

Bald Hill Fire Safety Group Quarterly Update

January 2019



Hi Neighbors, Fans and Disgruntled "what do we need this for" folks,

Yes, it's us again! Thanks to the brave folks who fought the elements and made it to our last meeting. Our only mistake was scheduling it on the night of the tempestuous winds and rain. But, we have come far in just 3 months, thanks especially to Lucy, Charles and Kathy. And to all of you who take this seriously. What does the picture have to do with this? Nothing except to get your attention! **(See Marin IJ News Flash further down. Breaking News!)**

The good news is that we are making important progress with our Firewise Application. We're pursuing Todd Lando of the program to schedule a meeting with volunteers to move ahead with the next steps. That last sentence had the word "VOLUNTEERS". We could use a few more people to assist in this process. Simple tasks. A few hours each month is required. Not much to protect a multi-million dollar investment and life and limb as well. As well your pets, perhaps more important than your home! So think about it

please. This stuff is important. There are three people taking on the work of 6. Let Lucy or me know of your interest and we'll discuss the simple but important ways you can help. Also, a commitment of spending \$25.00 per household per year is required for the neighborhood qualifications. Even I can commit to that.

Quick notes:

1. With the addition of Redwood families and a few others we are now calling our group "The Bald Hill Fire Safety Group" 70 members and growing! The name was chosen after 20 other names were deemed ineligible. President Putin helped us in that decision. So, all jokes aside, get others to join if they haven't done so already!
2. **FEBRUARY 10TH IS NEXT MEETING, 5-7 PM. 274 Oak Ave.** Same place as last meeting. It was going to be the previous Sunday but there are probably a Super Bowl fan or two here so we rescheduled. Now, football is over. Throw out the stale beer and popcorn. NBA playoffs haven't begun. We'll have a Pot Luck - if you want to bring an appetizer or keg of beer or wine, they will be consumed by all. No Cheez Whiz or Pabst Blue Ribbon.
3. Next, and **very** important, we have a planned a day to remove Scotch Broom and other highly flammable plants and shrubs. We'll call it **"Groom the Broom Day"**. Pretty creative and catchy name. **March 23. 9-4 PM.** Just a few hours is all we ask. Big party at conclusion. Lucy promised BIG. The objective is to remove these hazardous plants on Oak Ave from Austin to Melville. Just because your address is not included, your help is appreciated. We'll all be there when we reach your street! We have dates for different streets and will let you know at the meeting so bring your datebooks.

What do we need for that day? A few pick-ups, chain saw or two, chipper (great!), as well as shovels, hoes and strong arms and backs. Next meeting we'll get into details so survey your toolshed soon. Stray BMW's and Audis will also be useful. We'll get some teen-agers as well, both your kids and some school kids who need public service hours for classes or to work off "misdemeanors". Not your kids of course. All details in full will be discussed over hors d'oeuvres.

4. We must continue mapping the neighborhood. Names, addresses, emails. And, if you know of elderly or handicapped people, we'd like to know so we can assist them in the event of a fire. Plus if there are trails, steps, etc that can make exits more effective, we want that info as well.
5. We are planning a larger town meeting to discuss fire safety and get everyone on the same page from town officials to groups like ours. **Please read this: <https://www.marinij.com/2019/01/25/san-anselmo-approves-48000-for-ross-valley-fire-prevention-program/>. The word is out and everyone is taking it seriously. Now there is city buy-in and money as well!!**

That's it. We really appreciate your interest and attendance at these meetings. We have grown tremendously in a short time but need more participation. **Please get your neighbors and friends to attend. It is vital.** They are only once a month and they are to protect you and your family. Every time you think it's a nuisance, ask the folks in Paradise what "nuisance" means. And, in Santa Rosa more than one year later, only 16 homes out of 2500 homes are rebuilt. That will not happen here if we are vigilant!

Thanks - The Politboro (Lucy, Charles, Kathy and Fred)



Better looking than Smokey - Saw him in S. India last month...

from a distance