



Sky Meadows News

March 2008/February Minutes

Sky Meadows Trustees

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Sky Meadows website:
www.skymeadowsranch.org

Caretaker Phone #'s

Lodge 509-674-7753
Cell-Harold 509-304-8458
(Days off are Wed/Thurs.)

TO REPORT A FIRE
800-562-6010 (DNR) or 911

Our new website is up and running and can be accessed at skymeadowsranch.org. We are also pleased to announce that high speed wireless internet is now available for all members to utilize at the lodge. There is no security login required, all you need to do is bring your own laptop computer. We have several members that suggested this option as they are not able to get internet service at their cabins. Initially there is a daily time limit (probably 120 minutes) that will be established per user. Sky Meadows Association has an unlimited use secured login for conducting business. Our internet provider is "Cascade 1" and they have set Sky Meadows up as a repeater station at the lodge that can serve customers. If you are line of site with the lodge and wish internet at your cabin contact Andy at "Cascade 1", phone 509-929-0838. "Cascade 1" rates are very reasonable.

Every billing period we have people that hold out and complain about having to pay their Sky Meadows bill. The common complaint is that the cost to operate Sky Meadows is too high. It is obvious that these people do not realize what the costs would be without all the volunteer effort. Each month a minimum of 750 hours of volunteer effort is donated to keep Sky Meadows operating by almost always the same small group of individuals. There is no compassion by these folks toward those that complain. If this small group of volunteers did not do all the work that they do unselfishly for the remaining 320 members the cost to operate Sky Meadows would be much higher than it actually is. The figure of 750 hours equates to slightly less than 5 full time people and this is in addition to the efforts that Harold and Diane put in each month as paid employees. This figure does not include any time spent on special projects by anyone throughout the year or any costs incurred by the volunteers that they pay for out of their own pockets. As a sanity check for some of you, Sky Meadows is larger than some towns and has all the infrastructure requirements of a municipality with its own water system to maintain. The next time you receive a bill and question the costs, please try walking in the footsteps of these kind folks that dedicate their time to you for a month.





NOTICES



- **Next Board Meeting is March 15, 9:00am in the cabana.**
- **Water Leaks. Maintaining our water system is everyone's responsibility. It is your duty and stated in the bylaws that you must shut off your water at the meter when you leave for more than 24 hours.**

Sky Meadows Ranch & Country Club Board of Trustees Meeting Saturday February 23, 2008 Un-approved Minutes

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Sky Meadows Ranch & Country Club was held in the Lodge. A quorum was present and the meeting was called to order at 9:04am.

1. Board Members Present: Dale DeGour, Kris Johnson, Bob Poole, Bob Swenson, Steve Locati, Trent Ely

2. Board Members Absent: Brenda Martin, Colin Ferrin

3. Presidents Remarks:

- 1) Resignation was received from Brenda Martin. She will not be spending as much time here as in the past. We thank Brenda for her service and wish her the best.
- 2) *Motion Swenson/ Locati to authorize \$1,000.00 donation to the Henry Hyatt memorial fund. Unanimous. It was asked that the Secretary deliver the check when it is prepared.*

4. Minutes:

- 1) *Motion Locati/Poole to accept minutes from last meeting. Unanimous.*

5. Caretaker's Report:

- 1) Harold reported he attended a conference and some classes gaining Continuing Education Units credits toward his water certification. Information Harold received is in the newsletter.
- 2) Harold suggested that the Water Chair attend one of these conferences in the future.
- 3) Harold discussed the merits of a plan to convert meters to electronic radio frequency devices. It was suggested that we look into grants and installations for new upgrades and repairs to convert meters to these types of devices. Trent will look into these products with Harold.

- 4) Harold reported that water production is currently approximately 11,000 gallons per day, down from the normal amount of approximately 25,000 gallons per day. This is typical for the late winter season.
- 5) Discussion occurred regarding standards for water line and valve installation requirements to be adhered to for new installations as part of the architectural approval.
- 6) Harold agreed to install gate valves where possible whenever he locates water mains to enhance the ability to isolate sections of the system for troubleshooting water leaks.

6. Member Input:

- 1) Member who owns cabin on Fawn Road expressed concern and displeasure regarding the fact that they must traverse gravel from plowing to the Pedersen residence to access their property via snowmobile. The plowing this winter has caused the remaining snow to melt off the road early.

Board members reported that alternative snowmobile access options for Fawn Road will be considered after the judge makes his ruling in the Pederson law suit following the February 20 trial.

7. Water:

- 1) Trent reported the main line replacement cost estimate he received was approximately \$4.00 per foot. The board discussed seeking accurate quotes for water line replacements for consideration.
- 2) Trent has submitted to the Department of Environmental Health the names of members who have qualified for water upgrades. 18 of the 22 members who qualified for water status upgrades are planning to build. 14 of these applicants have paid the fee for their upgrade.
- 3) Trent anticipates that the proposed sale of the out of service water system ozinator will work out.
- 4) The proposed updated water system program project is still ongoing. Swenson offered to help.
- 5) *Motion, Ely/Poole to amend our water policy to put a maximum of \$2,000.00 on water bills by rewriting the water policy and approving and ratifying it at 2 con-*

secutive meetings. Motion failed 4 to 1.

