

Silver Lake Homeowners Association

Newsletter FALL 2021

November 18, 2021

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THANK YOU!!

Special thanks to the firefighters who defended our cabins during the Dixie Fire



"We were told the cabins date back to the 1930's. The Division Supervisor running that part of the fire gave us strict instructions to use everything needed to save the cabins. It was the top priority in that area."

Sarah Gibson
Dixie Fire Firefighter from Sonoma, CA

President's Report

I can't help but contemplate what my grandparents, especially my grandfather, and others of the first generation who built our cabins would have thought of these past two seasons. There's been the COVID-19 pandemic, but then many of them lived through the influenza pandemic of 1918 and probably would have taken this one in stride. And then there was the Dixie Fire, and the threat of almost losing that one tangible thing that reminds us so well of the first generation, and what provides us the opportunity to live in a seemingly less chaotic time each summer – the cabin.

And what would my grandfather have thought of our community's first virtual meeting via Zoom? Who would have ever imagined!? We definitely had a great turnout with 70 attendees and a majority of cabins represented. I couldn't have done it without the help of Laurel Moulton who set it all up and monitored the votes and meeting, and to the rest of the board for their contributions to the meeting and ongoing support.

I don't think any of us can express enough our gratitude to the firefighters and first responders who worked so hard to save our Silver Lake community. What a relief it was to finally get our access permits, hit the road to the lake and arrive to see the lake still blue and the shoreline still green. Incredible to see how close the fire got though, and what they had to do to stop it.

The ongoing fire suppression repair work has been impressive to observe as well, and will be ongoing for quite some time throughout the Lassen National Forest and National Park. Even though the fire abatement teams finished the repair work out at Silver Lake in mid-October, we're going to have a fair amount of clean-up around our cabins in 2022 where firefighters fell snags and cut brush. And we can certainly anticipate the coming winter storms to bring down snags, branches, etc. which may also bring back the abatement teams to conduct further cleanup.

As you may remember from our September 8, SLHOA General Meeting, we have pulled together a Fire Abatement Committee led by Jeff Cutler, and includes Jed DeGraff, Hap Heiberg, and Laurel Moulton. A potential goal of the committee is to work with the USFS on maintaining the fire suppression work already accomplished by Cal Fire and the USFS around Silver Lake, and to help advise cabin owners in ongoing fire suppression around the cabins.

We have also set aside a Fire Abatement Fund that will include annual water testing. At this point, we will need to wait until next spring to properly assess our communities' needs and the best course of action.

A number of cabin owners have asked me if we are responsible for the clean-up around our cabin lots, and the answer is "yes." The Fire Abatement Fund has not been set up for individual cabin lot clean-up. That being said, the Fund may be able to help toward the removal/disposal of combined lot debris. I can't promise anything at this point, but want you to know that the board and committee will consider the use of the funds carefully and to our communities' best advantage.

Until the Spring – I wish you all a wonderful winter and Happy Holidays!

Barb Andrews, President

Board Reports

Treasurer's Report

Fiscal Year 2022 (5/1/2021 through 10/31/2021)

Revenues			
Permit Holder Dues		\$ 25,476.83	50 budgeted, 52 paid
Family and Associate Dues		2,654.59	65 budgeted, 76 paid
NFH Dues		480.00	11 budgeted, 16 paid
Bank Interest		0.26	
Donations		6.35	
		\$ 28,618.03	
Expenses			
Caretaker Cabin Insurance Premium		\$ 2,761.00	
Caretaker Cabin Maintenance		1,304.73	
Waste Management		70.50	
Caretaker Net Pay		5,587.64	
Caretaker Communication Expenses/Other		520.00	
Employment Development Dept		290.32	
Franchise Tax Board		-	
IRS Quarterly Fed Tax		1,725.84	
Lassen County Prop Tax		695.77	
Misc.- Other, Stamps, Check, etc.		-	
NFH Dues		3,020.00	
Newsletter/Directory Web Expenses		828.01	
Secretary of State		20.00	
US Forest Service		2,340.00	
Silver Lake Water Testing		-	
SLHOA Events		-	
State Comp. Ins. Fund		187.05	
Road & Trail Maintenance/Other		-	
Utilities-Propane		152.67	
Wells Fargo/PayPal Fees (net)		64.00	
Total		\$ 19,567.53	
Income		\$ 9,050.50	
Current Assets			
Checking Account Balance		\$ 35,022.19	
Savings Account Balance		5,218.27	
PayPal Account Balance		0.00	
Prepays		0.00	
Total		\$ 40,240.46	

Erik Foraker, Treasurer

Silver Lake Water Report

Before closing our cabin this Fall, I kayaked around the entire lake. There was very little ash on or around the lake shoreline and the lake appeared as clear and pristine as before. I also hiked around the lake to assess potential hazards that could impact lake water quality in the future. There were many areas with little or no burn activity, but several spots had severe damage.

