



Ramblings

May 2022

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PRESIDENT'S VIEW

Summer is right around the corner and with that comes more fun in the mountains for those of us who don't really like the cold, this is our time at LV Ranch. I don't mind the cold but if I have a choice of being warm or cold, I pick warm. This is going to be an exciting summer for many families as I know we have new members who will enjoy their lot for the first summer this year.

The Board is excited to see how many of you come up this summer and enjoy the mountains and well as unplug from your daily life. As the warm, sunny days of summer come upon us, please take time to reflect on the blessings that Our God has blessed each and every one of you with. I know they are more than I can count each week!!!

I pray God's richest blessings on each and every one of you and your families and I pray that you got the opportunity to spend as much time as possible at LV Ranch this coming summer!!

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
LV Ranch Board President

FIREHOUSE NEWS AND NOTES

The fire season has not really started for this year and there have already been several wild fires both in Teller County and up and down the Front Range. The Ranch needs the help of all members to mitigate the spread of any small fires that could occur out here in our local area. We are using our roads as fire breaks. To provide an adequate break, we need all members to clear all deadwood and slash from the first 15 feet of the roads bordering their lot. Please place the slash in a clearing and not under power lines where it can be burned next winter. If you have any question on how to stack the slash or where to place it please contact Todd over at the Retreat. He will be glad to help you with where to place it.

Another mitigation task for all members is to move any fire wood away from structures. This is an ongoing problem for the fire department and is a common cause for structure fires associated with a forest fire.

Be safe and do not drown your campfire in this year's very dry camping season!

MEMBERSHIP BADGES

When we all joined LV Ranch, we were all, hopefully, issued several of those round LV Ranch membership badges. The yellow ones are for the primary members and their family. The white ones are for our guests. The Ranch Board is requesting that we all make an effort to wear our membership badges especially while inside the Ranch House, fishing at Deer Lake and while traveling up and down the roadways hiking and while on our cycles, ATVs and RZR's.

Wearing your membership badges is a quick and easy way for everyone to distinguish members from non-members. If anybody is not wearing a LV Ranch membership badge, please don't hesitate to ask them who they are.

If you need any additional or replacement membership badges, please contact our Membership Director, Shirley Bauer, at 'slbauer1030@gmail.com'

Jim Simpson

GERRY WEISS WOULD WELCOME A CARD OR VISIT

Gerry Weiss, Lot 33, is now residing at the Pike's Peak Center (an assisted living facility) located at 2719 N. Union, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80909-1125 (at the intersection of Paseo and Union). PPC's main telephone number is (719) 636-1677. Visiting hours are from 7am to 7pm daily.

Gerry would appreciate a card or a visit by any of his many LV Ranch friends. If you are planning to visit, please call PPC in advance to check on their visitor admission policies.

Jim Simpson

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, 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.

LOTS AVAILABLE

Currently we have no lots available with 6 people on the waiting list..

LOT SIGNS

Lot name and lot number signs have been made for all new members. The Board is looking for help in getting all these signs put up. If you are willing to help contact Shirley Bauer at slbauer1030@gmail.com

CLINGS, STICKERS AND FLAGS

LV Ranch 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 LV Ranch 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 Erik Skov at erik.skov@outlook.com. The By-Laws and Regulations are also available on our website at: www.lvranch.org

RANCH HOUSE NEWS

From the couch in the Ranchhouse:

Spring is sprung, or has it? On April 23 -24 we had 8 - 10 inches of snow and a few days later, some rain along with another 2" of wet snow - we thank our Lord for the moisture! And we LVR members need to be praying in earnest for rain! Right now, what we've known as Bear Lake, I am dubbing "Croaking Puddle" It is music of sorts to hear the cacophony of the frogs from the Ranchhouse deck, or on another note, perhaps you've noticed also our new parking lot ornament - a shiny red firetruck, donated to our department. It will join our local arsenal after its turn for service/maintenance. Thank you to our local fire dept. members for their faithful service!

Our Ranchhouse survived another winter and we continue to review our options for maintenance and renovation. As your board, we again ask our members to be considerate of this wonderful facility, conserve your water usage (dry season ahead?) and have a blessed spring and summer!

In your service, Kerry Schauland

VOLUNTEERISM AT LV RANCH

As we approach another summer at Lutheran Valley Ranch, one can't help but appreciate and be humbled by how blessed we as ranch members are to have access to the peace and tranquility of our creator's mountains and magnificent vistas, so close to home. I know that many of you are just now starting traditions of "Events We Do" at LVR. Maybe it is that favorite hike you enjoy or the fellowship of sitting around a campfire and telling stories or just being together without the hustle and bustle of your everyday life. I know it's hard for our younger brothers and sisters to hear, but sometimes, no cell phone reception is a blessing and reminds me of a sign I came across recently.



Whatever your LVR tradition is, I wanted to remind you of why Lutheran Valley Ranch was started over 60 years ago. A group of likeminded families from local Lutheran Churches got together and created both Lutheran Valley Ranch and Lutheran Valley Retreat. Each family spent many weeks each year taking care of the property, building roads, adding culverts, mapping and putting signs on lots and my favorite, hauling water, every single day. Keeping lots clear of excess fire fuel (downed trees and dry grass) to help mitigate forest fires and lastly but most importantly, sharing the blessings of Lutheran Valley Ranch with their families and then passing on the love for our community to their children and grandchildren. You may not know that many lots have 3 or 4 generations that still maintain and use their lot, for camping and fishing.

