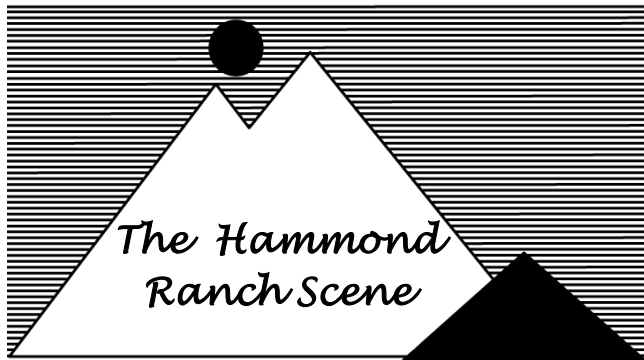


Hammond Landowners Association



www.hammondlandowners.org

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OCTOBER 2025

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Number 4

Message From the President

I hope everyone enjoyed the pleasant summer we had in Hammond Ranch, as we now prepare for what I hope will be a wet, but mild winter.

As our annual HLA members' meeting and officers election approaches, please consider joining your HLA board by stepping up as a candidate. We benefit from fresh ideas and perspectives. HLA has always been a focal point for Hammond sense of community and cooperation. While HLA does not have enforcement power, we do provide residents with requested information from our years of experiences. We also act as moderators in disputes and interactions with County and local agencies. There is power in a collective voice.

HLA was deeply involved in the creation of the Hammond Ranch Fire Company. We continue to work with the Fire Company and Cal Fire to improve fire resistance and safety. We are currently assisting in the creation of a FireWise Community designation to help with our fire insurance dilemma. Signage and road improvement has been an ongoing effort for years. (Those of you who have lived here for over 20 years remember what the roads were like before.) The HLA Board's decision to initiate a lawsuit prevented a huge truck stop from being built bordering Hammond parcels, and our assistance in defending a lawsuit, seeking to acquire public access to Dale Creek Road, helped win the case.

The Board is scheduled to meet once per month, but meetings are occasionally cancelled if there are no pressing issues. The level of your participation is controlled by your own availability and interests, but we welcome everyone's input.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our November 1st meeting at the Tree House in Mount Shasta. Our guest speakers will be Supervisor Kobseff and Scott Irvine from Cal Fire. Be sure to respond to the invitation so we can make arrangements with the restaurant.

Erich Ziller

This year is the newsletter's 50th anniversary, founded in 1975!

Run Report

Hammond Ranch Fire Company made 18 emergency calls: 8 medical calls, 3 medical false alarms, 2 false alarms, 2 motor vehicle accidents, 1 residential structure fire, 1 public assist/person lift call and 1 other agency relay.



From the Chief

Happy Fall! The weather is rapidly changing in the Ranch, which has been a pleasant change for many. Hammond Ranch Fire has been busy this summer with calls and some station projects.

We have, currently, just welcomed two new sleepers to the program. One of them is going through the COS paramedic program, and the other is in the Fire Academy at COS. In addition to the two new sleepers, we have also had one Hammond Ranch resident become a volunteer in September.

Burning season is right around the corner, so let's all do our part to reduce the vegetation in the Ranch. The burning ban is scheduled to be lifted on October 13. Keep in mind that burning can be a dangerous activity, so be sure to have defensible space around your piles, obtain a burn permit and always call the Siskiyou County burn day information line (530)842-2876.

Thank you all for your continued support, and have a happy fall.

Kyle Lunsford, Chief 4200



Hammond Ranch FireWise Update

We're continuing to make steady progress toward earning **FireWise USA® recognition** for Hammond Ranch, thanks to the tireless efforts of **Cristan Norman** (Siskiyou Fire Safe Council), **Cal Fire Battalion Chief Scott Irvine** and **Chief Kyle Lunsford** (Hammond Ranch Fire Department).

Since our last update, momentum has really picked up! The City of Weed is also in the process of becoming FireWise-recognized, which is great news for regional safety. Chiefs Irvine and Lunsford have helped us define the official Hammond Ranch FireWise boundary map, an important step in our application.

Neighbors have also begun organizing into pods or neighborhood groups — some newly formed and others naturally evolving from existing road maintenance or community groups. If you're interested in helping organize your area, please reach out to me about becoming a neighborhood/Pod Captain or part of a pod.

FireWise recognition benefits us all — it helps strengthen wildfire resilience, raises awareness about home hardening and defensible space, and can even lead to insurance discounts or help prevent policy cancellations and rate hikes.

The best part? The annual commitment is minimal — just **one hour per household per year** — far less than most of us already spend maintaining our properties! Time spent on activities such as:

- Limbing trees
- Thinning out dense vegetation;
- Raking leaves and removing brush;
- Cleaning or adding guards to gutters;
- Roof repairs;
- Clearing vegetation under decks and porches;
- Participating in chipping projects.

