

## **Pine Cone Review**

November 2020

Happy Thanksgiving, everyone. Please enjoy & stay safe, wherever & however you're marking the occasion....

Hi mighty PF'ers,

Heather Dean is authoring this issue of the Pine Cone Review because I went out on the Cub Creek roads to give myself and Augie Doggy one last walk before the roads turned into ski trails, went ass over teakettle on hidden ice, and will shortly receive a whole new shoulder. My eternal gratitude to Heather, not only for writing this PCR, but to her and Steve for rescuing me and the pooch.

Robin, PFOA prez

### **WINTER IS HERE!**

Our first snow of the season melted within a few days, but mid-November's +/- 24" over a four-day span may be here to stay. We want everyone to be safe, so if you plan to be in Pine Forest at all this winter, please check out the "[winter driving](#)" page on our website. Bottom lines:

- Take it slow and be aware and prepared;
- You want true winter/snow tires, NOT all-season tires;
- If you live here full-time, you want studded tires or the equivalent;
- Everyone should carry supplies like chains or the equivalent, a little sand or kitty litter, and slip-on spikes, in case you have to walk;
- Plowing will generally occur mostly at night, so traffic is less of an issue. If it's snowing during the day, and you're headed to Pine Forest, it may not be plowed before you get here; and
- Sanding will occur as needed and advisable, meaning that it typically won't occur when new snow or daily thawing are likely to render it quickly ineffective. (We have talked extensively about setting up sanding stations for resident use, but how to keep them stocked, clear of snow, accessible despite icy roads and roadside snow berms, and out of the way of the plowers, as well as ensuring the sand stays thawed, have proven to be a set of requirements with an elusive solution.)

### **ACCESS TO WINTER RECREATION AREAS**

The early snow also means we have the fortune of early skiing this year! A couple of reminders about accessing that pastime:

- With more of us here more often now, we may find the parking area at the top of Nighthawk full when we head up there to ski, snowshoe, or walk. We will be looking at the possibility of increasing the parking within the cul-de-sac bulb, but in the meantime, please do not park in or block the driveways up there; and
- As is evident on [Pine Forest's map](#), we have substantial greenbelt acreage inviting exploration. All Pine Forest residents and their guests are welcome to use greenbelts, but

please do not cross private property to access them, unless you have explicit permission. We hope to take some time next summer to mark greenbelt access points.

## **WINTER GARBAGE**

Our neighborhood bears have presumably gone into hibernation for the winter, so we can save ourselves the frustration of trying to open frozen clips and leave the garbage dumpsters unclipped for the duration. That said, the wily ravens and some of their ilk will still be about, so please don't overstuff the dumpsters. If your bag would cause the lid not to close completely, please move the ski-mounted sign to the main dumpster and use the secondary one.

## **UPDATE ON EXPANDING METHOWNET SERVICE**

As noted in the minutes from the last board meeting, Maria, from Methownet, was not able to participate after all. We collected questions from the owners who were present, and Maria has responded. Based on the sight line survey that we conducted, Methownet has concluded that upgrading and increasing the number of "micro access points" in Pine Forest would be a better approach to expanding service than installing an antenna on Bristlecone Hill. Some of the 34 current Methownet users have been receiving service from our two existing micro access points. Methownet expects that upgraded equipment would improve upon that service. From the survey results, Methownet has identified locations for up to five micro access points, as well as the one that is the most promising. The plan is to test the signal from potential recipients of service from that point—line-of-sight is not a guarantee—and Methownet is hoping to complete that effort before the end of the year. We will soon reach out to those who have line-of-sight to the first possible access point to obtain permission for Methownet's testing, which will be a 10-15 minute process. Although data speed will vary by location. Methownet anticipates that it could be at least 5-7 Mb.

## **THREE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THANKSGIVING**

No, not the feasting and gathering kind., but rather some things to distract you from the damper that CoViD-19 has placed on that tradition this year by giving thanks in another way. Below are three recipients to whom residents have asked me about giving. If you would like to do so, send a check to the PFOA Treasurer, at PO Box 443, Winthrop 98862. Please also specify your intended recipient or how to split your donation. We'll plan on distributing the thank you's by mid-December.

