

FRIENDS OF DOGBONE MEADOW

WWW.FRIENDSOFDGBONEMEADOW.COM

NUMBER 27



A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
DEDICATED TO THE MAINTENANCE
AND BEAUTIFICATION
OF NOVATO'S FINEST DOG PARK

HOWL-O-WEEN PARTY CANCELLED

The Howl-o-ween Party scheduled for Sunday, October 25, will be rescheduled as a holiday party later in the year.

Dogbone Meadow Design Workshop & Open House: Dogbone Meadow dog park needs a facelift and the City of Novato wants your ideas! On Saturday, November 14, drop in anytime between 10 AM and Noon at Dogbone Meadow on Novato Boulevard at O'Hair Park, learn about the improvement project and give them your ideas for ways to make it great for dogs, their owners, and the community. For more information call 415-899-8900 or e-mail us at prcs@novato.org.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

We held our annual meeting in September, and a lively and most enjoyable meeting it was. (See page 3 for summary of what was accomplished this fiscal year.) Lots of questions were asked and ideas were proposed and discussed. One motion passed was to fund a Porta-Potty at the park for two months. We are currently in the process of renting same. We are asking the City to help with this long term, but apparently budget issues seem to prevent this. We are also asking to have this item covered by City insurance so that we can get a much lower rental that does not include liability insurance.

We are currently planning a schedule of events to hold at the park throughout the year. If anyone has a good idea for an event or a speaker please let us know!

Every once in a while a rumor gets started and circulates throughout the park. Most often the

rumors are not true or are inaccurate. We would like to check them out before people start believing that "the sky is falling" out at Dogbone Meadow. If you hear anything strange that could affect the park or interfere with people's enjoyment of the park, please report it to fodm@friendsofdogbonemeadow.com or call 415-827-0097.

Once more our appeal goes out to anyone who would like to volunteer to handle any of the many things we organize for the park. Please call 415-827-0097 or email us at fodm@friendsofdogbonemeadow.com.

Thanks to all of you who turned out to our annual meeting and to those who unselfishly give of their time to keep our dog park weeded and cleaned.

Brian Pearson

BOY SCOUTS PITCH IN AND PICK UP WALNUTS

On Sunday, August 30th, the Hydra Patrol from Boy Scout Troop 200 came out in force to help us with the walnuts. They arrived with a big garbage can and a wagon to haul it in, and they loaded both with walnuts. THANKS SO MUCH!



Photos by Danielle Buoncristiani



**DROP IN AND HAVE YOUR
DOG'S NAILS CLIPPED
FOR ONLY \$5 (PER DOG)**

GOPHERS ABOUND AT DOGBONE MEADOW

A few volunteers have been filling in the gopher holes with field dirt in hopes that no dogs or people will trip in them as has happened in the past. (One dog broke a leg badly.) Feel free to pick up a shovel and join in the process. There is dirt at either end of the dog park – bring a shovel!



*Cute, but a nuisance.
Photo by Danielle Buoncristiani.*

ANNUAL MEETING RECAPS BUSY YEAR

At the annual meeting, a summary of the year's accomplishments was given by President Brian Pearson:

In October, we had a Howl-o-ween party! Weather permitted this year! The Howl-o-ween celebration was held on a sunny October Sunday. There were food, drink, merriment, and, most important, contests!

In November, we had a meeting with Pam Shinault, Director of the Parks Department, where we got the bad news that the road to the Community Garden is not only back on the table, it is planned to go right through the small dog area. We proposed putting it outside the dog park. Julian, the chief engineer, said they would investigate that possibility. We were never contacted again.

In December, a fence was put up to create temporary small dog area. It may be moved during the renovation. A new gate was put in, and that created problems for people wanting to dispose of poop bags, so we asked for a new arrangement and got it! A new pass-through was cut into the fence in the large dog area – a simple fix for a simple problem.

