

Newsletter of the 108 Ranch Community Association

Articles, news, invitations, humour, all from your
neighbours on the 108.

100 MILE SEARCH AND RESCUE

HELPS IN TROUBLED TIMES

by Michael Thomas

Six members of the 100 Mile Search and Rescue (S.A.R.) unit were involved in the recent wildfire evacuations from the Barriere area. It all started at the end of July with a fire on Upper Houseman Road. The Provincial Emergency Program (P.E.P.) called Search and Rescue at 9:30pm requesting that a team be put together to prepare an evacuation plan. Michael Thomas, of the local Search and Rescue unit teamed up with the Provincial Emergency Coordinator, Michelle Schilling, and worked until 2am to prepare a plan and coordinate the various agencies in case the fire got out of hand. Fortunately for the folks on Upper Houseman the weather cooperated overnight and the plan was not implemented.

Several days later P.E.P. called to ask for assistance with the evacuation of the people from the Barriere, Little Fort area. A team went into the Roe Lake Hall with signs erected to direct the evacuees in for a rest and

information about reception areas. This activity carried on from 2pm to 2:30am. The next day the team was back at Roe Lake Hall from 8 AM to continue with the checkpoint.

At 10am that morning the S.A.R. unit were called to put a team into Barriere to assist the P.E.P. Coordinator to help complete the evacuation. The team spent the rest of the day in Barriere.

Several days later when the evacuees were allowed to return home the local S.A.R. unit was required to be on hand 24 hours a day with sufficient numbers to re-implement the evacuation if the fire again threatened. The 100 Mile unit provided members every day on 24 hour shifts for a week and a half. Remaining team members were on a 15 minute call-out during this same time.

We owe a vote of thanks to these volunteers who really do risk life and limb in helping their neighbours in what are very difficult circumstances.

This Issue:

- Search & Rescue
- R.C.A. A.G.M.
- Lake News
- A Newborn's First Trip
- 108 Lions News
- BC Forest Fires & Climate Change
- A Fire Drill (Quiz)



RANCH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 108 Mile Ranch Community Association has called the 2003 Annual General Meeting for 7:30 PM October 22 in the Community Hall. In addition to the regular agenda there will be two special presentations under the tongue-in-cheek theme: "If The Fires Don't Get You, The Bears Will!". Chris Batuzzi will make a presentation on wildfire and there will be a presentation (speaker yet to be named) on "Bear Aware".

See page 6 for more Annual General Meeting information





by Bonnie Winter

Every year at about the same time, the water clarity declines from springtime highs of 9+ metres to less than 3 metres, the water temperature near the surface climbs to over 21C, and the lake takes on colours seen in a tropic paradise.

This exotic colour is not exotic at all but the natural result of marl sediments, a soft textured substance on the lake bottom composed of clay, sand, and limestone.

The water in a marl lake is "hard" with large quantities of dissolved calcium, magnesium and bicarbonate. When the water's pH becomes more basic, above 8 (7 is neutral), calcium carbonate is precipitated out of the water column, becomes suspended in the water, and forms cloudy white particles. The turquoise colour is caused by the backscattering of light from the calcium carbonate particles and a high reflection of light from the nearly white marl sediments. If there were more organic matter suspended in the water, the lake would have a yellow green appearance. Marl lakes usually have high water clarity, as does our 108 Lake.

Why does the pH change? The answer lies with the aquatic plants present in the lake. It seems that plants contribute to a higher pH by using carbon dioxide and converting alkalinity to carbonates. Plants actually speed up the marl deposits, which in turn, helps control plant growth by taking phosphorus out of the water column and depositing it in the sediments.

Until last year, the source of the turquoise colour was a matter for speculation. Many residents thought it was due to an algae bloom. It took the research efforts of Kelly Stevenson in cooperation with the BC Ministry of Water, Air, Land Protection (WALP) to set the record straight.

