

RSCC NEWS

SUMMER 2015



Rainbow Springs Community Club, Inc., P.O. Box 388, Granite Falls, WA. 98252 | Phone: 360.691.2683

<http://www.rscconline.org> info@rscconline.org

Community Work Party Planned

Due to a low volunteer turnout last summer, there are still a number of projects we were unable to complete at last summer's Community Work Party Day. Volunteering your time just half day a year helps keep our maintenance costs down. If you have a special skill that you can share please make a point of joining us. We are always in need of weed whackers and people to operate them, people to help pick up garbage along the roads and in our parks, and as well as skilled laborers. Bring your work gloves, Weed Whackers, and sunscreen... Look for the signs posted at the gate for the date and time of the work party. Also watch for the mailed notice. We will try to plan it when the weather is not too hot and will try to be done by noon. We will be pressure washing, raking wood chips, spreading soil and grass seed, painting, planting a tree, cleaning the lake strainer, a carpentry project, collecting garbage throughout RS, and removing a fallen tree at the river park.



Inside This Issue

Community Work Party	1
Speed Limit	1
River Park Etiquette	2
Road Project	3
Annual Shareholders Meeting	3
Ask Rainbow Springs	4
Ask RS Contin.	5
Ask RS Contin, Neighbors Being Neighborly	6
Rainbow Lake	6
New Parking Permits, Fire Danger	7
Dumping	7
Calendar of Upcoming Events/ Remotes	8

Kids are out for Summer

Please be aware that kids are out of school for the summer, and will be out and about in the community. Take extra care driving and please **SLOW DOWN**. Stop at all stop signs. Stop signs help to slow down traffic, and help avoid collisions but many people choose to simply blow through them.

The number one complaint in Rainbow Springs, by far is drivers SPEEDING. Be a good neighbor and obey the posted 15 MPH. Please make your guests aware of our speed limit inside the community.



River Park Etiquette

Now that summer is here many residents will be enjoying a refreshing dip in the river. Keep in mind that the South Fork of the Stillaguamish River is fed by melting snow pack and glaciers. The water is still deceptively cold and hypothermia is quite possible. Please help us keep our River Park safe and clean. Pack out all litter and beverage containers. Some people have been burying their garbage in the sand rather than packing it out. Burying trash causes dangerous conditions for our barefooted children. If you packed in full bottles and cans of beverages, you can pack out the empties!

Only park with your current valid Parking Pass visible, or you may be subject to towing.

Keep your pets under control at all times. Bring plastic bags for your dogs waste. If your dog poops at the beach please scoop up their droppings and pack it out with you. Don't pollute the river, where our children swim.

Accompany your guests when using the beach. And keep an eye on swimming children at all times. The River beach and parking lot will be patrolled for lack of parking permits, and non-permitted vehicles will be towed. The illegal use of drugs and/or alcohol will be reported to the sheriff.

Be a good neighbor and help us keep our parks clean and safe.

Beach Fires (see the page 7 article on this years fire danger)

Fires down at the river are allowed with some restrictions. First, the county rules:

1. There is a burn ban in affect; Fires need to be contained in an actual fire pit no more than three feet in diameter, 2 feet tall. With a 10 foot radius cleared around the pit. You must monitor the fire the entire time.
2. Burn dry wood only!! Burning of garbage or trash is against the law!
3. You must have 5 gallon bucket of water nearby!
4. Clean-up after yourself!!! This means not only your trash, but that your fire is out and the pit where the fire was, is returned to its "pre-fire" state. Eventually - "Leave No Trace" applies
5. The River Access / Park is closed after 10pm.

The following example does not conform to these rules!!

Problems?? Not contained in a fire pit; Trash included in fire; Person(s) did not clean up after the fire and; left a BIG trace!! We do not want our beaches left like this!! Please be respectful of others who share these beaches!



There was a tree under the road! Paving Project Update – BOD

The mystery is solved. For years we wondered why every time we repaved the sink hole on Rainbow Drive, it would only re-appear months or years later. We suspected an under ground spring was eroding the roadway. When Rex from Ground Effex Asphalt bid on the job, he was determined to improve the drainage along that section of road, to dig deep enough to find the source of the problem, and to replace the rock and road bed in a way that the fix will last longer. Well, when Rex and his crew dug down under the road they were surprised to find the road was built over a huge log that has been rotting under the road. Finally an answer! Rex helped keep the costs of filling the void left by removing the rotted log, by re-using the broken up pavement he removed from the road to fill along with the rock. We hope that the fix lasts but who knows how much timber was left under the road. Thank you for your patience during the detour.



There will be another much larger paving project next year that will repave a large section of Rainbow Drive from the first stop sign down to the bottom near the curve. That entire section of road is badly cracked and it is a matter of time before the road breaks up. Since the project is going to be a costly one, we are considering a special assessment to help offset the expense of that project.

