



Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2010

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

It seems like we just said "Happy New Year" yet signs of spring are already showing in Neskowin as the bushes are teasing us with buds and my daffodils are peeking up to make me smile in anticipation of their bright colors. Not to say that winter is over: This same week, the creek overflowed and there are still logs on a few roads that demand a cautious drive into Neskowin.

As you review the "Dates to Remember for 2010" posted in this issue, you may want to consider volunteering for one of our activities. Some of us oldsters would love to see some new folks and younger faces helping out with all of the activities that make Neskowin the Norman Rockwell experience that we cherish. Just e-mail me and let me know what interests you have. It has been my observation that we build a team for each of our events, and that no one person feels overburdened. Volunteering in Neskowin is guaranteed fun and a great way to make new friends.

As you will note in reading this issue, the newsletter is a joint effort. My job as Editor is relatively easy, I just hound the folks who have promised an article to get them to me on time! The rest of the team is comprised of Cameron Nagel, Copy-editor, and Susan Linman, Publisher.

Do let me know if you have an article or picture to contribute as we are trying to mix it up a bit with new features every month. This newsletter is just a tease as to what's to come. Our upcoming publication schedule:

May 1: articles due for mid-May, Memorial Day weekend issue.

June 1: articles due for mid-June, Fourth of July issue.

August 1: articles due for mid-August issue.

October 1: articles due for mid-October issue.

So, break out pen and paper (or more likely your laptop) and share a story, a memory, or a poem. Looking forward to hearing from you!

Best,
Christi Clark, NCA President

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*Welcome
2010*

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FISH SIGN UNDERGOING MAINTENANCE By Christi Clark

Do not be alarmed when you drive into Neskowin and notice that the Fish Totem at the wayside entrance is missing. The Fish has been taken down to be restored. In about a month or so, you will see a brightly refurbished Fish welcoming you to Neskowin.

[Editor's Note: This report was written at the end of January, so by the time you read this newsletter, the Fish may already be back in place!]



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*January
High
Tides*

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New Year's Day finds Scott Seifter dodging a sneaker wave during high tide.

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*Community
Post Office
Update*

**NESKOWIN COMMUNITY POST OFFICE
UPDATE**

By Christi Clark

” We are slated to have our Community Post Office (CPO) back in operation about March 1, 2010. This is a huge victory. As you will remember, our CPO’s status has been up in the air since May! It will be so much more convenient to ship and receive packages and to buy stamps in Neskowin as opposed to driving 10 miles for the nearest service. Our new post office manager will be introduced in our May newsletter, so stay tuned.

A huge thank you to Vicki Poole who has been putting mail in our boxes during the interim, a service she has been providing for the past several months. Vicki is a real joy, she kept the space tidy and always supplied a bowl of candy.

Thank you to all of the folks who worked on keeping a Community Post Office in Neskowin. Charlie Walker championed the cause by being a liaison with the United States Postal Service in Portland. Charlie is very effective at cutting through the red tape and talking to the decision makers. Linda Vickers is to be thanked for putting her lobbying skills to work. She was our liaison with Senator Wyden’s and Congressman Schroeder’s staff. Senator Wyden’s and Congressman Schroeder’s advocacy for Neskowin’s CPO is much appreciated. Nancy Emerson, in her role as the Post Mistress in Cloverdale, also advocated for keeping a CPO in Neskowin. Additionally, both Senator Betsy Johnson and Tillamook County Commissioner Labhart supported the campaign to keep a CPO in Neskowin.

Lastly, thanks to all of you who wrote letters and made telephone calls. This was a group effort and you all deserve a pat on the back. THANK YOU!!!

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*Cottage
Walk*

NESKOWIN COTTAGE WALK, SUMMER 2010
By Linda Powell

” Attention Homeowners:
Get out your walking shoes and sunscreen in preparation for the 2010 Neskowin Cottage Walk. This every-other-year tour of our village’s diverse beach homes and summer cottages is

scheduled for Saturday, July 24th, from 1PM - 5PM...an afternoon you won’t want to miss. I am in the process of scheduling the homes to be toured and so far have seven committed to open their doors to interested and friendly neighbors. We are trying to engage homes that have not been toured before. If you have such a house, cottage, or bungalow and are interested in meeting your neighbors, seeing old friends and meeting new ones, please contact me:

Linda Powell
snldesign@yahoo.com or 503-399-1117

We hope to have 15-18 homes open for your viewing pleasure on this summer afternoon walk. All proceeds go to our Neskowin Community Association. Plan to join in and support our wonderful beach community on July 24, 2010. Thank you!

