

Ramblings

May 2015

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- Clings, Stickers & Flags
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IN MY VIEW

Winter is fresh in our memories, in the rear view mirror. The facts of Easter from Lent to music like, "Was it a morning like this?" are but an echo. LVRanch is steady, blessed and available for members and their families now well past the 50 year mark. The grader needed new chains, the Ranch House is a fine convenience and well maintained, stocked shelter, emergency supplies and plenty of ice. The upper lake has water in it as the old timers remind me that it is about a 7 year cycle, dry lake bed to dry lake bed and not to worry. Evidence of the "Black Stick Forest" is still obvious more than a decade past the burn while Ranch itself is healing and being healed at the hands of many volunteers. October is still "ChipOrama" month and we are surveying members to triage sensible Ranch improvements while keeping in mind that the capital cost of an improvement is only the beginning of something that has a legacy of maintenance cost during its useful life. That fact is not lost on this board or writer.

The original mission of Ranch was and remains to be the support of Youth Outreach through Retreat. That focus must not be lost as we balance Ranch amenities desired against those very real needs of Retreat. Outdoor ministries remain some of the most effective agents of service to the Father's love for all His children while he calls us by name. We must remember that we don't own anything; the true and rightful owner will reclaim it, every bit of it, we keep nothing. Our task is to steward over all in our reach in our times and LVRanch is part of that duty and a fine legacy, one we all share. I am glad I am able to serve here with you and ask you all to remember what a blessing Ranch and its mission really represents; to support those efforts and enjoy your personal stewardship of those blessings! Oh.....and remember to close the gate and drive 20 mph!!!

Please pay attention to Shad Jeseritz's notes on ingress and egress across member lots.

Additionally, the Board has put together a Strategic Planning Survey that is intended to help the Board understand what the membership would like to see built/implemented at LVRanch.

Please complete the survey and send back to the Board as soon as possible but **No Later Than June 14th** so that we can prepare our presentations for the annual membership meeting in August.

Your Brother in Christ, and humble servant, Alan Peterson

BUILDINGS & SAFETY

It's April already, which means we're at the start of another blessed season at LVR! The requests for improvement approvals have started to flow... and I have no doubt there will be several new structures to admire by the end of the summer.

The board continues to promote a philosophy of minimal regulation and strong emphasis on Christian cooperation. For instance, there have been requests to have storage containers on the ranch. After some discussion, the board is refraining from any new rules about such things, but will rather encourage members to think about their neighbors as they submit their plans. Muted colors, careful placement, and good communication are worth more than a dozen new rules.

Another interesting topic has been ingress/egress. You may not know it, but there are several lots at LVR that are land locked. The folks on these lots would love it if we assessed dues by frontage (like street assessments) since they would owe nothing! Kidding aside, there are occasionally discussions about how driveways can cut across neighbor lots. The boards has agreed to this policy... "Ingress/egress disputes will be settled between the involved parties, in Christian fellowship, to be ultimately arbitrated by the board if necessary and shall be binding upon subsequent holders of those particular memberships."

As always, please remember to keep your speed down and to close the gate. The return of the aspens makes for several blind corners and it's easy to be surprised by speeders. The gate is an important part of our strategy to have a private and secure ranch/retreat environment. If the no-good-nics have to get out of their cars to open a closed gate there is higher legal protection for us in the case of an accident.

Your Brother in Christ, Shad

LOTS AVAILABLE

Currently we have 6 lots available – 15, 20, 57, 59 & 79

LOT SIGNS

Need a sign with your name on it for your lot? Go to www.lvranch.org and click on "Lot sign request form" at the bottom of the main page or contact Shirley Bauer at slbauer1030@gmail.com. We are making signs for all the new members

CLINGS, STICKERS AND FLAGS

LVR window clings, ATV stickers and ATV flags are now available. The board encourages all members to have a window cling (black and white) displayed in the lower drivers side windshield of their car and LVR stickers (yellow and black) on their ATV's. These forms of ID let your fellow Ranch members and Retreat staff know that you belong on the property. COST: Clings and stickers are FREE. ATV flags \$10.00 donation (non-deductible). If you need any of these items, contact Shirley Bauer at slbauer1030@gmail.com or Alan Peterson at PetersoA@wedbush.com

Lakes, Fish & Trees

By Bob Blackett

Your Board is hoping that 2015 will be the year to 'fix' Bear Lake. If you've been to LVR lately you'll notice that the heavy late winter snow runoff has brought the water level higher than has been seen in years. A picture is included.

