



Sky Meadows News

**Next Board Meeting is
September 16th.**

**This is the Annual
Meeting
at 9:00A.M.**

Hope to see you there.

**Please let us know if
you have an
address change.**

**Sky Meadows
Website**

[www.skymeadows
ranch.com](http://www.skymeadowsranch.com)

**Caretakers
Harold & Diane**

509-674-7753

Days off are
Wed/Thurs

It's been a busy month with a lot of information to share. Please take the time to read the newsletter. In the minutes of the meeting you will note garbage, water and common utility rate changes. Here is the simple background. It's been no secret and most of you already know that our financial obligations have been difficult to meet the past several years. This situation has steadily deteriorated each year. In 1970 the Sky Meadows Association Covenants were established at a general assessment structure of \$72 per year per lot with a maximum cap of \$125. The covenants also made it difficult to change the general assessment. However, the ability to adjust fees for utility/water cost was left open. If the general fee of \$72 per year in 1970 was adjusted for inflation at a rate of 3-1/2% year the 2007 assessment would be \$257.11. If you would like a better understanding of the Covenants you can access them on our webpage at:

www.skymeadowsranch.com.

We hope you enjoy getting the information and let us know if you think of improvements we can make.



4 year old Nolan Hash out on a Summer day.



Sky Meadows Garage Sale



Tim Streck at the Cruise to Cle Elum Car Show

Thank you to our board members for their continued efforts on our behalf.

President– Unassigned

Treasurer– Joyce Munson 360-779-8279

Secretary-Steve Locati 509-929-4325

Building & Grounds-Kris Johnson 509-674-4910

Architectural—Dave Anderson 253-639-1855

Vice President– Irene Burke 509-674-5061

Water– Bill Ring

Fire & Safety– Dale DeGour

Unassigned- John Tedeschi

Roads-Scott Taber

**There are 3 board member positions up for election at the September meeting.
Please mail in your ballot on page 4.**

Sky Meadows Ranch & Country Club Board of Trustees Meeting August 19, 2006

Notices

- ◆ **The FIRE LEVEL IS EXTREME.** NO briquettes, NO Campfires. NO chainsaws. Conditions are VERY DRY. Please be careful.
 - ◆ Thank you to Sky Riders for donation of chairs at the pool.
 - ◆ Water meter billing does include recording of beginning and ending meter data. This information is not included to limit the amount of work for our bookkeeping service. If you would like data regarding your meter usage, please contact Treasurer, Joyce Munson.
 - ◆ General Membership Meeting will be held on September 16 at the Lodge. The meeting agenda is Election of Trustees and Approval of Budget. We hope that you can attend, but you may vote by mailing in the enclosed ballot form, or you may appoint a proxy prior to the meeting.
 - ◆ There are 3 board member positions up for election at the September meeting. Please mail in your ballot.
 - ◆ Reminder that those with pending water upgrades must have conditions met by October 1,2006.(See page 7 for details.)
 - ◆ Our water system does not have adequate supply for uses other than household potable requirements. It is **not** to be used for outdoor watering. There is a spring that supplies non-potable water to the lodge area. This is the water that is used for the outdoor watering around the lodge and is available for your use from a spigot by the fence above the lodge. You can wash vehicles there or haul the water for landscaping purposes.
 - ◆ Speed limit. **15MPH unless otherwise posted 10MPH around the lodge and parking lots**
-

Unapproved Minutes

1. A quorum was present and the meeting opened at 9:00 a.m.

2. Board Members Present: Irene Burke, Kris Johnson, Steve Locati, Dave Anderson, John Tedeschi, Dale DeGour. Joyce Munson.

3. Members Absent: Scott Taberey, Bill Ring

4. Presidents Remarks

A) Irene reported that a well driller has been retained to begin drilling a new well in the lower meadow. Work will start in the next week. The bid is to drill up to 800 feet for a cost of \$52,489.00. Costs of hooking the well up to the water system, if successful, will be additional.

B) A court date of December 19 has been set regarding The Conrad Pederson vs. Sky Meadows Ranch owner's Association pending action in Kittitas County Superior Court. This is in regards to the plowing of Fawn Road.

5. Minutes

June and July Minutes, approved unanimously.

6. Members Input

A) There is an application for a new Short Plat on a Thornton Creek lot which utilizes Sky Meadows' water. The applicant has the additional water hookup for the lot to be created. There was concern regarding the new lot having rights to Sky Meadows facilities. The board reported that they have rights only for water and garbage.

B) Concern was expressed regarding the dumpster being to full to hold all the garbage. The caretaker reported that the over filling is due to abuse by people dumping construction waste and other items other than household waste.

