



NATURISTE NOTES



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What's Happened Lately?

Drakes Ridge was a busy, fun place to be in 2018. Since we last talked there have been many great events and good times, right up until the end of the year. August started off with the second weekend of our Learning Retreat. Bennett hosted a Phone Camera Safari for the retreat, participants submitted photos of Drakes Ridge for us all to enjoy. We had another wonderful spread of Hawaiian delights at our annual Luau, along with live entertainment by Rudy. Rudy also hosted a service at our Spiritual Hour on the first Sunday of August. The next weekend was "Card Players" weekend, and we enjoyed a night of euchre, and on Sunday, a walk around camp for the Poker Walk. The Drakes Ridge style Poker Walk has become very popular. We compete for the best Poker hand but we also get to know Drakes Ridge, it's members, and guests, a little better along the way.

The women of Drakes Ridge held another Women In Nude Recreation get together in August. This time it was "Women and Canvas". The twelve ladies in attendance each painted their own canvasses. The ladies also invited Bennett to attend the meeting to share his memories of growing up at Drakes Ridge, with his mom Ellyn, the founder of Drakes Ridge. He also accepted an award for Ellyn, from the WINR group, for her lifelong dedication to Drakes Ridge. The same weekend was our Dinner Theater Weekend. This year we changed it up a little and did "Escape Rooms". Jaci's team escaped their room just ahead of Bennett's team. The final weekend of August was "Water and Sports Weekend". We changed up our Regatta this year also. Teams of two were given kits to build their own sailboat and then see who could sail their homemade boats across Drake Lake the fastest. The wind didn't cooperate but we still had a clear winner. Jeff and Jenna built a very streamlined boat that took to the water better than the other four boats. The final Sunday of August was our Volleyball invitational. Volleyball is making a comeback at Drakes Ridge and we rounded up quite a few players to run some drills and then played a few games with our newly attained skills. The Butt Photo ID contest was that weekend too, and was great fun again, as usual.

Labor Day Weekend was the final weekend of the 2018 summer season and was packed with activities and guests. We had quite a few for a Friday night dinner and then on Saturday we held our Annual Talent/Untalent Show. We enjoyed performances by Steve, Debbie, Johnathan, and more. On Sunday Jaci won the Chili Cook-off, amongst some very good competition. Then we joined together once again for our Annual Recognition Celebration on Sunday night. The celebration is a time we all get together each year and recognize all the efforts and accomplishments of all our friends here at Drakes Ridge over the prior season.

Continued,

In September, we added a new event weekend, considering the increase in attendance. On Saturday the 8th a group of us went to the local winery for a wine tasting, and then after dinner Rudy hosted a Lip Sync Contest. I think we have a new performance group that joined together that night, and that we might see more of this coming season. In October we had a great Halloween party with games, contests, costumes, and live entertainment by Pete. Thanksgiving Dinner was very well attended with a great home cooked turkey and ham dinner with many other dishes pitched in. Its has been a few years since we had a Christmas party at Drakes Ridge, but thanks to our members we had a great Christmas get together. We cut our own tree, planted in near the clubhouse and had a tree lighting ceremony. We had an ugly sweater contest, won by Norm, and another tasty homemade holiday dinner at The Ridge. There was also a raffle for a quilt handmade by the Drakes Ridge members. Jaci won the quilt and Drakes Ridge was given \$715.00! The New Year's Eve Bash was also well attended. We ate well again and then watched a slide show with pictures of Drakes Ridge and other camps in the 60's and 70's. We then brought in the New Year together with our Drakes Ridge friends. There were also many more well attended weekends throughout the fall, we had many more great meals together and had quite a few help parties that got a lot of work done.



What's Happening Next?

Drakes Ridge is currently open by appointment only (and to full members) until:

March 2nd- Spring Opening Weekend

Open Check-in Hours on Weekends

Weekdays open by Appointment

May 11th- Summer Opening Weekend

Open Check-in Hours Daily

You Deserve a Thank You!



It has become quite a challenge to acknowledge all the efforts to help make Drakes Ridge grow, but it is still worth trying. Kirk has still been busy with getting his cabin restained, until winter showed up, but has also helped with finishing the Tool Town reclamation. Karin has been one of our most frequent visitors as of lately and she has her hands involved in everything around the clubhouse and kitchen. She has helped us with keeping the kitchen and bathhouse clean, stocking the clubhouse, housekeeping the rental cabins, and making sure that we're all fed regularly while we have been getting work done around the camp. She has also helped outside with brush removal, and she donated a hot tub.

