

Newsletter

G O L D B A R N A T U R E T R A I L S

P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

Greeting Members New and Current, 2018 is here and it is rather unbelievable at times that 2017 went by so fast in my opinion. With that being said I am very much content with the course of action that the park is on with direct regard to the current maintenance and management of the affairs of the park. This year there will be noticeable modifications to the grounds that are a continuation of the 2017 improvement efforts. The Facility staff and Volunteers continue to shine and make amazing contributions to the park with the whole membership in mind. It continues to impress myself and my family how wonderful Gold Bar Nature trails is and how

many new memories are forged from these acts of many. The Committees are continuing to contribute as always with this year being no exception to prior. This current year the members will see many improvements around the park. One will be in the form of a New Adult clubhouse play structure for the little ones who will not doubt enjoy for many years to come! In addition there is also going to be a new outbuilding at the ACH that will serve both the Kitchen and the Youth Center since it will house a new Walk-In Freezer which has been greatly needed for some time. In keeping with the Infrastructure Upgrade improvements the Facility has purchased Heavy Equipment to

provide the ability to double the Membership site work which will also decrease the wear and tear of the current equipment that has been towing the line for some time. These are several of the more significant improvements for Life Cycle Renewal of Gold Bar Nature Trails of 2018 and everyone's support has been greatly appreciated for the Members to reach this point. Last I will ask that all Members please consider volunteering this Spring-Fall so that we all can continue to maintain and grow the special place we all call Gold Bar Nature trails.

Thank you,
Donal Barnes, President

V I C E - P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

Hello everyone I hope everyone has enjoyed the winter season so far. It has been a busy winter around here with the wind and rain. Our staff have been working hard on the electrical project. We are looking forward to summer temperatures now as I'm sure most of you are too! There are some fun activities coming up and the Activities Workshop needs

help planning future activities to come, so please drop by the monthly workshops held on the second Saturday of the month and help with this year's planning. The General Meeting is held on the fourth Saturday of the month. Come join us and participate in the discussion topics of the month. Spring and summer events are just around the corner and volun-

teers are greatly needed, so if you can please contact any of the Board Members or sign up in the office. Looking forward to the sunny days. Thanks again

Bill Ritchie, Vice-President

P A R K M A N A G E R ' S M E S S A G E

Hello Campers,

Wow, where to start. Spring is just around the corner and the park is gearing up for a new season. We are enlarging the pea patch area. Contact Mike Seitz for information and a plot.

I am looking to hire the youth center staff for this summer. This is a great job for a teacher, college student, high school student or someone looking for a seasonal position. Put your applications in now and become part of our team this summer. Applications available online or in the office.

We have several projects in the works, like putting in a new playground area and equipment at the Adult Club House, with room to add more items in the future. Plus, getting ready for a new storage room and walk in freezer behind the kitchen at the ACH. A new storage area for screened material at the Ballpark for electrical up grade. Other future projects are; a Frisbee golf course at the Ballpark and laser tag for the family.

The Electrical upgrade project has reached the pump house to hook up the 4 inch new main water line and new power service to pump house. We will be moving on to Wanderer & Maple to finish connecting those water lines. Then back installing new power boxes on Burlington and Simpson. This winter we were approved to purchase some more equipment for the electrical and water projects.

we picked up a skid steer and a front loader. We are still looking for a mini excavator around 12,000 lb. size to help with the installation.

Some things to get ready for this spring are the annual site cleanup and inspection in June. When cleaning up brush and tree limbs on campsites, remember to take them to the burn pile at the Ballpark and remember no dimensional lumber is allowed to be dumped either in pickup locations or burn pile. GBNT can receive large fines for burning dimensional lumber. Dimensional lumber is any wood material that has gone thru a sawmill. So basically, only trees, limbs, branches, sticks and leaves are allowed to be burned. Nothing else. All other materials and lumber please take to your local waist management dump station outside the park. Thank you

Also, remember when cleaning campsites, it's not just what is seen when standing on your campsite, it's what can be seen on your site from another members site which is what they have to look at all season. Some of the worst things are piled behind sheds, gazebos or RVs, its hidden from you sitting on your site, but your fellow campers see it all year long. Let's keep the greenbelt free of storage also. Again, your help is always needed in this area. Keep GBNT litter and junk free.

