



A Publication by Friends of the Moonridge Zoo (a non-profit organization / EIN: 33-0350180)

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# PRINTS

The Friends of the Moonridge Zoo is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to support the Moonridge Animal Park through 1) Educating the public regarding the treatment, protection, and conservation of wildlife 2) Recruiting and coordinating zoo volunteers, and 3) Fundraising

The Moonridge Animal Park is owned and operated by the Big Bear Valley Recreation and Park District of San Bernardino County. The park is an alpine wildlife sanctuary and rehabilitation center. For those animals that cannot be released, the park provides them a "Home for Life".



The Moonridge Animal Park has a new name:  
*Big Bear Alpine Zoo at Moonridge*

So using the name "zoo" does better signify a venue that is open to the public. We hope you can appreciate and accept our new facility name, the Big Bear Alpine Zoo at Moonridge.

As of June 2012, The Moonridge Animal Park has been renamed the Big Bear Alpine Zoo at Moonridge. The name change better clarifies and provides greater recognition of where the park (oh! I mean zoo) is located than the previous name. How many people in the USA know where Moonridge is? In contrast, Big Bear is a well-known California resort location. Also pertinent to the name change was the issue that being called an animal park, animal refuge or animal sanctuary, it was not necessarily clear that the park was actually open to the public.

Along with a new Big Bear Alpine Zoo name comes the effort of creating a new logo and branding the zoo. Dan O'Mara of the Omara Design Group ([www.omaradesign.com](http://www.omaradesign.com)) in Agoura Hills came to last year's 2011 Blues for the Zoo Concert and had a great time. After finding out about our efforts in relocating and building a new zoo, he stepped forward offering to help create our new identity.

(continued on page 2.....)



## Please...Help Us Go Green...With an Electronic Issue of Paw Prints

We need your help in going "green", by going "green" we help save the planet, the environment, the animals, AND we save on postage costs. The postage and paper costs alone could generate approximately \$2,500 per printing to support the Moonridge Animal Park.

PLEASE SIGN UP TODAY TO RECEIVE YOUR COPY ELECTRONICALLY.....

All you have to do is visit our website at <http://moonridgezoo.org/fomz/pawprints.html>



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Kathy Greenwood, President FOMZ

Hello to All,

It's hard to believe that we are already halfway through the year! Naturally, summer is our busiest time and the zoo is buzzing with activity...as you can see by the content of this newsletter.

If you haven't had a chance to visit us recently, now would be the time. Thanks to our tireless DWF (Department of Water and Flowers) the zoo grounds are becoming more beautiful with each passing day. Color-spot, through our local Kmart, has been donating their unsalable half-dead flowers for several years now. Through the efforts of Mike and Carrie Traxler and their crew of volunteers who spend countless hours bringing these plants back to life, every pathway is lined with lovely vibrant and colorful flowers. Planting is not a onetime event here but a constant battle to stay one step ahead of our underground critters and rabbit visitors who think the DWF is their dinner chef. So I invite you to come and enjoy this feast with your own eyes.

Also, the third week in July was National Zookeepers Week. In honor of this important occasion I want to acknowledge the work that our dedicated zoo staff accomplishes every day. They consistently demonstrate their dedication to the care of all the animals. Theirs is certainly not the most glamorous job in the world since it includes everything from shoveling snow to scooping poop. They all take their work very seriously and show their true concern for these special animals every day. It is not uncommon for visitors to comment that our animals seem to be so much healthier and happier than those they have seen in other zoos. This is due to the loving care provided by our keepers.

So a huge "Thank You" goes out to the following wonderful people:

*Dana Casey                      Andrew Gutierrez*  
*Summer McElroy            Lesley Castillo*  
*Stacy Hunt                     Tom Miller*  
*Kasey Crabb                 Jane Kelly*  
*Diane Roberts*

We must also thank Christy McGiveron, lead keeper, & Debbie Richardson, Curator, who also "pinch hit" as zookeepers whenever needed.

So if a zoo visit is in your plans this summer we hope you'll enjoy seeing our beautiful gardens and our happy animals. Our great zookeepers and our DWF staff will always appreciate hearing a word of thanks from you.

Continued from page 1.....

[The Moonridge Animal Park](#) has a new name:  
*Big Bear Alpine Zoo at Moonridge*

Here, and on the cover page, are two examples of the new identity.

The circular design is headed to be a decal. Most likely by the time you read this article the decals will have been printed and available at this year's 2012 Blues Concert at the Friends booth next to the entrance gate.



