



## **NORTHERN SIERRA SUMMER HOME ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER ~ 2024**

### ***President's' Message***

Greetings fellow cabin owners

It is that time of year when a magical transformation occurs in our beloved Sierras. The process of winter slowly giving way to spring is one of Mother Nature's most magnificent spectacles. The vibrant hues of blooming wildflowers paint the landscape with color and the crisp mountain air carries with it the promise of warmer days ahead. The crystal-clear water from the snowmelt creates a rushing torrent in our nearby streams, the sound of which ensures the best sleep one could ever want. Our cherished cabin retreats provide us with front row seats to this yearly dance and allows us all to bear witness to the timeless allure of our natural surroundings.

It is with a sense of gratitude and a humble heart that I write you this note. We must begin with a huge thank you to Kathy Lewin and Jim Botsford. Through the years, their leadership of the NSSHA has been steadfast and true. We all owe Kathy and Jim a large debt of gratitude for their tireless leadership. It is my hope that Paul Hugo and I can continue to lead this association with the grace and humility that Kathy and Jim did.

Not that many years ago, I would attend the NSSHA meetings and watch our cabin neighbor, Hal Thomas, lead us through the trials and tribulations that were the issues we faced in those days. When the meeting wound to a close, Hal and I would head back up to Sayles Tract, sit on his front deck, have a Sierra Nevada or two, and re-hash the issues of the day. We had great talks and I admired Hal's ability to grasp the issues, tackle difficult problems, and intelligently explain the ins and outs and ups and downs of dealing with government issues. I also think that Hal appreciated my "football coach brain" acting as the foil for his "lawyer brain".

Much has changed in the last few years in the Eldorado National Forest. The impact of the Caldor fire has reverberated throughout the forest, leaving indelible marks on our beloved cabin experiences. As we reflect on the profound effects of this wildfire, it is essential that we all work together to ensure the recovery of our cabins, our cabin tracts, and our forest. We are thankful for the work of the CCORP (Caldor Cabin Owners Recovery Project) folks as well as the outstanding leadership provided by the NFH (National Forest Homeowners). We have learned throughout this process that no one stands alone and the more voices that can be heard, the better.

We have issues in front of us that we all need to face. The upcoming permit renewal process is a once-every-twenty-year event and there is much to address to ensure that we all receive a 20 year renewal of our permits. The hazard tree removal project funded by the FS and implemented by the RCD (Resource Conservation District) of El Dorado County is another issue that we all need to be aware of. These and other topics of discussion and interest will be covered at our annual meeting on June 22 at Sciots Tract. This year, we hope to have a panel of forest service reps from the Amador, Pacific, and Placerville districts who will participate in an "office hours" style event enabling you to speak personally with your rep from the FS office and get your questions answered. We will start the meeting at 9:30 and hope to see all of you there!!!!

As we embark on another summer season, let us reaffirm our commitment to our treasured cabin program, and to the strength of the NSSHA. Together, we are stronger, and together we will overcome any challenges that may come our way. The NSSHA is here to serve you, our valued cabin friends and neighbors, and we pledge to continue advocating tirelessly on your behalf. Thank you for support and we are looking forward to a summer filled with the joys of cabin life in the Eldorado.

All the best to you...

Tony Franks  
President, Northern Sierra Summer Home Association (NSSHA)



Our upcoming annual meeting is scheduled for June 22nd at the Sciots Clubhouse.

**NEW STARTING TIME: 9:30 AM.**

General Meeting from 10:00

“Office Hours” with the Forest Service 11:30 - noon

\*Guest speaker - Andrew Mishler, Placerville District Ranger, Eldorado National Forest

\*Updates on permit procedures and time lines

\*NSSHA Area 1 Rep and NFH President, Meredith Randall, will share an update on NFH advocacy with respect to retained fees, maximizing rebuilding of destroyed cabins and new permit terms.

\*Paul Hugo will give an update on the progress being made between CCORP and the county, state and federal agencies regarding the rebuilding process.

\*Questions!!! We all have questions about our cabins - whether it's about the inspection report, trees, repairs, roads, the new permits, wildlife or whatever. The Annual Meeting is the place to get answers. We hope to have “office” hours after the meeting with FS representatives from each district to answer your specific questions. We'll answer general questions throughout the meeting. To streamline this and to make sure we have answers, please send email to Vice President Paul Hugo, [paul.hugo@gmail.com](mailto:paul.hugo@gmail.com) with your question, concern, comments, etc.



### **HOSPITALITY PROGRAM CONTINUING**

NSSHA is again offering to partner with individuals to find temporary housing by offering cabins to help those who lost theirs. These stays can range from overnight to a week or more – depending on the need and availability. Forms for offering a cabin or looking for one will be available at the General Meeting June 22nd. All information is kept confidential. This is strictly voluntary.



