



NEWSLETTER

Well folks, it's full-on summer – hot as hades and dry as a chip. Hopefully a lot of you will have read our meeting minutes – there is a link to them on our website front page. This newsletter will have a few tidbits and reminders so we can all have a safe summer!

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IS SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH AT 0900 AT LARKSPUR PARK (that's the pool, clubhouse area). BRING A CHAIR. COME MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS AND LEARN ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD. THERE WILL BE BOARD POSITIONS OPEN!



WEBSITE NEWS:

Everyone should check the website if they have questions about stuff or just to check the front page for news that may have changed. As well, we hope to post the agenda for the next meeting on there – along with the date and time and place. If you have suggestions for info to be included on our website, contact Steve Giambone at websitemrc@gmail.com or myself secsmrc@gmail.com We do our best to update it when we can.



ARCHITECT AND ROAD COMMITTEE NEWS:

The Architecture Committee needs an Application for Construction/Development ANY time you are moving dirt on your property to make an improvement. This includes driveways, wells, and septic systems, NOT just putting up a structure. It is important that you find and mark the corners of your lots to ensure that you are within setback guidelines when installing your wells and septic systems. Our CC&Rs require approval for improvements to your property prior to work being done.

The summer road work and dust control has been completed. To maintain the integrity of our roads after the summer plowing, it is important that everyone follow the 15 MPH speed limit. Road work is the major portion of the Club's budget and getting people to slow down can make that road work last longer. You do not need to increase your speed to climb a hill.



FIREWISE NEWS:

I am sure many of you have seen the work being done by Brother's Fire LLC (Saul Labanauskas, owner) in our neighborhood to thin trees on properties and clean up the dead stuff. A lot of work has been done and more will be ongoing. A lot of the dead and down brush will have to be burned in the fall as it couldn't be chipped, and carting away would increase costs greatly. SMRC has many properties with extremely difficult access, so this necessitates burning for disposal. There is still money available for this 50/50 Cost Share program from DNR. There are 30 properties being done so far. We are hoping to do another grant application through DNR this fall – we have seven properties on the list for the next group cost share grant application. I will be requesting help to run the next program; one member has offered already but we can always use more. If you are interested, send an email and I can send you the information. WE ALL NEED TO DO THIS – our neighborhood is very overgrown and ripe for a fire. DNR will come and do an assessment and an estimate, and we go from there. It's a great opportunity to help protect your property and makes it safer for us all.

And on that note, as noted in the architect/roads news up above, the board would like everyone to identify their property corners so we can eventually do some clean-up work in the greenspaces. These spaces are usually 80 feet wide, some wider, some narrower but not less than 40 feet wide. Property set backs are always 30' from the front and back of your property, and 20' from the sides. **Remember – 30' from the greenspace in the back of your home!**

Lastly, we had a **VERY WET** spring, and this resulted in a **LOT OF TALL GRASS.** We need everyone to weed whack along the roads fronting their properties and along their driveways. If you do this, you must have water available in case you spark anything - this shouldn't happen with a plastic string whacker. DO NOT PARK ANY MOTORIZED VEHICLE ON THE GRASS-PERIOD. DO NOT HAVE CAMPFIRE – PROPANE RINGS ARE ALLOWED BUT WE GET A LOT OF CALLS FROM NEIGHBORS THINKING THEY ARE CAMPFIRE. LET YOUR NEIGHBORS KNOW IF YOU ARE GOING TO USE ONE – I ADVISE AGAINST IT – ITS TOO HOT ANYWAY!



TRAIL TRACKS- by Jil Wickander, SMRC Director 2

Summer is about being outside. Night sky. Hikes. Mountain bike rides. Trail rides. Kayaks. The fires of last year have left many changes in the valley. Ruined trails, muddy creeks, mudslides and views of ruined forest. Wildlife lost their range.

A sighting here on Larkspur in early July, a cow Moose walked thru, no calf. A rare sighting this time of year. And we have all gotten the emails about bears. The fires have altered their normal summer range. So, they are down on the valley floor foraging. Bears usually start their fall forage in our area in September until hibernation. Please do not feed them. As Fish & Game says "A fed bear is a dead bear."

The night sky here in the Methow is worth staying up late for. David Ward writes an article for the Methow Valley News about what you can see in the night sky. Watch for his night events where he brings his telescopes for you to stargaze.

The Dark Sky movement is educating communities about light pollution. Light pollution can cause serious consequences for wildlife. It affects biological rhythms and nocturnal instincts when they are near artificial light. Besides affecting our view of the night sky. And annoy us with the neighbor who leaves their porch light on all night.

Take a moment and look at your porch lights. Are they focusing the light only downward? Do they light up the neighbor's property? Are they energy saving low wattage?

Blue light emitted by LED bulbs should be replaced by a warm white bulb, or yellow or pinkish bulbs. Bugs see generally 3 colors of light, ultraviolet, blue and green. Bugs are most attracted by bright white and bluish lights. Motion sensor light fixtures are another way to give your yard security, but not lighting up the neighborhood all night.

If you have interest in the Dark Sky movement, would you consider being a contact for information that our community could contact? Contact me and we can create a program for our homeowners.

Noxious weeds are here. And spreading. Now is a good time to cut off the seed heads so a zillion more don't propagate next year. The SMRC web page has a link to noxious weed information. The main problem weeds in our community are Barnaby (Knapweed), Wild Mustard, Toadflax, Curly Dock, Bull Thistle. There are others. For more information go online: okanogancounty.org/government/noxious_weed_control
www.wnps.org
<http://extension.wsu.edu>

Noxious weeds take over entire ecosystems, destroy natural habitats, damage agriculture production, and can be toxic, deadly to animals. They can be difficult to eradicate. Some weeds can be hand pulled, some need to be dug, and then there are herbicides and insect controls. Please do bag and haul to the dump.

Next year look for a Noxious Weed Program in our community. I am exploring resources for us over the winter. It may be bugs for Barnaby, it may be a road spray program, it may be weed walks with volunteers to eliminate weeds. The Okanogan County Noxious Weed Board has many informational handouts. I have a box down at the clubhouse if you would like some, contact me. One last thing, think about water. Leave a bowl out for birds and critters. Water is not unlimited in our watershed. The Department of Ecology has put water meters in some of the local HOAs. I will have more information on what is happening with water and development in the valley at the annual meeting. If you are watering landscape, water at night on a timer. Be conservative.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST –How to be a good neighbor:

Don't let your dogs run loose or bark all day long.

Don't put brush in the trash – it goes to the dump! Toilet seats don't go in there either.

Please read the signs in the garbage area. Put your flattened CORRUGATED cardboard in the blue bin first, then on the overflow area if the bin is full. And don't use the "red emergency stop button on the compactor" unless it is an emergency! The machine will run its cycle – it takes a while. If you do accidentally push the red button, pull it back out or the machine will not run.

The doors stay open 3 minutes when you use your card. This is a LONG time.

Please keep the noise down – some people are riding their ATV's very early in the morning and they are noisy.

WE HOPE TO SEE A LOT OF YOU AT THE ANNUAL MEETING!

THANKS FOR TAKING THE TIME TO READ THIS!!!