As a reader our Paw Prints newsletter, most of you know that the Big Bear Alpine Zoo has been rehabilitating injured, orphaned and imprinted wildlife for the past 50 years. Local, county, state and federal entities as well as other nonprofit organizations and the public turn to Big Bear Alpine Zoo as the "go to" facility to help animals in need. These animals receive a temporary safe haven while they heal, or they are provided a permanent "home for life" if they are unable to survive in the wild on their own. The Zoo has a track record of successfully rehabilitating and releasing 90% of the animals brought to them. The animals that remain in the park become ambassadors to educate the public

 **We are on Facebook**  
[www.facebook.com/bigbearzoo](http://www.facebook.com/bigbearzoo)

## ***2012 Old Time Bear Country Fair Was a Huge Success!***

This year's annual Fair was bigger and better than ever before, and the response from our guests was great. The annual event was previously held during the Memorial day Holiday, and was often plagued by poor weather. We moved the event to Saturday, July 7th and mother nature cooperated with beautiful weather.



There were 20 vendors with hand made crafts and hands-on demonstrations. We had everything from basket makers, hand made hats, candles, soap, artists, and even 2 country bands. There were also crafts and games for the children, and an animal quiz to help educate them. Care was taken to position all the exhibits in a way that would not disturb the animals, and they all seemed happy to have their zoo filled with about 750 people during the busy day. Many of the vendors and docents were dressed in old time costumes, which added to the feel of the fair. Bruce and Anne Harter, operators of the "Back to Basics" trolley car provided tasty food and drink throughout the day.

### **The Big Bear Alpine Zoo is Open Year 'Round**

(Weather Permitting)

Summer Hours: Memorial Weekend (May) thru Labor Day Weekend (September) 10:00 am – 5:00 pm with daily animal feeding tours at 3:00 pm (excluding Wednesdays).

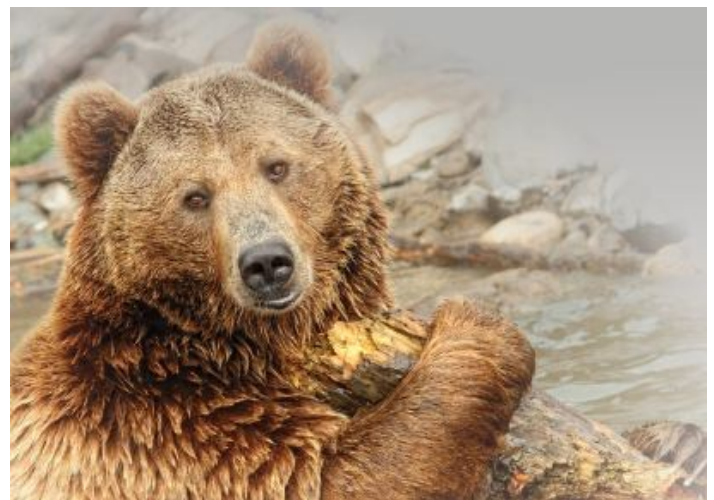
Admission prices: Ages 11 – 59 \$9; Seniors \$6; Children under 3 are free. Free gate entry for members of the Friends of the Moonridge Zoo.



On Saturday, December 8th, the Friends of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo will host the first annual "Golf for the Grizzlies" golf tournament at the world famous Trump International Golf Course in Palos Verde, California. All proceeds from this tournament will go towards our new zoo. There are sponsorship opportunities at all levels, and this is a great opportunity to have your business or organization recognized. Golf Foursome entries cost \$1200 (no singles please; only foursomes) and include 18 holes of golf on one our nation's premiere courses, a deluxe goody bag, lunch, hats for each player, putting challenge, a golf clinic, and an awards dinner and auction. In addition, each player will receive a \$150 "Come Back Game" certificate to be used for a future round of golf. Exquisite prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishers. What a deal this is!

Sponsorship opportunities include everything from title sponsorship (\$25,000), ball sponsorship (\$4,200), tee sponsorship (\$6,000), putting contest sponsorship (\$1,700), and lunch sponsorship (\$4,200). All sponsorships include name and logo placement on the course, recognition on the Big Bear Alpine Zoo website, and at least one foursome. Other sponsorship opportunities include customized plans to fit your needs. Contact Lori Judd at 909-866-9700 or [ljudd@sdd.sbcounty.gov](mailto:ljudd@sdd.sbcounty.gov) for more information. You may also visit our website at

[www.moonridgezoo.org/golf](http://www.moonridgezoo.org/golf)





## Relocating the Zoo

The newly relocated Big Bear Alpine Zoo at Moonridge will be on a larger parcel of land than the current site, which will house a new state-of-the-art wildlife animal sanctuary and rehabilitation center. The land for the new, larger facility has already been secured. PGAV, a world renowned architectural firm, has designed our master plan, and San Bernardino County is currently completing the steps for building permits.