7. Caretaker's Report

A) When lot owners have trees logged, be aware that frequently the logs are placed in the ditches which fills them up with debris. Please clean out the ditches so that water can flow .

B) The Board is checking to see who has culverts and what condition they are in along with checking ditch conditions and will report back on this.

C) A reminder that each year snowmobiles and trailers have to be removed by May 1. Those not removed will be towed May 15.

8. Correspondence

A) A Letter was received regarding rocks in ditch blocking on Rodeo and Indian Hill roads.

Harold reported that he has done some work on that area, but there is a driveway which needs a culvert.

B) A letter was sent to individuals who left snow-mobiles in the meadows. One member was fined \$150.00 which was paid. Another member has been billed for a fine of \$250.00.

Both of these fines were reduced amounts. Some members present voiced objections to the fines being reduced.

9. Treasurers Report

Collection	\$103.33
General Bank	\$621.40
MRS Club Dues	\$79,314.69
MRS Water Capital	\$11,529.69
MRS Water Operation	\$11,325.69
Water Capital CD	\$74,688.61
Caretaker Bonus	\$2.88
Total	\$177,584.61

MRS water capital and water capital CD are water infrastructure reserve funds and is not money that can be used for other purposes.

Motion Munson/Johnson to approve Checks # 8161, 8162 and 8210 to 8227. Approved

Motion Munson/Locati to approve checks # 8163-8165 and 8228 to 8252. Approved

10. Water Report

Irene reported that Bill Ring is still in Turkey and will be back for next months meeting. Bill is being active and corresponding regularly by email. We thank Bill for keeping up on his duties even while working outside of the Country.

11. Roads & Parking Report

Survey of Culverts and Development of Road Mitigation fee change will be presented by member/owner volunteers at next meeting.

12. Buildings & Grounds Report None

13. Architectural Report

Dave reported that an owner/member who previously applied for a permit to remove trees for view purposes has now requested to remove trees for a driveway in the same location. Both requests were denied. The owner has been invited to address the issue to the board at any regularly scheduled board meeting.

14. Activities Report

A) Wood splitting party will be at 9:30 on September 9th. A barbecue will follow.

B) The garage sale was a big success. It will be held again next year.

C) Activities committee has \$720.00 in savings.

D) There is a pot luck every 3rd Wednesday at the lodge at 5:00. All are welcome.

E) Pancake breakfast will be on Sunday of Labor Day weekend at the lodge at 8:30 AM. Cost is only \$1.00!

15. Fire Safety

A) Dale reported that there were a couple of instances involving individuals running chain saws to clear lots during the current burn ban.

We ask that any such activities be reported to the Caretaker.

B) The Department of Natural Resources made a presentation regarding fire safety and awareness. We thank Gary Berndt and T.J. for taking the time to help provide fire prevention and safety education. (Please see article on page 5)

C) Dale is still working on an alert system proposal that will alert owners regarding fire danger in the event we do have a fire in the area.

Our central fire alarm isn't heard by all.

16. Old Business

A) Elections will be held at our General Membership Meeting on September 19. Three board seats are open for election. Candidates so far are Dave Anderson, Kris Johnson and Bob Swenson.

B) The Budget will be presented to owner/members for approval at the annual meeting.

C) There has been discussion regarding raising the bunkhouse fee. It was suggested by many that the price be raised to \$25.00

Motion Tedeschi/Munson to raise the bunkhouse fee starting immediately to \$25.00 per night. Unanimously approved.

D) Proposals discussed to increase garbage fee to \$30.00 per Owner. Our garbage costs are not covering our current expenses. This increase would cover the projected cost for the next year.

Motion Anderson/ Tedeschi made to raise the Garbage fee by \$5.00 to \$30.00 per year per owner, effective immediately and that costs may increase each year by the same percentage as our garbage expense increases. Passed unanimously.

E) Proposal by Bill Ring was discussed to change water fees to a graduated scale based on usage . *Motion Locati/Tedeschi to change water fees to a graduated scale based on usage to be effective after the current billing cycle. Approved unanimously.*

Scale shown on p.5.

F) Discussion was had regarding a Community utility fee for propane and electricity for the lodge, bunkhouse Cabana and pool. The current proposal is to increase the fee to \$55.00 per year.

Motion Tedeschi/Munson to increase Utility fee to \$55.00 annually, beginning immediately, and to be subsequently annually increased by the percentage of any propane and electricity rate increases.

17.New Business

A) Dave Anderson ,John Anderson , Bob Swenson, and John Tedeschi volunteered to draft a road mitigation fee structure .

