



Wildland Fire Awareness

Bill Powers, our Safety Director prepared a customized version of the county's S130/S190 Wildland Fire Awareness class for our initial attack team. The topics covered were Fire Behavior, Fire Weather, Firefighter Safety, Wildfire Suppression and Shelter Deployment. Eleven of us attended these sessions. Bill has promised to continue our training outside as soon as the weather allows.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE by Roger Debenham

SMERT continues to grow and learn and become better.

"DELTA MEDICAL, 1703 Palisade Mtn. Dr." we heard the scanner alert us. That's one of us! It was Tom Powers. Karen called Bill Powers with directions to Tom's house. Bill and Tom are not related; they met and "hit it off" at last summer's July 4th parade. It was then that Bill told them, "Just call me if there's ever a need." There sure was. Later Tom told us, "**it was a ruptured aorta**".

Karen dropped me off at the closest intersection with a flashlight to direct the way. It was dark and their driveway was not marked with house numbers so she didn't find it but fortunately **Bill did**. Just as Karen was headed to the "T", we saw the fire truck from below go through the four-way and around Palisade Mountain Drive. When they stopped at where we believed they should, we went on home, only to later learn the truck kept on going

and drove around for precious minutes before finally finding the house. Fortunately Bill stayed on scene until they arrived.

Recently Tom called to thank us. He said "**I wouldn't even be walking around if it wasn't for Bill Powers**".

In this experience we learned an important lesson and initiated a policy to position our fire truck (Engine 61) at the "T" with maps and directions for ANY emergencies we become aware of.

There are valuable lessons you can learn from this as well.

1. After calling 911, call one of our dispatchers .

2. Purchase and display high visibility house number signs at the entrance to your driveway. Call 962-2536 to place your order.

Why don't you make a difference yourself? We need volunteers we can rely on to direct the way to emergencies such as this.

Call 593-1091 or 669-8587 today.

Looking Ahead by Roger Debenham

In looking back I see all that we have accomplished. I'm blown away grateful! It is a lot. Equipment, knowledge and state of mind all combine to put us way ahead of where we were last year, let alone where we were during Bobcat (June 2000).

In looking ahead however, it brings to mind so much more that needs attention. Water locations, accumu-

lation and delivery are all important. We're working on them all. Mapping is ongoing. The phone tree constantly changes. There is so much to be done and we do have bills, such as annual truck insurance, and license.

Please feel welcome to help out however you can.

Volume 1, Issue 4

Winter 2003

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2003 Chipper Program

Providing our community with this program is not within the scope of what SMERT is all about but we feel the fuel reduction project important enough to try to make it happen.

As far as we know the county **did not** receive its grant and there will not be a county sponsored program in 2003. At least there is no mention of it on their website.

Based upon last year's cost (\$3800), we had hoped to receive enough pledges toward this goal. We asked you to please let us know what you would commit to for 2003.

So far, we have very few pledges. Since this is not enough to proceed, we hope you will all continue to create defen-

sible space around your homes on your own.

One last effort...If the community really wants a chipper program, we need to hear from you now. There might still be time to put it together. Please mail the enclosed page today!



MAPPING WATER SOURCES

Many of you have received a telephone call from our phone tree in the last month asking about possible water sources. Everyone we spoke with was great! We appreciate the trust you have put in us in this regard. If you haven't heard from us it is because we do not have a tele-

phone number for you.

We are making a valuable addition to the map books we provide to the Emergency Services agencies in the county. It will identify those properties that have an **accessible** water source.

Hot tubs, cisterns and/or wells—

any water supply you have that can be opened and a suction hose inserted to quickly draft the water into a truck or one of the water tank trailers we are making ready for the upcoming fire season.

Call Karen at 593-1091 to make sure we have accurate information for your property in our database!

FUND RAISERS by Karen Debenham & Kathy Miller

SMERT's next fundraiser is an Italian theme Potluck & Spring Snow dance scheduled for Saturday, March 22 at 7:00 p.m., 121 Bobcat Place (Carl's shop; call 669-8587 for directions.)

Bring an Italian dish for the potluck and/or a dessert for the auction. Carl will preside as our auctioneer. Bring your own drinks and table service.

Shirley Miller will be on the agenda as a special item. She is donating her hair! If we collectively get the bid high enough,

each contributor gets to wield the shaver. The minimum bid will be \$200.

Carl Miller is donating 1 hour of Backhoe or Bobcat work. Chris Brock is donating 1 hour of house cleaning. If you have something you're willing to donate for the auction, please either bring the item or bring a 3x5 card with details and your minimum bid.

So, what's the snow dance part all about? We need moisture on the mountain, so wear something white

or something with snowflakes—we'll collectively do a snow dance after dinner.

