

# The Cedar Post

For ANY emergency, after calling 911, call Karen 593-1091 or Shirley 663-4060 or Kathy 669-8587

## Let's Come Alive in 2005!



Knowledge and experience came with six more graduates of the wildland fire-fighting course. We worked a real burn and practiced structure protection with Loveland Rural; conducted truck operations and a multiple hose

lay training with Big Thompson; and Ed Haimes presented several truck and pump sessions. Yet, in spite of all this we became very complacent due to our wet summer.

of fire calls for spring should serve to emphasize how lucky we were. Next year, however, is the year that matters. The fate of the Storm Mountain community could well be determined by the action plan we develop at our winter meeting (January 15—location to be decided). Please plan to attend. RSVP by phone or email.

Emergencies are just as likely now as they were before the voters of our county decided against adequate funding for the Loveland Rural Fire Protection district.

Folks, do you have any idea how lucky we were to have made it through last spring without an incident? We had more extreme conditions that precipitated “red flag warnings” which started our fire season earlier than ever. A fire the size of the Picnic Rock (only 1,400 acres shy of our dubious record setter, the Bobcat Fire, at 10,665 acres) in April and three times the normal number

*Roger Debenham*

970-593-1091

Roger@Debenham.com



## Holiday Potluck

Our third holiday potluck will be **Saturday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm. at the home of Dan & Vera Behymer, 75 Wren Place.** Bring a dish to share and your own beverages. Also bring a “grab bag” gift. We understand Santa may make an appearance to distribute them. Our own Norm McGill of “Takin’ Care of Business” will be on hand to entertain us!

## Will you call SMERT’s dispatchers?

There is something special about this mountain community. Life here offers peaceful surroundings to “unstress” from today’s hectic world and it draws the best people. Whether you choose to keep to yourself or become close with neighbors, the SMERT team is in place to protect all of us in case of emergencies of any kind.

Post these dispatch numbers by your phone. **Karen 593-1091 or Shirley 663-4060 or Kathy 669-8587.**

Call or email (see back page for info) and request your dispatch numbers Refrigerator Magnet.

If the need arises, remember that 911 services can be an hour away. Please, please call one of the dispatch folks. We have “traffic” people ready to be stationed at the necessary intersections so the authorities won’t get lost.

*Chris Brock*

cbrock13@juno.com

---

## **Storm Mountain Stories**

A community is made of so many things—a particular place, landmarks, plants, animals, sky, sun, scents, water, and people. Their relationships are the stories about these things. Communities have so many stories. Newcomers, as my husband and I are, learn as we go. But like Eve's musing in Mark Twain's *Diaries of Adam and Eve*, "We [are] starting at the very bottom of things—at the very beginning; we [have] to learn the ABC of things." We begin with being here, our first impressions, interactions, and then patterns and attitudes. We discover ourselves in community as we learn about place and each other.

For instance, as a newcomer to Cedar Park, I wondered how the winds blew here. In the small mountain community I lived in previously, the winds roared east from the Divide, cutting a frigid swath through our yard, bludgeoning the timbers of our house. I remember walking west in that icy wind, hunched over, pushed backwards, as it tried to rip off my jacket. I was reminded of that old fable about the contest between the wind and the sun as to who was the more powerful. The illustration on my school book showed a puff-faced cloud blowing towards a hunched-over figure, his coat billowing behind him, his arms wrapped tightly in front, and his hat flying off in the distance. These were the winds I knew where I lived before.

The wind here in Cedar Park seems to come from all directions, a swirl of air like a windmill, and it sweeps everything under our deck out east into the meadow and forest. The wind sounds like white water to me, and there's a comfort in hearing the blow and wave and rush as if in a way it protects us, is a kind of boundary between us and the city.



People are where the stories come from. What's our impression of the denizens of Storm Mountain: Cedar Park and Cedar Springs? The

myth of the West, of resourcefulness, independence, and space that goes on forever is still with us. We learn by observation and meeting each other. For instance, we have a neighbor across the road from us. We wave and he waves. We've never been in his house, nor he in ours. We met last year when we went to drop off our slash in the meadow near the T. What do we know about each other? We both love the quiet. We both walk down to the cul de sac for exercise. We don't leave our porch lights on at night, preferring the distant light of stars. We both like our privacy. We're good neighbors.

