



PONDEROSA PROPERTY OWNER'S ASSOCIATION

August

NEWSLETTER

2012

President's Message

August 2012

Greetings:

The Fourth of July picnic was a success with approximately sixty PPOA members attending. The day started out with the DeClerck family providing a crepe breakfast at the lodge. Our thanks to Manuel and Carol Gregory who donated the tri-tip and Rich Thomas who cooked it on our outdoor trailer BBQ. Everyone brought a dish of food, we had an auction by Bill Dolmovic of donated items, and music that entertained all. Attending as our guests were four Forest Service personnel that came to speak to us and answer questions about the past and future controlled burning.

The next PPOA event will be our Fire Brigade Appreciation picnic, on September 2nd at the PCSD building. There is more information on it in the newsletter.

The board would like to thank Karen Boriack for her time on the PPOA board. She has been our secretary, but has resigned due to personal reasons. We are now looking for a PPOA member to replace this position. If anyone is interested, please contact one of the board members.

I also want to thank Julie Hansen, with her husband Mark's assistance, who has volunteered to be the editor and publisher of the newsletter. And, thanks to Dennis Lack who has been editor and publisher on a temporary basis.

Again, I encourage anyone who is not a member of the PPOA, to consider becoming a member. There is a membership form available on line at the community web site: www.ponderosaca.com/pondo. You can also find the PPOA upcoming agenda, meeting minutes and newsletters there.

Regards,
Kit Korf

Thank You Tom Griesbach!

Any of you who live in, or have visited Ponderosa lately, have certainly noticed that the remaining slash and tree debris along our roads has finally been removed! The last step in the clean-up in our community from the Winter Storm of December 2010/January 2011. The storm left us with an incredible amount of tree damage and "pruning by Mother Nature". The County of Tulare was designated a disaster area at that time and FEMA monies were made available. Tom Griesbach, the General Manager of Ponderosa Community Services District, set to work to obtain needed funding for us. Tom has logged many untold hours and shown dedication and patience and FOLLOW THROUGH until the job was completely done. BIG THANKS TO YOU TOM FOR ALL THE WORK YOU DID. Our little mountain community once again shows pride of ownership.

Barbara Arnold

Lightning Safety Tips

AVOID: Avoid water. Avoid all metallic objects. Avoid the high ground. Avoid solitary tall trees. Avoid close contact with others - spread out 15-20 ft. apart. Avoid contact with dissimilar objects (water & land; boat & land; rock & ground; tree & ground). Avoid open spaces.

SEEK: Seek clumps of shrubs or trees of uniform height. Seek ditches, trenches or the low ground. Seek a low, crouching position with feet together with hands on ears to minimize acoustic shock from thunder.

KEEP: Keep a high level of safety awareness for thirty minutes after the last observed lightning or thunder.

USFS Visit

On Saturday, July 7, the PPOA welcomed Robert Sanders, Brent Skaggs, David Ernst (Fuels Battalion Chief), and Rick Stevens, our new District Ranger, to our annual 4th of July BBQ. These representatives of the US Forest Service came at our invitation to address the community's concerns of the damage to the forest surrounding Ponderosa as a result of the burning of "burn piles" this past winter. Also, the community has concerns how the burn piles will be handled in the future.

These burn piles have been created according to the US Forest Service Environmental Assessment for the Ponderosa Urban Interface Project, which was created following the McNally Fire of 2002 to help protect Ponderosa from such a fire in the future.

The creation and burning of these piles has been done according to the Urban Interface Project. Clean-up along the Western Divide Hwy and Hwy 190 by the Forest Service has been underway this summer. This includes cutting of burned branches and dead trees. Since our meeting, clean-up has also begun further into the forest near designated roads—Needle Rock Road, #29, and "Lover's Loop".

The goal of the Forest Service is to open up the forest enough so it will be safe to send firefighters into the area, should a fire occur, to protect the Ponderosa community and the forest, itself. The density they would like to have is 70 trees per acre, although they believe that will not be attained. The FS is not concerned about burning some trees with the burn piles. Opening up the forest would have a lot of benefits. Unfortunately, due to environmental regulations, the only tool at their disposal is fire, an imprecise tool.

We have been assured the community will be given advance notice of future burn dates. Rick Stevens offered to walk through the designated burn area before a burn with those interested in order to explain what the plan will be and to answer any questions.

We, as community members, need to be aware of the forest surrounding us and what the FS plans are that can affect us. The responsibility shouldn't fall completely on the full time residents. If you are out and about take the time to check unattended campfire rings. You can gather firewood for your use—please check with the FS and have the proper equipment and permits. Be a trained Fire Brigade member. Continued training is paramount to an efficient and useful Fire Brigade.

For further information on walk throughs with the Forest Service contact Jim Parminster, 559-542-2524, or Gail Lack, 661-201-1170 or 549-542-2437. For more information on the Fire Brigade contact John Kracik, 559-542-2369 or 888-867-4784.

-Gail Lack

\$25– Full page \$40– Both sides of page

Ponderosa Fire Brigade Appreciation BBQ

The Ponderosa Fire Brigade would like to invite you to a Labor Day Brigade BBQ on September 2, at 12:00 Noon at the PCSD Building 56827 Aspen Drive.

