

TMRS News Letter

May 2016
Issue 2

Presidents Message

Wow! It seems like only yesterday, we developed and distributed our first Tabor Mountain Recreation Society Newsletter, and here it's been 7 months since our first edition. Well a lot has been going on behind the scenes over the winter months. And a lot is happening right now! As we head in to the working seasons (summer and fall), there are many activities happening on our 407 kilometers of trails and 27 recreation sites. I'll let you read all about the activities in the following pages.

At A Glance

- Presidents message
- Access Award of Merit
- TMRS On Featured on CKPG
- Presentation in Salmon Arm
- GWL Trail expansion
- **Access North Day
July 23, 2016**
- Vandalism
- Hickory Wing Ski Touring Club winter activities and summer trail work
- PG Snowmobile winter rides success
- PG ATV Club Summer activities and projects
- Caledonia Ramblers news feature
- Volunteer hour over 3,600 hour in 2015
- Great supporting Cast

One project I must comment on, is our flagship program, The Great-West Life Mobility Nature Trail, and the soon to be Universal Campground and Universal Shelter. We have received accolades and awards for the work we have done on Universal Access. This program would not be possible if it weren't for the hard effort and skill of our Universal Project Manager, Mr. Bob Bullock. Bob has worked very hard with the many volunteers through last fall, and now through the spring to EXTEND the Universal Trail by two fold. Through various grants we have now been able to also add in two gazebos. A great place for the family, elders, seniors, and mobility challenged to connect within a natural setting and beautiful scenery. This project has earned TMRS the "Access Award" for 2015, as provided by the City of Prince George. This is the highest award given to volunteer groups for providing access to outdoor activity for ALL members of society. We are grateful for the efforts of Mr. Bullock and the volunteers that have worked with him. The Universal Campground is scheduled to commence construction spring of 2017. Read more inside!

Please don't miss the Access North Day, sponsored by the Spinal Cord Injury Group of PG and co-sponsored by TMRS. Mark your calendars for July 23rd, 2016 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm for the grand opening of the GWL Mobility Trail Extension, and the Sod Turning for the Universal Campground. There will be dignitaries there to speak, a walk through the new section of trail, a look at the new gazebos, and likely some burger flipping will be happening as well! TMRS will have a booth set up, so plenty of information about the mountain will be available.

Folks, enjoy this second edition of the TMRS semi-annual newsletter! All the club activities, construction projects, family rides and hikes, and all the summer activities are awaiting you on the following pages. Remember to "Make Tabor Mountain your Destination Location for Outdoor Recreation" Until next time ...



TMRS News Letters are twice a year and provide information on past and future activities undertaken on Tabor Mountain and TMRS member clubs. Visit www.tmrs.ca for additional information.

TMRS executive and Clubs represented on the Board of Directors

To Contact Members of TMRS visit www.tmrs.ca or visit club websites

President	Randy Ellenchuk
Vice President	Ken Hodges
Secretary	Chris Pepler
Treasurer	Rick Brine
ATV Club	www.pgatvclub.ca
PG Snowmobile Club	www.pgsnowmobileclub.com
Friends of Tabor	www.tmrs.ca
PG Horse Society	www.pghorsesociety.com
Caledonia Ramblers	www.caledoniarambler.ca
Caledonia Ski Club	www.caledonianortic.com
Hickory Wing Touring Ski Club	www.tmrs.ca
Horse Council BC	www.hcbc.ca
Northwest Brigade Paddlers	www.tmrs.ca
Tabor Lake Cleanup Society	lakefolk@telus.net

Tabor Mountain Recreational Society Recognition

Over the past year TMRS has been recognized for its efforts as an organization and for the work undertaken on the mountain, especially the Great West Life Mobility Trail. In 2015 TMRS was nominated for the business of the year with the Prince George Chamber of Commerce. Being nominated was a great honor for the organization since it has been in existence with trails since 2011.

