



Representing the Residents and Ratepayers of Otter Point, Shirley and Jordan River
www.opsrra.ca

OPSRRRA'S OTTER POINT, SHIRLEY & JORDAN RIVER NEWSLETTER: DECEMBER 2016 CELEBRATING 13 YEARS OF PUBLICATION!

**WISHING EVERYONE HAPPY HOLIDAYS, MERRY
CHRISTMAS AND A SAFE & HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

- 1. UP-COMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS**
- 2. OTTER POINT CANDY CANE RUN ROUTE AND SCHEDULE**
- 3. OPSRRRA NOV 20TH GENERAL MEETING REPORT**
- 4. CAMP BARNARD PAYS TRIBUTE TO HAL COULSON**
- 5. CAPITAL INTEGRATED SERVICES AND GOVERNANCE SURVEY**
- 6. FILM AWARENESS "FOR THE LOVE OF MUSIC" EVENT**
- 7. OTTER POINT FIRE DEPARTMENT AGM REPORT**
- 8. OPSRRRA SMALL BUSINESS LISTINGS**
- 9. BACK ISSUES OF THE OPSRRRA NEWSLETTER**

OPSRRRA is a registered non-profit society with an elected Board of Directors and strives to present the points-of-view of its members to local government. OPSRRRA was founded in 1992 and has a membership of over 400. Residents or property owners within the Shirley, Jordan River and Otter Point Official Community Plan boundaries who are age 18 or over are eligible for membership.

Lifetime memberships cost \$10.00 per person and are available from OPSRRRA directors - see our web site (www.opsrra.ca) for further information. Associate (non-voting) memberships are available for persons who do not reside or own property in Shirley, Jordan River or Otter Point but wish to support the association.

The purpose of our society is to:

1. Ensure that the development of the communities of Shirley, Jordan River and Otter Point takes place in an orderly way and in the best interests of its residents.
2. Co-operate with local government and other public bodies in the furtherance of the objectives of the society and benefits to the community.
3. Concern itself with the performance of government agencies.
4. Encourage citizens to stand for public office.
5. Promote community spirit and sense of identity by organizing or supporting appropriate activities.

Are you an OPSRRA member? Do you want to receive the OPSRRA's monthly newsletter and notice of meetings directly to your e-mail address? We began publishing this newsletter in June 2003. It is e-mailed to over **300** of our members as well as local elected representatives, media and archival organizations. Contact Marika Nagasaka at: opsrra@gmail.com if you want to receive this membership service.

OPSRRA's EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTORS

Marika Nagasaka	President	Debb Read	Vice-President
Phone: 646-2133		Phone: 646- 9998	
Brenda Mark	Treasurer	Fiona McDannold	Director
Phone: 646-2598		Phone: 646-2730	
Sandy Barta	Director	Bill Dushenko	Director
Julie Johns	Director		

Note: All OPSRRA directors can now be reached at a common e-mail address: opsrra@gmail.com

1. UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Contact Marika Nagasaka at: opsrranewsletter@gmail.com to have your community event listed in our monthly **Community Events** calendar.

Visit the OPSRRA web site: www.opsrra.ca to view a Calendar of Events.

