

Vol. 15 No. 1  
January 1997

**\*\*ANNUAL MEETING\*\***

**WHEN: Wednesday, January 22, 1997**  
**TIME: 7:00 PM**  
**WHERE: Foothills Community Center**

Happy New Year from the officers and board members of the Foothills Rural Association! Thank you for your support of the Association through the past year. The date for our **14th Annual Meeting** has now been set, and we look forward to seeing many of you in attendance. Refreshments will be served. Annual reports will be delivered. New officers and board members will be elected. Your presence at this meeting is important and valued by your elected leaders.

In addition to your suggestions for 1997 activities and events, your encouragement and support for those who have accepted nomination as officers and board members is sincerely appreciated. Here is the slate:

President:	Steven Allenberg
Vice-President:	Mike Britton
Secretary	Wende Barker
Treasurer	Don Tucker
Board Members:	
(3-year Terms -	Rich Krenkel
two to be elected)	Paul Pizelo

Nominations for all positions may also be made from the floor. Board members continuing to serve through 1997 include:

Dale Preedy	'98
Pat Wolfe	'98
Joyce Roskelley	'97
Glen Anderson	'97

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

A new membership record was reached in 1996 with a total of **125 paid members!** This represents roughly 1/3 of the identified resident households in the Foothills - an enviable record for a community association in a rural area such as ours. You are identified as a paid member if your mailing label on this newsletter reads "MEMBER 1996" on the second line. **Thank you for your support!**

Enclosed with this newsletter is an envelope to use in mailing your membership dues for 1997. *Your dues serve as tangible evidence of your caring and interest in preserving the rural lifestyle of the Foothills area.* Any property owner or resident within the boundaries of Fire District 9, Station 6 is eligible for membership. Friends of the Foothills living outside the area may become non-voting "Associate Members" and will be included on the mailing list.

Your dues allow the Association to:

- publish and distribute this newsletter 4-6 times/year
- maintain the Foothills Community Center and grounds
- provide funds for community events including the yard sale, fun walk, potluck dinners, and special holiday events
- invest in savings to insure availability of funds for large projects, such as the new siding on the Community Center.

The \$10,000 Jess Kronquist Endowment Fund was established as a source of investment income. Interest income from the fund supported a \$500.00 college scholarship in 1996.

If you prefer, you may pay your dues at the Annual Meeting, and save on postage!

**SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION  
 ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING  
 RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 1997  
 THANK YOU VERY MUCH!**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Jim Wallrabenstein, Treasurer

**BIRDS OF THE FOOTHILLS**

by Ron Dexter

Total Balance - January 1, 1996      \$18,976.27

1996 Income

Member Dues	\$ 2,500.00
Cottage Rent	2,850.00
Community Center Rental	430.00
Funwalk/Pancake Breakfast	596.00
Interest/Dividends on Accounts	362.39
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,738.39</b>

1996 Expenses

Donations/Gift Certificates	\$ 90.00
Community Center Electric	1,532.29
Community Center Maintenance	240.00
Community Center Insurance	703.00
Community Center <b>Insulation</b>	767.51
Community Center Materials	142.88
Printing	686.98
Supplies	47.29
Postage	450.53
Bank Charges/Filing Fees	47.00
Cottage Maintenance	35.62
Cottage Materials	108.54
Grounds Maintenance	120.00
Potluck (Founder's Day)	320.69
Funwalk/Pancake Breakfast	513.56
Yard Sale	31.40
Rental Deposit Return (cottage)	250.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,087.29</b>

Jess Kronquist Endowment Fund

Balance - January 1, 1996	\$10,158.11
1996 Interest Earned	(+) 684.21
Tom Lunneborg Scholarship	(-) 500.00
Balance - December 31, 1996	\$10,342.32

Total Balance - December 31, 1996      \$19,811.58

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**THANK YOU!**

Beginning with the April 1995 newsletter, Foothills resident **Ron Dexter** has provided informative and interesting articles on **Birds of the Foothills** for each issue. Ron and his wife, Pat, live near the north end of Forker Road. Ron's articles are a wonderful way for him to share their love for birds and nature. Thank you Ron, for your gift to us all through your articles!

