

Hello from the Society

My name is Mark McKenney, and I live on Anarchist Mountain.

This spring a group of interested folks started talking about setting up some form of group to have a place to talk about what this community thinks are important issues. Some of you may have been at a public meeting in July of this summer, where I introduced the idea of creating a community society. That idea was well received so that is what has now

happened. As of September 26, 2007 the Province has created the Anarchist Mountain Community Society, as an incorporated not-for-profit entity under the BC Society Act.

It is in the interests of residents and landowners on Anarchist Mountain to preserve its natural flora and fauna, and to protect the area's exceptional biodiversity. But more than just being interested in the conservation aspect of the area, there are benefits in creating a forum for community discussion and for common visioning for everyone interested in this community.

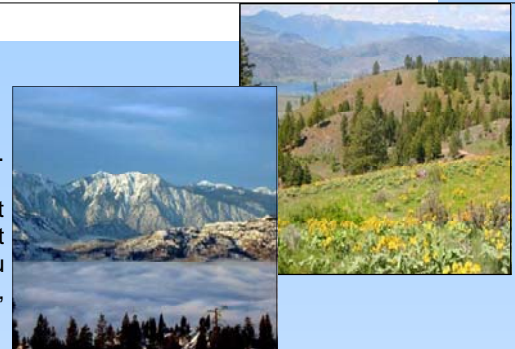
Anarchist Mountain is undergoing change. With change may come a sense of uncertainty for some residents and land holders. This climate of change offered an opportunity to create a community organization for those interested in expressing their views, and a place for discussing emerging issues or to suggest ideas that can be of common benefit to everyone in the area. This community group could become a catalyst to preserve and enhance the lifestyles and living experience for those with an interest in the Anarchist Mountain area.

The Directors have held their first meeting to discuss what the next steps might be. On the next page you'll find a summary of who the founding directors are, but this may change once the Society membership decides who they choose to nominate in the future. The objectives of the Society are very broad at this time - which was done on purpose. The Society will be open to everyone with an interest in Anarchist Mountain. The Society can monitor, examine and comment upon community issues, including conservation issues. We also see that the Society needs to decide on what geographical boundaries we are talking about. The Society will act as an advisory body to monitor, comment upon and recommend short and long term goals for the overall future of the community. We will let the member's opinions be known to local government, the Province and to local businesses operating or working in our community. This is not intended to be a political organization, but it can have a voice as a group of concerned citizens.

We need to hear from you, and your family.

Attached to this newsletter is a questionnaire, that we would like you consider and return to us. If the Anarchist Mountain Community Society is to be successful we need to know what you want it to do, and what your thoughts are about issues that matter to you. This is meant to be the member's Society, representing the views of the community. We hope we hear from you on your thoughts.

Mark McKenney, President, AMCS
Nov. 2007 mckenney@xplornet.com or 495-4519



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Some Very Early Thoughts

To give you some sense of a few ideas that have been posed—here are a few thoughts. This Society could be involved in some way in preserving sensitive environmental plants, animals and lands in the area. This might start with acquiring funding to do a biological inventory of the area, done by professional resources so that future programs could also find funding sources to make things happen.

The AMCS might examine ways of promoting and furthering energy conservation programs, or determine some meaningful ways of reducing green house gas emissions from our community. The Society might work with energy companies, climate change groups or trade associations to demonstrate state-of-the-art energy technologies such as geothermal heating / cooling, small power generation solutions like micro-wind generators or solar panel technology. Anarchist Mountain could become an energy role model in Canada.

The Society may find it important to work with interested landowners in a “conservancy” role, to administer or enhance conservation efforts on sensitive lands. This is done a lot in BC, and there is no reason it can’t be done right here by this community with the right motives and support from the members. This could, for instance, involve helping landowners understand and improve safe noxious weed controls or acceptable insect pest control programs for pesky critters, on Anarchist Mountain.

The Society could form the basis for enhanced community fundraising, in support of existing organizations like the Anarchist Mountain Fire Department for example. Other worthwhile charitable causes may also form part of the Society’s mandate if Members wanted that to happen (i.e. Ducks Unlimited, Scouts, Guides etc).

The Society might work with Mountain landowners to create more nature trails, interpretive education materials, or winter recreation themes (like cross country skiing). Trails might be mapped for Members use and trails connected to make the outdoor experiences even better. These are just early ideas not plans - we want to get you thinking. Please give us your feedback.

Founding Directors of the Society

Under the British Columbia Society Act, in order to create a not-for-profit society an applicant has to have 6 founding Directors that are willing to put their names forward to get the society going. Back in August 2007 the folks listed below agreed to let their names stand as the founding directors in order to make application with the Province to incorporate the Anarchist Mountain Community Society. In the future Directors will be elected after nominations from the members of the Society.

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DIRECTORS OF THE ANARCHIST MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY SOCIETY



BONNIE DOUGLAS

Bonnie was born and raised in Osoyoos, her great-grandparents coming in 1934. She is an Educational Assistant at Osoyoos Secondary School. Throughout the years Bonnie has always made a contribution to her community and at present she is a member of the Electoral Area 'A' Advisory Planning Commission, a Director of the Osoyoos Rural Rate Payers Association and now a Director of the Anarchist Mountain Community Society. Bonnie likes nothing better than hiking on Anarchist, curling and reading.



ART HARFMAN

Art’s family roots on the mountain go back to 1916. The family ranch as operated by Art and his father date back to 1928 and originally started as a mixed farming operation, however, through Art’s introduction to 4H at the age of 9, the ranch became famous for its pure-bred Hereford cattle. Art has lived on the ranch all his life except for a brief period attending Olds College in Alberta to complete a Diploma in Agriculture. Few people know the Anarchist community better than Art. His insights will be highly valued as a Director.



JOHN NETT

In addition to being the Operations Manager for Regal Ridge, John is also qualified as a heavy equipment mechanic and machine operator. John already contributes to the Anarchist Mountain community by being a volunteer fire fighter with the Anarchist Mountain Fire Department. He is well travelled throughout the world, an avid sportsman and has lived at Arosa Ranch for the last six years.



JOE CARDOSO

Living in the area since 1973 Joe is a former RDOS Rural Director, Osoyoos and Area Economic Development Officer and Kettle Valley Steam Railway Executive Director. He has participated in a number of volunteer projects including the Osoyoos Desert Centre. He currently holds the position of Director of Community Relations with Regal Ridge.



MARK MCKENNEY

With 35 years working in environmental science in the private sector and for government in technical and legal areas, Mark is eminently qualified to sit as a founding director of the AMCS. He has led investigations which resulted in companies being required to conduct environmental clean-up projects. Mark also led the team of legal professionals in defending the Town of Walkerton, Ont. against lawsuits resulting from contaminated drinking water. He and Patricia, also an experienced environmental professional, have made their home at Regal Ridge since 2007. Currently they guide manufacturing companies in recycling and environmentally responsible packaging.



RON PALMER

Since 1976 Ron has been involved in the financial services industry working for over twenty years with major Canadian chartered banks. In 1998 Ron established Taylor Capital Inc., specializing in residential, commercial and industrial development financing with a particular focus on the needs of clients in British Columbia. For the last three years Ron and wife Helen have owned property at Regal Ridge. Ron looks forward to helping to build the Anarchist Mountain community through his involvement as a Director.