



NEWSLETTER

Fall 2011

Production, education and marketing of quality roundwood products

President's Message

Summer has come and gone, the leaves have turned and we are starting to see some snow fly. I'm not sure where the time goes, but it goes by entirely too fast.

Just as the seasons change with time we as an industry also need to be ready to change with time. If traditional markets are treating you well, and I hope they are, then that is great, but if they aren't as strong as they once were, we shouldn't be afraid of exploring new options. Whether it's a new use for our existing products, or developing a new product to fill someone's need, I feel it's important to look at all the possibilities.

Attending small wood conferences and researching ideas on the internet are excellent ways to obtain ideas. Attending our own Intermountain Roundwood annual meeting is another excellent way to obtain ideas for keeping your business strong.

I hope you all have a good fall and winter season, and I hope to see you soon.

—Bill Baker, President



IRA members attending the yard tour at Wheeler Lumber after the IRA Board of Directors meeting in South Dakota from left to right: Rock Reman from Hills Products Group, Anna and Scott Corwin from Pickaroon Timber Products, Jody Parker from Hills Products Group, Bill Baker from Baker Timber Products, Kal Kovatch from Roundwood West Corporation, Jeff Parrett from Wheeler Lumber, Dave Archer and Dan Hanson from Hanson Trucking, Mindy and Steve Tyser from Lodgepole Products.

Photo by Karen Kovatch

IRA Directors Meeting
September 23, 2011
Spearfish Canyon Lodge, SD

In attendance: Directors- Bill Baker, Jody Parker, Kal Kovatch, Scott Corwin, Steve Tyser.
Administrator-Karen Kovatch. Members- Dan Hanson, Dave Archer

Meeting called to order by President Bill Baker at 8 AM.

Treasurers Report- Treasurer Kal Kovatch reported the following balances.

Vanguard Savings	\$4378.62
First Int. Checking	\$1870.08
Total	\$6248.70

Report approved by Jody Parker and seconded by Steve Tyser.

Old Business

The board discussed the letter sent to our business Directory advertisers concerning the change in the billing cycle in an effort to have advertisers pay for the ads before they were run. The board appreciates those who choose to advertise and thank all for their understanding of the change.

The possibility of your newsletter being sent out via e-mail is still an option. Look for a questionnaire while we have a captive audience at the annual meeting.

There may be some other survey questions for members at the annual meeting. Please contact a board member if you have an area that may be of interest to our members that we can poll.

Scott Corwin reported that CuNap has passed through the red tape and is available again. While pricing is still volatile the board is happy to see that our voice was heard concerning the recertification of the treatment.

IRS status: After waiting out the slow wheels of government Karen has successfully defended our non-profit status. The IRA and a slew of other associations were incorrectly put under examination by the IRS concerning their status.

New Business

The board is looking into the economies effect upon our membership. In an effort to provide the most value to our members we have looked into cost controls, such as Bill Baker's idea to try the e-newsletter and from others to manage the costs at our annual meeting. In so doing we do not want to sacrifice the great value to our members.



The board discussed multiple options such as annual meeting sponsorships and other advertising opportunities we would like to see our amazing membership share the value of the IRA to potential new members to fuel the future.

Each board member was asked to submit an overall theme and any presentation ideas for the next annual meeting.

Terms of current board members were discussed; Karen reported that Darrell Miller is in his last year of service and that Kal Kovatch will be on the ballot for reelection after serving his first, three year term.

Meeting was adjourned at 10 AM.

-Steve Tyser, Secretary

Why the IRA?

Editor's Note: It has always been difficult to put into words the importance of our trade association. It's like the credit card advertisements: the relationships built and the contacts made are priceless. Below two of our Board members remind us of the value of participating in the IRA.

Deciding where to spend our hard earned dollar these days takes a close examination of value. Whether expenditures are on advertising, equipment or labor we now scrutinize how far that dollar goes. As you decide where to spend your money you may be asking yourself why be a member of the Intermountain Roundwood Association?



A consistent and stable supply of raw material has always been an issue that brings member together.

Three major pieces of value immediately come to mind. As a member you are with friends. Some may compete with others from time to time but the feeling among members is that we are all in the same boat. In the IRA membership you will find those with familiar circumstances and those with a similar drive to meet each scenario with determination. Many members have opened their doors for tours, and allowed others to pick their brains. The board has great appreciation for those who put in the extra effort in sharing their businesses and we hope to see our membership extend an open door policy to help grow our association.

