

NFH NEWS

National Forest Homeowners

Spring 2011 - Volume 26, Number 2

OUTSTANDING SERVICE *Honored*



NFH awards presentations highlighted the Awards Banquet held Saturday, April 16 as a conclusion to the 2011 NFH Convention held in Irvine, CA. The five NFH awards are listed as follows:

	Recipient	Presenter	Nominator	Region
TRACT	Columbine Cabin Owners Association, Coronado NF, AZ	Eileen Weech	Daryl Weech	3
VOLUNTEER	Barb Bailey, Olympic NF, WA	Fran Filer	Dick Almy	6
LEADERSHIP	Doug Gann, Lake Wenatchee, Wenatchee NF, WA	Pete Bailey	Pete Bailey	6
COMMUNICATION	Bob Gaw, ed. "Splash", Lake Kirkwood, Eldorado NF, CA	Kathy Strong	Carolyn Holm	5
RECREATION ADVOCATE	Jackie Richter, Resource Specialist, Sawtooth NF, ID	Ted Filer	David Mead & Wayne Fuller	4



Certificates awarding Lifetime Membership and NFH Service Awards were presented to:

- Dick Burrows, Lifetime Membership and Service Award, in recognition of his long-time service to NFH. Dick has served as NFH Treasurer, Secretary, Vice-President and director;
- Robyn Thomas, Lifetime Membership and Service Award, honored for her service as a director and the Program and Convention Chair;
- and Pete Bailey's tireless work as director and C2 involvement was cited as he received an NFH Service Award.

The NFH Service Awards are stained glass creations handcrafted each year by Roy Glauthier.

The Awards Committee now encourages NFH members to submit awards nomination forms for this year. All nominations must be postmarked on/before December 31. Nomination forms are available on the newly updated NFH web site, www.nationalforesthowners.org. Forms are also available from Awards Committee chair, Ted Filer tfiler81@aol.com, ED Mary Clarke Ver Hoef, nfh100@yahoo.com, or any Awards Committee member.

Ted Filer, chair, extends a special thank you to the NFH Awards Committee members: Evelyn deGhetaldi, Rosie Janz, Ron and Jane Yandt, Daryl and Eileen Weech, Sally Goodin and Fran Filer for their collective time and effort involved in serving on this committee.

2011 ANNUAL MEETING

NFH's annual meeting was held as usual on the morning before the convention on April 15th. The President gave his update, the Secretary presented the minutes from the previous year, which were then approved, and the Treasurer gave her presentation on our financial condition.

Then the president opened the sealed envelope and the Teller Committee's report of the election results was read. Sarah Dahl is our new Vice President, Mike Hoover remains our Secretary, and the new Board members are Barbara Bailey, Paula Hoiland, Al Molineux, and Bill Williams. Sally Goodin, up for re-election as a Board member, remains a director. Barbara Bailey and Al Molineux are from Washington State, Paula Hoiland is from Oregon, and Bill Williams is from Minnesota.

Finally, there were three revisions to the Bylaws approved in the meeting, and the new language is on the website. One enlarges the Teller Committee to five to eight members and the other two clarify that, while mailing of the ballot is by first class mail, the Call to Convention Newsletter need not be, and that separate mailings of the ballot and newsletter are allowed in this manner.

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THE NEW *(and Improved!)* **WEBSITE**

The first piece of the NFH website revision project was released just before the Annual Convention in April. It's been revamped with a clean, simple design that focuses on organization of the information to help you find what you need more easily.

The new website makes it easier to post new articles and documents. That means the working members of NFH can communicate more quickly and effectively with the general membership, sharing the news and developments as they happen. It also makes finding archived documents and articles easier.

Another function of the website is to provide more detail about the people who make NFH what it is. You can learn a little about who they are and what they do. You can put a "face" behind the information on the website. You can also find out about the various committees that make NFH function – who the people are, what they do, and how you can get involved.

The website also provides more detail about the events and awards that happen every year. We have multiple public events each year that we use to get to know more about our members and share with them what's been happening and what's coming up. From the website you can find out about upcoming events, as well as information that was presented at past events. The presentations made at the meetings, as well as documents and other information discussed, will be available for easy reference after the meeting.





