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PRESIDENT'S VIEW

Wow, could anyone have predicted what 2020 turned out to be like??? I know that never in my wildest dreams I could have imagined how we went from springtime in the Rockies to spending most of the summer in some sort of "Safer at Home" level of social distancing. I prefer to call it physical distancing though as I can be social at 6 feet still. As of writing this letter, I know of no members of LV Ranch that lost their battle with COVID-19 and that is indeed a praise report.

I want to send a special note of recognition to John Vavrik and Eric Schallenmuller who submitted a quote and then took on the task of replacing the fence that was in bad shape along the LV Ranch back gate fence line. They did a fantastic job and if you see them around LV Ranch, please make sure and thank them for the hard work!!!

We held the LV Ranch Annual Meeting at the Ranch House in August and even though the attendance was smaller than years past, we still had a good turnout.

As per our normal sequence of events, after the Annual Board Meeting, the new Board (members elected at the Annual Meeting) met right afterwards and voted on the officers and Committee positions for the coming year.

The Officers are as follows: John Harris – President, Jim Simpson – Vice President, Patricia Silva – Secretary and Shirley Bauer – Treasurer.

The Committee Chairpersons are as follows: Shirley Bauer – Membership, Rod Young – Roads, Shad Jeseritz – Buildings/Safety, Erik Skov – Lakes, Trees and Wildlife, Kerry Schauland – Ranch House, Ted Gates – Equipment and John Harris – Ramblings.

One thing that came out of the COVID-19 restrictions was that I saw more families spending more time at LV Ranch than I have ever seen in my 10 years at LV Ranch. I saw families on lots who I have never seen before. I know that Diana and I spent many weekends at LV Ranch this past summer and it was so great to get away from the worries and concerns of our daily life and just enjoy God's creation.

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 each and every one of you,

Your Brother in Christ,

John Harris

VICE-PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS

After a fairly scary start to this year, I was pleased to discover that most aspects of LV Ranch had returned to 'near normal' by the end of the summer season.

We now have many new members who decided to make use of their lots this summer. There seemed to be a lot more safe driving activity on the roadways during the daytime hours. A great many RVs made their first appearance on lots which had remained vacant for many years. Audible voices and laughter also seemed to fill the air much more so than in previous years.

Many kids enjoyed competing in the Annual Fishing Contest. Despite the concerns, we had near-average attendance at the Annual Meeting in August. Everybody that I observed was very respectful of each other's space while inside of the Ranch House.

On Sunday of the Labor Day Weekend, a church service was live-streamed on our new large-screen video and audio system. It almost felt like being there in person. It was awesome.

I had the opportunity to be up on the weekend of LV Retreat's 'Men's Retreat' when their shooting range was being used for part of the day. While my lot is very close to the Retreat's southern boundary, the shot sounds were barely audible and not the least bit bothersome.

This was the first year, in many, that I had an opportunity to spend an entire week of vacation at LV Ranch. Even with the increased activity this year, the peacefulness of the surroundings just somehow seemed to settle down deep inside me by the end of the week.

If safety concerns kept you away from LV Ranch this past summer, please consider venturing up and checking it out for yourself this coming year. You will be in for a happy surprise at normalcy levels.

Your Brother in Christ.

Jim Simpson - LV Ranch Board Vice-President

BUILDINGS & SAFETY

We've had another great summer of construction at LVR! Huts, houses, pavilions, and sheds continue to be put up at the ranch as members pursue their passion to bring creature comforts to our wilderness. Speaking of creature comforts, you're going to love this...

I am building the ultimate hillbilly hot tub! Covid has inspired many folks around the country stuck at home without a gym to create their own aquatic paradise for minimal investment. Enter... the "Stock Tank Pool". Apparently you can fill up a tank, post a "no cows allowed" sign, and float to your heart's content.



You'll need a stock tank (\$500 for 8' or 10' diameter), a filter pump (\$200), some chlorine tablets with float (\$30), propane heater (\$250), and a rubber ducky (\$2). Personally, I plan to get a tether and use it for stationary swimming when the kids and dogs aren't enjoying it. Fingers crossed it will be ready next summer and you can stop by for a visit!

Cheers,

Shad

LOTS AVAILABLE

Currently we have no lots available.

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

Starting with the Lakes. Deer Lake has (for many years) remained in good shape at water and fish supply levels. Despite some uncertainty about the likely membership attendance this past summer, Deer Lake remained stock with fish, as in past years.

The Annual Fishing Contest which was held just before the Annual Meeting on August 1st was a big success. Despite murky water from a previous day's rain, about 33 trout were caught between 9am and 11am. The fish that didn't swallow the hook too deeply were all released back. Prizes were awarded for the most number of fish caught, the biggest/heaviest fish caught (almost two pounds – a whopper), and also for the second most fish caught and the second heaviest fish. While adults are always welcome to attend and compete, this year only the kids of several memberships entered the competition. Both Ted Gates and Jim Simpson served as the Fishing Contest Judges (standing on opposite sides of the lake for fish counting and weighing purposes). It was a wonderful experience for all who attended.

The water level in Bear Lake remains non-existent, except for a small mud puddle. Two separate studies of the lake's condition were performed by separate engineering companies. One heavily focused on the water permit aspect (we don't need to pull any new permits to effect needed repairs), and the other was focused on ways to obtain better water retention.

