



# PALAVER

FOUNDED BY  
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SKP#16549  
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THE ORIGINAL RANCH - PO BOX 109 - LAKEWOOD, NM

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For any information, questions, or suggestions you ma have, please contact the Committee Chair or Board Liason of that committee. Contact info is provided in your lease holder list. A note to the office manager at the Ranch P.O. address or an e-mail to the to: [skpranch@pvtnetworks.com](mailto:skpranch@pvtnetworks.com) will also get to the appropriate committee and also be kept confidential.



## PRESIDENT’ S POST

1. 15 February 2010. ALMOST 4 MONTHS OF TWELVE COMPLETE AND I’M STILL HERE.
2. THE ELECTRIC PROJECT ON WINDMILL VISTA/QUAIL TRAIL IS FINIHED, ON BUDGET AND APPEARS TO BE WORKING OK. THANKS TO JIM FAGAN FOR CATCHING A CLITCH IN THE 50 AMP WIRING ON THE SMOKE-CHECK OF THE SYSTEM
3. LUCY AND CHARLENE GOT THE GRAVEL DELIVERED FOR THE LAUNDRY/SHOP PARKING LOT. RICK BAKER, THE TRACTORMAN, AND MANY RANCH HANDS SPREAD IT AND RAKED IT SMOOTH. FEEL FREE TO PARK ON IT. NO OVERNIGHT CAMPING ALLOWED.
4. LYNELL AND MIKE, OUR ERSTWHILE STAFF, HAVE CHANGED THE LAYOUT OF THE OFFICE JUST AS I WAS GETTING USED TO IT. (I THINK IT’S A PLOT TO KEEP ME MORE CONFUSED THAN I ALREADY AM). DROP IN AND BUY A T-SHIRT AND SAY HOW MUCH BETTER IT LOOKS.
5. KASEY AND I ARE OUT OF THE PARK RIGHT NOW; I LEFT THE KEYS TO THE RANCH WITH BOB ABBOTT AND SHOT HIM IN THE KNEECAP TO KEEP HIM FROM RUNNING AWAY WHILE WE ARE GONE. HE SAYS HE WILL MAKE UP A COVER STORY.
6. PLEASE COME TO THE APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup> SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING. I NEED TO SEE LOTS OF FRIENDLY FACES.

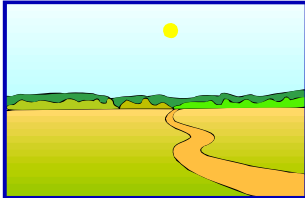
HUGS,  
YOUR FRIENDLY PRESIDENT WHO IS FUN TO BE WITH

SPIKE

EDITOR'S GOOF.

MARGE SCHINKE'S BIRTHDAY WAS FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup> NOT FEBRUARY 2<sup>ND</sup> AS POSTED IN THE LAST PALAVER. MEA CULPA MARGE.

AROUND THE RANCH WITH KASEY



HELLO RANCH HANDS,

Since we are not "Around The Ranch" right now (we pulled out 5 hours ago) I can only say it was a nice day when we left.

With all being well and/or repaired/replaced as of yesterday we pulled up stakes and headed for Del Rio and Fort Clark Springs for a 3 week vacation. We'll meet up with Dave and Sally around the first week of March at The Fort and check out all the new and old restaurants from Del Rio to Uvalde!

The Long Range Planning Committee has been busy putting together floor plans for a 'possible' committee meeting room, which would also provide a secure storage area for all the files now stored in the south side of the barn. These are valuable files and truly need a safe home. If you have questions or suggestions about this project please e-mail me directly.

[nuwanomads@cs.com](mailto:nuwanomads@cs.com). We don't want to jam up Ranch-Ramblings since this is no way a sure thing- we are in the very early planning stages. You'll receive more info at the spring Meeting plus in the Meeting Packets that will be mailed to everyone right after the meeting.

Due to this project and all our cold weather and Snow Storms, I have done very little walking and therefore have not been keeping up with happenings around the park.

If I strain my brain I think I might come up with a few interesting tidbits....

Early this week the "Quilters" went up to Carlsbad for lunch then went shopping! Yesterday (2/16) "The Quilters" and even some

non-quilters got together in the Sunroom and made over 50 (okay Roxy, what are those things called that they made..."Badge" holders doesn't seem to do it)! Sally said they sold a bunch and will probably have more available at the April meeting. The profit will go into the Ranch General Fund.

Valentine's Day was 'YUMMY'

One thinks of chocolate for that day but Mary Ann thought a pork dinner with everyone bringing a covered dish or dessert sounded Really Good! The tables were pulled together and seating was informal and even with a small turn out (not a whole bunch of folks in the park right now) we did have a yummy and fun afternoon.

