



Ramblings

June 2019

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PRESIDENT'S VIEW

As I sit here at my desk mulling over what I want to write about I am struck by the knowledge that we serve an awesome God who provides for us each and every day. Yes, even on those days that we don't deserve it, God still provides. Most of us go thru our busy day taking care of all of the items on our "list" and rarely take time to appreciate wonderful Colorado. Diana and I are getting excited about our first trip up to LVR for our summer camp outs and getting around to see so many of our friends that we have made over the years at LV Ranch. The rich history of LV Ranch that includes families that watched their kids grow up at LV Ranch and now those same kids are bringing their kids up to LV Ranch. I bet on any summer day at LV Ranch, there is a possibility that we have at least 3 generations of Lutherans enjoying the great outdoors and making memories that will last a lifetime.

As we look forward to steaks on the grill and a cold beer to wash it down with along with of course, smores and, weather permitting, fires, I am reminded that each day is an opportunity to be a blessing to someone just like LV Ranch has been a blessing to my family.

This is the time of year where we have the opportunity to re-kindle old friendships or make new ones. Reach out to your neighbors and let them know the "Good News" that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life!!

I pray that this summer is full of opportunities to make new memories, re-kindle old ones and just get out of the house and spend some time at LV Ranch. God's richest blessings to all of you,

Your Brother in Christ,

John Harris
LVRanch Board President

BUILDINGS & SAFETY

Here comes another great summer at LVR! Whether you're enjoying the fruit of construction past or starting on a new project, I hope you have a memorable one.

So far we have new driveways and storage containers approved, with several projects from last year still underway. We've been unsuccessful in convincing anyone to construct something exciting (community pool, hot tub, or water slide) but we have our fingers crossed! As always, we approve pretty much anything proposed as long as it stays within the 70' setback from lot boundaries. Members are more likely to have hard questions from the county than from the ranch itself.

Watch for new boundary monuments this summer as we recover lost or damaged rebar markers. As mentioned before, if you are missing one please find me and we'll put you at the top of the list.

Finally, please play it safe by observing the 20mph speed limit, closing the gate, and not running with scissors.

His,

Shad

LOTS AVAILABLE

Currently we don't have any lots available. There is one person on the waiting list to get a lot when one becomes available.

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome our new Members:

Robert and Yvonne Bryan on lot 53 from Holy Cross Church in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

James and Kathy Jennings on lot 113 from Concordia Lutheran Church in Lakewood, Colorado.

Trevor and Laura Soyk, David and Sandi and Kaitlin Soyk on lot 56 from Rock of Ages Lutheran Church in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Ryan and Denise Rolfsmeier and Steven Rolfsmeier II on lot 103 from Concordia Lutheran Church in Lakewood, Colorado.

Pastor Kelly and Pamela Smith on lot 86 from Our Savior Lutheran Church in Centennial, Colorado.

Please also welcome our new Associate members:

Josh and Robin Fields on lot 83. They go to St. John's Lutheran Church in Denver, Colorado.

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

JUST RAMBLING.....

What a busy world we live in. I come to reflect on this as we are deep into spring and summer is almost upon us... where does the time go? Although we are all on a different point in our journey - some trudging along, some coasting downhill, others on the uphill climb – it's important to remember a few vital things; we are all in the race, and we are all in it as part of one body.

Wait.... You don't do marathons? Hmm, let's consider that. In Isaiah 40, vs 31 we find a reference ... “mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” And how many other references to a race do we find under Paul's hand? Like it or not, we are all in a race. But let's back up just a little bit and remember what the *Good Book* says just before that; from Isaiah 40, vs 31 “but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength.”

Yes, it's a busy world out there – so remember to be patient and “wait for the Lord.” And that other part about being of one body? If you have a few minutes, pull out your bible and read 1 Corinthians 12. Yep, we are all in a race and we are all in it together. Some of us are eyes, some are ears, hands, legs... and some of us are blessed to be a big toe! So as you go through the days, no matter how quickly they seem to pass, just remember to take the time to wave (or wiggle a toe) and say “hey” to your neighbor. After all, we are all in the same race together.



Thanks for listening to me... just rambling. Your friend and neighbor,

Dan Reed
LVRanch Board

BEAR LAKE AND GLOBAL WARMING

When I first joined LV Ranch as a member in 2004, driving through the front gate and catching my first view of Bear Lake was an awesome and beautifully majestic sight to behold. Then there was the Ranch House whose awesome deck looked out over Bear Lake. Those first impressions were big ones.

I recall many summer weekend camping trips (during my first few years) when the spring and summer rains had a big dampening effect on the fun of being outdoors (as well as on my evening campfires). I often pondered 'why it was' that it seemed to rain mostly on my free weekends? Many others would talk about how nice and warm it was on the very day before I arrived. Unloading (and reloading) camping gear 'in the rain' and staying 'under cover' for most of the daytime hours wasn't very much fun. It was still a welcome change from urban life, and I kept coming and hoping for mostly dryer weather during future camping trips.

Starting in about 2013, my wish came true, and LV Ranch entered a prolonged period of drought. Over the course of the following years, the average water level of Bear Lake seemed to slowly decrease, until it completely 'dried up' last summer. Another downside was the increasing frequency of 'fire bans.' I had never heard about a Stage III fire ban until last summer (where simply parking a vehicle in a grassy area was illegal).

According to LV Ranch records, the construction of Bear Lake was completed in May of 1966. My review of the Ranch Board Minutes revealed that the water level in Bear Lake ran very low during a couple of summers in the mid-1990s. I didn't find any record indicating that Bear Lake had completely dried up like it did last summer.

