



NEWSLETTER

Winter 2014

Production, education and marketing of quality roundwood products

President's Message

I hope that the New Year is treating you well and that you are excited and ready for another busy year. I know I speak for some of us when I say that as business people we can sometimes spend too much energy on the frustrations of doing business. While it is prudent to prepare for new regulation and funding scenarios, it is counterproductive to dwell on them.

So while the elites "work" to make things more complicated...lets vow to do the opposite and get something done in 2014. The horizon is as bright as we have seen in some time from a market standpoint. Regionally, agriculture appears to be healthy alongside the west's energy interests as they march ahead, all good signs for our Industry. The major market indicators also appear to be ticking upwards, such as housing. While our money may be worth a little less and our borrowing may become a little more expensive, the confidence pendulum is finally swinging the right way for those who still want to work.

Now I am preaching to the choir when I talk about work to you IRA members. A group of entrepreneurs who still wear gloves a fair portion of the time and may still leave a tie in the closet already tied for an unwelcome special occasion. My kind of people!

While the drive to Missoula is over 800 miles from my yard, I always look forward to the destination. The friends of like mind and work ethic, always help invigorate my soul after another winter. I certainly don't drive there for all the ribbing I get...but I am always up for dishing some out.

The board has worked to bring you a great annual meeting. I can't say enough about the great board members that serve you...their dedication and time spent on your behalf away from hectic businesses and busy families. And despite the president, they have done a great job.

On a personal note, none of the IRA success is possible without Karen Kovatch. Her knowledge and organization are very much appreciated, so when you see her at the annual meeting make sure she gets a heartfelt thanks.

I hope to see all of you there, not just because it is a great time of camaraderie but because it's just good business to prepare for a new year with great knowledge imparted to you by our speakers...and it doesn't hurt to rib some of your old friends either.

—Steve Tyser, President

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IRA Directors Meeting

December 5th 2013, Tele Conference

Present: Board Members: Kal Kovatch, Steve Tyser, Rock Reman, Jody Parker, Dave Archer and Executive Administrator Karen Kovatch.

Absent: Ronda Taggart

Meeting called to order by President, Steve Tyser 9:00AM.

Motion made by Kal Kovatch to approve last meetings minutes, Steve seconded the motion.

Treasurer's Report: By Kal Kovatch

First Interstate Checking:	\$5641.34
Vanguard Savings:	<u>\$4381.54</u>
Total	\$10,022.88

Treasurer's report: Accepted by Jody Parker's motion with Dave Archer's second.

OLD BUSINESS:

Member check: In our last meeting we had 6 members we have not heard from in a while. Steve, Jody and Kal were assigned to do a welfare check and invite them back to rejoin. For various reasons (either too busy or financial) we could not retain them. But on a good note we did get a Texas company to enroll, Texas Post and Pole Inc. (Welcome aboard!)

Next on the Old Business agenda was the IFA (Intermountain Forest Association.) The question was to join or not to join. Jody made a suggestion to talk to a board member of the IFA and see if they would trade memberships with us.

Scholarship: Karen mentioned the fold out sheet in the newsletter for the Scholarship form, and she did have one request for the electronic version be sent via e-mail.

New Business:

Speakers for the Annual Meeting: Steve has a potential of two speakers, Jody has a maybe one and Kal has one speaker confirmed with a tour of a plant. Normally we need four speakers but with a plant tour in the afternoon three will work.

Vendor and sponsors: Karen will send out the e-mail notice in January and the info will also be in January's newsletter along with the speakers form. The Social: The question was leaving it like the last two years or change the location, the board agrees leave it at Rowdy's Cabin, 4880 North Reserve Street, Missoula, MT.

IRA Door prize: Karen asked the board for options for a door prize and registration gifts. The board agreed to coffee mugs for a registration gift and draw a raffle for one motel room giveaway.

