



Ramblings  
May 2014

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## From the President

Hi All,

Funny how things workout, I was driving through snow last week and today I was hot in a t-shirt and shorts. Colorado has in my opinion some of the best weather ever :)

The last half of the year has been quite busy for the Ranch Board. Of course we have all the normal stuff going on. But we, as a group, have been putting a lot of work towards membership compliance and collecting past due accounts. Many have asked why we can not bill monthly or do electronic funds transfers. The short answer is, that all costs additional money and creates many man / woman hours of work. The Board of Directors is made up of a small group of volunteers and the more time we spend doing paperwork the less time we have to enjoy LVR. So, with that said, please pay your bill on time and don't complain about it. Turn your certification letters in when asked. Remember that these are your rules and regulations that you vote to enforce.

Wow, that was like lay down the law stuff, Yikes!! Ok so lets lighten the mood. Good news is I do have some numbers to present to the group in August on projects 4 & 5. Project 4 is the Equipment Storage Area and Project 5 is the Gathering - Pavilion Area. Currently the project dollar amounts are higher than expected but with the proper planning we can start trimming the fat.

The fire mitigation project with CUSP is moving along nicely and Bob will give you more details on that later in the Ramblings. From my view point the relationship we have built with CUSP and the willingness of the membership to continue to make this a priority will benefit the Ranch for many generations to come. Thank you Bob and Alan for all of your hard work building that relationship.

So as some of you may know last year I accepted the Assistant Chief position with our local fire protection district "MCVFD". As the demands of my volunteer time shift more to the Fire Department I have let the Ranch Board know that I will not be running for re-election again this year. I would like to thank you all for electing me to serve as one of your Directors for the last nine years and look forward to seeing you at the Ranch this summer.

Your Brother in Christ, and humble servant.  
Josh Arbogast  
LVRanch President

## Vice-President notes

Well, we made it thru the winter all in one piece and we are very glad for warm day and lots of sunshine. Diana and I are looking forward to our first camping trip of the year in a couple of weeks and as normal, we will love every second of it. LV Ranch is so peaceful and it calms my spirit. I always leave LV Ranch rested and restored and ready for the next challenge that our Lord placed on me.



On another note, we are taking open nominations to serve on the LV Ranch Board of Directors. Two current Board Members have agreed to run for re-election (Dee Paulson & Alan Peterson). And Josh Arbogast has decided that he is going to step down as President (see President's article for more details) and that will open up one slot that we currently do not have anybody filling. We do have one volunteer already, Shad Jeseritz from Family of Christ in Monument, CO. He currently serves as the Head Elder at Family of Christ.

If you are interested in being on the LV Ranch Board of Directors and would like your name added to the nominating list along with Shad Jeseritz, Dee Paulson and Alan Peterson, please contact John Harris by email: [jdh930@q.com](mailto:jdh930@q.com) or Home Phone: 719-749-2204

## Lot Information

Currently we have 3 lots available – 41, 53 and 107

## Lot Signs

Need a sign with your name on it for your lot? Go to [www.lvranch.org](http://www.lvranch.org) and click on “Lot sign request form” at the bottom of the main page or contact Shirley Bauer at [slbauer1030@gmail.com](mailto:slbauer1030@gmail.com).

## 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](mailto:slbauer1030@gmail.com) or Alan Peterson at [PetersoA@wedbush.com](mailto:PetersoA@wedbush.com)

## Buildings & Safety: Fire Recovery

Guess what I am going to say about gates and speed? Please, keep the gates closed at the main, closed and padlocked on the west entrance, Forest Trail 360D. The speed limit really is 20 miles per hour which feels like you are crawling until something rounds a blind corner and you are closing at 59 feet per second! I met a white truck and camper taking his ½ out of the middle of the road and laid a motorcycle over on the bank as the driver dinked around with his cell phone or math club worksheet?!? He did close the gate by the time I spit out gravel and got running **again!!** He never realized what he'd done and, given my somewhat "emotional" mindset, it was good I didn't catch back up :)

The few pink spots on the map at the ranch house are all missing plot plans. Please submit them remembering the setback rules, 70 feet from lot line or road. Topography rules and those minimums may not be met, but board approval is still necessary. The idea of asking the board volunteers to do this for you is a little off the reservation :) The Fire Department is involved also as they have triaged the property for fire protection planning.

