

NFH NEWS

National Forest Homeowners

Winter 2011 - Volume 26, Number 1

CALL TO CONVENTION 2011

The Cabin Program: A New Direction

Join Us! Come to the 49th NFH National Convention at the Hyatt Regency in Irvine, California, April 14-16th.

Our theme this year is “The Cabin Program: A New Direction,” which highlights legislation for the establishment of a new fee structure that will result in consistently fair fees in the future. The recreation residence program has been in existence since 1915, and there are more than 14,000 cabins in 25 states across our country. The benefits of the cabin program to the national forests and the public continue to be relevant as we move into the 21st century.

NFH and the Coalition 2 have been working around the clock to get new legislation passed that will secure the cabin program for future generations through the Cabin Fee Act. Appraisals and resulting fees continue to drive the concern for the recreation residence program. Having the ability to speak to the benefits of the program through economic impact, stewardship of the forest, multi-use of public lands and access to our national forests is a vital component when speaking with the Forest Service, politicians and other interested parties. It is more important than ever to become educated about the process and the goals for the recreation residence program.

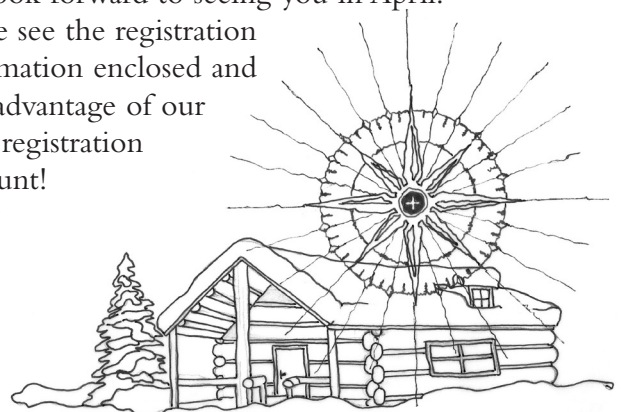
It is important to learn how to work with the U.S. Forest Service to reach consensus on our issues. Learn about appraisals, second appraisals and appeals. The Forest Service has made significant changes in the language of the new permits. What are they and where do we go from here with concerns? Cabin owners have a great deal of commitment to the public lands and continue to have interest in subjects including water, fire, protecting our cabins, and the health and

management of our national forests. The convention will have an array of general sessions and workshops covering all of these topics. Presenting at our workshops will be NFH board members, our Washington liaison, Forest Service leaders and staff, experts in several fields, members of Coalition 2, and cabin owners who have made a difference.

Our convention will open with the annual business meeting and the election results from our vote-by-mail election. Consider joining us on Friday morning before the annual meeting to meet your NFH Board members and other cabin owners, then join us on Friday evening for our optional event: a self-guided tour of the Irvine Spectrum Center. This contemporary center is “A Fusion of Fashion, Food and Fun.” It features a 108-foot Ferris wheel, an antique carousel, 38 restaurants, more than 80 shops, and three entertainment venues. Check it out at www.irvinspectrumcenter.com. Transportation will be provided to and from the center for a small fee.

We look forward to seeing you in April!

Please see the registration information enclosed and take advantage of our early registration discount!





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Geoff Anderson

SPREADING OUR WINGS

There are 193 million acres managed by the US Forest Service located in 44 states. Approximately 14,000 special use residential residence cabins are on these forest lands. Of course, we know these to be cabins, not private residences, subject to strict requirements, limited term permits, variable fees and usage further limited by season and geography. Permittees don't own the land and must occupy or build a structure maintained by them with the risk of destruction, removal and upkeep being theirs. These are factors common to all such cabin owners. It is the role of the National Forest Homeowners to further the goals and needs of permittees on a national basis. NFH represents only cabin owners. With such common interests it might seem simple to communicate and speak for this group. Nonetheless, it has proved to be a challenge to assist, educate and support cabin owners.

To function properly as a national organization, we need to make certain that we meet the needs of cabin owners across the United States, wherever their cabin is situated. There are cabins in 24 states, from Florida to Alaska (as well as Puerto Rico), and many permit holders reside in other states. The majority of the cabins are in what is loosely called "the western states" and among those, most are in the states on the western Pacific coast. Historically, we have seen that most of our Directors and Officers come from that area and, not surprisingly, we are most familiar with the issues and needs of cabin owners in those states. We are now taking measures to assure that other areas are well-represented and those cabin owners feel

confident that their needs are being recognized and addressed by NFH.

