



www.hammondlandowners.org

What's Inside?

Save the Date!	1
Sugar Pine East road fund	1
Welcome Baskets	1
Fire Company Run Report	2
From the Chief	2
Common Gray Foxes	2
Dan's Weather Report	3
Ranch Service Providers	5
2016 Board Members	6
Calendar	6

Save the Date!

Michael Kobseff, County District Supervisor, will be our guest speaker at the annual members luncheon meeting on Saturday, November 5, 2016. Michael will address many issues of interest and answer your questions. Last time Michael was our guest speaker, many found the meeting to be the best, most informative HLA meeting ever. Join us.

Sugar Pine East

Thank you to all of the Hammond residents who contributed to the Sugar Pine East road fund. \$875 was raised so far. Your contributions, combined with funds from Sugar Pine residents, will greatly help with base and drainage improvements at the most problematic locations. Work will be scheduled to occur sometime in May, when the rainy season passes. These improvements are sorely needed and will enhance safety and convenience for all residents. If you haven't had a chance to contribute, you can do so by sending your check made payable to HLA, P.O. Box 795, Mt. Shasta, CA 96067. Indicate on the check that it is for the Sugar Pine East road fund.

Early Spring

Said goodnight to my dreams,
Looking for the sunrise,
A quiet spring morning, waiting for the birds to sing,

Days getting longer,

Shifting cold winds,
Streams flowing,
Waves rippling across ponds,

Oh Sunshine, Sunshine!
Turn the grass green,
Dandelions hiding in the lawn,



Chipmunks, hopping bunnies, and the hoo hoo of an owl,
Sparkling, flower buds blossoming;
Red, yellow and pink Tulips,



Clean spring rain showers,
Rainbows and orange sunsets,

A picture perfect spring day.

by Ronald J Chapman



Welcome Baskets

A welcome basket was delivered in February to Joyce Andersen and Mary Beth Granberry on Aspen Lane. The couple moved into their house in 2012 and rented until they decided to buy in 2015. They have a dog named Julliard and an 18 year old cat, Sylvia. Joyce retired from the forest service where she was a District Ranger. She worked many places including Klamath, Shasta Trinity, San Francisco and Portland. Mary Beth also retired from working as a nurse at the VA, both in San Francisco and Martinez. She specialized in Natural Healing work. You may see them walking in the ranch, as they take walks every day.



In March another welcome basket was delivered. Aiden Trenholm and Angel Park and their two dogs moved into their house on North Old Stage Road in 2013. They were living in Shastina for a couple of months before the sale became final. The couple lived in Los Angeles prior to coming here. They grew to love this area while traveling through. Aiden was born in England and Angel in Korea. They keep busy redoing a lot of the house themselves.



Our Mission Statement: To provide information, to assist in the coordination of group actions, to determine guidelines and make suggestions in matters relating to development and use of property on Hammond Ranch.



Run Report

January, 1 medical; February, 2 traffic collisions, 2 structure fires, 4 medicals, 1 smoke check; March, 1 traffic collision, 1 smoke check.

From the Chief

I have had several inquiries and concerns about a recent vegetation fire here on the ranch, so I will take a moment and fill in the blanks. On April 2nd, at approximately 1600 hours (4:00 p.m.), a 911 call was received reporting an escaped control burn located on High Meadow Drive. Hammond Ranch Fire, CalFire, Weed Fire and Mt. Shasta Fire responded to the scene. Firefighters, along with local resident Paul Zwetsloot and family, suppressed the fire. The total area burned was approximately a half acre. Investigation revealed that a person living on the property just west of the Zwetsloots' had decided to set fire to an ant hill which burned out of control in the 10 to 15 mph winds. The person responsible was identified by law enforcement and a citation was issued.

Kudos to the Zwetsloots for being prepared for such an event. Last year Paul purchased a portable pump and hose and was able to draft water from the creek and assist in extinguishing the flames.

Days later I was asked about the incident from a nearby resident. He stated that he was home at the time of the fire but was clueless that it was occurring, His concern was how can people be alerted of possible danger in their immediate area.

