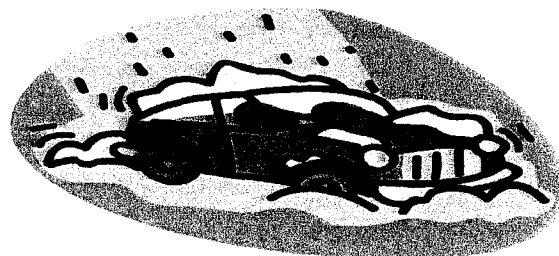
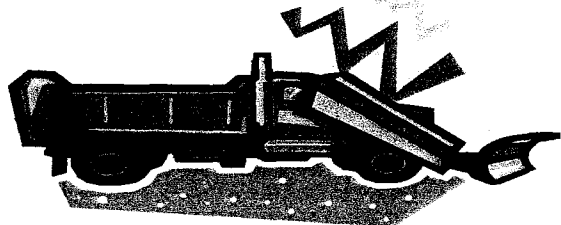

Sierra Recreation Association

**January Newsletter****President's Corner**

Which one of you enchanted members called Mother Nature and requested a little snow? Next time you call Mother Nature, don't be so demanding, but instead spread this beautiful experience out over several weeks or months. For those of you who did not travel to our enchanted wonderland during the New Year's weekend, you missed an experience that only happens once a century. The Park received between three to four feet of snow within seven days. If that wasn't bad enough, our snow plow decided it was time to show its age and take a little rest. On New Year's Eve day, the snow plow became fatigued and started shorting out in its electrical system. Luckily, our ever dependable and knowledgeable caretaker was able to diagnosis the problem. He built a new switch that would allow us to use the snow plow until a new switch could be ordered. However, this problem was not solved until midnight.

The caretaker and I celebrated New Year's Eve in the Park's garage fixing the snow plow. What brought me to the garage was a call from a Park resident complaining of another Park resident shooting off bottle rockets. After contacting the resident, I headed home only to find the lights on in the garage. Finally, at a little past midnight, the snow plow was fixed and the caretaker and I headed for bed. Oh, but this is not the end of the snow plow and it breaking down. At 5:10 A.M. on New Years Day, the one experience that all Park residents truly love to happen, the electricity went out. Unfortunately, the cause of this power failure was a downed tree that not only knocked out the power but also blocked Wheeler Road. Noticing that the power was out and knowing that the caretaker had to reconnect several other wires on the snow plow; I headed for the garage again to assist in getting the plow up and running. For the next several hours, Mike Rainey, Bob Cloak, the caretaker, and myself proceeded to remove the fallen tree and build a snow bank around the downed wire making it possible for residents to leave the park. At last, the caretaker was able to start plowing snow and clear the roadways. The plowing was proceeding along relatively well even though a large amount of snow had fallen the night before. There were several roads that had not been cleared when the snow plow said enough is enough. The drive shaft for the front wheel drive snapped thus disabling itself. After several hours of working on the drive shaft by Sean Kasper, Bob Cloak, Mike Rainey, the caretaker, and myself; we were finally able to drive it to the garage and park it. A new drive shaft was ordered and in the mean time, our caretaker had to bring out the heavy equipment.

The grader was put into service and when this big boy goes to work, it pushes all kinds of snow around. The problem with the grader is that it not only plows large amounts of snow at one time but also pushes the snow in only one direction; into your driveway. The caretaker is truly sorry for any inconveniences but the roads had to be plowed in case another storm arrived. Evidentially, the caretaker and his trusty companions, Mike Rainey and Arlen Santos, got the upper hand on the plowing and were able to catch up on some long needed rest. What a way to start 2005!!

The Park is looking terrific and all our equipment is up and running. Enclosed inside this newsletter you'll find a document that I would like you to read very carefully and attempt to follow the guidelines that are mentioned. It is very important that not only you, the homeowner, but also anyone that uses your cabin adhere to these guidelines when our caretaker and his assistants are plowing the roads. The plowing of our roads within the Park is not an easy task and we don't need additional problems created by inconsiderate and unknowledgeable residents and guests. Please take a

few minutes to read this very important document and pass on the information to any guests who might use your cab during the snow season. The Park would truly hate to see a vehicle destroyed because it was not properly parked and out of the way of the snow plow.

