



## Fall 2021 Newsletter



Well folks it's that time of year again - the days are cooler, shorter, and the fall colors are here. Lots of us are harvesting and putting our gardens to rest - me - I should be doing that but instead I am sitting outside at the table on our patio, enjoying the birds and the fall sun - and writing this for all of you. Enjoy the news!

### ANNUAL MEETING 2021

Thanks to all of you who attended and made your voices heard. We had 41 voting members (with proxies), and their co-owners - a good turnout. And special thanks to those who stepped up to join the board and committees.

Please welcome Jil Wickander as Director Two and Chuck Denson, Director Four! Jil is also joining the Road Committee and has agreed to take over as Chair of the Trails Committee as well.

Congrats to Kitty Ryker who is now our President, and to Kathi Cherrier who is now Director Five and Treasurer. Without these two ladies, things would just not get done, period! Yours truly is still secretary and Firewise committee chair but I hope to really focus on Firewise work this coming year.

We are sad to say goodbye to Rick Chapman, former board president, who has been on the board for over 10 years and has given so much of his time to help make our community a better place. Phil Sanford has also given many years to the board and shared his knowledge of law to the benefit of us all. Both board members will remain on committees and help us continue our projects. Thanks so much to both of you and we are glad you will still be around to help! Thank you, Gus Clay, for your service on the board and your help with tree removal and yard waste clean-up. We wish you well in your new adventures.

Lastly, please welcome other new additions to our committees - Jim Elicker, Joseph Talbert, Terri Price and Hannah Viano are new members of the Trails group, and Paul Gissing has joined our Firewise committee. Thank you all for stepping up!

As you all may know, we post a lot of information on our website - please, PLEASE check it out - Steve Giambone and I work hard to keep it up to date and we also try to keep Facebook up to date, especially when

we have crises like the fires this summer. The home page has pertinent new info, but we have a lot in the website, including all the minutes of recent meetings and links to further information you may need as a homeowner.

### **FIREWISE NEWS:**

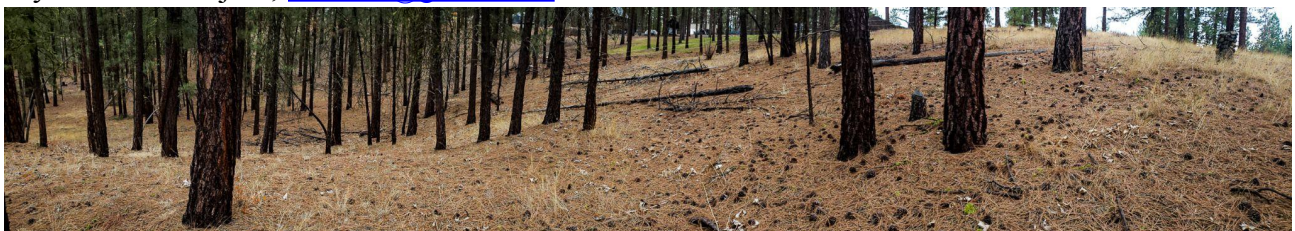


FIRST OF ALL, A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THE NEIGHBORS WHO PARTICIPATED IN OUR NOVEMBER 2020 FREE CHIPPING EVENT, OUR FREE 911 BLUE SIGN EVENT AND OUR FREE YARD WASTE REMOVAL EVENT IN MAY 2021. ALMOST 20 NEIGHBORS CHIPPED THEIR YARD WASTE, WE MADE 70+ SIGNS, AND REMOVED 4 TONS OF YARD WASTE! We have 25 blanks left so contact me if you want a blue sign. And please bring your volunteer hour sheets to me at 44 Larkspur Drive (or mail them to me). You can leave them under the rock on the table on the porch out front. I need these to keep our official Firewise neighborhood status and to qualify for grants.

It was a very tough summer - did we even have summer? With the fires on both sides of our valley, the smoke, the intense heat dome - it was, well, pretty strained. First Cedar Creek Fire and Hwy 20 being closed, then a fire in our development and a rush to evacuate, and then the Cub Creek 2 Fire. Thanks to the amazing work of the Forest Service and DNR, the Wildfire Teams, our own local OCFD6, very few people lost structures in these fires, and there was no loss of life. A special thank you is in order for Tim Delph (one of our SMRC neighbors) who sent everything he could from the forest service to help us when we had the Butterweed Fire - helicopter support and hot shot crews. And thanks to our local OCFD6 guys too! They tell us that if the fire had gone north through the green space instead of south up to Starflower Rd, they might not have suppressed it. As it was, **the fire took a structure on Butterweed, a lot of trees, and got within 3 feet of a structure on Starflower Road!**

Sadly, we had another fire in the development the first week of October and OCFD6 responded with all units from the whole valley. DNR showed up with a couple of crews and dug a fire line and stayed the night to monitor. No structures were lost but it burned about 2 acres. *This should NOT have happened.* We all know how critically dry our area is and we must be extremely vigilant to prevent a burn pile from becoming a burn disaster!

