



Edelweiss Maintenance Commission

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Spring 2017 Newsletter

! Come One - Come All !

Edelweiss Annual Meeting – May 27, 2017
Place -- The New Beautiful Extraordinary Edelweiss Pool
12:00 - Pot luck lunch (Bratwursts served by EMC)
BYO Non-Alcoholic Beverage
1:00 PM – Meeting Will Be Called to Order

President's Message from John Kirner

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A few words about the Edelweiss Board of Directors...

The Edelweiss Board of Directors is important to the efficiency of the Edelweiss Maintenance Commission. The Board sets the agenda of the community with regard to infrastructure development and maintenance, oversees community finances, and provides oversight to our paid staff, the General Manager and Operations Manager. The Board also responds to questions and receives suggestions from our members for the improvement of Edelweiss.

Serving on the Board is an extremely effective way of gaining an understanding of the many and changing issues facing Edelweiss. Fire safety, architectural control, animal control, flooding, wastewater disposal, road maintenance, and water system issues have been Board considerations in recent years.

A strong, knowledgeable, and caring Board is essential to our quality of life in Edelweiss. I encourage all members of the community to consider Board membership. Each year three positions are available for election to the Board. Voting takes place at our annual meeting. This year two members of the Board will step down and one member will run for reelection. If you would be interested in running, I encourage you to contact our General Manager, Dick Volckmann who can answer any questions you may have, and who will add your name to the list of candidates. Thanks for considering a run for this important position.

General Manager's Message from Dick Volckmann

Spring is here? At least we think so! The snow is gone, but the temperatures are relentlessly in the 40s. Meltwater is carving the yearly trench down my driveway. At least the wildflowers are not mindful of the cool temperatures as the spring beauties and harebells have begun to spread across the forest floor. Balsamroot has begun to brighten the hillsides, welcoming the season with its brilliance. Soon the bluebirds will sing, the flowers will bloom, the grass will grow, and so on and so forth!

Route 20, etc. - The Department of Transportation began clearing the North Cascades Highway on April 10th, with an estimate of six weeks or more before opening. As of 4/21, the crews were digging through 25 feet of debris below Cutthroat Ridge, with a lot of real estate to reach the avalanche chutes immediately below the pass. To add to the difficulties, some of the DOT crews have been diverted to Route 20 over Loup Loup Pass, where a major washout, has closed the road – perhaps for weeks. That leaves Route 153 as the only way in or out of the valley, and even that exit was blocked by mudslides during the last couple of weeks.

Edelweiss Roads: As mud season begins, we have experienced a progression of prodigious pothole proliferation. The benefit is slower traffic, on Edelweiss roads, but it can also be a test of your vehicle's springs and undercarriage. Craig is doing his best to fill in the depressions with gravel and to smooth out the results.

Dogs: I've had a few requests from folks who regularly walk or run on the Edelweiss roads, to ask dog owners to keep their dogs restrained. If you don't know how a dog (or dogs) will behave when you are encountered, it can be a very

uncomfortable, if not scary. Less alarming, but just as unpleasant, a few dogs feel that it is reasonable to distribute their alimentary elimination freely amongst the community, preferably at random doorsteps. Bottom line is - - please keep your dog and it's leavings on your own property and don't let him (them) run out to greet passersby.

Lights: I've also heard from some residents affected by outside lights that are left on throughout the night. Edelweiss is blessed with some of the darkest skies in the country. However, a porch or deck light left on all night can be a deterrent to peaceful star-gazing, and when the light shines into your bedroom window, it can be downright annoying. Let's keep it 'in the dark' and douse the lights. Your neighbor will thank you.

Fire Season: Our annual reminder - every summer brings the threat of fire in the valley. Please be aware that the smallest spark can set off an inferno, so please be especially careful during fire season. Okanogan County will establish a 'no-burn' requirement at some time in the early summer, and we will keep you informed when that happens. In the meantime please respect the 'No Open Fires' signs when they are posted in our community.

