



Annual Meeting: July 17, 2010

The Annual Meeting of the Saddle Ridge Property Owner's Association (SRPOA) will be held at the Methodist Church in Walland on Saturday, July 17, 2010. Breakfast will begin at 9:30 AM with the meeting following at 10 AM. The Methodist Church is directly next to the Walland School where we had the meeting last year.



There will be more details coming on the breakfast pot luck. If you miss the breakfast, you will be sorry.

Service on the Board of Directors of the SRPOA is an excellent way to ensure our community continues to be the remarkably beautiful place that attracted us all in the first place. It is also a great way to meet your neighbors and get to know Saddle Ridge better.

Board terms last three years and members are eligible to serve up to two consecutive terms. Those members appointed to fill unexpired terms remain eligible for election to two full terms. At the 2010 Annual Meeting, property owners will elect three persons to serve on the nine-member board of the SRPOA.

Are you interested in getting more involved in Saddle Ridge? Would you like to give a little time to keep Saddle Ridge the special place it is? Do you know of someone who might be interested in serving? If so, please contact a member of the nominating committee (Jim Tedford—chair, Nancy Cain, Rob Carroll, Barbara Clinansmith or Martha Frink).

Editor's Musings - by Melba Harmon

You have probably noticed that the Rambler has been scarce this past year. I have been creating the Rambler for 4 years now and needed a break. I have become involved with hiking, volunteer work and visiting my grandbabies in Oregon. It is amazing how your time fills up after retirement. I would love to turn the Rambler over to another SR resident but have not had any takers so far. Hopefully some of the new residents will have an interest in publishing the Rambler. Any help would be appreciated.

I will be sending out an Internet on-line invitation (E-Vite) for the annual meeting and will be asking everyone to bring a breakfast-style covered dish to share. Sadly I have a prior commitment in Nashville that weekend and will not be able to attend.



President's Message

We are coming to the close of another fiscal year, and my third year as President. I am sorry to say that one of our principal goals remains undone. That is, the rewrite of the CC&R's. Due to the difficulty anticipated in gaining approval of a rewrite—70% of all property owners must vote to approve—we are developing a different plan.

Clearly the CC&R's are dated and consequently sometimes out of sync with life in 2010. In other cases they are ambiguous or are too generally stated to have meaning. In other words, the validity of our current CC&R's is questionable. For example, who doesn't have a television? Up here watching television requires an antenna. Antennas are disallowed by our current CC&R's! A valid and appropriate set of CC&R's are vitally important to us all—the CC&R are our protection, our guarantee that our investment of our money and our quality of life will always remain consistent with what we were promised when we decided that Saddle Ridge was the place to spend a portion of our lifetime. To address this the Board is working on developing a current interpretation that will bring us current and will attempt to remove ambiguity. The Board hopes that this will be a helpful intermediate step in the process of rewriting the CC&R's. Any and all comments are welcome.

I hope to see many of you at our Annual Meeting. We will be electing three Board members, as always, and would like as many property owners as possible to participate in the nominating and voting process. In addition, I will be stepping down as President and a new President will be voted on by the new Board immediately following the Annual meeting. During my three years I have appreciated everyone's support and thank you all.

Jim Harmon

Financial Report

As of May 2010, we have a balance of \$13,100 in the SRPOA Checking Account, and \$26,900 in a CD. Based upon monthly payment history, I would expect to pay out approximately \$6,000 for June expense. I expect this will leave a year end balance of near \$7,000 at the end of our current fiscal year (June 30)

Expected revenue for the year did not come in as high as expected, as a number of lot/home owners have yet to pay their 2009/2010 dues. This may be an indication of the nature of the current economy. Delinquent owners will be sent a letter, along with their next dues statement, asking for verification of payment, or payment of their new dues (2010/11) plus outstanding by the end of September. If dues are delinquent beyond that period of time, the SRPOA will initial lien proceedings.

This past year, SRPOA has filed 3 liens against certain delinquent dues payers.

A full income and revenue statement will be available at our yearly business meeting.

Next year's bill for SRPOA will be mailed, or put into the Community Mail Box by June 15.



The History of Saddle Ridge – Part III by Nancy Cain

After the struggles of the mid-1980's, the problems of the Saddle Ridge Property Owners' Association during the latter years of that decade seem almost trivial. Minutes of meetings during that time detail concerns which seem all too familiar to residents today. The tractor which had been purchased didn't work very often and consumed much money for repairs; the gate at the entrance, newly installed, didn't work quite right; attendance at board meetings and annual meetings was spotty.

