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*President's Column*

Looking forward to the New Year, we have a few thoughts, resolutions and wishes for the Hammond Landowners Association. The membership of the board has just been expanded to nine members. All members are active community members. Our combined goal is to become more active within the greater community as well as with Ranch issues.

The first new Ranch project has already begun. A Committee for Electrical Service Reliability has been formed. The topic was suggested at last November's Members' meeting by Karl Tiefert. Karl now serves on that new committee, which is headed up by new board member, Bob Keyser. Already they have met with Pacific Power and will meet again. Investigation is underway. Exactly what the committee will find and recommend is to be determined, but we expect to learn a lot and to make a difference.

We will continue to focus on bread-and-butter issues including road maintenance, illegal activities and fire prevention and emergency services. However, there is a new emphasis on cooperation with other organizations. Currently Hammond Landowners Association works actively with the Lakewood Homeowners' Association, the Siskiyou Land Trust, the Hammond Ranch Fire Company and its companion Firefighters Association, CalFire and Siskiyou County. We expect to expand these connections and cooperative dealings to other organizations, and we expect to take on new cooperative projects of mutual interest.

More non-board Ranch residents are becoming involved in Ranch issues. The Board invites you to join us in improving our unique way of life. If you have any issue, want to write a newsletter article or just want to discuss something, please call me or any Board member. Also, I wish to extend an invitation to all Ranch residents, Hammond Landowners' Association members or not, to attend any board meeting. Just let us know that you are coming so that we can accommodate the extra numbers.



*Feeling Good*

Birds flying high  
You know how I feel  
Sun in the sky  
You know how I feel  
Reeds driftin' on by  
You know how I feel  
It's a new dawn  
It's a new day  
It's a new life  
For me  
And I'm feeling good...  
*(lyrics)*

*HLA Membership*

Here it is 2011 already! It's time to renew your Hammond Ranch Landowners Association membership or to join the Association. Membership dues are \$55 per year, which covers the period from January 1 to December 31.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a Membership Application. Detach and save the Membership Card and return the Application portion, along with your check (made payable to the HLA) in the also enclosed envelope.

If you are not already a member, consider joining. The Hammond Landowners Association cannot be effective without you. The Association contributes to the Ranch road maintenance efforts, informs the residents of issues important to the Ranch, provides a discount to PHI for its members, works with the volunteer fire department and other agencies to make our community safer. Other benefits are the annual picnic and yearly members' meeting. Join today!

**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.

## *Annual November Members' Meeting*

The annual members' meeting 2010 was great. There were over 40 members present, some new and some long-time members. Quite a turnout! There was a lively exchange of ideas and information as a result.

Among the topics discussed and approved were: (1) the Association's bylaws were changed to increase the number of Board members to a minimum of seven and a maximum of nine, with no more than two secondary members serving on the Board; (2) the name of the newsletter changed to *The Hammond Ranch Scene*; (3) two new Board members were elected and three re-elected, and (4) Karl Tiefert brought up the lack of consistent electrical power on the Ranch, and as a result, at the next Board meeting a committee was formed to explore the problem.

## *Newly-Elected Board Members*

Sally McGraw, Pam Scott and Erich Ziller were re-elected to the Board. Bob Keyser and Doug Lathrop were elected as the two newly-approved Board members. At the subsequent Board meeting on November 9, 2010, the Board elected Tom Wearing as President, Pam Scott as Vice President, Sally McGraw as Treasurer, and Pat Emerson as Secretary.

Bob Keyser and Lynn Potter retired to Hammond Ranch and became permanent residents on Fern Lane in April of 2009. They previously lived in Sacramento, where Bob worked at McClellan Air Force Base, and Ventura County, where he worked at Pt. Mugu, retiring with a total of 33 years of service. Bob has been a member of HLA since buying his property in 1970 and has been an active member of the Fire Company since moving here.

Doug and Terry Lathrop moved from Australia (where Doug worked for Chevron Shipping Company) to Hammond in July of 2007. They built a metal outbuilding and lived there while Doug and his brother, Kevin, built their home. They moved into their home on Rocky Road in June of 2009. The Lathrops have been HLA members since 2003, and Doug has been very active in the community, particularly assisting with the Fire Safe Council.

We heartily welcome the newcomers!