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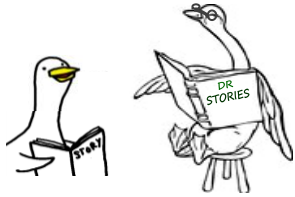
Mike and Loretta made sure our RV site was in good shape for renting with their new RV and Mike helped plan out some of the electrical upgrades that will be necessary in the very near future. Sherry is always helping in the kitchen and always willing to lend a hand with clean up, she helped caulk the pump house, clean Tool Town, and also motivates us to paint lines on the volleyball court. Joe caulked the pump house, fastened down the pool sanitizer to the concrete pad which was a big help in loading the sanitizer. Joe and Sherry have been working on making their own place more comfy too. Sherrie is always helping a lot with decorations and food for all our get-togethers and events. Nina did a great job of selling her plants for the building fund. Kelly has still been planning her cabin and what that might look like when she gets it the way she wants it. Rudy has hosted many of our events, with music, his guitar, and his voice. Jaci has helped with purchasing appliances, games, decorations, and hosted the escape room game. Dirk and Debbie are always busy and have done a lot to help with the tree removal, log splitting, tearing down Tool Town, taking care of the pool, cooking, cleaning, and repairing. Sheila brought three ladies with her to the WINR meeting and keeps us supplied with fresh books in the library. John and Debbie are already fixing up their newly-acquired cabin and are still finding time to help out the way they always have. They are always ready to lend a hand with whatever project we're working on, bringing supplies for the kitchen and clubhouse, hosting the WINR meeting, and cooking scrumptious dishes. Mark has settled right in as a new member and has been helping with weed eating the damn of the lake and clearing out other areas, he brought a tremendous amount of good food to share with everyone, and brought us a Christmas tree. He also has kept the work going on his new cabin. Norm helped us install the plastic ceiling in the clubhouse. We have still been keeping Dave and Sheila busy with logging and they have spent a lot of time removing trees for us. Sharon is still busy completing projects for us even though she's at home in the warmth now. She has continued to make graphic signs for events, event worksheets, the template for the 2019 calendar, the new rate sheet, and helped organize some of our events.

Bob and Dencil have spent most of their vacation time and most every weekend here at The Ridge. They spend most of that time helping out around the club too. They have helped a lot with tearing down Tool Town, building the new tool shed, and with the tree and brush removal. Bob promoted and planned, our Christmas party, including the quilt fundraiser. He also made most of the decorations. Charlie has given us a chainsaw and loaned us his trailer to help with the tree and brush cleanup. Ken spent a few afternoons helping with grounds clean up projects. Bill helped us rebuild the roof of the pump house. Larry and Alice helped trim trees off the hiking trail and are considering a permanent site. Jonathan was the MC for our Talent/Untalent show with help from Fran, who also entertained us as part of the show. Pete entertained us at the Halloween party with his guitar and voice, with help from his roadie, manager, and other half, Sarah. Larry and Donnetta brought us vintage slide projectors so we can present a slideshow of the early years of Drakes Ridge.

And thanks to all who put money in the building fund and purchased tickets for the quilt raffle. It helped us complete our Tool Town reclamation, the building of a new rental unit, with removing trees from the grounds, and we still have more for the rest of the tree removal, and excavating in preparation for gravel.

All of our members, and guests, have helped so much this past year and are the biggest reason for a record breaking 2018 season. Drakes Ridge is the coolest place around to play, relax, and be entertained, but working together to help Drakes Ridge grow is a very cool experience too. The opportunities here are endless, if there is something you have always wanted to try, you can most likely try it here among friends, with help from your friends, from getting up on stage, to rock painting, to landscaping, to fundraising, to customer service, and more. Thank you to everyone who has helped in some way, and thank you all for being a part of Drakes Ridge.

Special Stories



Drakes Ridge Memories!

You may have read the stories recently published in this newsletter that were written and submitted by longtime member Jim K. We received the following letter from Jim after he read his most recent story published in the Naturiste Notes. The next newsletter will include a story written by Jim, titled “The Cabbage Patch Nudist”.

Bennett, and all who read the May 2018 issue of Naturiste Notes,

I wrote the special stories article in this particular newsletter and as I read it over I honestly saw my entire life in vivid color roll like a film before my eyes. Everything I mentioned came to life, every person, every feeling, every little adventure materialized and it was a delightful time for me. I went into the kitchen, put the kettle on and made tea, just as I had done on my two burner stove at my campsite (The Nuthatch Estate) many, many times. I could even hear the gravel crunching underfoot and there was Jeff coming from the tool shed. I quickly got another cup and filled it for him.