My wife and I would like to thank all of you who attended our open house. We truly enjoyed meeting and sharing the holiday spirit with all of you. For those of you who could not attend, we're sorry that we missed you but please mark your calendar for next year and we expect to see you then. The next Park gathering is the St. Patrick's Day corn beef and cabbage dinner. Check the Board's minutes for the time and place for this dinner.

One last bit of information that I would like to mention. The Board is hard at work trying to develop a plan to dispose of the pine needles and slash. We are in contact with those people who are planning the removal of this material from our area. We will keep you up-to-date with any information that we receive and let you know as soon as possible what the Board decides is the best way to dispose of the pine needles and slash.

The Board still has not heard anything regarding the Boy Scout lawsuit, but the moment the Board is notified of a final decision, we will pass along the information to all of you.

Thanks for all the help in 2004 and let's hope 2005 is just as successful.

Respectfully,
Michael Rainwater, President

Caretaker's Corner

The month of December was a busy one. Mike had to make some repairs on the shop truck. The installation of the light for the sand shed and garbage disposal area continued with 75% of the work completed. The clean up of the Lodge after the Christmas party was completed. The scheduled flushing of the fire hydrants was performed throughout the Park. A new hand rail was installed in the Lodge leading up to the Park office; not just any ordinary hand rail but one with lights mounted inside the rail. Several lights in the snow plow shed had to be repaired. A resident on Sarah Circle notified Mike of a water leak which resulted in several days of repair work to fix the water leak. During the repair of this water leak, Mike injured his ankle and had to go to the emergency room for treatment. Mike is "ok," but had to take it easy for a couple of days. Then the snow began to fly and Mike plowed snow, plowed some more snow and then some more snow! In between plowing snow had to replace electrical switch on snow plow and the drive shaft for the front wheel drive on the snow plow. Mike had to have more sand delivered because of all the snow. Mike cleared Wheeler Road of a fallen tree and plowed snow. Several days later, had to remove another fallen tree from roadway and then plowed more snow. Guess what Mike did most of the month? **PLOWED SNOW!!!!!!!!!!!!** Mike would like to thank Mike Rainey and Arlen Santos for their help with the plowing and Sean Kasper and Bob Cloak with assisting him with the drive shaft repairs. It sure is nice to see all this volunteer help when things get a little hectic.

Mike Caropreso

Dogwood Rebekah Lodge #200

The Dogwood Rebekah Lodge #200 will meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 10:00 A.M. for sewing and crafts. The business portion of the meeting will begin at 12 P.M. in the Recreation Hall weather permitting. Please bring your own lunch.

ODD FELLOWS SIERRA RECREATION ASSOCIATION

Board of Director's Meeting

January 15, 2005

Present were: President Mike Rainwater, Vice President Bob Cloak, Secretary Norrine Coyle, Treasurer Roger Townsend, Members Charles Aston, Tom Clark, Sean Kasper, Mike Rainey, Robert Snell.

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Rainwater at 8:30 a.m.

Members before the Board: Bill & Doris Kilgore Williams, Larry Vaughn, and Mike VanGundy.

Correspondence: Letter from Vicki Smith asking about the footbridge on the west side of the lake and replacing gate cards mentioned in the last newsletter; (Mike Rainey explained that he replaced his supply of cards and openers for new people or people who wanted an extra one. He'll take a look at the footbridge.) a letter from Daylene Guidice recommended that if street signs are to be replaced, the spelling of Rebekah should be correct; and a form concerning the caretaker's injury while filling dirt in around a water box.

Committee Reports:

Water - Cloak: Water used during the past month was 815,000 gallons. There was a water leak on Sarah Circle which was repaired. The lab reports were O.K.

Roads - Snell: No report.

