

Weather on the Ranch	2
Hammond Fire Safe Council News	3
Emergency Alert Phone Tree Hiatus	4
Modernizing Membership	4
Let's Keep Them Home	4
Bear Aware	5
Lions In Sight	6
Fire Zone Run Report	6
Picnic?	6
Help Needed	6
Love's Truck Stop	6
2021 Board Members	7
Calendar	7
Wildlife On The Ranch	7



President's Message

Fire Department Update *From Phillip Anzo, County Fire Warden*

Hello to all Ranch residents and HLA members. It's spring, which means summer is around the corner, and our attention should turn toward fire safety for our home and community.

Jay Perkins, of the Yreka Fire Safe Council, has created an excellent series of articles regarding wildfire risk mitigation and preparedness. Here is the link to their Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/yrekafiresafety>.

Additionally, the link has been posted to the HLA website, and Larie Wearing has graciously agreed to repost the weekly updates to the Nextdoor Hammond Ranch page. In this way, we are hoping to reach the maximum number of residents with this very important and helpful series.

Ranch residents may have heard, about changes in our local Fire Department, the Hammond Ranch Fire Zone. To the right on this page you will find an update from County Fire Warden Phillip Anzo, on the current status.

I wanted to provide you with an update on Hammond Ranch Fire. As you know, Hammond Ranch Fire is a volunteer fire department that relies on its community members to provide emergency response service in the area. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the current Fire Chief will be moving out of the area soon and we have not been able to find a replacement. If this occurs, I will assume the role of Fire Chief to ensure Hammond Ranch Fire can continue providing emergency response to the community.

In the meantime, I have asked the surrounding fire departments if they could temporarily help bolster emergency response service in Hammond Ranch and possibly enter into an agreement to continue those services on an annual basis. The goal would be to have a neighboring department provide assistance to Hammond Ranch Fire so there is no interruption of service to the community.

These discussions are ongoing to work out all of the details. I am hopeful to have more information soon and even more hopeful to have an agreement in place by July 1, 2021.

I am committed to finding a path forward that will continue to provide the community of Hammond Ranch with the protection they count on.

Sincerely,
Phillip R. Anzo
Fire Warden
County of Siskiyou
(530) 842-3516 ext. 2600 Office
Phillip.anzo@fire.ca.gov

P.S. Volunteers are always needed and if anyone is interested, they can contact me at the phone number above for more information.



Stay safe, wear your masks, and take time this spring to be wildfire ready.

Sally McGregor
HLA Board
President

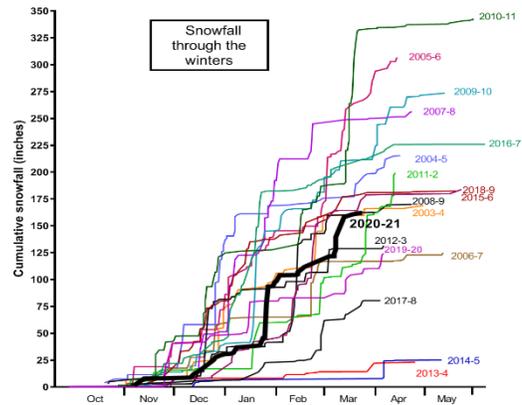
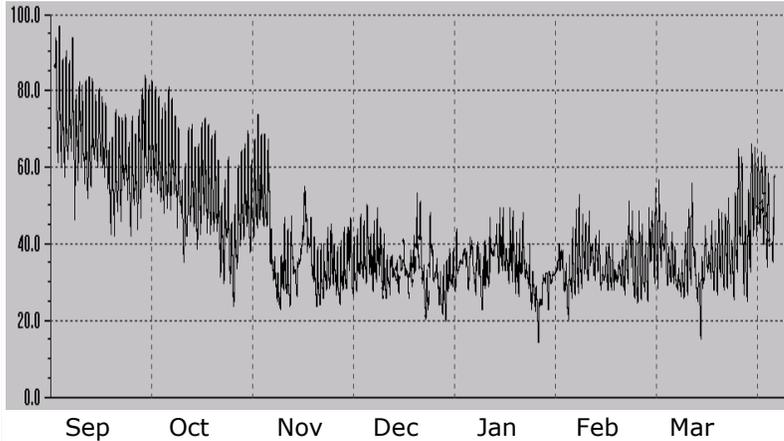


Our Mission Statement: To provide information, to assist in the coordination of group actions, to determine guidelines and make suggestions in matters relating to development and use of property on Hammond Ranch.