I also reviewed the Dixie Fire Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) soil burn severity Phase 2 and Phase 3 survey maps. These maps assess the effects of post-fire water runoff and erosion probabilities. According to the soil burn maps, most of the area below North Caribou was assessed as very low to low, with some moderately burned soil and a few high burn severity locations.

This is extremely good news about the potential surface erosion impacting Silver Lake. The severity of rainfall runoff is this Fall will determine how much burned soil is washed into the lake, carrying potential contaminants. The amount of erosion this winter will determine what, if any, additional water tests we will need to conduct on Silver Lake next spring. We were lucky!

Hap Heiberg, Board Member

Caretaker Cabin Committee Report

The caretaker cabin belongs to the Association, which is responsible for its maintenance.

This year we made progress on improving the cabin despite a shortened season. Early this summer, I spoke with Gene about doing some painting inside. The cabin is dark and needs to be lightened up. Gene's priorities were the bathroom and kitchen, so I painted the bathroom, and Joan Brodie and I painted the kitchen. I purchased a shower curtain, bathroom rug and entry mat. Gene was very pleased with the results. For my winter projects I am making new curtains and refinishing the kitchen cabinets. We also ventured upstairs and disposed of rotting cushions and mouse nest materials. I will consult with Hap Heiberg on any structural needs that come up in the future.

Stephanie has made great progress researching new flooring and installment costs and purchasing a new toilet.

Future projects: update curtains; refinish cabinets; repair the lock/handle for the sliding glass door; repair or replace the entry steps; purchase a generator (for use of power tools, etc.); purchase a vacuum; improve shutters to make their installation and removal a one-man job; and, acquire a skiff (Gene currently borrows a skiff when he has tasks on the lake). Also, the upstairs needs a thorough cleaning.

SLHOA pays for all supplies and new appliances for the cabin. However, if you have cabin items you would like to donate, or if you would like to volunteer time, please contact either Molly Brodie at LSOD.Dance@gmail.com, or Stephanie DeGraff Hunt at sdegraffhunt@gmail.com. We appreciate your generosity!

Molly Brodie, Caretaker Cabin Committee

National Forest Homeowners Association

ACTION: NFH Economic Benefit Survey

National Forest Homeowners (NFH) has prepared an economic benefit survey to collect data from all cabin owners. The subsequent study will be used as a tool to advocate for the value of the Recreation Residence Program to the leaders of the US Forest Service, members of Congress and their staff as well as local elected officials. This information will be vital in educating them and gaining their support for the Recreation Residence Program.

Completing this survey is one of the most important things you and every cabin owner in Silver Lake Homeowners Association can do to ensure the success and continuance of the cabins.

Background on the need for this survey and a link to take the survey is available on the NFH website:

<https://www.nationalforesthomeowners.org/page/NFHEconomicBenefitSurvey>

No sign-in required.

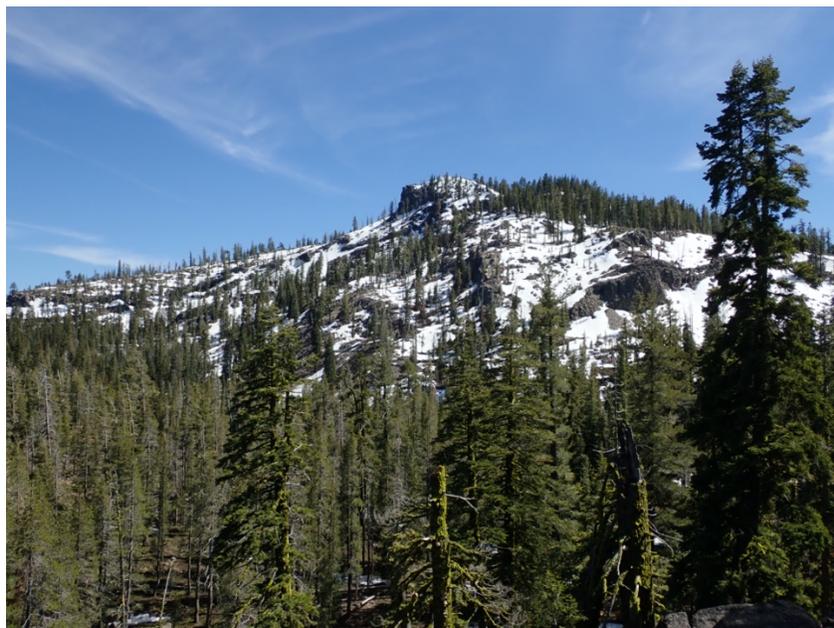
If you prefer to go directly to the Survey without further ado, here is the direct link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/P7GP5M2>

It is vitally important that all cabin owners complete this survey. This should take 15-20 minutes to complete.