Members are always needed to

volunteer for upcoming events, open committees, kitchen help and now Youth center BBQ hut. So get ahold of your activities liaison or stop at the office. Help where you can.

All member vehicles in GBNT campgrounds are required to be road ready to travel down Washington roads. If rangers see a vehicle parked on a campsite not moving for a period of time the member needs to show that it is in operating condition. The vehicle must start, run, move and is has a current registration and insured to operate properly. We are again seeing an increase of vehicles in GBNT that though they have current tabs the vehicles' do not run, or run but don't move because of mechanical issues. This is a campground not a storage yard. Those vehicles will be given notice and if not removed by owners they will be towed at owner's expense. So, if you have a vehicle that's here for storage, please remove it along with any other items that don't belong with camping.

Ask all the questions so you can get a clear understanding so we can help you have a wonderful stay here at GBNT.

Again Thank You for all your support and help in making GBNT such a great place to camp.

Steven Thaele, Park Manager

M E M B E R S H I P

Welcome to all of the new members.

Sales haven't slowed down that much so far, we had 4 new members in December, 6 new in January and we have 8 pending in February.

Thank you to the committee for all of your hard work.

V I O L A T I O N S

- 17-49 - Careless Driving = \$100 Fine
- 17-50 - Drunk Driving = \$100 Fine
- 17-51 - Speeding = \$50 Fine
- 17-52 - Unattended Fire = \$250 Fine
- 17-53 - No Charged Hose = \$150 Fine
- 17-54 - Unsightly campsite = Warning
- 17-55 - Trespassing = Warning
- 17-56 - Unregistered guest = \$100 Fine
- 17-57 - Guest over 14 days = \$100 Fine
- 17-58 - Guest bringing guest = \$100 Fine
- 17-56 to 17-58 - Guest barred 12 months
- 17-59 - Enlarging site = Restore site
- 17-60 - Enlarging site = Restore site



We could use volunteers to help weed around the entrance to the Park. If you are interested in helping please let Steven or the office know.

Welcome New Members!	
<u>December 2017</u>	
Mathews, Jeff & Mitchell, Karen	361
Baker, Jolene & Darrin	372
Recor, Rebecca	613
Pinkerton, Barbara & Brian	191
<u>January 2018</u>	
Marler, Dana & Roxanne	1016
Horan, Neil & Juliann	980
Holmes, Robert	291
Meyers, Carl & Linda	756
Vandall, Jonathan & Adrienne	1004
Holten, Theresa	848

Please remember, all guest passes expire in May. If you have not done so already, please re-new them.

Kitty Korner w/Cat Tales

CAT LIVES MATTER!!

Thank you for your support and donations.

Sue, Orma & the Kitty Kats

FACILITIES, SAFETY & SECURITY

I hope everyone had a great Holiday Season. The past 3 months there has been a lot going on in the park. In December 2017 we had the annual Christmas party to say the least it was spectacular. The day after Christmas, the park purchased a 15,000 lb. fork lift. This will be used for many things around the park. In January 2018 a skid steer bob cat and a front end loader was purchased. A mini excavator is the only piece of equipment left to purchase. These last 3 pieces will be used on the electrical upgrade.

In January we held a meeting with all of the Security personnel. Just to let you know, Security are now called Rangers. You can't miss them, they will be wearing bright

yellow coats when on patrol. Also the rangers asked me to remind all members spring and summer are fast approaching, don't forget the rules.

The rules that are broken the most: Speeding, running stop signs, drinking & driving, and noise complaints after 10pm. Also, please, before you start a fire you must have a charged hose. Please do this before lighting your fire. It is also the members responsibility to inform their guests of the rules. After all, you are responsible for your guests and if they do something wrong you get the violation.