The need to discuss and communicate fee reform efforts has brought us in touch with many cabin owners and members we rarely hear from. Through this, we have learned a great deal about regional policies, compliance issues, and problems due to unique locations. This has moved us to reconsider how we represent all areas where there are cabins but no resident NFH Directors or Ambassadors. To this end, we have created an Ad Hoc Committee on Regional Representation to study and make recommendations to the NFH board about implementing a system to improve our outreach. Initial ideas being considered vary from regional forums (as we had in Bemidji, Minnesota), participation in regional association meetings in the eastern states, creating designated directors or representatives from the Midwest and eastern areas, and live electronic participation in off-site meetings. We need your suggestions and we need them now. Observations, questions and suggestions should be sent to me or the Ad Hoc Committee chair, Daryl Weech, at deweech@cableone.net.

A word about communication: to effectively represent you, we need to make certain we can do so rapidly and economically. E-mails, to some a nuisance and others their lifeblood, are necessary in this effort. Please send your e-mail address to our database manager Barbara Warnock at bjfnjaj@ix.netcom.com.

NFH Newsletter

NFH Newsletter Winter 2011, Vol. 26 No. 1, Published quarterly by the National Forest Homeowners, 1653 SE Linn Street, Portland, OR 97202-7232.
Postage paid at Salt Lake City, UT. Annual subscription rate \$40, which is included in NFH dues.

CABIN COALITION: UPDATE

CFA COMPARED TO CUFFA

By Pete Bailey, NFH Director

We believe that land appraisals are the principal problem with CUFFA because land appraisals fail to objectively and consistently value the use of the land. Since we do not own the land, it is logical that we should only pay for this use. Across the country, similar cabin sites face CUFFA appraisal valuations that vary enormously, while the benefits of use remain identical. This variability exists in all appraisal ranges (high, middle and low) under CUFFA. We believe that any fee paradigm based on land appraisals fails the test of objectivity and ultimate fairness. This is our central tenet for change.

Secondly, the notion expressed that those with high lot appraisals and high fees are wealthy is spurious. This notion demonstrates a basic misunderstanding of cabin owner demographics and asserting it drives a wedge that can split our unified front in support of the CFA. Two comprehensive surveys demonstrate that high cabin lot appraisal values do not correlate with high cabin owner income or wealth and that low cabin lot appraisals do not correlate with low incomes or wealth. In fact, many examples exist of higher wealth cabin owners having the good fortune of very low CUFFA fees.

The implementation of the CFA rejects the appraisal paradigm and sets the permit fees by tiers, based on the following standards.

1. The lowest tier (\$500) covers the per cabin cost to administer the Program.
2. The highest tier (\$4500) was established just below the point that annual affordability is exceeded or the fee exceeds the value received, as determined by cabin owners and cabin buyers, for the use of the land. This is the “breakpoint”. We believe that as fees exceed these market breakpoints, some cabins will be sold to those with greater wealth and income, but more cabins will fail to sell, due to a high fee that no one is willing to pay. Cabins will lose marketability, be abandoned and revenue will be lost to the Treasury.
3. The final round of appraisals is only used once to rank order all cabin permits prior to assignment to a fee tier. The CFA is an entirely new fee paradigm where the designated fee tier percentages and the final appraisal rank order set the permit fees. The extreme high and low appraisal values found with CUFFA are mitigated by the CFA and do not directly determine a cabin permit fee. Once assignment to fee tiers under the CFA is complete, all land appraisals become unnecessary and end forever.
4. Finally, under “Pay-Go”, Congress requires that any new legislation must be “revenue neutral” as determined by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). Setting CFA fee tiers required meeting this political reality and demanding standard.

The modest Transfer Fee answers the “windfall profit” concerns expressed by the Forest Service and others, while allowing the annual fee to remain affordable. It is assessed only at the time of sale, when funds are available and any benefit received is realized. When cabins are sold, both the structure and the cabin location influence price. These influences are intertwined, complex and difficult to quantify as to their relative impact on a sale price. Though a few highly improved cabins exist where the value of the structure may be the largest part of a selling price, most cabins are very modest indeed. The transfer fee discourages over building, thus encouraging more of a “Cabin in the Woods” Program.

