



THE ORIGINAL RANCH PALAVER

FOUNDED BY
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President's Post

Several things have gone on at the Ranch since I did the last update. The Ranch has lost Jan, our Office Manager. She decided to leave the Ranch to spend more time with Doug and family. At the same time, Cheryl, our Outside Manager has resigned. She and Greg are going to work kamp at an RV park in the South. Ads have been put together and put out so hopefully we will find replacements for these two positions. In the meantime leaseholders and Board members are filling in.

Here is an update on our electrical project for Lot 1 thru 34. The work has started YEA!!! Work has stopped BOO!!! The State Inspector was out and did not like the changes that CVE (Central Valley Electric) had made after the plans were approved. To add to that, additional work is needed due to a broken pole at the Ranch. This means that the plans need some additional design work and with our fingers crossed this won't take long.

The weather is warming up so this means that the weeds are growing. Everyone in the parks who can needs to start spraying the weeds to keep them under control.

The next important event is the Semi-annual meeting in April. We hope you all will plan to attend but if not please fill out your proxy and mail it back to the office. Please be sure that all names on the lease have signed the proxy.

I am in California and will be back at the Ranch in about a week. Safe travels to all.

Rob Levin, President

Poetry Corner

An Ode to the SKP Ranch

by Jeff Jeffrey

SKP #118274 Temporary home at lot 48 Coyotes Run

We arrived at The Ranch in the mid afternoon
Greeted and signed, we were parked very soon
We prepared the coach for an extended stay
And got every thing ready for the end of the day
We had not yet stayed at an Escapee park
And had no idea what we would do after dark
Next evening we went to the social at four
We listened while a lease holder took to the floor
We were back the next evening for the social event
And felt so included during the time that we spent
A warm reception for some folks passing through
The very friendliest park that we've ever been to
So here's to the people who welcomed us here
We stand and applaud with a smile and a cheer
For the welcome we got in a place found by chance
We enjoyed our stay with you all at the ranch

Happenings Around The Ranch



Super Bowl Sunday....

7 February 2016

Approximately 20-25 SKP residents and visitors enjoyed a delicious repast with one another while watching the Denver Broncos beat out the Carolina Panthers on the huge TV screen.

Behind the scenes, bets were placed on grid-like charts; bets of \$1.00, 25 cents and 10 cents were made.

Following the Super Bowl's play, the final score brought the Denver Broncos their third win at the Super Bowl with a 24-10 point win.

SKP residents and visitors to the Ranch both won in the betting classes.

Congratulations go to:

Meredith and Richard Arnett (Lot #) for winning the 10 cent bets which was a \$10 pool.

Our visitors to the SKP Ranch, Dan and Kathy Adams from Michigan won both the 25 cent and the \$1.00 pools, with a nice pot of \$65+change. The couple stayed with us for one week.



Valentine's Day Brunch

Here is Taffie Levin (background) and Roxy Colomb (foreground) checking out the banquet table as people begin arriving with the delicious foods they brought to share. So much love spread around this Valentine's Day.



The Ranch house was filled to overflowing with approximately 60 people in attendance.

Thanks to Barbara Heaver for coordinating The Valentine's Day Brunch and all her helpers for making the day a success.



Crescent Rolled Apples

Shirley Partch made these for the Valentine's day brunch.

- 2 tubes Crescent rolls
- 2 Granny Smith apples
- 1 stick butter
- 1 1/2 c. sugar
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 12 oz. can Mountain Dew

Cut each apple into 8 pieces. Wrap each apple slice in a crescent roll. Place in greased 9 X 13 pan.

Melt butter, mix in sugar & cinnamon. Drop over wrapped apple slices in pan. Pour Mountain Dew over all.

Bake at 350 degrees for 45 min.

Enjoy,
Shirley Partch, Lot 5

Happenings Around The Ranch—Craft Time at the Ranch



We all know that a ranch hand's (men and women) life can be difficult and trying and that is why they have to set time aside to relax. This is when they break out their hobby projects. Life at The Ranch is a little easier but we all still need time to relax, whether it is with games or hobbies. We already have times set for different games and now craft time has been re-established also.

Nettie Hasse held a free card embroidery class on January 29th and she had 7 ladies attend the class. They all had fun learning to punch the pattern, thread a big eye needle and stitch their cards.

We all gained a new appreciation for her beautiful cards and the time and work involved to make them.

