



DIAMOND RANCH

SONOMA CA

Diamond Gazette

Official Newsletter of the Diamond A Property Owners Association

FEBRUARY 2009

CONTENTS THIS ISSUE:

ANNUAL MEETING FEB.22 ~ 4:00PM @
REC.CENTER AND ELECTION OF 2009 -10
DIRECTORS ~~ AGENDA & BALLOTS ENCLOSED

~

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
TREASURER'S MESSAGE
HILL WARMING PARTY NEWS
EQUESTRIAN INFO FROM "TRAILBLAZERS"
DIAMOND A REC. CENTER NEWS
FIREMEN APPRECIATION DAY EVENT
WITH ADDENDUM OF PHOTOS
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH ~ ROADWAY
LANDSCAPE ~ WOOD BURNING NEWS
OUR WEBSITE IS WWW.DIAMONDASONOMA.COM



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings for the New Year. I hope you enjoyed pleasant and warm Holidays.

On Nov. 6 we had the pleasure of saying "Thank You" to all of our volunteer firefighters in the Valley as well as our own three in Diamond A. Gill Inskeep was the chef for a delicious dinner served to about 40-50 firefighters at the Rec Center. We had plenty of food and even sent food back to the Fire Station, for those that had to stay behind to man the station.

The night was particularly meaningful for Dick Hanna, as we honored him with a wonderful plaque for his 35 years of volunteer service in Diamond A. Ann Young was the presenter of the plaque. George Inskeep delivered a delightful reminiscence of our lost Diamond A volunteer firefighters, Whitney Gilman and Claire Needham (1st female firefighter in Diamond A), plus remembering all those who served in the past years as well.

It was a GREAT PARTY and everyone had a good time.

Note: We would have loved to invite everyone on the hill, but unfortunately the Rec. Center could not handle a bigger party.

We need more people to volunteer to be Firefighters. Give Dick Hanna a call (he's in our directory).

Speaking of our Directory, remember it will be coming out again in June 2009, or likely earlier, so if you have any new information (email, phone #, address, etc.) give us a call. Also, remember to pay your dues (\$35.00 a year) so you can receive your copy.

We are still working on trying to get our neighborhood vegetation cut back so that people walking on our streets will be safe.

Neighborhood Watch is not quite up and running, but we think we have a great point person in Roland Gangloff. You may be hearing from him regarding your block.

Note: Also working on Disaster Plans.

Glenda Martin will attend the annual meeting to give us an update on our Master e-Mail listing for Diamond A residents. This will enable us to get emergency information to our residents very quickly.

Beverly Perrin, President

TREASURER'S MESSAGE

The Property Owners' Association dues are \$35.00 per year and the majority of Property Owners are members. I invite all of you who may not be members to get involved. Your dues brings you two neat get-togethers in your neighbors' homes, a periodic newsletter with survival tips, a NEW telephone and email directory, which will be available February 2009, after the Annual Meeting, as to include the names of the new 2009-10 Directors. Additionally, the POA sponsors the periodic garden group visits/show and other informal sharing of topics in our mutual interests. Happy Trails.

Dee Young, Treasurer 939-9440

PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF 2009-10 DIRECTORS

In February 2009, the POA Annual meeting will take place. A notice will be sent to all Property Owners, with areas of discussion noted and a blank space for you to enter any other topics. Ballots will be sent to current POA members to elect directors. The general membership nominating committee has recommended a panel of potential candidates for the Board of Directors; write-ins can also be added. At the first meeting of the Board after the election, the roles of Officers

and functions of the non-Officer Directors are assigned. This is a call for any interested people, young and older, to step forward and share in the democratic process to maintain the standards we have in our community and lead in future needs as they arise. Participation is informal and friendly, of course, and is hosted in members' homes, which often includes tasty light foods and beverages. Terms are two years.

HILL WARMING PARTY (FALL)

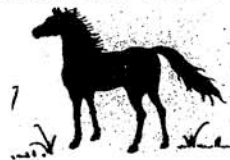
The "Bucking A Ranch" was the location our fall Hill Warming Party. Hosts Max and Dee Ballantine elected a "Fiesta" theme with the authentic and appropriate foods being prepared, on site, by a local caterer/chef. Among the variety of refreshments were even some wines with a special Diamond A Label. Dee's stable of horses, including her rescue Mustang, seemed to be very interested in observing we upright-walking, two legged, earth sharing critters. As always these functions help to cement our common joy of living here.

