



THE MOUNTAIN MEMO

VOL. 1, NO. 1

MARCH 1985

ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR JUNE 8TH ON THE MOUNTAIN

The Board of Directors has decided that this years annual meeting should be held on the mountain. Therefore, this years meeting will be held on the mountain on June 8th and will be a MEETING/SOCIAL. The rain date will be June 15th. Think about spending the weekend or just the evening on your section of the mountain.

If nothing else, spending one night/weekend on the mountain can change your demeanor but don't do it alone, unless you're that type person. The enjoyment of the mountain environment should be shared. You can walk the woods, visit with the regulars who are there weekly during the summer (more of them each year), clear your site a little at a time and try to imagine the finished view (I do it all the time). Chopping wood is a pasttime on the mountain that everyone participates in but it's not something that should to be jumped into, it can be done slowly like eating at Roy Rogers. This is a place where you can pull up a chair, a stump or anything, pour a cool one, and if you're patient enough you'll see birds, chipmonks, squirrels, rabbits and deer scurry around. The evening is probably the most rewarding for those who need the change from the life in the city. The night sky on the mountain has more stars than the entire southern hemisphere. My son of 21 years, when he saw all of those stars, completely forgot how cold he was that particular night when the heater ran out of fuel. I'll bet

there are many who are unaware of the beauty of a clear night sky with the multitude of stars which are invisable in the city lights. The sounds of the night are much more vivid on the mountain than in the city and you must get used to them or you would never get to sleep: the crickets or cadidids chirp; the animal noises (nothing fierce); and the lonesome sound of the train whistle as it moves along the Potomac (yes, you can hear it). Of course there is the sound of the breeze which can be heard at any time of the day through the trees. "I can hear that at home", you say. Well at home you listen to the breeze above the city sounds; on the mountain you hear it above the "Sound of Silence." It's just not the same. TRY IT you'll like it.

I'm very enthusiastic about this idea and hope that it will come about with the same enthusiasm that the Tailgate picnic generated. The tailgate picnic was organised as a means for neighbors to get to know one and other. At home I recognize all my neighbors on sight but we are not at all part of the same social groups. This is how I feel it should be on the mountain; we should know our neighbors on sight but let the social end of the arrangement be between the individuals. The meeting/social could accomplish this same end.

Look for any last minute changes to the meeting/social plus a meeting agenda in the June issue of the new newsletter.



BOARD AND COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

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THE MOUNTAIN MEMO is published four times a year (March, June, Sept and Dec) and is the Cacapon Highlands Property Owners official newsletter. All material for publication must be submitted by the 15th of the month prior to publication.

As is true of anyone in an official capacity with this association, your Board is made up of VOLUNTEERS.

volunteer \n one who enters into or offers himself for service of his own free will: as one who renders service while having no legal concern or interest.

This definition does not allow that the work performed will be any less taxing because it is of a voluntary nature nor does it restrict a person to a specific level of SERVICE.

service \n the act of serving: as useful labor that does not produce a tangible commodity.

On the Board each member takes on those duties for which his background and availability is suited. This may cause some to be more involved than others but it provides those with a specific knowledge or background to be more proficient. This is the case with our Board.

In most cases, like with this Board, the duties are rarely extensive or time consuming IF there is cooperation between the Board and the membership. The lack of response to billing, covenant violations and inadvertant change of address without notification causes untold frustrations on the Board. This includes extra duties for some Board members - such as: the Treasurer must add late fees and attorneys fees as well as place liens against property owners; the secretary must send out additional notices of violations and waiver grants and there is the returned letter when we need to spend time tracking down a new address. This is especially frustrating.

The Treasurer is the most called upon member of the Board, not necessarily because he has the

biggest job of the Board members but because he has probably the most important. And in our case Tom Wright has made his job of treasurer almost invaluable because of his use of the computer. We are extremely fortunate to have Tom (and Patty) on the Board, but he has been more than frustrated with some of our members and the Board is looking into ways of relieving his frustrations.

The President is of course the person who must answer to the membership. We, the Board, elected Shirley DePaolis to head the Board of Directors last september. I don't believe anyone on the Board feels he could have made a better selection. Thank Shirley for pushing for the electric service for those who do not have it available at present. Also, she still after the public service commission to change the boundaries of the phone companies so we will not be a split community. Shirley is always on call and is on top of all the goings-on within the association.

The secretary is charged with the meeting minutes, meeting notes, letters to members for whatever reason and getting out notices of meetings to those involved. When things go smoothly her job is quite uneventfull and routine (I didn't say easy), however, since september she has not had a routine job and this is mainly because some members are not cooperating fully with the Board.

The Trustees-at-large do not have specific jobs assigned to them but take on those positions that they feel are in their realm of experience. For example Steve Biegel is a registered architect and is the primary figure on the architectural committee. While Tom Thompson's claim to fame seems to be the Tailgate Picnic of two years ago.



FROM THE TOP

It seems that trying to get the facts on electric service installation can be very confusing. If you call and talk to the installation people they quote you a number of services and associated costs. Then you speak to those who already have these services and find that their service costs vary. Then a call back to another department and you get different responses.

To try and clear up the situation for those of us that do not have electric service available at present, I went to the State legislature to find out the best contacts. The office of the Congresswoman was only too happy to make some inquiries on my behalf. The results were not good. Potomac Edison may levy charges for their services, but their inconsistency seems almost arbitrary. I have become quite discouraged by the run-around but I want to continue, perhaps by writing to the governor's office.