BOOK-BAKE-TREASURE-PLANT SALE

The South Tillamook County Library Club will hold its annual “Book, Bake, Treasure and Plant Sale” on Saturday, March 20th at the Central Building in Pacific City (next to the Post Office). The sale will begin at 9AM for Library Club members and will open to the general public at 10AM. Proceeds will support the Library’s public activities and maintenance of the building and grounds. Book donations for the sale are now being accepted at the Pacific City Library. Baked goods, treasures, and plants should be delivered to the Central Building from 2PM - 4PM on Friday, March 19th or contact Joani Moore at 503-965-3681 or jomoore@oregoncoast.com.

For information about becoming a Library Club member, please visit the South Tillamook County Library or contact Dorothy Godett at 503-965-6868 or oz@oregoncoast.com.

THANK YOU FROM NESKO CLUB
By Evie Harris

The Nesko Ladies Club would like to thank Dave and Shirley at the Neskowin Marketplace for their generosity in donating food for the South County

Christmas baskets. Thanks to the Neskowin Community Association for once again for their generous \$500 donation.

One hundred thirty two South County families were helped out with food and gifts from our many friends in Neskowin and South County! Thanks folks!

WINTERTIME GARDENING

By Nancy Nagel

January, 2010:

A stroll through the garden today revealed bleak findings...and then some not so bleak! Alas, after 10 days of freezing weather in December many plants will not survive. But some of those plants that look dead right now are not, so I'll give them plenty of time over the next several months to determine whether they have any life left. No reason to rush into digging just yet. For example, plants like the hardy fuschias that look dead now will sprout new growth from their bases come spring. The hellebores (which normally flower at this time of year) appear to be in great shape. And I see new sprouts on some hydrangeas and clematis, but they will be at risk if another freeze comes our way.

The Invaders:

What looks the healthiest right now in my garden are the weeds! They know how to grow in all conditions and temperatures. They grow quickly in order to capture sunlight, water, space, and nutrients. They often can alter their branching pattern, leaf size, and leaf orientation to win the battle for light. With so many leafless plants in the garden right now, many weeds have little competition. One of the most common weeds spreading in the winter in massive numbers is 'little bittercress'. It is bright green, has small rounded leaves, and forms little clumps. It will soon produce small white flowers, then go to seed. Now is the time to get out and start pulling because after they flower and produce seed pods, and then are barely touched, the pods will pop and scatter their seeds. And each weed will produce thousands of seeds.

Chickweed, creeping buttercup, dandelion, bindweed, and oxalis are all weeds that can be bothersome in our coastal gardens. The best way

to control these weeds is also to get out and start pulling, however large patches of creeping buttercup can be very difficult to pull out. In that case, six to seven layers of newspaper can be placed over the weedy patch and covered with compost. That will smother the weeds and in roughly six months the paper will break down and the area can be planted.

Weeding With Water:

Another way to control weeds is with water...that would be boiling water, which works well on stone or gravel paths, terraces, and driveways. Fill a tea kettle with hot water and when it comes to a low boil, turn off the heat and pour the water directly onto the weeds, thus killing the weeds along with their seeds. It also works to eliminate unwanted moss growing in the same areas. This 'weed killer' is a very effective and low-cost alternative to using herbicides, which we all know are harmful to our local waterways.

So keep those knee pads and trowels close at hand, and when the weather breaks for a few minutes, run out and start pulling!



PROPOSAL ROCK LIVES UP TO ITS NAME

Congratulations to Megan Michael and Thalo Green on their engagement! Thalo proposed to Megan December 27th at Neskowin's Proposal Rock. Thalo is a Neskowin Valley School Alumni and Megan hails from Queensland, Australia. Both Thalo and Megan play pro basketball in Australia: Megan plays for the Logan Thunders Women's National Basketball League and Thalo plays for the Brisbane Spartans of the South Eastern Australian Basketball League. Best wishes from your friends in Neskowin!!!