Tales from the ED

Convention 2011 as seen by the ED

Planning for the NFH Convention is always a non-linear project, as obtaining speakers becomes a balancing act between our needs and the travel availability of the possible speaker, but this year's convention planning was made even more fun by the game of chicken being played by our two political parties in Congress. Until the Saturday before the convention was due to start, we were not sure whether the government was going to shut down completely, so we had to make back-up plans for all the programs supposedly being given by the Forest Service speakers. Then, up to the wire, we were not entirely sure who could travel, as the budget direction was tightened even further than before the showdown.

We already were competing with the National Forest Foundation's event in Hollywood, but were able to pick up Joel Holtrop, Deputy Chief of the Forest Service, from the LA airport and whisk him away to our Thursday night reception, where he said some very encouraging words about the cabin program, and then send him off to his hotel in Hollywood. On the way from the airport, he had some great stories to tell about his previous Friday in this office. Can you imagine how to shut

down a forest? What about the independent contractors running things like campgrounds? Shutting down "the government" is a lot harder than it sounds.

Several of us had the opportunity to accept the invitation from the Forest Foundation to attend their Friday night reception, so we had the chance to meet with Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell and Harrison Sherman, USDA Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, and that was a useful opportunity. But the ride to and from Hollywood from Irvine was a lesson in driving gymnastics. Traffic on Friday evening was great fun, and required a GPS to tell us when to take the freeway and when to take the side streets. We saw some interesting areas of east LA on the way.

Those of you who did brave the traffic to Irvine enjoyed what looked like a smoothly-run convention. This is just a glimpse behind the curtain. There is always the issue of being sure the rooms are set up properly, that the coffee arrives on time and that the cookies are not set out too early, but I hope that the threat of shutting down the government just before a convention does not happen again very soon!

NFH MEMBERSHIP FORM

New Member Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone () _____ Work () _____ Fax () _____

E-mail address _____

Cabin: State _____ Forest _____ Ranger District _____

Tract Name _____ Lot# _____ Name of Tract Assn (if any) _____

Check Type of Membership: Regular (\$40) Associate (\$25)

Regular membership is open to any permit holder, spouse of a holder, co-holder, or person with a financial interest in a recreation residence. Associate memberships are open to individuals and organizations that have an interest in the purposes and/or services of NFH, but are not eligible for Regular membership.

Make check payable to National Forest Homeowners and mail with this completed form to:
National Forest Homeowners, 541 W. Santa Clara Avenue, Santa Ana, CA 92706-2548



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Geoff Anderson

POWER IN NUMBERS

NFH is a member-based organization organized and run by volunteers. Its power and ability to influence government agencies rests solely on the willingness of its members to support and participate in the organization. Nothing speaks more loudly than the collective voices of cabin owners directed at Congress to support fee reform. The proposed Cabin Fee Act illustrates what can be accomplished by an active membership. Not surprisingly, the NFH membership rolls have increased steadily, if not dramatically, since the implementation of the CUFFA fee schemes when cabin owners began to realize the unfairness and inequities resulting from the implementation of CUFFA's provisions. Members were polled and by a significant majority supported the concept of fee reform. Thus, it is not surprising that cabin owners continue to support our efforts to save the cabin program and put ceilings on unreasonably high fees. What is surprising is that a significant number of cabin owners are not members of NFH. What can the explanation be for this enigma?

We are told by those involved in other member-based, non-profit organizations that it is not unusual to see less than majority membership where membership is not made mandatory through regulation, the direct extension of material benefit or other form of compulsion. We are not in a position to use such techniques nor, it may be argued, should we be. Others suggest that this is a common phenomenon: many are prepared to benefit from the efforts of a few. Before we accept this, let's examine many benefits conferred by NFH membership.

- The dues for regular members are low and have not been increased recently.
- We provide communications regularly through website, newsletter, email and correspondence.

- We conduct Forums twice a year and a yearly convention that prove informative.
- We recently initiated vote by mail encouraging a regular members to vote.
- We provide an associate membership, at a reduced rate, for non-cabin owners.
- Our officers, directors and others attend regional meetings of governmental agencies.
- We engage only contractors to provide specific services and have no employees.
- We are self-supporting through dues, meeting fees and voluntary donations.
- We are a major partner in significant undertakings notably the C2 effort.
- We are an information resource through our Executive Director.