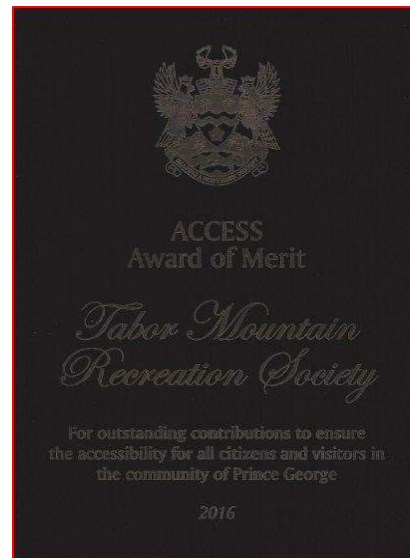
In 2016 TMRS was nominated for the Prince George cities Access Award of Merit. Each year the City of Prince George Advisory Committee on Accessibility selects an organization, business or individual to be recognized with the Access Award of Merit. This Award is the highest honor granted by the City of Prince George in recognition of contributions to universal inclusiveness to improve the quality of life for all residents in this northern community. The nominations for the award are brought forward from members of the public.

This year the Tabor Mountain Recreation Society is the winner of the award. Congratulations and thanks for all within the organization that make recreation more accessible for everyone.

This is real honor for Tabor Mountain Recreational Society and its members. This award speaks volumes about the TMRS member clubs and all its committed volunteers that dedicated tons of hours and time on the mountain. In 2015 TMRS members put over 3,600 hours of volunteer time on the mountain and 10,000 hours since 2011.



Randy Ellenchuk receiving the award from
City Mayer Lyn Hall and Councilor Jillian Merrick



Copy of the plaque to be
To be placed at the head of the trail

On the News

TMRS was on CKPG is spring where a feature story told the community about what and who TMRS is about.

Trade Shows

TMRS has attended two trade shows this year, the outdoor recreational show and the Youth festival. Thank you to those volunteers who manned the booths and promoted TMRS and their clubs.



To assist in promoting TMRS and its clubs TMRS has completed two major presentations with a third scheduled for May 30th with the Prince George City Council. The first presentation, held in March, was with the Regional District of Fraser Fort George. The presentation was 15 minutes long which included a presentation to Bill Empey, a director with the Regional District, for his support over the past years. The presentation focused on a request for financial support towards a full time position. After meeting with the CEO for the Regional District, unfortunately our timing was outside the Regional District planned cycle for the year. We will follow-up later this year with the Regional District.

The second presentation was a request from Horse Council BC. The workshop theme was sharing the trails. The presentation was 45 minutes with a lot of interest and discussions by various groups. You can find this presentation on our web site at www.tmrs.ca. Other presentations included: the Chilliwack

Recreation Advisory group, which was led by RSTBC Tom Blackbird; The Shuswap Trail Alliance (STA) presented by Phil McIntyre-Paul, executive director. The STA covers several regional districts and communities, a very complex administrative land base; The International Mountain Bike Alliance (IMBA), a non-profit organization, presentation provided by AJ Strawson, field program manager, The Canadian nonprofit organization focuses on advocating for Mountain bike and trails access across



Canada.; The Secwepemc Nation panel consisting of council and band members and led by the STA provided insight into the working relations with First Nations and recreational groups; A presentations from Government addressing the Road Act (Lyle Knight) and the Provincial Trail Advisory Group and the recent BC rail Trail Policy (Tennessee Trent). The workshop was well attended with a great opportunity to share ideas and network. The next half day was a walk in the multi-use South Canoe Trail System. The main uses focused on non-motorize recreation specifically horses and mountain bikes.

[Great West Life Mobility Nature Trail](#)



TMRS was able to secure funding for a 450 meter trail extension complete with benches and two picnic tables. The trail development started last fall and will be completed by the end of May. We were also successful in securing funding for two gazebos that will be installed at the resting area along the creek and the second gazebo will be at the end of the new extension. These gazebos will add additional resting areas and shelter for those enjoying the trail. We want to thank the PG Activators for their work in clearing deadfall and unsightly view along the trail. This spring we have planned to remove the piles for disposal.

The trail development is progressing well with funding obtained from several sources to assist in the development of the trail expansion. The expansion will host several new benches and picnic tables as well as the two Gazebos (Picture of the gazebo style going in on the trail).

TMRS is in partnership with Spinal Cord Injury BC to host a special day at the trail head called **Access North Day**. The celebration will be held on July 23, 2016 between 10:30 and 2:00 at the GWL Mobility Nature Trail Parking Lot. There will be demo ATV's, motorized wheel chairs, food, and of course the grand opening of the GWL trail expansion by special guests.



