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President's Message

Happy Fall! With COVID winding down in much of the country and the state, many people are breathing a cautious sigh of relief, although here in the north state our progress is slower. Neither COVID nor fire season are over yet, so to keep our community healthy and safe, please continue with both pandemic and fire safety precautions.

County Fire Warden Phil Anzo reports that negotiations are continuing for an Agreement for Service for our Hammond Ranch Fire Zone. Between COVID and fire season, both administrative and governmental processes have experienced delays at all levels. Chief Anzo hopes to have an agreement by the end of the year.

In the meantime, Hammond Ranch Fire is still active with seven personnel on the roster. Chief Anzo has assumed the role of Fire Chief, and our HRFZ personnel participate in training every other week either at the station or cooperatively with the surrounding fire departments.

The HLA Board continues to work on streamlining operations, making membership processes and information access easier, as well as working to keep our website relevant while also minimizing the need for constant upkeep.

The Board also continues to monitor community-wide issues, and weigh in on behalf of safety concerns, county/state regulations, and member questions and requests for information.

Sally McGregor - President HLA



Annual Meeting Notice

HLA Members' Annual Meeting will be virtual again this year due to continuing Covid restrictions and concerns. Members will be contacted by email or USPS regarding issues and voting opportunities.

Urgent Need - HLA Board Openings

The HLA board has 3 members moving on to other activities. We need some caring, thoughtful individuals (like the ones we're losing!) to give a bit of time to help guide and improve our community. The Board of Directors meets once per month for about 2 hours and also communicates via email on ideas and actions.

If you can help, please consider volunteering some time for the good of the ranch. **Starred tasks are not necessarily board positions.*

We need:

Two "Members at Large"- Consider and vote on issues that effect the ranch. Be willing to help with events and planning as needed.

A Treasurer - Most functions have been streamlined and are automated, including check deposit & ledger entries. Need to know (or be willing to learn) a little about Excel.

***Community Liaison Team** - Assist in welcoming new landowners. Assemble baskets and pair up with the Liaison Lead for basket deliveries. Interface with Nextdoor Hammond Ranch to invite new folks or post important ranch information.

***Picnic/Event Coordinator** -Get our picnic going again! We have lots of support material, we just need someone to make it happen and coordinate the volunteers.

***Road Fund Coordinator** - Oversee the distribution of HLA funds to roads for their maintenance expenses. Check work and receipts. Will train!

Contact Us ASAP for inclusion on the Nov. Ballot:
HLA@hammondlandowners.org

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.



Hammond Ranch Fire Safe Council News

HAMMOND RANCH WILDFIRE SEASON



KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!!

According to Cal Fire, more Hammond Ranch homeowners are complying with Cal Fire defensible space regulations. Recent Cal Fire inspections confirm more homeowners are correcting wildfire deficiencies to create a safer environment for their home and the community. Correction of Cal Fire deficiencies is required by California regulations.



Tim Johnson and The Masticator

SHADED FUEL BREAK- SUMMER WORK STOPPAGES

Fuel reduction work on the Shaded Fuel Break project has been restricted due to unusual wildfire conditions. During much of the summer, work was either not allowed or restricted from early morning to 10AM. Despite the restrictions, 12 properties were completed. Several more are scheduled to complete before the fuel reduction crew leaves the area for the winter. The masticator will be back in the spring when the ground is clear of snow.

During the summer, it was disappointing to see the fuel reduction crew stop work, but wildfire safety was much more important. Tim Johnson (masticator equipment operator) always complied with Forest Service and Cal Fire wildfire safety rules. Thanks to Tim's "safety first" philosophy, no wildfire incidents were caused by the fuel reduction work.

HOMEOWNER WILDFIRE EDUCATION CLASS

The third Homeowner Wildfire education class was recently completed at the College of the Siskiyous. Class attendance was restricted due to Covid and several registered homeowners could not attend as they were under wildfire evacuation orders. The Hammond Ranch Fire Safe Council and representatives from Cal Fire taught the class.

During the class, the following important items were discussed:

#1—Who is responsible for wildfire protection? The answer is "The Landowner--YOU". No government agency, Fire Department or Fire Safe Council is responsible for landowner safety. The landowner has primary responsibility to implement actions to protect their family, building and land.

#2—Can wildfire fuel reduction and home hardening make a difference? The answer is "YES". Wildfire fuel reduction and home hardening can change the path of a wildfire, reduce the intensity of a wildfire and minimize fire damage. It is not a matter of "luck"--It is a matter of preparation.