We have a number of birds that visit the Foothills in the winter months, such as the Pine Grosbeak, Bald Eagle, Stellars Jay, Merlin, and the Bohemian Waxwings. This article will feature two of the most commonly seen wintering birds - the Northern Shrike and the Rough-legged Hawk.

The Northern Shrike: This little bird is only 10" long, but holds it's own among many larger birds. it is gray, white, and black, with a heavy black eyeline. It has a hooked bill for tearing it's food apart. Its food consists of rodents, lizards and large insects as well as small birds. They hunt in open fields.

These little birds migrate 500 to 1,000 miles, all the way from Alaska, the Yukon, Northwest Territories, northern Canada and part of the Arctic. They arrive in the Foothills in mid-October and head back north in mid-April.

The Shrike is a songbird with many beautiful rambling songs. It sings in the fall when it arrives here and sings in the spring as if calling for a mate before starting its trip back north.

You will see this bird on power lines along the roads in the Foothills or hovering in one spot over a field while watching the movement of its prey in the grass before diving to grab it with its bill. It has typical songbird feet which are only strong enough for perching. Therefore, it must find some other way to hold its food while tearing small pieces off for its meal. The shrike finds a thorn in a Hawthorn tree or a barb on a fence to impale the mouse. It may also wedge the meal into a tight fork of two branches. Don't confuse the Shrike with the American Kestrel which is a little larger and very colorful. The Kestrel is a Falcon that hunts in the same manner as the Shrike.

The Rough-Legged Hawk: The name comes from the feathers on the legs all the way down to the talons. This large hawk and the Shrikes compete for the same space and rodents here as well as up north. In the north country, the one rodent they eat which we don't have here is the Lemming. Rough-legs generally arrive here a week or two after the Shrikes and return north a couple weeks after the Shrikes. They migrate in large loose flocks.

These hawks are the same size as our local red-tailed hawks, but are easy to distinguish by their markings and color. They are white, black, and brown. They have a white upper tail with a heavy black band near the end. Their neck is white and their breast is black. A rectangular

## BIRDS (con't)

black wrist stands out on the underside of white wings when they fly and their white head is broken by a black eye line and whisker mark.

The Rough-Legged Hawks hunt just like the Shrikes - from poles, overhead wires or tree tops. They also hover in one spot just like the Shrikes.

Use your bird books and binoculars to study these wintering birds. They are our friends indeed.

New Book of Interest: Do you realize that 99% of the rain water and now that drains out of the Foothills winds up in the Little Spokane River via Peone and Deadman creeks?

A wonderful book has just been published by the Little Spokane Watershed Council. This book, titled, *Critters of the Little Spokane Watershed*, is available at bookstores or call 747-5738, or Ton Dexter at 468-2555. The book is 320 pages of text and offers a photographic tour of the watershed's native plants, fungi, birds and mammal wildlife habitats and their inter-relationships. Seventy-eight of the photographs were taken by Ron and Pat Dexter. More than 1,700 species all around us are listed including 215 bird species, 70 mammals and all known insects, etc. The book is \$25.00.

1996 Christmas Bird Count: Every year near Christmas, the Spokane Audubon members and volunteers spend one entire day counting all the birds they can find within a 15 mile diameter circle centered about Division and Francis. This circle includes a portion of the Foothills which starts on Fruit Hill Road and circles north by northwest through Peone Prairie.

Hal Hooper and I counted this area on Saturday, December 28. We had help from the Kruegers and Halsteads who called in the birds they counted that day in their yards. They each have wonderful bird habitats.

Hal and I covered 67 miles in 8 1/2 hours. Altogether, we identified 27 different species and 1,330 individual birds. The species included: Evening Grosbeaks, Dark-eyed Juncos, Goldfinches, Song Sparrows, Slate Colored Juncos, Common Ravens, Northern Flickers, Black-Billed Magpies, House Finches, Downy Woodpecker, Sharp-Shinned Hawk, Rock Doves, California Quail, Mountain Chickadees, Red-Tailed Hawk, House Sparrows, Mourning Doves, Ring-Neck Pheasants, Rough-Legged Hawks, European Starlings, American Crows, Horned Larks, Gray Partridges, Red-Winged Blackbirds, Black-capped Chickadees, Great-Horned Owls.

