94-1181950	-SPLIT-	-825.12	4,367.33	
Liability Check	5/13/2008	692	State- Farm Bank		185 · Payroll De	-50.00	4,317.33	
Paycheck	5/16/2008	691	Caropreso, Michael W.		-SPLIT-	-856.35	3,460.98	
Check	5/21/2008	693	A & A Portables Inc		740 · Health &	-76.66	3,384.30	
Check	5/21/2008	694	AT&T		-SPLIT-	-94.52	3,289.78	
Check	5/21/2008	695	Ambrosia's Chimney		772 · Maintain ...	-80.00	3,209.78	
Check	5/21/2008	696	Angels Pest Control		772 · Maintain ...	-130.00	3,079.78	
Check	5/21/2008	697	Blue Shield Of Califor...		728 · Employee...	-460.00	2,619.78	
Check	5/21/2008	698	Dept. of Motor Vehicles		786 · Taxes an...	-155.00	2,464.78	
Check	5/21/2008	699	Eric A. Carlson Acco...		756 · Accountin...	-705.74	1,759.04	
Check	5/21/2008	700	Finigan, Brian		787 · Timber Ex...	-300.00	1,459.04	
Check	5/21/2008	701	Ford, Mike		731 · Fish Derby	-500.00	959.04	
Check	5/21/2008	702	General Plumbing Su...		773 · Maintain ...	-103.97	855.07	
Check	5/21/2008	703	Gienn S. Caldwell Ins...	CPS0842937	744 · Insurance	-21,190.60	-20,335.53	
Check	5/21/2008	704	J. S. West	260951	792 · Utilities	-173.54	-20,509.07	
Check	5/21/2008	705	Mike's Mowers		773 · Maintain ...	-111.92	-20,620.99	
Check	5/21/2008	706	PG&E		792 · Utilities	-747.73	-21,368.72	
Check	5/21/2008	707	Pyro Corp.		773 · Maintain ...	-34.00	-21,402.72	
Check	5/21/2008	708	Rainwater, Michael		787 · Outside S...	-400.00	-21,802.72	
Check	5/21/2008	709	Sierra Instant Printing		758 · Member ...	-224.34	-22,027.06	
Check	5/21/2008	710	Twain Harte Lumber ...	63098	773 · Maintain ...	-249.41	-22,276.47	
Check	5/21/2008	711	Postmaster		758 · Member ...	-175.00	-22,451.47	
Check	5/21/2008	712	Valley Entry Systems	10218	737 · Gate Exp...	-150.00	-22,601.47	
Check	5/21/2008	713	Charles P. Varvayanis		-SPLIT-	-39.30	-22,640.77	
Check	5/21/2008	714	Wallace, Steve		-SPLIT-	-274.52	-22,915.29	
Check	5/21/2008	715	Waste Management ...		736 · Garbage	-850.85	-23,766.14	
Check	5/21/2008	1047	Oak Valley Bank	transfer	133 · Oak Valle...	30,000.00	6,233.86	
Total 134 - Oak Valley Bank Checking							-903.03	6,233.86
TOTAL							-903.03	6,233.86

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES ~ MAY 25, 2008

ODD FELLOWS SIERRA RECREATION ASSOCIATION ODD FELLOWS SIERRA HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES MAY 25, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by President Mike Rainwater. "Welcome to the 60th OFSRA annual meeting and the 22nd OFSHA annual meeting. We will be conducting the Homeowner's Association and Recreation Association meetings concurrently." Mike Rainwater led the Pledge of Allegiance. The invocation was offered by Al Orth. Board members present: Mike Rainwater, president and treasurer; Steve Wallace, vice-president; Sue Collie, secretary; Doris Selman; Jesse Worshan; Alan Orth; Mike Ford; Charles Varvayanis; Clark Kellogg was absent and excused as he is at his daughter's wedding.

Members before the board in person or via proxy: 53 OFSRA members/homeowners, and 25 homeowners.

Last year's annual meeting minutes: Motion by Ron Hawke, 2nd by Chuck Aston to wave the reading of last year's meeting and approve as mailed. Vote: unanimous.

