

Banner Mountain News

Spring 2013



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Member – Open Position*

2013 Events

- Apr 12 Board meeting
- Apr 20 Scotch Broom Day
- Jun 1 Annual Spring meeting
- Sep 6 Board meeting
- Nov 23 – Dec 21 Board election

A NEW YEAR WITH A NEW APPROACH AND NEW BOARD MEMBERS

New Website. This year promises to be a good year for the BMHA. The webpage has been redesigned. Newsletter items and other topics of interest will be expanded and updated on the webpage. The new website will allow timely access to the Board for your comments and queries.

BMHA outreach. The BMHA email contact list is significantly larger with the addition of the “Friends of Banner Mountain.” Those on this email list will receive important emails of interest to residents of Banner Mountain, like home security. To receive email updates, renew or join the BMHA please visit our website at www.bannermountain.org and email your request. Note: your email address will be kept strictly confidential. If you do not have access to the internet, members can request paper updates by mailing a request to The Banner Mountain Homeowners Association, P.O. Box 833, Nevada City, CA 95959.

Membership Advantages. These include an expanded voice with our County government, a forum for discussion of actions in response to unwanted activities on Banner Mountain, a connection with other organizations in the area, such as the FireSafe Council and SOHC (Save Our Historic Canals). In addition, several local business offer discounts to BMHA members (details below).

2013 Focus – FireWise and Property Security. Practical recommendations on how to reduce the potential of a large wildfire or a localized home fire will be provided at the Spring meeting. This year the issue of property security will be emphasized in response to an increasing number of home burglaries on Banner Mountain.

Important Dates: This year **Scotch Broom Day is April 20.** Scotch Broom is a serious fire hazard, particularly along fire evacuation routes (See the BMHA website.) Come help on April 20 (9:00 to 12:00) to remove this plant along Banner Lava Cap and Gracie roads. The **Annual Spring meeting** focusing on FireWise and Property Security is **June 1** (10:30 to 12:30) at Seaman’s Lodge in Pioneer Park, Nevada City.

COUNTY SUPERVISOR UPDATE

Please see Supervisor Nate Beason's commentary and news at <http://www.mynevadacounty.com/nc/bos/district1/Pages/News-from-District-1.aspx> Or you can go to www.mynevadacounty.com, then click on Departments, then Supervisor District 1, then News from District 1.

***VOLUNTEER opportunity: we welcome additions to the Board-- you can make a difference with an energized team; contact president Chuck at 530-798-6510 or email using our Web site. You are welcome to come to Board meetings, usually at 4PM on the dates listed at the NC Firehouse, Coyote St. Fire Station (Next meeting Apr 12-- 4:00 - 5:30.)**

Membership: To join or renew your BMHA membership go to <http://bannermountain.org>, fill out the “e-form” and send a check for \$15 to BMHA, P.O. Box 833, Nevada City, CA 95959. Or pay by PayPal, Or contact any board member, or renew at the June meeting. Membership is only \$15 per year.

SECURITY ON THE MOUNTAIN

Crime and vandalism have been increasing on Banner Mountain. Security breaches have been noted on several areas of Banner Mountain. Beginning in the Spring of 2012 and throughout the summer months, burglaries, unfamiliar vehicles and people have been seen in the areas of Banner-Quaker Cross, Altair, Lava Cap Mine, and Banner Lava Cap Roads and others. At least two different black Honda sedans were identified and linked to home burglaries or attempted break-ins. One culprit even wore a camouflaged, leaf-like ghillie suit and looked like a pile of leaves (see photo below)! An accomplice had a machete in the trunk of a black Honda sedan.

Other incidents have been related to drugs, drunkenness or vandalism by teenagers: “egging” homes, throwing rocks at satellite dishes, tampering with U.S. mailboxes,

exploding 2-liter plastic bottle chemical bombs, etc. Another incident in early November 2012, was caused by two drunken 15-year-olds yelling to be let in and pounding on a neighbor’s front door late at night. After the Sheriff arrived, the juveniles were found in the area and cited.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAMS are one of the most effective means for keeping crime out of our neighborhoods. These rely on the best crime fighting tool: good, observant neighbors working in cooperation with the Sheriff’s department — neighbors looking out for each other! An excellent example of an effective neighborhood watch program on Banner Mountain was described to us by Kim West, Neighborhood Watch Captain, for the Butterfly Drive and Mayflower Drive area. Kim said their program has been operating successfully for 22 years! She and her neighbors worked with the Sheriff to establish their program. More details on this watch program and others on Banner Mountain will be described later on our website and in a future newsletter.

