



Ponderosa Property Owners' Association

Newsletter

November

2020

President's Message

November 2020

Greetings,

It is both a great and humbling honor to have been selected as your new PPOA President. I must first express the debt of gratitude our community owes to Mr. Kit Korf, and his lovely wife Betty, for their years of dedication and service to Ponderosa. We cannot thank them enough for all they have done for our community over many decades, and when you see them next please take the time to thank them in person.

The weeks since my selection as your PPOA President in September have at times felt like the longest 10 years of my life, as we collectively awaited the outcome of the SQF Complex Fire. I would like to thank each and every one of you who shared your memories of Ponderosa, shared encouraging words and even a bit of humor on our PPOA Facebook page ("Ponderosa Community Only – PPOA") during those long days and nights as the fire began to surround Ponderosa and the outlook did not look promising. I also want to point out that the #PondoStrong t-shirts were designed by our own Rebecca Corso during the fire, at a time when our streets might well have been all that was left of Ponderosa. Those shirts are now a testament to the spirit of Ponderosa, and are a show of our strength and resilience during our darkest time.

As a community we survived a long, stressful, and traumatic experience together and we all have some healing to do. And while our homes were saved by the tireless hard work and dedication of hundreds of firefighters, their valiant battles during the fire were not all won, and we are all heartbroken for those who have lost their homes and for our beautiful forest, which will not look the same for many years to come.

We must continue to be vigilant about the risk of fire inside of Ponderosa, ensuring that our lots are maintained and debris-free. It is a duty we owe to each other. We do not want to have survived the SQF Complex Fire only to lose cabins as a result of our own negligence.

I hope to see you all at our Thanksgiving Potluck, and be sure to look for the new format this year that was created to ensure we help the Lodge meet its CDC requirements. Be sure to sign up for a dish to bring, and keep in mind we will be serving take-away meals only.

We also have the Ponderosa Holiday Lights Competition coming up, and I hear the Lowrys and Hildreths are bragging that they are "going full Clark Griswold this year" so the gauntlet has been thrown down. We look forward to seeing what trophies Richard Thomas comes up with this year, as they are becoming quite the collector's item on the mountain.

We have events in the works to properly thank our fire fighters and first responders, as well as an annual event to celebrate our firefighters. More information on those will be coming soon.

As so many newcomers to Ponderosa have said repeatedly, we came looking for a cabin, and what we found was new friends and an incredibly supportive community. My wife and I count ourselves incredibly blessed to be a part of Ponderosa, and we hope you feel the same way.



Scott R. James II
PPOA President

Thank you letter from the PPOA

October 23, 2020

Sequoia National Forest Headquarters
1839 South Newcomb Street
Porterville, CA 93257

Tulare County Fire Department
835 South Akers St.
Visalia, CA 93277



When the residents of Ponderosa were authorized to return to their properties over the last 2 weeks, they were able to better appreciate the significant amount of the work done by the firefighters who protected and really saved the community and all its structures. Many of our residents who walked or drove through the defensive lines built along Road 29 were astonished as they saw the extent of the clearing and preventive burning done to effectively prevent the fire from crossing the Western Divide Highway and the defensive line between Needle's Road and Needle Rock Road and along Kramer Meadow. The dedication of these firefighters was truly exceptional. Realizing also what happened to other communities at Cedar Slope, Alpine Village, and Sequoia Crest, we understand how lucky we are and our thoughts are with those who lost their property.

In the name of all the residents from Ponderosa, the Ponderosa Property Owners Association wants to convey its deepest gratitude to the firefighters from Tulare County Fire Department, Cal Fire, and the U.S. Forest Service. Also, to Mexico and to the many other local, county, state and government agencies who worked together to protect our homes and contain this dramatic fire. We also want to congratulate all of you for a job well done in a highly professional manner. Residents were kept informed through the excellent daily reports of the U.S. Forest Service available on Inciweb, and the regular community briefings (Thank You Chief Charlie Norman, Dennis Bruno, Pat Robelo, Jeff McLaughlin, Brent Olson, Sheriff Boudreaux, Shawn Bergen, Matt Ahearn and many others). These reports and meetings not only reassured our residents, but also helped them to better understand the unimaginable level of efforts involved and the extraordinary dedication of the firefighters and those who supported them. Our community will forever be grateful!