At the June 12, 1988, meeting, Martin Graham (now deceased but the builder of the log house where Bob Hood now resides) was elected president. The board was expanded to 14 members and only one person on the entire board did not attend that meeting – apparently a record for attendance up to that time. They were Steve Myers (outgoing president), Annie Lois Murphy, Glenn Martin, Dotti Graham, Juanita Davis, Richard Evey, Allen Jordan, Jim Hartup, Helen Rayburn, Don Martin, Gary Neibert, Joe Elder and Allan Hoke. Statistics presented that year showed DCA Inc. owned 123 lots, Jack Davis 2, the Chilhowee Baptist Association 1, and 99 were individually owned.

In April 1989 the board changed again with the election of Christa Hoffman and Beverly Carrigan to the board. Don Martin became president. Heavy rains on September 14 and 15 of that year made Water's End almost impassable. The board struggled to find the funds to make repairs.

Flooding damage again consumed directors after heavy rains March 16 and 17 of 1990. The dam apparently overflowed and water flooded the gate opener box. That year leadership changed again with Dotti Graham president, Jean Daugherty, Ray Kerr, Bo Key, John King, Sharon Lawson and Milton Meacham were added to the board. Board minutes of March 20 include one of the most puzzling incidents in all of Saddle Ridge's history. They read: "The board members heard a complaint from two residents and property owners concerning one resident's large dogs damaging rubber guard bumpers by their bites. The board respectfully asks the owners of these dogs to submit a solution to this problem in a timely manner to Mr. (Jim) Hartup (who lived in the Frink house)." In 1990 there were seven fulltime residents of Saddle Ridge, two part-time residents.

For the next few years, officers remained the same, issues before the board remained the same – road equipment, roads, weather-related problems. Then came March 1993 – referred to as the Blizzard of '93. Most of the following is not included in board minutes; the incidents just exist in memories.

There was plenty of warning from the weather experts – heavy snow high winds. But residents of Saddle Ridge – and elsewhere in East Tennessee – had heard it before. People stocked up on supplies, of course; they loaded their bathtubs with water; they were ready. Just how much snow fell in Saddle Ridge is debatable. However, one person finally reaching East Miller's Cove Road's intersection with Saddle Ridge's entrance road walked through thigh-deep snow to reach the gate – over seven days after the snowfall.

Stories:

Beth and Larry Dicus (they built the house where Jim and Melba Harmon now live): Larry was away on Air National Guard business in southern California. On Friday, the snow began, accompanied by high winds. Lines were down, poles toppled. Power went out; then the telephone. Friends calling to check on Beth heard only ringing with no indication that the telephone was out; they figured she had left ahead of

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the storm.

Beth's mother, Tootsie Milligan, thought no such thing. She knew her daughter was alone at the top of a major Saddle Ridge hill with only a stone fireplace for warmth. She called the sheriff's department; she called the Townsend police. All were busy with emergency calls and knew they couldn't reach Saddle Ridge. Tootsie then began scouring the telephone book. She called every telephone number with a Walland or Townsend prefix. Most were also out of order; when she spoke with someone, she learned they too were stranded. Larry was also calling (between rounds of golf played in 70 degree warmth), without success.

Beth slept in front of that stone fireplace which provided very little heat. Occasionally she went to her car to listen to the radio, mainly to learn how long the storm would last. First on Friday night, then Saturday, then Sunday and after it stopped snowing, on Monday. What she learned was not encouraging. There were emergencies throughout the county; many people were stranded, including a church group staying in a lodge off East Miller's Cove Road.

Each day she loaded 34 large logs into the fireplace; the interior temperature of the house slowly cooled; eventually it stood at 38 degrees.

Beverly and Danny Carrigan (they lived in a small cottage on property where Alex and Alene Wyss and their family now reside): The two stayed in their little home without electricity, water or telephone (when the electricity goes out of course the water pump quits too) for several days.

They became concerned about Dotti and Martin Graham (Martin had suffered several heart attacks in the past); they decided to go visit. Beverly tucked her little dog inside her heavy winter clothing and they set out on foot. Walking was much more difficult than they had imagined. The snow was waist high in places and thick with moisture. Each step was an effort – and they were on level ground. As they neared the turn onto Water's End and the hillier terrain, they realized they simply could not make it to the Graham's house.

Juanita and Jack had moved from the gate-side A-frame house where they had lived part-time while still maintaining a house in Maryville. The A-frame was a life-saver, literally, Beverly says. They broke into the house, collected all the blankets and other warmth-giving items they could find and went to sleep in the upstairs bed.

The next day they made it to the Grahams. There was plenty of food (and liquor) at the Grahams – but no water, no power, no telephone. Problems with plumbing and such indelicate matters are difficult with two, but become magnified with four. The four ate from the loaded freezer, cooking on a grill which they moved under a protecting eave. The house was heated with a wood stove, which delivered adequate warmth.

