



# THE ORIGINAL RANCH PALAVER

FOUNDED BY  
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SKP#16549

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## President's Post

Dear Members,

As most of you know, I left for Quartzsite, AZ, January 4<sup>th</sup>. It was gorgeous weather here, I was wondering if I was making a mistake to leave here but I had reservations in an RV park in Quartzsite Jan 14<sup>th</sup> to Feb 14<sup>th</sup>. I was meeting a long time friend and her boyfriend who came down from Spokane, Washington. We settled in our RV Park and were ready to explore Quartzsite. The weather over there was great, warm days, a lot of sunshine, and cool nights. This was great but I had Artesia weather on the Weather Bug, and drats it was just as nice over here at the Ranch.

On Sunday, walked into a 26 ft Class C and bought it. Salesman fainted! Traded the pickup/camper for it. And the weather was great! Sun is shining, the sky is blue, dusty, but warm during the days. According to the Weather Bug, weather was good here too.

THEN our temperature dropped to 31° and the locals and Canadians were complaining about how cold it was! I looked at the Weather Bug, and The Ranch was frozen. I couldn't believe that night it was 3° below zero, and then it kept getting colder. I have been here at the Ranch when it was 8° but never when the temperature stayed below freezing for days. This is our normal February weather, I kept telling myself, it is supposed to be cold. But to stay that cold that long, no it isn't supposed to be this way at the Ranch even in February.

As I am enjoying the warm weather, I am getting reports from the Ranch. Not only from the managers but Charlene is calling me with a daily report, I am getting emails about friends' problems in their rigs, and what is going on here. Daily the reports of frozen, broken pipes, pumps freezing up and quitting, water being rationed are coming to me. As the reports keep coming about the problems at home, I am thinking I should be there, but then there is nothing I could have done, so I stayed but headed home as soon as my month was up there at Quartzsite.

As a member and the President of The Board, I can not say enough about the heroic measures that the members of this Ranch performed during these trying times. They were fanny deep digging holes to replace broken pipes, cold water everywhere. Not only was there damage to the Ranch property but damages to the private rigs of the members too. These members were HEROES! I tried to thank one man but he told me "The Ranch is a co-op and I was helping as member of the co-op. I do not want any thanks for it."

So I am saying it here in my letter:

**THANK YOU EVERYONE WHO WORKED SO HARD TO KEEP THE RANCH RUNNING. NOT ONLY THE MANAGER, THE MEN, BUT ALSO LYNELL WHO MANNED THE OFFICE THAT WEEKEND.**

Sincerely,  
**LUCILE BILLINGS**  
**PRESIDENT**

## Holidays



**HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY**



## It Was Really, Really Cold!!

### Ode to the Water Warriors

by Shirley Partch

Listen, dear SKP's, and you shall hear

How the Ranch froze up one mournful year.

Two thousand eleven, it was not so nice

The day all water turned to ice.

Snow on the ground and the wind did blow,

Temperature dropping, how low would it go.

No water in laundry or Ranch House big,

Water tanks frozen in many a rig.

No water, no water, the cry we could hear,

No water, no problem, we'll have to drink beer.

The pond froze over, all SKP's were waiting,

But Jim said "There will be no ice skating."

Then throughout the Park, there arose a great thunder,

Everyone sprang to their windows in wonder.

And suddenly to our eyes did appear

The water warriors in battle gear.

They opened the pump house, put out the news,

Come and get water in any container you choose.

SKP's got their water and home they did go,

Next morning, they heard it was 10 below.

But the war was not over, it had just begun

As the Warriors rallied to get the job done.

With shovels in their hands and fire in their eyes,

They attacked the leaks where the puddles did rise.

They dug and they capped, kept on the jump,

Spent all of that one day fixing the pump.

Brave Lynell in the office took the calls till the dark

And Mighty Jim on the cart careened through the park.

The battle went down Lago Vista and over to Windmill

It did not stop till water all pipes did fill.

The cold went away, the weather has turned warm

But Water Warriors still dig, each leak to disarm.

In days to come, when SKP's get together

To tell tall tales and talk of the weather,

Be sure to tell of the Water Warriors bold

And of their brave battle against the cold.