During the summer of 2001, Kelly Stevenson spent many hours taking water and sediment samples from 108

Lake which were sent to a laboratory by the Ministry of WALP. Using her research and laboratory results, Kelly completed her thesis for her Bachelor of Science degree at St. Andrews University in Scotland. Kelly's work led her to conclude that 108 Lake is a "marl" lake. Her work has substantially increased our knowledge about 108 Lake and for that we owe her a big "Thank You". Kelly is now attending Brooks College at Oxford. She is the daughter of local residents Jack and Ann Stevenson, who moved here from Scotland four years ago.

Where has all the water gone?

In response to my musings about how far the surface level of the lake has declined, my neighbour, Neil Duncan, offered a demonstration on how it can be measured using an 8 foot wooden stick, a carpenter's level, and a measuring tape. Placing the stick at a point at the lake edge that is comparable to the high water mark and keeping it level horizontally, he extended the stick over the water then measured the perpendicular distance to the surface of the water. The high water mark is defined as the point at which the water reaches the top of the weir at West Beach, which means the decline we're measuring happened during the past 2 ½ years.

On Sept 22, the decline measured 34 inches. In terms of volume, based on a surface area of *295 acres and an estimated total volume of * 7106 acre feet, the decline is approximately 825 acre feet or 11.6%.

*according to records dated August 30, 1971 held by the Ministry of WALP.

108'er, Newsletter of the

108 Mile Ranch Association

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We invite submissions and letters for future publications, however, we reserve the right to edit submissions and letters for accuracy, space and clarity. We request that all submissions and letters be signed by the author and contain an address and telephone number.

Be A Member:

To become a member of the 108 Ranch Community Association, you must be a landowner or renter in the 108 Mile Ranch. Members can submit and vote resolutions in accordance with the RCA Constitution. Absentee landowners/members are permitted one vote per property owned. Members can serve on the Board of Directors of the RCA. Annual memberships cost \$6.00 per household. Please contact Al Blannin at 791-5757 to register your membership. Or complete the form, enclose your membership fee and mail to 108 Ranch Community Association at the above address.

108 RCA

Membership Request

Cost:	One Yr. family	\$5.00
	Five-Yr family	\$25.00
	Lifetime family	\$50.00

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

A NEWBORN'S FIRST TRIP

By Ann Mulders

Before we moved to the 108 in 1984 we lived in the Northwest Territories for 24 years. For the first three years we were in Fort Providence, a lovely settlement on the shores of the mighty Mackenzie River. My husband was the principal of the new Federal Day School and I taught kindergarten, grades 1 and 2 for the first two years. When I became pregnant with our third child I stayed home to tend to the family.

In 1963 the Department of Education asked us to move to a larger school in Fort Franklin, an isolated community on Great Bear Lake. By the time we had settled into the huge living quarters above the school, I was only two months from giving birth. Since staying in Fort Franklin for my confinement was not an option, I was given the choice of going to either Edmonton or Inuvik.

I chose Inuvik and on October 10, 1963 a small float plane took me to Norman Wells where I caught the weekly mainliner to Inuvik. By that time ice was already forming on Great Bear Lake and I was nervous that "freeze-up" would set in. This meant no planes in or out of Fort Franklin for six to eight weeks.

I presented myself to the doctor in the Inuvik hospital, was promptly admitted and waited the happy event. Two weeks later, on October 24 our little Kimberly Maria Inuva was born.

I pleaded with the doctor to let me go home on the next flight, two

days hence, or risk being stuck for the six to eight weeks of freeze-up. So, with my two day old baby I boarded the plane for Norman Wells and overnighted there.

At the crack of dawn the next morning a small bush plane, now on skis, lifted off with the baby and I on the last leg of our trip home. The pilot, once we were airborne and within radio reach of Fort Franklin, alerted the Hudson's Bay staff that we were approaching.

The ice on the lake was still too thin for a landing but there was an old Dew Line airstrip across the lake that was serviceable.

The local Roman Catholic priest, Rene Fumoleau, loaded his canoe with a dogsled, five dogs, a local musher, Charlie, and my husband. They had to cross an arm of the lake and then walk through partly frozen muskeg for about five miles to reach the airstrip.

