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HLA Annual Members Meeting

Don't forget to sign up for the annual meeting luncheon! Announcements have gone out to all members and some RSVPs have been received already. It's historically very informative and a lot of fun to catch up with neighbors.

Guest Speaker Arielle Halpern, Senior Program Director, Mt. Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center, and possibly others will be discussing wildfire issues in the Hammond Ranch area. The Ecology Center flyer announcing a prescribed fire workshop is included with this newsletter. Wildfire is an important issue in the Hammond Ranch area. You don't want to miss this presentation!

In case you've forgotten, the meeting is Saturday, November 3 at 11:30a.m. at the Best Western Tree House dining room in Mt. Shasta. The deadline for getting your RSVP in is **October 29**. If you haven't received the invitation and RSVP, contact Larie Wearing at lariedw@gmail.com or 859-0990 and let us know.

New -- Wildfire Financial Grants

To date, state and federal government financial grants have provided over \$300,000 for improved wildfire protection in the Hammond Ranch fire district. However, in more recent years, funding has been very limited and only one small grant (removal of fuel along College Avenue) has been awarded. A proposed grant to establish a shaded fuel break along Dogwood ridge was submitted three times, but never funded.

Recently, CAL FIRE announced new grant programs with funding provided from the California Climate Investment Program. Two of the new programs ("Forest Health" and "Fire Prevention") could be a source of funding for projects in the Hammond Ranch area.

Please contact me if you are interested and willing to donate volunteer time to identify, prepare and coordinate projects within the Hammond Ranch area. You can email me at rklokow@gmail.com and let me know your name, address and phone number.

*Randy Klokow,
Hammond Ranch
Fire Safe Council*



Welcome Baskets

A welcome basket was delivered to Amy Bowers and Jim Matthew on High Meadow Drive. They have actually lived here since June of 2015, having moved from Steamboat Springs, Colorado. They have a dog, Jake, and a cat.

Amy is an accountant and works part time at JEDI in Mt. Shasta. Jim is an accountant as well and works part time doing accounting in Colorado. He returns to Colorado about three times a year. They seem very pleased with their new house and surroundings.

Welcome to the Ranch, Amy & Jim!!



A welcome basket was also delivered to Jessica Lunsford on North Old Stage Rd. It happens to be Miriam Lowry's old house. Her husband, Kyle, is a firefighter with CAL FIRE and was working the Delta fire at the time we arrived so he was not available. We wish him well and give our thanks.

The couple lived with friends in Edgewood while looking for 9 months to buy a house. They are very pleased with their new house and look forward to making room for their chickens, barn cats, 3 dogs and Moon Pie (their horse). They are expecting their first baby in February.

Welcome to the Ranch, the Lunsford family!





Run Report

During the third quarter of 2018 the Hammond Ranch Fire Company responded to quite a few calls, as follows: 8 vegetation fires; 2 structure fires; 3 traffic collisions; 4 medical calls; 4 vehicle fires; 1 illegal campfire; 1 hazard standby and 2 smoke checks.

Many thanks to our volunteers.
from *Lori Luddon*

Fuel Reduction on Dale Creek Road

On August 30 this year, a group of volunteers got together and with the owner of the property -- Kyle Lunsford -- spent the morning clearing brush, limbing and removing trees along Dale Creek Road at the intersection of Maple Drive. It was part of an ongoing effort to reduce fuel in the event of fire so that emergency vehicles can have access to the properties off of Dale Creek Road and residents can evacuate. Hammond Ranch Fire Company provided a water truck and volunteer firefighter Lori Luddon stood by in case of sparks.

They did a great job. Many thanks to Flo Anderson, Rick and Diane Blakely, John Brennan, Laurie Crist, Glenn & Ly Gilbert, Al Guglietti, Vicki Houle, Carmen Kinch, Lori Luddon, Kyle Lunsford, Geneva Omann, Lynn Teuscher, Karl Tiefert, Larie and Tom Wearing and Janet Zalewski for all their hard work.

Another volunteer work day is scheduled for November. Tom Wearing is coordinating it. If you haven't already signed up to volunteer, consider doing it and contact Tom at tvwearing@gmail.com to sign up.



CAL FIRE Chipping Program Continued

For those who have already started stacking material, or plan to take part in CAL FIRE's chipping program, here is the latest. The preliminary plan is for the chipper to return to Hammond Ranch mid-November. Availability of the equipment and crew depends on fire conditions at that time.