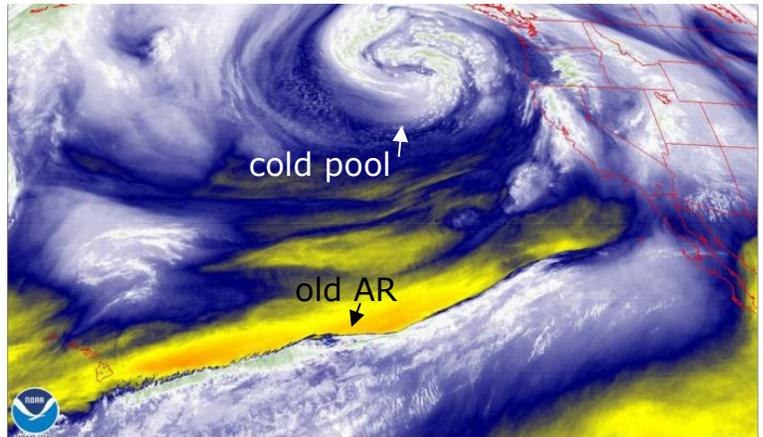
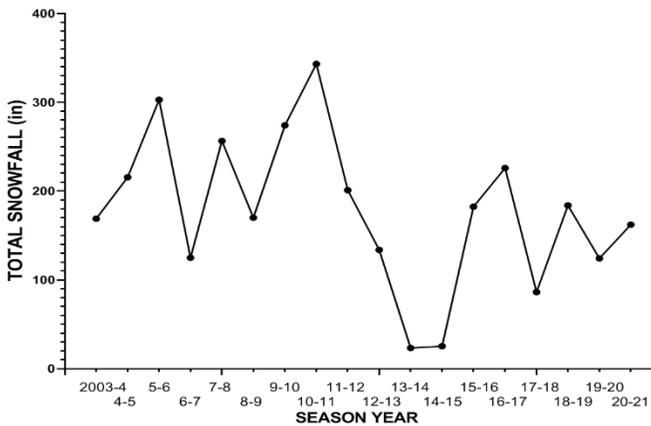
Weather on The Ranch By Dan Axelrod

This past winter (at least for Nov 8 through March 20) was not unusually warm or cold. The temperature did not exceed 55 deg nor drop below 20 deg except on a couple of brief occasions. (See graph on left.)

Data for SE Hammond Ranch at 4200'



The snowfall at 4200' was also not unusual. The total was 162", about 1/3 of which occurred in just a couple of storms. The right graph above shows this year's cumulative total (heavy black) vs previous years (thinner multicolors). The left graph below shows the trend of the winter's-end snowfall totals since 2003. There does appear to be a slight downward trend, but with a lot of variation.



The most remarkable (and worrisome) feature is the low total precipitation water equivalent (measured as rain or melted snow). The "normal" precipitation in Mt. Shasta City for Oct. 1 through March 31 (averaged over the period 1981-2010) is 32". We might expect the precipitation at the Old Ski Bowl weather station to be greater than either Hammond Ranch or Mt. Shasta City because of OSB's higher elevation (at 7800') and its upslope topography. But the Old Ski Bowl received only 16.2" of water equivalent from Oct 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021, only half of normal for MS City. It is too early to say that we are entering another prolonged drought, but if we are, it has begun.

The discrepancy between the not-so-low snowfall and the very low water-equivalent total precipitation here has been due to the lack of heavy rainstorms, normally starting in the Fall but essentially absent last Fall. Such heavy rainstorms are associated with "atmospheric rivers" (AR). These are warm streams of moisture from the Central Pacific that ride up a SW-to-NE oriented cold front. The front moves only slowly, so where it impinges upon California gets a really good hosing. A large portion of the annual precip in California derives from AR's, and there are only a few of those each season. A few less (or a few more) of those makes a big difference to that year's precipitation.