Sincerely,
Scott R. James II, President
Yves DeClerck, Vice President
Julie LaPere, Treasurer
Matthew Corso, Secretary
Juana Gray, Member
Kit Korf, Member
Richard Thomas, Member

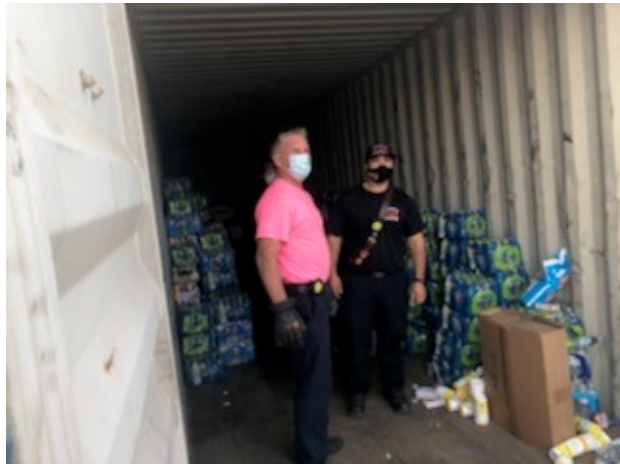
Many thanks to:

*John and Annie Bozanich
Robbie Cope
Bill Dolmovic
Tim Harness
Scott James
Dave LaPere
Jimmy Parminter
David and Jennifer Sharp
Dana and Tammi Stewart
Clark and Jennifer Thompson*



for your tremendous and critical support to the firefighters and helping save Ponderosa. Some of the things these people provided include providing food and lodging for the first responders, providing space for fire retardant preparation, creating a community page for Facebook, maintaining and operating the water supply and providing needed generators.

People coming together to help others and provide supplies to those who were affected by the fire.



A REFLECTIVE WALK ON THE FIRE BREAK LINE

Like many members of the Ponderosa community, we returned to our cabin in October after the mandatory evacuation order was lifted. As we traveled via California Hot Springs, beyond the trees covered with fire retardant and some burned area near the Lodge, we could not see much of what the fire and the firefighters had done. We were obviously very happy to discover our cabin intact, the community saved and even the Aspen trees dressed in fall colors. All the firefighters were gone and therefore we did not have the opportunity to thank them personally and hear from them what really happened since we had left on voluntary evacuation on August 23.

We then noticed that the firewood piled up on the wall of our garage and the furniture left on our deck had been moved away at a safer distance. As we started cleaning, we found ashes from extinguished spot fires on our deck, another evidence of the presence of the firefighters. A few days later, we decided to take a walk on Road 29, that circles Ponderosa. This dirt road joining Needle Road and Needle Rock Road is familiar to everyone in Ponderosa and we use it frequently for cross-country skiing in the winter and for a walk in the summer. This is when we fully realized the amplitude of the work done by the firefighters and the amount of energy and courage the building of the firebreak line around Ponderosa had required. Several very large trees were cut, the chaparral had been cut and removed in many places, bulldozers had established new roads to create defensive lines away from slopes, preventive burning was visible everywhere and often close to where the fire had stopped. This was an incredible job.

As we kept walking along Kramer Meadow toward Needle Rock Road, a multitude of feelings began to invade our minds like the succeeding waves of the ocean covering the sand on the beach. An immense relief and joy that the community was intact and that our cabin with all the family memories it contains was still there. Sadness realizing that for other people in communities like Alpine Village, Cedar Slope and Sequoia Crest, the return to their places was much different than the one we experienced. Astonishment, of seeing how close the fire got from our cabin on September 18 and how it stopped almost precisely where the firebreak line had been set. Admiration for the efficacy and professionalism of the work accomplished. Tremendous gratitude for all the firefighters and those who supported them, including several members from our own community, during these unforgettable weeks and for "Saving Ponderosa".

Questions followed, will the trees burned on their lower trunk survive? What type of vegetation will return in the spring? How long will it take for new trees to grow? As we ended our walk on highway 190 and approached the Lodge, our reflection turned toward us. Should we have cleaned our property better and removed the wood that was too close from our cabin? If these fires are related to climate changes, should we do more to slow global warming?

As you return to your cabin, like us, you will better appreciate the fantastic job done by the firefighters and be enriched by your own reflections.

Thoughtfully submitted by Yves and Dominique DeClerck

A reflective walk on the fire break line



Ponderosa Fire Brigade Update

These last few months have been a very active time for the Ponderosa Fire Brigade, and for the fire service in general with all the wildfires that have taken place throughout the state. Before the outbreak of the Castle Fire/SQF Complex there was a significant fire that started behind the Ponderosa Lodge where several members from the Fire Brigade performed their duty in true fire service fashion as outlined in Assistant Chief Stewart's Report. As the SQF Complex started expanding towards Ponderosa, members of the Fire Brigade stayed behind during the advisory evacuation to aid in the logistical support of the professional fire crews of the Forest Service and its partners; these fire crews risked their lives to save our homes on the mountain.