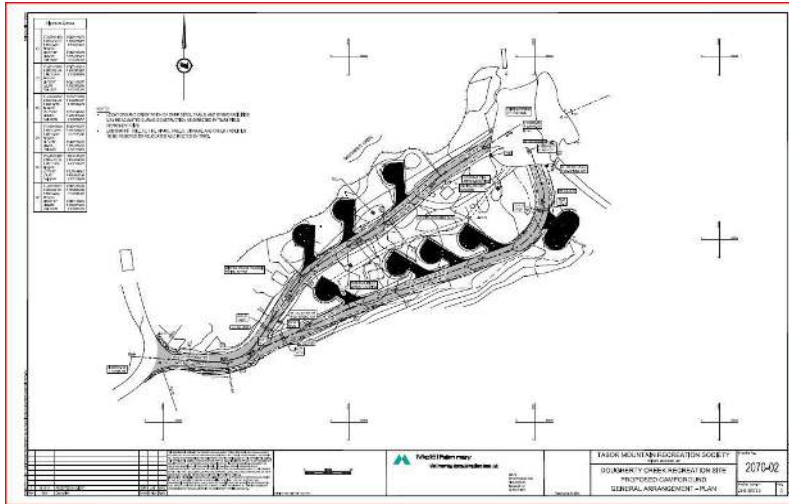
Roughed out trail extension



Debris piles along the trail ready for removal

Dougherty Creek Campsite

TMRS would like to thank McElhanney Engineering for the work they have done in developing the design for the new universal campsite adjacent to the GWL Mobility Nature Trail.



Grand Opening

TMRS is planning the grand opening for the trail extension and the gazebos on July 23, 2016. TMRS will also be having official sod turning ceremony for the campsite on July 23, 2016. This day is packed full of activities as we are partnering with Spinal Cord Injury BC in hosting the **Access North Day on July 23, 2016** at the GWL trail parking lot and the PG railway Museum. There will be bus service from Prince George, several designated pick-up and drop-off location that will take you out to the trail and back. On site there will be booths, food and other activities planned. Come out and partake in the ceremonies and activities.

Gates and Signage

Now that the trails on Tabor Mountain are legally established as recreational trails, that means



motorized and non-motorized activities. Motorized specifically excludes highway vehicles of all sorts, including off road trucks and jeeps. In the past many of the trails were used by off roaders but that can no longer happen because of the trail designation and the liabilities attached to the bridge structures that are unrated. In order to manage the trails accordingly gates have been installed at key points and more are coming this year. We have installed signs at the open end of a trail that has no exits for vehicles over 750kg due to a gate at the other end and non rated bridges. In some cases people have ignored gates, barricades and signs and travelled into sensitive areas or damaged barriers which cost time and money by the society. It is important to note

that the entire funds raised are committed to trail improvements. There are no funds that go to salaries or an office and when damage occurs we need to find additional funds to repair the damage. Funding is being addressed to build and install more gates to protect TMRS investments and manage our liability when it comes to unrated bridges.

Signage installed at various gravel pits re no shooting. The intent is to reduce shooting by the public



in areas that recreationalists use TMRS trails. This is a major safety issue for all recreational users and those wishing to use their firearms appropriately. Since we have installed the signs they have be vandalized or stolen. We have had several instances where recreationalists have been riding in the vicinity while individuals have been shooting making it a very unsafe situation. In fact the RCMP were called in one instance. **If you notice someone shooting please advise the RCMP.** TMRS have approached the

RCMP, the Ministry of Environment Conservation Officers, and the Ministry of Forests C&E section to enforce the signage of no shooting. Also note that **cameras will be installed** in various locations by enforcement officials this year and moved periodically.

Please do not shoot in the vicinity of the trail or on Tabor Mountain. Take your shooting to a designated range for safety sake.

Damage done by Vandals



Gate lock cover shot up



No Shooting sign Painted over & shot up

Hickory Wing Ski touring Club

The Hickory Wing Touring Ski Club was formed from the Sons of Norway ski club after the Sons of Norway Lodges disbanded the club. The club has done a great job on the ski trails and have plans to do work this summer to improve the trails for X-country skiing and non-motorized activities. To volunteer contact Norm Clark at n_dclark@telus.net.

