



**Post Office Box 5145
Bear Valley, CA 95223
www.bvri.org**



Bear Valley Residents Incorporated

Newsletter

Bear Valley, California

Winter 2011

BVRI NEEDS YOU . . . HELP WANTED !!!

JACK WEDGWOOD

OK, this is not for a paying job, but rather using your talents and interests for the benefit of the Bear Valley community. The annual election of directors will be coming up soon, and if you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors we would like to know. The primary job of the BVRI is to maintain and enforce the CC&R's. In addition, it is a forum for addressing issues of importance to the community as a whole. Please review our website www.bvri.org to get a sense of the activities your homeowner's association addresses. There will be meetings about eight times a year. While it is preferable for directors to be present in person for the meetings, we usually have provisions for calling in on a conference line when necessary.

Some of the events and issues in which the BVRI is involved are: Forestry and fire protection, homeowner's 4th of July picnic, community development, newsletters, beach maintenance, winter trails, snowmobile issues, BV Water District and Lake Alpine Water Company issues, Architectural Review Committee, and CC&R's. To have your name listed on the ballot, you must be a member in good standing which means your voluntary dues must be current. Please indicate your interest by sending an email to Dave Morley (themorleys@stanfordalumni.org) and Jack Wedgwood (John_Wedgwood@comcast.net) and include information as to which particular issues or activities you would be most interested in providing help or input. The next newsletter will include the annual dues notices and the ballots for election of five or more of the 15 director seats. Please let us know as soon as possible of your possible interest. Dave or Jack will respond to questions by email.

BEAR VALLEY SNOWMOBILE CLUB GOOD NEIGHBOR RIDING RULES

It's that time of year when snowmobiles are out in force. BVRI would like to take this opportunity to encourage safety and courtesy with the following suggested guidelines for snowmobile riding in the Bear Valley Subdivision.

PLEASE CLIP & POST

- ALWAYS OBEY THE 20 MPH SPEED LIMIT - 15 MPH NEAR THE VILLAGE CENTER
- SNOWMOBILES OPERATED IN THE SUBDIVISION SHOULD HAVE MUFFLERS. THE MAXIMUM SOUND LIMIT IS 86db. LOUD AFTER MARKET PIPES ARE STRONGLY DISCOURAGED (COUNTY LAW).
- TRY NOT TO RIDE IN LARGE GROUPS. BREAK UP INTO SMALLER GROUPS AND RIDE SINGLE FILE.
- DON'T LET CHILDREN RIDE ALONE. THESE ARE POWERFUL MACHINES AND NOT APPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN OR YOUNG TEENS.
- TRY TO MINIMIZE RIDING IN THE SUBDIVISION. RECREATIONAL RIDING SHOULD BE DONE IN THE FOREST OUTSIDE OF THE SUBDIVISION.
- DON'T RIDE ON PRIVATE PROPERTY WITHOUT PERMISSION (COUNTY LAW).
- BE AWARE OF PEDESTRIANS AND SKIERS.
- USE APPROVED TRAILS TO ACCESS USFS LANDS.
- KEEP YOUR SNOWMOBILE IN TUNE AND DON'T LET IT IDLE TOO LONG.
- TRY SYNTHETIC OIL TO REDUCE EMISSIONS.
- NO RIDING AFTER 10PM OR BEFORE 6AM, EXCEPT FOR TRAVEL TO YOUR RESIDENCE OR BUSINESS (COUNTY LAW).
- SNOWMOBILING AND ALCOHOL DON'T MIX. DON'T DRINK AND RIDE.
- ANY HOLES MADE FROM DIGGING OUT A BURIED SNOWMOBILE IN A STREET, PARKING AREA, OR IN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY MUST BE FILLED IN. NOT DOING SO CREATES A HAZARD FOR SNOWMOBILERS, SKIERS, AND PEDESTRIANS.
- IT IS ILLEGAL AND DANGEROUS TO TOW ANYONE BEHIND A SNOWMOBILE.
- HOMEOWNERS SHOULD CREATE SNOWMOBILE PARKING ON THEIR PROPERTY, OFF THE GROOMED ROADWAY (COUNTY LAW).
- SNOWMOBILE TRANSPORT TRAILERS SHOULD BE PARKED IN PARKING LOT "A" OR ON CREEKSIDE DRIVE BETWEEN THE LIBRARY AND THE SCHOOL (COUNTY LAW).
- NO RIDING IN COMMON AREAS EXCEPT FOR TRAVEL TO YOUR RESIDENCE OR BUSINESS (COUNTY LAW).

