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*Hammond Ranch Landowners Association
Annual Membership Drive*

It's a new year and time again for our annual membership drive. Join us! Membership dues are still only \$55 per year (a lot less costly than most other LOA's). Enclosed with this newsletter is a Membership Application. To renew your membership or to join for the first time, fill it out and return it, along with your check made payable to the HLA, to Post Office Box 795, Mount Shasta, California 96067.

Again, a few reasons for landowners to become members:

- HLA negotiates with the County for needed improvements and support for Hammond Ranch.
- HLA promotes the maintenance of our roads by coordinating upgrades and by reimbursing road maintenance costs according to a prescribed schedule established by the HLA Board. Currently, two thirds of HLA's annual budget (your dues) goes toward road maintenance costs.
- HLA has a website that is helping to inform residents of issues related to the Ranch (www.hammondlandowners.org).
- HLA members are eligible to purchase PHI and/or AirMed emergency medical evacuation services at a discounted rate. See the website for information.
- HLA publishes a quarterly newsletter informing members of important issues, with articles of interest to the Ranch.
- HLA members work with road committees, the volunteer fire department as well as the County and our Hammond Ranch Fire Safe Council.
- Annual luncheon meeting in November each year.
- Annual picnic in July each year.

Renew your Hammond Ranch Landowners Association membership. If you haven't been a member before, consider signing up.

If you have questions, you can contact us at HLA@hammondlandowners.org or call Linda Klokow at 707-255-7729.

Meet Our New Board Members



Neera Paine

Neera has lived on the ranch since 1987. She wants to be involved in board activities and issues, assisting where needed. She will bring new perspectives to the board with a bit of an international flavor.



Sally McGregor

Sally has owned her property for many years, but has only recently moved into her home as a full time resident. She wants to "give back" to our community and assist wherever needed. Sally works part time also, so we're happy to have a few of her available hours.



Craig Fisher

Although Craig insists we treat him as the "New Kid on the Block", he has actually been on the board in the past (~ 1991). He would like to develop communication between our many road committees to improve road maintenance and assist the board in other areas.

See Page 6 for Important Information for New Landowners and all ranch residents

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.

Amateur Radio Operators Reliable Emergency Communication

The speakers at our Annual Members meeting emphasized the need to be prepared and plan for future wildfire emergencies.

One action addressed peripherally was the need for reliable communication in *any* kind of emergency situation. Both Code Red and our emergency telephone tree rely on our phones being in service, but our power may be out, cell phone or internet towers may be destroyed or just not working. This is when "hams", Amateur Radio Operators, come into their own. These folks have radio set-ups not dependant on the grid for power and so are able to communicate ... regardless.

In addition, amateur radio frequencies are usable, both directly and by way of repeater systems, over long distances and in areas where cell phones (even if they are working) are useless.

There are several hams on the Ranch. Some are involved with the Mt. Shasta Amateur Radio Club (MSARC) The club's FCC identification is W6BML and it operates a repeater on 146.880 MHz (-100).

The club spends part of each summer practicing communication skills by serving as Health and Welfare support for local public events taking place in and around south Siskiyou County. Events such as the Castle Crags Bicycle Event, the Mt Shasta 4th of July Races and Parade, and the Headwaters Trail Run have such participant tracking provided by amateur radio operators. These events are used for training in accurate communication recording, management of controlled nets, and interaction with other officiating groups which is applicable to the ICS (Incident Command System) used by CalFire and other government agencies during emergencies.

The Mt Shasta Amateur Radio Club offers free training and testing for anyone who wants to become licensed as a ham. Technician level classes in 2020 will be held at their clubhouse beginning in late January or early February.



The HAMS Among Us!

Check the website (listed below) for additional information. Testing is held the second Saturday of odd numbered months at 9:00 am at the clubhouse.

The initial costs involve purchase of textbooks (often available to borrow) and the purchase of basic radio equipment. Small handheld transceiver radios range in cost from less than \$100 (new Baofeng units) to higher cost-higher quality equipment.

Being a ham is a protection for your immediate family as well as for your neighborhood and surrounding areas. It takes as much or as little time as you choose to devote to it. There is a pool of current operators ready to help you.

For further information check out the radio club web site at <https://www.w6bml.com>. You'll see pictures of some of our local operators and events.

You can also email Wilma Dibelka (KD6WZC) at wilma@dibelka.us, or attend a MSARC meeting held at the clubhouse, 329 North Washington Drive, Mount Shasta just off Lake Street, 6:00 pm on Wednesdays. Check the web site for dates.

Help us provide communication coverage for Ranch residents in case of emergencies.

