

SOUTH T-BAR RANCH Newsletter

www.south-t-bar.com

A Publication of the South T-Bar Ranch Property Owners Association

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President's Corner - The Right Stuff

Do you have what it takes to make it on the STB Board? Are you interested in an exciting position that promises new and different challenges every month? Do you want to help keep the STB roads in good shape, keep the gate in good working order, get the POA's bills paid, and keep the property taxes low? Can you dedicate a few hours a month to working with a great bunch of people to get things done? If so, then the STB Board is the right place for you!

The STB Board is a group of volunteers who meet in person or by phone once a month to conduct the business of the POA. Whether it's listening to POA Member comments, evaluating projects for next year's budget, or figuring out how to round up the stray pigs on the ranch and get them shipped off to a local 4-H club, there is always something new and challenging going on.

Don't you have to be a ranch resident to serve on the Board? No, not at all! Being a ranch resident is helpful if you are working on roads, trash, mail, security or the all-important job of bringing donuts to the Board meetings. There are lots of other jobs that can and are being done from afar. Examples include editing the newsletter, writing up meeting minutes, reviewing building plans, working on the STB Web Site, and developing Policies and Procedures that are required to run the POA.

In the next year, we will be renewing our grazing lease, developing educational materials for Owners and Board members as required by a new state law, working with the Post Office to get our mail delivered to the easement by the gate, and lots of other projects that are still being defined. The Board needs interested enthusiastic people to help see these projects through. So, do you have the

right stuff to be a Director on the STB Board? How can you tell if this is right for you? It's easy. If you have read this far, you have the interest, aptitude, and persistence for the job. You know who you are. All you need now is commitment. The Board needs your help. Call me at 719-275-1765 or send an e-mail to president@south-t-bar.com to put your name in the hat for the Board Member elections that will be held at this year's annual meeting on June 24. I'm looking forward to seeing you there! -- ae

STB 2006 Annual Meeting

Are your plans in place to attend the 2006 Annual Meeting for the South T-Bar POA? If not, it's time to get this event on your calendar now! Block out the weekend of June 24, and start making plans to join your neighbors for this important event.

This is your once-a-year opportunity to mingle with your neighbors, enjoy a great lunch, get information on topics of vital importance to the ranch, and grill your Board about what's going on with the POA. Do you have concerns about the roads? Heard a rumor you want confirmed? Have questions about the budget? Want to give the Board your input on a few things? This is YOUR meeting, and YOUR chance to talk face-to-face meeting with the people who keep things working smoothly (or not) on the ranch.

In May, packets will be sent out with information about the meeting, including a detailed agenda, background information about topics to be discussed, and proxy instructions. Be watching for this packet and be sure to send in the RSVP so we can plan to have the right amount of food, the right number of chairs, etc. at the meeting. See you in June! -- Ann Eulert

The Cute Little Bear

Once upon a time, a beautiful princess was walking in a forest when she happened upon a cute little baby bear that was sitting beside the trail and crying. The princess asked the bear, "Why are you crying, little bear?" The bear replied, "I'm hungry and I don't know where my mother is. It's so hard to find food out here! Do you have any food I could eat?" The princess asked the bear, "What kind of food do you like?" The little bear said, "I'll eat almost anything! Mostly, insects and grubs, roots, nuts, and small mammals, if I can catch them. And lots of berries! I really like berries!" The princess said, "Well, I don't have anything like that. All I have is some bread and cheese that I brought for lunch. Would you like to try that?" The little bear said, "Oh, yes! I have never eaten anything like that, but it smells like it would taste really good... and, like I said, I'll eat almost anything!" And so the princess gave the bear her bread and cheese.

So, how do you think this story ends?

Do you think maybe the bear learns to eat with a knife and fork and moves into the castle with the princess to be her bodyguard? Only in Fairy Tale Land!!! In fact, only one thing is certain about this story – it doesn't end with the words, "and they all lived happily ever after". It's more likely that the bear quickly became a nuisance, then a threat, and had to be destroyed. Mother Nature may be cruel, but this is not what she intended for this little bear.

