

Red Creek Ranch-Newton News

☺ What's New on The Ranch for SUMMER 2008 ☺

**2008 RCR-N Property Owners Assoc. Annual Meeting
& PotLuck !!!**

Saturday, August 30 @ 10am

Gibbs Family barn/indoor, 1035 Newton Road

Please Bring a Chair and Food to Share ☺

Newest News

Hot Summer Time!

Drum roll please... The Ranch website is UP!!! Hopefully you saw the notice posted in the Bulletin Box and have visited the site: www.RedCreekRanch.org

The website will be updated periodically throughout the year so please visit every now and then. If you have any nice photos taken anywhere on the ranch, please email them to me! Or if they are the "old fashioned" printed paper photographs, bring them to me to scan into digital form. Any nice landscapes, wildlife, wildflowers, etc, will be greatly appreciated. With your help, I would like to start filling the "Photo Album" section on the website with nice Ranch photos ☺

You may also have noticed that the newsletter has a few business card ads in it. This is being done to let residents know who in our area offers services that might be of interest and to help raise some funds to produce and mail out the hardcopy of this newsletter. If you have a business you'd like to let people here know about or know of a business that might be of interest to residents, please contact me!

Did you notice the pretty bulb flowers that came up this spring by the Ranch entrance? And the bushes that have "woken up"? Many thanks to our Beautification Committee for their efforts last year to pretty-up our entrance! There are plans to do something similar on the other side of the gate sometime later this year. So next year the entrance will be twice as pretty!

Mark your calendars for the Annual BBQ & Silent Auction fundraiser for our Red Creek Volunteer Fire & Rescue on Sat. Sept. 13th from 2 to 5pm! The auction sounds like it will be really great this year and have a few fun surprises as well.

Have you made a donation to our local volunteer fire dept. yet this year? My understanding is that for the unincorporated areas of Pueblo County, the only fire department that will put out structure fires in our area is our own Red Creek Volunteer Fire & Rescue. Our volunteer fire dept. will also put out wildland fires but the other area fire departments will *only* put out wildland fires in our area, not structures. So I think it's very important to help support our local vol. fire dept. with donations to help protect our houses and other structures from fires ☺

And speaking of fires, concerned residents met early in July at the Fire station to talk about an Animal Evacuation plan in case of any type of emergency. We made a good start at this first meeting and would like

to have another meeting to expand and refine the plans from all the good ideas presented. Please express your interest in another Animal Evacuation meeting at the upcoming Annual Meeting.

PLEASE give me your email address!!!! It's not shared EVER! The response to this request has been kind of slim... Having your email is the best way, and fastest, for your Board to update you on important issues. AND it can be used for residents to help notify others of lost pets and ask for help with finding them! It will not be used for anything frivolous.

PLUS if you ask to have the newsletter emailed to you instead of snail-mailed, you get the newsletter instantly and in living color. Not to mention help save your Assoc. money that can go toward roads instead of newsletter publication. Thanks much to those of you who have already signed up for email newsletters ☺ Please send your email to: RanchNews@gmail.com.

Please contact me if you have name/address corrections and with any suggestions or comments for better information sharing! This newsletter will grow into what you help it become ☺

Happy Trails, Soraya Bourassa

Email: RanchNews@gmail.com or Ph: 485-7665

President's Ponderings

The summer is nearly half over and we have yet to see any measurable amount of rain. The future however does look promising. Rain is in next week's forecast. We can only hope that along with it, the rain doesn't bring anymore grass fires. Those have been more than plentiful this summer.

My term as President will end at the end of this year. I believe I have accomplished what I set out to do: exchange "grazing for grading". While we haven't pastured any cattle on the ranch this year so far due to lack of rain, the grazing lease/agreement is established for the future. This enterprise will maintain a standard which many expect. Without it, the budget as accorded by the declarations could not meet our road needs.

Therefore, in a measure of good faith, we will not be requesting that a special assessment be paid in 2009. The annual dues of \$150 will again be all we are asking for from the property owners. While extraneous circumstances are always a possibility, it is the Board's responsibility to work within the confines of the covenants/declarations and its by-laws.

