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## PRESIDENT'S VIEW

As we wind down 2021 I have to look back at the year we had and know that thru all the hardships and trials, including multiple COVID restrictions, we were truly blessed in 2021. We got to go to the movies, concerts and dinner with friends. We were able to spend lots of time enjoying the great outdoors around us here in Colorado and thru it all our Lord was there. He was watching over us and guiding us along the way. As we approach the Christmas season, I am hoping that each and every one of you takes time to reflect on your year, whether good or bad and thank God that He was there with you through all the good or bad times. Thru the bad times, He carried you. Thru the good times, he rejoiced with you.

It is amazing that we have a heavenly Father who loves us enough to send his Son, Jesus, born in a manger and who willingly went to die on the cross for us. So, take time this winter to reflect on your lives and see where God has played such a vital role in all that you have accomplished. You won't be disappointed.

As for LV Ranch, we had a great year with an abundance of campers coming up every weekend. The privilege we have of spending time during the summer at LV Ranch is hard to express in words but I know you all feel it in your hearts.

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 Thanksgiving with lots of family and friends and have plans to do so again for Christmas.

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**

We are adding a new paragraph to our Ramblings newsletter covering our volunteer fire department and all things associated with first responder medical assistance and fire control and management. This paragraph will be provided by or in consultation with the volunteers that staff our firehouse. In this publication we introduce our staff and provide a little background on the people and what it takes to be a volunteer firefighter. Our local firehouse staff is headed up by Todd Kelm as the firehouse lieutenant, with Steve Johnson, Ray Kline, and Marshall Kelm as firefighters. They are all volunteers with the Mountain Communities Volunteer Fire Department headquartered in West Creek, Colorado.

There is a lot of training involved in being a volunteer firefighter. Our volunteer firefighters not only respond to fires but also are our first responders to medical emergencies. Their training includes CPR, Basic Life Support, Stop the Bleed, and Emergency Medical Responder for a total of approximately 80 hours of training plus a minimum of 12 hours of annual refresher training in these first responder medical fields. In fire fighting they complete courses in wildland fire, structure fire and crew boss for wildland fire involving about 50 hours of training and additional annual refresher training hours.

In addition to all of the training, our firefighters also attend a weekly meeting at the main firehouse in West Creek. They also keep our firehouse and fire equipment in top operating order and ready for use at a moment's notice. This includes keeping the facilities clean and in good order and keeping all equipment maintenance, scheduled and unscheduled, up to date for use whenever needed. If all that is not enough, they also patrol our surrounding areas in times of extreme fire hazard and respond to calls for assistance and reported fires at any time of the day or night.

You may have noticed that our fire department is staffed by all the full time employees at Lutheran Valley Retreat plus Marshall Kelm, Todd's son, who has recently joined our volunteer firefighters. Please let them know you appreciate their hard work and many hours of effort in providing these essential services.

## **RANCH CALENDAR**

There is a Ranch activities and Ranch House Reservation calendar on the Ranch website [www.lvranch.org](http://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 7 people on the waiting list..

## **LOT SIGNS**

Lot name and lot number signs have been made for all but our 2 newest members. They will be made in the spring. The Board has enlisted help in getting all these signs put up.

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:erik.skov@outlook.com). The By-Laws and Regulations are also available on our website at: [www.lvranch.org](http://www.lvranch.org)

## **RANCH HOUSE NEWS**

### **Ranch House and Other Thots**

As we come to the end of a busy Spring, Summer, and Fall season of 2021 here at LV Ranch, one word comes to the forefront - ThankFul - ! 1Thess.5:18, Eph.5:20, Col.4:2 As we do at the at the beginning of all LV Ranch Board of Directors meetings, expressing things, situations, scenarios, people, we are thankful for, let's be encouraged to do the same throughout our LV Ranch membership. So many things to complain, worry, be upset about; let's as LV Ranch members counter it with thankfulness before our Lord.

Thankful - for the Ranchhouse, which has served members for almost 25 years, survived the Hayman fire, and is still in relatively good shape. The well and accompanying equipment are and will continue to be a question mark. We as a board had agreed to have the system tested, and that has been done. Under current specs, it is classified as a shallow well, producing at the rate of an average residential well, down almost half of its original output. The board is considering several options for the future; in the meantime, we are not the "Hilton at LV Ranch" so continue to conserve and use our water resource wisely, and hopefully we will have enough water for everybody!

In His service, Kerry Schauland

## JUST A THOUGHT

Fall is here and most of us have winterized till spring. What to prepare for next year? Buy an ebike!