B) *Motion made to change policy regarding the snowmobiles and trailers left in the meadow after May 1st will be impounded after May 15. Approved Unanimously.*

18. Members Input – Part 2

Question was asked as to what can be done about a neighbor who has dead trees that should be removed for fire protection and potential damage from falling. The board reported that they should contact the owner and ask permission to remove the trees.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 P.M.

*Respectfully submitted,
Steve Locati/Secretary*

Sky Meadows Ranch 2006 Ballot for September 16, 2006 Annual Meeting

Mail in vote due Wed. 9/13/2006 or hand deliver prior to 9/16/2006

ELECTION Vote for three individuals

Mail to: Sky Meadows Ranch
PO Box 117
Cle Elum WA 98922

Dave Anderson

Kris Johnson

Bob Swenson

Write in _____

Proxy vote: I assign my vote for 2006-2007 Budget to _____ (name/division/lot)

Signature: _____ **Division:** _____ **Lot:** _____

“Firewise” Presentation



The Department of Natural Resources gave a presentation on what we as a community can do to reduce our chances of fire and the rate that a fire can spread. It is important to note that if you are responsible for the start of a fire you will be charged for the cost incurred in fighting it. The location of Sky Meadows puts us at a high risk because fire burns uphill and we get a lot of wind.

There are several things homeowners can do to reduce our fire risks:

- 1) Remove dead or overhanging branches.
- 2) Remove leaf/pine needles from your yard.(Rake up and dispose of each year).
- 3) Remove leaf/pine needles from roof and gutters.
- 4) Remove “ladder fuels”. Prune tree limbs so that the lowest branch is 6 –10 feet from the ground.
- 5) Remove tall dry grasses.
- 6) Check your generator and/or hose to be sure that it is in good repair. Refuel garden equipment carefully.(Away from dry grasses).
- 7) Prune bushes and shrubs regularly. Dispose of debris accordingly. If a burn ban is on, hire someone to haul it away.

You are responsible for helping cut down the risk of fire by “firewising” your lot.

The land is VERY dry right now. PLEASE be aware of this. Make sure your quads and motorcycles have spark arresters on them. Simple things can cause a fire. The DNR stated that a horse slipping on a rock caused a fire by the horseshoe striking a rock.

We are at fire level 3. TOTAL SHUTDOWN. NO CHAINSAWS , NO FIRES.

If there ever was an evacuation the levels are:

Level 1: Fire in neighborhood– you may be impacted in **12-24** hours.

Level 2: Get ready-(**4-8** hours) You should seriously think about leaving.

Level 3: GET OUT!

While the burn ban is in effect, the safe way to dispose of your limbs & stumps is to have a company pick them up and grind them. Here are 2 companies that provide this service.

Contact:

Norm Cook Trucking & Excavating
425-864-0046

Lou Gibson 509-925-2017

Water Rate Increase

The current water rate structure was established in 2004. It served well as a baseline to determine what adjustments needed to be made. Future water system operating expenses exceed the revenue generated with the current rate structure. The new tiered approach penalizes the heavy users. The new rates were compared to other communities and found to be less than all of them in cost to the user, you.

Increase the water usage fees from 1/2 cent per gallon to 3/4 cent for the basic 20,000 gal per measurement period. The first 20,000 would be .0075, the second 20,000 would be at .01, the third 20,000 would be at .02 and anything above 60,000 would be at .03. Only 30 members used over 10,000 gal at the last reading, 8 used over 20,000 gal and only 2 over 40,000.



What is Sky Riders?

The Sky Riders Club was organized in 1989 to provide a sponsor for group activities and to coordinate political efforts to keep public lands open. Sky Meadows Association formerly sponsored group activities but their insurance carriers notified them that such activities are not insured and the cost for the insurance was significant. Investigation determined the most reasonable insurance available was through the Washington State Snowmobile Association (WSSA) to member clubs. Also during the same period the Department of Fish and Wildlife, who currently control much of the public land of the LT Murray, closed a significant portion of the area surrounding Sky Meadows to motorized vehicles. Through the efforts of the Sky Meadows Association in cooperation with WSSA the Sky Riders Club was formed and some of the riding area was reopened to snowmobiles. Sky Riders has many group functions such as guided rides, play day competitions, fun runs, safety training, horseshoe tournaments, golf outings, parties and pot luck dinners. They are also active with local businesses and government agencies to keep riding areas open. Sky Riders Club is a member of the Kittitas County Grooming Council and provides the coordination for our groomer, Denny Moriarty, with the State Parks and Recreation Department trail grooming program. An organized and collective voice is necessary to protect our rights to use public land. Sky Rider's is a "not for profit" club and proceeds are donated to charity. It is always uplifting to provide community service and lend a helping hand.

