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## PRESIDENT'S VIEW

It is hard to believe that another summer at LVRanch has come and went. The leaves are all gone now and winter is almost upon us. With that comes fires in our fireplaces, family dinners at Thanksgiving and Christmas and of course, the Advent season is just around the corner with the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ being celebrated all around the world, even in places that you had no idea that there were any Christians.

As I look forward to this joyous season and I think about all of the blessings that I have received from God even though I am a lowly sinner, He still loves me enough to send His Son to die for me. I can't wait until I have all of our decorations on the house, head up to Woodland Park for our tree and then Diana goes all out inside the house. Under all of that though is a true and deep love for our God that flows through it all and includes that I will never be caught saying Happy Holidays but Merry Christmas!!

No matter what you are going thru at this time in your life, know that Jesus loves you and that He is always right there beside you!!!

I pray that this Christmas season is full of love and laughter and that you also remember the true

### **"Reason for the Season"**

God bless each and every one of you,

Your Brother in Christ,

John Harris  
LVRanch Board President



## **BUILDINGS & SAFETY**

Another summer at our beloved LVR has come and gone. New buildings are up, driveways cut, and electricity/wells are in. Folks are obeying the speed limits and closing the gate as requested. Things are good at LVR!

We've been working to understand why Bear Lake is dry after last year's excellent snowfall and quite a bit of rain in the summer. The board has approved engagement with two water engineering firms to consult on ways to refill the lake. Preliminary discussions indicate it could be one or all of these causes... Bentonite layer was compromised by 4 wheeling in the lake bed the last major drought, Muskrat holes, Aspens choking the water source, or Tile from spring is plugged. Recent snowfall has delayed our meetings, but the plan is to get as much information before winter so we're ready to act in the spring.

Your Brother in Christ,

Shad

## **LOTS AVAILABLE**

Currently we have 2 lots available: 19 on the Summit Road and 58 on the corner of Ellison Road and Deer Trail Drive.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

*Please welcome our new members:* William and Kirsten Beck and family on lot 25, Richard and Susan Findell on lot 118 and Greg and Debra Eno on lot 102.

## **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. Lot 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](mailto:slbauer1030@gmail.com)

## JUST RAMBLING.....

What a busy world we live in. I come to reflect on this as we are deep into spring and summer is almost upon us... where does the time go? Although we are all on a different point in our journey - some trudging along, some coasting downhill, others on the uphill climb – it's important to remember a few vital things; we are all in the race, and we are all in it as part of one body.

Wait.... You don't do marathons? Hmm, let's consider that. In Isaiah 40, vs 31 we find a reference ... “mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” And how many other references to a race do we find under Paul's hand? Like it or not, we are all in a race. But let's back up just a little bit and remember what the *Good Book* says just before that; from Isaiah 40, vs 31 “but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength.”

Yes, it's a busy world out there – so remember to be patient and “wait for the Lord.” And that other part about being of one body? If you have a few minutes, pull out your bible and read 1 Corinthians 12. Yep, we are all in a race and we are all in it together. Some of us are eyes, some are ears, hands, legs... and some of us are blessed to be a big toe! So as you go through the days, no matter how quickly they seem to pass, just remember to take the time to wave (or wiggle a toe) and say “hey” to your neighbor. After all, we are all in the same race together.



Thanks for listening to me... just rambling. Your friend and neighbor,

Dan Reed  
LVRanch Board

## LAKES, TREES AND WILDLIFE UPDATE

As of this writing, the fair weather months of 2019 have come and gone at LV Ranch, and the daylight hours have now shortened. I expect that the bears in our area are now settled down for the winter. There was at least one bear that proved to be troublesome for outdoor trash containers this past spring, but no RV damage was reported.

For the benefit of those newer members, LV Ranch did experience some significant bear-related problems a few years back. Several RVs were broken into, and they caused quite a bit of inside damage clawing around for a meal.

The best precaution to take to prevent unwanted attention from bears is to store no food or garbage (including dog and bird feeder food) inside of your RV, and most particularly while you are away. I've been told that a bear can smell the scent of potential food for up to five miles away.