All of this is just the nudge we need to continue with our firewise efforts in our neighborhood. We simply must clean up our green spaces - they need thinning and brush removal. Our committee will be working on these areas in the coming months and years. This is vital to protect our homes and land. We welcome any of you on our Firewise Committee and we will hold meetings over the fall and winter to plan our strategy. Email the Secretary of SMRC to join, [secsmrc@gmail.com](mailto:secsmrc@gmail.com)





## WHEN CAN I BURN???



Cub Creek 2 Fire (last week)

Our residents must do a multi-agency check before burning. First check our Okanogan County Website, in the Emergency Management section to see if the burn ban has been lifted (here's the link - [https://okanogancounty.org/government/emergency\\_management/index.php](https://okanogancounty.org/government/emergency_management/index.php)). Then you should check DNR NE region, and then the Dept of Ecology website.

**If you decide to burn, it is good to call the Sheriff's non-emergency number to advise you will be burning - 509-996-4003 Option 4**

### HOW TO FIND OUT DNR BURN RESTRICTIONS

SMRC is DNR protected land.

Here is how to find out if there is a burn restriction in your area.

STEP 1: Type in [dnr.wa.gov/burn-restrictions](http://dnr.wa.gov/burn-restrictions) in your computer search bar and press Enter.

STEP 2: Scroll down to the map and enter your SMRC address in the field labeled "**Find address or place**". Press Enter.

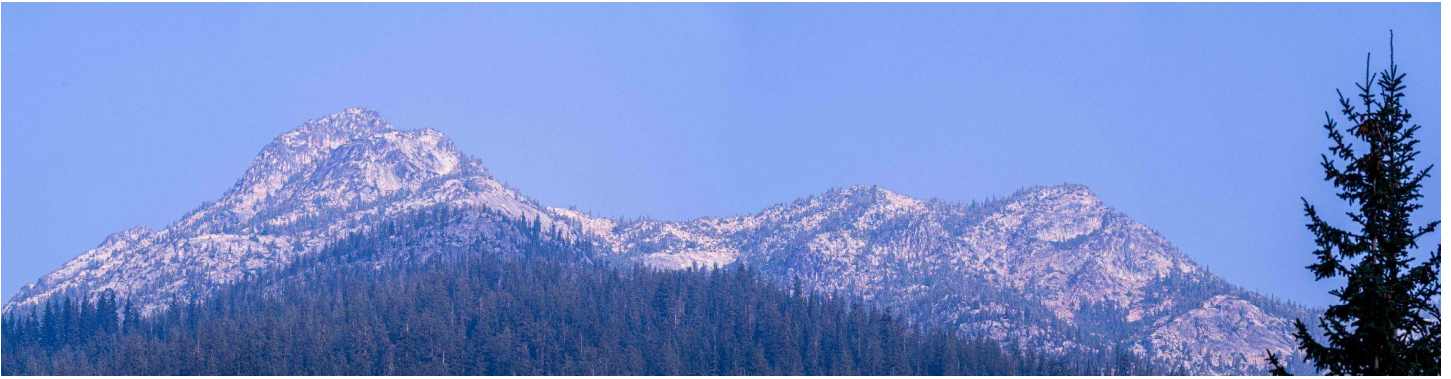
STEP 3: The map will zero in on your address and you will see differently oriented lines across the map or no lines.

STEP 4: Check the key on the left side of the map to identify what the lines mean (rule burns banned, no burn ban in effect, etc)

Remember - Rule burns apply to burning of piles without a permit (the usual small piles of pine needles and branches that we do in the fall).

IF THIS DOESN'T WORK OR ISN'T WORKING FOR YOU - CALL THE DNR NORTHEAST REGION office at 509-684-7474 and they know the current restrictions for your SMRC address.

It can be very confusing, but we want to keep our community safe. Thank you for being careful!



### **RECYCLING/LANDFILL NEWS:**

Our compactor is up and running again. It's a great boon to our development - we don't have the raven messes anymore, our garbage costs have gone down, and if members use it wisely, it will help us keep costs under control despite the huge growth we are seeing in our neighborhood.

