

FRIENDS OF TWIN LAKES
June 27, 2015 MEMBER MEETING

Board of directors in attendance: President John Kester, Vice President/Treasurer Anita Mason, Secretary Kelly Sweeney and at Large Representatives Ahmad Ghais and Joan Weber.

Minutes: Kelly moved that the minutes be approved and Anita seconded the motion and they were approved.

Upcoming meetings and events: next regular meeting at July 25th at 9:30 in the School House; Bike-n-build on Monday, 7/13 (we need volunteers to provide showers and food).

Rural internet solutions/options: Tony DeMarco, tony@spyglasstg.com, a local telecommunications consultant, reviewed current options for rural broadband internet connectivity. He graciously offered to provide any further advice; please email him at this e-mail address.

There are three basic ways to connect to the internet: via phone companies' wires and fiber-optic cables, via satellite, or via wireless broadband networks. Because of capacity limitations, satellite and wireless services tend to be metered, and may become expensive for volume users. Phone company services offer more capacity and tend not to be metered.

Century Link, our local phone company, is currently disinclined to provide internet broadband connectivity in rural/remote areas such as Twin Lakes. Both HughesNet and Wildblue (Exede) offer broadband internet services via satellite everywhere. Both ATT and Verizon offer wireless broadband services using their 4G networks in conjunction with extenders/microcells wherever an adequate signal is not obstructed by Twin Lakes' challenging terrain. It is possible to get network extenders/microcells that will allow your cell phones to work in conjunction with your satellite internet, receiving cell phone calls and texts, even though your cell device is receiving "no service" through the traditional connection. High Country Internet (principals Jack Saunders and Bill Jones) already provides an alternative wireless internet service to the Lake County government, with plans to extend the service to Twin Lakes.

An upcoming auction of wireless spectrum may offer an interesting option for service in rural and remote areas. Signals at around 600 Megahertz are more suitable for rural/remote areas as they are better able to overcome terrain obstacles. Emerging FCC spectrum regulations may favor licensing such spectrum to smaller companies providing services in these areas.

BEAR AWARENESS: Josh Jiron, District Wildlife Manager for Leadville (Joshua.jiron@state.co.us and cell phone 719 539 8415) spoke about bear activity in and around Twin Lakes. There are only black bears in Colorado; they come in a variety of colors from cinnamon with blonde highlights to dark brown/black. They are tagged only when they become a nuisance (broken into property or become aggressive to humans), one tag in each ear and a gum line tattoo; should the bear be found to be a nuisance again, it will be trapped and euthanized. Ninety percent of what they consume is vegetation and 10% is scavenged or meat; they do not truly hibernate in the winter just sleep a lot; typically are not down in populated areas this early as they need to flush out their winter intestinal plug by eating grasses. Prior to winter, they will consume 20,000 calories a day which is one large bag of dog food. Josh is currently just hazing the bears with BB's (not pellets that are lead), rubber bullets and bean bags. Recommendations to deter bears (in addition to taking all feeders in at night and getting bear proof garbage cans/taking garbage in) are: spraying an ammonia solution, pepper barrels/ bear spray (capsaicin pepper) or an "unwelcome mat" made out of ½ inch plywood with nails sticking up out of it to keep them off of decks (beware of making yourself or others unwelcome). Please visit this web link for more information and details: <http://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/LivingwithWildlifeBears1.aspx>.

BIKE-N-BUILD: please help us support this traveling group of young people repairing properties across the US, similar to Habitat for Humanity. **JULY 13, Monday**, we could use 12 more showers and more salads. Pick up campers at 5:00 at White Star for showers; we will feed them outside of the Schoolhouse, please have food dropped off before 6:15 PM. Current volunteers for showers: Marji and Doug; Kelly and Robert; Deb and Dennis; John and Suzie; Anita; Connie and Tom and Cornelia; salads: Lisa Marie, John and Connie, John and Susie; garlic bread: Deb and Joanne. Anita and Kelly will prepare the pasta. Please contact Kelly at 303 868 5508 if you can help with showers or salad.

No 4th of July picnic on the 4th. We may plan one for August.

Independence Pass Foundation. We are exploring partnership opportunities with the Independence Pass Foundation a well established 501(c)(3) with over \$20,000/year in donations. They are interested in monitoring the Eureka Saturday Night project. They will be having lunch at the Twin Lakes Inn on 7/16 at 1:00 to discuss combined efforts on projects, trails, etc. It was suggested that we look into getting a membership in their Foundation on behalf of FOTL.

Substitute Volunteers for Red Rooster. Joan needs back up volunteers for the Red Rooster Visitor's Center. Please contact her if you can back up a day a week or take on an assignment once a month or every other week.

Clarion. History Colorado reimbursed us for our last payment to Avenue L for the Historic Assessment. We need focus from the Forest Service to determine projects and activities to preserve the Clarion and historic park.

Schoolhouse Project. KW Construction has started replacing some of the siding. The interior has been painted and the new hardwood floors will be installed on Monday, June 29th, starting at 9:00. Volunteers are welcome!

Use of the Schoolhouse. Our present focus is on the rehabilitation of the building. After that, we will look at developing a use policy, but presently, we are only using it for FOTL related activities or Lake County government/emergency services activities. We are not saying "not ever," just "not now" and need to develop a fair policy that is vetted and approved by membership.

National Historical Registry Update. Kurt Schweigert, a historian, is volunteering his services to update our 1974 Master Registration. The current registration/documentation does not meet current standards. He will look at the boundaries of what is significant or contributing to the historic district on both sides of highway 82. He will be recording every property, including what you might think is not historical. It will take him several days to do the field work. He will make sure that the revised draft is reviewed by FOTL first. In response to key question: if 66% of the addresses agree that the property in a district be included, it will be included. A National Registry determination does not impact an owner's property rights; its purpose is to promote historic preservation, it does not demand it. The Forest Service wants the determination so that it can determine how/what to preserve.

Leadville BBQ and Beer festival is happening Saturday June 27th (the first day was the 26th).

NEXT MEETING IS SATURDAY THE 25TH OF JULY AT 9:30 AM IN THE SCHOOL HOUSE.