The biggest obstacle to continuing down this path of fiscal responsibility is growth. With each passing year more and more of our single greatest resource is being fenced out: the grass. And our only real expense---the roads---deteriorate at an increasing rate. In my opening letter, I encouraged you, the property owners, to keep your land unencumbered with fences. I am still asking you to do so. The grazing lease depends upon it.

Red Creek Ranch was originally established as a singular association. When the various associations were incorporated to oversee their specific geographic region, the declarations and by-laws were adopted along with it. We must not lose sight of this fact. If you have any questions, I suggest consulting the website and its declaration of covenants.

I expect whoever is elected into office next year will build upon the previous Board's successes. Eventually, maybe we will be living in a utopia where the dust is down and our property values are up and everybody gets along. Until then remain cognizant of the fact that the RCR-NPOA is a 10,000 acre association with its rules established for a common good.

Sincerely, Scott L. Hill

RCR-Newton Property Owners Association president

2008 RCR-N POA Meeting Agenda

10:00 am

Call to Order - Scott Hill

Recap 2007 Annual Meeting - Jim Fey

Treasurer's Report - Richard Miller

Road Committee Report - Mike Laskowski

Grazing Lease Report - Todd Hughes

Peck Creek Crossing - open discussion

Covenants - summary and open discussion

Contributions and Recognition

Website, Newsletter, Beautification and Volunteers

Elect New Board Members - Scott Hill

Adjourn

Potluck to Follow ☺

Bring a side dish or dessert!

Hotdogs, burgers, lemonaid, water, and plates/utensils will be provided ☺

2009 Proposed Budget

Budget to be discussed and voted on during the RCR-N POA Annual Meeting:

There are 101 lots available for assessment. The common Annual Assessment is \$150.00 per lot.
So, 101 lots x \$150 = \$15,150.00 income for 2009.

Grazing lease income is offset by road grader work approximated at \$10,000.00. Road grader work is to include but not be limited to: spreading road base, maintaining roads (ie. blading out washboard and creating crown in the road), removing snow.

Expenses	Budget	Actual
Administration	\$350.00	
Annual Meeting	\$200.00	
Insurance	\$400.00	
Legal	\$300.00	
Newsletter	\$300.00	
Beautification	\$150.00	
Road budget	\$9,950.00	
Peck Creek	\$2,500.00	
Snow Removal	\$1,000.00	
Budget Total	\$15,150.00	

Our Beautiful Ancient Pronghorns

By Onica Gilmore

The pronghorn has been running the North American range since it evolved in the Miocene 23 million years ago. It has seen the mastodon and woolly mammoth come and go. I first realized how old they were when visiting the fantastic mammoth dig in Hot Springs, South Dakota. On a mural depicting the flora and fauna of the period, there was a pronghorn standing with a mammoth. They, by the way, are the only surviving member of their family and are not related to antelope.

During the time the bison ruled the plains, millions of pronghorn ran with them. The smaller animals relied on the burley bison to trample the deep snow of the plains and break ice so they could forage and drink in winter. Pronghorn and cattle don't have the same relationship. In the blizzards of several years ago trapped cattle were dropped hay from helicopters, while many pronghorns were starving and freezing to death, trapped by fencing and deep snow.

The pronghorn evolved to flee an extinct American cheetah over open country, and both the pronghorn and the African cheetah can hit speeds of up to 60 mph. The difference is that the cheetah is a sprinter and the pronghorn is a marathon runner able literally to leave the cheetah in the dust. You may have noticed how large and high-set the pronghorns' beautiful brown eyes are. They can see for 3 miles. When they sense danger, they raise the white hairs on their rumps to signal other pronghorn for miles around.

According to an article on pronghorn by the BLM I found on the web, early this century, pronghorn were down to about 20,000, due to hunting, destruction of habitat and the widespread use of barbed wire.

Pronghorn welfare has suffered in proportion to the sale of barbed wire. In 1879, 5 tons (4.5 metric tons) of barbed wire was manufactured in the United States. Six years later, 40,000 tons (36,000 metric tons) were being strung across western rangelands. By 1945 this figure had reached 234,000 tons (210,600 mt) per annum (Leftwich and Simpson 1978). Initially most of the fences were "drift fences," which resulted in large numbers of pronghorn being trapped to freeze to death in blizzards (Hailey 1979). Later, the fencing of pastures became more and more commonplace, further restricting the movement of pronghorn populations until the species was excluded from much of its former range (Russell 1964, Martinka 1967, Spillett et al. 1967, Hailey 1979).

