



WRRRA Summer 2017 Newsletter

White River Recreation Association

REPRESENTING FEDERAL LAND PERMITTEES IN THE UPPER WHITE RIVER VALLEY AND MT BAKER-SNOQUALAMIE NATIONAL FOREST SINCE 1929

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2017 Annual WRRRA Summer Picnic

Saturday July 29th, 2017, starting at 12:00 PM at the Dalles Campground

Summer is here, and the annual WRRRA Summer Picnic is right around the corner! This year's picnic will once again be held at the Dalles Campground. Come join your fellow cabin owners and families at this fun annual event!

Food and Beverages: WRRRA will provide grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, and chicken with all the trimmings, beer and wine (for those over 21) and sodas. We ask each family to bring a side dish or dessert that will feed at least 8 people. Also, bring chairs/tables (if convenient) to supplement the existing seating.

The picnic features activities including a pie contest and games with prizes, for children and adults of all ages. Pie bakers, bring your favorite entry!

Volunteers are always needed and much appreciated! Roles include a games lead, a pie master and pie judges, and people to help with food prep, setup, cooking, and cleanup. Please contact Bill Vlases (wvlases@hotmail.com) to sign up.

The picnic is FREE to WRRRA members and their children under 21. Guests are welcome and encouraged; guests will be charged \$7 for each adult, children under 6 free.

2017 Annual Cabin Tour

The WRRRA Annual Cabin Tour will again follow the Summer Picnic on July 29, 2017. The Tour is a great opportunity to further socialize and more closely appreciate the wonderful variety that makes up our overall tract. Volunteer hosts provide a look into each cabin's unique story and history.

However, to continue this tradition WE STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HOST a cabin stop. It's easy and fun to host an open cabin, the only requirement is that someone be there to show people around, share history, and answer questions. It is a great way to participate more fully in the community if you will be attending the picnic! If you are at all interested and available, **please contact Mark Wellington** at markwellington@hotmail.com or 206-251-8224.

The cost of the Cabin Tour is \$8.00 per person or \$16.00 per family. Funds raised benefit the WRRRA general fund. Tickets can be purchased at the picnic and a brochure will be available with a map showing the cabin locations, other information and cabin descriptions. The Tour begins at 6:00 and will last until 9:00 pm. Do join in!

President's Message

Summer is finally here! I hope everyone has a chance to get up to their cabins, to relax in nature or to enjoy some of the wonderful recreational opportunities the area offers. There is still a good bit of snow high in the hills, but it is quickly melting now that the weather has improved, and it looks like we should have another great summer in the White River valley.



Summer is when we hold our big annual fun event for all members – the summer picnic! This year the picnic will be at the Dalles Campground on Saturday July 29th. The cost is included in your annual WRRRA membership. It is a fantastic event, lots of fun for adults and kids alike, with loads of great food, games, and camaraderie with fellow cabin owners and others in the community. I hope to see all of you attend!

And after the picnic, we will once again have the wonderful Cabin Tour, where several owners open up their cabins for all of us to visit and see. This is always a great event, as every cabin is so different and unique. If you would be willing to host an “open cabin” for this event please contact Mark Wellington at markwellington@hotmail.com.

Summer is also a time when many of us focus on getting some projects done around or inside the cabin. As a reminder, any work which impacts the exterior of the cabin must get approval from the Forest Service. Those that attended our Spring Dinner in April got a chance to meet Brian Lee, the new permit administrator for the Forest Service. All projects must be approved by Brian prior to commencement.

With regards to the approval process for projects, the Forest Service has sent a letter to all permit holders about a new approach they are taking to help manage the requests, as well as a new process for the sale or transfer of cabins. In

short, each year there will be an “open season” from August 15 to November 15 to submit requests for review, for projects to be completed in the next year. And, in the event of a sale or transfer, the Forest Service must be notified prior to transition.

The WRRRA board is actively working with the Forest Service personnel to help define and manage these new processes, and will communicate all relevant updates to membership as we learn more about these and other changes. Look for more information soon via email, and in upcoming newsletters.

