



Fish Tales

August 2003

The Water System

As many of you know, the well that is the basis of our water system has been drawn down to a very low level. An alert went out via email encouraging people to reduce their water consumption. The efforts made by all of you have helped to maintain our water supply. So to all of you who made the effort, thanks.

A bit of history regarding the water system: Chipmunk Creek provided all of the water to the Warm Lake cabins until about six years ago when the EPA issued new water quality standards.

Equipment needed to meet these standards was prohibitively expensive at the time. It was decided to install a well close to the outlet of the lake which supplies three tanks totaling 5,800 gallons on Kline Mountain, and one

tank near the Morford cabin with a capacity of 3,800 gallons.

The well is 254 feet deep. In a normal year, the water level in the well is at 140 feet below the surface and gets drawn down to about 180 feet during the summer season. This year, however, we started the season with the water level at 170 feet and it has been drawn down to 206 feet so far. Considering that the pump sits at 245 feet, Water Meister Ken Hunter fears we do not have a lot of room to go.

So, what are the solutions? Ken is primarily working on getting Chipmunk Creek back on line. The costs of filtering equipment have come down in recent years and the Water Users Committee is evaluating the vari-

ous systems. The committee has set aside approximately \$25,000 for the project and hopes to begin work next spring. Until then, please continue to conserve.

As an aside, Paradise Valley has its own water system that is supplied by a small creek. Since there are just 9 cabins on this system, it is exempt from the EPA requirements.

There will be a work weekend to work on the waterline to add a few more shutoff valves. All able bodies can meet at Ken's cabin at 10:00 am on September 6th. Bring a shovel, pick ax, water and food. Ken estimates about 2 hours of your time will be needed.



Special points of interest:

- The Newsletters will be posted on the website at www.warmlake.org.
- An updated Warm Lake Directory will be sent to all of you who have email addresses listed in the database. A print version in a notebook will be presented to each of you next summer.
- If you need any trees cut out, and especially if you have any tricky ones, you might give Rex Chapman a call at 382-4806 in Cascade. He has over 25 years experience and is insured. And be sure to stick around and watch the show. It is truly amazing how he can drop a tree exactly where he wants it.
- I hate to beat a dead horse, but there are still about 6 or 8 cabins that do not have street numbers out front. I want you to imagine that you or someone you love is staying alone at the cabin and has become ill or injured. Calling 911 would be a great idea, but guess what, they will never find you. I also recommend the reflective numbers so your place can be found at night. Please take care of this right away. I plan to meet with the Valley County EMS and compare our maps and street numbers with theirs and provide them with updated information.

Potluck Brunch

The Potluck Brunch held on July 13th was attended by 50-60 cabin owners and Forest Service Personnel. With all the home-made dishes, anyone would agree that it was one of the finest lunches they'd had all year.

Topics discussed with the Forest Service included the following:

FUELS REDUCTION CUT: Many cabin owners are concerned about all of the slash piles left over from last year's fuels reduction cut. Ron Julian stated that the remaining piles would be burned this early winter. The delay, he said, was due to the

extra care and time it took to conduct the burn safely. Mark Bingman said that it is now ok to take logs from those piles for your own fire wood. However, you still need to get a firewood permit and ask Mark to make a note on the face of your permit giving permission to take logs from the slash piles. If you already have your permit, give Mark a call and he will send you an addendum at no extra charge.

HISTORIC ISSUE: The draft of the Programmatic Agreement has been printed and presented to the cabin owners. If you did not get one, see the website at

www.warmlake.org, or call Tom Coffman at 632-9798. The committee that has represented the Warm Lake Users Association in regard to the historic issue will meet soon to decide on any recommended changes. Committee members that were queried generally thought that the current draft of the Programmatic Agreement would be accepted with only a few minor recommendations for changes. When the Forest Service and the Committee are in agreement, a final will be issued and all those projects you have been waiting to complete can be reviewed and approved this fall.

Cabin Corner



This section of the newsletter will appear monthly and will feature information on each cabin, its owners, and their history. Starting with Lot 1 at Warm Lake and alternating to Lot 1 at Paradise Valley, and so on, each cabin will get its turn. In this way we can get acquainted or reacquainted with each other, and for many of you... simply reminisce.

