



# THE ORIGINAL RANCH PALAVER

FOUNDED BY  
C.T.HANCOX  
SKP#16549  
1998

VOLUME XIX NUMBER 2 THE ORIGINAL RANCH LAKEWOOD, NM March/April 2012

Phone: (575)457-2303

FAX: (575)-457-2100

Web: www.skpranch.com Office: skpranch@pvtnetworks.net Yahoo Group: ranch\_ramblings@yahoogroups.com

## Board of Directors

President – George Keefe  
Vice-President – Chuck Queen  
Secretary – Barbara Walther  
Treasurer – Richard Wygant  
Linda Ranes  
Al Lugar  
Marion Braun  
Greg Obst  
Wally Mauck

## President's Post

February 26, 2012

Hi Ranch Hands. First I want to wish myself a Happy Birthday. Normally I am not present here at The Ranch in February so this is new, to celebrate a birthday here. There is much work to be done this year and this board is trying to tackle everything at once and working hard for your Ranch, thank you board members.

I want to thank a new Ranch member Bob Collins who has taken the lead in assembling and installing the new Lot water bibs, thank you Bob. Lot water bibs job (insulating and heating bibs) more than twenty lots are complete. This is standard faucet and pipe incased in four inch plastic pipe with heat tape and foam insulation inside the four inch plastic pipe and cap. Normal job cost is \$75.00 one third of the cost is the existing or original ranch supplied pipe and fittings (ranch maintenance cost). The remaining cost is four inch plastic pipe, heat tape and insulation and cap. Cost to the lot owner is \$50.00. Thank you to the volunteer "diggers" opening the hole for the pipe and valve installation. Operating the heat tape, will vary, electric use of three watts to twenty four watts at maximum heat output. Contact the Ranch office manager for heated and insulated water bib installation on your lot. A large number (percentage) of the replaced hydrants had some type of underground water leak there. Speaking of water leaks

there was a large leak repaired on Windmill Vista that was driving up our water use in December. Over all since that repair the park water use is under control. This is also reflected in the water level in the waste water pond, the level being at a manageable level now, and water bubblers are installed and operating.

Laundry Room Cracked Floor—a soils engineer advised that we not move the washing machines into the shop area as the ground is not stable. The board will present a cost estimate to have a 12' X 30' Dalco Building for a structure for laundry facilities, and cost estimate for placing and fitting out the building.

Laundry operating costs (water, electric, propane and machine maintenance) are rising and we are moving to increase income to cover these costs. The price per load will increase twenty-five or fifty cents.

George Keefe  
BOD President



## From the Editor

Spring officially arrives in March and Winter will be officially over—YEAH! I'm hoping for warm temperatures and also hoping that the notorious Spring winds will be gentle. I know—not much chance of that.

In this issue Gene Sharp contributed a humorous Palaver article from March, 1998 describing a Valentine Dinner given by the men to the women.

We also have another “I wish you had known” tale of a former leaseholder from Marilyn Railey.

Roxy continues her guide to Mexican Food Terms—which I have already found useful!

Thanks to all the Ranch Hands who have sent in updates on their lives and travels.

I think it would also be interesting to hear from our former leaseholders. They may no longer be

members of The Ranch, but they are still part of our family.

Finally, I thought of a new topic—*Things I Learned on the Road*. I've started with my own experience, but it will only continue if others share theirs.

You can send your articles and suggestions to my Yahoo email address (available from Ranch Ramblings) or to [pam.mcmickin@gmail.com](mailto:pam.mcmickin@gmail.com)

*Pam McMickin*  
Editor

## Things I Learned on the Road

There are so many things that I probably would not have known about if George and I had not become full-time RVers. I was reminded of one of these when we were in Quartzsite in January.



A number of years ago on our second visit to Quartzsite I accidentally discovered the “Bouse Fisherman Intaglio” while exploring on Plomosa Road—I was enchanted.

Intaglios are also known as a geoglyphs (earth figures) and were created by ancient man, in this case by removing pebbles from the black, rocky

surface to reveal the lighter earth below. Intaglios are quite large and best seen from the air.

One of the interpretations by local Native Americans of the Bouse Fisherman Intaglio is that this depicts the mythical creation of the Colorado River by one of their gods.

It turns out that there are many intaglios in the Colorado River area.

The “Blythe Intaglios” were discovered in the early 1930's by a pilot. These are huge figures etched into the desert pavement on terraces above the Colorado River.