Please drop me a note if you have any questions, concerns, or input, at president@wrra.net.

I hope to see you up at the cabins or in the mountains soon!

~ Kevin Orth, WRRRA President

2017 National Forest Homeowners Conference: Recap

National Forest Homeowners (NFH) national conference was held on April 21 and 22 at Cedarbrook Lodge in Seatac. More than a dozen WRRRA board members, former board members, and cabin owners attended the conference and participated in the sessions.

The workshops, round tables, and speakers focused on the balancing act between being a good steward of the land/nature, and being a homeowner in the national forests. Breakout topics included Historical Preservation, Trusts,

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The advertisement is presented in a graphic that looks like a sign or a poster. It features a dark background with white and yellow text. The company name is at the top in large, bold letters. Below it is the contact information for the owner, including a phone number and an email address. The address is also included.

Cabin Insurance, Fire Safety Programs, and Water Rights.

There were excellent opportunities to meet and interact with Region 6 USFS Regional and District staff as well as national leaders from Washington D.C. And after the conference, Sharon Leach, the national director of NFH, was given a tour of all the White River tracts, and had the opportunity to meet several cabin owners and tour a few cabins too.

Thank you to all who attended the conference, and to those who supported Sharon's WRRRA tour! Below are some recaps of a few of the key information sessions from the conference.

For more information on NFH and to view the proceedings, please check out their website: www.nationalforesthomeowners.org

Session: Cabins 101

Prepared by Kevin Orth, WRRRA President

The Cabins 101 breakout session was an introduction to the history of the cabins program, and an overview of how the program works nationally, including overviews of the programmatic and relationship components of working with the Forest Service.

One key point made is that the FS is set up as military organization – line personnel make decisions, staff personnel provide input and recommendations to the line management. It is important to have working relationships with both, however you need to understand who is actually tasked with the work and authorized to make decisions.

An interesting historical note is that the cabin program had a peak of around 20,000 cabins in the 1950s, but now we are down to just under 14,000 cabins nationally. This attrition of nearly 1/3 is due to land use changes, defaulting on permits or taxes by owners, and outright revocation of some

cabin permits by the FS.

NFH is very focused on not losing more cabins, and one of the keys to succeeding is education. We all need to continue to maintain existing cabins, including when local cabin members default - - and we should actively try to get some lost ones back where possible.

There are some great resources and documents on the NFH website, under Resources > Working With The Forest Service. Using these learnings, our WRRRA board will endeavor to double down in our efforts to partner with the FS staff and to build positive relationships going forward.

Session: Cabin Insurance

Prepared by Kevin Orth, WRRRA President

The cabin insurance breakout session was very interesting. Nationally, NFH is hearing that more and more cabin owners are having a hard time getting insurance. There are also many recent instances where insurance companies have terminated coverage for cabins, regardless of previous coverage and lack of claims filed.

To dig into this issue further, NFH sent an insurance survey out to members earlier this year, and they shared preliminary results. Here are a few highlights:

- Over 20% of respondents had no insurance
- Respondents listed insurance through 87 different insurance companies
- State Farm was the most common insurer, and also had the highest cancellation rate



Visit our Facebook page for frequent updates on social events and other topics: [White River Recreation Association](https://www.facebook.com/WhiteRiverRecreationAssociation)

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- The majority of claims cited in responses were due to break-ins, and was tree damage
- There were very few claims for fire damage nationally; we all fear it but it's unlikely to happen
- Actually, data showed you are 2 times more likely to have a claim related to bear damage than fire
- Interesting outlier - Washington state has the highest premiums on average of all regions
- NFH has developed a list of regional insurance companies to shop for coverage

NFH is currently working to develop a national insurance program unique to cabins, with our unique uses, coverage needs, accessibility issues, etc. The hope is that they will be able to develop a national program with fixed premiums and guaranteed coverage, as an option for cabin owners in the future.