I am glad you asked.

Siskiyou County has an emergency notification system called CodeRED. This system will distribute emergency messages via telephone or text to target areas within the county.

What a deal! It's free. All you have to do is register online by going to the Office of Emergency Services, County of Siskiyou (www.co.siskiyou.ca.us/content/office-of-emergency-services) and follow the links, or call **530-841-2138**. For information after the fact, I think our Hammond Ranch Nextdoor website is a good resource to help keep everyone informed.

*Dave Jenkins,
Hammond Ranch Fire Chief*

Common Gray Foxes

According to the National Audubon Society, our local Common Gray Fox generally has gray fur above, reddish on the lower sides, chest and back of the head and the throat and belly are white. The tail has a black tip. Legs and feet are rust-colored. They can reach from 14 1/8 to 15" in height and 31-44" in length.

They mate in January-April, with a litter of 1-7 kits born in March-May (53 days gestation). The male helps tend the young, but does not den with them. The young are weaned at three months and hunt for themselves at four months, when they weigh about 7 pounds.

Their dens vary in size, mostly in natural cavities. Snagged hair or a few telltale bone scraps sometimes mark the entrances. Their habitat most often ranges from wooded to brushy areas.

They are active primarily at twilight and at night, although they sometimes can be seen foraging by day in brush, thick foliage or timber. The gray fox is the only American canid with true climbing ability. It occasionally forages in trees and sometimes takes refuge in them. The Common Gray Fox feeds heavily on cottontail rabbits, mice, voles, other small mammals, birds insects and plant material, such as corn, apples, nuts, cherries, grass and blackberries and more. Grasshoppers and crickets are part of their diet in late summer and fall.

Other than humans, who shoot, trap and run over foxes, they have few enemies. Bobcats and domestic dogs may kill a few. Rabies and distemper are important diseases in these animals.

They have been scarce here since the distemper outbreak a few years ago, however, there have been several sightings lately, so hopefully they're on their way back.