### *Feeling Good* (cont'd)

Fish in the sea  
You know how I feel  
River running free  
You know how I feel  
Blossom in the tree  
You know how I feel  
It's a new dawn  
It's a new day  
It's a new life  
For me  
And I'm feeling good...

*(lyrics)*

## *Update - West of Weed Fuels Reduction Project*

*(It's not too late to sign up!!)*

Despite the winter cold and snow, work crews have been steadily cutting and removing wildfire fuel in the Hammond Ranch area, most recently toward College Avenue. The work will stop this week for the winter and recommence in spring. To date, over 5 miles out of the 48 miles of roads that are planned have been completed, including Sugar Pine, Ponderosa, Reesha, Shasta Meadow View, Shadow Wood, and parts of Rocky, Eddy Creek, Columbine, and Nighthawk. Kelly Conner, President of the Greater Weed Fire Safe Council, is pleased with the progress. This federally-funded project will greatly improve emergency road evacuations, emergency vehicle access, visibility at driveways and intersections and wildfire safety around residences and provide extra space for winter snowplowing. Removal of wildfire fuel adjacent to a home (100-foot defensible space) will improve the chances that the home will survive a wildfire.

Kelly reported that initially some residents were reluctant to sign up for the program because they were concerned that too many trees would be removed; however, the project does not "clear-cut" or remove all vegetation. "The project only removes wildfire vegetation from the edge of the property's access road to 16 feet onto the owner's property. Within this 16-foot boundary, all dead wood is removed, smaller vegetation is thinned, and lower limbs are removed from large trees. In all cases, however, the homeowner controls what vegetation they want removed."

Randy Klokow, President of the Siskiyou County Fire Safe Council, is enthusiastic about the project. Studies of past wildfires clearly prove that people and homes can survive wildfires. Many residents in this area, however, are not prepared. Evacuation roads are overgrown with wildfire fuel and many homes do not have a 100-foot wildfire defensible space. This project offers landowners a great chance to improve wildfire safety. He states it's a "win-win situation." In spring it is also planned to work with owners on individual homes' 100-foot defensible space required by Resources Code 4291. Work on this project is funded by a U.S. Forest Service grant. The funding on the project will expire October 2011.

There is still funding left to complete additional roads and homes and it is **NOT TOO LATE** to sign up for free wildfire fuel reduction along your road and/or help in creating the 100-foot defensible space around your home. If you would like to sign up for either project or have questions, please contact Kelly Conner by email at [kelly@cot.net](mailto:kelly@cot.net) or telephone: 530-938-2886.

## California Public Resources Code

For your information Section 4291 states, in part:

"4291. (a) A person who owns, leases, controls, operates, or maintains a building or structure in, upon, or adjoining a mountainous area, forest-covered lands, brush-covered lands, grass-covered lands, or land that is covered with flammable material, shall at all times do all of the following:

(1) Maintain defensible space of 100 feet from each side and from the front and rear of the structure, but not beyond the property line except as provided in paragraph (2). The amount of fuel modification necessary shall take into account the flammability of the structure as affected by building material, building standards, location, and type of vegetation. Fuels shall be maintained in a condition so that a wildfire burning under average weather conditions would be unlikely to ignite the structure. This paragraph does not apply to single specimens of trees or other vegetation that are well-pruned and maintained so as to effectively manage fuels and not form a means of rapidly transmitting fire from other nearby vegetation to a structure or from a structure to other nearby vegetation. The intensity of fuels management may vary within the 100-foot perimeter of the structure, the most intense being within the first 30 feet around the structure. Consistent with fuels management objectives, steps should be taken to minimize erosion. For the purposes of this paragraph, 'fuel' means any combustible material, including petroleum-based products and wildland fuels."

The text goes on from there.

## Update Dale Creek Road Shaded Fuel Break Project

Nick Dennis reports that the Dale Creek Road project is ready to go. He has signed a contract for the work with Roll'n Rock, a local contractor. They will begin work as soon as the weather permits. If you have property adjacent to Dale Creek Road (and Shepherds Way) and have not yet signed up with Nick for the program, there is still time. Specific questions or landowner inquiries may be directed to Nick Dennis at 938-2333. Hammond Landowners Association supports this very important fire safety project and encourages involved landowners to participate.

