



- 
- From the President
  - Vice-President Notes
  - Available Lots
  - Lot Signs
  - Clings, Stickers & Flags
  - New Members
  - Building & Safety
  - Yearly Assessments
  - Board Info
  - Columbarium
  - Church Triumphant
  - By-Laws/Rules & Regs
  - THANK YOU!!
  - Uncle Dan's Corner
  - CUSP Pics
  - LVRetreat news
  - Ranch House news
  - Address Changes
  - Driving Etiquette
  - ATV Etiquette
  - Lakes, Fish & Trees
  - Treasurer Report
- 

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

It will be my privilege to serve this board this year as President and I do mean serve. 1st, I will serve the Board you elected and further you' all as the board acts in your behalf. We will not make everyone happy, but we will do the best we can to do the right thing. LVRanch and Retreat is a very special place and we will do our best to keep it so very special.

Our September meeting addressed a very long agenda as we considered the Canadian Thistle that keeps getting worse. Our decade old original report discussed chemical control that could not be specific to thistle unto even a goat herd. The effects of a general chemical attack were just not smart and the goats very expensive. Pull your thistles and burn them, corn knife them back burning the heads and burn the Russian behemoth heads and cut the body at ground level as it comes back. We are looking at a secure power head for the gate with image capture. We have many other topics that we are discussing, all of which involve an orderly house, good business practice and the support of Christian Community while our demographics are changing. More folks are using GPS to get to places near us and the system is just plain wrong, so we are dealing with frustrated folks not of Ranch heritage as well.

We are addressing ingress and egress from land locked or topographically impaired lots. Permission in writing needs to be given to the one with need to enter from the one affected by the entry. We will try to have forms up on the web for that event to be signed by both parties. While we cannot disallow safe ingress and egress, it needs to be as inoffensive as possible as the board does not wish to intervene.

We had the best attended Chip 'O' Rama on the 4<sup>th</sup> and another great weekend on the 11<sup>th</sup> of October. Retreat ladled logger sized Chicken and Rice soup servings with all the fixin's. Ranch bought lunch for the entire crew of 27 and did so again for the 11<sup>th</sup> and its' gang of workers. We had a safe workday with fellowship, quips and guffaws all round. The 5 from CUSP did on-sight chipping AND fuel break construction. LVRanch looks better every year and I hope we are never again tested by flames.

Building programs are still being discussed and we will be circulating a survey to better assess what you all want to see made available. Ranch will not stagnate with "good enough," this board will consider reasonable progress based on member needs, again as our demographics change. We are a work in progress! Pray we are granted wisdom as we seek input from the membership and to do our Father's bidding thru assistance with Retreat and by serving you, our Ranch brothers and sisters.

Your Brother in Christ, and humble servant,  
Alan Peterson

## VICE-PRESIDENT NOTES

This is my last article as Vice-President due to I have now been selected to be in charge of Roads and Equipment. There were a few assignments that changed so please check out the Board of Directors list later in the Ramblings to see who is doing what now. I also want to welcome Shad Jeseritz as a new LV Ranch board member. It is the end of October and almost 80 degrees in Colorado Springs, did somebody forget to tell old man winter that it is time to come roaring in? I am OK with the long Indian summer and truly enjoyed a couple of extra trips us to LV Ranch because of it. As we approach the Christmas season, please take the time to love each other, love our Lord and pray for the people who are not fortunate enough to have all they need for their families. Christmas is such a joyous occasion and I pray that all of you have a great Christmas surrounded by family and friends.



John Harris  
LV Ranch Board Roads / Equipment

### LOTS AVAILABLE

Currently we have 3 lots available – 15, 41 and 59

### 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). We are making signs for all 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](mailto:slbauer1030@gmail.com) or Alan Peterson at [PetersoA@wedbush.com](mailto:PetersoA@wedbush.com)

### New Members

These are the new members since the August 2, 2014 Annual Meeting. Please welcome them.

Wayne and Jennifer Pittman on lot 107  
Stephen and Paula Johnson on lot 53  
Luis and Michelle Nunez on lot 120  
Gary and Phyllis Moe on lot 109  
Neal and Linda Groeling on lot 18  
Theodore Gates and Ellen Otto on lot 110  
Chris Ramsel on lot 48

## BUILDINGS & SAFETY

Hello LVR members, Shad aka "building and safety guy" here. It's great to see all the new structures going up at the ranch... from mini-cabins to mega-cabins, everyone has their own way of enjoying God's beautiful valley. Please be sure to submit your plans to the board for approval, but don't worry, we aren't the "architectural committee." We don't care how ugly your place is :) Well, maybe we do care but one persons ugly is another persons beauty ☺

As for safety, please be sure to keep it slow (20 or below) on Ellison Road and to close the gate behind you when entering and leaving.