Instead, what we did experience was the effects of cold pools of air from the NW that accompany every winter storm. In an old mature storm, the cold pool often becomes separated from the jetstream that originally generated and drove the storm. That cold pool then slowly meanders along and (often) just off the coast. If it stalls close enough to us, it can produce a prolonged period of moderate or heavy snow as it counter-clockwise cycles moist air off the Pacific and into our area from the south. That scenario occurred several times this winter. The right figure above shows a satellite water-vapor screen capture of one such event (where white and green is moist and yellow is dry). The spirally area, consisting of convective clouds in the unstable cold pool, is the source of the snow.



Hammond Ranch Fire Safe Council News



MISCELLANEOUS HAMMOND RANCH FIRESAFE COUNCIL WILDFIRE PROJECTS

NOTICE: Unrestricted open debris burning will end on May 1st. After May 1st some additional burning will be allowed but you must have a CALFIRE permit. The permit is free & available on the CAL FIRE website at: <https://burnpermit.fire.ca.gov/> Sometime later, (perhaps mid-May?) all open debris burning will be banned until the end of the fire season.

Are you ready for another wildfire season?

Are you prepared to evacuate with only minutes of warning? Does your home have the best chance to survive without Fire Department assistance?

Recent California wildfires are more dangerous. Each year more land is burned, more houses are lost and more people are losing their lives. There are lessons we can learn from recent tragic wildfires such as those in Paradise, Santa Rosa, Redding and Phoenix/Talent.

- Do you have an emergency evacuation plan and evacuation kit? You need to be prepared to quickly evacuate. Wildfires driven by high winds can quickly destroy property and threaten lives. There are many excellent on-line sources that provide a list of items that you should have prepacked and ready to go within 5-minutes notice.
- Do you have multiple sources to alert you of approaching wildfires? You need to be signed up for Siskiyou County Code Red alert system. You also need to realize that community alert systems (such as Code Red) have often failed. Too often residents never received an evacuation warning or received a warning that was too late. Never depend upon a community alarm system or wait for an "official" notification to evacuate. Stay alert--especially during RED FLAG weather conditions. Get out early!!
- Have you identified your primary and backup emergency evacuation routes? Hammond Ranch is a dangerous area with many dead-end roads. Are your evacuation roads safe? You need to work with your neighbors to improve the safety of your evacuation routes. Remove hazardous wildfire fuel at least 10-feet away from the edge of the road. Remove dead and dying fuel and all high hazard fuel such as juniper and manzanita. Thin thick stands of trees. Limb up remaining trees to at least 14-feet above the road surface.
- Have you created a defensible space around your home? Pay special attention to the first 5-feet from your house. You need to remove hazardous flammable vegetation at least 5-feet away from your house to prevent direct flame contact.
- **HAMMOND RANCH SHADED FUEL BREAK PROJECT-** The environmental (CEQA) report is still pending final CAL FIRE signature! Work will start as soon as we get approval. I appreciate the patience of the people who have been waiting for this project.
- **PROVIDE AN IMPROVED COMMUNITY ALARM SYSTEM** -- During recent wildfires, telephone and internet community alert systems (such as Code Red) failed to provide a timely warning. In response, California recently passed emergency legislation to allow local agencies to utilize a "Hi-Lo" vehicle siren alarm system. These sirens are installed on official vehicles to drive through a rural area and quickly alert residents to evacuate. Many California cities and counties such as Santa Rosa, Napa, Novato, Ventura Co., Truckee, Marin Co. and Placer Co. have adopted and installed the sirens.
- **ESTABLISH A CHIPPER PROGRAM** --A chipper program has proven to be one of the most effective methods to reduce wildfire fuel. In the Hammond Ranch area, chipper programs have been very successful. However, at the current time, there are no plans for a future chipper program.
- **PROVIDE AN IMPROVED WATER STORAGE SUPPLY** --The Hammond Ranch area does not have a distributed fire hydrant system. Many roads do not have a source of water within a reasonable distance. Action should be taken to install additional 2500-gallon water storage tanks and to maintain the water supply in the Hammond Reservoir until the end of the fire season.
- **PROVIDE ADDITIONAL EVACUATION ROUTES** -- The majority of the roads within the Hammond Ranch area are "dead-end" roads. Action should be taken to identify and develop additional evacuation roads.