In addition, there was one Raptor species and one Ancipiter species which we were not able to positively identify. Hal thinks the Ancipiter was a Coopers Hawk. I think it was a Goshawk!

The **Foothills Rural Association** was established as a non-profit corporation under section 502(C)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code on December 12, 1983. The purposes for which the corporation is organized are to organize the property owners and/or current residents within the boundaries of Fire District 9, Station 6; to protect the area from environmental depredation; to provide a forum by which the property owners and/or current residents may assist governmental agencies in better planning the use and resources of the Foothills area; to preserve and protect the rural agricultural environment.

**Voting Membership** in the Association is open to any property owner or current resident with the Foothills boundaries. Membership dues are \$20./year. **Non-voting Membership** is available to others through payment of dues. The Association is governed by elected volunteer officers and a board of directors.

The **Newsletter** is published 4-6 times a year by the Foothills Rural Association. It is mailed to all known resident addresses in the Foothills. Address additions/corrections should be sent to: Jim Wallrabenstein, Editor  
16630 E. Foothills Road  
Spokane, WA 99207-9433  
Phone: 924-4406 FAX: 924-3665  
E-Mail: jmw@on-ramp.ior.com

A **Community Crime Log** has been established in an effort to increase community awareness about crime occurring in our area. The crime log will be published in the newsletter. Residents are encouraged to report **all** crimes to the police. After making a police report, call:  
Chelle Spaulding, Crime Log Recorder  
Ph. 924-6590

The **Foothills Community Center**, located on Forker Road, adjacent to the Foothills Fire Station, exists as a result of community efforts to save and renovate the former Foothills School Building. The Center, used for many community activities, is maintained and supported by the Foothills Rural Association. It is available for use by members of the Foothills Rural Association for a nominal utilities charge and by non-members for a reasonable rental fee. The community center includes complete kitchen facilities. For information or to reserve a date, call: Flavia Kuebler, Rental Coordinator  
Ph. 926-2919

### 1996 Board Directory

President	Mike Britton	922-1494
Vice-President	Steve Allenberg	926-4111
Secretary	Carol Stoll	926-2944
Treasurer	Jim Wallrabenstein	924-4406
Board	Dale Preedy ('98)	466-6172
	Pat Wolfe ('98)	924-1412
	Joyce Roskelley ('97)	928-2587
	Glen Anderson ('97)	926-0214
	Wende Barker ('96)	924-3127
	Paul Pizelo ('96)	922-8334

**FOOTHILLS FIRE STATION #6**  
**ALARM LOG**

<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Type</u>
11/01 1500	15606 E Farwell	smoke in area
11/06 1634	12326 E Kronquist	medical
11/12 0549	7008 E Bigelow Gulch	alarm system
11/15 2204	15628 E Scribner	barn fire
11/16 1155	15404 E Scribner	hot spots - previous fire
11/19 1700	5911 E Valley Springs	chimney fire
11/24 1839	Forker/Hwy 206	vehicle accid.
12/02 1643	13500 E Pleasant Prairie	vehicle accid.
12/22 1451	Argonne/Bigelow Gulch	vehicle accid.
12/22 1645	Mt. Spokane/Forker	landing zone @ helicopter
12/23 1402	Mt. Spokane/Forker	landing zone @ helicopter
12/29 0828	11102 N Forker	electrical fire
12/30 1724	Forker, south of Progress	vehicle accid.

**BURGLARIES REPORTED**

Two residential burglaries were reported to the Community Crime Log (924-6590) in late November and December. Both were also reported to the Sheriff's Dept.

In November a home in the 16000 block of Foothills Road was entered in mid-day while a teen-ager was at home! The teen escaped through a window when a door was kicked in by the intruder. When the intruder realized, someone had been home, he left hastily though not empty handed!

A description of the intruder provided by the teen who escaped matched that of a person linked to as many as two dozen rural burglaries! Unfortunately, the Sheriff's office has been unable to locate where the suspect is staying. All goods are moved out of the area (probably out of state) before being fenced.

