



What's Inside?

New United Way Grant	2
Emergency Telephone Tree Test	2
Has Our Fire Company Changed?	2
Welcome To Our New Residents	3
Fire Safe Council Update	4
Fire Company News	5
Proposed Love's Truckstop Update	5
Dan's Weather	5-6
2020 Board Members	7
Calendar	7
Wildlife On The Ranch	7

APRIL 2020

Volume XLV

Number 2

Volunteers Honored

Two Hammond Ranch volunteers were recently honored by the Siskiyou County Fire Chiefs Association at the annual firefighter's dinner at the Yreka Community Center.

Mark Dibelka was selected as one of the Volunteer Firefighters of the Year for all of his contributions to our Hammond Ranch Fire Company.

Randy Klokow was selected as one of the Volunteer Citizens of the Year. He was selected by the firefighting community for his many efforts to improve the fire safety in the Hammond Ranch area.

On hand to do the honors were Bruce Ross representing both Brian Dahle and Megan Dahle (CA Senate & Assembly), Michael Kobseff (Siskiyou Co. Board of Supervisors Chairman 2020), Samantha Marciel representing US Senator Kamala Harris and Doug LaMalfa (US House of Representatives).

Several other well-deserving Siskiyou County volunteers, both citizens and firefighters, received honors from their service districts.

A large percentage of all fire companies in our county are staffed by dedicated volunteers who donate their time and skills for the benefit of their communities. Please support them and thank them for their service.



A Message from our HLA President

During this critical and unprecedented crisis it is important and necessary for Hammond Ranch residents to pull together and support one another in any way we can.

Please contact me, Erich Ziller at 530-938-4993 (leave a message with your number), or at erichziller@yahoo.com if:

1. You are willing to help a neighbor in need and understand the risks and the precautions you need to take.
2. You are in need of help for shopping, prescription pickup, etc.

I will try to match people in need of help with people willing to help from the same area or road. Let's be good and caring neighbors and make every effort to keep everyone safe.

Erich Ziller, President HLA

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.



United Way Emergency Preparedness Grant

The HLA Board has received a grant through the United Way of Northern California to facilitate disaster preparedness for residents of Hammond Ranch and the Fire Department response area. It will consist of outreach, face-to-face (after restrictions lifted) or virtual training, and creating a culture of neighbors helping neighbors respond to disasters.

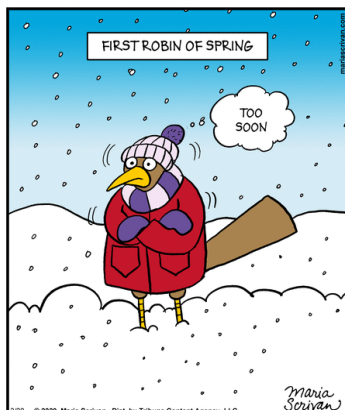
As you can imagine, the project has drastically changed from how it was originally planned due to the COVID19 pandemic. However, it also provides an opportunity to begin the process. If you, or anyone you know, need assistance with anything related to our new "normal" (food delivery, help with purchasing groceries, check-ins by phone, pet care if you become hospitalized...), United Way has an extensive list of resources available just by texting **211211** on your smart phone and putting **coronavirus** in the body of the text.

No smart phone, but internet access? Go to the United Way website at www.211nocal.org. No internet? Dial 211 from your phone and after a recorded message plays, a live operator is available to help you 24/7!

Additionally, please let your neighbors know how they can help. As you read on page 1, our HLA Board President, Erich Ziller, is taking the lead in gathering information that might let us, your neighbors, help each other during this challenging time.

Do you need help with groceries? Want someone to check in with you every so often? Need help with any chores that could be accomplished with social distancing?

As we move through the pandemic, the grant program will be focused more on wildfire prevention and other disasters. But, in the meantime, reach out and let us know how we can help.



Emergency Telephone Tree

Upcoming Test

The HLA Emergency Alert system now includes over 100 property owners who have requested to receive an alert message, via a dedicated group of HLA volunteers, in the event of a wildfire occurrence or other emergency that may endanger the Hammond Ranch area.

We will be conducting a test of the phone/text tree system in late spring, prior to wildfire season, to ensure that it is successful in reaching all those who have signed up. Most registrants will receive a TEXT message similar to "This is a TEST of the HLA Emergency Alert system. Please reply YES to confirm receipt of message."

This is an entirely volunteer effort, and we try to keep the workload down for the neighborhood leads, so we can only list one cellular phone number per household.

