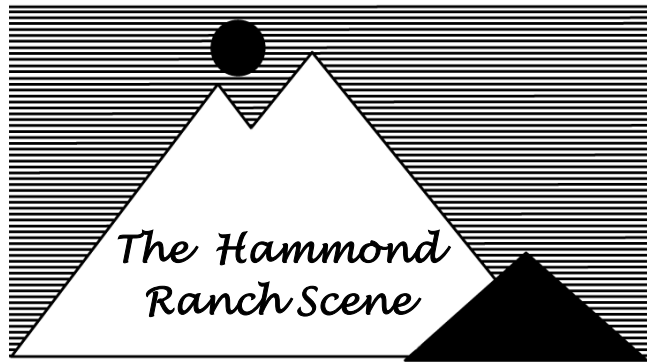


Hammond Landowners Association



www.hammondlandowners.org

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April 2024

XLVIX

Number 2



Message From the President

I hope everyone had an enjoyable winter. While snow totals were less, there was ample rainfall to continue to chip away at our drought. With that moisture will come more vegetation growth, so it is time to sharpen the chainsaw and get out the clippers and pruners.

In addition to fire danger, we are all struggling with increased homeowner insurance bills and even cancellations. This is the newest challenge on the Ranch. Your HLA Board hopes to gather information and form alliances to try to improve the overall situation on the Ranch, but everyone (including undeveloped parcels) needs to do their part. Start by going to [Get Started](#), which is Wildfire Prepared Home - a program of the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety.

This is the future of homeowners insurance. Have a great summer!

Run Report

The Hammond Ranch Fire Company responded to 13 calls the last quarter: 9 Medical calls, 2 vehicle accidents, 1 Structure Fire and 1 Public Assist.



A lot of medical calls this last quarter! As always, we very much appreciate CAL FIRE's Siskiyou Unit and the HR Fire Company for their hard work.

New Alert System for Siskiyou County

The Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office, Siskiyou County Office of Emergency Services (OES), CalFire, dispatchers, law enforcement, and other partners have relied on CodeRED as our main alert notification provider. As things have developed, and with the backing of local jurisdictions, the Siskiyou County Sheriff and the Office of Emergency Services have decided to upgrade to a new alert notification system, [ReadySiskiyou-Alerts](#).

The [ReadySiskiyou-Alerts](#) upgrade will provide the county with a more reliable emergency alert system, ensuring enhanced safety and security for our community. With this upgrade, residents can expect improved response times during critical situations, allowing for quicker dissemination of vital information during emergencies such as fires, natural disasters, severe weather events, or public safety incidents.

To receive emergency alerts from Siskiyou County, go to [ReadySiskiyou-Alerts](#) and register your new account with [ReadySiskiyou-Alerts](#) (Smart911). Including your address during registration will assist in preventing alerts that are not relevant to your area. Additionally, please select your preferred language for receiving alerts, as [ReadySiskiyou-Alerts](#) has the capability to send alerts in multiple languages.

To read the announcement from the Sheriff's Office, follow this link: <https://www.co.siskiyou.ca.us/ReadySiskiyou>.

Genasys Protect

You may have signed up for ZoneHaven, the site that identifies evacuation zones in case of an emergency. It is now Genasys Protect.

Genasys Protect uses your location on the website and in the app to offer you the most relevant information, but does not share that information with any outside companies. Most of the Ranch is in Zone SIS-6007, but it would be wise to double check. Visit [Genasys Protect](#) to find your zone.

Update From the Chief

The Hammond Ranch Fire Company is pretty much status quo right now. We're working on trying to obtain grant funds for new turnouts for the station.

We still need help. So, please, come volunteer.

Kyle Lunsford, Chief 4200

CAL FIRE Chipping

David Scott Irvine (a Hammond Ranch resident) is now the CAL FIRE battalion chief for the Hammond Ranch area.

He is very concerned about the overgrown ingress and egress of the Ranch roads. He is offering his crew to help us out in that regard, when it won't interfere with their regular commitments.

Landowners can clear trees, branches and underbrush no larger than 8" at the base, up to 100' back from their major access road (not their whole property), and stack the material - just off the roadway - butt side toward the road. CAL FIRE will then come out and chip the material. They will supply the manpower and equipment. They would only ask for a contribution for diesel fuel.

