

A Cabin in the Woods

The North Woods Newsletter

Issue 10

August 1, 2008

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I hope you will allow a brief note of introduction before I begin providing updates on The North Woods community. My name is Jeff Denney and I was elected President of The North Woods Association in December 2007. I realize I have very big shoes to fill following Rick Fields tenure and I am thankful for all of his continued support to me, the board and especially the North Woods community.

I have been an owner at North Woods for just over 2 years and can be found most weekends at cabin #170 with my wife Monica, and my twin 6 year old girls Grace and Brianna. I appreciate all the support from those that I have been fortunate to meet and look forward to continuing to build friendships with my NW neighbors. Please feel free to stop in and say hello anytime you find yourself on the middle road.

Regarding the Winter of 2008 --- Lets all hope that we do not see that volume of snow again for many years. With roads closed, water pipes broken and damages to many of our cabins, I think almost all of us had some effect from this winter. I also hope all of you will join me and take a moment to appreciate our caretakers (both Jim and Willie) for the weeks of constant monitoring, reporting damages and fixing water leaks in 5+ feet of snow. The work they put in was far above and beyond the call of duty!



Thankfully summer finally arrived, and now is half over! With increased sun and activity comes increased focus on safety in and around the water and the NW roads.



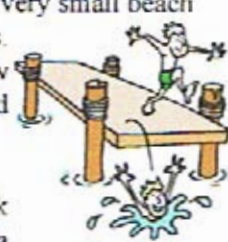
We have installed new signs reminding everyone of our 9 1/2 MPH speed limit. There are many young families with children playing and we need to be extra cautious while traveling our roads. Please remind visitors of our rules and regulations within North Woods as well. We are hopeful we can all enjoy summer without issues but do have complaint forms available at the caretakers cabin (#96) should you have a problem you need to discuss with the caretaker or Board.

I hope everyone is pleased with all our marina improvements. Our new dock additions and boat shuffling is complete and we have made huge steps in accommodating the needs and safety of our growing boating families. Please note the

signs at the marina and do not drill holes into the new docks because it will void the warranty on effected slips. There are "pre-drilled" holes if you feel you need to add additional cleats. Please see Jim/Willie if you need to purchase screws for the pre-drilled holes.

The new larger swim dock has given us a lot more usable room for families to enjoy sun and water, and seems to be a hit with the membership. It is important we all take care to work and play as a community, so please report any acts of vandalism to the caretakers immediately. We would all like to see our docks and rest rooms remain operational and available to the membership.

We have also placed a new "Dog Swim" area at the marina. Dog owners are to utilize this new area as we do not allow pets in the general swim area. We have a very small beach and have given preference to humans. Likewise, the general swim area has new signs are posted "Human Swim Area" and no dogs are allowed.



I would like to thank Dan Brady, Rick Fields, Jim and Willie for all of the extra time they put in to get our boom logs and the marina in great condition for us to enjoy this summer and for many years to come. Also, Cathryn Hodl does a terrific job of organizing the boat slips and leases for the marina. We have learned to keep the large party barges in the outer slips and some people had their slips moved to better accommodate the traffic. Thank you to all who cooperated with the relocations.



Our recent 4th of July celebration was a HUGE success with the largest turn out of families since we began 5 years ago. Thank you to everyone who donated to our fund to help make this event happen. This celebration is a very special event and a great opportunity to get to know other members of the North Woods community. I hope you all enjoyed yourself as much as my family did, and I hope we can continue to make this even bigger and better for many more years! Again, a few special thanks:

Helping us raise money, Jim West orchestrated our first raffle drawing. With the donations, we covered almost all costs associated with the firework show. A few people mentioned they would be happy to give a donation for our

PRESIDENT'S CORNER (CONT)

raffle next year, so please keep us in mind if you have something to donate for this worthy cause. Our raffle congratulations go to the Prunty Family for winning the generator and the Noakes Family for winning the Go-Cart.



Organizing and operating the barbeque, Jim Creel and his family did a fantastic service for our entire community. They set up, cooked and served while we enjoyed some community spirit. Their time and efforts were appreciated by everyone who joined us. Thanks also to those of you who contributed the pot luck side dishes, they really made the food line complete!



We provided patriotic music near the gazebo and we would like to have an even better sound system for next year. So please, if this is an area that interests you (we always need good volunteers), or if any of you have extra speakers you no longer use, please donate them to us for our next 4th of July show.