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*Wintertime
Gardening*

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TSUNAMI TRAIL

By Roy Lowe

We are just beginning to start our Comprehensive Conservation Planning (CCP) for Nestucca Bay, Siletz Bay, and Bandon Marsh. This is a fully open public planning process and we will be conducting scoping with the public probably sometime near the end of the calendar year. This is the process where we will discuss our 15-year management plan for these refuges.

The CCP will chart our management of Neskowin Marsh and this will include the long range plan for the Tsunami Trail. We're not rolling yet, but we are collecting contact info, so if you are interested and would like to be involved, send me your contact info to the address below.

Roy W. Lowe, Project Leader
Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex
2127 SE Marine Science Drive
Newport, Oregon 97365-5258
541-270-1864 Roy_Lowe@fws.gov
<http://www.fws.gov/oregoncoast>

TILLAMOOK PEOPLE'S UTILITY DISTRICT UPDATE

By Doug Olson

Here's a mid-winter update on your Tillamook People's Utility District: so far, so good. Since the rain and wind began, there has been only about 10 minutes of outage across the system...much improved over the great storm of December 2007. Of course, we have another couple of months to go, but it's been a calm winter season so far.

If you do encounter downed wires or loss of service, please call the PUD as soon as possible. The toll free number is 1-800-842-2122. Crews are on standby 24/7.

Now the really great news! There will be no rate increase in 2010. Even though Bonneville Power Administration increased wholesale rates about seven percent in October 2009 to its 130 plus utility customers, Tillamook PUD will not adjust rates until sometime in 2011. Over the past several years, your PUD established a rate stabilization fund of \$2.5 million. This year (2010) the board transferred \$800,000 from that fund to balance the 2010 budget of about \$30 million.

That action, together with careful management of expenditures, has held the rates flat for about nine years.

Speaking of budgets, you should know that your PUD is entirely funded by the sale of electricity to about 20,000 customers in all of Tillamook County. Construction projects are funded in part by revenue bond sales on the open market. The rate structure to all classes of customers provides income to operate the district and repay bonded debt. There are no property or income tax monies available to your PUD. It's no different than a medium sized business with nearly 90 employees and \$30 million in sales. We must balance our budget, provide for contingencies, fund capital improvement projects and remain solvent. You may be surprised to learn that the PUD pays real property taxes the same as private businesses and individuals.

As you travel about the county, you no doubt see PUD crews working on various projects. The larger ones are part of long term planned projects, while many of the smaller ones are due to accidents. You might also be surprised to learn that anywhere from two to ten power poles per month are damaged in vehicle accidents. Replacing poles is a non-stop project for the crews.

There have been a number of retirements at PUD in recent months. As with many organizations which have been around awhile, succession planning is a key duty of the elected board. We try to establish career paths for new employees as well as plan for known vacancies. Recent openings have attracted 60 to over 100 applications. Your PUD is known as an excellent employer and remains a good place to work. A few weeks ago during the cold spell, the Tillamook PUD system reached an all time high load of about 130 megawatts of use. For reference, a megawatt is enough electricity to power about 275 – 300 average homes. For further reference, 130 megawatts is about ten percent of the output of Bonneville Dam. Our system reaches its peak load in the winter as Tillamook County doesn't require much air conditioning in the summer.

Finally, your PUD continues its involvement with TIDE (Tillamook Intergovernmental Development Entity). That's a joint venture with Tillamook County. It's a separate entity with a board composed of representatives of both the PUD and Tillamook County. Its primary purpose is to

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*Tillamook
County
PUD
News*

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achieve standing as a player when proposed alternative energy proposals come to the region. TIDE has recognition and development authorization from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission assuring residents of Tillamook County that any proposed generation project will need to involve the people of our county. Recently, there have been several, primarily wind and wave generation, offshore. Several more proposals are looking at the Oregon coast and bay entrances. A company from Norway is investigating a tidal generation project at the entrance to Tillamook Bay. It's cutting edge stuff, but both the county and PUD are up to speed with state and federal requirements and the interests of private developers. Stay tuned.

As always, I would be pleased to hear from any resident or rate-payer in the county. I can be reached at 503-965-9919 or dougolson@oregoncoast.com.

