

Knights Valley – Franz Valley Association

Membership Newsletter

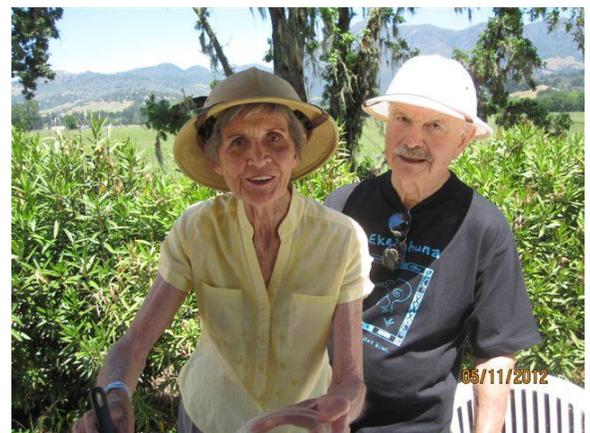
June, 2012

Summer is here and everyone is on the move. Gardens have been planted and are now growing like mad, and the weather has been very kind to us (compared to 2011). With the Summer Solstice now behind us, we know we can count on long days of sunshine and we hope that sunshine brings smiles to all the faces of our membership! Greetings from the valleys of Knights and Franz! The spring kick-off was great with the Chili Cook-Off, and now we can continue our focus of growing the membership and having more fun working together and just being good neighbors! Tell your neighbors and friends to become more involved in community activities via the KVFV Association. Salud!

Wow! The first annual Chili Cook-off is a smashing success! Who would have thought that we would have had so much fun and have had so much interest in the chili and ribs cook-off in the first year? And who would have thought we'd raise over \$3,000 for the volunteer fire department in one fell swoop? Ok, part of the money came from Fire Dept Tee shirt sales, but hey, it's all part of the package! It was a great effort on everyone's part, but certainly special praise and thanks go out to some Herculean last minute moves by Kathy Burton, Liz Densberger, Steve Gould and the "Coach" Bob Musante, not to mention all the board members who really pitched in. It was also very cool to have several members of the association "participate" as cooks, including the families of Leake, Gould, Musante and Pochini. The local media are still buzzing about the event two months later, and we hope you all saw the local coverage in the Calistoga Tribune, including a feature article and a quick look at Ellie and Frank Leake's famous Turkey Chipotle Chili Blanca! There were truly some noteworthy cooks competing; some as far away as Benicia. And if we run the event again (and of course we hope we will), we expect the wave of enthusiasm will cascade over all the local fire departments so we can have more competitors next time. We discovered that the competition factor was worth the most for these guys. If you weren't there, you should have seen the trophies! MY Gawd! And of course the local judges were awesome and really had a great time. We're convinced there will be a "waiting line" of judging candidates lining up for the next time when the competition may be fiercer and even more hotly (Chili spicy) contested! By the way, everyone volunteered and the donations of time and materials were terrific. (One fellow from Napa, Ron Davis, actually baked 13 great pies and gave them away in the raffle...) It was all good!



Our Judges!



Cookers: The Leakes

The Annual Summer Picnic is almost upon us! Please mark your calendars now for the annual KVFV summer picnic on Saturday, August 11. As a special treat, Jessica Link and Drew Johnson have agreed to host the event this summer at their new house and large ranch (Marjorie's Place) right out on the edge of the KVFV boundary, across from the Pepperwood preserve. Many folks have not seen the ranch, but actually drive by it all the time. Jessica and Drew's place is way in the back and in a wonderfully secluded, Picnic-like environment, with plenty of room and a good number of trees and views.

Picnic shots from years past:



Annual Picnic continued...

We have our first meeting this week to kick-off preparations for the event...and hopefully our planning committee is large and talented! We have found that the more participation in planning, the better attendance, and the more fun we have! Please consider participating in committee support in some small way. If you are interested in volunteering to help, please let Kathy Burton or Tom Eddy know (Kathy@speedycreekwinery.com and tom@tomedywines.com).

It'll be a blast and we've already put in our request for GREAT weather!

Board Members give Green Light for term extension. Your board members from Franz Valley, Bob Musante and Gene Boyadjieff, have agreed to extend their terms after a unanimous support from the membership at the last general membership meeting. And yes, it was a "legal" quorum. Congrats to Bob and Gene! (We caught them at a good moment of course).

Spring Meeting at the Firehouse goes off "Hitchless". Of all the crazy and wild ideas, the board decided to have the required general membership Spring meeting immediately prior to the Chili Cook-off at the firehouse. Well, it appeared to work out ok. There was a solid turn-out of members, and for the first time in a while, there was a quorum to pass business. The agenda prompted a rapid-fire meeting with minimal business. In addition to the usual reports, Tom Eddy reported that the D&O insurance was cancelled due to coverages already in place for board members. Also, Jessica Link reported on the finances and discussed the picnic budget from last year. Augie gave his usual volunteer fire department report and highlighted the results of the Mardi gras fund-raising event in the winter. He also reviewed some news about the crew currently at the Knights Valley firehouse. The meeting finished with the election of Musante and Boyadjieff as continuing board members, and at the end of the meeting, everyone retired to the patio to eat chili and enjoy the first annual Cook-off event.

Political action Franz Valley Plan. Many of you may now know that we (KVFV) are often asked for our feedback on permit applications that affect our two valleys. When these projects come forward we will review them and scan them into our website for your review and/or send information out via email which will present a summary of the issues. Recently a circular came out discussing the planning commissions recommendations to the Board of Sups for no action to be taken at this time on changing the language for several issues, including: the 1979 hiking trail and the riparian corridor setbacks. If anyone needs a copy of the circular, they can contact Tom Eddy at tom@tomedywines.com. If, in the opinion of the board, any action is required on the part of the association, or if we feel that every property owner needs to be aware of the proposals immediately, we will circulate an email or announcement to the general membership right away.

Your KVFV Website is expanding its scope. As most of you know, we now have a KVFV Assoc official web site: KVFV.ORG. The site was designed and is maintained by Jeremy Gould. At present, the site has the constitution pre-amble, an activities calendar, and the last few newsletters. With time we would like to make this your "go to" place for local activities and information in KV and FV for news. We hope to have these additions up and running soon:

- *Links to local web sites, e.g. the Calistoga paper, radio stations, etc.
- *A “garden exchange” where you might barter your eggs with neighbors, etc.
- *A posting place for association county business like county permit applications
- *Lost of local information

We're sure that many of you have some other great ideas to make this a useful Internet web site for all of us. Send your ideas and/or items for posting to: info@kvfv.org or call Steve Gould at 694-4562.

Where have all the members gone? This calendar year the membership is down significantly. Please talk to your friends and neighbors to encourage them to join the association. At the very least, bring them to the August picnic!

Regards from the board:

Tom Eddy, President Knights Valley
Secretary, Steve Gould Knights Valley
Jessica Link, Treasurer Franz Valley
Robert Musante, Member Franz Valley
Kathy Burton, Member Knights Valley
Eugene Boyadjieff, Member Franz Valley
Will Densberger, Member Knights Valley