Clayne Baker wrote the following information to share with us on his cabin located next to Warm Lake Lodge.

WARM LAKE STUDY

In the early days fishing and hunting was the most popular activity. In the late 1940's water sports including swimming, boating, and surfboarding were the things to do. Howard H. Baker had the first speed boat on the lake. He built two boats, a surfboard and later, water skis.

From pioneer days, families enjoyed hot springs in the area including Molly Hot Springs, named after Molly Kessler owner of the Warm Lake Hotel. Huckleberry picking was also an enjoyable pastime in the late summer. Clayne, from about 1936 was bitten by the fishing bug and was never cured. He is now 73 years old and is still haunted by the sport. He can't wait to get back to Warm Lake each year to exercise the brookies and rainbows in the upper-end of the lake.

CABIN OWNER & CHILDREN

After the death of Howard H. Baker, Clayne & Yvonne Baker became the owners of the cabin. They have a daughter Valerie Hutton age 51, and a son Buzz Baker age 49. Valerie has a daughter Robin Thurber and a great grandson Liam age 1 year. Valerie's other son is Kai Camaco age 22. Buzz Baker and wife Wendy have a daughter Alexi age 9 and Jacob age 6. Buzz also has a son from his first marriage Matthew Baker age 22.

MEMORIES

There are a thousand wonderful Warm Lake memories. My earliest was a party at the Warm Lake Hotel. I was standing at the front door of the Baker cabin, I was probably 5 years old. I watched a long line of singing, laughing, very drunk partiers winding up the hill to our cabin. Leading them, Scotsman Tom McCloud playing the bagpipe. It was a sight and sound for the ages.

Swimming at the Hot swimming pool on the South Fork was a special experience for cabin owners and vacationers until the pool was closed because of health concerns.

Fishing for silversides (kokanee salmon) in the deep water off Kinney Point was a fabulous highlight of Warm Lake society. Every evening, in the summer, a cluster of boats would gather. Anchored and tied together, they were filled with cabin owners, guests and kids. The families would fish with hand-lines. It was a unique social event, bringing Warm Lake families together for fishing, conversation and tall tales. They used worms and Periwinkles (cased caddis pupa) for bait. The periwinkles were picked from under the rocks in the riffles of the nearby South Fork of the Salmon.

I remember a fabulous party held by Charles Stevens in the early 1940's where the guests dressed in crazy costumes. My mother and dad dressed as Adam & Eve

using strategically placed skunk cabbage leaves as their only costume. In 1975 we celebrated the 50th. Birthday of the Baker Cabin with a Great Gatsby style party. Over 200 people came. Guests stayed in the lodges, campgrounds and private cabins from Cougar Mountain to McCall. The party went through 6 kegs of beer, and a huge pig roasted Hawaiian style in a pit. The guests dressed in 1920's clothing and some arrived in cars of that vintage.

FISHING ADVENTURES

When I was 18 years old I caught a 12 pound steelhead out of the Cabin Creek Hole on the South Fork of the Salmon. My best memory was catching an 18 pound Mackinaw from a float tube on a fly in Warm Lake. I have fond memories of fishing for salmon on the South Fork and for trout in the alpine lakes near Warm Lake through the years.

THINGS I LOVE MOST ABOUT COMING TO WARM LAKE

We love the four seasons at the lake. Springtime's wet-emerald green, the perfume of early wildflowers, the sound of happy robins chirping at sunrise, the quarreling chatter of the Western Grebes building their nests along the shoreline, and the call of the Canada Geese visiting the lake at ice-out.

Warm Lake in the summer, particularly at sunset, when the water turns to black opal and the sound of a pin-drop echo's across the lake. Stars we seldom see in the valley come out in a Warm Lake night.

The beauty and quiet of winter is stunning. The strange moaning of shifting ice on the frozen lake, like the siren's of Ulysses.

...Stellar and Canadian Jays (camp robbers) squawking for a free meal... Fire watching... the thrill of getting into a warm electric blanket bed at night....