

the
**shasta
scene**

hla@hammondlandowners.org

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Number 1

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From the Editor

We have a new section that we think you will find informative, *Dan's Weather Report*.

Another new section is *Letters to the Editor*. The intent is to share comments and opinions related to the Ranch.

If you have information to share, a comment, or even an idea, send it in for publishing in this section.

Larie Wearing

Listing of Residents

At the annual meeting in December, a resident expressed an interest in having a list of Hammond landowners and how to reach them. The Board felt this is private information and shouldn't be given out. So, the solution is a voluntary listing on the website of those that wish their neighbors to reach them. If you would like to participate, send your name, address, phone number and email address to hla@hammondlandowners.org. A listing will be created and displayed on the website.

Also, when you get a chance, check out the website. Little by little information is being added. The meetings are announced there. The minutes of meetings are posted there. It's also a bulletin board. We would appreciate feedback and helpful information for the website.

HLA Membership Drive

Currently HLA membership is about 33% of landowners, which is far too small for the Association to really be effective. Consequently, the HLA Board is conducting a membership drive. We will attempt to call every landowner that is not an HLA member and solicit their participation, or at the very least try to find out why they are not members so we can address their issues. We would appreciate the help of all HLA members in this membership drive. Please contact any non-members you know and ask them to join. If they decline, let us know their reasons for not wanting to join.

The effectiveness of the HLA organization is directly related to the number of Hammond Ranch landowners that are members of HLA. There are many reasons to join the HLA. Besides getting to know your neighbors and participating in Ranch issues, a few important reasons are:

- The HLA tries to negotiate with the County for needed improvements and support for Hammond Ranch. The more landowners the Board represents, the more attention we get from our elected officials.
- The HLA organization promotes the maintenance of our dirt roads by reimbursing road maintenance costs according to a prescribed schedule established by the HLA Board. The more members we have in the HLA, the more funds will be available for road maintenance reimbursement.
- The HLA now has a website that is helping to inform residents of issues and provide a bulletin board for discussion of issues related to the Ranch.
- Members of the HLA are eligible to purchase PHI (Mercy Air) emergency medical evacuation services at a discounted rate.
- The HLA publishes a quarterly newsletter informing residents of important issues. Frequently included in the newsletter are articles from our volunteer fire chief on how to minimize the risk of fire, what causes fire, what to do and not do. One bad fire can ruin Hammond Ranch for all of us. We need a cohesive network of landowners to promote good fire prevention practices and insure everything is being done to minimize the risk of fire. A long term goal of the HLA is to create fire safe councils. The more members we have, the better we will be able to do that.

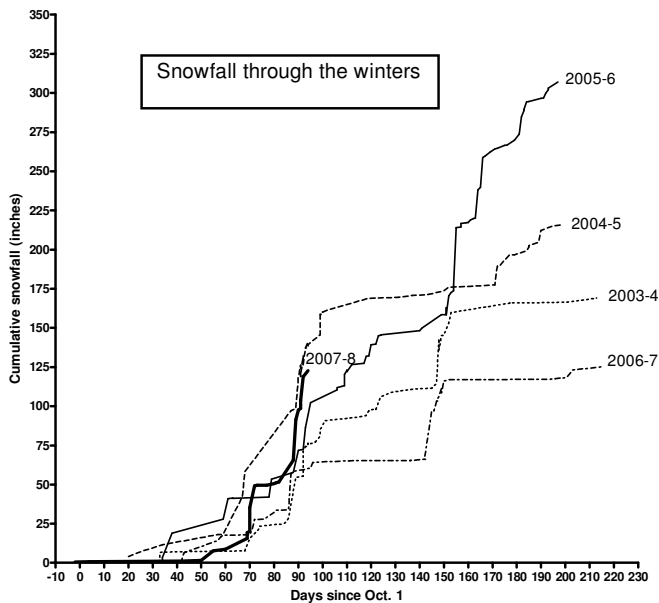
Let's make the Hammond Landowners Association a community effort.

Dan's Weather Report

We are beginning a new series of articles on the weather in the Hammond Ranch area. This series should be very informative to non-residents, who might wonder *what* is going on at their property (especially in the winter) and to residents who might be interested as to *why*.

Winter weather, of course, is by far the most exciting because of the frequent periods of snow and wind. Within the small area of Hammond Ranch, winter presents an incredible diversity. Altitude makes a big difference for snow amounts because the snow/rain dividing line is often somewhere in the 3000 to 5000 foot elevation range. Hammond Ranch is right in the middle of that range, varying from about 3800 to 4600 in elevation. Often, the higher elevations get snow while the lower ones get rain. Another difference in snow amounts is caused by the degree of exposure to the south. As a storm approaches here, winds are almost always from the south. (Storms generally approach from the west and they have a counter-clockwise circulation around them.) Those parts of the Ranch that are near the top of the Divide separating the Sacramento drainage from the Klamath (along the southern and southeastern end of the Ranch) generally receive more precipitation as the wind roars up the Sacramento Valley and dumps its moisture on the upslope and just beyond. Farther north on the Ranch, the downslope from the Divide dries the air somewhat and less precipitation falls there. (In a few miles even farther north from the Ranch, the climate is semi-arid.)

