

RANCH AT A GLANCE

February 2022



If you would like to contribute to
BIRDER'S CORNER please email
nancyandrossbarrett@gmail.com

Interested in a **COMMUNITY GARDEN**? Please
text Sandy @ 780-872-9405 so brainstorming
ideas for this project can begin.



IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER

Condo Board Positions

Operations

News from the Setters

Ranch Club

Barn Update

Birder's Corner

Social Committee

Guess Who?

Equine Resident

Square Community Association

Did You Know?

When I am An Old Horsewoman

CONDO BOARD POSITIONS (November 2021 Board minutes)

GRATITUDE to all for their time and hard work...

Max Gibb, Chair

Denise McMullen, Vice Chair

Yvonne Gaudet, Secretary

Terry Royer, Treasurer

Finance Committee (Terry Royer, Steve Banszky, Denise McMullen)

Governance Committee (Yvonne Gaudet, Terry Royer, Denis McMullen)

Water Committee (Steve Banszky, Gary Bennett)

Operations Committee (Gary Bennett, Steve Banszky)

Blue Sky Committee (Steve Banszky, Max Gibb, Yvonne Gaudet, Terry Royer)

Pond Committee (Denise McMullen, Steve Banszky)



OPERATIONS

It's been a bit too cold to work outside for very long, but we have been working our buns off on projects that you may not readily see.

As far as the building repairs go as a result of the windstorm, we are in the final stage of working with the insurance company to return our facilities to great working condition.

The cold, and Christmas season, delayed some detailed engineering work that needed to be done. However, the Adjuster and framing crew were on site January 12th to go over the scope provided by the engineer. Everyone is on the same page and they are ready to start the framing. The LVL beams required for the framing are ordered but there is a potential for a delay in the material due to shortages across Canada. We will know more in the coming days.

As soon as these arrive, they will be able to provide a more detailed schedule for the Board to review. The only piece in the puzzle that we are still slightly unsure of is the roof on the saloon as we cannot access this until the framing is completed and has passed inspections.

We are getting more clarity on the scope of work it will take to manage the downed trees hampering the fence lines and will be cleaning those up in the coming months as well.

We had some problems with our motorized equipment these past few months, but we seem to have caught up with those repairs; a result of shipping delays.

The cold has kept the guys inside a lot but that has given us time to undertake some office work clean up and water-work upgrades to our reporting system.

Remember, please use water wisely!!

Soon we will have our annual winter "burn off" of the burn pile that has been gaining in size, especially over the past two months. Lots of waste is in there this year and will give you a head's up as to when the pile will be set.

Remember, please do not hesitate to contact the Square Butte Office if you see anything that should be attended to. Broken trees may not look broken but could come down in heavy snow.

Grant Kelba 403 681 7831

NEWS FROM THE SETTERS IN GERMANY **With snowshoe trail recommendations**

...Grey and moist so we are freezing more than in Canada with -35...recommend to go snowshoeing in west Bragg Creek on the trail Snowy Owl or in Sheep River on the trail Wolf Creek. It is also a trail to go out the North Gate and up the hill as we went all together on that first Sunday hike. Stay healthy (we are already looking at flight offers for the summer)
Doris and Jim



RANCH CLUB

January is OVER... that means 48 days till spring!!

With the break in the cold snap in early January the round feeders were put out in the field. Round bales provide the most cost effective way to feed our horses in the winter. This year our round bales are \$200.00/bale and our square bales are \$13.25 per bale. A good estimate of what a horse should have in the winter is 1/2 a square bale a day... of course not every bale is made equally which is a WHOLE other topic..did you know that some have high sugar content.. some high protein content and that hay should be tested for nutrients and those can be different depending on the time of day it was cut? Its a good thing we have Lori and Erin doing all the leg work for us!!

The 4 round bales in the Condo and Ravine pastures have hay netting on top, this is to slow some of our horses down in their consumption as well as reduce hay waste. In the Gate pasture we do not have a feeder as those horses need to eat freely to keep warm and to keep their weight on over the winter. Every year about this time we start to “weigh” each horse using a measuring tape that gives us an estimate so we can keep an eye on weight gain or lose. In our climate it is normal for pasture horses to fluctuate weight in the summer and winter, but especially as the horses get older losing too much weight can be a sign of some underlying condition.

