



NATURISTE NOTES



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What's Happened Lately?

There has been a flurry of activity in the fall of 2017 and flurries of snow at Da Ridge this 2018 winter season. We had great Saturday help parties, with club provided dinners, leading us up to a great Halloween Party. At the help parties we cut down a lot of trees, cleaned up more of tool town, rebuilt a rental cabin, and much more. We had plenty of food to eat at the Halloween Party thanks to everyone pitching in. Then we had a costume contest ahead of Rudy entertaining us with Name That Tune, and then leading us in sing-along. We had a well attended Thanksgiving Dinner, in the warm office with lots of scrumptious food. Then we all came back for together for the New Years Eve Bash at the Ridge. We had dinner together as usual, played games, watched movies and brought in the New Year together. Then the cold and snow came to Drakes Ridge but has melted and left, although there was confirmation of a nude sighting on the frozen lake during the deep freeze. Some of our full members have already started coming back to get ready for an exciting 2018 Season at our rustic nude paradise.



What's happening next?

Things are getting set for an exciting new season here at Drakes Ridge. Our event calendar is almost finished and will be posted very soon. Being a cooperative club we like to encourage members to be a huge part of the planning and preparation part of our events. If there is an event you would like to see added, or host, please let us know.

There are a couple of new events along with the traditional Drakes Ridge events on the 2018 calendar. Members are already planning and putting in days off work for Drakes Ridge Vacation Week, running from July 6th through July 15th. What a great way to spend a vacation week, with all your Drakes Ridge friends and maybe make some new ones. The same week is also National Nude Recreation Week which culminates with International Skinny Dip Day on July 14th. The same week starts off with our 1st Annual Wii Bowling Tourney on Young Adult Weekend.

That's only one week of the 2018 season, we have a lot more planned. Watch your email for our 2018 event calendar which will be coming soon. Our first event of the season will be our annual Spring Equinox celebration on March 24th.

Saturday March 24th- 1:00pm Your Choice Pitch-in Lunch

Saturday April 7th- Spring Season 2018 Begins with Open Check-in Weekends Only

Saturdays in April- Planning and Helping Parties with Free Dinner

More Spring 2018 Events to be added soon.

You Deserve a Thank You!

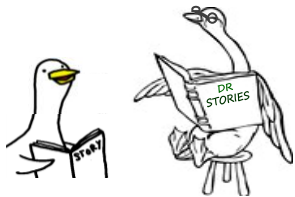


We had lot of helping hands in the fall and got a tremendous amount of work completed. Dave and Sheila continued to take down and cut up more trees for us. Sheila did backup vocals at the Halloween party. Norm helped put the roof on the new bathroom. He also removed siding and helped reframe the new rental cabin. Sherrie helped stain the new bathroom and the new rental. She also helped fill nail holes, lay carpet, and set up the new bed in the new rental. Sherrie also helped planning and decorating for the Halloween party. Bob helped cut down trees, helped tear down, reframe, run electrical and insulated the new rental. Dencil helped tear down, reframe, and insulate the new rental. Dencil installed all of the electrical work with assistants. Bob and Decil spent the first week of the year here. They renumbered and repainted all the site signs according to a newly installed site plan. They cleaned up site #61 by skiing the deck across the frozen lake to add to their deck. They also built two new firewood cabinets. They make sure there is usually food around to eat too.

Rob and Lynn have been keeping the bathhouse swept and smelling good. Karin has brought us lots of neat old books and games, some nudist oriented. Kirk also helped on the new rental project. He tore off the old roof and put the first coat of stain on the exterior. He also helped load up more refuse in tool town. Randy has helped with brush clean up and brought a pot of good homemade potato soup. Ken and John buried the electric line to the new rental. Sharon has finished the graphics and copy for the new Unclad Camp Trail. She is almost done with final edits to the 2018 event calendar. John completed the removal of the stump in the RV driveway and helped with brush clean up. Debbie helped stain the new bathroom, filled nail holes, and helped with final preparations on the new rental. She has brought us lots to eat and decorate with too. Andy cleaned up a lot brush and cut most of the shingles for the new rental. Rudy was our game show host and emcee for the Halloween Party. Jaci helped launch the new camp trail.

Working together to meet the goals of Drakes Ridge and it members is such a great way to bring our nudist family together. There are endless rewards realized for our current and future members and friends when we join together for nude work, play, and relaxation.

Special Stories



My Friend Dives In

Several years ago I brought a long time friend and neighbor to Drakes Ridge. Over the years I had given her all the information and had encouraged her to try my lifestyle. Finally Debbie came to me and asked if she could go with me on my next trip. We arrived on a perfectly beautiful day. She quickly got out of her clothes and spun around and around on my deck, waving her arms and smiling. She said, "oh I feel so free, Jim, I feel energized!". Then she did something very special, she gave me a delightful skin to skin hug. People in the textile world hug also, but there is nothing like a warm, friendly, nudist hug.