Anyone and everyone that has a passion for crafts, please bring your projects OUT and join us after ladies coffee on Friday's. If you would like to teach us how to do one of your favorite projects, please contact me by e-mail: rntharter@gmail.com or 936-252-0148.

Warm Hugs,
Trudy Harter, Lot 67
Crafts Coordinator

A Swedish Weaving class is planned for March 11th at 11:00 am. There will be a sign-up sheet on the table at the Ranch House.

The Quilt Project

A ranch hand quilt has been assembled and is on a quilt frame ready to be hand quilted.

It is fun and relaxing to sit, stitch and chat. All Ranch Hands are needed to stitch in order to complete this project in time for the fall Round-Up when the raffle will be held.

I want to thank Ranch Hands, Judy Fagen, Taffie Levin, Lynette Patton, Anna Altman and Barbara Heaver for their help in getting this quilt assembled.

Trudy Harter, Lot 67
Crafts Coordinator



Happenings Around The Ranch

Ladies' Coffee Hour

Ladies' Coffee Hour on Fridays are a wonderful time to get to know some of the many wonderful ladies here at the SKP Ranch.



Ladies Coffee Hour is held on Fridays at 10:00 AM.

The Office Got a Facelift!

Here is the new front desk for the office plus a storage locker for all the supplies.



22nd February 2016 ...was Jan Skain, our Office manager's last day here at the SKP Ranch.

On the Friday before her departure for her and Doug's new home in Colorado Springs, we bid her a fond farewell with cake and coffee, tears aplenty, and many a hug. We hope she and Doug have a great retirement with lots of fun memories built along the way! She will be missed.



Birthdays and Anniversaries



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1 – Gary Roessler
 5 – Debra Simmons/Amari
 10– Paula Carey
 20 – Joyce June
 21 – Lucy Billings
 22 – Charles Russell
 24 – Jerry Brous
 25 – Jack Koontz
 26 – Betty Lugar
 27 - Dave Norton
 29 – Margaret Krebill

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

2 – John Tenison
 4 – Linda Ranes
 7 – Trudie Tenison
 11 – Bob Abbott
 18 – Cliff Dulcich
 19 – Gil Carey
 20 – Lola Wood
 23 – Sheila Miller
 23 – Bill Pulsipher
 27 – Mary Ann Obst
 28 – Bonnie Keefe

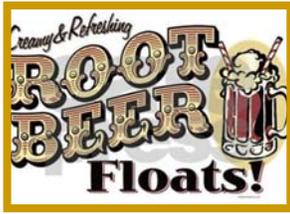
MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

18 – Loyce & Laney Finch
 18 – Jim and Joyce June
 24 – Bob and Caren Collins

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

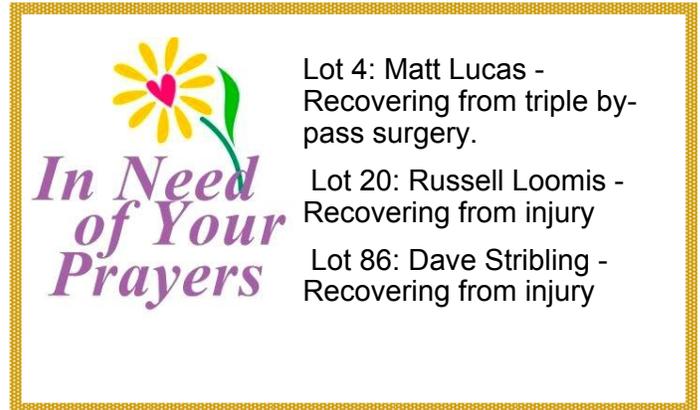
4 – Jim & Mary Gallivan
 8 – Ro & Al Benish
 9 – Phil & Gene Sharp
 29 – Dave and Beth Norton
 30 – Jim & Beverly Hughes

Happenings Around The Ranch



Thanks to Richard Baker for sponsoring this year's Root Beer Floats Day!

We loved it all....the floats and the Girl Scout cookies he bought to complement the beverage of honor.



Lot 4: Matt Lucas - Recovering from triple bypass surgery.

Lot 20: Russell Loomis - Recovering from injury

Lot 86: Dave Stribling - Recovering from injury

Ranch Hands Check In

Lucy Billings

Last July my son, RICHARD KNOWLEN, sold his house in Arlington, Washington, to his son and daughter in law and then loaded what he could into his car and headed south to New Mexico. He arrived here July 3rd.

What adjustment he had to make as the environment is so different than he had in Washington. His house sat in the middle of the clearing and the only sky he could see was straight up. He had these beautiful big cedar and fir trees surrounding him, and here he can see for miles and miles but he really enjoys the vistas out here.