#3—Is it expensive and difficult to provide wildfire protection? The answer is "No." It is not expensive to implement the majority of improvement actions. The majority of improvement actions involve housekeeping that takes time but costs little money.

SHADED FUEL BREAK- ADDITIONAL TIME GRANTED

The Shaded Fuel Break fuel reduction project has been granted additional time to complete. Unplanned work delays were caused by Covid 19, lengthy review of the Environmental (CEQA) study and extreme summer wildfire conditions. Project extensions are normally not granted, but Cal Fire concurred that the delays were caused by problems beyond control of the Fuel Reduction project team.



PREPARE.

New Homeowner Wildfire Checklist

The Hammond Ranch Fire Safe Council has released a new Homeowner Wildfire Preparation Checklist. The comprehensive checklist has over 90-items for homeowner evaluation and implementation.

The checklist is available on the HLA website under the Fire Safe Council section.

Go to www.hammondlandowners.org/fire-safe-council-2

Homeowners are encouraged to use the checklist to identify items to improve wildfire protection.

Check out Our New Links

Recently there have been a significant number of new helpful wildfire information sites available on the internet. A new comprehensive list of wildfire safety, information and preparedness links have been added to the HLA Website.

Go to: www.hammondlandowners.org/prepare-1

Some of the sites you will find are just plain COOL!!

The Lava Fire and Home Insurance Cancellation

Wildfires throughout the west have made home insurance increasingly difficult to get and difficult to afford. As we watched the Lava Fire progress around the mountain, so did insurance companies who are understandably worried about their bottom line.

On July 16, 2021, California's Governor declared a state of emergency for our area which triggered Insurance Commissioner, Ricardo Lara to enact a moratorium on home insurance cancellation in our zip code (and also several other zip codes in the county).

"An insurer shall not cancel or refuse to renew a policy of residential property insurance for a property located in any ZIP Code within or adjacent to the fire perimeter, for one year after the declaration of a state of emergency as defined in Section 8558 of the Government Code, based solely on the fact that the insured structure is located in an area in which a wildfire has occurred. This prohibition applies to all policies of residential property insurance in effect at the time of the declared emergency."

Therefore, due to the Governor's July 16, 2021 declaration, for one year from July 16, 2021, no admitted or non-admitted insurer shall issue a notice of cancellation or nonrenewal, for any policies of residential property insurance due to wildfire risk in the following ZIP Codes: • Lava Fire: 96067, 96094, 96064, 96097, 96013, 96025, 96057, 96091, 96028, 96056, 96134, 96044, 96023, 96038, 96058, 96034, 96014."

Unfortunately, this does not prohibit insurance companies from raising their premiums at any time. Home insurance will continue to be problematic for potential sellers and buyers of real estate in our area. We hope that Commissioner Lara continues to work at the state level to find ways to mitigate the problems of insurance availability and cost. He states that this moratorium *"is one part of a larger solution for consumers that includes working to increase insurance protections and increasing market competition to help protect consumers."*

[Insurance.ca.gov/0250-insurers/0300-insurers/0200-bulletins/bulletin-notices-commiss-opinion/upload/bulletin-2021-04-moratorium-july-16-declaration.pdf](https://www.insurance.ca.gov/0250-insurers/0300-insurers/0200-bulletins/bulletin-notices-commiss-opinion/upload/bulletin-2021-04-moratorium-july-16-declaration.pdf)

Thanks go out to Tom Wearing, for relaying this information to the HLA Newsletter



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 an interesting article about restricting development in high fire danger areas see:

<https://www.sacbee.com/news/california/fires/article254847782.html>

For more information contact: erichziller@yahoo.com



Dr. Dave To The Rescue!

By
Linda Klokow

In Hammond Ranch we have many landowners with interesting stories and backgrounds. Dr. Dave Stroshine came to my attention when neighbors related stories of his expertise and kind attention to the needs of their beloved pets. Dr. Dave is a ranch resident and semi-retired veterinarian that can be found at the Mt. Shasta Animal Hospital.

Dr. Dave and wife, Dona have lived on the ranch for 7 years after bidding farewell to a veterinary practice of 40+ years in Salinas, CA. Dave grew up around animals at his family farm in Ohio, so when it came time to seek a career path, animal care was a natural choice. He always loved his work, so when he found himself in our area, he decided to continue caring for our furry friends.