It doesn't matter much whether you feed the bears on purpose in a misguided attempt to "help" them or if you just dispose of your trash improperly. Anything that gets bears accustomed to the smell of humans increases the risk of aggressive behavior by the bears. Whether it's an unlocked dumpster, scattered seeds from a bird feeder, or even just a few crumbs left on the ground from your last picnic, the smell says to a bear that's where there are people, a tasty snack can't be far away.

There are ways to support the wildlife on the ranch that do not cause the animals to lose their natural fear of humans. Create wildlife-friendly areas by using things like running water, native vegetation, habitat, and most importantly, coordination with your neighbors to minimize the risk of bear-human encounters.

Our covenants say that owners should be able to enjoy our property without any undue danger. Even one careless property owner can create a

situation that is hazardous for wildlife, for pets, and for people (especially children). ALL owners on the ranch are responsible for making sure that they do not do anything that alters the natural diets and behavior of our bears by disposing of trash properly and following the other rules of bear safety.

Dues Collection Update

There are 129 parcels that pay annual dues to South T-Bar. The 2006 dues for 123 parcels have been paid. For those that are still unpaid on March 31, a **\$40.00 late fee** will be added. Annual dues are the primary source of income for STB and these funds are critical to maintaining our roads, providing trash service, and having a great annual meeting.

Many thanks to STB Treasurer Betty Sue Cornella for her diligence in keeping the POA financially sound!

Gate Codes
January through March – 7856
April through May – 4066
June through September – 9312

Weather Words from Anelladee Spencer

The weather at the Ranch this winter could be described in two words – cold and windy! We had a really nice snowstorm in January, but other storms haven't been much more than a light covering on the ground blown into miniscule drifts by the wind. And the snow didn't have much moisture in it. So conditions are dry and very cold. Our "less than accurate" thermometer has registered 20 degrees below zero on more than one occasion. It's been so cold we even had evidence of a chipmunk hiding his stash indoors!

The wind has been unceasing at times. I watched a large bird (I THINK it was a hawk) one day flap his wings in place for a good 10 minutes before he gave up and went the direction of the wind. Of course, the wind makes the temperatures colder.

Needless to say, we are looking forward to spring, although we really need moisture. Bring on the rain! AND warmer temps! ---- **Anelladee Spencer**

STB Current Weather Conditions

<http://pages.prodigy.net/d2g2/cabinweather.htm>

Rules of the Road

Driving at excessive speeds on the ranch roads throws gravel off the road and into the ditch. It costs about \$15,000 to re-gravel a mile of road. If you wish to drive at speeds above the posted speed limit of 30 miles per hour, please consider remitting sufficient funds to re-gravel a mile of road once a year. Checks may be made payable to the South T-Bar POA with "Re-gravel Fund" in the memo line.

And please, do remember us in your will!

The Cow Corner

Life on the ranch can be harsh for the animals that live here -- cows as well as wildlife. Unfortunately, some of the cows that are here as part of our grazing lease do not make it through the summer. Most of the casualties are due to snakebites, but there are many other hazards that can befall our bovine guests.

If you see a cow, bull, or calf on the ranch that is sick or injured, do not attempt to help it! The cows are the property of the rancher who has the grazing lease on the ranch. Sick, injured, or dead cattle should be reported to one of the Board members who will notify the rancher. The rancher has always been very responsive and takes care of matters relating to his cattle very quickly.

South T-Bar Web Site

Thanks to our web-master, Andrew Lane, some changes are being made to the South T-Bar web site (www.south-t-bar.com), which will allow for more effective communications with POA members. One change that has already been made is to enhance the security of the forums by allowing them to be viewed only by registered users.

- If you are already registered, you will have to sign on in order to view the forums. Existing registrations are being reviewed, and accounts that do not belong to POA Members are being deleted. If you have already registered and your profile does not include your name and a valid e-mail

address, please update your profile with this information so your account can be verified.

- If you are not currently registered, when you submit a new registration, you will find that the registration process has been enhanced to make sure that only POA members can register. When you register, your registration will not be active until approved by a forum administrator, which will usually be done within 48 hours. Please include your name in the registration form so that an administrator can more easily validate POA members. Although your e-mail address is required, be assured that the POA will not provide it to third parties, and it will only be accessible to other registered users.

The reason for the increased security is so that the web site can be used to publish documents that are to be viewed only by POA members, such as POA board meeting agendas or minutes. It will also allow comments to be made through replies to the post.

