

# RIDGE REPORTER

Newsletter of the Inverness Ridge Association

August 2013

[invernessridgeassoc.com](http://invernessridgeassoc.com)

## President's Message

Summer is upon us and so many of us are enjoying all the gifts of living on the Ridge.

Many thanks to those who volunteer their time to make this such a wonderful place. First, thanks are due to recently retired road board president Harvey Freed for his dedicated service to PRE (see tribute on page 3). While PRERAB is solely responsible for our road system, IRA provides support and works closely with PRERAB on road issues that include vegetation management, road safety signs, and preparation for both the future assessments to repave Drakes View Drive and the regular vegetation management.

At our last Board meeting we honored several retired Board members with a scrumptious luncheon prepared by fellow Board member Alicia Jackson. Thank you Alicia, and many thanks to Board emeriti Russ Ridge, Eleanor Stern, Bill Carlin, and Katherine Williams.

IRA continues to be your voice for community discussion and representation on matters affecting PRE. For example:

- IRA's letter to the Board of Supervisors was instrumental in blocking the speed limit increase on Sir Francis Drake.
- Our input on the Local Coastal Program safeguarded the integrity of PRE.
- Our interaction with the PRNS keeps the emergency egress accessible and our trails pristine.
- Emergency preparedness liaisons remain vigilant for our safety. Please consider becoming an emergency liaison.



Anemone, L. Stetson

If you haven't already done so, please join IRA by sending a \$25.00 check to P.O.Box 342, Inverness, CA 94937. And if you are interested in becoming a Board member we meet about six times a year at a member's home, with lots of insightful discussion, decision making, and some laughs. If so, please contact me at my email [menace@horizoncable.com](mailto:menace@horizoncable.com)

*Laurie Stetson, IRA President*

## **Adopt-A-Trail**

**Help clear the Drakes View Trail  
Saturday, November 2**

**Come join us for our maintenance morning of  
Drakes View Trail, adopted in 1991 by the IRA  
Saturday, November 2. 9:00 a.m.\*-12:00 p.m.**

*\*Coffee and muffins at 9:00, Work starts at 9:30  
Lunch provided back at trail's beginning at 12:00*

**We will meet at the top of Drakes View Drive and conclude  
with the traditional lunch provided by IRA.**

**R.S.V.P to Diane Harley:  
dianeharley@horizoncable.com or 415-663-9795**

**See you on the 2nd!**



---

## UPDATES: PARADISE RANCH ESTATES ROAD ADVISORY BOARD (PRERAB)

The *Paradise Ranch Estates Road Advisory Board* has been busy this summer working to maintain and improve the quality and safety of our road system. This is an ongoing responsibility and, as always we seek cooperation, patience, and understanding from PRE residents.

### Summer Road Work

Recently completed projects:

- Unpaved road maintenance
- Roadside weed cutting

Current projects in August:

- Removal of dead SOD trees
- Chipping of brush & branch piles
- Patching of paved roads
- Addition of road signs at 16 locations throughout PRE.

Planning & discussion ongoing:

- When will repaving of Drake's View Drive be necessary?
- Bylaws and procedures for PRERAB and its relationship with IRA Board.
- Evaluation of water drainage options at 20 DVD.

All of these activities must be coordinated with, and approved by, the County of Marin,

Department of Public Works. Suggestions for road needs are welcomed and can be submitted to any Road Board member. For further details log on to [PRERAB.org](http://PRERAB.org).

### DVD Resurfacing

Sometime in the next few years Drakes View Drive (DVD) will need to be re-surfaced (paved). DVD was last resurfaced in 1993. This will be a big project, requiring lots of study and a special election in PRE to raise the needed funds. (In 1993, the paving cost over \$180,000.) A two-thirds vote will be required.

When the project eventually goes ahead, it will have direct long term effects of improving DVD and its safety and will have an indirect effect on the value of PRE as a whole, including your property value. As all residents will be impacted by this project, the Road Advisory Board will keep you advised as to when this work will be required and what work will be done. At that time we will be asking for your support.

Anyone who is interested in becoming a road board member may contact any present member. Their numbers can be found at the [PRERAB](http://PRERAB) website.

*John Levy, Chair of PRERAB*

---

## RULES OF OUR ROADS PLEASE FOLLOW THEM

### Use of Limantour Fire Road/Emergency Exit

The Park has indicated that the Limantour fire road is only to be used for emergencies such as fire, flood, and earthquake. Please obey this rule.

### Slow Down and Be Safe and Courteous

IRA Board members hear frequent complaints about unsafe and rude drivers. Please remember to ask your guests, renters, and service workers to exercise caution on our roads, and maintain safe speeds and keep dust down. And please respect walkers.

---

## **VOLUNTEERS ON THE RIDGE**

### **HARVEY FREED, PRESIDENT OF PRERAB ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT**

Contributed by John Levy, Chair, PRERAB

Harvey Freed, long-time resident of PRE and the chief proponent of a better water system and better roads in the neighborhood, announced his retirement from the presidency of the Road Advisory Board (PRERAB).