The main event, the fireworks show was due to the diligent efforts of David and Doug Karkanian and their families. We really appreciate them for their dedicated job of amassing and lighting off what was probably our best-ever fireworks show!

As summer continues we have several areas we are still working to improve. The road will have some gravel upgrades and we are looking into another type of dust abatement. We continue to address safety and security issues, and always endeavor to make North Woods a better place for all to enjoy.

Above all, please remember North Woods board members are volunteers! We like to come up here and relax just like everyone else. So please treat us as you would like to be treated yourself.

Have a great 2008 and look forward to seeing you at North Woods.

Jeff Denney
Cabin # 170



"There are no problems we cannot solve together, and very few that we can solve by ourselves."

-Lyndon Johnson

TREASURER'S NEWS

Independence Day Celebration: The board approved spending \$3,500 for fireworks and \$250 for a hot dog feed. Spontaneous donations sent in with assessment payments totaled about \$802. Our industrious caretaker, Jim West, surprised the board with two donated items and suggested we have a raffle to help raise more funds to pay for the event. Those who donated previous to the raffle were given tickets based on how much they had donated. The ticket sales were brisk, right up to moments before the drawing. Thanks to your generosity, all but approximately \$10.71 of the costs were covered by raffle ticket sales and some donations given after the event was over.



As of July 14, 2008 all dues and assessments are collected with the exception of cabins 38, 60, 137, 144, 173, 193, and 200. These cabin owners have received two late notices with late fees and interest assessed and they are about to receive a third. The by-laws state several actions the board can take if assessments are not paid.

The WFR annual payment for enforcement has been received. The amount paid for 2008 was \$6,994.

There are no outstanding accounts payable items. All payroll related taxes are paid current through the quarter ending June 30, 2008.

The association annual corporate income tax return for 2007 was completed and filed by March 15, 2008. No tax was due for 2007. Grateful thanks to Andy Moyer (cabin #8) for the time he donates each year to prepare the return.

The Quick Books Pro software used to process all association financial and membership records has proven to be a very valuable resource. We now have a detailed balance sheet through which the content and value of the association assets can be tracked. The profit and loss statement is set up to track actual expenses versus the budgeted amount approved by the membership at the annual meeting. We have historical information available through a number of reports. This is a great help when it is time to prepare the budget for the coming fiscal year. It is very easy to back up all this information on a rewriteable CD so that the information is protected in the event I get hit by the BIG BUS tomorrow.

Cathryn Hodl
Cabin #82



CARETAKER'S NEWS

It was a very busy winter, and it was very hard on all of us this last year. Many repairs have already been completed, and some cabin damages are still clearly noticeable. If Willie or I can be of assistance to you regarding advice, please let us know. It is important for you to know that I am a licensed, bonded and insured contractor, and if I can be of assistance to you in anyway do not hesitate to contact me.

Last October at the annual meeting, Willie Collins officially became my Assistant Caretaker. Willie does daily surveillance, and you should see him walking or riding his ATV throughout North Woods and keeping an eye on your property. As far as his duties go, Willie can take a complaint form and he will investigate problems, but he will not confront individuals. That is reserved for me. He has the authority to hand out citations (speeding, noise levels, common area, etc) but I will do the follow up.

Willie does many things outside of his job description, and if you have a problem at your cabin you can ask him for help or advice. Really, he knows many folks are unfamiliar with propane lights, generators, inverters, wildlife, and basic cabin living. If you need help, just ask. If you don't know him, please introduce yourself to him. Willie is a valuable asset to all the membership and you should all tell him so!

I am very proud our 4th of July fireworks show was another great success this year. I started this event 5 years ago, and I want to express to you a sincere thanks for your donations, efforts and support which makes this event possible every year. I appreciate that you participate with your neighbors in this event, and thank you kindly for the times when I show up at your door for money, and you reach deep to help! Thanks again to all!

Here are some of my areas of special interest:

Recreational Vehicle Identification!

Each cabin owner **MUST** identify all their motorized recreational equipment with their **CABIN NUMBER** in 3" digits on the back of their recreational vehicles! Stick-on numbers are available in boating stores. They must be clearly visible from the **REAR** of your equipment. This is extremely important this year, because the people of North Woods, your neighbors, are **strongly** asking the Board to enforce this rule! Therefore, as of August 17th, a FINE of \$50 for non-compliance will be strictly enforced! Your cooperation will be appreciated. If you need help, talk to Dan Brady at Cabin #210, he will assist you with this effort.