If you have only a landline, arrangements must be made on a case-by-case basis. Texts can be easily sent to a group, but phone calls must be made individually. In a true emergency, our volunteers may be preparing to evacuate as well. It is even more vital if a household does not have cell phone capability, that you sign up for Code Red. Go to <https://www.co.siskiyou.ca.us/emergencyservices/page/codered-emergency-alert-system>

Please remember that this is a volunteer effort and notification may be subject to delays.

If you have questions or wish to be added to the Alert System contact Sally McGregor at:

sarakaimac@gmail.com (preferable)

Or 541-973-7162

Why the Sudden Changes to Our Fire Department?

Recently, we have received many questions as to why the name used for our fire department is changing and wondering what other changes are in store. Please understand that there are no "sudden" changes happening.

You may notice a change in the logos of the Fire Company's equipment and uniforms however. The new logo for the equipment and uniforms will show a stylized Mt. Shasta, Black Butte and Mt. Eddy with the title "Hammond Ranch" or "Hammond Ranch Fire Zone".

Most other questions can be answered by a quick look at the department website:

www.hmm4200.org

And you can follow the department Twitter feed for the latest developments @HMM4200.



Welcome to Hammond Ranch

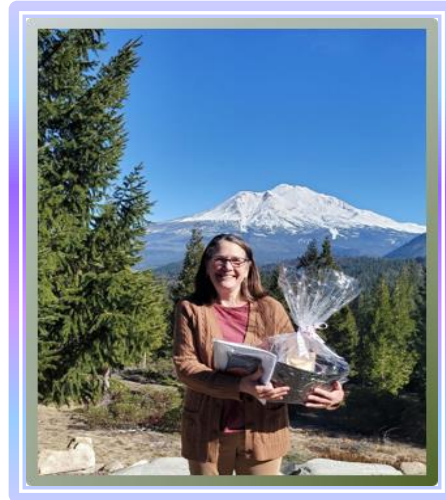


On a cold morning in January a welcome basket was delivered to Caitlin Casey and Nonni Smith on Rocky Road. Caitlin and Nonni and their two very energetic daughters moved into their home in October. They were living in the Bay Area and recently in Caitlin's parents' cabin and various rentals in the area.

When approaching their house, we were greeted by four long-haired goats roaming around in a pen. Also part of the family are two dogs and cats as pets.

Nonni works as a horse trainer in Petaluma and Caitlin is currently studying to become a clinical social worker. Caitlin is the daughter of Joan and Todd Casey (and the granddaughter of long-time residents Barbara and Richard Allen). She practically grew up in Hammond Ranch, visiting her grandparents' property every summer from when she was eight years old.

We are happy that they have found their own home here. Welcome!



On a recent sunny afternoon, Joan Casey was presented with a long-overdue welcome basket. Husband Todd wasn't present at the time. Sorry Todd!

Todd and Joan moved to the Ranch in the summer of 2014, to help with Joan's parents, Barbara and Richard Allen. The Allen's had purchased their property in 1989 building a cabin first and then a nice house. The house became Joan and Todd's in the fall of 2018.

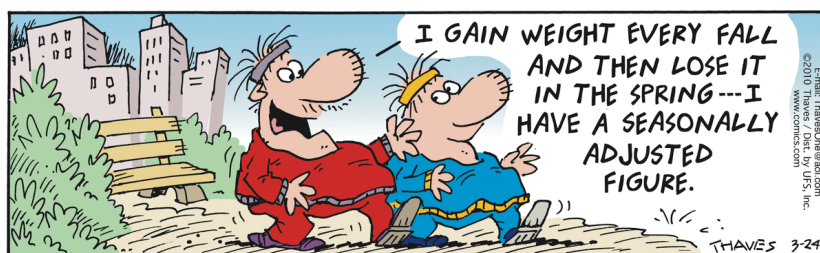
They had moved from Annapolis, MD where they lived for 13 years. Todd was the head of the upper Key School as a career teacher and school administrator. Joan worked for a small landscape architecture firm as a licensed landscape architect.

Joan is originally from California and Todd from New York. As a kid, Joan visited Mount Shasta with her family after friends (the Meg Montgomery family) moved here in 1968.

Todd and Joan are "retired," although Todd sometimes fills in as a substitute teacher mostly at Weed Elementary School. Joan works at Springhill Nursery and Gardens.