An attorney with a practice based in San Francisco, Harvey spearheaded many crucial improvements to Paradise Ranch Estates, including the takeover in 1980, and upgrading in 2001, of the water system by North Marin Water District, repaving of Drake's View Drive in 1993, and the cooperative vegetation management work at the "wildland-urban interface" with PRNS after the 1995 Mt. Vision fire. Harvey also served on the PRNS Citizen's Advisory Group.

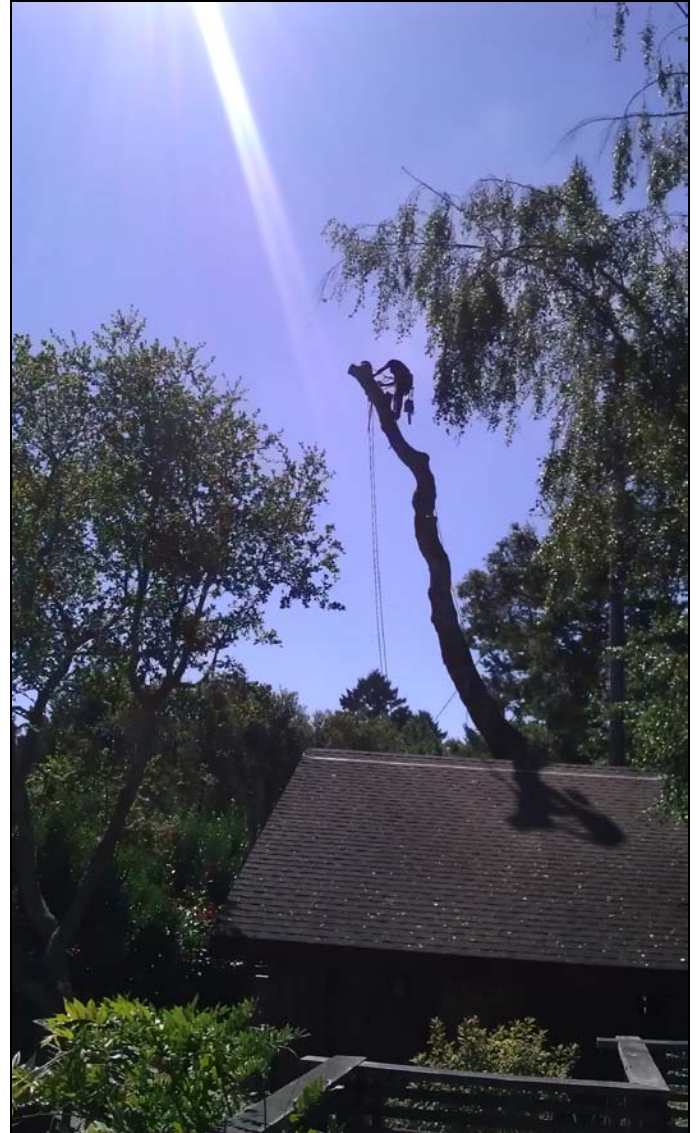
During his residency in PRE, Harvey was often seen walking the roads, gathering information on the state of the infrastructure in the neighborhood. We are reminded of his walking habit whenever we see his car with the license plate "WALK." Harvey was quick to arrange meetings with paving experts, county administrators, and others who helped PRERAB members understand what the road system needed.

Harvey established excellent relations with the County of Marin, whom we depend on for administration of the road-maintenance funds. No matter what issue was currently most urgent, Harvey took it on with his consistent attention to detail and his depth of knowledge of the legal underpinnings of our neighborhood systems.

As Harvey's successor in the role of chairperson, I hope to maintain the tradition of outstanding attention to our road infrastructure. We hope to live up to the standards he has established for this volunteer committee.

---

**Thanks to all the intrepid contractors  
who keep our neighborhood clear of  
dead and dying trees.**



---

## VOLUNTEERS ON THE RIDGE

**PRNSA**: David Wilson

It has been just a year since I was hit hard by lung cancer. At least for the present, surgery, chemo, radiation, and plain luck seem to have helped me beat the odds. As soon as all those treatments were over, I returned to my work on the Boards of IRA and the Point Reyes National Seashore Association (“PRNSA”). Readers are no doubt familiar with IRA, but may not know much about PRNSA. Indeed with all the ruckus about oyster farms and fallow deer, some may be knee-jerkedly hostile to an outside organization that is dedicated exclusively to helping our park do myriad uncontroversial, but critical things that it cannot do for itself.

Some of these may seem small affairs, like helping the park acquire about a dozen of the small inholdings that for one reason or another were not included in the original congressional seashore authorization. Sometimes donated, sometimes sold at a reduced price, these are properties that without PRNSA would have been fenced, developed and shut forever to the public.

Then there is the snowy plover, an endangered species that the park has struggled to save, and would continue to fight for were it not for the sequestration monster that has reduced park budgets by about 8% (with more cuts threatened). So PRNSA has stepped in for two years in a row: allocating twenty thousand or so dollars in small donations to save this little bird.

