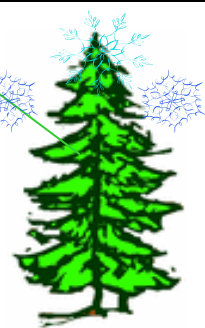




Smoke Signals



Arrowhead Improvements Association
Website www.arrowhead1.org

February 2009

PRESIDENT'S LETTER Paul McDermott

It has been a busy winter for your Board of Directors, and, as we begin a new year, it seems the challenges keep popping up.

Our first challenge arrived in mid December, when our old faithful, 25 year old grader broke down while plowing snow. Fortunately, Will Hobson, our heavy equipment operator, has been able to maintain the parking lot and the Alpine Road using the plow which we purchased for the front end loader last spring. The grader was hauled to the dealer in Grand Junction, where it was discovered that some of the needed parts are no longer available from the manufacturer. A few of the parts were located in the used parts market, but others will have to be custom manufactured. The bottom line was that it is probably going to cost more to repair the old grader than it is worth. The dealer has a seven year old, off lease grader which appears to meet our needs, and was delivered to Arrowhead for trial in late January. All reports are favorable, so the board will enter into a four year lease for this newer machine.

The weather over the Christmas holidays added additional problems when snow and blizzard conditions on the Alpine made plowing the road too dangerous, and the plow was called in until weather conditions improved. While the road was still open, travel was hazardous. Fortunately the weather improved, the road was plowed, and there were no major incidents.

In other news, Carla Vavrik has agreed to chair the Long Range Planning Committee. The committee members have been very busy this winter looking at the needs of Arrowhead for the next five to ten years, and what we need to do now to meet those expectations. The committee is going to be sending out a survey questionnaire to all property owners. There are several areas of concern which the committee has identified, and property owners are asked to rank those areas in order of importance. The committee has also included some estimated costs. It is very important that property owners promptly complete and return the questionnaires. Only then will the committee be able to develop recommendations for the future of Arrowhead.

Finally, congratulations to the Arrowhead Snowmobile Club for successfully grooming the trail over the Alpine Plateau and opening up some great snowmobiling this year. Their efforts have resulted in some of the best access to the plateau in several years, and the number of riders on the mountain is an indication of how much that is appreciated. There have been concerns expressed by some of our neighbors about snowmobilers riding on private property without permission. Arrowhead members can help promote our good neighbor philosophy by reminding our guests that the land on both sides of the Alpine Road, from the cattle guard above Arrowhead to the cattle guard at Pipe Springs, is private property, and even though some of it is not fenced, we need to stay on the groomed trail through that area. There is plenty of public land above which is available for riding.

Have a fun, safe winter, whether you are basking in sunny Hawaii, mashing snowflakes on the Alpine Plateau, or anywhere in between.

Fire Department News

Fire Chief's Letter Kevin Stilley

We are at the peak of the winter season here at Arrowhead and this is a good time to provide a few reminders for our residents and their guests.

To begin, I'd like to say if you get your snowmobile stuck don't be embarrassed to ask someone to help you. We all get stuck from time to time and we all help each other out. It might save you back problems as well as a potential heart attack. Besides, it's a good way to get to know your neighbors.

Secondly, if you are using a wood burning stove and you are burning fir, please remember to burn the fire hot. A slow burning, small fire could cause your chimney to back-up, starting a chimney fire. Do not throw smoldering ash and logs in the trash.

On Tuesday January 27, we held our Annual Snowshoe Golf Tournament. We always have a good time hitting the waffle ball with our golf clubs and eating some chili afterwards. The 1st place winners are Bill Boulter and Diane Benson. Second place winners tied Brent Mims and Lindy Lindner and Jim Darnell and Sally Burrichter. There were approximately 30 people participating for the 12th annual tournament. Thanks go out to Jim and Barb Darnell, Don Koeltzow, Clyde Vavrik, and Joanie Aufderheide for helping out. Oh, and the chili was great ladies!

March 7 the fire department will have their winter firehouse games with a chili cook-off to follow. We welcome everyone to join us cheering on the firefighters and having some great chili to warm ourselves. Enjoy the rest of your winter!

left to right-

1st photo: Joanie Aufderheide, Clyde Vavrik, Don Koeltzow, Sally Burrichter, Martha Cook.