We very much appreciate your participation in the survey!

Meredith Randall
Economic Benefit Survey Team Lead
NFH Vice President and Economic Benefit Study Group Chair
nationalforesthomeowners.org



Los Angeles Times, California Section, November 15, 2021

The following article recently appeared in the LA Times. "Tule," the Sierra Nevada red fox featured in the article, was named after Little Tule Lake, just north of Caribou Lake and off Road 10, where she was first discovered by State biologists and radio collared. She had pups this past summer in a den in the Caribou Wilderness, and it appears they survived the Dixie Fire. Hopefully, she and her family stick around. Thanks to Bill Cady for sharing this article.

Barb Andrews

Rare Sierra Nevada red foxes survive massive Dixie fire that burned habitat



A Sierra Nevada red fox pup is seen in the Caribou Wilderness in June. The pup's mother survived the massive Dixie fire when it passed through their territory in early August. The mountain foxes are one of the rarest mammals in North America. (California Department of Fish and Wildlife)

BY [LILA SEIDMAN](#)

NOV. 15, 2021 5 AM PT

There might be something to the adage "clever as a fox."

When the monstrous Dixie fire scorched a northeastern California expanse that the elusive Sierra Nevada red fox calls home, wildlife officials were worried.

The diminutive foxes, which dwell in the high-elevation reaches of the Sierra Nevada and southern Cascade mountains in California and Oregon, are one of the rarest mammals on the continent. Their population size is unknown but is potentially only in the dozens, with an estimated 18 to 39 spread across the Sonora Pass, northern Yosemite and Mono Creek areas.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife experts think that fewer than 15 of the alpine creatures live in and around Lassen Volcanic National Park and Lassen National Forest, where massive swaths of land were devoured by the nearly 1-million-acre Dixie fire.

In 1980, the animals were designated a threatened species in California, and this summer — as the Dixie fire raged through parts of their territory — a portion of the state's population won federal protection under the Endangered Species Act.

No strangers to wildfire, the foxes have adapted to seasonal flames. Wildlife experts say they're typically able to hide or temporarily leave when fires pass through. But with more blazes burning hotter, faster and even into higher elevations in recent years, officials worry the small creatures might not be able to escape the fierce new conflagrations.

"It's certainly a threat, and it alludes to a larger threat of climate change," Kaly Adkins, a wildlife biologist with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, said of the recent intense fires. The mountain-dwelling foxes rely on a certain level of snowpack, which has been dwindling in California's multiyear drought.

Biologists said a vixen named Tule, who was tending to at least two pups in the remote Caribou Wilderness of Lassen National Forest, was at particular risk from the raging Dixie fire.

Driven by fierce winds, the blaze pushed into the Caribou Wilderness in early August, and the area around Tule's den burned — as did most of her home range. About 335,750 acres of the Lassen forest was seared by the Dixie blaze, said Pat York, a public information officer with the fire.

Feature

(continued)

When the flames passed through Tule's habitat, "I was really concerned," said Jennifer Carlson, an environmental scientist with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

But it appeared Tule had outfoxed the fire. A satellite collar on the 3-year-old fox continued to ping.

GPS locations collected by the device showed that Tule traveled north of the fire when flames swept through and then returned to her home base after they passed, said Carlson, who leads the state wildlife department's efforts to monitor the foxes in the Lassen Peak area.

Carlson says there's also a good chance her pups survived. If the babies didn't make it, it's likely "her movements would have gotten much larger and she would have been using a much larger area," the biologist said.

Tule is among a group of Sierra Nevada red foxes that state wildlife officials began capturing in 2018 and outfitting with satellite collars. Three other collared females in Lassen Volcanic National Park also appear to have survived the blaze, which charred about two-thirds of the park, Carlson said. Less of their habitat was damaged by the Dixie fire, but they're continuing to use parts that did burn.

Scientists think all three females gave birth this year but have confirmed only one litter of five pups.

"If the parents survived, there's a good chance that the pups — most of the pups — survived and did not perish as a result of the Dixie fire," she said.

But it's not certain the youngsters made it; wildlife officials have not been able to access most of the burn area to check. Pup survival rates are relatively low, Carlson said, so even if they survived the blaze, there's no guarantee they'll make it to adulthood.

