

PONDEROSA PROPERTY OWNER'S ASSOCIATION

July NEWSLETTER

President's Message

Greetings:

It's finally summer and I hope everyone is enjoying the warm weather in the mountains and the Aspen trees with their new leaves. The George Fire is under control now, thanks to the efforts of the many fire fighters. It had us concerned for awhile. Fortunately, it was moving away from us.

The next PPOA event will be our Fourth of July picnic, on July 7th at the PCSD building. There is more information on it in the newsletter. The Forest Service is sending someone up to talk to us that afternoon. You should try to attend, just hear what they have to say about controlling the burn pile fires in the future around the Ponderosa and in our area.

We still need someone to take over as permanent editor and publisher of the newsletter. Dennis Lack has agreed to do it on a temporary basis, so if you are interested, contact any board member.

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 meeting minutes there.

Regards,
Kit Korf

Did you know:

The first Independence Day celebration west of the Mississippi occurred at Independence Creek and was celebrated by Lewis and Clark in 1805.



We will need donations for our annual PPOA July 4th (the 7th this year) BBQ.

We will be needing donations for the auction. Bill Dolmovic will receive your donated items for auction; or bring your item with you on Saturday, July 7.



Brewer's Ponderosa Lodge

559-542-2579

- Summer Hours thru hunting season:
- Mon —Wed 8am—8pm (kitchen) bar open later
- Thurs —Fri 9am—8pm
- Sat—Sun 7am—9pm (kitchen) bar open later
- Thursdays 5—7pm—Happy Hour and 1/2 price appetizers
drink specials

- Saturday nights Prime Rib Dinner, reservations please

Important Dates:

July 4: Parade meet at lodge 10am; BBQ at noon

July 7: Crepes by the DeClercks 9—10

July 7 & 8: Stampede Band 11—4

July 22: 50 Buck Band 11—4

Aug 5: Live music 11—4

Aug 11 & 12: Live music 11—4

Aug 18 & 19: Live music 11—4

Sept 1 & 2: Live music 11—4

Sept 9: Live music 11—4

To place an ad; email
ppoanewsletter@gmail.com.
Personal ads are free for PPOA
members, space permitting.
Business ads:

\$ 5 - business card

\$ 10 - 1/4 page

\$ 15 - 1/2 page

\$ 25 - full page

\$ 40 - both sides of page

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Fire Brigade Training

Don't forget the Fire Brigade Training Schedule. The fire season started out on June 1st with the George Fire, near the George Bush Tree in the Freeman Grove. Ponderosa benefited from the wind blowing the fire away from us. Developing and perfecting the skills taught in these training sessions is very important to the safety of our community.

Saturday, July 28	2pm
Sunday, Aug 19	10am, lunch provided
Saturday, Sept 15	2pm
Saturday, Oct 13	2pm
Saturday, Nov 24	2pm, weather permitting

CALENDAR

July	4	Independence Day; Ponderosa Parade 10am meet at Lodge; BBQ at noon on Lodge deck
	7	Crepes at Lodge, 9–10; PPOA BBQ, noon at PCSD building
	8	PPOA Meeting, 9am, PCSD Building
	11	Bastille Day – French Revolution 1789
	12	Ponderosa Community Services District Board Meeting - 1 pm, PCSD Building
	20	Neil Armstrong walked on the moon 1969
August	28	PPOA Volunteer Fire Brigade Training - 2pm, PCSD Building
	9	Ponderosa Community Services District Board Meeting - 1 pm, PCSD Building
	19	PPOA Volunteer Fire Brigade Training - 10am, PCSD Building, Lunch provided



PPOA

Annual Independence Day Celebration

Saturday July 7, 2012

PROGRAM

9.00-10.00am: Breakfast with French crepes at the lodge
(\$4.00)

10:00am-12:30pm: Hike to the Freeman Creek Sequoia
grove (for those interested. Departure with carpool from
Lodge)

Noon: BBQ at the PCSD building Tri-Tip and Hot Dogs

2:00pm: Auction Sale

Bring your favorite dish/desert to share

Bring your own beverages and chairs

Donate auction items to Bill Dolmovic
Confirm your attendance and willingness
to help to:

declerck.yves5@gmail.com or

ddeclerck@me.com



Property Owners Concerned About Fuel Reduction Management

Many of you are aware that two years ago the US Forest Service began a program to reduce fuel loads surrounding the Ponderosa community to serve as a method of protection from wildland fire. The Forest Service had crews thinning brush and cutting ladder fuel all around Ponderosa in the summer and fall of 2010. The plan was to gather the cut brush and branches into piles to be burned at a later date when conditions were favorable. Hence, the oft-used term “burn piles”.

The Ponderosa community raised concerns as they saw the large number of burn piles created and questioned the placement of many piles—too close to structures and quite a few piles placed under trees. The PPOA approached the Forest Service with these concerns and representatives serving the Giant Sequoia National Monument came to a meeting of homeowners and reassured them that the burning of the burn piles would be controlled and well-monitored.