NESKOWIN REGIONAL WATER DISTRICT NEWS & VIEWS

By Jean Cameron, President, Neskowin Regional Board of Commissioners

NEWS

Because a rock weir that was built at our water plant in 1980 proved a barrier to small fish moving up- and down-stream in low flow periods, the Water District, working with Tillamook Estuaries Partnership, completed a fish passage project in 2009 on Hawk Creek adjacent to our water treatment plant. This project consisted of installing 16 concrete sills, each 6 inches lower than the previous sill upstream, with a drop pool between each sill. Logs were also placed into the stream to provide shelter for various fish and animal species. Total cost for this project was estimated at \$250,000, and \$172,000 was received from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. The final cost to the District, which came from our Capitol Improvement funds, was \$67,611, well below our project budget of \$78,000. Since completed, we've spotted quite a few fish taking advantage of the new passage!

A photo of the fish passage project during construction is available on our new website, <http://www.nrwd.embarqspace.com>. On the "About Us" tab you'll find links to our current budget, the most recent annual Consumer

Confidence Report, a list of our Board of Commissioners (posed in the Fish Passage Project photo), plus minutes from recent Board meetings. Please check it out and let us know your thoughts!

VIEWS

I'm sure you've noticed that it's wintertime! Here on the Coast that usually means lots of rain, wind, and high surf, but we also have freezing temperatures upon occasion. Deep freezes can wreck havoc with outside water lines or pipes next to exterior walls that aren't well insulated. Our Water District staff kept busy during the December freeze tracking down and fixing leaks in the district's lines. It's up to property owners to take responsibility for your own pipes, so please winterize your water pipes before leaving if you're not a full-time resident. It's also wise to ask a neighbor who is full-time to check on your property during extreme weather events. As we all know that we're facing difficult economic times, I want to remind you of the Neskowin Regional Water District's billing policies:

We only bill quarterly (every 3 months) and bills are payable within 30 days. Bills still due after 40 days are considered delinquent; a \$10 fee will be added to bills unpaid by 60 days from the billing date. If a bill is unpaid after 90 days, a notice of delinquency will be sent by certified mail and the service will be shut off; there is a \$25 charge for the shutoff and another \$25 charge to turn the water back on. If a bill goes unpaid for one year, the service will be terminated and the water meter removed. The property is then subject to all connection charges, including a System Development Fee of \$7,535.00 to reconnect. Our policies also cover appeals, as follows: Customers can file a one-time request to the Board to waive 50% of costs resulting from a water leak. Customers may appeal by letter or request a hearing with the Board regarding service shutoffs resulting from delinquency (this appeal window is limited to 2 years).

The District is willing to work out payment plans with customers whose accounts are delinquent. What we do not condone is verbal abuse of our staff, as has occurred recently over past-due accounts. If you disagree with our policies, please attend a Water District Board Meeting and speak to the Board about your concerns; notices of our monthly meeting are posted in the Post Office, or you can contact staff at 503-392-3966 for meeting information.

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*Neskowin
Regional
Water
District*

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Another
Neskowin
Wedding
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NESKOWIN FAMILIES UNITED

August 1, 2009 saw the joining of two long time Neskowin families with the marriage of Hilary Kathleen Wentworth and Stuart Tolmie Gerrish.

Hilary is the daughter of Kelly McKinney and Gregory Thomas Wentworth, the grand daughter of Virginia Hollaman and Charles Ward Wentworth Jr., and the great-grand daughter of the original Wentworth Neskowin homeowners, Ann Dowd and Charles Ward Wentworth Sr. Stu is the son of Deborah Patten and James William Gerrish, and the grandson of Elsie Failing Shepard and George F. Patten Jr.

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2009 NCA
Financial
Report
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The two families have a combined presence in Neskowin of 150 years, both of them first coming to Neskowin in the mid '30s. Although the families were acquainted years ago, Hilary and Stu did not meet until 2004 at a Saturday afternoon barbecue in Portland.

With their common Neskowin background as a starting point, Hilary and Stu forged a friendship that led to a sweet proposal on the Blue Heron Bridge north of Neskowin, and culminated in a lovely evening wedding ceremony and reception at the Town Club in Portland.

