



THE ORIGINAL RANCH PALAVER

FOUNDED BY
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SKP#16549

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Board of Directors

- President – Lucy Billings
- Vice-President –Yvonne Minard
- Secretary – Bill Good
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- George Keefe
- Frank Lieberman
- Charlene Tarvin
- Spike Jones
- Jennifer Roessler

President's Post

Hi Members,

The Sewer Pond seems to be holding it own, and then this morning (12/16/10) when the dogs and I walked by the pond, I think it was a little lower. That probably is because of that hard wind we had yesterday blowing water out of it.

The Water Committee now has two plans they hope will help the sewer pond.

1. They will be placing a green net around the perimeter of the pond. This is hopefully to catch all the debris that wind blows into the pond. Cant stop the dust but the debris can be slowed down by this netting. I hope to post pictures on the Ranch Web Site when this project is done.

2. This plan sounds a little crazy

but they think it will work. They have netting, ropes, and weights to make a fishing net to be dragged along the bottom of the pond. This net will grab the debris that is on the bottom of the pond and then will be removed from the pond. Once again I will post pictures on the Ranch Web Site.

This has been a great December here at the Ranch. The daytime temperatures are in the 70s maybe 60s. Nights are cool which makes for good sleeping.

Not much else to write about as the Ranch is quiet this time of year.

Lucy, President of the Board of Directors

From the Ranch, Lakewood, NM

Holidays



Message from the Editor

I agreed to take over the Palaver without really knowing what was involved. I ask for your patience as I learn the ropes and that you point out my omissions gently.

Most of the content will come from you, the Ranch Hands, and I am counting on each of you to contribute the kind of things you would like to see included.

I've suggested topics such as "Where to Eat", "What to See", "Travel Plans", etc. and I'd like to hear your ideas.

Pam McMickin
Lot 65

Did You Know??

For many of you this will be an unnecessary and repetitive type of column but for our many newcomers to The Ranch, I hope it will be informative.

There are some items that are just common courtesies and others are part of the welfare of The Ranch.

First on the agenda are the committees and how many meetings they entail. Well at this time of year each committee is just being formed or reformed and many people are new to the various committees, so there are lots of meetings to get things organized and all members up-to-date. The purpose of the committees is to take care of things at The Ranch.

For example the Beautification committee takes care of the plants, trees, parks (like Central Park West and The Wedge) and generally keeps the grounds neat and clean. Besides the members of the committee they will also frequently ask for all Ranch Hands to help with a large job.

The Water committee takes care of our reverse osmosis system, and everything to do with seeing that our water keeps running. When there is a problem the water may have to be shut off for a time and if this happens it will be posted on the bulletin board outside the office. Often this notice can be given ahead of time but sometimes it is an emergency.

Building and Safety keeps a watch on buildings to be sure they are kept in shape, checks lots and buildings for sale or resale, and when necessary, makes repairs to The Ranch buildings.

Each committee needs members to help with the work when folks are in the park, so if you haven't signed up there are many different committees which could use your help and/or talents.

Everyone at The Ranch is a member of the Ranch House Committee.

If you have any questions about these or other committees feel

free to ask any lease holder or talk to your adoptive parents. Someone will have an answer for you.

Speaking of adoptive parents- did yours show you around The Ranch and treat you right? Did they answer your questions? Did they get you signed up on Ranch-Ramblings and tell you how to get an updated lease holder list? Check it all out!!!

If you have an emergency while in your rig you can get help by flashing your headlights, or continuing to blow your vehicle horn. Once a month (on the first Wednesday at noon) a loud horn will sound. This is a test of our park wide emergency warning system. If a real emergency were to occur the horn would be sounded and all leaseholders need to report to the parking area at the Ranch House.

Enough for one time as I sure don't want to overwhelm you or me.

Roxy Colomb
Welcome Committee



Christmas Holiday Decorating at The Ranch

The Ranch was ablaze with Christmas decorations this year. The Ranch House was beautifully decorated by a great group of members, and the outside decorations lit up the night.

Robert Handel again provided the impetus for lot decorations. He announced that he would give gifts for a lot decoration drawing on Dec. 19. All those who chose to decorate their lot, casita, or rig would have their name put in a box for the drawing. Thirty-five

lots were decorated with lights outlining their casitas, Christmas trees, candy canes, Nativity scenes—a wonderful variety of ideas.

Five lucky participants received \$25.00 Wal-Mart gift certificates, and one lucky person received a \$50.00 certificate. Robert's generous donations and enthusiasm has added a lot Christmas cheer for all of us.

