

February, 2020

Dear Chinook Pass Cabin Owners

Another year is in the record book and the Chinook Pass Cabin Owners Association (CPCOA) is alive and well. **The Chinook Pass Cabin Owners Association Board of Directors welcomes all Chinook Pass cabin owners, members and non-members alike to a new year in 2020.** Our hope is that this letter finds you all in good health and cheer for the New Year and that you are of planning all the things you want to do at your summer homes this summer, from repairs to recreation.

We cabin owners have the opportunity to enjoy some of finest scenery in the northwest, and participate in many outdoor recreational activities. Cabin ownership is not without costs and responsibilities; all of which we are happy to pay and live up to. All of us, to the best of our ability put in our time, talent, and treasure into making our cabins just how we want them. In addition, we are called upon to be good stewards of the land. But it does not stop there! **We are also called to be good neighbors by working with other cabin owners and the US Forest Service (USFS) in protecting our tracts and the forest.** A great way to be a good neighbor is to partner with others in the collective efforts of the associations that work hard to protect your interests, and provide educational information on cabin ownership. **Maintaining partnerships is vital to having a strong Recreational Cabin Owners Program.** Being a member of such an organization is how you can ensure organizations like the Chinook Pass Cabin Owners Association, The Washington State Forest Homeowners Association and the National Forest Homeowners Association are able to garner the resources to work for you at the local, State and National level. **In 2019 the CPCOA added 19 new members. Thank you for sharing the CPCOA with your neighbors and friends.**

I would like to say a few things about the CPCOA. For the past few years, the Board of Directors has been focused on four areas.

1. Protecting our cabins and the interests of our members as they relate to the use of their cabins and sharing the CPCOA with friends and neighbors.
2. Provide relevant local, Statewide and national information regarding the management, upkeep, and safety of our cabins.
3. To work with the Forest Service when and where possible in all matters relating to the management of the Recreational Cabin Program.
4. Provide opportunities for members to socialize/recreate via meetings, educational outings (field trips), and work parties.

In 2019 the CPCOA focused on the Fire Wise program, Forest Watch, field trips, and communication. **The “Fire Wise” and “Forest Watch” programs provide a direct and positive impact on you and your cabins.** And **in 2020 the Board will continue to focus on these same issues** as they are extremely important to the health and welfare of the cabins and their owners, the forest, and our association.

**The Fire Wise program addresses actions you can take to make your cabin and tract more resistant fire and the damage caused by fire.** We would ask that you be the one to take lead in developing a Fire Wise Community for your tract. Contact Board Vice President, Gary Jackson for more information. His contact information can be found on our web site. In 2019 we saw the North Yakima Conservation District working with the Cabin owners on both Chinook and White Pass to remove slash and trees from our cabin areas and tracts. A big thank you goes out to them. **Be sure to send them letters if they have done work for you** (please provide me with a copy). Their contact information is on our site.

**The Forest Watch program is patterned after the Neighborhood Watch Program.** It is designed to help you get to know your neighbors, share information that is unique to your area, and provide better level of security within the tract. Again more information and links can be found on our web site.

Not only do **these programs provide an educational component, they identify specific actions you can take to make your tract and cabin a safer place for you, your family, and friends.** We encourage you to take the steps to get your tract on board.

**Field trips: Learning about the forest and sharing knowledge about good stewardship, the history, and the treasures in your area is a great by product of membership in the CPCOA.** Two ways the association tries to support our members is through our meetings and field trips. We share great food and have informative speakers who share relevant information about the cabin program at local, statewide, and national levels. Our field trips are always educational, interesting and fun. Events range from mushroom hunting, visiting old growth timber forests, mining sites, gold panning, and viewing the spawning of Bull trout just to name a few. Another great event held for the first time in 2018 and reoccurred in 2019 was our cabin tract tour where we visited a few cabins in various tracts. A lot of great ideas on cabin use and design were shared. In 2019 we took our first field trip outside of the forest to visit the Wenas Columbian Mammoth Dig in the Wenas Valley just outside of Yakima. We were exposed to the history of the Wenas Mammoth here in the area. We encourage everyone to look into this educational site as it is a great source of education on our region. **Children and grandchildren are always welcome in our field trips.**

In regard to communication, we have asked our members at the association meetings to develop a means to connect with one another within your respective tracts by making a list of email and US mail addresses, and phone numbers. We did not see much movement in this direction in 2019; maybe 2020 will bring better results. The sharing of information with each other is a benefit to the entire tract. **Collaboration on cabin and tract safety and other matters of mutual concern will hopefully be a byproduct of your efforts to be a Fire Wise and Forest Watch tract.** We are also working with USFS Permit Administrator,

Lee Ellis located at the Naches Ranger District Office in Naches, Washington regarding local cabin issues and local forest health. As information is learned we will be sure to share it with our members. I encourage you all to contact us for help with any issues you are encountering with your cabin, the USFS, or ideas about how to organize your tract information. The CPCOA has a letter template that members are free to use in support of your effort to organize your individual tracts. If you are willing to take on a leadership role for your tract, please let me know by emailing me at [cpcoawa@comcast.net](mailto:cpcoawa@comcast.net) and we will email/send you a copy of that letter and provide any assistance we can. The CPCOA Board invites all cabin owners, and associates to become involved in the Association. If you are not a member, join us, if you are a member become more active. Consider helping to work on field trips, or maybe help organize your tract, or serve on the Board. Being on the Board is not difficult. The Board meets twice per year in addition to the two full membership meetings held in early summer and fall.

**Information regarding the CPCOA can be found on our web site <http://cpcoa.com>. There you will find our Articles of Incorporation, By Laws, links to outside resources, and other things such as a membership application and calendar of events. **The CPCOA is only as strong as you make it. To add to our strength in numbers the CPCOA is also a member of the Washington State Forest Homeowners Association (WSFHA) and the National Forest Homeowners (NFH).****

***Cabin owner dues are \$75.00. These dues include \$2.00 for the WSFHA and \$50.00 for the NFH. CPCOA Associate Dues are \$48.00 which includes \$2.00 for the WSFHA and \$30.00 to the NFH. Help us represent you by being involved. Dues are payable in the first quarter of the year. (See attached member application/renewal.) Please send them in as soon as possible. (Please note: Cabin owners may not sign up as an "Associate".)***

I wish you the best in the New Year and look forward to hearing from you all this summer. I encourage you to visit our web site (see below) and feel free to contact me with any questions and recommendations on how the CPCOA can be of assistance to you. I do not check the Comcast email as often as I do my Gmail, so if you have urgent needs, please use my Gmail address. **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.**

With warm regard  
Ralph Berthon  
President, CPCOA  
[ralphb140@gmail.com](mailto:ralphb140@gmail.com)  
[cpcoa@comcast](mailto:cpcoa@comcast)