Another great value is our annual meeting every spring. The meeting is a great time of camaraderie and encouragement combined with pertinent current topics. Every year we come away with new ideas, a larger network and increased knowledge. Your IRA board works all year to arm you for the challenge of a new year and replenish your drive for success.

The benefits of IRA membership go much farther than sharing the ups and downs of business. You have a larger voice! You don't have to look much further than the IRA's involvement in letters sent concerning the CuNap re-certification, ensuring the availability of the treatment while protecting the interests of many of our members.

While the IRA has seen a slight slip in membership the board wants to encourage every member to spread what it has meant to you. Think back to the few words from a like mind, the new idea from a speaker at the annual meeting, or the spirit of entrepreneurship and share it with potential new members. We all want a vibrant and thriving association that grants a loud voice, a sense of belonging and like a post out on the prairie we want to exhibit a strength that endures all seasons. Let's make 2012 a year of renewal and growth for our businesses and for the IRA.

–Steve Tyser, Director

As a current board member of the IRA I would like to remind and encourage current members to continue to renew your memberships. Also, I think it's a great idea that all of us make it a goal to tell someone about the IRA. I'm not saying we need to go door to door, but I believe many of us know someone who would benefit by joining the IRA.

It was a few years back that Anna and I loaded our kids into our Suburban and we took off on a "Spring Break" road trip into Montana. I was much more enthusiastic than our three kids about

Continued on next page...

...Why the IRA Continued

checking out postyards, but by doing some kid-friendly, family-fun stuff, I was allowed to stop by a couple of postyards! We are from Pinedale, WY and it was interesting to see how folks in Montana were doing things. It was Darrell Miller at Marks-Miller Post & Pole who told us about the IRA.

Over the years, I have really enjoyed meeting and making new friends through the IRA. I appreciate others in the same type of business sharing ideas about what works and what doesn't. I have certainly enjoyed a few good laughs listening to stories that I can relate to only because I'm in the same line of work!

Because of our unified voice as an association, the letters we recently sent to the EPA this past year did indeed enlighten them to the fact that there is a definite need to keep copper naphthenate available as a wood preservative. Yes, CU NAP is available again!

Remember to renew your IRA membership, tell someone new, and if you are ever in or near Pinedale please stop in and see us!

-Scott Corwin, Director



You may even end up in the Bavarian forest as the result of attending the IRA Annual meeting! Jan Guelff of Roundwood West (bottom row, second from right) participated in Peter Kolb's forestry tour to Germany this year.

Save the date!

The 24th Annual Meeting of the IRA is scheduled for March 16th 2012 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Missoula, MT.

Board Positions Open

There will be two positions open on the IRA Board of Directors in March. IRA members are encouraged to contact any Board member if they are interested in serving. Directors are eligible to serve two three year terms. The Board meets after the Annual meeting, in September and conducts two teleconference call meetings (June and early December.)

Happy Holidays!



From all of us at the Intermountain Roundwood Association!

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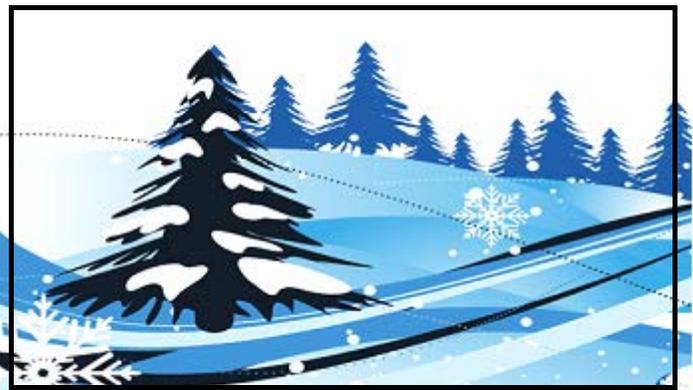
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Contact Karen Kovatch at
 (406) 677-2932

or email
 info@roundwoodassociation.org

Membership Information

Meetings

Members are encouraged to participate in the quarterly director meetings throughout the year as well as our annual meeting in March 2012. The board conducts four meetings, usually two teleconference meetings and two physical meetings each year. Members are welcome to raise concerns and contact directors with specific issues and any questions.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be on **Friday, December 2nd, 2011** via teleconference beginning at 9AM MST. All members are welcome and encouraged to participate. Contact President, Bill Baker for more information.

Advertising

Business Directory Ads:
Contact Karen Kovatch (406) 677-2932 or
info@roundwoodassociation.org

IRA Website

Log on at:
www.intermountainroundwood.org
Email: info@roundwoodassocaiaion.org



Thank you for inquiring about the Intermountain Roundwood Association.