### Feeling Good (cont'd)

Dragonfly out in the sun  
you know what I mean, don't you know  
Butterflies all havin' fun  
you know what I mean  
Sleep in peace when the day is  
done, that's what I mean  
And this old world is a new world  
And a bold world  
For me  
Foor me...



Chris Pitts and Kelly Connor on the job



## Flue Fires

During a recent Hammond Ranch Fire Company training session the volunteers were asked what is the quickest and easiest way to extinguish a chimney or flue fire with a wood burning stove. There were these choices to pick from:

1. Call 911 and wait for the fire department to come out and spray water down your chimney or flue.
2. Use your home extinguisher and spray it into your stove.
3. Get a cup or glass of water and throw it into the stove and close the door.

The answer is #3. The steam will rise up the chimney or flue and put out the fire. You can then have a chimney sweep come out and clean your chimney or flue before restarting your stove. CalFire Captain, Steve Richardson, Weed Station uses this method when called out on flue or chimney fires.

Bob Keyser



## Hammond Ranch Fire Company News

The Fire Company responded to 54 calls in 2010. They included: 8 fires (3 structure, 1 vehicle, 4 vegetation), 15 medical calls, 1 hazardous condition, 2 public assistance calls, 26 good intent calls (canceled enroute) and 2 false alarms. All in all, it was a busy year. It's great to have the Fire Company so close and responsive.

### *From the Fire Chief*

With the passing of every year comes the predictable passing of new laws, and 2011 is no exception. SB 183, The Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Act, took effect January 1 2011. The law requires that a carbon monoxide detector be placed in any dwelling that is intended for human occupation. Failure to comply is punishable by a fine up to \$200 for each offense. Owners of existing single family dwellings units must comply by July 1, 2011, all others must comply by January 1, 2013. I don't know about you but I always tend to resent the new list of bureaucratic rules, things I must do or cannot do in the new year. I must admit this law was no exception. I decided to do some research on the subject and found that the some of the contributing factors for carbon monoxide poisoning are things that are very common to our lifestyle here in Hammond Ranch, specifically fireplaces, wood stoves and generators.

Each year in America, carbon monoxide poisoning claims approximately 400 lives and sends another 20,000 people to hospital emergency rooms for treatment. The United States Fire Administration recommends that you take these simple steps to protect yourself from deadly carbon monoxide fumes. Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless and toxic gas. Because it is impossible to see, taste or smell the toxic fumes, CO can kill you before you are aware it is in your home. At lower levels of exposure, CO causes mild effects that are often mistaken for the flu. These symptoms include headaches, dizziness, disorientation, nausea and fatigue. The effects of CO exposure can vary greatly from person to person depending on age, overall health and the concentration and length of exposure.

#### **Where does carbon monoxide come from?**

CO gas can come from several sources: gas-fired appliances, charcoal grills, wood-burning furnaces or fireplaces and motor vehicles.

#### **Who is at risk?**

Everyone is at risk for CO poisoning. Medical experts believe that unborn babies, infants, children, senior citizens and people with heart or lung problems are at even greater risk for CO poisoning.

#### **What Actions Do I Take if My Carbon Monoxide Alarm Goes Off?**

What you need to do if your carbon monoxide alarm goes off depends on whether anyone is feeling ill or not.

##### **If no one is feeling ill:**

1. Silence the alarm.
2. Turn off all appliances and sources of combustion (i.e. furnace and fireplace).
3. Ventilate the house with fresh air by opening doors and windows.
4. Call a qualified professional to investigate the source of the possible CO buildup.

If illness is a factor:

1. Evacuate all occupants immediately.
2. Determine how many occupants are ill and determine their symptoms.
3. Call your local emergency number and when relaying information to the dispatcher, include the number of people feeling ill.
4. Do not re-enter the home without the approval of a fire department representative.
5. Call a qualified professional to repair the source of the CO.

##### **Protect Yourself and Your Family from CO Poisoning:**

- Install at least one carbon monoxide alarm with an audible warning signal near the sleeping areas and outside individual bedrooms. Make sure the alarm has been evaluated by a nationally recognized laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL). Carbon monoxide alarms measure levels of CO over time and are designed to sound an alarm before an average, healthy adult would experience symptoms. It is very possible that you may not be experiencing symptoms when you hear the alarm. This does not mean that CO is not present.

