

Soap Creek Schoolhouse Foundation

Annual Newsletter

May 2011

Hello to all the neighbors, friends, and former students of the Soap Creek Schoolhouse.
Happy Springtime! Finally!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

NEIGHBORHOOD PICNIC

Sunday, July 24
2-5 pm

Location: 27630 Writsman Creek Dr.,

The home of Brett Reistad and
Sarah Uebel.

Bring a salad, dessert, or side dish, and
any beer or wine you desire.

All else is provided!

GARAGE SALE

**NO GARAGE SALE
THIS YEAR!**

Everyone accumulate some
good “junk” for next year’s sale.

FINANCES / MAINTENANCE :

THANKS for your great support last year:

\$570 from Dues and Donations,

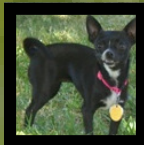
+ \$525 from the Garage Sale

= \$1095 !

Our biggest bills last year were \$1,824 for painting the schoolhouse,
\$525 for insurance, and \$238 for additional gravel in the parking lot.

There are no big renovation projects planned for this year, though we are beginning to think
about replacing the front porch steps and adding a higher railing in the center.

PICNIC 2010



Neighborhood Notes

A Bit of Logging:

Earlier this spring Dan and Jeanie Mason had two acres logged and replanted with Douglas Fir. This would normally not be newsworthy except that since they live near the junction of Tampico and Soap Creek Roads, everyone driving by had a big change of scenery all of a sudden, and slowed down to see what was going on.

According to Jeanie, “We did it for the sunshine.... This dreary winter (and rising timber prices) helped propel us to the decision.” The logging and replanting was done by “Timber Tomorrow” and the Masons are quite happy with their work, and with the extra daylight!

Local notes from the OSU Beef Ranch manager, Janice Allen:

The big project of creekside brush clearing / fencing has been completed and a variety of native trees have been planted, including willows, oaks, ash, and cottonwoods.

Last year’s planting trial in the pasture was inconclusive and will be continued this year. The experiment was to see how well sorghum sudan and brassicas (in the turnip family) would provide forage into the hot summer months compared to grass, but the weather was too cool to provide good data. This year the trial will be repeated, but perhaps with staggered planting times to allow for more even growth. The elk did find the plants to be very tasty in the late summer...

A fresh “crop” of beef calves is quite noticeable this spring, because many of them are the pale progeny of a white Charolais bull and their Black Angus mothers. (Isn’t genetics interesting?)

Kids’ Bike Parade:

The second annual Kids’ Bike Parade will be held in mid– or late-June, as soon as school is out. Organizer Darcie Hamel had a good turnout at last year’s first-ever, low-key event especially aimed at younger kids, held on the quiet side roads of Writsman Creek and Moss Rock Roads. For further information and a more definite timeframe, email DarcieHamel@Peak.org.

Neighborhood Notes, cont.

Invasive Plants Meeting a Big Success:

The Schoolhouse was packed to the rafters on March 29th as people gathered to hear a discussion of how to deal with invasive plant species in the Soap Creek Valley. The dessert potluck helped, too! The meeting was arranged by Ms. Heath Keirstead of Benton Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), and by our neighbor Debbie Johnson of Applegate Forestry. There were speakers from various agencies, discussing the evils of false brome, meadow knapweed, knotweed, and reed canarygrass. People were able to sign up for a free weed inventory, and to receive advice about restoration and weed control efforts. Heath distributed folders full of helpful information - including the announcement of a new neighborhood weed control grant program Benton SWCD will offer beginning this summer.

This is probably only the first of many public neighborhood efforts to combat these invasive species. If you missed the meeting and would like additional information, contact Ms. Heath Keirstead at 541-753-7208, or at hkeirstead@bentonswcd.org. Also, neighbors Jean Townes, Joe Crockett and Janet Ohmann have been combating false brome on their properties for some time and are a good source of advice:

TownesJ@peak.org or JCrockett@earthlink.net.

Check Out Our WEBSITE !

Joe Crockett developed a beautiful website for us:
www.SoapCreekSchoolhouse.ORG

It contains the history of the schoolhouse, lots of old photos, directions for visitors, and newsletter information.

New this year on the website is the complete pdf file of Bob Zybach's OSU Master's thesis (1999), "Using Oral Histories to Document Changing Forest Cover Patterns: Soap Creek Valley, Oregon 1500-1999".

If you have anything interesting to add to the site, contact Joe Crockett directly.

Word from Former Schoolhouse Students and Neighbors

In Memoriam:

Lola Fern Barzee Morss, June 4, 1915-July 12, 2010.