Board Memberships: The following bios (alphabetically) are from members of the community who wish to be considered for membership on the Edelweiss Board of Directors:

Steve Ralph, 61 Quaking Aspen Road: I am seeking re-election to the EMC Board after serving one term (as secretary). My wife DeeAnn Kirkpatrick and I have lived full time in the Edelweiss community for 3.5 years. My background is in natural resource management, focusing on protection and restoration of river corridors and the fish and wildlife they support. I have worked for both government and private clients over nearly 36 years in the field. In addition to serving on the EMC Board, I am a volunteer firefighter assigned to the Mazama Fire Station, and an advisor to the Methow Valley Citizens Council and the Pacific Biodiversity Institute. I would like to continue serving the community by remaining on the EMC Board for another term. The volunteer EMC board is composed of your neighbors whom you have elected to work address a number of challenges and opportunities that the community faces. If elected, I will do my best to help the Board be proactive. I also welcome any discussions with members on topics that concern them about things the EMC can do to improve our community.

Peter Speer, 27 Bitterbrush Road: My wife, Marian Osborne and I are most fortunate to be enjoying our 12th season in Edelweiss. She is now retired and we are in the Valley more often than not. As I have spent more & more time in the Methow, I feel obliged to contribute to the health and well-being of our community by serving on the Board of Directors. I have worked for over thirty years in the field of Traffic Safety, where I have established a global business for the products my company produces in their factory in Tacoma. In my career, I served for two years as President of the traffic industry's national trade association, where I continue to serve as an Ex-Officio Director on their Board of Directors. I

regularly lobby on behalf of Traffic Safety in Washington, DC. In addition, I serve on two national regulatory committees. When our children were younger, I served as President of the local Little League, answering to more than 800 families. I also served on the Board of the Junior Softball World Series, an international tournament for 14-year-old girls, which is held every year in Kirkland. I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Science and am the author of four US Patents. As a mountain guide in my youth, I have eight major 'first ascents' to my name in Alaska and the Canadian Arctic.

As a member of the Edelweiss Board of Directors, it would be my goal to assist in defining and achieving both short and medium term objectives to ensure the health and safety of our immediate community, and to identify long-term goals that should be considered and addressed by the Board in the future.

Charles Timchalk, 2 Trillium Road: I am pleased to be on the ballot to represent you as a member of the Edelweiss Board. Along with my wife Maryann and our two Golden Retrievers (Abee and Neumann), we have lived full time in Edelweiss since 2013 and as part-timers since 2009. I have been particularly fortunate to work remotely as a scientist at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, WA. However, after 20 years of working at the National Laboratory, I will be retiring in July and I am looking forward to becoming even more involved in our local community here at Edelweiss and in the Methow. Although I've not yet been very active with the homeowner's association, living full time in the valley has provided many great opportunities to volunteer. In this capacity, I am an Emergency Medical Technician with Aero Methow Rescue Service and along with volunteering in Twisp I'm currently managing the Mazama quarters (we respond to 911 calls in the upper valley). Along with Aero Methow I'm also volunteering as a Ski Patroller at the Loup and I'm actively involved with Okanogan Search and Rescue team. Finally as someone who loves living in the valley, I share many of the same outdoor passions that you do - hiking, climbing, biking, skiing- hence the need to retire! If selected to be a board member, I would like to see a continuing focus on critical infrastructure issues, such as roads and water access that are of high importance to the community. My hope is that the board can continue proactively to address these issues. In addition, I am passionate about working within our community to make sure collectively we are prepared for fire season. Thank you for your consideration,

Final note: Along with our routine activities, Craig and I will be busy with the spring duties, both of us checking the Forest Service fence and opening the pool. Craig will continue his road work and I'll be applying herbicide to the roadsides and meadows to try and keep the noxious weeds in check. In the meantime, we're always available for your questions and/or comments. We hope to see you all at the annual meeting. Remember - - free bratwurst!

Dick Volckmann