All of these count toward your FireWise hours. You'll be able to report your time either through your Pod Captain or through an app the Siskiyou Fire Safe Council has developed with grant funds. Details to follow once our application is approved. In the meantime, please make note of time spent on your property so it will be ready when needed.

Special thanks to **Scott Irvine and his crew** for the ongoing chipping work. — those hours are already being tracked as part of our community contribution.

Together, we're making Hammond Ranch safer, stronger, and more fire-adapted every day.

Please reach out to myself or Cristan Norman if you have any questions or would like to get involved.

Cristan.firesafecouncil@gmail.com
mahroushka@gmail.com

Mahroushka Papazian



Welcome Basket

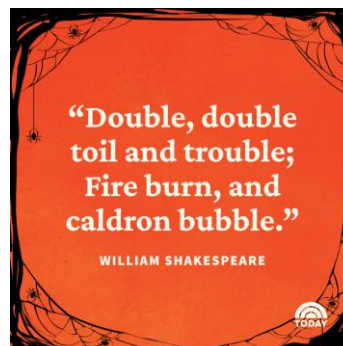
HLA board members Tricia and Neera recently presented a Welcome Basket to Marisa DeAvilla and husband, Horst Schneider.

Marisa is a bona fide local. Born and raised in Mt. Shasta, she graduated from Mt. Shasta High School before leaving for college. After a long career as a practicing and teaching veterinarian in San Diego, Marisa recently moved back into her childhood home with her husband, Horst, on the Ranch.

The house her mother built on Sugar Pine was one of the first in Hammond Ranch. When Marisa's parents moved here, they lived without water or power and, for a long time, without telephones. The first phone Marisa remembers was one mounted on a tree in the yard! Her artist mother taught at the high school in Weed and other Siskiyou County schools. The spacious yard is a true treasure repository of her mother's often hidden co-creations with nature.

Marisa and Horst are both outdoor enthusiasts and are looking forward to connecting with the community, and they expressed interest in participating actively in HLA.

Welcome Marisa and Horst.

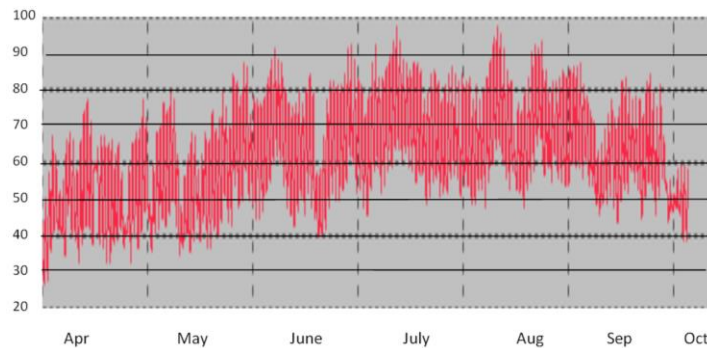


Happy Halloween!

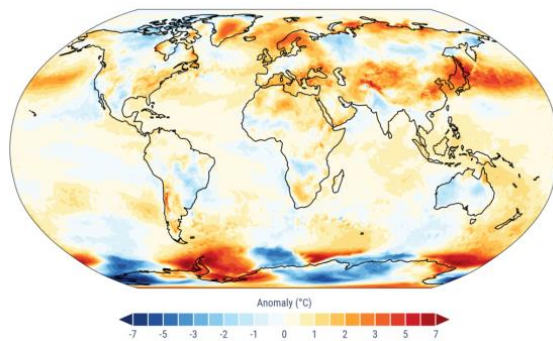
Dan's Weather, October 2025

This past summer 2025 (defined here as June, July and August) has been relatively moderate and pleasant. Only two days that could be called "extremely hot" (high temperature exceeding 95°F) occurred at the 4200' elevation level. This is noticeably fewer than the five such days that occurred in each of the summers of 2024 and 2023. In the merely "very hot" - but not extremely hot - range (high temperatures 90-94°F), summer 2025 featured only ten such days, many fewer than the twenty such days in the summer of 2024.