Todd and Joan have three adult children, Caitlin, Dylan and Flynn. They also have two grandchildren, the daughters of Caitlin and Nonni – introduced in our other welcome article.

Welcome to ALL the Casey's. Enjoy the Ranch!





Fire Safe Council Hammond Ranch Fire District



THE 'BAD' NEWS Unfortunately the COVID-19 virus is having an impact on wildfire education and fuel reduction actions. Many events (such as the "Protecting Your Home From Wildfire Seminar", the "Wildfire Community Preparedness Day Event" and the College of the Siskiyous "Wildfire Education for Rural Homeowners") have been postponed. It is not clear at this time when these events can be rescheduled.

THE "GOOD" NEWS The HRFSC council is continuing to work in those areas that are not affected by the COVID-19 virus. For example:

1. PHASE II FREE CHIPPING PROGRAM

The HRFSC will again be offering free chipping services for landowners. This program is intended to help landowners remove hazardous wildfire fuel along evacuation roads and create 100-foot defensible space around their homes.

This program was a success last year as over 1,400 cubic yards of hazardous wildfire fuel were treated. 42 landowners participated in the program, expending about 1,300-manhours to cut and stack hazardous fuel. Emergency access along evacuation roads such as Ponderosa, Oak Ridge, Aspen, Rocky Road and parts of Sugar Pine, Old Stage and Dale Creek were significantly improved.

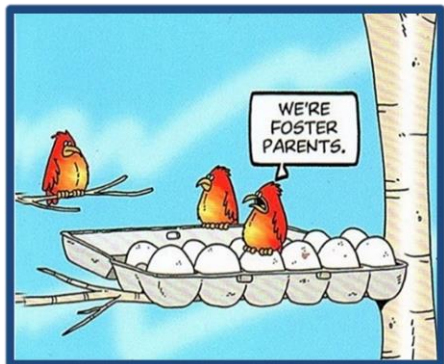
The chipping program is planned to start in late May. A recent HRFSC email describes the program details. If you did not get the email, please send a request to hammondfiresafe@gmail.com or drop a postcard to Fire Safe Council, 8304 Oak Ridge Drive, Weed, CA.

SPECIAL THANKS TO Paul Elberts for helping with this project. Thank You Paul!!

2. DOGWOOD RIDGE SHADED FUEL BREAK

About 80% of the landowners have signed approval forms to allow a contractor to create a shaded fuel break along Dogwood ridge. Unfortunately, the HRFSC cannot start until final approval of the California Environmental Quality (CEQA) report. The CEQA report is "backlogged" at the State review level. The FSC is pushing to get approval to allow the contractor to start working.

SPECIAL THANKS TO Phil and Betty Leas and Geneva and Dan Axelrod for helping with this project!!



3. EVACUATION ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

The HRFSC is finishing an evaluation of evacuation roads to identify hazardous conditions. The evaluation will be used to initiate written requests to landowners to authorize the FSC contractor to remove the fuels. Old Stage, College Ave. and Sugar Pine will be the highest priority for evacuation road work.

4. COUNTY EVACUATION ROAD ORDINANCE

Due to COVID-19, the proposed County ordinance is in a "hold" status. The proposed ordinance would allow a qualified inspector (such as a Fire Department representative) to identify wildfire hazards on emergency evacuation roads. Landowners would receive a notice to correct the deficiencies. Failure to correct the deficiencies could result in a County enforcement action. At the current time in Siskiyou County, removal of hazardous fuel is dependent upon landowner approval.

5. DEMONSTRATION BURN MOCKUPS

The Hammond Ranch FSC is working with the Siskiyou FSC to demonstrate the effectiveness of new home construction. The HRFSC will build mockups to compare the effectiveness of new versus old home construction.

The burn demonstration and seminar will be scheduled when COVID-19 restrictions are resolved.

6. PRESCRIBED BURN DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

The HRFSC council recently endorsed a proposed prescribed burn demonstration project submitted by the Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District (SVRCD). The project is intended to create a prescribed burn organization and demonstrate the effectiveness of a prescribed burn. The Hammond Ranch area was identified as an area suitable for a prescribed fire demonstration project by the SVRCD.

This project could take a "long" time to obtain approval and funding.

7. UNITED WAY 211 PROJECT

The HRFSC recently assisted the Hammond Ranch Landowners Association (HLA) to submit a proposal for a United Way community emergency preparedness grant. The United Way has approved the grant, but the COVID-19 virus is affecting training and implementation. The HRFSC will work with the HLA project coordinator to ensure wildfire emergency planning is included in the public education.

