



BIG ARM ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2007

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******BIG ARM SCHOOL IS A NATIONAL TREASURE!******

THE STATE'S AND NOW THE NATION'S HISTORIANS HAVE AGREED THIS BUILDING SHOULD BE SAVED AND HAVE LISTED THE SCHOOL ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES!

Wild Land Fires: To the Interagency Incident Management Team, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes, Sanders, Flathead & Lake Counties, Montana DNRC, and all Fire Departments that have worked so hard this summer to keep us safe during such a terrible fire season. THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Since the last potluck most of us have been very worried about the wildfires that have surrounded us; first the Garceau fire and then the incredibly large Chippy Creek fire which still burns at our back door. The BAA hopes the daily email updates from ICM which have given fire crew's activities, weather, resources and strategy have been a source of comfort. The men and women assigned to these fires are highly trained professionals and have our admiration and gratitude, from the firefighters who dig out burning embers to the air support that douses the fire and helps keep the crews safe; from a marvelous ground crew that provides food, clean clothes and a place to sleep to the Commanding officers who orchestrate the whole operation and have kept us safe.

For those who have been receiving the updates please share the news with your neighbors and friends who do not have access to the internet. Please forward email addresses so more neighbors can receive important news.

At the August 1st potluck Tribal Fire Management and Lake County Emergency Management told us in no uncertain terms how serious this fire season was becoming and how thin resources were spread. They impressed upon us that we were all going to have to be extra cautious, be extremely "fire-wise" and keep an eye on our neighbors. We thank Jolene, Devlin, Stanley and others for taking the time to visit with us and sharing their information. In the fire hall, at www.firewise.org, or at Polson City fire station are instructions on how to make your surroundings "fire-wise", evacuation instructions, and more. Lake County also has grant money available for making the forest around your house safe.

Treasurer's Report: The beginning balance \$4,115.46, paid Liability Insurance \$778.13, Web Page Fee \$60, 6 month Utility fee \$120, received \$148 in t-shirt etc. sales, received \$140 dollars for sale of pinecones which 5 families collected, thank you Arnie & Luella Gomke for organizing this event. Balance in fund \$3,445.33.

T-shirts \$13, sweatshirts \$21, caps \$15 for sale, make great gifts!

Thank you to the Musicians Dorothy Williams, Ron Beam and Tony Grant who entertained us at the last potluck.

To Carol Grende our famous local artist we are sending our best wishes that it won't be long until you are well again.

Thank you to Ron & Marilyn Roberts who hosted the last leader meeting potluck and Ron the ribs were delicious! We welcome Aviva Brooks, our newest leader and thanks to Shari Schultz, Nita Parks, Ron Friez, Jan & Jim Phillips, Lester & Kay Johnson, Luella Gomke, Earle & Wanelda Schafer, Jeff & Alison Meslin Deb Weidrich, and Harold & Jerry McMillan for attending. A committee was formed to plan a special community night on Friday, September 28, please mark your calendarwe will keep you posted! We also decided to have a special Halloween night for kids of all ages and we invite all fun loving people to help create this event, please call!

Please also consider joining the leadership group we would love to have more neighbors involved in planning community activities.

MONDAY AUGUST 27 MUSICAL POTLUCK 6:00

Get ready to have a finger-snapping, toe-tapping great time at the Harvest Potluck. Join us at the fire hall. It will be a great time to eat fantastic food, visit and just enjoy the wonderful people and talent we have in Big Arm. Dorothy Williams playing keyboard, Ken Jacobson with the accordion and Wilfred Kenmille playing the guitar will be entertaining us with big band era, country and more of our favorite music. Bring your family, friends and favorite fall potluck dish.

The Big Arm School and it's Outhouses are now truly a National Treasure and we need all the help we can muster to persuade the School Board of the importance of saving this unique and historic building and land. Mike Hutchin, County Commissioner, gave a wonderful presentation to the School Board on August 13. He described the uniqueness of the school and the importance of saving this building not just for Big Arm but for Lake County as well. We have very few of these original community structures left. He explained that the land 300 by 400 feet could only be divided into 2 or 3 lots because of well and septic placement not 8 lots as the Board's appraisal suggested. Mike suggested the Board and the Commissioners select a third appraiser who would appraise both properties, he also asked the Board to form a sub-committee. The Board was adamant there would be no subcommittee and asked to defer making a decision until they had a full board present. If anyone in Big Arm is interested in being on the School Board please submit your letter to the district as soon as possible as two positions will be coming vacant. Big Arm does need to be represented. If anyone has any ideas, or would like to help in anyway with saving this building for the community please call.

Welcome Irvine Flats Residents who have become part of the Polson Rural Fire District. The Rural Board of Trustees have authorized the tender/engine #327 to be housed in Irvine Flats for their protection. Seven Irvine Flats residents have applied to become firefighters and after training will join other volunteers from Big Arm and Polson working together as Polson Volunteer Fire Department ready and willing to help everyone in the rural district. **WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS FOR THE BIG ARM AREA**, if you have any questions please call Jeff Meslin at 849-6628.

3 Nights Dog Boarding Coupon : Nita won this in the BAA raffle and would like to pass this on to someone who could take advantage of this great offer. Please call her at 849-5367.

Excerpt from the book Proud Heritage by Paul Fugleberg, an excellent local history source! "The *City of Polson* was involved in a scary incident in August 1910 when smoke from forest fires settled over Polson Bay. As the sixty-one foot, gasoline-powered ship approached Polson, visibility was reduced to zero.

Capt. J. W. Swanson ordered the boat stopped as he whistled for assistance. On shore, about a mile away, the operator of Polson's electric plant heard the whistle and recognized the problem. He sounded the power plant's whistle in reply. That helped Swanson get a bearing on land, but he still couldn't find the dock. After hitting a sand bar on the west side of the bay, he backed off, and inched the boat slowly back toward the power plant signal until he finally found the landing."

And we thought it was thick last week! Have Safe Landings Folks !

**TRASH PICK UP SATURDAY SEPT. 15, 9:00 AM,
Please Help to Keep Big Arm Beautiful by Cleaning Hwy 93**