

Sierra Recreation Association

August 1998

More about Our Beautiful Forest

Not long after we moved here to the park full time (I had been coming up to the cabin since I was a baby), my husband's nephew came to visit us from Nevada. He noticed the tall cedar trees and was curious about what kind of tree they were. When I told him they were cedar, he could not believe it, for the only cedars he had ever seen were small, scrubby little trees. He could hardly believe that these could be cedars. The first time my father-in-law came to visit us, he recognized these same trees as cedars right away, but was also impressed with their size and beauty, because he too had only known cedars as small, scrubby trees. He said "I have read all my life in the Old Testament about how they went to Lebanon to obtain cedars for the building of Solomon's Temple. I could not understand why they would choose such a small, twisted little tree to build that magnificent temple. Now I understand." Again, this prompted me to do a little research on some of the trees in our area, and I found out something very interesting about our tall, beautiful cedars, with their cinnamon-colored bark and lacy green foliage. The trees we call cedars are named incense-cedars. Notice the hyphen in that title. It is hyphenated, because this very descriptive name is just that, a name. Our incense-cedar is not really a cedar after all. It is a juniper. In fact,



according to my research, there are no native true cedars anywhere in North America. The only true cedars -- cedar of Lebanon, deodar, and Atlas cedars, are native to the eastern Mediterranean, northern Africa, and the Himalayas, respectively. They have needle-like leaves and do not resemble the trees we call "cedar."

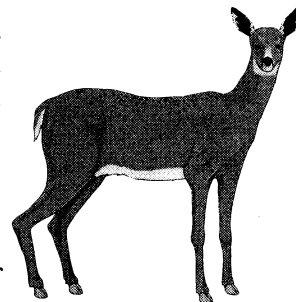
I was kind of disappointed. I have always loved these trees, and kind of liked the idea that they were used for such a noble purpose as the building of Solomon's Temple. It still has had some interesting uses, however, such as the building of fragrant cedar chests which we all know and love. Sierra Indians used the durable fibrous bark to make huts called "oochums" and early pioneer used this same bark as roofing for their cabins.



There is an old cabin in Twain Harte that I have noticed from time to time, whose whole siding is made of the bark of the incense-cedar.

Did you know that incense-cedars produce a pollen in the mid-winter causing hay fever in some people right in the middle of winter? I didn't. However, I don't suffer from hay fever. Perhaps those of you who do did not need to do any research to figure this out.

I also learned that cedar seedlings grow much slower than the many pine trees that surround them here in our park. However, they can successfully reproduce in the conifer foliage that the pine trees cannot, and they are much more tolerant of shade. It was even suggested that because of these factors, the incense-cedar would eventually take over our forest unless there were some natural fires (or prescribed burns) that would allow the pines to reproduce. Hmm... I hope not. I love them, but the variety of trees is what I think makes our particular area so pretty.



Sierra Park Lodge #376

Our regular monthly meetings are held on the second and fourth Saturday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Recreation Hall. There is a potluck held the fourth Saturday before the Lodge meeting, to which all are welcome.

Burn Area Closed

You may have already noticed that the burn area has now been closed for the season. This does not mean that you don't need to clean your lot if you have not already done so, or if you have more still to do. You can haul your burnable debris down to the lumber mill at Standard where they will burn it for you, free of charge.



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes August 9, 1998

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by President Del Wallis. Invocation by Richard Bonner. Those present were Del Wallis - President, Jim Morrison - Vice President, Richard Bonner - Treasurer, Fred Coleman - Secretary, Deena Hague, Robert Snell, and Gene Reed. Those absent were Greg Brown and Ron Hawke - excused.

MINUTES - Motion by Bonner, second by Reed to approve the minutes of the July meeting as mailed. Motion carried.

MEMBERS BEFORE THE BOARD - Ann Coleman would like the old sign that was taken down at the park entrance placed in the area around the flag pole as it is part of park history. Sign to be put up somewhere.

CORRESPONDENCE - (1) Letter from Greg Brown asking to be excused. (2) Questionnaire from Tuolumne County concerning Williamson Act. (3) Notice about meeting from the Planning Commission about our five acres. (4) Letter from Dorene Eggleston about damage by snow plow and request for caretaker's phone number, Randy's number and Del Wallis or other board member's number. Note: The work on Dorene Eggleston's problem was recently repaired. Not sure what caused the problem, but it is fixed. Also, 586-3098 is the number to use if you want to contact a board member. You must leave a message. If you have a true emergency, call 911. You can also send a letter to the Board of Directors or attend the monthly Board of Directors' meeting if you have a problem.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

WATER - Morrison - Water usage was 509,000 gallons this month. The roof is on well two. Cleaned around the 210,000 gallon tank. Tank repair to be done in September. Motion by Morrison, second by Hague to hire Porter Cal Western to do the tank work. Motion carried and so ordered.

ROADS - Reed - Road work is complete for this year. We are putting base along roads so the shoulder does not crack off. Please be careful until this work is done - we do not want to drive off and destroy part of the new road job. Some patching was also done.

BUILDINGS - Hawke (absent) - Purchased an airless sprayer to paint the well houses and other buildings. Fans needed to remove heat from the recreation hall. Bats are back in the recreation hall.

TIMBER - Coleman Notice: Craig Tolmie, our forester, will meet with those interested about the firebreak and the possibility of clearing behind home for fire safety. Time: Saturday, September 5, 1998 at 10:00 a.m. at the recreation hall. He will explain things and walk through areas and point out what he proposes. PLEASE TRY TO ATTEND. SOME OF YOU REQUESTED THIS AT OUR ANNUAL MEETING.

Tanner is unable to do our timber harvest this year. We need

another logger. Craig Tolmie to be consulted about the project. Bids presented concerning the clearing of brush along our dirt timber farm roads.

