



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

Everyone with SMERT

We wanted to send a **very sincere thank you** to all who were involved in helping us on Wednesday night/Thursday morning when our house burned down. We were sincerely overwhelmed at how quickly the volunteers responded to our call and how much help it was to have that immediate response. When we chose to build on that lot a little over a year ago, we anticipated that would mean a very long delay in emergency services in the case of something happening - and that night, we were proved very wrong...we were shocked at how fast help was available!

We realize what an inconvenience it must have been to have woken up in the middle of the night, had to work on fighting that fire throughout many long hours and then return to work the next day. We are so unbelievably thankful for your help- especially the sacrificed time and energy for something that you don't receive a paycheck for.

We also felt like you all went above and beyond to help save things that can't be replaced - such as pictures and our wedding album...we are still so shocked at the fact that you thought about those things and are so thankful for those things you brought out of the fire.

As I (Melissa) sit here with tears in my eyes, I'm just overcome with thanks for each one of you. We feel so blessed to be in a community that sacrifices so much to help out a neighbor.

We can't think of how to thank you - and I'm sure once things have settled down for us, we'll find a way to show you our genuine appreciation...until then, will you please pass this on to everyone at SMERT to let them know how thankful we are.

Again, thanks so much and please let us know if there is anything specific we can do to repay you - maybe a dinner or a donation or something.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts,

Paul and Melissa Bennett

6th Annual Road Clean-Up

Saturday May 7th, 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 side 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; 2004 a mattress. Wonder what 2005 will bring???

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! Call 593-1091 for more information.

WWW.SMERT.COM

Future and past issues—and other matters of harmonious mountain living; including links to monthly notices from Firewise.org can be found on our website.

River Forks Inn for underwriting the production of this issue. If I do not have your email address you would not gotten this issue.

We can distribute The Cedar Post over the internet at no additional expense.

Make a Donation

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 YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS to Karen@debenham.com!**

We've just made it easier for you to make your contribution to SMERT. Our building fund has not grown much in the past 12 months and we would sure like to have our own heated garage. Even though we were fortunate enough to have an UNHEATED garage to store the truck in this past winter, we still suffered some freeze damage. Your contribution can make a difference and it is tax deductible so go to www.smert.com and look for this button to click.

I want to express my sincere thanks to Bill Jones of



Last September, the River Forks Inn was purchased by Bill & Ann Jones. Bill is a veterinarian and grew up in Fort Collins where he went through school, including graduating from Colorado State University and the University of Northern Colorado. Running a restaurant and inn is a completely new experience for both Bill and Ann. For the past 25 years they have been publishing and editing an equine veterinary journal as their main occupation.

While attending the Drake Fire Department fund raiser last fall, Bill met Jeff Metz who was dishing out his famous green chili. When Bill said he was looking for a cook at the River Forks Inn, Jeff said, "I'm your man." So Jeff became an important part of the operation, not only as cook, but steering the novice owners in decisions that would make the business profitable someday. Jeff had been the cook and co-manager of the restaurant a decade ago and he is familiar with most of the local people in the area.

Many local residents in the Drake area have expressed their excitement that the "Stage Stop" is again open for business.

In the opinion of many locals, prices had been too high at the restaurant and hours too irregular. In an effort to change that situation Bill Jones has decided to offer a 10% discount to local residents for food purchases at the restaurant. To apply for the discount a person must pro-

1601 Big Thompson Canyon Highway
Drake, CO 80515

Phone: 970-663-0130

SUMMER HOURS: Everyday • 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Friday & Saturday Bar area until midnight

- ◆ Takeout available
- ◆ Handicapped Accessible
- ◆ Credit Cards Accepted: All Major
- ◆ Non-Smoking & Smoking in Bar Area
- ◆ Casual Dining in a Historic Lodge Atmosphere
- ◆ Music on Weekends

vide their address and phone number, proving that they are a local resident. This can be done by presenting an application at the restaurant. With proof of residency, the restaurant will give a 10% discount card good for any food purchases by any member of the family living in the area.

