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OCTOBER 2010

Volume XXXVI

Number 4

Date to Save

November 6 - HLA Annual Members' meeting and luncheon, 10:00 a.m., Strings Italian Café, Mount Shasta. Nonmembers may join and attend at the meeting. Contact Larie Wearing to arrange attendance.



Fall, Leaves, Fall

• Fall, leaves, fall; die, flowers, away;
• Every leaf speaks bliss to me
• Fluttering from the autumn tree.

• I shall smile when wreaths of snow
• Blossom where the rose should grow;
• I shall sing when night's decay
• Ushers in a drearier day.

By Emily Jane Brontë

Priscila Franco joins the Board

Priscila Franco has joined the Board of the Hammond Landowners Association. Priscila was unanimously elected by the Board to fill the vacancy created when Sal Cutrona resigned earlier this year. She will serve the remainder of Sal's term.

Priscila lives on the Ranch with her husband, John Schuyler. She is the District Ranger for the Shasta McCloud Unit in the Shasta-Trinity Forest. Born in Sao Paulo, Brazil, then raised in Southern California, she received her forestry degree from Northern Arizona University. Most of her career has been in natural resources for the Forest Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Land Management. Priscila has a wealth of experience in government and is very involved with local affairs. We are lucky to have her on the board.



County Fair Beer Booth a Success!

The Hammond Ranch Firefighters Association had another successful year at the Siskiyou Golden Fair running the beer booths. On the third day of the fair, the Fire Company was asked by the Fair Board to take over running both beer booths, as they had to cancel the other vendor's contract due to legal problems. The Fire Company was able to put another crew together to take on the second booth. Thanks to 46 different friends, neighbors and relatives, some working double shifts and multiple days, they successfully completed the fair, earning over \$15,000.00 that will be used to support the Fire Company. The Fire Company received many thanks from all Fair Board members and was awarded the Director's Award Ribbon for their hard work. Over \$10,000.00 from last year's booth was spent outfitting the Fire Company's newly-acquired ex-CalFire engine 4211. Purchases included all new tires and wheels, a new equipment storage box and new hoses and fittings. The Fire Company thanks all the volunteers that made this happen.

Update on the Standpipe in Hammond Pond

The standpipe is nearly complete. Fire Chief Dave Jenkins reports that it has been tested and it is serviceable. There is additional fill and grading needed on the ramp from Dale Creek Road to the dam where the pipe is located. This will likely occur in October. Thanks again to all of those who volunteered money and labor for this project. All of the bills are now paid and there is a small amount of money left in the fund which may be used for rock on the surface of the ramp.



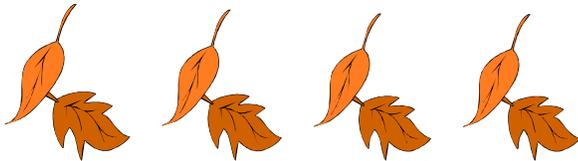
Our Mission Statement: To provide information, to assist in the coordination of group actions, to determine guidelines and make suggestions in matters relating to development and use of property on Hammond Ranch.

Update of Fuel Reduction Programs

Both fuel reduction programs are proceeding on schedule. Specific questions or landowner inquiries may be sent to Nick Dennis at 938-2333 for the Dale Creek Road shaded-fuel break and to Kelly Conner at 938-2886 for the Emergency Access clearing.

The Dale Creek Road project begins at North Old Stage and continues to Dale Creek including Shepherds Way. The Emergency Access project involves any road on the Ranch which is deemed an emergency access route. The selection of a road involves landowners along that route taking the lead and organizing with their neighbors along a specific route. Landowners signed up to date include Rocky Road, Ponderosa Drive, Sugar Pine East, Maple Drive and the connections between Elderberry/High Meadow and Dale Creek/Shepherds Way. Organizing activity has begun along Elderberry.

There is the possibility that work may begin later this year, but it appears that most of the clearing will occur next year.



Ranch Road Easements Have Limits

A recent trespass across Ranch roads by nonresidents has resulted in arrests for trespass and damage to property. In this latest incident (and in previous incidents) those involved have claimed to have been given permission by legitimate easement holders to use their easement to cross the lands of others.

