



www.hammondlandowners.org

What's Inside?

Fire Department News	2
United Way Grant News	2
Welcome Baskets – Welcome Packets	3
Thanks to Greg Newton	3
Just For Fun	3
Fire Safe Council News	4
End of Wildfire Safety Project?	5
Emergency Telephone Tree Test	5
Proposed Love's Truckstop Update	5
Hammond Reservoir	5
Positive Feedback Systems	5-6
2020 Board Members	7
Calendar	7
Wildlife On The Ranch	7



Chief Dave Jenkins Retires

After 15 years of dedicated service Dave Jenkins has relinquished his Fire Chief's hat to re-join the ranks of retirees. Dave began his service to the Fire Company in early 2006 after previously retiring from 32 years as a police officer in San Jose, CA.

Over the years Dave's interesting and valuable newsletter columns gave us information on a variety of subjects from "Home Defibrillators – Do You Need One?" (April 2009) to an outline of various home heating systems and their safe practices (Jan.2009). In addition, he kept us apprised of the workings of the Fire Company, set up and developed the program of fire academy interns (sleepers), and was instrumental in acquiring new equipment (engine, snow cat, water storage tank).

Behind the scenes, Dave managed the day to day tasks of keeping the fire equipment and personnel ready to roll. Many middle of the night call-outs as well as fire suppression incidents and support for other fire companies were common occurrences. Training for himself and his staff was ongoing. All of this was a **volunteer** job!

One of his first big challenges was bringing the department out of a budget deficit. The local tax base at the time was insufficient to support the department's basic operating costs.

In conjunction with the local Firefighter's Association, HLA and community contacts, he spearheaded the creation of local Measure K that was put to a vote in our community. As is the case in many districts, any tax increases are a hard sell, but with an informational campaign and community meetings, the measure successfully passed and the department was saved from impending closure. (Cont'd Pg. 2)

President's Message

2020 has so far been a year for the ages. We are fortunate to live here at the Ranch where social distancing is a way of life. And we have all of our beautiful nature, wildlife, and outdoor activities available. We should all continue to protect ourselves, our families, and our friends and neighbors. Hopefully we can keep the spread of this virus at a minimum in our area until a vaccine is available.

Unfortunately, the virus forced us to cancel our annual picnic where many of us get the opportunity to reconnect with friends and neighbors, and strengthen our community bonds. We hope to have our annual members' meeting in November, but that too will depend on conditions at that time.

This year we will have several board positions open and we need landowners to step up to fill these positions. If you are a longtime member, a new resident, or even if you have served on the board years ago, please consider joining the HLA board this year. Meetings are held once per month and generally last for 90 minutes.

The HLA continues to work to improve life in Hammond Ranch by focusing on the issues of fire prevention and suppression, evacuation routes, trespassing, illegal drug activity, road maintenance and signage, and other issues that members bring to our attention.

This is your chance to serve your community and to work on projects and issues that are important to you.

Erich Ziller,
President
Hammond Landowners
Association



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.

Dave Jenkins (Cont'd)

This also moved the department into a county based agency and gave us the resources of Siskiyou County, instead of simple reliance upon those in the Hammond Ranch area. This change also allowed the members of the fire department to be paid for some services, as well as being covered by full service, inexpensive insurance in case of injury.

Increased safety on the ranch and our ability to get home insurance can be directly attributed to the presence of our fire responders. We are all tremendously grateful to Dave Jenkins for making much of this possible, allowing it to run smoothly and efficiently.

We wish you well in your retirement, Dave. We hope that these years have been rewarding, interesting and challenging.



Fire Department News

- Mark Dibelka will be taking over as our new Chief.

Wanted:

The Fire Department needs an experienced firefighter to help develop and implement a rock solid training program for the Hammond Ranch Fire Zone. This program is expected to lead to better, more efficient service to all residents within the fire protection zone.

If the applicant is motivated to do so, the position can be expanded out to include Strike Team/Task Force Leader duties as well.