BEAR VALLEY WATER DISTRICT: SEWER SERVICE UPDATE

BARBARA GOODRICH

The sewer district has had a number of notable events since General Manager Julio Guerra spoke at BVRI's general meeting in September:

1. BVWD has completed the capacity study which will help guide future development in Bear Valley. Our District Engineer has determined that the sewer district currently has capacity for 141 EDUs. (An EDU is defined as one kitchen and two bathrooms.) This available capacity is insufficient to accommodate the Bear Valley Village development (estimated at 500 - 600 EDUs) and in-fill of undeveloped lots and condominium projects (approximately 300 EDUs). To increase capacity, BVWD's engineer indicates that substantial additional sprayfield acreage is the most cost effective way to solve the problem. This additional acreage is not currently owned or leased by BVWD.

2. The results of the capacity analysis were presented to the Alpine County Board of Supervisors at its November 30, 2010 meeting by General Manager Julio Guerra and District Engineer Gary Ghio. Speaking for the development team, Chuck Toeniskoetter said that he disputed the capacity analysis. He stated his engineering opinion that the District already has adequate capacity, despite the detailed analysis of the BVWD District Engineer which incorporated all relevant known factors, including historical precipitation data and water usage. The next step is expected to be a meeting between the developer, Julio Guerra and District President Jim Bissell. It's standard practice for developers to hire their own engineers, so the development team may choose to bring in other professionals to review and/or challenge the current capacity study.

3. Mr. Toeniskoetter told the Board of Supervisors that the development team did not intend to enter into a reimbursement agreement with the District, leaving unsettled the question of reimbursing the ratepayers for expenses already incurred with respect to the development as well as future expenses to accommodate the requisite expansion.

3. BVWD President David Ritchie resigned in October 2010 due to a conflict of interest, after serving on the sewer board for 37 years. Jim Bissell, the second-longest serving member of the BVWD Board, was elected president. At the November 2010 meeting, homeowner and ratepayer John Dralla was appointed to the vacancy by unanimous vote of the board.

4. Holiday FOG Alert! Fats, cooking oil and grease can clog pipes and cause sewer lines to back up, resulting in potentially costly repairs. PLEASE don't put fats, oils or greasy food down the garbage disposal or drain. Ideally, collect fats/oil/grease in a container with a tight-sealing lid and put in the trash; collect fats/oil/grease in a container and freeze it for later disposal; or mix fats/oil/grease with absorbent material such as coffee grounds or cat litter and dispose in the trash. BVWD and its aging pipes thank you for your cooperation.

2010 EPHA WINTER SPORTS HISTORY NIGHT

MARK PHILLIPS

The 6th annual WinterSports History Night was held at the Bear Valley Lodge at 7PM on Saturday, December 11, 2010. The event honored the Mt.Reba Professional Ski Patrol of the 1970's, early Ebbetts Pass mountain man and wintersport enthusiast Art Schimke, former residents and business owners, Jan (posthumously) and Eva Pareluis and a presentation honoring (posthumously) Greg Peterson's contribution to Bear Valley's wintersports activities. This annual event spotlights groups, organizations and individuals that have made a profound contribution to the development and enhancement of wintersports activities along the Highway 4 corridor. The Pareluis' were the recipients of the 2010 Peter Brinkman Award given annually to the organization or individual(s) that have made significant contributions to the marketing and promotion of wintersports activities in Bear Valley and/or along the Hwy. 4 corridor. For many years the Pareluis' family owned and operated both the Bear Valley Sport Shop and Bear Valley Cross Country.

BEAR VALLEY SCHOOL WISH LIST

JEFF GOUVEIA

In our continued effort to lend support to the the Bear Valley community, LBVRI recognizes the unique challenges faced by the Bear Valley School, exemplified by the recent closure of Bear Valley High School, and that behind every successful school is committed community of parents and other stakeholders

To this end, BVRI seeks to engage the school and the residential community to see if we can fulfill some of items on the schools "wish list" not being met within the current school budget. For the current school year, the school has indicated a need for items on the list below.

- * Large personalized mat for inside the front door with the Bear Valley School name and a bear on it.
- * A fund from which to purchase quality art materials that are above then customary public school standard order, such as watercolor paper and fine art brushes.
- * Books on CD. It would be nice to have a new selection of books on CD that students can listen to and read along.

Please contact Jeff Gouveia at 209.753.2334 if you would like discuss how you can help.

**BVRI News Available 24 x 7 AT
WWW.BVRI.ORG**

As a reminder, BVRI Board Meeting minutes as well as financial reports are posted for your viewing on the BVRI website www.bvri.org. You are also reminded that BVRI board meetings are open to the public. Please contact BVRI President Dave Morley if you have specific topics to discuss at a particular board meeting so it can be added to the agenda. The BVRI website also contains specific information on board members as well as other links to Bear Valley websites. Please note, e-mail correspondence addressed to BVRI should be sent to: bvri@goldrush.com.