When it dries somewhat, likely in either June or about November, our plan is to attempt a fix something like that done in the mid-1990s, burying lines of perforated pipe to lead much of the boggy area water above the lake down into the lake bed. We also may reconfigure the lake somewhat to make a smaller deeper lake, similar to Deer Lake downstream. It's a blessing that we have smart engineers amongst our membership.

Otherwise the fish stocking will be similar to previous years, split into two deliveries in late May and late July. We're hoping to buy bigger trout.

Likewise the forest mitigation along LVR's roads will continue from last year, back down Deer Trail Drive and around Columbine Loop. Per CUSP the grant will be reduced somewhat from last summer. You are encouraged to mitigate on your own lots, particularly along the roads. Some members have also made 'burn piles' of smaller slash, to be burned in the winter.



Lutheran Valley Ranch Board of Directors Info

Alan Peterson – President Rock of Ages Lutheran, Colo. Springs alan.peterson@wedbush.com (email)

Jackie Brookshire – Vice-President Family of Christ Lutheran, Monument, CO jackie.brookshire@comcast.net (email)

John Harris—Roads/Equipment & Ramblings Newsletter &Website Johnharris31@comcast.net (email) Dee Paulson – Secretary Ascension Lutheran, Littleton, CO dplakewood@comcast.net (email)

Shirley Bauer – Membership/Buttons & Signs Redeemer Lutheran Colorado Springs, CO slbauer1030@gmail.com (email)

Lee Cross - Treasurer St. Luke's Lutheran, Colorado Springs, CO leecross2010@yahoo.com Shad Jeseritz—Buildings / Safety Family of Christ Lutheran, Monument, ieseritz@comcast.net

Clare Skov – Ranch House Faith Lutheran, Woodland Park, CO pastorc_skov@hotmail.com (email)

Robert Blackett - Lakes/Fish/Trees Shepherd of the Hills, Canon City, CO. rblackula@gmail.com

COLUMBARIUM

Another niche has been reserved. That leaves four and a half niches available. If you are interested in reserving a niche, the reservation forms are available on the Ranch website or from Dee Paulson at (303)716-3518 or dplakewood@comcast.net. The cost of a niche (which contains two crypts for two people) is \$1000. One crypt (for one person) can be reserved for \$500.

IN REMEMBRANCE

This past winter four of our long time members went home to be with the Lord: Ron Young, Richard Goetz, Richard Maxson and Joyce Gesling.

Ron Young (Lot 80), Board member for 9 years, President of the LV Ranch Board for 7 years

Richard (Dick) Goetz (Lot 38), one of the original members from 1961. Helped start Ranch & Retreat. Served several times on the LV Ranch Board. Father to Kris Koops. Passed away Nov 2014.

Richard (Dick) L. Maxson (Lot 3), member since 1964. Former board member, 1984-1990. Passed away Nov 2014.

Joyce Gesling (Lot 20), long time member, passed away in October 2014.

BY-LAWS/RULES & REGULATIONS

If you would like a copy of the Corporate By-Laws or the Rules & Regulations, please contact Dee Paulson at dplakewood@comcast.net or (303)716-3518. The By-Laws and Regulations are also available on our website at: www.lvranch.org

UNCLE DAN'S CORNER - BEAVERS

by Bob Blackett

Beaver ponds are among my favorite early LVR memories. Little Turkey Creek below Deer Lake was a series of beaver ponds all the way down to where Ellison Rd. crosses the creek and turns towards youth camp. I actually preferred fishing in the beaver ponds, private and more challenging, with fish just as big, except when tree branches occasionally jumped in front of and snagged my line.

Beavers have been gone from LVR for decades, a consequence of occasional conflict with people (sometimes Ellison Rd near our Lot #1 driveway would flood when the beavers built the dam too high), but mostly because they ate their aspen and willow food source and had to move on. Beavers have been around for many thousands of years, but the North American population is now about 10% of what it once was. Trapping beavers for their pelts (especially top hats) helped drive the original exploration of the American West.

Now the drainage is again full of aspen and willow, and we were excited this early April to notice a new beaver pond being built near where the creek from Retreat joins Little Turkey Creek. That area is designated by Retreat as 'low use' and 'wetland', and we're hoping they will stay.