- Have a qualified professional check all fuel burning appliances, furnaces, venting and chimney systems at least once a year.

- Never use your range or oven to help heat your home and never use a charcoal grill or hibachi in your home or garage.

- Never keep a car running in a garage. Even if the garage doors are open, normal circulation will not provide enough fresh air to reliably prevent a dangerous buildup of CO.

- When purchasing an existing home, have a qualified technician evaluate the integrity of the heating and cooking systems, as well as the sealed spaces between the garage and house. The presence of a carbon monoxide alarm in your home can save your life in the event of CO buildup.

I hope after doing some research that you decide as I have that this is a law I can live with.

Call the station, at 938-4200, for more information.

*Dave Jenkins,*

*Fire Chief Hammond Ranch Fire Company*

## *Hammond Ranch Fuels Reduction Project - Let's Keep the Momentum Going*

While it may be a worn-out cliché, a wildfire burning through the Hammond Ranch is not a question of *if*, but *when*. Maybe a better question is whether we are adequately prepared.

This past fall, the West of Weed Wildfire Fuels Reduction Program started treating forest fuels along roads in the Ranch. The work is funded by a grant and being implemented by CalFire crews. This is a great event, since it begins to give our community a chance at reducing the unwanted effects of the inevitable wildfires that will come to the Ranch. Much appreciation goes out to Kelly Conner, Randy Klokow, Doug Lathrop, the CalFire crews, and others that are making this happen.

Let's take this good beginning and make it great. Greatness would be to expand the fuel breaks beyond the current 16' from the road's edge. Fifty-foot-wide-treatment areas on either side of the road would be a worthy goal. The ultimate would have the fuels reduced on every acre.

Why should we want more area treated? Because we want more than just an improved chance of controlling a wildfire by slowing it down – we want a high probability. Also, even if the fuels breaks are fully effective during a wildfire, we want to be left with more than just 16' wide strips of green along each side of our roads with the remaining landscape blackened. A treated, green landscape is more attractive visually, healthy for the residual trees, and beneficial to wildlife. Our total fuel breaks (32' plus the road bed) are relatively puny in comparison with efforts being made elsewhere in fire-prone landscapes. The Quincy and Lake Tahoe regions foresters and fire managers are creating defensible zones a quarter-mile wide.

So what does the creation of a defensible fuel break include?

- Retaining the larger trees (8 inches in diameter +) that provide shade.
- Thinning out the smaller trees to 15 foot spacing.
- Pruning tree limbs up 8 to 16 feet from the ground, or half the height of shorter trees.
- Cutting any brush.
- Removing any dead vegetation (on the ground or standing).
- And finally, disposing of the slash created by chipping, pile burning (legally and safely!), or by removal to a facility that can process the material.

So how can we get additional work done? Here are a few ideas:

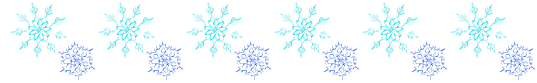
- Take responsibility for your own parcel and enlist the assistance of your household or a contractor.
- Support the application for additional grant funding.
- Set up a fuels reduction fund - similar to the road maintenance fund.

- Initiate neighborhood work parties to help each other.
- Any other ideas?

Let's create a Ranch that is a model of wildfire preparedness.

- And finally, it's worth repeating: there is the 100'ft. defensible space around your home that is required by the State of California.

*John Schuyler*, retired forester



## *Winter Road Etiquette*

A couple of reminders about winter roads: First, please keep a look out for our trusty volunteer snowplowers. They need to keep their momentum and they need space. If you see them coming toward you, pull over to the side as far as possible and stop. Let them go by. If you come upon a tractor working snow, do not pass until directed to do so by the operator. Second, do not park cars on any road. Ranch roads are easements for moving in and out. There is no space for parked cars. Parking on a road is a safety hazard, is in violation of easements rights and interferes with snow removal.

## *Hammond Pond Steward Named*

Hammond Ranch resident, John Brennan, has been appointed by the Siskiyou Land Trust as Steward for Hammond Pond. John is a past-president of the Land Trust and is a current SLT board member. John has many plans for Hammond Pond and is in need of volunteers for various projects. If you have an interest in the Pond (and who in the community does not?) and wish to help out, please contact the Siskiyou Land Trust at 926-2259 or contact John directly at 938-4027.