Finally, we recognize that no fee paradigm will be without criticism due to the extreme variability within and across the Program. However, no system should be predicated on the extremes, nor should we focus only on the short term fee picture. Yes, we have heard some criticism, but as the vast majority of cabin owners attest, the CFA solves the most egregious problems with CUFFA and ensures the long-term viability of individual permits and the Program overall. These are and have been our guiding principles.

WASHINGTON REPORT

Aubrey King | NFH Washington Representative | February, 2011



The Road Ahead for the Cabin Fee Act

Following significant progress in 2010 in the 111th Congress, the stage is set for a strong effort to secure enactment of the Cabin Fee Act (CFA) into law in 2011. Following its March introduction by Representative Doc Hastings (R-WA), the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands held a successful April hearing, which was followed by a favorable July mark-up by the full House Natural Resources Committee. In a very significant step, following revisions in the original bill, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) concluded in November that it would have a “zero impact on the Federal budget.” Although a companion Senate bill was introduced in late September by Senator Jon Tester (D-MT), time ran out before the CFA could be enacted into law. It was particularly encouraging that both House and Senate bills received strong bipartisan support.

Concurrent efforts in the Lame Duck Session of Congress in November and December to obtain a legislative moratorium on 2011 cabin fee increases were frustrated when Congress failed to pass comprehensive appropriations legislation for FY 2011 and instead approved only a “clean” (no amendments) short-term Continuing Resolution to fund the Federal government until March 4, 2011.

With the start of the 112th Congress, there is reason to believe the prospects for the Cabin Fee Act are very good. In the House, last year’s CFA champion Rep. Hastings is now the chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, and is committed to give the CFA early and positive consideration. The important House Interior Appropriations Committee is now chaired by Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID), who is a strong supporter of the bill. In the Senate, we expect Senator Tester to introduce a CFA companion early in the year, and Senator

Ron Wyden (D-OR), chairman of the Senate Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee, has promised to hold an early subcommittee hearing.

In the meantime, the Forest Service has decided not to send out cabin fee bills for amounts greater than those paid in 2010 until more is known about what the new Congress wants to do. This means that there will be no higher fee bills until at least after March 4th. The NFH and the C2 Coalition are working to ensure that Congress either extends the current moratorium or instructs the Forest Service to delay sending out higher 2011 fee bills.

Most important, however, will be our efforts to advance the Cabin Fee Act measurably towards passage and enactment into law. Following is a summary of our key CFA goals in 2011:

- (1) Have Congress enact a 2011 fee moratorium, or at least direct the FS not to send out higher fee bills this fiscal year (until at least October 1, 2011) to provide time for Congressional action on the CFA;
- (2) Obtain early passage of the CFA in the House of Representatives;
- (3) Work for a companion Senate CFA early in the session and obtain a successful Senate hearing on the CFA as early in the session as possible; and
- (4) Work to get a favorable Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee mark-up of the CFA with Senate passage by the fall and subsequent enactment.

Cabin owners can check the NFH website for the latest CFA developments.

Other Issues Facing Forest Service in 2011

Budget Outlook: The national political agenda in 2011 will be shaped, even dominated, by budget issues. With a multi-year freeze on all domestic Federal government

spending called for by the President and expected to be accepted by Congress, the Forest Service is expected to join all other Federal

Continued on next page...

WASHINGTON REPORT

Continued...

domestic agencies in a substantial “belt-tightening” exercise. The exact impact of this on the recreation residence program is unknown but is not likely to be positive. (It should be noted that cabin fee revenue is not retained by the Forest Service but goes to the general treasury.) The agency’s need to cut expenses will probably mean, however, that both traditional and innovative partnerships with cabin owners and cabin tracts will be much more needed and appreciated.

Recreation Fee Program: Further complicating the budgetary outlook for the Forest Service is the threat of significant changes in the recreation fee program. This program allows the agency to collect fees for access to areas on the national parks receiving heavy recreation use; the annual amount collected exceeds \$70 million. Although this authority extends to all other Federal lands agencies (except the Army Corps of Engineers), the Forest Service implementation has been the most controversial. The current legislative authority for the program ends in 2014 and Congress this year is expected to begin a review process that will include proposals to repeal it.

