

RANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME ABOARD

Barbara & Roger Heaver Lot #8
Gretchen & Russ Berquam Lot #9
Susie & Texas Tyler Lot #85

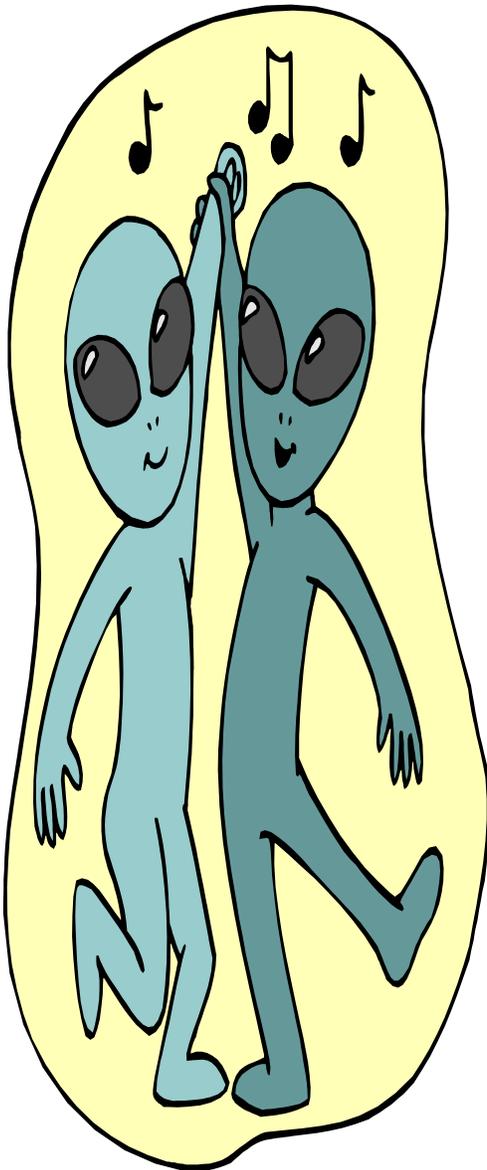
HAPPY TRAILS

Donna & Russ David Lot #119
Mickey Burch # 91
Bev & Lenny Ratzlaff Lot # 16

RAMBLING AROUND

Margaret & Jerry Krebill from Lot # 90 to Lot # 16
Kasey & Spike Jones from Lott # 85 to Lot # 117

Lot #s 23 and 90 are currently available.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

3/5 DEBRA SIMMONDS-AMARI
3/8 DICK BILLINGS
3/10 PAULA CAREY
3/16 JOHN BELL
3/21 LUCY BILLINGS
3/25 KARL KOMATZ
3/30 BILL GOOD
3/30 GAYLE ANDERSON

4/1 LARRY NEITZ
4/2 JOHN TENISON
4/5 MELODY BAKER
4/7 TRUDIE TENISON
4/11 BOB ABBOTT
4/14 YVONNE MINARD
4/19 GIL CAREY
4/20 LOLA WOOD
4/25 EDE TROCKEL

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

3/10 GAYLE & CRAIG ANDERSON
3/19 ROXY & TOM COLOMB-25TH
3/30 ELEANOR & LEW LEISTIKOW- FIRST

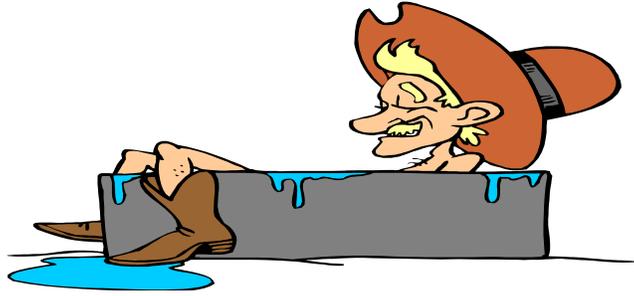
4/9 GENE & PHIL SHARP

LOVING HUGS AND WISHES

Needra Dulcich-Orv Schinke-Don Ranes and Linda Butler As you recover from your surgeries.

