



Ramblings
November 2015

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From Alan's Perch

The annual meeting ran long, but I am pleased everyone had their say. I never want anyone to feel they were excluded; that sometimes burns up time. Thank you for your patience, thoughts and prayers.

The lakes are once again full quite to the brim and fish occupy the waterscape gobbling bugs, lures and member flies cast for sport. Mostly for catch and release; the sound of kids squealing with delight could be heard at both lakes. That is just why our lakes are there; not to mention for the kid still in every fisherman regardless of age.

Chipping saw 14 workers. Jeff and Jason from CUSP, me, Dee Paulson, Lee Cross, Gary Moe, John Meinert, Richard and Ilse Stratton, Bob Blackett, Chuck and Gloria Mielke, Luis Nunez and Rod Young. We were fed fine style at the Ranch House by Steve Johnson and a kind volunteer, Mr. Karges. Thanks to all who helped chip and made beautiful Lutheran piles including the Retreat Work party that cut many aspens off Ellison Road to enhance safety this summer. Not a Hittite Pagan pile on the place!

Prayers for Retreat as they are experiencing issues with Teller County regarding a complaint filed in conjunction with Men's retreats and target practice taken as a part of the Men's retreat activities. This is all part of use permits, improvements in the planning phase as well as Forest Service access. They are working diligently with the source of the complaint, its' effects and resolution. Those effects are not without significant discomfort for all involved. Please pray that a peaceful and wise outcome will result from the peccadillo. Your board will be involved only as seems wise and in the best interest of both Ranch and Retreat. Should you want to talk about it, you may call me or any board member and we will share what is appropriate as events unfold.

Blessings on you all as we enter the season of Thanksgiving, the celebration of our Lord's arrival as the Christ Child and the incredible blessing given through His utterly selfless sacrifice. All for the love of folks deserving far less than the Grace we share.

Your Brother in Christ
Alan Peterson, Board President

BUILDINGS & SAFETY

Buildings and Safety

Another summer has come and gone at our beautiful LVR. You'll notice several folks put up new structures this year, and we have quite a variety now. The "Park Models" seem to be the newest option for "all the comforts of home"... and I must say I'm a bit jealous. The 10'X12' sheds also continue to be very popular. If "Tiny House Nation" ever needs to film 10 episodes in a weekend, LVR's the place to come.

Safety is also important for all ranch members. Please continue to drive slowly and carefully, as there could still be children or ATVs around those blind corners. Please also close the gate when you pass through, as it is an important liability limiter. And finally, don't feed the bears anything, including fingers.

Your Brother in Christ,
Shad

LOTS AVAILABLE

Currently we have 3 lots available – 57, 59 & 77

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. 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 or Alan Peterson at PetersonA@wedbush.com

FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT

I would like to thank Lee Cross who took over the treasurer duties from me this year. I know he will do a great job. I would also like to thank Dave Romberg for agreeing to fill the open slot on the board. Since one of the Vice President tasks is seeking board members that relieves me of a big duty until next year! I appreciate all the Ranch members who feel passionately about our great organization, and while we do not always agree, it is good to see everyone come together in our love of LVR and the fellowship of Christians. Your inputs and suggestions are appreciated by all of those who serve on the board. Please remember our board is volunteer and we all are doing our best to make this a great place to spend time. I wish everyone a great Christmas season and I look forward to continuing to serve on the LVR board.

Jackie Brookshire

SOS (SAVE OUR STRUCTURES)

By Dave Romberg

What can we do to make our structures safer at LVR? On October 3, volunteers did their part in making our properties safer from wildfires. We salute Dee Paulson, Lee Cross, Gary Moe, John Meinert, Richard and Ilse Stratton, Bob Blackett, Chuck and Gloria Mielke, Luis Nunez, Rod Young, and Alan Peterson. Also a big thank you to Jeff and Jason from CUSP and their monster chipper. By turning logs and branches into chips they reduce the chance wildfires at LVR, because NFNF (No Fuel, No Fire).

It would be great to have your help next fall, it is a good workout and a great cause. What else can we do to Save Our Structures?

- For new structures use fire resistant materials such as metal and stone.
- Remove flammable material that is within 30 feet of the structure such as:
 - * Woodpiles
 - * Branches
 - * Pine needles

Why? because NFNF (No Fuel = No Fire).

- Dispose of fireplace ashes only after soaking in a metal pail of water.
- Our driveways should be 16 feet wide for fire truck access.
- Have handy: ladder to reach roof, shovel, rake and a bucket for water.
- Have 2 different entrance/exit routes to escape a burning structure.

