



**Sun Valley
Elkhorn Association**



SVEA

Proactively keeping members well informed of issues affecting them and the broader Elkhorn community.

*Fall Edition – Elkhorn Community News
November, 2009*

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Message from the President

As the first snowfalls are hitting Sun Valley, your association is busy winding down summer operations, and preparing for winter! This past season saw approximately 17,095 owners and guests use the pool facilities and 3,800 player days use the tennis courts. Virtually everyone commented positively on the upgrades that were completed this spring. Thank you all for your support of that project – it really has made a difference.

Fall is budget time. After a lot of hard work by our very capable staff, and review by the Finance Committee, the Board approved the budget for 2010 at its September 25th meeting. We expect operating expenses of \$868k; in addition, capital expenditures will be \$224k. The budget is based upon maintaining a contingency fund of \$250k, and an operating reserve of \$35k in the event of unexpected and unbudgeted expenses. There will be no dues increase.

Winter is election time. You will soon be receiving information from the Nominating Committee regarding this year's election process and the names of the candidates. After years of offering a slate of candidates recommended by the board, having gone through the nominating process, this year the Committee recommended the process be changed. The Committee found all five candidates qualified to serve on the board and suggested that the membership, not the board, decide who should become new board members. The vetting process involves questionnaires completed by all candidates and personal interviews with the Nominating Committee, which is comprised of board and non-board owners. Based on their recommendations, all five candidates' names will appear on the ballot in alphabetical order. Incumbents will be identified, but not given any other recognition. Your vote is important and it counts! So please exercise your rights and vote by returning the ballot or completing the proxy contained in the voting material. If you have any questions or comments about the process or otherwise, please don't hesitate to contact the office or a member of the Board. Board phone numbers are located on the SVEA website [http://www.elkhorn-
assoc.org/Board_of_Directors.htm](http://www.elkhorn-assoc.org/Board_of_Directors.htm)

The final subject I'd like to address is feeding of wildlife – all wildlife, not just elk. What we learned this fall about feeding wildlife, is don't do it. While you may think you are helping them, you really aren't. Interfering with Mother Nature, even if our hearts are in the right place, is not good. I confess I've left scraps out for the cute fox that patrols our neighborhood, thinking I'm helping him through the winter – but that's not the case. So please don't feed wild animals. Last year, feeding of elk by concerned owners contributed to wolves and a mountain lion entering our residential areas. This creates unacceptable risks, not just to our pets, but also us! Thanks for your cooperation.

James Fletcher

Elk Feeding

On October 7th the following message was sent to SVEA property owners who have provided e-mail addresses. For those of you who did not receive the electronic copy, it is being included here for your information:



As you know from our recent communication to you, your Board of Directors held an open Board Meeting to consider the request from the Wood River Elk Trust II (WRETII) to lease open space lands above the Sagecreek Subdivision for an elk feeding program. The meeting was held at the City of Sun Valley council chambers to accommodate all who wanted to attend. Also, written communications on this matter have been received from nearly 100 owners since mid July when the Board received the initial request and reported to the membership.

At our July Board Meeting where the WRETII made its request, it provided little information about how they plan to accomplish and fund an elk-feeding program for the long term. The Board indicated at the time:

- 1) We needed more complete information about the trust, their finances, and their proposed feeding program,
- 2) We needed to inform all members of the request and seek input from the community, and
- 3) We needed to get input from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG).

Regarding the last point, the Board developed a series of questions which were shared with concerned groups. As a result of feedback, the questions were modified before they were sent to IDFG. The questions and IDFG's answers are available on our website – <http://elkhorn-assoc.org/>

Approximately sixty (60) people attended the September 25, 2009 Board Meeting to participate in the discussion of this topic. We heard presentations from IDFG, the WRETII, a group of homeowners who opposed, as well as comments from individuals. Your Board carefully considered all of the points which were raised including IDFG's position that for the long term benefit of the elk, they should not be fed, and IDFG's opinion that the WRETII's program most likely would not accomplish the goals of keeping elk and predators out of the residential areas of Elkhorn. While the WRETII argued that without feeding, some elk were likely to die, they provided no detailed support for their argument or why they felt their plan would work. A former IDFG conservation officer who retired 8 years ago supported the WRETII's position. However, a current IDFG wildlife biologist presented detailed information about why elk should not be fed and the high probability that the proposed feeding program would not achieve its objectives.