Non-motorized trails

Last fall the Hickory Wing Touring Ski Club volunteers spend many hours brushing out the troll Lake Trail in preparation for major cat work. Two km of trail were brushed out using sheers and chainsaws. The alder was piled back into the bush making it possible for the equipment operator to have a working line of sight to fill in a few eight foot erosion gullies. The trail is non motorized trails that focuses on skiing, walking, mountain biking and horses, gates were installed at both end of the trail to protect the trail and those using the trail. Please respect the gates and trail usage. Thank you to Norm Clark, Jim Weed, the x-country ski crowd and friends for a great job.



Cat work on Troll Lake Trail

X-country skiing may be a winter sport, but there is a lot of work to maintain or upgrading the trails in preparation for the winter. This Summer the ski group have been given approval to do work on several trails in preparation of a even greater x-country skiing this winter. The plans for this summer work bees include:

- Finish off the Birchleg trail from the Groveburn pit to Troll Lake cabin - needs more brushing and some ditching and levelling.
- Replace the culvert on the Hickory Wing trail, 1.5 km below Ilse's Shelter
- Fix the washout section on the upper portion of the Viewpoint Loop
- Rebrush/move the section of the Birchleg trail from Else's Shelter to the junction of the Bowes Creek trail

- Rebrush/move the section of the Birchleg trail from the Bowes Creek junction to the Birchleg shelter
- Finish cleaning the McGregor Lookout loop

If you are interested in volunteering with the group contact Norm Clark at n_dclark@telus.net

X-Country Ski Activities

The Hickory wing Touring Ski Club had a very successful Birchleg ski event in February with over 100 participants ranging in age from 5 to 88, with both x-country skiing and snowshoeing. The winter snow conditions were excellent and even better with groomed runs. Based on the rosy cheeks, the smiles and all the positive comments, a great time was had by all.

Several x-country ski trips were organized by the Hickory Wing Ski Touring Club during the winter, usually on Sundays and or once during the middle of the week. Most of the trips utilized Tabor Mountain trail and all those new bridges put in on the trails last year by this group.



Birchleg Event Gathering



Birchleg Registration and start



Happy Skiers during the day of the Birchleg



A day on Tabor Mountain Trails



The group heading to Troll Lake cabin



Troll Lake cabin



Great day on skies on Tabor Mountain

Prince George Snowmobile Club

The yearly snowmobile **poker ride** on Tabor Mountain was a great success. The day started off with approximately 60 riders doing the 45km loop from the Prince George Snowmobile Club Clubhouse, the first checkpoint and registration, to the Yamaha Cabin where Penny Cartwright, Region 2 Director for the British Columbia Snowmobile Federation, met riders at the second checkpoint. From there the group traveled to Frost Lake where they met with Paul Lacasse who held the third checkpoint. Finally, the last leg of the trail had Tyler Kronebusch and his wife Sarah meeting riders for the fourth checkpoint and then all met back at the Clubhouse for the final checkpoint, cheeseburgers and hotdogs donated by Centennial Meats, and door prizes! The winner of the Poker Ride was Darren Milner, who actually won both first and second place, but donated all of this second place winnings back to the

club! Rick Worthington was the winner of the 50/50 raffle. All kids were offered the chance to test their snowmobile skills in an obstacle course set up by Robbing Worthington beside the clubhouse. The trails were in good shape, the weather co-operated and we even got some snow! Huge thanks to everyone involved for making it a success!



Registration



Getting organized and ready to go



Frost lake check point



Yamaha Cabin meeting place for refreshments



Yamaha Cabin and area rest area

Prince George ATV Club

Winter for the ATV club is being involved in other activities or preparing for the summer activities. The ATV club has always taken the initiative to do yearly maintenance on the multi use trails on the Tabor Mountain.

PGATV Club Spring update

Given the early spring, it has given TMRS members an opportunity to check on many trail conditions and required work. The work on the south side of the Mountain completed in May by the PGATV club included clearing of deadfall, brushing and some water management. In the first week of May ten PGATV club members carried out over 60 hours of work on the Strom trail. That is just a start of the maintenance work needed on Tabor Mountain trails. There are a lot more areas requiring hands on work in preparation of this season riding opportunities. If you are interested in volunteering your time in any work programs carried out by the PGATV club please contact John Ruston at jruston@telus.net or 250-563-3188. An ongoing great job planned and carried out by the PGATV club on Tabor Mountain.

