



On Board the AAARC

NOVEMBER 2005

THE A. AUSTIN AMERINE RETREAT CENTER NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 3



"to create a peaceful, nurturing environment conducive to the spiritual and personal development of people and organizations from all spiritual and cultural heritages"

In This Issue

[New Access Road Completed](#)

[Shopping On Line Now Benefits AAARC](#)

[AAARC to Sell Mistletoe](#)

[New Website](#)

[Surplus Property For Sale](#)

[More Wildlife Sightings](#)

[Board Member Profile](#)

[Dates/Upcoming Events](#)

[New Ways to Donate](#)

[Work Groups Being Scheduled for this Winter](#)

[Seeking New Board Members](#)

[2005 Pledge Reminder](#)

[Thank You](#)

[Contact Us](#)

New Access Road Completed!

A new access road into the property was completed in October. Improvements, such as widening, culverts, and elimination of steep grades were also made along the entire length of the existing AAARC road. The new access road shortens the distance into the property and creates private access. Although gravel surfacing will need to be done in the future the road is vastly improved over what existed before. The following photos depict some of the road improvements.



New Access Road Being Cleared



Completed New Access Road



Existing road before and after widening

In the Next Issue of On Board

More Construction Pictures

Board Member Profile

The Latest News

Conceptual Drawings

Local History



Bulldozer works on road extension (before and after)

Shopping On Line Now Benefits AAARC

Just in time for the holiday shopping season the A. Austin Amerine Retreat Center (AAARC) is listed with two charity online shopping malls. These malls act as a portal for hundreds of well known stores such as Best Buy, Barnes and Noble, and Office Depot. What this means for us and for you is that for every on line purchase you make, the AAARC receives a donation from the charity mall.

This is how it works: go to www.Igive.com or www.Freewillfunding.com register with the mall and select the A. Austin Amerine Retreat Center as the organization to receive credit from your purchases. Select the merchant you want to shop at and you will be sent to that merchant's website to shop. When your purchase is concluded the Retreat Center will get a percentage of the sale at no cost to you. You shop directly on each merchant's website, receiving their regular prices or discounts (Igive.com also has special periodic discounts). The only difference is you simply access your favorite merchant sites through the online mall so the AAARC can receive a percentage of the sale. What better way to support the AAARC without costing you a penny!

As both online charity malls have hundreds of popular merchants to choose from you will undoubtedly find your favorite stores listed. Tell your family and friends who shop online to use the malls; every purchase helps the AAARC.

AAARC to Sell Mistletoe for the Holidays

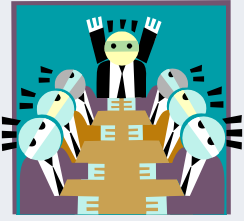
Looking for a quick fundraiser for your organization? The AAARC is harvesting



Mistletoe from its property and packaging it as a fundraiser. The AAARC is offering bags of mistletoe for \$3.00/bag. Sold in lots of 10 bags, each bag includes a sprig of mistletoe tied to a red ribbon and a scroll with the description on the history and mythology surrounding this ancient custom.

Organizations can easily sell each bag for \$5.00/bag, making at least \$20.00 on each lot of 10. Payment can be made via Pay Pal or by check and bags are shipped the next day.

This is a great way to support the AAARC and raise some easy money for your church or other group. Contact Mel Johnson at mel@aaarc.org to order your mistletoe or for further information.



**AAARC
Board of Directors**

Keith Kunkel, President
Karl Vidt, Secretary/Treasurer
Cindy Acker
Jill Nelson
3 vacancies

**AAARC
Advisory Board**

Paul Gilger
Terri Echelbarger
Tim Webb
Kathy Zalewski

Staff

Mel Johnson, Executive Dir



News from the AAARC

AAARC Launches New Website

The new AAARC website debuts this month. Go to www.aaarc.org to view the new website.

Surplus Property For Sale

The AAARC has re-listed several of its parcels for sale which are not part of the long range plan for development of the retreat center. If you know of anyone who might be interested in purchasing one of these beautiful parcels of land have them contact us. This land is offered at a great price and it would be wonderful to have one or more of our supporters as neighbors.



