

the

Mountain Monitor

Valle Escondido

Part of the Enchanted Circle



Expansion at the Club House

After much planning and organization, the much anticipated deck expansion will get started before very many more moons pass! While plans were to start right after Labor Day, there will be a delay due to some issues that will have to be resolved with the Taos County Planning Department. The time frame now looks to be closer to the end of September. The Valle group will meet with the Planning Department on September 2nd. Once that meeting has happened we will release more information on timing.

Words from the Prez.....

Kathy DeLucas

What could be more FUN than an HOA Meeting?????

Well, let me tell you! Live from the Clubhouse this Saturday at 6:00pm join us for some wonderful Labor Day music.

The McLeod Nine, the dynamic man-woman duo from Texas, plays swingy, stringy, funky, folky acoustic music, with roots deep in their Americana past and a backbeat straight from the gut traditions of blues, swing and string-band soul. Their award-winning songwriting is front and center in their shows and draws from a deep well of musical and life experience. Gordon and Christy McLeod's music is nothing if not eclectic, spanning a wide range of musical worlds from swing and gypsy jazz to Americana and alternative folk, even Irish, Cajun and American fiddle tunes. Most of all, McLeod Nine want their audiences to be energized, inspired and to have fun! Don't miss the fun! (Continued on Page 3)

Save the Date!

Labor Day Golf
9/3/22
The Labor Day
Tournament will begin
at 9:00am. 2 person
scramble. 3 drives per
person. 2 - \$5.00
Mulligans

Homeowner's Meeting
9/3/22
Meeting will begin
at 2:00pm at the
Club House

McLeod Nine Trio
9/03/22
Music at the Club
House.
6:00 pm





New Fish Are in the Ponds

Welcome to our new lake committee members.

Wanda McPherson and Kendra Nelson.

The Valle Lakes Committee has had an active summer. Meetings with various consultants to assess the health of our lakes allowed us to gather much needed information to develop a maintenance plan to improve and maintain our beautiful lakes. The fishing has been active and the Fourth of July fishing tournament was again, a huge success. Our thanks to Ron Yeo for his leadership and super interaction with the participants.

Shortly, you will see the lake maintenance begin. The removal of some vegetation on the earth dams as well as filling any holes or disturbances in the soil will be filled. This will be an ongoing process, completed in stages, and all debris will be removed from the area. We appreciate all the love our lakes receive and this will improve the life of our dams.

Fish deliveries occurred on August 26. Come and enjoy the beauty around the lakes this fall. Please be aware that if you are fishing with bait, you must keep the fish you catch. Please do not leave dead or injured fish in the lakes or on the shore.

Thank-you to everyone who helps to keep the areas around our lakes clean. While we do not keep trash cans in the area because of bears, we are very grateful to all those who clean up.

As a reminder, the lakes are not a safe location for ice fishing when frozen. Our consultant sited the shallow and unpredictable depths as unsafe for the winter sport. Thank-you for adhering to our lake policies for safety concerns.

Do you need help or information about things in the Valle?

Most of you realize that all of the people who serve you on the board and on committees are volunteers who lead busy lives away from the work that they do for YOU. To show them thanks for all of their efforts, we can respect their time by connecting with the board or committee member who handles that workload. In the future Mountain Monitors, I will reprint the following information to help you get to the right person to expedite your search for help and information. This list can also be found on our Home webpage. I will update the information as needed. We all owe a debt of thanks to the folks who give up their time to make our lives easier. Can you imagine what our dues would be if we didn't have these selfless volunteers?

Check this list first to see if your concern falls into one of these areas before you decide the President is the best source for your need. Everyone will be better served when you go to the best source for information.

Board Member

Chairman

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 Sue Mahoney 615-948-0921 myrtle0351@gmail.com
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 Mark Johnson 575-737-9514 markjohnson9514@msn.com

Committee

Clubhouse & Archit. Rosalinda Lacy & A.
 Roads Doug Foshee
 Beautification Self for now
 Water & Pool Sarah Bogar and Self
 Golf Mark Johnson and Chuck
 Firewise Ellen Robberson
 Lakes & Insurance Bill Davidson(Ins.) - Wanda Macpherson & Kendra Powell
 Treasure Self

From the Prez continued from page 1

“Mother Nature has blessed us with an abundance of rainfall. It started raining on June 17, rescuing us from the threat of fire. But since that date, the Valle has received more than 13” of moisture. While this is great for grass, trees, and flowers, it’s hard on the roads. Water flowing freely over the roads causes degradation and erosion. The Valle’s policy about culverts has not been well communicated so I want to emphasize this routine maintenance information. If a culvert goes under a Valle road, it is the HOA’s responsibility to clean that culvert. However, if a culvert goes under a homeowner’s driveway and it gets clogged, it is up to the homeowner to have it cleaned out. Keeping running water off our roads is the key to prevent erosion and bad roads. Thanks for any help you all can give”

More Funds for Rio Fernando FD

Recently, Rick Robberson met with the Rio Fernando Fire Department Chief Russ Driskell, to donate \$2,720.00 that was raised at the Art Auction that was held during the Valle Open. It is a joy to be able to support our fire department and the men and women who provided us with so much information and assistance last spring. Thanks again to all Valle residents and friends who donated artwork for the auction and also purchased it. We are thankful we all worked together to be able to provide these funds to Rio Fernando.



