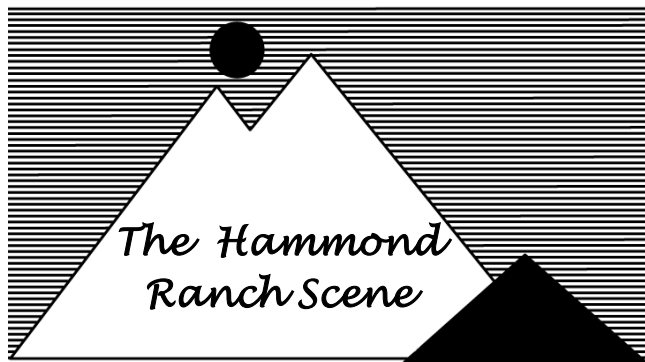


Hammond Landowners Association



www.hammondlandowners.org

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January 2025

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Message From the President

At the HLA annual meeting, the membership overwhelmingly supported an attempt to create a Hammond Ranch Firewise Community. The HLA Board has voted to help facilitate and support this effort. A FireWise community can help to improve homeowners' insurance rating by decreasing wildfire risks. It can improve our area rating, and it can give individual homeowners a negotiating point with their personal insurance provider. This could help maintain homeowner insurance and control rates.

Because Hammond Ranch is so large, it has been decided to apply as one community, but to administer it in smaller neighborhood units (a pod). We recommend groups of neighbors, consisting of 8 to 12 homes, to organize themselves and to choose a lead person to serve as Podhead (pun intended). This person would report to and be a member of the larger Hammond Ranch Firewise community committee.

Membership is voluntary and does not require HLA membership, but participation will benefit the individual homeowner and the community as a whole. The article explains that it does not require an excessive commitment. Even our chipping program with CalFire, which we are planning for spring and fall, qualifies for the Firewise program.

Page 3 has an article from the Firewise coordinator. Please read the article and join with your neighbors to form a pod!!

Erich Ziller

2025 Membership

It's a new year! Time to join or renew your membership in the Hammond Landowners Association. It's a great way to meet your neighbors.

Included with this newsletter is the 2025 Membership Application. 2024 had the highest membership, 129! Hopefully, we can welcome more members in 2025.

As some of you already know, there are many reasons to join:

- HLA provides financial assistance when replacing road signs;
- Presents new residents with a welcome basket;
- Publishes the *Hammond Ranch Handbook*;
- Provides and maintains trespass authorizations;
- Negotiates with the County for needed improvements and support for the Ranch;
- Promotes the maintenance of our roads by reimbursing road maintenance costs according to a prescribed schedule established by the HLA Board;
- Hosts a website that is helping to inform residents of issues related to the Ranch (www.hammondlandowners.org);
- Assists with the resolution of neighborhood issues;
- Members are eligible to purchase PHI (Mercy Air) emergency medical evacuation services at a discounted rate;
- Publishes *The Hammond Ranch Scene*, a quarterly newsletter, informing members of important issues;
- Members work with road committees, the fire department as well as the County and local Fire Safe Councils; and
- Hosts an annual picnic in July as well as the annual luncheon meeting in November.

Join the HLA!

Annual Members Meeting

The annual HLA members meeting was held at the Treehouse restaurant in Mt. Shasta on November 2 this year. Over 61 members attended. The restaurant accommodations were much better than the brewery in Weed and was much appreciated by those attending. The food was pretty good too!

The guest speakers were Josh Bien, Program Manager of CORE (Community Organized Relief Effort), and Cristan Norman of the Fire Safe Council of Siskiyou County, as well as Michael Kobseff.

Josh and Cristan informed the members of the Firewise program, which is administered by CalFire. They explained quite a bit about the program and answered many questions. On page 3 is a brief summary of the Firewise program.

Michael Kobseff, our Siskiyou County District 3 Supervisor for 18 years, apprised us of current county activities, including the city transfer station, the Klamath dam removal, the County general plan that is going to be updated, Measure W, the Weed airport renovation, etc.