Taken March 2016

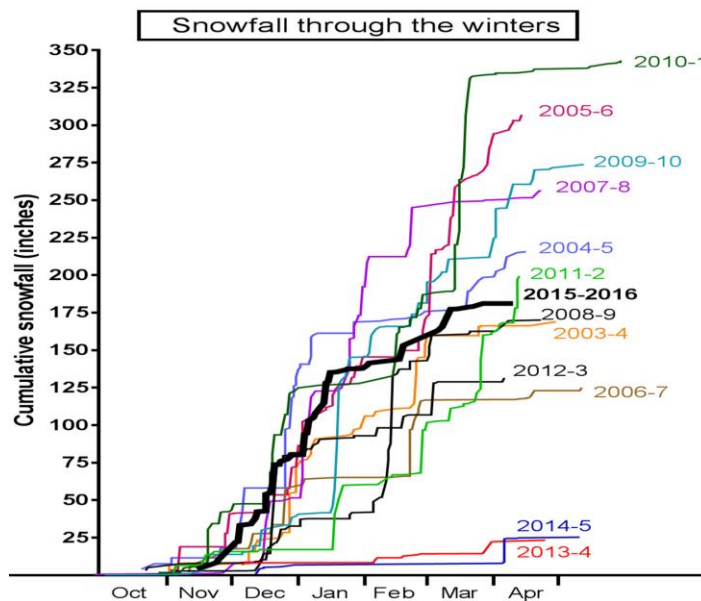
Dan's Weather Report

April 2016

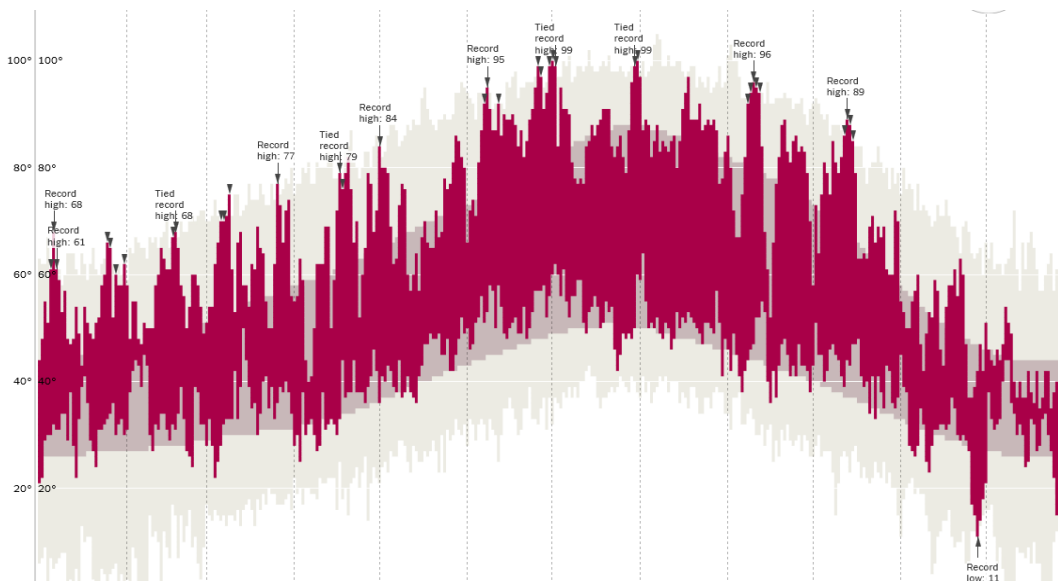
Daily weather is always a struggle between opposing influences: heat at the equator versus cold at the poles, high versus low pressure areas, straight-line versus swirling flows in the jet stream, temperature differences between ground and higher altitudes and so on. The seasonal weather is also a struggle, and it was particularly contentious this past winter. The ongoing drought, global warming and the El Niño effect in the eastern tropical Pacific all played a major role, often pushing the outcome in opposite directions. The result was a record that was neither expected nor well-predicted. First, we look at what actually happened and then compare that with the expectations.

Snowfall this winter in the Hammond Ranch area was highly dependent on small differences in ground elevation. At the 4200' in the SE part of the Ranch, total snowfall (so far, through early April) was approximately 181", only slightly below the average totals for the past 13 years, but far above what it was the previous two winters (approximately 25" each). But most of the Ranch, at elevations between 3900' and 4100', did not see nearly as much snow as 4200'. That is because the temperature in 25 out of 60 distinct snow events recorded at 4200' occurred with a temperature at or above freezing. In total, about 132" out of the 180" fell as very wet snow, with temperatures no lower than 32° F. With an increase of temperature of about 1° for every 300 foot drop in elevation, most of that snow either "did not stick", melted shortly after whitening the ground or fell as rain at the lower elevations.

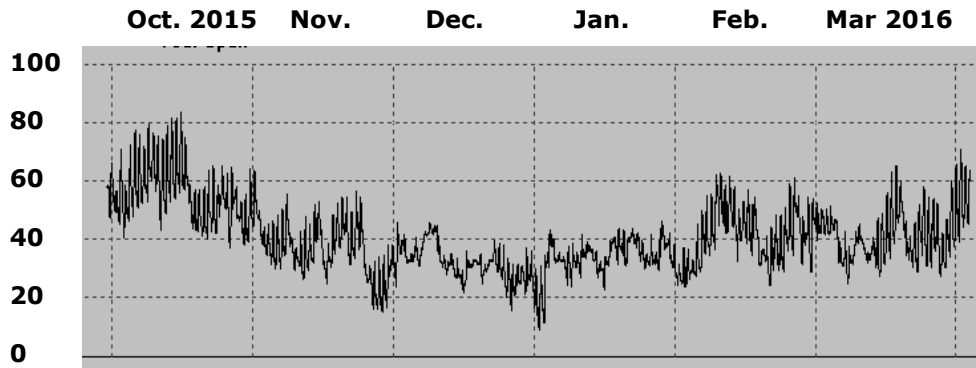
Below is a graph of the running accumulation added up from each storm.