Geoglyphs are found all over the world; the most famous being the Nazca Lines in Peru.

If you get to the Blythe / Quartzsite area, take the time to visit these unusual artifacts.

Pam McMickin  
Lot #65



## From Out of the Past

Gene Sharp provides us with articles from past Palavers—Thank-you Gene.

# *The ORIGINAL RANCH*

# PALAVER

Volume 1, Number 3

The Escapees Ranch, Lakewood, NM

March, 1998

## Valentine Dinner Great Success

### *Ladies Loved Lovin'*

By Ginny Magee



The biggest event in February was the Valentine Party. I know Trail Boss Cass Davis was worried about what to do with the frozen turkeys in the freezer. Then someone came up with the great idea (*a woman's view*) of the men giving the ladies of the Ranch a Valentine Party, complete with pretty invitations.

Bob Lider and Joe Andrews, the organizational team, had volunteers doing the set-up, preparing the meat, carving, decorating, serving and cleaning up. Wolfe Luft gets credit for digging a pit three feet deep, three feet wide and six feet long. "Size of a grave," Bob Lider cracked. This was lined with stone and filled with mesquite that was gathered from the arroyo. It burned all night with Lider getting up at 4 a.m. to inspect it.

The four turkeys and almost 40 pounds of roast beef were seasoned, wrapped in sheeting, burlap, and chicken wire. The coals were dug out and the meat was put in and covered with dirt. I made two or three trips to the southwest corner of The Ranch to see the operation and take pictures.

*My interest was piqued because it took me back to the time we had a bake in our backyard. There were plenty of boulders on the ground, along with oak for an all-night fire. Floyd had harvested moist seaweed. Lobster, corn, and clams were placed on the steaming weed and covered with a huge tarp. The potatoes were lain within checking distance – when ready, all was done!*

Bob Oetjens had the smoky job of holding the wire lines attached to the seven pieces of meat, while the dirt and coals, along with sixty pounds of charcoal, were put back into the pit and covered up with metal.

Meanwhile, the clubhouse (which was off limits to the ladies) was a beehive of activity. The men decorated, prepared peas and salad, and scalloped potatoes. The girls found out later that Lois Ingram was the only woman involved in the project.

By 6pm the ladies had gathered on the Ranch house porch, and were peering in at the inviting sight. Soon the men appeared, and escorted each lady to her place. There she found three beautiful rosebuds created by Lois

## Paying It Forward — Beverley Hughes

I haven't been to the ranch this year because I've been in Denver having skin cancer treatments while John worked for Amazon in Kansas. When he was done in Kansas and ready to head to the ranch, I was still undergoing different treatments. I had a large

basal cell removed from under my right eye in October and had a skin graft. That's just now healed to the point that I could have photodynamic therapy at the University of Colorado Medical Center to hopefully destroy any dormant skin cancer cells and keratoses. This was just done yesterday and I've started the long process of dealing with burned skin, peeling, redness and pain.

The plans are for John and I to hit the road together in April, baring any further treatments!

Since 1997 I've had over 100 basal cell carcinomas and dozens of major surgeries including my right upper lip removed and rebuilt, my nose "flapped" several times, my left eyelid removed and rebuilt, two skin grafts on my right lower lid, and thanks to several surgeries, my chin has a cleft that I wasn't born with!! I have been fortunate to have insurance and great doctors - but there are many who are not as fortunate. And even with the best surgeons, my face still resembles a patchwork quilt! I have met a lot of people that have not had insurance to cover either their skin cancer surgery or their reconstructive surgery. And I found out that a lot of insurance companies consider reconstructive surgery to be "elective surgery" and feel that simply being stitched up after the skin cancer removal is enough.



You can forget about major scar reduction surgery. It's not considered medically necessary.

A lot of people don't realize how pervasive skin cancer is - Over a million people are diagnosed with some form of skin cancer every year!!

So over Christmas, my son Nathan and I came up with the idea of starting a nonprofit organization to help skin cancer victims that can't afford the removal surgery, the reconstruction or the scar reduction surgeries. The charity is called S.C.A.R.S. - Skin Cancer Assistance for Reconstructive Surgery. The website is: <http://www.skincancer-scars.com>

S.C.A.R.S. was launched in January and things are going along quite well! The enthusiasm and support has been amazing!

There are a lot of nonprofits trying to find a cure for skin cancer - but S.C.A.R.S. addresses an urgent need for skin cancer victims: Putting their faces back together and making them whole again.