I met with DOW's Tonya Sharp 23APR2014 to hear what critters are up to in the area. Mountain Lions have been in the forefront this year so far. Three Llamas, numerous house cats plus actual sightings in and near Woodland Park. Probably juveniles looking for their place on the planet. Not much from bears yet. A goat was predated but not eaten. Their digestive systems will not yet tolerate high protein foods as they eat grass and slurp Rocky Mountain Spring Water for the first month or so out of winter torpor; either that or this is early warning of what will become a troublesome bear. Troublesome bears are quite simply "Dead Bears Walking!" Get your bear boards in play now and make sure you are doing nothing to encourage a visit. Bird feeders must be difficult or impossible to get to (good luck with that) and taken in at night. Don't leave food in your camper, but remember that bacon cooking two weeks ago is still a real bear drawing card. The only real deterrent we have that works is heavy, large bear boards with at least ¼" of exposed points. ¾" exterior grade plywood in units no less than 2' X 4' are heavy enough so Ol' Buddy Bruin can't gently swat it away and have a go at your window or door. Let him find Ho Hos and Ding Dongs at someone else's peaceful retreat.

**CHIPPING!!** October 4 and 11, 2014 are the first two October Saturdays. Please mark them now for the Fall CHIP-O-RAMA. Retreat usually has buckets O Chili and fixin's. Participants are "good tired" not worn rag doll out when we have enough volunteers. The fellowship is spot on too! We need the help and Ranch is certainly worthy of the effort. Please consider helping us and keep the first two Saturdays available in October this year.

Enjoy LVRanch safely and responsibly, it truly is a remarkable place.

For the Board and in the Love of Christ, *Alan Peterson*

### Lutheran Valley Ranch Board of Directors

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Redeemer Lutheran, Colorado Springs, CO  
arbogast585@gmail.com (email)

Jackie Brookshire – Treasurer  
Family of Christ Lutheran, Monument, CO  
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John Harris—Vice President &  
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Dee Paulson – Secretary  
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Shirley Bauer – Membership/Buttons &  
Signs  
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Lee Cross - Roads/Equipment  
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leecross2010@yahoo.com

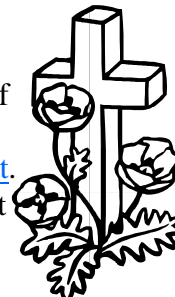
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Clare Skov – Ranch House  
Faith Lutheran, Woodland Park, CO  
pastorc\_skov@hotmail.com (email)

Robert Blackett - Lakes/Fish/Trees  
Our Savior Lutheran, Tucson, AZ  
rblackula@gmail.com

### Columbarium

We now have six and a half niches reserved, including the two that are occupied. If you are interested in reserving a niche, the reservation forms are available on the Ranch website or from Dee Paulson at (303)716-3518 or [dplakewood@comcast.net](mailto:dplakewood@comcast.net). The cost of a niche (which contains two crypts for two people) is \$1000. One crypt (for one person) can be reserved for \$500



### Church Triumphant

Lillian Fittje (Lot 67), passed away May 2014  
Carol Hinck (Lot 28), former long time member.

### By-Laws/Rules & Regulations

If you would like a copy of the Corporate By-Laws or the Rules & Regulations, please contact Dee Paulson at [dplakewood@comcast.net](mailto:dplakewood@comcast.net) or (303)716-3518.

