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March 23, 2011

Alpine Meadows Estates Association

Spring 2011 Newsletter

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Dear Resident,

We're introducing the new Alpine Meadows Estates Association newsletter. We've also made a policy change - anybody can sign up for the newsletters on our web site. This is part of your Board's desire to modernize and more readily communicate with the residents of Alpine Meadows. Our website is www.alpinemeadowsestatesassociation.org.

Alpine Meadows Bear Report

Ann Bryant, BEAR League

Alpine Meadows Bear Report



Bear paw on an Alpine Meadows deck in March 2010

Ann Bryant, BEAR League Spring is here and we know what that means; mud, tree-branch strewn lawns, daffodils, and hungry bears. These are all things we live with and there isn't much advice you don't already know for cleaning up your yard but new research has brought about some good techniques for keeping hungry bears out of your yards and homes. So let's start at the beginning and remind everyone that the single most important trump card for winning the bet against a bear is still that of going into their heads and learning how to think like they do. Once you can do that, you are way ahead of the folks who expect the bears to think like people do.

Bears do not realize our undefended food sources are 'off limits'...i.e.: your kitchen when you aren't there or when you are sleeping...and they instead operate according to the Laws of Bear Nature, "If I am hungry and can smell food, it's mine as long as I can get at it and no other creature is defending it". They don't come into our homes to deliberately ruin our day, or to eat our grandchildren. They come in because they can and they want the food they smell inside. Simple as that.

Rather than getting upset with the bears for doing what they are hard-wired to do, now that we understand them, let's move forward and attempt to outwit them. It won't be easy but Alpine Meadows is populated with lots of smart people who can do this.

Keep in mind an open or unlocked door, slider, window or garage are unacceptable invitations for furry houseguests. We, thankfully, don't have too many human burglars up here so for years we've left our homes unsecured while we are hiking, boating, out for dinner, or sleeping, and the bears have caught on and now go from house to house to check for easy access. If you see a bear that is obviously on this type of a mission let him know you disapprove by yelling at him gruffly, and like you mean it. The trick is: Do Not be Afraid of the Bear, Make the Bear Afraid of You. To help you out remember this statistic, no human being has ever been killed by a black bear in all of California, Nevada or Oregon. Not Ever, in all of recorded history.

If you see a bear approaching your house and you run inside and hide under the bed, or stand quietly on the deck and watch, you are telling him he can do whatever he wants. You are saying "I will not defend my den or my food cache from you, so have at it". We Do Not want to give the bears this message. We want to make the bears' excursions into human neighborhoods a bad experience for them. Throw things at them, yell at them, make loud scary noises, electrify your windows and doors (easy to do, call us and we'll help you).

If we can all work together to keep our Alpine Meadows neighborhoods off limits to bears by reacting appropriately to any bears who are scouting for opportunities we can, and will, keep our homes safe from bear damage. Please call the BEAR League for help or more advice. We have trained volunteers who live in Alpine Meadows, they are your friends and neighbors, and they don't want trouble for anyone, bears or humans. Contact us at 530.525.7297 or www.savebears.org or

bearsnsquirrels@sbcglobal.net.

Alpine Meadows Firesafe Council

20-acre Project Currently in the USFS Approval Process May Begin in July 2011



Past Alpine Meadows Firesafe Council cleanup day takes a break to eat donuts and share stories about the piles of debris they just picked up. Taken at the stables.

Ken Gracey, Alpine Meadows Firesafe Council

The Truckee Ranger District of the United States Forest Service (USFS) has recognized Alpine Meadows as an active partner and is now processing a 20-acre fuel reduction project to be performed along Alpine Meadows Road between the stables and water district. In prior years the Alpine Meadows Fire Safe Council (AMFSC) submitted our own five-acre cleanup proposal by the stables. Since this project was completed in 2010 the USFS plans on providing us with a new multi-year project covered by a blanket study and approval.