SUPPORT BVRI SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY !

**PLEASE JOIN BVRI TODAY AND HELP US HELP YOU KEEP
BEAR VALLEY CLEAN, SAFE, AND BEAUTIFUL!**

**To JOIN TODAY:
FILL OUT THIS FORM AND MAIL IT WITH YOUR
ANNUAL \$ 100 MEMBERSHIP TO:**

**BVRI
PO Box 5145
BEAR VALLEY, CA 95223**

NAME(S) _____
BEAR VALLEY HOME/LOT/CONDO NUMBER _____
BV STREET ADDRESS _____
E-MAIL ADDRESS _____
MAILING ADDRESS _____
HOME PHONE _____
BEAR VALLEY PHONE _____
CO-OWNER'S NAME(S) _____
HOME PHONE _____
E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

Note: The above information is for BVRI business only and is never released to the public, with one exception: BVRI has a reciprocal information exchange agreement (addresses only, not phone numbers or e-mail) with Alpine County, the Bear Valley Water District, and local title and real estate companies. This is to keep the database addresses current.

_____ Please check here if you don't want BVRI to exchange your mailing address.

LAKE ALPINE WATER COMPANY: RATE STRUCTURE UPDATE

On December 16, 2010, the CPUC at its monthly meeting will act upon Advice Letter 92 incorporated in Draft Resolution W-4856 restructuring the Service Charge rates as proposed at the July 15, 2010 public meeting in Bear Valley by John Dralla and endorsed by BVRI. The Resolution would implement the proposal previously supported by Bear Valley Residents Inc., the Bear Valley Business Association, representatives of the various Bear Valley condominium associations, and the Lake Alpine Water Company. The proposed rate structure eliminates inequities in the past and present rate structure and puts in place the fairest structure the BVRI Board has seen.

The Draft Resolution can be seen in its entirety at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/puc/documents/>. Click on "proposed decisions and resolutions issued for public comment", then on "Comment Resolution W-4856". The official deadline for comments is December 6. The BVRI Board supports the resolution and will not protest or otherwise comment to the PUC.

If you wish to comment on the rate structure, you may send your comments (no longer than 5 pages) by December 6, 2010 plus two copies to:

Division of Water and Audits, Third Floor
Attention: Peter Liu
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94012

In addition, you must serve a copy of your comment on LAWC, P.O. Box 5013, Bear Valley, CA 95233. You may also send your comments via e-mail to ptl@cpuc.ca.gov and info@lakealpinewatercompany.com.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT

RON MURPHY

Your Architectural Review Committee approved a new home last Spring on Flynn Road in Bear Paw Ridge. Currently, the ARC has one new home on Avalanche Road under preliminary review. This project was referred back to the property owner for additional information that was lacking on the preliminary plans submission.

Over the Summer and Fall, the ARC approved one deck replacement, six retain of a home/deck, five reside of a home, two remodels and two reroofs. A fair amount of building activity, after a slow, late Spring start.

Homeowners needing to replace their propane tanks are urged to consider burying them (once the snow has melted). New technology allows burying up to two 1000 gallon tanks, thus avoiding an above ground structure and its resulting construction and maintenance costs. It also looks better!

It is now possible to follow ARC applications for approval and their review status on the BVRI website. Just go to www.bvri.org, scroll down to "Architectural Review Committee" and then select "Current ARC Activity Log".

Reminder: It is the responsibility of the property owner to request and obtain ARC review and approval prior to new construction or any other exterior changes to a home. This includes re-paint or re-stain, re-roof, re-model, propane tank covering structures. Prior review and approval will avoid possible fines and fee increases, as well as having to dismantle unapproved construction.

The ARC members encourage you to contact them and let them assist you through the review and approval process. ARC members are Ron Murphy (Chair), Terry Woodrow, Nancy Zawacki, Gary Willard and Chuck Taylor. They can be contacted through the BVRI website (www.bvri.org).

BEAR VALLEY MUSIC FESTIVAL UPDATE

BARBARA GOODRICH

Bear Valley Music Festival is planning its 43rd season for July 30 – August 13, 2011. What's more, the Festival is holding a fundraiser featuring Di Wu, Van Cliburn finalist, for a private piano recital at the home of Larry and Vicki Johnson on March 11, 2011. Mark your calendar for a very special evening! BVMF's 2010 Executive Director, Diane Gray, resigned this fall. Board members have been trying to bridge the gap. If you've left a message or email and haven't gotten a reply yet, that's why. (Our apologies.) If you or anyone you know might be interested in working for the Festival, please contact Barbara Goodrich at bgood94028@aol.com or Susi Lewis at mslewis@goldrush.com.