Correspondence:

Recognition: Thank you Ed and Clare Smith for over 30 years of service to the park and especially for doing registration at the annual meetings.

There was a bake sale and raffle held during the meeting by the Dogwood Rebekah Lodge as a fundraiser for benches in the park. Thank you in advance for your support. Thank you Sue Reynolds and the ladies. The bake sale realized over \$500 and the raffle \$300. The Rebekah's plan to use the funds to acquire and install benches in the playground area.

Two items of correspondence will be shared under Timber.

Committee Reports:

Water – Charles Varvayanis: Two loops were connected back to the system. We had some small water breaks but nothing major. During the freeze we were only able to get 2 of the 3 mandatory samples so we were cited. You will see the notice in 2007 consumer confidence report, which will be in the June newsletter. Overall the water system is safe and sound.

Roads – Steve Wallace: George Reed Co. gave us a bid of \$1.75 a sq. ft. but Steve was able to renegotiate for \$1.45 so we were able to do 30-35% of the 5 year plan. We did not do maintenance of roads this year but will next year. This year's work would be at \$1.95. If we did all the remaining work of the 5 year plan this coming year it would only be \$1.38, a large markdown. It would cost an estimated \$165,000 to do it all. Projected cost for Wheeler Rd, which would need to be redone sometime around 2013, is estimated at \$226,000. Slurry and fog seal is needed every other year on all roads. Questions and comments were offered by Chuck Aston, Bob Manning, James Lenhardt, Pam Vieira, Susan Fobelli, Nelson Fialho, Larry Adams, and Alan Crockett.

Buildings – Mike Ford: Sand shed and ramp for pine needle removal needed for next year at an estimated cost of \$30,000. We need volunteers to help with work. (Also need help with adult prizes for the fishing derby.) There are other projects that need to be addressed including some Lodge repair. All buildings have been cleaned and organized. Questions and comments offered by Mark Bradley, Chuck Aston, James Lenhardt, Susan Fobelli, Ben Scauzzo, Daryl Clark, Deanna Mooney, Ed Smith and Wanda Lenhardt.

Timber – Charles Varvayanis: Last year's salvage harvest was held off until this spring because of low timber prices and scheduling conflicts. The yield is expected to be higher than \$50,000. It has been recommended that we do not timber this coming year. Sue Collie shared 2 pieces of correspondence: Letter from Alice Markham about the debris left from logging and pictures from Mr. and Mrs. Steve Fistolera showing the same. Charles explained that the clean-up is not complete and the harvesters will be coming back to finish in the next two weeks. Also still looking into grant for free or at 75% cost for further clean-up. Questions and comments were offered by Fred Coleman, Larry Adams, Mike Ford, and Roger Townsend.

Recreation – Jesse Worshan: Thank you to Tom Clark for all he did over the years. He is missed. Fishing derby is coming and we need help, please sign up. Yvonne Peter suggested that people might consider donating money for prizes.

Health & Safety – Doris Selman: Please be careful of fires by raking your pine needles. The helicopters have used water from our lake 3 times within this year to fight fires. You must stay way back from the lake when they are using it. Doris recommended that all residents acquire a scanner so they can hear contacts and warnings regarding fires. Children should not be unattended at the Lake when these activities are going on. Questions and comments were offered by Larry Adams, Ann Coleman, who mentioned danger of coyotes, and Doris, who reminded us to also be careful of mountain lions.

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES ~ MAY 25, 2008

Equipment – Al Orth: Minor and major jobs were done this year. Repairs are needed on the snow plow truck and we have an estimate of \$5000 for the necessary work. The plow needs repairs as well. The snow removal equipment to be replaced. Backhoe needs to be transported to Stockton or Modesto for repairs. We need to replace tools and will do so on an “as needed” basis and will not mix personal tools with park tools in the future. Questions and comments were offered by Del Wallis, Fred Coleman, Mark Bradley, Charles Varvayanis, James Lenhardt, Susan Fobelli, Fred Coleman, Daryl Clark, and Julie Wallin. Linda Clark wants to donate kitchen pots in honor of Tom. Thank you Linda and Tom.