If you are interested or know of a person who is qualified and would be willing to help our community, please contact the fire department via the website - www.hmm4200.org



United Way Emergency Preparedness Grant



The grant work has been proceeding slowly but steadily, mostly in the form of individual contacts between neighbors and distribution of Disaster Ready Fliers at the mailbox signs. Be sure to grab one if you haven't already. The forms are a very helpful step-by-step fold-out document to help you make plans for a wildfire or other emergency.

We are starting on the next phase of the program, with small gatherings and short informational programs.

By Sally McGregor

Coming Soon Pizza at The Firehouse Bring your mask, bring your appetite...



Come to a fun informal get-together with **free pizza, soft drinks** and a short presentation that will give you great ideas and resources for emergency preparedness.

Thursday August 6th 6:00 PM

You must RSVP by Tues. Aug. 4th, 2020 to pio@hmm4200.org.

See below for more details.

Please: ONLY If you have no internet you may call 530-276-5391 to RSVP.

Join us for **Pizza at the Firehouse** evenings, to share short messages about Hammond Ranch safety and community-related information, and share some pizza, as well. These will be a mask-mandatory event, and will be set up to allow for social distancing. It will involve a ten or fifteen minute discussion, then dining with friends and neighbors. To maintain proper social distance recommendations, and to be sure there's enough food, it will be an RSVP-only event.

Our first date will be Thursday, August 6 at 6:00 p.m. Please RSVP to pio@hmm4200.org. Join us, and say a safe, socially distanced hello to your neighbors!



Welcome Baskets and Welcome Packets

Due to social distancing HLA has not presented any Welcome Baskets this quarter. We hope to resume our welcoming efforts soon.

The Welcome Baskets are usually presented to our new ranch residents based on information from the County Assessor's listing of new owners and their residence address. We also rely on word of mouth from friends and neighbors regarding new residents.

Starting in January of this year HLA has also begun welcoming new landowners who do not actually live on the ranch. Some of these folks are part time residents or have just purchased new vacant land.

To acquaint these folks with our ranch and the HLA organization we send them a Welcome **Packet**. This includes a cover letter from our President, a copy of our Hammond Ranch Handbook, a membership form with return envelope, a Trespass Authorization Form with an explanation of it's use and a copy of the latest HLA Newsletter.

If you are not familiar with The Hammond Ranch Handbook, it is available for download on our website along with other information and several back issues of our newsletter.

www.hammondlandowners.org



Greg (Unmasked!)

Many Thanks to Tri-Counties Bank & Greg Newton

We would like to introduce our landowners to Mr. Greg Newton, from Tri Counties Bank. Tri-Counties and Greg have been of great assistance in setting up and managing our financial affairs over the past several years as a community service to HLA.

Greg has been with Tri-Counties Bank for about 6 years.

His wife grew up in Weed and is now an MRI tech at Fairchild Medical Center. They make their home in Lake Shastina.

We are grateful for Greg's continuing help in navigating the intricacies of having new treasurers, signature requirements and changes for bank statements.

This year we called upon him for help with setting up a separate checking account for our United Way 211 Grant. This required different levels of accountability for dispersing funds and new checks. He was helpful, cordial and professional.

We send out a big "Thank You" to Tri-Counties for their generosity and especially to Greg for his service to our association.



Just For Fun



1_____

2_____

3_____

4_____

5_____

Here are 5 species of trees common in Hammond Ranch.

Can you identify them just by looking at their trunks? See below for a list of the trees shown, but not the order that they appear. See Pg.7 for the answers and an interesting fact.

Ponderosa Pine, Western Red Cedar, White Fir, California Black Oak, Douglas Fir

Hammond Fire Safe Council News



PHASE II WILDFIRE FUEL REDUCTION CHIPPING PROGRAM



The Phase II chipping program is complete!

Congratulations to the landowners, Hammond Ranch Fire Safe Council and the Hammond Ranch Fire Company for a successful fuel reduction program.