BOAT stickers for identifying your cabin number are **REQUIRED** and are available in the box at the door of Cabin #96. If your boat parks in our marina, you **NEED** a sticker with your cabin number clearly posted on the boat next to your registration sticker. If something happens at the marina, I need to know the owner's cabin number. It is just that simple!

Complaints: All cabin owners have a copy of The North Woods Rules and Regulations, and copies are posted on our North Woods web site and reminders are included in this newsletter. It is your responsibility to inform your guests, and all cabin owners are encouraged to help with surveillance throughout North Woods.

If you witness a violation that needs to be reported, contact me or Willie at Cabin #96. Document the incident while it is fresh in your

mind, and we may need to take immediate action. We have always had this system in place for all cabin owners. Please, if something bothers you enough to complain, have the fortitude to write it up as well. It will be submitted to the board for review. The forms are always available in the box near the door at Cabin #96.



Common Area Courtesy is necessary for the benefit of all. Please clean up your trash at the fire pit area, and keep the rest rooms tidy. Remember, it is a violation to dump your cabin trash at the Common Area – we do NOT have trash pick-up! As always, report any problems to us immediately!

Boat Dock Access is for boat owners only. This area is closed at 11 PM until sunrise.

Contractors & Trades People hired to do work at your cabin **MUST** be told to notify me or Willie when they arrive at North Woods. Please insist that they follow our rules for the roads (don't go up the entrance road), and the speed limits.

Common Area Bathrooms improvements are planned for this fall. Please bear with us as we try to improve the area.

As Caretakers, we are always striving to improve the North Woods. Your suggestions are always welcome and will be submitted to the board, so feel free to discuss ideas for improvements or changes as needed. That is how we got the basketball court, the volley ball court, and other things as well.

Willie and I want to personally thank all you folks who volunteer your personal time to make North Woods a better place. Digging through snow banks, chasing water system leaks, rounding up boom logs, working on the docks... it really means a lot when we can count on help from so many of you who really care! You are the backbone of the community and I hope everyone is encouraged by your example! Simply said, North Woods is a beautiful place, but it is the people of this community who really make it great! Thank you all for your dedication and we sincerely appreciate your kindness! Have a safe and wonderful summer!

Jim West
Caretaker, Cabin 96



SECRETARY'S NEWS

Jill Wyllie, whom the board members elected to the position of secretary, recently tendered her resignation from her seat on the board. The term for that seat ends October 2008. Jill was an enthusiastic and thoughtful contributor to the board's work during her period of service. The board has asked the nominating committee for suggestions of someone to be appointed to serve the remainder of this term.

The remaining members of the board declined to be elected to serve as secretary. Temporarily, Cathryn Hodl, treasurer, has volunteered to provide minutes of board meetings. If you are interested in serving on the board in this position please contact any board member and we will gladly tell you more. The hours are few and the rewards are great!

MARINA & BOAT DOCKS

So far this year we've gotten a lot done at the marina. The new docks are in, and slips are filling quickly. It is important that you take extra care when mooring your boat. Make sure it is tied back securely enough so the front portions DO NOT bang against the corner braces or the railing of the walkway. Repair expenses will be your responsibility if you do not take appropriate care in keeping you slip in good repair.

There are always odds and ends to be taken care of. If boards are broken let me know and we will get them changed out. The plan at this time is to resurface the most weathered 2 or 3 sections while the docks are floating late this year or before the next boating season.



By this weekend I will have acquired some stainless steel screws to mount bumpers on the plastic docks. We will also have large enough washers so people can use the bent or "elbow" shaped bumpers if they prefer (the ones that hang over the edge of the dock). I will keep a small inventory of the cleats and stainless steel screws. I was quoted \$13 each plus tax, for the cleats with the stainless screws. I have one extra cleats, and more will be available after August 4th.

We were able to re-attach the dock in the common area. To those that are aware of what's been going on, you are whole heartedly welcome.

Dan Brady
Cabin #210

"I can live for two months on one good compliment."

-Mark Twain

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Recently the Board of Directors appointed a Nominating Committee composed of Mick Lippelgoos (Cabin #125), as Chairman, with members Ginger Schmidt (Cabin #81) and Liz Dunning (Cabin #70), to begin the procedure to provide the Board with a recommended slate of nominees for seats on the Board. Terms for two seats end at October 2008. One of those seats was vacated by Jill Wyllie's resignation.