The Sky Meadows Association Board endorses the club. The club would enjoy greater participation from our community. The stronger our working together participation the more influence we have with various agencies, land owners and businesses. This helps maintain area accessibility and the quality of life we enjoy in the surrounding mountainous region.

For more information on Sky Riders Club please contact James Martonik, 206-321-6107, Dave Chambers, 425-864-2965 or Betty Nance, 425-275-1081. To become a member please fill out the applications included in this newsletter along with a check for \$30. (This fee covers club dues and Washington State Snowmobile Association/WSSA membership)

The Story of "White Womans Grave" as told by Denny (your groomer)

You have heard or will here reference often to "White Womans Grave". It is a landmark that is often used as a reference in the Tamarack Springs area of the mountains. Most of you probably don't know the story behind this landmark, so here it is.

A pioneer woman and her baby were buried in a grave in 1867. Her and her husband were traveling from Seattle to Chelan to visit her folks. They got caught in an early Fall snow storm at Tamarack Springs. They set up camp there. She went into labor and both her and the baby died. Her husband was frantic and didn't want to leave her. He buried her and the baby and when the snow let up he made his way to her parents. The husband wanted to move the bodies but her parents asked if she was in a pretty place and he said "yes". They decided to leave her body buried there and put a marker on her grave. The marker said "A White Womans Grave", knowing that grave robbers would dig it up if they thought it was an Indian grave. This is on the L.T.Murray Wildlife and Recreation area.

The late Tom Murray used to have his ranch foreman maintain the grave sight. After his passing the sight deteriorated and a few years ago the Sky Riders took it on to clean the area and put up a new fence. Now it is an annual Sky Riders event to visit the sight and perform cleanup. Please join if you can.

This event is occurring Sept. 30. See details on page 9

Winter Grooming Update

Sky Riders Snowmobile Club and Moriarty Grooming have good news to report. At the annual State Grooming Council meeting in Yakima July 28-30 the club presented 4 grooming packages to the Washington State Parks and Recreation Winter Programs Department for approval. The ongoing baseline program which covers 180 miles of trail in the Taneum / Manastash area was approved as well as 3 additional routes. The new routes are Shadow Creek road from Taneum to Tamarack Springs, Tucker Creek to the Easton Reload Sno-Park on Cabin Creek and Peaches Ridge road. These routes add 23 miles to the trail grooming area and open some new territory for us to explore.

The Shadow Creek route is an important one for us because it adds a 2nd route to the popular Manastash riding area. Last year was difficult with the Plum Creek winter logging that really messed up the 3330 Road for snowmobiling. Shadow Creek is a green dot road that starts about half a mile down Taneum Creek road from the Cedar Creek road junction and runs for 6 miles to White Womans Grave at Tamarack Springs. It was closed in 1998 by a slide. A lot of effort was required working with other Snowmobile Clubs, the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife and Department of Natural Resources, the Local Chamber of Commerce and our Kittitas County State Representatives to negotiate through the issues allowing this road to reopen for snowmobiling. We hope that in the future we will get clearance to open it for Quads.

The Tucker Creek route will connect grooming to the Easton Re-load Sno-Park and better yet to the I 90/Stampede Pass area. It is accessed from the Woods and Steel/Easton grooming connection. The Re-load Sno-Park is along side Cabin Creek. You will be able to ride from Stampede Pass to Whistling Jacks and on to Greenwater on groomed trails.

Peaches Ridge is an area that is accessed by the Windy Pass/Taneum North Fork loop. It is Plum Creek land that was logged a few years ago and has great riding for all levels. You can see Quartz Mountain ridge but we have not figured out how to connect with Quartz Mountain yet

These areas will be added to the State Parks and Recreation on line winter grooming maps at the following website: <http://www.parks.wa.gov/winter/parks/motorparks.asp?Region=3>

The club will be organizing work parties to brush, sign and prepare the new routes for this season. If you are willing to help with this effort please contact Dave Chambers, 425-864-2965 or Bob Swenson 253-740-1299.

WATER UPGRADES

Water upgrade letters issued in 2004 & 2005 will EXPIRE on 10/1/2006. Members need to return completed upgrade letters to the Sky Meadows Board or show proof of completing the upgrade policy criteria of Table 1 for the appropriate upgrade requested. (Please contact the board if there is an extenuating circumstance with meeting the policy requirement).

Upgrade letters need to be mailed to:

Sky Meadows
PO Box 117
Cle Elum WA 98922

GARBAGE DUMPSTER USAGE

This is for BAGGED garbage only

- NO** Large items/Furniture
Carpet/sinks
Construction debris
Hazardous Waste



The Cle Elum Dump is open Tues.-Sat. 10-4
(closed for lunch)

They charge reasonable fees.
Please haul all large items here.