There are also big things. The restoration of the Giacomini wetlands was a PRNSA project. What a day it was! The dikes were breached and the incoming tide inched its way up to the outskirts of Point Reyes Station. Marshes, ponds, and inlets that had disappeared more than fifty years ago come back, and with them otters, waterfowl, fish and even an occasional bald eagle.

---



View from Pierce Point Ranch

---

But for PRNSA volunteers it never would have happened.

Most critical is public education. Our parks used to do it themselves: as kids many of us remember ranger-led hikes, campfires, and earnest talks about the need to save from permanent loss the creeks and meadows and forests that we came to love. Parks don't do much of that any more. They can't. So organizations like PRNSA step in, sponsoring outdoor seminars for adults and overnight camps for younger folks. Every summer PRNSA hosts hundreds of city kids (twenty five per cent of them on scholarship), many of whom have never seen a wild deer, much less a great blue heron, or an elk, or a whale. For me this is the reward for all the work: seeing my grandchildren take the same joy in the wild that I had when I first saw a salmon leaping its way up Papermill Creek.

So please don't wait for a private wake-up call. Life is short. Time is precious. It costs \$35/year for an individual and \$50/year for a family to join PRNSA. The reward is beyond price. Details can be found at the [PRNSA website](#).

---

---

**FIRE OR OTHER EMERGENCY?  
MAKE SURE YOU KNOW YOUR  
NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISON**

In partnership with the Marin County Disaster Council, members of Paradise Ranch Estates (PRE) are part of an emergency system that can assess injuries and damage in the event of an emergency that bypasses normal emergency response. When phones are down or overwhelmed, designated members of our community are trained with radios to get necessary emergency information to emergency personnel. PRE is divided into areas to which neighborhood liaisons are assigned (see figure to right). *Check out the PRE web site at [invernessridgeassoc.com](http://invernessridgeassoc.com) for a list of liaisons and become acquainted with the liaison in your area.*

Remember, if you hear the siren and it is not the first Saturday of the month at noon, it means that you should evacuate immediately.

**Disaster FYI: Emergency Alert,  
Landlines and Cellphone System**

Did you know that the Marin County Sheriff's Department has a robo-call system in place that can send a message to all land lines, listed or not, in any specific area, with a tailored message reporting emergency information? If you are not at home a message will be left. They claim they could isolate Paradise Ranch Estates and leave a message to evacuate or provide any information they deem necessary. They also say they can automatically tailor a message to an area based upon the location of a 911 call, or more likely multiple 911 calls, and impart the necessary information in the absence of a request from the local Fire Department or Sheriff.

If you do not have a land line, or would like to receive emergency messages when you are away or at work, you can go to [www.alertmarin.org](http://www.alertmarin.org) and sign up to have your cell number or VoIP registered to automatically receive any emergency call, text, or email.

Whether these robo-calls would come in a timely manner is anyone's guess. That is why our neighborhood liaison program is so important. At the risk of boring you with a constant drumbeat of recruiting for the need of additional liaisons in each and every newsletter, suffice it to say that with the numbers we have, you may get a too late robo-call before we can check on you and yours. Remember, if you hear our very own continuing siren, it means you should evacuate.

Please contact me if you have special needs that we should be aware of to help us help you.

Bob Lundstrom  
[robertlundstrom@horizoncable.com](mailto:robertlundstrom@horizoncable.com)  
415.663.8970

---

**WE NEED LIAISON VOLUNTEERS,  
ESPECIALLY FOR UPPER DVD.**

*Anyone interested in becoming involved in the program, can contact Bob Lundstrom.  
([robertlundstrom@horizoncable.com](mailto:robertlundstrom@horizoncable.com))*

---

**JOIN NEXTDOOR PRE  
(Paradise Ranch Estates)**

[Nextdoor PRE](#) is growing and now has more than 50 members. If you would like to join [Nextdoor PRE](#) ask any neighbor who is a member to invite you. Any IRA Board member would be happy to help you join.

*Inverness Ridge Association*

**Emergency numbers**

**Police, Fire, Med: 911**

**PG&E: 800-743-5000**

**Non-emergency numbers**

**PRS Fire: 663-1018**

**PRS Sheriff: 663-1151**

**CHP Info: 924-1100**

**PG&E Info: 800-743-5002**

**MCFD HQ: 499-6717**

**PRNS Info: 464-5100**

**PRNS Police: 464-5170**

**NMWD: 897-4133**

**Kaiser Hosp: 444-2000**

**Marin General Hosp: 925-7000**



**WOULD YOU LIKE A COPY OF THE  
IRA ROSTER TO STAY IN TOUCH  
WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS?**

People have asked how to obtain an address and telephone list for IRA members. ***It's as simple as contacting Bob Lundstrom by email. [robertlundstrom@horizoncable.com](mailto:robertlundstrom@horizoncable.com).***

The list of course cannot be used for any commercial purposes. Board members do their best to keep these lists up-to-date. We welcome any contact information on new neighbors, or if your information has changed. Just let Bob know at the email above.

**PARADISE RANCH ESTATES**  
SHOWING: NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISON TERRITORIES (#) AND ESCAPE ROUTES