Session: Firewise and Fire Policy

Prepared by Karen Buhler, Silver Creek Tract Rep

A Fire Planning and Assessment Seminar at the National Forest Homeowners Association 2017 Conference with Craig Goodell, USFS Fire Ecologist, introduced us to a new federal outlook on fire policy in that many ecosystems depend on disturbance, such as a low severity fire, for their diversity and for the proper maintenance of their natural process. The 100-year old policy of fire suppression has allowed a massive amount of "fuel" to build up, unnaturally, and catastrophic mixed severity fires are much more the norm. Craig also introduced the Fire Adapted Communities program, a coalition backed by USFS, International Fire Chiefs and Councils, Insurance Institute and the Nature Conservancy. Visit www.fireadapted.org - your link to information and resources to help you, your neighbors, and your entire community reduce wildfire risk.

7 Ways to Protect Your Property from Wildfire

1. **Maintain Defensible Space (0–5 feet)** Use noncombustible materials such as gravel, brick, or concrete in this critical area adjacent to your home.
2. **Reduce Siding Risks** Maintain 6-inch ground-to-siding clearance.
3. **Clean Debris from Roof** Regularly remove debris from your roof and gutters, since debris can be ignited by wind-blown embers.
4. **Use a Class A Roof Covering** Class A fire-rated roofing products offer the best protection for homes.
5. **Keep Embers out of Eaves and Vents and Windows** Use 1/8-inch mesh to cover vents, and box-in open eaves to create a soffited eave. Use multi-pane, tempered glass windows, and close them when a wildfire threatens.
6. **Reduce Deck Risks** At a minimum, use deck boards that comply with California requirements for new construction in wildfire-prone areas, remove combustibles under deck, and maintain effective defensible space.
7. **Maintain Defensible Space (5–30 feet)** Remove shrubs under trees, prune branches that overhang your roof, thin trees, and remove dead vegetation.

Fire Safety and Maintenance Checklist for the Summer Dry Season

- Clean chimney of creosote and inspect stove, chimney, dampers, gaskets, and spark screen.
- Burn permits for debris burns are not available anymore. All outdoor fires are to be no larger than your cabin's fire ring.
- The Dept. of Natural Resources Fire Hotline is 800-527-3305 for fire danger levels. Put it in your phone.
- Volunteer at the Suntop Lookout .
- If you ever happen upon a chimney fire, do

the following: In a Fireplace - throw a soaking wet towel into the fireplace. In a wood stove - close all of the air intakes.

Session: Cabin Trusts

Prepared by Tom Wood, Goat Creek Tract Rep.

A valuable NFH workshop session was conducted titled "Trusts, Multiple Ownership, and the Next Generation". Brad Aspell, an attorney from Klamath Falls Oregon, conducted the session which dealt with changes in the family cabin ownership.

As current owners age and consider the future ownership of the family cabin, Brad strongly recommends a family discussion to determine which family members have a future interest in the cabin and attendant responsibilities. Once everyone's wishes are known, there are options for formalizing a legal agreement to pass ownership to the next generation. Some of the options Brad reviewed were a [Cabin Ownership Agreement](#), a [Cabin Permit Trust](#), and a [Cabin Improvement Trust](#). He stated that the Forest Service will now accept family trust agreements, but cautioned not to confuse ownership of the cabin with the person named as the Special Use Permit Holder. The Forest Service requires one person be named as the Permit Holder. Brad reviewed cases where problems arose due to misunderstanding of the different roles of ownership and the permit holder, and issues created due to the lack of a formal agreement for ownership and operation.

Takeaways:

- The current generation of family cabin owners is aging and concerned about the transfer of ownership to future generations.
- Many of these transfers will be with multiple owners. It is important that discussions take place to determine who will take over and what degree of responsibility and ownership is desired.
- Once those discussions are finalized, it is important that a formal agreement be put in place to insure understanding of the owner-

ship rights and responsibilities along with solving future disputes.

Standing Seam Metal Roofs - Updates

As background, WRRRA formed a committee focused on advocating for gaining approval for replacing roofs with metal products, specifically Standing Seam Metal Roofs as one option.

We have continued to pursue communications with individuals both at Washington State Department of Historic Preservation (DAHP) and United States Forest Service (USFS). This topic continues to be of interest at the local, state and national level of cabin owners. Many cabin owners are waiting for a positive answer to our request.