Marilyn Railey, Lot 30



Christmas for the Troops

In past years, The Ranch has reached out to others during the holidays, helping those who have so much less than we do. At a Happy Hour in November, I suggested that we do something for the troops stationed overseas. Robert Handel had some information regarding a group in Midland, TX who were gathering things to send to the men/ women in Iraq and Afghanistan.

At a Ranch House Committee meeting, we informally decided that it was something to do, and that a money tree would be a way of giving. I contacted Christmas for Our Troops, Inc. in Midland and asked if money would help his group. Scott Davis, the director, was overwhelmed that someone would offer unsolicited help. He said that the money

could and would be used for postage for the packages. Packages currently must be of a specific size with specific contents, addressed to individuals, not to a unit. Therefore, it is easier for a group such as this to gather things and send them properly.

The group planned and were able to collect enough goods for 2,500 men/women. They had collected names of that many individuals. Scott told me that he had received an e-mail from someone in Afghanistan asking for gifts to be sent to a "troop commander". Scott e-mailed him in return explaining how packages must be sent and asked for individual names. He found out that he was talking to a Marine 2-star general who was

asking for gifts for two of his platoons that had been under heavy fighting for several weeks. Scott received the names.

We put up the money tree in the Ranch House, sent an announcement on Ranch Ramblings, and the response was fantastic. We also received checks from members not presently at the Ranch.

On December 6, Lynell mailed checks to Christmas for Our Troops TOTALING \$665.00. What an outpouring of love and concern for those who are so far away. Each person who contributed deserves a special thank you.

Marilyn Railey
Lot 30

The Fudge Sauce Recipe

This is the recipe for Fudge Sauce as made by my Mother, her daughters and daughter-in-law and so on for years.

Ingredients:

4	sqs	Unsweetened baking chocolate
1	cube	Butter
3	cups	Sugar
1	Can	Evaporated Milk (12 oz)
1/2	tsp	Vanilla
1/2	tsp	Salt

Instructions:

- Melt chocolate and butter over low heat.
- Add sugar and salt a little at a time, stirring until all the sugar is moist.
- Add milk gradually, stirring constantly until sugar is dissolved.
- Bring mixture to a simmer over low heat, stirring frequently.
- When fudge sauce is gently bubbling all over, simmer for 5 more minutes.

Note: *We like the Fudge Sauce to be spoonable rather than pourable when cold. To test for this consistency you can drop a little into cold water. If it holds together then it's the way we like it.*

We made the fudge sauce this way until my mother became lactose intolerant. She started using heavy cream instead of evaporated milk.

One of my sisters experimented with using corn syrup to keep it from sugaring since we like to eat it with a spoon right out of the refrigerator.

Eventually my sister combined the two changes to make a version that we all agreed was better than the original. That's the version I made for the craft fair.

The original is wonderful, but you can make your own experiments—I've even heard of adding Kahlua or Gran Marnier!

Pam McMickin
Lot 65

Thoughts from Needra

GRANDMA Was A Sooner

When I was in the 8th grade I would brush grandma's long gray hair. At that time, she would tell me all about her life as a young girl. She was a very pretty lady and completely competent in anything she attempted. *(Oh, why didn't I take notes?)*

Laura was her name and she wasn't married when the "Cherokee Land grab" started. Laura had two brothers that she told me about who raised racing horses. She rode one of her brother's favorite horses. She was a good horse person so she rode horseback (not side-saddle) and raced to get 160 acres of land for herself.

She told me that she knew where she was going and how to get

there because she had previously talked with an Indian brave and he advised her to go where the stream was. *(Why, didn't I take notes?)*

Somehow Laura and this young brave were able to communicate. *(If you talk to your mother, or father, or grandmother, or grandfather about events in their lives, please takes notes or tape the information on a tape recorder).*

I remember one of her stories was about her "lean-to". There was a dirt shelf above and behind the wood stove that she used to heat and to cook. She used this shelf to store her cabbage potatoes, and onions. One day she reached up to grab a head of cabbage and felt something fuzzy. When she

looked to see what she had touched she saw two little black eyes. Then one day she saw a skunk walk out of the lean-to and up the little hill.

From what I can remember, she won 160 acres, her one brother won 160 acres on one side of her property and the other brother won 160 on the other side of Laura land. The school teacher and carpenter made up the bottom of the section and Laura married him.

I can remember how she smelled. Laura smelled like "Cashmere Bouquet Soap". My mother, her daughter, told me that she washed all of her "undies" in that soap.

