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**President's Message by Pat Leigh**

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**Annual Meeting Agenda - Save the Date!**

Saturday, May 23, 2009, is the date of our Annual Meeting to be held at the Edelweiss Swimming Pool. We will start the potluck at noon and our formal meeting will begin at 1 PM.

There is much to discuss and items that may come up for vote include:

- Election of 3 new EMC Board Members (If you would like to serve, please let me know!) Officers will be elected by the members of the Board at a brief meeting to be held on site after the Annual Meeting.
- Discussion and possible approval of a special assessment to continue needed upgrades to our water system and roads
- Community Garden (To be or not to be and if so where?)
- Grooming the upper meadow for skiing. Will we be able to continue this activity?
- Space for parking at the main entrance?
- Should we move the mail boxes to the campground area?

On a lighter note, Stephen O'Neil contacted us after our last newsletter to thank us for asking members to protect our night sky by turning off outside lights when not in use. I invited Stephen to submit something on the subject for this newsletter and hope you enjoy his essay below. Please let us know if something about our community inspires you to want to share your thoughts in the same manner.

I hope to see you at the May 23, 2009, Annual Meeting! If you are unable to attend and want your vote to count, please remember to give your proxy to a friend in the community. A proxy must be provided in writing (or email) and state the purpose and time frame to which it applies. For example, "I, "your name and Lot #", hereby assign my proxy to "individual's name" for the purpose of voting on my behalf at the May 23, 2009, Annual Meeting."

Pat Leigh, President  
Edelweiss Maintenance Commission  
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On Looking Up  
an essay by Stephen O'Neil

It is not difficult to imagine our million year distant ancestors, a family huddled together on the African Plain of Laetoli, on one coal black night, gazing at an impossibly dazzling array of stars. Fearful no doubt they were; but perhaps also, blinking with a profound sense of wonder. It is

wonder I propose, that is so essential a part of our being, it could be one of the defining qualities of our humanity. Its presence: elusive, almost ethereal..... undetectable by clinical probing, has been in us since the very beginning. And has survived countless generations of societal influences that has perennially threatened to snuff it out. You see, wonder is essentially useless; it contributes nothing to an economy.

Which brings us to our present time. To a world that seems to be intractably seizing; with every society, every culture in a spiraling state of disarray..... the experience of wonder never more fragile. And those of us who are so fortunate, so blessed; and who have the unique, precious opportunity to tap into this wonder too often don't. We live, we walk with such intense purpose, our eyes and heads fixed so straight and rigid that I doubt we really see anything at all.

How have we come to this? Have we forgotten to amble, to saunter? To move our heads all around..... to look at life unfolding? And do we realize that small though we may be before the tumult of the great events and movements of the 21st century, through wonder, not only can we gain perspective, but also an awareness that could only be described as holy... and life changing.

Pat asked me if I would write a few words about 'enjoying the night sky to the fullest.' I found the phrase 'to the fullest' interesting as it implies degree..... in this case, of enjoyment..... and the relaying of such to the readers.

I have no method or technique to offer: but here is a thought: we could try to make a habit of putting ourselves at a place where wonder could occur: eventually this habit will become an integral part of our lives. And who knows where that could lead? Here in the Methow, we have a gift of extraordinary night skies. Step outside your cabin some night and simply look up. And at the speed of light, so to speak, wonder will fill you.

(Stephen recently purchased a view lot on Trillium Road and hopes to build in a year or so. He plans on getting married and will share this bit of paradise with his future wife.)

**Trailblazer Update by Jan Fohrell**

For those of you who are new to the community, welcome and let us give you some information about the Trailblazer Group.

We are an all volunteer group of your neighbors who are working to re-establish the trail system in our 550 acre community. Luckily the original Edelweiss plan had the foresight to include a trail system. Over the years the trails have become overgrown and many of our new residents have no idea there are trails here. Having a functional trail system is one of the stated objectives on the Edelweiss Vision Statement for a good reason. As we add more people to our community, having additional means for getting about safely, conveniently and in an enjoyable environment is important. We are collectively making that happen.

In 2008, my husband Will and I volunteered to be the organizers for the work needed to get the trails in shape. Although we are part-timers, we spend a lot of time in the valley. We are happy to give back to the community and

know that many of you will again roll up your sleeves to continue the progress on our trails.

Last year the community completed three trails. Maps and descriptions can be found on the Edelweiss Trailblazer site. <http://www.edelweissmethowvalley.org/trail.htm>

The 2009 trail work will include working on projects started last year; improving accessibility to the river and campground, and improving the east/west connections.

Edelweiss General Manager, Dick Volckmann, and Operations Manager, Craig Hook, are already working on a way to help enlarge the trail system. The Highland Meadows Water Line Project is scheduled for 2009. The existing water line goes across the upper meadow and will be dug up and replaced. Without adding additional cost, our Maintenance Team is going to work with the contractor to have the ground leveled as the line is replaced. This will help make it a platform for a trail. Thanks team!

The date for our first work party has yet to be set. In the mean time, if you are not already on the Trailblazer distribution list, send us an email and we will add you to it. It is the best way to get the most current information about upcoming events.

Our group's work to re-establish our trail system has been satisfying and we are pleased to see the progress and such strong neighborhood support. Thanks again to all of you who gave back to the community last year. We look forward to seeing you again this year and to meeting new members.

Look for further announcements over the next two months.