The Brigade would like to show our Appreciates and Support of Ponderosa residents over the last years.

This will be a no cost, no auction event for all PPOA members and brigade supporters. We will be serving Top Block, Coleslaw, Garlic Bread, Roasted Corn and Home Baked Desert. Please bring your favorite beverage, chairs and plates and silverware.

Ponderosa Property
Owners Association
56693 Aspen Drive
Springville, California
93265

For questions and information
please contact the Kracik's.
RSVP the Kracik's at
542-2639 by August 29.



CALENDAR

- | | | |
|-----------|----|--|
| August | 12 | Ponderosa Community Services District Board Meeting - 1 pm, PCSD Building. |
| | 19 | PPOA Volunteer Fire Brigade Training—10am, PCSD Building
Lunch provided. Attend if you can the head Tulare Fire Captain Derek Bontrager might be on hand. |
| September | 2 | PPOA Volunteer Fire Brigade BBQ - 12pm, PCSD Building |
| | 3 | PPOA meeting 9am PCSD Building. |

Brewer's Ponderosa Lodge

559-542-2579



- Summer Hours: Saturday—Tuesday 8am—9pm (kitchen) bar open later
- Wednesday—Friday 9am—8pm (kitchen) bar open later
- Live music on the deck 11—4pm most weekends
- Thursdays 5—7pm—Happy Hour and appetizers

Important Dates:

Aug 18 & 19: Live music 11-4

Sept 1 & 2: Live Music 11-4

Sept 9: Live Music 11-4

The 4th of July celebration at Ponderosa

The 4th of July celebration organized by the Ponderosa Property Owner Association was a great success attended by more than 60 members of our mountain community. It started at 9.00 am by a breakfast of “French Crepes” made by Tania and Sebastien DeClerck and served at the Brewer’s lodge. We had the choice of a variety of the crepes you can eat in the street of Paris...with banana and chocolate lemon and sugar or just plain. We later gathered in the shade near the PCSD building for a remarkable BBQ. Manuel and Carol Gregory had donated prime Tri-Tips and there were plenty of appetizers, salads, desserts and other dishes we shared. Kids and grand kids played around and we were entertained by the songs and music of Patti Tory. We were later joined by Rick Stevens, our new District Ranger and his team who discussed plans for the fuel reduction effort in the Ponderosa area and answered the many questions the residents had (see separate message from Kit in this newsletter). The afternoon ended with the traditional auction led by Bill Dolmovic assisted by Damien and Dominique DeClerck. The bids went quite high for some special items such as a chain saw, a set of pillowcases and a wooden bear. Thank you to all who contributed to this community event by decorating, helping, cooking, buying, or just coming to meet friends and neighbors. For those who could not attend, make sure you mark your calendar for next year.

Yves and Dominique DeClerck

Tomato Salad with Pickled Red Onions

Ingredients

- 1 cup balsamic vinegar
- 4 to 6 assorted heirloom tomatoes or other tomatoes, sliced (Or just regular tomatoes) Salt Black pepper
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- Pickled Red Onions (See recipe below)
- 1 cup crumbled ricotta salata cheese or shredded mozzarella cheese (4 ounces) (We used Feta)
- 1/4 cup loosely packed small basil leaves
- 1 Red Onion
- 1 Cup Rice Vinegar
- 2 Cloves Garlic
- 2 Teaspoons Cumin Seeds

For Pickled Red Onions: In a medium saucepan, cook 1 cup thin wedges red onion in lightly salted boiling water for 45 seconds; drain. In a medium bowl, combine the red onion; 1 cup cold water; 1 cup rice vinegar; 2 cloves garlic, halved; and 2 teaspoons cumin seeds. Cover and chill for 3 to 24 hours. Drain before using.

Directions

1. In a small saucepan, bring balsamic vinegar to boiling. Reduce heat to medium. Simmer, uncovered, about 20 minutes or until reduced to 1/3 cup. Let cool.
2. Arrange tomato slices on four salad plates. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Drizzle with the olive oil. Drizzle the reduced balsamic vinegar over tomatoes. Sprinkle tomatoes with Pickled Red Onions and crumbled ricotta salata cheese. Top with basil leaves. Serve immediately. Makes 4 side-dish servings.

Nutrition Information

Per serving: Calories 487, Total Fat 34 g, Saturated Fat 4 g, Cholesterol 25 mg, Sodium 656 mg, Carbohydrate 31 g, Fiber 4 g, Protein 8 g. Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet

Ponderosa Community Services District

56827 Aspen Dr
Springville, CA 93265

Recent Residential Water Problems

I would like to bring to all cabin owners attention the need of learning the proper procedure for turning off your cabins water.

