



**Sun Valley
Elkhorn Association**



SVEA

*Assuring compliance with the approved rules,
regulations, and governance policies.*

*Winter Edition – Elkhorn Community News
February, 2010*

What's Inside this Issue?

SVEA Amenity Report Summer Pool Opening Dates & Winter Closures



Tennis Update !

*Keep the Renovated Harker
Center Lounge in mind when
planning your next Party!*



*Thank you for your Owner
Comments & Ideas*

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This has been a busy and productive year for your association. We just held our annual meeting, which was well attended by owners. The meeting was followed by a 'social hour' to facilitate informal exchanges between the board and owners, which was very productive.



For those of you who were not in attendance, I'd like to summarize the results of the meeting and the reports presented. You can get more details about the meeting from the draft minutes, which are on our website, www.elkhorn-assoc.org.

The only formal business for this meeting was the election of new directors. This year the Nominating Committee, in response to owners' comments', did not "endorse" candidates, but rather presented the entire slate of candidates to the membership, along with background information and answers to questions developed by the Nominating Committee. In the past, the board had endorsed a slate of candidates after the Nominating Committee had vetted all applicants and ranked them according to qualifications. Jim Fletcher, Margaret Walker, and Gary Black were elected to serve 3-year terms. Please let us know how you liked the process this year.

Two Board reports were presented at the meeting. I discussed the accomplishments for 2009, and the goals for 2010, and Patty Rosewater, our Treasurer, provided details regarding our operating and capital budgets.

By way of background, our goals for each year are aligned with, and driven by, our mission statement – "..... to maintain and enhance the quality of life in Elkhorn." There are 5 key elements to this mission statement: prudently manage our finances; proactively communicating with our owners - being transparent in all operations and activities; providing excellent amenities; maintaining our 1800 acres of open space, and; ensuring compliance with our governing documents.

For 2009, the key items the board undertook, consistent with these guidelines, were the completion of the Harker Center ungrades which came in on time and under budget; revising numerous ADC processes to make them more user friendly; adopting a new amenity card system; implementing a new communications policy; managing our open space by making significant inroads on removal of noxious weeds, and reducing fire hazards by removing over 6 tons of willows close to residences. Our goals for 2010 are much more modest, as reflected by our economy and our budget for next year. I classified 2010 as a year of 'continuous improvement', rather than one requiring significant investments, as was the case in the past 2 years. The draft minutes identify specific elements of our continuous improvement efforts.

Saving the best for last, I'm pleased to report our finances are strong, despite the expenditures we made for the Harker Center upgrades, and other capital improvements made in the past couple of years. As of year-end, we have \$540,000 in cash reserves; we spent \$137,000 less than budgeted, primarily due to the Harker improvements coming in under budget, deferral of some low-priority capital projects, and a reduction in operating costs. For 2010, our budget is \$521,000 less than 2009, which reflects, among other things, no significant capital expenditures, and flat operating costs. All this suggests that, without unforeseen circumstances, our existing dues structure should be sufficient for the next couple of years!

Finally, this is the time of year new committees are established. Your participation makes a difference, so if you have any interest in serving on one of our committees, please contact the office at 208-622-7420. We would love to have you onboard and I think you would find the involvement rewarding. Have a great winter

Jim Fletcher

THANK YOU FOR YOUR OWNER COMMENTS & IDEAS

We heard you

SVEA Board and Staff address comments received with the 2010 Annual Meeting Proxies.

Over 180 SVEA Owner Comments & Ideas “green sheets” were returned with the annual meeting proxies. “Although this represents only 11 percent of SVEA’s population, your remarks addressed every area of our activities,” said Marlene Lowry, SVEA general manager.

The SVEA Board and Staff want to thank each and every homeowner who took the time to jot down ideas for heightened communication, cross country trail use, and meeting preferences, and to give their suggestions for improvements.

Over 30% of those responding commented about dues and SVEA spending. While one respondent compared SVEA spending with that in Washington D.C., others urged SVEA to “Keep being fiscally responsible.” Expense reduction and stable dues were also mentioned. “In this economy, financial concerns are up-most on everyone’s mind,” notes SVEA Treasurer Patty Rosewater. “I have read all of the owner comments and plan to add “owner comments” to our next Finance Committee meeting.”

