



Cabin Tracks

Chinook Pass Cabin Owners' Association — May 2017

President's Letter - Maureen Bell



Dear Cabin Owners,

Spring appears to be here! We are looking forward to spending time at our cabin and enjoying the recreational activities in the woods. Some of you have spent time at your cabin this winter, others are just opening their cabins, and others continue to wait for snow to melt to even have cabin access.

I welcome the “new” cabin owners who have joined our cabin association. There are 44 new cabin owners on Chinook Pass since 2015 (the last time we received updated Forest Service cabin owner information). Please invite all cabin owners in your tract to join us at our summer/potluck meeting scheduled for Saturday, June 24th at the Nile Valley Community Church at 11:30 p.m.

There are many reasons for joining our cabin association. By joining our association, you will meet and work with other cabin owners. You are also National and State Cabin Owners Association members, and you are able to communicate with the Forest Service regarding cabin issues. Other benefits include: website access, yearly “Cabin Tracks” newsletter, 2 meeting/potlucks, field trips, and collective representation to the forest service on important cabin issues. The association board has met and our goals for this year are: to increase our membership, to sponsor 2 Forest Service Community Service projects, to schedule field trips, to have all cabin tracts become Firewise communities, and to retain the Forest Watch program.

Treasurer's Report - Jim Lundeen



We currently have received 2017 dues for 107 memberships, representing 90 cabins owners and 17 associate members (friend or relatives of cabin owners). Thanks to all of you who have paid your dues. If you haven't sent in your dues yet, you can send it to me, or bring it to the June potluck. Dues are \$60 for cabin owners (of which \$40 goes to National); and \$40 for associate members (\$25 goes to National).

Thanks to all of you, CPCOA is doing well financially, with \$7,020 in our general account, and \$6,040 in our Cabin Defense Fund. We will have additional expenses to pay this year.

Incorporating CPCOA by Ralph Berthon



The Chinook Pass Cabin Owners Association (CPCOA) Board has been reviewing the pros and cons of changing the status of the CPCOA from an Unincorporated Association to an Incorporated Not for Profit (Nonprofit) Organization. It is a common misunderstanding that nonprofit organizations are charities. In many cases that is true. But not all nonprofit organizations are charities. There are several types of corporations within the Internal Revenue Service 501-C Code. In the case of associations such as the Chinook Pass Cabin Owners Association they can file an IRS form to get themselves recognized as a nonprofit under the Internal Revenue Code section 501-C7, which is not a charity.

We encourage our members to come to the June 24th meeting to learn more about the CPCOA, the impact of becoming a nonprofit 501-C7 organization, and to ask questions. At the end of the presentation the board will ask the CPCOA members if they feel prepared to vote to either remain as we are, an “Unincorporated Association” or convert to a 501-C 7, an “Incorporated Organization”. If the members prefer more time to consider the action, the board will postpone the vote until the September general membership meeting. If, and when, the members vote in favor of the change the board will draft Articles of Incorporations and Bylaws and use them to govern our Association in a manner that is consistent with other Recreational Summer Home Associations in Washington State and across the country. We will be able to post drafts of our Articles and Bylaws on the CPCOA website and have an open comment period to accept comments from our members. If we have an attorney in our membership who would like to volunteer to help with the project please do not hesitate to contact the board.

We look forward to your attendance and participation at this very important June 24th general membership meeting.



Board Recruitment,

Just SAY YES! By Ralph Berthon

Our spring meeting, June 24th, is the meeting we have designated for the selection of our board members and slate of officers. This year we have 5 board positions to fill. This coming year we will be taking on some exciting work as a board. We are always looking for energetic people who are willing to help the CPCOA continue meeting the needs of its members; come join us. The very fact you are a CPCOA member or are considering becoming one, means you have an interest in supporting the shared goals of the Association. This is a great way to put your commitment into action. Generally, there are only 3 board meetings per year. The time commitment is low. Board members are elected to a 2-year term. That is only 6 board meetings in two years! Each meeting is, on average, less than 2.5 hours long. Overall with a committee or two, one puts in less than 10 to 12 hours a year in serving on the board. Recognizing some folks need to travel a fair distance, meetings are held at a location that is conducive to the best attendance possible. **The CPCOA needs you to SAY YES!**

National Forest Homeowners Conference—April 21-22, 2017

Cedarbrook Lodge, Seattle, WA By Wayne Bell

Seven CPCOA cabin owners, Roy & Winoa Rombough, Scott Miller, Kirsten & Larry Sanford, and Wayne & Maureen Bell, attended the National Conference in Seattle. In a beautiful setting, we met with other cabin owners around the state and US, and Forest Service Representatives. Listed below are facts to know:

- * that many people in NFH are working very hard on our behalf
- * that NFH has excellent communication with our national leaders in Congress and the Forest Service
- * that 3 USFS, Washington D.C. Officers attended the conference
- * that 4 Region 6 (Portland Office) Foresters attended the conference
- * that cabin owners' major issues are: insurance, wildfires, water rights, historic cabins & climate change
- * that the major issue in our forest today is Forest Health
- * that it is vital cabin owners remain united
- * that in the 1950s there were 20,000 cabins in NFH, today there are 14,000
- * that CPCOA needs to improve their relationship with our FS permit administrator, Ranger and supervisor
- * that in 2024, The Fee Retention Agreement in the CFA calls for all cabin fee money be returned to the local Forest Service District
- * that in 2028 our cabin permit process is up for review and renewal



Our “Traveling” Door Prizes are Missing

Each meeting/potluck, a lucky members' name is drawn to have one of the following books to take home, read, and return at the next meeting: Jack Nelson, *We Never Got Away* and Della Gould Emmons, *Nothing in Life is Free*. If you have one of these books, please let Maureen Bell know (bellwayne@charter.net) or call 506.628.3867.