If you plan to have the crew chip material on your property, please contact me at tvwearing@gmail.com or at 530-859-0991. Please contact me sooner than later. I will need your name, contact information (both email and phone, if possible) and address where the material is located. Also, please provide a very rough estimate of the amount of materials to be chipped (i.e., a stack about ___ feet long by ___ feet high).

I will coordinate between you all and Chief Tanner at CalFire. We may not be able to provide lots of advance notice of the day the crew will arrive, but I will keep you advised as things progress.

The "Landowner Chipping Program Instructions" is reposted below as a reminder of the Do's and Don'ts in preparing the stack.

Tom Wearing

Landowner Chipping Program Instructions



PREPARING THE MATERIALS TO BE CHIPPED

DO'S--PLEASE:

- LOCATE MATERIALS FOR EASY ACCESS TO THE CHIPPER;
- STACK MATERIALS ON LEVEL GROUND OR UPHILL SIDE OF THE ROAD;
- MINIMIZE SMALL (LESS THAN 1" DIA) MATERIALS.
- PLACE CUT ENDS IN ONE DIRECTION FACING THE CHIPPER; and



DON'TS--PLEASE DO NOT:

- NO ROCKS, MUD, STUMPS, OR ROOTS;
- NO POISON OAK, BLACKBERRIES OR VINES;
- NO PILES OF LEAVES, PINE NEEDLES, OR YARD CLIPPINGS;
- NO NON-VEGETATIVE MATERIALS (GARBAGE, PLASTIC, METALS...);
- NO TREE LIMBS GREATER THAN 8" IN DIAMETER;
- DO NOT STACK MATERIALS DOWNHILL OR IN A DITCH; and
- DO NOT STACK MATERIALS HIGHER THAN 5 FEET.

Note -- Chipped Materials will be spread back onto the owner's property adjacent to the chipper.



Wildfire Lessons...

Recently, I interviewed two homeowners who were affected by the 2017 Napa wildfires. One owner lost everything (home, garage, vehicles, personal memories, computers...). Nothing was saved. The other owner saved their home but lost all outside buildings and infrastructure (garage, pump house, water tanks, firewood, tractor...). I asked each of them, "If you could go back to one day before the wildfire, what would you do differently?" They answered as follows:

1. BE PREPARED--BE READY--HAVE A PLAN -- Be prepared for a wildfire. Start now to prepare an emergency evacuation kit. The evacuation kit should include those items necessary for survival including prescription medicine, financial records and insurance information. The evacuation kit might be the only thing saved. It is extremely difficult to start over when all records have been lost.
2. DO NOT WAIT FOR AN "OFFICIAL" NOTICE TO EVACUATE -- If you sense you are in danger, GET OUT!! Do not wait for someone to phone or knock on your door. Get out of the path of a fire as quickly as possible.
3. HAVE A PLANNED ESCAPE ROUTE. Start now to plan your route and know your route!! Be prepared for difficult driving conditions caused by fire, smoke and darkness. Know the shortest route to safety. If possible, have an alternate route if the primary route is blocked by wildfire.
4. IMPROVE THE SAFETY OF YOUR EVACUATION ROUTE -- Start now to remove flammable fuel away from your evacuation route. Work with your neighbors to make your evacuation route as safe as possible.
5. REVIEW YOUR HOME INSURANCE POLICY -- Start now to review your homeowner insurance policy with your insurance agent. Pay attention to coverage and replacement limits. Make an inventory list and photograph each room to ensure you have a complete description of all items. Most insurance companies will require you to provide a complete description of all lost items.
6. REVIEW YOUR UNIQUE INSURED ITEMS -- Pay attention to unique items such as jewelry, coin collections, gun collections, etc. Most homeowner policies have a very limited payout for unique items. High value, unique items must be appraised and covered by a separate insurance policy.
7. PREPARE NOW-BE READY -- Do not count on the fire department to save your house. Be prepared for the worst!!

Note -- To help you prepare, there are a ton of resources available on the internet. For example, there are computer software programs to help you inventory your home and prepare an evacuation plan.

*Randy Klokow,
Hammond Ranch
Fire Safe Council*

Wildlife on the Ranch

You may have noticed lately a striking bird with a black body and white head and a patch of red at the back of its head. The female does not have the red patch. It is a White-headed Woodpecker. They are found almost exclusively in the western US, except for a small southern sliver of British Columbia. It lives in coniferous forests, especially liking Ponderosa seeds but also eating berries, insects, including ants, spiders and beetles. They forage for insects off of tree trunks and limbs or by flying out to catch them in midair.

They are solitary or in monogamous pairs, having one brood per year, and are considered to be quiet and elusive. They build their nests in the cavity of a dead pine or oak tree, anywhere from 5 to 25 feet above ground. A hole is drilled and excavated and nests are laid in the holes. Beautiful bird.



