



Ramblings

May 2021

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PRESIDENT'S VIEW

So, 2020 is in our rear-view mirror and I for one am so glad that I am starting to see a return to normal with businesses opening up and summer activities moving into high gear. LVRanch is also moving into high gear with so many of you planning on traveling to your lot this summer. To leave the hustle and bustle of your everyday life behind, knowing that somewhere along CR5 the cell signals all stop and you are officially untethered from your daily life and can just be "in the moment" at LVRanch.

Each summer Diana and I plan to spend many weekends at our Lot, relaxing, enjoying the company of our friends and family and making new friends along the way. The winter snow and spring rains have added some much needed moisture to the area around LVRanch and it is wonderful to see all the trees full of leaves and flowers in full bloom.

If you have not made plans to spend a weekend or more on your Lot this summer, you need to re-think that and figure out a way that you can make it up there. God has indeed blessed us all in amazing ways but the beauty surrounding you at LVRanch is hard to beat.

I pray God's richest blessings on each and every one of you and your families and I pray that 2021 turns out to be a truly wonderful year.

I am always available for a phone call or to respond to emails. Just reach out and we can talk thru your questions or concerns.

God bless,

Your Brother in Christ,

John Harris
LVRanch Board President

VICE-PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS

Are You Interested in Serving on the LV Ranch Board?

For the benefit of our newer members, please be aware that opportunities to serve on the LVRanch Board of Directors become available at each Annual Meeting in August. The LVRanch Board manages the expenditures of the membership's annual dues and is responsible for maintaining all aspects of the facility, including: upkeep of the Ranch House; the roads; restocking the fish; road and lot signage; lot rule compliance issues; processing new membership applications; all of the administrative and record keeping functions required to maintain a not-for-profit corporation; and, much more.

Serving on the Ranch Board doesn't mean that each individual Board member has to do all the work in an assigned area. Rather, it often involves coming up with a strategy for accomplishing individual tasks and often contracting with businesses who perform the type of work needed. For example, actual tax accountants prepare the corporate tax filings, general or specialized contractors typically perform the needed plumbing and electrical work, a road grader operator is typically retained to perform the major road repairs, etc. Accordingly, the Ranch Board functions best when its Board members have a wide-range of varying understandings and experiences.

The LVRanch Board is composed of nine volunteer members who each serve a three-year term. Those three-year terms are staggered so that three board member terms expire at each Annual Meeting in August. While some Board members are content with serving a subsequent term, a whole lot depends upon whether or not other lot members are willing to step-up and express their interest in serving a term on the LV Ranch Board. Here's your opportunity to do that. It's also important that you let us know of your interest in Ranch Board service well in advance of the Annual Meeting in August.

If you have an interest in serving on the LV Ranch Board, or just learning more about what that might involve, please contact either our Ranch Board President, John Harris at johnwharris31@gmail.com or me to learn more.

I hope to see you this coming season. Thanks for giving this some thought!

Jim Simpson – LV Ranch Vice-President
simpson.james.86@gmail.com

BUILDINGS & SAFETY

Construction continues at LVR with several new projects such as wells, sheds, and garages approved recently. Please keep the requests coming so we can keep the records up to date and we'll get you approved quick.

As you may remember in the last newsletter there was one crazy lot owner that was going for the first "stock tank hot tub" on the property. Ever heard of the "You might be a redneck if..."? Well, judge for yourself from the picture below. We were in 104 degree during the icy Memorial Day weekend weather. Come by and take a look!

It's also important to mention that we need everyone to keep their lots clean and respect their neighbors. Several members have graciously cleaned up their neighboring lots when the primary lot owners were unable to do so. Please be sure to keep those lots clean!

Your Brother in Christ - Shad



LOTS AVAILABLE

Currently we have no lots available with 2 people on the waiting list..