The PGATV club has two major projects planned for this year. The first project is making the Strom trail a safer and more enjoyable route for all recreationalists using the mountain. The second project, which the PGATV club is working with TMRS, if approved for a funding grant, is a 50 foot bridge at the end of the East Touring Trail. If approved, this bridge and trail improvement should be completed by early August, depending on the contractors work load. The completion of this project will give the recreationalists including ATV riders a proper link from the Dorothy Lake trail to the Frost Lake connector to the Martin Trail, to the East Touring Trail to the Sawdust Trail across to the VOR and return to the Scott Rd base linking up to either the Frost Lake trail or the Strom or the Burgess trails. On May 8th Polaris was in town at the Snowmobile club house with some 16 ATV's and side-by-sides that people could demo. It was a great opportunity for the public to ride many types of recreational ATV's. If you were not there then you missed a great opportunity to try out different types of vehicles to find out what works for you and your fun time or just have a fun ride.

Planned rides by the PGATV club this year include:

- June 26th - Club Poker Ride to raise funds for trail work –
- July 28th and August 3rd - weekday rides
- June 12th, July 3rd and August 7th - weekend rides
- July 22nd, 23rd and 24th - Prince George to Wells ride

All of the above rides leave from the Snowmobile Club parking lot at 12000 Scott Rd. Times will be confirmed closer to ride days.

Any questions about rides contact John at 250-563-3188 or Greg at 250-565-7662
For more information please go to the PGATV club web site: www.pgatvclub.ca

Caledonia Ramblers

Exerts taken from the Price George Citizen April 22, 2016. The Caledonia Ramblers are lacing up for the summer hiking season. Every Sunday for the next six months the club will be leading day trips to destinations throughout the Central Interior including Tabor Mountain (The club also hosts a winter snowshoe schedule starting in November.)

A major reason people join the club is to enjoy all the outdoors has to offer in a way that's safe and social. The rate of difficulty ranges for easy two hour walks to strenuous eight-hour hikes, although most are rated easy or moderate. A few multiday treks are also on the schedule. A day trip typically draws about a dozen people, although the club's total membership usually hovers around 100, and has grown to about 140 in recent years. Highlights for the coming season include some overnight trips to various locations. A week-long trip along the Blueberry trail southeast of Prince George is also planned for early August. Participants are asked to be properly equipped with appropriate footwear and clothing, including rain gear. A pack carrying food and fluids is also mandatory. A suggested list can be found on the club's website. Everyone must also sign a waiver absolving the Ramblers of liability in the case of injury although precautions are taken - at least one person carries a first aid kit and another a Spot beacon or a satellite phone in case of emergency. Membership can be obtained by contacting the Caledonia Ramblers and prospective members get two free trips before deciding whether they want to join. The fee pays for membership with TMRS and membership in the Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia, which 'also provides liability insurance, and for trail maintenance work. Last summer, members cleared blowdown off 30 kilometres of the Alexander Mackenzie Heritage Trail and have been heavily involved in installing the wood trail through the Ancient Forests east of Prince George. The club worked with other TMRS member clubs in managing non motorized trails on Tabor Mountain. For more information on the club and its activities email caledoniaramblers@yahoo.ca or go online to: caledoniaramblers.ca'



Hike along Fraser River



Trek on Tabor Mountain



Northwest Brigade Paddle Club

Northwest Brigade Paddling Club has diverse interests from river, lake and ocean kayaking, to canoeing and stand-up paddling. No matter what your skill level, we have instruction available for flat water and whitewater skills development along with safety, rescue, first-aid and survival skills. The NWBPC has published the “Central Interior of British Columbia” paddling guide book with detailed information and map references. It can be purchased at Books & Company on 3rd Avenue. Our current project with support of TMRS is a new Recreation Site and corridor trail system on the Willow River. For more information visit our Facebook or phone Rick at [250-964-7400](tel:250-964-7400).

Prince George Horse Society

The Prince George Horse Society is made up of 11 clubs representing all disciplines with horses and one dog club. For additional information visit our web site www.pghorsesociety.com and look under calendar you will see that the indoor riding area is busy all winter. General Board meetings held every third Thursday of each month at 6:00 at the Agriplex.