All proceeds go to SMERT. Come meet your neighbors!



Free Trees to Bobcat Gulch Victims by Ed Ostransky

Pat Craighead of the Woods Committee (timber industry) recently contacted me. He works for Mountain States Lumber and Building Company of Denver. His organization would like to give something back to the community.

Ten ponderosa pine seedlings (in a pony pack) will be given free to each family that lost trees to the Bobcat Gulch fire of 2000.

The pick up date will be sometime the week of April 20 in Estes Park. I should have complete details by the time folks start calling me with

their requests.

It is important that I receive your calls no later than March 8, 2003. I will need your name, telephone number, Filing and Lot, mailing address and if we can get more than 10 trees each, how many you would like.

Call me at 970-481-4656 before March 8, 2003.

If I am not home, please leave a detailed voice message.



Carl & Kathy Miller

Max's Dream by Kathy Miller

then, it has been moved to the large side of the restaurant, and there's always plenty of food. It has been a huge success and a really special time to get to know new neighbors and share good times with old friends!!! The music now includes Jason & Dennis Swedlund. Food is served from 6pm to 8pm and the music ends around 8:30 or 9pm. So far, our community has packed the restaurant for this event to standing room only!!

We were cancelled once due to the closure of the restaurant, so PLEASE CALL MAX OR ELISSA at the restaurant FIRST to make sure they'll be open and hosting this event...635-9455...

Come share with your neighbors and help support Max's dream!!!



Thank you to the Colorado State Forest Service, Loveland Rural Fire Protection District, Big Thompson Canyon Volunteer Fire Department and our liaison Dave Legits for donating 600 feet of 1-1/2" fire hose.

Ron Pfeifer was recently in the right place at the right time and saved another 400 feet of 1-1/2" fire hose, complete with fire nozzles from going into a dumpster! Way to go, RON!

Thanks to all of you we are entering the 2003 fire season better equipped!

Directory??



In our last issue we asked you to let us know if you had a talent or service to offer our community.

While no one called to ask to be listed in this directory, several folks said they'd like to have the directory, should we ever publish it. This is your last chance; contact us to be included.

Call Karen at 593-1091 or write to SMERT, PO Box 73, Drake CO 80515.

Vehicle Stickers

Many people like the idea of being able to see that a vehicle "belongs" on the mountain. Or just recognizing your neighbors vehicle.

If you would like a vehicle sticker, please call Carl or Kathy Miller at 669-8587.

Notices

If you have any announcements that you'd like to share, send them to P. O. Box 73, Drake, CO 80515 or email to Rhdebenham@debenham.com.

LOST & FOUND

Two items were found during clean-up from the potluck—an orange mug and a ring.

Also, 2 Tupperware cake containers, 1 cake cutting knife and 2 water jugs were left after the July 4th picnic.

If you think they're yours, call 669-8587 to claim.

Open Burn Permits

As an alternative to chipping the trees removed in creating defensible space, consider getting a Burn Permit. Call 498-6775 to find out how to get an application. Also, contact the City of Loveland Fire Prevention Bureau at 962-2537 as they have final approval on the application. The fee is \$30 which covers the cost of the inspection. Slash burning permits are issued between October 1 and April 1.

Take advantage of every snow day we get and make your property and your home defensible!

THANK YOU! by Carl & Kathy Miller

We wish to give thanks and praise to Roger and Karen Debenham, for all their efforts in getting SMERT, the Telephone Tree and the Cedar Post off the ground. They have endless energy when it comes to this community...

THANK YOU ROGER and KAREN!!!

WATER TANKS AVAILABLE

Thanks to Marty for a keen understanding of our fire safety needs. Here is one more example of what one individual can do to make a difference.

He has found a source offering limited quantities of 275 gallon buriable water containers. These units are palletized at approximately 4x4x4. They are top opening and valved at the bottom, which means they can be linked together as one source.

Just how they will be distributed is yet to be decided. Call Roger at 593-1091 if your area needs more available water.

We are a Colorado Not-For-Profit Corporation and, unfortunately, the cost of mailing The Cedar Post has become more than our advertising income.

We don't want to exclude anyone but instead we're asking you to send a donation to help defray these costs.

