



OAK LEAVES

THE OAK SHORES
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
WWW.OAKSHORES.US

March 2009



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President's Message

by Bob Lever

You may or may not know -----



Fire Department

When Shayla and I decided to buy a home in Oaks Shores, we knew we were buying into a self-governing private community and that we had a responsibility to pay attention to how our Association was managed. One thing we didn't take into consideration was whether or to what extent the community was equipped to handle an unexpected disaster such as a forest or structural fire, an earthquake, or a medical emergency. I knew that the Association had a volunteer fire department, but it wasn't until last week, when I went with some other Board members to a meeting describing our community disaster plan, did I learn the scope of the Department's operation and just how well-trained and prepared our

volunteers are. We met on Saturday, Feb 7, at OSCA's maintenance building where our fire station, Company #34, is housed. The meeting was conducted by Chris Kirk who educated us on the Disaster Operating Guide, our fire-fighting equipment, and the emergency plan of action during a disaster. The Board was extremely impressed with the professional level of the Department's volunteers. Our community is very fortunate to have such a dedicated and experienced fire department as well as some of the very best fire-fighting equipment. San Luis Obispo County recognizes Company #34 as a very important part of its disaster team. I encourage our members to visit Company #34 and let one of our wonderful volunteers show you around. We are very appreciative to have the following fire department volunteers - Chris & Stephanie Kirk, Tim Bean, Peggy Johnson, Bandy & Rosalie Smith, Marcus Dunlap, Brandon Ortiz, Josh Marmolejo, Vince Mack, and Tamara Horton.

Board Meeting Procedures

Several Members have come to me wanting clarification about Board meeting procedure and protocol regarding Members' expressing their opinions or asking questions. Although the Board will at times relax procedures, as a rule they are adhered to. As we know, OSCA Members are invited to attend Board meetings and observe their proceedings. The agenda for each meeting is prepared by the manager. The Board is provided the agenda and appropriate back-up material about a week in advance of the meeting so it is prepared to address the issues in a timely manner. The last item on the agenda always is "Member Comments". Members who wish to make an announcement, ask a question, or comment on a community-related issue fill out a comment sheet either before or during the meeting. These comments are then handed to the Board President. During the "Member Comment" scheduled time, each Member's comments are heard in the order received. In some instances the Board responds right there and then, but in most cases it will listen to the Member and follow-up at a later time in writing or verbally to the individual Member, at a future Board meeting, or both - - whatever is appropriate. The times where members interact with the Board in give-and-take discussions are at Membership and Town Hall meetings.

New Committee

The Board has formed a new committee (Beautification Committee) to work on the appearance and entry system at the Oak Shores front entrance gate. Committee members will be working on a new entrance design and reviewing the security system. They are requesting community involvement in this project. If you have any suggestions or can offer volunteer help, please let the management office know.

Stay dry.



General Manager's Report

By Annette Louder



Happy 2009 to everyone!! Although this is the quiet time of year at the lake, we've been very busy completing projects that are difficult to accomplish during the summer months. As you may already know, we received very little rainfall in November and December. As of the middle of February we have received 5.5 inches of rain with more expected this month. The lake level is currently at 28% and expected to rise if we do receive the amount of rainfall that is forecasted. Some of the recent happenings at Oak Shores are summarized below:

FINANCIAL NEWS

Porter & Company was retained to complete the 2008 audit. The audit has been completed and we expect to receive the draft report this month. The final audit report will be distributed to the Board for approval at the March 21st Board meeting. The report summary will then be mailed to all owners in accordance with Civil Code.

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AD-HOC BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

At the January Board of Directors meeting, the Board appointed a new *Ad-Hoc Beautification Committee*. The primary role of the committee is to handle the *Gate-Enhancement* and *Mailbox Clean-Up* Projects. You will hear more about these projects in the near future. John Watkins is serving as chair of the new committee. If you are interested in joining this committee, please contact the office at 805-472-2233.

NEW MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

I am very pleased to announce the addition of our newest employee, Mike Colombo, as our new full time Maintenance Supervisor. Mike is a great addition to the team who brings many years of experience and new ideas to Oak Shores. Mike has been busy familiarizing himself with the community and reviewing the common areas/amenities to identify areas that require attention, as well as several areas to consider for improvement. See Mike's profile in this Oak leaves edition for a list of many of the projects underway or planned for the near future.

DISASTER PLAN

We have been working with Station 34 on updating the *Oak Shores Emergency Disaster Plan* and have set up a *Major Incident Disaster Plan Kit* at the Association office that mirrors the kit at Station 34. The Board of Directors recently participated in a meeting with Chris Kirk from Station 34 to review the Disaster Plan in detail. Additionally, I am currently working with both department supervisors to assemble Staff Kits to include in the major incident kit, which will provide step-by-step instructions to employees on communication, assignments, and securing the safety and security of people and property in the event of a disaster.

POOL OPENING

We expect the pool to open for the season in early April, weather permitting.

WEED ABATEMENT REMINDER

As a reminder, all members are required to have the weeds on their lots cut by June 10th. A list of weed cutters providing this service will be included in the next newsletter. If you would like to be added to the list of providers of this service, please contact the office at 805-472-2233.

I look forward to seeing all of you during the upcoming season!!!



Getting to Know Your Staff—Mike Colombo

By Janice Gillenwater and Nancy Feltman



Sometimes it's the little things that get done that make a big difference. Take notice of some of the improvements around Oak Shores being implemented by our new full-time Supervisor of Maintenance, Mike Colombo, who started on December 8, 2008. He describes himself as proactive and wants you to see what has been done before a maintenance problem becomes an issue. He likes organizing and accomplishing maintenance tasks and has, along with his staff of two, J.J. and Dale, accomplished quite a lot in a short period of time (ex: repair of maintenance vehicles; new lighting at gate kiosk/pond area and clubhouse BBQ area; clubhouse kitchen repairs; dock repairs; repair of erosion by drain in main parking lot).