If you and your neighbors are ready to form a watch program, our Nevada County Sheriff can help you get started: Contact Lieutenant Schmidt (530) 265-1328 for the Neighborhood Watch Program or the Sheriff’s Department at (530) 265- 1471. *Don't forget: For a burglary or crime in progress, call 911 immediately.*



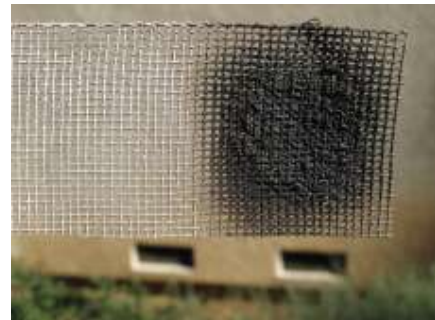
Altair drunk intruder with police

Before the police arrived, his accomplice grabbed a backpack from his vehicle and ran off. He left behind a machete and a container full of marijuana.

FIREWISE: DIVISION CHIEF DAVID RAY

Nevada County Consolidated Fire District's motto is “excellence in emergency service”. NCCFD will continue positive changes. The most notable change is administrative and will be a new Fire Chief. I assumed the Acting Fire Chief position in April 2012, and the District is now searching for a permanent Fire Chief. Filling the position on an interim basis for a

A wild fire is a storm of sparks & embers.



House vents can be protected with intumescent paint that seals screen holes in the heat of a fire.

limited time period will allow additional time to search for the permanent Fire Chief. This time period will also allow the District to establish our direction and implement plans with new goals. Keep posted on the NCCFD by viewing the Board of Director meetings which are always available on our [website www.nccfire.com](http://www.nccfire.com) (continued next page).

(con'd) Operationally, the Nevada County Consolidated Fire District has not changed. Due to your assistance (*Thank you very much!*) with the approval of the special tax last year, we are able to maintain our current level of response [*our fire station is staying open*]. Calling 911 for our assistance will continue to receive the high level of service that we are noted for throughout Nevada County.

Please be fire safe this winter. Watch out for the candles and combustibles near a heat source! Call 911 early, we can always turn around. Drive slowly in the ice and snow. Don't touch a downed line. It could be just the phone line or worse yet....a power line! You never know when the power will be re-energized or if someone is back feeding the power from a generator!

AND, from The FireSafe Council:

**AWARD to Banner Mountain Homeowners:
FireWise Community of the Year!**



Issues raised by our neighbors: Send your comments, new issues and opinions to Chuck@bannermountain.org

1. Is burning worth the bad health effects from smoke and pollution?
2. Should heavy industrial trucks pay an added fee for the increased road damage they cause?
3. There are numerous near misses on public roads due to reckless driving, e.g., speeding, crossing the center line, parking on blind curves, etc. Is more patrolling needed or what?
4. When residents have junk yards visible from roads, lowering property value -- county enforcement or?
5. Availability of sheriff deputies -- is current staffing sufficient?
6. Should laws against vehicles with excessive noise from modified exhaust systems be enforced?

Member Discounts--use your membership card for:



- **Moule Paint & Glass:** 10% off anytime including new windows.

B&C TrueValue.

- **B&C:** 5% off any day (10% off to seniors over 60 Tues-Thurs.)



- **Hills Flat:** 10% off all equipment rentals inc. chainsaws, chippers, trailers and more; and spend \$100 at either location and receive a FREE one year membership in BMHA.



- **Caseywood:** \$75 rebate when you buy a replacement deck, siding, or windows for over \$1,500; Order must be placed and work performed by a licensed local contractor.

Ferrellgas

- **Ferrellgas:** propane at \$0.40 over their cost.



- **Navo & Sons Septic Work:** 10% off on 1) septic tank pumping, 2) sewer & drain cleaning, 3) household plumbing, 4) septic tank-leach field planning and installations, and other services.

- **David Denkers Pet Sitting & Home Care:** 1st day of care free. (call 530.273-8186.)

Note: discounts are offered to members of the BMHA as a community service. Vendors were not charged and the BMHA is not responsible for nor does it guarantee the discounted services and products offered.

Banner Mountain Homeowners Association
P.O. Box 833
Nevada City, CA 95959

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*Remember: **June 1** is our Annual
FireWise -- Security meeting*



***BENEFITS: For a mere \$15 per year your membership provides:**

- A FireWise Community:** safety programs, education and best practices to protect your property
- Security Guidance:** how to protect your property against crime and vandalism which are increasing in our area
- Communications:** email alerts, website, periodic newsletters, and other mailings on current and future issues
- Government Influence:** a collective voice to influence government authorities on behalf of Banner Mountain residents
- Hiking Trails:** encouragement of the development and use of open trails on Banner Mountain while preserving property rights
- Traffic Issues Resolution:** a voice to address shared traffic problems on Banner Mountain
- Defense Against Adverse Impacts:** a forum on potential mining operations, well dewatering, large subdivision developments, pipelines, etc.
- Partnerships with other Organizations:** Nevada County FireSafe Council, Federation of Neighborhood Associations (FONA), Save Our Historic Canals (SOHC), and others to address common causes
- Service Discounts:** hardware, building supplies, propane, septic cleaning, and services