# Uncle Dan's Corner - OWLS

by Bob Blackett

Among the more interesting LVR birds are the owls. Nocturnal and thus rarely seen, they are important residents of my favorite place in the world. The bird order representing owls is *Strigiformes*. There are over 200 species of owls worldwide, from huge eagle-owls to tiny elf owls smaller than a sparrow. Owl characteristics include a flat face with a disc of feathers around large eyes, a hawk-like bill, and very strong talons for catching and killing their mostly rodent prey. Owl eyes are fixed in place; however, they have twice as many neck vertebrae (14) as other birds and can rotate their heads about 135 degrees in either direction. Both their night vision and their hearing are extraordinary and they are very successful hunters. Owl flight feathers have serrated edges, making them very silent and stealthy.

Like other night creatures there seem to be a lot of myths about owls. Native Americans often associated them with death and misfortune. The Hindus associate barn owls with good luck and wealth. Owls are often symbols of wisdom. The Harry Potter books used owls as messengers and wizard companions. By far the most common LVR owl is the Great Horned Owl. Spread throughout N. America, they live there year-round, breed in the late winter, and by now are still feeding their mostly grown babies. They are large enough to take rabbits and even occasionally very small dogs and cats. We see them especially in early morning before sunrise and late evening after sunset, and their territorial 'hoo-hoo hoooooo hoo-hoo' is commonly heard at night.

The Colorado high country also features four small owls, which are rarely seen. They include the Flammulated owl, the Northern Pygmy Owl, the Northern Saw-whet Owl, and the Western Screech Owl. They eat as many large insects, moths and grasshoppers, as small rodents. I built four large birdhouses last summer and hope to attract small owls to the ones hung in the forest and kestrels to the ones hung along the valleys. There are two other owls living down on the eastern plains of Colorado, the unique white-faced Barn Owls as well as Burrowing Owls, but they would not normally be seen at 8600 feet.

Owls can be very aggressive defenders of their nests. Owls can sometimes be spotted on their daytime roost by noticing their 'mobbing' by other birds. Both owls and hawks can be poisoned by eating rodenticide-killed mice and squirrels, so we're careful to use traps instead for rodent control. Both owls and hawks are protected by Federal and Colorado state law. We hope you enjoy your animal neighbors.



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Western Screech Owls

## Lakes, Fish and Trees report

There are two ongoing issues. The first is fish. LVR is repeating what we did last summer – splitting our trout delivery in two, the first in late May prior to Memorial Day, the second in late July prior to the annual meeting/fishing contest on Aug. 2. LVR benefited from ‘average’ precipitation in the last year, escaping not only the devastating front-range flooding last September, but also the ongoing extreme drought in southeastern and western Colorado. For more information on Colorado climate see [http://cocorahs.org/Media/Docs/Colo\\_April\\_2014.pdf](http://cocorahs.org/Media/Docs/Colo_April_2014.pdf)

The second issue is our ongoing forest mitigation project. At last report CUSP had completed about 1/3 of the first year’s \$10,000 (\$5000 from LVR, matched by the State) grant. All work to date has been along Ellison Rd. between the two Deer Trail exits. From there they plan to switch to Eagle’s Roost, then on down Deer Trail towards the north. In general they are mitigating about 30’ on either side of the road, removing dead wood and thinning. Besides CUSP’s expertise, Josh has also been advised by the state forester based in Woodland Park on how best to make the roads into ‘fuelbreaks’. We estimate that this first year’s grant will mitigate about 1/3 of our roads – we expect to apply for another Colorado matching funds grant next year, and hope the project continues.

Please look at what has been done. Not only will the roads be fuelbreaks, but visibility for people or wild game or oncoming traffic should be much improved. CUSP was hoping for more leaseholder participation, and you are all encouraged to follow their example on your own road frontage, both for the October ‘chiporama’ but also for next year’s grant. If you would like help on your land contact the Board.

I call your attention to the improved LVR website, first the *Black Forest Fire Video*, then *Watershed News*, finally our *Rules and Regulations*, particularly *Section 1. Land Use d. Forestry*, also *Section 7. Water*.

by Bob Blackett - Lakes Fish and Trees

## Ranch House News

This is just a reminder of what happens when you don't drive 20!