Beavers (*Castor canadensis*) are the largest North American rodents. They are unique water engineers and a keystone species, building their own ponds with dams made from mud and plant materials. That pond becomes an important water habitat for everything from insects to fish to frogs to waterfowl to moose. Beavers have webbed feet, are excellent swimmers, and can hold their breath for 15 minutes.

Beavers are nocturnal, and usually sightings are very late in the day. They work all night, hence the term 'Busy as a Beaver'. Their alarm is to slap the water with their broad tail. They also construct lodges, with underwater entrances and food caches. If LVR has a pair there should be 'kits' this early spring. Yearlings and even 2-year olds often stay with the family group, but eventually like other animals may be encouraged to move on.

I hope you welcome this new LVR resident and watch the pond construction, and that beavers spread both up and down Little Turkey creek and the Retreat creek.



EARLY LVR MEMORIES

By Harry Zimbrick

MEMORIES

At 82 ½ years old, I believe I am the only surviving member of the original board of directors of LVR established in 1959. Now, before my memories fail, (I have a good memory, I can even remember things that never happened) I would like to share with you some of the major events in the establishment of LVR. These are memories, not facts.

HAL GLAESER

In 1959, I was a teacher and Youth Director at Immanuel Lutheran Church and School in Colorado Springs. Hal Glaeser, a member of Redeemer Lutheran in Colorado Springs, shared with me his dream of establishing a Youth Camp for Lutheran young people. Hal's dream was awakened when a real estate agent told him about an 880 acre estate near Divide, Colorado that was for sale. Hal made several trips to the site and his dream began to materialize.

VISION

From the very beginning, the concept of a Youth Camp was the goal and vision of the LVR project. The bylaws and articles of incorporation were developed to assure the continued operation and support for the Youth Camp.

MRS. ELLISON

Mrs. Ellison was the owner of the 880 acres of land. Her late husband had purchased the land as an investment and she was trying to liquidate her assets. The owner of the Wildhorn Dude Ranch, Hank Hoder, offered her almost twice as much money as we did. She did not have a positive view of the owner and told him she would rather give the land to the Lutherans than sell to him. He had allegedly been the driver for the Chicago Mafia. Mrs. Ellison sold the land to us for about \$30,000 and carried the note. Ellison Road is named in her honor.

HERB STELZER

Herb Stelzer was a member of Immanuel Lutheran and on the original Board of Directors of LVR as treasurer. He was heavily involved in the development of the vision and bylaws of LVR. He arranged for all the financial concerns of meeting our obligations with Mrs. Ellison. He also had the first telephone at the Ranch after building the Stelzer cabin on Stage Coach Road, Lot 48.

WILDHORN RANCH

Wildhorn Ranch was an operating cattle and dude ranch. It had been an elite dude ranch for many years. It's guests were movie stars and other prominent people from around the United States. In 1959, after LVR purchased the land, Wildhorn ran cattle on LVR.

To be continued in future publications......

RANCH HOUSE NEWS

WOW! LVR IS HERE! GREEN IS IN!

Give thanks! We are having the wettest spring in the last seven years: Five very precipitation-filled snows and plenty of sprinkles in-between. The frogs are cheerfully chirping again in what was once bare lake, that's because they like seeing the ducks and geese swimming around too [but not the Blue Herons]. Bird watchers also are having a treat with the plethora of colorful Blue Birds, Red-tail hawks, Steller Jays, Gross-beaks, Humming birds, Red-headed Finches, juvenile Bald Eagles, etc. The list is getting longer day by day! Some of you are probably joining the owls and saying, "Who gives a hoot?"

The Wisconsin migration has also been initiated, bringing our attention to the beginning of our first celebration of our Creator's face shining on us in Christ through His Good News as we joyfully respond to His Resurrection Day call! Yes! Jesus is the reason for the season, God's "Yes!" and "Amen!" to all of His saving Promises! Our fellow saint from Kansas, Leland Jackson, will lead us in our first worship service this coming Memorial Day Sunday (May 24, 10 AM) at Retreat's outdoor chapel.

So, borrowing a greeting from 1 Cor. 1, "To the church of God at LVR, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, CALLED to be SAINTS TOGETHER with all those who in every place CALL upon the name of our LORD JESUS CHRIST, both their LORD and ours!" ...I wish to encourage us all, that as we enjoy and appreciate our Creator's creation, that we do not fall into the trap of worshipping the created things, thus forgetting the foundation and central purpose of LVR is to not forget but remember that we are His new Creation in Christ, His ambassadors, instruments of righteousness, and co-workers of His reconciling and life-giving Message!