Bill and Ann realize that the restaurant business is tough. No one has ever made much profit at the River Forks Inn. Nevertheless, they feel that they can afford to give it a try, and they have some exciting plans for the property

The restaurant is only the beginning of what is planned for the River Forks property. Concerts and nightly music will be a part of the scene this summer. The east side of the building will re-open soon as the "Stage Stop Café." Light breakfasts and lunches will be featured as well as regular evening barbeques. The second floor of the building has long been a hotel. It has 10 rooms that are being refurbished in a 1920s style for nightly rental.

Bill's brother, Terry Jones, and his wife Pat, will join Bill and Ann this summer in the endeavor. Terry will help manage the business and will supervise the Café side. The bar with a full liquor license is already a busy place most nights. A beer garden is planned for the west side of the building. Look for a lot of activity in Drake this summer.

Our full menu is available for viewing online at <http://www.menusfirst.com/drake/riverforksinn.htm>

STRUCTURE FIRE TIPS from Lt. Dave Legits

At a community meeting held last January fifteen residents learned tips that could make a difference in a structure fire. Dave has 25 years of experience fighting fire. He has the unique perspective of being a career firefighter and a homeowner in the wildland urban interface.

All of your electrical circuits may need to be turned off EXCEPT your well pump. Will we be able to find them? **Are your electrical circuits identified?**

Keep a garden hose and nozzle **IN YOUR HOUSE**. It won't be subject to freezing in the winter AND you won't have to run around trying to find a hose should you

have a kitchen or chimney fire and need water immediately. Provide clear visibility of your well outside and keep it accessible.

Did you know a **FULL PROPANE TANK** is safer than one only 1/4 full or nearly empty? It takes much more heat to vaporize LP in a full tank. Propane tanks have a pop-off valve; if it starts to whistle and gets louder and louder it means the pressure is releasing and gas is escaping. Keep the tank cool to prevent vaporization by applying a mist of water directly on the tank.

A smoke alarm **in your attic** can provide an early warning to a chimney fire that you can't yet see.

Resident Vehicle Stickers

Cedar Park/Cedar Springs Vehicle Stickers. Please call for your **free** sticker (593-1091). Many people wave to everyone they pass on the access road whether they recognize you or not. But, being able to identify a vehicle in your neighborhood as a resident can provide some peace of mind. A CPCS sticker on your ATV will identify you as a mountain resident on the trails as well.

HOME SAFETY TIPS from Lt. Dave Legits

Go into each situation with an open mind; keep your problem solving skills going at all times. The actions you take are always dictated by the fire. Recognize the fact that if you make a situation worse, you may be held liable for damages.

Realize that the way a call comes in to 911 is not necessarily what really is happening. Smoke in a residence can just as likely be a burnt pizza in the oven as a chimney or stove fire.

Upon arrival at the scene do a complete 360° walk around the house—look in all the windows.

Do not open any doors until the situation is assessed. If a fire is smoldering and a door or window is opened, air MAY accelerate the situation. Shut off the propane valve to the house and check the liquid level. Shut off the power at the meter unless you need to use the well pump.

Have a charged hose line and people ready to go before attempting to open doors or windows, adding oxygen to the fire. A common cause for structure fires is electrical. If you can safely go inside the structure, hand feel all outlets. Use a 1-3/4" hose line for a room and contents fire with the nozzle set mid way open on power fog (not fog, not stream). Apply water for 10 seconds and close the door again. One cubic foot of water equates to 1700 cubic feet of STEAM. Steam absorbs the most BTU's and can put out the fire without drenching the contents.

During a structure fire our best efforts are patrolling and controlling embers and spot fires while the professionals tackle the structure. Our safest approach before BTC VFD arrives is an exterior fire attack.

Appoint a parking manager and reserve 100' around the house for the engine.

Also identify and reserve a turn around space for large vehicles.

HELP WANTED!! July 4th Fund Raiser/Picnic

This years celebration parade promises to be a whiz bang belly busten' mountain good time!

Folks are just now figuren' out how they is gonna make that happen. So, anyone with brainstorms or ideas is requested to help out, please. Call Karen or Roger at 593-1091

HOME FIRE PROTECTION



An inadequate fire extinguisher just won't do the job!