This summer there has been a series of residential water problems, in total 7. In comparison, there have been 29 similar incidents over the past 20 years. 3 of the recent incidents were plumbing failures. However, homeowner negligence or inexperience was responsible for the other 4. These cabins had the water left on and the drain valve left open – meaning water runs straight through. Each incident wasted approximately 30,000 gallons or half of the Summit water tank. Hours, sometimes days, are spent searching for the source of water loss and transferring water to refill the Summit tank. Cabin owners will be billed for time spent searching and, if metered, water used. The district uses a part-time paid employee (David Robertson) and volunteers (Jim Parminter, Marv Shortz, Rod Coffey, to name a few) to locate these problems. Please give these men, the community, and your checkbook a break and learn your cabin's water system.

Respectfully,

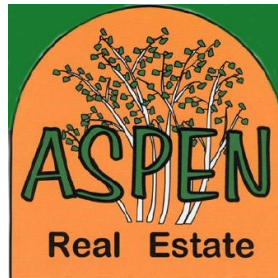
Bill Benton

PCSD Board Member/Water Coordinator

ALPINE VILLAGE

- ▶ Appraise the value and selling price of your property
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Fire Restriction Notice

The FS has issue a Fire Restriction in the Sequoia Monument this means no open fires. This includes any fires for cooking or warming. The restriction is only for undeveloped areas. I have obtained from the FS the area where open fires are allowed. All other areas have been restricted. If you see a camp fire in a restricted area Please contact the FS dispatch at the below telephone number. Porterville SQR, CCICC Dispatch at (559) 781-5780 or the night dispatcher at (559) 782-3120 ext. 701.

WESTERN DTVTDE RANGER DISTRICT DEVELOPED RECREATION SITES

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Frost Meadow, G.T.W. Packtrain, Holev Meadow, Leavis Flat, Lloyd Meadow Camps I through 5
Long Meadow, Lower Coffee Camp, Lower Peppermint, McIntyre Tract, Pyle's Camp
Quaker Meadow Camp, Quaking Aspen, Redwood Meadow, Soda Springs Tract, Spear Creek Tract
Thompson Camp, Upper Coffee Camp, Upper Peppermint, White River, White River Tract,
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Sequoia Crest ♦ Pierpoint Springs**

Note from John Kracik

The Fire Brigade is getting to be our first line of defense under the current conditions that our forest is in. With the Forest Service (FS) burning of hazardous materials around the Ponderosa, the threat of fire is growing. We have all seen the results of their burning earlier this year and now they intend to burn piles even closer to the Ponderosa. It will be up to all of us to stand vigilant to their burns and take action when we see our community being threatened. In our recent communication with the FS during the July 4th BBQ, they stated that they could use all the help they can get if things turn bad. This included the use of our Fire Brigade for initial fire suppression. Their only request was that we would contact the Porterville SQR, CCICC Dispatch at (559) 781-5780 or the night dispatcher at (559) 782-3120 ext. 701 if we discovered an out-of-control burn or abandoned camp fire. Of course we should first do a 911 call as the primary action when anything occurs.

One area of great concern are the various "Fire Safe Areas". These are areas within our forest where campers can go without paying a fee and camp for up to 14 days. The biggest area is Peppermint Camp Ground. This area is NOT an improved campground but is a Fire Safe Area. I have seen several fire pits that have been abandoned and are still smoldering. Another area is off the highway before Peppermint on a road we call Lovers Loop. Just in from the road there is a fork; the left hand fork is a dead-end and follows Peppermint Creek. Along the road are several offshoots to the left that lead to Fire Safe Areas. If anyone has some time, it would be pertinent to check these areas to insure all campfires are thoroughly put out and there is no risk of a fire starting.

What do we do if we see something that could present a fire risk? Call 911, Call the FS dispatch, and mobilize the Ponderosa Fire Brigade.

To mobilize the Brigade, go to the Brigade fire truck building. On the right wall (just as you enter the garage) there is detailed instructions. Follow the instructions and wait for brigade members to arrive. On the white board use the grease pencil to identify where the fire is, what is burning, and the time you observed the fire. Once Brigade members arrive they will take control and may ask you for your assistance.

The above just emphasizes the need for our Brigade and to insure the brigade is well trained. The Brigade is open to all residents of the Ponderosa to participate. We started out with over 20 brigade members when we first formed the Brigade. Over the years, our brigade active members that attend training have dropped to less than 10. I can't emphasize the importance of our training, if you are a member that has not attended training, please come to the next training session on July 28 or August 19. If you are not a member and want to become one, come to the above training dates.

Flash... To show the Fire Brigade appreciation, we will be doing a BBQ on Sunday September 2 at 12:00 Noon. We are serving Top Block with Cole-slaw, Roasted corn and garlic bread. Please bring your favorite beverage, chair, and utensils. This will be a fun day to talk to all and to find out more about our Fire Brigade. Please RSVP John at 542-2639 before August 29 so that we can plan the food.



Julie Hansen
8803 Brannock Court
Bakersfield, Ca. 93313

Address Service Requested



PPOA Board Members

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Secretary: This could be you!

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yakinbracha@earthlink.net

Fire Truck Community Emergency Response Committee:
John Kracik (559) 542-2639
mountaintop@lightspeed.net

PPOA Newsletter:
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ppoanewsletter@gmail.com

Newsletter available **online** at: <http://www.ponderosaca.com/pondo/>