Deer Hunting Season

You may already know, but it is still deer hunting season in our Zone B2 until October 21. It is suggested that non-hunters should be aware there may be hunters in the area and wear brightly-colored clothing -- avoid white, grey, brown, black (anything resembling game colors) -- walk softly but make conversation with your co-hikers so that a hunter can hear you and don't intentionally spook wildlife when you're around hunters.

It is illegal to hunt within 100 yards of a dwelling, so if you spot someone that close, report it to the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Be safe!

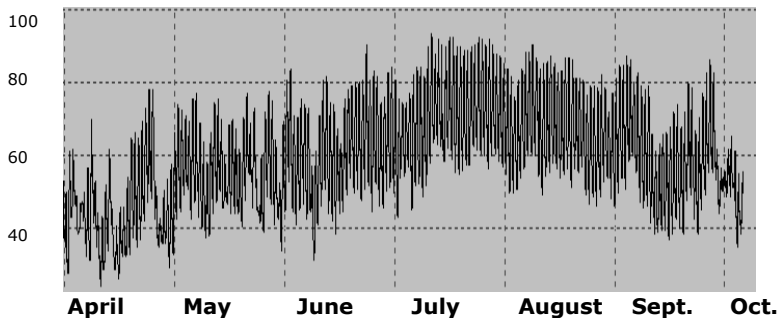


photo courtesy of Dave Scott

Dan's Weather Report

This past summer's weather was dominated by dense, widespread and persistent wildfire smoke. Since early July through the third week of September, and particularly all of August, visibilities were seriously obscured. One most days, Mt. Shasta (10-12 miles to the summit) could not be seen at all from Hammond Ranch, and on some days, even Black Butte and Mt. Eddy (2-3 miles to their summits) were also completely obscured. On most days, a "campfire" odor was obvious. The fires (and their directions from us) -- named Klamathon (N), Klondike (NNW), Natchez (NW), Carr (SSW), Hirz (S), and Delta(SSW) -- each sent smoke our way depending which one happened to be upwind on any particular day.

Wildfire and weather are connected: each strongly affects the other. The most obvious connection is that the smoke reduces the solar energy that normally heats up the ground. The result (according to NOAA) is that daily temperature highs were cut back from what they would have been, by several degrees. Here is a graph of the temperatures measured at the 4200' elevation in the Ranch starting in April.



Although it is difficult to prove what "would have been," it is notable that the highest afternoon temperatures here never exceeded the low 90's, at most, and usually stayed in the mid-to-upper 80's. No days even approached 100 degrees, unlike last summer. Nonetheless, global warming has not gone away. July 2018 was the warmest month in California history, averaged over the whole month and the whole state.

Another obvious connection between wildfire and weather is the particular kind of weather that promotes wildfires, which is hot and dry. Nationally, fire seasons now average 78 days longer than in 1970, according to the US Forest Service. However, the spark that starts a fire is generally **not** weather-related. A recent article in the New York Times (Aug. 20, 2018) says, "In California, almost 95 percent of fires are started by people, and about 7 percent of those are caused by arson, according to Lynne Tolmachoff, the chief of public education at Cal Fire. The rest are mostly fires started by lightning, or other acts of Mother Nature such as wind taking down a power line." The Carr, Hirz and Delta fires, those largest and closest to Mount Shasta this summer, were all "human-caused." The hugely destructive Tubbs fire (near Santa Rosa) of last summer was indeed initiated by a downed PG&E power line on a windy evening. That too is arguably "human-caused" and at the very least argues for undergrounding of power lines where they are protected from the weather.

