



SUN MOUNTAIN RANCH CLUB

a private community

winthrop, washington



WINTER/SPRING SMRC NEWSLETTER

Well folks, we are fully into winter, and it seems like spring is around the corner. After a VERY COLD December, we finally got a lot of snow, and now, with the temperatures climbing, it is melting. But there is still plenty to go around. We thought we should send out a little newsletter to keep folks posted on what's been happening. First off, let's deal with the business end of things!

TREASURER'S UPDATE:

If you change your mailing address, email address, or contact phone number please email me (treassmrc@gmail.com) directly with updated information. We use all this information in a database to keep in touch with our lot owners.

Also, thank you to the **160 of 281 lot owners** who have signed up for email billing of their annual dues invoices. It saves us a lot of bookkeeping time.

We have 211 lot owners who have signed up for receiving the Annual Meeting notices via email. This saves Karen, Kitty, and me a lot of time and expense in printing, stuffing, and mailing envelopes. It's not too late to sign up to receive yours via email.

We have only 20 lot owners for whom we do NOT have an email address. Please, if you are receiving this Newsletter via snail mail, send an email to treassmrc@gmail.com so we can add you to our email list. Email is the fastest, most efficient way to keep everyone up to date on things going on in the development.

KEYCARD UPDATE:

Our previous system needed updating. When the mice chewed through the lines, it became a necessity. By now you should have received your new keycards. The new cards work at the clubhouse but we are still waiting for parts to finish activating the magnets on the garbage doors so we can secure the whole system again. Like everyone else in the world, there are supply issues, and we ask for your patience. We have the best system in the valley, and we will get it back into shipshape order soon.

WEBSITE NEWS:

It seems more of you want to come to meetings and be involved, and we welcome your participation! I had a few inquiries as to when the next meeting would be - that is generally posted on the home page at the bottom but now we will post it at the top of the HOME page that comes up when you go to our website. We always ask people to check the website if they are looking for certain info, and we put important new info on that home page - scroll down and check it out for any "new" items when you access our website. After a very long, 3-hour meeting in January, perhaps a few suggestions to those of you who want to come and participate might help things flow more smoothly.

We provide public comment at the beginning of the meeting so you can speak your concerns - as a courtesy, you should come prepared. That means, checking the website thoroughly to see if you can find your answers there, such as in previous minutes or in some of the various sections on the website.

Our website is a great resource - for bylaws, CC&R's (covenants), meeting dates and previous minutes, fee schedules, forms needed for architecture or firewise improvements, evacuation plan, firewise info. We hope it is useful! Steve Giambone and I hope to get together soon to clean up the redundancy and any glaring errors.

FIREWISE NEWS:

We are hoping to receive some grants to run our yard waste clean-up event again as it was a great success! We also made about 80 blue reflective signs and still have 20 blanks left. If you want one to clearly identify your property for first responders, contact your firewise committee through your SMRC secretary Karen and we will get one made for you. Your local fire department also makes them for \$15, \$20 for two-sided. When we run out, we will steer you to them.

We also hope to work with the trails committee with firewise work to clean up the green spaces that will then open areas for trails.

Lastly, we have identified several dead trees/groups of trees along the road right of way that should be removed before they cause problems. We will identify them with pink tape and the word DEAD on the tape. This is not by any means all of them. We will do our best to contact the owners, but we are looking only at trees that would be on the road right of way, not on their property. We do not have plans in place with a contractor to remove them yet.

ROAD NEWS:

Just an FYI, Lloyds Logging does our plowing, and they do the schools first, the grocery stores, and then us. We know some of you had trouble getting to work and to your businesses with the big dump of snow all at once. We can only do so much when Mother Nature has her way with us. Lloyds priority is clearing the roads first and then they come back to clear driveway berms and excess snow. They try to get it done in a timely manner but with so much snow it was difficult.