Mike is a quiet person who doesn't seem to be daunted by the many jobs needed to be done around our almost forty year-old community. He meets with our General Manager, Annette, on a regular basis to review job orders for specific areas, prioritize them according to budget and timelines, and discuss ideas and goals for the community that he hopes to accomplish. Mike has done a thorough review of the community and identified numerous tasks. Currently, he has an ambitious list of 37 items that are "in the pipeline" covering the Gatehouse area, Campgrounds, Clubhouse, Pool, Marina/Docks, and Miniature Golf Park.

Here are a few examples from his current list.

Marina/Docks are the first priority – As of this interview, staff are working on the docks. One dock is completely repaired and the other two are getting a facelift – new flooring; replacement of a main support beam. A broken swim dock in Marina has been removed and will be replaced with new one. He looks forward to fixing up the Maintenance Boats to make them look and function better.

Gatehouse Area is also a high priority with a number of items - basic clean-up of dead trees and branches; re-landscape around kiosk and pond with improved pathway and picnic table; new fence around grass area; repaint flagpole; lighting around pond; replace logs in parking area; re-do electrical system at gatehouse; and a new sensor light. Mike has already begun working with the newly-formed Oak Shores Beautification Committee to identify affordable tasks and projects to create a more attractive and functional Oak Shores entrance area for residents, guests and staff.

Campgrounds has a list of 27 items including finishing painting the restrooms, fixing up the playground equipment; re-doing the picnic tables; adding signage for rules and basic clean-up to make the Campgrounds look nicer.

Miniature Golf Park - Plans include general clean up and repairs; painting, removal of tree stumps, replacing signs and fixing the stairs and picnic table; adding more trash containers including a pet waste can.

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Getting to Know Your Staff—Vince Mack

By Janice Gillenwater and Nancy Feltman



Our new full-time Code Enforcement staff person, Vince Mack, started working for Oak Shores in October of 2008 replacing Jim Vander Dussen. Vince recently became a permanent resident of Oak Shores in order to be closer to his job. His family moved from Orange County to Heritage Ranch where he grew up. Besides his parents, Vince has one brother and two sisters.

What he likes most about his job is driving around meeting new people and getting to know our community. His duties include patrolling our community and relieving at the gate when needed.

Vince drives every street daily looking for code violations and suspicious activity. He also checks on homes for any broken water pipes, leaks, open doors, windows, and also regularly checks on the clubhouse and marina. He often posts himself at random places to slow drivers down, especially at the miniature golf course. So make sure you obey the speed limit and stop at all stop signs!

The job has its ups and downs, but he knows it's good experience for him to pursue his goals of becoming either a firefighter or police officer. He's not sure exactly which career to pursue, so he is currently taking Cal Fire classes at Alan Hancock college which will benefit him in either career. He is also in the process of trying to join the Volunteer Branch of the State Military Reserve, which responds to disasters and requires drills once a month at Camp Roberts.

Vince loves to volunteer and has come up with an idea to form a Youth Club in our community for kids 6-18 years old. He would like to see more organized activities for the kids such as outdoor sports and games, opportunities for the kids to get together to get to know each other and have fun doing things, like play video games, watching movies, play musical instruments. Vince plays many musical instruments including the drums and trombone. He would also like to encourage the kids to put on fundraisers such as car washes to purchase t-shirts for the Youth Group. He has many interesting ideas and has solicited suggestions and ideas from the Recreation Committee.

Vince loves to drive and go on road trips. He also loves to play baseball, hang out with his friends and volunteer to help people. He is a mature young man with goals and ambitions. He is friendly, confident, responsible and a great addition to our community. Welcome Vince!

Don't Move a Mussel!

An invasion of Quagga Mussels could result in an environmental, economic, and recreational disaster at Nacimiento Lake. They can cause a shift in native species and disrupt the ecological balance of the entire lake. Mussels clog water pipes and ruin boat motors. Transferring a boat from infested water can spread the mussels. Arriving from Europe in the 1980s the mussels have spread west and have now reached California.

YOU CAN STOP THEM FROM INVADING NACIMIENTO LAKE!

Learn how at www.dfg.ca.gov/quaggamussel or call 866-440-9530.



2009 Fireman's Ball

by Chris Kirk

The Oak Shores Community held the 32nd annual Firefighters Ball on Feb. 7th with over 100 people in attendance. The Ball honors the Firefighters from Station 34. Last year's very successful event raised \$2,400. I personally did not think there would be any way to top that this year with the economy as bad as it is. After a sit-down gourmet meal served and prepared by Cindy Peyton and Karen Oliver with their staff of family members and community volunteers, the fund-raising began.

Jim Money, retired Company 34 Firefighter, auctioned off the Oak Shores pin (a small lapel pin with the Oak Shores insignia attached to a fire helmet). Bidding started at \$100 and within minutes the bid reached \$1,000 thanks to the spirited bidding of Danny Wheeler from Wheeler Carpets, Grace Borzini from Oak Shores Realty, and Wayne and Yvonne Rumbles. Jim wasn't finished yet! Most of the homes in our area have stairs, lots and lots of stairs. Carrying patients up and down those stairs can be difficult so Jim wanted to raise enough money to purchase a "Stair Chair" at a cost of \$2,500. Jim started with \$100 increments; and for every \$400 raised, he would contribute another \$100 of his own money. In less than 10 minutes, Jim raised enough money to buy us that chair, and there wasn't a dry eye in the house! A BIG Thank You to the many of you that gave donations in order for our community to have such a wonderful item at our fire department.