NFH is embarking on a renewed effort to increase and maintain our membership through our membership committee chair Sally Goodin and members of her committee. Similarly, our directors and ambassadors will assist. Cabin owners and tract representatives can expect to be contacted and asked for information and assistance in this endeavor. Encourage your fellow cabin owners who are not members to join. Yes, there is power in numbers and that power stems from an informed membership.

Please keep in touch and enjoy your summer.

Geoff Anderson

WASHINGTON REPORT

Aubrey King | NFH Washington Representative | May, 2011



CBO Reviewing Cabin Fee Act – Congressional Introduction Imminent

As this is being written in early May, introduction in Congress of the Cabin Fee Act of 2011 is expected soon. Following intensive discussions by the NFH and other cabin owner leaders in the C2 Coalition with key Congressional supporters, a slightly revised draft of the legislation considered last year has been sent to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) for review of its impact on the Federal budget. Due to the immense pressures on the budget and efforts underway to reduce the Federal debt, no legislation is likely to go forward if the CBO concludes it would have a net negative impact on the budget. The CBO found zero budget impact from the 2010 Cabin Fee Act, which has been amended to obtain the support of critical Members of Congress. Since the latest changes to the bill are relatively modest, supporters are optimistic that the CBO will render another positive verdict. When that happens, Congressional champions in both the House of Representatives and the Senate have promised to introduce the bill very soon thereafter. It is expected to receive bipartisan support. Although Congress will be intensively focused in coming months on highly charged fiscal debates, a favorable CBO ruling on a bipartisan Cabin Fee Act should encourage hearings by the key Congressional Committees in both chambers of Congress later this spring and summer with an opportunity to move the bill towards passage by the end of the year.

Since it is likely that the 2011 Cabin Fee Act will be introduced in Congress before the next NFH Newsletter, readers are urged to check the NFH Website at www.nationalforesthomeowners.org regularly for more detailed information and the very latest developments regarding this vital legislation.

No Cabin Fee Increases in 2011

Senior officials of the Forest Service have told NFH that there will be no fee increases for cabin owners in 2011. The agency decided last November that bills for cabin owner fees for 2011 would have the same fee levels as in 2010 pending further action by Congress that might require supplemental bills with fee increases. In the final 2011 appropriations bill

passed by Congress in early April, a moratorium on cabin fee increases urged by the NFH was included that allowed a 25% increase over 2010 fees. The Forest Service has decided, however, not to send out supplemental fee increases this year, so no cabin owner should have to pay a 2011 fee any higher than his or her fee for 2010.

Forest Service Budget

Six months late, Congress finally passed and the President signed on April 15th legislation that will keep the government in money through September 30, 2011, the end of the current 2011 fiscal year. Although many public lands programs suffered serious cuts of 5 – 10% or more, the Forest Service Recreation Residence Program should be less directly affected than others because the Forest Service Recreation Budget was reduced slightly less than 2%, dropping \$5.7 million to an appropriation of \$279.4 million, compared to \$285.1 million in fiscal 2010. Administration of the cabin program is funded by this recreation budget. Attention now turns to the development of the Forest Service budget and appropriations for the 2012 fiscal year beginning October 1, 2011.

National Forest Service Proposed Planning Rule

Following nearly a decade of work and at least two previous drafts that were rejected by Federal courts, the Forest Service has now officially proposed another new national planning rule. This rule will guide the development of plans for all national forests for the next decade or longer. The new proposed planning rule for the first time recognizes that recreation is an integral part of the core purpose and mission of national parks, which had been urged by the NFH and many other national recreation organizations. There is concern, however, that the proposed planning rule places excessive emphasis on the priority of environmental and ecological factors that are too often undefined and unclear and may result in future legal challenges to policies and programs affecting the national forests. The NFH is considering submitting formal comments regarding the proposed planning rule prior to the May 16th deadline for such comments.



08.17.2011

Cabin Owner FORUM

SPOKANE Washington

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*By Sarah Dahl, Vice President
National Forest Homeowners
and Forum Planner*

Red Lion River Inn
700 N. Division
Spokane, Washington 99202
509.326.5577

The National Forest Homeowners Board of Directors invites cabin owners to the upcoming forum scheduled for September 17, 2011 in Spokane, Washington. The forum will be held at the Red Lion River Inn. Registration starts at 12 noon, with the forum from 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. These regional forums provide a wealth of information for cabin owners, family and all others interested in the future of the Recreation Residence program. For an attendance fee of \$15.00 per person, you will have the opportunity to learn about current issues affecting cabins on National Forest lands in Washington, Northern Idaho and across the United States. It is also an opportunity to speak to National Forest Homeowner Officers, Directors and Staff, and Forest Service personnel. It is also a great time to meet cabin owners from different tracts.