We have made them aware of some issues and we hope it will be better if a similar situation happens. Please remember there are 281 lot owners and we can't expect Lloyds to remember who is full time, who is not, and where to try to avoid leaving berms. Especially when the snow is overwhelming. We live in a rural community and we need to be prepared at all times for our lives being disrupted by the extremes of nature. We thank you for your patience and understanding.

REMINDERS:

From the CC&R's -IV. General Covenants - Section d) No noxious, Unsightly or Offensive Activity:

No noxious, unsightly, or offensive activity shall be carried on upon any lot within the Subdivision or the Unit nor shall anything be done or placed on any property which is or may be unsightly or become a nuisance or cause embarrassment, disturbance, or annoyance to others.

This applies to dogs not under control by their owners, barking incessantly, or chasing people in the development. And this could become more than a nuisance if the dogs harm people. Dog feces on the roads can certainly be deemed unsightly and offensive. As a dog owner, please be respectful of your neighbors, **keep your dogs under control, and clean up after your pets!**

The following was submitted by Jil Wickander, SMRC Trail Chair

SMRC TRAIL TRACKS



As winter continues the wildlife find less to eat of the native plants. **Caution needs to be taken when feeding the local wildlife.** The Washington State Fish & Wildlife Service has advice about feeding the wildlife in the Methow Valley. Please see this link for up-to-date info on Wildlife feeding -

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/living/wildlife-feeding>

Some homeowners are reporting record numbers of deer and turkeys that come to feed at their homes. Comments I hear are: “it is expensive, and wow - can Turkeys poop a lot!”

New birdsong can be heard as the daylight increases, and visits to the birdfeeders this winter support what a variety of birds live in our area. It was late in February last year that reports came in of a Moose down by Little Twin Lake. In the early morning light, a cow and her calf were sighted. We are blessed with an abundance of wildlife in our neighborhood!

A big thank you to all who responded to the Recreation Survey. The Board of Directors will be reviewing the survey results and further plans are in the works to present to the homeowners about the Picnic Area down by Little Twin Lake, The Dog Park proposal, for an update of the Children’s Playground, and for work on marking the Greenbelts for our Trail system. The final go-ahead on these projects will be determined by all of you in your response to the survey that will be sent out.

The Trail Committee volunteers are working on a draft of the SMRC Trail Rules & Regulations. Once it is completed, it will be posted on the SMRC website and will include a map.

In talking with newer homeowners the barbed wire laying in the grass was mentioned. In the 1960's when Sun Mountain Lodge was just starting, a local outfitter, Claude Miller, started the guests rides up at Sun Mountain Lodge. The Miller's are an old family in early Methow Valley history. Our 700+ acres were Claude's horse pasture for his string of horses that worked up at the Lodge. I hope to interview Claude to hear the story of who the farmer was that grew corn in the bottom of Little Twin Lake.

As spring warms up it is an excellent time to look for noxious weeds. The main plants we pull here are Barnaby, Wild Mustard, Toad Flax and Thistle. I will look into getting more information for homeowners from the Okanogan County Extension. They have people who are available to do a site walk. And I am available to do a plant walk on your property to help you identify plants. Some are noxious, some edible, some medicinal, some

are a wildfire hazard.

One last request, this coming to me from a number of homeowners. Dog owners: PLEASE PICK UP YOUR DOG POOP.

The Trail committee welcomes new volunteers! So does the Firewise Committee.

Looking forward to meeting you out on the trails,
Jil Wickander
director2smrc@gmail.com/SMRC Trail Chair

SECRETARY GETS THE LAST WORD!

It's exciting to see an increased level of interest in all things in the community. We hope that COVID eases up more and more and we can see you all in person. We would like to do these meetings by ZOOM but we have to work out the logistics. Our next meeting is March 19th at 0900 at the clubhouse. In the meantime, if you have questions/concerns/kudos, you can always contact the board through the website. Thanks for taking the time to read this!

Karen Mulcahy
Secretary, SMRC Board
Firewise Committee Chair

