MRFHA Newsletter

Metolius River Forest Homeowners Association

Vol 32 No 2 Aug/Sept 2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: Bonnie Ashenbrenner

I hope all of you have been enjoying your cabins and time on the river; there is no place like the Metolius to enjoy 'work' and relaxation with family and friends. Thank all of you who attended the annual meeting on the fourth of July. For those of you that did not attend, here are some highlights:

- Bob Irvin gave an update from the National Forest Homeowners convention in Seattle last April and spoke on the present state of the CUFFA (Cabin Fee Fairness Act) reform. The Cabin Coalition II/NFH are still trying to get a congressional hearing on CUFFA reform and have some solutions to offer. This information is available via a link to the NFH site at our blog www.mrfha.blogspot.com
- The membership voted by majority to donate $5,000 to the NFH for the CUFFA reform coalition to help fight for fair fees for our cabins. I want to personally thank the membership for this donation; it could not have come at a better time and for a more important cause that affects all of us.
- Lorie Hancock gave an update on the a project afoot to return dirt roads back to their historical 'red road' appearance, throughout the Camp Sherman area. She also provided information about the Camp Sherman historical society.
- Jeff Sims of the Forest Service talked a little about historical designations, permits and other relevant topics.
- The Board agreed to form a committee to study the pros & cons of having historical designation for our cabins; we will keep you updated. The association has no opinion one-way or the other till facts are collected.

The annual picnic is a great place to gather and visit old friends and meet some new ones. It is amazing how much information is passed along at these gatherings on all kinds of topics. I would encourage all of you to attend all or part of the picnic this year and see how fun it is.

Here are the following websites: Don't forget to bookmark them.

Metolius River Forest Homeowners-
www.mrfha.org &
www.mrfha.blogspot.com
National Forest Homeowners –
www.nationalforesthomeowners.org
Oregon Forest Homeowners-
www.oregonforesthomeowners.com

Wishing you all a wonderful time at your cabins for the remainder of the season…

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FUNDRAISING EVENT

By Staff Writer

The Camp Sherman Historical Society is sponsoring the showing of a Luther Metke video and an ice cream social at the Community Hall, Saturday, August 15 at 6:45 PM. The 27-minute documentary was produced several years ago on the subject of pioneer Camp Sherman log homebuilder Luther Metke and was nominated for an academy award. The maker of the video will be present to talk about the production and relate stories of working with Luther. A small donation is requested.

GOT MRFHA?

By: Megan Prince

The need for civic action within the Metolius Basin has become evident. We now are engaged with mounting concerns centered on the Cabin User Fee Fairness Act (CUFFA). We wish to summon the involvement of cabin users, especially of the younger generations, to become aware of the issues that we face in successfully securing our precious residences along the Metolius River.

Declaration of Involvement for all Cabin Users

When in the Course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to unite under a common connection to our Metolius River, a respect for preservation will impel them to act with a sense of civic involvement.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all cabin users are created equal, that they are endowed with certain alienable Rights, limited by the powers of the Federal Government and the United States Forest Service. To secure and maintain our permits, it is the Right of the Permit Holders and Cabin Users to become connected to the Metolius River Forest Homeowners Association (MRFHA), as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Prudence, Security and Longevity of cabin use. All experience hath shewn that wo/mankind are more disposed to success pursuing civic concern, knowledge and stewardship for the love of the Metolius Basin. Customarily, we call all cabin users to join MRFHA, it is their right, it is their duty, to provide new Guards for the future security of recreational cabin use along this beloved river.

METOLIUS PROTECTION ACT – HB 3298

By: Megan Prince

The Metolius Protection Act of 2009 passes the Oregon House by a margin of 31-28! The Bill extends unprecedented state protection to the Metolius Basin and its watershed by creating the state's first-ever Area of Critical Statewide Concern (ACSC). Under the ACSC classification commercial development within the Basin is firmly restricted. HB 3298 was signed into law on July 15th on the bridge over-looking Wizard Falls. Several key legislators accompanied Governor Kulongoski, such as: Betsey Johnson, Ginny Burdick (both with family residences within the Basin), Brian Clem and Peter Courtney. The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, Eric Kancler of the Central Oregon Landwatch and roughly 100 civic activists were present to witness the signing of this historic legislation. Thanks to everyone who wrote letters, made calls and did their part to help make the success of this Bill a reality!

OFHA UPDATE

By: Staff Writer

We encourage you to review your permits and take notice of any new verbiage or inconsistencies from your prior permit. If there are any concerns or questions, please contact a member of the Board. We also URGE you to reach out and request a hearing on the CUFFA appraisal problems. Contact Senator Ron Wyden, chair of the Public Lands and Forests subcommittee, with the message that we want a Congressional oversight hearing to present the appraisal situation.