As the fire waned and the public was allowed back up the mountain, Fire Brigade members teamed up with Self Help Enterprises, Americorps and the Porterville Fire Department to provide water and food items to the communities of Cedar Slope, Alpine Village, Sequoia Crest, Camp Nelson, Ponderosa, and Three Rivers after the devastation of the SQF complex incident.

On an administrative note, the PPOA and the Ponderosa Fire Brigade have now separated into two different entities. The PFB is now a new non-profit organization which has already been awarded \$8,000 in grant funds to replace outdated equipment thanks to PFB member Jeff Gletne. The new equipment ordered through the grant should be in by next month and will be ready to go by next fire season. The PFB also has two fundraisers underway: the #PondoStrong gear that many of you may have already purchased, and a gun raffle that will conclude in coming weeks. In the next month, members of both the PFB and the PPOA will be making presentations to the Chiefs of the fire crews that protected our homes. With the community's support, the #PondoStrong fundraiser will provide t-shirts to approximately 200 firefighters- many of whom are from this area and fought weeks on end to save our homes.

Now that the fire is no longer a threat to us, and winter storms will soon be coming, please allow me to offer a word of caution. The forest surrounding Ponderosa experienced some severe fire damage, as you all know. While it is not recommended, if you choose to go out into the forest either by foot or on an ATV or snowmobile, please remember that some of these trees are barely standing, and could fall unprovoked or from the slightest wind. PLEASE be cautious as you wander into the forest, and don't go out alone.

As always, I encourage anyone that would like to be on the Brigade to join us. If you're interested, please email me and I'll see that you get information on future trainings.

Stay safe and warm this winter!
Chief LaPere (dlapere68@gmail.com) (559) 542-2452

Our GoFundMe raised \$6,500 that the Fire Brigade will use for Ponderosa and the mountain in its efforts.

The Shirt Fundraiser raised \$7,600 in revenue of which \$3,600 is profit for the Brigade. The fundraiser purchased 220 shirts to be distributed to the Fire Fighter community. Along with the 150 shirts and beanies that were purchased to help fund the activities of the brigade.

Fire in Ponderosa Behind the Lodge

Submitted by Dana Stewart

On Aug 20 at 8:05am I received calls indicating there was a fire on the hill behind the Ponderosa Lodge. Upon arriving at the fire house, I observed Robbie Cope and Bill Dolmovic pulling the fire truck out the driveway and heading towards the fire. I followed the truck to the fire. Upon arrival I encountered a ground fire approximately 30ft by 30ft in size. Eric Carey and two friends of the Gletne's, (Dave Magg and Larry Hall), were attempting to extinguish the blaze. Robbie operated the truck panel and supplied water to the hose reel, while Bill manned the nozzle and began to attack the fire. Jeff and Michelle Gletne



arrived and began to cut a break around the fire, in order to contain its spread. We exhausted the water in the truck and Robbie and Bill went to an open hydrant and refilled the tank. Once they returned to the fire, Jimmy Parminter manned the nozzle putting another tank of water onto the fire. Robbie and Bill filled the truck two more times, using approximately 1000 gallons of water before Jimmy and Bill finally extinguished the fire at 9:05 am. Tim Harness ensured the water value at the Summit tank was properly adjusted to ensure water flow, while the Gletne's, Eric and I completed the break around the fire site. Since we had the fire under control within the first ten minutes, there was no need to call out the entire Brigade. At 9:40am Captain Cabrello of the Forest Service arrived with his team in truck 22. They took command and continued to mop up as well as set a fire watch to monitor the scene. The cause of the fire is under investigation at this time.

The fire brigade members performed very well together. Robbie ran the truck panel very effectively and spent minimal time ferrying the truck between the fire and the hydrant in order to maintain progress on the fire. Jimmy and Bill were excellent on the hose and very effective with their water use. Jeff, Michelle and Eric performed in an exceptional manner! They completed the fire break and put out all areas where it was smoldering and mopped up the area. Many of us sustained several stings from a nest of meat bees that were disturbed by the fire as well as cutting the break.

A special thanks goes out to Jeff and Michelle's friends, Dave Magg and Larry Hall, for their quick response and efforts to hold the fire until the Ponderosa Fire Brigade arrived and went into action. This was another successful fire response by the brigade, ensuring the safety of the Ponderosa!

Note from Dana Stewart:

I have resigned my position as Assistant Chief on the Ponderosa Fire Brigade as well as primary medical contact on the hill.

Thank You Dana for sharing your skills and expertise these past years. Your knowledge and dedication is much appreciated!

Upcoming Community Events.....

