

# SmokeSignals

February, 2007

## **PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

Gary Keiser

The financial results for 2006 were good. We ended the year with a net income of about \$17,000 after transferring \$37,000 to our equipment reserve and funding \$15,000 for the fire protection district formation. That's a positive budget variance of about 5% resulting primarily from timing changes in our wildfire mitigation program and Hazel Lake repairs project.

Logging continues up country with several logging trucks traversing the Alpine each week day. The logging activity has made snowmobiling the Alpine difficult. The lack of snow has allowed logging to continue and has added to the snowmobiling woes. The forest service projects that logging will be completed by the end of February.

Richard Ostrom has been appointed to fill the open board position. Richard and Pat have a house on Aspen Trail, and spend about half time at Arrowhead. Richard will serve as a board secretary.

The snow pack continues to be light. Both lack of snowfall and warm temperatures have contributed. But there are still two months of winter left (at least) and we're hoping for some big dumps.

# Fire Department News

## **FIRE CHIEF'S LETTER**

Ron Benson

A search and rescue (SAR) exercise was held on January 10<sup>th</sup> by the members of the Arrowhead fire dept. We were fortunate to have three SAR experts from Gunnison attend the drill. At the conclusion, Gunnison commended the entire group for a well executed field and firehouse command effort. Firehouse Command took a lot of notes on the entire exercise and review, which we will use to improve our checklists and protocols. In February, Eric Johnson will show our members how to build a snow cave in which a stranded person could survive a winter night in the wilderness.

Becky Wyatt sent a very nice reply to the fire dept after receiving our Christmas donations and gifts. Danny Wyatt, Becky's husband of less than a year, has been diagnosed with a brain tumor. The fire department has for several years done an annual Christmas project to help families in need. The members of the fire dept donated money, gift cards, and some baby gifts for the Wyatt's and their newborn son, Danny Jr.

The Gunnison Fire Protection District consented to Arrowhead starting a special fire district. The Gunnison Planning Commission took up the petition and on February 2<sup>nd</sup> unanimously approved Arrowhead's request. On February 6<sup>th</sup>, the Gunnison County Commissioners Board heard public opinion on the petition. There were over 30 Arrowhead residents present at the meeting in support. The commissioners will render a decision in their February 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Special thanks go to Joyce Boulter for making both an Arrowhead flag and a Colorado flag for the firehouse east wall. The 3 ft by 5 ft flags are mounted on sound absorbing material to improve the room's acoustics. Eric Johnson and Starr Misner donated microwavable heating pads to be used when transporting patients in the winter ambulance sled. They must work well because one resident who was transported one cold day said, "I'll just stay in this sled - it's so warm and comfy."

Potluck night at the firehouse has been changed from Thursday 6 PM to Tuesday at 6 PM. Homeowner's night at the Inn has been changed to Thursday nights.

The snowmobiling has not been very good this year due to less snow than usual and the logging operations up country. The Alpine Rd has endured logging truck traffic all winter which presents a potential danger to smaller vehicles. Be careful when driving the Alpine Rd both above and below the parking lot.

## **DESIGN REVIEW**

Gary Keiser

The first house plans for 2007 have been approved. With 10 houses approved last year to be constructed this year, look for another year of heavy construction activity.

The Committee has been considering how to deal with lots that have street addresses on a road different from the access road. This occurs when cliffs, rocks or groves of trees block access and an easier access from another road is available. At the request of the Committee, the Board has adopted a new policy on address changes. In the future, road addresses should reflect the filing road used to access the property and address numbers should be in sequence with surrounding addresses.

