

Chinook Pass Cabin Owners Association
Fall Meeting/Potluck
October 3, 2009

The Fall Meeting/Potluck was held at the Nile Valley Community Church with about 70 people attending. This was a great facility. It included the use of dishes, silverware, coffee pot and a crew who came in and help wash the dishes and clean up. Everyone was very pleased with the facility and as always the food was delicious. Thank you to everyone for your contribution.

Jack Selby began the meeting at 12:20 p.m. in the absence of the President Mike Berriochoa. A "Moment of Silence" was given in memory of cabin owners, relatives and friends who have passed away during the year and all of those who are experiencing health problems.

The Associations officers and webmaster were introduced. Dave Leinweber was thanked for his work on maintaining the website.

Jim Lundeen gave the treasurer's report. We have \$3,141.63 in the treasury as of today's meeting. There will be expenses for today's meeting.

Our association's membership has increased this year. We now have 91 members with 15 associate members. Jim received more memberships today.

Jack introduced guest speaker, Ted Filer, Rimrock Association past president, Board member for the NFH Board, and active in the WSHOA. Ted was impressed with how our association has grown and stated there is strength in numbers. He encouraged all members to become active.

The State and National Associations are dealing with the next appraisals scheduled for 2010. Appraisers are to give 30 day notice when they will be on your site to do the appraisal. Ted recommends owners make every effort to be present when your cabin is appraised. Be prepared to give the appraiser "your" perspective for a fair appraisal. Only land (dirt) is to be appraised and not any buildings.

The NFH is working diligently on Coalition II. There is a C2 survey posted on the NFH website. This survey has been sent to cabin owners who are asked for a response. They want one response for each cabin. The purpose of the survey is to gather information regarding appraisals and sales of cabins nationwide. This will give them a better understanding of the total cabin appraisal picture. Go to www.nationalforesthhomeowners.org to complete the survey by October 18th. As of today's meeting there are only 58 cabin owners who have responded to this survey.

As permit fees nationwide have elevated over the past year, NFH has worked very hard for national cabin owners and have met legislators and forestry personnel to discuss this issue. If members want to appeal their permit fees, there are procedures to follow. **Ted said it is very important to read your invoice carefully and to pay the permit fees as invoiced and then appeal the property value assessment.** Appeals must be done individually and sent to Rebecca Heath at the Wenatchee National Forest. You have 90 days to make the appeal.

NFH has a dedicated group of volunteers working diligently for cabin owners' issues at the national level. The first step for a 1 year moratorium on cabin fees has passed. The Senate passed the Appropriations Bill with an amendment that sets 2010 cabin fees at the 2009 fee level. Next the house has to approve it and the President has to sign it. This will allow Senate and House legislators and NFH time to work out an agreement acceptable to all parties.

Representative Norm Dicks from the Bremerton Area is chairperson of the House Committee and Rep. "Doc" Hastings from the Tri-Cities is a member of this committee. Sen. Maria Cantwell was a member of the Senate Committee. Now is the time to contact these legislators and thank them for their support and future support. See the CPCOA website for sample letters written by Mike Berriochoa. It is quicker and more efficient to fax or e-mail your letters than to send these via US Postal.

Remember when you pay your CPCOA dues, part of these dues pay your NFH membership fees. Do not pay NFH fees separately.

There was a brief discussion regarding the property value assessments we received from the Yakima County. Many of you have seen an increase in your building values. We discussed how these appraisals were determined and the fairness to cabin owners. Remember, if you have questions contact the Yakima Auditors Office to request an appeal form to begin the appeal process. See the back of your Notice of Value for further information.

Kelsey Collins gave an update regarding the surface water problem for some cabin owners. There is water available to purchase and her office continues to work on this issue. If you have questions or want up-to-date information, e-mail Kelsey at kelsi461@ecy.wa.gov

Jack read Mike Rowan's letter that said that the Heritage Evaluation would be concluded in 2010. Mike stated that our cabin permit Invoices should be mailed in October. If members want to appeal their permit fees, there are procedures to follow. (Please refer to Ted Filer's previous statement) You have 30 days after you receive your permit invoice to pay the State Leasehold Excise tax. You should have received the Leasehold Tax Information from the State Department of Revenue earlier this year. This form has instructions for completion and payment.

Carl Buchholz's shared information about upcoming field trips for next summer. He asked members to let him know of suggestions they might have. He asked for a showing of hands of those who would be interested in a field trip to Copper City. Many who attended were interested. Check our website for dates and information for scheduled field trips for the summer 2010. Thank you Carl.

Jack said the Board is updating the associations By-Laws which will be shared with the membership at our next meeting. Officer elections will be held at our summer meeting, also. If you are interested being an officer, contact Mike Berriochoa.

Dave Leinweber and Wayne Bell conducted the door prize drawings. Thanks go to Whistlin' Jacks, Gold Creek Station, and Naches Ace's Hardware and our association for donating door prizes. Maureen Bell will write letters to these businesses thanking them for their support of our association.

Our spring/summer meeting potluck is scheduled for June 12, 2010 at Sprick's Park. More information will be on the website and e-mails and letters will be sent to remind members.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Maureen Bell

Maureen Bell, Secretary