Our prayers, love and hugs also continue to Sue and Bill Hoffmeister and Barbara and Soren Walther for their grandson John

THE RANCH HANDS HAD FUN



JANUARY After our holiday season ended everyone laid back for a day or two before getting back into the swing again. First on the agenda was an undecorating party to pack away all the holiday finery and decorations. Line dancing continued for three afternoons a week and exercises two mornings a week. Games nights were Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday nights and special eat outs included the monthly Red Hat luncheon, Read and Feed Luncheon, and Chili Chapter Brunch where it was decided to hold the monthly luncheons at the China Dragon in Carlsbad. The men continued coffee on Tuesday morning and MEWS on Thursday morning while the ladies enjoyed Stitch & Bitch on Thursday mornings and coffee on Friday mornings.

A Town Hall meeting was chaired by the Lot Transfer committee to discuss and explain the new forms to be used when moving in, moving out, transferring to a new lot or when leaving the park for more than one day and entering the park after an absence of more than one day. The water weenies are still doing their thing very well and timely. The month ended with the usual Birthday/Anniversary Party. We at The Ranch thank all who have given of their time and energy to keep all of these functions happening.

FEBRUARY Similar to January with the exception of a few special events like: a viewing of the Eukanuba Dog Show on our big TV in the Ranch House, A hot dog and trimmings party with a football pool for the Super Bowl (again seen on our big screen in the Ranch House), and a Dessert Walk for Valentine's Day. This last one earned almost \$90.00 toward the expenses

for our upcoming anniversary. As a result of special request a special game night was set up to play Scattergories.

The Town Hall meeting this month dealt with a variety of topics but centered on the park wide RO system. Unfortunately not too much information was available as all information and negotiations are on-going. No one has found the solution of what went wrong or how to fix it but all involved are doing their best to find a solution. The latest Ranch wide problem now is the laundry where more than half of the washers are not working properly. Some ideas are being tried and hopefully a solution will be found even before this newsletter is printed. Discussion will be ongoing as to whether we need a new laundry floor, or a new laundry building even after the machines are working again. Our outside manager got certified as a Maytag repairman and parts are on order.

Upcoming events include a Brown-Bag Picnic at Sitting Bull Falls on March 19 (in lieu of a Chili Chapter Spring Rally). All members of Chili are welcome as are any SKP's in the area who would like to join in.

The 25th (SILVER) Anniversary of The Ranch is being held in April in conjunction with the semi-annual business meeting. The planning committee is meeting on a weekly basis and the exciting plans are ongoing. A weekly half-and-half raffle is being held to raise money toward expenses for the party and so far the winners have each taken home around \$40.00.



THE RANCH
IS CELEBRATING THEIR 25TH. ANNIVERSARY
WITH A TWO DAY CELEBRATION ON
APRIL 8-9, 2008

COME JOIN IN THE FUN!!!

TUES., APRIL 8, 2008

CLASSIC CARS
LUNCH
POKER RUN IN PARK
HAPPY HOUR
ANNIVERSARY CAKE AND ICE CREAM
SHARED MEMORIES
ENTERTAINMENT

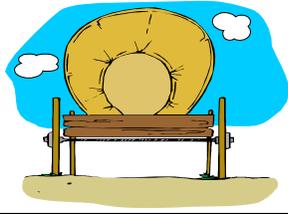
WED., APRIL 9, 2008

HAPPY HOUR AT RANCH
HAPPY HOUR AT STEVENS INN WITH CASH BAR
DINNER AT STEVENS INN
PROGRAM FOLLOWING DINNER

PLEASE CONTACT TRUDIE TENISON AT
johntenison@yahoo.com. PHONE 574-304-0594 OR BARB
WALTHER AT blwalther@juno.com. PHONE 303-324-9030

TICKETS FOR DINNER AT STEVENS INN MUST BE
PURCHASED BY APRIL 1, 2008

RANCH HANDS ROAMING



AND AT HOME

GREAT TRIP

Art and I took a tour of Copper Canyon . We had a great time and would recommend the tour to everyone. The company was Caravan and the phone # is 1-800-227-2826 for a guide book of the tours they offer at the cost of \$995.00 per tour.