Forest Planning Rule: The NFH has joined more than seventy other organizations in the national Coalition for Recreation on the National Forests to urge a substantial role for recreation in the new national forest planning rule expected to be proposed in early 2011. Formation of this coalition was prompted by concern that the forthcoming Forest Planning Rule might downgrade the importance of recreation as an integral part of the agency’s mission. This national Planning Rule provides guidance for the preparation of individual forest plans throughout the country, which critically shape nearly all significant local Forest programs and activities. Although both Agriculture Under Secretary Harris Sherman and Forest Service Chief Thomas Tidwell have pledged that recreation will be prominently included in the planning rule, the NFH and others in the recreation community will carefully scrutinize the draft rule when it is proposed and submit comments and take further action as necessary and appropriate.

Area Forums Are *a Success!*

The NFH Board has decided to continue with the concept of Area Forums after the first highly successful forum in Bemidji, Minnesota last summer proved that the concept is workable. The Bemidji Area Forum was attended by 108 cabin owners, friends, relatives and Forest Service staff. The permittees were very pleased that NFH had provided an interesting program of subjects that are of concern to cabin owners in their area. Six new full NFH memberships were gained at the forum, further validating this outreach approach.

The purpose of an area forum is to bring the latest information about the Cabin Fee Act and other NFH activities to smaller locations further toward the central and eastern U.S. At the Bemidji Area Forum and other forums, the Forest Service joined us in such presentations as Cabin Fire Protection, Healthy Forests and Forest Planning Rule Updates

Cabin leaders in Tennessee, Florida, Arkansas and Colorado locations are being contacted to gauge the interest in having an area forum in their location. If your tract group contains 35 to 50 or more people who would be interested in a future area forum, please contact NFH Executive Director Mary Clarke Ver Hoef at 1-800-669-9971 for more information.



AWARDS COMMITTEE SELECTS NFH

Award Winners

By Ted J. Filer, Awards Committee Chair

The NFH Awards Committee has completed the selection process for the five NFH awards: Recreation Advocate, Tract, Leadership, Communication and Volunteer. These awards will be presented at the NFH National Convention to be held in Irvine, CA at the Awards Banquet on April 16.

Cabin owners are now invited to think ahead to 2012 and to provide nominations for each of these five categories. You have the opportunity to recognize the quality service your fellow cabin owners provide in the areas of individual accomplishment, cabin tract accomplishment, communications, and Forest Service personnel who shine as recreation advocates. Nomination forms are available on the NFH web site, www.nationalforesthowners.org. Submission of completed nominations forms by e-mail to tfler81@aol.com is preferred, or mail to: Ted J. Filer, Awards Committee Chair, PO Box 617, Zillah, WA 98953.

Thank you to all the cabin owners and groups who submitted nominations for awards this year. We saw an increase in the number of nominations being submitted and we look forward to receiving nominations from a variety of geographical locations across the membership for 2012. A special thanks goes to the Awards Committee members for their efforts throughout the entire year. *They are greatly appreciated.*



Mary Clarke Ver Hoef

Tales from the **ED**

We are working hard on the convention preparations for you. This year's location in Irvine provides many options for things to do nearby (Disneyland, anybody?), and we contracted for a great rate for a Hyatt. So come early and stay late!

As you can see from the Call to Convention article, we have a number of topics that should be of interest to all cabin owners. And you can get the latest update on the state of the effort to improve our fee structure. We hope that all of you in the LA basin will attend, and those of you from a distance will come, too.

And we have included our new voting procedure in this newsletter, which this time provides an envelope you sign instead of the ballot so that your votes are truly private. Even the teller committee will not know. But we also are trying to keep track of the responses to see how many from each region vote, so be sure to fill out those envelopes. And don't forget to vote. Please do it now before you set the newsletter down. The vote by mail procedure was instituted to allow more people to have a say in NFH, not just the people who are at the Annual Meeting. Let's get those numbers up and show us the extra expense was worth it!

2011

NFH Convention At-A-Glance

The Cabin Program: A New Direction | Hyatt Regency Irvine

THURSDAY, APRIL 14

2:00 – 5:00pm REGISTRATION
5:30 – 7:00pm No Host Meet and Greet the
Early Arrivals

FRIDAY, APRIL 15

8:00am – Noon REGISTRATION
(please complete before noon!)
8:00 – 9:00am Ambassador Workshop
8:00 – 9:00am Tract Presidents Meeting
9:00 – 10:00am NFH coffee get-together for attendees
10:00 – 11:15am NFH Annual Business Meeting
Noon – 1:30pm Luncheon & Opening Welcome
(present your meal tickets, which will be in
the Registration packet)
1:30 – 5:00pm REGISTRATION