Then there are the stories that will be told for years, that shape us, that bring us together in a bond that will never be forgotten. The stories of the Bobcat Fire fall into this category. So many people came to know each other in that frightening time. Neighbors helped neighbors. Some lost everything. The bravery of the firefighters and the volunteers, the people that helped that gave of themselves and their resources, the moments of fear and decision, these are stories that will be retold.

There are the stories of the "old timers", the people who were here before all the rest of us. I hear of landmarks such as Seam Rock, and I wonder how it got that name. Someone told me of people who were hang gliding from off the top of the mountain. There are so many people here who have done interesting things in their lives, who have found this place satisfying, beautiful, heart's desire. I'd like to know their stories.

We are a story telling people, finding in them, our knowledge, our comfort, our identity, and our history. So, the goal of some of us is to tell stories of each other, of our experiences, of what we know of this community called Storm Mountain.

*Pat Maslowski*

## **Owners Responsible for Pets That Harass Wildlife**

People who let their dogs chase and harm wildlife could face serious consequences, including stiff fines and the possibility of losing their beloved pet. The fine for a dog harassing wildlife is \$274. In addition, Colorado considers big game animals as state property valued at \$500 for a deer, \$700 for an elk and \$1,000 for a bighorn sheep. That means pet owners could be billed for any wildlife injured or killed by their dog, said Bob Holder, DOW district wildlife manager in the state. Colorado law also allows any peace officer can capture or kill a dog that is caught chasing wildlife.

Problems also arise when dog owners disobey leash and voice command laws, according to DOW field officers. People hiking on public land must keep their dogs on a leash or under voice control, depending on what lands they are on. The DOW prohibits dogs to run at-large on all State Wildlife Areas except dogs lawfully used while hunting, or while training dogs for hunting. Tucker, DOW area wildlife manager, said the solution to the problem is simply for people to be responsible dog owners.

## **Larimer County Addressing System**

***Excerpted from "Facts about the Draft Resolution"*** Address numbers must be clearly posted on the addressable structure. The new resolution requires that address numbers be displayed on the structure. Address numbers on residential locations are to be 3" to 4" tall and of a contrasting color to their background to ensure that delivery services or emergency responders can see them. If the address numbers on the structure cannot be seen or are not legible from the driveway where it meets the road, then they should be displayed at the driveway entrance on a posted sign so they are visible from the road.

## WWW.SMERT.COM WILL GET YOU THE CEDAR POST!

Future and past issues—and other matters of harmonious mountain living; including links to monthly notices from Firewise.Org. We can distribute The Cedar Post over the internet at no additional expense. The old fashioned paper version will be available only to paid subscribers. Those that do not have access to email and/or the Internet, send us your name and address along with a donation to defray expenses and we will print and mail your copy. **SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!**

### Fundraiser—Bake Sale

The holiday bake sale will be our only fundraiser in 2004. Why not do your holiday shopping at our bake sale? Also, if you love to bake and have a treasured recipe that will surely be a big seller, why not bake up some donations? Package cookies in small quantities and take home several varieties. If you can't attend the Holiday Potluck on December 4th you can drop off your baked goods at 2 locations. Call Marty or Ann at 663-9315 or Shirley Miller at 663-4801.



### Jim Westbrook: Neighbor, Outdoors Man & Electronic Whiz

Jim lived at 215 Green Ridge Road for 13 years. He loved hang gliding, and that's what brought him to Colorado, according to his brother Paul. The first thing he did was clear the slash knowing that wildfires could easily destroy the land he loved. "He never wanted to leave here," Paul said.

A quiet man, a solitary man, he had a few good friends he stayed in contact with his whole life. Jim loved skiing, camping, anything to do with being outdoors.



After the Bobcat fire, he offered his help to SMERT. His knowledge of electronics and radio frequencies enabled emergency responders to be able to talk as well as listen on radio channels. Jim was a ham radio operator and instructed Karen Debenham, so she too became a ham. Jim, known as JW to many in SMERT, was there to help when they needed advice on electronics.

Jim had an extensive record collection, which has been donated to raise money for SMERT.

### Building Fund

Here is a snapshot of our income and expenses so far.

	2002	2003	2004
Income	\$4,746	\$4,081	\$1,600
Expenses	\$3,414	\$4,000	\$1,450

You can see that donations fell in 2004.

The truck's present quarters are temporary. We are one third of the way to our building fund goal. Please open your hearts and wallets and send SMERT a tax deductible donation to P O Box 73, Drake, CO 80515.