Ranch Hands Checking In

From Craig & Gale Anderson

We left The Ranch in October and went to Hondo to spend the Thanksgiving holiday with our son Craig and his family. While in Hondo we decided we really didn't want the other lot we were interested in there after all. The asking price was a lot more than we were willing to pay. We also decided to turn in our lot in Hondo too. It just wasn't working out for us, we really didn't spend enough time there to make it pay.

After Thanksgiving we decided to go back up to Canyon Lake and start looking for a stick house. We shopped around with a real estate agent in the small town of Wimberley Texas. We saw several nice homes, but not one

we could call our home. It was getting a bit chilly in Canyon Lake and we decided to go down to the Valley earlier than usual. We will continue to look for a home when we leave the Valley in March. We will look in New Braunfels this time.

So here we are in Donna Texas at Bit-O-Heaven for the Winter. I am playing Bingo, and enjoying the pool and Craig is getting back into playing Golf again.

Everyone down here is decorating the rigs for Christmas. It sure looks pretty at night with all the lights. Speaking of lights we went to Hidalgo Texas the other evening to see the lights in that town. Well, this town goes all out. We took a trolley and

toured the town. It was really beautiful. They do this every year, and every year there are more and more lights. If anyone is in this area during the holidays, you really should go, you won't be disappointed. The weather has been pretty good so far. But every now and then a cold front moves in for a few days and we have to break out the jackets. Thankfully it warms up a few days later. After all, we come down here to avoid the cold and snow of winter.

We hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Healthy Happy New Year.

Craig, Gale and Samson
Lot 78

Ranch Hands Checking In

A Wonderful Christmas Present

Sure hope everyone had a very wonderful holiday. We will be enjoying Christmas and New Years with our Castle Rock Shores family. We will be into 2011 by the time this Palaver comes out but so far our weather has been super. Raining today (the 16th) but the forecast is looking good. We always enjoy our friends here and the weather and scenery are the best. I can sit inside my motor home and watch the boats go by on the Colorado River. The sunsets are almost as spectacular as they are at The Ranch. If any of you are in Quartzite this winter, we are only about an hour's drive north. 15 miles north of Parker, AZ between Buckskin State Park and River Island State Park. Can't miss us.

I thought the Palaver might be a

good place to share some happy news with our Ranch Family. Some of you already know that I found out that I was adopted when I was in my fifties. Because the adoption was not properly filed through the courts I could not get a birth certificate in my name. The attorney for the agency that handled my adoption went to court on my behalf and was able to get my birth records opened. I was able to get a copy of my original birth certificate and, as a result, found out the name of my biological mother. My birth father's name was not listed.

Anyway, to shorten this story a bit, through several years of research by Bob, he found my biological family. My birth mother passed away in 1981 but I have a half sister. She and her husband live in Clovis, NM. Can

you believe it! I have a sister living about 150 miles away. What a Christmas present. Also, my birth mother had 9 siblings and several of them had many children. One uncle had 16 children. Needless to say, I have a gazillion cousins.

She is currently living in North Carolina (where she was born and raised) as she is a teacher and needs to complete so many credits in that state before she can retire. We won't get to meet face-to-face until her spring break at the end of April.

So I guess I can honestly say that I received the most wonderful Christmas present of my entire life this year. We have been emailing and she calls me "Big Sis". What a blessing!!!

Marie and Bob Helm
Lot #70

From Barb and Soren Walther

Soren and I left The Ranch in June, planning to spend a little time in the Denver area with family before heading to the Black Hills where his two brothers were meeting us to celebrate his 70th birthday. They had come from Denmark where they both still live. We had a wonderful week of playing tour guide. I think the highlight was our visit to the Mustang Rescue Ranch where we went by bus out on the ranch to see the wild mustangs.

Later in the summer we spent some wonderful days with the Ratzlaffs, former lease holders. We even spent time in the storm shelter during one wild storm.

We worked our way to Indiana for the Gypsy Journal rally, the Elk BoF rally and Escapade. We tried to get to Tampa before my 70th birthday but life got in the way and we didn't get here until Oct 4. We spent the first 2 months in a commercial park in Ruskin. Early Dec we moved to the Brandon Elks where we will remain until I am released by my doctor.

My back surgery recovery has been steady but way too slow. I had hoped to get everything ready for Christmas before but that didn't work out. Soren rented a wheel chair for me so we can go to some of the Christmas

programs and possibly get a bit more shopping done. We hope everyone has had a wonderful holiday. We will return home when I am able to travel again.

