



PINE NEEDLER

A PONDEROSA COMMUNITY CLUB NEWSLETTER

2005/6 PONDEROSA BOARD OFFICERS

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The Ponderosa Board normally meets on the second Saturday of each month except January at 10:30 am. (Note changes in the Needler to March meeting date)

March 2006

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PRESIDENTS CORNER

By Jim Lawson

PRESIDENT THANKS MEMBERS FOR APPROVING 2006 BUDGET

I would like to thank all the people who voted to approve this year's budget. The vote was overwhelmingly in favor, about three to one which leads me to believe you do want changes in the way we do business.

The Board has been busy lately selecting an Office Manager from the candidates recommended by the committee that screened the resumes and interviewed the applicants. I would like to thank that committee of Mary Bunney, Anne Blanchard, and Bob and Nancy Melson for their efforts on this project. After reviewing their recommendations, the Board selected Reida Wegman as the Office Manager for the Ponderosa C. C.

We have interviewed several applicants for the job as caretaker that will begin at the expiration of the present contract. I was gratified to find so many well-qualified people interested in the position. It makes me confident we will be able to provide you with quality service in that department in the coming years.

It occurs to me that more and more the residents of the Ponderosa are interested in protecting their investment in their property here. Whether it is a piece of property to bring your RV to for a weekend, a cozy cabin to escape from the rush of trying to earn a living, or a full time home, we need to be aware that everything that goes on in our community effects the value of our property. One way of assuring that nothing negative happens is by observing the covenants that are in place to protect us. That is why we chose to live in an area that provides us this protection. It is because of the efforts of you people that the Ponderosa has become a very desirable place to live and you are to be congratulated. Let's keep up the effort to improve in all areas.

PCC TAKES NEW DIRECTION FOR MAINTAINING PONDEROSA

By Roy Daggett, M&O

Winter is almost over and so is our contract with Johansen General Contractors. Their contract is up March 31, 2006. They chose not to bid on the new contract, so we put it out to bid. We had many applicants. The Board of the Ponderosa would like to thank Paul and Diane for the last 10 years of faithful service and a job well done. They are going to remain part of the community and will help with the new transition for our new contractor. We have hired two new caretakers full time to make sure we have somebody at all times.

What the Board has decided is that the caretakers will be able to work with all committees. To help them with their work parties, we will put up a schedule board in the office for you. All we ask is that you submit a request for their help.

The new caretakers will not block driveways when they plow the roads in the winter. They will come around and make sure that the driveways that are maintained will be open and if you are a weekender you can all look ahead to having your driveways cleared.

Our new caretakers are not allowed to work inside the Ponderosa other than for the Ponderosa. Any work they perform will be for the Ponderosa only. If you have a need for their help, you can submit a form with a date and time. The Ponderosa will give you a price and all monies will be returned to the Ponderosa. Since we are considered non-profit, we will charge actual cost only. We want to become more community service minded. Just remember our caretakers have their own jobs to get done first.

It has been suggested that the pool be open 7 days a week from 9:00AM until 9:00PM. We are trying to figure a way to accomplish this and how much more chemical this will take and cost.

We also will be replacing mailbox stands. We will be taking all mailboxes on Primitive Park Road and putting them on the side streets. We also will be replacing the battered signs. We will be adding sand to the play area and building a new park down by the clubhouse. If you have any ideas that we could look, at please share them.

We think we have hired employees that have a lot of different talent that will serve us well.

The Building and Grounds Committee now has a budget and is in need of a chairman.

THE PONDEROSA NEEDS YOU!!!!!!!!!!

By Sharyl Nelson

A lot of things that get done in the Ponderosa are done by Committees. All of the Committees need help, whether for 1 hour, a day, a month, a year or more. It is an investment in YOUR COMMUNITY.

One Active committee is the Social Committee: Pam Nicklas and I are co-chairpersons only because no one else came forward to be the chairperson and we did not want to see our social activities disappear. Both of us are already on several other committees. So what we asked people to do is volunteer to be in charge of a social event. There is a calendar printed in this issue of planned activities. If you would like to be in charge of one of the activities or help with one or would like to suggest a different event please contact the office(509-763-0320)and leave a message.