Meanwhile we landed at the strip and the pilot was worried that the plane would freeze up if he waited too long. The temperature was 28°F below zero. With lots of

TURNING BACK TIME

my story,
my history:



apologies he lent me his heavy wind pants and bid me farewell. He promised that he would wiggle his wings if he saw my husband coming - if not he would contact the "Bay Boys" again by radio to let them know where I was. (Radio contact was not possible from the ground).

With my three day old baby snugly bundled up I anxiously watched for the planes wiggle and, yes, he flew over my head and wiggled!

Shortly after that I saw a dog team at the horizon and my rescuers arrived. My suitcase was put on the sled but because of the rough terrain no person could sit on the toboggan-type sled. We walked the five miles back to the lake climbing over fallen trees, breaking through thin ice,

Cont. on page 4

I pleaded with the doctor to let me go home on the next flight, two days hence, or risk being stuck for the six to eight weeks of freeze-up.

Cont. from page 3

A Newborn's First Trip

stumbling all the way over the partly frozen muskeg.

I fell so often that my husband took the baby and carried her in her bunting bag on his back so that she would be protected in the next fall.

When we arrived at the shore of the lake, Rene Fumoleau, was barely recognizable. He had long icicles hanging from his parka-hood and eyebrows. He had spent the hours it took the team to get to me, keeping the "kicker" (outboard motor) going around in circles to keep from being frozen in.

Imagine the load in that one canvas covered canoe: Father Fumoleau, Charlie and his five dogs, the sled, my husband and myself and Kim! The water was almost level with the gunwale. Charlie positioned himself in the



bow with an axe and chopped the ice as we slowly pushed away from the shore and toward the settlement. I'll never forget the sound of the ice as it scraped the sides of that canvas canoe. It took us more than an hour to reach the shore and I was ever so glad to feel terra firma under my feet.

We had made it home before freeze-up – just.

Upcoming Public Events at the 108 Community Hall

Introductory Yoga Class.

Tuesday September 9; 5:00 – 6:15 pm.

On-Going Yoga Classes.

Starts Tuesday September 9, 6:30 – 8:15 pm Teacher: Cindy Wickingstad, phone 791-5308.

International Folk Dance for women. Sundays 2:00 – 4:00 pm. Your first "sample" session is free. Teacher: Maddi Newman, phone 791-9206.

Ranch Community Association Annual General Meeting. Wednesday October 22, 7:30 pm.

Bingo. Every Friday evening. Doors open 5:30; Bingo starts 7:15.

Visit the web site to see photos and details on the 108 Community Hall rental.

Regular 108 Happenings

Bingo: Every Friday evening at the Community Hall. Doors open 5:30; Bingo starts 7:15.

RCA Executive: 1st Tuesday each month

RCA Public Meeting: every 2nd month (if possible)

108 RCA Web Site Update

www.108ranch.com/



by Jeffrey Newman

- Visit and sign the online guest book.
- List of upcoming events
- Links to web sites of 108 businesses
- The latest 108 Lake news

For more information or to add your name to the e-list notification service, e-mail Jeffrey Newman at rca@jnweb.com



Flights again in and out of the 108 Airport. Lawrence Aviation at your service. See the below web site for schedules, prices and other information.

<http://www.lawrenceaviation.com/wl-108-vancouver.html>

DID YOU KNOW?

Colin Campbell (791-5552) is our new **108 correspondent** for the *Free Press*. Give him a call if you have news.

International Folk Dance
for Women
— weekly —
Sundays from 2 to 4 pm
108 Community Hall, upstairs

For more information call Maddi at **791-9206** Your first time is free. Try it out!

- suits all levels of fitness
- a fun way to get moving
- dance step variations accommodate fitness or health limitations
- get to know your dancing community of women



Our Lions year started with our **annual golf game and picnic** in July. Three members challenged themselves at Marmot Ridge and all scored the same. The picnic on the Lions patio at the back of the community hall saw kids and adults playing bocce, horseshoes and shuffleboard before sitting down to steak, baked potato or hotdogs cooked by Lion Richard.