There are many other actions we can take to make our properties safer from wildfires. These 6 tips are a good start.

LAKES, FISH & TREES

By Dave Romberg

What a wonderful feeling and view as we drive into LVR and see Bear Lake full of water and some rainbow trout. I experienced improved fishing this year with larger and more fish caught. I hope you did too. Thanks to Bob Blackett for his superb fish shopping and ordering two separate deliveries. The fishing contest resulted in a lot more and larger fish caught this year. I would be very pleased if the 2016 fishing season is as good as it was this year.
Dave Romberg

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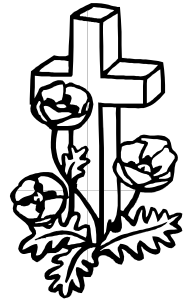
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COLUMBARIUM

We are pleased to announce that the columbarium has almost sold out, with ½ a niche remaining (space for 1 set of cremains). Do not worry if you "missed out" on reserving a space, the Columbarium Committee is working on having a second columbarium built, with projected installation in the Spring 2016. The cost of a niche (which contains two crypts for two sets of cremains) is \$1000. One crypt (for one set of cremains) can be reserved for \$500. If you are interested in reserving a niche or crypt, the reservation forms are available on the Ranch website or from Dee Paulson at (303)716-3518 or dplakewood@comcast.net.



IN REMEMBRANCE

Robert "Bud" Elkins (Lot 106), member since 2001. Passed away July 2015.

Pastor Henry Fingerlin (Lot 45), member since 1963. Passed away September 2015.

Leland Huhn (Lot 31), member since 1962. Passed away October 2014.

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 CORNER - STEWARD OF THE LAND

by Bob Blackett

Genesis 2:15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

Psalms 24:1 (A Psalm of David.) The earth *is* the LORD'S, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

My father hung a comic strip on the wall of our old cabin, something about a wise old cowboy and his sayings, concerning land ownership – to the effect that we don't really 'own' land, but are at best temporary stewards.

This philosophy actually supports the LVR tradition. Ranch members don't get a deed to the land, but rather a long-term lease, good so long as one maintains the requirements for membership, transferrable to one's children so long as they maintain the requirements. It's practically unique in my experience, having its pluses and minuses, and has been much debated over the now 56-year history of LVR.

But it has its Biblical roots. Googling the topic gives plenty of other Bible references to the need for us to take care of this wonderful creation. It's also more of a Native American philosophy – the concept of land and resource 'ownership' was foreign to them.

So, whether we have a 'deed' or a 'lease', we're at best temporary stewards. How we express our stewardship can vary a lot. It certainly includes taking care of our land. For me that has involved a lot of forest mitigation, removing dead wood, thinning (it's been hard to take out live trees, but I've now done it a lot), cleaning up our lots and roads thru the fall Chiporama's. Many of us have seen the Hayman Fire devastation, and our stewardship includes trying to prevent it again. It helps that I actually love doing it, and use the term 'chain saw therapy'.

It includes taking care of the plants and animals around us. My other articles in this series deal with them, for examples 'Beavers' in the *May Ramblings*. I'll get back to those topics next time after this one, an editorial comment.

It includes sharing our creation with friends, family, and children at Retreat, hopefully a priority for all of us.

It includes keeping the land unspoiled. It includes keeping the earth unspoiled – many are concerned that the warming climate threatens all the forests of the West, to the point that our children and grandchildren may not have this opportunity.

EARLY LVR MEMORIES

By Harry Zimbrick

FIRST TRIP INTO LVR

Sometime in August of 1959, Hal Glaeser led a group of interested people to see the property. About 6-8 cars followed Hal and a road grader from 4 Corners to LVR over Cedar Mt. road. The road was at best a jeep trail, and none of us had a 4 wheel drive vehicle. Many wives were less than enthusiastic about the whole thing. The 50 mile trip discouraged quite a few, but the potential for a youth camp was easily recognized by most.

ROADS

The jeep trail from Cedar Mt Rd. thru the south gate ended about half way down the valley. The only way to the present youth camp was to go back to Cedar Mt. Rd. and follow about 6 miles of jeep trail on Cedar Mt. Rd. to a barely visible trail to the present site.

WAREHOUSE DOORS

Sometime during the first year of ownership, Hal Glaeser accepted two flatbed loads of large warehouse doors from Fort Carson. These doors were stacked near the present Ranch House. These doors were used as tent platforms and some were used to build A-Frame shelters. Many perspective members were not impressed as the doors were the first things one saw upon arrival to the ranch. Hal used many of the doors to build small A-Frame wooden tents for each member of his family on his lot.