The Phase II program chipped over 2,300 cubic yards of material from 38 properties. Landowners reported expending over 1,100 hours to cut and stack material. The Hammond Ranch Fire Safe Council and the Hammond Ranch Fire Company provided an additional 410 hours of volunteer service to coordinate the program and provide fire company protection.

The chipping work was performed by a professional contract crew paid from a funding grant sponsored and approved by CAL FIRE. The grant was prepared and submitted by Hammond Ranch Fire Safe Council for the benefit of the Hammond Ranch Fire district.

To date, the chipping programs (Phase I and II) have chipped over 3,800-cubic yards of material from 80 properties. The total amount of material is approximately equivalent to a stack 5-ft high by 8-ft deep by about 1/2-mile long!! This is a significant reduction in hazardous fuel in the Hammond Ranch area.

The Hammond Ranch chipping program is intended to help landowners remove hazardous wildfire fuel along evacuation roads and create 100-foot defensible space around homes. The program has been a huge success combining the efforts of landowners, Hammond Ranch Fire Safe Council, Hammond Ranch Fire Company and CAL FIRE.



Are You Ready for Fire Season?

The lack of rain and snow this year should alert us to the possibility of an early and difficult fire season. Despite some rain in May we are still in an extreme drought condition that does not bode well for the possibility of fire. You need to be ready for the wildfire season...

Perhaps the 5-most important things you can do:

- 1. Be prepared to evacuate!** The only safe place in a wildfire is away from the wildfire. Be packed and prepared to leave quickly. Do not wait for an "official" notification. Do not hesitate - Evacuate!
- 2. Ensure you have a safe evacuation route.** Work with your neighbors to remove combustible material (dead or dying brush) a minimum 10-feet (20-feet is better) from the edge of your evacuation road.
- 3. Harden the outside of your home against flying embers.** Clean the gutters and debris away from the home. Do not store combustible materials on or under a deck. Store firewood a minimum 30-feet away from your home.
- 4. Remove combustible materials within 5-feet of your home.** There should be no combustible vegetation within the first 5-feet from the outside walls of your home.
- 5. Be extra alert during severe (Red Flag) wildfire conditions.**

- Have your evacuation Go-Bag in a handy spot.
- Keep your phone near you, especially at night.
- Park your car OUT of the garage, facing the exit of your property.
- Have the gas tank full.
- Check for fresh batteries in your flashlights and portable radios.
- Consider putting essential items into your car ahead of time.

There is a wealth of helpful information on the internet to help you prepare. Several good sites are:

- <https://hammondlandowners.org/fire-safe-council-2> - Download our Fire Safe Handbook and local Community Wildfire Protection Plan
- www.firesafemarin.org - Excellent comprehensive site for wildfire safety.
- www.firesafesiskiyou.org -Siskiyou County Fire Safe Council-County wildfire information.

End of Wildfire Safety Projects?

By Randy Klokow

For the past several years it has been my honor to serve as a member of the Hammond Ranch Fire Safe Council. During this time, the Hammond Ranch community received approximately \$750,000 of government funding for wildfire fuel reduction.

The Government (State and Federal) does not automatically provide wildfire project funding to California communities. Each community is required to research, plan and submit projects for review and approval. Only a small number of projects are approved and funded each year. In the past, Hammond Ranch was fortunate to have had a unique group of volunteers who successfully prepared and submitted projects. Without their volunteer efforts, there would have been NO Hammond Ranch wildfire safety projects—None-Nada-Zero.

Recently a "helpful" landowner called me to ensure that I understood that wildfire fuel would rapidly regrow and that I needed to continue the free chipping program. He felt that he was "entitled" to the program (after all--he "pays County taxes"). He got it part right—The fuel will regrow, but the county taxes do not pay for a chipping program. Volunteers must prepare and submit projects for funding. I advised him, that I was going to retire and that someone needed to get involved and take over the chipping program.

After 10-years, I plan to retire from Fire Safe activities. I am hopeful someone will step up. If not, there will be no more wildfire funding - No more projects.

