

Renewal Membership Particulars

Please send this form with your payment to renew. Consider renewing for more than one year. Check your address label for accuracy. If the year at top center of the label is 2003 or earlier, you have not paid dues for the 2003-04 membership year which began July 1st. We value your support!

Cummings Valley Protective Association, Inc. Membership Application - July 1 through June 30

Name(s) _____

Local Address _____ Phone () _____

Mail Address _____ Phone () _____
(If not same as local)

Check Appropriate Area

- | | | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alpine Forest Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Country Oaks | <input type="checkbox"/> Golden Hills | <input type="checkbox"/> Oak Knolls | <input type="checkbox"/> Stallion Springs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bear Valley Springs | <input type="checkbox"/> Cummings Valley | <input type="checkbox"/> Hidden Oaks | <input type="checkbox"/> Old Town | <input type="checkbox"/> Tehachapi |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brite Valley | <input type="checkbox"/> Fairview Ranches | <input type="checkbox"/> Indian Hills | <input type="checkbox"/> Sand Canyon | <input type="checkbox"/> ? _____ |

e-mail addr: _____

Annual dues are \$12 per family.

Please check one:

- One year \$12 Two years \$24 Three years \$36

Mail with payment to:

Cummings Valley Protective Association
P.O. Box 1020
Tehachapi, CA 93581-1020



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No 49, November, 2003

THE TREES THAT CHANGED HISTORY

The Cummings Valley Protective Association will hold its next meeting on Thursday evening, November 6, 2003 at 7:30 PM at the Stallion Springs Community Services District building, located at 28500 Stallion Springs Drive. The program for the evening is titled "*The Trees that Changed History*" and will be presented by George Novinger.



George has been a Ranger Naturalist in the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest in the White Mountains of California for twelve years. He and his wife, Anne Marie, are Tehachapi residents and are well known in the community. They spend much of each summer in the White Mountains, at 10,000 feet elevation, assisting visitors in understanding the significance of these beautiful old trees (perhaps the oldest living things on earth ~ 4600 years).



Ancient

The United States Forest Service is celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the discovery of the ancient bristlecones this fall, a discovery that has led to a better understanding of the emergence of modern civilization through dendrochronology, the science of dating events and variations in environment in former periods by studying the sequence of and differences between the growth rings in trees and aged wood.

Please join us for an interesting and informative talk about the significance of these remarkable trees. See dramatic photographs of the trees and the spectacular area overlooking the Sierra Nevada and the Palisades Glacier. We hope to see you on **November 6th at 7:30 PM!**

BEAR VALLEY SCHOOL PRESERVATION??

Following an article published in the Cub Newspaper, there has been discussion of ways to preserve the Bear Valley School. As near as your editor can tell, the talking is in the formative stage, so if you have input on this or ideas, send them to Janice, and she will forward it to whichever group ends up leading the charge. The school is situated near the Whiting Center in Bear Valley Springs (it should be noted, however, that it has been moved at least once, so that is not its original location).

FALL, IT'S FINALLY HERE

Have you driven through the Cummings and Brite Valleys in the last few weeks? Fall has arrived, and it has been spectacular. Cool crisp mornings and nights. Hints of frost greet us in the morning. And the leaves are giving us a constellation of colors. Some say now is the best time of the year, and it's hard to argue with their good judgement. Step back and enjoy the beauty in our little land here.

ja

CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL SEEN HERE

Your editor has been very pleased to see recent patrolling by multiple units of the California Highway Patrol in the Cummings and Brite Valleys. Hopefully that will help to slow down some of the serious speeders. Plus it is great to see them posted near Cummings Valley School, serving as a deterrent to speeding there. Traffic near the school is a problem at school start and finish times, and the CHP presence has appeared to slow some of the speeders down. Thanks, CHP!!

If you can avoid going past the school during start and finish times, consider doing so.

ja

SEPTEMBER BARBEQUE A BIG SUCCESS

A record crowd of about 120 folk gathered at the beautiful Souza Ranch and Vineyard on a gorgeous evening to enjoy food, drink, music, a silent auction and companionship. Attendees consisted of 64 members and 55 non-members.

Except of a small trial run in July, this was the first use of the concrete-lined deep pit barbeque facility installed at the ranch by CVPA with donated materials arranged for by Leonard Zafoski, Colombo Construction Superintendent (many thanks, Leonard!). Bob Souza and Chuck McCollough started the fire at 8:20 PM the evening prior and added oak wood until a thick glowing bed of coals was developed by 12:30 AM (Patty kept the coffee coming). Then 85 pounds of seasoned and wrapped meat in a five package configuration were lowered onto the coals and the steel lid put on and sealed with dirt.

When the meat was removed at 6 PM, it was still very hot, thoroughly cooked, juicy, tender, and tasty garnering lots of favorable comments. That meat was augmented by barbecued chicken breasts for those who did not want beef. These were served with cole slaw, rolls, and Jo Anne Huckins' delicious seasoned mixed beans. To top off the meal was a grand assortment of sinfully yummy dump cakes supplied by members (thanks to all the dessert chefs) and coffee.

Music by Betty and JJ and the silent auction added to the evening's enjoyment. Thanks to all who donated items for the auction and special thanks to our wonderful hosts, Bob and Patty Souza; our superb President Jo Anne Huckins for a lot of organizing and hard work; superstar Priscilla Mester for her reservations and financial controls work; and the great duo of Ben and Laurie Rude and many others who jumped in to help.

