



Saguaro News

Newsletter of the SKP Saguaro Co-op
Benson, Arizona



March 2011

From the Board

Brrrr! The Annual Meeting is definitely one for the record books - at least weather-wise! Despite the extremely cold temperatures, it was well attended with 178 leaseholds in attendance plus 32 proxies. If you were unable to attend, you may pick up your Annual Report in the office. All five bylaw changes were approved by more than a two-thirds majority. Joined by three new members, your Board looks forward to another great year for this co-op. Your Board of Directors for 2011-2012 is:

Maxine Vert	President
Court Nighswander	Vice President
Faye Bragg	Secretary
Harry Melander	Treasurer
Chuck Divine	
Chuck Hoelzel	
Jerry LeRoy	
Karen Phillips	
Jim Rett	

We take this time to bid a fond farewell to the three outgoing Board Directors – Cosmo Baraona who served two years, Don Newport who served three years, and Deanna Dupuis who served five years. We thank them for lending us their time and great

talents. Their accomplishments have been numerous and varied and surely appreciated by all.

The Committee Sign-up Sheets have been picked up from the Clubhouse. The committees have had their reorganizational meetings and are ready to begin another year. A big thank-you goes to all the volunteers, leaseholders, and renters who signed up, but more help is needed on some of these committees so it is not too late to see the committee chairperson and offer to serve. Volunteers are what make this park such a great place to live.

Due to the extremely cold weather February 3 and 4 and an unfortunate pump motor problem, our Propane Committee, led by Dale Bunselmeier, went “above and beyond” and was still pumping propane after 5:00 p.m. on February 4. THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



March again finds the Clubhouse a very busy place. Besides the regularly scheduled activities, plans are well underway for

another awesome *Spring Fling* (see page 7). The Saguaro Chorus is practicing for their March 18 “*Evening with Irving Berlin*” concert and the Cactus Wrens have several meals planned. Your Clubhouse Committee, led by Ingrid Kluegel, deserves lots of praise for scheduling so many varied activities and for providing great entertainment.

We continue to receive many positive comments on our park. Although you all deserve kudos for being friendly, a big thank-you goes out to our Office Manager, Tisha Luzadder, the office staff, the Parking Committee and Welcome Committee for being first in line to extend a warm welcome to our guests. A big thank-you also goes to our Facilities Manager, Doug Miller, and his staff, the Facilities Committee, and the Landscape Committee who all make sure our park is well-maintained and attractive. The volunteers on these committees have contributed many hours working to make our park a beautiful, friendly place to visit and stay.

The results of the Cable TV Survey are in. As a result of the survey the Spike channel will be replaced by the Travel channel. Your Board of Directors has voted to add six more channels to our present 34. You will be receiving a survey to select the six additional channels.

Don’t forget the regular SKP Luncheon on March 9 at Turquoise Hills Restaurant at 11:30 a.m. You will be in for a great lunch and lots of interesting conversation.

Faye Bragg
Board Secretary



FROM THE OFFICE MANAGER

Tisha Luzadder

As you have all likely noticed we are full. The “Sorry we’re full – Dry Camp Only” sign has been out for awhile.

We have sent out your M & Os, which are due March 15th and August 15th. If you haven’t received yours yet, please pick them up at the office. The general assessments will be coming out soon.

Everyone has been busy with the new committees forming and electing officers. Thanks to all our volunteers on the new committees.

LOT TRADES:

Daniel and Diana Edwards from 166 to 132
Larry and Pat Lowe from 278 to 267

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW LEASEHOLDERS:

Marvin & Linda Deckert Lot #166
Jerry & Patty Pival/Livingston Lot #75
Pat & Rosemary McLaughlin/Gartner Lot #280



CACTUS WRENS

Don Boston, President

WHAT'S COOKIN' IN MARCH?

Lots to look forward to . . . Monday night Tacos, Wednesday Movies, Friday Fish Fry's or BBQ Chicken, Saturday Burgers and some special events. The clubhouse is buzzing with activity and the Cactus Wrens are highly involved. Thanks to the membership for your strong support of our food events.