Our 2nd annual **Sucker Derby** on the August long weekend helped to rid the lakes of 218 coarse fish. This was down slightly from last year, but was a great fun day never the less. One of the youngest winners was Samantha Edwards, a repeat performance from last year.

The **Bar-B-Q trailer** was put to use again this year at the Lone Butte Gun Club in August, with Lion's members cooking over 160 hamburgers during the 2-day weekend shoot. They have booked the concession again for next year and may look at requesting breakfast as well.

Our semiannual **Flea Market** will be just finished by the time you read this and a BIG thank you to those that support it either by buying the goods or by donating sellable items. Look for our next one in the spring.

The **spaghetti dinners** have been well attended in the past, but in an attempt to offer something new, the old adage came up "if it ain't broke don't fix it" so we will be having our 5th Spaghetti dinner evening on Oct 25th. All you can eat: spaghetti, salad and garlic toast, for \$7.00, kids under 12 are \$4.00 and kids under 3 are free.

Some improvements have been made to the patio area behind the **Community Hall** as anyone who couldn't miss out on the famous pancake breakfast can attest. Handrails were a much-needed addition and the manhole covers over the septic tanks were replaced and grassed over. The brickwork was tidied up but the retaining walls still need to be repainted, and the top rail replaced.

The 108 Lions Club had the gravel area in front of the storage sheds paved this summer to improve access. The RCA shared in the cost of this project.

Still to come this year is the annual **"Walk for Guide Dogs"** where funds are raised to train "Assist Dogs" to help visually impaired, hearing impaired, or special needs individuals. The walk will be held Sunday October 5th at 1:00pm at the 108 Main Beach. Participants will take their dogs on a brisk 5 km walk from the main beach out and around Sepa Lake and back to the beach where all sorts of doggy tricks will be performed and prizes will be given for the loudest bark, wiggliest tail, most obedient dog or perhaps the fluffiest dog.

Again next spring the **H.M Lion** will be sitting on the ice waiting for someone to guess when the ice will finally go. The closest guess will win a cool one hundred dollars. When the ice melts a bucket full of rocks falls through the ice, which pulls up the Canadian flag and stops the clock. The first contest was held in 2002 and ice off was April 28th, however this past spring it was April 12th. Only \$1.00 a guess. Write your guess on the envelope (available from 108 merchants) and stick your loonie inside and seal it. It's that simple to support your local Lions Club and you might even win the money.

Bar service for weddings or Christmas parties is another way the 108 Lions raise funds. These funds all go back into the community. Some ways funds have been used in the past are: to help local athletes go compete overseas; to fund a high school scholarship, to sponsor the local Boy Scouts, to support the White Cane Club raffle, to help send disabled kids to summer camp. This year we even helped sponsor the certification of an "Assist Dog". The West Beach and the Heritage site also get attention from the 108 Lions.

Around Christmas time the 108 Lions can be found clowning around and giving out balloons and photos at

the **108 Community Kids Christmas Party**.

Your local Lions Club donates the winning plaque to the "Most Festive" category in the **"Light up the Community"** Christmas lights contest.

At every Friday night **Bingo**, one or more Lions can be found selling break open tickets in the alcove of the community hall. This is to support the RCA and the bingo committee, who do a great job of maintaining the Hall.

Did you know the 108 Lions have 28 tables that are available to rent for weddings or whenever you have a big crowd? Two shelters measuring 10 by 20 can also be rented in case of inclement weather during your family gathering. Your local Lions Club also collects used eyeglasses and hearing aids. These are reconditioned and sent to 3rd world countries where they are given to the needy. The 108 Lions also collect pull-tabs off of pop cans. Funds generated will be used to supply a wheelchair to the local Red Cross Loan Cupboard. Please contact a member if you have some tabs you would like the 108 Lions to recycle.