Future changes that are being looked into include a method to allow members to post pictures from the ranch in the pictures section.

If you are not registered, please do so today. And Happy Posting!

Way To Go!

Congratulations to STB residents Ted Groome, Gary Lack and Roleen Lack on attending a basic fire training class offered by the Tallahassee Rural Fire Protection Association! This class consists of two days of classroom training and one day of hands-on experience in the field. Topics covered include how to build a fire line, what goes in which compartments on a fire truck, and information about wildfires. Due to liability concerns, even if a fire is threatening your home, the TRFPA cannot allow you to assist in fighting it unless you have completed this class.

According to Gary Lack, everyone should think about taking this class – not just for the VFD, but also for personal use, like learning how to protect your property. Watch the TRFPA newsletter, *Smoke Signals*, for the scheduled next class.

Many thanks to Ted, Gary and Roleen for their commitment to making South T-Bar a better place to live!

New Neighbors on the Ranch

Laurel A. Cocharo	Lot 49
Richard & Brenda Gerstemeir	Elk View 8
Tess Hogan	Lot 89
Walt Hallstein & Lana Rosenfeld	Lot 57
Ron & Sally Jo Liljedahl	Elk View 7
Mark & Wanda Osgood	Lot 8
Everett & Audra Plummer	Lot 73
Jim & Karen Roberts	Lot 42
E.L. & Mary Catherine Spires	Elk View 3
John & Deborah Steele	Lot 80
Ron Walker	Lot 90
Brian & Chi Suk Kim Wallace	Lot 100
Nigel Wright	Elk View 6

Ask The Board

Dear Board, We camp on our property at the ranch and often enjoy having a campfire. We understand that occasionally a fire ban might be in effect and obviously refrain during those times. We greatly appreciate the efforts the Board has made in having a sign posted at the entrance to let us know if fires are allowed or not. We enjoy our privacy and what concerns us is that we often have owners stop by to see what is going on with the smoke from our fire? What can we do without appearing rude to them?? -- **Smokey**

Dear Smokey, Well, I'm sure they are stopping by to see if lightning has started the fire or if it's just a campfire. There are about 100 fires every year in Fremont County started by lightning strikes. I am sure they are not stopping by to "bug" you, they just don't want a wildfire burning ALL of South T-Bar.

Dear Board, I want to see more wildlife at South T-Bar. What can be done to accomplish this goal? --
Wildlife Watcher

Dear Wildlife Watcher, Habitat is the key to having a diverse and abundant wildlife population today and in the future. Increase in human contact, noxious weeds, and changing land use threatens the availability and quality of the four elements necessary for their survival - space, food, water and shelter (habitat). Even though it looks like we have lots of room, many animals need the south facing slopes and hillside to feed, as that is the sunny and warmer site where the grass grows. That is the same place people generally also pick to put their homes. Cattle and elk don't seem to like being in the same area at the same time so plan on seeing more elk after November 15th when the cattle are moved off. That's when the deep snows push the

elk onto the cleared wind blown south slopes to find food during the winter.

1. If you have a barking dog, don't plan on seeing any animals. If a dog is chasing animals, it may be a game of "Final Jeopardy" when the DOW is notified.

2. Don't see how close you can get before the animals get spooked - give them their space and use binoculars to see them.

3. Don't try to feed any wildlife as the key words are "WILD & LIFE". In the particular case of bears, they will return over and over and for them it's a death sentence when they are removed for the second time.

Remember, these critters were here first and deserve to be left alone. We are guests in their neighborhood. We may think that we are "King" in the city but in the country remember that animals rule! -- **Mark Sobczak**

Wildlife Corner

Dogs and Wildlife: Every year the DOW receives hundreds of complaints of dogs chasing wildlife. Owners don't believe that their pet would chase wildlife but given the chance, they will follow their instincts and run after deer and elk.

Dogs evolved as predators and it is their natural instinct to chase other animals. Deer fawns and elk calves are especially susceptible to attack shortly after they are born in the spring.

Pet owners are legally responsible for damage to wildlife caused by their dog. Owner can be fined \$274 if their animal is harassing wildlife. If a dog kills or injures an animal, an additional fine of \$500 can be levied.