ORIGINAL MEMBERSHIP

About 20 families from Immanuel and Redeemer Lutheran churches in Colorado Springs formed the first membership list. A membership cost \$500, a lot of money in those days for many of us. In order to increase the membership so we could meet our financial obligations, the board scheduled an Open House for Lutherans in the Colorado Springs area in July of 1960. Mrs. Ellison was in attendance. Otz Zoellner paid for stocking the Beaver Pond with trout. The sight of six year old kids catching fish did the job, as parents saw the potential for family and camp.

NOT LOTS

A five acre lot was a deal for a \$500 membership, but no lots would be available for 3-4 years in 1960. The potential for a youth camp became the driving force for the membership.

To be continued in future publications.....

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE ~~FORUM~~ RANCH HOUSE

A Short Story And Screampplay By Maiden Surprise

It was back in the summer of 2015 when I received the message of a possible crisis at the Ranch House: It appeared that there was a danger of some of the much needed supplies running low! So it was that the first thing the next morning I took a stroll up to the Ranch House to check things out. That's when it happened! As I traipsed through the parking lot I noticed an older motorized camper with its shades pulled which had been parked off to the side for the purpose of camping out. But all was still and quiet so I continued on to enter the Ranch House. As I punched in the highly secret security code and opened the door I was greeted by a dog that I'd never seen before and he was signaling in sign-language that he was friendly. Since he wasn't wearing a yellow LVR member badge nor a white guest badge, I quickly came to two conclusions: First, that this dog was either a forgetful LVR member or guest or not a legal member or guest at all; and second, that he was an exceptionally intelligent dog since he had not only skillfully punched in the right keys but first he obviously figured out and deciphered the highly secret security code! Since he evidently wasn't a member, I had the distasteful duty to inform him that he didn't belong in the Ranch House and that he needed to exit immediately. And fortunately for me, since he was so friendly and intelligent, he hustled out without any unpleasanties and trotted toward the camper. So I proceeded to check out the guest register to see if he had signed in but to my dismay he had not. So I began checking out the supplies etc. only to discover that there was a woman in the shower and to my surprise she was not wearing either a yellow LVR member badge nor a white guest badge: Nor had she signed in!

That's when things took a turn for the worse: I got so distracted that I forgot why I had gone to the Ranch House in the first place! And without thinking I went back outside only to notice that the camper was now located by the water supply and a gentleman I'd never seen before was introducing water into his dehydrated camper engine. So I waved and said "Hi" and he gave me a friendly wave and "Hi" in return and started up the incline to encounter me, since I noticed he wasn't wearing a badge and I had asked him if he was an LVR member. We introduced ourselves and had a friendly, educational, and very enlightening visit in which he informed me that he and his family had loved camping out at LVR for many years on their friend's lot. After asking his friend's name and lot number I again experienced the unpleasant task of informing him that his long-time friend was no longer a member, that the lot was now under a different member's name, and most difficult of all I had to find a nice way to inform him that he could no longer camp out at LVR nor use the Ranch House! All of this stirred up my somewhat inquisitive mind and I began wondering! I wonder...

- ✓ ...how many members, both new and old, have read LVR's membership rules, regs, and guidelines or pay any attention to them, or inform their visiting friends?
- ✓ ...how might the court handle a suit filed against LVR in the case of someone having a tragic accident at LVR and the court discerned that the BOD and members disregarded those rules etc.?
- ✓ ...Why do we have a secret *member's only* security code for the Ranch House if a dog can figure it out?
- ✓ ... and if after reading this you'll be wearing your badge when taking a shower? Oowuch! Please don't make checking necessary!
- ✓ ... what does it mean to be a "guest"? According to the dictionary, a guest is a person who is invited to visit a host or attend the host's special event!
- ✓ ... how is it then that so often people wandering around LVR, fishing, camping out, using the Ranch House, are doing so self-invited whenever so moved without a host present, without any LVR identification on their person or vehicle, etc.?
- ✓ ... if any of you know someone who have "friends" who self-invite themselves into their home to use the bathroom or kitchen or hot-tube or backyard to campout
- ✓ ... and if someone did that, would react as if such behavior was acceptable? Really?

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM RANCH HOUSE

(CONTINUED)

A Short Story And Screamply By Maiden Surprise

Other than the above events, things around the RH have been rather quiet and uneventful. Most folks take care and are helpful in cleaning up after themselves, signing in when using the facilities, introducing themselves and being cordial when they see new faces, and letting me know when something needs attention. Currently we are still trying to get all of the phone problems fixed and replacement lights etc. have been purchased and await my taking the time needed to install them. Please let me know if you see a need or have a suggestion on how to make the Ranch House and LVR a better more hospitable community gathering place for the saints who come to be refreshed in mind, body, and spirit!