Would your fire extinguisher do the job if you found your attic ablaze? There are numerous home fire situations that could really embarrass an inadequate fire extinguisher.

One way to ease your concerns is simply to install a hose threaded outlet inside and keep adequate hose handy (Not outside where it could freeze). I firmly believe this

concept would have saved the homes on Aspen Drive and Skyline Drive that succumbed to chimney fires.

Our resident plumber and ex-fireman, Bill Harvey, would be the best one to call for help with the project. He is offering us a mountain-folk discount. You can call Bill at 663-6421 but I got there first.

Roger Debenham

Recent Incidents

It is not new news now but the propane gas explosion on Meadows Drive in February lifted the roof so high that it stretched the electrical wiring in the walls. They were working on a propane refrigerator when something went wrong. Ole' Bill was air-lifted to Greeley's burn unit. Harriett and the kitty were just shook up and singed.

SMERT's ETA group sprung into action and Rich Miller led the responders right to Bill's door.

Two smoldering campfires left by weekend revelers and a tragic house fire should serve to remind us that our Emergency Response team is only as strong as we can make it. Please help!

ETA—EMERGENCY TRAFFIC ASSISTANCE Team

The Loveland Fire Department recently told us how our traffic assistance team made a big difference in directing their equipment to the recent Skyline Drive fire. They are more used

to being lost up here than to have an ETA team member at every key intersection.

Thanks to Bill and Shirley McKenna for a great job with our most active group.

An ETA team member at every intersection...

Organizational Re-Structuring

Changes within should greatly increase SMERT's "fire folks" response effectiveness.

Training and readiness are two factors that emergency responders must be on top of. A shuffle within and the creation of a new position, Strike Team Leader, should address these concerns.

Our new Strike Team Leader, Ed Haimes, will confront response time, size-up and first hit effectiveness.

Gregg Cooper is our newly appointed Fire Chief. He brings us a wealth of experience. Gregg grew up with a volunteer fire fightin' family in Nebraska. As a design

engineer he came to Colorado to develop and improve fire equipment.

Ironically, both Ed & Gregg manned a hose at the Skyline fire. Ed on Wednesday and Gregg on Thursday. Storm Mountain is way lucky to have these two on their team.

Gregg Cooper and Jeff Roop recently graduated from Loveland Rural Fire's S130/S190 basic firefighting class as well as passed the pack test! Ain't it grand to have so many folks with up here training?

Roger Debenham

High Visibility House Number Signs

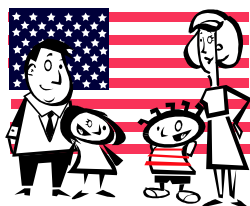
To purchase a high visibility house number sign with your address from the Loveland Fire Prevention Bureau, call 962-2536. The cost is \$12 and they come in both horizontal or vertical.

Summer Calendar of Events



| | |
|-------------|--|
| 05/07/05 | 6TH ANNUAL ROAD CLEAN UP (alternate date 5/14) |
| 05/08/05 | MOTHERS DAY |
| 05/26/05 | SMERT TRAINING WITH BTC VFD |
| 05/28-30/05 | MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND CONCERT AT RIVER FORKS INN AND STAGE STOP IN DRAKE |
| June | GLEN HAVEN VFD PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER |
| 7/4/05 | 5TH ANNUAL STORM MOUNTAIN PARADE & PICNIC |
| 8/13/05 | FIRE FEST Drake Campground 3 p. m.—midnight <i>Lots of kids' activities this year!</i> |

5th Annual Storm Mountain July 4th Parade & Picnic



Come join us for another fun filled day!

currently is in the home of Ron & Karen Hentges. Maybe this year it could be yours...

We encourage you to participate and bring your friends, neighbors and relatives. Decorate your 4-wheelers, horses, trains, planes and automobiles...Meet at the "T" at 9:30 a.m. The parade steps off at 10:00 sharp. Spectators bring your lawn chairs and set up anywhere alongside the route.

The picnic starts immediately after the parade. Our host again this year is Ed Haimes, 1429 Spruce Mountain Drive. Bring a covered dish to share and your own chairs, alternate beverage and table service. Donations are always welcome, but not required.