The two couples discovered, though, that snow melts into water at a ratio of eight to one. Eight gallons of snow creates only one gallon of water. The rest of the time they were together was spent mainly in hauling snow, trying to get snow to melt, using the water, hauling snow, etc.

Jack and Juanita Davis (they had built and were living in the smaller house down from their larger

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house on the hill on Oakwood). At first they thought they were very well supplied; they had a roaring fire in their fireplace – but little heat. As the days went by, their wood supply dwindled, then disappeared up the chimney. Jack, an outdoorsman accustomed to dealing with such problems, looked around: the deck was made of wood. He started dismantling the deck and burning the pieces.

Beth Dicus: Larry was informed by other members of the Air National Guard that his wife was probably stranded in Saddle Ridge; other wives were stranded in town, though they had electricity and telephone service. One of the National Guard's duties is to provide aid in times of disaster. What better use of its resources than to rescue stranded residents in an isolated community? And those stranded church members further out.

The Air National Guard and the Army National Guard were cooperating during this emergency. A half-track (front wheels, back treads like a bulldozer) belonging to the Army National Guard made its way toward Saddle Ridge. Following its tracks was a large four-wheel-drive pickup truck. With some difficulty the half-track vehicle made its way up Dogwood Trail (the pickup remained at the top of the hill at the intersection of Grouse Top and Water's End).

It was now Monday afternoon. Beth heard a knock at her door. When she opened the door there was an Air National Guardsman, a friend. "Did they drop you from a helicopter," she remembers asking him.

Beth had two dogs (she left the cats) which she loaded into half-track. But one of the dogs became upset when he saw the winter-outfitted Guardsmen. He jumped from the half-track right past Gobbler's Ridge and ran back home. Beth declared she could not leave without her dog. The half-track unloaded the remaining occupants and turned around to rescue the dog – again. The others hiked up the Water's End hill to the waiting pickup. The half-track found the dog, loaded him again in the vehicle, started for the others who were waiting.

Only problem now was that even the half-track could not make it up the big hill at the intersection of Grouse Top and Water's End. But the Saddle Ridge residents remembered a half-overgrown road which was an extension of Gobbler's Ridge. The half-track was able to negotiate the narrow track and made it out to East Miller's Cove. They went on to rescue the church group.

The Grahams and Carrigans: When the Guardsmen reached the Graham residence, Beverly and Danny opted for rescue. Beverly once again tucked her dog inside her clothing and climbed into the pickup. The Grahams were enjoying themselves; they still had to finish up the food in the freezer (which was defrosting because of the lack of electricity); they had plenty of wood, a way to cook their food; snow to melt for water. They chose to stay.

Jack and Juanita: Perry Birchfield had built several homes in Saddle Ridge, including the Davis home; another of his projects was currently under construction. He became concerned about the Davises. He and Ernie Proffitt (who worked with Perry and is an expert in stonework) drove as far as they could come in Perry's large pickup. They then walked to the barn where horses were housed; Ernie and Perry saddled the animals and rode up to the Davis house. With them they carried a large supply of food.

The couple was thrilled to see them. They promised to return as soon as a vehicle could make it up the large, long hill. Several days later they were rescued.

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Aftermath: It took almost 14 days for some power to be restored to Saddle Ridge. Crews from Georgia, Arkansas, Kentucky and other areas less severely hit by the snowstorm joined with local telephone and utility crews in working almost non-stop to replace poles, restring wires. They often had to cut their way through downed trees across the roadways.

At a called meeting of the board of directors on April 3, directors voted to hire four to six workers for 30 days to repair damage to roads, creeks and ditches. Hundreds of trees had fallen.

At the annual meeting June 26, 1993, Treasurer Juanita Davis reported that \$4,552.79 had been expended, most of it to clear trees and regrade the roadways. Directors and homeowners termed the efforts successful. But nature had not finished with Saddle Ridge.

Next: The road from East Millers Cove disappears in floodwaters

The Unwanted Visitor—by Sarah Williams

Ahh, the joys of living with nature. Everyday my husband and I wake up and appreciate all that Saddle Ridge has to offer from being immersed in nature and all its beauty to the wonderful people and their willingness to be there when you need a hand.

A perfect example is what occurred at our house just the other night. I was at home alone working in the yard and was checking the vent wells around the house because the baby toads jump down into them and can't get back out. I had rescued one and was checking the next vent well. I stooped over ready to stick my hand in and there was Mr. Copperhead. He had apparently discovered the baby toad buffet and thought he would belly up (pun intended).

I called Tim at work and we decided to cover the vent well with a piece of plywood with a rock on top and he would take care of it the next day. We also discussed calling the "Saddle Ridge Snake Wrangler" aka Alex Wyss. I called Alex and although he and his family were about to sit down to dinner, after he had already worked all day, he agreed to come by after they ate.