While camping, it is also wise to keep your food items stored safely in a vehicle (between meals) with the vehicle windows fully closed. Many folks have discovered an unwelcome surprise by leaving a vehicle window down even a small bit. The prying strength of a bear's legs and claws are no match for any slightly opened vehicle window.

It's also wise to place 'bear boards' on the ground outside of all RV and shed doors and windows when you are away. A 'bear board' is essentially a section of plywood with screws drilled into it from the bottom up with an inch or so of the sharp points sticking up. Most bears decide that's not a good place to walk J.

It was another great year for fishing at Deer Lake. Deer Lake is stocked with an assortment of differing sized trout once before Memorial Day, and again before the Annual Meeting in early August. While many enjoy the sport of fishing as a 'catch and release' activity, just as many have discovered how good freshly caught trout tastes when cooked on a barbeque grill.

Seeming gale-force winds stripped a great many of the golden Aspen leaves off of the trees in our area while they were still changing colors this year, so the fall colors did not seem nearly as spectacular as it had been in past years, alas.

Cordially yours, Jim Simpson

## RANCH ROADS

Greetings from the Roads Guy,

The roads had a fairly light once-over grading this Fall. We wanted to do more, but the roads were too dry. Now that we have had some snow and moisture, the roads will be too frozen to grade. We will look at more grading in the Spring.

We have had quite a bit of snow early this season. I have been out with the snow plow and have more to do. If you need your drive plowed or want to make sure your road is plowed, send me an e-mail or leave me a voice mail - [rod.young77@gmail.com](mailto:rod.young77@gmail.com), 757-303-9546.

Have a great holiday season!

Rod Young

## EQUIPMENT

The equipment has been in good shape this year. I have labeled the ranch fuel tank and made sure that the grader has winter fuel. We installed a new cutting blade on the grader in October. The ranch roads have been professionally graded twice this year. I have been looking after the ranch more and more this year. The furnace filters have been changed and the date noted on the face of the door. There are many plans for improving the grounds around the ranch house. Some of them may include more and better maintenance equipment. The future of LVRanch is bright and has many good things to look forward to.

In the Lords service, Ted Gates

## BY-LAWS/RULES & REGULATIONS

If you would like a copy of the Corporate By-Laws or the Rules & Regulations, please contact Patricia Silva at [pks2@tlmworks.com](mailto:pks2@tlmworks.com). The By-Laws and Regulations are also available on our website at: [www.lvranch.org](http://www.lvranch.org)

## Lutheran Valley Ranch Board of Directors Info

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## COLUMBARIUM

Last November (2018) our second columbarium was installed. We had our first internment a week later. In September we had several engravings done on the first & second columbariums. Wilhelm Monument Company did a great job on the engravings. There will be several internments next Spring and Summer, so please respect privacy when needed. Our third and final columbarium has already arrived! Will wonders never cease? However, since winter has set in in Colorado, installment will have to wait till next Spring. The first columbarium has half a niche remaining. The second columbarium has eight niches available. The third columbarium has 12 niches available. 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](mailto:dplakewood@comcast.net).



## TREASURER'S REPORT

A/R Membership is up because we had more members resign than anticipated.

Insurance went up a significant amount this year. It is hard to project what the rate of increase will be for the coming year.

We are continuing to have the Ranch House cleaned every other week from Memorial Day to Labor Day. In order to continue current services available at the Ranch House we had to replace the refrigerator, coffee maker, toaster and smoke alarm. We also got new furnace filters, ice machine filters and defibrillator battery pack.

The septic system backed up into the Fire Station restroom in the fall of 2018. We had to have the pipes cleaned out that go into the septic tank, call in a hazardous material cleanup company to clean up the mess and have the restroom walls repainted. Please limit the amount of toilet paper you put in the toilet. **Please** do not flush any paper towels, feminine products or Kleenex down the toilet. The problem was a wade of paper products that did not make it to the septic tank.

The grader required extensive maintenance work this past year to keep it in working condition.

## 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.

## RECERTIFICATION FORMS

Recertification forms were sent out with your Annual membership invoices. Please fill them out and have your Pastor sign the form 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.