# AVFD Christmas Project

Below is the letter received from Becky Wyatt in response to the gifts sent by members of the AVFD and Arrowhead Community as our 2006 Christmas project:

*“To our friends of the Arrowhead Volunteer Fire Department and Community:*

*Danny and I were overwhelmed to receive the call from Ron Benson about what all of you had done for us. We received all of the packages, gift cards, thoughtful notes, and money soon after, but we saved them to open until Christmas morning. My simple words cannot express the gratitude we feel. To be remembered in such a way by “friends” we have never met proves that there is so much good in this world. All of the outfits, toys, and baby items were so adorable, and we were very glad to get some 12-24 month outfits that he can grow into!*

*For those of you who may not know our story, let me briefly explain. My husband, Danny, and I were married on June 10, 2006 and two days after returning from our honeymoon, he was diagnosed with a Grade IV glioblastoma (brain tumor). We then found out I was pregnant. This was a wonderful blessing in the midst of all the bad news. His only symptom had been slight difficulty with finding the words to say what he wanted to say, which we attributed to the extreme stress of our wedding. We got an MRI of his head when we got back from Aruba, and the worst we thought possible was a mild stroke. Needless to say, the first six months of our marriage have been very stressful and challenging. Danny has been on chemo and radiation ever since his brain surgery in late June. The tumor has already reoccurred in the brain and grown since our trip to Colorado.*

*Thanks to the generosity of Jim and Linda Squirrel, Danny fulfilled his dream to elk hunt “out west”. He got a beautiful 5 x 5 elk his first day there. To be blessed with such a trip, and then continue to be blessed by amazing people like you has made us so happy. Danny and I have told all our friends and family what you all did for us. It has really lifted our spirits, especially his. He is such a wonderful man and he feels like the good he has done for others throughout his life is now coming back around. This is very important, as people with terminally diagnosed diseases need this peace. We can’t thank all of you enough for what you did for us – it meant so much. I fell like a card doesn’t begin to show how much we appreciate your acts of kindness, but I can promise you this. We will “pay it forward” to help someone else in need, as you have done for us.*

*The gift cards and money helped us to get some of the vital items we needed for the nursery. We will send pictures when Danny Jr. arrives, and I will include one from our elk hunt in the card. Thanks again so very much for such a wonderful, thoughtful blessing. We are, of course, praying for a miracle to cure Danny’s tumor. We feel so blessed that God is giving us a son, and I will make sure he know what you all did for him one day. Thank you!*

*May God Bless All of You,  
Danny, Becky, & Danny Jr. Wyatt”*

## SECURITY NOTES

Lindy Lindner

It’s been quiet on the mountain since the holidays with little new snow and very cold temperatures. Security has a new e-mail address: [Security@arrowhead1.org](mailto:Security@arrowhead1.org). You can e-mail messages to security as well as calling the message phone at 970-862-8262.

One snowmobile meets tree incident fortunately resulted in no serious injury to rider or machine, but taught a valuable lesson: don’t carry your trash on your lap when riding through the trees.

There is little new to report on the dog poisonings. Samples of the poison were sent to the lab at CSU. Initial test results came back as some sort of “chemical composite”. Further analysis is being done to identify specific chemicals used. This is important to know so that the area can be thoroughly cleaned once the snow melts.

# Board Reports

## HEAVY EQUIPMENT AND ROADS Ralph Ambruster

First of all, a big thanks to Will Hobson for a great job of snow management so far this year.

Let's talk about spring. We have been applying mag chloride to the filing roads for several years with less attention to general road maintenance. Last year was the first year we have applied gravel in four years. It is generally believed that we have a sufficient coating of mag chloride on the filing roads for now, and that we should invest in regenerating our roads with gravel this year. That being said, we will not be able to add gravel to all of our roads. The bulk of our attention will be given to locations most in need. The water truck will be used regularly for dust control. This plan has not been finalized and I am open to suggestions and comments.

I have been asked to assume the lead on the Parking Lot Bathroom project otherwise known as "It's a long way from the end of Crest on a cold morning." Another factor has come into play with regard to this project. We will be losing access to the trailer dump facility in about 3 years due to expansion of the Water Department. This facility is on Water Department property and is owned by same. We will need to consider whether to build a new dump station in conjunction with the construction of a Parking Lot Bathroom facility. I hope to have recommendations on a couple of solutions ready to discuss at the next board meeting. Your input would be greatly appreciated.

## MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS Paul McDermott

Frequently, the question comes up, "What does Maintenance and Improvements (M&I) do at Arrowhead?" Generally, M&I oversees maintenance and improvements of all the common areas of the subdivision, excluding roads, the parking lot and equipment building.

Most M&I projects are accomplished by Arrowhead owners who volunteer their time, expertise, vehicles, tools and equipment. As always, volunteers are needed and welcomed. It is fun to get out, meet and work with neighbors, old and new, and be able to stand back and look with pride at the accomplishments.

M&I is most active during the summer months, and depends almost entirely on volunteers to accomplish the projects. In past years, M&I has organized work crews to help clean up fallen trees and large branches which occur each year due to heavy snow and high winds. Other recent M&I projects have been the construction of the Arrowhead entrance sign, installation of directional and advisory signs throughout the subdivision, clearing brush and fallen timber to improve sight distances at intersections, and spraying noxious weeds, especially Canada thistle. With the wet summer Arrowhead experienced last year, the thistle problem has become the primary M&I focus for 2007. We will be working with Daniel Gray, a Master Gardener, who will evaluate and spray the larger thistle infestations on common ground. Volunteers will be asked to help with spraying of smaller areas. Property owners who wish to have Daniel evaluate individual lots should contact him at [www.nativelandscaping.biz](http://www.nativelandscaping.biz). Cost for thistle control on private lots is the responsibility of the property owner.

While thistle presents the primary focus of M&I, there will also be some other small projects. Depending on weather, there will probably be a work day to clean up the inevitable trees brought down this winter by wind and snow. The time will be publicized later, and **LOTS** of volunteers will be asked to help. Last year a force of nearly 30 volunteers made a big dent in the downed tree inventory and really made Arrowhead look great for the summer.

When the snow has melted and frost is out of the ground, volunteers will be sought to check and reset or replace road sign posts which have either rotted or gotten broken over the years. More about this project later.

# Community News

## **FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

Bruce Saunders

The Arrowhead Fire Protection District initiative is moving forward. All documents and notifications required by Colorado statute, the updated Arrowhead Fire Protection District Service Plan have been filed. A Letter of Intent to participate in a mutual aid arrangement with the new Arrowhead FPD has been approved by the Gunnison Fire Protection District. We currently have multiple mutual aid agreements in place with surrounding fire protection agencies that may be used as models.

Colorado statutes require that the first step in the continuation of this process be based on receiving approval from the governing fire district to allow for an overlap in service areas to provide similar emergency services during the period from voter approval to official district formation. Our attorney prepared and presented such a resolution to the Gunnison Fire Protection District on January 18 and after lengthy debate and comment from the District Board the proposal was accepted.

A required meeting with the Gunnison County Planning Commission was attended by members of the AFD Committee on January 26 which resulted in a request by the Commission for additional information. The Planning Commission approved the filing on February 2.

A meeting with the Gunnison County Commissioners was held on February 6 attended by a large contingent of Arrowhead owners. The Commissioners delayed a decision until their February 20 meeting to allow more time for them to study the filed materials. If the district is approved by the County Commissioners, petitions will immediately be sent to taxpaying electors of the district. Generally, that is Arrowhead owners who are also Colorado voters. The petition must be signed by 30% of taxpaying electors before an actual vote can be scheduled. The timing of these steps is critical if the district is to begin receiving funding in 2008.

Should you have comments or questions please do not hesitate to contact one of the Committee members.