Owner preference for the annual meeting date ran the gamut of the year. While the summer months came out ahead, the SVEA Master Declaration restricts the date of the annual meeting to 30 days before or 30 days after December 30th of each year. The 2011 meeting will be held Friday, January 7, 2011.

There were a few comments on the Elkhorn cross-country trail-system. Only a small percentage of homeowners use the trails, but those that commented would like to see more dog-friendly trails and a better maintained system. Lowry notes, “SVEA homeowners have the privilege of using the cross country trails and hopefully donate for each use, but we do not own the land or have anything to do with its maintenance.” The Board feels it is a nice amenity for those who are here in the winter.

The elk received mention with many owners wanting to “feed” and others applauding the Board, “for their deliberate and thoughtful handling of the elk issue”.

A small number of owners (9) commented on the tennis and pool amenities. Comments ranged from, “Everyone should be able to use our courts,” to “I think the tennis guest-fee program is great and should be expanded to pool guests.

The largest portion of all comments related to Communicating. The additional use of e-mail was noted 62 times while the newsletter received positive comments. Reacting to owner’s requests, SVEA will initiate a new monthly e-mail — “Update on SVEA Activities”— watch for it in March.

The Board and Staff thank you for your many complimentary notes and for your ideas for improvement. “It’s nice to hear your thoughts,” Lowry added. “My favorite compliment is from a Sagehill owner.” “Thank you all for an outstanding job. We are sincerely grateful for your expertise, dedication and devotion to our community.”

To be included on the SVEA e-mail list or to update your present e-mail, contact svea@cox-internet.com.

THANK YOU TO OUTGOING BOARD MEMBER, JACK DALIERE



Jack served a three-year term on the SVEA Board, volunteering countless hours chairing the tennis committee and participating on the Harker Center improvements, sub-associations and finance committees. He was instrumental in restructuring a successful tennis

program, implementation of guest fees, and for developing provisions for profit sharing in the tennis contract. Jack, your fellow board members and the staff express our sincere gratitude. Thank you; you will be missed!

SVEA AMENITY REPORT

Village Pool & Spa

Open Until End of Ski Season

The Village Hot Tub will remain open from 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily. These hours will continue until Sun Valley Company closes the skiing operations for the season.

Reopens for the Summer on June 12, 2010

The Village pool and hot tub will reopen the weekend of June 12, 2010. As in previous years, the Village pool will not be staffed with lifeguards. Improvements planned for the summer season include installing more shade umbrellas for owner and guest comfort and convenience.



Harker Pool & Spa

Opens Saturday May 29, 2010



The Harker Pool is scheduled to reopen for Memorial Day weekend on Saturday May 29, 2010 weather permitting. This salt water pool was a great success last year and we are looking forward to opening this great amenity to our owners and their guests. The amount of salt added to

the water is comparable to a mild saline solution. Reports from owners who have experienced the salt water pool describe the water as less irritating to the skin and softer than standard chlorine sanitized water. The pool will be re-plastered prior to opening for the summer season. Due to cost considerations, the conversion to salt water for the Hot Tub and Kids pool has been delayed; however, we will keep this on our list of improvements as funds become available.

Common Areas

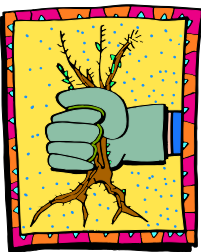
Hiking Trails

Don't forget about the hiking trail access at the top of Elkhorn hill. Many thanks to Bigwood Backcountry Trails for installation and to Elkhorn Springs for access signage. Hiking trail access and signage can also be found under the Elkhorn ski lift and along the old golf course driving range on Elkhorn Road near the Summit Condominiums. Owners will find this hike very rewarding with wonderful views from the top of Dollar Mountain to the north, or to the south on the peaks behind Weyyakin overlooking Elkhorn. Hiking trail mapping continues and we will let owners know as soon as the Elkhorn hiking trail maps become available. If you are interested in hiking in the Elkhorn area, and need information, please come buy the administrative offices at the Harker Center and talk to staff about what is available.



