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Shaded Fuel Break Update

The October 2008 issue of *The Shasta Scene* reported a matter being considered by the HLA Board of Directors, a shaded fuel break along Dale Creek Road. The ranch owners along Dale Creek Road, through Nick Dennis and the Northern California Resource Center, submitted a federal grant application for funds to accomplish this fuel break by the 20th of February deadline. Nick Dennis will be notified on April 20 as to whether the application has been approved. If it has been approved, a more detailed project plan must be submitted within about 30 days. The owners of property along Dale Creek Road will be contacted at that time to help with the plan. Cross your fingers!

Weed Fire Safe Council

The Weed Fire Safe Council has submitted a separate grant application for fuels reduction for the greater Weed area, as a part of the Siskiyou County application. The focus of this grant is to reduce fuel along major evacuation routes. Roads off of Old Stage Road, such as Dogwood, Rocky Road, Sugar Pine, etc., will be considered as a part of that. If you are on a road that would be used as a major evacuation route in the event of an emergency, it is possible that you can benefit from this grant to clear vegetation. Contact Kelly Conner as soon as possible to indicate your interest. He can be reached at 938-2886 or Kelly@cot.net.



April Rain

*The wild sweet rain of April spills
 On golden-throated daffodils,
 On garden wall and new green bough
 On earth fresh-turned before the plough.
 It scrubs the pansy's small shy face
 And shines each blade of grass in place
 To leave the springtime world aglow
 And lift my heart to walk tiptoe.*

by Viney Wilder



Paving Apron

At the November 2008 annual HLA membership meeting, a member suggested that the apron in front of the mailboxes on west Old Stage, just north of Sugar Pine, be paved. Several other members agreed. Dave Scott has gotten a bid for this work from a paving contractor. To grade, compact the dirt, add base rock and pave (2 ½ inches deep) 90 feet in length, the estimate received by Dave was \$2,600. Dave will be happy to make the arrangements and oversee the work; however, he would like to have the money in hand before proceeding. If you have any questions or interest in getting this work done, contact Dave Scott at 938-3700. There are 128 boxes at that location. If every boxholder contributed, each share would be only \$20.





From the Chief

HRFC Fire Calls

From January to present, the Fire Company responded to 14 calls: Six medical emergencies, one public service call (a tree across Dale Creek Road), one flue fire, one structure fire and five cancels enroute. The structure fire was a damaged chimney that allowed fire into the building. Thankfully, it wasn't summer, as it probably would have resulted in the loss of the house and caused a vegetation fire as well. The cancellations were all structure fires. The first-in responders determined there was no fire, so all units were called off. The firefighters consider these "dress rehearsals" because they usually get into their gear and start out the bay with the equipment, only to be cancelled.

You may have noticed when you have passed the fire house recently that it is most often occupied and there is usually some activity going on. That is because we have had the good fortune of having five student firefighters living at the station since last November. The firefighters are students at College of the Siskiyous, enrolled in the fire science program. When not in school, they are available for calls for service and have responded to many fire and medical calls in the past months. They have provided a valuable service to our community free of charge. I would like to publicly commend them for a job well done. Thank you John Butac (Butler, Pennsylvania), Alan Cope (Palo Cedro, California), Casey Hall (Fairfield, California), Steve Sinor (Citrus Heights, California) and Marcos Mojica (Orland, California).

Home Defibrillator: Should You Get One?

Here is some food for thought. Have you considered getting a home defibrillator, commonly referred to as AED (Automatic External Defibrillator)? According to defibinfo.com it may be worth considering.

AEDs are now available over the counter without a prescription. Whether or not you need one requires you to examine the pros and cons of owning one. Then talk to your doctor and see if it is worth the investment. A defibrillator is a device that delivers a shock to the heart in hopes of restoring normal heart rate. There are pads that are placed on the person's chest that the shock goes through. We know that most people who suffer from a sudden heart attack do so because their heart is going through ventricular fibrillation. This is an abnormal

rhythm where the electrical signals in the lower part of the heart are not working as they should which makes the pumping very ineffective. If ventricular fibrillation is not treated, it will result in death.

