



On Board the AAARC

MARCH 2006

THE A. AUSTIN AMERINE RETREAT CENTER NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 1



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

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Recent Articles Extol Lake County

Several articles have appeared recently on the growth of Lake County, California, where the AAARC property is located. VIA magazine (the magazine for AAA members) has an article in their March/April issue on the wineries, restaurants, shops, views, and tourist sites in and around Clear Lake. Clear Lake (from where Lake County gets its name) is the largest fresh water lake in California. The AAARC property is located only 10 miles from the south shore of Clear Lake.

Both the Santa Rosa Press Democrat and the San Francisco Chronicle recently had articles highlighting new real estate developments and the increasing number of residents coming to Lake County. In the past month several new golf course developments have been announced; a new multi-million dollar wine tasting facility opened last year on the north shore of Clear Lake; and the Robinson Rancheria Resort and Casino is expanding. The Konocti Resort continues to draw thousands to its outdoor concerts every weekend and several new wineries have been built in the past few years along with hundreds of acres of new vineyards being planted.

All of this is of course good news for real estate values and for additional recreational activities near the AAARC. Whether by coincidence or from the articles, the AAARC has recently received several offers on some of the land that has been advertised for sale. These offers are currently being evaluated. There are also still several parcels available. If you or anyone you know might be interested in purchasing one of these beautiful pieces of land have them contact us soon. This land is offered at a great price and it would be wonderful to have one or more of our supporters as neighbors. We anticipate that these parcels will not be on the market very long judging by the number of inquiries we are receiving. The long range plan is to sell off our surplus property to provide capital for improvements.



Some of the land listed for sale

In the Next Issue of On Board

Board Member Profile

The Latest News

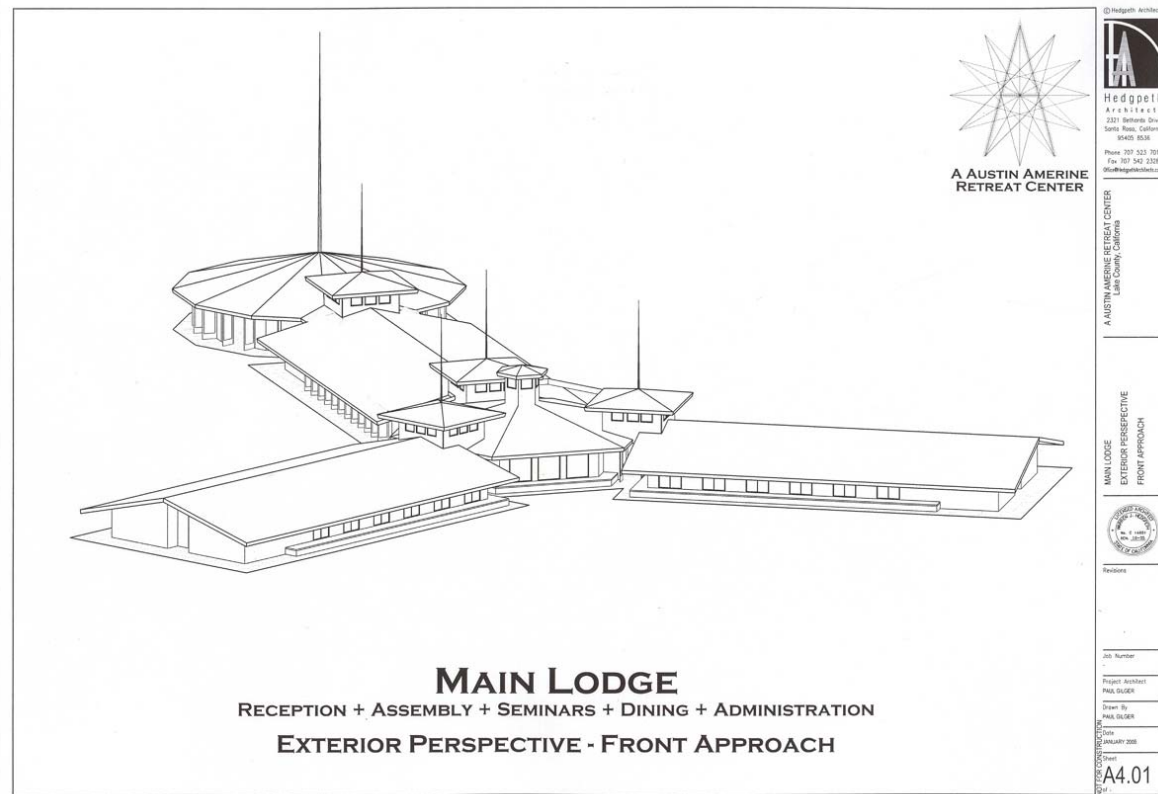
More Conceptual Drawings

Local History

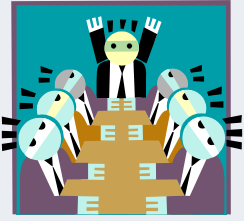
Building Concepts

Last year the first conceptual drawings for the buildings at the AAARC were designed by Paul Gilger, a very accomplished architect and one of our advisors. Over the next few issues of *On Board the AAARC* we will be highlighting some of the conceptual designs for these buildings. These drawings represent the first serious attempt to convey on paper our ideas of how the retreat center should look and function.

