



# SILVER LAKE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

## Newsletter Spring 2015

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### President's Update

Howdy from the Land of the Neversweats! I hope this newsletter finds you all well and ready for another glorious summer at our own piece of paradise. I'm happy to report that Mark Rayburn will be back for another season. The Cabin Fee Act (CFA) passed Congress in late 2014; Gerry Wood has more information concerning the CFA in his article. We have a new Forest Service Resource Officer, Megan Mullowney, whom Barb Andrews will tell you about in her commentary.

Once again, it has been another very dry winter in all of California and we must remain highly vigilant vis-à-vis fire prevention. Compounding this issue, we had some extremely high winds hit the area on February 6<sup>th</sup> which will require extensive efforts on our behalf to clean up debris. Three cabins sustained relatively slight damage which is a minor miracle when considering the possibilities. If you haven't heard from Mark by now, you probably were not affected too severely. At any rate, the debris will add further fuel to our already delicate fire exposure so please try to get it handled expeditiously. As of April 28, the Forest Service made it out to the Silver Lake Road (A10) and cleared all the downed trees up to the north side day use area. We are uncertain at this point, when they will be out there again, but they have requested that under no uncertain terms should anyone attempt to go off road to avoid downed trees.

Just a reminder, Mark is no longer taking on new projects. You may contact him for information and direction regarding local contractors, etc., but please don't expect him to take on your task.

Furthermore, he will be quite busy at the beginning of the season with the previously mentioned storm debris clean up. I also want to remind you that being a board member is a voluntary position, we don't just meet twice a year at the lake, and we are not compensated. Over the years, there have been requests made that could easily have been handled by the requestor. You all know me well enough to know that if you want to suggest a committee or project, I'm going to strong-arm you into being the head of it. Let's try to remember how fortunate we are to continue with Mark's services as well as to have people willing to serve as board members.

Finally, Marsha Smith has tendered her resignation as Secretary and Laurie Davis as Editor of the newsletter. On behalf of the membership and board, I thank both Marsha and Laurie for their faithful and thoughtful service. Please take a moment to thank them the next time you see them. Barb Andrews has volunteered to assume the newsletter responsibilities, thank you Barb, and the board is looking for a new Secretary. I hope someone will step forward so I won't have to do any more strong-arming.

See ya this summer, Alan.

## **New Forest Resource Officer at the Almanor Ranger District**

With the recent retirement of long-time district employee Jane Goodwin, the Almanor Ranger District is pleased to announce that Megan Mullowney has accepted the position as the new Resource Officer. Megan began her career with the Forest Service on the Inyo National Forest in 2003 in Mammoth Lakes, CA. Since then, she has worked for both the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service in the Eastern Sierra. Her last assignment was on the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit as a recreation special uses permit administrator. She holds a BA in History from U.C. Davis and an MSc in Integrated Resource Management from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

The SLHOA Board of Directors has invited Megan out to Silver Lake for the July 4 Homeowner's Meeting and Social Event so that everyone has the opportunity to meet her. We look forward to introducing you to Megan at the meeting.

Barb Andrews



Photo Courtesy Alan Siemer

Tree damage from February 6, 2015 wind storm. This image is of a tree that split with one end impaled into the ground.



Photo Courtesy Alan Siemer

Road between Carlsen entrance and Doyle entrance.

## Cabin Fee Act – What it means to Silver Lake

The Cabin Fee Act passed Congress and has been signed by President Obama. So the seven year battle is over. As the smoke clears, what does passage of this legislation mean to our Silver Lake tract? Other than no more appraisals, the quick answer is, we don't know yet. We have predictions as to our cabin fees, but will not hear anything official until late 2015. In other words, our 2016 bills will reflect our new status on the tiers. Bills for 2015 will remain as we received them.

Recall that CFA was designed to subsidize the Federal government as to appraisal fees for tracts that received very high appraisals. By reducing the amount those permit holders would owe, that difference is to be spread among all permit holders, as the dollars to the government must be revenue neutral.

Between now and the end of the year, the more recent appraisals around the country will be completed. We are not subject to any further appraisals. Once that process is completed, the appraisals prepared since 2006 will be adjusted to a value as of the fourth quarter 2012. With these "normalized" numbers, the permits will be ranked and placed in the tier system already prepared. The tier system anticipated that Silver Lake will fall within one of these tiers. Fees for Tier 3 are \$1,650 per year, while Tier 4 fees are \$2,150, and Tier 5 are \$2,650. Under any scenario, we will realize some savings from the \$2,763.88 we were charged for 2015. I am not aware of any lobbying we can do, as both the tiers and our appraisal are set, but I will look into that.

Whatever the fee, it will be subject to a cost of living adjustment. Additionally, Congress retains the right to revisit the CFA every ten years. Any change to this law requires Congressional language, so it is not subject to the whim and caprice of some agency.

The CFO also includes a transfer fee of \$1,200. What constitutes a "transfer" is still open to interpretation. It may include a cabin sale between unrelated parties, a sale between related parties, or a transfer of a permit through gift or inheritance. Essentially, any transfer could trigger the fee. The Forest Service is charged with developing specific criteria for defining a "transfer". The transfer fee as it applies to trusts, especially the peculiar Forest Service trust, will also be subject to the Forest Service regulations.