There is a shortage of veterinarians in all of the US, but in our area, it is particularly critical. Small town salaries have a hard time competing with larger cities and new corporate veterinary companies that are springing up in many places. The majority of new Vet-School graduates tend to be women these days. They, rightfully, have more family obligations and try to keep their hours under control.

These challenges in hiring "vets", result in longer wait times for routine care. Covid, of course, has affected aspects of animal care as it has almost all facets of our lives. Extra time spent isolating clients, pets and staff have stretched resources even thinner. Ranch residents are very grateful that urgent care cases here are usually well handled, but caution that routine and non-emergency appointments should be scheduled far in advance.

I asked Dr. Dave if there was anything that he would like to remind pet owners in our area. He would like us to remember these cautions:

No. 1: Keep vaccinations current for both Rabies and for Parvo/Distemper (one shot). We have lots of Parvo in this county and it's makes dogs (especially puppies) very sick.

No. 2: It is important that people administer and continue regular monthly treatment with heartworm medication.

Finally, I asked Dr. Dave about unusual cases he has seen in his career.

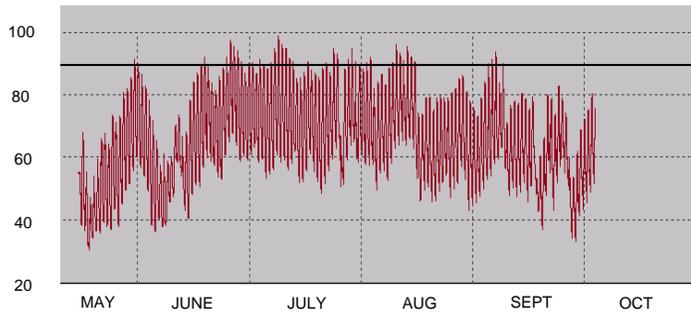
"A labrador came into my practice with an "upset tummy" and other odd symptoms. The breed is famous for eating just about anything. We ended up removing 13 oval, white landscape rocks from her stomach."

Did she survive? *"Yes, quite well".* Did she learn a lesson? *"Of course not, it's a dog!!"*



Weather on the Ranch by Dan Axelrod

The weather this past summer was both unusually hot and unusually smoky. Here is the temperature trace, measured at 4200' elevation in the SE part of the Ranch:



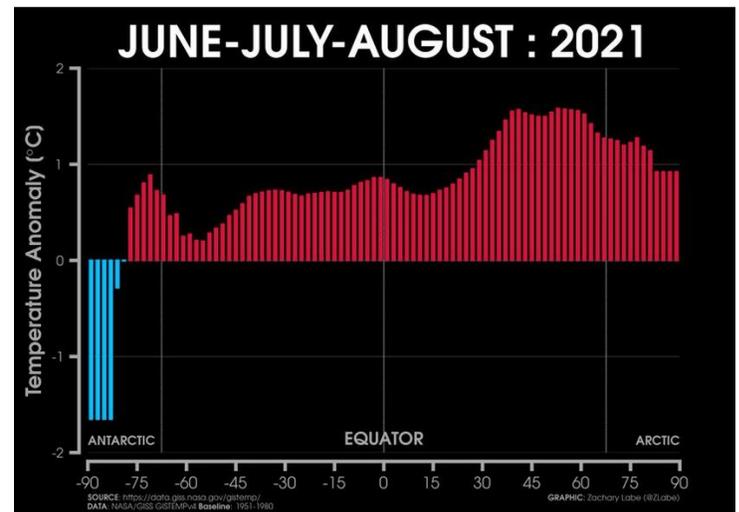
Altogether, 36 days (in May-Sept) logged a maximum temperature of 90° or higher. By comparison, last summer, which was already considerably above normal in average temperature, only 14 days were 90° or above. Although several days reached the upper 90's, none were higher than 99°. However, most of the Ranch is at a lower elevation than 4200'. About 1° F should be added for every drop of 200 feet in elevation, so most of the Ranch exceeded 100° at least once.

Globally, July, 2021 became famous as the hottest month ever recorded on earth (although, of course, "ever" covers a reliable record of only about 150 years). Portland, OR recorded an unusual series of 100°+ days, including an astounding 116° on June 28 (astounding, because that completely shattered the "old" all-time record of 108° set only two days earlier). The high elevation here somewhat saved us from that experience, but the worst heat was actually concentrated to our north, in OR, WA, and BC. A study released by atmospheric scientists collaborating from 21 different institutions around the world concluded that the 2021 Pacific Northwest heat wave "was virtually impossible without human-caused climate change."