I sincerely hope that everyone who reads the article realizes what a wonderful place Drakes Ridge is, a paradise well worth supporting, a green haven, that with a little work, care, love, and appreciation, will remain a place of joy, peace, and tranquility, a place where you can be free and...yes, of course, naked, as nature intended.

Much Love, Jim K. & Audrey

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

It was a record breaking year for Drakes Ridge in 2018. We had a record number of skinny dippers, cabin rentals, large RV site rentals, and off season visitors. We also now have more permanent site holders than ever. There is still work to do as far as membership, to break a record, but we have more members now than we have had in over 10 years. There were some upgrades from Basic to Full Memberships this year as well. Say hello to Mark, our most recent new member among 9 new members in 2018. Weekday visits were also up in the summer of 2018, thanks in part to Drakes Ridge vacation week, and our numerous visitors and vacationers here for that week. Drakes Ridge was also a destination retreat for a few visitors in 2018, including visitors from Nevada, California, Wisconsin, Ohio, Tennessee, and Australia. It is going to be neat to see what unfolds at Drakes Ridge in 2019.

Grounds and Facilities Report



Woo hoo! After three long years we can finally say the land under Tool Town has finally been reclaimed. There are still a couple left over projects that should be done soon, but we really can't call it Tool Town anymore. The old round tool shed was demolished and burned after moving into the new tool shed. The pump house roof was rebuilt and it is ready for painting when the weather breaks. We have the new tool shed and the new Oak Room completed. Which were built out of the old mower shed, but is now a very rustic, attractive cabin for rent. The new tool shed is kind of hidden on the back side of the building so cabin renters have the whole space to themselves, which faces towards the common area. Thank you to so many that helped with the reclamation project.

And, we have now moved on to the tree removal project, which is a very big project. Some of the biggest trees are already down and split into firewood, including the tree over the pool, and the big dead one over the lake. There are a couple more big ones to get down and then we'll be ready to rent a lift for a weekend to finish off the biggest ones. Then there are just a few smaller trees in the way of needed excavation. Over the course of the summer we'll also be removing some of the trees shading our sunning area. All the tree removal means we have a lot of brush, firewood, and stumps to deal with as well. We will need to build some storage, and will probably need to rent equipment to chip the brush and grind the stumps. There also still needs to be a plan for what to do with all the cedar trees that are in our way. Thank you to everyone who has helped get this project well under way.

Once we get those few smaller trees out of the way of excavation, we can then rent equipment to excavate and spread gravel, along with a few other projects, including the clubhouse drainage, widening the entrance, improving parking spaces, moving the block pile, moving brush, a new septic finger system, and RV site improvements.

Those are the large projects we are currently working on. Below is a list of small short term projects that we would like to get completed soon, and a list of the large projects up next. Thank you again for all your volunteering and your contributions to our building funds. It makes everything better when we find our own ways to make contributions and work together to achieve our goals.

Short Term Projects

- Demolish wood rack
- Take trash to dump
- Repair bridge
- Skirt pool deck
- Install hot tub
- Organize clubhouse storage
- Update site signs
- Change out spigots
- Rebuild volleyball fence
- Build entrance arch
- Upgrade outdoor lighting

Medium Range Large Projects

- Build remote bathrooms
- Remodel bath house
- Remodel clubhouse
- Remodel smokehouse
- Add rental units and RV sites
- Upgrade Drake Lake
- Upgrade sport court
- Upgrade pool



Office Report

It seems as though winter has settled in, which means it's a good time to get some office work done. The tax information has been submitted to our accountant and the 2019 calendar template is being built by Sharon, among many other projects.

The 2019 Fee and Rate Schedule has been revised and will be posted in the office and in pdf on the website. There are some rate increases, and all pricing is now listed on the rate schedule. We have had some increases in expenses with the increased attendance and our rates have not been adjusted for about eight years. These expense increases were intensely examined so we could apply price increases to specific fees that are providing a benefit to members and guests. Hopefully these price increases will be easily accepted as they will be paying for benefits in the next year that were also provided in 2018. It is also hoped that all our fees are leveled out now, except for small incremental increases, and that we will increase avenues of revenue instead of having any large price increases. Our rates are lower than other clubs, but with the help of our volunteers and these other avenues of revenue, we should be able to keep them low. These other ways of bringing in money are as simple, in theory, as having more sunning hours available on the sunning lawn, or providing food service, which means more benefit to our visitors, that they will reward us for.