I wanted to share this with the folks at the ranch so they in turn can share it with others they may meet who might need the assistance that the non profit will be offering. And we need volunteers all over the country!!

As John and I travel, I'll be doing interviews on talk shows and working to build a network of participating reconstructive surgeons across the country, while Nathan continues to build the nonprofit base in Denver.

Unless you have experienced the pain of needles in your face, the biopsies, the surgeries, the stitches, the

skin grafts, the hiding because people rudely stare at you when you go out in public, you cannot understand how devastating skin cancer can be. Especially to a woman, in this society, where we are judged primarily on our appearance. It's not always just a small lesion that can be covered by a flap or a skin graft. There are missing noses, chins, lips, eyelids, etc.

There are many devastating and deadly cancers. But like other cancers - melanoma can also be deadly. And other skin cancers - basal and squamous - wreak havoc on your life. Unlike other cancers that can be hidden, when you have a large skin cancer on your face, it gives a whole new meaning to the words "exposed" and "vulnerable". You can't hide.

The person you see in the mirror isn't you. And will probably never be the same again.

I'm proud of my son for going forward with this cause to help skin cancer victims. I hope you'll take the time to check out the website and SPREAD THE WORD!!

Beverley & John  
Lot #49  
720-237-2943  
[rckymtnbev03@aol.com](mailto:rckymtnbev03@aol.com)

## Guide to Mexican Food Terms

### Regional Specialties

Do you know what you are ordering? Well for this year you will be able to read about a few of them in alphabetical order in each issue of the Palaver.

Here are eight more words for you to learn for Mexican Dining

### MEXICAN GLOSSARY

#### CH

CHELADA – Mexican beer served in a glass on ice with a wedge of lemon and a salted rim. Gets very close to a Margarita

CHILAQUILES – Crunchy tortilla strips fried with eggs, chicken or cheese, and covered in red or

green sauce. Served for breakfast.

If you like it not spicy or spicy but can't be sure whether that is the red or green- just ask for the least or most spicy.

CHILE RELLENO – roasted, stuffed and fried poblano pepper. Poblano peppers are not spicy

CHIPOTLE – is smoke dried ripe jalapeno pepper.

#### E

EMPANADAS – Masa dough stuffed with a filling, folded over into a crescent shape and fried. Fillings vary from sweet to savory. Ask before ordering.

ESCABECHE – pickled vegetables

#### F

FLAUTAS – Corn tortilla rolled up with meat and fried.

FRIJOLE CHARROS – Pinto bean soup with bits of bacon or pork, spices and vegetables.

Hope you can pronounce all of these words but if you don't get them exact most waitresses can understand gringos even when we butcher their language.

Roxy Columb  
Lot #1

## Recipes

### Chicken & Green Chili Soup

Art had this soup at the Patio in Deming, very tasty and easy to make:

1 30oz can green chili enchilada sauce—Las Palmas or Hatch, Mild

1 small can of diced green chiles

1 10oz can of chicken

Some cream or half and half.

Mix everything together except the cream and heat.

Once heated mix in cream. You might not need cream but sure tastes better with it.

Hugs,  
Sherry Lumb  
Lot #6

## Eating Recommendations

We hadn't been to Irma's Mexican Restaurant in Deming for a couple of years but we ate there again in January.

When we got back to The Ranch I told everyone at social hour about this dinner we had at Irma's—I think it was called Parillada (sp?).

By the time I thought of taking a picture we had eaten the whole thing. So I asked the ladies at next table if I could take a picture

of theirs—that's why there are people no one knows sitting in this picture.

Sure was yummy.

Hugs,  
Sherry Lumb  
Lot #6



Dinner at Irmas  
Photo by Sherry

## I Wish You Had Known

*I thought that many of the newer members at the Ranch might like to know about some of the former members, especially the original or early members. We had some very interesting people who lived here. Marilyn Railey*

I WISH YOU HAD KNOWN -

### Flo Schmalzl

Flo and Paul Schmalzl were original members, they had Lot # 77 and Lot # 102 from 1983-2000. For many years Flo would organize a group of skits for Raunchy Night. These skits were dreamed up by either Flo or the person/s involved. It didn't matter if someone thought they couldn't perform, Flo usually talked them into it. Costumes consisted of the outfits in the storage room, some appropriate, some not. "Just use your imagination" was Flo's motto.