6) A water service downgrade policy to help increase allotment levels has been reviewed by Swenson and Ely. One individual who is currently allocated as a full time resident but only resides part time has agreed to downgrade to part time status, they would not be charged a fee to upgrade at a later date should they become full time residents in the future.

7) Water Service Upgrade Policy WTR04 was presented.

Motion, Locati/Ely, to adopt the Water Service Upgrade Policy, WTR 04 as presented. Passed Unanimously. Policy will be voted on again at the next meeting in order to adopt per the Bylaws.

8.Roads&Parking:

1) Poole reported that the Association’s groomer has needed many repairs this winter. Bob Poole and Bob Brutsche have put many hours into working on the groomer to keep it running this winter. (MANY THANKS!)

2) Pledges to purchase a replacement groomer are coming in although we are behind in total for where we need to be.

9.Financial Report:

Collection	103.84
General Bank Acc.	3,747.85
MRS Club Dues	51,616.99
MRS Water Capital	39,117.96
MRS Water Operation	-7,108.12
Savings	17,662.70
Water Capital CD	74,688.61
Total	179,829.83

1) Checks 8708 through 8733 were presented for approval. *Motion Locati/Poole to approve checks 8708 through 8733. Discussion included whether garbage was charged on an as picked up basis, it was confirmed that it was. Motion passed unanimously.*

2) Swenson reported on mid-year budget review. Review of last years budget disclosed previous year general budget overrun of \$7,283. The good news is that our current year income is expected to be more than anticipated as a result of additional water upgrade allowances and the deficit from last year should be totally made up this year.

3) Website design is complete. URL is skymeadows-

ranch.org. The lodge will host a non-secure wireless internet access hub for members. The lodge network will eventually host a weather station, web cameras and security cameras.

4) Non-payment of delinquent dues was discussed. *Motion, Locati/Poole that delinquent assessment notices be sent. Motion passed unanimously.*

10.Buildings & Grounds:

1) A cost estimate was received for replacing bunk-house windows with insulated windows. The cost is too expensive to justify.

2) The board will work on the spring/summer/fall project list to be presented at the next meeting.

11.Fire & Safety:

1) Dale reported that he hasn’t heard form DNR regarding amount of firewise grant award. This money will be utilized in part for the debris removal.

12.New Business:

1) Trial was held on February 20, 2008 in the Pederson vs. Sky Meadows Ranch lawsuit. The judge is expected to rule by the end of the month regarding the plowing of roads for winter vehicular access.

2) The board budgeted for increase costs associated with increasing the association’s liability policy limits. Steve reported that the insurance company underwriters are considering whether they will increase our liability limits.

3) Caretakers were asked to stop private companies from giving demonstrations on Association property without proper arrangements being made.

4) The desire for the occurrences of closer communications from Sky Rider’s Snowmobile Club regarding events was discussed.

13. Adjourn to executive session

1)Motion to adjourn to executive meeting at 12:20pm. Unanimous.

14.Adjourn executive meeting & resume regular meeting

1) Motion to adjourn executive session at 1:00 PM and resume regular meeting. Unanimous.

15.Adjournment February meeting

1)Motion to adjourn occurred at 1:01 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Steve Locati, Secretary

Elk Viewing at the Feeding Station



Joe Watt Canyon is the only established public viewing area in Kittitas County, although the WDFW feeds other herds as well. This is a short drive from Sky Meadows and is enjoyed by viewers of all ages.

Officials at WDFW recommend bringing a pair of binoculars because you must stay behind the fence to view the herd. Also, dress appropriately for current weather even though your vehicle is there. Layers always work. Gloves, hat and winter boots are essential because you may not be able to resist the urge to jump out of your car and get a better look.

Plan only to view elk when you're there. Keep activity to a minimum and keep any children you bring, close by and quiet. This will ensure the elk have a peaceful meal. Sounds and children screaming carry over a long distance and can easily disturb wild elk.

Having a hot latte or cocoa handy always works well, too. Feeding begins by 8am and you can usually see elk up to 10:00am.

Directions from Sky Meadows –Go down Casassa and take a right at Upper Peoh. Stay on this until you can get onto 1-90 . Take the Thorp exit and turn right on the Thorp Hwy. Drive a short distance to Thorp Cemetery Road and turn right again. Stay on this road until you reach Watt Canyon Road on the left. Turn left and follow the road on past the last home. The gravel road crosses over the irrigation canal and heads directly to a large cyclone fence. The parking lot is next to the fence where viewing is allowed. A large building (holds hay and equipment).