In addition – **IT'S FUN!!**

By Wilma Dibelka

Telephone Tree Emergency Alert System

This year Sally McGregor will be serving as lead coordinator of our Hammond Landowners Association emergency alert phone/text tree system. This system was created to quickly notify participants in the event of wildfire threat or other emergency in or near the Hammond Ranch area.

Please note this unofficial system does NOT replace CodeRed.

If you are not currently part of the telephone tree alert system and would like to be included (or are not sure if you are), please send your name, phone number and your Hammond Ranch property address to: sarakaimac@gmail.com, or call Sally at (541) 973-7162 if you have questions.

You don't have to be an HLA member to participate.

Please note that the phone you use for alerts should be a mobile that can receive texts.



Welcome to Hammond Ranch

On a bright sunny day, November 1st, a welcome basket was delivered to Becky and Jerome Smith on Hazelnut. Our Welcome committee, Larie Wearing and Pam Scott, had quite a greeting, as they were met by three dogs, two cats, one bird, two kids, Becky and Jerome. Becky grew up in Mt. Shasta and Jerome in Weed. The family moved from Mt. Shasta to the Ranch in December. The couple has four children with two living at home now.

Jerome has a business (4 Seasons Property Maintenance & Landscaping) and Becky works at Fairchild Medical Center as a Medical Assistant in telehealth, helping patients connect with specialists.

We are fortunate to have them as neighbors. Welcome!



On November 8, a Welcome Basket was delivered to a very excited couple, Marci Buckner & Brad Goldpaint. They had just moved into their new-to-them home on High Meadow and were having fun fixing it up.

Marci is a retired counselor and now manages Goldpaint Photography. Brad is an award-winning astral photographer and teacher. They met and dated in 2010 while hiking the Pacific Crest Trail. They met Janet Zalewski at the same time. They moved into Janet and Linda's cabin in 2010 and were living there until this October when they found their own property on the ranch..

Welcome to homeownership on the Ranch, Marci & Brad. We wish you many happy years here.



Pacificorp - (Pacific Power) Tree Removal and Replacement Program

A recent discussion with a representative from Pacificorp (our electric utility company) identified a program that removes and replaces trees that are located under overhead electrical power lines. The service is provided at no cost to the landowner.

The program works as follows:

1. A forest technician (contractor for Pacific Power) will survey and identify trees that would be candidates for treatment to improve electrical reliability and wildfire safety. Basically, any tree growing under an overhead power line (or immediately adjacent with limbs growing toward a power line) will be identified for treatment.

2. As a minimum, trees that could contact power lines will be "topped" and trimmed to a lower level to prevent contact with overhead lines. In future years, these trees will be continuously pruned and not allowed to grow to full height. These trees can become unattractive and unhealthy. Removal of these trees can improve property appearance and wildfire safety.

3. If approved by the landowner, Pacificorp will remove these trees at no cost to the landowner. Pacificorp will cut the trees to the ground, chip the limbs and leave larger wood in manageable lengths for the owner to utilize for firewood or other purposes. The remaining tree stump will not be removed.

4. After removal, the landowner will be given a tree voucher that will pay for a new replacement tree. The landowner can choose a tree from any nursery (except Home Depot) and plant the new tree(s) in a location where tree's future mature height will not impact the power lines (power line friendly).

This program is intermittently in operation in our area. Tree removal is dependent on Pacificorp's circuit schedule and landowner approval.

You will be required to sign a removal authorization form that allows Pacificorp to work on your property and binds an agreement on tree removals and clean-up.

Please be patient as Pacificorp schedules different circuits annually and their vegetation management work will be dependent on their schedule and funding availability.





Fire Safe Council Hammond Ranch Fire District



WILDFIRE FUEL REDUCTION & EDUCATION GRANT

BACKGROUND & STATUS:

In April 2019, CALFIRE approved and funded a Wildfire Fuel Reduction & Education Grant for the Hammond Ranch Area.

- The grant will improve wildfire safety in four areas:
- Remove fuel along emergency evacuation roads.
 - Create a Shaded Fuel Break at Dogwood Ridge.
 - Create 100-foot defensible space demonstration homes.
 - Provide wildfire public education.

The grant will remove about 240-acres of wildfire fuel. All fuel reduction work must be completed by March 2022. The grant will require about 2100-hours of volunteer community service.

COMPLETED ACTIONS:

1. Obtained written approvals from over 100 property owners to allow fuel reduction work on their property.
2. Presented a proposal to Siskiyou County to create a new County ordinance (similar to other California counties) that identifies and enforces removal of hazardous wildfire fuel along evacuation roads.
3. Completed field work and prepared a report in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
4. Completed a "Phase I" Chipping program providing free chipping services on 42 properties. An amazing 1,420 cubic yards (38,340 cubic feet) of hazardous wildfire fuel was chipped!
5. Obtained written approval from 65% of the property owners in the Shaded Fuel Break area and identified several proposed routes for the fuel break.
6. Completed two wildfire public education classes at the College of the Siskiyous (Weed and Yreka Campus). The classes were prepared by the Hammond Ranch Fire Safe Council (HRFSC) with help from CAL FIRE. The classes were co-taught by the HRFSC (Randy Klokow) and a CAL FIRE representative. Special "Thanks" to CAL FIRE Officers Suzi Brady and Jake Burgess for their assistance.