This would go a long way to insure that CAL FIRE can get into the Ranch in the event of a fire, and we can get out.

If you are interested, contact the HLA at www.hammondlandowners.org. A coordinator will contact you to make arrangements.



Springs Way

Winter fights to stay.
Sweet Spring always wins her way.
Flowers bloomed today!

Spring has final say,
Sending Winter on his way.
Her true love is May!

Spring's June wedding day.
White lily and rose bouquet.
Bells ring out today!

by Patricia L. Cisco

Siskiyou County AirBnB Rules

The HLA recently received an email from a prospective buyer asking what the rules are for allowing AirBnBs in Hammond Ranch. The County Planning Department was contacted.

Siskiyou County only allows for short-term rentals (i.e., AirBnB's) on parcels 2.5 acres or larger. ADUs (Accessory Dwelling Units), per state law, must be rented out long-term (more than 30 days).

The property owner could rent out the entire existing home as an AirBnB with an approved permit. An ADU or second dwelling unit would have to be rented out long-term. Some folks do live in the ADU on their property and rent out the single-family home. That is fine.

Hammond Ranch properties are zoned Rural Residential. This means the property can only have one single-family home and an ADU on the property. ADUs are 1,200 square feet or less. Another dwelling unit may be allowable via a Use Permit, but the County only allows for one short-term rental per property. Property owners should check with the County Environmental Health Department to see if the septic system can handle that or if it needs to be updated. The property owner wouldn't be able to utilize any more dwelling units on the property for short-term use.

The Dibelkas

John Dibelka posted on Nextdoor an announcement for Wilma and George Dibelka's memorial. With his permission, we're including it here.

Upcoming Celebration of Life for Wilma and George Dibelka. Longtime Hammond Ranch resident Wilma Dibelka passed away at her new home in McCloud on 22 January of this year, following her husband of 65 years, George, who passed away on the Ranch on 21 November, 2017. A joint celebration of their lives will be conducted by their son, Deacon Mark G. Dibelka, at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church on Lassen Lane in Mt. Shasta on Friday afternoon, 24 May 2024, at 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

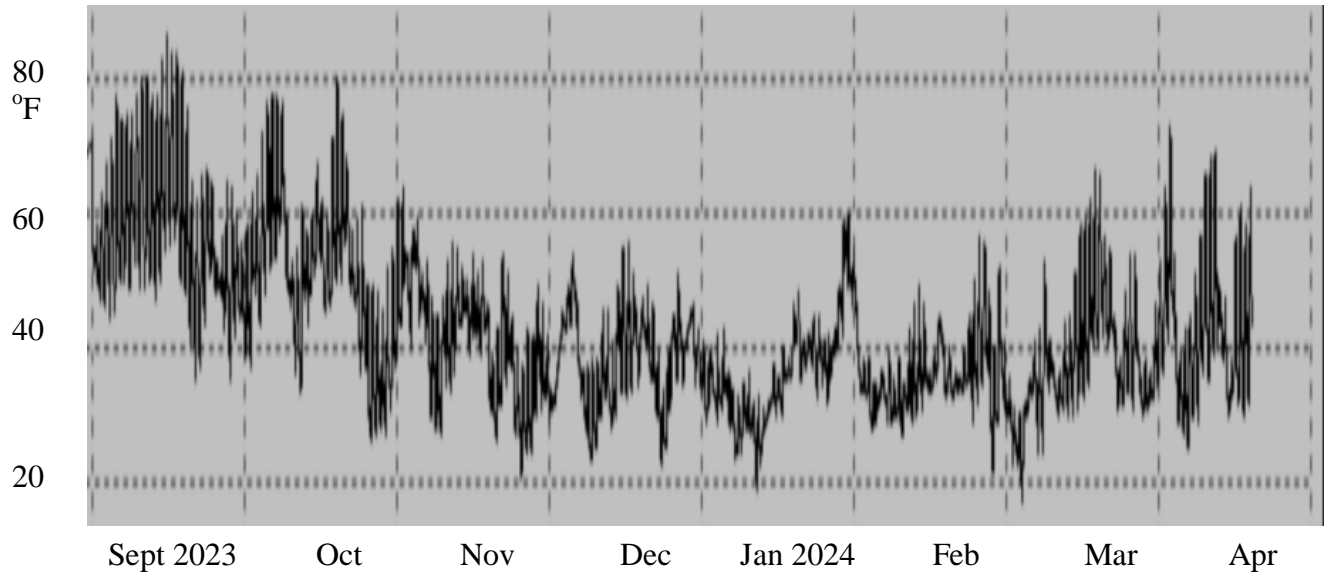
All are welcome to attend and proceedings will be streamed live. Please contact John Dibelka by text or voice at 916-606-3690.