The planning for the forum is well underway and contacts are being made. The NFH board is sensitive to the fact that cabin owners cannot always attend our annual convention, and therefore places a high priority on producing a valuable program on a more grassroots level.

Because it is of great importance to all cabin owners, the Cabin Fee Act will undoubtedly be the primary session topic. Past presentations have been well-received and cabin owners have come away with a much clearer understanding of the hard work and dedication that has gone into creating legislation with a goal of protecting the Recreation Residence program for decades to come.

Additionally, there will be several smaller, timely sessions held during the afternoon on issues such as Appraisals and 2nd Appraisals; Forest Health and Fire Prevention; and the popular Cabins 101, a session about the cabin program origins, particularly important for new cabin owners and those who want to be more effective in communicating with the Forest Service. We will endeavor to make these sessions as area specific as possible so you can take information back to your tracts and share with your neighbors who may not have the opportunity to join us. Finally, we will allow plenty of time for a question and answer session on all things cabin-related, from compliance to trusts. With a panel representing NFH and the Forest Service, and you seeking information, it is always a lively way to wrap up our day.

Please mark your calendars, use the clip out registration form, to sign up for the forum, or go to NFH website, www.nationalforesthowners.org, which will have updated forum program information and registration forms.

We hope you, family and friends can join us in Spokane on September 17, 2011, for this important and informative cabin owner forum.

NFH Newsletter

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rate \$40, which is included in NFH dues.

NFH MISSION

National Forest Homeowners is a member-directed organization representing cabin-owner recreation residence permittees on our national forests. NFH provides leadership, member information and assistance, and advocacy for continuation of all recreation residence cabins. It is dedicated to educating its members and others in sound science stewardship of our national forests.



NATIONAL FOREST HOMEOWNERS

presents its Fall Area Forum
in Spokane, Washington
from 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
on Saturday September 17, 2011
at Red Lion River Inn
201 W. North River Drive
Spokane, WA 99201

REGISTRATION FORM

Send to:

NFH Forum Registration
541 W. Santa Clara Avenue
Santa Ana, CA 92706-2548

PLEASE SEND REGISTRATIONS TO ARRIVE NO LATER THAN SEPT. 10!

After that time, please register at the door at 12:00 noon, and bring your \$15.00 per person fee.

Questions?

Call Executive Director Mary Clarke Ver Hoef at 1-800-669-9971.

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

NFH SPOKANE AREA FORUM – SEPTEMBER 17, 2011

Name _____

Phone _____

e-mail _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Others attending from my cabin:

My cabin is located in the _____ Tract,
in the _____ National Forest, in the state of
_____.

I am am not (please check one) a member of National Forest Homeowners.

My check or money order made payable to National Forest Homeowners for \$15 per person is enclosed.



National Forest Homeowners

541 W. Santa Clara Avenue
Santa Ana, California 92706-2548

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Presorted Standard
US Postage
PAID
Salt Lake City, UT
Permit #1988

NFH Hotline: 1.800.669.9971
E-mail: nfh100@yahoo.com
NFH WEBSITE:
www.nationalforesthowners.org

Your Member Number:



UPCOMING EVENTS

<p>SEPTEMBER 17, 2011 FORUM Spokane, WA</p> <p>Red Lion River Inn 700 N. Division Spokane, WA 99202</p> <p>509.326.5577 redlion.rdl.com</p>	<p>JANUARY 21, 2012 FORUM Walnut Creek, CA</p> <p>Marriott Walnut Creek 2355 N Main St. Walnut Creek, CA 94596</p> <p>925.934.2000 marriott.com</p>	<p>APRIL 12-14, 2012 CONVENTION Vancouver, WA</p> <p>The Heathman Lodge 7801 Greenwood Drive Vancouver WA 98662</p> <p>888.476.3100 heathmanlodge.com</p>	<p>SEPTEMBER 15, 2012 FORUM Billings, Montana</p> <p>Hilton Garden Inn Billings 2464 Grant Road Billings, MT 59102</p> <p>406.655.8800 hiltongardeninn.hilton.com</p>
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