You may have noticed that horses were not moved out to the west pasture this winter, this is because since the big wind storm in December many of the fences need repair. To preserve the solar waterer out in the west it has be drained so that no damage can happen to the internal mechanisms over the freeze/thaw cycles with them not being in use.

Do you have a question that the Ranch Club can help answer? Please contact us at ranchclub@squarebutteranches.com



BARN UPDATE

Hi ya'll,

Winter is upon us and I know that there are some owners who are wondering about some local arenas that are allowing indoor riding. I have met the new neighbors at the old Liberty Stables just up Old Mill road and they are terrific!!

Green Ridge Ranch is a very nice facility, and they happen to have a very very nice indoor riding arena which we are able to use. I have already mentioned this to all horse owners, but everyone likes to ride and be warm :) So please contact Trish Ferguson @ 403-620-4115
Cost is \$20.00 for a drop in (per individual), it's best to book a time. This way the arena is not crowded or too busy for you. And you will need to

sign a waiver, but no worries that is standard practice. So maybe I will see you there.

The Millarville Race Track also has an indoor arena. To access that arena you need to purchase a \$70.00 family or \$55.00 individual General Membership. This allows you to enter many of the events held at the grounds for no extra charge. And then you purchase the riding membership which is \$150.00 per quarter with the next quarter being Feb 1-April 30 and \$20.00 for a key fob to get you into the building. Last year they offered a calendar that you signed up for time slots with a maximum of 6 people per time slot due to Covid protocols. For more information on that you can contact them at office@mras-track.com or call them at 403-931-3411.

And even though it is Winter we can still ride outside, so if you would like to book a ride just let me know. I am up for it!!!

I think I heard mention of Springtime riding as well, and we have already started mapping out trails.. And are so excited to get out there. I know I will have a few friends coming with me, maybe you'll be there too.

I am very happy to tell you that our horses here on the ranch are doing spectacular. We have split the herds into Geldings and Mares.. Who knew men and women needed a break from each other.. Heehee

We have also been busy working with the Ranch Club on an Evacuation Plan for our Equine friends. One of the scariest parts about having animals is worrying about them during an emergency. Fire is our worst enemy out in the country. So it is best to have a plan and that's what we are doing. We will be looking for volunteers in all aspects of this endeavor: catching/loading horses, Trucks to haul trailers, people to call horse owners... and so many other parts to this plan.

If you would like to help out and own a truck and are able to haul/handle horses. Please let us know. Any help will be appreciated..
I will keep everyone posted about the plan and any future meetings.

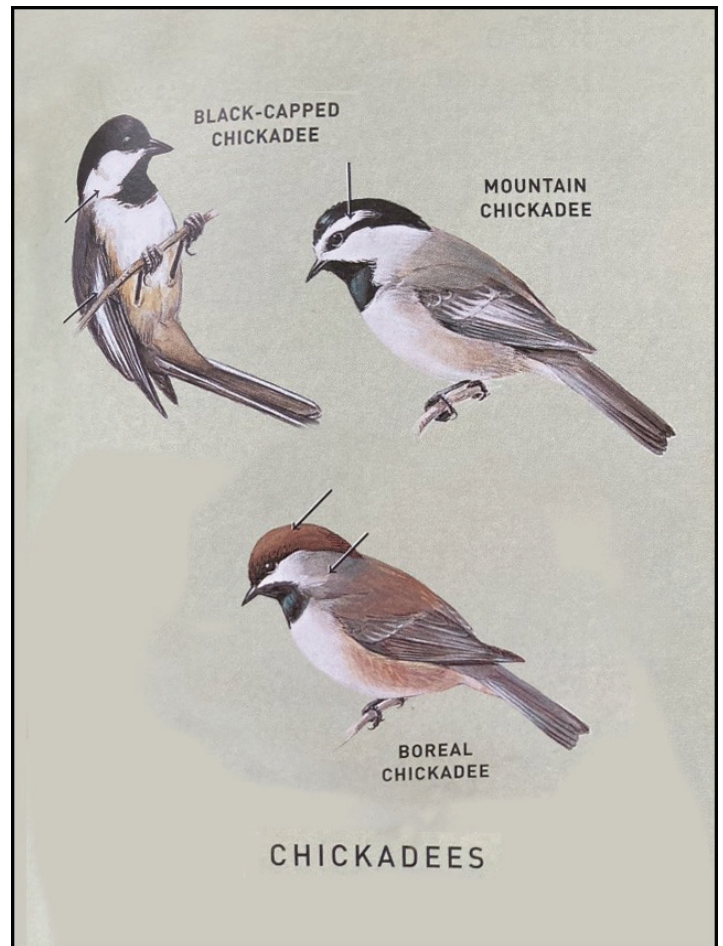
Happy Trails
Lori

BIRDER'S CORNER

Submitted by Jennifer Gill

How can a creature as light as a handful of paperclips survive at 40 degrees below zero?