Weed & Willow Control

SVEA is in the third year of a five-year push to get the weed problem in the open-space areas under control. We are asking owners to please help us in our efforts by pulling or spraying weeds on your property. We will be spending significant funds for spraying and weed removal in open-space areas during the months of May through August. With your help, we are confident we can get this problem under control. Owners are encouraged to report weed problems in your area. We know that more effort to better control thistle growth around ponds, waterways and marsh areas, is required this year and will be a primary focus.



Willow growth also continues to be a huge concern, and we are monitoring the Sun Valley Fire Department efforts to obtain a federal grant to help with willow control and wildfire mitigation. Significant funds have been expended by SVEA in this area and we have barely scratched the surface of this problem.

Harker Park

Closed for Winter

The park will reopen as weather permits in the spring. Please plan to come and enjoy the basketball court, horseshoe pits, volleyball court, play structures and picnic areas. Horseshoes, basketball and volleyball are available upon request. If you bring your pets, please use the handy pet cleanup station available for your convenience.



Tennis Facilities

Welcome back Bill VanDeinse!!!



The tennis courts will reopen as weather permits. Nets will be installed for early season use of the courts, at the Harker Center, as weather dictates. Tennis Pro Bill VanDeinse, will be returning on May 15th for the 2010 season and his 20th year with SVEA! The Committee is evaluating and offering suggestions to the Board

for long term plans and capital expenditures for the Village tennis facilities. Be sure to keep an eye out for the spring newsletter (scheduled for mailing in mid-May) as it will contain tennis program descriptions and pricing for the summer season. Programs and clinic sizes may be limited, so early sign-up is suggested.

X-C SKIING

Though SVEA does not own the golf course, we are privileged to enjoy the wonderful X-Country Ski and Snowshoe trails generously provided by CG-Elkhorn and the Elkhorn Golf Club. In order for this amenity to continue participants need to be respectful of the few rules regarding dogs, staying off of the sensitive areas of the course, etc. Also, sadly, we have been made aware that the donation boxes have received ONLY \$11 this season! Please, if you enjoy this activity and would like to see it continue for owners and guests, we need to be a bit more generous. Inform your family members and guests that donations are important to this service. A map of the trails may be found on our website under 'Amenities'.



ELKHORN COUNTRY STORE

This wonderful store in the center of Elkhorn Village provides a great service and convenience for Elkhorn residents and guests. Please help support this local business to assure its success. Winter hours are 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. daily. Elkhorn Country Store (ECS) offers groceries, beer, wine and packaged liquor with discounts of ten percent (10%) available on case orders for wine and groceries. The additional 10% discount on already lower-

priced wine selections makes the ECS one of the best places in the valley to save. The Elkhorn merchant also boasts the best price on Sherry's Best Toffee Cookies. For more information or to place an order call 622-5400.



THINKING ABOUT HOSTING A PARTY?

The recently renovated Harker owners' lounge and party room may be the perfect venue for your next function or to simply find a quiet place. Whether you are planning a birthday party, meeting, have been thinking about gathering friends for a card game, or need someplace to work that provides Wi-Fi access, this room provides a lovely and functional setting. The lounge is open during regular office hours (Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., except holidays) for owners' use at no charge. For use outside of office hours, owners may reserve the room for their personal parties or events for a \$200 rental charge with a \$100 cleaning/damage deposit.



IMPORTANT NOTICES

Elkhorn Wildlife

Cougars have recently been sighted in Elkhorn on several occasions. An adult cougar can be a serious threat to pets, and humans under certain circumstances. Idaho Fish & Game (IDFG) advises that children and dogs be supervised closely, particularly during hours of darkness. For additional information or with questions, please contact IDFG at 208-324-4359.

In addition to contacting IDFG, Mayor Wayne Willich is compiling data on wildlife sightings and encounters within the City of Sun Valley and would appreciate any and all information. Please call Mayor Willich at City Hall, 208-622-4438.

Wildlife Information from Fish & Game

Winter can be a difficult time for some species of wildlife. For herbivores, food is more difficult to obtain during the winter. Furthermore, because most plants are dormant during the winter, the food that herbivores do obtain is low in protein and other nutrients. Because of this, different species have evolved different strategies that improve over winter survival. All of these strategies strike some critical balance between food intake and energy conservation. For example, many animals enter some level of torpor or hibernation: essentially, they “sleep” for extended periods during the winter in order to conserve energy and burn fat reserves as slowly as possible. This strategy clearly focuses on energy conservation, as animals such as bears and marmots focus on “fattening up” during the fall, and then do not consume any food during the winter months.