"They're pretty resilient as far as being able to adapt to wildfire," Carlson said of the foxes. "Now, if we continue to have catastrophic wildfires like this, that might be another story.

"If it continues to happen every year ... to where there's no habitat left, then we'll have a problem," she added.

Despite their name, the foxes aren't always red. Some are black, and others are a tawny brown. Dense fur grows on the bottom of their feet, allowing them to trek across deep snowpack "almost like snowshoes," Adkins said. Dwelling at elevations as high as 10,000 feet in the summer and 5,000 feet in the winter, they are active year-round, feeding on small mammals and sometimes insects and berries.

When the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the foxes as endangered this year, protections were extended only to the Sierra Nevada population, ranging from south of Lake Tahoe to south of Yosemite National Park. It doesn't include the Cascade Range that encompasses the foxes in Lassen Peak and those farther north in Oregon.

In its determination, the government noted the California segment's low numbers made them "more susceptible to deleterious stochastic events" — harmful and random — "such as major fires or diseases." Loss of just a few would wipe out a relatively large proportion of the entire population, officials said.

Noah Greenwald, endangered species director for the Center for Biological Diversity, disagrees with limiting the endangered species designation.

"We think they should have been listed as a species, rather than just that one population," Greenwald said. The center, a nonprofit membership organization dedicated to protecting endangered species, is fighting for federal safeguards for the fox population in the Cascades as well.

Fires are just one of many threats facing the rare animals.

Isolated on remote mountaintops, the minuscule populations are imperiled by inbreeding and hybridization with nonnative foxes. Coyotes compete for their living space and food. People are increasingly recreating on their turf. And there's the ever-looming threat of climate change, which has the potential to shrink their habitat.

"It's definitely a precarious situation for these Sierra Nevada red foxes," Greenwald said

Services

Caretaker Services

Aside from Gene Stewart's regular rounds and SLHOA services, he is available to assist with lot clean up (e.g., clearing fire space around structures), splitting, stacking and cutting wood, small paint work, housekeeping, open & closing cabins, etc. and will consider any opportunity. Service exclusions include carpentry, electrical and plumbing.

Gene will provide references from members he's worked for upon request.

The cabin owner is responsible for certain material and equipment, such as stain, power washers, etc.

Basic hourly rate is \$25 but may vary depending on the job.

You can leave a note on the white board outside the backdoor of his cabin, or you can email him in advance at gene4261@yahoo.com or by phone at (541) 954-7167.

Brush and Tree Removal

Jerret Lepage is a contractor out of Westwood who does a lot of tree and brush removal work - chipping, hauling, mulching, and felling. He is familiar with the lake and our setup.

Jerret is interested in working directly with cabin owners or groups of cabin owners. The direct relationship allows him to know your exact expectations. He has good insight and suggestions for distributing chipped material to reduce future dust issues.

RATES

Base Rate: \$100/hour for chipping and hauling, which includes Jerret's labor and the use of his tools - Bobcat, chipper, and dump trailer.

Additions:

- \$200/hour for the use of a masticator to create mulch;
- \$200/hour for an additional worker, a reliable local he routinely hires; and,
- Approximately \$200 flat fee for hauling waste materials to the dump.

Note that Jerret will not use the chipper if rocks are present; all materials must be clear of rocks.

Contact Jerret via text to his mobile number, (530) 260-1200. He will call you back.

Burn Permits and Emergency Preparedness

Burn permits can be obtained for late/early season burning from CalFire (<https://burnpermit.fire.ca.gov/>). And the Lassen Co. Fire Safe Council, Inc. (lassenfiresafecouncil.org) has useful emergency fire preparedness information through its website and emergency plans and forms that can be downloaded and posted in cabins. Additional emergency preparedness information and guidelines can also be found on the Silver Lake website at <https://www.silverlakelassencounty.com>.

Passings

Phillip Darrell McNany (Cabin 56, McNany/Cooper)



Phillip Darrell McNany was born July 3, 1944 to parents Donald Henry McNany and Emma May Cooper McNany in Richmond, California. He passed away peacefully on May 17, 2021 at the age of 76 in Clovis, California.

He is survived by his wife of 21 years, Darlene Brough McNany, his children; Matthew, Johnny (Megan), and Michael (Jenna), stepchildren; Linda (Andy) and Greg (Kelly) Grandchildren; Keenan, Camden, Joseph and Cooper, Step grandchildren Caitlyn, Nicholas, Morgan, Andrew, Brooklyn and Blakely, and his brother Ken(Lynda) and their children niece, Kimberly and nephew Kevin and great nephew Mason.