FireWise Communities—Gary Jackson



Congratulations to Union Creek and Sleepy Hollow Cabin tracts for becoming nationally known as Firewise Communities. For those not familiar with the Fire Wise program, it is a nationwide program designed to help communities reduce their wild fire risks. If your tract is interested in the program, you can get more information from Mike Tobin with the North Yakima Conservation District (509.454.5736 Ext. 122 or mike-tobin@conservewa.net) or Andrea Ely at the Yakima County Fire Marshal's office (509.574.2300 or andrea.ely@co.yakima.wa.us). Our association goal this year is to have all cabin tracts become Firewise Communities.



Forest Watch By Gary Jackson

Just a reminder that there are still a few cabin tracts on Chinook Pass that are not participating in the Forest Watch program. Our goal for this year is have all cabin tracts represented. For those of you that are interested, please contact Gary Jackson at gljackson1911@gmail.com or call (509) 952-8498 or see Gary at the Summer Meeting.



Ecology's Camps and Cabin Owner's Program Spring 2017 Update

We have completed permitting and have issued mitigation to most of the larger cabin communities across Kittitas and Yakima Counties. Many these communities have a governing community association, share a common source of water supply, and are located in areas where impacts can be mitigated in-time and in-place, meaning they are on or downstream of one of the five large Yakima Basin reservoirs. These factors greatly expedite processing of applications and mitigation contracts.

We are now increasing focus on permitting requirements and approach for other cabin communities, including the American River. Because the available mitigation does not offset impacts to the American River, we must address additional concerns from the Yakama Nation and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. We are hopeful we have now identified a successful path forward, and will be prioritizing permitting of these cabins.

Our primary focus is to issues mitigation to surface water users, but will also be addressing groundwater. Recall, existing small uses of groundwater are legal under the State's permit-exempt statute (RCW 90.44.050), but not such exemption exists for surface water.

Next Steps: We will be completing a single report for all American River Cabins in the next few weeks. Following review of the draft report, we will be reaching out to individual cabin owners for application signatures.

If you have not yet been contacted by us or a designated community representative, please e-mail the project contacts (below) to express interest in the program. Identifying and making contact with individual cabin owners is the most time consuming and often limiting step in the permitting process. Please include your contact information, cabin location, and a brief description of your current water use, including whether it is surface water or groundwater supply, shared or community water system, or single domestic supply.

We look forward to completing much of the Chinook Pass permitting this year. If there are any additional questions or concerns, please contact either Kelsey and/or Tyson by phone or e-mail:

Kelsey Collins, State Trust Coordinator
Department of Ecology, Water Resources
Ph. 509.575.2640 email: kesi461@exy.wa.gov

Tyson D. Carlson, Hydrogeologist
Aspect Consulting
Ph. 509.895.5923 email: tcarlson@aspectconsulting.com

2017 Summertime Field Trips - Carl Buchholz



As of mid-April only one field trip is confirmed for 2017, and it should be a good trip that would appeal to most cabin owners - Old Growth Forests. Christina McKernan, who is a new botanist with the Forest Service at Naches, will lead this field trip. The details (date, time, location) will be provided later. We will do this by email to everybody who has provided her/his email address, and it will be also posted on our website (CPCOA.com) under field trips. The location will probably be in the Bumping Lake area.

Last year's geology field trip was postponed until this year due to Dr. Paul Hammond's health, but Paul will not be able to lead a trip again this year. His recovery has been long and his confinement to bed has made his knees too weak to do the walking that is required for a geology field trip. Hopefully, he will be in better health in 2018.

Due to work load, the person who was going to lead a gold prospecting field trip cannot do it this year. We are looking for another leader.

I am working on other field trips, but at this time none are definite. If there is enough interest, I could lead a rock hound thunderegg field trip again. I am open to all suggestions, especially if there is somebody interested in leading a field trip.

Carl (buchcs@aol.com or 509-966-4861)

Announcements:

***IF YOU HAVE NEW CABIN OWNERS WITHIN YOUR TRACK,
PLEASE INVITE THEM TO JOIN CPCOA!
Information on CPCOA can be found at: www.cpcoa.com***

CPCOA'S CLEAN UP SERVICE PROJECT

The CPCOA has volunteered to help the Forest Service by cleaning up the Mather Memorial Rest Area. We will gather at the rest area across SR410 from Sawmill Flats Campground to pick up trash and sweep up pine needles and branches.

WHEN: June 25, 2017—9:00 a.m. to completion

WHERE: Mather Memorial Parkway Rest Area

Contact: Wayne Bell 509.628.3867



Please bring brooms, clippers, shovels, and rakes. Portable generators are nice, especially with blowers and weed trimmers.

After the work is completed, members enjoy sharing lunch together at the rest area, so bring something to eat and drink as well.

Don't Forget!

Summer Potluck/Meeting

Saturday, June 24, 2017

11:30 a.m-2:00 p.m.

Nile Valley Community Church

Bring a hot dish, salad, or dessert to share

Drinks & table setting will be provided

Guest Speaker—Torry Smith, FS Law Enforcement Officer & “Dog”, his companion.

