



BIG ARM ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2007

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BIG ARM SHAKING IN ITS BOOTS!

AT LEAST 7 OF THE OF APPROXIMATELY 20 QUAKES HAVE BEEN RECORDED BY USGS SINCE OCTOBER 1

Big Arm is either being rocked to sleep at night or shaken awake in the early hours of the morning. Approximately 20 shakes have been felt since October 1st with 7 of them ranging from 1.1 to 1.7 on the USGS scale and 2.3 to 4.5 miles in depth. Although very worrying we have been assured that this is nothing new for the Mission and Flathead valleys and these small and rather noisy quakes are just the earth relieving pressure..... Well quite honestly we wish it would burp somewhere else! In the next couple of weeks a USGS geologist will be here to explain all this activity. A special thank you to Ron Friez who is organizing this informational talk. We will notify you by email, a notice will hang in the Big Arm post office or call 849-6628 for more information.

Adopt a highway: the D.O.T. has sent a certificate of appreciation to the Big Arm Association "For your effort and dedication in making Montana's roadsides reflect the beauty of our state, thank you! Because of your efforts, it's a new day on our highways." We will hang this in the fire hall. Next pick up Earth Day April 2008.

The BBQ & Dance was a great success with about 80 people attending. The food was scrumptious and the great music provided by DJ Rudy & Gena Mendez got lots of people dancing. Everyone joined in wishing Laura Holland a happy birthday as Tony Grant sang in Kootenai. A very special thank you to Jan & Jim Phillips, Kristin Osborn, Shari Schultz, Linda Althouse, Nita Parks, Ron Friez, Jeff Meslin, Tony Grant, Sharon & Ray Geiser for the ice and a very special thanks to Arnie & Luella Gomke for the use of their barn.

Slide Presentation on Alaska was a huge success and thoroughly enjoyed by 60 residents. Marty Zajanc was not only very entertaining the photographs and the stories of his travels across Alaska were fascinating and quite amazing. Thank you Marty and once again a special thank you to Ron Friez for arranging this presentation.

Treasurer's Report: The fund balance \$3,524.84 The net cost of the BBQ & dance was \$181.61 All bills are paid.

T-shirts and Sweatshirts are now on sale (stock sizes only)

Caps are now \$12, t-shirts- \$10, sweatshirts \$18.

These make great gifts especially at Christmas!

Carol Grende has returned from Texas and after the first 23 days of treatment her leukemia was in total remission. Carol will be having 5 more chemo treatments over the next 5 months. We wish Carol and her husband David all the very best and will keep them in our prayers.

A New Guest Book has been presented by Jan Phillips which will be a vast improvement on the scraps of paper we have been using to record attendance. Thanks Jan!

Local News: We would love to announce births, new residents, special accomplishments, in the newsletter, send us relevant information. Please let us know if you are moving so we can keep our mailing list updated. Please share your email address with us, we do not share our list with anyone else. Please call me at 849-6628

Big Arm needs more Firefighters please consider joining the very special group of residents who so willingly keep us and our property safe. Please they need more Help! Polson Fire Department is revitalizing the Auxiliary and we thank Lee Engbretson for joining this group.

Snow Chickens, oops we mean Birds! We wish you a safe trip to your warm winter homes, we will miss you! Come back soon!

The Historic Big Arm School: On October 1 the committee attended District 23 Board meeting with the intention of asking permission to apply for the Nation's official historic property sign. This was denied because "it would send the wrong message" and also much to our surprise the Board decided against the proposed swap of county owned property offered by the Lake County Commissioners. They stated "they were not in the business of protecting historic buildings" and that the county owned property's title was "cloudy". Of course there were questions of valuation and other issues that clouded the offer but none of them insurmountable if all worked together to make it happen. Another appraisal of the school property by a different appraiser would have helped to correct the valuation problems. The Commissioners, who are still 100% in support of saving this historic treasure, were willing to discuss every option available. The SOS committee has since written a letter to the local newspapers, are in the process of contacting political representatives, we have contacted Montana Preservation Alliance, met with the Flathead Reservation Historical Society, contacted the Lake County School Superintendent, and researched titles of the land in question. Keith Johnson, who was the chairman of the school Board when the school and its land was sold to the Harmony Club in 1974, is helping by doing more research and contacting any one that might be able to save this school. Other residents near and far are also contacting current Board members with the hope that an open minded dialog could be encouraged. **Can YOU help us?** Do you know any of the Board members or any political representative, or historical group? Would you please ask for their help in saving this historical building. Board members are Theresa Taylor, Elke Allik, Vernon Finley, John Laimbeer, Bob Hanson, new members are Joe Hovenkotter, Greg Hobbs and John Mercer. Letters of support to the editor would also be a great help. Our intention is still to save this school and its land and once restored will be used and owned by the community. We plan to apply for grants so the restoration will not be a financial burden and keeping the school building on its original grounds will make many more grants available. We would love more people to be involved in this worthy cause, please call! Thank you for the hard work of Committee members Ross Hoyt, Earle & Wanelda Schafer, Jan Phillips, Paul Maurer, Lester Johnson, Ron & Marilyn Roberts, Arnie & Luella Gomke, Lee & Sonja Engbretson, Mary Driscoll, Ron Friez, Deb, Kerry & Mary Weidrich, and Alison & Jeff Meslin.

Halloween Spooky Potluck Party Saturday October 27 6:30

The fire hall will be decorated with ghosts, ghouls and monsters. As you make your way through the haunted graveyard make sure the spooks and night creatures don't get you! We will have a bonfire where kids of all ages can toast marshmallows. We hope you will bring your spookiest dishes for everyone to enjoy. If you dare to wear a costume maybe you will win a special prize. Everyone is welcome, this is not just for kids! Come on....join in the fun!

November 5 at 7:00pm Mah-jongg Clinic : this is a western version of a Chinese game, played with tiles, similar to Dominoes. This game is becoming increasingly popular especially in Big Arm. At the fire hall on Monday the 5th some of these local players will be teaching newcomers and if you already know how to play come and join in.

November 30 at 6:30 we will be having a Turkey potluck and also hope to have an interesting guest speaker.