The next really big thing is the *Spring Fling* starting March 10 with three days of rollicking good fun for everyone, a parade, coffee and wine tasting, casino games, food and musical

entertainment, even an event for your pets. And you won't want to miss the special "thank you" dessert on March 10 served up by the board members of the Co-op and the Cactus Wrens as our way of saying thank YOU to all the volunteers who do so much for our park every day of the year. All in all it's a full package of SKP Saguaro social activity designed to keep everyone entertained and to create more great memories of our times here. Be there for any or all of it.

FROM THE CLUBHOUSE

Ingrid Kruegel

February presented a more than usual busy time in the clubhouse. The *Super Bowl Party* was a success and everybody had a good time. Some lucky people even won money from the pool.

Outtakes 8 was wonderful and a big thank you goes to Norma Taylor for putting on the show.

We can't forget to thank Dodie Schleiger for all the time she devoted to putting on *Ladies' Night Out*. "Thank you" also goes to all the participants for giving us a fun evening.

By now I thought things might slow down a bit in the clubhouse, but no such thing is happening. We are looking forward to three days of fun and craziness with Annie Porter's "*Spring Fling*." Hope we will see all of you at some event during the three days.

Of course, we have a fun lineup scheduled for the month of March which is as follows:

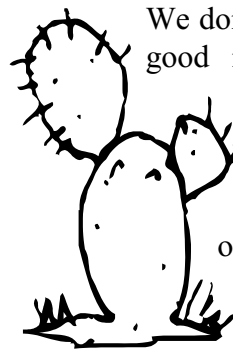
- Saturday, March 5 – Bruce Bryant
- Saturday, March 12 – Doug Miller
- Saturday, March 19 – Spring Chorus Show
- Monday, March 21 – Surprise Entertainment (keep watching Ch 5)
- Saturday, March 26 – The Elliotts

FROM THE LANDSCAPE FOLKS

Marliss Johnston

As a result of the damaging storm last summer and the hard freeze earlier in February, some of our mature cacti were injured beyond saving or were killed by the frost. The wind broke many limbs and blew some of the cacti completely over. The Indian fig prickly pears were especially hard hit and when the thick pads froze, the plants collapsed. We had no choice but to remove most of the Indian figs in the common areas.

Several of our large cow's tongue prickly pears along the east fence line suffered severe damage - broken limbs and frozen pads (evidenced by blackening).



We don't remove plants without a very good reason, since our goal is to beautify the park. Criticism of our practices should be directed to the Planning Team, not the workers who are just following our direction. We are always seeking new members to participate in the decision-making process.



HELPING HANDS NEWS

Carole Melander

Thank you to all who returned our survey. One hundred forty-seven surveys were returned. We will get Vial of Life information to those who requested it by the end of the week.

There were three requests to be called so we will not have an organizational meeting. Those people will be connected with someone and work out their own system. Several in our park

are already doing this and noted that on the survey. Thanks to all who offered to make calls.

Know someone who could use a “Sunshine” card? Call the Helping Hands Monthly Coordinator. We have the privilege of doing this for the next year. The men on the committee did not want to be called “Sunshine Ladies” so we are now the “Sunshine Team!”

As the Helping Hands Committee continues to evolve, we are becoming aware of some different needs in our Co-Op. Many are dealing with long term illness and although they are self sufficient, a respite meal might be nice. If you know someone like this, give the monthly coordinator a call.



OTHER PARK ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Food Auction

Carole Melander

Want to win the coveted Golden Spoon Award and \$50.00? Cook up your favorite meal or dessert for the *Food Auction!* The prize goes to the one whose culinary delight brings in the most money at the auction!

Date: **Thursday, February 24**
9 - 11:30 Bring your goodies to the Clubhouse

1 - 2 p.m. Come see what you want to take home!

2 p.m. Auction Starts

4 p.m. Pizza available for \$3.00 / slice.
Bring your own drinks.