2nd photo: Bill Boulter, J.R. Ellis, Peggy Beach, Diane Benson, Allison Mims, Linda Bumgarner.

3rd photo: Ned Lillich, Brent Mims, Lindy Lindner, Gayle Huddleston, Reine Masanetz, Barb Darnell.

4th photo left to right: Jim Darnell, Joyce Boulter, MaLynn Dale.



Board Reports

Heavy Equipment, Roads Maintenance and Infrastructure Report

Ralph Ambruster and Don Koeltzow

das Straße Grader



Oscar Ratliff, Gary Kelley and Will Hobson standing by the new Arrowhead Grader.

It has been a busy month on the mountain for all of the folks working and volunteering in the Heavy Equipment, Roads Maintenance and Infrastructure arena.

We have acquired a pre-owned grader to replace our old grader that finally gave up the ghost in December. It is a 2002 model and 18 years newer than our old grader. The unit is more powerful and has some warranty left on it. The grader has won kudos from all that have driven it. With our blade and new grader we are ready for nature's most challenging events. A lot of folks put time and effort into this acquisition but I want to especially thank, Paul McDermott, Randy Touslee, Will Hobson, Tim Caton and Oscar Ratliff for making it all possible. Due to the expenses associated with the new grader we are going to be tightening our belts where we can this year. We will probably be buying less gravel in 2009. This will delay full implementation of Phase I of the road improvements program this year.

On another note, our new board member Don Koeltzow, has agreed to co-manage the Heavy Equipment, Roads Maintenance and Infrastructure Team. Thank you, Don! It is my and the boards intent to transition me out of this position and for Don to take it over next year. As many of you are aware, Shirley and I are in AZ for the balance of the winter. Don will be looking after your road interests during my absence. Don can be reached at 862-8243 or dkandkk@fone.net

Thanks again to Ron Benson for putting together a great team to keep the trails groomed this year. And a special thanks to Will who has done a yeoman's job of keeping the roads clear this year with only half of his equipment. In closing, please help keep the new bathroom at the parking lot clean. Enjoy the winter!

Board Reports



The 2009 Arrowhead Improvements Association Board officers are: Paul McDermott President, Kathy Leary, Vice President, Randy Touslee, Treasurer and Don Koeltzow Secretary.

A big thanks goes out to Kathy Leary as 2008 President.

Design Review Joyce Boulter

Welcome to 2009 from design review. The design review committee members are: Joyce Boulter, Manager, Joanie Aufderheide, Assistant Manager, Shirley Ambruster, Don Bumgarner, Linda Dysart, Star Misner and Lassie Summers.

Security Reinie Masanetz

The vehicle sticker implementation program is progressing well. We are trying to make this program as convenient as possible. To obtain a registration form go to www.arrowhead1.org and click on Security to download the registration form. You can also call Security at 970-862-8262 or the Security Manager at 970-862-8362 and we will mail you the vehicle registration form.

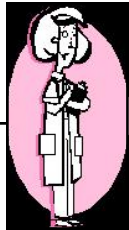
The security team is working very hard to meet your needs. We appreciate your patience during the response time. We have only one security officer on duty to patrol trails and the parking lot and break in driveways, covering over 45 miles a day.

We welcome Paul Forbes to our security team. Paul will be filling the role of reserve security officer. He is presently completing his field training and once this is accomplished, his job will be to back up the security officer on duty as needed.

- Our security officers are asking all off mountain residents to contact them at least 24 hours before their arrival date in order to make sure the requested drive way is broken in.
- Also we ask your help in protecting the trail markers. Several have been broken on purpose and they are expensive to replace, costing the Association a lot of money.

It is unfortunate to report this, but there have been several gasoline thefts from snowmobiles parked in the parking lot. We are asking for the Arrowhead community's HELP to be more alert and aware of your surroundings. Note the level of gas in your vehicle (Car or snowmobiles). Please report any thefts or suspicious activity immediately to Security.