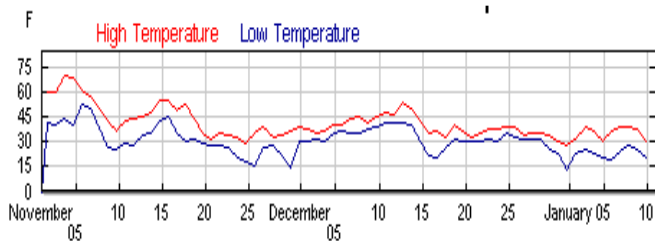
*View from Hammond Pond January 2nd*

## Dan's Weather Report

Winter, as defined by the stretch between the first and last snowfall, started on schedule this year in the Hammond Ranch area. The first snowfall (1.7" at 4200' elevation) fell on Oct. 28; the average since 2003 has been Oct. 21. But the total amount of snow since then this season has been impressive: 125" so far (through Jan. 10); the average since 2003 is 93". Particularly impressive has been the unusually snowy November, a total of 42" by November 30; whereas, the average by that date is 18". Snow depth varies greatly between the highest and wettest portion of Hammond Ranch (the southeast) - where it measures about 35" on the ground on January 10 - and the lower and drier northwest, where it measures only a patchy few inches.

It only makes sense to calculate the snowfall over part or all of a winter season, not over a calendar year. But we could cheat and calculate the snowfall for the entire year of 2010: January through May and then October through December. Because both periods in 2010 happened to sport far above normal snowfall amounts, we get an incredible 2010 total of 357".

Temperatures have been steadily cold since November 20, as seen in the following chart for Black Butte summit (3942' elevation).



Although only about 1" of snow fell in the first ten days of January, something interesting did occur: several days of freezing fog, which coated every branch and twig with rather large and beautiful ice crystals. These crystals take the shape of very thin, irregularly-edged, completely flat sheets, sometimes approaching  $\frac{3}{4}$ " across, oriented at all angles. The ones oriented just right for your eyes glisten brightly in the sun. The crystals even accumulated on the ground to a depth of 1". Freezing fog weather is actually the opposite of snowy weather. Freezing fog occurs in stable high atmospheric pressure, and snow occurs in unstable low pressure (otherwise known as a storm).

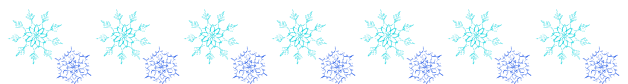
So what does "stable" and "unstable" mean? "Normally", air gets colder as it rises in altitude because it expands into the lower pressure and the expansion cools it off. (You can easily see the opposite effect in a

bicycle tire pump, which heats up when you compress the air in it.) The rate of cooling is about 5°F for every 1000' of elevation. In this normal situation, if a parcel of air is forced to rise, say by an upslope wind, it then cools and finds itself among surrounding air that is also similarly cool. This is neither stable nor unstable. But if the surrounding air is warmer than would be expected from the 5°F/1000' rate, then the rising parcel of air finds itself cooler - and thereby more dense - than the surrounding air, and immediately sinks back down to the ground. This is "stable" because cold air near the ground will not rise into the relatively warmer air above; it just sits there near the ground. If, on the other hand, the air decreases in temperature more rapidly than 5°F/1000', then a rising parcel will find itself warmer - and thereby less dense - than the surrounding air, and it will keep rising, like warm air going up a chimney. This is "unstable".

The actual rate of cooling with altitude depends on several factors. Cold air is generated on clear nights, when heat from the day escapes as infrared radiation into space, and the resulting cold ground cools off the air immediately above it. This cold air is denser than warm air, so it hugs the ground and tends to roll downhill. It accumulates in valleys where there is only a narrow channel of escape. With warm air still above it, the cold air just sits there, especially if the winds are very light. If a "warm front" - the leading edge of a warm pool of air originating over the semitropical zone in the Pacific - passes through the area - the effect is enhanced, as the modified semitropical air rides up over the trapped cold air. At the interface between the cold air below and the relatively warm air above, moisture condenses out of the warm air and forms low clouds or fog - freezing fog, if the temperature in the interface zone is less than 32 degrees.

These low clouds block the sun and tend to keep the daytime temperature in the valleys down, sometimes even lower than the temperature on the sunny ridgetops above the clouds in the post-warm front air up there. So we get a paradox: a warm front sometimes produces the coldest days of the winter in the valleys.