Steve had a request from a member if the IRA would hold a meeting the day before the annual meeting to get credits for the renewal process of their Treating License. The board discussed it in great detail and decided it is not very beneficial to the members, those hours of credit are not recognized from state to state, and the enrollment interest is very small. So the IRA will not be arranging for credit hours for Treating License renewal.

Steve had a President note the teleconference number and code will always be the same going into the future. 1-800-977-8002 code 8864339#. To you members: this is one of the many values you get belonging to the IRA. Any member can join a board meeting.

Elections: Steve Tyser is up for re-election and we have one board seat open.

Next Board Meeting is scheduled for March 14th 2014 following after the Annual Meeting.

—Dave Archer, Secretary

26th Annual IRA Meeting Tentative Agenda

Friday, March 14th 2014 ❖ Hilton Garden Inn ❖ Missoula, Montana

GET YOUR MUG TO THE MEETING!

6:00PM	Thursday, March 13 th IRA Social	Sponsored by: Marks-Miller Post & Pole, Inc.
8:00AM	Registration- South Rotunda	Kalvin Kovatch, Treasurer
9:00	Welcome & Introductions-Salons E & F	Steve Tyser, President
9:30	Policy for Continuing Forest Management	Ben Wudtke, Forest Programs Manager, Black Hills Forest Resource Association
10:00	Break	Sponsored by: Your name here!?
10:15	Wood Durability, State of the Industry	Dallin Brooks, Executive Director, Western Wood Preservers Institute
10:45	Break	
11:00	Bonner Chip Plant - Who & Why	Rich Lane, Log Buyer & Rob McKay, Plant Manager of Willis Enterprises, Inc.
12:00PM	Lunch- Salon G Roasted Meats Buffet	Sponsored by: Your business here!?
1:00	Scholarship Award, Election of Officers & Adjournment	Steve Tyser, President
1:30	Tour of Bonner Chip Plant	Willis Enterprises, Inc.



Make Plans to Attend!

There are many perks to attending the Annual Meeting: Receive an IRA commemorative coffee mug at registration, enjoy great conversation at the Social, win the door prize drawing for one free night at the Hilton Garden Inn, browse new products and services in the rotunda, see old friends and make new ones! The value of the relationships made through membership in the Intermountain Roundwood Association is priceless.

Speaker Profiles & Presentations

Below is a taste of what is in store for the 26th Annual Meeting.

Former IRA Board of Director, **Rich Lane** has 30 years experience buying logs and chips in Intermountain West. **Rob McKay** has spent 18 years operating whole-log chipping equipment in western Washington for Willis Enterprises of Oakville, WA and the last three years managing the Bonner Chip Plant. Rich and Rob will discuss whole log chipping in Western Montana. The Bonner Chip Plant was built and is operated by Willis Enterprises Inc in order to provide a long-term supply of pulp chips for Boise Paper's Wallula WA pulp and paper mill. Keys to the operation's success are an adequate supply of pulp logs, experienced loggers and log truck drivers, rail car service provided by Montana Rail Link and Burlington Northern/Sante Fe rail roads, and the consistent, dependable production of high-quality chips produced by Willis Enterprises stationary chip plant and its hard-working, safe and experienced staff.

Dallin Brooks became the new Executive Director of the Western Wood Preservers Institute on February 1st. He brings diverse experience to the preserved wood industry having worked for the past 10 years advancing new innovative technologies in wood durability. Dallin will be presenting information on the number of those changes in wood durability methods. The most notable are methods of modification, that largest of which is thermal modification. He will touch on changes to regulations and restrictions on the use of traditional pressure treated wood in many western states. He has a strong interest in wood preservation as a value added commodity and has spent a great deal of his career focusing on understanding the limitations and opportunities of using wood in different applications. This presentation will look at the industry and where it is going in the next ten years.

Ben Wudtke has been with Black Hills Forest Resource Association since 2012, addressing forest management policy to improve the health of our forests and forest products companies. Ben is also the chair-elect for Dakotas Society of American Foresters, board member and officer for SD Project Learning Tree, serves on the Steering Committees for WY Project Learning Tree and SD American Tree Farm, a board member for Black Hills Resource Conservation and Development, and is a Governor appointed member of Wyoming's Non-Point Source Pollution Task Force. Ben's presentation will cover recent developments in policy related to forest management and future policies that may have an impact on forest management.