Thus, as we imitate Christ, we become a manifestation of His WOW, His "Yes!", His "Amen!" in every encounter He gives us as we touch the lives of those we know as well as those He would have us know; and as we make His face shine on others through us on the roads, in His House that we call the Ranch House, and in His hills and forests!

So, where ever you find yourself at LVR, whether in the Ranch House, at the Retreat, or on a hike, let the Light of Christ shine, leave it neater and cleaner than you found it, remembering Jesus' simple words, even when we give a little water to a little child to drink and be refreshed, we have honored and glorified Him as a thankful testimony of His refreshing and renewing love toward us! Psalm 50 says it this way: "The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies Me; to one who orders his way rightly I will show the salvation of God!"

Have a blessed summer together in Christ!

Your neighbor and fellow saint who together with you is blessed to be a blessing! Clare Skov

ROADS & EQUIPMENT

Well, we made it thru another winter and for the most part, the roads and equipment weathered the storm. The late snow in May did cause some havoc and Todd got the grader stuck trying to get the road opened up. The grader continues to perform well and has proven time and time again what a valuable resource it is for LV Ranch and Retreat.

As some of you are at LVRanch more often than I am, please keep a lookout for road conditions and let me know if there is any issues that you want to raise about the maintenance of the roads.

Thank you to those who so willingly drive and service the grader to help keep our roads looking good. God's richest blessings,

John Harris

ADDRESS CHANGES

Have you moved recently? If you have moved since August 2014, please contact the Ranch secretary, Dee Paulson, at dplakewood@comcast.net and she will make sure your information is updated.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Please contact Jackie Brookshire or Lee Cross with any questions. Jackie and Lee are in process of turning the Treasurer duties over to Lee.

	_													TOTAL						
Income		Sep 14		Oct 14		Nov 14		Dec 14		Jan 15		Feb 15		ΥПО		Budget		\$ Over Budget		% of Budget
A/R - Assessments			52,650		425	\$	250	\$	150	\$	_	\$	250	\$	53,725	\$	54,000	\$	(275)	99.49%
A/R Mem		_	12,000	\$	-	\$	50	\$	-	\$	_	\$	-	Ė	12,050	\$	3,000	\$	9,050	401.67%
Assoc. M	•	\$	-	\$	_	\$	-	\$	_	\$	_	\$		\$	-	\$	200	\$	(200)	0.0%
Interest		\$	6	\$	7	\$	8	\$	9	\$	10	\$	9	\$	50	\$	150	\$	(100)	33.11%
Late Fee	Income	\$		\$		\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$		\$	-	\$	100	\$	(100)	0.0%
Recordin		\$	_	\$	_	\$	_	\$	_	\$	_	\$	_	\$	_	\$	100	\$	(100)	0.0%
Rent	-5	\$	_	\$	_	\$	_	\$	_	\$	-	\$	1,200	\$	1,200	\$	1,200	\$	-	100.0%
	vents Income	\$	_	\$	_	\$	_	\$	-	\$	_	\$	-	\$	-	\$	900	\$	(900)	0.0%
Transfer		\$	50	\$	-	\$	25	\$	-	\$	25	\$	_	\$	100	\$	20	\$	80	500.0%
Totaline	ome		64.706		432	\$	333	\$	159	\$	35		1,459	Ė	67,125	\$	59.670	\$	7,455	112.49%
Expense		Ψ	01,100	Ψ	.02	Ψ	000	Ψ	.00	Ψ	00	Ψ	.,	Ψ	01,120	Ψ	00,0.0	Ψ	1,100	112.1070
Accounti	ina	\$	_	\$	-	\$	_	\$	_	\$	795	\$	-	\$	795	\$	900	\$	(105)	88.33%
Chur ch s		\$	1,000	\$	-	\$	_	\$	-	\$	-	\$	_	\$	1,000	\$	1,500	\$	(500)	66.67%
Contribu		\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	192	\$	-	\$	192	Ė	,		,	
Contribu	tions for Grader	\$	_	\$	(25)	\$	(200)	\$	(25)	\$	-	\$	-	\$	(250)					
Contribu	tions for LVRanch	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	9,000	\$	(9,000)	0.0%
Deprecia	tion	\$	-	\$	636	\$	636	\$	636	\$	636	\$	636	\$	3,180					
Diesel Fu	uel	\$	-	\$	-	\$	(100)	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	(100)	\$	1,200	\$	(1,300)	-8.33%
Fire Rec	overy	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	875	\$	-	\$	875	\$	1,300	\$	(425)	67.31%
Fish and	Trees	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	4,000	\$	(4,000)	0.0%
General (O&M	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	500	\$	(500)	0.0%
Insuranc	е	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	8,600	\$	(8,600)	0.0%
Legal		\$	-	\$	-	\$	24	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	24					
Marketin	g	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	500	\$	(500)	0.0%
Newslett	er	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	650	\$	(650)	0.0%
Office		\$	202	\$	-	\$	30	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	232	\$	500	\$	(268)	46.47%
Phone		\$	55	\$	55	\$	55	\$	55	\$	55	\$	55	\$	329	\$	700	\$	(371)	46.97%
Postage		\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	7	\$	65	\$	72	\$	400	\$	(328)	17.98%
Ranch H	ouse Expense	\$	88	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	88	\$	4,000	\$	(3,912)	2.21%
Road Im	provements	\$	149	\$	-	\$	100	\$	-	\$	-	\$	36	\$	286	\$	3,000	\$	(2,714)	9.53%
Special E	vents Expense	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	1,600	\$	(1,600)	0.0%
Tax		\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	7,500	\$	(7,500)	0.0%
Travel		\$	30	\$	-	\$	30	\$	-	\$	-	\$	30	\$	90	\$	200	\$	(110)	45.0%
Uncatego	orized Expenses	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	8,370	\$	(8,370)	0.0%
Utilities		\$	-	\$	88	\$	303	\$	10	\$	204	\$	10	\$	614	\$	2,000	\$	(1,386)	30.73%
Vehicle C	O&M	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	457	\$	457	\$	3,000	\$	(2,543)	15.23%
Website		\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	250	\$	(250)	0.0%
Total Exp	pense	1	1,524.95	75	53.79	8	77.06	6	75.90	2,7	763.46	1,	289.12		7,884.28	5	9,670.00	-5	1,785.72	13.21%