Another request has been received to install a **memorial bench** overlooking Sepa Lake. This will most likely be in place before the ground freezes.

Thursday September 18th 2003 **Zone Chairman Lion Harv Allen** came to visit the 108 Lions Club, and October 16th the 108 Lions will be visited by the **District Governor, Joan Anderson-Campbell**. Not too sure who these folks are??? Just ask a Lion's member and be sure to ask how you can help your community by joining the 108 Mile Ranch Lions Club.

We are looking forward to a fun filled year ahead and again we all thank you for your past support.

– **Graham Allison, President**
108 Mile Ranch Lions Club

Last Year's Minutes (to be adopted at this year's meeting)

108 Ranch Community Association
Annual General Meeting
October 23, 2002

Minutes of the October 24, 2001 minutes and the minutes of the special election meeting of December 5, 2001 were read. Larry Knutsen moved the minutes be adopted as read. Seconded by Jack Witty. Carried.

No business arising from the minutes.

Treasurer's Report

Aldythe Blannin presented the unaudited financial statements by MacAloney & Associates for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2002 as:
Income \$42,648.00
Expenses 37,268.00

Aldythe Blannin moved the treasurer's report be accepted as printed. Seconded by Joy Silk. Carried.

Old Business: 100 Mile District Historical Society & the Greenbelt came to a successful conclusion to the boundaries for the lake trails. The airport weather station is up and running.

Committee Reports:

108 VFD: Fire Chief Ian Henderson introduced himself. Briefed the meeting on the fires that they had attended to this year. Ian mentioned the number of firefighters they have now. Ian mentioned the ongoing training they have been doing. The department now has 2 ice rescue suits. The CRD recently presented the fire hall with a commemorative axe representing 30 years of service. Ian closed with reminding everyone to clean their chimneys for those with wood heat and check their smoke detectors monthly.

Greenbelt: Bill Bailey explained



RANCH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday October 22
at the Community Hall, 7:30 pm

The 108 Ranch Community Association is looking for people to stand for nomination. Anyone wanting to be involved in local affairs is welcome at the AGM or phone Al Blannin at 791-5757.

about the Greenbelt lands. They have 13 commission members. Some property has been fenced off for nesting birds. A plaque has been made up to recognize members of more than 5 years. Need to keep on top of the thistles. There was no trails or grass burning down this past year. The Ministry of Forest has funds for spraying but would not be effective. Both horse pastures are being used fully. Questionnaire of Greenbelt lands – 150 replies returned. Workshop on Sunday, Oct. 27 at 1:30. Report is attached.

Community Hall: Barb Bailey reported that Ken Rose is the hall manager and Frank & Treasure Vale are the new janitors. The hall is used several times during the week with Bingo on Friday night being the main support of the hall. There were thirteen paid functions in the hall during the year. The Hall report is attached.

Beach Committee: Martin Sarich and Joe Lidster co-chaired the beach. The beaches had little vandalism this year except for the dock. Sepa Lake outhouse will be removed.

Water Committee: Martin Sarich reported that there is a good flow of water. Water quality is checked monthly and is well within the guidelines. Residence can get copies of the report from the CRD, but they are quite detailed and complex. New tank going in on Telqua Drive for the

cost of \$213,250.50. Water report is attached.

Bingo Committee: Jack Witty read the report for Gwen Colwell & Pat Babineau. Average of 60-90 bingo players each week. They wish to thank the volunteers and a special thanks to Gwen and Pat for all their volunteer hours. Also a thank you to Barb Bailey for running the concession.

Lake Monitoring Committee: The members of this committee participate in the lake sampling program sponsored by the Ministry of Water, Air & Land Protection. This past summer they had a student doing a research project. Results from this project will be at a future RCA meeting. The report from this committee is attached.

President's Report: Mike Thomas mentioned the two new janitors and the hall manager. Highways department have cleaned up around some intersections in the 108. Agreement with Ducks Unlimited has been renewed. We had a successful Heritage Days. The RCA wishes to thank all the volunteers.