Chickadees have adaptations for winter weather such as reducing their body temperature overnight; shivering to produce heat; overwintering amongst other birds (often Woodpeckers and Nuthatches); foraging at lower heights for increased wind protection, and caching--storing food in autumn for consumption during the winter.



Biologists have observed Chickadees diving into holes on trees the size of a quarter. Finding a sheltered roost is as critical, if not more so, than finding food. The bird will wedge itself, puff its feathers, turn down its internal thermostat 15 degrees Fahrenheit, and burn fat all night. Shivering to generate heat is essential as there is only 2cm between the harsh winter cold and their body cores.

A Black-Capped Chickadee often hides berries and seeds under leaves or in the crevices of bark, and can remember these locations for as long as a month. The hippocampus (the spatial memory part of the brain) is proportionally larger in Chickadees and other caching birds than in birds that do not cache food.

At Square Butte we have Black-Capped Chickadees, Mountain Chickadees, and Boreal Chickadees.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

As mentioned in last months newsletter, Doris and Jim Setters, valued social committee and community members, have returned to their home in Germany for 6 months. We miss their enthusiasm and energy for the ranch, and for having fun with their neighbors. And some of the other neighbors are missed as well, as they are enthusiastically enjoying the sun in warmer places! It may take the committee (aka Ada and Patricia), a little while to get going again, but we will be meeting to outline a plan for the next few months and any interested owners are welcome to join us. We could use some bright ideas as to how to gather, but not gather, if you know what I mean, during this challenging time for socializing.

On January 1, a small group climbed to the top of Square Butte and was happy that the forecast for heavy winds did not happen, and they enjoyed a clear view in milder temperatures. Another group met for a fire at the pond later that day as well. The rest of January was, well, a rest, as far as any organized events. By the time you read this newsletter, perhaps it will be milder weather and opportunities to gather outdoors some more. Let us know if you want to have a spontaneous gathering and we can get the word out. If you want to be on the contact list that goes out to the community, contact Patricia at pkelcher52@gmail.com.

In January we also said goodbye to Craig Summers and then to Taryn Fielder and Clayton Fair. We will miss them and wish them all the best in their new homes. And although it is hard to say goodbye, it is our pleasure to also welcome those who are new to our community. Renaissance Management will have you on their email lists, but if you would also like to have your contact information be known to your neighbors, as mentioned above, contact Patricia.

I am sure you will all agree that the pandemic has highlighted for us all, the value of healthy community and connections. People gravitate to the ranch for lots of reasons, and sometimes it is to have solitude and relaxation, and sometimes it is also engaging in outdoor activities and meeting others. There is a buoyant feeling on the ranch right now with new folks wanting to meet their neighbors and offering to help each other, like after the BIG WINDS. I think this is a good moment to invite the self reliant types (there are a few of you) to ask their neighbors for assistance for any lifting, sawing, climbing or “fixing” activities that “theoretically” are easy but in practice could hurt you. Besides when two or more gather it is fun and can involve a beer afterwards, maybe. Right? And if you are crazy and adventuresome enough to go hiking in sub zero temperatures far from civilization, let someone know or take the spot transmitter. (Talk to the office staff to find out details). Or if, on the contrary, you feel cooped up inside, reach out for a chat or a walk.

Along the same vein as getting to know the horses on the ranch, I will be starting to invite various owners to be highlighted in the newsletter so we can get to know each other too. Let me know what you think about this idea.



!!!!!!ERIN!!!!

Photos enhance the newsletter and tell our community story. If you prefer your photo not appear please notify me nancyandrossbarrett@gmail.com

BUY AND SELL ITEMS? Advertise in the newsletter!

Mr. Square Butte *February*



Doc is an amazing horse who is one of the most beloved characters at Square Butte. Doc is the “unofficial” security guard of the gelding pasture as he blocks the gate to all incoming and outgoing human traffic and carefully checks all pockets and buckets for items of interest.....cookies. This four legged cookie monster has a recall most dogs would admire and readily comes at a dead run in hopes of a treat!