Cheers,

Shad

### **Ever wonder where the yearly assessments are spent??**

Here is an abbreviated list of the items that come in to us each year. You can also review the budget and get a detailed accounting of what was spent where:

#### Ranch house

- Upkeep and maintenance
- Supplies (cleaning supplies, soap, toilet paper, paper towels etc.)
- Phone
- Utilities
- Septic tank clean out

#### Fish for Deer Lake

Dump station clean out

Grader fuel and maintenance

Road maintenance and improvements

Newsletter (Ramblings)

Signs (road and lot)

Twice yearly chipping

Property insurance

Liability insurance

Subsidize social activities

- Annual meeting lunch
- Ice Cream Social (if we have one)

Office Supplies

- Stationary
- Postage

## Lutheran Valley Ranch Board of Directors Info

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

Jackie Brookshire – Vice-President  
Family of Christ Lutheran, Monument, CO  
jackie.brookshire@comcast.net (email)

John Harris—Roads/Equipment &  
Ramblings Newsletter & Website  
johnharris31@q.com (email)

Dee Paulson – Secretary  
Ascension Lutheran, Littleton, CO  
dplakewood@comcast.net (email)

Shirley Bauer – Membership/Buttons & Signs  
Redeemer Lutheran Colorado Springs, CO  
slbauer1030@gmail.com (email)

Lee Cross - Treasurer  
St. Luke's Lutheran, Colorado Springs, CO  
leecross2010@yahoo.com

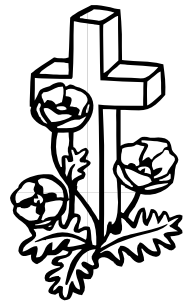
Shad Jeseritz—Buildings / Safety  
Family of Christ Lutheran, Monument,  
jeseritz@comcast.net

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

Robert Blackett - Lakes/Fish/Trees  
Ascension 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

Cynthia Hope (Lot 77)

## 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. The By-Laws and Regulations are also available on our website at: [www.lvranch.org](http://www.lvranch.org)

## THANK YOU!!

### A BIG sincere thank you to:

- Erik Skov for creating water runoffs on Columbine Loop & Aspen Trail. Great job!
- Clare & Twyla Skov, and Marie Skov for setting up & decorating for the Annual Meeting Lunch. Looked great!
- And to all who helped cleanup between the Annual lunch & the meeting. We know who some of you are & would love to mention names, but we don't know who all helped and would hate to leave someone off the list. Just know that it was noticed and the board is truly grateful & appreciative. You are all awesome!!!!

## UNCLE DAN'S CORNER - TURKEY VULTURES

by Bob Blackett

The most common large LVR bird is the turkey vulture, a black bird with up to a 6' wingspan, probably twice the size of the also common crows and ravens. They also have a distinctive red featherless head. Their soaring, seemingly effortless flight is distinctive. Vultures are especially seen around Deer Lake, likely watching for dead fish.

Vultures feed mostly on carrion, using their very sensitive sense of smell to help find rotting meat. This cleanup is a very important function. They also have unusual habits of vomiting their strong stomach acids when threatened, and of peeing on their legs to help cool themselves when overheated. In the early morning they can be seen roosting in the sun with their wings spread wide to warm up.

Vultures are very social birds, often soaring around in a circle (a 'vortex' or 'kettle') in groups sometimes over 20 individuals. Then they fly in different directions to scout for food, but keep an eye on their neighbors and follow if one of them finds something. Vultures nest on the ground during the summer, often in high rocky places. They migrate south to Mexico in October, and return in April.

DNA suggests that old world vultures are related to hawks and eagles, but new world vultures are descended from storks. These unusual and fascinating birds have their admirers. There's even a 'Turkey Vulture Society'. I once proposed to some of my Tucson neighbors that we form a local chapter and attract the birds by bringing back road kill to a platform near the gate. I wasn't serious.





## CUSP WOOD CHIPPING EXTRAVAGANZA

What a great couple of weekends we had for our annual wood chipping with the help of CUSP. Alan mentioned the results in the President's article but thought you would enjoy some photos.



The crew hard at work!!!!



Now you see it.....



Now you don't.....