There are 2 new stop signs in the park. The first one is on Maple &

Logger, the 2nd one Logger & Ivy. They are marked with an orange flag to draw attention until people get used to them. Also the light over the sink in the women's bathroom on Maple has been fixed, there was a problem with the wiring.

Last but not least a great group of volunteers spent almost 2 days cleaning the kitchen, then another 2 days painting it. It looks awesome! So with all that said I hope to see everyone this spring and be safe and have a great time when you're here at GBNT.

Bob Rowe, Facilities, Safety & Security

SECRETARY

I hope everyone had a great holiday season. As we move into the New Year there are many projects currently underway to enhance the time that members spend at our vacation spot. The rangers are working hard to stay ahead of weather related issues while continuing to install the new water and electrical services. All of the employees are working hard to complete some of the many projects that your Long-Range Planning Committee brought to the Board of Directors and were approved after member discussion at the end of last year.

Please consider volunteering for a committee. Committee members are volunteers who dedicate time and energy to the betterment of the park and our facilities. Members are presented to the Board of Directors by the Committee liaison at the February Open Board Meeting. Contact the office for information on volunteering for committees and let your voice be heard.

As winter turns to spring the park will take on a different look as members return for another season of summer fun. Activities has workshops the second Saturday of

each month where members can give input. Come and bring your suggestions and consider volunteering to help with the organization or production of an activity.

There are many opportunities to volunteer in the park from working at the gate during the three-day holidays to helping in the kitchen or at the family center. Please consider helping. You get to meet new people and enjoy the company of other families in the park.

Kenneth Pratt, Secretary

M S A ' S M = M O T I O N S = S E C O N D A = A P P R O V E D

December 2017

MSA: to modify Administrative Policy #25 to reflect update in credit score process.

MSA: to spend up to \$100,000 from the electrical fund to purchase one each, skid track bobcat, mini excavator, bucket loader to speed the electrical/water upgrade. Bill Ritchie Opposed.

MSA: to spend up to \$5,000 from electrical fund on materials covers for the soil/sand/equipment

MSA: to add Administrative Policy #43 regarding Flash Chat use.

MSA: to pay \$200.00 Holiday bonus per employee.

January 2018

MSA: to remove the word FICO and the number nine (9) from Administrative Policy #25.

MSA: a new sliding door in the Adult Club House that opens from the opposite direction up to \$2500 from operating funds.

MSA: increase rental campsite rates to \$30.00 per night

MSA: for \$250 for Super Bowl Sunday Party from Activities

MSA: for \$800 for the Valentine Day Dinner Party from Activities

MSA: to raise dinner price on Friday night #2 dinner to \$5.50,(up from \$4.50). effective February 1,2018.

MSA: to raise breakfast prices to \$6.50 Large (up from \$5.50) and \$5.50 Small (up from \$4.50), effective February 1, 2018. Prices for kids menu and ala carte items would remain the same at this time.

MSA: to purchase 3 stainless steel utility carts for kitchen use to replace existing vinyl carts. Surplus carts will be used by Youth Center and Ball Park kitchen. Cost not to exceed \$1,000.00 from Activities.

MSA: to purchase 3 commercial grade (Stainless Steel) patio heaters to be used in Ball Park. Cost not to exceed \$2,000.00 from Activities.

A D M I N I S T R A T I O N

Outdoor Lighting

If you have driven around the park in the evenings you most likely have seen more lights brightening up the park. Is this a good thing or not? Like many things the answer is 'it depends'. The subject of lighting has been discussed at the last two monthly workshop meetings and we would like other members to provide input before any decisions are made. Currently our rules prohibit the use of quartz, vapor or high intensity lights on individual sites and state that lights used outdoors should be kept to a minimum. Lights are important for your safety and security when you are outdoors on your campsite at night but what should be allowable? The argument can be made that hanging patio lights and spotlights help brighten up the park. Some believe that additional lighting helps with security as campsites are more visible. Others may prefer the dark-

ness and enjoy sitting around a campfire while being able to view the starlit skies.