Greenbelt Committee: Chairperson needed! This committee is particularly active during the warmer weather. Another grant has been requested for the Forestry Project. The loggers are cleaning up the area around the water tower for the saleable logs as this is where our grant money ended. We had quite an infestation of bark beetle in that area. If we didn't clean this area up, Mother Nature would do it for us eventually. Remember this spring to get rid of knapweed wherever you can.

Buildings and Grounds: Chairperson needed! The Clubhouse could use a lot of work along with more improvements made to the playground.

Nominating Committee: Chairperson and members needed! This committee is active the first part of the year to find and nominate people to run for the Board positions.

Ballot Counting: Chairperson and members needed. This committee counts ballots two times a year.

Water Improvement Committee: Dick Nicklas, Project Manager. Water Improvement projects will be completed when weather permits.

Roads Committee: George Sidles, Chairman

Budget Committee: Dick Nicklas and Mike Bunney, Chairmen

Members are always needed on all of these Committees. A new Committee can be established for a specific project. Whatever time you can give will help make the Ponderosa more enjoyable for all.

Water Improvement Project Nears Completion

By Dick Nicklas

In June 2005, the major construction contracts for the Water Improvement Project were awarded. Work proceeded throughout the summer, and the Project is now over 95 percent complete (and within budget). We have a few minor items to go - mainly grading and painting - but these will have to wait until the snow melts. Our official Project completion schedule is July, but hopefully it won't take that long.

Project accomplishments have been significant. We have successfully drilled four new wells and installed the associated pumping equipment. This amounts to a combined total of over 300 gallons per minute of new capacity. Casings and equipment were removed from two old wells which were no longer productive, and the wells were filled and capped. New ductile iron piping and flow meter vaults were installed in the well fields. And a new control building was constructed south of the caretaker's residence, housing our new system controls and instrumentation. This building also contains the necessary accessories to permit future installation of a chlorinator.

With the Project gradually coming to a close, I'd like to recognize some of the Ponderosa people who have helped make the effort a success. Paul Johansen for his great assistance and expertise as our Water System Manager. Terry Drexler who has been my backup Project Manager. And my most sincere thanks to the Moss and Blanchard families for putting up with our dust without complaint.

Paul Johansen, Contractor for Ponderosa Expresses Appreciation to Members

By Tim Olson

After ten years of service to the Ponderosa Community Club as our contractor Paul Johansen has decided to move on with his life! He especially expresses appreciation to members who supported his efforts to improve and maintain the Ponderosa and helped to solve problems rather than create problems.

The NEEDLER asked Paul several questions about his tenure as contractor:

1. What were the biggest challenges of the job? Paul responded that the 24-7 obligation gave him no time off with the opportunity to get away now and then. It was sometimes difficult to find qualified persons with the necessary knowledge to fill in for him. The politics of the Ponderosa also created challenges. The several changes in Board members (particularly of the M&O) made a situation where both the contractor and the Board were always in the process of learning how to communicate with each other as well as getting the job done. Another challenge was the old/inadequate water distribution system. The old system was simply not designed to handle the pressures and volume required in the Ponderosa.
2. What gave you the greatest satisfaction? Paul is pleased that he "stuck it out" and that he remained firm in sticking to the terms of the contract that defined his work. Another satisfaction was working with the reasonable and cooperative members. "That was a real pleasure."
3. What do you see as high priorities for the Ponderosa? Paul was quick with an answer, "Upgrade the water distribution system." The water mains need to be able to deliver the water needed by the members and to provide fire protection. Currently the Ponderosa can't deliver the water (especially the increased irrigation) if we fully utilize our lots. Upper Ponderosa is particularly impacted when there is high water usage. A second high priority for Paul is full Property Management for the Ponderosa. Paul certainly feels that hiring an Office Manager is a right step in that direction.

Thank you Paul for your years of service!

ABOUT THE PINE NEEDLER

The Ponderosa Community Club publishes the PINE NEEDLER Quarterly.

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NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF CHANGE IN MARCH BOARD MEETING DATE

THE MARCH MEETING OF THE PONDEROSA COMMUNITY CLUB BOARD WILL BE ON MARCH 18, 2006 AT 10:30 AM.

A SPECIAL COFFEE HOUR WILL FOLLOW THE BOARD MEETING HONORING PAUL AND DIANNE JOHANSEN, OUTGOING PONDEORSA CONTRACTORS AFTER TEN YEARS OF SERVICE.