The 20-acre proposal would consist of thinning and restoration of the forest along both sides of Alpine Meadows Road. Continual snow storage has resulted in excess growth of crowded, small unhealthy firs in the "ignition zone". These would be thinned and removed, making the forest and creek visible again. Like prior years, the USFS crews would drop and cut the trees and slash. The AMFSC volunteers and community would assemble cleanup days to drag and stack the material, and the North Tahoe Fire crew would provide chipping service. AMEA would provide coffee, snacks and a first aid kit.

The proposal is still undergoing internal review in the Truckee Ranger District office and it isn't known whether or not we will be able to start work this summer.

The reason the USFS supports Alpine Meadows is because we are an active, involved and cohesive community when it comes to forestry health and fire safe activities. They are particularly supportive of partnerships that involve in-kind local efforts. This means that your help will be needed (in fact, we've already volunteered most of the community). For specific information or to volunteer on the AMFSC

contact Ken Gracey (graceyken@gmail.com).

Annual AMEA Picnic

We're looking for a few enthusiastic men & women!

Lin Winetrub, Picnic Coordinator

During the last two years, 2009 & 2010, your board honored a request to schedule the picnic on the second Saturday in August. Besides the new time frame, a decision was made to have the picnic catered, since we lost Shirley, our picnic coordinator, and George, our resident chef, was unavailable to BBQ. Of course the catered food was delicious, and the atmosphere festive and social. However, our attendance fell off a little and our expenses increased. With that in mind, your board has decided to return to a homemade style, more-festive community picnic where everyone pitches in to make it happen.

The 33rd Annual AMEA Community Picnic will be held at the park Saturday August 6th, 2011 at 4pm.

- BBQ entrees, plates, napkins, cups, utensils & lemonade will be provided by the Board.
- We ask you to (1) bring a salad or dessert to share that serves a minimum of ten people
- and/or (2) join the volunteer team in planning and putting on the event. Positions include the set-up crew, servers, decorators, sign-makers, game organizers and clean-up crew.
- Cost: AMEA members are complimentary. There will be a fee to be determined for non-members and people not in your household.

Please notify Lin Winetrub @ 530 583-1815 or iwanna1999@yahoo.com if you are interested in volunteering.

More notices will be sent out but please make sure to RSVP by August 3rd to help our final planning. We know this will be a fun time to spend with your neighbors.

AMEA 2011 Events Calendar

Enjoy a relaxing time and meet your neighbors.

- April 23 at 10:00 AM - Easter Egg Hunt at Alpine Meadows Water District Office
- May 28 Alpine Meadows Clean-up Day (details to follow)
- June 11 Bird Walk with Warren Bray. Time and location to be determined. Check the ASCWD web site
- June 18 or 15 - Volunteer Park Maintenance Day. Watch for specifics on ASCWD web site.
- July 2 at 8:30 AM - Flower Walk with Michael Graf. Meet at Alpine Meadows Water District Office.
- August 6 at 4:00 PM - AMEA Community Picnic at Community Park
- September 3 - Annual AMEA and valley-wide meetings Alpine Meadows Ski Lodge

Membership Update and Possible Directory Distribution Modification

Ed Keller, Membership Chair



Our membership enrollment for 2011 remained rather steady at 180 members. We mailed out our membership form requesting personal updates and dues in December, 2010, and followed this up with a reminder mailing in February. For those who have let their form drift to the bottom of their to-do stack please dig it out and mail it to AMEA, PO Box 6653, Tahoe City, CA 96145, with your \$35 membership fee. It is also possible to send in your form by email to our webmail site

board@alpinemeadowsestatesassociation.org and pay there by PayPal. We have also updated the Association database (members and non-members) with help from the Placer County Assessors Office to reflect changes in the ownership of properties in the Valley. We plan to mail the new 2011 membership directory in April. Once again Cindy Ware has graciously agreed to provide a new wild flower décor for the front of the directory. Thank you Cindy. The Board discussed the idea of a bi-annual mailing of the