We know that if the shock is delivered within five minutes of the onset of the heart attack, there is a 50 percent increase in survival. It can take an ambulance up to nine minutes to arrive on scene. So, 10 minutes after onset of the heart attack, the person's chance for survival is one percent.

If you own an AED, then you could grab it and easily connect it to the chest of the person experiencing the heart attack. Once the defibrillator senses if there is a normal rhythm or not, a shock is delivered. This jolt then can reset the heart rhythm and possibly save the person's life. This is in no way a cure or substitution for immediate medical care. It is also highly recommended that the person with the home defibrillator complete a CPR class.

Should you have a home defibrillator or not? Well, you need to look at your personal circumstances. What is your risk or that of those in your household for having a sudden cardiac arrest? To determine this, talk with your doctor. Remember that the home defibrillator only works for specific types of cardiac arrests.

What is your living arrangement? If you live alone, the home defibrillator really isn't going to help you much. There will be no one there to use the AED on you. What are your physical abilities? You or a family member will need to be able to sit or squat on the floor to use the device and be able to get back up. The cost is also another deciding factor. AEDs are not cheap, most cost over one thousand dollars and your health insurance will probably not pick up the tab on that one.

The debate over whether everyone should have a home defibrillator will wage on. The best advice I can offer you, is you decide if you need one. Here's the way I look at it - you buy car insurance in case you have an accident. You have homeowners insurance to protect you in case something happens to your home. You can look at a home defibrillator the same way; it is something that is good to have in case someone around you is having a heart attack.

Dave Jenkins, HRFC Chief

*A little Madness in the Spring
Is wholesome even for the King.
by Emily Dickinson*

PHI Air Medical / Mercy Air

This is a reminder that the time for PHI/Mercy Air membership renewal is quickly approaching. For those of you who are currently enrolled, you will be receiving your PHI renewal package (for August 1, 2009 to July 31, 2010) sometime in mid-June. For any of you who are not currently a member and are interested in joining PHI, I will send you an application. I can also help you with the choices appropriate for you and your family and answer any questions you may have.

Feel free to contact me at 530/941-8700.

Happy Spring to you all,
Christine Cutrona
PHI Coordinator



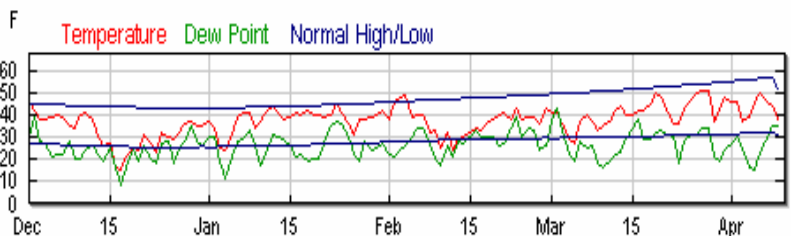
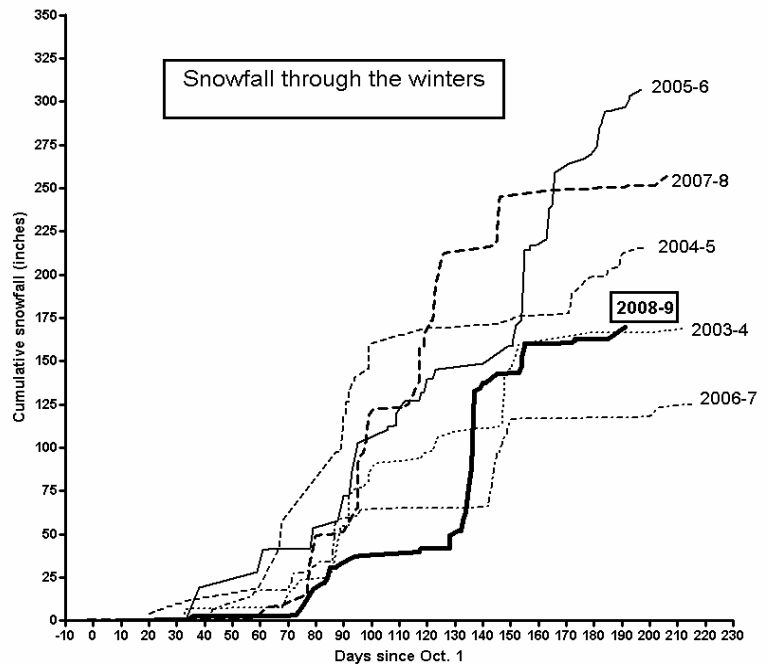
Morning of Friday, April 10th
What a surprise!