Each of the above items could use volunteer help. Interested landowners are always welcome to investigate and implement corrective actions. Any and all ideas are welcome!! If you would like to help, please email the Fire Safe Council at:

hammondfiresafe@gmail.com



PREPARE.



ANTICIPATE.



EVACUATE

Emergency Alert Telephone Tree on Hiatus

Regrettably, due to multiple factors (change in fire department configuration, difficulties recruiting volunteers), the phone tree will be on hiatus for the foreseeable future.

AS ALWAYS, WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE ALL RANCH RESIDENTS TO SIGN UP WITH SISKIYOU COUNTY CODE RED.

(<https://www.co.siskiyou.ca.us/emergencyservices/page/code-red-emergency-alert>).

Real-time Siskiyou County dispatch communications can be followed here: <https://www.broadcastify.com/listen/ctid/229>. CALFIRE Siskiyou can be followed on Facebook and Twitter (@CALFIRESKU). Presently, Hammond Ranch Fire Zone tweets their emergency responses, as well. Their handle is @HMM4200.

The Facebook group **Siskiyou Alerts – Fire and Emergency** uses a dedicated group of volunteers to monitor local public safety communications and post information on their page. Additionally, their Announcements tab (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SiskiyouAlerts/announcements>) has many useful resource links.

We will be notifying phone tree participants separately via phone tree activation, phone, or email. Thank you for your understanding while we re-evaluate the phone tree functionality.

Regards, HLA and the Phone Tree Volunteers

Modernizing Membership

HLA has been working on streamlining and modernizing our membership process. Long time ranch resident Karl Tiefert noted that it was easier to order a tube of toothpaste and have it shipped to his home than it was to join HLA. The board was actually in agreement and had been discussing just that type of modernization. Needless to say, this process is more involved than you might imagine, especially for a very small non-profit group.

We are now in the final stages of setting up a direct payment option using the Zelle app that is prominent among many large banks via their online services. In addition we are testing a "fillable" .pdf membership form that can be filled out and simply returned by email. These options are not quite ready, but most of you have kindly joined HLA or renewed your membership the old-fashioned way with a form, a check and a stamp. Thank you!!

When our efforts are completed and tested we will write up complete instructions for these options in a future newsletter and also post them to our website.

Of course, anyone will still be able to use the check, envelope and stamp. We just want you back and appreciate your support for the community and the projects we fund.



Let's Keep Them HOME!!

Spring brings out good weather and the desire for furry friends of all kinds to roam. Please don't let YOUR own furry friends get that same idea.

Roaming dogs and lost dogs are a recurring problem on the ranch. Often our dogs can be "escape artists" and this can result in a lot of worry for owners and real danger to our beloved pets. But our pets can also cause fear and potential harm to others. We need to be aware of our obligations and the courtesy involved in taking care of our pets.

This story from the Siskiyou Daily News has excellent advice on how to find your dog if it does get "lost":

<https://www.siskiyoudaily.com/story/news/2021/02/08/here-s-what-do-when-your-dog-gets-lost/4350945001/>

Our column's limited space cannot do justice to a re-cap of all of the great suggestions from this article, but it is a good read for all dog owners. **Nextdoor Hammond Ranch** has also become a popular way to find a pet or report a "found" pet. Contact HLA (HLA@hammondowners.org) if you would like to be invited to join Nextdoor Hammond Ranch.

Siskiyou County has several laws regarding dogs at large, in addition to those of licensing and required rabies vaccination.