*Dan Axelrod*



## *Internet Service on the Ranch*

Since a rapidly increasing portion of home entertainment, home business, research/school work, and routine communication is done by internet, ranch residents and prospective residents need to know what options are available in our forested mountainous rural area. The answers now are likely to change in the coming months and years, so we will return to this topic as warranted.

**Standard phone land line** modems are available but a very poor choice. The phone lines here cannot handle speeds much more than 10 kilobits/sec (kbs), much too slow for anything except simple text, and connections are often dropped.

**DSL** is technically possible, but there are currently no corporate plans to upgrade the local lines, so it is not available in most of Hammond Ranch.

**Cable ethernet** is not available for almost all of the ranch, and there are no corporate plans to extend cable TV/internet to the backroads of our area. The federal "stimulus" plan was supposed to encourage it in rural areas, but so far, nothing obvious is happening now. And unless it becomes a direct federal project (unlikely given the feds preference for working through the "private sector" where profit takes precedence over everything), it is not likely to happen anytime soon.

**Satellite** dishes do work here. There are three main companies: WildBlue, Starband, and Hughes. The download kbs increases with increasing subscription fees, with the fastest, at 1500 kbs, for approximately \$100/month. But there are several problems. The speed is rarely as fast as they claim, often only 25% of what they claim, with a long "latency" time. Connections to the desired server often require two or three manual attempts before they work. The dish has to be swept off every few minutes during a slush or wet snow event. And the maximum weekly or monthly usage is quite limiting (2-5 gigabits/week – Wildblue 15 gigs/month) for a whole family. After that amount is exceeded, they either charge an outrageous amount more or drastically slow the speed (which they call "throttling").

**Cell phone system internet** may become more popular. This method does not require a cell phone but it uses an "air card" plugged into your computer's USB port and assigned a phone number, which communicates with a nearby cell phone tower. Hammond Ranch has not been served by "3G" digital towers until very recently, and the older 2G (as available on Verizon, AT&T, and US Cellular) works slightly slower than a 512 kbs satellite dish. But it is more reliable and does not cut out in bad weather. You have to have good communication with a tower, and there is a tower about one mile southeast of the ranch that "sees" much of the area with good signal. The problem is that the maximum amount of usage is limited to only 5 Gigabits

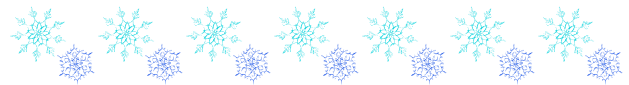
per month (not week), and after that, the charge goes way up from the basic \$60/month. In the next few weeks, we will test the newest 3G system (not yet available) and report on the actual speed here.

**Microwave** tower internet may be a possible solution for our area – in the future. Its speed goes up to 6000 kbs, with no upper limit on use, and the prices are less than satellite or cell phone internet. It requires installation of a receiver unit on the roof, pole, or tree with a direct line of sight to a microwave tower within about 20 miles. But there are problems. Signal is blocked by trees in the way. Only one such tower – on Herd Peak, to the northeast across Shasta Valley – qualifies for some Hammond Ranch locations. The company that runs that tower, Cal-Ore based in Klamath Falls, has no current plans to allow more Hammond Ranch residents to tap in (aside from the very few properties already using it). Another company, DigitalPath based in Chico, recently mailed postal advertisements to ranch residents trumpeting a new service based on a tower on lower Antelope Mountain about 20 miles to the NNW. But a recent visit to the ranch by Digital Path confirmed by actual test that there is no possibility of line-of-sight reception for any part of the ranch. DigitalPath is very interested in serving this area and is aware of several hundred possible customers here, but it will be several months (at least) before they locate a tower (or a local repeater tower) that will do the job. However, locating a non-obstrusive tower is a non-trivial task visually, environmentally and politically, even if it is technically feasible.