With the dinner price at \$15 for member and \$17 for non-members plus beer and wine at three for \$5, we netted about \$377 plus another \$468 from the silent auction. Although the main purpose of our annual barbeque is to show appreciation to our members and to introduce non-members to CVPA, it doesn't hurt to add a little to the treasury for continuing projects such as Yellow Starthistle eradication and sponsorship of Cummings Valley students to Camp KEEP (Kern Environmental Education Program). *cm*

MOTOCROSS TRACK IN CUMMINGS VALLEY APPROVED, BUT WITH CONDITIONS

More than 100 years ago the Supreme Court wrote "All property in this country is held under the implied obligation that the owner's use of it shall not be injurious to the community." Following this principle, states and counties and cities have enacted statutes and ordinances to protect the community from injurious use of property by an owner. Developers have established CC&Rs to protect residents' property values and enjoyment. The Kern County Zoning Ordinance defines for each zone classification what activities are allowed by right, what are allowed with a conditional use permit, and what are not ever allowed.

The conditional use permit process enables County agencies to assess what the impacts of a property use may be and allows the community to register its support of or opposition to the proposed use. When large motocross tracks were built in Brite and Cummings Valleys without the required conditional use permits (CUP), the Cummings Valley Protective Association filed complaints with the County Planning Department in order to initiate the CUP process. After about ten months of review and negotiation, the track on Banducci Road west of Pellisier Road, owned by Mr and Mrs Memoli, was brought before the Kern County Planning Commission for approval or denial. In addressing the Commission prior to their decision, CVPA President Jo Anne Huckins said, "As evidenced by this hearing, CVPA has met one of its objectives which is to bring illegally constructed motocross tracks under the scrutiny of County Government and to generate input from the community, However, our primary objective of maintaining the peaceful scenic rural agricultural character of Cummings Valley and the welfare of a large number of community members would be ill served by approval of the conditional use permit." She further said, "Regardless of your decision tonight, we want to thank the Memolis for their willingness to offer and accept mitigation measures to reduce adverse impacts on others."

The conditions of approval are a three year term, no riders except their son (Robert Memoli), no more than three hours of riding per day and none on Sundays, watering the track to prevent dust, and landscaping for partial screening of the track from

Banducci Road as a condition for occupancy of a planned residence.

In concluding her address Mrs. Huckins said, "Wherever Robert Memoli ends up doing his training, CVPA wishes him success in his chosen sport."

At least 34 letters opposed to this track and motocross riding in the Brite and Cummings Valleys in general were submitted in contrast to 19 letters of support. Nevertheless, without questions or discussion, the Planning Commission unanimously approved the CUP.

CVPA chose not to appeal the decision to the Board of Supervisors as it was felt that with the mitigation measures and a three year time limit, it would be tolerable for most people. CVPA and affected neighboring property owners will certainly be watching to see that the conditions of the CUP are not violated.

CEMETERY GATHERING A GRAND SUCCESS

The CVPA joined with AAUW Tehachapi Mountain Branch and the Heritage League to host a very special gathering near the Fickert Family Cemetery in Bear Valley Springs in September. We were treated to Fickert stories by Mary Farrell, Del Troy and Joe Fontaine. Plus, we were able to actually go into the fenced cemetery. The evening was topped by a spectacular dessert smorgasbord, truly delicious (and probably a cholesterol tolerance test). Special thanks to Mary and Del and Joe for sharing stories and to the Bear Valley CSD for installing new stairs to facilitate entry to the cemetery! There are 17 individuals buried there, but only four of the graves are marked. Burials go back to at least the 1880's.

WANTED - YOUR INPUT!

Your editor, Janice Armstrong, would like to hear from you. There are literally hundreds of possibilities for articles for this publication, but she has little idea of what you, the reader, would like to have included. So how about it, send your votes for articles to her at (danarmstro@aol.com) or by snail mail to: 25101 Bear Valley Road, PMB 20, Tehachapi 93561. Or drop a note to the CVPA at P.O. Box 1020, Tehachapi, CA 93581-1020. Vote often and early.

ENTER SNOW CONTEST, WIN SOMETHING UNIQUE!

When will we get the first snow of the season (measured by Chuck McCollough at his house in Stallion Springs)? Send your best guess (clairvoyants need not apply) to danarmstro@aol.com. Or, drop a note to the CVPA, P.O. Box 1020, Tehachapi, CA 93581. Let's see who can get it on the nose. You will win a unique prize and you will be recognized in this publication!

LOCAL WINDS OF DESTRUCTION

Back when the Cal Devco or Carlsberg development sales office was located at the rodeo grounds, where "Boom Town" or whatever that is currently called and the Woodward West indoor sports facilities buildings are now located, Priscilla and I were vacationing in Stallion at condo 311 of Country Townhomes. A wind came up which impressed me even more than that memorable wind of my early years in Chicago which drove branches, then trees to the ground all around my frightened parents, my sisters, and I as we were walking home in the dark from Walgreens at about 7 PM where we kids had experienced our first ever ice cream soda. That wind, we later discovered so we should have been even more frightened, was an actual tornado which we had escaped being drawn into by less than a city block.

This wind from the east lasted for days, it seemed, and was incessant and of virtually constant velocity although it must have gusted occasionally to provide the two effects we observed that I will describe here. One visual effect was the actual periodic rippling of the roof on the sales office. The waves of the roof appeared to be about 8 feet between crests and perhaps 4 inches in height. The roof ridge line ran generally east to west and the waves appeared to run diagonally from the top down and toward the west. I could not determine whether the roofing shingles alone were rippling or if the entire shingled wooden roof was, but I suspected the entire roof structure was because the aftermath showed little shingle damage.

The effect which impressed me even more was tactile. Our second (or perhaps third because of the underground parking) floor bedroom had one wall broadside to the wind. The headboard was a typical brass one with lots of opening through which you could touch the wall. That wall was "oil canning" at least an inch with strong gusts. You can bet that wind loading was a primary consideration in our subsequent home construction, even more so than earth movement. *jm*