All Colorado peace officers are authorized to shoot dogs that are chasing wildlife or livestock. Pets running loose are more likely to be dinner for mountain lions and coyotes. If you see dogs chasing wildlife, contact the local DOW office or any law enforcement agency.

Mark Sobczak

Interesting Facts:

The average cost of a calf today is \$250 and for a cow roaming the land, between \$700 to \$1400, if bred.

Your Board is Listening

If you have concerns, questions, or would like the Board to address a particular issue, please send an e-mail to any of the Directors with "Board of Directors" in the Subject line or send regular mail to: Board of Directors, P.O. Box 1431, Cañon City, Colorado 81215-1431. Correspondence can be sent to any Director for review by the Complete Board at the next monthly meeting.

Board meetings are held on the first Saturday of the month and owners are always welcomed to attend. The meetings are usually held at the Cornella Brothers Mini-Storage Building located at 2730 N. 9th Street in Cañon City. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM usually end around noon.

STB Has A New Sign!

Thanks to Board member Virginia Groome, STB has a new sign! The sign will be used to indicate whether or not a Fire Ban is in effect for Fremont County.



If a Fire Ban is in effect, open fires such as campfires are not allowed. The Fire Ban may also regulate the use of propane camp stoves, the use of chain saws, lighting a cigarette or smoking out-of-doors, and even parking a car over dry grasses. For details about what is or is not allowed when a Fire Ban is in effect, call the Tallahassee Rural Fire Protection District at 719-275-3058 or the Fremont County Sheriff at 719-276-5555. To report a violation of a Fire Ban, call the Fremont County Sheriff at 719-276-5555.

While every effort will be made to keep the sign up-to-date, the sign is for advisory purposes only and

may not be updated immediately when a Fire Ban is imposed or lifted. It is still the responsibility of each Owner to verify whether or not a Fire Ban is in effect before doing anything that has a risk of starting a fire.

Q: I have noticed a "Fire Danger Level" sign on County Road 2. What does that mean and is it related to the Fire Ban status? Does it have any effect on whether or not I can have a campfire?

A: The Fire Danger Level is based on the moisture content of various fuels. It is intended to provide a general awareness of fire danger, but it is independent of whether or not a Fire Ban is in effect. The Fire Danger Level is determined by the BLM, but the signs are changed by the Fremont County Sheriff and there is sometimes a delay between the time the level is officially changed and when the signs are updated.

Fire Bans are implemented by the Fremont County Commissioners at the recommendation of the Sheriff. The decision to implement a Fire Ban is based on rain history (including conditions that affect the relative abundance of fuels) and the probability of rain, lightening and hot winds. There are several stages of Fire Bans and various restrictions may be implemented or waived at each stage, so each Fire Ban can have different restrictions. In general, it's safe to say that if a Fire Ban is in effect, no campfires are allowed!

Q: I heard there was a Fire Ban in Cañon City, but not on BLM property. Does that mean I can't have a campfire on the Ranch?

A: Just as there are many different stages of Fire Ban, there are also many different Fire Protection Districts, and each can enact their own Fire Ban. BLM, USFS, Cañon City, and Fremont County can each enact their own Fire Ban for land under their control. All of South-T-Bar is within Fremont County, and all privately owned parcels on the ranch are covered by the Fremont County Fire Bans. The BLM parcels within the borders of the ranch are covered by BLM Fire Bans. Yes, that means that if Fremont County has a Fire Ban, but BLM doesn't, some STB Owners could walk a couple hundred feet from their property and legally build a campfire. . . but that doesn't mean that this would be a good idea.

Support Wildlife

To preserve wildlife, sportsmen and conservationists joined together and developed the Colorado Wildlife Habitat Stamp that will be available beginning Jan 1, 2006. All sportsmen will purchase them on the first two hunting and fishing licenses. The stamp is \$10 if purchased without a license and ANYONE who cares about wildlife can purchase a stamp at any license place or through the DOW website. You can also call 1-800-244-5613 for more information. It is estimated to raise \$2.3 million each year most of which will be contributed by sportsmen. All of the money will be used to benefit wildlife and protect and improve their habitat.