If you would like to be considered as a nominee for board service, contact any board member or any member of the Nominating Committee.



BOAT DOCK LEASES

As of October 2006, requests for long term boat slip leases exceeded the available capacity. A waiting list was established. At December 31, 2007 eleven (11) cabin owners were on the waiting list. The newly seated Board of Directors at November 2007 continued the prior board's deliberations concerning possible improvements to the marina. By May 2008 the segregated marina funds available totaled \$84,736. The Board selected Evans Marine Solutions to present a final plan and estimate to replace the short wooden finger and its walkways with plastic docks and walkways of the same brand and type as the existing plastic finger and to add six slips to the end of the existing plastic finger. The final cost for this project was \$80,802.50.

As of 14 July 2008, there were 3 regular slips left available for long term lease. There are also three small slips available for lease for wave runner-type personal watercraft.

There are 15 "common" slips. Three of these are specifically designated for use by non-motorized watercraft such as canoes and kayaks. See the signs on the docks. DO NOT use these slips for motorized watercraft. Non-motorized watercraft using the common docks must observe the common dock use rules.

PLEASE READ the rules for use of the COMMON DOCKS. We operate on the honor system and it is important for cabin owners and their guests to observe these rules.

Cathryn Hodl
Cabin #82



MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

From 2004 through 2007 The North Woods experienced a 30% turnover in membership. Many of our new owner/members are families with children. It is that generational rotation thing that happens in neighborhoods everywhere.

Those of us who have been owner/members for many years need to help our new neighbors to be aware of and observe our By-Laws and Rules and Regulations. Every new owner receives a copy of these documents as part of the new owner packet. Sometimes they just don't read them. Neighbor to neighbor conversations are the first and best option if you feel someone is not observing our rules.



INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

There have been no disbursements during the past five years. Recall that these funds were set aside in a trust account some years ago for the purpose of mitigating significant community needs which, in the view of the trustees, cannot be met through the normal budgeting process.

Below are the year ending balances of all our investments combined, which include stocks, bonds, mutual funds and cash. The trustees, Andy Moyer, Carl Lindgren and I, monitor these investments for an appropriate risk/reward balance making changes from time to time as needed.

Fund balances at December 31st:

Year	Account Balance	Rounded to nearest % % Change Yr/Yr
2002	\$81,808	
2003	\$118,124	+13
2005	\$128,269	+9
2006	\$145,367	+13
2007	\$153,170	+5
2008	\$141,275	-8 (thru 7/30)

In summary, from December 2002 through July, 2008 our investments have increased 73%. We believe this result compares favorably with most of the common benchmarks used in the investment community.

Michael R. Gaines
Cabin #10



WATER SYSTEM UPDATE

The water system is in great shape and we will continue to stress water conservation for all our users to insure continued good service. Both wells appear to have good water table levels from the increased amount of snow and rain fall over the past winter and spring. All our equipment is up and functioning properly and the lab tests continue to be supportive of a well run system.

Last year we purchased a first ever diesel generator to increase its operational life and reduce the cost of continuously replacing the propane generators. Propane generators were reaching life end at 6,000 hours and the diesel generator is forecasted to run 30,000 hours before end of life. Both generators are serviced regularly by Jim West and he is quite happy with the new configuration.

We still will ask all our members to be very conscious of unnecessary water use and fix all leaks as you find them. Please do not water outside flora or fauna and do not wash vehicles with this chlorinated water.

With Jim's great care, and our member's continued vigilance, our system will serve us well for many years to come. Thanks in advance for helping us care for our water system.

Rick Fields
Cabin #197

TOP 10 RULES VIOLATIONS

Every year we include in the News Letter a number of commonly violated rules – Please observe them so as to make yours and your neighbors time at The North Woods more enjoyable.