Ron P. has a new dog. His name is Wimpy but that does nothing to describe this guy's personality!

When you "Traveler's" return this spring you'll be in for some surprises since a few lease holders have moved to new lots and new folks have moved in, PLUS with all the snow and rain this winter we should have a wonderful spring bloom. We'll be able to 'hear' the new trees and shrubs as they grow.

*Kasey Jones*

Lot # 117

Okay Kasey, I checked with others in the park here and they are called "Badge Holders", "Name Plate Holders", "NAME BADGE HOLDERS", "Thingamabobs", "Wachamacalits" and "Those hanging Things". Guess you'll have to pay the price and call them what you will. Incidentally for those not in the know- the cost is \$5.00 and some of the new fabrics are real 'cool'. They can also be shortened or lengthened as needed.

Roxy



ERIN GO BRAGH

**MOVING IN**  
Mike & Jan Brown  
Lot # 38

**MOVING OUT**  
Elaine & Guenther Kekstadt  
Lot #102

**MOVING AROUND**  
Jennifer & Gary Roessler  
Lot # 56 to Lot # 110  
Mike & Jan Brown  
Lot # 38 to Lot # 102



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

**MARCH**

- Karen Andrew 5
- Paula Carey 10
- Nedra Dulcich 12
- Lucy Billings 21
- Karl Komatz 25
- Betty Lugar 26
- Margaret Krebill 29
- Bill Good 30
- Gale Anderson 30
- Bob Stuvell 31
- Gale Anderson 30
- Bob Stuvell 31

**APRIL**

- Larry Neitz 1
- John Tenison 1
- Linda Ranes 4
- Melody Baker 5
- Trudie Tenison 7
- Charlie Scarborough 9
- Bob Abbott 11
- Yvonne Minard 14
- Cliff Dulcich 15
- Gil Carey 19
- Sheila Miller 21
- Mary Ann Obst 27
- Bonnie Keefe 28

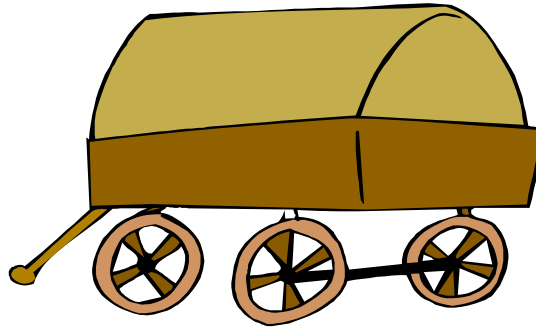
**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

**MARCH**

- Craig & Gale Anderson 10

**APRIL**

- Barry & Marilyn Weiss 1
- Jim & Mary Galavan 4
- Phil & Gene Sharp 9
- Jay & Ellen Mc Connell 10
- Jim & Bev Hughes 30



RAMBLING

RANCH HANDS



**QUECHAN INDIAN CASINO  
STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL  
WINTERHAVEN, CA**

**January 25 thru January 30 2010**

**John # Trudie Tennison (#25) Berry Coordinators - Strawberry Eating Attendees ; Mark & Karen Ireland (#14), George & Bonnie Keefe (#85) and Soren & Barbara Walthers (#10).**

A good time was had by all with excellent weather - 50 degree mornings. On Monday a special arrival day entertainment was provided by the Walther's. George Keefe had the two largest individual berries on Saturday, John Tennison consumed the largest quantities of berries. Barbara Walther coated with chocolate the best berry. John abstained from chocolate coating his berries concentrating on strawberry quantity. Mark Ireland went for low gross.

Quechan Indian Casino location is boondocking only with 183 other contestants but after Wednesday the field thinned out when they realized they could not overtake Lakewood, New Mexico entries. Entry fee was low the first three days but entry fees increased the final 3 days of the festival. We were able to have happy hour with four rigs from Chapter 6 one night and a Canadian couple boondocking across the road from us came over another night for happy hour. He is 74 years old and his girlfriend is 80. Friday John Tennison conducted a seminar on water transfer while boondocking for the attendees. Departing day strawberries were late but they did get there in time for the final round of strawberry eating. Attendees departed on Saturday with the coordinators staying another night to rest up before departing. On Friday we also visited with Director John Andrews and Vice President Bernie Schneider of SKP Elks BDF members.

Submitted by

**George Keefe**  
Lot # 85



Hi All,

We are down in the Rio Grande Valley in Donna TX trying to stay warm. Had some good days and did get to go in the pool a couple of times, but not enough for my liking. Craig has been able to get on the golf course, although some days he does come home pretty muddy. This is the coldest winter we have experienced in a long time. I have been busy with The Kitchen Band. This is a group of nutty people who sing silly songs and try to act them out too. We put on shows at the local nursing home and the RV parks nearby. We have a lot of laughs and plenty of good times. We ought to try it at The Ranch; all you need is a bunch of nutty people and a kazoo. Of course a vivid imagination does help too. We did get to visit with some Ranch Hands, we all met at a Chinese Buffet and stuffed our faces and caught up with the news. It was really good to see them. Hopefully we will be back at The Ranch this spring. We have been away for so long that we won't know or recognize anyone. We hear there are quite a few new Ranch Hands there now. Looking forward to meeting you all. Till then stay warm and travel safe..

