



WILSONIA TIMES

Volume 16, Issue 1
February, 2017

~winter edition~

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This winter season has brought a good amount of rain and SNOW! The snow depth on the ground as of January 27th was nearly 5'. The warmer rain storms that came in-between the snow, during the last 3 months, have also caused some drainage and erosion problems along creeks and across roads in Wilsonia.

As of 2-15-17, the season-to-date totals for precipitation and snow are:

Snow: 130" (normal to date 98")

Precipitation: 55" (normal to date 25")

season is July 1st to June 30th - data provided by the Kings Canyon Visitor Center

August Fire destroys NPS cabins in Wilsonia

A fire on the evening of August 19th alarmed Wilsonia residents arriving for a calm, warm, late summer weekend. The fire broke out at about 7:20 in the evening quickly consuming two NPS owned vacant cabins on a Cedar Lane lot just north of Lilac. Many Wilsonia residents came to the scene to see what was happening and quickly got involved in the effort to keep the fire from spreading. More than a dozen Wilsonians armed with collected shovels, kept the fire from spreading across the road and from igniting bushes, stumps and fuel on the ground. The NPS structural fire engine responded with a crew of two and began putting water on the structure and adjacent trees with the deck mounted water cannon. An inability to quickly refill from the water tank on Lilac and Willow redirected Ranger Gould to the Fire Station to refill the firetruck on-board tank. After several cycles of spraying water and refilling, reinforcements arrived from Hume Lake and other mountain fire response partners. Thankfully, the fire was suppressed fairly quickly, and was under control by appx. 8:30 pm.

The two cabins were completely consumed leaving only a pile of rubble, and charred remains of fixtures and furnishings; all that remained standing was the fireplace and chimney. Healthy trees adjacent to the buildings were completely blackened and defoliated and will likely not survive.

NPS and other federal authorities investigated the fire by interviewing Wilsonia residents who may have witnessed something, collecting photos and videos and conducting a thorough site examination. The fire was determined to be human-caused. The exact ignition source and person(s) responsible has not been determined; the investigation remains open.

In late December, the NPS had the chimney pulled down, to avoid a potential safety risk, and the site was cleared of all debris.

Inadequate Water Tanks Improved

As a result of the August 19th fire, as expected, Wilsonians gathered around the Village in the hours and days that followed to discuss what had happened. Gratefulness and relief that the fire did not spread and become catastrophic was a common theme. However, the delayed and minimal response to the fire and the question about water availability quickly became the conversation. WVI and the Fire Committee determined that the plumbing on the four existing water tanks was not practical to quickly refill the water tank of a fire truck. The tanks were originally plumbed with 2" valves, instead of the standard 3" or larger valves.

(Continued on pg. 2)

Upcoming Events:

February 25th - Saturday

WVI Winter Planning Mtg.

10 am - Potluck lunch to

follow at appx. 12 noon

Location: Provost & Pritchard

130 N Garden St. Visalia

March 16th - Thursday

WAT Meeting 3:30 pm

Provost & Pritchard

The Summer Calendar will be developed at the upcoming planning meeting

2016 year end review

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

WVI Elections

Thanks to outgoing board members: Susan Doyle and her 3 years of service as President, and Sheri Parkinson for filling in for a vacancy last year. Congratulations to new Board Members Chad Fjeld and Katie Wilson, and to re-elected Board Member Neal Mixer.

Thanks to Jean Fasholz for once again coordinating the Cabin Tour which would not have happened without the willingness of Wilsonians from the Smith, McKinney, Stockings, Gerdes/Fasholz, Ikuta, Ambrose/Collins, Speth and Collin cabins.

Thanks to the Sierra Masonic Family Club for hosting our August 20th WAT community luncheon.

Thanks to the Tripp family and helpers for hosting the annual pancake Breakfast.

... and thanks again to Board Members, committee members and volunteers that keep our little mountain paradise safe and functional.

In Memory of

Priscilla Burrus

and

Catherine Cornell

Wilsonia friends and neighbors who will be dearly missed.

Water Tanks (continued from page 1)

We immediately began checking into retrofitting the tanks. WVI began an online fundraiser to raise money for the retrofit. At the same time some very generous cabin owners contacted us to begin the process of obtaining and donating two more tanks. In the weeks that followed two new tanks were donated, and sufficient donations came in to retrofit the original tanks. As more and more generous donations continued to arrive, we realized that we had collected enough to obtain two additional tanks. By early November, we had installed 4 new tanks and retrofitted the originals. Thanks to your generosity, The Village now has eight 3000 gallon functional water tanks strategically located around the Village. Every cabin (except some in the Masonic track) is now within 600' of a functional water supply.