Please Step up! I found the work to be fun and rewarding. Volunteer service is the backbone of this community. We are an independent community dependent upon volunteers for continued success. The HLA president's message (front page of the newsletter) beautifully explains the need for volunteers.

If interested in wildfire safety, please contact me at: www.hammondfiresafe.com. I'll help you get started!!

Emergency Telephone Tree

A test of the Emergency Telephone Tree had been scheduled for mid May, but was delayed while the United Way Grant implementation was ramping up. The test is still planned and you can expect it in the next few weeks.

Proposed Love's Truck Stop:

The Hammond Landowners Association lawsuit against the Love's Corporation continues.

Our attorneys reported that we just got notice from the Appeals Court that the Opening Brief is due August 10th. It will be filed before that deadline. This will be followed by a series of briefs and motions that will go on for quite some time.

The HLA is committed to preventing the construction of this large truck stop bordering Ranch properties, and protecting the property, safety, and lives of Ranch residents.

For more information contact Erich Ziller at erichziller@yahoo.com.



Hammond Reservoir

Summer is here and it brings with it the issue of private and public use of the Hammond Agricultural Reservoir.

Some residents of Lakewood Ranch have deeded rights to it's use. The Siskiyou Land Trust owns the land along the east side of Dale Creek Rd. from the "stone house" to the dam as well as the land under the water. The water itself is metered by the State of California for agricultural use by authorized users (Hammond Reservoir Irrigation Association) downstream of the dam.

The general public has NO rights to it's use and has no rights of trespass along (privately owned) Dale Creek Rd. However, the Land Trust does host periodic visits to the holding for its members, volunteers and other interested persons.

The Land Trust is formulating the elements of a long term useage plan during July and will make a decision about future use in August.

The HLA board is working with the Land Trust to find a solution to the increased summer traffic and cars parked along Dale Creek Rd.

Positive Feedback Systems by Daniel Axelrod

This column usually appears in the Fall and Spring in order to summarize the weather extremes of the previous summer and winter. This one is an exception. In the last newsletter, a sequence of spectacular satellite pictures brought up interesting and general questions about how nature works.

The sequence showed the development (seemingly out of "nowhere") of an intense winter storm last November 26-27 - a swirl of clouds in a tight circle around a clear area. This storm was born in the Gulf of Alaska, moved SE and reached its peak at the CA/OR coastal border, and quickly deposited almost 2 feet of snow on our area. But the overall drivers of weather - the unequal distribution of heat between the poles and the equator, and the earth's rotation - are constant and unchanging.

The formation of the swirl, and why it happened just then and there and not at some other time and place is because the swirl, once it started, set up conditions that reinforced itself. This is an example of "*positive feedback*". Feedbacks explain a lot of what we see in weather, climate, pandemics, wildfires, economics, and even the origin of life.

Cont'd - Positive Feedback Systems by Daniel Axelrod

Another weather feedback example relevant at this time of year is thunderstorms. If a parcel of air gets heated by the sun-bathed ground, it will expand and start to rise and cool because of the expansion. If - and only if - the parcel also contains moisture, the cooling will condense out the moisture. Condensation gives off more heat, so the rising will continue, as long as there is enough moisture to keep the positive feedback process going. The result is a billowing thundercloud, sometimes reaching several tens of thousands of feet high. Eventually, that rising air will spread out and return toward the ground as a downflow in front and in back of the thundercloud.

But what about nearby, seemingly equivalent, air parcels a couple of miles down the road which also got heated by contact with the ground? If they were just a bit late getting started, they will confront the downflow from the nearby developing thundercloud and their own rising will be suppressed. In fact, they will probably be sucked horizontally toward the rising column of the already-formed thundercloud, like a vacuum cleaner. The existence of a thunderstorm feeds itself while suppressing similar development in its surroundings.

