

**Chinook Pass Cabin Association Summer Meeting**  
**Nile Valley Community Church**  
**Saturday, June 21, 2014**

President Dave Leinweber called the meeting to order at 11:40. He introduced our guests, the CPCOA Board Members and took roll call of the tracts. Thirteen of the 22 tracts were represented. The members took a moment of silence in memory of Ted Filer who passed away this spring. Ted for many years was a member of the Rimrock Cabin Association and a leader in the state and national organizations. We will miss Ted's representation at these groups. Dave presented an overview of our agenda and then announced it was time to eat showing a slide of his 1<sup>st</sup> grandson, David, 7 months, sitting at a high chair.

At 12:30, Dave began our meeting introducing Deputy Perry Brown, who will be patrolling Chinook and White Pass areas. Perry briefly shared information about him and stated he was happy to be given this assignment and is looking forward meeting all of us. Deputy Brown has been given an updated directory so he will be able to contact any cabin owner if there should be a problem. Welcome aboard, Perry.

**Guest Speakers:** Karen Freshwater presented pertinent information to our members regarding the Hwy 410/ Hwy 12 Community Wildfire Protection Plan that she and others have been writing. Cabin owners were given a firsthand report regarding wildfires and were informed about what we can do to better protect our cabins. The Wildlife Protection Group operates the Chipper Program. Volunteers are available to come to tracts and chip collected waste that cabin owners have appropriately stacked. The Chipper Program is to remove fuel loads around our cabins and helps us to create fire defensible space around our cabins. We can't stop fires but we can be prepared. For more information on the Chipper Program, call Michael Tobin at 509.454.5736 ext 5 or email him at [mike-tobin@conservews.net](mailto:mike-tobin@conservews.net) Karen encourages tracts to organize clean space around their cabins area and schedule to have the "chipper" volunteers to come and chip the slash piles on each site. Karen left a flyer, North Yakima Conservation District's Highway 410 and 12 Firewise Fuels Reduction Program for members to take and read.

**Naches Ranger District Employees:** There have been several personnel changes at the Naches Ranger Station. Kathryn Buchholz, will take over the Special Use Permit Administrator's position in the fall. Kathryn shared she will spend the summer working to "catch-up" on requests and she does have summer help. She encouraged members to be patient with their requests as it may take time for cabin owners to receive a reply. Each request is assigned a priority number. Members were asked that if they have future projects to please submit plans in advance. It is that time of year for cabin owners to complete the "Recreation Residence Self-Inspection Report." Kathryn lefts form for members to take and complete and return to the Ranger Station by July 1 of each year.

Lauren DuRocher is the Recreational Resource Specialist on loan to us from Cle Elum until July when Bill Zimmer will take over. KC Briggs also from Cle Elum will oversee the district until a new ranger has been appointed. Lauren has been working with ranger employees and the cabin association to reassess the "fire communication" plans for the future. The Naches Front Desk should have any and all fire information. Lauren informed members about Twigs a volunteer program which includes several area interest groups who volunteer to support the local ranger station. They meet 4-5 times a year and work closely with employees at the ranger station. The next meeting is Oct. 7, 2014.

Michelle King, Environmental Coordinator and Public Information Officer talked about NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act). Any Federal Agency must be in compliance with NEPA whenever they have a new project on Federal land or spend Federal resources.

**Little Naches Restoration Project:** Wayne Bell is the CPCOA representative. The purpose of this group is to make recommendations (by Dec. 30, 2014) to the Forest Service on how best to restore the Little Naches Watershed. . This is a collaborative process with several agencies being represented: Nature Conservancy, DNR, Yakima Nation, Forest Service, WQA Fish & Wildlife and forest users such as logging grazing, and recreation. Wayne asked for cabin owners and users of the Little Naches watershed to give input. It is important that cabin owners are pro-active and are part of the decision-making process. Wayne asked if any member has recommendations or suggestions to please contact him or see him after the meeting.

**Update on Previous Meeting Issues:** Ecology's Water Bank—this bank provides domestic water rights to cabin owners during droughts. Entire tracts are urged to participate to receive "senior" water rights. Contact Kelsey Collins at 509.575.260 ([kési461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:kési461@ecy.wa.gov)) or Tyson Carlson (206.838.5842 for more information regarding water rights for your tract area.

