

BIG ARM ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER July 2009

PO Box 11, Big Arm, MT 59910. 849-6628 Alison, Deb 5391, Amy 5209.

COFFEE HOUR
Thu AUG 13, 10:30am
Informal and Fun
Fire Hall



ICE CREAM SOCIAL !!!!
SAT. AUGUST 22nd, 3 TO 7pm
You Provide the Company!
We will have the Ice Cream!
Come Join Us at the
Big Arm Historic School
For info Call 849-6628

Thank you Cove Deli for providing the Ice Cream!

THIRD ANNUAL BARN DANCE!
FRI. SEPTEMBER 11th, 6 TO 9:30pm
The Gomke's Barn, mm 71 1/2 Hwy 93
SOUTHERN COMFORT BAND
And a great DINNER!



This will be Community Social

and a fun way to raise funds for the Historic School.

Early tickets \$10, on the 11th=\$12, kids under 12= \$2 each.
So far, a big thank you to Safeway, Beacon Tire, Alpine Tepees and Napa Auto, for promising support.

Two Great Events! We hope you will be able to attend. Please bring your families and all of your friends. For info. on tickets or if you would like to help call Lee 849-5522.

Yard Sale: We plan to hold another community yard sale in the early fall to benefit the School fund. Rent a table or donate items for BAA to sell....call 849-6628.

Highway Cleanup is September 18, 19 & 20th. We hope many of you will dedicate a couple of hours to help keep Big Arm beautiful. Call to reserve your patch of Hwy 93, thanks.

Historic School: A new storage shed has been built behind the school by Ross Hoyt, Ron Roberts, Leo Duperron, David Waterman, Jeff Meslin, Jeff Foster, Arnie Gomke, Lester Johnson, Doug Koch, Paul Maurer and others. This shed will be used for storing extra tables, chairs, equipment, tools, building materials and lawn mowers. The storage room in the fire hall will become the Fire Company's office. By the way does anyone have a riding mower they would like to donate to the association? Work sessions are every Tuesday morning 9 to 12, join us! Call Ron at 849-5133.

On August 5th A & E Architects presented the "Condition Assessment" of the historic school along with scaled drawings of every aspect of the building with specific instructions for the restoration work. The school is structurally sound but needs lots of cosmetic work both inside and out. We will be applying for a Federal grant for historic preservation in September. If successful the grant will cover the exterior restoration from repairing the foundation, replacing the siding, roof and repairing all exterior trim etc. The funds that we raise through the Barn Dance and other donations will go towards the interior restoration. Please join us in the school house for the Ice Cream Social. We will have many historic photographs on display and you can review the Condition Assessment report.

The School Reunion was delightful with 11 students able to attend and they took great delight in reminiscing about their

childhood. The stories were fascinating and really breathed life into the old walls. We will continue searching to find more students and work on compiling their memories into a book for future generations.

We have located and retrieved several rather sad desks from the Proctor School basement that will need much tender loving care. These are the desks that were purchased for the Big Arm School in 1948 and replaced the more traditional looking desks with wrought iron legs one of which was kindly donated to us by the Miracle of America Museum.

The Cat was returned to Meadowlark Lane none the worse for his adventures. The owners thank everyone who helped. The found Siamese cat was offered another home.

Our Heartfelt Sympathy goes to the Blass family for the loss of Peggy who was a dear friend of many in the association. Peggy's historical photo collection will be a big part of the future museum section in the school.

Treasurer's Report: Doug Koch was voted in as one of our two treasurers and will replace Luella Gomke. Thank you Luella for all of your hard work. School fund = \$2546, Ops fund = \$1032.

THE BIG ARM VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY **NEEDS MORE FIREFIGHTERS!**

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING THESE WONDERFUL NEIGHBORS WHO DO SO MUCH TO KEEP US SAFE!

Seven neighbors are Big Arm's first response fire protection team but at times because of work, sickness or family commitment only 2 or 3 are able to respond. Please HELP these firefighters by joining Big Arm Fire Company. The work is enormously satisfying and if enough people step forward to become trained the workload can be shared. The levels of activity are flexible, part time residents and everyone over 18 are welcome. Ladies make very good firefighters! Please call Ron Friez to find out more, 849-5323.

News of the Long Rider. Last winter Bernice Ende entertained us with tales of her long distance rides accompanied by her 2 horses and her dog. She set out this past March to circle the country a 6,000 mile trip which will take at least 2 years. For news on her adventures visit www.endeofthetrail.com where she says "I wish all of you could see the world as I do from a slow pace and the view from the back of a horse. Thus far we have run across 8 rattlers, been caught in two thunderstorms, re-shod the horses 4 times, and enjoyed full moons and campfires, 4 months counting.....It is true, we live at a pace that would shatter the minds of our great, great grandparents. Perhaps the Long Rider is also a reminder to slow down, to live a simpler life...Happy Trails., Bernice Ende

HEALTH TIP: Suspect a stroke? Ask for a smile, speak a sentence, raise both arms and new sign stick out the tongue. STR & T