Dues are still \$20 a year! If a whole tract wishes to pay, the dues are \$15 per cabin. Payments may be made at the general meeting or by sending your check to: Tony Planchon, 1768 11<sup>th</sup> Ave., Sacramento, CA 95818

### LOGO CONTEST!

How is your artistic ability? We will have a bulletin board and ballot box set up during the meeting for people to submit their LOGO for NSSHA. The winner will be posted on the NSSHA web site: [www.nssha.org](http://www.nssha.org)



### LOOKING FOR A NEW WEBMASTER

Do you have web design skills? Please contact Kathy Lewin if you are interested in taking over our web page. Updates and new ideas encouraged!



### SUMMER EVENTS 2024

June 1<sup>st</sup> - National Trails Day – fix a trail in your area!  
September 28th – National Public Lands Day – Organize a clean-up crew near you!



### NSSHA SUPER TRACT REPS

Area 1: Bull Creek, Alder Creek, 29 Mile, 30 Mile, 31 Mile, 33 Mile, Riverside, 34 Mile.

Area Rep: Meredith Randall

Email: [meredithrandall14@gmail.com](mailto:meredithrandall14@gmail.com)

Area 2: 35 Mile, 36 Mile, 39 Mile, Forni Creek, 41 Mile

Area Rep: Mike Caselli

Email: [mjcaselli@comcast.net](mailto:mjcaselli@comcast.net)

Area 3: Strawberry Creek, 42 Mile

Area Rep: POSITION OPEN

Area 4: Strawberry Tract, Pyramid Creek, Twin Bridges, Sayles Canyon

Area Rep: POSITION OPEN

Area 5: Fir Tract, Bryant Creek, 46 Mile, Aspen Creek, 47 Mile, Phillips

Area Rep: POSITION OPEN

Area 6: Wrights Lake, Dark Lake, Gerle Creek

Area Rep: Mary Clarke Ver Hoef

Email: [mcvh95608@yahoo.com](mailto:mcvh95608@yahoo.com)

Area 7: Kirkwood, Silver Lake, Bear Valley, Devil's Gate, Woods Lake, Caples Lake

Area Rep: Jim Botsford

Email: [jbots42@gmail.com](mailto:jbots42@gmail.com)

Area 8: Echo Lakes, Echo Road, Echo Summit, Atwood

Area Rep: Nancy Allen

Email: [na11en@sbcglobal.net](mailto:na11en@sbcglobal.net)

Area 9: Sciots Tract

Area Rep: POSITION OPEN

## **20 Year Permit Renewal Process**

As most of you are all aware the Special Use permits expire at the end of this year for all cabins on the Eldorado National Forest. Our permits expire four years before most of the rest of the country including LTBMU, (parts are technically on ENF but not from an administrative point). We are in some ways the Guinea pig for the rest of the country. Our experiences, both bad and good, will help shape the process for everyone else.

All the non-burned cabins in ENF should have received a letter and an inspection report via certified mail. If you didn't, your letter may have been returned to the FS for some reason. If you didn't receive an inspection report, please email the appropriate email address below stating this.

Do not take everything on your inspection report as an absolute. The FS has said the report can be the beginning of a conversation. The inspections were done by an army of FS folk, some of whom don't normally deal with Rec Res so even though the reports went through a consistency review, there may be errors, misinterpretations or inconsistencies.

The FS sent out about 820 reports in three districts. About a third of the letters have some non-compliance issues.

Here are some important deadlines and information:

- Update your Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Plan and send to the email address by April 20, 2024
- Link to O&M Plan Form: [https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1167128.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1167128.pdf)
- Notify the appropriate district office when you complete the required remediation listed in the inspection report by Sept 15<sup>th</sup>
- New permits will be mailed out to you sometime after the 15<sup>th</sup> for your review and signature
- New permits expire in 2044

You should list all the items listed in the inspection report on your updated O&M and your intentions on taking care of the items.

Also, there is a place on the plans for a sketch of your lot. This is required. You will not receive a new permit without this.

If you disagree or have questions about items on your report, please email the appropriate email address with your concerns.

NSSHA will assist you in any way needed. Feel free to ask us for questions, advice or recommendations.

Email addresses, all things cabin:

Pacific: [sm.fs.pac\\_rec\\_res@usda.gov](mailto:sm.fs.pac_rec_res@usda.gov)

Placerville: [sm.fs.pvl-rec-res@usda.gov](mailto:sm.fs.pvl-rec-res@usda.gov)

Amador: [sm.fs.amarecres@usda.gov](mailto:sm.fs.amarecres@usda.gov)