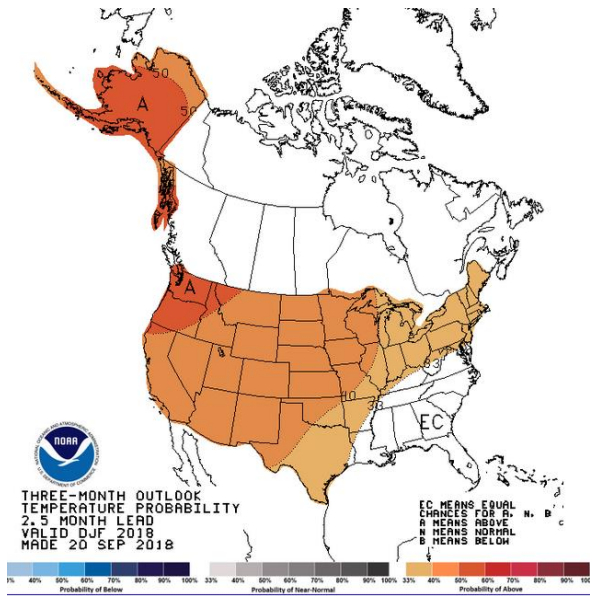
The Carr fire provided a spectacular example of how a wildfire can affect the weather: it produced a tornado-like structure. "Normally," the heated air in a wildfire ascends, pulling in surrounding air from below and spewing it out on high (a process is called vertical convection), thereby carrying burning embers with it to more distant locations. But, also typically in California in the summer there is a temperature inversion (relatively cooler air below and a warmer layer above) that suppresses vertical convection. The heated air from the Carr fire was trapped by this inversion layer until it got so hot below that the inversion layer suddenly broke through in one region, leading to violent vertical convection. The sudden in-rushing air at ground level formed a huge updraft column, swirling counter-clockwise (as seen from above) due to the Coriolis effect that arises from the earth's rotation. The swirling column -- 40,000 feet high -- was 1000 feet in diameter, with winds spiraling inward between 135 and 165 mph and temperatures of 2600 degrees F. and lasting for 80 minutes. Wildfire swirls (as these events are usually called) are quite common, but the intensity of this one was unprecedented.

Weather also affects firefighting tactics. Once a fire gets beyond a small size, dumping water or fire retardant on the flames is not completely successful, although aerial dumping can slow the spread. Instead, the primary tactic is to construct a deliberately burned-out band all around the fire region, a "containment line", through which the fire will find no fuel. It becomes a race: can a containment band be established before the fire gets there? When the weather is dry, the wildfire itself spreads more rapidly, but the ignition of a deliberate containment fire is also much more efficient. When the weather is moist (from rain, dew or high humidity), the main fire spreads more slowly, but progress on a containment line is also slowed. So, to win the race, it is crucial that the fire not spread too rapidly.

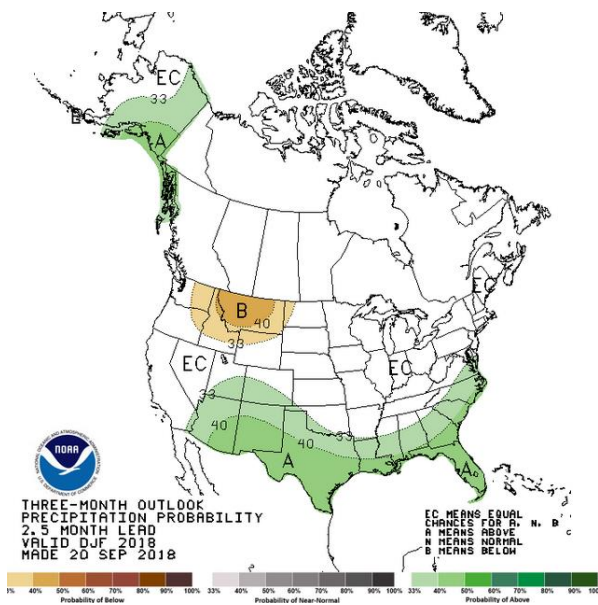
According to a CAL FIRE representative, speaking at one of the several community meetings this summer, fire actually spreads the most rapidly in previously clear-cut areas and not as fast in areas with large living trees. That is because clear cuts typically contain dense undergrowth, small trees with thin bark and twigs and slash piles from prior logging, all of which catch fire quickly. But old growth has relatively less "understory" and the large trees themselves have much thicker bark and fewer low-lying branches available for ignition. Indeed, CAL FIRE reports that many of the largest trees in the Hirz and Delta Fires will survive and recover. (This explains how they got so old.) So, it is clear that increased clear cutting will not provide increased fire safety, but selective thinning of smaller trees, controlled burns and removal of underbrush might help.

The fire season was possibly cut short by a series of rain showers in early October, leaving Mt. Shasta itself with a nice white coating above about 9000' elevation. So, what is the prognosis for this

winter? Bearing in mind that the long-range forecasts are not particularly reliable, NOAA predicts that winter in this area has a 40-50% chance of above-normal temperatures and a 33% chance of normal precipitation. Indeed, above normal temperatures are more likely for much of the country (as can be seen from the below charts), a prediction consistent with the trend over the past couple of decades. A 40%-50% chance (shown as middle-orange) is, of course, not a "slam-dunk" because a completely random guess would be correct 33% of the time.