THE DO LIST -

1. Identify all your Recreational Equipment. Put a 3" high sticker with your **cabin number** on the rear of all your toys, including ATVs, golf carts, motorcycles, etc. Get a pre-made sticker for your boat or canoe from Cabin 96, and use a permanent marker to write in your cabin number.
2. Observe the 9 ½ mile speed limit on all roads in The North Woods. This includes everything that moves!
3. Observe **Quiet Time** hours (10:00 pm to 8:00 am) and be responsible for cleaning up and removing your **trash**, especially in the Common Area and at the fire pit.
4. Keep your **dogs** under control – don't let them run loose in the community! You are also responsible for removing any dog poop.
5. Obtain **building permits** from Skamania County or The North Woods Board for any replacements (decks and roofs) or additions or major changes you want to make to your cabin. Details on permits are on the reader board and forms are available on the web site.
6. Keep your **cabin site clean** – NO JUNK – lying around. If by the 2nd weekend and no one has taken the old couch you left by the side of the road with a "Free" sign attached, assume no one wants it and take it home with you.



DO NOT DO LIST - DO NOT

1. DO NOT have any **open flames** in The North Woods. This includes deck warmers, pit fires, etc. Note: Charcoal BBQ grills are OK.
2. DO NOT allow youth who are not licensed to ride on any motorized equipment without adult supervision!
3. DO NOT **exit** the North Woods **via the entrance** road by the store. You must exit via the 10 Road only! Please advise any guests or contractors working for you.

... and MOST IMPORTANT

4. Don't abuse our caretakers – They only are doing the job we ask and pay them to do – They work for all of us!

Jim Creel, Rules & Regulations
Cabin #130

NORTH WOODS WEB SITE

The North Woods web site is www.netnorthwoods.com. Derwin Hales (Cabin 190) maintains the site. It contains past newsletters, the bylaws, rules and regulations, boat slip and lease information, Board Member contact information, the Board meeting schedule, past meeting minutes, the Building Code approval form and the news.

The Board of Directors would like to see more use of the web site to keep the membership informed. Most of our membership has access to the internet, and we encourage you to check the web site regularly for notices and updates on all kinds of useful information.



COMMUNITY PRIDE

GARBAGE: North Woods does not have garbage service. It has always been a "pack it out" community. If you go to the common area for a picnic, take your garbage back to your cabin, and then home. The metal can at the gazebo is for small amounts of cans and bottles, and definitely not for large bags of garbage generated at your cabin.

LITTER: Our special place can be spoiled by the litter people throw carelessly. Every member, guest, and visitor needs to be aware that any garbage generated needs to go back to the cabin where you are staying.

DOGS and POOP: Lots of members have dogs and they love to come just as much as the people. We would be outraged and offended if the people defecated on the roads, in the playground, or in the common area. Why shouldn't we be equally outraged and offended when members allow their dogs to defecate in those places? If you bring a dog to North Woods you need to be prepared to follow the rules and clean up after your dog.



UNSIGHTLY DEBRIS ON LOTS: There are several lots throughout North Woods which are not in compliance with the lot lease and rules and regulation provisions regarding trash and building materials on their lots. Please CLEAN UP YOUR LOT before the Board has to take action to alert these cabin owners, and then give them a deadline to which they must clean up their

*"We don't work for each other;
we work with each other."*

-Stanley C. Gault

NORTH WOODS
BOARD MEMBERS

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EcoFields Technologies ~ Marty Fields
13911 NW 50th Ave ~ Vancouver, WA 98685
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EMAIL COMMUNICATION

Most of you already know that Email is the most effective way for us to communicate with the membership! Every year we send out notices because it's easy and fast. We do post some bulletins on the web site, and most on the reader board at the common area, but if you don't. For timely notification, so IF YOU DO NOT HAVE EMAIL, you WILL NOT be in the loop! If you don't have a computer, we highly recommend that you FIND SOMEONE YOU KNOW who does, and see if that person would be willing to keep you updated. Most important updates are posted on our web site at www.netnorthwoods.com.

Email also saves time and money! Printing and mailing costs are reduced, and we don't have to wait for a volunteer to get printing/copying work done, and then stamp it and put it in the mail. Also, it is essential that boat slip owners and waterfront cabin owners have a current email on file, as water levels can drop with barely any notice!

We send this newsletter as a pdf so each of you can PRINT your own copies, and even keep a copy on file. Please take at least ONE COPY of this newsletter TO YOUR CABIN, EVERY YEAR, so you can refer to this simple document for valuable information.



If you received this newsletter as a pdf through email, then you can be assured you are current on my North Woods distribution list. If you want to add an additional email address, simply contact me at rickyboof@comcast.net.

If you are new, or received this newsletter thru your mail box, please contact Cathryn Hodl (cehodl@comcast.net or phone 360-256-5605). She will update the master roster and send me the changes.

