The Glories of Fall!

October 2015

From the President- Tom Wells…..

Hi Folks, Here at the Ranch we’ve had a very mild fall. As I am writing this article (10/12/15), we have yet to have a hard frost, compared to most years when we have garden killers by mid-September. The aspens were beautiful as usual, but I would guess things are going to change quite quickly.

It has been a busy summer, with more construction than we have seen in several years. Our water year (Oct 1 through Sep 30) is over and we have submitted our annual augmentation reports. This is the year of our diligence reporting (once every six years) so we submitted our documentation to the water lawyers, who will insure that we retain our conditional water rights. They also plan to pursue more absolute rights for our reservoir and augmentation plan. Speaking of the reservoir, members have been catching some very nice fish this year, and due to the good moisture early in the season, it’s still full.

The board has been very busy this year, trying to make some changes in the appearance of the Ranch, as well as meeting with the County Commissioners to try to get road signs for certain areas and improvements in the roads themselves. This, of course, is an ongoing chore and will likely continue to be for the future, but be assured, we will keep on trying. Anyone with concerns, questions, comments, or complaints, should think seriously about taking time to attend the “Dish with the Commiss” that Mr. Brazell has been putting on at the Hartsel Community Center. He has held several over the last year and has one coming up soon. It’s a good forum to express your concerns and get updated on the County’s activities. Let’s all look forward to a nice snowy winter!

—Tom

From Your Treasurer, Ron Rose……..

After being elected to the RORA Board of Directors (BOD) in August I was appointed to the Treasurer's role. This is a role I am very comfortable with, having filled that role when I was last on the Board. Every month the Treasurer presents to the BOD a report showing our financial position, and does a reconciliation of the checking account. These reports are posted to the Ranch website once they are approved by the BOD; you will need to login to see the reports.

When you do, you will see our accounts are in a healthy state with a positive cash flow year over year. I have been told this is not always the case for many other HOAs in the area.

I have also taken on the task of being the point person to work with Commnet on the new cell phone tower and make sure our members are informed on what is happening with it. On Saturday October 3rd, Commnet held a Q&A meeting at the RORA Pavilion to review their plans for building a cell phone tower to improve coverage in the ranch. Close to 50 people attended the meeting to hear the plans and ask questions. More information including a summary of the Q&A has been posted to the thread I started in the RORA Forum. (http://www.rotr.org/forums/topic/proposed-cell-phone-tower-in-rora/)

SNEAK PREVIEW:
Ranch of the Rockies' 2015 Annual Christmas Party: Saturday, December 12, at 1:00PM
Hartsel Fire Station #5 at the intersection of Campfire and Ranch Road (Article on page 4)
FROM THE HARTSEL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT ….

Fire prevention week comes every October, creating another great opportunity for us to share the importance of home and workplace fire safety. The great Chicago fire of October 1871, which fire prevention week commemorates, represents one of the worst case scenarios of fire damage and rapid fire spread. In our modern times, technology has allowed fire suppression to be extremely efficient. However, modern materials are allowing fires to grow at an almost unstoppable rate. As Benjamin Franklin once said, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of the cure".

Especially for people in rural areas, we feel that Franklin's quote has significant meaning when it comes to fire protection. With modern materials and long response times from EMS to some areas, being prepared is an essential part of fire safety. Did you know that roughly half of home fire deaths result from fires reported between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., when most people are asleep?

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) three out of five home fire deaths happen from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. Home fires killed an average of eight people every day in 2013. We recommend that homes should have a working smoke alarm in every bedroom. Larger homes may need more alarms. Smoke alarms save lives. If there is a fire in your home, smoke spreads fast and you need smoke alarms to give you time to get out. In fact, having a working smoke alarm cuts the chances of dying in a reported fire in half!

Cooking equipment is the leading cause of home fire injuries, followed by heating equipment. Make sure to never leave cooking items unattended. Cooking equipment should also be cleaned and maintained on a regular basis to reduce accidents. Smoking in and around the house can also be very deadly and should be done with caution. Smoking materials are the leading cause of home fire deaths.

Electrical fire issues should not be forgotten: They account for almost half (48%) of home electrical fires involved wiring or lighting equipment. Other leading types of equipment were washers or dryers, fans, portable or stationary space heaters, air-conditioning equipment, water heaters and ranges.

Escape planning should be taken very seriously. After implementing an escape plan, you should practice it on a regular basis to make getting out automatic. Winter is just around the corner, which will be putting stoves and heaters into a position to create more hazards around your home.