Firefighter Josh Marmalejo then auctioned off four framed photographs donated by Tamra Horton and Rusty and Chuck Lipscomb. Fire Chief John Richardson, Fire Engineer Brian Higgenbotham, Dale and Betty Buche and Firefighter Peggy Johnson won these auctions raising another \$600. After expenses, the bar and dinner tickets raised another \$500-\$1,000 generating a grand total of more than \$5,000 for Station 34.

Oak Shores is a great community with members who support their Fire Department like no other, and it is a pleasure to serve them. Thank you all for volunteering to put this event on every year and for all the people that showed their generous financial support.

2008 Fire Station 34 Highlights

by Chris Kirk, Administrator

Your Fire Department responded to 55 incidents within the last year. Twenty-six Medical Aids; 5 Vegetation Fires; 6 Vehicle Accidents; 1 Structure Fire; 7 Public Service Assists; 5 Smoke Checks; and 1 False Alarm. Six of those calls were between 9pm and midnight, while 12 were between midnight and 7am. Here are some of the highlights.

- ♦ During a heavy wind and rain day on January 4th, multiple trees fell on top of the Denny's family home and vehicles creating heavy damage to their structure. The department responded with chain saws and plastic sheets to remove the trees and cover the holes left behind. Our community also stepped in and helped the family recover financially.
- ♦ Boat 34 returned from San Diego in late spring with updated motors.
- ♦ We covered the Wildflower Triathlon at Lake San Antonio and supported some competitors from our own community.
- ♦ We had a Safety Day and brought out the County's Fire Safety House, as well as Monterey County Rangers, San Luis Obispo County Sheriffs, CHP, CHP helicopter and Cal Star.

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Ron "The Bear" McKibben
14th Annual Memorial
Oak Shores' Kids' Fishing Derby
May 9th, 2009

Pre-register Friday evening - May 8 - 6:00pm to 8:00pm

Register Saturday - May 9 - 6:00am - 6:45am

Pre-Fishing Meeting Saturday 6:50am- 7:00am

Launch at 7:00am - **Fish** until 12:00 noon

Weigh in 12:00 noon

Lunch 1:00pm followed by prizes and awards

Entry fee \$2 per child includes lunch Jr. 3-11yrs Sr. 12-17yrs

Big Raffle - WIN Rods, Reels & Tackle - Lots of Good Stuff !

Ticket \$1 Each ~ 6 Tickets \$5

**ALL KIDS MUST WEAR LIFE JACKETS (bring your own) AND HAVE ADULT PRESENT IF BOATING
ADULTS WEAR LIFE JACKETS WHILE MOTOR RUNNING**

Donations for Kids' Fishing Derby can be sent to:

Kids' Fishing Derby, 2727 Turkey Cove, Bradley, CA 93426

2009 Derby Directors Peggy Johnson (805)472-9638 E-mail at pjohnson@tcsn.net
or Chris Kirk (805)472-9272

Community Beautification Committee Forms

By Rusty Lipscomb

This new committee, with John Watkins as chairman, has formed to address many beautification issues in our community. One of their ideas is the addition of photos to decorate the interior walls of the clubhouse. The committee is asking for all our **resident photographers, lake area enthusiasts, and camera buffs**, to contribute to this revolving show. There are several categories that are suggested, including, but not limited to, photos of the lake, trees and flowers around the lake, birds and animals around the lake, kids having fun on the lake, boats, lake sports, the winter lake and summer lake, sunsets, community events, and so much more of this beautiful area we live in. Photos can be black and white or color, and unframed. Size and format of the photos is being considered and more information will be given as the committee determines what is needed. For now, please think about those great shots that you can share! If you have any questions or if you know that you have photos that you are willing to share, please call or email Rusty Lipscomb, 805-472-2717, lilrust@earthlink.net. Thank you and keep your cameras at hand to capture the winter wonders just outside our doors!



The Birds Around Us

By Ginny Becchine

I was leaving Oak Shores and had just passed through the gate when I saw a beautiful male *Sialia Mexicana*. After seeing the male I slowly made the right-hand turn onto Lynch Canyon Drive because I didn't want to miss Mrs. *Sialia Mexicana*. And, as suspected, there she was perched in tree a few yards away from her mate. Everybody loves the Western Bluebird, and I just get a good feeling and smile every time I see one.



While the male and female are both 6-7 inches long and weigh about an ounce, I could tell them apart because of their plumage. In Western Bluebirds the female is a faded version of the male, and the male — well nothing is so strikingly blue as the male Western Bluebird with its back, wings and tail a bright, cobalt blue. In both sexes the belly is grey, and the chest is a beautiful chestnut color. Both have some chestnut color on their backs but only the female possesses a tiny ring of white feathers around each eye.

Bluebirds, like humans, are omnivores, and for bluebirds "what's for dinner" depends on the season. In colder months they eat fruit, particularly mistletoe berries; but they also like cherries, blackberries raspberries and figs. In warm weather, the main course is insects. If you watch a Western Bluebird as it patiently waits on a perch, it will eventually fly down to the ground to capture a grasshopper, cricket or beetle. They also eat spiders, flies, bees, sowbugs, termites, etc. Sometimes the bluebird will exhibit "flycatching behavior" and will catch its prey in midair.

