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From the Editor

Saturday, November 1st is the date of the 2008 annual members' meeting. Members should have received the announcement and RSVP card by now. If you have not, please let me know, at 938-4288 or hla@hammondlandowners.org, and they will be sent to you right away. We hope to see you there.

Larrie Wearing

Matters Before the Board

Several interesting matters have come to the attention of the Board, and the Board would like to bring these matters to your attention. The Board will be considering these matters over the next few meetings.

Shaded Fuel Break: A local forester is proposing exploration of a "shaded fuel break" along Dale Creek Road, beginning at the meadow and continuing north off the Ranch toward Eddy Creek. A shaded fuel break is an area within a forest land that has been treated or managed to remove or decrease fuel loads. Heavy underbrush and fallen limbs are generally removed, leaving mature trees that are more fire resistant. This creates a break in vegetation which slows the spread of wildfire and provides firefighters with a safe zone. It is believed that a federal grant, administered by the state, may be available to fund fifty percent of such an approved project. The other fifty percent of cost is paid by the landowners either directly, by selling usable timber or providing part of the labor for the project.

The forester also indicated that Roseburg Properties in Weed will begin operating a bio-mass generator this fall which may provide a use for small unmarketable trees. See related article regarding the Roseburg cogeneration plant.



The mountain finally has snow again!

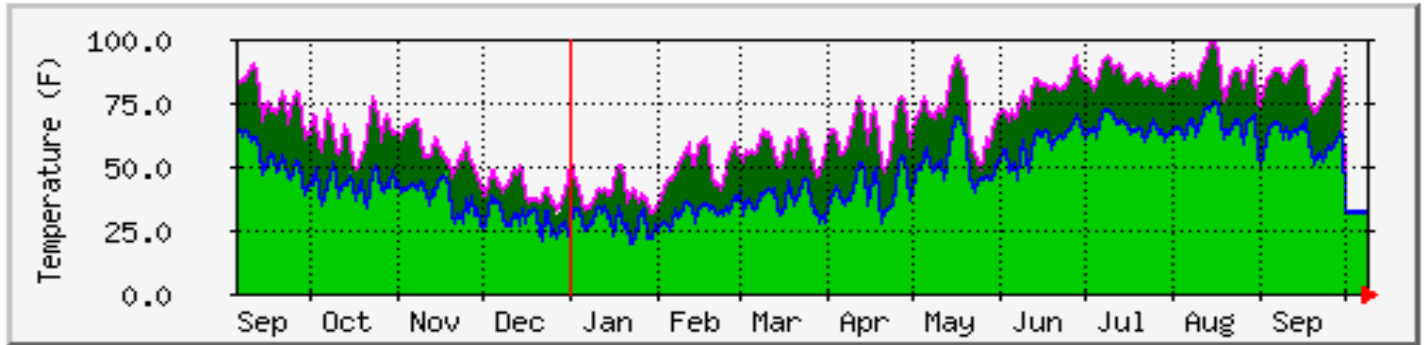
Co-generation Plant: Siskiyou County has approved operation of a cogeneration plant to be operated by Roseburg Forest Products in Weed. There has been speculation that local property owners might be able to dispose of bio-mass harvested from our overloaded forests at Roseburg. However, a spokesman at Roseburg stated that they are quite a ways from receiving materials from others at the plant. This may be an important disposal method in future as more forest areas are thinned. See related article on the possibility of a Shaded Fuel Break project in the Ranch.

Standpipe: The Hammond Ranch Fire Company has proposed that the HLA install a standpipe on the south side of Hammond Reservoir, just as the Lakewood side has done, thus, improving the ability of the fire company to fill their watertender. The cost of this project and its location are being considered. Chief Jenkins states this would benefit not only the Ranch, but the entire community.

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.