Set-up and clean-up are provided, as usual, by the Hill Warming Committee. If interested in providing a future venue, please contact Teri Hansen at 933-9823

EQUESTRIAN UPDATES from the "Trailblazers."

The Trailblazer Annual Barn Party was again held at the Lyon Ranch, the first full-Moon Saturday evening in September. Western Apparel abounded and the usual suspects provided merriment and music. Rob and Robin, their menagerie of animals, great barn venue, and hospitality makes this a *spectacular* annual event. HAPPY TRAILS!

Teri Hansen



DIAMOND A REC. ASSN. UPDATES

The semi-annual, perhaps to be annual, Oktoberfest, was held October 5. All attendees thoroughly enjoyed this reflection back to many of our European roots, foods and drinks. Great Fun.

The first official event kicking off the Rec. Center 2009 season was "The Crab Feed". All the crab you can eat and all the fun you can handle. This several hour joyous get together is like no other. It is impossible to talk to everyone but we try, and we know that we will soon, when the opportunity arises again. We even had guests from Diamond B. The "Crab Team," led by Fred Merrill, prepared an outstanding meal: salad, fabulous Pasta, ala Giovacchini, delicious Crab and desert (a great big piece of apple pie w/ topping). The volunteer "Team" and their spouses are pure perfect. Some attendees were lucky enough to get a glass of that Hengehold Merlot, Wow! Thanks Larry. A hint of future Rec. Plans are The Car Show in late summer, and an effort to fund and resurface the Tennis Courts, which is needed and long overdue.

~~~~~  
Membership in the Diamond A Recreation Club is open to all residents of the Diamond A community. For more information, speak with Celia Schake (938-9248) or any board member. Board members are Pat Angeloni, Lee Brown, Rich Cooper, Wayne Mehl, Janet Nusbaum, and Wayne Schake.

Email :diamondarec@gmail.com

#### FIREMEN APPRECIATION EVENT

(also see ~The President's Message)

A Firemen Appreciation Day, a Chicken and Pasta Feed was hosted, in November. Board President, Beverly Perrin, Ann and Roger Young and the Inskeeps initiated the idea for this thank-you event after the particularly dreadful and long 2008 fire season. You may have read all about

this in the Sonoma Valley Sun, whereas they provided staff photographer, Melania Mahoney, to cover the event. Several photos are included herein. The Firemen, after the feast, helped clean up, fold up and store tables, and then they proceeded next door to the Fire House, to carry out their weekly Fire/Safety training program. What a classy bunch; we are so lucky.

If you or your families have individuals who would be interested in Our **Volunteer Fire Department** you can call Dick Hanna, Resident Fire Chief at 996-3402 (re-run from June gazette).

#### NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Roland Gangloff has volunteered to head our Neighborhood Watch Program. Roland, an avid outdoorsman, who regularly hikes our roadways for training, is willing and enthusiastic about the Program. Several district captains are still needed, as this plan only works with help from street-by-street participation and a telephone tree. There have been no reported incidents of crime in our area. Neighborhood Watch signs have proven to be a viable deterrent to undesirables.

#### ROADWAY LANDSCAPE ENCROACHMENT

A letter from POA was sent out recently as an advisory that some properties could use some tree trimming or grass removal. The general consensus from the Property Owners was that this was necessary, especially due to the recent rash of fires, although others had concerns that it may not apply to them or missed the mark. It is anticipated that at the forthcoming Annual Meeting we can discuss this further. A secondary item for the annual meeting will be the predicament the County finds itself in with insufficient funding to do the usual roadside trimming

they have done in the past for our area. In a meeting held at the Rec. Center in October, the County Roads Supervisory Staff, proposed a cost saving, and effective alternative that the Board intends to discuss further with members at the Annual Meeting; your feedback is important. AGAIN, If there are issues that you feel are relevant to our roadways, **The County Road Crews** can be reached at 707-565-7280.

#### PROPERTY OWNERS' GUIDE

The Property Owners' Guide, a loose-leaf binder, is available to all new property owners. There are currently **NO UPDATES.**

#### DIRECTORY OF PROPERTY OWNERS ~ LAST CALL !!

The bi-annual address & telephone directory of property owners, POA Officers, Directors and related contact information is available. It can be requested through our Treasurer, Dee Young. If you have any changes to your personal information please call and leave a message @ 939-7003 or email ~ [diamondapoa@yahoo.com](mailto:diamondapoa@yahoo.com)

#### WOOD BURNING DEVICES

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District as of July 9, 2008 has developed the latest rules regarding the use of wood burning devices, particulate matter and visible emissions. The "**Spare the Air Days**", as you have been made aware, are days to curtail the use of wood burning devices such as fireplaces, pellet stoves, etc. The Diamond A Ranch area, which lacks the availability of Natural Gas Service, has a Limited Exemption from this rule. So it is O.K. to burn wood, if you choose to. Attached with the "Gazette" is a page from the subject rules for your use.

**REGULATION 6**  
**PARTICULATE MATTER AND VISIBLE EMISSIONS**  
**RULE 3**  
**WOOD-BURNING DEVICES**

(Adopted July 9, 2008)

**6-3-100 GENERAL**

**6-3-101 Description:** The purpose of this rule is to limit emissions of particulate matter and visible emissions from wood-burning devices.

**6-3-110 Limited Exemption, Natural Gas Service Unavailability:** The requirement of Section 6-3-301 shall not apply to any person who operates a wood-burning device in an area where natural gas service is not available (which includes temporary service outages), as determined by gas utility service to an area or household. A person may qualify for this exemption even though propane fuel is available for space heating purposes.