<p>Saturday Dec 3rd</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society Hike</p> <p>Sooke Hills: West. Meet at the end of Sun River Way at 9:00 am for an 11 km hike in the Sooke Hills. Dress for the weather and bring good footwear, a lunch, camera and water. Everyone is welcome.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">For more information contact Rosemary Jorna at 250.642.2767</p> <p style="text-align: center;">or email jdf.cts@gmail.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Web site: www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca</p>
<p>Tuesday Dec 6th</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Juan de Fuca Emergency Services</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Monthly Meeting 7:00 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JdF Search & Rescue Campus Training Bldg. 2028C Idlemore Road, Sooke</p>
<p>Saturday Dec 10th</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Juan de Fuca Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission and the Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society Hike</p> <p>East Sooke Park to Iron Mine Bay. This is a JDFEA Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission sponsored. Meet at William Simmons Memorial Park, west parking lot (Sooke Business Park) at 9 am. Alternatively meet at the East Sooke Park Parking Lot on Pike Road at 9:30 am. Dress for the weather and bring good footwear, a lunch and water. Everyone is welcome.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">For more information contact Sid Jorna at 250.642.2767 or email jdf.cts@gmail.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Web site: www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca</p>
<p>Saturday Dec 12th</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Otter Point Fire Department Candy Cane Run</p> <p style="text-align: center;">See Newsletter Item # 2 for detailed Route and Schedule info.</p>
<p>Tuesday Dec 13th</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sooke & Electoral Area Parks & Recreation Commission (SEAPARC)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Monthly meeting 1:00 pm Boardroom, SEAPARC Leisure Complex, 2168 Phillips Road, Sooke</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular meetings of the Commission usually take place at SEAPARC on the 2nd Tuesday of the month and are open to the public. • Meetings are also held at the call of the Chair. • Agendas and Minutes are posted for each meeting at: http://www.crd.bc.ca/seaparc/commission.htm
Wednesday Dec 14th	<p style="text-align: center;">Shirley Women's Institute Meeting Monthly meeting second Wednesday of the month 10:30 am at the Shirley Hall</p>
Wednesday Dec 14th	<p style="text-align: center;">Awareness Film Night Doors open at 6:45 pm EMCS Theatre (6218 Sooke Rd, Sooke) Please see Newsletter Item #6 for more info. www.awarenessfilmnight.ca</p>
Sunday Jan 1st	<p style="text-align: center;">DON'T FORGET THE ANNUAL OTTER POINT FIRE DEPARTMENT POLAR BEAR SWIM AT WHIFFIN SPIT!!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Registration at 11:30 am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cannon start at 12:00 pm Whiffin Spit Park, Sooke.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sponsored by the Otter Point Volunteer Fire Department</p> 
Saturday Jan 7th	<p style="text-align: center;">Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society Hike</p> <p>Mystic Beach Hike – weather depending we may also explore China Beach. Meet in the right hand parking lot at China Beach Provincial Park at 9:00 am. Dress for the weather and bring good footwear, a lunch and a couple snacks, your camera and lots of water. Everyone is welcome.</p> <p>For more information contact Rosemary Jorna at 250.642.2767 or email jdf.cts@gmail.com</p>

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<p>Wednesday Jan 11th</p>	<p>Shirley Community Association Meeting</p> <p>7:30 pm at the Shirley Hall</p>
<p>Saturday Jan 14th</p>	<p>Juan de Fuca Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission and the Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society Hike</p> <p>East Sooke Park – Coppermine Loop. This is a JDFEA Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission sponsored hike. A 2.5 difficulty level hike featuring gorgeous forest, moss covered outcroppings and ocean vistas as well as an abandoned copper mine. Meet at the East Sooke Park Parking Lot on Pike Road at 9:00 am. Dress for the weather and bring good footwear, a lunch and water. Everyone is welcome.</p> <p>For more information contact Sid Jorna at 250.642.2767 or email jdf.cts@gmail.com</p>

	<p>Web site: www.jdfcommunitytrails.ca</p>
Mondays	<p>Easy Yoga for Women</p> <p>10:00 am – 11:00 am at the Shirley Hall</p> <p>Yoga with Elizabeth Tse Contact: bloomingyoga4kids@gmail.com</p>
Mondays	<p>Karate at the Shirley Hall</p> <p>6:00 pm – 7:00 pm at the Shirley Hall</p> <p>Mixed ages welcome, class will be structured on skill levels Instructors: Sen Sei Armin Sielopp and Sen Sei Tessa Peers Contact: asielopp@telus.net</p>
Thursdays	<p>Shirley Quilters and Crafters</p> <p>10:30 am at the Shirley Hall</p>
Saturdays	<p>Pilates at the Shirley Hall</p> <p>9:30 am Level 1 class, suitable for beginners Contact: Sandra Smith Email: info@sandrasmithyoga.com</p>
Sundays	<p>Kemp Lake Store Music Café Music Jam</p> <p>1:00 pm – 5:00 pm @ 7875 West Coast Rd For more info phone 250.642.7875</p>
Thursdays & Sundays	<p>Nia Dance/Movement Class at the Shirley Hall</p> <p>Thursdays from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm Sundays 11:00 am – 12:15 pm Contact: Melody Kimmell, 250-646-2995 email movingmelody@gmail.com</p>