Dan's Weather, Spring 2024

by Dan Axelrod

This past winter so far (September 2023 through March 2024) was significantly warmer and wetter than "normal," with normal defined as the mean since 1991. Here is the temperature trace to date (April 20), with actual continuous measurements at the southern border of the Ranch at elevation 4200':

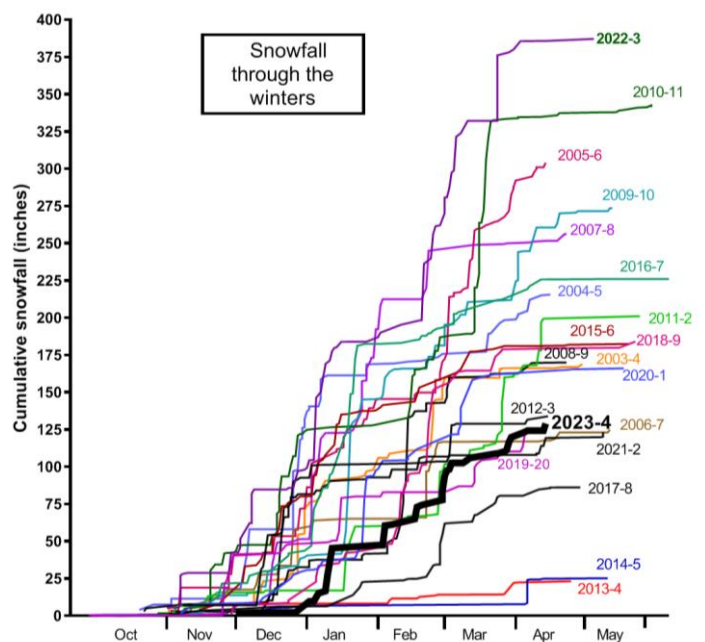


As can be seen from the graph, the coldest temperatures recorded were in the high teens, and that occurred only twice. This is relatively mild. Many years in the past have seen low temperatures in the low teens or less, and the warmest temperatures reached as high as the upper fifties to mid sixties.. The deviation from "normal" (defined over the 1991-2020 period) is not available for Hammond Ranch, but the official NOAA data for temperature deviations in Mt. Shasta City should be fairly applicable. That deviation, averaged over the seven month period (September-March), was 1.7°F above normal.

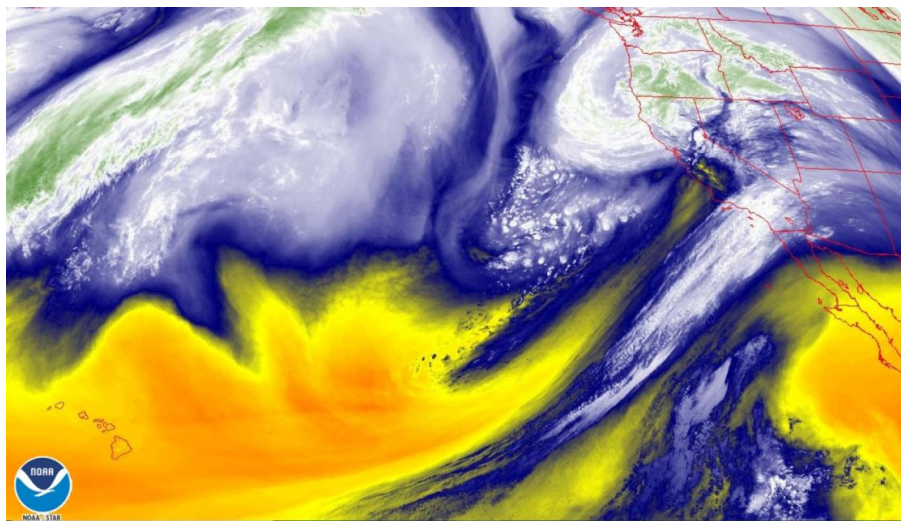
Total precipitation at our 4200' location is hard to measure because the rain gauge funnel is not designed to accumulate and melt all the snow that falls on it; once a pile of snow fills up the funnel, excess tends to fall off. But again, NOAA's official straight liquid+ melted-water equivalent should be applicable. That shows a total of 37.9" of water from September-March, which is about 23% higher than the normal of 30.78" in that same stretch of months as averaged over 1991-2020.