Did you know: A single dripping faucet can waste far more water in a single day than one person needs for drinking in an entire week. Conserve water and save money by finding and fixing leaks.

How to use your water meter to check for leaks

1. Locate your water meter. It is usually found in a meter box in a small concrete vault near the street. (Contact your local water utility if you need assistance locating your water meter).
2. Turn off all water using appliances in the home. This includes all indoor and outdoor faucets.
3. Check and record the current meter reading.
4. Wait 15 minutes (minimum) although overnight is better. **Remember, do not use any water while you are waiting!**
5. Read the water meter again. If the reading has changed, then you have a leak that requires immediate attention.

How to fix a leak

Many leaks (dripping faucets or showerheads) are caused by worn washers which are easy to fix. Your local hardware, plumbing supply or home improvement store will have the correct parts and complete do-it-yourself instructions.

If replacing the washer does not work or the problem is more complicated, contact a certified plumber for assistance.

HINT: Locate the master water supply valve and label it. The master supply valve can then be easily turned off in case of a leak or broken pipe.

Water leaks

Maintaining our water system is everyone's responsibility.

It is your duty and stated in the bylaws that you must shut your water off at the meter when you leave for more than 24 hours.

Thank you.



Water Conservation Tips

Did you know? Efficient water use can save you money on water & utility bills, and reduce the costs for sewer and septic services. Use the following household tips in the bathroom, kitchen and laundry to help protect the environment and save your family money!

Bathroom



Each flush wastes water. Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket.

Check toilets for leaks. Use food coloring or a leak detection tablet in the toilet tank. If color appears in the bowl without flushing, there is a leak that requires immediate attention.

Reduce the water level per flush by installing a ultra low-flow toilet or a toilet displacement device. Use a plastic bottle weighted with pebbles and water.



Never use a brick.



Check faucets and pipes for leaks. A small drip can waste 20 or more gallons of water per day.

Don't let the bathroom sink run while wetting your toothbrush, brushing your teeth or when shaving. Use a glass of water to rinse or clean your razor in a small pool of water.



Install water-efficient showerheads and take shorter showers.

Kitchen



Only wash dishes when necessary. Turn the dishwasher on only when it is full.

Use both sides of the sink when washing dishes by hand. Use one side to wash and the other side to rinse. Do not wash dishes under a running faucet.

Install low-flow fixtures, then buy and install aerators for every faucet in the house.



Keep a bottle or pitcher of drinking water in the refrigerator. This eliminates letting the tap run while waiting for the water to get cold.



Clean vegetables in a pan of water and not under a running faucet. Water used to clean vegetables can also be used to water houseplants.

In-sink garbage disposal devices use roughly 11.5 gallons of water each day. Try composting organic wastes instead of throwing them away.

Laundry

Pre-rinse clothes only when absolutely necessary.

Use the proper water level, load size selection and water temperature when washing clothes. Consider installing a water efficient washing machine.




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The Story of "White Womans Grave" as told by Denny Moriarty

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, which takes place each Fall.

Bunkhouse Rooms For Rent



**\$25 PER NIGHT + cleaning deposit
NO PETS**

**Bring your own bedding/towels
To reserve a room contact Diane at
509.674.7753 or 509.304.8458**

**Please respect
your neighbors
and keep your
dogs on a leash
when they are
off of your
property.**



FOR SALE * FOR SALE

- ⇒ **2007 Crossfire 8** \$6,000.00 Call 509-929-4325.
- ⇒ **1987 Arctic Cat El Tigre with trailer hitch.** Nice shape. Good child or meadow machine. \$675. Call Bob at 509-304-8554.
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Sky Meadows Groomer Replacement



For several weeks we have been providing information about the need to update Sky Meadows with a newer groomer. Since our last Newsletter we have had 2 more breakdowns. It has taken a huge effort of a few volunteers to keep the old Thiokol running. We need your pledge of support. If we are not able to generate adequate pledges of support a future special assessment may be required.

To date we have received \$3400 in pledges. A big Thank You goes out to those that have pledged support so far. While this is a wonderful start, we need everyone's help. Per our survey last summer 82% of you snowmobile in the winter. If we join together we can raise the necessary funds. Please complete the form below and mail to the address noted. We will post updates monthly in the Newsletter. If you have any questions please feel free to contact us.

Bob Poole
471 Pumphouse Hill Road
Cle Elum, WA 98922
roberthpoole@comcast.net
253-332-9713

Bob Brutsche
1600 Skull Springs Road
Cle Elum, WA 98922
robertbrutsche@yahoo.com
253-947-2290

CUT AND MAIL TO THE ADDRESS BELOW

Groomer Donation/Pledge

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone# _____ Sky Meadows Division and Lot Number _____

Donation Amount \$ _____ Pledge Amount\$ _____

PLEASE MAIL TO: Bob Brutsche: 1600 Skull Springs Road, Cle Elum WA 98922 (253-947-2290)

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