**Fridays &
Sundays**

Yoga at the Shirley Hall

**Fridays at 10:00 am – 11:15 am
Sundays at 5:00 pm – 6:15 pm**

**Class for all levels
wildwomanspirit21@gmail.com**

2. OTTER POINT CANDY CANE RUN ROUTE AND SCHEDULE

On Saturday, December 10th the Otter Point Volunteer Fire Firefighters Association will sponsor the annual **Candy Cane Run** through Otter Point with Santa Claus atop a decorated fire truck. Walk out to the end of your driveway for 10 or 15 minutes and enjoy this festive event! The following route information is provided by the Otter Point Volunteer Fire Fighters. **Route Times are Approximate**

**The Otter Point Fire Department will be accepting donations for the
Sooke Community Food Bank**

1700 hrs (5:00pm) START

- Thelmita Place, Sarah Drive
- 2900 blk. Otter Point Rd. to Young Lake Rd.
- Up Young Lake Rd. to Poirier Rd. and back to Otter Point Rd.
- Up Butler Rd. to far end of Lemare Cres. and back down Lemare Cres. to Butler and Otter Point Rd.
- Otter Point Rd. to Robinson Rd. (entire length) then to Tugwell Rd.

1800 hrs (6:00pm) approx.

- Tugwell Rd. to Michelson Rd. (entire length)
- Tugwell Rd. to Goudie Rd. (entire length)
- Back to Otter Point Rd.

1830 hrs (6:30pm) approx.

- Otter Point Rd. to Amanda Rd. (entire length) and back to Otter Point Rd.
- Otter Point Rd. to King Rd. (entire length) to Corby Ridge (entire length) and back to Otter Point Rd.
- Otter Point Rd. to end of Otter Point Pl. (entire length),
- Clark Rd. (entire length) and back to Otter Point Rd and

down to West Coast Rd.

1930 hrs (7:30pm) approx.

- West Coast Rd. towards Sooke to Olympic Pl. (entire length) and back to West Coast Rd.
- Up Otter Ridge Dr. (entire length), back to Taylor Pl. (entire length) and back to West Coast Rd.
- Up Otter Ridge Dr. (entire length) to Taylor Pl. (entire length) and back to West Coast Rd.
- West Coast Rd. to Olympic View mobile home park
- West Coast Rd. to Carpenter Rd.
- Carpenter Rd. (entire length) to Delrae (entire length)
- Back to West Coast Rd. to end of our fire district
- Turn around and come back to Kemp Lake Rd.

2030 hrs (8:30) approx.

- Kemp Lake Rd. to Milligan Rd. and Broomhill Rd. intersection and back to Kemp Lake Rd.
- Kemp Lake Rd. to Otter Point Rd. and back to the Fire Hall

3. OPSRAA NOV 20TH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING REPORT

OPSRRA held a General Membership Meeting on November 20th at the JDF Local Area Services Building on the topic “**Water Resources Sustainability in Our Communities**”. Two BSc graduates of Royal Roads University Environmental Science program, Gayle Hatchard and Emily Rudderham were the guest speakers. Gayle and Emily were members of the Royal Roads student group, ***Pacific Priority Solutions***, which was commissioned by OPSRRA to do a report on an “**Assessment of Water Resource Sustainability in Otter Point, Shirley and Jordan River**” as their Major Project for the 2015/16 term. This report can be viewed on the OPSRRA website or members can borrow a hard copy of the report by contacting any OPSRRA Director.

Regional Director Mike Hicks graciously attended the meeting, and his role in providing a Grant-In-Aid to fund the project was recognized and greatly appreciated by OPSRRA. A number of residents and OPSRRA members, who had a great deal of interest in the subject, were in attendance.