SKP hugs to all,
Barb and Soren Walther,
Lot 10

Ranch Hands Checking In

Seasons Greetings from Reno!

Typing a quick update today, 12/17, and Mother Nature is doing her best to get us in the Christmas spirit here seeing we're covered in several inches of white stuff and it's still coming down... can't even see the surrounding mountains right now.

Life has been pretty uneventful the past 2 months here in Nevada. Until daylight savings time ended and early darkness arrived, we enjoyed autumn walks after Bill got home from work every day over at Rancho San Rafael Park through their arboretum and gardens, enjoying the beautiful changing colors and crisp fall air.

We've had some lower than normal temperatures, one previous snowfall, higher than normal temps, blah blah blah. Seeing we don't have chains for the coach, we're just hoping to get the snow over and done with before heading out of here on Christmas day

to the Rose Bowl float decorating and HOP event on the other side of the mountains.

We've gone to see a couple of shows at the local casinos, including "Abbacadabra," an energetic ABBA tribute group that brought back lots of memories. On Thanksgiving, we went with some friends in the CG to Harrah's buffet where we not only enjoyed the traditional turkey and trimmings, but pigged out on Dungeness crab and peel and eat shrimp, yum yum. And the biggest treat of all was not having to do all the work and clean-up, hooray.

Bill just got word this week that his contract here has been extended until at least March and probably longer, so looks like we won't be doing Quartzite and The Ranch for the time being. Our next big trip is planned for May when we're booked on a National Geographic/Lindblad Expeditions small ship adventure

to Alaska for a week. We'll fly out of Seattle to Juneau and we're really looking forward to that one.

Otherwise, not much more news from this end. We've taken turns being sick the last few weeks but, like the snow, we're hoping to get all of that out of our systems before the holiday celebrations begin.

Our best wishes for a happy and healthy new year go out to everyone at The Ranch. Safe travels to those of you on the road this year...

Merry Christmas,

Pat Gorsuch, Bill Kukes, and Samantha the Kamper Kitty

106 Windmill Vista

From Orv and Marge Schinke

We sure enjoyed our three weeks at The Ranch over Thanksgiving.

We're headed west right now, spending Christmas at the Christian Fellowship BOF Christmas Rally south of Why AZ.

Then it's on to Yuma for a week and then to Catalina Spa RV & Resort, Desert Hot Springs, CA for about 3 months arriving back at The Ranch in time for the semi-

annual meeting.

A good place to eat when you are going through Gila Bend AZ is the Space Age Restaurant. It is on the left as you are going through town. It has a big parking lot but we usually park in a big empty lot on the right just before you get to the Space Age Motel. The food is good. Service is a little slow, but food is worth the wait.

If you're looking for a good book for a toddler, check out my new children's book *Creation Story Reader*. There's a discount coupon on www.teachingbabiesthebible.com

There's also a preview and information.

Orv & Marge Schinke, Lot 83

Ranch Hands Checking In

From Dave and Sally Stribling

Hello Ranch Hands,

After spending much of the last 6 months at the Ranch or Lubbock, TX, we are planning to spend January and February at Fort Clark Springs in Brackettville, TX. As many of you know, we bought 2 lots in an RV unit on The Fort last winter. We are planning to work on the lots this winter and hopefully be able to get concrete poured

so we can park on it by next winter. If you are headed that way, stop and visit. There is a nice RV park on The Fort. We will be back at The Ranch after attending Cowboy Poetry in Alpine.

Again, we would like to thank all of you that supported us over the summer and early fall. All the cards, emails, phone calls, sharing of yourselves in person or from afar, we appreciated all of

it. You truly are our family and never are far from our thoughts.

Hugs,

Dave and Sally
Lot 86

Where to Eat



Deming, NM

I thought I'd write on where to eat in Deming. Art and I worked there for 5 years and have gone back every year since 2000.

Palma's for Sunday buffet.

El Mirador for wonderful, made fresh daily, green sauce—ask for extra

Si Senor for Mexican, great chicken fried steak # 22 if the menu is still the same.

Amigo's for take out and tamales, good cheese and low prices,

Adobi Deli is one of the best steak houses with great onion soup. Art had the biggest rack of ribs; lunch has very good sandwiches and you can get the onion soup. Plan on sharing a sandwich.

The Patio near Peppers grocery store or in Columbus has good hamburgers and fries.

St Clair has good wine and you

can buy bulk red or white, sweet or dry. Bring your own bottle or buy one from them.