*Dan Axelrod*

*\*Digital Path told me they anticipate having a tower visible to the Ranch in place up here by spring. Who knows!*

*Larie, Editor*



### ***Feeling Good*** (cont'd)

Stars when you shine  
You know how I feel  
Scent of the pine  
You know how I feel  
Yeah freedom is mine  
And I know how I feel  
It's a new dawn  
It's a new day  
It's a new life  
For me  
And I'm feeling good  
*(wrics)*

## *A Few Thoughts About Dealing with Fuel Reduction Debris*

I was asked to put down a few thoughts regarding methods for disposal of debris. I am not an expert, but twenty years of working on clearing has taught us a few things. When we bought our property, we had three large fields of live manzanita, plus the woods were full of dead manzanita. We eventually cleared the three fields, one of which is where the house is now located. Dead manzanita is pretty easy to deal with. Cut it off or pull it out. The live stuff can be pulled out by tractors, which we did. I believe that was a mistake. It is better to cut it off, for three reasons: First, if you cut, you do not disturb the ground. Second, pulling it out puts lots of seeds into the ground and you have new growth. Thirdly, if you cut it off, you can chip the debris. Pulling it out like we did means soil and rocks embedded in the roots, so you must burn. The third option is to load it up and haul it away. The transfer station will take brush and limbs, but they do charge and it is very pricey. For the heavier material, the fourth option is to cut the larger parts for firewood. It burns very hot.

Since we chose to pull it out and burn, we still have burn rings in our meadows. I am seeding them, and with time they will disappear. We also have been dealing with the re-growth. About the only way to kill manzanita is a heavy application of an herbicide.

I find trees much easier to deal with. They can be dropped, limbed up, cut up the trunk for firewood and then chip or burn the limbs. Because we are on the Fire Safe emergency access route schedule, I have been stacking limbs and live and dead manzanita along the driveways to be chipped by the crews next spring. Weed Rental has a large chipper for rent which we have used along Dale Creek Road on volunteer days several times. Also, many people here on the Ranch have their own chippers.

Mostly I do my own work, now that we live here. But for the initial three to five acres of manzanita, we hired a contractor who brought in a ground crew and two tractors. Thereafter, we have hired day labor to cut and burn. There are many people who can be hired to work a day or a weekend.\*

I have heard that some people bury their debris. I think it is a bad idea. Some debris spread on the ground is good, as it becomes part of the biomass.

The question of delivering debris to the Weed bio-mass plant came up a year or two ago. At that time I called and spoke with the plant manager. I was then told that they had no plans for using any debris for fuel other than their own.

If any readers have comments or other experiences they would like to share, please let us know. We will report on those in a future newsletter.

*Tom Wearing*

\*See the service provider article further on in this newsletter.

## *2011 Board Members*

President	Tom Wearing	938-4288
Vice President	Pam Scott	938-3700
Secretary	Pat Emerson	938-1846
Treasurer	Sally McGraw	938-4326
At-Large	Dan Axelrod	938-1859
	Priscila Franco	938-0773
	Bob Keyser	938-4140
	Doug Lathrop	938-3022
	Erich Ziller	938-4993

*The Hammond Ranch 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](mailto:hla@hammondlandowners.org).

## *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 Members' Annual Meeting and Luncheon – First Saturday in November 2011, 10:00 a.m.

HLA Annual Members' Picnic – Saturday after 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2011.

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.

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

## Available for Snow Removal or Other Services

Here's a list of people available for snowplowing when it hits again and other services unique to the Ranch. HLA does not endorse vendors and cannot vouch for the quality or competence of their services. HLA recommends that anyone considering use of vendors carry out due investigation and reference checks as with any contemplated business relationship. If you are a vendor with available services unique to the Ranch and would like to be included on the list, call or email Larie Wearing and you will be added for the next newsletter in April.

Name	Phone #	Rate/hour	Equipment/Services
John Brennan	938-4027/859-3499	negotiable	Chipper/shredder
Joling Brothers - Kenny Brian	598-8020 598-5867	varies/ \$90	Case loader/big bucket & tractor
Ethan Catlin	925-4757/938-4200	varies	Firewood, brush clearing, burning and tree care
Kellen	859-0221	varies	Grader (available only for large jobs as equipment has to be moved)
James Gregory	261-0233	varies/species	Firewood delivered to the Ranch (stacked optional)
Mason Knechtle	707-481-0608	varies	tractor and tree removal, roads, ponds, excavation, demolition, land clearing, chipping and shredding
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 mgrader, backhoe (front-end loader)
Elwood Sullivan	938-4582	95	Backhoe and small cat w/angle blade



Moving?

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