### GOOD NEWS

The fire house building site dilemma is solved! Thanks to a generous offer of space from Brian and Vicki New.

All that is left of the SMERT fire house project is the barn raising party and completion of fundraising efforts.

Thanks to the NEW'S.

He could not imagine not being able to drive. When Jim learned he had Parkinson's disease, he worried that he wouldn't be able to drive safely, and this was devastating to him. Also, doing the fine work with his hands that working with tools in the field of electronics required would become impossible. He was laid off from Qualcom three years ago. That was a hardship that also bothered him, and he felt he could no longer afford to live up here.

Jim Westbrook took his own life on the morning of August 27, 2004. He left letters for close friends and family. He said that he had had a good life, that he was happy and upbeat. He mentioned his love for the beautiful land and said he wanted his ashes to be scattered in the mountains. He did not want friends to grieve for him. He wanted them to remember him with gladness and to have a beer. He is missed, this quiet, thoughtful, and caring man who so loved the land here he never wanted to leave it.

*Pat Maslowski*

---

## **Memories from a Storm Mountain Diary**

**1993:** The grandkids and I loaded in the car for a trip to town to buy 2 baby lambs. The grandkids were still in diapers. I had the great idea of putting diapers on the lambs to keep the car clean on the trip home.

**June 7/8, 1993:** Guard rail installed on access road.

June 17, 2000: Yesterday was the first day back at the cabin since the horrible Bobcat fire. This morning woke up and its snowing.

**Aug 16, 2000:** 2-1/2" rain in 2 hours. The access road washed out where Larimer County was putting in a culvert. Ashes from the 10,000 acre forest fire washed into the Big Thompson river. Some called this the "Day the River Ran Black".

**Oct 13, 2000 (Friday):** Full moon. 10 neighbors on ATV's came by in masks and costumes. Since I wasn't prepared with candy treats they got cookies. No names are being used to protect the "guilty".

**Sept 23, 2001:** Support party for Max, owner of the Stage Stop restaurant. Since the World Trade Center attack, Max had been harassed because he looks middle Eastern. Huge turnout!

**Jan 7, 2002:** Cabin in Cedar Park burned due to a chimney fire.

**Jan 13, 2002:** House in Cedar Springs burned due to a pan left on the stove.

Shirley Miller

### **What's in your diary?**

Please take a few minutes to write down your best or funniest stories from the past and mail them to SMERT. We'll put them on the website.

## **ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT IN NEED OF A GOOD HOME**

The following list of equipment was donated by Jim Westbrook's family. We would like to find good homes for this equipment.

Donations to SMERT will be accepted. Call Roger at 593-1091.

HP Oscilloscope 1710B  
Hp Spectrum Analyzer 182T display  
Fluke 73 Multi Meter  
Pioneer RT707 Tape Deck  
Realistic 49-1026 12" polypropylene Woofer  
Marantz SD800 Stereo Cassette Deck  
Pair 3' x 18" x 24" Custom Speakers  
General Radio Co. 1606B R-F Bridge  
Astra 1200S SCSI Flatbed Scanner

Teac A-3300SX-2T Multi-Track Series Reel/Reel  
Akai AH-9 Head Demagnetizer  
Fluke 52 K/J Thermometer  
Pioneer RT-1011L Stereo Tape Deck  
Radio Shack 40-1026 Speakers  
Pioneer TX-5500II Stereo Tuner  
Pioneer RG Dynamic Processor RG-1  
Teac BX-300 DC Integrated Amplifier

## **Become a SMERT!**

It's SMERT that has the first chance at Storm Mountain's next fire. Early detection and aggressive attack are the two critical factors that keep wildfires small and manageable. Our greatest asset is the fact that we're already up here.

Storm Mountain's Emergency Response Team desperately needs folks willing to help. Special training or equipment is not necessary. Some may be provided. The group is strictly

volunteer without any obligations, commitments or dues. It is structured to work with any interest level, age or sex.

Anyone with past or present emergency services training of any kind may just as well sign on now or fear the draft.

*Roger Debenham*

970-593-1091

Roger@Debenham.com

## **Voters Reject Rural Fire Tax Plan**

Rural voters chose not to approve a new 1.5 mill property tax for the Loveland Rural Fire Protection District—a tax that LRFPD board officials said they needed to avoid the tough choice of decreasing their services.

Greg White, board secretary is disappointed that they will have to decrease the level of fire service they provide. "We'd like to think people would like to continue funding the fire service at the same level, but obviously they don't care to."