In the much longer time-and-distance scale of climate, positive feedbacks abound. For example, a CO₂ enhanced warming tends to melt the white icecap in the Arctic Ocean. This is important since the cold air generated there in winter drives the formation of storms that affect us. But with less icecap due to melting, more liquid water is exposed. That open water is darker than ice, so it absorbs more sunlight, turns it into heat, and thereby further feeds the warming process, leading to even more melting. Global warming contains many feedback effects, and this is one of the positive ones that make it stronger.

Virus pandemics such as COVID-19 are dangerous because of positive feedback. Below is a graph of the actual cumulative number of cases diagnosed in Siskiyou County from March 21 to July 2, 2020.

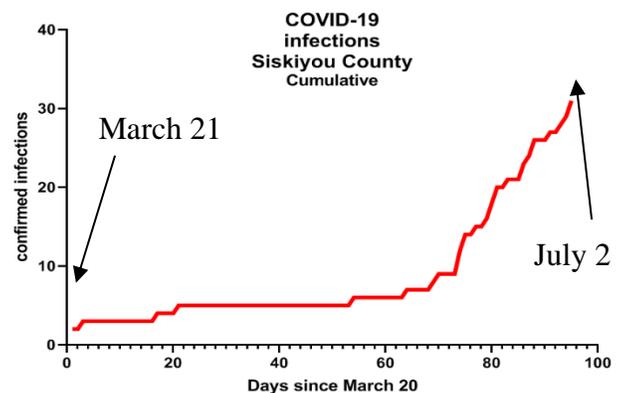
Clearly, if there are very few cases, as was the case early-on, the rate of growth is slow. The more cases, the more rapid the growth. This effect has to do with the "reproduction factor": given a person with the infection, how many other people, on average, will they "successfully" spread the virus to as long as they are infectious? If that factor is less than one, then the virus will die out on its own, under the influence of people's immune systems and sunlight and natural molecular decomposition. But if the factor is more than one, even say 1.1, that one person will generate more infected people and the pandemic will spread, because it grows by feeding on its own existence. A reproduction rate of greater than 1 is a positive feedback.

Wildfire is another positive feedback phenomenon we contend with. Wildfires spread by glowing embers which land ahead of an already-existing fire. If the ember lands on a place with nothing flammable, it will die out (like the virus with a reproduction rate of less than one). But if the ember can ignite its new surroundings, and those flames produce even more embers, we have positive feedback. In fact, the flames heat up the air and cause it to rise, which aids in throwing embers out far ahead of the flames, furthering the positive feedback effect. The fire-prevention goal is to remove as much flammable "fuel" as possible from areas that we don't want to burn. This is analogous to wearing a mask to prevent virus-containing droplets from landing on infectable people. The need for fuel reduction and masks are not political questions: they are questions of physics and math.

Likewise, everyone knows that "the rich get richer and the poorer get poorer". That is not because rich people are more beautiful or smarter. They are not, of course. But wealth can buy political influence and power, and that power can be used to accrue even more wealth. Wealth and power can even be used to suppress the wealth of others (say by foreclosures, low pay, firings, evictions, slavery, racism, sexism, etc), analogous to how a thunderstorm suppresses air parcels from rising around it. Again, it is positive feedback in action, creating structures out of nothing. In economics, it is called "inequality".

Negative feedback on the other hand, means that a system sets up a condition that tends to suppress its own development. By itself, this is pretty boring: any changes seem to dissipate away. But in combination with positive feedback, all kinds of interesting things happen. Let's say that negative feedback only kicks in after a runaway system gets larger than a certain severity. In other words, the negative feedback is time-delayed. For example, in a pandemic that has already infected most people, an individual's coughing is less likely to land droplets on others who remain noninfected, thereby dropping the reproduction rate below 1. Likewise a wildfire that has already burned-out most of the flammable material cannot sustain itself. But if the immune system protection is only temporary, or when vegetation regrows in the burned out wildfire area, the whole process can start up again, creating a cycle (sometimes called a periodicity).

Nature is full of examples of *positive feedback*, *negative feedback*, and periodic effects. Even biochemical cycles, which are at the core of living beings, contain all of these effects operating together with various delays. Research has shown that such complexity in structure - where something has developed here, now, but not over there - can evolve spontaneously where the various parts interact with each other, even in systems that start as smooth and homogeneous.