Of course, ranchers and others have the right to fence their land, but there are legal limits. According to the same article:

A rancher in Rawlins, Wyoming constructed a fence [of woven wire topped with barbed wire] around approximately 9,600 acres of private and public lands, thereby excluding pronghorn from critical winter rangelands. Many pronghorn died due to being denied access to favored winter foraging areas. The case went to the U. S. District Court for the District of Wyoming and the judge decreed that the rancher's woven-and-barbed wire fence was in violation of the federal Unlawful Enclosures Act of 1885. The rancher immediately appealed the federal judge's ruling and the case went to the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals, where three judges unanimously upheld the lower court's decision. The case then went to the U. S. Supreme Court, which upheld the decisions of the District and Circuit courts.

Most of us here have seen how pronghorn negotiate fences – they crawl under the lowest strand or sometimes crawl through the lower two wires. They have been reported to be able to jump up to 8 feet in a panic situation, but normally run along the fence line looking for a bottom wire high enough to go under. Fawns are particularly susceptible to getting hung up or injured by fencing.

For those interested in safe passage for our ancient and beautiful inhabitants, the Bureau of Land Management recommends for cattle fencing, a 3-strand wire fence 36 inches high, 2 strands of barbed wire with a smooth bottom wire a minimum height of 16-18 inches off the ground. Use of woven wire should be kept to a minimum. And it's definitely a good idea to remove old, unnecessary fencing from our property to prevent injury not only to wildlife, cattle and horses, but also our children, grandchildren, visitors, and even dogs who may be unaware of the danger of rusty barbed wire and fallen fences.

Steve and I have owned our property on Bronquist since 1994, and the pronghorn used to be very shy, bolting off whenever we drove by. But recently, they seem to have gotten used to sharing the neighborhood, and now, when we slow down to see them more closely, they often just lift their heads and stand watchfully.

Elk are magnificent, deer are beautiful, but pronghorn are in a class by themselves. In searching for information on the web for this article, I ran across a picture of a pronghorn with the caption, "They still exist!" This guy thought they were extinct, and we get to see them almost daily. Another benefit of living out here in the country.

Help Protect Our Local Wildlife



Operation Game Thief is a Colorado Division of Wildlife program, which pays rewards to citizens who turn in poachers. You can call us toll-free within Colorado at **1-877-COLO-OGT** (265-6648), or contact us via e-mail at: **Game.Thief@state.co.us**

Callers do not have to reveal their names or testify in court. A reward of \$500 is offered for information on cases involving big game or endangered species, while \$250 is offered for information on turkey and \$100 for fishing and small game cases. A Citizens Committee administers the reward fund, which is maintained by private contributions. The Board may approve rewards of up to \$1,000 for flagrant cases. Rewards are paid for information which leads to an arrest or a citation being issued.

For more information about this program visit:

<http://wildlife.state.co.us/RulesRegs/LawEnforcement/OperationGameThief/>

Details, Details...

Newsletter Deadlines

This publication is currently semi-annual, unless our information flow increases. Here is the basic schedule with deadlines for getting info to me:

- Winter 2009 Deadline = Jan 26th, 2009 (mail out approx. mid Feb)
- Summer 2009 Deadline = June 15th, 2009 (mail out approx. end June)

These deadlines are basic guidelines, if you have a last minute item, call/email and it might get in ☺
The newsletter will also be posted on our website.

2008 Red Creek Ranch - Newton Board Contact Info

President	Scott Hill	485-1279
Secretary	Jim Fey	485-1730
Treasurer	Richard Miller	485-3763
Board Member	Jerry Malone	547-3469
Board Member	Kathy Primer	485-0472

2008 RCR-N Committees & Advisors Contact Info

Past President	Calvin Smith	485-1747
Newsletter Editor	Soraya Bourassa	485-7665
Beautification	Sheryl Denney	485-4935
History/Research	Onica Gilmore	485-3913
Bulletin Box Key	Chuck Sanger	485-0940
Bulletin Box Key	Scott Hill & Jim Fey	

Positive-Twist Feedback

RESIDENT ARTICLES OF COMMENTS/COMPLAINTS THAT ARE PRESENTED W/ POSITIVE SUGGESTIONS ☺

Neighbors Helping Neighbors; RCR-N Animal Emergency Evacuation Meeting

By Betty Fey & Soraya Bourassa

Concerned neighbors from RCR-N met at the Red Creek Volunteer Fire Dept on July 9. The goal was to initiate plans for emergency evacuation of pets and livestock in the event of a fire or other disaster.