Gayle presented the ArcGIS database created for OPSRRA by the student group and demonstrated the database to the audience. Emily presented a summary of the 2016

Water Sustainability Act. The PDF of their Power Point can be seen on the OPSRRA website <http://opsrra.ca/> or with the link <http://opsrra.ca/Water/RRU%20Project/Assessment%20of%20Water%20Resource%20Sustainability%20Presentation.pdf>

Gayle and Emily responded to many questions and much discussion was generated. RD Mike Hicks also responded to questions addressed to him on the topic.

OPSRRA Director Sandy Barta spoke about iMapBC, the provincial mapping service that can be used to find data and information on water-related resources. She also spoke about QGIS, a free and easy to set up mapping program that can be customized with links to provincial, federal and other information. She offered to give inservices to anyone interested in learning how to use the programs.

OPSRRA Director Bill Dushenko talked about the Terms of Reference for a Royal Roads Major Project proposal for 2016/17. The title of the proposal is: “**Community Planning for Water Sustainability in Otter Point, Shirley and Jordan River**”. The project will build on key recommendations from the 2015/16 student group’s (*Pacific Priority Solutions*) Major Project final report. OPSRRA expects to hear soon if the proposal has been accepted.

4. CAMP BARNARD PAYS TRIBUTE TO HAL COULSON

The following was submitted to OPSRRA by the Camp Barnard Committee

Camp Barnard has always enjoyed the support of its neighbours in Otter Point. Donations of goods, services and cash often come our way. But the services of one local resident have been exceptional.

In the 12 years since the closing of the Scouts Canada office in Victoria, Otter Point resident and Scouting volunteer Hal Coulson has handled the bookings for every group that has used Camp Barnard- a year round job booking a very diverse collection of groups! Until October of this year, Hal handled all requests along with hundreds of questions from campers new to Camp Barnard. His responses were always prompt and to the point, his records meticulous, invoices and receipts sent on time, with weekly visits to the camp keeping him up to date on who was in the camp or to tour a new group around the facilities. Hal was truly a godsend to Camp Barnard! In October Hal told us that he was having trouble keeping up with this job due to failing health. On November 24th he passed away.

We are so indebted to Hal for his steadfast dedication to Camp Barnard. Our heartfelt sympathies got out to Carol, Laura, Warren and their families.

5. CAPITAL INTEGRATED SERVICES AND GOVERNANCE SURVEY

The following was submitted to OPSRRA by the CRD

To whom it may concern,

The **Province of British Columbia** is asking residents in the Capital Region for feedback on integrating service and governance. To make sure the decisions made meet the current and future needs of the community, your involvement is essential.

We would appreciate if you could share the link below or forward this email to Otter Point, Shirley & Jordan River Residents and Ratepayers Association members and contact lists in order to ensure that everyone is aware and has a chance to participate.

The deadline to participate is December 15: <https://www.placespeak.com/CISGI>

Thank you in advance,
Mary

Mary Leong
Communications Manager, PlaceSpeak Inc.
<https://www.placespeak.com/>

6. FILM AWARENESS “FOR THE LOVE OF MUSIC” EVENT

December's Awareness Film Night traditionally has been a benefit and this year is no exception. On December 14th, in collaboration with The Sooke Philharmonic Society and Harmony Project Sooke, we will be presenting "For the Love of Music", an evening of film, live music and refreshments to raise funds for both the SPO and HPS.

Founded in 1997 by conductor Norman Nelson, the Sooke Philharmonic Orchestra now has over 60 members and is recognized as *"one of Canada's finest community orchestras"*.

The Harmony Project was founded in Los Angeles in 2001 to provide free musical education to children in inner city neighborhoods. Several years ago Maestro Norman Nelson visited the Harmony Project in L.A. and came away inspired to bring a similar program to Sooke.

Although the context in inner city L.A. of violent gangs and extreme poverty is quite different from our context here in tranquil and relatively well-off Sooke, both communities share the need for more access to musical education.

Harmony Project Sooke has accomplished much in the less than a year since its establishment. It currently runs a Beginning Strings Class for grades 2-4 students and a Drumline Class for grades 6 and up. The children and youth attend classes 2-3 times a week outside of school time.

The evening will begin with a screening of the recently produced half hour documentary **"For the Love of Music"**, described as *"an intimate look at the celebrated Sooke Philharmonic Orchestra...and its relevance within this small West Coast town"*.