In general: (from the Siskiyou County website)

No person owning, having charge, care, control or custody at any time shall permit, allow, or cause any dog owned, controlled, harbored, or kept by him to roam, run, or stray away from the premises where such dog is kept or harbored, except in the company or custody and under the control of the owner or some responsible person.

No person at any time shall allow, permit, or cause any dog to run on the land of another without the permission of the owner or person in possession of such land.

There are specific regulations regarding ways to determine if a dog is potentially dangerous, including "any dog which, when unprovoked, has killed, seriously bitten, inflicted injury, or otherwise caused injury to a domestic animal or livestock off the property of the owner or custodian of the dog."

What about cats? – They are also much safer at home. Many stories on the ranch have sadly involved the demise of beloved cats. When kitty stays home our birds are much safer too. Estimates are that 1 in 10 birds are killed by outdoor cats each year. Half of these cats are considered "feral" half are "owned"; all are driven by their instincts to kill their "prey" whether for food or not.

None of us want any of these unfortunate incidences to occur.

Let's all try to keep our dogs and cats **safe at home**.

By Linda Klokow



Bear Aware

By Rebekah Sluss

Every year we hear stories about bears getting into garbage, breaking into chicken coops, and otherwise causing menace on the Ranch. Once a bear finds an easy meal, they will be back often until the food is gone, or they are prevented from accessing it.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) estimates there are between 25,000 and 30,000 black bears in California¹. They are not sure how many bears live in our area but they do know that bear populations have increased in the last twenty-five years. Ask folks that have lived here a while and they will probably tell you the same thing.

Increased bear populations can mean more encounters between bears and people.

According to Axel Hunnicutt, CDFW Wildlife Biologist for the Siskiyou Unit, bears are very curious creatures and are attracted to many different scents. The distance that bears can smell is estimated between one to eighteen miles². Grill a steak on the BBQ and a bear can be attracted to the smell weeks later.

Feeding bears isn't always deliberate, but it's hard to stop a 100+ pound critter when they decide they want something.

Unfortunately, once a bear becomes a nuisance and continually causes property damage in its quest for food, the bear usually loses. Hunnicutt says that bears typically are not relocated in our area. Fish and Wildlife will issue a depredation permit allowing the land owner or resident to kill the bear. A better solution is to prevent bears from accessing food and avoid problems before they start.

How can we live responsibly in bear habitat? Simply put, never feed bears. Food can range from pet food, bird feeders, compost piles, ripe fruit trees, chicken coops and, of course, garbage. This doesn't mean we can't have these things on our property. We just need to be Bear Aware and prevent bears access to these delectable delights.

One popular method is using a hotwire. Kendra Bainbridge, Ranch resident and bee keeper, has her family's hives and the garden hot-wired. The system around the bee hives are wired to the house. Last year they installed a solar hot wire system around the garden. Both systems work great. Kendra suggests adding an empty tuna can to the wire so that any bear that touches it will get a jolt on their sensitive nose or tongue. This will really help to get the message across to the bear to stay away. She is happy to answer questions about their systems. Contact her through her store, **Raventree**, in Mount Shasta.

Hotwired systems might be intimidating for some to install and may be costly. Other low-tech options can be tried also. Simple solutions such as keeping garbage, pet food and recycling locked in the garage and bringing bird feeders in at night are easy things to do. Don't forget that BBQ. After grilling, burn off any residue and clean the drip pan.



This Big guy (girl?) was one of many who have visited Bob & Mariana Harmon's property on Oak Ridge.

Regularly emptying garbage and recycling containers can also help. We used to take our garbage to the dump monthly, but during the past year, have used a weekly garbage pickup. This seems to have reduced scents that drew bears to try to break into our garbage shed. Other suggestions include deodorizing cans with bleach or ammonia and freezing smelly garbage until garbage day.

There are many motion activated products on the market. Motion sensor lights, either solar powered or wired, can surprise a bear and illuminate it, giving you the opportunity to scare it away with noise or by throwing objects at it. Motion sensor sprinklers and noise alarms are other options to try. There are even motion sensor alarms that sound like dogs barking.