Grants and Funding

TMRS and its members have applied for several grants to manage the trails and obtain equipment. Without the grants and the volunteers who put the efforts into applying for the grants and those who do the field work the work would not be done. TMRS wishes to thank those individuals like George Hohnisch and John Ruston for the effort and support of the ATV club in applying for a grant with NDIT to build a bridge at the end of the east touring trail. TMRS also applied for a grant to the Regional District of Fraser Fort George to assist in completing the Great West Life Mobility Trail. Bob Bullock Project manager has been great asset in the work and activities on the Great West Life Mobility Trail. Norm Clark obtained a grant from Horse Council BC to improve the north trails that improves trails for hiking, x-country skiing, horse riding and protection of wet areas from summer activities. Norm was also instrumental in organizing volunteer and a contractor to do a lot of work on the North trails this past fall. We also were successful in obtaining a grant from Integris Credit Union to assist in expanding the Great West Life Mobility Trail.

Volunteer Hours–2015

Without the dedication of the members of the clubs, TMRS Board of Directors who volunteer hundreds of hours every year TMRS would not survive or create such a great set of trails for outdoor recreational activities that are safe and environmentally friendly. To date (January – December 2015) volunteers have put in over 3,600 hrs on trails and management activities. They have also donated in-kind equipment and materials totalling over \$10,000.

By tracking all our times and equipment we are better able to demonstrate to those providing grant opportunities that TMRS and its members are heavily involved in the work and running of the organization, which make our applications for funding more desirable than those without the tracking system.



TMRS would like to thank all those who volunteer their time, expertise and equipment in making TMRS a success over the past year.

There is a greater need for Volunteers in the field to manage some of the projects and assist with the maintenance of trails. If you are willing to assist in these and other opportunities to improve trails and thus your outdoor experience contact one of the board members.

Support Recognition

TMRS's success would not happen without all the volunteer hours put in by many members of the many members of the various clubs. Many of the clubs have utilized their contacts to develop a great relationship with many businesses and organizations. TMRS would like to acknowledge these companies and individuals who donated time, in kind work or materials since our last news letter. TMRS would like to say thank you to the following for there fantastic support and generosity:

- McElhanney Engineering
- Regional District of Fraser Fort George
- Canfor
- Carrier
- Tourism Prince George
- Recreation Sites and Trails BC
- Shirley Bond
- Recreation Sites and Trails BC
- Integris Credit Union
- Horse Council BC
- DWB Consulting Services Ltd
- Great West Life Assurance Ltd.
- Northern Development Initiative Trust
- Ray Bachand
- John Ruston
- Formula Contracting
- Northern Development Initiative Trust
- PG Activators

Friends of Tabor

Friends of Tabor are an organization within TMRS whose members do not belong to a club but yet want to enjoy the recreational experience. Many of the clubs various members belong to FOT and to their organization, whether it is the ATV club, Horse Society, Snowmobile club, etc. The real benefit in belonging to the Friends of Tabor is your involvement in the decision making at meetings and greater participation opportunities with TMRS including participation on committees. Even though the clubs pay a membership fee they have only one voice. We encourage all club members to become a member of Friends of Tabor. The fee is \$15 per year which supports the club and provides access to the mountain. If you would like more information on Friend of Tabor contact Randy Ellenchuk at www.tmrs.ca .

Tabor Lake Cleanup Society

Tabor Lake Clean up Society (TLCS) has become a member of TMRS this year. We welcome Gerry Blomme who is the president and representative for TLCS

Currently TLCS uses the Tabor Lady to remove lake vegetation within the lake shores that in turn reduce phosphate levels in the lake. By lowering the vegetation levels you decrease the amount of vegetation decay and thus decreasing phosphate levels resulting in reduced weeds and algae blooms on the lake over time.

TLCS is working with UNBC to gather key lake information and analyse the years of information gathered from the lake. The goal of the research focuses on developing a strategy to manage the lake phosphates and other components to bring the lake up to its former glory.



Tabor Lady at dry dock

TMRS

- General meeting every third Thursday of the month at 7:00 in the agriplex next to Kin 1
- For more information visit our website at www.tmrs.ca or mailing address at **Tabor Mountain Recreation Society PO Box 1095, Prince George, BC, V2L 3L0**, or contact Randy Ellenchuk at (250) 981-1871
- News Letter produces and written by Ken Hodges