The Ranch Board ultimately decided to attempt better development of the water source and channeling (ditching/piping) of the water from its source to Bear Lake. During the Beautify LVR Day held on Saturday of the Labor Day Weekend, many volunteers helped to cut/clear most of the Aspen trees from the lake inlet. This will allow us good access to the area in the coming spring.

During the late 1990s, Bear Lake went through a several year period of low water. Then it seemed to suddenly fill back up again and remained full for several years. It's possible that might just happen again, but the Ranch Board hopes to continue to take reasonable efforts to help it along.

Bear Alert, Maybe? Several years ago, LV Ranch suffered several occurrences of bears attempting to break into unattended RVs. It was believed that the bears had been attracted by food substances (including dried dog food) that had been left behind for future intended use. It was later discovered that the Colorado Department of Wildlife had been releasing 'trash bears' (bears which had developed a preference for trash can food) into the National Forest not too far away. After that nearby bear release practice was stopped (and the problem bears were identified and trapped), our bear problem seemed to just go away. We now have reliable information that suggests that several more 'trash bears' may have been released in our vicinity recently. For that reason, we should all be vigilant about removing all food substances from our RVs when headed back home.

Last but not least, a big thank you to Jim Simpson for providing the update above. As the rookie board member with barely a ¼ of a year term served, the task of proving a status update was more than a bit daunting! Jim stepped in and bridged the gap beautifully, thanks again Jim!

Your brother in Christ.

Erik Skov

RANCH HOUSE NEWS

Fall Greetings to our LVRANCH Members:

First, I would like to thank the membership for your support in voting me on the LVRanch board; I consider it a privilege and hope to serve to the best of my ability.

Second, heading into the fall/winter season, the Ranch house appears to be in decent shape. There are a few on-going items on the list to be addressed, and if any of you have noticed any concerns feel free to contact me at kerry.schauand50@gmail.com.

Third, may our encouragement in this season of thanksgiving be: Eph. 5:19b - 21 "...singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,..." But we do live in a broken world, and I had the unsavory task of evicting 3 rude, rogue dirt bike riders out of Bear Lake and our premises the weekend of the LVR women's retreat, after they had rudely confronted 2 of our Retreat ladies on horseback and ripped around thru Ranch/Retreat property after an illegal entry.

So, as we hear so often, let us remember the unique privilege and responsibility we have here at LVRanch as members and responsible guests, "submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ."

Thanks, and our Lord's blessings, Kerry

RANCH ROADS

Greetings from the Roads Guy,

With little rain the roads have been holding up reasonably well. It's a good thing because both the Ranch tractor and my tractor have been down for a couple of months. Grading will resume next spring. My truck is also in the shop so I did not plow the side roads after the foot or more of snow we just got. I should be ready to go for the next snow. Send me an email at rod.young77@gmail.com if you would like your drive plowed or to verify your road is plowed for a winter visit.

Rod Young

EQUIPMENT

After great back and forth on the right path to follow in repairing the (new to us) Tractor we have replaced one defective battery. The battery, although not very old, had a defective cell. The battery system is wired in a series circuit so that even if one cell is defective the whole energy storage system collapses. We also discovered that the starter was failing and we had it rebuilt down in Denver and so will be in top running order for the foreseeable future. The tractors block heater should still be plugged in during cold weather for easy and reliable starting. The tractors fuel shut off (stop cable) was replaced by Rod Young and was in need of repair.

As with the grader, the equipment should be pre-inspected by checking all of the fluids before going to work. The grader and the tractor should be also post-inspected after every day of use. This will include checking all fluid levels and topping off the fuel every day the equipment is used! The winter fuel for the equipment has been delivered. I am now looking at supplying the equipment shed with much needed fluids and supplies for the maintenance of all the equipment. Please forward any suggestions for supplies to me in the future. Speaking of supplies, I am looking to buy at least one set of shelving for the supplies in the Shed. As always it is a privilege to be in our Lord's service,

Ted Gates

Lutheran Valley Ranch Board of Directors Info:

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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
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pks2@tlmworks.com

COLUMBARIUM

All remains the same in the columbaria area and we have the two columbaria along with a beautiful Bench. We were hoping to have the third and final columbarium installed this summer, but delays happen. Installation will depend on weather if done before next Spring. We have also noted that our little pine trees are growing bigger!

The first columbarium has half a niche remaining. The second columbarium has seven niches available. The third columbarium has 12 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.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Several big purchases were made last year to help maintain Ranch Roads.

- A Tractor was purchase to help maintain the roads and take some of the wear and tear of off the grader. The grader is so old we are having problems finding parts if it breaks down.
- We purchased a 3 point land plan to pull behind the tractor to help maintain the roads.
- A walk behind bush hog was purchased to help keep the little aspen trees along the road cut down. This is to insure better visibility along the roads.
- New blades were needed for the grader.

We purchased two mobile storage units – one for Ranch use and one for the Volunteer Fire Departments use. We are storing some of our new equipment in ours. The Fire Department is storing an ATV they have that is to be used for rescues.

A television and sound equipment were purchased so Church services could be live-streamed if need be.

Two water companies were hired to study what could be done to help get water in Bear Lake.

An extra \$7,000 was given to Retreat to help them get thru these troubling times.

We had a plumber fix the plumbing in the Ranch House.

We contracted to have the Ranch House cleaned year round.

Taxes and insurance were up from last year.

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.