



Edelweiss Maintenance Commission

209 Goat Creek Road • Winthrop, WA 98862 • Tel 509-996-9232

Fall 2008 Newsletter

President's Message by Pat Leigh

Congratulations to our Management Team!

I think we all owe Dick Volckmann, Craig Hook and Linda McWhirter a rousing round of applause for a very productive and successful summer! The washboard problems on our two main arterials are vastly improved and dust abatement is on the way come Spring. We've received some very nice compliments on the maintenance of the Campground and Pool areas. The "problem areas" in our waterlines have been addressed. Hours were spent working with bear experts making every effort to keep us all safe. The central sewer system has received an inordinate amount of attention and will be the better for it. Thank you so much Dick, Craig and Linda!

Firewise Program:

Yes folks. Our grant application has received funding! That's the good news. But please note: this is an entirely different program than the last, with limited funds available. To participate, you will need to re-educate yourself. Funding is limited and this is a **matching** grant which means that **if** your lot is given the highest priority by the forester who is working with us, and you receive Firewise funds, you will need to either pay ½ the cost or donate enough hours at \$15 per hour to cover ½ the cost of the work done on your property. Of course this will need to be cleared with you in advance. Here's how we hope to work with you ...

Owners of lots identified for Firewise cleanup have already received a letter from the Edelweiss

Maintenance Commission. If you responded positively to the EMC letter, and if your lot is identified by the forester as a "priority," you will be told the prescription for your lot. Priority status will be based on the condition of your lot and the Firewise Program budget. You'll be told the dates when the forester is working in your area and a time-frame within which to UN-mark any trees that have been marked in orange for harvesting. We will provide camouflage paint if you wish to cover orange markings. A bid process will be conducted to determine the ultimate price for each lot and you will be asked whether you intend to pay in cash or in labor.

Property owners who aren't given a "priority" rating, may benefit from joining the Methow Forest Owners Co-op and participating in one of several available cost sharing programs. Their website is:

<http://www.okanogan1.com/community/forest/index.html> They can be reached via email at: lorah@nwi.net.

Due to cuts in Federal funding, "Firewise" funds may never again be available. I fear that many of us have made fuel reduction on our lots a low priority, while hoping for the Firewise program to come to the rescue. I apologize if we have led you to wait for Firewise funding in error. Please don't let our mild, fire-free summer lull you into complacency. We all need to find ways to make our property safe from wildfire. This needs to be part of a regular maintenance program. If you are not able to do the work yourself, there are a number of companies in the Methow who offer "firewise" cleanup of your land. To name a few:

Mike Meyer, C2C Wildfire: 509-679-7679
Kjell Bagge, Custom Forestry: 509-996-2263
Dennis R. Jones' Chipping and Tree Service:
997-2007 or 509-449-1022.

Please Recycle! But not at our Edelweiss garbage facility.

Some Edelweiss members appear to be misinformed. The Methow Recycling Center is in Twisp. When you leave your recyclables outside our garbage shed in the campground, you are wasting your time and costing all of us money. Anything left in our garbage area goes into the garbage, which we pay for based on volume. I've spoken to Methow Recycles and they are developing a drop-off location in Winthrop, where they currently have a Cardboard Only bin available for your use on Horizon Flats, across from North Valley Lumber. If you would like to expand access to recycling in the Methow Valley, and would be more inclined to recycle if we had a facility in Winthrop, please consider making a donation to help "Methow Recycles!" reach their goal of \$37,000. They are already 40% of the way there! Tax deductible donations should be made payable to Methow Recycles noting "Winthrop Bin" in the memo section. Mail your donations to: P.O. Box 1057, Twisp WA 98856. Check their website for information on Center hours and what they can accept: www.methowrecycles.org And speaking of garbage.....

Bears Are Still Among Us:

Dick Volckmann, General Manager, is maintaining an email list of those who wish to be included in Bear Sighting notices. Let him know if you want to be added. A bear tore into an Edelweiss resident's garbage just last week. If you need a refresher on how to live safely with bears, please go to our website.

Theft Reported: A new snowmobile stored on an Edelweiss lot was recently stripped of its parts. Please treat this as an incentive to get to know your neighbors and possibly keep them informed of your schedule so that intruders can be readily

identified and the authorities called when needed. Also please consider ways to secure your equipment.