Graig, Gale and Samson too

A LEISURELY TRIP

We left The Ranch for California on Valentine’s Day. We are taking a leisurely trip instead of our usual race to the finish line. Deming was our first stop. We expected to see Art and Sherry Lumb, but were happily surprised to find Helen Farnsworth there a well.

Next stop was Kartchner Caverns near Benson. Benson was full so we stayed in the Kartchner Caverns Campground – very scenic! At 7:15 am the next day we were first in line for “same day” cavern tour tickets and we got the only two tickets for the early “Big Room” tour – we had been on the other tour a few years ago. The caverns are spectacular and the tour guide was exceptional.

On to Tucson. We stayed four nights at the Gilbert Ray Campground near the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. The Desert Museum is a wonderful place and even has great food at the Ocotillo Restaurant. If we ever come for the

SHORT & SWEET

We have spent much of the time since Christmas in TX. We hoped for warmer weather than at The Ranch and while it was warmer, it was not warm. We spent a week in Austin and 5 weeks in Bracketville with former lease holders, John & Libby Veech. While in Bracketville we bought a lot at Ft. Clark Springs. There are many different housing types at The Fort but our lot is in an RV section. It is a bare lot at this point. We will spend the last week of February at Cowboy Poetry in Alpine. The following week we will be back in Bracketville. Hopefully we will be able to clear and level the lot before coming back to The Ranch. We don’t plan on giving up our lot at The Ranch.

Dave & Sally Stribling  
Lot #86

season we’ll become members so we can go as many times as we want. As a bonus, we re-connected with friends we used to work with and hadn’t seen for probably 15 years. It was great to catch up with them!

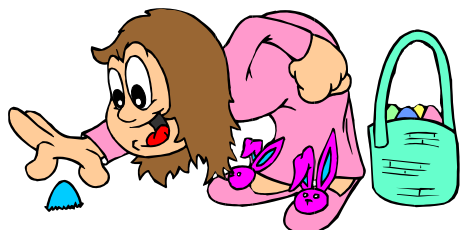
As I write this we are in Quartzite. While we had some work done on the motor home, we went to Yuma to eat the “Chimi” at Chretien’s Mexican restaurant – a ritual stop from George’s past. The drive from Tucson to Quartzite was one long, ugly wind experience so we are resting up a few days before continuing on.

By the time you read this we will be in California, where we will park while we go back to work.

Wishing you all “Safe Travels”.

George & Pam  
Lot #65

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## THE WHOLE STORY

### VULTURE ATTACK

We spent four nights dry camping at Flamingo Campground in Everglades National Park, which I a great place to visit, but Florida was having record cold – frost all the way to Key West.

The day we planned to leave we were awakened by a flapping noise and a sound like very large raindrops on the roof, sound we hadn't heard before. At first we thought the college group in the next site was packing up to leave, then realized the noise was coming from our roof.

We had seen many large black Vultures around the campground. Roger realized that the noise on the roof was the Vultures on our roof! He tried pounding on the ceiling to make them leave, that didn't work, so we pulled the slide in which made one of them fly away. Roger put on shoes, a jacket and hat (remember, it was really cold so he was wearing pajamas) to go outside. When he went the other bird flew away.

Roger came inside, dressed and went to see if the birds had caused any damage. He was not happy (language here that many of you didn't think he knew) to see five or six holes in the rubber roof, each about five inches around. This is not a good thing when it had rained, hard, for several days in the past two weeks.

For insurance purposes he reported the attack to the National Park service. When the Park Ranger arrived he told us there are laws against feeding wildlife. We explained that the feeding was not voluntary. He then asked us to describe the perpetrators; all we could tell him was that they were large black birds. Roger had to give the ranger his driver's license and registration for the trailer and he ran the information to be sure we were who we said we were. However, they did not tell him if we were wanted or escaped from anywhere. We told him we were Escapees and could prove it. Showed him our SKP card.

All of the above was done in good fun. The ranger climbed up on our roof to take photos of the damage, he did find one piece of the rubber membrane that was about 1 ½ inches long by ½ inch wide. Everything else was a vulture snack. They also ate all of the caulking around the slide and the caulking over the screw holes.

Apparently this happens to RV's a few times a year. The vulture's favorite snack is the rubber molding around car windows and doors. As a deterrent a dead black Vulture is hung by its foot at either end of the parking lots, apparently they stay away from their own dead but eat just about anything else.