directory. In order to still provide an annual update of home owner information an updated directory would still be placed on the Association website each year. Arguments for the idea include the large costs of mailing out the directory annually. In addition, there are relatively few changes each year that require a hard copy update of the directory. Arguments against the idea include the fact that not all members would have access to the web version of the directory and the printed version is one of the few ways we have to improve communication among Valley homeowners. We will also place a check mark box on the annual membership survey where members can request an electronic version every year like we currently do with the Newsletters. The Board would appreciate your comments and feedback on this issue. A number of members have requested that they receive 2 copies of the directory. To receive 2 copies just indicate this desire on your membership form when you mail it back each year and include an augmented dues of \$40.

Volunteers, How Wonderful They Are

*Many will be shocked to find
when the day of judgment nears,
that there is a very special place
set aside for Volunteers.
Furnished with big recliners,
satin couches and footstools.
Days of cloudless skiing, of golf
and swimming pools.
With no membership letters
to stamp and send.
No monthly meetings to attend.
No park to reserve
or food to buy.
No burgers to cook
or chicken to fry.
No articles to write, or newsletters to print*

*All done without effort
not even a hint.*

*Ah, but with a finger snap will bring
cool drinks and treats fit for a king.
You ask, "Who will serve these privileged few
and work for all they're worth"?
Why, those who reaped the benefits
and not once volunteered on Earth.*

This fall the Alpine Meadows Estates Association Board of Directors will have three vacancies. We meet five times a year: September, November, February, April and July. There is also one opening on BCPC. The time is now, be part of the volunteers keeping our valley a beautiful place to live. Call Ed Keller at 925-254-5949; Pauline McDowell at 408-733-3220; or Ursula Hinsbrunner at 530-581-0810 representing your Membership and Nominating Committees.

Bear Creek Planning Committee Update

Dave Smelser, Chairperson, Design Review Committee

The Bear Creek Planning Committee (BCPC) has a new, revised Architectural Review Manual. It is available in PDF format on our Web site, <http://www.alpinemeadowsestatesassociation.org/> or from Judy Friedman at 'The Paper Trail', judy@tahoepapertrail.com. The building season is approaching so please keep in mind that any modification of the exterior of your property is governed by your CC&R's and the ARM, to be overseen by the Bear Creek Planning Committee. Like-for-like maintenance and repairs do not require committee approval.

Bears are coming out for spring. One protection solution that is becoming common is electric fences to keep bears out of our homes. The reviews are still mixed on how well they work but they are most likely worth the try. To date the committee views these installations as a temporary and removable installation so no BCPC approvals have been required. We do request that homeowners use the black plastic insulators on the installations. The black insulators are as readily available as the yellow ones and are much less visibly intrusive.

New AMEA Board Organization

Bob Ingols, President

Our goal is to maintain and improve the recreational, regulatory and community activities that help bring us together and add to the enjoyment of Alpine. In addition we are charged with helping to preserve the character and harmony of the Alpine Meadows environment. We represent you, the homeowners. The Board only makes changes in policies and activities after careful consideration and input from our members. We listen. Please note and visit our excellent web site as your ongoing information source.

Our 12-member board strives to be involved only in the activities that help to enhance your enjoyment of home ownership in this unique, friendly community. Anyone can help on several of our committees and we encourage you to explore any activity you would enjoy participating in. If you have ideas for something new we could be doing for you please let us know.

For your benefit we continue to be involved in many ventures such as: fire safe cleanups, possible management of propane suppliers, Internet collective bargaining, the picnic, park and trail improvement, a future winter trail to Tahoe City, a bike path, and much more.

If you have any stories, photographs or memorabilia about the historical past of Alpine Meadows please send them to us so we can get it posted on our web site. Have a fun and safe summer in beautiful Alpine Meadows.

Please provide any comments or ideas for future articles by e-mail to board@alpinemeadowsestatesassociation.org.

Sincerely,

AMEA Board of Directors

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