Buildings - Clark: Everything seems to be in good repair. There was a brief discussion about repairs to the footbridge. By motion (Townsend/Snell, unan.) it was decided to table the matter until spring.

Timber - Townsend: A notice concerning the Williamson Act was received by the Park's Attorney in February, 2004, and was given to Forester Will Dorrell who gave it to Roger just after this past Christmas. Will said he would take care of it. The County shows only one parcel, the meadow, being covered by the Williamson Act. Roger will check to see if we need to put any other property under the Williamson Act. The final payment on chipping won't be paid until they have a chance to walk around and see how it looks.

Health & Safety - Rainey: As of January 1, 2005, pine needles must be cleared 100 feet from cabins, instead of the previous 30 feet. There should be no sledding down unplowed streets, no parking on streets because the snow plow needs to get through, and drivers need to stay back quite a distance when following the snow plow because it doesn't stop or maneuver like other vehicles. There was a car in a ditch at David and Jordan which the caretaker pulled out because it was a danger to other drivers. Normally, if you get stuck in the snow, mud, etc., it is your responsibility to get a tow truck or whatever is needed. Robert will check on how many street signs are needed and the cost of getting them. Mike will get rid of the "burn barrel" outside the Board room door because it isn't/can't be used any longer.

Equipment - Repaired and installed a new switch on the plow. There was a discussion about getting another plow very cheaply so that the parts could be used when repairs are needed. Sean is trying to get a hold of someone to do the dredging needed. Sean also said we could get a 1 ton truck and put a Myer's blade on it for some light snow plowing.

Recreation - Aston: He will change the sign in front of the lodge building. He thanked Tom for all of his help with the holiday dinner. He has started plans for the St. Patrick's Day dinner to be held on March 19. He will work on getting everything ready for the fishing derby but will be unable to be at the Park on the day of the derby.

Finance - Townsend: Income for the past month was \$330 for the fishing derby raffle at the holiday dinner, \$69.08 for utilities, \$250 for assessments, \$100 for the gate, \$1,020.69 from State Workers Comp. and \$26,893.73 from C.N.A. Insurance. A total of \$28,011.60 was placed in a C.D. for the Timber Fund at 3.25% to replace the \$28,011.60 which was taken out of a money market fund last May. Bills totaled \$9,675.59. By motion (Snell/Aston, unan.) the bills were approved for payment. We got a bill from U. S. Bank for \$11.35. We have been paying a banking fee for every transaction. Roger talked to U.S. Bank officials, and they've decided to put us in an account with no fee. Some I.R.S. forms were filled out and sent to appropriate departments.

Old Business:

Sean said he will have information about a generator in time for the annual meeting. The refrigerator in the lodge appears to be working O.K.

New Business: The Whitman property has sold and we should receive the assessment soon. The premium is due to C.N.A. insurance company but no bill has been received. By motion (Clark/Kasper, unan.), approval was given to pay the bill as soon as it comes in. Radios are needed to be able to keep track of people plowing snow or otherwise working alone. By motion (Clark/Cloak, unan.) Mike Rainey was directed to purchase the radios.

President Rainwater said he had talked to John Hardin about getting rid of pine needles this spring. He said grinding is \$350 per hour; a screener, which is required this year to get the dirt out of the pine needles, is \$300 per hour and will be located in Twain Harte. It will cost \$3,000 to move the grinder to Odd Fellows Park. An electric company will pay \$27 per ton instead of \$20 a ton because it will all be burnable (no dirt). Sean will contact Joe Cover and see if he will load and haul the needles, or see if there is someone else who will haul them to Cover's or to someone else who wants them. Burning them in the meadow is not possible this year.