Community News

Health on the Mountain

Joyce Boulter

Most of us have a few days where we experience the winter blahs and cabin fever, especially in April, when we are waiting for the snow to melt. These symptoms are usually short lived and disappear as soon as we have a few sunny days.

Seasonal affective disorder is a depression that occurs mainly in the winter, but may also occur in the summer. It usually occurs after the age of 20, is more common for older people and more often in northern regions. The symptoms include:

- An increase in appetite, usually for sweet or starchy foods
- Weight gain
- Drop in energy level
- Fatigue
- Oversleeping and irritability
- Difficulty in concentration
- Avoidance of social situations and sensitivity to social rejection

Winter depression is caused, as you would think, by the body's reaction to the lack of or shorter duration of sunlight. One of the most common treatments is to increase light exposure. I thought that full spectrum lights, which mimic sunlight, were the best source of light, but the articles I read just stressed light. It is best to get about 30 minutes of extra light in the mornings, but not the light from a tanning bed, as that contains harmful ultraviolet rays.

SAD is a serious depressive disorder that requires treatment by a physician. For a diagnosis of SAD, the symptoms need to occur two winter seasons in a row followed by non-depressive seasons. Summer seasonal disorder is the opposite. It has decreased appetite and weight loss with a high energy level.

Most of us on the mountain are not in jeopardy for SAD, as we have lots of sun and many beautiful days. Most residents don't have drapes or curtains because we want the sun to warm our houses. Just remember that it is important to use sunscreen during the winter as well as the summer, to protect your skin from the harmful ultraviolet rays. Exposure to the sun in the early morning or late afternoon is generally safe. About 30 minutes a day is sufficient to keep SAD away.

Snow Report

J. R. Ellis has been keeping track of Arrowhead's snow fall for many years. As of February 2, 2009 we have had 161". Last year at this time we had 194". Some of the heaviest snowfall was on December 8th, 16", December 16th, 15" and January 27th, 7". This season's low temperature was on December 15th at 6 below zero.



Community News

Arrowhead Winter Grooming Ron Benson

In years past, grooming was done by a few people (I was one) who had an interest in driving cool heavy equipment. Grooming the filing roads was challenging, exciting at times, and boring too. As the number of winter and weekend residents grew, grooming became a necessity rather than an oddity. For this reason and a few more, grooming is now an AIA committee with a really good tracked vehicle, scheduled drivers, and a plan. Let me tell you how this plan works.

First and foremost, I'd like to explain that grooming is a process to 1) maintain the roads so as to allow winter travel, 2) address certain recurring problems such as drifting snow and moguls on well traveled roads, and 3) groom a cross country track behind the Inn. Without groomed roads, snowmobiling on heavily traveled filing roads like Lake, Hazel Lake, Crest, and parts of Spruce Rd would be a very painful experience. Fire Department sleds and our tracked pumper would be inhibited from responding quickly to emergencies. Roads in open areas would be covered in blowing snow in just a few hours rendering them impassable to any traffic. With this in mind, our committee comprised of myself, Jim Gelsomini, Eric Johnson, John Cook and Will Hobson are working to diminish these problems and make winter roads easy to travel.



Security will assist us by reporting problems to us as they are riding each road daily. Groomer drivers will also make regular reconnaissance runs on snowmobile to monitor road conditions. In conditions such as we experienced during the holidays of constant snow, poor visibility, and drifting snow, Security is the first line of defense. If you are coming to Arrowhead in bad weather and suspect you cannot reach your home, call Security (862-8262 or 209-6335) to check on your road situation. In most cases, they can break a trail on your road to get you into your house. **It is not advisable to walk to your house in blizzard conditions, particularly at night.** Wait to return to Arrowhead, or stop at a neighbor's house. As soon as weather permits, grooming will be done to return the roads to safer conditions.

The cross country track behind the Inn will be groomed as necessary. Please observe the signs and do not snowmobile on the track as the snowmobile cleats damage the track. On the filing roads, please drive with care and limit your speeds. If you want to play, head up the Alpine Rd. a few miles and there are thousands of acres of BLM land to ride on.