Yellow – the Color of Fall

From plant to plant the colors we’re enjoying this time of year are many shades, but yellow takes control. Cinquefoils, Chamisa, Goldenrod, Yarrow, Evening Primrose, Hairy False Goldenaster, Golden Marguerite, and more! One less desirable yellow flowering plant is Yellow Sweet Clover. We have a lot of this in the Valle and it loves our road side ditches. While this plant has some wonderful early attributes, after the second year of growth those good qualities attain some new – not so nice characteristics. To learn more, go to: <https://www.sare.org/publications/managing-cover-crops-profitably/legume-cover-crops/sweet-clovers/>



Playground Fun Ahead

Things will be swinging soon!!!

Members of the Playground and Pool committee are busy getting a swing set up for the kids in the Valle. The set is located very close to the swimming pool. Committee members and volunteers have a lot of the work behind them and it won’t be long before we’ll hear the giggles of our kids echoing through the Valle.

Tartan Tourney

Rain, Bagpipes, Brats and Golfers

While the rain tried to dampen our spirits, it was unsuccessful! Participants got the full dose of Scottish weather for the round. Forty golfers came out in spite of the rain and had a great time! Once back at the Club House they enjoyed Brats and Mash, a dancing jig, and the celebration of winners. (see below) As usual, the Scottish bag pipes were played and we all had a 'pure barry' of a time. (Scottish for wonderful)

As is the custom, a Scottish Reel found its way to the center of the activity. This annual dance is a joy to see.

Winners:

Couples:

Bill and Edie Elkjer and Ron and Kathy Yeo (below)

Open Division:

3rd Place: Kathy and Ed DeLucas and John Bash and Doug Perry

2nd Place: Judy Beglau, Josh Beglau, Ian Beglau and Paul Beglau

1st Place: Mike Ferguson, Paddy Mac, Jay Tobino and John Del Margo (above)



Pipers, Poetry and Pie

The evening of the Tournament, friends gathered to celebrate one more Scottish gathering held at Suzanne and Jim Miller's home. The evening ended with a few folk songs sung by Edie & Bill Elkjer, Judy Beglau and her son, Josh Beglau. Great pies were prepared and fun entertainment made the end of this fun event memorable as always!

Trash Expense Is Necessary.....But Out of Control



The dumpster fees in the Valle have increased from \$11,000 per year to \$16,000 per year in the past 2 years. Trash collection is limited by a very small group of trash collectors. If we want to keep dues down, we have to come up with some ways to lessen our needs. We are the only answer to this problem. We are the ones filling up dumpsters. Last year, we had these local problems – a refrigerator was left in the trash area. A sofa was left on top of a dumpster. Hot coals were placed in a dumpster and started a fire. If WE don't do a better job, there is no way we can avoid raising dues. It is up to us.

Things to think about.....

As our final Homeowner's Meeting for the year nears, help us be ready for how to deal with these Valle needs:

- Dam maintenance work will begin on Aspen Lake. Willow removal and clean up. The Lake out fall will also need attention. Money will be added to the 2023 thru 2024 budgets to continue this work. Lakes Committee members met 2 times in the last two weeks to walk the lake areas and consider needed maintenance.
- A 2023 preliminary budget has been prepared – but we are awaiting input from the water and roads committees.
- The Edward Jones CD that comes due in August has been renewed at a little better interest rate.
- Mark Johnson has jumped in as treasurer as well as being on the Golf committee and design of the deck expansion – Not to mention his very active roll-on multiple Taos Grand Juries.
- The new swing set for the kid was installed this past month – all labor was done by VEHA.
- Homeowners should note that Association costs have risen like all personal costs. Dump fees, electric, insurance and all over head costs have increased. Please help where you can by conserving energy and water and waste. Use the clubhouse for social gatherings helps us offset the cost incurred – the food is great, and the drinks are very reasonable. Money spent there will help delay dues increases. The Staff is there to support you.
- Areas of concern that have been noted by the board – road grading, water well management, water tank maintenance, lake maintenance and pool area deck work.

**WE are the answer to our Valle's needs.
WE must work together to keep dues low
and our quality of life HIGH.
*Let's Do This!***

The End of the Season Is Near.

All good things must come to an end and the fall's arrival will mean the closure of the Club House for the season. The last day it will be open is October 2nd.

Come join in on one last day of socializing with friends and our fabulous crew who have fed us, made us drinks, laughed with us and had lots of fun!



Slash Pile

For many reasons, the Valle will no longer be able to have a slash pile. We do not have sufficient space nor do we meet the legal requirements for operating one properly. The fires this year have made it abundantly clear that burning anything is very difficult. Please pay attention to our Valle and Canyon chipper and Dumpster days to clear your property of flammable pine needles and slash. As mentioned earlier in the newsletter – the dumpsters at the Club House are costing us a lot of money. *YOU CANNOT PUT YOUR SLASH IN THE DUMPSTERS.*