## **MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS**

Lindy Lindner

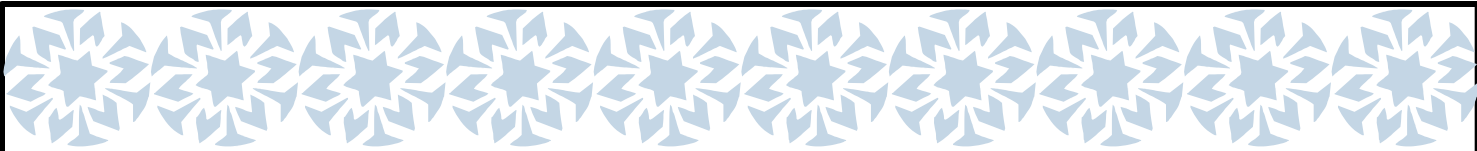
Richard and Pat Ostrom lived in California in their formative years. Pat is a native, and Richard moved from Ohio as a kid. They have lived in Arizona for the past 21 years. They own an auto repair shop in Yuma, and are trying to move to Arrowhead full time. They RV'ed in Gunnison the summers of 1997 and 1998. They enjoyed the area so much they decided to look for a lot to park the RV during the summers. Arrowhead was their first and last stop!

After spending several summers in their RV on a Wildflower lot, they bought a cabin on Aspen Trail last summer and now divide their time between Arizona and Arrowhead.

Pat and Richard enjoy jeeping the trails in Colorado and Utah. Pat is an accomplished watercolorist, while Richard is heavy into photography, his favorite hobby off and on for many years. The Ostroms really enjoy the diversity of the folks who live at Arrowhead as well as the sense of community.

Richard has volunteered to serve on the AIA board and will be the board secretary.





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*We've got a number of cabins available at Arrowhead that are furnished and ready for you to enjoy this winter. Come enjoy the snowmobiling and cross country skiing or drive over to Telluride or Crested Butte for a day of alpine skiing. We're just about halfway between those two ski areas. The Colorado sunshine is wonderful in winter! Buy your Arrowhead home now and enjoy it! Here are just two but you can view more on our website at [www.arrowheadranch.com](http://www.arrowheadranch.com). please be sure to call us in advance if you want to come see these cabins since we're not in the office every day during winter.*

## FULLY FURNISHED AND READY TO ENJOY

Just bring your clothes and food to this wonderfully furnished and decorated cabin on Crest Drive. A wood-burning stove adds coziness to the electric heat, top-line stainless steel appliances, oak cabinets and granite-slab countertops grace the kitchen and the living room is bright and sunny with extra thick walls (log plus frame). There are lovely master bedrooms on both levels and 2 full baths, one with a jetted tub. A cute home office utilizes the attic and there's plenty of storage in the shed and beneath the house.

Priced to sell at \$325,000, this is a must see!



NESTLED IN ASPENS WITH A GREAT VIEW OF SHEEP MOUNTAIN, this furnished cabin offers lots of room and easy winter access on Spruce Road. The kitchen includes oak cabinets, Jenn-Air range, dishwasher, and side-by-side refrigerator. There's a woodburning stove in the great room and a propane heating stove in the family room to supplement the electric baseboard heat. This home includes 3 bedrooms and 2 baths and a unique outdoor root cellar. Just \$235,500!



## HEALTH ON THE MOUNTAIN

Joyce Boulter

We recently returned from two weeks in Texas. We were staying with Bill's mother while her caretaker-grandson took a trip. Everything went well with the care of his mother, who is 88 and stays in her home, but needs a certain amount of supervision. The worst part was the weather. It rained and was overcast for 8 days in a row with temperatures in mid thirties with some ice. Not the typical Texas weather. The last day we were there she had an appointment with a neurologist. I asked him about a condition known as SAD or seasonal affective disorder, because she rarely gets out and keeps the shades drawn. Not only did he think it was a valid concern; he said he experienced a similar reaction during the previous 8 days with out sunlight.

Most of us have a few days where we experience the winter blahs and cabin fever, especially in April, when we are waiting for the snow to melt. These symptoms are usually short lived and disappear as soon as we have a few sunny days.

Seasonal affective disorder is a depression that occurs mainly in the winter, but may also occur in the summer. It usually occurs after the age of 20, is more common for older people and more often in northern regions.