Marty Fields
Newsletter & emails
Cabin #197

"Leading a team isn't easy. It takes hard work. It demands personal sacrifice. It requires making tough, and sometimes unpopular decisions. We should respect the person who has agreed to take on that role and show loyalty."

-John Maxwell

Bulletin Board

BULLETIN BOARD REPAIRS

The Common Area bulletin board which was built more than 15 years ago, sustained damage from last winter's heavy snow. The board section was already in bad repair. Jeff Marshall and Curtis Roman of cabin #171 have volunteered to build a new bulletin board that will be larger and have a locking plastic display area so important notices can be posted. The old bulletin board will stay in place while the new one is being built right next to it. The Board of Directors has approved reimbursement to them for any materials they must purchase. They are donating some of the materials. Let's all make an effort to thank Jeff & Curt for their great community spirit!

GIT-ER-DONE

Surface Restoration through Pressure and Pressureless hot and cold washing. WE BRING the water to you, and we do restorations of decks, roofs, walkways, fences, driveways, and more. We can also seal or stain as desired.

"GIT-ER-DONE"

Lynn Tussing, Owner
503-891-4836

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CARPENTER ANT SPRAY SERVICE

Pacific Structural Services is a full service pest control company. Each year North Woods members are offered a group rate, and the price drops when more cabins sign-up. Pacific Structural Services uses Termidor, which is specific for carpenter ants, and they treat the entire cabin lot, including a garage and sheds. This specific treatment is more expensive than others because it is so effective, and comes with a 1 year warranty. If you need pest advice call Bill Larsen at (503) 639-2500 or (360) 696-2282, email pesteliminators@comcast.net or find them on the web at <http://www.pacificstructuralservices.com>



SAFETY CORNER

Need an ounce of **prevention**? Here are a few ideas . . .

Wood Chopping Safety – A recent incident in North Woods caused a youth (who was just observing) to be hit with a metal chip which flew off a wedge. The injury was very serious. The cabin owner has asked us to remind all of you that accidents can occur at any time. When you chop wood **wear safety glasses and gloves**.

Keep them with your axe and maul, and **wear them**. Helpers or onlookers must be outfitted as well. Safety glasses cost about \$2, and the protection is priceless.



Boating Safety – The Skamania County Sheriff is patrolling Swift Reservoir and is conducting boat inspections. He may stop you and check you for any of the following: license, life preservers, fire extinguishers, decals, horn, paddle, first aid kit, anchor and more. See the rules at www.parks.wa.gov/boating.

ATV Safety – Four wheelers are fun, but are also very dangerous! More than 300 people die in ATV crashes per year, and uncounted thousands are injured. The All-Terrain Vehicle Safety Institute (ASI) was formed in 1988 to implement an expand a national program of ATV safety, education and awareness. ASI's primary goal is to promote the safe and responsible use of ATV's, thereby reducing accidents and injuries. Contact the ATV Safety Institute for information about safety courses near you. Call 800-887-2887 or visit www.atvsafety.org. They offer a 4 hour class with lessons on riding theory, safety practices and proper equipment. They also get hands-on lessons and some drills, like making simple starts, turns and riding thru obstacles or over branches. Nothing protects you more than prevention!

Candles left unattended in cabins have caused fires. We highly recommend the new type of LED candles for your cabin. The nice ones even flicker and have a nice sent! They are a safe alternative, and make a great night light. Check out the many "life-like" LED candles at www.enjoylighting.com



Fire Safety – The **No Burn Rule** is in effect. No **OPEN FLAMES** are allowed. The fire pit in the Common Area is the **ONLY** fire pit sanctioned for use in North Woods. All cabins are required to have **SPARK ARRESTERS** on your chimney. Please clean and check your chimneys now so they are ready before the colder weather arrives.

Yard Debris – Excess cabin lot debris is a fire hazard. If you need a chipper for small jobs, see Jim West.

Swift Reservoir
Water Level Updates
(800) 547-1501

FISHING SWIFT RESERVOIR

Prior to 2007 the Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) planted 800,000 fingerlings in Swift Reservoir for the following spring fishing season. This method was not working well, as it was just not producing enough catchable size fish.

So, in spring 2007 WDFW started a new technique of waiting until just prior to Opening Day, then putting in 60,000 catchables (rainbow trout). This allowed the size to be much bigger, averaging about 1/3 of pound each.