The following picture illustrates a working example of what the zoo's entry sign may look like. At this time it has not been determined what the final design is to be.

The new Big Bear Alpine Zoo's basic plans are for the design, construction, and management of high-quality facilities, consistent with public expectation in regards to natural habitat enclosures and state-of-the-art exhibit and interpretation of native species.



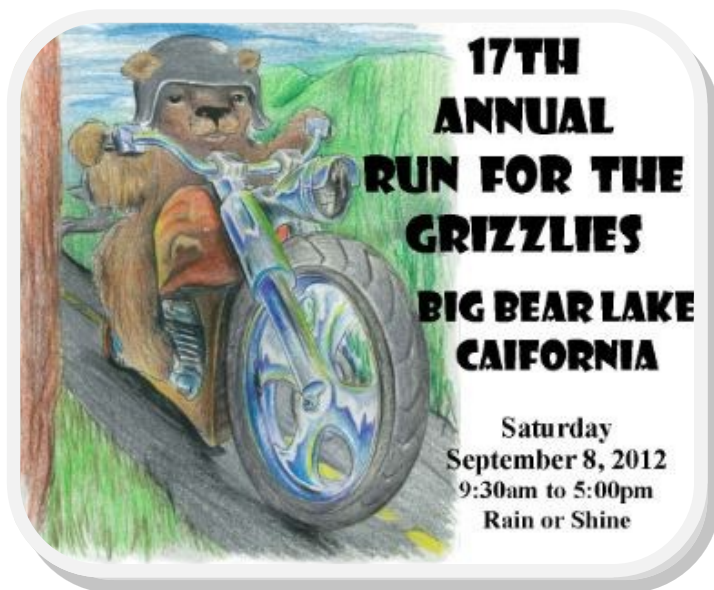
In addition, the Park will interpret the historical development of the Big Bear Valley by tracking changes in the alpine-wildlife populations in correspondence with historic human events. This story line will follow along with three epic styled buildings: The 1920-1930s ranching, 1890s gold rush, and Native American history and in particular the Serrano who were indigenous in the local San Bernardino Mountains.

Also the Alpine Zoo will feature a 21<sup>st</sup> century aspect, which will include the rehabilitation hospital, animal kitchen, and commissary. The new zoo will be keeping true to its founding roots, wherein it will *tend and care for injured wild animals and release them back into the wilderness or be provided a permanent home if they cannot survive in the wilds.*

This primary role defines the Big Bear Alpine Zoo's purpose in attending to animals in need of assistance. From this simple directive the Alpine Zoo evolves into basic tenets that build one upon the other—wildlife animals in need of rehabilitative health care, releasing back to nature, or providing a sanctuary home for life; having full-time residents provides park visitors learning opportunities about wildlife and the environment.

You can stay up to date with the Big Bear Alpine Zoo's relocation and building the new zoo's progress on our website at [www.bigbearzoo/newpark](http://www.bigbearzoo/newpark). As with other renaming conventions, we will add a new site [www.BigBearAlpineZoo.org](http://www.BigBearAlpineZoo.org) that will in its first release focus on building the new park and how you may also help with future donations.

Meanwhile you can visit <http://bigbearzoo/newpark/supportthfl.html> to donate funds and keep up to date on for building the new zoo's progress. Of course, if you happen to have smart phone snap a picture of the QR code!



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC—ALL BIKES WELCOME  
NO PRE-REGISTRATION  
Day of event, register at Chad's Place in the Village

<http://bigbearzoo.com/GrizzlyRun/>

## Who are the Friends of the Moonridge Zoo?

Three bald eagles were stolen from the Zoo in 1989, and a week later their massacred remains were found near the North Shore of Big Bear Lake. This event triggered the formation of *The Friends of the Moonridge Zoo as a nonprofit 501(c)(3)* to provide support for the worthwhile mission of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo at Moonridge. In the Friends July 2012 board meeting, it was agreed upon to change our name and be in alignment with the new zoo name. We have adopted a new DBA, *Friends of Big Bear Alpine Zoo*, while maintaining our original 501(c)(3) non-profit name Friends of the Moonridge Zoo. We will be in the process of re-branding over the next several months, so the next newsletter will reflect our new DBA name.



