



Summer Edition

August 2013

Friends of Pinecrest
is an advocacy
group dedicated to
the recreation
interests of the
Pinecrest Basin.

Friends of Pinecrest

E-News

Who Was Elmer?

We all hear it nearly every night at dinner time in Pinecrest – the lonely cry of E-L-M-E-R. ***Who was Elmer, and why do we call for him every night?*** This summer, we have heard from four long-time Pinecresters claiming to know the true origin of Elmer. We believed the first story we heard. We believed the second, third, and fourth as well. Do you have a story of the origin of Elmer? We'd love to hear it. We will publish all Elmer stories we receive in future editions of the E-News.

Mark Your Calendar for the Annual End of the Season Wine & Cheese Party: Sunday, August 25, 5 pm in the Day Use Picnic Area just above where the El Toro sailing club anchors its boats in the lake. (From Lakeshore Drive, park between Sugar Pine and the turnaround circle at Rustic). Bring an hors d'oeuvre to share and BYOB.

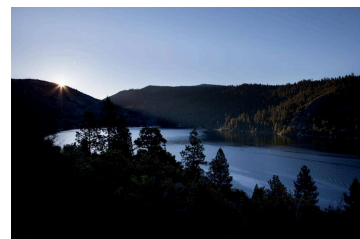
Lake Level Update PG&E made a request to permanently modify the minimum Labor Day Lake Level, which currently stands at 5,608'. The Lake Level is a condition of PG&E's license to

operate Pinecrest Lake. The State Water Board determined that modification of the Lake Level condition requires a CEQA analysis (California Environmental Quality Act). The Water Board anticipates a draft CEQA document will be released for public comment in the fall. We will forward the document to our membership, with our recommendations for your comments. With this newsletter, we are sending an interesting "Presentation" made by the Water Board in Sonora last fall. It's an easy read and should bring you up to date with the situation.

FRIENDS OF PINECREST ANNUAL MEETING

This year's Annual Meeting was held July 20 at Dodge Ridge. The membership elected a Board of Directors! Committees were established. Information and updates were shared. New District Ranger, Molly Fuller, spoke and took questions. Highlights of the meeting are found within this newsletter.

photo by Luke Hock



The View From My Deck Chairman's Message

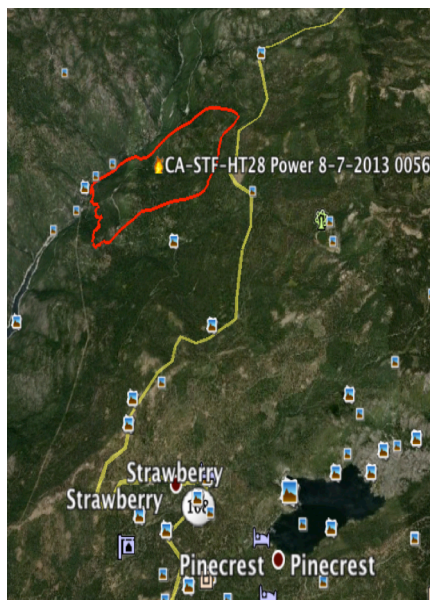
Hello Friends of Pinecrest members and guests. We had a successful 2nd Annual Meeting with election of a full Board of Directors, greetings from our District Ranger, Molly Fuller, and establishment of working committees. FOP is in the process of filing for status as a California non-profit corporation. Once this is achieved we will then file for registration as a Federal IRS non-profit organization.

If you are interested in adding your input to any of our working committees please let us know. We also ask "members-to-get-a-member". We want to continue to build our presence in the Pinecrest Basin. Remember that membership in FOP is open to all, whether you camp, have a cabin, live out of state, or up or down the highway. See if some of your extended family and friends would like to participate and receive their own E-Newsletters and Legends of Pinecrest (sent only to members).

I hope to see many of you at our August 25th gathering in the Day Use Area. Thanks for all you do – and will do.