She also cooked great dinners, but her most creative culinary feats were MUSGO dinners. She could take leftovers from a dinner and combine them into another great meal. She said that the leftover food 'must go'.

## Ranch Hands Checking In

### Hello from the Begins

As most of you know Carmen and I acquired a new to us traveling rig, a 1993 Foretravel, in August. We spent the rest of the summer and fall with Dr. appointments and getting the coach ready to hit the road. There were a few bumps along the way, but by November the rig was ready to go. We wanted to sell the GMC before we left so we placed the rig in storage while we "marketed" the GMC on the internet and on highway 285. Did not sell the truck until late January so we spent the worst part of winter at The Ranch. All the internet marketing did not do as well as parking the truck with a "For Sale" sign on the windshield and parking it on Hwy 285. A gentleman from Carlsbad purchased the truck, and voila we were ready to leave The Ranch for a few months.

Well things did not work out quite as planned. When I took the rig out of storage I discovered that I hadn't cycled the water pump and



naturally the freezing weather cracked the housing. No big deal, ordered a new pump, installed it, filled the fresh water tank, powered up the water system, and checked for leaks. Everything checked out OK. I left the system powered up to make sure the RO system and the ice maker were OK. Went into the fifth wheel and returned three hours later to find that the coach was flooded. Seems the water level control module for the toilet picked that time to fail. The result was that the toilet pumped all the water from the fresh water tank and made a swimming pool in our rig. To say that I was upset is an understatement. After four days I finally got the rugs dried out, but I was not able to save the laminate flooring on the kitchen area. Once I received

and installed a new module everything checked out fine.

We finally got to leave The Ranch in early February and made it all the way to Columbus NM. We are taking care of dental issues before we head to Big Bend National Park. After that we have no idea where we will be going. We have a wedding to attend in Maine in June, I guess we have enough time to get there.

Although we are just starting out, the Foretravel is working out just great. We really like the ride and all the amenities that were installed in 1993.

Safe Travels

Roland, Carmen and Sampson  
Lot #82

---

## Ranch Hands Checking In

### The Walthers

Soren and I left The Ranch in mid-January with intentions to return in March. Well... things do change.

We returned in early February because I messed up with my new hip. We had to cut the trip short because I could barely walk and could not lift my leg at all. Turns out I injured a muscle but didn't do any damage to the new hip. Thank goodness for

that. We did, however, miss spending time at Pancho Villa and the Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Alpine, TX.

However, it is always nice to be "home". We have enjoyed the activities here instead.

Barb & Soren Walther  
Lot 10

---

### Rambling Raileys

We have been busy since the New Year began. We were in Santa Fe over the New Years Holidays, visiting our son and family. We went with him to a New Years Eve party. I looked around and realized we were the oldest people there. What a shocker, when we think of ourselves as 'young'.

We spent 5 weeks at Sea Wind RV Park in Riviera, TX, south of Kingsville. Phil and Gene Sharp were there too, and we all had a great time enjoying the warm weather. We went to the Valley one day to see a woodcarving show and enjoyed a visit with Arnie and Sue Arnold, Ron Frey, and Gunter and Elaine Kekstadt.

We stopped in Odessa on the way down and the way back, always enjoying our visits with our daughter, husband, and family. We spent 3 days at the Ranch and went to Santa Fe for Zoë's 15th birthday party. We were able to watch August's basketball team, and they won their game.

Back to the Ranch for a day before going to El Paso to visit family and friends. We will be spending 2 weeks in Mesa AZ with my sister and husband, then going back to Odessa for Henley's 18th birthday party. We plan to get to the Ranch about March 20 and settle in to do some needed maintenance on the trailer.

Bob & Marilyn Railey  
Lot #30

---

### Bob Gambol

Have 'Dug In' on the front row, space #10, here at the LoW/Hi Ranch in Deming for a month or so.

For me it's like coming home! Will spend time with ol' friends and meet some new folks as well. As my 'buddy' Ms. Cox said - Ahhh 'The Land of Entrapment'. But Cheryl my sweet, I'd rather think it's an enchanted place...where one can kick back and enjoy their 'Twilight Years.'

As always, stop by when you're in the neighborhood. Come casual. PJ's and Bathrobes are OK during morning hours.

Hugs!

'Bathrobe' Bob.

Lot #73

P.S. Hope to see you all at The Ranch in late April.