Thanks for the Tanks!!

Below is the list of generous Wilsonians who made the Water Tank Project possible.

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Maria Barbis | Patricia Gordon | Scott Peacock |
| Rebecca Bartsch | Mike Gunning | James Peloian |
| Gwen Bortner | Donna Hall | JoAnn Pelz |
| Bill Bright | Patricia Hicks | Wayne Pratt |
| Bob Brown | Pat Hillman | Ken Preston |
| JoEllen Burgess | Gail Holm-Kennedy | Moe Rawda |
| George Burgess | Dennis Ikuta | Carol Sacco |
| Penny Burgin | Larry Jones | Tom Schumacher |
| Gerry Cargile | Michael Jungwirth | Mary Anne Smith |
| Karen Carlstrom | Ted Knudsen | Leslie Sorensen |
| Jim Collin | Brenda Knudsen | Linda Stocking |
| Larry Coulter | Joanne Ledbetter | Freeman Stone |
| Julia Crossland | Faith Lighty | Cindy Telesco |
| Robert Dean | Susan Malubay | Karen Tiffin |
| Susan Doyle | Margie McKinney | Gail Tomlinson |
| Eric Unruh | Neal Mixter | Sally Toomey |
| Kirill Fayerman | Richard Moss | Sally Tripp |
| Katherine Fonken | Kristi Neilson | Jen Varela |
| Bob Foster | Michael O'Lear | Liz Vasquez |
| David Francis | Ty Parkinson | Dennis Walton |
| Christine Frazier | Gwen Paulus | Katie Wilson |

A special thanks to David Brown for coordinating the purchases and acting as contractor for the job. Thanks also to Dutch Scholten, Ty Parkinson, Neal Mixter and to Scott Edgerly for so generously donating the use of his water tender to fill and refill all 8 tanks.

The project was fully funded, but if you would like to donate to the next phase of fire safety projects, include a donation with you cabin owner dues.

Your support and ideas are valuable to the Wilsonia community, please consider joining or attending the Fire Safety committee. Meetings will be listed on the calendar and Wilsonia website.

WVI Fall Board Meeting

The fall WVI Board Meeting was held on Sunday, Sept. 4th. Business discussed at that meeting:

- NPS, Wilsonia Advisory Team and WHDT Reports
- Treasurer's Report
- Wilsonia Fire Committee
- Election of new officers (listed on back page)
- Clubhouse maintenance, including bidding for restroom improvements. Clubhouse year-end closing

Memories of the Cabin that Burned

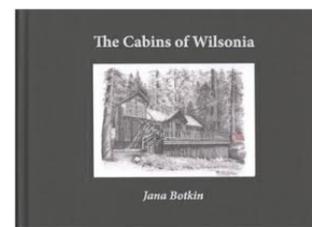
by Jean Faszholz

From 1948 to 1955 I worked in the original Wilsonia Lodge. It was run by Pete and Dorothy Akin Lockwich. Mostly, I worked as a waitress, but sometimes in the grocery store. It was illegal for me to sell beer because I was underage. So, when I would have a sale, I would run up the hill to that cabin, where Dorothy and Pete and their four cute, towheaded kids lived. Pete or Dorothy would have to run down and ring up the beer! In 1955, my friend Lorine Willweber from Terra Bella joined me as a fellow waitress. Lorine and I stayed in the tiny log cabin beside the main cabin behind the store. She also stayed there the following summer.

Lorine loves Wilsonia and visits every time she comes to California from Amherst, MA. The last time she visited me in Wilsonia, we both remarked that there should be a plaque above the little log cabin door that stated "Lorine and Jean slept here". So, when I saw the two cabins burn in the horrifying blaze, I thanked God for the miracle that saved Wilsonia and also reminisced of those long-ago summers.

The Cabins of Wilsonia

A look at 21st century cabin life



Hardcover, 176 pages, 9x12"
273 drawings, many quotes from cabin folks
~~\$75, including tax~~ now \$65

Available from Neal Mixter or www.cabinart.net
(paid advertisement)

CABIN FOR SALE

83656 President's Lane

Contact Tim Thiesen
Guarantee Real Estate
(559) 352-9891
tathiesen@msn.com
BRE#01394883

CABIN FOR SALE

2 bedroom, 1 bath
83679 Willow Lane

\$219,000
Offered by Granite Realty
and Mortgage Inc.
Contact Billy Lovewell
(559)287-1896 / (559) 332-2410

Annual dues are the primary source of income for Wilsonia Village Inc. and allow us to have garbage service, maintain and insure the Clubhouse, and provide other services and information to Wilsonia cabin owners.
 Please fill out this form and return it along with your dues check.
Donations beyond \$55 gladly accepted.