2020 Board Members

President	Erich Ziller	938-4993
Vice President	Craig Fisher	938-4376
Secretary	Wilma Dibelka	938-2055
Treasurer	Katie LeBaron	831-246-0123
At-Large	Randy Klokow	707-255-7729
	Neera Paine	859-1924
	Sally McGregor	541-973-7162
<i>The Hammond Ranch Scene Editor</i>	Linda Klokow	707 255-7729

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, August 11, 2020. The Board is currently meeting outdoors – socially distant – at the Hammond Fire House. Call any board member or send an email to HLA@hammondlandowners.org if you would like to attend so that your questions or concerns can be included on the agenda.
- HLA Members' Annual Meeting and Luncheon – Saturday, November 7, 2020.
- 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

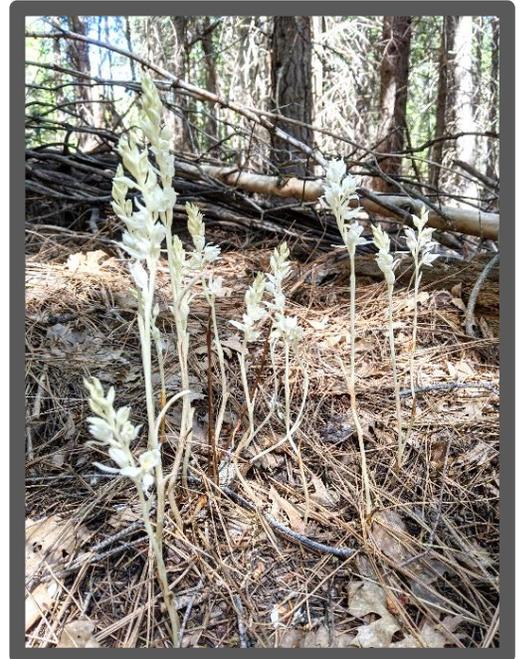
Once again this native plant seems to have made quite a profuse showing this spring.

Cephalanthera austiniæ, also known as a **Phantom Orchid** or **Snow Orchid**, is a perennial plant native to our area.

It emerges under the right conditions of moisture after a dry period to appear fully grown within a couple of days.

Unlike most plants, it is white and does not contain chlorophyll. Instead of generating energy from sunlight, it is parasitic. It's hosts are certain fungi that colonize tree roots. It ultimately gets its energy from the photosynthetic process of the trees, but doesn't seem to hurt them. Since it is not dependent on sunlight to grow, it can grow in very dark environments as in the understory of dense forests.

The plant is becoming more scarce as its habitat—dense, isolated forest—becomes more rare.



Run Report - Hammond Ranch Fire Zone.

Second Quarter 2020 (Apr. to June) – 9 medical calls, 1 public assist, 7 vegetation fires, 3 traffic collisions, 2 lift assists, 2 illegal debris burns, 2 structure fires, 1 vehicle fire, 1 debris fire.

Remember: You can get real-time information about our Fire Company's calls and activities on their website:

www.HMM4200.org

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

You may access their Twitter feed at: @HMM4200

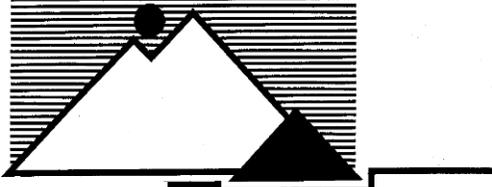
Many thanks to our Fire Personnel for their Service

Just For Fun - Tree Quiz

- Answers: 1. California Black Oak
2. White Fir
3. Douglas Fir (young tree)
4. Western Red Cedar
5. Ponderosa Pine

Interesting Fact: Of *these trees*, the California Black Oak is the only one that grows moss up and down its trunk.

Hammond Landowners Association, Inc.



P.O. Box 795
Mt. Shasta, CA 96067-0795



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