Bear Lake is primarily supplied with water from two artesian springs. One is close to the lake (on the north side). The primary spring is a further distance away to the west, and it turns into a small trickling stream before its water reaches Bear Lake. Just like there was in the mid-1990s, there's been much talk about what 'could be done' in order to improve on Bear Lake's water level.

For sure, improving the connection between the two artesian springs seems to be a promising approach. Aspens and Willows have overgrown the trickling stream on the west side, and much thought is now being given to clearing away that foliage (from the stream).

It could also be that muskrats have burrowed a few holes through the lining of the lake, or that it needs a whole new lining (a layer of expansive dirt called bentonite). Or it could also be that we just need more wintertime snow and spring/summer rain? For the first time in many years, the front-range mountains have received an abundance of winter snow and spring rain. I'm once again wondering about whether my planned Memorial Day camping trip will be wet and cold. Maybe the end result of a returned weather pattern will be that the water level of Bear Lake returns without anybody having to do anything?

I recently listened to an amusing discussion about 'climate change' and its prior variation that was called 'global warming.' Its main theme was about man's seeming arrogance in believing that we now have control over 'creation' matters. Nevertheless, maybe if I stop driving to LV Ranch (and start walking there), stop eating beef and do a better job about recycling my glass and plastic waste items, I can make a difference in raising Bear Lake's water level?

Your Environmentally Responsible Brother in Christ!
Jim Simpson, LV Ranch Lakes, Trees and Wildlife Board Member

RANCH ROADS

Greetings from the Roads Guy!

I have been “Rambling” around on the roads a bit lately. They will need to be graded this summer. We just had somewhere around 5 or 6 inches of very wet snow this morning, May 21. The ground is pretty saturated and the water is standing everywhere. It will be muddy up here for a while longer. With the help of the folks over at the Retreat, the roads have been getting enough attention to keep them passable until we are able to get them all graded.

I did not plow after this snow because it will be melted off the roads by tomorrow. I also did not plow after the big snow in April because the roads were so muddy that I just sank into the mud when I tried. You might say its mud season up here. The roads will dry quickly and are quite passable and should not deter anyone from a nice stay up here at the Ranch. If there is a particular spot that you would like to get some immediate attention just let me know.

On another note, Chuck and Gloria Mielke have put a lot of effort into trying to get LVR Trail designated as a county road in the hopes of making our road maintenance efforts over that Forest Service land a bit easier. Unfortunately, it does not appear that it will happen. We do have temporary permission to maintain the road, but the Forest Service moves very slowly on such matters so maintaining the road while staying in the good graces of the Forest Service will remain an ongoing effort. Thanks Chuck and Gloria for your efforts!

God’s blessings to you and all your family,
Rod Young

EQUIPMENT

After the extensive repair and maintenance that was done to the grader last year all reports have been positive in it's operation. Translation is that my job has been much easier. I have been told that life is like riding a bicycle. Some times you pedal hard and sometimes you coast. I am coasting for the time being. This does not mean that there have not been challenges on the Board this Year. There seems to be always things to be disused and decisions to be made. I will continue to keep the best interests of the ranch members in mind.

In the Lords service always,
Theodore Gates

BY-LAWS/RULES & REGULATIONS

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

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COLUMBARIUM

Great news! As the last newsletter was being printed, our second columbarium was being installed on a beautiful sunny day, with snow on the ground. A week later we had our first internment in the second columbarium. We also have a lovely bench for quiet reflection. We have gone ahead and ordered a third and final columbarium, to hopefully avoid any design and delivery issues.

The first columbarium has half a niche remaining. The second columbarium has eight niches available. 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 (720)301-2481 or dplakewood@comcast.net.



CAMPSITE CLEAN-UP MONTH

Along with Teller County's New Camping Laws comes the potential for an increase in visual campsite inspections made by code enforcement officials. To that end, the Ranch Board is dubbing August as a 'campsite cleanup month.'

In early August, a 30 yard roll-off dumpster is expected to arrive in the parking lot of the Ranch House parking lot. You are here encouraged to use that dumpster to dispose of non-perishable campsite debris, but please don't bring along any items from home to put in there. The disposal of televisions, monitors and computer equipment are also dumpster prohibited items. If the first dumpster gets filled up early in the month, it will be replaced by a second one.

The underlying idea is to help make LV Ranch more visually attractive for the benefit of all the members (as well as code enforcement officials).

Jim Simpson

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. Per the Rules and Regulation you will be considered for *termination* of membership at our March Board of Directors meeting if you have not paid your Annual membership fee or if the Board has not heard from you by then.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A/R – Assessments is down because we had several people resign from Ranch.
A/R Membership is up because we have several new members.

In order to continue current services available at the Ranch House we had to replace the refrigerator, coffee maker, toaster and smoke alarm. We also got new furnace filters, ice machine filters and defibrillator battery pack. Because of these items we had to purchase the Ranch House Expense is over budget. We will check the oxygen tank and make sure we have the necessary masks available. The first aid kit will be replenished.

The septic system backed up into the Fire Station restroom last fall. We had to clean out the pipes into the septic tank, call in a hazardous material cleanup company to clean up the mess and have the restroom walls repainted. Please limit the amount of toilet paper you put in the toilet. **Please** do not flush any paper towels, feminine products or Kleenex down the toilet. The problem was a wade of paper products that did not make it to the septic tank. The clean up was expensive. This also added into the Ranch House Expense being over budget.

Additionally, the grader needed some significant repairs to keep it operating.