One thing is clear about climate change: increased global temperatures will cause more evaporation from the ocean. "What goes up must come down", so the world as a whole will see more precipitation. The question is: where? Climate models indicate that our area will see slightly more precipitation in the winter by mid-century (perhaps up to +10%), but the average temperature will also be about 2°-3°F warmer. For areas near the rain/snow line (such as Hammond Ranch), that means more rain but less snow. For higher elevations (say above 6000') situated above the higher rain/snow line, somewhat more snow may be seen. The models predict decreased precipitation in the summer (which will make forests even drier), but summer rainfall was already pretty meager.

The science of climate prediction is evolving and improving. The next National Climate Assessment, a regular interagency federal government project, has just started work on its fifth edition, so we can say more, and more accurately, when it is published in 2023. The accuracy is necessarily limited because it depends on how much fossil fuel burning is curtailed, which is more of a political rather than scientific question.

But the key feature of global (or even local) climate change is not just increasing averages, but increasing variability: variability over space and time. For example, here at the Ranch, early June was unusually cold (see graph on left). And this past "summer", Antarctica (where it is winter) just experienced its coldest average temperatures on record. NASA has plotted (see Figure below) the global temperature anomaly (the deviation from the 1951-1980 averages) for June-July-August 2021 for the whole world, as a function of latitude. (For example, the South Pole latitude is -90 degrees, the equator is 0 degrees, and Hammond Ranch is +41.3 degrees). Everywhere in the world was far warmer than normal **except** Antarctica, which was far below normal.



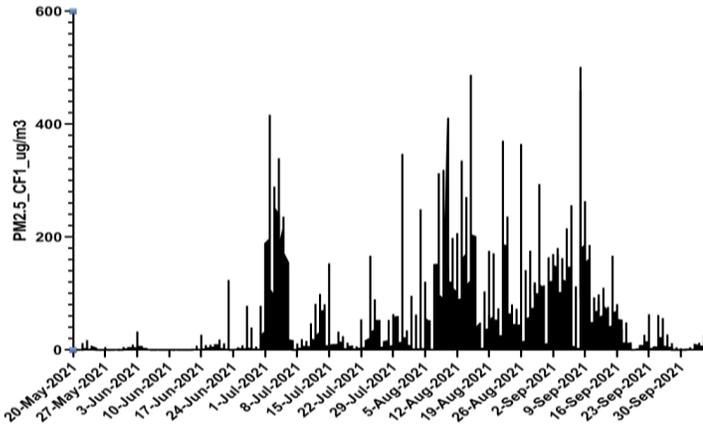
Measuring extreme variability is a lot less certain than measuring averages, but it is those extreme variations that will cause the most disruption in the next few decades, rather than the inexorable but gradual increase in averages. The increasing average temperature will be barely perceptible from one year to the next, but the extreme events will be noticeable and increasingly common and disruptive. Around here, any period of extreme hot and dry temperature causes drying in the forest, and that leads to rapid wildfire spread.

Wildfire leads to the second pronounced feature of this past summer: smoke. On most days, Mt. Shasta was not visible from Hammond Ranch; the sky was grey-yellow. Several active fires erupted and became long-lasting, the closest being about 10 miles away, the Lava fire, just north of Mt. Shasta. The fires grew large and persistent because of the unusually dry conditions. Most of the nearby fires were started by lightning. But the largest (the Dixie fire that burned down Greenville, CA at the northern fringe of the Sierras and burned through much of eastern Lassen National Park) was apparently started by a tree falling onto a PGE above-ground power line. (It is time to push for undergrounding.) The resulting combined smoke was recorded by several nearby residences who run "Purple Air" sensors.

Continued, Pg. 5

Weather on the Ranch (cont'd)

Here is the trace of one of those sensors, situated near the Hammond Reservoir Dam:



The vertical scale indicates the AQI ("Air Quality Index"). Generally, 0-50 is considered harmless, but above 50 increasingly affects more and more people, depending on their overall health. Readings above 200 will affect everyone to some extent after a 24 hr exposure.

