
The Ridge Rambler



Happy Holidays!



Holiday Lighting of the Barn

A group of Saddle Ridgers spent most of the morning on Monday, December 3, decorating the barn for

the holidays. We've upgraded the lights this year to all LED - much brighter, more energy efficient, and best of all, much easier to install. Thank you to all who came out to make the community festive. And thank you to Connie Evans and the Events committee for coordinating the event and refreshments.



Board Announcements

Roadside mowing - Several residents have asked about the schedule for mowing the roadsides. The roadsides were not mowed last year so some areas are seeing more woody growth. We usually mow in late Fall to have the least impact on wildflowers and pollinators. The mower is currently out of commission. We are awaiting cost information on repair parts from the manufacturer and will make a repair/replace decision when that information comes back. In the meantime, if you have any places along the roads that are a safety hazard, let us know and we'll get a crew of volunteers with chainsaws and clippers out there.

Barn area projects - We need to run power to the trash barn for lighting. We're also going to build a ramp up to the door of the trash barn to make it easier to load and unload. We're getting an estimate for pouring a concrete floor in the barn area to store the new chipper which is on order through the Firewise program.

Unwanted visitors: The Board approved the purchase of multiple security cameras to put up near the gate and in a few known poacher entry points. This is in response to a couple of incidents this Fall involving trespassers. On Sept 22 a pickup truck was parked backed in off Saddle Ridge Road. It was reported to Blount County Sheriff's Office (suspected it was ginseng poachers). On Sept 25, Margaret Saunders encountered two ginseng poachers walking up Elks Point. On Sept 27, two young men, intoxicated, pushed the SR gate open and drove into SR in the middle of the night. They crashed their car in a ditch and were arrested. It's not clear what they were doing in SR but most likely not related to the poachers observed in SR. The Board decided that due to these incidents it would be beneficial to have strategically located security cameras.

Legal Task Force - On the advice of our lawyer, we have filed for a declaratory judgment stating that SRPOA is the Developer of Saddle Ridge.

Trash barn: Trash and recycling is picked up on Monday morning. Afterwards it is cleaned by the Ormandys. Please do not deposit trash in the barn from 7 am - 3 pm on Mondays so the Ormandys will have time to clean it and the barn floor will dry before things start accumulating.

Treasurer's Report

Currently, our inflows and outflows are running at or near budget. Some members still have not paid their annual assessments. We send regular reminders for them to please pay the amount owed.

The Board provides financial updates via email to all members four times a year, including the annual report that is distributed at the Annual Meeting. These updates are designed to keep members better informed about the financial position of our Association. If you have any questions or aren't receiving these updates, please contact the Board at this address: saddleridgepoa@gmail.com.

Firewise Day / Fall Cleanup

A large group of Saddle Ridge residents gathered on October 13 to get to work for Firewise Day and the Fall Cleanup - picking up litter along East Millers Cover Road, cleaning the barn area, conducting Firewise home inspections, cleaning flower beds, and more. The new backpack blower and trimmers purchased with Firewise funds came in very handy. This equipment is available to all Saddle Ridge property owners. If you need help with clearing leaves and other debris from your house, let someone on the Board know. We have also ordered a community chipper.

Update on Firewise Time and Expense Investment

Thank you to everyone who has reported their Firewise activities. So far this year Saddle Ridge property owners have reported 1083 hours of Firewise activities meaning our community has gone above and beyond the required commitment to remain Firewise certified.

The monthly survey gives you the opportunity to report the time and money you spend on Firewise activities [[link to survey](#)]. The Firewise information sheet Time and Expense Investment Examples [[link to sheet](#)] gives a partial list of activities to report.



Saddle Ridge Fall Picnic

Folks gathered for the Annual Fall Picnic at the Saddle Ridge barn on September 30.





New Road Signs Installed

The wooden road signs in Saddle Ridge were replaced with metal road signs as part of our Firewise efforts. Purchase and installation were covered by a Firewise grant. We now also have Exit signs, reducing the chances that someone may get lost in Saddle Ridge!

A big thank you to the Saddle Ridge Firewise - Sign Committee: Betsy Smith, Debra James, and Margaret Saunders. They spent a lot of hours identifying and coordinating the replacement of all our SR signs with fire-resistant signs. Special thanks to Betsy Smith for spearheading the effort and getting a Firewise grant to pay for the purchase and installation of the signs. The signs look great. That was no small task! Thank you for all your efforts.





Foothills Parkway 'Missing Link' Opens



The Foothills Parkway from Walland to Wears Valley officially opened on Saturday, November 10, 2018. The views from the parkway are stunning along some stretches.

The view from the pullout behind Saddle Ridge.

Welcome to Saddle Ridge

New property owners:

Scott McPherson - 2003 Dogwood Trail

John and Patricia Teal - 2015 Skytop

SR Facebook Group

The Saddle Ridge members [Facebook group page](#) continues to be a great source for information within our community. We regularly post messages, alerts, concerns, and needs to this page. Living in this rural community, we don't often see each other, especially during the winter months, so the Facebook page is a way to communicate timely news such as power outages, fire alerts, wildlife sightings, events coming up, lost pets, or even suspicious traffic.

Contact Sue DuBois sodubois@gmail.com, to be added to the group. Please remember, this page is strictly for people who own property in Saddle Ridge.

Contact your SRPOA Board:

Email: saddleridgepoa@gmail.com

Board members and committee chairs are listed below and also on the [Saddle Ridge website](http://www.saddleridgepoa.com) - www.saddleridgepoa.com

President: Steve Foster - 859-494-7299

Vice President: Janet Kolarik - 865-805-0348

Treasurer: Smitty (G. Robert Smith, Jr.) - 615-631-5836

Secretary: Judy Pearson - 865-982-5729

Board Members:

Alane Wyss - 865-977-1533

Connie Evans - 865-304-2267

Sue DuBois - 865-307-2532

Tom Braun - 225-281-3889

Ken LaValley - 865-970-6410

Get Involved

Join one of our Saddle Ridge POA committees and contribute to the community. There are five standing committees: Architecture, Communications, Environment, Events/Hospitality, and Road.

Check out the [Charter](#) for each of the five SRPOA standing committees or contact the Committee Chair:

Architecture - Ken LaValley

Road - Tom Braun

Communications - Sue DuBois

Environment - Alane Wyss

Events/Hospitality - Connie Evans

[Saddle Ridge's Facebook](#) page is a great place to read and share up-to-the-minute news of the community. If you are not already a member, contact Sue DuBois, sodubois@gmail.com, to join the private Facebook group.



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