Your Name		
Your Physical Address		
Your Mailing Address		
Your Telephone Number(s)		
Chipper 2003	I pledge \$ _____	I'll bring ____ Loads Slash
		I'll take ____ Loads Chips
Send me The Cedar Post	YES	NO
Do you have a talent/service you'd like to list in our directory?	YES	NO
Antique Refinishing/Repair?	Handyman?	Plowing?
Carpenter?	Hauling?	Plumber?
Construction?	Nutritionals?	Trash Removal?
Electrician?	House Cleaning?	Other (Please Specify)

Storm Mountain Emergency Response Team, Inc.
P. O. Box 73
Drake, Colorado 80515-0073

Rhdebenham@debenham.com

Please take the time to fill out this form.
Tear it out and send it to us along with your donation to
SMERT, P. O. Box 73, Drake, CO 80515-0073

Holiday Pot Luck by Kathy Miller

Even though our holiday potluck was not considered a fund raiser, we passed a donation bucket and raised \$125 for SMERT. This event was a huge success for neighbors meeting neighbors. With nearly 90 people attending, we had a visit from Santa Claus (he kinda looked like Don Perrin to me, but I can't be sure!) Santa had the children (and adults) squealing for joy, handing out gifts, and several cameras taking pictures!

Carl hosted a game of gift bingo followed by Karaoke—we have some great singers on the mountain. And lots of great dancers, as well! A big “thank you” to the wonderful crew of people donating their time to decorate and clean-up. We couldn't have done it without you!!

5th Annual Road Clean-Up by Kathy Miller

Saturday May 3rd, meet at the “T” at 9:00 a.m. We're usually finished by noon or 1:00 p.m. Real bad weather will change the date to the following Saturday.

Bring gloves, garbage bags, 4-wheelers or trucks. If you don't have a truck or a 4-wheeler, come anyway—we team-up—some even walk along the vehicles. This is actually “fun”.

The best items found were: 1999 a Drive Shaft, 2000 a Toilet, 2001 a Blow-Up Doll, 2002 the vanity to match the toilet. Let's see who can find the “prize” for 2003!

Some of us keep bags and gloves in our vehicles and stop whenever we see trash on the road. If we all did this, maybe the annual road cleanup would not generate an entire dump truck full of trash!



Calendar of Events

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

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Event	Date	Location	NOTES
Italian Potluck/ Snow Dance See Fund Raisers article for	Saturday, March 22, 2003	121 Bobcat Place 7 P.M. 669-8587 or 593-1091	
5th Annual Roads Clean-Up	Saturday, May 3, 2003	Meet at “T” at 9 A.M. 669-8587 or 593-1091	
Inclement Weather Date 5th Annual Roads Clean-Up	Saturday, May 10, 2003	Meet at “T” at 9 A.M. 669-8587 or 593-1091	
Storm Mountain Prom	Saturday, May 31, 2003	121 Bobcat Place 7 P.M. 669-8587 or 593-1091	Search the resale shops for that great dress/tux OR wear your own if you still have it OR just your Sunday duds will do.
4th Annual Chili Cook-Off & 2nd Annual Community Yard Sale	Saturday, June 14, 2003	River Forks Inn Backyard 669-8587 or 593-1091	
3rd Annual Independence Day Parade and BBQ	July 4, 2003 More to come next issue!	Meet at 9:30 A.M. Step-Off at 10:00 A.M. BBQ following Parade	Staging @ the “4-Way” (Snow Top & Palisade Mtn. Dr.)
Big Thompson Canyon VFD Fire Fest	Saturday August 9, 2003	Drake Campground	

A Newsletter for the Storm Mountain Community

P O Box 73
 Drake, CO 80515-0073
 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Phone: 970-593-1091
 Fax: 970-593-1244
 Email:
 Rhdebenham@debenham.com

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 80538
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The Cedar Post

PLACE LABEL HERE

OUR ADVERTISERS

WASTE MANAGEMENT

of Estes Park is considering expanding our service area to include Cedar Park, Cedar Springs and Storm Mountain.

If you are interested in receiving residential trash collection, portable toilet service, septic/vault pumping or 30 yard rolloff service please contact our office for details.

970-586-5740 M-F 8-4:00 P.M.

Or you can email our office at
BBrown@wm.com

**Snow Top Construction
 Excavation/Leech Fields
 Rich Miller 663-4801**



**1993 Chevy S10 Blazer
 4 Dr, 4X4, Extra Tires
 \$3900/Offer
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**1982 Subaru 4X4 Wagon. H/L Transfer, 155 K Miles
 Runs Great
 663-2614**

**FREE
 Ice/Snow Studded
 Tires on Geo Rims
 P205/75R15
 593-1091**

This space could be yours!

**Business ads are \$50/3 months.
 Classified ads are a minimum
 donation of \$3 each.**

**40' Conex \$1000-you move it-In Cedar Park; Riding Lawn Mower \$1400/offer; King Size Mirrored Headboard with Nightstands \$200/offer; Oak Dresser \$115; Twin Mattress & Daybed Frame \$150
 669-3666**



**Canyon Log Homes
 P.O. Box 116
 Drake, CO 80515
 (970) 669-8587**