Extreme events are becoming more common around the world. Why that is the case is not yet entirely clear and is a subject of active research. Global warming happens most strongly around the north pole region and thereby decreases the difference in temperature between the north pole and the equator. This would affect the overall atmospheric circulation and affect the frequency and strength and path of storms. But the theoretical details are still being worked out and, as in any real science, they are subject to rigorous testing.

At this time of year, long-term predictions for the coming winter are of great interest. We are entering a "La Nina" phase where the tropical Pacific ocean surface temperature is colder than normal. Although far to our south, that temperature phase affects the weather on the entire West Coast. With La Nina, the Pacific Northwest generally gets colder and wetter than normal, whereas the Pacific Southwest gets warmer and dryer than normal. We are right in between, so the best guess is that we will have a "normal" winter.

Many Thanks

My grateful "Thanks" go out to Brooke Boyer, David Tribble and Rebekah Sluss for their assistance in scanning historical HLA Newsletters dating from 1976 thru 2003. These little snippets of history are now ensconced on a small thumb drive - easily carried out in case of evacuation and available to anyone who would like to know how life on our ranch evolved during the past 45 years.

Linda Klokow

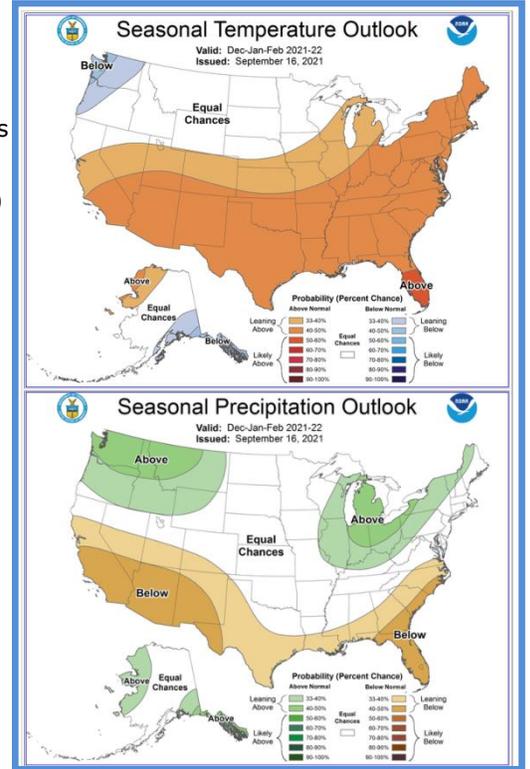


Below are NOAA maps showing their predictions for the three month period of Dec-Jan-Feb and a longer-term outlook for June-July-Aug.

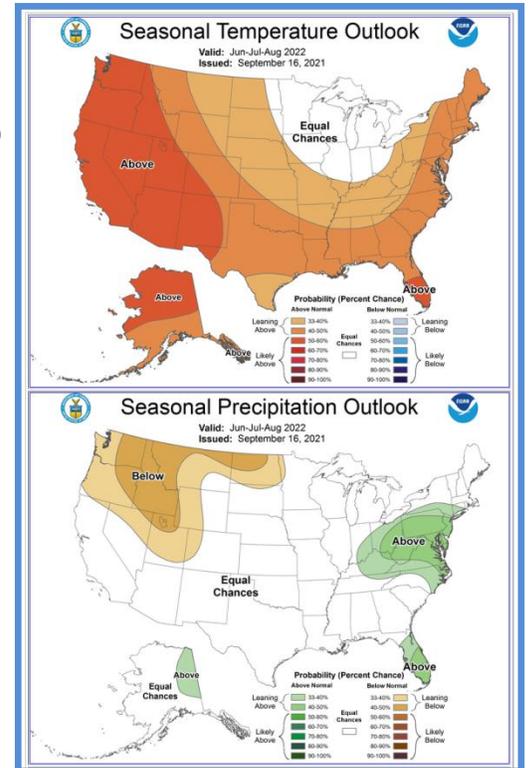
In NOAA terminology, "equal chances" means a 33% chance of near normal, 33% chance of above normal, and 33% chance of below normal.

Unfortunately, the much longer-term outlook for next summer June-July-Aug (lower 2 panels) shows a 50-60% chance of above normal temperatures here. Precipitation next summer might be "near normal" when normal precipitation is very low anyway. But...there may be a slim hope: predictions this far ahead have a large uncertainty.