**Cabin Fee Act of 2014:** the cabin fee act has again passed the House and is waiting for passage in the Senate. Hopefully this will be completed soon and we will no longer have the assessment to determine our cabin fees.

**E-11 Permit Clause:** no or very little action has occurred regarding this permit clause to Bumping Lake Cabin Owners. Dave Leiwneber and Ralph Berthon will keep us updated.

**1700 Road System:** The big rock that closed Old River Road over the winter will be cleared by mid-summer. At this time it appears the decommissioning of this road may be on hold. Cabin owners have been meeting with forest supervisors regarding Gold Creek, 1704 road and Gold Creek Cabin tract. It appears the Forest Service is willing to meet and hear our concerns regarding the decisions made for the 1700 road system but no actions has occurred at the present time.

**Naches RD Fire Ban Process:** Last year many cabin owners were unhappy with the way "Fire Bans" were administered for our cabins. Fire bans are not only determined by the Forest Service but the Yakima County Clean Air Authority and the State of Washington can ban fires. Dave will be meeting with the new ranger to devise a plan to be implemented this summer/fall hopefully with changes from last year's fire bans.

#### **Business Meeting:**

**Mather Memorial Clean Up:** Kathy Hoffert chair for this service project was ill. Dave thanked Kathy and David Hoffert, David Delmore and Roy and Winona Rombough who worked for about 2 hours to complete the clean-up at this area.

**2014 CPCOA Field Trips:** Carl Buchholz reported the following field trips: July 12<sup>th</sup>, Paul Hammond—Geology and August 16<sup>th</sup> Suzy Cyr will lead a Cooper City Field Trip. September (date to be determined) will be a Rock Hound Field Trip. If "Mother Nature," (weather) permits a mushroom field trip may also be scheduled. Carl reminded all members to go to [www.cpcoa.com](http://www.cpcoa.com) to get up-to-dated plans and arrangements for all field trips and to make sure none have been canceled.

**Financial Report:** Treasurer Jim Lundeen presented the financial report. We have 127 full memberships (7 new members) and 21 Associate Members (4 new) plus other cabin owners who joined our group today. The checking balance is \$3,841.48 with some expenses to be paid today. Association members contributed \$2,780 to the CPCOA Cabin Defense Fund. From this fund, Jim sent \$1,390 to the national C2 Committee with a balance of \$1,390. Cabin members may donate to this fund at any time.

**Announcements:** Chinook Pass starting the middle of July could have 2-4 hour delays until October. Members are advised to check online at the WDOT site for updates on this road repair project. Crews will be repairing the slide that occurred this spring near the top of the pass.

**CPCOA Incorporation:** Is there anyone who would be able to assist our group to incorporate. We have been advised to incorporate for the protection of our association members and officers. Contact Dave Leinweber, cell 1.425.241.2009.

**Get Involved:** there are several ways our members can become involved with the association. We need representative for TWIGS, Naches Working Group, Washington Trails Association, Yakima Basin Water Plan, Invasive Plant training, and others. Contact Dave Leinweber if you wish to get involved.

**Sawmill Flats Re-roofing:** Roy and Wynona Rombaugh will contact the forest service regarding this project. If you are interested in helping call Roy or Wynona at (509-575-0417 pause #28) or email kc7zjb@aol.com

**Fall Meeting:** Nile Valley Community Church, Saturday, Oct. 4, 2014, 11:30 a.m.

**FALL ELECTIONS: WE NEED YOU!** The following positions are open—1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Secretary, and Board Member-at-Large. These are 2 year positions. At present there are 3 board meetings and 2 association member Spring/Summer & Fall Meetings. Also, be thinking, Dave Leinweber has announced he will not run for President in 2015. We need members to step up and become active and be a part of the association. Please let Dave know if you are willing to run for one of these positions.

**FaceBook:** We are on Facebook thanks to Noma Hudson. Please check us out.

**Door Prizes:** Thanks to Whistlin' Jacks (2-\$25.00 gift certificates), Woodshed (2 pizza gifts certificates) and the association for scratch tickets and table decorations for door prize donations. The "Traveling Door Prize" the book, "*We Never Got Away*" was given to Anna Uebelacker who will read the book this summer and return it at our fall meeting for someone else to win to take home to read.

Have a great time enjoying your cabins this summer

Respectfully submitted

*Maureen Bell*

Maureen Bell, Secretary