Warm temperatures have become an issue, not just this past winter, but for all of 2015. Here is a graph showing the daily temperatures in Mt. Shasta City (red), superimposed on the "normal" high-to-low range (grey) and the all-time (since the mid 1900's) high and low record range (yellow). An all-time low was set just once in 2015, but all-time record highs were set eleven times.



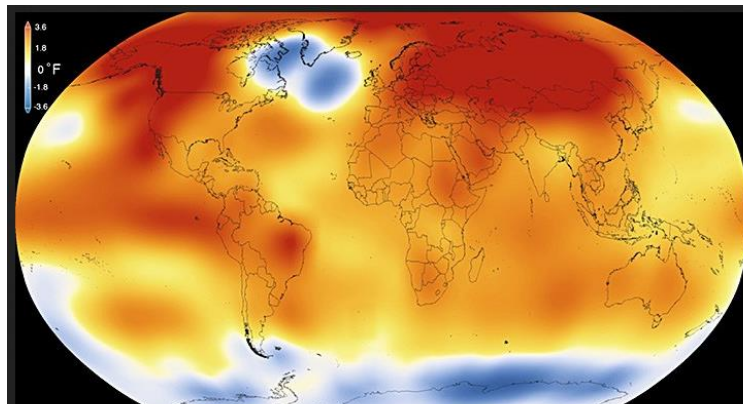
Overall for the whole year, the temperature in Mt. Shasta City was 4° F above normal. Below is the temperature data (deg. F) for this past winter in Hammond Ranch at 4200'.



Except for brief periods in late November, early January and early February, the temperature remained above freezing.

The local warmth was not a local anomaly. The year 2015 was the warmest year globally, by far, and the previous record was 2014.

Here is a map of where it was hotter than normal (red) versus colder than normal (blue) in 2015.

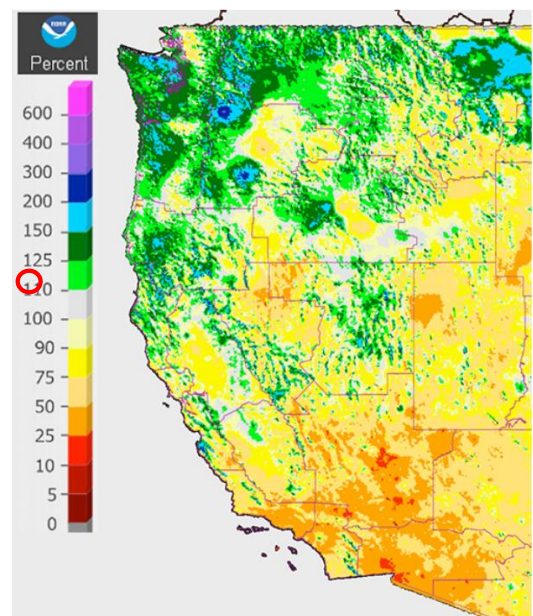


Except for the Labrador/Greenland area and Antarctica, it was hotter than normal everywhere, especially Central Eurasia and western North America.

If this global warming trend continues, the Mt. Shasta/Hammond Ranch area will see winter precipitation falling mainly as rain rather than snow in the future, since we are already straddling the rain/snow transition edge.

Aside from snow and temperature, the other main local concern is total precipitation (water equivalent of rain + snow). The past four years have been extraordinarily dry, as is well-known. But there had been projections last Fall that the winter would feature above-normal precipitation over all of California, and especially Southern California, a typical consequence of El Niño events in the past. It did not work out quite that way. Some parts of Northern California, particular the extreme north, did receive somewhat above normal precipitation (especially rain because of the high temperatures) while Southern California continued its dry streak. As of early April, Los Angeles has received only 6.59" of rain, half of its normal to date, and no better than last year. Here at Mt. Shasta City, the total precipitation from October 2015 through early April 2016 has been 36.73", which is very close -- 104% -- to the normal to date.