Board Position

Consider becoming a IRA Board Member. Nominations are open for any member of the IRA to join the industry leaders shaping the direction of the Association.

2014 IRA Scholarship

The IRA Board of Directors will announce the recipient of the 2014 IRA Scholarship at the 26th Annual IRA Meeting in Missoula, MT.



26th Annual IRA Meeting

The 2014 IRA Annual Meeting will be on **Friday, March 14th** 2014 in Missoula, Montana. Registration begins at 8:00AM and the meeting starts promptly at 9:00AM.

Location: The meeting will once again be held at The Hilton Garden Inn, 3720 North Reserve Street. Exit 101 off I-90. (406) 532-5300
www.missoula.gardeninn.com

Lodging: Reserve your room at the Hilton by March 3rd 2014 and receive the IRA rate of \$99 plus tax. Call: (406) 532-5300 and reference **Intermountain Roundwood Association** when making reservations. Or use group code ROUND at www.missoula.HGI.com.

Lunch: The noon meal will be available on the 14th for \$15. **Please fill out the attached form so we know how many to count on for lunch.** If you pay for lunch and your plans change please let Karen know. The IRA pays more than it charges for the meal.

Meeting Registration Fee: IRA members do not pay a registration fee. Cost for non-members is \$15 per person.

IRA Social

Sponsored by **Marks-Miller Post & Pole, Inc.** The 10th social since 2005, the IRA organizes a location for meeting attendees to congregate the night before the Annual Meeting. The social is held in memory of former IRA director, Joanna Dixon who first suggested the idea while on the Board in 2004.

Plan to meet at 6PM **Thursday, March 13th** at Rowdy's Cabin, 4880 North Reserve Street, Missoula, MT for an informal no host social. Rowdy's is just 0.4 miles North of the Hilton.

Vendors & Sponsors

There are still opportunities for vendors and sponsors. The registration forms are coming in and it promises to be a super crowd with many new faces!

Vendors are welcome to bring table top displays. These displays (on 6' provided tables) will be located in the 3200 square foot South Rotunda adjacent to the meeting room at the Hilton. As always, there are many breaks scheduled during the meeting to allow attendees to peruse products and services. Contact Karen Kovatch to become a vendor.

There are two spots still available to sponsor: the morning break or the meeting lunch. Sponsors will be recognized, have a biography presented and may bring a sign or banner. Contact Steve Tyser to become a sponsor.

Next time you visit with Brian Miller or call Marks-Miller thank them for supporting the IRA:

2014 Vendors

- Missoula Saws Inc

2014 Sponsors

- Social: Marks-Miller Post & Pole, Inc.

ROWDY'S CABIN



BAR & CASINO
MISSOULA, MT

Millers to Retire

In a letter dated February 2014, Darrell and Karen Miller of Marks Miller Post & Pole, Inc. announced their retirement.

“After 38 years of building and running this business with Gary and Debbie [Marks], Karen and I have decided it is time to jump to the next phase of our life. As of March 1, 2014 we will be retired.



Post and Pole has been more like a family to us than a business. I can vividly remember January 1976 when Gary and I formed a partnership at the kitchen table. Little did we know that this partnership would develop into such a great way to raise and support our families or that we would form such great friendships through doing business with people. It is hard to believe it has been 38 years. I have looked forward to coming to work almost every day. Not many people are lucky enough to be able to say that. It will be strange not doing this.