GENERAL SESSIONS:

1:45 – 2:45pm Enacting Change:
Progress in Washington
2:45 – 3:30pm Forest Management
3:45 – 5:00pm **Workshop Sessions:**
Appraisals and Appeals
Being Good Stewards of the Forest
Region 5 Water Issues –
An Update
Cabins 101 – Working with the
Forest Service
5:30 – 7:00pm NFH No Host Reception
7:00 – 10:00pm Optional Event:
The Irvine Spectrum Center
(dinner on your own)

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

8:00 – 10:00am REGISTRATION
(please complete before 10am)
Coffee and tea service
(breakfast on your own)

GENERAL SESSIONS:

8:00 – 9:15am WELCOME
The Washington Report
9:15 – 10:15am The Cabin Fee Act
10:15 – 11:30am The Cabin Fee Act: Questions & Answers
11:30 – 11:45am BREAK
11:45am – 1:30pm Luncheon (present lunch tickets)
1:30 – 1:45pm BREAK

1:45 – 3:00pm

Workshop Sessions:

Cabin Fee Act In-depth
Being Prepared: If the Worst Should
Happen to Your Cabin
Understanding Your New Permit
Healthy Forests

GENERAL SESSIONS:

3:15 – 3:35pm The New and Improved NFH Website
3:35 – 3:55pm The New Forest Planning Rules –
Where are We Now?
4:00 – 5:00pm Ask the Experts!
5:00 – 5:15pm Closing Remarks:
Geoff Anderson, NFH President
6:00 – 7:00pm No Host Reception
7:00 – 9:30pm NFH Annual Awards Banquet
(present your tickets)

SUNDAY, APRIL 17

8:00am – 3:00pm NFH Board of Directors Meeting

NFH Convention

You need to know...

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

A block of rooms is being held at the Hyatt Regency Irvine. The special room rate is \$99.00 single or double occupancy, plus 10% tax plus an assessment fee of 13¢ per day, so the total amount is \$109.03 per day. Contact reservations toll-free at (800) 233-1234 or (949) 975-1234 prior to March 30, 2011 to book your room. Remember that you must ask for the **National Forest Homeowner's rate (NFH 2011)** when you make your reservation. There are other events during this time period, so be sure to book early.

REGISTRATION

Convention registration payments may be made by credit card or personal check payable to NFH '11. There is no additional charge for non-members, but they may join NFH for their first year of membership at the special rate of \$35 during the convention registration period. See the registration form in this newsletter for registration information about Friday-only and Saturday-only registration options and optional activities. A full refund will be paid for convention registration cancellations postmarked prior to March 30, 2011. Notification of cancellation **MUST** be in writing. A \$35 fee shall be charged for cancellations postmarked after March 30, 2011.

Please let us know if you are a President of your cabin tract, as we have a special meeting for Presidents scheduled for Friday at 8:00 am to which we would like to invite you!

HOTEL POLICIES

Make your own room reservations as soon as possible. The Hyatt Irvine is offering NFH convention participants a reduced rate, but will guarantee availability and the discounted rate only until March 30. After that date, reservations are subject to

availability at the Hotel's regular rate. All reservation requests must be accompanied by a first night room deposit (equal to one night's room rate + taxes) or be guaranteed with a major credit card. The Hotel's check-in time is 3:00 pm. Room assignments prior to that time are on a "space availability" basis only. The Hotel's checkout time is 12:00 noon. Any attendees staying in their rooms beyond check-out time without the Hotel's authorization will be charged for an additional room night at the best available rate. Late check-out is provided based on availability with authorization from the Front Desk.

PARKING

NFH guests receive a discounted rate on self-parking of \$8.00 for day and overnight parking. Valet parking is at the normal rate of \$20.00 per day for overnight guests; day rate is \$13.00.

AIRPORT SHUTTLE SERVICE

The Hotel provides free shuttle service from the John Wayne/Orange County Airport. The shuttle runs every 30 minutes from 5 am to 12 midnight. It leaves the hotel on the hour and half-hour and picks up at the airport at 15 and 45 minutes past the hour.

ATTIRE

Casual clothing is appropriate for all convention activities except the closing banquet, where the dress should be business attire.

REMEMBER

Bring a picture of your cabin (no larger than 4x6 please) to be posted in the Registration area.

QUESTIONS?

