



Ramblings

June 2017

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PRESIDENTS VIEW

No Oval Office to look from.....one far better is the LVRanch view of spring. As I type, Ranch is getting generously blanketed with wonderful crystalized sunshine that will turn to liquid sunshine that will turn to healthy lakes, green understory and downright prosperous looking trees. Last fall's work on the roads will be monitored and dressed as needed. May's fish stocking will be done when you get this missive. We are again stocking with starving trout hungry for Ranch's bugs, flies and lures. You will find new picnic tables at the upper lake for your enjoyment; two at lakeside proper and two in the copse of trees prepared at the last "Beautify Ranch" workday last August. We expect to do that again this year as well. Please do not use them for cleaning fish...ick! Members galumphing about Ranch report a good crop of ticks and Bob Blackett has good council for that condition. Keep thinking DEET!!!

Another thought comes to mind. We all take great pride in the Ranch House. We have never needed to pay the expensive trash haulers to take the few bags Ranch house seems to generate. Members have been and are again encouraged to stop by the Ranch House and take a bag of trash with you to add to your fine collection of refuse please.

The business of the board has been very absorbing over the past year and a half. We will keep you as informed as possible and expect to deal with items of interest with what a good Pastor friend refers to as "Sanctified Common Sense." LVRanch remains a place of clean air, a place to refresh one's spirit and escape from the lights of the city that obliterate the stars so familiar to we and Ranch's founders. Look to the heavens for more than just the lesser lights by night, but also the greater gifts of Faith, Wisdom, Courage, Patience and a Discerning Heart!

The Board works on your behalf, feel free to contact any of us as we are all listed in this Ramblings.....Oh....yeah.....*drive no more than 20 and close the gate whether you find it open or closed on entry or exit.*

Your Brother in Christ

Alan Peterson, LVRanch Board President

BUILDINGS & SAFETY

Spring is here again and we have a new round of building projects underway! It's great to see folks submitting plans for new cabins, sheds, campers, and even yurts. The board review of plans is largely just to make sure there is no infringement on neighboring lots, and that we have our records straight. Speaking of records, Teller County has been in contact with us to ensure that property registered with the county has correct owner names and addresses. In working with the county we've found a few cases where LVR member property was transferred without updating the county. We are working to share any discrepancies with LVR members before discussing with the county. In any case, be sure to update the county when any property on LVR lots changes hands.

As we begin what should be another awesome summer at LVR, please update the board with any planned changes to your lot.

Please be safe on the roads, observing the 20 MPH speed limit and keep that gate closed!

Your Brother in Christ,
Shad

LOT INFORMATION

Currently we have lots 57, 83 and 113 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 or contact Shirley Bauer at slbauer1030@gmail.com. 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 or Alan Peterson at PetersoA@wedbush.com

FROM THE VP

I wrote last fall that winter was approaching and guess what, we made it!!! Overall, I think it was a pretty mild winter and God did indeed bless us with some spring rains. I made it up to LVRanch over Memorial Day weekend and was once again reminded that we truly have a remarkable opportunity to spend time in God's creation, a place we call LVR. I looked forward to the trip knowing that winter was officially behind us and the awesome summer months at LVR were fast approaching!! Always remember to get out and enjoy the providence of nature that God provided for us!!

God's richest blessing to all of you and your families,

John Harris
LVRanch Board Vice-President

NEW FACE ON THE BOARD

To one and all at Lutheran Valley Ranch, my name is Ted Gates and with my wife Ellen have Lot 110. It is my privilege to serve on the LV Ranch board. The two things that I am helping with are; Grader repair and sign placement. I have what is becoming a lifetime of heavy truck and equipment experience. I have worked for some of the largest corporation's in America; FedEx freight, Waste Management, Penske Truck Leasing. I have also worked for some of the smallest businesses. That is why I have been given the responsibilities that I have. I will be focusing on those two items while I hope to help the Ranch board make decisions that affect us all individually and corporately. I am asking for God's guidance and your patience as I embark on this new endeavor. It is my hope and prayer that the Light of Jesus Christ shines on me and through me every day.