Tailblazer Update:

Click on the new "Trail System – Trailblazers" hotlink on our website for the latest news on our Edelweiss Trail System. Work has been started on over 1000' of trail with over 600' completed by clearing ground, lining the trails with rocks and logs, then covering the cleared ground with wood chips.



Thanks to all our volunteers we are making great progress on reestablishing our community trails! The slippery slope to the pool from Homestead has been replaced by an attractive and sturdy set of stairs. The upper meadow trail is nearly finished and has an inviting sitting area where you can enjoy the meadow view. More exciting work is planned, so please sign up to be a volunteer. The best way to keep current on the activities is to be added to the Trailblazer e-mail distribution list.

Contact Jan and Will Fohrell, Chief Trailblazers, at wfohrell@comcast.net

Hoping for SNOW.

Not only because it would eliminate the dust problem, but if you are like me, the crisp Fall air has you thinking about SNOW. As much as I've enjoyed hiking this summer, I can't wait to get back on my skis. And speaking of skiing.....

Groomed Ski Trails in Edelweiss – Ways You Can Help This Dream Come True!

Remember when someone surprised us by grooming a ski trail on the upper meadow? What a wonderful gift! Wouldn't it be great if we had our own Edelweiss ski trail? You could take the kids out for an hour of skiing without having to purchase a pass. Your guests could try this cross-country sport. After your morning lesson on the MVSTA trails you might like to practice your technique without having to drive back to the trails. All of this can be a reality if the community makes it happen.

Recently we had a small window of opportunity to purchase a lightweight grooming device that is designed to be attached to a snowmobile. I knew there was strong interest in the community to have groomed trails in the upper meadow. There was not enough time to make sure we had community members lined up to help make the grooming a reality so I took a leap of faith. Due to the generosity of Sean McCabe's brother, Dusty, for only \$200 we now have a \$1,200 groomer.

The next surprise came when a member donated a snowmobile to this program! We're not sure yet, but we think it might do the job.

We are looking for someone to lead the formation of a Groomer Group. To make this leap of faith a reality, we need to have someone willing to identify and organize community members who are willing to help. We are not looking for one person to do all the work.

This lead person would take on things like...

- Finding volunteers for a work crew to help arrange suitable equipment storage near the meadow.
- Finding four or five people to alternate grooming.
- Solicit donations to pay for gas and any other expenses.

We'd like to see if we can manage this season with volunteer groomers. If this season proves to

be unsuccessful, we'll look for ways to hire it done. To date, we have three good men who have volunteered to groom AND a possible donation of a snowmobile!

Just one more thing. Our groomer lays down a corduroy path for free-style skiing. There is an attachment for cutting tracks, but it will cost another \$700 for the device, plus shipping and taxes.

If you would like to see our ski trail groomed for track skiing, please consider making a donation to the EMC for the purchase of this track attachment. Any money that you send marked for "Ski Trail Grooming" will be used first toward the purchase of equipment and second toward reimbursing our volunteer groomers for gas.

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.

Until we have our Team Leader, please feel free to contact me with any questions you might have.

Snow Plowing Service:

You'll see Jerry Palm of Palm Construction Inc., back on the job this winter, keeping our roads clear and safe. If you would like to contract with Palm to plow your driveway, give him a call at: 509-996-2884. The sooner the better.

Feel free to call with any questions or concerns!

Pat Leigh

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General Manager's Report

by

Richard P. Volckmann

After a cooler than usual summer, the past few weeks in the Methow have been just glorious. We occasionally have to take a moment to reflect that we actually *live* here! What a privilege!

This summer we've seen quite a few improvements, such as:

At the garbage shed we've successfully made the transition from individual garbage cans to four dumpsters for the use of full-time residents. So far the response has been entirely positive both from residents (who don't have to fight their way through a sea of garbage cans to reach their own) and from the employees of Methow Valley Sanitation (who don't have to empty a sea of garbage cans - one by one - into their truck). Edelweiss will be billing you quarterly at a rate of \$12/month.

Speaking of garbage - - - please, please - - - We ask you not to throw anything into the dumpster that you would not have put into your garbage can. We've found entire ice-chests, empty cardboard boxes, broken lawn chairs, etc. etc. We are charged by volume, not by weight, so an empty cardboard box costs us just as much as 20 lead ingots! Although we'd just as soon that you don't throw in lead ingots either!

And speaking of waste material, we have been working closely with the Okanogan County Department of Public Works in order to establish a more comprehensive maintenance plan for the Edelweiss common sewer system.