Another possible deterrent is called an "unwelcome mat." These can be made from nails or screws sticking up through plywood and placed in front of the area you want to protect, in my case, the roof of our garbage shed. Unwelcome mats can also be electrified and typically made from mesh fencing panels placed on a rubber mat. Instructions on making both systems can be found at <http://bearsmartdurango.org/unwelcome-mats/>.

Regardless of what deterrents are used, Hunnicutt reminds us that bears are very intelligent creatures. With bears, he says, "it's all about attractants." Bears are extremely curious about scents, especially this time of year when they are coming out of hibernation. Axel would like us to remember, "Bear conflict is avoidable."

Do YOU have advice for your neighbors about dealing with bears? Let us know and we may print your ideas in the next newsletter!

A note about the deterrents described in this article: These deterrents are not intended to injure the bear. A shock or a nail will cause temporary pain but can ultimately save the bear's life by dissuading it from continuing its behavior.

1. <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Mammals/Black-Bear>
2. <https://www.nps.gov/yose/blogs/bear-series-part-one-a-bears-sense-of-smell.htm>

Additional information can be found at:
<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Keep-Me-Wild/Bear>



Community Service Lion's Club - LIONS IN SIGHT

Do you have old eyeglasses, hearing aids or perhaps a cell phone that has been replaced by a newer model? The main project of our local branch of The Lion's Club, LIONS IN SIGHT, collects these items for free distribution to needy persons around the world.

In the case of eyeglasses, they are collected locally and are processed at a warehouse in Vallejo, CA, washed clean and forwarded to various prisons. A prison work program verifies the prescription and labels the glasses case with that information. After they are returned to the Vallejo facility, they are shipped to clinics staffed by Lion volunteers in foreign countries such as Mexico, Ethiopia, Costa Rica, Viet Nam, Panama, Nepal and El Salvador.

These clinics also provide free eye exams by volunteer Ophthalmologists and Optometrists. The clients are then fitted with the closest prescription that meets their needs.

Similar renovations are done to hearing aids and cell phones that are still serviceable.

You can bring your items for donation to several areas in the community where you will find a collection "drop box". (TriCounties Bank, the Weed Library and the Weed Community Resource Center in Weed and, US Bank, the Mt. Shasta Library, Mt. Shasta City Hall, Mt. Shasta Resource Center and Dr. Brooks Office in Mt. Shasta)



You can also contact Lion's member John Robak (a Hammond Ranch resident) at: 530-938-0311 for more information.

Lion's International is a 100 year old organization with 1.4 million members worldwide. They serve their communities and the world in five areas of focus: Diabetes, Vision, Hunger, Environment and Childhood Cancer.

Picnic?

Dear HLA members,

It has been too long since we gathered together to visit with our neighbors here on the ranch. We had hoped that come July we would be able to put on our beloved Picnic again.



But going by emerging regulations which are everchanging, it is unlikely that we can create a safe environment for that to happen - what with food sharing, the possible number of guests, etc.

Should the Covid situation improve dramatically by May, we may reconsider.

In the meantime, please stay safe and stay tuned.

Happy Spring,
Neera T Paine,
Community Liaison Coordinator



Help Needed! By Linda Klokow

In an attempt to preserve the history of HLA, I have begun scanning and digitizing all of the paper copies of the HLA Newsletters that date from the 70's to 2001. Each page is scanned to a .pdf file and then assembled into a single .pdf document for that newsletter. The files are then stored on a small flash drive. This makes it easy to transport and save in case we need to evacuate due to fire.

I could use some help! If you have a scan function on your printer and are willing to take a few of the newsletters to scan for me, I would be very grateful. I think if we can get a few people to do just a few newsletters, this job will be done in no time.....or at least by the next fire season.

Contact me at LKzoomer@gmail.com and I will get you started.



Love's Truck Stop Update

There have been no changes to the status of the Love's Lawsuit Appeal. It is still in process at the Appeal's Court in Sacramento. If any changes occur, they will be posted to our website at: www.hammondlandowners.org/proposed-truck-stop For more information contact: erichziller@yahoo.com

Run Report - Hammond Ranch Fire Zone

First Quarter 2021 (Jan. to Mar.) - 6 medical calls, 1 public assist, 1 vegetation fire, 3 traffic collisions, 1 debris burn, 1 traffic hazard, 1 false alarm.