Jan and Will Fohrell  
[wfohrell@comcast.net](mailto:wfohrell@comcast.net)

### **A Community Garden in Edelweiss? by Blue Bradley**

A group of full-time residents in Edelweiss has been meeting to discuss the possibility of having a community garden located in Edelweiss. We are excited about the possibility of creating a beautiful and productive garden in our community.

Some of the reasons for having a community garden include the following:

- Encourages self-reliance & conserves resources – we can grow more food locally to reduce our driving. Many residents either have small gardens or none at all due to the shady nature of many of the lots.
- Creates opportunity for recreation, exercise, therapy, and education while teaching adults and children about growing food
- Stimulates social interaction for people of all ages

- Provides a catalyst for neighborhood and community development by having another fun gathering place in the community
- Produces nutritious food

Typically, community gardens have separate raised bed plots where members pay a yearly fee to cover the maintenance costs, and often members have work parties to develop a stronger community. A group of members acts as a Board of Directors that decides plot size, fees, bylaws, rules, etc. Community gardens can have perennial flowers, fruit trees, vegetables and other plants like strawberries and/or blueberries. Grant money is often available to help cover some of the start-up costs of community gardens, but we hope to get additional donations of money and time from community members. You can find more information about community gardens on the American Community Gardening Association website

<http://www.communitygarden.org/about-acga/>

Some of the priorities for a garden site that we have discussed include finding a place that gets a lot of sun, has road access, is fairly flat, does not have a lot of trees, and has access to a water source. We acknowledge there may be disruption to the scenery (or enhancement depending on your perspective,) and likely some human traffic with the garden location. We have narrowed it down to three locations for a possible garden: a spot in from the new snowmobile shed at the far eastern end of the upper meadow, accessed by the end of Homestead; and two different spots in the lower meadow by the pool-one spot above the pool, and another to the west of the pool. You can look at the proposed sites in the lower and upper meadows prior to the annual meeting as they will be marked with small flags. We are also considering the common area directly behind the maintenance shed in the EMC Campground.

We plan to discuss the differences between these sites at the annual meeting, and vote on which location to use and whether to move forward. So please attend if you can, or give your proxy to someone who is attending. If the garden is approved, we will then survey residents for their level of interest by email (if Linda McWhirter has your email) to help us determine the size and other factors.

We welcome any questions, concerns or a discussion about this topic prior to the annual Edelweiss meeting on Memorial Day Weekend, May 23, when we will be voting.

Call Blue Bradley at 509-996-2377 or Tory Desalvo at 509-996-7851.

The Garden Club Planning Group  
Blue Bradley, Tory Desalvo, Pat Leigh, Linda McWhirter, Jill Miller, and Nellie Casey.

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**General Manager’s Report by  
Richard P. Volckmann**

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At last it appears that Spring has sprung. The forecast for today (May 1st) is – sunny with a high of 73. It’s been a long cold winter, with not nearly as much snow as we had last year. Total snowfall, according to my measurements, was 41”, as opposed to nearly 10 feet last year. Speaking of winter, we have been searching for the metal rake that attaches to our groomer sled. It became detached from the groomer during one of the operations and was probably buried in the snow all winter. If anyone spots it in the upper meadow, please let us know.

**Water Line Upgrade** – Excavation has begun on the new and improved 6” water line across the upper meadow. This new line will replace the old 4” line, and will greatly improve the reliability of water service to the north and west side of Edelweiss. Estimated completion is about the middle of May. As an added benefit, the contractor (Doug Haas) has been asked to level the surface over the water line trench, thus adding about 3000 feet to the Edelweiss trail system. We’re planning on adding wood chips derived from the Firewise program to the surface so that it should be great for walking and biking this summer.

**Firewise** – The Firewise program is in its final phase prior to the start of work. We have pared the bidders down to the one which we feel will give us the best results. Letters are being sent out to individual property owners detailing the shared costs. We are determined to have the program finished by July.

**Roads** – Within the next few weeks we will begin re-grading the portions of Highland and Homestead Roads which were improved last summer. This will be followed immediately by the application of *lignin sulphate* to the road surface. It is anticipated that this application will greatly reduce the dust problem, and if it turns out as hoped, we will expand the system in 2010.

**Water System** – We recently had the opportunity to apply for some of the Federal Stimulus money in the form of a low interest loan for water system upgrade. The loan money was to be administered by the Washington State Department of Health. Applications from various water systems in Washington (including ours) totaled over 419 million dollars in requests. As there was only 36 million available, most applicants were turned down. As were we!

It is imperative that we continue to upgrade our water system in order to provide the level of service to which we are accustomed. We are continuing to research other sources of funds for our water system needs.

**Parking** – You have probably seen the ‘No Parking’ sign at the entrance to Edelweiss. Because of safety factors, the

Board of Directors has recently voted to eliminate parking at that spot. We ask that you respect the wishes of the Board and suggest that there is plenty of safe, off-street parking at the intersection of Fawn Road and also at the campground. And we thank you for your cooperation.

So now we are headed into another delightful Methow Valley summer, grass is beginning to go green, balsam root is starting the display of sunflower yellow, and the pool will be open again soon.

I’d like to remind all our fellow property owners that the management team is here to help and benefit the entire community, and if anyone has a comment, suggestion, etc. we are glad to respond.

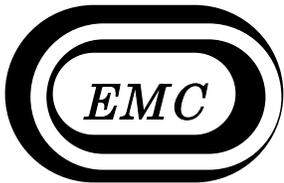
We look forward to the community discussion at the annual meeting!

Dick Volckmann, General Manager  
Edelweiss Maintenance Commission  
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**LINDA's MESSAGE**

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