



## Presidents Message

2019

Dear Chinook Pass Cabin Owners,

We have closed the book on another year and are now quickly approaching the spring of 2020. 2019 was a good year for cabin owners as the weather was good, and we did not have to suffer through smoke filled skies and the live threat of fire. I am saying my prayers and keeping my fingers crossed that 2020 will be another smoke and fire free year.

This past year the Chinook Pass cabin Owners Association has not seen any significant change. We have completed all the paperwork for our corporate nonprofit status and have filed our first year's paperwork. I want to thank Jim Lundeen our Treasurer for all his hard work in maintaining our books and filing the proper paperwork with the state and IRS

As a reminder we moved our email system to a G-mail account which enables us to communicate to our members on a more stable platform. The Board of Directors is looking at ways we can improve our association. We want to be relevant and of value to you, our members. If you see an area that we could improve upon or an idea on what you would like us to launch, let us know, we love hearing from you. Along those lines the Board and the association needs your help in a few areas. We need someone to help maintain our Face Book page and we could use some help with ideas on field trips and helping coordinate those trips. Carl did a great job for years and Tamra is working hard to fill his shoes. I would ask you to consider helping where you can. Our program is only as strong as our members. I have read a number of News Letters in the past year and it seems the President's messages more often than not are making a plea for help from the membership. So let's make 2020 a great year for action.

It is my understanding that the billing by the USFS is a bit behind schedule. And you may be seeing an uptick in the amount due because of the cost of inflation, and the allowance within the Cabin Fee Act (CFA) for an inflation increase. I would caution you that if you did not get a bill from the USFS do not assume you will not be required to make your payment, even if it rolls over to next year! I have seen where a cabin owner ends up owing several thousands of dollars in a "catch up" mode. For many of us, that could be a huge burden. Do not let that happen to you and your family. If you do not see a bill, Call Lee Ellis at the Naches Ranger station (509 653 1401 main number) and find out what may be causing the delay. If that does not work, be safe and take the money that would be owed and set it aside; then use it when you finally receive your permit and bill. If you try to connect with the USFS and don't seem to be getting anywhere, please reach out to me and I will see what we can do to get you the information you need. My contact information is on our web site under "Board Members".

Good news for 2020 is we have a full slate of board members. Wayne Bell has recently accepted an appointment to the board to the vacancy created when Vicki Wenham resigned in late August 2019. Wayne has been active in multiple ways with the USFS and the Recreational use of Forest lands. He has been a great

participant in the meetings on issues governing the maintenance and opening of USFS roads. His position will be voted upon at the September Annual Meeting

Last year at the fall meeting Board Member, Doug Mayo informed folks on some of the issues that he has come across in securing insurance for his cabin. He went with the insurance group that is being recommended by the NFH when you can't find a local carrier. The biggest of issues was the clearing of vegetation up to 200 feet around your cabin, which flies in the face of our permits and the operational plans of the USF. Another matter was regarding the use of wood stoves. Those concerns included but were not limited to inspections that were not able to be done, various certifications, installations, chimney cleaning. These issues have been brought to the attention of the USFS, NFH and the Insurance Company. We are happy to say there has been a lot of collaborative work done by the USFS, the NFH, and insurance company, "Assurance Risk Managers, Inc." (<https://arm-i.com/National-Forest-Homeowners>). There is expected to be language changes made to standards in the near future. We hope to have good news by the spring CPCOA meeting. For general information, Yakima County has codes that govern the installation and use of wood stoves. I encourage you to Contact Yakima County for more information.

As cabin owners we have on occasion major issues in front of us as. Fortunately it generally is the simple routine business surrounding our individual cabins that gives us headaches. The only way to have a formidable presence and voice is through the cabin owner driven organizations. Our dues and volunteer activities help us as cabin owners to address our concerns, impact legislation and Forest Service planning, and shape public opinion. Your membership in the CPCOA supports all three associations. If you are not yet a member, I would ask you consider joining the CPCOA. For all current members I encourage you to renew your commitments to the CPCOA.

I invite you to look around on our web site, [WWW.CPCOA.COM](http://WWW.CPCOA.COM) for more information about the Chinook Pass Cabin Owners Association.

**Our spring Association meeting will be Saturday June 20<sup>th</sup> 2020. The fall meeting is set for Saturday September 19<sup>th</sup> 2020. Both meetings will be held at the Nile Community Church and begin with an 11:30 am potluck. Join us; we welcome fresh new ideas and enthusiasm**

Respectfully  
Ralph M Berthon,  
President  
Chinook Pass Cabin Owners Association.