

Sierra Recreation Association

July 2007 Issue

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Lake Status

Unfortunately, last winter was not a good one for us in regards to water run off that fills our Park Lake. The water entering has diminished to the point that no water is exiting the lake. This situation results in the lake becoming stagnant and thus allows the water temperature to increase and produce a variety of green growth. To say this green growth is healthy is not what Popeye would recommend. The true purpose of the lake is for fire protection and the use for swimming/fishing is a secondary purpose. We must keep the lake full, as possible, in case of a fire. Even if the lake becomes too shallow for the helicopter bucket; the lake can still be used as a supply for the fire trucks to pump from. Thus, it is necessary for the Park to maintain the lake as best as possible. In other words, the water in the lake could be unhealthy at this point and the Board suggests that you use the lake with caution. The Park has the lake tested for any signs of unhealthy conditions; however, there is still the possibility that the lake could become worse between tests. Please use caution and ask your children to be very careful when using the lake.

Mountain Lion Sighting

The Park has received several calls from Park residents concerning the sighting of a mountain lion inside the Park. One of our full time residents dropped a pamphlet off from California Dept. Fish and Game with information about mountain lions. The following is a quick summary from that pamphlet concerning do's and don'ts when a person encounters a mountain lion. Do Not Hike Alone: go in groups, Keep Children Close To You: mountain lions seem especially drawn to children, Do Not Approach A Lion: most mountain lions try to avoid confrontation, Do Not Run From A Lion: running may stimulate a mountain lion's instinct to chase – stand and face the animal, Do Not Crouch Down or Bend Over: standing up is not the right shape for a cat's prey: however, squatting or bending looks a lot like a four-legged prey animal, Do All You Can To Appear Larger: raise your arms, throw stones, branches or whatever you can reach without crouching or turning your back, and Fight Back If Attacked: mountain lions usually tries to bite the head or neck, try to remain standing and face the lion. Immediately Report All Encounters or Attacks. Contact the California Dept. of Fish and Game 24 hour dispatch center at (916) 445-0045. The threat to public safety will be assessed and appropriate action will be taken. Be careful and be AWARE!

Park Calendar

Board Meetings are generally held on the third Saturday of each month beginning at 8:30 A.M. Homeowners are encouraged to attend.

Board Meetings: August 18th, Sept. 15th,
October 20th, November 17th

Bingo Night: Labor Day Weekend, September
2nd at 6 P.M. at the Lodge

Potluck Night: A monthly potluck dinner held the
third Saturday of the month at 5:00
P.M. for all Sierra Park residents.

Sierra Park Potluck

The Dogwood Rebekah Lodge #200 would like to announce that they will host a Pot Luck dinner open to all Sierra Park residents beginning Saturday, August 18, 2007. The Rebekah's will provide all plates, napkins, cups, flatware, lemonade and coffee. Residents only need to bring a dish to share and any other beverage of their choice. Raffle tickets will be sold in order to help the Rebekah's project in purchasing a bench or benches for the Park. Prizes for the raffle will be provided by the Rebekahs. Mark your calendars and come meet your fellow residents and enjoy some great food and fun times.

House Number Signs

A great gift for your own safety, you can order house number signs from Tuolumne County Sheriff's Community Service Unit. It is simple to do just give them your name, local address, and phone number. The signs are green with reflective white letters. You can order one or two sided and even a bracket for easy mounting. Cost: one sided sign is \$9.00, two sided sign is \$12.00, and a bracket is \$2.00. You must indicate the number to be placed on the sign and the location of the bracket. You may mail the information with a check or money order (payable to CSU) to: Tuolumne County Sheriff's Community Service Unit, P.O. Box 4066, Sonora, CA, 95370. You can also stop by their office in the Junction Shopping Center at 13769 "A" Mono Way to see sample signs. If you wish more information, you can contact them at 209-536-9828. One of our Board members, Sue Collie, who lives in Sonora, would be willing to help out of town owners pick up their sign if they have trouble getting it during business hours. Address signs are very important for both emergency situations as well as for the Park employee to locate your residence. GIVE YOUR HOME A GREAT GIFT, THANKS!