Map of proposed gates. Gate and rock plan to be followed by Randy.

Eight dead trees have been taken out. Some others need to be taken out.

ATVs are once again on our timber farm roads. After some discussion, motion by Bonner, second by Reed, to allow ATVs and four wheelers to use the dirt road at the end of Abraham to access U.S. Forest Service road by the upper water tank. The rest of the dirt roads in the park to be closed to all but official vehicles unless special permission of the board is given or the area is opened to wood cutting.

Vote: Yes - Reed, Snell, Wallis, Coleman, Hague, and Bonner. No - Morrison. Motion carried and so ordered.

Motion explained:

1. The area is a tree farm. Damage occurs and the trees pay for roads, etc.
2. All unlicensed vehicles must be trailered to the end of the black-top on Abraham. Trailers are to be parked out of access; there is a cul-de-sac there.
3. Access the Forest Service Road via the dirt road by the water tank to gravel road.
4. Road to be marked so you stay on the one dirt road you are allowed to use.
5. All other tree farm roads to be used only for official business and by special permission as a need exists.
6. Roads to timber sale open for specified time for wood cutting.

RECREATION - Snell - September 6, is the date of the picnic. Time is 4:00 p.m. We will try to serve by 4:00 p.m. to ? It will be deep pit beef again. Price is \$5.00.

The Department of Fish and Game checked our lake. Too many perch. Recommended putting in bass to eat the perch.

HEALTH AND SAFETY - Hague - Still a problem with speeding in the park. The maximum speed is 20 miles per hour. Please obey the speed limit. This involves people using the Boy Scout Camp also. Will check on some type of speed bump.

CDF ^{absainted} in an census people were in. Street number are needed for safety such as fire or medical rescue. Numbers need to be visible from the road.

Lots were inspected for fire-safety clean up; 46 lots were warned and ten were cited, some with multiple citations with each citation costing \$270.00. One lot had four citations for a total of \$1080.00.

A black lab was in the lake. Children swim there. Dogs are to be kept out. If the Health Department sees domestic animals in the lake they will shut the lake down. Lake water quality to be tested.

EQUIPMENT - Brown (absent) - A bracket has been built for the sander on the snow plow to make it easier to use. Pads on the blade are being replaced. Tail gate is being worked over.

FINANCE - Bonner - Bills this month were 12,230.86 with 1721.25 coming from the timber fund (see below). Total bills



from operating budget 10,509.61. Motion by Coleman, second by Morrison to pay all bills and have the Sierra Resource bill taken from the Timber Fund.

There are 35 delinquent accounts. Those who have not paid their assessment by Sept 1, will be taken to small claims court for amount of assessment plus all collection costs.

OLD BUSINESS - Meeting on the five-acre split is scheduled for August 19, 1998, with the Planning Commission. They will keep

some standards.

Motion by Snell, second by Morrison, to give the Park Manager authority to give permission for persons to access back roads for special purposes. Motion carried and so ordered.

NEW BUSINESS - Required Federal and State labor information posters ordered.

Meeting closed at 11:00 a.m. The next meeting will be held September 13, 1998, at 8:30 a.m.

Checks disbursed for August 1998

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
7/16	8824	Postmaster	Mailing Year-End Financial Report 73.14
8/09	8825	Eric A. Carlson, Accountancy	Professional services. 1461.28
8/09	8826	Randall J. Tolbert	Payroll 8/15/98 768.15
8/09	8827	Randall J. Tolbert	Payroll 8/31/98 768.14
8/09	8828	Michael W. Caropresso	Payroll 8/15/98 479.08
8/09	8929	Michael W. Caropresso	Payroll 8/31/98 479.07
8/09	8830	Tamarack Tree Service	Tree cutting on Park Property 475.00
8/09	8831	General Plumbing Supply	Maintenance, water and buildings 249.01
8/09	8832	Duane St. Clair Trucking.	Delivery of Road Base 567.00
8/09	8833	AT&T	Long Distance Telephone 10.82
8/09	8834	US Bank	Payroll taxes 862.70
8/09	8835	JS West & Symons	Maintenance water, buildings, recreation 104.48
8/09	8836	Twain Harte Lumber	Maintenance water, buildings, recreation, shop 104.41
8/09	8837	Angels Pest Control	Maintenance buildings 100.00
8/09	8838	Cal Sierra Disposal	Garbage 1119.53
8/09	8839	Cedar Ridge Electric Company	Gate expense, move sensor light 169.07
8/09	8840	Pacific Bell	Local telephone 66.94
8/09	8841	George Reed, Inc.	Road base 258.75
8/09	8942	Patrick T. Bowman	Refund of cleaning deposit 50.00
8/09	8843	Lawrence Hawn	Legal services 43.00
8/09	8844	AquaLab	Water testing 260.00
8/09	8845	Zaks	Maintenance equipment 117.06
8/09	8846	Village Mail and Print Stop	Copies 87.86
8/09	8847	JS West & Symons	Propane 44.79
8/09	8848	PG&E	Utilities 1011.86
8/09	8849	US Bank	Retirement fund payroll deduction 175.00
8/09	8850	Gene Reed	Pump house roof 450.22
8/09	8851	Jasper Morrison	Mileage 45.00
8/09	8852	Robert Snell	Mileage 37.50
8/09	8853	Deena Hague	Mileage 37.50
8/09	8854	Randall J. Tolbert	Supplies, reimbursement from petty cash 24.25
8/09	8855*	Sierra Resources	Timber expense 1721.25

* #8855 to be reimbursed from the Timber fund

Total	12,230.85
	- 1,721.25*
Total monthly operating expense	10,509.61