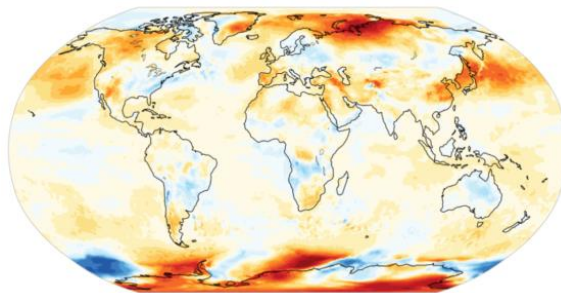
Here is the temperature history for April-October 2025:



Although this past summer was moderate for us, on a worldwide scale global warming continued apace. July 2025 and August 2025 were each the third warmest since records began in 1850, exceeded only by the summers of 2024 and 2023. Here are world maps for temperature deviation over long term 1991-2020 averages:



July 2025



Aug 2025

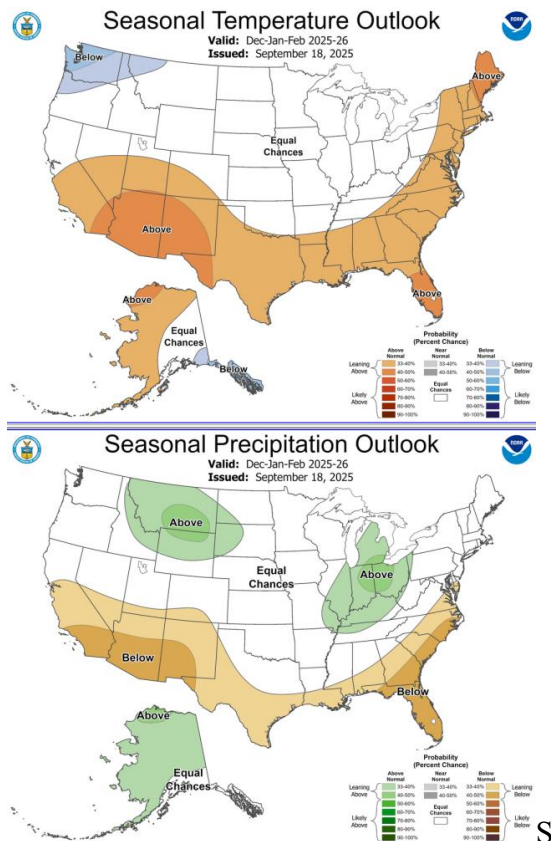
Clearly, our area fell into a (colorless) zone of close-to-normal temperature. But some areas, particularly Greenland, Northern Eurasia, Eastern Eurasia, and Antarctica, were far warmer than their long-term averages.

Typically, the dry season here - July, August, and September - contributes a negligible amount of precipitation to the year's total. However, any (non-lightning associated) summer precipitation that does occur is valuable because it tends to thwart or at least delay wildfires. The total precipitation here for July-Sept this year was a respectable 4.64," a notable increase over last year's corresponding 1.70."

Atmospheric physics predicts that global warming will increase worldwide precipitation, because of increased evaporation rates from the ocean. Indeed, many areas likely will endure disastrous floods like those recently seen in the N. Carolina mountains, the Texas hill country, China, and southern Asia, and with increased frequency. But the question is: where will this increase be felt the most? For northern California, research¹ suggests that precipitation amounts will not change much on the average, but variability will increase, leading to "a higher likelihood extreme wet and extreme dry years."

A known driver of winter weather patterns on the west coast is the temperature of surface ocean water in the eastern Pacific tropics: "El Niño" means warmer than average water temperatures down there, and "La Niña" means cooler than average. Right now, the Pacific tropics are heading from a neutral status toward a La Niña status. In general, La Niña leads to cooler and wetter winters to our north in Oregon and Washington, and drier and warmer to our south in California; the reverse is true for El Niño. Here in far northern California, we are on the "knife edge" between the two zones so it is especially uncertain what will be the local effect. Colder and wetter generally means more snow here. Concerning just snowfall, "normal" (averaged over the full winters of the last 22 years) for the 4200' elevation in Hammond Ranch is 184" +/- 91" and the average date of the first measurable accumulation in the Fall is Nov. 1.

Those are the local "normal." Here are maps produced by NOAA for the probability of above-normal, average, or below-normal temperatures and precipitation for the upcoming December through February period:



According to these maps, this area can expect "equal chances" of either above normal (33%), normal (33%) and below normal (33%) temperatures and precipitation this winter. Of course, the uncertainty implied there is almost humorous. But weather forecasting is inherently uncertain, for several reasons:

- (1) The atmosphere is chaotic, meaning that a slight change far away (even halfway around the globe) can eventually evolve into huge effect locally;
- (2) Computer models - and computers - to simulate this behavior still need to be improved;
- (3) More observations, both on the ground and in the upper atmosphere, are needed to supply data inputs to these models.

And now, a fourth reason adds to the uncertainty. In recent months, the federal government has cut back drastically on meteorological research funding, weather satellite maintenance, high-altitude balloon observations and staffing at National Weather Service offices. A certain consequence of the cutbacks and layoffs will be that future forecasts will become even less accurate.

¹ <https://climateresilience.ca.gov/regions/north-coast.html>

by Dan Axelrod

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, 5:00 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.
- 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 hammondlandowners@gmail.com.

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:
 Hammond Landowners Assn., P.O. Box 795, Mt. Shasta, CA 96067 or email to hammondlandowners@gmail.com.