You can get real-time information about our Fire Company's calls on their their Twitter feed at: @HMM4200

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

Many thanks to our Fire Personnel for their Service



2021 Board Members

President	Sally McGregor	541-973-7162
Vice President	Linda Klokow	707 255-7729
Secretary	Susan Grove	530-925-6859
Treasurer	Mariana Harmon	530-340-7152
At-Large:	Neera Paine	530-859-1924
	Brooke Boyer	530-859-7535
	Rebekah Sluss	808-557-5834

Linda Klokow *The Hammond Ranch Scene* Editor

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 on Tuesday, May 11, 2021. Call any board member or send an email to HLA@hammondlandowners.org for meeting location and so your questions or concerns can be included on the agenda.
- The Annual HLA Picnic is unfortunately not scheduled for this year unless Covid precautions ease by mid May. Members will be contacted if there are any changes.
- HLA Members' Annual Meeting and Luncheon is usually scheduled for the first Saturday in Nov. 2021. Members will be notified of time and place.
- 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

Pine Siskins are just one of many bird species found here on the ranch, but this year has proved to be a difficult one for these little travellers.

Although Pine Siskins prefer evergreen or mixed evergreen and deciduous forests with open canopies, they are opportunistic and adaptable in their search for seeds. Pine Siskins are generally considered resident, but they can be irruptive and nomadic, especially in winter. Their movements are closely tied to the distribution and abundance of seeds.

Kendra Bainbridge, ranch resident and owner of [The Raventree Wild Bird & Nature Shop](#) has allowed us to reprint her article about the disease these birds are facing this year.

Pine Siskins, Salmonella, and What You Need to Know

Have your feeders been overrun by Pine Siskins this year?

Audubon reports that this year has been one of the largest irruption years for Pine Siskins and other finch species. After breeding and rearing young, many birds group together in large flocks for the winter. Unfortunately, when they group together and feed, they are good at passing bacteria and viruses around (like us).

Many reports of dead Pine Siskins at backyard bird feeders demonstrate that salmonella is moving through their population. Sadly, our bird feeders and bird baths can become vectors for spreading the disease. (Salmonella is spread through contact with contaminated feces; large flocks of Pine Siskins enjoying your birdseed = lots of poop) Because salmonella can affect us and our pets, it is especially important to wash hands thoroughly after handling our feeders or sick birds. We also need to be diligent about cleaning our feeders and birdbaths (soak in diluted bleach/water solution, once a week is a good rule).

Here are some other tips for managing your feeders at this time:

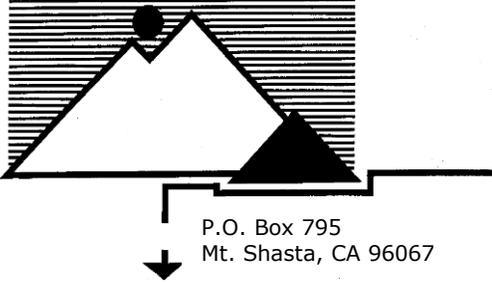
- Be sure birds are not pooping and eating in the same place, as in a tray feeder. If you are seeing Pine Siskins at your feeders, it is recommended to take tray feeders down for a time and use only tube feeders until the risk has passed.



- Use a single seed rather than a seed mix. Why? In a mix, birds will eat only their preferred seed and kick the rest to the ground, along with their poop. Other birds will then come along and eat from the dropped (and potentially contaminated) seed.
- If you see sick or puffed-up, lethargic birds nearby, remove your feeders for a week. Give them a good clean and allow flock to disperse before feeding again. Let's all keep an eye out & keep our wild birds healthy.

Reprinted from
[The Raven Review](#) by Kendra Bainbridge

Hammond Landowners Association, Inc.



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



We Love it Here !!

Hammond Ranch, CA



*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