

Newsletter no 12
August 10, 2009

Rocky Ridge Owners:

1. **Annual meeting and picnic Reminder:** The annual Owners' meeting is on Saturday, [September 5](#) at the clubhouse at 11 am to be followed by the annual Owners picnic. Guests are welcome, but please let us know how many you will be bringing.

2. **RRPOA Ballots due by end of August**—If you are mailing in your ballot, please do so no later than August 31, 2009. You can also simply bring it to the Annual meeting on Saturday, September 5. Either way, please make sure to sign the outer envelope in the upper left hand corner to validate it.

3. **Landscaping-** Yates and his crew [have](#) re-planted the area next to the main road just before you descend into the hairpin turn to go downhill. This is part of our plan to better manage our water consumption.

4. **Bears**—There has been an increased number of bears breaking into homes and garbage cans around the lake this season. Despite our best efforts to chain the dumpsters, we had 2 units broken into the same night from the same bear several weeks ago. Other than the doorframes, there was no major property damage to the units. One of the units was occupied at the time, but the bear was scared away by the occupant's shouts. The sheriff was called and scared the bear from the second unit with a warning shot. We believe the same bear also broke into an occupied unit at Star Harbor the same week (this is the association on the lake front just below us).

There have been no bear incidents at Rocky Ridge or Star Harbor since then. It could be the sheriff's warning shot scared him, or more people around may make Rocky Ridge less desirable to a bear seeking food, but there is no way to know.

We reported the break-ins to Fish and Game, but there is little they can do other than set a trap or issue a Depredation Order permitting the bear to be destroyed, which Fish and Game has typically been reluctant to issue.

We recognize that these bear incidents are a serious concern to our Owners. Unfortunately there is not much more we as a Board can do to prevent the bear incidents other than to assure the dumpsters are locked.

Actions you can take,

- Make sure you never leave any food in open containers on the patio or inside the unit.

- Carry out your garbage every night and chain the dumpsters.

- Buy an air horn at a marine supply store just in case a bear enters while unit is occupied
- Swigards Hardware carries a bear sentinel device for about \$120 that is essentially a motion detector that sets off the sounds of a barking dog (some think the bears quickly realize it is not a real dog)
- Leave a pan of Pine Sol on the porch (some think this will not fool a bear)
- If your unit will be unoccupied for a while, remove all food: cans, bottles, cereal boxes, etc., and empty the refrigerator. At the very least, move all cans, cereal boxes and other food dried food from the cabinets to the refrigerator.
- If your unit will be unoccupied for a while, ask Yates what else he can do.

Let us remember given all the times that bears [have broken](#) into people's homes, garbage cans, etc. around Lake Tahoe over the years, that bears have very rarely, if ever, [threatened](#) people. Still we all need to exercise reasonable caution and be ever vigilant.

Regards

Rocky Ridge Board of Directors