We'll be marching the same route as previous years. Up over Palisade Mountain. Dr to Snow Top, right on Snow Top, left on Spruce Mountain. Dr, left on Lakeview, and left on Storm Mountain. Dr back to the "T".

Thanks to the Caper clan of Green Ridge for arranging with Kraft for their doubly delightful donation of dogs. SMERT has the buns, condiments and lemonade covered.

We have established a traveling trophy for first place. It

If you have ideas to share, or if you would like to be a part of the crew, setting up, breaking down, running a booth, serving food, etc., PLEASE CALL 593-1091

CHIMNEY FIRE DAMAGES HOME

The sound of something falling onto the porch awoke Melissa Bennett early Thursday alerting her to the fire. Paul and Melissa were asleep when the fire broke out. The fire extensively damaged the upper two floors, sparing only the basement and kitchen. Most of their belongings also were destroyed. The Bennett's were able to escape uninjured.

Paul immediately called SMERT's fire chief after calling 911. Ed's call to our dispatcher put our teams in motion shortly after midnight. Our fire crew was there assisting firefighters until early morning. Our Emergency Traffic Assistance team stationed people at every intersection from the "T" to assure firefighters found the blaze without difficulty in the darkness.

Firefighters worked until 10:30 a.m. to extinguish the fire and ensure it did not spread to nearby trees. Ed went to check on the Bennett's around noon and discovered the fire had rekindled. SMERT's dispatcher contacted Loveland's dispatch and a page went out for Big Thompson Canyon volunteers to respond again. A crew returned late Thursday afternoon to baby-sit the scene until the high winds died down.

The smoke alarms were working; they just hadn't gone off yet. The fire started in the chimney, but the cause still is under investigation and the fire was accidental.

If you'd like to help the Bennett family with a monetary donation, please send it in care of —Grace Community Church, 240 West 4th Street, Loveland, CO 80537, 667-5480

RIVER FORKS INN RESTAURANT

Local Resident Discount Application

In appreciation of the support the local residents of the Drake area have given to our new restaurant business, we are offering a 10% discount coupon to those who live in the area on a year-round basis. Just fill out this information sheet and present it at the Restaurant for a 10% coupon card. The card will have a six-month expiration date and will be applicable for all food items, not including alcoholic drinks. Coffee and soft drinks are included. By providing your contact information, we will be able to notify you of special happenings at River Forks Inn that you will want to attend.

William E. Jones, Owner

Name _____ Email _____
Address _____ Phone _____
Name of family members living at home _____

Present this application at The River Forks Inn to receive your personal discount coupon.

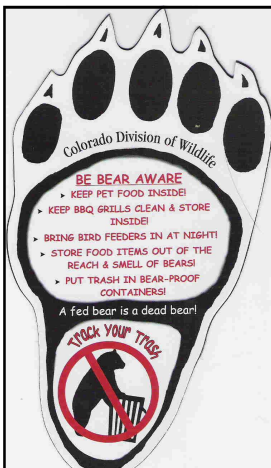


CONCERT MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND AT RIVER FORKS INN

The Memorial Day weekend will see the first big concert weekend planned for the River Forks Inn and Stage Stop in Drake.

At least six musical groups will perform on Saturday, Sunday and Monday of that weekend. Negotiations are underway with groups headed by Mark Henderson, Mike Dickson, Ed Wright, Christina Stone, Rick Gary, and with the 14 piece No Man Swing Band. Our main feature Sunday afternoon will be the Steve Marshall Band (formerly of Fire Fall).

This "music festival" will be held in the newly landscaped area behind the post office. Tickets for the event will be \$25 for all three days, or \$10 a day for Saturday and Monday, and \$15 for Sunday. A barbeque is planned for each evening. Don't miss it.



Purpose & Procedure By Roger Debenham

A session is being planned to explain and discuss all aspects of emergencies on the mountain. The purpose and procedures of the telephone tree; traffic assistance; and fire responders will be covered in a discussion group format.

The River Forks' new Deli meeting room will be the place. The date and time will be announced as soon as it is confirmed.

Tom & Angela Dulong, 613-0815, cell 231-1905 Call with bear problems or questions ?