Gerry Wood

## Treasurer's Report

The SLHOA finished the 2015 Fiscal Year (5/14 through 4/15) with an operating loss of \$2,064. This loss was expected at the beginning of the year as the Association had to absorb: 1) higher permit fees for the caretaker's cabin, and 2) increased operating costs resulting from an extended operating season, running through November 2014. After taking the 2015 Fiscal Year loss into consideration, the Association ended the year with a cash and prepaid balance of \$9,357.

As presented during the August 31st SLHOA General Meeting, in an effort to balance the Association's operating budget in the coming years, the Permit Holders Dues will be increased to **\$440** for the 2016 Fiscal Year and **\$490** for the 2017 Fiscal Year. Additionally, Family & Associate Member Dues will be increase to **\$30** in FY 2016, and **\$35** in FY 2017. These dues increases were unanimously approved by the Association members in attendance at the General Meeting.

The SLHOA Board believes that these dues increases, scheduled to be phased in over the next two (2) seasons, will allow the Association to meet its financial obligations, as well as put the Association on firmer financial ground in the future.

Erik A. Foraker

## **Lorraine Bernice DeGraff – August 7, 1930 to January 18, 2015**



Our beloved mother Lorraine Bernice DeGraff passed away January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in Sacramento, California. Lorraine was born August 7, 1930 in Bowmanville, Canada. She moved to Sacramento in 1947 when her father was transferred to help launch the new Campbell Soup Plant. Lorraine graduated from McClatchy High School in 1948 and attended Sacramento Community College's pre-nursing program before transferring to Stanford Nursing School where she graduated in 1953 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She obtained a Masters Degree in Education from CSU Chico in

1969 and completed a Post Master's Program in Handicapped Child Care from the University of Washington in 1975. Lorraine was a Professor of Nursing at CSU Chico from 1967 to 1992, and retired as Professor Emerita of Nursing. During her career, Lorraine took sabbaticals in England and New Zealand to study and gain knowledge of other education programs specializing in nursing care of handicapped children. She also took a two year leave of absence from 1973 to 1975 to be the Director of Training at the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles. Lorraine participated in the Nurses' Health Study for over 20 years and with her enthusiastic quest for knowledge, she continually expanded her professional horizons throughout her career.

Lorraine was happily married to her beloved husband Edwin for 62 years before he predeceased her in 2012. They lived in Chico from 1955 to 1975 and in Redding from 1975 on. Throughout their marriage they traveled extensively around the world and hosted international guests. Lorraine loved camping and hiking, spending time at her Silver Lake cabin, and playing Bridge with her friends. She enjoyed the arts and was a long-time patron of the North State Symphony. She also was a member of the Stanford Nurses' Alumni, the American Association of University Women (AAUW), and the First United Methodist Church.

Lorraine is survived by her daughter Stephanie DeGraff-Hunt (David), son James DeGraff, grandsons Dylan and Vincent DeGraff, Christopher Hunt, twin great grand-daughters and brother, Glenn Hopps and his family. She will have a special place in our hearts forever.

## **John Curtis – September 9, 1960 to November 19, 2014**



After 54 active and wonderful years, John Curtis passed away November 19<sup>th</sup> while abalone diving on the Sonoma coast. He shared his passion for life with his large family and legion of friends.

John was born and raised in Orinda, California to Dr. Thomas and Leota (Sis) Curtis. He attended Miramonte high where he received all league recognition in wrestling. During high school John became a competitive cyclist, and continued racing while attending college at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. John earned his degree in manufacturing engineering and had numerous technology jobs in the Bay Area. He married Melanie Thompson in 1994. Daughter Mattea arrived in 1996, followed by son Wyatt in 1998. In 2005 he moved his family to Grass Valley,

to better pursue his passion for the outdoors. He became a successful businessman, founding Grass Roots Property Management.

John had an enthusiasm for life that was infectious, a warm-hearted sense of generosity, and a mischievous twinkle in his eyes that endeared him to all that knew him. John lived life to its fullest, always pushing himself to the limit. John raced everything: cars, mountain bikes, road bikes, motorcycles. He was an accomplished skier and windsurfer. He shared his passions with a wide group of relatives and friends. In 1997, he and his two brothers placed second in the National Team Triathlon competition at Donner Lake.

John treasured every day and he tragically passed away doing something he loved. We will all miss him but are thankful for the joy, excitement and work/life perspective he added to our lives.

John is survived by his wife Melly; daughter Mattea; and son Wyatt of Grass Valley; his mother Leota (Sis) Curtis of Orinda; brother Don Curtis of Alameda; sister Lindy Curtis Silk of Pleasanton; and brother Jim Curtis of Lafayette. as well as dozens of nieces, nephews and cousins.

Please submit any and all contributions to future newsletters to Barb Andrews [bandrews@calacademy.org](mailto:bandrews@calacademy.org), or you can phone me with questions at 415-264-1960.

**Thanks!**

## SILVER LAKE SOCIAL EVENTS

The Board of Directors sincerely thanks all hosts and attendees of the July and September social events for their generous donations of food, beverages and dollars that offset the cost of financing these events. Your continuing support helps to maintain our expenses at the lowest possible level.

**Next SLHOA Meeting, July 4, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.**

**Social Event at Cutler/Case Cabin**

SLHOA Board of Directors

## SILVER WEAR ORDERS

Order your favorite Silver wearables by contacting Kim Andrews at [skandrews@earthlink.net](mailto:skandrews@earthlink.net) or by phone (707) 337-2987 for an order form!

