

## BIG TURNOUT FOR FIRST SEA RANCH 'OPEN FORUM'

An estimated 80 persons attended the first meeting of The Sea Ranch Open Forum in the fire house last Saturday afternoon, August 4th.

With Clark Goerker, a member of the founding group acting as moderator, the discussion ranged from such general topics as a land management plan for the meadows and uplands to details on expenditures reported in the budget. Although extra chairs had to be rushed from the stables for the larger than expected turnout, the coffee and a noticeable feeling of community lasted throughout the session.

Clark explained in his

opening remarks that it was the hope of those who arranged for the Forum (the Goerkers, the Shrieves, the Barrells and Sally Skibbins) that the meetings would provide a means by which the community of The Sea Ranch can communicate, the staff and board of directors keeping owners informed of their activities and association members responding with their ideas and questions. A good deal of individual social communication was also noted in the preliminary half hour before the meeting officially got under way.

Future Forum meetings will be held the first Saturday of each month with the next one occurring in conjunction with the big Sea Ranch picnic which the Recreation Operations Committee, under Ed Wells, is arranging for September 1st in the vicinity of the North Recreation Center. It is the hope of those Sea Ranchers who made the initial Forum arrangements, Clark said, that the meetings will continue

generally unstructured. However, he pointed out, some basic preliminary arrangements are required for each session and it is also the hope of the founding group that these will be handled by different volunteer arrangement committees operating for no more than three to four months at a time.

Don Carlos Hines, Sea Ranch Association president, reported on actions taken by the Board of Directors at its most recent meeting. Of primary interest in his report was the news that Bill Rand, long-time Sea Ranch secretary and manager, was withdrawing from the daily detailed management of the Association affairs and would devote his time henceforth to liaison with such governmental agencies as the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors and the North Central Coast Regional Conservation Commission. Supervision of Association activities is in the hands of Bill Crooks, whose title is changed from assistant manager to operations manager.

Discussion of land management practices and principles on the meadows and uplands took up half of the two hour forum. Opinion appeared to be about equally divided between those who wanted some form of control exercised, such as thinning dense stands of trees and lupine, and those who wanted to let nature take its course without human intervention. It was brought out during the discussion that the Meadows Committee and the Forest and Uplands Committee were joining forces in a long range land management study for all of the commons area.

Questions dealing with the budget and the minutes of the Board of Directors were raised by Alan Doble and Henry Whiteside. President Don Hines reported that the detailed budget is available in the Operations Managers office for study by any Association member interested and that the new board of directors was seeking ways to expedite publication of minutes of board meetings.

It was revealed during this phase of the discussion that the Sea Ranch Association is negotiating with Oceanic California for the purchase of the parcel of land extending from the North Recreation Center to the beach. Current OCI plans call for construction of condominiums there. The board would prefer to see the land added to the commons and is moving to buy it for that purpose.

**Editors Note:** The ICO reporter completely forgot to attend the meeting last Saturday of the Sea Ranch Association Forum so we are grateful to Dick Barrell for sharing his notes with us.