2015 Annual Shareholders Meeting

The Annual Shareholders Meeting was held on Saturday April 25th 2015. There was just under the required quorum of 10% of lot owners present to vote on any new motions, or board appointments. The Annual Dues remained the same as last year at \$230.00.

The Annual Dues were invoiced on May 1st and were due 30 days later. If you are having difficulty paying your dues, please call and set up a Payment Plan. We are eager to work with you. The worst thing you can do is nothing. Avoid costly liens being filed by making that phone call.

To request a payment plan call: 360-691-2683

Rainbow Springs has a secure Post Office Box but please beware when sending payments out from unsecured home mailboxes. There have been numerous incidents of mail theft reported in Rainbow Springs this year. Mailboxes have been tampered with as recently as June 23rd, so be careful when mailing payments, or purchase a locking mail box.

ASK RSCC – by RSCC Board Of Directors – responses to actual questions asked**Q: Why do we need to have speed bumps?**

A: It is a matter of safety. We responded to the complaints of speeding, and racing down on the river roads, by adding two speed bumps. The speed bumps remind people to slow down, if even for a short distance. All the other roads in Rainbow Springs have speed bumps. The river roads were the last roads to be addressed. We wish we did not need speed bumps. If people would slow down we wouldn't need to have any.

Q: I heard that the minutes online were not up to date...why?

A: There is no RCW that requires us to post any of our minutes online. They were posted as a "courtesy" for our members, but not as a requirement. In the effort to be transparent in the Board of Directors decision making processes, we decided to post them. But our Website Manager like all people who works 3 jobs got behind. They are now updated. And for those who think because our website domain is a budgeted item they should be always be posted. The price we are given for our website is much lower than anything we could commercially obtain. Our webmaster was posting the minutes out of the goodness of his heart, on his own time. We don't begin to pay him for all that he does.

Q: I heard that the way the board takes our minutes are not legal.

A: Everyone is a critic! We submitted our Minutes to our attorney for review some time ago, and it was on his direction and advice, that we changed our format from what we used to use. We are completely compliant and legal.

Q: Why isn't there a community picnic planned for this summer?

A: Years ago the picnic BBQ was well attended by the community. Most of those founding families and residents have moved away, and the last few picnics we planned, only a handful of people bothered to attend. People jealously guard their weekend time. People are busy. We decided to not spend the community money, and go through all the work if only a handful of people were going to attend.

Q: My neighbor fires his gun and it scares us. What can be done?

A: Call 911 immediately! Don't call the RS Hotline. It is illegal to shoot inside this community or in or near any residential area. Don't approach the individual yourself. And if you are afraid of reprisals, you can file a report, and ask to be kept anonymous.

Q: In the last Newsletter it was stated that if we ride ATVs anywhere in Rainbow Springs we could be in jeopardy of having our community insurance cancelled. How can we be denied insurance? Is that legal?

A: Correct, we were warned that the risk was too great if we added ATVs to our roads or property. Our policy would indeed be canceled. Insurance companies mitigate and assess risk, and it is their right to choose what to insure. Most homeowner's policies won't insure earthquakes in the earthquake prone Pacific Northwest, the risk is too great. You have to take out an additional rider for earthquake coverage. Our insurance does not even have a way to insure ATV use, not even with an additional rider. It is their decision what they will insure. There are many items they won't cover.

Q: My Remote Control for the gate stopped working. Do I need to purchase a new one?

A: You may need to. But first unscrew the screw on the back, in the middle of the silver clip, with a Phillips screwdriver. Carefully remove the clip, and open the back of the unit. Try replacing the 9 volt battery inside the remote. Put the back and clip back on and screw it closed. If your remote still does not work after replacing that battery, it likely has a worn out contact inside, which can happen to any electronic device that is used frequently over years. If you need a new one you can contact the Hotline and we will get one to you as soon as possible. **360-691-2683**

Q: Are we going to replant more trees at the Lake Park?

A: Yes we would like to. And the board would appreciate input on what kind of trees the community would like to replant. It has even been suggested that we should look into some of the flowering shade trees that would have beautiful blooms in the spring.

ASK RSCC – by RSCC Board Of Directors - continued

Q: Last year I had bottle rocket debris on my roof and yard after Fourth of July. Are Bottle Rockets legal?

A: No! Bottle Rockets, sky rockets, M-80s are not legal any where but on the reservation. Unfortunately some folks are not considerate when using them. Fireworks purchased in Boom City are supposed to be used on the reservation only. NOT in Rainbow Springs. If you think your property is in danger from thoughtless neighbors' call 911. Additionally it is NOT legal to discharge Fireworks the entire week of July 4th. AND you can receive a citation if you choose to celebrate anytime but the lawful approved times (listed below).. unless the Seahawks win another Conference Title or Superbowl..... In that case you *will* hear fireworks!