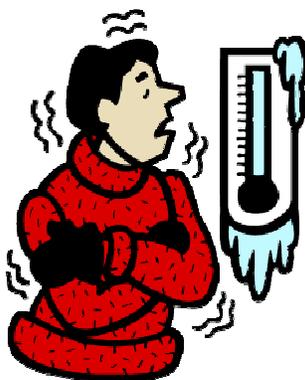
## The Freeze of January/February, 2011 — Water, Water Everywhere

Lynell kept a log of the water system incidents caused by the extreme cold at the beginning of February. This is a summary, but the complete log is available for anyone who is interested.

Beginning on Friday, February 4 the problems began. During the next two weeks there were problems on 21 lots and many of them required multiple visits. There were also major problems which affected the whole water system and required major efforts in bitter cold to get them under control.

Here are a few of the major problems:

**Club House** - There was a major fracture at the



back of the Club House where the water enters the building. Eventually the water to that part of the park was shut off. Repairs required many workers and the breakup of the surrounding concrete. After the repair was completed the exposed pipe was insulated so as to prevent further incident.

**Pump in RO Room** – When the routine water checking was done by the water committee, it was discovered that an enormous amount of water had been pumped due to the multiple leaks. Both holding tanks for the RO water were virtually empty and the pump itself required major repairs. The park water was immediately turned off and members of the

## The Freeze of January/February, 2011 (continued)

Water Committee spent the day rebuilding the pump. Late in the day water was turned on briefly to make sure all repairs were working. Then it was shut down and the decision was made to turn on the park water only between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. This would limit water loss at any as yet undiscovered leaks.

**Wood-working shop** - It was discovered that there was water running out of the shop building. The "dog wash machine" had fittings fractured. Later it was found that the pipes in the wall had also fractured. This was temporarily fixed. Further repairs are required.

**Lot 113** was found to have a puddle at the base of the pedestal and the water was shut off. Ultimately it was found that the valve underground was leaking and much digging ensued. This actually was a fairly major leak and repair. It was insulated and covered as we experienced the next Arctic Front and more freezing of the park water. The hole was eventually filled in.

**Lot 96** became a lake. The plumbing inside the water shed ruptured. Again, this required extensive digging and repair which required shutting down the water in part of the park.

**Lot 89** had a very large underground leak. This was repaired later in the week after the ground had dried out some.

### From the Office:

Thank you to all of the leaseholders and visitors who pitched in to help locate and repair the many breaks we experienced as our water system began to thaw! On the first full day of thawing, there were a minimum of 18 folks digging with shovels and in some cases, hands. Everyone in the park had problems at their own rigs or sites, yet all of these people volunteered to work for the good of the whole.

## From the Welcome Committee

### SOMETHING NEW

For the past few years a member of the Welcome Committee has spent one week (while they were at The Ranch) to take the time to personally make a call on whatever visitors may have arrived at The Ranch on that day. The Ranch Hand has welcomed the visitor, invited them to join us at Happy Hour, and to join in on all of the activities available. They have also answered any specific questions the visitor may have. This has been in addition to what our very capable office staff has provided.

This year a new item has been added. At the suggestion of one member and with the help of several of the members about 200 cloth envelopes were made up in various materials, all with yellow and red and chili peppers on one side and a solid color (red or yellow) on the other side

printed with the Ranch logo. The envelope was then filled with information about The Ranch; maps of Artesia, Carlsbad, and Roswell; a short copy of our rules and regulations; a printed sheet noting the nearby restaurants and stores and whatever additional information about the area attractions that would fit in the envelope.

It seems that the visits have encouraged most visitors to become part of The Ranch Family while they have been here. Most have commented on the cloth envelopes and noted that they make great souvenirs and/or map bags. It has been an effort on the part of the members of the committee, although for the most part an enjoyable one, and I personally want to thank each and every one of the committee for the work they

have done.

On April 2, 2011 at 1:00 PM there will be an orientation meeting hosted by the Welcome Committee for all new leaseholders who have not already attended an orientation. That date was picked as it is just two days before our semi-annual meeting and new leaseholders will be able to not only attend but to bring their adoptive parents and to ask any questions they may have about The Ranch and/or the business meeting. So if you will be at The Ranch and are a member of the Welcome Committee, a new leaseholder or the adoptive parent of a new leaseholder please set aside that date and plan to join us for coffee, cookies, and information as well as an enjoyable afternoon.