Snowfall is far more variable from one location to another, especially since the temperatures were usually near freezing when it was snowing, with the rain/snow transition line frequently running right through the Ranch. At 4200' we received a total of 129.1" from the first accumulation (on December 1) to the last so far (on April 14). Out of the 21 years on this record, this past winter presented the seventh lowest cumulative snowfall.

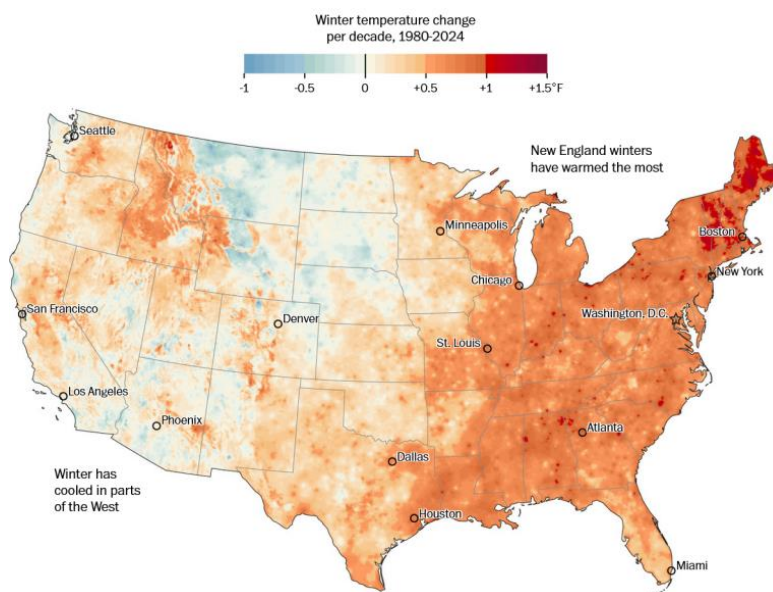
The highest elevations of the Ranch (~ 4500') received somewhat more, and the lowest elevations (~ 3800') received much less. Here is a graph of how that compares to the past 20 years here at the same location. (In each year, the lines extend out to the date of the last accumulating snowfall, which is often in May).



Several of the storms produced strong "atmospheric rivers" which affected mainly Southern California and were severe enough to make national news. A winter rain/snow storm is shaped like a giant comma, and the tail part is the atmospheric river. Here is a satellite view of a storm on Feb. 4 with a distinct atmospheric river. The white and green places are clouds; the yellow and orange are clear, dry air. We were in the head of the comma (where the coldest air resides). This particular storm provided us with 13.1" of snow.



Globally (averaged over the whole earth), each month for the past 10 months hit an all-time high average temperature for that month. As summer approaches, the greatest concern in our region is how global warming will affect our local temperatures and how that might affect the initiation and spread of wildfires. It turns out (see map below) that most areas of the U.S. have indeed seen very significant temperature increases over the last 45 years. (Of course, there is a lot of year-to-year fluctuation; the mapped data are based on a statistical "best fit" trend.). But - good news - our area has, thus far, escaped this trend!



As concerns long-range precipitation, global warming will almost certainly increase global rainfall (because of an increased evaporation rate from the warming oceans), but it will also change global airflow patterns. That means some areas may see less precipitation and other areas may see more. Climate models are not yet clear on exactly what will happen here.