Many Neskowin families were in attendance; the entire Wentworth and Patten families, the McMenamin family, Maggie Merrill Feld and family from California, Kacey Smith Joyce and family, Joyce Singer and Howard Trachsel, Victoria and Kirk Taylor, The Seeley Family and many members from the Wulf, Ingle, and Byer families.

We all wish Hilary and Stu a wonderful long and happy life together.

2009 NCA FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME

Membership Dues	7,035.00
Fireworks Donations	7,042.93
General Donations	955.00
Memorial Day Dumpster Donations	889.17
Golf Scramble	9,008.00
Bake Sale Income	911.00
Burn Pile Donations	660.00
Directory Sales	0.00
Sign Painting Donations	100.00
Cottage Walk	0.00
Interest	338.70
Total Income	26,939.80

EXPENSES

Operations

Memorial Day Dumpster	345.50
Golf Scramble	4,728.24
Fireworks	5,500.00
Newsletter	3,315.06
Directory Printing	0.00
PO Box Rental Charge	56.00
Liability Insurance Payment	880.00
Life Rings	292.30
Light Poles	262.50
US Bank Service Fees	40.39
Dept. of Treasury	0.00
Federal Taxes Withheld	56.74
Or. Dept. of Justice	10.00
Or. Secretary of State	50.00
Total Operations	15,536.73

Donations

Sally Rissel	0.00
Slug Soup	1,000.00
Street Painting	500.00
South County Xmas Basket	500.00
Neskowin Valley School	3,000.00
Nestucca Elementary School	3,000.00
CPAC	3,500.00
Backpacks for Kids	1,080.00
Total Donations	12,580.00

Total Expenses	28,116.73
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Net Income	-1,176.93
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NESKOWIN STABLES & HORSE BARN HISTORY
By Mark Fay, Present Owner

The stables and Neskowin beach horse rides have been a tradition for almost seventy years. But the original barn had slowly deteriorated for so many years that in early 2009 it was literally falling down. Unsafe and unusable, the Fay family (present owners of the horse property) have rebuilt the barn and facilities.

Memories have been gleaned from many locals, and some memories were said to have been

romanticized through intimate writings on the walls of the barn by boyfriends, girlfriends, secret clubs, and youthful parties in the attic of the barn. But alas, the deterioration of the barn left no residual evidence of these tales. Mark Fay has provided the following chronology of the horse barn and stables history:

The Neskowin horse barn was initially used by John Davies in the mid-1940s for horses they would ride over from Albany for the summer. Rose Souther rode green-broke horses for Davies and got them used to riding in the surf. Then about 6 years old, Bob Morris also helped Davies by shoveling manure in the barn and by bringing up to twelve kids for beach rides. Morris also helped by riding the horses back to their winter spot in Albany – taking three days of riding! After moving away in the 1950s, Souther returned in the 1970s to help with rides again, along with new owners Bea and Bill Brandt.

Originally from Wisconsin, the Brandts leased the horse barn property prior to buying it and then ran the beach horse riding business during the summers until approximately 1999. Bill and Bea rebuilt the cottage at the horse property and Bill's fine woodwork made it a cozy cabin. They also redid the shed between the cottage and the barn. After Bill passed away in 1970 Bea continued running the business. At the age of 87, she had cardiac triple bypass surgery, then re-opened the beach rides again three months later! She saddled horses into her early 90s. The Brandts daughter Sylvia Shelton, who is now 78 years of age, recalls riding a string of horses down from Tillamook where the horses had wintered – tied nose to tail. Her father Bill, towed a horse trailer and would take two horses at a time off the string and transport them to Neskowin, turn around and find a good place to meet up with Sylvia and the horses and take two more, as she continued on horseback, until all the horses made it to Neskowin. She spent many years working the beach rides as a family worker.

Sylvia's three children also spent much of their youth at the horse property. Daughter Leanne has many memories of working with the horses and property, including driving a car out of waist-deep floodwaters. She also remembers cattle and horses grazing in the field across from the horse barn where presently there is a marsh – just to the south of the golf course. Leanne has many fond memories of the Neskowin Stables, as she partly grew up there. She has also been very kind and

helpful with our involvement in the property and with information about it since.