The Beginning of Community

By Pat Maslowski

One afternoon last summer, Karen and Roger Debenham invited Ray and Erlean Berg, Rich and Shirley Miller, and me to stop by for a while for some story telling and refreshments. I put on the tape recorder and took some notes, while the Bergs and Millers talked about how they found their homes and what it was like to live here when there were only a few families in the area.

Ray and Erlean were living in Broomfield. They said that when friends moved to South Park, they had the idea that they would like a place in the mountains, too. "We spent almost every weekend looking," Erlean said.

"We looked in the United Farm Agency Catalogue and saw a picture with a horse in a field. It was called a hobby ranch. Our grandson was ten years old, and he loved the idea," Ray recalled.

"We had a VW bus, and the road was muddy. We were going ten miles an hour, barely moving, and I thought it would take all day to get up here," Erlean began. "Just below the hill, I saw a barn and thought what a big barn it was. Then, when we got over the hill, I saw the electricity wires and the house. We knew this was it."

Ray added, "We told the guy that we'd decide before we went home. We went down to the Stage Stop, but he didn't even have a pen or notebook. I gave him my pen

and he wrote a price down on a napkin. I looked at it, and said that wouldn't work and made another offer. Two weeks later, he called and said the guy was willing to take my offer."

Ray and Erlean didn't move up to live full time until they both retired, but Ray Junior and his friends came up every weekend. Erlean said that people would be waiting at the gate for them to arrive. By the end of the weekend there were 50 or 60 people who had come. "It was wall-to-wall people from the kitchen to the living room, and sometimes I slept under the table so I wouldn't get stepped on," Ray said.

They had game dinners and shooting matches. When I asked Erlean if she did all the cooking, she said that she always had plenty of help, especially with the dishes. One of the guests helping Erlean asked her if she would be offended if he gave her a dishwasher. Erlean looked at the old cabinets and thought that she'd have a carpenter come up and make a space for the dishwasher, but the hunter said that for a little more money, she could have all new cabinets and the dishwasher. And, that's what happened.

Ray said that the house isn't much, but it's livable. It was built in 1918, and Ray and Erlean have owned it for 35 years, from 1969 to the present.

"People are always looking out for us. We're the oldest couple here. I'd have to be totally disabled before I'd leave here," she said. "We've been fortunate," Ray added.

Snake Story

By Pat Maslowski

"In August of 1969, we came up to look at the place and our grandson was with us," Ray Berg said. "We had heard there were rattlesnakes and sure enough one jumped ahead of him."

"One morning in September, I came up by myself. There was an old toolbox laying alongside the hen house. I saw a big hole in it. I had my pistol, and when a snake started up from the hole, I shot it but just raked its head. I shot it again in the back. When I pulled it out and measured it, it was 48 inches long and as big around as a beer can. I put him in the pickup and took him home. It was a timber rattler with ten rattles. Usually 3 break off, so it could have been about 13 rattles."

"I'd heard that if you skinned a snake you could make a belt out of it, but when the skin dried up, it curled up the belt," Ray laughed.

Ray said that he carried a pistol all the time and saw and killed at least three rattlers after that, but the biggest rattler he ever saw was a Prairie rattler in Kansas.

How can you get involved with SMERT?

Just call Roger at 593-1091 and volunteer for one of our open positions.

We are in need of a fundraiser organizer; a newsletter editor; artwork design for the newsletter; someone with the ability to take our map book (created in Photoshop) and improve it. And as always, **donations are needed**—the building fund is our most pressing need especially since we had to dip into it to pay this years truck insurance..

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



Bill Harvey
Service Plumber

P.O. Box 275
Drake, CO 80515

970-663-6421
Cell 970-227-4105

The old stage stop has been the center for Drake activities for 100 years. The Jones' plan to continue the tradition offering the use of their meeting room for your special event. Stop in for breakfast, lunch or diner.

Establish 1905



970-663-0130

River Forks Inn and Stage Stop
PO Box 206, Drake, CO 80515

FOR HIRE:



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

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

Carl & Kathy Miller
669-8587

SNOW TOP CONSTRUCTION

Excavation Leech Fields Bill Miller 970-663-4801, or 970-353-8150