2020 PPOA Thanksgiving Pandemic Potluck



Saturday, November 28th, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Ponderosa Lodge

New Format this Year, Instructions for a CDC-Safe Feast:

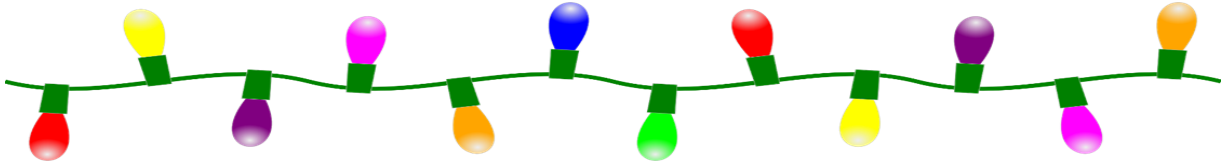
- Choose your dish to bring from the following: Mashed Potatoes, Stuffing/Dressing, Sweet Potatoes, Green Bean Casserole, Vegan Loaf, Rolls, Butter, Pumpkin Pie, Pecan Pie, or Whipped Cream.
Let us know what dish you will be bringing, either by e-mail (1scott1tara@gmail.com) or by messaging your PPOA President Scott James on Facebook.
- Drop off your dish to the Ponderosa Lodge at 3:30 p.m. on the 28th.
- Arrive to the Lodge between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. for your take-away feast.
- Fill out your Order Form that will be provided at the Lodge. Hand the form to a masked and gloved server.
- Bring your own mask, *stay at least 6 turkeys away* from other Pondo members, and grab a drink from the Lodge while you wait.
- Your order will be filled and handed to you in a take-away box to enjoy on the deck (brrr) or at your cabin.
- Enjoy! (Seconds will be provided if available and there will be room on the Order Form for your order for seconds)

As usual the PPOA will be providing the turkey, and many thanks to Ponderosa Lodge for cooking the turkey for us!

Join Us In Giving Thanks That 2020 Is Almost Over!!!

2020 PONDEROSA HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST

Saturday, December 26th, 5:30 p.m.



Meet at the Ponderosa Lodge to collect your ballot and map of the participating cabins.

- Drive by each cabin, score accordingly.
- Return to the Lodge and turn in your ballot.
- 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place winners will earn a Trophy hand-carved by our own Richard Thomas, and a gift certificate for the Lodge. Prizes will be delivered to the winners.
- Submit your name and address to Tara James at 1scott1tara@gmail.com by Dec. 23 to be included on the ballot.



Cabins will be judged on: *Creativity of Design, Unique Theme or Storyline; Display of Decorations/ Animated Objects; Overall "WOW" factor.*

*Get your back-up generators ready, untangle those lights,
& let your inner Clark Griswold go crazy!*



CALENDAR



THANKSGIVING: NOVEMBER 26

PPOA THANKSGIVING POTLUCK: SAT. NOV 28 4:00 TO 7:00 PM

PPOA BOARD MEETING: SUNDAY, NOV 29 AT 10 AM

Meeting will be held outside at the PCSD Building
in a fashion that accommodates social distancing.

Please wear a mask

CHRISTMAS DAY: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS CONTEST: SAT. DEC 26 AT 5:30 PM

Ponderosa Property Owners' Association Board 2020- 2021

President	Scott James
Vice President	Yves DeClerck
Treasurer	Julie LaPere
Secretary	Matthew Corso
Member	Juana Gray
Member	Kit Korf
Member	Richard Thomas



PPOA Committees:

Fire Brigade	Dave LaPere
Mailboxes	Tammi Stewart
PCSD Liaison	Tom Griesbach & Scott James
Social	Tara James
Sunshine	Tammi Stewart
Street Signs/Roads	Dave LaPere

At the September, 2020 meeting, the Board unanimously approved the separation and formation of the Ponderosa Fire Brigade as a separate non-profit entity .

Meet your President, Scott James

Main Occupation: Private Investigator
Lives: Visalia, Ca (48 years)
Married: Hon. Tara K. James

Hobbies: Flying Planes, Golf, Hiking, Competitive Shooting, Philanthropy, Travel

We live four nights in Visalia and three nights in Ponderosa.
I am also a Director with Ponderosa Community Services District (Water Company).

Boards I am on:
Director, Ponderosa Fire Brigade
President, Ponderosa Property Owners Assoc
Past President, Visalia Breakfast Rotary
Charter Rep, Boy Scouts Pack 1920
Commander, Tulare County Sheriff Aero Squad



Social opportunity...The Ponderosa Book Club

The book club is ready to start meeting again on the 2nd Saturday of each month starting at 11:00 am. Selected books are posted on the mailroom window.