How does grooming benefit summer residents? Groomed roads allow weekend trips to Arrowhead to enjoy winter sports and your property investment. Your property value is higher since winter travel is now a more easily managed experience. The Alpine Rd. and parking lot are plowed so why not come up and enjoy the winter as much as the summer? Just be sure your vehicle has 4WD in case of unexpected snow.

We are also tracking expenses to determine the cost of groomed roads and how we can reduce costs in the future. Most of the grooming will be done at night to avoid traffic and allow the roads to harden and resist snowmobile tracks. Please be careful when passing the groomer to avoid accidents. If you have suggestions for us, don't hesitate to contact me at drbenson@fone.net

Community News


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Arrowhead Improvements Association

Photo: Robb Pennie

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The Sun's Out at Arrowhead!



The hard-working Arrowhead groomers.

What's New

2/2--The January Board Meeting Minutes (draft) is posted and the new AIA Message Board is live!

1/27--The AIA 2009 Budget is posted.

1/25--The latest Mountain Living Update is posted. Meet Don Koeltzow and check out the latest Arrowhead Fire Department, Fire District Info, and Arrowhead Fire Dept. Merchandise as well!

1/16--The 2009 AIA Board meeting dates are posted.

1/14--2009 Dates for the Arrowhead Fire District Board Meetings and Design Review Meetings are posted.

1/13--Snowmobile Club info has been updated; another link to the Smoke Signals has been added on the left-side menu and check out the groovy new Arrowhead Calendar!

AIA Message Board!

The Arrowhead Improvement Association Board of Directors has set up a message board for Arrowhead residents to exchange information and offer your input/feedback on . . .

Click here for more about the new AIA Message Board.

Updated Arrowhead Fire Dept. Info & Overview

For new Fire Dept Information, click **here**.

Get Your Vehicles' New AIA Registration Now!

For details, **please click here**.

Mountain Living Updates & Photos

January 23th	December 16th
January 5th	November 13th

Mountain Living Archive

The latest Smoke Signals

If you have interesting information or pictures for the web site, contact Cheri Ratliff.

Some of the links on this site open Adobe pdf documents of varying size (Smoke Signals tend to be large) for easier viewing and printing. These pdf documents can be opened with Adobe Acrobat 5.0 or later. Acrobat Reader is available for free and must be installed on your computer to read the above file(s). Due to the large size of some of these documents, downloading the files on a dial-up connection may take several minutes.



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Arrowhead Improvements Association
Office Manager--Dave Tobler

P.O. Box 89 101 N. Uncompaghe, STE 4 Montrose CO 81402 : : office - (970) 240-9599 fax - (970) 240-9699

The Arrowhead Website www.arrowhead1.org

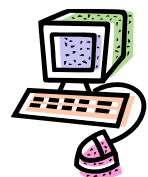
If you haven't stopped by our web site lately, you are in for a surprise! We have been busy adding new features and updating information. The people to be acknowledged for this effort includes Gary Keiser, Lindy Lindner, Robb Penny, Dave Tobler and me.

For those of you not familiar with the website, you will find information just a "mouse click" away! We are recording the hits/ visitors on our site and they now number 45,482. New features include an interactive calendar, a second photo/story line on the home page and updated photos on committee and club links. The size of the Smoke Signals in the archives has been reduced to make downloading faster. The A.I.A. board minutes will be added to the site as first a "Draft" and then posted as "Approved" when received resulting in a much faster posting time. The Mountain Living Updates, with photos, are usually posted twice a month. This brings property owners in contact with our community while they are away.

The AIA board sees the website as an important means of communication for our community. That being the case, board member, Rich Ostrom, suggested we have a Message Board on the site. It is now up and running. People can use this to make comments, ask questions and keep in contact with Arrowhead happenings. Just click on the Message Board logo on the upper left side of the page and it will link you to the site. You will need to use your name and a password. Others visiting our site will be able to view your comments as well.

Sometime in February watch for our NEW "seasonal flash movement photos".