I have been keeping records of the snowfall from every single storm since 2003-4. The measurements are taken at the 4200 foot level on Muledeer Drive, most of which runs right along the top of the Divide. So these measurements are on the high side of what most of the Ranch receives. Only the southeastern ends of Upper Red Fir Loop and Black Bear Loop receive more snow. Here is a graph of the total "snow-to-date" for each winter:



The serious snow season generally starts in November, and sometimes in late October, and ends by late April or even early May. As you can see from the alternating steep and flat sections of the graphs, the snowstorms come in groups, with long durations of snow-free (and sunny mild) periods in between.

This year is off to a fairly late but roaring start, with more than ten feet already fallen by Jan. 10, building up to a depth of around five feet on the ground. Melting and especially compression under the snowpack's own weight ensure that the depth on the ground is never as much as the cumulative amount fallen. This winter has also been notable for its long periods of continuous below freezing temperatures, setting all-time records in Mt. Shasta City.

Dan Axelrod



Winter Morning Poem

Winter is the king of showmen
 Turning tree stumps into snow men
 And houses into birthday cakes
 And spreading sugar over lakes
 Smooth and clean and frosty white
 The world looks good enough to bite
 That's the season to be young
 Catching snowflakes on your tongue



Winter Complaint

Now when I have a cold
 I am careful with my cold,
 I consult a physician
 And I do as I am told.
 I muffle up my torso
 In woolly woolly garb,
 And I quaff great flagons
 Of sodium bicarb.
 I munch on aspirin,
 I lunch on water
 And I wouldn't dream of
 osculating
 Anybody's daughter,
 And to anybody's son
 I wouldn't say howdy,
 For I am a sufferer
 Magna cum laude.
 I don't like germs,
 But I'll keep the germs I've got.
 Will I take a chance of
 spreading them?
 Definitely not.
 I sneeze out the window
 And I cough up the flue,
 And I live like a hermit
 Till the germs get through.
 And because I'm considerate,
 Because I'm wary
 I am treated by my friends
 Like Typhoid Mary.

For you don't like the taste,
 And you prowl around parties
 Full of selfish bliss,
 And greet your hostess
 With a genial kiss.
 You convert yourself
 into a deadly missile,
 You exhale Hello's
 Like a steamboat whistle.
 You sneeze in the subway
 And you cough at dances,
 And let everybody else
 Take their own good chances.
 You're a bronchial boor,
 A bacterial blighter,
 And you get more invitations
 Than a gossip writer.

Yes, your throat is froggy,
 And your eyes are swimmy,
 And your hand is clammy,
 And your nose is brimmy,
 But you woo my girls
 And their hearts you jimmy
 While I sit here
 With the cold you gimmy.

Ogden Nash

Now when you have a cold
 You are careless with your cold,
 You are cocky as a gangster
 Who has just been paroled.
 You ignore your physician,
 You eat steaks and oxtails,
 You stuff yourself with starches,
 You drink lots of cocktails,
 And you claim that gargling
 Is a time of waste,
 And you won't take soda

From the Chief

Hammond Ranch Fire Company "run" report:

The Hammond Ranch Fire Company responded to 19 calls from Oct. 2 to Dec. 28. The calls were broken down into five categories, including: Medical Assist , 3 calls; Assisting an invalid, 6 calls; Faulty smoke detector, 1 call; Fire, 2 calls; and 7 calls that were dispatched and cancelled.

We've had a busy quarter. As you can see, almost half of our calls are for medical help, while the rest are usually related to suspected fires or auto accidents. It's also interesting to note the number of times our firefighters are called out and then cancelled once someone gets to the scene and assesses the situation. This is a common occurrence in our area and something that impacts all our local fire departments.

Help us help you!

Time is critical when it comes to emergency services. In fact, it can make the difference between life and death or saving a house or losing it. In the case of severe trauma (like an auto accident with injuries), a patient who gets to a trauma center (Redding or Medford) within an hour has a much better chance of recovering than one who doesn't. When it comes to a cardiac event, like a heart attack or stroke, brain damage will occur within four to six minutes if medical treatment isn't started. Clearly, every minute counts.

All this brings me to the topic of this quarter's column: **Can we find you if we need to?**

The HRFC has wasted valuable time searching for addresses, driving past houses because they weren't clearly marked or responding to the wrong area because the location description was wrong when a homeowner called it in. There are some things you can do to make sure this doesn't happen to you.