Dan's Weather Report

The winter of 2008-9 (so far) has totaled 170" of snow at the 4200' level in the southeastern part of Hammond Ranch. This total presently ranks it as #4 in the last six winters (see chart opposite). However, the publication deadline for the spring HLA newsletter (April 10) is a bit early to close the books on the snow season. On the average, 6" (+/- 3") fall on or after April 10.

The temperatures this winter were not unusually warm or cold on the average, but they did show some notable deviations (see lower chart opposite). The gently curving lines are the "normal" daily high and low as recorded in Mt. Shasta City. (Subtract about 3°F for the temperature in Hammond Ranch). The upper jagged curve is the actual mean temperature (the average of each day's high and low) for each day this past season. Mid-December through early January was clearly much colder than normal (with lows in the single digits), as was a brief period in mid-February. But a three-week period in January was significantly warmer than normal.

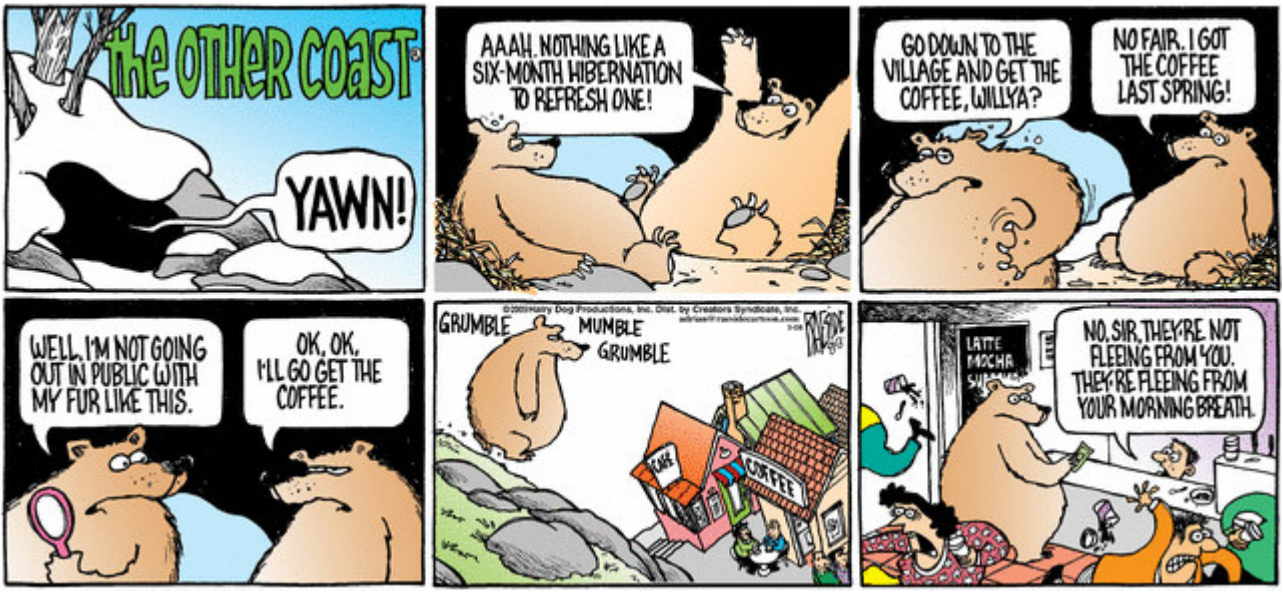
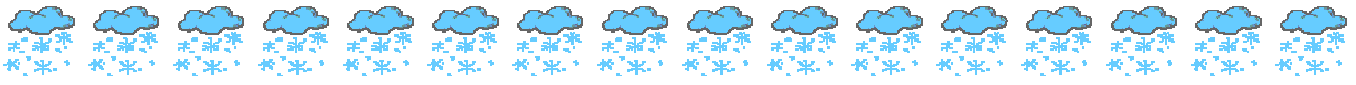
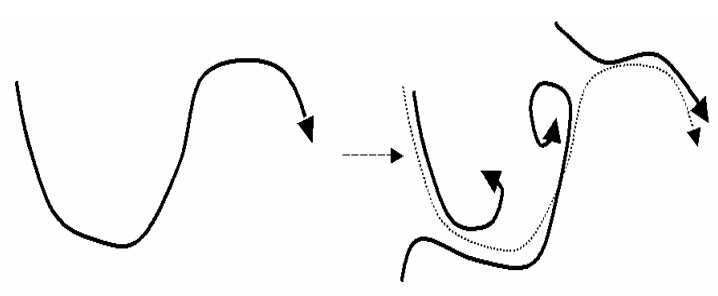
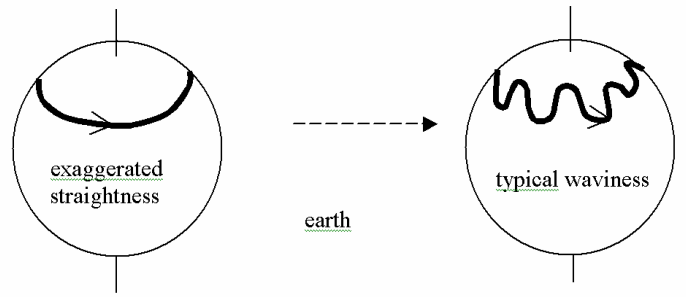
The cold period in February occurred during an incredibly intense dump of snow. Between February 10 and February 17, a series of almost back-to-back storms deposited 86" of snow, accounting for over half of the total for the whole winter and was easily the snowiest week in the last six years. By contrast, January was almost "snow-free," with only a 9" total for that whole month.