Gate – Charles Varvayanis: In Oct 2007, and also in 1998, there were lightning strikes at the gate. Lots of components were lost in the 2007 strike. Insurance paid for a small part of the loss while PGE said they were not responsible. Our portion of the necessary repair work was over \$10,000. This expenditure replaced openers and the card reader but we still need to replace VCR and camera. Questions and comments were offered by: Mark Bradley, Terry Ingraham, Chuck Aston, and Roger Townsend.

BREAK

A petition concerning Sugar Pine-Long Barn Rd. access was passed around for signatures.

Finance – Mike Rainwater: We ended the year \$5,039 in the hole. But if you consider that 3 homeowners have not paid assessments yet and the change in the medical benefits cafeteria plan for our employees, then we are over budget by only \$400. We are moving our varied CDs and money market accounts to one location to make it easy for the treasurer to monitor. Del Wallis asked where the single location for funds was and Mike responded that it was being held by a Wells Fargo investment broker.

Old Business:

Questions about foot bridges were discussed. Terry Ingraham:

Discussion: “Could assessments be reduced in future years? Mike Rainwater: “Yes, but not likely unless there is a huge change in the economy.” Daryl Clark: “Understand price increase after having some trees cut on his property.” Chuck Aston: “We had a big jump last year so what is this year’s for?” Mike R.: “Last year’s increase of \$175 was for roads; this year’s increase is to run the park.” Roger Townsend: “Wheeler won’t need to be done until around 2013, so when again after that?” Steve answered: “Not for another 12 to 15 years. But we will need to seal every other year.” Doris: “Until last year the Timber fund paid for all roads. Now all homeowners need to put in so we can keep up maintenance on all equipment needed to maintain them.” Mike F. “The beauty of the park is worth the expense and we need everyone’s help.”

Fred Coleman made a motion to accept proposed 2008-2009 annual budget and assessment increase. 2nd by Ron Hawke.

Discussion: Andrew Faulkner: “How can we borrow from Odd Fellows when there is no longer a Lodge?” Mike R: “Lodge and OFSRA is not the same thing. Timber is owned by 92 Odd Fellow/Rebekah members. They control the timber land and assets.” Deanna Mooney: “Why are we not using the timber money for roads?” Charles: “Not enough is harvesting being done to cover the cost of the roads.” Mark Bradley: “Timber fund was set up years ago in case of a need for sewer system.” Maynard Wallin: “We need to work together as homeowners and Odd Fellow members. We should be one big family.” Additional questions and comments were offered by Chuck Aston, Del Wallace and Fred Coleman. Vote by hand: unanimous.

Daryl Clark made a motion to borrow the needed money from the timber fund with a 3% interest on the \$100,000 to finish the road projects this year. 2nd by Fred Coleman.

Discussion: Yvonne Fassett: “Does this change the \$175 for roads?” No. Charles Varvayanis: “Not sure about whether interest can be legally paid.” Jeanne Knapp: “Let’s reword the motion to reflect a 3% thank you instead of interest.”

Motion reworded: Motion to borrow the needed money from the timber fund with a voluntary 3% thank you voted on pink papers: 55 yes, 3 no--motion passed.

Discussion of purchasing snow removal equipment: Mark Bradley: “We should institute a preventive maintenance program. Assessment of the value of our equipment is needed. A yearly check on all large equipment should be done.” Al Orth: “We did start that last spring and that is when it was determined the snow removal equipment was too far gone to repair.” James Lenhardt: We need to take care of the park. Everyone should put in for the snow removal equipment as it benefits everyone. It is important to maintain the park for our families and future generations.” Questions and comments were offered by Fred Coleman, Ann Coleman, Chuck Aston, Charles Varvayanis, Andrea Miller, Del Wallis, Jeannie Knapp, Mark Bradley, Paul Emery, Susan Fobelli, Larry Adams, Jason Haugen (who volunteered to help with research), John Morrison, Bob Manning, Wendy Crocket, Marjorie Cox, Bill Murphy, Buck Collie, Shaun Velayas and many others. Snow removal equipment needs further research and proxy for a one time assessment for this special project; information to be sent with vote to be taken Labor Day weekend at a special meeting of members.