Western Bluebirds are cavity nesters and build their grass nests inside snags, dead and dying trees and wooden fence posts. They can't chisel out their own hole, so they may use an old woodpecker cavity. The number of Western Bluebirds has declined due to loss of habitat and competition for nest sites from other cavity nesters in many areas of the country. California, some other states and even military bases now have nest box programs. Volunteers place nest boxes in suitable habitat and then monitor the sites. It would be great to set up a nest box program at Oak Shores. Nest boxes are easy to make and the Internet is loaded with information on how to build a good bluebird nest box. Anyone interested?

2008 Fire Dept Highlights—Continued from Page 6

- ♦ Monterey County's Indian Fire and Santa Barbara County's Gap Fire were some rather large vegetation fires which depleted resources within our own County. Patrol 34 was sent over to Station 35 for coverage on the other side of the lake for 19 days. The State will pay our company close to \$18,000 for the use of our equipment and personnel.
- ♦ In 2008, \$5,957 was received in donations, over \$2,400 from the last Firefighters Ball. The Oak Shores Board voted to pay the insurance bill on the Patrol for 2009 saving the Company \$2,700. WOW!
- ♦ County Fire came out with a new uniform policy for our firefighters, which ended up costing the company \$1,700. We ordered hats and sweatshirts for the auxiliary and sponsored and organized the annual Auxiliary Appreciation Dinner.
- ♦ We sent some of our firefighters to additional training and bought some new equipment.
- ♦ The 2008 financial report will be posted on the website for all to see (www.oakshores.us)
- ♦ Fire Truck E-34 transported Santa Claus to the annual OSCA Christmas party bringing many smiles to children's faces.
- ♦ The Company has been updating the Oak Shores Disaster Plan and will meet with the Board and OSCA employees in February to bring all up to speed. You can view the plan on the website also.
- ♦ New to the Station 34 team are Auxiliary Members Bob and Shari Sutherland and Jaime Esparza; new firefighters Tamara Horton and Vince Mack. Company 34 is always looking for new firefighters. For information contact Chris Kirk ,472-9272, or any of our firefighters.



Right In Our Own Backyard

By Cathy Anding Wolfe



As a resident of Oak Shores there are times when we may feel isolated, and away from the rest of the world. But that is probably just the reason why we have bought properties in Oak Shores...to be away from the rest of the chaos of the world and RELAX and PLAY. But, being as far away from a town like we are, means you can't just jump in the car and go for some pizza or a great steak or halibut dinner. Until just recently this was half true. Pizza??? Delivery??? Our very own Bee Rock Store has some of the best pizza I've had in years. And, they will deliver to Oak Shores...just give Keith & MaryAnn a call, 472-9677.

But now here is the other half— (drum roll please)...Lake Nacimiento's Resort restaurant has re-OPEN-ed ...yeah...yeah... yeah...and it is really fabulous. Under the new management of the The Dragon Lake Grill, the decision was to bring to our area a fine eatery with an upscale menu, without the high-end prices. It is where we can enjoy not only the ambiance of gorgeous lake views and lake sunsets, but take a lake ride or quick drive to a restaurant for breakfast, lunch or dinner. The restaurant is going through many changes, including painting, new bathrooms, and other new ideas. As of this print, it is open for breakfast & lunch during the week, plus dinners on Friday, Saturday & Sunday. The breakfast menu includes egg dishes like Eggs Benedict, omelets, and huge buttermilk pancakes. For lunch, you can enjoy many delicious sandwiches like Pulled Pork, or a classic Pastrami Rueben Sandwich, and, of course, the popular ½ lb. Dragon Burger. All sandwiches & burgers include soup, or salad, or fries, or pasta salad. There is even a Special Kid's Menu. We went for dinner to celebrate my "half birthday" (that's another story). I was as pleased as I could have ever been. Terrific Starters, such as fish tacos, onion rings, fried calamari, and quesadillas will definitely whet your appetite. All dinners are served with a fresh green salad (try their homemade blue cheese dressing...it's made with wine!) AND a choice of 2 side dishes, i.e. ranch beans, baked potato, grilled squash, garlic mashed potatoes or blue cheese and bacon green beans (they're absolutely delectable). Dinner entrees include a 12oz Rib-Eye Steak (most expensive), 12oz. Center Cut Pork Chop (HUGE), Tortellini (cooked in a brown butter sage sauce), Chicken breast (cooked in tequila lime sauce), Grilled Salmon (with a raw tomato & basil sauce) and the most delicious Grilled Halibut (with a lemon caper sauce). The restaurant serves wines from Paso's own Eagle Castle winery (off of Hwy 46 W), besides domestic & imported beers, as well as micro-brewed draft beer...or bring your own; they only charge an \$8 corking fee. Unfortunately, you missed the special Valentine's Day five-course dinner, which included Lobster & Prime Rib.... BUT they will be having other Specials...!

Other wonderful reasons to be here during this time of year are—the green hills, clear skies, blooming poppies and wildflowers, plus the ever popular hill-laden, blossomed almond trees (February/March, but hurry), and, to take a ½ day joyride that few get to enjoy or even know about. Just travel through Fort Hunter-Liggett Army Base, G-14 N, and stop to explore the historic San Antonio Mission and the Hearst-built "Hacienda" hotel/bar, which are both on the Army Base. Then turn left on Nacimiento/Ferguson Rd. to follow the trout-stocked Nacimiento River through hills and valleys, and the sadly burned-out Los Padres National Forest. The road travels 16 miles to the coast. Then turn south on Hwy 1, and snap some pix of the big waterfalls and creeks along the gorgeous coastline. Travel about 20 miles to the awesome vista location of Ragged Point. Stop just north of San Simeon at the Elephant Seals Vista Point (baby pups, Moms, and Bulls are all there at this time). Have a coffee break along Moonstone beach in Cambria, and then, while heading back home, stop at a couple wineries on Hwy 46, grab a bottle or two...for dinner at The Dragon Lake Grill. After all, it's Right In Our Own Backyard!



