



BIG ARM ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2008

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Recently this area had four very bad house fires which our Volunteer Firefighters responded to no matter the time, the weather or the danger.....THANKS SO MUCH!!

Message from Firefighter Ron Friez: When the fire department responds to a house on fire we have to start attacking that fire with water and foam within minutes to be able to have a good chance to save the home. The last fire we attended was heartbreaking for the firefighters as the driveway was too narrow for our fire engines, even the brush trucks had great difficulty coping with the steep and twisting driveway which was covered in ice. It was so frustrating knowing we could not even begin to deliver enough water until the sanding truck arrived and chains were installed. Then after a few of us managed to bring more equipment up the very scary driveway to the fire there was not enough room to park or turn around. I cannot emphasize this enough, please help us to protect you, your family and your home by being Fire-Wise. Keep your driveway free of ice and make sure it is wide enough for emergency vehicles. Consider thinning the trees close to your house and please make sure there is an area about 100 feet from the house for firefighting equipment to park and turn around. We understand that many of you enjoy the wonders of nature living in the forest and/or on the side of a mountain but please consider discussing with the fire department how best to prepare your home for an emergency. Please keep your chimneys free from creosote all of the burning season and once a year have a professional inspect the flues for cracks in the masonry and rusted areas if they are metal. **Please Help Us to Help You, Thanks!**

Footnote to Ron's message: These house fire calls take the firefighters many hours of sheer physical labor to extinguish the flames and to make sure there are no embers left burning. The firefighters then have to go back to the station wash all the hoses and hang them to dry, add dry hoses and expendable items to the vehicles, wash the vehicles and refuel them all in readiness for the next call for help.

We are truly blessed to have such dedicated volunteers!

The BAA will be holding a "Being Fire-Wise" informational meeting in May, date to be announced. If you are interested in thinning the trees around your house and property there are still County grants available, call for information.

Welcome New Firefighters: Josh Hargesheimer & Nathan Boucher who have recently filled in applications, started the training process and if accepted will become Big Arm Fire Company Firefighters. Big Arm, Irvine Flats and Polson City Firefighters train, maintain equipment and fight fires together as one team. **Please consider becoming a volunteer firefighter, it is hard work but so rewarding and if more men and women step forward it will lighten the load.**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 25, Friday 6:30pm POTLUCK

Erin Sexton's presentation on the Condition of Flathead Lake.

February 13, Wed. 10:30am COFFEE HOUR, everyone welcome
COFFEE HOUR IS 2nd WED OF EVERY MONTH

February 29, Friday 6:30pm POTLUCK

with **Pam Heglan's presentation on her trip to Iran.**

March 28, Friday POTLUCK, Weed Control (to be confirmed)

April's end of month meeting still to be decided, ideas welcomed!

April 19 Sat. 9:00am Highway 93 Trash Pick up, Please help.

May POTLUCK with a "FIRE-WISE" presentation.

June 28 Summer Festival is in the works, ideas & help welcome!

Treasurers Report : The current fund balance is \$3,551 with recent expenses of stamps, copies, envelopes and rent for the fire hall.

Save Our School committee will be meeting in February and would welcome new members to help us find a way to preserve this historic building for the use of the community now and for future generations. In 2010 Big Arm Town will be 100 years old and what a wonderful way to mark that occasion by securing the future of our school. Deb & Alison are applying for Big Arm to become a "Preservation Community" with the Dept. of the Interior which will make us eligible for federal preservation grants.

General Leadership Change: Mary Driscoll has decided to resign as one of our three general leaders and on behalf of everyone we thank Mary for all she has done as a GL for BAA during this past year. Mary will continue to be our Tribal Liaison Leader. A big thank you to Deb Raunig for volunteering to take on the job, we look forward to working with her.

A History Event : We are planning a special gathering of people that have had a long connection with Big Arm. We are looking for family stories and photographs from tribal members, homesteader's families, and all kinds of funny and unusual stories through the decades. Our aim is to make a history book of Big Arm using copies of photographs and recorded stories. This will be lots of fun, please join us! Call Alison 849-6628.

Newsletter: We are thrilled that Ron and Paul have contributed to this edition, thanks. We are encouraging anyone to write a short article about an interesting topic, an achievement, a special event etc.

Out & About by Paul Maurer... January 15th and 16th was a first for us in the Big Arm area as we could witness some aspects of the relocation of big horn sheep from Wild Horse Island state park. During those two days there were big horn sheep bulldoggers in the sky. The Salt Lake City company chartered to capture and transport between 35 and 40 sheep from Wild Horse to Big Arm State Park were paid \$650 per head, which was no deal for the contractor due to the danger involved. The tricky part was the need to hover a three person helicopter close enough to the ground so a sheep could be shot with a net gun which would entrap the animal. At the same time a man would jump out of the helicopter to blind fold and hog tie the sheep. Once the sheep was blind folded and bound it proved docile and was easy to handle and transport. There were great articles written about this relocation exercise in the January 17th Leader and the Daily Interlake if you would like additional insight.Paul. (www.BigArmAssociation.org is an access to local papers)

Invitation to the Firefighter's Ball, March 1 at the Kwa-Taq-Nuk Tickets Cost \$35.00 per person. If you would like to Sponsor a table the cost is \$350.00 which will pay for 8 firefighters and 2 sponsors. Sponsors will be recognized with a plaque and listed in the program. A Handcrafted Quilt will be raffled at \$1.00 per ticket or 6 for \$5. **Please call Kara Bishop, President, Women's FF Aux, 212-3910**

Mind Teasers: Kangaroo Words are ones that include its own synonym e.g. FEASTS = EATS Find the words in DECEASED: ILLUMINATED: FABRICATION: SALVAGE: SEPARATE: CATABOMB: SATISFIED: EXISTS: RECLINE: APPROPRIATE
MONTANA OLD TIME FIDDLERS WILL BE PLAYING AT THE IDLE SPUR SUNDAY JAN 27, 1 TO 5 PM, Join Them!!