Motion by Fred Coleman, 2nd by Daryl Clark to use up to \$30,000 of Timber Fund money to return the lake to full capacity and protect the water in

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES ~ MAY 25, 2008

the lake so it can be a better resource for fire suppression. To be completed prior to the 2009 annual meeting.

Discussion: Roger Townsend: "What does this mean?" Fred Coleman: "Dredging and reinforcing levee." Terry Ingraham: "This was done 15 years ago. Dredging will help fish and other wildlife. We should vote, yes." Questions and comments were offered by James Lenhardt, Jason Haugen, Andrea Miller, and Doris Selman.

Reread motion; take vote on yellow paper: 49 yes and 9 no. Motion passed.

Nominations for board were read: Al Orth, Jessie Worsham, and Paul Emery. Nominations from the floor: Neil Selman nominated Andrea Miller and Sue Collie nominated Jeannie Knapp; both accepted. Nominations closed. Qualifications were offered by all 5 candidates.

Motion for vote to be taken by Daryl Clark, 2nd by Fred Coleman. Vote taken on blue paper; each OFSRA member is allowed 4 votes.

Results of election: Al Orth, Jessie Worsham, Paul Emery and Andrea Miller with Jeannie Knapp a backup if any board member should leave during this next year. Raffle was done while counting votes.

New Business:

Gate access to back country needed and discussed. Board will work on it.

What about lot inspections by Cal Fire and letters concerning fire inspections. Board members did inspect last year and sent out warning letters as a courtesy. Homeowners were cited in some cases even though they did not receive warning letters. In the future the board will give a contact name and phone number on all correspondence. Pine needle burn pile will close Monday, June 16th, 2008. Additional questions and comments were offered by Tam Faulkner, Larry Adams, Irene Barrett, Buck Collie, Jeannie Knapp, Bill Kalfakis, Wanda Lenhardt and Doris Selman.

Motion to adjourn made by Fred Coleman, 2nd by Daryl Clark. Meeting adjourned at 1:03PM.

Next meeting will be May 31st, 2009 at 9AM.

Minutes humbly submitted,
Sue Collie
Secretary
May 30, 2008



Coyotes, and Nature, and Danger, Oh My!



While far from domesticated, coyotes show little fear of humans and have become comfortable living in close proximity to our communities. Although they tend to do most of their hunting after dusk, the so-called 'prairie wolf' can be active at any time. Under normal circumstance, a coyote is not a danger to humans. They are, however, territorial and will respond aggressively if they or their family are threatened. It is also worth noting that it is hard for a coyote to pass up a free meal or, as the case may be, a defenseless pet. This applies even if it requires leaping fences (as high as 6 feet) or overcoming other obstacles for the opportunity. Caution is always warranted. With that in mind, experts recommend the following steps:

- ◆ Fence pet and animal enclosures completely, if possible include a top.
- ◆ Keep cats and small dogs indoors. When walking small dogs, always keep them on a leash.
- ◆ Coyotes are most active dusk to dawn. Avoid walking pets after dark.
- ◆ Bring along pepper spray or a stick in case a coyote gets aggressive. Screaming or yelling and waving arms sometimes won't work on coyotes that have lost their fear of humans.
- ◆ Any pet smaller than 45 pounds should never be left outside past 4 p.m.
- ◆ Feed pets indoors. Eliminate potential food and water sources such as fallen fruit or vegetables and standing water.
- ◆ Store trash in covered, heavy-duty containers.
- ◆ Keep yards free of potential hiding places. Remove thick brush and weeds. Enclose the bottoms of porches and decks.
- ◆ If you encounter a coyote that behaves aggressively, you have probably gotten too close to its prey or its family. Try to scare the coyote by yelling and waving your arms. Throw rocks, sticks or other objects. Do not turn away and run.
- ◆ Do not feed coyotes. Doing so can make them less afraid of humans and potentially more dangerous.

**ODD FELLOWS HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.
ODD FELLOWS SIERRA RECREATION ASSOCIATION, INC.
P.O. BOX 116
LONG BARN, CA 95335**