According to the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) to minimize the harmful effects of light pollution, lighting should

- * only be on when needed
- * only light the area that needs it
- * be no brighter than necessary
- * minimize blue light emissions
- * be fully shielded (pointing downward)

Placement of lights is also important. The National Electric Code (NEC) states that support of lights is important. Lights should be supported at intervals that ensure the lights will be protected from physical damage. They should be supported by cable ties, staples or straps that will not damage wiring. Vegetation should not be used to support lights such as in greenbelt areas or on bushes. Some things we will want to consider

include: should hanging lights be limited to a maximum height such as 10 or 12 feet; should lights cover your entire campsite or just a portion of it; is it okay if your lights also illuminate neighboring sites; should bright lights be left on overnight or be placed on a timer; should spotlights be on motion detectors; should lights be allowed to be left on when a member is not staying in the park; what are your options if your neighbor's lights shine in your windows; and is there a certain color or intensity of light that is preferable. Please take some time to think about these issues, talk with your neighbors and give us your input. You are encouraged to attend the next workshop on March 10th at 10am or submit your comments or concerns by email or mail to the office. Thank you!

Peggy Fitzwater, Liaison

ADMINISTRATION

Gold Bar Nature Trails has a number of committees that provide assistance to the park in the administration of park rules, by-laws & administrative policies. Each of the committees has a liaison assigned from the Board of Directors (BOD) that oversees its processes & procedures.

Most committees consist of 5 – 8 members of the park who serve one year terms that can be renewed up to three years. The three year term limit allows for new members who will bring different perspectives to the committees.

All committees will have openings for the 2018 year. New members will be appointed at the February open board meeting. Please contact the office if you are willing to serve on any of the following committees.

The Membership Committee

meets with potential applicants to review their applications and ensure the individuals understand GBNT rules & policies. They are responsible for deciding whether the applicants should be approved for membership based on background checks, credit scores and the interview process.

The Violations Committee is responsible for reviewing citations and meeting with individuals involved in the incidents. After gathering the facts, the committee utilizes administrative policy #8 to determine the disposition of each incident.

The Sales Committee reviews sites being repossessed to determine any needed improvements and recommend a listing price to the BOD.

Long Range Planning is responsible for developing a five year

plan for capital projects and expenditures, including major repairs, replacement of assets and feasibility of building or purchasing new park assets.

The Bylaws Committee reviews annual proposals from members for clarity and conformity with GBNT Bylaws, Rules & Regulations, the Snohomish County CUP and any applicable state or federal laws.

The Electrical Committee works with the park manager for oversight of the electrical and infrastructure upgrade being performed in the park.

The Bingo Committee helps plan the various elements that bingo needs to happen in order to be held weekly from May through September.

Peggy Fitzwater, Admin.

PEA PATCH

The last root vegetables have been dug and the surplus tomatoes are vivid in our memories. The pea patch production was excellent last year.

Now the seed packets are showing up in stores and the catalogs are becoming dogeared as Pea Patchers plan for 2018.

Thanks to Mike Seitz and Dale Peterson for their organizational support. A meeting will be announced for May. If you are inter-

ested in caring for a section, call Mike or leave your name and request in the mail box at the gardens. Any patch that does not show care and use by June 1st will be assigned to someone else.

Hopefully you were able to drive past and admire the mail box Mike donated and Linda Peterson painted. Information and maps of who is working which garden plot will be in the mail box later this

Spring.

If the deer are getting to your berries, the Cougar Zoo in Issaquah sells cougar doodoo. One whiff and the wildlife will detour to less threatening patches. And the zoo is an interesting day trip. <http://cougarmountainzoo.org/>

See y'all in May.