After we explored our mountains, the desert around us, then the country around Valley of Fires Park and Elephant Butte Park he decided he would stay here and has leased lot #34.

He may have become a member of the Ranch but he hasn't given up his Washington Drivers License yet. He says that is a hard choice.

I am glad that my son is here and I plan to take him all around New Mexico state parks this summer.

Lucy , Lot #36

Dean and Rhonda Dutton

New leaseholders on Lot 104

We are currently out of the park and will be until the fall. We had to return to Kansas for some medical issues. I have a kidney disease that has gotten worse, so looking at getting ready for dialysis, I'm not there yet but getting close.

So Ronda and I are enjoying spending time with the parents and our grandkids. Most of our family lives mainly in southern Kansas and northern Oklahoma, but we also have one son and his family in southern California.

We are originally from southern Kansas in the town of Arkansas City. A couple years ago, we stopped in at The SKP Ranch, met some wonderful people that we enjoyed spending time with. Also, we felt The Ranch was centrally located between Kansas and California, ideally

located as we have children in both those states.

We do enjoy Beaches and Oceans, bird and wildlife refuges, and the Presidential Libraries. We have gone to three so far when on the road.

We like to read, take walks, watch the wildlife and enjoy our neighbors. We both like ice cream and lemon pie.

We also like to do the national and state parks . When we are able to get back on the road we hope to check out the state parks of NM.

The SKP Ranch is our only RV home base and we hope to be back at the Ranch in the fall but it all depends how I come out with my kidneys.

So with a big SKP hug good bye for now.

Dean and Rhonda Dutton, Lot 104

Ranch Hands Check In

Road trip highlights from George and Pam

We left The Ranch last year in early June. This was our year to spend the holidays in California with Pam's family, which always means we will be gone for nine months.

We started by getting the leak in the bedroom slide (a long term problem) finally fixed at Winnebago in Iowa.

With that out of the way, we headed for Medora to visit our Ranch friends working up there. It was great to see them and to wander around Theodore Roosevelt NP looking for Bison. We finally found the herds and got some good pictures.



One of our destinations was Glacier NP since George had never been there. Just before we left

TRNP a fire started in Glacier. We decided we would travel slowly down the Lewis and Clark Trail, hoping we would still be able to go to Glacier. It worked!!! From Missoula, MT we headed to Glacier. They had opened the Going to the Sun Road and we took the Red Bus tour—a wonderful way to see highlights of the park.



Our next major destination was the Columbia River Gorge and after that Crater Lake, which we had already missed seeing twice. At the Gorge we had a few

days of sunny, clear weather and then we had smoke from major fires in every direction. Even Mt. Hood couldn't be seen most of the time. Still, we saw the wind surfers in the sun



and toured the waterfalls, which weren't effected by the smoky sky. We may have to go back another year.

OK, time to try for Crater Lake—made a reservation at a campground close by the lake and headed south. Again, fire!! There were fires near Crater Lake and

finally in the park. We gave up and instead had the handling problems with the MH fixed at Henderson's in Grants Pass, OR. We decided it was time to head out for family in California. Maybe we'll try for Crater Lake again in two years.

We spent Thanksgiving with Pam's family in Manteca at her brother's house—lots of family showed up for the event, including lots of children--George escaped to the MH from time to time.

We spent Christmas in Riverside with Pam's sister and brother-in-law. We decided it was time to give the MH a facelift and actually lived their house for three weeks while it was being done. I loved being with my sister and George loved having very high speed internet!!

Right now we are at Desert Gardens RV park in Florence, AZ. We've been spending time with Greg and Lynell, former leaseholders at The Ranch. Also another good friend who we know from FEMA and Annette and John from The Ranch are here. This is a very good place for us to spend a month.

We'll see you all at The Ranch by mid-March.

Hugs,
Pam and George, Lot 65

Ranch Hands Check In

Pat and Bill, Lot 106

Looking through my files, don't think I've done a Palaver update since the end of June last year. Even though my intentions are good, follow-through has definitely been lacking! Seeing we're getting ready to embark on a major travel period, decided to try for a quick summary of what's been going on at our end of the world...