Social Activities in Ponderosa

By Pam Nicklas & Sharyl Nelson

Seven different times during the past year the Club House was filled with Quilters. Sewing machines humming, material being cut, oohs and ahs over the projects completed, the aroma of food cooking, which all added to wonderful days of enjoyment. If you are a quilter or a wannabe quilter check the Club House calendar for the quilt days in 2006.

The summer months brought sunshine and floating the river and hiking and drive in-movies at the Club House, the parade in July, the ice cream social and more fun and laughter.

We started the Christmas Season the Sunday after Thanksgiving with decorating the Club House. The Kleiver Family sponsored this event. We spent an enjoyable time decorating two trees, drinking hot cocoa and sharing some delicious home made cookies.

The Christmas Lighting contest had a lot more participants this year. The Grand Prize winners were Terry and Linda Drexler, 2nd place went to the Byron home and 3rd place were the Melsons. We had several honorable mentions. They were Wolfs on Stetson, Shermans on Corral, the Hegewalds on Shetland, The Days on Stirrup, the Glovers on Stirrup, the Hawkins on Morgan, the Samples on Stirrup, the Wegmans on Saddle, the Jones on Shetland and the Berrys on Palomino. Thank you to all for making the Christmas Season in Ponderosa so lovely.

The Annual Christmas Dinner was held on the 10th of December. This year we served ribs and chicken and a very good time was had by all. Thank you to the Barga Family for taking charge of this event.

And to finish off the year and start 2006, Reida Wegman and Committee hosted the New Years Eve Party. The Club House was decked out in Hanging 45's and 50's - 60's posters and pictures of actors popular in the era. The food went on and on. There were over 70 in attendance and what fun they all had. The Grand Prize went to Elvis Presley and Marylyn Monroe a.k.a. Jack and Linda (guests of Jim and Linda Woltring). We had two exceptional Great Hula Hoopers (both could not remember the 50's let alone the 60's). Great Job Girls! The Twist Contest was won by Vivian and Jim Simpson.

At midnight a toast was shared by all with a final celebration song of Auld Lang Syne. It was a wonderful way to end 2005 and start 2006.

We have had a great time this past year. The Club House has seen a lot of use and we hope for more next year. The 2006 calendar of events will be presented to the Board at the next meeting on Feb 11th. And we will have it posted on the web site after that. So take a look and see what you would like to sponsor in 2006. If you have any ideas for community events please let the committee know.

Sharyl and Pam want to thank all the volunteers and the participants of the Social Events this past year. You make it happen. We are planning a 2006 year of fun events at the Club House. So check the Social Calendar. It is on our website: www.ponderosacommunityclub.org. Hope to see all of you at the 2006 Ponderosa Social Events.

JUDE'S JOURNALS

By Judy Toenyon

We have quite a number of new owners in the Ponderosa. Welcome. Due to privacy laws we have not been advised of your mailing address from the title company, so please contact me with your current phone, address and Ponderosa address. New member packets are available to new owners. Please let me know if you have not received one.

The Board has hired a full time bookkeeper. We received 13 responses to the ad in the paper, which a committee reviewed. They recommended the top 3 and after the interviewing process, we hired Reida Wegman. Reida Wegman had already stepped up to the plate and has been doing a fine job working on the books and getting out invoices for the New Year.

To all of you who decorated for the holidays, THANK YOU. We love your participation!!

Fire Department Burn Pile

Limb up and prune your trees! Rake your yard! Thin out the Green Belt! Take down that tree! Bring us the trimmins'!

Volunteer Firefighters will burn it for you. Get some work done, meet your firefighters and have some fun making the area more **Fire Safe**. No dirt-stumps or huge limbs please!

When: Saturday May 20th, 8 – 5.

Club House Calendar for 2006

The dates with an * at the end will happen if we have a sponsor/organizer!