SPECIAL THANKS TO Sally McGregor (HLA) who volunteered to serve as the Project Manager. Thank You Sally!!

For additional information see Grant Article on page 2.



Fire Company News

In early March our fire company personnel participated in a dramatic exercise in which an abandoned house was set ablaze for a day of training in safe firefighting practices. Despite a good 4 inches of snow on the ground and chilly winds, the heat of the blaze and the instructions of the experts were the main focus of the day. However, a bit of time was still available for a "selfie" or two.

This was just one of many types of training these volunteers undergo in order to be ready when they are needed. Certifications for structure fires, wildland fires and medical calls are all part of the desired training for our fire fighters.



In other news, the Hammond Ranch Firefighters Association, recently made a bid to staff a Beer Booth at the Siskiyou County Fair. This Association is the non-profit fundraising mechanism for our Fire Company consisting of firefighters, former firefighters and other citizens.

In the past, this fund-raising activity has resulted in several thousand dollars in critically needed funds and many ranch residents signed up to help. Unfortunately, "our guys" were out-bid by the Cattleman's Association of Siskiyou Co.

Over the years, the Firefighters Association has made many monetary contributions to the fire company for equipment and grant-matching funds for vehicles. They recently aided our fire company by supplying PHI air ambulance service for the firefighters, mobile data terminals located in all apparatus and funding for the new revision of the department logo.

Now our firefighters desperately need upgraded radios and breathing apparatus as well as some matching funds for a new water tender. With no funding from the fair this year, monetary contributions would be greatly appreciated.



Proposed Love's Truck Stop:

As reported in the January newsletter, the court ruled against Hammond Landowners Association in our lawsuit against Love's Corporation. After consultations with our attorneys, a Notice of Appeal was filed on January 27 with the Appeals Court in Sacramento. On March 16, the Court determined the case is not suitable for mediation. That means that the appeal will now move forward.

The attorneys have informed us that the appeals process should last at least one year, and possibly several years.

Your HLA Board remains committed to protect the lives and property of local residents. The negative impact that 3,000 to 5,000 travelers, 600 trucks, and 100,000 gallons of transferred fuel **every day** could inflict are not acceptable.

The dry winter has enhanced the danger of wildfires this year, and thousands of travelers in our area heightens that risk.

Updated information will be posted to our website (www.hammondlandowners.org) as it becomes available. For more information contact

erichziller@yahoo.com



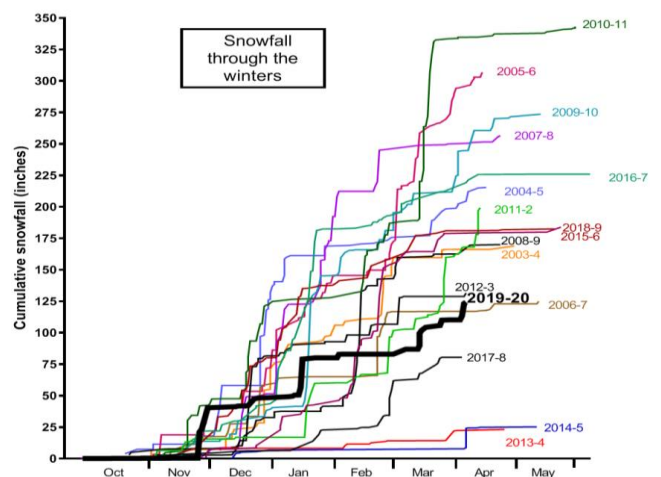
If you can help, please send a check to:
Hammond Ranch Fire Fighters Association,
8800 North Old Stage Rd.
Weed, CA 96094.

Dan's Weather

The storms confronting us - infectious, immunological, environmental, economic, meteorological - are all different but they do have certain features in common. After discussing the details of this past winter, one of those common features will be explored in the next HLA Newsletter.