Nominations: Joe Lidster mentioned that there are 6 two-year positions open. Walt Sherry, Jeffrey Newman, Michael Thomas & Aldythe Blannin let their name stand for 4 positions. Joe motioned 3 times for nominations from the floor.

Nominations were Dan Fleming – accepted nomination & Rick Jones – accepted the nomination. Motion by Joe Lidster that the elected directors be accepted. Seconded by the floor, carried. Joe thanked Val & Joni for being on the committee.

New Business: Joni MacLeod mentioned that the executive meetings are held the first Tuesday of the Month in the Lion's Den at 7:30pm. Al Blannin motioned that the auditors for the 108 Ranch Community Association be MacAloney & Associates for the 2002-03 year. Jack Witty seconded. Carried.

Guest Speaker: Al Richmond, CRD Director spoke regarding:

- Sprucebud worm
- Restructure of Police financing
- Clean Water regulations
- 911
- 100 Mile Library
- Forestry closure of campsites

The meeting was adjourned by Al Blannin. Seconded by Larry Knutsen. Carried.

the risk of fire and bad fire years goes up.”

How is this so? The first thing to remember is that when scientists discuss climate change, they are discussing changes over the long term, usually decades. Although BC may not experience warmer summers every year, in future years the BC Interior can expect an overall trend of warmer summers with more frequent drought-like conditions. According to *Indicators of*

While Climate Change, or Global Warming, has not directly caused the huge number of fires this past summer, it has contributed to the conditions that makes our forests more vulnerable to fire.

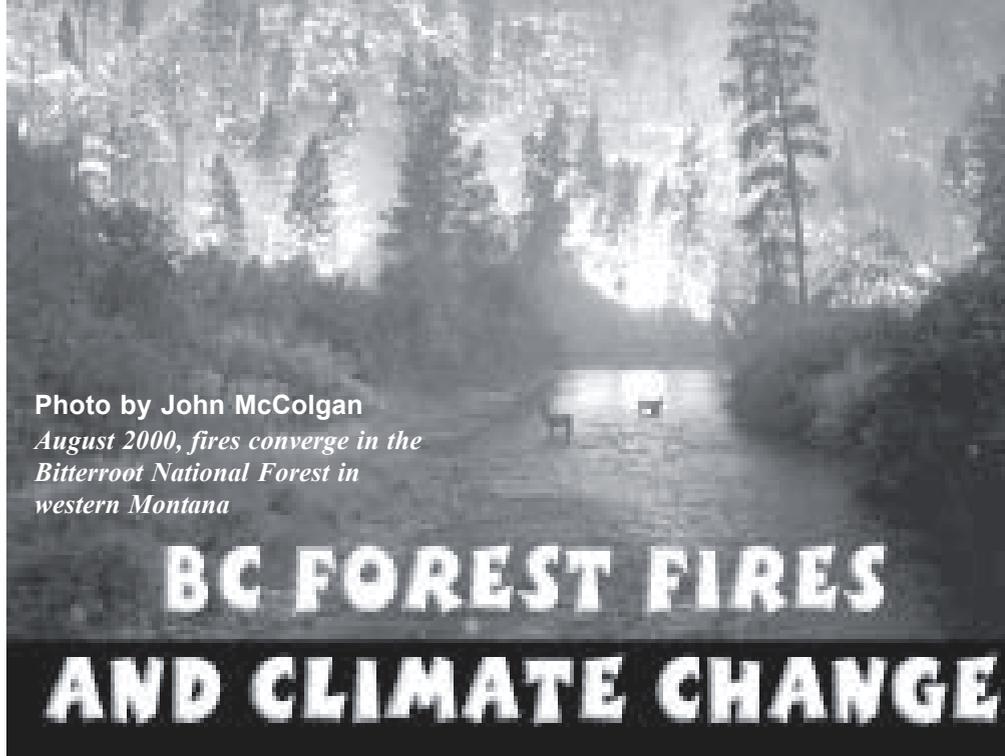


Photo by John McColgan
August 2000, fires converge in the Bitterroot National Forest in western Montana

BC FOREST FIRES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

By Patirica Spencer

Are the recent BC forest fires related to Climate Change?