We spent a week in Homestead while our entire roof was replaced. Left early Saturday morning heading north on Highway 27, planning to spend the night in Chrystal River. About 70 miles down the road a car pulled along side honking his horn and making a flapping motion with his hand. Our first thought was that the roof membrane had pulled loose; pulled over and looked but couldn't see anything wrong.

About 10 more miles down the road, Roger saw our refrigerator cover fly off and pulled over again. Barb hiked down the highway to retrieve the cover which thankfully was not damaged. Once again rain was forecast, we spent most of the day driving with sprinkles falling into the open top of the refrigerator.

Arrived at the RV park where we were spending the night, it was raining now, both of us were wet by the time we got set up. Roger attempted a repair, but the screw holes hadn't been drilled out, the front cover had not been attached. He sat the cover over the fridge using broken cinderblocks to hold it in place. Rain was pouring and it had gotten very windy. With the weather continuing most of the night. New roof does not leak!

The next morning the office did not open until 10:00, decided to hitch up so we could leave as soon as the cover had been replaced. Our neighbor came over to see what was going on, guess that the blocks on the roof got their attention. One of them, who is a building contractor, volunteered to go up on the roof to see what he could do. Roger had all of the tools ready; it took the man, Jim, about three minutes to do the repair.

The rest of our trip, aside from more weather problems, was uneventful. The kindness of the man next door again reminds us of why we love the RV lifestyle.

*Roger & Barb Heaven*  
Lot #8

## DID YOU KNOW!!

So many changes have happened here at the Ranch in a relatively short period of time that I thought perhaps a review might be in order of at least the last 5 years.

In the fall of 2005 we had a "RIDING ROPING STAMPEDE" for Round-up. The wagon masters and tail gunners were Norm & Shirley Partch and Nettie and Chuck Hasse.

One of the standing articles in the Palaver was "Glimpses of The Original Ranch through Purple Covered Glasses". This from the lease holder who once lived at the Passionate Purple Palace.

Also at that time a decision was made to send a copy of the Palaver to the first 10 people on the wait list (we had almost 20 on the list at that time) and to former leaseholders with a suggestion that former leaseholders include a \$4.00 donation for receiving their copy.

In 2006 the then president of the board sent a beautiful letter (in The Palaver) noting that we at The Ranch were facing a difficult year and that we were all going to meet the challenge and come out winners on the other side. Well we did it all thanks to lots of hard work by everyone, lots of working together, and specially the wonder job done by our water weenies. Just one thing changed. It wasn't just a year but about 2 ½ years to get it done. Most important- we did it together.

ROUND-Up 2006 was headed up by Fred and Linda Lanoue who took over in place of Ken Good.

The May-June 2006 issue had a wonderful article about a Seven River Cowgirl, our past post-mistress Eleanor Johnson, now Eleanor Lesticow. 2006 was also the year of the 'seed pods' and although I personally wasn't here for most of the mess, I did have them all over my brand new screen room when we got back from our winter and spring jobs. What a clean-up that was!

In case some of you are wondering about the closed box to the right side of our opening page, C.T. Hancox was the man who started the Palaver way back when. He (and his wife) lived here for several years and he not only started The Palaver was very active at The Ranch and with The Chili Chapter. Rarely did a new comer get out of one of our "Happy Hours" without CT asking them to join Chili. He was

quite persuasive. He was also President under the name "Big Chili" and it suited him well.

Once upon a time a then leaseholder thought it would be nice to have a Ranch song to fit us and our place of abode so set to the tune of "Camp town Races" it went like this.

## BOARD SONG

Rules keep changing: Who knows why?  
Dooh Dah, Dooh Dah  
Ranch Hands think it's done on the sly  
O dooh Dah day.

O the board does 'this'  
Oh the board does 'that'  
If each of us would take a turn  
We'd be more compassionate.

While we are gone, the work goes on  
Dooh Dah Dooh Dah  
The board's the group we depend upon  
Oh dooh Dah day.

Oh the board does 'this'  
Oh the board does 'that'  
So get on "board" and help us out  
Or we will be inadequate."

It's not too early to start thinking about doing your turn at the helm of this desert ship we call The Original Ranch so start thinking.

One last reminder of why we often call it The Original Ranch instead of just The Ranch. Could it be because some folks were thinking that The Ranch and North Ranch were connected? Well their only connection is they are both part of the Escapees and we were here first.

Times really don't change much, just the faces and the names. But we still have plenty of folks who have stayed around to help with all the changes and to see The Ranch grow and prosper and become what it is today. Tomorrow will be the same and yet different but it will continue to be as always OUR RANCH and we will work together somehow to get done what needs to be done.

From your Editor

ROXY

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