2008/2009 Recreation Committee Community Enhancements

Janice Gillenwater, Recreation Chairwoman

During 2008 we purchased a number of items to enhance our community including new silverware for our clubhouse, new furniture and curtains for the pool upper deck, a wonderful new ice machine, outside heaters for the clubhouse deck and toys for the Christmas party for the children. We also shared cost of new dishes for our clubhouse with the church group and OSCA.

We already have items on our list for 2009 including new tablecloths for all of the clubhouse tables, new round tables for the clubhouse, a clubhouse kitchen facelift, and a new cedar tongue and groove ceiling and light fixtures for the clubhouse upper deck. The Recreation Committee will purchase the materials and our wonderful volunteers will do all the skilled labor.

We plan to replace the existing clubhouse soda machine (which has lasted many years) with a new one that holds both soda and water. We also plan to purchase additional chaise lounges, tables, chairs, and shade umbrellas, all similar to the upper pool deck furniture, for all of us to enjoy.

If you have an idea or an item that you would like the Recreation Committee to purchase for the enhancement of our community, please contact me at 472-9404.

Oak Shores Planned 2009 Recreation Activities

The Recreation Committee would like to announce some important dates for you to mark on your Oak Shores calendars for 2009.

May 24th	Memorial Day Hamburger and Hot Dog BBQ and Golf Tournament
4th of July	Pancake Breakfast
September 6th	Labor Day BBQ and Golf Cart Show and Chicken Shot Bingo
October 31st	Halloween Costume Party and Dance
Dec. 12th	3rd Annual Christmas Home Tour
Dec. 19th	Christmas Potluck with Santa
Dec 31th	New Year's Eve Party

Oak Shores Christian Fellowship
A Bible Based New Testament Church
Non-denominational Weekly Service
8:30a.m. Sunday at the Clubhouse
Pastor Dr. Ed Bedrosian 238-9240

We want everyone to be aware of our Fellowship's prayer chain and welcome all to contact us with their prayer requests. To activate the prayer chain, first call Pastor Ed, then Faye Middleton at 472-2497. You do not need to be a member of our church to request prayers or become a participating member of the prayer chain. Thanks to Faye Middleton for leading the prayer chain since July 8, 1995.



CANS FOR CANINES

Thanks to you, it's working! I was able to present Second Chance at Love, a wonderful local canine sanctuary, with a check for \$100 to help replace their water heater. And I am well on the way to the second \$100.

All you have to do is bag your aluminum cans and call me or drop them off on my driveway. I will match every dollar raised and donate the money to charities that help animals in need.

Please join me in helping our furry friends. It's so simple and you'll feel good knowing you're helping to bring hope and loving care to an animal in desperate need.

Cindy Peyton
472-2025
2302 Lakeview Dr.

DON'T FORGET to click on the www.theanimalrescuesite.com daily. It's FREE! All you do is click and the sponsors donate food and care to an animal living in a shelter. Keep the address in your favorites or inbox and click daily!

Quarterly Big Shot Photo Contest

Oak Shores in Pictures — Now Two Full Pages -
(Send us YOUR Best Photos of the Lake & Oak Shores FUN & BEAUTY....)

The BEST SHOT will receive a Logos Gift Certificate,
be featured in the OAK LEAVES... PLUS, the Best of the Year
will be the Front Cover Picture of the 2010 Oak Shores Phone Book!

You may submit more than 1 photo
Judging by an outside Professional Photographer
Submit Photos By May 1, 2009 to CathyAtTheLake@msn.com
...BE A BIG SHOT...

Capture the people, wild animals, lake and natural beauty
it's a WIN/WIN for everyone!!

CONGRATULATIONS To Joanie Lynch (Photo on Back Page)



Christmas at Oak Shores

2nd Annual Christmas Home Tour --- Lots of Caroling, Food, Fun, & Hospitality

Thanks to Jim & Cindy Marshall, Jim & Pam Boone, Jerry & Sydney Cain, Gaylord & Cathy Wolfe and Chuck & Rusty Lipscomb



Christmas Potluck with Santa — Kids, Presents, Families and of course....



"How many strings does it take to light up the Dragon Lake?"

Santa's Helpers !!



"Come on, Dad, you said you'd hang the lights today..."

Some only want to Play Reindeer Games !!!!!!!!!



Bringing in the New Year

A HAPPY, HEALTHY

& PROSPEROUS 2009



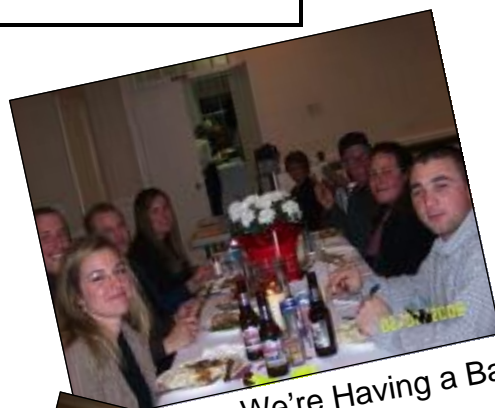
Having A "BALL" With Our Station 34 Firemen And Raising \$5000



The Auxiliary



Administrator, **Chris Kirk**
Thanking the Community



We're Having a Ball



Over 100 Attended



Leaders
Ronnie & Janice
(Band & Recreation)



Some Guests of Honor

**Mike Columbo Continued from Page 5**

Clubhouse Area - Mike tackled important and much-needed repairs in the kitchen – repaired the stove hood; hooked up the warmer drawers; secured the dishwasher and hooked up smaller refrigerators. He is working with the Recreation Committee on ideas for organization and improvements to provide a more efficient and attractive kitchen. If you've ever been to any of our social events, you would know how important a well-maintained kitchen is to Oak Shores.