Never shy, he hates being left out of anything. Formally an award winning reining steed, he now enjoys his retirement as a trail horse that is up for any challenge including heading into the Powderhorn Saloon in Bragg Creek! Doc never hesitates at any obstacle and will beat every horse at “extreme cowboy challenges”, even opening gates without a rider.

Although Doc is in his mid 20's, he still has a twinkle in his eye and a spring in his step and is full of surprises. Last summer on one of my early rides on Doc, I was getting rather complacent on the way home, until we rounded the corner towards the barn and he suddenly found a new gear, almost blowing me out the back of the saddle.

Doc is owned by the Creegan family who are quick to explain Doc's peculiar sleeping habits to all new comers to the Ranch. Doc epitomizes the expression “dead to the world” when he sleeps as they have had many concerned individuals knock on their door over the years, convinced that Doc is dead.....but alas, he just really knows how to relax while taking that afternoon nap in the pasture.





IMPORTANT UPCOMING MEETING!

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022. We are pleased to share that our MLA Miranda Rosin will be meeting with the Executive of the Square Butte Community Association on February 2nd to discuss what can be done about the speeding, racing and excessive noise along Highway 762. We also will discuss any related concerns that our community members may have regarding our safety in any other areas of our community (we are aware of concerns along Plummers Road/illegal parking/crowding).

We hope to have a representative of the Turner Valley RCMP in attendance (yet to be confirmed) and will also invite our Foothills County Councillor, Barb Castell.

Because of the present COVID situation, we unfortunately cannot open the meeting to the public HOWEVER we do ask for your support. PLEASE email Sandi Lightfoot with your name and address, listing complaints you may have regarding these issues, as well as what you think may be solutions. San_bill1@hotmail.com All concerns will be shared at the meeting!

As a community we need to stick together to make life safer and more enjoyable in this beautiful part of the world! Thank you for your support!

Reminder for current members to renew their membership by the end of January in order to be eligible for reduced rental rates on the Hall. Of course we also ALWAYS welcome new memberships too! Only \$10/person or \$20/family. E-transfers can be sent to:

sq.butte.comm.assoc@gmail.com

Our mailing address is:

Box 15 Site 3 R.R.#1

Millarville, Ab. T0L 1K

DID YOU KNOW?



...Where are Millarville and Kew?

It is more a district than places, being in the foothills lying on either side of the North Fork of Sheep Creek now called Three Point Creek. Across the creek there was a tiny place called Kew with only a general store and a post office.

Ranchers from Kew and Millarville competed against each other with basketball games and curling on the creek beds.

Between the mountains and the lower land are two well known landmarks, Square Butte and John Ware Ridge. These two rise above the surrounding hills with the Butte at an altitude of 5548 ft and Ware Ridge at 5000 ft and both are discernible for many miles.

For this next section most sources are unknown but the information is too interesting not to include. There were many firsts in the area and here are a few...

The first post office in 1892

Mail was delivered on horseback once a week at first then twice a week and 100 years later 4 times a week.

The first Mounted Police in 1887 and 1888

They were very busy looking after all the land from High River to Calgary. Most of the crimes were stealing horses, stealing cows and making illegal alcohol.

The first telephone in 1909

The phones were very big and heavy and hung on the wall. Every call was a party line so 15 people listened in on the call.

.....to be continued....

When I am an Old Horsewoman
I shall wear Turquoise and Diamonds
And a straw hat that doesn't suit me
And I shall spend my social security on white wine and carrots,
And sit in the alley-way of my barn
And listen to my horses breathe
I will sneak out in the middle of a summer night
And ride the old bay gelding
Across the moonstruck meadow
If my old bones will allow
And when people come to call, I will smile and nod
As I walk past the gardens to the barn
And show instead the flowers growing
Inside stalls fresh-lined with straw
I will shovel and sweat and wear hay in my hair
as if it were a jewel
And I will be an embarrassment to all
Who have not yet found the peace in being free
to have a horse as a best friend
A friend who waits at midnight hour
With muzzle and patient eyes
For the kind of woman I will be
When I am old

By Patty Barnhart

CALLING ALL SB RANCHERS WHO ARE TRAVELLING!

We miss you. We want to hear from you. Short and long trips.
Let's keep community communication going with your updates in the newsletter.

The Setters are up first in this February newsletter.

nancyandrossbarrett@gmail.com

REMEMBER GOING TO MOVIES???