--Allen

The Power Fire began on August 5 at 6 a.m. It was located 4 miles NW of Pinecrest. The cause is under investigation. It grew to 1070 acres and was contained on August 14. It started near Beardsley Reservoir, east of Hells Half Acre Road near Donnell's Powerhouse. Air support seen from Pinecrest included helicopters, scout planes, and a DC-10 air tanker dropping fire retardant. The Pinecrest Permittees personnel through Cal Fire were involved, as was the USFS and Tuolumne County, among many others. Cooperators included Dodge Ridge Corporation, where a basecamp was located. Our gratitude goes to all 500 firefighters, support staff, and community who efficiently handled this situation.



*Welcome to Nick Wood,
the Summit District's new
Law Enforcement Officer.
Please say hello when you
see him.*



*Power Fire: Day 1
Scene from Pinecrest Lake
August 5, 2013
photo by Keri Green*

A Pinecrest Vision: 2035

**If you had a magic wand and
could wave it over Pinecrest,
what would Pinecrest look like
and be like in twenty years?**

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FOP has started a "Visioning" Project to imagine Pinecrest in the future, just as we would like it to be. When our concept vision is formed, we'll "work backwards" from there and define the tasks and projects that must be started now to reach the ultimate picture.

Everyone is invited to imagine your perfect Pinecrest and submit your vision to FOP. We are partnering with all in this effort. Our partners include the USFS, Dodge Ridge, Movies Under the Stars, Pinecrest Permittees Assn. and Board, Pinecrest Lake Resort, all FOP members, all user groups (day users/Boy Scouts/sailing clubs, etc.).

Some "visions" submitted so far include day use entrance fees, beach lifeguards, swim rafts, improvements at Beardsley to relieve pressure at Pinecrest, "green" initiatives such as electric boat motors, parking capacity limits. What's your vision? Please submit your ideas to FOP at the email address below.

2nd Annual Meeting ReCap: District Ranger Molly Fuller's remarks included thanking FOP for its existence. She said she looks forward to working with us. She stated her opinion that Pinecrest is over-capacity, and considers this situation "unsustainable." She will be looking for ways to address capacity issues and invites our ideas. As the head Ranger at Summit, she has already been on a cattle drive, hiked the Emigrant Wilderness, has cleaned toilets in public bathrooms, snowmobiled in to winter facilities, has hiked the Lake trail, swum and paddle-boarded, and has been seen picking up garbage along Hwy. 108. Her staff finds her "open to new ideas" and someone who "gets things done". She is working hard to be a good steward of the public's land. We look forward to our work with her and future Forest Service collaborations.

Committees!

Dog Policy: This committee is working on proposals to better address how the USFS has handled dogs in Pinecrest. Please join this committee to be a part of offering solutions and ideas to the Forest Service.

Library: FOP and Pinecrest Lake Resort offer a free lending library in the location of the previous Tuolumne County Branch Library. Please join this committee to assist in keeping shelves tidy, creating signage, and spreading the word.

Shoreline Management Plan: Current status of the "SMP" is that it will be implemented as described in the July 2012 Final Plan, with an "Adaptive Management Approach." We think we can do better than the current plan that serves no one well, including the FS. Join this committee to help craft a plan that preserves boating access to the Lake and ensures safety and shoreline access for all users. (FOP fallback to an acceptable SMP is to pursue the Formal Complaint we filed against FERC and PG&E).

Capacity & Parking: Pinecrest is over-crowded and parking is abused, most clearly on summer weekends. What are the long-term solutions to this issue? Please lend your ideas and expertise to this committee.

Campground: Safety, enforcement of campsite rules (number of cars, people and tents), maintenance, and over-use are some of the issues expressed by the folks working on this committee. Please join and share your perspective and solutions. (Concessionaire Dodge Ridge and the FS are exploring solutions to these problems.)

Community Building: Committee work and social activities can be a way to bring Pinecrest'ers together. Help plan an event or contribute to making some of the ideas already in motion a reality. See the news item below for some ideas in incubation.