Robb and I hope you enjoy these changes. If you need help navigating the site please contact me at: cheriratliff@fone.net



Community News

The Arrowhead Snowmobile Club finally received more poles to continue marking the Alpine Plateau Trail. January 29th, Star Misner, Eric Johnson and Mary Cokes spent the day putting the poles along the trail. Most of the poles were placed along the six miles of trail from Soldier Summit to Big Blue Campground since that area had not been marked this year. Approximately 300 poles have been placed along the Alpine this year. Your Arrowhead Snowmobile Club members are working hard!



Photo taken by Mary Cokes



Fun in the Snow. Bill Boulter, Diane Benson and Gayle Huddleston playing golf. *Photos taken by Cheri Ratliff*



Joanie explaining the rules of Snow Golf with Don, Allison, Martha and Clyde looking on.

The Arrowhead Snowmobile Club had its second group ride January 24th. Everyone met in the winter parking lot, divided into groups and then rode up to Willow Park for a bonfire, food and fun. The day began quite warm but with snow showers. By early afternoon the sun came out and the sky turned blue. Snowmobilers had fun riding in the big meadow. The next up-country ride will be February 21st. LETS RIDE!



Mary Cokes, Jessie Kelley and Jan Stryker in photo.



Community News

Recently Doug Cockes returned from Iraq. His wife Mary has shared the following information and photos for the Smoke Signals.

He left Oct. 22nd for training and then deployed Nov. 5th for Speicher Base. This was his third 90 day tour.

This tour he had, and I quote, "an unbelievable opportunity to "go out under the wire" on two different occasions on his days off from flying. This meant Doug leaving the military base in a ground convoy. One trip was a night mission and the other a day mission.

He said our military are the "best of the best", very professional, and are working well with the Iraqi people in the small towns around Tikrit.

Doug finally has been able to really put a face on the people involved in this war. He said we are appreciated and needed by the people.

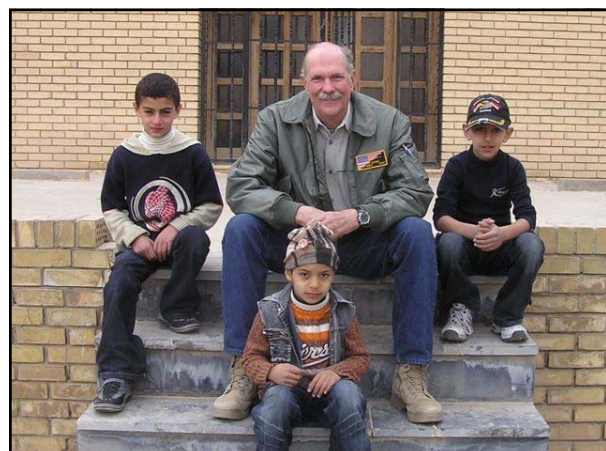
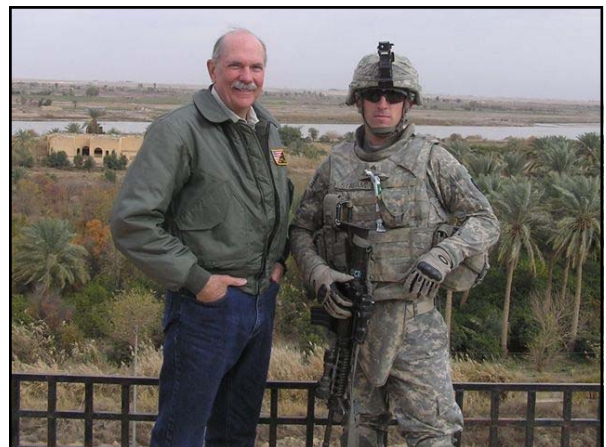
The bombs on the nose of Doug's company's C-12 aircraft represent a confirmed IED (Improvised Explosive Device) find. There have been about 140 IED finds by this C-12 to date.

1-1-09, when Doug went "out under the wire" for a second time, it was to meet a group of Sheiks at the home of a Sheik. Doug said it was a fascinating experience. The military had an Iraqi interpreter with them and the meeting was to help facilitate taking care of the needs of the small towns and the people.

The photo of Doug and the soldier was taken with the Tigris River about 70 feet behind them.