**6-3-111 Limited Exemption, Electrical Power Service Unavailability:** The requirements of Section 6-3-301 shall not apply to any person in an area where electrical power service is not available (which includes temporary service outages), as determined by electrical utility service to an area or household.

**6-3-112 Limited Exemption, Only Source of Space Heat:** The requirement of Section 6-3-301 shall not apply to any person whose only source of heat for residential space heating is a wood-burning device. A person claiming this exemption cannot have use of another form of functioning space heating.

**6-3-200 DEFINITIONS**

**6-3-201 APCO:** The Air Pollution Control Officer of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (District) or the designee thereof.

**6-3-202 Builder:** Any individual or company that constructs or sells any residential or commercial unit with a wood-burning device installed therein.

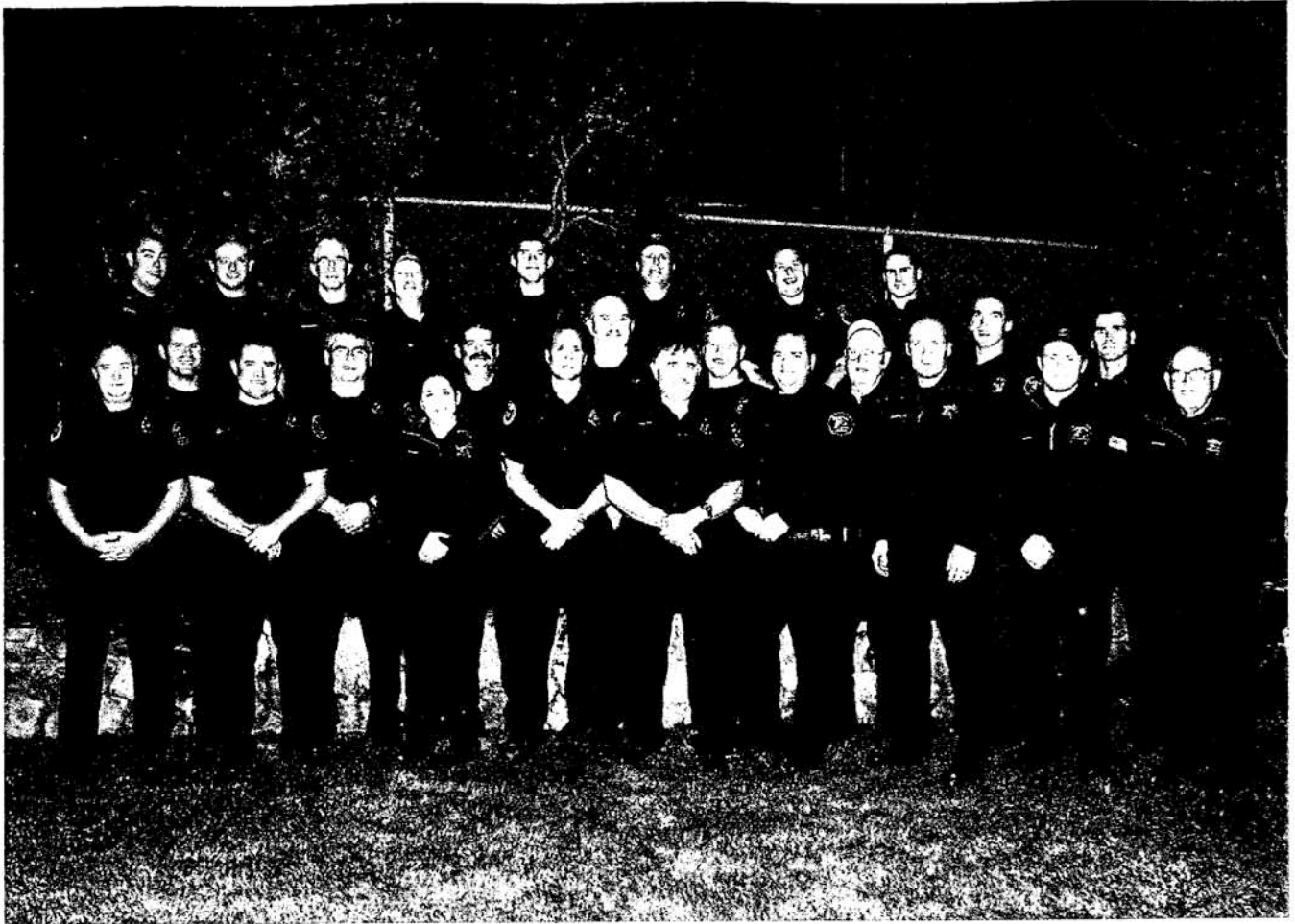
**6-3-203 Curtailment Period:** Any period so declared to the public by the APCO when a negative impact upon public health is anticipated, resulting from PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels forecast to exceed 35 micrograms/m<sup>3</sup>. Members of the public can verify status of a curtailment period through the following methods:

- Listen to local TV or Radio News;
- Call 1-800-HELP-AIR; or
- Check [www.sparetheair.org](http://www.sparetheair.org).

The APCO may use any or all of the following methods to provide public information about a curtailment period:

- Media outlets of general circulation in the Bay Area including, but not limited to: newspapers, radio or television stations;
- Recorded telephone messages on District informational phone numbers;
- Emails to recipients of the District "Spare the Air" list server;
- Messages posted on the District website, [www.sparetheair.org](http://www.sparetheair.org); or
- Other means of communication as appropriate.

**6-3-204 Electric-powered Heating Device:** Any device that produces heat through use of an element utilizing resistance from alternating current or other means of electrical space heating, including, but not limited to, electric fireplaces.



Top Row from Left to Right:

FF James Leonard, FF Ryan McCracken, FF Joe Kirkwood, FF Bill Simkins, Engineer Bryan Carlson, Division Chief John Franceschi, Captain John Conti, FF Frank Harrah

Bottom Row from Left to Right:

Engineer Bruce Fauss, Captain Spencer Andreis, FF Ben Owen, Engineer Joe Boldt, FF Kate Bruno, Captain Tom Deely, Captain Rodd Kneeland, Engineer Joe Neely, Engineer Joe Lieber, FF Jack Ayers, Engineer Trevor Smith, Division Chief Ralph Keechler, FF Mike Henghold, Engineer Sam Turner, FF Jared Kirby, Captain Thomas Anderson, Division Chief Richard Hanna.....

**THE PHOTOS HERIN WERE TAKEN BY MELANIA MAHONEY**

**THESE WILL ALSO BE AT [WWW.DIAMONDASONOMA.COM](http://WWW.DIAMONDASONOMA.COM)**

**THE "GAZETTE" TEXT WILL ALSO BE AT OUR WEBSITE**