There are a lot of projects to work on in the office, and it is time to make sure we are ready for another great season. The more work we can get done now the better our season can be. Volunteering in the office is also greatly appreciated, and below is a short list of things that need help.

Office To Do List

- Update website
- Promote, promote, promote
- Streamline customer service and membership
- Build DR museum (starting with photos)
- Plan events
- Organize computer files
- Make map and plan grounds
- Procure prizes and DR merchandise
- Complete event calendar

Contributor Reports

Many of us are getting excited about how Drakes Ridge is growing and are making plans to help. Kirk is waiting for the weather to break to get back to staining his cabin, and he is on-call to help with tree removal. Joe and Sherry, Sherrie, Mark, Bennett, Jeff, Bob and Dencil, Norm, Kelly, Ron, and John and Debbie, all have to plans to make updates to their cabins. Larry and Alice are still trying to finalize plans for having a cabin. Dirk and Debbie also hope to be building a cabin this year. Dirk has left his log splitter and chainsaw to help with firewood. Charlie has offered trailering service for our equipment rental. Dencil is planning on working on our POS system. Sharon will be helping get the 2019 calendar completed. Pete is hoping he can do some live entertainment for us in 2019. Is there anything you are planning to do for Drakes Ridge that we can list here? Please go to drakesridge.com/donate to help the building fund for Drakes Ridge, or mail a check to the office. All your volunteer efforts and building funds contributions are very much appreciated.

President's Report



This newsletter I am going to use my section of the Naturist Notes to once again thank all the contributors to the Lowe's gift card that I received from Drakes Ridge at the Christmas party. It wasn't just the money. It was the amount of money, and the show of support that it meant, that was the most heartfelt. It will go a long way in building my room addition, and I will have the new room to remind me of the gift for years to come. Thank you all, Bennett

Weather and Nature Report

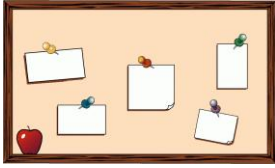
Wow, what a wet year. It was a record setting year for precipitation and it shows around here. It has made the lack of gravel in some areas of the driveway even worse. It never did dry out in the summer of 2018, like it usually does, but it probably won't be that wet again. Either way we will get some fresh gravel on the driveways this spring.

The resident pileated woodpecker has now been spotted with a mate and little red headed woodpeckers. He seems to like it around here. If you don't see him you can usually hear him squawking like a monkey and echoing through the woods.

It sure has been hard to see all the dead ash trees having to be cut down. Hopefully we can nurture the hardwoods we have to take their place. The beech trees have started to migrate from the other side of the road. There are at least three small beech trees growing up around the entrance. They are much prettier and an even stronger hardwood than ash, although, they do take longer to grow. They even look pretty through the winter, holding onto their attractive yellow leaves all the way to spring.

Real Estate Report

We recently added another permanent site holder, and are now up to 25 permanent site holders, with room for more, right now. Mark contracted Bennett to build a new cabin down on the lakeside, and it is a very nice addition to Drakes Ridge. John and Debbie have purchased Bob's cabin at site 12, and have already spent a few nights and started renovating. There is one club owned cabin for sale, lease, or rent. Paige and Betty's cabin at site #45 is the only member owned cabin currently for sale. There was a second 30 amp RV rental site added and we will be working on improving other RV sites and another rental cabin soon.



Bulletin Board

Please donate to the building fund, in the office or at drakesridge.com/donate.

Funds will be going to the tree fund, and the gravel fund. The more donations we get, the faster we can get things done. Thank you in advance for all your contributions.

The Bulletin, AANR's monthly magazine, which members receive through their AANR membership, is always looking for articles to publish. If you have the writing bug, write a story about nudism and get it published, so it can be shared with the rest of the nudist world. See the ad in most any Bulletin for more information.

If anyone has a tablet sitting around that you're not making use of, please donate it to Drakes Ridge. Dencil would like us to have a tablet to help him get our check-in process more streamlined.



Upcoming Local Community Events



Visit the Community Art Center at the corner of Main & Ferry Streets in downtown Vevay. The First Friday of every month features a new art exhibit, meet the artists, and displays of the work of other artists and artisans. Other activities around town include live music, dining out, and just visiting our wonderful and unusual shops. Come out to enjoy and visit with friends and meet new people. Hours are from 6 to 9 p.m. February's First Friday will include a piano party at the Swiss Perks Café.

There are two new restaurants in Vevay. One is called Fudo and has sushi and a bar. The other is a health food restaurant and is called The Kooky Koconut.