Half the trip was on the bus and the other half on the train. Everything was included and the food was great. We even met another SKP.

Hugs,

Sherry & Art Lumb

Lot #6

HELLO EVERYONE ,Bev and I are pretty much staying here in Casa Grande . Weather has started to get very nice and I am playing golf at least two times a week. We attended an SKP lunch at the Golden Corral and ran into Bob Gambol and Hilda plus Tom and Joan Feller. It will be a once a month thing on the second Tuesday of each month October thru March, so if anyone finds themselves in the area, come on over. There were a total of 52 SKP's there.

We made a week's trip to Southern CAL to see Bev's neurologist and took the motor home. It was fun to get on the road again, if only for a short trip. Spent 4 days in San Diego, 3 days in San Fernando Valley and one stop in Palm Springs. Stayed at Elk's lodge every night. Visited old friends and Bev's brother while in the area.

Bev is attending exercise and speech therapy classes once a week at the Muhammad Ali Parkison Clinic in Phoenix and enjoying it. I get together with the caregivers and we talk about everything. We also have season tickets to different performances at the Arizona State University nearby. Saw The New Christie Minstrels recently and that was fun. This last Saturday we attended a Parkinson Symposium in Phoenix and enjoyed that. As you can tell there is quite a large Parkinson community in the Phoenix area and that is good. We have no plans to change Bev's neurologist, but there are very competent docs if we wanted to change.

We hope to make it back for the party in April but will have to wait and see before making final plans.

Hope everyone is enjoying the winter where ever you are.

Hugs

Bill & Bev Heeter Lot # 76

WEATHER

Hello to all from Spike and Kasey. We spent time at the East Shore RV Park at the Fairplex in San Dismas CA. while visiting our son Brian (the Marine) and his family. Left there in mid February and returned slowly to The Ranch.

Since December we have stopped in Lubbock, El Paso, Deming, Ajo and Quartzite where we dry-camped by the Elks BOF and about froze!!! Oh, then the temp climbed to 80 degrees !! HEAT WAVE!!

Spike &Kasey Jones #117

HELLO ALL,

Just a quick update from Las Vegas, which has made it into the national news twice in this past week (once for the clinic using contaminated equipment, and now for the ricin scare). Just 2 more reasons to want to book out of this place as soon as we can.

Spent the President Day Weekend over at Ruby's Best Western Inn at Bryce National Park, where we tried something new and rented both skis and snow shoes..... and took advantage of their hot tub and pool to avoid aching muscles afterwards. Temperatures were quite brisk, but mostly sunny and we even had some fresh snow while there to make our trip through the park picture perfect. All in all, a fun weekend and we saw lots of deer and a bald eagle on the drive home.

Bill finally finished off the coach remodeling and everything looks great, but after living with it for a while we've decided to make some minor revisions and are back inn the construction mode for a weekend or two.

We started horseback riding lessons a few weeks ago, seeing as it has been almost 15 years since we've ridden on a regular basis. We booked 2 weeks at a working cattle ranch in Idaho this June and want to have enough time to get comfortable with playing cowboy before we get there.

We're also spending time on the weekend looking for another vehicle to tow behind the coach so we don't have to drive a second vehicle on our trip to the northwest this summer, but haven't found anything yet.

Give a holler if you're in the neighborhood.