We at Hartsel Fire encourage everyone to take some time and think about all of the things that can help improve your home's fire safety, and overall security. Hartsel Fire has supported fire safety week for many years, but we feel that every week should be fire safety and health week. For any questions regarding fire safety week please feel free to contact our main office any time during normal business hours.

- Issac Forehand, Hartsel Firefighter

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Do you feel the need to knit—or quilt—or appliqué? Carol Rumsey is interested in finding other crafters who would like to start a group of like-minded creative types. If you would share, teach or want to learn any type of crafting, give her a holler at: crumsey@icloud.com or call 719-836-1531.

The Ranch of the Rockies Women's Bible Study meets every Tuesday morning 9:00 AM in members' homes. We would love to have you join us.

If you are interested, please call:
Brenda Nesbitt (836-1542) or Jan Rice (836-2777) for more details.
Wow! Time certainly does fly when you're having a good time! Would you believe that our Hiking Group is already five years old? It has been a truly great five years for our ROTR Hikers...countless fantastic hikes and high mountain trail adventures.

As good as all of our hikes have been...the really wonderful plus for our group has been all the many new friends everyone has made...new social circles with so many other activities taking place...friends getting together for dinners, card playing and even "block" parties.

This year we did fifteen hikes and as in past years, most have been led by Bob Hickey. Bob does an incredible job in planning and organizing our hikes. Each week, Harry Konen has sent out very detailed information about the upcoming hikes, so that our hikers can pick and choose which hiking adventure would be good for them.

As our hiking season comes to a close remember that winter also brings outdoor opportunities for recreation; in past years some of our hardy hikers have put on their snowshoes to explore our mountains. Try it; you'll like it! Have a great late autumn!

The fall colors have been spectacular, but cold weather is on its way. The grass is really brown. Before you have that campfire at night, please call the Park County Dispatch line for the current burn ban restrictions: 719-836-4121 Option #6.

RVs: The Ranch is gearing up for an RV round-up, which means that if you have a RV on a vacant lot it must be moved. We still have room in the RV Storage lot but spaces are going fast. IF you haven't moved your RV off your vacant lot, please do so. I provided the Board with a current list of violations. The Rules Enforcement Committee sent out letters to those owners.

Pavilion: The water has been turned off and the Doors to the restrooms are locked. The RV Dump station will remain open until the snow falls.

Burn Pit: The gate will be locked for the winter October 31, and we will wait for the Fire Department to burn it. I will not be able to let you know when they are lighting it because of the safety factor.

Reservoir: The gate is locked but the walk-in gate is open. The Porta-Pottie has been removed. You can fish there until we have ice; then it closed for the winter.

Park Site "C" dog park is closed.

Horses: I have spots for horses if you would like to pasture them for the winter, but remember that it is your responsibility to feed and care for your animal.

Bears: Fall is here and they will be out more looking for food to store fat for the winter. Please be bear aware.

Cabin Winterizations: As we get closer to winter I am reminded to check the coolant on the truck and do winter maintenance on the out buildings. If you need this done, I have checked with several plumbers: four of them do winterization on homes.
From Your Member-at-Large, Jeff Deardorff……

Christmas in October?!

Well, not exactly. But plans are now being firmed up for the Ranch’s Annual Christmas Party which will be held on Saturday, December 12th. The main entree this year will be spiral-sliced ham, and all members are asked to bring a side dish (or desert) that will support the Ranch-provided entree. Those who do not eat ham are welcome to bring their own entree to share instead of a side dish. The Hartsel Fire Protection District has again agreed to let us use Station #5 at the intersection of Campfire and Ranch Road. However, this year the party will start at 1:00PM instead of 5PM.

With the rising cost of food, and our remote location, the use of caterers has simply become prohibitive. So for the Christmas Party we will be obtaining, preparing and serving the meal with the help of Association members. Accordingly, I’m asking the members planning to attend to volunteer to make our Christmas Party a huge success.

Specifically, we need volunteers for decorating and set up (at Station #5) the day before and the morning before the party, food preparation, serving during the meal, and clean-up immediately after the party. Those who are able to help out are asked to email or call John Adams RORHOA@ghvalley.net (836-2079) or me jeffdorff@gmail.com (836-3151) no later than December 1st. If we do not have enough volunteers by December 1st, we will be forced to cancel the event.

This year we will have even more door prizes, the traditional Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest, and an abbreviated Dirty Santa Gift Exchange. If you wish to participate, gifts should not exceed a value of $15.00. Be sure to let John know if you are planning to attend even if you can’t volunteer. We had a great time last year, so come on out and get reacquainted with all your Ranch neighbors.