Recognizing that this is a complex and emotional issue, The Board engaged in a lengthy discussion. Ultimately, we were unanimous in the decision that it is inappropriate to lease SVEA land to the WRETII for the purpose of feeding the elk. This difficult decision was based primarily upon the recommendations of IDFG and secondarily due to the lack of specificity in the program proposed by the WRETII.

Thanks to all who took the time to communicate your thoughts on this topic; your views are greatly appreciated.

SVEA Board of Directors

How You Can Help Wintering Wildlife

By Kelton Hatch, IDFG



As the snow begins piling up in the mountains surrounding the Wood River Valley, wildlife will begin moving into town or around urban developments, increasing the possibility of human-wildlife interactions.

The Wood River Valley is home to dozens of species of wild animals. Moose, fox, raccoon and coyotes make the area home year round. With the coming of winter snows, the area also becomes a destination for more elk and deer.

Some tips on dealing with wintering wildlife include:

- 1) Do not feed your pets outside at night; if you do, bring in your pet food when they are done eating. If you don't bring it in, the food could bait raccoons, skunks, foxes and bears.
- 2) If you have a group of deer or elk gathering in a residential area call the Idaho Fish and Game and tell them about it.
- 3) Keep yourself, your pets, and your snow machines away from wintering wildlife. Whenever wildlife are forced to move they use important energy reserves that may be critical to surviving harsh winter conditions or eluding predators.
- 4) When hiking on trails, keep your dogs under control. Moose and wolves are a potential threat to our canine companions.
- 5) Slow down at night and scan the edges of the roads for eye glint to avoid vehicle collisions with wildlife.

For more information on living with wildlife, call the Idaho Department of Fish and Game at (208) 324-4359.

2009/2010 Budgets Approved

The 2009/2010 Operational and Capital Budgets have been approved by the SVEA Board. There will be no increase in the dues and the allocation between Operational and Capital will be \$512 and \$118. It is anticipated that expenses for the 2008/2009 fiscal year will be over plan by



5% due to the Board's decisions to invest in the new amenity card management system, and to make some optional repairs to the Harker facility while the construction crew was on-site. Final spending and budgets will be published on the web after completion of our fiscal year-end reports and the annual audit. A report of the Association's finances will be presented during the Annual Meeting - January 29, 2010.

Annual Meeting Date Changed to January 29, 2010



The typical Annual Meeting date of December 30th is being changed this year in order to improve member attendance. Many of you have requested a date that doesn't compete with the busy holiday season - The 2009 Annual Meeting will be held on Friday, **January 29, 2010** at

3:00 p.m. at the American Legion Hall in Ketchum. Meeting information will be sent to all owners in early December. Please watch your mail and return your proxy documents as soon as possible so a quorum can be established and an official meeting held. At this time, the only official business to be conducted is the election of three Board Members. Five SVEA owners are running for the three open Board seats.

Amenity Cards — Owners Must Pre-Register Guests

SVEA's new automated amenity card system is up and running. We appreciate your patience during this transition time and hope you find the eight-year-owner cards more convenient.

YOUR ASSISTANCE IS REQUIRED! CONTACT THE SVEA OFFICE IN ADVANCE OF YOUR GUESTS' ARRIVAL



All resident guests, not accompanying an owner, **must be pre-registered** and in the amenity card system **in order to use the facilities**. You may register your guests by calling the office @ 208-622-7420 (leave a message if after hours), faxing the information

to 208-622-3215, or emailing to svea@cox-internet.com.

Please provide your name, your account number or your Elkhorn address, the guests first and last name[s], and their arrival and departure dates. Once received, this information will be entered into the system and your guests may pick up their cards at the Harker Center during regular office hours.

If your guests are arriving after office hours or on the weekend, and you have pre-registered them, they will be able to access the facilities by showing a photo ID, but only until the following business day when they must pick up their passes at the Harker offices. **If your guests are not registered they will not have access.**

Deadline for pre-registration is 4pm Monday – Friday.