## LUTHERAN VALLEY RETREAT NEWS

First, thank you for your response as individual ranch members through our phone-a-thon matching appeal. Thanks also to Chuck Mielke for his help on our water system and other projects around camp, and also thank you to Bob Blackett for his help on getting our other year round staff house done. Such a blessing to have one of our supportive communities so close to us.

Have you ever stained something? What happens with stain? Why do it? Stain is what we use to protect wood siding on homes, or our back decks from the intense Colorado summers and winters and, and it helps the over all look of our houses and decks. The Retreat's 2015 theme is "Stained" based off of Romans 13:14 "Rather clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ" and Colossians 3:12 "Therefore as God's chosen people holy and dearly loved clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. How has Christ stained us? What is different about us after our "staining"? Are we clothing ourselves with Jesus so that what people see is Him - compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience?



2015 is looking to be another big year for the Retreat. This theme will lead us to many great Bible Studies and activities over 2015 with the many summer campers, retreat groups, and outdoor education groups that we serve.

Also this year we are hoping to accomplish many tasks around camp. Some of these tasks include: continuing to expand our high ropes course, building a base camp cabin, getting electricity over to the big unfinished building next to the horse stables, expanding our campground services by completing a well and a chlorination system, and completing two more cabins in our cabin renovation work. There is a lot we are excited for - and you can help! You can help by participating in our work weekend **April 24-26** where we will tackle a lot of these projects. Also, you can let us know when you are able to come down so we can have a project ready for you.

Thank you for all you do for the Retreat.

In Christ,  
Steve Johnson,  
Retreat Executive Director

## RANCH HOUSE NEWS

If you've been around the Ranch House recently you have to think there's hope for Bear Lake. We haven't had precipitation for a month, yet there's more water in the lake now than there has been all year. So hopefully come spring we can replace the old perf-pipes now clogged with aspen roots and debris and fill the pond again for the enjoyment of fish and anglers alike! The lake is a welcome sight for all who enter the LVR gates.

The new ice machine is also a high-light. It is quieter and reliable to the delight of all who seek to keep things cool and refreshing while enjoying God's creation and fellow saints at LVR.

A "funny" thing happened on the way to the Ranch House annual meeting where it was reported that there was a rumor about the Retreat would no longer allow Ranch-worship at its outdoor chapel. I was totally unaware of any such rumor and had never heard of it before then, so I asked several people afterward if they had heard that rumor. No one on the BOD had been asked about it and those I spoke to had not heard that rumor either. So I'm still puzzled about it. But to prevent that sort of thing from happening in the future I'd like to remind all of us to be taught and guided by Scripture which teaches us to speak to each other in person about things that may disturb our relationships and to disallow rumors and such from being received or passed on... reflecting Jesus who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life!

One of the goals of the BOD is and has been to foster and enhance our Christian fellowship, community spirit, and comradery among our LVR family. The Ranch House was built for that purpose and is the one central site where such brotherly love and community spirit can best be facilitated. That is what forms the basis for much of what we do, especially in the activity of the last several years of the BOD's planning for the area around the Ranch House, to develop the area, making it more attractive as well as a welcoming environment for Ranchers to gather, have picnics, get to know and enjoy each other, making life-long friendships, and most importantly to encourage and build each other up in our faith and life in Christ! Otherwise, what would distinguish LVR from any other camp-site or State Park in the Colorado Rockies?

So put on your thinking caps and let us know your ideas about how we can accomplish the above goals and purpose! LVR is much more than a place to get away and enjoy some time off: It is a "Light on a Hill" for all the world around us to be guided like the star in the East and the Baptist at the Jordon pointing souls to God's greatest Gift, their Savior! For unto us was born in Bethlehem, our Savior! Have a blessed and joyous Christmas!

Clare Skov



## ADDRESS CHANGES

Have you moved recently? If you have moved since August 2014, 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.*

## LAKES, FISH AND TREES REPORT

Summer 2014 may have been one of the best fishing years ever in Deer Lake. Two stockings ensured a ready supply of fish, many people used catch and release, and the cooler rainier weather also helped. Our tentative plans for next summer are similar, but we are considering stocking with fewer and larger trout, including rainbow, brown, and cutthroat.

The board continues to seek a solution to the dry Bear Lake. Our current thinking is to re-configure to a smaller lake about half its previous size, possibly re-line the lake bed with clay, and dig ditches above the lake with perforated pipe to lead water down into the bottom. This was the solution after a previous Bear Lake dry-up in the late 1990's.

by Bob Blackett - Lakes Fish and Trees