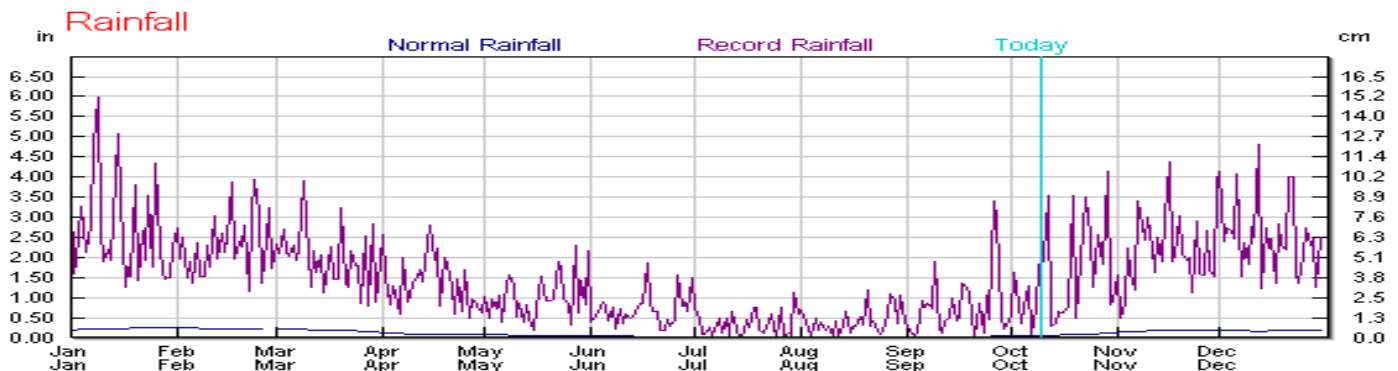
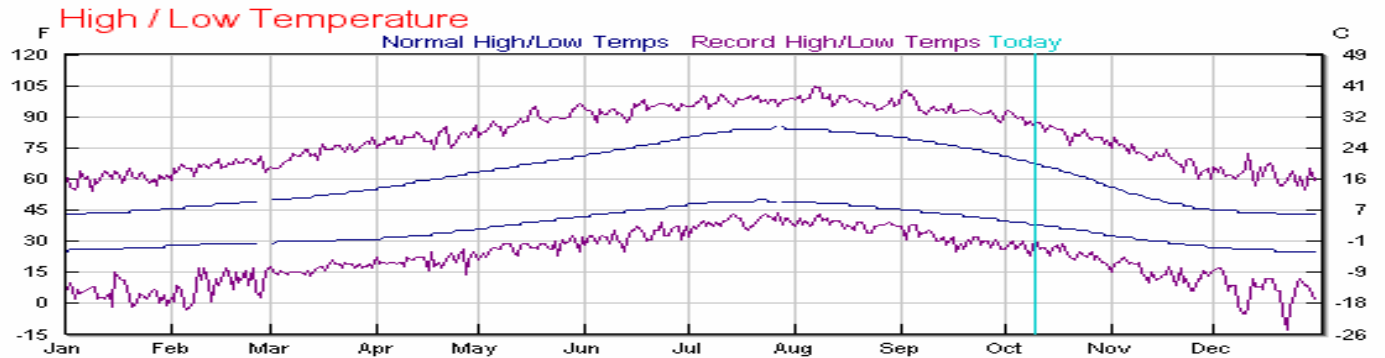
Dan's Weather Report

Since it does not rain or snow much in the summer here, the item of most interest becomes the temperature. The graph below shows the daily temperatures as recorded in Mt. Shasta City for this past year ending at Sept. 30, 2008. The lower shaded area shows the daily *average* temperature (halfway between each days' high and low), and the top of the dark area shows the daily *maximum* temperature. The temperature of dry atmosphere generally decreases about 5 degrees for every 1000' of altitude. Since Hammond Ranch averages around 4100' elevation (600 ft higher than the location of the measurements in the graph), subtracting about 3 degrees from all the readings on the graph – and all temperatures discussed here - will be a pretty good estimate of what happens at Hammond Ranch.



Mid-August experienced a prominent peak in temperature. On the four days of August 13-16, the Mt. Shasta City peak temperatures were 94, 100, 100, and 98. (Fortunately, the nights were cool, in the upper 40's). Are such high temperatures unusual? As the graphs below show, the *normal* high temperature at the hottest part of the summer is 84 degrees. All-time *record* high temperatures for each date are typically in the upper 90's. So high temperatures in that range are certainly precedented, but a string of three or four days in a row is a bit unusual. Aside from that string, the average daily temperatures were in the mid-to-upper 60's, which is close to "normal."