Please call NFH's Executive Director Mary Clarke Ver Hoef at 1-800-669-9971 or Barbara Warnock, our Database manager, at 714-836-7442.

NFH STAFF

Mary Clarke Ver Hoef

Executive Director
5150 Fair Oaks Blvd.
Suite 101/315
Carmichael, CA 95608
1.800.669.9971
Phone: 916.359.5279
Fax: 916.359.5271
E-Mail: nfh100@yahoo.com

Aubrey C. King

Washington Liaison
11914 Grason Lane
Bowie, MD 20715
Phone: 301.464.8060
Cell: 202.251.6845
Fax: 301.464.5232
E-Mail: aubking@aol.com

Barbara Warnock

Database Manager
541 W. Santa Clara Avenue
Santa Ana, CA 92706-2548
Phone: 714.836.7442
Fax: 714.547.1774
E-Mail: bjfmjaj@ix.netcom.com

Bob Ervin

Executive Director Emeritus
Gladstone, OR
Phone/Fax: 503.657.4322
E-Mail: NFH1@aol.com

NFH Convention 2011 The Cabin Program: A New Direction

April 14, 2011 to April 16, 2011

Hyatt Regency Irvine | 17900 Jamboree Road | Irvine CA | 949-975-1234 (Direct) | 800-233-1234 (Toll free) | irvine.hyatt.com

Name _____ Nickname for Badge _____

Spouse's/Guest's Name _____ Nickname for Badge _____

Address _____

Association and/or Tract Name & Office Held _____

(please let us know if you are a tract President so we can invite you to a special meeting with our President)

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

Emergency Contact, Relationship & Phone _____

Check here if you require special accommodations to fully participate. Attach a written description of your needs.

Check here if you require vegetarian meals. Attach a written description of specific dietary needs.

FULL REGISTRATION:

Includes all Conference materials, Thursday "Meet & Greet", breaks and lunches on Friday & Saturday, Friday evening reception and Saturday Banquet.

	Postmarked by 3/30/11	After 3/30/11 & On-Site	# Registrations	TOTAL
Registrant	\$230	\$250	_____ =	\$ _____
Spouse/Guest(s)	\$230	\$250	_____ =	\$ _____

FRIDAY ONLY REGISTRATION:

Includes Conference materials, lunch, break, and Friday reception.

	Postmarked by 3/30/11	After 3/30/11 & On-Site	# Registrations	TOTAL
Registrant	\$130	\$150	_____ =	\$ _____

SATURDAY ONLY REGISTRATION:

Includes Conference materials, lunch and break. (Does NOT include the reception and Awards Banquet on Saturday evening.)

	Postmarked by 3/30/11	After 3/30/11 & On-Site	# Registrations	TOTAL
Registrant	\$130	\$150	_____ =	\$ _____

OPTIONAL EVENT: Friday, 4/15 7:00 – 10:00pm, Spectrum Center with dinner on your own.

The event is free, but the transportation will cost a minimal amount. *Space is limited, so reserve early!*

_____ @ \$7.50 /person Transportation = \$ _____ **TOTAL**

Make check payable to: NFH '11
Mail registration and check or credit card information to: NFH '11
 541 W. Santa Clara Ave.
 Santa Ana, CA 92706-2548
 or FAX 714-547-1774

REMEMBER: Those staying overnight at the Hyatt at our special rate should book their own rooms using NFH's name, **National Forest Homeowners.**

ADDITIONAL MEALS: (Only if you are bringing a guest not registered above)

Thursday Evening Reception	_____ @ \$5 /person	=	\$ _____
Friday Opening Lunch	_____ @ \$45 /person	=	\$ _____
Friday Evening Reception	_____ @ \$24 /person	=	\$ _____
Saturday Lunch	_____ @ \$45 /person	=	\$ _____
Saturday Awards Banquet	_____ @ \$74 /person	=	\$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Check enclosed Charge total to VISA/MC No. _____ Exp. date _____

Name as it appears on Card _____ Signature _____

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS to the NFH BYLAWS

APRIL 2011

In order to make changes to our bylaws, the NFH Board of Directors recommends changes and we let you know what they are in this newsletter so that those who attend the Annual Meeting can vote on them. We have some of those changes, and they are as follows:

It is recommended by the NFH Board of Directors that the bylaws be amended to clarify the vote by mail process.