If you have tried to ride a bike on the public ATV and jeep trails around LVR, you already know that bikes are NOT well suited to our terrain. There are two main problems... loose gravel and hills. The Pikes Peak decomposed granite that collects on our trails is as hard to pedal on as sand. The hills are also brutal, and one trip down to the Platte River will convince you to leave your bike there and just walk out. (OK, I actually carried my bike on my back to get out – not fun). This is where ebikes come in.



Heidi and I rented a couple ebikes from Scheels this fall to see if they were the fix for LVR biking. They ARE! My main worries were power and endurance. The bikes we rented were not powerful as ebikes go (only 250W mid-drive) but they gave plenty of power assist. We felt like superheroes flying up the hills. I've seen adults doing throttle assist wheelies on some of these bicycles. As for endurance, we were out for 3 hours and barely dented the batteries. We didn't try going down to the Platte, but our experience makes me think they could do it.

If you're looking for an ebike, be sure you know what you want. There are "classes" of bikes that can be confusing. **Class 1** will assist your pedaling up to 20mpg, and stop assisting if you go faster than that. They can go on generally any bike path in town or country. **Class 2** builds on Class 1 and adds a throttle. These can be restricted in some areas. Several Class 2 bikes come with detachable throttles so you can take them anywhere. Max throttle speed is 20mph, which happens to be the LVR speed limit, so good to go! **Class 3** will give you pedal assist up to 28mph. These are not allowed in California... so don't ride one to California.

Tire size is also important. Due to our Pikes Peak granite, you may want to get a "fat tire" ebike. These things, especially when equipped with a throttle, are basically two-wheel ATVs. They are supremely stable and have amazing traction. The electric assist makes them manageable for anyone, but they can weigh upwards of 70lbs.

Motors can be between the pedals (mid-drive) or on the rear tire (hub drive). Hub drive is probably fine, but the mid-drive ones get the full advantage of the gears in back, so maybe for our hills mid-drive would be the way to go.

Finally, it looks like the government wants us to all buy an ebike. Laws are in work to give 30% tax credit toward purchase of an ebike in 2022 with a maximum of \$900 credit. As of this writing the final numbers were not quite set.

As always... please be sure to go slowly (20mph) and close that gate when you come and go!

Cheers! Shad

## Lutheran Valley Ranch Board of Directors Info:

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## COLUMBARIUM

Our third columbarium was delivered in early August on a beautiful day. Wilhelm Monument Co. did a great job traversing the very bumpy roads and installing the columbarium to their perfection. We had an interment of former members in July. Other than that, it has been very quiet.

If you would like LV Ranch to be your earthly resting place, there are several spaces available. 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](mailto:dplakewood@comcast.net).

## RANCH ROADS

Our roads are in pretty good shape as we head into fall and winter. We had some major excavation work done to remove and cover the large rocks in the road on the north end of Ellison along with some contouring and filling on a very rocky patch on Summit. That work should make driving on our roads easier on everyone's cars and trucks and save a lot of wear and tear on grading and snow plowing equipment. Ellison is smooth all the way to the Stone Gate over on Wildhorn Ranch. Keeping your speed down will help a lot in keeping the washboards on our roads at bay.

Please drive safely,

The Roads Guy , Rod Young

## **EQUIPMENT**

This year has been an overwhelming success on many fronts including equipment maintenance for one. The tractor has been working well to help with the roads. The brush hog did an amazing job on the beautify LVR day. In an effort to repeat this performance I will be looking to send the tractor out for some repair this winter. This should be mostly hydraulic leak repair. The lift cylinders will need to be resealed and some other small leaks will need to be addressed. As the ranches' use and needs increase so will the need for more and better equipment. Looking forward to the upcoming challenges.

In our Lords service,

Ted Gates

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

- Church Services were down a little because we streamed some services because of the pandemic.
- Contributions to Retreat because at last year's Annual meeting it was decided to give Retreat \$20,000 because of the pandemic.
- Depreciation is up as the tractor, storage units and Columbarium are now being depreciated.
- General O&M is up because we had some consulting work done on Bear Lake and we had several dumpsters over the summer to help keep LVR clean.
- Insurance premium is up.
- We had some significant repairs to the Ranch House plumbing, ice machine compressor, etc.
- We did not have any road work done from September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021
- Vehicle O&M is higher as we now have the grader and a tractor to keep in working order. They both needed repairs this past 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 1<sup>st</sup>** 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.**