To contact Senator Wyden:

Senator Ron Wyden
223 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-3703

Call his Washington, DC office at 202-224-5244

And/Or http://wyden.senate.gov/contact/ and send him an email asking for a Congressional oversight hearing for the appraisal situation in Oregon.

WATER TESTING

By: Bonnie Ashenbrenner

Water testing KITS will be available for the Labor Day weekend Sep. 5-7, and may be picked up at the annual picnic or at Tract 0 lot 23. The cost of the combined nitrate and bacteria test will be $55, payable to UMPQUA Research Company.

Please bring your completed tests to cabin 0-23 anytime between 1:30pm Monday Sep. 7 and 8:30 am Tuesday Sep. 8th. Place them in the cooler at the end of the driveway.

Do not fill your bottle before Monday at 1:00pm to make sure your test is valid. You do not have to send your report to the Forest Service: MRFHA will get copies of the reports and submit them for you. Thanks for your participation, the discount we receive for doing it as a group helps us all.

FIRE SEASON 2009

By Larry Watson

The Black Butte II fire is contained. Dark clouds in the sky over the river indicate we are in the middle of fire season. SUGGEST we all pick up the pine needles, cones and blow off the roof. We are required to keep our lots free of debris for thirty feet around our cabins as a fire barrier. The next available date for lawn debris to be taken to the dump is October 10. Directions are to proceed toward Hwy 20 on our RD 14. Slow down and look for a marked point of entry on the left, just prior to the curve in road.

TRACT ROAD DUST ABATEMENT 2010

By: Mark Dohrmann

Cabin owners have an opportunity to have their tract roads treated to reduce dust next year. Road District 18 has insufficient funds, thus cabin owners will have to foot the bill. To make this work each cabin is assessed according to the grid below. Though this is an optional program a minimum number of cabins in a given tract MUST participate to reach a threshold, else work the roads will not be treated and funds will be returned. Calculations are based on a 70% participation rate. Should any tract exceed the threshold there *may* be a refund of excess collected.

Tract Road	Min # Cabin	Cost/Cabin
Tract C	31	$125/each
Tract H	10	$115/each
Tract I	7	$ 85/each
Tract O	22	$125/each

ALL funds must be received NO LATER THAN 3-31-2010. Mark Checks MRFHA - DUST ABATEMENT and send to:

Diane Burnett
1128 Lake Shore Road
Lake Oswego, OR 97034

Call Mark at 503-530-6623 if you have questions about the program

MRFHA TREASURER'S REPORT

By: Diane Burnett

A separate page is attached to your newsletter detailing the cash flow of MRFHA for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009. This report that was not handed out at the annual meeting held July 4, 2009.

We strongly encourage any of you who have not yet paid your dues, to do so. We remain well below our totals from last year:

	2009/9 Total	2009/10 To Date:
MRFHA	$1,655	$ 930 56% of last year
NFHA	$2,730	$1,750 64% of last year
OFHA	$ 780	$ 540 69% of last year

Encourage your cabin users to join our association!

LOOKING FOR FRIENDS OR RELATIVE OF AUTHORS LOCAL BOOK

By. Scott Blau

Nancy Meyer Jewel and Nancy Chapman Swadesh published their book ***Metolius Basin Some Common Birds & Flowers of Central Oregon's*** in 1997. They have since passed away. There are still a few copies of this delightful book available at the Camp Sherman Store. However, there is an additional box of them somewhere in the Bay Area that was meant to be distributed in Central Oregon. If you happen to know a friend or relative of either of these ladies who might have information that would lead to these books, please contact Pete Schay, via Phone: (541) 595-2118, or Email: mpschay@outlawnet.com

Thank you very much.

ADOPT A RIVER WALK

Edited for T. Barton/K. Paxton-Williams

This year our annual MRFHA sponsored Adopt-A-River Cleanup project takes place on Monday, September 7th, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. We will pick up litter on both sides of the river from the beginning of Tract C to Gorge Campground. 'Tract Captains' are needed to help organize additional volunteers, hand out Adopt-A-River collection supplies, and return the bags of collected garbage to Tara Kennedy-Barton's cabin at C-08. If you are interested in participating please step forward at the annual picnic and let us know, or call Tara at (541)-595-6481.

MRFHA MEMBERSHIP, UNRAVELLED

By Mark Dohrmann

The Association By-Laws provide that a Regular Member shall be a dues paying cabin permit holder, and have full voting rights. Further, the By-Laws provide that the Board may decide by majority to admit Associate members who agree to pay dues. It has been the boards' practice to approve all qualified Associate members, without exception. The Board may elect to institute OTHER classes of membership, however at this time they have not done so.