Ted Thurman and Janna Webster, from the Red Creek Fire Dept. offered some valuable tips such as: mark your cistern (if you have one) with a blue driveway reflector and your septic with a red driveway reflector, be sure to move out of the way for emergency vehicles on our roads, never ever block the road and have your animal information available to rescuers.

Guest speaker Karen Ashcraft from Pueblo County Emergency Rescue offered more general information and provided us with literature that will be available at the RCR-N POA Annual Meeting in August. One of Karen's valuable tidbits was the suggestion of having a "72-hour bag" always ready and updated once or twice a year. A 72-hour bag is a container of anything you might need for 72 hours away from home. Usually made up for people, it can also be done for pets and horses.

Have your animals vaccinated and identified. Donna Straub, director of Pueblo Animal Services and member of the Pueblo County Animal Emergency Rescue Committee, was contacted before the meeting, and she acknowledged that Pueblo Animal Services would assist in large and small animal rescue and has the capability to shelter a small number of animals, mostly dogs and cats. There is no charge for this, but vaccinations are required; pets will be vaccinated if there is no proof of recent vaccinations and the owners are charged for this.

We discussed the numerous methods of identification - microchip, brand, registration papers - and the possibility of having a ranch-wide identification day. A vet would come and microchip our pets/horses and we would share the vet's fees.

Richard Miller mentioned that Pueblo County Cowboy Church has purchased a stable in Pueblo West and offered to investigate the possibility of housing our horses there during an emergency evacuation.

After general discussion it was agreed that a 72 hour container is something we all should and can do. Another suggestion, by Chuck Sanger, was to have animal information available on site for rescuers to access. Chuck designed a PVC tube, painted red, that homeowners can leave in a visible location outside, like on the fence. Inside the tube is information on the animals on site and owner contact info. Chuck will have a few of these tubes for residents to purchase (\$10) at the August general meeting.

The Red Creek Fire Dept's Ted Thurman offered to keep a locked file cabinet at the fire house if we provided one. The cabinet would hold personal information that we would want available to disaster workers such as number of animals, identification, contact information, etc. The fire dept would be the incident command center

in the event of a fire, blizzard or other disaster. We agreed to purchase a small locking file box! Soraya and Betty will get a form ready for neighbors to complete and include in this file. It will be available at the August Annual Meeting. If you'd like this form sooner, call Soraya (485-7665) or Betty (214-1088). Of course one can include or not include any information they like, so think about what information you'd want available to rescuers!

A follow up meeting can be arranged if we'd like to expand on these plans. CSU Extension Agent Marvin Reynolds has volunteered to speak at a next meeting, to assist in organizing our emergency plan. If you're interested in this, please call Betty at 214-1088.

Firehouse Friends

By Janna Webster

Your Red Creek Volunteer Fire & Rescue (RCVF&R) department has been quite busy this year. We have responded to many wildland fires, some as small as an acre in size, some over 20-plus acres. Thankfully we've only had to respond to one structure fire. Most of these fires were caused by lightning strikes, although a couple were caused by human negligence. We've also responded, in our assistance capacity, to several medical calls. One call on Hwy 96 included stopping traffic and preparing a landing zone on the Highway for the Flight For Life helicopter!

Even though we've had a few rain showers, be aware that the conditions remain extremely dry. It will take several inches of rain to rehydrate the tinder dry fuel load we are currently experiencing. Please take extra care during activities such a mowing, welding, and woodcutting. Even small sparks can cause fires.