Summer Amenities

Pools

The big news for the pools this past summer was the Harker upgrades. The new, expanded check-in area; improved restroom/changing areas; the 'outdoor' hot tub; shade structures; direct access to and from the Harker Park; as well as the 'self-regulated' saltwater sanitation system for the big pool received very positive comments from owners and their guests. The Village Pool received new shade structures along with new exterior paint on the bathhouse.

Tennis

SVEA's Board and Staff are delighted to announce that Bill Van Deinse (USPTS) will be providing his wonderful tennis services to SVEA owners and guests again next summer. 2010 will mark Bill's 20th year with SVEA! Congratulations Bill; we sincerely appreciate your dedication and hard work!

As for the tennis facilities, the big news this past summer is the addition of the new Harker Tennis Building with restrooms. The Village received new furniture and a large and much needed shade canopy. Cooled drinking fountains are now available at both locations.

Next Season, there will be several new clinic and program offerings to be enjoyed by our tennis playing community. If you have been thinking about dusting off your old tennis racquet, or picking up the game for the first time, there will be a program for you!

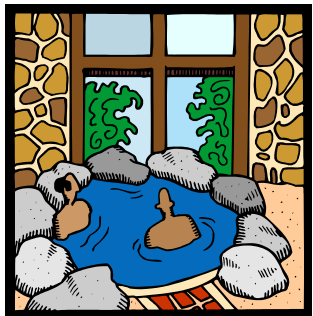
Golf

Kudos again to the SVEA Golf Ad Hoc Committee and the Elkhorn Golf Club for adding tee times and discounted golf fees for SVEA owners and guests.

Winter Amenities

Village Spa to Be Open until 10 PM!

The Village Spa Facilities will open for the winter season on Friday, November 27, 2009. Hours of operation have been expanded and will run from 3:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. daily. The hot tub, steam room and sauna will be open for the duration of the winter; the closing date will be the last day of ski season.



Elkhorn Golf Club Offers X-Country Skiing

Our neighbors at the Elkhorn Golf Club will again be setting and maintaining a 10k length, varied-terrain, cross-country ski course and snowshoe trail for the winter season. They are generously making the course available to Elkhorn owners and their resident guests for a suggested donation of \$10 per skier use.



The Elkhorn Golf Course is privately owned by CG-Elkhorn Golf LLC, and managed by Troon Golf. We want to be good stewards of this new addition to our winter playground, and ensure its success, by following some simple rules respecting the private nature of the Golf Course. The course will be set on the fairways, away from all greens and tee blocks in order to protect the fragile, shallow grass and root systems under those areas. According to Golf Club Manager Don Shirey, sleds, snowshoes, skis, boots, dogs, or other disturbances pack down the snow, creating an ice barrier which limits oxygen to the tender grass underneath. The grass and root systems cannot survive a winter without oxygen and would require extensive treatment and expense to revive for the summer golf season.

Groomers will lay out the ski course in three sections, and road crossings will be minimal. One lengthy section, heading toward Dollar Mountain, will be open to skiers with dogs. Dogs will not be allowed on the other two sections. A snowshoe course, clearly marked with stakes, will be laid out as well.

The cross country ski tracks and snowshoe trails will be accessed south of the Golf Clubhouse, where participants will find a handy and secure donation box for their use. The Club will provide trail maps, as well as a comment and suggestion box. Enjoy the skiing and snowshoeing, and please remember your donations!

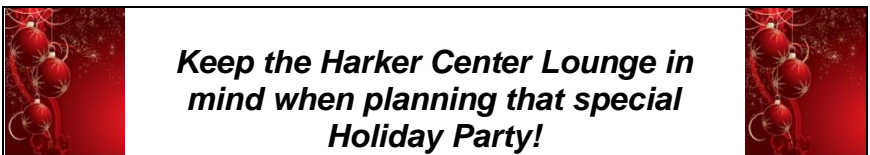
Harker Party Room/Owner's Lounge/Meeting Room

Those of you who have toured the new Harker Center Upgrades have seen the renovated party room. Staff is happy to report the positive comments are pouring in and many owners are enjoying the lovely space. Uses to date include several Sub-Association meetings with parties following, owner-organized functions, day-time Wi-Fi access, group games, and several private parties.



