

**Edelweiss Newsletter
Spring 2008**

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
Submitted by Steve Cleaves**

Spring is here....or is it?? After a week of balmy weather it is snowing right now. Mother Nature loves to keep us guessing here in the Valley. I just love the myriad greens the valley displays during the spring.

Just a reminder, take some time to walk your property and look for all the new growth, and also the debris of the winter. This is an ideal time to clean up downed trees, branches, and any other fuel for unwanted fires. Also, look for trees growing too close to the road and remove them. Especially remove those trees and bushes that have branches hanging over the road right of way. They are a hazard to drivers and may scratch your car.

As our manager mentions, we will be continuing the Firewise program to wrap up some particularly flammable areas in the community. Any work you do on your own property as mentioned above helps reduce the spread of fire, should one occur in the community.

I have had many questions regarding the Board's actions to surface our roads. As we mentioned in previous newsletters, the vote failed to receive the super majority needed for passage. Upon further research the Board has decided to table the chip-seal approach. Our main objective this year is to upgrade the road base of Homestead Road, and possibly part of Highland. We are getting final budget figures from the contractor and will be beginning the upgrade within the next 8 weeks. During this year the Board will be reviewing surface options with the intention of installing that next year. Upon advice from our engineer, we can do the road base upgrades and rough grading this year, and next year do the final grading and final surface installation after the road settles through the winter.

Have a great spring,

Steve Cleaves
President



General Manager's Report

Richard P. Volckmann

Snow, snow, and did I mention? **SNOW!** Unfortunately, I did not start measuring the snowfall incrementally at the beginning of the winter, but I'm guessing we've had over 10 feet of the stuff this winter. (As of April 1st, total snowfall for the city of Spokane was the third highest on record.) I don't know where we are in the records but our precipitation translated into a lot of snowplowing. After a few start-up glitches, Jerry Palm and his guys did a great job of getting the snow off the roads and keeping them wide enough for the average car.

As winter descended, sanding the roads became a major hassle as we waited for the equipment to arrive to repair the pad that heats our reserve of sand. Every load of sand froze within a few hours making it almost impossible to load into the sand spreader, and even more difficult to spread. Craig spent a lot of time breaking up icy sand chunks in the spreader. The sand heating pad was finally repaired and brought on line in December, and loading and distributing sand became much less of a chore.

We're gradually trimming down some redundant equipment. We've sold the old maroon GMC truck and switched the Boss plow that was on it to Alex Hall's old white Chevy truck, meanwhile selling the Blizzard plow that was on the Chevy. We also disposed of the snow-blower that was used in the past on the rear of the Belarus tractor. In order to operate it one had to back up the whole time. That caused severe neck cricking! When it was found this year to have a bent drive shaft we decided that we would rely on contract snow-blowing in the future.

Branch chipping was going well until the drive shaft on the chipper gave out on us. (What's with all these shafts?) However, the breakdown coincided with our first big snowfall, so it didn't put us behind any more than did the weather. The chipper is fixed and ready to go, so if you were left out last fall, we'll get to you in the spring - if it ever comes - (as I write this - April 23rd - it is snowing!).

Also this spring, our plans are to start major upgrades of parts of Homestead and Highland roads. This means re-doing the road-base, establishing ditches and culverts where necessary, grading and crowning the road surface and putting down new gravel. This will all result in a much more pleasant road on which to drive and should significantly contribute toward dust abatement. We will do everything we can to alleviate driving inconvenience during this work.

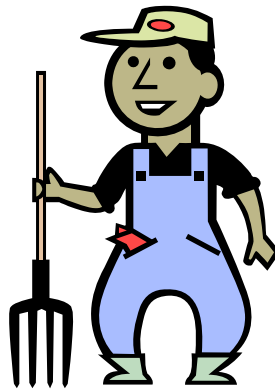
Plans are also in the works to restructure our garbage facility and pick-up. We are working with Methow Valley Sanitation toward eliminating individual garbage cans for full-time residents and going to several dumpsters instead. Preliminary analysis indicates a cost savings for everyone and a much more efficient system of trash pick-up. Our hope is to make the change sometime in June.