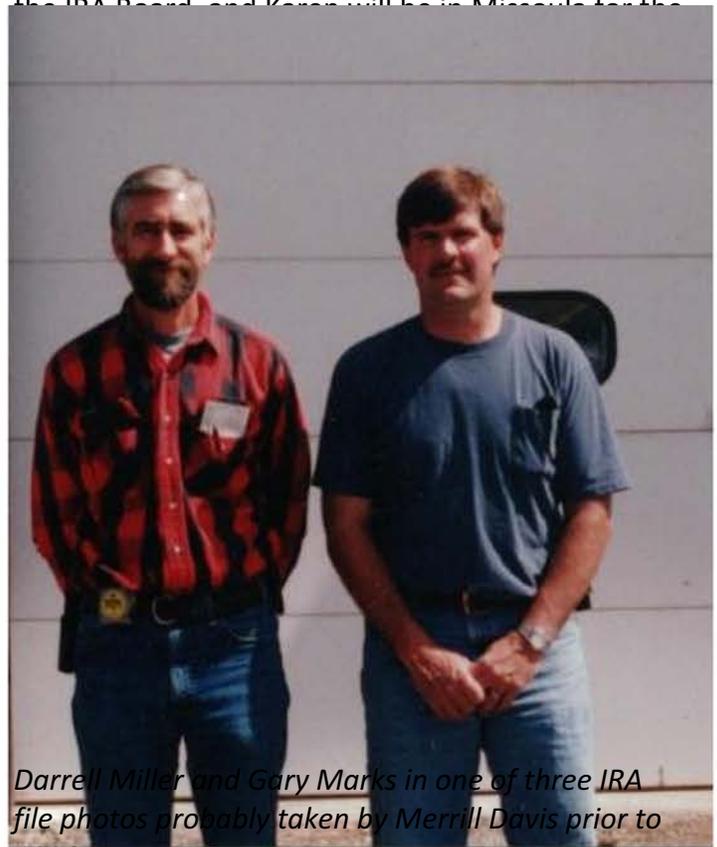


But while Karen and I still can, it is time to start doing some of the things we have put off. Our bucket list includes seeing more of Montana and the Northwestern US, tinkering in the shop or Clay Arts Pottery Guild, spending as much time as we are allowed with our grandson and fishing, fishing and more fishing. We should be able to see some of you more than before while doing these

less standpoint the good service and acts you have always received at will not change. Gary, Debbie, Marvin I still be here to help you with your

ll the good conversations and for make our life enjoyable for the last 38 to see some of you in the future.”

Darrell, who served multiple terms as a director on the IRA Board, and Karen will be in Missoula for the



Darrell Miller and Gary Marks in one of three IRA file photos probably taken by Merrill Davis prior to 1996.

Business Directory

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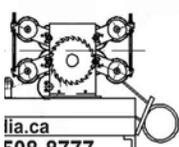
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Membership Information

Meetings

Members are encouraged to participate in the quarterly director meetings throughout the year as well as our next annual meeting **March 14th 2014**. 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 March 14th 2014 following the chip yard tour. All members are welcome and encouraged to participate. Contact President, Steve Tyser for more information.

Advertising

Business Directory Ads:

Contact Karen Kovatch (406) 677-2932 or info@roundwoodassociation.org

IRA Websites

Log on at:

www.intermountainroundwood.org

www.facebook.com/RoundwoodAssociation

Email: info@roundwoodassociation.org

New Members

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

Steve Tyser, President	(307) 742-6992	lodgepole@wyoming.com
Jody Parker, Vice President	(605) 269-2233	jodyp@hillspg.com
Dave Archer, Secretary	(307) 684-1402	dave@hansonlogproducts.com
Kalvin Kovatch, Treasurer	(406) 677-2300	roundwoodwest@blackfoot.net
Ronda Taggart	(406) 363-1456	ronda@porterbiltlog.com
Rock Reman	(605) 269-2233	rockr@hillspg.com

Newsletter, Advertisements & IRA Website

Karen Kovatch, Editor	(406) 677-2932	info@roundwoodassociation.org
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2014 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.

Annual Meeting Registration

- Yes, I (we) will be attending the IRA Annual Meeting on Friday, March, 14th. *(Reserve your room by March 3rd!)*
- No, I (we) will not be attending this year.