So the question is: why is the weather so “clumpy,” with periods of heavy precipitation alternating with periods of drought that can last for weeks? If storms arrived purely at random, such huge deviations would not occur. In fact, the arrival of storms here is not random. They are guided by the jet stream, an upper atmosphere wind circling the globe (generally west to east) between about 35° and 55° north latitude. The jet stream, however, is not straight west-to-east; it is wavy and the waves undulate slowly over periods of many days or weeks. In fact, any single pattern is not stable; it is always slowly changing. If a section (hundreds or thousands of miles long) is straight, it would become wavy and vice-versa.

The jet stream is not continuous; it can break up as it generates storms. The undulations in the jet stream stretching over a thousand miles are called “longwaves”; storms embedded in the jet stream are called “shortwaves.” The spacing (“wavelength”) of longwaves and their amplitude (how far north and south they extend) and the speed of their progression around the globe determines whether or not a succession of shortwave storms will be lined up to hit northern California. Occasionally, an eddy becomes completely detached (“cutoff”) from the jet stream and meanders around just off the coast. These cutoff storms can produce days of intermittent precipitation since they drift very slowly in any direction, sometimes even from east to west and back again. This was the case for the heavy snow dump during the February 10-17 period.

Dan Axelrod



Calendar

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

HLA Annual General Meeting – First Saturday in November 2009, 11:00 a.m.

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.



Moving?

Please send changes of address to:

The Shasta Scene
c/o HLA
P.O. Box 795
Mt. Shasta, CA 96067-0795

Hammond Landowners Association, Inc.



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

2009 Board Members

President	Erich Ziller	938-4993
Vice President	Pam Scott	938-3700
Secretary	Tom Wearing	938-4288
Treasurer	Sally McGraw	938-4326
At-Large	Dan Axelrod	938-1859
	Sal Cutrona	938-0777
	Eric Ricohermoso	859-0792

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.