Associate members MAY be given proxy to vote when a Regular Member is not present at a call for a vote, but under NO circumstance shall their be more than ONE vote per represented cabin permit, and that cabin MUST have an owner holding Regular Membership.

Having said all this, our membership is strengthened by a diversity of ideas. All interested cabin 'secondary owners' not recognized as such by the Forest Service as such, family and interested cabin users are encouraged to join as Associate members. All member involvement is what makes the MRFHA a viable organization with a voice to be heard.

MRFHA & Community Events

FUNDRAISER

Saturday, August 15th, 6:45 PM at the Community Hall The Camp Sherman Historical Society is sponsoring the showing of a Luther Metke video and an ice cream social. The 27-minute documentary was produced several years ago about pioneer Camp Sherman log homebuilder Luther Metke. It was nominated for an academy award. The maker of the video will be present to talk about the production and relate stories of working with Luther. A small donation is requested.

CAMP SHERMAN STORE BBQ

Saturday, Sept 5th, 5 PM - 9 PM

**** See store for details ****

MRFHA BOARD MEETING

Board members should gather on Sunday, Sept 6th, at 1:00 PM at the Johnson property.

MRFHA ANNUAL PICNIC

Sunday, Sept 6th, 4 to 5PM Social; 5-6:30PM Potluck At the Johnson Cabin, near the Head of the Metolius Bring your cabin guests. Bring a favorite dish, plates and eating utensils. Non-Alcoholic beverages will be provided by MRFHA.

MRFHA ADOPT-A-RIVER CLEAN UP WALK

Monday, Sept 7th, 10AM to 12PM. Details explained at Sept 6th Picnic, or to volunteer call Tara at (541)-595-6481.

MRFHA YARD DEBRIS DISPOSAL DAYS

Saturday, Oct 10th- 10a.m. -2 p.m. Call George Andyke to volunteer: 503-775-9627

CONTACT OUR PUBLIC SERVANTS

Sisters Ranger District Forest Service
P.O. Box 249, Sisters OR 97759
Fax: 541-549-7746

- Jeff Sims, Lands & Special Uses
  Phone: 541-549-7706
  jsims@fs.fed.us
- Jinny Pitman
  Fire Prevention Education Specialist
  Phone: 541-549-7644 or 549-7700

Deputy Sheriff David Blann
P.O. Box 3
Camp Sherman OR 97730
Dave Blann-Office541-595-5058
Pager: 541-330-7860

Life-Threatening Emergencies: **911** (specify your 5-digit address number in Camp Sherman)

Camp Sherman Fire Safety
Taylor Robertson, Fire Chief
541-549-0771

FireFree Program Coordinator
Katie Lighthall - 541-382-1675

Jefferson Co. Dept. Environmental Service
(For Septic System site evaluation, repair or replacement)
Rich Black 541-475-4453

RESOURCE LIST

A short list of Jefferson County Septic Repair and Installation Contractors
(This list is for information purposes only and should not be considered an endorsement by MRFHA or any of its members.)

SEPTIC Tank Pumping:
George's Septic Tank Service 541-549-2871
McDonald Septic Service 541-382-5251

CONTACT YOUR BOARD

George Andyke, Vice-president (I-5)
3206 SE 65th Ave
Portland, OR 97206
503-775-9627
E-mail: gandyke@harverco.com

Bonnie Ashenbrenner, President (O-23)
62555 Waugh Rd.
Bend OR 97701-8035
541-389-8040
Email: bashen@coinet.com

Tara Kennedy Barton (C-8)
7215 SW Gable Park Rd., Portland, OR 97225
503-297-2061; 541-595-6481
E-mail: btdwbarton@comcast.net

Diane Burnett, Secretary (O-25)
1128 Lake Shore Rd.
Lake Oswego OR 97034
503-635-8966
Email: dianedouglass@comcast.net

Mark Dohrmann, (C-17)
2910 NW Quimby
Portland OR 97210-1928
503-224-2262
Email: MRFHA.C-17@comcast.net

Don Livingstone (E-04)
Portland, OR 97201
(503) 293-8901
E-mail: don@beautifulbuildings.com

Kathy Paxton-Williams (C-4)
2126 SE Umatilla Street
Portland, OR 97202-7415
(503) 235-5878
E-mail: kathyp11@aol.com

Megan Prince (O-10)
61593 Sunny Breeze Lane
Bend, OR 97702
(541) 647-2486
E-mail: meganprince@me.com

Larry A. Watson (H-8)
2075 Cactus St., Unit 4
Walnut Creek CA 94595-2564
(925) 979-1157
Email: larrynfish@aol.com