## Ranch Hands Checking In

### Pat Gorsuch, Bill Kukes and Samantha the Kamper Kitty — Chapter 1

Hello Ranch hands,

I'm literally typing this up on New Year's Day, so not sure if I missed the newsletter cutoff or not.

*[Editor's note: She did!]*

Here's a quick update from our end of the world...

Spent Halloween weekend over at Lava Beds National Monument and enjoyed hiking through some of the lava tube caves on our own, including one with a year-round ice floor. We also did the last ranger-led tour of the year of Fern Cave, one of the smallest and best kept secrets in the park. Still actively used for religious ceremonies by the Modoc Indians and notable for the group of rare ferns growing inside the entranceway, you undergo a ritual cleansing ceremony with burning sage before climbing down a ladder to enter. Pictographs and rock art are painted on the walls, several thought to represent a rare supernova in 1054, and we also saw several tree frogs taking refuge in the ferns. On Sunday we walked through the obsidian flows, saw ancient petroglyphs (and modern-day graffiti!) and just drove around enjoying the scenery and numerous mule deer.

November brought the fast-moving Reno wildfire and Bill's place of employment on that side of town sent everyone home early that morning due to the toxic smoke and traffic congestion in the area. Fortunately, only one person lost their life but over 30 homes were destroyed before the winds finally died down and the fire could be contained. For Thanksgiving, we took the truck camper over to San Jose for the long weekend and, due to traffic, arrived at the county park about 10 minutes after the gates were locked. The ranger was just getting ready to pull out and took pity on us and let us in, so we quickly got settled in a site, fired up the generator, and cooked our Cornish game hen with all the trimmings. The next morning we were sitting at the dinette over coffee enjoying the view out in the valley when a hawk came crashing into the side of the coach, just missing the window. He darned near knocked himself out but was able to get into the cover of the bushes a few minutes later and we watched him for over an hour. He

didn't appear to have broken his wings but he certainly had the wind knocked out of him and who knows what was going on internally... he finally scooted further into the bushes out of sight, so we have no idea of he ever recovered or not. The ranger said they've actually flown into the side of the registration kiosk as well, so I'm beginning to wonder if their eyesight is as good as it's cracked up to be or whether they can't pull up in time if they're focusing on a hunt.

We spent time that weekend at the Winchester Mystery House, doing both the house and the behind-the-scenes tours of this unique Queen Anne style Victorian home. We marveled at the idea of nonstop construction for 38 years, the 40 bedrooms, 10,000 window panes and the beautiful Tiffany stained glass collection, the doors and stairways to nowhere, and couldn't help but wonder what was going through this tormented woman's mind during those years... It's definitely a tourist trap (and a bit pricey) but seeing it's probably the only time in our lives we'll ever do it, guess it was a good excuse for a getaway weekend. It must have been quite a site before the 1906 earthquake, when it was 7 stories compared to its current 4 stories, and when it sat on over 150 acres of farmland and orchards, rather than being smack-dab in the middle of a busy commercial district... but that also allowed us to go down and do some shopping for the truck camper at the Container Store a few blocks away and enjoy a delicious Cajun meal at the Roux Louisiana Kitchen, yum yum.

Didn't take any trips in December but managed to keep busy every weekend going to movies, out to eat with friends, and enjoying another Cirque du Soleil type show called ZzyZyx (pronounced zizix). It's a good thing we're still going to the health club -- we may not be losing any significant amount of weight with all the eating out we've done lately, but at least we're not gaining any either! And the aerobic and weight work we're doing means we're strong enough to keep lifting that fork to our mouths repeatedly without working up a sweat, ha ha.

Spent the Christmas holidays here in Reno seeing we're getting ready to do a week-long hiking trip in Death Valley on another Road Scholar outing in mid January. We haven't had any precipitation here since November 20 and guess it's the driest December since 1860-something... quite a difference from a year

## Ranch Hands Checking In

(cont.) ago when we were on our way to having some record snowfalls in this part of the country. Mother Nature certainly has been in a tizzy the past year.

Bill's contract here is scheduled to go at least through the end of March and could be longer, depending on available funding, so we're still counting down until retirement, maybe in another 12-18 months. Not quite sure when we'll make it

back to New Mexico, guess it all depends on the job. Hope everyone had a happy and healthy holiday season regardless of where you were celebrating.

Have a great 2012!