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. Lot signs are being made for 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

BY-LAWS/RULES & REGULATIONS

If you would like a copy of the Corporate By-Laws or the Rules & Regulations, please contact Patricia Silva at pks2@tlmworks.com. The By-Laws and Regulations are also available on our website at: www.lvranch.org

LAKES, TREES AND WILDLIFE UPDATE

There's water in them-there hills! Thanks to the recent abundance of wet spring snow and rain, we actually have water in the 'lake' by the Ranch House. It is not much, but you can hear the croaking of the frogs who think it is wonderful as you drive by! While doubtful enough to sustain the water level into the summer, it is a nice reminder of past abundance and a hope for such a future again!

Moose! On our latest weekend escape, we were treated to a very nice surprise on the drive in. Just between the beaver ponds, right before the turn to Westcreek, a group of 3 moose were grazing on the side of the road. It looked like a larger female, with maybe her offspring from the last 2 years. We were able to get some good photos before slowly continuing our way into LVR. A great way to start the weekend.

Bears. For those of you following the news, a Colorado woman was recently killed (5/1) near Durango while walking her dog. Now, some of you may be thinking that Durango is a long way from LVR, which is true. However, LVR is definitely in bear territory. It is important to educate yourself and be appropriately prepared should you encounter a bear. A great resource is the Colorado Parks and Wildlife website (<https://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/LivingwithWildlifeWildBears.aspx>). A short summary recap:

- **Stash Your Trash.** Use bear-proof containers when available. If they are full, double bag trash and lock it in your trunk or RV. Never leave trash outside.
- **Store Attractants Safely.** Store food, beverages and toiletries in airtight containers and lock in your trunk. Many bears have discovered that coolers, bags, and boxes are full of food; never leave them in your tent or anywhere a bear could see, smell or reach.
- **Keep a Clean Camp.** Bears are attracted to odors of all kinds and will investigate anything interesting in hopes of finding food.
- **Keep a Clean Tent.** Do not bring anything with an odor into your tent—that includes all foods, beverages, scented toiletries, gum, toothpaste, sunscreen, candles, and insect repellent. Do not sleep in the clothes you cooked in; store them with your food.
- **Lock RVs and Vehicles.** Close windows and lock your vehicle and RV when you leave your camp site and at night before you go to sleep.

Fish! Our annual fish stocking order has been received and so you can look forward to plenty of fun. Remember, the fishing limit is three fish per day per individual, and no more than ten fish per day per membership.

That is all for now, I look forward to seeing you up and about at LVR this summer!

Erik Skov

RANCH HOUSE NEWS

As I begin my musings the first week of May for the Spring edition of "Ramblings" it does not look like spring, but rather, it is another snow white, snow capped, sun glistening morning in the awesome part of God's creation we know as Lutheran Valley Ranch. What a privilege we have to embrace the changes and challenges of the 4 seasons here at LVR and, having just celebrated Easter, the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior we know that "Hope Springs Eternal" From 1Cor. 15:19 - 20 we are assured "If in this life ONLY we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most pitied or miserable, BUT, now Christ is risen from the dead and has become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep." and from the signs of His creation in new buds, fresh green, the return of birdsong we are assured.

These signs are perhaps calling LVR members to "come away for awhile". Of course, one of our amenities, such a privilege, is the Ranch house, now almost 25 years old. I will work to keep it functioning and upgraded as we move into this new season, and would like to thank you, LVRanch members, for your ongoing teamwork in helping to keep the Ranch house the awesome privilege it is!

Thanks, and our Lord's blessings, Kerry Schauland

RANCH ROADS

The great news this spring is that we have had quite a bit of snow continuing over the last few months. Unfortunately, my plow truck has been broken down and in the repair shop quite a bit this winter.. I did not keep the roads as clear as I would have liked and could not help with driveways either. The bad news is the roads have taken quite a beating. We just had a very wet snow a couple of days ago and are due about 3 days of rain in a couple more days. It is muddy up here. As soon as it dries out a bit I will be able to use the grader and tractor to start working the roads. Hopefully, we can get a professional grader operator to help out this year. We have a culvert that has popped up a bit at the intersection of Ellison and Deer Trail. Please drive slowly over it. I am hoping it has not caved in. If it has, it will need to be replaced. Again, I am waiting for things to dry out a bit to assess the damage. Hopefully we will be able to take care of some of the rocks that seem to be popping up here and there on Ellison.