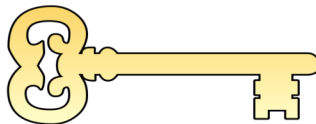
November : Normal People by Sally Rooney
December: Winter Garden By Kristin Hannah
January: The Whisper Man By Alex North



Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information or to find out what exciting book is being read, please contact **Tammi Stewart** at **(559)542-2218** or tammistewart27@gmail.com

Mailroom Gets a Facelift!

The mailroom has a new coat of paint, new light fixture, painted door and fresh boards due to the honey bee invasion. Thanks to Eric Carey. I'm forever grateful. It's been a struggle to get this accomplished. I hope everyone is pleased with the improvements.
Committee of One, Tammi Stewart



Do you want a Ponderosa mailbox? Ponderosa residents interested in getting a mailbox key, please contact Tammi Stewart at **(559) 542-2218**

Social opportunity..."Ladies that Hike"

Ladies that hike have been hitting the trails. We text /email each other when a hike is planned. Send Tammi Stewart / Michelle Gletne your contact information to get the hiking times and place.

Tammi Stewart at **(559)542-2218** or tammistewart27@gmail.com

Michelle Gletne at **(559) 542 2415** or mgbanker80@yahoo.com



PONDEROSA FIRE BRIGADE ANNUAL GUN RAFFLE

Here is a new fund raiser to help the Fire Brigade! This is an annual gun raffle to support Ponderosa Mountain Community with fire protection. The money used from the raffle will assist Ponderosa Fire Brigade in purchasing equipment needed and running the organization. This year's raffle prize is a new **Henry Lever Action Rifle .22 cal** with commemorative logos from 911 fire. It has a fire truck engraved on stock, and etching on the action. The barrel is octagon.

Go to the web site at <https://rafflecreator.com/pages/40273/ponderosa-fire-brigade-annual-gun-raffle> to see the gun and buy tickets.

Jeff Gletne's Grant Update



The two CalFire Fire Prevention grants obtained for Ponderosa by the Tulare County Resource Conservation District (RCD) were completed in mid-October. The grants funded the removal of over 3,000 dead trees and the clean up of well over 100 individual parcels. I'm convinced this work was instrumental in the protection of the community from the Castle Fire. Jordan-Slate and Witten Logging both did excellent work.

CalFire announced in October that the 2020 Fire Prevention grant cycle has been postponed due to ongoing State budget issues. I had already begun work on another grant for Ponderosa on behalf of the RCD and will have the proposal ready to go when the grant application process begins.

I have three main goals in mind for the next potential grant:

I have identified approximately 30 parcels that are need of treatment, including removal of dead and downed trees, thinning, chipping, etc. These are primarily empty lots with absentee landowners and will probably necessitate mailing registered letters to assure responses.

I have had discussions with Sequoia National Forest personnel regarding cleaning up a 200-foot strip of Forest Service land around Ponderosa. This is allowed under the Good Neighbor Agreement enacted by Congress a few years ago. I have successfully done this type of project in Kern County and the local representatives are supportive of the proposal.

I would like to get rid of many of the piles of logs, rounds, old woodpiles, etc. that have accumulated over the years throughout the community. These present a huge fuels problem (and are eyesores in my opinion).

So I would encourage residents to get their piles cut, split, stacked, and covered. Then we can work on getting the remainder removed.



We hope the grant applications are opened in the Spring. If so, and if we are successful in obtaining a grant, work could potentially begin next Fall.

Guide to Winterizing Your Cabin

Should I turn off water each time I leave the cabin? Anyone that does not live in their residence 'full time', and those full time residents that leave for extended periods of time for vacations, etc. should always turn off their water as a precaution, even in the Summer months. It only takes a few minutes and if a leak/break occurs, the only amount of water that can potentially leak out will be what is actually in the lines at the time. This simple precaution could save thousands of gallons of water and the homeowner a costly bill.



When Should I Winterize? It is recommended that you 'winterize' your cabin beginning in the fall, typically around Thanksgiving Day. By then the temperatures typically drop below freezing each night.

How to Winterize: While the 'set up' in each cabin can differ, the following is a simplified version of the procedure.

1) Go to the Water Heater and turn the settings dial to 'vacation'. Older Water Heaters may not have a 'vacation' setting, if so turn the dial to the lowest setting. By placing the water heater on the low setting, it will use a minimal amount of propane or electricity to keep the water warm and hence prevent it from freezing in the tank. If you intend to shut off your water heater completely, then you should drain it completely.

2) Go into the 'sub area' (underneath the cabin) and find the water supply line where it enters the foundation. This will 'typically' be a copper or galvanized pipe line coming out of the ground with a shut off valve very close to this point. The 'shut off' valve may be either a round handle not unlike the handle to your hose bib, or it can also be a 'directional' handle. If it is a directional handle, turn it until the handle is at a 90 degree angle to the incoming water line. In either case, make sure the valve completely shuts off water to your cabin. You can test this by opening a valve inside your cabin (i.e. kitchen sink); no water should come out of the faucet if the shut off valve is properly closed.