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[www.BigBearZoo.com](http://www.BigBearZoo.com)

#### 2012 SPECIAL EVENTS

- June 9 Photography Contest
- July 7 Old Time Bear Country Fair
- Aug 4 Blues for the Zoo Concert
- Sept 1 Ice Cream Safari
- Sept 8 Run for the Grizzlies
- October Saturday Nights—Flashlight Safari
- Oct 20 Wolf Awareness Day
- Oct 27 Boo in the Zoo

Friends of the Moonridge Zoo • Supporting the Big Bear Alpine Zoo



### *Meet Three of our Newest Residents*

A young black bear and two young hogs came to live at our zoo in May of this year. The bear, now named “Pooh” had gotten into trouble and was taken into captivity by the Department of Fish and Game. Luckily, The Big Bear Alpine Zoo was contacted, and we had the opportunity to save him and give him a “home for life”. Debbie, our curator, had to act fast to get a suitable enclosure constructed and make arrangements for him to be transported to Big Bear. She quickly had a fence built in the existing black bear enclosure to contain him without allowing him to interact directly with the other bears. Debbie was afraid that he and the other bears might not get along. When Pooh was brought into his new pen in mid-May, he hid for several days and seemed to be very frightened. Debbie said that he had been anesthetized several times, and that this probably contributed to his sense of unease. Well, after a few days, Pooh started coming out to splash in his pool, and he seemed to be getting much more comfortable. Soon, he began coming out regularly and coming right up to fence to check out people who were watching the bears. The keepers discovered that, in addition to honey, he loves marshmallows. He seems to have settled right in, and Debbie is considering putting him in with Zuni (one of the other more docile males) because they seem to be interacting peacefully.

The other new residents are two young boars named Ludo



and Hoggle. They both escaped from a hunting compound. Boars like these are imported from other countries strictly for the purpose of ‘canned hunting’, where



hunters pay for the chance to shoot wild animals in a controlled environment. Obviously, this is abhorrent to animal lovers. The boars, who are known to be very intelligent, figured out how to escape. Once again, Fish and Game got involved and we were contacted in an effort to find them a new home. They are not suitable for release because they are not native to this area, or any where else in the United States. When full grown, they will likely weigh 300 to 400 pounds.





## ***Conceptual Scale Model of the new Big Bear Alpine Zoo Unveiled.....***

On June 29th, 2012, the conceptual scale model shown below was displayed for the first time. Docents and members of the Friends of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo were invited to privately view the model, and it was then put on display for the general public. Everyone agreed that it is simply spectacular. Although it is a conceptual model, great care was taken to make it as close as possible to what the new zoo will actually look like. This model will be on display for the near future, but it's location may change. It is currently at the Office of Recreation and Parks (at Meadow Park), but will soon be displayed at the current zoo. If you would like to see the model, please call ahead to the FOBBAZ office to find out where it is on the day you plan to see it. The Office number is 909-878-4200.



### **MAJOR DESIGN CRITERIA**

The zoo will be built using 21st century technology and aimed at being a green park using alternative energy and renewable resources using the guidelines listed below.

- [ADA Standard](#) - Designed in accordance to American with Disabilities Act.
- [AZA Accreditation](#) - The new zoo will obtain nationally recognized credibility according to the standards set by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA).
- [LEED Certification](#) - The zoo will be designed and built as an exemplary model of facilities and operations according to the U.S. Green Building Council guideline's for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED).

## Visit Us on the Web

### Discover More

Before your next visit to the Moonridge Animal Park, browse our website at <http://www.moonridgezoo.org>

Learn what's new at the park and when the next Special Event is scheduled. You can read about some of the animals and find out why they are with us.

Also background information of the Friends of the Moonridge Zoo can be reviewed, and you can read details regarding the relocation efforts to move the park.

### Membership

Has your membership lapsed or would you like to join as a new member?

You can renew or become a new member online at <http://moonridgezoo.org/fomz/join.html> or call 909 878-4200

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## Yes! I'm wild about the MOONRIDGE ANIMAL PARK

I would like to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to adopt an animal for \$25

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(name of person)

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Email Paw Prints Newsletter: \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

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Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Mail form & check to:  
FOMZ, PO Box 2557, Big Bear City, CA 92314**

Return Service Requested

[www.moonridgezoo.org](http://www.moonridgezoo.org)

Gift Shop: 909-584-1171

Office: 909-878-4200

Big Bear City, CA 92314-2557

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FRIENDS OF THE MOONRIDGE ZOO



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