Roxy Colomb  
Welcome Committee

## Thoughts from Needra

### DO YOU WANT MORE MONEY?

In late 1985 or 1986 Cliff read a notice in the paper about President Regan's Social Security overhaul, stopping the double and triple dipping. After this, you could only have one pension from Social Security. The bill said, "If you were drawing a government pension and your spouse died, you couldn't draw on your spouse's social security."

In 2006 when Margaret (Cliff's wife) passed away, he contacted Social Security to find out if he could draw on Margaret's Social Security. They told him "No, because he was already on a government pension."

And in 2010 while researching Needra's great-grandson's Social Security benefits, because his

father is disabled, Cliff came across an item that stated "you might be eligible for survivor's benefits." On the Social Security site was a form to fill out that would give a preliminary findings of eligibility.

To apply we had to go to the Social Security office with any or all marriage, divorce or death certificates. The agent then started the eligibility process.

Since our first marriages and divorces were both done in California, we went to CA in the summer. I called the Santa Cruz County Vital Statics to find out about hours and cost to get a copy of my divorce final decree. Each of us had to have a copy of the marriage certificate and divorce decree and, of course, money. We were told that any

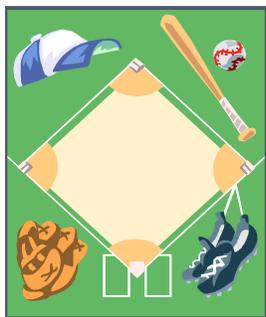
Social Security office in any state could finish the process and I would be notified how much more, if any, I would get and when. If I would get some retroactive benefits I would get this starting 6 months from the date of filling.

After the end of December, I received a letter telling me that I would get an increase of my Social Security based on all the information and forms I filled out.

Remember a government pension for the purpose of the original law was City, County, Teacher, State or Federal government Pension. If you or anyone you know is or has been affected by the 1985 law, a new application should be filled. Hope you are as successful as I have been.

## For It's One, Two, Three Strikes You're Out At the Old Ball Game

*Reported by Gene Sharp*



On Saturday, Jan. 8, we had a rousing good time at an old fashioned hot dog and apple pie lunch before getting the ball game of the year underway at The Original Ranch. First Olaf and Rosemary Thingvall put on their food-cart hats, steamed up a batch of hot dogs, chili and the trimmings and then served apple pie and ice cream.

Next, Olaf put on his umpire hat and read the rules. The ball field had been laid out with two opposing lines of chairs (where the players sat) and masking tape put down to designate the playing field. The team captains were chosen and the teams chose their names -- The Bulldogs and The Cavemen. Norm Partch was captain for the Bulldogs and Richard Wygant led the Cavemen. We were very official with 10 members per team. When a player came up to "bat" he was given three bean bags and lots of encouragement to throw the bags into the cutouts on a board indicating "home-run, 1st or 2nd or 3rd base, or out". The players warmed up

those arms and legs with deliberate shakes and let loose with a swift toss.

Doris Gage was in the grandstand cheering the fans on. Mary Ann Obst was quick with a robust rah-rah for the Cavemen; then Marilyn Railey led her team, the Bulldogs, in a rousing cheer.

The highlight of the ball game came when Dean Minard stood up, turned his baseball cap bill over his right ear, put on a determined face, walked up to home plate and threw a home run. The crowd went wild. The game ended 9 to 5 in favor of the Bulldogs.

A big thank you to the Thingvalls and all their helpers who "pitched" in for this great activity.

## Ranch Hands Checking In

### From Craig & Gale Anderson

Hi All, We have been down in the Valley in Texas at Bit-O-Heaven for almost three months. As a matter of fact we will be leaving here in one week. When we leave here we will be going up north to New Braunfels to look for a place to call home.

We did look around the area when we were there last November, we were looking for houses with a realtor in Wimberley. We didn't find anything then, but, when we came down here we checked out the Clayton Homes and I found a floor plan and really liked it.