The short answer is yes, at least partially so. While Climate Change, or Global Warming, has not directly caused the huge number of fires this past summer, it has contributed to the conditions that makes our forests more vulnerable to fire. As Henry Hengeveld, a climate advisor from Environment Canada explains, “You can never say, ‘Well these fires are caused by climate change,’ but our studies show that under the warmer climates that are emerging,

Climate Change for British Columbia 2002, the Interior of BC has already warmed 1.1 degrees C above the global average temperature. Thus, the stage has been set for potential fires.

While one cannot take a single year's evidence, such as the devastating fires of 2003, and establish proof of climate change, scientists seem to agree that we can expect similar events in the future.

Other factors besides Climate Change are part of the equation

that have helped establish fertile conditions for forest fires in this province. For example, some people argue that the policy of fire suppression over the last 100 years has led to hotter, more damaging fires. In addition, various infestations such as mountain pine beetle have made forests more vulnerable to fire. In the latter case, warming trends due to climate change are at least partially responsible for the increased insect pests in BC forests.

I'm sure we 108'ers all sighed a breath of relief when the September rains came to the Cariboo, leaving our community spared, at least this year, from the destruction of forest fires.

The 850 fires of 2003 give us another reason to make sincere efforts towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the South Cariboo, BC and beyond.

A FIRE DRILL

(taken from a SAFECO handout)

LIVING IN A FIRE ECOSYSTEM THIS TRUE/FALSE QUIZ MAY POINT OUT SOME THINGS EACH OF US CAN DO AS PREVENTIVE ACTION.

I have a minimum 30 foot noncombustible area around my home. True False

I've cleared pine needles, leaves and debris from my roof and deck. True False

My landscaping includes fire-resistant varieties. True False

Street signs and the address of my home are visible from the road. True False

Overcrowded or weakened trees have been thinned or removed from my property and low-hanging branches have been pruned. True False

8. I have evaluated my shake roof for treatment or replacement. True False

The grass and weeds are consistently cut. True False

9. I have considered recycling my yard debris and branches instead of burning them. True False

My wood piles and leftover building materials are at least 30 feet from my house. True False

10. I have an emergency checklist in the event of a wildfire and I know to monitor local media sources for up-to-date information and evacuation procedures. True False

IF YOU ANSWERED FALSE TO ANY OF THESE QUESTIONS YOU HAVE SOME WORK TO DO! I MISSED TWO!

Andy Rooney

On Prisoners:

Did you know that it costs forty-thousand dollars a year to house each prisoner? Jeez, for forty-thousand bucks apiece, I'll take a few prisoners into my house. I live in Los Angeles. I already have bars on the windows. I don't think we should give free room and board to criminals. I think they should have to run twelve hours a day on a treadmill and generate electricity. And if they don't want to run, they can rest in the chair that's hooked up to the generator.

On Fabric Softener:

My wife uses fabric softener. I never knew what that stuff was for. Then I noticed women coming up to me, sniffing, then saying under their breath, "Married!" and walking away. Fabric Softeners are how our wives mark their territory. We can take off the ring, but it's hard to get that April fresh scent out of your clothes.

On "Cripes":

My wife's from the Midwest. Very nice people there. Very wholesome. They use words like 'Cripes'. 'For Cripe's sake.' Who would that be -- Jesus Cripe's? The son of 'Gosh' of the church of 'Holy Moly'? I'm not making fun of it. You think I wanna burn in 'Heck'?



BINGO BINGO BINGO

Bingo money contributes to hall maintenance and upkeep, the operation of the beaches, trail improvement around the lakes, and much more. We owe huge thanks to our bingo volunteers without whose commitment and hard work many things on this ranch wouldn't happen.

Please note: **Volunteers are needed who will commit to one Friday evening a month. Please call Pat Babineau at 791-6411.**