The members re-elected Valerie Baake, Tricia Elberts, Evan Hadfield, Doug Lathrop and Larie Wearing to serve on the Board for another two years.

HLA Board Members

At the monthly meeting of the Board Valerie Baake was elected to continue as Treasurer, Evan Hadfield as secretary, Erich Ziller as President and Larie Wearing as Vice President.



Run Report

Hammond Ranch Fire Company made 25 runs this last quarter: 13 medical calls, 2 other agency relays, 3 vehicle accidents, cooking/warming/ceremony fires, 2 debris burnings, 2 public assists, 1 vegetation management and 2 electrical hazards (usually power lines down).



Sounds like a busy quarter! Their hard work is very much appreciated.

From the Chief

Hammond Ranch has been busy this winter running calls and assisting our neighbors.

Currently, we are working on a grant to purchase new turnouts for the Department.

We have one sleeper and one new volunteer at the fire house, for a total of seven, but we are always looking for more volunteers.

I hope this finds y'all in good health this winter and thanks for your continued support.

Kyle Lunsford, Chief 4200

Wildlife on the Ranch

Found on a trail above Dogwood Drive.



Bear shin & foot

Becoming a Firewise USA Community *By Cristan Norman, Outreach & Firewise Coordinator*



As we all reel from the scale and impacts of the devastating losses occurring in the L.A. fires, one can't help but look around our own home/neighborhood/community and think about the same tragedy happening in our own backyard. As our county's fire history and the state fire hazard severity maps attest: it is simply not a matter of if, but when and how much loss will occur. (CAL FIRE's current Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map: <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/community-wildfire-preparedness-and-mitigation/fire-hazard-severity-zones>. Scroll half way down the page, past the three YouTube videos to the map viewer. You may view areas in the map viewer by typing in addresses.)

Wildfire, however, is one natural disaster where we can significantly increase the resilience of our homes and communities by taking simple, scientifically proven steps beforehand. You can substantially improve fire outcomes by working together with your neighbors to clear defensible space around homes, reduce fuel along evacuation routes/roads, hardening homes, etc. If you and your neighbors are already doing these things, then you are functioning as a Firewise community and might as well acquire the official recognition and the benefits that come along with it! If you are not yet doing these things, then starting to organize with your neighbors and following the steps outlined below is a clear, simple and effective path to reducing your wildfire risk and gaining Firewise recognition.

It is infinitely easier and cheaper to be **PRO**active **NOW** to minimize your wildfire risk, than be REactive later, *after* you have lost everything to a wildfire.

Firewise USA is a national program of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) that provides a framework for communities to band together to reduce their risk posed by wildfires. The Firewise Certification acknowledges the community's commitment to reducing its wildfire risk and, thanks to California's Safer from Wildfires Legislation, provides residents with the possibility of a wildfire insurance discount. While becoming a Firewise Community does take a little work, we are here to support you through the process.

It all starts with getting organized. To become Firewise, communities must create a board or committee of volunteers to represent the community, including residents and partners, such as local forestry agencies or the fire department. Many areas in Siskiyou County already have community-level Fire Safe Councils, and that same board can serve as your Firewise board/committee. Please email me if you need a list contact names/numbers of the leaders for the 25 community-level Fire Safe Councils in our county: cristan.firesafecouncil@gmail.com.

Once you create a Firewise board or committee, you must define your Firewise community boundary. A Firewise community can be as small as eight dwelling units or as big as 2,500 units. Note, you may not get every household on board or involved in your Firewise Community, but you can still include their property if it makes it easier to define your boundary that way.

Now that you are organized, start planning. The board or committee needs to complete a Community Wildfire Risk Assessment. CAL FIRE makes it easy and provides a template to fill out, so you aren't starting from scratch. We encourage you to include the local Fire Chief to make the process even easier.

Once the Assessment is done, it is time to create the Three-year Action Plan, and CAL FIRE has an easy-to-follow template for this, too. The Action Plan helps your community define and prioritize action to reduce wildfire risks in your community. Dunsmuir was our county's first Firewise community. Their Assessment and Action Plan are on their Firewise Website, and we encourage you to check them out: www.ci.dunsmuir.ca.us/firewise.