These are factory built homes, built up in Waco Texas. They are less expensive than site built homes. There are no weather delays, theft to worry about, and everything is right there in the factory to build your home. It also takes less time to build than site built homes. So we are going to see if we can find a lot in the hill country to put it on. The downside is that we will be trading in or selling our motorhome to do this ☺ Hopefully we can get something smaller after we get settled in. I don't think Craig would be happy if he couldn't travel anymore.

Now onto what we have been doing here in Donna. As you all

know it has been one very cold and unseasonably snowy winter. Yes, even here in south Texas it has been cold. Just in the last week or so it has warmed up enough to get in the pool and hang out outside. It was weird, I was walking around with Samson all bundled up and we hardly ever saw anyone, now everyone is sitting outside and riding bikes and walking all over. It is so nice to see people again.

We also had our annual Super Bowl Party. We had nearly 80 or so people attending. There were three TV's going and so much food we could have fed an Army. A good time was had by all.

Craig and I also did the Golden Olympic again this year. Both of us entered it for Cribbage. Craig and I both try to beat each others scores, and I am happy to report I beat him again this year. I finished in 4th place, and Craig finished somewhere in the teens. I tell him I beat him because he is such a good teacher, hee-hee.

I also entered Walk and Talk. You walk Old McAllen and go to places, mostly stores, with a card and get it initialed. It is really fun, you get to see old McAllen and shop if you want. At

the end everyone meets in the old theater Cine de Rey and prizes are given away. Items that are sold in Old McAllen and donated from the stores.

At the end a grand prize is given away. This year it was a week end get away to the Renaissance Hotel for two with a court yard view and breakfast. A \$300.00 value. And I won it!! Could not believe it. I turned to my friend Joan and told her I would probably win it 'cause I did not have time to go. And sure enough, I win it. I'm sure who ever gets it from me will enjoy the stay there.

Today, we are hosting a MRE party. That is meals ready to eat. Everyone has to cook their own meal, and see what our servicemen and women are eating. This should be a fun day! At least we have some nice weather again to enjoy the outside, although today is a bit breezy! But that's Texas for you.

So everyone enjoy the good weather coming our way, travel safe and hope to meet somewhere down the road.

Hugs,  
Craig, Gale and Samson too  
Lot 78

## The Todds

Hi fellow ranch hands,

Just to let you know Dan & I (Judy) are still traveling in the south, Florida to be exact. We lived here for many years before full timing and are now playing tourist. We have been able to enjoy WARM weather.

After our Florida stint we will be hanging at Strom Thurmond Lake Core of Engineers on the S. Carolina and Georgia border, minutes from Augusta, GA., where we will be volunteering for the summer. We have family in GA. & NC.

We plan to return to Amazon.com in Campbellsville, KY again this holiday season.

Then hopefully see you all in 2012.

BIG HUGS,

Dan & Judy Todd—Lot 66

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## Ranch Hands Checking In

### The Walthers

We finally got home 2/6. What a relief. It was a very long trip with lots of stopping. We visited some Danish friends at The Villages in Florida for our first rest!

The next stop was Tallahassee where we stayed at the Elks Lodge. In their meeting room, they have the original furniture from Lodge # 1 in New York. It is beautiful.

Next was The Plantation where we drove down to the gulf and watched the cleanup process. Getting the tar balls out of the sand was quite a process. Soren said it was the biggest waste of money he ever say.

The next stop was Slidel, LA where we made use of another lodge. From that place we were able to drive to New Orleans where we spent the day

experiencing the French Quarter. We heard lots of great music and enjoyed some very good food.

Houston was the next stop, again using Elks. We spent a day at the Johnson Space Center. Much of what we were able to see was obsolete but interesting anyway.

Bracketville was the next stop where we stayed on Spike and Kacey's guest pad. Along with the Striblings, we enjoyed several good restaurants and helped Kacey celebrate her birthday.

Our planned 2 day visit became 5 as we waited for a break in the weather before the last leg. An overnight stay in Ft Stockton and home at last!

Other than some really rough roads outside of Houston, I (Barb) made the trip in pretty

good shape. Other than a little discomfort from the bumps near Houston I have been pain free since my surgery.

Many have asked about my Grandson, John, so here is an update. We spent 3 1/2 months in the Tampa area and much of that time was spent with him and my daughter. John has some vision now. This is a huge improvement. We had been told not to expect any return because his optic nerves had been destroyed from the strokes. He doesn't always understand what he is seeing. He is also using his left hand to do simple things like eating popcorn. He is able to stand in the "standing frame " for an hour. He does not have much control over his core muscles.