- **Methow Trails.** Any of us who have skied up to Meadowlark or Blue Jay, rather than getting to them from the Nighthawk trailhead know how lucky we are that Methow Trails grooms that connection for us. I emphasize the last two words because that is not a public trailhead. Granted, all of us who ski presumably buy trail passes, but since we few dozen households are about the only ones using that trail, it'd be nice if we resurrected our former practice of making a donation to Methow Trails to thank them for that grooming.
- **Snow Plowing Crew.** Over the snowy weekend of the 13th-16th, our fearless snow plowing crew were here plowing our roads and driveways for 51 out of 96 hours! Part of the time they weren't here, they were at the shop repairing the damage that inevitably happens on the first plow of the year, particularly when the ground has not yet frozen. Lead plower Mike got only 8 hours of sleep over those four days. We had decided at the end of last season to put up a mailbox for plower goodies, but with CoViD are thinking it might be better just to give them gift cards at a local establishment.

- **Fuels Reduction Crew.** Unfortunately, Pele—or her West Coast cousin—diverted the attentions of Saul and our forest health crew elsewhere after early August, working on wildland fires in at least five different states, and then Ullr decided we'd rather have an early ski season, so we had a lot less work this year than usual. That said, those guys have worked incredibly hard over the last four seasons, in conditions ranging from frigid to torrid, making our forests much healthier and fire risk much lower. Saul was also extremely patient with the payment difficulties created when the Zosel mill fire left us with lower than expected log sale revenues in 2019.

## **TWISP RESTORATION PROJECT**

The Forest Service is currently taking public comments on their draft environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed Twisp Restoration Project, aimed at using thinning, ladder fuel reduction, and prescribed burning to restore the health and reduce the fire risk in nearly 80,000 acres of forest located mostly in the Twisp River watershed, but also along the south and west borders of Pine Forest. PFOA submitted letters of support during two earlier phases of project development and plans to submit another one in the coming weeks. You can access a wealth of information about that project at its [webpage](#). The EA and supporting documents, including an impressive “Story Map” are under the page’s “Analysis” tab.

## **MAZAMA COMMUNITY CLUB**

Edelweiss asked us to share an opportunity to join the Mazama Community Club, housed in the red building just downriver from the Mazama Store. [The invitation is on the next page.](#)

## **GOVERNING DOCUMENTS UPDATE**

The incredibly hardworking Governance Committee will be forwarding draft updated by-laws and declarations (aka CCR's) to the Board in the next few days. The Board plans to have our first discussion of the drafts, with the Committee, at our 15 December meeting. Once the Board has completed review and our attorneys have confirmed that the drafts meet legal requirements, the process of owner review and feedback will begin. We want that process to be open, transparent, and comprehensive process, with a goal of having an owner vote on the two documents around the time of the May Annual Meeting.

**Welcome Neighbor to our  
Mazama Community!**



The Mazama Community Club is looking for new members like you! You are invited to join our Mazama Community Club! (MCC) It is a great way to meet new people and get involved in various fun activities.

**Some of our Activities include:**

- ★ World Famous Mazama Pancake Breakfast.
- ★ Races: running, biking and skiing
- ★ Spring Clean Up
- ★ Square Dance
- ★ Fall Community Potluck with annual Mazama history lesson.
- ★ Play Pickle Ball! – Pickle Ball Court is free to use. Contact Frequent Play; Dave Ford@: [dave@tokous.com](mailto:dave@tokous.com) .

**Membership**

The MCC is supported by annual member donations of \$30.

Apply and pay for your membership via our Mazama Community Center website under Dues and Apps.

Additional donations are always appreciated!

Another membership benefit is that members can rent our historic red building for private or public events.

We would love for you to become a member of our Mazama Community Club.

We look forward to meeting all of you!