- The Wilsonia Time is published 4 or 5 times per calendar year. A subscription to the Times is provided to each cabin owner. Additional postal subscriptions are available for an additional \$5 each.
- Please consider an e-mail subscription in order to receive timely updates and emergency information between issues.
- Additionally, news, photos and updates are regularly posted on the Wilsonia Facebook page.
- The Wilsonia website provides a variety of information and links related to Wilsonia and the NPS.
- You can now PAY YOUR DUES ONLINE at www.wilsoniavillage.com/about-your-cabin ... or use the form below.

Please fill out the form completely. We need contact information for emergencies and to keep you up-to-date on important issues.

WILSONIA VILLAGE INC. - 2017 DUES ASSESSMENT TIME
still just \$55 per cabin

Name _____ Home Phone # _____

Address _____ Cell Phone # _____

City, State, Zip _____ Other Emergency # _____

Email address _____ Name/relationship _____

Cabin Address _____ Wilsonia Phone # _____
 (or cell phone that has service in Wilsonia)

Are you the owner? _____ Other owner or co-owners name (for cross reference) _____

_____ I prefer to receive newsletters by email (pdf format) _____ Please take me off the mailing list

_____ Additional email subscriptions - free of charge (please list on separate sheet)

_____ Additional postal newsletter subscriptions available at \$5 each (please list on separate sheet)

**** If you are currently receiving the Wilsonia Times by email - there is no need to submit a subscription request ****

Make Check payable to WILSONIA VILLAGE INC. — the canceled check is your receipt.
 Mail to: **WVI c/o 1118 S. KLEIN AVE. REEDLEY, CA 93654-3720**

We are here to serve you - what activities or events would you like to see in the future?
Are you interested in helping? Hosting a potluck? Helping with an event?
Comments Please! Attach sheet(s) with this form

Land Exchange within Wilsonia

As reported in past Wilsonia Times, the intention of the Wilsonia Land Exchange Project is to return the National Park Service (NPS) owned developed properties (those with cabins) to private ownership or a potential leasing option in exchange for parcels of land in Wilsonia without structures.

The NPS will accept letters of interest or informal proposals from individuals who are interested in land exchange or lease. If you have undeveloped property in Wilsonia that you may consider selling, there are interested parties wanting to purchase land to use for the exchange.

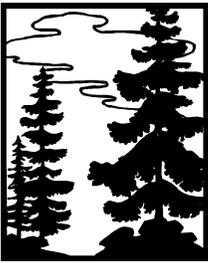
If you have land that you may be willing to sell to a private party or are interested in an exchange, please contact:

Denise Robertson, Management Assistant
 Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks
 559-565-3105 and email Denise_Robertson@nps.gov.

*Dumpster Service is not provided during the winter, if visiting in the winter please pack out your garbage.
 Service for paid members will return in mid-May.*



PAUL FINCK CONSTRUCTION
Contractors Lic. #414340
Carpentry, Electrical, Decks,
Roofing, Plumbing, Foundations
 call (559) 358-5797 or (559) 335-2361
 paid advertisement



WILSONIA TIMES

THE NEWSLETTER OF
WILSONIA VILLAGE INC
C/O 1118 S. KLEIN AVE
REEDLEY, CA 93654-3720

SERVICE CHANGE REQUESTED

WVI Board of Directors 2016-2017 Contact information

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Chuck Burgin		chuckpen@gmail.com	(559) 332-2817 home (559) 335-2509 cabin
Katie Wilson		katwilson07@gmail.com	(559) 280-0480 mobile

Grant Grove	NPS Visitors Center		(559) 565-4307 (559) 335-2856
Ash Mountain	NPS District Office	www.nps.gov/seki	(559) 565-3341

EMERGENCY ** CALL 911 and 565-3196 / 3197 NPS Dispatch**

Bear sightings, problems or questions?



Please contact
the KCNP
Bear Tech at
(559) 565-4258

- Please -

*Be a considerate neighbor and
help protect the native wildlife in
Wilsonia and in the Park*

*Keep all pets on a leash or secure
at your cabin at all times*

Still getting your newsletter in the mail ?

You can receive it by email
and save some paper and the cost of a stamp.

Email your request to:

wilsonianimes@gmail.com

**Type "subscribe" in the subject line
& provide your name and cabin address**