At the Spring Dinner Meeting on April 29th, Rena Irwin reported that the agencies are currently discussing this topic and working on language, and we hope to see that language soon. Recently, in communications with a representative from DAHP, he indicated that there might be something coming in mid June. The committee members remain positive. And we will continue to keep you in the loop with updates.

~ Rena Irwin, Metal Roof Committee Chair

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Appreciation for Carla Patopea

Carla Patopea, wife of Rob Pedersen (SS-117) passed away from a rapidly moving cancer on May 5, she was 63.

Carla and Rob met on the Crystal Mt. Volunteer Ski Patrol in the mid-80s. A skier since childhood, Carla took to the challenges, training opportunities, and sense of purpose that come with ski patrolling. A beautiful skier and talk about strong! She carried her strength over to her love of biking and backpacking, and, of course, nordic skiing where she could ski Rob into the ground ('er snow)...as evidenced by her completion of the 51 km American Birkebeiner in 2015. Carla climbed peaks in the Cascades and Olympics, including Mt. Rainier several times (last time with Rob in 2011). She loved to ride her rigid frame mountain bike (an old Rockhopper) to Corral Pass - crazy!, and to ride her road bike to Sunrise.

Carla really loved the cabin and worked hard on the place. She truly appreciated the great location of the cabins for not just skiing but as a launch pad to hikes and backpacks at Mt. Rainier, the PCT, the Norse Peak and William O Douglass Wilderness areas, and the Goat Rocks. Carla also loved the community spirit that the cabin owners brought to each other and to the stewardship of the forest. Going to the WRRRA picnic was fun but not enough for Carla "...somebody has to take control of the waste stream from this and it's going to be us...!" Cabin folks who were at last year's picnic may recall Carla as the organizer of the recycle/compost/garbage separation and transport - classic Carla! With our car full of recycle and compost (keep the car windows up, please, and the yellow jackets out!) - there was little after the picnic that went to the landfill.

Finding other adventures kept Carla on her toes - skydiving when she was younger, SCUBA diving here and Australia, backpacking in red rock canyon country, and hiking the Inca Trail. She loved



learning about the creatures wherever she was becoming a budding naturalist in her own right...and what better place than the cabin to just sit back and study plant and animal books!

Carla was also an avid gardener who could transform a yard. She loved her cats and volunteered at the Seattle Humane Society. Carla worked as a dental hygienist for 40+ years. She had an opportunity to do dental hygiene in Europe and lived in the Italian part of Switzerland for six years.



A celebration of her life will be on August 27, 1-5 PM at the Seattle Mountaineers on Sandpoint Way.

Highway 410 Cleanup

The Silver Springs tract hosted the Highway 410 cleanup the morning after the spring dinner. Weather was cold, but no rain! Lunch was hosted at the Vlases cabin (SS#80) and gave everyone a chance to warm up by the fire. Our section of the highway looked great after the cleanup.



Our wonderful road clean up volunteers!

Spring Dinner Recap

This year's spring dinner was held April 29th at the Greenwater Community Center and featured a Cinco de Mayo theme. Thanks again to Diane Gebenini for all the setup, teardown and decorations! We ended up with over 60 in attendance and had a great time socializing and hearing about the latest developments in the cabin area, including updates from the NFH conference and from the Forest Service.



WRRRA

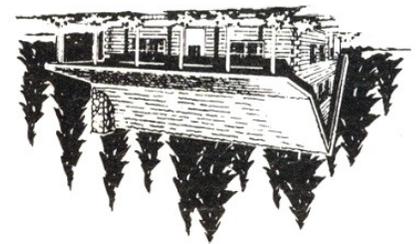
The purpose of White River Recreational Association (WRRRA) is to promote and protect recreational interests along the Mather Memorial Parkway and throughout the Upper White River Valley; to do any and all things lawful, just and necessary to better the interests of the members of the Association; to secure equitable legislation; and to cooperate with the Forest Service in the protection and administration of all recreational feature.



WRRRA Board 2017

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