3) Once the water is turned off, find the lowest water faucet (preferably on the exterior) and open the faucet, and leave it open. If there is no exterior faucet, open whatever faucet is at the 'lowest' elevation point in the cabin.

4) Now, go back through the cabin and open every water faucet, shower/tub faucet, and flush every toilet. As an additional safety measure, make sure to partially open the shower head 'diverter' valve, if so equipped. Your goal is to eliminate as much water from the pipes in your system as possible.

5) Next, pour antifreeze into each and every drain in the cabin including shower drains, sink drains, and toilets (both the bowl and tank). The exact amount of antifreeze will depend on the type of antifreeze you use - read the directions on the container carefully. Some use regular auto antifreeze and others use antifreeze designed for RV plumbing. You might also find some ideas through internet research.

6) Lastly, close the door to your Dishwasher (if applicable) and turn on the Dishwasher for just a few seconds. This will activate the solenoid in the Dishwasher allowing what little water is in the line serving the Dishwasher to drain and prevent the plastic solenoid from freezing and breaking. You may need to do the same thing if you have a washing machine and also set the ice maker in your freezer to the “on” position as well as the water dispenser on the refrigerator, if you have one.

7) As an added precaution, some of us leave our heater (assuming you have one) set to a low setting of about 50 degrees. This will keep the interior of your cabin warm enough to prevent interior pipes from freezing, but most heaters only work if the electric power is on. In the event of an extended power outage, this extra precaution will be nullified.

Conclusion: Even though you properly shut down and drained your cabin, it is virtually impossible to evacuate all of the water from the system. There will always be an amount of water still in the pipes. The amount of water depends on if the plumbing system was properly ‘sloped’ when it was installed. When we experience freezing conditions, the remaining water in the system can still freeze and result in broken pipes. If you or someone else has not been to your cabin recently, we have very strong words of caution. **Do not turn on the water and leave the cabin without looking and listening for breaks!**

We hope you find these tips helpful, and if you have any questions about how to properly winterize your cabin, then we suggest you contact one of the long term or full time residents who can offer specific advice for your situation. The following people may be able to help you if you have questions:

Bill Dolmovic	559-542-8000	Jimmy Parminter	559-542-2524
Richard Thomas	559-542-2970	Kit Korf	559-542-2504

Reporting a Fire / Medical Emergency

#1 For medical or fire emergency call 911; no exceptions!

#2 Then call 1-866-623-7525. When prompted for the user name, enter 542-2639. When prompted for a password enter 1013. Follow the simple instructions to record your message.

Example “ Fire at (location) Aspen Drive, your name, date and time of call”

Full time Fire Brigade residents/Operators

Tammi Stewart	542-2218
Jim Parmenter	542-2524
Bill Dolmovic	542-8000
Larry Gray	542-2993
Robert Cope	542-2601
Jeff Gletne	542-2415

Cal Fire/ Springville	539-2413
Cal Trans/ Roads condition:	800-427-7623
Camp Nelson Fire Station 23 :	542-2718
Tulare County Burn	1-877-429-2876 ext 7
District Ranger:	539-2607 ext 72210
Sheriff Department:	782-4700
Highway Patrol:	784-7444 or 911
Camp Nelson Ambulance:	542-2140

Ashes: Method of disposing your ashes.

Place hot ashes from your stove / fireplace in a covered metal container. Leave in container until cold to the touch.

Burning Piles: Method of burning your yard debris.

Always call the Tulare County burn number to ensure it is a legal burn day.

Always have a shovel, hose or fire extinguisher on hand.
NEVER burn on windy days.

Chimney Fires: How to extinguish an active chimney fire:

Throw a cup of water on to the fire then close the door to the stove / fireplace. The steam should extinguish the fire. Recommendation: Have your chimney cleaned often by a “Chimney sweeper”.

Professional Chimney Sweep:	732-6200
Matt Goldsmith:	542-2709

TULARE COUNTY RESIDENTS: SIGN UP FOR ALERT TC!



What is Alert TC?

AlertTC is a mass notification system designed to keep Tulare County residents and businesses informed of emergencies and other time-sensitive messages. By registering with AlertTC, messages from the County or City in which you live or work may be sent to your home, cell or business phone.

Where To Sign Up?

<https://alerttc.com/>

In the connected world, there are many online sources of information that can be helpful in times of emergencies like the SQF Complex fire. Here are just a few...