In the service of our Lord Jesus Christ,
Ted Gates

ADDRESS CHANGES

Have you moved recently? If you have moved since August 2016, please contact the Ranch secretary, Dee Paulson, at dplakewood@comcast.net and she will make sure your information is updated.

RANCH HOUSE & GATE CODE

We have had many questions regarding the current Ranch House & Gate Code for this year, 2017. The board decided to leave the code as it was last year, being as it relates to the 500th anniversary of when Martin Luther nailed his 95 Thesis to the Castle Church door in Wittenberg, Germany in 1517. We apologize for the confusion. We have you all well trained to expect a new code every year. Thank you to all who have been on top of it and asked the question.

FISH, LAKES AND TREES

Catch More Trout

Trout can be very picky eaters so it is wise to have a variety of baits and lures in your tackle box or vest. If you like walking around the lakes, look into getting a fishing vest so you don't have to pick up your tackle box every time you move to a new spot.

Trout mostly eat bugs. The life of a bug is larvae, nymph and adult. Eighty percent of the feeding is under the surface eating larvae and nymphs. When you see them hitting the surface they are eating the adult flies. A lot of flies are actually dead is why they ended up there.

Some but not all of the baits that can be effective are worms, mealworms, salmon eggs, artificial salmon eggs, cheese, mini marshmallows and corn. Since they can be very picky eaters be sure to have a good variety and be ready to change your bait often. I saw a video using the artificial salmon eggs that float. It said to use #4 test line and put the hook 6 inches to 2 feet beyond the weight. This will enable the bait to float up from the bottom. The article suggested that white, orange and red are the best colors. Put two eggs (one white and one of the other colors) on the shank of a small hook. I can't wait to try it!!

Fire Free Summer

Let's keep our ranch free from fire. You can find our fire ban restrictions by searching on our website (lvranch.org) Remember to cut off branches up to 10 feet off of the ground and move branches, twigs and pine needles away from structures

Your brother in Christ,
Dave Romberg

ROADS REPORT

Road Conditions. The Ranch's side roads have remained in fairly good shape since they were all graded last October. No doubt this was due to moderate snowfall on the Ranch this past winter and light rainfall in the early spring. Additional dragging with the road drag should serve to maintain the roads in good shape for this summer season.

Summit Road is partially one-way. In order to repair Summit Road last October, much road dirt had to be moved back up the hill (on the steep slope) from the bottom portion. It is believed that much of the dirt displacement was caused by vehicles going uphill on the steep part. I realize that it is fun to blast up that steep hill, but in order to help preserve the road condition, we are asking members to only drive downhill on the steeply sloped portion. A one-way sign has been placed at the bottom of the hill on Summit Road (please turn around at a nearby driveway). You are asked to access the upper portions of Summit Road from the south entrance off of Ellison (the entrance closest to the Ranch House).

Side gate combination lock. The Ranch's side gate (leading into the Forest Service toward Cedar Mountain Road) has a sturdy gate (just like our front gate). That gate is kept locked with a 4-digit combination padlock (the number combination is the same as the number code to the Ranch House). At present, there are two separate combination locks and a keyed lock on the locking chain. I intend to soon paint the Ranch's combination lock with a bright florescent paint so that it's easy to distinguish. While the side gate itself is sturdy, the fencing on both sides of the gate is not. As a result, some folks have seen fit to clip the side fencing, presumably to bypass the gate while riding OHVs both out of and back into the Ranch property. We are making efforts to reinforce the side gate fencing and here ask that Ranch members respect this effort to maintain our Ranch's security. Please access the Forest Service trails through the gate itself.

Non-OHV roadway beyond Wildhorn Ranch stone gate. Effective May 26th, a new Teller County Ordinance (Ordinance 19) goes into effect. This new law makes it illegal to drive an OHV (off-highway vehicle) from the Wildhorn Ranch's stone entry gate going south (towards Divide) for the approximately one mile (up to the top of the hill trailheads). Thus, you can get a traffic ticket for driving any vehicle without a valid license plate upon that section of roadway. The Ranch's efforts to have the described section of roadway approved for OHV traffic were unsuccessful. This is only intended to alert you to this traffic ticket possibility. The only ticket safe alternative is to access Trail Creek Road and other Forest Service trails via Cedar Mountain Road by use of the Ranch's side gate.