On New Year's Day, the snow plow wouldn't work right. It was found to have an electrical problem which was repaired. The next day, the plow broke down again. They finally got parts for it and got it going again. In the meantime, some roads didn't get plowed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m. The next meeting will be on February 19, 2005, at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Norrine Coyle, Secretary

Date	Check #	Payee	Account	Payment
12/15/054	388	Employment Dev.	Taxes-Payroll	\$91.01
12/15/04	389	US Bank – Taxes	Payroll	\$876.58
12/24/04	392	Michael Caropreso	Payroll	\$1,074.59
12/24/04	393	State Farm Bank	Payroll Deduction	\$50.00
1/07/05	396	Michael Caropreso	Payroll	\$937.26
1/07/05	397	State Farm Bank	Payroll Deduction	\$50.00
1/15/05	11310	Michael Rainwater	Member Communication	\$550.00
1/15/05	11311	Bill Williams	Recreation	\$17.00
1/15/05	11312	Aqua Lab	Water Testing	\$228.00
1/15/05	11313	Valley Door & Entry	Gate Expense	\$1,823.25
1/15/05	11314	Zaks	Maint.	\$60.38
1/15/05	11315	Eric Carlson	Accounting Service	\$360.00
1/15/05	11316	SBC	Telephone	\$19.89
1/15/05	11317	Mike Caropreso	Recreation	\$64.35
1/15/05	11318	Twain Harte Lumber	Supplies	\$294.95
1/15/05	11319	Doherty Tire Service	Maint.	\$12.50
1/15/05	11320	PG&E	Utilities	\$574.62
1/15/05	11321	SBC	Telephone	\$34.43
1/15/05	11322	Postmaster	Member Comm.	\$250.00
1/15/05	11323	Waste Management	Garbage	\$1,113.13
1/15/05	11324	Roger Townsend	Mileage/Supplies	\$129.92
1/15/05	11325	Tom Clark	Auto Mileage	\$63.20
1/15/05	11326	A & A Portables	Health/Safety	\$73.63
1/15/05	11327	A & A Portables	Health/Safety	\$73.63
1/15/05	11328	Mike Caropreso	UPS Charges	\$47.04
1/15/05	11329	Mike Caropreso	Blue Iron (drive shaft)	\$260.00
1/15/05	11330	J. S. West Propane	Propane	\$356.95
1/15/05	11331	United States Treasury	Taxes – Payroll	\$8.28
1/15/05	* 11334	Mike Caropreso	Employee Benefits	\$181.00

* 11332 & 11333 pending billing invoice from Insurance Co.

Total: \$9,675.59

HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES IN THE PARK

1. **NEW LAW** ... For brush and flammable vegetation you must clear your property back at least 100 feet or to your property line . (used to be 30 ')
2. No on street parking during snow removal.
3. It is the homeowners responsibility to clear driveways and/or snow berm in front of driveways...do not call caretaker or expect caretaker to handle these tasks.
4. No sledding down unplowed streets.
5. Make sure you winterize your cabin after any short Holiday or winter trips.
6. Keep an extremely safe distance from snow removal equipment. **STOP** and **YIELD!**
7. Always continue to use snow chains on your vehicle while in the park.
8. Call Cal-Trans, CHP or a friend for weather reports not the parks answer machine.
9. When you get stuck in the snow, a ditch, or your driveway ...cal AAA, or a tow truck not the caretaker.

DON'T BE A HINDRANCE...BE A HELP!



A Scary Old Lady An old lady was pulled over for speeding on Halloween night. The officer asks to see the woman's license. "Oh, I don't have one," she replied, "I lost it four years ago for drunk driving." The officer asked to see her registration. "This isn't my car," she retorts, "I stole it after I killed the owner. The dismembered body is in the trunk. I can show you, if you'd like to see." The officer was very shaken up and immediately called for backup. Within five minutes, police cars had surrounded the old woman's car. The lieutenant cautiously approached the woman, "Ma'am, the officer told me you have a body in the trunk ... could you open the trunk please?" The woman opened the trunk, revealing only a spare tire. "Is this your car, ma'am?" "Why, yes," the woman replied handing him her license and registration. The lieutenant, now glaring at the officer, handed the papers back to the woman. "Thank you, ma'am. My officer told me you didn't have a license, that you stole this car, and that you murdered and hacked up the owner." The old woman replied, "I bet the liar told you I was speeding, too!"

Odd Fellows Sierra Recreation Association
P.O. Box 116
Long Barn, CA 95335

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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