This will be followed by several shorter films about the founding of HP in L.A., including some captivating testimonials by graduates and fascinating research on the benefits of learning to play a musical instrument.

After the screenings moviegoers are invited to enjoy live music by members of the Sooke Philharmonic Orchestra and Harmony Project Sooke and a concession offering coffee, mulled cider, baked goodies and popcorn all in the theatre foyer.

Donations from the door and the concessions will go toward the work of HPS and SPO Society to continue promoting and producing music in our community.

Films from 7-8:15; music and refreshments from 8:15-9:00.

More info: www.awarenessfilmnight.ca www.harmonyprojectsooke.ca www.sookephil.ca and all the associated facebook and twitter pages.

7. OTTER POINT FIRE DEPARTMENT AGM REPORT

The **Otter Point Fire Protection and Emergency Response Service Commission** held its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, November 9th. Re-elected for another two-year term were commissioners Kenny Jones (Chair), Bud Gibbons (Treasurer) and Joanne Hemphill. Commissioners with another year remaining in their two-year term are: Marie-Ann Davidson (Secretary), Lloyd Heinemann and Harold Melville. Scott Hemphill remains as the firefighters' representative on the commission. The Juan de Fuca Electoral Area (JDFEA) Regional Director sits as an ex officio member of the commission but does not attend meetings unless there is a specific agenda item requiring his participation.

The commission was established by the Capital Regional District (CRD) in 1980, and is the successor to the Otter Fire District Society. The commissioners are responsible to the CRD Board of Directors and the taxpayers of Otter Point for the general operation of the Otter Point Fire Department (OPFD), and they appoint the Fire Chief who manages the day-to-day operations of the department.

The volunteer fire department responds to a range of fire and other emergencies in the community including:

- Structural, chimney, appliance, brush, beach and open burning fires
- Motor vehicles accidents, where fire or trapped occupant(s) is a concern
- Hazardous material spills
- Alarm bells
- First Response for medical assistance
- Open burning complaints
- Down Hydro lines where fire or public safety is a concern
- Mutual aid to other local area fire departments (**see note**).

Note: Mutual aid arrangements with neighbouring fire departments have increased callouts. The OPFD responded to 22 Mutual Aid requests this past year – mostly from the District of Sooke, and received assistance from other fire departments 4 times

The Otter Point Volunteer Fire Fighters Association (OPVFFA) operates the Fire Training Centre located behind the Otter Point Fire Hall. In addition to providing live fire training for the OPFD, this facility provides regional training sessions in conjunction with the BC Justice Institute and is rented to other volunteer fire departments. These fire departments rent the facility for approximately \$1,000 a day depending on activities. The revenue is used to offset the costs of operating and maintaining the training centre. This arrangement allows the fire department to enjoy considerable savings in training costs as it enables the OPFD to use the facility year-round and saves the cost of sending Otter Point firefighters away to another facility. Grants from the BC Lotteries Commission help to offset the centre's costs.

The OPFD is supported by taxpayers who own property within the Otter Point Fire Protection District boundary. Some owners of undeveloped land in Otter Point choose not to pay for fire protection, and are therefore not covered by the OPFD. The commissioners prepare an annual operating budget which is approved by the JDFEA Regional Director and the Finance Department of the CRD. The budget for the department's operation in 2016 was \$375,750. The budget for 2017 is \$387,300 - a 3.1% increase over 2016. The estimated cost per average Otter Point household in 2016 was about \$324 and for 2017 will be about \$334. The cost to individual property owners in Otter Point for fire protection and emergency response services appears as a line item on your provincial tax assessment; for 2016 it is \$92.94 per \$100,000 of assessed property value.

The 2016 OPFD annual report notes a 12% decrease in the volume of call-outs, with a year-to-year drop from 174 to 153. The most notable statistic was the decrease in **First Response** calls, which went from 69 in 2015 to 52 so far in 2016. Although the number of First Response calls dropped for the first time in 5 years, they remain high, and account for 34% of the fire department's total requests for service. First Response incidents are generated by 911 calls to the BC Ambulance Service who then request that the fire department also attend.