Granite Falls: July 4th – 9:00AM to 11:59 and Arlington: July 4th – 9:00AM to Midnight

Q: Does the Board of Directors meet every month?

A: We do intend and plan to meet monthly, however there are vacancies on the board, and work schedules, family obligations, and vacation schedules which often do not allow all board members to attend. A quorum of five board members is required to vote so unless at least five can make it, we normally reschedule to the following month. A meeting each and every month is not required to effectively manage the corporation's affairs, and if a special meeting is required we have always been able to pull together in order to meet responsibly (and legally) for the business of our community. We do welcome new members - if you are willing to donate your time please contact the hotline! Our Bylaws only state: *The Board of Trustees of the corporation shall hold regular meetings following the annual membership meeting and such special meetings as the Board shall deem necessary for the competent management of the affairs of the corporation.* There have been past boards of directors that only met 4 times a year. We try to meet as many months as we can get a quorum together. The board has met 6 times so far this year.

Also, there seems to be some misconceptions about the purpose of the Board Meetings. The board meets regularly *"to conduct the business management of the community"*. It is a meeting for the Board. Although it is open to all members in good standing to be present at to observe, it is not intended to become a forum for community members to vent, complain or debate. If you have a legitimate item for consideration, please bring it with the offer of a solution as well. Association members will be given a limited amount of time at the end of the meeting during the "Public Comments" to bring their comments forward. Furthermore, the meetings are not open to renters, and members not in good standing, to comment. The Annual Shareholders Meeting is the proper formal forum to bring items forward. Those items should be in writing, and submitted to the Board within the prescribed deadline. All other communication, suggestions, and comments from any resident can be submitted in writing by mail, email or to the Rainbow Springs Hotline phone. Nextdoor.com is not an approved forum to communicate officially to the Board.

Q: Why aren't there more Board Members?

A: People are busy, and people move away, and those vacancies don't always get filled. The last three board members we lost, all moved away. When people find out the level of commitment and hard work involved in being on the board they are generally reluctant to give up their time. Year after year we have asked the question at the Annual Business Meeting ... "would anyone like to volunteer to be on the board?" No one has responded so far.

Q: How do you get on the board?

A: Well when the invitation put out at the Annual Meeting (providing there is a voting quorum present) isn't responded to, another way is to volunteer. Show your commitment to the Association and prove you want to help out, without having a personal agenda, other than caring about the community. If no one at the Annual Meeting steps up and is nominated and elected at that meeting, the President has the authority to fill the vacancies that exist on the board. The board is always looking for people to pitch in and help.

Q: Our neighbor has a dog that is always loose and we can't get Animal Control to respond.

A: We feel your pain. We have heard the same thing. It has been reported that the county is understaffed and can not always get an officer out here. We've even been told by an Animal Control Officer to try and take a photo of the offending dog. (*Yeah right, Hold still please and wait until I can get my camera out and take your picture as you are running wild*) All you can do is call, or go online and file a report for every incident. It may take time to get a response. Wouldn't it be nice if everyone was a responsible pet owner and obeyed the leash laws?

Call 425-388-3440 go online to: <https://petlicense.snoco.org/petcomplaints>

ASK RSCC – by RSCC Board Of Directors – continued

Q: Why do we have to have Parking Passes on our cars to use the parks?

A: Have you seen how small the sandy beach area at the river park is? There is hardly enough room for our own residents who pay dues to have access, much less for all the outsiders. Having a Parking Pass shows that you belong here, and it helps us identify those who don't pay dues, and should not be here. Last year many outsiders used our beach as a boat launch, they left their garbage, and were often belligerent towards our residents. The Sheriff was called on several occasions. On one occasion a drunken outsider assaulted an officer. Is that the kind of folks you want to share our beach with when you have your children present? In a recent conversation with a member of Blue Spruce HOA a resident said they use our beach because they have used it for years. When they were told they were trespassing they were shocked. They were reminded that they don't pay dues here, and we don't pay dues there. They don't let us use their pool why should they think that it was okay to use our parks? They said because they always have....

Q: I have noticed late night parties at the river park. It looks like underage drinking. But I don't want to get involved.

A: If you aren't willing to call the Sheriff and report underage drinking then the parties will go on. The park is closed. at 10:00 PM and all fires should be put out by then. If you aren't willing to report illegal activity, don't complain about it.

Neighbors Caught in the Act of Being Neighborly - Rainbow Springs depends on the kindness, dedication, and commitment of volunteers. If you know of someone who has contributed please let us know. Here is an example of a few of the ways our residents have made a difference to their neighbors recently:

Michael Goss - Improved the drainage along the easement in front of his home, which benefited all his neighbors.

Kevin Hayes - resets the gate whenever it needs to be changed to the open position for events, and programs the keypad.