This past January, the Forest Service sent crews to the Ponderosa area to burn many of the burn piles. Some of the fires burned out of control and the results are quite evident along Hwy 190, Western Divide Hwy, and Needle Rock Road, to name some of the burn sites. Large areas of brush are burned, trees are burned beyond scorching, and large areas are black. Kit Korf, PPOA President, wrote a letter to Kevin Elliott, Forest Supervisor, and expressed the community’s concern and fear for the safety of our area. Kit invited Mr. Elliott to meet with the Ponderosa community to explain their procedures and perhaps reassure our community that the necessary precautions will be made to protect us.

Mr. Elliott’s March 23rd response was, in part,

“Our fire management employees completed over 600 acres of pile, jackpot, and understory burning near Ponderosa during January 2012. Jackpot burning is when the fire is allowed to creep around and consume additional fuel. Most of the piles that are left to burn are closest to the structures in Ponderosa and the necessary precautions will be in place to protect life, property, and resources. As planned, no understory burning will be done around the structures and jackpot burning will be limited. This will significantly lower the amount of tree mortality and scorching. As for resources, there will be more fire engines and water tenders when we burn around the structures.”

He has accepted the invitation to meet with the community and will send David Ernst, Asst District Fire Management Officer, and Robert Sanders, Burn Boss, to the July 4th celebration BBQ this year on Saturday, July 7 at the PCSD building.

The PPOA board intends to compile questions to be submitted to the Forest Service regarding these procedures and methods of safety. The board invites the members of the community to submit questions and/or concerns that they would like to have answered. Please submit your questions to ppoanewsletter@gmail.com or send them to PPOA “Burn Piles”, 56693 Aspen Dr, Springville, CA 93265, by June 30th and the board will compile these requests and present them to Mr. Ernst and Mr. Sanders at this public gathering.

HISTORY OF PONDEROSA—PART 2

History was compiled and written by Anna Kramer, July 1984

The Flitz property, where Kramers pastured their sheep for many years, was traded to the National Forest Service and the Kramers were issued a permit for grazing in Upper Little Kern basin, between Little Kern east to the Big Kern to the south of what is now the Sequoia National Park. Kramers brought their sheep up to the mountains through the Indian Reservation east of Porterville, leaving there about May 1st, then on to higher range, coming in on the south side of Slate Mountain and following a designated trail laid out by the Forest Service, arriving at Kramer Meadow about July 1st, and using the meadow as a stop over for the bands of sheep before going into the Little Kern area.

Alex Kramer discontinued bringing his sheep to the mountains in 1925 due to two factors: the Sequoia National Park area was closed to sheep grazing, and the drought of the 1920's reduced the desirability of the pasture land.

In 1932, Harvey Slade, of Delano, leased the meadow area of Kramer Meadow for his trotting horses and young colts. He fenced the area and built the first cabin on the property, which stood on the hill east of Kramer Creek. After the death of Slade, his wife gave the cabin to Henry Muller of Terra Bella. It was then moved further east near a good spring on National Forest Service property. Henry Muller and his family used the cabin, and pastured their horses on the meadow until Henry Muller's death. The cabin was again moved back to the west to its present site just west of Kramer Creek, overlooking the meadow.

Alex S. Kramer died July, 1936, and his three sons, Alexander J., Clarence A., of Bakersfield, and Herbet H., of Earlimart, inherited the property.

In 1940, John Bateman, of Tulare, leased a portion of Kramer meadow and established a saw mill. He logged the area west of Kramer Creek and as far north as what is now Snowflake Drive. The saw mill site was just east of Kramer Drive and south of the present Langston cabin. He built two large cabins, one for his family and the other had a kitchen and dining room for his help. He also built five small cabins to house the help. The kitchen cabin was later destroyed by heavy snow, but the five smaller cabins remained for many years. Early residents of Ponderosa remember these very well. These small cabins were later moved to other areas or torn down. The family cabin was eventually remodeled and is being used by the Herbert Kramer family.

John Bateman also established a water system, developing a spring that lies just west of the present Muller cabin, and piping water to his mill and cabins using a gasoline engine for pumping. After closing the mill, he removed the equipment and water system.

To be continued in the August newsletter

Two very important concerns in any mountain community are water and snow removal.

In Ponderosa these are governed by the PCSD (*Ponderosa Community Services District*)

For those interested in your community services you should visit this site:

www.ponderosacsd.com

Visit this site to:

Read district meeting minutes

Read district meeting agendas

Progress updates on the water system project

Learn more about the PCSD

Contact Information

Some of the residents in Ponderosa may have observed a medium to large sized bush with white flowers growing in the Parker Pass area. If you're wondering what they might be they are California Dogwood



61748-7344 [09] © www.alistairphotos.com

Overview

The species of dogwood tree that is native to California is the Pacific or Western dogwood (*C. nuttallii*). It is one of the tallest of the dogwoods and one that produces the most blooms. Its natural habitat ranges from southern British Columbia in Canada to the southernmost parts of California and as far as 200 miles inland.

Features

The branches of the Western dogwood, which can grow horizontally as well and vertically, form a thick crown that can be round or cone-shaped. The tree can grow from 15 to 40 feet tall, or be trimmed to grow as a hedge. It produces white flowers that can have a touch of pink and are larger than the flowers of other dogwood species, and orange-red berries. The green leaves turn yellow/orange in the fall and then fall off.

These are especially pretty trees when blooming with a Giant Sequoia in the background.