The Neskowin horse property was truly in a state of disrepair when we acquired it in about 2004. The road was deteriorated, flooding was worsening, the old barn was sinking, was as sway-back as some of the horses, and was listing to the northwest. We first had our hands full just cleaning up the property and buildings. We've hauled many loads to the dump, salvaging what was possible. Since the stalls to the north were the first part falling down, we replaced them with a building in order to house the horse beach ride business. In spite of the mainly winter flooding, we wanted to keep the tradition of the horses. As people would walk by and comment, we guessed that about 75% or more were in favor of keeping the horses available there.

The private road past the horse barn was flooded throughout the winter and summer of 2008, and has been impassable since that time. All the associated government agencies recommended making the road a little higher just along that short segment. The cost is up to us and we're working on it. Our goal is also to prevent water from flowing through the corral and carrying impurities into Hawk Creek. So at this time the road remains impassable, necessitating closure to vehicular traffic. In late 2008 and early 2009 the back wall of the old horse barn broke out and the back section was literally falling down. As we started to permit a replacement, we felt it might be a good community gesture to offer horse boarding, so we are replacing corrals and the new barn building will house an office, equipment or tack storage, in addition to personal family space. To re-build with electricity, a bathroom, as well as a kitchenette, the new structure had to be higher off the ground, given the flood plain elevation. We salvaged as much of the old barn wood as we could and hope to re-use this wood as non-structural wall coverings. We will have the corral finished as soon as the weather improves and flood waters subside. As the summer approaches, please pass on that horse boarding will be available. Water will be on-site but it will be up to the horse owners to feed and water their own horses except under special arrangement.

I invite anyone who has further history, stories, or memories about the Neskowin horse property to please share those with me for a potential part two of "The Neskowin Stables and Horse Barn History".

Mark Fay, faykec@e-isco.com
1656 Cove Point Road, Klamath Falls, Oregon 97601

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*Neskowin
Stables and
Horse Barn
History*
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Neskowin Community Association

PO Box 820
Neskowin, OR 97149

NCA Community Meetings
May 30, 2010 4:00 PM
September 5, 2010 4:00 PM

Web: www.neskowincommunity.org
Password: fish

NCA Board Officers & Members

Christi Clark, President cclark@oregoncoast.com
Nancy Nagel, Vice President nancy@nwpalate.com
Debra Sweeney, Treasurer gosweeney@msn.com
Meri McLeod, Secretary scottmcleod164@msn.com
Nancy Bantsari nbantsari@aol.com
Katharine Gerrish kat@canarymarketing.com
Craig Healy cdhealy@comcast.net
Kacey Joyce kaceyjoyce@comcast.net
Brian Lind brian@nnw.us
Jeff Walton jwalton814@msn.com
Linda Vickers lindavickers@embarqmail.com

Special thanks to:

Susan Linman, Newsletter Publisher
Cameron Nagel, Newsletter copy-editing
Jeff Linman, Webmaster

NCA 2010 Calendar of Events

Saturday, March 20

Book, Bake, Treasure and Plant Sale: Central Building
in Pacific City
9AM for Library Club Members
10AM for General Public

Saturday, May 29

Sign Painting at Fire Hall: 12NOON – 2PM
Swap Meet & Dumpster: 8AM – 4PM
Bake Sale: 8AM until sold out!
Burn Pile: 9AM – 3PM
Food Drive: 9AM – 3PM
NCA Membership Sign Up & Fireworks Donation
Opportunity!!! 9AM – 3PM

Sunday, May 30

NCA Community Meeting at the Fire Hall: 4PM

Sunday, July 4

Nesko Club Book & Bake Sale: 8AM – 1PM
Parade: 10AM
Flag Raising and Sing-a-Long: right after the parade
Castles & Kites on the Beach: 2PM – 4PM, Awards @ 4PM
Fireworks: 9PM

Monday, July 5

Beach Clean-Up: 9AM – 11AM

Saturday, July 24

Cottage Walk: 1PM – 5PM

August 13-15

Golf Scramble Weekend

Friday, 13th: Potluck Dinner and Raffle
Saturday, 14th: Golf Scramble
Sunday, 15th: Golf Scramble, Catered Lunch, Awards,
and Raffle

Sunday, September 5

NCA Community Meeting at the Fire Hall: 4PM

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2010
Dates to
Remember

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Neskowin Stables and Horse Barn