BEAR LAKE ALGAE BLOOM UPDATE

KIMI JOHNSON

The Lake Alpine Water Company is currently researching remedies that are financially feasible and acceptable to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) following the the algae bloom that overwhelmed Bear Lake this summer. Additionally, for further insight into this issue, LAWC is reviewing a report that was done back in 1988 about an Anabaena algal bloom in Bear Lake commissioned by Lloyd Bridges. Below please find more background on this issue:

What is it?

Lake Alpine Water Company sent a sample of the algae and water to a researcher at Fresno State University and it was identified as the Anabaena genus. These are filamentous cyanobacteria capable of fixing atmospheric nitrogen. It is planktonic, meaning it floats in the water, being moved by wind and waves without its own source of motility.

What causes a bloom?

Blue-green algal blooms happen when there are high nutrient levels, low flows in rivers, low wind and high temperatures. Although the annual lab analysis of Bear Lake indicated undetectable levels of nitrogen, this algae can fix nitrogen from the atmosphere. One of the most important factors triggering blue-green algal blooms appears to be a lack of mixing of surface and deeper water layers in a reservoir. In lakes and reservoirs mixing is mainly controlled by wind and temperature. Through the summer months the surface waters heat up resulting in a warmer top layer and cooler bottom layer which do not mix.

Is it affecting the drinking water?

No. Since the algae floats on the water surface and the intake gate for the treatment plant water is seven feet from the bottom of the lake, the algae bloom is currently not affecting the drinking water. LAWC is continuing to monitor turbidity, color, odor and pH as usual. All lab tests and analysis at the treatment plant are normal.

What are the concerns?

Anabaena is one of four genera of bluegreen algae capable of producing neurotoxins. Not all algae blooms are toxic. It is not known what triggers toxin production. The Bear Lake algae is of the Genus Anabaena but the species has not yet been identified and it is not yet known if it is producing toxins. Toxins can be harmful and fatal to animals but no human deaths have been directly associated with these cyanotoxins however they may cause skin irritations or nausea. Standard precautions you can take include not drinking or swimming in the raw water and not allowing your pet to go in the water or drink the water. The water processed through the treatment plant and delivered through the tanks remains safe to drink.

Will the algae bloom be treated?

The California Department of Public Health has directed Lake Alpine Water Company to take no action to combat the algae bloom unless there are indications that the water delivered to customers is affected. If the autumn rains are significant enough, they may flush the algae bloom out of the lake and over the spillway. Over the winter, the algae will die back in the cold temperatures.

If you have any questions, obsees or comments about Bear Lake, please contact the LAWC office via phone at 209-753-2409 or email at info@lakealpinewater.com.

BEAR VALLEY MOUNTAIN EXPANDS SKIABLE ACREAGE

JEFF GOUVEIA

Bear Valley Mountain, the Northern Sierras' premier family skiing and snowboarding resort, announced that it is opening the 2010-2011 season with 400 acres of new terrain! The new 400 is located on the sunny southern slope of the main ski area, accessible via the Kuma and Koala chairs, and features high intermediate and advanced terrain. Skiers and riders that take advantage of the new area have an opportunity to ride, slide or thrill-seek through challenging glades and chutes. Once at the bottom, a convenient shuttle will drive them back to the chairlift at base lodge for another round of fun.

This season, Bear Valley is the only California winter sports resort offering snow enthusiasts access to expanded terrain. With over 1,680 acres of skiable terrain, Bear Valley is now the seventh-largest ski resort in the state. Bear Valley Mountain knows that the many families that frequent its slopes all feel a personal connection with the mountain, so the resort has decided to let its loyal guests choose the name for the new acreage through an online contest. Deadline is December 18, 2010!

With the permission and assistance from the US Forest Service they have been thinning trees and creating the runs on what will be, according to General Manager Jim Gentling, advanced and intermediate terrain. Meaning after a storm and recent grooming. Intermediately skilled skiers should have a great time in the new bowl. On powder days it will increase in difficulty to Black Diamond level.

During big snowfall years with the entire mountain open Bear Valley has always "Skied Large" it will absorb 3,000 to 4,000 skiers and lines will still be short and wait times brief. The new acres will help this even more. During Christmas, Martin Luther King Weekend and the big weekends that always strain the resources of any ski area, Bear Valley this year will probably have the shortest lines around even with more skiers and boarders on the mountain.