Some regions around the world will be affected by global warming because of intolerable heat, coastal flooding, melting glaciers, failures of agriculture, human and animal and plant mass migrations and consequent wars, etc. However, the main concern here is wildfires. But even more important than wildfire effects from climate change trends in our local temperature and precipitation is the weather at the very bottom few inches of the forest floor, what might be called "micro-weather". That zone is where forest fires (perhaps started naturally by lightning or artificially by vehicle sparks, downed power lines or human carelessness) will ignite the living bushes and dead branches on the forest "floor". In a natural forest, the floor is kept cooler and moister in the shade provided the continuous "canopy" of trees above. The canopy also blocks the wind, making the air on the floor much calmer than higher above. This micro-weather makes it more difficult for embers from a spreading wildfire to ignite the moist bushes and branches. But in areas with artificial clearcutting or "thinning," the material on the floor, even before a fire, becomes hotter and drier in the sun and wind exposure, and thereby more receptive to catching on fire and then spreading it rapidly. On the other hand, timber industry foresters argue that clearcutting and thinning removes a lot of "fuel" and thereby reduces wildfire. This is a dilemma which is not only complicated but has divided the forestry expert community, and needs more scientific research to get definite answers. The only relatively sure (and non-foolish) approach to fire safety is home-hardening: keeping flammable materials well away from the periphery of your home.

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### *Wildlife on the Ranch*

Skunks are mammals in the family Mephitidae, which is closely related to red pandas (Ailuridae) and raccoons and their relatives (Procyonidae). In North America, the striped skunk is the most common skunk species.

The word "skunk" originates from Native American Algonquian languages, possibly meaning 'urinating fox.' Native American oral traditions portrayed the skunk both as a trickster that used its scent to fool enemies as well as a healer and guide. Early colonial records reveal that some Native American nations treated skunks in a similar manner to pets.

Skunks are nocturnal and spend the day sleeping in dark locations and exit in the evening to search for food. They are excellent diggers and create long, deep burrows in woodlands or open fields that end in a large chamber with a nest of leaves and branches. They will also happily take over abandoned burrows of woodchucks and foxes.

Skunks mate in late winter and the kits are born 60-75 days later. Mothers raise their young alone in spring to early summer. Skunks are not hibernators and feed on insects, plant materials, and small vertebrates year-round. They are also hardy foragers and have been known to travel as far as five miles for food. Most predators leave skunks alone, with the exception of the great horned owl, which has almost no sense of smell.

The skunk's powerful spray comes from two scent glands near their rear. This unpleasant spray isn't just a nuisance; it's the skunk's primary defense mechanism and a key survival tool. They can spray up to 12 feet and are able to aim for the faces of their predators. Skunks spray only as a last resort,

though, and would prefer to walk away. Once they unload their tank, they need a period of about 12 days until they can spray again, leaving them largely defenseless.

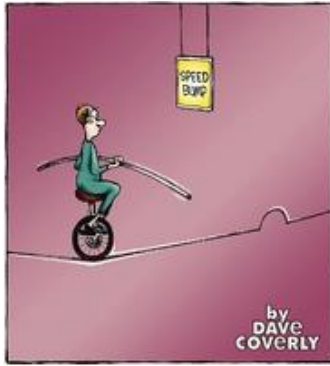
Navigate a skunk encounter by watching for warning signs. If they sense danger, skunks stomp their front feet, execute a charging motion, turn their rear toward you and lift their tail high. This is a signal to give them some space. Should you accidentally startle a skunk, slowly back away from the potential perfume ambush. The skunk is likely to calm down with this response.

Skunks are immune to bee and wasp stings. If you have honey bee hives, you'll know skunks have been visiting when you see scratches on the lower parts of the hive. You'll also find remnants of bees lying around on the ground outside the hive. This is because skunks suck on the bees, drawing out the bee's juicy inner parts, and then spitting out the exoskeleton. Elevate the hive to keep skunks away.

The skunk's white stripe is a warning sign of their potential danger to predators. Tomato juice will mask skunk odor, but does not neutralize it. A soak in water mixed with baking soda or hydrogen peroxide will neutralize the smell more effectively.

Skunks are immune to snake venom and are known to eat poisonous snakes. Although they are great foragers, skunks do not make great tree climbers. Their long claws and lack of balance make it especially difficult. Instead of going up to find food, skunks go down - they are great diggers!





## 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](mailto: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 will be July 6, 2024.
- HLA Members' Annual Meeting is the first Saturday in November. It will be November 2 this year.
- 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 monthly. Check their website for dates, <https://firesafesiskiyou.com/>
- Hammond Ranch Fire Safe Council -- Contact a Board member about participating.

## 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>.  
 Burn Permit Call-in number: 530-842-8123.

## 2024 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 |
|                | J Curtis            | 615-714-4759 |
|                | 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](mailto:hla@hammondlandowners.org).



## 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](mailto:hla@hammondlandowners.org)