Other animals, such as elk, deer, pronghorn, and many bird species, migrate to areas with shallower snow or milder climates for winter. Big game species may migrate 10-100 miles to reach winter habitats, while birds and some other species may move more than 1000 miles. These species seek to obtain as much food as possible to stave off winter starvation. Once they reach winter range, they also strive to conserve energy by limiting movements and using areas with shallow snow.

Finally, carnivores such as wolves, mountain lions, fisher and marten do not experience the same limitations that herbivores do during winter. Winter often proves to be a period of plenty for these animals, as weakened herbivores that are congregated on limited winter ranges make easier prey, and meat is packed with protein and other nutrients regardless of the time of year. For carnivores, summer generally is a more difficult time to successfully obtain food, as prey species are in better physical condition and are more spread out across the landscape.

Regional Wildlife Biologist, *Regan Berkley*

Thin Ice

A situation that can be very dangerous is skating or playing on the frozen ponds and lakes. Thin ice accidents happen too often and can easily be avoided by exercising caution when in the area of ponds and waterways, and by carefully supervising your children and pets.



WELCOME TO NEW OWNERS

James Mead
Crowe Capital Management LP
Thomas & Sandra Sterken
Wayne & Kristin Martin
Brian & Anne Lawler
Richard & Barbara Taylor
Keith & Karen Saks
George Dempsey Jr
John & Joan Valaas
Kirby & Connie Sue Skavdahl
Samuel & Suzanne Rubin

Lawrence Young
Robert & Peggy Harlan
Ronald Attard
Sara Bingham
Elena Watson
Alvin & Maija Eerkes
Stephen Wilcox
Alan Keizur & Carolyn Whitten
Terry & Karen Keller
James & Ann Berg
Richard Pinnell
Stuart & Carla Hilleboe
Claude & Geraldine Baird
Gale Elkins
Albert & Linda Hauschulz
Charles & Patricia Lockhart
Ronald & Toba Essig
Howard & Jacqueline Banchik
Thomas & Carole Rotticci
John & Judith Ferguson
Phil & Grace Jones
W & L Enterprises
Adam & Melissa Slonim





RIDE THE BUS – IT'S FREE!!!

For schedules, routes and maps call 788-RIDE or visit <http://www.mountainrides.org/>

**THE SINGLE BIGGEST PROBLEM WITH
COMMUNICATION IS THE ILLUSION THAT IT HAS
TAKEN PLACE.**

George Bernard Shaw

To be included on the SVEA e-mail list or to update your present e-mail, contact svea@cox-internet.com.

Contact Us

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2010 SVEA MEETING SCHEDULE

Meeting dates for 2010 have been set so please mark your calendars with the following events:



Future SVEA Events, Board, Membership, and Sub-Association Presidents' Meetings		
Date	Event or Meeting	Location
Wednesday, February 17, 2010	Board Workshop – (1:00 pm)	Harker Center
Thursday, February 18, 2010	Board Workshop Continued – (9:00 am)	Harker Center
Monday, March 29, 2010	Spring Board Meeting – 12:00 (noon)	Harker Center
Thursday, July 15, 2010	Summer Board Meeting – (9:00 am)	Harker Center
Friday, July 16, 2010	Presidents' Meeting – (3:00 pm)	Harker Center
Saturday, July 17, 2010	Owners' Meeting & Barbeque – (5:30 pm)	Harker Center Park
Tuesday, September 14, 2010	Finance Committee Budget Meeting – (3:00 pm)	Harker Center
Friday, September 24, 2010	Fall Board Meeting – (9:00 am)	Harker Center
Wednesday, January 5, 2011	Winter Board Meeting – 12:00 (noon)	Harker Center
Thursday, January 6, 2011	Sub-Association Presidents' Meeting – (3:00 pm)	Harker Center
Friday, January 7, 2011	Annual Meeting – (3:00 pm)	American Legion Hall 220 Cottonwood, Ketchum, ID
Friday, January 7, 2011	Board Meeting – Immediately following Annual	American Legion Hall Ketchum, ID



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