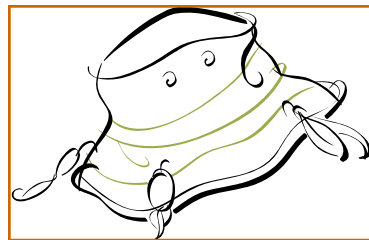
Doug loved the children. He said they obviously loved the soldiers he was with. They were afraid of Doug at first because he was not in full uniform even though he had on his flight jacket.

Welcome home Doug Cockes



Squirrel Tales

Jim Squirrel, who developed Arrowhead on his family ranch some 30+ years ago, gave a talk on his family history at a community dinner in the fall of 2006. Ofeliz Vandenbosch was kind enough to transcribe it so that we have it for posterity. Here is an excerpt from that talk.



FISHING...



I couldn't talk to you without talking a little bit about the fishing. My Granddad was a wonderful fisherman. He retired at 40 and died at 83 and fished that difference. At least three days a week, he fished the Gunnison River. The Gunnison River was a special river. The river had big clear holes and big riffles and big fish. If you weren't a fisherman, you hated the Gunnison River, but if you knew how to fish, you loved it. We'd go down and fish the Canyon. I'm talking about the Canyon between the Cimarron River and Sapinero. We'd fish that piece of river. Of course, now, that's where Morrow Point Reservoir is. That was an open river. There was no road in there, just a railroad going through there. Granddad and I knew the conductor on the train. So, we'd go down to Cimarron, and we'd get on the train. We'd ride up to wherever we wanted to be, about halfway in the canyon, and he'd drop us off. We'd fish all day. Coming back, the conductor would stop his train and let us back on. We rode in a little caboose. I didn't think of it at the time as a little caboose, but about five years ago we went to the train exhibit in Golden. Lo and behold – there's my little caboose and it's the tiniest caboose you've ever seen.

Fishing the Gunnison River made for lots of special times. One of the special times was about the 20th of June. That's when the Willow Flies hatched – Willow Flies are a type of Stone Fly. Under the water, for three years, these hellgrammites grow. They look like centipedes. They get under the rocks, and they are very good bait. We would roll those rocks over and catch the hellgrammites for bait. During this very special time, the hellgrammites hatched out. After they hatch, they'd come to the surface (those rascals are about an inch and a half long), with a tender body but a long wing. They get up and fly up the river and then they lay their eggs. After their eggs are laid, they tumble back in the river and they wash under the rocks. The whole river is just teeming with trout feeding on those Willow Flies. The fishermen throughout the river would cast and float their Willow Fly line down the river catching huge trout. But every so often, a Willow Fly would land on the fishermen. What they would do is just reach down there and stick it in their jaw! Pretty soon they'd get another one and slip it in the other side of their jaw. That way they didn't have to wade back to shore to get a Willow Fly. Honest truth!

During the Willow Fly season, Granddad and I were down in Sapinero and we'd finished fishing at every riffle down there. He says to me, "You know, in all the years I've fished this river, you'd think I'd get a big fish." Now, he had gotten lots of four and five pound fish, but he's talking about a big fish. He walks up on the bank, hooks on a Willow Fly and the very next cast, he hooks a big fish! He fights that rascal for about a half hour and finally he lands him and it's a 9+ German Brown. So, he finally got his big fish!



Squirrel Tales continued

HUNTING...

When we first started hunting up here years ago, there wasn't a single elk in this country. The elk are a new thing. Probably in the 40's is when the elk started coming in. I can remember, riding as a boy when we'd see an elk. Wow! Everybody would ride over to see the elk. Then one year we had about six elk on the ranch. We'd see them off and on as we were riding out with the cattle. As the years went by, it got to be 12 and 24 and 48 and we lost track. So, we didn't hunt elk in the early days.



There were some deer and there were some bear. Not a lot of bear because bears were predators, and they ate sheep, so we'd kill those rascals. We did start hunting the elk, and Granddad had a group of cronies who started hunting elk. (My Granddad was getting to be a pretty old man.) All of them used small guns, 32 Specials and 30- 30's, because they were used to hunting deer. Well that didn't work. They were shooting elk, but they weren't killing them. I spent, I don't know how many hundreds of hours, tracking wounded elk. I got to the point where I really hated the small caliber guns. Remember that when I was growing up, I was carrying a gun all the time, and I was shooting about 1,000 rounds a week from the time I was 12 until I was about 18 years old. I got pretty good with a gun.