These incidents bring into question the issue of whether one may grant their easement rights to others. While we all have the right to invite guests to visit us on our property, inviting members of the public to use the property of others is an illegal extension of easement rights. Easements for ingress and egress may not be extended to other persons, nor can they be extended to other properties. Under California law you can lose your easement by violating these rules. The California code states that an easement "may be extinguished by the performance of any act which is incompatible with its nature and exercise." This issue applies to all of us who have use of private Ranch roads by way of our personal easements.

If one of us gives someone else the right to pass through our property to go to other places, by implication they have given a right to cross over the private property of others. This is improper since it is obvious that one has no right to speak for other property owners whose property is necessarily crossed. In the recent trespass incident, the person improperly claiming permission came from south Weed and so they trespassed on approximately 50 Ranch parcels before ever reaching their destination, all without owner consent.

We must all respect each other's rights to privacy and property. We also must refrain from illegally extending our own easement rights across the properties of others, no matter how well-intentioned the request. Naturally, this does not apply to your personal guests invited to visit you at your property.



Hammond Ranch Fire Company News

This has been one of the quietest summer fire seasons in a long time. There were no major fires in Siskiyou County, and the entire state has not suffered the major wildfires it usually does. The Santa Ana winds haven't flamed fires in Southern California yet, although it is still possible to have devastating fires there and elsewhere in the state. Here, the recent rains and elevated humidity have lessened the danger marginally, but until we get significant rainfall, it is still possible to have significant fires, especially if we get high winds.

From the Fire Chief

From ice to fire. Last winter's storms left behind record snow accumulation, and when the snow and ice melted we found acres and acres of downed trees and branches littering the forest floor, creating a potential for catastrophe. Threat of serious forest fire from this amount of fuel loading is a concern for us in Hammond Ranch. This fall is the perfect time for fuel-load removal from your property. The first priority is to establish a defensible perimeter of 100 feet around your home by creating a safety zone to separate the home from vegetation. There is no getting around it; this type of work is very labor intensive. It involves cutting, removal and disposal of the vegetation. If you decide to burn the vegetation, first obtain a burn permit from CalFire, at 938-2322, and call both CalFire and Pollution Control, at 842-8123, to make sure it is a BURN DAY.

If you are unable to do the work yourself, you may want to contact the Weed Fire Safe Council. They have a grant for vegetation removal for emergency ingress and egress evacuation routes. If you are interested in participating in this program, please contact Kelly Conner. His phone number is: 938-2886. His email address is: kelly@cot.net

If you do not qualify for the grant, you may want to hire a student firefighter. Call the station, at 938-4200, for more information.

Dave Jenkins,

Fire Chief Hammond Ranch Fire Company



Weather

Whether the weather be fine,
or whether the weather be not,
whether the weather be cold,
or whether the weather be hot,
we'll whether the weather whatever
the weather whether we like it or not.

By Aleksandra Lachut

Hammond Ranch Water Storage

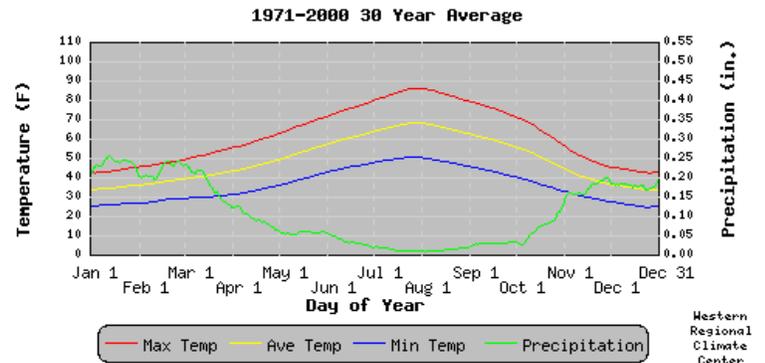
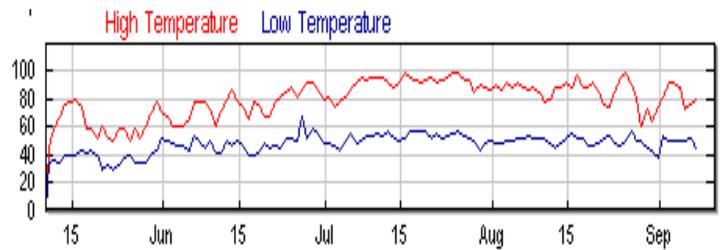
A grant is being sought for a ten-thousand-gallon water storage tank at the Hammond Ranch firehouse. The application was made to Siskiyou County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) by the Fire Safe Council. Hammond Landowners Association supports this proposal and has written a letter which pledges one thousand dollars worth of volunteer labor to help with construction of the project. If you are able to physically work on this project, please contact Tom Wearing at 938-4288. Thanks for your support.