48 landowners attended the 5-1/2 hour course which included information on wildfire behavior, how to protect yourself, your home and property and miscellaneous subjects such as fire retardants, gel, sprinkler systems and wildfire insurance. It is intended to offer the course on a periodic basis at the College of the Siskiyous.

PLANNED ACTIONS for SPRING 2020:

1. Obtain additional landowner approvals (both resident and absentee) to allow fuel removal along emergency evacuation roads.
2. Continue working with Siskiyou County to create a new County ordinance to identify and enforce hazardous wildfire fuel removal along evacuation roads.
3. Obtain final CEQA project approval. CEQA approval is required before a contractor can cut and remove fuel on landowner property.
4. Prepare a "Phase II" Chipping program to continue fuel reduction in areas not covered in Phase I. This program will give priority to fuel reduction work that improves the safety of emergency evacuation roads and roads that have the highest percentage of landowner participation.
5. Perform a site survey and meet with property owners in the Shaded Fuel Break area. Define the final scope and path of the fuel break. Obtain the final approval signatures from all affected property owners.
6. Schedule and conduct additional Wildfire education classes at the College of the Siskiyous.

IF YOU WANT MORE INFORMATION OR WANT TO PARTICIPATE, PLEASE SEND YOUR INQUIRY TO:

hammondfiresafe@gmail.com

Hammond Fire Company Burning Service

Our Hammond Ranch Fire Co. has a service where they will come to your property and take care of burning your vegetation piles. There is a fee of \$40 per hour and you must have obtained a CalFire burn permit which is available free online at readyforwildfire.org/permits/. They bring 2 volunteers and a fire truck. This could be a welcome service for folks with burn piles that are accessible to a vehicle but have no source of water (required for burning safety).

If you are interested in this service contact the fire company well in advance. A company officer will schedule a visit to assess the work. There are certain requirements for the piles (10 ft. clearance around piles, no construction waste or garbage). They can only burn on "burn days" and their other duties may take precedence. There may also be unsafe conditions such as high winds that would cancel a burn.

To contact the HR Fire Company call (530) 938-4200 or email at hrfc@hmm4200.org.

Annual Members Meeting

The Annual Members Meeting was held at the Best Western Tree House on Nov. 2nd 2019. Over 50 members were in attendance and enjoyed a nice selection of lunch sandwiches, burgers, salads and dessert cookies.

Michael Kobseff, District 3 County Supervisor updated us on County concerns regarding budgeting for rural counties. He urged all of us to support the US Forest Service projects designed to reduce fuels in our Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). He also touched on efforts state-wide to mitigate the issue of high insurance costs to residents in wildland areas.

Our Fire Chief, Dave Jenkins, reported on the current activity of our volunteer fire company with 6 volunteers and 2 "sleepers" at the station. They average 2.5 calls per week with 70% of them for medical assistance. Similar to Supervisor Kobseff, he touched on the problems recent folks and nearby communities were facing with insurance cancellations and inflated rates. He emphasized the value we derive from *having* a volunteer fire company on our ranch.

Mark Dibelka shared information about the new website he created for the fire company, www.hmm4200.org. HMM4200 is the call sign for our Hammond Ranch company. The website has a Twitter feed on the front page that is constantly updated with information on calls that involve our fire company.

Randy Klokow gave us an update on the Wildfire Fuel Reduction Grant that was approved and funded last April. See page 4 for up-to-date information about our Fire Safe Council's activities.

Our guest speaker was Larry Alexander from the Northern California Resource Center (NCRC), the fiscal sponsor for our grant – handling the contracts, payments and compliance with grant requirements. Larry emphasized that the success of our grant resides with homeowners being willing to clear fuels for chipping and being a proactive community in all areas of preparation for an inevitable wildfire. More community participation & cooperation results in getting the most value for our grant funding.

At the general meeting President Erich Ziller gave an overview of HLA activities for the year. An increase in the road maintenance budget was approved along with the 2020 HLA budget. He thanked the 3 retiring board members for their service: Jeanne George (Secretary and so much more); Betty Leas (Treasurer and bright spirit) and Paul Elberts (corresponding secretary, helpful in so many ways and all around "good guy"!)

Election of new board members was followed by open discussion for any member concerns.