As can be seen in the graph of cumulative snowfall vs date, this past winter (heavy black line) has been below "normal" in total snowfall (measured at 4200 ft elevation in the SE part of the Ranch, generally the snowiest part). The total (so far) has been 124", which puts it at the fifth lowest of the last 17 years. The season began early, around Thanksgiving, with a big event (the "bomb cyclone", more on that later), and then pretty much stalled out with almost no snow from early December to mid March, except for one significant event in mid January. Early April featured a strong snow event (also more on that later).

by Daniel Axelrod

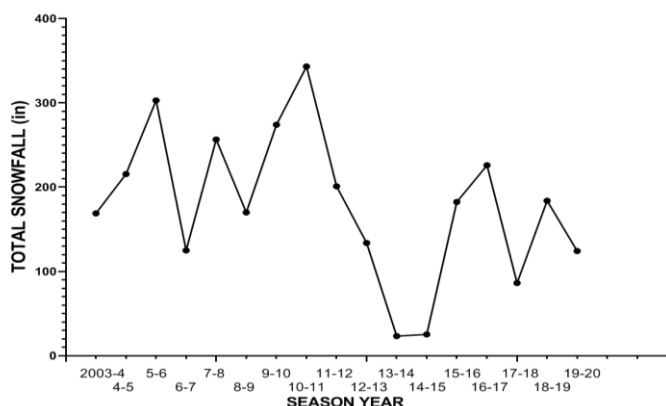


Dan's Weather - Continued:

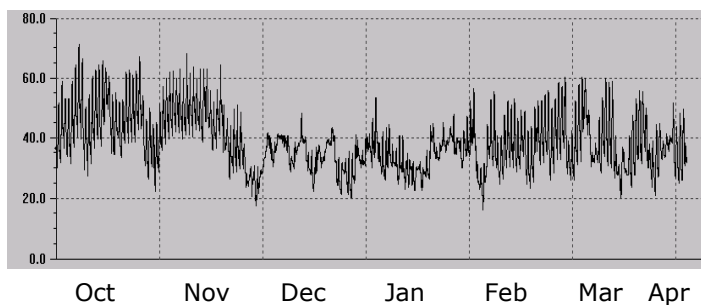
This year's April 4-5 event may have seemed unusually late, but it was not. The graph for each year (colored lines) extends only up to the last snowfall of that year. Typically, the last snowfall occurs in mid April, with a typical monthly total of several inches but sometimes with amounts up to 18". In some years, the last measurable snowfall has occurred in very early June. In the 2018-19 season, the last snowfall (4.0") occurred on May 25/26, bringing that past season's total to a middle-of-the-road 184".

In terms of water equivalent - which is important in predicting how moist or dry the ground and vegetation and groundwater levels will be in the coming summer - this winter (up to April 6, 2020) has been far below normal since Oct. 1, 2019: only ~17" total of water, compared to a normal of ~36" (as measured in Mt. Shasta City). February, 2020 was the driest February ever recorded at Mt. Shasta City, with only 0.12" total. These kind of deficits could present a wildfire problem in the summer.

Is there a trend toward less snowfall over the years? Although the effect of global warming on local precipitation is not yet clear, warming will raise the snow level and clearly decrease the snowfall (vs. rainfall) at the Ranch, especially since the elevation of the snow/rain transition level is often right around the Ranch elevations now.



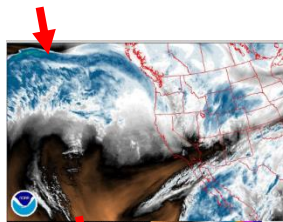
The temperature (deg F), shown below and recorded continuously here at 4200', shows that there were only a couple of days in which the morning temperature briefly dipped into the upper teens. The "spikey" trace seen in Oct, Nov, Feb, and Mar reflects a wide range of nighttime lows vs daytime highs, generally a sign of clear skies.



The core months of this season's winter (Nov, Dec, Jan, and Feb) averaged far warmer (by +2.3 deg F) than the decades-long "normal". Across the globe, February, 2020 ranked as the second hottest ever experienced in 141 years of climate records.

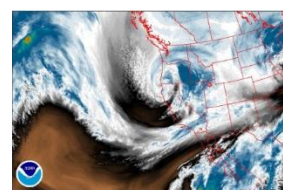
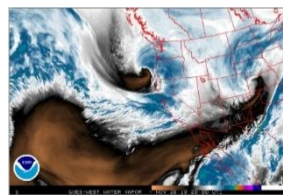
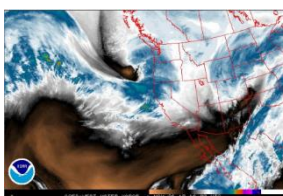
A snowstorm is born as a ripple in the jet stream that amplifies into a swirling vortex. The parent jet stream itself deviates in big N-S undulations as it circles the globe from W to E, and the position of that undulation changes rather slowly, over several days or even weeks.