- <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov> — The Federal incident information system, Inciweb, has daily updates on the status of wildfires and other incidents throughout the US. Two Inciweb pages with information specific to the SQF Complex fire are below. Both have many links at the bottom of the page that can connect you to County, State or Federal sites with additional information.
 - <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7048/> - reports on the progress to control the SQF fire
 - <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7240/> - reports on post-fire assessment and remediation
- <https://www.weather.gov/> - The National Weather Service website. You can get week-long forecasts for specific areas, like Ponderosa, here.
- <https://www.redcross.org/> - Lots of information about preparation for emergencies, response and assistance.
- <https://oes.tularecounty.ca.gov/oes/> - Tulare County Office of Emergency Services.
- <https://tularecounty.ca.gov/fire/> - Tulare County Fire Department.
- <https://tularecounty.ca.gov/sheriff/> - Tulare County Sheriffs Office.
- <https://www.fire.ca.gov/> - The Cal Fire home page.
- <https://roads.dot.ca.gov/> - The Caltrans site; it has information about particular State Highways including closures or construction restrictions.



More Info

To place an ad:

email ppoanewsletter@gmail.com

Personal ads are free for PPOA members, space permitting.

\$5– Business card

\$10– 1/4 page \$15– 1/2 page

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

Contact PPOA Treasurer Julie LaPere at juliedp99@gmail.com

The next newsletter will be out in February

Please feel free to submit articles, pictures, recipes, etc. that you feel would be of interest to the Ponderosa community.

FYI.....ads can be placed on the Ponderosaca website and Facebook for minimal cost. Please contact Julia Inestroza if you are interested.

(Julia@tenalu.com)

PPOA Newsletters will be published four times a year

1. You can “opt-in” to receive newsletters by mail **if you are a PPOA member in good standing**. Please send an email to ppoanewsletter@gmail.com to opt-in or call 661-304-4945 and leave a message with your name and address.
2. You can go to the www.ponderosaca.com website and "Subscribe" at the bottom of the page to receive notices that newsletters are available online. You will get an email acknowledging your subscription which you will have to confirm. You will then receive an email notification when the newsletter is available and a link to open it. You will also periodically receive notifications of other posts on the Ponderosa website.
3. You can visit www.ponderosaca.com, click PPOA, and follow the links to all Newsletters posted. You will not be alerted when current Newsletters are posted.



Turkey Trivia...Did you know?

- A male turkey is called a tom. A female is a hen and a youngster is a poult.
- By the 1930's almost all of the wild turkeys in the U.S. had been hunted. Today, thanks to conservation programs, there are plenty of wild turkeys. They even invade cities.
- The wild turkey is one of the more difficult birds to hunt. It won't be flushed out of the brush with a dog. Instead, hunters must try to attract it with different calls.

Even with two seasons a year, only one in 6 hunters will get a wild turkey.

- The wild turkey can fly (it does, however, prefer to walk or run). The domestic turkey is not an agile flyer, though the bird will perch in trees to stay safe from predators.
- The average lifespan of a domestic turkey from birth to freezer is 26 weeks. During this period of time, it will eat about 75 pounds of turkey feed.
- The average lifespan of a wild turkey is 3 or 4 years. It generally feeds on seeds, nuts, insects and berries.
- The average person in the U.S. will eat 15 pounds of turkey this year.

Taken from the Old Farmer's 2020 Almanac

Candy Cane Bark

Makes about 24 pieces

Ingredients:

- 10 candy canes
- 12 oz dark chocolate chips, melted
- 1/8 tsp peppermint extract
- 8 oz white chocolate chips, melted



Directions: Line a 12x16 inch baking sheet with parchment paper. Put candy canes in a plastic bag and crush them with a rolling pin or mallet. In a bowl, combine dark chocolate with peppermint extract and spread mixture evenly onto prepared baking sheet. Place in refrigerator to harden the candy quickly. Once the dark chocolate has hardened, spread melted white chocolate evenly on top of the dark chocolate and quickly sprinkle crushed candy canes over the white chocolate. Refrigerate again to harden and break bark into pieces and store in an airtight container in a cool place.