In the current bylaws it is implied that the Call to Convention issue of the newsletter, including the written ballot, be mailed by first class mail. That is the procedure NFH has been following since the beginning of Vote By Mail. These amendments are proposed to clarify and codify the process. Compare suggested wording to existing wording for changes. New wording is in **bold** type.

ARTICLE III - Officers and Directors

Existing Section 1:

The officers of NFH shall be a president, vice president, secretary and a treasurer. Officers and other directors shall be elected by certified regular members using United States Postal Service (USPS) first class mail. No proxy voting is permitted. The officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws, by the policies and procedures, and by *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*.

Suggested New Section 1:

The officers of NFH shall be a president, vice president, secretary and a treasurer. **Officers and directors shall be elected by printed ballot inserted in the Call to Convention issue of the NFH newsletter mailed to**

certified regular members using United States Postal Service (USPS) first class mail. No proxy voting is permitted. The officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws, by the policies and procedures, and by *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*.

ARTICLE XII – Nominating Committee.

Existing paragraph:

A nominating committee of five (5) members shall be elected by certified regular members using USPS first class mail. One member shall be a director and one shall have served the previous year. It shall be the duty of this committee to nominate candidates for the board of directors, officers, and the nominating committee to be voted upon by certified regular members. The membership shall be notified of the slate of nominees in conjunction with the Call to Convention. The committee shall recommend candidates for director, vacancies and the member-at-large on the executive committee.

Suggested new paragraph:

A nominating committee of five (5) members shall be elected by printed ballot inserted in the Call to Convention issue of the NFH newsletter and mailed to certified regular members using United States Postal Service (USPS) first class mail. One member shall be a director and one shall have served the previous year. It shall be the duty of this committee to nominate candidates for the board of directors, officers and the nominating committee. The nominating committee **also** shall recommend candidates **to the board** for director vacancies and the member-at-large on the executive committee.

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.



Go to the NFH website,
www.nationalforesthowners.org,
and click on the box in the middle, right above the
President's Message. *Share your thoughts!*

Saluting our Member Tracts

A major part of NFH's organizational strength and effectiveness is due to our Member Tracts, who actively support and communicate our mission of protecting the cabin program. Member Tracts also work to encourage their cabin owners to join NFH as Regular and Associate Members. We wish to recognize and thank our Member Tracts for their continuing support of National Forest Homeowners.

Gold Level Member Tracts

Almanor	Happy Top
Anthony Lakes	Homestake Valley
Brooklyn Lake	Hume Lake
Bumblebee	June Lake
Camp McClellan	Lake Alpine
Camp Sierra	Lake Kirkwood
Casa Loma	Lakeview
Columbine	Lake Wenatchee
Crystal Crag	Lower Emerald Bay
Eagle Nest	Pinecrest
East Lakeview	Polique Canyon
East McVity Bay	Porter Fork
East Shore Silver Lake	Prairie Creek
East Silver Lake	Rainbow Canyon
Government Mineral Springs	Salt Creek
	Santa Ana River

Santa Lucia
Seven Pines
Silver Lake
Spring Creek
Stahlman
Thomas Canyon
Turkey Flat
Upper Truckee
Whitney Portal
Wrights Lake

Silver Level Member Tracts

Bear Creek Lake
Bridge
Echo Summit
Falls Tract
Holy Ghost
Huntington Lake
Layman
Metolius River
Mount Laguna
Odell Lake
Pine Creek
Rimrock

Snowcrest Heights
South Silver Lake
Teanaway
Upper Rogue River
Willow Canyon

Contributing Member Tracts

Barton Flats
Big Santa Anita
Bridgeport
Chinook Pass
Crescent Lake
Diamond Lake
Echo Lakes
Herman Gulch
Ice House Canyon
Lake of the Woods
Lake Quinault
Marion Forks
Metcalf
Priest Lake
Star Island
White River

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

Please send a new member certificate to (if different from new member address):

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



National Forest Homeowners

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Presorted First Class
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



UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 14-16, 2011

CONVENTION

Irvine, CA

Hyatt Regency Irvine
17900 Jamboree Blvd.
Irvine, CA 92614

1.800.233.1234 or
949.975.1234

SEPTEMBER 17, 2011

FORUM

Spokane, WA

Red Lion River Inn
700 N. Division
Spokane, WA 99202

509.326.5577

JANUARY 21, 2012

FORUM

Walnut Creek, CA

Marriott Walnut Creek
2355 N Main St.
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

925.934.2000