When Granddad had his cronies hunting up there, we had a fella named "Pete the Cook" with us. There was one morning when I was getting ready to go out hunting, and we had an older man and he'd brought a new gun that had a scope on it. That was the first scope that any of us had ever seen. So he says, "Jim, why don't you use my gun with a scope?" So, we started hunting.

Remember that in the fall there's certain types of days when there is a low overcast and you've got that ground fog that's kind of swirling around. I was hunting down this ridge, and I looked up and I can see a bull elk. He's getting up out of his bed, and I could see his horns. I pulled up – getting ready to shoot – I wouldn't have missed. Getting ready to shoot I looked through that scope sight – and it was Pete the Cook! He had squatted in some logs. He was wearing a brown leather jacket, and he had his rifle slung up over his shoulder with a barrel that looked like horns. So if I had carried my regular gun that day, Pete the cook wouldn't have been with us much longer!





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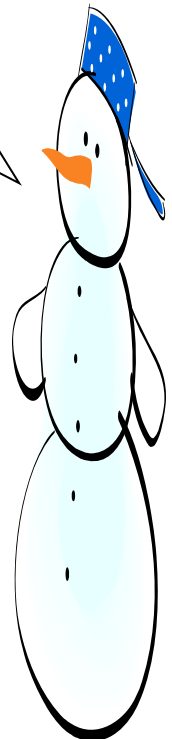
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"What, haven't
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Homeowner Tip of the Month From Arrowhead Ranch Real Estate **How to Prepare Your Home for Sale**

Whether your home is currently for sale, you'll be selling in the near future, or you just want to be prepared when the time comes to sell, we want to help. Here are some tips that will make your home marketable and irresistible to buyers.

De-Clutter - People collect an amazing quantity of junk! Consider this: if you haven't used it in over a year, you probably don't need it. If you don't need it, donate it or throw it away.

Make Minor Repairs—In a home, very few things are maintenance free. Do those minor repairs before they become major problems. Taking the time to perform seasonal maintenance can pay off in peace of mind and resale value.

Scrutinize— Look at your home as a buyer.
Go outside and open the front door. Stand there. Do you want to go inside. Does the house welcome you? Linger in the doorway of every single room and imagine how your house will look to a buyer.

Check Curb Appeal - Remember, people see the outside of your home before they see the inside. If the home's exterior makes a bad impression on potential buyers, they will carry that negativity inside the house with them.

These few tips will help justify the asking price. Especially in a market that leans toward the buyer, you need everything in your favor to justify the asking price.



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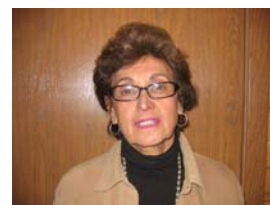
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jbsimms@aol.com

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Arrowhead Area Historical Note:

In 1913 Gunnison County authorized the construction of a half way house at the point where the Alpine Plateau Road joined Highway 50. Glenn Berry, a long time resident of the area, described the location as “just a mile west of S of a B hill that separated the men from the boys when freight outfits dropped off the top of Blue Mesa down to the Little Blue. The house was intended to be the residence for the road overseer. Over the years it became a haven for many travelers in distress, and at least two babies were born there. Several local residents tell of recovering at the halfway house after winter storm rescues. A 1916 report by the overseer’s wife recounted that “eight cars had passed the halfway house that day (a regular traffic jam). Summer traffic now will come close to a vehicle a minute, daytime.”

When the State assumed maintenance of Highway 50, the halfway house continued to be the headquarters. In the early 1970’s maintenance operations were moved out of the canyon eastward to land donated by lumberman John Burkey, who had a ranch nearby. The halfway house then fell into disrepair and it was razed a few years later. Ask an old timer about that house, and you will hear fabulous tales!

This excerpt was taken from “Arrowhead in Gunnison Country” the story of a Mountain Development by John U. Tomlinson.

From: Arrowhead Improvements Association, Inc.
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