To the right is a map of western US precipitation deviations from normal, where green, dark green and below are above-normal precipitation, yellow is below normal and the red circle is our area.



The overall conclusion is that the drought evidently continues, with El Niño barely managing to ease the drought's severity, and only in the north at best. Here, at 4200' in the Hammond Ranch area, we have received about 45" from October to early April (approximate because automated rain gauges are not designed to capture snow). January and March received notable hosing (about 15" each), mostly from atmospheric river events (long, slow-moving "fire hoses" of rain bands extending NE from the mid-Pacific). These events produced a near-normal snowpack at altitudes above about 6500', where the precipitation remained all snow.

Some recent studies published in peer-reviewed scientific journals (e.g., Prein, et al., Geophysical Research Letters, 2016) are now projecting that global warming will cause an overall decrease in precipitation in the US Southwest but an increase in the frequency of extreme rain events. We are on the northern fringe of those expected outcomes. Further research into this matter is ongoing and may yield finer detailed predictions within the next couple of years.

An ongoing lack of precipitation, normal at best even in a year that was supposed to be above-normal, means that some groundwater sources possibly will be impacted over the long term. Where that might happen is hard to say because few adequate hydrogeology studies have been performed in the Mount Shasta/Mt. Eddy area. In our area, groundwater extraction is not regulated by the County or the State. We are lucky that our source (mainly the NE slope of Mt. Eddy) currently has no other heavy users. But the possibility that industrial users might deplete surrounding residential wells, and even sell the groundwater for private profit, is becoming an issue in other nearby areas of the County (as well as other places). So it behooves all of us to track the outcome of such controversies as they play out and they establish legal precedents that may apply here.



Susan Brennan is very interested in having a lending library on the Ranch. If there's any interest, she will put it on her property. Contact Susan directly via email, sbrennan@ravensites.net, or through the HLA website to let her know you are interested and want to help.



Ranch Service Providers

A listing has been compiled of those available for hire with heavy equipment to provide services to the Ranch, including snow removal. You will find it by going to the website on the News and Events page: www.hammondlandowners.org.

2016 Board Members

President	Tom Wearing	938-4288
Vice President	Erich Ziller	938-4993
Secretary	Pam Robinson	707-217-1309
Treasurer	Doug Lathrop	938-3022
At-Large	Bob Keyser	938-4140
	Jeanne George	524-7278
	Paul Elberts	938-3835
<i>The Hammond Ranch Scene</i> Editor	Larie Wearing	938-4288

The HLA Board of Directors cares about and wants to hear members' opinions, suggestions and ideas. Everyone is welcome to attend any of the board meetings. If you plan to attend, please let the host know in advance so that accommodations can be made.

We also encourage members to write to us and create a dialogue on topics of interest to Hammond Ranch landowners. The Board members can be reached by phone at the numbers listed above, by snail mail c/o HLA, P.O. Box 795, Mount Shasta, California 96067, or via email at hla@hammondlandowners.org.

Calendar

- HLA Board Meeting – Second Tuesday of every month, 7:00 p.m. The location is available on the website or from any Board member. The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at the George residence. Call Jeanne or Leland at 524-7278 to confirm.
- HLA Annual Picnic – Saturday, July 9, 2016.
- HLA Members' Annual Meeting and Luncheon – Saturday, November 5, 2016, Best Western Treehouse, 11:30 a.m.
- Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors – First, second and third Tuesdays of every month, 10:00 a.m., County Courthouse, Yreka. Call Clerk at 842-8081 to confirm the meeting.
- Greater Weed Area Fire Safe Council – Third Tuesday of every month, 6:30 p.m., Hammond Ranch Fire Station.



Moving or changing email address?

Please send changes of address to:
The Hammond Ranch Scene

c/o HLA

P.O. Box 795

Mt. Shasta, CA 96067-0795

or email address to:

www.hammondlandowners.org

Hammond Landowners Association, Inc.



P.O. Box 795
Mount Shasta, CA 96067