Jan 21, 2006 Plain Lazy Quilters - all day

Feb 11, 2006 Board Meeting 10:30 AM Coffee Hour to follow meeting

Feb 25, 2006 Plain Lazy Quilters - all day

March 18, 2006 Board Meeting 10:30 AM Coffee Hour to follow meeting

March 18, 2006 St Pat Party 6:00 to 10:00 PM*

March 25, 2006 Plain Lazy Quilters - all day

April 8, 2006 Board meeting 10:30 AM Coffee Hour to follow meeting

April 22, 2006 Plain Lazy Quilters - all day

May 13, 2006 Board meeting 10:30 AM Coffee Hour to follow meeting

May 13, 2006 Board Appreciation Dinner 6 PM

May 21, 2006 Plain Lazy Quilters - all day

May 28, 2006 Annual meeting Coffee, cookies, and socialization after the meeting

June 10, 2006 Board Meeting 10:30 AM Coffee Hour to follow meeting

July 1, 2006 Drive-in movie - dusk

July 2, 2006 Parade followed by Ice Cream Social

July 8, 2006 Board meeting 10:30 AM Coffee Hour to follow meeting

August 12, 2006 Board meeting 10:30 AM

August 12, 2006 Bar B Q 12:00 to 2:00 PM

September 2, 2006 Drive-in movie - dusk

September 9, 2006 Board Meeting 10:30 AM Coffee Hour to follow meeting

September 16, 2006 Plain Lazy Quilters all day

October 14, 2006 Board Meeting 10:30 AM Coffee Hour to follow meeting

October 14, 2006 Plain Lazy Quilters from Noon on

October 15, 2006 Plain Lazy Quilters - all day

November 4, 2006 Plain Lazy Quilters all day

November 11, 2006 Board Meeting 10:30 AM Coffee Hour to follow meeting

November 25, 2006 Decorate Club house for Christmas*

December 9, 2006 Board Meeting 10:30 AM Coffee Hour to follow meeting

December 15, 2006 Judging for Christmas Lighting Contest

December 16, 2006 Christmas Party and Lighting Awards Presentation 6 PM*

December 31, 2006 New Years Eve Party*

NEW OFFICE MANAGER REIDA WEGMAN WELCOMES OWNERS

The Ponderosa Board and the membership took a step forward in managing the Ponderosa. The Board hired Reida Wegman to be the Office Manager. While many facets of her job will be honed during the coming year, certainly a big part will be bookkeeping and organizing the files for the Community Club. Reida is a full time resident of the community and is committed to the improvement of our community. Let's give Reida a big welcome.

The NEEDLER asked her five questions for this issue:

1. What motivated you to apply for the job?

Reida: My motivation for the job was my background in accounting and working closer to home. I have been in the accounting, management field in the Medical area 28 years and felt I needed a change. This opportunity came up and I applied

2. What do you see as a match in the job for your experience and skills?

Reida: As a match I have worked many years with Accounts Receivable and Payable. I have had my Notary Public License since 1978.

3. What do you see as the biggest challenge of the job?

Reida: I have not worked here long enough to consider what would be the biggest challenge, although Jim, Roy and Judy seem to be my biggest problem today. Just kidding! You are wonderful to work with. I do enjoy the change from the Medical Field.

4. What are your goals for the job?

Reida: My goals are to make new Homeowners feel welcome and prior Homeowners feel that they have a community they are proud of. I am hoping that the community will rely on the Board and Management. My biggest goal this year is to rearrange and organize the Ponderosa Club files so they will be accessible to find what we need in an orderly fashion.

5. What is your vision for the Ponderosa?

Reida: My vision is to see the Community be a place we are all proud of.

“PLAIN LAZY QUILTERS” BUSY AND PRODUCTIVE

By Nancy Melosn

The “Plain Lazy Quilters” have been anything but lazy!

Granted, we may have had some “lazy days of quilting” at the Ponderosa Clubhouse, but we have also been very busy and very productive. Throughout the year we use the clubhouse once a month for “Quilt ‘Til You Wilt” days—gathering with sewing machines, cutting boards, lots of fabric (!), handwork, and, of course, snacks and shared lunch for the day.

This past year we have started making quilts to be donated to local community organizations as well as an orphanage in Ethiopia. Many quilts were taken to the Women’s Resource Center in Wenatchee; another group of beautiful quilts and handmade fleece blankets was donated to the Good Grief Center in Wenatchee. Children ages 3-15 who are in a children’s grief support group (many have lost a parent to death) are able to choose a quilt to take home. There are usually 10-12 children in the group.

We have also been fortunate to have Lynn Armstrong, a kindergarten teacher from Kirkland, visit our group to share her visit as a volunteer to Kenya last summer. Individuals within our quilt group donated money to the East African Center for Women to enable Lynn to take sewing supplies for the Women’s Sewing Group. We have exchanged photos with the women in that group, and were thrilled to see fabrics from Africa which Lynn brought back to our quilt group. The women there sew on treadle machines (all sewing was done by hand until 5 years ago) because they