Those of you who are connected to the common system should already have received a letter from the DPW and one from EMC explaining the steps you need to take to continue to comply with DPW regulations.

Those of you who have your own separate septic tank and drain field should be aware that it is prudent to have your septic tank inspected, and if necessary, pumped, every three years. And even though you may be infrequent visitors to Edelweiss, your tank may still be due for inspection. In fact a septic tank that is used only infrequently can 'go dormant' and lose its effectiveness in 'digesting' material introduced into the tank. Edelweiss is negotiating with

Wright Construction for a 'package deal' on septic tank inspections and pumping. Please contact the EMC office if you are interested in participating.

Re-roofing of the campground building has begun and soon we will no longer be able to call it the 'sod hut'. As of now the sod is gone and the roof will soon be clad in metal. The work is none too soon, as lately the roof seemed to be deteriorating as we watched. It will be insulated and buttoned up before winter.

Early in August we were happy to get our tractor back from repair. Because of the origin of the beast, we're told all parts have to come from Russia, which kind of slows up the repair process. I think Putin has to approve all orders. It took almost a month to get the starter fixed. We're on the lookout for a different tractor.

McHugh Construction has completed the upgrade of the road surface on the first 3000 feet of both Homestead and Highland Roads. Our plan is to augment the surface with a dust-control application as soon as is appropriate in the spring.

We have had several meetings with the folks who are helping put together our firewise program. In the next few months we should be able to establish a list of properties in order of their priority as to firewise treatment.

As I look out the window today and see the glorious weather outside it's a little hard to realize that in a few weeks we'll be thinking about winter, snowplowing, fireplaces, pine branches covered with snow, skiing - - you know - - I can't wait!

Dick Volckmann
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LINDA'S MESSAGE
by *Linda McWhirter*
EMC's Administrative Assistant
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UPGRADING OUR ELECTRICAL SYTEM:
Work has been underway by the Electric Coop. to upgrade our electrical system by implementing 3-phase electrical feeders. They have plowed in a primary underground cable on East Fawn and buried a 3-phase distribution circuit in conjunction with the water line upgrade that was completed this year. The plan is to continue work to balance the electrical load throughout Edelweiss with this improved 3-phase system. The hope, according to Don Klutter of the Coop., is to try to get more improvements done before winter, but this will depend on availability of contractors and the weather. If you have questions regarding this upgrade, you can contact Don Klutter at the Coop. for more information.

WEBSITE: www.edelweissmethowvalley.org
Make sure you check out the website for information and updates. Also, emergency numbers for Dick and Craig have been posted on the front page. (There are also lots of pretty pictures...and you can submit your own!)



DIRECTORY: If you want to be included in our Edelweiss Directory please Email me your contact information including *vocation(s), hobbies and interests*, if you like. *Please send changes if your information has changed.* After updating is complete I'll send everyone in the directory a copy by email (if you give me your email address).

EMAIL ADDRESSES: It is really helpful if I have your current email address. I am able to send invoices/statements, and other important information as is sometimes necessary. Emergencies don't happen often, but when they do, it's important to be able to contact a lot owner or homeowner in a timely manner. Current phone numbers are also much appreciated!

OUTDOOR LIGHTSWe all forget at times, but PLEASE make sure your outdoor lights are not left on at night, especially part-timers who inadvertently leave with them on and then they are on for a LONG time. This is one of the few places where we can still enjoy some starlight at night. Let's keep it that way.

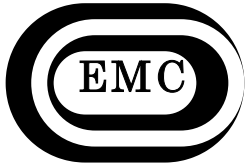
CHIPPING: It's been moving at a very slow pace this year due to tractor and chipper repairs. Last year's Fall Chipping has been completed and this year's spring chipping is underway. Craig will complete it based on the order of sign up. ALSO, if you have a big job, consider hiring one of the companies mentioned above in the discussion about the Firewise program.

DUST: (again!) PLEASE be considerate and drive the 15 mph speed limit, maybe even a little slower when driving by people's homes. Also, the pet or pedestrian you run into might have a good lawyer! Speeding tears up our beautiful new roads. Spare the gas and save us all money.

WEEDS: (again!) Come on folks, please pull the white top and knapweed on your property and along your road before it goes to seed. It will reduce the amount we have to pay for spraying. Not sure if you have these noxious weeds on your property? Give me a call and I'll take a look. We also have a link on our website with useful information.

THAT'S ALL FOLKS!

Enjoy the rest of the Fall weather!



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