Interesting Facts And History of South T-Bar

Our history provides an insight into where we were and how we got to where we are now. I hope to have more after additional research and talking with some of the people that lived this history!

Pursuant to an Act of Congress of May 20, 1862, a Homestead Patent was signed on April 8th, 1925 between Calvin Coolidge and William Happel and then deposited with the General Land office in Pueblo, Colorado. A second Homestead Patent was signed by Herbert Hoover, on November 2, 1932, conveying property to Lillian Frizzell. She and her sister built two cabins by what is now Sawmill Road and Arrowhead Court. The nearby creek kept their provisions cold in the concrete cellar.

Both buildings are falling down but in the top part of an old window frame, a newspaper clipping that was used for insulation was found dated May 2, 1935. The headline was reporting news of Hitler antics in Europe.

Buddy Taylor's grandfather moved from Missouri to South T-Bar in 1897 and began a 1,000 head cattle operation. There were three ranches then with one of the ranch houses located where the present mailboxes are. This building has been renovated and is still there.

It takes about 15 acres to feed one cow. Sheep were never out here - it was strictly cattle country. No cattle rustling but a few problems with branding cattle that weren't part of the right herd.

Buddy went to school in the one room schoolhouse that you see on the right side before you reach the present gate. It was for grades 1-8 and had 11

students. (Two were his sisters.) You can still see the two outhouses - one for the boys and the other for the girls. When he reached third grade, the school was consolidated to Canon City.

Buddy remembers seeing deer herds of 500 to 600 deer in the 60' and 70's. Deer have declined statewide and it's not known if it's due to their loss of habitat, predation by mountain lions and bears, low fawn survival, disease or other factors. During the 1940's a sawmill operation using a steam engine, cut lots of trees into 4x7 and 4x8 posts for supports in mine shafts. The South Tallahassee River provided lots of water then.

There was a large uranium mining exploration at the end of Mt Meadows in the early '50's that spent over \$300,000 in production costs. It was nearly over by the early '70's. The biggest problem was the mining work revealed a large underground lake that went down the entire valley area, which hampered production efforts.

Mark Sobczak

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Ranch Roundup

Hangtags - Remember the hangtags for your car when you visit South T-Bar. It makes it easier for residents and law enforcement to identify owners versus trespassers.

Front Gate – Report gate problems to Virginia Groome 719/275-1515, or to our gatekeeper, Tony Revack 719/269-9978. Make sure the gate is closed after you enter or exit.

The POA Board – There are many things to be done for STB. Please help by volunteering your time, skills, and energy. Distance is not a disqualifier.

Emergency Contact Information: To report an event or issue that requires immediate attention at STB, call one of these people who are residents at the Ranch:

- Virginia Groome - 719/275-1515,
- Anelladee Spencer - 719/275-1508 or
- Susan Revack - 719/269-9978.

These numbers are NOT general complaint phone numbers. If you see suspicious activity, call the Fremont County Sheriff's Department at 719/276-5555. To report a fire, call the Tallahassee VFD at 719/275-3058.

Classified Ads:

NEED HELP?

If anyone has a need for help building on the ranch (or other projects), please contact Tony Revack at 719/269-9978 or AspenWindsRanch@aol.com (parcel 24). Our cabin is completed and I am available to help with your building projects. I have been an electrician for over 20 years and have built numerous homes. Of course, my cabin on the ranch is my reference for you (other references available upon request). If you would like, I am able to send you digital pictures via email. Please contact me—no projects too big or too small

Dan Ainsworth
Excavation/Aggregate/Water Systems

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Need Some Work Done?

If you have projects that need to be done on the ranch, or in the surrounding area (such as painting, staining, cleaning, any kind of outside clean up or landscaping) give me a call.

I'm a full time resident at the ranch and excellent at all kinds of odd jobs. I also have experience in animal care, both domestic & livestock, if you need help in that department.

References available upon Request.

Contact me at: Lynn Fish 719/269-8111



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Other Advertiser's Fees:

1 Qtr. (1 newsletter) \$15

4 Qtrs. (4 newsletters) \$50

Contact: Jan Cressman, 1840 Rue De Trust, Erie, Colorado, 80516. (303)-828-3360; cres1840@mns.com

South T-Bar POA
P. O. Box 1431
Canon City CO 81215