ODD FELLOWS SIERRA RECREATION ASSOCIATION

Checks Disbursed 6/27/2007 – 7/26/2007

Date	Number	Payee	Memo	Amount
7/05/07	412	State Farm Bank	Payroll Deductions	\$50.00
7/05/07	413	EDD	Payroll Taxes	98.26
7/05/07	414	Oak Valley Bank	Payroll Taxes	1,105.85
7/06/07	411	Michael Caropreso	Payroll 6/18-7/1/2007	1,120.35
7/16/07	376	Postmaster	Member communications	200.00
7/20/07	415	Michael Caropreso	Payroll 7/2-7/15/2007	1,265.02
7/20/07	416	Robert B. Cloak	Water testing	91.75
7/20/07	417	State Farm Bank	Payroll deduction	50.00
7/25/07	418	Jan Opland	Refund	250.00
7/25/07	419	Mark Hughes	Water System maintenance	396.00
7/25/07	420	A & A Portables, Inc.	Health & Safety	157.41
7/25/07	421	AT & T	Telephone	81.17
7/25/07	422	Eric A. Carlson Account	Accounting Services (1)	3,203.75
7/25/07	423	Michael Caropreso	Employee Benefits	244.75
7/25/07	424	J. S. West	Utilities – Propane	45.84
7/25/07	425	PG & E	Utilities – Electricity	633.81
7/25/07	426	Twain Harte Lumber	Shop Supplies	120.95
7/25/07	427	Village Mail & Printing	Newsletter processing & mailing	120.81
7/25/07	428	Waste Management	Garbage	1,694.04
7/25/07	429	A-Snap	Equipment maintenance	1,252.26
7/25/07	430	Linda Clark	Office Supplies	20.00
7/25/07	431	Joe Cover & Sons, Inc	Pine needle removal	14,520.00
7/25/07	432	General Plumbing Supply	Water System maintenance	841.14
7/25/07	433	George Reed, Inc.	Water System maintenance	398.64
7/25/07	434	L.K. Lehman Trucking	Water System maintenance	328.19
7/25/07	435	Sierra Instant Printing	Office Supplies	66.64
7/25/07	436	Sonora Rental and Sales	Water System maintenance	150.00
7/25/07	437	Charles P. Varvayanis	Gate maintenance expense	21.74
7/25/07	438	Keith Wallace	Equipment Rental	53.68
7/25/07	439	Steve Wallace	Water System/Buildings/Road maintenance	534.02
7/25/07	440	Zenith Insurance Co.	Worker Compensation Insurance	1,029.00
7/26/07	441	EDD	Payroll taxes	18.60
			Total Disbursements	\$30,163.67

(1) Includes monthly accounting services, year end tax preparation and financial statements, annual assessment preparation and mailing.

Board of Directors meeting Minutes
July 21, 2007

- The meeting was called to order at 8:36am by President Rainwater.
- The invocation was offered by Alan Orth.
- Those present: Mike Rainwater, president; Steve Wallace, vice-president; Sue Collie, secretary; Tom Clark, treasurer; Clark Kellogg; Doris Selman; Al Orth; Charles Varvayanis. Mike Ford was absent and excused.
- Members before the board: Tam and Andrew Faulkner and Kim and Leroy Wach. They presented good suggestions for next year's inspections of pine needles. Kirk Kleine asked permission to finish the project on his property.
- Correspondence:** 1) many letters, e-mails and phone calls concerning the pine needle inspections, assessments, fishing derby and road work, were shared with all the board members; 2) letter from Dogwood Rebekah Lodge#200, motion by Clark seconded by Al to accept requests as presented in letter, motion passed unanimously; 3) letter from Lorraine Nicholson; 4) employee record keeping material, motion by Sue seconded by Doris to complete personal file for employees; 5) letter from LK Lehman Trucking, Inc about opening an account with them.
- Minutes of the June 23, 2007 board meeting: motion by Tom, seconded by Al, approved as presented.

Committee Reports

Water: Varvayanis- Water usage was 1.6 million gallons. Update on water projects; Charles has started a study of our wells and tanks with permission to use the park truck for this task. There was a motion to research communication devices for vehicles and employees, motion by Al seconded by Charles with a unanimous vote.

Roads: Wallace- Paving next week, July 26,27 +30. He was able to get the cost down so we are able to do more this year than expected.

Buildings: Ford- absent but noted phone booth was removed as it is no longer used.

Equipment: Orth- snow plow is undergoing repair, the blade and sander have been temporarily removed to get it licensed so it can be used off park property. It will save money for us to do our own hauling of large items. Options for purchase of a generator were presented. Backhoe is also being serviced.

Timber: Varvayanis- The harvest has been delayed until September and Will will be checking more trees to assess them.

Health and Safety: Selman- Doris shared two new fire safety brochures. We will add the 4-4-07 Ca. Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection of Tuolumne and Calaveras Unit to the website. Call for test on lake, need results, Charles will research.

Recreation: Clark- We are grateful for more donations for next year's fishing derby.

Finance: Clark- Total expenses- \$9376.00 (not including health benefits) Deposits: \$462.00. We have received the compiled financial statement from Carlson Accounting Corp. and it will be published on the website. Charles shared overview of year as we look to do more projects. Motion to approve payment of bills as presented by Steve, seconded by Clark, vote was unanimous.

Old Business

1. Plan 125- Kellogg: More details were given and we will be implementing it Sept. 1 with the "pop plan". The plan will be based on a calendar year not a fiscal year.
2. A misuse of a gate code was noted and code was removed by Charles. {Gate code being used by Twain Harte Vacation Rental and rentals for the Cliff's wedding in June. }
3. Charles brought up the need to move check #388 from roads to water with discussion and approval of board.