Our organization is a nonprofit corporation representing the economic, educational, and social interests of roundwood producers. Anyone engaged in or interested in the harvesting, manufacturing, or marketing of small roundwood and associated products is eligible for membership in our organization.

Our association has been working for a consistent and stable supply of raw materials; presenting a united voice to government agencies and congressional delegations on those issues facing our association; working with government agencies on hazardous waste disposal alternatives; working to find State and Federal loan opportunities for small businesses; locating new out of region markets for members products; providing information on State and Federal Regulations; distributing a quarterly newsletter with pertinent information; providing advice to members in their dealings with governmental regulatory and land management agencies; and educating the public on the need to thin timber stands to provide a healthy environment and prevent stand-destroying fires.

IRA Board of Directors

Bill Baker, President	(605) 348-8338	btpsawdust@gmail.com
Jody Parker, Vice President	(605) 269-2233	jodyp@hillspg.com
Steve Tyser, Secretary	(307) 742-6992	lodgepole@wyoming.com
Kalvin Kovatch, Treasurer	(406) 677-2300	roundwoodwest@blackfoot.net
Darrell Miller	(406) 933-5981	darrell@marks-miller.com
Scott Corwin	(307) 367-6267	pickaroottimber@centurytel.net
Kelly Gebhardt	(406) 323-2679	kellyngebhardt@gmail.com

Newsletter, Classified Ads & IRA Website

Karen Kovatch, Editor (406) 677-2932 info@roundwoodassociation.org

2011 IRA Membership Application Form

Business or Organization: _____ Contact person: _____

➤ This is how your membership will be listed on the back of the newsletter and on the IRA website.

Please return this form and \$100 payment to: *(Sorry, we do not take credit cards.)*

Intermountain Roundwood Association

Kalvin Kovatch, Treasurer PO Box 1275, Seeley Lake, MT 59868

Additional contact and services information for receiving newsletter, your personal IRA web page and the Membership phone and address lists:

New member: Complete remainder of this form. **Current Member:** Make changes as noted.

Current Member: No changes this year. *Stop here, as tempting as it might be; do not check any more boxes!* ☺

Address: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: (____) _____ **Fax:** _____ **Toll Free: [Optional]** (____) _____

Email: _____ **Website:** _____

DESCRIPTION OF COMPANY for your page on the IRA website.

Email to info@roundwoodassociation.org or attach separate page. Limited to 150 words. Remember to include one photo or logo image to accompany your business or organization description. You may email photo or logo also.

PRODUCT & MEMBER LOCATOR CATEGORIES

Please check boxes below for all products you sell and processes which apply to your operation. This information will be used in the **Product/Member Locator** feature on the website. Call (406) 677-2300 or log on to our website www.intermountainroundwood.org/printableProducts.jsp for product description definitions:

Architectural & Structures

- Architectural Products
- Engineered Structures
- Gazebos & Kiosks
- Hand or Deck Railings
- Pole Barns
- Tipi Poles & Hogan Logs

Biomass

- Biomass
- Hogfuel
- Livestock Bedding

Fencing

- Corral Rails or Panels
- Doweled Rail Fencing
- Fence Posts
- Fence Rails
- Fencing Material
- Jack Leg Fencing

Gates

- Archways
- Gates

Government & Educational

- Educational
- Government
- Research

Hardware & Equipment

- Handling Equipment
- Hardware
- Manufacturing Equipment
- Shipping & Packaging Materials

Highway Products

- Barn Poles
- Guardrail Posts

Jump Rails

- Horse Jump Rails

Landscape Products

- Landscape Products
- Log Furniture & Log Home Components
- Log Components
- Log Furniture

Poles & Stakes

- Building Poles
- Tree Stakes & Crop Poles
- Utility Poles

Professional Services

- Consulting
- Forestry
- Professional Services

Treating & Milling Services

- Custom Sawing & Machining
- Treating Facility

Wood Protection

- Barrier Wrap
- Wood Preservatives

Wood, Lumber & Barkies

- Doweled Products
- Doweled Wood
- Hand-peeled Wood
- Lumber
- Machine-peeled Wood
- Treated Wood
- Unpeeled Wood
- White Wood

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NEWSLETTER

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The view is always better with roundwood!



This big ol' Hereford bull might be looking for greener pastures but he won't be getting through this fence! Photo courtesy of Holden Herefords