The symptoms include:

- An increase in appetite, usually for sweet or starchy foods

- Weight gain

- Drop in energy level

- Fatigue

- Oversleeping and irritability

- Difficulty in concentration

- Avoidance of social situations and sensitivity to social rejection

Winter depression is caused, as you would think, by the body's reaction to the lack of or shorter duration of sunlight. One of the most common treatments is to increase light exposure. I thought that full spectrum lights, which mimic sunlight, were the best source of light, but the articles I read just stressed light. It is best to get about 30 minutes of extra light in the mornings, but not the light from a tanning bed, as that contains harmful ultraviolet rays.

SAD is a serious depressive disorder that requires treatment by a physician. For a diagnosis of SAD, the symptoms need to occur two winter seasons in a row followed by non-depressive seasons. Summer seasonal disorder is the opposite. It has decreased appetite and weight loss with a high energy level.

Most of us on the mountain are not jeopardy for SAD, as we have lots of sun and many beautiful days. Most residents don't have drapes or curtains because we want the sun to warm our houses. Just remember that it is important to use sunscreen during the winter as well as the summer, to protect your skin from the harmful ultraviolet rays. Exposure to the sun in the early morning or late afternoon is generally safe. About 30 minutes a day is sufficient to keep SAD away.

## NOXIOUS WEEDS

Bettye Keiser

What is a noxious weed? A weed can be described as a plant that is invasive and alien to the surrounding area. A noxious weed is one that is on a federal, state, or local list that recommends or requires management of that plant.

The Colorado Legislature enacted the Colorado Noxious Weed Act in 1990 and established the State Noxious Weed Management Trust Fund in 1996. Each Colorado county and municipality is required to have a noxious weed management program. Gunnison County has a dedicated employee to implement its program. The Governor issued an executive order stating: "All land owners have a responsibility to plan and implement a coordinated program that utilizes a variety of integrated methods to manage noxious weeds."

Noxious weeds displace native wildlife and plants. Noxious weeds dominate plant communities forcing out native plants. Wildlife dependent on native plants are also forced out.

More information on noxious weed identification and management will be provided in future Smoke Signals and Board meetings, as well as the website.

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## Wildflower Realty at Arrowhead

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**Wildflower Realty has some beautiful view lots listed and available.**

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**Need more Info?  
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**ROCKS, ROCKS EVERYWHERE**  
Shirley Ambruster

When we purchase property at Arrowhead and either clean our site, or excavate to build our homes, one thing is very evident ----there are rocks everywhere. It naturally follows that we try to think of something creative to do with all these extra rocks. Some residents chose to use them for creating an entrance to their lot, or lining our driveways. However, when these rock stacks become higher than about a foot high around the outside of the site, they become a perimeter fence.

The AIA Design Regulations state:  
“ In order to preserve the natural, rural character of the area, no perimeter or boundary fences are permitted around the sites.” (Page I-8 Design Regulations)

There was a very unfortunate accident this summer when a teenager driving an ATV, couldn't navigate a sharp turn in the filing road, and slammed into one of these rock perimeter fences. Luckily, she was not seriously injured. However, if the accident had been more serious, we could have been liable, because this particular rock perimeter fence was build on common ground.

Visitors to Arrowhead are always surprised to see the cabins and other structures so well hidden in our beautiful forest, and how it continues to look like a natural area. So as we make decisions on landscaping our lots, let's remember we want it to remain primarily a forest and meadow subdivision.



**TODAY Realty**  
of Gunnison, Inc.  
600 W. Tomichi Ave.  
Gunnison, CO 81230  
Office: 970-641-0077  
Fax: 970-641-0079



**Barbara Darnell**  
Broker Associate – Arrowhead  
1150 Spruce Road  
Cimarron, CO 81220  
Office: 970-862-8298  
Cell: 970-209-7253  
E-mail: [barb@fineitems.net](mailto:barb@fineitems.net)  
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## ***Squirrel Tales***

Jim Squirrell, who developed Arrowhead on his family ranch some 30+ years ago, gave a talk on his family history at a community dinner in the fall of 2006. Ofelia Vandenbosch was kind enough to transcribe it so that we have it for posterity. Here is an excerpt from that talk.