Swim/Sailing Rafts: Pinecrest Lake once hosted numerous anchored rafts that were available for swimmers and sailors. Help us bring back the utility and fun these rafts served, and the ambience they created on the Lake.

Recycle: Pinecrest lacks a recycling hauler that has the capacity to serve cabins. Can you help initiate and take action to find a recycler that will service our area?

Internet Access/Phone Service: With limited cell tower service, dial-up internet, and intermittent "hot spots," Pinecrest is in the stone age of communications. If you have expertise and/or initiative in this area, please help!

FOP Website: Our goal is to have a website before summer 2014. Our budget is limited. If you have special expertise in setting up a user- and administrative-friendly site, and have time to help, please let us know.

Coming Attractions

Horseshoe Tournament, Length of the Lake Swim, Dances, Canoe/Kayak Breakfasts, Cabin Tours, Pinecrest Triathlon: These are just some of the ideas that FOP has in the works and could actually pull off, with your help! We welcome any and all ideas for fun activities that bring us together. **August 2, 2014, is the "Pinecrest Community Yard Sale."** Save your treasures and interesting junk for this event when cabins and even campsites will hawk their wares. We will begin publishing an FOP Calendar of Events in future editions of the E-News.

Illegal Trash Dumping

The FS is finding an increase in cabin owner trash in the Day Use bins. They are checking the items in the bins for evidence of the origin. If they find a cabin owner or other permit holder has dumped the trash, they will issue a fine of \$300. Numerous fines have been issued this summer. Cabin owners and guests, please use the cans serviced by PPA twice a week in the summer. The weight limit per can is 60 pounds. Be a good tenant – do not put your cabin trash and recyclables in the FS bins.

New Dog Waste Bag Stations

FOP has provided another dog waste bag station to the area, for a total of 5 that we have provided. (In fact, we started this program with the original 3 stations.) The new station is located at the Sunrise Point restroom and picnic facility, at the east end of the Lake. The Forest Service, taking our lead, has placed additional units along the dog walk path. We thank them for these units, which get regular use and which have greatly reduced the amount of dog waste left on the ground. The waste bag stations have been so successful that the FS has ordered dozens more to be installed in the campgrounds. We hope all FOP members with dogs at Pinecrest will carry a bag or two with you whenever you are walking your dog(s). Extending a bag to someone who doesn't have one is a great way to make a friend, keep Pinecrest clean, and help spread the word about FOP. Thanks!

This year, FOP contributed to several evening interpretive campfire programs, specifically ones that the Forest Service pays outside specialists to conduct. "Wild Things," "Snakes Alive!" and "Batty About Our Insect-Eating Friends" were sponsored by Friends of Pinecrest.



Sunrise Point Restroom & Picnic Area

photo by Keri Green

Membership

FOP runs on a calendar year: January-December. Dues are \$20. One membership per e-mail address, please. To receive a membership form, please write to us at the address below. All correspondence is conducted by e-mail. Every member gets an FOP Logo Decal!

Board of Directors:

Chair: Allen Green, Lakeshore Dr.
Vice-Chair: Charles Grinstead, Highland Dr.
Secretary: Doug Wiele, South Shore
Treasurer: Dave Holland, Cold Springs
Members at Large:
 Nancy Fouquet, Pinecrest Ave.,
 Keri Green, Lakeshore Dr.
 Hannah Kerns, South Shore

Friends of Pinecrest
P.O. Box 1173 / Pinecrest, CA
95364

Phone:
(Summer) 209-965-4784
(Winter) 916-216-2844

friendsofpinecrest@gmail.com

Strawberry & Pinecrest Volunteer Fire
Departments Present the 1st Annual

**TRI-TIP DINNER
RAFFLE & SILENT AUCTION**

**Saturday August 24, 5 PM
Creekside Lodge at Dodge Ridge**

**TICKETS: Advance \$15/Door \$20
Kids 12 & Under \$7/ 3 & Under FREE
FOR TICKETS: 209-965-3878**

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