More Wildlife Sightings

In the last issue of *On Board* it was reported that deer, coyote, wild pigs, turkeys, mourning doves, California quail, rabbits and bear have been seen on the property. There have now been sightings of a mountain lion, bobcat, raccoon, and numerous hawks and other birds. With the construction of the new road a sort of wildlife highway has been created where many different species are using the road on a regular basis to transverse the property.



California Quail using the road

Contact Us



Mail

P. O. Box 8156
Santa Rosa, CA 95407

Phone

707-573-5998

Fax (call first)

707-573-5998

E-mail

General Info
Info@aaarc.org

Newsletter

Newsletter@aaarc.org

Mel Johnson

Mel@aaarc.org

Keith Kunkel

Keith@aaarc.org

Board Member Profile –Keith Kunkel

Keith was born in Berkeley, California and went to camp for the first time at Mt Diablo, California in his 5th summer. After a few years of YMCA camp, it was the Boy Scouts in Ohio and then off to work at Lutheran Memorial Camp in Fulton, Ohio. Keith attended Ohio State and then after a few years of maximum impact camping at the USAF Survival School in Spokane, Washington he decided to spend a few years inside. In 1991 he made the mistake of complaining about progress on the AAARC project and was given two boxes of files and a report to complete that was six months past due. Since then he has wandered up and down the west coast looking for someplace that could be suitable for everything he thought the AAARC should have. He now lives in San Francisco working for the University of California so he can afford to go up to Lake County a couple times a month.



Dates/Upcoming Events

AAARC Board Meeting – December 10, 2005, Santa Rosa, California

Next issue of On Board the AAARC – March 2006

Winter work days on the property (to be announced)

Supporting the AAARC

New Ways to Donate to the AAARC

In addition to the On Line shopping malls mentioned above the AAARC can now take direct donations through Pay Pal or by credit card using www.igive.org or www.networkforgood.org Simply go to these websites and enter the our name and follow the instructions to donate.

If you trade on EBay the AAARC is now listed with EBay's charitable giving arm MissionFish.org. Link your EBay ID to Mission Fish and select the A. Austin Amerine Retreat Center as the recipient of from 1 -100% of your sale. Go to www.MissionFish.org to sign up.

Here are some ways your financial gifts can help:

- \$50 will buy 6 pounds of native grass and wildflower seed to heal road scars
- \$300 will buy and install a new culvert (we need 15 more culverts for the road)
- \$500 will pay our equipment storage fees for 10 months
- \$750 will make the final payment to our road contractor
- \$1000 will surface 300 feet of road with gravel (6000 feet of road needs gravel)
- \$1500 will buy a storage container for tools and supplies (saving storage fees)
- \$2000 will pay the liability insurance on the property
- \$2500 will pay the 2006 taxes
- \$5000 will pave the entrance
- \$10,000 will cover administrative costs for 4 months
- \$15,000 will pay the mortgage for 3 months

If you know of others who would like to receive a copy of *On Board* or you do not want to receive future copies of this newsletter please send us an email at newsletter@aaarc.org and let us know.

Current Needs

Volunteers:

To assist with work on the property



Items:

Office Supplies



Chainsaws (2)



Work Groups Being Scheduled for this Winter

Do you like pruning things? Are you a fire bug at heart? Do you like playing in the mud? We are looking for volunteers to help out this winter in a variety of tasks including, pruning brush from the road, piling and burning brush piles and cleaning out culverts. If you are interested in helping out on a Saturday this winter please contact Mel Johnson or Keith Kunkel.

Seeking New Board Members

There are currently 3 vacancies on the AAARC Board of Directors. The Board is seeking persons with a background in fundraising, marketing, or community building. If you are interested in serving on the AAARC Board please contact Board president, Keith Kunkel at Keith@aaarc.org for further information.

2005 Pledge Reminder

Thank you to everyone who has supported the AAARC through your pledges and donations this year. If you have not completed your pledge for 2005, please send it as soon as you are able. Fulfilling your pledge helps sustain our daily operations. Remember all donations to the AAARC are tax deductible.

Thank You and Happy Holidays!!

The Board of Directors, Advisors and Staff want to take this opportunity to wish you a Happy Thanksgiving and a Happy Holiday season. Thank you to all of our 2005 supporters, especially those members of the Ground Breakers Club. It is through your financial and other contributions that we are able to continue to make the AAARC a reality. Have a safe and wonderful holiday.



Happy Holidays from The AAARC Wild Turkeys – "Eat Ham"