Thanks for your help and cooperation! Blessings! Clare Skov

ADDRESS CHANGES

Have you moved recently? If you have moved since August 2015, please contact the Ranch secretary, Dee Paulson, at dplakewood@comcast.net and she will make sure your information is updated.

ROADS & EQUIPMENT

Wow, what a wet and rainy summer we had. The roads held up better than expected. We did have some issues with Bluebird Place and a couple of other roads and are working to get those fixed. I had the pleasure of removing and replacing the radiator on the Grader in June. It brought back many memories of growing up on the farm/ranch with my Dad and fixing combines and tractors when I was a kid and I sure enjoyed it. Even though the radiator is very large, it was not that big of a deal to remove and after repairs, we are set again for a while. The grader continues to perform well and has proven time and time again what a valuable resource it is for LV Ranch and Retreat.

As some of you are at LVRanch more often than I am, please keep a lookout for road conditions and let me know if there is any issues that you want to raise about the maintenance of the roads.

Thank you to those who so willingly drive and service the grader to help keep our roads looking good.

God's richest blessings, John Harris

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

The Board sent out a Membership Survey this spring and had about 30% of the LVR members respond. This is such an important initiative as the Board looks at strategically laying out plans for the next few years that we have decided to send out the survey again. If you have already completed the survey, thank you and please disregard this note.

If you have not sent in your feedback on the survey form (last page of the Newsletter), please take the time to fill it out and mail it in. The Board values each and every response and we need as many responses as possible to help guide us in what the membership wants to set as the priorities for the Ranch.

In Christ,
LV Ranch Board



RAMBLINGS NEWSLETTER
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COLORADO SPRINGS CO 80901

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2015 STRATEGIC PLANNING SURVEY FOR LVRANCH

1. Name: _____ Lot #: _____
2. Membership:
 - a. How long have you been a member of LVR? _____
 - b. How did you become aware and interested in becoming a member of LVR? _____

3. How often do you come up to LVR? Trips/yr _____ ; Total days per year _____ ; Longest stay _____
4. What Ranch House amenities do you use when you are at LVR? Check all that apply
 - a. Restroom? _____ Shower? _____
 - b. Kitchen/Stove? _____ Dishwashing? _____
 - c. Microwave? _____ Coffee /Coffee maker? _____
 - d. Deck? _____ ; Deck BBQ Grill? _____
 - e. Ice Machine? _____ Phone? _____
 - f. Main Hall for meals? _____ ; Meetings? _____ ; Family games? _____ ; Family reunions etc.? _____
 - g. Water Supply for camp site? _____
 - h. First Aid? _____ ; Emergency Equipment ? _____
5. What other Services offered by LVR have you used or plan to use?
 - a. Lot Driveway grading? _____ ;
 - b. Columbarium? _____
 - c. RV Dump Station? _____ ; How Often? _____
 - d. Fishing? _____
6. Additional amenities would you use (if available) and would like to see added, if available?
 - a. Picnic Table Sites among the trees? _____
 - b. Picnic pavilion(s): 2 or 3 Small Pavilions (15' x 15')? _____ ; One Medium Sized (24' x 24')? _____
 - c. Out-Door Chapel adjacent to the Columbarium? _____
 - d. Internet connection? _____
 - e. Electric gate installed on the main entrance? _____
 - f. Other please specify all that you would be interested in _____
7. Do you attend church services at LVR? (a) Yes _____ ; (b) No _____ ; Regularly? _____ ; Infrequently? _____
8. Are you more likely to attend worship services if they are held: (a) At Retreat's out-door chapel? _____ ; (b) At an out-door chapel near the Ranch House? _____ ; (c) In the Ranch House? _____ ; (d) Another location? (please specify) _____
9. Do you enjoy getting together as a group and socializing? Would you be interested in participating in any of the following activities? Ice Cream Social? _____ Dessert Potluck? _____ Lunch or dinner potluck? _____ Movie night at the Ranch House? _____ Family picnic? _____ Coffee and Pastry after Sunday service? _____
10. One of the goals of the LVRANCH BOD has been to facilitate, encourage, and "grow" the community-social spirit and comradery of our members and familiarizing new and old members with each other. What are other ways you would like to see planned and how often? _____
11. Please add any other comments and suggestions you may have below:

Please return the survey to: Lutheran Valley Ranch, P.O. Box 1352, Colorado Springs, CO 80901.