It may even make for more effective use of parking areas! Bus lot parking instead of being on the outer edges will probably only be a few steps away from the new Village Bowl. So bus lot parking may become a destination. The only drawback to the new area will be that it will be serviced by "Rolling Gondolas" until the Village Lift is completed..

Food and Beverage service will also be going up a notch this year as Bear Valley Icon and Village and Lodge Manager Mark Phillips has brought all of the Food and Beverage Operations at the Mountain as well under his control. This year you will be able to expect and get great, freshly prepared food at the Mountain as well as the Village.

FOREST MANAGEMENT UPDATE

DAVE MORELY

This year, as in past year, Bear Valley was broken down into 7 sections. Each section was inspected by a different BVRI volunteer. Each volunteer reported back that, in general, the lots had been cleaned up so that they were much more fire safe than in previous years. Yes, there were lots that had issues – 5 lots were turned over to the Sheriff for his follow up and potential issuance of a citation (11 lots were turned over to the Sheriff last year). The most common issue this year was that lot owners had not cut off the dead branches up to 6 feet off the ground on trees. On tall trees, all branches up to 6 feet off the ground must be removed.

Some comments were received from lot owners who said that they had had their lot cleaned up either last year or the year before and they were wondering how it could not be fire safe this year. Each lot must be inspected every year. Trees die, limbs die and stuff falls off trees.

I would like to thank everyone who cleaned up their lot. I believe that Bear Valley is much more fire safe than it was 5 years ago. Because of this, the forest service cleaned up a firebreak on the west side of Bear Valley.

ALPINE COUNTY ROAD FUND UPDATE

ERIC JUNG

Alpine County Director of Public Works Brian Peters has conducted a series of workshops to inform citizens about the impending fiscal crunch in the Road Department, and solicit public participation in the solution. One workshop happened in Bear Valley at the CSA Board meeting on September 15.

Peters said revenues are declining. "One time" grants from the state and Federal governments have dried up. And the timber receipts are scheduled to stop after November 2012. The timber receipts program has historically allocated a portion of the income from timber harvest on National Forests to counties with National Forest land. The allocations are split 50/50 between county schools and road departments. The rationale for the program was to reimburse counties for the impacts of Federal lands which don't provide property tax. In the past, more aggressive timber harvest programs resulted in Alpine County getting over \$600,000 per year. But not only have timber harvests declined; the Federal government, hungry for dollars, has renewed the program lately only with desperate lobbying by counties, and even then in reduced amounts. The lobbying will continue, but there's no guarantee that the program will be renewed by Congress.

Peters said his department has reduced expenditures since 2007, in anticipation of lower revenues. He feels that the road department is at the minimum staffing level to maintain historic service levels. Without big changes, he projects a \$500,000 annual operating deficit by fiscal year 2012-13.

In the presentation to the CSA Board, Peters discussed Bear Valley's share of Road Department activity. The biggest single item is plowing of the roads in the village center, and the spring opening of the subdivision. That total is \$110,000. The CSA, which is funded out of the General Fund according to a formula passed in Prop. 13, pays 60% of the total cost of plowing the village center, based on a calculation that 40% of the pavement plowed is county road, 60% parking lot.

Future expenses include pavement maintenance and associated work like drainage and road shoulders. The county's equipment fleet is aging and will need replacing over time. The state has mandated diesel emission retrofits which will cost. Revenue options which have been discussed include the county General Fund. General Fund money has historically not been used for roads, and the departments which depend on the General Fund are all feeling the pressure of reduced revenues there as reassessment reduces property taxes and other sources of General Fund money decline.

Timber counties will keep lobbying to keep the timber receipts coming in. Counties will have to fight to keep traditional state funding sources like gas tax from being raided by the Legislature.

The county has been sitting on the principal from the South Tahoe PUD mitigation fund which is now over \$3 million. That fund has been a political football which the Supervisors have been reluctant to use. If other sources aren't found, the county will have to consider special district tax assessments.

Peters has posted a summary of his presentation on the county website. You can contact the Road Department through the website or at 530-694-2140 or Bear Valley's County Supervisor Terry Woodrow at 209-753-2551 for more information.

BEAR VALLEY LOSES LAST FOUNDING FATHER

ERIC JUNG

C. Bruce Orvis, the founder of modern Bear Valley, passed away on Friday November 26. He was 83. He was born July 15, 1927 and grew up on the family cattle ranch near Farmington. In 1953 he and his family bought land at Bear Valley. He developed the Old Subdivision, then went on to create the resort community we have today.

A memorial service will be held at UOP in Stockton after the Christmas holiday, on a date to be determined. Bruce was a gentle yet dynamic man who put his whole life into Bear Valley.