Harker Center Lounge

The lounge is open during regular office hours (Monday – Friday, 9 am – 5 pm, except holidays) for owners' use at no charge. Owners may reserve the room, outside of office hours, for their personal parties or events. A \$200 rental charge with a \$100 cleaning/damage deposit applies.



Upcoming Survey

The SVEA Board and Staff greatly appreciate owner input and plan to add a mini-idea-page to be returned with the January meeting proxy. We want to thank you in advance for taking the time to comment.

Improved Bus Service from Elkhorn to River Run

Mountain Rides has just announced revised bus schedules for the ski season. Changes are being made throughout the valley, greatly enhancing the service to all. Improvements particularly attractive to SVEA owners and their guests are:



- 1) The Red Route winter peak season (December 19th to March 31st) schedule has been changed whereby Mountain Rides will offer service every thirty (30) minutes from Elkhorn Springs to River Run via Elkhorn Road, Morningstar Road, the Ranch, Twin Creeks, Sunrise, and Lane Ranch. The Red Route buses will then return to Elkhorn Springs by simply reversing the route taken to River Run. This new and enhanced service will be offered daily from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.
- 2) Two buses will be used during the winter peak season, a larger bus capable of carrying a greater number of passengers during the busier times of the day and a smaller bus to maintain the 30 minute schedule.
- 3) Another positive change increases the frequency of service, from Elkhorn Springs to Sun Valley via Dollar Mountain, to every fifteen (15) minutes making it easier for all to shuttle to and from River Run and Dollar Mountain.

The changes being made are a great service to all. Check the Mountain Rides website www.mountainrides.org for Winter Season updates or call the Mountain Rides office for details (208) 788-7433.

Open Space Ponds Create Thin Ice Danger



It is that time of year when the Association takes the opportunity to remind all owners of the dangers of thin ice. The many ponds and waterways in Elkhorn and the surrounding communities provide fun, cold weather recreation.

However, thin ice is extremely dangerous. Please be cautious, and carefully supervise your children and pets.

SVEA Staff Roles and Responsibilities

How May We Assist You?

The SVEA Staff performs a myriad of duties. The following information is being provided to help owners know who to contact with specific questions.

Marlene Lowry - General Manager

- Reports to the board of directors and provides on-site management of the association including supervision of all employees, vendor relations, owner relations, coordination of professional services, administration, maintenance and operations.

Darlene Kuehn - Accounting/Office Manager

- Oversees all accounting and financial functions managing tasks such as: budgeting work and financial reports for the operational and capital accounts, accounts receivable, accounts payable, payroll, quarterly and annual reporting, 401(k), database, website, network and office equipment maintenance.

Jan Kaas - Architectural Design Committee /Restriction Compliance Manager

- Administers the Architectural Design Committee pursuant to the Master Declaration and ADC Manual. Assists owners with submittals for exterior alterations to their properties, including new construction, remodels, landscape alterations and other improvements.
- Directs and plans compliance and deed restriction program. Performs inspections on all properties. Handles owner relations duties as related to compliance responsibilities.

Chuck Williamson - Operations Manager

- Plans, organizes and controls the budgeting, staffing and administration for the association's buildings, facilities, equipment and landscape maintenance services. Negotiates contracts, oversees the completion of job orders by vendors, contractors and maintenance personnel.

Reminder: Tuesday is Trash Day

Please return your trash cans and bins to their screened area out of the view of neighbors and the path of the snowplows. If you leave town before Tuesday, you may take all trash to the Elkhorn Fire Station at the corner of Morningstar and Arrowleaf for disposal.

The Elkhorn Fire Station also offers recycling containers for cardboard, mixed paper, newspaper, glass, plastics, tin and aluminum for your convenience.



Welcome New Owners

Jacqueline & Howard Banchik
Toba & Ronald Essig
Judith & John Ferguson
Grace & Phil Jones
Joan & John Valaas
Karen & Terry Keller
Anne & Brian E Lawler
Patricia & Charles Lockhart
Carole & Thomas Rotticci



Suzanne & Samuel Rubin
Connie Sue & Kirby Skavdahl
Elena Watson
Carolyn Whitten & Alan Keizur
Stephen Wilcox



Contact Us

Telephone 208-622-7420
Fax 208-622-3215
E-mail svea@cox-internet.com
Website <http://elkhorn-assoc.org/>





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