Mark your calendars for our Annual BBQ and Silent Auction fundraiser on Saturday, Sept. 13, 2008! To spice things up a bit and encourage some healthy bidding competition we may have a few choice items up on "live" bid ☺

RCVF&R is a volunteer organization. We receive no tax monies and exist solely through donations. Your donations are used to purchase firefighting equipment and pay operating costs for the fire engines and fire house. None of the firefighters are reimbursed for their time, gas, or wear & tear on their personal vehicles. Please take a minute to thank the firefighters who protect our community.

If you are interested in serving on the RCVF&R Board of Directors, firefighting, or assisting in any way, please call 485-FCVF (485-7283)

2008 Annual Red Creek Volunteer Fire & Rescue BBQ & Silent Auction Fundraiser

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2-5pm,

**Tickets: \$10 adults, \$7 ages 6-15, under 6 are Free. Tickets available at the door or
contact any Firefighter/Board of Director, or call 485-7283.**

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Helpful Tips

SNAKEBITE!

It was just a matter of time before we experienced what some of you already have. That horrible despair you feel when you see one of your much loved animals has been bitten by a rattlesnake. One of our horses met that fate this past Memorial Day.

We don't know if it wasn't a particularly venomous bite or if it was our aggressive medical treatment but only 2 weeks later that very same horse is going on trail rides. Friends have asked how we treated him so here's what happened:

It was feeding time and my husband's horse wasn't coming in from the pasture. We went to get him and immediately saw that his left front leg was very, very swollen. Jim led Deal, the horse, back to the barn.

I went ahead to prepare first aid. Once Deal was in the barnyard we clipped the pastern, the area of injury, to get a better look. We saw a little blood and 2 small wounds, the telltale snakebite sign. The swelling had already reached above the knee.

We started him on antibiotics, in powder form. This is supposed to go on their feed but to insure the horse would eat it we instead mixed it with a tablespoon of applesauce and administered it 3 times a day for 10 days, using an old, empty, deworming syringe. Same with bute, which we gave 2x a day for 5 days, then 1x a day for 2, then discontinued. We used soap and water on the bite, following with a spray, Rescue Remedy, a homeopathic remedy. The swelling grew to involve the shoulder and chest; it looked like an elephant's leg.

I grow the herb, comfrey, in my garden for strains and bruises. I picked a few leaves, added them as well as a few drops of the essential oils lavender and rosemary, to a pot of water that I heated and steeped for several hours and then refrigerated. We soaked leg quilts in this and wrapped the leg twice a day, above and below the knee. We did not cover the wound. We continued this for several days, until the swelling was obviously reducing. In the meantime, the horse was stalled.

The homeopathic pills, *Crotalus Horridus*, are for snakebite. I had read about it last year and ordered it from Vitamin Cottage so we had it on hand. We gave that along with other homeopathic products, Tissue Salts and *Apis Mellifica*. These are tiny pills that we could just toss in Deal's feed. We also used Arnica massage oil on both front legs.

A vet never saw this horse but we did consult with one by phone, he confirmed the antibiotics and bute were called for. He also suggested a tetanus booster. The vet advised us the skin around the bite would probably turn black and possibly slough off. It never did, perhaps because of our treatment, or perhaps we were just lucky. The homeopathic treatments and Bach Flower Essences were used on our own, we figured it doesn't hurt and in this case it did seem to help, a lot.

The books I used for reference included [The Treatment of Horses by Homoeopathy](#) by G. MacLeod, and [Bach Flower Remedies for Animals](#) by Helen Graham and Gregory Vlamis. I also googled equine snakebite online and found helpful info the website, www.thehorse.com.

Please, if you ever had this situation, *first call your vet!* And maybe this additional information will help if you ever find yourself facing a similar situation. *Good luck!* Betty Fey

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- **Business Card Ads:**
Resident rates \$5/semi-annual issue or \$8/yr (2 issues). Non Resident rates \$10/issue or \$18/yr.

These funds go directly towards producing this newsletter and help stretch our Assoc funds ☺

RCR-Newton POA
850 Newton Rd
Pueblo, CO 81005

Summer 2008 Red Creek Ranch-Newton Newsletter !!!

Want to know what's going on around The Ranch?
Read This!

Here's the place to stay up to date on what's happening in our Association
and it's your place to get connected with Your community.

Also, check out the website for the Newest News:
www.RedCreekRanch.org