Sky Riders Snowmobile Club

MEMBERSHIP AND RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(please print)

NAME _____ SPOUSE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE: (____) _____ DIV _____ LOT _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS:(UNDER 18)

NAME _____ AGE _____

NAME _____ AGE _____

NAME _____ AGE _____

NAME _____ AGE _____

DUES

\$10 FAMILY

WSSA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Sept. 1,2006 through Aug. 30,2007

Annual Dues \$20 (family or individual)

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Spouse _____

#of Registered Snowmobiles _____ #of riders _____

MailingAddress _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Occupation _____

Email _____

Snowmobile Club Sky Riders

WSSA Sponsor(for new members only) _____

DUES

\$20

DUES TOTAL

\$30

Please mail to Membership Chairperson/ Betty Nance
340 Aspen Springs
Cle Elum WA 98922

**Please make out your \$30 check to Sky Riders.
They will send in the WSSA application and dues as a group. Thank you.**

Things to do at Sky Meadows

Pancake Breakfast Labor Day Weekend / volunteers call Irene at 509-674-5061

When: **Sunday Sept.3 8:30-10:30am**

Where : The lodge Cost: \$1 (pancakes, sausage, coffee, juice)



Come help split firewood for the lodge with a barbecue to follow

When: **Sept.9th 9:30am** Barbecue **12:00**

Where: The lodge

What to bring: quads with trailers, splitter if you have one, work gloves, energy!



Potluck to visit with Ray & Mary Wasson (past Sky Meadows residents)

When: **Sept. 16 4:00-6:00pm**

Where: The lodge What to bring? Your choice

Call Betty Nance with questions 425-275-1081

Sky Rider's Annual Clean Up of "White Womans Grave"(See article page 6)

When: **Sept. 30 10:00 am**

Where: Upper Parking Lot

What to bring: lunch, beverage, trash bags, pruning saw, loppers, gloves, truck if you have one. We will carpool to White Womans Grave and do trail clean up on the way back.

Contact Dave Chambers at 425-864-2965

dave.chambers@woodinvillelumber.com

Monthly Potlucks every 3rd Wednesday of the month at the lodge 5:00pm

This was started by some full time residents who decided to have a mid-week pot luck to get to know their neighbors. All are welcome to come and encouraged to participate whether you are a full time resident or just happen to be at Sky Meadows on a Wednesday.

If anyone would like to plan a weekend potluck or event we would gladly put it in the newsletter.

Newsletter info: Robin Swenson at 253-862-6009/509-674-2544.(happyrb@comcast.net)

Please send us a picture of your family and friends having fun around Sky Meadows. (happyrb@comcast.net)

☺ Please support your local businesses ☺

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Sales Associates

Business: 509.674.4431
Toll Free : 800.635.1883

Bob's cell: 509.607.9729
Marilynn's cell: 509.607.9728

rmasbury@inlandnet.com

Windermere

807 W First Street
Cle Elum Washington 98922

Ad Rates

Business Card	\$15 per month
1/4 page	\$25 per month
1/2 page	\$45 per month
1/2 page Back Fold	\$60 per month

For Information Contact:
Steve Locati at 509-929-4325
Or Robin at 253-862-6009

Ad runs for 5 months with the 6th FREE.



FREE Classifieds
for members

- **2000 Honda CR125 Motorcycle.**
Excellent condition. \$1900 .
Cabin/509-674-2544,
Home/253-862-6009



*Do you have an item you would like to sell ?
Email us with your information by the 15th of
each month and we will be happy to put it in.
Please contact me if you need it to run the
following month.(happyrb@comcast.net)*



Cle Elum Chamber of Commerce President, Steve Locati, a Sky Meadows property owner presenting an award at the Cruise to Cle Elum Car Show.

This is an annual event held in Cle Elum on the 3rd Saturday in August followed by the Run to Roslyn on Sunday.

No need to dress up -
come as you are!



Only place in town to get
Fresh Live Lobster



Or try another
specialty like our
famous Coal Miner
Burger, Ravioli, Steak
Mafia, or Happy Camper
Scrambler Breakfast.

Five generations
of handmade food,
prepared by
our family,
for your family -
a generation
above the rest!
*Fresh Contemporary
American Food with flair!*



First Street & Bullitt Avenue
Cle Elum, WA
509.674.5800

Open at
6 A.M. Daily

Sky Meadows Ranch & Country Club
PO Box 117
Cle Elum WA 98922