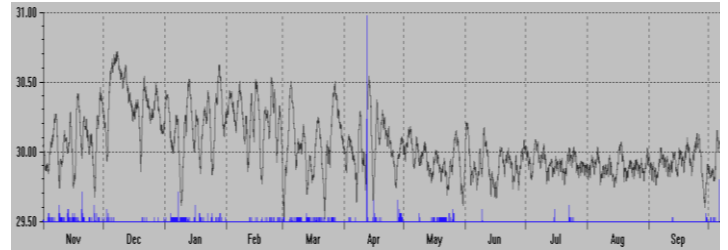


Temperature deviation



Precipitation deviation

One of the more exciting things about the weather here is the rather sudden transition from winter-to-summer and back again. This can be seen by watching the barometer (which measures air pressure). The passage of storms (low pressure) and the arrival of cold, clear periods (high pressure) is accompanied by large swings, as can be seen by the barometer trace (below) for the past year so far. Note how the air pressure fluctuates much more wildly in the wet season.



by Dan Axelrod

A Fire Sky

The sunset was like a fire-sky
That truly lit up my world
Clouds were orange and yellow
Like a paintbrush making swirls

The beauty was overwhelming
But a little bit frightening as well
It raged as though with fury
As it all began to swell

The colors were also reflected
In the lake where trees surround
It was quiet as I stood mesmerized
There was barely a single sound

I saw some fellows out fishing
Their bodies in semi-dark
Nothing looked quite real
The lake looked cold and stark

I doubt that I will ever see
A sunset just like this again
The entire sky so unimaginable
In a shocking kind of blend!

by Marilyn Lott

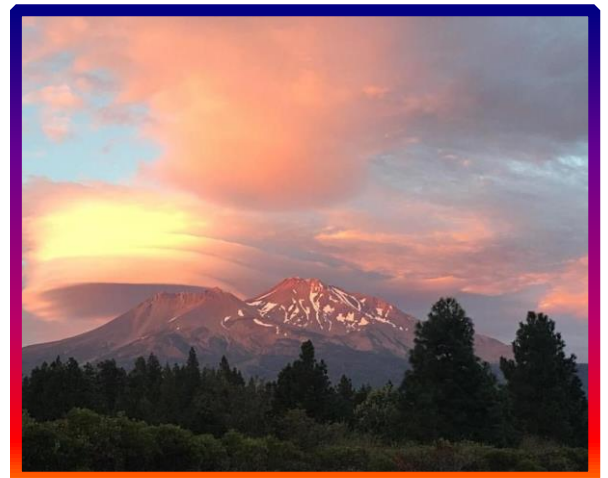
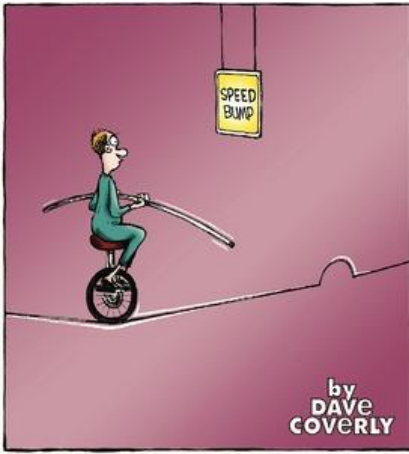


photo by Kathy Zant



2018 Board Members

President	Erich Ziller	938-4993
Vice President	Paul Elberts	938-3835
Secretary	Jeanne George	524-7278
Treasurer	Katie LeBaron	831-246-0123
At-Large	Bob Keyser	938-4140
	Betty Leas	926-2149
	Pam Robinson	707-217-1309
	Tom Wearing	859-0991

The Hammond Ranch Scene Editor
Larie Wearing 859-0990

The HLA Board of Directors cares about and wants to hear members' opinions, suggestions and ideas. Members are 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.

Emergency Contact

In the event of an emergency affecting the Ranch, particularly fire, call 911 and then, if there's time, please call Katie LeBaron, Emergency Phone Tree/Alert System coordinator, at 831-246-0123, so she can activate the Hammond emergency phone tree to alert all members.



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, November 13, 2018 at the residence of Katie LeBaron. Members welcome. Call Katie at 831-246-0123 to confirm before attending.
- HLA Annual Picnic – Saturday, July 6, 2019. Location and time to be determined.
- HLA Members' Annual Meeting and Luncheon – Saturday, November 3, 2018, at the Best Western Tree House, 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.
- Hammond Ranch Fire Safe Council -- Meetings are scheduled by Randy Klokow. He can be contacted at rklokow@gmail.com.

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.



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 to:

hla@hammondlandowners.org

Hammond Landowners Association, Inc.



P.O. Box 795
Mount Shasta, CA 96067