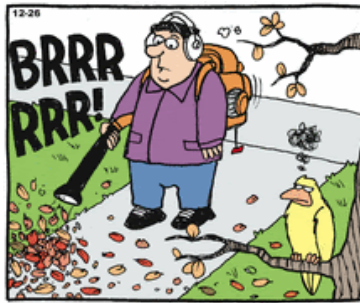
Once you have those things in place, all you must do is achieve your yearly quota of wildfire mitigation investments, which Firewise calculates for you based on the number of homes you include in your boundary. You might be surprised to know that the invest required per dwelling unit is just \$31.80 per home! That is not very much! And these investments can be made just by adding up the hours of mitigation work you did in your own yard. Every hour you spend counts as \$31.80 worth of investment. So that is only one hour of work! The Firewise portal makes it easy to add all these investments up, and chances are, your community will hit its quota in no time.

All that is left to do now is to submit your application. It's that easy. Get credit for the work you are already doing in your community and get Firewise recognition!

This is merely an excerpt of Cristan's article. For the rest of her article, which includes educational and video links, go to <mailto:https://hammondlandowners.org/firewise-usa/f/becoming-a-firewise-usa-community>.

Local Service Providers

	Rate/Hour	Equipment/Service
Mike Laurer	530-918-8158	Electrician
Matt Kosenko	530-859-8065	\$100 Plowing & fuel reduction tractor. Will buy plow blade if has regulars
Gary Scott	530-859-5644	Snow plowing
Larry Tadina	530-598-5094	\$160 4x4 backhoe
Darren Turner	530-859-2122	Negotiable Gen. engineer/contractor: earthwork, road work, land development, septic, excavation & all phases of tree work – has various piece of large equipment
Thad Wallace	530-859-5817	Bobcat & plow
Russel Willis	530-772-7515	RGP Roofing
Cache St. Pierre	208-369-3812	cachestp@gmail.com – plowing & excavation



Calendar

HLA Board Meeting – Second Tuesday of every month, 6:30 p.m. Call any board member or send an email to hla@hammondlandowners.org for meeting location and/or Zoom link. Let us know of your questions or concerns so they can be included on the agenda.

- The Annual HLA Picnic is usually scheduled for the Saturday after the 4th of July. This year it's July 5.
- HLA Members' Annual Meeting is the first Saturday in November. It will be November 1 in 2025.
- Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors – First, second and third Tuesdays of every month, 10:00 a.m., County Courthouse, Yreka. Call the Clerk at 842-8081 to confirm the meeting.
- Siskiyou County Fire Safe Council – Meets the second Wednesday monthly at 5:30pm. Check their website for dates, <https://firesafesiskiyou.com/>
- Hammond Ranch Fire Safe Council -- Contact a Board member about participating.

2025 Board Members

President	Erich Ziller	530-261-0683
Vice President	Larie Wearing	530-859-0990
Secretary	Evan Hadfield	214-620-7434
Treasurer	Valerie Baake	925-788-9875
At-Large	Neera Paine	530-859-1924
	Tricia Elberts	530-859-1036
	Doug Lathrop	530-219-5332
	Mahroushka Papazian	415-307-9709

Community Liaison - Neera Paine & Tricia Elberts
The Hammond Ranch Scene Editor - Larie Wearing

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.

Helpful Links and Numbers

HLA Membership form:
<https://hammondlandowners.org/>;
Previous newsletters and Landowners Usage of Ranch Roads Newsletter Articles:
<https://hammondlandowners.org/newsletters>;
Road maintenance reimbursement:
<https://hammondlandowners.org/road-work-reimbursement>;
Hammond Ranch CC&Rs:
<https://hammondlandowners.org/hammond-ranch-cc%26rs>;
Trespass Authorizations and Landowner Handbook:
<https://hammondlandowners.org/news-and-information>;
Emergency Alerts:
<https://www.co.siskiyou.ca.us/ReadySiskiyou>
Burn day information number: 530-842-8123.
Firewise: cristan.firesafecouncil@gmail.com.



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