“Slash burning in the foothills and mountains should be done during damp conditions or when good snow cover exists.”

## Answers to your Burning Questions

Open burning without a permit can result in fines of up to \$10,000 per day.

Slash burning in the foothills and mountains should be done during damp conditions or when good snow cover exists. Permits are issued between October 1 and April 1 for Slash Burns and need to comply with Larimer County Rules of Burning. To obtain a burn permit and/or additional information please contact Fire Marshall at 970-962-2537 for detailed information. Cost last year was \$30.

Permits are not required for barbecue grills, portable cooking appliances, commercial outdoor fire pits, ceramic or clay fire pots and similar devices; or recreational burns under 3' by 3'.

### Prohibited Materials

- Routine yard & garden clean-up waste
- Household garbage
- Construction debris
- Structures
- Materials that produce excessive smoke (plastic, wire, tires, wet grass, leaves, etc.)
- Commercial/Business waste
- Stumps

### Safety Guidelines

- Pile debris in open areas away from standing timber & structures.
- Piles should be no larger than 8' wide and 6' high.
- There must be a minimum of 3" of snow cover around piles.
- Winds should be less than 10 mph. Check the weather forecast to avoid burning during high winds or extremely dry conditions.
- Always have water, a rake, and a shovel available.
- Attend all fires until completely out.
- All burning must be extinguished by nightfall.



**Cedar Park/Cedar Springs Vehicle Stickers.** Please call for your *free* sticker (593-1091).

### High Visibility House Number Signs

To purchase a high visibility house number sign with your address from the Loveland Fire Prevention Bureau, call 962-2536. The cost is \$12 and they come in both horizontal or vertical.

### Weather History

04/22/99: 15" snow	08/08/01: 3" rain this week
04/23/99: 26" snow	08/09/01: HARD rain
08/16/00: 2-1/2" snow	09/08/01: First Snow
09/24/00: 14" snow	11/28/01: 3° at 7 a.m.
04/11/01: 12" snow	03/01/02: 1° at 9 a.m.
05/02/01: 34° at 9 a.m.	03/08/02: 11° at 8:30 p.m.
05/04/01: 12" snow & still snowing hard	05/23/02: 8" snow
	05/03/01: 5" snow

As time goes by, the frightful days of the Bobcat fire fade. Yet in the hearts of several dedicated SMERT members, the need to help our friends and neighbors is still a very large part of our lives.

During our hectic days, we still find time to train; update information; work on potlucks; clean up our roads; organize the July 4th parade and picnic; and organize the holiday get-together. Each of us does our best to be prepared in the event one of you has an emergency. Do you have a desire to help?

*Chris Brock*  
cbrock13@juno.com

**A Newsletter for the Storm Mountain**

S.M.E.R.T. Inc.  
P O Box 73  
Drake, CO 80515  
A Colorado 501(c)3 Non-Profit Company

Phone: 970-593-1091  
Fax: 970-593-1244  
Email: Karen@debenham.com  
WWW.SMERT.COM



PLACE LABEL HERE

**OUR ADVERTISERS**

**FOR HIRE:**

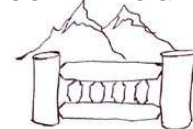
- **Backhoe**
- **Bobcat**
- **Dump Truck**
- **Post Holes**
- **Excavation**
- **Hauling**
- **Snow Plowing**



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

**669-8587**

**PEAKVIEW MEADOWS  
CUSTOM LOG RAILING & WOODWORK**



**Call for free estimate  
970-481-7818**

**SNOW TOP CONSTRUCTION**



**Excavation  
Leech Fields**

**Bill Miller  
970-663-4801  
970-353-8150**

**FOR SALE  
SERVEL  
PROPANE FRIDGE, 28" DEEP, 34" WIDE  
\$300 Dave Legits  
461-9725**

**PICTURES WANTED:** Bobcat Gulch fire pictures in any format are badly needed. Anyone willing to share, please call Roger Debenham 970-593-1091.

**SMERT'S BEST TOOL:** Our list of names...those that are willing to help out in the event of an emergency.

**OF SPECIAL NEED:** Anyone with past or present emergency services training of any kind. Especially if you are young, fit and able. Please, your mountain needs you really, really bad!

**PLEASE INCLUDE SMERT** with your happy thoughts as the holidays approach. Your check to SMERT at P O Box 73, Drake, CO 80515 could well influence the outcome of our next emergency.