NOAA predictions for Dec-Jan-Feb (Upper 2 panels)



NOAA's longer term outlook for June-July-Aug 2022. (Lower 2 panels)



People, Deer and Dogs

Deer are our common visitors. They can be charming does, darling fawns and majestic bucks. They can also be annoying pests, helping themselves to our carefully tended gardens. But as I found out this summer, they can also be quite dangerous.

There are a couple times a year when there is an increased potential for negative encounters with deer.

The first is around late March to early June, when does have fawns in hiding or just following their mother. The second time is about mid-November to mid-January when bucks are in the rut.

Deer are foragers and not predators. When deer attack, it is not for food but protection. This is the reason deer can be dangerous. When a deer feels threatened, it will stand its ground and attack with brutal kicks.

A brief encounter with a doe this spring resulted in a minor injury to my dog. I had no idea the doe and fawns were on the path. The doe was aggressive and came at us both.

Throughout the summer, we learned to be more aware of the "moms" in our midst. As the fawns have grown bigger, the does are less aggressive toward us and seem to be teaching their offspring to avoid human contact.

Now we are beginning to see the "boys" move in. It is not quite rutting season, but they are showing increasing interest in the "girls". During the rut, bucks are continually on the move, fighting other bucks and looking for does. They don't take time to eat during rutting season--the urge to reproduce is overwhelming.

It is best to avoid all situations involving deer.

Another problem is people who feed the deer.

*The California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife reminds us:

"Feeding deer is dead wrong. It's also against the law. Allowing deer access to your garden and landscaping, or intentionally feeding deer, can be deadly. Wild animals naturally fear people, keep a distance, and will not bother you, so long as they remain truly wild. But if they become accustomed to humans, their natural ways are ruined. Their normal wildness and fear of humans is lost. That's when conflicts occur."



*One Handsome Guy
on Oak Ridge
Photo by Randy Klokow*



*Fawns on the Ranch
Photo by Tom Wearing*

When that fear is lost they become easy targets during hunting season. Good intentions can have the very opposite effect.

As we continue to develop home sites in rural areas the problems intensify. The same features we like for our home sites, such as sunny southern exposures at the base of mountain sides with numerous trees and shrubs, are the same components the deer find attractive.

Keep deer wild. Don't feed the deer. Don't allow your dog to chase deer.

Enjoy our deer from a distance for their own safety and yours.

* <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Keep-Me-Wild/Deer>



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, November 9, 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 unfortunately was not scheduled for this year.
- HLA Members' Annual Meeting will be virtual again this year due to continuing Covid restrictions and concerns. Members will be contacted by email or USPS regarding issues and voting opportunities..
- 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



Lance Tipped Darner

What an exquisite design is the dragonfly! Lacey, transparent wings, enormous compound eyes and iridescent colors that shine in the sun.

This dragonfly, found on the ranch, is the Lance Tipped Darner (*Aeshna constricta*), a type of mosaic darner of the genus *Aeshna* (aka blue darners)... large, strong-flying dragonflies.

The name "darnier" refers the resemblance of the long thin body of the dragonfly to old-fashioned "darning needles" – large sewing needles used to darn (repair) socks before we became largely a "throw-away" society.

We have many species of dragonflies in Northern California and their subtle differences make it hard to identify a particular one. This type shows up in late summer; usually July through October, but is most prominent in September.

Dragonflies aren't an aggressive insect, but they can bite out of self-defense when they feel threatened. The bite isn't dangerous, and in most cases, it won't break human skin.

Dragonflies are natural predators for mosquitoes. In fact, they eat them at all stages of life. Our enduring drought has kept the mosquito population low, so these lovely pest-control assistants have had a difficult year.

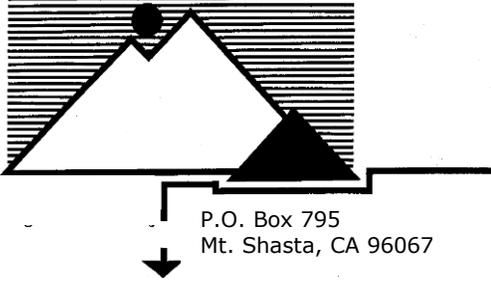
Run Report - Hammond Ranch Fire Zone

Third Quarter 2021 (July to Sept.) 11 vegetation fires, 5 structure fires, 13 medical calls, 1 vehicle fire, 1 false alarm, 1 car fire, 1 powerline arcing.

Many thanks to our Fire Personnel for their Service



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