



President's Message
by Pat Leigh

EMC Groomers - Ski the Upper Meadow!

In spite of extreme cold and minimal snow we've had some fabulous skiing this winter, some of it in Edelweiss! I've had the pleasure of receiving numerous emails thanking our EMC Groomers with comments such as:

"Thanks Pat! We had a chance to enjoy skiing the upper meadow several times over the holiday and LOVED it. It is so nice to be able to enjoy that space. Also, we had a fun time exploring on skis several of the reclaimed trails that were newly marked last season. What a wonderful resource we all have! Quick recovery for Jake and please thank Reid for us!!"

"We enjoyed the fresh grooming on Sat afternoon with a ski-once-a-year Seattle friend. Wonderful climb up into the greatness."

Throughout this season our amazing crew of Reid Warner, Chris Casey, and Jake Valentine, with a special assist from the Methow Valley Sports Trail Association (MVSTA), has provided us with a wonderful opportunity to enjoy skiing the upper meadow on a groomed trail. We suffered a serious setback when Jake, our grooming guru, broke his ankle in an avalanche. But to our surprise and delight, Reid Warner came to the rescue with his powerful snowmobile and a determination to keep the track groomed throughout the holiday season. After Reid returned to Seattle, Jake was back on the job, with his foot in a cast!

In November, you may have seen the EMC Groomers including Chris Casey, Alex Hall, Craig Hook, Alan Fahnestock, Tom Lasater, Michael Lasater and Joan Grant's new renter, R.J., building our new groomer shed in the cold and POURING rain! It was downright unpleasant, but these men were determined to make it happen. It was a good thing that Linda McWhirter brought hot coffee and muffins when she did. At that point they knew they had to stay. Then Colleen and R.J. announced that they were serving Black Bean Soup and Corn Bread for lunch on Joan Grant's deck. I tell you what, if I knew how, I'd build a shed for a bowl of that black bean soup and just one more piece of the best corn bread that I have ever tasted!

The next day, they put the final wrap on the project. All

materials and equipment for this project were donated. This set the standard for the success of our EMC Groomer program.

In 2008, 29 members of our community donated a total of \$2280 to the EMC Groomers Fund. After buying the grooming equipment for \$1101 and paying \$161 for miscellaneous supplies and labor, we have a remaining balance of \$1018. We will have some labor and gas expenses to pay before the season is over. In addition, I would like to see a donation from this fund go to the MVSTA for their generous support of this effort. I expect we will have roughly \$500 left in the account to get us started next year. That could change if we decide to buy a snowmobile, but so far we're getting by on borrowed equipment. This program is funded strictly by donations. Please make your checks payable to: EMC, write "Ski Trail Grooming" in the memo section, and mail them to: EMC, 209 Goat Creek Road, Winthrop WA 98862.

If you have a small amount of time to devote to organizing the grooming effort, please let me know. It would be great to have someone take charge of the EMC Groomers Committee.

Until then... please feel free to contact me with any questions you might have. It's been a successful first year and I would love to see the program continue.

I would like to send an email to each member whenever the meadow is groomed. We have over 314 lot owners in Edelweiss and only 163 email addresses. To receive reports, please provide us with your email address by sending it to edelweiss@methownet.com.

Trailblazers

Spring and summer projects are being planned by our faithful Chairs, Jan and Will Fohrell. If you are interested in helping to reestablish the Edelweiss Trail System, be sure to contact them at: wfohrell@comcast.net. You can watch their progress by clicking on the "Trail System - Trailblazers" hotlink on the front page of our website.

Central Sewer System

In 2008, our Management Team and I, along with representatives from the Okanogan County Department of Public Works, participated in a thorough on-site inspection of our central sewer system by a private engineer who is certified in the design of Large On-site Sewer Systems. As

a result of this inspection new pumps, meters and electrical panels were installed in our central drain fields and on lift stations where needed. Prior to that the Bitterbrush lift station was replaced. Since all this work has been completed, the County has conducted regular inspections to see that things are running as they should. This is tremendous progress and we expect to see more in the coming year.

The County has agreed to provide us with quarterly reports of their expenditures on our system. This will help us monitor the work they are doing to keep our system running smoothly and prompt us to contact them if we have concerns. Fees have historically been adjusted according to the County's actual costs to maintain the system and that will continue. If your lot is on the central sewer system, you will see a very small increase in fees this year.

Updates

Don't forget to read our Board Meeting minutes, posted on the website, and take a look at our 2009 budget. Our management team and Board of Directors are working hard to provide the Edelweiss community with reliable safe drinking water, safe roads, Firewise treatment and a reliable central sewer system.

Finally, I would like to invite you to join one of our community efforts such as Trailblazers or EMC Groomers. It's a great way to get to know your neighbors and enjoy some camaraderie.

Wishing all a happy 2009!

Pat Leigh, President
Edelweiss Maintenance Commission
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General Manager's Report
by
Richard P. Volckmann

As you know, if you've visited Edelweiss in the past couple of months, it's been really really c-o-l-d! We've had many days in December and so far in January when the temperature has not risen above the teens and many nights when it's been below zero. Along with extreme cold, we have had very little snow – not a good thing for those downhill skiers wanting to ski the Loup – but at least enough for the cross-country folks on the Methow trails.

Snow - Here in Edelweiss we've had a snow total of about 33" (measured at #20 Mustard Mountain Road), but only in small doses. This followed by a night of rain has left us with about a foot on the ground and a road surface of ice!