- Post 3" tall reflective numbers on your driveway and on your house. These numbers are called 9-1-1 numbers and are available at local hardware stores such as ACE and Do It Best.
- Be prepared to give specific directions to the dispatcher when you call. Include a description of your house, cars out in front and any other landmarks you can think of. Include the nearest cross street and main street in your directions.
- It's helpful to have someone meet the fire crew at an obvious street intersection or the bottom of your driveway.
- If the call is at night, flash your porch light on and off to help emergency responders find your location.
- When you call 9-1-1, use a land-line phone (not cell), if possible, so the location is automatically displayed for the dispatcher.
- And before fire and ambulance personnel arrive, please secure your pets and gather any medications the patient takes.
- Access is critical, so please make sure roads and driveways to your house are plowed in the winter. Roads and driveways should also be cleared of trees and vegetation 12 feet wide and 12 feet high. You should have a turnaround so fire trucks can get in and out.
- If you have a locked gate, please call the fire department and sign up for our master lock program to give quick access to your property in case of fire or other emergency. For more information on this program, call the fire company at 938-4200.

The Hammond Ranch Fire Company is an all-volunteer department staffed with community members dedicated to keeping you, your family and your property safe.

Please do what you can to support them in insuring a safe and speedy response.

Dave Jenkins, HRFC Chief

Fire Company Locks Are Coming

Last year firefighters were delayed in reaching fires twice because of locked gates, forcing them to cut the locks. As a result, Chief Dave Jenkins has now established a Fire Company lock program. (Note his comments in *From the Chief*.) If you have a gate (or cable, chain, etc.), you should have a Fire Company lock.

The first case of locks is on order from the Master Lock Company. These are quality brass, all-weather locks with a red bumper to identify them. Each lock costs \$20, which includes two keys. The keys to your lock will be individual; no other landowner will be able to access your lock. But, all locks in the program are mastered so that your firefighters can unlock all locks with a master key in an emergency.

Please call the Fire Company, at 938-4200, for more information or to order your lock(s) now.



2008 Board Members

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

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, Box 795, Mt. Shasta, CA 96067-0795, or via email at hla@hammondlandowners.org.

Calendar

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

HLA Annual General Meeting – First Saturday in November.

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

Primary Presidential Election 2008 – Tuesday, February 5, 2008.

Letters to the Editor

In the spirit of community discussion, below is an email received in response to an article in the October 2007 issue of *The Shasta Scene*. Food for thought.

"Dear Larie,

The article about the county marijuana raid covered in the October newsletter was great! Finally, a controversial topic is presented in the Newsletter in a form that is complete enough for readers to understand, and perhaps elicit a response. The point of the article was that the county carried out a raid against eight marijuana plants in our area with multiple low-altitude helicopter fly-overs and armed deputies on the ground, causing considerable alarm to residents. The article raises several questions we might consider as residents. First, it refers to the helicopter flights as 'illegal fly-overs.' Is it illegal if the County Sheriffs do it? (Of course, government agencies commit all kinds of acts that are clearly illegal if they were done by private individuals or if judged by international law, like invading other countries that have not attacked us.) Second, the article implies that the Sheriffs were originally alerted by a helicopter fly-over that detected 100 plants. Are 100 plants (10 x 10) visible from the air from a helicopter flying at normal altitude? Wow. But since it turned out to be only 8 plants, can helicopters actually find and see that few plants from the air, and then mistake them for 100? Or were they originally alerted by a complaint from a person on the ground? Thirdly, are not 6 plants allowed via a legal medical exemption? What if there are six plants right over here and another two plants way over there?

This county anti-marijuana campaign, supposedly intended to break big drug rings, raises all kinds of interesting questions for rural residents. In the 60's and 70's, it was commonly alleged - and probably true - that the police figuratively 'planted' marijuana in the residences of people whom the police targeted for harassment or arrest or imprisonment for completely other reasons, like anti-war activities. Here we have eight plants - far too few to be considered part of a mafia drug ring - that were literally planted by someone on rural land. We should be vigilant that county efforts stay focused on eradicating major operations and that they do not degenerate into harassment of individuals.

Dan Axelrod



Sunrise, January 6, '08

On another note, since the subject concerns the Ranch, this letter to the editor that appeared in the Mt. Shasta Herald on October 17, 2007 is also being included.

"Dear Editor,

I live in Hammond Ranch near a person who has been feeding the local deer herd for many years. The deer have become so domesticated that they have no fear of humans and they stay in the area nearly all winter. The many large bucks in the herd, being fat, beautiful and virtually tame have become irresistible to certain 'hunters' looking for an easy kill.

Within the last two weeks, at least two poachers have shot their rifles into this residential area, attempting to kill deer within just a few yards of my home and those of my neighbors. One poacher was identified recently and is being sought, and another was apprehended by the police today after being held at gunpoint by a resident. There have been many other rifle shots heard nearby in the past few weeks by us and by our neighbors.

Hunters - please do not hunt in this residential neighborhood. Hammond Ranch is forested, but it is not 'the forest.' No hunting is allowed in this area for many obvious reasons.

And to my neighbor who thinks it is 'nice' to feed the deer - you have created an unnatural environment that is detrimental to the deer you love, and you have destroyed the instincts of these animals that would otherwise protect them. They have no fear of humans and they are easy prey for hunters and poachers alike."

Kathleen King
Hammond Ranch



Moving?

Please send changes of address to ...

The Shasta Scene

c/o HLA

P.O. Box 795

Mt. Shasta, CA 96067-0795



Dale Creek Road & The Eddys, January 7, '08