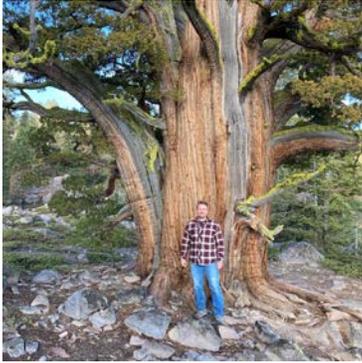
Phil began his career working in the airline industry for PSA before he transitioned to the Clovis Unified School District where he spent the final 20 years of his professional career.

Throughout his life Phil was an avid sports fan, and he especially loved the 49ers. His competitive spirit extended to card games played with family and friends. He loved going to the movies and enjoying a good meal. Most of all, he loved his family and trips to the family cabin at Silver Lake.

A private celebration of life was held by his family.

Culture

Silver Lake Gallery – Fall 2021



Timothy Burke @ Juniper Tree, Chester Cabin (#) @ closing 2021



North Shore by Tracy Fraulich, Cabin #13 (formally, Corder)

2022 Silver Lake SLHOA Events

The Board of Directors sincerely thanks all hosts and attendees of the SLHOA social events for their generous donations of food, beverages and dollars that offset the cost of financing these events. Your continuing support helps to maintain our expenses at the lowest possible level.

Next SLHOA membership meeting

Sunday, July 3, 2022, 4:00 p.m.

SOCIAL: 5:00 p.m. at Caretaker's Cabin, Host: Sally and Jim Timperley, Cabin #8

Labor day SLHOA membership meeting

Sunday, September 4, 2022, 4:00 p.m.

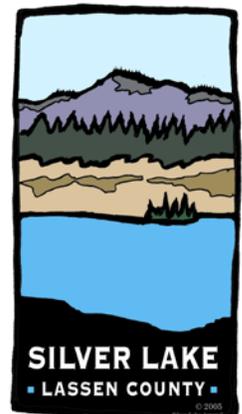
SOCIAL: 5:00 p.m. at Caretaker's Cabin, Host: TBD

Silver Wear –

Silver Lake apparel aka “Silver Wear” has been a favorite of Silver Lake fans. Our current vendor retired, but we’re getting set up with a new one.

We should be up and running for new orders in the Spring through the SLHOA website at: www.SilverLakeLassenCounty.com

Kim Andrews



Gift Idea: Wildland Firefighter Foundation Blanket

Beautiful throw blanket by Pendleton that honors all the firefighters who worked on our wildland fires in 2021. A portion of sales from this wool blanket helps to support the Wildland Firefighter Foundation, in aid of injured firefighters and their families.

https://www.pendleton-usa.com/product/wildland-heroes-firefighters-blanket/77049.html?dwvar_77049_color=6552&cgid=H171#start=1&cgid=H171



Your SLHOA

SLHOA Website Access

If you have not already accessed the Silver Lake website as a member of the SLHOA, you may request access. Go to the website and create a login and password. The system will notify Kim Andrews, who can approve your access to the site.

Note that website has a PayPal button should you wish to pay your SLHOA dues online. There is a modest processing fee for this service.

Use the "Contact Us" button on the website to contact Kim with any access questions.

SLHOA Board of Directors

Barb Andrews, Cabin #17, President, bandrews@calacademy.org
Erik Foraker, Cabin #23, Outgoing Treasurer, eforaker@mindspring.com
Pete Bogardus, Cabin #42, Incoming Treasurer, bogardus61@comcast.net
Sally Jeskey Timperley, Cabin #8, Secretary, timpersj@charter.net
Tara Bedney, Cabin #50, bedneys@yahoo.com
Rob Yelland, Cabin #43, ryelland@gmail.com
Stephanie DeGraff Hunt, Cabin #52, sdegraffhunt@gmail.com
Hap Heiberg, Cabin #15, hapheiberg@gmail.com
Laurel Moulton, Cabin #20, lamoulto@yahoo.com
Alan Siemer, Cabin #30, Ex-Officio President, aesiemer@gmail.com

Caretaker

Gene Stewart, Cabin #57, Caretaker, gene4261@yahoo.com

Newsletter – Call for Content!

Please submit any contributions for upcoming newsletters to Ian Foraker via email (iforaker@gmail.com)

Examples of newsletter content include:

- Community: New family members, births, passings, family updates
- Culture: Photographs, artwork, poems, stories, history, geography, ecology, etc. related to the lake

In addition, please share your feedback to help us improve the newsletter:

<https://forms.gle/eL6aaYzUnohUz7MD6>.



Silver Lake Cliff Aspen, October 2021