Important Information for New Landowners and all Ranch Residents

Trespass Authorization

The HLA provides and maintains Trespass Authorization Forms for Hammond landowners. They allow a neighbor to report a trespass to the Sheriff on a parcel where the landowner is not present.

The Sheriff then can act on the report. Without this authorization, the neighbor would have no legal authorization to report a trespass on any property other than their own.

You can download the form **Trespass Authorization.pdf** from the HLA Website www.hammondlandowners.org/trespass

Hammond Agricultural Reservoir

Sadly, what many affectionately call Hammond Pond is not a part of Hammond Ranch. It is an agricultural reservoir and the water is owned by others downstream.

The land under and around the reservoir is owned by several landowners, but principally it is owned by the Siskiyou Land Trust. The Land Trust holds the land to protect the scenic and wildlife habitat of the reservoir.

Ranch landowners do not have any right or permission to use it for recreation or any other purpose. The public does not have any use rights as well.

Road Easements and Maintenance

California law requires all landowners, whether a resident or not, to participate in the repair and maintenance of their road easements in proportion to their use of the easement. In Hammond Ranch repair and maintenance efforts are organized by individual landowners on each of the roads. Snow removal is also performed by individual effort.

If you have 2 HLA members on your road, your road is eligible for road reimbursement money from HLA.

Please support your local road maintenance group.

Deeded easements provide access to and from individual properties within the Ranch to owners, their guests and service vehicles. For information regarding landowners' use of Ranch roads generally, see the series of articles on our website at the bottom of the newsletters page.

www.hammondlandowners.org/newsletters



Proposed Love's Truck Stop: An Update

Oral arguments were presented to Judge Karen Dixon on July 19, 2019.

After some time of deliberation Judge Dixon ruled *against* Hammond Landowners Association in our lawsuit against Loves Truckstop.

While HLA is disappointed by the Court's decision, our efforts to protect our environment, educate the public, and protect the property and lives of local residents will continue.

Our options moving forward are currently under consideration and decisions will be made in the next few weeks.

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

For more information contact erichziller@yahoo.com



HAMMOND RANCH VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Third Quarter 2019 (July to Sept.) – 4 vehicle fires, 1 train fire, 18 vegetation fires, 1 commercial fire, 1 illegal burn, 10 medical calls, 2 traffic collisions, 1 smell of smoke, residential.

Fourth Quarter 2019 (Oct. to Dec.) – 1 vehicle fire, 1 illegal burn, 8 medical calls, 1 lift assist, 1 structure fire, 2 vegetation fires, 1 traffic collision, 2 electrical hazards, 1 traffic hazard.

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

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. 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.

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 February 11, 2020, location to be determined. Members welcome. Call any Board member for the location and to confirm before attending.
- HLA Members' Annual Meeting and Luncheon – Saturday, November 7, 2020. Tentative date.
- 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.

Volunteers Make a Community

(Reprinted)

Because our January newsletter goes out to ALL ranch residents, this reprinted article hopes to make ALL folks aware of the efforts it takes to make our community better and safer for all.

In this newsletter, you have read about your neighbors who are taking steps to build a community, maintain our roads and improve wildfire safety.

All of those efforts were accomplished by "volunteer heroes." There is no city government responsible for the welfare of our community. Volunteering is an essential part of living in Hammond Ranch.

Living in a rural area requires a large degree of self-reliance, but residents also need to work together. Hammond Ranch works best when we work together to solve community problems.

Making a transition from city living to Hammond Ranch living is a change from "Why don't they...?"-to-"Why don't I...?".



The people who work on these projects are local heroes. They see a need, whether it is danger from wildfire, helping neighbors solve problems or just getting to know each other. It is up to all of us, as volunteers, to identify, develop and implement solutions to create a better community.

Please volunteer to help!! It takes a community effort working together to build a great community. We have board openings, event committees, and Fire Safe efforts that could all use volunteers. Contact us at:

HLA@hammondlandowners.org (email)

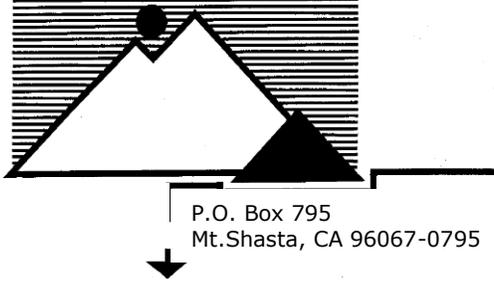
Or

www.hammondlandowners.org (website)

If you are unable to volunteer, please just support our community and our volunteers. If you have concerns, voice them. Use the "Contact Us" button on our website.



Hammond Landowners Association, Inc.



P.O. Box 795
Mt. Shasta, CA 96067-0795



*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