Precipitation in the summer is usual very light, occurring in sporadic wet thunderstorms. The lower graph shows the average is practically zero, with the record set by a rare thunderstorm downpour. Almost no precipitation fell here this year from the first week of June to the first week of October. However, a welcome 1.8" of rain – with snow above 9000' – fell in the first week of October from the first large area storm of the season.



The most noticeable deviation from normal this summer was not in temperature or precipitation, but in reduced visibility. Smoke for numerous large forest fires about 50 miles upwind from us to our south, southwest and west, triggered by dry lightening storms in late June, completely obscured the view Mt. Shasta from here on several days and produced a noticeable "campfire" smell.

When something seemingly unusual happens in the weather, people want to know if it is the beginning of a trend, for example, global warming. "Globally-speaking," we can expect not only warmer temperatures, but also more precipitation in the coming century. That is because warmer air temperatures will lead to more evaporation from the ocean surface and eventually more clouds and rain. But global warming will play out differently in different regions of the world. What can we expect from global warming in our specific region, generally classified as the southern edge of the Pacific Northwest?

Recent computer models have tackled this question.

Although the warmer/wetter scenario is still a good guess for the local region, the results also suggest some countervailing or complicating effects:

- Since we are immediately downwind from the Pacific Ocean, with our air temperatures somewhat moderated by the water, the effects of global warming here may be somewhat delayed relative to most other regions downwind from large land areas. Much of the Northern Hemisphere has already gotten significantly warmer in the last 30 years, but not here (yet).
- Ocean currents themselves may be altered, which in turn affects the air.
- Although storms may become wetter and more severe, they also may miss our region more often, because a warmer climate may push the jet stream farther north. This effect could actually make it drier here in the winter. But there may be more thunderstorms in the summer.
- If this area does become warmer along with wetter, more of the precipitation will fall as rain rather than snow in the valleys, and the snow level will be higher up the mountains. But above a certain altitude where it is still cold enough to snow anyway, more snow will fall and the depth of the winter snow pack may actually increase. Consequently, there may be more high altitude avalanches and low altitude floods.
- The change of climate will affect the type of vegetation here. Hammond Ranch is near the border of a sharp transition between temperate coniferous forest right here and semi-arid desert just a few miles to the northeast. A shift in climate will cause a slow shift in that border transition one way or the other.



From the Chief

HRFC Fire Calls

From April to September the Fire Company responded to 33 calls. From July through September we responded to 14 calls: 3 medical emergencies; 3 vehicle accidents; 1 vegetation fire; 1 structure fire and one miscellaneous incident.

There are now three student firefighters staying at the station as sleepers.

Dave Jenkins
Fire Chief
530-925-4618



Dale Creek Road Report

Eleven volunteers worked all day on October 11th to clear brush away from the west side of Dale Creek Road, heading north and west from Maple. The resulting park-like setting will allow for much easier removal of snow from the roadway as well as better visibility. Many thanks to Jack Amason, Flo Anderson, John Brennan, Chuck and Susan Convalin, Bruce French, Karl Tiefert, Lynn Teuscher, Ed Van Doren, Tom and Larie Wearing.

The road will be graded and compacted before the snows set in. Relatively dust-free rock from the Louie quarry will be applied to the road surface in the spring after re-grading and compacting. These maintenance efforts will assure a smoother ride and easier plowing during our impending winter, and a less dusty dry season.

Work on centerline striping, establishing bike lanes, and the monorail will be indefinitely delayed due to the paucity of fungible resources.



The leaves fall, the wind blows, and the farm country slowly changes from the summer cottons into its winter wools." - Henry Beston

Randy Klokow, a Hammond landowner on Oak Ridge Drive, submitted this article for your information. It is being printed now, in anticipation of the winter to come.

Can Snow Collapse Our Roof?

During one of last season's blizzards, when our roof was groaning under the weight of accumulated snow, my wife suddenly asked me "Can snow collapse our roof?" Uh-Oh. She was worried and I knew I would have to give up my afternoon nap and search Google for an answer. Luckily, the snow gods were smiling and Google popped up a wealth of information.

The short answer to her question is "yes," accumulated snow can cause roofs to collapse, trees to fall, and power lines to snap. However, roof collapse for properly constructed residential homes is relatively rare.