Another reminder - don't put stuff like kiddie pools and huge plastic garbage cans in there - or paint cans and toxic material. These don't compact and could damage the compactor - or cause a FIRE (yes, we did have one in the dumpster previously)!!! And please don't leave stuff in the area that you think someone might want instead of taking it to the dump. It just gets left there and must be taken to the transfer station eventually.

Think of it this way - the garbage that goes in there should come from your kitchen, bedroom, and bathroom garbage cans- not from your garden or home projects. That stuff should go to Twisp Transfer station. Which is incredibly cheap - **\$15.54 for 360 lbs plus 4¢/lb**. If you pay cash, you won't have to pay the \$2 credit card fee.

Lastly, to all of you who have your "treasures" out on your property with "FREE" signs on them, if they aren't gone in a week, it's likely that nobody wants them, and it is still your duty to dispose of them properly and promptly. Help keep our neighborhood looking great.

### **MESSAGE FROM YOUR TREASURER**

**First and foremost**, I would like to thank all the lot owners who have continued and repeatedly paid your dues in a timely manner. This has helped tremendously with bookkeeping costs and administration time for me in keeping track of the Club's income and expenditures. We have narrowed the number of properties that have a lien for Dues in arrears to 3. And the September Treasurer's Report to the Board has only \$8,643.05 for Dues unpaid for 2020 and older.

**Second**, I would like to thank all those lot owners who responded to my "Opt-In/Opt-Out" notification on this year's Dues Invoice. We now have 152 of the 281 lot owners (there are 300 lots in the community) agreeing to receive their Dues invoices via their email for 2022.

We now have email addresses for 257 of our 281 lot owners. It helps tremendously in getting you timely information regarding what's happening in the community. . . like a notice of fire, bears in the community, and in receiving this Newsletter from our Secretary, Karen Mulcahy and Steve Giambone, our Website Coordinator.

**Third**, 206 of our lot owners have opted-in to receive their Annual Meeting documents via their email. This saves Karen and me a lot of time printing and stuffing those envelopes!

**Fourth**, we have had 16 of our neighbors sell their properties in the community, and there are 5 more sales pending as of this writing! This means we have 16 NEW neighbors to welcome to the community, so get out and about and get to know your new neighbors. The real estate sales value in our community for 2021 now totals more than \$3.7 million!

**Last, but not least.** . . Our Mailbox Coordinator, Alan Sodell has been very busy renting new mailboxes to our community members again this year. There have been 10 new boxes rented this year, mostly to those new neighbors moving in. The Club has 96 locking mailboxes, 85 of which are now rented. So, if you've been thinking about getting one, you should download the Mailbox Rental Agreement from the website and get it in while you can.

As always, I am available for any questions you may have regarding your dues, etc. And if you want to Opt-In for email notifications, send your permission via email to me at [treassmrc@gmail.com](mailto:treassmrc@gmail.com).

Hope you and your family stay well and have the best of holidays.

**Kathi Cherrier, Treasurer & Director 5**

## **COMMITTEE WORK**

### **Architect Committee**

Our committee has been ridiculously busy with all the building going on here. Please help us out - send your plans/firewise work to the committee c/o Architect Committee, Sun Mountain Ranch Club, PO Box 1227, Winthrop WA, 98862 or via this email [smrcdevelopmentapp@gmail.com](mailto:smrcdevelopmentapp@gmail.com) or firewise applications to [secsmrc@gmail.com](mailto:secsmrc@gmail.com)

This committee could use some members from different areas in the development to help keep an eye on the building that occurs in here, to help our neighbors know the rules and restrictions

### **Trails Committee**

Greetings from the new chairperson of the SMRC Trail Committee, Jil Wickander!

I am still reviewing all the files from the last chairperson and have started a list of interested volunteers for the coming 2022 season. I will be in touch with all of you soon!

Some of the ongoing projects are: continuing marking the trails, getting that picnic spot made down by Little Twin Lake, and putting together a proposal for a dog park.

If you are interested in the dog park, I am looking for someone to head that committee. I at this moment do not own a dog, and I have never been to a dog park. But I have an outline to get you started in researching this project.

I welcome all comments and questions, send them to my director mailbox, [director2smrc@gmail.com](mailto:director2smrc@gmail.com)

Here is to us hiking, biking, and cantering on in SMRC!

**Respectfully submitted by Jil Wickander, Director Two, and Trail Committee Chair.**

**FINAL WORDS:**

I have truly learned to follow Stephen R. Covey's words of wisdom -

**RETIRE FROM YOUR JOB BUT NEVER FROM MEANINGFUL PROJECTS**

**KEEP SAFE AND WELL EVERYONE!**

Karen Mulcahy,  
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Chair, Firewise Committee  
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