New Business

1. Charles and Steve are checking into some needed maintenance on the gate and will do the work.
2. Tom will talk to a business man who had a gate code and that code has been disabled.
3. Charles found the retaining wall around the group of water tanks has failed and needs to be replaced. It was discussed and tabled to be determined at a later date but before the rainy season.
4. Mike Rainwater announced a bingo night on Saturday, September 1 at 6PM as a fundraiser for the fishing derby.
5. Board decided the moving of the pipe across the stream by Cedar Book will be tabled.
6. Charles and Clark asked permission for a wireless internet club to use park building and/or property to connect the wireless system with radio connections and/or antennas. OFSRA would receive free wireless internet to the office computer. Motion to give permission was made by Tom, seconded by Steve and unanimously passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:20PM.

Respectfully and humbled submitted,
Sue Collie
Secretary
July 23, 2007

Information of Note: The 2006/2007 Compiled Financial statement is posted on Sierra Park's website; however, if you wish a hard copy, contact a Board member and we will send you one in the mail.

President's Corner

The month of June started out with a real bang. After four of our Board of Directors inspected lots for fire prevention and 142 letters later did the real fireworks begin. A little early for the Fourth of July but none the less very enlightening to all of us. First, let me say that I wrote the letter and I apologize to anyone who felt threatened by this letter. This letter was written solely for the purpose of courtesy to advise you, the homeowner, that your lot could be in violation of CDF's new fire safety precautions. It was not a citation nor did it intend to mean that you would be cited. That determination is made strictly by CDF personnel. A vast majority of you who did receive the letter simply responded by returning to your home the following week and finish what needed to be done. Other homeowners called for clarification as to what should be done and then complied with CDF's requirements. Several Board members and I received over forty calls or e-mails concerning this letter. Several Board members made personal contact with CDF prior to the inspection of lots and came away with the knowledge they needed for the

inspection. I feel it is the homeowner's responsibility to know the laws prescribed by CDF for fire prevention and we, the Board members, are not responsible to justify the reason for CDF's requirements. This is why I did not include a phone number in the letter, but I still received phone calls. Most of the calls were from very concerned residents asking what they needed to do; however, I received several calls from residents asking for a six month extension to clean their lot. How would you feel if this individual owned the lot next to your home? We all have a lot invested in this Park and we don't need to see it go up in smoke because someone was too lazy to do their part in keeping it fire safe. Doing more is better than doing less or doing nothing. Don't say it won't happen here like it did at Lake Tahoe; in the past eighteen months, we have had three fires, either in the dumpster or in the bar ditches. Luckily, we were notified early enough that our caretaker or residents were able to extinguish those fires before they caused major damage. One last thought, last year we hauled roughly 800 yards of pine needles and slash out of the Park; this year we hauled 1,652 yards of pine needles and slash out. Why? Who knows – drought winter, more needles down, or better cleaning of the lots – all could be reasons why, but most importantly, we're that much more fire prevention safe.

The paving of the roads are complete as of this publication. We got a lot for our money, finishing five projects rather than the three we had originally planned. We will still need to do some finish work on the side of the roads so please drive carefully as we will be out working to finish these as soon as possible. The lake is a concern as mentioned on the front page. Please use the lake with caution and we will keep you informed if any changes occur that necessitate the lake to be closed. You can contact me at 209-586-2792 if you have any questions.

Respectfully,
Michael Rainwater, President

2007 Fishing Derby Donations

It was asked if we would publish the list of vendors who donated to the 2007 Fishing Derby, the following is that list:

Sonora Area:

Applebee's Neighbor hood Grill and Bar, Baskin Robbins Ice Cream, Birdie's Restaurant at Mountain Springs Golf Club,

Bob's Greenly Pharmacy, Gus' Steakhouse, John's Classic Dogs (@ Andy's True Value Hardware), Long's Drugstore #208, Mike's Pizza of Sonora, Mountain Springs Golf Club, Outlaws Bar-B-Q and Steak House, Papa's New Roost, Pine Tree Restaurant, Round Table Pizza, and The Sportsman. Twain Harte Area: Café 108, Family Barber Shop, Lazar Chiropractic, The Rock, Sportsman Coffee Shop, Twain Harte Drug & Variety, Twain Harte Lumber & Hardware, Twain Harte Market, Video Scene of Twain Harte, Villa d'Oro, and Zack's Auto Shack. MiWuk Village Area: Andy's Mountain Deli, and Diamond Jim's Restaurant. Sierra Village Area: Pie in the Sky Pizzeria, and Sonny Mini Mart. Pincrest Area: Pincrest Lake Resort, Pincrest Sports Shop, Steam Donkey Restaurant, LaMorenita Mexican Restaurant, and Strawberry General Store.

**Odd Fellows Sierra Recreation Association
P.O. Box 116
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Return Service Requested

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