In the past it was common for every member to give back in some way to LVR. Maybe it was mowing the grass around the Ranch House, fixing a retaining wall or rock pathway, driving the tractor to work the roads or spring cleaning the Ranch House. Whatever the task, it was a way for each member to give a small amount of their time and talents for the overall good of the Ranch and its community. Today, we are still united by a common faith in Jesus our Lord and Savior and our enjoyment of His countless and generous blessings, among them is this slice of Colorado mountain country that we have been entrusted with.

Over the last few years, your Ranch Board has arranged to have a dumpster at Deer Lake for members to use for large items (excluding trees and slash) that needed to be removed from their lot and have hosted annual wood chipping events to get rid of slash on member's lots. In recent years your Board has started an event called "Beautify LV Ranch Day" as a coordinated opportunity for all members to come together in Christian fellowship and stewardship, to give just a little bit of your time and labor for the betterment of our collective treasured gift.

To be honest, of late, your Board has been a bit frustrated and disappointed with the membership's participation rate. Over the next few weeks, we will be taking a survey to see who would be willing to participate in a "Beautify LV Ranch Day" this fall and based on your response, your Board will determine the future of this event. We hope and pray that you will consider taking a more active role in the stewardship and preservation of your community and our slice of God's creation.

God bless,

Your LV Ranch Board of Directors

LV RANCH SECONDARY MEMBERSHIP RIGHTS AND SUCCESSION

In order to become an LV Ranch Member, an initial membership application was first required to be completed by a qualifying Lutheran Missouri Synod individual or a married couple. Upon approval, the individual or married couple then became the Primary Member(s) of a specified membership lot. The initial membership application included a section where Secondary Members (typically the individual or couple's children) could be designated with respect to their membership and lot. This designation of Secondary Membership will allow those family members designated to someday apply to become the Primary Member(s) with respect to the membership and lot.

Even without a Secondary Membership designation, the spouse and children of a Primary Member(s) have full usage rights concerning the lot and the LV Ranch facilities, but they do not necessarily have any future rights to assume primary responsibility for the LV Ranch membership. As certain as we are about paying taxes, someday each Primary Member(s) will no longer be capable of taking care of LV Ranch membership matters. Designating one or more family member(s) as Secondary Member(s) will help to ease the process of future lot and membership succession (helping to make sure that the membership stays within the same family, if so desired.)

Secondary Member(s) can be designated in the original membership application. Using that same form that's available in our website (lvranch.org), Secondary Member(s) can also be designated at a later point in time by the Primary Member(s). All that you need do is to fill out the form with the required signatures and return it to the LV Ranch Board along with the nominal Secondary Membership application fee.

Jim Simpson
LV Ranch Vice-President

EQUIPMENT

This year managing the equipment maintenance and repair has been a continuing challenge. Starting with the end of last year's flat tire on the front of the grader. A tire road service was called and replaced both front tires to keep the grader moving throughout the winter road clearing season. The John Deere tractor is continuing to prove itself a valuable asset to our road maintenance. So I decided to invest in some repairs to it this spring. The tractor was costing us money through several hydraulic leaks and coolant leaks. The machine was sent out for repair and as of this writing will be returned by June first of this year. My goal is to keep The equipment in the best shape possible for the betterment of the ranch membership as a whole.

In the our Lord's 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 / Lakes, Trees &
Wildlife
St. John's Lutheran, Denver, CO
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Shirley Bauer – Membership
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Ted Gates – Equipment
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Rod Young – Roads
Rock of Ages, Colorado Springs, CO
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Shad Jeseritz—Buildings / Safety
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Kerry Schauland – Ranch House
Family of Christ Lutheran, Monument
kerry.schauland50@gmail.com

Ken Waterhouse – Treasurer
Immanuel Lutheran, Colorado Springs
ckw12@msn.com

COLUMBARIUM

If you would like LVR to be your earthly resting place, there are several spaces available in the Ranch columbaria. The first columbarium has half a niche remaining. The second columbarium has six 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 (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.

RANCH ROADS

Our roads are in are ready for some spring surfacing. The tractor has been in the shop but is ready to come back out here. Just in time too. We have a major snow storm predicted for this weekend. It should provide plenty of moisture to soften the roads for easy grading and leveling. If everything happens in good order, we should have nicely surfaced roads to start the summer season. If you find anything road related that needs my attention please let me know. Either stop by or send an email to rod.young77@gmail.com.

Please drive safely,

The Roads Guy , Rod Young

TREASURER'S REPORT

It was a bit of a slow transition, so I became your Treasurer during the tail end of the member collection process right before the end of the calendar year, so not much wisdom from that other than I heard a lot of “. . . a check? You want me to send a check for my dues, I don't even have those anymore . . . “ and I agree.

Now I'm not a tech expert but I can follow a trend and with the advances in banking and electronic commerce most folks are probably familiar with electronic bill pay from their bank or credit union. It is usually as easy as entering us as a new vendor with the following information:

Lutheran Valley Ranch, Inc.
P.O. Box 1352
Colorado Springs, CO 80901-1352

In addition, we are exploring other electronic payment methods either utilizing a credit card or PayPal or Venmo. Remember that annual assessments are DUE no later than December 1 of each year and will be charged and billed a late fee of \$45.00 if received after that date.

If you have any suggestions or comments, please drop me a note at the address above or email to board@lv ranch.org. We will be starting a new budget process in the next few months, so your input is appropriate and welcome.

I look forward to seeing you at the Ranch this summer,

Ken Waterhouse
Treasurer

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.