**NOTE:** This home is close to and easily visible from the road. It is passed by many other Foothills Road residents every day. While a formal Block Watch program is of limited effectiveness in a rural area like ours, residents are encouraged to be familiar with the types of vehicles operated by your neighbors. Most of us recognize many, if not most, vehicles belonging to folks in our immediate area. If you see a strange or unfamiliar vehicle at a neighbor's house, especially when you would normally not expect them to be home, try to get a good description

and the license plate number! This information could help solve a possible crime.

Also, it would seem wise to discuss with your children, who may be home alone at times, what to do in the event a stranger knocks on the door. In this case, the teen saw it was a stranger and decided to ignore the knock. The burglar then, figuring no one was home, kicked in the door!

On December 12, a house in the 12000 block of Moffat Road was entered between 11 AM and 4:30 PM. Items stolen included a TV and VCR. It appears the intruder(s) in this case entered through a sliding glass door.

**Remember,** never attempt to confront a suspected criminal! if you witness a crime in progress, call "911" and wait for the police.

Make sure your address is clearly visible from the road. Police, as well as fire and emergency personnel, waste valuable time if they are unable to locate where help is needed.

**FOOTHILLS ON-LINE**

Every day the number of households linked by computer to the world-wide-web continues to grow. This is true here in the Foothills as elsewhere. Some Foothills residents have established "home pages" on web which are very creative and interesting. Others now exchange E-mail on a regular basis opening another avenue for neighbors to keep in touch!

In a recent conversation with one of my "on-line" neighbors, the possibility of a Foothills Rural Association "community home page" was even discussed! Such a presence on the www has many possibilities.

How many Foothills residents are on-line? Is there any interest in creating a community E-mail directory? What about the possibility of creating a community home page?

If you are on-line, **consider including your E-mail address on your membership dues renewal form.** Or, you can E-mail me at:  
jmw@on-ramp.ior.com

Ideas and suggestions are welcome! Perhaps we can also discuss this topic at the Annual Meeting. Thanks

Jim Wallrabenstein, Editor

## NEED HELP? CALL FOOTHILLS YOUTH!

Are you in need of some eager, able-bodied assistance? These Foothills youth are ready to help and waiting to hear from you!

Paul Bertholic (16), Morrison Road 922-2344  
Yard work, snow shoveling, odd jobs.

Jeannie Bertholic (20) 922-2344

Diana Bertholic (18)

Crystal Bertholic (14)

Julie Bertholic (12)

Babysitting, house cleaning

Heather Bitterman (13), Forker Road 891-5231  
Babysitting, feeding animals

Jason Kann (15), MacMahan Road 926-7686  
Babysitting, yard work, snow shoveling, odd jobs

Jennifer Kann (16) 926-7686  
Babysitting

Alyson Mahan (12), Forker Road 921-0700  
Typing, flyers, tutoring math K-6

Jerry Olinger (14), Forker Road 892-1145  
Yard work, snow shoveling, odd jobs

Kira Starling (14), Foothills Road 924-9012  
Babysitting, yard work, snow shoveling, elderly care, odd jobs

Dawn Starling (12) 924-9012  
Babysitting, yard work, snow shoveling, pet care, odd jobs

Danae Starling (11) 924-9012  
Yard work, snow shoveling, pet care, odd jobs

Heather Tweedy (13), Foothills Road 891-6969  
Babysitting, pet care

Holly Weiler (17), Adams Road 926-9144  
Babysitting, house cleaning

Joe Weiler (15) 926-9144  
Yard work, snow shoveling, odd jobs

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If you are a Foothills youth who would like to be listed in the next newsletter, send this information to:

Foothills Rural Association  
16630 E. Foothills Road  
Spokane, WA 99207-9433  
FAX: 924-3665  
E-Mail: jmw@on-ramp.ior.com

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Type of work you're interested in doing.

## "MEMBERS ONLY" CLASSIFIED ADS

Call your neighbors first. Ad space is provided FREE to members. Send ads to:

Foothills Rural Association  
16630 E. Foothills Road  
Spokane, WA 99207-9433  
FAX: 924-3665  
E-Mail: jmw@on-ramp.ior.com



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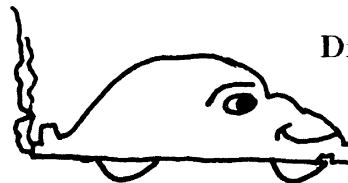


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