She had been living in Sweet Home for many years. Her daughters Joyce Morss Geil and Susan Morss Loux sent a donation from her estate with this note and photo:

“Dear Nancy, Find enclosed a personal check from the late Lola Fern Barzee Morss, for a donation to the Soap Creek Schoolhouse, Renovations Project. She always talked about the fine work that the members had been able to complete and what plans were still left to accomplish. She spoke about how her brother, Arnold Barzee, and her sister Leah Barzee Jenkins, attended the school. I am not sure when she attended as she was four years younger than her siblings. I have sent a few copies of the picture of her brother and sister on the porch of the School House. Arnold Barzee is fourth from the left side of the picture, front row, and sister Leah is in the second row behind him.” (Editor’s note: this photo was probably taken between 1917-1920, at one of the earlier schoolhouses than the one currently standing. Siblings Leah Jenkins and Arnold Barzee have both passed away.)



soap Creek grade School

Word from Former Schoolhouse Students and Neighbors, cont.

From **Glee Govier Butler**:

“I attended Soap Creek School 1st-4th grades until government bought our farm for Camp Adair.” (Ms. Butler currently lives in Corvallis.)

Former students **Dennis and Glenn Dunham** and their wives came from Chilquin and from Redlands, CA to attend the neighborhood picnic last summer! Everyone had fun talking with them about how the neighborhood used to look and what life was like in the “olden days” (the mid-1940’s). As near as can be ascertained, the Dunham boys lived with their aunt and uncle Dickman, in what is now the Chrostek’s home on Soap Creek Road.

Former student (?) Jackie Johnson Gillit visited the Schoolhouse with her brother and their spouses in August 2010. Jackie is positive she attended the school in first and second grade, approx. 1950-51. However, our records indicate the school was closed in 1946, when Jackie would have been too young for first or second grade. It’s a mystery to us! Jackie used to live in the house now owned by Bob and Shirley Rice, and currently lives in California.



Do you have any **Schoolhouse “stuff”** stored at your house?

As years roll by and people come and go, it’s easy to lose track of any items being held for safekeeping by neighbors and friends.

If you are currently taking care of any schoolhouse items, please drop me an email or note telling me what you have, and I’ll make a master list. Thanks! Nancy Hyde, nhyde@peak.org

The Soap Creek Schoolhouse is available for use throughout the year, for small meetings of local interest. Please obtain permission and a key by contacting either Bart Spiller at 745-9007, or Nancy Hyde at 745-7470. A \$20 key deposit is required. Note: the Schoolhouse Foundation does not endorse any political or religious group but does allow its facilities to be used by such groups.

CONTACTS: Nancy Hyde, 745-7470 or nhyde@peak.org,
Bart Spiller, 745-9007,
Joe Crockett (website) 745-5354 or jcrockett@earthlink.net

Please provide your email address, to reduce printing and mailing costs. Thanks!



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES and DONATIONS

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ Phone _____

\$10 Annual Membership Dues \$ _____

Any Additional Donations \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Please make checks to “Soap Creek Schoolhouse”, and mail to:
Nancy Hyde, Treasurer, 37845 Soap Creek Road, Corvallis, OR 97330.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

HOW TO START A FIGHT:

One year, I decided to buy my mother-in-law a cemetery plot as a Christmas gift...
The next year, I didn't buy her a gift. When she asked me why, I replied,
"Well, you still haven't used the gift I bought you last year!"
And that's how the fight started.....

My wife and I were watching Who Wants To Be A Millionaire while we were in bed.
I turned to her and said, 'Do you want to have Sex?'
'No,' she answered. I then said,
'Is that your final answer?'
She didn't even look at me this time, simply saying, 'Yes..'
So I said, "Then I'd like to phone a friend."
And that's when the fight started...

My wife sat down next to me as I was flipping channels.
She asked, "What's on TV?"
I said, "Dust."
And then the fight started...

Saturday morning I got up early, quietly dressed, made my lunch, and slipped quietly into the garage. I
hooked up the boat up to the van and proceeded to back out into a torrential downpour. The wind was
blowing 50mph, so I pulled back into the garage, turned on the radio, and discovered that the weather
would be bad all day.
I went back into the house, quietly undressed, and slipped back into bed. I cuddled up to my wife's
back; now with a different anticipation, and whispered, "The weather out there is terrible."
My loving wife of 5 years replied, "And, can you believe my stupid husband is out fishing in that?"
And that's how the fight started...

My wife was hinting about what she wanted for our upcoming anniversary.
She said, "I want something shiny that goes from 0 to 150 in about 3 seconds."
I bought her a bathroom scale.
And then the fight started.....