Water Leak? - With the comparative lack of snow cover, we've been extremely worried about the possibility of freezing of our water system pipes. In fact, as many of you are aware, based on unusual water consumption, we have suspected that we have a leak somewhere in the system. Craig and I have spent hours traveling around Edelweiss looking for the break, checking under houses, digging out pressure reducing valves, checking in meter vaults, etc. etc.

I'm happy to report that as of this morning we have found what appears to be the culprit – a broken water meter. Water was pouring out of it and traveling down through the bottom of the meter vault into the gravel below. We should be able to tell for sure if we have solved the problem after we have monitored the water consumption for the next few days.

Water Line Upgrade - The bids for the installation of the new 6" water line across Highland Meadow have been processed – the bid awarded to Doug Haas Construction who will do the work. The construction of this water line is the next phase in the implementation of the upgrade of Edelweiss's water delivery system.

Comprehensive Plan - Pursuant to the upgrade, Mel Hartwig of North State Consulting has completed work on a 'Comprehensive Plan' of development of our combined water/roads/power infrastructure. His plan outlines our future upgrade priorities, and includes construction methods, costs, etc. Because of the great costs to the community, this plan will take years to be fully implemented; however, we now have a blueprint to follow which will serve us in good stead for the future.

Firewise – The Firewise program continues to progress; we've recently sent out notices to about 40 potential forest management contractors to obtain bids for the clearing and Firewise treatment of the properties that are affected. We're hoping to award a bid and get started on the work no later than early springtime.

Lights - As you drive up the Methow Valley from Pateros to Mazama at night, perhaps you've noticed the plethora of glaring mercury vapor 'yard lights' that stay on all night long. And as you drive around Edelweiss at night you often see porch lights and flood lights that also are illuminated all night long.

One of the wonderful aspects of Edelweiss is the potential of having some of the most pronounced 'dark' in the country. The brilliance of the night sky is a joy to behold. There are few places you can go anymore where the stars and planets are seen so spectacularly without the pollution of artificial light. So, please, when you don't need them, everyone will thank you if you turn off your outside lights. And if you are a part-time resident, please make sure your

floodlights, porch lights, etc. are off before you leave for home.

Email – I didn't start using Email until three or four years ago. Heck, I didn't even know what it was before that! And I still refuse to text message on my cell phone. But now Email is the quickest way to communicate. I'm joining Pat in the request to send your Email address to us so that we will be able to notify you and the rest of the community of any maintenance issues that need immediate notification. Send it to: edelweiss@methownet.com. Thanks, in advance for your help.

That's all from here for now. I'd like to wish you all a belated Happy New Year, with hopes for a continually improving 2009. And as always, if I can help you at all with any maintenance related issues, please don't hesitate to give me a call or email.

Dick Volckmann, General Manager
Edelweiss Maintenance Commission
509-996-9897 or emcmanager@centurytel.net

**LINDA's MESSAGE
by Linda McWhirter
EMC's Administrative Assistant**

2009 Budget!

Our 2009 budget and financial statements are now posted on our website for your review. If you would like a hard copy, please call or email the office. The annual Budget Meeting will be held on Saturday, February 21st, at 9:00 AM at the Campground Building. If you have questions, please call the office.

More on Light Pollution - Did you know that too much artificial light affects wildlife, especially migrating birds? Some birds use the stars for navigation, and can be disoriented by the bright lights of buildings and crash into them. Birds that migrate at night can be attracted to sources of artificial light, especially in bad weather. They can even be trapped in a beam of light, reluctant to fly out of it, until they collapse with exhaustion.

Light pollution can also affect the reproduction and feeding patterns of some wildlife, birds, and bats, and some scientists believe that the recent disappearance of fireflies may be a result of light pollution as well.

Did you know that 400 years ago, when Galileo studied the Milky Way, it cast shadows on the ground it was so

bright? Few people today live where they can even see the Milky Way with the naked eye.

For the Birds - As we approach Spring and anxiously await the birds coming to our feeders (along with the bears!) many of us are dismayed by birds crashing into our windows.

Here are some ways to reduce bird fatalities:

-- Locate your bird feeders either much closer to your windows or much further away. If they are within 3 feet of a window, the birds can't build up enough speed to be harmed if they hit a window. If the feeders are more than 30 feet away from a window, they are less likely to view windows as a pathway to other parts of your yard.

-- Many bird strikes are caused by panic flights, especially when large groups of birds are together. Observe where the birds tend to escape and position feeders so that their flights occur away from, rather than toward your windows.

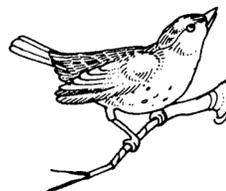
-- Hang wind chimes or windsocks in front of windows. Consider leaving your windows a little dirty, at least until you put away your feeders. To avoid having bears visit, consider feeding the birds only during the winter months.

-- There are decals that I used on the windows at the pool as it had become a veritable "killing field" for birds. They are called WindowAlert decals. You can get them online or at most "bird stores". They are priced at \$6.45 for a package of 4 decals, and you can barely see them on the windows. They reflect ultraviolet light, which is invisible to humans, but to a bird appears to be a stoplight.

In Closing

I am actually going to end this message without even mentioning dust or driving too fast. At present there is no dust problem, though some people are still driving too fast! ☺

Happy 2009!
Linda
EMC Office: 996-9232 or edelweiss@methownet.com





Edelweiss Maintenance Commission
209 Goat Creek Road
Winthrop WA 98862