RAMBLINGS NEWSLETTER PO BOX 1352 COLORADO SPRINGS CO 80901 **Presorted Standard** U. S. POSTAGE

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2015 STRATEGIC PLANNING SURVEY FOR LVRANCH

1.	Membership:											
	a. How long have you been a member of LVR?											
	b. How did you become aware and interested in becoming a member of LVR?											
2.	How often do you come up to LVR? Trips/yr; Total days per year; Longest stay											
3.	What Ranch House amenities do you use when you are at LVR? Check all that apply											
	a. Restroom? Shower?											
	b. Kitchen/Stove? Dishwashing?											
	c. Microwave? Coffee /Coffee maker?											
	d. Deck?; Deck BBQ Grill?											
	e. Ice Machine? Phone?											
	f. Main Hall for meals?; Meetings?; Family games?; Family reunions etc.?											
	g. Water Supply for camp site?											
	h. First Aid?; Emergency Equipment ?											
4.	What other Services offered by LVR have you used or plan to use?											
	a. Lot Driveway grading?;											
	b. Columbarium?											
	c. RV Dump Station?; How Often?											
	d. Fishing?											
5.	Additional amenities would you use (if available) and would like to see added, if available?											
	a. Picnic Table Sites among the trees?											
	b. Picnic pavilion(s): 2 or 3 Small Pavilions (15' x 15')?; One Medium Sized (24' x 24')?											
	c. Out-Door Chapel adjacent to the Columbarium?											
	d. Internet connection?											
	e. Electric gate installed on the main entrance?											
	f. Other please specify all that you would be interested in											
6.	Do you attend church services at LVR? (a) Yes; (b) No; Regularly?; Infrequently?											
7.	Are you more likely to attend worship services if they are held: (a) At Retreat's out-door chapel?; (b) At											
	an out-door chapel near the Ranch House?; (c) In the Ranch House?; (d) Another location?											
	(please specify)											
8.	Do you enjoy getting together as a group and socializing? Would you be interested in participating in any of the											
	following activities? Ice Cream Social? Dessert Potluck? Lunch or dinner potluck? Movie											
	night at the Ranch House? Family picnic?Coffee and Pastry after Sunday service?											
9.												
	and comradery of our members and familiarizing new and old members with each other. What are other ways											
	you would like to see planned and how often?											
10.	Please add any other comments and suggestions you may have below:											

Please return the survey to: Lutheran Valley Ranch, P.O. Box 1352, Colorado Springs, CO 80901.

Deadline: June 14, 2015