Happy Trails

Pat, Bill and the Kamper Kitty

Lot #116

THE SMALL ONE ENJOYS FLORIDA

Most of you know from my past remarks that Eleanor loves water. She takes special delight in it whether it is in the form of streams, lakes, or the ocean. Of course having grown up in 7 Rivers NM she saw very little water., and now that we are traveling, every time we come across it she quietly announces, "waaater!"

But now rain—that is very special. As soon as she hears the plinking of raindrops on the roof, she opens the door to check it out and takes special pleasure in walking in it. Most of the time I can't even get her to take an umbrella. She comes back wet from head to toe and always with a grin as wide as the Mississippi.

We are in east central FL where there are rivers, swamps, lakes and of course the ocean. The last few days we have had some severe weather over the entire state. Heavy rain, a tornado in near-by Cocoa Beach and we were under a tornado watch all night last night. But did this phase Eleanor? Not a bit. She pokes her head out, goes for walks in the rain and is even happy to see the puddles left after a good storm.

So, here we are in nice warm balmy winter weather with beautiful sunny day for riding and prowling the local area. Enough rain to please Eleanor and more seafood restaurants than we can visit in one season. Oh, yes, life is good!

Lew & Eleanor Leistokow
Lot #56

QUICK NOTE

Nature and life love to do just the opposite of what we plan. We hoped to leave here on March 20 to visit the daughter before Roxy starts work at the Erie Wildlife Refuge in PA. Still hope to do it but so far Tom has spent two days in hospital, a touch of the flu which aggravated his COPD, the doctors are trying to stabilize him on coumadin, and Roxy has broken a tooth out of the center of her upper plate.

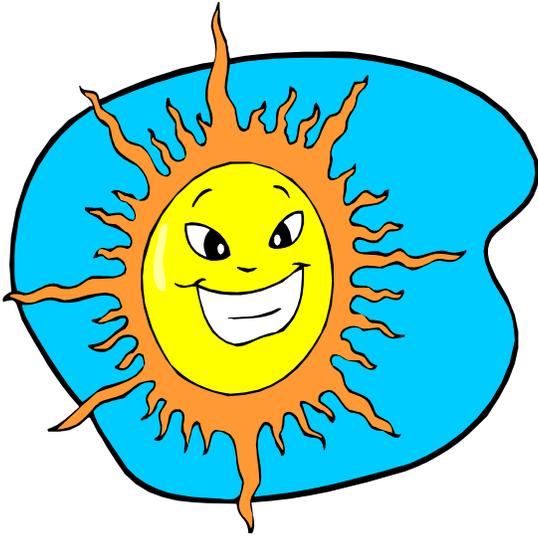
A few prayers from all might help our plans get back on track. Thanks
Roxy/ Tom Colomb
Lot #1

ARIZONA

We have passed the winter here in Arizona again Camp Ground Hosting at White Tank Mountains Maricopa County Regional Park, enjoying the pleasant weather and the warm company of a family of hosts. We have get-to-gether meals almost weekly with different hosts planning the menus. Some of the offerings have included our deep fried turkey, venison chili, spaghetti, tacos, corned beef and cabbage, jambalaya, and a finger food meal. We are all great cooks so you know we eat well. Vern has enjoyed golfing - sometimes even twice a week when the rates are right. Visitors have included Fred and Joyce Cook over Christmas and New Year, Vern's brother and my sister along with other camping friends from past years here at White Tanks. One couple in particular does "real" camping, sleeping in the back of their van and setting up a virtual camp kitchen along with hanging utensils, pots and pans. I have his cookbook and he has invented some really tasty dishes to prepare over the open fire.

We had quite a lot of rain so we expect the wildflowers to bloom soon. We leave soon after Easter for routine doctors appointments in El Paso and from there on to The Ranch, then Lubbock for grand-daughters High School Graduation, on to Dallas and IL to our cabin. Hope to see a lot of you along the way.

Vern & Sheila Miller
Lot #109



BACK AT THE RANCH

We have been busy here at The Ranch . Don't know where the time goes but it FLYS! What with planning Chili Chapter and Elk BOF, it does keep us very busy.

