

BIG ARM ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER June 2009

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Big Arm's Family Fun Day and 30th Anniversary of our Big Arm Fire Company was a terrific celebration! Lovely Weather, a Marvelous Crowd and an Incredible Group of People helping to make the day a huge success!

THANK YOU!

We will try to thank everyone of you, first and foremost our very own brave firefighters who worked so hard providing us a wonderful day and also for protecting us each and every day. Thank you! A very special thank you to Ron Friez for working so hard on this firefighters' event. Thanks to Matt Sisler and his family who spent many hours and miles organizing the advertized Cow Drop raffle although we are pretty sure that Cow was a Bull!

Thanks to Jim Brandenburg Sr., Doug Koch, Ron Roberts, Leo Duperron, Lester Johnson, Paul & Karen Maurer, Paul Iverson, Bonnie & Tom Eddy, Joyce & Tim Bruner, Marion Retzer, Luella & Arnie Gomke, Deb Raunig, Amy Edwards, Sharon Amass, Lee & Sonya Engbretson, Cynthia & David Waterman, Dennis & Jan Wolfe, Barb Tack, Roy, Patti & John Waterman, Gary & Marilyn Nyquist, Keith Williams, Horst Roschmann, Jim Sisler, Mary & Emma Driscoll, and everyone who donated items to the yard sale or helped in any way. Thank you so much to Ken Avison who always enthalls kids of all ages with his very special magic show. Please visit with Ken at the Cove Deli. A special thank you to the Salish and Kootenai Confederated Tribes who always help us out every year. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported us. Another special thank you to our very own Self Appointed Despot Dictator Paulus Maurus who once again incited dozens of fierce warriors to fight daring and courageous water battles. This year Big Arm troops brought home the humongous trophy filled with jelly beans..... Congratulations!

Sun. July 12th Big Arm School Student Reunion!

Classes were last taught in our school in 1952 and despite the passing decades Ross Hoyt, Jerry Rude and others have found a dozen or more of the students. From 11am to 4pm friends will reunite, new friends be made and stories of Big Arm's past will be told. Hopefully we will also see more historic photographs. There will be a picnic and everyone who

is interested in the school and its past is welcome; please call Ross 849-5568 or Alison 849-6628.

We would love some help welcoming back these students, writing down their stories and recording photographs. If you know of a student's location please call Ross.

An August An Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social is in the Works! More information will be given later. This event will benefit the restoration work of the historic school.

Our Third Annual Barn Dance will be held in September. Info later.

July 4th Boat Parade was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Thank you Deb Raunig for organizing this fun event and keeping this decades old Big Arm tradition alive.

The Community Yard Sale held on the Family Fun Day was a great success and raised \$893.50 towards the restoration of our historic school. We thank everyone who donated their unwanted treasures and those who came to buy. We have decided to hold another Community Yard Sale in early fall so donations are still very welcome. Call 849-6628.

Treasurer's Report: The School fund balance is \$2521 after paying the \$5,000 architect's fee. The BAA operational fund balance is \$984.50.

BIG ARM FIRE COMPANY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!

We have 7 neighbors who have become our first response fire protectors but at times because of work, travel or family commitment only 2 or 3 are able to respond. **We must have more volunteers to share the work load.** The levels of activity are more flexible. **Wouldn't it be wonderful if there were enough Firefighters then they could take days off without worrying about our safety.** Call Ron Friez to find out more, 849-5323.

Letter from Big Arm's Firefighters':

On June 27th the Big Arm community area celebrated the 30th year anniversary of the Big Arm Vol. Fire Co. Good weather provided a beautiful day for the event which was paired with the BAA fund raiser for the school's renovations. Approx 300 to 400 people of all ages attended to partake in the firemen's dinner and to enjoy meeting friends and participating in the games and events. Lively music was donated by Erma and Gil Prior and the Wilfred Kenmille group. Chances were sold in a Cow Drop raffle which had ticket holders guessing right up until the last minute who might be the winner.

Founders and supporters of the BAVFC attended and included Mr/Mrs Ross Hoyt, Mr/Mrs Glen Wallace, Mr/Mrs Dale Drost, Mr/Mrs Bob Johnson, Mr/Mrs Svend Larsen, Mr/Mrs Manfred Schneider, Mr/Mrs Max Binger, Erma Prior, Bill Sergent and Ann Murphy. They and all of the more recent Big Arm area friends who donated money and time to renovate the station since 2005 were honored by the unveiling of a new sign on the north side of the building. The sign which reads BIG ARM Vol. FIRE Co. and Polson Rural Fire District in large readable letters was purchased by the fire district in honor of the Anniversary. Big Arm firemen and volunteers Tom Eddy and Alison Meslin painted the building and hung the sign before the day of celebration. We also thank Fire Chief John Fairchild and Polson FF Chris McGuinness for coming to help. Many people made wonderful dishes, salads and desserts for the dinner. Earl Holland donated custom painted signs. As is usual in this community many volunteers came together in countless ways to make things happen. All together the community raised more than \$4,000 to help the Firefighters buy equipment. The Big Arm Firefighters sincerely thank all of those who stepped forward and worked to create this day. Sincerely, the Big Arm Vol. Fire Co., Ron Friez, Steve Doll, Jeff Meslin, Tom Sadecki, Arnie Gomke, Matt Sisler and Martin Sago.