In April, an incredibly inaccurate and uninteresting article about conflicts at the dog park between FODM and the newly formed POOP Group appeared in the Novato Advance. It was not deemed worthy of a response.

Our fourth anniversary party and fundraiser was held at the dog park in June with great success. We were honored to have Mayor Jeanne MacLeamy, Mayor *Pro Tem* Pat Eklund, and Councilman Eric Lucan join in the festivities. We had decided to emphasize the anniversary and keep it smaller by not inviting vendors this year. One exception was Mi Pueblo who sold plates of delicious Mexican food that everyone enjoyed. We were also happy to receive a huge box of gift bags from the Novato Fair Pet Food Express. Everybody who enjoyed the afternoon with us got one. We held our usual contests, including our popular costume dog contest. We also enjoyed a couple of fun games with the dogs such as peanut butter tasting and dunking for hot dogs.

In July, we held a Board meeting at the dog park in hopes that there would be a turnout of dog park users with questions and good suggestions for improvements at the dog park. It was lively!

In August, a dozen or more Boy Scouts picked up walnuts at the dog park.

The main discussion at the meeting was how to get a Porta-Potty out at the dog park. The members voted to fund one for at least two months and try to get the City to help pay for a long-term arrangement.

MANY THANKS

THANK YOU, WALNUT PICKER-UPPERS, ESPECIALLY JOYCE AND JUDY.



THANKS TO THE **DONOR OF THE NEW METAL WATER TROUGH, THE LONG HOSE, THE SECOND LONG HOSE, AND THE ASTROTURF – A GOOD SOLUTION TO THE MUD PROBLEM AND THE DOGS LOVE IT IN THE HOT WEATHER.**

THANKS TO **EVERYBODY WHO DONATED TO BUY A SUPPLY OF RED KONG BALLS FOR DOG PARK USERS WHO WANTED AN ALTERNATIVE TO TENNIS BALLS. SEVERAL DOG OWNERS EXPRESSED THEIR APPRECIATION, AND THE KONGS SEEMED TO BE GETTING A LOT OF USE. UNFORTUNATELY, AFTER THE SIGN EXPLAINING THEIR PURPOSE WAS REMOVED, THE KONGS DISAPPEARED.**

THANKS TO **LESLIE (POOP GROUP) WHO ALSO DONATED A SUPPLY OF BLUE AND YELLOW BALLS. UNFORTUNATELY, THEY DISAPPEARED, TOO.**

BUT A GOOD EFFORT.

THANK YOU, **JUDY, FOR THE BUCKET OF SAND FOR DISPOSING OF CIGARETTE BUTTS AND FOR THE BUCKET OF SAND FOR COVERING RUNNY DOG POOP OR VOMIT AND FOR THE WALNUT COLLECTION BUCKET. AND THANKS FOR PICKING UP BROKEN TENNIS BALLS AND TRASH WITH YOUR HANDY GRABBER. (SIX CIGARETTE BUTTS UNDER A PICNIC TABLE – A RECORD!)**

THANKS TO **JULIE, WHO ALERTS DOG OWNERS WHEN THEIR DOGS POOP.**

AND TO **EVERYBODY (LIKE **KELLY**) WHO PICKS UP MORE THAN THEIR SHARE.**

**NOT YET A MEMBER? EASY TO JOIN! HERE'S THE FORM! OR JOIN ON THE WEBSITE
(have we mentioned the website lately?): www.friendsofdogbonemeadow.com**

Name _____

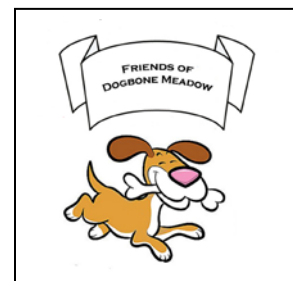
Street _____

City/Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Dog's name _____



Individual voting membership (\$26) _____

Or

Individual associate membership (\$13) _____

And/or

Donation _____

Send to:

Friends of Dogbone Meadow

P.O. Box 773

Novato, California 94948

TOTAL: _____