Irma's—We haven't been to Irma's in a couple of years but they had an unusual dinner for two. They served soup to start then baked potato followed by a big metal fish plate that had meat, green onions, peppers and avocado's cooking on it.

Palomas, MX

The Pink Store -If you are there before Valentines Day, ask when the party is at the Pink Store—free food and drink. If you go to the Pink store on a different day, I order 13 or 13a with green sauce and Art gets the chicken mole—both are very good.

Friends of ours who live in Deming say it's still ok to cross the border there.

Hope you stay long enough to try some of the places.

Hugs
Sherry & Art Lumb
Lot 6

Sikeston, MO

We are spending the winter

(December through the end of February) working at Hinton RV Park in Sikeston, MO.

Lambert's Cafe If you are in the Sikeston area stop at Lambert's Cafe for some of their famous "thrown rolls" — I-55 exit 67. Enjoy the pass arounds, (Hot Rolls and Sorghum, Friend Potatoes and Onions, Macaroni & Tomatoes, Black eyed peas, and Fried Okra) and save your dinner for another meal!

Roger & Barb Heaver
Lot 8

Gila Bend, AZ

Space Age Restaurant A good place to eat when you are going through Gila Bend, AZ is the Space Age Restaurant. It is on the left as you are going through town. It has a big parking lot but we usually park in a big empty lot on the right just before you get to the Space Age Motel. The food is good. Service is a little slow, but food is worth the wait.

Orv & Marge Schinke
Lot 83

More Where To Eat

Yarnell, AZ

Ranch House If anyone is visiting the SKP park in Congress Arizona, take a short and scenic ride up the mountain on Hwy 89 to Yarnell. At the top of the hill on the right is the *Ranch House restaurant*.

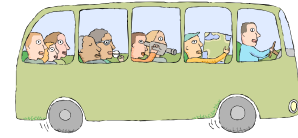
You will know you are there as this is a favorite eating spot for potbellied, gray haired motorcycle riders like me. They have a chili burger that is delicious and gigantic.

Breakfast is served all day and you will need a nap if you order the "Wagon Wheel" . They do not take credit cards but have an ATM machine.

If you are able, continue on 89 to Prescott and beyond as this will take you to lots of cool towns in the area.

Frank Lieberman
Lot #54

What to Do



Paducah, KY

In Paducah, KY don't miss a trip to the *National Quilt Museum*. Exhibits change throughout the year and it's always a treat to visit.

While visiting the quilt museum be sure to visit the *River Murals*. Just a short walk from the museum these paintings look so real you feel as if you could walk into them.

Roger & Barb Heaver
Lot 8

Wyle Strikes Again

When I joined Cliff about 4 years ago, I told him that I had a lot of jewelry because that was one of my loves. So he gave me a whole drawer in the small dresser in the bedroom area to put my treasures.

This morning I wanted to wear the gold locket Cliff had given me. We had driven over some very rough terrain and some very deep "pot holes" and whenever that happens we have a lot of displaced articles. I was having to put my jewelry boxes right side up and moving the bracelets back were they belonged.

When I moved the jewelry bag from the side of the drawer, I discovered one of our partially eaten crackers.

SO WYLE STRIKES AGAIN!

Needra Dulcich
Lot 59





Welcome New Leaseholders

Mike & Lemkje Ellsworth
Lot 19

Jim & Marcia Fairchild
Lot 56

Committee Contacts

Beautification:

Liaison: Lucy Billings
Chair: Charlene Tarvin

Building & Safety

Liaison: Spike Jones
Chair: Dan Newland

Governing Documents

Liaison: Bill Good
Chair: Nettie Haase

Grievance/Dispute

Liaison: Lucy Billings
Chair: Dean Minard

Library/Video

Liaison: Charlene Tarvin
Chair: Linda Raney

Long Range Planning

Liaison: George Keefe

Chair: Carol Fishel

Lot Transfer

Liaison: Lucy Billings
Keeper of the Keys: Debra
Simmonds-Amari

Nominating

Liaison: Charlene Tarvin
Chair: Johnnie Wygant

Palaver

Liaison: Lucy Billings
Chair: Pam McMickin

Ranch House Hands

Liaison: Yvonne Minard
Chair: Patti Coble

Water

Liaison: George Keefe
Chair: Greg Verderoff

Welcome

Liaison: Yvonne Minard
Chair: Roxy Colomb

WiFi

Liaison: Lucy Billings
Chair: Pam McMickin

**Palaver
The SKP Ranch
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