Debbie and I then took a long walk around the camp. I remember visiting Camp David, John and Carla, the clubhouse, and Debbie took a dip in the pool. Ellyn was busy rounding up members to help her search for a memorial site for deceased members, a place for quiet meditation with easy access and a lovely view. It was finally decided to use a spot overlooking the lake. It was there that a member placed a fine comfortable bench that he built and donated. Debbie was thrilled to be a part of the search and didn't want the day to end.

By Jim K; a long time DRRNR member, now resides in Arkansas.

The Special Stories section is a section for friends and members of Drakes Ridge to share their stories. Please email submissions to info@drakesridge.com.

Membership and Attendance Report

2017 was good year for new members at Drakes Ridge. We signed up 8 new members and one more already in 2018. Kelly R. joined us in January. We have a few more die hard members this winter. Rob and/or Lynn have been here most every weekend and so have Bob and Dencil. We have a few things in the works that should help our membership and attendance grow this year. The Unclad Camp Trail should bring us some new friends. We will continue to keep an internet presence and may look at some advertising also.

Grounds and Facilities Report



The grounds are looking better and better every time we turn around. Although we have some brush clean up to do all the other work we have done has made a big impact. Tool town is all but cleaned up now. We have started work on assembling a club utility building. When that it complete it is finally time for the tool town fence and buildings to be razed. That day has been a long time coming but is almost here. We have started building firewood cabinets for each fire pit. Those cabinets will not only help us clean up the trees we cut down but each fire pit will have everything needed to start a fire right there in the cabinet.

Grounds and Facilities To Do List

- Build Utility Building
- Rebuild Pump House
- Build Firewood Cabinets
- Remodel Bathhouse
- Build Bathroom
- Replace Water Spigots
- Clean Up Sites
- Build Concession Stand
- Remodel Smokehouse
- Excavate and Gravel Sites, Roads, Parking, Wider Entrance
- Pool Retaining Wall
- Clubhouse Excavation and Remodel

Office Report



The winter weather has presented more time for completing office projects, although it is tax time again. There are always some fun projects in the office that can help Drakes Ridge grow and we would love to have some help. Listed below are just some of the projects in the office that need attention.

Office To Do List

Finalize the Camp Trail

Start Next Building Fund

Finish Development of New Website

Finalize 2018 Event Calendar and Start Event Planning

Communicate through Social Media, Newsletters, Enews, and Bulletin Articles

Contributor Reports



(Formerly Board Report)

One of the greatest things about being a cooperative club is the opportunity for the members and visitors a world of ways to find or share your passion. It seems like when talent and opportunity collide passions are set on fire, fueled with excitement, and seem to come easy. We would love to have you experiment with your passions here at Drakes Ridge in 2018. We can find what you're interested in from writing, to landscaping, to social media, to performance art, and everything in between. Or come and share the passions with us that you have already discovered.

President's Report



During these cold days and weeks I have been working hard to help carry Drakes Ridge into the future, before I get busy with the summer season. A lot of you have heard me talk a lot about our "Clean and Repair" list. Yes, we will always have things around here to clean and repair, but I felt like the first place to start the rebirth of Drake Ridge was to get back to ground zero with the condition of our grounds and facilities. I really think we are very close to making that turn towards making improvements instead of just cleaning and fixing what we have. I am so excited about what the future holds for Drakes Ridge and welcome all contributions to make that happen more quickly.

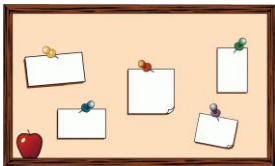
Weather and Nature Report

Brrr! We were frozen and snow covered, including the lake, for most of January. The Deer had to dig into the snow to find our foliage to have something to eat. It is up and down, as the weather always is around here, but we have thawed and the ground feels soft like spring. Temperatures are forecasted in the 50's for the last week of January.

Now that we can see the end of our "Clean and Repair" list, we can start thinking about improvements to our paradise. One of our long time goals is to build an animal blind. A place we can observe and learn about nature in an inconspicuous comfortable setting. If anyone would be interested in overseeing this project please let us know.

Real Estate Report

We are now up to 20 permanent site holders, including all types of sites. We have 5 available RV sites with varied improvements, and more improvements in the works. Bob's cabin is up for sale, along with one club owned cabin up for rent, sale or lease. Kirk's cabin is available for rent with reservations, and may be in for some improvements this spring. The club will start construction on another cabin in the very near future and will build to suit upon commission.



Bulletin Board

We have sad news to share. Sheila lost her little grandniece Myla to a car accident. Myla was our youngest member in the last few years. Please send your thoughts and prayers to Sheila, Cheeta, and their family.



Upcoming Local Community Events

Vevay Indiana's "First Friday" in February will be a busy one. There will be a Chili Cook off with tastings for everyone. Queen Elsa will come to see the kids, there will be "Love" themed art on display at the Art Center, and there will be a double feature at the Hoosier Theater. Ever wonder what the first Romantic Comedies were? Find out with this free pre-Valentine's movie night at the Hoosier on First Friday, February 2! Bring a date and see a couple of good old flicks from 1924!