We are currently working with the Okanogan County Development Council and the Forest Service on a grant to continue with the fire-prevention process (officially referred to as 'fire wise') the first phase of which occurred several years ago. This involves thinning, removal of small timber, limbing-up of dead branches, etc. We have identified those properties that did not benefit from the previous fire wise program; the owners of those properties can expect to receive, sometime in the next few months, a notice describing the recommended fire suppression application. Each property owner will then have the opportunity to accept or reject the recommended procedures. Following acceptance, the property owner will have the final say on what the actual impact will be on the property, for instance what trees will be cut, etc.

Other plans in the works include investigating the costs for replacing the sod roof on the campground building, upgrading water and power lines along Homestead and Highland Roads, (including several hydrants spaced along those roads), and the extension of a six inch water distribution line across the upper meadow. I'll keep you posted on all these developments as they are realized.

As spring approaches, and the mud starts to dry up, we're remembering the beauty of our winter wonderland and we're looking forward to the explosion of the yellow arrowleaf balsamroot. Carol and I often look around and think that there is no more marvelous place to live and also, that there aren't a better bunch of folks than are here in Edelweiss.

A final word - - Remember; don't plant your tomatoes until all the snow is gone off Lucky Jim Bluff!



Linda's Message Spring Newsletter, 2008

FAREWELL, WINTER!

Happy Spring.....FINALLY!

It has been a LONG winter as most of you know. The good news is, that despite the heavy snowfall and the fact that homeowners paid a larger percentage of the total snowplowing bill this year (refer to FEES on website, www.edelweissmethowvalley.org for more explanation of how snowplowing is billed), we actually paid LESS this year than last. Using Palm Construction for the major portion of our snowplowing has thus proved more efficient so far.

WATER METERING (yes....it is really going to happen!)

The state requires that we have a water metering system in place by 2009. Currently, homeowners pay \$20.00 a month (billed twice a year) for water, regardless of amount used. Once metering is begun, that rate will remain, based on the use of 84,000 gallons per year, with an additional \$.01 per gallon charged for usage above that amount. Water users will be required to locate and make their meters accessible. More information will be forthcoming.

ROADS/SPEED

In conjunction with the planned road upgrades, the Board has authorized the purchase of some signs and speed bumps to be used and evaluated once the upgrades have been completed. In the meantime, some of you are using barricades donated by Pete Speer (thank you, Pete!) to remind people to slow down. They are more effective if you can attach a tasteful message on them reminding folks to slow down. Hopefully in the future we can get some more professional signage in place.

We all forget at times, but now that things are drying out, it is important to remember that **it IS possible to drive 15 MPH, especially when driving by people's homes.**

SPRING CHIPPING

Sign up by calling or emailing the office (996-9232, edelweiss@methownet.com). The cost is still \$45.00 an hour. Stack piles by the road or accessible driveway, and try to keep the diameter no larger than 3". Deadline for spring chipping sign up is the end of May.

WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS!

Enclosed is a handy information sheet created by Pat Leigh, our Board Secretary, specifically for the benefit of new property owners here. However, I think it also provides useful information for those of us who have been here a while as well. Some of the

contact information is nice to have on hand. Also, please check out our website for even more detailed information on many topics. Click on the WELCOME link.

DOGGIE DILEMMAS

We all love and enjoy our dogs, (though I may well be the only one who loves mine). It seems, however, that what they leave behind has been increasing as the numbers of dog owners has increased. It would make all our walks more pleasant if people would begin to carry doggie bags (not the kind you put your uneaten dinner in) when walking with their dogs so they can pick up the canine “refuse”. Thanks in advance for cleaning up after your pooch.

EMAIL INFORMATION

A big thank you to all of you who have sent your email and other contact information for our records. I have recently begun emailing statements/invoices to those members whose email addresses I have. This saves Edelweiss some time and money, resources always in short supply. If you haven't given me your current email address, please call or email the office. This information is used only for Edelweiss correspondence.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting will be held, as always, the Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend, on the 24th of May this year. It will begin at the pool with a potluck at 12:00, then followed by the membership meeting at 1:00. The Board of Directors will hold their meeting after that. Hope to see you all there!