The Ranch House is open for business! The ice machine is cranking out ice unless the wind crosses wires in the area or the plug is pulled while its making noise... a symptom that it's working! As summer use of the RH increases, I would like to remind everyone to [a] sign-in each time you use the facilities, [b] clean up after each use, [c] befriend and say "hi" to the people you meet, and [d] let me know if something needs attention or supplies are running low.

Recent maintenance and repairs included last summer's 10 yr re-staining of the exterior; the addition of an wireless booster so that you can use your smart phones in the RH instead of the Hughes Net disc; the lights in the women's restroom have been fixed; the sagging roof-supports are being uplifted to level; and the phone line still needs to be replaced [currently the temporary fix is the wire on the ground] and a new phone will be put in place to eliminate the buzz-hum.

Currently the schedule for Sunday worship services is being developed so that we will have services at the Ranch House from Memorial Day to Labor Day at 10 AM. If you would like to have Bible Study in addition to the services, please let me know. Rod Young has created a cross which will be hung in the RH to enhance our services. The cross will eventually be adorning "Patty's Place" at the retreat which is another of Rod's projects in honor of his wife.

The winter has been favorable in regard to precipitation. Our snowfall has returned to a normal level so there is a flow of water into Bear Lake. If the trend continues we may see the lake return to the level that it can be restocked with fish. Meanwhile, keep in mind it will take more than one year of good precipitation to significantly reduce the fire danger, so be extra careful again this summer.

God bless your summer and especially the family time you enjoy at LVR! Have a great summer in the Lord!

Your servant in Christ! Clare Skov

Here is a reminder of the beauty of Spring springing!



## Lutheran Valley Retreat News

Warmest greetings from LVRetreat. Another busy season is upon us, and we are excited for the opportunity to spread the love of Jesus Christ to the hundreds of people that will join us over the next few months. We would like to take a moment to thank all of our wonderful neighbors at the Ranch for their support, and let everyone know how much their awesome Christian relationship is valued.

From our original founding to now and into the future, we are eternally grateful for the volunteers and support we receive through the Ranch. It is difficult to put into words the level of appreciation we have for even the most simple gestures; so, thank you all and know that you are always lifted in our prayers.



As an update, we will have approximately 25 summer staff this year who will be far from home and dedicating almost every waking hour to serving our guests at the camp. We are reaching out to the members of the Ranch to continue in their support by lifting up our staff in their daily prayers, and also taking the time to stop by camp whenever you are in the neighborhood and drop off a care package for our summer staff. It can be as simple as a smile and a thank you, a pack of gum, a bag of candy or whatever your heart leads you to give.

Thanks again, and we will see you at LVR!

Dan Reed  
Retreat BOD

### Address Changes

Have you moved recently? If you have moved since August 2013, please contact the Ranch secretary, Dee Paulson, at [dplakewood@comcast.net](mailto:dplakewood@comcast.net) and she will make sure your information is updated.

### LVR Driving Etiquette & Rules

1. The speed limit on LVR is **20mph** maximum.
2. There is no passing on LVR roads.
3. Be watchful for people walking on roads, children playing & bicycles.
4. Primary members are responsible for driving behavior of their guests.

### LVR Off-road Vehicle - Code of Ethics

1. I will respect all private and Ranch property and the rights of all members to enjoy LVR.
2. I understand off-road vehicles are noisy and understand the need to operate as quietly as possible on LVR property.
3. I will respect the **20mph** speed limit and understand there is no passing on LVR roads.
4. I will drive courteously on LVR roads.
5. I understand driving off-road vehicles on LVR property is a privilege and this privilege can be suspended for noise and reckless behavior.
6. I understand LVR primary members are responsible for the driving behavior of their guests.

Off-road vehicles kept at or frequently driven at LVR will display the yellow "LVR" Off-road vehicle sticker to visibly indicate the operator is familiar with this code of ethics. (Rules & Regulations. Section 4. Nuisance.)

Pamphlets with the above information are available at the Ranch House.