I, Barbara, spent 2 weeks in San Diego helping my daughter, Chris, as she struggles with the reality of John's event. As I write this, she, Sheryl and John have finally been moved to Tampa Fl to the VA hospital there. A Dr. Smith is supposed to be a leading neurologist in dealing with heart trauma. Of course John's event wasn't a trauma but it sure has been for the entire family. He remains in vegetative state. Time will tell if anything is to be done to help bring him back.

While I was gone Soren managed to completely spoil our new little dog. She did sooo good, not wanting to go out early in the morning. She was happy to wait until I got dressed (most of the time). Now she wants to go out when the sun comes up and that is just too early for me! So guess who has the honors ? Don't you know how much he hates it ?

For those of you who have not been at The Ranch since before Christmas, we got a cocker mix from the dog pound in Carlsbad. Her name was Chole or something like that . She would not answer to it so we changed it to Missy and she is responding nicely. She is still very shy and hides behind us when people approach, but she is getting better. She will reach out and smell a hand. If there is nothing in it she is back behind me. We do enjoy her and it has helped get me out of the motor home and doing some walking. Of course that was the whole reason for getting her.

I, Barbara, had my neuroysis procedure on my back this past week. So far things seem pretty good. Can't say I recommend the hospital in Roswell though.

Barbara & Soren Walther

Lot #10

Addendum after they left the park again.

For those of you out there who are interested, my youngest daughter, Sheryl, set up a connect for the information on my grandson John's progress. You can sign in and read about him and his progress at <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/johndoody>

I want to thank all of you for your prayers.

Barbara

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FUN TIME

Here we are at the Big Bend National Park from Feb 24-27, with several folks from The Ranch. It is beautiful. We fell very fortunate to see another of our fabulous National Parks. What a gorgeous country we live in.

From here we head to the Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Alpine. We are looking forward to the experience as it is our first time. Then off to see more of Texas with a return to The Ranch around mid-March, probably after this newsletter goes out.

Linda & George Frey

Lot # 74

Railey's On The Water

We went on our 30 day cruise, not because Bob wanted to be near more water. We gave ourselves a 50th Anniversary present.

We had cloudy and cool weather until we were below the equator, but it didn't stop us from enjoying the all the activities on and off the ship. We loved sitting on the deck and watching the horizon go up and down. You can tell we are easily amused.

We were the crew on an outrigger canoe ride, enjoyed a submarine trip that went down 132 feet on the reef, and I (Marilyn) swam with the stingrays. Tried the local foods including 'musubi' which is soy sauce, rice, spam and dried seaweed. Also ate 'poissoncru' which is marinated raw fish. Bob said the Hinano beer was terrific.

The entertainment was wonderful and we appreciated the lectures about the history and customs of each place. We came back relaxed, and Bob is now back playing with the water at The Ranch.

Marilyn & Bob Railey

Lot #30

ENJOY WHAT YOU DO DO WHAT YOU ENJOY

VIVA MEXICO

On January 23rd we crossed the border to begin our 46 day adventure into Mexico. We were about 15 miles in when our Smartire alarmed us that there was a problem in the right rear outside dually. We had picked up a bolt in Reynosa. A roadside tire place soon had us on the road again. Nights were spent in CD Victoria, Tampico, and Costa Esmeralda before we began to explore. From Costa Esmeralda we bussed to Papantla to the El Tajin Ruins (Totanac-classic period). Papantla is the home of the “flying Men” so we also saw them perform their dance, pole climb and fall.

The next area for exploration was Vera Cruz – bus tour of the city, San Juan de Unal Fortress and la Antiqua (where Cortez landed). We were in Veracruz just as things were gearing up for Carnival – flats were seen on the side streets and bleachers along the Malecon etc. In Villahermosa we visited Parque La Venta, which is the home of Olmec Heads and Zoo of the Animals and Birds of Tabasco.