Pat, Bill, and Samantha the Kamper Kitty  
106 Windwill Vista

### Pat Gorsuch, Bill Kukes and Samantha the Kamper Kitty — Chapter 2

Well, let's see if I can get this update done and make it into the newsletter on time...

Reno continues to have a very mild winter with below average precipitation... not that we're complaining, but it certainly makes it worrisome for the wildfire season when everything is so dry.

The high point of January was our weeklong Road Scholar hiking trip in Death Valley. We drove over to Beatty in the truck camper so we could bring Samantha along to administer her twice-daily dose of meds and met up with our friend Karey from Oregon and the rest of the group on Sunday afternoon. This trip had some first-timers as well as one woman who has done more than 40 Road Scholar/Elder Hostel trips and who sold her house 6 years ago and basically lives out of her car going from place to place, either tenting or volunteering her services in exchange for housing. We always had a choice of doing a more energetic aerobic hike versus a slower paced one with more time to take pictures and wander off on your own (our choice). We did some very enjoyable hiking in the Mesquite sand dunes (a good place to see animal tracks), along scenic Salt Creek Trail (water in the desert and even a few water fowl, but unfortunately a little too early in the season to see the rare pupfish), through Mosaic Canyon with its unique polished patterned walls, out to the Badwater Salt Flats at the lowest point of elevation (282 feet below sea level), and Ubehebe Crater (Bill hiked down to the bottom of the crater before joining Karey and I on the upper rim trail). We also did the guided tour at Scotty's Castle where we learned all about the unique relationship between colorful character Walter Scott and insurance exec Albert Johnson and the

beautiful Spanish style castle built by Johnson as a vacation home out in the desert.

Unfortunately, starting Wednesday night/Thursday morning, some sort of viral gastritis/stomach flu started to make its way through the group. I was in the first wave of people hit by it (haven't been that sick in at least 30 years!) so I missed out on the major hike of the week on Thursday while developing an up close and personal relationship with the bathroom facilities! Bill and Karey started out with the group Thursday but as the next round of people were felled by it, 2 vans had to return to the hotel and, although Bill wasn't one of the ones who actually got sick out on the trail, he was fading fast and spent the rest of Thursday and Friday in bed or in close proximity to the bathroom. (Makes me really glad we decided to stay in the hotel rather than the truck camper with that tiny bathroom!) Karey remained healthy and made several Gatorade runs for us. The program ended Friday around 11 a.m. after a morning walk through the ghost town of Rhyolite and a visit to the Beatty Historical Museum. I did the Rhyolite walk with the group and recorded the commentary and then we extended our hotel reservation for one more night and crashed. On Saturday afternoon after we checked out, we drove through Rhyolite and replayed the tape for Bill and also went over to the Harmony Borax Works. We spent one night in the no hookup area at Stovepipe Wells before making the drive back to Reno on Sunday. I lost 5 pounds in those few days but it's definitely not a diet plan I would recommend...

February has been fairly uneventful so far... going to the movies, trying out some new restaurants, and attending a Bill Maher show at one of the casinos. This coming weekend we've signed up for two different eagle/bird watching events, one at the Stillwater Wildlife Refuge area in Fallon, about 80 miles from here, and then scooting over to the Carson

## Ranch Hands Checking In

(continued) City/Mindenville area for a photography workshop Saturday night and a field trip on Sunday morning. Unfortunately, our warm weather is about to be replaced by colder weather and lots of wind in the forecast, so it could be a little dicey in the wee morning hours, but hopefully we'll get some great pictures to make it worthwhile.

Still waiting to hear if Bill's contract will get extended beyond the end of March. We're feeling optimistic but who knows... we've got a trip to San

Francisco planned for mid April and we'll be taking the big rig in for some work the week we're gone, and then a week in Seattle is scheduled for July 29, but it's hard to make too many plans until we know what's happening with the job. We certainly need to get back to NM to tackle the day room, do some remodeling to the big rig, and just enjoy some down time...

Stay healthy and safe everyone!

Pat, Bill, and Samantha the Kamper Kitty  
Lot 106 Windmill Vista

## SPIKE'S HAREM

Fort Clark Springs  
Brackettville, Texas

The afternoon was so nice that we were all sitting outside on Casey and Spike's patio enjoying the weather, (NO WIND OR HUMIDITY), the view, and each other's company.