Forest Service Road Application Process. A six-tenths mile portion of the Ranch's entrance roadway (LVR Trail just before the Ranch's front gate) crosses over Pike's Peak National Forest Service land. In the 1960s and early 1970s the Ranch pursued and presumably obtained the necessary Forest Service approvals to use and maintain this portion of roadway, but those approvals did not make it into the Forest Service's present computer database. The related paper files have been lost or misplaced by the Forest Service, and in February, the Ranch submitted a new road use application with the Forest Service.

The Ranch has now received temporary approval to resume road grading activities. We expect final approval of the application by year's end. Upon approval, the Ranch will likely have to start making about 2K annual payments to the Forest Service for road use. We will all need to slow down going up the hill from Wildhorn Lake as there are some wash-board sections of roadway that we are unable to fix at this time.

Yours in Christ,
James Simpson

ESTATE PLANNING – RANCH LOT IMPROVEMENTS

Teller County recently brought a matter to the Ranch's attention. It turns out that several of the permanent houses/cabins within the Ranch are still listed under the names of deceased Ranch members with the Teller County tax assessor's office. It's important to understand that the Ranch owns all of the land. Whereas, Ranch members own the structures (houses/cabins) built on the land. These are called land 'improvements.'

Ranch members might assume that ownership of their house/cabin (improvements) will automatically pass to their surviving family members upon their death. That's not the situation here. Teller County requires that written improvement transfer documentation (signed by the owner and dated) be filed with their office before ownership of the improvement (house/cabin) is transferred to a new owner. The Ranch's re-assignment of the membership lot to another is insufficient because the Ranch transfers only who has a right to use the membership lot (land). The Ranch lot transfer does not resolve ownership of the actual home or cabin improvement.

This Teller County documentation requirement is easy to comply with while the record improvement owner is still living. All the tax assessor's office needs is the filing of a simple 'bill of sale' from the improvement owner to the intended recipient (family member).

When an improvement owner dies without leaving some sort of improvement transfer documentation, the responsibility to transfer the improvements will likely shift to the deceased person's executor (estate representative) or perhaps be a matter left up to a probate court judge to decide.

To avoid any confusion about who will own your house or cabin after you do, it would be wise to undertake the appropriate estate planning regarding your Ranch lot improvements (house/cabin).

Yours in Christ,
James Simpson

BOARD OF DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS

The Board of Directors is looking for volunteers to serve on the board. Three terms are up and two of our board members are retiring. If you interested in serving on the board, please contact John Harris, Vice-President via email at johnwharris31@gmail.com.

A HEARTY THANK YOU

Thanks and appreciation go to Chuck and Gloria Mielke for their road committee efforts during this application process. Their participation greatly helped in making this undertaking a success!

Lutheran Valley Ranch Board of Directors Info

Alan Peterson – President
Rock of Ages Lutheran, Colo. Springs
alan.peterson@wedbush.com (email)

John Harris – Vice-President & Ramblings
Newsletter/Website
Family of Christ Lutheran, Monument, CO
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Jim Simpson—Roads
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Shirley Bauer – Membership & Treasurer
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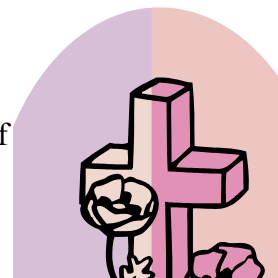
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Clare Skov – Ranch House
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Dave Romberg - Lakes/Fish/Trees
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COLUMBARIUM

The first columbarium has ½ a niche remaining (space for 1 set of cremains). A second columbarium has been ordered & and we are anxiously awaiting its delivery to Colorado. We were hoping to have it installed by summer, but there is no definitive date of arrival. The Columbarium Committee, with help from Jim Simpson, has written a set of Policies, Rules and Regulations for the Columbarium. They are available on the Ranch website. 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.