Incident Response Statistics for the period November 2014 to October 2016

Incident Category	2014	2015	2016
Alarm Bells	3	3	5
Assist Public	11	10	9
Fire (See Note 1)	28	62	65
First Response	68	69	52
HazMat	2	0	0
Hydro Lines (Note 2)	7	5	7
Misc. Complaints	2	16	9
MVI	9	9	6
Total	130	174	153

Note 1: The category **Fire** includes: brush/grass; hydro; open burning; appliance; chimney; structural (commercial, residential and mobile home/trailer) and vehicle fires as well as smelling smoke.

Note 2: Hydro calls are when a line is down and the OPFD responds to provide public safety until a Hydro crew arrives.

The volunteer firefighter man-hours for all incidents this past year totaled 767; a 32% decrease over 2015 – a reflection of the decrease in call-outs. In addition to these hours, the volunteers logged another 1,890 man-hours of training. In total, this equates to an average of 166 hours per member - the equivalent of 4.1 forty-hour work weeks.

The Otter Point Volunteer Firefighters Association provides the following community services in conjunction with the OPFD:

- Otter Point “Candy Cane Run” with Santa
- New Year’s Day Polar Bear Swim at Whiffin Spit
- Children’s Halloween party and fireworks at Camp Barnard
- Fire hose activity on Canada Day at the Sooke Flats

The OPFD 2016 annual report, and more information about the fire department and the Otter Point Fire Fighters Association can be found on the fire department’s web site:

<http://www.otterpointfire.bc.ca/>

8. OPSRRA SMALL BUSINESS LISTINGS

Do you operate a small business? Are you an OPSRRA member? OPSRRA offers a free business listing service for members, on its web site: www.opsrra.ca. We will list non-members for a suitable donation!

The purpose of this service is to provide an opportunity for businesses in Jordan River, Shirley and Otter Point to advertise their goods and services to their local community. We invite listings for accommodation, farm produce, art, furniture-making, fishing charters, eco-tours, firewood, knitting, soaps, landscaping, bookkeeping, sewing, spas and more. More information, businesses already listed and a registration form are available on OPSRRA’s web site (www.opsrra.ca) under **Business Listings**.

Note: OPSRRA does not accept responsibility for the services provided. Always check references and ask for confirmation of Work Safe B.C. registration if applicable.

Support local businesses. The OPSRRA web site www.opsrra.ca has more information about the following local business listings:

1001 Welding & Equipment Repair
Accent in Grooming
ALM Organic Farm
Beaches West B & B

Migration Design
Ocean Wilderness Inn
Otter Point Beach House
Otter Point Electric

Bear Home Remodelling
Birds Edge Press
Coastal Crunch Granola
Eco Craft Lights
Eagle Cove Beachfront Guest Suites
Farmer Notary—Shawna Farmer, Notary Public.
Full Circle Seeds
Glen's Gardening Company
Heron's Rest B & B
"In A Fix" Bookkeeping & Accounting Services
Jambo Pet Sitting Service
Kemp Lake Store Café
Knotty Beds by Nature and Cedar Surfboards
Le Sooke Spa
Malahat Farm Heritage Cottage
Perfect Grade Plumbing
Reflexology by Marlene Barry
Road's End Construction
Saltwest Naturals
Sooke PocketNews
Sooke Region Chamber of Commerce
Sooke Water Inc.
Shards Glass Studio and Workshops
Stick in the Mud Coffee House
Straitview Ridge Bed & Breakfast
Three Sisters Farm
Tugwell Creek Honey Farm
Tugwell Creek Meadery
Welcome Wagon
Wildewood Custom Homes
Wood Visions

9. BACK ISSUES OF THE OPSRRA NEWSLETTER

Back issues of the OPSRRA newsletter are available on the OPSRRA web site:

www.opsrra.ca

This monthly newsletter is prepared by the directors of OPSRRA. It is available to members by e-mail and to others on our web site. To have an item you would like to have considered for placement in the newsletter, or make a comment about the newsletter, contact an OPSRRA director or email opsrra@gmail.com

OPSRRA tries to verify the correctness of the information in this newsletter; if we have got it wrong we will acknowledge that and make a correction as quickly as possible.