The chairperson's telephone inquiry was very disappointing; it only provided fifteen responses. However, to get your way, try writing the Public Service Commission; Charleston, WV 25305. For C&P service and information call collect 301-797-2200. When applying for electrical service call 304-797-2200 but be sure the conditions are spelled out in writing before you approve the installation.

The Board sent out notices of violation to twelve property owners last October. To date only seven requests for waiver have been received. The Board does not want to go by the letter of the law but it doesn't want to lay down and play dead either. If you want to do something which is prohibited by the covenants please ask for a waiver, or the Board may have to use the authority of Article IV paragraph six (6) of the Covenants.

GYPSY MOTH - HERE

Sideling Hill, our mountain, is scheduled to be sprayed this spring for gypsy moth control. They will be spraying from the Potomac river south to the Hampshire County line - 7,300 acres. There will be a public meeting to explain the program at 7:30 p.m. on March 28 at Cacapon State Park. If you attend - write an article for the newsletter.

SPRING FIRE DANGER SEASON

The spring fire danger season will begin March 10 and continue thru May 31st. The danger of wide fire is extremely high during this time of year. Abrupt weather changes, such as high winds, and warm sunny weather can cause very high burning conditions in a short time. All burning during these fire danger months should be avoided.

No person shall during any fire season except between the hours of five o'clock p.m. and ten o'clock a.m. prevailing time, set on fire or cause to be set on fire any forest land, or any grass, grain, stubble, slash, debris, or any other inflammable materials. Any fire set during this time shall be extinguished prior to 10:00 a.m. prevailing time.

The state shall recover from the person whose negligence or whose violation of any provisions cause any fire at anytime on any grass of forest land, the amount expended by the state.

Burning permits are available for fires between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Remember to contribute to our local volunteer fire department when they solicit.

**HELP WANTED
WANT ADS
FOR SALE**

If you want to communicate using this newsletter please write to the Editor. There are a number of ideas that I am willing to persue; some are listed below. If you want to contribute write a note or give me a call: Classified ads, Question & Answer column, Help Wanted (on the mountain) and maybe Mountain Talk (a gossip column).

**MOUNTAIN TALK
QUESTION & ANSWER**



The Property Owners Information Sheet was distributed with the news bulletin sent last October. The response received was only one-quarter of the property owners, a rather poor showing. If you were one who responded we are deeply grateful, if you didn't respond because it got lost in the shuffle of things or you didn't want to bother, let me give you an idea why the Board would be interested in this information. First, it would help update our records and mailing labels; second, it gives the Board

some ammunition in the form of statistical data to face the phone company, the electric company, prospective purchasers and possibly a little leverage when it comes to contracting for road maintenance and other areas where numbers could be a selling point. NONE OF THIS INFORMATION WILL BE VOLUNTEERED, SOLD OR LEAKED TO ANY SOURCE OUTSIDE THE ASSOCIATION. A facsimile of the information sheet is printed here for those who forgot or may have misplaced the previous one.

PROPERTY OWNERS INFORMATION SHEET

If a property is owned by more than 1 person, please give information on all owners.

NAME -----

ADDRESS -----

HOME PHONE ----- OFFICE PHONE -----

NAME -----

ADDRESS -----

HOME PHONE ----- OFFICE PHONE -----

LOT NUMBER(S) -----

Have you built a cabin/home? -----

Are you planning to build a cabin/home? -----

Do you have electricity -----

If not, have you applied for electricity? -----

Is your lot for sale? -----

If so, may we give your telephone number to anyone inquiring about purchasing Cacapon properties? -----

Comments or items you would like the Board to review



VACATION HOME BURGLARY

This was the headline in The Morgan Messenger for Wednesday, February 13, 1985. This would be a very devastating headline for property owners like ourselves but the article mentions four vacation developments near Great Cacapon where thirty (30) break-ins were discovered, Cacapon Meadows, Cacapon River Bend, Cacapon River Rapids and Maidstone. Others areas of Morgan county have suffered the same way. I bring this up because it seems that our security arrangements may be paying off. The

#1 CRIME HERE

sheriff, William Spitzer, would like to patrol more but does not have the manpower. Also he is hampered by not having break-ins reported or reported to late and not being able to get in touch with the owners of cabins found vandalized. The sheriff has published the jail phone number 258-1067. This number may be reached at any time and the jailer will get in touch with him. Also the state police number is 258-2101. Please consider this situation when you are asked to donate to the security fund.



MOUNTAIN TIMES



THE MOUNTAIN MEMO



SIDELING GLANCES



HILL HERALD



CAPHIGH MONITOR



MOUNTAIN TALK

The newsletter should be a vehicle for the membership as well as the Board to communicate among one another. Your articles and/or suggestions will be considered for publication with respect to content and space availability. If you want a classified section please limit ads to mountain related items.

Included on this page is a sampling of mastheads which may be more to your liking. If this be the case please let me know. I will honor a less than majority consensus if the choice could be construed as the acceptable preference. Send your preference to the editor. Conclusions will be aired at the annual meeting.

The editor would like to see this publication become a permanent feature however, I will need your support on a budget item for four (4) issues; that figure is approximately \$260. There will be another newsletter the first week in June just before the annual meeting. I will need your input to be aware of your feelings, so please write with your support or your criticism.

THE MOUNTAIN MEMO
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FIRST CLASS



***** THE CACAPON HIGHLANDS PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED QUARTERLY *****