We should have a nice, green spring and early summer so I hope you have a chance to come up and enjoy!

The Roads Guy, Rod Young

EQUIPMENT

Here we go. To recap the equipment report for this quarter, things are looking good for the spring start up this year. The charging issue with the John Deere tractor has been resolved by Potestio Brothers in Colorado Springs. They did have some trouble getting to the ranch house to pick up the unit. The return trip was uneventful. The road grader seems to be doing well. Spoke to our main operator (Steveo) for any concerns that he had and from that conversation I ordered a matched pair of fan belts. I will install them on or about FOC Men's Retreat. Also covered with him where to add motor oil if necessary. On the right hand side of the engine towards the front there is an approximately 1 and 1/4 inch cap on the front cover. A funnel will be needed. Although still not easy to get to but is the only realistic option. The walk behind the brush mower needs to be washed off and all of the fluids checked. The brush mower will be ready to go after that. Looks like LV Ranch clean up will be off to a great start. Looking forward to a really good 2021 summer.

In our Lords service,

Ted Gates

Lutheran Valley Ranch Board of Directors Info:

John Harris – President & Ramblings
Newsletter/Website
Family of Christ Lutheran, Monument, CO
Johnwharris31@gmail.com

Jim Simpson – Vice President
St. John's Lutheran, Denver, CO
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Erik Skov – Lakes, Trees & Wildlife
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Kerry Schauland – Ranch House
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Patricia Silva – Secretary
Family of Christ Lutheran, Monument
pks2@tlmworks.com

COLUMBARIUM

All remains the same in the columbaria area. We have the two columbaria along with a beautiful bench for reflection. We are hoping to have the third and final columbarium installed this summer. Our little pine trees continue to grow! We do have an interment scheduled mid-June, so please be aware and respect the family's privacy. They have also reserved the Ranch House that day. Please be sure to check the Ranch House schedule for availability.

If you would like LVR to be your earthly resting place, there are several spaces available. The first columbarium has half a niche remaining. The second columbarium has seven niches available. The third columbarium has 12 niches available. Niches are 11 1/4" (w) x 11 1/4" (h) x 10 1/2" (d). Standard size cremation containers are 6" (w) x 8" (h) x 4" (d). The cost of a niche has not gone up over the years. A niche (which holds two sets of cremains) is \$1000. Half a niche (for one set of cremains) can be reserved for \$500. If you are interested in reserving a niche, the application forms are available on the Ranch website or from Dee Paulson at dplakewood@comcast.net.



TREASURER'S REPORT

- The Church Service was streamed on numerous occasions with the pandemic.
- Contributions to Retreat is high because it was decided to give more to the Retreat this year because of the pandemic.
- The dump station, Columbarium, tractor and storage units are being depreciated this year in QuickBooks.
- Our fish orders are not until the end of May and the end of July.
- Ranch House plumbing and the ice machine needed some major repairs.
- Signs need to be order for the new members.
- Special events is spent for the Annual Meeting.
- Vehicle O&M - the tractor and grader have needed some repairs.

ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS

As per Section 16 paragraph a. of the Rules and Regulation Annual membership fees and delinquent debts shall be due and **payable on December 1st** of each year.

SELF-CERTIFICATION FORMS

Self-certification forms were sent out with your Annual membership invoices. Please fill it out and return it to: Lutheran Valley Ranch, PO Box 1352, Colorado Springs, CO 80901.

Recertification or Self-certification forms are required yearly to remain a member of Lutheran Valley Ranch.

RANCH CALENDAR

There is a Ranch activities and Ranch House Reservation calendar on the Ranch website www.lvranch.org. The calendar lists Ranch board meetings, gatherings, activities and when the Ranch House has been reserved for special occasions like family reunions, internments etc. If the Ranch House has been reserved, you are still welcome to use the restrooms and get ice but please be respectful of other members activities.