Barb & Soren  
Lot 10

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### The Striblings

The Striblings have been in Bracketville, TX for the past 2 months. We were cold many days but nothing like those at the Ranch! Dave was able to get steps made and weeds pulled on our lots on Ft. Clark on some of the nice days. Sally was able to get some quilting finished. After all the medical issues of the

previous 6 months we really enjoyed freedom from medical appointments and relaxation. This weekend we will spend in Alpine, TX at Cowboy Poetry. After the fun of the weekend we will return to The Ranch for a week or so and then return to Lubbock, again. Hope to spend most of the spring at the Ranch.

Hugs,  
Dave and Sally  
Lot 86

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### Lynn and Ed Griffin

Hi everyone, We have been in beautiful, snowy Wisconsin. 2010 was an unhealthy year for us, glad it's over. Many thanks for your concerns. It was so nice hearing from you and really appreciated.

Ed is doing great, just like the Energizer Bunny. I'm doing good except I am on oxygen 24/7. My

breathing has improved, so time will tell.

We plan to continue traveling come summer. We'll catch up with you when we can.

Happy Trails,  
Lynn & Ed Griffin,  
Lot 69

## News from the Raileys

We were fortunate to pick the frigid week at the Ranch to go to Arizona. Marilyn's sister and brother-in-law have purchased a park model in a park in Mesa, AZ and will be wintering there each year. We decided that it was easier to go to AZ than to IL to see them, thus the trip.

It was colder there than usual, and we did have some power outages, but fared well considering

what would have been at the Ranch. A surprise encounter was running into Bill and Bev Heeter in a restaurant. They said to tell everyone hello and that they will be visiting the Ranch in March.

We also drove to White Tank Regional Park and saw Sheila Miller. Vernon was visiting the doctor, so missed seeing him. The park is beautiful.

Marilyn has had cataracts removed from both eyes, and is actually seeing without glasses. However, she will have glasses again to correct astigmatism. No long travels this winter due to this.

Bob and Marilyn  
Lot 30

## Traveling and Eating

### More from Art and Sherry

Art & I found another place to eat in Deming. It's called **Dry Gulch BarBQ**.

They serve an All u can eat, Sunday buffet, for 9.99. They have smoked brisket, pulled pork, sausage, ham and chicken and sides. Everything was very good.

Deming is also getting a new Chinese buffet that will serve sushi. I hope it will open before we head back to the Ranch.

We have eaten out almost every day and still need to go to **Irma's** for the special dinner for 2.

Silver City still has the best Chile Relleno's we've ever had. The place is in Old Town called, **Nancy's Silver City Cafe**. She pan fries the chili's instead of deep frying.

Hugs

Art & Sherry  
Lot 6



### Riding and Eating with Frank

Continuing on my quest for the perfect hamburger, my last rave was the **Ranch House** in Yarnell just up the hill from North Ranch on highway 89.

On my last motorcycle adventure with my new found biker trash friend and guitar teacher we traveled further on highway 89 to Prescott Az.

While taking a much needed rest at the historic county courthouse, I asked the security guard where do the locals eat in Prescott? The very kind and knowledgeable guard directed us to the **Burger Bag** in the Albertsons shopping center.

We pulled up to the restaurant and the place was packed. I ordered as usual my favorite, a half pound burger with fries smothered with the finest chili I have ever eaten.

An all time first occurred, I could not finish the feast.

The drive to Prescott on highway

89 is a scenic and twisty ride and the town is full of history. Of course my fondest memory of my visit will be the burger that I could not finish.

Frank Lieberman  
Lot #54



## Traveling and Eating

### On the California Coast with Cliff and Needra

As most of you know from Needra's postings we have spent most of the winter in the west. A good deal of the time in January was spent on the coast of California where the weather was some of the best I have seen in many years. Temperatures generally around 75 degrees.

One of our goals was to visit as many of the old favorite eating places around Morro Bay, Pismo Beach and the general area as possible.