Campeche city in the state of Campeche was next. Here we did an optional tour to the Edzna Ruins (Mayan). At this small ruins with only 10% exposed we had an archeologist as our guide and learned so much about the Mayan life and this site. Our guide has worked there since the 1990’s.

The city of Merida (108 degrees) was the next stop Here we took a bus tour of the city past affluent homes, parks, bull fighting ring, and to the zocolo (city square). While we were there we walked around and did some shopping (panama hats). Again we took an optional tour to the Uxmal Ruins (Mayan)
OUTSTANDING.

Piste Yucatan brought us to the Chitchen Itza Ruins (again Mayan). We explored by day and returned for the night sound and light show. Then it was on to Cancun, Quimтана Roo – this was not the white sand beach and campground – others went to Isla Mujeres, we didn’t. The day spent at Xcaret was incredible and the dinner show of Mayan culture and Mayan Mexico was outstanding. Still in Quintana Roo we went to Xel Ha where we stayed in the parking lot and went to the natural water park, Cozumel, and the tulum Ruins (still Mayan). The Tulum beaches were the

best. Chetumal was next (also In QR) and there we visited the Mayan Museum – Outstanding!

Another day we took an optional trip to Belize. How nice it was to see signs in English. The ride thru Coazal and Orange districts gave us a first hand look and information on sugar cane as harvest was in process and the cane trucks were on the road (details at another time). Our destination was the New River where we took a river cruise to the Lamana Mayan Ruins. While on the river we saw mangrove swallow, snail kite, osprey, comerant, anhinga, jarana (all birds), bats on a tree and a fresh water crocodile. On land we saw a boa constrictor, the black orchid (Belize national flower) HUGH palms, and other vegetation of the jungle.

Back in Mexico we moved on to the Palenque in the state of Chiapas. Here we visited the Palenque Mayan Ruins. The battle with the jungle here was very evident as it would only take about 10 years for the ruins to be reclaimed by the jungle. Only 25% is exposed but the guide brought things to life for us by his love of history. The temperature and humidity were high as we melted, climbed and climbed. Many vendors were there and we bought a Mayan calendar printed on leather. We chose to take the jungle trail down to the museum and saw many plants and trees whose medicinal uses were explained by the guide. A bridge crossing and a waterfall filled the eyes and ears with the beauty of water. Palenque is another favorite.

Saturday night Ede noticed a flat tire on the tag axle. A new tire was bought and replaced in the hotel parking lot, another tire bought and mounted at the shop on Sunday on the way out of town. Thanks heavens they had the tires and it was open!

Next travel day we went from the state of QR across Campeche Tabasco to Oaxaca and almost to the Pacific Ocean in Tehuatepe. From there we crossed the mountains (sea level to 6219 ft. at the point) to the city of Oaxaca. Here we have traveled to many of the outlying villages to see the artisans at work on their crafts – rug making, ceramics, black pottery (pre-Spanish), body loom weaving (Zapotlpre Spanish), and wood carving. The Monte Alban Ruins (Olmec & Zapotec pre-classic) were amazing –

such a contrast being in semi-arid area at 4500 ft. The ruins were constructed on a man flattened mountain – BC. WOW!

We will be traveling to Pueblo/Cholua on March 1 and then return to the USA on March 7.

Our eyes are full, we have walked many steps in the history of Mexico and our bodies are exhausted

(we have both had colds for 2 weeks and the pace has been grueling). But the journey has been great! Much more to share back at The Ranch.

Love and Hugs

Ede & Bob Trockels

Lot #102

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**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT PALAVER
IS MAY 1, 2008.**

**INDIVIDUAL REMINDERS WILL ONLY
BE SENT TO THOSE WHO REQUEST IT.
See Ranch_Ramblings @ yahoogroups.com
For the next announcement.**

PALAVAR
The SKP Ranch
P.O.Box 109
Lakewood, NM 88254