Grace was with her hairless cat, Muffin, who was in her cage. Muffin comes outside with us but she stays in her cage; although Grace does walk her on her leash, and she gets to run outside loose for a bit. Spike and Casey with their dark grey cat, Frack, who gets to run loose as it is his yard. And I had my Sadie who was on a leash, Mr. Penny who also was on his leash, and then Dude who with a cast on his right foot wasn't going any place so he was off leash. So we were out there with our families enjoying each others company. Sadie was sitting by Spike almost with her head on his knee; she was sure she could coach a goodie out of him if she looked pitiful enough.

As we were all sitting there, the parade of turkeys started down the street and about 25 hen turkeys came marching slowly down the street. They always come to this patch of green across the street from us, to peck around and look for bugs before they cross through the lots to the next street. All the kids were watching the turkeys. I could tell Mr. Penny was thinking that those were big birds by the swishing of his tail. I imagine he would like to investigate them more closely. Muffin is making a little growling noise while in her cage, while Frack was just walking around the yard. Sadie is at the end of her leash watching those

birds, while poor Dude just looked them and laid down again. He knows with that cast on his foot he can't chase them. The other morning I did see 4 tom turkeys and they were displaying their tail fans. Too bad the sun wasn't shining, or they would have really been awesome with the sun hitting their tail feathers.

Then just before we had decided to go into our rigs the does and their fawns come down the street. These are small white tail deer here and really in good shape: plenty of food and no hunters. Of course, everyone is watching them. I guess Mr. Penny decided those were too big of mice to chase so he was going inside his house, which he did.

Next day, Friday, Grace and I had come home from Uvalde where I had to take Dude back to the vet because he has chewed the toe off of his cast and where she and I had lunch at a neat little tea room in the very back of the Antique Shop. So immediately after I had taken Sadie outside I noticed Muffin: there were the deer across in the street in the vacant lot, and that hairless cat was trying to sneak up on the deer. She was creeping across the road while a doe was watching her carefully. When Muffin was almost to the deer, the big doe stamped her left foot and then they all took off. Muffin looked like she wanted to chase them.

What a fun place to visit; so glad that Spike and Casey invited me to stay with them on their extra lot. I am really enjoying my stay here with them, Grace, deer, and turkeys. Grace and her tear drop trailer are under the big cover with the 5th wheel and house.

Lucy Billings  
Lot #36



## Birthdays and Anniversaries



### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1 – Gary Roessler  
 2 – Marcia Fairchild  
 5 – Debra Simmons/Amari  
 10 – Paula Carey  
 12 – Needra Dulcich  
 12 – Maureen Bigelow  
 18 – Orville Schinke  
 20 – Joyce June  
 21 – Lucy Billings  
 22 – Charles Russell  
 23 – Jim Fairchild  
 25 – Karl Komatz  
 25 – Jack Koontz  
 26 – Betty Lugar  
 29 – Margaret Krebill  
 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 Brown  
 9 – Charlie Scarborough  
 11 – Bob Abbott  
 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  
 18 – Jim and Joyce June  
 24 – Bob and Caren Collins  
 29 – Wayne & Trish Teegarden

### APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

4 – Jim & Mary Gallivan  
 8 – Ro & Al Benish  
 9 – Phil & Gene Sharp  
 30 – Jim & Beverly Hughes

## Committee Contacts

### Beautification:

Liaison: Richard Wygant  
 Chair:

### Building & Safety

Liaison: Wally Mauck  
 Chair: Dave Stribling

### Finance

Liaison: Richard Wygant  
 Chair: Maria Fairchild

### Governing Documents

Liaison: Al Lugar  
 Chair: Nettie Haase

### Grievance/Dispute

Liaison: Greg Obst  
 Chair: Gil Carey

### Library/Video

Liaison: Linda Ranes  
 Chair: Betty Lugar

### Long Range Planning

Liaison: Chuck Queen  
 Chair:

### Lot Transfer

Liaison: Barbara Walther  
 Keeper of the Keys: Roxy Colomb

### Nominating

Liaison: Al Lugar  
 Chair:

### Palaver

Liaison: George Keefe  
 Chair & Editor: Pam McMickin

### Ranch House Hands

Liaison: Barbara Walther  
 Chair: Nancy Schneider

### Water

Liaison: George Keefe  
 Chair: Jim Coble

### Welcome

Liaison: Linda Ranes  
 Chair: Maria Fairchild

### WiFi

Liaison: George Keefe  
 Chair:



---

Palaver  
The SKP Ranch  
PO BOX 109  
Lakewood, NM 88254