For anyone that is planning on spending time in that area here are some recommendations that you should enjoy. The two best

Steak houses in the area are **JOCKOS** which is located in Nipomo, CA. just south of Arroyo Grande and the **Far West Hotel and Tavern** that for many years has been located in Guadalupe just west of Santa Maria. The **Far West** is moving to the Orcutt area south of Santa Maria since it is not cost effective to bring the old hotel up to the new earthquake standards.

For seafood we tried a new one in Pismo Beach called **THE STEAMERS**. Very good food for a reasonable price. The other recommendation in Pismo Beach is **SPLASH** which is noted for its Clam Chowder. In Morro Bay an old favorite has reopened. It is the **GALLEY** and is right on the

waterfront. The food is still excellent and has been for over 40 years that I know. **The Great American Fish Company** in Morro Bay is adequate but not up to the standard of the **GALLEY**.

We then headed north to the Santa Cruz area and found a very nice place called **MIRAMAR** on the Santa Cruz pier. We were not disappointed by either the food or the price.

There are many other fine places along the coast but these are those that I have known for many years and which are still excellent.

Happy Trails,  
Cliff & Needra  
Lot 59

## Where to Stay, Eat and Tour

### Visit the Millers

We are hosting at **White Tank Mountain Maricopa County Regional Park** west of Phoenix.

The park is easily accessed from I-10 via Loop 303 north. Take the loop 5 miles north to Olive, turn west and follow Olive 8 miles to it's terminus at the Park entrance. Have had several visitors from the Ranch and welcome anyone passing through. Camping is \$17 per night which includes day use fee but w/o HUs or dump station. CG does have showers and restrooms. Day use fee of \$6 is waived for visitors of hosts. Park offers a truly impressive

stand of saguaros, a view of the west valley and Phoenix skyline and quiet solitude—a great base for exploring Phoenix and environs.

A "must see museum" which opened in April is the **Musical Instrument Museum (MIM)**, located at 4525 E Mayo Blvd, Scottsdale, AZ. The Museum offers frequent evening performances by well known musicians as well as displays of musical instruments from all over the world and features head phone activated videos for each exhibit. For information about current activities, exhibits and

reservations or advance ticket purchase call 480-478-6000. Plan to go early and stay late as the exhibits are extensive and cover a lot of floor space. Foodies will not want to miss the **MIM Bistro/Cafe** featuring fresh local ingredients used to best advantage in ethnic as well as American fare.

Vern & Sheila Miller  
Lot 109





## Birthdays and Anniversaries



### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1 – Gary Roessler  
 2 – Marcia Fairchild  
 5 – Debra Simmons/Amari  
 9 – Paula Carey  
 12 – Needra Dulcich  
 15 – Karen Andrew  
 18 – Orville Schinke  
 21 – Lucy Billings  
 22 – Charles Russell  
 23 – Jim Fairchild  
 25 – Karl Komatz  
 25 – Jack Koontz  
 26 – Betty Lugar  
 30 – Bill Good  
 30 – Gale Anderson  
 31 – Bob Stuvell

### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

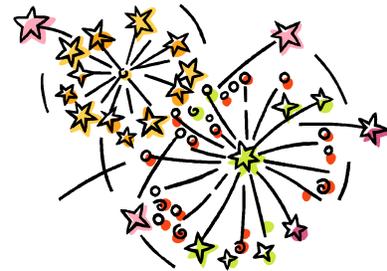
1 – Larry Neitz  
 2 – John Tenison  
 2 – Phyllis Frey  
 2 – Sheila Miller  
 4 – Linda Ranes  
 5 – Melody Baker  
 7 – Trudie Tenison  
 8 – Jan Browns  
 9 – Charlie Scarborough  
 11 – Bob Abbott  
 14 – Yvonne Minard  
 15 – Cliff Dulcich  
 19 – Gil Carey  
 20 – Lola Wood  
 27 – Mary Ann Obst  
 28 – Bonnie Keefe  
 29 – Joyce Smith

### MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

10 – Craig & Gale Anderson  
 18 – Loyce & Laney Finch  
 29 – Wayne & Trish Teegarden

### APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

4 – Jim & Mary Gallivan  
 9 – Phil & Gene Sharp  
 30 – Jim & Beverly Hughes



## 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 Ranes

### 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 & Editor: 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

# Winter



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**Palaver  
The SKP Ranch  
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