Below is a concept for the main building which will house the dining facilities, reception areas, meeting rooms, and main gathering space. Note the spires on the roof. These spires have several functions: lightning rods, communications, aesthetics, and flag poles. The round portion of the building is the main theatre/gathering space. The middle portion houses various meeting rooms, the rest rooms, and main reception area. The left wing as you look at the drawing will house the dining room and related facilities and the right wing will contain the resource library, administrative offices and some housing.



In our next issue we will begin exploring more of the various design concepts for this building starting with the main theatre gathering space.



**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
Jennifer Kruse

Staff

Mel Johnson, Executive Dir



News from the AAARC

Mistletoe Sales Successful

The AAARC’s first foray into the sale of products from its property was very successful. The AAARC harvested mistletoe from the property and packaged it. Each bag included 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 and individuals who bought these bags were very pleased and we already have some commitments for next holiday season! All the proceeds went to the general operating fund.

AAARC Applying for Grant

The AAARC is applying for a grant to conduct our first on-site program. Planned for sometime in late summer we are exploring a weekend wilderness experience for youth who would otherwise not have the opportunity to experience and explore mother nature close up. Details are still being worked out but if you would like to help plan or staff this event please contact Mel Johnson.

Winter Storms Damage Road

Northern California has experienced one of the wettest years on record. Several severe storms occurred in late December and early January with March being the wettest on record. These devastating winter storms have impacted both the new access road and the improvements made to AAARC’s existing road system. Damage includes washouts, slumping, small land and rock slides, and deep rutting. Current estimates place the repair work close to \$20,000. However our neighbors have been wonderful and have offered to assist in repairs by loaning their equipment and time. This may cut our repair costs by half or more. If you would like to donate to the repair fund please contact Mel Johnson. The following photos depict some of the road damage.

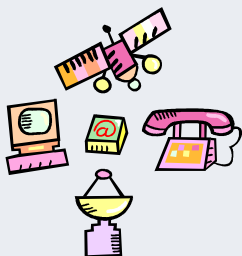


Slumping Along Road



Water Pouring Off the Hillsides

Contact Us



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Mel Johnson

Mel@aaarc.org

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Washouts

Supporting the AAARC

Ways to Donate

On Line shopping

The AAARC is listed with several charity shopping malls, www.Igive.com or www.freewillfunding.com 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 but at no extra cost to you. Tell your family and friends who shop online to use the malls; every purchase helps the AAARC.

Albertsons

The AAARC is a member of Albertsons Community Partners program. If you shop at Albertsons grocery stores a percentage of your purchase is given to the AAARC. Just sign up your Albertsons card to list the AAARC as the receiver of the benefits at no cost you.

EBay

The AAARC is 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.

Direct donations

Pay Pal (use mel@aaarc.org as the contact email) or by credit card using www.justgive.org or www.networkforgood.org Simply go to these websites and enter A. Austin Amerine Retreat Center and follow the instructions to donate.

Here are some ways your direct financial gifts can help:

- \$50 will buy 6 pounds of native grass and wildflower seed to heal road scars
- \$100 will buy 12 bales of straw for erosion control
- \$250 will pay the phone bill for 6 months
- \$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
- \$1,000 will surface 300 feet of road with gravel (6000 feet of road needs gravel)
- \$1,500 will buy a storage container for tools and supplies (saving storage fees)
- \$2,000 will pay the liability insurance on the property
- \$2,500 will pay the 2006 taxes
- \$5,000 will pave the entrance

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

Do you like pruning trees or shrubs? Are you a fire bug at heart? Do you like playing in the mud? We are looking for volunteers to help out 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 weekend 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 for further information.

2006 Pledges

Please consider making a pledge to AAARC for 2006. Giving a portion of your tax refund is a great way to start the new year! Remember all donations to the AAARC are tax deductible.

Thank You To Our 2005 Donors!!

The Board of Directors, Advisors and Staff want to thank all of our 2005 supporters. Without our supporter's financial and other contributions we would not be able to continue to make the AAARC a reality.

2005 Ground Breakers

Stan Kimer and Rich Roark
Tim Webb and John Torres
Kathy and Vicki Zalewski
Mel Johnson
Sharon Stover

Supporters

Jim Eimers and Rob Wulff
Ralph Wysong
Paul Steindal
Doug and Jennifer Marshall
Jill Nelson
Cindy Acker and Elisabeth Middleberg
Troy Perry
Dave Dishman
Cecilia Eggleston
Paul Gilger
Jennifer Kruse
Terry Echelbarger
Keith Kunkel

*Happy Easter
from the AAARC Jackrabbits*