Chorus

Norma Taylor, Director

The *Chorus Spring Concert* is Saturday, March 19. This year the Chorus is featuring the lyrics and music of Irving Berlin. Many songs are familiar, (*Blue Skies, Remember*) though we have been learning other examples of his work also. (*Marie from Sunny Italy, Everybody Step.*) We are enjoying learning and singing these songs. We think you will enjoy them also.



San Pedro River Arts Council

Sylvia Burnside, President

March is finally here. The program that the San Pedro River Arts Council has put together after a year of hard work is just about upon us. Last month I outlined what would be happening in and around Benson in the Arts. The programs have now been printed and you can pick them up at the office or the Clubhouse as well as other venues around town. I also have some that I will be happy to share with you.

The Southeastern Arizona Teen Art Competition has now been mounted in the Benson City Hall. We don't have enough help to keep that facility open all the time, but the City staff is very accommodating. You can call at 520-720-6331 X31 to speak with Danna Judd. She can open the show for you. The show is also open on Saturdays from 1-4 p.m. The Teens come from seven high schools around the area: Benson, St. David,

Patagonia, Safford, Buena, the Berean Academy, and Bisbee. The award ceremony for these Teens will be on Sunday, April 3 at 4:00 p.m.

The Adult Art Show is now mounted in the Cochise College Benson Center. This is the backdrop for the events that are being held from J.A. Jance on March 10 through the Mariachi band on the 19th. We have 72 pieces of art work from 29 southeastern Arizona artists. The substantial cash awards and ribbons will be awarded to the winners on Saturday, March 12 during the intermission for the Tom Patrick Jazz Sextet concert.

I hope that you won't leave the area before checking out the Arts right here in Benson. We have three "WallSpace Galleries" in town: Turquoise Hills Triple Green Café, Skyline Assisted Living Home, and the Benson City Hall. Benson Hospital is also interested in having our artists show their work.

We're working hard to get a grant to renovate our 4th St. building, next to the Circle K so that we can have classes for children and adults. Perhaps by the time you come back to Benson next year, something along those lines will be in place.

What we're doing is a labor of love. We have little help, but a lot of determination. If you love the arts and would like to see them thrive here where you spend some of your time, join us with your support. We hope to see you taking advantage of a super program this month before you take off for the summer.



Spring Fling Film Fest

Bryan Lavender

The Saguaro SKP Co-Op Computer Club is pleased to announce the first-ever film festival at the Co-Op! Any resident of the Park – leaseholder or renter – may enter their three to five minute video of . . . you chose! Any subject is eligible and everyone may enter up to three videos on CD/DVD. The only caveat is that it must be your own work and it should have a soundtrack of some sort.

The process for submitting a video will be posted in the Clubhouse.

At present, the place/time/how of the Film Fest showing is TBA, but watch this space for exciting developments!



Diabetes Class

Ruby Riddle

Hello to everyone who attends the diabetes class. We have two sessions left. Class ends on February 23. SKPs are the largest group there. Thank you very much. I do appreciate it. The class is very helpful to all.



Crafters

The Valley Crafter Show and Sale is March 10, 5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.; Friday, March 11, 9:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. and Saturday, March 12, 9AM to 4PM. We are in need of a few crafters. The jewelry category is full but nothing else is. If you do any kinds of crafts except jewelry please call me. Ruby Riddle (520) 586-1908, Lot 6.

Reminiscence: Escapees Saguaro Park After Twenty-Plus Years

Matt Gross

My wife and I moved in the second day after the park opened. There was no vegetation of any kind on our lots or anywhere else in the park. We all worked hard rocking the banks and putting in plants. I was on the Landscape Committee at that time.

The chairman of the committee asked the leaseholders what they wanted on the banks at the rear of their lots. The next morning he had women knocking on his door in the early hours telling him what they wanted at the rear of their lots. There were no planning or rules as to what you could put in, as long as they were desert plants.