Dan's Weather Report

After an unusually cold and wet spring, this summer turned out to be significantly warmer than recent 30 year summer averages. For example, the average temperature for the month of July, 2010 (as recorded in Mt. Shasta City) was 72.3, which is almost 5 degrees warmer than the average for July established in the period 1971-2000 (67.5 degrees). Although the temperature never exceeded 99 degrees, there were many days where the high temperature in the mid-afternoon exceeded 90 degrees (see top graph). The 30-year average high temperature in the hottest part of the summer is only 86 degrees (see bottom graph). Of course, Hammond Ranch was a bit cooler because of its higher altitude. Subtract about 2 to 5 degrees from Mt. Shasta City readings (depending on exact altitude) to get a good estimate of the local readings. Also, the heat only lasts for a few hours in the afternoon; it always cools off at night into the 50's and sometimes the 40's (unlike New York City, where the nighttime temperature sometimes does not fall below the upper 70's during heat waves).

This past winter dragged on well into spring, meteorologically speaking. At the 4200' elevation, 60" of snow fell in April and an additional 2.6" fell in May, with the last accumulation (0.2") occurring on May 27, for a total season of 274". Extensive snow fields on the southwestern slopes of Mt. Shasta (where it sometimes melts completely) and a smaller snowfield the northeastern slope of Mt. Eddy persisted through the entire summer, which is somewhat unusual.

All of California, including us, experienced heavier-than-normal precipitation in Winter 2010, whereas, the Pacific Northwest (Washington and all but extreme southern Oregon) experienced a drier-than-normal winter. This is consistent with the fact that a strong El Niño (above normal surface water temperatures in the equatorial Eastern Pacific just west of South America) occurred during the past winter. On average, in El Niño years our area is right on the broad "edge" between drier-to-the-north and wetter-to-the-south. Evidently, the edge was a bit farther north this past winter and put us on the wetter side. Since last winter, the El Niño effect has not only stopped, but has reversed into its opposite: La Niña. This situation would portend a cool and wet Pacific Northwest and a warmer, drier Southwest, relative to normal for each region. Again, since we are on the border of these two zones, it is hard to predict how it will play out here. The NOAA Weather Service's long-range forecast maps reflect the borderline status, with the "most likely" outcome featuring precipitation and temperature close to the 30-year average for winters.



Data is smoothed using a 29 day running average.

Western Regional Climate Center

This past summer was somewhat warmer than average here, but in much of the northern hemisphere the heat was record-breaking. The US East Coast, northern Europe and Russia experienced the hottest summer in decades and, in some cases, the hottest ever in records stretching back more than a century. Of course, the first thing that comes to mind is "global warming," which has been clearly established by several scientific criteria to have already started. With global warming, "extremes" will become the new normal. But since extremes occur anyway on rare occasion, it is not possible (as yet) to attribute the weather in any particular day or month to global warming. The recent weather does present a preview as to what will occur with increasing frequency over the next few decades.