When he and his family arrived at our house you could hear the OK Corral gun fight music playing in the background and I imagined him stepping from his truck with six shooters on his hips. I now believe the music was just the gravel under his tires and instead of six shooters he arrived on scene (that's firefighter talk) with his trusted sidekicks, Alane, Rowan and Wren. They were armed with snake tongs and a Snake Containment Unit "SCU" (garbage can). With Rowan's assistance Alex lugged his equipment to the vent well and arranged his sidekicks and the pesky observer, yea that is me, well out of harms way. He bravely approached the coiled beast and with Alane cheering him on lowered the tongs into the lair. Seconds later he had captured Mr. Copperhead, removed him from the vent well and lowered him gently into the "SCU". He patiently showed it to Alane, me and the kids, not allowing us to get too close, and let me take pictures.

I would also like to add the Wyss family showed up with smiles and hugs even though I had changed their evening plans. This is just one of many great examples of neighbors being more than neighbors and an example of the people who choose Saddle Ridge as their home.



What's Up in Saddle Ridge?

- **Jim and Ann Tedford's** new home on Waters End is complete and they are ready to move in.
- **Eddie and Lynn Hopps** are building just off Waters End on Turkey Roost. Completion should be in early fall.
- **Debra James and Frank Aldridge** are very near completion of their new home on Gobbler Ridge.
- **Norman Strand's** home on Elk Point is complete but still waiting for Norman to move in.
- **Steve and Sue Foster** will be building on Kelans Trail (just off Journeys End) in the near future.
- **David and Mary Glarner** will be building on Waters End between Gobblers Roost and Dogwood Trail.
- **Ken and Julie Morgan** are the new owners of the cabin on Waters End opposite the Pearson's property.
- **Elizabeth Domingue & Lorraine Smith** have purchased Kerry and Julia Blackwood's house.
- **Charlyse Kerr** is back home in SR recuperating after surgery in Florida.

Welcome to the new residents and soon to be residents and apologies to anyone we missed.



Wild Hogs

Update on the wild hogs. Although many of our residents continue to report sightings, we have had little success in trapping and removing them. Please let someone on the Board know if you think you know where they can be located.

Firewise

Have you noticed all of the lush new plant growth that is surrounding your home lately? Firemen call that fuel! As the summer develops and moves to fall, that vegetation will dry out and could threaten your home if a wildfire occurs. Firewise guidance tell us that a 50 foot open area around structures is recommended for protection. Contact Tim Williams or any Board member if you have questions.

Problems at The Duck Inn

The good news: We have five remaining young Canada geese that are being cared for by their parents. The beavers are busy building dams. The wood ducks raised babies and the great blue heron is still fishing here.

The bad news: We had a very long and cold winter and the lake was frozen solid for a long time allowing predators to walk freely on the ice. Since the domestic geese could not fly, they didn't have a chance. Nature can be brutal at times. We lost Oscar the white goose and Frank the mallard. The \$12 dollars remaining in the feeding fund was donated to the Appalachian Bear Rescue Center in Townsend.



Board Members

Jim Harmon, President	(983-7459)	Barb Clinansmith	(981-3990)
Bob Spista, Vice President	(984-0502)	Michael Kolarik	(982-1784)
Bill Harriman, Treasurer	(681-3437)	Jim Tedford	(670-1304)
Judy Pearson, Secretary	(982-5729)	Sarah Williams	(982-5290)
		Alex Wyss	(977-1533)

Committee Chairs

Architectural Review Committee	- Phil Spampinato (675-7997) rhdt@tds.net
Beautification Committee	- Martha Frink (984-4873) marthafrink@peoplepc.com
CC&R Task Force	- Melba Harmon (983-7459) melba.harmon@gmail.com
Communications Committee	- Jim Tedford (670-1304) jtedford@alphadogmktg.com
Events Committee	- Barb Clinansmith (981-3990) bclinansmith@juno.com
Firewise Committee	- Tim & Sarah Williams (982-5290) timsbabe1@msn.com
Road Committee	- Bob Hood (681-7623) winterhawk6210@yahoo.com

Resident Services

The Rambler lists those services that are offered by Saddle Ridge homeowners. Please submit a brief description of services that you have to offer such as electrical, handyman, etc. to Melba Harmon at melba.harmon@gmail.com. Notices are subject to space limitations. There is no charge to SR property/homeowners.

- Electrical, Plumbing & Heating & A/C work. Licensed and insured. Contact Darin Suggs at 804-6449.
- General electrical work. Contact Bob Hood at 681-7623.
- The Barn Event Center of the Smokies is a full-service event center for parties, business meetings, weddings, etc. Offsite catering is offered as well. Contact Richard or Debbie Way at 448-9378 or www.barneventcenterofthesmokies.com.