Pool – A leak under pool has been located; Mike said it will be fixed by the end of March. In addition, he has identified deer-resistant plants to be planted on side bank by pool along Turkey Cove.

Mike comes to us from the City of Paso Robles, where he worked for over 20 years in Maintenance in the Waste Water Division responsible for collection system for the City. The last 8 years of his job, he performed as Acting Supervisor of Maintenance. He brings a lot of experience and many skills. He likes to plan, organize and prepare before starting on projects. Mike retired from his city job to help his wife, Lori, with her medical billing business. In 2007, they decided to retire the business. He wanted something more to do and have some fun, so he applied for this position.

Mike was born in Atascadero and raised in the North County. He and Lori were married in 1997 and live in the area between Templeton and Paso with their 5 horses, 2 goats, 4 dogs and cats, 35 chickens and 6 turkeys. What does he like to do in his "spare time"? He loves to cook and read.

He is a man with a strong work ethic and ideas to spruce up our community in ways that benefit all of us (and our property values) over the long-term. He asked if you see something that needs fixing, especially a safety concern, please contact him. If it's something that can be done right away, he'll fix it; if it's something major, he'll work with the Board, Annette, his staff and Community Members to get it done as soon as feasible. Welcome and Thank you Mike!

OSCA Community Notices

1. Disaster Response Volunteers Needed

OSCA Staff and our local Fire Department are currently compiling a list of volunteers that may be contacted to provide medical assistance in the event of a disaster or major emergency in our Community. The list will be included in each major incident Disaster kit.

If you have a medical background or work in the emergency services field, and are willing to assist in a disaster emergency, please contact the OSCA office.

We are also compiling a list of owners with vehicles that can be used for evacuation, and owners and operators of heavy equipment i.e. tractors, dump trucks, backhoes, etc., that may be used for debris removal or clearing roads in the event of a disaster.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the OSCA office at 805-472-2233 to be added to our list.

2. Summer 2009 Campsite Lottery

Certain campsites in the Oak Shores campground have been set-aside for owners to rent for the entire summer (Memorial through Labor Day weekend). The Oak Shores Office will begin accepting names and campsite preferences on March 18th and the drawing will take place on April 18th.



Dan in the Vines

By Dan Del Campo



There is an old saying, "that's the last straw". In this case there were many straws. Plus, keep in mind that straws can be used to sip but not this time.

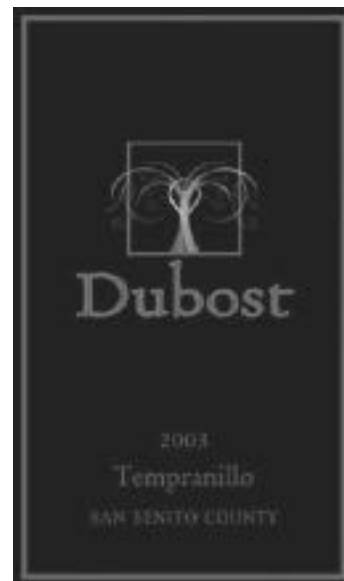
Once again I was at the right place at the right time. I spotted a new winery on Chimney Rock Rd. I knew it was small and hoped it would be a new find. Once in the small "tasting room", actually the winery itself, the owner asked if I was interested in tasting a friend's new wine. Never one to turn down an offer like that I said of course. She called the owner and asked if she would come down and pour.

The new label was Dubost, and they were sharing the wine room until their new winery was finished. Well, Kate Dubost came in and was thrilled to have someone taste her new wines. When I say new, I was tasting 2003 vintages and not the usual varietals. I tasted Negrette, Tempranillo, Homestead Red, and Syrah. These were a little different for the Adelaida wine region. I was pleased and delighted with each, but was thrilled with the 2004 Estate Syrah. It has a richness in color and boldness in its texture that causes one to hold it longer before you swallow. You want it to linger so that your taste buds can capture all nuance of flavors. Sadly, you will now have to settle for the 2005. Not to worry. You will be impressed.

Now to the straw. The ranch has been in the family for decades. The family has had a philosophy of preservation and stewardship for the land. So it was that they felt the need to build a winery building in the same vane. It was constructed with hay bails. While not new technology, it lends itself to their wine crafting process (caring and family oriented, small production and hands-on). They even have a photo album showing the building progress down to the "last straw".



Dubost is a must on your next wine tasting escapade. Kate will welcome you as if you were stopping in for a visit. There is more to the back story about Dubost, so I encourage you to visit the website @ www.dubostwine.com. Tell them Dan sent you. Until next time, buon vino!



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Thank-You

Fireman's Ball Oak Shores Pin Auction—2009 Winning Bid \$1,000

Dan & Ivan Wheeler and Grace Borzini



5 Bars All the Time at Oak Shores

by Randy Feltman

Editors Note: We have many part-time owners who rely on their cell phones to maintain communication with their home and business. This is difficult at Oak Shores since we are in a fringe area. The article below was first printed in the June 2007 Oak Leaves. Since that time I have continued to receive calls inquiring about this option for Oak Shores residents, so I am reprinting the article with minor updates.

How important is your cell phone at Oak Shores? Are you frustrated with no or weak “fringe area” reception and dropped calls? If your cell phone is important and you are frustrated, I have a solution for you. I got the information from Tom Engleman, a retired network engineer from Hewlett Packard, who has since moved from Oak Shores to Northern California. I’m happy to pass it on.