However, global warming will have different effects in different places, with some rare places even becoming a bit cooler, at least for a while. Is our area one of those lucky places? As discussed above, it is clear that El Niño/La Niña events in ocean water temperature affect West Coast weather. In other words, the water affects the air. This goes the other way too; changes in air temperature patterns also affect the water temperature patterns in the ocean. A recent report sponsored by NASA and NOAA shows that a peculiar new type of El Niño event, where the surface water temperature increases a lot in the Central and Eastern Pacific, has started occurring both more frequently and more intensely over the last couple of decades. Such an event -- one of the strongest on record -- occurred in 2009/2010, which featured a cooler and wetter winter for all of California. The authors raise the possibility that the new type of Central Pacific El Niño is related to global warming, although this is far from proven as yet. If this possibility turns out to be true, then one indirect (and counter-intuitive) effect of global warming on California would be cooler and wetter winters. And regardless of what happens to the winters, summers could still become increasingly hot. Much research remains to be done here; it is the style of science not to jump to conclusions.

Wildlife on the Ranch



Look who showed up for High Tea with sunflower-seed crumpets!!
 Actually, they showed up at a residence on Ponderosa in the middle of the afternoon on Monday, September the 20th.

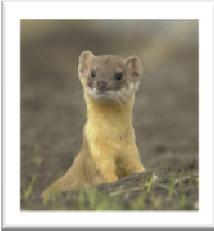


Look, Mom, I made it!



What I have to do for seeds!

And look what was found romping around some rock terraces in the middle of the day also, a California long-tailed weasel. It was very cute (a technical term). According to Wikipedia, the males measure from 14-18 inches long, the females about 15% smaller. They are generally found in open or semi-open habitats near water. They eat rodents; their slender bodies



Moving?

Please send changes of address to:
 The Shasta Scene
 c/o HLA
 P.O. Box 795
 Mt. Shasta, CA 96067-0795



enabling them to pursue their prey into their burrows. (Yippeel!) They are most active at night, but are sometimes seen during the day. They are very solitary and are able to climb trees and are good swimmers. They turn white in winter.

Available for Snow Removal

We all know winter's coming. Here's a list of people available for snowplowing when it hits. If you would like to be included on the list, call Larie Wearing and you will be added for the next newsletter in January.

| Name | Phone # | Rate/hour | Equipment |
|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------|---|
| Ed Van Doren | 925-4976 | negotiable | backhoe |
| Joling Brothers - Kenny | 598-8020 | varies/ \$90 | Case loader/big bucket |
| Brian | 598-5867 | | & tractor |
| Tim Louie | 598-0235 | 90 | big bucket |
| Adam McWilliams | 859-1247 | 90 | grader, 2 backhoe, bulldozer and dump truck |
| Dave Moller | 938-4064/859-0346 | varies | backhoe w/snow bucket |
| Mike Morris | 598-8481 | 80 | backhoe |
| Fritz Schnack | 261-0849 | negotiable | tracked angle-bladed dozer |
| Elwood Sullivan | 938-4582 | 95 | grader, backhoe (front-end loader) |
| Kellen | 859-0221 | varies | backhoe and small cat w/angle blade grader (available only for large jobs as equipment has to be moved) |

Calendar

HLA Members' Annual Meeting and Luncheon – Saturday, November 6, 2010, 10:00 a.m.

HLA Board Meeting – Second Tuesday of every month, 7:00 p.m. The location is available on the website or from any Board member.

Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors – First, second and third Tuesdays of every month, 10:00 a.m., County Courthouse, Yreka.

Weed Planning Commission – First Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall, Weed.

2010 Board Members

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|----------|
| President | Erich Ziller | 938-4993 |
| Vice President | Pam Scott | 938-3700 |
| Secretary | Pat Emerson | 938-1846 |
| Treasurer | Sally McGraw | 938-4326 |
| At-Large | Dan Axelrod | 938-1859 |
| | Tom Wearing | 938-4288 |
| | Priscila Franco | 938-0773 |

The Shasta Scene Editor Larie Wearing 938-4288

The HLA Board of Directors cares about and wants to hear members' opinions, suggestions and ideas. We invite you to attend any meeting and address any issue.

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, CA 96067, or via email at hla@hammondlandowners.org.



Hammond Landowners Association, Inc.



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