Roof collapse is caused by the weight of the accumulated snow on the roof. Snow weight will vary depending upon the water (and ice) content. For example, 1-cubic foot of fresh "dry fluffy snow" will weigh only about 3-lbs, but 1-cubic foot of "wet icy snow" will weigh about 60-lbs. Compacted snow from multiple storms will rapidly gain weight. Of special concern is a snowstorm followed by a rainstorm. The snow on the roof will absorb the heavy rain and significantly increase the loading.

To minimize roof collapse, Siskiyou County building codes require house roofs in heavy snow areas to be designed to withstand 60 pounds snow loading for every square foot of roof area. As a "rough" rule, 60 pounds/square foot loading is about equal to 5 feet (deep) of "medium compacted snow" or 3 feet of "heavy wet snow. These numbers are rough approximations only and will vary depending upon snow water content.

Potentially dangerous accumulated snow can be removed (shoveled) from a roof. Homeowners should consider hiring experts who own boom trucks or have special safety equipment for working on roofs instead of removing the snow themselves, as snow removal can be a dangerous job due to the danger of falling from the roof or ladder.

As a final fun topic, according to a Pacific Power (PPL) repairman, the weight from accumulated snow does not cause our power lines to break. The accumulated snow does cause the lines to bend downward (like a bow string). The power lines break when the snow suddenly falls off and the line snaps back up. In the "old" days, PPL people used to drive around and knock off the snow using long wooden poles. The practice stopped when the repair crews noted that they were breaking the lines. Today, they simply let the snow slowly melt and hope for the best.



*For man, autumn is a time of harvest, of gathering together.
For nature, it is a time of sowing, of scattering abroad.
- Edwin Way Teale*

Fall Residential Debris Burning

Usually at this time of year it is permissible to burn small amounts of yard/garden debris. However, this year burning is still suspended. Call the Siskiyou County Burn Day number, 842-8123, to find out when it will be permissible.

When it is possible to burn, these are the guidelines published by Cal Fire:



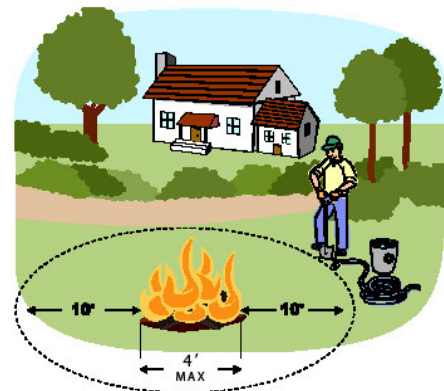
Debris Burning

Debris Burning

The following are burning permit requirements:

For burning debris in small 4-foot x 4-foot piles:

- Maximum pile size 4 foot in diameter.
- Clear all flammable material and vegetation within 10-feet of the outer edge of pile.
- Keep a water supply close to the burning site.
- An adult should be in attendance with a shovel until the fire is out.
- No burning shall be undertaken unless weather conditions (particularly wind) are such that burning can be considered safe.



No household trash or garbage can be burned outdoors at residences. Dry, natural vegetation, grown on the property can still be burned outdoors in open piles, unless prohibited by local ordinances. Burning can only be done on permissive burn days. Burn permits are only valid on "Permissive Burn Days" as determined by the State Air Resources Board or the local Air Pollution Control District (APCD).

Violations Of Any Burning Permit Terms Are A Violation Of State Law
(Public Resources Code 4421, 4422, 4423 And 4425)

www.fire.ca.gov

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, P.O. Box 795, Mount Shasta, CA 96067, or via email at hla@hammondlandowners.org.

Trespass on the Ranch

Within the last two months there have been a series of trespass events involving Dale Creek Road and HLA property owners. Locks on gates of one property owner have been cut several times. Another property owner's lock was cut, the trespassers then drove across the property and crashed through a newly-completed wood gate before being confronted by a second property owner. A description of the two young males and their license plate number were given to the Sheriff's Department. Most of this activity appears to be related to hunting season. If you experience or witness a trespass issue, call the Sheriff. They will respond. If you do have a lock cut, report it and then replace it immediately.



Moving?

*Please send changes
of address to ...*

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

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 – Saturday, November 1, 2008, 12:00 p.m., at Strings Italian Café in Mount Shasta.

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.

Hammond Landowners Association, Inc.



P. O. Box 795
Mount Shasta, CA 96067