- Yes, I (we) will be having lunch at the Annual Meeting on Friday, March 14th. Please reserve _____ meals at \$15 per person.

Lunch(s) x	\$15	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> IRA Dues for 2014	\$100	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-member registration fee \$15		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> 2014 Business Directory Ads	\$140	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Meeting Sponsor	\$100	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Vendor Table Top Display	\$50	_____
	TOTAL	_____

Please return form and payment to:

Intermountain Roundwood Association
Kalvin Kovatch, Treasurer
P.O. Box 1275, Seeley Lake, MT 59868

Contact information for my IRA web page and newsletter mailing labels:

- No changes this year. Stop here, do not check any more boxes! ☺
- Please make changes as noted.
- New member: Complete the remainder of this form.

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Fax: _____

Toll Free: [Optional] (____) _____

E-mail: _____

Website: _____

Official Use Only: Web List

DESCRIPTION OF COMPANY

Limited to 150 words. Email

info@roundwoodassociation.org Remember to attach one photo or image to accompany your business or organization description.

PRODUCT LOCATOR CATEGORIES

Please choose 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 the website www.roundwoodassociation.org/printable_Products.jsp for product description definitions:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Architectural Products | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineered Structures | <input type="checkbox"/> Jump Rails |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gazebos & Kiosks | <input type="checkbox"/> Horse Jump Rails |
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| | |
| Biomass | Log Furniture & Log Home Components |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biomass | <input type="checkbox"/> Log Components |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hogfuel | <input type="checkbox"/> Log Furniture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Livestock Bedding | |
| | |
| Fencing | Poles & Stakes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corral Rails or Panels | <input type="checkbox"/> Building Poles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Doweled Rail Fencing | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Stakes & Crop Poles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fence Posts | <input type="checkbox"/> Utility Poles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fence Rails | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fencing Material | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jack Leg Fencing | <input type="checkbox"/> Consulting |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Services |
| Gates | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archways | Treating & Milling Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gates | <input type="checkbox"/> Custom Sawing & Machining |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Treating Facility |
| Government & Educational | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational | Wood Protection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Barrier Wrap |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Preservatives |
| | |
| Hardware & Equipment | Wood, Lumber & Barkies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Handling Equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> Doweled Products |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hardware | <input type="checkbox"/> Doweled Wood |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing Equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> Hand-peeled Wood |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shipping & Packaging Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Lumber |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Machine-peeled Wood |
| Highway Products | <input type="checkbox"/> Treated Wood |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barn Poles | <input type="checkbox"/> Unpeeled Wood |

INTERMOUNTAIN ROUNDWOOD ASSOCIATION

2013 Members

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Allweather Wood, LLC	Lonza Wood Protection, Inc.	Small Diameter Logs
Baker Timber Products, Inc.	Marks-Miller Post & Pole, Inc.	Stephen T. Smith Consulting
BJ Timber Consulting	Missoula Saws, Inc.	Sullivan & Mann Lumber Co., Inc.
Bouma Post Yards	Multifab, Inc.	Texas Post & Pole, Inc.
Eagle Stud Mill, Inc.	Osmose, Inc.	Thunderbolt Wood Treating
Forest Business Network, LLC	Panhandle Forest Products	Tricon Timber, LLC
Forest Concepts, LLC	Parma Post & Pole, Inc.	USFS, Seeley Lake Ranger District
Forest Products Distributers, Inc.	Pfendler Post & Pole, Inc.	Viance, LLC
Gebhardt Post Plant & Sawmill	Pickaroon Timber Products, Inc.	Western Wood Preservers
Hamilton Hinge Company	Plum Creek Timber Company	Institute
Hanson Log Products	Poles, Inc.	Wheeler Lumber, LLC
Hills Products Group	Porterbilt Company, Inc.	Whispering Pines Pole Company
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NEWSLETTER

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The view is always better with roundwood!



Snow covering a three rail fence in Seeley Lake, MT.