If an undulation happens to be flowing from the NW to the SE over our area, then the swirling vortices that it generates will ride it down the coastline, bringing cold air from the north while pulling up warmer moist air from the central Pacific into the low-pressure circulation. The mix of the two forms a snowstorm.



The "bomb cyclone" of Nov. 26/27 (which dropped up to two feet of snow locally) was a spectacular example.

Here is a sequence of NOAA satellite images that show water vapor content, recorded every 2 hours, starting at 11:00A PST Nov. 26.



In these panels, black and brown areas represent clear dry air, white is somewhat moist, and the deeper blue is very moist. Note where the "bomb cyclone" storm starts in the Gulf of Alaska (upper left in each panel) it is little more than a slight ripple (see the red arrow) in the dark blue path of the jet stream. The ripple amplifies into a tight counterclockwise-circulating spiral just as it approaches the CA/OR border on the coast.

Air and clouds spiraling toward the center then get sucked upward, making the whole structure a bit like a giant vacuum cleaner. The air pressure at the center of this particular storm was unusually low (28.70"), more typical of a Category 2 hurricane. The spiral then spreads out, fills in and gradually dissipates over a period of a couple of days. But the parent jet stream undulation itself remains generally in place for a while, and in fact this one produced another "child" vortex which provided us with an added 17" of snow on Nov. 30/Dec.1.

These vortices are self-reinforcing, meaning that once a swirl starts, it sets up conditions that can make it even stronger. The condensation of water vapor into droplets (clouds) releases heat which enhances the upward motion of air. That is an example of "positive feedback" - a system that can explode small random disturbances into large ones. Even a tiny fluctuation can trigger it.

Positive feedback systems are everywhere in nature. We are seeing this phenomenon now with the explosive spread of virus into a world-wide pandemic starting with a random mutation in a single molecule somewhere.

2020 Board Members

President	Erich Ziller	938-4993
Vice President	Craig Fisher	938-4376
Secretary	Wilma Dibelka	938-2055
Treasurer	Katie LeBaron	831-246-0123
At-Large	Randy Klokow	707-255-7729
	Neera Paine	859-1924
	Sally McGregor	541-973-7162
<i>The Hammond Ranch Scene Editor</i>		
	Linda Klokow	707 255-7729

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

We 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, 6:30 p.m. The next meeting will be conducted online Tuesday, May 12, 2020. The Board welcomes input and concerns from all Hammond Ranch Landowners. Call any board member or send an email to HLA@hammondlandowners.org so your questions or concerns can be included on the agenda.
- HLA Members' Annual Meeting and Luncheon – Saturday, November 7, 2020.
- HLA Annual Members Picnic is scheduled for July 11, 2020. Time and location to be determined.
- 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 hammondfiresafe@gmail.com.

Wildlife on The Ranch

This fungus, found on the ranch, is an ***Astraeus hygrometricus***, commonly known as the **hygroscopic earthstar**, the **barometer earthstar**, or the **false earthstar**. This one is about 6 inches in diameter.

Young specimens resemble a puffball when unopened. In maturity, the mushroom displays the characteristic **earthstar** shape that is a result of the outer layer of tissue splitting open in a star-like manner.

Its common names refer to the fact that it is **hygroscopic** (water-absorbing), and can open up its rays to expose the spore sac in response to increased humidity, and close them up again in drier conditions.

The German Mycological Society selected this species as their "Mushroom of the Year" in 2005. It is not edible.....too tough!

The Hygroscopic Earthstar in January



The same mushroom after our February drought.

It's still alive and opened up again after some March rain.

Run Report - Hammond Ranch Fire Co.

First Quarter 2020 (Jan. to Mar.) – 7 medical calls, 6 public assists, 1 vegetation fires, 2 traffic collision, 1 false alarm, 1 illegal burn.

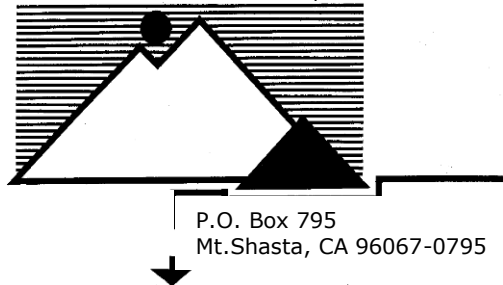
Remember: You can get real-time information about our Fire Company's calls and activities on their website: www.HMM4200.org

FYI – HMM4200 is the call sign for our Fire Company.

Many thanks to our Volunteer Fire Company



Hammond Landowners Association, Inc.



We Love it Here !!



*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