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 or (303)716-3518. The By-Laws and Regulations are also available on our website at: www.lvranch.org

UNCLE DAN'S NATURE CORNER – TICKS

By Bob Blackett

Debbie and I recently took an early spring hike to what we call “The Amphitheater” (we name all our regular hikes). It’s down Little Turkey Creek, just beyond the jeep trail turnoff to the stone cabin – a beautiful narrow spot shaded by large trees and squeezed between a rock face and the creek, an easy walk less than a mile off the road.

We sat down for a snack before hiking back to Ellison Road, but spotted a bunch of ticks crawling on our clothes. It was freaky – I removed 5 ticks and Debbie 4. On the way back we were careful not to brush against underbrush, but back at the car I found another 4 ticks and Debbie 2. We found more ticks back at the cabin, and I even found one that night when we returned home to Canon City.

Ticks will bite, embed their mouth parts, and **SUCK YOUR BLOOD!**

So here’s the scoop on LVR ticks, mainly from CSU extension. It’s the Rocky Mountain Wood Tick, *Dermacentor andersoni*, especially common to high elevation forests of Colorado. They have 8 legs, more closely related to spiders than to 6-legged insects. They mainly parasitize mammals, especially rodents and deer. They can live for 3 years without feeding. They are most common in the spring, March thru June.



Here’s the good news. These ticks almost never cause disease. There are no cases of Lyme Disease from Colorado. There are very few Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever cases – about 3 per year from Colorado. Other fevers are possible, including Tularemia, especially for those handling rabbits.

Ticks will crawl for hours before biting. They like dark protected spots. If not removed they will stay attached and feed for days. If the head is embedded, the tick can be carefully grabbed close to the skin with blunt tweezers or fingers (wash afterwards!) and pulled out. Occasionally the head will detach and remain embedded and can get infected. Other removal methods, such as a hot match or petroleum products, are ineffective. Like any other wound, disinfection afterwards is important.

Better is avoiding ticks in the first place, staying away from vegetation if possible. Brushing against things will transfer the clingy ticks, but they sense CO₂ from breathing and can also drop on you from trees. Light clothing helps in spotting them. Insect repellent containing DEET is useful on clothing. Tick checks after exposure are essential. I sometimes store especially dirty clothing in an outdoor bin until washing. There are other types of ticks, notably the brown dog tick for pets, treated with collars, soaps, systemic insecticides - they won’t survive outside thru an LVR winter.

Have a blessed spring and summer at LVR.

WHAT IS THE RANCH HOUSE? HOW DO WE SEE IT?

...For that matter, how do we see all of LVR? Is it just a way to get away, recreate, worship what we call "creation"?

I would like to introduce a "new" Way to see not just LVR, but ourselves... that word creation reminds us of it; It's what we confess when we say, "I believe..." not in creation, but The Creator... not in "getting away", but in "the communion of saint"; not in independent "do it yourselfers", but very much dependent people, people who are dependent upon two Parachletes (Helpers), One who unites us with Himself through the Word of the Other in the waters of Baptism, and through whose Word (the Word passed on from the Father to the Son, and from the Son to the Spirit, and from the Spirit to the Bride of Christ, and from the Bride of Christ to the world!

Yes! Every First Day of the week is Resurrection Day together with the Day of Pentecost: IE; High Feasts celebrating God's serving us through the two Parachletes He has sent, not because of us, but because of His Holy Name [I invite you to read Ezekiel 36 beginning with verse 21] which He lovingly and graciously desires all people to KNOW, because all people are totally dependent upon His Name to be blessed with faith by which we may be saved!

This briefly defines what and who we are as LVRers, what LVR is, and what the community building we call the Ranch House is all about! That also explains why the central activity each First Day of the week at LVR during the summer is "an open (Ranch) house" so that the two Parachletes have a place to keep their Promise to come to you, to serve you, the Bride of Christ, in accord with our Father's Holy Name!

Numbers 6:23 reminds us along with Aaron; "Thus you shall bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them: "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you, the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace!" So they shall invoke My Name on the sons of Israel and I then will bless them!" Wow! What a Promise! Nothing in all creation can match It!

In Christ, your co-dependent!