Taken from the Old Farmer's 2020 Almanac



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This is a non-profit organization managed by property owners,
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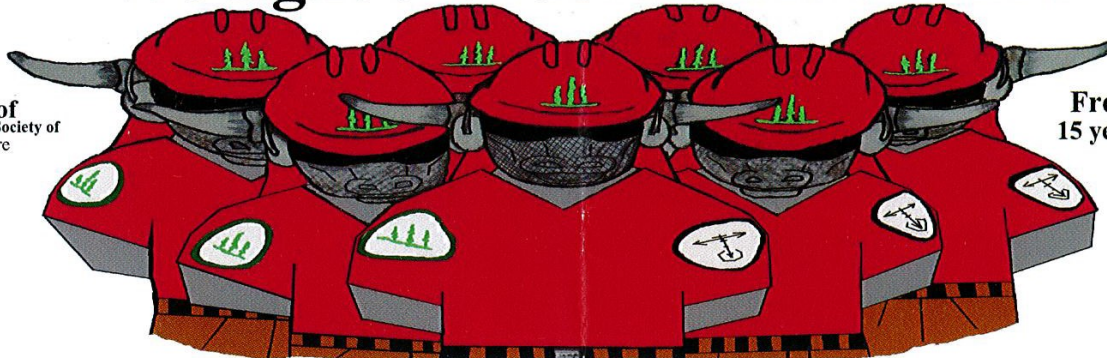
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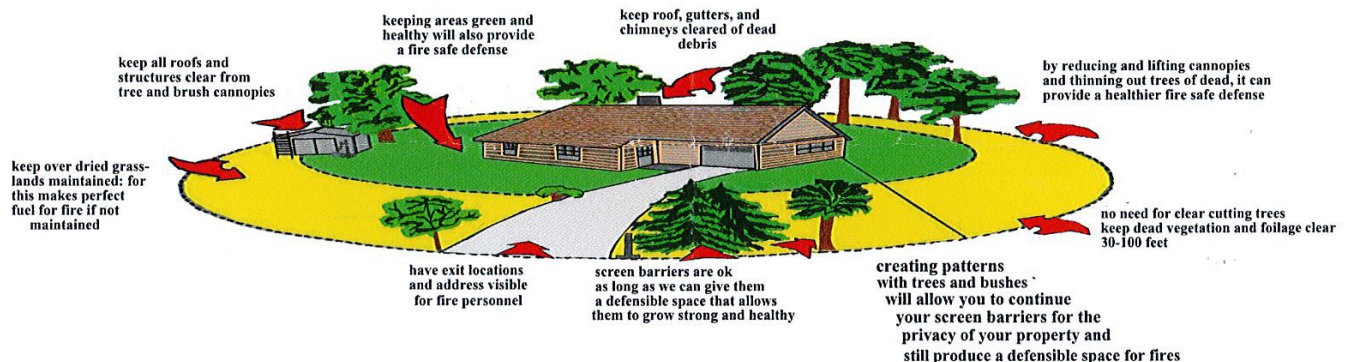
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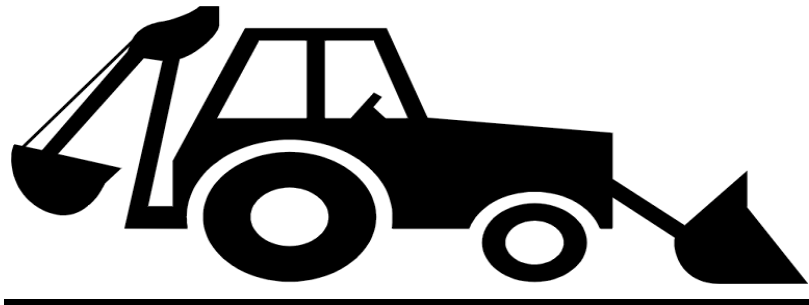
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Below is a form to join the Ponderosa Property Owners Association for the 2021 year. The cost for a developed lot is \$30 a year **OR** \$15 for an undeveloped lot. Fill out the form below and mail it along with your check to **PPOA 56693 Aspen Drive, Springville, CA 93265.**

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<u>Treasurer:</u>	Julie LaPere	(559) 542-2452 juliedp99@gmail.com
<u>Secretary:</u>	Matthew Corso	(559) 542-2438 matthew.corso@gmail.com
<u>Members - at - Large:</u>	Kit Korf	(559) 542-2504 or (805) 498-2944 korfknb@netzero.net
	Richard Thomas	(559) 542-2970 or (805) 640-1266 richjefe@gmail.com
	Juana Gray	(559) 542-2993 or (559) 359-9426 juanagray@gmail.com
<u>Social Committee:</u>	Tara James	(559) 542-2592 1scott1tara@gmail.com
<u>Sunshine Committee:</u>	Tammi Stewart	(559) 542-2218 tammistewart27@gmail.com
<u>Street Signs and Roads Committee and Fire Brigade:</u>		
<u>Fire Truck Community Emergency Response:</u>	Dave LaPere	(559) 542-2452 or (559) 719-9970 dlapere68@gmail.com
<u>PCSD Liaison:</u>	Tom Griesbach & Scott James	
<u>Mail Boxes :</u>	Tammi Stewart	(559) 542-2218 tammistewart27@gmail.com
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