Call Mike Seitz to get your plot
425-765-1998

ACTIVITIES

It's been quite a year so far, planning and executing events, and gathering ideas for the summer season. I have been blessed with volunteers, both old timers and new to the park, who have graciously shared their time and sweat to make these events happen

The Christmas Santa party was a great time for all. We had about 50 kids and their parents come for a painting party. They all free hand painted a Christmas tree on canvas and then got to go wild with glue, glitter, and tree trimmings. We have a lot of budding artists in our group. The canvas paintings were all signed and dated by the artist. I'm sure their parents will look back in the years to come and see what talent was evidenced in their little ones.

February was Super Bowl Sunday. We had 55 members and guests watch an exciting game, eating to their hearts content and lots of cheering going on. Thanks to all who helped with this and especially to those who cleaned up afterwards.

The Valentine's Dinner was beautiful. We had a full house of 60 members who dined on Chris McGuire's fantastic cooking. His cheesecakes are some of the

best you will ever eat!

January was a month of planning and purchasing. The new playground for the ACH was purchased and the site is being prepared as we speak. It will be up and running before the start of the summer season.

A new shed and walk in freezer is being built for the ACH so we can expand our kitchen magic this coming year. Look for additional evening meals this summer.

We have purchased 3 commercial patio heaters so we can use the Ball Park building during the cooler months in comfort. We have received a donation of a sound system, projector, and large screen so we will be having movies during the cooler evenings for our young teens. The schedule of movies will be on the website in March.

We are also in the process of marking out the course for Disk Golf. We plan on having a "fixed" course for intermediate players and a movable course for younger players. This will allow us to set up a course on the ball park so we can give lessons on how to play.

Laser tag is also in the works. We will have a playing field plotted out before summer also. Many

thanks to the maintenance crew who are taking their own time off to plan these courses for us.

March 17th is St. Patrick's Day and we will be having our traditional meal at the ACH on Saturday, March 17th. Dinner will start at 6:00 p.m., Cost to members and guests is \$6.00/ person. Please sign up at the office so we can plan accordingly.

The annual Easter Egg hunt is planned for March 31st at 1:00 p.m. at the Ball Park for kids 12 and under.

We will also have one for kids 13 and up in the evening. The teens will gather at a location to be announced and taken to their hunt site. We may have a craft event that day also but will let you know more soon. Check the website or Facebook for more information.

We are planning on a "B-4" event in late April. The "B-4" stands for Bratwurst, Beans, Beer and Band at the Ball Park. More about this in the coming weeks also. As always, if you have ideas, suggestions or comments, please contact me. I am on the back of the newsletter under board members.

Rita Tuck, Liaison

If you are setting up payments with your bank, please make sure and use your site # as your account number and if it's for a contract so we know where to apply the monies.

Also if you are mailing in your checks. Thank you.

**G O L D B A R
N A T U R E T R A I L S**

PO Box 109
16411 May Creek Road
Gold Bar, WA 98251

Office: 360-793-1888

Fax: 360-793-2245

Sales Office: 360-793-2451

Security Emergency AFTER 4:00pm

360-770-5995

Email: gbntone@gmail.com

GBNT Board of Directors

Name	Position	Phone	Term
Donal Barnes #476	President donal.barnes@gbntone.org	206-817-8663	19
William Ritchie #552 / 553	Vice-President & ORV bill.ritchie@gbntone.org	206-795-6327	20
Ken Pratt #368	Secretary kenneth.pratt@gbntone.org	253-561-3698	19
Rita Tuck #72 / 91	Activities rita.tuck@gbntone.org	425-308-6367	18
Keith Summers #1108	Violations Infrastructure Upgrade keith.summers@gbntone.org	206-730-7735	18
Mike Hill #1017	Sales & Membership Long Range Planning mike.hill@gbntone.org	425-343-5131	20
Meri Jo Leach #219 / 288	Treasurer & Bingo meri.leach@gbntone.org	425-220-8966	19
Peggy Fitzwater #989	Administration Rules & Regulations peggy.fitzwater@gbntone.org	206-351-2658	18
Robert Rowe #1002 / 1144	Facilities, Safety & Security robert.rowe@gbntone.org	425-471-2398	20



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