### ***DAD...***

My dad, growing up on the farm, knew that (ranching) was not what he wanted to do. He didn't like farming. What he did as a young man was to start traveling all over the western states, and he bought furs and hides. He'd go from ranch to ranch with his truck, and he'd buy the mink, the coyote, the sheep pelts and hides and so on, and that's how he made his living for several years. Then there was a period of time when the homesteads started becoming available. Now keep in mind these homesteads were settled in the early 1900s. A person could go out and homestead a piece of land, usually 320 or 640 acres where he had to build a home, and he had to farm it. What they did was to put in a patch of rhubarb or whatever. They didn't really farm it. As you know, a homestead at this elevation is not an economical unit because it's too high here to farm. They didn't have any water to irrigate. So they tried to run a little bunch of sheep or cattle, but again on 320 or 640 acres that wasn't feasible. So one by one by one, these homesteads became available all over Colorado. Dad's interest was in this area, so he started buying the homesteads. In fact, the first homestead he bought was called the Freeman Homestead. That's the piece of ground we are standing on right now. I don't know if you guys know it, but right down the road where the old stump dump was were two cabins. They are still there now. That was the Freeman Homestead. Dad kept picking up homesteads and we bought the Nesbitt homestead, we bought the Brasswell Homestead, we bought the Fields homestead. On and on and on. He continued to do this until about 1950. Then he bought a huge ranch. It was called the Eva Fitzpatrick Ranch. It extended from about Hazel Lake all the way down to the highway, across the highway, including Fitzpatrick's Mesa on the other side, clear down to Soderquist on the west and went clear to Sapinero on the east - a huge, huge piece of property. Well, at that time, there was absolutely no way that he could pay for it. So what he did - my Dad was an extremely shrewd businessman - was to keep all the attorneys screwed up so they couldn't close on it. He was always complaining about this legal description, about that legal description, and he kept the closing "open." At the same time he was postponing that closing, he was meeting with all his rancher friends. Land that he bought for \$10 an acre, he was selling smaller pieces of, for \$25 an acre. He had this all tied up. By the time the closing came, he had sold off all the ground down by the Soderquist property, Fitzpatrick Mesa and east all the way to Sapinero, and the sheep permits. He had sheep permits he sold that he never saw. He had sheep he sold that he never saw. But, he did this, and we ended up then with what Dad called the Blue Ranch. This was the Blue Ranch here, which later became Arrowhead Ranch. We had all these creeks - the Little Blue, the Big Blue, the East Fork of the Little Blue and so on. Well, he kept the Blue Ranch.

**WEBSITE FEATURES AND IMPROVEMENTS**

Lindy Lindner

The AIA website continues to receive additions and updates as we work to improve it as a relevant online resource for Arrowhead owners. While documents like recent meeting minutes and financials are available on the site, our webmaster, Robb Pennie, has also added several relevant links, including:

- regional web cams
- weather forecasts and satellite views
- wildfire conditions
- road conditions
- regional ski area snow reports

Our goal with these links is to let Arrowhead owners quickly and easily see what conditions are like as we work and play on and off the mountain, as well as when we're heading to Montrose, Gunnison and beyond. We're certainly open to posting other relevant cam and info links. Let us know if you have any suggestions.

An Arrowhead web cam has been added to the site so that Arrowhead owners can check in and see what conditions are like when they aren't here. While it's a bit of a work in progress, it's fun to check in and see what conditions are like at any given time. Thank you to Bill and Joanna Misaire for housing and hosting the web-cam for us!

Beyond this, we're always looking for photos showing off Arrowhead to include on the website. If you have pretty seasonal or wildlife shots and wouldn't mind them being used on the site, send them to Lindy Lindner at [lilbearpaw11@earthlink.net](mailto:lilbearpaw11@earthlink.net). Please contact us with information that you feel would be relevant to Arrowhead owners on the web! If you haven't visited the AIA website lately, please take a few minutes to view the new web cams and information at [arrowhead1.org](http://arrowhead1.org).

From: Arrowhead Improvements Association, Inc.  
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