After leaving Yellowstone at the beginning of October 2015, we spent several weeks meandering to our winter position at Bosque del Apache. Made stops along the way in Moab to rendezvous with some longtime friends from the Midwest who recently retired to western Nevada; spent five relaxing days exploring the ruins at Hovenweep and then another five days at Mesa Verde doing ranger-led programs or independent exploration of the archeological sites, and finally hiked the ruins at Aztec Monument. We spent a few days in Albuquerque running errands, shopping, etc., and then settled in for our third winter here at the refuge in the last four years.

It was a strange year for the birds here at Bosque as our numbers were way below previous years: maybe 5000 cranes vs peak counts of 11-12,000, and similarly reduced numbers for all the white geese, ducks, and raptors.

Interestingly, bird counts for the greater Rio Grande Valley were fairly typical for the season but they appeared to be dispersed over a greater area than normal. It was a bountiful year for roadrunners, though, and the place was swarming with them, and we had the usual sightings of javelina, mulies, and some coyotes, bobcats, and even the mountain lions were spotted several times.

Went to Taos for Thanksgiving weekend with our friends Kay and Andy, have done some group events, and made several trips into ABQ on our days off to shop, eat out, go to movies, and attend dr appointments. Pat has had trouble with her left shoulder since last summer and finally started Medicare in October so starting seeing an ortho doc. After x-rays, an MRI, anti-inflammatories, and physical therapy, she finally got a steroid shot recently. Although the pain has decreased and her range of motion is gradually increasing, she's still not where she wants to be but at least there's no rotator cuff tear at present.

We've kept busy with preparations for our upcoming month-long trip to South Africa in March, everything from a visit to the travel clinic to find out about what injections and vaccinations were needed to purchasing all sorts of little travel odds and ends.

We'll be back at The Ranch for about a week before heading over to Dallas for a flight to Dulles and then halfway across the world to Johannesburg and Cape Town. The first part of the trip is with Road Scholar and includes five days aboard the luxury Rovos train crossing South Africa, Botswana, and ending up in Zimbabwe at Victoria Falls. We'll spend several days in two national parks as part of this trip and have signed up for an elephant back safari, which should be interesting!

We spend five more days in Cape Town on our own with a guide/car and have a full slate of activities planned there before meeting up with a small group for a ten-day photo safari in Sabi Sands reserve, which shares a border with Krueger National Park.

After arriving back in the states on April 9, we have a detour over to New Orleans the following week before returning home for maybe three weeks to collapse and catch our breath. We then will be heading out to St. Louis, where we rendezvous with our friend Karey from Oregon on May 17 to do the Lewis and Clark Adventure Caravan through July 2, and hope to swing through Crater Lake before ending up at Yellowstone for the second half of the season in mid July.

So that's the nickel version of what's been happening.

Pat Gorsuch and Bill Kukes
106 Windmill Vista

Ranch Hands Check In

Sherry and Art Lumb



Hugs
Sherry & Art, Lot #6

I found out Tammy Peterson, on Lot 81 with Richard Anthony, was having a girl. It's easier to make a blanket when you know the sex.

Went shopping to look for material and they didn't have the fabric I really wanted. I was lucky because I had bought some pink for niece and then she found out she was having a boy. Soo made the blanket.

Sure was lucky to finish it before the sewing machine broke. I haven't figured out how to take it apart, it's just a piece of thread stuck.

When we get back to WI I'll talk to the old owner who gave it to me. She works with the Janome store.

Art probably can take it apart. My Berina is so easy to fix. That's about all for now. Art's been busy as usual.

Once a Ranch Hand, always a Ranch Hand

Barbara and Soren Walther

Formerly on Lot 10, now in Yuma

Well, here it is mid-February and there have already been several 90 degree days . I kinda missed them, though.

I had my left hip replaced on 2/2. I got out of rehab on the 17th but promptly came down with bronchitis. It has really knocked the socks off me.

I've got to get better soon because my daughter and I are going to see an Il Volo concert in Mesa late in March. I am very excited about seeing these kids live.

About 5 days before my surgery, Soren had the rest

of his teeth pulled and the plates put right in. He has also been miserable!

It is good he didn't have to care for me during the worst of it. He is still not eating solid food. Canned soup thru the blender!

We enjoyed some nice visits with Tensions but they were too short.

We hope to get together with Mary Ann and Bryan when we are feeling better.

Miss you guys!

Hugs,
Barb & Soren



Ranch Hands moving in, moving on and moving around

Moving In

Lot 104—Ronald & Rhonda Dutton

Lot 107—Gary & Lynne McKinsty

Moving On

Lot 104—James & Melba Thompson

Lot 107—Ed and Carol Hines

Moving Around



**Palaver
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