The solution requires a one-time purchase of equipment to capture the cell phone signal, then amplify it, and finally distribute it throughout your house. Specifically, you need a Yagi antenna that is a small roof antenna designed specifically for cell phone reception, a small amplifier that is installed in your attic or crawl space above your living area, a dome antenna about the size of a half a softball that attaches to the ceiling and the cabling to connect the three parts. The total cost is less than \$500 dollars. It requires no maintenance once installed and will work with any cell phone or cell phone company.

Here are two WEB sites that provide all the technical and purchase information you may need; www.wilsonelectronics.com is the manufacturer with excellent information about the products and installation process. The local store that sells this Wilson equipment is in Fresno and online at www.primecellular.com. You can purchase the equipment online or by phone and they will ship it immediately to your house. Both companies have excellent customer service phone lines as well. Wilson (1-866-294-1660) and Prime Cellular (1-800-713-3001).

There is a simple test to see how well it works at your house. You must purchase a small 12 inch cable for \$10 to directly attach your particular cell phone to a Yagi antenna. The website has all the cell phone models listed to identify the cable needed. You can borrow my Yagi antenna to take to your house to check reception at your homesite (472-2258). Even without the amplifier you can test the strength of the signal and be assured it will work at your house before you buy anything more than this \$10 cable.

As a final note, Wilson also makes similar equipment specifically for a vehicle if that may be your need. I hope this is helpful.

Welcome New Owners

Thomas and Donna Roberts—Circle Oak

Lukasz Iwanczyk—Crows Nest

Anna Kondeja—Crows Nest

David and Patty Quellet—Lands End

Fred and Lori Ann Schneider—Captains Walk

Joel and Elizabeth De La Mora—Smith Point Road

**2009 San Miguel Trash Service Notice**

by Linda Kardashian—San Miguel Garbage Company Owner

The State of California required cities and counties to divert 50% of the waste stream out of the landfills by 2000. The County of San Luis Obispo met the requirement. By meeting this requirement they avoided a \$10,000.00 a day fine. The standards have been expanded and increased and now all Community Service Districts and private communities like Oak Shores must begin participating in the recycling program. Therefore, San Miguel Garbage Company plans to start automated trash can service at Oak Shores including recycling in July 2009. Each customer will receive:

One 64 gallon trash receptacle (provided by SMG)

One 64 gallon recycling receptacle (provided by SMG)

The current monthly rate is \$21.50 for four 35 gallon cans provided by customer. Any old cans the customer no longer wants will be removed and recycled at no additional cost. The new rate will be \$23.25 for these two 64 gal trash and recycling receptacles. The trash rates are approved by the County and in most other areas of San Luis Obispo County they exceed \$40 per month. OSCA has a reduced rate because it is recognized as a recreational community with many part-time residents and OSCA does all the trash billing.

All cans are always returned to the house or a minimum of 25 feet from the street. This is a service that no other Garbage Company provides for customers in SLO County. As an additional service for residents, San Miguel Garbage also provides 7 three-yard containers year-round which are located at the Maintenance Yard (they are at capacity every week at no additional cost to Oak Shores). This service will continue at no added cost.

The County Public Health Department requires that all residents utilize the garbage service to avoid illegal dumping and protect the public health. The only exception is for homeowners who take their trash to a local landfill themselves and submit a weekly dump ticket as evidence of compliance.



Our local bandleader, Ronnie Appoldt & Maxine celebrating Ian's first Christmas

**Oak Shores Community Association
Office Hours**

Monday - Friday	8am — 4pm
Saturday	8am —12pm
Office Phone	805-472-2233
Office Fax	805-472-2234

Website www.oakshores.us

General Manager—Annette Louder
E-Mail—alouder@oakshores.us

Winter Gate Hours

Sunday	8am to 4pm
Mon–Thur	6:30am to 6:00pm
Fri., Sat	6:30am to 6:00pm
	(Extended as Necessary)
Gate Phone	805-472-2230



Season's Eatings

By Chef Cindy Peyton



Spring is around the corner which means winter's denser, more energy producing foods are gradually disappearing from the farmer's markets. Spring is a transition season so you'll be seeing more foods that grow above ground, bursting with color and flavor. Foods full of moisture are designed to help keep you cooler as the weather warms. In early spring, strawberries make their appearance and as the season progresses, their flavor and aroma improve. Delicate asparagus poke their shoots through the soil and tender greens such as lettuce and spinach begin breaking ground. By late spring, tree ripened apricots and cherries have had their brief run.

Let's take a look at some of spring's bounty:

Apricots - Sweet delicious apricots rarely make it to the supermarket unless they're grown locally. They are too fragile to make long distance trips and are consequently picked green and shipped in controlled storage. Buy local when you can.

Artichokes - Use the squeak test when selecting artichokes - the choke will "squeak" when you rub it between your fingers. Choose ones that are heavy for their size which indicates the choke still has moisture. Pick tightly closed artichokes with fresh stems.

Asparagus - Thanks to the warm California nights, these tender, succulent shoots can grow up to four inches a day. But asparagus break down rapidly, losing their sugar and moisture, so don't leave them in your vegetable bin. Thin asparagus are best for steaming while the thicker shoots are best for roasting or pan frying.

Avocados - The longer on the tree, the more oil avocados develop, and oil content determines flavor. Resist the urge to buy out of season. These avocados are picked too early and are kept in cold storage which greatly affects the flavor. The California Haas with its pebbly skin has the highest oil content and the richest flavor.

Carrots - Ever wonder why most supermarkets only sell "clip-top" carrots, bunches with the greens removed? The tops are a sign of freshness. Bagged and bulk carrots can be weeks or months old. Without the greens, you can't tell how old the carrot is. Carrots store well, but fresh ones will be sweeter and juicier.