Kenny Jans – has greased the gate (many times) when it becomes squeaky.

John Yauger, - weed whacks the entire entrance area.

Casey and Susie Martin - cleaned out the ditch in the easement along their property and installed a drainage culvert in an area of the easement that used to collect water.

Bruce Beattie – regularly mows his neighbor's property along the river.

River residents on 166th moved a log to the north border of the River Park to keep people from driving onto the park turf.

Finally, there have been sightings of the "phantom angels", **Jason Hollinger, Zeke Kingsley and Butch Van De Steeg** who have been mowing the tall grass along the Lake Park easement next to the road. Their dedication saved the community a lot of money that we did not have to pay the Brush Cutter. Thank you so much for your unsolicited contribution.

Rainbow Lake

Did you know that the State of Washington refers to Rainbow Lake as **the Rainbow Springs Dam and Reservoir**? We are regulated by the DSO Dam Safety Office. They inspect the Dam every 5 years. The lake is man made and fed by creeks on the east wetlands. The lake is home to Otter, Beaver, Ducks, and a variety of fish, frogs and turtles. Years ago it had a colony of Canadian Geese that made a walk in the park a messy endeavor. A territorial resident Muscovy Duck took residence for several years and chased out the Canadian Geese that migrated here. That cleaned up the parks and while the Canadian Geese still fly over, they don't take up seasonal residence like they used to. The Dam is a clay based earthen Dam. The lake is home to 37 narrow private lots and 2 larger lots, as well as the Lake Park. There are restrictions and set-backs currently in place for any new construction or development along the lake. Check with the county and with the State Department of Ecology for most current restrictions prior to any building or development.

The New Parking Permits are Here

The New 2015-16 Parking Permits are here. Two permits were sent to each property owners who have paid their 2015-16 Annual Dues in full. As we enter into the busy summer season please be reminded that after June 1st, cars parked at our River or Lake Parks NOT displaying the current 2015-16 parking pass are subject to being towed. Parking Permits should not be given out to others... You must accompany your guests when using the parks. To order additional permits for families with more than two cars call **360-691-2683**



Dumping

There have been reports that some residents have been dumping debris in the open field in Track B between 119th and 120th. That land is not intended for dumping. If everyone dumped discarded gravel, rocks or soil in that field it would soon become a big mess. It is one thing to discard some grass clippings, which break down and are biodegradable, but it is quite another to dump rocks and piles of trash, which may not break down.



FIRE DANGER IS GREATER THIS YEAR THAN EVER BEFORE

This year with historically low rainfall, and sparse snow pack in the mountains, all of Washington State is critically tinder dry, and the danger from fires is more serious than ever.

You can do your part by being extra careful. **OBSERVE ALL BURN BANS!** Never burn trash; it is illegal everywhere in the state. Residents who observe trash burning should call **911** immediately!

The current Restriction bans all outdoor burning, except for recreational fires less than 3 feet in diameter, and 2 feet tall. Recreational fires must be contained within a fire pit. clear of all combustible materials within a 10 foot radius, must be monitored at all times, and must have a water source immediately available, (at a minimum a charged water hose, or a 5 gallon bucket of water) All outdoor burn permits for agricultural or yard waste are suspended until the burn ban is lifted. This ban will remain in place until there is a sustained period of rainfall and the fire risk returns to low. The Snohomish County Fire Marshall is requesting that ALL recreational fires be carefully re-considered. For more information call the Outdoor Burning Information Hotline at: 425-388-3508

Please do your part.... Take extra care with BBQs. Extinguish cigarettes completely. Don't use propane weed burners during a burn ban. Never weld near dry grass or brush. And forgo that recreational fire if you can. Fireworks are not allowed at Lake & River parks!

Finally... if ever there was a year to choose to not participate in setting off your own fireworks, this would be the year to consider foregoing them. You can always go to a large outdoor show:

<http://seattle.cbslocal.com/top-lists/best-places-to-watch-4th-of-july-fireworks-in-seattle/>

Gate Remote Controls

Remote controls are still only \$15 each – call
360-691-2683 to order yours now.



Check out our community website

<http://www.rscconline.org>

Calendar of Upcoming Events

JULY 2015

- **July 4th – Fourth of July – Be safe, and Be a good neighbor. Take care to confine your pets.**
- **Wed. July 15th - @ 6:30 PM - BOD Meeting – IGA Café – provided we have a quorum**

AUGUST 2015

- **Wed. June 19th –@ 6:30 PM - BOD Meeting – IGA Café – provided we have a quorum**

Please watch for signs, and the mailed notice announcing the time and date of the ANNUAL WORK PARTY

PLEASE SLOW DOWN - Kids are out of school for summer

**Rainbow Springs Community Club
P.O. Box 388
Granite Falls, WA 98252**