This spring, because Swift water level was so low, WDFW waited until just before Memorial Day to put in the 60,000 catchables, allowing the fish to have an extra month in the hatchery so they were even larger. WDFW believe this technique is already showing better fishing results and the survival rate is much better.

As far as the Bull Trout (Dolly Varden) numbers go, this year's adult estimate is expected to diminish. Soil erosion and increased reservoir water turbidity produced less plankton, and zooplankton, disrupting the food chain reducing fish survival and curtailing bull trout growth. Using a modified marked recapture estimate, in 2006 WDFW estimated 1,011 adult bull trout, and in 2007 it was down to half that at 505. WDFW again expects reduced numbers this year.

Rainbow numbers are up and are a fairly good size. Just this week WDFW caught a large whitefish (3.5 lbs) in the Eagle Cliff area. WDFW will not be putting more Steelhead back into Swift until the dam re-licensing process is finished. In about 2 years it is possible PacifiCorp and WDFW will reintroduce Steelhead, spring Chinook and Coho as well. Enjoy the fishing!



Information provided by Jim Byrne
Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife

IN MEMORY OF A FRIEND

Bill Seifert, the original owner of cabin 106, passed away on June 21, 2008. He and his wife, Jodie owned their cabin until just a few years ago when failing health caused them to sell. Bill made significant volunteer contributions to the original installation of the water system and the fire hydrant system. He was one of three North Woods cabin owners who came together to work with Skamania County officials to create Skamania County Fire Protection District #6. These same three people served as the first elected Board of Commissioners for the newly formed fire district. He was quite the scrounger and searched unceasingly to find no cost equipment to help outfit the new volunteer fire house. Bill could be quite the curmudgeon, and often came to Annual Meetings with By-Laws in hand to exercise his right as a member to hold any sitting board to account. He and Jodie loved North Woods. At the July 27, 2008 board meeting, a motion was made and unanimously approved to send a donation of \$50 in Bill's memory to Hospice of Vancouver, Washington.



THE SWIFT COMMUNITY

Other area community associations are important and can provide you with additional information on local happenings.

SCAT is the Swift Community Action Team. It is non-profit, and they are trying to unify all Swift communities to make it a better place. This includes North Woods, Swift Cove, Swift View, Marble Mountain, and Three Rivers. Some areas of focus include: 1) Developing a Neighborhood Watch program with Skamania County and all applicable communities. 2) Working to get more access to ATV trails with PacificCorp, the DNR and the Forest Service. 3) Attempting to get the Pine Creek Info Station reopened. For this cause they are looking for volunteers for weekends during the summer. 4) Conducting highway clean-up on the 90 road. The next clean up will be on September 20th. Contact Mary Sauer (msauer@nwstaffing.com) for more information.

CATS are the Cougar Area Trail Seekers. Located in Cougar, Washington, the group is dedicated to actively promote, preserve and protect ATV trails while having fun. Trying to work collaboratively with land managers and other recreationalists, their goal is to support officials and other groups that help support ATV. They are family oriented and they meet once a month at the Lone Fir in Cougar. The web site is: www.cougarareatrailseekers.com

Other Web Sites:

Swift View: <http://www.swiftview.org/index.html>

PacificCorp: <http://www.pacificcorp.com/>

NOXIOUS WEEDS

Noxious Weeds are non-native plants in Washington. They spread quickly and can be difficult to control. They invade croplands, rangeland, forests, prairies, rivers, lakes, wetlands, and estuaries, causing both ecological and economical damage. Here are two you can find in and around North Woods.

Scotch broom (Class B Noxious Weed) can be seen on the slopes of Swift Reservoir and on the roadsides. It displaces desirable native plants and spreads aggressively. Seeds are toxic to animals and can live for 80 years, making eradication efforts difficult and expensive.

Control Methods: Hand pulling or digging may be an option for small infestations. Chopping, Cutting or Mowing for flat areas. Cutting is recommended before a herbicide application, and control methods must be repeated for several years.

Orange hawkweed (Class B Noxious Weed) is a prolific seeder, and an aggressive competitor of other plants. It is unpalatable and a serious pest of pastures, mountain meadows, and lawns. It reproduces by seeds, stolons, and rhizomes.

Control Methods: Small infestations may be dug out. The entire plant must be removed since it can re-sprout.



Scotch broom



Orange hawkweed

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