Cherries - Large, meaty and sweet, Bings are the king of cherries. Yum! Look for scarlet red cherries. Green stems indicate fresh picked.

Cauliflower - Cauliflower grows in the cool weather and is ready to pick as the weather warms. Look for creamy, white faces with tight curds. If the head is yellow or has brown spots, the texture will be grainy and have a stronger, cabbage-like flavor.

Strawberries - Supermarket strawberries are bred to withstand shipping. They must be firm and not very juicy or they will arrive at the market as sauce. Stop at those plentiful roadside stands and buy your berries there. Look for shiny, red berries with intense perfume. Avoid green tips. If you must store them, line a plastic container with paper towels and cover in the refrigerator. Don't wash them until you're ready to eat.

FOCUS ON ASPARAGUS - Roasting intensifies the flavor of asparagus. Select thicker shoots and snap off the ends at the natural breaking point. Toss the asparagus with olive oil and sprinkle with kosher salt. Place the asparagus on a cookie sheet and roast in a 425 degree oven until sizzling and **just** tender, about 8-10 minutes. Don't overcook-there should be a slight resistance when pierced with a fork.



Boat Insurance Basics

By Brent Frank



When shopping for boat insurance, one needs to understand policy types, coverage limits and limitations. Never insure your boat on your homeowner's policy. Always buy a freestanding boat policy regardless of cost. Then, if you should experience a liability or medical loss related to the boat, it won't affect your home.

Policy Types

Agreed Value or Stated Value

With this type of policy, both the insured and the insurance carrier state and agree on the value of the hull and attached hardware. Generally, value is determined by dealer purchase agreement on new boats and by NADA Guide values or dealer purchase agreements for used boats.

What is important with this type of policy is to establish and document value prior to loss and pay the necessary premiums. The hull and all attached hardware have a single coverage limit. Should you add towers, bimini tops, high-end stereo, ballast system or other accessories that are permanently affixed, it is important to make certain your hull coverage includes the value of those items.

Actual Cash Value

The insurance company pays what the boat is worth at the time of the loss. This means depreciation is a factor. The company has the option of replacing it with "like kind and quality" or paying you the cash equivalent.

Exclusions and Deductibles

It is important to read the policy carefully to ensure that you have all the coverages for which you are paying. Many companies exclude certain damages such as damage from underwater objects or damage as a result of freezing. Therefore, you want to get an "all risk" policy with the fewest exclusions possible. Deductibles are usually 2% of the hull value.

Liability Types

Liability covers property damage and personal injury to everyone except the named insured and immediate family members. It defends the named insured and pays on behalf only if named insured is found liable. **Split limit** liability coverage follows the type of coverage you usually see with automobile liability insurance. For example, if your liability limits are 100/300/100, that means you have \$100,000 in coverage per person, \$300,000 in coverage per occurrence and \$100,000 in coverage for property damage. So if you have five passengers in the boat, you only have \$300,000 in coverage to split between those five passengers.

Protection and Indemnity

P&I is the most common and usually the cheapest type of liability coverage available. P&I coverage provides a single dollar limit for both liability and property damage combined, which the carrier will pay on your behalf. It includes defense costs as well. Therefore, it doesn't matter how many passengers are involved. The coverage limit can apply to one passenger or 10.

Medical Coverage

Medical coverage pays for injuries to any person injured while on or in the insured vessel regardless of fault or cause. Watch for state and area limitations as well. This is important if, for example, you live in California, but take your boat to Lake Powell in Arizona/Utah.

Lay up Period

The lay up period is the period of time in which you will lay the vessel up and not use it. This is usually winter. Many companies offer discounts if you accept a lay up period. If you use the boat during this period, you may be without coverage.

There are many reputable programs available to boaters, so ask questions and get multiple quotes to compare types, limits and premiums. I hope this article helps clear the muddy insurance waters.





Howdy from the water.....

It's February 5th today, and I'm down at the Oak Shores west ramp, looking at a low lake. The good news is it's starting to rain; whether it will make an impact on the water level will take a few days to see.

We've been fishing through the winter with pretty good success. To catch numbers of fish has taken some skill, luck and memory. The memory challenge, after fishing here for the past 37 years, is remembering all the underwater structures such as rocks, stumps, points, channels, drop offs, even the old boat on the side of the west ramp. These structures are where fish will congregate. The more you can remember, the better your chances will be of catching more and larger fish will be.

Looking out at the lake now from my truck, I see great fishing spots, three islands, many stumps, large flats that have drop offs on them, trees, etc. These are all potential spots to hold fish. When you're looking at these types of areas, imagine whether the structure goes under the water and how far. Then fish it out to deeper water. If you get a bite, figure about how deep it was and concentrate on areas that duplicate the structure and depth.

By the time you're reading this it will be March. The fish, depending on weather will be starting to move out of their deeper water haunts to feed and start looking for spawning areas. Spawning will happen in April, May and early June. It all has to do with the longer and warmer days. If the river is flowing from the narrows, the white bass will start migrating in March towards the running water in the backs of the creeks. With the rain, cat fishing will get better with the moving water.

I've been watching the rain for 2 days since I starting writing this article; 2 inches of water has fallen and the lake is already coming up. Now is the time to go and have a look or take some pictures of good structures so you know what is down there before its covered with water. Many of those spots will be where we are catching fish in a few weeks.

Spring is coming quickly, the time when you can catch fish on all types of lures. Try shallow and deep water areas until the fish move up and start spawning.

Good luck, skill and memory!
Rick Olson

"LOGOS"

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