We got all of our plants from a nursery in Sierra Vista. All of the cactus plants that were on the property when the park was developed were saved by the contractor and we were allowed to plant them on our lots. I still have two barrel cacti that we put in at that time.

The committee also planted trees and other plants in the common areas. One of these areas was on the south side of the clubhouse. We worked several days putting in an irrigation system. When that was done, three trees and some bushes were put in. I volunteered to stay here that summer to take care of the plants. In time, two trees and some of the bushes died because the irrigation system kept blocking up with sand. The one remaining tree was still getting water and grew up to be big and beautiful.

Recently, when walking home from flexercise one morning, I could not believe what I saw. That big beautiful tree was being cut down. I am sure the insurance company is very happy. Trees are very beneficial. They convert CO2 into oxygen, prevent soil erosion, attract lightning, improve water quality and keep the amount of dust down.

I was told that there is no landscaping plan for the common areas. We have a beautiful park. When we moved in twenty years ago there were gravel streets. There were 242 lots at that time. Now we have 297 full hookups, 45 long-term rental and 28 dry camp lots and paved streets.

We have a Clubhouse with a first class kitchen. In those days we did not have the library, exercise room or rooms one and two. That section was added later.

The well by the office was put in after we moved in. The trees down along Highway 80 are still getting green every spring. There is an underground irrigation system in there.

I hope that we will get more trees in the common areas in the future.



Heads up - Michigan Breakfast

Mary Lou Feldt

This may be the earliest entry on the park calendar but time slots in our busy Clubhouse are at a premium. We're putting the Michiganders on notice and we need everyone's help. There will be a planning meeting November 15 and our famous breakfast will be served to all in the park on January 7. Pencil it in on your calendars!

It's Spring Fling Time

March 10, 11, 12

Annie Porter

Get ready to have fun!

We will start off on Thursday morning, March 10, with a special breakfast designed and cooked by Bob Kok. There will be two seatings (9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.) and tickets will be available at the office.

That night will be the Light Parade starting at dusk. Everyone is invited to participate or watch. Plan to decorate a float, your golf cart, bike, motorcycle, car or yourself - you get the idea. Team up with others if you need a generator or lights.

Directly following the parade, free cake and ice cream will be served in the Clubhouse compliments of our Co-Op and Cactus Wrens Boards of Directors. This is their thank you and appreciation to all the volunteers in our park. There will also be a Wine Bar and Coffee Bar (serving Irish and Spanish coffee), cash donation.

The next day, Friday, March 11 is Game Day. Doors open at 10:00 a.m. when Gaming Chips are for sale. Games begin at 10:30 a.m. and include Black Jack, Live Horse Races, Let It Ride, Casino War, and Tic Tac Dough. Prizes will be given to those who won the most chips. So keep your winnings! There will also be fun, Minute-to-Win-It Games (as seen on TV). Something for everyone. The bar will open at 11:00 a.m. and lunch will be served from Noon until 3pm. You can play 50/50 all day with hourly drawings and Jerry Yecny will have his famous Penny Raffle. So come up to the Clubhouse and join in the fun.

A Pet Show for all our pets in the park starts off Saturday morning. Enter your pet or come up and cheer for the furry contenders. The Polar Bear and Friends (Grizzly Bear, Teddy Bear) Party starts at 4 p.m.. Please bring finger foods to share. That night you can dance-the-night-away to the music of Doug Miller.

Decorations to transform the Clubhouse into a "Spring Flower Garden" are well underway. Pam Masters, Jan Huggins and their team of people are hard at work making flowers and backgrounds, while Bert Binder, who has experience in theater set design is painting a huge stone wall mural. All very exciting!

Programs listing the various daily events will be distributed to everyone and will be available at the office so you will know what's happening and when. And, of course, stay tuned to Channel 5 for updates.

Spring Fling is a fun-filled three-day event that takes a huge amount of time and planning and cannot be done without a tremendous number of volunteers. If you know a volunteer, please thank them. Join in the festivities, have fun, and help make this year's *Spring Fling* a success!

I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.

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